



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



NEGOTIATIONS

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2022





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Message from Senior Negotiator

Good day Taku River Tlingit community!

My name is Shaax'akée, which means "Woman on the mountain watching down", a Tlingit name gifted to me by my grandmother, the late Evelyn Jack. I grew up around Atlin, back and forth between family homes in both Atlin and Whitehorse, spending time on the lands that sustained our Tlingit way of life and steeped in the teachings of my ancestors as told through the lessons imparted by my elders, grandparents, and other community members throughout my childhood.

I first learned to fear the colonizing impacts on our people and community from stories overheard in a mix of Taku Tlingit and English from around the table tops of my grandparents and aunties as they talked of our culture and lands being taken from us. I grew strong in my opposition to careless mining practices as I stood with my community against the Tulsequah Mine when I was a teenager and young adult. I gulped back fear and anxiety while I stumbled through my mid-twenties and emerged back into Taku business at our Joint Clan Meetings as an adult woman with a fresh perspective.

I am now comfortably into my mid-thirties and have been working for the TRT nation as the G2G Co-chair for over five years, and as a Negotiator since August 2018. While fear and grief over what the TRT have lost and what we stand to gain still factor into my daily life, being in a position of long-time service to the nation has eased some of the burden of worry. To work at the goals and needs of our nation is a great honor as I learn how much there is still to learn about being a great servant to our people, advance our common interests, negotiate for the future generations, and be humbled always by the lessons of our history as told through the words of our ancestors.

Through the wisdom of our grandmothers and the strength of our ancestors, may we walk together in harmony with the lands we steward for time immemorial.

Gunalchéesh
Shaax'akée

Chantelle Schultz

Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Government to Government (G2G) Co-Chair
Senior Negotiator (Manager) of the Department
of Negotiations, Governance Department

External Governance Departmental Structure

The External Governance, or Intergovernmental Relations Department, is the Division supporting the Negotiations for TRTFN. Based out of Atlin and Whitehorse, External Governance is part of the main Governance Department directed by the Clan Director's Council of the TRTFN.

The Governance department was first created in 2019 through a CDC Directive and Internal Governance Manager Louise Gordon was hired shortly after. There is a lot of work to be done on creating the foundational elements of a good governance department with supporting policies, procedures, job descriptions, strategic and operational plans, guidelines, transition and orientation materials, and everything else that is needed for self-government!

At the direction of the community through the CDC, the External Governance department is responsible for representing the TRTFN in Negotiations throughout our Traditional Territory. This includes negotiation tables with Crown Parties (BC, Yukon Government, Canada), and other Indigenous governments at the nation-to-nation level (TTC, C/TFN, and Tahltan Central Government). If you are interested in participating in or supporting the External Governance department negotiations, please contact Chantelle Schultz.



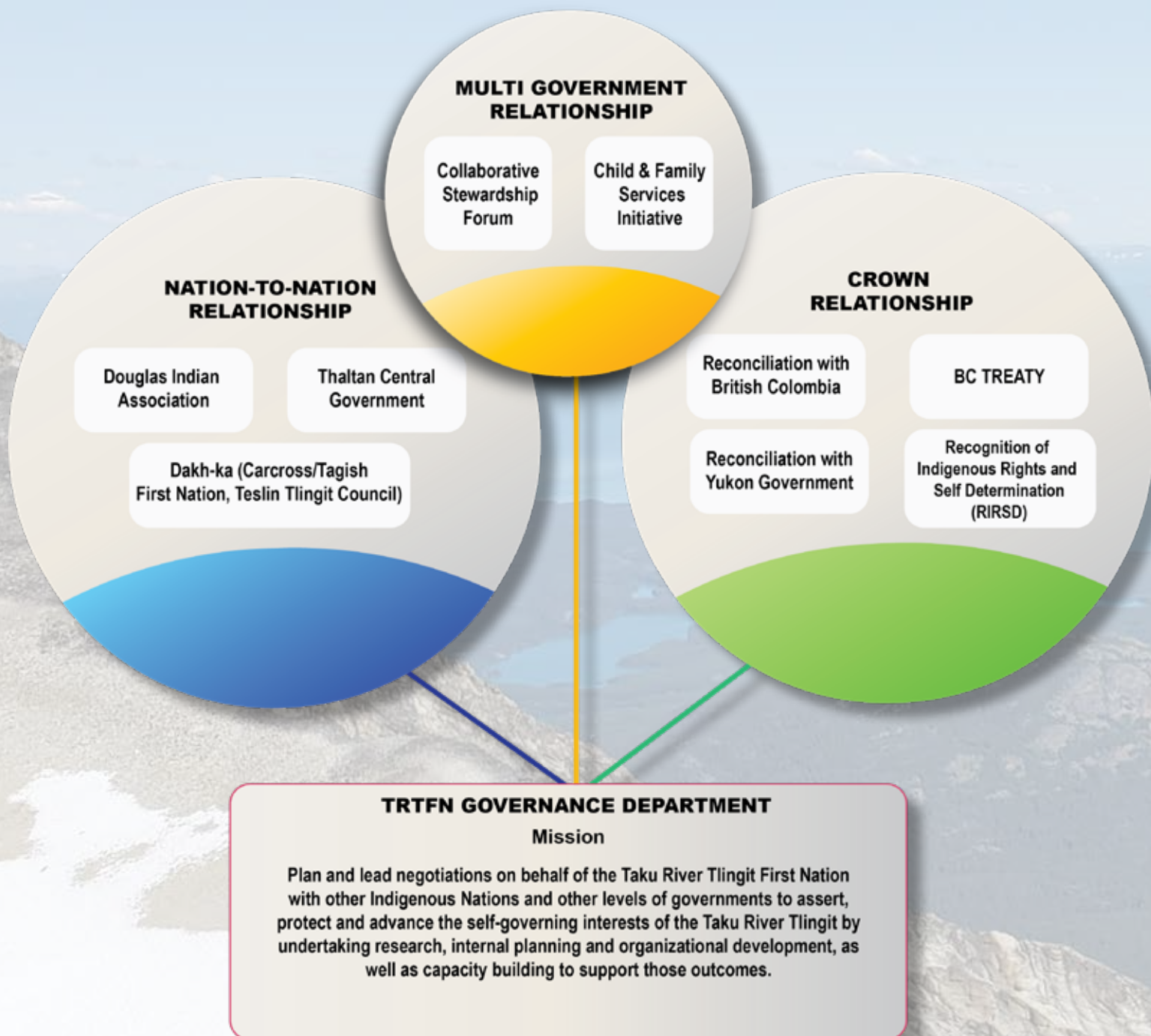
Louise Gordon



Logan Law

"Strength and balance in all relationships requires us each to respect, trust, care and share. As Tlingit, we stand together in a circle and, in this way; we are connected to each other and all life."

TRTFN Constitution



Intergovernmental Relations Manager

The Senior Negotiator and Intergovernmental Relations Manager reports to the Chief Administrative Officer. As a builder of strong relationships internally and externally with a particular focus on external areas of jurisdiction, this position manages and oversees the Negotiation and Intergovernmental Relations Department to advance the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on Land Rights, Title, and Self-Governance. The position works under the direction of the Spokesperson and the Clan Directors and provides regular updates and strategies on each negotiation regularly. This role coordinates and oversees the TRTFN Atlin and remote office of employees and project-based contractors who provide administrative and technical support for each negotiation, including developing negotiations materials, drafting agreements, and supporting documentation.

The Senior Negotiator and Intergovernmental Relations Manager works closely with the Lands Department to implement land use and government-to-government agreements. As part of the necessary internal work of the Governance department, the focus in this current term of leadership is to create a foundation of good governance practice supported by guiding policies, procedures, internal process, departmental-focused strategic planning, training and orientation programming, and materials for standardization of administrative practice. That means we are focusing on the documents and practices that move our governance from person-dependent (needing one or more key people to 'move' anything along) to system-dependent (a functioning government that can survive staff

turnover because standardized policies give a roadmap of operations).

The Intergovernmental Relations, or External Governance Manager, is responsible for supporting TRTFN to create and implement a strong political strategy that complements negotiations goals. This important work is one of the pillars of good negotiations with external parties, whether colonial governments or Indigenous partners in our transboundary context. As the work we are doing is both internal and external, please contact your Governance department team members to inquire about current work in the Atlin and Whitehorse offices of TRTFN!





Governance Activities with Yukon

TRTFN-YG G2G Agreement

TRTFN Negotiations with YG

In 2016, the TRTFN successfully mounted a court case against the Yukon related to an infringement of aboriginal rights in our Northern Territory. That court case related to a proposal by Yukon to develop a major campground at the north end of Atlin Lake, without first consulting with our nation. The court ruling required Yukon to engage in negotiations to develop new arrangements for consultation and engagement with the TRTFN, and to accommodate as required. Those negotiations have been led by Chantelle Schultz, Senior Negotiator, and under the direction of the CDC.

A New Government-to-Government Agreement with YG

After several years of challenging negotiations, we are nearing the completion of a historic Government-to-Government (G2G) Agreement with Yukon. Once completed, hopefully in early 2023, this G2G Agreement will be the first of its kind in the Yukon and marks a new era of respectful relationship and closer collaboration between our nation and the territorial government.

The TRTFN Northern Territory negotiating team was directed by our leadership to negotiate an agreement that was equal to or better than the existing G2G agreement with British Columbia (completed in 2011), but modified so as to fit with the different political context north of 60°.

In an effort to make sure that the implementation of the new G2G Agreement with Yukon is as straightforward as possible, the negotiating team was also asked to try to establish structures and processes for working with Yukon staff, similar to those already in use with BC. The team was also encouraged to build on the lessons learned from 10 years of implementing the agreement with BC.

The G2G Agreement is still under negotiation but when it is completed, it is expected that some of its key features will include:

A commitment by both governments to establish an enduring, respectful and collaborative government-to-government relationship, guided by the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Decision-making arrangements between the TRTFN and the Yukon that aim to secure the consent of the TRTFN for activities occurring in the Northern Territory;

A commitment to work towards recognition of the TRTFN as a First Nation with Aboriginal Rights in the Yukon; and,

Support for the TRTFN's efforts to achieve self-determination, including building our governance capacity and strengthening our political, economic, and social structures.



Julian Griggs

Contractor support for
the Yukon Bilateral Negotiations



When it is approved by TRTFN and Yukon, the new G2G Agreement will also set in place a variety of structures, processes and initiatives for collaboration, including:

A TRTFN-YG Northern Territory Forum, which will provide a consistent venue for for strategic dialogue between the two governments, and that will be responsible for the implementation of the G2G Agreement. The NT Forum will also include scheduled meetings between senior political representatives for the TRTFN and Yukon.

A set of Joint Initiative that provide the opportunity for collaboration on priority issues with YG and potentially with other First Nations, starting initially with the following three topic areas:

- Transboundary Lake Management;
- Áashú Village Revitalization; and,
- Capacity and Economic Measures;

G2G processes for consultation and engagement, which will enable both Yukon and the TRTFN to review applications from proponents that seek to undertake development activities in the Northern Territory. Those processes have been designed so that they can work efficiently alongside Yukon's existing environmental and socio-economic assessment process.



The G2G Agreement will also provide adequate funding to the TRTFN to support implementation. It is anticipated that part of that funding will be used to establish a TRTFN office in Whitehorse.

Further details about the G2G Agreement will be presented during community engagement from Spring 2022 - Fall 2022.



Whitehorse Office

The Whitehorse office opened its doors June 1st, 2022.

Our Whitehorse office provides services to the Tlingit citizens in Yukon region, so stay tuned for social opportunities as well as meetings at this new location!

TRTFN had its first formal meeting at the new Whitehorse office location at 307 Strickland Street in Whitehorse!! The new remote location, directed by head office in Atlin, has not had it's grand opening yet – we hope this will occur in late August or early September! But as part of our preparations, TRTFN managers and leadership had the first formal meeting in the new space to discuss governance and leadership best practices.



Pictured here is Spokesperson Thom and Wolf Clan Director Louise Gordon in the new meeting space.



“As Tlingit, we do not recognize the borders imposed by any governments because we know where we come from and only we can define our Traditional Territory. We know that we come from this land and we are rooted in this place. It is this place, our Traditional Territory, that makes us Tlingit.”

TRTFN Constitution



Yukon Negotiations

Land Transfer Agreement (LTA)



Bryan Evans, Consultant support for the Yukon Bilateral Negotiations with Senior Negotiator Chantelle Schultz

We are excited to let you know that your External Governance Senior Negotiator and Northern Territory (NT) Team are very close to concluding an historic agreement with the Yukon Government.

The Áashú Land Transfer Agreement will result in the TRTFN owning 1100 hectares of land in the Yukon on the north end of Atlin Lake in the vicinity of the old Tlingit village of Áashú. The Áashú Lands are approximately 50% bigger than 5 Mile Reserve, with extensive undeveloped forest and waterfront along Atlin Lake. The parcel extends from the Yukon-BC border to the Lubbock River on the west and Highway 7 on the east. Please see the attached map (page 13) for reference.

This will be an historic development for our community and flows from the court case that TRTFN won in 2016, challenging Yukon's proposed development of a campground at this location.

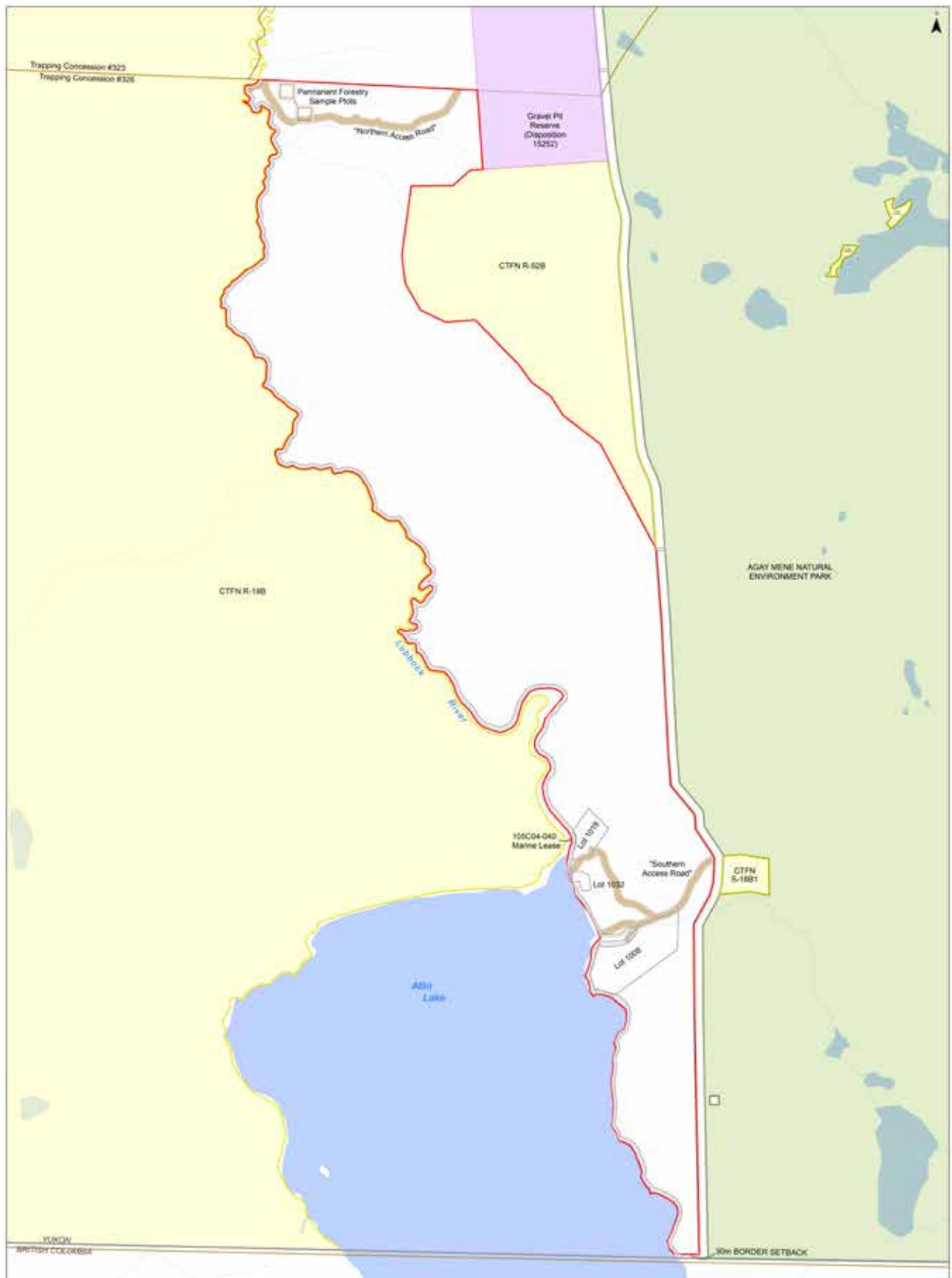
The Áashú Land Transfer Agreement will commit Yukon to "raise title" to this 1100 hectare parcel, to be held by a new TRTFN corporate entity on behalf of the whole Tlingit community. This will give TRTFN the right to the exclusive use and enjoyment of the parcel, subject to providing public access through existing access roads to the lakefront and to three existing private land parcels in the vicinity of the Áashú Lands. There will also be a 30.48 m (100 ft.) waterfront "conservation easement" to allow temporary public access along the lakefront.

This land transfer will be the largest in Yukon history and will require Yukon to amend the Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act and Lands Act to allow for raising title on a parcel this large, to waive the normal survey and other costs that a fee simple land owner would be expected to pay, and to allow for the sale of the parcel to TRTFN for \$1.

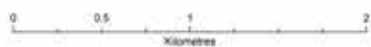
We will also be securing a commitment to a permanent withdrawal of the Áashú Lands from placer and mineral and staking and development through a separate legal instrument called an Order in Council (OIC) under the Placer Mining Act and Quartz Mining Act.

Once the parcel is held by TRTFN, we anticipate conducting an intensive community process to get your ideas on how this parcel should be managed, protected and used for the benefit of the Tlingit community. Ideas might include a permanent Tlingit culture camp, community housing, language immersion retreats, and small-scale tourism development to create jobs and opportunities for Tlingit citizens.

We very much look forward to telling you more about this agreement at upcoming community meetings!



Áashú Lands



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Áashú Lands | Land Notation | Road |
| Settlement Land - Surveyed | Conservation Easement | 60 metre road right of way |
| Surveyed Parcel | Protected Area | |
| Land Disposition | Trapping Concession | |

In Loving Memory of

Sylvester Jack

Sylvester Jack Jr. was the elder who attended negotiations for the Northern Territories Negotiation team most often and his passion for his nation and people was apparent to all who spent time with him. In the short weeks since his passing, many have come forward to express heartfelt sympathies and gratitude for the lessons he shared at our negotiation tables.

Sylvester also provided service as a Wolf Clan Director and his commitment to culture through upholding the words and teachings of our elders and ancestors was demonstrated time and again. He offered rich stories and eloquently remembered memories that taught others about the values Tlingit people hold dearly, and his upbringing and past provided the strong context for Taku River Tlingit First Nation's vision and goals.

you'll never lose your way. Leading with love and trust, we go on with fearlessness to show an open heart and speak our truth. We hold up our hands in gratitude and love for those who came before us, who spoke out against colonial governments and fought for Indigenous rights and self-determination before any other outside government or policy was created for reconciliation purposes.

We will always take pride in the legacy of those who went before us, who show us the true Tlingit way and remind us of the lessons our ancestors gifted to us. Gunalcheesh Sylvester, (insert Tlingit name here), we thank you for all that you have done to honor our way of life.

We shall not forget the lessons and

His legacy will continue to guide us as we move towards the vision of the future that our ancestors gave to us.

His legacy will continue to guide us as we move towards the vision of the future that our ancestors gave to us. As Sylvester once said, Grandfather Salmon knows the way! You have only to close your eyes and trust in the Creator to show you the map and

teachings you left for us as we keep fighting our way upstream in the long battle for self-determination, along the mighty rivers of the Taku Territory we will keep going, so we can keep our lands healthy for our children today and all the tomorrows to come.



BC-TRTFN Joint Visioning Process

This process is a collaboration between BC and the TRTFN to develop a shared vision and to strengthen and deepen our government-to-government relationship. Through honest and meaningful dialogue, we seek to establish a pathway for both Parties to move ahead together.

This pathway should be broad in scope and complementary to other processes currently underway. The process should not limit the vision to lands and resources, nor limit implementation to just the tools currently available.

The commitment to undertake a joint visioning process was outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), completed in August 2021. As outlined in that document, the intent of the process is to develop recommendations for further cooperation and engagement between the two governments, based on an understanding of their respective interests and shared priorities.

Those recommendations will be submitted for formal consideration by both governments and are expected to include:

- Identification of short-to-medium term measures.

- Identification of milestones to be achieved over the short, medium and long term.

- A commitment to strengthen their relationship.

► June 2022 – Visioning Session #1

Participants from TRTFN and BC and facilitators from Alderhill will meet in-person (pending pandemic restrictions) in Atlin, B.C. to engage in discussions around the relationship between the two Parties. Ideally, the outputs from this session will include:

- Elements supporting post-session development of a shared vision;
- Topic areas where there is an alignment of interest for further collaboration;
- Preliminary ideas regarding current or new pathway(s) through which joint work on those topic areas can proceed.
- A list of recommendations for the short-to-medium term.

► July – September 2022 – Post-session work and Preparation for Visioning Session #2

The Joint Visioning Planning Team will work together, led by Alderhill, to review the outcomes of the first visioning session and to draft content, agendas, support materials, and areas for exploration during the second session.

► September 2022 – Visioning Session #2

Participants from TRTFN and BC and facilitators from Alderhill will meet in-person in Vancouver, B.C. (pending pandemic restrictions) to continue conversations around the relationship between the two Parties. In this session, we hope to achieve a rough outline of the intended outcomes of the MOU, including:

- Immediate measures;
- Milestones to be achieved over the short, medium and long term;
- Options for the renewal of the G2G Agreement or subsequent efforts to be taken by the Parties to negotiate one or more further G2G agreements. Ideally, this session will also result in:
- The development of a list of areas for collaboration for which we might be unclear of desired outcomes; and
- A list of ideas for ongoing relationship strengthening.

► October 2022 – Review of Session Outcomes

Both BC and TRTFN with support from Alderhill will work internally to review the outcomes from both Sessions 1 and 2, identifying core areas to be included in the final report.

► November 2022 – Analysis and Drafting of Session Outcomes Report

Alderhill will work closely with both the TRTFN and BC to draft a report of outcomes from both visioning sessions.

► December 2022 – Distribution of Final Report

Multilateral (TRTFN-BC-Canada-Yukon)

TRTFN-BC-Canada Treaty Main Table

TRTFN has been in the BCTC treaty process with British Columbia, the Treaty Commission, and Canada since the 90's. At that time, TRTFN submitted the first main table claim. The old treaty model was flawed, and before BC transformed the process, only a handful of nations out of over a hundred had completed treaties using this model. At a JCM in 2017, TRTFN decided not to accept any more loan funding because progress was not successful. At that time the loans were substantial, however part of the new treaty process is that the loans are forgiven and became grant money to support negotiations.

2019 brought a political transformation in the BC Treaty model system. TRT agreed in December 2021 through a CDC Directive to allow the Negotiating team to go forward and explore options in the new treaty model in BC. We are now seeking Incremental Treaty and Reconciliation Agreements (ITRA's). This approach means that it is not a full and final settlement model and adaptive agreements are the goal to reach self-determination and self-governance.

There will be extensive community engagement which will focus on the principles of UNDRIP (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). These principles will be used to re-educate community on treaty processes, to clarify and create a culture of human rights within TRT, and then to build upon the existing goals of the TRT vision for a truly Tlingit government that is self-determining and



TRTFN Clan Leaders visit to Rome 2022



Hannah Nitro wearing her mother's blanket at the April 2022 Homecoming Ceromony for the Clan leaders who visited Rome in April 2022.

recognized for the sovereign nation that we already are.

There are 4 priorities that we are working on so far: Self Governance, Justice, Economic Development, and Culture and Language. Currently, our team consists of Lead negotiator (Chantelle Schultz) and Treaty Adviser Raymond Lamont. We are in search of a qualified Treaty Coordinator with experience in negotiations. If you know of a person that would be a good fit for this position, please reach out to the Lead Negotiator or respond to posted employment opportunities on this position.

**When we
are exploring
these options,
it will NOT cost
our children.**





TRTFN-YG-Canada RIRSD Table

What does RIRSD mean?

Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination!

Canada is moving forward with Indigenous partners on different paths toward reconciliation, including Recognition of Rights discussion tables.

TRTFN mounted a successful aboriginal rights infringement case against the Yukon in 2016, largely in response to Yukon's proposed development of a major campground at the north end of Atlin Lake.

The courts made two declarations that compel Yukon to consult and potentially accommodate the TRTFN with respect to potential impacts of Yukon authorizations on TRTFN rights and title interests in the Northern Territory.

The proposal to develop the campground was put on hold for five years, to allow TRTFN and Yukon to negotiate new consultation and engagement arrangements and accommodations. This led to the trilateral TRTFN-YG-Canada trilateral table through a federal approach TRTFN-YG RIRSD table has been largely dormant since the time of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Our Federal partners, Canada, were unable to travel and technology was still catching up to the pandemic needs in their systems.

Based on the emerging work of the bilateral table with Yukon Government, we agreed to put the trilateral portion of the negotiation table on 'hold' while we focused on the work with YG.

The effort was worth it as we are now close to reaching agreement (see pages 8 and 9 for updates on YG negotiations with TRTFN). As the Joint Visioning Session with BC and Canada continues (see page 16), TRTFN remains committed to ongoing community engagement to explore the available options for the RIRSD table with Canada and Yukon.



TRTFN Youth Trip to Vancouver Fall 2021





2021 Gathering in Lower Post

Child and Family Services Coordination Framework

Taku River Tlingit First Nation is a transboundary Nation, although we are currently not recognized as a Yukon First Nation with a land base and citizenship in the Yukon region.

This means that our citizens who live in Atlin are not able to receive the same level of services as our Whitehorse citizens. Geographically, TRTFN is obligated to fall under the Ministry of Family and Child Division (MCFD) and BC. This means because we are a Northern and remote community the social worker that comes to us is from Dease Lake and travels to Atlin intermittently. There have been times when our territory has not had a social worker attend for months at a time.

This has left the TRTFN community of Atlin to create their own prevention and

protection plan based on the resources within the community. We have done a beautiful job of keeping children with family homes and direct placing within TRT, and generally advocating for the needs of the family with MCFD or against MCFD as needed.

What this means however is; as a Trans Boundary First Nation, our citizens living in Whitehorse have access consistent with the levels of services that fall under the legislation of the Yukon Territory. Here in Atlin, our citizens don't have that consistent level of service for prevention, family support, child protection services, foster care, or adoption services. The court system is also handled differently. Through the emerging model or framework we are developing, we vision that the disparity between our citizens is one of the things we hope to close the gap on.

With a Co-ordination Framework we can eventually tailor our program so citizens can receive services from prevention – before a family even has a baby or a risk in the home – to adoption, where a child needs to find a safe and stable forever home with a family that is also culturally appropriate.

Once this framework is created and has the accompanying legislation to enact it, TRTFN will be able to use its team that would include up to two protection workers who live in both Atlin and Whitehorse (as we now have a Whitehorse office), who can provide service to any Tlingit citizen wherever they live in Canada. For example, should a citizen be struggling in Vancouver or Calgary, then we will be able to send a worker there and provide that support wherever the family is located. This is our goal.

At the end of 2021 calendar year, we received funding from Canada. With this funding we have hired Project Lead Raymond Lamont and three different contractors/companies to complete some of the basic deliverables. Research and assessment related to the specific pieces of the framework needs to be done first through community consultation.

The design will require a Needs Assessment, or an interview process with community members and others, to assess what services or gaps already exist. This information is intended to create a training program for the staff that we will hire to carry out this work. We will also gather information to help us develop a case management system. The third piece will deal directly with legislation and policy.

Our team consists of Raymond Lamont as our primary treaty advisor and Project Lead, Indigenous Perspective Society, (Rachelle Dallaire) and NOTA BENE Consulting who will work together to complete work plan deliverables. They will also conduct the interviews associated with conducting the research and assessment with TAKU leadership staff and citizens, to define the training program that would be required. Interviews with citizens and staff have already begun!

Although this system may appear colonial, it is important to define our main goal, which can only be accomplished by going through this process to design the framework that works for our community. Throughout the process, the framework will be Indigenized and 'Tlingitized'. The Tlingit concepts and cultural information that is most relevant to Taku people is going to start right from the beginning in the interview process. So, although it may appear mimic a colonial model, this is the arena we must use to create the skeleton framework that will be filled with Tlingit input to ultimately serve our Tlingit people wherever they reside.

Co-ordination Framework



YUKON FORUM IN OLD CROW

TRTFN's Transboundary Status

On June 16th 2022 TRTFN Spokesperson Charmaine Thom represented Taku at the Yukon Forum in Old Crow!

This important recognition of TRTFN's rights in what is now called the Yukon is acknowledging TRTFN's transboundary status in both regions and giving a voice to Tlingits from Atlin, BC. As the animals and migration routes do not recognize colonial imposed borders, our nations also reject the artificial borders.

In Old Crow, under the wonderful hospitality of the VGFN, the Yukon Forum participants saw the ground breaking Solar Farm which powers the community and allowed the generators to be turned off. Our arrival in beautiful Vuntut Gwitchin territory showcased the new elders complex in construction, as well as four new homes being built quickly to assist in the housing crisis in the small community.

After discussion about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+) and the impacts of drug poisoning on our young people, as well as eloquent and passionate truth from Gwitchin youth about climate change action needed to preserve their way of life, the Forum reiterated the need for communication, collaboration and effective partnering with government and industry, and commitment to reconciliation.

Taku River Tlingit First Nation is proud to be a part of the acknowledged platform of the Yukon First Nation's as important work and decision making occurs to serve and benefit all the people in our beautiful traditional territories. This reflects the long standing goals of the Taku Nation as the new Whitehorse Office is planned for a grand opening in the fall!





TAKU



—LINGIT

KAAAY

The long awaited Papal Apology

This summer Pope Francis visited Canada on July 24 – 29th, and on July 26th the TRTFN attendees were among the masses joining the outdoor event in Edmonton, Alberta to hear the address to Indigenous peoples as the eyes of the Canadian population watched.

Like many across Canada, I am thinking about the Pope's trip to our country and the long awaited apology to Indigenous peoples for the heart breaking history of racism and colonization perpetuated in residential schools until the last school closed in 1996. The TRTFN delegation was at the historic gathering and proudly wore regalia in a sea of revitalized cultural symbolism. During the lifetime of the people who attended, some pictured here from the Atlin community, they were not allowed to practice their culture and identity and were forced to participate as their way of life was eroded.

I found myself emotionally swamped by unexpected emotions as I heard the words on the news and media feeds from Pope Francis as he addressed the crowds. As the words were spoken, I fought tears. I didn't expect to feel so strongly because I've always rejected of any sort of words in apologetic formations simply because I always knew it wasn't enough. Even though I didn't go to residential school, my family did. My family was so badly hurt, and my community was irrevocably harmed.

Words and apologies aren't enough to take away the memories burned into our minds as the community trauma becomes more than skin deep wounds, and the ripple effect will be felt for generations of indigenous people trying to find their footing in this evolving world. When I consider their sacrifices, their burdens, the memories and legacy of what was left behind and what can never be left behind no matter how hard and fast we run, I feel myself breaking into a million little pieces.

But, then the invisible hands of my ancestors lift me up and breathe into my spirit so I can open my eyes to see that indeed, today is a new day.

Today, as everyday, an apology is never enough, but admittedly, it opens the door a crack to allow healing and perhaps a new kind of space in which to talk of repair and reconciliation. Today, I have hope.

Today, I stand with my people across the country and the world as we all contemplate a different future for our children.

Today, I grieve for the lost words of all those who cannot speak for themselves.

Today, I burst with pride as I rejoice in the identity cultivated by my homeland, my culture, and my people. Today, as everyday, I am Indigenous – and today I do not have to be afraid to lead with that fact. I hold my hands up to those from my community who had the courage and strength to attend and represent Taku River Tlingit First Nation and show the younger generations how to hold space for the possibility of today that inches us farther away from the darkness of some of our yesterdays.



Follow TRTFN Lead Negotiator Chantelle Schultz on facebook for pictures and current happenings.



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



Taku River Tlingit First Nation
PO Box 132 - Atlin BC, V0W 1A0
Phone: +1 250-651-7900