

In-SHUCK-ch First Nation Agreement-in-Principle PARKS

Protecting B.C.'s Parks and Protected Areas

British Columbia's provincial parks are a rich natural resource, and the Province is committed to ensuring parks are maintained for the benefit of all British Columbians. Parks and protected areas require careful management in order to safeguard biodiversity and ecological values, and to ensure harmony among environmental, social and economic interests. The government of British Columbia seeks to negotiate treaties that:

- ensure provincial parks and protected areas are maintained for the benefit of all British Columbians
- ensure recreational opportunities in parks continue for all British Columbians
- clarify rights, responsibilities and jurisdiction with respect to parks and parks management

Parks Management

The In-SHUCK-ch Nation is committed to working together with the Province and local recreational groups to preserve and enhance parks and protected areas. The First Nation also values the importance of tourism and recreational opportunities in the region.

The courts have recognized the rights of First Nations to carry out hunting and gathering activities in parks, limited by measures necessary for conservation, public health or public safety. Under the terms of the Final Agreement, In-SHUCK-ch Nation and British Columbia will negotiate arrangements to ensure that First Nation members' activities are compatible with other park values and activities. First Nation activities will be built into provincial park management plans. The First Nation's participation in parks management will inform visitors about the history and culture in the region.

The In-SHUCK-ch Nation may negotiate a Parks Management Agreement through the Ministry of Environment.

Due to its proximity to Whistler and the Lower Mainland, the First Nation recognizes the importance of working with recreation groups in order to build tourism capacity in the region.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Which parks are located within the In-SHUCK-ch Statement of Intent (SOI)? The SOI is the First Nation's traditional territory.

Answer: Garibaldi Provincial Park, Golden Ears Provincial Park, and Pinecone Burke Provincial Park are all in the SOI. As well, the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is adjacent to the north east border of the SOI. However, none of these parks is located within proposed treaty land.

Question: What access will my family have to parks in the region after treaty settlement?

Answer: There will be no provincial parks on treaty land, and public access to parks within the In-SHUCK-ch Nation traditional territory will be maintained.

Question: Who will retain overriding authority over provincial parks and protected areas?

Answer: The Minister of Environment will retain full responsibility for managing and conserving provincial parks and protected areas.

Question: Will a treaty allow In-SHUCK-ch Nation members' unlimited access to carry out traditional activities in parks?

Answer: No, the AIP sets out that the First Nation's right to hunt, fish and gather plants will be limited by measures necessary for conservation, public health and public safety. In-SHUCK-ch Nation member activities in parks may be built into park management plans outside the treaty. These plans will balance the First Nation members' access with park values and access for other users. Provincial and federal ministers will retain full authority for the management and conservation of these resources and their habitat.



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Question: What is a park management plan?

Answer: A park management plan sets out the objectives for park use and guides provincial management of the park for the future. Such a plan would set out In-SHUCK-ch Nation's involvement and participation in park planning and management.

Question: Will these agreements create more certainty for park users in the region?

Answer: A treaty will eliminate the uncertainty associated with undefined Aboriginal rights by modifying them into clearly defined treaty rights and responsibilities. These will include their Aboriginal rights to hunt, fish and gather. A Final Agreement will also provide for the First Nation to participate in regional management processes set up by the provincial or federal governments, including park management plans. Through such processes, all parties can work cooperatively for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Question: Will a treaty help to protect and conserve parks and protected areas in the area?

Answer: In-SHUCK-ch Nation shares the commitment of local park users to sustaining parks and protected areas in the region. No parks or protected areas will be removed from the area. Building First Nation community involvement into park management processes will contribute to improved relations with other users and consolidate local commitment to conserve and protect parks.

For more information:

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