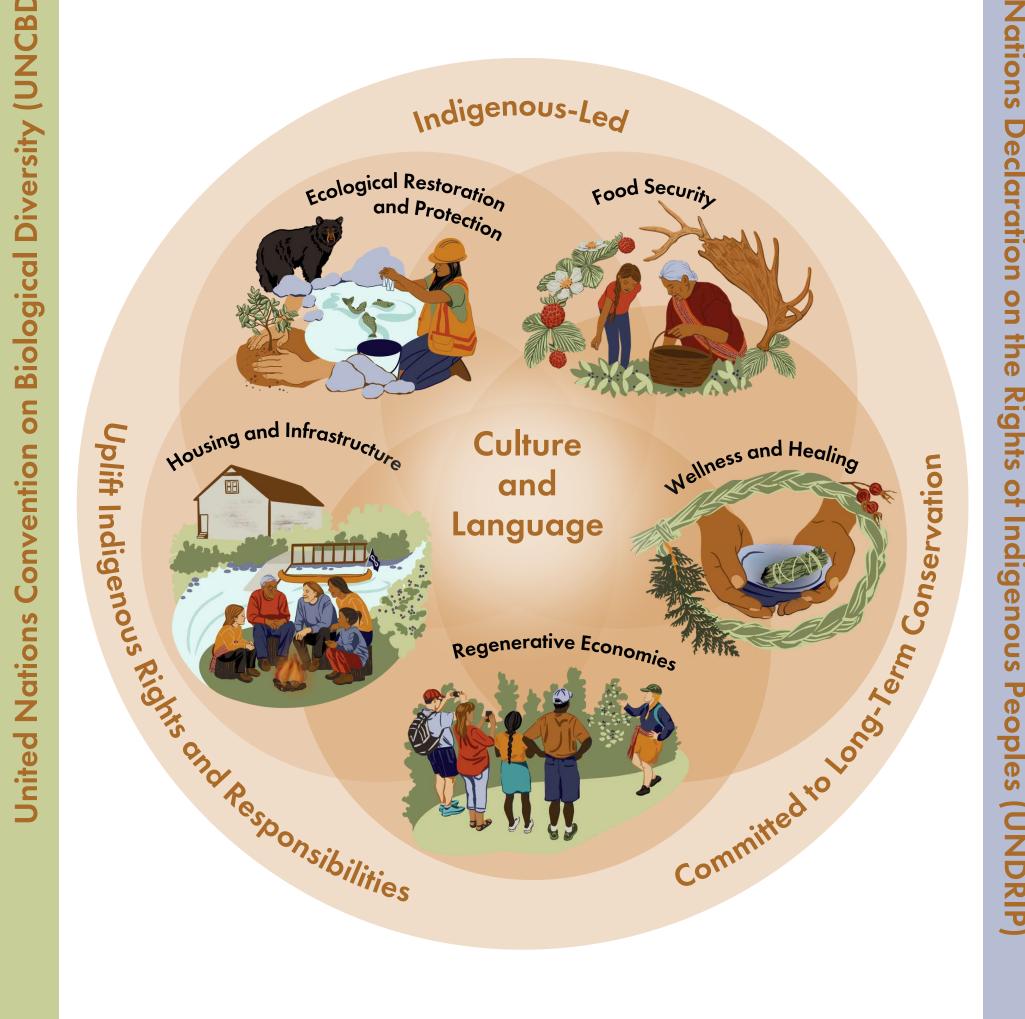


Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas







Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution

Illustrations by Abby Sparling February 2025

IPCAs

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Below are some of the most common elements of IPCAs with examples. These elements are all connected. Some Indigenous governments may focus on one or a few elements, while others may include many.

Culture and Language

- Revitalizing Michif.
- Supporting cultural events and ceremonies.
- Intergenerational sharing of knowledge and skills.
- Protecting important animals, plants, and places.
- Culture and language are the heart and soul of an IPCA.

Rights and Sovereignty

- Indigenous Peoples in Canada have inherent rights and authority in their territories and homeland. These rights are protected under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution and defined and protected under treaties, where they exist.
- Indigenous governments can exercise their rights and responsibilities through IPCAs.
- IPCAs are examples of Indigenous Nationhood in action.



Ecological Restoration and Protection

- Restoring and protecting lands and waters for future generations.
- Supporting threatened and important species to thrive.
- Building resilience to climate change.
- Creating Guardians programs.

Food Security

- Supporting hunting, fishing, and gathering.
- Teaching and learning about traditional foods and their preparation.
- Ensuring community access to healthy and traditional foods, including clean water.



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Wellness and Healing

- Increasing knowledge about and access to traditional medicines.
- Supporting healing and wellness for individuals, families, communities, and Nations.
- Supporting relationship building between all peoples and with the land.
- Caring for lands, waters, and all beings that rely on them.

Regenerative Economies

- Raising funds to care for the IPCA.
- Developing local economies that create good jobs and business opportunities.
- Ensuring economic growth supports IPCA goals while keeping the environment healthy.



Housing and Infrastructure

- Ensuring access to quality, safe housing.
- Creating spaces for community events and gatherings.
- Creating or improving trails, roads, or waterways.



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