

National Claims Research Workshop

Presenter Biographies

Day One, October 18, 2022:

Panel One: Museum and Archives – Records Access

Johanna Smith, Director General, Outreach and Engagement Branch, Library and Archives Canada:

Johanna Smith is Director General of the Outreach and Engagement Branch at Library and Archives Canada where she has worked for 16 years. She is responsible for leading LAC'S programming, exhibitions, online content, events, partnerships, stakeholder relationships, external consultations and Indigenous initiatives. She has led reference services across Canada, major digitization partnerships as well as strategic policy and legal files such as working with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the acquisition of digital records and publications, Access to Information and Privacy as well as the development of international standards related to archives and recordkeeping. She is chair of the International Council on Archives' Expert Group on Research Services and Outreach. Prior to LAC, Ms. Smith worked as an archivist at the International Monetary Fund and was the archives advisor for Nova Scotia. She holds a master's in information studies from the University of Toronto.

Kristina Lillico

Director General, ATIP Branch, Library and Archives Canada

Kristina Lillico has been with LAC since 2004. She holds an honours degree in History from Queen's University and a Masters' in Public Administration in Management from Dalhousie University. She has worked in many different areas at LAC, including Web Project Partnerships, Policy, Grants and Contributions, Private Archives, Government Archives and Information Management initiative, Regional Services, responses to class action lawsuits, and since 2016 she has been the Director responsible for Access to Information, Privacy and Personnel Records at LAC.

Jason Friedman:

Jason Friedman has a BA in History from George Washington University and a Master's in History from McGill as well an Master of Information Studies from University of Ottawa. **He has worked at CRKN since 2016 and currently serves as Senior Manager, Heritage Services.** In his role, he is the lead for the development of the Canadiana collections and ensures that digitization, metadata, and access services meet the needs of members and stakeholders.

Morgan Chapman, CRU Working Group member:

Morgan Chapman works as the Manager of Research and Technology Operations at Havlik Consulting Group and has been part of the research team at HCG since 2013. Morgan currently lives on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples in Langley, BC.

In more recent years, Morgan has added a considerable number of advocacy roles to her roster, including the NCRW Planning Committee, LAC's Services Consultation Committee, and she is an active participant in many of the working groups spearheaded by the National Claims Research Directors.

Morgan holds an Honours BA from the University of Western Ontario in First Nation Studies, which focused on First Nations Law, Rights, Title and impacts of Canadian Policies on First Nations across Canada.

Tammy Anne Martin, Director, Access to Information, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada:

Tammy Martin has over 10 years' experience in the administration of the Access to Information Act and Privacy Act with various federal institutions. She is currently the Director of ATIP for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada. She has held this position since January 2017. At the time, Tammy received the Chief Information Officer of Canada award for her work and final sign off by the President of the Treasury Board on the Directive on Privacy Practices for material privacy breaches. Tammy has been invited and attended the NCRW each year since 2017 to present departmental updates and results on Access to Information and Privacy.

Panel Two: Digital and Community-based Records and Document Management

Gwen Phillips:

BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative Champion

Ktunaxa Nation

Gwen is a citizen of the Ktunaxa Nation and has worked for the Ktunaxa Nation Council for the past thirty-nine years. She has held a variety of senior management positions, at times overseeing departments of Education, Health, Corporate Services, Traditional Knowledge and Language and for the past decade, functioning as part of the team leading the Ktunaxa Nation back to self-government.

A few things that Gwen has done:

- Negotiated the first Local Education Agreements in BC
- Established the first Community-based Healing and Intervention Program to address fetal alcohol exposure: CHIP
- Chaired Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee at the East Kootenay Community College
- Developed and Instructed First Nations Studies course at the College of the Rockies
- Treaty Side Table Negotiator
- Presented to Treasury Board's Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions

- Public Educator and Facilitated Dialogue Engagement practitioner
- Chaired First Nations Education Steering Committee
- Negotiated MOU with Metis Nation BC to receive services through Ktunaxa government agencies
- Established the design for the first person centric, population data warehouse in BC
- Founded the BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative; initially a five-year tripartite initiative
- Presented to Treasury Board's Transparency Conference
- Designer Poster Series: Nation to Nation, Determinants of Health, ICDNS Implementation
- Keynote and presenter at numerous conferences, workshops and gatherings in First Nations Communities, in education settings such as Carleton University, for and with governments, and in international spaces
- Co-Chair ISC Indigenous Community Development National Strategy Working Group
- Worked with BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner on the Grandmother Perspective on disaggregated data

Gwen is currently championing the BC First Nations' Data Governance Initiative (bcfndgi.com); a tripartite government initiative (federal, provincial and First Nations governments) with a key objective being that federal, provincial and First Nations governments, have timely access to quality data to plan, manage and account for investments and outcomes associated with First Nations well-being. As a member of the First Nations Health Council for 11 years, Gwen was part of the team that negotiated the transfer of Health Canada's BC Region First Nations and Inuit Health Branch to First Nations control. She advances BC First Nations' interests nationally in Data Governance, as a member of the First Nations Information Governance Centre Board.

Gwen is also assisting Indigenous Services Canada in the implementation of their Indigenous Community Development National Strategy; a co-developed approach to manage the shift from program-based funding and reporting relationships, to community-driven investments and reporting that is aligned with Community-driven, Nation-based development plans. She co-chairs along with ISC HQ, a national Working Group comprised of Indigenous Advisors from across the country, and federal government managers from Ottawa and the Regions.

Gwen has extensive experience in relationship building; she has developed and instructed First Nation Studies courses at the elementary, secondary and college levels and continues to function as a public educator. Her formal education is in Business Administration and she has operated her own small business, as a community planner, facilitator/trainer, artist and curriculum developer.

Denée Renouf, Archives Manager, Treaty 8 Tribal Association:

Denée Renouf is the Archive Manager for the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research (TARR) Archives at the Treaty 8 Tribal Association (T8TA) located in Fort St. John, British Columbia. She holds a MA of History from the University of Waterloo, and a BA of Environment with a Major in Archaeology, a Minor in First Nations Studies as well as a Certificate of Cultural Resource Management from Simon Fraser University. Denée has been working with the cultural

heritage of the Peace Region of British Columbia since 2009 and began working for the Treaty 8 Tribal Association in the summer of 2020 when she was hired as an archival consultant for the TARR Department. She was later hired by T8TA as the full-time archive manager and has been working toward developing the TARR Archive into an evolving resource from the member Nations of the Treaty 8 Tribal Association.

Alison McBride, Research Director Algonquin Nation Secretariat:

Alison McBride is an Algonquin who hails from the Timiskaming First Nation. She first got involved with specific claims research as a summer student for the Algonquin Nation Secretariat in 2005. She continued to work for the ANS part time while finishing university. Alison graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2006, she continues to work with the Algonquin Nation Secretariat.

Panel Three – Expanding Claims : Re-Examining Historical Losses Through Women’s Knowledge

Dr Sarah Hunt / Tłaliłila'ogwa, Assistant Professor & Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Political Ecology, Environmental Studies, University of Victoria:

Sarah Hunt / Tłaliłila'ogwa, Ph.D. is Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Political Ecology and an Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies. Sarah has published upwards of 40 journal articles, reports, and book chapters on a range of topics pertaining to questions of justice for Indigenous people. Dr. Hunt is a 2014 recipient of the Governor General’s Gold Medal Award, 2017 recipient of the Glenda Laws Award for Social Justice from the American Association of Geographers and 2022 President’s Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Victoria Alumni Association. Sarah/Tłaliłila'ogwa is Kwakwaka'wakw – Kwagu'ł through her paternal grandfather Chief Henry Hunt, and Dzawada'enuxw through her grandmother Helen Nelson – and is also Ukrainian and English through her maternal grandparents.

Dianne Hinkley, FPCC Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC):

Dianne Hinkley has spent almost 30 years working with First Nations on land rights and cultural issues. She is the granddaughter of Askiwadick and Tchikoput from the Cree & Metis of the prairies, where her interest in First Nations history and ethnology began. Dianne works for Cowichan Tribes, the largest First Nation in BC, as the Lands Research Director, and serves on several committees including Environment, Specific Claims and Cultural Heritage. She has been involved with the National Research Directors for many years and supports whole-heartedly their advocacy work on behalf of First Nations. Dianne believes educating our citizens on the true history of Canada as the key to understanding and reconciliation. She continues to work towards improved recognition and protection of First Nations Lands Rights and Heritage sites.

Chelsey Gerlada Armstrong:

Chelsey Gerlada Armstrong (Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies, SFU) is a historical ecologist and archaeologist. She studies human-landscape interactions in the past and how those dynamics relate to the present. Her collaborative research in Ts'msyen, Coast Salish, and Nu-

chah-nulth Territories focuses on the role of people and history in shaping the structure and function of ecosystems. This works ultimately interrogates colonialism and settler colonial dynamics within environmental and heritage management policy.

Workshop One: The Land Record – Integrating GIS, Video and Images into your Claim

Shannon Williams, Legal and Research Director, NNTC:

Shannon Williams is Legal and Research Director for Specific Claims at the Nlaka’pamux Nation

Tribal Council (“NNTC”), which is located in the southern interior of BC. The NNTC Specific Claims program provides historical research and claims development and submission services to nine Nlaka’pamux communities. Shannon is a lawyer and a member of the BC Specific Claims Working Group, the Claims Research Unit Working Group, the Specific Claims Tribunal Advisory Committee and the National Claims Research Directors Meeting and the National Claims Research Workshop planning committees.

Jenny Donlan, GIS Analyst, NNTC:

Jenny Donlan is the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst for the Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council in the southern interior of British Columbia (BC), where she supports the work of the Specific Claims Program. Jenny also works with other cultural and environmental researchers to support the protection of Nlaka’pamux title and rights. Jenny has a Bachelor of Arts, a Masters in Geography and a PhD in Environmental Science. She’s worked as a GIS Professional in the US, Ireland and Vanuatu (South Pacific) before moving to BC in 2018.

Serena Hunsbedt, Researcher, NNTC:

Serena Hunsbedt is the Lead Researcher of the Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) Research Unit, a claims research unit that forwards claims for 9 Nlaka’pamux communities along the Fraser-Thompson transportation corridor. Serena is a member of the Lytton First Nation and has worked with the NNTC Research Unit for 14 years. Serena has been mentored by Pauline Douglas and Emily Milliken, claims researchers who have worked for Nlaka’pamux communities for a combined total of over 40 years. Serena strives to bring together information from the Nlaka’pamux people, the land, historic records, and legal counsel in a matter that satisfies the needs of the communities she works with.

Workshop Two: Explore your Roots – Starting Your First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nation Genealogy at LAC

Brianne Baucher, Acting Senior Reference Archivist, LAC:

Brianne Boucher is an acting Senior Archivist in Reference Services at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. She holds an MA in History from the University of Ottawa (2012). She started her career at LAC in 2014 working on the Document Disclosure Project for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Over the last few years she has taken part in the development of Indigenous Reference Services within the Public Services Branch.

Nicole Watier, Genealogy Consultant, LAC:

Nicole Watier is a Genealogy Consultant at Library and Archives Canada with several years of experience in Genealogy and Reference Services. In addition to assisting clients to uncover their family histories, she has presented at conferences and seminars both nationally and internationally.

Day Two: October 19, 2022

Panel One: Transformative Change – Moving Towards and Independent Process

Aaron Asselstine, Associate Director, Lands Sector, Assembly of First Nations:

Aaron Asselstine is the Director of Lands at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The Lands Sector advocates for First Nations control and jurisdiction over their lands and territories. Key sector priorities include advocating for changes to federal policies impacting First Nations land rights, including the specific claims and additions to reserve policies.

A mixture of Dutch and English ancestry, Aaron was raised in Surrey, BC, and currently resides on the unceded and un-surrendered lands of the Algonquin Peoples, in Ottawa, Ontario with his wife Kerry, and two young girls Helena and Esmae.

In his spare time, Aaron enjoys playing Magic the Gathering (a children's collectable card game), following his hometown Vancouver Canucks (it's not enjoyable), and coordinating various adult recreational sports teams in the pursuit of glory and fame (there is no glory or fame).

Jesse Donovan, Senior Policy Analyst, Lands Sector, Assembly of First Nations:

Jesse Donovan is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Lands Sector at the Assembly of First Nations. Jesse's work at the AFN focuses primarily on reform of the specific claims process.

Jesse is Red River Métis and was born and raised in Vancouver, B.C. Jesse has a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan and has devoted his career to helping obtain justice for First Nations. He currently resides on the unceded and un-surrendered lands of the Algonquin Peoples, in Ottawa, Ontario

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Co-Chair, BC Specific Claims Working Group:

Kukpi7 (Chief) Judy Wilson is currently an Executive member of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, which is comprised of more than half of the 204 communities in British Columbia, Canada. In her role she is committed to rectifying the displacement, dispossession and oppression caused by the colonial doctrine of discovery and paternalistic legislation and policies forced on Indigenous Nations. She is a fierce advocate for the recognition of inherent Title and Rights and the assertion of Indigenous jurisdiction and stewardship over their lands, waters, and resources. Standing up against exploitative, dangerous resource extraction projects that threaten irreplaceable biodiversity and wildlife, she firmly believes in adhering to the principles of

sustainability, conservation, and reconciliation in order to protect sacred waters, lands, fish, animals, and traditional ways for generations to come. For over 25 years, Kukpi7 Wilson has also been a staunch advocate for Indigenous women and girls, participating in provincial, national, and international forums to raise awareness of the systemic violence in Canada that continues to disproportionately harm Indigenous families and communities.

Kukpi7 Wilson has also served her community and the Neskonlith Indian Band for 15 years as Chief and for 8 years as a Council member. She is also greatly involved in a number of boards and committees; currently, she is involved with: Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive (Secretary-Treasurer), First Nations Leadership Council, Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee of Lands, Territories & Resources, AFN Climate Change Committee, AFN Child & Family Chiefs Committee, BC Canada Tripartite Children & Family Working Group, Provincial Joint Core Working Group (Commitment Document), BC Specific Claims Working Group, Rural BC Centre (Advisory), House of the Moon (Advisory MMIWG2S), Global Indigenous Council (Secretary-Treasurer) and several other community-based committees.

Chief Dalton Silver, Co-Chair, BC Specific Claims Working Group:

Lemxyaltexw (Dalton Silver) has been serving as the elected Chief for Sumas First Nation since April 2004. Prior to his position as Chief, Dalton sat on Council for more than 13 years. He holds the Treaty, Land Claims, Environment, and Culture Portfolios. Chief Silver held the position as Hereditary Chief for Yakwekwioose for four years while still holding his position as Council for

SFN. When elected Chief of Sumas First Nation he stepped down from the position of Hereditary Chief for Yakwekwioose. Chief Silver's grandfather, The-latch-ya-til, Richard Malloway, taught him politics in a cultural way: he was taught about the land, the environment, cultural values/teachings, family-ties and First Nations Rights and Government. His grandfather started teaching Chief Silver Cultural History at a very young age. Dalton has strong beliefs in our traditions and environment and practices his teaching on a day-to-day basis.

Chief Silver is a powerful advocate for Specific Claims reform. He speaks publicly about his community's claims and, under his leadership, Sumas First Nation has participated in coalitions to intervene in two judicial reviews of Specific Claims Tribunal decisions at the Federal Court of Appeal (in support of the Kitselas and Williams Lake First Nations), as well as at the Supreme Court of Canada (*Williams Lake* and *Southwinds*). Chief Silver is co-chair of the BC Specific Claims Working Group.

Panel Two: Access to Information & Privacy Act Modernization Efforts

Charles Taillefer, Executive Director, Treasury Board Secretariat:

Charles Taillefer holds the position of Executive Director, Access to Information Policy and Performance Division (AIPPD) of the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. Prior to this role, Mr. Taillefer occupied the position of Director of Privacy and Data Protection Policy at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), where he led the work on Bill C-27 which proposes reform to Canada's federal private sector privacy law, *Personal Informa-on Protec-on and Electronic Documents Act*; the

establishment of a new tribunal; and, a proposed *Artificial Intelligence and Data Act*. Over the course of his career, Mr. Taillefer has led and directly participated in the development of government policy in such areas as transborder data flows, privacy impact assessment, data matching, fair information practices, duty to assist and use of the social insurance number. Charles holds a master's degree in Legal Studies from Carleton University and an Ontario Teaching Certificate as well as a Bachelor of Arts from Laurentian University.

Carolina Mingarelli, Director and General Counsel, Center for Information and Privacy Law, Justice Canada:

Carolina Mingarelli is the Director and General Counsel with the Center for Information and Privacy Law at the Department of Justice Canada. After articling for a national law firm, Ms. Mingarelli worked in the private sector before joining the Government of Canada in 2008. She has held counsel and management positions in several government departments. Ms. Mingarelli has Civil and Common Law degrees from the Faculty of Law at McGill University and is a member of the Quebec and New York State bars.

Jennifer Seligy, Senior Counsel, Center for Information and Privacy Law, Justice Canada:

Jennifer Seligy is Senior Counsel with the Centre for Information and Privacy Law (CIPL) at the Department of Justice. Since joining CIPL in 2021, Jennifer has been primarily engaged in advisory work until recently assuming her current role as lead on the *Privacy Act* Modernization initiative.

Previously, Jennifer spent a number of years working as legal counsel for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada where she worked extensively on matters involving Canada's public and sector privacy laws. As a graduate of the University of Ottawa's National Program, Jennifer has degrees in common law and civil law. She has been a member of the Law Society of Ontario since 2006.

Rachel Singleton-Polster, Independent Contractor:

Rachel Singleton-Polster (she/her) is an independent contractor working for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Rachel has previously served as a policy analyst and recently completed her MA on the subject of mine reclamation in BC. Rachel has worked for over a decade on advancing Indigenous rights in both international and domestic arenas. When she's not hunched over a computer, Rachel loves hiking and paddling on the west coast.

Alisa Lombard, Partner, Lombard Law:

Alisa Lombard is a client-centric, multi-lingual published lawyer specializing in legal and policy matters with respect to Indigenous-Crown relations. Alisa initiated her professional legal career at the Specific Claims Tribunal in 2009, where she participated in establishing the foundations of the Tribunal, advised on 70+ specific claims and progressed to become Senior Legal Counsel. She is a member in good standing of the Ontario and Saskatchewan law societies, and carries out a national practice.

Alisa set up her own practice focusing on specific claims, Indigenous law, treaty rights, human

rights, women's rights, systemic reform advocacy, collective litigation, constitutional issues, health law, Indigenous governance, civil litigation, and appellate litigation. She regularly advocates for her clients before governmental committees and studies, domestic and international bodies. She has appeared before all levels of Court, Inquiries and Inquests, including the Supreme Court of Canada, and has garnered a reputation for her deep knowledge of the law, strong ethics, strategic advocacy skills and sincere commitment to her clients interests.

Alisa has been recognized for her impact and leadership; in 2018, she was featured among Chatelaine's Women of the Year for her advocacy work on behalf of Indigenous women. In 2019, she was nominated along with select lawyers from around the world for the International Bar Association's Award for Outstanding Contribution by a Legal Practitioner to Human Rights. Deeply passionate about systemic reform, substantive equality and access to justice, she will complete her LL.M. (Masters of Law) in 2022 from the University of Ottawa and teaches law.

Panel Three: After the Claim – Connecting Documents, Evidence and Communities

Dennis Brassard:

Denis Brassard is a graduate in Anthropology from UBC and Laval University in Quebec City. He has worked for over 40 years as a researcher, a research director and a consultant for various Innu First Nations and Tribal Councils in Quebec. Mostly involved in specific and comprehensive claims, Denis has accumulated a wealth of information and experience over the years. Now about to retire, he has been involved in knowledge transfer and for this NCRW he wishes to present a brief preview of three projects on which he has been working on for the last three years.

Peter Di Gangi, Sicani Research and Advisory Services:

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, Peter Di Gangi has been working with Aboriginal communities across Canada for over 40 years, with a focus on historical, legal and cultural research, as well as policy matters. This has included work with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Assembly of First Nations, and a variety of associations, tribal councils and First Nations in the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and B.C. Peter has worked extensively with Anishinaabe communities on the North Shore of Lake Huron and Manitoulin Island, and with the Algonquin communities of the Ottawa Valley. He is enjoying semi-retirement.

Panel Four: Specific Claim Tribunal Updates and Engagement on tribunal Operations

The Honorable Victoria Chiappetta, Chairperson, Specific Claims Tribunal:

Justice Victoria Chiappetta was born in Sault Ste. Marie. She earned a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Law School in 1993 and was admitted to the Bar of Ontario in 1995. She was appointed to the Superior Court of Ontario in Toronto in November 2012.

Prior to her appointment, Justice Chiappetta served as Vice President, Legal and General Counsel, for Essar Steel Algoma (now Algoma Steel). She remains the only woman to hold a position on the steel company's executive. From 1995 to 2007, Justice Chiappetta served a number of legal firms across Ontario. Her main areas of practice were corporate law, civil litigation, environmental law, labour law, and human rights.

As a member of the Superior Court, Justice Chiappetta has a breadth of experience adjudicating in civil, family, and commercial courts. Her most recent position was overseeing commercial list matters. Justice Chiappetta has been a Deputy Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice since December 2017, where she has assisted the territory and its history of judicial excellence.

Justice Chiappetta has been a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Canadian Italian Advocates Organization and the Legal Advisory Committee of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. She frequently lectures on legal matters at the University of Toronto and has been a contributing writer for Influential Women of Northern Ontario and Canada Law Book.

On June 22, 2019, Justice Chiappetta was appointed as a full-time member of the Specific Claims Tribunal for a term of five years. On December 11, 2020, she was appointed Chairperson for a term of five years.

Panel Five: Community Experiences at the Tribunal

Marie-Eve Dumont, Dionne Schulze Attorneys:

Marie-Eve Dumont is a lawyer at Dionne Schulze, a law firm specialized in Indigenous law based in Montreal, QC. Her practice focuses on the fields of specific claims, civil litigation, and class actions relating to Indian status and abuses suffered by Indigenous persons.

Since 2012, she has been involved in the Abenakis' and the Atikamekw of Opitciwan's specific claims before the Specific Claims Tribunal. She also participated in the negotiation of the amount of compensation following the Tribunal's 2016 decisions regarding the Atikamekw specific claims.

Caroline Roberts, Callison & Hanna, Indigenous Advocates:

Caroline Roberts joined Callison & Hanna as an associate in 2017. Her law practice focus is on strategic accommodation processes, implementing treaty related measures and advancing Specific Claims. She has worked for Indigenous Nations throughout BC on a wide array of legal matters with a focus on resolving historical grievances through the Specific Claims process before the Specific Claims Tribunal and through negotiations with the Federal Government.

Most recently, Caroline has been involved in successfully negotiating a Legacy Agreement to address historic impacts of a mine on an Indigenous Community. Caroline was a co-council for various precedent setting Specific Claims, including *Siska Indian Band v. HMTQ*, 2018 SCTC 2, *Akisiq'nuk First Nation v. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* 2020 and *Siska Indian Band v HMTQ*, 2021 SCTC 2. Caroline graduated with a specialization in Aboriginal Law from the Allard School of Law at UBC. Prior to law school, she earned a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Indigenous Studies from UBCO. Caroline is a member of the Wei Wai Kum First Nation near Campbell River, BC

Day Three, October 20, 2022

Panel One: Is This an Issue?

Cheyenne Smith, Havlik Consulting Group:

Cheyenne Smith works as Negotiations Manager at Havlik Consulting Group, based on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and the WSÁNEĆ (wuh-saanich) peoples on southern Vancouver Island. Cheyenne has been with Havlik Consulting Group since 2017, starting out as a specific claims researcher before being pulled to provide negotiation support, coordination, and settlement implementation services to Nations involved in the specific claims negotiation process.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated governmental delays, Cheyenne is honoured to have been involved in the settlement of several specific claims during the peak of the pandemic. Cheyenne helped Nations re-define, navigate, and execute community engagement and settlement implementation during this time.

Cheyenne continues to sit at the table for several ongoing negotiations files, helping Nations assert and advance their rights while holding Canada accountable in the name of genuine reconciliation.

Cheyenne holds a BA in Anthropology and a Master of Public Health specializing in the health of Indigenous Communities.

Shannon Williams, Legal and Research Director, NNTC:

Shannon Williams is Legal and Research Director for Specific Claims at the Nlaka'pamux Nation

Tribal Council ("NNTC"), which is located in the southern interior of BC. The NNTC Specific Claims program provides historical research and claims development and submission services to nine Nlaka'pamux communities. Shannon is a lawyer and a member of the BC Specific Claims Working Group, the Claims Research Unit Working Group, the Specific Claims Tribunal Advisory Committee and the National Claims Research Directors Meeting and the National Claims Research Workshop planning committees.

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Co-Chair, BC Specific Claims Working Group:

Kukpi7 (Chief) Judy Wilson is currently an Executive member of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, which is comprised of more than half of the 204 communities in British Columbia, Canada. In her role she is committed to rectifying the displacement, dispossession and oppression caused by the colonial doctrine of discovery and paternalistic legislation and policies forced on Indigenous Nations. She is a fierce advocate for the recognition of inherent Title and Rights and the assertion of Indigenous jurisdiction and stewardship over their lands, waters, and resources. Standing up against exploitative, dangerous resource extraction projects that threaten irreplaceable biodiversity and wildlife, she firmly believes in adhering to the principles of sustainability, conservation, and reconciliation in order to protect sacred waters, lands, fish, animals, and traditional ways for generations to come. For over 25 years, Kukpi7 Wilson has also been a staunch advocate for Indigenous women and girls, participating in provincial, national, and international forums to raise awareness of the systemic violence in Canada that continues to disproportionately harm Indigenous families and communities.

Kukpi7 Wilson has also served her community and the Neskonlith Indian Band for 15 years as Chief and for 8 years as a Council member. She is also greatly involved in a number of boards and committees; currently, she is involved with: Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive (Secretary-Treasurer), First Nations Leadership Council, Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee of Lands, Territories & Resources, AFN Climate Change Committee, AFN Child & Family Chiefs Committee, BC Canada Tripartite Children & Family Working Group, Provincial Joint Core Working Group (Commitment Document), BC Specific Claims Working Group, Rural BC Centre (Advisory), House of the Moon (Advisory MMIWG2S), Global Indigenous Council (Secretary-Treasurer) and several other community-based committees.

Panel Two: Oral History Interviews for Specific Claims

Angie Bain:

Angie Bain is Nlaka'pamux (Ing-thla-cap-muh) from the Lower Nicola Indian Band of Merritt, British Columbia. She works for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Research Department. Angie has undertaken oral history research in support of land claims, community projects and land use studies and has trained community interviewers for communities in BC and Alberta.

Panel Three: Legal Updates and Considerations

Nicole Iaci, Mandell Pinder LLP:

Nicole Iaci is a lawyer at Mandell Pinder specializing in specific claims and aboriginal title and rights. As part of her specific claims practice, Nicole works closely with Indigenous communities to capture their stories as part of claim development, settlement negotiations, and before the Specific Claims Tribunal. Prior to pursuing her career in law, Nicole worked as a Lands and Resource officer for her home community, Kwantlen First Nation.

Erica Stahl, Mandell Pinder, LLP:

Erica Stahl is a lawyer at Mandell Pinder whose practice focuses on specific claims and appellate

interventions. Erica is grateful for the opportunity to learn from Indigenous communities as part of her specific claims practice, and believes in working closely with communities at all stages in the specific claims process from drafting to settlement, whether through negotiations or before the Specific Claims Tribunal. Erica lives, works, and plays on unceded Coast Salish territories with her partner and their son.

Stacey Douglas, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke:

Stacey Douglas is a bilingual lawyer with a practice focused on indigenous rights and constitutional and administrative law. She has worked, for the past five years, for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke. After obtaining dual degrees in political studies and mechanical engineering at Queen's University, Stacey worked for various NGOs and at Global Affairs Canada. She is an advocate for indigenous self-government, gender equality and human rights more generally. Stacey also has an LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School, degrees in common and civil law from McGill University and an MA from the Royal Military College.

Panel Four: Updates from CIRNAC

Stefan Matiation, Director General, Specific Claims Branch:

No biography provided.

Francine Martel, Director, Negotiations Support Directorate:

Francine Martel joined Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in June 2022, as Director, Negotiations Support Directorate. She started her career at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in 1996 and has occupied several positions over a 15 year-period; from 2011 to 2014, she worked at Public Safety Canada and from 2014 to 2022 at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), specialized in public financial management and more specifically in the management of transfer payment programs.

The Director, Negotiations Support Directorate is responsible for: Managing contribution and loan budget allocations, administering funding arrangements, leading analysis and responses to funding requests, managing call for proposals, maintaining financial frameworks and guidelines; providing advice and support for Program reform and policy changes; and funding announcements communications and ministerial visits support.