

CONFERENCE AGENDA

2026 Indigenous-Led Transboundary Mining Conference • September 14–17, 2026 • Missoula, MT

DAY I AGENDA

Monday, September 14, 2026

Tribal and First Nation Representatives ONLY

11:30 AM	*Check-In Begins*
12:15 PM	*Lunch provided*
1:00 PM	**Prayer and Welcome Remarks** *Speaker*: Councilmember Len TwoTeeth (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
1:15 PM	**Knowledge Exchange** Introductions and updates from each Tribe and First Nation *Moderated by Rich Janssen, Jill Weitz, and Erin Sexton*
2:30 PM	*Break*
3:00 PM	**Knowledge Exchange (continued)** Introductions and updates from each Tribe and First Nation
3:30 PM	**Grounding Discussion** *Moderated by Rich Janssen, Jill Weitz, and Erin Sexton*
5:00 PM	*60 Minute Break*

ALL CONFERENCE GUESTS

Welcome Dinner — Monday, September 14, 2026

6:00 PM	**Welcome Dinner (All Conference Guests)**



- Prayer and Opening Remarks by Stephen Smallsalmon (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
- Songs from the Eagle Pass Drummers
- Posting of the Colors by the Mission Valley Honor Guard
- Welcome Remarks by Chairman Michael Dolson (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)

*Film preview of *Haa Aaní: Before the Border* by SEITC following dinner for all who would like to join. The film is approximately 30 minutes long.



DAY II AGENDA

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
All Conference Guests

07:30 AM	*Check-In Opens*
8:00 AM	*Breakfast*
8:30 AM	**Morning Prayer & Opening Remarks** *Speakers*: Chairman Michael Dolson (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
8:50 AM	**Daily Overview** *Moderated by Rich Janssen, Jill Weitz, Erin Sexton*
9:00 AM	**Introduction to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes** *Speaker*: Rich Janssen (Department Head, Natural Resources Department, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
9:20 AM	**Session 1 — Waters Impacted: Indigenous-Led Science and Knowledge, with Partners, in the Kootenai/y Watershed** *Moderator*: Erin Sexton (Research Scientist, University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station) *Speakers*: • Curtis Luke (ʔa·knusti, Ktunaxa Nation Council Society) • Emma Thompson (Water Quality Biologist, Ktunaxa Nation Council) • Danie Frevola (Research Scientist, University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station) and Laine Twigg (ʔa·knusti, Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛ̓i’it First Nation) • John Stevenson (Physical Scientist, Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center, USGS) • Genny Hoyle (Environmental Director, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho), Nate Nadal (Master’s Student, University of Idaho), and Manu Carballo (Master’s Student, University of Idaho)
10:45 AM	*Break*



11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Session 2 — Waters Impacted: The Kootenai/y Watershed** *Moderator*: Erin Sexton (Research Scientist, University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station) *Speakers*: • Nasuʔkin Cheryl Casimer (ʔaq̓am) • Councilman Tom McDonald (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) (virtual) • Vice Chair Gary Aitken Jr. (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho) • Nasuʔkin Heidi Gravelle (Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƛi'it First Nation)
Noon	*Lunch*
1:00 – 2:15 PM	**Session 3 — Waters Impacted: The Taku, Stikine, Unuk, and Salmon Rivers** *Moderator*: Jill Weitz (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) *Speakers*: • Andrea Cadiente-Laiti (Administrator for the Douglas Indian Association) • Esther Reese (President and Chair of SEITC) • President Mike Jones (Organized Village of Kasaan) • Louie Wagner (SEITC Metlakatla Director) • Ali Ginter (Council for the Ketchikan Indian Association)
2:15 – 3:00 PM	**Session 4 — Waters Impacted: Indigenous-Led Science and Knowledge -- Advancing Shared Knowledge Sources and Multinational Coordination in the Northern Watersheds** *Speakers*: • Jill Weitz (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) • Skye Keeshin (Tlingit & Haida Transboundary Watershed Coordinator) • Iphigenia “Jen” Arvanitis (Ketchikan Indian Community)
3:00 – 3:15 PM	*Break*



3:15 – 4:15 PM **Session 5 — Waters Impacted: The Upper Columbia River**

Moderator: Yvette Joseph (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation)
Speakers:

- Paul Dayton (Member, Ogden Murphy Wallace P.L.L.C.)
- Whitney Fraser (Consulting Scientist for Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation)

4:15 – 5:15 PM **Session 6 — Waters Impacted: The Similkameen River**

Speakers:

- Chief Charlie Allison (Upper Similkameen Indian Band)
- Carley Brewer (Natural Resources Director, Upper Similkameen Indian Band)
- Kathleen Louie (Title and Rights Natural Resources Manager, Lower Similkameen Indian Band)
- Keith Baric (Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Sage Step Consulting)
- Julie Allison (Youth, Upper Similkameen Indian Band)

5:15 – 5:30 PM *Break*

5:30 – 6:15 PM **Film Premier: Shared Waters**

Speakers:

- Vice Chair Gary Aitken Jr. (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho)
- Jennifer Ekstrom (Idaho Conservation League)



DAY III AGENDA

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 — Field Tour on CSKT Lands and Waters

All Conference Guests

7:30 AM	*Breakfast on your own at the hotel*
7:30 AM	**Morning Ravens: Coffee Talk** ***Fish Consumption Surveys and the protection of communities that eat a lot of fish.*** All those interested in this topic are encouraged to join this discussion! *Moderated by Guy Archibald (SEITC)*
8:45 AM	**Depart for Part 1 — Touring CSKT Lands and Waters** • CSKT Bison Range • Council Grove State Park
Noon	**Conference Lunch at the CSKT River Honoring Site on the Flathead River** • Prayer • Welcome Remarks by Councilmember Danielle Matt (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) • Presentation on CSKT's Achievements in Environmental Protection and on CSKT's Cultural Waterways Ordinance and Lower Flathead River Management Plan by Thompson Smith (Historian, Séliš-Q̓ispé Culture Committee) • A Tale of Two Rivers: Protecting the Flathead and Healing the Kootenai/y by Clayton Matt (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Michael Jamison (National Parks Conservation Association), and Erin Sexton (University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station)
1:45 PM	**Depart for Part 2 — Touring CSKT Lands and Waters** • CSKT Bison Range • Council Grove State Park
5:00 PM	*Return to Missoula* *Dinner in Missoula on your own*



DAY IV AGENDA

Thursday, September 17, 2026

All Conference Guests

7:30 AM	**Morning Ravens: Coffee Talk** ***Tribes and First Nations Discussion Continued from Monday [Tribes and First Nations Only]*** • Hold space to circle back to conversations from Monday.
8:00 AM	*Breakfast*
8:30 AM	**Welcome and Daily Overview** Reflections from the tour *Moderated by Rich Janssen, Jill Weitz, and Erin Sexton*
9:00 – 10:30 AM	**Session 1 — Elders and Youth Panel: Perspectives on the Legacy of Mines and Mining on Indigenous Lands and Waters (Past, Present, and Future)** *Moderator*: Vice Chair Gary Aitken Jr. (Kootenai Tribe of Idaho) *Speakers (Elders)*: • Louis Caye (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) • Vernon Finley (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) • Vice President Paulette Moreno (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) • Councillor Kyle Shottanana (Yaq̓it ʔa·knuqƚi'it First Nation) • Shirley Trahan (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) *Speakers (Youth)*: • Phillip Cadiente-Laiti-Blattner (Douglas Indian Association) • Gabe Caye (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) • Tatum Johnson (Angoon Community Association) • Jasmine Knudson (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) • Caches Parrish (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation)
10:30 AM	*Break*



11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	**Session 2 (part 1) — Legal Solutions for Addressing Mining Impacts in Indigenous Territories** *Speakers*: • John W. Gailus (Partner & Founder, Cascadia Legal LLP) • Chair Anthony Hillaire (Lummi Nation) • Jessica Clogg (Executive Director & Senior Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law)
Noon	*Lunch*
1:00 – 2:15 PM	**Session 2 (part 2) — Legal Solutions for Addressing Mining Impacts in Indigenous Territories** *Speakers*: • Ramin Pejan (Deputy Managing Attorney, International Program, Earthjustice) (virtual) • Simon Wiebe (Mining Impacts and Policy Lead, Wildsight) and Patricia Weber (Lawyer, Environmental Law Center, University of Victoria) (virtual) • Shiloh Hernandez (Senior Attorney, Earthjustice) • Harley Harris (former Program Manager/Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Natural Resource Damage Program)
2:15 PM	*Break*
2:45 – 5:00 PM	**Session 3 — Knowledge Exchange: Updates from Federal, State and Provincial Representatives on Their Actions to Protect Shared Waters and Discussion** *Speakers*: • Kevin Skillin (Director, Office of Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State) • Lisa Berrios (American Indian Environmental Office Acting Director, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) • Ben Linhoff (Research Hydrologist, USGS Water Resources Mission Area, Earth System Process Division) • Lindsey Krywaruchka (Administrator, Water Quality Division, Montana Department of Environmental Quality)



- Robert Steed (Surface Water Quality Manager, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality)
- Tomina Rioux (Associate Regional Director General, West and North Region, Strategic Policy and International Affairs Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada)
- Niall Cronin (A/Director General for North America, Global Affairs Canada)
- Deb Epps (Executive Director, Authorizations and Remediation Branch, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks)

5:00 PM **Closure & Looking Forward Together**
Moderated by Rich Janssen, Jill Weitz, and Erin Sexton