

Department of Geography
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Conservation Encounters at Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek)

The Nature/Culture Nexus and what's being missed in
the Settler Environmental Movement – A Case Study

National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference 2022

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**University
of Victoria**

Learning and Teaching
Support and Innovation

Original Primary Forests of Vancouver Island and SW Mainland



Productive Old-Growth on Vancouver Island and SW Mainland 2012



Conservation options proposed by settlers at Fairy Creek

Type	Management	Jurisdiction	Benefit	Challenge
IPCA	co-management	Nation & State	Provide opportunity for Ethical Space created in negotiating with State	Lands must be public and a mechanism (like treaty negotiation) may be needed to solve colonial legalities around ownership
Fortress Conservation	Settler Conservation organizations, the state (Parks)	State	Lands managed for their "ecological values"	Indigenous peoples not asked to participate and are often restricted from visiting the lands
Community Forestry	Private Companies, partnership with local communities	State	Nation can participate in revenue sharing with private corporations	Corporate extraction and unequal profit sharing
Tribal Parks	Indigenous Nation with the potential to co-manage	Nation	Exerts the authority and jurisdiction of a Nation over their territory, forcing recognition	Must be led by the Nation; Indian Act makes this difficult
Land Back	Nation	Nation	Lands once held legally by the state or private entities returns to Indigenous jurisdiction and sovereignty	Property taxes, capacity to steward lands, willingness to declare



Context 2020-2021

1

The Wet'suwet'en govern themselves as Houses and Clans, led by **Hereditary chiefs**. This governance is based on Indigenous law and **predates colonization**.

Each House Chief is responsible for stewarding his or her House territory. Together, all House chiefs are responsible for Wet'suwet'en Nation's unceded traditional territory.

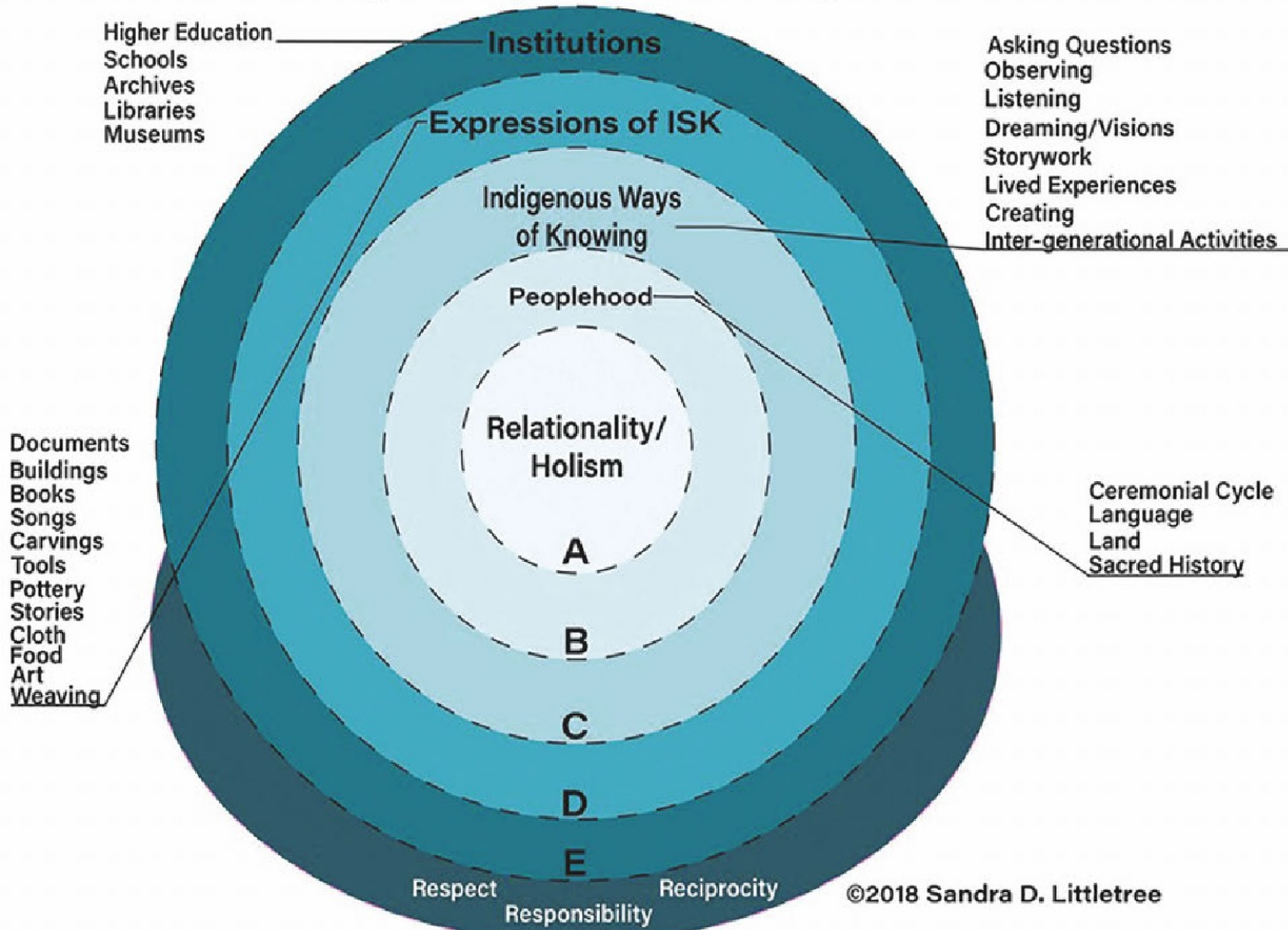


3

Band councils were introduced with the Indian Act in 1876 as part of Canada's attempts to **erase Indigenous law**.

The Supreme Court clarified in 1914 that the organization of a Nation into bands as a result of the Indian Act "does not affect the identity of the Nation as the holder of rights."

Indigenous Systems of Knowledge



Methodologies

- Indigenist (Simpson 2004)
- Relational (Rochelle Johnston, Deborah McGregor, & Jean-Paul Restoule 2018)

Methods

- Participant Observation
- Interviews
- Discourse Analysis
- Lit Review
- Place-based
- Two-Eyed Seeing

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs)



What is an IPCA?

“Through our engagement processes across Canada and our research on national and international case studies, we learned while IPCAs can vary in terms of their governance and management objectives, they generally share three essential elements:

- They are Indigenous-led.
- They represent a long-term commitment to conservation
- They elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities.”

-We Rise Together, p.5

We Rise Together

Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation



THE INDIGENOUS CIRCLE OF EXPERTS'
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
MARCH 2018

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in Canada

Innes et al. (2021)

Examples:
Gwaii Haanas
Thaidene Nënë

**Exclusive
Indigenous
Authority and
Governance**

Example:
**Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal
Park**

**Joint
Designations**
**Shared Decision-
Making**

**Co-Mgmt
under Crown
Legislation**

Example:
Torngat Mountains NP

IPCAs as Ethical Space

Ethical Space

As the below image shows, in an ethical space, relationships should be nurtured on multiple levels —not just on a political level—and founded on the principles that define our understanding of the space.

ORAL SYSTEMS

WRITTEN SYSTEMS

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, LANGUAGES, LEGAL TRADITIONS, CULTURES, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONAL PROTOCOLS, SACRED TEACHINGS

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

Calls to Action and Final Report and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION, CANADIAN JURISPRUDENCE
(Powley, Manitoba Metis Federation & Daniels)

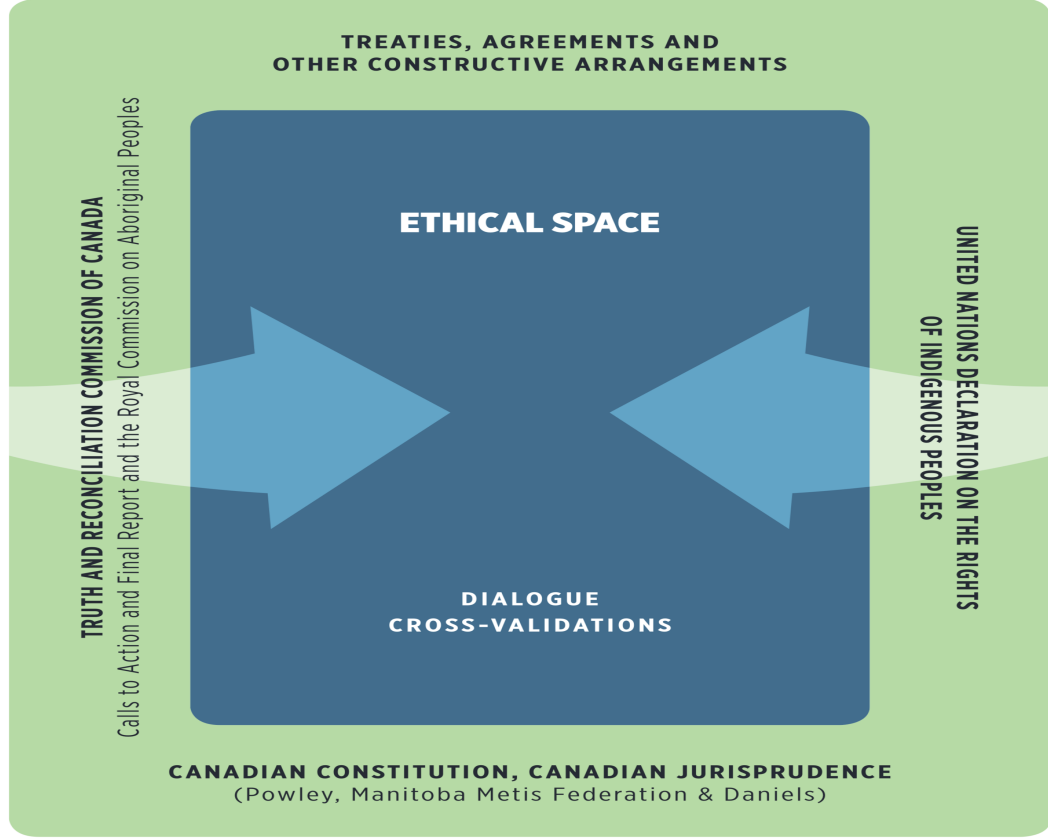
TREATIES, AGREEMENTS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

ETHICAL SPACE

DIALOGUE
CROSS-VALIDATIONS

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

OTHER KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS; CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR RELATED LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT AND PROCESSES



Ethical Spaces: Place is Personal



SC'IANEW First Nation Chief Russ Chipps stands on the homelands of the SC'IANEW people. An Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area is being considered for a 136-hectare property currently owned by the federal government. **Photo by Philip McLachlan/The Discourse**

Vancouver Island West Shore

Historic land agreement 'will bring our people home,' says SC'IANEW Chief

The First Nation plans to reclaim its territory at Mary Hill and protect it through Indigenous law.



Shalu Mehta



March 16, 2022



Fortress Conservation

Environmental Restoration In Progress

Please stay out of these areas.
Thank you for your cooperation.

 BC Parks 

Community Forestry



A Community Forest Reduces Wildfire Risk,
Increases Employment

[READ NOW](#)

Tribal Parks



<https://hashilthsa.com/sites/default/files/news-gal/Meares%20Sign%20WEB.jpg>

Land Back

SISØENEM (Halibut Island) transfers to W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council under historic agreement

The Land Conservancy purchased the 9.67-acre island for \$1.55 million with help from unnamed donor

WOLF DEPNER / Feb. 26, 2021 10:00 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS



Local Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders are hailing the historic transfer of an island just off Sidney as a major reconciliation.

The W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council representing Tsartlip, Tseycum, and Tsawout First Nations and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) have announced an agreement that will transfer title of SISØENEM – also known as Halibut Island located east off Sidney Island – from the charitable land trust to the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council.



<https://www.vicnews.com/news/sisenem-halibut-island-transfers-to-wsne-leadership-council-under-historic-agreement/>

Indigenous Guardians help Indigenous Nations honour the responsibility to care for lands and waters. They serve as the “eyes and ears” on traditional territories.

<https://www.ilinationhood.ca/guardians>



Tribal Parks Guardians

Meet the Guardians and learn about the Tribal Parks!

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d0/FairyCreekBlockade.jpg/800px-FairyCreekBlockade.jpg>



Returning To The Land





Chi-miigwech
Indinawemaaganidog

Kleco Kleco
Heshook-ish Tsawalk

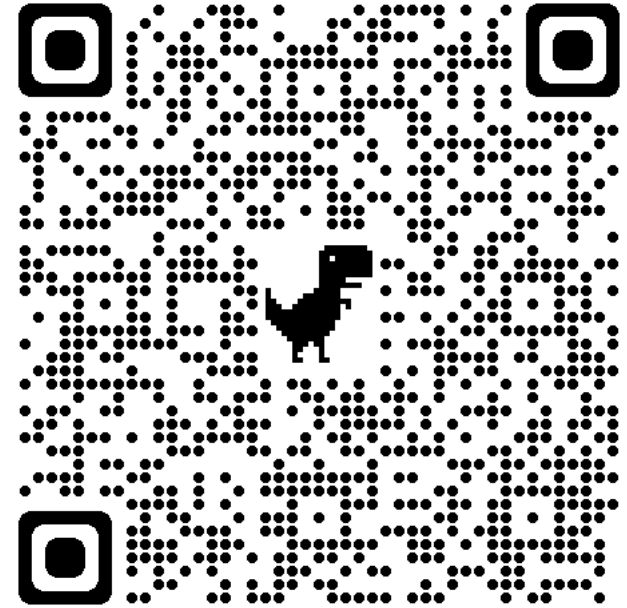
Thank you very much
All My Relations

References/Guidance

Please scan this QR code with the camera in your “smart” phone

Or visit:

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/learningtolisten/nticc-presentation-references/>



The slides from this presentation will be posted on the weekend, and will be available here:

<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/learningtolisten/resources/presentations/>