

The TETÁCES (pronounced “tlu-tla-chus” — The u as in fun, a as in ape) Revitalization Project
Sharing WSÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge with Southern Gulf Island communities

- The TETÁCES Steering Committee has received approval from the Real Estate Foundation of BC for a \$75,000 matching grant for a follow-up project to the successful 2019-20 TETÁCES Climate Action Project (TCAP www.sgicomunityresources.ca/climate-action-project/)
- This TETÁCES revitalization project will consolidate the knowledge gained from the TCAP project and transfer the key reciprocal stewardship lessons in a community to community engagement between the WSÁNEĆ People and Gulf Island settler communities.
- Central to the project is the question "Whose Land is it?" This question will frame the conversation in the context of the rich history of WSÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge, their Cultural Revitalization and the protection of their homeland - ÁLENENEĆ. The project will incorporate SENĆOFEN to enhance the presentations.
- The project is a partnership between the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resources Centre (CRC) and the WSÁNEĆ School Board (WSB) to develop a series of educational videos, owned by the WSB, for use in WSB curriculum. Funding support is provided by a number of community partners including the WSB, CRC, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, UVIC Living Lab Project, and the South Pender Historical Society with the Capital Regional District.
- With WSÁNEĆ consent and oversight the videos will also be used in community forums for the Southern Gulf Islands to enhance the developing community to community relationship that is necessary for progressive reconcilli-action in building more resilient and sustainable communities.
- The central video will include a presentation by Drs Nick Claxton and John Price of the key findings in their seminal paper “Whose Land Is It? "Rethinking Sovereignty in British Columbia” published in BC Studies: The British Columbia Quarterly (<https://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/bcstudies/article/view/191508/189029>)
- Another Key video will be an animated version of the TETÁCES creation story which describes how the Creator, XÁLS created TETÁCES which translates from SENĆOFEN as "relatives of the deep." The WSÁNEĆ have an obligation in WSÁNEĆ Law to look after their relatives of the deep - the Southern Gulf Islands - as part of a reciprocal stewardship relationship.
- Three Additional videos will provide a WSÁNEĆ perspective on each of the three Southern Gulf Islands: S,DÁYES/ Pender; S,ƷFAƷ /Mayne and TEƷTEƷSEN/Saturna. These videos will feature Traditional Knowledge shared by Elders to illustrate the importance of each of these

"relatives of the deep" to W̱SÁNEĆ culture.

- For W̱SÁNEĆ People reconnecting with their Homeland that was severed by the impacts of colonization is integral to W̱SÁNEĆ Cultural Resurgence and recognition of their ĊELÁNEN (world view/birthright). This reconnection will be facilitated with support from Raincoast Conservation's 66 ft. research vessel Achiever to bring W̱SÁNEĆ Elders and youth to the Islands to shoot the videos with appropriate Covid protocol.
- These five videos will provide resources for the W̱SÁNEĆ School Board curriculum to support revitalization of W̱SÁNEĆ People with ÁLENENEĆ, their traditional Homeland and can be shared by the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council with W̱SÁNEĆ community members to support reconnection with TĒTÁĆES.
- Finally the project will include the planning and implementation of community engagement forums on the three Island communities. The forums for each Island will use the island-specific video along with the Whose Land is it and TĒTÁĆES animated videos as a focal point for a conversation on how W̱SÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge can be incorporated in the "preserve and protect" mandate of the Islands Trust to promote resilient and sustainable communities.

For more information contact project co-coordinators:

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