

# KNOWLEDGE HUB SUMMARY

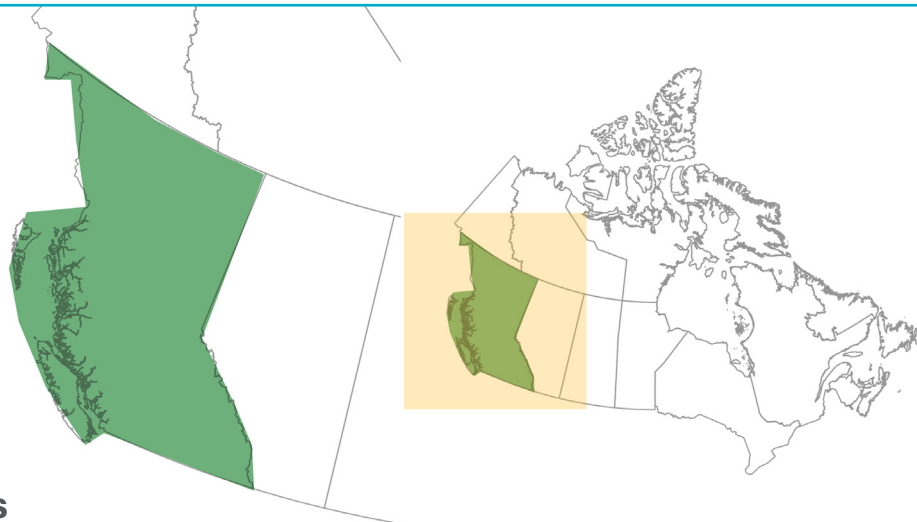
## Pacific Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Innovation Centre

The Pacific Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Innovation Centre encompasses the Pacific Coast mountain regions of British Columbia (BC). This region is characterized by high biogeoclimatic diversity, including temperate rainforests, coastal/marine ecosystems, estuaries, wetlands, montane/subalpine forests, alpine tundra, and glaciated peaks. Migratory salmon link forests and freshwater ecosystems to the ocean. BC is home to 204 First Nations communities including 34 Indigenous languages. BC's ecological abundance, historically stewarded by Indigenous Peoples, has been deeply affected by colonial resource exploitation, including clearcut logging and industrial fisheries. Indigenous communities face increasing alienation from traditional lands as large farms encroach on agricultural areas, threatening local food security.

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### Project Partners



**MOSAIC**  
FOREST MANAGEMENT



University  
for Peace



**WEST COAST**  
Environmental Law

IISAAK OLAM



UNIVERSITY  
OF GUELPH

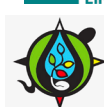


Assembly of First Nations



**DAVID SUZUKI**  
FOUNDATION  
One nature.

**PAROS+**  
COLLECTIVE  
COLLECTIF



conservation  
through  
reconciliation  
partnership



REAL ESTATE  
FOUNDATION  
OF BC



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada  
Environnement et  
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**MakeWay**



# Pacific Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Innovation Centre

## Project Goals

- Deliver Ethical Space training and host webinars focused on IPCAs
- Provide funding for community-driven research prioritization initiatives
- Develop a network of IPCA-interested researchers to collaborate with Indigenous Knowledge Holders on community-defined research, helping to avoid duplication and fill research gaps
- Coordinate the establishment and promotion of IPCA-specific programs and curricula at academic institutions with different areas of specialization
- Secure funding to support IPCA research and establishment efforts across BC
- Collaborate closely with the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) and serve as a model for the development of three additional IPCA Innovation Centres across Canada
- Establish the first physical IPCA research campus as a pilot initiative

## Key Outcomes & Impact

BC's unique geopolitical landscape, marked by outstanding Aboriginal Rights, Title, and a lack of treaties, has shaped the development of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), pioneered by BC First Nations since the 1980s in the form of Tribal Parks. These political and jurisdictional factors play a key role in the establishment of IPCAs across the province.

The Pacific IPCA Innovation Centre supports Indigenous Nations by integrating Indigenous and Western knowledge systems for biocultural restoration and conservation. It facilitates knowledge sharing, research, and events through a network of virtual, classroom, and land-based educational programs, drawing on partnerships across academia, government, NGOs, and the private sector.

In September 2023, the IISAAK OLAM Foundation and Vancouver Island University (VIU) graduated their first cohort of the IPCA Planning Certificate program and welcomed a second cohort. They are also working to establish an Indigenous-led IPCA Research and Innovation Centre at VIU's Nanaimo campus to support knowledge sharing and capacity building for IPCAs.

At the Clayoquot Campus, efforts to revitalize Tla-o-qui-aht knowledge include upgrading the carving facility for Nuuchahnulth carvers and the raising of the NaaWas totem pole in 2023. The IPCA Knowledge Basket, now featuring over 600 resources, will be evaluated in 2024, and plans are in place to retrofit the Clayoquot Campus to integrate Indigenous and Western knowledge systems. A Food Sovereignty and IPCAs Working Retreat was held in February 2024, with further collaboration planned. **To learn more, visit [ipcainnovation.ca](https://ipcainnovation.ca).**



Left: Clayoquot Campus aerial view (photo courtesy of Ben Hazel); Middle: IPCA Campus Carving Shed (photo courtesy of Graham Sakaki); Right: Francis Howard and Seitcha singing at totem raising ((photo courtesy of Ben Hazel)

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