

HAISLA NATION

Comprehensive Community Plan

OVERVIEW



Our Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is a roadmap to help guide community development in both Kitamaat Village and for members living outside our traditional territory. As a high-level plan, it will help guide the development of future Haisla Nation plans and strategies.

A PLAN FOR ALL MEMBERS

Our CCP is for all Haisla members, no matter where they live. This commitment is reflected in the CCP Strategies, some of which are focused on members living in communities outside our traditional territory, like Vancouver and Terrace.

Making this CCP about all members sets it apart from our 2009 Community Development Plan which focused primarily on Kitamaat Village. Our focus on all members no matter where they live also makes our CCP unique in BC and Canada. Something else we should be proud of with this plan!



VISION

Our CCP is organized around and guided by our vision. Our vision is like the canoe that will carry us forward in our journey. Supporting the vision are a strong group of paddlers. The paddlers represent our Community Goals, which are the areas we need to work on as we move towards our vision. The paddles represent the CCP Strategies, which are program and project ideas that will help us achieve our Community Goals.

HAISLA COMMUNITY VISION

Our Community Vision was first developed for our 2009 Community Development Plan and confirmed with members through the CCP process as a future they would like to work towards.

Building a powerful, prosperous, and proud Nation healthy in mind, body, and spirit



HAISLA COMMUNITY GOALS

With members' help, we identified and prioritized our community goals so we can tackle the ones that matter most first. Although members agreed with the order listed below, they also felt that priorities could change over time and should be reviewed regularly



HOUSING Increase access to healthy, affordable, suitable housing for all members.



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE Revitalize Haisla language and cultural practices.



YOUTH Support the growth and development of our children and youth to be strong, successful, and independent.



EDUCATION Provide high quality education, capacity building, and employment training for all members.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Promote economic development that respects community values and creates employment, and skills development opportunities for members.



ELDERS Support our Elders and facilitate intergenerational learning opportunities.



ENVIRONMENT Protect and steward our traditional territory, including fisheries and watersheds.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING Support physical, spiritual, and emotional health and wellbeing through holistic programs that reflect Haisla culture.



COMMUNITY SAFETY Support our members to feel safe and secure in their communities.

HAISLA CCP STRATEGIES

As we developed our CCP, we talked to over 300 community members who helped us identify and prioritize strategies. These are plans, projects, and programs that represent the work that needs to be done to help us achieve our goals and reach our vision.

Quick Starts

These are simple things that we've already done some work on, don't cost much money, and can do right away put the CCP on the ground and build momentum for other projects.

Communications and Engagement Strategy

- **Why?** Members, staff, and leadership all value respectful and timely communications, and meaningful engagement. Clear communications are also important at a time when there are so many major projects and initiatives like LNG underway.
- **What?** We have been steadily working on improving and expanding our communications and a draft plan was developed in 2013, but not implemented. This strategy will build on previous work and outline communications and engagement procedures for Haisla Nation to follow.

Housing Upkeep and Maintenance Program

- **Why?** While we are building new homes, members and leadership understand the importance of maintaining our existing homes to ensure they provide safe and healthy places to live.
- **What?** This program will help members learn the best ways to take care of and maintain their homes and help them feel more confident with their role in housing maintenance.

State-of-the-Nation CCP Update

- **Why?** There is so much going on in our community, and it can be hard to keep everyone up-to-date. Tracking what we are accomplishing will help remind us of what we have done, what we still want to accomplish, and help keep our CCP front-of-mind for the whole community.
- **What?** An annual "plan-on-a-page" update on CCP activities and outcomes. The update will be produced as a community information poster and shared online and provide an update on CCP activities.

Foundations

These are more detailed projects and programs that will provide the groundwork for future work.

Youth Leadership Council

- **Why?** It is important to involve our youth in the decisions that will impact them. A Youth Leadership Council will give a voice to our young people and involve them in decision-making. It will help build confidence and leadership skills, and hopefully inspire youth to remain involved in the Haisla community as they grow into adults.
- **What?** A council of six to nine youth (15 – 24) representing the main communities where most Haisla live will meet regularly to provide input on Haisla Nation Council decisions and youth related initiatives. The Youth Leadership Council would also help gather feedback from youth to share with Council.

Social Purpose Real Estate Development Program

- **Why?** Social purpose real estate provides community benefits like housing, while also providing financial returns to support Haisla Nation programs.
- **What?** The program will build development capacity and expertise at Haisla Nation, while creating a real estate vision and a development strategy. It will also help us undertake social purpose real estate projects in Haisla population centres like Vancouver, Terrace, Prince Rupert.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Program

- **Why?** Mental health and wellbeing is foundational to our overall health, wellbeing, and strength of our community. It is something we want to work to support.
- **What?** Aligned with our new health centre, this program will support members in addressing individual and community-wide mental health and wellbeing challenges. We will do so in a holistic way that is aligned with our traditions and values as Haisla people.

Medium-Term Strategies

These are longer-term project ideas that we will undertake only after Quick Starts and Foundation projects have been implemented. Given the time before we start them up, we know they may change or be refined by the time we get to them in about three to five years' time.

Business Incubator/Training Hub

- ▶ **Why?** Many Haisla members are interested in starting their own business but don't know where to begin. While our economic development department provides support to our existing businesses and entrepreneurs, we can formalize this program and connect with larger Indigenous, provincial, and federal business support programs.
- ▶ **What?** This program will support Haisla entrepreneurs and could be run out of the Haisla Nation Council Education and Employment office in Kitimat. The program would be coordinated with the Kitimat Valley Institute (and growing NVIT partnership) and be linked to the next phases of the Workforce Readiness Plan.

Extended/Supported Care Facility

- ▶ **Why?** We have an aging population and wish to support our Elders living in Kitamaat Village to age-in-place, while also creating space for Elders living outside of Kitamaat Village to return home.
- ▶ **What?** An extended support care facility would provide apartment-like homes for Haisla Elders, while also offering supports, such as help with cleaning, cooking, and health and medical needs. The facility could include a family apartment for visiting family, friends, and respite care workers.

Haisla Cultural Centre

- ▶ **Why?** A multi-use Cultural Centre was a popular action idea during CCP community engagement.
- ▶ **What?** Located in Kitamaat Village, the new facility would host language and cultural programs, adult and on-the-land rediscovery programs, and an art school focused on traditional arts and crafts. It could include an interpretive centre with Haisla artefacts, gift shop, a small commercial kitchen for traditional foods preparation, and a booking centre for eco-cultural tourism.

Eco-Cultural Tourism Program

- ▶ **Why?** An eco-tourism program will not only promote Haisla culture but will also support economic development in Kitamaat Village – creating jobs and bringing tourism to our land.
- ▶ **What?** Tour programs that share stories of the Haisla experience and history and teach visitors about our land, ways of living and outdoor activities. It will also support cultural programming and learning and support on-the-land cultural education.

