



2025

Virtual  
**RIEP Forum.ca**

March 6 & 7

Adaptation - Innovation - Resilience

# SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

## **Economic Reconciliation:** Identifying Ways To Further Support The Success of BC's Indigenous Economy

We are honoured that **Adam Olsen, STHENEP**, will be joining us to lend his wisdom as former for Saanich North and the Islands in British Columbia, and as Lead Negotiator for the Tsartlip First Nation, his insights and knowledge are invaluable as we explore the theme of Economic Reconciliation and what it means to support BC's Indigenous Economy.

Following Adam's presentation and Q&A Adam, attendees will be invited into facilitated small group break-outs to share their experiences and reflect on:

- Your key learnings from Adam's presentation;
- How are you building bridges with First Nation peoples in your community?
- Share how your organization or community has or is actively contributing to the growth and sustainability of BC's local Indigenous economy?

Facilitators for each breakout group will be taking notes to share along with resource links following the Forum.

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**SPEAKER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**Economic Reconciliation:  
Identifying Ways To Further Support  
The Success of BC's Indigenous  
Economy.**



**Adam Olsen, Lead Negotiator**  
Tsartlip First Nation

**Register now!**

**[www.RIEPForum.ca](http://www.RIEPForum.ca)**

**ADAM OLSEN, S̱HENEP**, is a Canadian politician and former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Saanich North and the Islands in British Columbia. A member of the British Columbia Green Party, he was first elected in 2017 and served in the legislature until 2024. During his time as an MLA, Olsen was known for his work on environmental protection, Indigenous rights, and climate change policy.

Olsen is a member of the Tsartlip First Nation, one of the communities that form the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation, and has been a strong advocate for Indigenous rights, reconciliation, and strengthening relationships between Indigenous communities and the government. He currently serves as the [lead negotiator for Tsartlip](#), representing the Nation's interests in land and resource management, governance, and the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process. His leadership in negotiations plays a crucial role in advancing the Nation's rights and self-determination.

# FINAL WEEK TO REGISTER

Standard Pricing: March 1 – March 6: \$40.00

*Group Rate Pricing Available*

Contact: [info@ruralislandpartnership](mailto:info@ruralislandpartnership)

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

## FREE WORKSHOPS FOR NAVIGATING US TARIFF IMPACTS

THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE VANCOUVER IS OFFERING THESE UPCOMING WEBINARS

### [Market Diversification – Expanding Beyond USA by Utilizing Canada's FTAs](#)

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PST)

**Overview:** This session will help businesses identify new export markets, understand Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and build resilience beyond the U.S.

Registration Link: [Market Diversification – Expanding Beyond the U.S. by Utilizing Canada's FTAs](#)

### [Domestic Trade & Interprovincial Expansion](#)

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PST

**Overview:** For businesses looking to reduce reliance on U.S. trade, this session explores interprovincial trade opportunities, overcoming regulatory barriers, and expanding within Canada.

Registration Link: [Domestic Trade & Interprovincial Expansion](#)

## **Additional Resources**

### [Startup Canada:](#)

- [Tariff Toolkit](#)

### [Export Development Canada | Exportation et développement Canada :](#)

- [United States Market Intelligence:](#)
  - EDC insights and analysis on the business environment of Canada's largest export market.
- [FAQs: What Canadian exporters need to know about the impact of potential U.S. tariffs](#)

### [BDC:](#)

- [Resources for Businesses Affected by US Tariffs, including:](#)
  - Canada Tariff Finder
  - Guide to Cashflow
  - Preparing your Finances for an Economic Slowdown

- Cash Flow Calculator
- Market Entry Strategy Tips

**[Canadian Federation of Independent Business:](#)**

- **U.S. Tariffs: What They Mean to Your Business:**
  - CFIB is collaborating with the federal government to address trade challenges and is looking to conduct a survey to gather valuable insights from SMEs, which will be crucial in supporting the federal and provincial governments in their discussions and responses to U.S. actions.

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## **RIEP 2025 FORUM - A ONE OF A KIND VIRTUAL EVENT**

**Day  
1**

- 9:15** Welcome, Land Acknowledgement
- 9:30** Connection Breakouts
- 9:55** Connection Reflections
- 10:00** **Speaker: Tariff Economic Impact & Strategies for Rural Coastal and Indigenous Communities**  
Presenter Aaron Cruikshank - Futurist and President of CTRS Market Intelligence
- 10:15** **Plenary Roundtable: Shared Services: Pooling Resources for Socio-Economic Well-Being**  
Panelists: Amir Tabatabael - DELVI, Diana Jolly - Island Good, Peter Doukakis - Worklink and Sooke Business Co-op Model, Sherese Johnson - Rising Tide Business Services
- Movement Break
- 11:05** **Plenary: AI Insights: Integrating AI for Business and Non-Profit Success**  
Panelists: Lauren Evanow - Results Team Communication, Jennifer Hufnagel - Hufnagel Consulting, Charley Jarrett - Hewitt & Johnston Consultants
- 12:15** Closing - Day 1 Wrap Up

**Day  
2**

- 9:15** Welcome Back, Land Acknowledgement
- 9:20** Connection Breakouts
- 9:40** Plenary: **Economic Reconciliation: Identifying Ways To Further Support The Success of BC's Indigenous Economy**  
Presenter: Adam Olsen - Lead Negotiator, Tsarslip - Former MLA
- 10:00** Reconciliation Breakouts
- 10:30** Break, **Art Showcase**
- 10:35** Plenary: **Ensuring Affordable Housing for All: Rural Coastal Housing Initiatives**  
Panelists: Galiano Affordable Living Initiative Society, Hornby Island Housing Society, Galiano Cottage Co-op, Gabriola Housing Society, SS Solutions, Cortes Housing Society, Housing Now (SGI), Mayne Island Housing Society, Denman Community Housing Society
- 11:40** **Learning Exchange: A Showcase of Resiliency Initiatives From Across the Region**  
Panelists: Gabriola Health & Well-Being Collaborative, SSI Farmland Trust - Neighbours Feeding Neighbours, Cortes Climate Action Network, SGI Tourism Partnership, Galiano Yellow House, VIEA - Vision 2050, Namgis Business Development Growcers Initiative, North Island College, Mixalakwa Campus, Port Hardy
- 12:20** Reflection
- 12:25** Forum Wrap Up

## WIN A FREE Chat GPT Workshop

FORUM attendees will also be eligible to **WIN a FREE Chat GPT Workshop** led by **Jennifer Hufnagel Consulting**.

Jennifer has been working with hundreds of organizations across our region to help folks gain confidence in using this cutting-edge technology.



## With Gratitude To RIEP 2025 Forum Sponsors



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*RIEP serves to empower British Columbia's rural islands and remote coastal communities by honouring reconciliation and by collaborating and convening to share information, resources, and opportunities. We network, advocate, support and*



**RURAL ISLANDS**  
**ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**  
CULTIVATING RESILIENT PARTNERSHIPS

*activate communities towards achieving enduring socio-economic well-being together.*

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*We respectfully acknowledge that this correspondence has been sent from the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the WSÁNEĆ First Nations and Hul'quimi'num Treaty Group, whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.*

RURAL ISLANDS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP | c/o McKimm & Lott Unit 201-118 Fulford-Ganges Road | Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2S4 CA

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