

TETĀĆES Climate Action Project: Goals and Objectives

Indigenous Knowledge for Environmental Education in the Salish Sea

TETĀĆES¹ - "Relatives Of The Deep" in SENĆOŦEN, refers to the WŚĀNEĆ creation story where what we now call the Gulf Islands were created by XĀLS (the sacred creator) as relatives for the WŚĀNEĆ to look after and in turn these relatives would look after the people.

Project Goals

- To develop an indigenous and community driven educational initiative to address the impacts of climate change on the Southern Gulf Islands and surrounding area
- To develop action plans to mitigate those impacts and promote a clean sustainable economy.

Project Objectives

- To deliver 3 five-day (30 hour) intensive, place-based and experiential educational programs combing current climate science with Traditional Knowledge of the WŚĀNEĆ people.
- To support local Indigenous leadership and community capacity building through meaningful engagement in climate action initiatives and contributions to climate change solutions.
- To promote a clean and resilient Gulf Island economy by promoting Educational-tourism (Edu-tourism) and other initiatives that extends beyond the peak recreational tourism season.
- To engage in ecosystem restoration and healing by course participants.

Project Outcomes

- Provided a shared knowledge base and perspective to address the impacts of climate change in the Southern Gulf Islands and surrounding areas.
- Supported capacity for the WŚĀNEĆ people to meaningfully contribute Traditional Knowledge to the climate action initiatives in their traditional territories while protecting Indigenous intellectual property.
- Supported resurgence of WŚĀNEĆ culture and educated Gulf Island communities to the important contribution that resurgence can offer.
- Developed action plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts on Gulf Island communities to promote a clean sustainable Gulf Island economy.
- Promoted the development of longer-term climate action leadership to address the increasing challenges of climate change.
- Contributed to the efforts of a major Gulf Island employer to extend its shoulder season to support employee retention and the local economy.
- Promoted community resiliency for coastal communities facing major impacts from climate change and made a positive contribution to the CRD and Islands Trust declarations of a climate emergency.

¹ TETĀĆES pronounced tlu-tla-chus -the u as in fun, a as in ape.