

Groundwork Project Community Resources

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are you doing?

We are looking at Dene, Dane Zaa, Cree, Sauteau and Kaska Dena stories using the [Indigenous Law Research Unit methodology](#) to learn about the legal principles and processes of these legal traditions.

Specifically we're looking at how these legal traditions are applied to resolve conflicts around land occupancy and use. This can include how people access, share, and maintain relationships with land within and across communities.

Why Dene, Dane-zaa, Cree, Sauteaux, Tse'khene and Kaska Dena legal orders?

The communities that are signed onto the Groundwork project right now are Fort Nelson First Nation, Sauteau, West Moberly, and Halfway River. These communities contain Dene, Dane-zaa, Cree, Sauteaux, Tse'khene, and Kaska Dena legal traditions.

These legal orders interacted in this region prior to Treaty 8 and continue to practice and build laws to govern their interactions with one another and with the land. One example of this is the agreements between West Moberly and Sauteau to share and protect the Twin Sisters Mountains.

Why should we care?

Revitalizing Indigenous laws can create space to protect and share land and resources in more respectful ways, so the land and these laws can be passed onto future generations. These legal orders have protected and cared for the lands and waters in Treaty 8 for thousands of years. In Canada, we are governed by the Indian Act and our lands have been taken over by federal and provincial laws and regulations. These laws are designed to separate Indigenous peoples from the land and from each other. Cree, Dene, Dane-zaa, Kaska Dena, Tse'khene, and Sauteaux legal traditions continue to provide important legal resources that can be drawn upon to protect and care for the land and for relationships between and within communities into the future.

We acknowledge with respect the history, customs, and culture of the Lekwangen and WSANEC people on whose unceded traditional lands our university resides.

Who is funding this project?

This project is primarily funded by the [Real Estate Foundation of BC](#), with support from other ILRU funders including the [McConnell Foundation](#) and [VanCity](#).

AFFILIATED WEBSITES:

Groundwork Project Site: <https://groundworkstories.wordpress.com/>

The Indigenous Law Research Unit: <http://ilru.ca/>

ONLINE VIDEOS:

Living Law: Connecting to the Land through Indigenous Law:

<https://groundworkstories.wordpress.com/2020/08/09/living-law-connecting-to-the-land-through-indigenous-law/>

Indigenous Law on Demand Series:

<https://www.uvic.ca/law/about/indigenous/indigenoulawresearchunit/videoondemand.php>



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