



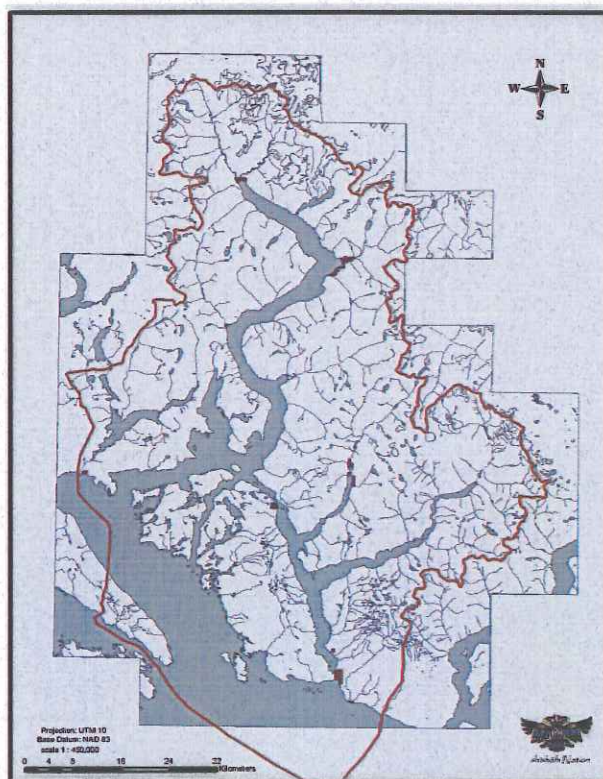
***shishálh* Nation Declaration**

We, the *shishálh* Nation, openly and publicly declare that we have Aboriginal Title and Aboriginal Rights to our territory (the Territory), including the lands, waters and resources that have been ours since time immemorial. We have been given the responsibility from the Creator to care for our Territory. Our Territory sustains our people, maintains our indigenous way of life, and is integral to our identity as *shishálh*. We have always governed ourselves and our Territory, and have never relinquished our authority or jurisdiction over such. We assert our collective right to live as a distinct people.

To ensure the continued survival, dignity and well being of the future generations of the *shishálh*, we, the *shishálh* Nation declare:

1. We have and continue to hold Aboriginal Title and Aboriginal Rights to the Territory, and we have the right to own, use, occupy, develop and control the lands, waters, air space and resources of the Territory in accordance with *shishálh* laws, customs, traditions, needs and aspirations.
2. Our Territory extends from *xwésám* in the southeast to the height of land located north of *xénichen*, *kwékwenis* to the west and *spilksen* to the south.
3. Our name *shishálh*, derives from our language of *sháshishálhem*. We are an indigenous people descended from four *shishálh* tribes: *xénichen*; *ts 'únay*; *téwákw*; and *sxixus*.
4. We affirm our inherent right to self-determination and we will preserve, maintain and develop our own distinct political, economic, cultural and social institutions and systems for the benefit of our Nation.
5. We assert control over any use or development within our Territory that could affect our people, our lands, our waters and our resources so that we may maintain and strengthen our laws, culture, traditions, economics, language and other *shishálh* institutions. We have a right to manage and share in the wealth of our Territory so that we can continue to build a sustainable economy for our people.
6. We have the right to determine our own identity or membership in accordance with our customs and traditions and we continue to support a communal way of life that respects the wisdom of our elders.
7. We retain our shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of our children and we support the development of healthy *shishálh* families and community.

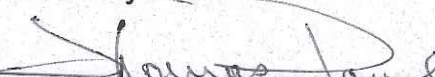
8. We have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations our history, language, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems, stories, literature and all other art forms. We also have the right to practice and revitalize our cultural traditions and customs, language, and our spiritual traditions, and ceremonies and the right to maintain, control, protect and develop our intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.
9. We will designate and retain our own names for our communities, places and persons.
10. We continue to assert and exercise our right and responsibility to participate in decision-making in matters which affects our Territory, through *shishálh* representation chosen by ourselves in accordance with our own laws and procedures, as well as to maintain and develop our own *shishálh* decision-making institutions.
11. We have the right to compensation for those lands, waters and resources of our Territory which have been wrongfully expropriated, occupied, used or damaged without our prior and informed consent.
12. Our distinct culture, history, language and way of life is an enrichment to Canada's cultural identity and we will work collaboratively with other Canadians to educate others about the distinct culture, tradition and way of life of the *shishálh*.





March 1, 2010

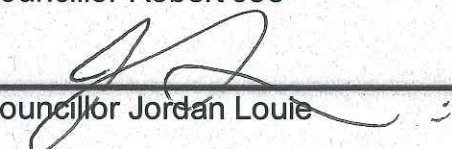
Signed on behalf of *shishálh* Nation:


Chief Garry Feschuk


Councillor Thomas Paul


Councillor Wesley Jeffries


Councillor Robert Joe


Councillor Jordan Louie