



[Robert Louie](#)

LAB Chairman

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. Over the 24-year span as Chief at Westbank First Nation, Robert was President/Director for 20 plus corporations which included construction, forestry, commercial/retail, residential, recreational, and institutional.

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. Robert is also the Chairman/Director of Peace Hills Trust, which is the largest aboriginal financial institution in Canada. Robert is a Founding Director and is a shareholder in the Public Company – Decisive Dividends (DE) on TSX Venture. Most recently, Robert is a Founding Partner in Indigenous World Finance LLP, a Board Member with Ecora Engineering, and is Executive Chairman and Director of Indigenous Bloom Corp and its related entities.

Robert is a former practicing lawyer who specialized in native law and was a summer Law Instructor at the University of Saskatchewan. He has received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Justice Institute of British Columbia. He is also a former Task Group member elected by the Chiefs in BC serving 4 years on the B.C. First Nations Summit Task Group and was actively involved in B.C. Treaty negotiations representing First Nations. Robert was awarded the prestigious Officer of the Order of Canada on October 5th, 2006 and on June 1st, 2019, Robert was honored with the recognition of Honorary Fellow of Okanagan College.

Some of the other numerous boards and special appointments Robert has been active in include: Indigenous advisor representing Canada on the World Indigenous Business Forum, where he networked with other leaders promoting Indigenous economic development and world trade; Board Member with the BC Achievement Foundation and also sat on the Executive Committee; Board of Governor member with UBC; President's Advisory Council member with UBC-Okanagan; Board Director on the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board; President of First Nations Finance Authority Inc.; Board Director with All Nations Trust Co; one of a nine member Premier's Advisory Council with the Premier of B.C.; Board Director on the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce; Board Director and founding member with the Kelowna United Native Friendship Society.

Robert has been the recipient of many awards and distinguished presentations including: Lifetime B.C. Achievement Award Aboriginal Business; Distinguished Alumni Business Administration, Okanagan College; Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal; Excellence in Aboriginal

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Leadership from Aboriginal Financial Officers Association & Xerox Canada; Business Person of the Year, Westbank Chamber of Commerce; President's Award, Westbank Chamber of Commerce; Recipient of Commemorative Medal for 125th Anniversary of Canada and the B.C. Academic Scholarship Award.

Robert is the owner/proprietor of Indigenous World Winery, Indigenous World Spirits and Kelowna West Manufactured Home Park along with other business endeavours.



Austin Bear

FNLMRC Chair & LAB Director – Prairies Region

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.



Darcy Bear

LAB Director – Prairies Region

Darcy Bear is the Chief of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Chairman of the Board of the Whitecap Development Corporation (WDC). Chief Bear has dedicated himself to the betterment of his community since being elected to Council in 1991 at the age of 23.

He is currently in his eighth term, and seventh consecutive term as Chief. He has guided the WDC as Chairman since 1994, where he has been the impetus behind extensive economic development within the community, and the driving force for improved quality of life for Whitecap residents, and the people of Saskatchewan. As Whitecap's leader, Chief Bear has always maintained an intense focus on community development and has worked to bring greater fiscal accountability, transparency and good governance to his community.

Virtual Annual General Meeting



Assemblée Générale Annuelle Virtuelle

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While today Whitecap boasts a list of modern capital projects, this has not always been the case. Even though Whitecap is situated only 25 minutes from Saskatoon and its modern infrastructure, the reserve was not so lucky. Chief Bear remembers a time when he used to help his grandfather cut wood to heat their home, haul water from a well to drink, and undertake the day-to-day chores to sustain the family's livestock.

Whitecap now serves as a national example of positive community development and heightened self-determination. Using a comprehensive and diversified economic development plan which is heavy on partnership and big on goals, Whitecap community members enjoy modern infrastructure, complete with a state-of-the-art water treatment plant staffed by certified operators. Whitecap has been the site of a host of projects that have served to improve the quality of life for his community members. Projects include: The Dakota Dunes Golf Links — an economic alliance of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and the Lac La Ronge First Nation, who together created the world-class golf course that opened in 2004 (Dakota Dunes Golf and Country Club recently ranked fifteenth of public courses in Canada by Golf Digest Magazine, February 2013 issue). This was followed by SIGA's investment of the \$65 million, 80,000 square foot Dakota Dunes Casino erected in 2007. This partnership benefits all 74 First Nations. Whitecap's and SIGA executed a long-term commercial lease and a service fee agreement equivalent to a real-property tax in other jurisdictions. These agreements enabled Whitecap to invest millions in the following infrastructure: commercial water and sewer services; three-phase power; expanded natural gas capacity; cell tower; high-speed fibre connectivity; telecommunications services; paved roads and streetlights.

Chief Bear has worked hard to build lasting relationships with surrounding communities, as well as First Nations and non-First Nations peoples, through tourism partnerships, and agreements with Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services, the Saskatoon Board of Education, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments. A proud achievement of working in partnership is the designation of Highway 219 running through the Whitecap community as the Chief Whitecap Trail tourism corridor. These are just a few examples of the acumen Whitecap and its leader have shown in the form of business and public policy vision, political negotiating skills, accountability initiatives, and innovative partnerships with agencies at all levels of government.

Never forgetting where his people came from, Chief Bear is driven to work with his members, Council and staff to break this cycle of dependency, to empower the people and to rebuild the Whitecap Dakota First Nation by embracing a spirit of their ancestors who were once the engine of thriving economy and whose economies were defined by successful entrepreneurship.

Chief Bear's contributions to his community, to his province and to his country have not gone unnoticed, as he has been widely recognized for his economic, business and

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cultural achievements. He was a recipient of the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan in 2005, he was named one of the "Ten Most Influential People" by Saskatchewan Business Magazine and was awarded the CANDO "Economic Developer of the Year" in 2006. In 2009, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) awarded Chief Bear the Circle of Honour Award for Community-Based First Nation Business, recognizing his achievements in establishing and growing the Whitecap Development Corporation and its investments. In December 2011, Chief Bear was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the highest recognition given to residents of province. On January 25, 2012, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, together with Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, signed the Framework Agreement for Self-Governance, which kick-started Whitecap's journey towards self-governance. And, on May 23, 2012, Chief Bear was honoured with the Diamond Jubilee Medal, reflecting his commitment to service.

As a respected business leader, Chief Bear has volunteered his expertise on many business boards and committees. He has served terms on the boards of Saskatoon Economic Development Authority, Sask Tel, Enterprise Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

Chief Bear has dedicated nearly half of his life to his community since becoming a leader. He has been innovative in his approach to business development and has invited other First Nations to partner with Whitecap Development Corporation and share in the benefits of profitable business relationships. He has contributed to Saskatchewan First Nations through his volunteer involvement on many First Nation and Saskatoon Tribal council economic boards and committees. He has also furthered First Nation relationships with the non-First Nation community and particularly the Saskatchewan business community through his partnerships and relationship building strategies.

Elected as a Prairie Region Director for the First Nations Lands Advisory Board in October 2016.



Meko Nicholas

FNLMRC 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.



Eugene Louie

LAB Elder

Eugene Louie, from Tla'amin First Nation, B.C. Eugene Louie's ancestral name is pelachiewtwx. He is the LAB Elder and Elder in residence for Vancouver Island University, as well as a faculty member for the Powell River campus. One of his proudest achievements was when the T'la'Amin Nation attained self-government. Elder Louie was Chief when his community entered into the Made-in-BC treaty.



Senator Melvin Littlecrow

Whitecap Dakota First Nation Elder

Melvin Littlecrow is a respected knowledge keeper from the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. Melvin was born in 1942 on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The people of Whitecap have long history as skilled at cattle ranching and raising horses. As a child, Melvin learned how to handle horses from his grandfather, Harry Littlecrow. He recalls taking hay to Saskatoon to sell to the local businesses to feed their horses. Melvin grew up to raise horses and cattle of his own. He competed in rodeos racing chuck wagons all over Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Montana for over 35 years. He continues to raise horses on his farm at Whitecap today.

At the age of seventeen, Melvin Littlecrow took his first job as a construction worker building the Gardiner Dam at Lake Diefenbaker. After returning to work on his family farm for a few years, Melvin entered into the steel work trade. He worked as a steel worker for over three decades, and had a hand in many of the major construction projects in the province, including Saskatoon City Hospital, the Midtown Plaza, and five potash mines.

As a Councillor for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation from 1994-2000, Melvin was a part of the revitalization of the community. This included the building of the new school and new on-reserve housing developments. He then moved into the role of FSIN Senator. He continues to be involved in Indigenous governance as a Senator for the Saskatoon Tribal Council, as a member of the FSIN Treasury Board, and is on the board of the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation.



[Jason Campbell](#)

LAB Director – B.C. Region

Jason Campbell is a Seabird Island Band member from the Peters family. He has been on the Seabird Lands Advisory Committee members since 2012 and has an educational background in criminology, kinesiology, aboriginal studies and has a facilitation background. Jason is an MBA candidate in Indigenous Leadership and Business. After working many years with the Correctional Service of Canada, Jason accepted the role as the Executive Director of the Seabird Island Band in 2019.



[Andrew Beynon](#)

FNLMRC Director, Land Code Governance

Andrew Beynon has over thirty years experience working on First Nation lands and self-government. Andrew has worked on land development, environmental protection, environmental assessments, additions to reserve and treaty land entitlement, economic development, specific claims, federal-provincial agreements, optional self-government legislation, taxation, infrastructure projects, reform of federal funding agreements, work with First Nations drafting laws and many other areas.

Andrew was Canada's lead lawyer on the Nisga'a treaty and has considerable experience with negotiations as well as drafting and has appeared on numerous occasions before Parliamentary Committees. Andrew is one of the authors of "Modern First Nations Legislation Annotated", a legal publication which includes a chapter dealing with the Framework Agreement and the federal legislation which ratifies the Framework Agreement.

Andrew is married with two "kids" in post-secondary studies. Andrew has no time for his wide range of hobbies and interests which range from eternal home renovations to collecting vintage JBL studio monitors originally used by Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones, to studying the history of the Nixon administration, as well as to international soccer and playing golf rarely, but always badly.



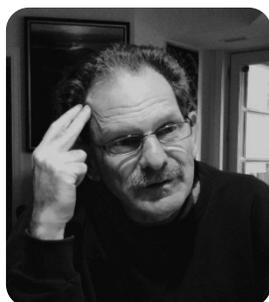
[William \(Bill\) Henderson](#)

FNL MRC Legal Advisor

Bill Henderson is a Toronto-based sole practitioner whose law practice supports several First Nations across Canada. Bill has represented First Nations in matters ranging from land claims, economic development projects, governance and litigation at all levels of the Canadian judicial system since his call to the Ontario bar in 1982.

For the past 26 years Bill has been the foremost legal authority, defender and lead advisor to the LAB, for the *Framework Agreement* and its subsequent amendments and numerous implementation matters.

His passion and counsel for the *Framework Agreement* and its implementation, have guided this historic agreement for over the last three decades.



[Steven Aronson](#)

FNL MRC Framework Agreement Amendment Advisor

Stephen Aronson has devoted his life to the practice of Indigenous Law, working with First Nations and First Nation organizations across Canada in a broad range of areas, including governance, land claims, Aboriginal and treaty rights, constitutional and international issues, reserve lands and economic development.

Steve became involved with the Framework Agreement in 1991 and has been continuously essential to its success and continued evolution.

Among other significant achievements, Steve's tireless efforts are credited with the overturning of the wrongful murder conviction of Donald Marshall Jr in 1983.

Prior to retiring in 2015, Steve was a practicing member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Today, he continues his involvement as an esteemed and respected legal advisor to the LAB.



[Dean Bear](#)

Muskoday First Nation: Lands Manager

Dean Bear has been Muskoday First Nation's Land Manager since 2002, with a small break between 2015 and 2017. With his guidance, the community has pioneered land governance processes, permits, regulations and laws that many other communities have come to emulate. Under his direction, Muskoday First Nation was awarded a national prize by the Canadian Institute of Planners for the integration of its land use plan with its land code.

Mr. Bear has been an ambassador for the Framework Agreement and the benefits of governing lands with land codes. His insight and experience have made him a popular expert at LABRC workshops and conferences. He has acted on numerous advisory committees that included the early development of the current Training, Mentorship and Professional Development strategy and the LAB and RC's new websites.



[Al-Karim Kara](#)

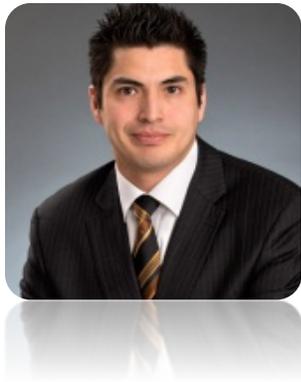
Land Title and Survey Authority of B.C.: Vice President,
Business Innovation and Chief Information Officer

Al-Karim Kara, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, C.Dir is Vice President, Business Innovation and Chief Information Officer for Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia and has been with LTSA since 2009. At LTSA, Al-Karim is responsible for leading the organization in innovation, technology and business process change, business development, and strategic IT planning. Al-Karim has led and continues to lead significant initiatives at LTSA including the development and operation of ASTRA, a world leading land title system, myLTSA, an online portal for land registry and other services, ParcelMap BC – award winning digital cadaster.

Previously Al-Karim was with Xantrex Technology Inc. where he held a number of executive positions, including General Manager and Vice President of Operations, Interim CFO, and Vice President, Information Technology and CIO.

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Al-Karim holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Simon Fraser University, a Chartered Director designation from McMaster University, and is a Chartered Professional Accountant. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, a member of BC Identity Information Management Steering Committee, and a member of the Accounting Program Advisory Committee of Kwantlen Polytechnic University School of Business.



Aaron B. Starr

Partner: McKercher LLP

Aaron is partner in the Saskatoon office with a practice that focuses on corporate and commercial law, real estate, estate planning and First Nations legal issues. Aaron has a practice that focuses on corporate and commercial law, real estate, estate planning, First Nations legal issues, including natural resource development, Trusts, providing both strategic business and legal advice to clients in developing projects on First Nation Lands. He also provides advice to First Nation's economic development corporations and businesses on the operational side of such agreements, general corporate/commercial matters, negotiation and formation of joint ventures and partnerships and business and asset acquisition transactions. Mr. Starr has also worked closely with First Nations on governance issues including drafting bylaws, legislation, policies and Land Management regimes.

Mr. Starr is a member of the Star Blanket Cree Nation and obtained his Juris Doctor in 2011 from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to this, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts with Distinction from the University of Manitoba while playing for the varsity hockey team. Aaron was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in May, 2012 and joined McKercher LLP as an articling student. Aaron was invited to join the partnership in 2019.

Aaron was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers*[™] in Canada 2021 in the field of Aboriginal for Saskatoon. This is the first year he has been listed in *Best Lawyers*[®].



[Jessica Dumas](#)

President: [Jessica Dumas Coaching](#)

Jessica is the President of Jessica Dumas Coaching and Training, a known facilitator and Indigenous Advisor. She uses her passion and knowledge to help businesses create more diverse and inclusive teams by providing relevant and solution-based training. One focus is on understanding the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, specifically article number 92, and strategies for Indigenous engagement and employment. She is an energetic and motivated professional who quickly gains the trust of her clients and audience with her warm and engaging personality and professional style.

Jessica's career started with over 10 years experience in a corporate environment before gaining a certificate in Conflict Resolution and Workshop Facilitation and since has become a sought-after speaker in the areas of Women in Business, Leadership and Indigenous Inclusion. Jessica has been featured on NCI FM, CJOB, Now Country, CBC, The Winnipeg Sun, the Winnipeg Free Press, and SAY Magazine to name a few. She has spoken on the TED stage as well as emceed several conferences and evening events and is also often found moderating conference panels.



[Dawn Charlie | Su-Ili](#)

[Sts'ailes First Nation: Lands Manager](#)

Dawn is a member and resident of Sts'ailes. She has worked for Sts'ailes for 10 years in numerous departments and capacities. She began her journey in Lands March 2017 as the Land Use Planning Coordinator. She entered into the Professional Lands Manager Certificate Program followed by the Kanawayihetaytan Askiy Certificate - "Let Us Take Care of the Land" program at the University of Saskatchewan. She became the Lands Manager in September 2018.



[Murray Long](#)

Whitecap Dakota First Nation: Director, Self-Government

Murray currently works at Whitecap Dakota First Nation, 30 kilometres south of Saskatoon. As Director of Self-Government, he is responsible for leading negotiations on a Whitecap Self-Government Agreement and reports to Chief and Council. He also supports Chief and Council in intergovernmental relations, including meetings with federal and provincial officials and leaders. He has held this position since November 2010.

Murray worked with the Federations of Saskatchewan Indian Nations for 12 years, beginning in 1998. His work in the Treaty Governance Office originally focussed on the FSIN's Common Table for self-governance processes. He was responsible for coordinating the Fiscal Relations Table, and sat at the negotiations sessions of both the Fiscal Relations Table and Governance Table, as well as at the FSIN-Canada Treaty Table. He has worked with the FSIN Chief's Office on economic development initiatives and on intergovernmental issues such as the Aboriginal Round Table, Kelowna Accord and First Ministers Meetings.

Murray also served as a sessional lecturer from 2004 to 2011 with the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, teaching Aboriginal Policy.

Murray obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Victoria in 1992, following his B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan. He has worked in the past with the provincial (British Columbia) and federal levels of government. He is originally from a farm south of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. He now enjoys life on an acreage near Saskatoon with his wife, Donna, his two awesome kids, a couple of cats, a dog, some seasonal chickens, and a few thousand bees.