

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS TRAINING FIELD BULLETIN

WHO ARE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

“Indigenous Peoples” is a collective term for the original peoples of North America. In what is now Canada, there are three distinct groups of Indigenous Peoples: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

FIRST NATIONS

First Nations are descendants of the first peoples of Canada, who lived in territories of what is now Canada for thousands of years before Europeans arrived.

MÉTIS

The Métis are a distinct Indigenous people who have a mixed heritage, but have also developed their own customs, languages, way of life, and socio-political identity separate from their First Nations and European ancestors.

INUIT

Inuit are the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic. The word Inuit means “the people” in the Inuit language of Inuktitut. Meanwhile, the word Inuk (“person”) is the singular form of Inuit.

SHOWING RESPECT

While you may have heard terms such as *Indian* or *Aboriginal* used in the past, today, **Indigenous** is generally considered the most respectful term. It is also good practice to use the names of specific nations and identities—for example, Métis, Mohawk, Cree, etc. **When in doubt, respectfully ask someone how they would like to be referred to.**

Canada’s Constitution recognizes and protects the unique rights of Indigenous Peoples—including rights to their **traditional territories**. Some of these protected rights may be affected by sustainable forest management activities.

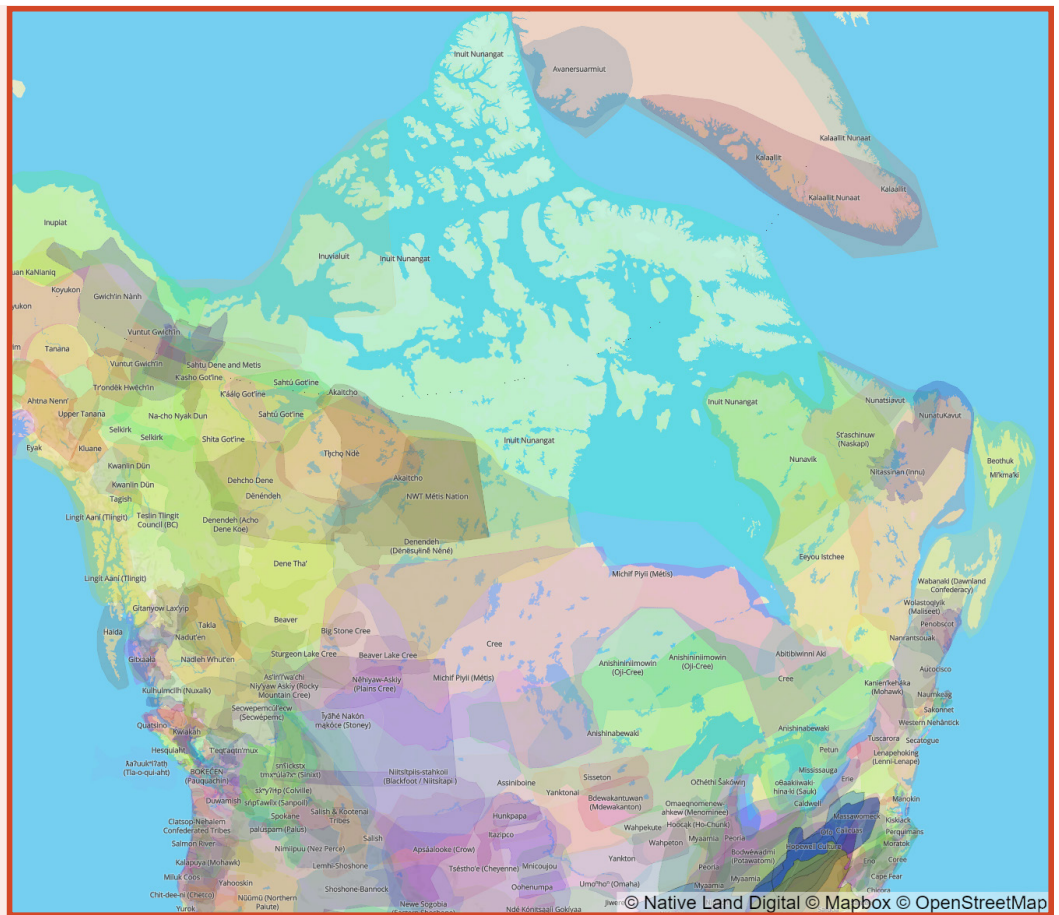
- **Traditional territories** are the lands and waters that Indigenous Peoples have occupied throughout history and into the present day.

Responsible forestry means taking appropriate actions to respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights and interests.

Visit forests.org/indigenous-online-courses to learn more.

This map shows just Indigenous communities' traditional territories in Canada. As you can see, **every forest is located in at least one Indigenous community's traditional territory.** Often more than one!

As forestry professionals and forest workers in Canada, we need to **grow our understanding of Indigenous communities' relationships with forests,** and respect their unique rights and interests.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. There are three distinct Indigenous Peoples in Canada: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.
2. Every forest operation, including this site, is on the traditional territory of at least one Indigenous community.
3. Responsible forestry means respecting the unique rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples.

TAILGATE DISCUSSION

Why is it important that field-based operators learn about Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories?

Do you know the Indigenous communities nearest to today's operations?