

# Indigenous Heritage Circle

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## NOTES FROM THE VANCOUVER IHC FORUM 11 MAY 2017

The Vancouver Forum was held at the Musqueam Cultural Centre. Many thanks are due to Musqueam Elders who welcomed us and spoke so eloquently about heritage and First Nations law.

### Presentations

- Karen Aird, Indigenous Heritage Circle
- Anna Kazantseva, National Research Council, Indigenous Languages Technology Project

### Discussion Themes at Tables

Theme 1: What are the top five priorities for investments in Indigenous Heritage? Ex. Policy, legislation, advocacy, capacity-building, training, etc.

Theme 2: How can communities, heritage professionals and heritage organizations be involved with the IHC?

Theme 3: What partnerships can we work toward to ensure our work complements the work the work of existing organizations?



## Indigenous Heritage Circle



Indigenous Heritage Circle  
Cercle du patrimoine autochtone

President, Karen Aird  
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## Agenda (as provided to attendees)

9:30	Opening
9:45	Greetings from the IHC
9:55	Introductions
10:15	Review of Agenda [ <i>Tylerone McNeil</i> ]
10:20	About the IHC [ <i>Karen Aird</i> ]
10:30	Discussion on challenges and issues with services for Indigenous Heritage Provincially <i>[Don Bain - working group on heritage]</i>
10:45	Q&A, Open Discussion
11:00	Break
11:15	Food for thought presentations: 10 minutes each <i>[Chief Judy Wilson, Diane Hinkley, and LAC Canada]</i>
11:45	Q&A, Open Discussion
12:15 pm	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm	Presentation (10 minutes): challenges in linking and sharing information <i>[Anna Kazantseva: NRC Language project]</i>
1:15	Questions
1:30	Working Groups: Key theme discussion
2:30	Working Break
3:00	Working Groups: Key theme discussion
4:00	End of program

## Voices From the Roundtable

- UNDRIP is important.
- Heritage can be conceptualized as a sacred obligation. We are caring for living things.
- We need to disrupt conventional/colonial cultural institutions. They have the resources – we don't.
- Even though we don't have the money for repatriation, we have to do the work.
- Repatriation is putting financial demands on some of the most financially stressed communities.
- Grassroots groups do not have funding to carry out the work needed to correct past wrongs.
- Nation protocols should have integrity; they shouldn't be integrated into settler law.
- Traditional knowledge should be prioritized over academic knowledge.
- Indigenous nation laws and protocols supersede the BC Heritage Act.
- We need more Indigenous representation at events like this.
- Environmental assessments lack consideration of spiritual values and significance.
- Need to start with education; it's the catalyst for advocacy.
- Need to rethink education – teach students to understand parallel world views.
- Cultural/ traditional/ spiritual training takes time, if not decades. Skills and knowledge of Indigenous experts are often unacknowledged by other professionals, officials, academics and Canadians as a whole.
- Indigenous Peoples need an organization, such as the IHC, that can help us relate to/respect/make space for generational knowledge which is passed down (and which is not understood by the outside).
- Health and well-being going hand-in-hand with culture.
- Concern with cultural heritage/Aboriginal law (internal) – which must be abided by, and with the system by which elders consult with delegated authorities.
- An international gaze can help, as we saw with the Vancouver Olympics. International communities pressured government to involve First Nations.
- Heritage has significance due to our relationship with the land. In Canada, the land is so vast, with so many nations, and with so many sets of laws that come from the land.
- Provincial and federal organizations at the table make decisions for grassroots organizations. We need to have more agency/voice.
- To address heritage, we need to strengthen conversations and connections between grassroots groups and federal/Canada-wide ones.
- Funding is an issue. We need to money for equipment, technology, connectivity, infrastructure.
- We need to find clarity about whether we are to follow local laws.
- We need to acknowledge the value and importance of our own cultural knowledge (in the way the Western academics do.)
- Indigenous intellectual property issues are related to Indigenous intellectual property laws and legal traditions.

- Access to archival records is important to Indigenous Peoples.

## Comments Specific to the IHC

- IHC should support caretakers, organizations, communities and other identifying, managing and protecting Indigenous heritage
- Primary activities of the IHC should be education and advocacy
- IHC should strengthen the voices of Indigenous cultural heritage organizations that cannot respond to all requests for input into government policies and programs
- IHC needs to focus on international partnerships. That will help make a case to funding authorities.
- IHC needs to focus on international partnerships. That will help make a case to funding authorities.
- IHC should not duplicate work that is already being done in communities or compete for the same resources.
- IHC can help Canada's judiciary understand and engage with Canadian law.
- The 'band' is the entity that deals with the Crown; it is not 'the community'.
- The IHC must exhibit clarity in communicating who will do what.
- The IHC can provide value by contributing to international conversations, watching and leveraging expertise.
- The IHC should be part of an alliance of like-minded organizations. The word 'alliance' is more powerful than 'circle'.
- The IHC should be informed by the work of other groups – it should not replace them.

## Participants

### Facilitator and IHC Directors

Tyrone McNeil	Facilitator
Karen Aird	Director, IHC
Don Bain	Director, IHC
Julie Harris	Director, IHC

### Participants

Alice Storey, Archaeology	Leah Best, Royal British Columbia Museum
Alissa Cherry, UBC Archivist	Leslie Kemp, Social Work Consultant
Amber Ridington, Anthropologist	Lisa Nathan, UBC, Assistant Professor, First Nations Concentration
Anna Gilmer, Law Student	Margaretta James, Land of Maquinna Cultural Society
Anna Kazantseva, NRC Scientist (Languages)	Marnie Burnham, Library and Archives Canada
Annie Booth, UNBC Archivist	Melissa Banovich, Parks Canada - Coastal BC
Caleigh Garland, Office of Joyce Murray, MP	Melissa Knight, Royal British Columbia Museum
Cathi Charles Wherry, First Peoples Cultural Council	Morgen Smith, Yukon Heritage Resources Board
Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation	Patricia Ormerod, University of British Columbia
Chief Judy Wilson, Neskolinth Indian Band	Patricia Raymond-Adair, Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre
Claire Forsyth, Indigenization Group	Paula Thorogood, Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources
Clarence Pennier, Stó:lō Tribal Council	Paul Gravett, Heritage BC
Diane Hinkley, Cowichan Tribal Council	Rachel Bickel, Indigenization group
Donald Luxton, Heritage Consultant	Ramona Rose, UNBC Archivist
Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn, Simon Fraser, Anthropologist	Robert Phillips, First Nations Summit
Elizabeth Shaffer, UBC Archivist	Tyrone McNeil, Stó:lō Tribal Council
Elissa Gagnon, Archaeologist	Sarah Dupont, UBC
Erica Hernandez-Read, UNBC Archivist	Susan Rowley, UBC, Anthropologist
George Nicolas, Historian, Simon Fraser University	
Jeanette Jule, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc	
Jillian Rousselle, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources	
Johanna Smith, Library and Archives Canada	
Katherine Dunster, British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects /	

**Participant Bios (Everyone was asked to provide a bio; these were the ones we received)**

**Chief Dalton Silver** has been a member of Sumas First Nation Council for approximately 26 years and has been serving as Chief for 14 years. Culture and Heritage has been one of his portfolios since first elected to Council. He has been a member of The House of Respect Caretaking Committee with The Sto:lo for over a decade and has been actively pursuing the protection of sacred areas during this time. He contributed to an agreement by way of an MOU with provincial government in April 2017 to protect and preserve Lightning Rock area.

**Sue Rowley** works at UBC in the Department of Anthropology and the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at the University of British Columbia. She is a member of the Laboratory of Archaeology at UBC where she is the lead for the Journey Home – a proactive repatriation project. She is also the chair of the repatriation committee at the Museum of Anthropology. Sue was a member of the curatorial team for *časnaʔəm*, the city before the city and co-curated the exhibition at MOA.

**Paula Thorogood**, Archaeology Branch Manager for BC, has been in her role since October 2016. She has been with the Branch since 2012. Ms. Thorogood directs the Permitting and Assessment program to encourage and facilitate the management of archaeological sites, ensuring appropriate cultural resource management. She also oversees the development, implementation, and maintenance of a province-wide register of heritage resource information. A Professional Archaeologist since 2005, Paula has worked throughout the province and New Zealand.

**Melissa Banovich** is the Historic Sites Manager within the Coastal British Columbia Field Unit for Parks Canada. She oversees several historic sites which include Fort Langley National Historic Site, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Steveston, Richmond as well as Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site on Vancouver Island. Melissa is also the regional contact for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board program with Parks Canada, which advises on the commemoration of nationally significant aspects of Canada's history be it a site, event or person of national historic significance.

**Marnie Burnham** is the Manager of Regional Services at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). She holds a B.A. in Anthropology (1992), a Master's degree in Archival Studies (1996) (both from UBC) and a certificate in Public Sector Management from the University of Victoria (2014). Marnie began her career at LAC in 1998 as an archivist and has held numerous position within the organization including Manager of the Pacific Regional Service Centre and Strategic Advisor to the Director-General of the Public Services. She is currently on assignment in LAC's Strategic Research and Policy Division and serves as LAC's representative on the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives' Response to the Report on the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force.

**Johanna Smith** is Director General of the Public Services Branch at Library and Archives Canada and is responsible for leading LAC's reference and consultation teams in Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver as well as overseeing Access to Information and Privacy requests, exhibitions, on-line content, and managing LAC's major access-based digitization projects and partnerships. She has worked at LAC for 10 years and has led strategic policy and legal files such as LAC's work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the acquisition of digital records and publications, as well as external communications with donors and government departments, and the development of international standards related to archives and recordkeeping. Prior to LAC, Ms. Smith worked as an archivist at the International Monetary Fund and was the archives advisor for Nova Scotia. She holds a Masters in Information Studies from the University of Toronto.

**Jillian Rousselle** has been acting in the Director, Archaeology Branch role since April 2017. Jillian came to the branch from her previous role as Director, Executive Operations in the Deputy Minister's Office. Jillian has been with the BC Public Service since 2007 and has held a number of positions in the natural resource sector. Jillian has an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Simon Fraser University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Victoria.

**George Nicholas**, professor of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University, directed the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IPinCH) Project (2008–2016). He developed and directed SFU's Indigenous Archaeology Program in Kamloops (1991–2005), and has worked closely with the Secwepemc and other First Nations in British Columbia, and Indigenous groups worldwide. In 2013, he received the inaugural “Partnership Impact Award” from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

**Erica Hernández-Read**, M.A.S. is an archivist with the Northern BC Archives and Special Collections at the University of Northern British Columbia who has spent the last 16 years working in the fields of archives and artifact collections management. Ms. Hernández-Read is a passionate advocate for participatory and community archiving and for providing for the inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented peoples within Canada's archival system. She is a member of the Indigitization Program Steering Committee, the BC Bibliography Project and the Prince George Heritage Commission. She is Chair of the Association of Canadian Archivists' Special Interest Section on Aboriginal Archives, and Chair of the Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives.

**Donald Luxton** is principal of Donald Luxton & Associates Inc., a western Canadian heritage and cultural resource management firm. Over the last thirty years his wide-ranging career has included the development of municipal planning programs, the restoration of heritage buildings, and the development of significant cultural facilities. Donald's expertise, interest and accomplishments as an author, educator and practitioner have been recognized and acknowledged through numerous awards, including the Heritage Canada Achievement Award in 2003 and a number of literary prizes. Recently, he has been the lead consultant on the City of Vancouver Heritage Action Plan. His previous projects include the Nisga'a Museum in Northern BC, opened in 2011; and acting as the Cultural Heritage Advisor for the Royal BC Museum Masterplan in 2013-15. He is also a professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, and sits on the Board of its BC Chapter.

**Cathi Charles Wherry** is Anishinaabe (Rama Mnjikaning, Ontario), on her Father's side, and British/Irish/West European on her Mother's. Since 1979 she has lived on beautiful Coast Salish territory, and now lives in WSANEC with her husband Andy. A graduate of the Visual Arts Program at Camosun College (1991), she also holds a BFA with Honours in Studio Arts from the University of Victoria (1994). As a visual artist Cathi has participated in numerous group shows, and has had three solo exhibitions. From 2010 – 2013 she served on the Kakaekwewin Aboriginal Advisory for Canada Council for the Arts. Since 1996, Cathi has served as Art Programs Manager for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, a First Nations directed organization that supports First Nations and Indigenous languages, arts and cultures in British Columbia. Through her work at FPCC she has devoted herself to advocacy, and generating and delivering resources to support the vitality of Indigenous arts.

**Lisa Nathan**, Assistant Professor, First Nations Concentration, is a settler of German-Jewish heritage living and working on Musqueam's traditional, ancestral and unceded territory. She is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (the iSchool @ UBC). She runs the Sustaining Information Practices Studio and serves on the steering committee for the Indigitization Project.

As head of Knowledge, **Leah Best** drives the strategic direction of the museum's curatorial team in alignment with the vision and values of the Royal BC Museum and in collaboration with other divisional teams. Among other responsibilities, Leah's team provides exceptional stewardship of the Royal BC Museum's human and natural history collections, produces scholarly interdisciplinary research that advances understanding of the museum and archives' collections, and generates creative ideas and rich content for audience-focused public programs, exhibitions and websites.

**Annie Booth** is a professor in Environmental Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, BC. She has been fortunate to collaborate with and learn from West Moberly First Nations, Halfway First Nation, Sauteau First Nations, and Tl'azt'en Nation in BC as well as Nations in Wisconsin in the USA.

**Anna Kazantseva** is a Research Officer working for the National Research Council. She is a part of the team that works on creating software for the revitalization and preservations of the Indigenous languages of Canada. Anna received a Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics from the University of Ottawa in 2014 and has been working on creating various language-related software since 2004.

**Amber Ridington** is a folklorist with experience producing collaborative museum exhibits, digital archives and documentaries. As a heritage consultant she works closely with First Nations and community groups to help document and conserve cultural practices. Her doctoral work in folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland examines *Dane-zaa* (northern Athabaskan) peoples use of new technologies for the curation and innovation of their dreamers' song tradition. She has published on a range of oral history and heritage topics in a number of articles and book chapters.

**Alissa Cherry** is the Research Manager at the UBC Museum of Anthropology (MOA). She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and holds an MLIS from UBC. Prior to joining MOA in 2014, Alissa managed the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Resource Centre, worked for both the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society and *Xwi7xwa* Library, and was librarian in Yellowstone National Park. <http://moa.ubc.ca/library-archives/>

**Leslie Kemp** is an experienced community organizer, facilitator, writer and editor. Her interest in Indigenous history, culture and social justice has infused her work over many years. This includes co-founding / organizing a BC Community Development Institute (1995-1999), Coordinator of Langara College's Sustainable Communities Program and work in Nunavut from 2012-2015 as Coordinator of a 3-year training program for Inuit School Community Counsellors. Her current focus is developing learning materials related to Truth, Healing and Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.