What We Heard

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.

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 that we need to gather more often.



We heard 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.

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



For a more detailed version of what we heard, please contact Rosemary Phillips at rphillips@ktunaxa.org