

# DOC Treaty Partner Summit 2018

The Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty - A  
Treaty Partner Experience from Canada.



**Kim Baird**

Tena koutou katoa



Tsawwassen  
'land facing the sea'  
My homeland

# Coast Salish Territory





# Current images from Tsawwassen



Tsawwassen Mills



Photo of new leasehold residential unit



Rendering of TFN Industrial site



## Presentation outline

- Treaty Partnership
- Canadian context for Indigenous Relations
- The Tsawwassen Story – a modern treaty with Provincial and Federal Governments
- How this Treaty Partnership links to Environment and Conservation

# Canada's Approach to Indigenous Relations – a work in progress



# Federal treatment of Indigenous people from contact to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century



Colonization and treaty making (except for BC)

Indian Act, residential schools Prohibitions (policies based on racist premises)

Continued definition of Indigenous people through legislation (Aboriginal)



## Where this left First Nations

Inadequate governance structure over inadequate land base, with inadequate infrastructure

Poverty and poor socioeconomic conditions (health, education, income, suicide, etc)

Capacity issues due to lack of financial and human resources

Lack of legal, political, economic and other rights/institutions Canadians take for granted





## First Nation actions - resistance

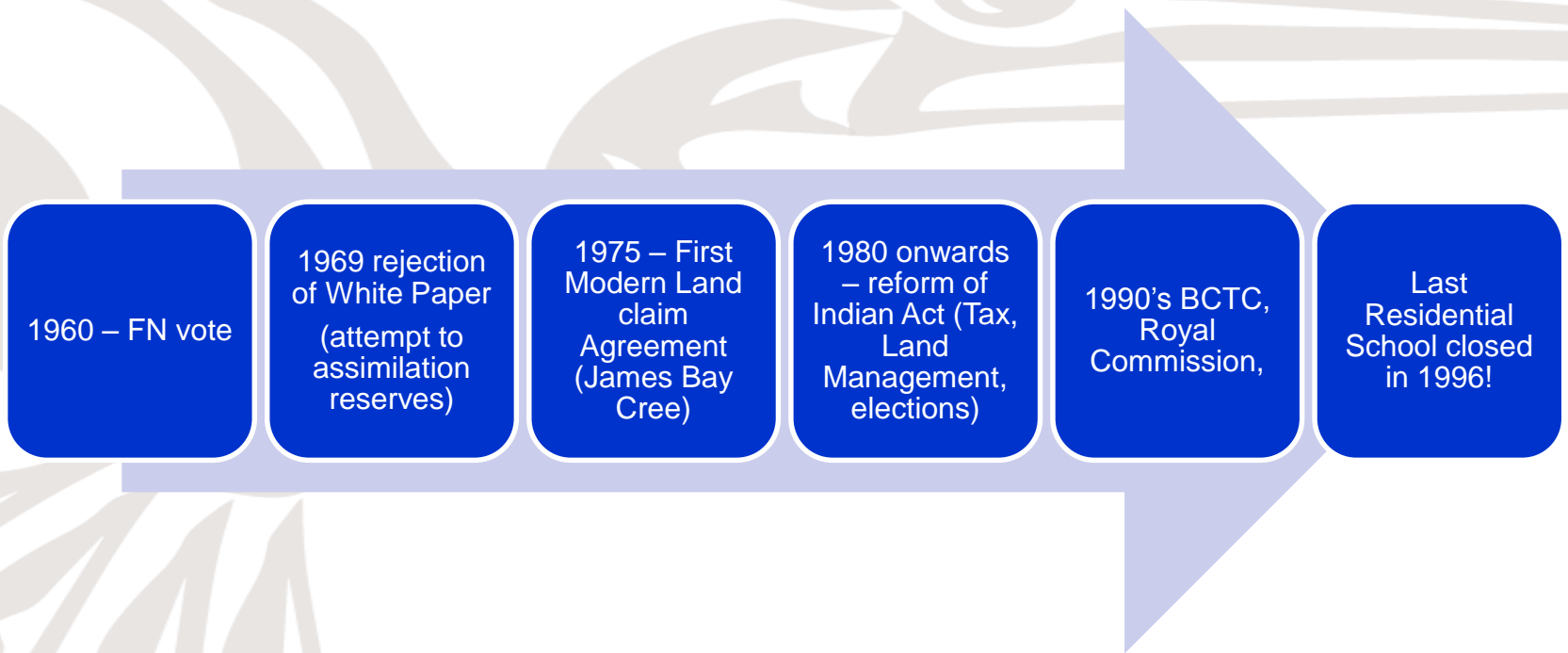
Litigation – Calder, Sparrow, Delgam Uukw, William Decisions

Other litigation – from defining status, to off-reserve voting rights and now Metis

Political Organization – Informal Alliances, AFN, Union of BC Indians Chiefs, First Nations Summit, NWAC, CAPP

Some instances of direction action all leading to uncertainty for development in BC

# Early reconciliation efforts– Federal, Provincial and First Nation efforts (often realized through Federal legislation)



# Hope for national progress



Prime Minister  
Apology and the  
Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission

Missing and  
Murdered Women  
Inquiry

Commitments to  
investments in  
education and  
infrastructure

Commitments to  
Nation to Nation  
relationship,  
UNDRIP



# Our Treaty, Self-governance, the Environment and Conservation



- There are many ways we interface with the environment
  - **Our identity as an integral part of the natural environment since time immemorial**



Left photo taken from float plane looking at the mouth of the Fraser River during low tide



Right photo – view of Tsawwassen Bluff (island) beside delta flats



## How Indigenous people interface with the Environment

- Our recent struggle to introduce our world view on how colonial governments manage the environment and our traditional territories
- There is much division in our country on these matters and indeed the whole globe.



Photo of Kinder Morgan Pipeline protest



# How Indigenous people interface with the Environment

## Evolving partnership approaches to Environmental Management including

- Land Use planning agreements from broad territory to more specific forestry and park and heritage management agreements
- Participation in environmental assessment and monitoring
- New approaches with Tsilhqot'in (First Nation that established Aboriginal Title in the Supreme Court of Canada)
- Our new tools as a Treaty First Nation (a work in progress) to manage Reconciling our Aboriginal rights and title, and fulfilling our right to self-government.
- These approaches leading towards an Indigenous desire for “co-management”



Photo of Tsawwassen Canoe



## Tsawwassen's evolving interface with the Environment and Conservation

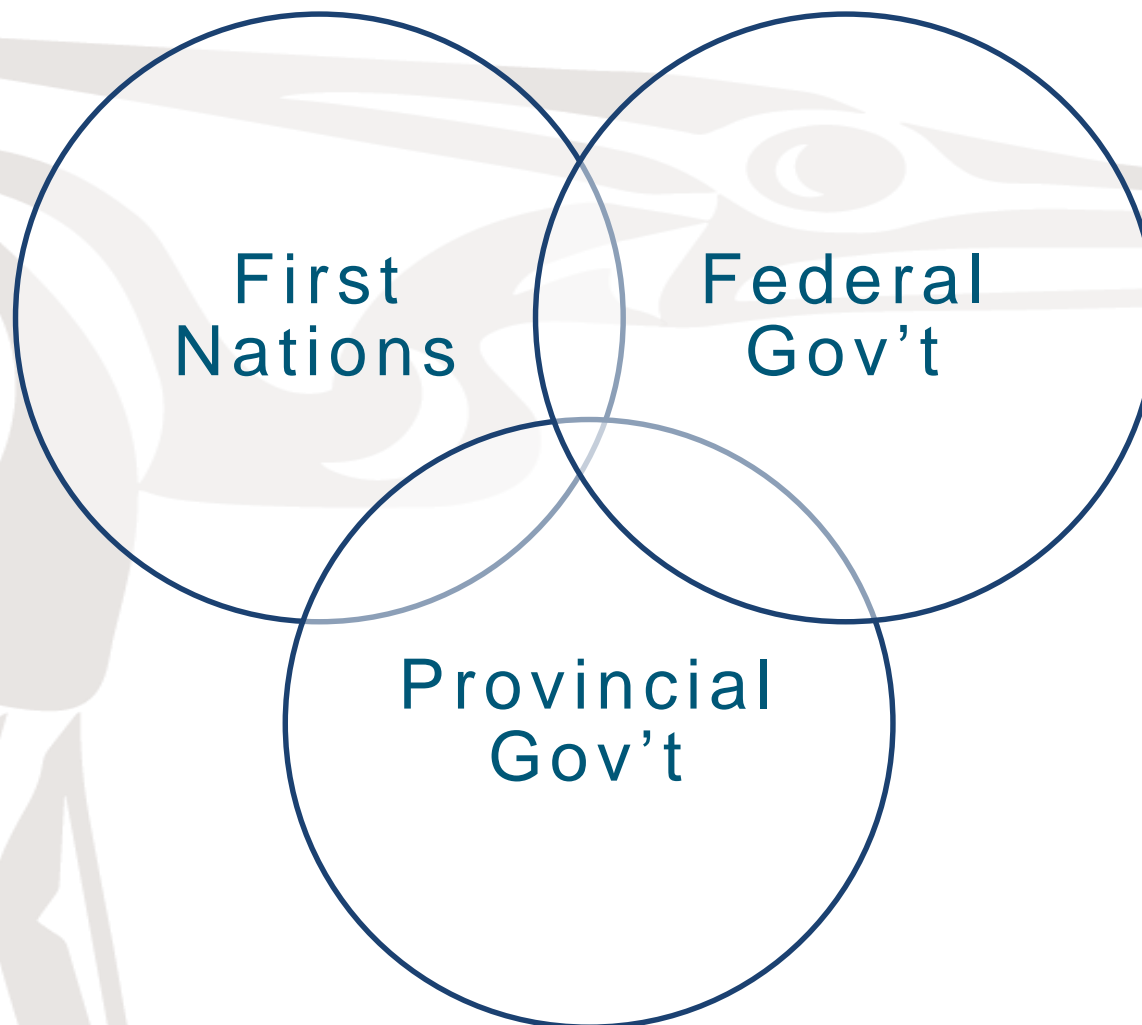
- Tsawwassen has many rights and responsibilities set out in our treaty in relation to the environment and conservation in relation to our broader traditional territory and to our lands and resources rights specified.
  - Heritage
  - Parks and protected areas
  - Environmental management
  - Crown consultation obligations for impacts to our territory and rights
  - Fish, wildlife, forestry
  - Not water because we don't have the regional watershed in our territory



Photo of Heron Rookery at Tsawwassen Bluff



# Managing the Environment– a Shared Responsibility



# 2017 Vancouver Walk for Reconciliation

photo by Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press





UBC Reconciliation Pole – Photo:Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press

hay ce:p ɥa nə siʔem̩ nə siyeʔə



Ngā mihi

Thank-you