

Gathering Information about our Past so that we Can Build an Informed Future -

Our land, our people, our future – Come share your stories and teachings

As Lower Nicola Indian Band members, living on or off reserve, we all have connections to our lands. Our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents have lived on our lands and taken care of them for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In the past, we made decisions about our lands that were based on our traditions. We knew the right way to live and to care for our lands. We chose our leaders, knowledge keepers and stewards according to our unwritten protocols and traditions. Each had a role in caring for our lands, and each had a role in making decisions.

Things began to change in the 1860s-1870s with the setting aside of reserve lands. Outside governments made it illegal for us to gather together to make decisions about our future. Our traditional governance was replaced with an election system under the Indian Act. Families and communities were split, and many of our children were taken from the land and put in schools. Despite these challenges, we keep our traditions alive, passing this knowledge on to younger generations.

Our community and families have grown, and many have moved away to pursue work, post-secondary education or for other opportunities. We are all still Nt̓e?kepmx. We can trace our histories and traditions back to our ancestors. But as a community, we have lost our common understanding of how and why decisions were made in the past. Many have forgotten that it is our traditional protocols and teachings that must continue to guide us. It is time we gather together, to share and remember.



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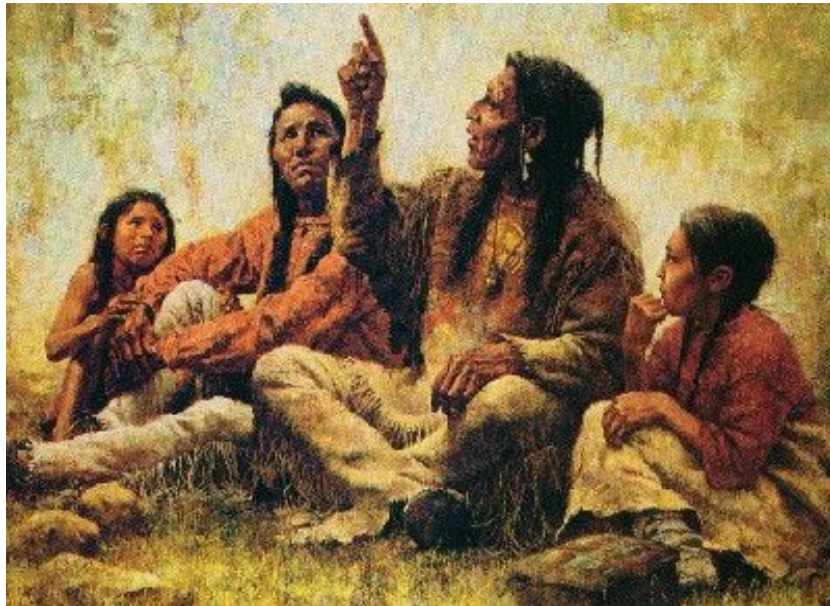


The Project

The LNIB Lands Department has proposed a project to bring our community members together to share their stories and lessons about our lands on reserve. The project is guided by the Land Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) and the Lands Department, with the help of a Project Team. Through research on written records and through respectful conversations with community members, we hope to gather information about our lands, protocols and traditions of the past.

The Project Team will meet with LNIB family groups and members to learn more about their stories and lessons. For instance: What do you know about Nt̓eʔkepmx concepts of land holdings? What does your family know about how we traditionally made decisions about our reserve lands? How were we governed? Who made decisions? How did things come to be the way that they are now?

We need your help. Now that we have taken back the care and management of our reserve lands through the Lower Nicola Indian Band Land Code, we need to continue to learn from and apply the lessons of the past. Your stories and teachings will help our community map our way forward. The project will run from April 2019 to March 2020, and our Communications Team will keep you informed of upcoming opportunities to meet. We are reaching out to our family groups on and off reserve, to give everyone who is interested in sharing the opportunity to add their voice to our shared understanding.



A community meeting will take place at Shulus Hall on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Please join us to learn more about this project.

For more information contact Monica Charters or Brandi O'Flynn at 250-378-5157 or email Communications@lnib.net

