

First Nation Land Governance Registry Open House – East Region

February 26-27, 2025

First Nation Showcase Panelists

DEREK EPP

Chief - Ch'iyáqtel First Nation



Chief Derek Epp is a proud descendant of the Wealick family and carries the Xwelmeqw (traditional) name Weli'leq. He has lived on Tzeachten First Nation since he was two years old, fostering a deep sense of community, family, and progressive governance aimed at self-determination.

Chief Epp holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with a specialization in First Nations studies. During his first term as Chief, Derek expanded his education with the Aboriginal Management Program at the University of British Columbia and earned the Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrators designation through AFOA. Chief Epp aims to complete a master's in business administration.

As Chief, Derek has been involved in various areas, including economic development and advocating for Indigenous rights. Chief Epp holds positions on several boards, including Vice President of Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe' Management Limited, Chair of Shxw Kwimel Cha Management Ltd, Deputy Chair of the First Nations Finance Authority, and is a board and executive member of the Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre.

Chief Epp has been recognized internationally, receiving the Freedom to the City of London in 2024, and locally, earning the Excellence in Community Service Award from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Chief Epp is a strong advocate for economic reconciliation at all government levels and believes in working together to achieve true reconciliation.

Economic Panelists

ANDRÉ LE DRESSAY

Director – Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics



André Le Dressay is the Director of the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics, the Director of Fiscal Realities Economists, and an economics professor at Thompson Rivers University. He has worked with Clarence (Manny) Jules, and over 300 First Nations communities and leaders across Canada for the last 30 years to support economic self-determination by implementing First Nation fiscal powers and jurisdiction. He has written numerous academic and consulting reports in his areas of expertise: building the legal, administrative, fiscal, and institutional framework to support indigenous jurisdiction and economic growth.

He co-authored a book which was nominated for the Donner Book Prize in 2010. He was the principal author of the Tulo Centre online textbook—Building a Competitive First Nation Investment Climate (2015). He has also authored the closing chapter, Unlocking First Nation Wealth: Past Efforts & Future Opportunities, in a compilation entitled, Unlocking the Wealth of Indian Nations (2016). His working paper Renewing Indigenous Economies Through Creative Destruction has been available on the Tulo Centre website and has been downloaded over 800 times. He led the development of the curriculum for 14 original courses in First Nation Tax Administration and First Nation Applied Economics for the Tulo Centre and has taught over 400 First Nation students. André has received a distinguished alumni award from Thompson Rivers University and a lifetime achievement award from the First Nations Tax Administrators Association.

He received his PhD in Economics from Simon Fraser University, a Master of Applied Economics from the University of Victoria, and an Honors degree in Math and Economics from the University of Regina.

CHRISTOPHER ANGECONEB

Senior Program Officer – First Nations Market Housing Fund

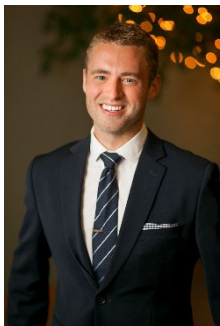


Christopher Angeconeb is Ojibwe and is a member of the Lac Seul First Nation. He joined the Fund in August 2023 as Senior Program Officer. With a legal background and experience working closely with Aboriginal communities, he brings valuable insights to the Fund's mission of promoting housing market growth and self-sufficiency among First Nations. Christopher's background also equips him to navigate legal frameworks, address complex issues within the Fund's initiatives and advocate for equitable solutions in housing transactions. As a Senior Advisor for various government departments, Christopher gained valuable policy development and implementation experience. His established rapport and communication skills with First Nation communities will facilitate successful engagement and promotion of the Fund's programs. His dedication to community economic development will also contribute to the Fund's goal of fostering economic prosperity in Indigenous communities.

Legal Panelists

JON DAVEY

Vice President – Indigenous Financial Services



Jon Davey is the Vice President of Indigenous Financial Services at Scotiabank and a proud member of the Lower Cayuga of Six Nations of the Grand River. He provides banking and wealth solutions to Indigenous nations and businesses with the intent of positively impacting future generations. Before joining the bank, Jon was a Federal Crown and Special Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs within the Department of Justice Canada. Jon also serves as a Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces and is an Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. He holds a master of public administration degree from Cornell University, a Juris Doctorate from Osgoode Hall Law School, and a first class honours bachelors degree from Brock University. Jon was also named one of Canada's Top 40 under 40 by PwC and Caldwell Partners.

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 Tk'emlúps 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 Seńákw 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.

ROBIN PHILLIPS

Partner – JFK Law LLP



Robin Phillips is a lawyer based in Victoria, British Columbia, practicing with JFK Law LLP. She has extensive experience in Aboriginal law, collaborative dispute resolution, and environmental law. Robin was called to the British Columbia Bar in 2016 and the Alberta Bar in 2018. She joined JFK Law in 2019 and became a partner in 2024. Her practice areas include governance, negotiation, consultation, administrative law, land use planning, and contaminated sites.

Robin works as legal counsel for many Indigenous Nations on a wide range of governance issues. She has considerable experience drafting laws, bylaws, and policies, as well as understanding the complex jurisdiction that applies to Indigenous lands. Robin has experience incorporating Indigenous legal order into contemporary laws and advising on the development of laws that are based both on statutory authority and inherent jurisdiction.

In addition to her legal practice, Phillips has contributed to several publications and presentations on topics such as cannabis regulation on Indigenous lands, trusts, riparian rights, expropriation, defamation, corporate governance, first nation and local government partnerships, and conflict resolution. Prior to being called to the bar, Robin had the opportunity of being a judicial law clerk for five Justices of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.