

DANA TIZYA-TRAMM



Over six years serving the Vuntut Gwitchin, and the Gwich'in Nation as a council member, four as Chief, Dana has defended the Peel Watershed Land Use Planning provisions, a protected contiguous land mass boundary of over 77,000 km² as decided by the Supreme Court of Canada. Also taking on the Trump administration in 2017 to protect the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd which migrate from Northeast Alaska, through Northern Yukon, and into the North West Territories. Dana also served as co-chair for the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), as well as being the GCI lead on the Sustainable Development Working Group for the Arctic Council as a Permanent Participant. As Chief, VGFN passed the internationally recognized climate declaration Yeedndoo Diinehdoo Ji'heezrit Nits'oo Ts'o' Nan He'aa declaration ([CC 2019 Declaration.pdf \(vgfn.ca\)](#)). This document reverberated around the world, informing other international declarations and was the first in Canada by a modern treaty first nation. After successfully leading a complete reorganization and modernization of the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Dana chose not to run for re-election, leaving the office as a TIME 100 Next rising international leader, Clean 50 Emerging Leader, and Up Here Magazine's Northerner of the Year.

Addressing the gaps, capacity, and inter-governmental challenges across Canada, but also the deep cultural schism that informs the relationship between first nations and non-first nations, as well as the inner conflict in the modernization and cultural revitalization faced by indigenous peoples in modern society today, Dana has chosen new paths in bringing all Canadians together. Now, as the Chair of the First Nation School Board, as well as Director of Arctic Circle Strategies, Dana is addressing the keystones of society and community to inform a new generation of leaders by bringing together indigenous ways of knowing and doing with Western best practices. This is just the start and there will be more to come at this point in our journey as a nation and as Gwich'in Elders would say, "when our hearts and minds are one, we are working together."

Presentation Description

With a unique perspective as having participated deeply across multiple governments as a leader of a self-governing first nation on numerous issues that address the pillars of community and society, as well as being

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steeped in a first nation community that goes back millennia, Dana seeks to bridge, “indigenous ways of knowing and being with Western best practices”. Born in the intersection of opposing epistemological approaches to life and society there exists real communication issues between an age old exchange still unfinished between first nations and non-first nations across the world, but also here in Canada and the Yukon. There are principled applications to all areas of society and life in a generation never before as aware of our collective impacts on our planet as a species. With ones heart and mind aligned there are solutions by approaching our tools of society based in our identities as individuals that create new pathways for communities to return to a balance people want, and the world requires. Economics is but one tool that Dana sees as one of the most important additions to breaking new trails in a changing landscape, where others may fear, innovators can capitalize in new ways that lead to open new doors in a time where the old ways no longer serve creation, but rather bring with it the destruction of our imbalanced world views. It’s now time to not “draw lines” with our economic ventures but rather now is the time to “complete circles”, and to do this we must all work together.