

Making Modern Treaties Work – LCAC  
PLENARY 5: Where Next? Priorities and Opportunities

**Moderator: Math'ieya Alatini, Chief Strategist, GSD Strategies**

**PANELIST 1: Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (PPT)**

- Journey of my life from walking in two worlds, failing and where we came from.
- Newly elected chief. Traditional inertia. Paper Chief. Organizational resiliency. Traditional form of our governance
- During breakdowns, the oldest female would govern community, we were adaptable.
- To stay still in nature is to die.
- Arctic council implementation of our Agreement has taken up our people resources to implement and deliver our government. We have a small jurisdiction; we have protected the Peel watershed. Second largest protected area in Canada and no big news in mainstream.
- Working on shutting off diesel to using different power source.
- Gwitchin woman over hundred years ago warned that permafrost would sink if opening it.
- Empower local genius, the spirit and intent of agreements we designed.
- This I where we are going, we are partners in truest sense, 5 percent of population however existing rights with Crown is foundational.
- Reconciliation is when Canada goes through same journey as our history. I no longer work against it I will change Canada from inside out.
- All our children deserve better than what our children went through in the past.
- Localising and giving dominion authority to local community.
- Education is critical.
- Over population is an issue.
- We have a seven-generation thinking.
- UNDRIP not a checklist to be done.
- Education of our teachings and principles.
- It is important to understand our treaties, to educate Canadians, this need to be mirrored with Canadian government, these are our agreements, same as reading our rivers and land.
- Socio economic gaps are same issues that organizations face.
- When our truths are disseminated through education systems.

**SPEAKER 2: Hegus Clint Williams, Tla'amin Nation (PPT and video)**

- Took 23 years to arrive in final agreement stage.
- Wellness centre – Coast Salish people. Our law our teachings, how we view our world going forward.
- Self-governing our own land.
- Relationships are strong and long lasting, economic development is about relationships and trust. We have a forestry business, aquaculture, products and land.
- QUOTE - Clarence Louie “Lose your culture faster in poverty than in prosperity”

- Development of products and natural medicine. Future to have housing and jobs for our kids.
- In 2016, had a ceremony to begin our journey at our incomplete government house and burning the Indian Act to leave it behind.
- Declaration of the Tla'amin Nation is our constitution.
- Our traditional system sustained us for thousand years.
- Commitment to our people, transparency and accountability is a priority.
- City of Powell River, same as regional district, we had to build relationships. We maintain the relationship today to respect our lands and ancestors.
- Our governance structure separates government and corporate. Business structure set up to improve fiscal initiatives. Governance includes laws and land jurisdictions and working with our alliance partners. Modern treaties need to be viewed as living documents.
- Future to create better opportunities for our people.

### **SPEAKER 3: Youth Presentation, Treaty Implementation Simulation Youth Laura Dragon and Rayanne Peterson**

#### **Laura Dragon**

- Reflections of treaty implementation simulation.
- Exciting and exhausting.
- Reading a mandate letter and coming up with recommendation in an hour allowed me to realize the basic negotiation process.
- Need to understand the different points of view.
- Have an open mind to understand each other's roles.

#### **Riane Peterson**

- Tetlit Gwich'in from Fort McPherson, NWT. I am a participant of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The agreement was finalized and signed in 1992, meaning I was only one year old when it was signed.
- Moved away from home community at a young age. I never learned my language. I wasn't immersed in my culture. Whenever I go home to this day, it is always so special to me. It's always such an emotional experience to feel like I'm home again.
- I know that it is on me to seek what my spirit needs, and I know it's to feel connected to my people again. To learn about where I came from, and who I am. I know that it's on me to learn my language, and I hope to do that. I have been on spiritual journey and it's time to learn my language and to get reconnected with my culture.
- The first day of the Treaty Negotiation/Implementation simulation was challenging and by the second day we were more comfortable. I was inspired by so many of the youth and I was grateful for the experts.
- I loved seeing everyone take on their roles, even if they did not want their roles.
- We got emotional in our roles; we met other young people that want to take on the role to do this work into the future.