

# *Our Homes are Bleeding* *Digital Collection*



For Digitization Pre-conference T5  
BCLA Conference, April 20, 2006

# UBCIC Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is cultural and research centre, with an archives and a library program.

## Our Researchers:

Academic researchers (Institute of Indigenous Government and BC Post-secondary);  
community researchers; UBCIC staff (policy and legal research)

# MANDATE

*To care for the documentary heritage (archival material) of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and serve the information needs (library) of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs staff and member communities, and others by agreement.*

# UBCIC Community Outreach and Library Services

- Mandate of the Research Department
- Approaches to community outreach
- McKenna McBride Commission testimonies are heavily used by out of town researchers
- Online access will improve access
- Additional search functionality added by library staff

# Project goals

- Preservation of unique fragile media recordings
- Access copies of media
- Provide a visual historical depth to aboriginal statements of title and rights; about connection of people, land and culture
- make key part of collection available to distant community members
- Develop internal capacity for digitization
- Build community and public support

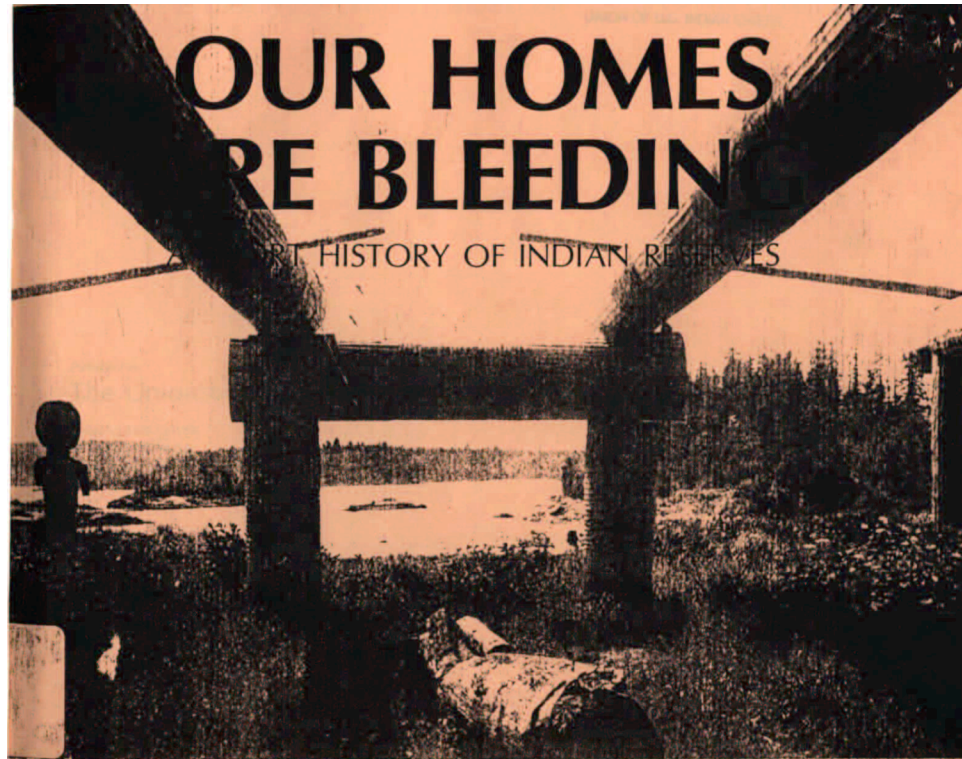
# Challenges

- Capacity (skills, equipment, media, time)
- Deliverables and limitations for available funding
- No one else in BC is doing media reformatting as a preservation strategy
- Digitization is a short-term approach for preservation, but the only one possible for magnetic media

# Our response

- Partnering with local digital media company and academic programs
- Young Canada Works and Partnerships Fund
- Try anyway

# *1970s UBCIC claims research*





# McKenna McBride Commission

- *Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia (1913 - 1916)*
- Held hearings throughout BC
- Testimonies are still heavily used



# Overview of the digital collection

- Digital collection of multimedia archival records and information resources
- Educational materials
- Narratives
- Community Researchers' page

[Our Homes Are Bleeding](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/ourhomesare/)

<http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/ourhomesare/>

# Digitized resources

Media recordings:

[Map and photo gallery](#)

Audio and video recordings are on the narrative and educational pages.

See [Impacts page 2](#)

# Fort St. John Band cut-off lands

Video excerpt from *The Land is The Culture*



*Image of Video Reels at the UBCIC Resource Centre*

# UBCIC representative on the importance of resolving the cut-off lands [Audio recording]

**Recording of meeting with Judd Buchanan, DIA, January 9/75**



*Image of audio reels in the UBCIC Resource Centre archives*

# Textual resources

The key research tool on this website is the indexed and searchable versions of the McKenna McBride testimonies.

[Testimonies](#)

The Final Report is an addition.

[Final Report](#)

# Testimonies

From the McKenna McBride Commission  
hearings



Image of original volume of testimonies.

Copyright Barbara Gauthier, INAC

# Textual resources

Supplementary texts are found in the Resource List, narratives and educational pages.





# Onward

- Entry page to the testimonies is top hit for UBCIC website for 6 months; over 21K visits to testimonies in March
- Technical work needed to complete indexing and check for problems
- Scalable collections: plan to add educational units (shortlisted for grant for development of curriculum and educational materials for Aboriginal law)
- Evaluation of teachers' use of material: incorporated into a SSSHR Community University Research Alliance (CURA) grant (approved)
- Continue digital media preservation
- Continue to promote Resource Centre with digital collection

# Thank yous

Digital Media Arts (Gerald Lawson)

UBC First Nations Studies Department

UBCIC individual members

## Sponsors

- Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Partnerships fund
- Canadian Library Association (Young Canada Works )
- Canadian Council of Archives (Young Canada Works )
- Heritage Canada Foundation (Young Canada Works )
- HRDS Summer Career Placement Project