

Statement of Intent

Tla-o-qui-aht

1. **What is the First Nation Called?**

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

2. **How is the First Nation established?**

Legislation

Please Describe:

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation operates with a combination of Indian Act Band Council in consultation with Hereditary Leadership, and is negotiating as the legal entity known as the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

Is there an attachment?

No

3. **Who are the aboriginal people represented by the First Nation?**

The aboriginal people represented in the Statement of Intent are the members of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

4. **How many aboriginal people are represented by the First Nation?**

928 Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Citizens:

- Residing within Traditional Territory: 324
- Residing away from home: 604

Is there any other First Nation that claims to represent the aboriginal people described in questions 3 and 4? If so, please list.

No other First Nation claims to represent the aboriginal people described in 4 and 5 above in Treaty negotiations.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation continues to be a full member of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, and some programs and services are provided to the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (or, as the case may be, to individual citizens of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation) through the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

5. **Please list any First Nations with whom the First Nation may have overlapping or shared territory.**

Understandings have been reached pertaining to a small remaining 'shared area' and meetings are yet to be concluded to a 'shared area' agreement. Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation is not actively pursuing Treaty Land Selection within the 'shared area'.

- Between Ahousaht First Nation regarding adjoining borders on Meares Island.
- Between Ucluelet First Nation regarding adjoining borders in the area of Kennedy Lake Watershed following the principle of 'height of land, and flow of water'.
- Between Hupacasath First Nation regarding adjoining borders at 'Sutton Pass' following the principle of 'height of land, and flow of water'.
- Between Toquaht First Nation regarding adjoining borders in the area of Kennedy Lake Watershed following the principle of 'height of land, and flow of water'.

This list summarizes the status of overlap issues known to Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

6. **What is the First Nation's traditional territory in BC?**

See map showing the Haahuulthii, (traditional territory) of the Tla-o-qui-aht Hawiih (Chiefs).

Map Available?

Yes

7. **Is the First Nation mandated by its constituents to submit a Statement of Intent to negotiate a treaty with Canada and British Columbia under the treaty process?**

Yes

How did you receive your Mandate? (Please provide documentation)
The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation has been a lead participant in the Nuuchahnulth Treaty Table for many years. From the filing of Nuuchahnulth Statement of Intent in 1994, the Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty Team has been actively pursuing the development of a Treaty relationship with Canada and BC to resolve the many outstanding issues in respect of aboriginal Rights and Title. Throughout the course of these negotiations, the treaty team has regularly

reported out to TFN members at community meetings and annual assemblies, and through its own newsletters and Ha-shilth-sa, the NTC newsletter that is widely distributed among NTC constituents.

At a duly called membership meeting held in the month of September of 2001, the general membership of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation passed a motion requesting that the Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty Team consider pulling away from the Nuu-chah-nulth Treaty Table as a means of advancing Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty issues.

Since this motion was passed, the Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty Team pursued the advancement of Tla-o-qui-aht Rights and Title issues through streams of activity such as the enlargement of Esowista reserve and the earmarking of land Parcels 1 and 2; Tofino Protocol; Tribal Park planning project and sustainability plan for the Esowista Peninsula. Constituents were regularly updated on these activities and were required to approve the proposal on the enlargement of the reserve. They have also been informed by word of mouth and by way of negotiating meetings open to members of the options for advancing negotiations either separately or in association with the Nuu chap nulth treaty team.

The decision to submit a separate statement of intent has been endorsed by band council resolution and with the consent of the Tla-o-qui-aht hereditary chiefs.

8. **Contact Person:** Victor Pearson
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