

Danika Billie Rose Littlechild is a Cree lawyer from Ermineskin Cree Nation, in Maskwacis Alberta, Treaty No. 6 territory.

Born and raised in Maskwacis, Danika works with Indigenous Peoples in the province of Alberta, in Canada and internationally. Danika's law practice focuses on Indigenous law, environmental law (in particular water governance) and international law.

She has served as counsel for on-reserve organizations such as an Aboriginal women's shelter, a First Nations youth drug and alcohol treatment centre, a First Nations child welfare authority, an education authority, a First Nations Health Authority and an employment centre.

Danika currently serves as consulting legal counsel for an Alberta First Nation regarding water and sanitation, as well as providing advice on water to other Canadian First Nations, most recently the Chiefs of Ontario (COO).

She has advised treaty organizations including the Confederacy of Treaty Six (on matters ranging from education, water, child welfare and health to international advocacy), as well as national Aboriginal organizations - the Assembly of First Nations and the Native Women's Association of Canada. Danika served as an advisor to the AFN on federal legislative developments regarding water and First Nations (2007 – present). Danika has contributed to many AFN Chief's Resolutions respecting water since 2007, and most recently co-authored a Resolution to create a First Nations Water, Housing and Infrastructure Commission.

Danika has provided advice to the AFN on other matters over the years, such as serving on a transition working group in support of the legislative drafting process that led to the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* (2007).

Danika was the recipient in 2015 of the Esquao Award (a prestigious award in the province of Alberta recognizing Indigenous women), and was also a recipient of the Alberta Aboriginal Role Models Award for Justice in the same year.

Danika has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Carleton University in Ottawa (B.A. 1997); a law degree from the University of Toronto (L.L.B. 2000); a Fellowship in Comparative and Federal Indigenous Peoples Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law (2014) and a Master in Laws (L.L.M. 2015), University of Victoria ("*Transformation and Re-Formation: First Nations and Water in Canada*").

Danika also holds a Certificate, *United Nations Institute for Training and Research* (UNITAR) Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peace-building Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives (2010).

Danika is currently consulting legal counsel with the International Indian Treaty Council (www.treatycouncil.org), through which she has extensively engaged in various United Nations mechanisms, treaty bodies and special procedures, *inter alia*:

- Indigenous Peoples' Representative at the 4th, 5th and 6th Conference of the Parties, *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, Geneva Switzerland
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative at the 4th and 5th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) which led to a global legally binding *Minamata Convention on Mercury* (2012-2014)
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative at the 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York), and at the 3rd and 5th Sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva Switzerland). Danika has served as a rapporteur for the Global Indigenous Caucus at the UNPFII.
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative to Rio+20 (2012)
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative to Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (10 – 12 June 2013, Alta Norway)
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative to ICN2 2014, the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (Rome Italy)
- Indigenous Peoples' Representative at the 3rd, 4th & 5th Business and Human Rights Forum (Geneva), serving as the Co-Chair of the Indigenous Caucus at the 3rd BHR Forum and providing advance Indigenous Peoples Training prior to the 5th BHR Forum. Danika has also made numerous presentations and written submissions to the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.
- Many other written submissions to such bodies and special procedures as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Council, the Human Rights Committee, and numerous Special Rapporteurs (including mandates such as Indigenous Peoples, the implications for human rights of environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, human rights and the environment, and many others)

Danika served as an Advisor and Assistant to North American Representative at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Grand Chief Ed John (First Nations Summit, British Columbia) at the UNPFII 13th and 14th Sessions (2014 & 2015). Danika had the important opportunity to observe and support the work of the Members of the United Nations Permanent Forum. Danika was nominated by Indigenous Peoples to be the North American Representative at the United Nations Permanent Forum for the term 2017-2019.

Danika is currently the Vice President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the National Commission of Canada for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Danika served as a Member (2003-2012), as a Vice-Chair of the Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information (2007-2009), and Chair (2009-2012) of the Sectoral Commission on Culture, Communication and Information. In 2014, Danika was appointed Vice President of the Canadian Commission, the first time in history that an Indigenous woman held this executive post within the Canadian Commission.