



## PRESS RELEASE

The Center for the Healing of Racism  
Houston, TX USA  
June 21, 2008

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON – International Indigenous Humanitarian and Educator, Phil Lane Jr., Awarded 2008 Center for Healing Racism Ally Award.

The Center for the Healing of Racism presented the 14th Annual Ally Award to international Indigenous humanitarian, educator, and Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr. today at their annual luncheon in Houston, Texas. Lane received the Ally Award for his national and international work in promoting freedom and justice for Indigenous Peoples by building human and spiritual capacity that focuses on healing the root causes of racism and oppression rather than focusing on conflict.

The Ally Award is an annual award presented by the Houston-based Center for the Healing of Racism to honor the achievements of those who have worked hard to achieve harmony of all ethnic and cultural groups. The Center for the Healing of Racism is a world-renowned grassroots organization dedicated towards the elimination of racism by focusing on teaching the value of the oneness of humanity and healing internalized historical oppressions.

“For more than forty years Chief Lane, an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux and Chickasaw First Nations, has worked unceasingly, often to the point of total exhaustion, for the upliftment of the human family, and especially of Indigenous Peoples. He has continuously sacrificed personal comfort, income, professional advancement, old age security, and even the simple pleasures of spending time with family and friends or taking a vacation,” said the Center’s Chairperson, Cherry Steinwender when presenting Lane the Award.

Highlights of his lifetime of service include:

- Presented Indigenous cultural and history programs at elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and universities.
- Helped guide the development of rural community development and basic literacy programs for Quechua and Aymara Indigenous Peoples across Bolivia.
- Developed and managed a role model program for single-parent Indigenous mothers and their children across North America.
- Served as the founding Director of the Native American School of Government at the



Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

- Started the first Indigenous cultural education and self-help program for Indigenous men in the North American prison system. This role model program sparked similar programming for Indigenous inmates in prison systems throughout Canada and the United States.
- Co-Founded, with Indigenous Elders from across Canada and the US, The Four Worlds International Institute. The Institute's work focuses on designing and implementing holistic, culturally-based, participatory community development initiatives, Digital Literacy, Digitally Based Social Networking Technologies, and Participatory Media with Indigenous Communities across the Americas and the Asia-Pacific in cooperation with local, regional, and national governments, and international institutions and other NGOs.
- Taught 16 years as Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and was Founder and International Coordinator of the Four Worlds International Institute at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. With Phil's guidance and applied experience, Four Worlds has become an internationally recognized leader in human, community, and organizational development because of the Institute's unique focus on the importance of culture and spirituality in all elements of development.
- Planned and initiated with Indigenous leaders from the Otomi National Council the signing of the first Reunion of the Condor and Eagle Agreement and Unity Pact in Mexico on May 5, 1999. Further Sacred Agreements and Unity Pacts based in the Sixteen Principles for Building a Sustainable and Harmonious World were signed at the Indigenous Summit of the Americas in Ottawa, Ontario in March 2001, and at the Reunion of the Condor and The Eagle Indigenous Action Summit in the Commonwealth of Dominica in March 2003. These Sacred Unity Pacts now unite Indigenous Peoples and their allies from Greenland, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Guyana, Guatemala, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and the Commonwealth of Dominica. These nation states have populations of more than 57 million Indigenous Peoples.
- In April 2002, a fourth Sacred Agreement and Unity Pact was signed in Bern, Switzerland, with Canadian and European supporters and NGOs. Efforts are now under way to connect this Global Indigenous cultural and spiritual movement for peace, security, social justice, and economic prosperity across the Americas through an interactive digital network based in digital literacy, newly emerging social networking technologies, and participatory media. This Global initiative will be centered at the Ciudad del Saber in Panama City, Panama in 2009.
- Served as the Assistant Director, Director of Planning, and Director of Education from 1973 – 1980, and returned as Chief Executive Officer of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF) in Seattle, Washington in 2005. Through Phil's dynamic and visionary leadership and the guidance of his mentor and UIATF's Founder the late Bernie White Bear, United Indians grew from a staff of three to a staff of more than one hundred. The



Foundation's achievements include the launching of the first-ever Native American Film Festival, the development of a host of innovative education programs ranging from elementary and high school curriculum design and development, to adult education, early childhood education, and the recent launching of a \$3.5 million holistic poverty-alleviation program model for urban Indigenous Peoples in Seattle.

Special emphasis on this award is for Lane's dedicated work as one of the primary leaders in the resolution of Canada's Residential School issue, which involved the sexual, physical, cultural, psychological, and emotional abuse of thousands of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. The Government of Canada and the Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches' intergenerational abuse inflicted on more than 150,000 Indigenous children was a government-funded attempt to assimilate them into mainstream Canadian society.

These dedicated efforts led by Lane and other Aboriginal Leaders in Canada resulted in a \$3 billion dollar settlement for thousands of survivors of residential schools and their descendants, a full apology by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and all other leaders of Canada's political parties on the floor of the Canadian Parliament, and the establishment of a five-year nationwide Truth and Reconciliation Commission that will hold hearings to examine federal policy and record testimony from survivors to inform all Canadians of the reality of this national tragedy that continues to impact generations of Indigenous families and communities. To address this intergenerational trauma, the government of Canada, in consultation with Aboriginal communities, has established the \$500 million National Aboriginal Healing Foundation that is governed and guided directly by Aboriginal Peoples.

Lane has extensive experience in his own cultural traditions, is an award-winning author and film producer, and holds Master's Degrees in both Education and Public Administration. His film credits include the National Public Television series "Images of Indians" with the late Will Sampson, "Walking With Grandfather", "The Honor of All: The Story of Alkali Lake," and "Healing the Hurts".

In August 1992, Phil was the first Indigenous person to win the prestigious Windstar Award, presented annually by the late John Denver and the Windstar Foundation to a global citizen whose personal and professional life exemplifies commitment to a global perspective, operates with awareness of the spiritual dimension of human existence, and demonstrates concrete actions for the benefit of humans and all living systems of the Earth. At this International event, in recognition of his lineage and long time service to Indigenous Peoples and the human family, Indigenous Elders from across North America recognized Phil as a Hereditary Chief through a Sacred Headdress Ceremony. Other Windstar winners include: Oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau; David Brower, Founder of the Earth Island Institute; Yevgeni Velikhov, Vice President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences; Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and founder of Kenya's Greenbelt Movement; Akio Matsumura, Executive Director of The Global Forum; and Lester Brown, President of the World Watch Institute.



On November 11, 2000, Phil received the Year 2000 International Award for Freedom and Human Rights from the Foundation for Freedom and Human Rights in Bern, Switzerland. Phil was the first North or South American person to receive the award. Other international award winners include the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, and British Lord Yehudi Menuhin, musician and philosopher. The Foundation said, “Chief Lane is being presented this Award for his International visionary efforts and unique contributions to improve the lives and future hopes of Indigenous Peoples by promoting approaches to Freedom and Human Rights that heal the root causes of hopelessness and despair rather than opposing oppression directly.”

Having completed his three-year tenure as CEO of United Indians, Lane has now stepped into global leadership as Chairman of the Four Worlds International Institute (FWII). The Institute’s central program initiative is the promotion of The Fourth Way. The primary focus of The Fourth Way is to unify the human family by taking a culturally based, principal-centered path that transcends assimilation, resignation, and conflict.

“We are now beginning the first of a series of small steps in a global process that will lay an enduring spiritual and technological foundation furthering Indigenous contributions toward building sustainable peace, security, and prosperity in the Americas, the Asia- Pacific, and beyond. We will do this in harmony with all members of the human family at this very critical time of ever-deepening global economic insecurity and social conflict,” said Lane on receiving the 14th Annual Ally Award.

FWII has been working with the Certiport Corporation ([www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com)), the Central Pointe Corporation ([www.centralpointe.com](http://www.centralpointe.com)), and Utah Valley University ([www.uvu.edu](http://www.uvu.edu)) to develop a comprehensive, community-based development strategy that offers educational opportunity, IC3 Global Digital Literacy Certification, Digital Social Networking Capacity, and Participatory Media Training through a global networking initiative called “Indige-Net.” This digitally-based, globally unifying Indigenous communications and educational initiative, is to be established at the Ciudad del Saber in Panama City, Panama in 2009, and will serve as one of the key components for implementing The Fourth Way.

“Today, rapidly unfolding Indigenous spiritual, cultural, environmental, economic, security, educational, and digital social networking initiatives, including The Fourth Way and Indige-Net, are swiftly converging with the unfolding of other related technologies and principal-centered social movements. With this growing convergence, we have the opportunity to unify, crystallize, and focus our collective efforts toward a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous future for all members of the Human Family. At this time of dynamic global transformation, this unifying, expanding synergy makes the message of The Fourth Way not only timely but a critical and urgent imperative,” added Lane.



For more information on the Fourth Way:

Four Worlds International Institute

<http://fwii-site.ning.com>