

Ktunaxa

STRONG



“Rather than sit back and let the government do as they please, let’s demand that they recognize us as the true owner of this land. Let us take this task and let it strengthen our people to undertake and face any attempts made by the government to assimilate the Native People as they have been trying to do in the past hundred years. Let us give our elected leaders the encouragement to continue to fight as we decide to do, no matter what way we choose – but let’s do it together!”

Wilfred Jacobs

Land Claims Research Report, June 1981

Read the newsletter, answer these questions, and win a prize!

- 1. What year did the staff person profiled in this issue begin working for the KNC?**
- 2. Who will ratify the Ktunaxa Constitution?**

Email Anna Gravelle at anna.gravelle@ktunaxa.org with the correct answers by August 4th and have your name entered into a draw to win one of four \$50 prizes!

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**KTUNAXA
NATION**

In March 2021, the Treaty Team hosted two Citizens' meetings. In total, 103 Ktunaxa Citizens participated. The following is a summary of what we heard:

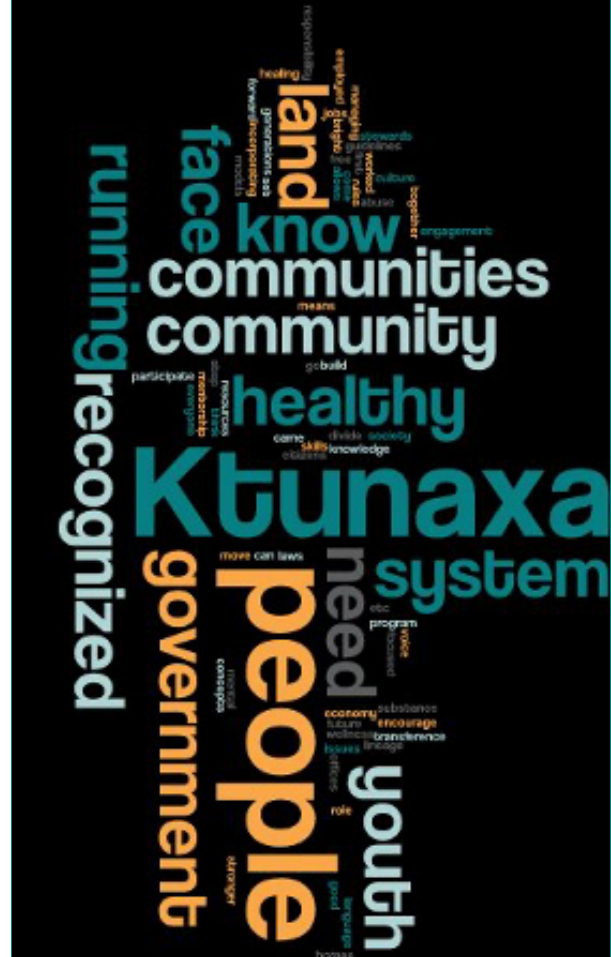
- That the future vision includes self-sufficiency and self-determination, preserving our identity as Ktunaxa and ensuring our language, culture and ties to our land are preserved by passing them on through the generations. We are strong stewards of the land. We celebrate and hold our Nationhood in high regard, but we also feel it is important to recognize communities' autonomy in their own parts of our homelands.
- It is important for people to know their lineage, where we came from and how we are all connected. Visiting, getting together and interacting with Elders is essential.
- It is crucial for Citizens to be involved and well-informed and that youth are encouraged to become involved.
- There is optimism for the Nation Rebuilding process, including treaty. That there is a desire to revisit the Land package, including site visits. Those that were kids when the Land package was initially put together are eager to step up to be part of that process. They are now parents and want to make sure there is something for their kids.
- Our strength is in our Citizen-driven approach, and we need to continue to have meetings and discuss matters that affect us as a Nation as we move forward.
- Citizens envision a healthy Ktunaxa economy that allows citizens to have good jobs, homes and a bright future for the youth and generations to come.
- We need to think like a nation but recognize the autonomy of the communities within the Nation. All of our citizens can tie themselves back to one or more of the communities through their lineage.
- Although there is still a bit of apprehension and distrust for the provincial and federal governments, people are hopeful for the future and are willing to move forward with open minds and cautious optimism regarding treaty and nation rebuilding in general. We heard that citizens recognize that we have an opportunity to move forward and make the best of that opportunity.
- We should have a shared perspective between the citizens, communities, and nation. We should all be feeding into that perspective. We need to get together more often to have discussions and hear what progress is being made.



- Citizens are interested in learning about potential post-treaty impacts on the current reserve status, law-making, enforcement; and ensuring our communities are not side-lined.
- Each community has a responsibility for the land. There are worries of the community voices getting lost in the nation's voice. Need to be mindful of the chiefs of the past and how they governed.
- There is an interest in matters such as jurisdiction regarding the regulation of cannabis and building standards, including electrical and plumbing, to eliminate the grey areas that currently exist on our reserve lands.
- It is vital to be recognized as a legitimate government and not be relegated to recognition under a provincial statute like the societies act.
- It is important to maintain good relations with our neighbours and those that are residing in our homelands. It is also essential to re-establish protocols with our neighbouring Nations and to draw on our own traditional knowledge in doing so. That plant and medicine management needs to include protocols with other FN. They are wanting to harvest in our homelands, in part, for their own safety.

We heard what citizens envision:

- A healthy Ktunaxa economy that allows citizens to have good jobs, homes and a bright future for the youth and generations to come.
- Managing our own resources with our own set of rules and guidelines incorporating our own laws.
- Community issues are worked out.
- Communities with healthy mental wellness and free of substance abuse.
- More of our people employed in our offices and recognized for their skills.
- The divide that we have in our communities, we need to think Ktunaxa first. We need to know what it means to be Ktunaxa; the land, language, culture etc.
- Build on lineage, know where we came from.
- You have a responsibility to yourself.
- Stronger mentorship program. Knowledge transference.
- Being stewards of the land, be role models.
- We go there together, people focused. Healing before we can move forward. Concepts of who we are, everyone has a voice.
- Recognized as a government, not a society. Community engagement face to face.
- Encourage our youth to step up, participate in meetings.
- More togetherness.
- Work with elders, more visiting, asking young people who their mom and dad are. Genealogy.
- Within 50 years, we should have completely shed the imposed system of government running our affairs. We should be running our own system our own way. It should be gone and not thought about anymore.



For a more detailed version of what we heard, please contact:

Rosemary Phillips
rphillips@ktunaxa.org

***What we heard was that
our Nation Vision still
holds true for us.***

Employee Profile:

Darlene Trach



Ki?su?k kyukyit,

Hu?qak?ik Darlene Trach. I am a member of the Tobacco Plains Band and a citizen of the Ktunaxa Nation.

I am married with three children and I enjoy travelling, gardening, and camping. In fact, some of my fondest memories of camping with my family were at Big Springs on Koocanusa Lake. It was also an opportunity to visit with my extended family, and explore Ktunaxa Territory.

I graduated from the College of the Rockies with a Diploma in Business Administration in 1996, and began working at the Ktunaxa Nation Council shortly afterwards.

My first role was as Executive Assistant to Sophie Pierre, which provided me with a foundation in governance, economic development, administration, and external relations.

It was an amazing 6 years which I affectionately called “Sophie Pierre University,” and it definitely prepared me for the future roles I’ve held within the Nation.

Since that time I have held positions such as Employment Assistance Officer, Office Manager, and HR Manager.

I have also served as Councillor for Tobacco Plains, a Board Member on the Treaty Council, Co-Chair of the Ktunaxa Independent School Society, Chair of the Education and Employment Sector, Nupqu Development Corporation, and now on the College of the Rockies Board of Governors.

Over the last 2 years, I have been excited to be in the role of Self-Government Readiness Coordinator with the Treaty Team. This is such an exciting time to be in this position, as we chart our path to self-determination and self-government.

I often reflect upon the valuable lessons that I have learned from the Elders and many strong leaders over the years – highest among them is that we are on the right road, and we must never give up as a Nation. Their wisdom and direction is something that I will always remember.

Reviewing Reaffirming Realigning



The Ktunaxa Recognition Process

At our March 2021 Citizens meetings, we let you know that the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council (KNEC) recommended that the treaty and constitution work be put in abeyance for one year. The KNEC was informed that, as a Citizen-driven process, the direction needed to come from the Citizens.

We think the work we are doing is essential if we are to achieve recognition and self-determination as a Nation. Sometimes we get so caught up in moving forward and maintaining the momentum in the day-to-day, we forget to take the pulse of the Citizens.

Each generation hopes for a better world for the generations to come. The impact of what we achieve as a Nation today will be felt by our grandchildren, the same for the generations that come after them and on and on.

So, we want to check-in and ask you, is the goal of recognition of our rights and self-determination as a Nation that was so very important to our ancestral leadership, including Chief David and his fellow Chiefs and kinsmen, to Chief Paul David and his kinsmen, and to Wilf Jacobs and those that supported his work, still important to the present generations of Ktunaxa Citizens?

You don't have to answer the question right now. You'll want time to consider the question, seek out more information, and ask the questions to inform your answer.

Stay tuned...more to come.

Self-determination

The right to freely determine who you are on your own terms without interference.

Recognition

Being recognized through informal means (e.g. working protocols) or more formal means (e.g. legal or constitutional agreements).

Treaty Related Work At-a-glance

	Ktunaxa Nation Recognition Agreement (KNRA)	Ktunaxa Nation Constitution	Core Treaty
What does it do?	The KNRA provides legal recognition of the Ktunaxa (collective) government as a government as opposed to a society. Although it is not a treaty, it is a first step towards self-government and self-reliance.	A constitution determines the powers and duties of a government. It is basically a people's instructions to its government. In our case, it is the Ktunaxa Citizens' instructions to their collective (Nation) government. It includes the basic rules for the collective government including how lawmakers and decision-makers are chosen, how laws are made and enforced, and how accountability to citizens is maintained.	A treaty provides constitutional recognition and the tools and authority for a First Nation to take control of its future. A treaty defines the relationship between Nations, in our case that would be between the Ktunaxa Nation and the Federal and Provincial governments. It covers a wide range of topics. The Core Treaty differs from the previous approach to a treaty. The Core Treaty will not attempt to define every aspect of the relationship. Instead, it will create the space for many elements to evolve over time, including rights recognition.
How is it ratified?	By Ktunaxa Citizens	By Ktunaxa Citizens	By Ktunaxa Citizens and each individual Bands
What is the minimum voter turn-out and voting threshold?	As determined through Citizen and Leadership engagement.	As determined through Citizen and Leadership engagement.	At minimum, 50% plus one of eligible voters must vote yes.
What is the timeline?	As long as it takes to ensure Citizens and Leadership have had an opportunity for input and become informed.	As long as it takes to ensure Citizens and Leadership have had an opportunity for input and become informed.	It will likely take several (7-10 years) to negotiate and finalize the Core Treaty.
How does it affect the Bands?	The KNRA will not impact on the Bands or the ability for the Bands to elect their own leadership or manage their own affairs.	The Constitution will not impact on the Bands or the ability for the Bands to elect their own leadership or manage their own affairs.	In all modern ratified treaties the Indian Act no longer applies. However, the community governments and the ability for the community government to manage their own affairs is not diminished. In fact, their powers are greatly enhanced. Having said that, only the Indian Act Band can choose to remove itself from the Indian Act. This cannot be done without its direct and informed consent.
How does it affect Citizens?	The KNRA will legally recognize the Ktunaxa Citizenship Code which identifies who the Ktunaxa believe are Ktunaxa Citizens. Recognition of this code will legally recognize all Ktunaxa aboriginal rights holders who are registered as Ktunaxa citizens.	The Ktunaxa Constitution provides Citizens with more active participation in their collective government, creates the checks and balances of good government which include accountability, transparency, predictability and participation. The division of powers contemplated in a constitution ensures there is a balance of power and accountability.	A treaty gives First Nations more autonomy and control in many areas including in some cases, jurisdiction. The First Nation and its communities are able to establish standards, regulations, approaches and direct resources based on their needs as opposed to a federal or provincial policy. This means that programs and services meet the needs of the communities and Citizens when and where they need them.
How does it contribute to achieving our Nation Vision?	a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation	a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation	Strong, healthy citizens and communities, speaking our languages and celebrating who we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our lands and resources, within a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation.

Stronger Together

KTUNAXA

LAND QUESTION MINI-TIMELINE

TIME IMMEMORIAL

SACRED COVENANT

The Creator gave our ancestors, sacred covenants, one of which is to protect, honour, and celebrate what the Creator has given us; also, our Law, ʔaknumuʔtitit, requires the protection of our sacred places for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren, yet to come.

1793

FIRST CONTACT

Our Ktunaxa Ancestors first met fur traders at Kootenay Plains. Since then we requested Trading Forts in our Homelands for our access to firearms and other trade goods. We have always worked together to protect our homeland that we call Ktunaxa ʔamakís.

1884

KTUNAXA RESERVES

Our Nasuʔkins sought large Reservations like the same in USA; however Reserve Commissioner for British Columbia allocated considerably less than requested.

20TH CENTURY

LAND QUESTION

We Ktunaxa pressed for reconciliation of the land question while colonialism dragged its heels like its business as usual, even after we Ktunaxa filed a Land Declaration and commenced treaty negotiations. Collectively, we as Ktunaxa citizens, continue to seek reconciliation of our Ktunaxa rights and title because it is our sacred duty and obligation.

1763

PROCLAMATION

King George III proclaimed all unceded lands under British protection is reserved to the Indians and only a Treaty or Agreement by the Crown can open the door to settlers. Many years later, the Crown issued Royal staff's and medallions to be used to inform us of their obligations under the Royal Proclamation and that the Crown will do right by us with treaties.

1858-1871

BC FORMATION

Former HBC factor, James Douglas, proclaimed British Columbia a colony on "unoccupied" land and abandoned British Law requiring treaty making. And in 1871, BC entered confederation with Canada on terms but they ignored the Royal Proclamation of 1763 which identified that all unceded lands were Lands Reserved for the Indians.

1887

MOUNTED POLICE

Upon request of the British Columbia Government, Canada sent a mounted police force to Kootenay BC to protect white settlers as their encroachment upon our Ktunaxa ʔamakís caused disputes with our ancestors including access to good farm and pasture land, access to resources including food sources.

Ktunaxa ʔamakís covers land in the Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia, as well as parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho.

Ktunaxa Nation Interim Citizenship Code Review and Appeal Board

Expression of Interest (EOI) Call

Ktunaxa Citizens are invited to put their names forward for consideration as a member of the Ktunaxa Nation Interim Citizenship Code Review and Appeal Board. This five to seven member board will hear:

- Appeals of decisions made by the Enrollment Board,
- Appeals of decisions by a Ktunaxa Community to revoke Other Ktunaxa citizenship as per the Ktunaxa Interim Citizenship Code;
- Challenges regarding a proposed Ktunaxa Custom Adoption; and
- Other appeals, challenges or disputes, as directed by the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council in the absence of other appropriate bodies or mechanisms.

The Board, with the assistance of the Registrar, will also establish rules of procedure for carrying out its duties, including the conduct of hearings, consistent with the Review and Appeal Board Regulation.

Review and Appeal Board members must be of Ktunaxa ancestry. The selection process will take into consideration knowledge, experience and expertise relevant to the subject area and purpose of the Review and Appeal Board. The selection process will make every effort to ensure that the Review and Appeal Board is inclusive of each of the following: individuals who are affiliated with each of the Ktunaxa Communities as well as individuals who are non-status, live off-reserve and youth.

Appointments to this Board are for five year terms with no limit to the number of times a person can be re-appointed. A stipend and if applicable local travel, will be provided to board members for their service on the board.

If you are eligible to be a Ktunaxa Citizens as per the Citizenship Code and are interested in serving on the Ktunaxa Nation Appeal Board please visit www.ktunaxa.org/citizenship-enrollment/appeal-board/ to download the response form. You may also request a copy from the Citizenships Registrar at Rachelle.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org

If you have any question regarding this Expression of Interest (EOI) Call, please contact Rachelle Sebastian at 250-421-8537 or at the above noted email address.

Deadline for responses is August 16, 2021.

We thank all those that respond, however only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Vision Statement

Kémakqa ksuktutá-k kukqani é kitqakił haqa
ksiłł éxa ʔa-kłukqałis ksukitłukałmi-ka kiłin
Ktunaxa nałs ʔamakłis. Qus pikaks é nałs
éxał yaqanakił haqałki. Kitqawiłmu kakiłwiłkił
ʔamakłis kisnikéik kéxał qa kiłkkaxuxami-k
kitqakił haqa é kisłin ʔaknumułtiłis.

Strong, healthy citizens and communities,
speaking our languages and celebrating
who we are and our history in our ancestral
homelands, working together, managing our
lands and resources, within a self-sufficient,
self-governing Nation.

Upcoming Opportunities

Speaker Series

Keep your eyes open for more information on our Speakers Series. This series will bring high-profile Aboriginal people such as academics and political figures into your living room via technology. We will assist you in accessing the tech and learning how it works, too.

Focus Groups

If you would like to take a more hands-on role in shaping our future as a Nation, contact Keith Clement to learn more!



Your feedback is important. Please let me know if you have any questions, or what's on your mind!

Keith Clement
Citizen Engagement Coordinator

Keith.Clement@ktunaxa.org
250-421-7680 (call or text)