

BUILDING CULTURAL BRIDGES

*Exploring aspects of reconciliation with
Vancouver Island First Nations*

AVICC Presentation

1

In order to understand where we are today...

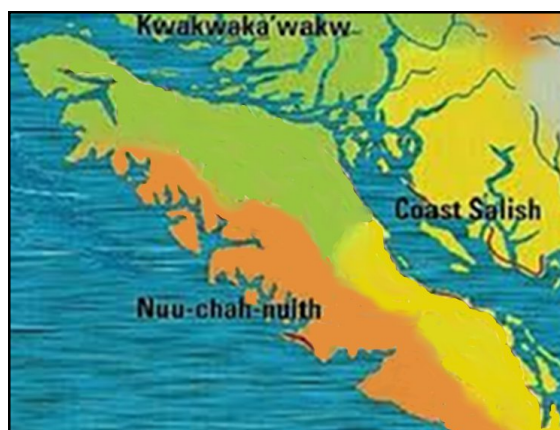
And where we would like to be...

We must understand where we have been.

2

A worldview through an Indigenous lens...

3





Building Our Nations

pínwəl, hapaksum, hitaqłas, ʕučíʂt

Introductions:

Who are you? Where do you come from?

What is your role within your Nation?

Establishing Resources

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Interactive Scenario

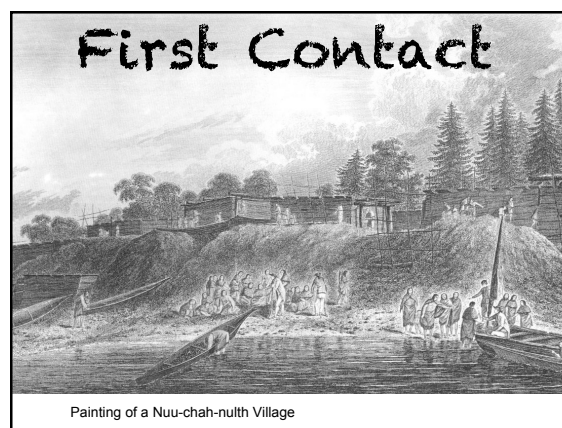
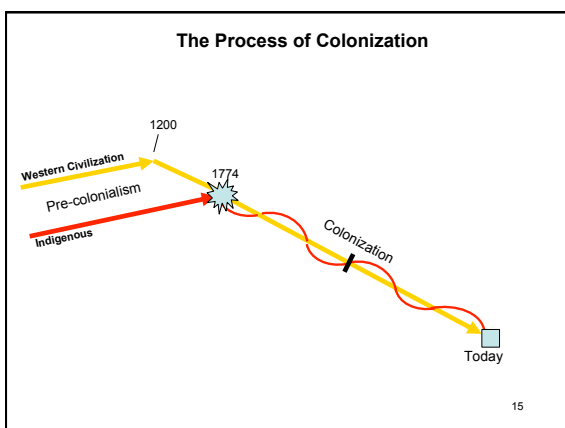
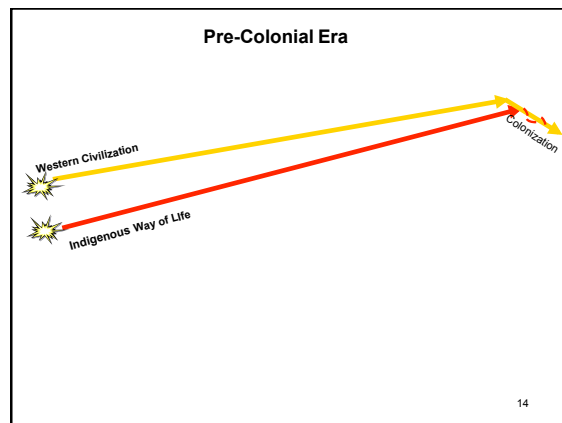
m'akwink Trade

Each Nation establishes their available resources

Nations require at least one (1) resource for domestic use
Any extra resources are available for trade
Each nation also has one (1) unique resource

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Āiimut tumaqt
An extended time of darkness



Early Contact

3 G's GOD GLORY GOLD
4 B's Bible Bullets Booze Blankets

Estimated First Nations Population
of North America at the time of
Contact:
12-15 million

1492
Christopher Columbus is discovered by the Tainos People in the Carribean

1774
Spanish ships spotted off the Nuu-chah-nulth coast

1778
Captain James Cook is discovered by the Nuu-chah-nulth People

1778 Captain James Cook stays nearly a month refitting at Nootka Sound on his third voyage to the Pacific, becoming the first European known to actually set foot in British Columbia. He discovers that the aboriginal people are familiar with iron (probably because of earlier trade with the Spanish) and trades for various items, including sea otter pelts. The pelts later command a fantastic price in China.

1784 The account of Cook's voyage is published, including the price fetched for sea otter pelts, inspiring a rush for furs.

1785-1825 The maritime fur trade is conducted off the western coast. During this period, roughly 170 ships from Europe ("King George Men") and the United State ("Boston Men") participate in the trade. The aboriginal people of west coast (the Nuuchanulth) are willing partners in the trade, which is generally amenable and mutually beneficial. Most ships stay only for a season, but encourage friendly relations with the natives because they might be encountered the next season. The Nuuchanulth skillfully play ships off each other, negotiating the highest possible price for their furs and thereby heavily influencing the trade. The fur trade declines when the sea otter population is hunted almost to extinction.

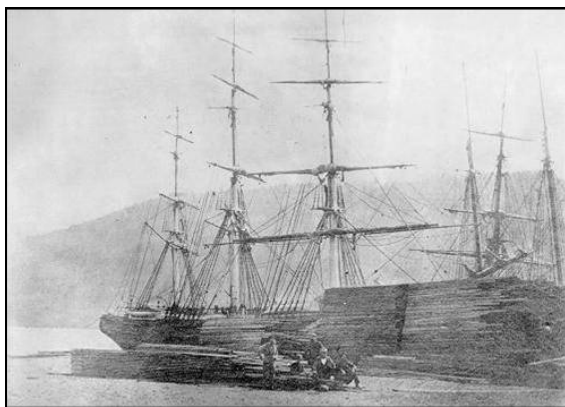
1792 Captain George Vancouver charts most of Georgia Strait, including English Bay, the future site of the city bearing his name.

1793 Alexander Mackenzie is the first European to reach the Pacific by land. His traverse is possible only because he follows the "grease trails" through the northern part of British Columbia, a network of well-established routes used by natives for the traditional trade in oolichan oil (or "grease") and other commodities.

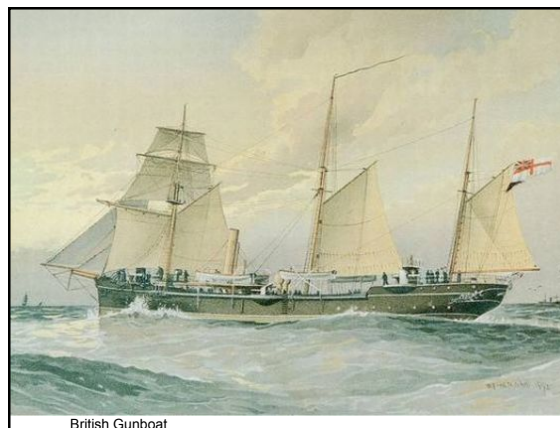
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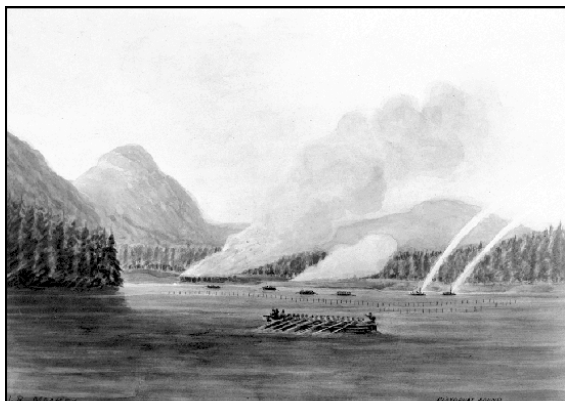
Captain James Cook



Trading Ships in Alberni Canal early 1800's



British Gunboat



Attack on Nuuchanulth Village late 1800's

1803 Chief Maquinna of Nootka Sound attacks the *Boston*, an American sealing vessel, after a

1827 The Hudson's Bay Company establishes Fort Langley near the mouth of the Fraser River

1840 Salmon purchased from Native Traders became the principal HBC export from Fort Langley

1843 The Hudson's Bay Company establishes Fort Victoria on the southeast tip of Vancouver Island

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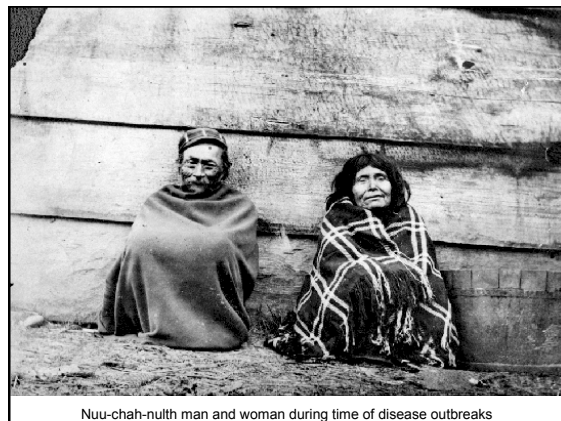
1847-50
Measles outbreak in Nuu-chah-nulth territory

1849
Vancouver Island becomes a British Colony

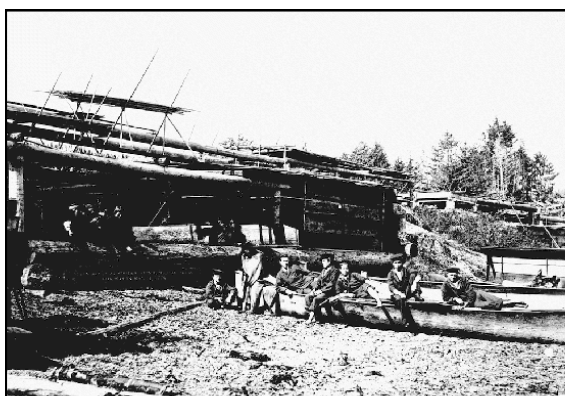
1858
British Columbia becomes a British Colony & the Fraser River Gold Rush begins

1861
First Residential School is opened - Coqualeetza (Chilliwack, BC)

1862
Smallpox outbreak in Nuu-chah-nulth territory (up to 90% of First Nations People do not survive these two outbreaks)



Nuu-chah-nulth man and woman during time of disease outbreaks



British Navy after attack of a Nuu-chah-nulth Village



British Navy Officers and Nuu-chah-nulth people - late 1800's

1864- 71 Joseph Trutch, British Columbia's Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, is responsible for the creation of the province of British Columbia.

1866 Vancouver Island and British Columbia are united to become the Colony of British Columbia.

1867 Canada is confederated under the terms of the British North America Act.

1868 Department of Fisheries (federal) is formed under the authority of the Fisheries Act - all fishing privileges would flow from the Crown to whites and Indians alike.

1867 - First Salmon cannery operating in BC. Within a decade become large salmon cannery.

1867
Canada is confederated under the terms of the British North America Act.

1868
Indian Act is passed

Indian Hospitals

1871 British Columbia joins Canada under the Terms of Union. The aboriginal people, who c

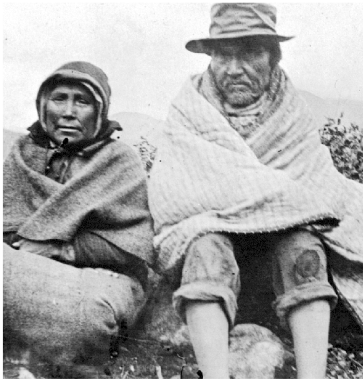
1872 The right of aboriginal people to vote in provincial and federal elections is rescinde

1874 The Indian Act is restructured and codified from pre-confederation laws. It influences al

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Nuu-chah-nulth village after Indian Act - early 1900's



Nuu-chah-nulth woman and man 1920's



Nuu-chah-nulth men - 1920's

1875 – Even with all these barriers, Nuu-chah-nulth people still continued to adapt and flourish using their traditional skills and knowledge. In 1875 the “Indian Superintendent declared the Nuu-chah-nulth, “the richest Indians” he ever met.

1877 The federal Fisheries Act (1868) is adopted by BC
- Native fisheries was initially exempt from this Act

1879 Department of Fisheries began to keep track of the “Home Consumption of Fish by the Indians of British Columbia, exclusive of European supply”
- estimated 17,000,000 salmon, 3,000,000 pounds of halibut, as well as sturgeon, trout, herring, oolichan and other fish at \$4,885,000.00 (this is roughly 100 billion dollars in current CAD)
- The Dominion of Canada (Fisheries) adopted a nation-wide regulation that prohibited fishing for salmon, except under the authority of a lease or license from the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

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1884 A law is enacted against the potlatch, a traditional gift-giving ceremony central to aboriginal social organization, status, and life-cycle events. The federal government approves the formation of church-run industrial and residential schools in certain areas to educate aboriginal children. The federal government also introduces laws limiting aboriginal people in fishing, hunting, and other food-gathering activities.

- 90% of those involved in the commercial salmon fishery in B.C. were the First Nations. A move was launched to deny Natives commercial access to the fisheries resource.

1885 Fisheries Guardians are established in an effort to expand fisheries surveillance in large part to control and restrict Native freshwater fisheries.

From this time to the 1920's FN fishers still dominate the fishing and cannery industries.

1887 - Canadian Railway is completed in 1887, providing transport for frozen and canned fish to eastern Canada and the US.

1888 additions were made to the Fisheries Act and Regulations:

- fishers were required to register their equipment and intended fishing locations
- Fisheries could limit the number of boats in a region
- and under certain circumstances, Indians were not required to hold a license. This exemption was for food fish (permission for food fisheries came from the Inspector of Fisheries) and any fishing by Natives for sale must be under license (1894 Fisheries amendment)
- Fisheries regulations restricted what Natives might do with their catch, they could fish for food but not for 'barter, sale or commerce'. The licensing system created a native labor pool for the fish canneries, which were owned by non natives.

1900

First Nations population in North America is reduced from 15 million to 300 000

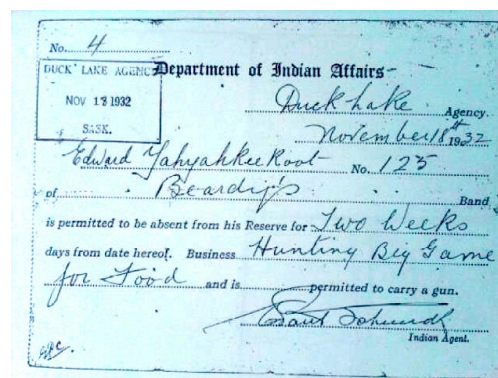
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1909-10 A delegation of First Nations apply to King Edward VII to have the Privy Council determine aboriginal title. The request is denied on the grounds that it is a Canadian issue.

1910's - The number of canneries peak at around 94. World's largest cold storage is built in Prince Rupert in 1911 for salmon.

1910 Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier visits British Columbia. He supports recognition of aboriginal land rights, in contrast to the province which resolutely refuses to acknowledge aboriginal rights. The stark opposition of federal and provincial positions hampers negotiations for an aboriginal land policy for decades.

1912-16 The Royal Commission on Indian Affairs is established in response to increasing pressure from new settlers seeking lands in British Columbia. The commission, known as the McKenna-McBride Commission after the federal and provincial officials that founded it, reviews the size of reserves throughout the province and, while it introduced many new reserves (mainly fishing stations and poor quality lands), it cuts off 47,085 acres worth twice as much from existing reserves.

1913 Duncan Campbell Scott becomes Deputy Superintendent General of the Department of Indian Affairs, the chief bureaucrat responsible for aboriginal policy. His stated objective is assimilation. He oversees virtually all aspects of the department until his retirement in 1932⁴¹

1922

RCMP seize over 600 objects in a potlatch raid on Vancouver Island... Objects are given to museums and chiefs and elders are arrested

1931

80 Residential Schools operating in Canada - 10 000 First Nations children ages 6 - 15

1947

First Nations are allowed to vote in British Columbia

1951

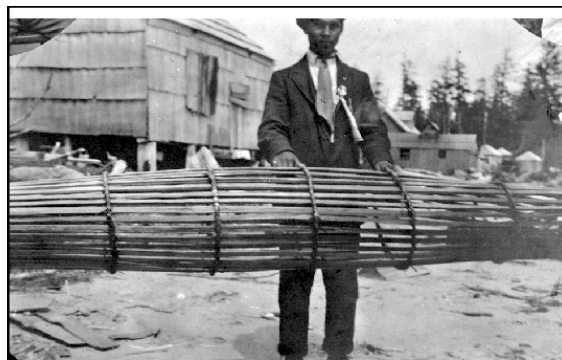
Potlatch Law is dropped - it is now legal to practice culture

1960

First Nations are allowed to vote in Canada



Nuu-chah-nulth woman and child - 1920's



Nuu-chah-nulth man with fish trap - late 1920's



Nuu-chah-nulth elders with grandchildren - 1920's



Nuu-chah-nulth house post - 1930's

1918 – Asian Flu hits Nuu-chah-nulth communities after the measles had already ravaged communities. This declining population continued into the 1880's, ironically the same time that they became the minority.

1922 Chief Dan Cranmer and his guests are arrested for potlatching in Alert Bay. Fifty-one people, including Chief Cranmer, were arrested.

1927 The Indian Act is amended to make it illegal for native peoples to raise money or retain a lawyer to sue the government.

1926 - In 1926 the Province of BC establishes a games branch establishing wardens to enforce fishing, hunting and trapping laws.

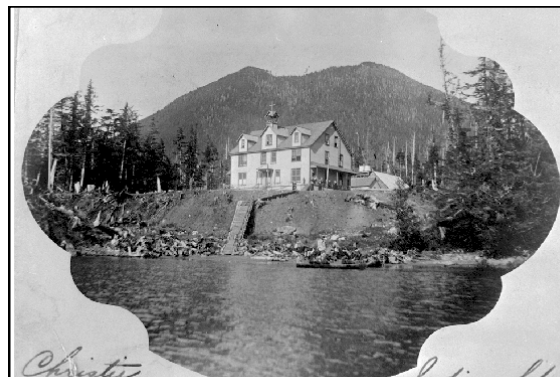
1949 The right of aboriginal people in British Columbia to vote in provincial elections is reinstated.



Alberni Indian Residential School - 1940's



Alberni Indian Residential School - late 1940's



Christie Residential School - Meares Island (Tofino) early 1900's



Alberni Indian Residential School Orchestra - 1950's



1951 In a restructuring of the Indian Act, the federal government quietly drops the regulations against potlatching and land claims - the amendment removes major prohibitions against Indians. Canada recognized that Indians desired greater control over

1960 Aboriginal people in Canada are permitted to vote in federal elections.

In 1969, The Davis Plan is implemented greatly reducing Nuu-chah-nulth fleet participation. The goal of this policy was to drive

1969 The Nisga'a go to court over the Calder case. The Supreme Court rules that the Nisga'a hold title to their traditional lands

1972 Indian Control of Indian Education policy document is written by National Indian Brotherhood advocating parental respon

1973 As a result of the Calder case in 1969, the federal government adopts a comprehensive land claims policy to address issues

1970s-1980s Increased First Nations protests and evolution of political structures, such as tribal councils representing traditional historical associations. British Columbia still refuses to recognize aboriginal title or negotiate treaties.

1982 Canada's Constitutional Act, Section 35, recognizes and affirms existing aboriginal and treaty rights. Established constitutional right to harvest fish.

1985 The BC Native Women's and national women's organizations long hard fight has resulted in Bill C 31 which sees women and children who have lost their status, as well as those who were enfranchised get their status back. Some are going through the lengthy process of regaining status even today.

1987 - Salmon Farming starts along the western coast of BC

1990 The Oka Crisis in Québec receives national attention when Mohawk warriors meet in an armed stand-off with the provincial police and Canadian army over the land at Oka. Native people across the country rally to support the Mohawks and to emphasize their demands for recognition of inherent aboriginal title and rights.

- The Sparrow decision is handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada, confirming that the right of the Musqueam people to fish for food, social, and ceremonial purposes was never extinguished.
- British Columbia agrees to join the First Nations and Canada in treaty negotiations.

The last Residential school is closed (Gordon Residential School, Saskatchewan)

1996

1996 NTC Smokehouse Case

- NTC Smokehouse, was charged with selling fish that were not caught by persons with a commercial fishing licence; in defence, it was argued that the fishermen had an aboriginal right to sell their fish commercially
- applying the "integral to distinctive culture" test, the court noted that the determination is primarily based on factual evidence and findings of fact
- the court also noted that for aboriginal claimants, proving a commercial aboriginal custom or practice is a right will face a more onerous burden of proof than merely claiming a subsistence or ceremonial custom or practice is a right
- in this case, the court held that the claimants did not establish a right, as per the Vanderpeet test

1997 The Supreme Court of Canada hands down its unanimous decision on the Delgamu'ukw case. The court rules that aboriginal title to the land was never extinguished. Furthermore, the court states that the previous trial judge erred by not accepting oral history as evidence in the case. The claim was sent back to trial with the suggestion that negotiations are the best way to resolve outstanding claims.

1998 The Nisga'a conclude a treaty with Canada and British Columbia. Stemming from the Calder case in 1969, the treaty is the first "modern treaty" negotiated between a First Nation and the British Columbia government. The treaty sets out the Nisga'a's right to self-government, and the authority to manage lands and resources.

2001 The Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada is formed by the federal government to address roughly 13,000 claims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse suffered by aboriginal students that attended residential schools.

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June 17, 2003 Nuu-chah-nulth Fisheries Litigation

- the chiefs of 11 NCN Nations, with the support of their communities, decided to bring the legal action to have their entitlement to fish determined by a court.
- trial began on April 24 2006

2008 The Canadian federal government issues a formal apology to the survivors of the Indian residential school system, not only for the excesses suffered in the system but also for the creation of the system itself. Aboriginal leaders across Canada cite the apology as an important step to the healing process.

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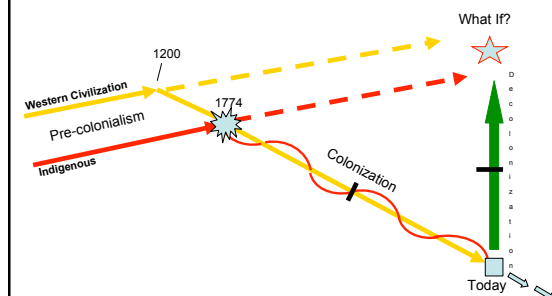
Reflection

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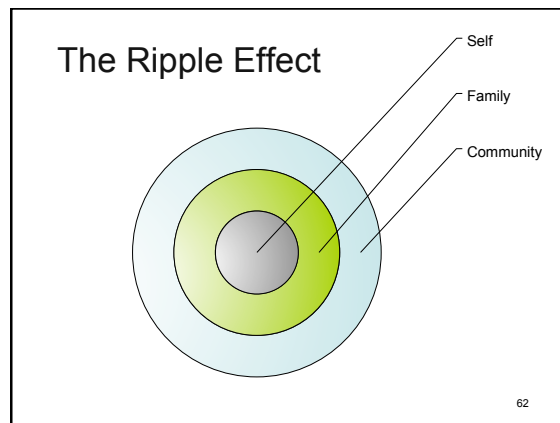
ʔuʔacup qałħmisʔi
Bringing Back the Light

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Decolonization



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World English Dictionary
reconcile ('rɛkən, saɪl)

— vb

1. to make (oneself or another) no longer opposed; cause to acquiesce in something unpleasant: she reconciled herself to poverty
2. to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people)
3. to settle (a quarrel or difference)
4. to make (two apparently conflicting things) compatible or consistent with each other
5. to reconsecrate (a desecrated church, etc)

[C14: from Latin reconciliāre to bring together again, from re- + conciliāre to make friendly, conciliate]

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Symbolic Reconciliation

vs

Action Oriented Reconciliation

64

Symbolic Reconciliation

- * Raising awareness of non-indigenous peoples regarding the impacts of colonialism, displacement, loss of cultural identity, etc.
- * Immersing in deeper understandings of traditional nuuŋanul practices and way of life
- * Sharing a more accurate depiction of the shared history in indigenous territories
- * Respect and acknowledgement of loss of culture, language and spirituality

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Action Oriented Reconciliation

- * Commitment toward improving well being of indigenous peoples and lands (social, environmental, economic, spiritual, cultural, linguistic, etc.)
- * Formal acknowledgement of wrongful acts that were politically and socially accepted in recent history
- * Meaningful engagement and participation with indigenous Nations to restore, strengthen and revitalize cultural identity and practices
- * Collective development and implementation of a reciprocal healing initiative (internal and external)

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What do healthy cross-cultural relationships and engagement look like?

On a personal level?

As a family-based initiative?

At a community-wide level?

At a regional level?

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What could or should reconciliation look like across the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District?

What is already being done?

What are some common-ground areas that can be built upon?

What is not happening yet?

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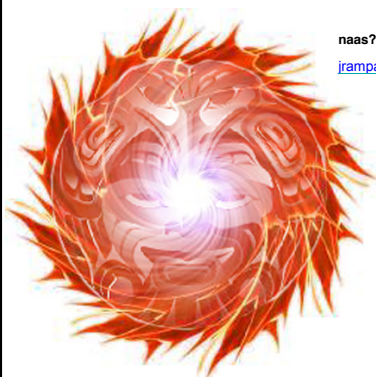
Establishing meaningful and sustainable relationships across cultures requires patience, commitment, nurturing and compassion

Growing from a seedling to a majestic tree



maamut
ng and Preparing Our Food To Tak

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