INAC Departmental Split – Implications: Nov. 14th, 3:15 to 4:45
Chair: Kirk Cameron
Panelists: Larendeau, Tremblay, Veldon Coburn

RCAP observations: Overview of changes and transformations in federal government since RCAP 1991 to present. This split appears to be non-monumental to the ordinary Indigenous citizen. Colonial, paternalistic and resistant to change.

Larendeau: Through treaties of modern treaties have laid a path for changes. Maybe things are different from the original thoughts of RCAP because it has been twenty years. Have two Ministers to look after this is probably a good thing focussing on these issues. The notion of a Minister devoted to these issues and implementing the changes is important. To be kept in the realm of what is acceptable is a good thing. First time in history a Prime Minister sat down with the LCC, it is clear that there is a message in there. This is the nature of the bilateral process. We hope in coming years we will become bigger. Consultation plan that we can design and propose a different organization. This is the first time there is intention to break it into pieces and build it into something different. Through consultation we can make the changes for the two different departments.

Tremblay: I have always thought this department should be split. This department needs to be indigenized. There has always been a discussion in the department between what area to work on, rights and services, we need to advance on both. We need to move out of the silo's, we have the chance to address this now. We need to address the mechanics in government, the fiscal relationship. We need to change from a consultation approach to a co-creation approach. How do we decolonize the institution, we have the reality of three Indigenous groups, it is important now to talk about services for the three groups, needs are different and expectations are different. We do not have all the solutions. Indigenous services department needs to disappear and crown relations need to remain.

Q's & A's:

Are you going to look at other countries on improving the relation's? Yes, we will look at other countries. Distinction based is also an area we will need to work on.

Is intention to devolve to FN? Empire creation? Time frame for extinction? In some cases, self-government communities will be different than others. Empire creation is risk. This is will take time, it will grow and then decline, cannot be done in a few years. We do not have boxes drawn, this will be co-designed with you. You do not want to tie the resources to what the department has now.

In future next round of treaty relations, treaty loans, how is this going to work? Behind scenes is a programmatic approach, what are needs and the relationship. There is not a one size fits all. Money is not unlimited. How do you empower communities to handle their own issues?

Manitoba Claims Implementation Act legislation, which Minister is responsible for making decisions on the land claims under the Manitoba claims legislation? We are still having discussions on who is signing for the crown. PM decides which Minister signs, we are still processing decisions, business will continue.

Socio-economic challenges to be addressed immediately, what is the timeline? There is a 'what' and a 'how' to address situations. We are working in the context of the next budget. We need to achieve that balance of how and what. We need to put in motion fundamental changes.