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The First Peoples' Cultural Council Launches New, Interactive First Peoples' Map of B.C.
Only online platform showcasing Indigenous languages, arts and cultures in B.C.

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The [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) (FPCC) has launched the [First Peoples' Map](#), the first interactive online map in Canada featuring information about Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage in B.C. The launch of the digital tool coincides with National Indigenous History Month.

“The First Peoples' Map is a significant visual representation of the incredible work being done by Indigenous people in B.C. to revitalize and celebrate our unique languages, arts and cultural heritage,” said Karen Aird, acting CEO of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. “Our hope is that this map will help non-Indigenous people to better appreciate Indigenous perspectives as one small step towards reconciliation. By combining all of this rich information together in one place, the map reflects an Indigenous perspective, by braiding important cultural elements together with the land.”

FPCC developed the First Peoples' Map in response to First Nations in B.C. who had requested a central platform to share information about their diverse languages, arts, cultural heritage and communities. Content will regularly be added by community experts who are deeply invested in work that supports Indigenous linguistic, artistic and cultural revitalization.

“FPCC's First Peoples' Map is an incredibly valuable tool that everyone can easily use and learn from. First Nations in British Columbia celebrate diverse and living languages, arts, cultures and heritages that this map largely captures,” said Terry Teegee, Regional Chief, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. “FPCC initiatives, such as the First Peoples' Map, are vital to the integrity of British Columbia's social and cultural fabric as this work deepens public knowledge and understanding of the many Nations and cultures that have existed in the province since time immemorial, as well as the complexities of human relationships to present day. I congratulate and support FPCC in their ongoing work.”

The new First Peoples' Map replaces the First Peoples' Language Map, created by FPCC in 2008 and the First Peoples' Arts Map, created in 2012. It was made possible with this historic 2018 \$50 million investment by the Province of B.C. The final product is a more robust, integrated platform with more data and a better user interface.

Visitors are invited to explore the First Peoples' Map by searching specific geographical locations, browsing the sidebar, or by focusing their search with keywords and filters to listen to audio pronunciations of greetings, find artists and important cultural sites in their region, and more.

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“I hold my hands up to the innovative work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and their partnership with First Nations communities to honour and breathe new life into languages, arts and cultures that past colonial policies tried unsuccessfully to eradicate,” said Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. “Investing in tools like the First Peoples' Map is a modern way to connect people to the many Indigenous languages, artists and cultural heritage spaces in B.C. and continue the collaborative efforts to revitalize and celebrate them.”

The language layer displays all 204 First Nations communities and language regions. Users can hear the pronunciation of language names, greetings, places and more. It includes data on 34 First Nations languages and more than 90 dialects from FPCC's [2018 Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages](#).

The arts layer can be explored to find Indigenous artists and public art in communities across B.C. Indigenous artists can connect, collaborate and share digital portfolios featuring artwork, videos and music. Visitors can search for public art, artists in their area, or search by artistic background.

The heritage layer demonstrates the connection between the land, environment and Indigenous cultural heritage. Each point of interest on the map reflects Indigenous peoples' unique knowledge.

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About FPCC:

FPCC is a First Nations-led provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. The organization provides funding, resources and skills development to First Nations, monitors the status of First Nations languages, develops policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government and collaborates with organizations to raise the profile of Indigenous arts, languages and cultural heritage in B.C., Canada and internationally. Visit: fpcc.ca

Learn more:

- Visit the First Peoples' Map: maps.fpcc.ca

Available to media:

- Interviews with representatives of FPCC as well as users of the First Peoples' Map may be accommodated on request.
- High-resolution [photos](#) and [b-roll](#) of people interacting with the map as well as an interview of FPCC Advisor Cathi Charles-Wherry.

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