





GITANYOW GOVERNANCE ACCORD

("Accord")

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GITANYOW NATION, as represented by the Simgigyet'm Gitanyow ("Gitanyow")

AND:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA, as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations ("Canada")

AND:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, as represented by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation ("British Columbia")

(each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties")

WHEREAS:

- A. Gitanyow has a hereditary governance system which existed prior to contact and which has continued to the present day;
- B. Gitanyow comprises two Pdeek, the Lax Gibuu and the Lax Ganada, organized into eight Wilp: the Wilp Lax Gibuu of Gwass Hlaam, Wii'litsxw, Malii, and Haizimsque and the Wilp Lax Ganeda of Gamlaxyeltxw, Gwinuu, Luuxhon and Watakhayetsxw;
- C. The Gitanyow system of governance is the Wilp system, which comes together as Gitanyow Huwilp on common issues;
- D. Gitanyow developed and adopted the Gitanyow Constitution in 2009 to reflect the Wilp system;
- E. Canada and British Columbia have endorsed and committed to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP") and, to that end, British Columbia enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

("Declaration Act") in 2019;

- F. UNDRIP recognizes that Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy and self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs;
- G. UNDRIP recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;
- H. UNDRIP recognizes the right of Indigenous people to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions, the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures;
- I. Gitanyow and British Columbia signed the Gitanyow Huwilp Recognition and Reconciliation Agreement ("RRA") in 2011 which set the foundation for a government-to-government relationship through the recognition of the Simgigyet and Sigidimhanak and the establishment of the Gitanyow Lax yip Land Use Plan;
- J. The relationship established by the RRA along with British Columbia's commitment to implement UNDRIP led in 2019 to British Columbia and Gitanyow developing a 25-year visionary plan for reconciliation;
- K. In September 2019, Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Summit signed the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia ("Rights Recognition Policy") which acknowledges the need to create new nation-to-nation relationships based on the recognition of rights, reconciliation, respect, cooperation and partnership;
- L. The visionary plan, British Columbia's *Declaration Act*, and the Rights Recognition Policy positioned the Parties to begin tripartite negotiations in February 2020 that includes an incremental path to self-government implementation; and
- M. The Parties are engaged in the BC treaty process and are committed to a establishing a new approach to recognition of inherent Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title guided by the Rights Recognition Policy.

Now therefore the Parties agree as follows:

1. RECOGNITION OF GITANYOW AND ITS AUTHORITY

- 1.1. Gitanyow is an Aboriginal people of Canada with an inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act,* 1982.
- 1.2. Canada and British Columbia recognize that Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title are held by each Wilp in that Wilp's Lax yip and that each Wilp, through its Simogyet, has authorities and responsibilities for that Lax yip in accordance with Gitanyow Ayookxw.
- 1.3. Canada and British Columbia's recognition in sections 1.1 and 1.2 is an initial step on a reconciliation pathway, and the Parties intend to recognize and affirm the legal effect of components of Gitanyow's inherent self-government rights in the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement to be negotiated pursuant to section 3.1.
- 1.4. Each Wilp will act through the Simgigyet'm Gitanyow with respect to Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title, for the purposes of their relationship with Canada and British Columbia while the Parties are negotiating the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The Parties are entering into this Accord to:
 - a) take an incremental step towards achieving their shared vision:
 - Gitanyow Hereditary Governance is supported, rebuilt, recognized and thriving through formal recognition and respect for the Gitanyow Hereditary Governance system restored to a fully independent governing system with its own laws and structures supporting it, funding is secured and redress is achieved, with Gitanyow sharing in the resources of the Lax yip and sustaining its own governance;

and

b) formally establish a pathway, as described in section 3.1, to legally recognize the Gitanyow Nation's inherent right to self-government guided by the milestones set out in Schedule 1.

3. GITANYOW INHERENT GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

- 3.1. The Parties agree to negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement within five years of the Signing Date that would, at a minimum:
 - a) recognize Gitanyow Hereditary Governance based on a revitalized Gitanyow Constitution to be developed by Gitanyow;
 - b) recognize Gitanyow and each Wilp as legal entities with the capacity, rights,

- powers and privileges of natural persons under Canadian law;
- c) recognize Wilp and the Gitanyow Huwilp law-making authority over the administration, management and operation of Gitanyow Hereditary Governance structures and other jurisdictions as may be agreed upon by the Parties;
- d) be ratified by Canada, British Columbia and Gitanyow;
- e) establish terms to transition out of the *Indian Act, RSC, 1985, c. I-5* ("*Indian Act*");
- f) provide for a clear understanding of the relationship of federal law, provincial law and Gitanyow Ayookxw, including the priority of laws;
- g) establish a fiscal relationship between Canada and Gitanyow;
- h) establish a government to government relationship that is stable, predictable and reliable; and
- i) establish a process for negotiating other areas of jurisdiction.
- 3.2. The milestones and key steps set out in Schedule 1 will guide the Parties when negotiating the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.
- 3.3. Canada and British Columbia acknowledge that they each have a role in supporting the revitalization of Gitanyow Hereditary Governance through direct or indirect financial support or through delivery of programs and services.
- 3.4. In order to support Gitanyow in the process of revitalization and recognition of Gitanyow Hereditary Governance, Canada will seek authorities as soon as possible, to provide multi-year funding to Gitanyow, through the Gitanyow Huwilp Society to support the following:
 - a) the development of a registry of traditional laws and consensus decisions;
 - b) the development of a Gitanyow citizenship / membership code;
 - c) the review, amendment and ratification of an updated Gitanyow Constitution that includes Gitanyow Wilp Member involvement;
 - d) the development of policies, procedures and structures (for example financial administration protocols and conflict of interest guidelines);
 - e) Gitanyow's development of a proposal for the sharing of resources based on the recognition of Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title consistent with the Rights Recognition Policy;

- f) public education about Gitanyow and Gitanyow Hereditary Governance; and
- g) other agreed-upon areas.
- 3.5. The Parties acknowledge that Canada's authority to provide direct or indirect funding to support section 3.4 is subject to the appropriation of funds by the Parliament of Canada.
- 3.6. Gitanyow and British Columbia acknowledge that British Columbia is currently providing funding that supports the development of their intergovernmental relationship through agreements outside this Accord, including the RRA. Gitanyow and British Columbia will make good faith efforts to extend the RRA, including resourcing under that agreement, for two years while the Parties continue to advance progress towards the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.
- 3.7. The Parties will work collaboratively to engage Gitanyow Wilp Members, local government, local stakeholder organizations, industry and the public to promote understanding of Gitanyow and Gitanyow Hereditary Governance and the negotiation of the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.
- 3.8. The Parties acknowledge that Canada and British Columbia may have consultation obligations that may need to be fulfilled before the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement can be concluded.

4. TRIPARTITE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

- 4.1 The Parties will establish a Tripartite Governance Working Group within 45 days of the Signing Date of this Accord and each Party will appoint at least one member as its representative.
- 4.2 The Tripartite Governance Working Group will:
 - a) establish its own terms of reference;
 - b) support the implementation of the Gitanyow Hereditary Governance Revitalization Plan;
 - c) support the negotiation of the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement;
 - d) develop a communications strategy with respect to the implementation and content of this Accord;
 - e) be the forum for the Parties to discuss the ongoing implementation and review of this Accord;
 - f) include the Gitanyow Band Council, where appropriate;
 - g) discuss the Gitanyow eligibility and enrollment process to be developed by

Gitanyow; and

h) discuss the ratification process to be developed by Gitanyow.

5. NATURE OF THIS ACCORD

- 5.1 This Accord is not legally binding and does not:
 - a) constitute a treaty or land claims agreement within the meaning of section 25 or 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
 - b) establish, create, amend, define, affirm, recognize, deny, abrogate, or derogate from any Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title;
 - c) constitute an admission, prejudice or restrict the position that any Party may advance in any processes, legal actions, proceedings or negotiations in respect of the nature, scope and content of Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title, including the right of self-government;
 - d) affect or interfere with the legislative authority of Canada or British Columbia;
 - e) constitute an admission by any Party in respect of authority or jurisdiction in the Lax yip;
 - f) alter the Constitution of Canada, including the distribution of powers between Canada and British Columbia; or
 - g) create or imply any financial obligation or service responsibility on the part of any Party.
- 5.2 This Accord sets out the Parties' intentions to negotiate in good faith and does not create any legally binding obligations on any Party other than the obligation to seek mandates and to negotiate in a manner that is consistent with the honour of Crown.
- 5.3 Nothing in this Accord will affect the application of the *Indian Act* to the Gitanyow band or their members including:
 - a) Gitanyow band's status as a "band" under the *Indian Act* or their internal operations or funding; or
 - b) any individual's rights or benefits under the *Indian Act*, including the right to be registered as an "Indian" under the *Indian Act* or to be a "member of a band".

6. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

6.1 **Gitanyow Representations and Warranties.** Gitanyow represents and warrants, with the intent and understanding that it will be relied on by the other Parties in entering into this Accord, that:

- a) it has the legal power, capacity and authority to enter into this Accord on its own behalf and on behalf of Gitanyow Wilp Members; and
- b) it has taken all necessary actions and has obtained all necessary approvals to enter into this Accord for and on behalf of Gitanyow Wilp Members.
- 6.2 **B.C. Representations and Warranties**. British Columbia represents and warrants, with the intent and understanding that it will be relied on by the other Parties in entering into this Accord, that it has the authority to enter into this Accord.
- 6.3 **Canada Representations and Warranties**. Canada represents and warrants, with the intent and understanding that they will be relied on by the other Parties in entering into this Accord, that it has the authority to enter into this Accord.

7. Other Aboriginal People

7.1. Nothing in this Accord affects or recognizes any rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* of any other Aboriginal peoples.

8. Interpretation

- 8.1. There will be no presumption that any ambiguity in any of the provisions of this Accord should be interpreted in favour of any Party.
- 8.2. The recitals and all headings in this Accord do not form a part of this Accord and are not intended to interpret, define, limit, enlarge, modify or explain the scope, extent or intent of this Accord or any of its provisions.
- 8.3. In this Accord, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular, unless the context otherwise requires.
- 8.4. The use of the word "including" means "including, but not limited to", and "includes" means "includes, but not limited to".
- 8.5. In this Accord, a reference to a statute includes all regulations made under that statute and any amendments or replacements.

9. CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATIONS

- 9.1. All negotiations pursuant to this Accord, and all related documents, are confidential and without prejudice ("Confidential Information") and cannot be disclosed to non-Parties, unless the Parties otherwise agree in writing or disclosure is required by law.
- 9.2. British Columbia acknowledges that the disclosure of Confidential Information to any other party could be reasonably expected to harm the relations between British

Columbia and Gitanyow. If British Columbia receives a request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 165 to disclose Confidential Information, British Columbia will provide Gitanyow with notice and an opportunity to make representations as to why the Confidential Information should not be disclosed.

- 9.3. Canada acknowledges that the disclosure of Confidential Information to any other party could be reasonably expected to interfere with negotiations pursuant to this Accord. If Canada receives a request under the Access to Information Act, RSC, 1985, c. A-1 ("ATIA"), and Canada intends to disclose Confidential Information, Canada will provide Gitanyow with notice and an opportunity to make representations as to why the Confidential Information should not be disclosed, in accordance with the provisions of the ATIA.
- 9.4. If any Party is otherwise required by law to disclose Confidential Information, that Party will provide the other Parties with notice so that those Parties can take any steps they deem appropriate to protect the Confidential Information against disclosure.

10. NOTICE

10.1. Any communication under this Accord will be delivered to, mailed to the address or transmitted to the fax number, of the intended recipient as set below:

For: Canada

Attention: Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Room 583, Confederation Building

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Fax Number: (819) 953-4941

For: British Columbia

Attention: Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Room 310, Parliament Buildings PO Box 9051 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2

Fax Number: (250) 953-4856

For: Gitanyow Nation

Attention: Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

PO Box 148

Gitwanga, British Columbia V0J2A0

Fax Number: (250) 849-5375

10.2. A Party may change its addressee, address or fax number by giving notice of the change to the other Parties.

11. DEFINITIONS

11.1. In this Accord:

"Accord" means this Gitanyow Governance Accord and includes any schedules;

"Adawaak" means true traditions; the ancient histories passed down by oral tradition. The Adawaak describe the ancient migrations of a Wilp, the acquisition and defence of its territory, and major events in the life of the house, such as natural disasters and war, the establishment of trade alliances and major shifts in power. The Adawaak also contain limx'oy or laments. The Adawaak are perpetuated by the memory of heirs to chiefly positions and are repeated and witnessed by each generation of chiefs at important Li'ligit (feasts);

"Ayuuks" means Wilp crests depicted on Git'mgan, regalia, blankets and other personal items that arise from specific events in the history of the house, as described in the Adawaak, and are exclusive to a Wilp. The Ayuuks shows the identity of a Wilp and its members, and identifies the sacred connection to their Lax yip.

"British Columbia" means, unless the context otherwise requires, Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of British Columbia;

"Canada" means, unless the context otherwise requires, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada:

"Gitanyow" and "Gitanyow Nation" means the collective of Gitanyow Wilp Members;

"Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title" means Gitanyow Aboriginal rights, including title and self-government rights, recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;

"Gitanyow Ayookxw" means Gitanyow law(s), including the Gitanyow Constitution, that among other things: govern the ownership of Gitanyow land and resources, conduct of Li'ligit (feasts), relationships with one another and inheritance; are founded on knowledge, experience and practice which are thousands of years old and are recounted in the Adawaak and Ayuuks; are affirmed and confirmed through testimony on the Adawaak and the Li'ligit; and may be adopted in order to meet new and evolving challenges of the contemporary world and ensure peace and order for the Gitanyow Huwilp;

"Gitanyow Band Council" means the council of the Gitanyow band as that term is defined under the *Indian Act*;

"Gitanyow Constitution" means the constitution of the Gitanyow Nation adopted in 2009, as amended from time to time;

"Gitanyow Hereditary Governance" means the Gitanyow Wilp and Gitanyow Huwilp as the

governing bodies of Gitanyow authorized to act on behalf of Gitanyow Wilp Members, including in relation to Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title, in accordance with Gitanyow Ayookxw;

"Gitanyow Hereditary Governance Revitalization Plan" means the plan to be created by Gitanyow to revitalize Gitanyow Hereditary Governance and transition from the *Indian Act* as described in milestone 1 in Schedule 1;

"Gitanyow Huwilp" means the eight Gitanyow Wilp working together;

"Gitanyow Huwilp Society" means the society incorporated under the Societies Act, SBC 2015, c 18, which is the administrative body for the Simgigyet'm Gitanyow;

"Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement" means a self-government agreement to be negotiated pursuant to section 3.1 of this Accord;

"Gitanyow Wilp" or "Wilp" means each of the eight social, political and governing units of the Gitanyow Nation: Gwass Hlaam, Wii'litsxw, Malii, Haizimsque, Gamlaxyeltxw, Gwinuu, Watakhayetsxw and Luuxhon;

"Gitanyow Wilp Members" means individuals who are entitled to exercise Gitanyow Aboriginal Rights and Title;

"Governance Model" means the Gitanyow Hereditary Governance structures as outlined in the revitalized and ratified Gitanyow Constitution;

"Lax yip" means the Wilp Territories;

"Pdeek" means the clan of a Gitanyow Wilp Member;

"Sigidimhanak" means Gitanyow Matriarch;

"Simgigyet'm Gitanyow" are all the Gitanyow hereditary Chiefs of the eight Gitanyow Wilp;

"Simogyet" means a Wilp Chief, plural is "Simgigyet";

"Signing Date" means the date when the Accord has been signed by all Parties; and

"Tripartite Governance Working Group" means the group established to undertake the duties outlined in section 4.2 of this Accord.

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12. SIGNATURES

(including a photocopy or facsimile copy) and delivering it to the other Parties by electronic transmission. Gwass Hlaam (George P. Daniels) Witness Gamlaxyeltxw (Will Marsden) Date Date

12.1 This Accord may be entered into by each Party signing a separate copy of this Accord

Allons	
Malii (Glen Williams)	Date
Harry Dimily Witness	Que 11, 2021
Oleration	 Date
Watakhayetsxw (Deborah Good)	Date
Harry David	lug 11, 2021
Witness	
Haizimsque (Ken Russell)	Date
Boly Russell Witness	Aug 11, 2021
D- Rreadl	
Luuxhon (Don Russell)	Date
Berly Russell Witness	Aug. 11, 202

Joel Starlund	
Joel Starlund	Date
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs – Executive Director	
Buly Russell Witness	Aug. 11, 2021
77h-	44910/2
Witnessed by Axwin Desxw (Tony Morgan, Chief Councillor)	Date
Sholy-Bernett	AUG 0 5 2021
Honourable Carolyn Bennett	Date
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations	
Sarah labelle	
Witness	
Marin Pankin	August 11, 2021
Honorable Murray Rankin	Date
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	
	August 11, 2021
Witness	

Schedule 1: Governance Milestones

Governance Milestone 1: Gitanyow Develops Gitanyow Hereditary Governance Revitalization Plan. The

Gitanyow Hereditary
Revitalization Plan will include
steps to amend and ratify the
Gitanyow Constitution, develop
a Gitanyow citizenship code and
establish registries and other
steps to support Gitanyow in
transitioning from the *Indian*Act.

Gitanyow will complete the steps in the Gitanyow
Hereditary Governance
Revitalization Plan within 3
years of the Signing Date of the Accord.

Milestone 1 – Key Steps

Gitanyow develops Gitanyow Hereditary Governance Revitalization Plan that includes steps to:

- 1. Amend and ratify revitalized Gitanyow Constitution to:
 - a) Describe the Governance Model:
 - Description of governing institutions;
 - Relationship between governing institutions;
 - Roles and authority of governing institutions; and
 - Description of selection of Simgigyet .
 - b) Describe how the Gitanyow Wilp and Gitanyow Huwilp make their decisions:
 - Authority of Gitanyow to make laws;
 - Gitanyow Wilp Members' rights and freedoms;
 - Decision-making processes;
 - Procedures for the review and appeal of decisions;
 - Conflicts of interest rules and procedures;
 - Financial administration and accountability; and
 - Land holding and receiving land returned from BC.
 - c) Indigenous non-citizen participation/rights in Lax yip.
- 2. Develop a citizenship code that sets out:
 - a) Defined rights, roles and responsibilities for Gitanyow Wilp Members/non-Wilp Members within Lax yip;
 - b) Citizenship rules;
 - c) Citizenship application process; and
 - d) Review and appeal processes for citizenship decisions.

- a) Citizenship;
- b) Gitanyow Ayookw;
- c) Simgigyet; and
- d) consensus decisions.
- Describe the ratification processes for Citizenship Code, Constitution and Inherent Governance Agreement
- 5. Identify other steps to recognize and revitalize Gitanyow Hereditary Governance and transition from the *Indian Act*, to inform negotiations of the Inherent Governance Agreement.

Governance Milestone 2:

Negotiate Inherent Governance

Agreement. The Parties negotiate the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement within 5 years of the Signing Date to immediately implement specified areas of Gitanyow jurisdiction and identify steps to implement further areas of Gitanyow jurisdiction as a self-governing nation based on the Governance Model and their intergovernmental relationship.

Milestone 2 – Key Steps

- 1. The Parties negotiate the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement that includes:
 - Recognition of Gitanyow and each Wilp as legal entities;
 - b) Recognition of Gitanyow's internal governance jurisdiction;
 - c) Identification of other specific areas of jurisdiction;
 - Health,
 - Language,
 - Children and Family,
 - Education,
 - Housing,
 - Social development,
 - Economic development, and
 - Environmental protection.
 - d) Steps and processes to transition out of *Indian Act*;
 - Plan for administration of programs, and
 - Financial administration.
 - e) Relationship of laws among Gitanyow, Canada and British Columbia;

Negotiate Other Areas of	1. The Parties will negotiate amendments to the	
Governance – Milestone 5:	Milestone 5 – Key Steps	
Governance Agreement.	Governance Agreement.	
Implement Gitanyow Inherent	1. The Parties implement the Gitanyow Inherent	
Governance – Milestone 4:	Milestone 4– Key Steps	
	The Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement comes into force.	
formally recognize Gitanyow's government on a coming-into-force date.	3. British Columbia and Canada obtain all necessary approvals including with respect to any policy and legislation required to implement the Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.	
Parties seek necessary approvals to ratify Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement and	Gitanyow notifies Gitanyow Wilp Members, British Columbia, and Canada of outcome of its ratification process.	
Ratify Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement. The	Gitanyow ratifies Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement.	
Governance – Milestone 3:	Agreement. Milestone 3 – Key Steps	
	5. The Parties initial the Gitanyow Inherent Governance	
	4. The Parties assess funding needs to sustain Gitanyow Hereditary Governance and negotiate a funding/fiscal agreement.	
	3. The Parties develop an implementation plan.	
	The Parties develop a communication plan for engagement with Gitanyow Wilp Members and stakeholders including feedback loops.	
	h) Provisions regarding Gitanyow participation outside of the Lax yip within the Province.	
	g) Description of non-Wilp Member participation; and	
	 f) Identification of legislative changes required by British Columbia or Canada; 	

Jurisdiction. The Parties expand	Gitanyow Inherent Governance Agreement or		
their intergovernmental	additional agreements to recognize additional areas of		
relationship and negotiate other	Gitanyow jurisdiction (outside of internal governance)		
areas of jurisdiction to expand	and the exercise of Gitanyow jurisdiction (law making		
and implement Gitanyow	authority) including in relation to land and resources:		
jurisdiction as a self-governing	a) Identify the list of specific areas;		
nation, including in relation to land and resources.	 b) Determine coordination and compatibility of jurisdiction and relationship of laws, and implementation of cooperative federalism; c) Assess application of Indian Act provisions (if any); d) Identify legislative changes required by British Columbia or Canada; and 		
	e) Identify funding options.		
Governance – Milestone 6: Full	Milestone 6 – Key Steps		
Implementation of the	1. The Parties will work together towards full		
Governance Model.	implementation of the Governance Model. The Parties		
	may outline additional key steps in this priority area		
	over time.		