

What Residents Need to Know



What is UNDRIP?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted in 2007, sets minimum standards for Indigenous peoples' survival, dignity, and well-being. It affirms rights to self-determination, cultural preservation, lands and resources, and participation in relevant decisions. Though not legally binding, it guides governments in fostering respectful relations with Indigenous communities.

What is DRIPA?

British Columbia has incorporated the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into provincial law through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). While reconciliation is important, recent government actions and court decisions have raised concerns about legal uncertainty, transparency, and the rule of law.

Current Situation

A recent Cowichan/Richmond British Columbia Supreme Court decision ruled that Aboriginal title took precedence over approximately 800 acres of freehold land in Richmond, B.C., creating uncertainty about the implications for private property rights. While the Province has indicated it may appeal the decision, there is no confirmation that an appeal is proceeding, and the government has instead offered loan guarantees to support financing in the affected area.

The Issue

The Cowichan/Richmond decision has raised serious concerns that freehold land ownership may be placed in legal jeopardy where unresolved Indigenous land title claims exist, particularly on lands that have never been part of treaty negotiations. This uncertainty is affecting confidence in mortgage renewals, lending, and investment. British Columbia needs a fair process that resolves Indigenous land claims while restoring economic certainty and stability across the land base.

TAKE ACTION

Fair land rights are essential to economic certainty,
public trust and shared prosperity.

✚ Download letters, templates, briefings,
and action tools at:
www.kelownacsa.org

Please share this information with others to take action.
Contact your MLA and request the repeal of the *DRIPA Act*.

Your Voice Counts



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Association



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