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A Story of Success: BC First Nations Justice Strategy

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About the BC First Nations Justice Council



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Currently the only First Nations Justice Council in Canada guided by the unique and comprehensive BC First Nations Justice Strategy (2020)



Vision: BC First Nations Elders, communities, youth, children, and families thrive in peace and security, their dignity and well-being supported by a trusted and Indigenous-designed and led justice system



Mission: The BC First Nations Justice Council supports the well-being of future generations by transforming the status quo today – upholding self-determination, reclaiming legal traditions and addressing systemic injustice

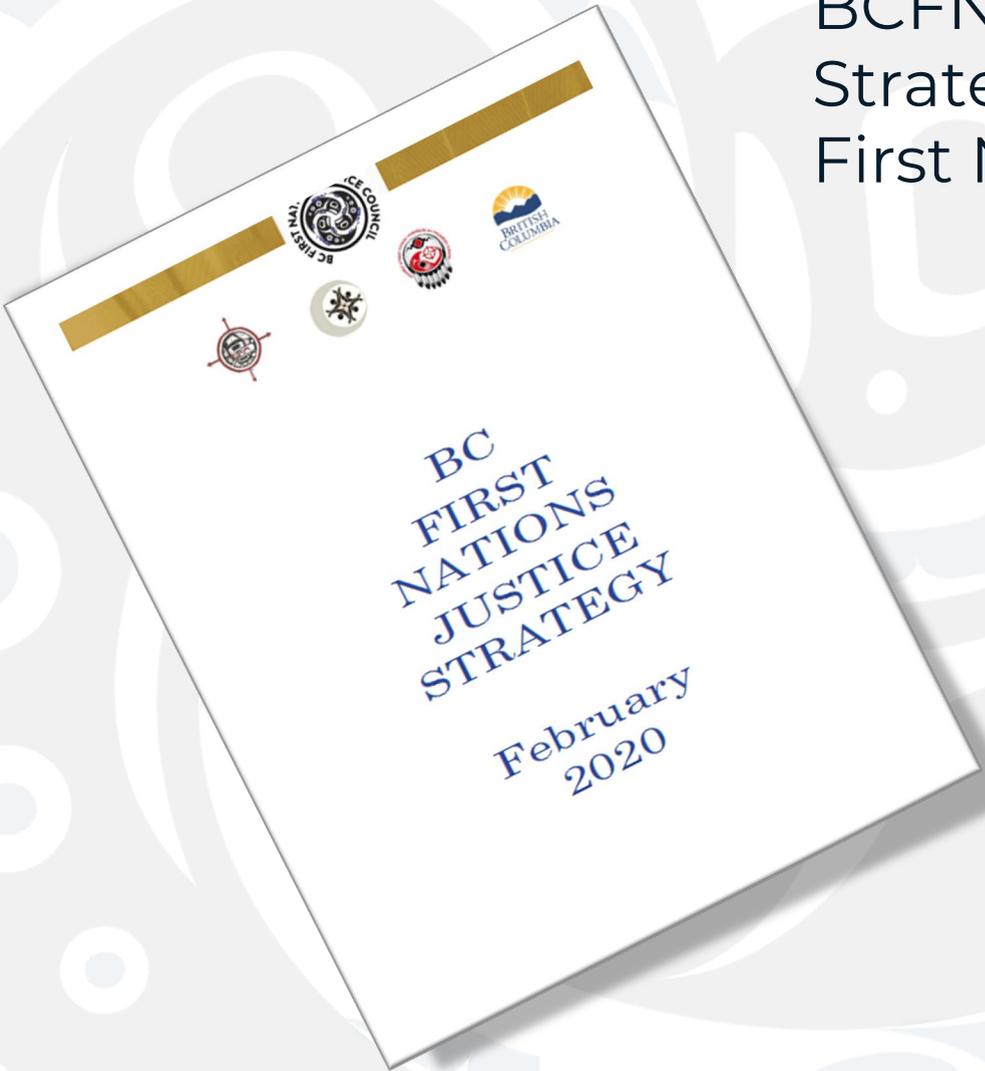
Values: Culture | Safety | Respect | Empowerment | Trust | Results

BCFNJC: Background

In 2016, the BC First Nations Justice Council was established by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC).



BCFNJC was mandated to develop a comprehensive Justice Strategy. This work culminated in the completion of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy in 2020.





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First Nations Justice Strategy

Understanding The Strategy

The Justice Strategy was created with two distinct but related tracks of work:

- **Track 1:** Reform of the current criminal justice system so that it is less harmful to our people; and
- **Track 2:** Supporting First Nations to restore and reawaken Indigenous legal orders, traditions, and structures.

The BC First Nations Justice Strategy contains **25** individual strategies with **43** corresponding lines of action.

A conversation with the system



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The Strategy: Track 1



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Track 1: Reform the current justice system



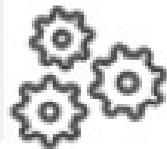
Reduce Youth Incarceration

Prevention, diversion, and access to justice



Safety for Women and Girls

Increase public safety and access to justice for women and girls



Systematic Gladue Implementation

Standardization of, and increased access to, Gladue reports across the system



Culturally Safe Justice Services

Increase cultural safety training, and Indigenous representation in positions of authority



Independent Oversight

Third-party oversight regarding Indigenous peoples and the justice system

The Strategy: Track 2



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Track 2: Restore First Nation legal traditions and structures



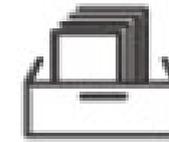
15 Indigenous Justice Centres

15 centres by 2024 for legal aid and access to justice services



Rebuilding our institutions

Self-determined and culturally appropriate institutions



Reclaiming Legal Space

Revitalize First Nations legal orders



Restorative Approaches

Restorative and healing approaches at all levels



Growing Community Justice Programs

Community justice fund for stable and ongoing investment



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Presumption of Diversion & Restorative Justice

Embedded within both Tracks of work is the presumption of diversion and the importance of restorative justice to Indigenous communities

Strategy 1: Reflecting the core value of a presumption of diversion throughout the existing justice system.

A core challenge with the existing justice system, as supported by extensive evidence, is that First Nations individuals (disproportionately males) initial contacts and interactions with the criminal justice system often lead to cycles of escalating interaction that are very hard to break.



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Indigenous Laws & Restorative Justice



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Indigenous laws are not only integral to Indigenous peoples' self-determination and legal resurgence but are also critical to the advancement of justice and reconciliation within Canadian society as a whole.

Through our work, we are moving beyond a single legal framework and seeking to incorporate Indigenous laws into the fabric of the Provincial and Federal legal systems.

Community Based Justice



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Empowering Communities

Reclaiming First Nations Legal Orders

Recognition of Unextinguished Legal Frameworks

Localized Community Justice and Safety Solutions

Legal Professionals



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Every legal professional working in Canada must be required to learn and understand the Indigenous legal order and laws within which they operate.

Indigenous legal professionals are integral to this process.



Culturally Safe Justice Services

Increase cultural safety training, and Indigenous representation in positions of authority



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BCFNJC Operations

BCFNJC has a staff of 90 people, working across the British Columbia



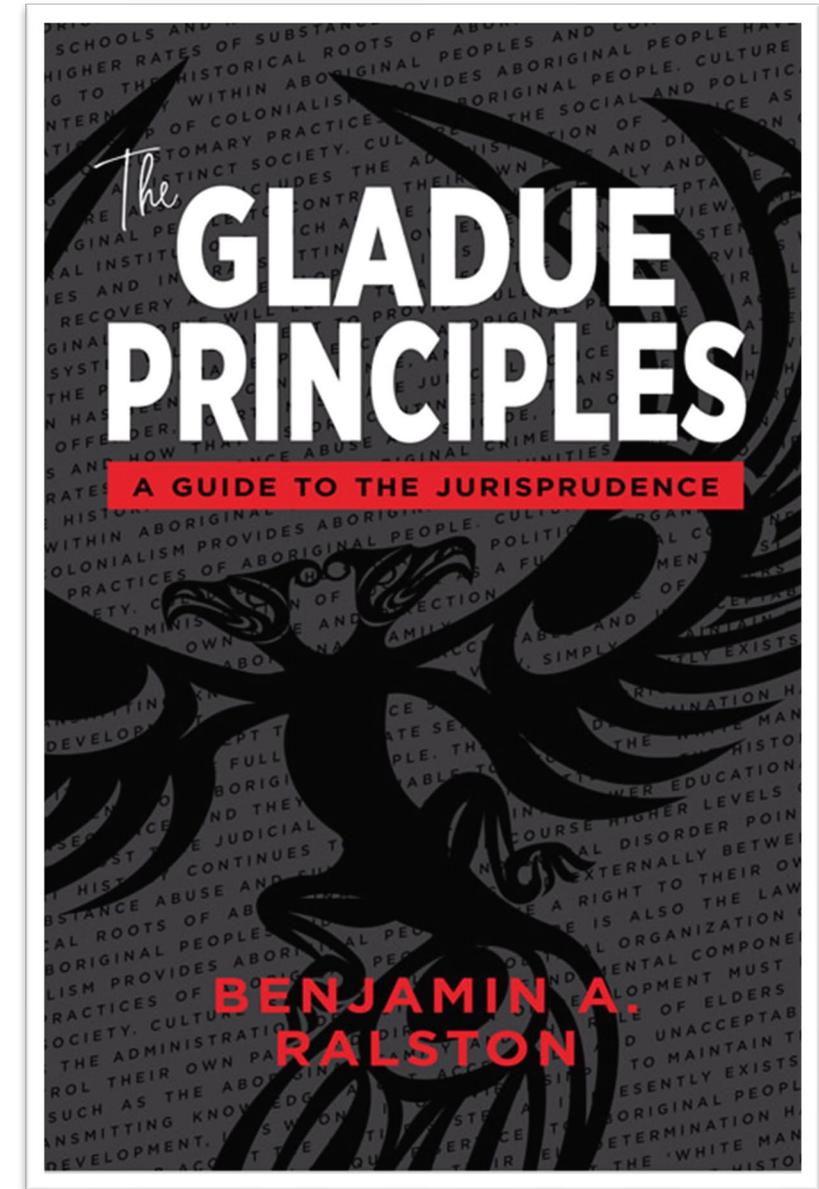
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Gladue Services

- Systematic Application of Gladue Principles Across the Justice System
- Trauma Informed
- High Quality Research & Writing





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Indigenous Justice Centres

Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC's)



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IJC's provide culturally-appropriate information, advice, support, and representation for Indigenous people.

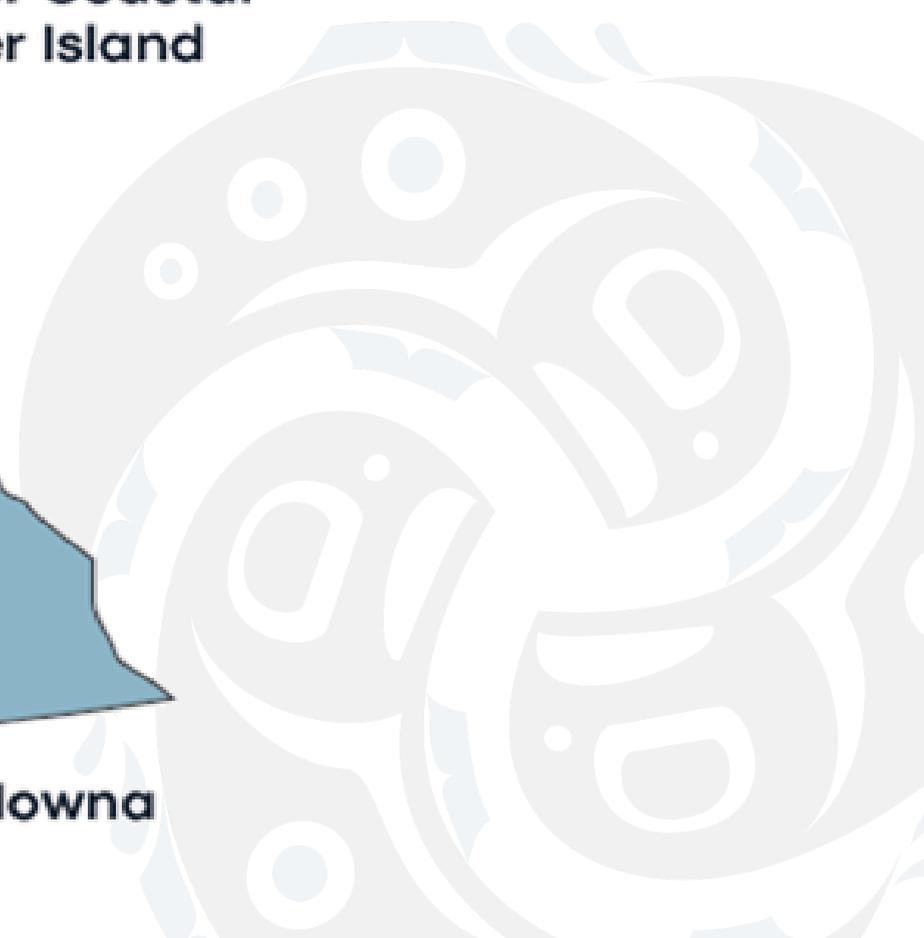
The objective is to provide wraparound services to Indigenous people with justice-related issues.

There are currently 5 active IJC's in the province. BC has provided funding for 5 more IJC's to open by the end of 2023, and 5 more by the end of 2024 (15 in total).

Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC's)



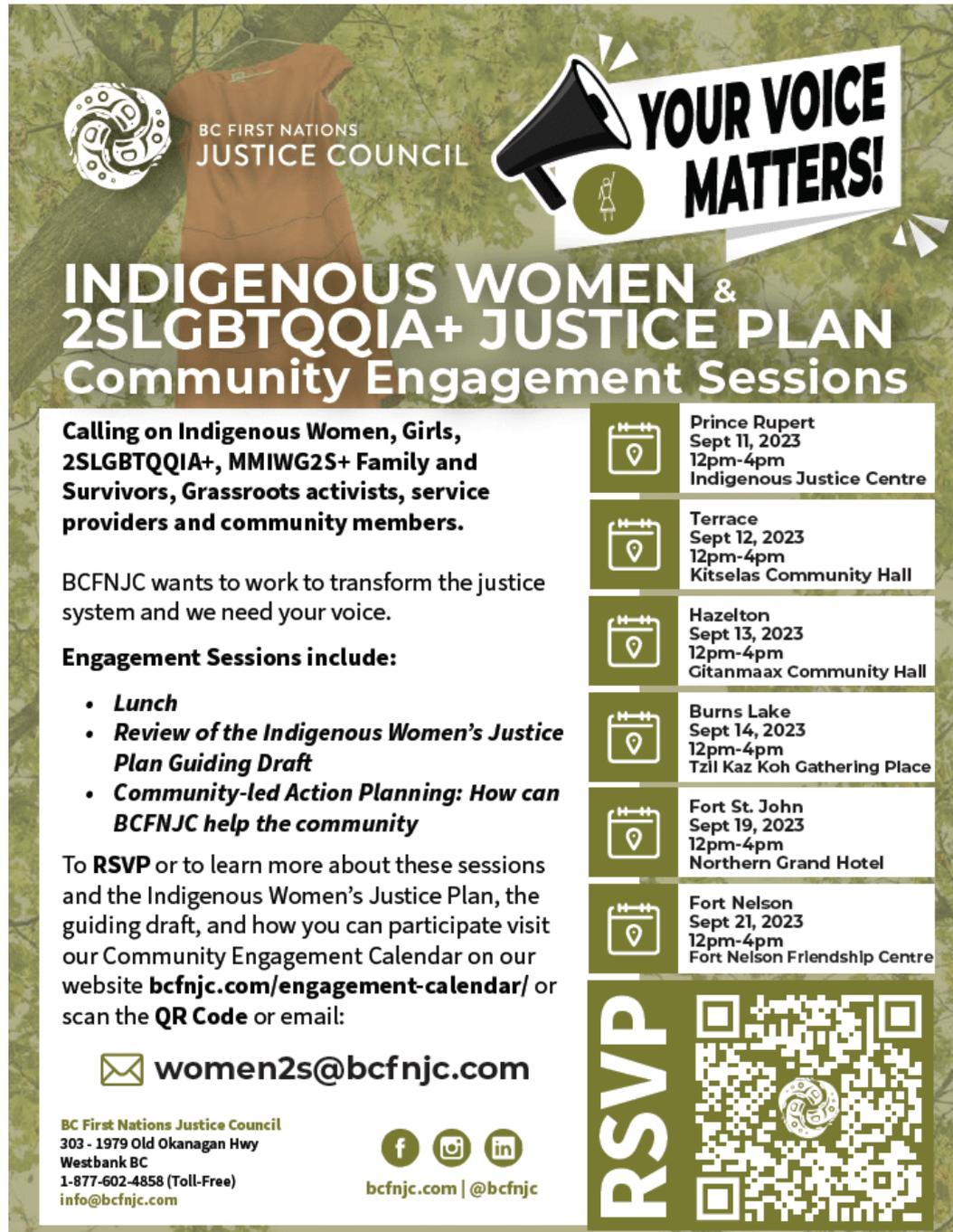
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First Nations Women & Youth



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YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

INDIGENOUS WOMEN & 2SLGBTQQIA+ JUSTICE PLAN Community Engagement Sessions

Calling on Indigenous Women, Girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+, MMIWG2S+ Family and Survivors, Grassroots activists, service providers and community members.

BCFNJC wants to work to transform the justice system and we need your voice.

Engagement Sessions include:

- **Lunch**
- **Review of the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan Guiding Draft**
- **Community-led Action Planning: How can BCFNJC help the community**

To **RSVP** or to learn more about these sessions and the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, the guiding draft, and how you can participate visit our Community Engagement Calendar on our website bcfnjc.com/engagement-calendar/ or scan the **QR Code** or email:

✉ women2s@bcfnjc.com

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info@bcfnjc.com

RSVP

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bcfnjc.com | [@bcfnjc](https://twitter.com/bcfnjc)

	Prince Rupert Sept 11, 2023 12pm-4pm Indigenous Justice Centre
	Terrace Sept 12, 2023 12pm-4pm Kitselas Community Hall
	Hazelton Sept 13, 2023 12pm-4pm Gitanmaax Community Hall
	Burns Lake Sept 14, 2023 12pm-4pm Tzil Kaz Koh Gathering Place
	Fort St. John Sept 19, 2023 12pm-4pm Northern Grand Hotel
	Fort Nelson Sept 21, 2023 12pm-4pm Fort Nelson Friendship Centre



Police Reform



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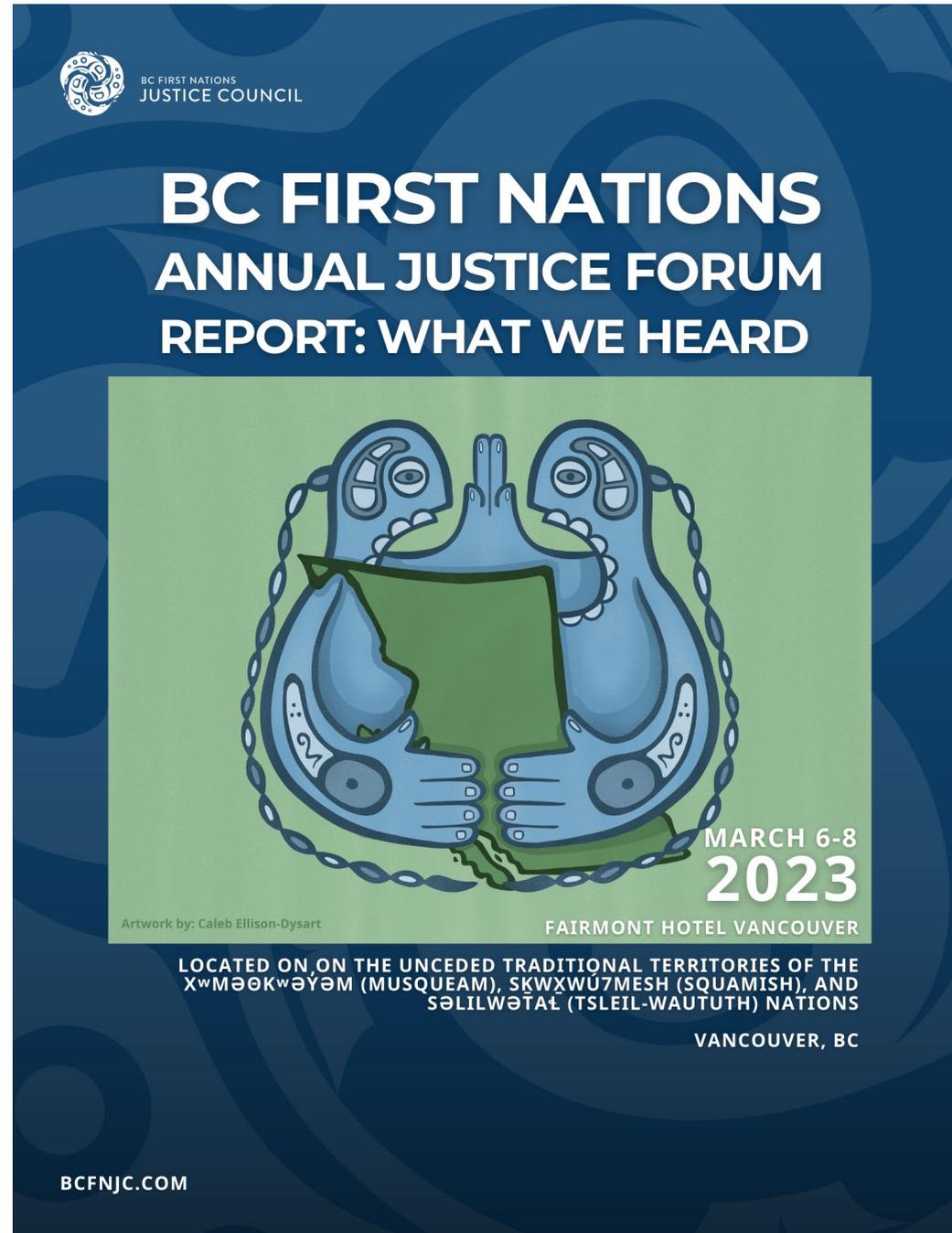
- Police Oversight and Accountability Unit
- Civil litigator to pursue claims against police and an Oversight Liaison to support people to file police complaints in a variety of venues
- Support and Standardize Indigenous Community Safety Officer Program in BC



What We Have Learned



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- Transparency and Good Governance
- Work Collaboratively
- Be Bold and Courageous



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Thank You

For more information:
www.bcfnjc.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zb8z4B8a0x4>