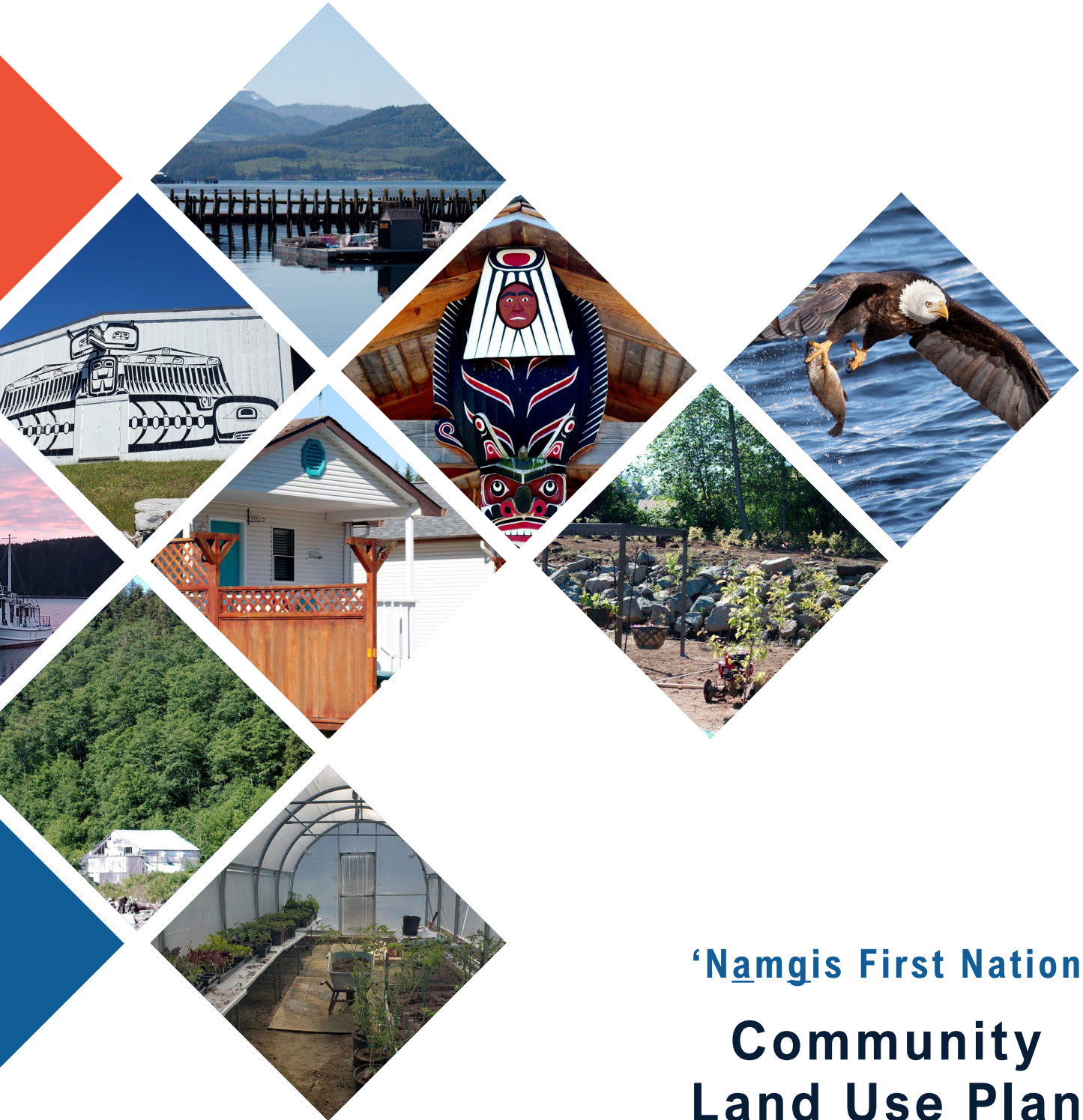




'NAMGIS
FIRST NATION



'Namgis First Nation
Community
Land Use Plan

November 2024

Assertion of Rights and Title

As 'N̓amgis people, we have Aboriginal Rights and Title throughout our traditional territory.

This includes, but is not limited to, the reserve lands our Community Land Use Plan addresses. This Land Use Plan does not release any claim 'N̓amgis may have with respect to Aboriginal Rights and Title. Therefore, the development of this Land Use Plan should in no way be construed as defining, waiving, or limiting the Aboriginal Rights and Title of the 'N̓amgis Nation.



Acknowledgements

We hold much gratitude for the community members who participated in the Land Use Plan engagement activities and have shaped this Land Use Plan through the sharing of their vision for 'Namgis community lands.

This project would not be possible without the guidance and work of the Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC):

Verna Ambers, Tanis Dawson, Brian Wadhams, Samantha Webster, and LMAC staff secretariat Megan Whonnock.

Thank you to Pewi Alfred and Margaret Wilson for their Kwakwala language guidance.

Land Use Plan Summary

A land use plan is a process of coming together as a community to discuss and decide how to use or not use the land in the future.

Our Land Use Plan documents the answers to these four questions:



Built through engagement with 'Namgis community members, the 'Namgis community land use plan provides 'Namgis with a shared vision for the long-term future of our reserve lands:

Vision – *Desired future state*

“

As 'Namgis people we are actively stewarding our lands and waters with access to our traditional foods, medicines, and economic opportunities. We are taking care of each other and thriving on these lands with culture, tradition, and language at our centre.

”

Principles – *How we will do the work*

A'axsila xan's awi'nakole' (STEWARDSHIP)

We are active stewards of
fish, forests, and lands

Łi'lokwimasan's (RESILIENCE)

We are regional leaders in
renewable energy, sustainable
building design and waste
management and are adapting to
the impacts of climate change

A'ekakila (WELLNESS)

We are taking care of
each other, our Elders
and our youth

Ni'nox'sola (KNOWLEDGE)

We honour our rich history and
traditions and ensure continuation
of culture, language and
intergenerational learning

Kwalixsam (SELF-RELIANCE)

We have strong, self-
reliant, land governance
systems and recognize
'Namgis traditional laws

'Namakala (INCLUSION)

We are planning together, regularly
communicating and engaging
'Namgis members on and off
reserve and building the leadership
capacity of our youth

Objectives – *What we will do to get there*



Bring community members home by
addressing the housing crisis and ensuring
access to opportunities and services



Support opportunities for cultural
continuity, vitality, and presence



Ensure opportunities for health and
healing in the community and on the land



Increase recreational and
social opportunities that bring
community members together



Facilitate access to traditional foods
& medicines



Create economic opportunities
for 'Namgis people

Designations – *How to use or not use the land*

To bring this vision to life, we have developed a series of designations that outline how 'Namgis would like to use or not use the land in the future.

	TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
	Protected Area Culture	Culturally protected areas in which development will not be supported unless it supports culturally appropriate activities	Archaeological sites, burial grounds and cemeteries, areas of spiritual or cultural importance
	Housing	Land which is primarily used for housing. Designates areas for future housing development	Single family homes, housing for singles, multi-family housing, Elder's housing
	Mixed Use	Designated areas for multifamily housing mixed with businesses	Stores/restaurants/cafes with multifamily housing above
	Tourism Commercial	Land for use by for-profit businesses that generate revenue and/or jobs for 'Namgis members	Campground, accommodation, museum, shops, marina, stores, restaurants/coffee shops, offices
	Community Use	Land used for community-owned and operated buildings and facilities aimed at administration, education, recreation or health	Administration building, schools, adult education, health, recreation, youth centre
	Light Industrial	Land used for light manufacturing, processing, community infrastructure and storage of equipment	Waste management, alternative energy, public works supplies, fish processing, wastewater treatment plant, community water supply wells
	Natural Area	Preservation of wildlife habitat and environmental areas for 'Namgis member traditional use and recreation	Rivers and streams, medicinal plant areas, nature trails and parks, culture camps
	Food Security	Land put aside for food and medicine production and harvesting	Community garden, medicinal plant areas, food harvesting areas
	Coastal	Land put aside for shoreline restoration. Land with limited future development to protect buildings and people from sea level rise and flooding	Shoreline

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1

Where Have We Been? Getting Ready to Plan



Brief History of ‘N̓amgis and the Planning Area

Gwa’ni

‘N̓amgis people have occupied the lands and waters throughout the Nimpkish and Kokish watershed since time immemorial. ‘N̓amgis culture and way of life has centered around these watersheds and the local fishery, plants and wildlife that they sustain. The ‘N̓amgis traditional territory spans from the mouth of the Nimpkish River to the Vernon Lake Watershed (see Figure 1). The Nimpkish River and its watershed has been central to the culture and economy of the ‘N̓amgis people, whose own name for the River is Gwa’ni.

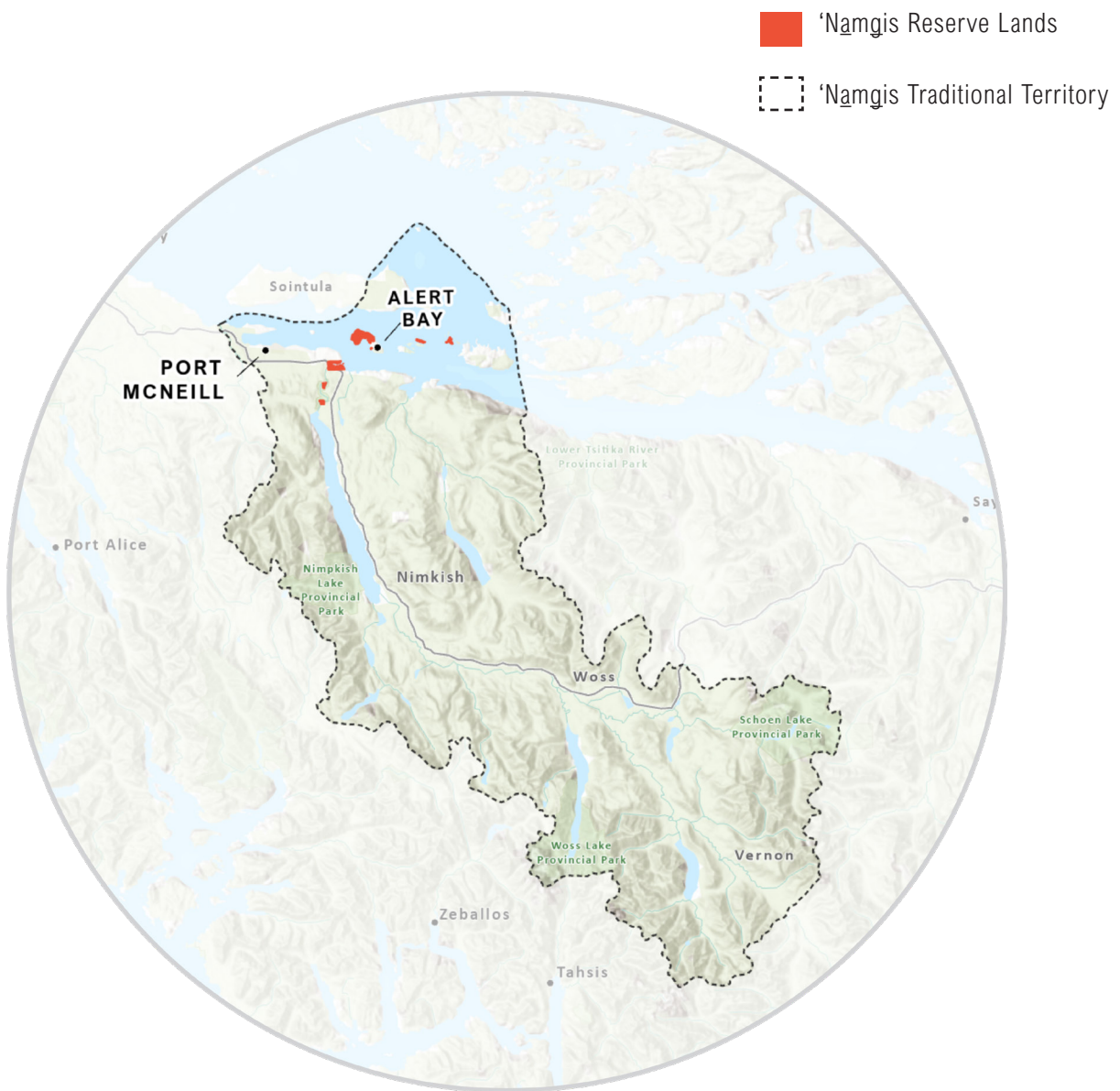
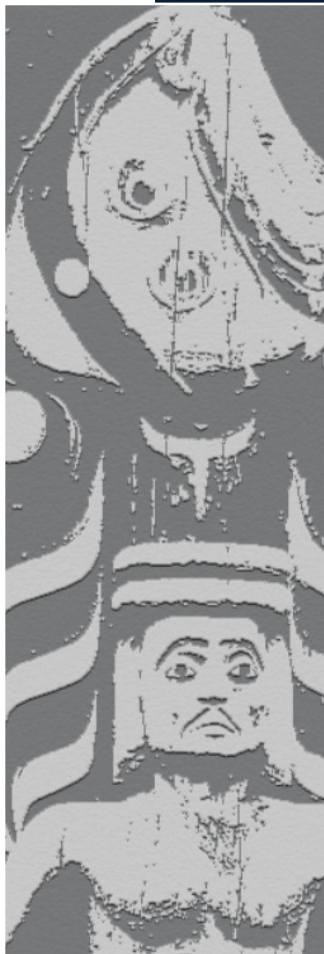


Figure 1: Location of ‘N̓amgis Territory and Reserve Lands

Territory Land Governance

Guided by 'Namgis laws, customs and traditions, 'Namgis exercises Aboriginal Title, Rights, responsibilities and authorities in relation to the lands, waters, resources and people of its Territory and holds sacred responsibilities to its past, present and future generations which include stewardship principles and activities aimed at protecting the lands, waters and resources of the Territory (Memorandum of Understanding for Modernized Land Use Planning, 2021).

'Namgis is working with the Province of British Columbia to develop a modernized land use plan for the Territory (Gwa'ni). The Gwa'ni Project area encompasses over 166,000 hectares and includes the majority of the Upper and Lower Nimpkish within the 'Namgis Territory. The modernized land use plan will guide what can happen on lands, rivers, lakes, watersheds and forests in the planning area.



The name 'Namgis comes from a story about 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu (the Halibut-Like Sea Monster). Before the great flood a 'Namgis man knew it would happen because the Creator had sent a message in his dreams. He knew he must wait by the ocean for a huge sea monster, 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu whose name meant “something terrible”. When rain began and never stopped, 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu arose from the depths. It was so huge that the tides dropped around the world. The man climbed onto the sea monster, but 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu was so big that he seemed to be a tiny dot on its gigantic back. The Creator gave this man supernatural power with which he could breathe underwater. 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu protected the man all the time that he remained under the ocean.

When the waters went down 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu returned the man to his homeland. The man looked around and saw that he was all alone, so he took the name 'Nā mukusto'lis (Only One in the World). He came to the beach near the mouth of the 'Namgis River. 'Nā mukusto'lis was very lonely, so after a time, he snared some birds and transformed them into people. This is how he started the 'Namgis tribe. He kept the great sea monster, 'Nā mxx̌ iyalagiyu, as his tribe's crest because it was his protector and had saved him during the great flood.

Reserve Lands

'N̓amgis first settled Cormorant Island as a seasonal place of habitation among a network of productive winter and seasonal summer settlements. 'Y̓alis (Cormorant Island) is located within the Kwakw̓ak̓'wakw cultural region that was historically home to over 30 Kwakw̓ak̓'wakw First Nations for over 10,000 years. Today, the 'N̓amgis are the largest of the remaining 13 Kwakw̓ak̓'wakw First Nations (Tides of Change, 2015).



Figure 2 - Location of 'N̓amgis Reserves

During the early 19th Century, when Captain George Vancouver anchored there, the main 'N̓amgis (Nimpkish) village was located at Xwalkw at the mouth of the Nimpkish River. In the 1870s, the 'N̓amgis were persuaded to move permanently to 'Y̓alis (Cormorant Island) to work at a new fish saltery. The 'N̓amgis First Nation reserve lands were allotted by Commissioner O'Reilly in 1884 soon after the Fort Rupert Mission was relocated to 'Y̓alis (Cormorant Island) in 1878 (Physical Development Plan, 2002).

The reserve land base is made up for 8 reserves (Figure 2) which includes the two reserves on which most of 'N̓amgis members live (Reserves 1 and 1A on 'Y̓alis). 'N̓amgis is developing a Community Land Use Plan that will set out a vision for the long-term future of all 'N̓amgis reserve lands.



Purpose - Why Are We Land Use Planning?

When 'Namgis adopted a Land Code in 2019, it removed the Government of Canada from many aspects of reserve land management. 'Namgis now has the power to develop and enforce their own land use policies and laws to govern reserve lands based on 'Namgis values and priorities.

The Community Land Use Plan will provide the strategic direction that will guide land use law development and reflect the community priorities, vision and objectives of our Comprehensive Community Plan and Strategic Plan. Overall, the Land Use Plan will provide 'Namgis with a shared vision for the long-term future of their reserve lands.

This Land Use Planning process puts into practice 'Namgis guiding principle of striving for self-governance and autonomy and providing stewardship of fish, forests, waters, and natural resources ('Namgis Strategic Plan, 2019) and advances 'Namgis' goal of making decisions regarding lands and resources within the Territory (Comprehensive Community Plan, 2018).



Introduction to Process

The Land Use Planning process was undertaken in four basic steps. These steps are described below and serve to organize the contents of our Land Use Plan report.



Step 1: Where Have We Been? Getting Ready to Plan

Background review - this Land Use Plan builds on the important work already completed by 'Namgis First Nation. At the start of this process, the project team reviewed:

- » 'Namgis First Nation Strategic Plan (2019)
- » 'Namgis Land Code (2019)
- » 'Namgis Community Profile (2019)
- » 'Namgis First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (2018)
- » Physical Development Plan and 20-Year Capital Plan 2002-2021 (2002)
- » Gwa'ni Project Background Information (2021) webpage
- » Tides of Change, Cormorant Island Economic Development Strategy (2015)
- » CWA and CMO, Coastal Vulnerability Study (2020)
- » Robert Galois (2012) Kwakwaka'wakw Settlements, 1775-1920 A Geographical Analysis and Gazetteer. UBC Press

The results of this background review alongside conversations with 'Namgis staff and the Lands Advisory Committee (LMAC) informed the development of a community profile and situational assessment.

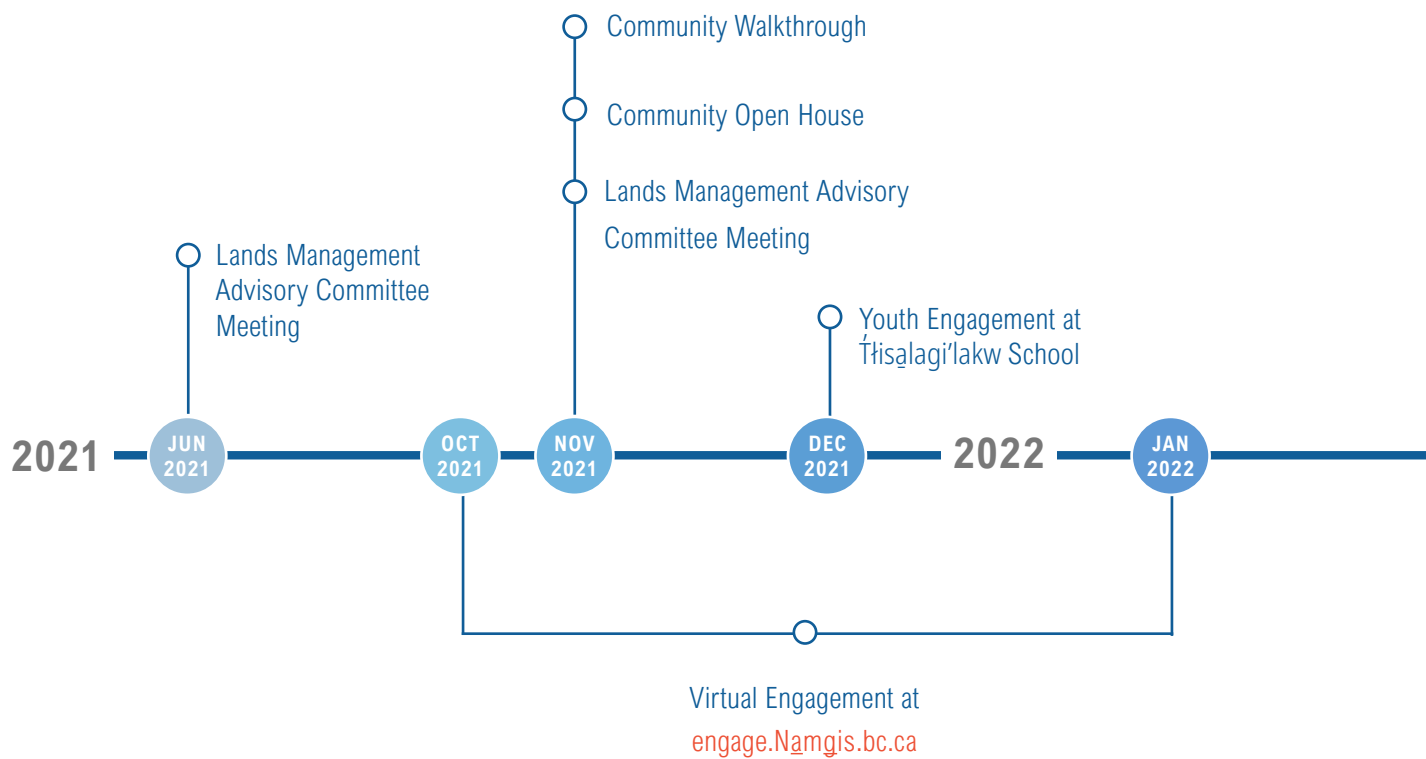
Step 2: Where Are We Now? Our Starting Place

Our background review and engagement with 'Namgis staff and the LMAC allowed us to assemble information about the planning context. This included:

- » A Community profile - with basic information about 'Namgis demographics
- » Strengths/opportunities - an analysis of key strengths for this work to build on and opportunities for change
- » Land capacity/constraints - an analysis of land features for each planning unit, highlighting how the land could be used or any constraints on use

Step 3: Where Are We Going? Deciding Our Future

Our engagement with 'Namgis community members, the LMAC and our background review was guided by a community engagement plan (Appendix 1) developed by the Lands Management Advisory Committee. Results of our engagement activities informed a vision, set of principles and core objectives for our land use plan.



They also helped us identify priorities by location. See Appendix 2 and 3 for the full results of our engagement activities. The following diagram (Figure 3) summarizes the engagement activities undertaken throughout the project:

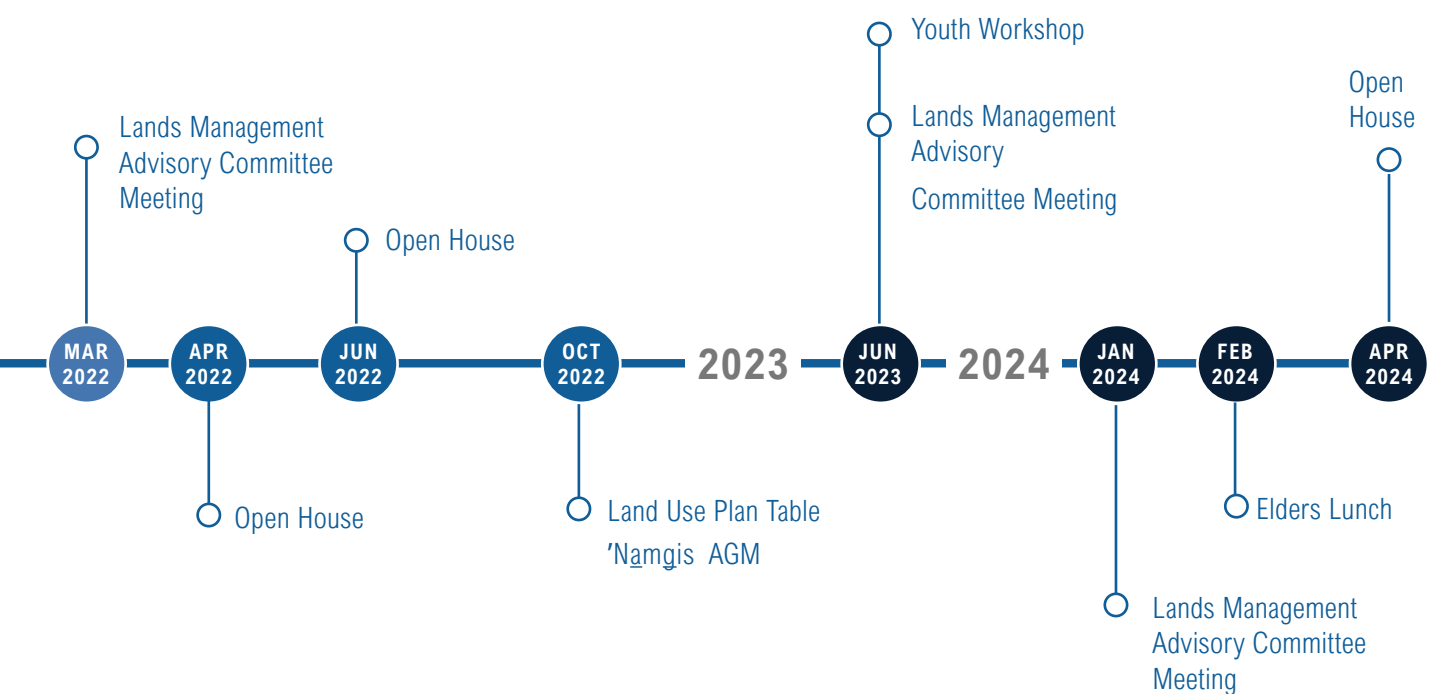


Figure 3 - Community Land Use Planning Engagement Activities



Step 1 Engagement

June 2021 Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting

At this initial meeting, LMAC discussed land use planning vision and values, engagement history, audiences and engagement and communication preferences.

November 2021 Community Walkthrough

The project team conducted a community walkthrough with Lands Department staff to better understand land use planning strengths and opportunities, land capacity and constraints and land use vision and principles.

November 2021 Community Open House

About 25 'Namgis community members gathered at Council Hall for an interactive community Land Use Planning open house, which included 5 station-based activities addressing the project overview, visioning for the future of reserve lands, vision and principles, community mapping, and event feedback.

November 2021 Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting

During this workshop, LMAC worked with maps to discuss land use planning strengths and opportunities, land capacity and constraints and land use vision and principles.

December 2021 Youth Engagement at Țisalagi'lakw School

The Lands Advisory Committee hosted a Land Use Planning workshop for youth at Țisalagi'lakw School. Facilitators asked youth to show us on maps things they like about their community and what they would like to see change in the future. They received 22 completed worksheets and maps from youth sharing their ideas.



October 2021- January 2022 Virtual Engagement at engage.Namgis.bc.ca

The 'Namgis virtual engagement platform was used to administer a community survey and a virtual community mapping exercise designed to gather feedback on values and visions for the future. This process allowed community members to share important places and opportunities for change.

Step 2 Engagement

March 2022 Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting

LMAC gathered to go over vision, principles, and objectives determined in Step 1 Engagement. Land use opportunities, draft land designations, and needed land use policies were discussed.

April 2022 and June 2022 Community Open Houses

On April 20th, 2022 (15 participants) and June 23rd, 2022 (26 participants) 'Namgis community members gathered to review vision, principles, and objectives, identify opportunities by location and identify priorities for land use designations. The June event incorporated the feedback received at the April event and allowed community members to add any missing ideas. Worksheets developed for these events were made available to anyone who wanted to submit written feedback after the event.

October 2022 Land Use Planning Table at Annual General Meeting

Members of the Land Use Planning team hosted an information table outside of the gym where the 'Namgis Annual General Meeting was being held. This provided the team to connect with members who had not attended any of our previous events. About 25 community members participated in a series of activities designed to gather ideas for specific actions or policies for the Land Use Plan and to gather ideas on how to measure the success of the Land Use Plan.

June 2023 Youth Workshop

Members of the Land Use Planning team met with a group of 13 youth at the Lawrence Ambers Memorial Recreation Centre and facilitated a station-based activity that had the youth provide input on Land Use Planning vision, priorities by Reserve, draft land use designations and measures of success.

Jan 2024 Lands Advisory Committee Meeting

LMAC gathered to review a full draft of the Land Use Plan.

Feb 2024 Elders Lunch

Members of the LMAC met with Elders to review the draft Land Use Plan.

April 2024 Community Open House

About 20 community members gathered to review and provide feedback on the draft Land Use Plan.



Step 4: How Will We Get There? Tools to Support Our Journey

To bring our vision, principles and objectives to life we developed a series of Land Use Planning designations that outline how different types of land will be used or not used in the future and outline the policies that will guide the development of future land use laws. Figure 4 illustrates how the LUP vision, principles and objectives ultimately guide the designations of what can happen where and the policies used to bring the LUP vision to life.

We also look ahead to how we will implement our plan, track our progress and keep our plan alive.

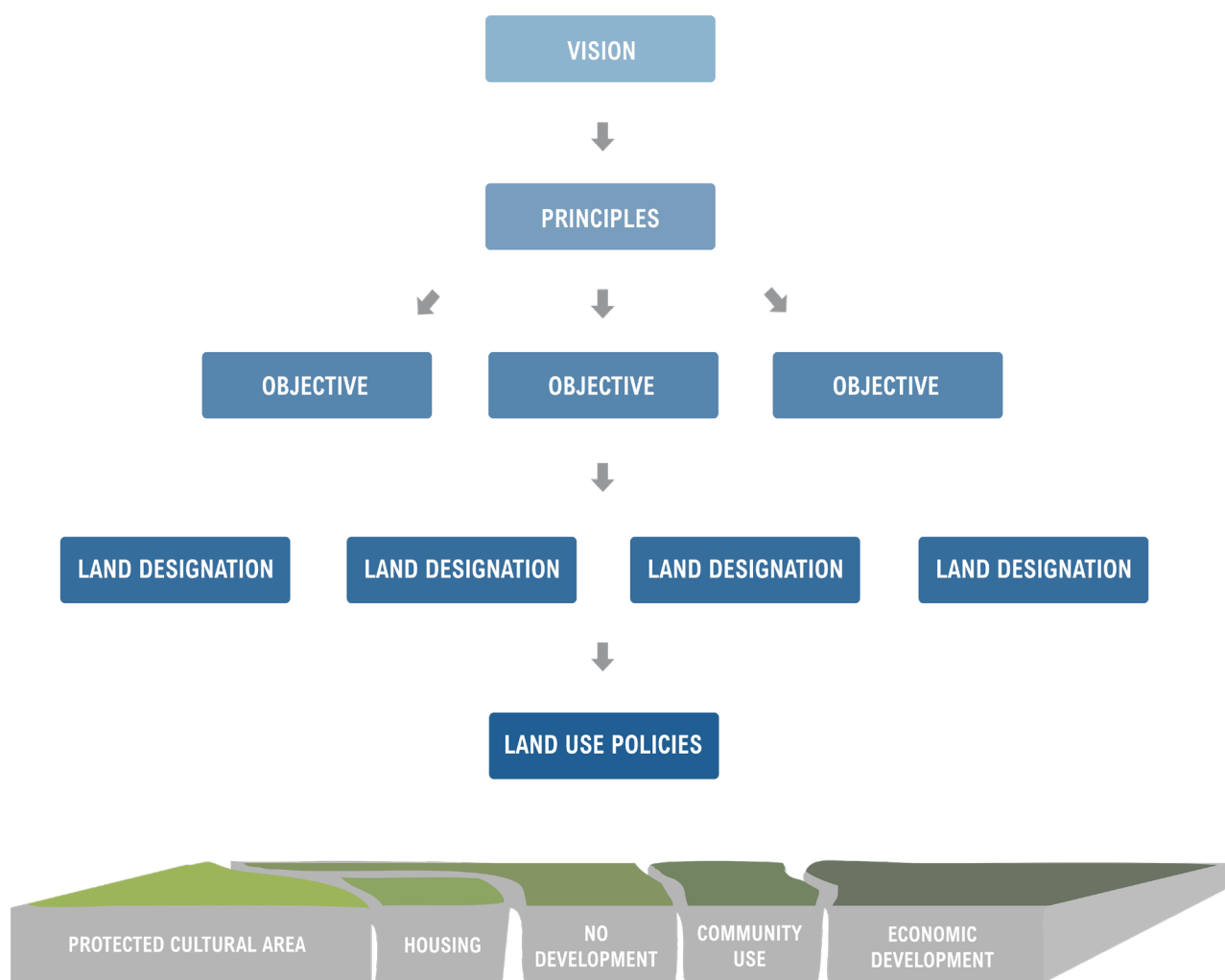
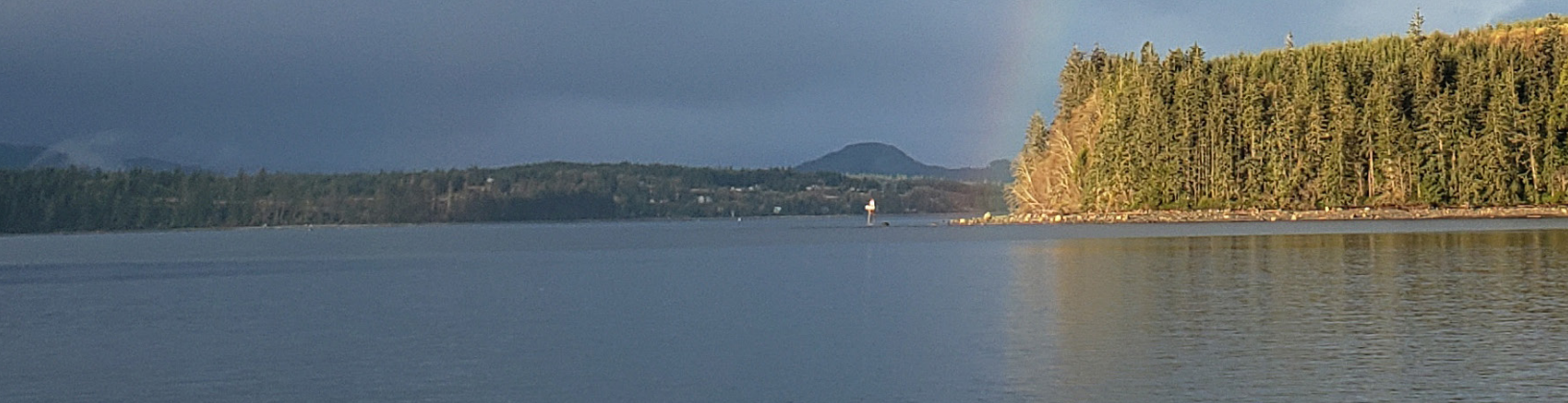


Figure 4 - Land Use Plan Structure



2

Where Are We Now? Our Starting Place





Community Profile

Current Population

Understanding the current population and how population has changed recently helps us understand and plan for housing and services for the future.

in 2002, as part of the Physical Development Plan it was estimated that the population would grow by 60% over the following 20 years to 1,200 persons representing a need for approximately 382 family units (Physical Development Plan, 2002).

Almost 20 years later, 'Namgis has a total registered population of 1,928 (Indigenous Services Canada, 2022). The population has steadily been increasing over the last decade ('Namgis Community Profile, 2019).

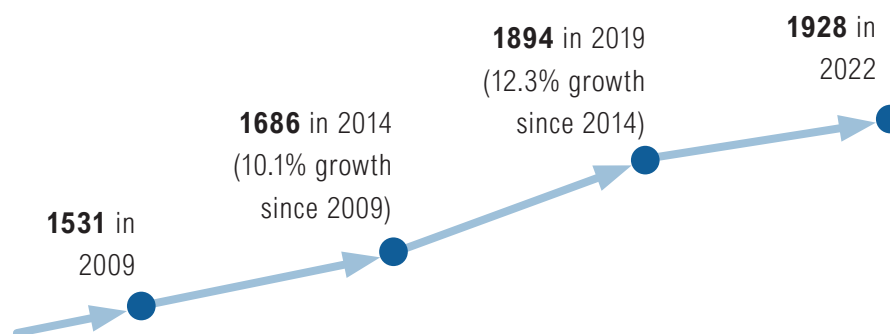


Figure 5 - 'Namgis Population Growth

Between 2014 and 2019, the 'Namgis population grew at a rate of 2.46% a year. If our growth rate stays consistent, our population could nearly double by 2050.

'Namgis membership is relatively well-balanced between gender with 49% males and 51% females ('Namgis Community Profile, 2019).

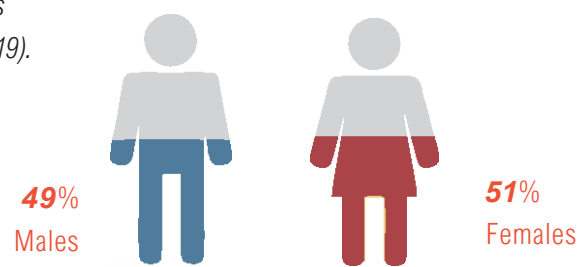


Figure 6 - 'Namgis Gender Distribution

33.4% of 'Namgis members (563 members) live on 'Yā lis (Cormorant Island). There was a significant drop in the number of members living on 'Yā lis between 2009 and 2014 (11.8% decrease) but a slight increase since 2014 (4.3%) ('Namgis Community Profile, 2019).

The local population of 'Yā lis is “missing” a large portion of 20-40 year olds relative to the provincial average (Tides of Change, 2015). This means that there are less working age individuals on the island. People on Cormorant Island are older than the provincial average, and this proportion is growing.

The rest of 'Namgis members live in a diversity of places with the most concentrated populations in the following areas ('Namgis Community Profile, 2019):

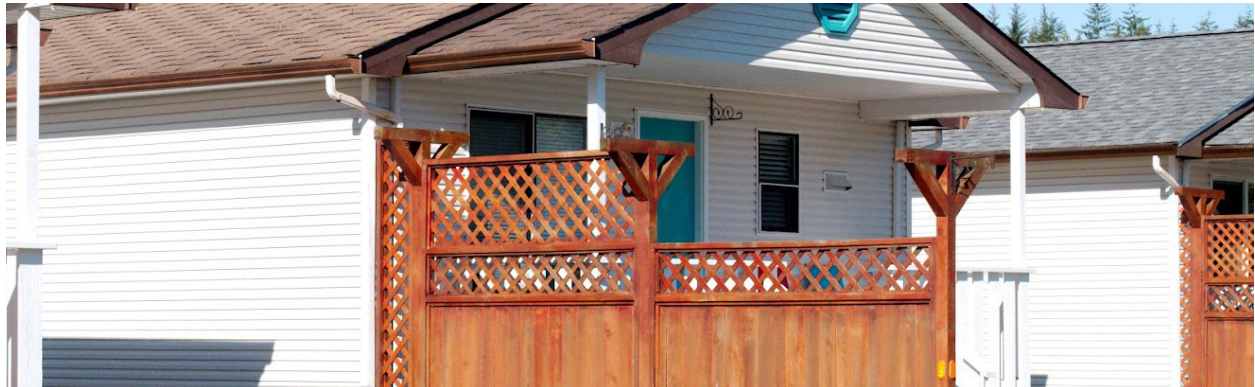
- » 19.1% living on the South Island (e.g. Courtenay, Campbell River, Victoria, Nanaimo, etc)
- » 12.2% in the Lower Mainland
- » 6.1% in North Island communities outside of Alert Bay (Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Woss etc)



Housing Stock

Current housing stock and housing waiting list numbers helps us understand the housing needs of the future.

Our Comprehensive Community Plan (2018) sets the direction to ensure that all 'Namgis members have access to a diverse range of housing types, including options for single, couples and family housing and to develop the infrastructure needed to support the help members live and work in the territory.



There are 214 dwellings on-reserve in Alert Bay with 105 on IR#1 and 109 on IR#1A ('Namgis Community Profile, 2019). Of those dwellings, 155 of these are single-detached homes, 25 are semi-detached homes, 10 are row houses and 5 are apartments or flats in a duplex.

Most households on-reserve have 1 or 2 people living in the unit (62%), with a small number of households (12) having 6 or more people (Figure 7).

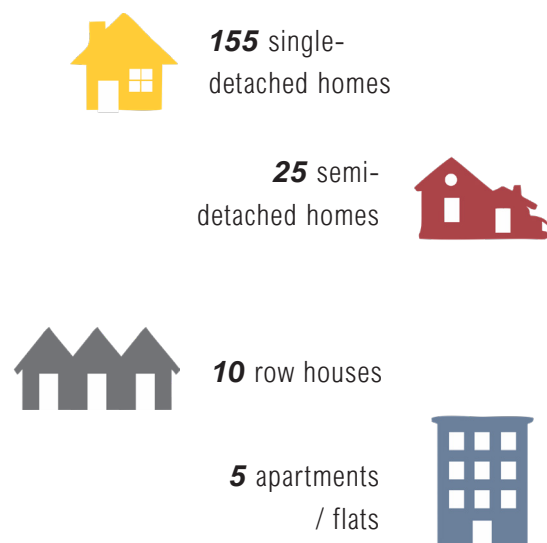


Figure 7 - Distribution of Housing Types

There are 172 'Namgis members on the housing list and wanting a house on-reserve in Alert Bay. Lack of adequate housing has been reported to be a major concern through many of the planning documents reviewed dating as far back as the 2002 Physical Development Plan which reported that over 80% of off-reserve families indicated an intention to relocate within the next five years. The housing stock is also aging (26% of 'Namgis houses are in need of major repairs) (Tides of Change, 2015). Although residents can commute into Vancouver Island, it makes for a very long day, and the mismatch between local Cormorant island jobs and housing is an ongoing concern (Mount Waddington Regional District: Housing and Homeless Community Needs Assessment, 2013).



Employment

Understanding employment helps us think about the services and industries we should plan for in the future.

Economic development was identified as a priority in both the 'Namgis Comprehensive Community Plan (2018) and Strategic Plan (2019). The Strategic Plan expresses a commitment to growing a local economy that is diverse while also appropriate to 'Namgis cultural values and which does not negatively impact the natural environment. The Comprehensive Community Plan states the goal of ensuring all 'Namgis members are able to find jobs and careers that are meaningful to them.

In general, 'Namgis has a lower labour force participation rate and a higher unemployment rate than neighbouring communities. Labour force participation for members in Alert Bay is 36% compared to 63% for the Village of Alert Bay, 63% for the Regional District of Mount Waddington and 64% for the population of BC. There is a higher rate of women participating in the labour force (39.5%) as compared to men (31.4%). Labour force participation has been decreasing over time dropping from 48% in 2014 to 36% in 2019.

The unemployment rate for members living on-reserve in Alert Bay is 15.4% compared to 10.4% for the rest of the province. There is higher unemployment among men than among women on on-reserve (18.2% men compared to 13.3% of women). Unemployment has been decreasing since 2004 when it was at 33%.

On 'Yalis there are at least 100 small businesses on the island (Tides of Change, 2015). Governments ('Namgis First Nation, Village of Alert Bay, Island Health etc.) are by far the biggest employers on the island. Gaps identified in past planning include a plumber, flower shop, marine fuel and supply and small engine repair, resort, kayak and bike rental.

Mobility

Understanding how community members travel to work helps us consider the transportation infrastructure and land use planning policies that can support community members in the future.

The 'Namgis Comprehensive Community Plan (2018) identifies the need for more opportunities to enhance transportation for members, both within the community and across the water.

The majority of members living on-reserve use their own vehicle to get to and from work with 67% reporting to drive their own car/truck or vehicle to get to work. For other members:

- » 10% reported being a passenger to get to work
- » 19% reported walking to work
- » 10% reported biking to work

81% of members living on reserve have a commute of less than 15 minutes.

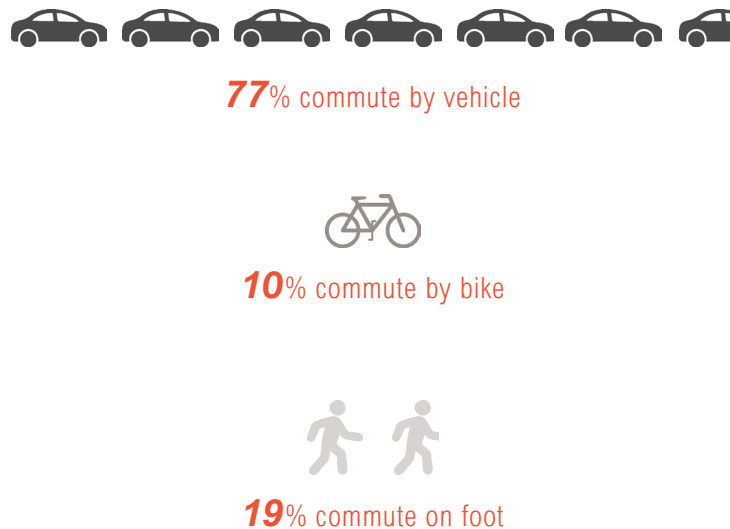


Figure 8 - Primary Mode of Transportation for Members

Strengths and Opportunities

It's important that the Land Use Planning work builds on previous understanding of strengths and opportunities. The following strengths and opportunities per land use planning theme were identified through the review of background documents and will be built on through engagement with 'Namgis community members.

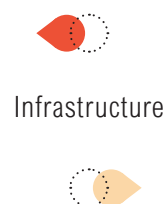
STRENGTHS		OPPORTUNITIES
» Local health services for members in community » Tailored health services » Recreation centre, soccer field and current recreation programming	 Health and Wellness 	» More recreational programming spaces and facilities » More activities needed for families » Additional counselling programs » New treatment center » More community gathering places
» Preschool programming available » Țłisā lagi'lakw School k-7 teaching Kwakwaka to all students	 Education 	» Local high school » Young people returning to 'Namgis to live and work » Adult education facility
» Children learning culture and Kwakwaka through school » U'mista Cultural Centre » The Big House hosts many potlatches and important ceremonies » Places to honour ancestors such as the cemeteries and burial grounds	 Language and Culture 	» Language and culture opportunities for those living in and out of the community » Outdoor cultural camps » Protection of land for medicines and cultivation of medicines » Cemetery expansion

STRENGTHS

- » Wealth of traditional knowledge on how to respect lands and resources
- » Wealth of knowledge related to fisheries and sustainable fishing practices
- » Current fisheries and aquatic resource stewardship initiatives
- » Gwa'ni hatchery
- » Forested areas, trails



- » Diversity of community infrastructure to serve the needs of community including health care, protection services, recreation and cultural buildings
- » Community served by ferry terminal, marina, airstrip, boardwalk and docks
- » Leading in water and wastewater management on the island



OPPORTUNITIES

- » Restoring how natural environment acts and functions
- » Restoring fishery
- » Younger generation learning 'Namgis fisheries practices
- » Protection of old growth forests

- » More homes to house those wanting to return home
- » More accessible community buildings
- » Housing on Vancouver Island for members working there
- » Protecting critical infrastructure from future sea level rise

STRENGTHS

- » Tides of Change (2015) a community economic development plan created in collaboration with the Village of Alert Bay
- » Positive and collaborative working relationships with industry and government
- » 'Namgis developing strategic partnerships with companies operating in the territory to train members
- » Existing economic development projects such as Orca Sand and Gravel, Kuterra Close Containment Salmon project, Alti Resources, Mama'omas Limited Partnership
- » Attractive location for tourism with great offerings (U'mista, meaningful public art, local artists). Tourism is growing. There are about 20,000 visitors to Cormorant Island each year
- » Traditional knowledge that supports sustainable forestry operations
- » Unemployment rate has been declining
- » Members have a diversity of skills and past work experience and entrepreneurial people
- » Acquired Alert Bay Cabins



OPPORTUNITIES

- » More support towards 'Namgis-owned businesses and supports for entrepreneurs
- » Meeting the need for the growing demand for Indigenous tourism experiences and outdoor adventure
- » Attracting new businesses and creating new jobs
- » Increasing the number of entrepreneurs
- » Diversifying the economy
- » Harbour redevelopment
- » Gaps identified in past planning include a plumber, flower shop, marine fuel and supply and small engine repair, resort, kayak and bike rental
- » Vacant buildings available on Cormorant island for new businesses

STRENGTHS

- » Ratified a Land Code
- » Are working on both a Reserve Lands LUP and a territorial LUP in collaboration with the Province
- » Trying electronic engagement methods
- » GIS system
- » A history of successfully working with the Village of Alert Bay



OPPORTUNITIES

- » Youth participation
- » Elder participation
- » Members living off-reserve feel connected
- » Building trust through participation in planning and transparency
- » More 'Namgis members with management roles in the band office

Land Capacity and Constraints

Land use planning requires an initial understanding of the capacity and constraints relating to each unit of land being planned for. The following table compiles land capacity and constraints based on our background review and engagement with 'Namgis staff, the Lands Advisory Committee and Chief and Council. In the following table:

Capacity refers to the existing characteristics of the land that relate to opportunities for how the land could be used in the future. Constraints refers to the qualities of the land that may limit how the land is used in the future.

RESERVE	LOCATION	CAPACITY	CONSTRAINTS
I.R. No. 1 Alert Bay Allotted as a village site in 1884	Cormorant Island, 74.60 hectares	» Current center of community » Infrastructure » Residential lots » Governance building » ʔisalagi'lakw School » Recreation building » Works yard » Fish processing operations » BC Ferries terminal » Wastewater treatment plant	» Some slopes greater than 25% unsuitable for development » Some low-lying swamp area » Cemetery » Anticipated sea level rise for 'Namgis is 0.71m by 2100 » An extreme storm surge/wind wave event would result in a wave runup to an elevation of 8.49m and a tsunami event 7.8m which would impact church, lift station, wharf, public works yard, museum, fish/plant/net loft, sawmill, water treatment plant and portions of the south cemetery

RESERVE	LOCATION	CAPACITY	CONSTRAINTS
I.R. No. 1A Alert Bay Allotted for “school purposes” in 1891	Cormorant Island, 161.60 hectares	» Current center of community » Infrastructure » Residential lots » Hospital/Medical services » U’mista Cultural Centre » Big House » Water reservoir » Gravel pit » Marina (old breakwater) » Views » Forested areas » Waterfront tourism potential » Adult education facility	» Some slopes greater than 25% unsuitable for development » Abandoned landfill site » Cemetery » St. Michael’s Residential School memorial site » An extreme storm surge/wind wave event would result in a wave runup to an elevation of 8.49m and a tsunami event 7.8m which would impact church, lift station, wharf, public works yard, museum, fish/plant/net loft, sawmill, water treatment plant and portions of the south cemetery
I.R. No. 2 Nimpkish Allotted as a burial ground in 1884	Cormorant Island, 2.70 hectares	» Old St. Georges Hospital site ready for redevelopment	» Burial ground » Cemetery

RESERVE	LOCATION	CAPACITY	CONSTRAINTS
I.R. No. 3 Ches-La-Kee Allotted 1886 as fishery and village	Whulk, Mouth of Nimpkish River, 118.20 hectares	» Cabins » Hatchery » Leased lands to Kutterra Salmon project » A place of origin and village site	» Floodplain » Need for proper set back from the river » Sensitive archeological site
I.R. No. 4 Ar-Ce-Wy-Ee	Left bank of Nimpkish River, 16.70 hectares	» Unoccupied village sites » Natural area	» Remote
I.R. No. 5 O-Tsaw-Las Allotted 1886 as fishery with houses, gardens and burial ground	Right bank of Nimpkish River, 20.40 hectares	» Unoccupied village sites » A place of origin and old village » Was used as a salmon station » Natural area	» Remote
I.R. No. 6 Ksui-La-Das Claimed by Lagiyus Kwakwaka as a halibut station Allotted 1916	Ksuiladas Island, Plumper Islands, 25.80 hectares	» Cabins » Recreational use » Beaches leased to kayaking companies » Potential for fishing, whale watching, kayak/canoe tourism	» Remote island locations » No servicing
I.R. No. 7 Kuldeksuma Claimed by Lagiyus Kwakwaka as a halibut and timber station Allotted 1916	Kuldeksuma Island, Pearse Islands, 22 hectares	» Potential for fishing, whale watching, kayak/canoe tourism	» Remote island locations » No servicing

3

Where Are We Going? Deciding Our Future



Vision and Principles

Vision

As 'Namgis people we are actively stewarding our lands and waters with access to our traditional foods, medicines, and economic opportunities. We are taking care of each other and thriving on these lands with culture, tradition, and language at our centre.

Principles

A'axsila xan's awi'nakole' (STEWARDSHIP)

We are active stewards of fish, forests, and lands

Łi'lok'wimasan's (RESILIENCE)

We are regional leaders in renewable energy, sustainable building design and waste management and are adapting to the impacts of climate change

A'ekakila (WELLNESS)

We are taking care of each other, our Elders and our youth

Ni'nox'sola (KNOWLEDGE)

We honour our rich history and traditions and ensure continuation of culture, language and intergenerational learning

K'walixsam (SELF-RELIANCE)

We have strong, self-reliant, land governance systems and recognize 'Namgis traditional laws

'Namakala (INCLUSION)

We are planning together, regularly communicating and engaging 'Namgis members on and off reserve and building the leadership capacity of our youth

Objectives



Bring community members home by addressing the housing crisis and ensuring access to opportunities and services



Ensure opportunities for health and healing in the community and on the land



Support opportunities for cultural continuity, vitality, and presence



Create economic opportunities for 'Namgis people



Facilitate access to traditional foods & medicines



Increase recreational and social opportunities that bring community members together

Land Use Planning Priorities by Planning Area

‘Yǎlis (IR 1 / IR 1A)



‘Namgis first settled at ‘Yǎlis (Cormorant Island) as a seasonal place of habitation among a network of productive winter and seasonal summer settlements. In the 1870s, the ‘Namgis were persuaded to move permanently to ‘Yǎlis to work at a new fish saltery. The ‘Namgis First Nation reserve lands were allotted by Commissioner O’Reilly in 1884 soon after the Fort Rupert Mission was relocated to ‘Yǎlis (Cormorant Island) in 1878 (Physical Development Plan, 2002). IR 1 was allotted as a village site in 1884 and 1A for “school purposes” in 1891.

From 1929 to 1975 it was the location of St. Michael’s Residential School. The building was ceremoniously demolished in 2015 as part of a healing/cleansing ceremony hosted by ‘Namgis. Today, IR 1 / 1A is the current center of community infrastructure, a center for Kwakwaka’wakw culture and home to our Big House, Umista Cultural Center, a hospital, school, recreation and our governance buildings.



Priorities

Priorities for 'Yalis (IR 1/IR 1A) include:

- » Constructing diverse new housing to serve a variety of critical needs, with an emphasis on higher density housing and increasing the number of units available to address the housing crisis
- » Construction and enhancement of community services and the prioritization of community gathering space
- » Constructing a treatment centre to create more opportunities for health and healing on the land
- » Constructing an active Elder's centre that has the resources and amenities to serve 'Namgis Elders
- » Preserving park land, wildlife, and green space wherever possible, fulfilling our role as active stewards of the land
- » Supporting community gardening to promote sustainable food production and connection with the land
- » Protecting swimming areas for safe and accessible swimming and recreational facilities (gyms, parks) to encourage recreation and healthy living
- » Expanding the administration building to better service the 'Namgis community
- » Promoting conscious economic development that will create economic opportunities for current 'Namgis Members, as well as offer opportunities for 'Namgis Members who want to return home
- » Revitalizing the campground to support tourism and providing serviced RV sites to be able to host 'Namgis members visiting for large community events
- » Expanding and re-developing the hospital for multi-level care to better serve 'Namgis community members
- » Confirm cemetery capacity needs and consider potential expansion to enable community members to be buried with their families
- » Upgrading infrastructure (sewer, water, roads) to serve more housing and withstand impacts of climate change
- » Avoiding new development in areas vulnerable to impacts of climate change and developing a long-term strategy for climate change adaptation

Nimpkish (IR 2)

IR 2 was allotted as a reserve in 1884 as a burial ground and hosts an important ancestral burial ground. It is located within the village of Alert Bay close to shops and restaurants. It contains the old St. Georges Hospital site. There is a desire to salvage the existing building and repurpose the space.

Priorities

This area will generally prioritize the opportunities identified for commercial land use designations:

- » Creating diverse mixed-use housing including rental units to service both 'Namgis Members as well as professionals who wish to move to Alert Bay
- » Promoting conscious economic development that will create economic opportunities for current 'Namgis Members, as well as offer opportunities for 'Namgis Members who want to return home
- » Creating new recreation and meeting facilities to engage 'Namgis Members and create opportunities for social connection, health, and wellness
- » Protecting the cemetery as well as culturally significant areas and archaeological sites
- » Creating a youth centre to support the next generation of 'Namgis Members and promote intergenerational knowledge sharing
- » Construction of designated Elder's housing to care for 'Namgis Elders

Ches-La-Kee (IR 3)

During the early 19th Century, when Captain George Vancouver anchored there, the main 'Namgis (Nimpkish) village was located at Xwalkw at the mouth of the Nimpkish River. This land is a place of origin and village site. It was allotted in 1886 as a fishery and village site. It currently contains leased lands to Kuterra Salmon, a hatchery and a number of cabins. Much of this land is in the floodplain of the Nimpkish River.



Priorities

This area will generally prioritize the opportunities identified for housing and commercial land use designations:

- » Increasing residential properties and 'Namgis presence on Vancouver Island: providing housing closer to jobs to make it easier for members who want to move back to 'Namgis territory
- » Creating rentals off reserve for 'Namgis staff and members who work in Port McNeill
- » Encouraging environmentally friendly business opportunities to both maintain our focus on environmental sustainability and create economic opportunities for 'Namgis members.
- » Protecting culturally significant areas and archaeological sites

Ar-Ce-Wy-Ee (IR 4) and O-Tsaw-Las (IR 5)

Are-Ce-Wy-Ee is on the left bank of Nimpkish River and is a remote unoccupied village site. O-Tsaw-Las is on the right bank of the Nimpkish River and is a place of origin, unoccupied village site and was historically used as a salmon station. The river remains an important home to salmon. It was allotted as a reserve in 1886 as a fishery with houses, gardens, and a burial ground.



Priorities

This area will generally prioritize the opportunities identified for resource area and culture land use designations:

- » Creating a summer culture camp for 'Namgis youth to gain knowledge about 'Namgis language, culture, and traditions
- » Creating new spaces for food harvesting, such as community gardens and a smoke house for smoking chum, salmon and herring, to facilitate access to traditional foods
- » Protecting old growth trees, harvesting areas, and historical culture and archaeological sites
- » Promoting economic development by supporting the tourist industry and focusing on opportunities that invite visitors onto 'Namgis lands, including river rafting, canoe tours, and cultural knowledge tours
- » Limiting resource intensive commercial industry to maintain and protect 'Namgis wildlife and greenspace

Ksui-La-Das (IR 6) and Kuldekuma (IR 7)

These remote islands, known as Plumper and Pearse Islands, were claimed by Lagiyus Kwak'wala (Chief Lageuse) as a halibut and timber station and allotted as reserves in 1916. Some of the beaches are leased to kayaking companies and contain some cabins.

Priorities

This area will generally prioritize the opportunities identified for natural area land use designations:

- » Creating a youth summer camp and a healing cultural retreat to encourage the multigenerational continuation of culture
- » Increasing tourist destinations and economic development (ie. fishing, whale watching, kayak/canoe tours)
- » Preventing commercial over-development to maintain and preserve our lands and waters
- » Supporting fishing opportunities and providing facilities for processing (halibut curing)



4

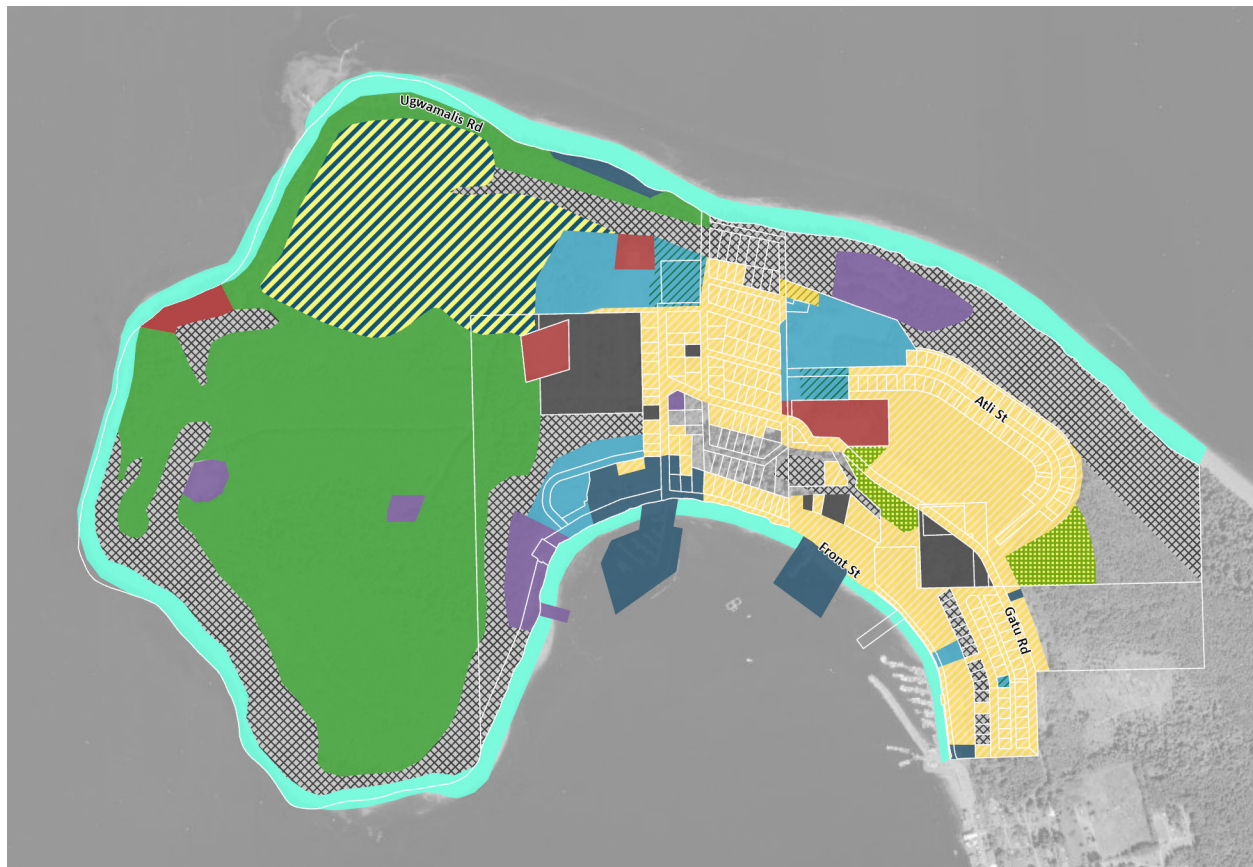
How Will We Get There? Tool to Support Our Journey

Land Use Designations

Land Use Designations communicate what kinds of land use activities are permitted in what areas. Each land use designation is defined in the following table along with example uses.

	TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
	Protected Area Culture	Culturally protected areas in which development will not be supported unless it supports culturally appropriate activities	Archaeological sites, burial grounds and cemeteries, areas of spiritual or cultural importance
	Housing	Land which is primarily used for housing. Designates areas for future housing development	Single family homes, housing for singles, multi-family housing, Elder's housing
	Mixed Use	Designated areas for multifamily housing mixed with businesses	Stores/restaurants/cafes with multifamily housing above
	Tourism Commercial	Land for use by for-profit businesses that generate revenue and/or jobs for 'Namgis members	Campground, accommodation, museum, shops, marina, stores, restaurants/coffee shops, offices
	Community Use	Land used for community-owned and operated buildings and facilities aimed at administration, education, recreation or health	Administration building, schools, adult education, health, recreation, youth centre
	Light Industrial	Land used for light manufacturing, processing, community infrastructure and storage of equipment	Waste management, alternative energy, public works supplies, fish processing, wastewater treatment plant, community water supply wells
	Natural Area	Preservation of wildlife habitat and environmental areas for 'Namgis member traditional use, recreation and low impact tourism	Rivers and streams, medicinal plant areas, nature trails and parks, culture camps, nature tours
	Food Security	Land put aside for food and medicine production and harvesting	Community garden, medicinal plant areas, food harvesting areas
	Coastal	Land put aside for shoreline restoration. Land with limited future development to protect buildings and people from sea level rise and flooding	Shoreline

‘Yalis (IR 1 / IR 1A)

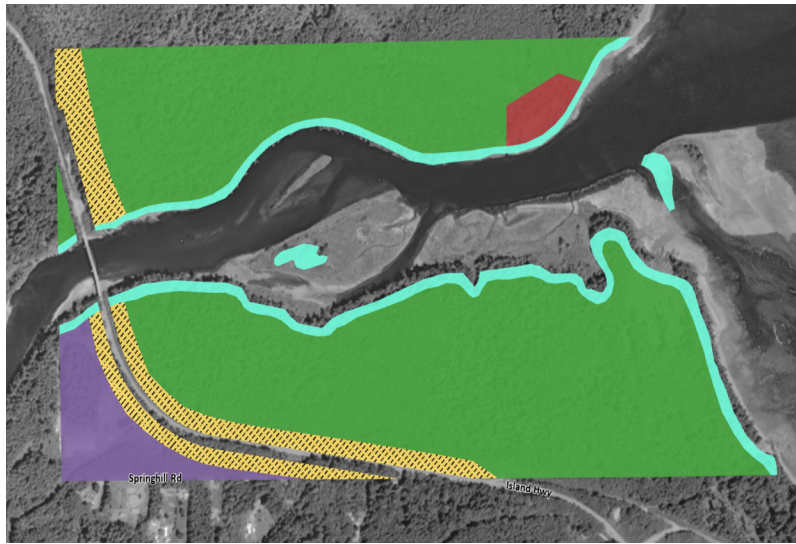


- Protected Area - Culture
- Housing
- Mixed Use
- Tourism Commercial
- Community Use - Administrative / Education
- Community Use - Recreation
- Light Industrial
- Food Security
- Natural Area
- Coastal
- No Development
- Out of Planning Scope

Nimpkish (IR 2)

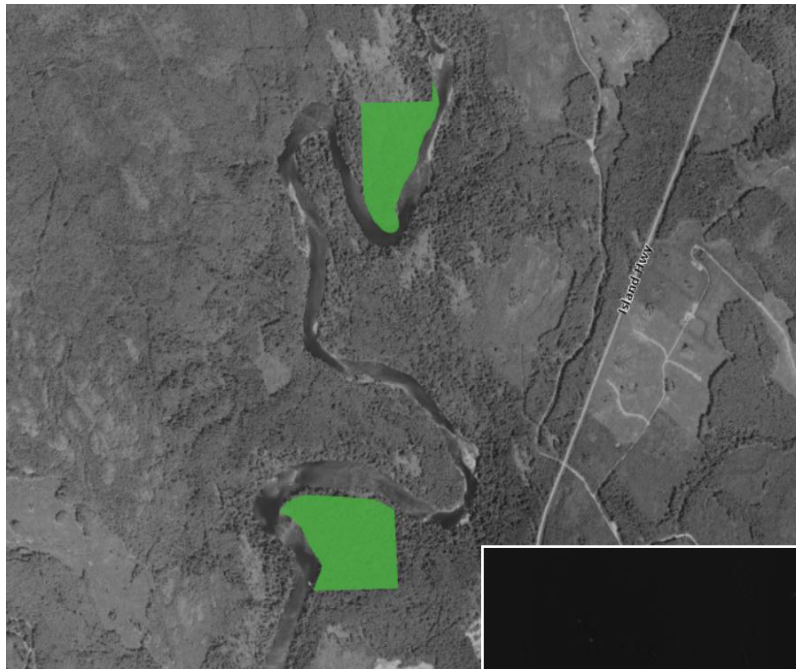


Ches-La-Kee (IR 3)

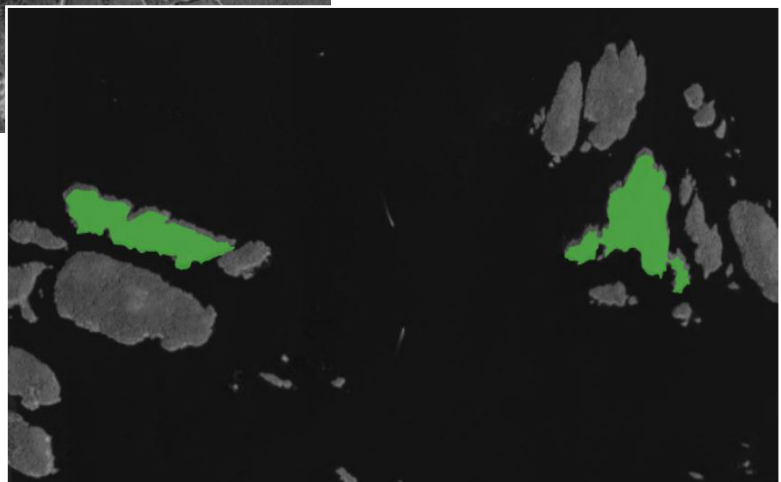


- Protected Area - Culture
- Housing - Investigate Feasibility
- Light Industrial
- Natural Area
- Coastal

Ar-Ce-Wy-Ee (IR 4) and O-Tsaw-Las (IR 5)



Ksui-La-Das (IR 6) and Kuldekduma (IR 7)





General Land Use Policies

The following general land use policies will govern the future use of 'Namgis reserve lands

Governance

- » Honour 'Namgis values, laws, and traditions with every land use decision
- » All new developments on Reserve lands will be subject to a development approvals process as outlined by this Land Use Plan and meet or exceed standards identified in the BC Building Code
- » All new developments shall demonstrate that they will cause no adverse impacts on the natural environment including ground and surface water, soil quality, air quality, cultural sites, wildlife and vegetation. If impacts are expected the application must demonstrate how these will be mitigated

Climate Change Resilience

- » Identify areas vulnerable to sea level rise and avoid new development in these areas
- » Adapt buildings vulnerable to sea level rise
- » Develop a long-term climate adaptation strategy
- » Develop and keep up to date an emergency plan

Environmental

- » The following are prohibited on 'Namgis First Nation Land as outlined in the 'Namgis First Nation Land Code Part 5:
 - » Dumping, spilling, discharging, releasing or depositing any substance, liquid or gas, that is noxious, hazardous, polluting, deleterious or harmful to human health or the environment
 - » Any other activities resulting in contamination on 'Namgis First Nation Land or contaminants affecting the Natural Resources on 'Namgis First Nation Land
- » A minimum 30 metre setback from the highwater mark is required for all development near creeks and watercourses
- » All new development to integrate drainage study recommendations
- » Groundwater Quarantine Area (see Figure 9) - all residents and businesses in this area will be provided information about aquifer protection including:
 - » Ensuring solid waste is stored in a manner that prevents leachate
 - » Ensuring waste oil and other waste liquids are stored in sealed containers, and in a covered area
 - » Avoiding waste disposal by means of burning in areas within the capture zone;
 - » Controlling the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on residential lands and encouraging good storage/handling/disposal practices;
 - » Avoiding storage of scrap autos
 - » Engaging with BC Hydro to regularly inspect and maintain all electrical transformers on the power distribution grid
 - » Prepare and abide by the Pollution Prevention Plan outlined in section 4.8 of the 'Namgis Water Supply Assessment and Source Water Protection Plan

Environmental

- » Areas around water well heads to be quarantined
- » No chemical storage is allowed in aquifer recharge area
- » Prioritize porous surfaces in aquifer recharge area
- » No septic systems in the groundwater quarantine area
- » Water conservation - potable water not to be used for irrigation
- » Prioritize tree retention and environmental replacement value for trees removed for development
- » All new development shall find opportunities for green building design with a focus on water and energy conservation and efficient waste management practices
- » Indigenous plant species should be maintained and/or incorporated into site design wherever possible as guided by list of plants of high value to 'Nāmgis
- » All new development shall include a plan of how to prevent the spread of invasive species
- » Burning bans will correspond with Provincial fire bans

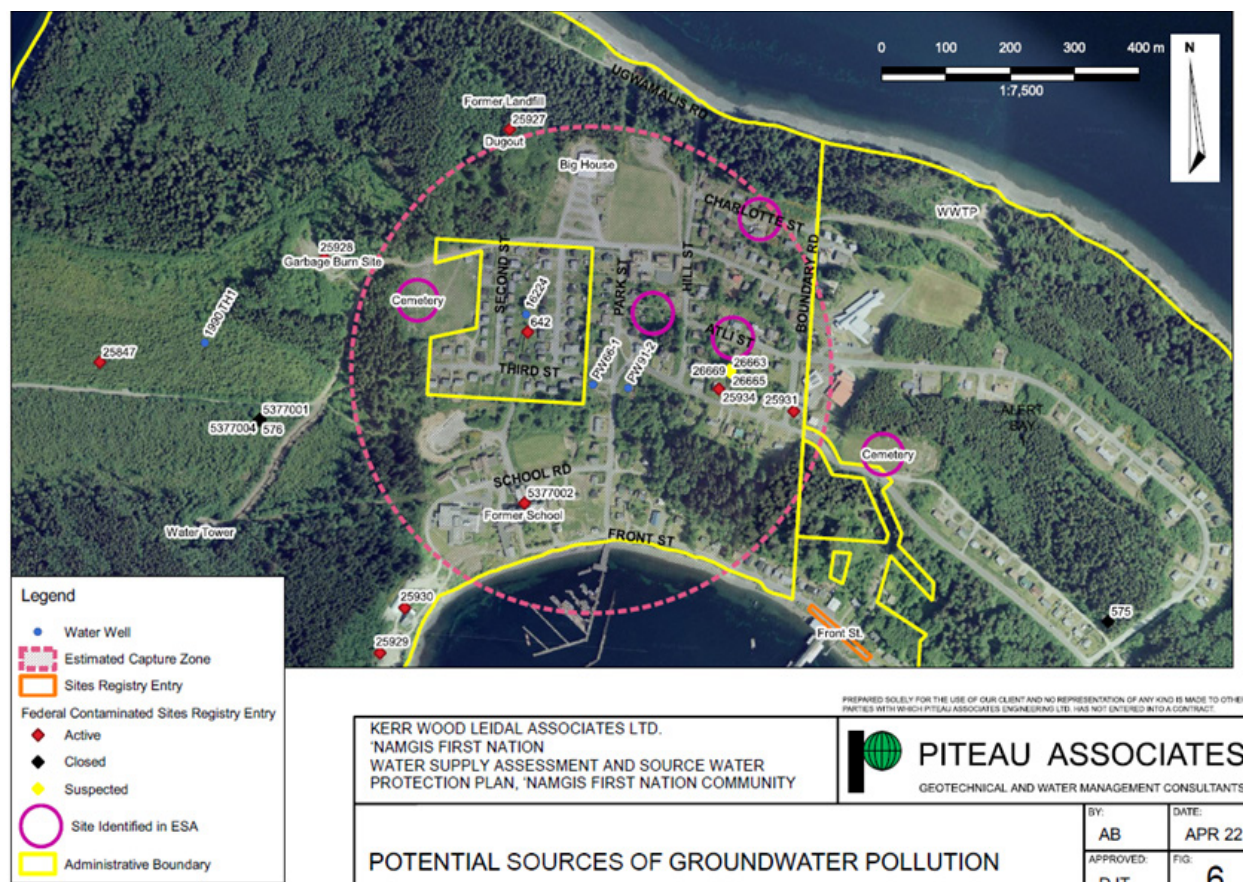


Figure 9: Groundwater Quarantine Area

Archaeology

- » Archaeological assessment to be completed before new construction and development
- » New archaeological sites are assessed, recorded, and added to heritage register
- » Any activities that have the potential to damage or otherwise impact any 'Namgis cultural sites or artifacts, including culturally modified trees are prohibited on 'Namgis First Nation Land as outlined in the 'Namgis First Nation Land Code Part 5

Signage

- » Develop and install signage to inform public of Reserve limits and place names
- » Where possible, work with Knowledge Keepers to identify Kwak'waka language for signage, wayfinding, place and building names throughout 'Namgis reserve lands



Land Use Policies by Designation

The following Land Use policies have been identified by land use designation.

Culture

Culturally protected areas include culturally significant areas in which development will not be supported unless it supports culturally appropriate activities.

OBJECTIVES

- » Support opportunities for cultural continuity, vitality, and presence
- » Protection of archeological sites
- » Protection of burial sites/cemeteries
- » Expand cemetery capacity

POLICIES

- » Any activities that have the potential to damage or otherwise impact any 'Namgis cultural sites or artifacts, including culturally modified trees are prohibited on 'Namgis First Nation Land as outlined in the 'Namgis First Nation Land Code Part 5
- » No development in cultural areas except for infrastructure to support knowledge transmission and traditional learning on the land
- » Prioritize development of infrastructure to support culture camps for healing and youth education
- » Archaeological sites and cemeteries are protected from future development
- » Find opportunities for expression of 'Namgis identity and culture on reserve lands

NEXT STEPS

- » Investigate future cemetery needs and seek opportunities for increased cemetery capacity
- » Consult community members on the locations and significance of cultural and spiritual sites
- » Development of a cemetery use policy and fee structure for non-'Namgis members

Housing and Mixed Use

The housing land use designation is land that is primarily used for housing or that designates areas for future housing. It is intended to include diverse housing that adapts to 'Namgis members changing needs and includes a variety of both high and low-density housing. It also allows for new mix used development that would feature economic development opportunities on the ground floor (offices, stores, coffee shops, etc.) and multifamily housing on higher floors.

OBJECTIVES

- » Create healthy places for 'Namgis members to live in our territory
- » Increase housing units, including increasing housing for singles, families, and Elders
- » Encourage flexible design of new homes to suit multi-generational families and shifting family structures
- » Support housing opportunities on Vancouver Island
- » Increase available rental units for professionals moving to Alert Bay
- » Increase economic development opportunities

POLICIES

- » Support construction of sustainable building practices
- » Ensure member access to green space or park land near their home, prioritize development of new play spaces near new residential developments
- » Home-based businesses must apply for a business license and be registered in the lands registry system
- » Business license applicants must speak to their plans to mitigate impacts on air quality (dust, odours), noise, traffic, parking, fire risk or ecological systems (water quality)
- » Encourage mixed used development in new development areas to provide space for community orientated shops and services
- » Support processes to allow community member to secure a mortgage
- » Smoke houses are permitted on residential properties as long as they are 4.5 metres from residential structures

NEXT STEPS

- » Investigate feasibility and servicing requirements of new residential subdivision on IR 1
- » Investigate feasibility, servicing requirements and estimated cost of building new infrastructure to service residential development on IR 3
- » Create and implement business license application system
- » Develop mechanism for community members to self-finance and build their own homes



Tourism and Commercial

The tourism and commercial designation is land for use by for-profit businesses that generate revenue and/or jobs for 'Namgis members, or land reserved for commercial organization and operation of activities catering to tourists/visitors.

OBJECTIVES

- » Support 'Namgis businesses and entrepreneurs
- » Increase services and activities for 'Namgis community members
- » Strengthen tourism economy
- » Attract new businesses
- » Create new jobs
- » Create a commercial/tourism hub near waterfront and U'mista

POLICIES

- » All new businesses must apply for a business license and be registered in lands registry system
- » Business license applicants must speak to their plans to mitigate impacts on air quality (dust, odours), noise, traffic, parking, fire risk or ecological systems (water quality)
- » Ensure that land is available for 'Namgis owned businesses
- » Prioritize commercial businesses that contribute to enhancing recreational and tourist activities
- » Prioritize businesses that have a positive impact to the community and provide goods and services that support 'Namgis values and needs
- » Revitalize the campsite as an economic development venture
- » Enhance the marina and ensure that new development does not harm shoreline ecosystems
- » Provide supports for 'Namgis entrepreneurs

NEXT STEPS

- » Develop Business license application system
- » Complete ground penetrating radar work on St. Michael's site and facilitate a visioning process for future use of St. Michael's lands





Community Use (Recreation, Education, Administration, Health)

The community use designations is intended to be for the development of community-owned and operated buildings and facilities aimed at providing administration, education, recreation or health to residents on 'Namgis lands.

OBJECTIVES

- » Expand education from K-12
- » Increase recreational and social opportunities that bring community members together
- » Support adult education opportunities including Kwakwaka'wakw language classes
- » Create a youth centre focused on sharing traditional knowledge and education
- » Enhance and expand recreational opportunities
- » Enhance opportunities for healing and treatment
- » Expand administration building
- » Increase welcoming and accessible community gathering spaces

POLICIES

- » Identify opportunities to expand facilities for education, administration, and recreation
- » Identify opportunities to expand facilities for hosting private and community events
- » Design new community spaces to be accessible and have multiple uses where appropriate
- » Adapt existing facilities to new uses where feasible
- » Require new facilities to adhere to BC's energy efficiency and use sustainable building practices

NEXT STEPS

- » Complete a space needs assessment to identify key opportunities for facility expansion
- » Conduct a detailed condition assessment of community buildings to determine extent of required renewal

Food Security

Land put aside for food production and harvesting to encourage self-sufficiency through food cultivating and harvesting on reserve to promote cultural preservation and sustainability. It is a priority of 'Namgis to promote activities that increase Members connection with the land.

OBJECTIVES

- » Promote education and learning about traditional local food systems
- » Support the production, gathering and harvesting of a variety of foods on the reserve
- » Preserve and enhance areas of the reserve used for food harvesting

POLICIES

- » Support the development, use and care of community gardens and home gardening
- » Designate lands for future community garden use
- » Protect land for growing, harvesting and cultivation of medicines
- » Promote learning opportunities to teach 'Namgis about traditional local food systems
- » Find opportunities for communal food processing facilities (example: smoke house)

NEXT STEPS

- » Complete assessment of suitability of lands for future community gardens
- » Develop a policy to control use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers



Industrial

Industrial designations are intended to be used for light manufacturing, processing, community infrastructure and storage of equipment.

OBJECTIVES

- » Enhance economic development opportunities
- » Increase resilience of shoreline infrastructure to sea level rise and extreme weather events
- » Improve waste management practices
- » Ensure sound asset management practices to extend infrastructure life cycles

POLICIES

- » Avoid new development in areas as identified as being vulnerable to sea level rise
- » Adapt infrastructure to be resilient to climate change
- » Plan for renewal of public works building and seek opportunities to move closer to waste water treatment plant or gravel quarry with room for expansion
- » Develop a solid waste management plan including opportunities for education and enforcement
- » No illegal dumping on 'Namgis lands
- » Investigate opportunities for alternative energy
- » Implement 'Namgis asset management plan

NEXT STEPS

- » Conduct condition assessments and master plans for roads, water, drainage, power/electrical, and sanitary sewer systems, and, to guide the prioritization of capital projects over the next 20 to 25 years to address lifecycle renewal needs, meet target levels of service, and effectively manage infrastructure related risks
- » Develop solid waste management plan



YALIS
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT
PLANT

Worker in high-visibility vest



Natural Areas

Preservation, maintenance and use of wildlife habitat and environmental areas for 'Namgis member traditional use and recreation. Development will not be supported in these areas other than development which support ecosystem restoration, cultural knowledge transmission and practice of culture.

OBJECTIVES

- » Enhance access to natural areas for recreational use
- » Enhance access to food harvesting areas and medicinal plants
- » Protect, preserve, and maintain ecosystems
- » Facilitate opportunities to share knowledge through culture camps and traditional learning on the land
- » Protect old growth forests

POLICIES

- » No harvesting of logs around the banks of the Nimpkish river (to be consistent with buffers being discussed as part of the Gwani Land Use Planning process)
- » No development in natural areas except for infrastructure to support knowledge transmission and traditional learning on the land
- » Expand trail network to improve access to food and medicine harvesting and areas for cultural and recreational use
- » Encourage development of infrastructure that can support cultural and healing camps on the land

NEXT STEPS

- » Develop inventory of important food and medicine harvesting areas to help increase community awareness and to identify future areas for protection

Development Approval Process

Figure 10 summarizes the steps of the 'Namgis development approval process:

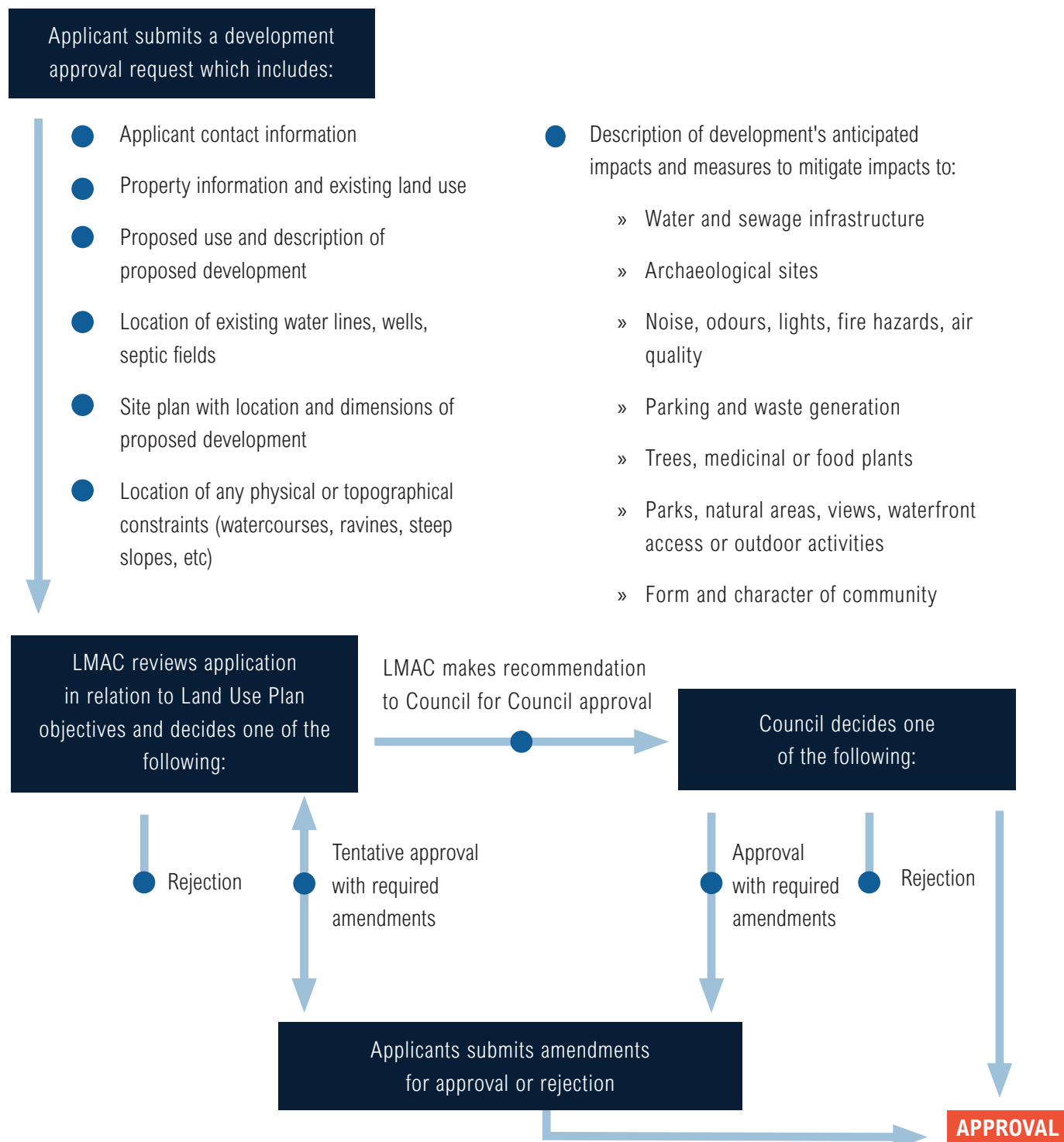


Figure 10 - Development Approval Process

Implementation Strategy

Engagement with the 'Namgis community has led to the development of a vision for the use of 'Namgis lands. Implementation is the process of putting this vision into action to ensure that it becomes reality and benefits 'Namgis for years to come. Implementation is a collaborative effort: roles and responsibilities will be shared among LMAC, 'Namgis council and staff and the community will be continuously involved throughout the implementation process.

Lands Management Advisory Committee

The Lands Management Advisory Committee oversaw the development of this Land Use Plan and moving forward will guide the implementation of the plan. As outlined in our Land Code, the purpose of LMAC is to:

- » Assist with the development of the land administration system
- » Advise Council and staff on matters respecting 'Namgis First Nation Land
- » Make recommendations to Council on Land Use Planning decisions based on direction of the Land Use Plan
- » Assist in the flow of information on land issues between Members and Council
- » Assist with oversight and support to ongoing Land Use Planning engagement
- » Assist in the development of Laws created under Land Code
- » Guide the renewal of the Land Use Plan every 5 years or as needed.

The LMAC is comprised of:

- » community members and staff (at least one member of staff or a consultant or both)
- » an Elder and Youth representative
- » a member of Council who holds the Land Management/Land Code portfolio
- » a representative appointed by the Hereditary Chiefs, if there is a consensus by the Hereditary Chiefs

Communications Strategy

To ensure the continued engagement of community members in Land Use Planning, the LMAC is committed to the following regular communication and engagement activities:

- » Land Use Planning update at every Annual General Meeting
- » Hosting 2 community dinners a year to share Land Use Planning updates and gather feedback from community members on LUP implementation including options for community members to join virtually
- » Hosting a school-based LUP event each year with 'Namgis students to raise awareness of Land Use Planning and gather input on youth priorities
- » Hosting regular meetings with the Elder's group to gather regular feedback on Elder LUP priorities
- » Publishing quarterly Land Use Plan updates in the 'Namgis newsletter
- » Hosting a Land Use Planning webpage at engage.Namgis.bc.ca to share Land Use Planning updates



Monitoring and Evaluation

An important step for successful implementation is creating indicators to monitor and evaluate the success of the Land Use Plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the land use plan objectives is important to ensure that implementation of the plan is successful and having a positive impact on the 'Namgis community. The continuous monitoring and evaluation process promotes active accountability to the objectives of the land use plan, fuels motivation to continue learning and adjusting, and informs future adjustments to the land use plan so that it remains an active document. Figure 11 suggests possible indicators, as suggested by community members, that can be tracked and reported out on as part of the Land Use Plan communications strategy.



Figure 11 - Sample Indicators by Objective

Land Use Planning Revision Process

This Land Use Plan is a living document that can be continuously updated as new opportunities arise and as indicators are monitored and evaluated. This plan will be formally revisited and updated once every five years.

Gilakasda'xw'la

Appendix 1

Land Use Plan Engagement Plan



LUP Engagement Plan

This draft engagement plan has been created to support a foundation of planning tools to support in the development of 'Namgis Land Use Planning. Once a planner has been contracted to further support the LUP, we will review this plan and amend as necessary with the support of the Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC).

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Purpose

To create a path for creative and meaningful engagement with 'Namgis people that will aid in the development of a Land Use Plan for all 'Namgis reserve lands.

Scope

- Identify key collaborators ("stakeholders")
- Outline roles & responsibilities
- Integrate Land Code provisions
- Develop a strategy that is flexible but addresses key areas of engagement such as: task objectives, key collaborators, rationale, levels of engagement, and an outline for methods for engagement
- Identify follow-up mechanisms

Resources

The LUP will be an integral part of the development and future of all 'Namgis reserve lands. Through generous support of the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC), we are able to financially resource this project. Our LUP will require the hiring of a consultant with special skills and knowledge to guide the process, as informed by our most important resource, the 'Namgis community members. Administrative support and guidance will be provided by the Land Code Manager for 'Namgis, who works closely with the Lands Management Advisory Committee. Leadership support is provided through the Council and Senior administrative roles. Ancestral knowledge and connection to the lands by the 'Namgis people is our most valuable resource to guide the LUP.

Limitations

- Engagement fatigue – having many programs and services that require community engagement
- Population is scattered throughout the region, province and globe. Being able to adequately measure our success in reaching all members is difficult at any given time.

Evaluation

Record and analysis on engagement impacts; what worked, what didn't, and why?

Following up on feedback given. This is crucial to establish a sense of empowerment in the process for our people.

Collaborators - Profiles

Lands Department – Administrative support and oversight, facilitation, meeting coordination, project staff lead, point-of-contact for the LUP contractor.

Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) – Provides vision and direction for the LUP deliverables and activities, updates and provides recommendations to Chief & Council, facilitates open communication on LUP progress and activities to 'Nan̓m̓gis members.

Chief and Council - Provide high level oversight and direction for the LUP through supporting the LMAC. Reviews and approves the final LUP.

LUP Consultant – Provides technical skill and planning expertise (research, analysis, mapping, etc), works directly with the Lands Manager and the LMAC to support LUP project deliverables, co-facilitates community engagement sessions.

'Nan̓m̓gis Community Members – Provide crucial insight, ideas, and feedback on LUP project. Participates in engagement activities. Represents core demographics/interest groups such as youth, elders, knowledge keepers.

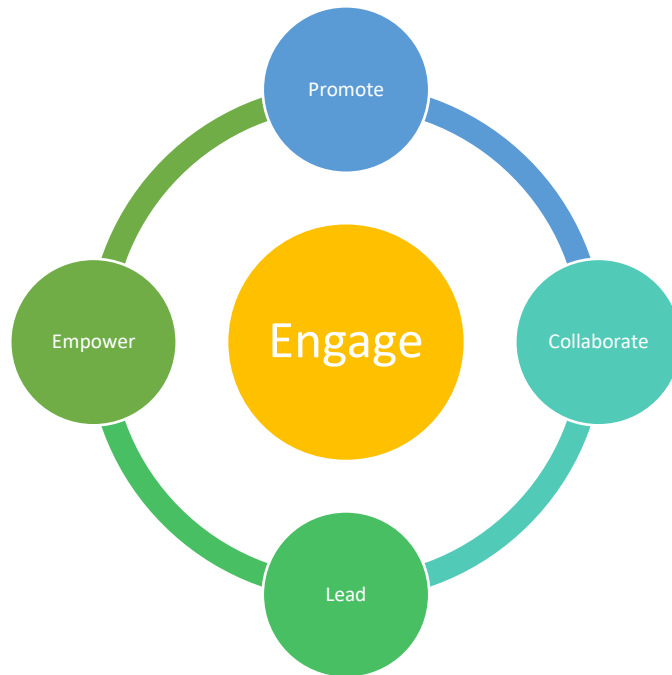
External Collaborators – Provide information, potential expertise, and help to establish appropriate engagement opportunities for those not reflected in the above noted profiles. These collaborators can include supporting organizations such as the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC), neighboring municipalities/organizations, and other collaborators as identified by the community.

Engagement Analysis

The engagement analysis will form the basis of all engagement activities relating to 'Namgis land use planning.

"Administrative Based" areas focus on project administration and project leadership. The "Community Based" areas pertain to sources for collaboration and empowerment to support our membership and external partners who are connected to and/or affected by land use planning outcomes and activities.

Levels of engagement are based on the following principles, each of which supports one another and can exist concurrently with others:



Promote: Create awareness, inform others, and provide opportunities;

Collaborate: shared decision making, idea generation;

Lead: Takes responsibility, facilitates, communicates effectively, create and foster a safe environment;

Empower: Prioritizing community voice throughout the process. Community led decision making.

Administrative Based Analysis

Lands Dept, LMAC, Community Members, Chief & Council, 'Namgis Staff, external partners

TASK	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	REASONING	FREQUENCY	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ENGAGEMENT METHEODS	FOLLOW UP
Interdepartmental meeting - Min 1 session	Lands Manager, Directors, Program Leads	To determine other teams who may want or need to contribute to the LUP	Quarterly	Promote Collaborate	<i>Email > meeting</i>	Email after each session.
LMAC meetings	Lands Manager, LMAC	To provide oversight and direction to the entre LUP project	Monthly; as well as engagement session follow up meetings as needed	Lead	Team meetings (mixed online/in-person)	Incl in LMAC minutes
Project Oversight	Lands Manager, Consultant, LMAC, Chief & Council	To review the project in relation to the engagement plan and other core areas	Meeting at start and end of project. Updates in-between meetings if requested	Promote Empower Lead	Group meeting; Email updates	Email after each session.
Review draft plan	Lands Manager, Consultant, LMAC, Chief & Council	Review draft plan	Once; possible follow-up meeting	Promote Lead Empower	Mixed online/in-person meeting	Email after session, possible follow-up meeting
Finalize Plan	Lands Manager, Consultant, LMAC, Chief & Council	C&C to approve final plan	Once; end of project	Lead	Mixed online/in-person meeting	Email

Community Based Analysis

Community members, neighboring communities, external partners

TASK	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	REASONING	FREQUENCY	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ENGAGEMENT METHEODS	FOLLOW UP
Engagement Platform - PENDING	Lands Manager, Consultant, LMAC	To seek input from members and other parties invited to contribute/participate	Monthly Update; 1-2 sessions/posts to the platform per month	Collaborate Promote Lead <u>EMPOWER</u>	Online engagement platform - Surveys - "town meeting" - LUP forum	Email after each session. Post update to platform.
	**' Namgis has decided to move forward with using the "Bang the Table" online participatory platform to enhance our online presence and access to vital information for members and project/department managers. The LUP was considered a valuable project that would greatly benefit from the platform. This enables us to move forward with our LUP during a difficult pandemic.					
Community Mail Out	Lands Manager, Consultant, LMAC	To ensure those not connected through technology have access to information and knowledge on how to engage with the LUP	Quarterly	Promote Empower	Newsletter format	Offer options to follow-up (self-serve option)
Community Info Sessions	Lands Manager, Consultant	Should the pandemic restrictions cease while the LUP is being developed, we would adapt monthly sessions through the platform to also be provided in-person.	1-2 sessions (more or less, dependent on pandemic health & safety regulations)	Collaborate Promote Lead <u>EMPOWER</u>	In-person	Offer options to follow-up (self-serve option)

Conclusion & Next Steps

Engagement planning during a pandemic requires a heightened level of patience and understanding. The opportunity to move forward with our LUP through integrating new software technologies is exciting, and will also come with its share of challenges as we adapt to the new norm. Our commitment to this engagement plan is to consistently review and update the tasks as needed, and as warranted by our community members.

Appendix 2

Step 1 Engagement Summary Report

'Namgis Community Land Use Plan
Step 1 Engagement
Summary Report

Gilakas'la

We hold much gratitude for the approximately 50 community members who participated in the first phase of Land Use Plan engagement activities and have shared their ideas for a vision for 'Namgis community lands. A special thank you to the 22 youth who shared their thoughts on community strengths and opportunities.

This project would not be possible without the guidance and work of the Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC): [Samantha Webster](#), [Brian Wadhams](#), [Verna Ambers](#), [Rhea Ziola](#), [Tanis Dawson](#) and LMAC staff secretariat [Megan Whonnock](#), Land Code Manager.

The LMAC is committed to creative and meaningful engagement with 'Namgis people at every step of the Land Use Planning process. This includes reporting back what has been shared and applying that information in the next steps of the process. We sincerely thank all the readers of this report and look forward to continuing the conversation with you through the remainder of the planning process.

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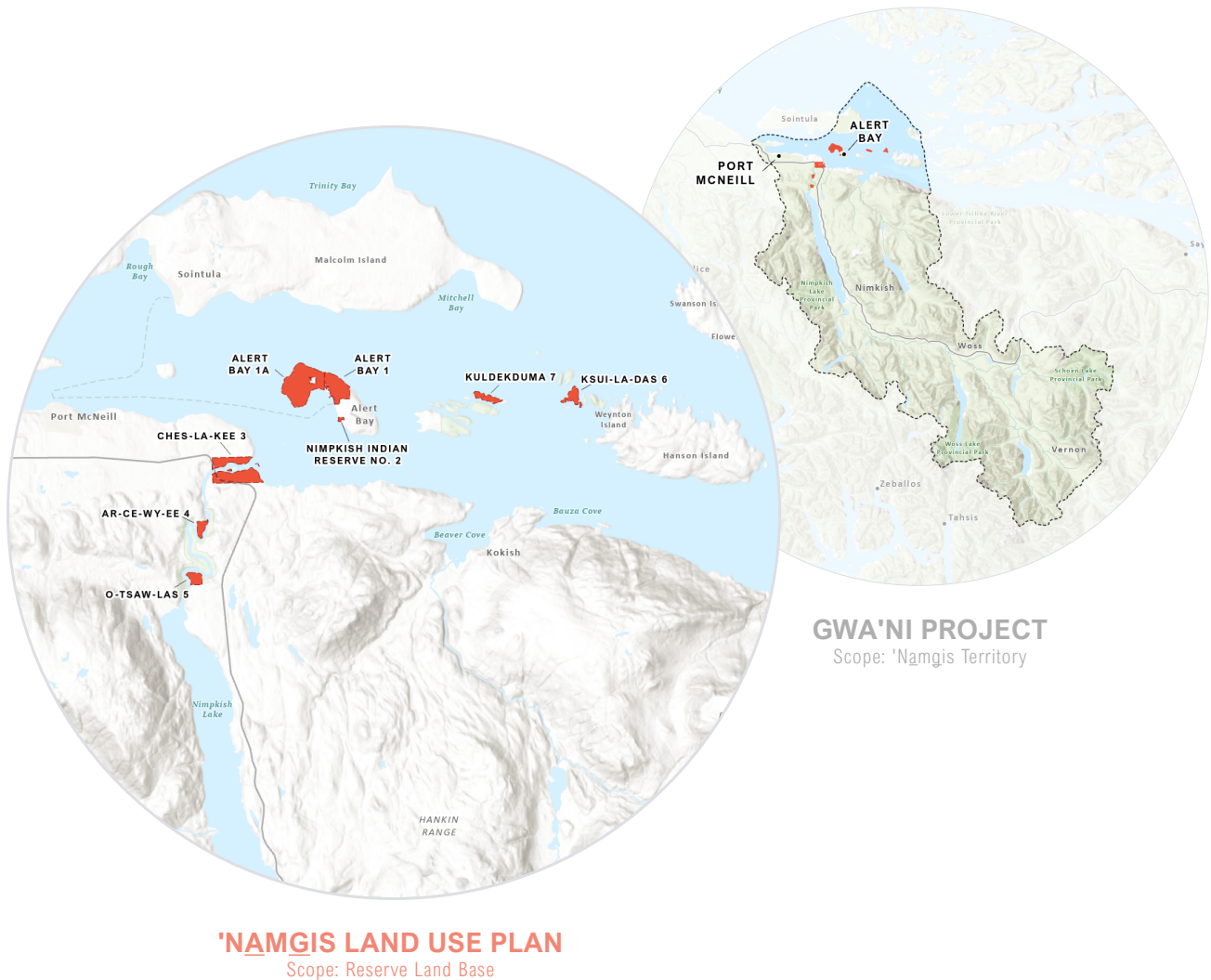
Project Overview

Following the ratification of the 'Namgis Land Code, 'Namgis First Nation is developing a Land Use Plan for their reserve land base.

What is a Land Use Plan?

A Land Use Plan is a process of coming together as a community to discuss and decide how to use or not use the land in the future. Our Community Land Use Plan will provide 'Namgis with a shared vision for the long-term future of our reserve lands.

'Namgis is also working with the Province of British Columbia to develop a modernized Land Use Plan for their Territory (Gwa'ni). The Gwa'ni Project will cover lands from the mouth of the Nimpkish River to the Vernon Lake watershed and will guide what can happen on lands, rivers, lakes, watersheds and forests in the planning area.



The development of the Community Land Use Plan is guided by the Lands Department and the Lands Management Advisory Committee under the leadership of Chief and Council. The Land Use Plan is being developed in four steps as described below:



This report summarizes the results of the engagement undertaken in Step 1 of the Community Land Use Planning process.

The results of these engagement activities will inform the shared vision and guiding principles of the Land Use Plan. Grounded in this shared vision and guiding principles, the planning team will develop draft land use designations. In the next round of engagement activities, community members will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on these designations.



What We Did

2021

○ Lands Management Advisory Committee Meetings (June and November 2021)

During Step 1, two Lands Management Advisory Committee workshops were held.

In the June 2021 workshop LMAC discussed land use planning vision and values, engagement history, audiences and engagement and communication preferences.

At the November 2021 workshop LMAC worked with maps to discuss land use planning strengths and opportunities, land capacity and constraints and land use vision and principles.

○ Community Walkthrough (November 2021)

In November 2021 the project team conducted a community walkthrough with Lands Department staff to better understand land use planning strengths, opportunities, capacity and constraints.

○ Community Open House (November 2021)



On November 4th, about 25 'Namgis community members gathered at Council Hall for an interactive community Land Use Planning open house.

The open house included 5 station-based activities:

- » Station 1: Project Overview
- » Station 2: Visioning - Write yourself a postcard from the future describing your vision for 'Namgis reserve lands
- » Station 3: Vision and principles- vote for the most important principles and share what's missing
- » Station 4: Community mapping- share important places and opportunities for change
- » Station 5: Event feedback



○ Youth Engagement (December 2021)

On December 14th, the Lands Advisory Committee hosted a Land Use Planning workshop for youth at T'lisalagi'lakw School.

Facilitators asked youth to show us on maps things that they like about their community and what they would like to see change in the future. They received 22 completed worksheets and maps from youth sharing their ideas.

2022

○ Virtual Engagement (October 2021 - January 2022)

The 'Namgis virtual engagement platform was used to administer a community survey and a virtual community mapping exercise. The survey was designed to gather feedback on:

- » What does land use planning mean to you?
- » What is your vision for the future of our reserve lands?
- » What values should guide the governance of our reserve lands?
- » How you would like to be engaged in the land use planning process moving forward

The virtual community mapping exercise allowed community members to share important places and opportunities for change.

This project was one of the first to launch 'Namgis' new virtual engagement platform: engage.namgis.bc.ca. This tool offers the opportunity for community members to register and then hear about future virtual engagement opportunities. Registration to date has been low, but there is hope that as more people register it can be a powerful way to engage 'Namgis community members not able to attend in-person events.



What We Heard

The following section presents a summary of the themes shared during our Step 1 engagement activities.

Vision and Values

A number of engagement activities were designed to get community members thinking about their vision for the future of 'Namgis reserve lands and the values that should guide this future. The following is a summary of what we heard. The quotes and images shared were written by community members who were invited to write a postcard from the year 2050 to their family and friends still in 2021 and describe what they see and feel.



Stewardship: 'Namgis people are active stewards of fish, forests and lands and living the values of sustainability by focusing on renewable energy, protection of old growth forests and waste management.

"I am working on the 'Namgis windmill farm, bringing natural energy resources to Alert Bay"

Economic development: a thriving economy that allows 'Namgis members to live and work in the territory which includes tourism, secondary industry, retail and hospitality. There is a vision for working with logging companies to ensure jobs while protecting old growth forests and watersheds.

"Our community restored to the thriving fishing that it once was. See all the businesses restored to provide opportunities for our people"

"It took a long while, but I see a flourishing community once again"

Housing: housing that allows 'Namgis community member to live in the territory including housing on Vancouver Island. This includes safe housing for young children and families, mini homes, housing for singles and housing for elders.

“Namgis village on the river”

"Our community now has condos for our youth with our artists' touch inside and outside of the building"

Culture: traditions are respected and land governance and infrastructure supports the practice of culture, the sharing of culture and the protection of cultural sites.

"Our traditions respected and going strong"

Language: language is present on 'Namgis lands and the infrastructure supports activities that aid in the revival of language.

"Our language revived"

Education and knowledge transfer: 'Namgis lands and infrastructure support K-12 and adult education and intergenerational knowledge transfer. This includes outdoor environmental programming where Elders teaching youth about culture, harvesting, hunting and medicines.

"I see an outdoor environmental camp"

Health and healing: ‘Namgis has places where people can go for healing such as a treatment/detox center, culture camp and safe places in the community for people to come together and socialize.

"The community has places where they can go for healing, everyone has a safe place to socialize"

Recreation: ‘Namgis lands and infrastructure support active living with both indoor and outdoor options.

Youth: 'Namgis lands and infrastructure support more activities and resources for youth such as a native youth wellness organization and youth center. Youth are actively involved in land governance.

“Create a native youth wellness organization”



Elders: Elders are supported with programs and housing with both independent and supportive living options. 'Namgis Elders are involved in teaching youth about culture, harvesting, hunting and medicines.

"An active Elders center that is booming with wealth and information along with traditional meals"

Presence: there are signs to identify 'Namgis reserve lands and to educate the public about 'Namgis lands.



Food security: 'Namgis lands, waters and infrastructure support food self-sufficiency including harvesting, fishing and community gardening.

Inclusion: 'Namgis has strong inclusive land governance with clear communication with community members.

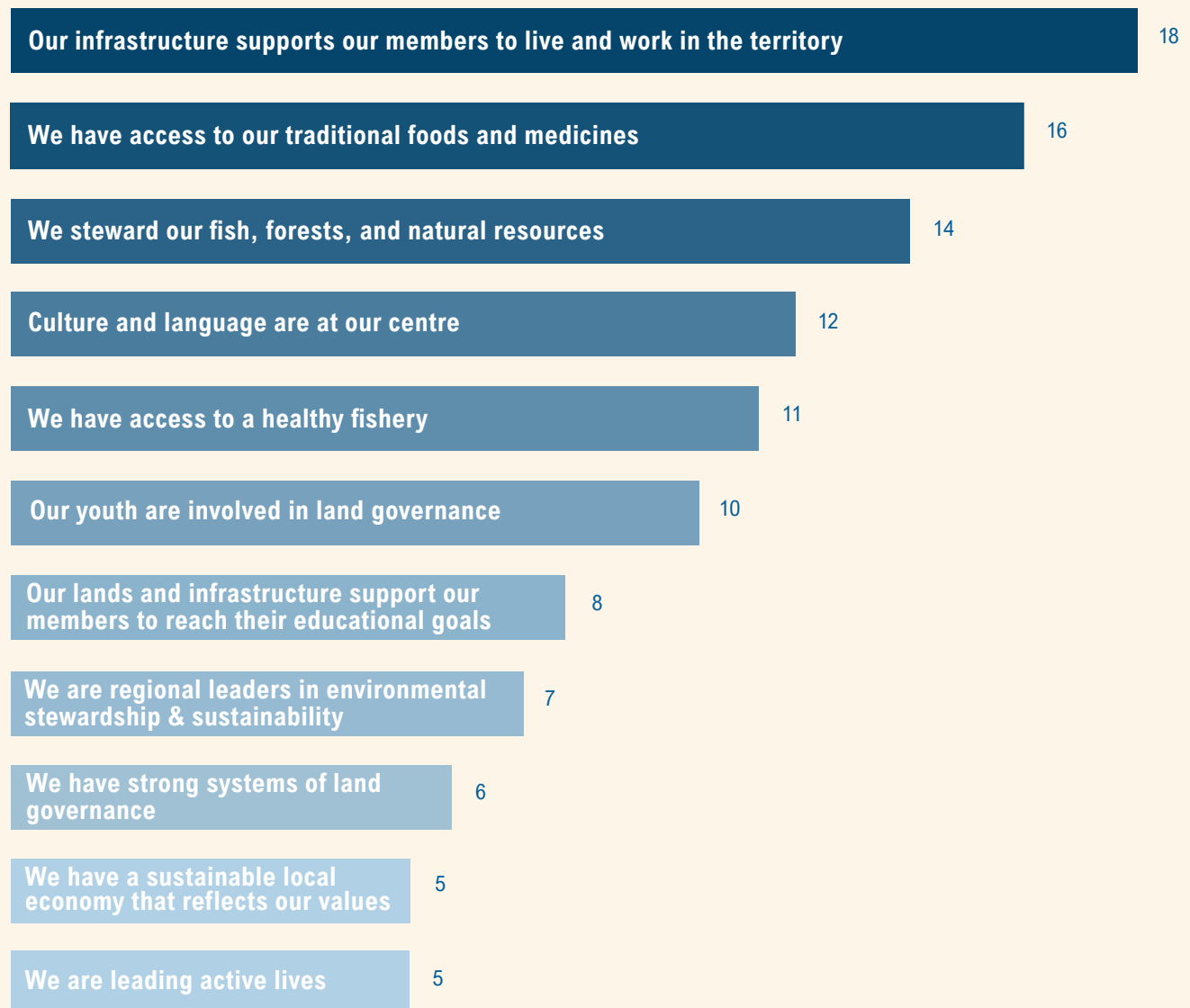
Transportation: 'Namgis roads and transportation options support community members to access opportunities.



Vision Element Prioritization

In preparation for the November open house, the project team drafted some vision elements based on a review of priorities identified in past 'Namgis planning documents such as the Comprehensive Community Plan and Strategic Plan. Participants of the November Open House were invited to vote on the vision elements they thought were most important for guiding the community land use plan.

What vision elements do you think are most important to guide our land use plan?



Strengths

Before talking about opportunities for change, we started by focusing on existing strengths on which 'Namgis is building. The following strengths were identified by LMAC, community members and youth during the community mapping exercise:



Big house: The Big House is described by community members as the heart of the community, a sacred gathering place that represents who 'Namgis is, tradition, history and the strength of 'Namgis people. It is a place that brings all Nations together in ceremony, dance and potlach.

"A place where we fall back into our traditions"

"I like that when we go to the big house everyone comes together as a community" (youth participant)

U'mista: A place for teaching tradition and history and increasing youth participation in culture. Also a place to share culture with visitors.

"It holds our treasures" (youth participant)

T'lisalagi'lakw School: A place where kids are learning to carry forward traditional knowledge, and where people gather.

Cultural sites: Places to honour ancestors such as the cemeteries and burial grounds. Waterways used for cultural cleansing.

"Our elders and chiefs reflected in the totems"

Wildlife and trees: Forested areas, undeveloped areas and trails.

"Preserve the island forest" (youth participant)

"The wildlife and trees because they produce air for us and they make medicine" (youth participant)

Recreation assets: The soccer field and recreation center that support children to keep active.

Docks and beaches: Places where people gather, swim and children play and build forts.

Economic development planning: Economic development planning with Alert Bay, joint ventures and the recent acquiring of Alert Bay cabins.

Water and Wastewater management: Leading in water and wastewater management on the island

Youth Engagement

On December 14th, members of the Lands Advisory Committee facilitated a community mapping exercise with youth at T'lisalagi'lakw School. Youth were invited to indicate on the map places that they like about their community and what they would like to see change in the future.

Some of the key themes from that exercise include:



Suns:

- » Appreciation for the Big House as a place that brings community together and a place to learn culture
- » Appreciation for U'mista as a place that holds community treasures
- » Appreciation for homes as a safe place to be with family
- » Appreciation for their school
- » Appreciation for places for play such as the sand pit, beaches and soccer field
- » Appreciation for green spaces, forests and trails



Clouds:

- » The desire for more activities for youth whether that be a movie theatre, water park, arcade or zoo
- » The desire for more places to buy things whether that be a pet store, toy store, restaurants or a place to buy their favourite products (Orchard Hill Iced Tea!)
- » The desire for more housing
- » The desire for cultural assets such as a language center or carving shed
- » The desire for a place for youth to come together such as a youth center
- » The desire for recreational assets such as a skate park, pool, more trails, new docks and parks and an upgraded field

Opportunities for Change

Community members and youth participated in a community mapping exercise where they were invited to indicate strengths and opportunities for change on 'Namgis reserve lands. This activity was also hosted online at engage.namgis.bc.ca. The following maps summarize some key opportunities identified through this exercise by location. Appendix 1 contains the original maps that summarize where community members placed comments during the community mapping exercise.

A CHES-LA-KEE 3

- » A second village with housing closer to jobs to make it easier for those who want to move back to 'Namgis territory
- » Rentals off reserve for folks who want to work in Port McNeill
- » Environmentally friendly business opportunities
- » Tourism
- » Protection of archeological sites

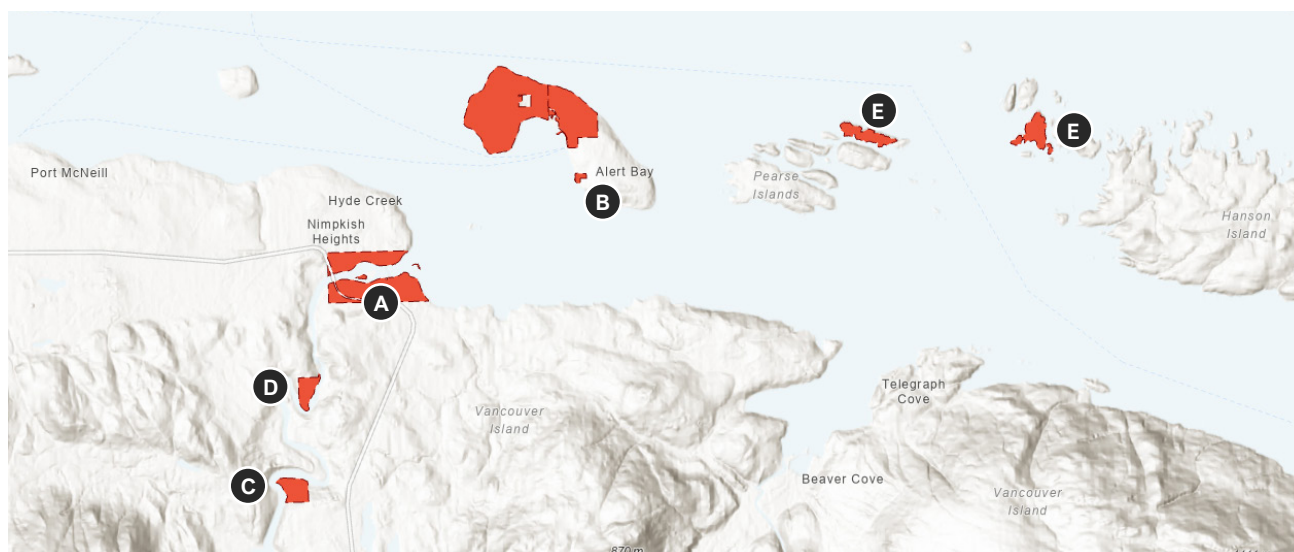
B NIMPKISH 2

Old Nurses' Residence

- » Economic development
- » Conference center
- » Community garden
- » Youth center
- » Recreational facilities
- » Housing density

Graveyard

- » Protect



C O-TSAW-LAS 5

- » Protection of old growth trees
- » Protection of historical sites
- » Protection of harvesting areas
- » Summer culture camp

D AR-CE-WY-EE 4

- » Protection of archeological sites
- » Economic opportunity for our youth

E KULDEKDUMA 7 / KSUI-LA-DAS 6

- » Leave undeveloped
- » Youth summer camp for wellness/ traditional knowledge center
- » Cultural retreat
- » Economic development- tourism (whale watching, fishing)

‘YALIS- ALERT BAY 1A AND ALERT BAY 1

A Grassy point

- » Campground
- » Park
- » Improved access
- » Treatment center- being around water is important
- » Protect eagle nests in area
- » Youth camp

B Gwakawe Campground

- » Expand and revitalize campground to create jobs and support tourism
- » Sewage transfer and water for campground
- » Green buildings
- » Housing
- » Canoe tours

C Near Big House

- » Carving center
- » Skatepark
- » Treatment center

D Soccer field

- » Upgrade field/concession stand
- » Put a track around it
- » Summer camping



E Clay Cliff / Yellow Bluff

- » Welcome figure
- » Natural trails
- » Protection of burial boxes

F U'mista

- » Stores
- » Language center

F U'mista Beach

- » Protection of beach
- » Dock and a diving board
- » Safe swimming area

G Breakwater

- » New breakwater
- » Fuel dock
- » Tourism
- » Full localized services and residential
- » Dock with a breakwater

H Waterfront

- » Better access to walk along the shoreline
- » Big house on the waterfront
- » Boardwalk reno

I Dock

- » Fuel dock
- » Stores
- » Services so that our boats don't have to go to Port McNeil

J Smitty's

- » Community garden
- » Green space
- » Growing fruit and veggies

K Sandpit

- » Change into a playground



L Site of the Former St. Michael's Residential School

- » Residential school memorial
- » Protected area until ground penetrating radar work complete
- » Kiosks for our very talented artists
- » Treatment center
- » Townhomes
- » Senior housing

General Opportunities for 'Yalis - Alert Bay 1A and 1

- » More housing
- » Mini homes
- » Wind farm
- » Commercial zoning to support small businesses developing in the community
- » Protection of green space

M Hospital / Health Buildings

- » Youth wellness / empowerment organization
- » Expand hospital for multi-level care

N Administration Building

- » Expand administration building
- » Highschool and adult basic education center

O Public Works Yard

- » Environmental clean up
- » Parks, buildings, stores

P Gatu Road and Wood Street

- » Opportunity to fix roads

Q Atli Road

- » Serviced lots - opportunity for new housing

R Cemetery

- » Expand capacity

Engagement Preferences

We received positive feedback from those who participated in our November open house. Participants commented on how much they appreciated the chance to come together and share their thoughts for the future. Suggestions for future events included large fonts for workshop materials and more door prizes.

"Lots to see and do, made me think about possibilities for this beautiful place"

"I got to see where our lands are and where they could be utilized"

"Very creative approach to get community members input"

"People genuinely interested in our future"

"More door prizes!"



Next Steps

The information gathered during this initial step will guide the land use planning process moving forward in the following ways:

- » Inform the team's understanding of opportunities and constraints relating to the land
- » Inform the Land Use Plan's vision, principles and core objectives
- » Inform the draft Land Use Plan designations that will set the vision for different parts of the land and describe what can and cannot happen in these places
- » Inform the design of future engagement activities including community engagement on the draft land designations

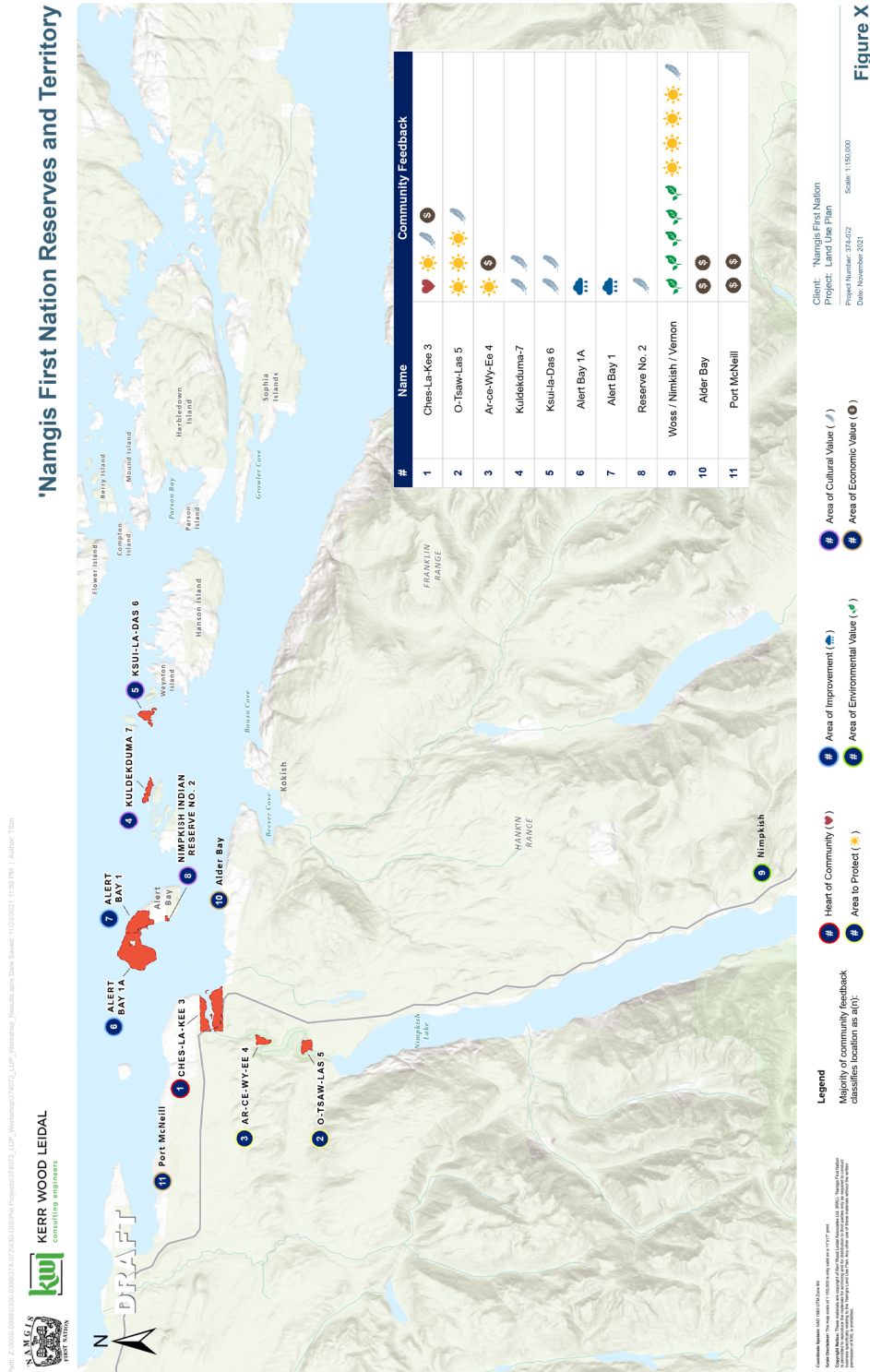
Gilakas'la.

Thank you to everyone who has participated to date and for reading this report.
We look forward to hosting you in our Step 2 engagement activities.

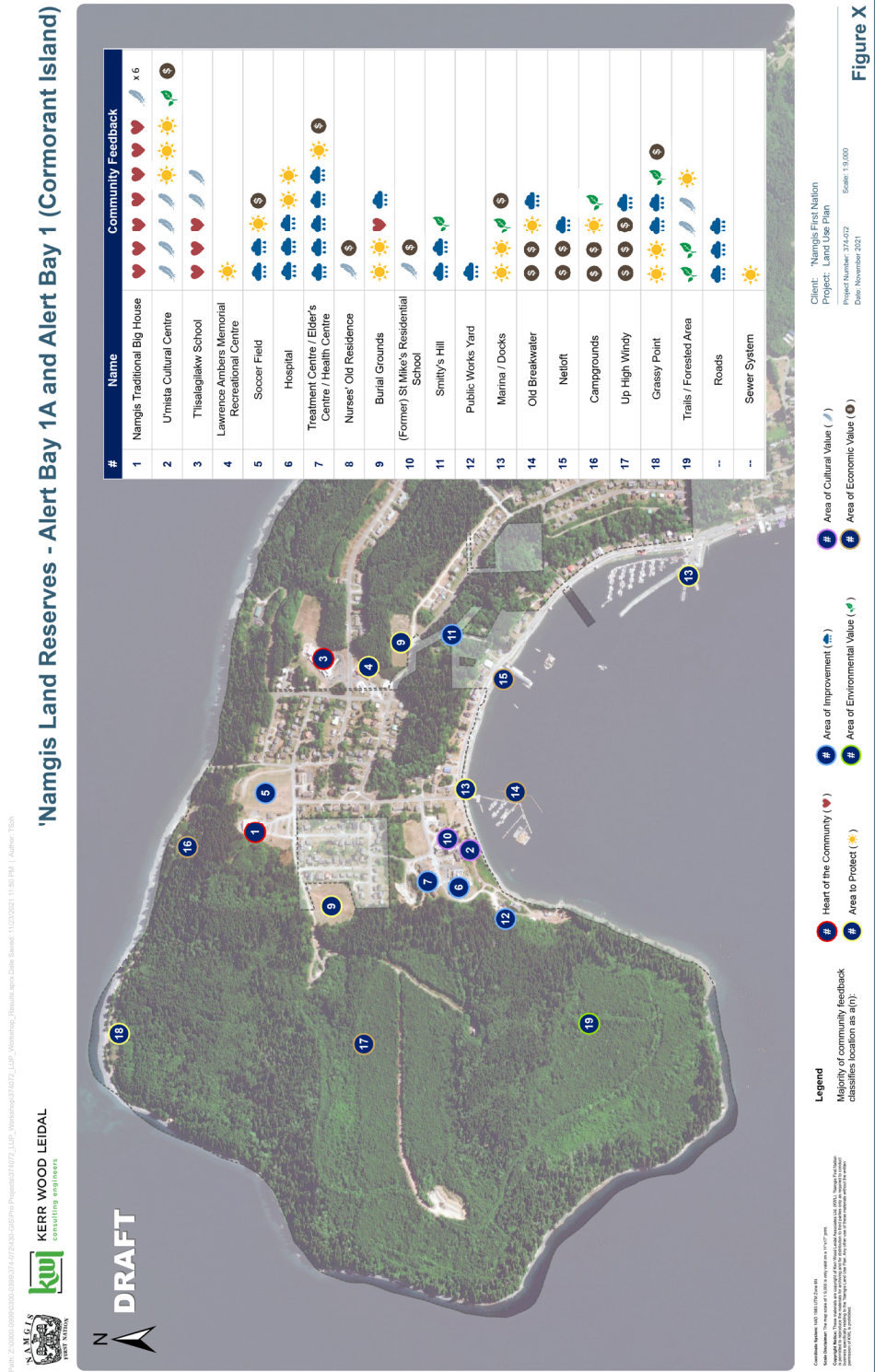
Visit engage.namgis.bc.ca for latest project news and register to receive project updates.

Appendix

Open House Mapping Exercise Summary: 'Namgis First Nation Reserves and Territory



Open House Mapping Exercise Summary: 'Namgis Land Reserves - Alert Bay 1A and Alert Bay 1



Appendix 3

Step 2 Engagement Summary Report

'Namgis Community Land Use Plan
Step 2 Engagement
Summary Report

Gilakas'la

We hold much gratitude for the approximately 80 community members who participated in the second phase of Land Use Plan engagement activities and have shared their ideas for a vision for 'Namgis community lands.

This project would not be possible without the guidance and work of the Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC): [Verna Ambers](#), [Tanis Dawson](#), [Brian Wadhams](#), [Samantha Webster](#) and LMAC staff secretariat [Megan Whonnock](#).

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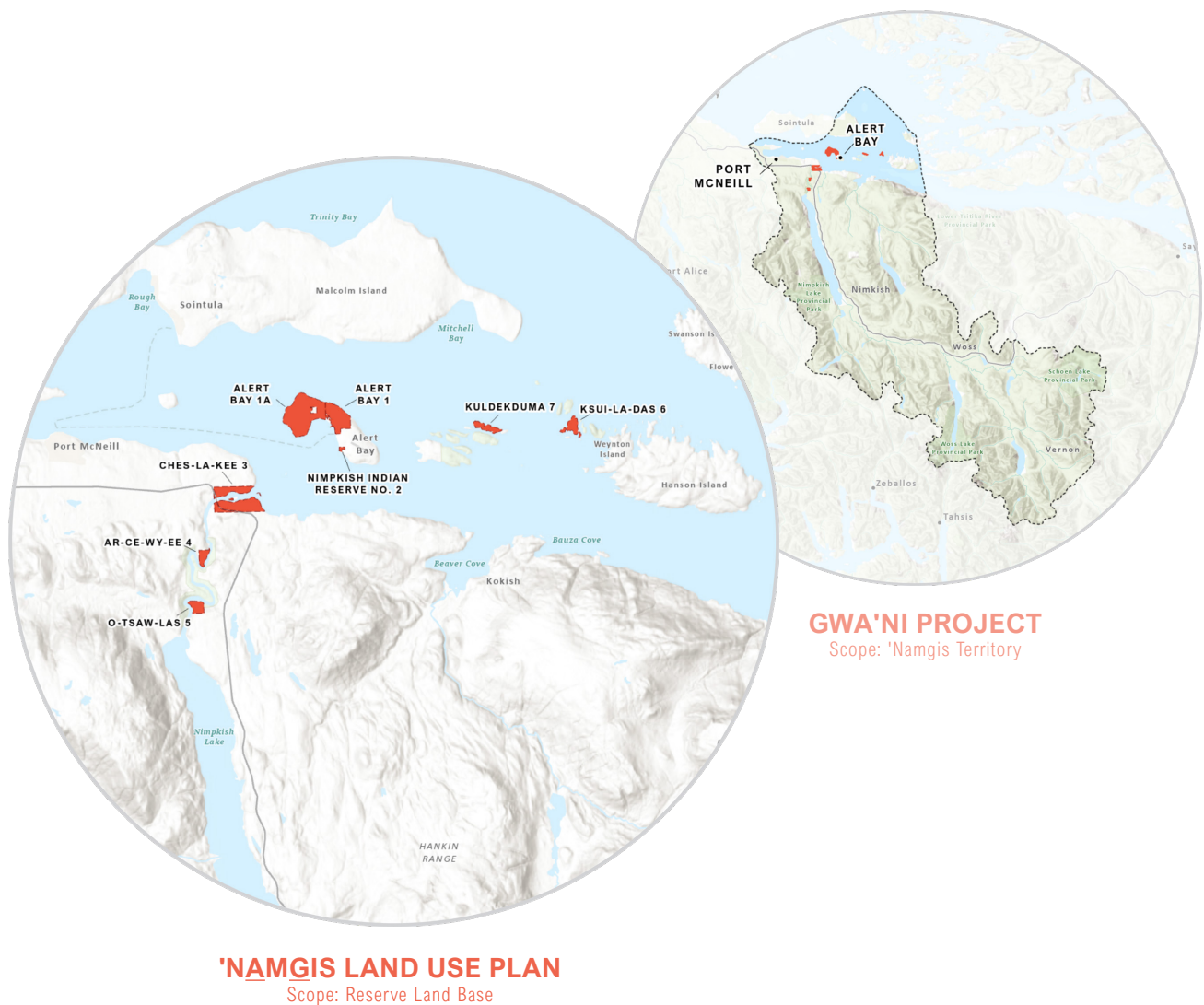
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The development of the Community Land Use Plan is guided by the Lands Department and the Lands Management Advisory Committee under the leadership of Chief and Council. The Land Use Plan is being developed in four steps as described below:



Step 1 was focused on identifying the guiding vision, principles, and objectives for the land use plan based on a review of past planning documents and engagement with the community which included:

- » The review of previous 'Namgis planning documents;
- » Two Lands Advisory Committee (LMAC) Meetings;
- » A November community open house;
- » A youth engagement session at T'lisalagi'lakw School; and
- » Virtual engagement at engage.namgis.bc.ca.

A report summarizing what we heard from community in Step 1 is available at engage.namgis.bc.ca.

This report summarizes the results of the engagement undertaken in Step 2 of the Community Land Use Planning process.

The results of these engagement activities will inform draft land use priorities and opportunities that are grounded in the shared vision and guiding principles determined through Step 1 engagement. Following feedback from the community throughout this engagement, the planning team will develop a draft land use plan for community review and input.



What We Did

2022

○ Lands Management Advisory Committee Meeting (March 2022)

In March 2022, the Lands Management Advisory Committee gathered to go over vision, principles, and objectives determined in Step 1 Engagement. Land use opportunities, draft land designations, and needed land use policies were discussed.

○ Community Open House (April 2022 and June 2022)



On April 20th, 2022 (15 participants) and June 23rd, 2022 (26 participants) 'Namgis community members gathered to review vision, principles and objectives, identify opportunities by location and identify priorities for land use designations.

The open house included 6 station-based activities:

- » Station 1: Project overview
- » Station 2: Confirming the vision, principles, and objectives of the land use plan
- » Station 3: Opportunities by location – sharing what we've heard, what we've learned, and gathering additional ideas
- » Station 4: Introduction to potential land designations
- » Station 5: Opportunities by land designation – discussing potential designations and gathering ideas
- » Station 6: Event feedback

The June event incorporated the feedback received at the April event and allowed community members to add any missing ideas. To increase opportunities for engagement, various engagement methods were created beyond the in-person open house. An interactive mapping activity and a community survey was made available on engage.namgis.bc.ca to make engagement digitally accessible, and additional land use planning worksheets were made available for folks who were unable to attend the open house but prefer non-digital engagement

○ Land Use Planning Table at Annual General Meeting (October 2022)

On October 22nd, members of the Land Use Planning team hosted an information table outside of the gym where the 'Namgis Annual General Meeting was being held. This provided the team to connect with members who had not attended any of our previous events. We connected with approximately 25 community members in one of three exercises:

Community mapping - A community mapping exercise where participants shared ideas for opportunities and considerations on maps of 'Namgis reserve lands

Ideas for action - We asked participants to share their ideas on actions for implementing the Land Use Plan's objectives:

- » Bring community members home by addressing the housing crisis and ensuring opportunities and services
- » Ensure opportunities for health and healing in the community and on the land
- » Support opportunities for cultural continuity, vitality and presence
- » Create economic opportunities for 'Namgis people
- » Facilitate access to traditional foods and medicines
- » Increase recreational and social opportunities that bring community members together

Measuring our success - we asked participants to share their ideas for how to measure success relating to the Land Use Plan principles and objectives with the following questions:

- » How will we know we have a healthy and resilient community?
- » How do we know our lands, forests and waters are taken care of?
- » How do we know we are addressing the housing crisis?
- » How do we know we have a connected and inclusive community?
- » How do we know we have economic opportunities?
- » How do we know that our culture is thriving?
- » How do we know we have access to traditional foods and medicines?
- » How do we know we are self-reliant?

At this event, we were also able to raise awareness of the virtual engagement platform at engage.namgis.bc.ca and gather feedback on engagement preferences.



○ Youth Engagement (June 2023)

On June 22nd, 2023, member of the Project Team met with 13 youth at the Lawrence Ambers Memorial Recreation Centre and facilitated a station-based workshop as follows:

- » Station 1: Introduction to Land Use Planning and the LUP Vision, Principles and Objectives - Youth learnt about the project and shared their feedback on the vision framework.
- » Station 2: Priorities by Planning Area - Youth reviewed priorities identified to date for each of the Reserves and identified the priorities that were most important to them
- » Station 3: Review of Draft Land Use Designations - Youth reviewed the draft Land Use Designations and added their thoughts on what they would like to see happen on Reserve lands
- » Station 4: Measuring our Success - Youth shared their thoughts on how we could measure the success of the Land Use Plan
- » Station 5: Event feedback - Youth shared their feedback on what they liked about the event and suggestions for future youth engagement

What We Heard

Key Themes

A number of engagement activities were designed to get community members thinking about their vision for the future of 'Namgis reserve lands and the values that should guide this future. The following is a summary of what we heard. The quotes and images shared were written by community members who were invited to write a postcard from the year 2050 to their family and friends still in 2021 and describe what they see and feel.

Here is a summary of the themes that were shared during Step 2:



Engagement Summary Word Cloud

History & Tradition: Acknowledging 'Namgis history and where we've been. Being sure to follow traditions while embracing new practices and supporting traditional education for youth. Protection of sacred spaces and archaeological sites on 'Namgis.

"Expand knowledge of traditional territory - stories & place names"

"To work with museum as partners, to designate and identify archaeological sites"

"Protection of heritage buildings"

"Walking in the shoes of our ancestors"

Health & Healing: Creation of a wellness center that offers both traditional and modern healing methods. Opportunities to grow herbs and medicines to support holistic medicine and healing. There is a need to protect natural spaces for traditional medicines, but also to create spaces to cultivate medicines. Many spoke of the need for a treatment center that is away from the center of the community and has access to nature and water. Others spoke of the need for more drug enforcement and education on drug trafficking.

"Elders center – we need one"

"Commercial - wellness centre, offer both traditional & modern healing methods (massage, reiki, brushings, etc.)"

"Implement holistic medicine and healing"

"Our healing is tied with healing of the earth"



Culture: Culture and language at the center of land use planning. Facilitating more opportunities for cultural land-based teaching. Creating a cultural teachings camp including language-based teachings.

“New field house for community events”

“Protection of heritage buildings”

“Language based everything, who are we without kwak’wala”

“More opportunities to learn dancing (different levels)”

Self-Determination & Knowledge (dlexsala): Acknowledging ‘Namgis traditional laws over lands and waters. Expanding knowledge of traditional territory by sharing stories and place names. Create an inventory of medicines and food species in ‘Namgis territory as a teaching tool for youth.

“Expand knowledge of traditional territory – stories & place names”

“More opportunities for connection to land”

Housing: More housing diversity including apartments and housing for singles or couples without children, for youth under 26 years old, as well as housing for Elders and to ensure that knowledge keepers can stay in the community. Three levels of housing needed were identified: no/low barrier, mid income housing and housing for large families. Some highlight the need to increase housing density to house members who may want to return to the reserve while others speak of the need to retain some lots for single family housing. Rentals to help attract new staff and to house professionals who may want to move to Alert Bay including housing near the treatment center for counsellors. Trailers, pre-fabricated buildings and single family wood cabins were suggested as housing types. There is an opportunity to support processes to help community members get a mortgage.

“Apartment buildings with at least 20 units for 1 or 2 person families”

“We are having a hard time employing people for the jobs we already offer due to lack of housing – there can’t be economic or commercial development if people don’t have anywhere to live”

“Rentals for professionals and outside people who move to Alert Bay”

“Need assisted living spaces for elders”



Multi-generational Care: Creating more opportunities to facilitate intergenerational knowledge (dlexsala) and prioritizing youth care, recreation, and education through the creation of a ‘N̓amgis youth centre. Caring for our Elders with the creation of an active Elder’s centre and offering outings for Elders, for example to Port Hardy to get groceries.

“Traditional exploration for youth”

“Youth centre needs to be central, near other amenities”

“Active Elders centre - it’s their space to shape”

Access: Finding ways to create access to currently inaccessible ‘N̓amgis lands while also ensuring the maintenance of trails. Creating more accessible information about the location of remote islands.

“O-Tsaw-Las 5 is difficult to access – finding ways to make this more accessible to ‘N̓amgis members”

“Trail to river”

Economic Development: Creating partnerships on commercial and economic projects. Having forestry companies be ‘N̓amgis owned or partnered. Ensuring that business contribute to the ‘N̓amgis community in a positive way. Updating the economic development committee. Revitalizing the campground. Providing more training and grants to support entrepreneurs. There is a desire to include fee simple lands in the conversation about land use planning and think about how to leverage this land for housing or economic development purposes.

“Forestry businesses should be ‘N̓amgis owned or partnered”

“Need life skills training”

“More ideas about environmentally friendly business opportunities”

“Revitalized campsite with views of nature and whales”

“Member run house building company”

Food Security: Making garden spaces accessible while also creating new gardens. Creating a smoke house to cure pink salmon, halibut, and chum.

“Potential for community gardens outside of current community garden space”

“More land designated for food security not just what's left over (agriculture)”

Environmental Sustainability: Maintaining stewardship and protection over 'Namgis lands. Prioritizing environmentally friendly business opportunities. Ensuring sustainable harvesting practices are in place.

“More ideas about environmentally friendly business opportunities”

“Need to make sure we don't over-harvest”

“Ensuring reciprocal relationship and replenishing practices”

“Ensure that the land is protected for the next generations”



Vision, Principles & Objectives

Based on the feedback we received during Step 1, we drafted vision, principles and objectives describing 'Namgis's vision for the future of their land.



Vision

The Land Use Plan Vision describes a desired future state for 'Namgis lands and was developed through a review of past planning documents and engagement with the LMAC and community members.

As 'Namgis people we are actively stewarding our lands and waters with access to our traditional foods, medicines, and economic opportunities. We are taking care of each other and thriving on these lands with culture and language at our centre

Principles

The Land Use Plan Principles describe how 'Namgis will manage their lands:

STEWARDSHIP

(a'axsila xan's a'winakole)

We are active stewards of fish, forests, and lands

RESILIENCE

We are regional leaders in renewable energy, sustainable building design and waste management and are adapting to the impacts of climate change

WELLNESS

We are taking care of each other, our Elders

KNOWLEDGE (dlexsala)

We honour our rich history and traditions and ensure continuation of culture, language and intergenerational learning

SELF-RELIANCE

We have strong, self-reliant, land governance systems and recognize 'Namgis traditional laws

INCLUSION ('Namakala)

We are planning together, regularly communicating and engaging 'Namgis members on and off reserve and building the leadership capacity of our youth

Objectives

The Land Use Plan Objectives describe how 'Namgis will bring their vision to life



Bring community members home by addressing the housing crisis and ensuring access to opportunities and services



Ensure opportunities for health and healing in the community and on the land



Support opportunities for cultural continuity, vitality, and presence



Create economic opportunities for 'Namgis people



Facilitate access to traditional foods and medicines



Increase recreational and social opportunities that bring community members together

During Step 2, participants reviewed the vision, principles and objectives and had an opportunity to provide feedback. Key themes arose from this review, including adding themes of 'Namgis history, self-determination, and the importance of 'Namgis traditional laws over land & waters.

The vision, principles, and objectives determined through community consultation inform the identified opportunities by location as well as the priorities for land use designation.

Opportunities for Change by Location

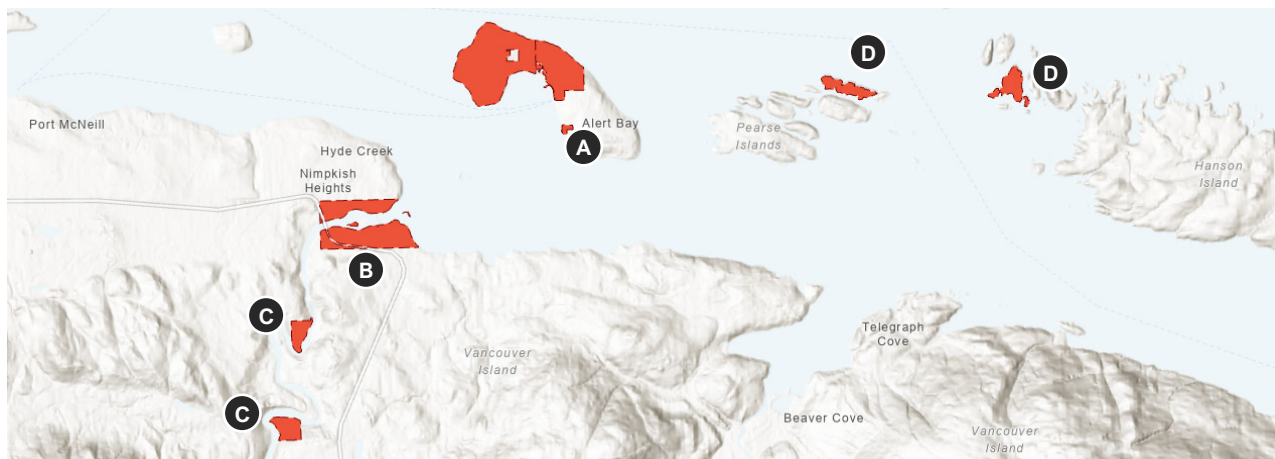
The following are opportunities for change by location on 'Namgis reserve lands, based on feedback from Step 2 community engagement. Participants were given the opportunity to view the current suggested opportunities for change by location, and offer their thoughts, feedback, or contribute new ideas for the changes that they would like to see on their lands.

A NIMPKISH (IR 2)

- » Revitalizing the old nurses' residence for economic development or housing
- » Youth centre at the old hospital
- » Wellness centre offering both traditional and modern healing methods
- » Community gardens near gator gardens
- » Housing for professionals, Elder's, and subsidized housing
- » Gas station that provides boat fuel
- » Recreational facilities
- » Pool, gym, grocery stores, playground, garden

B CHES-LA-KEE (IR 3)

- » Housing closer to jobs and out of floodplain
- » Member-owned economic development
- » Gas station and convenience store
- » Environmentally friendly business opportunities
- » Tourism
- » Accessible trail to river
- » Kayaking
- » Signage and monitoring to ensure respect of 'Namgis lands
- » Protection of archeological sites



C AR-CE-WY-EE (IR 4) / O-TSAW-LAS (IR 5)

- » Economic opportunity for youth
- » Protection of old growth trees and harvesting areas
- » Smoke house for curing pink salmon and chum
- » Expanding knowledge (*dlexsala*) of traditional territory with stories and place names
- » Finding ways to make O-Tsaw-Las more accessible to 'Namgis members
- » Develop a land base in the valley
- » Summer culture camp » River rafting
- » Buffer around the river » Retention of natural places

E KSUI-LA-DAS (IR 6) / KULDEKDUMA (IR 7)

- » Economic development / tourism (fishing, whale watching, kayak/canoe tours)
- » Youth summer camp for wellness/traditional knowledge center
- » Cultural retreat
- » Big House
- » Increase fishing opportunities
- » Halibut curing
- » Healing properties on the land
- » Retention of natural places

‘YALIS - THE BAY THAT IS WIDE OPEN (IR 1 & IR 1A)

A Grassy point

- » Campground
- » Park
- » Improved access
- » Treatment center- being around water is important
- » Protect eagle nests in area
- » Youth camp
- » More trails

B Gwakawe Campground

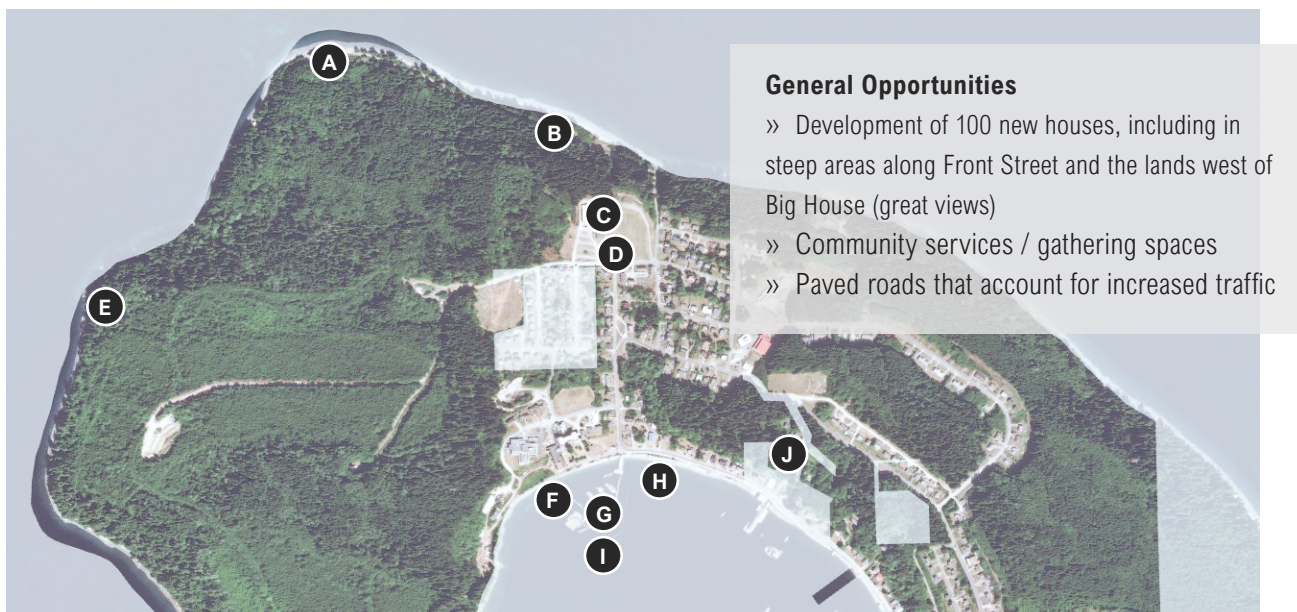
- » Expand and revitalize campground to create jobs and support tourism
- » Sewage transfer and water for campground
- » Green buildings
- » Housing
- » Canoe tours

C Near Big House

- » Carving center
- » Treatment center for youth

D Soccer field

- » Upgrade field/concession stand, new grandstand
- » Put a track around it



E Clay Cliff / Yellow Bluff

- » Welcome figure
- » Natural trails
- » Protection of burial boxes

F U'mista

- » Stores
- » Language center

F U'mista Beach

- » Protection of beach
- » Dock and a diving board
- » Safe swimming area

G Breakwater

- » New breakwater
- » Fuel dock
- » Tourism
- » Full localized services and residential
- » Dock with a breakwater

H Waterfront

- » Better access to walk along the shoreline
- » Big house on the waterfront
- » Boardwalk reno

I Dock

- » Fuel dock
- » Stores
- » Services so that our boats don't have to go to Port McNeil

J Smitty's

- » Community garden
- » Green space
- » Growing fruit and veggies



L Site of the Former St. Michael's Residential School

- » Residential school memorial
- » Protected area until ground penetrating radar work complete
- » Kiosks for our very talented artists
- » Treatment center
- » Townhomes
- » Senior housing

M Hospital / Health Buildings

- » Youth wellness / empowerment organization
- » Expand hospital for multi-level care

N Administration Building

- » Expand administration building
- » Highschool and adult basic education center

O Public Works Yard

- » Environmental clean up
- » Parks, buildings, stores

P Gatu Road and Wood Street

- » Opportunity to fix roads

Q Atli Road

- » Serviced lots - opportunity for new housing

R Cemetery

- » Expand capacity

Introduction to Land Use Designations

Engagement from Step 1 facilitated the creation of draft land use designations. The following table summarizes each identified land use designation as well as potential locations on 'Namgis reserve lands.

	TYPE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
	Protected Area Culture	Culturally protected areas in which development will not be supported unless it supports culturally appropriate activities	Big house, archaeological sites, burial grounds, harvesting areas, areas of spiritual or cultural importance, historical cabins, culture camps
	Housing	Land which is primarily used for housing. Designates areas for future housing developments and more dense housing forms which can include both single family and multifamily housing	Single family homes, housing for singles, multifamily housing, Elder's housing, home-based businesses
	Mixed Use	Designated areas for multifamily housing mixed with businesses	New development areas
	Commercial	Land for use by for-profit businesses that generate revenue and/or jobs for 'Namgis members	'Namgis owned businesses, dock/marina, stores, restaurants/coffee Shops, offices
	Tourism Commercial	Land reserved for commercial organization and operation of activities catering to tourists/visitors	Campground, accommodation, museum, tourism shops, guided tours
	Community Use	Land used for community-owned buildings and facilities aimed at administration, education, recreation or health	Administration building, schools, adult education, raining facilities, health, recreation, youth centre, community garden
	Light Industrial	Land used for light manufacturing, processing, community infrastructure and storage of equipment	Waste management, alternative energy, public works supplies, fish processing, wastewater plant, community, community water supply wells, sewage pump stations
	Resource Area	Land primarily used for economic development balanced with the need for environmental stewardship	Forestry, commercial fishing, wind and hydro energy generation
	Natural Area	Preservation of wildlife habitat and environmental areas for 'Namgis member traditional use & recreation	Rivers and streams, medicinal plant areas, nature trails and parks, culture camps
	Food	Land put aside for food production and harvesting	Community garden, medicinal plant areas
	Coastal	Land put aside for shoreline restoration. Land not to be developed in the future to protect people and buildings from future sea level rise	Shoreline

Priorities for Land Use Designations

Based on the feedback we received in Step 1 engagement, we identified several opportunities by draft land use designation. Participants were invited to indicate their level of importance for each opportunity and to add any opportunities that were missing.



HOUSING

Land which is primarily used for housing

Housing was consistently identified as a top priority for participants. Community engagement revealed:

- » A desire for more diverse housing options
- » Increased housing density to address the housing crisis
- » A need for housing specifically for singles and Elders was identified
- » A need for the ability to facilitate home-based businesses
- » Rental units to house professionals moving to Alert Bay
- » Interest in a tiny homes pilot project for singles
- » Desire for increased supports for members to own their own homes



COMMERCIAL

Land for use by businesses that generate revenue and/or jobs for 'Namgis members

Community engagement revealed:

- » More support is needed for 'Namgis businesses and entrepreneurs
- » Increase in services and activities for 'Namgis community members
- » Environmentally sustainable businesses and tourism economy should be prioritized
- » New jobs and opportunities should be created for 'Namgis professionals



PROTECTED AREAS - CULTURE

Culturally protected areas in which development will not be supported unless it supports culturally appropriate activities

Community engagement revealed:

- » The need to protect archaeological sites, burial sites/cemeteries, and heritage buildings
- » The need to expand cemetery capacity
- » The desire to protect harvesting areas



RESOURCE USE

Land used for economic development balanced with the need for environmental stewardship

Community engagement revealed:

- » A desire to support the forestry business
- » That the forestry business should be 'Namgis owned and operated
- » A desire to restore fisheries



Land used for community-owned & operated buildings & facilities aimed at administration, education, recreation or health

Community engagement revealed:

- » The desire for new community spaces to be used for recreation, health, wellness, and social gatherings
- » The desire for a youth centre that's focused on sharing traditional knowledge (dlexsala) and education
- » A general expansion of recreational opportunities
- » A need to expand education from K-12 and supportive adult education opportunities including kwak'wala language classes
- » A desire for a life skills training centre to improve employee skill sets
- » A need for upgrades to community park spaces
- » A need for an expanded administration building



Land used for light manufacturing, processing, community infrastructure and storage of equipment

Community engagement revealed:

- » That caution against over-development should be practiced
- » That industrial designations should enhance economic opportunities
- » A desire to seek opportunities for alternative energy
- » A desire to expand off-reserve
- » A need to identify areas vulnerable to sea level rise and avoid new development in those areas



Preservation of wildlife habitat and environmental areas for 'Namgis member traditional use and recreation

Community engagement revealed:

- » A desire to facilitate opportunities for culture camps and learning on the land
- » A need to protect old growth
- » Caution about over-harvesting
- » The need to maintain trails
- » A desire for enhanced access to harvesting traditional food and medicinal plants



Land put aside for food production and harvesting

Community engagement revealed the need to add an additional food security land use designation. Key priorities for this designation include:

- » A desire to enhance current community gardens as well as create new ones
- » A need for more land designated specifically to food security
- » More learning and education opportunities to teach

Youth Engagement

On June 22rd 2023, members of the Project Team met with 13 youth who shared their ideas for the future of 'Namgis lands.

Overall priorities most supported by Youth include:

- » Increase number of housing units available
- » Constructing a treatment centre and creating more opportunities for health and healing on the land
- » Creating a youth centre to support the next generation of 'Namgis members and promote intergenerational knowledge sharing
- » Limiting resource intensive commercial industry to maintain and protect 'Namgis wildlife and greenspace
- » Creating new spaces for food harvesting, such as community gardens and a smoke house to facilitate access to traditional foods
- » Protect old growth trees, historical and archaeological sites

Youth also shared their thoughts on the draft Land Use Designations. The following are some key highlights from that conversation:

- » I like how much natural area has been designated on Yalis
- » Like to see the expansion of housing
- » Opportunity for more trails on Yalis
- » Opportunity for more places for recreation and socializing on Yalis:
 - » Pool
 - » Movie theatre
 - » Gym
 - » Grocery stores
 - » Playground
 - » Garden near new Youth Centre on IR2
- » Like the retention of natural places for IR 4, 5, 6 and 7



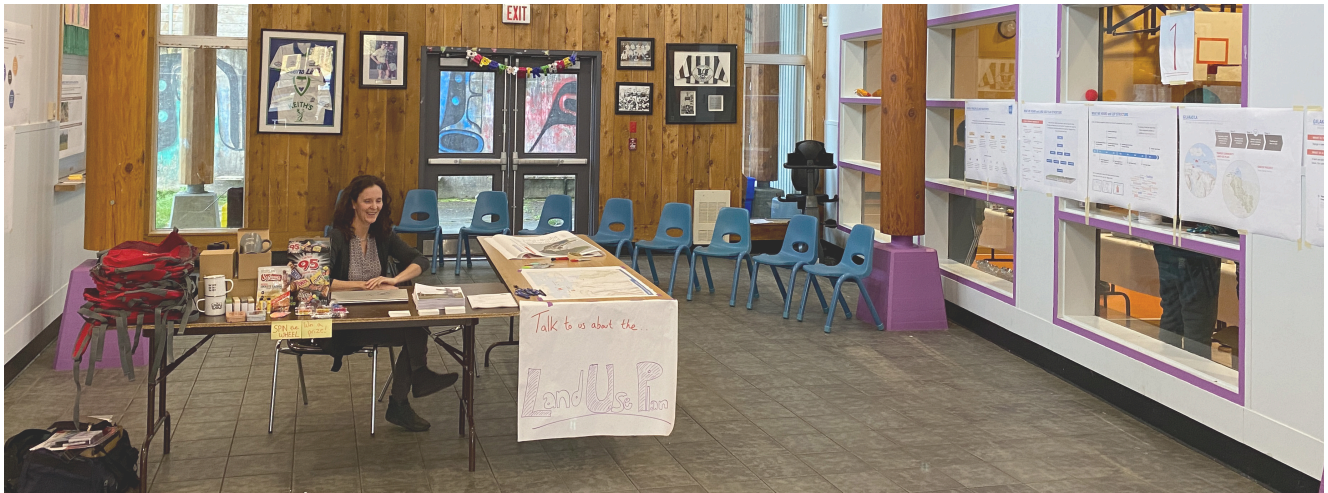
Measuring Success

During the October 22nd AGM, we intercepted attendees and asked for those thoughts on how to measure the success of the land use plan. We repeated this activity with youth participants during our June 2023 youth workshop. Here are what participants shared with us:





Engagement Preferences



Overall, we received positive feedback to the open house station-based style events hosted to date. However, some participants would prefer to share their perspectives in a smaller group that leaves more time for dialogue. Quotes shared by participants after the event include:



"Well laid out information"

"More interaction with participants for input"

"Would really like to see more action with information collected of where things can move forward in a positive manner"

"Can we use proper kwak'wala for IR's?"

"I enjoyed the opportunities for more housing, protecting land-based areas, tourism, and job opportunities"

"Make paper newsletters available for Elders"

"I love that they are including youth"

"I like that we got to learn about the land and our territory"

"We should have more events like this"

"I enjoyed being able to share my ideas"

Next Steps

The results of Step 2 engagement have informed the drafting of the 'Namgis Land Use Plan. In the final step of the engagement process, community members will have the opportunity to review and provide comment on the draft Land Use Plan.

Gilakas'la.

Thank you to everyone who has participated to date and for reading this report.

Visit engage.namgis.bc.ca for latest project news and register to receive project updates.

