



Presentation Session: Reconciliation in Rural and Northern Regions

DATE:

Friday, November 18th, 2022

TIME:

9:00–10:30 AM

FORMAT:

Four 15-minute oral presentations followed by a 30-minute discussion

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This session presents different research, case studies, and stories on rural reconciliation in Northern Ontario or other rural, remote, northern, and island communities. It touches on themes such as truth, meaningful engagement, reciprocal relationship building, decolonization, and others. It also provides participants with the opportunity to join the discussion, give their input, and share their knowledge, best practices, or stories with the other participants.



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Giwednong Aakomenjigewin Teg
b AC2-40-41 P-700.01 479.4671
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Presentation 1

Time: 9:00–9:15 AM

Title: Northeast Reconciliation in Action – Building Ties

Presenters: Jean-Claude Carrière (Former Community Project Officer of ACFO Témiskaming)

Abstract: For over 10 years, the Temiskaming First Nation, the Municipalité régionale de comté du Témiskamingue and the Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce, and ACFO-Témiskaming, have hosted an event that brings individuals and organizations together to discuss current projects and issues relevant to the aforementioned organizations. The purpose of the Building Ties initiative is to initiate friendships and personal bonds and to discover key players in other communities.

Presentation 2

Time: 9:15–9:30 AM

Title: Tree to Home: Northern housing supply solutions for the ongoing housing crisis in rural and remote First Nations

Authors: David Flood, RPF (General Manager, Wahkohtowin Development) and Shah Mohammed (Senior Project Manager, Wahkohtowin Development)

Abstract: As the world demand for wood fibre is set to quadruple over the next decade and the world has endorsed achieving conservation planning at the landscape scale to achieve 30% by 2030 to maintain biodiversity and contribute to climate change resiliency. There remains a strong need to find northern housing supply solutions for the ongoing housing crisis in rural and remote First Nations. Wahkohtowin, a social enterprise owned by three Treaty No9 First Nations have formed One Bowl - Tree to Home, not for profit housing Corp to build partnerships and co-create a housing supply chain ecosystem that grows the opportunity for a circular economy for the long term.



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Presentation 3

Time: 9:30–9:45 AM

Title: Infrastructure Innovations for Rebuilding Nations

Presenter: Mercedes Labelle (Senior Policy Analyst, Northern Policy Institute)

Abstract: Successful infrastructure development goes hand-in-hand with economic and social success and will be of utmost importance for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada as they set their sights on recovery and prosperity in a post-COVID world. However, conversations around Indigenous energy infrastructure development in Canada take place against a backdrop of failures largely fostered by the “basic build” approach to infrastructure funding and construction. Basic build infrastructure often follows a “blanket approach” to funding, design, and construction, without accounting for a community's unique needs and circumstances, which will be demonstrated by looking at a variety of case studies from across Canada. Although the basic build approach can sometimes allow for quicker infrastructure development with lower up-front costs, it often leads to negative project outcomes. The significant benefits associated with more innovative methods of design, on the other hand, far outweigh the obstacles—emphasizing the importance to shift away from the historically-used basic build approach towards more innovative methods. This presentation will explore best practices for infrastructure projects involving First Nations communities, pertaining to housing, energy, transportation, water, and public building infrastructure.

Presentation 4

Time: 9:45–10:00 AM

Title: Local Reconciliation in Action - To be confirmed

Presenter: To be confirmed

Abstract: To be confirmed

