

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

Between the Council of the Haida Nation
and the Gowgaia Institute
(herein referred to as “the Parties”)

WHEREAS

The Haida Nation has occupied its territory for thousands of years. The Haida territory consists of Haida Gwaii and surrounding waters; and

The Haida Nation therefore holds Hereditary title as well as Aboriginal Title and Rights and Responsibilities for the well-being of Haida territory, people and culture.

The Haida culture is derived of the relationship of the people to the lands, the waters, and the life of their territory.

The government of British Columbia and Canada have wrongfully granted licenses to outside interests to exploit the lands and water of the Haida territory and these have proven to put economic interests above all else.

The Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) is currently seeking to regain control of its lands and waters through negotiations, litigation and assertion of authority.

AND WHEREAS

The Gowgaia Institute’s members and employees – some of whom are Haida and others who have chosen Haida Gwaii as their home and place to raise their families – are committed to social justice and environmental well-being.

The Gowgaia Institute respects the Aboriginal Sovereign Authority of the Haida, and since its formation in 1994 it has worked cooperatively with the Haida Nation.

The Gowgaia Institute has a mission to promote the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Haida Gwaii. Our goal is to protect and sustain all of the values and functions of the islands’ ecosystems, to ensure that the fish and forests and natural beauty we enjoy today are here in equal measure for our children and the generations to come. This means adjusting the current governing management principles, economic structures, rate of resource extraction, and system of natural protected areas accordingly.

The Parties share concern for the health and well-being of Haida Gwaii and on that basis will maintain a constructive working relationship.

THEREFORE

The Parties agree as follows:

1. RESPECT

- a) The Gowgaia Institute respects the leadership role of the CHN in land and marine planning initiatives, resource decision-making, and political actions regarding Haida Gwaii.
- b) The Gowgaia Institute will not make any public statements which describe or advocate the interests or positions of the CHN without prior clearance.
- c) The CHN respects the work of the Gowgaia Institute in promoting the well-being of Haida Gwaii.

2. COMMON CAUSE

- a) The Parties agree that maintaining and improving the well-being of the land and waters, and the life forms and communities that they support is our common cause and priority for action.
- b) The Parties believe that economic use of the lands should be carried out with minimum ecological disruption.

3. COOPERATION

- a) The Parties recognize that their combined efforts will further their common objectives in pursuit of the sustainable use and stewardship of the earth.
- b) The Parties will jointly prepare workplans and agree to review such plans every six months, or from time to time as updates are required. The workplan will outline the goals and objectives of collaborative projects, and any specific details regarding the nature of the projects. The workplan will serve as a strategic frame work for developing detailed joint funding proposals and project plans throughout the year.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Both Parties commit to share information about joint projects in an open and timely manner.
- a) A liaison from each organization will be appointed to be the point of contact for each organization.