

Kitsumkalum Economic Development Strategic Planning Committee  
& Kitsumkalum Land Management Committee  
Invites Kitsumkalum Community Members to a . . .

# Blessing Ceremony

For Culturally Modified Trees  
in Economic Development Area of IR1  
in Kitsumkalum

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30th, 2019 | 5:00 PM**

**KITSUMKALUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

*(Trailer across from Tempo) Dress warm with good footwear.*



**KITSUMKALUM PLANS CEREMONY TO HONOUR ANCESTERAL LEGACY**

*Culturally Modified Trees play a fundamental part in Kitsumkalum's past and the future.*

For Immediate Release

(Kitsumkalum BC---March 25, 2019) As Kitsumkalum Economic Development Group (KEDG) makes plan to remove Timber in IR1 (located east of the Kalum Forest Service Road), to make room for a Logistics Park/Inland Port which will result in jobs and revenues to the Band and its members – Kitsumkalum's Archaeologists consultant, Kleanza Consulting, identified 14 Culturally Modified Trees (CMT's) within the area of the new development IN 2014.

Through the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) there are rules and regulations regarding CMTs. CMTs that are dated pre-1846 by Archeologists are protected under the HCA. All CMTs are still considered significant and the information is gathered in the same way as the older trees. The HCA does not apply to Federal Lands, therefore Kitsumkalum is working to create its own policies and procedures for what to do when encountering CMTs.

"Kitsumkalum Economic Development Group, through its Strategic Planning Committee, invited the Land Use Code Development Committee to meet to discuss how the CMTs should be harvested and to help develop further mitigation strategies. It was a consultative approach to ensure our CMT's are protected, salvaged, or repurposed within the cultural landscape of the community to ensure the legacy lives on and is honored," says Diane Collins.

Since the assessment in 2014, one CMT had fallen due to natural circumstances and was incorporated into the Gazebo that now stands by the Ball Park. This mitigation strategy was put into place by the late Siegi Kriegl, who was integral part of Kitsumkalum's Economic Development Team.

Based on a recent assessment by Kleanza Archaeological Consultants of each tree, it is anticipated that six of the 13 CMTs can be salvaged for educational purposes and could form part of a future building. The remaining are to be used for other community and cultural purposes such as trail building and smokehouses.

The harvesting of the Timber in the economic development area has begun; the 13 CMTs will remain standing and will be harvested last. Prior to harvesting the CMTs, Kitsumkalum members are invited to participate in a cultural ceremony that recognizes and respects our ancestors living legacy.

**Saturday March 30th at 5:00 pm.**

Open to all to attend! Meet at the Economic Development Trailers across from Tempo at 5:30 pm. Dress appropriately for the weather as we will be heading down the forest service road for the ceremony.

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# What Is a CMT?



“Culturally Modified Trees” – known as CMTs are trees that have been modified by Indigenous people for a variety of reasons and demonstrates the use of resources on the territories. The three main groupings of types of modifications are: bark-stripped trees, aboriginally logged trees, and other modified trees. There are numerous uses of the resources gathered from the trees including: inner bark for clothing, mats, basketry, ropes, diapers, medicine, dye, etc.; bark for baskets, clothes, roofing material, etc.; planks for houses; canoes; poles. When humans modify trees, by bark stripping, by removing planks, by testing the tree for suitability of the timber for carving, and for other resource uses, what is left on the tree gives us evidence of the human use of the tree.

There are many CMTs in different areas on all three of Kitsumkalum’s reserves and throughout the territories. In some areas there can be hundreds of CMTs, particularly bark-stripped trees as this was and is a common practice.

CMT’s exist all over our province. In the past, forestry companies cut down CMTs without understanding their cultural significance. Through the Heritage Conservation Act (HCA) there are now rules and regulations regarding CMTs. CMTs that are dated pre-1846 by Archeologists are protected under the HCA. All CMTs are still considered significant and the information is gathered in the same way as the older trees. The HCA does not apply to Federal Lands, therefore Kitsumkalum is working to create its own policies and procedures for what to do when encountering CMTs.

Although CMTs are often cut along with other timber when logging or development occurs throughout the province, mitigation strategies can be put in place to retain as much cultural information about the trees as possible.