

BEYOND CONSERVATION: A TOOLKIT FOR RESPECTFUL COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In seeking reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, it is important to acknowledge the damage that has been done through colonial conservation methods. For example, in some cases Indigenous nations were forcibly removed from their territories or denied their traditional harvesting rights in an effort to protect and conserve lands and species. It is necessary to learn from these past mistakes and to advance stewardship and conservation in ways that include meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities and consider Indigenous Knowledge, perspectives and practices.



While it can be challenging to know where to start, the **Beyond Conservation Toolkit** is a user-friendly online resource created to support individuals or organizations in the environmental field seeking to collaborate or improve their relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

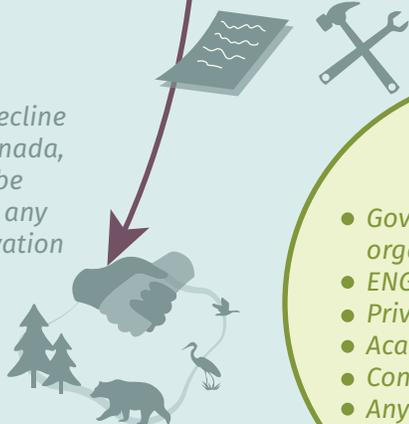
Launched in 2023 by the Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC) of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC).



Sparked by the rapid decline of caribou in boreal Canada, the toolkit grew to be broadly applicable to any stewardship or conservation collaborations.



Contains links to hundreds of practical tools and resources to help guide collaboration between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people.



Who is it for?

- Government agencies and organizations
- ENGOS
- Private sector/industry
- Academics/researchers
- Consultants
- Anyone in the stewardship and conservation field

A FOUNDATION FOR RECONCILIATION IN CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

A foundational aspect of the toolkit is the **Ten Guiding Principles for Cross-Cultural Collaboration**. These principles were developed by the IKC to help embed reconciliation, healing and collaboration into stewardship and conservation work. The Guiding Principles aim to:

PROMOTE RECIPROCITY AND RESPECT

ENSURE A ROLE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION WORK

CREATE STRONGER CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES INCLUDE:

- 1 Recognition of relationships with caribou
- 2 Respect for and openness to Indigenous Knowledge, culture, and perspectives
- 3 Relationships built on trust
- 4 Collaboration and shared decision making
- 5 Transparency and accountability
- 6 Open communication
- 7 Reciprocity and shared benefits
- 8 Shared interest
- 9 Adherence to the First Nations principles of Ownership, Control Access, and Possession (OCAP®) for Indigenous data
- 10 Respect for land claims, treaties, and recognition of the self-determination of Indigenous nations

The guiding principles are available in five languages: English, French, Inuttitut, Michif and Woods Cree.

NAVIGATING THE TOOLKIT

The **Practical Steps and Resources** section of the toolkit supports the implementation of the Ten Guiding Principles of Cross-Cultural Collaboration. This section is organized into three overarching categories:

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED:

Sets the stage for learning about the **current context of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships in Canada**, including the history of colonization and residential schools. This section contains resources to learn about Indigenous rights, treaties and land claims, cultural awareness, the legacy of colonialism and opportunities to explore Indigenous media.

WORKING RESPECTFULLY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS:

Contains resources to learn about **what Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge Systems are, how to work with multiple knowledge systems**, methods for gathering Indigenous Knowledge, and agreements or protocols to ensure knowledge is shared respectfully and appropriately. While the toolkit highlights three well-known frameworks for working with Indigenous Knowledge Systems, each nation, community, or organization may have a different preferred approach.

EMBEDDING RECONCILIATION INTO CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AND SHOULD COME FROM A PLACE OF RESPECT, HUMILITY, AND A WILLINGNESS TO LEARN. THROUGH THOUGHTFUL AND MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION WE CAN AVOID PAST MISTAKES AND WORK TOWARDS OUR MUTUAL CONSERVATION GOALS.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR COLLABORATION (PARTS 1 AND 2):

Provides high-level guidance and tools to help users **learn about the Indigenous community they would like to work with and resources to help integrate equity and reconciliation into collaborations**. Also includes information to help users understand and share capacity, plan meetings and engagement activities, and build and maintain trust and communication.



Canadian
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and Land
Management

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TOOLKIT AND OTHER RESOURCES ON THE CCLM, VISIT [CCLMPORTAL.CA](https://cclmportal.ca)

Indigenous Knowledge Circle (IKC). 2023. *Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Respectful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.*



Toolkit artwork was developed by Design de Plume: deplume.ca