

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHANCE FIND PROCEDURE

Nicola and Kamloops MD, BC

There are more than 32,000 archaeological sites currently recorded in British Columbia with many more being added to the provincial inventory every year. For this reason, it is very likely that you will encounter an archaeological site during your lifetime either knowingly or unknowingly. This protocol has been established to increase awareness of this important resource and to assist in planning future developments.

The remnants of British Columbia's earliest cultures are represented in today's landscape by a wide variety of site types, most of which are related to art, habitations, resource gathering and production, tool making, and traditional ceremonial or ritual activities. Some sites that may be immediately visible to a non-archaeologist include:

- Rock art, including pictographs and petroglyphs
- Tree art and Culturally Modified Trees (CMT's) such as bark stripping and planks
- Surface features such as depressions created by former habitations, earthen fortifications, rock cairns, fish traps, clam gardens, burned rock and middens
- Artifacts that have become visible on the land surface owing to erosion or recent land altering activity. These may be produced in a variety of materials such as stone, bone, antler, wood, or shell.
- Buried cultural remains that may be sighted in a cut-bank, excavation, eroded shoreline, or other exposed deposit.

If you discover what you suspect may be a possible archaeological site:

- Stop all work in the area to avoid damaging the site
- **Do not disturb any archaeological remains that you may encounter.**
- Report your discovery to your supervisor or if they are unavailable, a representative of Westhaven who will provide further instructions. (Contact 250-315-1441)
- If you are unable to contact the Westhaven representative, please contact the Archaeology Branch by telephone at 250-953-3334.

If you discover what you suspect may be possible human remains:

- Stop all work in the area to avoid damaging the site
- **Do not disturb any possible human remains that you may encounter.**



- Report your discovery to your supervisor or if they are unavailable, a representative of Westhaven who will provide further instructions. (Contact 250-315-1441)
- If you are unable to contact the Westhaven representative, and the suspected human remains appear to be current, contact the RCMP at 250-378-4262.
- If you are unable to contact the Westhaven representative, please contact the Archaeology Branch by telephone at 250-953-3334.

The following steps will generally be followed:

- The Coroner’s Office and local policing authority are notified, and the Coroner’s Office determines whether the matter is of contemporary forensic concern.
- If the remains are not of forensic concern, the branch will attempt to facilitate disposition of the remains.
- If a cultural affiliation for the remains can be determined, the branch will contact and organization representing that cultural group. If the remains are of aboriginal ancestry, the branch will attempt to contact the relevant First Nation(s).
- Generally, if the remains are still buried and are under no immediate threat of further disturbance, they will not be excavated or removed. If the remains have been partially or completely removed, the branch will facilitate disposition.
- The branch may arrange for a qualified anthropologist or archaeologist to provide an assessment of the remains.

Acknowledgment

I have reviewed the Archaeological Chance Find Procedure, and agree to abide by its terms.

Worker Name: _____ Organization: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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