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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 WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council's guiding principles originate from ancient WSÁNEĆ 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 WSÁNEĆ people. This includes a WSÁNEĆ responsibility to be caretakers of the lands, waters and all life within it.

The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council's mandate is to promote respect for WSÁNEĆ culture, traditional practices, language and the interests of the WSÁNEĆ First Nations. As an organization focused on self-determination, we work to enhance recognition of, and respect for, WSÁNEĆ Douglas Treaty rights and WSÁNEĆ Aboriginal rights and title. The WLC seeks to promote sustainable and equitable development of resources within WSÁNEĆ Territory, including the original WSÁNEĆ 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: WSÍᑕEM, STÁUTW and WJŌĒLP Nations.

# DRAFT W̱SÁNEĆ Marine and Land Use Plan Framework

## *What is going to make our plan different from others?*

The answer lies within our culture as W̱SÁNEĆ people; our beliefs, W̱SÁNEĆ laws, principles and values that we have been gifted from the Creator and all our relatives on the land and sea. Your active participation in developing this plan is key to making sure we get it right and the end result truly reflects who we are W̱SÁNEĆ people.

The following sections represents the draft framework for the W̱SÁNEĆ Marine and land use plan for the W̱SÁNEĆ territory. This framework highlights key themes brought forward from the community engagement and existing interview transcripts of various W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge keepers and community members. We invite you to submit your input and feedback on what is being presented here. W̱SÁNEĆ community members are what make this plan come alive and continue to be a living, breathing document.

## S̱KÁLS E ṮFE W̱SÁNEĆ (W̱SÁNEĆ Laws)

### *Basic principles of W̱SÁNEĆ Law to help guide decision making in this plan*

#### STI “Love”

Knowing how to love goes hand in hand with knowing how to be in good relations with other lifeforms that we coexist with. Giving and receiving love is a gift; it opens us up to other emotions when we experience it, like compassion, empathy, kindness, sharing and generosity. These emotions support a world where we aim to nurture and promote these good feelings to support the cycle of renewal.

#### ḺḺEÇ

#### “Interconnectedness”

In many W̱SÁNEĆ creation stories, XÁLS often transforms humans into animals, plants or spiritual beings. The Creator did this to show us how we are all deeply interconnected. We depend and rely on each other to survive and thrive as W̱SÁNEĆ people.

#### ÁTOL “Respect for the rights of others”

ATOŁ is a foundational W̱SÁNEĆ principle that is embedded within everything we do as W̱SÁNEĆ people. Respect for all our ancient relatives is given to honour them through ongoing processes of prayer of ceremony.

#### U S̱TOĬEMTES “Reciprocity”

The W̱SÁNEĆ people are very familiar with the natural rhythms and cycles of the earth, and the drum is symbolic of our understanding of that. Drums are circular to remind us that all our actions will come back to us, so we must be conscious of whether those actions are positive or negative.

#### ÍY ŚW̱KÁLEÇEN and SDIWIEŁ (good intentions and prayer)

Living a W̱SÁNEĆ way of life in a good way includes behaving and acting with good intentions in your heart and mind with everything that you do in your life. This includes honouring and respecting our ancient relatives through prayer. But it also means to *share* your heart with others through joy, laughter, and love.

*Principles provide us with guidance on how to best implement this plan, its policies and actions in accordance with W̱SÁNEĆ law.*

Source: S̱KÁU: An exploration of W̱SÁNEĆ Law, 2019, W̱SÁNEĆ School Board

ŪSÁNEĆ SNIUS (traditional values  
and teachings) for this plan are centred  
around ŪSÁNEĆ ŚŪELOŲE,  
ÁLEN,ENEŲ ŁTE I TŲE TETÁTEN ŲO  
(ŪSÁNEĆ Families, Our Territory and  
Ocean)







Values describe the fundamental beliefs that are important from our perspective as W̱SÁNEĆ people

# W̱SÁNEĆ SNIUs

Below is a list of traditional values and teachings that were derived from community engagement sessions and from interview transcriptions from of knowledge carriers and harvesters from various projects over the years.

W̱SÁNEĆ SNIUs (W̱SÁNEĆ values) are centred around W̱SÁNEĆ ŚWĒLOKĒ, ÁLEN,ENEŹ ŁTE I TFE TETÁTEN KÓ (W̱SÁNEĆ Families, Our Territory and Ocean)

*These values are in no particular order. In future engagement sessions, we will need your input to narrow down the list into priority values that we can use to guide decision making and policy development for this plan.*

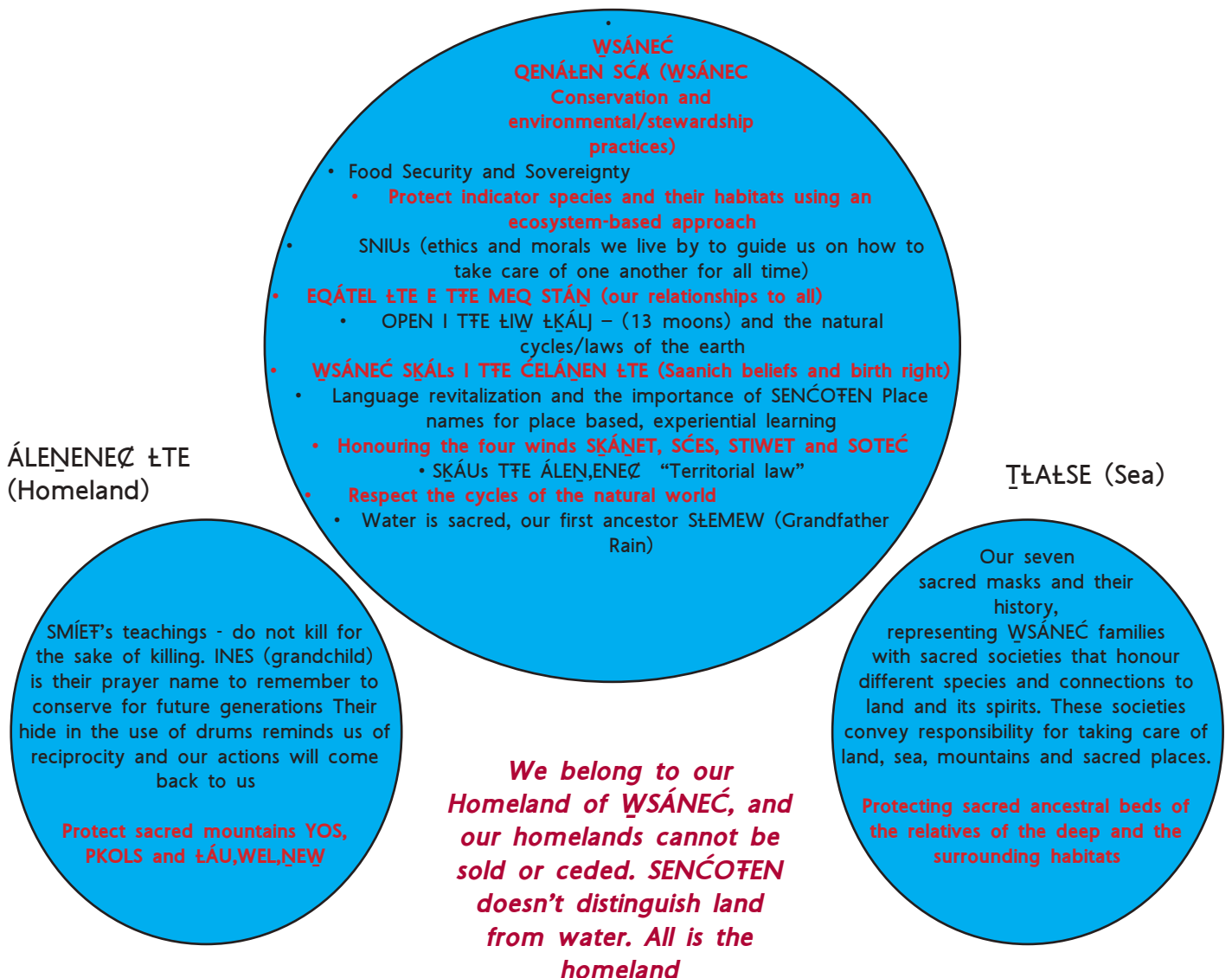
W̱SÁNEĆ ŚWĒLOKĒ (W̱SÁNEĆ families)

- Nurture family relations
- Lift up our Youth
- Respect and honour our ancestors in the spirit world and our elders today as knowledge holders, to provide us with guidance, teachings and the knowledge to care for the natural world.
- Respect and honour our talented artists (weavers, carvers, beaders etc.)
- W̱UIŹEN ŁTE (or) ENÁN U ÁLI ŚCÁLEĆE ŁTE “We are a kind and generous people”
- U S,ÁEŁ ŁTE OL – “Living in harmony with everything”
- QĆÁSET “gathering strength” through ritual bathing and purification
- The importance of AXEN EN SKÁŁ (to say, saying and/or to do or doing). To say something is just as valued as doing something.
- EN SKÁU - Which connects with reciprocity, and the knowledge that all positive and negative actions will return to you
- MEQ OL STÁN EN SW̱ S,DIWIEŁ “Everything said with a prayer”
- Songs are records of holdings that are kept and passed down.
- Ethic of taking only what one needs, leaving enough for others today and for future generations.



- Being grateful and honour those who provide by giving thanks
- IŁEŹSILEN “passing something on” via WŚÁNEĆ SYESES (oral histories) and through our own learning through ÁLENEŹEŹ ŁTE or homeland
- HELISET TFE ČELÁNEŹ ŁTE - “Keeping our culture alive”
- Having a healthy, safe community for our people to live, play and work
- We are in charge of our own education for our children that is culturally balanced
- We celebrate each other
- WŚÁNEĆ self-sufficiency and autonomy
- Healing from the trauma as individuals, community and between communities
- Uphold and maintain Douglas Treaty commitments and treaty relationships
- Revitalization of the Reef Net technologies and way of governing our communities and providing for our community
- Bringing to life the notion of being rich because everything we needs came from the land and waters and community

ÁLENEŹEŹ ŁTE (Homeland) and TŁAŁSE (Sea)





# WSÁNEĆ Ocean Currents

Current 1: QOMQOM S,ĒĒTÁLNEW TFU MEQ SÁN  
(Community health and wellbeing)

Current 2: SĆUÁTSET LA,E TFE SCULHÁUTW  
(Capacity building, education and training)

Current 3: WSÁNEĆ language, law, culture, traditional knowledge and teachings

Current 4: WSÁNEĆ SNIUs E TFE ÁLENENEÇ I TFE TETÁTEN KÓ (WSÁNEĆ Governance and Stewardship Practices for Land and Sea)

Current 5: I FÁ,I ĆELÁNEN I TFE SKÁLS ŁTE (Douglas Treaty), Indigenous Rights and title

SUB Currents: Jurisdiction Issues such as Access management, Monitoring and enforcement and Commercial Fisheries

Current 6: ČÁ,I TW TFE TENEW ŁTE I Ý,NONETs TFE WILNEW (Economic Development)

SUB Current: Recreation and (Eco)Tourism

Current 7: EWES ŚĆÍ,U ŚÍSEJ I TFE TI SNELNÁNET ČSE LA,E TFE TENEW (Resources and Extractive Industries) including shipping and vessel traffic.

SUB Currents:

A. FÁ,I TFE ĆELÁNEN E TFE ÁLEN,ENEÇ (Food Sovereignty and Security)

B. QÁSET TFE TENEW SČÁÇEL I TFE Ý,NONET TÁU,NEN (Climate change and alternative energy)

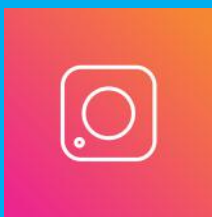
C. NENSET S,JONEŁ I TWE KELILETEW TFE TENEW (Cumulative effects assessment)

Current 8: HIF LE ĆELÁNEN I TFE SELWÁN ŁTE  
(Archaeological and heritage)



**WSÁNEĆ**  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Follow us on Social Media!**



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