

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLES FOR ADDRESSING SHARED TERRITORIES AND OVERLAPS  
STO Forum Discussion Paper: Summary of Previous Forums and Principles  
(Excerpt from page 4-5)

- The sovereign and inherent right of First Nations to self-determination, including political, social, and economic self-determination
- The centrality and diversity of Indigenous laws and cultures, which are founded on the ways of life, traditions and values of our ancestors, and include systems of governance, law and social organization
- Full recognition of our inherent laws, jurisdiction, Aboriginal Title, and Rights and the autonomy of our nations
- The need for a range of flexible and adaptable approaches that are First Nations-led, and are not “one size fits all” approaches
- The importance of honour and respect for agreements/protocols/resolutions that are reached
- The right to compensation and redress with regard to territories, lands and resources which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without our free, prior and informed consent. Consistent with articles 8, 11, 20 and 28 of the UN Declaration, negotiations and agreements must include pathways and measures for redress. Approaches to redress through agreements will vary and reflect the specific historic experiences of First Nations, the impacts those continue to have today, and how a First Nation has determined its future vision and priorities.
- The fact of interdependence among Nations and the strength of unity. Partnership and cooperation amongst nations promotes unity in the face of colonial divide and conquer tactics. Mutual, early engagement and information sharing on how our respective Indigenous laws apply demonstrates respect.
- The need to incorporate our languages as our languages, laws, and lands are intimately linked
- It is importance for First Nations and the Crown to be open to innovation, and new approaches that evolve, and are open, fluid, co-designed, adaptable and flexible. Processes cannot be prescriptive, pre-determined, or unilateral.
- All Nations must have capacity to engage in resolving shared territory and overlap issues
- Each Nation must do their own internal work to gain community input and ensure that leaders represent the collective interests of the proper title and rights holders
- Negotiations and agreements should prioritize structuring proper relations between Indigenous governments, laws, and jurisdictions and Crown governments, laws, and jurisdictions. This includes recognizing the roles and responsibilities of Indigenous governments, as well as the structures, processes, and mechanisms between Indigenous Crown and governments.
- Nation and government re-building, determined and led by First Nations, must be appropriately supported and advanced through negotiations and agreements.
- Shared territory and overlap issues are to be resolved by First Nations, without third party interference
- The Crown has an obligation provide resourcing support for First Nations to address shared territory and overlap issues,
- The Crown must make legislative amendments in alignment with commitments to reconciliation and the UN Declaration, and must be transparent, involve Ministers and senior officials in processes with First Nation political leaders
- The importance of being open to third party assistance, such as an Indigenous-led commission or institution