



On the Path to Reconciliation - A Reflection

*By Frank Busch, Director of Economic
Development*

“As Canadians collectively take a moment to observe National Day of Truth and Reconciliation '23, it is important to look back and see how far we have come as a nation. Of the 94 Calls to Action put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015, [13 have been implemented and another 32 are in progress/underway](#). That leaves just over half of the TRC's recommendations still almost completely untouched to date, but it is a start.

I am already beginning to see the impact of awareness campaigns on Indigenous rights and the struggle for equality with non-Indigenous Canadians. It seems that "the cause" has gained many new allies and supporters in recent years, particularly with the revelation of the Kamloops 215 and other similar finds. It seems that more and more truth is getting told and the public is finally listening. Progress is being made.

I remember walking to school in the 1980's and seeing some businesses had separate entrances for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples, and there was no such thing as Indigenous Rights in actual practice. **The ongoing efforts of nameless brave souls and unsung heroes who kept pushing the cause ahead have evidently paid off for Indigenous people, but now the real work remains.** Attitudes have been changing significantly as Canadians have begun to realize that the Colonial Narrative they have been subjected to their entire lives is a falsehood. There are however, always a few hold-outs who do not want to change their views, even in the light of new information. These individuals always seem to have some reason to stick to their guns, usually because they are benefiting financially from the status quo and do not want anyone to rock the boat.

Last week a jump forward occurred, as the [BC Supreme Court ruled that the mineral claims process used by the mining industry for decades](#) is "not in compliance with the government's duty to consult Indigenous groups."

What a statement from the highest court in the province of BC!

It is certainly something my younger self never would have thought I would hear in my lifetime. While questions will certainly drag on regarding what this will mean for the future of BC's economy, I am excited by the prospect of other provinces (eventually) following suit. The decision itself was a mixed bag, as while it recognized the duty to consult, Justice Alan Ross in his 148-page decision included a provision for the industry to maintain the status quo for another 18 months. The fact the court did not cancel existing mining permits "leaves our territory open" to continued exploitation, says Chief-Councillor Linda Innes of Gitxaana Nation, who brought forward the suit

exploitation, says Chief Councillor Linda Innes of Gitksaan Nation, who brought forward the suit along with Ehattesaht Nation.

Having previously seen the impacts of the 1985 Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, the Meech Lake Accord, the Oka Crisis, the Gustafsen Lake standoff, Burnt Church, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and the Residential School Settlement Agreement, I have learned that real change takes time and a lot of hard work. Whether or not the next generations of Canadians are willing to do that work remains to be seen. **The Honorable Murray Sinclair said it best, "We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."**

Share Frank's Reflection

Meet our new staff

Welcome Daniel and Leo, new Community Analysts!



Daniel Nesvaderani is a Community Analyst based in North Vancouver, BC. He graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Communications and Minor in publishing. Through his education and various work experience, Daniel has gained a passion for collaborative, community-based projects, specifically regarding the environment, food security, and mental health. Outside of work, he can be found obsessively making playlists, baking, or hiking throughout North Vancouver.



Leo Dittmer is a Community Analyst based in Vancouver, BC. He graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelors of Environment in Human Geography and a certificate in Urban Studies, supplemented by courses in Contemporary Art and Indigenous Studies. Leo's work experience includes office administration, community engagement, bookkeeping, and cultural mapping. At SN he is most passionate about projects involving community development, arts & culture, and gender equality.

We're hiring!

Want to see your face on our newsletter? We are seeking two new people to our highly-skilled, fully remote team. Join us as a Policy Analyst or Community Analyst to help build Indigenous capacity and support thriving Indigenous communities.

- **Community Analyst:** This role researches, writes, and coordinates funding applications to make our clients' dreams a reality.

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- **Policy Analyst:** This role researches, develops, and evaluates policy for communities and clients on a wide variety of issues and topics.

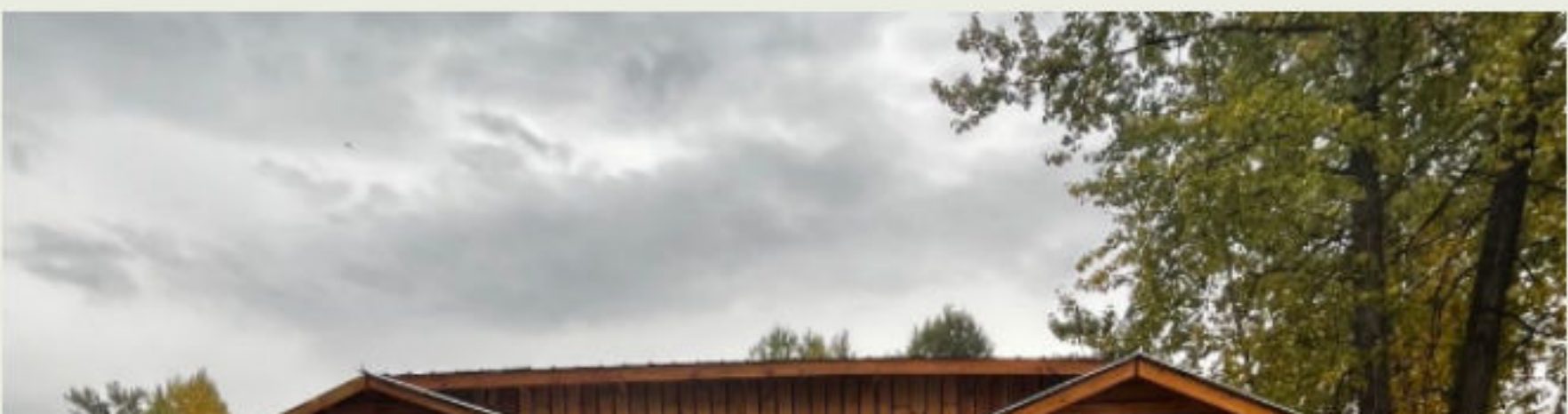
Please share these jobs with anyone you think might be interested.

New community builds

It's always a great feeling to see a funding project done and dusted! Spuzzum Nation recently completed construction of their new playground made with natural materials and textures. Kids (and adults!) will have a ball jumping, crawling, and running around in this wonderful space. This funding is thanks to the First Nations Health Authority.



Meanwhile, check out this smokehouse in Takla Nation, thanks to funding from the First Peoples' Cultural Council. This smokehouse, variations of which have been used for generations, will be used to preserve wild game and fish. Takla will hold a community event teaching members how to prepare salmon to be half-smoked or dried, with Language Keepers present to teach language throughout the process.





Strategic planning with BC Native Women's Association



Staff, Board members, and SN CEO Anna Barley in Kamloops.

BY KATERINA COOKSON, COMMUNITY ANALYST: “I had an unforgettable weekend helping to facilitate the BC Native Women's Association's strategic planning session in Kamloops, BC. This was my first time assisting with an SN strat-plan session and I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was blown away by what we achieved. The women of BCNWA asked important questions and brainstormed solutions to get to the nitty gritty of their goals for the next fiscal year - and most importantly, how to achieve those goals. Through every discussion, they never strayed from their core mandate: supporting grassroots Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse peoples in our province.

Over the weekend, I learned a few things about successful strategic planning meetings. These meetings don't just happen by accident - they happen because the facilitator (shout out to Anna!) has carefully thought through the purpose and outcome of the day. A good facilitator works to create an environment where everyone in the room is heard and where challenges are addressed in a constructive way. It's also important to keep the momentum going. What I really appreciated was the BCNWA ladies' ability to keep laughter and joy in the room. **The challenges that Indigenous women face are not always easy to talk about, yet the jokes and laughs kept our energy levels high.** This was so critical, because strategic planning is tiring work on all sides of the table.

Did you know that BC is the province with the second highest number of Indigenous women and gender-diverse peoples? With National Day of Truth and Reconciliation this past weekend, this has been on my mind. Luckily, there are so many opportunities for organizations like BCNWA to forge strong partnerships with each other and amplify their good work. I'm excited to see where

BCNWA goes from here and I look forward to being involved in more strategic planning sessions with our SN client communities.”

Upcoming Events

The 7th Annual Nation2Nation Terrace Forum - October 17-19th

We are pleased to be attending the 7th Annual Nation2Nation Forum. This year's theme is *Building Economic Resilience* - building hope and resilience in the downturn and looking for opportunities to diversify and navigate economic uncertainty. Learn from a First Nations perspective on economic development and topics that are important to Northwest Communities.

Topics include forestry, diversifying energy, global economic overview, and mining. [Learn more here!](#)



DID YOU KNOW?
THE ANNUAL NATION2NATION FORUM IS GOING INTO IT'S **7TH YEAR!**

7TH ANNUAL N2N TERRACE FORUM
OCTOBER 17-19, 2023 | TERRACE, BC

MORE INFORMATION AT NATION2NATION.CA

Thanks for reading! See you next month.

