



BC TIMBER SALES – Introductory Information on Working with Indigenous Peoples

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BC Timber Sales (BCTS) manages the harvesting and reforestation of approximately 20 per cent of the allowable annual cut for public land, generating economic prosperity in British Columbia through safe and sustainable forest management and the auction of timber. As part of our business planning, there are guiding principles for forest sector safety, sustainable forest management, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is integral to BCTS' mandate and its long-term success, and the program will continue to engage with Indigenous Peoples on how to best collaborate and continue our collective journey towards reconciliation. Part of this journey is improving cultural awareness and the understanding of Indigenous Peoples' history, relationship with the land and legal framework. This includes opportunities to build effective and ongoing relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

Working together with Indigenous Peoples takes willingness to building relationships by participating in open exchanges regarding wants, experiences and culture. Each First Nation has unique cultures, community interests, and concerns regarding operations in their territories. Indigenous Peoples would like the land to be treated with respect, and the impacts to the land and its values minimized. As part of building relationships and informing operational decisions, it is important to understand Indigenous Peoples' connection to the land and how Indigenous knowledge can inform such decisions.

Understanding our shared history and why it has led to intergenerational trauma for Indigenous Peoples is an important step towards reconciliation, righting some wrongs from the past, and improving relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

The following information provides further insight into why we need to work with Indigenous Peoples but is only a fraction of available information. This document should be considered a starting point in educating all who work with BCTS.

Ongoing Learning is important to understand why colonialism has resulted in ongoing generational trauma for Indigenous Peoples. This includes educating ourselves on traditional governance, Indigenous Peoples' connection to the land, and the importance of traditional knowledge.

We need to build positive relationships through self-discovery and awareness, and understanding why cultural humility and cultural safety are important to healing relationships.

Education, listening to each other, and understanding everyone's points of view and culture are important to reduce potential conflict.

The ability to work respectfully, knowledgeably, and effectively will result in positive relationships.

Colonialism has greatly impacted Indigenous Peoples through racist and colonial policies, and the effects are still seen today. Some examples of this are: the continuing existence of the *Indian Act*; residential and day schools; Indian hospitals; the sixties and millennium scoops; the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and past and current provincial and federal government systems.

By working together, we can shift the status quo and renew trust-based relationships with Indigenous Peoples based on respect.

Success will be when Indigenous Peoples believe they are self-governing, self-reliant and self-determining.

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples need to work together to build a better British Columbia. This includes all who work directly for BCTS, TSL holders and contractors.

Colonialism forced Indigenous Peoples to disconnect from their lands, culture, and community.

To attempt to right wrongs from the past, we must work together to move towards reconciliation and build positive relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

Since **European contact** in the late 1700s (for BC) colonialism has greatly impacted Indigenous Peoples through assimilation, systematic destruction of culture, and disease.

The goal of the Province (including BCTS) is to reconcile with Indigenous Peoples. This includes providing opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in BC's economy.

This process is ongoing, and reconciliation will be achieved when everyone agrees. This may take time and will evolve over time.



As part of reconciliation, building respectful relationships, and forming positive partnerships with Indigenous Peoples will take place within and outside of government and on government worksites, and industry (including forestry) is also working to partner with Indigenous Peoples.