



# Columbia River Treaty and Canada-U.S. Negotiations

## Low Levels in Arrow Lakes Reservoir Information Session

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## Columbia River Treaty - how it began

- Main objective: power and flood control in both countries
- Treaty was signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964
- Ratification delayed due to negotiating the 1963 Canada - BC Agreement to transfer benefits and obligations to BC



Diefenbaker and  
Eisenhower signing the  
Treaty in 1961

Treaty and Protocol  
ratified and proclaimed by  
Pearson and Johnson in  
1964





# Columbia River Treaty

## Key Facts



Canada to construct 3 dams to provide 15.5M acre-feet (Maf) of water storage

- Duncan 1967
- Hugh Keenleyside 1968
- Mica 1973

U.S. had the option to construct Libby dam in Montana – Canada made land available (42 mi - 67 km) for the reservoir

The Treaty continues indefinitely but can be terminated with 10 year notice at the earliest in September 2024



# Current Treaty Provisions

## Power Generation

- Canada operates 15.5 Maf for optimum power generation downstream in U.S.
- U.S. delivers to Canada one-half the estimated potential US power benefits (Canadian Entitlement - CE)

## Flood Control Pre-2024

- The US bought 8.45 Maf of “primary” flood control up to 2024 for \$64.4 million
- Regardless of Treaty continuation or termination, assured flood control ends in 2024 and flood control changes to “Called Upon”



## Public Engagement Since 2012

- Over 40 community meetings
  - Revelstoke, Nakusp, Fauquier, Genelle, Castlegar, Trail, Valemount, Golden, Invermere, Cranbrook, Jaffray, Creston, Nelson, and Meadow Creek
- 7 virtual information sessions since 2020
- Social media, newsletters, emails, letters and one-on-one phone calls
- Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee
- Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee
- Scientific community and non-government organizations





## What We're Aiming for in a Modernized Treaty

- Increased flexibility for how we operate B.C.'s Treaty dams
- Adaptive management
- Ecosystem enhancement
- Salmon reintroduction to the upper Columbia River
- Updated flood-risk management provisions
- Continued hydropower co-ordination



## Contact us:

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