



BC TREATY COMMISSION

Forging Linkages & Finding Solutions

A BC Treaty Commission Conference for First Nations

2008 Conference Workshop Sessions

Three interactive workshops on governance, economic development and capacity building will focus on information sharing and generating ideas that will assist First Nations working to create healthy, self-sustaining, culturally-vibrant communities. Conference participants will be assigned a workshop rotation, attending all three workshops over two days with their fellow group members.

Each workshop will be facilitated by subject matter experts knowledgeable on the topic. They will provide examples from their experiences and facilitate discussion among workshop participants. Understanding the unique needs and capabilities of individual communities, participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their perspectives, ideas, solutions and challenges.

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Governance

From negotiating treaties to developing a constitution to implementing a land or custom election code, leaders in First Nation communities have many governance issues to tackle. Larry Derrickson and Tim Raybould will facilitate discussion on the challenges faced by First Nations communities addressing issues of governance and explore solutions and tools communities have developed to move forward. Participants are encouraged to think about the governance work still to be done in their communities and share examples of their communities' accomplishments in the area.

Facilitators: Chief Robert Louie, Westbank First Nation
Larry Derrickson, Westbank First Nation Councillor
Dr. Tim Raybould, Chief Negotiator, Westbank First Nation

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Economic Development

First Nations communities in BC are diverse. Varied geography, territory resources, populations and community capacities mean First Nations need to be innovative in identifying ways to create economic prosperity for their communities. There are many existing and new economic opportunities for First Nations to consider. Sophie Pierre will encourage conversation among participants about the economic development opportunities in their communities and identify available resources to help advance development.

Facilitators: Chief Sophie Pierre, St. Mary's Indian Band

Capacity Building

Treaty settlement land, cooperative management regimes, business opportunities and a solid governance structure mean little to a First Nation that doesn't have the people needed to make it all work. Identifying community members and supporting them to acquire the education and skills needed to be the community leaders of tomorrow is fundamental to building thriving communities. Sheldon Tetreault will help each group identify the resources their communities have now and those they will need in the future, including the processes needed to get there.

Facilitator: Sheldon Tetreault, Director of Governance Advisory Services for the National Centre for First Nations Governance