

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is the report of the Post-*Delgamuukw* Capacity Panel, which examined opportunities for enhancing British Columbia First Nations' capacity to manage land and resource issues in a post-*Delgamuukw* world. The Panel approached its task from a holistic perspective, incorporating within the concept of capacity building factors relating to social, political and economic development of First Nations. As such, the Panel's recommendations go beyond those which address purely land and resource management issues.

Those recommendations which target land and resource issues attempt to build capacity through the support and development of First Nation visions/strategic plans, traditional use studies, inventorying lands and resources within traditional territories, joint ventures and partnerships, and work experience programs with both the private and public sectors.

The Capacity Panel makes several recommendations respecting existing government practices, with the aim of encouraging a streamlined approach to the accessing of funding programs and the enhancement of First Nations' abilities in areas of financial management and accountability. Included is the involvement of First Nations in the design and implementation of government programs and processes, a one-window approach to First Nations accessing programs and services, and resourcing of First Nations to develop and implement efficient financial management systems.

In the area of human resource development, the Capacity Panel recognizes that an integral component of capacity building is the need to take steps now to not only address present capacity needs, but to invest in the future capacity of First Nations. Capacity building must be an on-going exercise. Accordingly, the Panel recommends the development of programs and services that promote and encourage children and adults to remain in school, achieve equitable success levels and career mobility, and pursue career paths which coincide with and support the ambitions of First Nations.

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The report concludes with proposals for implementing the report's recommendations. These include the establishment of a 7 - 9 member, First Nation majority, stand alone committee to review and recommend proposals for capacity building initiatives, and the utilization of an existing delivery system to maximize efficiencies and minimize administrative costs.

Contrary to its Terms of Reference, the Capacity Panel did not fully address the issue of project criteria for the evaluation of capacity initiative proposals. This was a considered decision of the Panel, which determined that it would be more appropriate for such criteria to be developed by the committee which will be struck to review and recommend projects for funding. The Panel felt that project criteria should not be prescriptive, but rather be broad enough to accommodate capacity building projects identified by a First Nation as necessary to its individual development. The Panel reasoned that the review committee would be in a better position to develop such criteria.

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For ease of reference, the Capacity Panel has addressed its Terms of Reference through the following recommendations:

	<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<b>Recommendation #</b>
1	Identify how existing programs could be modified to address the capacity building requirements of First Nations.	9, 10, 12 & 14
2	Identify program or service gaps which exist and which tend to undermine capacity building.	6 & 11
3	Identify joint or partnership opportunities which will enhance the capacity of First Nations to negotiate and implement treaties and manage lands and resources.	7 & 8
4	Identify the funding levels required to adequately resource new capacity building initiatives.	13
5	Identify obstacles to capacity building and recommend ways that those obstacles can be eliminated.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 15
6	Identify appropriate criteria and methodology for selecting those capacity building initiatives which will be supported by new funding being made available by the Federal Government.	16 & 17