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Reimagining Indigenous Partners in Energy: Evolving Geoscientist Perspectives

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Abstract

In parallel with the fossil fuel sector, emerging energies present an opportunity to build meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities and businesses. Many Indigenous businesses are keen to access this economy. Geoscientists can play a critical role in shaping these partnerships.

'Reimagining Indigenous Partners in Energy: Evolving Geoscientist Perspectives' explores how geoscientists can evolve our understanding of asset development through an Indigenous relations and Reconciliation lens. We will discuss Indigenous perspectives on energy, lessons learned, and how to build a practical toolkit to enhance Indigenous engagement in the economy and environment.

Biography



Alexandria Shrake has over a decade of multifaceted experience within the energy sector. She is passionate about understanding and addressing the industry's challenges by listening and problem-solving. Her early career encompassed diverse roles, spanning from geophysics to strategic planning and digital innovation. In 2020, she took the entrepreneurial leap, establishing 114 Degrees West, a bespoke strategy and innovation consulting firm. Her client base spans First Nations, software startups, and decarbonization startups.

Of note, she served as a policy advisor for the Clean Electricity Regulations, contributed to various initiatives supporting equity participation within First Nation communities, and is maintaining ongoing engagement with various First Nations on energy-related matters.

Her hobbies include participation in the Canadian start-up community as an angel investor, trail running, and electronic music.

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Max FineDay is the CEO of Warshield, an Indigenous-owned public affairs firm that specializes in government relations, legal work, policy development, and project management across Canada. He helps Chiefs, CEOs, and governments solve problems & get things done.

As CEO of Warshield, Max regularly offers political insights on Indigenous politics and reconciliation to The Canadian Press, National Post, Toronto Star and more.

Max currently resides in his community of Sweetgrass First Nation where he is a favourite Uncle to many nieces and nephews. He currently serves as a Board Member for the Wîcîwîsis Academy, The Saskatchewan Indigenous Community Foundation, and the Sweetgrass First Nation School Association.

