



Vancouver, British Columbia
January 21-23

Our Gathering • kexwkexwntsút chet
• tə sǫǫp ct • 2020

SUMMARY REPORT



BC Assembly of First Nations



First Nations Summit



Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Canada

Table of Contents

Event Summary	1
Exhibitor Fair	3
Ask Me Booth	4
Social Media	4
Session Summaries	5
Plenary Sessions	5
Breakout Sessions.....	9
Elder/Youth Sessions.....	19
Evaluation Highlights	22
Conclusion and Next Steps	24

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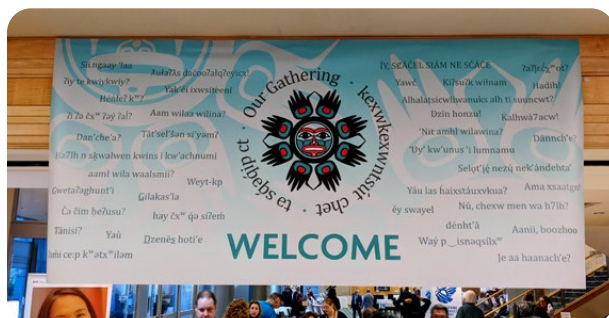
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Event Summary



Our Gathering 2020, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓q̓ip ct (previously called Joint Gathering), held January 21 to 23, at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, was the eighth annual gathering of First Nation Chiefs, Councillors, administrators, Elders and youth from British Columbia, 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 event 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.

The previous event name, Joint Gathering, was changed to *Our Gathering, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓q̓ip ct*, to honour our relationship with our partners and the traditional territories on which the event is held. Additionally, a new look was unveiled with a graphic representation designed by artist Yvonne Starr. The sun in the design represents the circle of life, strength, energy and warmth, while the hands represent the people who gather together to discuss emerging issues, build relationships, promote partnership and foster leadership. When all aspects are combined, it represents the spirit of *Our Gathering, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓q̓ip ct*.

This year, 495 First Nations delegates representing 140 of 203 First Nations in British Columbia attended the event. In addition, over 200 employees from ISC and CIRNAC, including Deputy Ministers, Associate Deputy Ministers and other senior management, were on site to listen, present and support the event. The agenda included six plenary sessions and 14 interactive breakout sessions. Over the three days, panelists, guest speakers and presenters spoke candidly on behalf of their communities and organizations. The interactive sessions provided participants an opportunity to share successes, lessons learned and best practices while encouraging Elder and Youth delegates to share their perspectives about the issues raised.

ELDERS

Twenty-four First Nation and Métis Elders representing 15 communities attended the 2020 event. Elders attended the plenary and breakout sessions to listen, learn and share their wisdom. ISC and CIRNAC recognized Elders for all their support over the years during the Elder's Tea and also asked them for their feedback on how they see themselves working with the departments in the future. More information is available in the Elder's Tea section of this document.



YOUTH

This year the event was attended by 26 youth delegates representing 19 First Nations. As well, N'we Jinan Artists consisting of Indigenous youth from Surrey gave a live performance of their song [Hide and Seek](#) and shared their process of writing the song and creating the music video. The session highlighted the powerful impact music has on Indigenous youth and the ability to build resilience through the arts.



CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Cultural protocols are an important part of *Our Gathering 2020*, *kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓q̓ip ct*. Each morning the event began with a prayer and/or opening from a respected Elder. Day 1 was opened by Musqueam Councillor Howard Grant, Day 2 by Squamish Elders Maurice Latash Nahanee and Delhia Nahanee and Day 3 by Sam George Jr. from Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Squamish Elder Bob Baker attended the Elder's Tea with his dance group, Eagle Song Dancers. On Day 2, Coastal Wolf Pack performed traditional songs and dances for the event participants.

Coastal Wolf Pack is a traditional Salish song and dance group based on Musqueam traditional territory. They are an intergenerational group with members from less than one-year-old to over 60. The group was founded in 2009 with the intention to create an opportunity for children and families to celebrate being Coast Salish and to express that in song and dance.

OPEN HOUSE

ISC and CIRNAC jointly hosted the fourth annual open house on site during *Our Gathering 2020*, *kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓q̓ip ct* 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. The *Secured Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS)* intake booth this year was a great success. Over the three-day event the booth accepted 94 applications.



Exhibitor Fair



Networking is an important part of the conference. Delegates had the opportunity to visit and learn more about many different exhibitors that included:

- Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of British Columbia
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- British Columbia First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Council
- British Columbia Housing
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Red Cross
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Department of National Defense
- Emergency Management British Columbia
- Employment and Social Development Canada - Innovation, Information and Technology Branch
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- FireSmart
- First Nations Education Steering Committee
- First Nations Emergency Services Society
- First Nations Market Housing Fund
- First Nations Technology Council
- First Peoples Cultural Council
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Natural Resources Canada - TMX Phase IV Partnerships Office and Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee
- New Relationship Trust
- Parks Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Public Service Commission of Canada
- Reconciliation Canada
- Service Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Transport Canada
- Western Indigenous Student Engagement Network



Ask Me Booth

As in previous years, the Ask Me Booth was staffed by ISC and CIRNAC employees who answered delegates' questions and provided access to resources. Delegates also had the opportunity to arrange a meeting with ISC and CIRNAC staff through the booth.

Social Media

ISC and CIRNAC promoted *Our Gathering 2020, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə sǫǫǫip ct* via several different social media platforms. Participants were encouraged to post information, ideas and thoughts on their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram while using the #OurGathering2020 #kexwkexwntsút chet and #tə sǫǫǫip ct hashtags. The Departments' social media accounts also promoted the plenary sessions, speakers and events as they took place over the three-day event. To further encourage sharing of information and ideas, all Twitter posts that used the #OurGathering2020, #kexwkexwntsút chet and #tə sǫǫǫip ct hashtags were highlighted in real time on a Twitter feed displayed on screens throughout the venue. 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 *Our Gathering 2020, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə sǫǫǫip ct*. Lastly, plenary sessions were recorded, and for the first time, a number of breakout sessions were recorded. Videos of the recorded sessions have been [posted online](#) to share with community members and those unable to attend in person.



Session Summaries

The plenary, breakout and youth sessions are included below with a brief description, highlights of what was heard and any action items.

PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
CIRNAC/ISC Directions and Priorities SPEAKERS » Daniel Watson, Deputy Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada » Sony Perron, Associate Deputy Minister, Indigenous Services Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Daniel Watson described how there have been significant shifts in Canada's approaches to addressing rights over the past years, many of which were driven by provincial innovation and advocacy. The negotiation of agreements has shifted to flexible, incremental agreements that recognize ongoing rights and can continue to evolve over time. Funding has shifted to being collaboratively determined and expenditure driven. » Looking forward, the focus will be to develop legislation to implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>, build on experiences with Private Members' Bill C-262, the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> and Bill 41, the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> in British Columbia and ensure collaborative work with Indigenous peoples across Canada; to work with victims' families, service delivery organizations and provinces/territories to develop an action plan on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; and to work with Nations and communities to replace the <i>Comprehensive Land Claim Policy</i> and <i>Inherent Right Policy</i> and make necessary improvements to the <i>Specific Claims Policy</i>. » Sony Perron explained how ISC is working to clarify and implement the recent child and family Services Bill C-92 legislation; improve implementation of <i>Jordan's Principle</i>; improve health outcomes, especially in areas such as suicide prevention and mental wellbeing; and advance both short and long-term sustainable solutions to infrastructure needs, such as housing and water treatment facilities. Priorities include closing the infrastructure gap, co-developing health legislation, working towards a decision on an escalator for 10-Year Grants and moving quickly on compensation for those affected by child apprehensions. » ISC is also working on a long-term, sustainable housing funding strategy to replace current short-term, unpredictable funding.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Specific Claims Update</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stefan Matiation, Director General of Specific Claims, CIRNAC » Kukpi7 Chief Judy Wilson, Co-Chair, BC-Specific Claims Working Group » Chief Dalton Silver, Co-Chair, BC-Specific Claims Working Group » Jody Woods, Technical Lead, BC-Specific Claims Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Stefan Matiation reported on specific claims settlements in the past few years: BC specific claims represent 51% of the national inventory of specific claims and acceptance rate of claims has increased to 65%. The Specific Claims Branch is looking for ways to bundle claims and work collaboratively with First Nations. » The BC Specific Claims Working Group, which advocates for the fair and just resolution of specific claims, made a slide presentation about the need for transformation in the specific claims process, including the desire for an independent assessment of claims. The Working Group emphasized that BC claims are unique, and it will continue to advocate for a process that is fair, independent, transparent, impartial and open.
<p>Panel on Shared Territories and Overlaps</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, CIRNAC » Tom McCarthy, Divisional Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation » Regional Chief Terry Teegee, BC Assembly of First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Joe Wild acknowledged that Canada's previous policy approaches have not supported the resolution of shared and overlapping territory concerns. He cited Canada's new approach of moving away from full and final agreements, which will provide more space for negotiating with First Nations to discuss the governance of disputed areas. In addition, Canada is providing resources to Indigenous communities to reconstitute their traditional governing protocols. » Tom McCarthy pointed out some of the challenges resulting from the Province's actions, such as the use of a consultative area database, and said BC would like to have an open dialogue with First Nations to generate solutions. He also referenced the new BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which will allow the Province to enter into agreements with Indigenous governments other than <i>Indian Act</i> bands or societies, or with groups coming together for a specific project or purpose. » BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee stated that it is important to build a framework from the grassroots to address shared and overlapping territory. He remarked that shared and overlapping territory is a colonial concept that has divided First Nations. A key question is how we can reconcile Indigenous and Western laws. » Many comments and questions were raised by participants, such as: how to protect the interests of First Nations not in treaty negotiations, the matter of provincial revenue-sharing agreements and claimed territories, and protocols among First Nations. » All the panel members referenced the upcoming <i>Shared Territories and Overlaps Forum</i>, March 11-13, 2020, in Vancouver as a significant and timely opportunity for Indigenous communities to substantively engage, explore and discuss options that contribute to the resolution of overlapping territories.

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Implementing C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer, Union of BC Indian Chiefs » Cheryl Casimer, Political Executive, First Nations Summit » Lydia Hwitsum, Political Executive, First Nations Summit » Joanne Wilkinson, Assistant Deputy Minister Child and Family Services Reform, ISC » Allison Bond, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Child and Family Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Joanne Wilkinson provided a summary of the Act Respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families. There are new national minimum standards for service delivery and a pathway for Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services. Allison Bond advised that the Ministry of Children and Family Development has adjusted policy and practice to meet the minimum standards in the Act. » There is a need for a BC based process for jurisdiction, so that issues in other regions do not cause delays for First Nations in BC who are ready to move forward. The Child and Family Services Tripartite Working Group (comprised of representatives from the First Nations Leadership Council, Indigenous Services Canada, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development) will be engaging First Nations leadership on this work. The Nations in BC are leading the way and it was agreed that we have a lot to learn from each other and from Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. » It was announced that there would be an All-Chiefs Gathering on April 28 and 29, 2020, as well as a jurisdiction gathering for Nations working on jurisdiction in May 2020. These events did not occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The All-Chiefs Gathering will be re-scheduled and the Tripartite Working Group is exploring ways to engage virtually.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
Remarks by National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde addressed a number of priority issues such as health and wellbeing, First Nations jurisdiction of children and families, cannabis and gaming jurisdiction, justice, fisheries, climate change and the <i>United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>. » Indigenous peoples and priorities were specifically mentioned in the Government of Canada's Speech from the Throne and the work and advocacy of First Nations in the region helped ensure the successful adoption of provincial legislation on the <i>UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> and advanced federal legislation Bills C-91 (Indigenous languages) and C-92 (child welfare). » There have been challenges such as Quebec's legal action on Bill C-92 and the lack of funding to close the gap on the social determinants of health and areas where ongoing work is required, such as moving beyond the <i>Indian Act</i>, addressing many jurisdictional issues and ending the reliance of many First Nations on diesel fuel by building sustainable energy alternatives. » There is ongoing work to transform the federal government's four policies of comprehensive claims, specific claims, additions to reserves and inherent rights so that they are no longer about extinguishing rights and now focus on recognizing and implementing rights. Another major area of Chief Bellegarde's efforts and advocacy is to encourage the Minister of Finance to target funding for First Nations. » The difficult work of reconciliation cannot be accomplished alone and there is leading-edge work happening in BC. » The Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly set to take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 7 to 9, 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19. Six hundred Chiefs from across Canada were expected to attend this event. The Assembly of First Nations has a planned Special Chiefs Assembly for December 2020 which may or may not go ahead pending health orders and other factors. The next regularly scheduled Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly is scheduled for July 6-8, 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.





SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
BC Overview Report SPEAKERS » Catherine Lappe, <i>Regional Director General, ISC-BC Region</i> » Members of the <i>Executive Leadership Team, ISC-BC Region</i>	» Catherine Lappe and members of the Executive Leadership Team provided an overview on ISC-BC Region's 2019-2020 regional budgets and how they are allocated. » The overview provided budget information on community infrastructure, lands and economic development, emergency management, education, Jordan's Principle, income assistance programs, governance and new fiscal relationship followed by questions from delegates. » A copy of the presentation is available online .

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
Implementation of the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia SPEAKERS » Joe Wild, Senior <i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, CIRNAC</i> » Tom McCarthy, <i>Divisional Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</i> » Cheryl Casimer, <i>Political Executive, First Nations Summit</i>	» Cheryl Casimer presented on the history of the BC treaty process including the Task Force Report , the Multilateral Engagement Process , Principals' Accord and on the co-development of the new Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia . » Joe Wild highlighted some key policy shifts, including the shift from full and final extinguishment of rights to the ongoing and evolving recognition of rights. He pointed out that the new policy is a way to ground future work on the implementation of the <i>UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> and co-development of policy. Although the new policy specifically applies to those within the BC treaty process, it is also available, whether in whole or in part, to any Indigenous group involved in discussions with Canada who is interested. » Tom McCarthy discussed the collaboration and alignment of the federal and provincial governments and the First Nations Summit throughout the development of the new policy and acknowledged that there should be multiple ways to address interests both within and outside of the BC treaty process.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>New Fiscal Tools to Support Self-Determination</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alan Greer, Acting Director, Fiscal Branch, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, CIRNAC » Fred Tolmie, Chief Administrative Officer, shíshálh Nation » Frank Dragon, Senior Advisor to Legislative Chief and Senior Advisor to KCFN Legislature, Ka:yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alan Greer presented on how <i>Canada's Collaborative Self Government Fiscal Policy</i> was co-developed with 25 self-governing Indigenous groups. The Policy has prepared CIRNAC to negotiate on clear and transparent grounds to provide sufficient fiscal resources for self-government responsibilities. The new fiscal policy applies to First Nations with a self-government agreement while through a separate process, ISC is working with the Assembly of First Nations on a new fiscal relationship for groups under the <i>Indian Act</i>. » The new fiscal policy model includes several elements which can be aggregated into two parts: (1) <i>keep-up</i> funding and (2) <i>catch-up</i> funding. The keep-up element focuses on determining the expenditure need of the Indigenous governments. Work has been completed on the expenditure need for governance and administration, but efforts are still ongoing for infrastructure, treaty implementation, programs and services, and culture, language and heritage. The <i>catch-up</i> element refers to funding and other support to narrow/close gaps in social wellness, infrastructure and housing vis-à-vis surrounding non-Indigenous communities. The Policy also makes it clear that Canada and Indigenous governments will collaboratively develop the federal approach to Indigenous governments' fiscal capacity (own-source revenues) and that fiscal capacity will not be considered until the remaining funding methodologies have been co-developed to meet the expenditure need of Indigenous self-governance. » Fred Tolmie stated that Canada and Indigenous governments are now on the same page for negotiation outcomes as a result of the work done on <i>Canada's Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy</i>. The new policy considers the actual cost of running an Indigenous government. » Two concerns were raised during the Q&A period: (1) the Policy does not obligate other government departments and (2) whether the deferment of own-source revenue work will impact the depletion of non-renewable resources. Alan Greer responded that: (1) other government departments have been invited and CIRNAC expects their greater participation; and (2) own-source revenue policy is still in development, but is not intended to be a penalty for success.

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Darryl-Jean Peeman, You Empowered & Strong Coordinator, Okanagan Nation Alliance » Matilda Brown, Addictions Worker St'at'imc Outreach Health Services » Holly Alec, Youth Representative, St'at'imc Outreach Health Services » Janice Knighton, Restorative Justice Project Lead, Lillooet Tribal Council » Chief Colleen Jacob, Xaxli'p First Nation » Elaine Alec, Alderhill Planning and UBCIC Women's Representative, Penticton Indian Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Elaine Alec, co-organizer of the Path Forward report facilitated a session on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Both presentations focused on successful community programs linked to addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and how stronger cultural ties are important for personal healing. » The YES Program was established in 2015. It provides support to develop safety plans as well as educational and cultural support facilitated by two community helper teams per community. In the previous six months, YES experienced a 300% increase in referrals. While the YES Program believes that culture and language are the keys to healing, service providers have noticed a gap in these two areas that limits their ability to help. The YES Program noted an increase in violence against women and female youth, some as young as 10 years of age. » The goals of the St'at'imc Health Services include supporting clients in their wellness journey in a holistic way and building trusting relationships. In the fall of 2019, they held a community-driven women's gathering on the land for women of all ages. Their gathering helped to empower Elders, women and girls through cultural and spiritual protocols and practices. ✓ ACTION ITEM: Current federal funding for the YES Program ceased in March 2020. While the program has obtained temporary, short-term funding at the start of this fiscal, CIRNAC staff are working with other federal departments to identify funding options.

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>New Fiscal Relationship – Update on the Joint AFN-ISC Ministerial Advisory Committee & Implementation of 10-Year Grants</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gail Mitchell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Partnerships Sector, ISC » Daniel Wilson, Special Advisor, Assembly of First Nations » Chief David Jimmie, Chief and CEO, Squiala First Nation & BC Assembly of First Nations representative on the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations » Harold Calla, Executive Chair, First Nations Financial Management Board » Chief Harvey McLeod, Upper Nicola Band » Collette Sunday, Band Administrator, Upper Nicola Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gail Mitchell outlined ISC's commitment toward a new fiscal relationship that strives to implement a Nation-to-Nation self-determination process. The 10-Year Grant is one step to enhance predictability and flexibility in the design and delivery of services along with a reduced reporting burden. At the time of writing this summary report 85 First Nations across the country, including 46 in British Columbia, have a 10-Year Grant. It is acknowledged that capacity enhancement needs to be supported and further actions are needed to address other aspects of a new fiscal relationship. » Chief David Jimmie and Daniel Wilson described the budget advocacy work of the Assembly of First Nations and the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations, including 24 recommendations in the Committee's June 2019 interim report: <i>Honoring our Ancestors by Trailblazing a Path to the Future</i>. This report builds on the earlier work described in the <i>BC Report to the Assembly of First Nations National Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations</i>. The focus is on moving beyond current transfers to statutory transfers. Future work of the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations will be to finalize the recommendations and consider options for implementation, including developing measurable outcomes and next steps. » Harold Calla provided an overview of the history of the <i>First Nations Fiscal Management Act</i> and the tools developed by the First Nations Financial Management Board to support First Nations to plan, manage and report on outcomes to membership. First Nations need resources to plan and implement jurisdiction including an institutional framework, a platform of shared services to support the back office and education. » Chief Harvey McLeod and Collette Sunday shared how the 10-Year Grant aligns with work undertaken to respond to each of their community's request for accountability and transparency which is reflected in the Band's vision and mission. Collette outlined the steps taken (including challenges overcome) to reach this point including working with the First Nations Financial Management Board to attain their Financial Administration Law and Financial Management Certification. Overall, the 10-Year Grant has provided the community with options it did not have in the past.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Indigenous Leadership and Opportunities in Clean Energy Projects</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cole Sayers, Project Coordinator, New Relationship Trust, BC Clean Energy Initiative » Michelle Myers, Indigenous Clean Energy 20/20 Catalyst mentor, Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government » Braden Etzerza, Climate Action Coordinator, Metlakatla First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The three youth panelists shared their experiences supporting clean energy initiatives in their communities. They affirmed the importance of capacity funding and support for communities to engage in the clean energy sector. There are enormous opportunities, but it takes capacity, funding and support to execute them. » There are over 20 First Nation communities who are still dependent on diesel power. Funders must evaluate clean energy projects through a cultural and environmental values lens rather than solely through an economic development lens. » Inadequate funding will always be a barrier to success. There must be sufficient funding for clean energy projects. There is a need to provide capacity support in terms of funding for communities to enable youth to engage in the clean energy sector. Finally, communities need resources to hire dedicated officers to deal with climate change issues. » ISC-BC Region will continue to promote the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BC ICEI), which issued a call for proposals in early 2020, and support communities moving off diesel dependency as well as funding clean energy economic development projects through ISC's Community Opportunity Readiness Program.
<p>Community-led Planning</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hegus Clint Williams, Tla'amin Nation » Steven Brown, Councillor, Klahoose First Nation » Alison Trenholm, Councillor, Homalco First Nation » Chief Nicole Rempel, Chief Councillor, K'ómoks First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Four Sisters Nations—Tla'amin, Klahoose, Homalco and K'ómoks—shared the successes and benefits of Nation-to-Nation planning. They discussed their mutual priorities around language, culture, health and infrastructure and how collective planning is supporting each Nation to advance their community priorities and achieve strength through political solidarity. » Language and cultural revitalization are essential to their Nation rebuilding efforts. By bringing together knowledge keepers from each community, the Four Sisters Nations are working to preserve their language for future generations. » First Nations that are interested in learning more about communities that are planning together or possible funding sources for collective planning should contact ISC Community Development at BC-CCP@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>First Nation Education Updates – Education Jurisdiction, BCTEA and Post-Secondary Education</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Christa Williams, Advisor and Jurisdiction Negotiator, First Nations Education Steering Committee</i> » <i>Tyrone McNeil, President, First Nation Education Steering Committee</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This breakout session emphasized historical milestones and ongoing initiatives related to First Nations education jurisdiction. The initialing of individual education jurisdiction agreements between Canada and First Nations will pave the way for the 13 Negotiating First Nations (NFNs) to hold community ratification votes on their respective education jurisdiction agreements. » Christa Williams highlighted that NFNs and First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) have been frustrated by inconsistent messaging about the federal approval process of the template education jurisdiction agreements. Various options to expedite the submission of template education jurisdiction agreements originally proposed by Canada were withdrawn during the weeks leading up to the 2019 federal election. » Tyrone McNeil explained the importance of funding post-secondary education. Canada has committed \$7.5M over three years to engage First Nations and develop regional post-secondary models. FNESC expects BC's allocation to be used to engage and develop a BC-specific Post-Secondary Funding Model based on BC's population to support First Nations students, communities, and First Nations established institutes. Engagement also intends to ensure the public post-secondary education systems is responsive to the needs of First Nations and First Nations students. <p>✓ ACTION ITEM: Canada will work with FNESC to finalize and approve for signature education jurisdiction funding template agreements by July 2021.</p>
<p>Housing Co-design – Emerging Partnerships for Indigenous Housing</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Nees Ma'Outa (Clifford White), President, Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing Society</i> » <i>Leo Lawson, Capital Manager, Heiltsuk Nation</i> » <i>Jaimie Harris, Councillor, Heiltsuk Nation</i> » <i>Khelsilem Sxwchálten iy Xelsilem (Dustin Rivers), Councillor & Spokesperson, Squamish Nation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Panelists stressed the importance of ensuring on- and off-reserve housing is sustainable and affordable for First Nations. » Nees Ma'Outa emphasized the need for reconciliation through partnerships and capacity building to support housing and infrastructure in First Nation communities. Housing can be a solution to address many social problems as well as the effects of colonization such as addiction, mental health and homelessness. » Leo Lawson and Jaimie Harris discussed the issue of remoteness, job opportunities and limited housing to bring people back home. Highlights include innovative housing projects and initiatives such as the Big House, CleanBC and alternative heating options that can be shared as best practices with other Nations. » Khelsilem Sxwchálten iy Xelsilem described the importance of building good governance around housing and the benefits of separating politics from the day-to-day housing operations.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>BC Indigenous Skills, Training and Employment – Interactive Session with Community Leaders</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Robert Philips, Political Executive, First Nation Summit » Chief Harvey McLeod, Upper Nicola Band » Cherlyn Billy, Director, Indigenous Skills & Employment Training, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Chief Harvey McLeod prefaced the discussion by talking about his experience training and finding employment for his members. » It is challenging to break silos, piece together programs to support one person or family and deal with the amount of reporting, restrictions and different rules when dealing with many different programs. » The New Fiscal Relationship will allow the Upper Nicola Band and others to build more cohesive programs that better support people and as a result the outlook is changing as funding becomes more flexible and longer term. » In order to work together more effectively, the First Nations Leadership Council endorsed the creation of the Indigenous Skills, Training and Employment Committee to ensure community perspectives are considered and to identify strategies to improve skills, training and employment activities in communities. » Cherlyn Billy asked three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › What are the priorities for skills, training and employment in your community? › What has been successful and what are barriers to success? › How can Canada, BC and First Nations leadership work better together to improve skills, training and employment outcomes for First Nations people? » Delegates provided feedback about skills, employment and training, in support of exploratory discussions with a tripartite committee of Federal, Provincial and First Nations representatives, to work on these topics. » Feedback emphasized a holistic approach including individual wellness, educating employers about UNDRIP and long-term funding to deliver services.

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Re-imagining Emergency Management using the ‘Braiding’ Approach</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Chief Donna Aljam, Nicomen Indian Band » Anthony Moore, Emergency Response Services Manager/ Enforcement & Emergency Services, Nisga’a Lisims Government » Jeremiah Louis, Emergency Services Manager/Fire Chief, Takla Nation » Paul Sam, Councillor, Tsartlip First Nation » Brent Langlois, Executive Director, First Nations Emergency Services Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » An overview of emergency management in BC was provided. There is a practical need for enhanced emergency management and there is commitment on the part of the BC AFN, First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Canada and British Columbia to contribute to meaningful change. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act was discussed and panelists provided community testimonials, highlighting First Nations actions to advance emergency management programs as well as further relationships with BC and Canada. » The overarching goal is to develop collaborative partnerships between First Nations, Canada and the Province of British Columbia in a manner that respects First Nations’ authority and jurisdiction as well as Indigenous knowledge. The Tripartite Working Group will finalize a work plan to guide implementation of the Tripartite MOU on Emergency Management Services. ISC, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) (with support from First Nations Emergency Services [FNESS]) and the Province will work collaboratively to implement the work plan and the <i>Tripartite MOU</i>. » A Province-wide First Nations emergency management forum was being planned for March 2020, as called for under the <i>MOU</i>. Due to COVID-19, this forum has been postponed and virtual options are being explored. » The Tripartite Working Group is preparing a submission for Emergency Management BC on modernization of the <i>Emergency Program Act</i>.
<p>Learning From Each Other: Best Practices Amongst Administrators</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Colette Sunday, Band Administrator, Upper Nicola Band » Alana Dixon, Band Administrator, Canim Lake Band » Vaughn Sunday, Executive Director, Adams Lake Indian Band » Sonia Roberts, Band Administrator, Mamalilikulla First Nation » Jehan Casey, Executive Director, First Nations Public Service Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This session was an interactive World Café-style session hosted by the First Nation Public Service Secretariat with three 20-minute rounds for participants to visit a table of interest. The four tables were hosted by BC First Nation band administrators on the following topics: “Policy and Community Engagement”, “HR and Comprehensive Community Planning”, “Capital Plans, Budgets and Evaluation” and “Education”. » Participants asked for additional similar opportunities for practical engagement and networking at future meetings and events such as <i>Our Gathering 2021, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə sǰǰǰip ct</i>. ✓ ACTION ITEM: FNPSS made a commitment to sharing a report of tools and tips that was provided on the First Nations Administrators Network Facebook group page: (search “First Nations Administrators Network” to find and join). ✓ ACTION ITEM: The table hosts committed to share templates and tools discussed on First Nations Administration Network Facebook group page with participants.

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Jordan's Principle: Exploring a New Model of Service Coordination in BC</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Lorinda Patterson, Lead Service Coordinator, Southern Alberta Team Lead, First Nations Health Consortium</i> » <i>Madhvi Russell, Manager of Jordan's Principle, ISC</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Madhvi Russell provided an overview of Jordan's Principle and explained that ISC-BC Region has funding to develop an enhanced model of service coordination to help children and families access needed services and supports. » Lorinda Patterson provided an overview of the Alberta model for Jordan's Principle service coordination. This model offered a basis from which attendees offered their own suggestions for a BC model. » Attendees shared their perspectives on service coordination. Thoughts on what service coordination could look like included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indigenous led and grass roots driven. › More direct outreach to communities. › Community based positions to support families in accessing Jordan's Principle/ISC and to ensure timely services and supports. › Service coordinators who are culturally competent and respectful. › Improved linkages to provincial programs and other service organizations. › Outreach capacity to support urban First Nations populations. › Data collection to understand growing trends to support better service coordination. › Equal distribution of coordinators across BC. ✓ ACTION ITEM: Information was gathered about various ideas for Jordan's Principle service coordination in BC and has formed the basis for ongoing conversations with First Nations leadership and sectoral experts.. ✓ ACTION ITEM: Some attendees requested an ISC information session about Jordan's Principle and service coordination. The ISC Jordan's Principle team has followed up with attendees to make arrangements for these sessions.
<p>BC Housing and Infrastructure Council (BCHIC) Update and Information Session</p> <p>.....</p> <p>FACILITATOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Chief Mark Point, Skowkale First Nation and Vice Chair of BCHIC</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ISC and First Nations partners are working together in support of transferring care, control and management of housing and infrastructure programs and services to First Nations-led organization(s). » The BC First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council has been funded to conduct engagements that will inform their way forward, including the scope of what they wish to take over, business and accountability models, etc. » Through their engagement sessions with member First Nations, Tribal Councils and other stakeholders, BC First Nations Housing Infrastructure Council are seeking direction on things like Service Delivery, Funding Models, Governance, and Organizational Structure. ✓ ACTION ITEM: HIC will develop a communications plan/strategy to guide engagement with First Nation communities. ✓ ACTION ITEM: HIC will share a frequently-asked questions and answers document with First Nation communities.

ELDER/YOUTH SESSIONS

SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
Youth Videography Workshop <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <p>» Nene Kraneveldt, Imagination FX</p> <p>» Jim Kraneveldt, Imagination FX</p>	<p>» This workshop was delivered in two parts. On the first day, youth were asked about their interest in videography, taught film techniques and planned what to film. They formed discussion groups according to the type of filming they were interested in (such as supplemental footage of the event and interviews) and what they wanted to accomplish with videography. The footage collected was edited and one youth interested in voice overs created and recorded the voice over.</p> <p>» On the second day, youth viewed their completed video, were taught more about filming techniques and provided insight into how to use their skills in the future.</p> <p>» When asked what they learned, youth said they wanted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use storytelling to attract visitors to communities for ecotourism. › Film events at the grassroots level to share with others about what is happening in communities. › Bring the film industry to First Nation communities. › Use their skills for peer-to-peer youth empowerment. › Engage youth. › Conduct interviews to record and save knowledge. <p>» Youth went on stage during the closing remarks while their video was screened to the greater audience and they shared what they had learned through the experience. Several youth spoke at the podium, expressing their appreciation for the experience and new knowledge and expressed their hope that the videography session would be offered again so they could be involved next year.</p>



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Indigenous Entrepreneurship</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Lynn-Marie Angus, Sisters Sage » Trevor Carroll, Director/Actor/Producer » Nene Kraneveldt, Imagination FX » Patrice Mousseau, Satya Organics Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In this session, Indigenous entrepreneurs shared their experiences and how their Indigenous identities shaped their entrepreneurial business. » Advice was shared with young entrepreneurs, including the importance of keeping Indigenous values central to the vision of business, perseverance and having good mentors to reach out to when needed. » Each speaker spoke about their successes and lessons learned throughout business endeavors.
<p>Youth Engagement Session</p> <p>.....</p> <p>FACILITATOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Justen Peters, BC Assembly of First Nations Youth Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This event began with the participants writing down what was important to them and posting them for people to read. Justen Peters identified the following themes that came from those notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culture 2. Mental health 3. Financial support 4. Knowledge exchange between Elders and youth 5. Giving youth their voice 6. Education 7. Capacity building and youth involvement » Several questions were also posed: How does ISC engage with youth and understand what is important to them to ensure ISC work is relevant? How can ISC better serve youth? » The first thing heard from youth was the importance of “walking your talk.” Youth asked, “how many have heard youth are the future, but what are leaders doing to support them to become leaders?” Many in the room agreed and were also unsure on actions in place to support youth leaders. » In discussing ways to stay connected, a suggestion was made for an app “totally dedicated to Indigenous youth,” as Facebook was not an ideal platform. Although people meet at conferences and other venues, communication between people often stops after a couple weeks. » Youth raised the idea of a youth advisory council for ISC. They want a place they can come together with other youth who want to make change so that they can share ideas and current practices between themselves and with ISC. » Several youth spoke about being concerned by the lack of funding in communities to support mental health, recreation, trauma healing and youth in care, as well as a lack of funding for youth to attend conferences. » It was suggested that ISC/CIRNAC put youth front and centre on a plenary panel on Day 1 of the event instead of “off to the side” and presenting for the first time on Day 3. Youth said they thought being involved in the event with First Nations and other leadership was important, but so were youth-only conferences.



SESSION	WHAT WAS HEARD
<p>Elder's Tea</p> <p>.....</p> <p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>» Bill Guerin, Associate Regional Director, ISC</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <p>» Elder Bob "S7aplek Lanakila" Baker and Eagle Song Dancers from Squamish Nation</p>	<p>» The Elder's Tea at <i>Our Gathering 2020, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓əq̓ip ct</i> was initiated by ISC staff through the Pacific Federal Council <i>FedStarter</i> Campaign. The Elder's Tea provided an opportunity for ISC and CIRNAC to recognize Elders for supporting the departments over the years with opening prayers, cultural teachings and protocols and ask them for their feedback on how they see themselves working with the departments in the future.</p> <p>» Twenty-four First Nation and Métis Elders from across British Columbia representing 15 communities attended the Elder's Tea.</p> <p>» Elders shared their views on how they foresee themselves working with the departments in the future, including their participation at future <i>Our Gathering, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓əq̓ip ct</i> events.</p> <p>» Key recommendations from Elders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Formation of an Elder's advisory group inclusive of First Nation and Métis Elders that would inform the departments' work moving forward. › Encouraging departmental employees to engage with Elders when visiting communities. › Hosting an Elder's Tea at <i>Our Gathering 2021, kexwkexwntsút chet, tə s̓q̓əq̓ip ct</i>. <p>» A graphic recording captured highlights of the discussion and Elder recommendations.</p>

Evaluation Highlights

Delegate feedback about *Our Gathering 2020*, *kexwkexwntsút chet*, *tə sǵǵǵip ct* was collected throughout the three days via written evaluation forms. Highlights of this feedback are provided below.

Did the event offer opportunities to network and/or meet your other objectives? If yes, with who/how?

- ☞ Yes, plenty of networking opportunities. Social media hashtags helped.
- ☞ This is my first time here—great networking and seeing people that I have not seen for a while—NICE! Too many to list.
- ☞ Yes, booths were helpful to get contacts.
- ☞ Yes—ISC reps and other Nations who are doing ‘best practices’ examples as well.
- ☞ Yes, I got good ideas to use for my job.

What kinds of topics would you like to see next year?

- ☞ Bill C-92—Best practices, one year later update.
- ☞ Representatives from communities under 10-Year Grants [to show] positive outcomes - suggest improvements.
- ☞ More examples of Nations who’ve been successful on projects, programs, initiatives, etc. and HOW they did it.
- ☞ More success stories for youth capacity building on- and off-reserve.
- ☞ Nations working together to support each other (not necessarily overlap). A session on looking forward, positivity.
- ☞ Mental health.
- ☞ Updates on this year’s presentations.

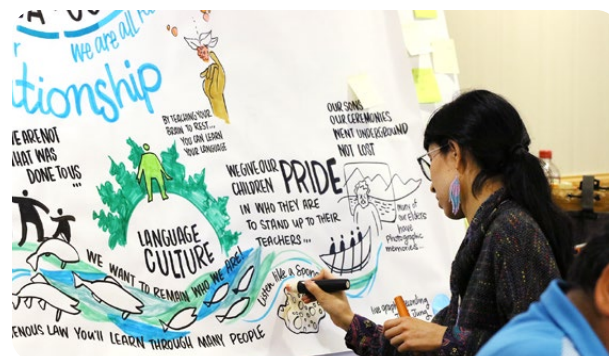


What can we do to make the event even better next year?

- 💬 More interactive activities around action and more positive examples of solutions, not issues.
- 💬 Having a way to consider online questions, have wellness/spiritual practitioners for participants.
- 💬 Use of sli.do for questions.
- 💬 USB or handouts of presentations.
- 💬 Have a night of culture, it gives everyone good medicine.
- 💬 Provide funding for more youth to participate.

Please share any additional comments or suggestions.

- 💬 Suggestion to schedule performances at lunch instead of end of day; enjoyed the signing, very powerful.
- 💬 Very informative conference. Keep getting updates on Bill C-92.
- 💬 This is the best conference ISC has to build the gap between bands and ISC.
- 💬 Very informative and giving opportunity to ask questions and network helps with community growth.
- 💬 Representatives from communities successful in housing/infrastructure projects; successes in cultural activities with youth and Elders.
- 💬 Vendors—artists or other entrepreneurs from ALL OF OUR communities to be able to hold a free table at this event.
- 💬 More community input into agenda.



FROM THE YOUTH

Topics for next year:

- Mentorship for youth and a youth network to report to ISC and CIRNAC.
- I would like to see more topics about leaders who have successful and/or challenging stories on their efforts in community, not just the entrepreneurs.



I like the fact that the youth had one project like we did. And the rest of the time we were included in the main event, with everyone else. We were not treated differently; we were just like anyone else attending the gathering. Like all of the ‘officials’ and Chief and council were there. It was nice not to be separated— we were going through the days like we belonged.

I would suggest giving a chance for the youth delegates to teach a session on what they are passionate about; something to learn from one another - in regards to a general theme or open-ended.

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. The agenda of future Our Gathering events will continue to incorporate suggestions and recommendations that respond to and are relevant to the needs of First Nations communities.

Due to COVID-19, 2020 has not rolled out as anticipated. *Our Gathering 2020, kexwkexwntsút chet, tā sǫǫǫp ct* was one of the last larger events hosted by ISC – BC Region and we're thankful it was able to happen. Current pandemic and health measures are making us rethink how we engage with First Nations, especially in large groups, into 2021. If you have suggestions that allow us to continue with the dialogue, engagement and networking of *Our Gathering* events, please let us know by email at aadnc.rencontre-ourgathering.aandc@canada.ca.



