

Nature and Culture Summit: 11 and 12 December 2022

<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-nature-culture-summit>

Roundtable 2



Ms. Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel

Visual Artist, Indigenous Human Rights and Environmental Rights Activist,
Assembly of First Nations

Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel

A recent graduate from the New York Film Academy in documentary film making, providing her with new tools in her advocacy. She participated in DOC NYC in November 2021 with her first documentary film: Strong Spirits on the issue of Indian Residential School in Canada.

In 1990 Ms. Gabriel graduated from Concordia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from. She believes that education controlled by Indigenous peoples based upon our languages and culture and traditional forms of governance are paramount to the recovery and reconciliation from settlers' genocidal colonial project.

Ms. Gabriel was well-known to the public when she was chosen by the People of the Longhouse and her community of Kanehsatà:ke to be their spokesperson during the 1990 "Oka" Crisis; to protect the Pines from the expansion of a 9 hole golf course in "Oka"/Kanehsatà:ke.

Since 1990 she has advocated for the rights to self-determination of Indigenous peoples and has worked diligently to sensitize the public on the issues and realities of Indigenous peoples. She has travelled extensively in Canada and internationally in her advocacy work and participated in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Gabriel is a Steering Committee member with Indigenous Climate Action addressing the needs and solutions to the violations of Indigenous peoples' human rights, the climate crisis and environmental rights.



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In 2004, Ellen Gabriel was elected president of the Quebec Native Women's Association a position which she held for 6 ½ years, until December 2010.

Awards: In 2005 Ms. Gabriel received the Golden Eagle Award from the Native Women's Association of Canada; 2008 International Women's Day Award from the Barreau du Québec/Québec Bar Association and as well in August 2008 Ms. Gabriel was the recipient of the Indigenous Women's Initiative "Jigonsaseh Women of Peace Award" for her advocacy work.

She is also a staunch supporter and advocate for gender equity, the revitalization of Indigenous languages, culture, Indigenous self- determination/governance, and for the Indigenous led movement of #Land Back.



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