



FOR RELEASE
February 9, 2012

First Nation governance conference focuses on building a foundation for the future

WHITEHORSE - First Nation, Yukon and federal government representatives will come together again to share ideas and information about governance at the fourth annual First Nation Governance and Capacity Development Conference: *Foundations for Our Future* at the Yukon Inn, Whitehorse, February 9 and 10.

The conference, hosted by Government of Yukon, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), and the Council of Yukon First Nations, will include plenary and breakout sessions, panels and networking opportunities on topics ranging from governance, capacity building, economic and land development to mentoring.

“Yukon is pleased to co-host this conference which provides an excellent opportunity for Canada, Yukon and First Nation governments to come together to work on governance capacity development and to share new tools and ideas,” Premier Darrell Pasloski said. “This forum helps First Nations grow as governments and become full partners in Yukon’s economic future.”

This year’s keynote speaker is Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band. The south Okanagan Valley band has created the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre to promote and preserve Okanagan language and culture, and has also established a number of innovative business ventures providing employment for hundreds of people.

The conference will also include presentations by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations featuring new resources and materials created under the Northern Strategy Trust Fund. The tools provide best practices that can be tailored to meet the individual needs of First Nations across Yukon.

“I am proud of Canada’s support for this conference, bringing people together to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity growth that benefits First Nations in Yukon and Northern British Columbia,” federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development John Duncan said. “Long-term prosperity comes through ensuring strong foundations of governance, which benefit all Canadians.”

“When we look at all our options available to make collective decisions for the betterment of our people, it gives us a sense of achievement and great hope for the future. As Yukon First Nations, we envision working together on the implementation of our self-government agreements, educating and preparing our next generation of leaders, charting a brighter future for all of us,” Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie said.

The conference is funded by the Government of Yukon and AANDC.

Visit online for more information.

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See backgrounder below.

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Backgrounder

First Nation Governance and Capacity Development Conference presentations

Economic Development – The Foundation of First Nation Self-Reliance:
Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band

Westbank Land Development – Successes, Challenges and Opportunities:
Raf De Guevara, Westbank First Nation

Yukon and First Nation Land Development Opportunities and Challenges:
Yukon First Nations and Government of Yukon

B.C. First Nations Capacity Building Strategy:
Christa Williams, First Nations Public Service Secretariat

First Nation Governance and Public Administration Certificate and Yukon College First Nation
Programming:
Yukon College and Government of Yukon

Yukon First Nation Lands and Resources Capacity Development Projects:
Yukon First Nations

First Nation Capacity Development – Services and Funding Opportunities:
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canadian Economic Northern Development Agency,
Training Policy Committee and Government of Yukon.

Language Revitalization Project:
Marilyn Jensen, Council of Yukon First Nations

Organizational and Capacity Development Initiative:

Brenda Jackson and Garry Umbrich, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Policy Framework Project:
Shadelle Chambers and Stephen Roddick

Student Mentorship Program:
Kluane Adamek, Council of Yukon First Nations

First Nation Executive Director Management Training:
Canada School of Public Service, Council of Yukon First Nations and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development

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