

## **B5 - Lessons from the North: Tlicho Self Government Northwest Territories & Integrated Self-government/First Nations Planning in the Yukon**

**Presentation title:** First Nation Land Owners, Land Managers: Lessons from the Tlicho Self Government Agreement, Northwest Territories

### **Presenters:**

David Boote - David Boote Planning Services

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### **Abstract**

First Nation Land Owners, Land Managers | Lessons from the Tlicho Self Government Agreement, Northwest Territories The Tlicho Agreement is a comprehensive self-government and land claim agreement that took effect on August 4, 2005. It is one of the very few successfully negotiated modern treaties in Canada. The Tlicho Agreement returns ownership of 39,000 square kilometres of land to the Tlicho Government. Uniquely, this large land area is a near-contiguous block of land within the traditional territory of the Tlicho people, an area north and west of Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. The Tlicho Government is now responsible for the management of this land, land that was formerly managed by the federal Crown. Land management is now one of the most important functions of the Tlicho Government. The creation of a land use plan as well as the implementation of effective development control mechanisms are key tasks presently facing the Tlicho Government. The Tlicho Agreement also creates four Community Governments which, while public governments, have a Council headed by a Chief elected by all residents of the community. The Community Governments have also assumed ownership over nearly all land within their boundaries. Third party interests are protected through long-term leases and land tenure is administered by each Community Government. The presentation will be of interest to a wide range of players in the BC Treaty Negotiation Process. First Nation land ownership and land management is a reality for the Tlicho. The Tlicho Government has completed a treaty where responsibility, accountability and expectations in a broad range of land management functions are key themes. The presentation will speak to:

- The Tlicho Government's establishment of a Lands Protection department to administer its lands and oversee the management of its resources.
- The development of relationships between the Tlicho Government and regulatory bodies operating in the Northwest Territories.
- The experience in developing a land use plan for Tlicho lands and in developing and renewing community land use plans for the four Tlicho communities.
- The impact of the decision by the Tlicho Government to place a moratorium on development on Tlicho lands while its land use plan is being developed.
- Issues arising in the relationship of new governance structures, for both the Tlicho Government and the Tlicho community governments, to land management issues.
- Strategies in ensuring investor confidence in a leasehold land tenure situation, including dealings with CMHC, mortgage lenders, corporate interests and residents.

### **Speaker Biography**

David Boote M.Sc., MCIP, is a planning and community development professional with 25 years of experience. With a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning and membership of the Canadian Institute of Planners, David's traditional and non-traditional planning skills have been applied over a fifteen year period in the Northwest Territories/Nunavut, both with government and, more recently, in private practice. Representative list of clients include: Northwest Territories Aboriginal Summit; Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; Government of the Northwest Territories School of Community Government; GNWT Municipal and Community Affairs, with a focus on • Community/Strategic Planning • Land and resource management • Training and Capacity Building • Organizational structures

Paul Bachand L.L.B, has nearly 20 years practising experience as a lawyer, manager and policy advisor in a wide variety of circumstances including Registrar of Land Titles for the Northwest Territories. Paul

has served as legal advisor to government, including legal opinions and advice on numerous land claim agreements and especially the Tlicho Agreement, in which he was an instrumental member of the team dealing with lands issues in the Agreement. This included development the land tenure system for the Tlicho Agreement. He is currently in private practice has spent much of his time dealing with land claim implementation issues including the Tlicho Agreement, with a focus on implementing the transfer of assets and liabilities from Bands to the new Tlicho government, including attendant land issues.