

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EDUCATION (CSSE)

KEYNOTE PLENARY SESSION



Félix Cárdenas Aguilar

Honorable Vice Minister of Decolonization, Bolivia

Introduced by Commissioner Marie Wilson, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Sunday, May 31st, 4:30 – 5:45 pm

Alumni Auditorium, Jock Turcot Building, University of Ottawa

Decolonizing Education from Indigenous Perspectives: Constructing a Multidimensional Justice

Indigenous peoples have the task today of sharing their cosmovision of conviviality and “living well” with all peoples in order that we build together a balanced relationship with Mother Earth and all forms of life. In this talk, Honorable Aguilar will share with Canadian educators and researchers some perspectives concerning decolonization and ‘de-patriarchalization’ as processes of social transformation toward a more just and harmonious society. Defining decolonization as both a dismantling of colonial institutions and structures of discrimination and a process of liberating thought, feeling, and knowing implies an intercultural education of empowerment.

Honorable Félix Cárdenas Aguilar is a relentless advocate of and fighter for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Native Farmers. He was born in Eucaliptus, Tomas Barron County, in the Oruro Region. An Aymara Indian, community organizer and trade union leader, he was arrested, imprisoned and tortured several times for his criticism of the military and neoliberal regimes that ruled Bolivia. He holds a Bachelor of Laws, and has done extensive research in areas of constitutionalism and studies of indigenous people. Since 2011, Honorable Aguilar chairs the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of: University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Education, Bishop’s University School of Education, the Canadian Sociology Association, the Association of Canadian Deans of Education, the Canadian Law and Society Association, the Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics, the Centre for Global Citizenship Education and Research of the University of Alberta, the Centre for Social Justice, Toronto, and Project of Heart, Canada.