

Decolonizing Land Governance under the Framework Agreement

December 9, 2021

Westbank First Nation



Robert Louie – Chairman, Lands Advisory Board

Robert Louie, LL.B, OC, Hon. Dr LL.B, Hon. Fellow Okanagan College is the former Chief (24 years) of the Westbank First Nation (which is Self Governing), and has served on numerous Boards, Companies and Special Appointments with Government and private industry for over 30 years. He has extensive experience in real estate development and finance matters and has focused primarily on working for First Nations on land matters throughout Canada. Robert is the Chairman of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board (30 years) and has been instrumental in getting First Nations into incremental self governance.

Muskoday First Nation



Austin Bear – Chairman, Resource Centre

Former Chief Carl Austin Bear, retired in 2019, after serving 14 consecutive terms as the Chief of the Muskoday First Nation. Austin is a longtime LAB Director and currently serves as Chair of the FNLM Resource Centre Board of Directors and a member of the LAB Finance Committee. His vision of balance in all areas of personal and community life has inspired his commitment to develop a healthy and safe community which continues to undergo positive economic growth. Austin resides on the Muskoday First Nation with his wife, Robina, and their family of rescued pets.

T'Sou-ke Nation



Chief Gordon Planes – Director – BC Region

Gordon's traditional name is Hya quatcha, named after his great grandfather from Scia-new, the salmon people. Elected Chief of the T'Sou-ke nation for the past 10 years, Gordon previously held a position as the Back Country Operations Manager of the West Coast Trail for Parks Canada. He is a Coast Salish carver, artist, traditional singer and a captain of T'Sou-ke traditional dug-out canoes for the last two decades.

Gordon has previously taken a three year assignment in working with his community in bringing back their Northern Straits Sencoten language. He is actively working with the community in renewable energy, food security, cultural renaissance and Economic Development.



Leah George-Wilson – Director – BC Region

Leah D. George-Wilson (Sisi-ya-ama) is a member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) located in North Vancouver. She was the first woman to hold the office of Elected Chief for the TWN, a position she held from 2001-2003, 2005 – 2009, and 2017-2021.

Leah George-Wilson previously worked for the TWN for many years in various positions including member of the TWN’s negotiating team in the BC Treaty Process, TWN Self-Government Coordinator, and Director of the TWN Treaty, Land and Resources Department.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology from Simon Fraser University and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of British Columbia.

FIRST NATION LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTRE



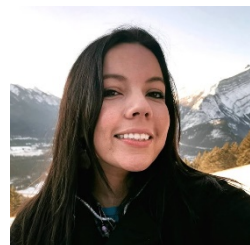
Meko Nicholas – Executive Director

Meko Nicholas is the Executive Director of the First Nations Lands Management Resource Centre and is Welastekokewin (Maliseet) from the Neqotkuk (Tobique) First Nation in New Brunswick. He has been working to support the development, finalization and fulfillment of the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management for the past 23 years.



Leah Bitternose – Technician First Nation Support Services Prairies

Tānsi, Kitatamiskātināwāw! Leah Bitternose Nitisiyihkāson. Nēhiyawskwēw ohci George Gordon ēkwa Treaty 4 Niwīcihowān. Leah M. Bitternose is Cree from the George Gordon First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. She has a Juris Doctor and Master of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan and is dedicated to the protection of Indigenous and Treaty Rights. She is honoured to work for the FNLRC assisting First Nation’s in the Prairie Region and North West Territories to take back control of their lands and resources.



Stefanie Recollet – Waste Management Specialist

Stefanie Recollet is a member of Wahnapiatae First Nation, in Northern Ontario. She is from the Crane Clan and a proud Anishinaabe kwe. Stefanie’s academic background includes a bachelors in Law, a certificate in Community Development and she holds numerous certifications related to land and environment management.

She spent 6 years working in Environmental Management within her home community before moving to Waabnoong Bemjiwang Tribal Council as the Waste Management Coordinator. She has since joined the Resource Centre’s Environment and Enforcement team as the Solid Waste Specialist where she leads the development of strategies for improving environmental governance in solid waste and is a resource in law development, management planning, implementation and protections.