

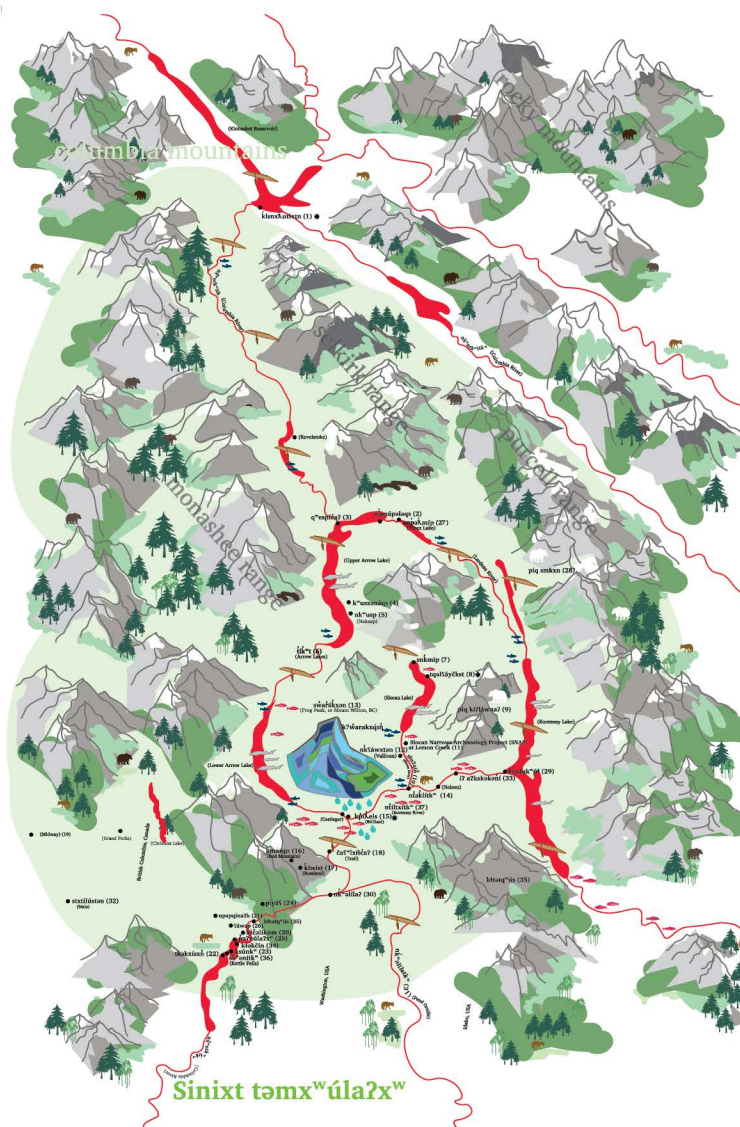


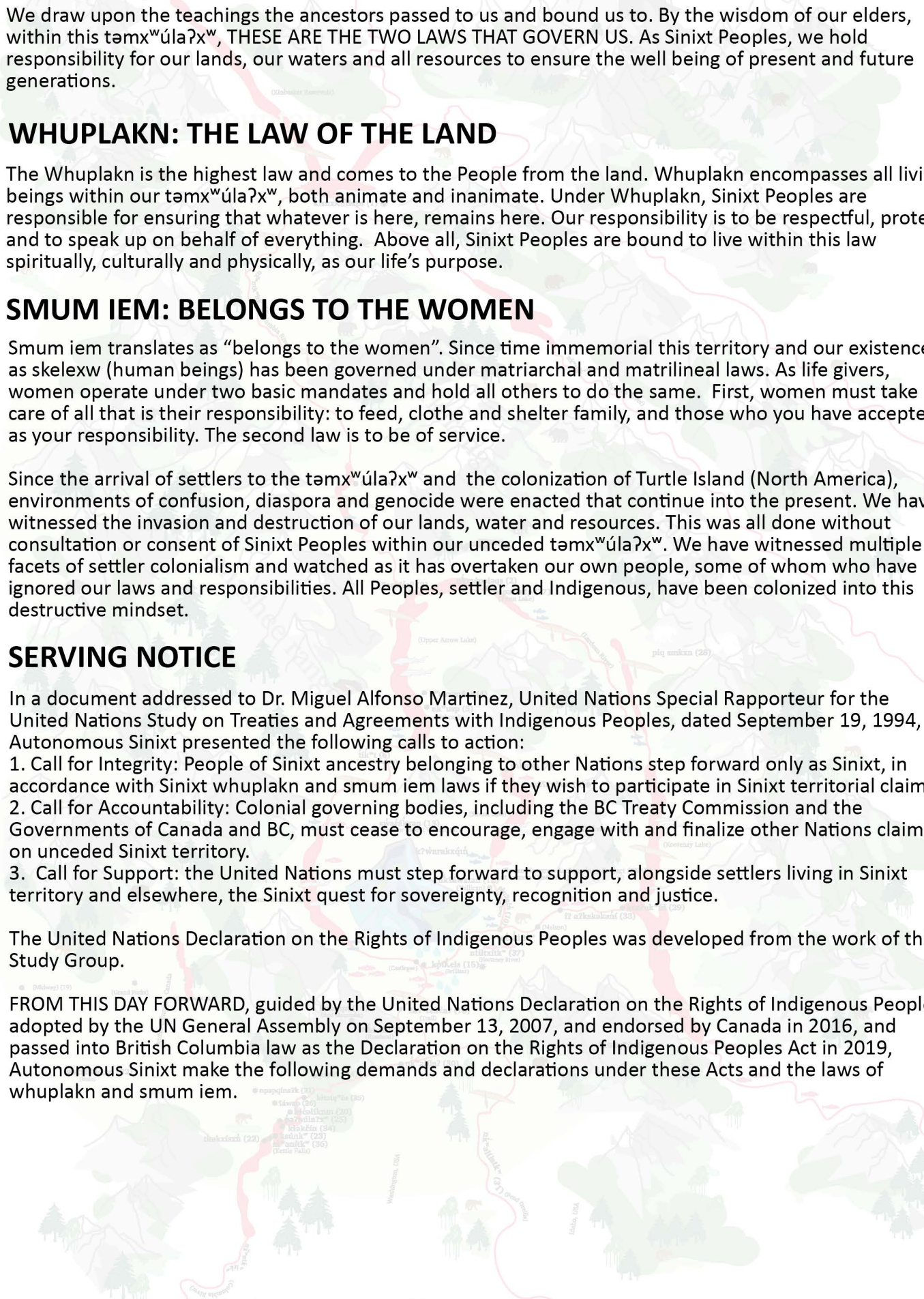
Autonomous Sinixt

Sinixt Nation Təmx^wúlaʔx^w Declaration

PREAMBLE

Sinixt Peoples' təmx^wúlaʔx^w (territory/homeland) extends from the upper Columbia River drainage in Canada to Kettle Falls in the USA. The territorial boundaries extend to the Grand Bend north of Revelstoke in the Selkirk Range of the Columbia Mountains, to the height of the Monashee Range to the west, and to the height of the Purcell Range to the east (historically to the Rocky Mountains). Our southern border spills into the high desert plateau in Washington State, the bottom of which aligns with Kettle Falls on the Columbia River.





We draw upon the teachings the ancestors passed to us and bound us to. By the wisdom of our elders, within this təmx^wúlaʔx^w, THESE ARE THE TWO LAWS THAT GOVERN US. As Sinixt Peoples, we hold responsibility for our lands, our waters and all resources to ensure the well being of present and future generations.

WHUPLAKN: THE LAW OF THE LAND

The Whuplakn is the highest law and comes to the People from the land. Whuplakn encompasses all living beings within our təmx^wúlaʔx^w, both animate and inanimate. Under Whuplakn, Sinixt Peoples are responsible for ensuring that whatever is here, remains here. Our responsibility is to be respectful, protect and to speak up on behalf of everything. Above all, Sinixt Peoples are bound to live within this law spiritually, culturally and physically, as our life's purpose.

SMUM IEM: BELONGS TO THE WOMEN

Smum iem translates as “belongs to the women”. Since time immemorial this territory and our existence as skelexw (human beings) has been governed under matriarchal and matrilineal laws. As life givers, women operate under two basic mandates and hold all others to do the same. First, women must take care of all that is their responsibility: to feed, clothe and shelter family, and those who you have accepted as your responsibility. The second law is to be of service.

Since the arrival of settlers to the təmx^wúlaʔx^w and the colonization of Turtle Island (North America), environments of confusion, diaspora and genocide were enacted that continue into the present. We have witnessed the invasion and destruction of our lands, water and resources. This was all done without consultation or consent of Sinixt Peoples within our unceded təmx^wúlaʔx^w. We have witnessed multiple facets of settler colonialism and watched as it has overtaken our own people, some of whom who have ignored our laws and responsibilities. All Peoples, settler and Indigenous, have been colonized into this destructive mindset.

SERVING NOTICE

In a document addressed to Dr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, United Nations Special Rapporteur for the United Nations Study on Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous Peoples, dated September 19, 1994, Autonomous Sinixt presented the following calls to action:

1. Call for Integrity: People of Sinixt ancestry belonging to other Nations step forward only as Sinixt, in accordance with Sinixt whuplakn and smum iem laws if they wish to participate in Sinixt territorial claims.
2. Call for Accountability: Colonial governing bodies, including the BC Treaty Commission and the Governments of Canada and BC, must cease to encourage, engage with and finalize other Nations claims on unceded Sinixt territory.
3. Call for Support: the United Nations must step forward to support, alongside settlers living in Sinixt territory and elsewhere, the Sinixt quest for sovereignty, recognition and justice.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was developed from the work of this Study Group.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007, and endorsed by Canada in 2016, and passed into British Columbia law as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in 2019, Autonomous Sinixt make the following demands and declarations under these Acts and the laws of whuplakn and smum iem.

SINIXT JURISDICTION:

Standing upon our responsibility, respect and observance of our traditional laws and inherent rights, we declare that our stewardship responsibilities MUST be acknowledged and respected (Articles 7.1 & 7.2, UNDRIP). ALL THIRD PARTIES, who stand under settler or other state banners, have NO RIGHT TO SPEAK on behalf of Sinixt, or on behalf of the lands, waters and resources in our təmx'úlaʔxʷ.

As autonomous Peoples, Sinixt are those Sinixt who reject allegiance and subservience to the governments of Canada, British Columbia, the United States of America, Washington State, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Colville Confederated Tribes, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwepemc Nation or any other governing body. They are not vested with the authority to represent Sinixt interests or, by proxy, to exert authority over our təmx'úlaʔxʷ, its water, culture, customs or traditional governance. Sinixt governed ourselves for millennia, dictating the path of our own culture and customs for thousands of years, and IT WILL BE SO AGAIN.

SINIXT RESOURCES:

We declare FULL STOP to all proposed resource extraction and resource development within Sinixt təmx'úlaʔxʷ. Our təmx'úlaʔxʷ is a rich, varied and unique part of the natural world and this life source is fragile like never before. All people must be held accountable. Our very culture and existence are rooted in the land and water of our təmx'úlaʔxʷ. Sinixt are living with and will live with the consequences of any actions that take place in our təmx'úlaʔxʷ and we will all have to live with the impacts of corporate colonialism.

We declare that all current and future operational permits, resource extraction tenures, recreation and conservation projects, etc. must be immediately evaluated to determine respect and observance of our laws. The "holders" of these tenures, extraction permits, etc. must abide by our laws and act to renew our təmx'úlaʔxʷ and our culture through our traditional laws, and by adhering to Sinixt traditional knowledge and authority. All decisions in Sinixt təmx'úlaʔxʷ must ensure the continued well-being and sustainability of our lands, waters and resources for future generations. This includes, but is not limited to, the diversion or damming of waterways, recreation tenures and activities, logging, exploration and mining, transportation infrastructure, power transmission, salmon reintroduction and lake and watershed restoration.

This document is signed under authority of the Smum iem Law, Autonomous Sinixt

Marilyn James, Matriarch

Dated: February 4, 2022

at: Kluwist | Rossland, BC

Jareess Alexis, Matriarch