

# BCAFN ROUND 2 DIALOGUE SESSION

## Definitions of Economic Reconciliation

### EQUALITY

Economic Reconciliation means... our citizens having the same standard of living/quality of life as others enjoy in the territory. It means industry recognizing First Nations as partners in development and that we are on an equal footing with industry and on an enhanced level with government. To be equal partners, we need to have a relationship built on a foundation of respect. Both parties need to have equal status at the table with equal decision making abilities. In this, there exists a level playing field for economic and enterprise development.

### TITLE & RIGHTS

Economic reconciliation means... First Nations having control and jurisdiction in their territories which makes for a path to full sovereignty. This will require addressing the land base with a territorial approach rather than a reserve orientation. Doing so will allow First Nations to have a legitimate piece of the economic pie based on the acknowledgement of title and rights. A title and rights based approach to economic reconciliation will involve access to capital, access to resources, revenue/resource sharing, and an Aboriginal Resource Tax.

### COMMUNITY & CITIZENS

Economic Reconciliation means... making space for our social and cultural practices. Sustainable economic development isn't just about creating more revenue. It is about practicing the "art of the long view" when focusing on the economy and not just necessarily economic development to ensure that future generations benefit from economic development opportunities. It requires meaningful engagement to be undertaken with communities and ensuring that culture is included. The integration of traditional First Nation economic practices and the creation of opportunities for people to engage in business is critical. It is about creating opportunities for our people and supporting, promoting, and investing in First Nations communities.

### RELATIONSHIPS

Economic reconciliation means... building relationships founded on trust. This means having relationships that lead to healing, growing, and community engagement. Our people must be part of the plan so that the plan reflects their strengths and desires. Improving relationships will reverse the purposeful exclusion of First Nations in resource development. This will be to everyone's benefit, as when First Nations prosper, BC will prosper. Balanced partnerships and relationships with the government will create meaningful discussions that will result in tangible benefits.

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## Indicators of Economic Reconciliation

### ECONOMY

An indicator of economic reconciliation will be when... First Nations are positioned to be generating an economy as opposed to economic development. To get to this place, consistency in engagement across industries and a level playing field are essential. We will be there when there is fair revenue sharing and a fair share of the benefits from resources. This will be achieved when First Nations are occupying the field through capacity development and have the resources to negotiate IBA's, create start-ups, and establish our own institutions, policies and procedures.

### CULTURE

An indicator of economic reconciliation will be when... industry and government understands us as a people, respects who we are and our laws, and when we are advancing our culture and going back to our teachings. This will be achieved when our cultural activities are part of the economy. Success of economic reconciliation will be measured by our ability to make sure that we have healthy communities and members and that in ensuring that our traditions are respected and incorporated into the strategy that our people are meaningfully engaged (no one gets left behind).

### INCLUSION

An indicator of economic reconciliation will be when... there is a shift from First Nations being only "invited" to being "included". Businesses and government must overcome their fears of working in partnership with First Nations for when we are successful, the regional economies that we are in are successful too. This will be achieved when everyone is on the same page and we have eliminated the fear and misunderstandings, which often take place between government, industry, and First Nations.

### OWNERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

An indicator of economic reconciliation will be when... there is a secure land base and First Nations never 'stand down' on their title and rights. We must address the land question. Certainty on the land base, particularly in light of the Tsilhqot'in SCC decision and the issues of the reserve system, is paramount to moving forward. This starts with government and industry respecting the court cases and legal decisions concerning title and rights. It will also require changing the rules that have been set in place that are hindering progress.

