



Repatriation Cost Analysis

FACT SHEET

What is the Repatriation Cost Analysis?

The Repatriation Cost Analysis describes the steps taken to identify the costs of First Nations-led repatriation from the beginning planning stages to long-term caretaking after Ancestors and Belongings are repatriated. It presents a cost model with the flexibility to account for diversity across B.C. First Nations communities. The analysis demonstrates a clear need for repatriation funding, and is a call for provincial and federal governments to commit sufficient funding for this important work.



Why is this Cost Analysis Needed?

Dedicated funding for the repatriation of Ancestors and Belongings from colonial institutions is a relatively recent concept. The lack of comprehensive funding and support for repatriation to date has meant that the actual costs of this work remain largely undocumented. This cost analysis is an attempt to address this gap by examining the question: What are the costs of a fully funded, community-based First Nations repatriation program?

Key Terms

- ▶ **Repatriation:** The work of locating, preparing, returning home and caretaking First Nations' Ancestors and Belongings removed from communities through colonial theft, violence and under duress.
- ▶ **Repatriation Cost Framework:** An approach to accurately estimate the costs of First Nations repatriation in B.C.
- ▶ **Repatriation Cost Model:** A tool for calculating repatriation costs at the community level and beyond.

What are the Variables Affecting Repatriation Costs?

B.C. First Nations are at different stages of their repatriation journeys. While some communities have decades of experience, others are just beginning this important work. There are many variables that affect repatriation costs at the community level, such as geographic diversity, community size and capacity, participation rates, and the extent of Ancestors and Belongings held in institutions.

Repatriation Readiness

Data from past repatriation grant programs suggests that B.C. First Nations fall into three general categories of “repatriation readiness.”



The Phases of Repatriation Work Repatriation work involves four key phases:

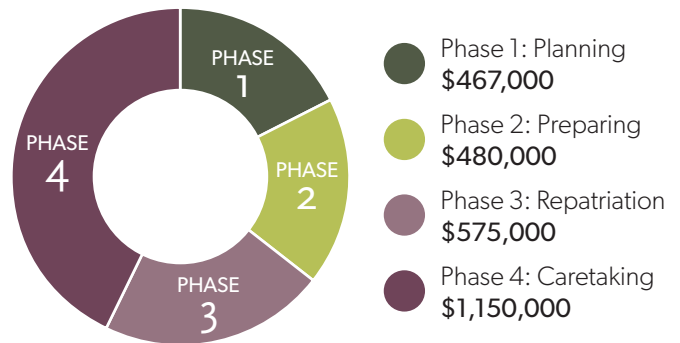
- 1. Planning**
- 2. Preparing**
- 3. Repatriation**
- 4. Caretaking**

Cost Projections

FPCC researched and identified community-level costs for the tasks involved in each phase of repatriation and used this data to make projections about the costs of First Nations repatriation over time and at different scales.

The costs of repatriation are high – very likely over \$3M for medium-to-large First Nations fully engaged in community-based repatriation work.

Repatriation Costs by Phase



Where Can I Learn More?

- Collison, Jisgang Nika, Sdahl K'awaas Lucy Bell and Lou-ann Neel. (2019). "Indigenous Repatriation Handbook." Royal British Columbia Museum.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council. (2024). "From Stealing to Healing: Repatriation and B.C. First Nations."
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council. (2024). "Repatriation Cost Analysis."

