

# shíshálh-BC Joint Land Use Plan Backgrounder

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

In October 2018, shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia signed the shíshálh-B.C. Foundation Agreement. The Foundation Agreement is a government-to-government agreement that commits both parties to a process to fundamentally transform the relationship between shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia.

The shíshálh-B.C. Foundation Agreement establishes a government-to-government technical planning group for land use planning: the shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table (LUPT). The Land Use Planning Table represents a shift to a shared stewardship approach to managing natural resources in the swiya. This group is tasked with identifying mutual interests and completing a draft land use plan (LUP) for the shíshálh Nation swiya over the next 3 years.

This backgrounder provides information on:

- » The history of the project (how did we get here?)
- » The joint-Land Use Plan and process (where are we going?)
- » Opportunities for engagement (how can you get involved?)



## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

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### BRIEF HISTORY OF SHÍSHÁLH NATION AND PROVINCIAL LAND MANAGEMENT

#### *shíshálh Nation Strategic Land Use Plan and Decision-Making Policy*

shíshálh Nation has occupied and utilized the swiya and managed its natural resources since time immemorial. In 2007, shíshálh Nation developed the *lil xemit tems swiya nelh mes stutula* ([shíshálh Nation Strategic Land Use Plan](#)), which identifies values and goals for managing land and resources in the swiya (514,520 hectares).

In 2013, shíshálh Nation developed a [Lands and Resources Decision-Making Policy](#) and process for lands and resources in the swiya, which outlines shíshálh's expectations regarding resource management, including development, and documents the practices and principles that guide decision making relating to the use of land, water, and resources of the swiya.

The shíshálh Nation Strategic Land Use Plan and Decision-Making Policy are expressions of shíshálh laws and jurisdiction which have governed the swiya since time immemorial.

#### *Provincial Management*

The Province of British Columbia, working with Indigenous governments, makes decisions under provincial laws about the use of lands, or lands covered by water, which includes much of the swiya. Certain areas of the swiya have been designated by the Province as provincial parks and protected areas. Landscape level plans for sustaining elements of biodiversity (e.g. old growth forest, wildlife trees) have been developed for most of the landscape units overlapping the swiya, but there is currently no higher level strategic provincial land use plan (i.e. Land and Resource Management Plan) for the swiya.



### FOUNDATION AGREEMENT

In October 2018, shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia signed the shíshálh-B.C. Foundation Agreement that formalized their commitment to working together to protect the environment, as well as promote economic opportunity and growth for shíshálh Nation and the entire Sunshine Coast region.

The Foundation Agreement demonstrates a commitment to true, lasting reconciliation, co-operation, and partnership, based on recognition and respect for shíshálh title and rights and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

### LAND USE PLANNING TABLE

The shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table is one of six collaborative forums established under the Foundation Agreement. Comprised of equal representation from both parties, the Land Use Planning Table is tasked with developing a draft land use plan for the shíshálh Nation swiya.

Over the next few years, the Land Use Planning Table will undertake multiple phases of work to draft the land use plan, which will include:

- » Identifying gaps in the information and resources needed to plan for the swiya and completing studies to fill those gaps;
- » Developing and then analyzing the impacts and benefits of different land use management options; and
- » Identifying a recommended management approach to achieving a shared land use planning vision.

The Land Use Planning Table will make a recommended management approach to shíshálh Nation and the B.C. government for further review, shíshálh community engagement, stakeholder and public engagement, and decision-making by the shíshálh Nation and B.C. governments. The result will be a draft shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Plan for the swiya, developed and jointly agreed upon by shíshálh Nation and the B.C. government.



## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia are co-developing a Land Use Plan (LUP) as one way of implementing the transformative change that has been committed to by both parties in the shíshálh-B.C. Foundation Agreement.

The joint land use planning process will allow shíshálh Nation and the B.C. government to make progress on their Foundation Agreement goals of:

- » Shared stewardship of the swiya;
- » Creating economic prosperity for shíshálh people and those choosing to live, work and play within the swiya;
- » Protecting cultural sites;
- » Revitalizing shíshálh culture and language; and
- » Strengthening shíshálh self-government



## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

### SCOPE OF THE SWIYA

The word ‘swiya’ describes the lands and waters that shíshálh Nation has occupied and utilized since time immemorial and can be translated as world, birthplace, lands or “territory”.

The swiya extends from xwésám (Roberts Creek) in the southeast to the height of land located north of xénichen (head of Queen’s Reach) in the north, kwékwenis (Lang Bay) to the west and spílksen (Texada Island) to the south.



SHÍSHÁLH NATION SWIYA, SCOPE OF SHÍSHÁLH-B.C. LAND USE PLAN

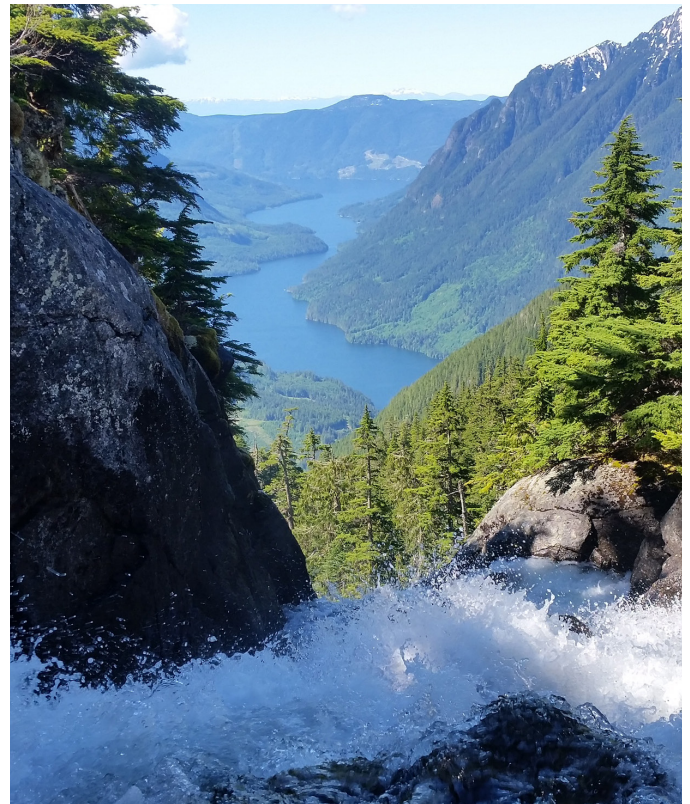


## WHAT WILL THE SHÍSHÁLH-B.C. LAND USE PLAN COVER?

The joint Land Use Plan will articulate a shared vision for the stewardship of land and resources in the swiya and provide clear management direction on the following initial planning themes:

- » Biodiversity
- » Watershed integrity
- » Resources important to shíshálh culture
- » Sustainable economic development

The joint land use plan will not apply to: shíshálh Band Lands (SBLs), shíshálh fee simple lands, federal lands, and private lands. Collaboration with municipal authorities, regional districts, and neighbouring First Nation governments is a key opportunity in this process.



## WHAT WILL THE SHÍSHÁLH-B.C. LAND USE PLAN INCLUDE?

The draft shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Plan could produce outputs such as:

- » **Land Use Zones** (i.e. conservation areas, cultural emphasis areas, and integrated stewardship areas);
- » **Management Direction & Goals** (for planning theme values); and
- » **Legal Land Use Designations & Objectives** (i.e. Wildlife Habitat Areas, Cultural Values Protection); and
- » **Priority Actions: Projects & Tasks**

Some elements of the plan, or its related initiatives, may be developed, adopted and approved in stages via mutual agreement of the parties prior to full completion of the plan.



## PREVIEW OF THE PROCESS

The planning process for this project will occur in four major project phases over the course of four years:

### Phase 1: Setting the Stage (we are here).

In this phase, the Land Use Planning Table will establish how they will work together, set a workplan and identify gaps in information and resources. Stakeholders and members of the public will be informed of the planning scope and engaged in early identification of concerns and opportunities regarding the planning process.

### Phase 2: Assessing the Current State.

During Phase 2, studies will be conducted to fill information gaps. Resources and current conditions of the key planning themes will also be assessed. Stakeholders and the public will be engaged to identify interests on key management issues.

### Phase 3: Developing Management Options and Recommendations.

In Phase 3, the Land Use Planning Table will develop and analyse different management options. The impacts and benefits of these management options will be explored with stakeholders to help determine a recommended management approach.

### Phase 4: Completing the Draft Land Use Plan.

Phase 4 is where the full draft joint Land Use Plan with be shared with stakeholders and the public.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

The shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table is currently developing an engagement and information-sharing process for stakeholders and the public to support the development of a draft land use plan for the swiya.

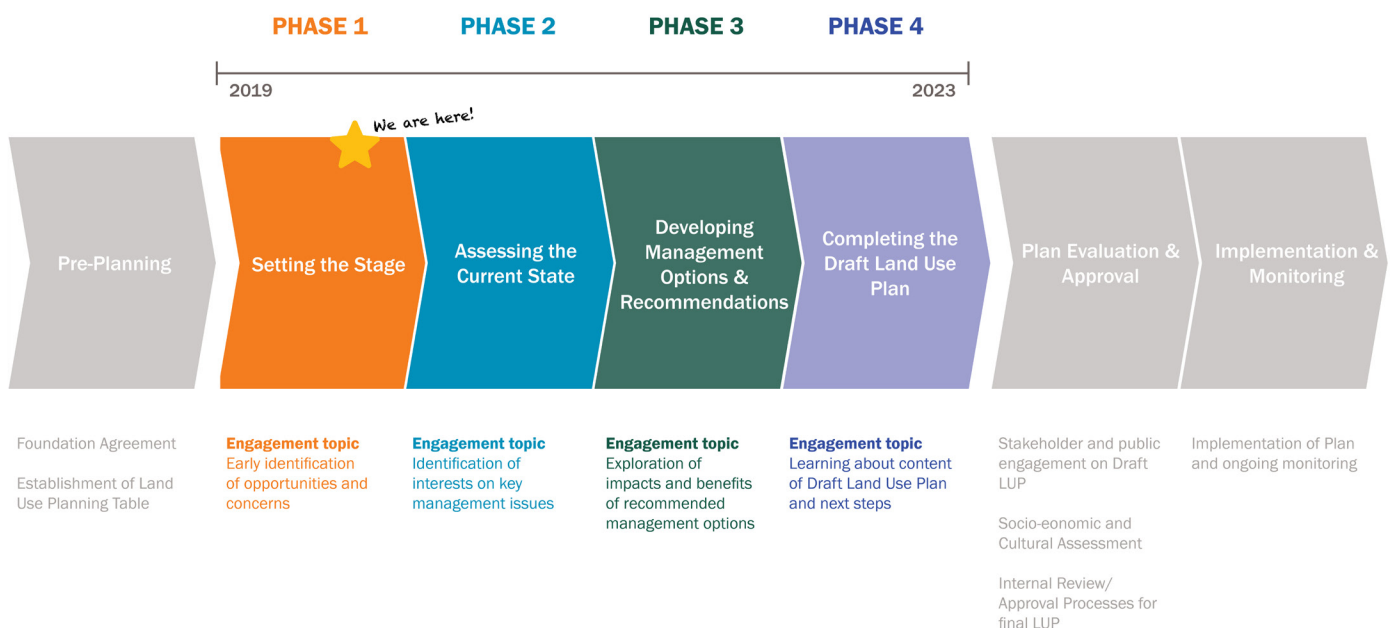
We will be engaging with local governments, licensees, and community members as we initiate this process of planning for the swiya.

We are in the early days of this multi-year land use planning process. In this first round of engagement, we want to understand early interests, concerns, and opportunities as they relate to the planning process and our initial planning themes.

This understanding of early interests, concerns, and opportunities will help shape an engagement and information-sharing plan with stakeholders and the public for the shíshálh-B.C. land use planning process.

Visit the [shíshálh-B.C. LUP project website](#) for latest project information and opportunities to get involved.

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## PHASES OF THE SHÍSHÁLH-B.C. LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS