

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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## NOTICE OF POSITION: UBCIC APPOINTEE TO NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST

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Applications are being sought from persons interested in participating as a member of the New Relationship Trust on behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). The UBCIC will appoint one (1) member for a three-year term commencing November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and concluding November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The [New Relationship Trust Act](#) provides the legislative framework for the New Relationship Trust.

### Business and Structure

The New Relationship Trust (NRT) is the only legislated Indigenous economic trust in the province of B.C. and operates as a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated and committed to be the leading funding hub of excellence for First Nations in B.C. by providing them tools and funding opportunities to advance their nationhood and other initiatives that result in building resilient and sustainable communities.

The NRT was established in 2006 through the enactment of the *New Relationship Trust Act* and was capitalized with an investment of \$100 million by the Province of BC as an outcome of the Transformative Change Accord Agreement (the "Accord") signed on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, between the Leadership Council representing the First Nations in BC, the government of BC, and the government of Canada. The Accord acknowledged the commitment to strengthen relationships on a government to government basis, the importance of First Nations' governance in supporting healthy communities, and the need to streamline efforts to close the capacity and socio-economic gaps in First Nation Communities. The Parties also recognized that new resources would be required, and that transformative change would require different funding approaches.

The NRT offers a suite of annual funding programs to First Nations in BC that strengthen and enhance their social, economic, environmental, and institutional capacity and capabilities as well as offering educational bursaries, scholarships, and awards to Indigenous learners in BC.

The business model is structured to operate NRT as a self-sustaining organization and to maintain the \$100M fund in perpetuity such that the NRT operations and delivery of programs are funded by the investment income earned by the Fund and or by third-party funds from Federal and Provincial governments to deliver strategic funding programs to First Nations. The annual NRT budget is typically in the range of \$8m to \$9m.

The Board is responsible for setting the strategy to administer and distribute funding to First Nations in accordance with its annual strategic plan and to ensure the preservation of capital and ultimately the sustainability of the First Nation investment fund.

The organization's web site can be found online at: <http://www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/> and the *New Relationship Trust Act* Third Reading can be found online at: [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00\\_06006\\_01](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_06006_01)

## Strategic Direction

The *New Relationship Trust Act* requires the board of directors to prepare an annual three-year rolling strategic plan. The strategic directions provided in the 2020-23 strategic plan are:

- (1) Supporting First Nations in reclaiming and rebuilding **SELF-DETERMINATION** and **NATIONHOOD**.
- (2) Regenerating First Nation **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and **RESILIENCY**
- (3) Ensuring the NRT is a **SUSTAINABLE** and **RESPONSIVE** organization

**Mission:** NRT invests in capacity development and transformation of First Nation governments and their citizens

**Vision:** Self-determined, self-sustaining, First Nations with effective governments and health empowered citizens.

### Values:

**Relevance:** NRT will establish funding programs and tools that are most relevant to the unique needs and priorities of First Nations.

**Responsive:** NRT will have keen awareness on the evolving First Nation governance and socio-economic landscape and will adapt and align its funding guidelines and programs when needed.

**Innovation:** NRT will continuously seek to improve or replace funding processes, guidelines and programs that result in delivering the best funding platform for First Nations.

**Excellence:** NRT will instill indigenous values, professionalism, and integrity in becoming a regional hub of excellence for supporting First Nation ambitions for Nationhood and other funding initiatives.

## Governance Structure

The New Relationship Trust has a board of directors comprised of 7 individuals. The directors are appointed with staggering 3-year terms by the following nominating bodies:

- First Nations Summit – appoints 1 member
- Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs – appoints 1 member
- Assembly of First Nations - British Columbia Region – appoints 1 member
- First Nations Leadership Council – appoints 2 members
- Province of British Columbia – appoints 2 members.

The following committees have been established by the board: Finance/Audit Committee, Governance (HR) Committee, Capital Growth Committee and Communications Committee.

The *New Relationship Trust Act* establishes a transparent and accountable approach to reporting on operations of the Trust through the publication of the annual 3-year strategic plan, annual report and annual audited financial statements, along with the obligation to conduct and publish a legislative review every five years. The NRT office is located on Tseil Waututh Nation lands at 3188 Alder Court, North Vancouver.

## **Board Responsibilities and Accountabilities**

### **Authority**

The NRT board ultimately has the powers, authority, and responsibility to manage, or supervise the management of, the property and the affairs of the NRT but primarily functions as a policy board that sets strategy and directs operations through its CEO by developing board and policy decisions which guide the operational decisions.

### **Responsibilities**

Board responsibilities fall into the following general categories:

**Managing Board Affairs and Accountability:** Establish the processes and structures necessary to ensure the effective functioning and renewal of the board.

**Organization's Mandate:** Understand the New Relationship Trust's mandate as established by the *New Relationship Trust Act* and implemented through its strategic planning processes.

**Strategic Planning:** Participate in the development of, review and approval of the organization's strategic plan consistent with the New Relationship Trust's mandate.

**Human Resources:** Subject to government legislation and guidelines, select, appoint, compensate, evaluate, and terminate the chief executive officer and chief financial officer; oversee management succession and development.

**Financial Oversight:** Review financial, accounting and internal control systems; ensuring appropriate risk management systems, code of ethical conduct and conflict of interest guidelines are in place.

**Monitoring:** Monitor organizational performance against strategic plans and compliance with applicable legislation; account to First Nations and the public through appropriate reporting approaches.

Policy – ensure relevant policies and procedures are established, implemented, and maintained to support the strategic objectives and the governance, operation, and financial management of the NRT.

## **Vacant Position (s)**

The NRT is currently seeking to recruit a board member with experience or professional profile in at least one of the following areas:

- Financial management / accounting / finance, ideally with knowledge reviewing financial statements and in investment management with capable knowledge of the Capital markets, investment returns and investment risk metrics.
- Knowledge/background in Not-for-profit operations or First Nation program delivery and or other areas of delivering/supporting indigenous community capacity development.
- Knowledge/background in Indigenous economic development activities.
- Experienced in governance/First Nation leadership such as council/board process and procedures and policy development, review and decision making.
- Knowledge/experience in human resources, or strategic planning or in legal matters dealing with legislation, bylaws, or indigenous matters.

### Personal Attributes

All directors should possess the following personal attributes:

- high ethical standards and integrity in professional and personal dealings.
- appreciation of the responsibilities to the public.
- able and willing to raise potentially controversial issues in a manner that encourages dialogue.
- flexible, responsive and willing to consider others' opinions.
- capable of a wide perspective on issues.
- ability to listen and work as a team member.
- no direct or indirect conflict of interest with the member's responsibility to the organization.
- strong reasoning skills.
- able and willing to fulfill time commitment required to carry out responsibilities.
- commitment to continuous learning about the New Relationship Trust and First Nation capacity development.

### Governance Experience

While previous experience as a director is not required, it is important that candidates for positions understand the roles and responsibilities of a member of a governing board and have the necessary experience and demonstrated skills to enable them to contribute to board decision-making and oversight.

## Other Considerations

Within the context of the board skills requirements, consideration is given to diversity of gender, First Nations cultural heritage, and knowledge of the communities served by the organization, particularly rural or isolated First Nations communities.

## Time Commitment

Regular scheduled board meetings typically occur quarterly, 4 times a year. The timing of the meetings is established by the board, based on their availability. The regular board meetings usually take place in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In addition, board members are expected to serve on at least one board committee and attend an annual board strategic planning session. Committees meet on a quarterly basis or as needed. Board members may also attend various leadership gatherings or events on behalf of NRT.

## Term

The *New Relationship Trust Act* provides for a term of 3 years.

## Compensation

There is a \$400 per day honorarium plus reimbursement of related out-of-pocket expenses for directors participating in board meetings, committee meetings, strategic planning sessions, and any other meeting or event approved by the board.

## Members

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List of current Board members:

- Liz Logan – (Term expires November 2021)
- Byron Louis – (Term expires November 2021)
- Hugh Braker – (Term expires December 2021)
- Miles Richardson – (Terms expires November 2022)
- Wade Grant – (Term expires November 2022)
- Mike Mearns – (Term expires December 2023)
- Brenda Knights- (Term expires December 2023)

## Senior Executive:

Walter Schneider, Chief Executive Officer

## Application Process

- The UBCIC Election Procedures set out in 1(b): “A Full or Active Member in good standing of the UBCIC must nominate candidates to represent the U.B.C.I.C. on any committee. Written nominations must be received at least ten (10) business days prior to the start of the Assembly or meeting... The UBCIC will announce the availability of a committee position when providing notice of the Assembly or meeting where the election will occur.”
- The UBCIC Election Procedures and nomination form are attached.
- The deadline for applicants to submit their nomination form and a cover letter is 4:00p.m. on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Please submit completed forms (original signed copies) to:

Morris Prosser, Policy Analyst

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Via email only: [morris@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:morris@ubcic.bc.ca)