

Musqueam DECLARATION



We, the Musqueam people openly and publicly declare and affirm that we hold aboriginal title to our land, and aboriginal rights to exercise use of our land, the sea and fresh waters, and all their resources within that territory occupied and used by our ancestors, namely:

The lands, lakes and streams defined and included by a line commencing at Harvey Creek in Howe Sound and proceeding Eastward to the height of land and continuing on the height of land around the entire watershed draining into English Bay, Burrard Inlet and Indian Arm; South along the height of land between Coquitlam River and Brunette River to the Fraser River, across to the South or left bank of the Fraser River and proceeding downstream taking in the left Bank of the main stream and the South Arm to the sea, including all those intervening lands, islands and waters back along the sea shore to Harvey Creek, AND, the sea, its reefs, flats, tidal lands and islands adjacent to the above described land and out to the centre of Georgia Strait.
(These lands and waters are described on the map accompanying this declaration.)

We, the Musqueam people, are members of the Musqueam Indian Band and/or persons of one quarter Musqueam Indian Ancestry descended from those *Hunquw?i?num?* speaking people who from time immemorial occupied used and gained their livelihood from those lands, waters and seas as described above.

Our ancestors aboriginal right and our aboriginal right, is to live upon and travel over our aboriginal lands, seas and waters without foreign control or restriction, to utilize, trade and consume all the resources and products of those lands, waters and seas. It is our right to govern ourselves and our communities, to up-hold and determine our own customs, beliefs and laws.

Neither we nor our ancestors have ever given up, extinguished or diminished our aboriginal rights and title by treaty or agreement with any foreign government or power.

We have never considered the bits of land called "Indian Reserves" as compensation for our lost rights and cannot consider them as adequate compensation.

We have never accepted or agreed to the right of governments of Canada or British Columbia, or their agents, to tell us how to run our own affairs or determine how we should live our lives.

We, the Musqueam people, hereby declare our intent to exercise our aboriginal rights, to restore to our own use sufficient traditional resources to enable us and our descendants to live as distinct and independent people in our own land.

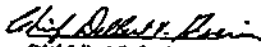
We announce our intent to obtain compensation for loss of resources and denial of their uses, where these have been destroyed or exploited by others, or where they cannot be restored.


We announce our intent to establish control of our own communities and our own resources in order to control, determine, and guarantee our future.


This is our aboriginal right; and a basic, universal human right.


Musqueam Indian Band
Vancouver, British Columbia.

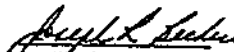
Dated: Vancouver,
June 10th 1976


Councillor Gilbert F. Garcia


Councillor Mary S. Charles


Councillor John J. Poirer


Councillor Gertrude Garcia


Councillor Joseph B. Becker


Councillor Joseph S. Young

