



KTUNAXA
NATION

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Ktunaxa Nation Council Guidelines for Archaeological Assessment and Engagement in Ktunaxa Territory

The Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Sector (LRS) is a part of the Ktunaxa Nation Council, which represents four Canadian Ktunaxa communities, – ʔakisq̓nuk (Columbia Lake), –ʔaq̓am (St. Mary's), –ʔakinkumʔasnuq̓iʔit–it (Tobacco Plains), and Yaq̓an nuʔkiy (Lower Kootenay). LRS has the responsibility to steward the archaeological resources within the statement of intent area of Ktunaxa territory (map attached) as a part of their mandate of managing lands and resources through healthy working relationships. The Lands and Resources Sector speaks for the Ktunaxa Nation Council regarding archaeological resources and their stewardship within Ktunaxa territory.

If you have questions or concerns regarding Ktunaxa stewardship of archaeological and cultural heritage resources, they are to be directed to the KLS Archaeology Technician (contact information below).

In the spirit of establishing good working relationships, LRS will endorse archaeological companies/consultants who follow our guidelines (outlined below) and, in turn, we will commit to providing a considered and timely response to requests from companies/consultants. These guidelines do not preclude an archaeological company/consultant from their obligation to consult with other First Nations who have interest in the project area. Our archaeological guidelines include:

ʔakisq̓nuk

ʔaq̓am

Lower Kootenay

Tobacco Plains

1. LRS requires that archaeological assessment follow the Archaeological Impact Assessment Guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Archaeology Branch¹.

¹ Archaeology Branch, 1998. *Archaeological Impact Assessment Guidelines*, Fourth Revised Edition. Prepared by the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology/docs/impact_assessment_guidelines/index.htm)

2. In the interests of quality assurance and control, all in-field assessment should be conducted under a *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) permit, along with any other applicable First Nations cultural heritage permits.

3. The archaeological company/consultant must be qualified to obtain all necessary heritage permits for the project.

4. Assessment that is not conducted under an HCA permit should be limited to archaeological overview assessments (AOA). A preliminary field reconnaissance should only be used as a cursory in-field assessment to supplement an AOA if documentary information for assessing potential is not sufficient or available, and should not be used as a substitute for an Archaeological Impact Assessment.

5. The archaeologist who is conducting field work must be experienced and knowledgeable of the archaeological record and past human life ways within Ktunaxa Territory. If they have never worked within the Kootenay/Southern Rocky Mountain region of British Columbia, they must work with someone with regional knowledge of the archaeological record or a Ktunaxa Nation representative when conducting any assessment until they have gained experience in the area.

6. The archaeologist must demonstrate a willingness to discuss all aspects of archaeological assessments and consider incorporation of input from LRS. This includes:

- a. Consulting with LRS while conducting background research to ensure all cultural heritage interests are considered for each project;
- b. Communicating field methods to us prior to the commencement of field work, allowing time for comment and revision;
- c. Communicating with us when an archaeological site is recorded and discussing management options *prior* to implementation of these options and final reporting;
- d. Consulting with LRS when assessing archaeological site significance;
- e. Considering heritage impact recommendations from LRS.

7. If an archaeological site is recorded or revisited during assessment, we are to be informed as soon as possible in the form of a *Letter of Notice*, addressed to the Archaeology Technician, which outlines the management recommendations provided by the archaeologist. At this time, we will collaborate with the proponent and archaeologist to jointly decide which management recommendations are preferable for both the Nation and the proponent. If no archaeological material is uncovered during an assessment, notification of the assessment can occur as a part of the final/interim reporting process for the project(s).

8. LRS requires that an electronic (pdf) *draft* copy of **final** reporting be submitted to the Archaeology Technician, for review and comment prior to submission of the final copy to the Archaeology Branch as a part of the consultation process. The comment/review period shall be no longer than fifteen business days.

a. LRS requires all mapping information included in the final report i.e. all shapefiles of new archaeological sites, updated site boundaries, archaeological overview assessments, and high archaeological potential areas, be submitted electronically to the GIS Analyst Jose Galdamez jgaldamez@ktunaxa.org

9. On a case by case basis, for example when the project is a part of an Environmental Assessment or in an area of interest to the Nation, LRS may require a representative to participate in the archaeological assessment. The archaeological company/consultant will arrange to provide us with financial reimbursement for such services. Notification of fieldwork must be made well in advance (i.e. 10 to 15 business days) of its commencement to provide adequate time for us to make arrangements.

10. Winter Archaeology

- a. Sites were visited in frost and snow free conditions to identify testing areas
 - b. Snow clearing must not compromise the integrity of intact soils.
 - c. Tools including but not limited to Concrete Saws are not used.
 - d. Artificial heating and tents must be used to create frost free conditions.
- There is no support for using charcoal to create frost free conditions

This policy is subject to change based on new information. The Ktunaxa Nation Council is in the process of creating a certification program for consultants working within the Territory. In the interim, affirmation of your willingness to comply with our archaeological assessment guidelines will ensure that we support your business. If you have any questions, please contact:

Sincerely,

Nathalie Allard

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Archaeology Technician

Lands and Resources Sector

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