

A group of six diverse construction workers, including men and women of various ethnicities, are posed on a metal staircase. They are all wearing safety gear: hard hats (in blue, orange, black, white, and yellow), safety glasses, and high-visibility vests (in yellow and orange). They are holding onto the metal railings of the stairs. The background shows the structural elements of a building under construction, with concrete walls and metal grates.

DOING BUSINESS IN

Tahltan Territory

TAHLTAN
Central Government

Early meaningful engagement with the Tahltan Nation is not only a requirement but a prerequisite for the success of your project.

Potential project proponents interested in doing business in Tahltan Territory must first engage the Tahltan Nation via the Tahltan Central Government (TCG). Engaging the TCG means: introducing your project from the outset, discussing project planning, and exploring how the Tahltan Nation will be involved.

This guide provides parties interested in doing business in Tahltan Territory with important information on how to establish and maintain a mutually beneficial working relationship with the Tahltan Nation.¹

¹ Doing business in this context refers to resource development, land planning, land management (enhancement, wildlife regulations, fish regulations, etc.), recreation and tourism or any other decision or activity that affects Tahltan Territory. Parties may include governments, industrial and resource users/developers, tourism operators etc.



Approach to Business and Resource Development in Tahltan Territory

TCG has vast experience working with the mineral exploration and mining industry, from the earliest stages of a project through to reclamation and ongoing monitoring.



As a first step in building that relationship, the TCG has developed an ***Early Engagement Protocol: Communications Agreement, Opportunity Sharing Agreement, and Exploration Agreement***. Each agreement applies to a different phase of engagement and project development. Together, they begin the process of building a positive relationship with the Nation.

TCG requires that any development in Tahltan Territory is responsible and sustainable and that it respects Tahltan values, principles, title and rights. With that said, TCG is interested in mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships that lead to job creation and capacity building for the Tahltan Nation, and contract opportunities for the Nation's entrepreneurs and business arm, the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC).

Mining is part of our culture. For thousands of years, Tahltans prospected and mined obsidian. Tahltans turned the obsidian into essential tools and an important trading resource. Obsidian artifacts have been found thousands of kilometres away, hinting at the immense trade network and its high value. In the late 1800's, Tahltans supported miners during the gold rush. We remain a sophisticated mining Nation, now with generations of modern industry experience.

Tahltan leadership, on behalf of the Tahltan Nation, will attempt to work with industry to ensure that resources within Tahltan Territory are used for our mutual benefit and in a manner that respects Tahltan culture and traditions.

CURRENT INDUSTRY RELATIONS

As of 2019, the Tahltan Nation, through the TCG, has concluded a number of final agreements for operating projects within Tahltan Territory. These include:

- Impact, Benefits and Co-Management Agreement for the Red Chris Mine
- Impact, Benefits and Co-Management Agreement for Brucejack
- Impact and Benefits Agreement for the Iskut Transmission Line Extension Project
- Participation Agreement for the Galore Creek Mine Project
- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) relating to the Forrest Kerr run-of-the-river hydroelectric project operated by AltaGas Ltd.
- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) relating to the McLymont Creek run-of-the-river hydroelectric project operated by AltaGas Ltd.
- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) relating to the Volcano Creek² run-of-the-river hydroelectric project operated by AltaGas Ltd.
- Red Chris Management Agreement (RCMA) with the Province of British Columbia
- Shared Decision-Making Agreement (SDMA) with the Province of British Columbia

Each of these agreements provides significant benefits to the Tahltan Nation by way of preferred employment and contracting opportunities, direct financial participation, and environmental protections, among others.

² The Tahltan Nation is an equity owner in the Volcano Creek facility, purchasing a 2.7% interest in late 2014.

Tahltan History



We have lived in and occupied Tahltan Territory since time immemorial. Our Nation comprises two primary Tahltan clans, Crow and Wolf, which were each divided into matrilineal sub-clans.

Around 1875, after small pox wiped out most of our people, the leaders of the sub-clans agreed to amalgamate under a single leader. This represented the Nation's move away from a hereditary system and towards a system that is reflected in today's Tahltan Nation governance.

Our identity, and the essence of who we are as a distinct society, are integrally tied to the land and the wealth of the resources therein. Our connection to the land is paramount. We claim sovereign rights to our Territory as articulated in the *1910 Declaration of the Tahltan Tribe*.

In 1910, Tahltan Chief Nannok, along with 80 other Tahltan leaders, signed the *Tahltan Declaration*. The document asserted our traditional and continued sovereignty over Tahltan land. It declared that any land interests concerning Tahltan Traditional Territory must be settled directly with the Tahltan people.

As we continue to advance our culture and Nation, we rely on the same territory and resources that sustained our ancestors. Many Tahltan people continue to practice a subsistence economy, which includes fishing, hunting, and gathering. We Tahltans must carefully consider development activities that may adversely impact our values, underpinned by our inherited responsibility to protect our lands and water for future generations.



About the Tahltan Nation

The Tahltan Central Government (TCG) is the administrative governing body of the Tahltan Nation. The Iskut Band and the Tahltan Band continue to govern Tahltan interest in respect of the Indian Act but have endorsed the TCG as the representative government of the Tahltan Nation in respect of inherent Aboriginal title and rights. This means the TCG is responsible for the ecosystem and natural resources of Tahltan Territory, for managing sustainable economic development, and for strengthening the cultural wellness of the Tahltan Nation.

The TCG is a registered British Columbia Society, governed by a 13-person Board of Directors consisting of a democratically elected Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, and Secretary Treasurer) and 10 Family Representatives elected by the respective Tahltan family group. Membership in the TCG is open to all people of Tahltan ancestry.

The Tahltan population is approximately 4000 members. Approximately 800 members live in one of our three communities in Tahltan Territory – Dease Lake, Iskut, and Telegraph Creek. Around 3200 Tahltans reside outside the territory.



TAHLTAN TERRITORY

Tahltan Territory is 95,933 km² or the equivalent of 11% of British Columbia.

If the Tahltan Nation were its own country, we would be bigger than Portugal and slightly smaller than South Korea.

The territory is rich in natural resources and continues to garner international attention for its mineral potential and abundant wildlife.

Tahltan Territory is home to:

- Approximately 70% of BC's resource rich Golden Triangle;
- Three of BC's 19 operating mines or their shared footprint;
- Approximately 25% of BC's exploration activities by expenditure, 4% of Canada's, 0.6% of the world;
- In 2018, exploration expenditures on projects estimated at over \$80 million, with production values for active mines estimated to be over \$334 million.

Guiding Principles to Business Development

The *1910 Declaration of the Tahltan Tribe*, which affirm Tahltan ownership and sovereignty over Tahltan Territory, provides the foundation for our guiding principles. Resource developers must adhere to the principles when operating within the Tahltan Territory.

All business development, including resources and industrial, is guided by the *1987 Tahltan Resource Development Policy* and the principles found within:

- Assurance that the development will not pose a threat of irreparable environmental damage;
- Assurance that the development will not jeopardize, prejudice or otherwise compromise the outstanding Tahltan title, rights and interests;
- Assurance that the project will provide more positive than negative social impacts on Tahltan people;
- Provision for the widest possible opportunity for education and direct employment-related training for Tahltan people in connection with the project;
- Provision for the widest possible opportunity for employment opportunities for Tahltan people with respect to all phases of the development;
- Provision for substantial equity participation by Tahltans in the total project;
- Provision for the widest possible development of Tahltan business opportunities over which the developer may have control or influence; and
- Provision of financial and managerial assistance and managerial assistance and advice where deemed necessary.

TCG Lands Department

Any potential project proponent will need to work with the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) Lands Department, who will inform you of our *Chance Find Procedure* and our *Tahltan Archaeological Standards* policy, both of which underscore important features, site types, and tasks that need to be considered when conducting business in Tahltan Territory.



The TCG Lands Department is responsible for the management of the environment, wildlife, and resources in Tahltan Territory. This includes guidance on culturally-significant and wildlife-sensitive areas. The TCG Lands Department works with industry and government to ensure sustainable land-based economic development opportunities that benefit all Tahltans. The technical arm of the Lands Department is the ***Tahltan Heritage Resource Environmental Assessment Team (THREAT)***. THREAT's responsibility is to support the protection of Tahltan environmental, social, cultural, heritage and economic interests that may be affected by industrial activity in Tahltan Territory. THREATS operates independent of government and industry. Their role includes: assessing potential impacts from new and existing industrial development on Tahltan Territory, identifying options for avoiding or mitigating impacts, and ensuring that Tahltan people are meaningfully involved in regulatory processes and project reviews.

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC)

Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC), the business arm of the Tahltan Nation, pursues sustainable and responsible business and economic development opportunities in the region.

TNDC was established in 1985 to enable the Tahltan Nation to fully participate in the economic activities and development occurring within our traditional territory and to provide employment, training, and contracting opportunities to Tahltan members.

The Tahltan Nation expects companies working in Tahltan Territory to establish a business relationship with and give priority to TNDC in retaining the services, products, and materials of TNDC and its partners.

TNDC provides Heavy Construction and Camp Services to all industries operating in Tahltan Territory. This includes resource exploration, mine development and operations, building construction, forestry, hydroelectric power, civil projects, highways, other infrastructure and public works. TNDC also provides labour, logistics, expediting, personnel shuttles, ground transportation, heavy equipment hauling and support operations in administration and accounting.

To expand its service capabilities, TNDC has established partnerships with industry experts providing a range of services, including camp services, catering and management, helicopter and fixed wing

air services, road construction and maintenance, communications and IT management, drilling and blasting, environmental and engineering, heavy equipment operation, power line construction, tunneling, transportation and fuel.

TNDC owns and leases a modern fleet of heavy equipment, including bulldozers, excavators, graders, loaders, trucks and other heavy equipment that enables it to carry out a wide range of services. Together with its business partners, TNDC can support all phases of resource development, from exploration through to reclamation.

With locally-based equipment, personnel, knowledge and experience, TNDC has established a reputation as an experienced, reliable, and competitive heavy construction, road building, and camp services company focussed on safety, quality, and integrity.

Companies conducting work in Tahltan Territory should contact TNDC to discuss these services, products, and materials that TNDC and its partners can provide.



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To learn more about the Tahltan Central Government, visit us at: **tahltn.org**
and on our Facebook at:
facebook.com/tahltagovernment

To learn more about Tahltan Nation Development Corporation's services and capabilities, visit us at: **www.tndc.ca**

