



shíshálh Nation – British Columbia Foundation Agreement Renewal Fact Sheet

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In 2018, shíshálh Nation and B.C. made history by signing the province's first Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreement (CRA), a long-term phased agreement focused on government-to-government relations that recognize inherent rights and title.

This phased approach to reconciliation, where the Foundation Agreement is renewed every five years, allows for transformative change to take place in a structured way that is transparent and allows for learning to occur as shíshálh Nation and the Province's relationship unfolds over time.

The first five-year phase of the Foundation Agreement concluded in 2023, at which time the Province and shíshálh Nation negotiated commitments for the second phase, represented by the Agreement renewal.

This fact sheet provides information to answer general questions people may have. For further information or clarification on anything contained within this document, please visit the shíshálh Nation First Nations A-Z profile or contact IRRCoastNegotiations@gov.bc.ca.

What is the shíshálh swiya?

The shíshálh Nation is located on the Sechelt Peninsula of the Sunshine Coast, 50 kilometres northwest of Vancouver. The shíshálh swiya covers 514,520 hectares (1,271,407 acres) that stretch from xenichen (northern end of Jervis Inlet) to kalpíln (Pender Harbour), and from kwekwenis (Lang Bay) in the west and xwesam (Roberts Creek) in the southeast.

This is the territory that shíshálh has lived on and used since time immemorial.

Local governments within the shíshálh swiya include the Sunshine Coast Regional District, qathet Regional District, and the District of Sechelt.

Is this a new agreement between shíshálh Nation and B.C.?

No, this is not a new agreement – it is a renewal of the existing long-term Foundation Agreement that was signed by shíshálh Nation and the Province in 2018. CRAs are long-term agreements carried out in phases, with addendums for new initiatives included every five years.

The Foundation Agreement renewal agreement supports the ongoing relationship between the Province and shíshálh Nation, developing strong partnerships founded on mutual interests, and building the regional economy.

What does this agreement mean for shíshálh Nation?

This agreement is a step forward in the work the Province and shíshálh Nation have been doing together for many years, building off the Foundation Agreement and work done to initiate shared decision making as far back as 2016.

The renewal represents new opportunities for economic and cultural growth that will benefit shíshálh Nation members, including expanding shíshálh Nation Lands, accessing funding for community projects and moving forward on key land and water stewardship initiatives in the shíshálh swiya.

What does this agreement mean for other residents on the Sunshine Coast?

The Foundation Agreement renewal includes commitments and initiatives that will benefit everyone who lives on the Sunshine Coast. New investments in economic development, continued joint land use planning and stewardship, and improvements to water supply are just some of the renewal components that will have a positive impact across the region.

Does this agreement make any changes to the Dock Management Plan?

The Agreement renewal reaffirms changes to the Dock Management Plan (DMP) announced in August 2024 and reinforces the Province and shíshálh Nation's shared commitment to completing joint work in the foreshore and helping to provide predictability and transparency for dock owners.

Additional provisions related to docks in the Foundation Agreement renewal include commitments to conduct more studies in the foreshore, to undertake shared monitoring, and to fund restoration work conducted by shíshálh Nation.

These additional measures demonstrate our commitment to ensure that foreshore values are managed in a balanced way that sustains them for future generations.

What will negotiating Aboriginal title with shíshálh Nation look like?

shíshálh Nation and the Province have agreed to negotiate and attempt to reach an agreement that recognises shíshálh Nation's Aboriginal title within shíshálh swiya. This marks the beginning of a multi-year process that will involve detailed negotiations, in-depth consultation and approval from decision-making bodies like Cabinet.

At this time, negotiations have not begun. If an agreement is negotiated and approved, it would then be implemented through legislation in the Legislature of British Columbia and by shíshálh Nation.

The approach to negotiating Aboriginal title taken by the Province is different in each context, and there is no one-size-fits-all style for Aboriginal title agreements.

What from the original agreement has been accomplished since 2018?

The Province and shíshálh Nation have made substantial progress together since signing the Foundation Agreement in 2018.

The Province has completed the transfer of three parcels of Crown land for economic development, social and cultural purposes. The final transfer promised in this agreement was just completed this fall.

Approximately \$36 million in funding has also been provided to shíshálh Nation to support land purchases and implementation costs.

Since 2018, the Province and shíshálh Nation have negotiated shared decision-making on forestry legislation, the Land Act, and existing groundwater licenses under the Water Sustainability Act.

Other commitments carried out under the Foundation Agreement include support for ongoing forestry revenue sharing with shíshálh Nation, support for shíshálh Nation to advance ongoing social, cultural and community initiatives, and the restoration of twelve shíshálh place names within the shíshálh swiya, including restoring the names of Jervis Inlet to lekw'emin, Pender Harbour to kalpilin, and Mount Victoria to k'els.

What happens next?

Over the next five years, the Province and shíshálh Nation will work together to implement commitments made in the Foundation Agreement renewal.

Engagement will be planned for each component of the Foundation Agreement that has potential to impact local government, interest holders and the public. More information will be available as we begin this process.