



Nature Canada's work is guided by the **following principles** within the context of our overarching mandate to defend and advocate for nature.

- Nature Canada acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples are represented by a form of government and we believe in promoting a “nation-to-nation” conversation in Canada.
- Nature Canada recognizes the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in the conservation of their traditional land.
- Nature Canada realizes it is our responsibility to recognize Indigenous rights and respect them accordingly.
- Indigenous organizations are national, regional and local, have diverse objectives, and may have very different decision-making roles and processes. In our work, Nature Canada will attempt to communicate with the most appropriate level of organization or government.
- Nature Canada recognizes the leadership that many Indigenous communities in Canada are showing in articulating a vision for the stewardship of their traditional territories that is consistent with our beliefs. This leadership and these visions reflect our organization's core values and we can learn from these efforts. As appropriate, we will work to support, advance and popularize these efforts.
- Nature Canada believes that for us to advance our mission to defend Canada's land, water and life, we need to strategically support the efforts of Indigenous communities to re-exert their rights over their traditional territories.
- Nature Canada will work to identify opportunities to support Indigenous communities that are developing best practices in land/water conservation, habitat protection and species preservation.
- Nature Canada supports the just settlement of existing and outstanding Indigenous claims, and supports Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination on their traditional lands.
- Nature Canada believes that conservation and protection are the foundations of economic stability and healthy communities. We will honour, promote and support the need for Indigenous communities to benefit economically from increased conservation of the landscape and its components.
- Nature Canada accepts that ecological integrity includes the well-being of those Indigenous Peoples dependent on the land for subsistence and traditional ways of life.
- Nature Canada understands the importance of evidence-based decision making, and supports the use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in combination with conservation biology and other sciences to ground the management of Canada's natural systems.
- Nature Canada supports Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas and supports Indigenous initiatives and agreements to establish such protected areas and to develop associated land and water use plans on their traditional lands.
- Nature Canada supports Indigenous initiatives and agreements to diversify economies, build sustainable communities, protect cultural identity, and improve land and resource management regimes that maintain ecosystem integrity and preserve the full diversity of natural habitats and species.



- Nature Canada appreciates that the revitalization of First Nation languages is of the highest priority, and therefore supports the respectful use of aboriginal/traditional names for significant Indigenous landmarks.

Throughout the process of reconciliation, Nature Canada will endeavor to grow awareness and bridge understanding of the relationships and rights held between peoples and nature.