Northwest Study Conference (‘75 and ’82)
-- progressive labour (Kitimat-Terrace Labour Council; Carpenters); environmental activists; First Nations
"Northwest Development: What and for Whom,"
"Worker Control: the Issue."
- Kitimat-Terrace Labour Council – Nisga’a: relationships grew from conferences

Tin Wis Accord
Coalition was founded in early 1988 in response to conflicts surround the use of Strathcona Park.
First conference February 1989 at Tin Wis, a Nuu-Chah-Nulth band facility just outside of Tofino.
Group is a coalition of Indigenous, labour and environmental organizations.
((Recognizing the memberships of the three groups were not mutually exclusive helped to bring the groups together))

• Examples of partner organizations
  - Friends of Strathcona Park
  - Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
  - The Canadian Paperworkers Union and The Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada
  - The United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union
  - The BC Government Employees Union
  - The BC Federation of Labour
  - As well as environmental groups and individual environmentalists, small business people, and peace and justice activists

• Tin Wis Coalition Goals
  - democratic control in our communities and regions, within the context of developing ecological sustainability;
  - Key Concerns:
    o Corporate control
    o Privatization
    o Deregulation
    o Global environmental crisis
    o The fragility of local eco-systems
- recognizing that achieving solidarity particularly among native, labor, environmentalists, and social justice activists is essential for building democratic, sustainable communities;
- Re-affirmation that the resolution of aboriginal title and claims remains central to the coalition's objectives;
- Encouraging the development of long term sustainability plans for our communities and regions;
- ((Tin Wis Accord signed in February 1989 which officially formed the Tin Wis Coalition.))
- Coalition ceased activity shortly after its October 1990 conference in which they agreed to draft an alternate forest stewardship act.
- relations with BC Fed grew for a number of years – conventions etc

- Through 90’s environmental activism in unions and social democratic parties grew – context War in the Woods –
- Convention debates – Clayoquot Sound
- CORE and regional planning tables – mixed results
- Labour awareness of toxins (don’t stop at the plant gate) led to Environment Committees, discussions and sometimes OHS and Environment (merged or separate) officers/departments

Take the Lead - 2007 – Climate Change Focus
business, labour, faith, First Nations and the environmental movement.
Conference, November 2007 – 100 delegates
- ((Examples of partner organizations: BC Fed and affiliates; Van City; Pembina Institute; Sierra Club; Business Council of BC
Thought: decision makers more apt to listen because you are representing so many groups in society

- Goals
  - The most immediate goal of the gathering is to show that a number of different interests in the province are serious about working together to stop climate change -- Came at the same time that the BC government left labour out of the Climate Action Plan
  - Very ambitious – and not enough relationship building saw some conflict between environmentalists, labour, government and business
  - Weaver, James and Penner all speakers

((Challenges
- many compromises because so many different voices and very different organizational cultures and approaches
- who do they represent - themselves or a collective group of people?
- fell apart partly because of lack of resources but also because Premier Campbell climate action plan - labour not included, enviros and business were. made it difficult for group to stay together.

-- BC Fed Climate Change Working Group

GreenJobs BC (2010)
-- a bit more manageable - focused on labour and enviros. Allowed the 2 groups to establish a relationship and develop trust. – Mission Statement:
To strengthen communication and cooperation between labour and environmental organizations -- shared vision of an inclusive, sustainable economy that provides good green jobs, is socially equitable, ecologically responsible and reduces GHG emissions
--- decided to work on the things we agree on not the conflict areas. – focus areas: building retrofits, clean energy, and transit. Forestry to some extent. Avoided pipelines and coal.

- ((BC Fed; BC Government and Service Employees’ Union; BC Teachers’ Federation; BC and Yukon Building and Construction Trades Council; Hospital Employees’ Union; Unifor; United Steelworkers District 3; Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE 378) – now MOVEUp; Canadian Union of Public Employees – BC; Heat and Frost Insulators Local 118; The Columbia Institute; David Suzuki Foundation; Organizing for Change coalition; Pembina Institute; Sierra Club BC; Vancity Credit Union))

-- 2012 conference Jobs, Justice, Climate: Building a Green Economy for BC; This produced a series of policy recommendations in the areas of Buildings, Energy, Transportation, and Forestry that were released in 2013.
-- 2014 – 8 town hall meetings on local initiatives and priorities for green job creation;
>300 total;
-- another conference this fall
-- Helped fund The Pembina Institute’s interactive B.C. Clean Energy Jobs Map

- biggest challenges: neither labour and enviros are homogeneous groups – variety of views needing to find common ground

TODAY: BOTH HOPEFUL AND CHALLENGING
- different views and approaches to climate
- building trades jobs; resource jobs and communities (nod to US)
- different labour views and generations
- oil sands workers (CEP Fort McMurray local and union attending COP meetings; their concern about pipelines and opposition to Kinder Morgan)
- Great Bear Rainforest negotiations and final agreement can be a model for sustainability and jobs in other sectors and regions
- define the carbon free economy and the jobs that get us there
• corporate power – choosing investments limits response imagination of unions with current carbon-intensive jobs
• tendency to cling to jobs we have now and workers we represent – organizing in new sectors is a challenge for movement but one that is the foundation of labour
• define “transition” – “just transition” (dirty word – no justice and no transition to date)
• government is wedging unions (and progressive environmental politicians)
• challenges for NDP vis a vis pipelines – Site C – define jobs alternatives compellingly and locally