

# ᑕᑭᑭᑭ, ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ PIPE (The Blackfish Newsletter)



A NEWSLETTER TO PROVIDE REGULAR UPDATES ON THE THE WSÁNEĆ  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MARINE AND LAND USE PLAN FOR THE WSÁNEĆ TERRITORY.

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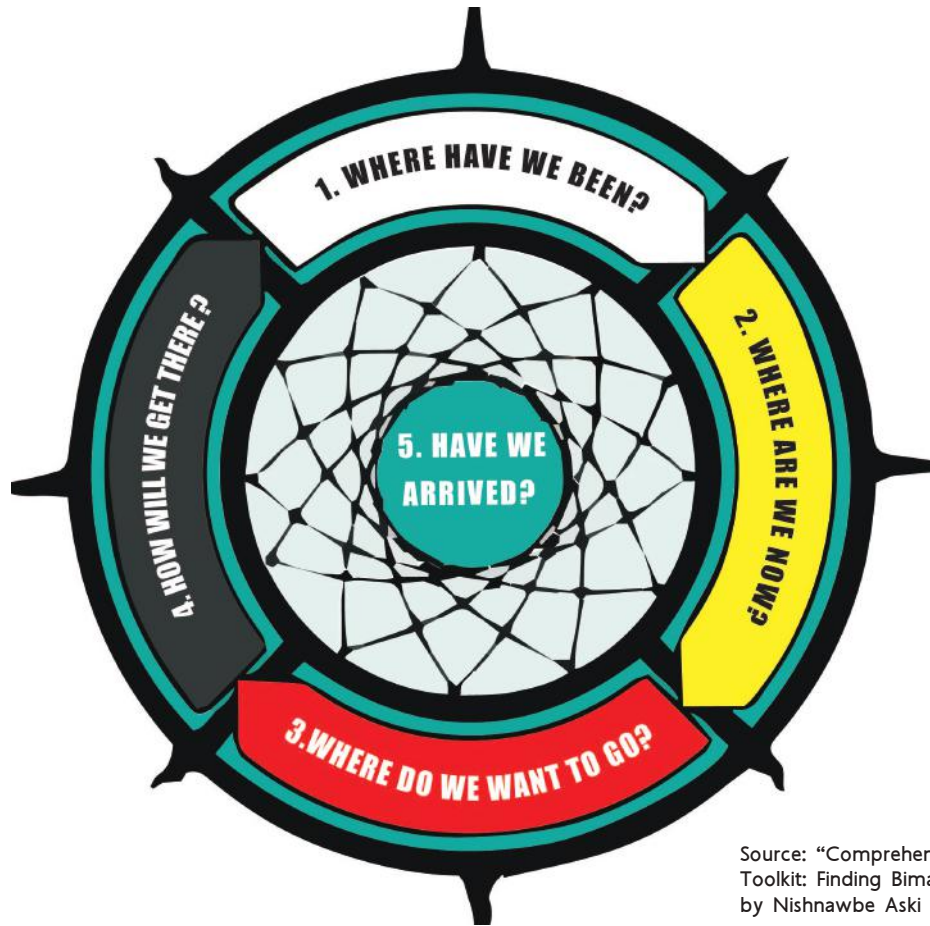


The ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Leadership Council's guiding principles originate from ancient ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ laws and beliefs passed down from our ancestors from time immemorial. These laws speak of our inherent rights to the lands and waters that the Creator XÁLS bestowed upon the ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ people. This includes a ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ responsibility to be caretakers of the lands, waters and all life within it.

The ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Leadership Council's mandate is to promote respect for ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ culture, traditional practices, language and the interests of the ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ First Nations. As an organization focused on self-determination, we work to enhance recognition of, and respect for, ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Douglas Treaty rights and ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Aboriginal rights and title. The WLC seeks to promote sustainable and equitable development of resources within ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Territory, including the original ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ stewardship practices of the environment as it was meant to be.

Currently, the Board of the WLC consists of the following: Tanya Jimmy, Brian Jimmy, Don Tom, Simon Smith Jr., Nick Claxton, and Bruce Underwood. We work together on common issues for the three member Nations: ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ, ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ and ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Nations.

# What is this about?



Source: "Comprehensive Community Planning Toolkit: Finding Bimadizowin (The Good Life)" by Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund

## QENÁŁ SCÁ, E TFE TŁÁŁSE KÓ (WSÁNEĆ Marine and Land Use plan)

**A unified vision for  
the WSÁNEĆ  
territory, WSÁNEĆ  
people, our  
relatives of the  
land and sea.**

The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council is working to establish a territory wide Marine and Land Use Plan (MLUP) for the WSÁNEĆ people for the marine and land environments. It is a multi-year (3 years) initiative that will identify community goals and priorities to help guide the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council in decision making regarding Douglas Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Right and title to hunt and fish, and appropriate strategies to assert and affirm WSÁNEĆ authority and presence throughout our territory.

The planning process is broken down into 5 phases and will take place from October 2019 - September 2022.

This plan is yours and we invite you to participate and have your thoughts and ideas heard. We welcome any input that you have on what is being presented in this newsletter. Contact Shauna at [shauna.johnson@wsanec.com](mailto:shauna.johnson@wsanec.com) or via phone at 778 788 8545

# The Indigenous Planning Cycle



## 1. WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

**WE ARE CURRENTLY IN PHASE 1 AND 2 AND EXPECT TO MOVE TO PHASE 3 BY DECEMBER 2020**

As indigenous peoples, history has been written for us by non-indigenous historians and academics. Phase 1 offers an opportunity for the WSÁNEĆ people to re-write our community history to better reflect who we are, our shared values, beliefs and laws of the land and water. This phase also helps promote community healing as we celebrate our resilience and all that we have overcome.



## 2. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Phase 2 of the planning process focuses on pre-planning activities such as: developing budgets, workplans, timelines and funding; building a planning team; carrying out background research (e.g. specific community contexts); and identification of shared community values to guide the planning process.



## 3. WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Phase 3 start to look towards the future by establishing a unified vision or 'picture' of what we want our communities to look like in the future. A vision statement is meant to be inspirational, vivid, positive and invoke hope. In this phase we also develop a framework that outlines the issues and concerns and help guide the way to goal setting, strategies and actions to address them

*The planning process is cyclic, just as the cycle of life and the continuous process of renewal. It can start at any phase and also jump from one phase to another since communities moves through it differently and in their own way. The community members guide and lead the entire process. Currently, we are in Phase 1 and 2 of the WSÁNEĆ planning process.*

# Indigenous Community Planning



## 4. HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

During phase 4, we begin to focus on an approach for implementation. A plan is no good without a strategy for how best to implement the plan. With limits on capacity, funding and the systemic challenges that aim to prevent indigenous communities from moving forward (e.g. the Indian Act), this phase offers a chance to establish community priorities and identify ways to move beyond these challenges into alternative paths and directions. This phase also focuses on developing a solid project management team; developing a communications and reporting protocol; identifying and establishing partners, seek funding; conduct appropriate feasibility studies; seek buy in and support from W̱SÁNEĆ chiefs and councils, staff and community members; develop a training and capacity building strategy; and celebrating our successes!



## 5. HAVE WE ARRIVED?

Phase 5 emphasizes establishing a regular monitoring, evaluation and documentation of progress in achieving the overall vision, goals, and actions of the plan. Monitoring includes measuring success with criteria and indicators. Are we meeting our expected timelines? Are we addressing the issues effectively or can we do it differently? Are we still working towards our vision? Do we need to revise the plan to better reflect our changing goals? What is our perspective on what “success” looks like for us? These are all important questions that should be revisited regularly to ensure that our plan remains to be a living, breathing document.

### Indigenous Community Planning in W̱SÁNEĆ

As W̱SÁNEĆ people, we worked with the laws of the 13 moons and the natural cycles of the earth to guide us; our activities were dictated by what foods, medicines and wildlife were readily available for us to harvest throughout the year. Central to our governance are the daily activities to build and prepare for the

reef net and the societies we organized that formed the foundation of our communities. The reef net is an important aspect of the socio-economic life of the W̱SÁNEĆ people, providing a network of support for all community members for food, trade, and the creation of art, tools and sacred ceremonial items.

To maintain an extensive network of people and coordinate activities, a sophisticated system of management and governance required having indigenous planners at every level in the community: the individual, family, community, Nation level and between neighboring Nations.

We hosted six community engagement sessions to start the planning process between January - March 2020

## ĆÁI,NEUEL ŁTE OL (We are working together)

Prior to contact, our elders describe our communities as being healthy, strong, resilient, and a place where everyone thrived. We knew how to be in healthy relations with all the (natural and spiritual) beings around us. We had such an incredible trust in each other, because if we didn't, our very survival would be at risk. For every situation that arose, we had a good way of dealing with it.

A huge factor that contributed to our success is that we were continuously engaged in dialogue regarding every aspect of our communities, to share ideas on how to make our communities better. Colonization, trauma, and the challenges of living with the *Indian Act* have impacted how we gather today. However, we can change. We invite you to participate in future community engagement sessions to contribute your thoughts and ideas about how to make our communities a better place for us as well as future generations.

WLC is committed to hosting regular community engagement sessions. In order to move forward beyond the *Indian Act*, we need to work together to rebuild our communities and strengthen our Nation. Community engagement is a powerful tool to help achieve this, by creating a space that is inclusive, open to a diversity of perspectives, respects confidentiality and aims to build trust.

In our community engagement survey, we asked you how you preferred to participate; we then designed our community engagement process on the results of that survey (please email Shauna for a copy of the report). The results indicated a strong preference towards using a mixed approach with engagement sessions hosted in each WSÁNEĆ community as well as community dinner events where all WSÁNEĆ people are invited.

**Between January - March 2020 we hosted six community engagement sessions:**

***WJOLEŁP First Nation at the WJOLEŁP Health centre***

- January 30, 2020 from 6pm - 8pm
- February 20, 2020 from 6pm - 9pm

***STÁUTW First Nation in the STÁUTW multipurpose room***

- February 5, 2020 from 6pm - 8pm
- February 25, 2020 from 5pm - 8pm

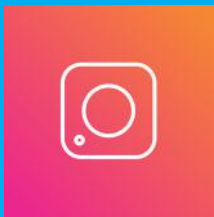
***WSÍKEM First Nation in the WSÍKEM administration building***

- February 10, 2020 from 6pm - 8pm
- March 2, 2020 5pm - 8pm



**WSÁNEĆ**  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Follow us on Social Media!**



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