

All Hands on Deck Project

Principles and Practices for Respectful Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples

The following **DRAFT** principles and practices for advancing respectful multi-party invasive species partnerships involving Indigenous Peoples were developed using insights from 13 interviews with representatives of Indigenous nations, governments and organizations operating at the regional or national levels. This included 10 First Nations-, 2 Métis- and 1 Inuit-serving entities. These **DRAFT** principles and practices will be presented, discussed and further refined during a one-day virtual gathering attended by previous project contributors.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- ✓ Recognize Indigenous Peoples as 'rights-holders'.
- ✓ Research and craft a thoughtful territorial acknowledgment.
- ✓ Understand Aboriginal, treaty and title rights/responsibilities in your project area.
- ✓ Recognize the varied and complex roles of nation-to-nation relationships.
- ✓ Co-develop processes that uphold both individual and collectively-held rights.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Governance

- ✓ Adopt distinctions-based approaches.
- ✓ Identify and engage with self-determined representatives and bodies.
- ✓ Ask informed questions and seek out guides to help navigate nuance and complexity.
- ✓ Identify and collaboratively navigate multi-scale and multi-jurisdictional linkages.
- ✓ Act on the advice and direction you receive.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges

- ✓ Invest in OCAP's foundational training.
- ✓ Centre nation-specific frameworks for traditional knowledge integration/utilization.
- ✓ Offer to formalize data-sharing agreements, if/when deemed appropriate by communities.
- ✓ Fairly compensate and appropriately acknowledge knowledge-holders.
- ✓ Be transparent about when, where and how you intend to use the knowledge you gather.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Sovereignty

- ✓ Co-develop priorities, programs, participation and dispute resolution processes.
- ✓ Ensure communication occurs early, often and on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ Ground relationships in shared values, priorities and objectives.
- ✓ Remove silos and embrace intersectionality.
- ✓ Maintain engagement, communication and support outside of formalized projects.
- ✓ Connect the dots on relevant opportunities.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Laws

- ✓ Acknowledge the legitimacy and relevancy of Indigenous Peoples' laws.
- ✓ Recognize Indigenous governments' law-making and land-use planning authorities.
- ✓ Identify relevant legislation and resolutions.
- ✓ Ask what their law says about...
- ✓ Obtain appropriate consent throughout the project's and/or partnership's lifespan.

Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Time

- ✓ Recognize that time and capacity may be limited or directed to other priorities.
- ✓ Do your homework before you engage and invite communities to direct your learning.
- ✓ Practice radical transparency about yourself.
- ✓ Learn from past relationships.
- ✓ Share your time and resources generously.
- ✓ Grow into formalized long-term partnership.
- ✓ Prioritize institutional relationship memory.



All Hands on Deck Project

Spotlight Series: Indigenous-Led Invasive Species Action

Through the All-Hands-On-Deck Project, the CCIS is identifying and amplifying on-the-ground, Indigenous-led initiatives that are raising awareness about the threats invasive species pose to traditional Indigenous practices and ways of life, as well as the grassroots Indigenous community-driven actions that are addressing their impacts.

By shining a spotlight on the voices and experiences of Indigenous communities and partnerships that are taking action, we hope to catalyze even more awareness, collaboration and action to ultimately stop the spread of invasive species. This year, we will be adding the following four new Invasive Species Spotlights to our existing catalogue:

Grand Council Treaty #3

Grand Council Treaty #3 is the traditional government of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3 Territory. The Territorial Planning Unit (TPU) works with Treaty #3 Leadership to protect the lands, waters and resources in Treaty #3 territory. Invasive plants, including purple loosestrife, flowering rush and phragmites, are proliferating in and around Treaty #3 Territory, posing a significant risk to ecosystems that are vital to the traditional Anishinaabe way of life. The TPU's Invasive Plant Mapping project exemplifies creative, scalable, data-driven invasive species action that overcomes limited funding and resources.

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq is a Tribal Council that supports the advancement of its eight member First Nations' self-determined priorities. The Mi'kmaq Conservation Group (MCG) provides policy-, program- and capacity-related supports that help restore the Mi'kmaq law and show respect for lands and waters. This spotlight will focus on MCG's terrestrial invasive species initiatives, with a focus on the impacts of forest insects such as hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer, and efforts to address them.

7 Generations Steward Society

7 Generations Steward Society (7 Gens) is a Kwakwaka'wakw-led non-profit advancing a growing suite of diversified sustainability-focused initiatives on north Vancouver Island. Invasive plant species, such as scotch broom and giant hogweed, have dramatically affected culturally vital ecosystems and the Kwakwaka'wakw ways of life that rely on them. Through volunteer mobilization and strategic partnerships with a broad range of professionals, 7 Gens is advancing scalable invasive species action models that are building local capacity, preserving culture, and creating pathways for greater collective impact.

Upper Nicola Band

The Upper Nicola Band (UNB) is a Syilx community located in BC's Nicola Valley. Multiple wildfires and floods have devastated much of UNB's traditional territory and exacerbated a variety of invasive species issues in and around the Nicola River. This includes the propagation of invasive yellow perch and numerous other aquatic invasive species that are displacing culturally important native fish and affecting Syilx way of life. This spotlight will highlight the UNB's successful multi-year efforts to address those impacts.

Complete texts and formatted spotlights will be made available as participating communities and organizations consent to their public release.

