

Advancing the SDGs through Indigenous Treaties



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
School of Environment,
Enterprise and Development



CISDL
Centre for International
Sustainable Development Law



CEENRG
Cambridge Centre for Environment,
Energy and Natural Resource Governance



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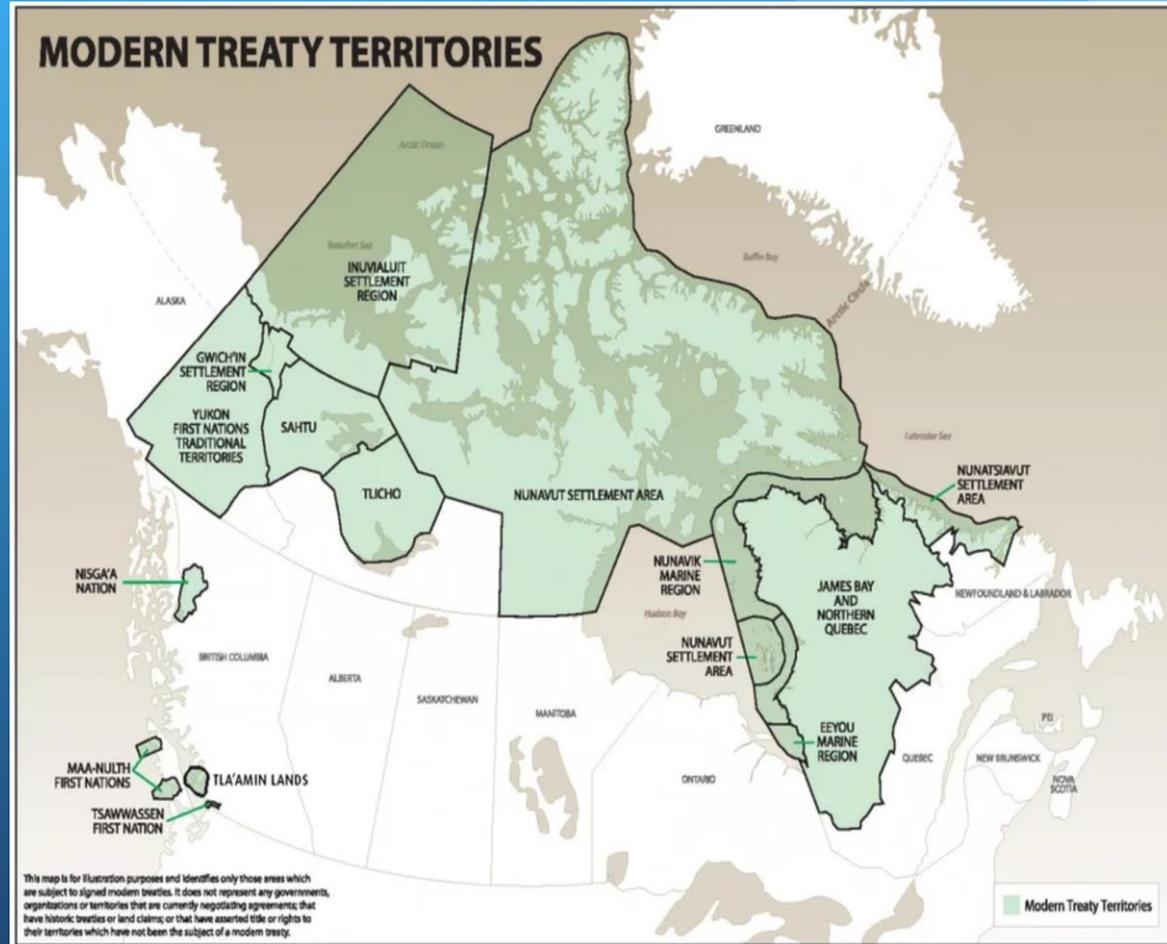
The Project

- Analyse existing “modern treaties” between Canada and First Nations communities.
- Modern treaties selected because they are important for First Nations communities and create binding legal requirements for Canada.
- Assess whether and how the modern treaties respond to the SDGs across key sectoral areas of challenge, i.e. social, environmental and economic.
- Understand Canadian and First Nations obligations and opportunities under the SDGs.
- Determine possible synergies between advancing sustainable development and realizing indigenous rights.

Project Team & Partners

- Environmental/indigenous law experts
- Student Researchers
- University of Waterloo, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED)
- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)
- Indigenous Rights Centre
- Balsillie School for International Affairs
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network Canada

The Treaties - Territorial Scope



The Treaties - Texts Analysed

- Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement
- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement
- Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement
- Inuit of Labrador Land Claims Agreement
- Inuvialuit Final Agreement
- James Bay & Northern Quebec Agreement
- Kluane First Nation Final Agreement
- Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement
- Little Salmon/Caramacks First Nation Final Agreement
- Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement
- Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance Agreement (Manitoba)
- Ta'an Kwach'an Council Final Agreement
- Tsawwassen First Nation Agreement
- Tla'amin Final Agreement
- Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement

- Areas of correlation between SDGs and modern treaties
 - ALL SDGs had general correlations, as did many SDG targets
 - General patterns show that there are strongest correlations in SDG 16 governance terms, as well as across SDG topics closely linked to SDG 16, such as:
 - SDG 4 on Education
 - SDG 1 on Poverty
 - SDG 3 on Health
 - SDG 14 on Life Below Water
 - SDG 15 on Life on Land

SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

Cree Regional Authority

11B.0.10 In the event that the James Bay Municipality refuses to ratify a by-law enacted by the James Bay Regional Zone Council, the James Bay Municipality shall be obliged to notify the James Bay Regional Zone Council in writing giving the reasons for the refusal to ratify.

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Tsawwassen First Nation Agreement

Chapter 16: Governance- Social Services

94. Tsawwassen Government may make laws in respect of social services provided by a Tsawwassen Institution, including income assistance, services related to family and community life, and housing.

95. A Federal or Provincial Law prevails to the extent of a Conflict with a Tsawwassen Law made under clause 94.

Outcomes from Preliminary Research

- Potential for significant impacts on Canadian law, policy and governance for sustainable development and FN communities
- Offer lessons that assist in the design of policies and instruments with additional indigenous communities in Canada and beyond
- Offer lessons for the application of the SDGs
- Build dialogue between indigenous communities and national/provincial governments

Indigenous Law and Governance

- Offer lessons for achieving the SDGs in other forms of indigenous self-governance
- Provide insights into leadership structures and functions for current and future generations
- Evaluate local development planning, indigenous planning and policy tools

