Breakout 1E: Membership and Citizenship

Tues Nov 14

Time 1:15 PM End Time 2:45 PM

Presenter(s) Name: Jason Madden Matt, Mehaffey Alan, Pratt Alastair Campbell

Breakout 1E: Membership and Citizenship

The dialogue highlighted the need to create a legal, political, and cultural space for Indigenous peoples to find a place of belonging within Indigenous communities. The speakers touched on the predominant cultural diversity that exists between membership and citizenship within Indigenous communities in Ontario. The audience touched on the tensions that exist in membership administration within Algonquin Communities and the task of aligning band policy to distinguish membership under the Indian Act system.

The Legal panel addressed the historical positioning of naming the concepts of "Indian", "Metis" and "Inuit" under the Indian Act Band Administration policy. The functionality of all three groups were generated to remain culturally diverse under the Indian Act Policy. These political characteristics of grouping Indigenous people under the Indian Act is what grants tensions between groups across Canada.

Modern Land Claim agreements create a space for Indigenous Nations to design "Citizenship" denominations, rather then "Membership" functions as prescribed under the Indian Act System,