

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa McKnight-Yeates
shishalh Nation Communications Manager,
(250) 885-2273, ext. 235

Nation purchases waterfront property for \$15 million

The shishalh Nation has purchased a 396.9-acre waterfront property, through Tsain-ko Run of River LP. The property, known as the Sechelt Sustainable Community, or SSC, located 4 kilometers from Sechelt, was purchased for \$15 million during a court ordered sale in Vancouver yesterday.

The land borders SNL 28. "We thought this was too good to pass up just because of time constraints," said hiwus Warren Paull. He said the community needs land, for housing, and this parcel is ideal. "It has three water licenses and this means we could re-start the hatchery," he commented.

Chief Paull told community members that the Nation learned about the land-purchase opportunity in late December. shishalh has been working with the province to identify 80 hectares of crown land that could be transferred to the Nation for residential purposes. The Foundation Agreement states that if the Nation and BC cannot identify crown land suitable for residential lands they can work together to identify alternate private lands. Council will continue to work with the Province to complete this work.

In addition to residential housing, economic development opportunities have been identified including industrial and recreational opportunities on the waterfront, gravel resources, potential for subdividing the land and partnership potential for a hotel.

Council has consulted with the shishalh membership extensively during the limited time it had to prepare for this purchase.

This is an exciting and historic day for the Nation said Councillor Selina August. "I felt very proud of my team and staff for all the work done over the last 2 plus weeks. I was emotional when the judge granted us the win because this is historic. But we now have a lot of planning work to do and now that we can slow the pace down with no time constraints we can get that work underway with inclusive community led planning. Today was another historic day for us!"

Councillor Keith Julius said, "Our ancestors did what they had to do to make sure we the shishalh people will be here on our swiya practicing our ways forever. And these additional 396 acres of land that is now ours. This is part of continuing what our ancestors did for us."