



Consultation to Co-ownership - Indigenous Panel

This panel will explore how long-term, trust-based partnerships between Indigenous communities, post-secondary institutions, and industry are driving meaningful environmental outcomes. Beginning with the foundational relationship between NAIT and Peavine Métis Settlement. Moving on to the successful spill cleanup with the Lubicon Lake Band, where Indigenous leadership

directed the response. Closing with the Pigeon Lake Remediation Program — starting with the history and working through a multi-nation initiative involving four Nations.

The session will move from the principles of partnership-building through to tangible project examples, concluding with capacity-building and long-term environmental stewardship.

Moderator:

Brad Spence Trace Associates

Brad has more than 21 years of experience providing community engagement, Indigenous relations, truth and reconciliation training awareness, and facilitation services across Western Canada. Brad is a nationally recognized Indigenous Awareness Facilitator with the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB). Brad was previously an integral part of Imperial Oil's Socioeconomic Management Team and fulfilled multiple roles, including Socioeconomic Manager, Aboriginal Ombudsman, Indigenous Employment Coordinator, and Indigenous Relations Specialist. Brad has built and designed several Indigenous platforms including Indigenous policy development, led ECO Canada's Indigenous Awareness Training, and conducted trainings virtually and in person across Canada.

Brad Spence is the Principal, Indigenous Advisory at Trace. At Trace we work hard to support and train our clients about Indigenous inclusivity as a component of reconciliation efforts. We use the "Two-Eyed Seeing" approach, which includes the four components of Indigenous Inclusion: Education & Awareness, Engagement, Employment, and Business Partnerships. These components serve as our foundation to engaging and building relationships, and creating respectful, inclusive space. Indigenous Inclusion has no boundaries. Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall describes Two-Eyed Seeing as learning to see from your one eye with Indigenous ways of knowing and using your other eye to see the Western approach for the benefit of all. Brad helps our clients understand there are two perspectives, and to see both for the greater good of all.

Panelists:

Michelle Cotton

Solstice Environmental Management

Michelle Cotton has over 35 years of experience in environmental management as an environmental consultant. The first half of her career, Michelle focused primarily on assessment, remediation, and reclamation activities for upstream oil & gas activities. Based on some important learnings from working in remediation and reclamation activities, Michelle has put a huge emphasis during the last 15 years of her career on baseline ecological assessments, conservation and reclamation planning, and liability assessments, in order to help her clients, plan better developments and reduce their future liabilities. Her experience with full life cycle oil and gas environmental activities allows her to support her clients to develop and to operate in an environmentally sustainable way. It has also driven her to try to understand the relationship of Indigenous people and communities to responsible resource development. She is also interested in the integration of traditional knowledge and western science particularly in relation to the prevention and management of environmental impacts and to sustainable land use management. Michelle is an advocate for local land users who are in the best position to understand and manage the use of the land and build a better future together. Michelle believes that by protecting inherent Indigenous and Treaty Rights, we protect the environment.

Lynn Smith

Peavine Métis Settlement

Lynn is a Regional Planning Coordinator and Grant Writer at the Peavine Métis Settlement, where she collaborates with community members to promote knowledge building and data sovereignty. Her work focuses on holding industries and government accountable for their impact on Indigenous lands. Lynn's approach is marked by compassion and perseverance, driving meaningful change in her community.

Matthew Menzies,

NAIT Indigenous Partnerships & Engagement

Matthew is a Community Engagement Specialist with NAIT's Indigenous Partnerships & Engagement unit. His portfolio focuses on the co-design and implementation of community-led applied research projects with NAIT's Indigenous community partners. Matthew's role in community-led applied research is to ensure there is meaningful engagement with partners throughout the lifespan of a project, helping to integrate their Traditional Knowledge, cultural values, and ethics into all project activities. NAIT's Indigenous community-led applied research and capacity-building programs include environmental monitoring, GIS-based research and mapping programs and wildlife monitoring programs.



Colin Cochran

Imperial Oil

Colin has worked with Imperial his entire career in a variety of customer, relationship management, and business development in increasingly more senior roles across upstream, downstream, and low carbon solutions businesses. Today he is the Director of Indigenous Economic Development where he fosters the development of Indigenous businesses in ways that provide benefits to the company and its operating assets and to Indigenous communities.”

Leticia Gladue

Lubicon Lake Band

Brandon Spiller

Sublatus Environmental

Brandon Spiller is the CEO of Sublatus Environmental, a Western Canada-based environmental contracting firm focused on asset retirement, remediation, reclamation, and decommissioning. With over 15 years in the environmental sector, Brandon has built a career at the intersection of technical execution and Indigenous partnership.

He leads complex closure projects across oil and gas, mining, and industrial sectors, and is deeply committed to creating meaningful and lasting collaborations with Indigenous Nations. Through joint ventures, capacity-building programs, and project delivery models grounded in shared success, Brandon advocates for Indigenous inclusion that goes beyond consultation to involve co-ownership, employment, and cultural knowledge integration.

At RemTech 2025, Brandon brings the perspective of a contractor driving reconciliation through execution—where collaboration on the ground leads to cleaner land, stronger communities, and better project outcomes.