# Reconciliation, Indigenous lands & surveying

University of Calgary March 31, 2017

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### Reduced to 1 slide

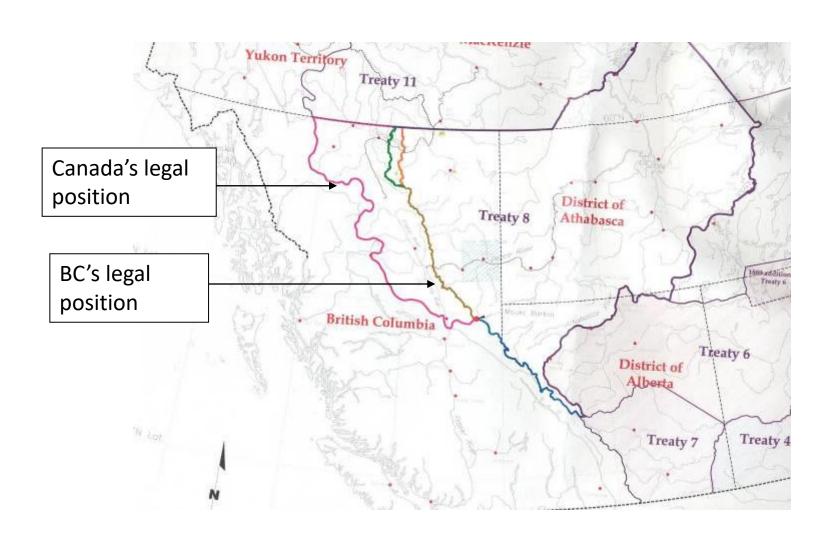
Reconciliation = Respecting all parcels (e.g. Aboriginal title) and boundaries (e.g. FIG fit-for-purpose):

- Canadians must "repudiate concepts used to justify sovereignty over Indigenous lands" and adopt UNDRIP.
  - Truth & Reconciliation Commission (2015) Call to action #45
- "Land as an animate being, relative, food provider, teacher of law and governance to whom we are accountable."
  - Daigle. Spatial politics of ... Indigenous self-determination. The Canadian Geographer (2016).

## Part 1: Surveying as an institution

- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Ideas
- Ideals
- Individuals
- Imagination
- Indigenous lands

## Treaty 8 westerly boundary



### Three shout-outs

- Surveyors are "highly intelligent men [and women] who are gifted astronomically, mathematically, and logarithmically"
- "As professionals, you are expected to exhibit a higher standard of intelligence than the person on the street"
- Surveyors are "agents of change"

## Two judgments - 2016

PEI CA: "A surveyor acts in a quasi-judicial capacity ... is treated as an expert and accorded deference ... acting in the capacity of the state."

BC CA: "Surveyors adjudicate ... Surveyors must approach their work with a judicial mind ... Their duty of impartiality is owed to society at large."

## Territoriality



## Royal Proclamation of 1763

 It was "just and reasonable" that Indigenous peoples not be molested in possession of land.

- Canada (Quebec) could not survey:
  - Beyond the "bounds of their government;" or
  - Upon lands which had not been ceded to or purchased by the Crown.

## Durham Report of 1839

 If land "is so carelessly surveyed that the boundaries of property are incorrectly defined" there "is a store of mischievous litigation."

 "Without accurate surveys of public lands there can be no security of property in land, no certainty as to the position of boundaries marked out in maps or named in title deeds."

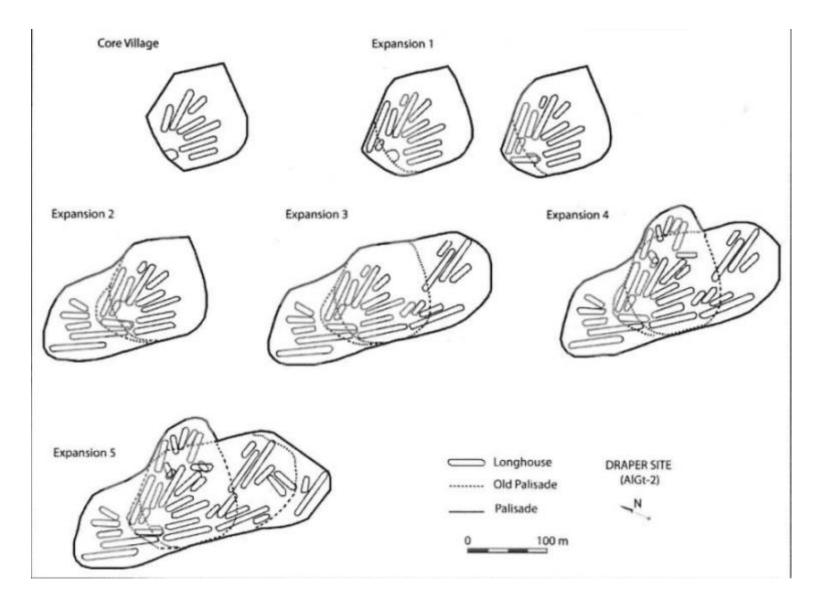
## Vignette 1: Indigenous parcels & bounds

 1631: "Very exact and punctual in the bounds of their lands ... I have known them to make bargain and sale for a small piece of land."

 1700's: Inuu of Quebec demarcated parcels of 4 sq leagues (32 sq km) for trapping purposes

 1850: Robinson-Huron Treaty – Whitefish Lake First Nation clearly defined its parcel

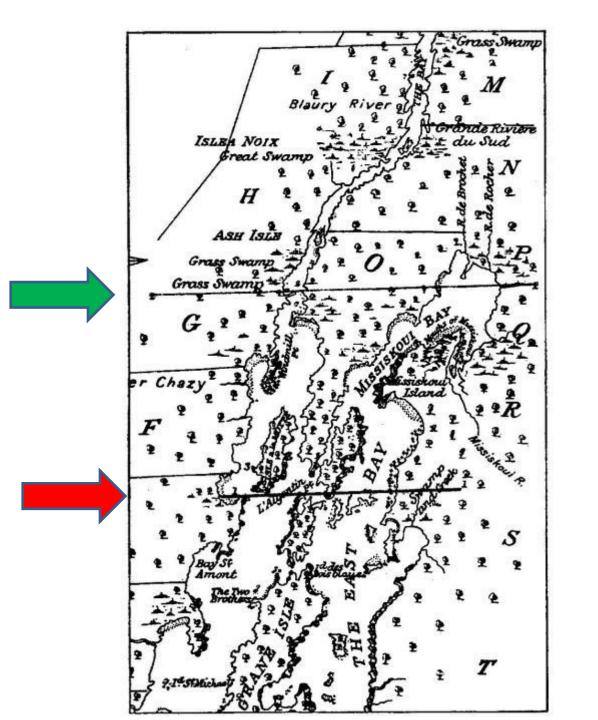
## Huron: Draper Village (1475)



## Vignette 2: Merits of poor equipment

- Canada-USA boundary "inconvenient to the point of freakishness."
- 1614: New Netherlands Co granted the right to trade between 40<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> parallels
- 1763: South bound of Quebec at 45<sup>th</sup> parallel

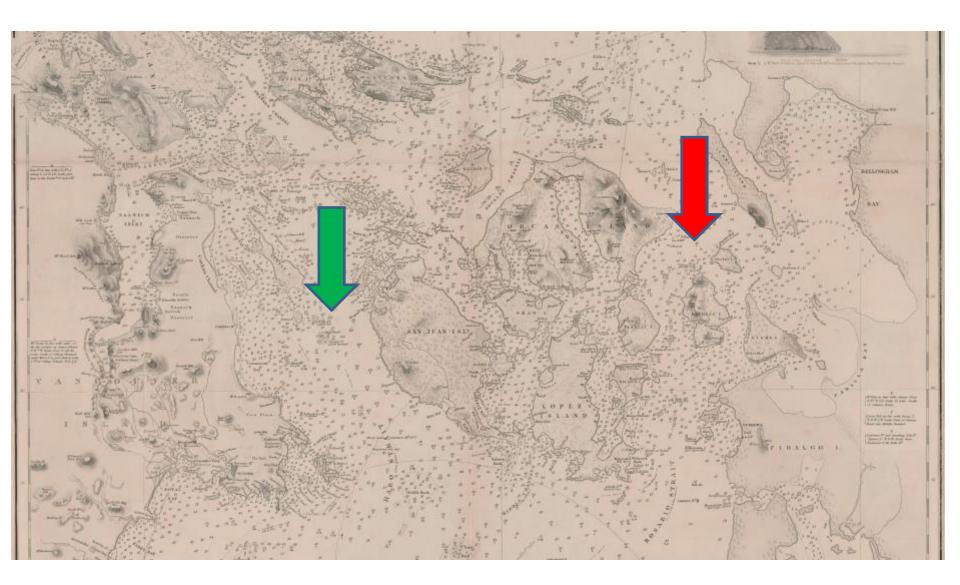
• 1766 survey: "Unique in the history of boundary disputes"



## Vignette 3: Resolving conflicts

- 1846 Oregon Treaty: Southerly through the middle of the channel that separates the continent from Vancouver's Island
- Haro Strait (west) vs Rosario Strait (east)
- 1855: Battle for the Sheep
- 1859-1871: Pig War

 1872: Emperor of Germany + 3 fact-finders = legal principles + objective facts



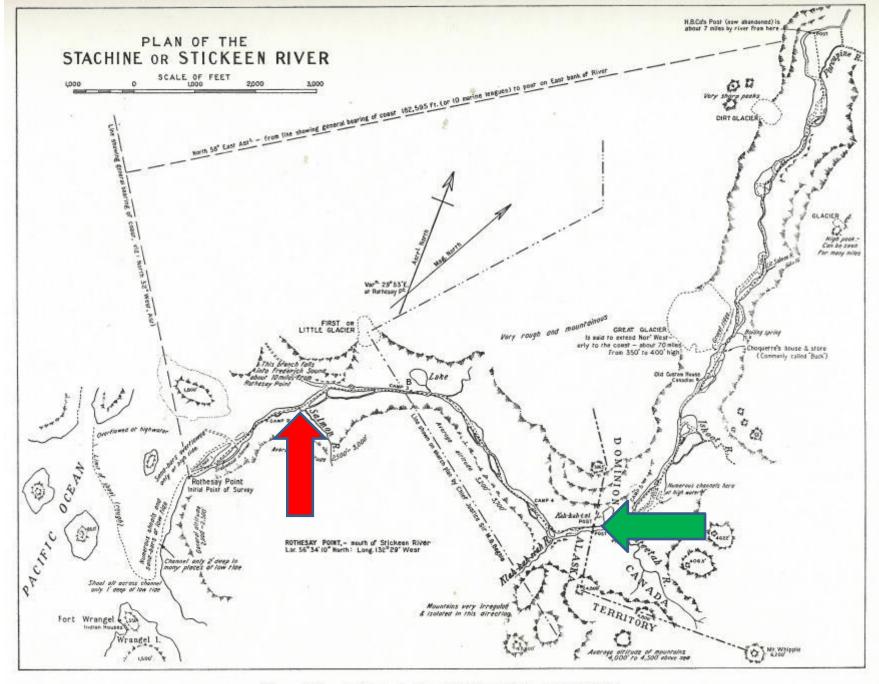
## Vignette 4: Let the man go free

 1825 Russia-Britain Agreement: 54-40N, then up Portland Canal to 56<sup>th</sup>, then parallel with coast along summit (10 leagues inland) to 141<sup>st</sup>

1867: Russia transferred Alaska to USA for \$7.2M

1876: Peter Martin assaulted a policeman

Where? East (BC) or west of bound (Alaska)?



Copy of Joseph Hunter's plan of Stikine River, June 30, 1877.

## Part 2: Indigenous lands

- s.91(24): Parliament has authority over "Indians, and lands reserved for Indians."
- s.35: Aboriginal & treaty rights "recognized & affirmed"
- Indian Act (ILR); First Nation Lands Management Act
- Canada Lands Surveys Act (CLSR) = Reserves
- SCC decisions Honour of Crown, Aboriginal title, fiduciary duty, minimal impairment

#### 575 First Nations = 3,100 IR\* = 35,524 sq km\*



### Much variation across communities



Google earth

Sand Point Reserve (987 ha - 0 people)

Six Nations Reserve (18,000 ha - 10,000 people)

#### Possession of Reserve

Title to Reserves is held in trust by Canada for the benefit of First Nation:

 Right to possess parcel distinct from title to parcel (Tyendinaga Mohawk Council v Brant, 2014)

 Leases of IR must adhere to FN policies & plans (Boyer v R, 1986).

#### Parcel: Area of land (CLSR) to which rights apply (ILR)





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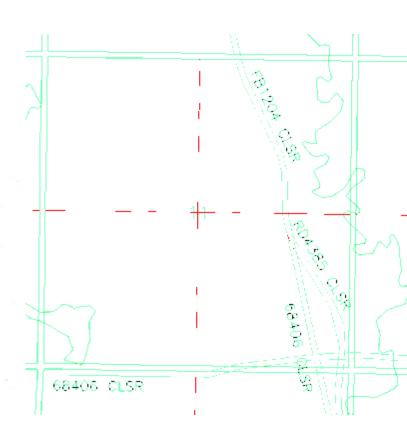
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#### CERTIFICATE OF POSSESSION

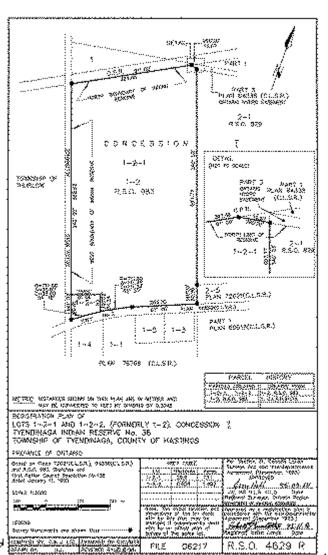
Under Section 20, THE INDIAN ACT

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of the	Rolling River			Band of India	ns, in the
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of the southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 17, Range 19, west of the Principal Meridian, Rolling River Indian Reserve No. 67, in the Province of Manitoba, shown on Plan of Record No. 4384, Canada Lands Surveys Records, Ottawa.







## Crown's fiduciary duty: Reserves

Prior: Mediate between FN & others

After: Protect FN interests from invasion/destruction (Guerin v The Queen, 1984)

Surrenders: Prevent exploitive bargains (Musqueum v Board of Review, 2016)

#### Musqueam 2 Indian Reserve Showing Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club lease





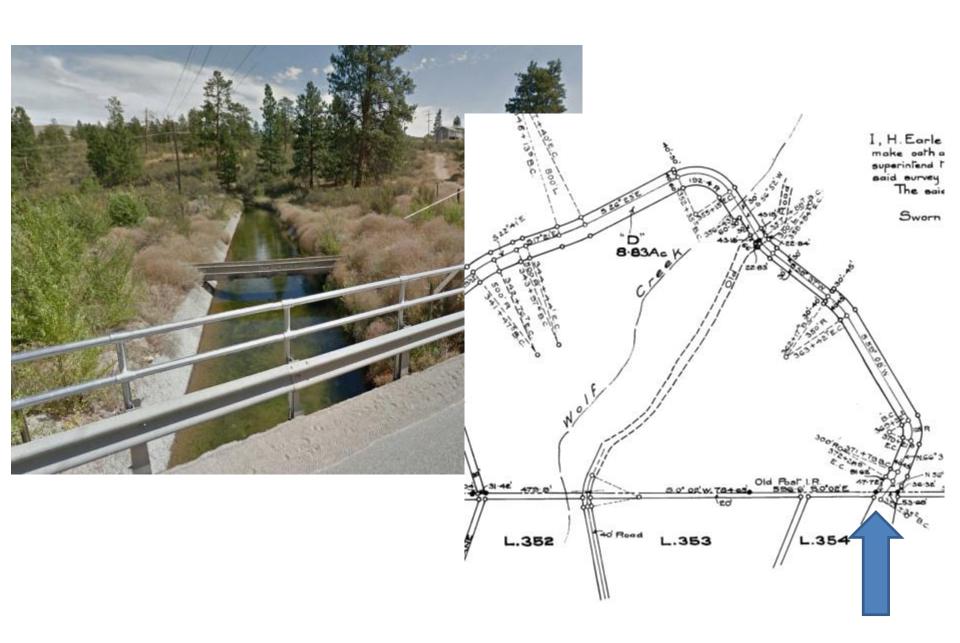
## Minimal impairment

Crown can take land from Reserve as public duty

- 1925: Irrigation canal built (56 ac)
- 1957 OIC: "The whole of those rights of way"

BUT: Crown to take "only minimum interest required" to ensure "minimal impairment of use & enjoyment of Indian lands" (Osoyoos v Oliver, 2002)



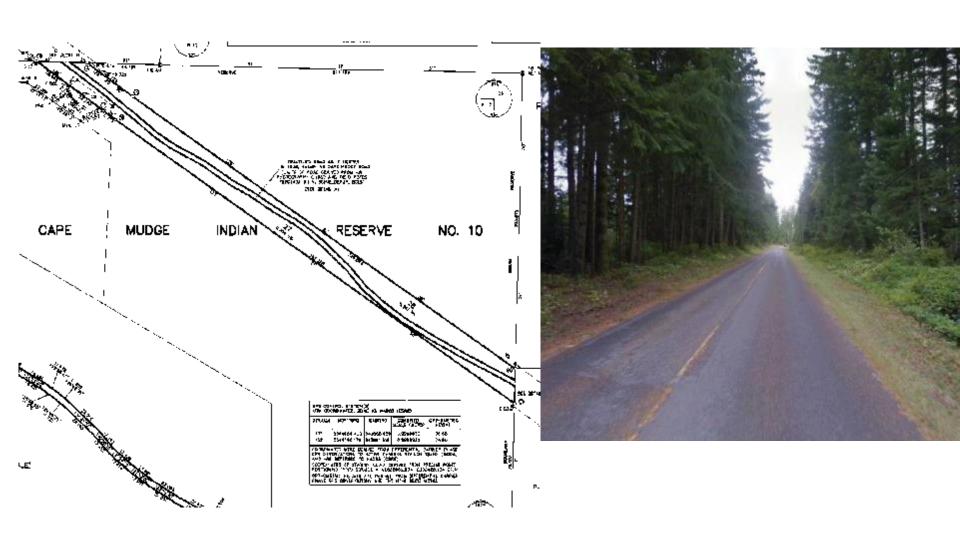


## First Nation Land Management Act

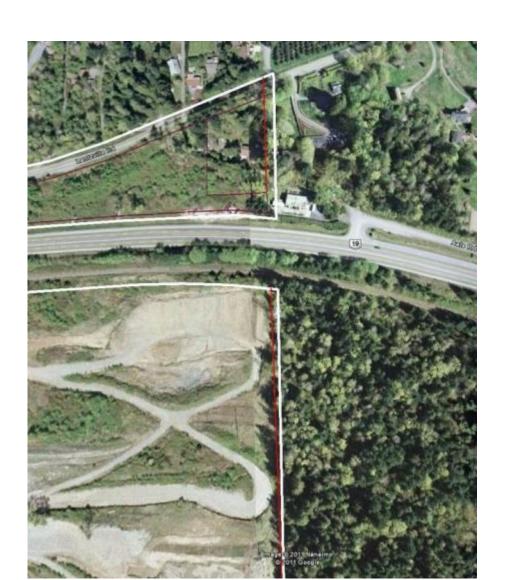
6(1) A First Nation that wishes to establish a land management regime ... shall adopt a land code:

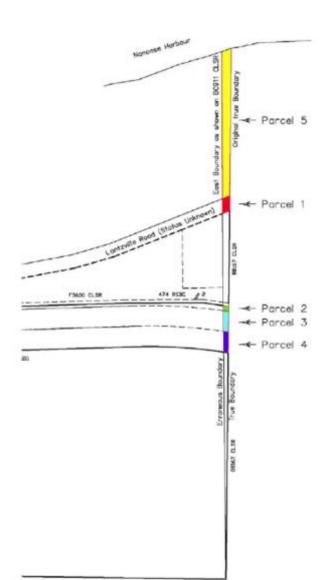
A description of the land that is to be subject to the land code that the **Surveyor General may prepare** ... or any other description that is ... sufficient to identify those lands.

## Cape Mudge FN: Travelled road



### Nanoose FN: Encroachment





## Sioux Valley Dakota: Watercourse shift

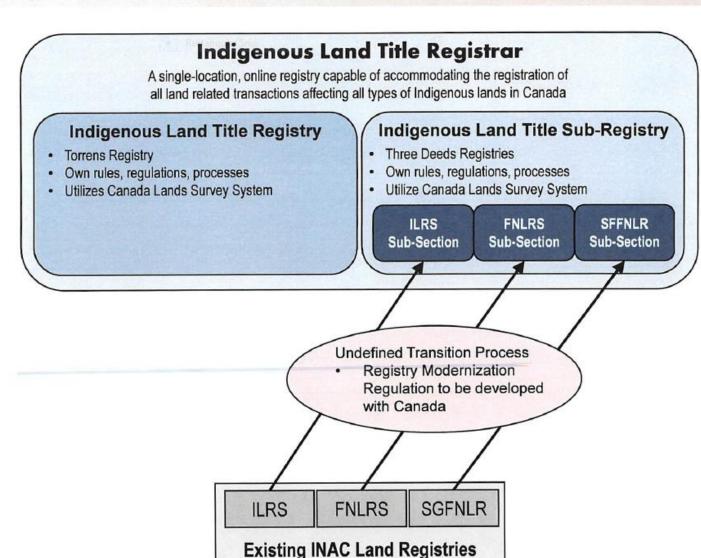


# Indigenous Land Title Proposal (ILTP): FN-driven & opt-in

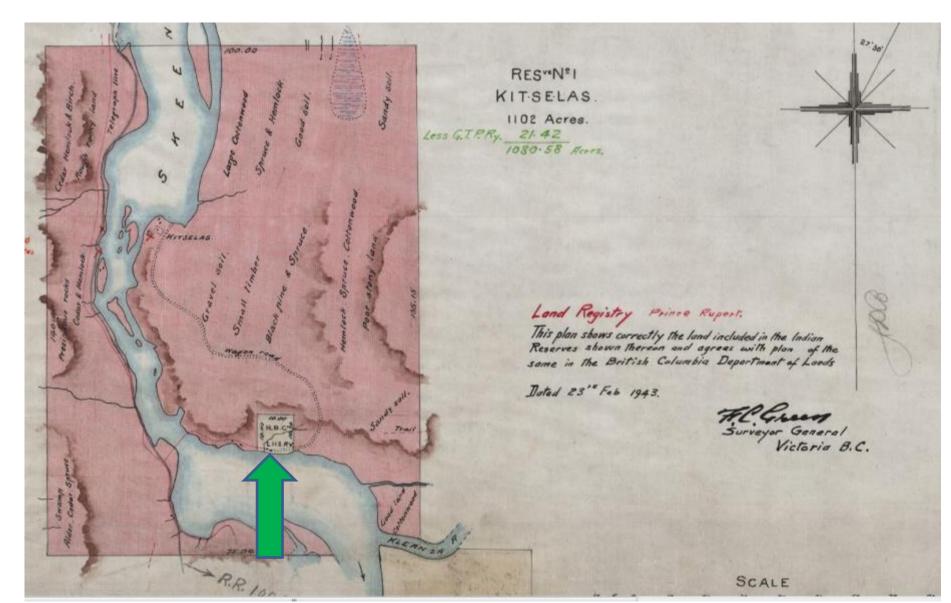




#### Consolidated Registry Framework



## Specific Claim: R v Kitselas FN (2014)



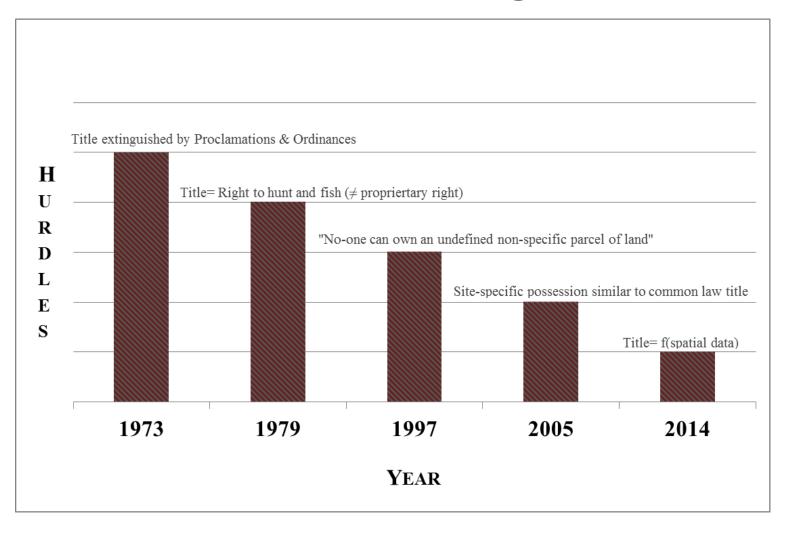
# Aboriginal title: Three-part test

Was land occupied at time of Crown sovereignty?

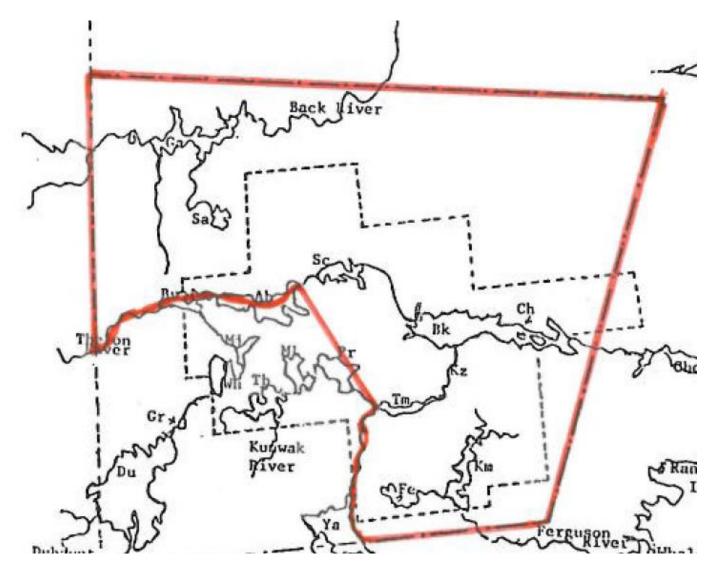
Was occupation exclusive?

Has occupation been continuous?

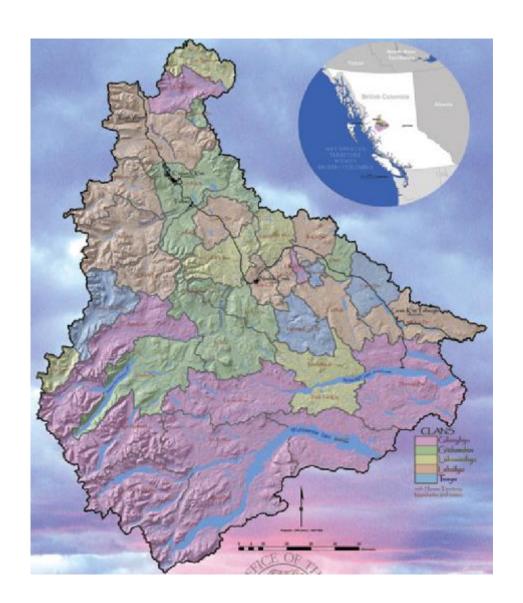
#### **Evolution of Aboriginal title**



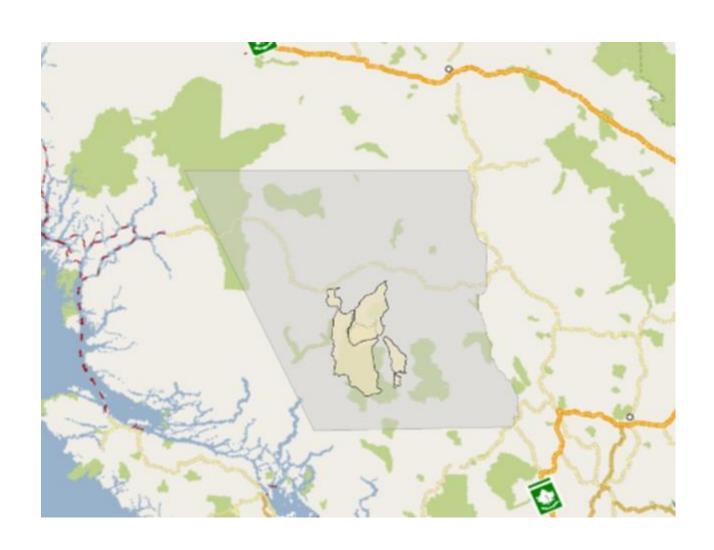
# Baker Lake (1979) = Right to use



# Wet'suwet'en (1997) = 20,000 km sq

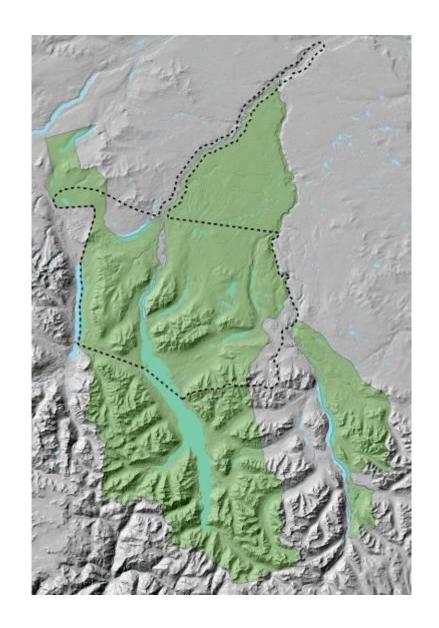


# $Tsilhqot'in\ v\ BC\ (2014) = 88,000\ sq\ km$

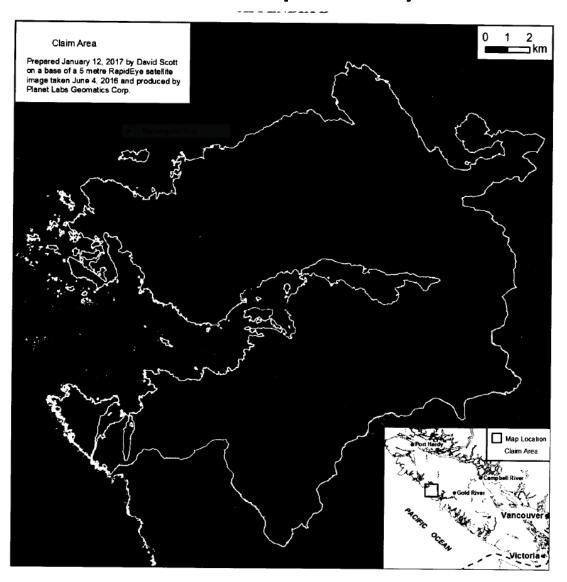


Green:
Area claimed
(4,200 sq km)
5% of traditional territory

Dashed:
Area affirmed
(1,900 sq km)
Sites in/out



### Nuchatlaht v BC (2017) = 200 sq km



#### **Bounds of Claim Area**

- Commencing on Nootka Island at Tahsis Narrows south of Mozino Point at 126° 40' 25.34" W, 49° 51' 25.16" N at 0 metre elevation.
- Thence trending generally southsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet, approx. 700 metres to height of land at 371 metres
- Thence trending generally westsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet, approx. 780 metres to height of land at 455 metres
- Thence trending generally southeast then generally westsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet, approx.
   1,255 metres to height of land at 246 metres
- Thence trending generally westsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet, approx. 2,200 metres to height of land at 562 metres
- Thence trending generally westsouthwest then southeast and south, west of Tahsis Inlet at the headwaters of creeks flowing west into Inner Basin, approx 7,470 metres to height of land at 752 metres
- Thence trending generally southsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet at the headwaters of creeks flowing west into Inner Basin, approx 2,800 metres to a ridge of land at 845 metres
- Thence trending generally southsoutheast, west of Tahsis Inlet at the headwaters of creeks flowing west into Inner Basin, approx 3,240 metres to height of land at 768 metres
- Thence trending generally westsouthwest, west of Tahsis Inlet at the headwaters of creeks flowing north into Inner Basin, approximately 5,630 metres to height of land at 849 metres
- Thence trending generally southwest, at the headwaters of Laurie Creek flowing into Mary Basin and east of Ewart Lake, approximately 11,885 metres to height of land at 289 metres
- Thence trending generally northwest, west of Ewart Lake, approximately 6,300 metres to height of land at 628 metres
- Thence trending west, south of Nuchatlitz Inlet at the headwaters of creeks flowing north into Nuchatlitz Inlet, approximately 4,385 metres to height of land at 412 metres
- Thence trending southwest, south of a lagoon on the south part of Louie Bay, in Nuchatlitz Inlet, approximately 1,390 metres to height of land at 111 metres
- Thence trending southwest approximately 605 metres to Pacific shore of Nootka Island at 126° 56' 32.3" W, 49° 43' 5.62" N at 0 metre elevation.
- Thence approximately 138 kilometers of shoreline to the point of commencement at in Tahsis Narrows.

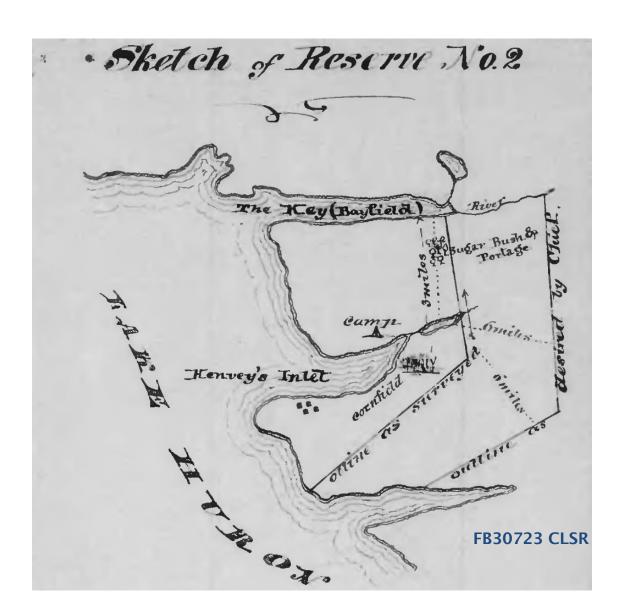
The claim area includes all islands to the west of the lands described herein to a distance of 2 kilometres, including but not limited to islands in Louie Bay, Nuchatlitz Inlet, Mary Basin, Inner Basin, the east shore of Gillam Channel and the south shore of Esperanza Inlet.

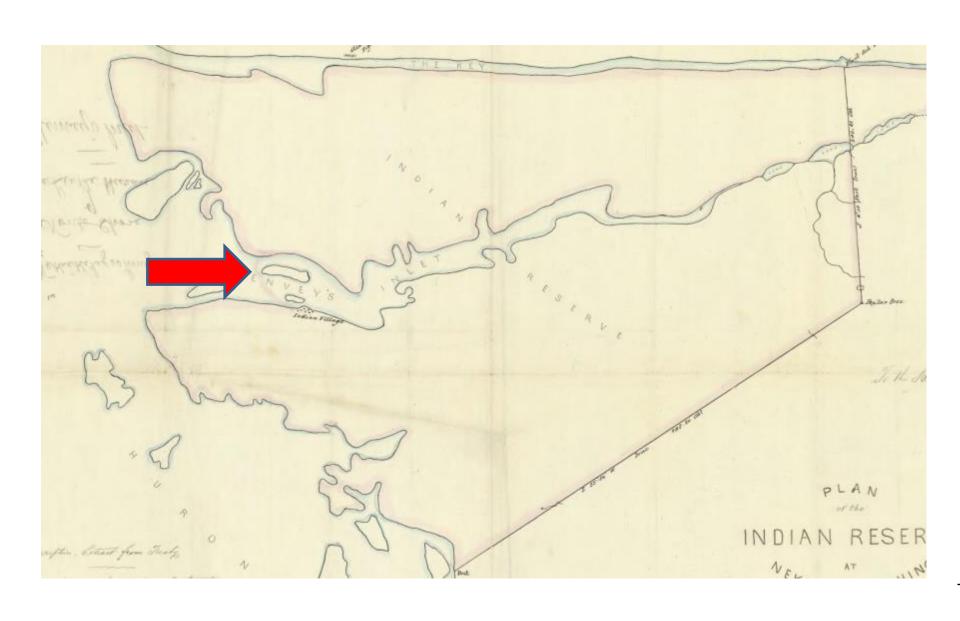
#### Sources:

#### Part 3: Seven case studies

- Inlet in/out of IR?
- Incorrectly surveying IR bound
- Incorrectly defining IR surrender
- Non-survey of IR bound
- Lake in/out of IR?
- Parcel fabric renewal
- Socio-economic effects of informality

### Case study 1: Henvey's Inlet IR





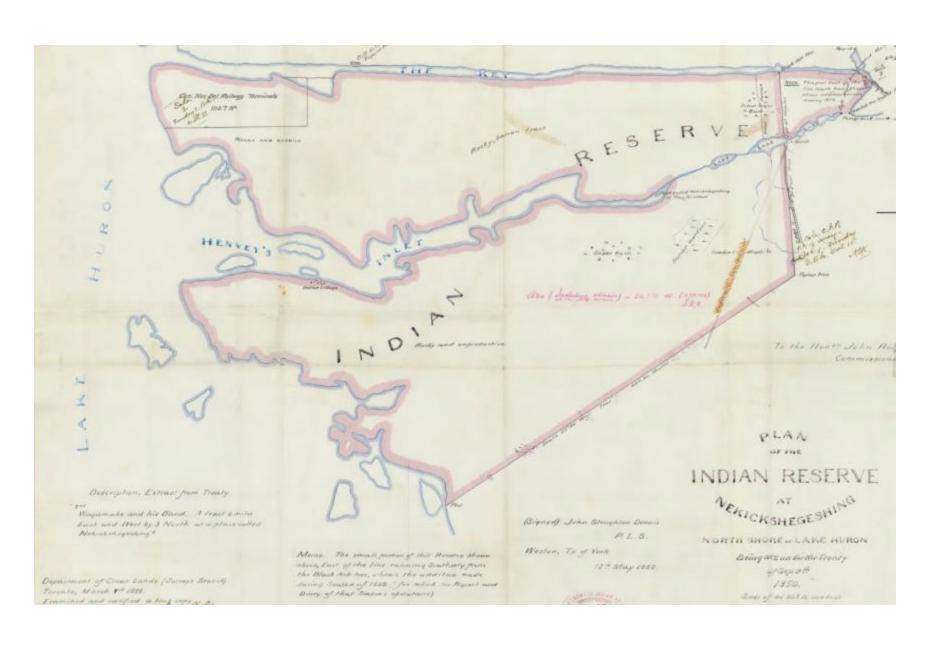
### Dennis' report:

 "... their Reserve was up at or near the head of the Bay on the south side of which their village is situated."

"The Bay I identified as Henvey's Inlet ..."

 "... and after some talking he proposed another outline (the black line on sketch) ..." at a post planted on the North East Shore of Lake Huron about five miles South East of Henvey's inlet, thence following the soud Those of the said Lake Northward crossing said Henry's inlet to the Channel or deep bay called the Key, thence following the

Proclamation 4515-133



ing, but I do not see how the other plan, dated 12th of May, 1852, could have been represented as crossing Henvey Inlet and including the two islands north of the Indian Vil lage when they are clearly and unmistakeably left out by Col. Dennits when coloring with a flat wash yellow the mainland.

Yours truly,

Assistant Commissioner.

Essente!

J D McLean Esq.,

Secretary,

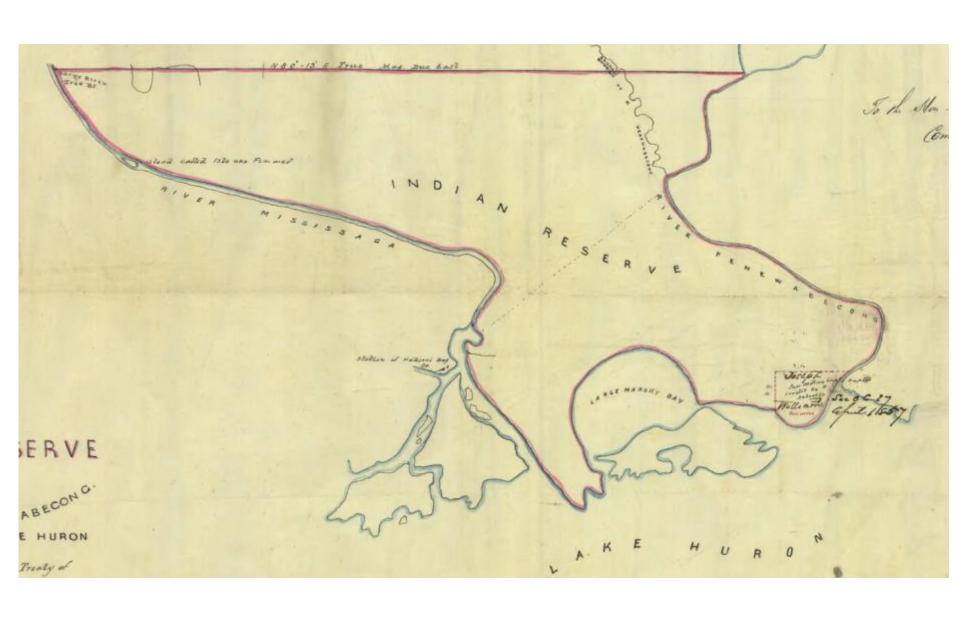
Department of Indian Affairs, ottaws, ont.

#### Case study 2: Mississagi IR 8

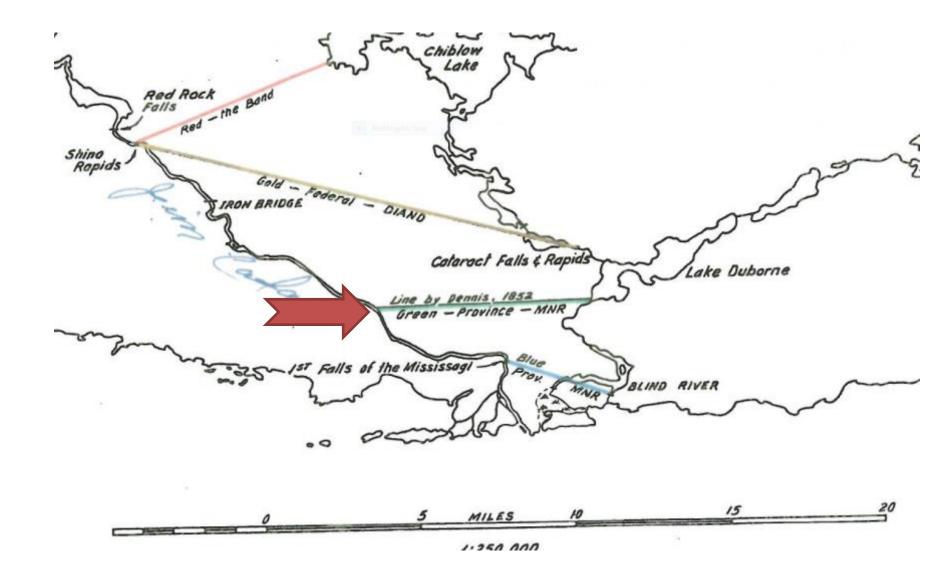
 1850 Treaty reserved "the land contained between the River Mississaga and the River Penebewabecong, up to the first rapids."

Parcel was defined (i.e. bounded)

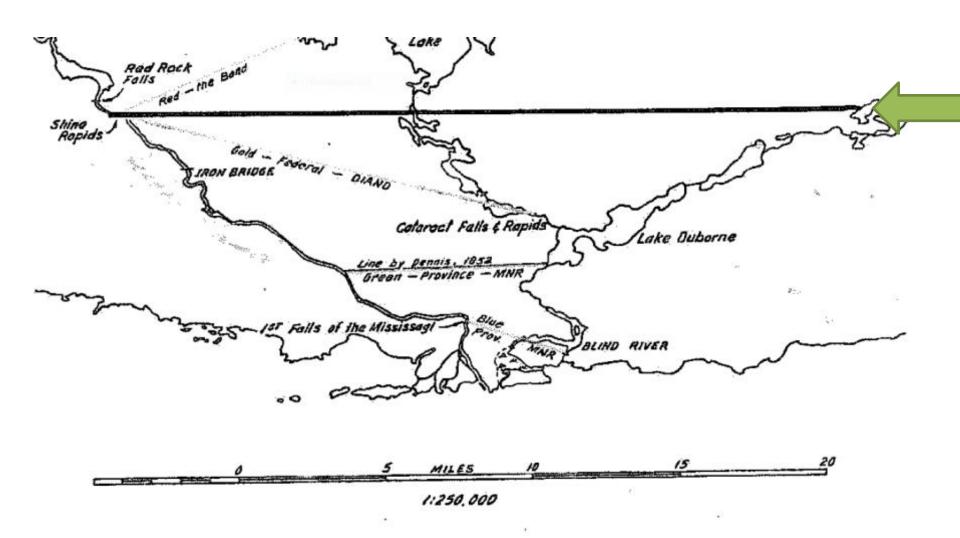
Survey marks the bounds on ground & shows the bounds on plan



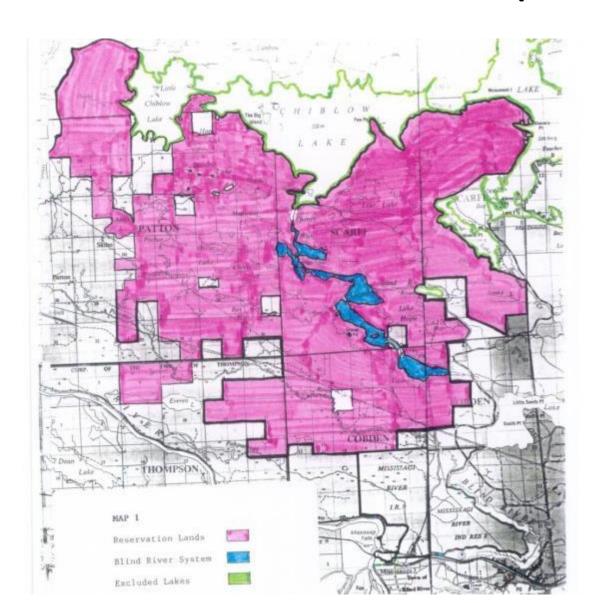
# Sadly, survey did not reflect definition



#### OIC: 1994-1109 (Settlement) & 2010-426 (ATR)



# Addition-to-Reserve (ATR)



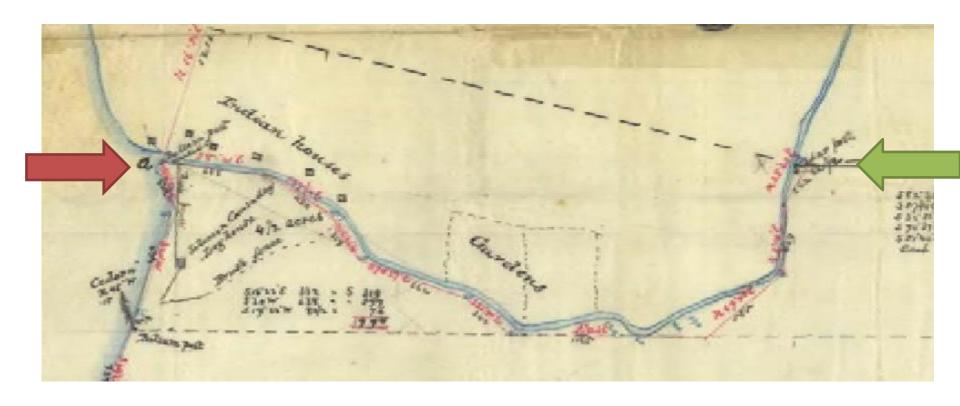
# Case study 3: Mississagi IR 8

 Parcel "lying south of a line drawn due east from the mouth of the Creek which empties into the Mississaugua River on the left bank of the said river."

- No ambiguity in definition: Mouth of creek was known; direction of line was clear.

#### To be rectified

Intention to only surrender land used by squatters; not land occupied by FN houses, gardens, cemetery



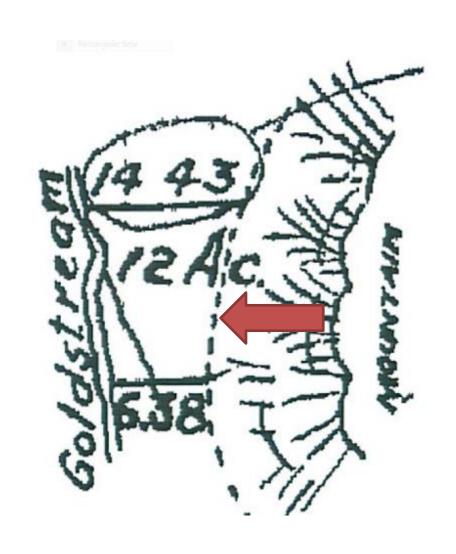
## Case study 4: Goldstream IR 13

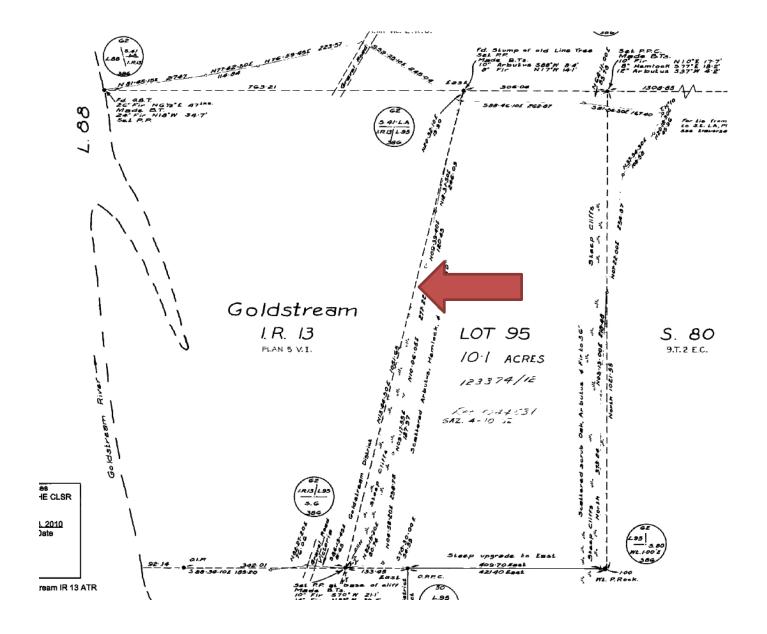
1877 Joint Reserve Commission reserved
 "from a point on the right bank of Goldstream
 [River] true east ... 15.00 thence true north
 15.00 thence true west to shore, thence up
 the right bank of river to initial point."

- Area = 23 ac
- East boundary = 15 ch east of river

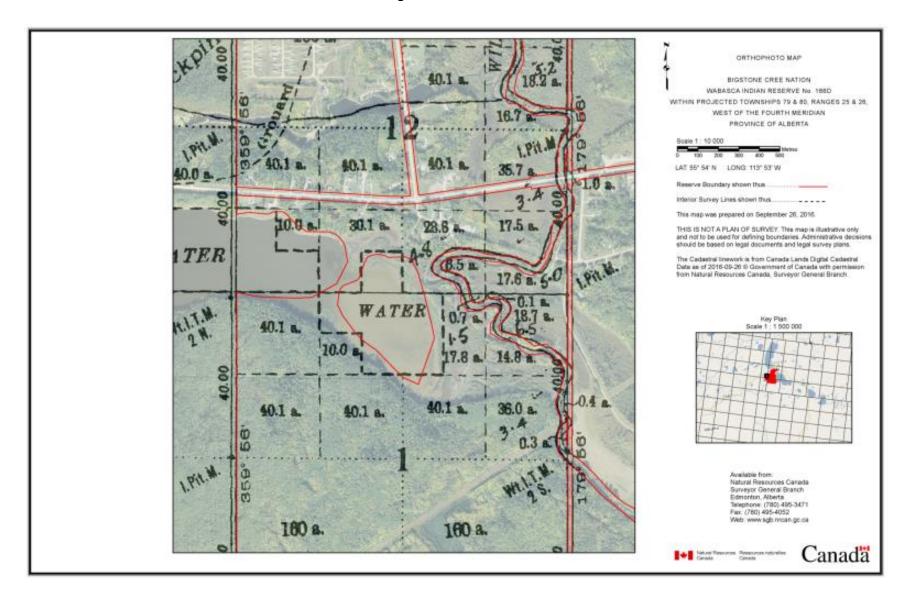


#### Sadly, survey did not reflect definition





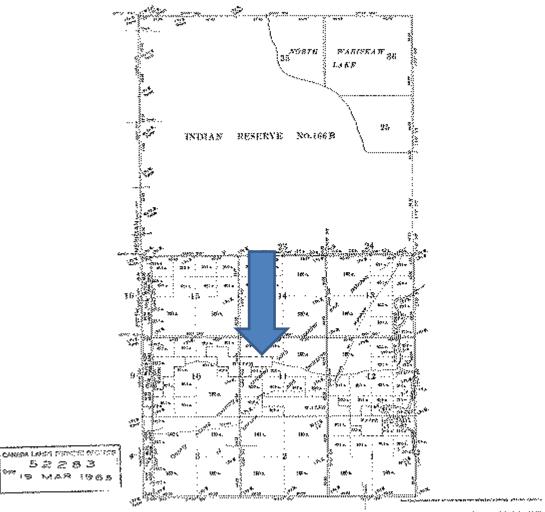
# Case study 5: Wabasca IR



#### ALBERTA

#### Plan of Township 80, Range 26, West of the Fourth Meridian

principles of Children 10; NY 00011



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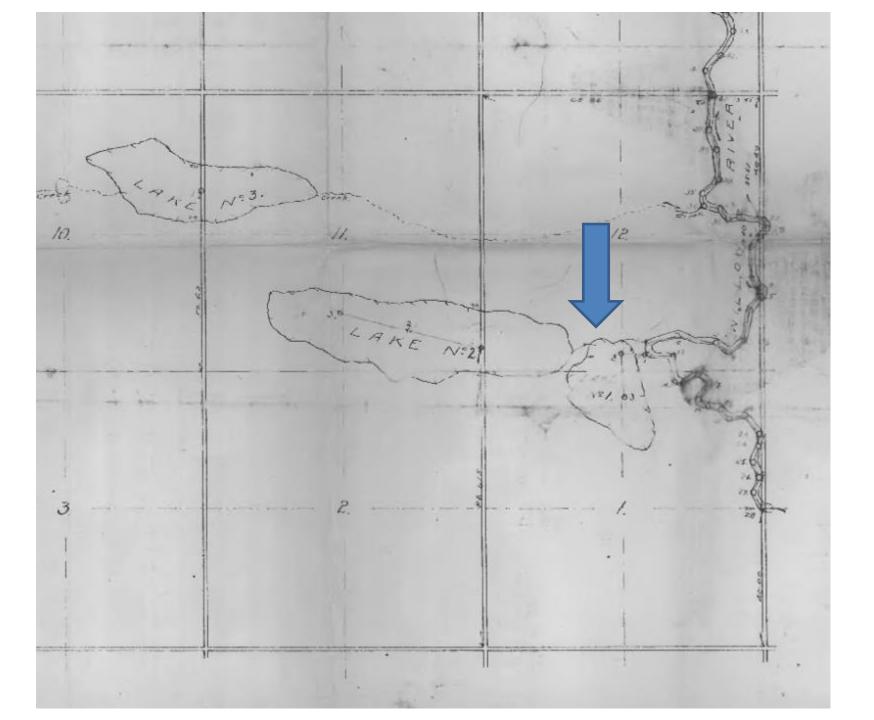
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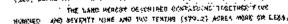
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Deputy Minister's Office

AT THE COVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

FRIDAY, the 4th Cay of JUDY, 1958

FRESENT:

TIE EXCELLENCY

THE COVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL:

His Excellency the Covernor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, pursuant to the Indian Act, is pleased hereby to set sport the lands hereinafter described for the use and benefit of the Webasca Band of Indians of the Province of Alberts, to be designated as Wabsca Indian Reserve No. 1659:

#### Degoription

- (1) The whole of Sections 27, 28, 29, 32, 33 and Fractional Sections 30, 31 and 34 and part of the West helf of Section 35; all in Township 79, Range 25, West of the 4th Meridian, and including the mineral rights underlying the waters of Willow River traversing said Sections 30 and 31.
- (2) The whole of Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20 and Practional Sections 3, 6, 7, 10, 20, 28 and part of the Northwest quarter of Section 22 and part of the Southwest quarter of Section 27; all in Township 80, Range 25, West of the 4th Neridian, and including the mineral rights underlying the waters of Willow River traversing said Sections 6, 7 and 20.
- (3) The whole of Section 36-79-26 whm.
- (4) Prectional Sections I and 12 in Township 80, himse 26, West of 4th Meridian, and including the mineral rights underlying the weigers of Willow River traversing the seld two acctions.

The land harein described containing 14,432.7 acres.

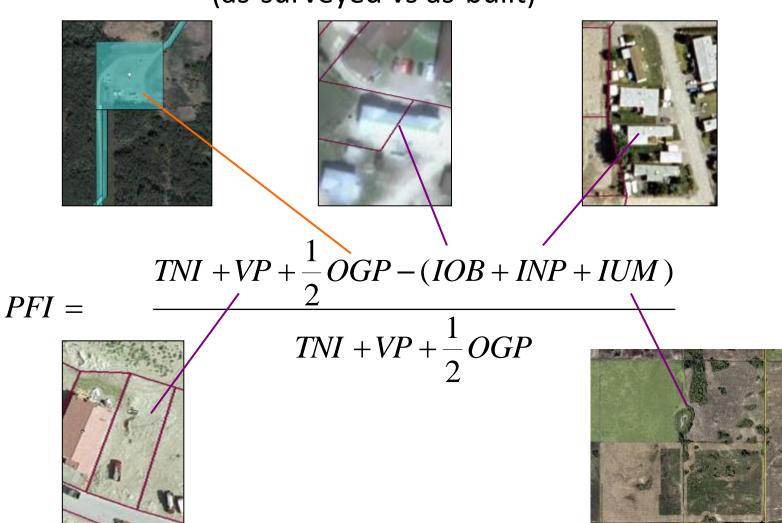
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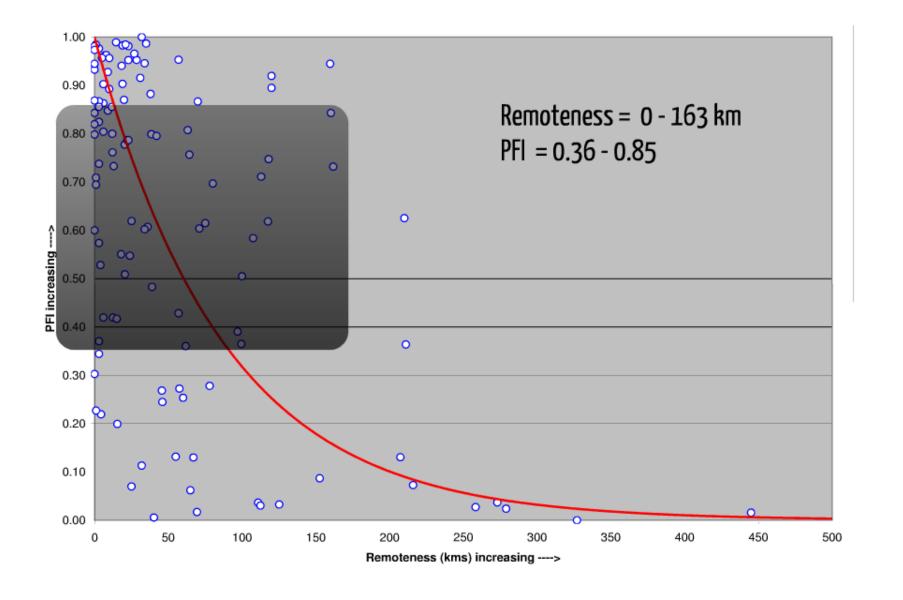
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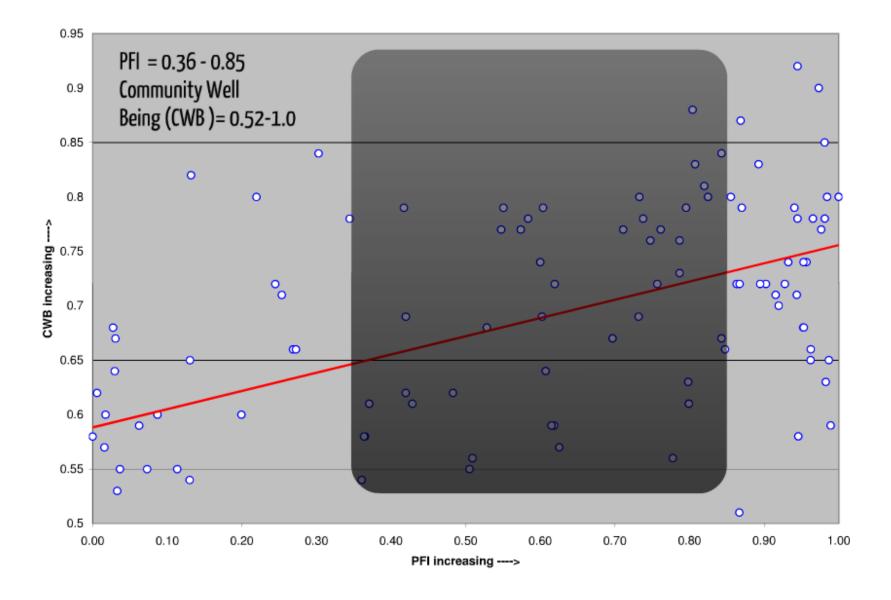
Christof the Privy Council . . .

# Case study 6: Parcel Fabric

(as-surveyed vs as-built)







#### Good fabric

- Hurons Wendake 7A (QC)
  - Improvements (TNI) = 611
  - Vacant parcels (VP) = 25
  - Improvements on boundaries(IOB) = 12

$$PFI = \frac{611 + 25 + \frac{1}{2}(0) - (12 + 0 + 0)}{611 + 25 + \frac{1}{2}(0)}$$

PFI = 0.98



#### Medium fabric

- Okanagan IR 1 (BC)
  - Improvements (TNI) = 2203
  - Vacant parcels (VP) = 56
  - Improvements on boundaries (IOB) = 41
  - Improvements with no parcels (INP) = 498

$$PFI = \frac{2203 + 56 + \frac{1}{2}(0) - (41 + 498 + 0)}{2203 + 56 + \frac{1}{2}(0)}$$

PFI = 0.76





- The First Nation had created many of its own parcels
- Informal survey (monuments & plans) of block corners



- Informal parcels integrated (some bounds shifted to accommodate occupation);
- Formal parcels surveyed

## Brokenhead FN (MB): Occupation





## 4 Findings:

- Many coherent informal parcels (some mapped; many fenced; most bounded)
- Reconciling formal/informal parcels is at community discretion (social process = much negotiation)
- First Nations drive renewal = f(political will, lands capacity, development pressure, planning tools)
- Crown can reduce disconnect between ground (informal) & registry (formal).

## Case study 7 – Effects of informality



### In theory: Ricardo, Coase, Demsetz

#### Formal land tenure:

- Increases incentives to invest
- Increases bargaining efficiency
- Lowers transaction costs
- Lowers costs of defense
- Allows collateralization



#### **Indigenous Land Titles**



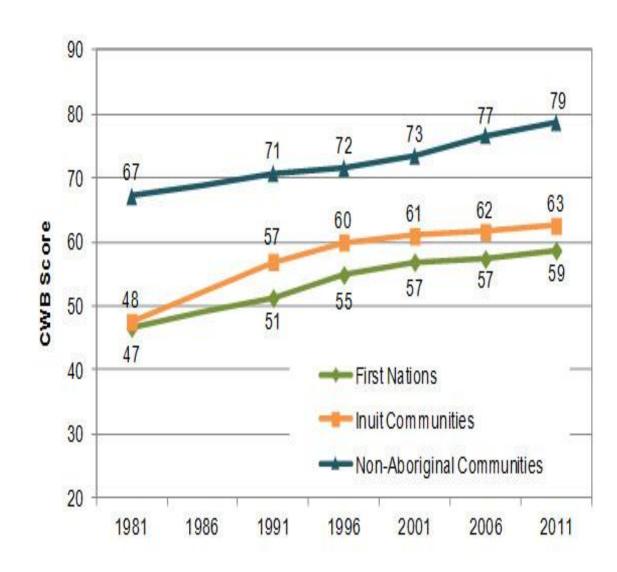
## In practice: Results of titling

- Peru:
  - increased labour force participation
- Argentina:
  - more infrastructure investment
  - reduced fertility rate
  - smaller household size
  - higher educational outcomes
- Collateralization?
- Reversion to informality?

## Community Well-Being

#### Components:

- Income
- Education
- Labour ForceActivity
- Housing
- First Nations = heterogeneous



#### Land tenure on FN Reserves

Formal (INAC):
 Certificates of possession,
 leases

Informal (not INAC):

Quantum unmeasured



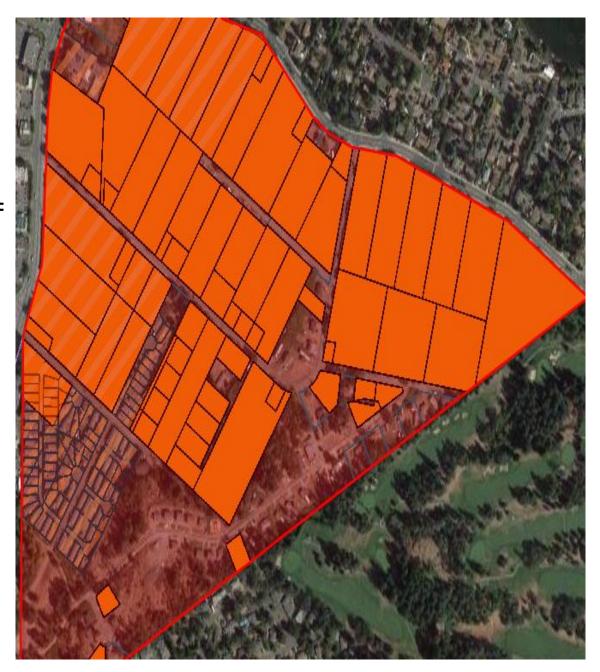
## Research question

 Does informality hinder socio-economic development (CWB) in British Columbia and Ontario?

- 95 Reserves in BC and 74 in ON have CWB data
- 34 Reserves in BC and 44 in ON have data for Income, LFA, Education, Housing

# Measuring informality

- Census: total dwellings = (formal + informal)
- Indian Lands Registry: formal
- Imagery: informal
- Informality ratio = (informal/total)



#### Variables

#### **Dependent**

Community Well-Being

#### Independent

- Informality
- Reserve population
- Reserve area
- Distance to service centre
- Distance to urban centre (pop. over 50,000)
- Global Non-Response rate (GNR)

#### The model

OLS:

$$CWB_i = \alpha + \beta informality_i + X_i'\theta + u_i$$

Seemingly Unrelated Regression:

Income<sub>i</sub> = 
$$\alpha + \beta$$
 informality<sub>i</sub> +  $X'_i\theta + u_i$   
Education<sub>i</sub> =  $\alpha + \beta$  informality<sub>i</sub> +  $X'_i\theta + u_i$   
Housing<sub>i</sub> =  $\alpha + \beta$  informality<sub>i</sub> +  $X'_i\theta + u_i$   
 $LFA_i = \alpha + \beta$  informality<sub>i</sub> +  $X'_i\theta + u_i$ 

## Summary stats

Overall: total housing count = 23,614

- Informal = 55.1%
  - 56% in Ontario (with 11,917 houses in toto)
  - 55% in BC (with 11,697 houses in toto)

## Summary stats: 95 IR in BC & 74 in ON\*

	Average	Max	Min
CWB	<mark>61, 63*</mark>	82, 75*	45, 38*
Population	337, 448*	2604, 2592*	70, 68*
GNR	0.20, 0.19*	0.50, 0.48*	0.02, 0.01*
Area (ha)	1246, 5222*	13283, 42614*	10, 13.4*
S Centre (km)	149, 161*	691, 600*	1, 7.4*
City (km)	273, 262*	886, 600*	1, 7.4*
<mark>% informal</mark>	<mark>75, 72*</mark>	100, 100*	2.55, 5*

## Summary stats: 34 IR in BC & 44 in ON\*

	Average	Max	Min
CWB	61, 62*	82, 75*	45, 45*
<mark>Income</mark>	62, 61*	94, 78*	45, 42*
<b>Education</b>	40, 38*	60, 55*	22, 12*
<b>Housing</b>	76, 75*	96, 94*	53, 47*
LF Activity	67, 73*	81, 87*	47, 56*
<b>Population</b>	662, 662*	2604, 2592*	259, 260*
GNR	0.24, 0.20*	0.50, 0.48*	0.05, 0.07*
Area (ha)	1805, 6797*	13283, 42614*	13, 13
S Centre (km)	163, 180*	691, 600*	1, 7.4*
City (km)	278, 258*	818, 600*	1, 7.4*
% Informal	66, 64*	100, 100*	2.55, 5*

## Results (p1)

Informal housing significantly reduces CWB!

- 10% increase of informality decreases CWB by:
  - 0.90 points in British Columbia
  - 0.83 points in Ontario

- Thought experiment for an IR in BC:
  - At time 1, 100% informal
  - At time 2, 100% formal
  - Change in CWB = 9 points!

## Results (p2): Components of CWB

#### **British Columbia**

- Significant at 0.05 level:
  - Income
  - LFA
  - Housing
- Significant at 0.07 level:
  - Education

#### **Ontario**

- Significant at 0.05 level:
  - Income
  - Education
  - LFA
- Significant at 0.16 level:
  - Housing

#### Part 4: Conclusion

Indigenous peoples have long used parcels and bounds:

"First Nations people have always had an acute sense of where we are in the world. We navigated throughout our territories guided by our stories, landmarks, waters and the heavens. Present-day mapping geospatial tools will help guide us in the future as adaptability has always been our strongest asset."

Graeme Sandy, National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association

## Reconciling Canadians with the land

- Survey partnerships with FN (e.g. Wikwemikong FN)
- Applied land management skills (e.g. Tulo Centre)
- Third-party fact-finding (e.g. Mississauga FN)
- Mediation between Crowns (e.g Nanoose FN)
- Boundary Tribunal for Aboriginal title (e.g. Tsilhqot'in)
- Parcel fabric renewal (e.g. Uashat FN)
- Specific Claims Tribunal (e.g. Kitselas FN)
- ILR modernization
- Post-modern land titles registry (e.g. ILTI)



## Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics

Proposal: Building First Nation Lands
Management Capacity – Certificate in
First Nation Applied Lands Management
March 2017

#### Honour of the Crown

 Relationship founded on good faith, trust, cooperation, openness, fairness, consultation and reasonableness

(Roger Earl of Rutland's case, 1608)

 Rooted in persuading Indigenous peoples that their rights were best protected by the Crown

(Haida Nation v BC, 2004)