

Yale First Nation Final Agreement Fact Sheet: Culture

The Yale First Nation Final Agreement was negotiated by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and Yale First Nation. The Final Agreement provides Yale First Nation with certain rights and benefits regarding land and resources, and self-government over its lands and resources and its members. It provides certainty with respect to ownership and management of lands and resources and the exercise of federal, provincial and Yale First Nation governmental powers and authorities.

Under the Yale Final Agreement, the Yale First Nation government has the right to preserve its culture and may make laws applicable on its lands to preserve, promote and to practice the Puchil [pronounced: poo-cheel] dialect of the Nlaka'pamux [pronounced: na-clap-em] (Thompson) language and Yale First Nation culture. Yale First Nation culture includes history, feasts, ceremonies, naming practices, symbols, stories, songs, and dances.

Artifacts, Heritage Sites and Human Remains

Yale First Nation Artifacts play an integral role in the continuation of Yale First Nation culture, values and traditions.

Under the Final Agreement, the Yale First Nation Government may make laws concerning the designation, conservation, management, and public access to cultural heritage sites on Yale First Nation Land, as well as make similar laws respecting Yale First Nation artifacts owned by Yale First Nation. It may also make laws respecting the cremation or interment of archaeological human remains that are found on Yale land, or returned to Yale First Nation by other parties, such as universities and museums.

The treaty will lay out the framework for Yale First Nation to work cooperatively with Parks Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, and the Royal B.C. Museum toward the identification, future use, and possible return of Yale First Nation artifacts. At Yale First Nation's request, Canada or British Columbia will return any Yale First Nation archaeological human remains or burial artifacts either might possess in accordance with federal or provincial laws and federal or provincial policy.

At the request of Yale First Nation, Canada will make reasonable efforts to facilitate the First Nation's access to artifacts and archaeological human remains originating from Yale First Nation held in other public collections in Canada.

Yale First Nation may propose that British Columbia protect important cultural and heritage sites within the Yale First Nation area through provincial laws or other methods.