

The top of the slide features a horizontal banner with a collage of images: a wooden totem pole on the left, a Canadian flag in the center, and a close-up of a person's face on the right. Below this banner is a light blue curved shape that frames the title.

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Presentation to the BC Community Forest Association

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May 25, 2018

New Directions

- Adoption of UNDRIP
- Ministers mandate letters
- Minister's letter encouraging openness
- 10 principles to guide BCs relationship with Indigenous Peoples
- What does it all mean?

Ministers Mandate Letters

“As part of our commitment to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As minister, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.”

Sources of International Law



“Hard Law” (e.g. Treaties,
Conventions, Customary
international law)

“Soft Law” (e.g.
Declarations)

“Law as it is now”

“Law as it ought to be”

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Statement of desired future norms



What's in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

46 articles outline the fundamental human rights of Indigenous Peoples including:

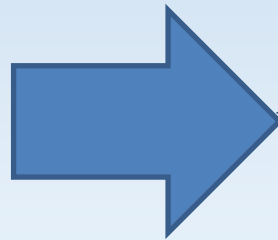
- Self-determination and internal governance;
- Preservation of culture, spiritual and religious traditions;
- Education and communication;
- Lands, and resources;
- Social and economic conditions; and
- Consultation – including free, prior and informed consent.

Draft Principles that guide BCs relationship with Indigenous Peoples

- Mirror Canada's 10 Principles
- Guide all public service staff in work to build relationships based on respect and recognition of inherent rights
- Each Ministry developing plan for implementing principles in day to day work
- They highlight that *how* we work with Indigenous peoples is as important as *what* we do.

Shifting Relationships

Legalistic /
Transactional



Deeper relationships
based on shared
values, partnerships,
respect



What does this mean for community forests?

Defining Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

‘Reconciliation’ is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour.

Each person has an important role to play in reconciliation. Reconciliation begins with oneself and then extends into our families, relationships, workplaces and eventually into our communities.

Article 32(2)

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.



