

# Columbia River Treaty: Recommendations Update – June 2018

The BC Columbia River Treaty Local Governments' Committee (the Committee) prepared the attached Recommendations in December 2013 in response to the Columbia River Treaty-related interests and issues raised by Columbia River Basin residents in Canada. These Recommendations were based on currently-available information. They were submitted to the provincial and federal governments for incorporation into decisions regarding the future of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). Since then, the Committee has been monitoring the BC, Canadian and U.S. CRT-related processes and has been directly involved when appropriate.

The Committee is updating these recommendations to contribute to the current negotiations to renew the CRT. ***This Update provides new information on the sections of the 2013 recommendations that we know need to be updated.*** We invite comments on all of the recommendations and any new information you think the Committee should consider before completing this update. Please send your comments to the Committee's Executive Director ([cindypearce@telus.net](mailto:cindypearce@telus.net) 250 837-8505 or Box 2029, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0) **by end of day August 27, 2018.**

For more information about the Committee contact the Committee Chair, Linda Worley ([lworley@rdkb.com](mailto:lworley@rdkb.com) Phone: 250.693.5500 Cell: 250.231.1300 ), the Executive Director or visit the [Committee webpage](http://akblg.ca/columbia_river_treaty.html) at: [http://akblg.ca/columbia\\_river\\_treaty.html](http://akblg.ca/columbia_river_treaty.html).

For more information about the CRT negotiations go to: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty/>

## Recommendations

### A. International Treaty

During negotiations the Province of BC, the Government of Canada and BC Hydro as the Canadian Entity for the Treaty, must address the following priorities for Basin communities, listed here with no priority ranking intended.

#### Process

#### 1. Local Government Status in

**International Discussions:** To avoid repeating the unfortunate legacy that resulted in Basin residents not being consulted before the Treaty was signed, we strongly recommend, in addition to ongoing input from Basin residents, that local governments and First

Nations from within the Canadian Columbia Basin, be engaged throughout international discussions regarding the Treaty.

First Nations are pursuing a role with the federal government that reflects their sovereign status. The Committee working with the Negotiations Team to define a communications and engagement protocol and is considering whether to advocate for a 'guidance' team of Basin residents, including Committee members who are knowledgeable about Basin interests.

#### 2. Continued Engagement of Basin

**Residents – ADDITION:** In 2014 the Committee worked with the Province and BC Hydro to create the [Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee](#) (CBRAC). CBRAC is a

diverse Basin-wide group representing a broad range of perspectives, interests, and geography, which will help inform hydroelectric operations in the Columbia Basin and potential improvements to the CRT.

## B. Domestic Issues

### 2. **Community Economic Development:**

The Columbia Basin Trust has completed a report – *Agriculture in the Columbia Basin – Background Report* (2015) that documents the agriculture lands flooded by CRT reservoirs and is the foundation for a [new agriculture program](#).

### 3. **Meaningful Ongoing Engagement of Basin Residents:**

Decisions about the operation of hydro facilities in the Basin impact many Basin residents on a day-to-day basis. Many residents have told us they want to know more about the system and these decisions, and to be involved in these decisions on an ongoing basis. The [Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee](#) (CBRAC) has been implemented by the Province with ongoing guidance from the Committee and BC Hydro

to fill the need for long-term, meaningful engagement with Basin residents. The Committee is currently providing advice on information materials about hydro operations in the Basin.

### 4. **East Kootenay-Koocanusa Fish and Wildlife Restoration and**

**Conservation:** This program ends in 2018.

### 6. **Full Implementation of the Columbia and Duncan Water Use Plans:**

The Committee is receiving information from BC Hydro to update this recommendation.

### 7. **Columbia Fish and Wildlife**

**Compensation Program:** Concerns have been discussed with Program staff and the Program has been adjusted to better incorporate sub-regional interests and dam impacts.

## Continued Role in Treaty-Related Decisions

The Provincial Treaty Team has continued and is now being expanded, signaling the importance of these negotiations.