



TS'IL KAZ KOH PLANNING UPDATE

NEWSLETTER#1 | DECEMBER 2022

**CREATING A PLAN
FOR OUR FUTURE**

THE TS'IL KAZ KOH CCP: A PLAN FOR **ALL** MEMBERS!

Ts'il Kaz Koh Nation is currently working on a Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). Our planning process kicked off in August with a CCP "101" virtual event for Members. At this event, we introduced the CCP project and answered questions about it. Since then, we have also hosted in-person engagement events in Burns Lake, Vancouver, and Kelowna. The purpose of these events has been to hear from you, our Members, about:

- Our shared history
- Our strengths as a Nation
- The challenges that we're facing as Members (both past and present)
- How we can build a better future together

Our CCP project is being led by our administration. We have hired an external consultant, The Firelight Group, to help facilitate important conversations about our past, present, and future. This newsletter is the first of several to come during this process! It shares an overview of what was heard during our first round of in-person engagement. It also provides information about what to expect as we continue to make progress on this project.

When it's complete, our CCP will be for **all Ts'il Kaz Koh Members**, no matter where they live. We are working hard to make it as easy as possible for everyone to participate.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN (CCP)?

A CCP is a long-term strategic plan that involves bringing everyone together to develop a unified vision for a better future.

CCPs cover all aspects of Member wellbeing, including governance, culture, housing, infrastructure, economic development, lands, people, places, and programs. The Ts'il Kaz Koh CCP will be developed by our Members, for our Members. It will set out our values and priorities as a Nation, and provide guidance to our administration and elected representatives.

Musi Cho to all those who came out and joined the engagement events in Burns Lake, Vancouver, and Kelowna!

We look forward to seeing you again soon!



ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

In October and November, we held engagement events in Burns Lake, Kelowna, and Vancouver. At these events, we asked Members to share their input on a number of different topics and questions. Some of the questions we asked include:

- What would you **change** about Ts'il Kaz Koh if you could? What are you most concerned about right now?
- Are there **specific things** that we should consider when we are engaging with urban Members / Members living away from TTK lands?
- Are there any **challenges** that you feel are unique to being an urban Member / living away from TTK Lands? If so, what do you want TTK staff and other Members to know about these challenges?
- What makes you **feel connected** to Ts'il Kaz Koh? What does being a Member of Ts'il Kaz Koh Nation mean to you?
- What **prevents you** from feeling connected to Ts'il Kaz Koh?
- What do we do well as a Nation? **What are our strengths?**
- Do you have any ideas for simple things that could be **done right away** to make things better for the community?

We also asked Members to identify our Nation's biggest challenges and opportunities across different topic areas or "themes" (e.g., housing and infrastructure, lands, economic development). In the next phase of our CCP project, we will be working to address these challenges and opportunities through the development of a **vision** and **goals** for the future.

OCTOBER 24- 25, 2022 | BURNS LAKE

- TTSP Advisory Group Meeting - 4 Members
- Youth Event - 12 Members
- Open House & Workshop - 14 Members

NOVEMBER 22, 2022 | VANCOUVER

- Workshop - 10 Members

NOVEMBER 24, 2022 | KELOWNA

- Workshop - 22 Members

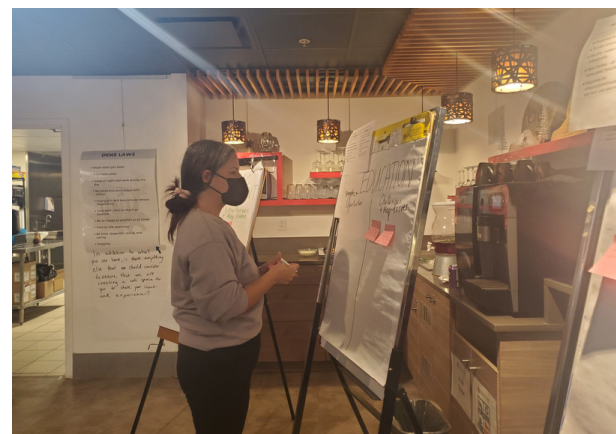


WHAT ARE TS'IL KAZ KOH MEMBERS TALKING ABOUT?



At our October and November engagement events, our Members had a lot to say. It turns out we agree on many things, regardless of where we live! Here is a snapshot of some of the things we heard at every event:

- Our Members are tired of fighting with one another! We have a strong shared desire to build a more **connected, inclusive, and unified Nation** that is focused on moving forward together for everyone.
- We all want to be **proud** Ts'il Kaz Koh Members. We see a strong relationship between our health and healing and our need to grow together as a Nation.
- Many of us want to learn more about our **traditional values and ways**, and are looking for opportunities to do so.
- Many of us feel that there is a need for more **education and conversation** about our history as a Nation and about how the Indian Act and Bill C-31 have affected Ts'il Kaz Koh. More **empathy** on this topic is also needed, as our Members have felt the effects in different ways depending on their circumstances.
- **Communication** is a big issue. There is a history of mistrust among our Members and part of the reason for this is that we do not come together often enough. Many of us also share a desire for kinder, more respectful communication.



WHAT ARE TS'IL KAZ KOH MEMBERS TALKING ABOUT? CONTINUED

- We're looking for more **transparency** from our administration and Chief and Council. Lack of transparency is contributing to mistrust, infighting, and lateral violence. Key issues include financial accountability and concerns about how decisions are made.
- We'd like more regular **information sharing and community outreach** to ensure that our Members have equal access to information and opportunities.
- Many of us would like to **revitalize our traditional governance system** (the Bahlats) and strengthen our clan processes and traditions. Others are interested in learning about these aspects of our culture in a safe environment that is free from judgment.
- Our **youth are our future**. We want to create opportunities for them by supporting their education and employment.



THEMES FROM OUR VANCOUVER AND KELOWNA ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Our administration organized events in Vancouver and Kelowna to demonstrate the Nation's commitment to hearing from ALL our Members as part of our CCP process. Here are a few more things that we heard at our **urban engagement events**, in addition to what was shared on the previous two pages:

- These meetings were a step in the right direction in terms of including urban Members and making them feel like their voices and perspectives are important. It will be important to build on this momentum by organizing more meetings like this in future.
- Members who joined Ts'il Kaz Koh following Bill C-31 are frustrated because they often feel excluded and unwelcome. Like most of us, these Members are looking for connection, community, identity, and belonging.
- Our urban Members understand that there are limitations on how the funds that Ts'il Kaz Koh receives from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) can be used, but would like more information about what these limitations are so they can better understand how and when they apply.
- Our urban Members are interested in finding creative ways to improve their access to programming, services, and support.





TAKING CARE OF OUR LANDS

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY STEWARDSHIP PLAN UPDATE

In addition to our CCP project, we are also currently working on a Traditional Territory Stewardship Plan (TTSP) project as part of our planning process. This project involves bringing our Members together to discuss land use, stewardship, and governance issues in our Traditional Territory. Our objectives right now are to better understand the current state of our Territory, and to identify our Members' top concerns and priorities for land and resource stewardship, management, and use.

So far, we have had conversations with Members about this project in Burns Lake, Vancouver, and Kelowna. Here's a little of **what we heard**:

- It is important to include **ALL Ts'il Kaz Koh Members** in the creation of the TTSP!
- Some Members see the TTSP project as an **opportunity for education**—for example, our Members are hopeful that this project will help our youth learn about our Territory and their responsibilities as stewards of the land.
- Our Members are interested in undertaking **restoration projects**—our Territory has already been heavily impacted by urban settlement and resource development activities, and it is important to ensure that a legacy is left for future generations.

WHAT IS A TRADITIONAL TERRITORY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (TTSP)?

A TTSP is a plan that is focused on land and resource management on a Territory-wide scale. The Ts'il Kaz Koh TTSP will be a Member-led plan that identifies our top concerns and priorities for land use and stewardship within Ts'il Kaz Koh Traditional Territory. It will provide guidance on the management of important places and values within our Territory, and it will help our Nation take a more active role in the care and stewardship of our ancestral lands.



TRADITIONAL TERRITORY STEWARDSHIP PLAN UPDATE CONTINUED

- Many of our Members are interested in **revitalizing our Indigenous laws and traditional governance**, but we have a lot of work to do if we want to come together on this in a unified way as a Nation. In the meantime, many of us agree that there is a need for our Members to have a stronger voice in the stewardship of our Territory given the legacy of past and ongoing activities and impacts.
- Our Members are interested in playing a more **active role in Territory management**—for example, through the establishment of a Guardian program that employs Ts'il Kaz Koh Members.

Some of the **concerns** that were highlighted during engagement include:

- Climate change, including increased drought, wildfires, and effects on water levels and water flow (e.g., in the Endako River).
- Cumulative effects from development activities.
- Concerns about the health of fish and wildlife populations (e.g., moose, salmon).
- Concerns about the management of the Burns Lake Community Forest.
- Concerns about the proposed Endako weir.

NEXT STEPS

In 2023, we will be moving into the next phase of planning work for both projects. This next phase will involve crafting a vision for Ts'il Kaz Koh's future, and determining how we might work towards our vision through the development of objectives and strategies.

What is **YOUR** vision for the future of Ts'il Kaz Koh?
What actions can we take to create a stronger, more unified Ts'il Kaz Koh?

We will be coming back for another round of engagement in February 2023, so stay tuned for more information!

LEARN MORE

THE TS'IL KAZ KOH PLANNING HUB

YOUR PORTAL FOR EVERYTHING CCP & TTSP

Scan the QR code to access the Ts'il Kaz Koh Planning Hub.

As well, be sure to check the Ts'il Kaz Koh Facebook page for updates and upcoming events.

Feedback, questions, or comments can be directed to:

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