

## Quotes from Tribal Member Interviews on Aboriginal Territory

January 17, 2008

### Tony Incashola Interview:

“The land, the territory that our ancestors utilized...are areas that are still connections not only to our past, but also to our future, for our future generations, that establish who we are as Salish people in this place. The struggles and the dreams of our ancestors are all over in this area, all over in our aboriginal territory. Our way of life depends on how we remain connected to the past, to our ancestors, to our value system as Salish people. Without that we'll be lost. Everything that we need, everything that we must have is in the land that we protect today.”

### Vernon Finley Interview:

“Our relationship with our aboriginal territory goes back to the very beginning of time, the very beginning of when human beings were first placed here on the earth. The Creator that placed us here intended for us to have a relationship with everything around us, a spiritual relationship with everything else around us. It was 10,000 generations of Kootenais that lived here in this area. Our ancestors lived here and died here and became a very part of the soil that we walk on today. You should carry yourself on this earth with an understanding that there is always someone listening, there is always ancestors listening, they know what you are thinking, they are paying attention to what you are saying and what you are doing.”

### Germaine White Interview:

“Our elders knew the landscape of our aboriginal territory intimately. They knew it as intimately as they knew the curves of the hills and the lines of the trails, as they knew the curves and lines of their mother's faces. They knew it in a way that young people today don't know it. I believe our elders lament today is that our children are like buffalo born behind a fence. They don't know the extent of our aboriginal territory. Many of them have not had the opportunity to hunt, or to fish, or to ride horses. What is sorrowful to us now is that many of those place names are unrecognizable. The landscape has changed so significantly through the lifetime of our elders that these places are no longer recognizable.”

Along with inheriting cultural magnificence from our elders, along with all of the gifts and benefits and privileges, we have responsibilities. Those responsibilities extend to the natural world.”

Mary Ann Addison Interview

“I think our relationship with our aboriginal territory is like a connection to the land that makes us who we are. We are reflections of the earth and everything around us. The message I would want to give the children of the future is to learn how to dream big. To learn how to really use dreaming as a powerful tool. The way we are living on this earth, the way we are living now, can’t be sustained very much longer.”

Sadie Peone Interview

“Our relationship to our aboriginal territory now is our Treaty Rights.”



Mission Mountain Range of the Rocky Mountains, Courtesy of Jake Wallis