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Merrell-Ann Phare is a lawyer and the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources. She is the author of the book 'Denying the Source: the Crisis of First Nations Water Rights' and co-author, with Robert Sandford, of Ethical Water. She is a member of the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW), the Water Partners Advisory Committee for the Council of the Federation, and Living Lakes Canada Partners Advisory Committee. She regularly speaks on water issues and First Nations. Her graduate work focused on Indigenous water rights in the context of international trade agreements.