



Columbia River Treaty
Learn about our past.
Think about our future.

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY
INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY
CRANBROOK

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This report, compiled by Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), provides background information and summarizes the format and discussion that took place at a 2011 Columbia River Treaty (CRT) information session. The purpose of the information session was to raise Basin residents' understanding and awareness around the CRT. Consultation on the CRT is a provincial responsibility. CBT is not consulting or gathering views and values on the CRT; therefore, this document is not a consultation summary, nor a summary of views and values. The discussion themes summarized in this document originated with Basin residents attending the information session and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CBT staff and management and, where applicable, have not been reviewed for accuracy.

BACKGROUND

The 1964 Columbia River Treaty (CRT) is an international agreement between Canada and the U.S. to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric energy production on both sides of the border.

The CRT has no official expiry date, but has a minimum length of 60 years, which is met in September 2024. Either Canada or the U.S. can terminate many of the provisions of the agreement effective any time after September 2024, provided written notice is filed at least 10 years in advance (2014).

While no decision has been made by either Canada or the U.S. on the future of the CRT, given the importance of the issues, and the approaching date of 2014, both countries are now conducting studies and exploring future options for the CRT.

In 1995, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) was created to benefit the areas most adversely affected by the CRT. CBT's primary role in regard to the CRT is to act as an information resource for Basin residents and local governments. CBT is not a decision maker on the future of the CRT, and CBT's role is not to consult with Basin residents on the future of the CRT—consultation is a provincial responsibility.

In anticipation of a potential decision in 2014 regarding the future of the CRT, CBT is engaging Basin residents with the objective of increasing their understanding of the basic framework (content and structure) of the CRT and helping them prepare to effectively engage in any provincial CRT consultation processes. To reach this goal, CBT, in partnership with local governments and the CRT Local Governments' Committee, hosted a series of 11 face-to-face information sessions (an open house and dinner followed by a presentation and discussion), one school-based open house, 12 small-group presentations and three online information sessions between June 2011 and November 2011 to:

- increase the level of understanding and awareness of Basin residents around what the CRT is and how it works;
- update Basin residents on potential changes to the CRT currently being considered by Canada and the U.S.; and
- provide an opportunity for residents to have a conversation and share their perspectives around the future of the CRT.

Local knowledge and community networks were essential to successful planning and delivery of the CRT information sessions. For each session, a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was formed and included representatives from local governments, chambers of commerce, groups and organizations. The LOCs helped refine local publicity tactics and ensured the session was tailored to meet its community's needs. CBT thanks the LOC volunteers for helping to plan, organize and advertise the CRT information sessions.

CRANBROOK INFORMATION SESSION

The information session in Cranbrook took place on October 6, 2011.

Approximately 94 people attended the open house and evening session, hosted by Ron Miles, CBT Board Member. Miles emphasized the purpose of the session was to educate and inform people about the CRT. He noted that the session was not a consultation; that is a responsibility of the provincial government.

Afternoon	<p>Open house staffed by CBT.</p> <p>Displays: CRT overview, downstream power benefits, flood control, key CRT dates, future of the CRT, changes in water management, pre- and post-dam images, historical photos depicting lifestyles, landmarks and landscapes prior to the CRT.</p> <p>Documents: fact sheets and brochures.</p> <p>Multimedia: video on CRT basics, Google Earth flyover of local dam/reservoir, DVDs of CBT-produced CRT videos.</p> <p>Maps: local community map and 3-D map of entire Basin in Canada.</p> <p>Speakers' Corner: residents were encouraged to record their CRT thoughts on video to share across the Basin.</p>
Dinner	Free dinner and ongoing open house.
Evening	Presentation and discussion with residents, CBT and resource people.

Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Chair, and Bill Bennett, MLA, provided opening remarks. Jim Ogilvie, Director, Regional District of East Kootenay, and member of the CRT Local Governments' Committee, noted that local governments from across the Canadian portion of the Basin have formed a committee to help Basin residents and elected officials build their understanding of the CRT and bring forward regional views, values and interests to provincial and federal agencies.

Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Water and Environment, led the presentation, acknowledging the past and encouraging people to think about building a better future. During the presentation, Gosal emphasized the following:

1. The purpose of the CRT is to coordinate flood control and optimize hydroelectric energy production in the Basin on both sides of the border.
2. The CRT has no official expiry date, but 2024 is the earliest some provisions can be terminated by either Canada or the U.S. (provided either country gives a minimum of 10 years' written notice).

3. In 2024 the Assured Annual Flood Control provision expires and the current On Call Flood Control provision changes to a Called Upon operation, if and when requested by the U.S.
4. The Canadian Entitlement—\$150 – 300 million US/year—stays in place as long as the CRT is in place. However, if the CRT is terminated, the Canadian Entitlement ends.
5. At this time no decision has been made by either country to terminate, renegotiate or modify the terms of the current CRT. Given the importance of CRT issues, both the Canadian and U.S. entities are completing ongoing studies.
6. CBT's primary role in regard to the CRT is to act as an information resource for Basin residents and local governments.

The following three resources, which can be found at www.cbt.org/crt/resources.html, summarize much of the information presented:

- Video: [Columbia River Treaty: Learn About Our Past and Think About Our Future](#)
- Video: [Columbia River Treaty: The Basics](#)
- PowerPoint: [Columbia River Treaty Overview Presentation](#)

It was also noted that the completion of the Grand Coulee Dam in 1941 eliminated salmon in the upper Columbia River, long before construction of the CRT dams. The loss of salmon was both a cultural and spiritual loss to local First Nations, which remain committed to returning salmon into the river.

Cranbrook Discussion and Top-of-mind Themes

Following the presentation, participants broke into six groups to have small-group conversations hosted by CRT resource people on the following topics:

- CRT roles and responsibilities;
- Two basic future scenarios (continue or terminate); and
- Libby/Koocanusa operations.

Resource People:

- Hans Schreier, University of British Columbia;
- John Shurts, Northwest Power and Conservation Council; and
- Scott Barillaro, Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Participants returned to plenary for a last round of questions and summaries of the small-group conversations. The discussion, along with top-of-mind comments provided by participants on sticky notes before leaving the information session, focused on the themes shown on the following page. The themes are organized alphabetically. No ranking is intended and themes do not necessarily reflect consensus. For a list of all the themes that emerged, visit this document's Appendix.

Based on post-session participant surveys, 47 per cent learned a lot about the CRT, and another 53

per cent learned a few things. This is in light of the fact that 58 per cent of participants considered themselves somewhat knowledgeable about the CRT prior to attending the session.

Collaboration and Participation: Residents should be part of the solution and cross-border collaboration should take place prior to consulting with national governments.

Consultation: Negotiation options should be presented prior to the necessary consultation and the process should be clearly defined.

Education and Research: Need to provide ongoing information to residents to ensure informed input into decision making on CRT options and ramifications.

Environment: Fish (e.g., salmon and sturgeon), wildlife and ecosystem management need to be considered in the CRT.

Negotiation: Negotiations should stay local and provincial. They should focus on a better deal for Canada in terms of flood control, power maximization and environmental values, and should include Libby/Koocanusa operations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further discussion of themes is available in CBT's *Columbia River Treaty 2011 Engagement and Education Summary Report*, located at www.cbt.org/2011CRTSummaryReport. Answers to frequently asked questions are posted at www.cbt.org/crt, along with the Speakers' Corner video "[Voices from Koocanusa Reservoir](#)," which captures CRT ideas and comments from Basin residents.

To learn more about the CRT, visit www.cbt.org/crt. Also visit the site to subscribe to CRT email updates.

APPENDIX: CRANBROOK THEMES

Each information session had written and oral opportunities for residents to share opinions and ideas and ask questions. In all, CBT was able to collect over 1,000 pieces of input. The Cranbrook themes are summarized below, while the themes from all communities are summarized in the separate document “CRT Information Sessions Summary Appendix: Residents Share Ideas,” located online at www.cbt.org/2011CRTSummaryReportAppendix.

CBT: Thanks for starting this process.

Collaboration: Collaboration for strength. The sovereign review team and the BC team must consult with each other before consulting with the feds. A liaison from each federal department—U.S. and Canada—must be appointed ASAP to grease wheels.

Consultation: The future needs to have meaningful consultation. The negotiable aspects must be detailed before consultation. There is hope that CBT takes a lead role in gathering public input as residents need to be involved and make their voices heard. Residents would like to be a part of the meaningful solution.

Education/Research: Need to engage youth from K to 12 so they understand the transboundary impacts of our collective actions. It is important to learn about the CRT and be an informed citizen. We need information to make good decisions. We need an understanding of specific issues and the ramifications of different options (particularly environmental). What will we do to get the right numbers? There seems to be a deficiency in data and available studies around water quantity, etc.; will the Province and the U.S. entities increase the data available to make decisions and will it be provided to the public? How will we ensure we consider external forces and how they impact our strategies?

Environment: Fisheries and wildlife should be in discussion re: Libby Dam and Kooacanusa. Need to expand the function of the CRT to include ecosystems management. Save the sturgeon and the salmon. In the future, the value of water is increasing and power values are of less importance. Will a federal environmental impact statement be necessary to terminate or renegotiate?

Negotiation: Continue with some sort of agreement to maximize power. We should not hand negotiation over to the federal government. Concentrate on a better deal that focuses on environmental issues. Dealing with Washington, D.C., will not work. There is a need to renegotiate the flood control agreement. What process is being put in place to deal with negotiation or consultations if recommendations from each country are at opposite ends of the spectrum? The CRT should be continued with Assured Annual Flood Control and should keep control of drawdown as much as possible. Include Libby Dam in the CRT. It appears the U.S. is coordinating a unified response and BC is only starting the process.

Reservoir Operations: We need more control over water levels in Kooacanusa Reservoir.



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