

2010 Coast Salish Gathering
Day 3 Summary
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Introduction of Honorary Speakers-Gifts will be walked to them
Introduction of Witnesses—Give at the end of Witnessing at 5

- Shawn Yanity, Chairman, Stilliguamish Tribe
- Nolan Charles, Councilman, Muqueam Nation
- Martha Kongsgaard, Chair, Puget Sound Partnership
- Pete Murchie, US Environmental Protection Agency

Summary:

Objectives of the Day:

To come away with - goals, timelines, benchmarks, and next steps.

We must look at some things from our own perspectives because that is where we come from.

Consultation is an element of co-management. We must try and change the culture of the agencies.

We are gated from our own territory, the places we used to go since time immemorial.

Thinking about how we move forward: setting our priorities, and when we are around the table we must take the responsibility and the role we have in the CSG, the perspectives and priorities must be set from the place we come from and the knowledge that we have had for 10,000 years.

Bring the language forward, the priorities of FN's must come forward. We are continuing to go through judicial review and the legal paths are reviewed, these things appear to be a challenge to the agencies and it is seen as a lack of cooperation. Trust and duty to our community is key in the consultation process.

Hunting for us is not a sport, this is part of our lives and our sustenance. There is a difference of culture and a way of thinking that comes forward in discussions. Our relationship with the environment was given to our ancestors through the Creator, and we have a duty to take care of this since it is our gift.

We are always battling the legal system, and we must stand together.

Having the Steering Committee come to Seabird Sto:lo to talk about the things that are important to us. Have vision statement and goals and objectives in our own language.

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Ask Tom Sampson to be a speaker at the commission. Coordinate with Deb who will attend the Gathering.

We have the foundations in ourselves and in the agencies that are attending the Gatherings. The direction must come from the Gathering to set the wheels in motion and we need to do this within the community. Creating one sustainable work plan, and bring back sustainable environments within our territories. We want to have a say in the territory.

You have to have hope, because if we do not have hope we have lost the battle. What small victories can we bring back to the table as a sharing item.

Youth needs to hear the words. We must create a space for knowledge transfer from generation to generation. This is part of who we are. Pool knowledge together and share it. Look for opportunities that fit in with our traditional ways and expand on that and teach non-native people how to support what we need.

Nurture our Youth.

Solution based on ways that we can meet in the middle and compromise to work together. We would like to challenge each other to go green. Look at language, english is noun based (person, place, thing) and this is how it looks at value. Our language is verb based so it is about action. Cultural, legal, political and when the land hurts the people hurts. Alienation of our land is the impediment - we can not hunt and gather like we did in the old way, and this makes huge segments of our language become obsolete. Need for profit is something that is compelling governments, but to us wealth is the sharing of resources. Western models are imposed on us and it is not in harmony with the land. We see that it is not in harmony because of the state of the land. Indicators - we knew these because we saw the frogs, the bees, the butterflies and how they act on the land.

Adaptation versus assimilation. There are so many things that have reminded us of the catalysts of change. We have been through these things before but change should not come at our expense. We do not ask permission we assert our rights.

We are reaffirming our ties and unifying and this is something that has been in our history through our grandparents and our ancestors. We must talk truth before we come to reconciliation. Stick to our truth and transformation. What we do today will some day be tradition.

Wa chew yuu,
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