



**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

**BEST DOCTORAL THESIS IN CANADIAN STUDIES AWARD**

**Ottawa, Ontario - May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009** – The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) is pleased to announce that the Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies will be presented to Doctor Robert Joseph for his thesis “The Government of Themselves: Indigenous Peoples’ Internal Self-Determination, Effective Self-Governance and Authentic Representation: Wailato-Tainui, Ngai Tahu and Nisga’a”. Dr. Joseph will receive his award during ICCS annual banquet to be held in Quebec, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Dr. Joseph’s candidacy was submitted by the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand. The panel of examiners that evaluated Mr. Joseph’s thesis were well satisfied by the dissertation and its defence. They wished that several themes explored by Mr. Joseph would be published and become available to a wider public. Dr. Joseph becomes the first Maori lawyer to receive that degree from the University of Waikato. In his thesis, Mr. Joseph offers a comparative study of Canadian and New Zealand Aboriginal Peoples’ right to self-determination, both internally and within an international law context, along with the autonomous exercise of power within their respective post-colonial nations. To this end, Mr. Joseph explores several cases of agreements in self-governance in Canada and New Zealand. The research and analysis of these agreements presented by Mr. Joseph brings a significant contribution to a better understanding of the issues related to the implementation of future self-determination agreements with Aboriginal Peoples, an important issue for both Canada and New Zealand.

Dr. Joseph completed his Bachelor and Master of Laws degrees at Waikato and was admitted to the Bar in 1998. He is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and was a senior research fellow for the Te Mātāhauariki Research Institute at the University of Waikato under the leadership of Judge Michael Brown and Dr Alex Frame. Dr Joseph is the New Zealand representative on the executive of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ).

The International Council for Canadian Studies is an organization of twenty-one national and multi-national Canadian Studies associations and 6 associate members in 39 countries, i.e. 7,500 teachers of university level that reach more than 150,000 students. Its mandate is to promote research, teaching and publishing on Canada around the world.

**For further details, contact:**

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