

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS TRAINING FIELD BULLETIN

RESPECTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Canada's Constitution recognizes and protects the unique Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples within their traditional territories. This means they have the highest level of legal authority available in Canada. Some of these protected rights may be affected by sustainable forest management activities.

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Aboriginal Rights are inherent rights held by Indigenous Peoples because of their longstanding occupation of a traditional territory prior to it becoming part of Canada. These rights can vary from community to community, based on their unique practices, traditions, and cultures.

NOTE

Some of these protected rights may be affected by sustainable forest management activities.

Responsible forestry means taking appropriate actions that ensure the unique Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected in forest management planning and practices.

TREATY RIGHTS

Treaty rights are specific rights that have been negotiated and enshrined in formal agreements between the Government of Canada and Indigenous nations. In some cases, these may include a specific treaty right to participate in or create laws around sustainable forest management.

THE DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE

Canadian law requires a **Duty to Consult and Accommodate Indigenous Peoples** any time a proposed activity, like sustainable forest management, has the potential to impact their protected rights. Therefore, forest managers and planners must:

- identify which Indigenous communities may have unique rights that might be impacted by proposed forestry activities;
- consult with them in a fair, meaningful, and respectful manner, to ensure their unique rights and interests are considered; and
- develop and modify plans and operations, as Indigenous Peoples' priorities and concerns become known.

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

DOING YOUR PART

As a forest worker, you are implementing operations that comply with a management plan that was developed by forest managers through the **Duty to Consult and Accommodate with Indigenous Peoples.**

Following the approved forest management plan exactly ensures that you are doing your part to **respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.**



KEY TAKEAWAYS

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1. Indigenous Peoples have unique rights, protected in Canada's Constitution.
 2. Canadian law requires a duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous Peoples in sustainable forest management planning.
 3. Following an approved management plan ensures that you are doing your part to respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

TAILGATE DISCUSSION

Why is it important that field operators learn about Indigenous Peoples' rights?

How do we know our operations for this block comply with the approved management plan?