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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.

Volume 1 Issue 3
December 2020



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, SᑭÁUTW and Wᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ Nations.

WSÁNEĆ Ocean Currents **(Detailed)**

For our plan, we are calling these ocean ‘currents.’ These “currents” are broad topics or themes to be further discussed in future community engagement events. All the information here has come from community input and review of transcripts from previous interviews with WSÁNEĆ knowledge keepers and harvesters.

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS TO TRANSFORM THESE “CURRENTS” INTO GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTACT SHAUNA JOHNSON AT (SHAUNA.JOHNSON@WSANEC.COM) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WANT TO DISCUSS.

1: QOMQOM S,ĒTÁLNEW TFU MEQ SÁN **(Community health and wellbeing)**

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Self sufficiency and building community
- Community healing
- Community pride
- Regular, comprehensive community engagement
- Healthy and holistic community services and programs
- Food is medicine
- Community connection and unity
- Safe communities for our children and youth
- Having career opportunities close to home

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Lack of access to traditional foods
- Impacts of the Canadian/U.S. Border
- High unemployment and social assistance rates
- Loss of Traditional WSÁNEĆ Law to deal with misbehavior
- Influence and use of social media platforms
- Prevalence of Alcohol, Drugs and addictions in our community
- Disconnection and displacement resulting in Loss/decline in cultural teachings
- Youth have no place to stay in community
- The lack of leadership engagement (at community engagement events)

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

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Higher education weaved together with WSÁNEĆ knowledge
- Having career opportunities in our own communities

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

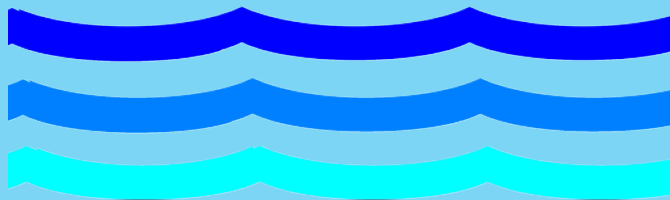
- Perception of nepotism in the community



3: W̱SÁNEĆ language, law, culture, traditional knowledge and teachings

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Revitalizing and keeping W̱SÁNEĆ language, culture, traditional knowledge and teachings alive
- Revitalize, articulate, embody and enforce W̱SÁNEĆ law all throughout the W̱SÁNEĆ territory
- Protecting Archaeological and Sacred sites
- Revitalizing/maintaining traditional Practices
- Honouring W̱SÁNEĆ Artists
- Importance of the W̱SÁNEĆ 13 moons calendar
- Protecting Ancient village sites
- Trade and barter as an informal or local economy
- Travel routes for harvesting, trade or to participate in other community gatherings or social events



WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Disconnection and displacement resulting in Loss/decline in cultural teachings
- Loss of access to old growth cedar
- Winter Dances and related concerns
- Encroachment/development of sacred bathing sites by non-indigenous
- The division of our villages as W̱SÁNEĆ people by the Indian Act and the BC Treaty process



4: W̱SÁNEĆ SNIUs E TFE ÁLEŅENEÇ I TFE TETÁTEN KÓ (W̱SÁNEĆ Governance and Stewardship Practices for Land and Sea)

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Continuing to support the good work the W̱SÁNEĆ communities are doing
- Ecosystem Health and Integrity
- Honouring culturally important species



WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Habitat Degredation of important ecosystems and our ability to steward these areas
- Lack of access to areas in our traditional territory due to land development and other uses
- Marine pollution and disruption to the health of the water cycle (effluents from treatment plants and other sources)
- Decline in the quantity, quality and availability of healthy seafoods directly impacts the health of our people
- Decline in the Health of Ecosystems in land and sea
- Climate change concerns
- Impact of Canadian/U.S.A border on kinship ties

5: I FÁ,I CÉLÁNEN I TFE SKÁLs ŁTE (Douglas Treaty), Indigenous Rights and title, including monitoring/enforcement and commercial fisheries

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Douglas Treaty and protection of traditional travel routes
- Ecological stewardship and reef net fishing considered as expressions of Douglas Treaty rights
- Awareness of Douglas Treaty within communities
- Ensuring access to important places for restoration, clean ups, education to the public.
- Increasing access to our territory for practicing Douglas Treaty rights for hunting, fishing and harvesting.

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- The continued loss of traditional land and practices because of impacts from colonization
- Inconsistency between reconciliation and government policies which interferes with exercise of rights.
- Extractive resource industries that are causing cumulative impacts on the ability to exercise Douglas Treaty and Indigenous Rights
- Clear lack of support for Douglas Treaty and Indigenous rights in various institutions (Agencies such as the Canadian RCMP, Federal Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO), the Canadian Justice system, educational institutions) which have demonstrated clear acts of systematic discrimination, racism, marginalization in the formation of their laws, policies and daily operations and treatment of indigenous peoples.

6: ČÁ,I TW TFE TENEW ŁTE I Ý,NONETS TFE WILNEW (Economic Development) including recreation and (eco) tourism

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Desire expressed to see reef net brought back and used for economic development today
-

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- The current economy actively excludes the WSÁNEĆ people for participating fully in the economy, especially fisheries and other marine related activities
- Economic development to create local and more meaningful career opportunities close to home while also providing revenue for community based services

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

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

*****This section needs to be flushed out more in community engagement sessions*****

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Criticism of B.C. Treaty Process as tied to polluting industries, without providing for sustainable community development
- Forestry impacts (clearcutting and habitat degradation, logging traffic) WSÁNEĆ ability to hunt and limits the availability of practicing Douglas Treaty and Indigenous rights in “unoccupied” areas.
- Clear opposition and concerns regarding increased tanker/vessel traffic in the Salish Sea because it is seen as an infringement upon Douglas Treaty Rights
- Impact of ship vessel wake on both traditional and commercial fishing (creating dangerous situations, such as collisions, conflict over right of way, visibility in fog).



Current 7, Sub Current 1: ƐÁ,Ĳ ƐƐÉĹĀĒĒ Ē ƐƐÁĒĒĒĒĒ (Food Sovereignty and

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- Food is central to ƲŚĀĒÉĒ culture and health of our people
- Food is gathered and the abundance is shared with those in need
- Hunting was/is a sacred practice as certain protocols must be followed

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Access to important harvesting sites has decreased over time
- Reef net fishing was outlawed in Canada as a “trap.”
- Commercial Fishing concerns and impact on our access to foods
- Harvesting of traditional seafoods is declining

Current 7, Sub Current 2: QĀSET ƐƐÉ ƐĒĒĒ ƐĒĀĒĒ Ĳ ƐƐÉ Ĳ,ĒĒĒĒ ƐĀĲ,ĒĒĒ (Climate change and alternative energy)

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- ****This section needs to be flushed out further in community engagement sessions****

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Climate change and the effects it will have upon the food supply for all living creatures.

Current 7, Sub Current 3: ĒĒSET Ś,ĲĒĒ Ĳ ƐĒĒĒĒĒ ƐƐÉ ƐĒĒĒ (Cumulative effects) assessment

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- ****This section needs to be flushed out further in community engagement sessions****

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Members reported concerns with the cumulative effects of land development, tankers and pipeline routes.
- There is also a concern that Canada has not provided enough information on the cumulative effects of tanker traffic and noise.

8: ĲĲ ĒÉ ĒĒĒĒĒ Ĳ ƐƐÉ ŚĒĲĲĀĒ ĒƐÉ (Archaeological and heritage)

WHAT MATTERS MOST FOR US?

- ****This section needs to be flushed out further in community engagement sessions****

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST?

- Concerns about burial sites and sacred places being disturbed, dug up and the potential for some of their remains to be lost because of erosion (from vessel wake and climate change).

Next steps

Below is a summary of the process and timeline



The overall project timeline has been slightly adjusted due to COVID - 19:

Phase 1 and 2: October 2019 – September 2020

Phase 3 and 4: September 2020 – May 2022 (subject to change based upon engagement progress)

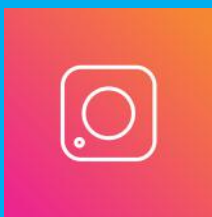
Phase 5: June 2022 – August 2022

I would like to acknowledge all our ancestors and families that have left us with so much knowledge and teachings and hard work to get us to this place we are today. With your guidance and wisdom, we raise our hands to you and say HÍSWKE SIÁM!!!



WSÁNEĆ
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Follow us on Social Media!



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