



RBC Blue Water Project Advisory Panel



Merrell-Ann Phare,
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Merrell-Ann Phare is the Executive Director and Legal Counsel to the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), a national non-profit charitable environmental organisation. She has been with CIER in this capacity since its inception in 1994, when the founding Board of Directors asked her to assist them in creating a national First Nation environmental research, education and capacity-building organisation. CIER has four (4) program areas: Building Sustainable Communities, Conserving Biodiversity, Protecting Lands and Waters, and Taking Action on Climate Change.

Ms. Phare holds an undergraduate degree in environmental economics and, a bachelors and masters degree in law. Her graduate work focused on Indigenous water rights in Canada. Her current legal activities are directed at Aboriginal and treaty rights, environmental assessment and environmental sustainability.

Ms. Phare serves on numerous advisory committees and consultation bodies, including the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. She is a member of the Gordon Water Group, which recently published, "Changing the Flow: A Blueprint for Federal Action on Freshwater". She was appointed to the Canadian Delegation to the recent COP 11 Kyoto meetings as a representative of the Assembly of First Nations. She sat as a member of the 2005 Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee and, the 2003 Manitoba Task Force on Emission Trading and the Manitoba Economy.