



Tla-o-qui-aht Provincial Negotiation Process

Tla-o-qui-aht overall negotiations process:

We have engaged the Province of British Columbia (the Province) to begin to address some of our community needs, give shape and meaning to “reconciliation”, while we take our rightful place as the governing body over Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

We started these conversations with the Province in 2019. The negotiations are a Tla-o-qui-aht driven and designed. We set the table by identifying priorities from the TFN Strategic Plan. The Province has different jurisdiction and authority from the federal government, because of this we strategically engaged the Province, so we can address areas of provincial and Tla-o-qui-aht jurisdiction.

Negotiation topics were identified by the Tla-o-qui-aht community and ratified in the Strategic Plan, which was approved through Tla-o-qui-aht membership consultation and approved by council. The priorities identified by Tla-o-qui-aht community are the starting point for these discussions.

Hisiikcumyín Pathway Agreement:

Tla-o-qui-aht and the Province signed the Hisiikcumyín: Pathway Agreement in 2021. Hisiikcumyín is pronounced “his-SEEK-to-me-un” and is a Tla-o-qui-aht phrase that translates as “the way we should go.” The name of the agreement underscores the partnership the Province and the Nation are committing to.

Strategic Plan and the Priorities for Provincial Negotiations:

These negotiations are guided by the strategic plan. The Strategic Plan sets out 9 main strategic topics. The 9 main strategic topics are: 1. “Cultural and Language”; 2. “Governance”; 3. “Administration and Finance”; 4. “Lands and Resources”; 5. Housing and Infrastructure”; 6. “Community services”; 7 “Education”; 8 “Community Safety and Justice”; 9 “Economic Development”. This table shows the corresponding negotiation priorities to the strategic topics identified in the Tla-o-qui-aht Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024.

Provincial Negotiation Priority Topics in Hisiikcumyín Agreement	Strategic Plan Topic # and page #
Advance outstanding commitments to ʔaʔuukwiʔaṭṭ in Previous agreements with British Columbia	Strategic Topic 2.3 – 2.5 at p 10 – 11 & 3.3 at p 14
tribal parks management and stewardship and shared management, collaborative governance, and benefit agreements, including carbon credits	Strategic Topic 4.1 & 4.2 at p 17
language preservation and revitalization	Strategic Topic 1.1 – 1.4 at p 5; Strategic Topic 7
economic development for Tla-o-qui-aht	Strategic Topic 6.2 at p 22; Strategic Topic 9.1 – 9.9 at p 30;
negotiate the Tripartite Agreement, between TFN, B.C. and Canada	Strategic Topic 2. 1 – 2.5 at p 10 & 11
recognize and implement Tla-o-qui-aht title, rights and self-determination	Strategic Topic 1.5 -1.6 at p 7; 2.3 at p 11; 4.1 – 4.5 at 17
transfer and implementation of community and economic development lands	Strategic Topic 9.1 – 9.9 at p 30; Strategic Topic 4.5 at p 17
recognition and phased implementation of ʔaʔuukwiʔaṭṭ land vision	Strategic Topic 4.1 – 4.4 at p 17



Tla-o-qui-aht Federal Negotiation Process

Tla-o-qui-aht negotiations process:

We have engaged Canada to begin to address some of our community needs and hold Canada accountable for past harms commitments made to our community. This is to give shape and meaning to “reconciliation”. We started these conversations with Canada in 2019. The negotiations are Tla-o-qui-aht driven and designed. We set the table by identifying priorities from the TFN Strategic Plan. Under the Canadian Constitution, the Provincial governments and Federal governments have different responsibilities. We strategically engaged the federal government, so we can address areas of federal and Tla-o-qui-aht jurisdiction.

These negotiation topics were identified by the Tla-o-qui-aht community and ratified in the Strategic Plan, which was approved through Tla-o-qui-aht membership consultation and approved by council. The priorities identified by Tla-o-qui-aht community are the starting point for these discussions.

Federal Hisiikcumyín MOU:

Unlike the Provincial negotiations, the TFN – Canada MOU has not been signed as of yet, however we foresee the signing of this agreement occurring this summer (2022). This federal MOU will be similar to the Provincial Hisiikcumyín.

Strategic Plan and the Priorities for Provincial Negotiations:

These negotiations are guided by the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets out 9 main strategic topics. The 9 main strategic headings are: 1. “Cultural and Language”; 2. “Governance”; 3. “Administration and Finance”; 4. “Lands and Resources”; 5. Housing and Infrastructure”; 6. “Community services”; 7 “Education”; 8 “Community Safety and Justice”; 9 “Economic Development”. This table shows the corresponding negotiation priorities to the strategic items identified in the Tla-o-qui-aht Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024.

Federal Negotiation Priority Topics in Hisiikcumyín Agreement	Strategic Plan Strategic Topic # and page #
Address interests associated with “Parcel 2”	Strategic Topic 4.5 at p 17 Strategic Topic at 9.1 -9.9 at p 30 Strategic Topic 5.1 at p 19
Language preservation and revitalization initiatives	Strategic Topic 1.1 – 1.4 at p 5 Strategic Topic 7.1 – 7.2 p p 24 & 25
Economic development for Tla-o-qui-aht	Strategic Topic 6.2 at p 22; Strategic Topic 9.1 – 9.9 at p 29 & 30
Tribal Park management and stewardship models with benefit agreements in relation to Parks Canada	Strategic Topic 4.1 – 4.4 at p 17 Strategic Topic 9.1 -9.9 at p 30
Recognize and implement Tla-o-qui-aht governance and law	Strategic Topic 2.1 - 2.7 at p 9 - 12 Strategic Topic 8.1 – 8.8 at p 27 &28
Housing and infrastructure	Strategic Topic 5.1- 5.2 at p 19 Strategic Topic 2. 1 – 2.5 at p 10 & 11
Recognize and implement Tla-o-qui-aht title, rights and self-determination	Strategic Topic 1.5 -1.6 at p 7; 2.3 at p 11; Strategic Topic 4.1 – 4.5 at p 17
federal recognition and implementation of the Tla-o-qui-aht Land Vision	Strategic Topic 4.1 – 4.4 at p 17



Tla-o-qui-aht Tripartite Negotiation Process

Tripartite negotiations process:

We are at the beginning stages of our tripartite negotiations. They are called “tripartite” because there are three main negotiating parties. These parties are Tla-o-qui-aht, Canada and the Province.

Tripartite Negotiations:

We have decided to have tripartite negotiations, because this is a comprehensive way of dealing with governments and bringing life to our vision of restoring and promoting our traditional values, while providing enhanced services to improve the quality of life for all. We will continue to have bilateral discussions with both the Province and Canada, but only for areas that need to be dealt with bilaterally, whereas discussions that need both provincial and federal governments at the table will be tripartite.

Hisiikcumyín Agreements:

We have already successfully signed a Hisiikcumyín or Pathway Agreement with the Province, and we will be signing a similar agreement with Canada this summer (2022). Both of these agreements set the table for our tripartite negotiations and tripartite agreement. Having both Canada and the Province at table means we will be able to have rigorous, creative and dynamic negotiations.

Nup̓iit̓čik Accord:

“Nup̓iit̓čik” means coming to an agreement in a good way. We are tentatively using this as title for a tripartite agreement, which we have been calling the “Nup̓iit̓čik Accord”. This accord will include a number of aspects, with core elements, such as this agreement being consistent with UNDRIP. It will set out process for resolving outstanding issues from existing agreements, such as addressing the socio-economic gap with specific projects to bring results to reconciliation. Both B.C. and Canada have been notified with formal letters letting them know Tla-o-qui-aht’s intentions.

Priorities for Tripartite Negotiations:

The priorities topics identified in the tripartite negotiations will be based on the TFN Strategic Plan. This strategic plan was developed throughout 2019 with input from three Council planning session, four Community Meetings, a Ha’wiih Planning session, an Elders Forum, an all-staff planning meeting, Manager’s Meetings, a Language Gathering and multiple youth planning sessions. It is a living document, that will evolve as we reach our accomplishments and our needs and vision changes. The strategic plan has been ratified by Tla-o-qui-aht Chief and Council. Council and staff are already moving forward on the goals and actions outlined throughout this document and will continue to develop the funds, projects and partnerships to implement this plan.

Next Step:

No tripartite agreement has been signed or agreed to. The Strategic Plan will continue to guide our negotiation priorities. This means that we will continue give shape to what a tripartite agreement between Tla-o-qui-aht, B.C. and Canada could look like. We will be the penholders as we define what “reconciliation” means for the Tla-o-qui-aht community.