

# Skeena Salmon Habitat Conference

## *The Path to Coordinated Engagement with First Nations*

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# Towards Collaborative Management

## Framework for sustainable resource management

1. Good science
2. Informed decision making
3. Sound regulatory regimes
4. Monitoring and feedback

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## Informed decision making

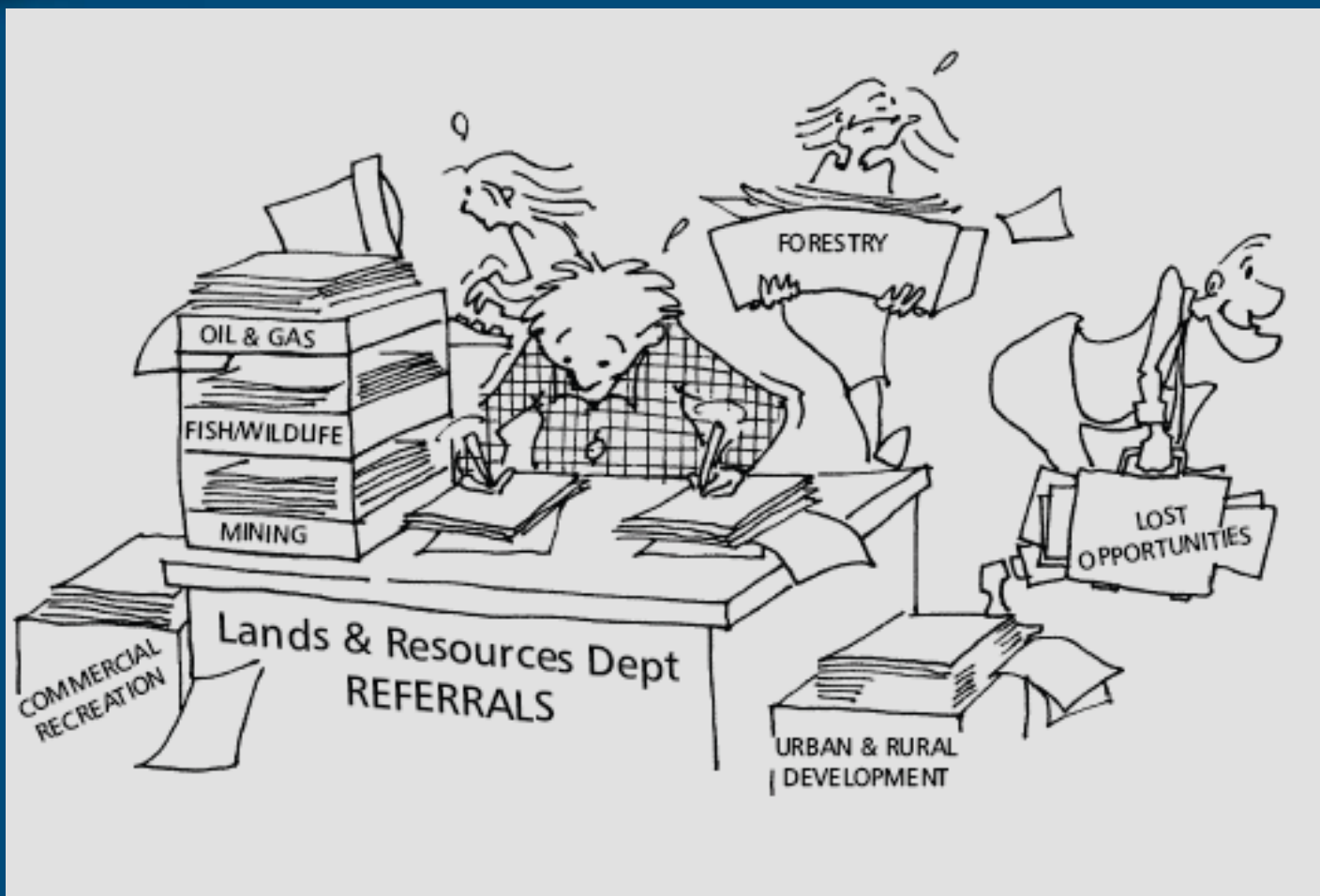
- Public and stakeholder interests
- Aboriginal interests
  - Constitutionally protected (Section 35)
    - “35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.”
  - Pre-treaty context
    - Duty to consult and accommodate

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## The Problem

1. Legislative and regulatory framework hasn't kept pace with changes in case law
  - drives the First Nation engagement process
  - inefficient and ineffective process
2. Fiscal dilemma
  - shifting demographics
  - increasing expectations
  - growing budgets for health, social services & education
  - natural resource sector agency budgets not increasing

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## **The Vision: *one land base, one management regime***

- Increase the effectiveness of public service delivery
- Coordination of people and resources

*In doing so, must*

- Ensure environmental standards and environmental sustainability
- Promote community resiliency and economic development

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## Priority areas for coordination

1. First Nations Engagement
2. Natural Resource Sector Permitting and Tenuring
3. Compliance and Enforcement
4. Administrative Boundaries

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## About ILMB First Nations Initiatives Division

1. Address the burden and ineffectiveness of consultation referrals
2. Develop new models of engagement with FNs
3. Progress on the New Relationship

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## **Examples coordinated consultation and new institutional models**

- Streamlined information flow
- Single referral/ single process (reduced transactions)
- Consultation based on project (rather than the statutory decision)
- Consultation that is ‘area based’
- Engagement driven by protocol (rather than legal framework)

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## Conclusion

- 1<sup>st</sup> step is getting our house in order
- Process is evolutionary
- Must move beyond past grievances
- Requires *trust, creativity, risk taking* and *time*
- Support organization across Nations in the northwest
- Won't solve all the problems, still require work on other fronts

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## Questions

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