



Our Gathering, 2021

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Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday March 10th, 9:00am - 4:00pm

9:00am - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Moment of Silence and vigil in respect to those who lost their lives in the past year.
Honour and Welcome Song by Elder Bob Baker, Squamish Nation.

9:30am - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Greetings; *Moderated by Harold Tarbell and Jessie Hemphill*

- Welcome - *Chief Don Tom, Vice President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General, Indigenous Services Canada, and Angela Bate, Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.*
- Setting the stage, outline of program and event housekeeping

10:00am - 3 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Communication - "Best Practices"

The last 11 months have shown the vital role of communications. This session, moderated by Davis McKenzie, Principal Toxw oxw (Becoming Clear) Communications will review best practices in communicating during a crisis and the success of innovative approaches and social media. Panelists Chief Kevin Peacey of Klahoose and Chief Marie Quock of Iskut will share their communities' experiences. Sharing and questions from participants will be encouraged.

Emergency Management - "Responding to a Global Pandemic"

A panel comprised of two First Nation Chiefs, Kupki7 Helen Henderson - Canim Lake First Nation/Tsq'escen'emc (People of Broken Rock) and Chief Joe Alphonse - Tl'etinqox Government will discuss the impact of COVID19 in their communities, what they learned through their pandemic response, and how they are approaching the future.

Education - "Supporting First Nations Learners through COVID-19".

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) will provide an overview of critical issues impacting First Nations education amidst the pandemic. A panel discussion featuring representatives from BC First Nations highlighting promising practices First Nations have undertaken to support learners in public and First Nations schools will follow. Discussion will be followed by a Q&A period. Panelists include Iris Frank, Education Manager, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Heather Shaffer, Special Education Coordinator/Supervisor of Elementary Instruction, Lilwat Nation, Clayton Grice, President, First Nations Schools Association and Principal, Tle'tinqox School, and Tammy Harkey, Councillor, Musqueam Indian Band.

11:30am

Lunch; Prayer for lunch meal will be offered by Elder Deanna George, Tseil-Waututh Nation.

12:30pm - Plenary - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

Updates on progress being made on the National Action Plan by Valerie Royle, Deputy Minister Responsible for the Women's Directorate, Yukon Government, and Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Youth, Heritage Canada, to follow with a Q&A session.

2:00pm

Break

2:30pm - 2 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Emergency Management - "Community to Community Sharing"

This session will share insight into the weekly COVID-19 Community-to-Community Sharing group that brings together Indigenous leadership, Emergency Program Coordinators, and Health Directors to share wise practices and support each other through COVID-19 preparedness and response. Indigenous Services Canada initially provided this space for information sharing between Indigenous communities and organizations who had cases of COVID-19 in their communities. This online group evolved into a safe space for sharing and a solid network of support. This virtual circle is open to all Indigenous communities and organizations across British Columbia. Panel Speakers: Darryl Adrian, Lillooet Tribal Council, Valerie O'Connell, Skwah First Nation, Roy Spinks, Lytton First Nation, Kukpi7 Fred Robbins, Esk'etemc First Nation, Councillor Kelly Speck, 'Namgis First Nation, and Erik Blaney, Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council. The Opening Prayer will be offered by Councillor Patrika McEvoy from Old Massett Village Council and the Closing Prayer will be offered by Ron Prest from Skwah First Nation. This panel discussion will provide opportunities for Q&A.

Economic Development - "Indigenous Economic Recovery Initiatives"

In partnership with the BC Assembly of First Nations, the Lands and Economic Development Directorate will host an open dialogue and panel discussion to discuss strategies/initiatives that will help First Nation communities in economic recovery efforts. This panel will be facilitated by Terry Teegee, Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. Panel Speakers: Mark Podlasly, Director of Economic Policy and Initiatives at the First Nations Major Projects Initiative, Paula Amos, Chief Marketing and Development Officer of Indigenous Tourism Association of BC, Michael Bonshor, founder and Managing Director of the BC First Nations Business Development Association.

4:00pm - Close of Day

END DAY ONE



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Day 2: Thursday, March 11th, 9:00am - 2:45pm

9:00 am - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Greetings; *Moderated by Harold Tarbell and Jessie Hemphill*

- Opening Prayer *offered by Sam & Les George from Tsleil-Waututh Nation*
- Setting the stage: outline of program and event housekeeping

9:30am - Plenary - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Armchair Discussion

National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Introduced by Terry Teegee, Regional Chief, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations.

10:45am

Break

11:00am - Plenary - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Specific Claims

An update from Indigenous and federal government representatives on specific claims activity in BC Region and a discussion on the progress of the specific claims will be provided by:

- *Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, UBCIC Secretary-Treasurer, Chief of Neskonalith Indian Band*
- *Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation*
- *Jody Woods, Research Director, BC Specific Claims Working Group*
- *Martin Reiher, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resolution and Partnerships, CIRNAC*
- *Stefan Matiation, Director General, Specific Claims, CIRNAC.*

12:15pm

Lunch; prayer for lunch meal will be offered by Elder Larry Grant from Musqueam Nation.

1:00pm - Plenary - Main Group / 'Namwayut

UNDRIP Bill C-15

An update on Bill C-15 and to explore opportunities with First Nations leadership, Modern Treaty Holders and others on how to implement Bill C-15 following Royal Assent. Panelists include Assistant Deputy Minister Ross Pattee, Implementation Sector with CIRNAC and Assistant Deputy Minister Laurie Sargent, Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio with Justice Canada.

2:30pm - Main Group / 'Namwayut

Closing Remarks - Robert Phillips, First Nations Summit, Angela Bate, Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and Bill Guerin, Associate Regional Director General, Indigenous Services Canada.

END DAY TWO