



*Phillips Indian Educators*



*Ministerio de Culturas  
Viceministerio de Descolonización*

## **LETTER OF INTENTION**

Where by this document, ONE PARTY, the Vice Ministry of Decolonization under the Ministry of Culture, with legal address at pasaje Isaac Eduardo No. 2613 La Paz Bolivia, represented at this act by Mr. Felix Cárdenas, as appointed Vice Minister.

THE OTHER PARTY, Phillips Indian Educators (PIE), with legal address at 2421 Bloomington Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States, represented in this act by Professor Joe Rice and Dr. Roxanne Gould, as Chairperson and member of the Committee.

THE PARTIES, recognize each other's characteristic, legal personality and representation and convene to DECLARE the following:

### **BACKGROUND**

The Political Constitution of the State, in its Article 9, Number 1 indicates that there are essential functions and ends of the State to construct a harmonious and just society founded in decolonization without discrimination to consolidate the Plurinational Identities. Likewise Article 30 Paragraph 11 Number 9 establishes that, in the frame of the unity of the State, the Indigenous Original Campesino Peoples and Nations enjoy the right to their wisdom and traditional knowledge, with their languages, their rituals, their symbols, and their clothing all being valued, respected and promoted. And Article 98 Paragraph III establishes the responsibility of the State to preserve, develop, protect and spread the cultures of the country.

Phillips Indian Educators is an organization of indigenous North American (Turtle Island) educators which has the mission to efficiently improve education for indigenous students, assuring that educators will have the expertise and sufficient wisdom to incorporate indigenous best practices within its teaching, and to work continuously to achieve consensus with the indigenous peoples to whom these practices belong and should belong. Their vision is to value indigenous students as youth "who do what they love and love what they do," and who have passion for the apprenticeship and commitment to life with the strengthening of their community in the frame of decolonizing education.

The parties recognizing each other's characteristics, personality and the representation under which they appear, agree to declare:



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## **OBJECTIVE**

The general objective of this Letter of intention is to establish and strengthen relations of coordination, cooperation and interchange of actions directed to decolonize in order to achieve the “living well” by means of realizing various projects of common interest.

## **THEMATIC AXES**

All the activities to be developed, will have a framework of four fundamental thematic axes:

- a) Education;
- b) Culture/Mother Earth
- c) Cosmovision/Vision of the World;
- d) Community Health and Wellbeing

## **STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS**

- The parties declare their intention to form an international network of mutual support for the process of exchange and decolonization within the development of four fundamental thematic axes: a) Education; b) Culture/Mother Earth; c) Cosmovision/Vision of the World and; d) Community Health and Wellbeing.
- The parties declare their intention to contribute to the inter-institutional strengthening of VD, PIE and CGE.
- The parties declare their intention to design and implement decolonizing educational programs directed toward adults, youth and children in its continuing alternative education programs as well as in its regular formal education up to the university level.
- The parties declare their intention to interchange knowledge and to learn about each other’s cultures and identities.
- The institutions in common agreement will develop programs and projects geared to defend and protect Mother Earth by stopping over-exploitation and contamination of natural resources, as well as to promote organic agriculture and alternative technology.
- The parties in common agreement will develop programs to stop and prevent the effects of climate change by means of environmental protection programs and control over emissions and toxic discharges.
- The parties declare their intention to take action to promote the Cosmovisio/Vision of the world in order to achive the “living well.”
- The parties declare their intention to promote or further indigenous traditional medicine for a healthy community and well being of all.



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- The parties declare their intention to have an expeditious communication and exchange of information needed for the achievement of the preceding paragraphs.

## ACTIVITIES

- Interchange of experiences among the signatory institutions in the field of decolonization for “living well”.
- Jointly develop methodologies and techniques for the decolonization of adults, youth and children
- Interchange of experiences, knowledge and skills in the distinct thematic axes among educators, professionals, technicians, *amautas*, elders, indigenous authorities and others to spread, share and circulate them
- Design investigations in order to recover and systematize the experiences in each one of the thematic fields to be achieved and carried out by the signatory institutions for elaboration and co-publishing as well as circulating didactic materials.
- Translate documents, books and articles of interest that are in whatever spoken languages of the signatories: English, Spanish, Native languages as required by any of the parties.
- Exchange knowledge, practices and other cultural manifestations among indigenous peoples.
- Develop mechanisms of communication for the caretaking of Mother Earth and the protection of natural resources from over-exploitation, clear-cutting, destruction and privatization.
- Strengthen the identities, rituals and conceptions of life according to our cultures and world visions.
- Open spaces for sharing ancestral and current knowledge in the fields of astronomy, natural medicine and our cosmovisions in general.
- Contribute to inter-institutional cooperation in the fight against climate change.
- Organize film festivals with exchange of film-makers and materials in any of the thematic axes of this agreement.
- Design campaigns for the recovery of languages and traditions of indigenous peoples.
- Build other activities as they are developed in the course of this agreement.

The parties will make joint efforts to raise funds and seek potential financial supporters for the realization of the activities described in this document.



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## **COORDINATION**

It is established as the coordination instance for the accomplishment of this objective and activities raised: the Vice Ministry of Decolonization designates Mr. Sandro Canqui Ala; PIE representative Dr. Roxanne Gould. The connecting link between VD and PIE will be Dr. Sonia Davila-Poblete.

## **PERIOD OF DURATION**

Both parties declare their intention to grant a period of three years to meet the objective and activities raised, period after which it will be evaluated for the possibility of continuing another period or concluding. This decision will be made by common accord.

## **OF THE RESULTS**

The signatory institutions are committed to share, coordinate and exchange methodologies, materials, technical-conceptual tools and do shared research as well as active participation within the four thematic axes that will be elaborated.

Given at Cobija, Bolivia, and simultaneously through a videoconference at the city of Minnesota, Minneapolis on September 10, 2010.

Mr. Felix Cárdenas  
**VICE MINISTER OF  
DECOLONIZATION**

Prof. Joe Rice  
**CHAIRPERSON  
PHILLIPS INDIGENOUS EDUCATORS**

Sandro Canqui Alá  
**GENERAL COORDINATOR  
VICE MINISTRY OF  
DECOLONIZATION**

Dra. Roxanne Gould  
**MEMBER OF COMITE  
PHILLIPS INDIGENOUS EDUCATORS**