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Two-Spirit, Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ Day - Mar 19, 2025 #4074
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News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

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New album from Bobby Garcia

Bobby's latest album *The Man I Never Knew - The Nashville Sessions* is music he recorded in Nashville, "plus 3 songs I recorded in the last couple years with Brad Hampton and one special Acoustic song for Wayne MacDonald!", according to him.

Bobby has also recently been featured in an article from MusicCrowns.org: 'If you're a fan of country, this one's got a bit of everything—lighthearted feels, sentimental themes, and beer.

'Bobby's from the Nlaka'pamux First Nations and grew up around music — his family is full of singers and musicians. He loves old-school country like Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Jr., and it shows. He wrote most of the songs, but his cousin Joanne Stacey and her buddy Roger Plante also picked up the pen on 'The Gate.'

You can stream the new album on all the regular platforms, but Bobby also has CD's! And if that isn't retro enough, it's soon to be released on vinyl as well.

CD's are available at the Legion and the Olde Barley Market Cold Beer and Wine, and soon will be at Yaki Joes. There are only 100 copies, so get yours soon.

Excerpt: www.indiginews.com Land defenders appeal sentences from TMX trial

April Thomas, Red Deer Billie Pierre and Romilly Cavanaugh were back in court earlier this month after being arrested for breaching TMX injunction in Secwépemcúl'ecw.

During a hearing in "Vancouver" earlier this month, a lawyer representing the trio asked the B.C. Court of Appeal to re-examine their convictions, arguing their sentencing judge had made a series of unfair errors against them during their trial. Lawyer Benjamin Isitt said the appellants — Secwépemc land defender April Thomas, Nlaka'pamux land defender Red Deer Billie Pierre, and settler-ally Romilly Cavanaugh, a former TMX worker — were upholding Indigenous law when they were arrested.

"They believe they had legal duties in these circumstances," Isitt told a three-judge appeal panel on March 3, "arising from Secwépemc and Nlaka'pamux laws to protect the sacred waters of the Thompson River — Simpcwétkwe (North Thompson) in Secwépemctsín — and the salmon people who relied on the health of the river to survive."

In early 2022, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Shelley Fitzpatrick sentenced Cavanaugh — a professional engineer who once worked for TMX — to 32 days in jail. Three months later, Thomas received the same punishment, while Pierre was sentenced to 40 days of house arrest.

During their sentencing hearings, Thomas and Pierre argued they were upholding Secwépemc and Nlaka'pamux laws and duties to protect the water, salmon and land. But Fitzpatrick concluded this did not apply to their opposition of TMX.

[Their lawyer] argued [the judge] had failed to ensure a fair trial in late 2022, and had erred in four key areas of law. He argued these include rejecting witnesses, not considering each defendant's state of mind, not helping them navigate the legal process, and whether the TMX injunction zone was clearly marked.

[He] said [the judge] "had closed her mind to conducting the obligatory, individualized mens rea inquiry that the law says she had a duty to conduct." That could have given more weight to their Indigenous values and beliefs in their arguments, he continued — leading to a "failure to consider the evidence and available defences from an Aboriginal perspective."

If their appeal succeeds, it could lead to a retrial at the B.C. Supreme Court. The Court of Appeal could decide the matter within the next year.

More political quotes

"To be demeaned like that is an exercise in fertility."

"I deny the allegations, I defy the allegators."

"Let's do this in one foul swoop."

"I would like to take this time to reirritate my remarks."

"We have a permanent plan for the time being."

"Family planning has many misconceptions."




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