Tla-o-qui-aht 5 year Strategic Plan 2019 -2024



Introduction

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. The plan is meant to guide Tla-o-qui-aht Leadership, staff and community for the next five years.

This is a living document, that will evolve with ongoing input and accomplishments. 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.

This document will be used to:

- 1) Provide strategic direction for the Tla-o-qui-aht membership, leadership and staff over the next five years.
- 2) Honour the guidance and input offered by Ha'wiih, Tla-o-qui-aht members, Council and staff
- 3) Offer an easy-to-follow plan to guide future actions and activities
- 4) Create accountability and regular reporting to the Tla-o-qui-aht members on our progress meeting these goals.

Our Values - How We Will Work Together "For the People"

We value iisaak: First respect yourself then respect others. If you have self-respect, it spreads to others. Iisaak-tulth, being respectful of one another means that one is/has issaak-mis (to have self-respect).

We value haahuupa: The traditional teachings and knowledge of our ancestors that have been passed down to us through our Elders will guide us. Our traditional ways, our language, our culture and our spiritual beliefs strengthen our tlimiksti.

We value healthy individuals and families: We value the distinct identity of every child, woman, man, elder and their unique gifts and roles. We recognize and support all aspects of healthy development necessary for individuals and families that then contributes to a strong nation.

We value communication: We communicate in a respectful manner. We listen carefully and speak truthfully from the heart. We are respectful in our daily communications and interactions with others and the way we treat others.

We value huu-piits-tulth (Helping one another): We value empathy and compassion that allows us to share, understand and help one another. We are humble and practice humility by knowing and living "we are one."

Ratified: November 2019

These are Tla-o-qui-aht Values, we will act them and be them!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Tla-o-qui-aht Vision

We respectfully live, work and celebrate together in a healthy, collaborative community. In unity, we support, pursue and provide all viable economic, health, cultural and educational opportunities for our members. Our direction is based on the harmony of strong administration and good governance that values our Ha'wiih ha-houlth-ee and the laws of nature.

Tla-o-qui-aht Mission

His-shuk-nish-tsa-waak (we are all one)

We are here. We restore and promote our traditional values; we provide enhanced services to improve the quality of life for all.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Our Action Plan: An Overview for the Next Five Years

The following sections will outline our strategic goals for the next five years in various area and the actions we will take to help us reach our goals. For us to be successful in reaching our goals we must all work together to make it happen. This plan is for all of us to work together as Ha'wiih, elected Chief and Council, Staff and membership to get where we want to be as a strong, healthy Nation.

Culture and Language



Language and Culture Goals and Actions:

- 1) Establish a Tla-o-qui-aht Language and Culture Program
 - Hire a Coordinator
 - Hire Elders and language workers to develop and deliver regular support, programming and learning opportunities in the home, classroom, workplace and community
 - Pull together all available language and cultural resources into a reference library – put out a call
 - Work towards building a culture and language resource centre and gathering place – research opportunities, apply for funds
 - \circ Develop a comprehensive Tla-o-qui-aht Language Plan that focuses on learning throughout a lifespan (0 120). Learn and build on the success of others Maori, Hawaii, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht
 - Develop projects and funding proposals based on community priorities
 - Create a list of all people who are speakers and those at various levels of learning
- 2) Incorporate language and culture into the way we live and how business is done in all areas
 - Create language learning opportunities for staff, leadership, families, community
 - Set a personal goal to learn a new word every day
 - Put language lessons in each Tla-o-qui-aht Newsletter
 - Encourage those who can to speak the language to do so in all settings
 - Include Quuquuatsa in policies and documents
 - Put up bi-lingual signs in all facilities, communities and throughout the Tla-o-qui-aht Ha-houlthee
 - Learn and call people by their proper names
 - Bring out maps with Tla-o-qui-aht place names. Put them in community spaces
 - Teach out on the lands and waters bring back seasonal rounds and related language and values.
 - Take the time for haahuupa and himwitsa before meetings and in all community settings
 - Create ongoing opportunities/ spaces for Elders and speakers to gather together and speak – keep language strong
 - Regularly provide opportunities for speakers to teach/guide families, staff, Council, community, youth (urban and at home)

Ratified: November 2019

Use proper spelling of our name

- 3) Create Tla-o-qui-aht language and cultural resources, and teaching tools
 - Collect history, teachings, values, knowledge, practices, laws, governance
 get back to our roots
 - o Find old resources and books that were created and bring them out
 - Identify teachers to teach language as well as learners Elders and learners
 - Record language speakers and Elders We only have 20 fluent speakers
 - Digitize audio and video tapes of Elders, other speakers and those who have been recorded in the past – some private for families and some public
 - Document and share our history and our language
 - Create new words we need modern words to keep our language alive
 - Create new, living resources to teach language in all settings, especially in home – start simply – look at resources developed at Tluucha
 - Create tools for families in homes posters, flash cards, stickers, books
 - Create YouTube videos
 - Learn and build on the success of others Maori, Hawaii, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht
 - Utilize modern technology available to us. Develop a Tla-o-qui-aht language website and app to share tools
 - Make hard copies of resources for those who don't access computers.
- 4) Work towards establishing language programs for our members and staff
 - Work with Quuquuatsa Language Society and North Island College to develop a Language Class in the Central Region modeled on program running in Port Alberni – next generation of language teachers
 - Develop a silent speaker class/ program for people who know the language but need support to find their voice
 - Create language nests for young children and families in Ty-Histanis,
 Opitsaht and Port Alberni.
 - Support families to learn in their homes family learning support worker, Elders and tools
 - Create a Tla-o-qui-aht fund to support grass roots language programs make it fun
 - Create immersion camps and other immersion opportunities weekly pancake breakfast
 - Support development of mentor-apprentice programs for those wanting to master the language and teach others
 - Work with Wickaninnish Elementary School and Ucluelet Secondary School to increase language classes and opportunities to learn language

- Make Tla-o-qui-aht second language instead of French
- Resources for schools
- Pro-D opportunities
- Elder in residence at each school
- Support successful cultural nights in Opitsaht/ Tin Wis
 - Create more fun songs for community, children and youth to sing and perform together
 - Learn the cultural meaning of songs and dances
- 5) Practice spiritual preparation/ healing
 - Prepare for events, gatherings, meetings in a good way
 - Teach spirituality and gratitude around harvesting, fishing, hunting
 - Prepare for dances and ceremonies
 - Teach our values and beliefs through haahuupa and himwitsa
 - Create space for spiritual health and healing support others
 - Make traditional medicines and cultural services are available to all members
- 6) Bring back traditional rounds
 - Provide opportunities for youth and families to harvest different foods and medicines each season
 - Build skills and knowledge of harvesting, preserving, preparing foods hunting, fishing, canning smoking drying, salting, cutting fish and meat...
 - Work with knowledge holders to develop workshops and learning opportunities
- 7) Have more dancing/ singing
 - Support successful cultural nights in Opitsaht/ Tin Wis
 - Create more fun songs for community, children and youth to sing and perform together
 - Learn the cultural meaning of songs and dances -
- 8) Support youth to learn Tla-o-qui-aht values, teachings, protocols, practices and skills
 - Bring youth and Elders together to connect and learn together retreats/ gatherings
 - Support youth to develop a strong and healthy cultural identity no matter where they live

Have more beach gatherings

- Name our children and youth they should all have names and the important teachings that come with naming – support families
- Have regular baby welcoming get invitations out early

Governance



Governance Goals and Actions:

- 1) "For the people" the Muschum this can always be our guide in all areas
 - Advocate to change outside policies that do not work for Tla-o-qui-aht, for example; patient travel, Social Assistance, Housing
 - Celebrate success recognize the work happening and share with community – pick one thing each month, add to agenda and community newsletters
 - Grow leadership/ mentor youth and others
 - Na-ah-tah "listen"
 - Being healthy and living healthy is contagious just like illness. When we can practice our teachings in a good way, we will be living healthy.
 - o Be there for all Tla-o-qui-aht no matter where they live
 - Support our members into leadership and management roles
 - Report back on meetings and processes
 - Establish liaisons and committees instead of portfolios
- 2) Improve the function and working relationship of Council
 - Council Reports each Council member will submit a written report every two weeks before Council meetings (written and verbal)
 - Establish community Committees include this in the budgeting process
 - Direct staff to organize a financial workshop for Council and community
 - Seek guidance from Elders about how to move forward in a good way and about governance/ history
 - Start all Council and community meetings with haahuupa invite a different Elder/ teacher to each Council meeting to speak language, teach council a word or phrase and to offer haahuupa
 - Get together for fun, not just business
 - Start the Practice of hearing from all Council members at meetings
 - Focus on face to face meetings, especially when decisions are made –
 BCR's should be signed at Council meetings
 - Look at how we can utilize technology skype, video conferencing
 - Set Council meetings for every two weeks and stick to it
 - What does it mean to represent Tla-o-qui-aht at a meeting or process?
 Establish expectations for reporting back.
- 3) Rebuild and re-establish relationships and roles within Hereditary Governance
 - Rebuild relationship between Ha'wiih and Council How will we work together as leaders?

- Hold up Ha'wiih and traditional system support families and Ha'wiih with work to be done
- Share the teachings of our historians learn about Ha'wiih and their history
- o Learn about and re-establish **all** roles in Tla-o-qui-aht governance
- Develop "Tla-o-qui-aht Government Project" to bring together Elders, Ha'wiih, seat holders, advisors and youth to learn about Tla-o-qui-aht governance and history - create plans and teaching resources
- Teach youth and community members about our boundaries and family trees so they can know where they come from/ relations/ connections, hahoulthee
- Strengthen relationship with the lands, waters, air and life within Ha'wiih Ha-houlthee
- Bring traditional houses together to heal and plan together

4) Determine how we will govern ourselves

- o Know our Ha'wiih's ha-houlthee and what we are fighting for
- Work with the Tla-o-qui-aht membership to establish our governance system
- Learn from other First Nations
- Educate ourselves about current options and opportunities
- Understand the current legal and policy climate in Canada and BC
- Tla-o-qui-aht Research Protocol have it reviewed by the community, elders, advisors, Ha'wiih and Administration – then utilize it in all aspects of research with external parties
- Collect information needed to assert rights and title historical documents and records, studies and research, ...
- Look at what kind of custom election would work best for Tla-o-qui-aht (family seats have been suggested)
- What does Reconciliation mean to Tla-o-qui-aht? Work on this term for ourselves then communicate this to external partners, organizations and governments – T&R Recommendations, build cultural awareness.

5) Plan/ Lead/ Organize/ Monitor

- Develop a solid strategic plan for Leadership
- Monitor and evaluate progress
- qwameḥsaqin Engage the members in developing Comprehensive
 Community Plan (CCP) to set immediate and long-term priorities and goals
 community lead planning (Elders and cultural people)

- 6) Improve Communication and Collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht membership
 - Work with Administration to develop a Communication Plan to support collaboration, accountability and transparency
 - o Create an Elders Advisory and invite all Elders Include Elders at all times
 - Develop a Youth Council. Look at and resolve past barriers.
 - Establish Community Committees/ Working Groups areas to look at –
 CCP, fisheries, housing, policy, grievances, justice, education
 - Correct mis-information immediately
 - Establish a central data-base
 - Ensure there are a variety of ways for members to participate in qwameḥsaqin CCP – support family meetings/ planning, topic specific planning meetings.
 - Have open budget audit meetings and reviews with community in language that is empowering and easy to understand
 - Get agenda out before community meetings
 - Involve members in important decisions that impact them community membership, logging, fishing, businesses, (our people, our resources, our lands)
 - Develop and communicate an organizational chart
 - Continue to have opportunities for small group discussions at meetings hear from everyone – World Café
 - Report back to the community after meetings
 - Hire/ Appoint a runner/ messenger for each community get notices and invitations out

- Look at options to live feed community and Council meetings
- 7) Develop a process for business approval/ licencing in Tla-o-qui-aht Communities

Administration and Finance



Administration and Finance Goals and Actions:

- 1) Fill vacant positions with the best candidates available and provide them with proper on-boarding
 - o Hire a high-quality Administrator and HR Manager
 - Create an orientation package and process for all new staff
 - o Hire our own people at living wages where possible
 - Identify upcoming employment opportunities/ needs and provide training and education to prepare our members for opportunities
 - Develop cultural awareness training for non to know the community, our people, our culture,
 - Establish exit interviews for all staff resignations
- 2) Improve the quality and coordination of services for members wherever they live
 - Be responsive to community members in a timely manner <u>ALL</u> staff and Council to respond to emails/ calls as soon as possible
 - Make the most of the resources available to us (human/ financial)
 - Review/ evaluate the services provided by Tla-o-qui-aht on an ongoing basis
 - Increase the human element in the way we do business and provide services – be grounded in community
 - Make a long-term plan around moving some staff to Opitsaht start by having regular hours for all departments now
 - Have professional development plans for all departments and staff
 - Remember our urban members they need connections and support, even if we cannot provide services
 - Create a services directory for staff and members community/ urban and have Contact list – accessible for community members
 - Create program pamphlets
 - Develop referral forms and procedures
 - Establish a free boat and bus service for members on payment days for those on social assistance/ pensions
 - Train leadership and staff in trauma and trauma informed practice and policy
- 3) Establish policies and procedures that work for our community
 - Do a complete policy review review and revise policies for Governance,
 Administration and Businesses with a focus on culture, language and
 compassion and being trauma informed

Ratified: November 2019

Get back to basics with policies and procedures

- Ensure all policies are grounded in our cultural ways
- Establish records and file management policies and procedures security and back up
- 4) Develop a communication plan for Tla-o-qui-aht
 - Internal Improved communication between Council, managers, staff and community – start by have a meeting, meal, planning session with managers and Council
 - External up to date administration and council contact list for outside agencies and include skills inventory of community members Elders/caterers/etc. (provide communication protocol/who to contact/how to contact)
- 5) Increase financial literacy/ understanding of funding/ budgeting Staff, Council, Members, Ha'wiih
 - Organize financial training for Council and community
 - Organize budget training for Managers and staff
 - Support members to set up direct deposit
 - Support the Financial Team to continue training and capacity building

Establish Active Finance Committee

Lands and Resources



Lands and Resources

- 1) Continue to assert our role as stewards of the ha-houlthee of our Ha'wiih
 - o Implement our Land Use Vision
 - Ongoing management and monitoring of Tribal Parks Guardian Program.
 Work towards having 10, year-round Guardians working with a living wage
 - Continue to develop our partnership with Nature United and make the most of related opportunities to support our Land Use Vision
 - o Address Climate Change in immediate and long-term planning
- 2) Be present in our Ha'wiih's ha-houlthee. Get people out on the lands and waters

 communicate with nature/ learn spiritual practices for our health and the
 health of nature plan activities and events
 - Teach youth and community members about our boundaries and family trees so they can know where they come from/ relations/ connections, hahoulthee

- 3) Develop a TI-o-qui-aht Development Referral System to support true consultation and accommodation
 - o Establish user fees in various area
- 4) Develop and construct high quality hatchery
- 5) Pursue the opportunity to secure Parcel Two lands through Reconciliation process

Housing and Infrastructure



Housing and Infrastructure goals and actions:

- 1) Work towards meeting the housing and infrastructure needs of Tla-o-qui-aht
 - Do an assessment of Tla-o-qui-aht's infrastructure and facility needs.
 Current needs identified are: Elders facility, Longhouse, cultural centre, community kitchen's in Opitsaht and at Beach, gymnasium and other recreational facilities, ball fields, sewage treatment, repair and upgrade to geothermal system at Ty-Histanis, establishing alternative water sources, future impacts of global warming and rising ocean levels, docks, roadways.
 - Start prioritizing, developing projects and securing funds
 - Improve the health of current homes and housing.
 - Build more homes that are affordable expansion of Ty-Histanis
 - Staff and offices located in communities
- Research the option to potentially develop a Tla-o-qui-aht Housing Authority or Society
- 3) Continue address housing arears
 - It is overwhelming to get out from under it how do we help them?
- 4) Improve waste management reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, road side pick up
- 5) Improved access to information systems cell and internet in Opitsaht, Ty-Histanis and Esowista
- 6) Build road access to Dam in Opitsaht
- 7) More staff trained to maintain geothermal and water systems
- 8) Increase Emergency Preparedness in all communities
 - Establish a full-time, sustainable Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position
 - Improve and practice All-Hazard's Emergency Plan (tsunami, earthquake, fire, medical)
 - Inform and train staff and community members in emergency preparedness – Practice! Practice!
 - Train First Responders in each community
 - Improve communication and coordination VHF, phone trees, roles and responsibilities

- Get warning systems and loud speakers up and running in each community – tsunami sirens
- o Get sea cans set up with emergency supplies at each evaluation site
- Increase fire prevention and fire fighting potential equipment, supplies, infrastructure, training, community education
- Each home should have emergency kits prepared and an emergency plan in place
- o Establish and train volunteers/ paid first aid positions
- Learn from success of other First Nations
- o Continue to work/ coordinate with neighbouring communities/ Nations

Community Services



Community Services goals and actions:

- 1) Increase community health and unity "we are one". All Tla-o-qui-aht. (Responsibility of all Departments and Council)
 - Support the Men's Group, Women's Group, Warrior's and Longhouse groups - they are building a solid foundation
 - o Focus on unity "we are one". All Tla-o-qui-aht
 - Gather for fun
 - Provide food for the community as a community Harvest, prepare food together for the community
 - Sit together leadership and staff make an effort to visit and sit with people to build relationships and learn
 - Host dinners and chummus with focus on haahuupa and himwitsa bring people together
 - Have regular health checks available
- 2) Reduce Poverty and Hardship for Tla-o-qui-aht members
 - Increase food security and food skills
 - Increase capacity of our food bank
 - Food and Medicine Get out and harvest a variety of foods essential for food security – increase and transfer skills and knowledge - harvesting, hunting, fishing, preserving, preparing, healing properties, spirituality, Iisaak (All departments and community members working together on this)
 - Skill Building "Lift our people up" offer life skills programs. Partner with NETP
 - Empower people to make decisions for themselves and take action for self/ family – look at creating a family advocate
 - Advocate for changes to Patient Travel rates and policies at the FNHA and ISC levels – lobby Canada, get support of Gord Johns MP
 - Host free store/swap meets
- 3) Strengthen and Support Families
 - Parent support, education and prevention continue to work with community partners and create our own programs
 - o Develop and deliver a Tla-o-qui-aht parenting program
 - Continue to work to keep Tla-o-qui-aht children out of care keep our children at home, with family and culture
 - Include our children who are still in-care support the Roots Project

Ratified: November 2019

Secure funding for a family advocate for Opitsaht and Ty-Histanis

- 4) Care for and hold up our Elders
 - o Create an Elders Advisory and invite all Elders Include Elders at all times
 - Build an Elders facility
 - Secure funds and hire an Elders advocate and care worker
 - Work towards having regular weekly programming in Opitsaht and Ty-Histanis
 - Increase transportation supports medical appointments, shopping, visiting
 - Address Elders abuse
 - Host Elder focused planning sessions CCP

5) Mental Health

- Increase knowledge of mental health and addictions
- Focus on prevention and interventions where we can reduce cycle of crisis
- o Improve trauma and crisis response
- Secure funds for a Councillors and Cultural Support Workers
- o Advocate to improve services delivered by Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

6) Reduce substance abuse

- o Education, prevention, harm reduction, treatment
- Support youth and adults to have healthy coping mechanisms
- Set up community supports after treatment
- Secure funds/ partnership for another Drug and Alcohol Counsellor
- Hold up/ celebrate people when they come home from treatment and reach milestones

Education



Education goals and actions:

- 1) Hold up and focus on children and youth they are our future we want them to be healthy and engaged
 - o Support, advocate, donate, volunteer with our youth
 - Include youth invite them youth should be present to learn and listen wherever we gather – to learn to participate and have a voice and be witnesses
 - Culture nights are examples of success build on this (Wednesday and Sundays MICC)
 - Support the warrior and longhouse girls group programs
 - Support the Canoe Guardian Program
 - Increase opportunities for community connections and relationship building – Elders and youth
 - Teach the youth the value of generosity and community service give them opportunities to volunteer – take care of Elders
 - Host youth focused planning sessions CCP
 - Establish mentorship, job-shadowing, internship programs
 - Continue youth programming and annual conference
- 2) Improve Education Outcomes
 - o Establish a Tla-o-qui-aht Education Authority
 - Start process to build a Tla-o-qui-aht Education Centre
 - Hold SD70 and schools accountable to meet needs of our youth
 - Develop partnerships and MOUs with Post Secondary schools
 - Continue to bring Post Secondary Training and Education Programs to our community
 - Develop numeracy and literacy programs
 - Work to ensure our students are graduating from high school without having to do upgrades
 - Research the potential to establish our own Elementary school (K 7) and seek input from the community to see if this is the right path for our Nation
 - Develop partnerships and funds for a Tla-o-qui-aht Adult Education program
 - Continue to provide high-quality, culturally rich child care and early childhood programming to our families through the Tluucha Children's Centre and the Mears Island Pre-school

Community Safety and Justice



Community Safety and Justice goals and Actions:

- 1) Develop a Justice Working Group/ Committee Thomas George, Joe Curley, Tammy Dorward, Administrator, Allison, Elders, Ha'wiih, and elder advisors
 - Create a Mission, Vision and Terms of Reference for group
 - Guiding Principles Justice Working Group Take ownership
- 2) Address Violence and abuses in community
 - o address violence and abuse of women, children, men, elders
 - work with Administration to ensure we have properly funded and staffed support services and access/contact numbers for partner support services
 - work on preventative measures
- 3) Develop simple community safety and justice policies
- 4) Establish alternatives to the Canadian criminal justice system, such as, Dispute Resolution protocols based on our traditional ways, incorporating aspects of Restorative Justice and Circle Sentencing
 - Help people to help themselves We cannot fix them and take ownership to change their behaviour. They must take ownership.
 - Offenders must publicly acknowledge, "yes I did this". It was wrong.
 - We must hold up the victim. Lift them up
 - Our Justice protocol to include Victim, Abuser, Ha'wiih (How do they want to deal with their houses), Elders (Cultural Protocol), Administrative staff members/support services, Justice committee, and if determined may include RCMP
 - o 7182E Sentencing Reform Gladue Report no harm to another person
 - Work with Indigenous Court being planned for Port Alberni Judge has been identified.
- 5) Create expectations, supports and policies for when an offended is incarcerated and when they return to community
 - Connect with Tla-o-qui-aht inmates and those being charged.
 - For our own Don't just let them do their time and come back into the community – have supports and conditions that may change/help them
 - There are services and specialists who can work with violent and sexual offenders – NTC has specialists
 - Create aftercare or transitional support/ accountability after incarceration

- 6) Address intergenerational impacts of residential schools division, sexual assaults,
- 7) Continue to build relationship and work with the RCMP and other community partners
 - Irv David report invite RCMP to Chief and Council
 - encourage community members to call RCMP in emergencies and all situations required
 - Often discouraged from reporting to police, due to lack of response if no response - contact council/Justice liaisons to follow up/advocacy
 - Calling 911/RCMP will assist in determining numbers and types of situations being reported (we need to know what's going on in order to address it)
 - In Esowista, on beach, can call PCA Wardens, able to respond within jurisdiction and assist with RCMP
 - In Tofino, public intoxication, can phone RCMP (they will not respond unless people call in to report)
- 8) Work with the community to identify ways to increase community safety
 - Self defence classes and training for women
 - Learn about what would make people feel safe? What makes people feel unsafe?

- Create signs to identify safe houses for children to come to in emergency/or when scared
- Be proactive rather then reactive Use our cultural ways

Economic Development



Economic Development goals and actions:

- 1) Establish a strong Economic Development Board
- 2) Establish Indigenous Procurement Policy/ Procedures for Tla-o-qui-aht
- 3) Ensure regular reporting to Council and community report to community newsletters
- 4) Build up Tin Wis to be a Tla-o-qui-aht Resort our own brand
- 5) Develop a strong Economic Development plan with the input of members
- 6) Research and develop sustainable business opportunities trades, campground
- 7) Understand what opportunities are available thorough Reconciliation
- 8) Focus on wealth not just jobs
- 9) Deveop Value Added Forestry and Fisheries