



# Joint 2019 Gathering

January 22-24  
Vancouver,  
British Columbia

## SUMMARY REPORT



BC Assembly of First Nations



First Nations Summit



Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Canada

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Cultural Components .....	2
Open House .....	3
Exhibitor Fair .....	3
ISC “Ask Me” Booth .....	4
Social Media .....	4
Session Summaries .....	5
Evaluation Highlights .....	21
Conclusion and Next Steps .....	23

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# Executive Summary

*Joint Gathering 2019*, held January 22 to 24, 2019, at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, was the seventh annual gathering of British Columbia First Nation Chiefs, Councillors, administrators, Elders and youth, with members from the First Nation Leadership Council, and officials from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). Held on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, the *Gathering* was co-hosted by the First Nations Leadership Council, comprised of the First Nations Summit, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, together with ISC and CIRNAC.

502 delegates, representing 158 of British Columbia’s 202 First Nations, attended *Joint Gathering 2019* along with officials from 11 other federal departments and six provincial ministries. In addition, over 130 employees from ISC and CIRNAC were onsite to listen, present and support the event. The agenda included 12 plenary sessions and 13 interactive breakout sessions. A concurrent youth agenda was made up of nine plenary sessions.



There were a number of new aspects integrated into *Joint Gathering 2019*. This was the first time that both ISC and CIRNAC Ministers and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations attended and addressed the audience. Second, a tailored youth agenda was created which included two sessions with high-profile leaders, namely a Meet and Greet with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; and, a breakfast discussion with Clarence Louie, Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band and Chairperson of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board. Third, the exhibitors for the third annual ISC-CIRNAC Open House, previously located at the ISC-CIRNAC regional office, were together with the other exhibitor booths on-site at the Westin Bayshore. Fourth, a *Listen to What has been Shared Campaign* had its first pop-up booth, recording stories from delegates. And fifth, all plenary sessions were recorded and are available online ([nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019](http://nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019)). These new elements added innovation and enhanced interaction to the conference.



Over the three days, panelists, guest speakers and presenters spoke candidly on behalf of their communities and organizations. The interactive sessions provided participants the opportunity to share successes, lessons learned and best practices while encouraging Elder and youth delegates to share their perspectives on the issues raised.

# Cultural Components



## ELDERS

The conference was opened each day by an Elder who offered a greeting, prayer and drumming welcome. In addition, Elder delegates were invited to participate in both the main and youth agenda sessions and provided valuable insights.

## CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Two cultural groups performed the first day of the conference. The **Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers** incorporated the stories, songs and dances of the Wahlingigat (Ancestors) into a contemporary production and **SisterClan**, featuring Fara Palmer and her daughters, performed a combination of First Nations songs and pop-fusion music.

## LISTEN TO WHAT HAS BEEN SHARED CAMPAIGN POP-UP BOOTH

The *Listen to What has been Shared Campaign* is an ISC employee-led initiative that responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Call to Action #57, which refers to the responsibility of federal departments to educate employees on the history of Indigenous Peoples.



While the exhibit has a fixed location at 1138 Melville Street in Vancouver, a "pop-up" booth was created especially for *Joint Gathering 2019*. During the conference, a team of eight "listen" ambassadors engaged directly with First Nations participants, particularly Elders and youth, and were on hand to help document their experiences.

## BRIDGING THE GAP – ELDER AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



A bridging the gap concept was woven into the *Joint Gathering 2019* agenda to encourage Elders and youth to engage together during breakfasts and sessions. The concurrent agenda was inclusive of both Elders and youth in efforts to create a platform for dialogue and to share knowledge between generations. Moreover, the *Listen to What has been Shared Campaign* was present to support, capture, and facilitate the exchange of information,

storytelling, and feedback throughout the conference by conducting several youth interviews and are available online ([nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019](http://nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019)).



## Open House

ISC and CIRNAC jointly hosted the third annual Open House on-site during *Joint Gathering* to ensure First Nations delegates had an opportunity to connect with departmental staff across program areas including: capital, economic development, social, community initiatives and specific claims.

## Exhibitor Fair

Networking is an important part of the conference and delegates had the opportunity to visit the following exhibitors:

- Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of BC
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- All Nations Trust Company
- BC Housing Management Commission
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Red Cross
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- First Nations Financial Management Board
- First Nations Education Steering Committee
- First Nations' Emergency Services Society
- First Nations Public Service Secretariat
- First Nations Technology Council
- First Peoples' Cultural Council – Our Living Languages exhibit
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Energy Board
- Natural Resources Canada – Indigenous Partnerships Office-West
- Parks Canada
- Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Public Service Commission of Canada
- Reconciliation Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Transport Canada



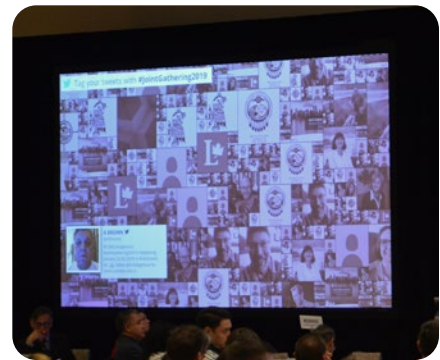
# ISC “Ask Me” Booth

Similar to previous years, the “Ask Me” Booth was staffed by ISC employees who provided delegates with answers to their questions and access to resources. In addition, staff promoted Indigenous employment opportunities within ISC and CIRNAC, and provided information on available positions and on the application process.



# Social Media

ISC promoted *Joint Gathering 2019* through a variety of social media platforms. Participants were encouraged to post information and their thoughts on Facebook and Twitter while using the *#JointGathering2019* hashtag. The Department’s social media accounts also promoted the plenary sessions, speakers and events that occurred over the three-day event. All Twitter posts that used the *#JointGathering2019* hashtag were highlighted in real time on a Twitter wall displayed on screens throughout the venue to further promote sharing. A Facebook album was created and updated in real time to showcase speakers and panels, and to profile delegates sharing ideas and engaging in discussions at *Joint Gathering 2019*. Lastly, plenary sessions were recorded for the first time and posted online ([nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019](http://nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019)) to be shared with community members and those unable to attend in person.



# Session Summaries

The plenary, breakout and youth sessions are listed below with a brief description, highlights of what was heard, and any action items or follow-up work identified.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Pathways to Formalizing Self-Determination</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, CIRNAC</i></li> <li>» <i>Tanya Corbet, Member of Executive Council, Tsawwassen First Nation</i></li> <li>» <i>Alexander Chartrand, Treaty Negotiator, Wuikinuxw Nation</i></li> <li>» <i>Doug White, Chief Negotiator, Lake Babine Nation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Panel members presented their views on the opportunities and challenges ahead in replacing the Government of Canada’s comprehensive claims and inherent rights policies.</li> <li>» Joe Wild described how a new rights-based policy would align with the Constitution and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He outlined some changes already made through negotiations and the engagement process to be undertaken to develop the new policy.</li> <li>» Tanya Corbet spoke on how the benefits of signing a modern treaty and moving away from the <i>Indian Act</i> outweighed the compromises for her First Nation.</li> <li>» Alexander Chartrand explained how the importance of Wuikinuxw control of the land drove his First Nation to pursue a modern treaty. While noting challenges around fisheries, he highlighted the value of periodic renewal (i.e., the review, assessment and possible evolution of treaties) and the new fiscal model.</li> <li>» Doug White expressed the view that, following the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Tsilhqot’in case (2014), the Crown must take a new approach to implementing Aboriginal title, including seeking consent.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>CIRNAC ACTION ITEM:</b> The Government of Canada commits, through policy renewal, to explore the concept of self-determination as defined by First Nations and to provide capacity support.</p>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Child and Family Services Jurisdiction</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Cheryl Casimer, Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group Member</li> <li>» Chief Marie Quock and Annabel Nole, Stikine Wholistic Working Group members</li> <li>» Chief Helen Henderson, Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw</li> <li>» Robert Morales, Chief Negotiator, Cowichan Tribes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Cheryl Casimer, as a member of the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group, introduced the plenary by updating the room on the Tripartite Working Group's work on child welfare reform. The Tripartite Working Group continues to work to advance federal enabling legislation. Their efforts have focused on securing recognition of Indigenous inherent jurisdiction and authority to be self-governing, and on the principle of putting the Indigenous child first.</li> <li>» Three communities in BC shared their experiences taking back control over the well-being of their children and families.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>ISC ACTION ITEMS:</b> During his remarks at <i>Joint Gathering 2019</i>, Minister O'Regan reaffirmed the Government of Canada's commitment to move forward on Indigenous child welfare legislation (Bill C-92 received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019). The provisions of the Act will come into force on January 1, 2020. At that time, the provisions will apply to child and family services provided in relation to Indigenous children by any agency, whether by Provinces and Territories or by First Nations, Inuit or Métis agencies.</p>





SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Remarks by National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The National Chief encouraged all Nations to have relationships with Ministers and federal representatives, to get out and vote in elections for representation, and reinforced the accountability of elected leaders to their First Nations’ constituents.</li> <li>» He noted that when there is a change politically, it is also a chance for new opportunity, renewal, and growth while maintaining momentum despite setbacks that may occur.</li> <li>» He called for the day when common law, civil law and First Nations law are all respected in this country and that reconciliation and consensus building cannot be attained with the use of force.</li> <li>» The National Chief’s priorities include First Nations’ policing, preservation of Indigenous languages, implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples, implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommendations, movement on the New Fiscal Relationship, and the need to move on legislation around Indigenous languages and child welfare.</li> <li>» He closed by stressing the Rights of Indigenous People, free prior and informed consent, and the importance of First Nations’ self-determination as an avenue out of the <i>Indian Act</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks by the Honourable Carolyn Bennett</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Minister Bennett thanked First Nations for the role they have played in advancing many aspects of self-determination and for pushing governments to adopt practices that can assist First Nations in exercising their law-making authorities and in delivering services.</li> <li>» The Minister highlighted the importance of replacing the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and the Inherent Right Policy.</li> <li>» She also talked about significant shifts that already have taken place, such as the Government of Canada’s commitment to co-develop negotiation mandates with First Nations at negotiation tables.</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Remarks by the Honourable Seamus O'Regan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Minister O'Regan welcomed the opportunity to join First Nations in BC so early in his tenure as Minister of Indigenous Services. He stated that the Government of Canada's commitments to Indigenous peoples continue to be a central priority.</li> <li>» He remarked on the progress made with respect to ISC's top five priorities (education, health, child and family services, infrastructure and economic prosperity) but stated there is still much work to accomplish together.</li> <li>» He also mentioned the celebration of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement happening later on January 23, impending Child and Family legislation (which was tabled in the House of Commons on February 28, 2019), and work that is underway to achieve a tripartite approach to emergency management in BC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Fiscal Relationship</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Chief David Jimmie, Co-Chair, AFN Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations</i></li> <li>» <i>Brian Titus, Chief Financial Operating Officer, First Nations Financial Management Board</i></li> <li>» <i>Paul Thoppil, Chief Finances, Results and Delivery Officer, ISC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Panel members provided an update on the progress made towards achieving a New Fiscal Relationship over the past year.</li> <li>» Paul Thoppil noted a significant component to mitigate the lack of trust in government is to change the process of accountability. He stressed that the focus of accountability needs to be to community members, not the Government of Canada. He acknowledged that sufficiency of funding has not yet been addressed and suggested a funding escalator as a good starting point for all First Nations, including those in 10-year grants.</li> <li>» He promoted 10-year grants as part of the momentum to self-determination and making decisions on services to one's own community. He highlighted other initiatives toward a New Fiscal Relationship including the increased ability to carry forward funds, and funding for First Nations with a recipient-appointed advisor or third-party manager.</li> <li>» Brian Titus provided an overview of the First Nations Financial Management Board's assessment of communities that expressed an interest in the 10-year grants against the eligibility criteria co-developed by the Assembly of First Nations and ISC, and confirmed ISC will make final decisions. Nationally, 215 Expressions-of-Interest were received and of these, 89 were from First Nations in BC. 47 BC First Nations are to be recommended for the 10-year grants. The biggest part of the process is developing Financial Administration Laws and Financial Administration By-Laws.</li> </ul>

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Emergency Management – Models of Resilience</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Chief Rick McLean, Tahltan Band</li> <li>» Chief Larry Nooski, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation</li> <li>» Chief Joe Alphonse, Tl'etinqox Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Chiefs from three wildfire-affected Nations reported that the 2017 and 2018 wildfires impacted First Nations' safety and well-being in addition to social, cultural and economic activities. The frequency and intensity of wildfires have worsened due to climate change and conventional forest management practices. Many First Nations have historically engaged in traditional fire management, but this has been disrupted in the last 100 years.</li> <li>» The Chiefs also reiterated that First Nations are exercising self-determination in managing emergencies, but must deal with bureaucratic processes to recover expenditures. Jurisdictional barriers must be erased, and all parties must work in true partnership.</li> <li>» It was agreed that emergency preparedness, planning and mitigation are essential as are partnerships with neighbours and response agencies. First Nations also require additional resources for emergency management and wildfire response.</li> <li>» The Nadleh Whut'en First Nation (<a href="https://resonantstrategic.ca/trial-by-fire-nadleh-whuten-first-nation">resonantstrategic.ca/trial-by-fire-nadleh-whuten-first-nation</a>), Tahltan Band (<a href="https://tahltan.org/2018-wildlife-newsletter">tahltan.org/2018-wildlife-newsletter</a>) and Tl'etinqox (<a href="https://tletinqox.ca/our-tl-etinqox">tletinqox.ca/our-tl-etinqox</a>) have each prepared and published their own reports about their wildfire experiences, which include their recommendations to improve emergency management.</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Indigenous Languages</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Grand Chief Ed John, Co-Chair of the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages Committee</li> <li>» Tracey Herbert, Chief Executive Officer, First Peoples' Cultural Council</li> <li>» Tamara Davidson, Secretary of the Haida Nation</li> <li>» Councillor, Adeana Young (Kuun Jaadas Ts'aahl Laanas), Old Masset Village Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Grand Chief Ed John discussed the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019 (IYIL 2019) initiative: the main message being that Indigenous languages matter for peacebuilding, sustainable development, good governance, culture, and reconciliation. Grand Chief John shared details about the official launch of IYIL 2019 and the United Nations' one-day special session on Indigenous Languages (<a href="http://en.iyil2019.org">en.iyil2019.org</a>) on February 1, 2019 in Paris, France.</li> <li>» Tracey Herbert described First People Cultural Council initiatives which include increasing the number of fluent speakers and championing archival/documentation projects in support of BC's 34 Indigenous languages (and 90+ dialects). Ms. Herbert said language is crucial not only for self-determination and governance, but also to address current global climate issues as language tells us how to care for the land. She touched on the <i>Indigenous Languages Act</i> (<a href="http://fpcc.ca">fpcc.ca</a>) and hopes it will be passed before the upcoming federal election.</li> <li>» Tamara Davidson shared details about the three-day conference HELISET TFE SKÁL 'Let the Languages Live' (<a href="http://fpclanguageconference.com">fpclanguageconference.com</a>) on Indigenous languages happening in Victoria on June 24-26, 2019. The conference will feature language experts from around the world to share projects and stories, with workshops being conducted throughout the conference.</li> <li>» Adeana Young, one of the stars of the Haida film <i>Sgaaway K'uuna</i> (Edge of the Knife), presented the Haida story of Gaagiixiid, which was filmed entirely in the Haida language. The film received nominations at the Vancouver and Toronto International Film Festivals, and Ms. Young pointed out that this film wasn't "Hollywood"—the Indigenous people were in charge and the ideas for the film came from them (the director is Haida, and Ms. Young's husband and children were in the film). She talked about the importance of language and culture and how language revitalization is one of the priorities identified in the Skidegate Comprehensive Community Plan.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>NOTE:</b> Since <i>Joint Gathering 2019</i>, Bill C-91, the <i>Indigenous Languages Act</i> (<a href="http://fpcc.ca">fpcc.ca</a>), has come into force and received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019.</p>
<p><b>BC Region Overview Report</b></p> <p>Overview by Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General on BC Region 2018-2019 investments, including budget 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Catherine Lappe provided delegates with a dashboard analysis of BC Region investments. ISC BC Region funding is up two per cent from 2017-2018 and up 12 per cent from 2016-2017. Of the \$1.012 billion available this fiscal, 33 per cent is dedicated to education, 25 per cent to infrastructure, 13 per cent each to Child and Family Services and Social Programs, with 3 per cent spent on overhead.</li> <li>» Comments from the floor centered on health, remoteness and access, and concerns with funding formulas.</li> <li>» Copies of the presentation are available online (<a href="http://nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019">nmtcevents.com/jointgathering2019</a>).</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Indigenous Institutions Supporting Economic Capacity Through Partnerships</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Cliff Fregin, Chief Executive Officer, New Relationship Trust</i></li> <li>» <i>Sharleen Gale, Chair, First Nations Major Project Coalition</i></li> <li>» <i>Deanne McLeod, Executive Director, North East Native Advancing Society</i></li> <li>» <i>Cherlyn Billy, Director, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Representatives from a cross section of Indigenous organizations spoke about their experiences working with First Nations. Panelists discussed how organizations work together to leverage federal/provincial government support which in turn creates greater economic capacity at the community level.</li> <li>» It was agreed that community economic development is more than a project. It is about what is necessary to achieve sustained prosperity including building skills and trades to support local economies and being environmental stewards of the land. First Nations need to learn from each other to prudently and productively engage industry and government on opportunities.</li> <li>» It was further stated that First Nations cannot rely on governments to support communities. They require own-source revenue and a skilled workforce who remain in communities. It is important for leadership and staff to have key skills and robust governance structures.</li> </ul>



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Developing a New Rights-Based Policy</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKER</b></p> <p>» <i>Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, CIRNAC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Audience participants discussed how a new rights-based policy should address the meaningful implementation of free, prior and informed consent of title-holders as per the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. If the Government of Canada is to implement the Declaration, it should not simply state that projects are in the national interest when it does not have the consent of title-holders.</li> <li>» It was also noted that a new rights-based policy should address nation rebuilding and the effects of forced amalgamation on traditional Indigenous political structures. Indigenous Nations need to lead the work of re-constituting themselves.</li> <li>» Similarly, the policies of both the Government of Canada and the Province of BC have resulted in extensive overlapping claims among First Nations, who have been told to resolve these issues among themselves. A new policy needs a better mechanism to resolve overlapping claims and boundary disputes, with the Government of Canada and the Province of BC not as arbiters but as supporters through capacity enhancement and possibly the creation of an independent institution.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>CIRNAC ACTION ITEM:</b> The Government of Canada will work with the First Nations Leadership Council to address overlapping claims and boundary disputes in BC.</p>
<p><b>Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>» <i>Frank Dragon, Treaty Consultant, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations</i></p> <p>» <i>Tejas Madhur, Legal Counsel, Tsawwassen First Nation</i></p> <p>» <i>Alan Greer, A/Director, Financial Arrangements and Cost Sharing, CIRNAC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Since May 2016, self-governing Indigenous governments and the Government of Canada have been working together to gain a clearer understanding of fiscal policy issues through the collaborative fiscal policy development process. This process has resulted in the collaborative self-government fiscal policy, which will serve as a framework for fiscal transfer negotiations.</li> <li>» The policy is based upon the concept of need, resulting in methodologies designed to estimate the true cost of governance and program/service delivery.</li> <li>» Though significant progress has been made in developing the new collaborative self-government fiscal policy, there is more work to be done to develop the remaining components of need (land management, culture, language and heritage, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>CIRNAC ACTION ITEM:</b> The Government of Canada committed to continuing the collaborative fiscal policy development process.</p>

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Cannabis: First Nations Business Opportunities</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKER</b></p> <p>» <i>Kenji Takawa, Legal Counsel, Donovan &amp; Company</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Kenji Takawa, a private-sector lawyer who advises First Nations on recreational cannabis, presented on both the provincial and federal regulatory perspective.</li> <li>» Participants were concerned with the Province of BC regulating activity on First Nations land. Some First Nations believe that this is against the inherent right to govern their own resources and are working with their communities and the provincial government to develop their own cannabis laws.</li> <li>» Additionally, to go outside of the provincial regulation system currently is to risk legal challenges, police intervention, and possible prosecution.</li> <li>» It was stated that there is a backlog for the national federal permitting process with 146 licenses approved and more than 600 applications on the wait list.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Specific Claims</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>» <i>Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Chair, BC Specific Claims Working Group</i></p> <p>» <i>Jody Woods, Technical Advisor, BC Specific Claims Working Group</i></p> <p>» <i>Natalie Neville, Senior Director of Negotiations, Specific Claims Branch, CIRNAC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Presenters and participants discussed specific claim negotiations in BC.</li> <li>» Concerns were raised about funding for: research, the Specific Claims Tribunal, First Nations participation at the Specific Claims Tribunal, and adequate resourcing for the Specific Claims Branch to settle claims.</li> <li>» An impartial process for the assessment of specific claims is desired and questions about individual claims signaled a need for more frequent communication.</li> </ul> <p><b>CIRNAC ACTION ITEMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Government of Canada will seek additional resources for the Specific Claims Branch to help address the volume of claims in BC.</li> <li>✓ The Specific Claims Branch will communicate more frequently with First Nations who have filed specific claims.</li> <li>✓ The Government of Canada will ensure that existing information on funding for First Nations participation at the Specific Claims Tribunal (<a href="http://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1529351013700">rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1529351013700</a>) is known.</li> <li>✓ The Government of Canada, as part of the Joint Technical Working Group along with the Assembly of First Nations, will continue to examine and recommend changes to the specific claims policy.</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Indian Registration</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Nathalie Nepton, Executive Director, Indian Registration</i></li> <li>» <i>John Gordon, Director, Transformation Unit</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Nathalie Nepton provided an update on the implementation of Bill S-3 <i>Descheneaux</i> and highlighted that it addresses some sex-based inequities within the <i>Indian Act</i>. Participants were informed that 12,500 applications for registration under Bill S-3 have been received since December 2017 and that 38,000 individuals may be eligible for Indian status under S-3.</li> <li>» To address broader issues around citizenship, registration and membership, delegates were encouraged to provide input during the Collaborative Process consultation sessions being held across both BC (occurred March 2019) and Canada during the coming months.</li> <li>» John Gordon highlighted new initiatives to modernize the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) to improve service delivery, including the introduction of a secure smartphone app that allows applicants to take their own photos for a card application. This provides individuals in remote locations the ability to access passport-style photos. This is a cost savings for individuals applying for a SCIS, and has successfully been used to provide over 2,000 pictures. In addition, all SCIS cards have a machine-readable zone as of February 1, 2019, a feature that will facilitate more efficient border-crossings for cardholders.</li> <li>» Comments from the floor focused on eligibility under Bill S-3 and the need for funding to support the increase of new membership expected under the Bill. Comments also articulated the need for further legislative amendments in order to address latent discrimination within the <i>Indian Act</i> beyond S-3. Participants were interested in possible security and data privacy issues with respect to the new SCIS photo application.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>NOTE:</b> Since <i>Joint Gathering 2019</i>, ISC and CIRNAC posted a survey and held consultation sessions around First Nations citizenship, registration and membership in BC during March 2019 to gather input from First Nations which were rolled up nationally. A progress report with comments heard at the sessions was tabled in Parliament on June 12, 2019.</p>





SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Economic Capacity through Reserve Land Management</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Chief Ron Giesbrecht, Kwikwetlem First Nation</li> <li>» Ray Gauthier, Chief Executive Officer, Coast Salish Development Corporation (Stz'uminus First Nation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Two First Nations shared their experience with developing their economic development capacity: one, managing reserve land under its own <i>First Nations Land Management Act</i> land code, the other relying on ISC under the <i>Indian Act</i>.</li> <li>» The successful adoption of a land code requires significant community engagement, including economic development and land use plans. It is important to separate politics from the economic needs of the community.</li> <li>» Development opportunities under the <i>Indian Act</i> can take time and involve a number of requirements. Frustration can be avoided if there is clarity and transparency all the way through the process. It is important to have solid relationships with development partners and surrounding communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Housing – Sharing Best Practices</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Lorette Edzerza, Band Manager, Cook's Ferry Indian Band</li> <li>» Ryan Sarfeld, Housing &amp; Infrastructure Manager, Tobacco Plains Indian Band</li> <li>» Ken Heidema, Housing Manager, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Three First Nations presented their stories on the importance of governance, capacity and partnerships for developing and implementing successful housing plans in their communities.</li> <li>» The session included sharing of best practices with a question and answer discussion among the panel presenters and audience following the presentations by the First Nations.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>NOTE:</b> Participants were provided the contact information of the presenters so they could follow-up with additional questions about best practices.</p>
<p><b>Good Governance and Financial Leadership</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Chief Gregory Louie, Ahousaht First Nation</li> <li>» Rob Bullock, Executive Director, Ahousaht First Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» This presentation outlined Ahousaht's five-year journey out of bankruptcy and third-party management through planning and training. More information can be obtained by contacting Rob Bullock (<a href="http://ahousaht.ca">ahousaht.ca</a>).</li> <li>» First Nations leadership and administration require greater access to training and coaching tools including mentorship. ISC is able to support community-to-community mentorship through two options: Professional and Institutional Development program funding (<a href="http://sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013815">sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013815</a>) and Comprehensive Community Planning (<a href="http://comprehensivecommunityplanning.org">comprehensivecommunityplanning.org</a>).</li> <li>» Ongoing governance and strategic planning including, comprehensive community planning and having this work led by communities are critical for success.</li> </ul>

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>First Nations Public Service Secretariat</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Christa Williams, Senior Advisor, First Nations Public Service Secretariat</i></li> <li>» <i>Sandra Wesley-Olsen, Chief Operating Officer, Nak'azdli Whut'en Band</i></li> <li>» <i>Collette Sunday, Band Administrator, Upper Nicola Band</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Secretariat supports First Nations to develop administrative capacity by providing training and tools related to the core areas of governance administration.</li> <li>» Current and past initiatives include training for First Nations on policy development and implementation, human resources management, records and information management, and financial management; conferences and events with training and opportunities for networking; gathering and sharing resources in the core skill areas; and fostering relationships with groups of experts to leverage their expertise.</li> <li>» A Band Administrators Advisory Committee comprised of Band Administrators from First Nations in BC, guide the work of the Secretariat.</li> <li>» Examples of initiatives going forward include: mentorship programs; job shadowing programs; training and planning for accredited training programs; and support for First Nations organizations to work together on capacity building activities.</li> <li>✓ <b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Suggestions from attendees included: developing a method for evaluating if training and capacity building for First Nations staff and government have a beneficial impact on the community and for community members; supporting more engagement between First Nations and neighbouring communities, such as through the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) of BC, to support mutually-beneficial learning between First Nations and local governments (the Secretariat has a Memorandum of Understanding with LGMA and has supported some of this work in the past and will pursue more opportunities); and, working more with treaty (post-treaty and in-process) First Nations preparing for self-government.</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>First Nations Education: Supporting Student Success</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director, First Nations Education Steering Committee</i></li> <li>» <i>Colleen Austin, President, First Nations Schools Association</i></li> <li>» <i>Jennifer McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education</i></li> <li>» <i>Wendy Rogers, Director, Programs &amp; Partnerships, ISC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The First Nations Education Steering Committee, First Nations Schools Association, BC Ministry of Education and ISC jointly presented the new BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BC TEA): Supporting Student Success, and provided highlights of the Agreement, new investments and partnership approaches to Indigenous education in BC.</li> <li>» Participants raised issues within the provincial system such as limited transportation, racism, and the concern that too many students are being pushed through the education system without meeting basic standards.</li> <li>✓ <b>NOTE:</b> Follow-up with respective school districts has occurred and the comments provided at the session have informed the implementation of BC TEA, particularly the sections related to Local Education Agreements and transportation. The three parties will continue to effectively implement BC TEA and collaborate on implementing policies and strategies to address these issues. More information on BC TEA and monthly eBulletins can be found online here (<a href="http://fnesc.ca/bctea">fnesc.ca/bctea</a>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Child and Family Services Networking on Community Well-Being</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Williams McArthur, Manager, Child &amp; Family Services, ISC</i></li> <li>» <i>Nora Gibson, Advisor, Child &amp; Family Services, ISC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The focus of the session was to connect with the 84 First Nations who are not affiliated with a Delegated Aboriginal Agency and to discuss how ISC can strengthen the relationships with those Nations, and hear about their needs with regards to developing their own prevention activities.</li> <li>» The conversations highlighted the need to keep discussions moving, and the importance of forums like <i>Joint Gathering</i> to provide opportunities to network with one another and share best practices.</li> <li>✓ <b>ISC ACTION ITEM:</b> Staff will continue to reach out to representatives of the 84 unaffiliated First Nations and look for further opportunities to gather and share best practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Chief Dan George, Chair</i></li> <li>» <i>Chief Mark Point, Vice-Chair</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Housing and Infrastructure Council provided an update on the status of its activities and vision to design and implement a BC First Nations-controlled housing and infrastructure authority to take over control of First Nations housing and infrastructure programs and services in BC.</li> <li>✓ <b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Over the next two years, the Council proposes to engage with First Nations leadership and housing managers to inform negotiations towards an agreement to transfer housing and infrastructure authorities to a new BC First Nations authority and to determine a ratification process to ensure First Nation support for a new delivery model. More information on HIC is available at their website (<a href="http://fnhic-bc.ca">fnhic-bc.ca</a>).</li> </ul>

## YOUTH SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<b>On Boarding – Bridging the Gap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Elder and youth delegates started the session with introductions.</li> <li>» The First Nations Technology Council delivered a presentation on their services and the technology industry as it pertains to future growth and career opportunities.</li> <li>» ISC ambassadors from the <i>Listen to What has been Shared Campaign</i> introduced the initiative and its role during <i>Joint Gathering</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Presentation discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Discussions focused on reactions to the day's sessions.</li> <li>» Delegates were impressed by the Child and Family Services plenary which described how communities are preparing for the exercise of jurisdiction and with the success stories shared.</li> <li>» Some youth expressed interest in learning more from the plenary Pathways to Formalizing Self-Determination.</li> </ul>
<b>Haida movie screening – Sgaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife)</b>  ..... <b>SPEAKER</b> » Actor, Adeana Young (Kuun Jaadas Ts'aahl Laanas, Councillor for Old Masset Village Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The principal actor, Adeana Young, Kuun Jaadas Ts'aahl Laanas (Haida name), introduced the film which was produced entirely in the Haida language.</li> </ul>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Sharing Knowledge Panel – Education/ Internship &amp; Career</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Western Indigenous Student Engagement Network</i></li> <li>» <i>First Nations Public Service Secretariat</i></li> <li>» <i>First Nations Student Work Experience Program (Indigenous Student Work Experience Program)</i></li> <li>» <i>Employment and Social Development Canada</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Six panelists with links to various student employment initiatives discussed work opportunities for youth, sharing from their own experiences.</li> <li>» Speakers explored how various organizations and services can support youth in linking education to career paths.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Attendees recommended including panels next year focused more on careers than on temporary work internship opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Youth Entrepreneurship Panel – Tomorrow’s Leaders</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <i>Ryan Oliverius, Okanagan First Nation</i></li> <li>» <i>Suzette Amaya, Kwakwaka’wakw/ Cree/ Nisga’a / Coast Salish</i></li> <li>» <i>Amanda Nahanee, Squamish Nation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The panelists shared their journeys as entrepreneurs.</li> <li>» Key messages focused on inspiring and motivating youth to overcome obstacles, believing in themselves and pursuing personal success.</li> <li>» Goal setting with an Indigenous perspective was a common theme.</li> </ul> <p>✓ <b>ACTION ITEM:</b> It was recommended to have a similar session next year due to the popularity of this topic.</p>





SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p><b>Meet and Greet With Minister Bennett</b></p>	<p>» Minister Bennett asked the youth delegates what advice they had for her, and many ideas were shared, including a recommendation to help meet the need to connect Indigenous youth across the country and share information through a smartphone app. Further discussion took place on leadership, youth representation, self-governance and reconciliation.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ISC will follow-up with the GC Web 2.0 team to assess if GCCollab would be an appropriate resource.</li> <li>✓ Attendees suggested for the next <i>Joint Gathering</i>, designated tables in the main plenary room be set aside for youth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Breakfast with Chief Clarence Louie</b></p>	<p>» The main focus of the discussion was economic development as a means to build capacity, increase employment and close the socio-economic gaps affecting communities.</p> <p>✓ <b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Youth recommended to continue including sessions with youth and First Nations leadership in future agendas. Two suggested session topics were how to become involved in Chief and Council and self-determination.</p>
<p><b>Leadership in Languages and Arts</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>SPEAKER</b> » Aliana Parker, First Peoples' Cultural Council</p>	<p>» An overview was provided of all the programs and funding offered by the First Peoples' Cultural Council for Language and Arts. More information can be found on their website (<a href="http://fpcc.ca/Grants/Language">fpcc.ca/Grants/Language</a>).</p> <p>✓ <b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Attendees recommended more time be allocated for information-sharing and interactive workshops at the next <i>Gathering</i>.</p>
<p><b>Youth Report-Out</b></p>	<p>» Ten youth delegates reported out on <i>Joint Gathering</i> with a Powerpoint presentation showcasing pictures taken during the preparation session.</p> <p>» The youth presenters shared their appreciation for the opportunity to attend and voiced their desire to see more youth representation at future <i>Joint Gatherings</i>.</p>

# Evaluation Highlights

Delegate feedback was solicited at *Joint Gathering* through written evaluation forms as well as by a post-event online survey. Feedback included the following quotes:

## *What did you find most useful about JG 2019?*

“The opportunity to connect with more Indigenous Elders and youth from other communities to hear other experiences in urban and rural communities.”

“Speakers and main sessions as an education tool on the state of where we are at, and the information sessions to connect with others in their journeys. Exhibitors were amazing as well as the entertainment!”

## *What would you like to see included at JG2020?*

“The 2020 session should address some of the critical issues raised in 2019.”

“A venue to write down questions or ideas that everyone could read and comment on. Maybe a big paper wall and some markers.”

“Feature status updates of past success stories to see where they are at.”

## *How can Joint Gathering 2020 engage Elder and youth delegates in a more meaningful way?*

“A session from the Elders and a discussion around hereditary chiefs and how that layers with elected chief and council. Youth delegation was great, more ideas, more fun!”

“Having a panel of youth and a panel of Elders to share their honest perspectives pertinent to ‘reconciliation.’”

## *What can be done differently at JG2020?*

“Have more federal departments’ involvement, like DFO.”

“Breakout sessions need to be longer to give time for questions and answers, and discussion.”

“Repeat breakout sessions so individuals can attend more than one.”

“Need time allocated on agenda to visit Open House.”

“New name for the forum.”



*Do you have any other suggestions or feedback you would like to share?*

“It was a great experience and I’m thankful I got to network and take in all that good information.”

“I appreciated the efforts, the time to connect over breakfast and lunch with others, sessions for learning, feedback and conversation from panelists, and the control and time management from the hosts. Very well done.”

## FROM THE YOUTH

The youth survey revealed the three favorite sessions from the youth agenda were **Youth Entrepreneurship-Tomorrow’s Leaders** and **Leadership in Language and Arts**, with the third being the **New Rights-Based Policy** session.

The youth delegates offered several recommendations to improve future Joint Gatherings and how they could become more involved. In general, there was a desire to obtain a stronger connection between youth, government and others. One key recommendation was to create a networking vehicle utilizing social media tools to continue sharing information, to further discuss topics and to find solutions on key areas that most impact youth. Also, the youth felt that a separate day should be designated for them rather than having a concurrent agenda. Lastly, they provided recommendations for topics that could be incorporated into the agenda of the next Joint Gathering including: climate change, leadership skills, education and economic development.

Youth delegates were pleased to have the opportunity to have designated time with Leadership, specifically the **Meet and Greet with Minister Bennett** and the **Breakfast with Osoyoos Chief Clarence Louie**.





# Conclusion and Next Steps

First Nations have consistently affirmed the importance of communities sharing their successes and challenges as well as the desire to hear from all sectors of the community including Elders and youth. In planning future conferences, the agenda will continue to incorporate suggestions and recommendations in response to the needs of First Nations communities.



