



When it comes to community initiatives that put people first, Christa Rust knows what she's talking about.



She is a Project Officer on the Measurement and Assessment team with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Since June 2007, Christa has been leading a project that teams the urban First Nations community in Winnipeg with IISD's Community Initiatives Fund.

Starting with Winnipeg, Christa's work is designed to further develop the capacity of a wide range of communities in North America and beyond. Through a series of workshops, this grassroots process identifies and reflects issues and concerns that matter most to the people involved.

“I love my work because it helps people create a vision for their own future” Christa says proudly. “It’s inspiring to see everyone—from elders and parents to teenagers and children—sharing their ideas, experience and wisdom. Together, they’re crafting their own sustainable solutions to influence policy and generate positive changes in their community far into the future.”

Building on the skills, strengths and knowledge of First Nations Christa’s work promotes open discussions on everything from cultural identity, employment, education and governance to health, housing, security and community services. It also helps chart the progress made towards the community’s sustainable goals and regularly reports its findings back to the people it serves.



“This project is also about sustainability at the community level,” says Christa. “Whether it’s in Winnipeg or in Lake Balaton in Hungary—the bottom line is the same. The more community indicator systems are used, the more communities can learn how to live sustainably.”



**Invest in the IISD Community Initiatives Fund, today
So our communities can live sustainably, tomorrow.**

Our Community Initiatives Fund Goal is \$500,000.*

IISD needs your support now. With you on our team, the IISD Community Initiatives Fund can grow to support more community-level projects.

Together, we can make a world of difference.

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**Support for the IISD Community Initiatives Fund is part of our “Bridging the Gap Between Knowing and Doing” Capital Campaign which has a private sector goal of \$5 million.*