



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GAAYHLLXID • GÍHLAGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

What is the purpose of this Agreement?

The purpose of this Agreement is in section 2.1: “British Columbia recognizes and affirms that the Haida Nation has Aboriginal Title to Haida Gwaii protected under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.”

What does “Recognition” mean?

“Recognition” does not create title. The sovereign right to occupy and govern Haida Gwaii has always existed. Recognition simply provides a legal guarantee that Haida Gwaii is now and forever the territory of the Haida Nation and that the Crown, in its dealings with Haida Gwaii, is bound by that fact.

Will this Agreement affect health, education or our status cards?

No, this Agreement does not affect the delivery of public services, including health and education. It does not affect status cards and the Band Councils remain.

Why are we doing this now?

In 2019, we began negotiations with both the provincial and federal governments and in 2021, the GayGahlda/Kwah.hlahl.dáyaa “Changing Tide” Framework for Reconciliation was signed that sets out the principles, approach and agenda for negotiations. This Agreement follows that framework. If the Agreement is approved, it reduces the time and cost spent on litigation. The court case is scheduled to begin in 2026, and this means it could be 5-10 years before there is a ruling on our title to Haida Gwaii.

What does the Agreement give us?

The Agreement recognizes Haida Aboriginal Title to all of Haida Gwaii by BC to the same degree as a win in court. It secures Haida Gwaii today and for future generations to determine our own future.

What does this mean for everyone else?

We have always said that we will not dispossess Island residents who are not of Haida ancestry and who live on Haida Gwaii. This is clear in our Title Case and reflects our continued commitment to make a future with our friends, family and neighbours. In this way, and consistent with the Protocols we have signed with Island communities, we have agreed that fee simple lands and local governments/municipalities will continue under provincial jurisdiction. Highways and public infrastructure also remain under provincial jurisdiction.

What is the path forward and what still needs to be sorted out?

During a transition process to reconcile Haida and BC jurisdictions and laws, we expect to further develop and codify Haida laws. As this work is being done, we will further develop our capacity to continue to exercise jurisdiction over our lands. The focus will be to align the use of the land with Haida Aboriginal Title and values. We have committed to undertake this work in an incremental and orderly way.