



Shawn Atleo - Biography

AFN British Columbia Regional Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo is a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation. Traditional teachings guided Shawn to serve First Nations for 20 years as a leader, negotiator, facilitator, mediator, strategic planner, and President of Umeek Human Resource Development.

Shawn graduated in 2003 with a Masters of Education in Adult Learning and Global Change from the University of Technology, Sydney Australia (in partnership with University of British Columbia, University of the Western Cape South Africa, and University of Linkoping Sweden).

Regional Chief Atleo is truly honoured and humbled to have been elected for a 2nd three-year term by the Chiefs of BC. Shawn's efforts are focused on the empowerment of the people and their communities towards self-determination and building hope for the future. Shawn exercises leadership by first listening to gain an understanding and then working collaboratively to make positive change.

As the BC Regional Chief, Shawn is also a founding member of the BC First Nations Leadership Council (BCAFN, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit), which allows all three organizations to collectively work together to protect the interests of First Nations in BC and to ensure that Aboriginal Title and Rights are recognized, accommodated and reconciled through government-to-government relationships.

Shawn Atleo – Presentation Overview

Shawn's presentation revolves around *Ha-houpstalth* - "teach one another". As Shawn will discuss, we must begin where the learner is - the dominant society as teacher must begin where the Aboriginal is and the Aboriginal as teacher must begin where the dominant society is.

Shawn notes that true engagement happens when both sides mesh together in a dialogue. Both must not only meet in the middle but be willing to go further to see things from each other's mindset.