

gi guáʔaʔ ni

working together / helping each other

PREAMBLE

The Haisla Nation Council (HNC) and the District of Kitimat (DoK) Council recognize that we live together on the traditional territories of the Haisla peoples. Haisla Nation Council and District of Kitimat share a common vision of maintaining a collaborative working partnership, based on principles of trust and friendship, for the benefit of our communities.

VISION

A resilient and prosperous community is created through the strong foundation of mutual respect, collaboration, and partnership between the Haisla Nation and the District of Kitimat. Together, we strive to build a vibrant and inclusive region that upholds the rights and values of the Haisla people. Our shared efforts focus on promoting economic growth, social well-being, and cultural preservation for all residents. Guided by our joint strategic plan, we work collaboratively to ensure the best possible outcomes for our communities. Together we are united and will construct a sustainable and thriving region that will last for generations to come.



PURPOSE

Guided by the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat Joint Strategic Plan, the purpose of this Agreement is to outline the spirit and intent of the partnership and provide the framework upon which the partners will maintain and strengthen the collaborative working partnership.

This Agreement will be acknowledged as a living document and should be reviewed by the Working Group once per year to ensure that the document is reflective of the partnership's current structure and goals.

PARTNERS

This gi guáʔaʔ nis - Friendship Agreement (the Agreement) is comprised of the following partners, through Council resolutions, namely:

- Haisla Nation Council
- District of Kitimat

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Respect and Recognition:** We recognize the traditional territory of the Haisla people and value their culture, history, and rights. We approach all decisions with mutual respect for each other's jurisdictions and priorities.
2. **Collaboration and Partnership:** We believe in working together to achieve common goals and sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise for the benefit of our communities.
3. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** We are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within our communities by acknowledging and respecting the perspectives, needs, and contributions of all residents.
4. **Sustainability:** We strive to create a sustainable future for our communities by considering the environmental, social, and economic impacts of all our actions.
5. **Transparency and Accountability:** Our partnership is built on trust and transparency, and we hold ourselves accountable for our actions and decisions that affect our communities.
6. **Cultural Preservation and Awareness:** We are dedicated to preserving the unique cultural heritage of the Haisla people and promoting language revitalization, traditional knowledge, and practices within our communities. We are committed to encouraging and supporting the cultural awareness and education of District of Kitimat elected officials, staff, and residents.
7. **Empowerment and Capacity Building:** We believe in investing in the education, training, and professional development of Haisla Nation members to promote economic opportunities and self-sufficiency within the territory.

Overall, these guiding principles will lead us towards a stronger partnership that fosters positive outcomes for both the Haisla Nation and the District of Kitimat communities. By upholding these values, we can build a brighter future together.

PROCESS

The partners agree to work within the following partnership structures, membership, mandates, and meeting procedures, creating the process required to achieve the objectives and actions named in the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat Joint Strategic Plan. The Co-Chairs, Working Group and Working Committees will have annual work plans directed by the Joint Strategic Plan.

Council to Council

Mandate: to strengthen the government-to-government partnership between Haisla Nation Council and District of Kitimat to celebrate partnership growth and success; and, to communicate openly with community members regarding this partnership.

Membership: Haisla Nation Council and District of Kitimat Council

Meeting Procedure: meet once annually with an agenda informed by the work of the staff Co-Chairs, Working Group and Working Committees.

Working Group

Mandate: to advance the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat partnership, governed by the Joint Strategic Plan, specifically Objective 1 and actions; to provide support and guidance to the Co-Chairs on the Joint Strategic Plan; and, to contribute to annual Working Group updates to the Council-to-Council.

Membership: the following roles are committed to Working Group membership, and other staff will be called into support as needed:

For HNC

- CAO
- Deputy CAO – Development
- Deputy CAO – Administration
- Clerk to Council (Co-Chair)
- CEO (or designate), yáqʷa Development Corporation

For DoK

- CAO (or alternate Deputy CAO)
 - Indigenous Relations Manager (Co-Chair)
- Note: The Director whose department most action items in the Joint Strategic Plan fall under will be a designated member of the Working Group:
- Director of Economic Development
 - Director of Engineering
 - Director of Planning
 - Director of Leisure Services

Meeting Procedure: meet quarterly to advance the work plan, to share general community updates, opportunities and/or grievances, and to address support required by the Co-Chairs. Attend the annual Council-to-Council meetings.

Co-chairs of Working Group

Mandate: to oversee the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat partnership, governed by the Joint Strategic Plan; to work as the intermediary between all levels of partnership structures; to support the Working Group and the Working Committees with meeting administration and facilitation, work plan development and maintenance, and strategic direction as needed;

to organize quarterly Working Committee updates to the Working Group; and, to prepare annual Working Group updates to the Council-to-Council.

Membership: Clerk to Council, Haisla Nation Council and Indigenous Relations Manager, District of Kitimat. In the absence of the Indigenous Relations Manager at the District of Kitimat, the CAO will appoint a designate; similarly, if required, the Haisla Nation Council CAO will appoint a designate.

Meeting Procedure: meet monthly to advance work plan, to address any emergent opportunities or issues, and to address support required by the Working Group or Working Committees. Attend the annual Council-to-Council and quarterly Working Group meetings. Attend the bi-annual Working Committee meetings as required.

Working Committees

Mandate: to advance the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat Mandate: to contribute to the Haisla Nation Council – District of Kitimat partnership, governed by the Joint Strategic Plan, specifically through the Working Committee work plan; to provide a quarterly update of progress and lessons learned to the Co-Chairs for the Working Group.

Membership: 1 staff lead from Haisla Nation Council and 1 staff lead from District of Kitimat; in special circumstances additional committee members may be added representing Haisla Nation Council, District of Kitimat, and external partners, to a maximum of 6 people.

Meeting Procedure: meet monthly or bi-monthly (at minimum) to advance the work plan.