

Preface

Stolen Lands, Broken Promises

Stolen Lands, Broken Promises: Researching the Indian Land Question in British Columbia is the second edition of the research manual first published by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Research Department in 1998, under the direction of Leigh Ogston. Like the original publication, the revised manual is intended as a practical, hands-on resource for Indigenous community members wanting to conduct research on a variety of issues affecting traditional territory and reserve lands in British Columbia. The manual is specifically designed to guide community members with little or no experience of formal research practices through the process of planning and successfully completing lands related research projects that have a strong historical component. Most of these projects will rely heavily on historical documents: typically, written and graphic records produced by federal and provincial government bodies and stored at government and corporate archives, libraries and offices. For readers already equipped with a measure of practical research experience but undertaking a lands related project for the first time, *Stolen Lands, Broken Promises* will provide an introduction to some of the principal events that have impacted Indigenous lands in BC and the major research topics that have emerged as a result of them. It is our hope that *Stolen Lands, Broken Promises* will also be useful to more experienced researchers wishing to brush up on skills or searching for current resource information.

The second edition is an attempt to address the stated needs of community members by building upon the comprehensive groundwork laid by the former UBCIC Research Department staff. Part of that groundwork consists of providing introductions to research approaches and technical procedures; more fundamentally, it advances the belief that conducting our own historical research about our own lands is an important tool in fighting for recognition of our political and territorial rights and protecting Indigenous ways of life. Each of our communities continues to experience the impacts of our dispossession of our traditional lands and the devaluing of Indigenous traditions. The more we understand about the historical structures and procedures which have resulted in our current circumstances, the more empowered we become to demand and bring about change. Whether a project's objective is to record a family history, to document changes to reserve lands or to gather evidence for an impending land title claim, our communities grow stronger as a result of our collective efforts to build a base of shared knowledge and expertise.

The current UBCIC Research Department staff formed an editorial board in the summer of 2004 to incorporate the generous amount of feedback we received from Indigenous community researchers into a revised publication. We have also accounted for the significant changes made to the organization of provincial government ministries and Crown corporations since 2001, and the ways that the proliferation of new technologies

have transformed information production and gathering in the years since the first manual's release. Throughout the drafting process we have benefited from the insights and recommendations of professional and community reviewers who volunteered their time and expertise to this project. We are especially grateful to the High Bar First Nation for granting us permission to reproduce a number of documents related to their reserve lands. We have used these documents as examples of archival records in sections of the manual. We extend particular thanks to Chief Lenora Fletcher and Band Administrator Terry Wardrop for their ongoing support of our work.

Structure of the Manual

Stolen Lands, Broken Promises generally follows the structure of the original manual. It is divided into three sections: Research Foundations, Approaches to Research, and Topics in Land Rights Research.

In Research Foundations, we have tried to provide a thorough overview of key components involved in most Indigenous land rights research projects. We recommend that new researchers review this section from beginning to end before starting a project; more experienced researchers may find it more useful as a refresher or quick reference when a specific piece of information is required. Chapter 1: Dispossession and Resistance in British Columbia is a narrative chronology of historical events focusing on provincial and federal government land policies, as well as Indigenous responses to them. This chapter will provide a general historical context for commonly referenced documentary materials and the research topics discussed throughout the manual. Chapter 2 is an introduction to research methods. This chapter begins with a discussion of principles of high quality research, including research ethics, planning a project, collecting and evaluating research materials and presenting and storing research findings. Chapter 3 lists important resource institutions, explaining the differences between local resources, archives, specialized and academic libraries and government offices. The chapter also outlines the kinds of materials available at different institutions. Chapter 4 introduces the main sources of documentary records used in researching Indigenous land issues in BC. The chapter is organized as a series of entries that explain what each document is, what kind of information it contains and where to find it. Chapter 5 introduces the process of conducting basic reserve research, providing examples of key research questions and important documents.

The second section, Approaches to Research, highlights important forms and fields of research relevant to Indigenous land issues. Chapter 6 describes the practice of conducting oral history research. Chapter 7 reviews important genealogy resources for family and community history projects, and for other types of land rights projects. Chapters 8 and 9 outline important resources that are the products of anthropology and archeology studies. Chapter 10 provides information on basic maps and map-related resources, as well as where these resources can be found. The Approaches to Research section ends with a discussion of legal resources in Chapter 11.

Section three, Topics in Land Rights Research, consists of a series of chapters on specialized research issues, such as village sites and burial grounds, fishing rights, pre-confederation reserves, water rights and rights-of-way. Each chapter in this section begins with a brief introduction to the issue, followed by an historical overview, recommended research paths and list of sources for further reading.

While we have tried to be as complete as possible, there are undoubtedly issues we have had to leave out due to time and space constraints. We have made every effort to be accurate in our descriptions and contact information, however please know that resources change regularly. We will continue to update the manual to reflect these changes, in print and also on our website at <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>. Remember that the research path you choose will require adjustments and we encourage you to use your initiative and creativity. We welcome your feedback on all aspects of manual and wish you every success with your research projects.

A Note on Terminology

Throughout *Stolen Lands, Broken Promises*, the terms “Indigenous” and “Indian” are used in general discussions. The term “Indigenous” refers to the original peoples of a given territory. Accordingly, this term encompasses the people, cultures, traditions, values and beliefs that descend from them. The term “Indian” refers to individuals and collectivities recognized as “Status Indian” under the *Indian Act*. Similarly, the term “Indian reserve” is used to refer to lands reserved for Indians under the *Indian Act*. The terms “Aboriginal Title” and “Aboriginal rights” are used to refer to the collective rights inherent to Indigenous people as recognized in the Canadian Constitution and defined by the Canadian courts. “First Nation” is used as a proper noun only. “Community” is used to refer to the local network of relations rooted in an historical connection to the land and each other. Efforts have been made to use terms from Indigenous languages to describe particular peoples and places wherever possible. Finally, please note that words or phrases that appear in bold are Glossary terms, which are defined at the back of the book.

Acknowledgements

The editorial board consists of Jody Woods, Robyn Laba, Rick Pesklevits, Maureen Buchan, Lana Lowe, Rose Ellis, Janet Shaw, Lola Antonius, and Joanna Reid. We would like to thank the following people for their contributions:

Don Bain, Executive Director of UBCIC provided input and support throughout the process. Clo Ostrove of Mandell Pinder provided legal supervision and helpful feedback. The High Bar First Nation very graciously allowed us to use document examples related to their reserves. We would also like to thank Angie Bain, Jenn Cole, Wade Grant, Brad Hornick, Kim Lawson, Rob Manery, Kazu Sakatani and the UBCIC staff for their significant contributions.

We benefited from the feedback of many researchers and experts during the review process. Many thanks to Ralph Abramson, Taiaiake Alfred, Michael Asch, Lucy Bell, Ken Brealey, Heidi Brown, Keith Carlson, Jessica Clogg, Julie Cruikshank, Margaret Inoue, Matthew Evenden, Dan Gottesman, Larissa Grant, Cole Harris, Douglas Harris, Gene Joseph, Arthur Manuel, Kenichi Matsui, Bruce Miller, Guy Patterson, Donna Parisien-Guiboche, Chris Roine, Lyn Ross, Susan Rutherford, Dave Schaepe, David Smith, Cari St.Pierre, Terry Tobias, James Tully, Terry Wardrop, and Wikaninnish (Cliff Atleo Sr.).

This publication was made possible through funding from the Law Foundation of British Columbia. Student funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Summer Career Placements Program allowed the Research Department to hire a project coordinator in the summer of 2004.

Important Note: Changes to Provincial Ministries

In June 2005, the provincial government announced changes to certain ministries. Below is a list of some of these changes. In some cases, only the names of the ministry have changed, whereas in other cases the ministry may be more fundamentally reorganized. If you are having trouble finding a particular office, program, or resource, start at the ministry level and ask for the appropriate contact information.

Former Ministry

Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Ministry of Forests

Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection

New Ministry

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Ministry of Community Services

Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum

Ministry of Forests and Range

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Environment