

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Centre for Pluralism Announces its Newest Board Member Mr. Mike DeGagné

Ottawa, Canada, October 27 2022 – The [Global Centre for Pluralism](#) welcomes Mike DeGagné as the newest member of its [Board of Directors](#). An Ojibway from the Animakee Wa Zhing 37 First Nation, Mr. DeGagné serves as the President & CEO of Indspire, an Indigenous charity investing in education for Indigenous populations across Canada.

Mr. DeGagné has a lifetime of experience in Indigenous health and education. He was appointed Nipissing University President and Vice Chancellor in 2013, becoming one of the first Indigenous presidents of a Canadian public university. While President of Nipissing, Mr. DeGagné dedicated much of his work to Indigenous issues and ensuring that Nipissing University took a leading role in the indigenization of the post-secondary education sector. He later served as the first President of Yukon University, a new hybrid post-secondary institution in Whitehorse, Yukon. During this time, he managed its transition to a university. His career includes working with the federal government in management of Indigenous programs and as a negotiator of comprehensive land claims.

In 1998, Mr. DeGagné became the founding Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, a national Indigenous organization dedicated to addressing the legacy of Canada's Indian Residential School System. He is the Chair of The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

“It is with the utmost enthusiasm and honour that I join the Board of Directors of the Global Centre for Pluralism. I believe pluralism is essential in the creation of inclusive societies that lift the voices of Indigenous populations across the world and contribute to the important work of reconciliation still needed,” said Mr. DeGagné. “Canada’s colonial history highlights the urgent need of pluralistic efforts to pave the way for integral, transparent, equitable and respectful societies. I look forward to working with the Centre to further promote pluralism and allow for impactful dialogue and collaborations.”

Mr. DeGagné holds a PhD from Michigan State University, focussing on Indigenous post-secondary success, and Master’s degrees in administration, Law, and Public Ethics. He has co-edited and co-authored several publications in Canada and Australia on reconciliation and healing. Mr. DeGagné is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario as well as the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. Most recently, he received an Indspire Award for Public Service, was inducted into the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame, and received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Dalhousie University.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Calina Ellwand,
Senior Manager, Communications and Public Affairs, Global Centre for Pluralism
+1-613-688-0137
media@pluralism.ca