

Bio- Francine Whiteduck

Francine is founder of Whiteduck Resources Inc, a research and evaluation firm that has worked with Aboriginal communities across Canada, and with numerous indigenous organizations. Francine has worked with the Women Leaders Network focusing on the needs of Indigenous women in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and is currently working on an international trade initiative to connect international indigenous women with a focus on the value chain to increase women's participation in trade opportunities in import and export distribution.

She has developed community-based businesses, was a major shareholder in an IT firm that went public in 1998, and is a keen supporter and promoter of small business development. Francine was previously appointed by the International Trade Minister to be a member of the Team Canada Advisory Board providing advice in SME matters.

Francine serves on the Advisory Board for the Annual National Aboriginal Women in Leadership Conference. In 2008, she was appointed to the Board of the First Nations Statistical Institute, the first Aboriginal Crown Corporation to be established in Canada.

Most recently, Francine was awarded the World of Difference Award, an award presented by The International Alliance of Women in Recognition of her contribution to the economic advancement of women.

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