

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



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### Women in Leadership Dialogue Session

January 27, 2020

On January 24, 2020 the BC Assembly of First Nations' Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Louisa Housty-Jones welcomed 150 delegates and presenters to the 3rd Women in Leadership Dialogue Session. Chiefs, Councilors, traditional and hereditary leadership, matriarchs, elders, youth, administrators, community leaders, grassroots activists, and front-line service providers gathered to gain strength by truthfully examining the challenges faced by women and gender-diverse individuals in leadership and by celebrating successes in a spirit of mutual partnership.

The day was full of dynamic speakers and conversation. Many political leaders reflected on the struggle to persevere against lateral violence. They spoke to the importance of surrounding yourself with a supportive community, and shared strategies for creating positive change in persistent issues like gender-based discrimination and bullying. Community, government, and grassroots leaders also discussed their work to eliminate violence against women, sharing vision and creating awareness. Others shared their experience in building community capacity and economic development. We also honoured the Women's Declaration that was borne out of our first two Dialogue Sessions, and invited comments on how this document can be built upon to be made more inclusive and impactful.

With such a diverse set of leaders present unique experiences, cultures, skills, interests, and visions for how to create positive change were assembled. This helps make First Nations women strong. Many were deeply encouraged by the spirit of respect, curiosity, and commitment to how we can support one another as we lead in our various realms.

BCAFN invites everyone to join in reading the forthcoming report on the Dialogue Session, including a summary of comments received regarding the Women's Declaration.

The planning and implementation of this event was supported by BCAFN Women's Representative Louisa Housty-Jones, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper, Dr. Gwen Point, Chief Councilor Marilyn Slett, and Chief Rebecca David. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success, and BCAFN looks forward to our next Dialogue Session!

Sarah Froese  
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#honouringour



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