



Collaborative  
Leadership  
Initiative

## Reconciliation in Action

The Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) is a facilitated process that provides resources and expertise to support leaders in government, business, and industry, as well as NGOs and the scientific community, as they find pathways for reconciliation and meaningful solutions to shared challenges.

The CLI builds on successful approaches implemented in other jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories, South Africa, and most recently, Manitoba. The CLI leverages a proven process to build trust, strengthen relationships, advance ongoing efforts, and develop new initiatives.





## Creating the Conditions

CLI starts by working with leaders and decision-makers through a structured process to open the lines of communication, identify shared areas of concern, and prioritize key actions that benefits everyone.

### Relationships first

CLI invests time and resources to develop respectful and productive relationships. Through the CLI process, elected leaders work together to dispel myths, build trust and understanding, and open new pathways and methods to tackle the tough issues.

### Action-oriented

The CLI process develops new approaches to decision-making, governance, and planning. CLI works with participants to tailor a process to ensure ongoing and long-term collaborative action.

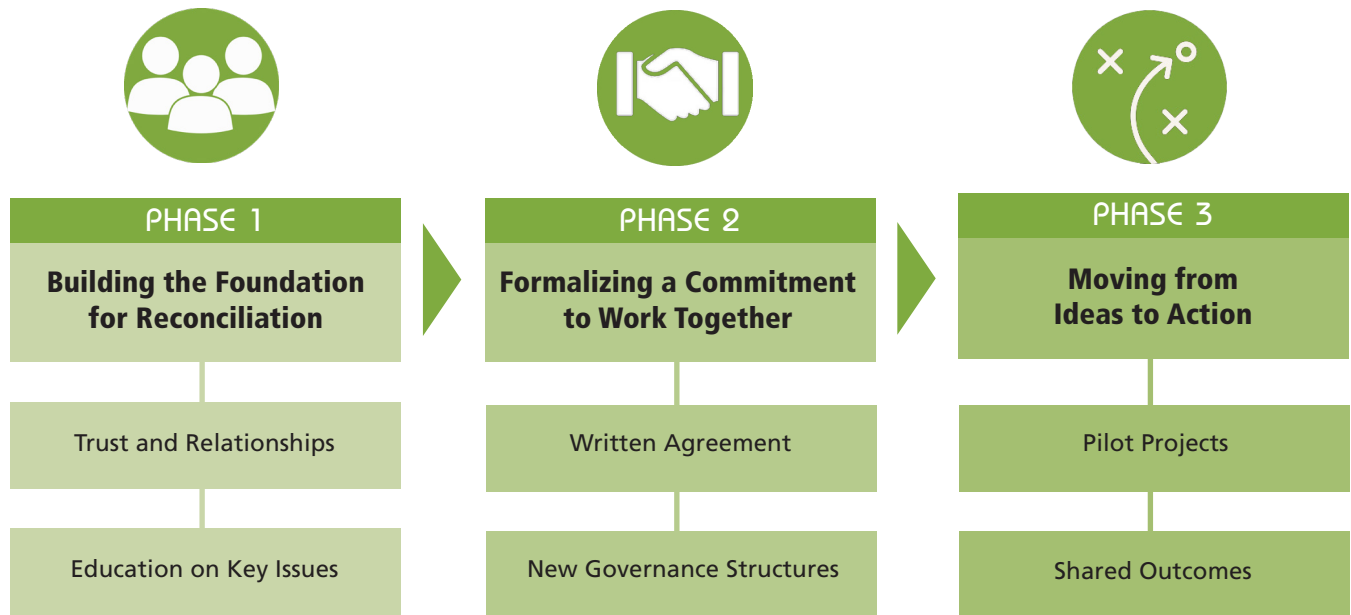
### Long-lasting

Sustainability is embedded in the CLI model as it is designed to create permanent change in processes, governance models, and operating systems. Focusing on sustainability from the outset ensures that outcomes are relevant and resilient.

*"The structured CLI process provides a framework for leaders and decision makers to successfully step from the shadow of the status quo toward partnerships and solutions that better serve our communities now and in the future."*

- Jim Bear

# The CLI Process



## A Proven Model – CLI Manitoba

In 2017, CIER brought the CLI model to Manitoba. The CLI Manitoba process gathered together elected leaders from 11 Indigenous governments and 16 municipalities for the first time in 154 years. This led to the signing of a historic intergovernmental MOU that has encouraged numerous joint initiatives across the Manitoba landscape.



Over three years, CLI Manitoba advanced the development of a reconciliation framework while building a co-governance table where government-to-government decisions are made. Having elected decision-makers at the table was a critical factor in its success.

Through the CLI process, the leaders have established productive working relationships and taken tangible action to address shared priorities that will continue to advance the region for years to come. See the CLI Manitoba documentary: [Reconciliation in Action](http://www.yourcier.org) at [www.yourcier.org](http://www.yourcier.org).

## Where We Are Going

Over the next five years, CIER is able to work with interested partners across Canada. If a region is selected for the CLI process, we will assist local partners in developing an approach that meets the needs of participating leaders and their communities. We are funded to provide our expertise and capacity, while participating leaders contribute their time and or in-kind resources to the process.

## Our Team

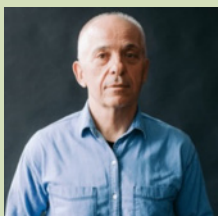
CLI is a project by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER). CIER is a national, Indigenous-directed non-profit organisation that works in partnership with Indigenous communities to protect their lands and waters and build sustainable communities. CIER specializes in reconciliation, working in the interface between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to advance shared outcomes that benefit everyone. The CLI is guided by a Steering Committee of six CIER associates with rich and diverse experience in advancing reconciliation and good governance.



**Merrell-Ann Phare** is a lawyer, writer, and the founding Executive Director of CIER, as well as legal counsel and advisor to First Nations and other governments and organisations. As co-facilitator of CLI, she brings extensive experience advancing Indigenous water rights and negotiating inter-governmental water agreements.



**Peigi Wilson** (pronounced Feggy), is a Métis lawyer, policy analyst, and member of the CIER Board of Directors. Peigi has broad experience across all levels of government, including with the Assembly of First Nations and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. She is currently a research manager at the First Nations Information Governance Centre.



**Michael Miltenberger** is an experienced politician and an expert in intergovernmental relations, serving as mayor of the town of Fort Smith, NWT for six years, as well as 20 years as a member of the Northwest Territories Legislature (including 14 years as a minister). Michael co-facilitates the CLI.



**Colleen Sklar** is the principal of Creative Resolutions, a conflict resolution expert, policy innovator, strategic communicator, and IAP certified community consultant. A recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her volunteer service, Colleen is also leading the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to develop Plan 20-50.



**Jim Bear** has extensive practical and political experience at all levels, including serving as Chief of Brokenhead Ojibwe Nation for many years, where he helped establish CLI Manitoba. Jim is also a co-founder of the Southeast Tribal Council and recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



**Laren Bill** is a member of Pelican Lake First Nation and has served as the Chairperson of the Implementation Monitoring Committee for Treaty Land Entitlement in Manitoba for the past seven years. He holds a Master of Natural Resource Management from the University of Manitoba.

*For more information on the Collaborative Leadership Initiative, please contact Richard Farthing-Nichol, CLI Project Manager, at [rfarthing-nichol@yourcier.org](mailto:rfarthing-nichol@yourcier.org)*

[www.yourcier.org](http://www.yourcier.org)