



**NORTHWEST TRIBAL TREATY NATIONS**  
**Economic Strategy Initiative Regional Forum - West**  
**Terrace, British Columbia**

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Two groups answered questions 1-3 separately and feedback was given for questions 4 and 5 as a whole.

**ISSUE #1 – What are the biggest issues and challenges for your community to create sustainable wealth for your community?**

**GROUP 1:**

- Lack of education/public school system challenges (6)
- Infrastructure/remoteness of area/transportation costs (3)
- Gap between traditionalist and economist within the communities is large (1)
- Developing formal relationships/partnerships among/between Aboriginal communities and non aboriginal communities early on in the process not after the decisions are made (2)
- Move away from reliance on fishing and forestry: Diversify the economy (4)
- Bureaucracy a challenge (4)
- Separate politics and business (4)
- Competition among/within communities. Should work together. (3)
- Create a “protective body” for the good of the whole
- Business segregated by ethnic ownership while no other groups are. Discrimination (10)
- Lack of support within the community (1)
- Identify an economical market. Increase awareness of value of local fish ie: pinks and employ locals thru increased price/value added (2)
- Limited opportunities within communities
- Opportunities missed by Bureaucratic time lags ie: funding issues (5)
- Drug and alcohol problems require support from outside the community for social concerns. History of abuse just starting to surface – hindering movement in community (residential school impacts) – resources required for healing (3)
- Revenue sharing/seed money required. Need to dialogue with each other to get the best out of treaty process: community to community/nation to nation (2)
- Basic business support for management/start-up (1)
- Community needs to support community based businesses and surrounding communities (1)
- Need to make communities like Terrace aware of the support surrounding communities, provide business and demand to be treated with respect (1)
- Politicians need to develop bylaws to take personality bias out of business
- Perception that INAC controls/drives community: this needs to change. Community needs to drive/control business (1)
- Labelled (1)
- The government and industry is resistant to change (2)
- Institutions need to educate themselves on First Nations business and processes. Be aware of challenges within Band Council system that don't work with traditional business practices i.e. can't mortgage a home/cash flow (3)

- Politics need to promote change to create fair business practices on reserve.
- Need to build trust among various organizations and communities; need accountability and communication to flow better/faster to local communities (6)

### **RANKING:**

1. Business segregated by ethnic ownership while no other groups are: discrimination (10)
2. Lack of education/public school system challenges (6)
3. Need to build trust among various organizations and communities; need accountability and communication to flow better/faster to local communities (6)
4. Opportunities missed by Bureaucratic time lags i.e. funding issues (5)
5. Move away from reliance on fishing and forestry: Diversify the Economy (4)
6. Bureaucracy a challenge (4)
7. Separate politics and business (4)

### **GROUP 2:**

- Infrastructure on reserves
- Lack of control over lands
- Lack of financial and natural resources (4)
- Unity is an issue- not there (2)
- Trained people – don't have - don't have capacity or resources to train people we need (14)
- If an opportunity arises don't have the capacity to react or to capitalize (1)
- Continue to separate business and politics (4)
- Development of proper economic plans and strategies (4)
- We've been seen as a separate group – First Nations economies have been seen as separate – Not integrated – Seen as unfair competition i.e. tourism – has to be integrated and linked with other initiatives happening in the region.
- Political will is necessary for plans to be implemented (2)
- Federal and provincial bureaucracies interpret treaty inaccurately
- Need long term tenures for resources (8)
- Economic Development = change mindset from job creation to creation of wealth(5)
- Achieve a balance between change and tradition – develop a cultural match – remain traditional yet incorporate western strategies and thinking (2)
- Keep dollars local – support your own
- Communication is paramount in the process of change
- INAC is a limitation and a barrier (3)
- Stuck in a cycle of dependency (3)
- Some communities are just not ready for change
- Lack of a community vision (crab pot analogy) (3)
- Non-native financial institutions view First Nations as “high risk”(5)
- Geographic challenges – isolated communities – transport, marketing etc. (1)
- Low self esteem (1)
- Feeling of inferiority (1)
- Not involved in policy forums that effect us (1)
- Band council authority is limited to the reserve by Indian Act (7)
- Need to change the agenda from dependency to Nation building (5)

□ Always under funded – never get the dollars needed – perpetuating the dependency (9)

**RANKING:**

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2. Always under funded – never get the dollars needed – perpetuating the dependency (9)
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**ISSUE #2 - What are the best and most promising opportunities for creating sustainable economic activities in your community?**

**GROUP 1:**

- Fishing (7)
- Mushrooms (3)
- Assets and Powers within Treaty (5)
- Wind farm Energy (2)
- Cruise ship
- Eco Tourism (6)
- Retail (3)
- Internet Shopping
- Call centre opportunity
- Agriculture (4)
- Aqua culture
- Native Culture (6)
- Marine Eco Tourism (1)
- Hospitality Industry – B&B, Hotel, camping (3)
- Cottage Industry – Home based
- Casino/Bingo Hall (7)
- Tourism Packaging (regional) including adventure (2)
- Communication Tech services – Global market access – deal with issues of education, social, health (4)
- Value – added Forestry (2)
- Partnerships in Mining and Oil Industries (4)
- To bring local communities together and work towards a common goal (3)
- First Nations Medicine (3)

**RANKING:**

1. Fishing (7)
2. Casino/Bingo Hall (7)
3. Native Culture (6)
4. Eco Tourism (6)
5. Assets and Powers within Treaty (5)
6. Communication Tech services – Global market access – deal with issues of education, social, health (4)
7. Partnerships in Mining and Oil Industries (4)
8. Agriculture (4)

**GROUP 2:**

- Cultural Tourism opportunities (18)
- Forestry (12)
- Botanical forest products i.e. mushrooms (3)
- Fisheries – value added, guiding sport fishing, shellfish aquaculture (9)
- Mining opportunities (1)

- Gaming (3)
- Water export (1)
- Big game hunting – guiding
- Integrated resource management concepts – don't develop one resource to sacrifice another (1)
- Supply services – office buildings and construction (2)
- House building
- Joint ventures (8)
- Micro hydro opportunities (1)
- Taking over infrastructure development (1)
- Development of parks (4)
- Cultural centre – tell people what First Nations are doing (1)
- Recreation industry: golf course etc (3)
- Destination resorts or opportunities (10)
- Transportation depot – storage facility (1)
- Manufacturing (1)
- Cruise ship industry (2)
- Container port – opportunity (2)

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2. Forestry (12)
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4. Fisheries – value added, guiding sport fishing, shellfish aquaculture (9)
5. Joint ventures (8)

**ISSUE #3 - What strengths/assets/favourable positions do you have that will allow you to effectively take advantage of these opportunities and turn them into sustainable business ventures?**

**GROUP 1:**

- Untouched wilderness (4)
- Manpower and youth to teach people skills/educate (4)
- Resources – natural, monetary and human (8)
- Finalization of system and power of government in place and recognized (1)
- Location (for some) is good for retail (2)
- Traditional values and culture (6)
- Transportation system being upgraded (4)
- To build infrastructure for broadband and global communication (6)
- Being the majority within and around community and creating awareness of culture through power
- Permanent residents – stability with knowledge of land use and resources of area (3)
- Court cases i.e. meaningful consultation (3)
- FN Culture promotes retail opportunities i.e. fish/food processing/ smokehouses (10)
- Transportation – freight i.e. maintenance and rights of way clearing (2)
- Niche marketing i.e. for First Nations Culture
- Ability to self govern and control own assets/land use (6)
- Local people want to be stewards of the land (5)

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3. Ability to self govern and control own assets/land use (6)
4. Traditional values and culture (6)
5. To build infrastructure for broadband and global communication (6)
6. Local people want to be stewards of the land (5)
7. Untouched wilderness (4)
8. Manpower and youth to teach people skills/educate (4)
9. Transportation system being upgraded (4)

**GROUP 2:**

- For resource based activities – located in close proximity (9)
- Unlimited potential for almost anything (9)
- In the position to create joint ventures (4)
- Each community has control over their resources and what happens to them (1)
- Recent court cases have confirmed FN rights on territory – accommodation consultation, economic opportunities, revenue sharing etc. (7)
- Technology/e-commerce (8)
- Aboriginal business programs – planning development, implementation (3)
- INAC programs – money to investigate opportunity, possibilities
- Culture traditions and history (15)

- Huge un-tapped, young labour pool (6)
- Opportune time (3)
- Un-tapped market places (1)
- Our strength – young leaders emerging (11)

**RANKING:**

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**ISSUE #4 - What barriers are present that would prevent you from effectively taking advantage of these economic opportunities and turn them into sustainable business ventures?**

- Indian Affairs rules, regulations and policies (6)
- Overall internal and external uncertainties
- Government is preventing us from exercising our right to the land (2)
- Overcome political differences within communities, between communities (14)
- Treat business as business – business and politics must be separate (15)
- Limited funding for business start-up (9)
- Fear – afraid to start
- Lack of planning
- Have plans but implementation is not there (3)
- Economic development departments don't have enough personnel/skills and resources (7)
- No mechanisms to work together (1)
- No inter-nation cooperative
- Tend to be defensive and say “no”
- We don't view ourselves the same way as everyone else does. We are all independent Nations- each community goes their own separate way
- Cultural differences within First Nations
- Merits of proposals are lost because of discrimination (1)
- Aboriginal communities are harder on each other than non-Aboriginal communities (12)
- We don't have the population base to rely on for our businesses
- Need to trust one another – don't have this – no respect or trust (10)
- Two year turn over of elected officials often means re-starting and re-implementation (2)
- Working capital is missing – businesses can't survive – working capital for 1-2 years
- Improve Government structure so it doesn't get in the way of business (3)
- No incentive based pay for people providing development services – success should be based on profit (1)
- Lack of information sharing and networking (8)
- Struggle to separate the governance of the community from the business development of the community (2)
- No housing market for personal capital
- First Nations assets lack value in the mainstream economy (5)
- Create mechanism to deal with barriers in housing market

**RANKING:**

1. Treat business as business – business and politics must be separate (15)
2. Overcome political differences within communities, between communities (14)
3. Aboriginal communities are harder on each other than non-Aboriginal communities (12)
4. Need to trust one another – don't have this – no respect or trust (10)
5. Limited funding for business start-up (9)
6. Lack of information sharing and networking (8)
7. Economic development departments don't have enough personnel/skills and resources (7)
8. Indian Affairs rules, regulations and policies (6)

**ISSUE #5 - How might we effectively work together to realize our common goal of creating sustainable wealth for all First Nations communities in the North?**

- Information sharing and communication i.e. conferences (19)
- Share dreams/aspirations i.e. CED plans etc
- Power in numbers – Organization in the north – “who you know, not what you know” (1)
- Northwest Economic Corporation (2)
- Scale of economy with a larger organization
- Investment consulting and brokerage (13)
- Elect 2 MP’s – One in West one in East (12)
- Work together so we do have political power
- Try to determine both levels of governments strategy and how we fit into that (1)
- Analysis and sharing of the sectoral opportunities there may be (1)
- Development of a political strategy – lobby effort (2)
- Use technology to keep in touch with each other – communication (1)
- Pool with Northern Nations of Resources and skills – Human Resource Inventory (13)
- Common bowl philosophy (12)
- Mutual respect and understanding (4)
- Need to be able to promote ourselves i.e. public education – establish credibility (8)
- Raise expectations of community members done through interaction, community education
- Work on making healthy communities (8)
- Mechanism/systems for feedback and monitoring
- Work on relationships with every one in our communities – Non-Native organizations, MLA’s and Mayors (4)

**RANKING:**

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Participants:

1. Gerald D. Wesley	NWTT Co-chair
2. Kenneth Whyte	NWTT Project Director
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4. Paula Peinsznski	16/37 CFDC
5. Donna Ground-Hill	EDO, Gitxaala Nation
6. Chief Ken Russell	Gitsegukla Band Council
7. Jack Sebastian	Band Manager, Gitsegukla Band Council
8. Vanessa Shirley	Councillor, Gitanyow Band Council
9. Chief Tony Morgan	Gitanyow Band Council
10. Alvin E. Nelson	EDO, Gingolx Village Government
11. Edward Clayton	Comm. Dev Coordinator, New Aiyansh
12. Kathleen Clayton	New Aiyansh Village Government
13. William Moore	Laxgaltsap Development Corporation
14. Mel Bevan	NWTT Director & Kitselas First Nation
15. Norman Johnson	Gitxsan
16. Edmond Wright	Nisga'a Lisims Government
17. Chief Nelson Leeson	Laxgaltsap Village Government
18. Chief Brian Tait	New Aiyansh Village Government
19. Mel Stevens	Laxgaltsap Forest Company LTD
20. Chief Nelson Clayton	Gingolx Village Government
21. Richard Leeson	Business Analyst, Tricorp
22. Frank Parnell	Chief Executive Officer, Tricorp

23. Jim Dopson	ABC External Delivery Officer, Tricorp
24. Joe Gosnell Jr.	Executive Director, New Aiyansh
25. Anna-Marie Johnson	Gitwangak First Nation
26. T.J. Esquire	Taku River Tlingit
27. Ernie Gerow	Councillor, Kitsumkalum Band Council
28. Mamie Wesley	Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell First Nation)
29. Jake Bernard	Gitanyow Band Council
30. George Cooley	Councillor, Kitsumkalum Band Council
31. Wilfred Bennett	Councillor, Kitselas Band Council
32. Chief Glenn Bennett	Kitselas Band Council
33. Gerald Nyce	Gitwinksihlkw (Canyon City)
34. Edward Derrick Sr.	EDO, Gitanyow Band Council
35. Brian Martin	Councillor, Gitanyow Band Council
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37. Chief Jerry Asp	NWTT Director & Tahltan Nation
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