



Community Engagement and Labour Market Insights
A presentation by Rennie Houle
September 2, 2026

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Rene Houle is an experienced community leader and labour market specialist with deep roots in Indigenous community development. With years of expertise in workforce training, stakeholder engagement, and economic development, Rene brings a wealth of knowledge to community-driven initiatives.

Key roles include agreement holder representation, consultation facilitation, and partnership development with industry and institutional partners. Rene's commitment to reconciliation and community empowerment is at the heart of all professional endeavours.



Whitefish Lake First Nation #128

A diverse and resilient community with rich Indigenous heritage, located approximately 190km northeast of Edmonton and 25km north of Vilna, Alberta.

Key strengths include strong economic development, growing workforce participation, and collaborative nation partnerships. Challenges include access to training, employment gaps, and infrastructure needs.



Agreement Holder: TCETSA

TCETSA (Tribal Chiefs Employment and Training Services Association) serves as the designated agreement holder for 6 First Nations in North East Alberta, bridging community needs with labour market opportunities.

Vision: Meaningful employed people and economically empowered Nations.

Responsibilities include managing training programs, coordinating with employers, and ensuring community voices are reflected in labour market strategies.

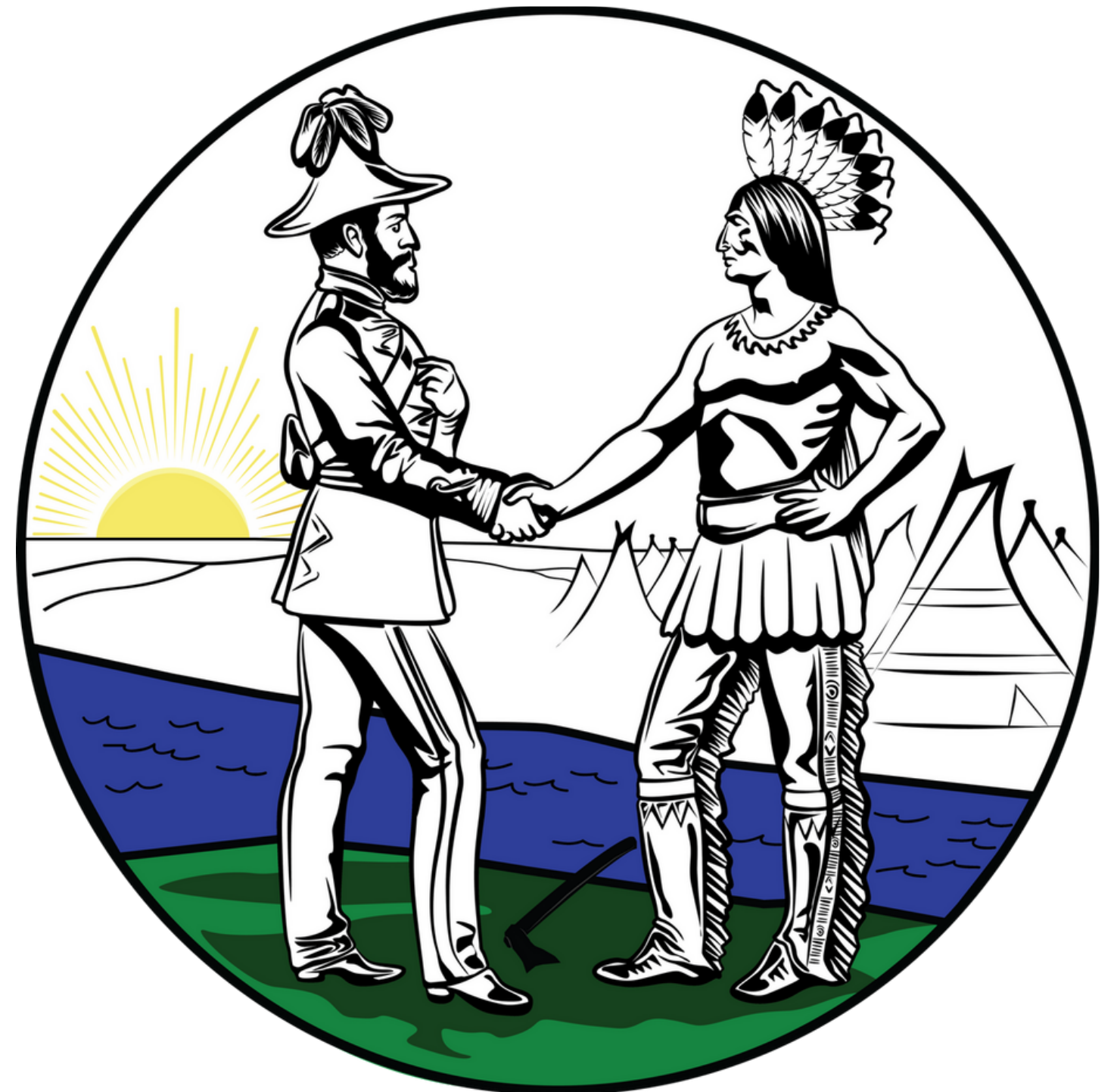
Through collaborative initiatives with government, industry, and Indigenous organizations, TCETSA drives meaningful and lasting community impact.



Truth and Reconciliation

- Understanding the Calls to Action
- Creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous peoples
- Reconciliation through employment, education and economic participation
- Respect for Indigenous knowledge, culture and community priorities
- Moving beyond awareness toward measurable action

For ISETS, reconciliation is about creating pathways that respect where people come from while supporting where they want to go



Consultation & Community Engagement

- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs)
- Equity Benefits Agreements (EBAs)
- Community-led consultation
- Listening to participants, leadership, employers and partners
- Identifying local labour-market needs
- Aligning programs with community priorities
- Building trust through consistent communication and follow-through



Labour Market Survey Insights

- Identifying current and future employment opportunities
- Understanding employer needs and skills gaps
- Gathering community perspectives and employment data
- Using results to guide ISETS programming, partnerships and investment

When we understand our labour market, we can build pathways that work for our communities



The Power of Networking

- Building relationships with employers, organizations and institutions
- Community networking and outreach
- Job fairs, career events and industry connections
- Creating opportunities before participants need them
- Strong relationships = stronger employment outcomes

Industry Partnerships

- Developing relationships with local and regional employers
- Understanding industry workforce needs
- Creating employment and training opportunities
- Work placements, job opportunities and employer engagement
- Partnerships that benefit both Indigenous communities and industry

Institutions & Education Partnerships

- Colleges, universities and training institutions
- Apprenticeships and trades
- Industry-recognized certifications
- Education-to-employment pathways
- Removing barriers to accessing post-secondary education and training

Thank You

Thank you for your attention and engagement throughout this presentation.

We invite you to connect, collaborate, and continue the conversation.

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When we work together, we create pathways—not just programs

