



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

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY
INFORMATION SESSION SUMMARY
CASTLEGAR

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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.

CASTLEGAR INFORMATION SESSION

The information session in Castlegar took place on October 19, 2011.

Approximately 114 people attended the open house and evening session, chaired by Greg Deck, CBT Board Member. Deck emphasized the purpose of the session was to educate and inform people about the CRT. He noted that this 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.

Lawrence Chernoff, Castlegar Mayor, welcomed participants and 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. This is called the CRT Local Governments' Committee.

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.

Castlegar Discussion and Top-of-mind Themes

Following the presentation, participants broke into four discussion groups based on topics identified by the group:

1. Roles and responsibilities;
2. The future of the CRT;
3. Reservoir operations; and
4. Local interests.

These discussions were led by Gosal and two members of CBT’s Water Advisory Panel, plus Michael Harstone of Compass Resource Management.

CBT’s Water Advisory Panel Members:

- Ken Peterson, former CEO of Powerex (subsidiary of BC Hydro); and
- Marvin Wodinsky, former Acting Consul General of Canada in Seattle.

After the small-group discussion, facilitators suggested the following fictional newspaper headlines as a way to reflect their perspective on the evening’s discussion:

- “Is the CRT broken enough to need fixing?”;
- “Locals win role in CRT negotiations”;
- “New CRT includes ecosystem flows”; and
- “There is more to life than power and flood control.”

The discussion, along with top-of-mind comments provided by participants on sticky notes before leaving the information session, focused on the themes shown below. 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, 75 per cent learned a lot about the CRT, and another 25 per cent learned a few things. This is in light of the fact that 62 per cent of participants considered themselves somewhat knowledgeable about the CRT prior to attending the session.



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 Arrow Lakes 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: CASTLEGAR 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 Castlegar 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.

Benefits to Canada: Lack of local economic/industrial benefits to the Basin.

Benefits to the U.S.: Need to know full range of benefits to the U.S.

Community Engagement: Increase youth involvement/awareness. Residents need to learn about the CRT. Locals want a role in negotiations. Need to address First Nations’ issues.

Compensation: Dam and impacts continue to impact land values, resources, etc. Range of impacts not known until years later.

Fisheries: Restore lost fish (salmon). Beyond the current CRT, what additional flexibility/tools are needed to manage fisheries?

Flood Control: Key issue.

Impacts in Canada: Dams and impacts continue to impact land values, resources, etc. Range of impacts not known until years later. Who is looking at local impacts?

Negotiating Issues: It’s about the future. Don’t give it away. Range of impacts not known until years later. Is Canada prepared to negotiate a fair CRT? The new CRT to include social, economic, environmental and sustainability values. Need to know full range of benefits to the U.S. and factor into negotiations. Address local issues. Need to address First Nations’ issues, the environment.

Negotiating Team: Are decision makers in Canada adequately informed/ready to negotiate with the U.S.?

Roles and Responsibilities: Can CBT become the new Canadian entity if U.S. tribes became the U.S. entity?

Water: Fluctuating water levels on Arrow Lakes bad for Kokanee and erosion. Need to value water. Look at quality; what about polluters?



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