

# **Responding to the Governance Needs of Indigenous Peoples: *A Conceptual Framework***

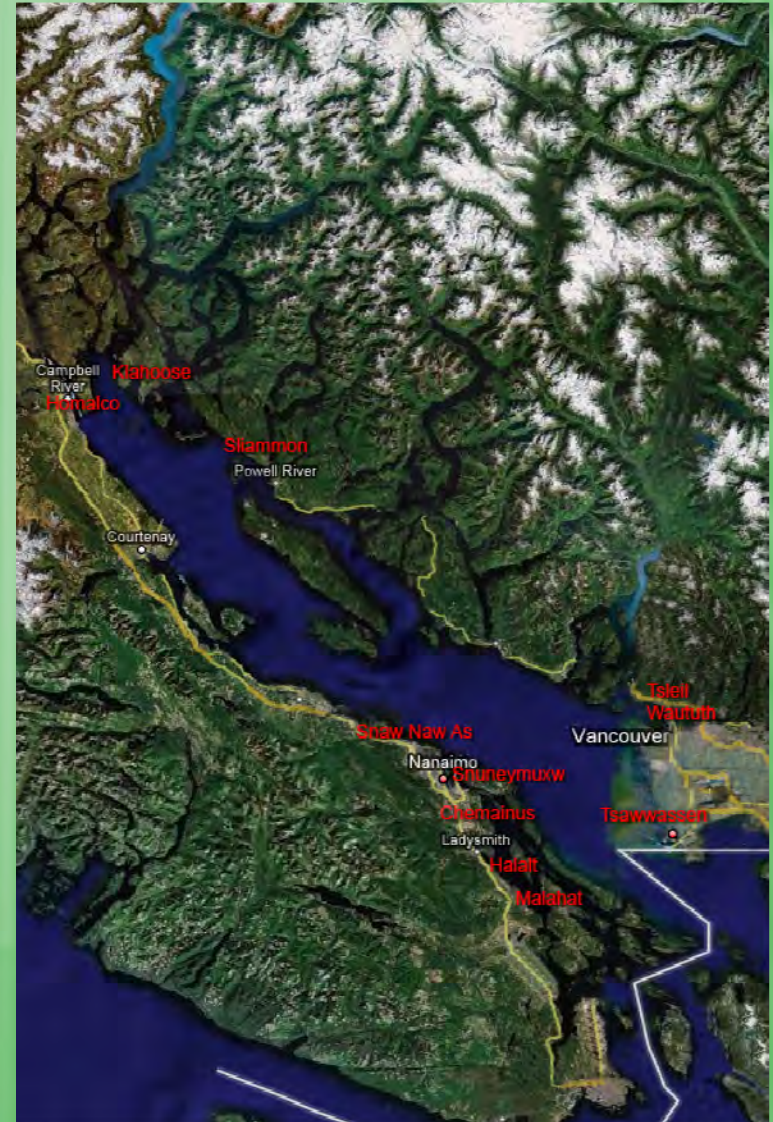


Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council

Keith Wilson

# WHO IS NMTC?

- ✘ 10 First Nation member communities
- ✘ Coast Salish roots
- ✘ Area encompasses Georgia Strait
- ✘ Approximately 5,700 Aboriginal people represented



# WILSON: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- ✘ Grew up in Prince Albert, SK, going to school and growing up with native children.
- ✘ Worked in oil business, negotiating access and lease arrangements with Alberta FNs.
- ✘ Business consultant for Aboriginals for past two decades.
- ✘ Snuneymuxw: economic development for six years
- ✘ NmTC: CEO for past five years

# WILSON: PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- × FN economic development
- × FN governance
- × FN capacity-building
- × FN financial management
- × FN program development/facilitation

# HOW DID NMTC GET HERE?

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- ✘ Complaints and requests from NmTC members over the past 4 years
- ✘ Comprehensive governance workshops in 2006 and 2007. Housing workshop in 2008.
- ✘ Ongoing challenges with/within our member's Councils and Administrations
- ✘ Personal experience over the past 17 years

# WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

- ✘ All levels of a community are challenged in terms of “governance” understanding and capacity.
  - + Chief and Council
  - + Administration
  - + Operations
  - + Community members

# CURRENT STATE:

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- ✘ Ineffective and inefficient governing
- ✘ Ineffective and inefficient administration
- ✘ Wasting of scarce resources
- ✘ Services don't get to the right place
- ✘ Time and money are wasted
- ✘ Everyone is frustrated and nobody knows why!

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

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- ✘ Provide short-term training and experience to Aboriginal people (projects)
- ✘ Create opportunities to see better options and outcomes (best practices)
- ✘ Share experiences of what has worked elsewhere in similar circumstances
- ✘ Create an institution(s) to increase sustainable capacity-building opportunities

# HOW CAN WE DO IT?

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- ✘ Create opportunities for “project” funded capacity building programs to mesh together.
- ✘ Use forums, workshops and websites to pass on “best practice” & experiential information.
- ✘ Create the *Institute for Aboriginal Governance* to provide Aboriginal people with useful tools, knowledge and experience that they can take back and apply in their communities.

# INSTITUTE FOR ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE

## × Vision:

- + The Institute for Aboriginal Governance is recognized as a world leader in the quality and impact of its teaching, community service and applied research. Its students are among the best in their chosen fields. As a result, the Centre earns the loyalty of its alumni and the respect of its peers. The Institute is an integral part of the community in which it resides.

# IAG'S MANDATE

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- ✘ Respond to the need created by added governance responsibilities.
- ✘ Provide culturally-appropriate programming that recognizes the “politics of smallness.”
- ✘ Extend financial and social support to post-graduate levels.
- ✘ Foster FN governance-specific research.
- ✘ Focus on outcomes in addition to credentials.

# IAG'S SETTING

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- ✘ Program offerings are specific but flexible with a focus on laddering opportunities.
- ✘ Programming is relevant to the FN experience.
- ✘ Programming accounts for changing FN needs and existing skill levels.
- ✘ Programming goes where its needed, not just on campus.
- ✘ Concentrate on student retention: one-on-one relationship development.

# IAG'S CORE

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- ✖ **School at the Institute**
  - + Leadership School
  - + Public Administration School
  - + Technical Services School

# IAG'S CORE

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## × School at the Institute

### + Leadership School

- × FREE: flexible, reflective, experiential and effective.
- × Uses fundamentals of leadership training coupled with traditional knowledge and understanding.
- × Extension programs, workshops and seminars bring in students.

### + Public Administration School

### + Technical Services School

# IAG'S CORE

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## × School at the Institute

+ Leadership School

+ Public Administration School

- × Public admin courses coupled with traditional knowledge and understanding.

- × Program based on First Nation governance models.

- × Extension program, workshops and seminars lead to students.

+ Technical Services School

# IAG'S CORE

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## × School at the Institute

+ Leadership School

+ Public Administration School

+ Technical Services School

× Uses existing course work in public works, housing, forestry, HR, finance, planning, coupled with traditional knowledge and understanding.

× Strong potential for seminars, conferences, workshops, custom programming on a fee-for-service basis for FN clients.

# NEXT STEPS

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- ✘ Create a conceptual framework through broad consultation.
- ✘ Work with government to obtain ongoing long-term, financial commitment.
- ✘ Identify a full-time champion to drive this project's momentum.
- ✘ Work with VIU to incorporate the IAG into its long-range planning.

# THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

## × Consultation

- + Inside the communities
- + Inside the academic community

## × Examination

- + SWOT analysis
- + Product and infrastructure development
- + Testing, focus groups and pilot projects

## × Implementation

- + Provide courses
- + Provide extension services
- + Provide value for money.

# WHAT CAN NMTC DO?

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- ✘ Provide short-term training and experience to Aboriginal people. (projects)
- ✘ Create opportunities to see better options and outcomes. (best practices)
- ✘ Share experiences of what has worked elsewhere in similar circumstances.
- ✘ Help create the institution that increases *sustainable* capacity-building opportunities.

# NMTC'S ROLE IN IAG

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- ✘ NmTC's role in the Institute of Aboriginal Governance is to champion the concept until such time as it can stand alone.
- ✘ NmTC will provide advice, support services and expertise in the early stages of IAG development.
- ✘ NmTC is also committed to providing on-going capacity-building through workshops and other learning resources to individuals already employed by First Nations in the areas specific to its mandate (i.e. economic development, community planning, financial management, technical services and governance.)
- ✘ NmTC will encourage its members and other First Nations to participate in moving the development of IAG into the forefront.
- ✘ NmTC will commit annual financial support for three \$10,000 IAG post-graduate bursary awards.

## NMTC'S OTHER INITIATIVES:

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- ✘ Ongoing workshops and forums dealing with specific challenges.
- ✘ Promotion of IAG and its goals.
- ✘ Increased focus on www-based resource materials and learning opportunities.
- ✘ Celebration of “best practices” in Klahowya and other media.
- ✘ Regular review of the organization’s effectiveness in this realm.