

## Keynote Speakers, Yukon Community Economic Development Conference April 17-19, 2018

### **Brian Smith, CEO, Rhiza Capital Inc.**

Brian is a social entrepreneur, farmer, and community organizer. His career has taken him from the co-op movement, to working with people with disabilities, to ten years in community economic development in the downtown eastside of Vancouver.

His professional background includes serving as a senior executive administering successful loan programs, directing CED programming with non-profits, SMEs, local residents and the community at large. His academic background includes degrees in economics, community economic development and regional planning. Brian teaches social enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation in Simon Fraser University's Certificate Program for CED. He regularly presents to groups, workshops and conferences on social enterprise, innovation and finance.

Brian has been recognized as one of the Top 40 under Forty (2009), a Celebration of Excellence Award (2014), Land Award (2016), Widening Our World Award and Social Enterprise of the Year (2017), all attributable to his work in the field of social venture and impact investing. Brian was a co-founding Director of Sole Food Street Farms, the Hastings Crossing BIA, Gibsons Public Market and currently serves as the CEO of Rhiza Capital Inc. and Persephone Brewing Company.

Brian lives in Gibsons, BC, with his three kids, dog, bikes, and wife Melissa.



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### **Josie Osborne, Mayor of Tofino**

Josie Osborne is the Mayor of Tofino, a resort municipality in the heart of Clayoquot Sound in unceded Nuu-chah-nulth territory. Tofino's traditional resource-based economy, established after contact, has transformed in recent decades to a successful tourism economy, one which may have the highest concentration of independent, locally-owned businesses of any community in BC. Josie will describe how Tofino's economy is a product of its natural environment, cultural histories, and purposeful place-making, and how it may be on the verge of transformation yet again.

