

**CBRAC Meeting in Invermere, BC
April 16, 2019**

TABLE DISCUSSION: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Agenda item:

Table Discussion: “Acknowledging what was lost when the dams were created.”

1. How can this acknowledgement be done?
2. Who does the acknowledgement need to come from?

Group 1

How can acknowledgement be done?

- Cairn/plaques with CRT history set up in town and in high use areas (e.g. cenotaphs to soldiers)
 - At museums
 - Waldo historical gazebo
 - Baynes Lake church (moved from Waldo) with historical display
 - Shelter Bay boat launch
- Most losses cannot be replaced
- Limited resident knowledge now
- Needs to be something that lasts
 - videos with stories by impacted families
 - Need to reach out to (involve?) the Province that benefits
- Something at Visitor Centres
- Call the waterbodies “reservoirs” not “lakes”
- Do something like the Grand Coulee light show story??
- Something at provincial parks on reservoirs – story telling, interpretation
- Williston First Nations displacement recognition
- Geographical info systems - show reservoirs at empty and full
- Include First Nation history
- First, tell the stories of physical displacements and economic change in a way that is easily accessible to the public e.g. online and at community locations

Who does the acknowledgement need to come from?

- BC Hydro
- Federal and Provincial governments – they made the decision

Other Comments

- Lots of history is out there – not collected, not user friendly
 - Columbia Basin Trust has many resources - <https://thebasin.ourtrust.org/columbia-river-treaty/resources/>
- Augmented reality showing before and after the reservoir
- Apology from government of Canada (BC government, BC Hydro) – in bronze on concrete
 - Acknowledge lack of consultation
 - Implications for the Sinixt
 - Expropriation practices
 - Compensation amounts
 - Was a traumatic incident for those involved
- Get story in schools
- First Nations loss of cultural sites and loss of use/opportunities

Summary

1. Apology and positive announcement
2. Signs in public places – boat ramps, museums
3. Stories in lasting, accessible way – CBT YouTube site?

Group 2

What was lost

1. Settlers
 - a. Cultural
 - b. Displacement – community, agriculture, industrial
 - c. Travel Routes – trade
2. First Nations
 - a. Tangible/intangible losses
 - b. Cultural
 - c. Displacement
 - d. Travel routes/Trade

3. Environmental

- a. Fisheries
- b. Wildlife Habitat
- c. Aquatic Habitat

How can acknowledgement be done?

- [History and stories in] Museums
- [Involve] Local communities
- Make it interesting
- Historical story
- Define the losses
- Define the responsible party(s)
- Define the mitigation process
 - Compensation
 - Restoration
 - Mitigation projects
 - “Monuments”
 - Apology

Who does the acknowledgement need to come from?

- Canada
- BC
- BC Hydro

Group 3

What was lost

- Ecosystems
- Communities
- Connections - Identity
- Ways of life
- Medicines/food sources/specific species
- Fish and caribou
- Food sovereignty
- Resiliency (especially regarding climate change)
- Growth and development
- Access

- Migratory paths/corridors/people
- Social and economic impacts
- Language
- Culture
- Lineage/history
- Artifacts/archeological - Burial sites that will never be identified

How can acknowledgement be done?

- More than talk
- Sharing stories
 - Allocate resources to record and share stories
 - Money directly to communities for their own studies
- Help youth be involved; educate the youth; 7 generations
- Financial support to implement /develop agriculture and other opportunities
 - Food security
- Bring salmon back – make that a priority and acknowledge the challenges: work toward it anyway and understand why they were lost in the first place
- Understand and support the full cycle of life

Who does the acknowledgement need to come from?

- Federal/provincial government/BC Hydro

Group 4

What was lost?

- Losses to acknowledge – educational, recreational, logging, cultural/lands etc.

How can acknowledgement be done?

- Golden – Documentary for wide public viewing (government sponsored)
 - Suitable caliber of production (Planet Earth quality) to show at places like Banff Film Festival, PBS, Netflix, Sundance Festival
 - Nelson has video available at the museum
 - For future generations
 - Government have acknowledgement of these losses in the video

- Castlegar – remind people of the benefits, programming etc that CBT supplies
 - CBT successes – symposium’s all-inclusive ideas and follow-up with actions when possible
 - Could ask for a broader Affected Area Program
- Take video footage of Global Affairs when they visit the Basin
- Outside of CBT funding – monies derived for benefits to BC – is it seen as part of acknowledgement?
 - Equalize monies received between communities in the Basin. Now inequities in compensation from Grants in Lieu (GILT). Most recent look at GILT was the George Penfold Report 10 years ago
- Do Columbia River tour (Full Basin) via signage
 - To educate and acknowledge areas and scope of losses
 - Pinpoint each area with a major loss to that area
 - To draw a vignette of the effects of Columbia River Treaty Dams to communities and First Nations
 - Put these at boat launches, community information centres, parks
- Rural Development Institute could be involved

Who does the acknowledgement need to come from?

- What is the tone of the acknowledgement? Negative? Positive? How to regulate this?
 - In the 1950s we didn’t think of that, now we must go forward

Other Comments

- Good model is Newfoundland Resettlement – Premier Smallwood