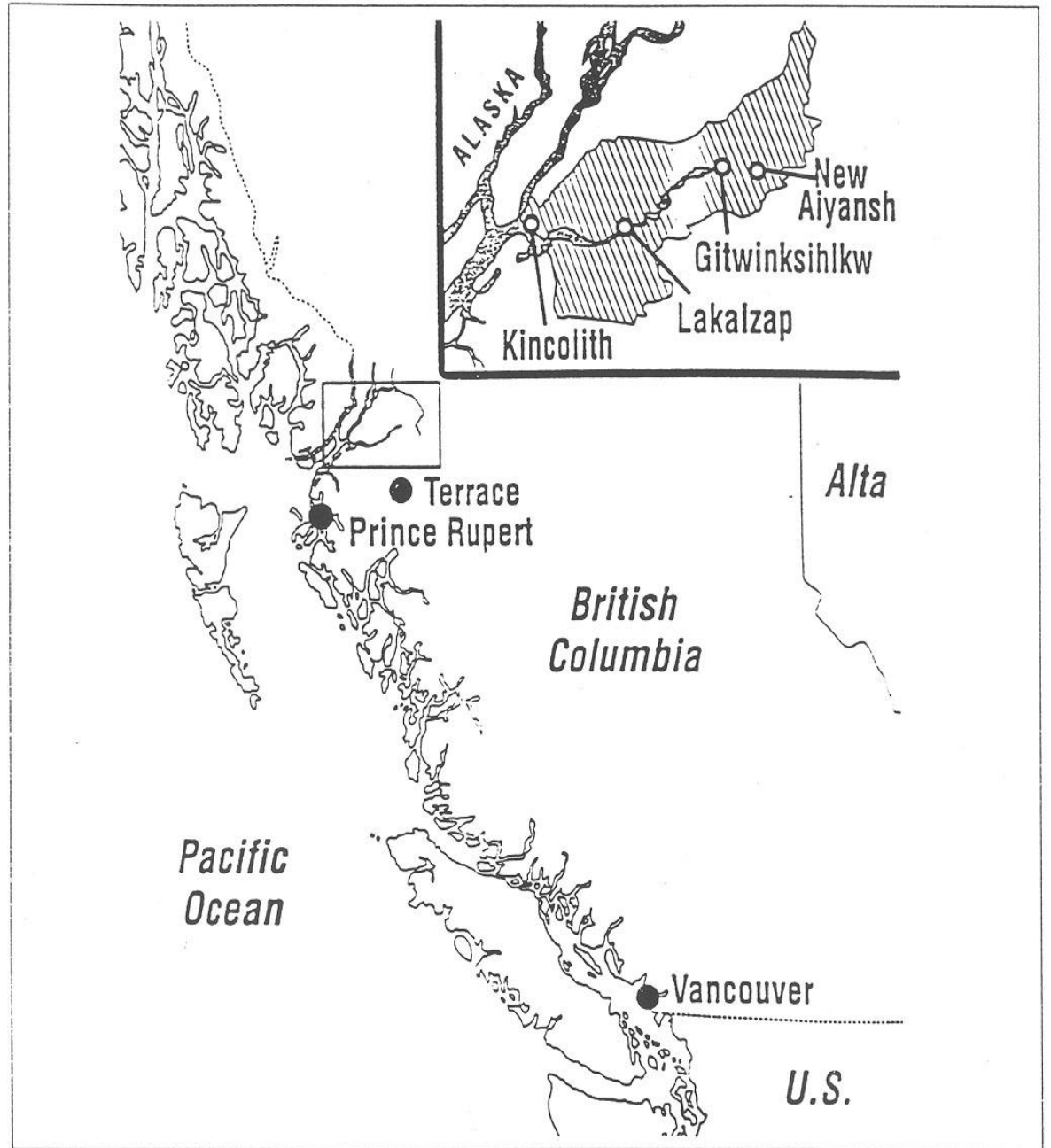




- ❑ Independent, non-profit think tank
 - Offices Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary. Charitable status 1999.
 - Funded by foundations, individuals, and event revenue
- ❑ Aboriginal Frontiers Project - Policies promote individual empowerment and improvement of socio-economic outcomes.
- ❑ AGI in MB, SK and AB.



Aboriginal Self-Government

- Different perspectives (radical vs. moderate)
- Constitutionally-protected vs. delegated powers (Nisga'a vs. Sechelt FN & Westbank)

Aboriginal Self-Govt theories

Self-govt theory of Progress (held by FN activist and academe)	Devolution of authority good, enable FNs to identify with & hold accountable leaders
Cultural development theory	Lack individualism, decline of clan, family essential for good governance
Political autonomy antecedent for cultural development	Decision making devolves, new incentives

Good Governance & Jurisdiction

“Without jurisdiction, indigenous nations are subject to other people’s agenda. You can’t ask people to be accountable if you don’t give them decision-making power. Whoever is making the decisions has the accountability. Jurisdiction marries decisions to consequences, which leads to better decisions.” ---



Prof. Stephen Cornell

Two Alternative Hypotheses

Self-determination = self-reliance, accountability, and excellent governance.

Devolution of authority = Nisga'a citizens readily identify, hold accountable, and reward local officials on quality of their performance.

- Nisga'a Version of “the bucks stops here”

2nd Hypothesis

Axiomatic in Western societies = decline of clan, extended family led to greater accountability, good governance

- Nisga'a success in transforming devolution into good governance potent testimony of benefits provided by the Nisga'a Treaty.

Methodology

- ❑ Representative sample survey among Nisga'a, carried out by COMPAS Research (n=121), and a smaller, entirely exploratory sample (n=26) among the Tsimshian.
- ❑ In-depth interviews with leaders, local experts, and long-time residents among the Nisga'a communities (n=15)

Methodology, Cont'd

- ❑ Used Ordinal scale, better ranking system, 1-7
- ❑ System of 'respectful engagement', met with leaders, upfront about study, welcomed to NLG Executive, not seen as 'agents' of government, independence

Table 2a: Regional Distribution—Nisga'a (N=121)

	%
Nisga'a Village of New Aiyansh	57
Nisga'a Village of Laxgalt'sap	23
Nisga'a Village of Gingolx	10
Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw	10

Table 2b: Regional Distribution—Tsimshian (N=26)

	%
Kitsumkaylum 1	73
Kulspai 6	27

**Promise-Keeping—Nisga'a
First Nations Government
Outperforms Federal and
Provincial Governments**

Table 3.1a: Trusting Governments to Keep their Promises

		Mean	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	DNK
Local	Nisga'a	4.3	16	16	13	20	12	7	13	3
	Tsimshian	3.7	8	15	15	8	15	4	23	12
Federal	Nisga'a	3.4	5	3	16	21	20	13	16	7
	Tsimshian	3.3	4	8	12	19	27	0	27	4
Provincial	Nisga'a	3.2	5	6	18	16	13	12	28	3
	Tsimshian	2.5	0	8	8	15	15	0	50	4

Table 3.3: First Nations Government Promise-Keeping Up over the Decade

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
Better, that is, more likely to carry out its promises today than before	46	42
Worse, that is, less likely to carry out its promises than before	35	31
UNPROMPTED No change	12	15
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	7	12

Table 3.4: Honesty in Hiring and Spending

		Mean	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	DNK
Local	Nisga'a	3.9	16	16	13	20	12	7	13	3
	Tsimshian	3.2	4	8	12	12	19	0	27	19
Federal	Nisga'a	3.2	5	7	18	8	18	16	24	3
	Tsimshian	2.7	8	0	8	12	19	15	35	4
Provincial	Nisga'a	3.0	4	6	13	19	10	13	34	1
	Tsimshian	2.2	4	4	4	8	12	12	54	4

Table 3.5: Any Change in Honesty in the Decade?

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
More honest, that is, its hiring and spending decisions treat everyone more fairly than before	41	31
Less honest, that is, its hiring and spending decisions favour local government leaders and their friends	41	31
UNPROMPTED No change	10	19
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	9	19

**Findings on Program
Performance—
Nisga'a Government
Outperforms Tsimshian in
Education and Health
Services**

Table 4a: Compared to 10 years ago are health services...

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
Better	46	19
Worse	41	50
UNPROMPTED No change	10	27
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	3	4

Table 4b: How about schooling?

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
Better	41	19
Worse	42	61
UNPROMPTED No change	10	4
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	7	15

**Slight Decline since 2000 in
Consulting People in the Case
of the Nisga'a Government**

Table 3.6: Compared to 10 years ago, does the local First Nations government consult everyone...

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
More often	39	42
Less often	51	35
UNPROMPTED No change	3	8
UNPROMPTED It does not consult everyone	2	0
UNPROMPTED It never consulted everyone and it doesn't today	1	4
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	4	12

**Impact on Economic
Development not clear,
appears Nisga'a as ineffectual
as Tsimshian local
government in assuring
economic development and
income.**

Table 4c: How about money. Do people have...

	%	
	Nisga'a	Tsimshian
More money	19	8
Less money	60	85
UNPROMPTED No change	12	8
UNPROMPTED Don't know/refuse	9	0

Interesting Observations

- ❑ Nisga'a 'refugees' in Tsimshian communities
- ❑ Attachment to tax exemption and sense of 'Indian identity'
- ❑ Seafood/culture of sharing

Poor Governance Habits Die Hard

- ❑ Governance- Nepotism, family voting, politicized service delivery
- ❑ Poor economic decisions
- ❑ NLG vs. Villages, lack of Opposition

Future Directions

- Involve Urban Locals?
- Non-members living on Nisga'a Lands
- Longitudinal study of Nisga'a
- Other models of Aboriginal self-government

Observations from data

Positive	Negative
Treaty helped produce First Nation govt that is more accountable and honest	Nisga'a govt consulting less than in the past
Outperforming Tsimshian on health and education	Ineffectual in terms of economic development and income

*Table : Whether Findings Provide Evidence of Improvements
Following the Treaty*

SUBJECT	PUBLIC	KEY INFORMANTS
Increased trust in government as a result of Treaty	Yes	No
Perceived honesty in spending and hiring	Yes	No
Apparent decline in consulting the people	Yes	Yes
Health services improved	Yes	Yes
Education services improved	Yes	Divided
Economic conditions	No	No

Lessons for other First Nations

- ❑ Self-govt is only first step of long-term enterprise
- ❑ While it may have positive effects, job of governance building, changing behaviour starts before agreement is inked.