

DAY 1 - TUESDAY



Hereditary Chief Alex Campbell

Lax Kw'alaams



Reid Skelton-Morven, City Councilor; City of Prince Rupert

Councillor Reid Skelton-Morven was born and raised here in Prince Rupert, with family roots of Tsimshian & Nisga'a heritage in the villages of Metlakatla & Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh) BC. Reid is the Co-Founder & Founder of two businesses & a social enterprise here in Northern BC, and his passion for entrepreneurship & economic development has led to a wide variety of different positions; from facilitating business planning workshops with Futurpreneur Canada, serving as a Public Relations Officer for the Prince Rupert Toastmasters, contributing as a director of the Prince Rupert & District Chamber of Commerce, to volunteering at the Charles Hays Secondary School (CHSS) with young & aspiring entrepreneurs in the entrepreneurship 11&12 classes.

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Knut Bjorndal, Mayor; District of Port Edward

Knut moved to Canada from Norway with his family at 3 years of age. For the next 18 years he grew up in Prince Rupert. In university, Knut completed his undergrad in Economics. After school, he spent many years working in the fishing and forest industries. In 2006, Knut moved back to the region, settling in Port Edward where he met his loving wife Diane. They enjoy boating, hiking, and enjoy the outdoors. Knut is very active in community organizations such as the Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club. Knut is now serving his third term as mayor of Port Edward.



Chief Linda Innes, Gitxaala nation

In 2021, I received my Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in Political Science through the University of Northern British Columbia. I have over 30 years of work experience in health, social-work, and business administration, with the past three years in governance. I look forward to using my education and work experience to continue building a strong nation of leaders.

Over the next three years, I am committed to doing the best I can, by creating safe work environments and upholding the Indigenous Women and 2SLGBTQIA+ People Declaration.

I come from a culture with strong traditions, and teachings of our ancestors which have sustained our people and Gitxaala Traditional territory since time immemorial. My late father was Gitksan, and my mother is Gitxaala under the house chief La'Oi.

I thank all those who came before I and I look forward to work towards decolonization, picking up the pieces of our culture, to heal, to trust, to communicate, and to unify through healthy relationships and interactions with one another, and with government to government.

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Chief Councillor Crystal Smith, Haisla Nation

Crystal Smith has served the Haisla people for 12 years through her work with Haisla Nation Council, starting as Executive Assistant to Chief and Council from 2009 to 2013, then being elected Chief Councillor in 2017. She holds business certificates from Northwest Community College and Thompson Rivers University.

In November, 2019, she was named Chair of the First Nations LNG Alliance, a group committed to encouraging First Nations development of the LNG industry to provide employment and other sustainable benefits for BC's aboriginal people.

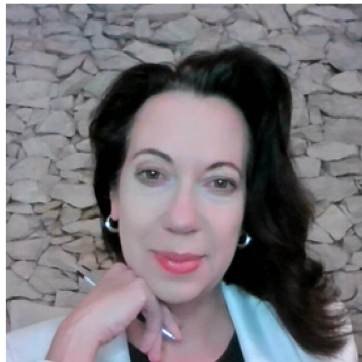


Blair Mirau, Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society

TOPIC: Timing Is Everything

Blair Mirau is a born-and-raised Rupertite and currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society, a post he has held since 2016. Since originally being hired as Economic Development Officer in 2013, he has overseen the quadrupling of the organization's team and revenue. For these efforts, the organization was awarded the 2021 BC Indigenous Community-Owned Business of the Year. Prior to his time with the local Nisga'a, Blair was the grant writer at City Hall where he successfully solicited over \$1 million towards the Cow Bay Marina and winning the World Proposal Championships. Blair was also previously recognized as a Top 30 Under 30 by BC Business. He holds a Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Royal Roads University, and a Bachelor's degree in International Development from the University of Winnipeg. And from 2014 until this past week, he has served as a member of Prince Rupert City Council.

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Manon Joice, Skeena Coach

Manon is the owner of Skeena Coach in Kitimat, BC and is an experienced business development writer specializing in population health.

Manon studied Nursing at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall, Ontario. Further to her clinical experience, she continued her education in preventative medicine and population health at Athabasca University.

She recently completed the specialization, Impacts of the Environment on Global Public Health, through the University of Michigan.

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DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY- AM



Lana Eagle, Lana Eagle Consulting

TOPIC: Reconciliation ... Who really defines what it is

A respected Aboriginal relations strategist, with extensive experience helping Aboriginal groups build sustainable communities and economies for future generations. I believe that Aboriginal communities and industry can work together, and a large part of my work focuses on facilitating partnerships and helping organizations fulfill agreements in order to create economic development strategies and address skills and employment challenges.



Ellis Ross, MLA for Skeena

Ellis Ross was elected MLA for Skeena in 2017 and again in 2020. He currently serves as the Official Opposition Critic for Energy and LNG.

Ross has previously served as the Official Opposition Critic for Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing. He has worked in both the private and public sectors, with business experience in hand logging, beach-combing, and construction.



Dale Swampy, President National Coalition of Chiefs

Dale Swampy is a member of the Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta and a graduate of the University of Alberta with a B.A. degree majoring in Economics.

In 2006, after working for 22 years with his band, Mr. Swampy left his position as CEO with the Samson Cree Nation to start his own business as an Indigenous Relations consultant working on a variety of projects including the Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights Pipeline projects. After the completion of these projects, Mr. Swampy was honored by the Dakota Sioux Tribe of Manitoba with their highest honor, the Horse Medallion, for service to their communities.

Mr. Swampy provides consultation advisory services for the Stoney Nakoda Nation. He is also a facilitator for the Canadian Energy Regulator, and a member of the Business Council of Alberta Energy and Environment Committee.

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Zachary Authier, Communications Coordinator Indigenous Resource Network

Zachary Authier is a communications consultant working with the Indigenous Resource Network (IRN) on advocacy and public relations. Before joining IRN Zach was an intern at the First Nations Major Projects Coalition working on communications and policy. Zach has previously worked in politics managing campaigns and leading communications strategy. With experience in government and the non-profit sector Zach has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to public policy and advancing Indigenous ownership in the resource sector. With a Bachelor of Arts in political science from VIU and an accreditation in public relations, Zach offers extensive experience in effective communications strategy and media relations. Zach is a member of BC Metis Nation and recently released from the Canadian infantry reserves.



Rob Kopecky, CAPP

Rob Kopecky is the manager of Indigenous Affairs with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. CAPP represents Canada's natural gas and oil producers across Canada. Rob has dedicated his professional life to working in the Natural Resource sector. After completing a BSc in Biology in 1991, Rob began working in Forestry and spend 22 years with the BC Forest Service in locations that included Prince Rupert, Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.

Rob moved to Alberta in 2014 to take on a new role as a Director of Consultation with the Aboriginal Consultation Office within the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. In February 2022, Rob started in his current role at CAPP.



Chris Sankey, CEO Blackfish Enterprise

Chris Sankey is Chief Executive Officer for Blackfish Enterprises and President of Blackfish Industries/Management, a Heavy Civil Construction and Management company. Currently, Chris provides advice, direction and strategic planning to the Energy Sector on engagement with communities situated on the west Coast of British Columbia. Chris is a member of the Coast Tsimshian community of Lax Kw' Alaams near Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Chris is a former elected Councillor for the Lax Kw' Alaams Band where he served his community for six and a half years. Chris use to Chair the Economic Development Committee for the Governing Council. During his tenure, he pushed for change on how Industry and Government would do business with his community.

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Denise Mullen, Director, Environment, Sustainability & Indigenous Relations Business Council of BC

TOPIC: Access To Capital And Net Zero

Denise has more than three decades of experience in the natural resource management sector and information technology. She has worked extensively with all levels of government, other stakeholders, and Indigenous peoples in the development of policy, legislation, information technology systems, and the review and permitting of major projects.

She is an accomplished policy analyst, researcher, and writer. She leads the development of public policy positions across a range of natural systems that intersect with business development, facilitates conversations about issues that matter, and keeps abreast of emerging topics and concerns (provincial, national, and international). Her work in IT means she understands the “new economy” and can integrate geospatial, technical, and business information using advanced web technologies in the land and resources management sector.



MODERATOR

MODERATOR: Ryan Bruce, BC Manager of Government Relations - CLAC

Ryan Bruce grew up on Vancouver Island on the traditional territory of the Penelakut and Halalt First Nations. He now lives on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation. Inspired by The North American Indigenous games held in his hometown of Cowichan in 2008, Ryan established and co-chaired the “Walk of the Nations” an event focussed on building new levels of understanding, mutual respect, and trust between indigenous and non indigenous communities. Ryan is CLAC’s BC Manager of Government Relations. He is excited to be part of an organization that understands the importance of building meaningful relationship with the nations who’s territory our members are working on. CLAC recognizes the value of training to employment initiatives aimed at helping members of indigenous communities train for jobs of today while building careers for tomorrow.



Scott Jeary - Director, CEO First Nations Education Foundation

Scott is a co-founder of the First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF), and brings an entrepreneurial spirit and a wealth of valuable experience to the organization. Prior to leading the design and planning process for FNEF’s core language revitalization projects, Scott founded three private colleges specializing in language acquisition, hospitality, and health care. He was also instrumental in recruiting FNEF’s executive team and advisory board and serves as the driving force behind FNEF’s language revitalization vision, strategy, and growth planning.

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TOPIC: Language Revitalization



Nelson Grant, Haisla Elder



Teresa Windsor, Haisla Nation



John Rustad

TOPIC: Climate Change Realism and the Opportunities it Presents

John was first elected as MLA in 2005 and has served his constituents of Nechako-Lakes in various capacities since that time. For four years, John had the honour of serving as Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. During this time, he assisted with the signing of 435 provincial agreements with First Nations across the province. John also served as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for a short time.

John grew up in Prince George and has lived in Northern BC all his life. He and his wife Kim have lived at Cluculz Lake the last several years and thoroughly appreciate all the joys of lake life, especially the otters and geese that visit. John enjoys golfing, spending time outdoors, and the beauty and tranquility of rural living. With the recent change to sitting as an Independent MLA, John looks forward to continuing his advocacy for the people in his riding by raising the issues and policies that affect them most.

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Jeannie Parnell, Regional Coordinator

TOPIC: Northern First Nations Alliance (NFNA)

Jeannie is currently living and working on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔ/səlílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) as a Regional Coordinator for the Northern First Nation Alliance Society.

Before this, Jeannie worked in healthcare for several years. One of her many initiatives is the award-winning food security program in partnership with Vancouver Native Health and UBC farm, developed in 2006 and is still thriving today.

In 2016, she created Yinta Yew Consulting, which specializes in community engagement, community development and works collectively with several Indigenous communities. Jeannie sits on two national Boards, Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects and Nature Canada.

In her spare time, Jeannie enjoys cooking, hiking, and working outdoors. Otherwise, you will often find her at her home spending quality time with her family, including her husband of 22 years and three children.



Chris Hilliard, Port Ed LNG

Mr. Hilliard has been active in the financial community since 1989, initially with one of Canada's premier investment dealers then with a boutique investment manager. He has been active in the Canadian LNG sector since 2011. Chris chairs the Simon Fraser University Foundation Board and was a member of SFU's 50th Anniversary Campaign Cabinet which raised \$275 million for the school. He is a member of the Seaforth Highlander's of Canada Patron's Corp and for the past ten years he has been a team captain in the BC Cancer Foundation Tour de Cure.

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Diane Collins, Economic Development Manager with Kitsumkalum

As a person from Northern BC, I am passionate about business development for the North in particular. It is my firm belief that the small business sector is the key economic driver to any country's thriving economy. My business focus is tailored to support the optimization, development and growth of the micro, small and medium size business sector.

Keeping in mind that our world is changing in various ways, demographics, technology, values, climate, jurisdictions, life-balance and goals to name but a few of the changes happening every day. It is important to know how these changes can impact the way you do business.

Statistics continue to show that micro and small business struggle in their first 5 years of life, and most often it's not because their product or service is not good enough or the demand is not there - but because establishing a strong business cycle may take all your focus, time and commitment.

If your business, organization or not for profit can use some efficiency supports in dealing with: management, operations, change, HR, training, research, assessments, report writing, proposals, policy development, process alignment, marketing, or other things, that's where I can help.

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