

Community to Community

March 5, 2021

Co-hosted by the Comox Valley Regional District and K'ómoks First Nation

This event brings together elected officials and their senior staff to continue to develop a cooperative and collaborative government-to-government relationship that supports ongoing dialogue and partnerships now and in the future.

Melissa Quocksister - Facilitator

Melissa Quocksister is a member of the K'ómoks First Nation, of Northern Coast Salish ancestry, has relations from Nuu-chah-nulth and Southern Salish Nations and is married into a Laich-kwil-tachs family. Melissa's interest in the Treaty process evolved from an early age through watching her grandfather Ernie Hardy Sr, who was elected Chief for 24 years, begin the process.

From 2013-2019, Melissa served as a Councillor for K'ómoks First Nation. Melissa is currently the owner of Quocksister Consulting, specializing in Communications and Community Engagement and has worked with many nations throughout BC since 2011.



Jessica Wood, ADM - Keynote Speaker

Jessica Wood, known as Si Sityaawks – (Woman who creates change), is from the Gitksan and Tsimshian First Nations with extended roots among the Tahltan and Nisga'a Nations. Currently serving as Assistant Deputy Minister for the Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division, Jessica is leading British Columbia's cross-ministry work to adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (The Declaration), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and learnings from the relevant case law such as the Tsilhqot'in decision. As part of this transformation she has led, in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council, the development of legislation to implement the UN Declaration in provincial law.

The Declaration Act received Royal Assent in November of 2019. Now her Division is leading the development of the Provincial Action Plan to support implementation.

Merle Alexander, QC - Keynote Speaker

Merle Alexander is a hereditary chief of Kitsoo Xai'xais First Nation, Principal at Miller Titerle, father of two powerful little boys, Liam and Eli, husband of Tamara Napoleon (literally a star in her own right), practitioner of Indigenous resource law and most recently part of the co-development team for the Declaration of the Rights on Indigenous Peoples Act.



K'ómoks First Nation



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