

BC TREATY
COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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BC TREATY
COMMISSION





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Celeste Haldane
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

naw'si:yém' məsteyəx^w
Hello respected people

On behalf of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, it is my honour to present the 2025 Annual Report.

This year, the BC Treaty Commission (the Treaty Commission / the Commission / BCTC) celebrate 50 years of modern treaties in Canada, 25 years since the first modern treaty in British Columbia (BC), and two successful First Nation ratifications of the newest treaties. Innovations in treaty-making, agreements and tripartite negotiations continue to lead the way in reconciliation in Canada. The recent achievements of the Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and K'ómoks First Nations modern treaties, and the BC Supreme Court affirming Haida Title, demonstrate that the made-in-BC negotiations framework delivers results and creates reconciliation amongst First Nations and the governments of BC and Canada.

Now more than ever, we need to invest in locally created solutions, as we find ourselves in unprecedented geopolitical times and the demand for large scale economic development for a thriving economy. Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements provide the framework for reconciliation and legal certainty required for successful partnerships and sustainable resource development that will benefit all Canadians.

EVER CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Increasing geopolitical and economic forces have pressurized governments to stabilize and secure the economy with new initiatives and legislation aimed at encouraging large scale project legislation. First Nations economic prosperity generated through partnerships and self-governance can significantly address national socio-economic challenges. We urge both levels of governments to dedicate the same investments and focus to the made-in-BC treaty negotiations process, as equally important and in the national interest—the time is now to complete what



was started many years ago. Delaying progress may result in protracted legal cases, blockades and stagnation over land and resource rights which will ultimately impact the economy and future generations.

In our new report with Deloitte LLP, *Financial Benefits of Modern Treaties in British Columbia*, the findings are clear that modern treaty settlements represent a mutually beneficial opportunity that generate measurable financial returns and strengthens communities. Additionally, modern treaties increase stability and certainty of land and resources rights for sustainable development, economic growth, and lasting reconciliation. Continued commitment to negotiating, concluding, and implementing modern treaties, remains central to building a more prosperous and equitable society for all.

FORWARD MOMENTUM

Since the co-development of the *Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia* (RRR Policy), there has been significant acceleration of progress and conclusion of negotiations. Last year, we witnessed the initialling of three modern treaties and this year the three First Nations embarked on their ratification campaigns.

On March 9, the *K'ómoks First Nation Treaty: "A Living Agreement"* (K'ómoks Treaty) and the K'ómoks Constitution were ratified by their citizens with an overwhelming 'Yes'. Eligible voter turnout was over 91 per cent, 83 per cent voted in favour of the K'ómoks Constitution and 81 per cent voted in favour of the K'ómoks Treaty.

On April 11, the *Kitselas Treaty: A Living Agreement* (Kitselas Treaty) and the Kitselas Constitution were also ratified by their citizens with another overwhelming 'Yes'. Eligible voter turnout was over 96 per cent, 81 per cent voted in favour of the Kitselas Constitution and 85 per cent voted in favour of the Kitselas Treaty.

The mandate is clear, both the K'ómoks and Kitselas First Nations have exercised their right to self-determination, and both have chosen to leave the confines of the *Indian Act* and move forward with self-governance through modern treaty with Canada and BC.

These results prove what is possible in the made-in-BC negotiations process when innovative policy and legislation are implemented, parties are adequately resourced to negotiate, and there is strong leadership and political will from First Nations and governments.

The next steps in the ratification process are provincial ratification in the Legislative Assembly of BC and then federal ratification in the Parliament of Canada. Negotiations of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements are future-focused, legal and constitutional imperatives that are non-partisan. The Treaty Commission strongly encourages timely ratifications guaranteeing momentum to formalize new nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships.

Kitsumkalum First Nation is currently engaging its members on the *Kitsumkalum Treaty: A Living Agreement* (Kitsumkalum Treaty) and the Kitsumkalum Constitution. The vote is set for November 1, and the Commission looks forward to supporting and attending community engagements and the ratification vote.

TREATIES, AGREEMENTS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Modern treaties are constitutionally entrenched and are the highest form of reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations. The Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and K'ómoks treaties are living agreements, that will evolve and integrate future innovations in reconciliation and recognition of rights.

These three treaties are transformational instruments that incorporate the new legal landscape, and enhanced mandates and authorities, such as: fiscal mandates increasing the capital transfer; self-governance funding; and self-governance start-up costs; changes to taxation policies and powers; new self-governance authorities; approaches to the enforcement of laws; and, shared decision-making. These treaties embody the RRR Policy and Indigenous rights that are enshrined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP / UN Declaration).

These innovations have been crafted through co-development amongst all the parties in the negotiations, and have thoroughly vetted policy frameworks and mandates. The Treaty Commission urges the parties to utilize these advancements to expedite the conclusion of more treaties and tripartite agreements in BC.

The made-in-BC negotiations process supported the Council of the Haida Nation through their tripartite reconciliation journey and are the first to receive a declaration of title by the BC Supreme Court. It is through these negotiated agreements that there are predictability, protection and legal certainty for everyone living in Haida Gwaii, including private landowners.

In the *Cowichan Tribes v. Canada* the BC Supreme Court declared that Cowichan Tribes have aboriginal title over a small parcel of land which includes private property interests. This declaration has created legal uncertainty

regarding private property owners. While this decision is being appealed, the Treaty Commission wants to clarify that through the made-in-BC negotiations process private lands are only on the table on a willing-seller and a willing-buyer basis, and in other instances when a private land owner has wanted to return the land back to the First Nation in the spirit of reconciliation.

One of the many benefits of resolving the outstanding land question in BC, through the settlement of treaties and tripartite agreements, is for the very reason that the issues in the Cowichan case can be dealt with, by providing certainty over land and jurisdictions for all parties through honourable negotiations.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is no one-size-fits-all and the made-in-BC treaty negotiations framework supports flexible and incremental approaches to achieving reconciliation. Each First Nation can determine their best pathway for their visions of self-governance and reconciliation with the Crown.

As we have seen, negotiations continue to set the tone for renewed relationships and a pathway for a more equitable and prosperous future for everyone — First Nations, British Columbians and Canadians. This work at times can be very challenging, however, we must continue to move forward to create vibrant, healthy communities now and into the future. This is the time to re-set the relationship between First Nations and the Crown, moving toward reconciliation and mutually respectful partnerships through treaties and tripartite agreements.

IN CLOSING, we acknowledge and also hold our hands up to Angela Wesley and Lydia Hwitsum for their dedication and contributions, and welcome Commissioner George Abbott.

Hay čx^w qə Siem | Thank you respected ones

Celeste Haldane

CHIEF COMMISSIONER

The image features a close-up of purple flowers in the foreground, with a blurred background of a lake and trees. A large, stylized, light blue graphic element, resembling a wave or a stylized letter 'S', is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant, overlaid on the blue graphic.

CELEBRATING
TREATY MILESTONES:
K'ÓMOKS
AND KITSELAS



CELEBRATING TREATY MILESTONES

The initiallings of the Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and K'ómoks treaties in 2024 were particularly significant as these are the first to achieve this milestone since the groundbreaking shifts in federal and provincial rights recognition policies, including the RRR Policy, Declaration on the *Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), and *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDRIPA).

Modern treaties are protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and are integral for advancing reconciliation and creating a foundation for renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government partnerships between First Nations, Canada, and British Columbia. Treaties also represent the culmination of decades of relationship building, shared learnings, honourable negotiations, and government and capacity development for all the parties.

Initialling a treaty is an important milestone in the treaty journey and signifies the conclusion of substantive negotiations. The initialled treaty is still subject to certain caveats such as legal and technical review and ongoing consultation with neighbouring First Nations, which continues throughout the entire ratification process.

Treaties must be ratified by all three Parties to be given legal effect and constitutional status. The ratification process starts with the community vote by the First Nation, followed by the ratification of the Government of British Columbia, and then ratification by the Government of Canada.

All three First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia have dedicated tremendous effort and hard work to get to advance to ratification. The Treaty Commission congratulates and holds its hands up in respect and gratitude to all the Parties on reaching these incredible achievements.

Successful ratification by the First Nation is dependent on a number of factors. Key, of course, is the substance of the treaty itself. The land and financial components, with self-governance are core elements, and the constitutional status of the treaties. Additionally, key innovations preceded by mandate changes by governments, co-developed by all three parties to the treaty, and were instrumental in building community approval. All three initialled treaties contain these, and the 'Innovations' in the section that follows these two treaty ratifications.

Each treaty also has unique elements that are of particular importance to the First Nation, its members, and formed key part of the instructions and mandate of the negotiation teams. For K'ómoks the return of the Goose Spit lands,

which were critical to a successful treaty; and for Kitselas it was marine harvesting sites to maintain connections to their territory, culture and history.

THE K'ÓMOKS FIRST NATION TREATY RATIFICATION

tuwa ak^ws xoxot̓ ʔa x^w yixmetet̓ (ʔa) k^wstms
hehaw t̓ms g̓ɟe
“Care takers of the ‘land of plenty’ since time
immemorial”

Vision & Objectives

Moving Forward Together, in the context of the K'ómoks Vision and Values, the K'ómoks Treaty has outlined the following objectives:

- Recognizing the K'ómoks aboriginal rights and title and the inherent right to self-government
- Reconciling differences over lands and resource ownership and jurisdiction through a new treaty relationship that is flexible and intended to evolve over time
- Providing for an effective and sustainable K'ómoks self-government through, among other things, a common commitment to capacity building and a new and enhanced fiscal relationship
- Enhancing economic opportunities for K'ómoks, K'ómoks members and the surrounding community
- Preserving, revitalizing, and strengthening of the culture, language, and heritage of the K'ómoks First Nation¹

K'ómoks traditional territory spans the Comox Valley in the central eastern part of Vancouver Island, extending into Johnstone Strait. There are approximately 350 K'ómoks members.

¹ “K'ómoks First Nation,” *K'ómoks First Nation*, komoks.ca

The K'ómoks First Nation has been involved in treaty negotiations with Canada and BC since 1994. In March 2012, the Parties celebrated reaching a monumental milestone with the signing of the K'ómoks Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), which outlined the basis to complete the treaty and facilitate an initial land and capital package of roughly 2,043 hectares of land, and a capital transfer of \$17.5 million.

In July 2024, the Parties signalled their tripartite agreement by initialling the draft *K'ómoks First Nation Treaty “A Living Agreement”* (K'ómoks Treaty). The K'ómoks Treaty now includes ownership over 3,440 hectares of land, and an increased capital transfer totalling \$56 million, with an advance of almost \$6 million after the successful K'ómoks Treaty ratification vote but prior to the Effective Date. Additionally, a capital transfer of almost \$20 million will be paid by British Columbia to K'ómoks for economic development purposes, sewer service extension, forestry interests, and other K'ómoks community priorities.

“NO SPIT, NO DEAL!”

One key condition set by K'ómoks First Nation throughout the negotiation process was the return of Goose Spit, a sensitive and culturally important area to the K'ómoks people. The Goose Spit is divided into four different parcels. These all had to be addressed differently, including transfer to K'ómoks of the Goose Spit Lease Area and a lease of the K'ómoks Estuary Water Lot, and a sublease back to Canada for national defence. These complex treaty arrangements demonstrate that through treaty negotiations, even the most complex challenges can be addressed to meet core interests of the First Nation and create conditions for successful ratification of the treaty.

On March 8, 2025, the K'ómoks Constitution and Treaty Vote was held. K'ómoks members



exercised their right to self-determination by casting their votes. Speeches, cheers, and happy tears were shared after the vote result was determined; there was over 91 per cent of eligible voter participation, with 81 per cent in favour of the K'ómoks Treaty and 83 per cent in favour of the K'ómoks Constitution.

“This has been a momentous day for our Nation. The Treaty vote is a critical democratic process for our community. Every member’s voice counts. Our future includes all our members, no matter how they cast their vote. We will find a path for our people and move forward together — *hehewčis; Hayuthela la xens.*”

— Nicole Rempel, Chief Councillor,
K'ómoks First Nation

RATIFICATION RESULTS

The K'ómoks ratification vote conducted in accordance with the Ratification Committee Rules of Procedure and was overseen by an Official Electoral Officer. Prior to the ratification vote, there was an injunction application by a neighbouring First Nation, which was dismissed by the Court. The vote is one of many steps in the ratification process, which means there is time for the First Nations to engage with one another.

The vote went forward, and included advance electronic, mail-in and on-site voting, and in-person voting on the day with the support of a Deputy Electoral Officer. This was the first treaty vote to have electronic voting. The official K'ómoks Ratification results indicate the following votes were cast to ratify the K'ómoks Constitution and Treaty:

K'ÓMOKS CONSTITUTION AND TREATY VOTE RESULTS

Of the 238 Eligible Voters, 218 ballots were casted, approximately 91% voter turnout:

- 181 ballots marked “YES”, approximately 83%
- 35 ballots marked “NO”, approximately 17%
- 2 ballots were spoiled; and 0 ballots were determined to be invalid.

Official K'ómoks Ratification results indicate the following votes were cast to ratify the Treaty:

Of the 238 Eligible Voters, 218 ballots were casted, approximately 91% voter turnout:

- 177 ballots marked “YES”, or 81%
- 40 ballots marked “NO”, or 18%
- 1 spoiled ballot; and 0 ballots were determined to be invalid.²

To ratify both the First Nation's constitution and the treaty, a double majority was required; this means that at least 50% + 1 of enrolled members must participate in the vote, and then at least 50% + 1 need to vote in favour of the constitution and treaty. It should be highlighted that this is a higher threshold than both provincial and federal elections.

² Marcus Hadley, “K'ómoks Constitution and Treaty Ratification Vote,” March 12, 2025, komoks.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-03-12-Final_Certification-of-Komoks-Ratification-Vote_Mar12.pdf

THE KITSELAS FIRST NATION TREATY RATIFICATION

We are the Gitselasu, People of the Canyon.

Vision: Kitselas First Nation is a financially self-sufficient and self-governing Nation that provides responsible leadership in all we do.

We draw our resilience from our commitment to one another, learning from the past, acting in the present while planning for the future.³

Kitselas traditional territory spans inland from the northwest coast to the Skeena River Valley, in the Terrace area. There are approximately 780 Kitselas members.

Kitselas entered the made-in-BC negotiations process in the early 1990s as part of the Tsimshian Tribal Council (now the Tsimshian First Nations). Over the years Kitselas pursued their own treaty with Canada and BC, at a common negotiations table with the Kitsumkalum First Nation. In August 2015, the Parties reached a key milestone with the signing of the Kitselas AIP. At that time, the initial land and capital package included ownership of over 36,158 hectares of land, including former reserves, and a capital transfer of approximately \$34.7 million.

On June 24, 2024, the Parties reached agreement and initialled the *Kitselas Treaty: Living Agreement* (Kitselas Treaty). The Kitselas land and fiscal package now consists of ownership over approximately 38,223 hectares of land, 37 times more than current Kitselas reserve lands, and a significantly increased capital transfer of \$109,764,730, with additional one-time payments for infrastructure and economic development, which total approximately \$193.4 million, which will also earn approximately \$5 million in interest annually.

³ “About Kitselas,” *Kitselas First Nation*, kitselas.com/about/



The Kitselas Treaty also contains ownership of some sites in the marine area of their traditional territory that were the result of many years of negotiations. These sites are important to the Kitselas Nation so their members can continue to maintain their connection to the ocean and historical and cultural harvesting areas within those areas.

On April 10, Kitselas members exercised their self-determination right and overwhelmingly voted yes both to the Kitselas Constitution and Treaty.

RATIFICATION RESULTS

The ratification vote was conducted in accordance with Ratification Committee Rules of Procedure and was overseen by an Official Electoral Officer. Voting was conducted through advance electronic, telephone, mail-in and on-site voting, and in-person voting on the day with the support of a Deputy Electoral Officer. The official Kitselas Ratification results indicate the following votes were cast to ratify the Kitselas Constitution and Treaty:

“Our members have made their voice heard, and now we are taking control of our future. This agreement gives us ownership of our land, the right to govern ourselves, and better programs and services for our People. Freed from the constraints of the *Indian Act*, we can make decisions that reflect Kitselas Way—who we are and what we want for our community. This is a new beginning, and it will help us build a better future for generations to come.”

— Glenn Bennett, Chief Councillor, Kitselas First Nation

KITSELAS CONSTITUTION AND TREATY VOTE RESULTS

Of 556 Eligible Voters, 537 voted, approximately 96.6% voter turnout:

- 434 ballots marked “YES”, approximately 80.8%
- 97 ballots marked “NO”, approximately 18.1%
- 6 ballots were spoiled
- 0 of ballots were determined to be invalid.

Official Kitselas Ratification results indicate the following votes were cast to ratify the Treaty:

Of 556 Eligible Voters, 527 voted, approximately 96.6% voter turnout:

- 453 ballots marked “YES”, approximately over 85%
- 71 ballots marked “NO”, approximately 13.5%
- 3 ballots were spoiled
- 0 of ballots were determined to be invalid.⁴

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLMENT

For First Nations moving towards ratifying a treaty, Eligibility and Enrolment is a key aspect of treaty-making and nationhood. It is the process by which a First Nation determines and communicates to its members, the basis for, and benefits of, citizenship and the enrolment to vote on the treaty. Key aspects of this process include the establishment of clear eligibility criteria and the creation of enrolment procedures that uphold principles of fairness, transparency, and inclusivity.

Although, eligibility and enrolment are often referred together, they are two different processes. Eligibility precedes enrolment, which occurs before the First Nations ratification vote can be held. Eligibility is a collective agreement on a set of criteria for citizenship and is determined by the First Nations community according to their values and vision. Canada and BC also have a role and input into Eligibility criteria through the negotiations of an agreed upon treaty chapter. Enrolment is an activity undertaken by individual eligible citizens of the First Nation: in order to vote on the treaty; all eligible citizens are encouraged to enrol, as all votes matter, and voting is a clear means of expressing approval or disapproval of the treaty.

First Nation ratification of a treaty involves more than just the outcome of the vote. It is a community journey that happens throughout the negotiations, and includes creating a forward-looking process, building community around shared values, and developing a system of accountable and transparent governance.

⁴ Marcus Hadley, “Kitselas Constitution and Treaty Ratification Vote,” April 17, 2025, kitselastreaty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/FORM-12-Certification-of-the-Vote-Result-1_signed.pdf

“The negotiation and ratification processes take time, effort, capacity, and sheer determination. Building a strong team is critical. It takes Nation members and leaders, and a safe space where everyone feels comfortable asking hard questions.

The team sat with members to dispel fears and myths, including myths that people lose status, have to pay taxes, give up their rights, or that the Nation wasn’t ready for self-government. By pointing to specific treaty language and planning documents, we shifted the conversation from “I don’t know if I am for treaty” to “when do we vote?”

I truly believe K’ómoks succeeded in ratification because we made space for everyone at the table.”

— Ashley Wright, K’ómoks First Nation

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL RATIFICATION

A successful ratification requires an exceptional engagement team that can connect with First Nations, BC, and Canada. This is evidenced by the regional open houses held in cooperation with the First Nations, BC, and Canada. When the parties work together

on the engagement planning this ensures that everyone is committed to: raising awareness;

developing strong relationships with local governments; supporting long-term positive neighbour-to-neighbour relations; and engaging people in respectful dialogue on the issues that matter to them.

A transparent and accountable engagement process informs the parties in their respective ratification processes and this engagement and commitment bolster the ratification processes of the First Nation, and the legislative processes that both BC and Canada must undergo once the First Nation votes in favour of their treaty.





INNOVATIONS IN
NEGOTIATIONS

INNOVATIONS LEAD TO RATIFICATIONS

The made-in-BC negotiations process continues to evolve, remaining innovative and responsive to the changing legal and political landscape of First Nations title and rights recognition and self-determination. As reported last year, there has been significant progress on longstanding policy issues, such as taxation, enforcement of laws, treaty implementation, and the implementation of the UN Declaration. These innovations are now moving forward in co-developed language agreed to by all the Parties involved in specific negotiations. Innovations are becoming reality.

This section of the Annual Report focuses on the three ‘Initialled Treaties’, as these agreements are the most detailed examples of new changes in comprehensive language that have been approved by all the Parties. Other innovations, such as title recognition in the *Haida Nation Recognition Act* and *Gíihlagalgang “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands Agreement* (Rising Tide Agreement) are equally important and groundbreaking, and the Treaty Commission will report in the future as the transition to Haida jurisdiction over its title lands moves forward.

The ‘Initialled Treaties’ and the innovations provide strong foundations for reconciliation and renewing the nation-to-nation relationship and should expedite negotiations for many First Nations in the made-in-BC negotiations framework.

WHAT IS NEW IN THESE TREATIES?

There are numerous innovations in the ‘Initialled Treaties’, co-developed in the negotiations by all the Parties, under new mandates and approvals. Below is a list of some of the innovations, including some specific examples from the ‘Initialled Treaties’. For a greater understanding of all the innovations and specific language, reading the full text of the ‘Initialled Treaties’ is encouraged.

- Living agreements, not full and final agreements;
- Common objectives and socio-economic indicators;
- Periodic Renewal;
- Eligibility and enrolment membership criteria in the Nation Constitution;
- Section 87 of the *Indian Act* tax exemptions continue;
- Loan forgiveness;
- Interpreted in accordance with honour of the Crown and the UN Declaration;
- Recognition of Aboriginal rights and title and inherent right of self-governance;

- Recognition of First Nations Laws (e.g., Kitsumkalum traditional stories and law);
- Non-extinguishment of rights;
- Enforcement of First Nations laws (police, judge, prosecutors, officers, debt collection);
- Resource revenue sharing; and
- Co-management of territory.

While there have been many significant policy shifts that are included in the modern treaties, we are highlighting a select number of these innovations.

RECOGNITION, PREDICTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY

There are new predictability mechanisms and procedures for the evolution of treaties after their effective date. These include general recognition language acknowledging that a Modern Treaty Nation has pre-existing rights within their traditional territory, including title and the inherent right to self-government. Instead of exchanging, modifying or suspending pre-existing rights, the parties agree to implement pre-existing rights consistent with the terms of the agreement. Previous legal language that was more directed to a ‘once and for all’ contract—not appropriate to an ongoing government-to-government relationship, including ‘full and final’ settlement language has been dropped, to better reflect the distinct constitutional relationship between First Nations and the Crown, and flexibility mechanisms to support the living agreement.

These highlighted provisions are excerpts from either the *Kitselas Treaty: A Living Agreement* (Kitselas Treaty), and excerpts from the *K’ómoks First Nation Treaty, “A Living Agreement”* (K’ómoks Treaty). Below excerpts are from the Kitselas Treaty:

*S. 45 (General Provisions Chapter (GP))
“Canada and British Columbia recognize that Kitselas has Aboriginal rights within*

Kitselas’s traditional territory, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.”

S 46 (GP) “For greater certainty, the Aboriginal rights of Kitselas include Aboriginal title and the inherent right of self-government, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.”

There are new important interpretive provisions clearly establishing that the treaties will be interpreted according to higher principles that have been established through the courts and the international arena on Indigenous issues:

S. 8 (GP): “This Agreement shall be interpreted and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the honour of the Crown.”

S. 9 (GP): “The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an authoritative source for the interpretation of this Agreement, and, accordingly, informs the Parties in their implementation of this Agreement.”

These provisions elevate the UN Declaration as a foundational principle in modern treaties, constitutionally entrenched into the highest law of Canada.

The treaties make it clear that the idea of ‘extinguishing rights’ in exchange for a treaty is unfounded. The groundwork for these changes was made by the first Modern Treaty Nations, and further progress on this fundamental principle has been made in these new treaties. The paragraph below is from the K’ómoks Treaty reflects this:

S. 34 (GP): “Nothing in this Agreement or the Treaty Implementation Legislation modifies or extinguishes any Aboriginal rights of K’ómoks, and Canada and British Columbia will not assert against K’ómoks that any Aboriginal rights of K’ómoks are modified, surrendered or extinguished as a result of this Agreement or the Treaty Implementation Legislation.”

Treaties specifically recognize that each agreement is a living agreement and provides a foundation for an ongoing relationship amongst the Parties.

To support the principle of evolution, the Parties commit to specific treaty arrangements, such as Periodic Renewal, Orderly Process, the review and renewal of agreements associated with the treaty, the development of fiscal arrangements and fiscal provisions over time, the evolution of consultation arrangements, and other processes as agreed to by the Parties.

The Periodic Renewal provisions of each treaty further underpin the foundation of a living agreement, providing that every 10 years the treaties can be amended for:

- Socio-economic indicators;
- New rights determined by courts;
- Changes to laws and policy;
- Changes for unforeseen circumstances; and
- Inclusion of innovations in other modern treaties and land claims agreements.

During Periodic Renewal, the Parties are required to participate in the discussions and negotiations in good faith, reinforced with binding arbitration and punitive damages if good faith standards are not met.

RESTORING TAX EXEMPTIONS

Modern Treaty Nations no longer have to forfeit or phase-out tax exemptions post effective date. Section 87 provides tax-exemptions to *Indian Act* Bands and registered Status Indians under the *Indian Act* on reserve lands. In July 2022, the federal government announced this significant tax policy change to the application of section 87 of the *Indian Act* in self-government and modern treaty agreements.

Similarly, the provincial government enacted policy changes whereby Modern Treaty Nations will have the provincial sales tax exemption reinstated. These changes are not only relevant to First Nations implementing modern treaties, but also for First Nations currently in the made-in-BC negotiations process. The loss of tax exemptions has been a tremendous disincentive and challenge for First Nations' successful ratification of modern treaties.

Each Modern Treaty Nation may enter into an agreement with Canada and BC to limit the application of tax exemptions on their former reserves, if they choose to do so in the future.

ENFORCEMENT OF FIRST NATION LAWS

Enforcement of First Nations laws has been a serious gap in the implementation of modern treaties. The expanded laws that come with self-government are meaningless if a Nation cannot enforce them. This gap is now being seriously addressed in negotiations, and we expect to see future treaties with specific provisions and commitments that will support the enforcement of First Nation laws, giving proper respect to First Nations' self-governance. Modern treaties contain commitments ensuring that an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement is maintained on First Nation lands.

Modern treaties clearly define that it is the First Nations responsibility to enforce their own laws, there are very few mechanisms or resources available to Modern Treaty Nations to support their enforcement. This gap is becoming better understood by all through the collaborative discussions between First Nations in the negotiations process, BC, and Canada.

The solutions in these collaborative discussions have focused on access to justice for First Nation governments — not about creating a separate justice system or a separate police force. This is a significant advancement for modern treaties and the respect of First Nations laws, as partners in modern treaties.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF MODERN TREATIES

Modern treaties are national interest priorities that benefit Canada as a whole—fostering nation-to-nation partnerships, increased stability and certainty of land and resources rights for sustainable development, economic growth and lasting reconciliation.

The Treaty Commission updated its assessment of the financial benefits of modern treaties in British Columbia. This updated assessment builds on the approach and findings from six previous reports that evaluate the benefits of modern treaty settlements in BC, and uses the financial model developed in the 2016 Deloitte report *Socio-economic Benefits of Modern Treaties in BC* (2016 Report). The current *Financial Benefits of Modern Treaties in British Columbia* (2025 Report), report reflects new financial information from treaties settled since 2016, updated population data, and updated assumptions regarding treaty settlement rates.

The analysis is clear: modern treaty settlements are a meaningful driver of economic benefits for First Nations, BC, and Canadians. The financial analysis confirms that modern treaties will deliver significant net economic benefits of \$1.17 billion over the next decade. These settlements provide new sources of revenue, enable sustainable community investments, and create a foundation for long-term economic growth that will benefit First Nations, British Columbians, and all Canadians.

Critically, the pace of settlement (i.e., the number of treaties settled over a given timeframe) directly influences the scale of benefits achieved. Given the report's model assumptions (i.e., settling six treaties over 10 years), the sooner treaties can be negotiated and implemented the faster the benefits will materialize, delivering positive economic benefits earlier for all parties.

Beyond direct financial benefits, modern treaties advance reconciliation by supporting Indigenous self-government, affirming rights to land and resources, and enabling First Nations to pursue their own community development and wealth generation priorities. The removal of barriers such as negotiation debt and the preservation of tax exemptions further empower Nations to retain and reinvest locally generated revenues towards community infrastructure, housing, education, cultural revitalization, and much more. These outcomes foster healthier, more resilient communities and contribute to closing long-standing equity gaps.

Modern treaty settlements represent a mutually beneficial opportunities: they generate measurable financial returns, strengthen communities, and advance reconciliation. Continued commitment to negotiating, concluding, and implementing modern treaties remains central to building a more prosperous and equitable British Columbia.



DELOITTE REPORT CASE STUDY: TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

In the 2025 Report, the Commission and Deloitte worked with Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) to provide a case study on how lands controlled by a First Nation under a treaty can be leveraged for significant economic benefits.

Situated on the Fraser River Delta, Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty Settlement Lands are located within one of the most valuable real estate markets in Canada. Prior to treaty, however, the development potential of the land was constrained by the *Indian Act*, and a lack of adequate capital investment in community infrastructure. The signing of the TFN Treaty in 2009 marked a decisive turning point, unlocking that potential and enabling TFN to shift from managing scarcity to building a prosperous, self-determined and healthy future.

The case study with TFN shows how treaties can be a catalyst for a broad range of socio-economic benefits beyond what is measured using the financial benefits model and has helped TFN shift from managing scarcity to building a prosperous, self-determined and healthy future where decisions about land, governance, and finance rest entirely in the hands of the Modern Treaty Nation. Today, taxation revenue is used to fund local government operations and infrastructure, ensuring services like clean water, well-maintained roads, and essential utilities for members and leaseholders.

The case study and other findings in the 2025 Report demonstrates that the combined effect of governance control, land management, and financial autonomy has been transformative for the health, well-being, and quality of life of many Modern Treaty Nations, British Columbians, and Canadians.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE



OVERVIEW

A “First Nation” in the BC treaty negotiations process is a self-defined governing body with traditional territory in BC, established and mandated by its people to enter into negotiations with Canada and British Columbia. The treaty negotiations process affirms this principle of self-definition and nationhood.

IMPLEMENTING MODERN TREATIES (7)

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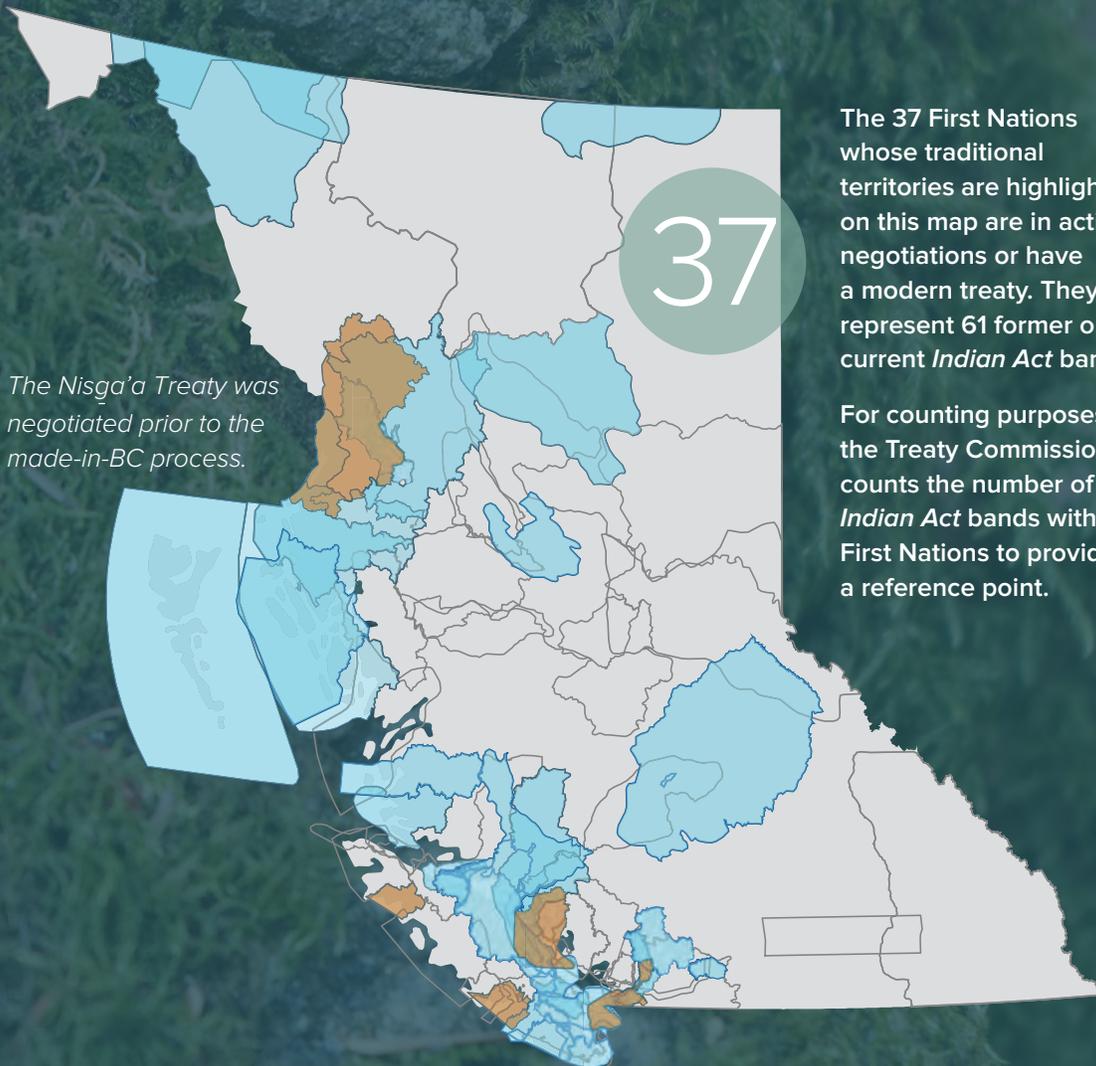
ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING (29)

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BY THE NUMBERS



There are 30 modern treaties in Canada. Eight are in BC.



The Nisga'a Treaty was negotiated prior to the made-in-BC process.

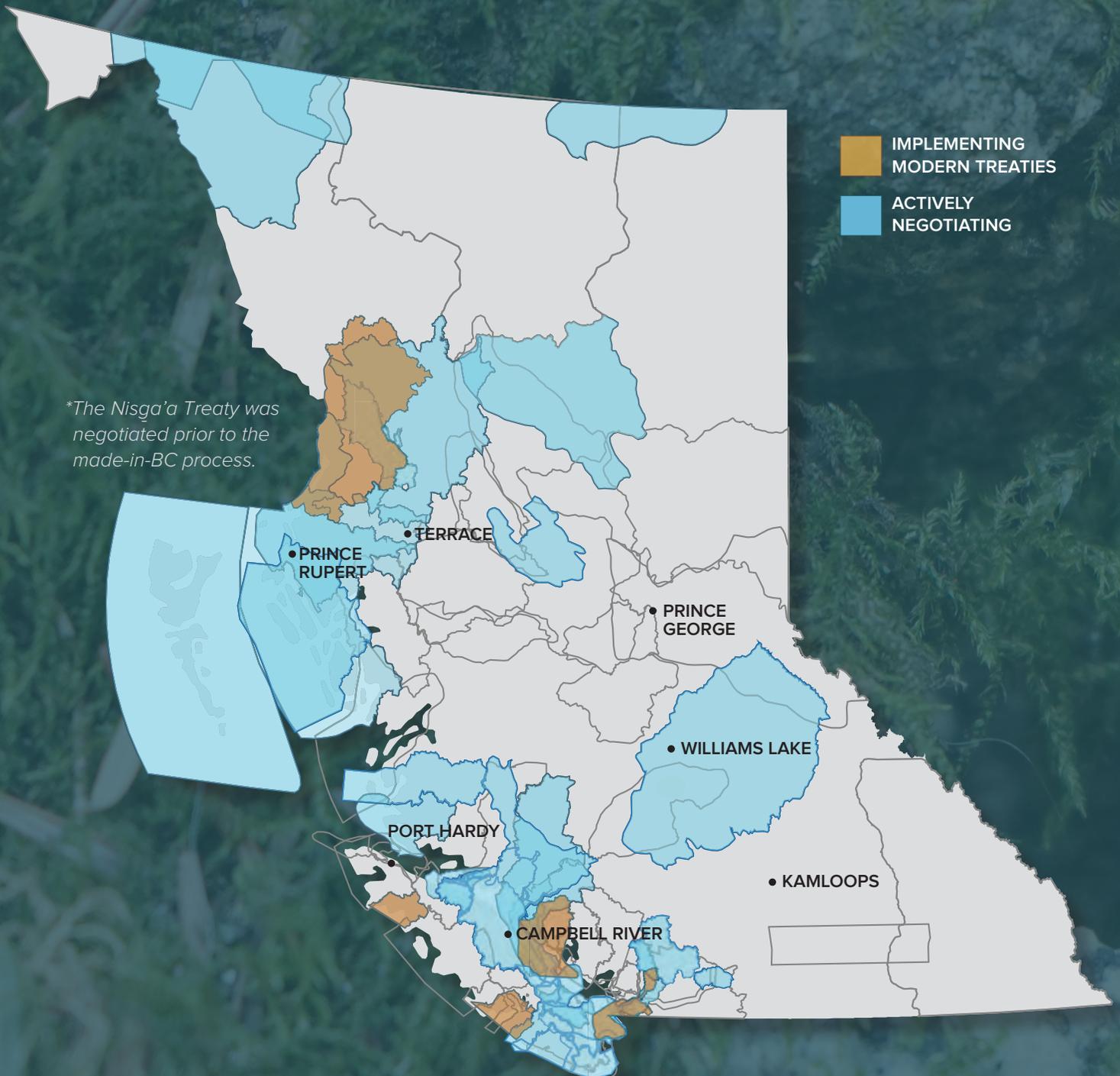
The 37 First Nations whose traditional territories are highlighted on this map are in active negotiations or have a modern treaty. They represent 61 former or current *Indian Act* bands.

For counting purposes, the Treaty Commission counts the number of *Indian Act* bands within First Nations to provide a reference point.

A MAP OF PROGRESS

The 37 First Nations whose traditional territories are highlighted on the map represent eight* Indigenous governments implementing modern treaties, and 29 First Nations in active tripartite negotiations.

In total, this map represents 61 current and former *Indian Act* bands.



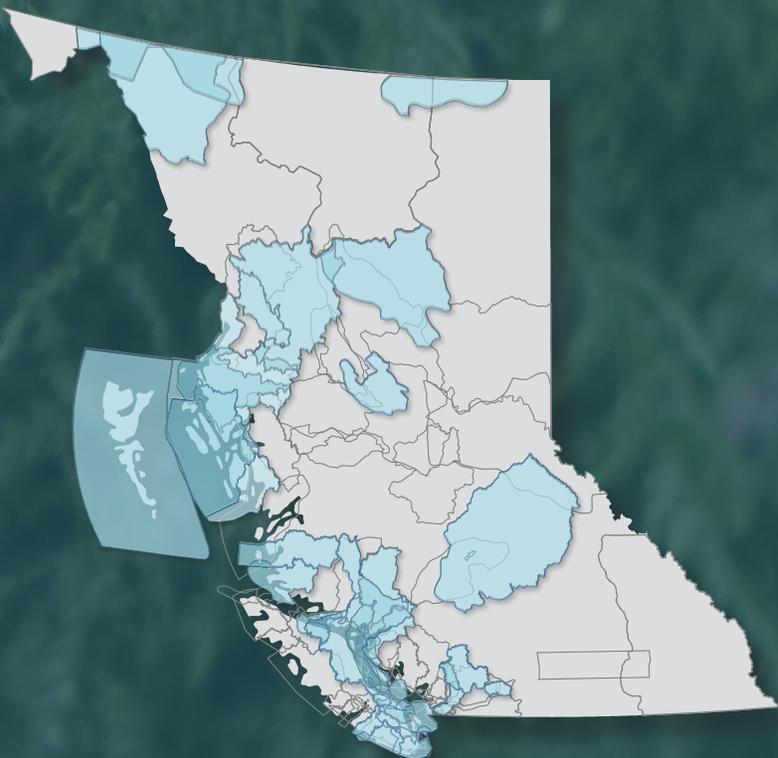
IMPLEMENTING MODERN TREATIES (7)



In BC, there are eight modern treaties being implemented. Seven were negotiated through the BC treaty negotiations process.

**The Nisga'a Treaty was negotiated prior to the made-in-BC process.*

ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING (29)



An interactive map of all First Nations participating in, or have completed treaties or agreements through, the BC treaty negotiations process is available at bctreaty.ca/map

BC TREATY
COMMISSION 

STATUS REPORTS

IMPLEMENTING MODERN TREATIES (7)



Modern treaties are living agreements that evolve over time. Implementing Modern treaties status reports share and celebrate recent milestones and developments since each treaty came into force.

The Treaty Commission does not provide funding to Modern Treaty Nations, only to First Nations currently negotiating treaties and tripartite agreements.

MAA-NULTH FIRST NATIONS

This year, Huu-ay-aht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h', Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, and Yuułu'ııʔatʰ First Nations (known collectively as the Maa-nulth First Nations), the Government of Canada (Canada), and the Province of British Columbia (British Columbia/the Province/BC) celebrated the 14th anniversary of the *Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement* (Maa-nulth Treaty). The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011, and is being implemented individually by each of the Maa-nulth First Nations. They continue to work collaboratively on common interests, including discussions on issues such as taxation. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of the Maa-nulth First Nations' Aboriginal rights as treaty rights—the treaty does not extinguish their rights. The Maa-nulth Treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and a new government-to-government relationship.

The Maa-nulth Treaty recognizes the Maa-nulth First Nations' rights and jurisdiction throughout their traditional territories, including ownership of 24,550 hectares of land. It provided a one-time capital transfer payment of \$73.1 million over 10 years. In addition, it provides \$1.2 million annually in resource royalty payments for 25 years and \$9.5 million annually for program funding.

On July 22, 2022, Canada announced changes to the requirement that modern treaties phase out section 87 tax exemptions of the *Indian Act*. Amendments to the Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on June 23, 2023, reinstating tax exemptions on the former *Indian Act* reserve lands of each of the Maa-nulth First Nations and for Maa-nulth Treaty beneficiaries who are registered or would be entitled to register under the *Indian Act* on all other reserves in Canada. British Columbia also reinstated exemptions to provincial sales tax.

Huu-ay-aht has approximately 730 citizens; Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' has approximately 580 citizens; Toquaht has approximately 160 citizens; Uchucklesaht has approximately 250 citizens; and

Yuuluʔiʔath has approximately 670 citizens. Their traditional lands and waters are located on the west coast of Vancouver Island surrounding the Barkley and Kyuquot Sounds. Maa-nulth First Nations have overlapping and/or shared territories with their First Nation neighbours: Ditidaht, Hupačasath, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Tseshaht.

» **Huu-ay-aht First Nations**

In 2025, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Huu-ay-aht), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 14th treaty anniversary. The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of Huu-ay-aht Aboriginal rights — the treaty does not extinguish Huu-ay-aht rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government relationship.

In January 2025, the *Oomiiqsu* (Aboriginal Mother Centre) opened its doors to all Indigenous families in the Alberni Valley to provide a safe, nurturing and culturally grounded environment for children and families. The *Oomiiqsu* is a direct response to Recommendation 26 of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Social Services Project Report (“Safe, Healthy, and Connected: Bringing Huu-ay-aht Children Home”).

Since implementing the treaty, Huu-ay-aht has made significant progress improving community well-being and advancing infrastructure investments. In 2023, Huu-ay-aht, along with Tseshaht First Nation and Hupačasath First Nation, partnered to build a Microtel Inn and Suites in Port Alberni, making it the first hotel to be opened in Port Alberni since 1980.

This year marked 13 years for Huu-ay-aht as a full voting member of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board, and its member representative is currently the Chair.

Since effective date, Huu-ay-aht has drawn its law-making authority to enact its Huu-ay-aht laws.

ABOUT THE STATUS REPORTS

- A “First Nation” in the BC treaty negotiations process is a self-defined governing body with traditional territory in BC, established and mandated by its people to enter into treaty negotiations with Canada and British Columbia. The BCTC Agreement and legislation affirms this principle of self-definition and nationhood.
- For statistical counting, the Treaty Commission counts the number of *Indian Act* bands within First Nations to provide a reference point.
- The overlap and/or shared territory information comes from each First Nation’s Statement of Intent and Readiness documents.
- Approximate population numbers are from the First Nations Community Profiles: fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

- **AIP:** Agreement in Principle
- **ITA:** Incremental Treaty Agreement
- **MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- **Parties:** Refers collectively to the negotiating parties at each specific negotiations table.
- **RRR Policy:** *Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights for treaty negotiations in British Columbia*
- **TSL:** Treaty Settlement Lands
- **UNDRIP:** *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

» Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations

In 2025, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' (KCFN), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 14th treaty anniversary. The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of KCFN Aboriginal rights—the treaty does not extinguish KCFN rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government relationship.

Over the course of 2025, KCFN has been focusing on community engagements and developing their strategic plan. In May 2025, KCFN members travelled to the Royal BC Museum in Victoria to begin repatriating sacred belongings back to the Nations.

Through Tiičma Enterprises (Tiičma), KCFN's economic development corporation, the Nation owns and operates three tourism ventures in Kyuquot Sound: Walters Cove Resort; Fair Harbour Marina and Campground; and the Purple Palace Hostel, which all have created jobs and sustainable economic development. Tiičma also oversees commercial projects in forestry, fisheries, tourism, and retail.

Since effective date, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations has drawn down its law-making authority to enact KCFN laws. On April 14, 2021, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations joined the Strathcona Regional District as full voting members of the Board.

» Toquaht Nation

In 2025, Toquaht Nation (Toquaht), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 14th treaty anniversary. The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of Toquaht Aboriginal rights—the

treaty does not extinguish Toquaht rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government relationship.

On April 1, 2025, Toquaht officially released its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan will help with the formation of a community master plan, a multiyear housing strategy, and assist with funding for housing for Toquaht citizens, service providers and staff. Toquaht undertook work to improve its infrastructure with the *Active Transportation Network Plan and Implementation Strategy* that focused on m̓aʔaquuʔa (Macoah) and Secret Beach, which included a \$350,000 funding grant to construct the Secret Beach Coastal Trail.

Capital projects are ongoing, including planning for a new government building at Secret Beach. The government building continues to progress and is expected to be completed by spring 2026. Toquaht has secured over \$94,000 through the *New Relationship Trust Food Security and Sovereignty Grant* to complete the design of a new food processing and storage building at m̓aʔaquuʔa. In March 2024, Toquaht finalized its *Planning and Land Use Management Act*, setting out community growth objectives and goals, to assist in decision-making with regards to land use management and economic development.

Since effective date, Toquaht has drawn down its law-making authority to enact Toquaht laws. Toquaht joined the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District board in 2016.

» Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

In 2025, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government (Uchucklesaht), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 14th treaty anniversary. The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of

Uchucklesaht Aboriginal rights—the treaty does not extinguish Uchucklesaht rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government relationship.

In 2025, Uchucklesaht continued making progress in economic development. In May, the First Nation received \$400,000 in provincial funding for the purpose of furthering several of its climate-related projects. One of the main uses will be for its *Climate Monitoring and Resilience Project*, which will highlight Uchucklesaht key priorities regarding climate action, including its long-term freshwater access and a climate baseline and forecast report.

In December 2024, Uchucklesaht achieved some of its environmental and economic goals through the purchase a forest tenure licence, which includes the rights to harvest 29,486 cubic metres of annual allowable cut.

Since effective date, Uchucklesaht has drawn down its law-making authority to enact Uchucklesaht laws. Uchucklesaht joined the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board in 2014.

» Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government

In 2025, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government (Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 14th treaty anniversary. The Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect on April 1, 2011. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Aboriginal rights—the treaty does not extinguish Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ rights.

The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government relationship. Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ has continued working on sustainable initiatives that protect

the environment and supports economic development.

In April 2025, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ applied to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resources for Community and Institutional Land Use situated on provincial crown land. Similarly in 2022, It has introduced a new solid waste management system and has undertaken the *ʔapsčiiik ʔašii (Hitacu Tashii)* Multi-Use Trail Project to improve pedestrian infrastructure and reduce reliance on carbon-emitting vehicles. Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ offered community and cultural programming for its citizens, including language classes and youth-oriented workshops.

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ operates a satellite office in the Uchucklesaht Government Building in Port Alberni to support their local members. Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ currently owns and operates Wya Point Resort, Wya Welcome Centre, and the Thornton Motel.

Since effective date, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ has drawn down its law-making authority to enact Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ laws. Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ joined the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board in 2012 and as of late 2022, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ holds a voting seat on the Tourism Ucluelet board of directors.

TLA'AMIN NATION

In 2025, Tla'amin Nation (Tla'amin), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their ninth treaty anniversary. The *Tla'amin Final Agreement* (Tla'amin Treaty) came into effect on April 5, 2016. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of Tla'amin's Aboriginal rights as treaty rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government-to-government basis. The treaty does not extinguish Tla'amin rights.

On the June 21, 2025, which also marks National Indigenous Peoples Day, Tla'amin Nation held

an opening ceremony for its new Cultural Centre: *ʔams ʔayɛ (Our House)*. Tla'amin celebrated the repatriation of two mortuary poles, in addition to paddles, masks, baskets and other culturally significant items, from the Museum of Anthropology at UBC and the Museum of Vancouver.

ʔams ʔayɛ, features a small museum that will hold cultural artifacts and promote Tla'amin culture and well-being. The traditional foods processing facility will serve as a place for Elders and knowledge keepers to share wisdom about procuring and preparing traditional and cultural foods, while also promoting food security. Funding contributions for these projects have come from Canada and the Province.

In August 2025, Tla'amin held a ground blessing for work at *tiskʷat*, as part of the Tla'amin's *tiskʷat* coming home project. *tiskʷat*, which is a collaborative project between Tla'amin, BC Housing and Lu'ma Native Housing Society, will bring 30 units of affordable rental housing, and marks Tla'amin Nation's first significant housing development outside the main community of *ʔšosəm*. This important work was made possible through an October 2023 MOU between Tla'amin and the Province that commits to protecting *tiskʷat*, Tla'amin's village site. The agreement, titled *yixmetštəm tiskʷat* (we are going to protect *tiskʷat*) outlines three protocols on how Tla'amin and BC will work together. These include economic development, environmental stewardship, and Tla'amin's goal for the land to be returned. Plans for the land include clean fuel production and housing.

There are approximately 1,220 Tla'amin citizens, with traditional lands and waters around the Powell River area, including Lasqueti and Texada Islands, and down through Cortes Island and the Comox Valley. Tla'amin has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Hul'qumi'num, K'ómoks, Klahoose, Kwiakah,

Homalco, Sechelt, Snaw-naw-as, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Qualicum.

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

In 2025, Tsawwassen First Nation (Tsawwassen), Canada, and British Columbia celebrated their 16th treaty anniversary. The *Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement (Tsawwassen Treaty)* came into effect on April 3, 2009. The Parties negotiated the treaty to provide certainty by agreeing to the continuation of Tsawwassen's Aboriginal rights as treaty rights. The treaty provides a basis for reconciliation and created a new relationship on a government-to-government basis. The treaty does not extinguish Tsawwassen rights.

In July 2025, Tsawwassen and the City of Delta were each given \$40,000 to collaborate on developing emergency notification plans and evacuation routes. Tsawwassen has long-standing service agreements with the City of Delta for both fire and police services, dating back to at least April 2009, when the Tsawwassen Treaty came into effect.

On May 30, 2025, Tsawwassen held a Respected Elders Centre Opening for their Elders. In April 2025, Tsawwassen participated in a successful sustainable ecosystem initiative that saw the release of 25,000 chum salmon fry into Watershed Park, which is a traditional harvesting location for the Nation. Watershed Park is Delta's largest park, with eleven kilometers of gravel trails for cycling, walking, jogging and horseback riding.

After reaching the 15th anniversary on April 3, 2024, Tsawwassen had the opportunity to initiate Periodic Renewal to identify and discuss any changes to the Tsawwassen Treaty, which supports the treaty being a living agreement that evolves over time. Engagement with the community on the Periodic Renewal has taken



place through online surveys, family meetings, and off-land sessions in the Okanagan Valley and the United States.

In terms of housing, a 36-unit family housing development has been completed on Tsawwassen land. All 36 units are occupied; 95 per cent are occupied by Tsawwassen members. On March 9, 2023, Tsawwassen’s legislators enacted the *Appropriations Act*, which outlines local government and member expenditures. In 2024, Tsawwassen began the process of incorporating 11 parcels of land at Brunswick Point as outlined in the Tsawwassen Treaty. The incorporation process was successfully completed in September 2024. The 11 parcels, which total approximately 173 acres, were within the boundaries of the City of Delta, adjacent to Tsawwassen Treaty Lands.

ALLIANCE OF BC MODERN TREATY NATIONS

All eight Modern Treaty Nations in BC—which include Huu-ay-aht, Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/ Che:k’tles7et’h’, Nisga’a, Tla’amin, Toquaht, Tsawwassen, Uchucklesaht, and Yuułu?if?ath—collaborate to address their shared provincial treaty implementation issues through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (the Alliance). In June 2025, leaders from the Alliance met with Premier David Eby, several ministers and senior officials to advance work around treaty rights, community safety, economic development and shared prosperity.

In 2024, the Alliance, in partnership with the Province, collaborated on new policy approaches to support the implementation of modern treaties in BC. These new policy approaches

include increased provincial support for Modern Treaty Nations to implement land and resource management provisions of their treaties. Furthermore, through a new, co-developed funding model, Modern Treaty Nations will be better situated to meet their obligations to their members.

Modern Treaty Nations can design Nation specific taxation approaches to fit the unique interests of the Nation, while ensuring alignment with the *Shared Priorities Framework*. As of January 1, 2025, Modern Treaty Nations have the authority to determine how to exercise their own property tax and assessment laws and policies.

As outlined in the Budget 2024, the Province partnered with Modern Treaty Nations to co-develop approaches to property tax and assessment on Modern Treaty Nation lands. On July 22, 2022, Canada announced a change to its requirement that Modern Treaty Nations phase out section 87 tax exemptions of the *Indian Act*.

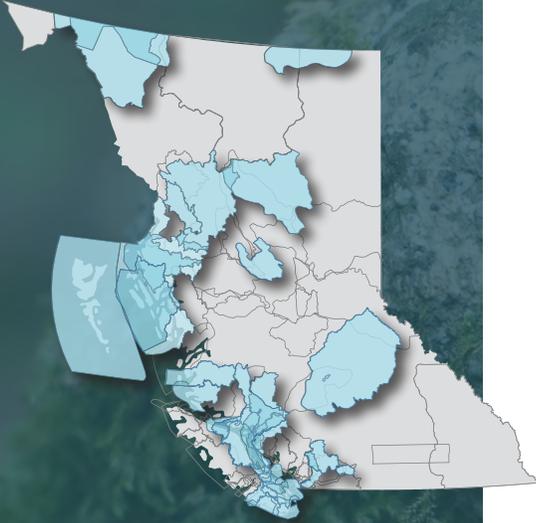
The *Shared Priorities Framework* was co-developed by the Alliance and the Province in 2022. The framework renews a commitment

to effective implementation of modern treaties and a foundation for government-to-government relationships based on mutual respect and established treaty rights. The shared priorities will establish: fiscal arrangements to fulfil treaty rights and obligations; meaningful participation of Modern Treaty Nations in the Province's legislative and policy initiatives; and changes in organization and policies in the provincial public service to advance a whole-of-government approach to treaty implementation. The Alliance meets regularly on common issues, including the future of government-to-government relations, the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Action Plan*, policing and enforcement, fiscal relations, co-management of fisheries, and shared decision-making for their lands and resources.

On July 24, 2018, the Maa-nulth First Nations, Tla'amin, and Tsawwassen, established the Alliance through the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation, witnessed by the BC Treaty Commission. In November 2019, Nisga'a Nation joined the Alliance, which now represents all eight Modern Treaty Nations in BC.

STATUS REPORTS

ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING (29)



ACHO DENE KOE

The Acho Dene Koe (ADK) negotiation table is in Stage 2. The Parties have been exploring the possibility of a tripartite reconciliation table.

In November 2024, ADK Holdings Ltd., the economic development corporation of ADK announced that it would be developing a geothermal energy development project in the Northwest Territories, with \$2 million in funding coming from the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program.

There are approximately 725 ADK members, with traditional lands and waters spanning three jurisdictions: BC, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. The ADK main community is Fort Liard, north of the BC/Northwest Territories border, and it maintains a small settlement at François Lake in northern BC. ADK has overlapping and/or shared territory in BC with its First Nation neighbours: Kaska Dena Council, Liard, Ross River Dena, and Fort Nelson.

ALLIED TRIBES OF LAX KW'ALAAMS

The Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams (Lax Kw'alaams) table is pursuing tripartite reconciliation negotiations to address their title and rights.

The negotiation table has made progress regarding economic and fiscal security, lands work, governance, policy and constitution development. Over the past few years there was significant community engagement.

On April 9, 2025, Lax Kw'alaams held a referendum on the proposed *Da'ax Kw'alaams Man-Ayaawx Constitution*. The vote did not meet the 60 per cent requirement, and the Constitution was not approved by its members. Lax Kw'alaams remains committed to exploring all future opportunities which will help achieve their interests.

There are approximately 4,240 Lax Kw'alaams members, with traditional lands and waters located on the northwest coast of BC, spanning Port Simpson, Prince Rupert, and the Skeena River. Lax Kw'alaams has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Haisla, Gitxaala, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, and Nisga'a.

CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATION

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (Carcross/Tagish) negotiates at a common table with Teslin Tlingit Council (Teslin Tlingit). The table is in Stage 4 negotiations. Both Carcross/Tagish and Teslin Tlingit are self-governing in the Yukon, with traditional territory in BC.

Over the past year, Carcross/Tagish has continued to work on land and water use planning, wildlife and legislation development. Carcross/Tagish continues to engage with their citizens as well as neighbouring First Nations who Carcross/Tagish works closely with on overlap/shared territory matters.

In August 2025, Carcross/Tagish signed a *Governance Agreement* with the Government of Canada, which covers the clean-up of three contaminated legacy sites within or adjacent to their territory.

There are approximately 745 Carcross/Tagish members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the Yukon/BC border. Carcross/Tagish has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Champagne and Aishihik, and Taku River Tlingit.

COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

The Council of the Haida Nation (Haida) table continues to pursue tripartite reconciliation negotiations to recognize Haida title and rights. The negotiation agenda includes priority and long-term topics for reconciliation that will redefine the relationship between Haida, Canada, and British Columbia. This includes work on governance, land and resource interests, culture, and economic opportunities.

On September 5, 2025, the Supreme Court of British Columbia issued a declaration recognizing and affirming the terrestrial areas of Haida Gwaii. This declaration builds upon the *Gaayhllxid • Gíihlagalgang “Rising Tide” Haida Title Lands*

Agreement, signed with British Columbia in April 2024, which recognizes Haida Aboriginal title throughout Haida Gwaii. Additionally, the declaration builds upon the February 2025, *Chii̱xuu̱jin • Chaaw̱ Kaaw̱gaa “Big Tide (Low Water)” Haida Title Lands Agreement* (Big Tide Agreement) with the Government of Canada which affirms Haida Aboriginal title over its lands, bodies of fresh water, and foreshores to the low-tide mark. The Big Tide Agreement also provides \$59 million in governance capacity-building funding.

Over time, the Province and the Haida Nation will work together to transition jurisdiction on Haida Gwaii, through an orderly process, with engagement with local governments, residents and others with interests on Haida Gwaii. These agreements and the legislation explicitly state that recognizing Aboriginal title will not impact private property, local government jurisdiction, public infrastructure, programs, or services, or bylaws on Haida Gwaii. During this transition process, land and resource decisions will continue to be made through existing processes, and Provincial laws continue to apply through the transition process. Provincial leases, permits, or other approvals to use areas of land remain in effect.

In July 2023, the Parties concluded the signing of the *Nang̱ K’uula • Nang̱ K’úulaas Recognition Agreement* which recognizes: Haida as the holder of Haida title and rights; the inherent rights of governance and self-determination of the Haida Nation; and the Council of the Haida Nation as its governing body. This is supported by the *Haida Nation Recognition Act*, which was passed by the Government of British Columbia on May 9, 2023. This is also supported by federal legislation, Bill S-16: *An Act respecting the recognition of the Haida Nation and the Council of the Haida Nation*, which received royal assent on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

There are approximately 6,525 Haida members, with traditional lands and waters spanning Haida Gwaii. Under the *Gay̱Gahlda Agreement*, Haida

will continue to formalize agreements with neighbouring First Nations as to their respective territorial boundaries with Haida Gwaii.

DITIDAHT FIRST NATION

The Ditidaht First Nation (Ditidaht) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations and continues to make significant progress.

This includes protecting and securing the ecological integrity and biodiversity of Ditidaht lands, as well as their rights, culture and way of life through shared decision-making arrangements. In 2025, the Parties continued their work on a number of federal and provincial side agreements. The Parties also continue to review and update treaty chapters from the AIP that was signed together with Pacheedaht First Nation in June 2019. This has resulted in progress on important topics relating to parks, fisheries, and environmental assessments.

In July 2025, Ditidaht opened a new visitor centre at the Nitinaht Lake Campground, this will serve as a check in and information centre for visitors on the West Coast Trail.

There are approximately 770 Ditidaht members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the southwestern corner of Vancouver Island. Ditidaht has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Huu-ay-aht, Lake Cowichan, and Pacheedaht.

GITANYOW HEREDITARY CHIEFS

The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (Gitanyow) negotiation table is in Stage 4 negotiations. Gitanyow is pursuing an incremental reconciliation pathway.

In 2025, negotiations focused on rights and title recognition, membership development, and fiscal development. Gitanyow has continued to engage with neighbouring First Nations on wildlife, water

management, parks, timber sales, economic projects and historical matters.

On September 28, 2022, Gitanyow and British Columbia celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the *Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan*. In August 2021, the Parties signed the *Gitanyow Governance Accord*, setting out a path toward revitalizing and legally recognizing the Gitanyow Hereditary governance system of *Huwilp* (Houses). This year, the Parties have focused on securing the resources to develop the Gitanyow hereditary governance model, which includes core governance funding, a membership system, constitution updates, and a traditional law registry. The Parties are engaging in 'title by agreement' discussions.

There are approximately 860 Gitanyow *Wilp* members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the upper Kitwanga and Nass watersheds, and the upper Kispiox River in the Swan Lakes area. Gitanyow has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Gitxsan and Nisga'a, and a recent claim of a portion of their territory from a neighbouring Gitxsan *Wilp*.

GITXAAŁA NATION

The Gitxaala Nation (Gitxaala) negotiation table is pursuing tripartite reconciliation with Canada and British Columbia.

In 2025, the Gitxaala's Language and Culture Department has continued to make progress for the Nation through its *Ha'amwaal Łagygyedm Gitxaala* (cultural treasures of Gitxaala ancestors) project. The project was carried out in partnership with the Royal BC Museum and supported by grants from Heritage Canada's Museum Assistance Program and the First People's Cultural Council. As a result, Gitxaala saw the return of 23 culturally important and sensitive artifacts, the First Nation has been working on its repatriation program since 2018 and began

working with the Royal BC Museum in 2021. Gitxaala is currently engaging with more than 20 museums around the world in efforts to return over 100 cultural items.

Gitxaala is working toward construction of a longhouse and cultural centre, and pursuing economic opportunities, including acquiring the Crest Hotel in Prince Rupert, which was successfully purchased as a wholly owned entity of the Gitxaala Nation in May 2023. Gitxaala is also advocating for its rights and title through negotiations.

There are approximately 2,100 Gitxaala members, with traditional territory and waters spanning the northwest coast, including the Prince Rupert area. Gitxaala has overlapping and/or shared territories with its First Nation neighbours: Lax Kw'alaams, Haisla, and Tsimshian.

GITXSAN HEREDITARY CHIEFS

The Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs (Gitxsan) negotiation table is in Stage 4 negotiations. The Parties continue to engage on tripartite and bilateral negotiations that support Gitxsan hereditary governance. The Parties are making significant progress on a relationship agreement that outlines how the Gitxsan *Huwilp* (Houses) Government interacts and coexists with the governments of Canada and BC. The Parties are focused on governance, fisheries, and jurisdiction over watersheds.

There are approximately 8000 Gitxsan members. The Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs represent the majority of Gitxsan *Huwilp* and membership. Gitxsan traditional territory spans the Hazelton area and watersheds of the upper Skeena and Nass rivers. Gitxsan has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Carrier Sekani, Gitanyow, Nisga'a, Tahltan, Tsay Keh Dene, Tsimshian, and Wet'suwet'en.

GWA'SALA-'NAKWAXDA'XW NATIONS

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations (GNN) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations.

The Parties continue to make progress on treaty chapter language and on key negotiations priorities including forestry, wildlife, and lands. GNN continues to engage community on their language, culture, and *Gukwdzi* (Bighouse) projects.

In December 2023, GNN Hereditary Chiefs met with representatives from the Royal BC Museum to finalize an agreement for the repatriation of their *kikasu* (treasures) in time for the opening of their new *Gukwdzi*. The items include nearly 40 sacred carvings, *Hamatsa* masks and other regalia.

There are approximately 1,115 GNN members. Many reside at the Tsulquate reserve where the community was relocated in 1964. GNN traditional lands and waters span the BC mainland across from the northern tip of Vancouver Island. GNN has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Kwicksutaineuk, Kwawa-aineuk, Kwakiutl, 'Namgis, Tlatlasikwala, Tsawataineuk (Dzawada'enuxw), and Wuikinuxv.

HOMALCO FIRST NATION

The Homalco First Nation (Homalco) treaty table is in Stage 4 of negotiations.

In 2025, the Homalco negotiation table prioritized community engagement, developing communications strategies and workshop series to provide information on treaty negotiations to the community. Homalco continued to work closely with neighbouring First Nations to further develop Nation-to-Nation protocols.

There are approximately 480 Homalco members, with traditional territory spanning from Phillips Arm, west of the mouth of Bute Inlet and its watershed, to Raza Passage and Quantum River, and to Stuart Island. Homalco has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: K'ómoks,

Klahoose, Qualicum, Wei Wai Kum, Kwiahah, Tla'amin, Tlowitsis, and We Wai Kai.

HUL'QUMI'NUM TREATY GROUP

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (Hul'qumi'num) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. Over the past year, the Parties have continued their work on lands.

On May 22, 2025, BC completed the land transfer to Cowichan Tribes (Quw'utsun) and Lyackson First Nation. This follows last year's historic ITA signing, in May 2024, which outlined plans to return 312 hectares of culturally significant land to Quw'utsun and Lyackson. The transfer of land is the culmination of over three decades of hard work. This acquisition of this parcel will re-establish a village site for the Lyackson community and will support community development priorities for Quw'utsun.

As part of the ITA signed in 2024, Quw'utsun and Lyackson entered into an inter-community MOU, the lands will be held in partnership until a plan is in place to divide the parcel. After this, Quw'utsun and Lyackson will work with the federal government to add the separated parcels to their respective reserves through the federal Addition-To-Reserve process.

There are approximately 7,190 Hul'qumi'num members, with traditional lands and waters spanning part of southern Vancouver Island and sections of the Salish Sea. Hul'qumi'num represents five communities: Quw'utsun; Halalt, Lake Cowichan; Lyackson; and Penelakut.

Hul'qumi'num has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Ditidaht, Hwlitsum, Katzie, K'ómoks, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Qualicum, Sechelt, Semiahmoo, Sts'ailes, Snuneymuxw, Stz'uminus, Te'mexw, Tla'amin, Ts'elxweyeqw, Tsawwassen, Tsleil-Waututh, and Yale

K'ÓMOKS FIRST NATION

On March 8, 2025, K'ómoks First Nation (K'ómoks) held their constitution and treaty ratification votes. K'ómoks citizens overwhelmingly voted in favour of their treaty and their constitution, exercising their rights to self-determination and self-government. There was high voter turnout of 91 per cent of eligible voters participating, 81 per cent voting in favour of treaty ratification and 83 per cent voting in favour of the constitution. These votes demonstrate a strong commitment from the K'ómoks community to a future through their treaty.

As a result of a successful community vote, the ratification processes of both BC and Canada are now underway. The full treaty ratification process is expected to take approximately three years, with the treaty likely coming into effect in 2028. The treaty is built on decades of efforts between the Parties to create a true living agreement that will benefit future generations and build a prosperous community.

The treaty will: recognize and protect inherent K'ómoks title and rights; establish how the First Nation's laws interact with federal and provincial laws; recognize harvesting and resource rights throughout K'ómoks territory; and establish the land, capital transfer, and governance provisions of the treaty.

K'ómoks continues to engage with neighbouring First Nations on overlap and shared territories. Additionally, K'ómoks, Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiahah First Nations all continue to collaborate at the A-Tlegay common fish table.

There are approximately 350 K'ómoks members, with traditional territory spanning the central eastern part of Vancouver Island, extending into Johnstone Strait. K'ómoks has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nations neighbours: Homalco, Hul'qumi'num,

Snaw-naw-as, Nuu-chah-nulth, Sechelt, Snuneymuxw, Tla'amin, Te'mexw, Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah.

KATZIE FIRST NATION

The Katzie First Nation (Katzie) treaty table is in Stage 4 negotiations. The Parties are pursuing an incremental approach to treaty to recognize, protect, and exercise Katzie's inherent rights and title. Over the past year, the Parties have been working on an Incremental Self-Government MOU. Internally, Katzie has been working on capacity-building, self-government related projects and reviewing its election code.

In November 2024, Katzie alongside many conservation and community partners successfully completed one of the largest salmon restoration projects in Western Canada. Red Slough, an important salmon habitat in the Upper Pitt River, had previously been choked by logging debris that happened a century ago, which resulted in depleted wildlife, dying salmon and inactive water channels. After conservation efforts by Katzie and its partners, the site is now flush with freshwater, creating a better habitat for salmon and wildlife within those waters.

There are approximately 655 Katzie members, with traditional territory spanning Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, Surrey, Langley, and New Westminster. Katzie has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Samahquam and Skatin, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Musqueam, Squamish, Stó:lō, Tsawwassen, Hul'qumi'num, and Tsleil-Waututh.

KLAHOOSE FIRST NATION

The Klahoose First Nation (Klahoose) treaty table is currently in Stage 4 negotiations. Klahoose, along with BC and Canada, continues to make considerable efforts to finalize AIP chapters including environmental assessment and protection, governance, access, dispute

resolution, wildlife, and migratory birds. Engagement with the community and with neighbouring First Nations is ongoing.

In 2023, Klahoose secured 181,036 cubic metres of forest tenure from Interfor within its traditional territory, which not only brings economic development opportunities to Klahoose, but also allows Klahoose to have increased authority and jurisdiction over natural resources within its traditional territory.

There are approximately 450 Klahoose members, with traditional territory and waters spanning from Cortes Island to Toba Inlet. Klahoose has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Homalco, Kwiakah, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Tla'amin.

KWIAKAH FIRST NATION

Kwiakah First Nation treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. Wei Wai Kum First Nation and Kwiakah First Nation previously negotiated together, and in April 2024, decided to embark on separate negotiations.

The main table focus centered on Kwiakah's four core principles which includes its lands and core territory; the recognition of the Nation's hereditary governance structure; and Inter-Nation protocol development with its neighbours: K'ómoks, We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum. Over the course of the year, Kwiakah completed a pre-feasibility study for lands that are situated north of Campbell River. The study provided information around environmental constraints, accessibility, and existing tenures.

On May 24, 2024, Kwiakah signed a tripartite agreement for a new Special Forest Management Area (SFMA) with the province of British Columbia and Interfor. The Maćinux^w SFMA will support regenerative forestry and conservation and covers 7,865 hectares within the Great Bear Rainforest.

Kwiakah continues to collaborate with four other First Nations at the A-Tlegay common fish table, alongside Tlowitsis, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and K'ómoks First Nations.

There are approximately 20 Kwiakah members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the east-central area of Vancouver Island and mainland coastal watersheds. Kwiakah has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Homalco, Klahoose, K'ómoks, Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, 'Namgis, Snaw-naw-as, Qualicum, Snuneymuxw, Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala, Tlowitsis, Tla'amin, We Wai Kai, and Wei Wai Kum.

NORTHERN SECWÉPEMC TE QELMÚCW

The Northern Secwépehc te Qelmúcw (NStQ) treaty table and is in Stage 5 negotiations. The Parties advanced treaty chapter language on areas such as co-management, wildlife, eligibility & enrolment, harvesting, to name a few chapters. Tripartite co-development of a fish mandate is ongoing. NStQ and BC continue to work on land transfers to the four NStQ communities through the implementation of ITAs.

In May 2025, Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) broke ground on a new Indigenous-led child and family services building within the Coyote Rock subdivision. The 11,000 square foot, net-zero facility represents a \$15 million investment in the local economy and provides vital space and services for Indigenous children, youth and families.

In August 2024, WLFN signed a Joint Development Agreement with West Fraser Timber Company, combining tenure volumes into a single First Nations Woodland License (FNWL). The FNWL will be held by Williams Lake First Nation.

In 2024, Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation (SXFN) signed an MOU with West Fraser Timber Company to provide a forest management framework. The MOU sets out a clear path forward for West

Fraser Timber Company to continue operating while ensuring the economic and cultural values of SXFN are respected.

NStQ is continuing its community engagement through citizens assemblies, community and urban treaty meetings, and land tours. It has also begun to create long lasting government-to-government-to-government relationships with the Cariboo Regional District through engagement initiatives and information sessions.

There are approximately 2,900 NStQ members, with traditional territory spanning the central Cariboo, from Valemount and McBride in the northeast, to south of Clinton, and west of the Fraser River. NStQ is made up of four communities: Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake), Stswecem'c/Xget'tem (Canoe Creek/ Dog Creek), Xat'súll/Cmetem' (Soda Creek), and T'exelc (Williams Lake). NStQ has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Lheidli T'enneh, Lhtako Dene, Esk'etemc, High Bar, T'silhqot'in, and other Secwepemc Nations.

PACHEEDAHT FIRST NATION

The Pacheedaht First Nation (Pacheedaht) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. Over the past year, the Pacheedaht treaty table have continued their work on co-management with the federal and provincial parks agencies, matters of marine governance and jurisdiction, and technical lands work.

In November 2023, Pacheedaht and the Government of Canada signed a licence of occupation agreement returning stewardship of ?A:?b?e:?s (Middle Beach) to Pacheedaht in advance of the treaty settlement.

On June 28, 2019, the Pacheedaht AIP was completed in conjunction with Ditidaht First Nation, which sets out the basis for finalizing Pacheedaht's treaty negotiations. There are approximately 295 Pacheedaht members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the southwestern corner of Vancouver Island. Pacheedaht has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht, T'Sou-ke, and Lake Cowichan.

SAMAHQUAM AND SKATIN FIRST NATIONS

The Samahquam and Skatin First Nations (Samahquam and Skatin) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. The First Nations have continued to explore governance models, protocol agreements with neighbouring Nations, and are working towards amending their constitutions to better reflect their new governance structures.

Skatin (October 2023) and Samahquam (May 2024) signed Forest and Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements. This will: establish a consultation process to identify potential adverse impacts of forest and range activities; provide a revenue sharing contribution to support capacity-building; enhance social, economic and cultural well-being of members; and assist in achieving greater stability and certainty with respect to forest and range resource development in the territories of Samahquam and Skatin.

Samahquam and Skatin, alongside Xa'xtsa First Nation, in collaboration with the Province, identified 98km on the In-SHUCK-ch forest service road for priority improvements. This project will be supported through nearly \$2.5 million in grants from BC, split among the Samahquam and Skatin to support equipment purchases and training.

There are approximately 800 Samahquam and Skatin members, with traditional territories located between the middle point of Harrison Lake, northward to the middle point of Lillooet Lake. Samahquam and Skatin has overlapping and/or shared territories with their First Nation neighbours: Sts'ailes, Xa'xtsa (Douglas), Katzie, Lil'wat, Squamish, Stó:lō, Yale, and Tsleil-Waututh.

SNUNEYMUXW FIRST NATION

The Snuneymuxw First Nation (Snuneymuxw) table is pursuing tripartite reconciliation. Through negotiations, the table is addressing how to recognize Snuneymuxw rights and title, including implementing their Douglas Treaty which was signed in 1854.

In July 2025, Snuneymuxw and the Government of British Columbia completed a transfer of over 700 hectares of land on *te'tuxwtun* (Mount Benson North) to the Snuneymuxw. This signifies the latest step in the implementation of the *Snuneymuxw First Nation and British Columbia Land Transfer Agreement* (2020), which will see a total of 3000 hectares of land being returned to Snuneymuxw. Also in 2025, the Government of Canada and Snuneymuxw concluded a historic land settlement, which will see \$42 million paid to the Snuneymuxw as part of a settlement connected to 58.3 acres of land taken from the Nation along the Nanaimo River in Cedar.

In January 2024, Snuneymuxw and the Government of Canada signed an Interim Land Reconciliation Agreement, which saw the return of approximately 80 hectares of land to Snuneymuxw First Nation. Snuneymuxw has announced development plans which include key priorities related to housing, infrastructure, and economic development. In July 2024, the Government of British Columbia returned 2.67 hectares of land, which constitute part of the historic *sxwayxum* village site, also known as Millstone River Village, to Snuneymuxw First Nation. The Government of British Columbia contributed \$26 million towards the \$28.5 million purchase price for the purpose of returning the site to Snuneymuxw for redevelopment.

There are approximately 1,940 Snuneymuxw members, with traditional territory and waters spanning eastern Vancouver Island, including Nanaimo, Gabriola and Mudge Islands, and other islands in the Nanaimo watershed. Snuneymuxw has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Snaw-naw-as, Nuw-chah-nulth, and Stz'uminus.

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation (Taku River Tlingit) treaty table is in Stage 4 negotiations.

In 2025, Taku River Tlingit, alongside the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, undertook a land use planning engagement campaign around land use in the Taku River Watershed. Land Use Planning helps support the preservation of cultural values, healthy ecosystems, and opportunities for economic activities. Taku River Tlingit continued working toward a core self-government agreement and the Parties have set the stage to engage earnestly to develop and begin drafting components of the self-government agreement.

In March 2024, Taku River Tlingit initiated a joint visioning process, which will continue to help Taku River Tlingit engage and communicate with the wider Atlin demographic. Taku River Tlingit continues to make substantive efforts toward community engagement initiatives through culture and language programming, and information sessions. Taku River Tlingit has put concerted efforts into its Wellness Working Group and is currently pursuing 'Wellness Quick Start' projects. Taku River Tlingit has also been engaging with neighbouring First Nations.

There are approximately 460 Taku River Tlingit members, with traditional territory spanning northwest BC and southwest Yukon. Taku River Tlingit has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Carcross/Tagish and Teslin Tlingit.

TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

The Te'mexw Treaty Association (Te'mexw) treaty table is in advanced Stage 5 negotiations. Te'mexw represents five First Nations: Scia'new, Malahat, Snaw-naw-as, Songhees, and T'Sou-ke.

Discussions continue between Te'mexw and the Department of National Defence (DND) with regards to a land swap of DND designated surplus lands. Further positive developments include the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway land swap, which returns 4.36 hectares of land back to the Malahat First Nation. Te'mexw along with

the governments of BC and Canada, continue to put in considerable work to finalize treaty negotiations and work towards initialing in 2026.

Te'mexw has also prioritized community engagement initiatives, ensuring their respective communities are well apprised of the progress of their treaty negotiations. The First Nations have also worked closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada on environmental protection matters, as well as with other ministries that are relevant to the jurisdiction and authority of Te'mexw member Nations.

There are approximately 1,910 Te'mexw members from five First Nations: Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Malahat, Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose), Songhees, and T'Sou-ke (Sooke). Te'mexw traditional territory is located in two main areas: on southern Vancouver Island in the Greater Victoria area and on the east coast of Vancouver Island around Nanoose Bay. The following member First Nations are signatories to the Douglas Treaty that was signed in 1850: Scia'new; Songhees; and T'Sou-ke. Te'mexw has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Esquimalt, K'ómoks, Saanich, Sechelt, Qualicum, Snuneymuxw, Pacheedaht, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, Kwiakah, Tla'amin, and some of the Nuu-chah-nulth and Hul'qumi'num First Nations.

TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL

Teslin Tlingit Council (Teslin Tlingit) negotiates at a common table with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and is in Stage 4 negotiations. Both Teslin Tlingit and Carcross/Tagish are self-governing in the Yukon, with traditional territory in BC.

In 2025, the Parties discussed governance, lands, shared territories, and land and water management. The Provincial Government provided funding for the Teslin Tlingit Council Game Guardian Program in the BC portion of Teslin Tlingit's traditional territory. Over the

past year, Teslin Tlingit signed an agreement on funding corrections and community service programs with both the territorial and federal governments. The agreement will see a \$5 million contribution this fiscal year, with an additional \$2.1 million coming annually from the federal government.

There are approximately 625 Teslin Tlingit members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the Yukon/BC border. Teslin Tlingit has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Kaska Dena, Liard, Ross River Dena, Tahltnan, and Taku River Tlingit.

TLOWITSIS FIRST NATION

The Tlowitsis First Nation (Tlowitsis) treaty table is in Stage 5.

Planning continues for Nenagwas, a new Tlowitsis community, and the establishment of Nenagwas is the result of ongoing extensive efforts by Tlowitsis, including its self-funded purchase of lands, to provide its members with a place to which they can return home. Some of the initiatives for Nenagwas include the construction of housing for Tlowitsis members, as well as the construction of a Big House. Nenagwas lands were designated as Indian Reserve Lands through a federal Order in Council in December 2017. Tlowitsis has completed their wastewater treatment plant and other major infrastructure projects in advance of Nenagwas opening.

Tlowitsis continues to work through chapter language and has made substantive progress in chapters: harvesting; eligibility & enrolment; implementation; and ratification. Tlowitsis continues to collaborate with four other nations at the A-Tlegay common fish table, alongside Kwiakah, We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, and K'ómoks First Nations.

There are approximately 450 Tlowitsis members, with traditional territory spanning part of

northeastern Vancouver Island and an area on the mainland just northwest of Sayward. Tlowitsis has overlapping and/ or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala, 'Namgis, Homalco, K'ómoks, Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, and Kwiakah.

TSAY KEH DENE NATION

The Tsay Keh Dene Nation (Tsay Keh Dene) treaty table is in Stage 4 negotiations.

Over the course of 2025, the negotiating Parties continued their work on an incremental treaty reconciliation agreement, which will focus on areas such as economic development, sociocultural support, revenue sharing, forestry, and self-government. Tsay Keh Dene has also made considerable progress in advancing its draft Self-Government Agreement through regular chapter reviews.

In February 2025, Tsay Keh Dene and the Government of Canada signed a \$11 million funding agreement to support its key priorities including economic development, governance, community development, wellness, and other socio-economic opportunities. This funding is part of a grant agreement which was signed in March 2024.

In 2024, Tsay Keh Dene announced the purchase of a subdivided forestry harvest license from Canadian Forest Products (Canfor) which allows an annual cut of 432,072 cubic metres in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area.

There are approximately 520 Tsay Keh Dene members, with traditional territory spanning Mount Trace in the north, South Pass Peak in the west, Nation River in the south, and Mount Laurier in the east. Tsay Keh Dene has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Carrier Sekani, Gitxsan, McLeod Lake, Tahltnan, and Treaty 8 First Nations.



TSIMSHIAN FIRST NATIONS

The five Tsimshian First Nations are in various stages of treaty negotiations. Kitselas and Kitsumkalum negotiate together at a common treaty table and are in Stage 5; Metlakatla is in Stage 5; Gitga'at and Kitasoo/Xai'xais are in tripartite reconciliation negotiations.

On June 24, 2024, Kitselas First Nation, along with the Government of BC and Government of Canada initialled their treaty. Kitselas citizens overwhelmingly voted to ratify its treaty agreement on April 10, 2025.

On June 25, 2024, Kitsumkalum First Nation, the Government of BC, and the Government of

Canada initialled their treaty. Kitsumkalum will hold a ratification vote on November 1, 2025.

The five Tsimshian First Nations total approximately 4,120 members. Kitselas has approximately 780 members. Kitsumkalum has approximately 885 members. Metlakatla has approximately 1,070 members. Gitga'at has approximately 870 members. Kitasoo/Xai'xais has approximately 490 members. Their traditional lands and waters span the northwest coast, including the Prince Rupert and Terrace areas. The Tsimshian First Nations have overlapping and/or shared territories with their First Nation neighbours: Gitksan, Haida, Heiltsuk, Lax Kw'alaams, Gitxaala, Nisga'a, and Wet'suwet'en.

» Gitga’at First Nation

Over the past year, Gitga’at First Nation (Gitga’at) negotiation table has continued to negotiate its Reconciliation Framework Agreement. Gitga’at has prioritized issues such as good-faith measures, forest tenures, lands, and fiscal matters.

In 2025, Gitga’at First Nation broke ground on a wholly Indigenous-owned 900-kilowatt hydroelectric facility. This project is expected to go into operation in October 2026 and meet 95 per cent of the community’s electricity needs for 40 years. Gitga’at received \$2 million in provincial funding from the Community Energy Diesel Reduction (CEDR) program. Gitga’at previously received an additional \$2 million from the CEDR program in 2023.

» Kitasoo/Xai’xais

Kitasoo/Xai’xais First Nation (Kitasoo/Xai’xais) is in tripartite discussions with Canada and British Columbia. The Parties are exploring a reconciliation table and a reconciliation framework agreement to address inherent Kitasoo/Xai’xais rights and title.

In April 2025, the Marine Conservation Institute announced that a marine protected area managed by Kitasoo/Xai’xais has been designated a “blue park” — an internationally recognized example of excellence in marine protection. It is the first Indigenous-led blue park in the world. *Gitdisdzu Lugyek’s* Marine Protected Area encompasses 33.5 square kilometres of land, rich with herring, shorebirds, whales, sea lions, and juvenile fish. The land was designated a protected area by the Nation in 2022.

In 2024, Kitasoo/Xai’Xais celebrated the completion of a new heliport and the rebuilding of the nursing station in the community. The First Nations Health Authority, Helicopters Without Borders, Colliers, and Spur Construction, all worked in partnership to restore health services and enhance service delivery and emergency infrastructure for Kitasoo/Xai’Xais.

» Kitselas First Nation

Following the initialling of the *Kitselas Treaty: A Living Agreement* (Kitselas Treaty) in June 2024, Kitselas citizens overwhelmingly voted in favour to ratify the Kitselas Treaty on April 10, 2025. The vote saw a turnout of over 96 per cent of eligible voters, with over 85 per cent of voting in favour of the treaty and 81 per cent in favour of the constitution. This vote signifies a strong commitment to the agreement which has been built on decades of efforts between the Parties that will benefit generations of Kitselas citizens to come.

The Kitselas treaty will: recognize and protect inherent Kitselas title and rights; establish how the First Nation’s laws interact with federal and provincial laws; recognize harvesting and resource rights throughout its territory; and establish the land, capital transfer, and governance provisions of the treaty.

Both the Kitselas Treaty and the K’ómoks Treaty incorporate innovations from the RRR policy and other rights recognition legislation, such as DRIPA and UNDRIPA. The Kitselas Treaty will be a living agreement and benefit from future changes to policies and legislation. It will also allow Periodic Renewal opportunities.

As a result of the successful vote there will now be a transition period in which Kitselas works towards implementation of the treaty, simultaneously, the ratification processes for BC and Canada have been initiated. This process will take approximately three years, with the effective date slated for 2028.

» Kitsumkalum First Nation

Kitsumkalum First Nation (Kitsumkalum) negotiates at a common treaty table with Kitselas First Nation.

On June 25, 2024, Kitsumkalum, the governments of Canada and British Columbia initialled the *Kitsumkalum Treaty: A Living Agreement* (Kitsumkalum Treaty). The Kitsumkalum ratification vote date for the Kitsumkalum Treaty and

constitution will take place on November 1, 2025. The First Nations has been undertaking significant community engagement with its members to ensure an informed vote. If the members vote in favour for the treaty, the ratification processes by the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia will subsequently follow.

The Kitsumkalum Treaty will: recognize and protect Kitsumkalum inherent title and rights; establish how the First Nation's laws interact with federal and provincial laws; recognize harvesting and resource rights throughout its territory; and establish the land, cash, and governance provisions of the treaty. The Kitsumkalum Treaty will be a living agreement and enables it to evolve and benefit from other future innovations in reconciliation.

» **Metlakatla First Nation**

The Metlakatla First Nation (Metlakatla) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations.

In 2025, Metlakatla focused on identifying lands for treaty, enforcement of laws, capital/funding components, and community engagement. A Foreshore Working Group involving Metlakatla and several federal and provincial departments have met regularly to co-develop a way to address Metlakatla interests in the foreshore and the complex jurisdictional interests of the Parties in these areas. Negotiations continue to build on other agreements that Metlakatla has signed, such as the *Coastal First Nations Reconciliation Protocol Agreement* and the *Protected Area Collaborative Management Agreement*.

Over the past year, a new 56-acre logistics park project joint venture between the Prince Rupert Port Authority and the Metlakatla Development Corporation received a \$60.7 million loan through the Canadian Infrastructure Bank's Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative. A further \$43.3 million was received from the National Trade Corridors Fund. The loan will be

used for the infrastructure needed to develop a new logistics warehouse near the port's Fairview Terminal, CN Rail and CANXPORT facility.

WE WAI KAI TREATY SOCIETY

The We Wai Kai Treaty Society (WTS) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations.

In 2025, the Parties have focused on advancing a 'Self-Government plus Lands' agreement. We Wai Kai has also prioritized matters of community engagement, fisheries and fiscal policy. WTS also continues to collaborate with four other nations at the A-Tlegay common fish table, alongside K'ómoks, Tlowitsis, Wei Wai Kum, and Kwiakah First Nations.

There are approximately 1,255 We Wai Kai members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the area around Campbell River, Quadra Island, and surrounding inlets. We Wai Kai has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala, Homalco, Klahoose, K'ómoks, Kwiakah, Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, 'Namgis, Snaw-naw-as, Qualicum, Tla'amin, Tlowitsis, Snuneymuxw, and Wei Wai Kum.

WEI WAI KUM FIRST NATIONS

The Wei Wai Kum (WWKum) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. In April 2024, Wei Wai Kum First Nation and Kwiakah First Nation, who had previously negotiated together, decided to embark on separate negotiations.

In 2025, the Parties continued work on Self-Government Treaty Agreement (SGTA) negotiations, primarily focused on matters of lands, water and governance. In January 2025, Wei Wai Kum signed an agreement with Capstone Infrastructure to harvest wind power to be sold to and utilized by BC Hydro. The new partners are laying the groundwork to build 30

windmills just north of Campbell River in the Brewster Lake area.

Wei Wai Kum continues to collaborate with four other nations at the A-Tlegay common fish table, alongside Tlowitsis, Kwiakah, We Wai Kai, and K'ómoks First Nations.

There are approximately 940 Wei Wai Kum members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the east-central area of Vancouver Island and mainland coastal watersheds. WWKK has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Homalco, Klahoose, K'ómoks, Kwiakah, Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, 'Namgis, Snaw-naw-as, Qualicum, Snuneymuxw, Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala, Tlowitsis, Tla'amin, and We Wai Kai.

WUIKINUXV NATION

The Wuikinuxv Nation (Wuikinuxv) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations.

The Wuikinuxv table has engaged in internal governance capacity building and fisheries. Wuikinuxv continues to engage with its citizens on the negotiations at annual general meetings. Over the last year, Wuikinuxv, in partnership with the Conservation Finance Alliance, will explore new conservation finance tools, such as a salmon impact bond or short-term endowment, which could help unlock new funding for salmon stewardship and restoration in Wuikinuxv territory. A salmon impact bond is a nature bond designed to attract investment in Indigenous-led salmon habitat restoration and community development.

There are approximately 295 Wuikinuxv members, with traditional lands and waters spanning the north side of Wannock River, between Owikeno Lake and the head of Rivers Inlet on BC's mid-coast. Wuikinuxv has

overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, We Wai Kai, and Heiltsuk.

YEKOOCHE FIRST NATION

The Yekooche First Nation (Yekooche) treaty table is in Stage 5 negotiations. In 2025, the Yekooche table has dedicated their efforts to reviewing draft treaty chapters. Tripartite meetings focused on matters of fisheries, economic development, and child and family matters.

In March 2025, it was announced that Yekooche was one of 12 Nations that received provincial funding for projects in the clean energy sector. Yekooche's funding will go towards a prefeasibility study for potential solar and wind projects.

Yekooche has also continued to work with neighbouring First Nations to address shared territory interests. In January 2025, KIU—the new economic development of Yekooche—entered a partnership with Binche Whu'ten (Binche) First Nation and Ecofor Consulting to develop Shas Ti Environmental. This will be a multi-nation environmental consulting firm. In May, Yekooche and Binche signed a MOU on Business-to-Business Economic Prosperity and Strategic Collaboration. The MOU is an agreement that signals the intention for the First Nations to negotiate together on major projects.

There are approximately 225 Yekooche members, with traditional lands and waters spanning Stuart Lake, Cunningham Lake, and Lake Babine. Yekooche has overlapping and/or shared territory with its First Nation neighbours: Lake Babine, Burns Lake, Nadleh Whut'en, Nak'azdli, Stelat'en, Takla, Tl'azt'en, and Treaty 8.

ABOUT THE BC TREATY COMMISSION



THE COMMISSION AND NEGOTIATIONS »

The BC Treaty Commission is the independent body that facilitates the negotiations of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, for the recognition of First Nations rights and title and the advancement of lasting reconciliation.

- The Treaty Commission facilitates negotiations amongst First Nations (individual or collective) in BC, the Government of Canada, and the Government of British Columbia (collectively the Parties).
- The Treaty Commission is not a party to the negotiations and does not negotiate on behalf of the Parties.

COMMISSION MANDATE

The Treaty Commission has three main functions:

- Facilitating negotiations of treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements amongst the three Parties;
- Allocating negotiation support funding to enable First Nations to participate in negotiations; and
- Educating the public, providing information about modern treaties and agreements, negotiations, and relevant legislation and policies.

The Treaty Commission was co-established in 1992 by the governments of Canada and British Columbia and the First Nations Summit (collectively referred to as the Principals) through the signing of the *British Columbia Treaty Commission Agreement* (BCTC Agreement). The First Nations Summit Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution, and federal and provincial legislation was subsequently passed, legally establishing the Treaty Commission and its independent nature.

In 2018, the mandate of the Treaty Commission was enhanced to include supporting negotiating Parties in implementing the UN Declaration, the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (TRC's 94 Calls to Action), the *Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*, and the recognition of First Nations title and rights. The Treaty Commission and its work continue to be guided by the *Report of the British Columbia Claims Task Force* (Task Force Report) and its 19 recommendations.

The Treaty Commission is comprised of a Chief Commissioner, four Commissioners, and 11 staff members. The operations of the Treaty Commission are cost-shared by the federal and provincial governments; Canada contributes approximately 60 per cent and British Columbia contributes approximately 40 per cent. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, operating funding was approximately \$2.8 million.

PARTNERS IN RECONCILIATION

PRINCIPALS AND PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS

The Principals are responsible for creating policies and approaches to improve the made-in-BC negotiations framework, and the Parties are responsible for implementing and negotiating treaties and agreements at negotiation tables.

Over the years, advancements in policy, legislation, and court rulings have further strengthened reconciliation efforts in British Columbia and the recognition of First Nation rights and title. In addition to the 19 recommendations of the Task Force Report, the *Principals' Accord on Transforming Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia* (2018), and the RRR Policy, recent developments in taxation and governments' commitment to living agreements have led to transformational changes, as evidenced by the three modern treaties initialled in 2024. The Principals, the Parties, and the Treaty Commission continue to engage in ratification efforts to prepare for the upcoming community, provincial, and federal ratification of treaties, following the incredibly successful community ratifications of the Kitselas and K'ómoks treaties in 2025.

Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution is clear in its recognition of the existence of Indigenous (Aboriginal) rights and the constitutional nature of treaties. As case law has evolved, so have the governments' views of recognizing Indigenous rights. Negotiations, rather than legal proceedings, are an ever-growing tool to define, recognize, and protect the unique rights and title of each First

Nation and the responsibilities of all signatories. The Treaty Commission thus has an essential role in assisting the Parties in the fulfilment of this crucial and constitutionally important process.

THE PUBLIC

In negotiations, non-Indigenous peoples' interests are represented by both the federal and provincial governments. Local, municipal, and regional officials may also attend negotiations with the provincial government as observers to receive updates, bridge understandings, and support relationship building.

Truth and reconciliation go hand-in-hand with building a new relationship amongst Canadians and Indigenous peoples. Though the negotiation of treaties, agreements, and constructive arrangements occurs between the Parties, the public holds an important role in the honouring of these constitutionally protected agreements. This can be achieved through ongoing and meaningful engagement in reconciliation efforts, which includes learning about colonialism within the context of Canadian history, learning about the lasting impacts of the Indian Residential School System, and building lasting relationships rooted in respect and the recognition of First Nations' inherent rights.

The Treaty Commission acknowledges the 15-year anniversary of TRC's 94 Calls to Action, which was released on June 2, 2015, and 18-year anniversary of the UN Declaration, both provide substantial guidance and concrete ways for individuals, businesses, and institutions to contribute to lasting reconciliation and ensure a better future for all. Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Canadians.

Negotiations, rather than legal proceedings, are an ever-growing tool to define, recognize, and protect the unique rights and title of each First Nation and the responsibilities of all signatories.

FACILITATING NEGOTIATIONS

The BCTC Agreement and associated legislation state that the primary role of the Treaty Commission is to assist the Parties and the Principals as an independent facilitator of negotiations.

The independent nature of the Treaty Commission is protected by its legal foundation, consisting of a CEO and chair, or Chief Commissioner, and four commissioners — two elected and appointed by the First Nations Summit, one appointed by Canada, and one appointed by the Province. Commissioners are independent and do not represent the Principal that appointed them.

In fulfilling its roles, the Treaty Commission:

- Facilitates negotiations and convenes important meetings;
- Assists the Parties in developing tripartite workplans to support negotiations;
- Ensures fair, effective, and impartial negotiations;
- Assists the Parties in developing solutions and resolving impasses;
- Encourages timely negotiations and progress toward milestones;
- Supports First Nations with engaging in and resolving overlapping/shared territory issues;
- Observes and reports on progress in negotiation;
- Brings together First Nations to share best practices and support capacity development;
- Reports publicly on opportunities and obstacles; and
- Works with the Principals to improve the negotiations process, including participating in working groups.

The primary role of the Treaty Commission is to assist the Parties and the Principals as an independent facilitator of negotiations.

Commissioners and staff are involved in an increasing number of facilitation initiatives. This is a result of several circumstances, including:

- Intensified negotiations to conclude modern treaties and tripartite reconciliation negotiations;
- Renewed interest in the negotiations as a result of recent changes to policy and legislation;
- Providing increased support for the implementation of the UN Declaration;
- Supporting the Parties with ratification requirements;
- Increased focus on supporting the resolution of First Nations overlapping and shared territory issues;
- Providing increased support in ensuring productive tripartite workplans; and
- Increased dialogue within and amongst First Nations, especially in multi-community First Nations, with respect to issues of shared territory, governance, and capacity.

The Treaty Commission continues to assist the Parties in operationalizing their commitments made through the Principals' Accord and the RRR Policy, and in meeting their obligations to continue to implement the UN Declaration at both the federal and provincial levels through the made-in-BC treaty negotiations process.

INDEPENDENT FUNDING AUTHORITY

A key recommendation from the Task Force Report is that an independent funding authority ensure impartiality and fairness amongst the Parties participating in the negotiations framework.

The Treaty Commission is the independent funding authority for treaty and tripartite reconciliation negotiations in British Columbia. This is set out in the BCTC Agreement, associated federal and provincial legislation, and the RRR Policy. The Treaty Commission allocates and monitors funding to First Nations and treaty tables for their participation in tripartite negotiations.

This includes:

- Allocating funding to First Nations in accordance with funding criteria agreed to by the Principals;
- Receiving and reviewing additional funding requests from First Nations;
- Approving First Nations' budgets, which support their workplans and tripartite workplan activities developed at negotiation tables;
- Reviewing annual audit reports and other accounting reports from First Nations that receive negotiation support funding; and
- Obtaining First Nations' approval to accept the negotiations support funding from Canada and BC.

The Treaty Commission allocates and monitors funding to First Nations and treaty tables for their participation in tripartite negotiations.

FUNDING FOR FIRST NATIONS

First Nations funding for negotiations is 100 per cent contribution-only, meaning funding is non-repayable, similar to grants. This funding, commonly referred to as Negotiation Support Funding (NSF), is provided by the federal and provincial governments. As an independent body, the Treaty Commission allocates NSF to First Nations to ensure impartiality.

NSF supports First Nations' participation in negotiations and related activities, including: capacity and governance building; community engagement; communications; overlap and shared territory engagement; legal and advisory services; treaty offices and staff; lands, resources, and research work; ratification; and preparations for self-government.

EVOLUTION OF NEGOTIATION SUPPORT FUNDING

Up until 2018, the NSF funding arrangement was a repayable loan (up to 80 per cent) and contribution funding or grant funding (up to 20 per cent).

First Nations are now no longer required to obtain loans to undertake treaty or tripartite reconciliation negotiations. The Treaty Commission acknowledges both the federal and provincial governments and First Nations for their leadership in resolving this longstanding issue.

The evolution to contribution-only funding is an important achievement and marked a significant milestone towards reconciliation and the recognition of rights. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Treaty Commission allocated more than \$33.5 million in 100 per cent contribution-only funding to First Nations for negotiations.

Since moving to contribution-only funding, the Treaty Commission has implemented additional financial measures supporting transparency

and accountability. It requests that funding be directed toward key priorities and issues in negotiations, including: citizen engagement and information sharing; overlapping/shared territory engagements; capacity building; and preparations for self-government. The Treaty Commission also ensures that all negotiation tables have tripartite workplans and actively facilitates the development of these workplans. The Parties codevelop the workplans and are accountable to achieving the goals and milestones.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Treaty Commission provides public information and education on reconciliation, modern treaties and agreements, policy developments, and innovations in treaty and tripartite reconciliation negotiations.

The Principals of the made-in-BC negotiations also share the responsibility of educating and informing the public about negotiations and, treaties and agreements. The three Parties at each negotiation table have a responsibility to provide specific information on the progress of their negotiations.

To fulfill this part of its mandate, the Treaty Commission:

- Prepares and maintains a public record of the status of negotiations through a public annual report, while respecting the confidentiality of negotiations;
- Reports out on the benefits of modern treaties, including the updated Deloitte Report;
- Engages the public on negotiations at conferences, conventions, tradeshow, special events, community forums, meetings, and schools;

- Educates and involves youth and emerging Indigenous leaders on reconciliation and treaty negotiations through social media, school presentations, and treaty negotiation workshops;
- Meets with federal and provincial departments, agencies, and ministries to advocate for the importance of treaty and reconciliation negotiations in governments fulfilling their constitutional obligations and commitments to implement the UN Declaration;
- Engages with local and municipal governments, including Regional Districts, to share information;
- Creates and distributes publications and resources to share best practices with First Nations and the public;
- Organizes and hosts forums that create a venue for sharing knowledge, experiences, lessons learned, and good practices — especially between First Nations currently negotiating and Modern Treaty Nations;
- Maintains a website with current and historical information on treaty negotiations and all publications, including annual reports, news releases, forum materials, videos, and teaching materials;
- Works with the Principals to collaborate on joint initiatives such as supporting the implementation of the RRR policy and related training, and developing messaging and materials regarding the made-in-BC negotiations framework and on modern treaties, agreements and constructive arrangements; and
- Engages with the public using social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter). The Treaty Commission's social media handle is **@bctreaty**.

This year, the Treaty Commission increased its efforts and advocacy to ensure timely ratification of the three modern treaties initialled in 2024, advancement of Haida title recognition, and support for other constructive arrangements. This included numerous meetings and engagements with: Ministers; Senators; elected Members of the House of Commons; Members of Parliament serving in senior caucus roles; elected Members of the Legislative Assembly; senior officials from key departments and ministries from both the federal and provincial governments, and members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Recognizing the importance of media in sharing information, the Treaty Commission participated in media interviews on recent achievements. The Treaty Commission also produced television, radio, and digital advertisements highlighting the Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and K'ómoks treaties, disseminating information on the benefits of treaties to the public and raising awareness of the negotiations process.

PUBLICATIONS

As the Parties conclude negotiations, eligibility and enrolment efforts become critical for the preparation of the First Nation ratification vote. In September 2024, the Treaty Commission published its First Nations Eligibility & Enrolment (E&E) Guide to assist with preparations for the upcoming treaty ratifications.

The E&E Guide is a comprehensive tool that delves into roles and responsibilities of staff and committees' members; workplanning and budgeting; procedures; and best practices to strengthen First Nations capacity for self-government and promote effective community engagement. Templates and forms have been created for First Nations to download and use in their E&E engagements.

In February 2025, the Treaty Commission released its updated Guide to First Nations Ratification (Ratification Guide), building on the E&E guide and intended to serve as a resource to First Nations nearing the conclusion of negotiations and those currently ratifying treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

The Ratification Guide includes sections dedicated to innovations in the made-in-BC negotiations process and the current landscape; the journey to ratification; the teams and committees involved in a successful ratification; eligibility and enrolment; conducting community votes on treaties, agreements, and constitutions; and building on experience.

Both guides include key terms, considerations, practical strategies, real examples, and documents and templates that can be adapted to First Nations' unique needs, diverse circumstances, and forms of governance. As these are new tools, they will be updated over time with input from First Nations and government.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

The Treaty Commission presents at and participates in virtual and in-person gatherings to engage the public, including First Nations, industry, universities, youth, government, and legal professionals. Through these engagements, the Treaty Commission connects with First Nations, governments, and the public to share information on the negotiations process, the progress of negotiation tables, the UN Declaration, and other work of the Treaty Commission.

Since the publication of the last annual report in October 2024 to September 2025, the Treaty Commission provided numerous presentations throughout the province and in Ottawa to share critical messaging around advancing

reconciliation through modern treaties and tripartite reconciliation agreements. Some presentations include: Blakes, Cassels and Graydon LLP; District of Saanich; Her Wealth Summit; the Inclusion Project; Kitselas First Nation; Kitsumkalum First Nations; K'ómoks First Nation; Lawson Lundell LLP; Members of the Legislative Assembly; Metro Vancouver Regional District Indigenous Relations Committee; the National Iwi Chairs Forum; Pacific Business & Law Institute, United Nations Association of Canada—Vancouver; and the University of British Columbia.

The Treaty Commission also participated in: the Association of Mineral Exploration Roundup; the Elders Gathering; the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade; Indigenous Partnership Success Showcase; the Land Claims Agreement Coalition National Conference; and the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance Summit.

FORUMS AND ROUNDTABLES

Over the years, the Treaty Commission has hosted and co-hosted forums and roundtables to support the development of strong networks amongst First Nations treaty negotiations teams. Roundtables provide opportunities to share ideas, experiences, lessons learned, good practices, and tools.

In February 2025, the Treaty Commission organized and hosted a Ratification Forum to support the ongoing ratification efforts of First Nations in negotiations, those with recent initialled treaties and speakers from Modern Treaty Nations. The forum was an opportunity for information sharing, dialogue, and importantly, to continue to broaden the network of First Nations to support ongoing collaboration as many prepare ratifications, for the effective date of treaties and indeed, self-governance.

In April, the Treaty Commission made interventions at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as interventions at the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in July. Both United Nations mechanisms are mandated to implement the UN Declaration. Enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations is underway at both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The Treaty Commission has been participating in these processes advocating for modern treaty and self-governing Nations' ability and right to represent themselves on matters that may affect them within the UN system. This is consistent with upholding the right to self-determination and self-government, where First Nations are self-governing through mechanisms as treaties and agreements with the State, and through modern treaties and reconciliation agreements with Canada and BC.

ENGAGING EMERGING LEADERS

Understanding modern treaties and negotiations is important for all ages, and the Treaty Commission continues to prioritize engaging with youth and emerging leaders.

Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, the Treaty Commission greatly expanded its education activities by increasing presentations at secondary schools. Presentations were delivered at Brockton School; King David High School; Gladstone Secondary School; Nanaimo District Secondary School; Ladysmith Secondary School; Johnston Heights Secondary School; and Crofton House School.

The Treaty Commission presented to post-secondary students at the University of British Columbia in the School of Community and Regional Planning, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Applied Science, and Osgoode Hall Law School on modern treaties, agreements and key matters of the negotiations process.



COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS »

The BC Treaty Commission is comprised of one Chief Commissioner and four Commissioners.

- The Chief Commissioner is appointed by agreement of the three Principals (the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the First Nations Summit) and serves as the CEO and Chair (a full-time position) for a three-year term.
- The First Nations Summit appoints two commissioners through election and the federal and provincial governments each appoint one.
- Commissioner positions are part time and for a two-year term.

The Treaty Commission is structured in this way, supported by resolution and legislation, to ensure its impartiality and independence. Commissioners do not represent the Principals that appoint them. Decisions require the support of a commissioner appointed by each Principal.

Celeste Haldane, KC
CHIEF COMMISSIONER



CHIEF COMMISSIONER CELESTE HALDANE is serving her third term as Chief Commissioner and was first appointed in 2017. Previously, she served as a First Nations Summit elected Commissioner from 2011 to 2017. Celeste is from Musqueam (Coast Salish) and Metlakatla (Tsimshian) from the Sparrow and Haldane families and has European ancestry.

Celeste is a practicing lawyer and was appointed King's Counsel in 2019. Drawing from over 25 years of experience, her specializations are in Indigenous law and corporate governance. She also practiced in the areas of criminal defense and civil litigation. She is an active member of both the Indigenous Bar Association and the Canadian Bar Association.

She holds a Master of Laws in Constitutional Law from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. She earned a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) from the University of British Columbia. Celeste is a Director on the YWCA Vancouver Board and serves as Vice Chair and is a member of the Advisory Council on Diversity to the Joint Task Force Pacific Commander. Previously, she sat on the boards of the Hamber Foundation, the UBC Board of Governors, the Brain Canada Foundation, Legal Aid BC, the Musqueam Capital Corporation, and the Indigenous Bar Association.



COMMISSIONER LISEANNE FORAND is the Government of Canada appointed Commissioner. She is serving her third term as Commissioner and was initially appointed in 2020.

She is a retired public servant with over 30 years of experience in intergovernmental affairs, public policy, natural resource management, and international relations. She began her career in public service with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 1985. Throughout her career she assumed progressively senior roles, serving as Assistant Deputy Minister in both the DFO and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (now Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs). Liseanne served in the Privy Council Office as Assistant Secretary to Cabinet, Social Development Policy and was appointed Chief Operating Officer for Service Canada. She retired from the federal public service in 2015.

Liseanne holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree (English) from Concordia University. She has also served on several boards, including Vice Chairperson of the Board of Polar Knowledge Canada, and Chair of the CHEO Foundation, and was a member of the Institute on Governance Board. She has recently joined the board of the Shoreline Medical Society on the Saanich Peninsula, where she serves as Chair of the HR Committee.



COMMISSIONER LYDIA HWITSUM (Xtli'li'ye) is a First Nations Summit (FNS) elected Commissioner. She served as Commissioner from April 2024 to September 2025. She is from the Cowichan Nation and previously served three terms as Chief of the Cowichan Tribes.

Lydia has more than 25 years of experience in governance development, policy development and implementation, and administration. She has advocated for Indigenous rights at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. Lydia has also served her community in many other capacities, including two terms on the First Nations Summit Political Executive, serving as the BC representative to the AFN Women's Council, and sitting on the First Nations Health Authority Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of the First Nations Market Housing Fund. She currently

serves on the BC First Nations Justice Council and the First Nations/BC Water Table at the First Nations Water Caucus.

She studied arts and social sciences in her undergrad and graduated from the University of Victoria Law School. Lydia is a proud mother and grandmother.



COMMISSIONER GEORGE ABBOTT is the Government of British Columbia appointed Commissioner. He is serving his first term and was appointed in 2025.

George is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and represented the Shuswap electoral district for 17 years. During his time in office, he served in numerous cabinet positions, including Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Minister of Sustainable Resource Management; Minister of Health; and Minister of Education.

George has a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Government) from the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Arts (Political Science) and Doctor of Philosophy (Political Science and Government) from the University of Victoria. Currently, George is an adjunct professor in Political Science at the University of Victoria and a published author.

He is Chair of the board at Technical Safety BC, a Director on the Board of the Land Title and Survey Authority, and former Chair of the Board of the Institute for Health System Transformation and Sustainability.



COMMISSIONER EDWARD JOHN (Akilech'oh) is a First Nations Summit (FNS) appointed Commissioner. He is serving his first term as Commissioner and was elected by the FNS Chiefs in Assembly in 2024. Edward is from the Tl'azt'en Nation, is a Hereditary Chief, Dene Zah Akilech'oh, and is the current elected Chief Councillor.

He has been extensively involved in the advancement of Indigenous rights and the treaty negotiations framework for decades. Edward was instrumental in the creation of the FNS and the BC Treaty Commission and served on the FNS Task Group for 11 consecutive terms. From 2011 to 2016, Edward served as the North American Expert Member to the United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He was also part of the negotiations and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In 2000, Edward was appointed Minister of Children and Families in BC, and in 2015 he served as Special Advisor on Aboriginal Child Welfare to the Minister of Children and Family Development.

Edward is a Dene fluent speaker. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Sociology) from the University of Victoria, and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. He also received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from both the University of Northern British Columbia and the University of Victoria.



The British Columbia Treaty Commission acknowledges the important contribution of the artists and photographers whose work are featured in this year's Annual Report. This includes Alano Edzerza, Michelle Stoney, K'omoks First Nation: Ashley Wright, Michelle Pare, and Melissa Quocksister, Kitselas First Nation: Joan Mason, the BC Treaty Commission: Sashia Leung and Aice Sumido, and Hands On Publications: Pete Tuepah.



BC TREATY
COMMISSION 

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