

# **JOURNEY TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE: *BC First Nations' Perspectives***

Overview Presentation

**UNDERSTANDING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**In northern, rural and remote settings**

“Frameworks for Change”

UNIVERSITY of NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

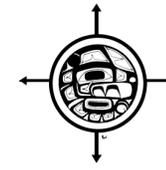
PRINCE GEORGE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010



# BACKGROUND

- 2005 - Tri-partite Transformative Change Accord signed and BC-First Nations New Relationship Document released
- 2006 – BC-First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and Ministry of Economic Development (MEcDev) endorsed Economic Development project
- 2007 –(January) FN Economic Development Forum in Richmond, BC
- 2007 –(March) BC-First Nation’s community tour (11 First Nations (FN))
- 2007 –(August) Workshop to confirm report findings with participant FN’s
- 2008 – (February) Journey to Economic Independence Report jointly released by FN’s Leadership Council and BC Ministry of Ec. Dev)



# Purpose/Objectives

## Purpose:

- Conduct a first-hand examination of the successes and struggles in economic development within a cross-section of B.C. First Nations and shed light on the journey of participant First Nations as they move toward building sustainable economies.

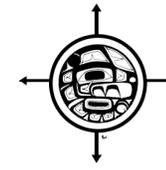
## Tour of the Nations

- Meet with senior First Nations representatives of 11 communities from different regions in BC and collect information that would help us understand the history of the individual First Nation's economic development activities.



# Tour of the Nations

- Beecher Bay First Nation
- Fort Nelson First Nation
- Hupacasath First Nation
- Kamloops Indian Band
- Ktunaxa Tribal Council
- Lake Babine Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Osoyoos Indian Band
- Squamish Nation
- Tseil Waututh Nation
- Westbank First Nation



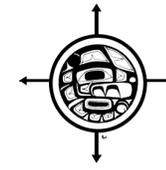
# Two Economic Development Approaches among BC First Nations

## *Osoyoos Indian Band*

- Create First Nations owned and operated enterprises;
- Designated First Nations Band Lands on reserve;
- Training for employees;
- Attract partners for on reserve business development;
- Have consistent political and economic development leadership;
- Brought external business and economic development expertise to the community.

## *Westbank First Nation,*

- Support Entrepreneurial Development
- Enable land development through Certificate of Possession land owners;
- Attract local, national and international investors;
- Have Self-Government legislation and *Land Management Act* powers;
- Brought external business and economic development expertise to the community.



# Three Areas of Revenue Generation

## Development of Lands, Resources and Water

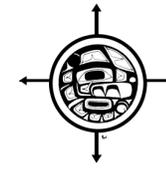
- Squamish FN reported land development to be the meat and potatoes of their own source revenue generation.
- Beecher Bay Band owns and operates their own 160 slip marina
- McLeod Lake Indian Band, the largest First Nation logging contractor in Canada.

## Benefit and Revenue Sharing Agreements

- The Fort Nelson First Nation has revenue sharing agreements with the B.C. Government on several gas wells.

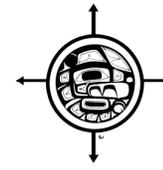
## Partnerships

- The Kamloops Indian Band has entered into partnerships with the B.C. Government, municipalities and businesses.



# Seven Themes

1. Understanding the First Nation Communities
2. Understanding the Lands, Resources and Water Opportunities
3. Planning (EDP and CCP)
4. Leadership, Corporate Governance, and Capacity
5. Benefit & Revenue Sharing Agreements
6. Partnerships
7. Access to Capital

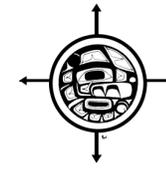


# Understanding First Nations Communities

- Current legislation/ Indian Act and Policies have constrained economic development
- No land title/ no accumulation of equity/no second mortgages
- Infrastructure limited or nonexistent due to lack of Federal funding
- Limited market based housing on reserve lands

## Looking Ahead:

- Enabling First Nations to meaningfully participate in the B.C. economy and move forward to build relationships built on trust and mutual respect.



# Understanding the Lands, Resources and Water

## Lands:

- Federal Crown Reserve Land (Band Lands, Certificate of Possession lands)– Crown Land – Traditional Territory

## Resources:

- Sand and Gravel, Oil and Gas, Timber etc. renewable and non-renewable resources.

## Waters:

- Access to tenures/licences for Aquaculture, Power Production, marina's etc.



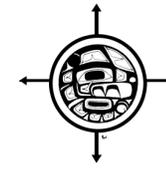
# Planning

## Two types of plans:

Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) & Economic Development Plan (EDP)

## Benefits of having a plan:

- Engages the whole community;
- Creates accountability and achievable outcomes; and,
- Points toward a set of clear and community supported directions.

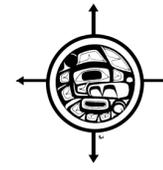


# Leadership, Corporate Governance and Capacity

- Financial accountability, human resource expertise and clear process for land/resource management are key.

## Examples:

- Chief Financial Officer and record keepers;
- Chief Operating Officer; and,
- A Board of Directors including a
- Business Advisory Council made up of business experts.



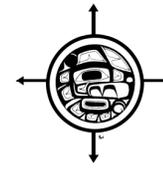
# Benefit & Revenue Sharing Agreements

## Benefit agreements

- Agreements between industry proponents and First Nations communities, which bring economic value to the community.

## Revenue sharing agreements

- Sharing arrangements between the federal or provincial government and First Nations communities.

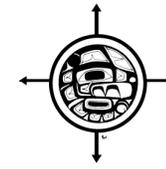


# Partnerships

- Industry, Governments and First Nations

## *Benefits of Partnership arrangements:*

- Project/business specific expertise
- Access to capital
- Transfer of capacity

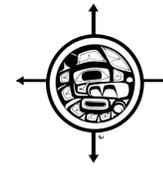


# Access to Capital

- Sources of capital for economic ventures are limited, unaffordable, restrictive and insufficient.

## *Barriers identified by participant First Nations:*

- Land Title ( no equity accumulation)
- Limited conventional sources of capital;
- Lack of information for investors and First Nations on potential partners; and,
- Limited opportunity for First Nations and potential investors to communicate with each other.



Thank you