



Joint 2017 Gathering

January 17-19
Vancouver,
British Columbia

SUMMARY REPORT



First Nations Summit



Union of BC Indian Chiefs



BC Assembly of First Nations



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

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Executive Summary

Joint Gathering 2017, held January 17 to 19, 2017 in Vancouver, British Columbia, was the fifth annual gathering of British Columbia First Nation Chiefs, Councillors, and Administrators with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) senior officials. The event, held on the shared traditional territories of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, was co-hosted by the First Nations Leadership Council, comprised of the First Nations Summit, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, and INAC.

“Stronger Communities” was the theme of this year’s *Joint Gathering*. To expand on this, the Honourable Minister Carolyn Bennett stated in her video address:

“We want to work with you, to tap into that strength and vision, to create enduring partnerships that will secure a prosperous future for First Nations in British Columbia (...) True nation-to-nation relationships mean working together to take steps that advance reconciliation.”

She further cited Gord Downie, who reminded Canadians during his *Secret Path* performance, “we have 150 years behind us that we need to learn from and we’ve got 150 years ahead, and we’d better just get to work.” Participants re-iterated this sentiment over the next three days.

Three hundred and fifty-eight First Nations participants, representing 80 per cent of British Columbia’s 198 First Nations, attended the *Gathering*. The three-day event consisted of five plenary and nine interactive breakout sessions. The main themes of Reconciliation, Partnerships and Innovation were chosen based on feedback from an Autumn 2016 survey of BC First Nations. A reception celebrating First Nations culture was held on the second evening.

Participants listened intently during presentations. Panelists and presenters spoke openly and passionately on behalf of their communities, sharing successes, lessons learned and best practices, as well as encouraging a sense of opportunity for present and future generations.



Day 1 consisted of “Living Reconciliation – First Nations’ Perspectives”, a plenary panel that highlighted the different views of self-determination. INAC then provided an update on the two-staged approach in response to the *Descheneaux* decision. Stage 1 focused on the elimination of known sex-based inequities in Indian registration, including the issues raised in *Descheneaux*, through legislative amendments. Stage 2 will provide for a collaborative process with First Nations and other Indigenous groups that will examine the broader issues relating to Indian registration and band membership. Regional Director General Catherine Lappe, alongside the BC Region Executive Leadership Team, closed the first day by providing participants with an overview of fiscal year 2016-2017 regional investments.

Day 2 began with a plenary on the subject of “Land and Resource Management and Use” featuring First Nations leaders who have successfully increased their Nations’ participation level in the economy using the assets of their traditional territory. The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations also provided a lunchtime overview of their Sustainable Economic Development and Fiscal Relations Strategy.

Two plenaries made up the afternoon: “Opportunities for Horizontal Engagement and Collaboration” focused on the subject of engagement with First Nations, while “New Fiscal Relationship” spoke to the work to-date by the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on sufficient and predictable funding and mutual accountability for First Nations.

The “Housing” plenary opened Day 3, giving an overview of national housing engagement activities in addition to showcasing First Nations’ housing successes. After lunch, an Elder/Youth Report out session provided valuable insight into new ways to enhance relationships between First Nations and INAC.

In the spirit of reconciliation and relationship-building between First Nations and INAC, the BC Regional Office hosted a two-day Open House before and after *Joint Gathering 2017*. In total, 96 guests from 53 First Nations used this opportunity to engage with regional subject matter experts. Booths were set up representing key programs and sectors, and face-to-face meetings were held throughout the building on topics such as infrastructure, housing and economic development.

Throughout *Joint Gathering 2017*, participants made numerous recommendations. These recommendations and respective action items can be found in the pages that follow. INAC will report out on progress made on these action items in October 2017, eight months after *Joint Gathering* took place.

This report has been prepared with the First Nations Leadership Council and will be shared with First Nations in British Columbia, within INAC and with other federal and provincial government participants.



Summary for Day I – Reconciliation

PLENARY SESSIONS

“Living” Reconciliation – First Nations’ Perspectives

- » Panel discussion defining reconciliation and self-determination
- » INAC Lead: Treaty and Aboriginal Government – Negotiations West

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">» The goal is not just the treaty itself. Treaties and other agreements are tools to achieve reconciliation.» We are better together – reconciliation needs to start with First Nations.» First Nations have much to contribute to their neighbouring communities and to the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» INAC will continue to seek opportunities for ongoing dialogue to truly decolonize existing federal policies and practices to advance reconciliation. For example, Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussions provide groups with the opportunity to outline their rights, interests, and community goals with federal officials with the aim of collaboratively developing a new federal mandate. As these discussions evolve, Canada and Indigenous groups will move closer towards reconciling and renewing nation-to-nation relationships. These discussions will also inform broader policy reform, including the policy work undertaken by the Review of Laws and Policies Working Group of Ministers.



INAC BC Region Overview Report

- » Summary of 2016-2017 investments and Budget 2016
- » INAC Leads: Funding Services Directorate and Programs and Partnerships Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations would like to be notified when new funding becomes available and INAC could do more to simplify the application process. » First Nations want to know how budget dollars are invested in British Columbia First Nations and how budgets are calculated. » There is a need for transparency on how outcomes are being measured for the funding provided to the provincial Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Children and Family Development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Consolidated Application Pilot was expanded to include all First Nations for the 2017-2018 application cycle. This project combined several funding applications into one package to make it easier to keep track of deadlines and application forms. For the 2018-2019 funding cycle, planned improvements include adding additional programs and using technology to reduce data entry and alert communities to which programs they may be eligible to apply. As well, in Summer 2017, INAC will solicit input from First Nations to identify additional improvements that could further simplify the application process. » INAC will report out to First Nations on budget investments twice annually. » INAC will work with the First Nation Education Steering Committee to include language that better describes provincial accountability in Tripartite Education Funding Agreement renewal negotiations. Similarly, conversations about effective and transparent funding models will be discussed at the First Nations Child and Family Services Tripartite Working Group which includes representatives from the First Nations Leadership Council, the BC Ministry of Child and Family Development and INAC.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Negotiating Treaties Differently

- » Panel discussion on treaty negotiation process in BC
- » INAC Lead: Treaty and Aboriginal Government – Negotiations West

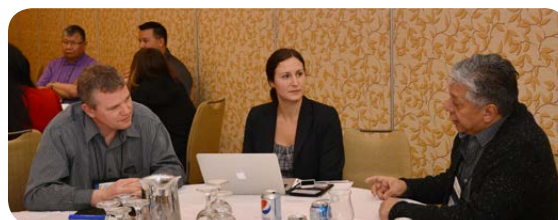
WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations showed cautious support for the new concepts discussed in the final report, <i>Multilateral Engagement Process to Improve and Expedite Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia</i>, and noted this process could work for some communities. » First Nations are frustrated by the length of time taken by negotiations, making many wary of treaties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC will continue to work in partnership with the First Nations Summit and the Province of British Columbia to implement the proposals from the report. » INAC will continue to discuss and explore the new concepts at treaty and exploratory tables wherever First Nations are interested.



Using Social Media for Community Engagement

- » Interactive opportunity using social media tools
- » INAC Lead: Community Development Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations are interested in learning new and effective ways to engage community members through social media. » First Nations desire new approaches and tools to overcome the challenges social media creates to deal with cyber bullying, confidentiality concerns, misinformation and accessibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A Social Media Tips and Tricks tool was drafted as a result of the <i>Joint Gathering</i> session and it was shared with interested First Nations, in addition to being posted on the British Columbia Mentor's Comprehensive Community Planning website. » INAC will incorporate specific social media topics and discussions into future workshops and tools (including both 2017-2018 BC Region and National Comprehensive Community Planning workshops).



Tripartite Education Framework Agreement

- » Panel discussion on the success of the Agreement
- » INAC Lead: Programs and Partnerships Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations expressed concern that the Tripartite Education Funding Agreement (TEFA) would be “rolled over” without substantial changes or additional investments, and identified key priorities for TEFA renewal, notably language and culture, transportation and technology. » First Nations would like more information on language and culture supports given the recent announcement of the creation of the <i>First Nations Language Act</i>. » First Nations expressed concerns regarding the high levels of teacher turnover, especially in rural and northern locations. » First Nations indicated the importance of having trades training available for students in high schools as an opportunity to explore trades before graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The input provided at <i>Joint Gathering</i> will form part of the business case INAC is developing with the First Nation Education Steering Committee and the Government of British Columbia for additional investment in TEFA renewal. » INAC will work with the First Nations Education Steering Committee to share information with First Nations on language and culture supports. » The three parties in TEFA renewal negotiations will continue to collaborate on strategies to reduce teacher turnover in First Nations schools and include mechanisms in the new agreement to support these strategies. » INAC will launch a process in 2017 to explore key issues in post-secondary education funding. INAC will use the feedback provided at <i>Joint Gathering</i> to help inform the post-secondary reform process.

Summary for Day 2 – Partnerships

PLENARY SESSIONS

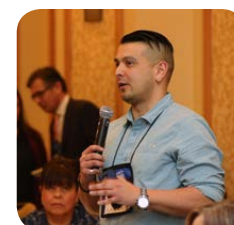
Land and Resource Management and Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Panel discussion on First Nation participation in the economy » INAC Lead: Lands and Economic Development Directorate 	
WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Dedicated funding for developing and implementing land codes (under the <i>First Nations Land Management Act</i>) is needed to assist communities with land use planning. » Roundtable discussions on protocols and respect are critical to build partnerships with industry. » First Nations want a fair and equitable share in economic development which balances social and environmentally-sustainable approaches, and is inclusive of First Nations' perspectives. » First Nations would benefit from targeted investments allowing them to participate in economic opportunities to support business solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The funding formula between INAC and the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre is currently under review and will consider the increased demand on resources associated with the development of Land Codes. » Through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative – West Coast Energy, INAC will invest \$1.19 million in 2017-2018 in the Major Projects Coalition, whose purpose is to establish partnership protocols between First Nations and the West Coast Energy industry. » INAC continues to support the implementation of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations' three-year economic development strategy with an annual commitment of \$250,000 for last year and this year. » A clear milestone has been the creation of the Champions Table, a collective of 11 First Nations leaders and 11 private sector leaders with the long-term goal of working towards economic reconciliation and certainty through partnerships. » INAC has committed \$30,000 for 2017-2018 to support the Economic Development Association of BC (representing all economic development officers in BC) to provide technical training to promote partnerships between First Nations and local government. » INAC is investing \$2.1 million (through the Community Opportunity Readiness Program) in 10 First Nations to implement business infrastructure readiness. A further \$1.1 million is being invested to support capacity building initiatives related to economic development.



Opportunities for Horizontal Engagement and Collaboration

- » Panel discussion with senior federal officials and Coastal First Nations
- » INAC Lead: Lands and Economic Development Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Canada needs to consider a holistic, cross-agency approach to reduce the likelihood of future environmental incidents, and mitigate damage from incidents that do occur. » First Nations must have a leadership role to establish a governance framework to manage the West Coast. This must not be limited to planning and response initiatives or economic development opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Various departments, including INAC, contributed funding and supported the Heiltsuk Tribal Council to host the <i>Standing Together</i> symposium on May 23-25, 2017 regarding the response to the sinking of the Nathan E. Stewart and resulting diesel spill. » INAC is engaged with Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to implement the Oceans Protection Plan. INAC continues to raise First Nations objectives with Other Government Departments regarding environmental stewardship through land management.



New Fiscal Relationship

- » Panel discussion on sustainable funding co-led by INAC's Chief Financial Officer and co-chair of the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations
- » INAC Lead: Funding Services Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations require sufficient levels of dedicated funding to assist members residing off-reserve and for remote and isolated communities. » First Nations stated a need to move away from a system where funding is restrictive and based on performance, and into a system of sustainable funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC and the Assembly of First Nations agreed to establish Terms of Reference that recognizes economic gaps and a work plan that moves toward sustained funding. Engagement sessions with Chief and Councils in British Columbia are planned for Autumn 2017, with a report by the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee anticipated by December 2017. » On June 7, 2017 the First Nations Summit co-hosted a dialogue session entitled <i>Defining a New First Nations Fiscal Relationship with the Crown</i>, giving First Nations an opportunity to discuss key fiscal issues, capacity development and preparation for engagement with the Crown on a new fiscal relationship. Presenters included the Assembly of First Nations National Chief, INAC's Chief Financial Officer and the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Treaties and Aboriginal Government.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Interactive Dialogue on Small-Scale Indigenous Entrepreneurship

- » Open space where participants identified discussion topics of interest
- » INAC Lead: Lands and Economic Development Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations require community members with the necessary skills and training. Additionally, communities (particularly smaller ones) need easier access to economic development funding and related capital. » Economic development requires leadership and vision built on a unique community plan. Succession planning is important to sustain long-term development. » First Nations want land use management training which incorporates the separation of band governance from business development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At <i>Links to Learning 2017</i>, one-on-one mentoring sessions will be hosted and a number of technical workshops will be coordinated between INAC, the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers and the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association to provide information for First Nations which have not traditionally accessed economic development funding. » INAC has updated its evaluation processes to ensure First Nations who have not previously accessed program funding will be given priority. One example is the Community Opportunity Readiness Program which will focus its funding criteria to prioritize communities who have completed land use plans and five-year economic development plans. » INAC provides funding for up to 25 First Nations annually to attend the Lands Use Planning training program. A request for participants for 2017-2018 was done in August 2017.



Land and Resource Management and Use

- » Discussion opportunity continued from morning plenary on First Nation participation in the economy
- » INAC Lead: Lands and Economic Development Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations require a distinct role with major project and environmental reviews to ensure that their rights and interests are fully protected. » Land use planning is a valuable exercise enabling prepared First Nations to act on potential opportunities. » First Nations need to retain qualified advisors to assess major resource projects. » First Nations must work to overcome internal land-related disputes, and present a unified position to industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC engaged with First Nations in Kelowna on June 13-15, 2017 to review the Regional Land and Environmental Management Program. » INAC facilitated the legislative review of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> to help ensure that First Nations' rights and interests are heard. » INAC provides funding to First Nations on how to develop a Land Use Plan through the British Columbia Capacity Initiative, the Professional and Institutional Development program and the First Nations Infrastructure Fund.

Community Engagement of All Ages

- » Panel discussion on opportunities to involve various age groups in the Comprehensive Community Planning process
- » INAC Lead: Community Development Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Examples of effective practices for engaging membership in the planning process of Comprehensive Community Planning include: social media, prizes and draws, community gatherings and door-to-door visits. » First Nations want more flexible and reliable financial support for both the planning process and the implementation of Comprehensive Community Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC is leading efforts to build a National Community Development strategy which includes securing flexible and reliable funding for Comprehensive Community Planning processes. » INAC has committed to expand the Comprehensive Community Planning Implementation pilot up to 20 communities in 2017-2018, from the initial five supported in 2016-2017.



Promising Child & Family Wellness Practices

- » Panel discussion on Child and Family Services Program reform
- » INAC Lead: Programs and Partnerships Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<p>Increased First Nations Role in Child Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations need to know where their children are located, especially children in urban areas. » First Nations need information about their children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. » First Nations need to be empowered to take back the responsibility for child well-being. <p>Training and Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations need additional training and resources to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Assist families in navigating the court system; and, › Educate youth, families, and new parents about the importance of culture and language. » Elders can play a key role in addressing and supporting healing in the communities. First Nations need to develop preventative services within their community to keep children out of care. <p>New Fiscal Relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations stated the importance of flexibility in the use of funds related to prevention activities. » First Nations want INAC to look at funding mechanisms for Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and the 84 unaffiliated First Nations. <p>Policies and Program Overhaul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A holistic approach to physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health needs of children need to be considered when dealing with child well-being. » Neither family composition nor number of family members should impact the perception of families' ability to care for children. The current provincial policy on poverty needs to be reviewed. » There is a funding discrepancy between foster parents and family members who care for children. » Funding needs to be provided to both First Nations communities and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC will continue to work with the Ministry of Child and Family Development and the First Nations Leadership Council at the Tripartite Working Group on Child and Family Wellness to implement recommendations identified in the report "<i>Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions</i>," including First Nations' role in child welfare. » INAC will actively participate with the Child and Family Tripartite Working Group (with representatives from the First Nations Leadership Council and the Ministry of Children and Family Development) to provide resources and expertise that will increase training and capacity for First Nations to address ongoing child and family services issues. » INAC is working in British Columbia with our partners, including leadership and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, to provide input into national Child and Family Services Program discussion on funding methodologies, including funding mechanisms for the 84 unaffiliated First Nations. » The National Advisory Committee, chaired by Grand Chief Edward John, is currently working on strategies to reform the Child and Family Services Program including holistic practices for child and family well-being, funding methodologies for Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, and a framework for direct funding to communities. Representatives from British Columbia sit on both the advisory council and the working groups leading this initiative. BC INAC has also started a Child and Family Services engagement strategy using the First Nations Health Council's engagement pathway, which enables direct community access through Regional Health Caucuses.

Summary for Day 3 – Innovation

Housing

- » Panel discussion on best practices shared by First Nations along with an overview on Housing Program Reform
- » Breakout discussion groups continued session on how First Nations and INAC can improve
- » INAC Lead: Community Infrastructure Directorate

WHAT WAS HEARD	ACTION ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » First Nations want to share best practices and innovative housing ideas regarding governance, capacity, planning, policy implementation, and mentoring with other First Nations. » First Nations want support for housing plans that are financially viable and developed by First Nations for First Nations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » INAC will promote nation-to-nation networking through workshops and information sessions that include shared best practices for housing policy and planning and implementation of housing strategies. » INAC will also promote First Nations-developed resources such as the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council Housing Toolkit and the Yale First Nation Mentoring website to other First Nations. » INAC will engage with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to seek out opportunities to hold joint workshops and information sessions tailored to First Nation-identified needs and nation-to-nation mentoring. » INAC will continue to support First Nations capacity development and housing policy planning through the New Approach for Housing Support Program funding and Budget 2016 investments.



Participant Evaluation Highlights

Joint Gathering 2017 was attended by 358 First Nations participants and 114 delegates representing the First Nations Leadership Council, the Province of British Columbia, other federal departments and provincial ministries. In total, 129 INAC staff were on site to listen, present and support the event.

Participant feedback was solicited throughout *Joint Gathering* via written questionnaires and real-time surveys.

- 62.2 per cent of participants said *Joint Gathering* was “very informative”
- 36.4 per cent of participants said *Joint Gathering* was “informative”
- 1.4 per cent of participants said *Joint Gathering* was “not informative”
- 87 per cent of respondents would like “the Open House to become an annual part of *Joint Gathering*”
- 52.6 per cent found that “more time is needed for question and answers following presentations”
- 52.1 per cent would like “more engagement sessions happening in different locations with information provided prior to the event to allow time for engagement preparation”

Quotes noted from participant evaluation forms include:

“This year’s Gathering was very informative; we heard so many needs and so many positive outcomes of improvement in different communities.”

“Exciting to see the Department is finally listening and trying to be proactive with our concerns.”

“This was my first Joint Gathering and it was an amazing experience! Very good conference, it was great to have INAC at the table and willing to listen.”

“It was great to hear all the innovative approaches to dealing with housing issues.”

Further feedback from the forms illustrated a need for “increased representation from federal government departments in upcoming *Joint Gatherings*.” This includes the attendance of senior officials and their participation in discussions, as well as the inclusion of additional representatives at the Exhibitor Fair from all departments and agencies which engage with First Nations in British Columbia. Participants also stated that they enjoyed the interactive format of the plenary and breakout sessions and would like to see this continue at future *Joint Gatherings*.

Additionally, participants indicated that next year’s *Joint Gathering* agenda should include:

- Social issues including health, youth transitioning from foster care to independence, substance abuse and suicide prevention;
- Program information including steps to access funding and a proposal writing workshop; and,
- Strategies for isolated and rural communities to meet the challenges of increased costs to provide services related to the capital and education programs.



Other Items of Note



EXHIBITOR FAIR

Representatives from the following organizations had exhibitor tables at *Joint Gathering 2017* where information was provided:

- Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of British Columbia
- BC Hydro
- Canadian Heritage
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- First Nations Technology Council
- Parks Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Service Canada



“ASK ME” BOOTH

INAC staff operated the “Ask Me” Booth where staff members answered questions and facilitated meetings between First Nations and INAC staff on topics ranging from housing, education and economic development. Meetings were scheduled both during *Joint Gathering 2017* and after the event.



SUMMARY FOR ENGAGEMENT

INAC sought feedback in regards to enhancing both regional and national engagement processes with First Nations and First Nations organizations. The feedback clearly stated: relationships are an essential part of engagement; engagement should be undertaken in the community; and, inadequate time allocation and preconceived approaches can hinder successful engagement sessions. However, these issues can be overcome in part by enhancing communication and knowledge of local customs.

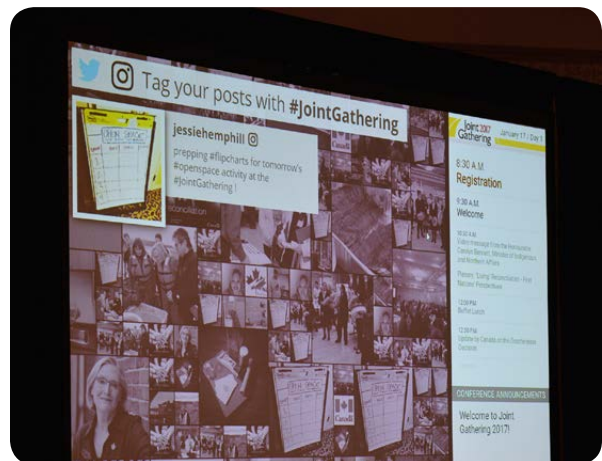


ENTERTAINMENT

Joint Gathering 2017 showcased the talented drummers from the Committee for the Advancement of Native Employment drum group throughout the event. They were joined at the closing by Phoenix Alec, the “Pow Wow Princess” from the Penticton Indian Band. Miss Alec and the Coastal Wolf Pack, a Salish family drumming group, also performed on the evening of Day 2.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A new addition to this year's *Joint Gathering* included social media. Participants were encouraged to post information and their thoughts on social media while using the #JointGathering hashtag. Tweets and Instagrams were displayed in real-time on screens throughout the venue to further promote sharing. The increased use of social media provided more opportunity for participants to engage and interact with each other and INAC staff, as well as to share information with their communities.



Next Steps

The First Nations Leadership Council and INAC are committed to the continued success of *Joint Gathering*. First Nations have re-affirmed the importance of communities sharing their successes and challenges as well as the desire for more youth participation. INAC will produce a summary of work to-date on noted action items demonstrating progress in October 2017, eight months after *Joint Gathering 2017* took place. In planning future agendas, the First Nations Leadership Council and INAC will continue to incorporate suggestions and recommendations to meet the needs of First Nations communities.



Annex A: Joint Gathering 2017 Agenda

AGENDA

The theme of Joint Gathering 2017 is **Stronger Communities**, with daily sub-themes of **Reconciliation**, **Partnerships** and **Innovation**.

The Joint Gathering is a place for First Nation community leaders and government officials to respectfully and openly discuss issues and ways of working together. Over these three days, we hope you are able to engage in meaningful discussions and identify areas where we can collaborate and continue to move forward together to advance First Nation interests.

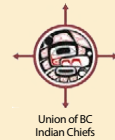
CO-HOSTED BY



BC Assembly of First Nations



First Nations Summit



Union of BC Indian Chiefs



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones et du Nord Canada

DAY 1: RECONCILIATION (8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.)

8:30 A.M. Registration

9:30 A.M. Welcome

Opening Prayer

» Deborah Sparrow, Musqueam Indian Band

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Welcome

» Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General, BC Region
» Diane Lafleur, Associate Deputy Minister

First Nations Leadership Council Welcome

» Robert Phillips, First Nations Summit
» Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
» Chief Maureen Chapman, BC Assembly of First Nations

Outline of the Joint Gathering program and event housekeeping by Co-Moderators Harold Tarbell and Jessie Hemphill

10:30 A.M. Video Message from the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

Plenary: "Living" Reconciliation – First Nations' Perspectives

What does **Stronger Communities** mean to you? Focusing on reconciliation, this plenary will feature a panel discussion of INAC and First Nation representatives, on what reconciliation means to them and their visions of self-determination. A Q&A session will follow with the audience.

» Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, INAC
» Kathryn Teneese, Chair, Ktunaxa Nation Council
» Wendy John, Councillor, Musqueam Indian Band
» John Jack, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations

12:00 P.M. Buffet Lunch

12:30 P.M. Update by Canada on the Descheneaux Decision
» Joan McEwen, Manager, Resolution and Individual Affairs, INAC

DAY 1: RECONCILIATION (CONTINUED)

1:00 P.M. Interactive Breakout Sessions

The following concurrent interactive sessions provide an opportunity for participants to engage with each other and with INAC officials.

1. Interactive Dialogue on Reconciliation @ Ballroom I

Open space dialogue where participants will identify discussion topics of interest.

» Facilitated by **Jessie Hemphill**

2. Negotiating Treaties Differently @ Ballroom II

A panel discussion on new approaches considered in the Final Report of the Multilateral Engagement Process to Improve and Expedite Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia.

» **Chris Kelly**, Manager, Policy Development, *Treaties and Aboriginal Government-Negotiations West (TAG-NW)*, INAC

» **Nancy Morgan**, Counsel, First Nations Summit

» **Barbara Miles**, Manager, Strategic Policy Branch, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

» **Paul Paterson**, Chief Negotiator, Gitga'at First Nation

» **Robert Morales**, Chief Negotiator, Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group

» Facilitated by **Avril Archibald**, Senior Advisor, TAG-NW, INAC

3. Tripartite Education Framework Agreement @ Ballroom III

A panel discussion on the successes of the Agreement.

» **Jody Kaden**, Director, Programs & Partnerships, BC Region, INAC

» **Tyrone McNeil**, President, First Nations Education Steering Committee

» **Deborah Jeffrey**, Executive Director, First Nations Education Steering Committee

» **Pamela Lee Lewis**, President, First Nations Schools Association

» **Don Avison**, Lead Negotiator, Province of BC

» Facilitated by **Harold Tarbell**

4. Using Social Media for Community Engagement @ Point Grey

An interactive session with the opportunity for hands-on experience using social media tools.

» **Graham Richards**, Communications, Council of the Haida Nation

» **Cara Basil**, CCP Mentor, Bonaparte Indian Band

» **Hanna Waswa**, Social Media Intern, First Nations Technology Council

» Co-facilitated by **Dana Moraes**, *Comprehensive Community Planning Champion of the Skidegate Band Council*, and

Lauren Kelly, *Communications and Engagement Manager of the First Nations Technology Council*

2:30 P.M. Wellness Break

3:00 P.M. INAC BC Region Overview Report

This session will provide an overview by the Regional Director General on 2016-2017 investments, including Budget 2016. A Q&A session with the Regional Director General and BC Region executives will follow.

» **Catherine Lappe**, Regional Director General, BC Region, INAC

» **BC Region Executive Leadership Team**

4:00 P.M. Participant Feedback

Utilizing a clicker response system, questions will be related to the day's discussions.

DAY 2: PARTNERSHIPS (7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.)

7:00 A.M. **Hot Buffet Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 A.M. **Opening**

Opening Prayer

» Margaret George, Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Reflect on Day 1 and introduce Day 2

8:45 A.M. **Plenary: Land and Resource Management and Use**

What does **Stronger Communities** mean to you? Focusing on land and resource management and use, this plenary will feature a panel discussion of First Nations leaders who have increased their participation in the economy through the use of lands and resources within their traditional territory.

- » Chief Marie Quock, Iskut First Nation
- » Chief Joe Bevan, Kitselas First Nation
- » Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation
- » Robert Louie, Chairman, First Nations Lands Advisory Board
- » Giovanni Puggioni, Executive Director, LNG & Major Projects, BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

10:00 A.M. **Wellness Break**

10:30 A.M. **Interactive Breakout Sessions**

The following concurrent interactive sessions provide an opportunity for participants to engage with each other and with INAC officials.

1. Interactive Dialogue on Small-Scale Indigenous Entrepreneurship @ Ballroom I

Open space where participants will identify discussion topics of interest.

- » Co-facilitated by Chief Patrick Michell of Kanaka Bar First Nation and David Russell, Director of Lands and Economic Development, BC Region, INAC

2. Child & Family Wellness in BC @ Ballroom II

A panel discussion on the tripartite Child and Family Services Working Group and the way forward.

- » Cheryl Casimer, First Nations Summit Task Group
- » Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- » Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Child and Family Development
- » Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General, BC Region, INAC
- » Facilitated by Harold Tarbell

3. Community Engagement of All Ages @ Ballroom III

A panel discussion on ways to engage and involve different age groups in the Comprehensive Community Planning process.

- » Cara Basil, CCP Mentor, Bonaparte Indian Band
- » Melanie Minabarriet, Youth, Bonaparte Indian Band
- » Rosalie Zabolte, Elder, Bonaparte Indian Band
- » Sherylynn Crispen, CCP Mentor, Sts'ailes First Nation
- » Susan Balfour, Sts'ailes First Nation

4. Land and Resource Management and Use @ Point Grey

A continuation of the earlier plenary, the panel presenters will go into greater detail on their individual approaches to involve their Nations in the resource use of their traditional territories. A Q&A session will follow with the audience.

- » Chief Marie Quock, Iskut First Nation
- » Chief Joe Bevan, Kitselas First Nation
- » Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation
- » Robert Louie, Chairman, First Nations Lands Advisory Board
- » Giovanni Puggioni, Executive Director, LNG & Major Projects, BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- » Facilitated by Jessie Hemphill

DAY 2: PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

12:00 P.M. **Buffet Lunch**

12:30 P.M. **Report on the Economic Development Sessions**
» **Melanie Debassige**, Chief of Staff, BC Assembly of First Nations

1:00 P.M. **Plenary: Opportunities for Horizontal Engagement and Collaboration**

This plenary will feature a panel discussion with senior federal officials and representatives from Coastal First Nations on the subject of engagement with First Nations. Discussions will focus on lessons learned from recent multi-department engagement efforts and other horizontal initiatives such as the Oceans Protection Plan, major projects, and the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. A Q&A session will follow with the audience.

- » **Chief Marilyn Slett**, President, Coastal First Nations
- » **Pat Kelly**, Chair, Board of the Coastal First Nations
- » **Roger Girouard**, Assistant Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard
- » **Robert Dick**, Regional Director General, Transport Canada-Pacific Region
- » **Naina Sloan**, Senior Executive Director, Major Projects Management Office-West
- » **Caroline Caza**, Regional Director General, Environment and Climate Change Canada, West & North Regions

2:00 P.M. **Plenary: New Fiscal Relationship**

Co-led by INAC's Chief Financial Officer and a co-chair of the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations, this plenary will discuss work to date and future plans to move towards sufficient, predictable and sustained funding for First Nations. A Q&A session will follow with the audience.

- » **Paul Thoppil**, Chief Financial Officer, INAC
- » **Chief David Jimmie**, Co-Chair, Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations

3:00 P.M. **Wellness Break**

3:30 P.M. **Networking Opportunity – Discussion Groups**

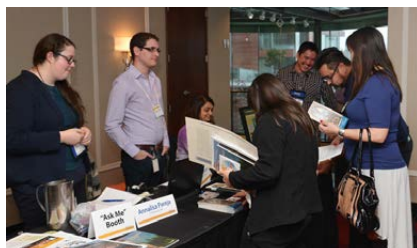
Participants will be invited to form into discussion groups on First Nation identified areas of interest. Other invitees will include executives from INAC, other federal departments and provincial ministries. Topics will come from the sign-up sheet at the "Ask Me" booth. Format will be a World Café style with signs noting topics around which people would gather.

4:30 P.M. **Participant Feedback**

Utilizing a clicker response system, questions will be related to the day's discussions.

5:00 P.M. **Reception @ Point Grey**

7:00 P.M. First Nations cultural celebration and networking. Light refreshments will be served.



"Ask Me" Booth

Want to set up a meeting with an INAC staff person?
Do you have a question about departmental programs and services?
Do you have a topic to discuss at the networking session on Day 2?
Come see us at the "Ask Me" Booth.

DAY 3: INNOVATION (7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)

7:00 A.M. **Hot Buffet Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 A.M. **Opening**

Opening Prayer

» Audrey Rivers, Squamish Nation

Reflect on Day 2 and introduce Day 3

8:45 A.M. **Plenary: Housing**

What does **Stronger Communities** mean to you? Focusing on housing, this plenary will feature an overview on the National Engagement for Housing Reform, on housing support in BC region and highlight First Nations' experiences and perspectives on successes. A Q&A session will follow with the audience.

- » Michael Salter, A/Director, Engagement and Indigenous Relations, Community Infrastructure Branch, INAC
- » Tanya Dazé, Economic Policy Researcher, Program Design and Partnerships Directorate, On-Reserve Housing, INAC
- » Rick Sabiston, Manager, Community Infrastructure, BC Region, INAC
- » Chief Bill Yovanovich, Skidegate Band Council
- » Trent Moraes, Housing Manager, Skidegate Band Council
- » Chief Ken Hansen, Yale First Nation
- » Crystal Sedore, Housing Manager, Yale First Nation
- » Jalissa Moody, Nuxalk Youth Representative
- » Richard Hall, Capital Manager, Nuxalk Nation

10:00 A.M. **Wellness Break**

10:30 A.M. **Discussion Groups on Housing**

Building on the earlier Housing plenary, participants will break into groups to discuss how housing can support a stronger community by answering *What INAC Can Do Better*, and *What My First Nation Can Do Better*. Session will be facilitated to ensure conversations are structured.

12:00 P.M. **Buffet Lunch**

1:00 P.M. **Youth / Elder Report Out**

Youth participants and Elders report out on what they heard at the Gathering.

1:30 P.M. **Participant Feedback**

Utilizing a clicker response system, questions will be related to the day's discussions.

1:45 P.M. **Closing Comments**

First Nations Leadership Council

- » Grand Chief Edward John, First Nations Summit
- » Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- » Chief Maureen Chapman, BC Assembly of First Nations

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

- » Anita Boscarior, Director General, Treaties and Aboriginal Government - Negotiations West

Wrap-up of the Joint Gathering program by Co-Moderators Harold Tarbell and Jessie Hemphill.

3:00 P.M. **End of Session**

Social Media

B I N G O

**Play for
a chance
to win!**

STEP 1

Post any 4 of these items on **Twitter** or **Instagram** using **#JointGathering**:

- B** A photo from one of the break-out sessions
- I** Something capturing what “Stronger Communities” means to you
- N** A photo of you with an INAC employee or someone new you met at the Gathering
- G** A photo with a youth delegate at the Gathering
- O** A selfie during the evening reception on Day 2

STEP 2

Post “BINGO!” on Twitter or Instagram including both **#JointGathering** and **#bingo**. You will be entered into a draw. Winners will be announced by the moderators on Day 3. Good luck!



