

Saturday January 27 Summit Working Groups: 1110 - 1230 and 130 - 330

1. **Solidarity with First Nations' Legal Actions** Repeat Morning and Afternoon

What are the key legal challenges related to Site C? The history, what's happening now, the longer-term view? The downstream impact of the dam. Significance of the Blueberry First Nation case regarding cumulative impact. How can we best support legal challenges? How can we influence the way governments respond to FN legal challenges?

Resource People

- Rob Botterell, Lawyer, Peace Valley Landowner Association
- Caleb Behn, Eh-Cho Dene and Dunne-Za, lawyer, activist and star of the documentary *Fractured Land*.

Facilitators: Galen Armstrong: Campaigner Sierra Club BC and Maxine Matalpi: Kwakiutl/ Ma'amtigila. Project lead for Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water, West Coast Environmental Law.

2. **Decolonizing: Respecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** Repeat Morning and Afternoon

The NDP government's Site C decision flies in the face of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the calls to action of the TRC, existing treaties, the Tsilhqot'in decision and indigenous law. How do we work to make such violations unacceptable? How can we ensure that decision-making and processes for projects like Site C respect the full range of rights of indigenous peoples? What can we do to ensure the BC government recognizes the impact of mega projects on First Nations women and takes measure to address gender exploitation and violence in relation to Site C. What about water governance and other upstream and downstream impacts?

Resource People:

- Craig Benjamin: Amnesty International campaigner for the Human Rights of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in Canada.
- Connie Greyeyes-Dick, Treaty 8 First Nations, Bigstone Cree Nation. Works tirelessly to bring attention to the systemic violence and recurring loss of Indigenous women in the Peace region. Played a crucial role in Amnesty 2016 report "Out of Sight, Out of Mind": Gender, Indigenous Rights and Energy Development in Northeast BC.

Also as resource people, but as participants:

- Brenda Dragon, Fort Smith FN: Slave River Coalition.
- Rebeca Macias Gimenez, Faculty of Law, Water, Innovation, and Global Governance, U Vic

Facilitators: Denise Nadeau: settler scholar activist working in the area of Indigenous settler relations and the promotion of Indigenous water law; Maryann Abbs: facilitator, organizer, herbalist, and farmer.

3. **What the hell just happened? Accountability and Democracy** Repeat Morning and Afternoon

What have we learned about the role of visible and hidden political, corporate and institutional forces which led to the Site C dam decision? NDP fear of business, rating agencies and mainstream media? Impact of Liberal appointed senior bureaucrats? Lobbyists? Party political calculations – both NDP and Greens? If this isn't the kind of decision-making process and government decisions that we want, how do we organize for greater democracy and transparency? What kind of action inside and outside of the political parties can keep Site C, Indigenous rights, and other justice issues front and centre.

Resource People

- Steve Gray, Site C Summit Co-chair
- Louise Gilfoy: Community and NDP activist in Nanaimo
- Adrienne Peacock: Involved with the Site C dam since 1981; Hired by Peace Valley Environmental Association to coordinate experts for participation in the first BCUC hearings
- George Smith: Former national conservation director for CPAWS, provided strategic support for Stop Site C campaign for over 10 years.

This workshop will repeat in the afternoon, but may also unfold into separate groups focusing on strategies and actions for working inside or from the outside to transform the New Democratic Party and

the Green Party. Perhaps a breakout group focusing on corporate mapping strategies and key pressure points may arise.

Facilitators: Maggie Ziegler: Educator, former psychotherapist, long time community activist; involved in peace building education projects in Rwanda and Central African Republic. Tara Skurr: Amnesty International Canada's Business and Human Rights Campaigner, passionate advocate for justice for victims of corporate crimes. Rob Mitchell: Communications consultant, Ecojustice ED, Board Member Sierra Club BC

4. **Right to Protest. Repeat Morning and Afternoon**

Explore the rights of dissent. We will consider the range of viable protest actions available for defending the Peace: Local actions, province – wide actions, education, direct action, etc. This group may want to divide in the afternoon between those focusing on direct action and those wanting to consider other local and provincial activities that are not direct action.

Facilitators: Rita Wong lives, works and strives for water justice on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh First Nations. Ayendri Riddell: Sri Lankan born community activist, educator and facilitator committed to challenging roots causes of inequality and environmental crisis. Amnesty International Regional Activism Coordinator.

5. **Messaging and Media Experience. Lessons for the future. Morning Only**

The mainstream media has been extraordinarily weak in holding the BC government and Hydro accountable in relation to Site C. The polling after the decision shows that we were not able to win a majority to oppose Site C, although opposition is significant. What worked in our messaging, our narrative? How important was new/alternative media? What did we learn from social media strategies. What media strategies can we take into the future that continue to defend the Peace, convince voters of the grave mistake that the NDP has made and strengthen democracy?

Resource People:

- o Emma Gilchrist, Desmog BC editor/journalist
- o Sarah Cox: Journalist, author of forthcoming book on Site C, 'Breaching the Peace'

Facilitator: Alan Dolan: Offers communications, community engagement, and facilitation services.

6. **A New Vision for BC Hydro Morning Only**

Among Site C opponents there is anger and frustration about the direction of BC Hydro and its lack of transparency. The BC government announced that a complete review of BC Hydro would be undertaken after the Site C decision was made. That raises questions: Where does BC Hydro go from here? What's the vision for a crown-owned electric utility in a time of rapid change within the electricity industry? BC Hydro needs to better serve the public interest and that of Indigenous communities. How does it get there? What about transparency and accountability?

Resource People

- o Gwen Johansson. Long time resident of Hudson's Hope. Past member BC Hydro Board.
- o Harry Swain, former Chair of Joint Review Panel on Site C, former Federal Deputy Minister

Facilitator: Johanna Scholton: Create U - Coaching and Facilitation Services; decolonized settler ally and concerned grandmother

7. **Participant Initiated Groups** These groups will be formed based on suggestions solicited from participants prior to the Saturday sessions. We will attempt to accommodate, but we have space constraints. Topics will be posted during conference.