



IPCA
Knowledge
Basket

Cultivating Strength and Abundance

IPCA Knowledge Basket Impact Report
2022-2024



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OVERVIEW

For the IPCA Knowledge Basket team, 2024 was a year to reflect, take stock, and refine our vision. We took this opportunity to listen intently to those we serve, reflect meaningfully on our collaborative efforts, and plan strategically to ensure the IPCA Knowledge Basket is well supported and interconnected with the Indigenous conservation leadership movement.

This report celebrates our collective achievements, addresses areas for growth, and expresses our continued support of Indigenous leadership as we transition stewardship to the IISAAK OLAM Foundation.

The significance of the IPCA Knowledge Basket is demonstrated through guiding learning, fostering respectful collaborations, enhancing capacity-building, and amplifying Indigenous voices. By sharing these insights, we aim to inspire ongoing engagement and investment in the IPCA Knowledge Basket's future sustainability.

We strive for the IPCA Knowledge Basket to be *the* trusted information platform for Indigenous-led conservation. We build relationships with Indigenous leaders, communities, and organizations to understand their informational needs and co-create timely, relevant, and accessible resources in response. Relationship building takes time, and this is why we prioritize meaningful connections over conventional metrics.

Central to our approach is storytelling, which uplifts Indigenous perspectives and facilitates intergenerational knowledge transfer. The IPCA Knowledge Basket serves as a space for sharing community stories of 'place', fostering connections to land, knowledges, languages, and cultures.

Visitors have noted the platform serves as a valuable onboarding and training tool, helping practitioners navigate challenges and strengthen their IPCA initiatives. It also supports educators, and drives meaningful change within the conservation sector.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket has nearly doubled its visitors year-on-year since 2022, demonstrating its growing importance in Indigenous-led conservation efforts. Over the next several years, we aim for the IPCA Knowledge Basket to realize its transformative potential as an activator of knowledge.

In order to achieve this, the next phase of growth for the IPCA Knowledge Basket involves:

- Significantly improving visitor journeys with upgrades to the site.
- Adding staff capacity to directly support visitors, including through a 'help desk'.
- Creating and curating more stories and resources in collaboration with Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Strengthening relationships and collaborations with like-minded networks, organizations, and initiatives dedicated to supporting Indigenous-led conservation.

We remain committed to refining this platform to better serve the evolving needs of Indigenous communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast and invite collaborators to walk with us on this journey.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

As we confront the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, we have maintained a sense of hope. This hope stems from the incredible and tireless leadership of Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities who are driving the bold, transformative change required to heal our relationships with the planet.

In what we now call Canada, the Indigenous conservation leadership movement spans from coast-to-coast-coast. It is rooted within the place-based, innovative, and care-ful knowledges and practices Indigenous communities have developed, refined, and shared across generations for millennia.

Since the release of the [We Rise Together Report](#) in 2018, the momentum of this movement has been remarkable. We have seen more than 70 IPCAs formally proposed or declared, with many more emerging, unprecedented financial investments in IPCAs and Guardians Programs, and a growing recognition that the future of conservation is Indigenous-led.

The [Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership \(CRP\)](#) has endeavoured to nourish this movement by fostering community-based research, hosting collaborative spaces, mobilizing knowledge, and building reciprocal relationships across geographies, sectors, and generations. We have sought to reconnect with the knowledges, cultures, languages, practices, and ecosystems that were severed by systems of oppression, violence, and harm.

As the CRP comes to a close, its legacy projects will carry forward the momentum of this work, as will the relationships that sustain them. The IPCA Knowledge Basket and regional IPCA Innovation Centres will support Indigenous governments, Nations, and their communities with the development of IPCAs and similar initiatives. These interconnected projects will breathe life into each other, serving as a solid foundation for Indigenous-led conservation initiatives to emerge and thrive.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is an essential and valuable resource that supports Indigenous Peoples as they revitalize their communities and ways of life, while also upholding their rights and responsibilities. It creates space for Indigenous leadership to share, learn, and collaborate across a fragmented and emerging landscape of information and resources for IPCAs.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket embodies the strength and abundance we can generate from the wisdom of our ancestors, and the knowledge we're currently gathering all in the interest of generations to come. We share a sacred urgency and responsibility to act by braiding our knowledges, gifts, and strengths.

We believe that in doing so, the IPCA Knowledge Basket can serve humanity in profound ways. Because when we heal together, we rise together.

- [The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership Leadership Circle](#)

OUR ORIGIN STORY

A digital space created to honour, celebrate, and catalyze Indigenous-led conservation pathways in Canada, including IPCAs.



The IPCA Knowledge Basket holds and shares resources to inform, guide, and advance Indigenous-led conservation initiatives, including those of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. IPCAs, as defined by the [Indigenous Circle of Experts](#) (ICE), are areas where Indigenous governments have a leading role in conservation, applying Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems.

ICE led a national effort, culminating in 2018, to consider how IPCAs could be realized in Canada. Through regional gatherings, Indigenous governments expressed a need for a central, digital platform to share knowledge and support their IPCA goals.

In response, the [Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership](#) (CRP) launched the IPCA Knowledge Basket in 2022 as one of its three [legacy initiatives](#). It was created with guidance from Elders, Knowledge-Keepers, former members of ICE, and a diverse range of partners, including the [IISAAK OLAM Foundation](#) (IOF) and the [Indigenous Leadership Initiative](#) (ILI).

The IPCA Knowledge Basket continues to build and strengthen collaborative relationships that were developed through the CRP. It carries the legacy of the CRP through a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to knowledge co-creation and sharing that responds directly to the informational needs of Indigenous governments, Nations, and their communities.

Watch the IPCA Knowledge Basket's origin story video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui4A9m8-OSY>

While every IPCA reflects the unique aspirations of the Indigenous government/s establishing them, according to ICE, they:

- Are Indigenous-led
- Represent a long-term commitment to conservation
- Elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities



OUR LEADERSHIP

The IPCA Knowledge Basket operates as a ‘digital commons’, envisioned to be a community of like-minded and -hearted Indigenous governments, organizations, and initiatives. As such, it is not ‘owned’ by any one entity, but is guided by Indigenous leadership.

The [CRP Leadership Circle](#) has provided advisory support from the initiative’s inception. In 2026, the CRP’s program of work will officially end and the IISAAK OLAM Foundation (IOF) will continue its legacy through two interconnecting initiatives: ongoing stewardship of the IPCA Knowledge Basket and the [Pacific IPCA Innovation Centre](#).

As steward of the IPCA Knowledge Basket, IOF will ensure the platform remains Indigenous-led, providing executive leadership and working closely with the communities it serves through its network of IPCA support initiatives and like-minded, collaborative organizations dedicated to supporting Indigenous-led conservation.

The graphic below illustrates how these initiatives work together within an ecosystem. In a cyclical way, the **IPCA Knowledge Basket** both feeds and is fed by place-based, Indigenous-led efforts, acting as a tributary of information.

The **IPCA Innovation Centres** are trees in varying stages of maturity. Their root systems are made up of initiatives and spaces dedicated to supporting Indigenous-led conservation in specific regions. The Pacific IPCA Innovation Centre, for example, hosts the [IPCA Planning Certificate](#), the [West Coast IPCA Support Program](#), the IPCA Research Program, [Clayoquot Campus](#), and the [Westcoast IPCA Ambassador Program](#).

The IPCA Innovation Centres are connected by a **mycelium (fungal) network** which delivers water and nutrients (information) in a reciprocal relationship.

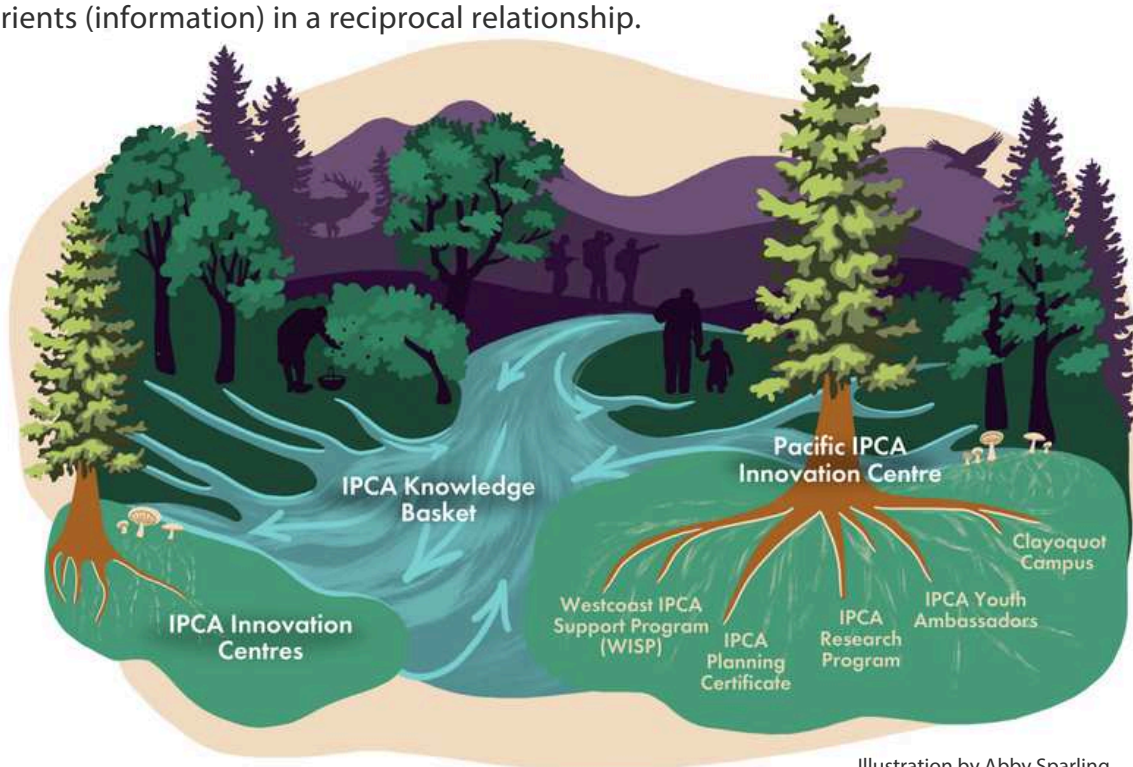


Illustration by Abby Sparling.

OUR PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

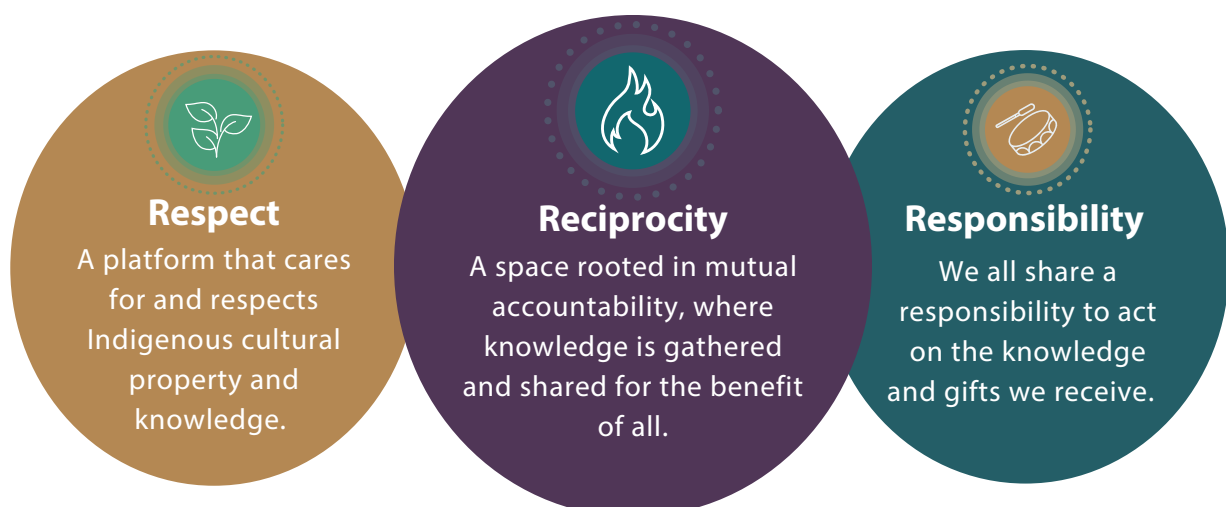
Currently, the IPCA Knowledge Basket is the only digital space that holds and shares community-led, comprehensive [IPCA stories](#) from multiple territories and perspectives.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is a values-driven platform, created with the recognition of not only the opportunities, but also the systemic and emerging challenges of establishing IPCAs. It elevates Indigenous knowledge systems, lived experiences, and perspectives, centring stories and resources developed by, with, and for Indigenous communities who generously share their learning and insights.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is intended to:

- **Share relevant and timely information in accessible formats** to support Indigenous-led conservation by a) consolidating existing information in a searchable database and b) creating tailored resources based on audience needs;
- **Present information with a Two-Eyed Seeing approach** so that Indigenous and oral knowledge systems are elevated alongside Western and written systems; and
- **In the spirit of “we rise together,” inspire people to:**
 - **Contribute content** that supports knowledge sharing about Indigenous-led conservation.
 - **Contribute funds and resources** to support the ongoing work of the IPCA Knowledge Basket.

The following principles govern every aspect of the initiative, from developing content, to deciding what content is published and how it is shared, to performance and impact measurement.



The IPCA Knowledge Basket also follows the [First Nations Principles of OCAP \(Ownership, Control, Access, Possession\)](#), [FAIR Principles](#), and [Care Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#).



DESIGNED WITH CARE



Photo by Matthew and Chera Yorke

The IPCA Knowledge Basket was designed through a [Two-Eyed Seeing](#) lens. The intent is to promote a shift away from transactional approaches to digital information, towards engaging with knowledge carefully and respectfully.

Visitors are asked to make a commitment to the core principles, and this is meant to:

- Create an ethic of respect for diverse knowledge systems and ways of being.
- Foster a sense of 'giving back' or 'paying it forward' so that the 'basket of knowledge' grows with additional resources and reaches and benefits a wider audience.
- Encourage mutual responsibility for the site and the Indigenous conservation leadership as a whole.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket was designed to offer an immersive auditory and visual experience that brings together the spiritual and natural elements of our environment. Auditory elements include songs, welcome messages in a variety of languages, and soundscapes, including a bubbling brook, a crackling fire, and birdsong. The result is an experience that engages all the senses.

Site visitors have repeatedly expressed appreciation for the intention of slowing down to respect the human-nature connection and responsibly engage with the knowledge shared by Indigenous leaders, Elders, knowledge-holders, and community members.

In October 2023, the IPCA Knowledge Basket won the prestigious [2023 DNA Paris Design Award](#) for graphic design and user experience. It was recognized for leading with auditory and visual storytelling and centring Indigenous knowledge systems.

WHO WE SERVE

The IPCA Knowledge Basket primarily serves Indigenous governments and organizations. We offer a national platform for Indigenous governments, Nations, and their communities to share how they are caring for their territories and communities.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket hosts an abundance of free, open access resources, including IPCA stories and case studies, academic research, and practical guidance on establishing, managing, and sustaining Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. We envision the IPCA Knowledge Basket to be an activator of knowledge and information within a rapidly changing and dynamic movement, offering a connective space for community-led efforts.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is also meant to inform and guide other actors in the conservation sector to share resources that enable the conditions in which Indigenous-led conservation can thrive. Anyone can suggest resources or stories and pitch ideas for new content on the IPCA Knowledge Basket.

Primary Audiences

Indigenous Nations, governments, and communities
Indigenous-led organizations

Secondary Audiences

Crown government agencies and organizations
Environmental non-governmental organizations
Education sector including faculty, educators, researchers, and students
Philanthropy
Private sector



OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

The IPCA Knowledge Basket would not have been possible without the generous contributions of wisdom, knowledge, stories and resources from Indigenous Nations, governments, leaders, and communities.

We are honoured to have collaborated with many Nations, Indigenous-led organizations and networks, academic institutions, non-governmental environmental organizations, and funders. It is these collaborations and relationships that support the ethos of “we rise together.”

Financial Contributors

David Suzuki Foundation

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund

Heritage Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

University of Guelph

WWF-Canada

In-Kind Contributors and Collaborators

CPPCL – PARKS+ Collective

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

Fort Folly First Nation

IISAAK OLAM Foundation

Indigenous Knowledge Circle of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium

Indigenous Leadership Initiative

Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation

MakeWay Foundation

Manitoba Métis Federation

Métis National Council

Nature Canada

Nature United

Restore, Assert, Defend (RAD) Network

The Nature Conservancy of Canada

Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks

Torngat Wildlife Plants & Fisheries Secretariat

West Coast Environmental Law

Wildlife Conservation Society

York University



OUR REACH

Since its launch in 2022, the IPCA Knowledge Basket has seen steady growth in its audience reach – nearly doubling year-on-year. This growth reflects the platform’s increasing role as a key resource for Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

Our initial goal has been to meet and surpass the reach of the CRP due to its shared audiences. In 2022, the CRP’s website attracted an average of 2,000 visitors per month. This number grew to 2,408 visitors per month in 2023.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket attracted half of that audience size (**1,043**) in its first year, and this nearly doubled (**1,934**) in its second year. However, returning visitors accounted for **24 percent** of total audience size in 2023, and this number dropped to 20 percent in 2024. We are striving for a visitor return rate of at least 30 percent* .

To address the lower than average visitor return rate, we made efforts to reduce barriers and encourage visitors to keep coming back. For example, in 2023 we removed the requirement for users to create an account to access content on the site.

Visitors now have the option of creating an account, or personal ‘basket’, to save resources and stories for later reference.

Visitor Growth June 2022-June 2024



Between 2022 and 2024, **1,367 visitors created accounts**, an increase of about 400 accounts over the previous year. This figure demonstrates that these visitors see the value of the site’s resources and are returning.

*According to [Monster Insights](#), an ideal return visitor rate is between 30-50 percent.
**A unique visitor is a person who has visited the website at least once and is counted only once in the reporting period.

CONTENT CREATION

The IPCA Knowledge Basket team carefully curates all content on the site and supports the creation of new featured content. We strive to provide timely, relevant, and accessible content to our audiences while upholding our shared principles of respect, responsibility, and reciprocity.

There are two main types of content on the IPCA Knowledge Basket: 1) original content that we produce through partnerships that is published exclusively on the site, and 2) linked content created by external actors (the majority of the site's content).

The CRP facilitated the majority of community-engaged research reports, tools, and guidelines that are currently published as featured resources on the site. Most of the IPCA stories and case studies were developed in collaboration with community leaders and the IISAAK OLAM Foundation.

We work collaboratively with Indigenous governments, community-engaged researchers, and environmental organizations to create inspiring and informative IPCA stories, resources that directly respond to informational gaps, and guidance for the conservation sector.

Often, this intentional and collaborative work takes up to two years of research, writing, and reviewing for accessibility and plain language before it is published. When co-creating content with Indigenous Nations, governments, and organizations, we work as slowly as necessary in a consensual way.

Resources include frameworks, guidance, and protocols for respectful, reciprocal, and responsible collaboration, research, and partnerships with Indigenous Nations, governments, organizations, and communities. A number of these resources have been viewed thousands of times.



POPULAR CONTENT JUNE 2022- JUNE 2024



**Beyond Conservation:
A Toolkit for Respectful
Collaboration with Indigenous
Peoples**

17,132 Views
6,246 Visitors
264 Downloads



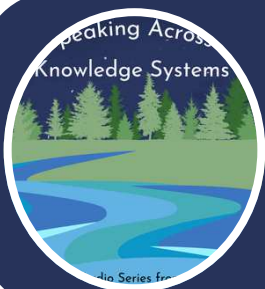
**Balancing the Narrative:
Communications Guidelines
for Indigenous-led
Conservation**

4,567 Views
3,124 Visitors
1,448 Downloads



**Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks
(IPCA Story)**

1,354 Views
616 Visitors
5 Downloads



**Speaking Across Knowledge
Systems: A Podcast Series**

1,350 Views
708 Visitors
531 Downloads



**A Review of Crown Legislation
for Protected and Conserved
Areas in Canada: A Guide for
Indigenous Leadership**

1,316 Views
673 Visitors
24 Downloads



OUR IMPACT



Illustration by Nicole Barton for:
[A Review of Crown Legislation for Protected and Conserved Areas in Canada](#)

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is a central informational platform to connect, strengthen, inspire Indigenous-led conservation initiatives from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We build relationships with Indigenous Nations, governments, communities, and organizations to gain a deeper understanding of their informational needs. Then we co-create and share timely, relevant, and accessible resources in direct response to those needs.

A critical aspect of this work is also transforming the conservation sector itself. The IPCA Knowledge Basket challenges colonial narratives, approaches, and practices that have and continue to bring harm to Indigenous Peoples and their territories.

Building and strengthening trusting relationships takes time and cannot be measured by conventional standards. We prioritize meaningful connections, emphasize quality over quantity, and work to break down barriers to information and knowledge sharing.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket serves a growing audience of dedicated Indigenous leaders and community members who are leading, or are interested and engaged in, stewarding conservation initiatives, as well as those who support them.

Our measure of impact is rooted in listening closely to those we serve. We host engagement sessions, invite ongoing feedback, and maintain open lines of communication to ensure the IPCA Knowledge Basket remains a dynamic, community-driven digital commons.

Our commitment to listening, learning, and engaging with respect, reciprocity, and responsibility guides how we assess our impact.

OUR IMPACT (CONT.)

STORYTELLING AND CONNECTION

Storytelling is an important part of many Indigenous knowledge systems and can facilitate learning, connection, and healing. The IPCA Knowledge Basket provides a platform for communities to share their stories of 'place' to revive and revitalize their histories and futures, cultures and languages, laws and knowledge systems, and relationships with the lands, waters, and ice.

Visitors greatly value the site as an authentic, content-rich platform that centres community-led storytelling. They appreciate the beautiful, immersive design that invites them in compelling artistry, natural elements, greetings in a variety of languages, and traditional songs.

Indigenous collaborators appreciate the opportunity to share stories of their IPCA vision, approach, process, and outcomes on a dynamic platform that engages and reaches a wide audience.

Indigenous IPCA leaders and practitioners in particular expressed the value of and need for a platform for communities to share their stories around Land Back and the socio-economic benefits of asserting sovereignty and Nationhood. In this way, sharing stories is impactful not only for other Indigenous communities but also for reaching policymakers and affect systemic change.



Fort Folly First Nation: An IPCA Summer



Red River Métis IPCAs



Nanuk Knowledge and Dialogue Project



OUR IMPACT (CONT.)

The IPCA Knowledge Basket is a decolonized space that transcends a siloed approach to knowledge exchange.

While the majority of peer-reviewed research sits behind a paywall, the IPCA Knowledge Basket offers research, resources, and stories at no cost.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Knowledge sharing facilitates capacity building. The IPCA Knowledge Basket shares tools, frameworks, and success stories to support Indigenous Nations, governments, and communities as they navigate challenges related to planning, establishing, and managing IPCAs.

In our engagement sessions, site visitors told us they greatly value the availability of open access articles on the site.

We've heard from IPCA practitioners and leaders who use the IPCA Knowledge Basket as an onboarding tool to learn more about IPCAs.

With **1,252 visits** and **123 downloads**, we've also heard that the [IPCA Creation Guide](#) is a valuable tool for communities as they refine their visions and plans for creating an IPCA.

"The IPCA Knowledge Basket was an essential guide for my work at Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), where I was hired to oversee the creation of IPCAs across the province.

Coming into this role, I had limited knowledge of IPCAs. When a coworker shared the IPCA Knowledge Basket, I relied on the site daily for months. Any time I had questions, I was able to access information I would have otherwise struggled to find.

I love how it shares stories, heartfelt videos, and testimonies that reinforce the importance of what we are doing. When we hired employees, I sent them to the IPCA Knowledge Basket as an efficient way to onboard them!"

**– Thomas Winrow,
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Lands Protection
Coordinator for the Ministry of Environment**



OUR IMPACT (CONT.)

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The IPCA Knowledge Basket serves as a valuable educational resource for a variety of disciplines. It offers a diversity of knowledge systems and encourages learners to interact with knowledge respectfully.

For example, an undergraduate social anthropology course at the University of Guelph incorporates the site's materials, and assigns students to contribute or enhance resources as an act of reciprocity.

The University of Guelph's [Master of Conservation Leadership](#) program uses the IPCA Knowledge Basket to build students' understanding of Indigenous-led conservation, with 18 mid-career professionals completing the program since its launch.

The [IPCA Planning Certificate program](#) — an initiative led by the IISAAK OLAM Foundation in partnership with Vancouver Island University — develops curriculum from resources and materials on the IPCA Knowledge Basket. The program so far has graduated 48 future planners.

IPCA Knowledge Basket has also been presented as an example of a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to knowledge mobilization at several academic seminars and workshops, including those at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Lakehead University, and the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at the University of Guelph.

"The IPCA Knowledge Basket is an important resource for my undergraduate students. For example, we've drawn on the Speaking Across Knowledge Systems Podcast Series. Students appreciate the rich diversity of stories and contemporary histories shared across multiple formats.

These stories highlight the challenges of engaging multiple knowledge systems in IPCAs the important role of knowledge brokers, and offers hope for Indigenous resurgence, Land Back, and reconciliation. Students have also contributed to the IPCA Knowledge Basket through community-engaged teaching and learning projects."

**– Professor Jeji Varghese,
University of Guelph**

"The IPCA Knowledge Basket holds all of the fundamental pre-readings for the Field Course component of the IPCA Planning Certificate at Vancouver Island University. Students are directed to featured resources such as the IPCA Creation Guide as well as stories like the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Case Study. It's helpful to have one place to direct students. I've curated specific reading lists that are all housed within the IPCA Knowledge Basket."

**– Monica Shore,
Instructor, Vancouver Island University
IPCA Planning Certificate**



OUR IMPACT (CONT.)

CONSERVATION SECTOR GUIDANCE

Increasing recognition of and investment in Indigenous-led conservation efforts has led to a growing demand for guidance and wise practices among environmental organizations working with or seeking to work with Indigenous communities.

We have collaborated with several representatives of non-governmental environmental organizations to develop several resources to inform and transform the conservation sector.

For example, the [Beyond Conservation Toolkit](#), developed by the [Indigenous Knowledge Circle of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium](#), offers guidance for collaborating with Indigenous Peoples with respect, responsibility, and reciprocity.

These resources are some of the most viewed and downloaded on the site, demonstrating the IPCA Knowledge Basket's role in driving meaningful change in the conservation sector.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket has been presented to the conservation sector through national platforms such as the [Sustainability Network](#) and [Parks + Collective](#) and shared with attendees at several national and international conferences such as the [Assembly of First Nations 3rd National Climate Gathering](#), the [Indigenous Conservation Forum](#), and the [2024 North American Congress for Conservation Biology](#).



"We were thrilled to partner with the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) to create Beyond Conservation: A Toolkit for Respectful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.

The IPCA Knowledge Basket provided the ideal Indigenous-led platform for the toolkit, drawing more than 3,000 visitors to the resource in its first month and promoting meaningful support for Indigenous-led conservation.

We appreciate the values and principles behind the IPCA Knowledge Basket and are thankful to share our toolkit with a broad audience committed to respectful partnerships."

- The Indigenous Knowledge Circle of the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Throughout the process of designing and operating the IPCA Knowledge Basket, we have observed several tensions and challenges. Many of these stem from our bold vision to respond to and serve the dynamic Indigenous-led conservation movement.

Insights from the past two years highlight the pressing need for collaborative solutions, accessible design, sustainable operations, and a sharper audience focus.

Addressing Complex Challenges through Collaborative Solutions

We acknowledge that Indigenous governments, Nations, and their communities who are establishing and caring for IPCAs or similar initiatives encounter complex and systemic challenges. These [challenges](#) pertain to resource extraction, law and legislation, financing, relationships and capacity, and jurisdiction and governance.

At the same time, we work intentionally and respectfully with leaders, researchers, and community members within [Ethical Space](#) to co-create resources and share information that can facilitate the navigation of these challenges — and this process cannot be rushed.

Balancing Accessibility with Respect for Knowledge Systems

Designing a site that is both functional and respectful of multiple knowledge systems creates a tension for visitor experience. For example, we want visitors to find information quickly, but we also invite visitors to slow down and interact with the information in a non-transactional way.

Visitors have reported slow load times, difficulties navigating the site, challenges with the search function, and a desire to connect with real people to learn more about the “behind-the-scenes” aspects of establishing IPCAs.

Navigating the Strengths and Challenges of a Digital Commons

The decentralized model of operations and ‘ownership’ has been both a strength, with promise of great potential, as well as an operational challenge. While many organizations and initiatives are supportive of the IPCA Knowledge Basket, utilize its resources, and recommend it to others, it has been difficult to mobilize sustained financial support for operations and content co-creation.

Refining Audience Focus

Insights from the most popular content on the site demonstrate that the IPCA Knowledge Basket is engaging a much higher percentage of non-Indigenous audiences compared to Indigenous audiences. These insights highlight the urgent need to curate and promote resources that specifically address the priorities of Indigenous governments, Nations, and their communities. To achieve this, we are committed to enhancing digital engagement and establishing pathways for direct support and technical assistance tailored to our core audiences.

OUR JOURNEY AHEAD

For the past two years, the IPCA Knowledge Basket has experienced steady growth in content, reach, and impact.

We have relied on the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) for community-engaged research reports that directly address the emerging needs of Indigenous Nations, governments, and communities as they plan, create, and care for IPCAs and similar initiatives. We have successfully welcomed CRP audiences to the IPCA Knowledge Basket, expanding our reach beyond this niche network.

With the CRP coming to a close in 2026, it is critical that we maintain and expand the quality and quantity of information shared, the connections built, and the direct support offered to sustain the momentum of the Indigenous-led conservation movement.

Over the next several years, we aim for the IPCA Knowledge Basket to realize its transformative potential as a catalyst for the Indigenous-led conservation movement.

In order to achieve this, the next phase of growth involves the following initiatives:

- **Bolster website performance**, dramatically improve user experience, and ensure the website has technical capacity to grow with the initiative.
- **Animate the IPCA Knowledge Basket** by adding staff capacity to support Indigenous governments, Nations, and their collaborators to access the information they need and/or identify gaps. This includes a 'help desk' function for leaders, coordinators, and practitioners of IPCAs and similar initiatives.
- **Co-create and publish more stories, resources, and tools** with communities and community-based researchers that document and guide Indigenous self-determination, conservation, and stewardship efforts.
- **Strengthen and nurture relationships** within the larger ecosystem of initiatives that support Indigenous-led conservation, including, for example, the [Pacific IPCA Innovation Centre](#); the [Restore, Assert, Defend Network](#); the [First Nations National Guardians Network](#); and many others.

OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The IPCA Knowledge Basket was created in the spirit of gift-giving to cultivate abundance for this generation and the seven generations to come. The ICE recommendations call on environmental organizations, government bodies, and philanthropy to support the capacity of Indigenous governments in developing and managing IPCAs and broader Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

We invite site visitors to practice and reflect on the principles of reciprocity, respect, and responsibility. We also invite collaborators and funders to support us in transforming the IPCA Knowledge Basket from a content repository into a service provider for storytelling, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building within the dynamic Indigenous-led conservation movement.

By joining us in removing barriers and redundancies, breaking silos, and building upon the essential work being done at the community level, you can help us celebrate, inspire, and uplift community efforts toward self-determination and sovereignty within their traditional territories.

Ultimately, we aspire to strengthen the IPCA Knowledge Basket as a connector, a flowing river within the Indigenous-led conservation support system that links Indigenous-led initiatives, regional IPCA Innovation Centres, community-based researchers and academic institutions, Indigenous-led organizations and networks, and environmental organizations.

Together, we can cultivate a strong and abundant ecosystem of support for Indigenous-led conservation efforts, rooted in respect, reciprocal collaboration, and shared responsibility.

CONNECT WITH US!

Here's how you can stay connected with the IPCA Knowledge Basket:

- **Follow us** on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). (LinkedIn coming soon!)
- [Subscribe to our newsletter](#).
- Connect with us if you'd like to share a story.
Email: info@ipcaknowledgebasket.ca
- [Share resources](#) that contribute to our collective knowledge in support of Indigenous-led conservation.
- [Email us](#) to share upcoming events, funding opportunities, or employment opportunities on our platforms.
- **Share** the [IPCA Knowledge Basket](#) among your networks!

