

TSIMSHIAN LEADERSHIP TABLE



TSIMSHIAN LEADERSHIP PROTOCOL

DECEMBER 10, 2021

The leadership of six Tsimshian Nations (Gitga'at Nation, Lax Kw'alaams Band, Kitasoo / Xai'Xais Nation, Kitselas First Nation, Kitsumkalum First Nation, and Metlakatla First Nation) (the "Tsimshian Nations") agree to coordinate and work together to advance common Tsimshian interests, as the "Tsimshian Leadership Table."

The Tsimshian Nations shall, in the spirit of sharing and co-existence, continue to enter into bilateral and multilateral relationships with each other to strengthen and assist in settling matters and common concerns regarding our respective cultural identities, traditions, diversity, equality of our peoples and our common boundaries according to our respective traditional laws.

The Tsimshian Leadership Table shall work according to the following principles:

1. This is a leadership table, with primary participation and direction from the leadership of each of the six Tsimshian Nations.
2. The Tsimshian Nations shall, in good faith and according to Tsimshian traditional law(s) and practices, endeavor to support each other in the pursuit of collective interests, as agreed between the Nations.
3. Each Tsimshian Nation shall continue to practice its own political systems and laws and intend these separate jurisdictions to continue.
4. Each Tsimshian Nation shall continue to exercise its sovereignty as an Indigenous Nation.
5. Each Tsimshian Nation affirms its continuing hereditary title and rights.

Purpose

The purpose of the Tsimshian Leadership Table is to work together cooperatively on the following. These do not preclude or interfere with individual, bilateral, or other multi-Nation initiatives that each of the Tsimshian Nations are currently pursuing or may pursue in the future:

1. Establish a communications plan and process for:
 - Cooperation and sharing of information with each other, and
 - Joint Tsimshian communications initiatives
2. Possible common approaches to address the following, as agreed to by all six of the Tsimshian Nations:
 - Joint Tsimshian initiatives on government issues with Canada and/or British Columbia, without interfering with each Nation's respective structures and jurisdictions.
 - Create a forum for launching opportunities for bilateral discussions among two or more of the Tsimshian Nations.
 - Create a forum for launching of initiatives or opportunities common across the technical and operational levels of the Tsimshian Nations.
 - Plan for an all Tsimshian gathering post-pandemic.
 - Explore boundary discussions and processes.
 - The continued impact of the sport fishery on Tsimshian traditional and s.35 fishing rights, and the failure to protect and respect Tsimshian's priority rights.
 - Protection of Tsimshian s.35 fishing rights.
 - Protection of Tsimshian resources and food security.
 - Marine emergency response: possible collaborative stewardship opportunities and possible business opportunities.
 - COVID19 / health and safety issues.
 - Exploration of a joint Tsimshian guardians program.



3. Other Joint Tsimshian opportunities, including economic opportunities, as agreed to by the Tsimshian Leadership Table.

Boundary Discussions and Processes

The Tsimshian Nations shall engage in discussions, when and as appropriate, on possible processes to address either bilateral or collective boundary issues. These discussions shall be at the Leadership level and shall be confidential and without prejudice unless otherwise agreed.

Confidentiality and Openness

To encourage an open and effective exchange of ideas and information, all discussions of the Tsimshian Leadership Table shall be confidential and without prejudice unless otherwise agreed to by all Tsimshian Nations. The Tsimshian Leadership table will endeavor to resolve issues which may arise in its meetings in a manner that allows for and fosters improved, ongoing and respectful Nation-to-Nation relationships among the Tsimshian Nations.

The Tsimshian Leadership Table and discussions at its meetings are without prejudice to the positions any of the Tsimshian Nations may take in treaty or reconciliation negotiations.

The existence of the Tsimshian Leadership Table and meetings is not confidential and each of the Tsimshian Nations may refer to the fact of Tsimshian Leadership Table and its meeting in order to consult and engage with its respective broader leadership, including hereditary leadership and community, according to each of the Tsimshian Nations respective processes.

All documentation tabled at or generated at the Tsimshian Leadership Table shall remain confidential unless the Tsimshian Nation tabling it agrees it may be shared, how it is shared, and for what purposes.

Tsimshian Leadership Table Procedures

Each Tsimshian Nation will include its leadership at the Tsimshian Leadership Table, as determined by each respective Nation.

Each Nation may include resource people, and guests in support of each Nation.

Guests representing outside interests (i.e., Federal/Provincial governments, industry, non-Tsimshian Nations) are to be invited only by consensus of all the Tsimshian Nations.



The Tsimshian Leadership Table shall also endeavor to do the following:

1. Meet monthly.
2. Bridge hereditary leaders into the Tsimshian Leadership Table.
3. Build a role for stewardship personnel to support the Tsimshian Leadership Table.
4. Avoid duplication of work and processes by ensuring technical work gets Leadership support and by identifying issues / gaps etc. in the various Tsimshian Nations initiatives, structures, and processes.
5. Assist in seeking funding resources and options to support the table.

Meetings shall be chaired and facilitated by an individual selected on agreement of all six of the Tsimshian Nations. If no such selection is made, or if a designated chair / facilitator is unable to attend, the chair shall rotate alphabetically amongst the Tsimshian Nations, beginning with Gitga'at then rotating to Lax Kw'alaams, Kitasoo / Xai'Xais, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, and Metlakatla.

The Tsimshian Leadership Table shall review its progress and structure towards the end of the fiscal year.

