

ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION SUMMIT

THE INDIGENOUS-LED ECONOMY

APRIL 14, 2026 | 8:20 AM - 2:30 PM | THE WESTIN OTTAWA, GOVERNOR GENERAL BALLROOM

**Agenda subject to change*

7:30 AM Registration Opens

8:20 AM Opening prayer and Welcome

8:30 AM Opening Remarks

- Hon. Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs; Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

8:45 AM Opening Fireside Chat

- Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services
- *Moderated by:* Hon. Anna Gainey, Member of Parliament, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Westmount; Secretary of State

Canada's Indigenous Services Minister sits down for a candid conversation on the federal government's evolving approach to economic reconciliation -- from closing fiscal gaps on First Nations infrastructure to accelerating the policy changes required to unlock Indigenous participation in Canada's next generation of resource and infrastructure projects.

9:15 AM Morning Remarks

- National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Assembly of First Nations

9:30 AM Morning Remarks

- Dr. Alika Lafontaine, Indigenous Advisor in Residence, Canadian Medical Association

9:45 AM Thank you & Presentation

- The Hon. Terry Duguid, Member of Parliament, Winnipeg South, Manitoba

10:00 AM Presentation - The Promise of the North

- Ranj Pillai, Former Premier of Yukon
- Tim Barber, Co-Founder, Canada2020

10:15 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM Presentation: Project in Focus: Stonlasec8 Equity Ownership on B.C. Natural Gas Pipeline System

- Chief David Jimmie, Squiala First Nation
- Emily Black, Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Power, Enbridge
- *Moderated by:* Sébastien Labelle, Vice President, Canada Development Investment Corporation

One of the most significant Indigenous equity transactions in Canadian energy history, the Stonlasec8 agreement gives a coalition of First Nations a meaningful ownership stake in Enbridge's B.C. natural gas system. This session examines how the deal came together, the role of the Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation in making it possible, and what it signals for the future of Indigenous equity participation in major infrastructure.

10:55 AM Presentation: Accessing Capital to Accelerate Economic Reconciliation

- Kristian Straub, CEO, Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corp.

11:10 AM Presentation: Chatham to Lakeshore Transmission Line Hydro One Partnership

- Matthew Jackson, Vice President of Indigenous Partnerships and Business Development, Hydro One

On March 10th, Hydro One announced that it received loan guarantee support from CILGC for Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Kettle & Stony Point First Nation to acquire a nearly 20 per cent equity stake in the Chatham to Lakeshore transmission line in southwestern Ontario.



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11:30 AM Nch'kay Development Corporation

- Jennifer Podmore Russell, Chief Development Officer, Nch'kay Development Corporation

The Nch'kay Development Corporation represents the Squamish Nation's drive to build a diversified, Nation-owned economic base in one of Canada's most complex development environments. This presentation outlines Nch'kay's portfolio strategy, its approach to large-scale real estate and commercial development, and the governance model that allows the Nation to act as a sophisticated economic actor while staying grounded in Squamish values and long-term community interests.

11:45 AM Lunch

12:45 PM Presentation

- Dakota Kochie, Director, Government and External Relations, Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

Highlight federal UNDRIP implementation gaps—especially around free, prior, and informed consent—and explain why resolving these issues, as NWMO has demonstrated through their consultation and engagement work, is critical for economic reconciliation and regulatory certainty.

1:00 PM Panel: Permitting, Timelines & Indigenous Consultation

- Sharon Singh, Partner, McMillan LLP
- Aaron Bruce, Founder & Principal, Aaron Bruce Law
- Mark Cameron, Cerulean Global Advisory
- Moderated by: Matthew Garrow, Director, Economic Reconciliation, Indigenous Services Canada

Project delays driven by permitting bottlenecks and consultation failures cost Indigenous communities, industry, and Canada alike. This panel brings together legal, policy, and advisory perspectives on where the federal regulatory framework is failing, how the duty to consult is being applied in practice, and what reforms -- legislative, administrative, and cultural -- are needed to build a system that moves faster while producing more durable outcomes for all parties.

1:30 PM Presentation: The Problem with the Process – Why Engagement Needs a Rethink

- Zahir Jina, Director of Permitting and Government Sustainability, Mcewen Mining
- Keren Yun, Director of Communications, Wyloo

1:45 PM Panel: Indigenous Political Staffers Spotlight

- Tiara Folkes, Manager, Indigenous Relations Public Policy, TC Energy
- Katherine Koostachin, VP, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Sussex Strategy Group; Former Senior Advisor, Indigenous Policy and Litigation, PMO
- Deliah Bernard, Partner, Roots Strategies
- Hillary Thatcher, Executive Vice President, Indigenous and Northern Infrastructure Investments, Canada Infrastructure Bank

Behind many of the most consequential decisions in Indigenous policy are the political staffers, advisors, and strategists who help shape them. This panel spotlights professionals who have worked at the intersection of Indigenous advocacy and political power -- from the PMO to corporate government relations -- discussing how influence is built, where the real leverage points are, and what the next generation of Indigenous political professionals needs to know to drive change from the inside.

2:30 PM Closing Remarks

