SUMMARY REPORT

Learning and Planning Together:

Building Respectful and Effective Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Relationships

March 12, 2016

Lillooet Recreation, Education and Cultural Centre

St'át'imc Territory

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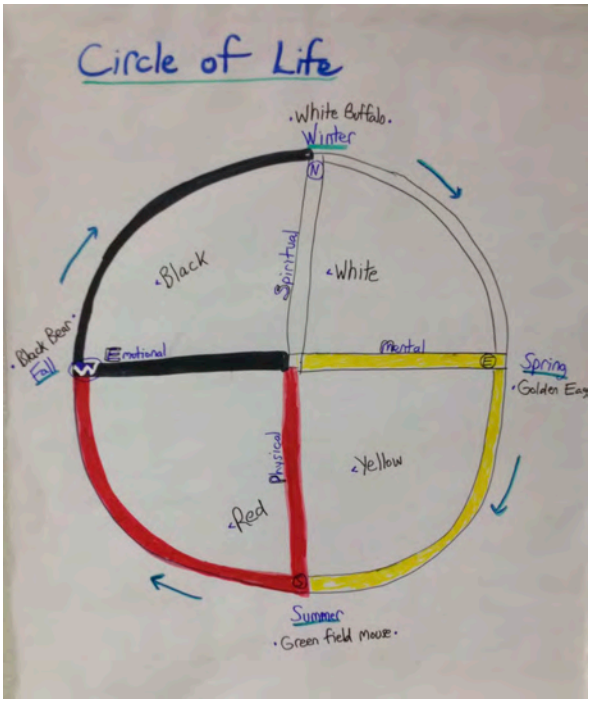
This report was prepared by Toby Mueller,
Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator,
Lillooet Area Library Association.
April, 2016.

Summary Report

Approximately 50 people gathered at the Lillooet Recreation Education and Cultural Centre to participate in a workshop to help the local St'át'imc and Non-Aboriginal communities learn about each other, discuss the opportunities, challenges and constraints that they work under, and begin a dialogue about how they might work better together to meet the needs of their community members. The workshop was co-hosted by the Lillooet Area Library Association, the District of Lillooet, and the Lillooet Tribal Council with support from Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC). Donnella Sellars from the Fraser Basin Council facilitated the meeting. The target audience for the workshop was representatives from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal governments, non-profit organizations, and business.

The day began with an Opening Prayer led by T'it'q'et Elder Ceda Scotchman. Brief words of welcoming were offered by Counsellor Kevin Aitken, Acting Mayor for the District of Lillooet, Chief Michelle Edwards, St'át'imc Tribal Council Chair, and Mickey Macri, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Area B Director.

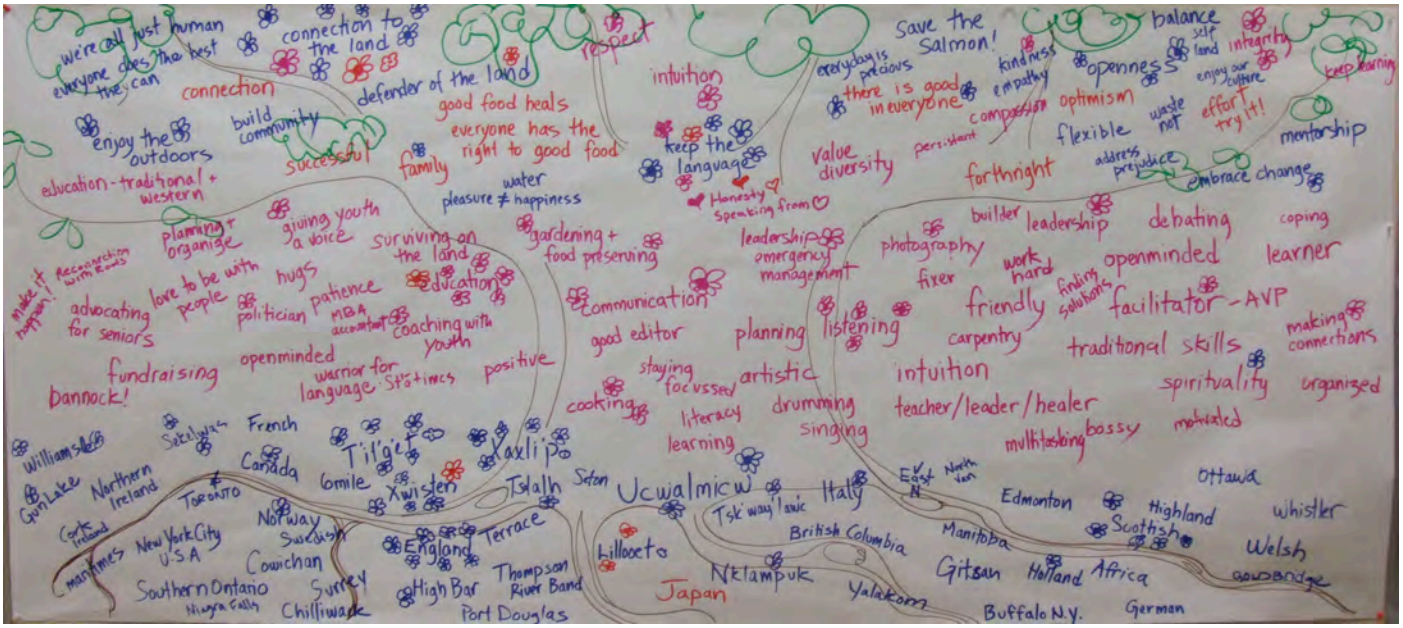


Chief Larry Casper, Tsal'alh gave a short talk about the importance of ceremony and protocol in First Nations cultures. He explained the Medicine Wheel, a symbol of the Circle of Life, and how the four directions relate to the four seasons and the four aspects of life: emotional (west, fall), physical (south, summer), mental (east, spring) and spiritual (north, winter). The Medicine Wheel teaches that all aspects are connected. The role of ceremony is to help foster a balance between all these elements. Chief Casper spoke about his people's deep connection to the land, plants and animals. The Medicine Wheel symbolizes the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of all things.

Each quadrant on the medicine wheel was a distinct colour – black, red, yellow, or white. The four colours represent the human races. The medicine wheel teaches that all the people of the world are equal and part of the Medicine Wheel. He asked us to move forward in a good way by keeping the teachings of the Medicine Wheel in mind for all our deliberations.

The next part of the day was spent in a process of introductions and recognition of the people in the room. In Aboriginal cultures, developing relationships begins with understanding who the other person is, including who they are related to, who their family is and where their roots are from. Each person spoke in turn answering three questions: What are your roots/ where do your people come from? What is a skill you bring to this conversation? What is a characteristic or value that is important to you?

The answers were recorded on a large sheet of paper in the form of a tree, providing an inspiring visual record of the words spoken. This process brought to the forefront the strength of our shared values as well as the broad range of skills and backgrounds represented in the room.



After lunch local Ph.D. candidate Cathy Narcisse of Sekw'el'was presented a lecture based on her research titled "The Outstanding Indigenous Land Issue in British Columbia." Her talk presented a factual review of the history of Indigenous People's efforts to address colonization.

She read from the 1911 Declaration of the Lillooet Tribe: *"We claim that we are the rightful owners of our tribal territory, and everything pertaining thereto. We have always lived in our Country; at no time have we ever deserted it, or left it to others…We are aware the B.C. government claims our Country, like all other Indian territories in B.C.; but we deny their right to it. We never gave it nor sold it to them. They certainly never got the title to the Country from us, neither by agreement nor conquest, and none other than us could have any right to give them title."*

After her talk Ms. Narcisse answered questions from the group. Her talk was very well received. Participants report having learned a great deal of new information that helps deepen their understanding of the history of this region.

The afternoon then shifted to an opportunity for participants to begin a dialogue with each other using a number of guided questions. Participants spent approximately 25 minutes in World Café-Style breakout sessions. Table hosts took notes of the discussion. We then heard a summary from each table host about the discussions at their table.

Discussion Summaries

What follows is a brief summary from each discussion group. A transcribed copy of the notes from each session is attached to this report in Appendix B.

Question 1 - What are our shared interests? Are there opportunities to work together?

St'át'imc and non-St'át'imc participants share a connection to the Land and a desire to be responsible stewards. Everyone agreed that it was important to protect and regenerate the land, and to foster local and traditional knowledge of the land, food systems, and the natural world. Participants also noted the importance of children and youth; strong, stable multi-generational families are important to everyone, as are future generations. With this, participants agreed that building awareness of our shared history, celebrating culture, preserving language and providing opportunities for cross-generational learning would all be good opportunities to work together.

Question 2 - What are the challenges that affect our ability to work together?

Our ability to work together continues to be challenged by our individual fears and divisions created by governments working in "silos".

There is frequently a lack of trust between individuals and organizations. Historical wrongs and attitudes are being addressed, but ignorance and stereotypes remain. We believe that basic education has to change to foster understanding, respect, and consideration of others. There needs to be a valuing of both western and indigenous knowledge. There needs to be an implementation of international standards such as the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous peoples.

Communication between groups can be unreliable or inconsistent. Geographic distances make it challenging to come together. As each level of government works on their own plan or priority, they do not necessarily share information with other levels of government or interested community bodies. Government representatives change in the course of a process, undermining trust. There is also the fear that provincial and federal level lobbyists have more power than local governing bodies or citizens.

Those who are willing and able to work on cooperative initiatives frequently are already overworked and lacking in resources. In particular, many initiatives are begun without St'át'imc participation, leading to an increase in distrust. There is competition for resources, especially funding, which can be exacerbated by government grant processes.

Question 3 - What can we do to support each other in taking the next steps?

The communities need to find common ground and ways to come together to bridge gaps. As the transcribed list depicts, many ideas were generated, creating multiple avenues for collaboration. Next steps included better communication of events and activities demonstrating inclusiveness that may already be there but not apparent to all parties. Many of the more obvious steps that need to be taken were already known, but not practiced, mostly due to lack of capacity. Added meetings, communications and sharing take time out of everyone's already packed schedules. There was high interest in

continuing these conversations and bringing the conversation to the larger public in order to bridge gaps, transfer knowledge and information, generate project support, while creating meaningful recognition and acknowledgement of St'at'imc history and culture. There were many suggestions for current and future projects that could benefit the whole region if we collaborated on them. We need to keep the conversations going but also communities need to start some of the action items identified in the meetings.

Question 4 - What else do we need to learn in order to build our relationships?

Individuals and communities need to learn more about each other. We need to learn about the truth of our shared history in order to build a better future. Our leadership and governments need to learn how to communicate with each other – there are different styles, approaches, protocols and meanings. We need to develop trust and credibility at the community level so that individuals are comfortable together. We need to foster behavioural and attitudinal changes that create an inclusive and respectful society that celebrates different cultures.

Question 5 - What are our success stories already, how can we build on these?

There are excellent success stories through a wide range of sectors. We should celebrate these projects and seek to learn from them. Success stories happen when people and organizations work together with a common goal, and hopefully have a similar vision. It is important to respect everyone when presenting new ideas and seek to understand when people have different goals.

The day closed with a final circle inviting participants to reflect on the day and make any comments. A prayer and song were offered.

An evaluation form was provided for participants to reflect on the day.

The purpose of the day was to bring people together to learn about each other and begin a dialogue about how the communities might work together. This summary cannot reflect the depth and richness of the conversations and connections made over the course of several hours. This summary is intended to provide an overview rather than to be used as documentation of outcomes.

Next Steps

Participants reflected in their evaluations that this was a useful day that contributed toward their learning and helped build relationships. Participants identified actions they themselves would take to move relationships forward. A list is included in the summary of the evaluation forms in Appendix B

Process can be frustrating when people want to see tangible actions. We heard feedback from some participants who wanted to know what specific actions would result from this day. While this day was intended as a one-day event, we acknowledge that it is also part of longer process of moving forward. Building relationships takes time. The mistrust between St'át'imc and non-Aboriginal people is based on a long history. Healing relationships

require that individuals and organizations demonstrate they are trustworthy. Some of this is the work of leaders and governance, much of it needs to be done individually by spending time together and getting to know each other.

There are some specific ideas and actions that have arisen as a result of this day. These ideas will be acted upon by the appropriate individuals and organizations. Some of these ideas are not yet actions but can be considered for future action by participants;

- Develop Memorandum of Understanding / Protocol Agreement for specific tasks and sectors (i.e. Communications/Engagement, Emergency Preparedness, Land-Use Planning, Tourism Planning, Community Economic Development)
- Organize a community event with a ceremony to acknowledge the history of the St'át'imc communities, particularly the impact of the residential school, and to bring our communities together to heal and to focus on moving forward together for the future.
- Cultural learning opportunities – all the discussion groups identified that there is a need to continue to learn about each other, and particularly that the need to better understand St'át'imc culture, traditions, and ways of working so that the people can create a more inclusive community.
- Acknowledge in events and meetings that the meeting is on the traditional territory of the St'át'imc people – this is an important aspect of recognizing and acknowledging First Nations.
- Explore potential for job shadowing or mentoring opportunities between similar organizations.
- Find a way to bring more members of the business community into the conversation
- Extend invitations and participate in opportunities for cross-cultural events – Aboriginal Day, Farmers Markets, etc.

Appendix A- Transcription of Guided Question Discussions

Question 1. What are our shared interests? Are there opportunities to work together?

The land
Regeneration
Youth
Future generations
Telling the history / story – telling, start at the beginning
Storyboards
Music and dancing
Golden Miles of History
Regional lens/connect
Food systems / Agriculture/ Land
Transfer of knowledge
Education/ learning
Foraging
Gardening
Preserving, etc.
St'át'imcets – the language of the people of the land – promoting the language.
Do fun stuff together and support the associations
Recreational values
Health
Eco-tourism/Tourism strategy
Protecting sensitive areas/ environmental concerns
Food
Emergency planning
Advocacy – wildlife corridors/ habitat
Transportation, road safety, connectivity
Targeted training
Jobs – opportunities (where are they?)
Community calendar
Identify common services and find ways to work together
Reconciliation – how can we continue to build on what's been started?

Question 2. What are the challenges that affect our ability to work together?
Distance – geographic – meetings and outreach in remote area – i.e. Gold Bridge
Personalities – closed mindedness, ignorance
Power of lobbyist – government response to them
Lack of trust – historical relationships
Understand of each other's planning priorities – FEAR of others planning priorities
Lack of St'át'imc participants – trust
Time-too few people, too much demand
Federal intent transformed into real action competition over funding resources – lack of funding
Perpetuation of stereotypes – education of the "unknowing"

Current treaty and accords – overlap onto St'át'imc territory
Lack of recognition
Education / Schools – lack of respect, consideration of others, differing treatments from top down. Lack of transparency re outcomes.
Fear of losing what you have
Changing representatives in government – undermines communication, trust, etc.
Comprehensive Community Planning – input – local government completing plans without involving St'át'imc – process needs to change
Weight of historical plans blocking future cooperation
Implementing international level standards and agreements i.e. UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous peoples – change in perspective
Disconnection between provincial and local government and lack of communication re indigenous affairs
Understanding
Education with an open mind –Indigenous and Western Knowledge
Lack of MOU, policy, protocol agreements
Need a good communication plan

Question 3. What can we do to support each other in taking the next steps?
Communication – invitations, courage to express, voice opinions safely
Understanding
Shared goals – how to get there
Sharing community plans and services
Piggy back cost sharing
Information sharing
Find New Audiences for messages shared today
Sharing belief systems (understanding them), sweat lodge/ finding new opportunities)
Find common ground (youth/potluck, community dinners, educating the youth and parents)
Support each other's events i.e. unity ride, winter fest, apricot fest, St'át'imc Gathering
Common ground – also sports
Reaching out to neighbours
Emergency services – EMP, Food Security
Education
Building relationships an continue conversion, being willing to understand one another
Face issues head on in "safe" environment
Start from "mutual Respect" (educate)
Identify where we are going? And "Vision"
Release "Us vs. Them" concept toward a "we" concept
Unify – tourism, sports, events
Opportunities for advocacy i.e. Ranches, forestry, mining, water

Question 4. What else do we need to know in order to build on shared interests and opportunities?
Local people need to understand St'át'imc approach to land issues
More face to face learning opportunities
Address fears and misconceptions
Make sure whole community knows
Listening to understand
Change curriculum so young/ all people know the truth of indigenous/St'át'imc history
Inclusion – consistent learning
Just do it here
Learning St'át'imc teachings, language, ceremony, protocol, here
Non-aboriginal people learn and use St'át'imcets
Acknowledge global multi-culturalism promote sharing, inclusion, respect, joy and fun and pride
Medicine wheel
Open minds,
All the values we identified
Common ground
Have a vision of a good future
Local – St'át'imc – municipal leadership come together when addressing the province and federal government

Question 5.
What are our success stories already, how can we build on these?
Environmental stewardship projects
Tourism signage, committee
Volunteerism, combined resources
Sport and recreation projects, events, working together
Being on the same page, today is a success story
Agriculture
Restoration, Split Rock Nursery at Sekw'el'was
Lil'tem' Mountain Hotel
Working and growing together
First nations economic growth
Acknowledge and celebrating history
Support and recognize un-ceded (not surrendered)
St'át'imc territory sign on the Yalakom Road
Emergency services planning is in place
Lobbying government and improving road conditions
Continue working together
The signing of the declaration – St'át'imc Celebrations
Supporting St'át'imc grad ceremonies Big Bucks
Recreation centre committee return
Cadet Corps! 1010Sports events – Rugby, hockey, boxing, badminton…
Return of hospice in Lillooet
Designated Sacred Space at Lillooet District hospital

Appendix B- Evaluation Summary

Question 1: Group/organization represented:
25 respondents: Social (3), First Nations (12), Environmental (1), Government (4), Economic (1), Arts&Culture (2), Local citizen (1), Health (1)

Question 2: Was this learning and planning event relevant for your community?
#5= Very Relevant (12) #4= Relevant (10) #3= Somewhat (3)

- Relevant to all aspects
- yes to encourage a healthy future
- yes communication is important
- Our community is going through positive change, but is also facing outside impositions i.e. NSTQ treaty / Nanga Deni Accord that could affect our way of life / relationship to the land it erode our title and rights

Question 3: Did this event help you connect with people in your community and/or people from a different community
#5 Very Relevant (11) #4 Relevant (11) #3 Somewhat (3)

- Nice to have so many agencies involved and to have the local chiefs present and a beautiful St'át'imc Elder to share a prayer in
- yes knowing who you are living with
- These events always contribute to connecting somehow

Question 4:Did this event help you participate in meaningful dialogue about topics that matter to you?
#5 Very Relevant (5) #4 Relevant (12) #3 Somewhat (8)

- needed more time - which would encourage everyone to meet again
- yes good practice to state who I am and not be given to have others represent me
- yes, having a shared interest will help us work together
- For such a serious subject it seemed very rushed

Question 5:Did this event increase your interest in exploring new ways to work with people in your community and/or people in a different community?
#5 A Great Deal (12) #4 Significantly (8) #3 Somewhat (4)

- This is a usual activity for me
- I appreciated the turn-out of non-native participants, which indicates the local willingness to look at change for a positive future
- Follow through after meetings could have been addressed, i.e. when this group meets again, what one collective goal will we work on first.
- Always interested - change is good

Question 6:Did you learn anything today that you will use in the future?
#5 A Great Deal (9) #4 Significant (14) #3 Somewhat (1)

- How to communicate and how not to communicate with non First Nations people.
- Thought Cathy Narcisse's presentation was excellent.
- The next meeting with Premier Clark to ask her why she has not been sharing any of the information from all chief meeting with Towns in BC
- Yes I will be more open to share
- communication is important
- The land claims presentation by Cathy Narcisse - Again we need more time
- Need for continued education of non-native on St'át'imc issues and perspectives, as well as true background of Canadian-British Law

Question 7: How would you rate the event facilitators?
#5 Excellent (12) #4 Good (12) #3 Fair (1)

- Kept us focused, on time, positive, encouraging, clear direction

Question 8: What would have made this event better?

- I wanted more time to discuss questions on flipcharts - didn't['t get to all of them
- A wider audience; invite various community members. I understand the limit of space, but various age ranges would have been great!
- A commitment to do one thing from today with a clear action, group responsible and timeline. I.e.. Meet again, fall 2016, hosted by: whom?
- Thought the morning / round room was very long - like the idea, maybe facilitated a bit
- More time
- More participation from Elders, from both communities, - more shared stories of history
- Shorter introductions limit 2 minutes
- Keep the intros at 3 min, you let one person go on everyone else does
- More Coffee
- Nothing
- Room was too hot, too small
- Two minute clock (just kidding!)
- More from the reaction to the new information
- more time
- Bigger Building (T'it'q'et)
- More time
- More air circulation/ more St'át'imc participation / larger meeting room (to accommodate more participants)
- Hold during the week

Question 9: Based on your experiences today, what would you like to know more about?

- I want to hear more from the participants that attended
- Success stories of other people/places that accomplished reconciliation, coming together (multicultural)
- success stories of shared governance
- Who can we reach out to? How can we help and how do we move forward? How can we be more inclusive? Heritage Site, winter fest, Summer Events

- Community planning
- The local language- importance of keeping it alive
- all of the non First Nations ancestry
- St'át'imc future planning in the resources, infrastructure, economic sectors
- How to get prejudice out - how to find safe ways for people to say the unspoken
- The level of acceptance of the Non-Native people
- Where is the St'át'imc at with title and rights?
- would like to know and work on the next steps
- Comprehensive Community Planning
- Input on how to make improvements today and moving forward

Question 10: How will you act on what you learned today?

- I will communicate with our local community and non-profit members
- Research ethnic roots/what makes people who they are?
- Reach out for help with including St'át'imc stories, language, and interests in the Bridge River Valley
- Share information
- Be more creative. How to encourage youth to engage in making change - respect each others culture
- Communicate more with DOL SLRD
- I will promote it
- Be more open minded
- I hope to apply this to the library's strategic priority of a renewed/ enhanced relationship with St'át'imc communities
- Stay Strong walk tall
- By being more aware of the issues
- work co-operatively on initiatives
- communication
- Move forward. Baby steps!
- Be part of a committee
- Study my native culture more intensely
- I will continue to be proactive in voicing the benefit of working together
- Do my best to spread what I heard with others

Appendix C- Participant List

Name	Organization	Initial	no photo consent
Bain Gair	L Chamber of Commerce		
Barb Wiebe	District of Lillooet	BW	
Bernice Molyneux	GCCS	BLM	
Betty Weaver	LALA	BW	
Bob Sheridan	L Chamber of Commerce		
Brenda Frank	Xwisten	BF	
Candice Jack	LAFS	CJ	
Cathy Narcisse	Lillooet Tribal Council		
Ceda Scotchman	T'it'q'et Council	CS	
Chief Kevin Whitney	T'it'q'et Council		
~~Curtis~~	~~LAFS~~		
Darren Oike	District of Lillooet		
David Speed	District of Lillooet		
Debbie Demare	~~BRVCS~~ SLRD		
Dylan Foss	LAFS		
Gail Madriga	Lillooet Hospice Society		
Gerald Michel	LRISS/ Xwisten		
Heather Richardson	LAFS	HR	
Ina Williams	Xwisten		
Jacquie Rassmussen	LRISS	JR	
Jane Duber	LALA	JD	
Jane Roberts	BRCS BRVCA		
Jeanette Nadon	SLRD	JN	
Keeley Weeget	T'it'q'et Council		
Kevin Aitken	District of Lillooet	KA	
Larry Casper	Tsala		
Marilyn Napoleon	T'it'q'et Council		
Michael Roy	District of Lillooet		
Michelle Nortje	BRCS		
Mickey Macri	SLRD		
Millie	T'it'q'et Council		
Natasha Street	Lillooet RJ	NS	
person four	BRVCS		
Robert	T'it'q'et Council	RC	
Roberta	LALA	RM	✓ RM
Sarah	T'it'q'et Council		
Sid Scotchman	T'it'q'et Council	SS	
Suzanne Denback	~~BRCS~~ BRVCA		
Taya Rankin	St'at'imc RJ	TR	
Terri Hadwin	GCCS		
Trevor Chandler	LillooetRJ		

Name	Organization	Initial	no photo consent
SAL DEMARE	BRVCA		
Matthew Davidson	Titget		
Bill Spencer	YES		
Lucy Jones			
[illegible]			
Michael [illegible]	LTC / Sexwelwas		
Mary [illegible]	DOL / TRU		
[illegible]	Tit Qat		
Dolores H Donald	Ts'Kw aylu xw.		

Appendix D- Agenda

Learning and Planning Together:
Building Respectful and Effective Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relationships
Lillooet Recreation Education Cultural Center
930 Main Street
9:00 – 3:30 pm

9:00 – 9:30 **Registration and Coffee**

9:30-10:00 **Opening Prayer –** T'it'q'et Elder Ceda Scotchman

Welcoming Comments – Acting Mayor Kevin Aitken, District of Lillooet
Chief Michelle Edwards, Sekw'el'was and Mickey Macri, Squamish
Lillooet Regional District Area B Director

Importance of Ceremony and Protocol – Chief Larry Casper, Tsalalh

10-12:00 **Introductions and Recognition**

12:00-12:30 **Lunch**

12:30-1:30 **The Outstanding Land Issue: Understanding the Past Towards the Future**
- Cathy Narcisse

1:30-1:45 **Introduction to Afternoon Process**

1:45-3:00 **Discussion Questions:**

- What are our shared interests?
- What are the opportunities to work together?
- What are our success stories already, how can we build on these?
- What else do we need to learn in order to build our relationships?
- What can we do to support each other in taking the next steps?
- What are the challenges that affect our ability to work together?

3:00-3:15 **Hosts report back**
Complete Evaluations

3:15 – 3:30 **Closing Circle – thoughts from the day; how can we move this conversation forward**