

Aboriginal Governance Exchange: Applied Research for First Nations Governance

B.C. Fisheries Council



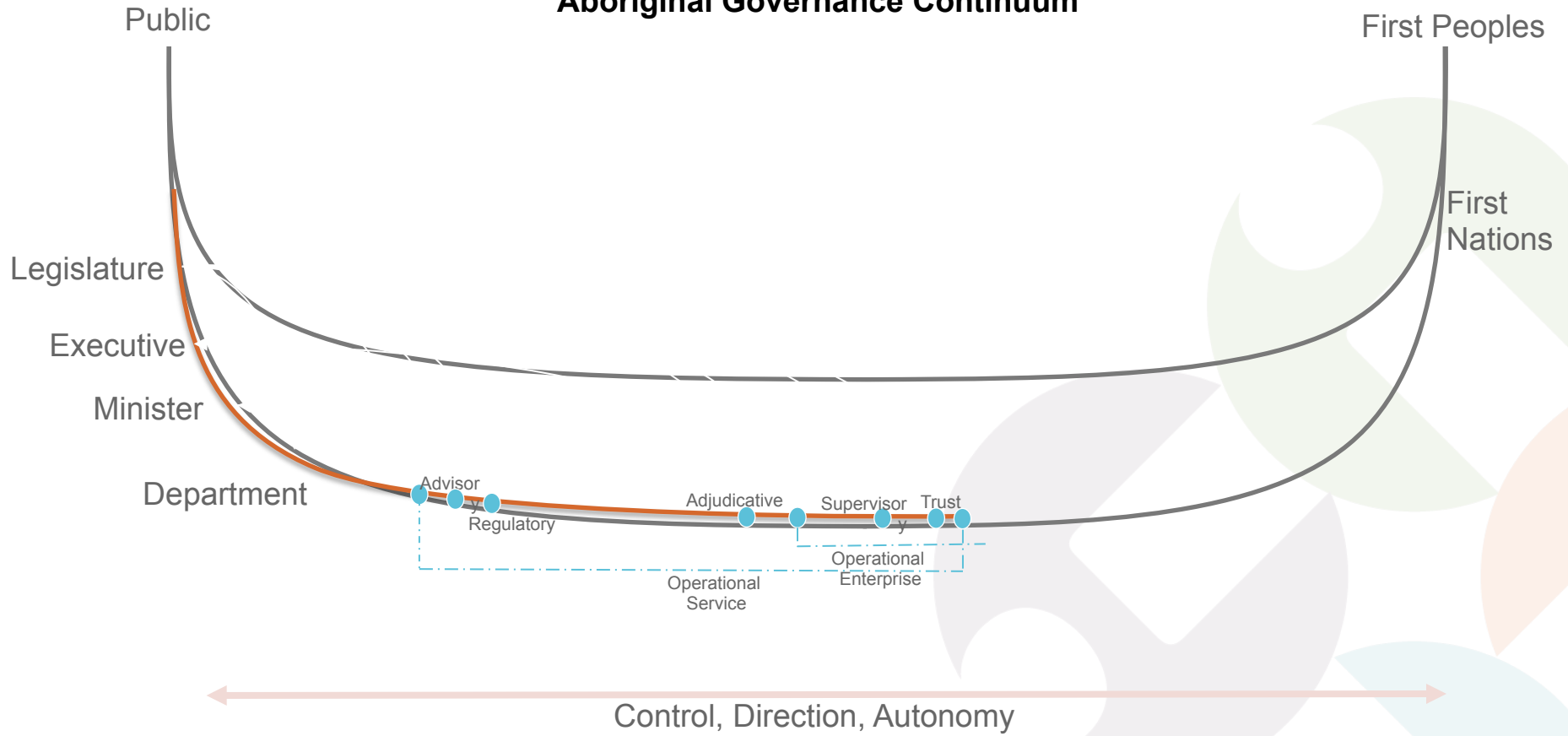
**Institute on
Governance**

LEADING EXPERTISE

**Institut sur
la gouvernance**

EXPERTISE DE POINTE

Aboriginal Governance Continuum



Where to start?

- The continuum's framework is applicable to all First Nations and FN institutions of governance regardless of their current system of governance – there is no defined 'starting point'.
- The framework allows for a coherent understanding of governance across all aspects of the continuum.
 - The model can also be used for sectoral views (economic, social services, fisheries, etc.)

Explaining and exploring relationships: “beyond the Indian Act” governance

- The governance transfer process between governments must allow for the emerging First Nation government to:
 - Develop their individual vision of their desired governance end point;
 - To navigate the ‘middle passage’ to ensure the achievement of timely results.
- This ‘middle space’ will be a charged environment, where partners will have to work together to occupy the space and ensure the transformation of powers.



Relating the Continuum to FNFC

- Important work launched in Action Plan and reflected in Accord with DFO
- However FN's have broader vision of fisheries role than management involvement; need to set stage for actual jurisdictional discussion around aquatic resources with range of federal and provincial players
- Further, need to grow FNFC as an institution of governance on behalf of BC FN's

Broad Scope of Transition Work

- Four part Action Plan:
 1. Visioning process to shape future structure and role
 2. Strategy to secure resourcing
 3. Mapping exercise on governance transition across 3 tiers of interaction
 4. Capacity assessment to assume future role

Immediate Needs of FNFC

- Organizational review to clarify roles, responsibilities and interactions
- Strategic engagement plan to move beyond DFO to re-capture jurisdictional ground of sustainable resource management rather than harvest management



Conclusion

- FNFC can take short term steps to position itself to define and fulfill a broader jurisdictional role in fisheries
- Implementation of the broader strategy can be tailored to fit the resource base identified from both government and NGO sources
- Starting now will allow for a strong, unified message re. FN aspirations when the Cohen Commission finally reports