First Nations Regional Update
Climate Change (REDD)

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What are the challenges?

- Government Policy poses challenge
  - Indian Act
  - Treaties
  - Residential Schools
  - Natural Resource Transfer Act
  - Constitution Act (s. 35) *
  - Treaty Rights
Impacts of Climate Change:

- Diversity of First Nations/Indigenous People
- Geographic
  - Urban
  - Remote (accessible only by air – rely on winter roads for transport of goods)
- Reserves (over 620 First Nation communities)
  - < 100
  - > 10,000
- Traditional activities / knowledge
- Culture
- Economic
- Social
- Health
- Treaties ("as long as the sun shines, grass grows, the river runs")
Challenges

- Natural Resources Transfer Act (NRTA)
  - Gives province control over Crown Land
  - First Nations (Indians) federal responsibility
    - Land base consists of reserve
  - Province controls land (forest allocation)
    - Tenure system
- Jurisdictional wangling
- Treaty Rights
What’s Needed?

- More awareness at the community level about climate change, REDD, other policies
- Working, cooperating, and sharing with other global Indigenous communities
- Unity
  - Diversity of Indigenous People
  - Problems similar
A Coordinated Approach:

- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Local Governments
- Private sector
- Inform & Involve Indigenous People
Meegwetch!