

Working Together: Respect as a basis for Collaboration

Dan McDonald
LIRN Quesnel Workshop
November, 2007

Who are We?

- Cultural protocol
- Basis for later respect and acknowledgment
- We need to know how we are related in order to know how to work together
- **Introduce ourselves**



The Start of the Path



- What is currently happening in the community with respect to aboriginal tourism development?
- What do people hope to gain from the day?

Culture Matters

- Vital to understand in cross-cultural collaboration
- we each bring our set of understandings that shape how we deal with each other and the world
- Bounds a 'proper way' to deal with problems and opportunities
- We learn a set of behaviours (in the **Feast House** for example) and transfer these to new setting



History Matters



- The relationship of the tourism industry & aboriginal people will be structured by history
- A '**contested terrain**' of land, memories, politics and identity
- Have often seen the adoption of aboriginal cultural practices & possessions as curios
- Costumed, event-based appearances, not the realities of reserve life
- Thomas King "***You're not the Indian I had in Mind***"

Differing Notions of how to both *Proceed and Lead*

- Community an 'extended family'
- Priorities may differ
- Notions of what is polite & proper may vary
- Decision making~ pace, consultation & consent
- Planning framework may take very long view and strive for consistency with the past



The Foundation of Opportunity

- Search for commonality as the basis for proceeding
- Identification of a **mediation point** between the tourist search for authenticity & the community desire for culture & identity protection
- **Share** the 'public' and **protect** the 'private'
- Often the maintenance of 'silos' blocks tourism development
- Need to articulate perceptions of each other and listen to hear the reality

