## Fostering a New Relationship

Learning from the Past for the Future

G. Merkel, nadi' denezā, kyak'xunik June 13, 2019



### Opening Thoughts...

- This is more of a **HUMAN** journey than a **LEGAL TECHNICAL** journey
- It is easy to:
  - Over-think
  - Make mistakes
  - Have push and shove
  - Be intolerant
  - Be emotional
  - Be human
- We have a lot more in common than we have differences
  - Land, family, life, fun...

### The Environment



- This vision ("BC's vision most literate, lead the way in healthy living and physical fitness, best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors, lead the world in sustainable environmental management, create more jobs per capita) can only be achieved if First Nations citizens attain these goals.
- States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- The Province wants to renew its relationship with Indigenous peoples in BC, and affirms its desire to achieve a government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and exercise of Aboriginal title and rights and to the reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions.

## How did we get here?

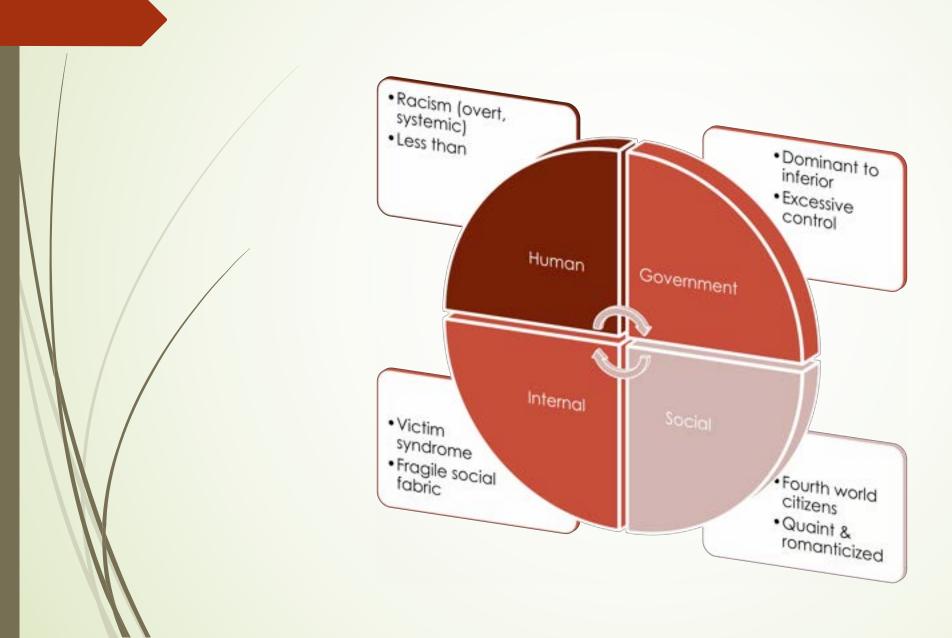
Collaborative fur Strong Settlement interdependence industry Development of Paradigm shift Confederation government (Dumb Indian) systems Decolonization Established Post-(change systems (on old confederation thinking, update paradigm) systems) Not capable of integrating into Less than

society

Not capable of building an organized and sophisticated society

Joint societies

## Colonization, relationships & perceptions



Post-confederation Paradigm Government(s)
Government(s)
First Nations Governments) Common Goals Untrustworthy The Enemy Inept Common **Authoritarian** Incapable Blame Guilt Disrespectful **Understanding** Subordinate Manipulative Unstable This generalization can be extended more generally to society

## We all live in this paradigm

SO

Getting past the guilt & blame

Change needs to happen

on ALL SIDES

in EVERY AREA

Provided for illustrative purposes – not necessarily complete or properly categorized

#### Mend Community

- Community wellness (physical, mental, spiritual, intellectual)
- Personal healing
- Education (FAS)



- Apologies
- Healing
- Build new understandings
- Build trust
- Spend time

Self Government
Happens in the Mind
Long Before
It Becomes Reality



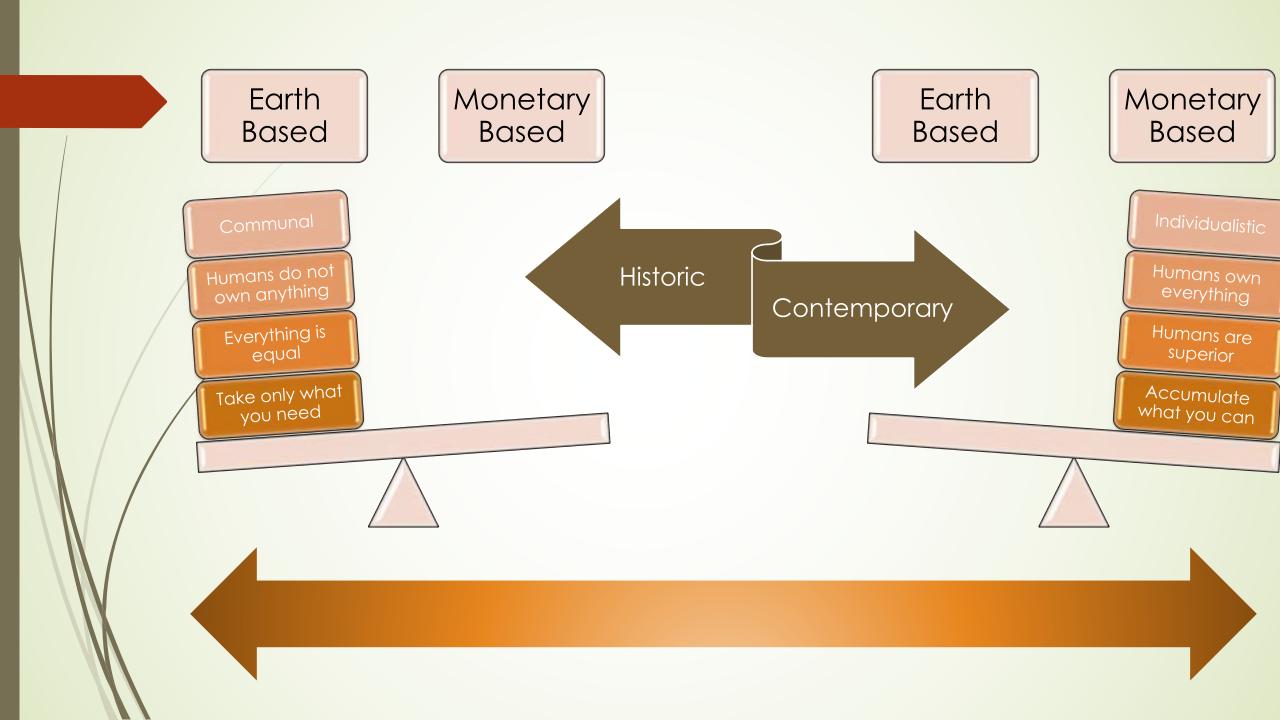
# Reconciliation = Making Things Right



- Back to the land
- Fostering economic opportunities
- Revenue sharing

#### Effective Governance

- Recognition
- Balancing power
- Support training
- Update systems
- Joint stewardship



### Cultural Fit?

- Core beliefs / religion / culture law
  - aknumuf'ti‰i‰ Law of the land
  - aknumuf'ti‰is Law given to humans to abide by aknumuf'ti‰i‰
- Collaborative Stewardship / co-management
  - Core responsibility as an extension of culture law

VS.

Fulfillment of consultation obligations

### Reconciliation Targets: Collaborative Stewardship

Subject Area	First Nation	Joint	Community Forest
Paradigm shift	<ul><li>Band &gt;&gt; Nation</li><li>Victim &gt;&gt; adequacy</li><li>Marginalized &gt;&gt; part of</li></ul>	• Implement CS models	<ul><li>Stakeholder &gt;&gt; government</li><li>Obligations &gt;&gt; Principles</li></ul>
Building understanding	<ul> <li>Learn larger community and way of doing business</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Joint information sessions &amp; research on other's practise</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Learn indigenous approaches (models)</li> </ul>
Create tools	<ul> <li>Build local knowledge data base</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Integrate data systems (maintaining confidentiality</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Share land information</li><li>Explain planning and engagement tools</li></ul>

### Snok

- Community as a whole
- Say "Hello"
- Who's territory?
- Build FNs understanding
- Analyze behavior (monitor, expose, understand)
- Integrate indigenous knowledge by position

Isinamowin: The Whiteman's Indian

# 7axas

(That's it)

Medu

(Thank you)

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