

Draft Preliminary Conference Program

April 24th – 26th, 2024

Nanaimo, BC | Vancouver Island Conference Centre

Draft Updated April 23, 2024

Wednesday April 24th

4:00 - 6:00pm Registration Open

6:00 - 8:00pm **Opening Reception |**
Dallas Smith, President, N̓anwak̓olas Council
FurCanda Fur Fashion Show - Silent Auction Opens
Performance – Qwam Qwum Stuwixulh School

Thursday April 25th

8:00am Registration Opens

8:00 - 9:00am Morning Nutrition Break & Networking

9:00 - 9:15am **Conference Opening**
Opening Prayer & Conference Blessing - Elder Lolly Good, Snuneymuxw First Nation
Leonard Krog, Mayor, City of Nanaimo
Dallas Smith, President, N̓anwak̓olas Council

9:15 - 10:05am **Panel 1 - Vision for the Future – Landmark Forestry Agreement**
Panelists: **Ted Nash**, Regional Forestry Negotiator, N̓anwak̓olas Council
Deputy Minister Tom McCarthy, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Steven Hofer, President and CEO, Western Forest Products
Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, N̓anwak̓olas Council

10:05 - 10:25am **Fireside Chat – Learning Through Partnership**
Dr. Deborah Saucier, President, Vancouver Island University
Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, N̓anwak̓olas Council

10:25 - 10:55am Morning Nutrition Break & Networking | *Sponsored by West Fraser*

10:55 - 11:45am **Panel 2 – Watershed Restoration and the Restoration Economy**
Panelists: **Jordan Point**, Executive Director, First Nations Fisheries Council
Parliamentary Secretary Fin Donnelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Watershed Restoration
Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Moderator: **Barb Dinning**, Marine Planning Coordinator, N̓anwak̓olas Council

11:45 – 1:00pm **Keynote Luncheon**
Lunch Prayer – Elder Sandra, Snuneymuxw First Nation
Bill Lomax, President & CEO, First Nations Bank of Canada
Moderator: **Kory Wilson**, Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships, BCIT

1:00 - 1:30pm Tradeshow Networking Break

1:30 - 2:20pm **Panel 3 – Progressive Indigenous Business Relationships** | *Sponsored by Mosaic Forest Management*

Panelists: **Gaby Wickstrom**, General Manager, Namgis Business Development Corp
Gary Wilson, Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development, Tiičma Enterprises
Kevin Jules, Economic Development Officer, Tiičma Enterprises

Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, Nanwakolas Council

2:20 – 2:50 pm Afternoon Nutrition Break & Networking | *Sponsored by FortisBC*

2:50 – 3:40pm **Panel 4 – Navigating ESG – Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities at the West Moberly Corporate Alliance**

Panelists: **Rob Diaz**, Senior Business Specialist, West Moberly Corporate Alliance
Sharon Singh, Partner, Co-Head of Aboriginal Law, Bennett Jones
Ange-Aimée Quesnel, Project Manager, Landmark Resource Management
Lisa Risvold, Vice President, Indigenous and Community Affairs, Conuma Resources

Moderator: **Kory Wilson**, Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships, BCIT

3:40 – 4:30pm **Fireside Chat – Triple, Venti, Soy, No Foam Latte – We Wai Kai’s Business Successes**

Chief Ronnie Chickite, We Wai Kai First Nation

Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, Nanwakolas Council

4:30 - 6:00pm **Reception**

6:00 - 8:00pm **Keynote Dinner (Ticketed)**

Dinner Prayer & Cultural Performance – Elder Lolly Good, Snuneymuxw First Nation
Chief Councillor John Jack, Huu-ay-aht First Nations

Friday April 26th

8:00am Registration Opens

8:00 - 9:00am Morning Nutrition Break & Networking | *Sponsored by Capacity Forest Management*

9:00 - 9:20am **Conference Opening**

Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, BC Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, MLA for Nanaimo

9:20 - 9:40am **Fireside Chat – Indigenous Approaches to Forest Oversight**

Keith Atkinson, Chair, Forest Practices Board

Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, Nanwakolas Council

9:40 - 10:30am **Panel 5 – Sustainable Future: Collaboration and Innovation in Coastal Aquaculture**

Panelists: **Deputy Chief Councillor Isaiah Robinson**, Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation

Larry Johnson, President, Nuuchahnulth Seafood

David Kiemele, Managing Director, Cermaq Canada

Dr. Diane Morrison, Managing Director, Mowi Canada West

Moderator: **Brian Kingzett**, Executive Director, BC Salmon Farmers Association

10:30 - 10:50 Morning Nutrition Break & Networking | *Sponsored by Grieg Seafood*

10:50 – 11:40am **Panel 6 - Energizing Change: Charting a Path for Electrification through Strong Indigenous**

Partnerships | *Sponsored by Innergex*

Panelists: **Chief Chris Roberts**, Wei Wai Kum First Nation
Hon. Josie Osborne, BC Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation
Chris O'Riley, CEO, BC Hydro

Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, N̄anwakolas Council

11:40 – 12:00pm **Keynote Address**
Chief Judy Desjarlais, Blueberry River First Nations

12:00 – 12:45pm **Panel 7 - Indigenous Stewardship and Resource Leadership**

Panelists: **Alexandra Thomas**, Forestry Stewardship Project Coordinator, N̄anwakolas Council
Christine Roberts, Archaeologist, Wei Wai Kum First Nation
Sharon Marshall, Indigenous Corporate Lead, Indigenous Community for Leadership & Development

Moderator: **Dallas Smith**, President, N̄anwakolas Council

12:45 – 2:00pm **Luncheon & Panel 8 - Iskum Investments: Self-directed Consortium of 20+ First Nations Building a Sustainable Future in the Forest Sector**

Lunch Prayer – Elder Lolly Good, Snuneymuxw First Nation

Panelists: **Emchayilk Robert Dennis Sr.**, Former Chief Councillor, H̄uu-ay-aht First Nations
Chief Councillor John Jack, H̄uu-ay-aht First Nations
Brena Robinson, Councillor, Lyackson First Nation
Dallas Smith, President, N̄anwakolas Council

Moderator: **Amanda Munro**, Partner, Munro Thompson Communications

2:00 pm **Conference Closing Remarks**

Program subject to change