

Melanie Goodchild – Biography

#social innovation #Indigenous Knowledge #mentorship
#cross sector leadership #community #meaning and context



Melanie Goodchild, moose clan and member of the Ojibways of Pic River First Nation, is the National Director, Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, Disaster Management for the **Canadian Red Cross**. Her story has been a surreal one, from youth activism to a career in media and now disaster response. She has been long enamoured with social justice and the potential of grass roots community engagement to change the world. She is a respected speaker, instructor, and enthusiastic proponent of *social innovation* for the non-profit sector. With an Honours Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree in Sociology Melanie has taught several university courses in the Department of Indigenous Learning at Lakehead University and is currently a part-time faculty member at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. She has served on numerous regional and national boards of directors, most recently chairing the national board of the Arts Network for Children & Youth. She currently serves as a member of the national Aboriginal Advisory Circle for Save the Children Canada, an organization committed to ensuring children realize the rights to which they are entitled under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2014 Melanie was a presenter at the Canadian Humanitarian Conference addressing the topic of Canada's contribution to humanitarian response globally and providing humanitarian aid for Indigenous Peoples.

Melanie has combined her background in business, the arts and human rights to develop a unique series of workshops designed to help non-profit organizations that serve Indigenous Peoples in Canada succeed in an increasingly complex social mission sector. During her entrepreneurial career she was the national director of the Aboriginal Youth Business Council, owner of Raindancer Interactive Multimedia Communications & Consulting, and former National Youth Business Advisor for Aboriginal Business Canada, Industry Canada. Taking lessons learned from business and marrying them to social theory and social entrepreneurship Melanie teaches non-for-profit corporations to look at old problems in new ways - to use systems thinking and the latest technology to build dynamic and **resilient** organizations.



Melanie is also a biker and a member of the *Iron Butt Association*. She rode 1000 miles in 24 hours on her Harley-Davidson to earn herself the title of **one of the world's toughest riders!** She currently resides in Crystal Beach, Ontario with her husband and fellow iron butter.

Follow Melanie on twitter  @nishnabebiker email: goodchild_melanie@hotmail.com