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Contact:

Email: communications@cmn-rcm.ca

New Reports: Canadian Mountain Network releases reports supporting Canada's international commitments to the UN SDGs and UNDRIP to accelerate Canada's capacity to deliver on its international commitments through the braiding of knowledges.

Advancing sustainability is the foundation for the leading framework for international cooperation – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and United Nations (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). While the SDGs provide a global framework for a more sustainable future, Canada cannot achieve holistic and inclusive sustainable development without centering on Indigenous leadership and working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

The UN SDGs do not address the connection of Indigenous knowledge and culture to sustainable development. The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous peoples, which Canada only recently adopted. Therefore, both UNDRIP and the SDGs are necessary frameworks for ensuring sustainable development.

Given the global significance of Canada's iconic mountain regions and beyond, the [Canadian Mountain Network \(CMN\)](#) is committed to advancing the SDGs and UNDRIP through the braiding of Indigenous and Western knowledges. To that end, CMN has released a series of landmark reports, prepared in collaboration with Vancouver Island University's Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute. The first report titled [Advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the Canadian Mountain Network](#) demonstrates CMN's collective impact on the UN SDGs. A second report titled [Reconciliation Through Research: Braiding Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems for the Wellbeing of Mountain People, Places, and Beyond](#) further demonstrates CMN's work towards the SDGs and UNDRIP. A companion [Discussion Paper](#) highlights CMN's support of Canada's commitments to the SDGs, UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

These reports highlight and share CMN's research approach, which consists of braiding Indigenous and Western knowledge systems in ways that align with the overarching spirit and intent of the SDGs and UNDRIP. Furthermore, these reports illustrate the impacts and potential

of braiding Indigenous knowledge and Western science in Canadian mountain systems and beyond to accelerate Canada's capacity to deliver on its international commitments.

The reports also demonstrate how CMN's research supports the outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), which took place in Montreal in December 2022. COP15 also aligns with the national implementation of UNDRIP, informing the role that Indigenous rights will play in Canada's conservation agenda. By supporting Indigenous-led conservation efforts, we can uphold our commitment to human rights and reconciliation while enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

Working towards UNDRIP and the SDGs in Canada concurrently creates more space for Indigenous Peoples to contribute through self-determination and free, prior, and informed consent, and for non-Indigenous Canadians to take steps towards reconciliation—both of which are inextricably linked to advancement of collective wellbeing and sustainable development. One of the Principles of Reconciliation put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada requires that both Indigenous knowledge systems and the land be integrated into the reconciliation process.

CMN recognizes there is continuous work to be done to respectfully braid Indigenous and Western ways of knowing and doing in the advancement of sustainability and sustainable development. CMN is grateful to play a role enabling and uplifting Indigenous voices and knowledge to advance reconciliation through research in Canada.

"We depend on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge of their land as they know what's happening. We have hope that young people can find their way forwards and can continue being stewards of the land, water, and wildlife in their regions."

- Leon Andrew, Principal Investigator, CMN

"This is the first funding source that is so aware and sensitive about Indigenous rights and respect for participants. It's empowering to attend meetings where this space is created, and hopefully this continues to be the way of the future. All of this aligns with UNDRIP."

—Catherine Lambert, Knowledge Co-Leader, CMN

Read all the reports here:

canadianmountainnetwork.ca/resources/un-sustainable-development

About the Canadian Mountain Network

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the resilience and health of Canada's mountain peoples and places through research

partnerships based on Indigenous and Western ways of knowing that inform decision-making and action.

CMN is funded through the Networks of Centres of Excellence program and is hosted at the University of Alberta.

Visit canadianmountainnetwork.ca for more information.

For media inquiries, contact:

Dr. Monique Dubé, Executive Director
<mailto:monique@cmn-rcm.ca>