



Developing our Lands Act: our shared story

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Background

On Dec 6th, Ta'an Kwach'an Council citizens were invited a community meal and Lands Act kick-off conversation.

This meeting is the first opportunity for citizens to participate in the first of four chapters in our journey to develop a Ta'an Kwach'an Council Lands Act:

1. Learning together
2. Finding shared meaning
3. Considering options together
4. Moving forward together

The Dec 6 event explored four themes under the first chapter of "Learning Together"

1. Our shared story
2. Laying the foundation
3. Designing our process
4. What success looks like



The following includes unedited notes written on flip-chart in front of participants throughout the evening.

What are your hopes and expectations for this evening?

- Our land: what kind of possibilities are there for things like revenue? Citizens must benefit.
- A lot of our land is too open, there aren't gates
- What was the result of the land registry?
- When do 'we' have to start paying tax? On Ta'an Kwach'an Council lands, and concerned about the amounts
- We need more information about our land to make good decisions
- Who is this Act for?
- Seems to be a gap in communication in how land decisions are made (e.g. Dev Corps). There needs to be clarity on who the decision makers are and for what

- Will it include all lands?
- How will Act consider overlapping lands?
- Need clarity on what I can do on the land
- If applications are frozen, how did Dev Corps get access to land?
- Shallow Bay: at one point we had a lot of land and there is fear in leasing it out. We have lost a lot of land already. We fought for this land through land-claims
- Can we ensure TK is considered in planning, i.e. moose migration
- Clarify what lands are covered by the Act
- Need to clarify our goals for the land and where: preservation? Ec Dev?
- Can we buy additional land to develop?
- Land Registry: we spend a lot of money and we don't have anything
- Land Registry: learn from that process

What key questions do you have?

- Citizens need to know what our land is, what we have, what we value, before determining where to go
- Inconsistency in use right now: citizens vs. Dev Corps, why?
- Clarify land categories: definitions and maps
- "Lands Act" v. "Land Use Plan": what is the difference?
- Original land claim negotiations: what was the context and their intent; to help us guide values and decisions. Why were certain areas selected and for what purpose?



What was learned from past Lands Act exercises?

- Bring in a lawyer at the end, not the beginning
- If citizens request changes, need to see reflected
- Needs to feel like citizen's process
- Need to think long term
- Citizens need to see their goals and aspirations reflected in the Act
- 'Staff' need to explain rationale and how input is reflected
- Education about our 'land story'
- Build succession in youth: what are the stories, our identity
- Citizens need to feel the land will always belong to Ta'an Kwach'an Council throughout the process
- Understanding the 'legal landscape'
- How can we be told how to use our lands?

What is required for a meaningful process?

- Citizens need to be involved in process and design
- Take pride in our process
- Encourage all citizen input?
- Be on the land, through process
- Give people options to participate (i.e. online)
- Consider diverse needs: transportation, home visits, go to each family...
- Provide information in various formats: newsletter, 101, process, what we heard
- Recognize our vulnerable citizens
 - Provide transportation? Meal?
 - Bad history of perception of wasted money with past lawyers
- With housing we need to ensure our citizens maximize benefits
- All voices matter
- Improve communications channels: advertising in newspaper and online

- Citizens need to take responsibility and get involved

How will we know if this Lands Act process is successful?

- Smooth operations
- Housing for citizens
- Ability to continue harvesting, as part of our identity
- Affordable housing
- We actually have a Lands Act! That is short and accessible
- Clearly considers possible issues, implications and mechanisms to solve
- Allows for future potential, like Ec Dev
- Clarity on overlap with other Yukon First Nations
- This needs to be a positive process, and tool for citizens

In closing, please share one word that describes how you feel right now?

