

Research Resources in our Nations

Chair: **Dave Joe**, Barrister & Solicitor, Dave Joe Law Corporation

Speakers: **Willard Martin**, Councillor, Nisga'a Nation
Chief Mathieya Alatini, Kluane First Nation
Bob Simpson, Director Intergovernmental Relations, Inuvialuit Regional Corp.
Matt Mehaffey, President, Mehaffey Consulting
Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director, Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute
Chief Roberta Joseph, Trondek Hwech'in First Nation

Chair Dave Joe invited LCAC members to share experiences and research in the field. Reported on Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) who are looking at three different ways of addressing law and under settled land claims. CAFN is developing mining laws for CAFN lands; working on Administration of Justice, which will be enforceable throughout the territory; and looking at forestry laws.

Willard Martin

The Nisga'a is entering the 16th year of treaty and its biggest challenge is AANDC and establishing economics to help sustain self-government.

Chief Mathieya Alatini

A lot of research is taking place in the small Southern Tutchone nation. Research priorities include addressing mining on Category A lands. Currently looking to New Zealand to see what other Indigenous organizations are doing. Research is also being conducted on home ownership, a community driven priority, and the development of a Trespass Act to curtail hunting on Category A lands. Also looking at energy and food security, including wind and geothermal. Working with universities to gather baseline data including the integration of TK, youth and Elder contributions.

Bob Simpson

A focus on resource development, identifying what indicators are necessary. Research priorities include early childhood intervention with GNWT. Have published a tabletop book on Inuvialuit history to celebrate the achievements of the Inuvialuit. This is being developed into a curriculum element.

Matt Mehaffey

Reporting on two projects:

- A Tlicho project that looks at financial transactions over an eight-year period with a focus on the positive benefits to other governments as a result of modern treaties. Looking at local GDP, and identified a significant impact on NWT GDP.
- Carcross Tagish First Nation is conducting research on comparable programming and what this costs. Research addresses core costs to other governments.

Sharon Snowshoe

Reported on Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) that has showcased culture, language and Traditional Knowledge (TK) over the last 22 years. GSCI is a non-profit organization working with those living in the Gwich'in settlement region. Have developed a TK policy in the agreement with researchers. Other initiatives include a review of land use and water application and research on wildlife species. Developed a website mapping out plant information and identified that forgotten in the negotiation of land claims was the collecting of stories.

Chief Roberta Joseph

Reported on a partnership with a mining company working in traditional territory. The partnership has resulted in training of THFN youth. The training focuses on monitoring and includes modules with Yukon College, with the mining company contributing financially. Also involved in the training are Elders.