

Indigenous Perspectives on Risk

By Robert (Bob) Watts
Tuesday June 20th, 2023



Robert (Bob) Watts is an expert in Indigenous policy, negotiations, and conflict resolution. He is the former Interim Executive Director of the Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which examined and made recommendations regarding the Indian Residential School era and its legacy. Bob served as Chief of Staff to the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Phil Fontaine and was a member of the team that negotiated the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. In 2019, Bob served as Chief of Staff to National Chief Perry Bellegarde and played a key role in historic budget allocations and the passage of Bills C-91 and 92. His public service includes Assistant Deputy Minister for the Government of Canada and Senior Executive in Ontario. Currently, Bob is the Vice President of Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and Adjunct Professor and Distinguished Fellow at Queen's University. He is also the Chair of the Gord Downie-Chaney Wenjack Fund and Chair of Reconciliation Canada. He is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Fellow at the Harvard Law School. Bob recently received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from McMaster University. He is from the Mohawk and Ojibway Nations and resides at Six Nations Reserve, Ontario. Bob carries and honours his Ojibway Spirit Name, Kinoozishingwak (Tall Pine) and is a member of the Bear Clan.