

shíshálh Nation / British Columbia Foundation Agreement

Spring 2020 Update

Foundation Agreement

This landmark reconciliation agreement between shíshálh Nation (shíshálh) and B.C., signed in October 2018, recognizes and respects Aboriginal title and rights, and supports self-determination and self-government. The provincial government and shíshálh are working together to protect the environment, as well as promote economic opportunity and growth for shíshálh and the entire Sunshine Coast region.

Recent Updates

- On May 13, 2020, B.C. extended its Provincial State of Emergency to support the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These are challenging times for all of us. Provincial information and supports for individuals, families and businesses can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>.
- Collaboration and communication between B.C., shíshálh Nation, and the Sunshine Coast Regional District continues to strengthen. Representatives from all three Governments have committed to meet regularly to explore opportunities and resolve regional challenges together.
- Agreements to address the Sunshine Coast Regional District's interests related to the Gravel Lands transfer are near final.
- B.C. and shíshálh committed to attempt to identify up to 80 ha of provincial Crown land for residential development purposes. Despite extensive effort, suitable Crown land was not identified, and instead shíshálh purchased private land in January 2020 to address their growing housing needs. The Foundation Agreement provides the basis for B.C.'s negotiators to explore options to provide shíshálh with benefits to offset roughly half of the costs of purchasing the property.
- The shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table continues to work on baseline studies, including Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM), wildlife habitat modeling and cultural/socio-economic studies, to inform future land use planning discussions.

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Dual Language Highway Signs and Place Names

- B.C. and shíshálh are working together to protect and promote shíshálh culture, language and history across the shíshálh *swiya* (world, birthplace, lands, “Territory”). This includes a commitment to two important and separate projects: one to identify significant geographical features and locations to be re-named with shíshálh place names; and another to install dual-language highway and road signage in appropriate locations within the *swiya*.
- In March 2020, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and shíshálh installed 20 shishishalhem-English dual language highway signs along the Highway 101 corridor between *xwesam*/Roberts Creek and *kwekwenis*/Lang Bay.
- The new highway signs do not change official place names; but rather, identify communities, services, and attractions in both languages. Warning and regulatory signs which are critical to driver safety have not been replaced.
- The B.C. Geographical Names Office is currently engaging with the public and local governments around potential official name changes for the unincorporated communities of *salalus*/Madeira Park and *ts’ukw’um*/Wilson Creek; as well as two geographic features, *skelhp*/Saltery Bay and *ts’ukw’um*/Wilson Creek.
- B.C. is engaging with Indigenous, local and regional governments, regional organizations, and the public regarding all place naming proposals.

What is Upcoming?

- Work to transfer DL 1592 from B.C. to shíshálh will commence in summer/fall 2020 and includes engagement with stakeholders and registered interest holders on the land.
- Information on the shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Planning Process is now posted at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/land-use-planning/modernizing-land-use-planning>. The approach for initial engagement is currently being reviewed in light of Covid-19 restrictions.

For more Information

Foundation Agreement and implementation updates can be found at:
www.gov.bc.ca/shishalhNationagreements

Enquiries: IRRInfo@gov.bc.ca

