

# First Nation Land Governance Registry Open House – BC Region

January 29-30, 2025

## First Nation Showcase Panelists

### MELISSA TOKAREK

#### Malahat First Nation – Director of Lands & Environment



Melissa (she/her) is an environmental practitioner and Professional Agrologist with over 15 years' experience working with federal, regional, and Indigenous governments in various roles specializing in waste management, land and resource management, and contaminated site management. She has mixed European & Indigenous ancestry and is a registered member of the Tl'azt'en Nation. She is honoured to have the opportunity to live and raise her two boys with her husband within the Malahat Nation territory and serve as their Director of Lands and Environment. Melissa completed her MSc. in Environmental Practice exploring how Indigenous perspectives are being incorporated into land stewardship approaches on reserve lands of Indigenous communities.

### BONNIE HILL

#### T'Sou-ke First Nation – Land Governance Director

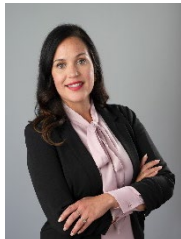


Bonnie Hill is a proud member of T'Sou-ke First Nation located in Sooke on southern Vancouver Island. Bonnie has served as an elected member of Council for a total of 12 years and is dedicated to the well-being and progress of her community. As the Land Governance Director, Bonnie is deeply committed to advocating for her Nation and protecting the lands that sustain it. Passionate about community development and land stewardship, Bonnie continues to work toward a future that honors tradition while fostering growth, sustainability and self-determination for her people.

## Economic Panelists

### SARAH SILVA

#### VP Real Estate & Development



Sarah Silva is the Vice President of Real Estate and Development at Nch'kaŷ Development Corporation and a proud member of the Squamish Nation. Sarah is an established real estate professional and community builder, responsible for identifying and pursuing strategic real estate and development opportunities in alignment with Nch'kaŷ's vision and priorities, ensuring initiatives reflect the highest standards of corporate social responsibility and land stewardship. Her work is guided by Skwxwú7mesh values and a mandate to promote projects that balance the economic, social, environmental, and cultural needs of current and future generations.

### MIC WERSTUIK

#### Westbank First Nation/Ntityix Development Corp



Mic joined the NDC executive team in summer 2021. As a Westbank First Nation Member, he has been actively involved in the evolution and success of WFN and its Corporate Entities. With over 30 years of experience in all aspects of Forestry and Natural Resource Management, Mic is excited to work with WFN Membership and the Ntityix Team to continue to grow future opportunities for both. Since an early age Mic spent most of his time on the land, in 1998 he graduated from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology with a diploma in Natural Resource Management. In 2018, he received his Master of Business Administration degree from Simon Fraser University. In his 30 + year career Mic has run chainsaw, worked for the Ministry of Forests, been an elected Councillor for WFN, been sole proprietor of his own business and held management positions in WFN and other organizations. Mic's passion is being on the land and working with our people for the benefit of the community.

## Legal Panelists

### ROBIN PHILLIPS

#### Partner – JFK Law LLP



Prior to joining JFK, Robin worked as a local government lawyer with communities and local government entities across the province of British Columbia and in Alberta. Robin has worked for a wide range of local governments and understands that each community and situation is unique and solutions must be tailored to fit the particular place, circumstances, and issues at play. Robin has advised on a variety of matters including bylaws, conflicts of interest, planning, contaminated sites, and development. Robin is honoured to have the opportunity to bring her legal skills to assist First Nations Governments to achieve their goals and objectives. Robin is also a mediator on the Civil Roster of Mediate BC and has experience mediating a range of disputes. Robin's mediation skills assist her in negotiations and in developing creative solutions to legal problems. Prior to her call to the bar, Robin clerked for five justices of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

### JOHN DOOLAN

#### Senior Lawyer – Miller Thomson LLP



John Doolan is a senior lawyer in the Vancouver office of Miller Thomson LLP. He is working with the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre on the development of the First Nations Land Governance Registry Regulations and related matters. Mr. Doolan has extensive experience in Aboriginal business law matters. In addition to the Resource Centre, his clients include T̓kemlúps te Secwépemc, Tsawwassen First Nation, Tsuut'ina-Canderel Land Management Limited Partnership (the developer of the Taza project in Alberta), the First Nations Tax Commission, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (as project lender to the Se̓n̓ákw development on Squamish Nation lands at the south end of the Burrard Bridge), the Toronto-Dominion Bank (on lending to projects on First Nation land) and the Government of British Columbia (on its Attainable Housing Initiative with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations in the BC Lower Mainland). Mr. Doolan is the leader of Miller Thomson's Aboriginal Business Law Group and his practice is almost exclusively related to Aboriginal property law, business law and economic development matters.

**Shareholder – Boughton Law Corporation**



Jean Yuen is a shareholder at the law firm of Boughton Law Corporation, where she practices Indigenous law with a special emphasis on development on reserve lands. She has represented First Nations, developers and government agencies in structuring commercial arrangements, including leasing arrangements, for projects both on and off reserve. She has assisted a number of First Nations in establishing their land codes and other land laws and advised lenders on reserve land leasehold mortgages. Jean has presented to realtors and notaries and spoken at a number of courses hosted by CLEBC and the Pacific Business & Law Institute, Vancouver, on reserve land matters over the past 25 years. Jean is the proud recipient of the 2023 YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the category of Reconciliation (Ally) and is the author of the chapter, “Real Estate Development on First Nations Lands” of the British Columbia Real Estate Development Practice Manual published by CLEBC.