



HAA'AA'

AANII

TULATII

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023
2028

SUMMER 2023

TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION LANDS, RESOURCES, AND FISHERIES DEPT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 ABOUT THIS PLAN

2 INTRODUCTION

2 ABOUT HAA AANÍ TULATÍN

4 VISION AND MISSION

5 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

6 GOAL 1: INFORMING DECISION-MAKING

7 GOAL 2: OFFERING PROGRAMMING TO
STRENGTHEN TLINGIT CULTURE

8 GOAL 3: CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

9 GOAL 4: INCREASING CAPACITY

10 MOVING FORWARD

10 COMMUNICATION AND STORYTELLING

ABOUT THIS PLAN

The Haa Aaní Tula'tín Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 will guide the work of the TRTFN Land Guardians over the next 5 years. It is an update to the strategic planning work done in 2018 when the Land Guardians and supporting staff gathered to discuss shared objectives for the program. This strategic plan contains an updated program vision and mission, along with four high-level goals to guide the work and provide an overarching direction. Four to five objectives support the achievement of each goal. As such, this plan informs further planning processes, such as individual work planning and budgeting.

This plan was developed over the course of two days in the spring of 2023 in Atlin, BC by the four Land Guardians (including two youth Land Guardians), the Haa Aaní Tula'tín Program Coordinator, the TRTFN Lands and Resource Department Manager, and representatives from supporting organizations (T'akhu Á Tlén Conservancy and Round River Canada). Planning and facilitation support was provided by Alderhill Planning Inc.



INTRODUCTION

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) is 400 people strong, with a vast territory that covers over 40,000 square kilometers across what is today known as British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska. TRTFN is located in Atlin, a small and remote community on the shores of Atlin Lake in northwestern B.C. The territory contains mountains, forests, lakes and rivers that provide everything needed to practice Tlingit Kusteeyí – the traditional way of life.

ABOUT HAA AANÍ TULATÍN

The TRTFN Land Guardians acts as the eyes and ears on the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, gathering information to inform decision makers, revitalizing Tlingit Kusteeyí – the Tlingit traditional way of life, empowering Tlingit citizens, and asserting Tlingit authority on the land.

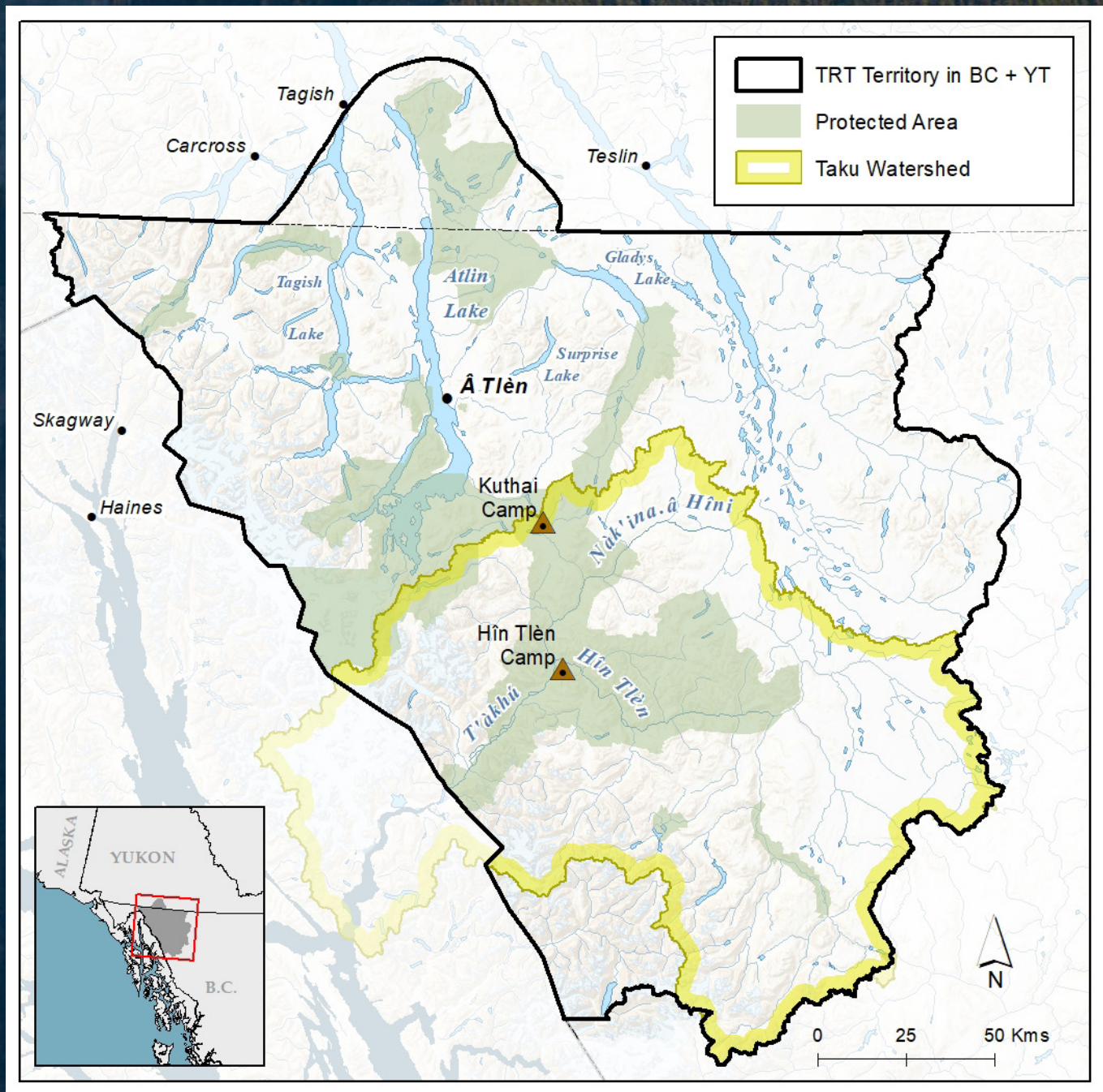
The Land Guardians conduct regular monitoring patrols to observe, record and report information from out on the territory, and they act as a liaison between TRTFN Government, Tlingit citizens, local Atlin residents, and the general public. Typical work includes patrolling the traditional territory, monitoring harvests and hunts, conducting wildlife studies, leading culture camps, and assisting other divisions and departments by informing decision-making and supporting on-the-land activities and education.

The Land Guardian Program asserts that the Taku River Tlingit First Nation are active stewards of their Traditional Territory, and it enables Tlingit citizens to develop a sense of pride in the management of their lands and waters. The program builds capacity among Tlingit citizens, increases engagement in lands and resources, and promotes cultural revitalization through the inclusion of cultural values in all programming. It is necessary that Land Guardians embark on this course to ensure the preservation of our fish and wildlife and to ensure the preservation of what is Tlingit.

The Land Guardian Program is currently made up of four Land Guardians and a Program Coordinator. The program is part of TRTFN's Lands & Resources Department and receives support from the T'akhu Á Tlèn Conservancy and Round River Canada.

Haa Aaní Tulatín means 'we are watching our land.'





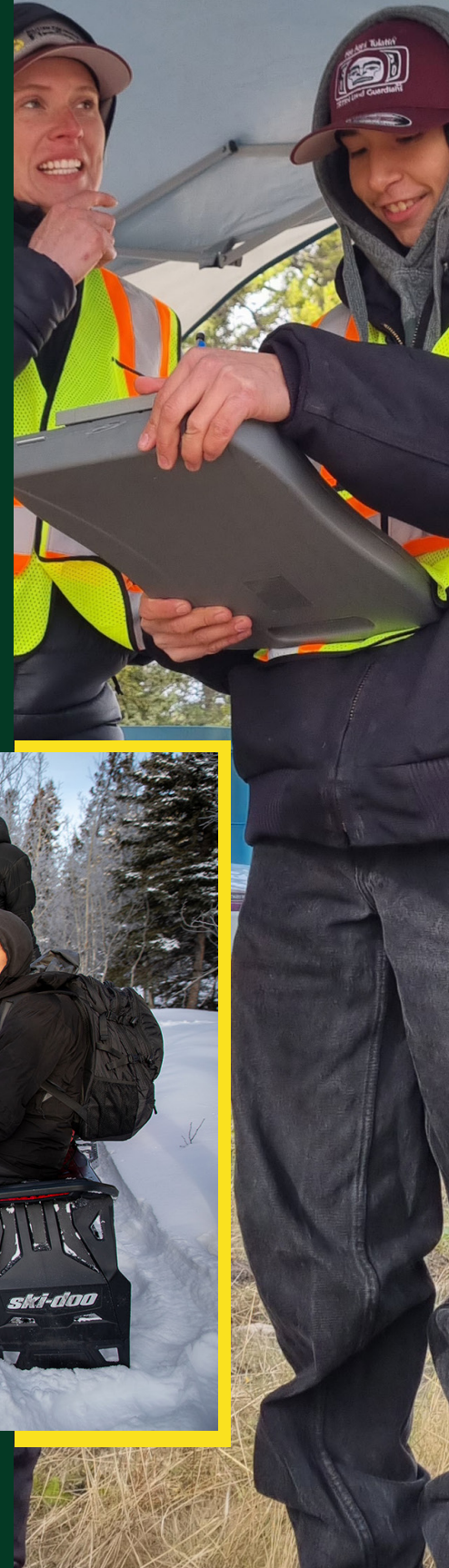
Hà Tl' Atki Áwé —
this is our land.

VISION

TRTFN Haa Aaní Tula'tín steward the health and richness of the traditional territory by upholding respect for Yakgwahéiyagu (the living spirit of all things).

MISSION

The Land Guardians are the eyes and ears of the TRTFN traditional territory, who assert Tlingit presence throughout Yanshuká (the bush, the wilderness), lead holistic stewardship and empower others to practise Tlingit Kusteeyí (way of life).



GOALS

GOAL 1: INFORMING DECISION-MAKING

The Land Guardians inform Nation-level decision-making by bridging Tlingit Knowledge and Western science to conduct data collection and monitoring in the territory.

GOAL 2: OFFERING PROGRAMMING TO STRENGTHEN TLINGIT CULTURE

The Land Guardians offer safe and accessible programming that strengthens Tlingit culture.

GOAL 3: CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

The Land Guardian Program cultivates respectful, reciprocal, and collaborative relationships with other internal and external organizations, departments, and governments to amplify the program's impact.

GOAL 4: INCREASING CAPACITY

The Land Guardian Program is well-managed with enough Land Guardians equipped with the resources, knowledge, and funding they need to do the work.

GOAL 1: INFORMING DECISION-MAKING

The Land Guardians inform Nation-level decision-making by bridging Tlingit Knowledge and Western science to conduct data collection and monitoring in the territory.



OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Expand Land Guardian monitoring work into further reaches of the territory.
- 1.2 Establish clear pathways for monitoring results to inform actions and decision-making.
- 1.3 Enhance Guardian-led data collection, observation, and monitoring activities to uphold Tlingit values.
- 1.4 Develop a process for community members to participate in and contribute to monitoring activities.

**“There are so many skills
to be a Land Guardian.”**

- Shauna Yeomans, Land Guardian

GOAL 2: OFFERING PROGRAMMING TO STRENGTHEN TLINGIT CULTURE

The Land Guardians offer safe and accessible programming that strengthens Tlingit culture.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Create more year-round opportunities for TRTFN citizens to access the territories.
- 2.2 Expand opportunities to practice food harvesting and processing in support of Tlingit food sovereignty.
- 2.3 Create and maintain programming that draws upon the wisdom and experience of Tlingit speakers and Knowledge Keepers.
- 2.4 Develop and establish additional on-the-land programming.

“Culture is a foundational piece of our program.”

- Shauna Yeomans, Land Guardian

GOAL 3: CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

The Land Guardian Program cultivates respectful, reciprocal, and collaborative relationships with other internal and external organizations, departments, and governments to amplify the program's impact.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Develop strong collaborative relationships with other TRTFN departments and community organizations with regular communication and planning.
- 3.2 Create opportunities to collaborate and share knowledge with other Land Guardian programs.
- 3.3 Strengthen relationships with provincial and federal partners through collaborative work and shared experiences out on the territory.
- 3.4 Work with external organizations or third-party programs to meet Land Guardian-identified needs and priorities.

**“Being on the Taku is culture.
It’s physical, not always academic.”**

- Trevor Williams, Land Guardian

GOAL 4: INCREASING CAPACITY

The Land Guardian Program is well-managed with enough Land Guardians equipped with the resources, knowledge, and funding they need to do the work.



OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Secure long-term, stable, and flexible funding to support Guardian-led programming needs.
- 4.2 Prioritize the health, safety, and wellbeing of staff in all Land Guardian work.
- 4.3 Develop and maintain efficient, realistic, and up-to-date policies and procedures.
- 4.4 Attract, recruit, and retain additional Land Guardians.
- 4.5 Support Land Guardians' access to training and skills development at all stages of their employment.

**"You can't take care of the community
if you aren't doing well."**

- Shauna Yeomans, Land Guardian

MOVING FORWARD

The content of this plan does not live solely on paper; it is alive in the work of the Land Guardian Program. Putting this plan to action over the course of the next five years relies on both collective and individual responsibilities of everyone. To ignite the aspirations outlined in this plan, Land Guardian Program staff and supporters are accountable to the following:

- Making time to involve themselves in the work;
- Doing their best work to implement the action items of this plan, even when it's difficult;
- Supporting the development of program capacity and seeking funding opportunities;
- Inspiring collaboration and engaging in open communication with colleagues;
- Taking appropriate time away from the work when it's needed, to stay well-rested and care for their wellness; and
- Showing up with a positive attitude.

COMMUNICATION AND STORYTELLING

Sharing the story and achievements of the Land Guardian Program underpins all of its work. Finding opportunities to creatively and openly share the work of the Land Guardians on the land helps to communicate the program's impact to community members, internal and external partners, other Nations, and funders. Land Guardians strive to share these stories through in-person events and celebrations, through videos featuring the Land Guardians, and through written communications including flyers and newsletters.







WUANA
NINI
TULATÍN