



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



NEGOTIATIONS

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

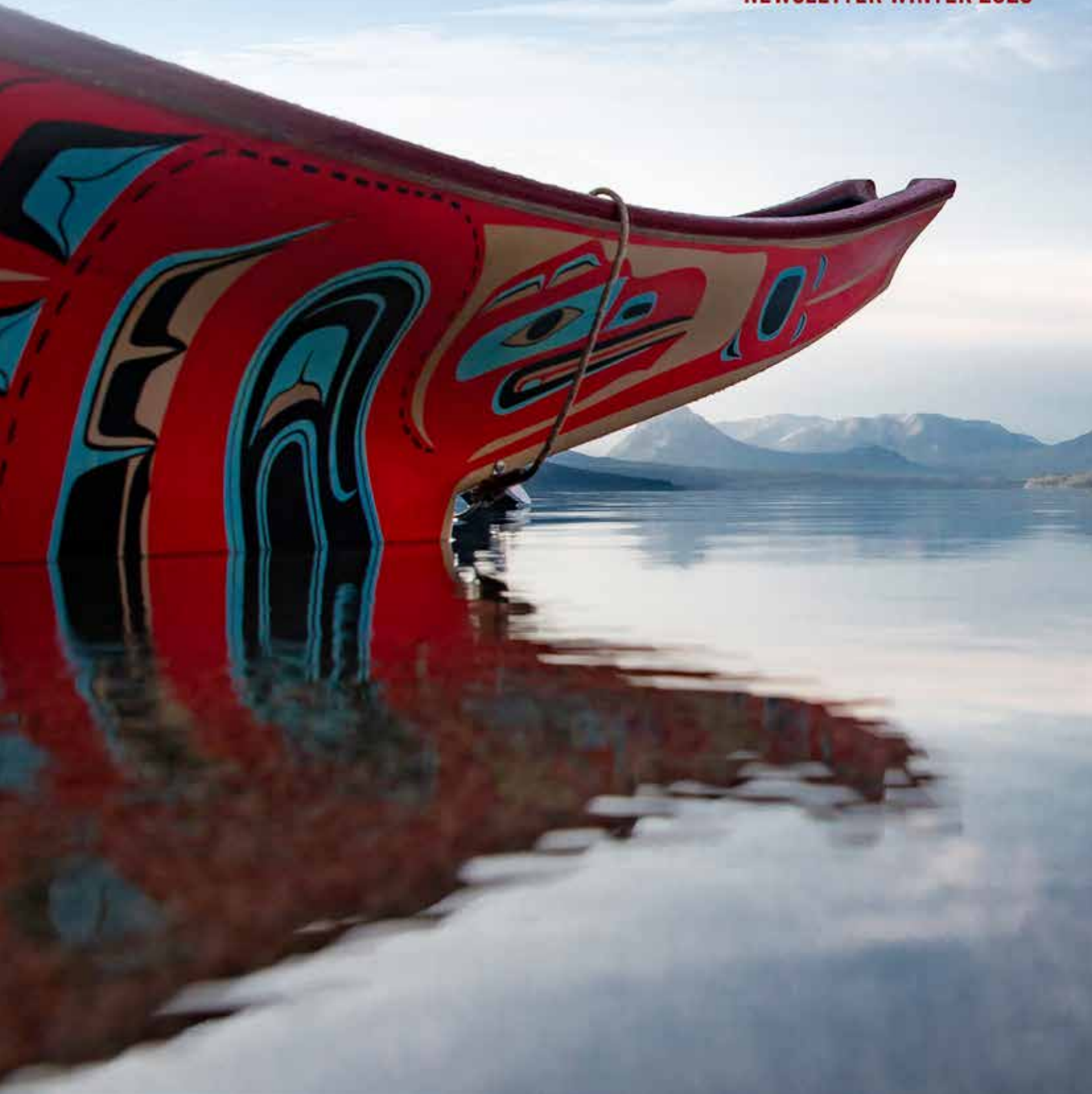


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Credits & Acknowledgements

Produced by Shaax'akée (Chantelle Schultz (Simpson) TRTFN

Layout & Design by Rebecca Law



Message from Senior Negotiator

Good day TRT citizens and those who support Taku goals! I am beyond honored to be creating a message to frame up our second edition of the new Negotiations Magazine. It was a very busy year in 2022 and we are already headfirst into another extremely busy year planned for 2023! I have been working for TRTFN as a negotiator since 2018 and have witnessed an organization that simply exploded into the spotlight in a number of ways, beginning with the addition of several more departments, and a huge number of staff added to the overall Taku team.

The number of projects, negotiations, and ongoing work of the Nation has created a tremendous amount of opportunity for Tlingit and non-Indigenous people alike, and the progress being made towards overall Taku goals is humbling and pride-inducing to observe.

The change is now visible as TRTFN creates new housing, engages with the Crown governments to discuss major initiatives and building projects, manages multiple streams of negotiations with an ever-changing staffing body, and adapts to modern technology in a remote northern region. In fact, our communities are simply overloaded and burnt out from community engagement and the explosive social media presence we have been eagerly curating on the world wide web through our social media platforms, magazines, and information distribution to citizens.

I also know and acknowledge that things haven't been easy in our corner of the world, and similarly to other Indigenous Nations with complex community decision making patterns, emotions run high when Tlingit

people are worried about the loss of so many of those things that make us strong. I assure you – as a long-term Negotiator for Taku, I worry, too. I worry every day that we aren't working hard enough, fast enough, that we are making mistakes, that we might lose people and trust along the way. Like others dedicating their lives to Taku Tlingit people, I lose sleep thinking about all the things we have yet to do that might strengthen the future generations, so they aren't facing the same kinds of problems we are today.

In those moments of utter panic and fear about how we might be making the wrong choice or harming our future legacy, I return to those things that make us strong and connected. Our Elders' words and lessons are good medicine. Our language revitalization work is good medicine. Our land is good medicine. Our stories and traditions and cultural practices, the work of generations past, the hopes and visions for the future across our entire traditional territory, our food that we eat together, it's all good medicine and feeds our children today so that we may feed them really good tomorrow. The medicine I live off to inspire me to keep coming back to fight for a more de-colonized future is...you. All of you. Every single Tlingit person who keeps me focused on the steps ahead is my good medicine to keep doing the good work.

Keep it up, Taaku. You got this.

Chantelle Schultz

Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Senior Negotiator (Manager) of the Department
of Negotiations

MEET THE TEAM



David MacMartin moved from Calgary and started work with the TRTFN Negotiations team on September 1, 2022 as the Treaty Coordinator. He has recently assumed a new position within the Negotiations Department as Treaty Negotiations Strategic Planner.

David has had an extensive career of accomplishment in government relations, featuring the successful negotiation of significant agreements with provincial governments, as well as prior Indigenous government intergovernmental relations experience. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in History, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

He provides strategic advice and research and analytical support to the Senior Negotiator in pursuit of TRTFN negotiations objectives.

David MacMartin

Taku River Tlingit First Nation
MA (Public Admin) MA (History)
Treaty Negotiations Strategic Planner



"I am honored to be a part of the powerhouse team who is working on TRT interests and negotiating for the benefit of our members. The work we are doing is dynamic, exciting, and grounded in the lessons and values of our ancestors. I remember my grandmother telling me about our responsibilities as Tlingit people to take care of the land, the water, and the people and animals that live on, or visit our territory. The land does not "belong" to us, we belong to it, and we are responsible for it.

Our Nation is breaking trail in new ways as we always have. Through negotiations, building healthy and progressive relationships with colonial governments is quickly becoming a reality. With my background and interest in business, I feel blessed to be part of a team where I can help create new Economic Development opportunities. The protection of our environment is top of mind for me, and I take that very seriously as a Tlingit person. As we forge ahead into the future, there are going to be opportunities that put our community members at the centre of it all.

We will be choosing how the world will see us through art, culture, and values. I am a servant and warrior of our community. Stand with me! Arm me with your knowledge, experience, and most importantly with your love for our community and our people. Together we will hold our hands high and raise our families into an even brighter future."

Vincent Esquiro

Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Assistant Negotiator



Negotiations Department Structure

The Negotiations Department has adapted to emerging needs and priorities of the Nation's organizational changes in administration and leadership. The Negotiations Department is now separated from the general Governance Department of TRTFN, which previously identified as "Internal and External" Divisions of Governance. Today, the Negotiations Department is a stand-alone division of the Governance functioning of Head Offices in Atlin, operating mainly out of the Whitehorse Office located at 307 Strickland Street in Whitehorse.

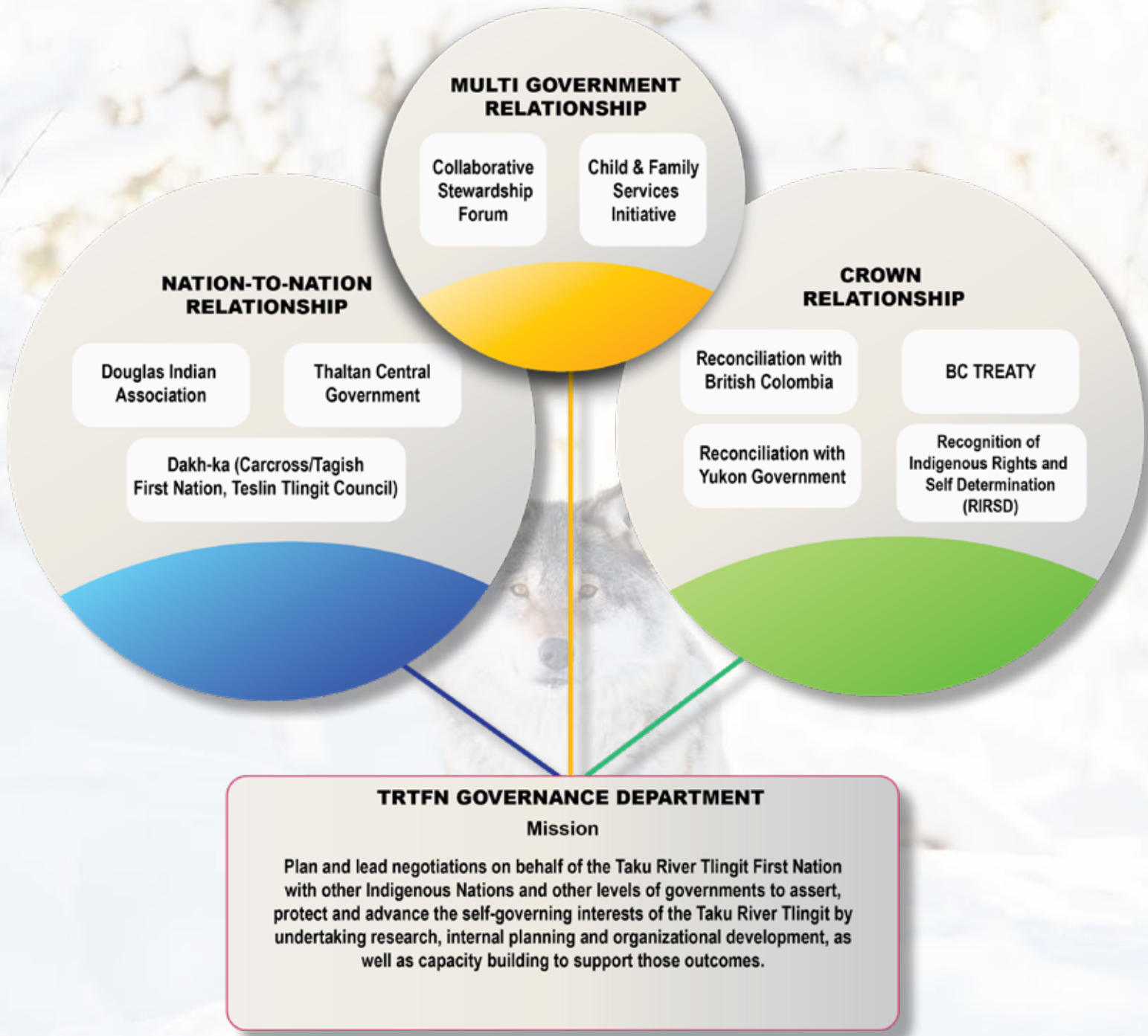
TRTFN's increasingly connected way of operating with other parties through virtual means has allowed the Negotiations team to develop a remote office with oversight through TRTFN main offices and continue work on establishing consistent practices and policy implementation. We are responsible for Negotiations alignment to the existing and emerging practices of the main governance and administrative functioning of the TRTFN.

The BC-G2G Implementation remains with the Lands Department staff (see page 40 for updates on the BC-G2G Agreement and LUP!) and the Senior Negotiator is no longer dedicated to implementation of existing work but is now working only on bringing Agreements and Negotiations products home for the TRT decision makers.

We are now focused exclusively on negotiating agreements with Crown Governments and neighboring Nations across our entire traditional territory in both B.C and our Northern Territories, in what is now called Yukon. With our expanding staffing body, we are confident that our new approach will create even more stability and security for all Taku people. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to adapt and respond to arising needs of the Nation in our dynamic Negotiations department.



Photography by Manu Keggenhoff



Orientation to Negotiations

Glossary

MCFD	The Ministry of Children and Family Development is a ministry of the government of British Columbia in Canada. The MCFD is responsible for the child protection service across the province.
Trans Boundary First Nation	Is one whose traditional or settlement territories overlap existing political borders.
RIRSD	Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self Determination
Self Determination	the process by which a group of people, usually possessing a certain degree of national consciousness, form their own state and choose their own government.
BCTC treaty	BC Treaty Commission -The Treaty Commission's primary role is to oversee the negotiation process to make sure that the parties are being effective and making progress in negotiations.
Treaty	Treaties are agreements made between the Government of Canada, Indigenous groups and often provinces and territories that define ongoing rights and obligations on all sides.
Sovereign Nation	A sovereign nation has a defined territory with just one government.
ITRA's	Treaty and Reconciliation Agreements- focusing on closing socio-economic gaps that separate Indigenous people from other British Columbians, and building a province where all citizens can participate in a prosperous economy.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
G2G	Government-to-Government - is a term used to describe interactions between governments
OIC	Order in Council- Orders in Council are notices of appointments, regulations, or legislative orders related to and authorized by existing legislation
LTA	Land Transfer Agreement - is a legal contract that transfers the ownership of real estate
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Bilateral Negotiations	Negotiations which involve only two parties
Intergovernmental Relations	focus on the relations among Governments. These relationships serve a number of purposes. They provide forums for the exchange of information, for bargaining, negotiation, and consensus-building.
TRM	Treaty-related measures are a type of interim measure that is tied directly to treaty topics under negotiation - they are designed to facilitate treaty negotiations and bring certainty and economic resource development to First Nation and neighbouring local economies.

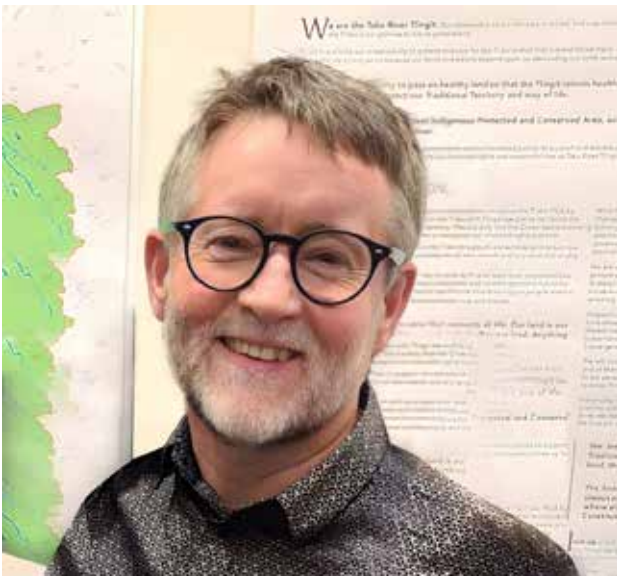
Northern Territories Negotiations

MEET THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

Shaax'akée (Chantelle Schultz (Simpson)) is a Taku River Tlingit First Nation member who began life in Atlin before moving to Whitehorse and has maintained strong connections to the Nation and the Traditional Territory throughout the decades. Proudly a Yanyeidi Wolf clan upcoming Matriarch, Shaax'akée finds her greatest strength from time spent at the Nakinaa river at her family fish camp, and at her own hunting cabin at her communal family hunting grounds in the Atlin East mountains. Chantelle is the Senior Negotiator and has been working for TRTFN since 2017 when she began as the Forum Co-Chair for TRT's BC-G2G Agreement. In 2018, she began as Lead Negotiator of the negotiations with Canada and Yukon under the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination (RIRSD) table. Work has expanded considerably since that time, and she now represents Taku as the Manager of the Negotiations Department and Whitehorse Office.



Shaax'akée, Manager of Negotiations Department and Whitehorse Office



Bryan Evans, Strategic Adviser to Negotiations Department

Bryan Evans, Strategic Adviser to the Negotiations Department

Bryan is a Principal of Dovetail Consulting and is based out of Squamish, B.C. He has worked for TRTFN for over 22 years, beginning in 2001 with the preparations for Land Use Planning and support to the negotiations for development of TRTFN's BC-G2G Agreement and Land Use Plan. Bryan worked with the former Treaty team under Susan Carlick, and then turned to supporting the Northern Territories Negotiations in 2015 under John Ward. Bryan now supports the current Senior Negotiator across the traditional territory of the Taku Tlingit in negotiations with B.C, Canada, and Yukon.

Julian Griggs, Adviser and Implementation Support to the Lands and Resources Department, and Adviser to the Negotiations Department

Julian is a Principal of Dovetail Consulting and is based out of Vancouver, B.C. He has also worked for Taku for over 22 years with the negotiations leading to the BC-G2G Agreement and accompanying Land Use Plan. Once the agreements were signed in 2011, Julian remained involved as ongoing Implementation support to the L&R department at the direction of Lands Managers and the Co-chairs of the Forum. Julian continues his support to the existing G2G Agreement in B.C but has also been supporting the Northern Territories Negotiations since 2020.



Julian Griggs, Adviser and implementation Support



Northern Territory Negotiations

TRTFN-YG G2G Agreement

After many years of negotiations with the Yukon Government, the TRTFN are yet again breaking new ground with two landmark agreements. This agreement package, which is now to be considered for approval by both governments, represents an important step forward, and an opportunity to reshape how we engage with the Yukon on matters related to our Northern Territory.

Fighting for Recognition of Our Northern Territory

Ever since the Yukon Territory was formally established in 1898, the Taku River Tlingits have fought an uphill battle to have our rights and title recognized in our “Northern Territory”, that portion of our traditional territory north of 60°, which represents approximately 8% of our whole traditional territory. In the meantime, the Yukon Government has continued to make decisions that have alienated over 70% of the lands in our Northern Territory, for example by allocating extensive areas to Yukon First Nation Treaty Settlements Lands, establishing protected areas under the Umbrella Final Agreement, as well as authorizing mineral and land tenures.

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 was triggered by 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.

After many years of negotiations, the TRTFN's

Northern Territory negotiations team, led by Chantelle Schultz and under the direction of our CDC, has completed drafts of two landmark agreements with the Yukon Government—the Áashú Land Transfer Agreement, and the Northern Territory G2G Agreement. This package of agreements will now be considered for approval both by the Yukon Cabinet and through a TRTFN Joint Clan Meeting.



The NT Government-to-Government (G2G) Agreement lays the foundation for a new respectful, government-to-government relationship between TRTFN and Yukon. It is an incremental reconciliation agreement, not a treaty agreement. If approved, this will be the first agreement of its kind in the Yukon and it represents a fundamental shift in how our rights and interests in the Northern Territory will be recognized and addressed. It will also secure opportunities for Tlingit citizens and the TRTFN to gain improved access to services and economic opportunities north of 60°.

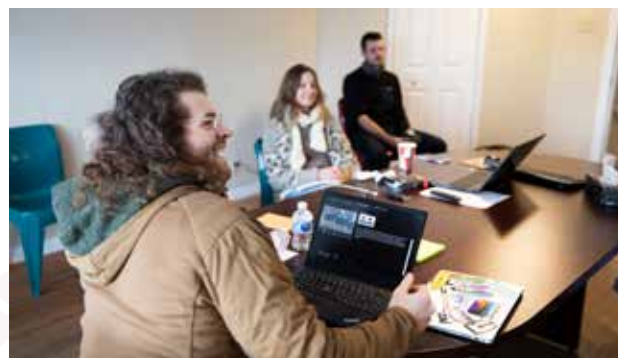
The NT G2G Agreement also represents the leading edge of arrangements with transboundary nations, despite the lack of policies in the Yukon on matters such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) or consent-based decision making, which continue to lag behind other jurisdictions such as BC.

NT- G2G Structures, Processes and Initiatives

To make implementation more straightforward, and as directed by the TRTFN Leadership, the NT G2G Agreement is modeled after the TRTFN-BC Agreement, but with several 'upgrades' based on more than 10 years of experience.

The NT G2G Agreement will establish a NT Government to Government Forum (G2GF), which will provide a focus for strategic dialogue and interaction, and that will use a consensus-based decision-making model. The design of the NT G2GF includes a Senior Committee that will enable political representatives to meet together on a regular basis, a Management Committee to oversee implementation of the agreement, and a Secretariat to provide technical and administrative support.

The NT G2G Agreement also sets out the ways in which TRTFN and Yukon will engage with each other to review all proposed Yukon authorizations and consider changes to legislation and policy that may impact TRTFN.



The NT G2G Agreement also commits the parties to three "Joint Initiatives" or implementation projects:

Áashú Revitalization: to develop a community vision for how the Áashú Lands will be used.

Capacity & Economic Measures: to explore how the Yukon Government can provide access to services and economic opportunities for the TRTFN and Tlingit members comparable to other Yukon First Nations.

Transboundary Lake Management Planning: to ensure our fresh water species in Atlin and Tagish Lake are protected and properly managed across BC and Yukon.

Land Use Planning and Habitat Protection for Caribou

The NT G2G Agreement commits Yukon and TRTFN to seek to establish a land use planning process for the Northern Territory within 2 years, working collaboratively with C/TFN and TTC.

The agreement also commits TRTFN and Yukon to develop recommendations for interim caribou habitat protection in the Jakes Corner/Judas Creek area within 2 years, which will remain in effect until replaced by permanent protections through Southern Lakes Land Use Planning.

Support for Implementation

The NT G2G Agreement includes dedicated funding to support implementation, dispute resolution mechanisms, and a defined process for periodic review and renewal, enabling the details of the agreement to be upgraded over time.



Yukon Negotiations – Land Transfer Agreement (LTA)

Áashú Land Transfer Agreement

The Áashú Land Transfer Agreement (LTA) is an historic agreement and the first of its kind in the Yukon.

If and when the Áashú LTA is ratified by the Taku River Tlingits at a JCM, and by Yukon Cabinet, a parcel of land comprising 1,150 hectares at the north end of Atlin Lake, including all the Atlin Lake shoreline from the Yukon / BC border to the Lubock River, will transfer to TRTFN as "fee simple." The transfer of that land will provide the TRTFN with ownership and exclusive use of the property for the benefit of all Tlingit citizens, in perpetuity.

The Áashú Lands are 25% bigger than Five Mile Reserve. This will be the largest fee simple land transfer in the history of the Yukon. Áashú Lands will be held by a TRTFN corporate entity for the beneficial interest of the TRT community for the long term.

Once the lands are secured, we will embark on a community visioning process – the "Áashú Revitalization Joint Initiative" – to understand how YOU would like to see these lands used for our community's benefit. Some of the ways that the Áashú Lands

could be used include traditional use, such as camps and cabins; community infrastructure, such as a healing and language retreat centre; eco-tourism and culturally based tourism facilities; and potentially, community housing.

The Áashú Lands will fully encompass the Yukon Camp and two other private land parcels. Those landowners will continue to hold and have access to their properties. The public will also be able to use the existing road to access the lakefront for temporary, casual use, as is the case for all waterfront lands in the Yukon.

We hope that many TRT citizens will get involved in the Áashú Lands Revitalization and share your hopes and dreams for how these lands can best serve present and future generations of Tlingits!





Whitehorse Office

The TRTFN remote office located at 307 Strickland Street in the core of downtown Whitehorse is the main hub for Negotiations. Jointly shared and paid for by the TRTFN Corporation ATELP, the office space is currently used exclusively for Negotiations preparedness and alignment with governance development in the head offices of our Atlin location at #1 Taku Drive. We still have a lot to do to feel comfortable that the offices are being well-developed and many tasks are waiting for the receptionist position to be filled.

Once the part-time front desk person has been hired, the Whitehorse Office will undergo a necessary "Tlingitization" process to ensure citizens who visit feel connected to Wenah (Atlin) and the TRT culture simply by walking in the front door. Signage will be coming to clearly identify the offices as belonging to Taku River Tlingit First Nation by spring 2023!

The office is becoming more well used by staff of TRTFN while they are in Whitehorse, as well as hosting community engagement events targeted for our citizens living in Yukon.

The vision for the community is still to see programming and other social connectivity

events be scheduled to continue the expansion of Taku goals. We are committed to sustainable activity that will give our people a place to gather in Whitehorse for many purposes.

If you or someone you know would like to start an after-hours sewing or beading group, support networks for mothers and women, or encourage our Tlingit men through support groups, or have some other great idea for social and cultural needs of the Taku Tlingit people, please contact tn.strategicplanner@gov.trtfn.com



Photography by Manu Keggenhoff





Southern Territory Negotiations

MEET THE MAIN TABLE TEAM

Vincent Esquiro, Assistant Negotiator

Vincent is a Taku Tlingit citizen and lives in Atlin, B.C with his partner and community member, Marvin. He returned home to Taku country from living in large city centers a decade ago and has been very actively involved in many aspects of the Nation's activities, including being a Wolf Clan Director for past leadership. Vince is the appointed 3Nations Society Representative and works on regional B.C matters that demonstrate collaboration between nations at the community level. He uses this experience to align with ongoing Taku goals and enhance the Negotiations role he now plays in supporting the team on priorities to further internal Wenah (Atlin) community projects, and successful negotiations outcomes with B.C and Canada.



Vincent Esquiro, Assistant Negotiator



David MacMartin Treaty Negotiations Strategic Planner

David MacMartin

David has added tremendous administrative and strategic support to the Negotiations team. Using his Public Administration and Intergovernmental Relations post-secondary education focus, David has strengthened policy development, provided stable support to the creation of structure and process, and elevated Taku's success on proposal and project design. He is the "invisible" force behind the Senior Negotiator involved in nearly all matters of Negotiations Department functioning, including scheduling meetings, meeting preparations, document production, communications strategy, community engagement needs, internal strategic approach, and overall coordination.





Priorities & Approach

History of the BCTC Process and New Approach for Negotiations

The British Columbia treaty negotiations process kicked off in December of 1993 with the establishment of the BCTC on December 16, 1993. TRTFN was the first to enter the B.C. treaty process. The TRTFN noted at the outset of this process that it had been working on its transboundary claim in the Yukon at that time.

Little progress was made in the following three decades in the overall British Columbia treaty process, specifically in the TRTFN treaty negotiations with Canada and B.C., or in the negotiation of a TRTFN Yukon transboundary agreement.

Frustration with the slow pace of treaty negotiations, with the failure of these processes to produce tangible outcomes and increasing treaty negotiation loans, the Nation decided in 2017 to no longer accept treaty negotiation loans.

Canada subsequently took steps to forgive treaty negotiation loans extended to First Nations. To facilitate greater progress in negotiations, in September 2019 Canada, British Columbia and representatives of the Indigenous Nations in British Columbia co-developed a new British Columbia-specific "recognition and reconciliation policy," the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia (the RRR Policy).

Based on the forgiving of treaty loans and consideration of the key elements of the new RRR Policy, in December of 2021, the TRTFN Clan Directors Council (CDC) passed a Directive for the Nation to explore treaty negotiation options available under this new policy framework. Key elements of the 2019 RRR Policy have created a more flexible approach to treaty negotiations than was previously available.





First Nations are no longer required to engage in the exclusive pursuit of comprehensive "Final Agreements", but instead can opt to realign the focus of discussions with their Crown government negotiating partners on the pursuit of "treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements." Such arrangements would be based on and reflect recognition that First Nation rights are not "frozen in time" but can and are expected to evolve over time.

They can focus as well on a variety of topics such as policy and jurisdiction areas, sector-specific agreements, and incremental and sequenced or staged timing approaches to the definition and negotiation of specific mandates and agreements. The outcome of such varied and flexible possible approaches to negotiations is being aimed at and resulting in Incremental Treaty and Reconciliation Agreements (ITRAs).

It is the preparation for and negotiation of ITRAs focused on TRTFN priorities and associated Work Plans that the TRTFN negotiation activities, which are financially supported by the BCTC, are now focused on. Progress towards the development of these ITRA's will require community engagement and CDC decision making as work continues.



Photography by Manu Keggenhoff



Southern Territory Negotiations

TIPCA

Taku River Tlingit have a sacred relationship with our territory, reflected in the concept of Lingit Kusteeyí (Tlingit way of living), which encompasses our relationship with our land and all life that depends upon it. The declaration of the T'akú IPCA is founded upon our commitment to care for the fish, wildlife, land, and waters of Taku River Tlingit Territory today and forever.

The T'akú Tlatsini IPCA fulfills our Elder, Leadership and citizen direction for the T'akú watershed, originally identified in the Nation's 2009 Tlatsini (Places That Make Us Strong) Vision. Since 2018, we have engaged with our citizens, Leadership and Elders to build on this Vision to develop our T'akú IPCA. We believe the T'akú IPCA will protect the values that our culture is founded upon, while allowing opportunities for environmentally and socially responsible development. Our T'akú Tlatsini IPCA provides for the health and climate resilience of wild salmon, wildlife, and our cultural resilience and Lingit Kusteeyí. During the Atlin Taku Land Use Plan

development, we sought protection for many of these places. While significant progress was made in collaboration with your government, landscapes that are critical to the long-term health of the T'akú and Lingit Kusteeyí were not protected.

As our ancestors have always done, we are using our Indigenous laws and inherent jurisdiction to protect these Tlatsini landscapes. We seek to build upon our strong government-to-government relationship to develop a shared vision for these landscapes as well as for environmentally and socially responsible development that will support thriving and healthy communities.

TRTFN Clan Directors Council, Elders and Clan Leaders approved the T'aku ICPA and Declaration Map in January 2023. Ongoing work with the Province of B.C and neighboring nations will continue to develop with community and Elder support.



Treaty Related Measure Projects (TRM)

TRTFN has three (3) Treaty Related Measure Projects that are either ongoing or just beginning with the submission of a proposal in this current fiscal. The projects are worked on until completion of the work plan deliverables is successfully achieved, or the project may need a new funding submission to see it through to completion.

The projects TRTFN is currently engaged in at the TRM level are considered as valuable information for the Negotiations team and will directly influence negotiating strategy and approach, as well as provide critical information for the community and future generations.



Treaty Related Measure Projects (TRM)

Constitutional Amendment Project



The TRT Constitution was first created in 1993 and amended in 2005. As time has changed and modern law and policy evolved, the need to revisit the Constitution for changes to update it has increased as TRTFN's organizational structure and staffing body has drastically increased and changed too. Many citizens and members of different leaderships over the last number of years have also noticed the Constitution does not address or give clarity to emerging needs of the Nation's conduct and decision-making.

In January 2022, the Negotiations team submitted a proposal under the Treaty Related Measures (TRM) program. The proposal was successful and received support with funds flowing in June. Consultant Kirk Cameron was hired as the Project Manager and will carry the project through, including seeking additional

funds when necessary.

The TRT Constitutional process was discussed at the Joint Clan Meeting in June 2022, and Members asked that more work be done on clearly describing what a timeline would look like that addresses all parts of Constitutional review. These include the overall Constitution (all parts), and specifically the elections provisions and the Membership Code.

Considerable work was done last year on the Membership Code which is important for all aspects of the Constitutional review. In addition, a process map was brought to the December 2022 JCM. Members asked for more time to consider the information that was brought to the JCM. This will likely be a major agenda item for the JCM in June 2023 this year. In the meantime, there will continue to be discussions with Members on the Membership Code given its importance to the foundation of who we are as a First Nation; who is recognized as its Members, who can participate in decision-making forums, and among other things, the creation of a legal body of those members who can ratify any possible future treaty agreements.

One major outstanding task is the requirement for a Constitutional Committee to address community engagement and consideration of Constitutional amendments in all its parts. We are doing a first call out at the upcoming JCM at the end of February 2023, but will continue to seek members to fill the roles if the task is not completed at that time. The process needs its champions and that will come through the establishment of an active committee with this responsibility to ensure alignment with cultural values, community needs, and historical context.

If you are interested in a role on the much needed Constitutional Committee, please contact the Negotiations office or Kirk Cameron directly at kirk@kirkcameron.ca.



Oral Histories Project

"The Heritage Team has been busy continuing the work of transcribing the audio recordings which make up the Oral Histories Repository which began in Fiscal 2021-2022. The Transcription Team is led by Dr. Christine Schreyer and continues to follow a 3-step process which prioritizes the identification of Tlingit place names throughout our territory.

As a part of this work, approximately 35 new place names have been surfaced and recorded, enriching our understanding of how our ancestors used these lands and waters. Additional elements of this work include connecting the traditional knowledge contained within these recordings to maps, and there will be a Mapping Roundtable taking place on February 23rd at the Admin Offices to better understand what GIS options might be available to support that side of this project's work.

Early on in this project, access to the Oral Histories Repository was identified as potentially problematic due to not having any existing permissions forms outlining what the original intention of these recordings were. Work has been underway to hear from the community what their wishes are regarding access to this valuable collection and the Access policy is nearly finished.

We are pleased to share that access for citizens will be prioritized, alongside work that focuses on upholding our sovereignty within our territory. The Heritage Team is hosting an open house February 20-23rd and Citizens are invited to participate on any of the available days to learn how they can access their ancestors voices.

Legacy collections which were retrieved from the Seacan last August have been going through the



process of being digitized, and Roberta Shepherd is currently in Vancouver receiving training on the Digitization equipment which will soon be available for citizens who have personal collections they would like to be digitized.

Gratitude goes to the Indigitization Program for the funds to purchase this valuable equipment."



History of TRTFN Traditions of Clan Governance:

Treaty Related Measure (TRM)

Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) is working within the flexible framework for discussing treaty and other types of agreements provided by the Reconciliation and Recognition of Rights (RRR) Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia (2019). The Negotiations Department is following the Clan Directors Council (CDC) Directive of December 2021 that directed that the TRTFN pursue opportunities available under the "RRR Policy" of September 2019.

This new policy replaces the old "Land Claims" policy that required First Nations in British Columbia to pursue comprehensive "Final Agreements" that included lands, a process which the TRTFN withdrew from in 2017. Under the new "RRR Policy", First Nations can decide to realign the focus of their discussions with the Crown colonial governments away from a focus on comprehensive "Final Agreements."

They can instead focus on incremental treaty negotiations, dealing with a variety of topics. These could include or consist of things like policy and jurisdiction areas, sector-specific agreements, and incremental and sequenced or staged timing approaches to negotiating these types of more narrowly defined agreements. These can be concluded one at a time, or in combination. They could be pursued in a sequence that reflects a First Nation's specific desires for moving gradually to conclude a series of treaties and agreements, rather than seek to conclude one, huge overall "Final Agreement" type of treaty.

As a first priority, the Negotiations Department is exploring opportunities available to negotiate implementation of a Core Self-Government Incremental Treaty and Reconciliation Agreement (ITRA). The Department has submitted a proposed research study to examine the History of TRTFN Traditions of Clan Governance, under the Treaty Related Measures (TRM) funding support program of the Government of Canada's Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) department. The CIRNAC treaty negotiators that the TRTFN Negotiations Department is working with strongly support the TRTFN proposal, which they consider to be very closely linked to the TRTFN incremental treaty

negotiations objectives.

The History of TRTFN Traditions of Clan Governance study will generate critically important historical information that will serve as a basis for the design of a model for contemporary TRTFN self-government. This future TRTFN Government will be based on and incorporate historical inter-Clan, intra-Clan and external to the Nation TRTFN traditional approaches to governance, to reaching agreements, to building consensus, and to resolving disputes and conflict within each of these contexts. TRTFN's vision of a stable, modern form of traditional Taku River Tlingit governance requires designing mechanisms and processes that will facilitate, in a modern context, the effective implementation of the very special and unique Taku River Tlingit tradition of governing and decision-making by consensus. The proposed project will generate historical knowledge, insights and advice from Tlingit traditional knowledge holders that will inform the design of future TRTFN self-government structures and processes.

Initiating and completing this project is of urgent importance for the TRTFN, given the Nation's priority of designing and negotiating a TRTFN Core Self-Government Agreement. The importance of Clan governance history as a basis for designing future TRTFN Self-Government has been underscored by Jackie Williams, Yanyeidi Clan leader from 1956–2013. In the forward to his book, *Lingit Kusteeyi: What my Grandfather taught me* (2013), Clan Leader Williams stated:

"It is very important that as Tlingit people we believe in our traditional ways and our clan system of government."

The Negotiations Department seeks to be guided in its on-going work by Taku River Tlingit Clan leaders and traditional knowledge holders and by the advice that they provide. We look forward to starting work on this important study sometime this coming summer. It will take one year to complete. The Negotiations Department looks forward to sharing and discussing the exciting findings emerging from this study along the way with all TRTFN citizens.



Multilateral (TRTFN-Canada-Yukon)

TRTFN-YG-Canada RIRSD Table

TRTFN's Northern Tripartite table with Canada and Yukon is housed under the new Government of Canada initiative, which is focused on working with Indigenous groups across the country to explore new ways of advancing the recognition of Indigenous rights and self-determination. This table is called the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-determination.

TRTFN mounted a successful aboriginal rights infringement case against Yukon in 2016, largely in response to Yukon's proposed development of a major campground at the North end of Atlin Lake (see page 34 for detailed information). The tripartite work was focused primarily on TRTFN's building of the administrative and governance foundational elements to support ongoing good governance practice and create departmental structure and policy-driven process for successful negotiations. Ultimately, the work at the RIRSD table led to a bilateral focus on Negotiations with Yukon Government while the trilateral RIRSD table stayed 'dormant' when the Covid-19 Pandemic struck the globe.

The Canada Negotiating team is working with TRTFN at both our Southern and Northern tables, ensuring consistency and stability in team structure and process. One of the Taku Tlingit's values is to see our territory in a holistic way, which means disregarding the boundary lines that separate our Traditional Territory into what is now called British Columbia and what is now called Yukon. This is easier said than done as the legislation and policy barriers are complex when everyone besides TRT sees themselves as the only decision maker!

In 2023, the RIRSD table is now poised to resume development of a work plan to support goals across the Northern Territory, one of which is researching and documenting the story of our Elder's voices in guiding us to where we have gotten today. Our community, Elders, and other important voices will be called upon to help us gather the story and write it for all future generations to use in this and future negotiations to come.

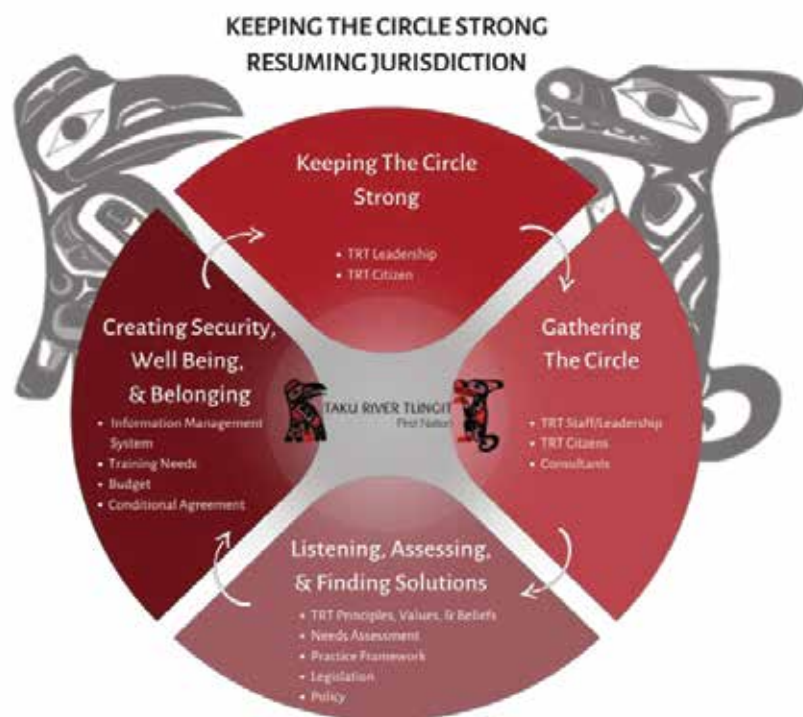
The teams remain committed to the opportunities available in the North through the collaborative work of the governments as we build upon the actions of generations past. We will lead with our Elders' voices and work diligently to produce tangible outcomes we are sure will enhance the quality of life of all Tlingit's – no matter the borders between us.





Child and Family Wellness Coordination Framework

Keeping the Circle Strong Bill C-92 Resuming Jurisdiction



TRT culture and valued-informed approach. Within the community, the project has been fondly called "Keeping the Circle Strong".

In coordination with the Negotiations team leads, the consultants team is working towards completion of a report outlining the elements of a proposed practice framework later in 2023 for review by the TRT leadership and community engagement.

(Team leads, Chantelle Schultz Senior Negotiator, and Assistant Negotiator Vincent as Taku technical lead)

Following the changes by Parliament of the Bill C-92 legislation which enables Indigenous Governments to pursue their own self-determination and approach to caring for their own families and children, the Negotiations Department Senior Negotiator has led the work for the TRTFN on developing a plan and strategy for resuming jurisdiction for Child and Family Services.

The work began in late 2021 with funding received and available for use early in 2022. A group of external consultants has worked with the TRTFN leadership and members of the TRTFN Government Administration and has interviewed individual TRTFN members in the process of developing a

The Consultants team is working with the internal teams of TRTFN to build on the information gathered in the information sessions and interviews to design a strong Prevention Plan for services delivered in the communities of Atlin and Whitehorse through our head offices and remote offices. This will build the foundation for continued work along the pathway to full jurisdiction empowered in the TRT communities.

Pictured on page 31 is the "Jurisdictional Roadmap" graphic which portrays the steps along a multiyear journey leading to the TRTFN being in a position to negotiate the Coordination Agreement with the current colonial government services and funding providers that would enable the TRTFN to exercise resumed jurisdiction for TRTFN Child and Family Services.



JURISDICTION

TREA



DEC 2022

CHILD & FAMILY

Listening

Gathering

Establish
Team

Develop
Workplan

Engage
Leaders

Engage
Community

Identify
Values
Beliefs
Principles

Identify
Needs

Deve
Frame
for
Prac

DEC 2022

AUG

AL ROADMAP



TY



Consider
Jurisdictional
Options

Consider
Coordination
Agreement (C-92)

Consider
Incremental
Treaty Related
Agreement Child
& Family

Creating

RESUMING JURISDICTION

Keeping Strong

Develop
Network
or
Practice

Develop
Legislation

Develop
Policy

Secure
Info
Management
System

Identify
Training
Needs

Establish
Budget

**Negotiate
Agreement**

2023

2026/2027

TRTFN-BC-G2G

Activities & Updates



MEET THE TRTFN-BC G2G Forum Team

In order to support ongoing Negotiations and dedicated outcomes, the Senior Negotiator has transitioned away from the BC-G2G Forum Co-chair role.

After more than six years of service to the G2G Forum, the knowledge and experience of the Forum activities will only serve to further enhance discussions with the Crown governments, aid in strengthening relations with internal Atlin Community, and help develop strategy and approach of Negotiations across all of Taku country.

Rodger Thorlakson, Lands and Resources Manager for TRTFN, has stepped into the role of Tlingit Co-chair of the Forum. Rodger has nearly two years of experience working as Lands Manager, but as a Tlingit citizen living in Wenah (Atlin), he comes with a wealth of experience from his past role in the Health and Social Department, and a previous role as Wolf Clan Director for past Leaderships.

Rodger is a dedicated support to the ongoing activities of the Joint Initiatives, overseeing work conducted in those Working Groups and captured here in updates.

JI Co-chairs

Shannon Whelan – FWMWG

PAWG – Currently vacant

Jackie Caldwell, MJWG

Supporting Lands Staff who are instrumental to ongoing strategic discussions with the Province at the Forum level are Hannes Schraft, LGP
Mark Connor and Jason Williams, Fisheries.



Rodger Thorlakson, TRTFN Lands and Resources Manager/ BC- G2G Forum Co-chair



Shannon Whelan - FWMWG



Jackie Caldwell, MJWG



Hannes Schraft, LGP



Jason Williams, Fisheries



Mark Connor, Fisheries

TRTFN Visioning Process

The TRTFN Joint Visioning Process (JVP) originated from the TRTFN-BC Government-to-Government agreements, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Parties in 2021. A remarkable in-person session was held in Atlin in September 2022, and was attended by representatives from the main partners of the Joint Visioning Process who will be expected to make formal commitments: Province of BC, TRTFN, and the Government of Canada.

Also participating were members of the Atlin Community Improvement District (ACID), the Atlin community, and the Yukon Government. This was the beginning of work between Canada, BC, and TRTFN to develop a shared vision and pathway to support TRTFN's vision for self determination over the next 20 years and beyond. The commitment to do this came from many years of TRTFN and BC working in partnership to implement the 2011 Wooshtin Yan Too.Aat Shared Decision Making Agreement and the shared desire to evolve and reinvigorate the government-to-government relationship.

TRTFN developed a draft vision for the future that was a starting point for discussion at the session, with the goal to develop a shared joint vision to guide future work between the three governments. This draft was shared with the community of Atlin to support engagement about the process and invite feedback. The theme of Local Reconciliation and community unity arose as a clear priority area of work in the future. Building a future that works for everyone is a central part of this work.

The community dinner and open house on Sept 21st at the Rec Centre was very well attended, and the teams saw record breaking numbers of attendees who had thoughtful questions and vulnerable

comments. The theme of Local Reconciliation picked up steam following the September Session and Open House, leading to a separate pathway for the local community of Atlin to have conversations with the Municipal branch of the BC Ministry, and capitalize on and prepare to advance the Atlin Community outcomes.

TRTFN remains supportive of the Local Reconciliation Process, and will continue to work in parallel with ACID and with other partners as we continue to develop our own JVP pathway. We fully anticipate that the Atlin community will determine their own next steps in a distinct process meant to meet the unique needs of the remote, northern Atlin area.

The joint commitments of the TRTFN, BC, and Canada following the September session were to host a series of short virtual workshops to dig deeper into each of the 10 themes contained in TRTFN's draft vision, building toward a second session in Atlin in Spring 2023. Unfortunately, the teams were not able to collect as quickly or efficiently as TRTFN had hoped in September and delays occurred which prevented a solid plan forward on how to schedule these next steps.

After several months of intensive communications and meetings with the other Parties to design a process that fits into the restrictive budgeting limitations, TRTFN is obligated to move forward in the process of defining next steps with Alderhill Planning Inc. as our primary vehicle to engage with the Community.

BC and Canada remain supportive and involved and are looking to TRTFN to lead the next steps and define how we would like to complete the TRTFN Vision for the next 20+ years. We are satisfied that the outcomes and interests clarified throughout the process will serve multiple purposes and will only further enhance our collaborative relationships with others who seek to support Atlin as a region, and the TRT communities as a whole.



**Building a future that works
for everyone is a central
part of this work.**



TRTFN-BC Fish & Wildlife Management Working Group

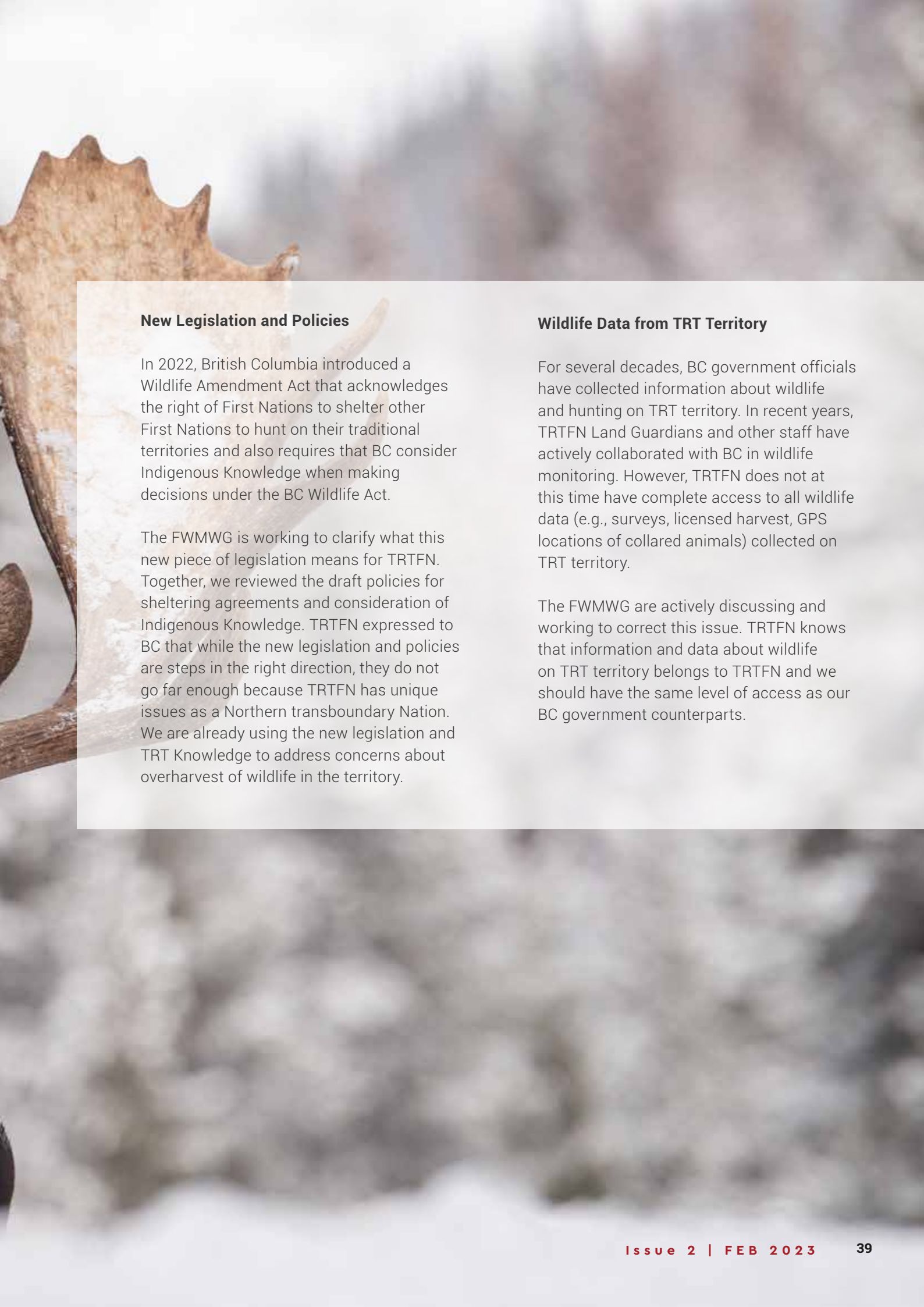
Winter 2023 Update

Moose Hunting

In Fall 2022, TRTFN staff received a great deal of information from TRT citizens who were concerned about overharvest of local moose populations by non-local hunters. Thank you to everyone who sent messages, emails, and visited the Lands Department to express your concerns – you gave us the information we needed to discuss these important moose issues! The Fish and Wildlife Management Working Group (FWMWG) raised TRTFN concerns about the BC-licensed moose harvest during the November 2022 G2G Forum.

The FWMWG has been meeting regularly since that forum to discuss new information coming in about the number of moose hunters who came to TRT Territory. We discussed how recent hunting regulation changes in Northeastern BC and other places have pushed more hunters into the Atlin area, and how that negatively affected the local subsistence harvest. We are dedicated to making progress on these issues.





New Legislation and Policies

In 2022, British Columbia introduced a Wildlife Amendment Act that acknowledges the right of First Nations to shelter other First Nations to hunt on their traditional territories and also requires that BC consider Indigenous Knowledge when making decisions under the BC Wildlife Act.

The FWMWG is working to clarify what this new piece of legislation means for TRTFN. Together, we reviewed the draft policies for sheltering agreements and consideration of Indigenous Knowledge. TRTFN expressed to BC that while the new legislation and policies are steps in the right direction, they do not go far enough because TRTFN has unique issues as a Northern transboundary Nation. We are already using the new legislation and TRT Knowledge to address concerns about overharvest of wildlife in the territory.

Wildlife Data from TRT Territory

For several decades, BC government officials have collected information about wildlife and hunting on TRT territory. In recent years, TRTFN Land Guardians and other staff have actively collaborated with BC in wildlife monitoring. However, TRTFN does not at this time have complete access to all wildlife data (e.g., surveys, licensed harvest, GPS locations of collared animals) collected on TRT territory.

The FWMWG are actively discussing and working to correct this issue. TRTFN knows that information and data about wildlife on TRT territory belongs to TRTFN and we should have the same level of access as our BC government counterparts.

Land Guardian Program Update

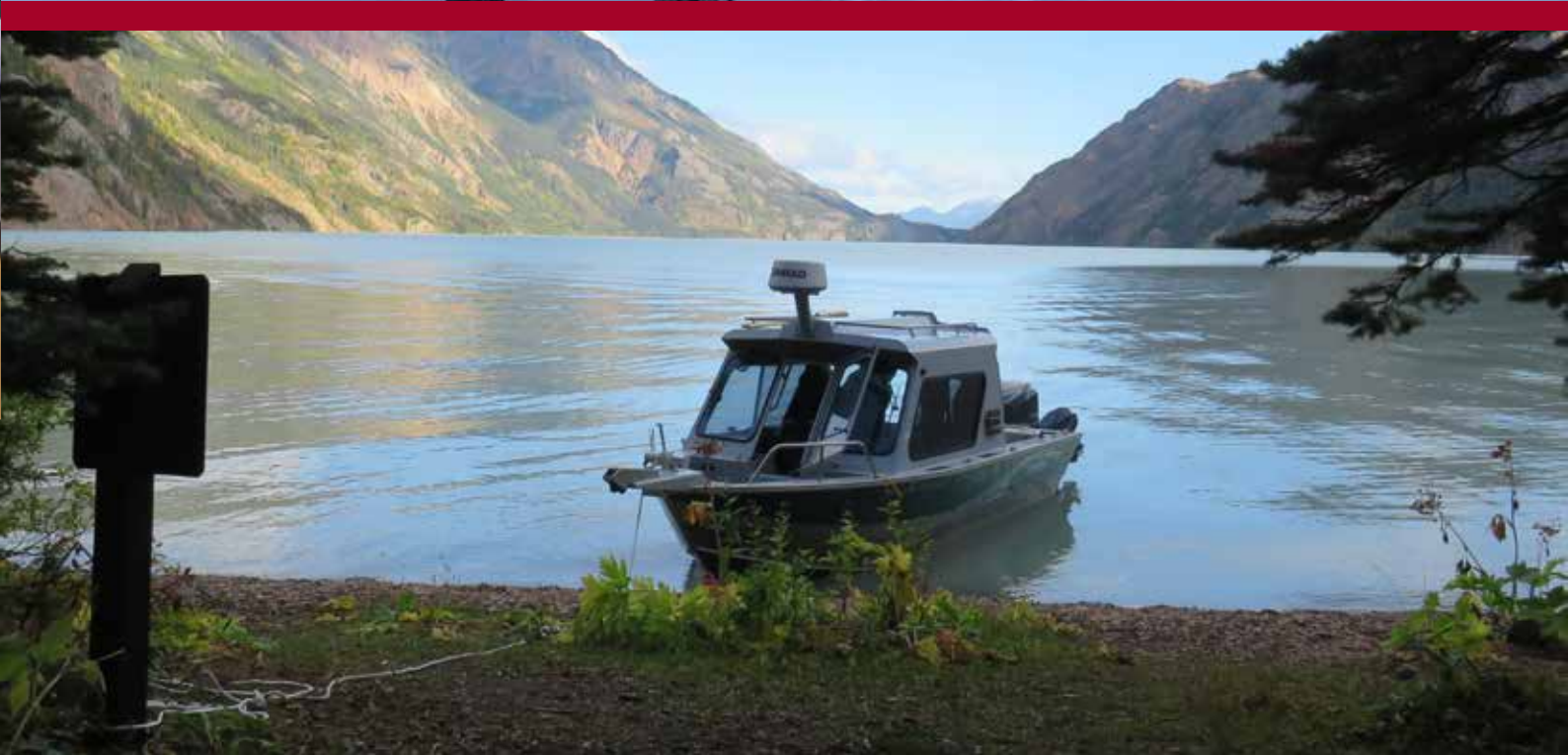
The Haa Aani Tulatín – Land Guardian Program acts as the eyes and ears on the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The mission of the Land Guardians is to gather information to inform TRTFN decision makers, revitalize Tlingit Kusteeyí – the Tlingit traditional way of life, empower Tlingit citizens, and assert Tlingit authority on the land.

In the fall we conducted regular patrols in the area around Atlin to monitor hunting activity. We patrolled by quad, boat, and truck to monitor hunters and ensure that all non-TRTFN hunters follow the regulations. Like many citizens, we noticed an increase in hunter numbers, especially in hunters from outside of Atlin. We joined forces with the Conservation Officer on several occasions, including one aerial patrol to the Taku to monitor for Alaskan hunters crossing the border. We conducted one road check with the Conservation Officer and BC Biologists; a second one was planned but had to be cancelled because BC was unable to provide the required resources.

Land Guardians are present on the land throughout the winter conducting track surveys for Watsix/caribou. TRTFN has been monitoring the Atlin Watsix/caribou herd since 2014 and is a leader in this regard. This winter we are starting a new study on the effects of recreation on caribou, which will include setting up camera traps, conducting aerial surveys, and analyzing satellite imagery. We have also been working closely with the Wildlife Division on several projects, including Tawéi/sheep mortality investigations, aerial Tawéi Dzísk'w/sheep surveys and collaring, and Dzísk'w/moose stewardship planning with BC.

Our Land Guardian team continues to grow; Emma Law joined the team in November and Izaiah Carlick continues to work with us a few days every month as a Youth Land Guardian. This winter we will be drafting a new strategic plan for the Land Guardian Program to set the direction for the next 3-5 years. If you have comments or input, please feel free to reach out!





Mineral Joint Working Group

(MJWG)

The MJWG is a working group established by the BC-TRTFN Government-to-Government Forum (G2GF) under Sec 3.8.c of the Wóoshtin Yan Too.Aat: Land and Resource Management and Shared Decision-Making Agreement (the 'G2G Agreement').

The MJWG is tasked with:

- Proactively engaging on mining-related issues to advance reconciliation and support informed decision-making.
- Build on the outcomes of the earlier Placer Joint Initiative and the Blue Canyon / At Xá Koogu Joint Initiative.

The MJWG is co-led by BC and TRTFN. Jackie Caldwell is currently the co-lead for TRTFN, reporting to Rodger Thorlakson, TRTFN Lands Manager.

Work has advanced significantly over the last 4 years. The following projects/initiatives are items that have been accomplished or have seen TRTFN's authority for management of mining activities advance.

1. BC Inspectors are fully enforcing their regulations, which has not been the case for more than 20 years!

- Due to this change, we are seeing better reclamation bonding and reclamation standards and practices being utilized and enforced in the placer mining industry. A standardized reclamation 'check list' and signoff process is now being developed with collaboration from TRTFN.
- Inspections within the Health and Safety aspect are also capturing more deficiencies and holding mine operators/companies responsible for correcting those non compliances.

2. A Mercury Study was performed over a period of several years, by analyzing fish tissue and water, sediment, and soil samples.

- Mercury was historically used in the past (banned in 1969) to assist with capturing very fine particles of gold. This use led to unknown amounts of mercury being lost within local creeks.
- Although water, sediment, and soil samples showed very low concentrations of methylmercury (the version that is easily absorbed by animals), older Lake Trout from Atlin Lake did show elevated levels.
- The final report on this study is pending and will likely lead to additional sampling to help establish if there is any risk to high consumption of large, older fish.

The MJWG recently proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference and created a 2023 Workplan to reflect current TRTFN and BC capacities and priorities. Under the 2023 Workplan, the MJWG will strive to accomplish the following projects/initiatives:

1.Coordination of Joint Inspections

- Each year, BC Inspectors visit the area and conduct inspections of mining operations. There are Health, Safety and Environmental Inspections and Permitting and Reclamation Inspections
- Each of these inspection events are coordinated with TRTFN to ensure that someone from the Lands Department has the opportunity to attend the work and participate fully.

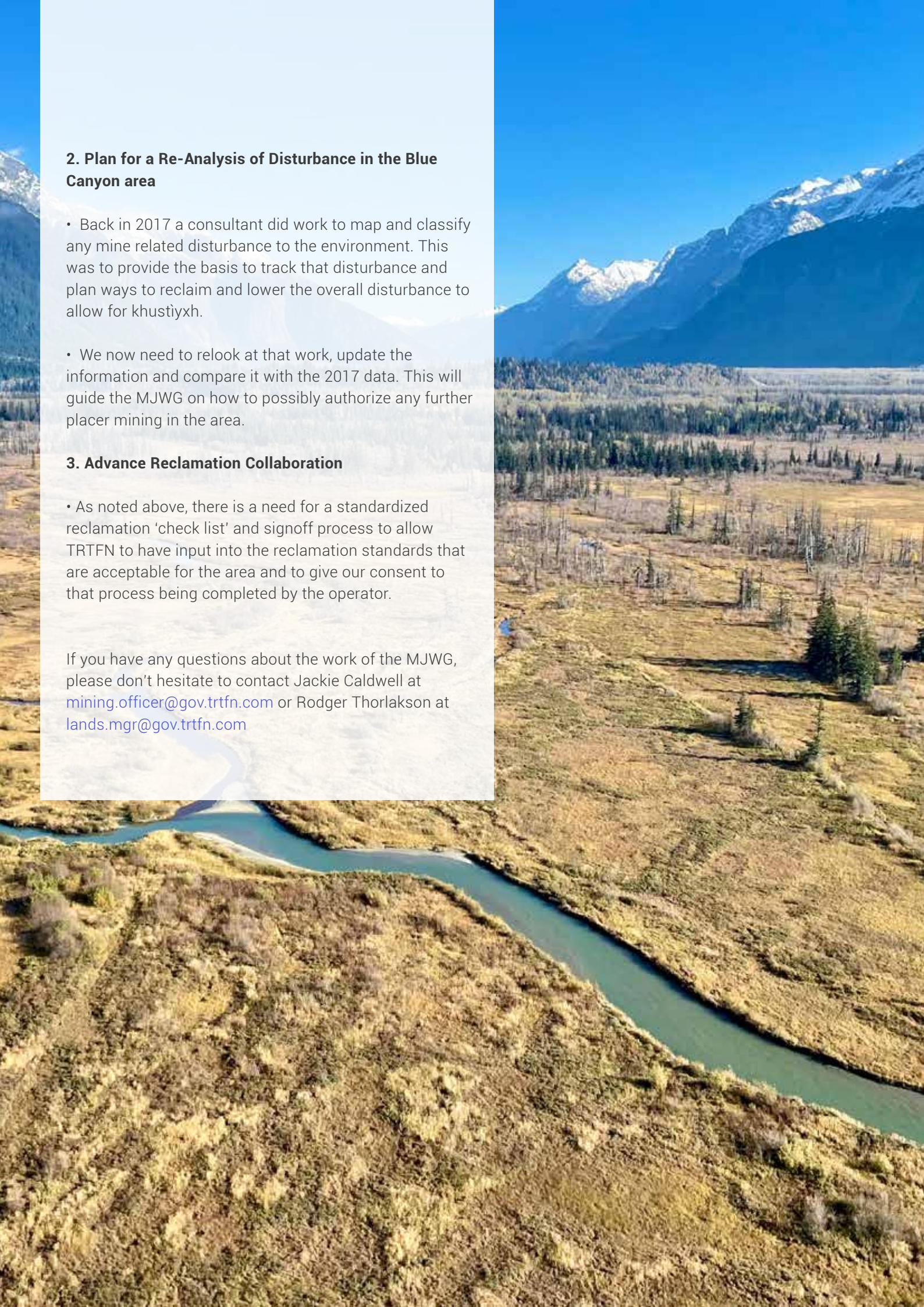
2. Plan for a Re-Analysis of Disturbance in the Blue Canyon area

- Back in 2017 a consultant did work to map and classify any mine related disturbance to the environment. This was to provide the basis to track that disturbance and plan ways to reclaim and lower the overall disturbance to allow for khustiyxh.
- We now need to relook at that work, update the information and compare it with the 2017 data. This will guide the MJWG on how to possibly authorize any further placer mining in the area.

3. Advance Reclamation Collaboration

- As noted above, there is a need for a standardized reclamation 'check list' and signoff process to allow TRTFN to have input into the reclamation standards that are acceptable for the area and to give our consent to that process being completed by the operator.

If you have any questions about the work of the MJWG, please don't hesitate to contact Jackie Caldwell at mining.officer@gov.trtfn.com or Rodger Thorlakson at lands.mgr@gov.trtfn.com



Protected Area Working Group

(PAWG)

The PAWG is a working group established by the BC-TRTFN Government-to-Government Forum (G2GF) under Sec 3.8.c of the Wóoshtin Yan Too.Aat: Land and Resource Management and Shared Decision Making Agreement (the 'G2G Agreement').

PAWG is tasked with developing a collaborative management plan for each protected area in TRTFN territory, including for Atlin Park. The PAWG is co-led by BC and TRTFN. Bryan Evans is currently the co-lead for TRTFN, reporting to Roger Thorlakson, TRTFN Lands Manager.

The PAWG recently proposed amendments to its Terms of Reference (TOR) and Workplan to reflect current TRTFN and BC capacities and priorities. Under the new TOR, PAWG will develop management plans in the following sequence:

- **Group 1:** Taku River / T'akú Téix' Conservancy. Completion of this management plan may be delayed in light of the recent TRTFN Taku Tlatsini Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Declaration.
- **Group 2:** Atlin Mountain Protected Area / Áa Tlein Sha Conservancy and an area-specific management plan for the Canoe Landing area of the Nakina-Inklin Rivers / Yáwu Yaa Conservancy.
- **Group 3:** Tutshi Lake/T'ooch' Áayi Conservancy, Mount Minto/K'iyán Conservancy, Golden Gate/Xáat Yádi Aani Conservancy, Upper Gladys River/ Watsíx Deiyi Conservancy, Indian Lake – Hitchcock Creek / Át Ch'îni Shà Conservancy, and Willison Creek – Nelson Lake / Sít' Héeni Conservancy.

- **Group 4:** Remainder of Nakina-Inklin Rivers / Yáwu Yaa Conservancy, Little Trapper Conservancy, Sheslay River Conservancy and Kennicott Lake Conservancy pending legal designations.



Work is proceeding slowly due to limited capacity by both BC and TRTFN. We anticipate making substantive progress on drafting management plans for Group 1 and 2 in 2023.

If you have any questions about the work of PAWG, please don't hesitate to contact Bryan Evans at bryanevans@telus.net or Roger Thorlakson at lands.mgr@gov.trtfn.com





Nation to Nations Engagement

Dahk Ka Nation

Updates for 2023

The Dahk Ka Nation is historically identified as the three inland Tlingit nations: Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Carcross Tagish First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Within the Negotiations team scope of work, the three nations have been engaged in activities together over the last four years through the Nation Rebuilding Initiative, as well as our current main table or BCTC Negotiations in our shared territories.

In the past couple of years, our technical teams in the Lands and Resources, Mining, and Heritage departments have been diligently working at maintaining operational linkages and support for each nation's goals wherever possible.

This year, the Dahk Ka Nation attended AME Round Up 2023 in Vancouver and presented together on stage as well as at a joint booth in the convention centre.

In the coming year, the leaderships of the Dahk Ka Nation will work together to support Negotiations work planning, defining land interests, social and health priorities, emergency management, and cultural revitalization efforts in all communities.

The TRT Dahk Ka team is currently seeking a motivated and enthusiastic person to sit on the Steering Committee to help the Negotiations teams manage the many emerging opportunities to make change in our unique transboundary region.



Successfully Working Together with the Dakhká Nation

- The Dakhká Nation welcomes partnerships and engagement with proponents seeking to undertake activities in our traditional territories, provided that they work to develop trusting and harmonious relationships and engage in dialogue and information sharing.
- We aim to work with proponents to find a suitable plan which balances environmental sustainability, capacity development, and opportunities.
- Our minimum expectations of proponents:
 - ✓ Engagement and





3Nation Society

3Nations, B.C. regional partnership renewed, strengthened

VICTORIA – A historic partnership agreement between the Province and the 3Nations Society, consisting of the Tahltan, Kaska, and Taku River Tlingit, continues to strengthen their communities, cultures, environmental stewardship, and well-being of their people.

This new agreement, signed on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, provides stable funding for ongoing, community-driven initiatives, and builds on previous successes.

"The Province is a proud and committed partner in this unique example of multi-nation governance, which will better serve people living in a vast portion of northern B.C.," said Premier John Horgan. "The 3Nations – B.C. regional partnership is a community-led approach that reflects our commitment to action as guided by the Province's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act."

President Chad Norman Day of the Tahltan Central Government said: "This agreement symbolizes a strengthening relationship with the Province, as well as additional commitments and resources for our children and communities to help us maintain our culture, provide additional supports to

families, and to better manage and protect wildlife throughout our homelands."

Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, said: "The territory of the 3Nations comprise 24% of the province. We recognize the need for a unique regional and Indigenous-led approach to community well-being and environmental stewardship in such a vast and remote area. The 3Nations – B.C. regional partnership continues to put Indigenous priorities at the centre of decision making consistent with the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

Charmaine Thom, spokesperson, Taku River Tlingit, said: "This is a positive step towards reconciliation, enabling our communities to make tangible steps towards common goals that respects the path and healing each individual Nation needs. It is using the voices of our Elders to take care of our people today and moves us all towards the future in a good way."

Josie Osborne, Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, said: "This agreement demonstrates our shared interest in strong, mutually beneficial partnerships that advance reconciliation, self-governance and the well-being of people and communities. 3Nations



Society is already proving to be a highly successful model for Tahltan, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit, and is a strong example of multi-nation governance that prioritizes the unique needs of their people and community."

Danny Case, Chair of the Kaska Dena Council, said: "As I reflect on our collaboration as 3Nations in unity and partnership with the B.C. government on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, I am reminded that if you have the will, the heart and you work hard enough at it, we can achieve anything. My hands are up to all the leadership, Ministers Rankin and Osborne, and our friends and family at home, who we do this great work for."

3Nations Society is a partnership between the Tahltan, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit where the Nations work together on common goals to strengthen their communities, improve resiliency, be stewards of their lands, and renew traditional and community-based ways of supporting families. What started off as planning for new child and family services in the region led to the development of a "community driven" and "child in the centre" approach.

This new agreement establishes a stable, predictable long-term partnership and funding arrangement. It supports the Nations to plan, design and deliver the services and supports to improve the well-being of their citizens, families and communities. 3Nations provides strategic and operational support for community well-being initiatives, environmental stewardship, education, health, and emergency management across the region.



Our Land Is Our Future

Our land is our future, our land is our legacy
for the next generations, the traditional territory is ours to keep
the elders have spoken, the elders had visions
Old knowledge and connection to land is spirit-deep
stories of past generations and ancestors' whispers
ground us to the place now and forever called Wenah
our culture is Tlingit, but love for the land is gifted to all.

Our land is our future, our land is our legacy
the places that make us strong are called Tlatsini
wherever we go or choose to reside
we call ourselves inland Tlingit Clans
and do not see borders that seek to divide
the Elders keep us connected, holding up hands
so we always remember where we came from
the rivers to the South, the mighty Taku mother
the land of cottonwoods and endless summer sun
the ancestral home grounds of the salmon-bearing waters
riverbank huts filled with good green wood smoke
orange fish backs hang like gold in strong summer wind
listen to the voices of those passed who once spoke
hear through the clamor of modern chaos and pretend
nothing exists but the shriek of wild land
where the footprints of our forebearers disappear under glaciers
we promise to uphold the ways of our Clan
and forever honor the memory of our ancestors.

Our land is our future, our land is our legacy
the places that make us strong are called Tlatsini
Our land is our future, our land is our legacy
for future generations, this land is ours to keep.

Written by Chantelle Schultz
2023



Produced by Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Whitehorse Negotiation Office 2023