INSTO Global Meeting

Oct 21, 22, 2022

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Destination Development and Stewardship Specialist
Land Acknowledgement

Rich in Indigenous culture, the Thompson Okanagan region lies on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of three *Interior Salish nations*: the *Syilx, Secwépemc*, and *Nlaka’pamux* peoples.
Located in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, Canada.

Diverse area covering approximately 71,600 km², is similar in size to Ireland.

Home to over 120 communities, including 33 Indigenous communities, and over 3,500 tourism businesses, with landscapes that vary from the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies to the semi-arid climate of the Okanagan Desert.
The role of Indigenous knowledge for sustainable development
Indigenous Cultures in BC

British Columbia is home to 204 First Nations communities and an amazing diversity of Indigenous languages; approximately 50% of the First Peoples’ languages of Canada are spoken in B.C.

**Nsyilxcən** language group in the South

**Secwepemctsín** language group in the North

https://maps.fpcc.ca/languages
Starting the Journey

- Partnership
- Build Relationship
- Discover Priorities
Working Together

Defining success through increasing capacity building and resilience and bringing indigenous principles to non-indigenous businesses and stakeholders to help educate.
Indigenous Nations Lead Tourism Development

McAbee Fossil Beds

- McAbee Fossil Beds indigenous interpretive trail development.
- Identified as a heritage designated site in 2012
- This world class fossil site is 53 million years old
- High diversity of fossils dated from the Eocene
- Led by Bonaparte First Nation
- Supported by TOTA, Thompson Rivers University and Tourism Kamloops
Engaging visitors in Indigenous knowledge

7 Affirmations Pledge

7 AFFIRMATIONS FOR 7 GENERATIONS
Thompson Okanagan Regional Pledge

Sign the 7 Affirmations Pledge at ThompsonOkanagan.com/Pledge
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Thank you

Industry Website: TOTABC.org
Visitor Website: ThompsonOkanagan.com