



Blueprint for Success: Practical Insights From RC-Funded Projects

Webinar

March 26th, 2026

MELISSA TOKAREK

Co-Founder & Principal Consultant, Mooseskin Strategies



Melissa (she/her) is an environmental practitioner and Professional Agrologist with nearly 20 years of experience working with federal, regional, and Indigenous governments, and recently launched Mooseskin Strategies Inc., an Indigenous owned consulting practice. 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 various First Nations on environmental and land governance initiatives.

Melissa completed her MSc. in Environmental Practice at Royal Roads University exploring how Indigenous perspectives are being incorporated into land stewardship approaches on reserve lands of Indigenous communities, and continues her relationship with the university as an Instructor in the Undergraduate Certificate in Indigenous Environmental Leadership program.

SASHA TUTTLE

Environmental Compliance Officer, Sumas (Semá:th) First Nation



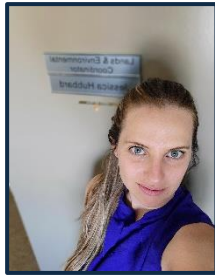
Sasha Tuttle is a biologist with over five years of experience in ecological research and conservation policy development and review. She is a proud member of Sumas (Semá:th) First Nation and serves as the Environmental Compliance Officer for the nation. Her work involves supporting culturally grounded stewardship and environmentally responsible development. She has worked across the Lower Mainland studying everything from insect pollinators to Western Painted turtles. Sasha is passionate about weaving western scientific knowledge with traditional Indigenous

Knowledge, ensuring conservation is done in a way that is meaningful to the Semá:th community.

Sasha is a proud member of Semá:th and an RP Biologist with over 5 years of experience in environmental research, environmental monitoring and environmental law enforcement. She works to keep Semá:th lands healthy by monitoring for contamination and managing invasive plant species. Sasha is passionate about weaving western scientific knowledge with traditional Indigenous Knowledge, ensuring conservation is done in a way that is meaningful to the Semá:th community.

JESS HUBBARD

Lands & Environment Coordinator, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation



As BNA's Lands and Environment Coordinator, Jessica Hubbard leads various land-based projects, including BNA's Environmental Protection Plan (EMP). From marking out trails and assessing hazard trees to engaging in international policy, Jessica has managed a wide range of duties since starting with BNA in 2020. While she is most often in Thunder Bay's satellite office, she seeks any opportunity to get out to the reserve on Lake Nipigon's beautiful Eastern shore and work directly with the people and lands there.

Before Jessica's role at BNA, she was the Forestry Policy Advisor for the Métis Nation of Ontario, overseeing consultation, engagement and policy development on over 30 forest units across the province. In addition to her Honours degree in Natural Resource Management from Lakehead University, she has gained experience in multiple field-based roles in academia, industry and government across Canada. These diverse experiences have helped inform best practices on the land. Jessica is also a volunteer firefighter and first responder, consistently giving insight on how to conduct better land use planning with emergency preparedness in mind for the FN.

MELISSA MACDONALD

Lands Director, Membertou First Nation



Melissa MacDonald is from Membertou, Nova Scotia. Over the span of 22 years, she has been a part of Membertou's workforce, wearing various hats within different departments including human resources, employment and training, tenant relations, and currently, the lands department. Currently, she oversees tax administration and tenant relations, alongside her responsibilities as the Lands Director.

Melissa has extension professional development and training which includes a Bachelor and a Master's degree in Business Administration, with a focus on community economic development. Melissa is a certified Lands Manager through NALMA's Professional Lands Management Certification Program. She is committed to continuous education and personal growth. Melissa completed the Tax Administration, Applied Economics and Applied Lands Management certificate programs at the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics. All of these programs have empowered her to enhance governance and resource management in Membertou. This proficiency is particularly beneficial as Membertou strives towards greater autonomy, and taking back our jurisdiction.

Melissa sits on the Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association Board of Directors as Co-Chair and the First Nation Tax Administrators Association (FNTAA) board as Secretary.

JULIETTE PETERS

Lands Manager, Soowahlie First Nation



Juliette comes from the Commodore family of Soowahlie and the Peters/Pete family in Chawathil, her traditional name is Tsá:latsíyé. In 2015 Juliette was hired as the Lands Coordinator and her role was to work towards a ratification vote to approve the Soowahlie Land Code. The Soowahlie Land Code was successfully approved in 2016 allowing her to continue her work in lands management, eventually becoming the Lands Manager. She strives to remove barriers in the community and is most proud of her work on the Legacy Project. This complicated initiative aims to correct flawed lands management on Soowahlie that were directly caused by the faults of the Canadian government. A great deal of progress has been made resulting in many positive changes, and Juliette is honoured to be an active part of the transition from the antiquated “Canada-run Soowahlie,” to the increasingly self-governed “Land Code Soowahlie.” Juliette is passionate about learning the history of Soowahlie lands and is eager to learn more to enhance her lands work.

Resource Centre (RC) Presenters

JENNIFER PREDIE

Manager, Land Code Governance, Resource Centre



Jennifer Predie is a member of Six Nations, Onondaga. She is a professionally certified First Nations Land Manager with an applied degree in Environmental Management and diplomas in Terrain and Water Resources. In 2002, Jennifer received a four-year Ministerial appointment as a member of NACOSAR (National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk) and was subsequently elected as one of the committee’s co-chairs.

Jennifer began her professional career in 2000 as an Environmental Scientist with EBA Engineering Consultants in Edmonton, AB. In 2002, Jennifer moved to Regina, SK to work as a Fish Habitat Biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and in 2006, she transferred to the DFO Parry Sound, ON District office where she became their Senior Habitat Biologist. In 2013, Jennifer accepted a position as the Lands Manager for Wasauksing First Nation, located on Parry Island in Georgian Bay, leading the First Nation to the successful ratification of their Land Code in 2017.

A proud Haudenosaunee citizen, Jennifer resides just outside Parry Sound, ON, in the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, specifically of the Wasauksing First Nation. Jennifer is married and has an 11-year-old daughter. She most enjoys reading, fishing, boating, and spending time with family and friends at her cottage on Georgian Bay.

DENISE UNGER

Manager, First Nation Support Services – Fraser Valley, Resource Centre



Denise Unger is a proud member of Chi'yaqtel (Tzeachten) First Nation in Chilliwack, BC, which is also where she resides. The Chi'yaqtel people originate from the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe and they are politically affiliated with Stó:ló Nation.

Denise began working with the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre in 2009 as a field technician on Vancouver Island and is now the Manager of Support Services – Fraser Valley Region. She has a wonderful team of Land Code Advisors who also provide land management support services to the signatory First Nations in that region.

Before establishing her 20+ year career working with the Stó:ló and other Indigenous peoples in the Fraser Valley and throughout BC, Denise's background includes commerce and banking. In 2000, Denise joined Stó:ló Development Corporation and Stó:ló Community Futures, which further lead to an opportunity to manage the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe in 2007. She has been actively involved with various initiatives Chi'yaqtel has pursued over the years, including the development and implementation of their Land Code. She was passionate about assisting other First Nations in re-gaining jurisdiction over their reserve lands and resources and establishing strong systems of land governance, which lead her to joining the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre.

Denise and her husband Mark have four children, two dogs and they have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren (the sixth is on the way). Outside of work, Denise enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, crafting, and riding her Harley Davidson on sunny days.