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### A Future First Nations Garden on Currently Contaminated Land

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## **Site Location**



# **First Nations Site History**

- In winter, the people subsisted on stored dried foods and performed activities such as wood carving, weaving blankets, and spiritual ceremonies
- In late spring, families would disperse to hunt, fish and gather food, for immediate consumption and preservation during winter
- Berries and sockeye were collected during summer and fall, while fishing occurred in the Indian, Capilano and Seymour rivers



# **Industrial Site History**

- **Historical uses** of the site included:
  - lumber and sawmills
  - chemical manufacturing
  - automotive services
  - used oil collection
  - log salvaging
  - construction paving
  - commercial vehicle equipment sales
- **Current use** of the site as the Maplewood Flats Conservation Area
- **Future use** of the site is a proposed demonstration garden



# **Proposed Site and Sampling Locations**





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# Permitting and First Nations Engagement

- Requests were sought from four nations:
  Stó:lō Nation
  - Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)
  - Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN)
  - x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əýəm (Musqueam) Indian Band
- TWN engaged with Wild Bird Trust to address ecological concerns
- Acquired a Heritage Conservation Act permit
- Had an archaeological and environmental monitor on site during sampling



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## **Proposed Demonstration Garden**



# Human Health Risk Assessment



# **Routes of Exposure**

- Gardens proposed for the demonstration garden plots:
  - Salve Making Gardens
  - 。 Tea Garden
  - Food Garden
  - Wool Dying Garden
  - Pollinator Garden
- People potentially exposed to soil contaminants through:
  - Plant consumption from the Food and Tea Gardens
  - Direct soil exposure while gardening



#### **Plants in Food Garden**

Coastal strawberry, salal, salmon berry, thimble berry, red flowering currants, nodding onion, cow parsnip, camas, licorice fern root

#### **Plants in Tea Garden**

Kinnikinnick, wild ginger, nootka rose, western hemlock, stinging nettle, and black elderberry

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### From The Gardens...





Tea Garden kinnikinnick, wild ginger, nootka rose, western hemlock, stinging nettle, and black elderberry

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# **Exposure Concentrations**

- Assessed dietary exposure consumption of berries, roots and bulbs (camas) and tea
- Measured concentrations of Blackberries, Ferns, Plum and Lupinus used as proxies

Dietary Input	Exposure Concentration Derivation
Soil	95 UCLM
Berries	Average Measured concentration of blackberries and plums
Camas Bulbs	Modelled – linear regression plus root:vegetation ratio of 0.5
Теа	Measured and Modelled Concentrations, based on Proportion of Plantings





## **Exposure Concentrations**

- Concentration of boron in tea infusion diffusion from tea leaves into tea drink
- Meta-study by Karak et al. (2017)
- Tea (drink) concentration of boron 1.2 mg/L



# **Consumption Rates**

- Receptor characteristics were as per Health Canada except:
  - **Berry Consumption** 
    - Adults FNFNES 2019
    - Toddlers US EPA 2018
  - **Camas Consumption** 
    - Adults and Toddlers –
      US EPA 2018 (root tubers)
  - Tea Consumption
    - Adults FNFNES 2019
    - Toddlers US EPA 2019
- Assumed year-round exposure



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## **Risk Characterization**

- Total daily boron dose compared to reference dose (US EPA IRIS database)
- No unacceptable risks were predicted for adults eating berries and camas and drinking tea
- No unacceptable risks were predicted for toddlers eating berries and camas or drinking tea
- No unacceptable risks predicted due to direct soil contact



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## Conclusions

 Acceptable risks were predicted for Future Community Gardeners exposed to boron accumulated into food and tea plants grown in the proposed garden (and via direct contact)



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# Questions?



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# Thank you

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