

is laudable, their lack of attention to geography should be noted. *On the North Trail* contains five maps, all of which apparently date from the period. These maps are either too small, making them difficult to decipher, or they are of questionable value to the reader. A modern, high-quality map showing the commission's route would

have provided a better geographical perspective on Edwards' narrative. Nevertheless, this is but a minor critique given the overall quality of the editing and presentation of the document, which makes an important contribution to the history of north-western Alberta.

Researching the Indian Land Question in BC: An Introduction to Research Strategies and Archival Research for Band Researchers

Leigh Ogston, editor

Vancouver: Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, 1998. N.p. Illus.
(500-342 Water St., Vancouver, v6B 1B6)

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ALTHOUGH DIRECTED AT BAND researchers, this recent publication is of general interest and use to anyone studying First Nations history, land claims, or related topics. The editor claims this work is just a starting point, but it is much more than that. There are a few other publications of a similar nature, but *Researching the Indian Land Question in BC*, produced by the resource staff of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), is likely the most comprehensive and readable book of its kind for both novices and experienced researchers. Actually a manual, the book is well laid out in twenty-six discrete chapters on various themes around the general topic of Indian land research, which is further divided into many subsections. A selection of illustrations highlights different sections.

This resource takes for granted a fair knowledge of the history of British Columbia as it relates to First Nations, but each chapter is helpful, containing relevant definitions, lists of documents and useful Web sites, and chronologies of significant dates relating to different topics, thus providing hooks into specific areas of research. Chapter 1 defines archival research and how to begin to research, including how to make contact with sources of information. Chapter 2 provides an alphabetical survey of the major repositories for research materials from the band level to tribal council offices to archives, libraries, and museums, including foreign (mainly American) repositories. Unfortunately, a few notable sources, such as the British Library, are missing. Addresses for bands need to be obtained elsewhere (the British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal

Affairs directory is a good companion book to have). Chapter 3 provides a great deal of general history as well as an in-depth description of the historical events that have resulted in documents. Sources listed include publications that have stood the test of time (and provide the basic historical background one should have before conducting further research). Chapter 4 describes research materials, including, to name a few, annual reports, colonial correspondence, gazettes and government files, the Hudson's Bay Company records, Indian Reserve Commission materials, photographs and pre-emption records, and the well-known RG 10 (DIA Record Group at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). Chapter 5, on land use and occupancy (commonly known as traditional use studies in British Columbia), provides strategic and planning considerations for this type of research. Chapter 6 describes oral history and how it is used as evidence. As a result of the *Delgamuuk'w* case, oral history has attained a legal status that has made this area even more important than it was in the past. Chapter 7 is about mapping and describes both different survey systems used in British Columbia and where maps are found. Maps can be difficult for the beginning researcher to comprehend and interpret, but this chapter offers a fair overview of the process. Chapter 8 deals with archaeological research, including gaining access to the records of the provincial archaeology branch and such relevant legislation as the Heritage Conservation Act. Chapter 9 covers anthropological research and provides a long list of anthropological journals, revealing the breadth of this field. Chapter 10 covers

hunting and trapping records, while Chapter 11 deals with genealogy (family history) – an increasingly important area of research relating to issues of status. Chapter 12 offers an introduction to legal research and resources, emphasizing issues of Aboriginal title.

The later chapters are short and concise. Chapter 13 deals with settlement and village sites not included in reserves; Chapter 14 discusses graveyards and sacred sites, a very interesting area that has not been fully researched. Subsequent chapters deal with surrenders and sales resource extraction, rights-of-way, cutoffs, fishing, the Douglas (pre-Confederation) reserves, certificates of possession, water rights, accretions, commonages, government reserves, and treaty land entitlement. As the treaty process in British Columbia unfolds (or doesn't), every aspect of Aboriginal land use takes on significance.

On the whole, this book is comprehensive and well presented. Here and there the text and Appendix A (a timeline of events affecting the Indian peoples of British Columbia) are slightly flawed by typos (but nothing too distracting). Appendix B lists all the documents available at the UBCIC Resource Centre. The book also contains a glossary of terms used in lands research, an index of abbreviations, and a general index by section number. The cirlox binding and lack of pagination suggests that some pages could be revised. Undoubtedly, there will be subsequent additions that will allow for the addition of more materials, updates, and corrections. In the meantime, this is the most accessible book on the subject and a must for researchers of the Indian land question in British Columbia.