Indigenous Sovereignty is Sustainability

Dr. Shannon Waters
One Planet Saanich
May 14th, 2020



Acknowledgement

Traditional territory of Quw'utsun people

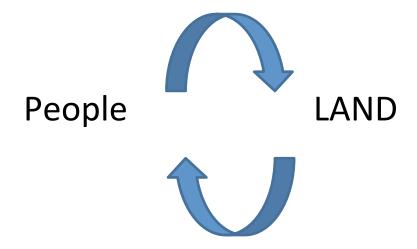
Indigenous health systems

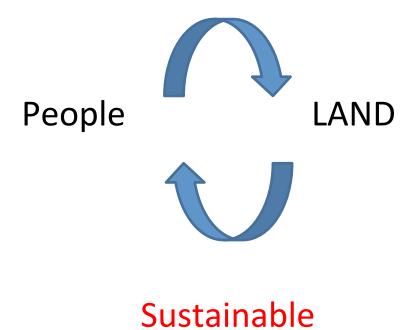
Excitement, enthusiasm & potential

Differing Worldviews

- Worldview that set foundation for Canada & social
 & legal structure we live within
 - Profound harms to well-being of Indigenous peoples
 & ultimately to us all
- Growing political & western scientific "recognition" of Indigenous worldviews/sovereignty
 - Indigenous sovereignty as fundamental to addressing our greatest threat to health
 - climate change & biodiversity collapse

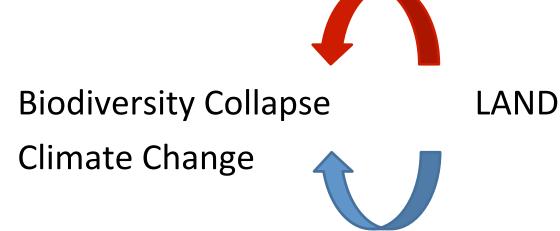
LAND

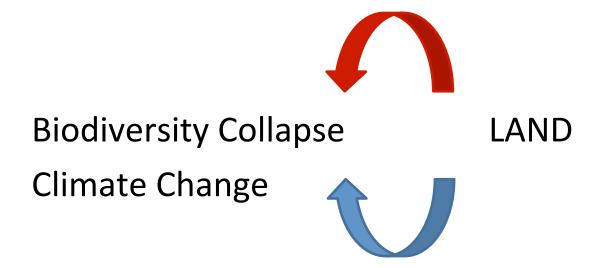




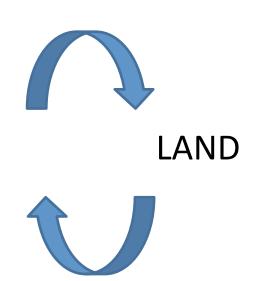


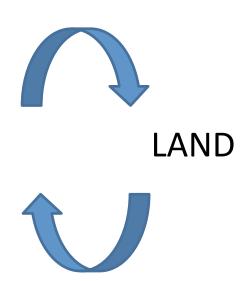
LAND



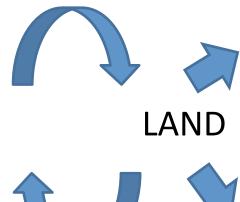


Most Significant Threat to our Health





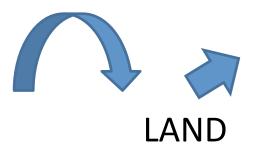
Sustainable



Mental Wellness

Maternal/Child/ Family Wellness

Sustainable



Largest Burden

Mental Wellness





Maternal/Child/ Family Wellness

Sustainable

Highest Return on Investment

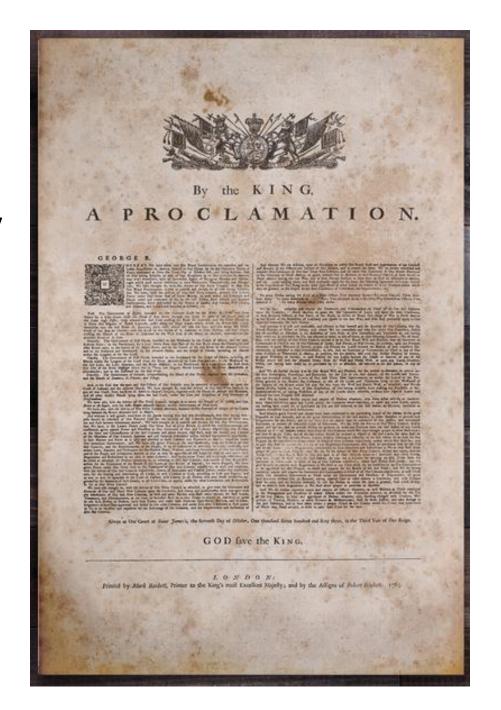
Doctrine of Discovery, 1493

- International law that established spiritual, political, & legal justification for seizure, sovereign ownership & colonization of land
- Indigenous peoples, as non-Christians, were not human & therefore land was empty or terra nullius



Royal Proclamation of 1763

- Established government administration in territory France ceded to Britain
- King George reserved lands to "several nations" or tribes of "Indians" that were under his "protection" as their exclusive "hunting grounds"
- Only agents of British monarch could directly buy interest of "Indians" in their ancestral soil



British North America Act, 1867

 Responsibility for relations with Indigenous peoples transferred from Britain to Canada, including responsibility for treaties

AN ACT

OF THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT

FOR THE

UNION

OF

CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK,

AND THE

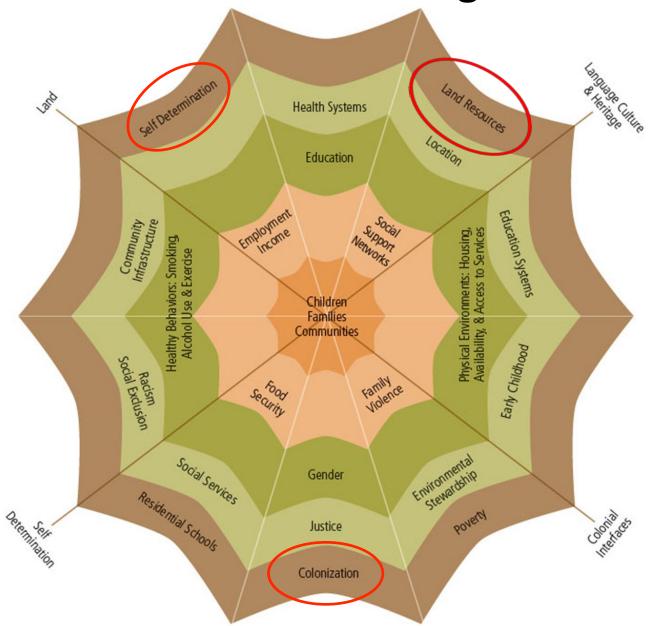
GOVERNMENT THEREOF;
AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

(30 VICTORIÆ, CAP. 3.)



OTTAWA:
PRINTED BY HUNTER, ROSE & CO.
1867.

Social Determinants of Indigenous Health



National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health



Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996

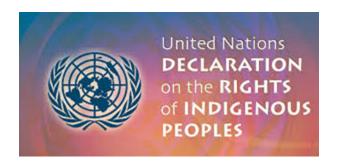
- 4000 page report with 440 recommendations, including:
 - Acknowledgement that concepts such as terra nullius & Doctrine of Discovery are factually, legally & morally wrong & no longer form part of law making or policy development
 - Legislation
 - a new Royal Proclamation

Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report, 2015



- 94 recommendations, including:
 - (45)(46)(47)(49) ...repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands & peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery & terra nullius,[] & the reformation of laws, governance structures, & policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts

UNDRIP, 2007 (2016)



- 46 articles, including:
 - (25) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain & strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditional owned or otherwise occupied & used lands...
 - (29) 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation & protection of the environment & the productive capacity of their land...

NEWS | ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

UN Report Says Indigenous Sovereignty Could Save the Planet

May 7, 2019

Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services – unedited advance version

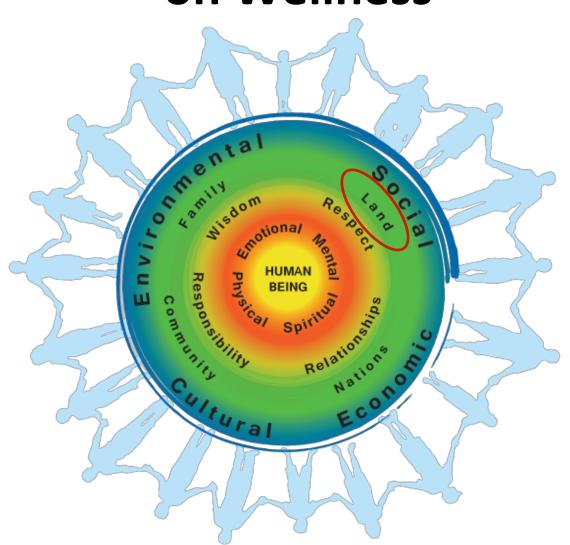
Nature managed by indigenous peoples and local communities is under increasing pressure.

Nature is generally declining less rapidly in indigenous peoples' land than in other lands, but is nevertheless declining, as is the knowledge of how to manage it. At least a quarter of the global land area is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples. These areas

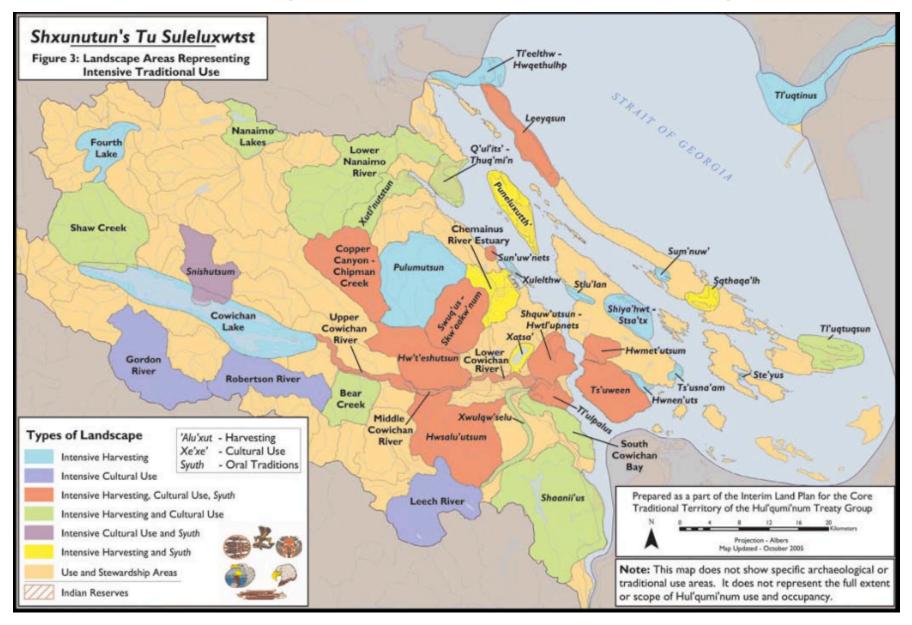
DS Recognizing the knowledge, innovations and practices, institutions and values of indigenous peoples and local communities and their inclusion and participation in environmental governance often enhances their quality of life, as well as nature conservation, restoration and sustainable use, which is relevant to broader society. Governance, including customary institutions and management systems, and co-management regimes involving indigenous peoples and local communities can be an effective way to safeguard nature and its contributions to people, incorporating locally attuned management systems and indigenous and local knowledge.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

The First Nations Perspective on Wellness



Hul'qumi'num Territory

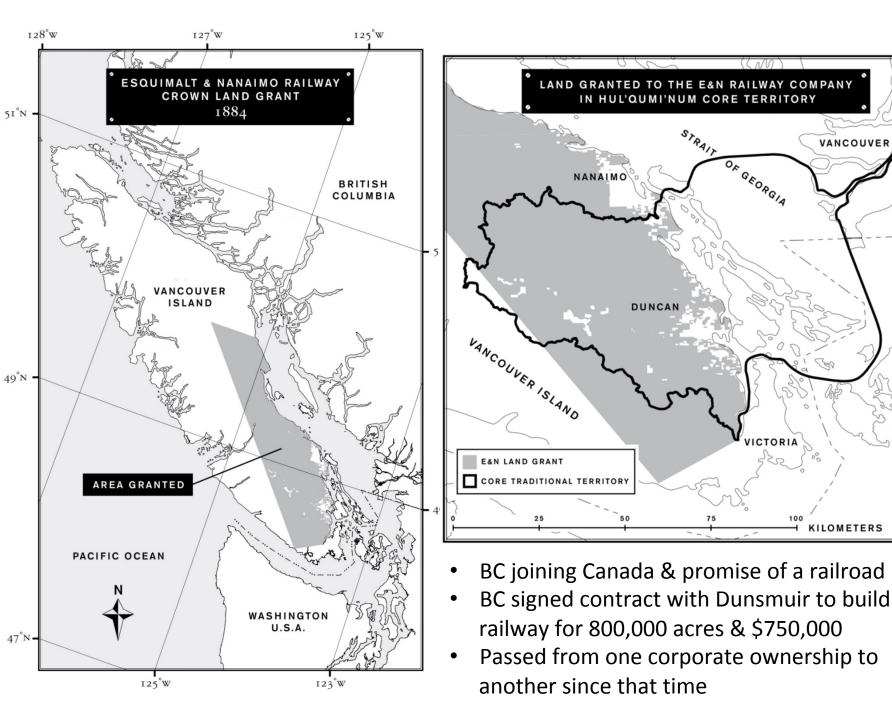


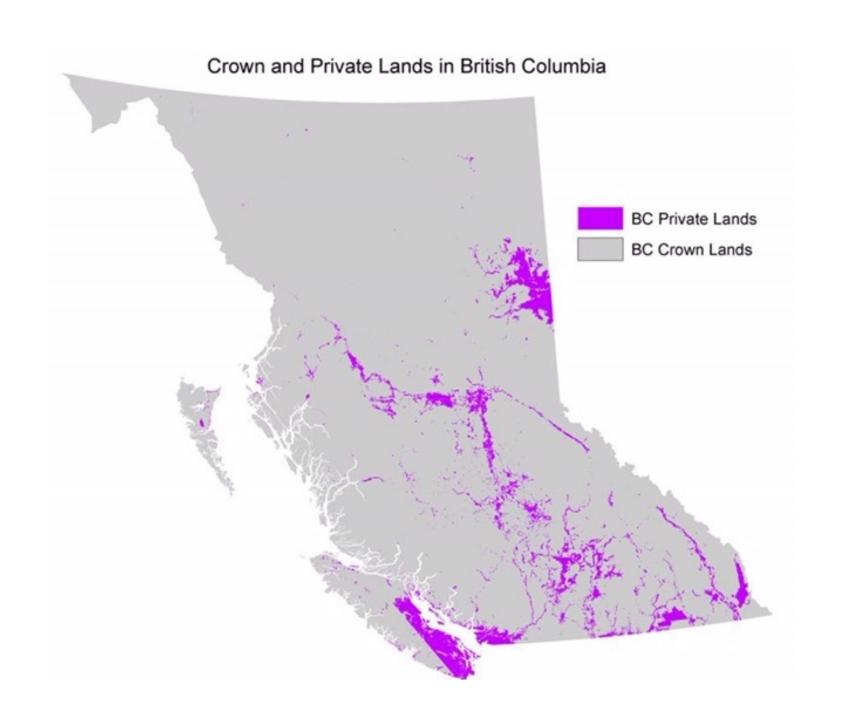
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (1993-present)

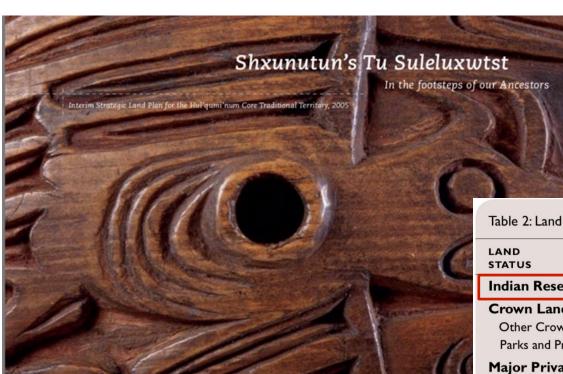


Cowichan, Lake Cowichan, Halalt, Lyackson, Penelakut (Stz'uminus First Nation)

"THE HUL'QUMI'NUM PEOPLE SHOULD BENEFIT FROM AND HAVE A MEANINGFUL SAY ON 100% OF THE TERRITORY THAT BELONGED TO OUR ANCESTORS"







Interim Strategic Land Plan

Table 2: Land Status in Hul'qumi'num Territory		
	LAND AREA(HA)	PER CENT OF CORE TERRITORY
Indian Reserves	6,400	1.9
Crown Lands	47,647	14.2
Other Crown	38,823	11.6
Parks and Protected Areas	8,824	2.6
Major Private Land Holdings	197,866	59.0
Timberwest (FSL)	114,129	34.0
Island Timberlands LP (FSL)	65,255	19.4
Hancock Timber Group (FSL)	13,107	3.9
North Cowichan Municipal Forest (FSL)	5,374	1.6
Other Private Land Holders	83,665	24.9
Total HTG Core Territory	335,578	100.00

 securing co-management agreements with other levels of governments to give Hul'qumi'num decision making authority over lands and resources, or access to resources, outside of treaty settlement lands;



Our law making authority will empower us to be the architects of a sustainable future for our lands.

> **Sovereignty is** sustainability

Cowichan Watershed Board





 Co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes & Cowichan Valley Regional District

Municipality of North Cowichan Passes Climate Emergency Motion

by One Cowichan

364.20ep

on July 18, 2019

In addition to the official acknowledgment of a climate emergency, the motion clarifies the Municipality of North Cowichan's intention to "look at all applicable decisions through a climate lens, including but not limited to: rewriting our

Official Community Plan and reviewing the management of our municipal forests."



Municipality of North Cowichan (MNC) is part of the traditional territories of the Cowichan, Halalt, Penelakut & Lyackson First Nations

Oct 2, 2019

After 26 years...

www.cowichanvalleycitizen.com

 $\rightarrow \cdots$

- Hul'qumi'num Treaty
 Group
 - Stage 4: 20 years
 - Stage 5: Goal of developing "final agreement" in 4 years



HTG chief negotiator Robert Morales. (Citizen file)

After 26 years, Hul'qumi'num treaty negotiations move to Stage 5

Vancouver Island's Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group transitions to Stage 5

SARAH SIMPSON / Oct. 2, 2019 1:08 p.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS





Larry Pynn / Times Colonist AUGUST 8, 2019 06:00 AM













A commentary by a veteran environmental journalist and winner of eight Jack Webster journalism awards who recently moved from Tsawwassen to Maple Bay in the Cowichan Valley.

We live in an era of reconciliation. Everyone wants First Nations to improve their situation, to prosper economically. But does that mean society should turn a blind eye when Aboriginals do something that would rightly subject non-natives to criticism?

I don't think so, and here's why:

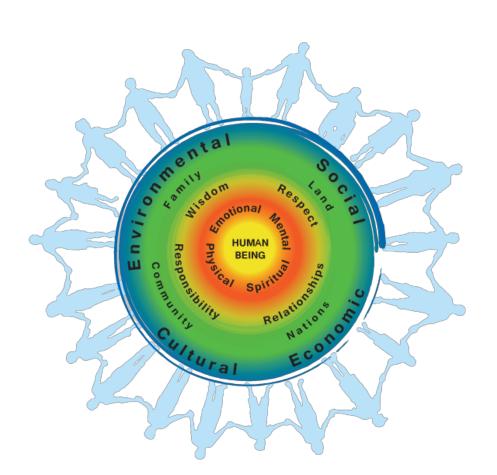
Key Messages

- Acknowledge land as the root issue
- Repudiate laws, governance structures, policies that continue to rely on Doctrine of Discovery
 - Bill 41 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Key Messages

- Acknowledge land as the root issue
- Repudiate laws, governance structures, policies that continue to rely on Doctrine of Discovery
- Create spaces/promote models in your work that re-establish connection, ownership, control, management, co-governance
- New Doctrine Indigenous Sovereignty is Sustainability

Huy tsap q'a



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