



# Protection and Conservation of Heritage Sites in the Cariboo Regional District

Introduction to Policy

March 2023



# Xatśūll First Nation Key Values

- ▶ Proactive protection of cultural heritage areas
- ▶ Meaningful involvement in cultural heritage stewardship
- ▶ Holistic cultural heritage stewardship

# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Cultural Heritage Overview
- ▶ Heritage Protection Rules & Responsibilities
- ▶ The Archaeological Impact Assessment Process
- ▶ Developing a Heritage Protection Policy

# Cultural Heritage Overview

- ▶ Cultural heritage consists of practices, values, places and objects inherited by a community from their shared past.
- ▶ Represent thousands of years of history and hundreds of generations' experiences on the land; significant connection between Indigenous communities and their lands and ancestors.
- ▶ Tangible cultural heritage includes places and objects.
- ▶ Archaeological sites and artifacts are one kind of cultural heritage; provide clear physical evidence which fits specific definitions.
- ▶ There are 1,000s of archaeological sites in the Cariboo, documented according to their spatial extent and physical contents.



# Why protect it?

- ▶ There is worldwide recognition that cultural heritage should be protected to preserve cultural legacies.
- ▶ Economic benefits of heritage preservation are also a factor.
- ▶ Recognition that this knowable past is vulnerable to destruction, theft or just plain neglect.

# First Nations & Cultural Heritage Sites

- ▶ Protecting and conserving Indigenous cultural heritage is a core component in UNDRIP, the TRCC's Calls to Action and provincial heritage policy.
- ▶ Cultural heritage sites represent significant connections between Indigenous communities and their lands and ancestors.
- ▶ The preservation and protection of the physical remains associated with Indigenous ancestors' lives shows respect for their cultural heritage.
- ▶ For all of us, understanding the cultural heritage around us is a way to make deep and lasting connections with our home.

# Heritage Protection in B.C.

- ▶ The current Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) dates to the mid-1970s, replacing older legislation going back to the 1860s.
- ▶ HCA protection applies ***automatically*** to any site or object that might pre-date 1846 AD, as well as Indigenous rock paintings and carvings, and Indigenous ancestral burials.
- ▶ Alterations are authorized through provincial Archaeology Branch permitting processes.

# Understanding HCA Limitations

- ▶ First Nations have many specific issues with HCA protection, including limited protection for recent or intangible cultural heritage sites
- ▶ The Archaeology Branch does ***not*** review or screen development applications for conflicts with protected sites. Local and regional governments can fill this gap.
- ▶ Professional archaeologists focus on HCA protected sites; they must be aware of specific First Nations' concerns if their advice is to be effective.



# Archaeological Impact Assessment Process Overview

- ▶ A province-wide process for assessing and managing development-related impacts to cultural heritage sites
- ▶ Focus on archaeological sites rather than broader cultural heritage
- ▶ The process is triggered by regulators or developer's own policy
- ▶ A 3-step process: overview, impact assessment and impact management
- ▶ Permitted studies require professional archaeological services
- ▶ Non-permit studies are not provincially regulated
- ▶ Archaeological assessments are funded by proponents (“developer pays”)

# Archaeological Impact Assessment Process

Archaeological  
Overview  
Assessment

Archaeological  
Impact  
Assessment

Impact  
Management

# Developing Heritage Policy



1. Draft a policy that addresses legislation and First Nations needs.
2. Roll-out procedures to District staff and provide adequate training and supports.



# Policy Goals

- ▶ Facilitate protection and conservation of sites
- ▶ Ensure corporate compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- ▶ Reduce potential harm to Indigenous communities
- ▶ Manage scheduling and financial risks
- ▶ Provide instruction to District staff

# Draft Policy

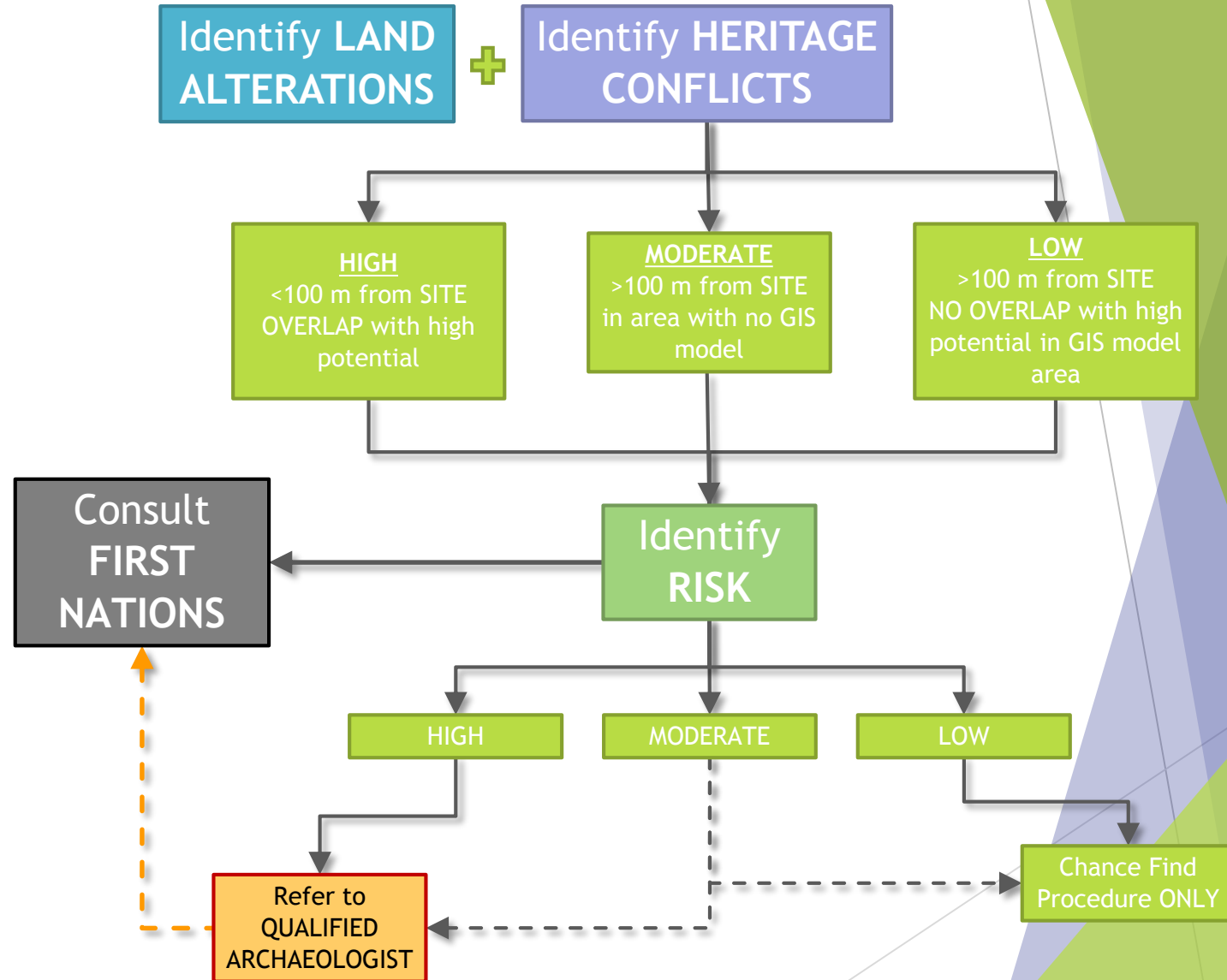
## Common Elements

- Drafted by an expert (an experienced and knowledgeable archaeologist or cultural resource specialist)
- Procedures for screening projects
- Procedures for commissioning archaeological studies
- Procedures for communicating with First Nations
- Archaeological Awareness requirements for staff and contractors
- Chance Find Procedures
- A system of forms for documenting procedures and compliance



# Draft Policy

## Screening Procedures



# Draft Policy

## Risk Assessment

		Land Alterations		
		No Ground Disturbance	Minor Subsurface Disturbance	Significant Surface or Subsurface Disturbance
Heritage Conflict (Archaeological Potential)	Registered Arch. Site	Moderate Risk	High Risk	High Risk
	High Potential	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
	Moderate Potential	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk
	Low Potential	Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk

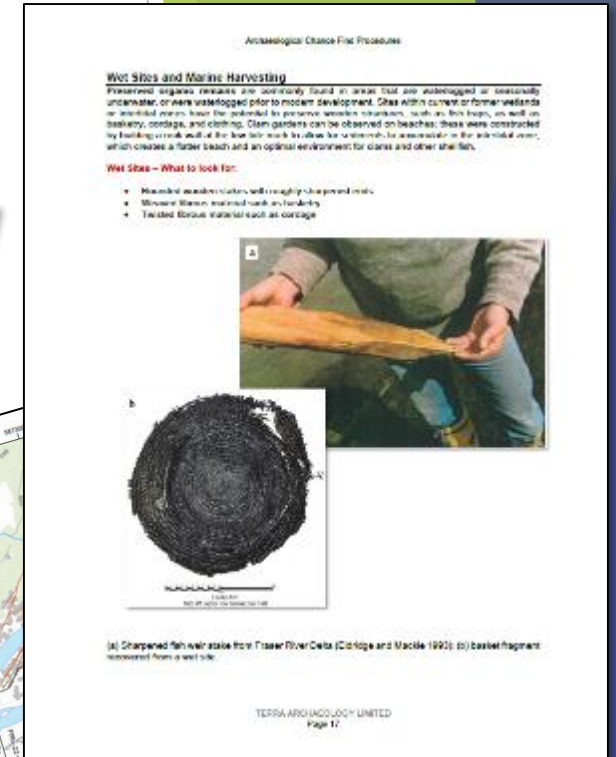
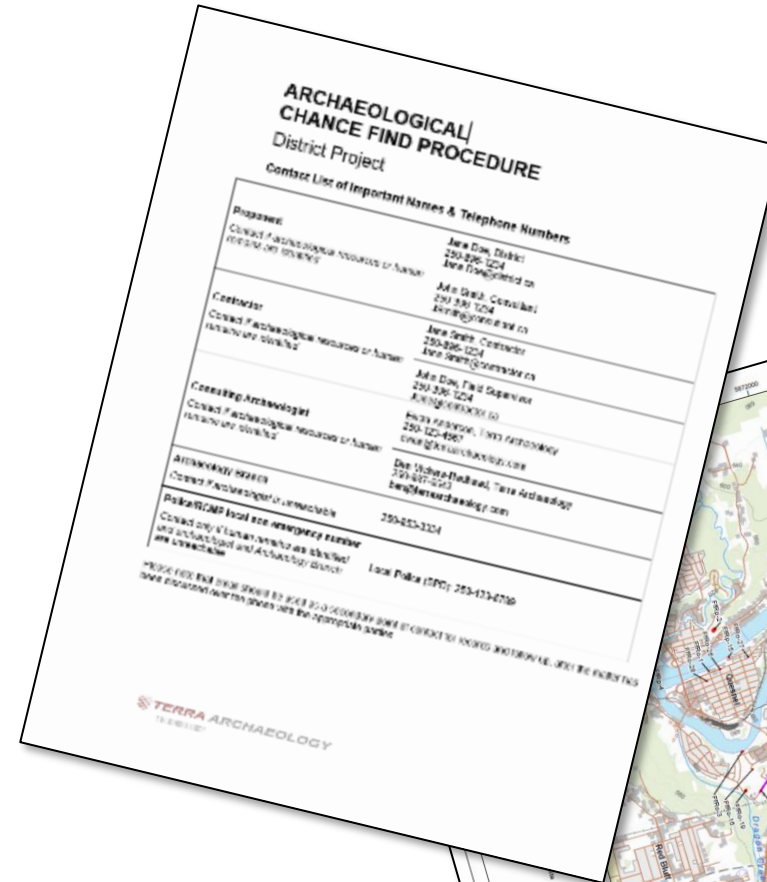
# Draft Policy Documents

## HERITAGE SITE INFORMATION REVIEW

PART A – RAAD SCREENING (completed by CRD staff)		
Project Name:		Request Date (dd-mm-yy):
UTM Coordinates (centroid) UTM Zone 10	Easting:	Northing:
Project Address/Location:		
Ground Altering Work, including depth of disturbance:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Works <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		
Distance between proposed work and archaeological sites (in metres):		
		Map of Project Area Attached <input type="checkbox"/>
Description of potential conflict (i.e., Borden number(s), high potential polygon)		
Previous/Supplemental Information (if available) about the Proposed Project Area		
		Attach Previous Data <input type="checkbox"/>
Project Schedule/Dates:		
		Attach Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>
*Check Box to Indicate Level of Potential		
RAAD Result	Policy	Procedure
High Potential <input type="checkbox"/>	within 100 of an archaeology site or historic site; or overlapping an area of mapped high archaeological potential.	Go to Part B below. Retain archaeological services to evaluate risk or determine permit requirements under <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> (HCA) and provide management direction for required archaeological work.
Moderate Potential <input type="checkbox"/>	within the Juan De Fuca Electoral Area and more than 100m from a registered archaeology site	Project Manager to review data and determine next steps which could include: 1. Go to Part B below. Retain archaeological services to evaluate risk or determine permit requirements under <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> (HCA) and provide management direction for required archaeological work. 2. No special procedure. If archaeological sites are found during construction, follow the CRD Chance Find Management Procedure.
Low Potential <input type="checkbox"/>	located more than 100 meters from an archaeological site, outside an area of high archaeological potential, and outside the Juan De Fuca Electoral Area	No special procedure. If archaeological sites are found during construction, follow the CRD Chance Find Management Procedure.
Requested by:		Department:
RAAD completed by:		Date RAAD Accessed (dd-mm-yy): Attach RAAD Map: <input type="checkbox"/>

# Draft Policy Documents

- For field crews and their supervisors
- Provide a reference for different types of archaeological sites
- Provide a list of project or area-specific contacts



# Roll-Out

- ▶ Consultation and approval by First Nations
- ▶ Initial policy presentation session with staff
  - ▶ Present policy and interactive scenario run-throughs
  - ▶ Take questions and listen to operational concerns
- ▶ Training
  - ▶ RAAD system training for staff
  - ▶ CFP and Archaeological Awareness training for staff and contractors
  - ▶ “Refresher” sessions
- ▶ Continuous feedback and updates (from staff, regulators, First Nations)



The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there is a photograph of a damaged wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a walkway, with a large wooden beam leaning against a wall. The ground is sandy and there are some small plants. On the right, there is a large, white, curved pipe or structure, possibly part of a water treatment facility. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white area in the center where the text is located. The right side of the slide features a decorative geometric pattern with overlapping triangles in shades of blue and green.

Questions?



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