



NAK'AZDLI WHUT'EN COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN

July 2024

RECOGNIZING OUR RIGHTS AND TITLE

This Plan is focused on the use of Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands; however, Nak'azdli Whut'en has never, in any way, endorsed the reserve system. Neither the ratification nor the application of this Plan should be considered an indication of consent to this system, which was imposed on the people of Nak'azdli Whut'en by the Government of Canada.

Further to the above, Nak'azdli Whut'enne hold both inherent and Aboriginal rights, including title, within Nak'azdli territory, and have never ceded, surrendered, or relinquished these rights. The development of this Plan should not be construed as defining, waiving, or limiting our rights in any way. We will continue to exercise our rights throughout our territory as we always have.

THE NAK'AZDLI DECLARATION

We are Nak'azdli Whut'enne – the people who travel by water. We are people of the land.

We have lived on our lands since time immemorial. We have been here since the Creator made us responsible for this land. We have always been here and we will always be here. Our people are here to care for our land and water. It is our obligation and birthright to be the caretakers and protectors of our resources.

Our people descended from powerful hereditary leaders. We know where we come from and we know who we are. We respect our heritage and nothing can change our history and our truth.

Our people travelled far and wide throughout the keyoh – our territory. They paddled our waters and climbed our mountains. They understood the richness that the keyoh held, and in understanding this, they knew our land. Our ancestors were responsible for the rivers, streams, and forests of the keyoh; they knew our land well because it was for the benefit of everyone.

Nak'azdli Nation is moving into our future. Our children and our land are our future. Our future will bring enough for our children's children to thrive. We are looking forward; we are ready to meet the next millennium. Therefore, be it known far and wide that Yinka Dene, the People of the earth, are responsible for and belong to the keyoh. Let it be known that Nak'azdli is a Nation unto itself, holding territory for its people.

Source: Nak'azdli Whut'en. 2021. "Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2024 Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Land Use Plan is the outcome of a collaborative planning process that involved the collective efforts of many individuals.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all Nak'azdli Whut'enne who took the time to participate in the planning process, provide input, share their lived experiences, and express their vision for the future of our community. The result is a community-driven plan that reflects the values and priorities of all Nak'azdli Whut'enne, no matter their age or where they live.

The Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Land Use Plan was guided by a team of staff and community members who devoted considerable time and energy to the project:

Members of Nak'azdli Whut'en

Chief and Council

Key Staff

Robin Young

Lori Gauthier

Winnie Sam

Dana Gardner

Community Land Use Plan Working Group

Councillor Paul Bird

Renada Walstrom

Tania Prince

Leona Thomas

Rosemarie Sam

Kenneth Martin

Rebecca Hume

Daniel Seymour



This plan was prepared with assistance from The Firelight Group (www.firelight.ca).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1.	ABOUT OUR PLAN	3
1.2.	BUILDING ON PAST PLANNING WORK	4
1.3.	HOW TO USE OUR PLAN	6
2.	OUR COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS	9
2.1.	PLANNING PROCESS	10
3.	OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES	14
3.1.	OUR VISION STATEMENT	15
3.2.	OUR ACTION STATEMENT	16
3.3.	OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES	17
4.	OUR STORY	18
4.1.	OUR HISTORY	19
4.2.	OUR COMMUNITY TODAY	22
4.3.	OUR FUTURE	30
5.	COMMUNITY PLANNING	32
5.1.	OUR GOALS	34
5.2.	GENERAL LAND USE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	36
5.3.	CULTURAL PROTECTION AND TRADITIONAL LAND USE ZONE	51
5.4.	RESIDENTIAL LAND USE ZONE	53
5.5.	COMMUNITY AMENITY LAND USE ZONE	57
5.6.	COMMERCIAL LAND USE ZONE	60
5.7.	PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS LAND USE ZONE	64
5.8.	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND USE ZONE	67
5.9.	HEAVY INDUSTRIAL LAND USE ZONE	70
5.10.	AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ZONE	73

6.	LAND USE ZONING	76
6.1.	NAK'AZDLI IR #1	78
6.2.	SOWCHEA IR #3 AND SOWCHEA IR #3A	80
6.3.	WILLIAMS PRAIRIE MEADOW IR #1A	82
6.4.	MISSION RESERVE IR #17	84
7.	CONTEXT FOR FUTURE PLANNING	87
7.1.	SIX MILE MEADOW IR #6	88
7.2.	UZTA (NAHOUNLI CREEK) IR #4	90
7.3.	UZTA (NAHOUNLI CREEK) IR #7A	92
7.4.	NEHOUNLEE LAKE (SIX MILE LAKE) IR #13	94
7.5.	TATSELAWAS (STUART RIVER) IR #2	96
7.6.	INZANA LAKE IR #12	98
7.7.	TATSADAH LAKE IR #14	100
7.8.	STUART LAKE (HUNGRY ISLAND) IR #9	102
7.9.	STUART LAKE (DUNAH ISLAND) IR #10	104
7.10.	GREAT BEAR LAKE IR #16	106
7.11.	CARRIER LAKE IR #15	108
7.12.	BEAVER ISLANDS IR #8	110
8.	IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING OUR SUCCESS	112
8.1.	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	114
8.2.	APPROVAL PROCESS	116
8.3.	AMENDING THIS PLAN	116
8.4.	MONITORING THE PLAN'S PROGRESS	118
8.5.	FUNDING THE PLAN	119
8.6.	BEYOND OUR PLAN	119
	APPENDIX A: PLAN AMENDMENTS	124
	APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL CONTEXT MAPS	126

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Nak’azdli Reserves Location and Size	23
Table 2. Growth Projections for Nak’azdli’s On-Reserve Population	31
Table 3. General Objectives and Policies	38
Table 4. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Policies	52
Table 5. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Priority Actions	52
Table 6. Residential Land Use Zone Policies	54
Table 7 Residential Land Use Zone Priority Actions	56
Table 8. Community Amenity Land Use Zone Policies	58
Table 9. Community Amenity Land Use Zone Priority Actions	59
Table 10. Commercial Land Use Zone Policies	61
Table 11. Commercial Land Use Zone Priority Actions	63
Table 12. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Policies	65
Table 13. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Priority Actions	66
Table 14 Light Industrial Land Use Zone Policies	68
Table 15. Industrial Land Use Zone Priority Actions	69
Table 16. Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone Policies	71
Table 17. Agricultural Land Use Zone Policies	74
Table 18. Agricultural Land Use Zone Priority Actions	75
Table 19. Plan Amendments	125

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands	8
Figure 2. Proportion of Registered Members Living On and Off Reserve	22
Figure 3. Total Nak'azdli Membership	25
Figure 4. Nak'azdli On-Reserve Population	25
Figure 5. Nak'azdli Whut'en Clan Flags	27
Figure 6. Nak'azdli Whut'en Administration Organizational Chart	28
Figure 7. Housing Types On Reserve	29
Figure 8. Nak'azdli IR #1 Land Use Zoning Map	79
Figure 9. Sowchea IR #3 and Sowchea IR #3A Land Use Zoning Map	81
Figure 10. Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A Land Use Zoning Map	83
Figure 11. Mission Reserve IR #17 Land Use Zoning Map	85
Figure 12. Six Mile Meadow IR #6 Aerial View Map	89
Figure 13. Uzta (Nahounlil Creek) IR #4 Aerial View Map	91
Figure 14. Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A Aerial View Map	93
Figure 15. Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13 Aerial View Map	95
Figure 16. Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2 Aerial View Map	97
Figure 17. Inzana Lake IR #12 Aerial View Map	99
Figure 18. Tatsadah Lake IR #14 Aerial View Map	101
Figure 19. Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9 Aerial View Map	103
Figure 20. Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10 Aerial View Map	105
Figure 21. Great Bear Lake IR #16 Aerial View Map	107
Figure 22. Carrier Lake IR #15 Aerial View Map	109
Figure 23. Beaver Islands IR #8 Aerial View Map	111
Figure 24. Community Land Use Plan Implementation Process	113
Figure 25. Internal Operational Community Land Use Plan Implementation Process	114
Figure 26. Agriculture Lands in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands	127
Figure 27. Forestry Activity in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands	128
Figure 28. Oil and Gas Activity in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land	129

TERMINOLOGY

Ancestral Territory

The area in which our ancestors have lived in and stewarded since time immemorial.

Buffer

A specified area of land that separates two different Land Use Zones or land uses to prevent conflicts between them. For example, a treed-buffer between a commercial area and a residential area can help to prevent the noise and activity of the commercial area from disturbing the residential area. It can also help to limit visual impacts by obscuring visibility between the two areas. Trails are a complimentary use that fit well within designated Buffer areas.

Closure Plan

A plan that details the methods and timeline for stopping industrial activities, removing infrastructure, materials and/or hazardous waste, preparing the site for long-term care, and making the area suitable for other uses.

Culturally Significant Place

A place that Nak'azdli Whut'en has determined is of importance to the Nation, based on Nak'azdli values and knowledge. Culturally Significant Places may include, but are not limited to, registered archaeological sites, places of historical significance, places where ancestral remains and/or belongings were laid to rest, important harvesting areas and gathering places, places associated with stories / the oral history of the Nation, and other places linked to cultural use, connection, and continuity.

Dakelh

The word "Dakelh" means "to travel by boat on the water". Dakelh people are Indigenous people from the central interior of what is now known as British Columbia.

Dakelhne

"The people who travel by boat".

Duneza'

The Dakelh title of a male hereditary leader.¹

Fire Underwriters Survey

The national organization that authored and maintains the standards for calculating recommended fire flow water supply volumes for fire suppression purposes, as outlined in the 2020 Water Supply for Public Fire Protection guide.

Habitation Zone

A type of zone in the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan that applies to areas within Nak'azdli territory that have been alienated from Nak'azdli Whut'en control and/or are not subject to the Land Stewardship Plan. The Land Stewardship Plan further notes that the Habitation Zone designation applies to towns, villages, reserves, and private lands, and that Nak'azdli's reserve lands are not subject to the Land Stewardship Plan because land use planning on reserve lands is addressed through Land Code implementation.

Home-Based Business

A business that is operated on a residentially-occupied lot by someone who lives in the home. A Home-Based Business can occur either in the main house or within accessory buildings located on the same lot, such as a garage.

Infrastructure

The basic physical structures and facilities that meet the functional needs of a community (e.g., buildings, roads, sidewalks, power stations).

Kwuna Ba Whut'en

The Caribou Clan.

Land Stewardship Unit

Specific areas identified in the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan based on watershed boundaries. All Nak'azdli Whut'en reserves are located within either the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit or the Salmon River Land Stewardship Unit.

1 Poser, William J. "The Carrier Language A Brief Introduction." (College of New Caledonia Press In cooperation with the Yinka Dene Language Institute, 2017)

Land Use Zone	An area within a community that has been divided into sections, or 'zones', in which specific land uses are either supported (permitted) or not supported (prohibited).
Lhts'umusyoo	The Beaver Clan.
Lohjabou	The Bear Clan.
Lusilyoo	The Frog Clan.
Nak'alkoh	The river known in English as "Stuart River".
Nak'albun	The lake known in English as "Stuart Lake".
Nak'azdli Whut'en	The Nak'azdli Nation as a whole.
Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Law	A law enacted by Nak'azdli Whut'en in accordance with the Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code.
Nak'azdli Whut'enne	"People of Nak'azdli".
Nek'un'a	"Our way".
Neghunni	"Our language".
Protection Zone	A type of zone in the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan that applies to areas to be protected for the purpose of ensuring that no further loss of critical elements underpinning ecological function occurs.

Recovery Emphasis Zone

A type of zone in the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan that applies to areas that were previously subjected to unsustainable levels of resource utilization and for which the objective is to minimize ongoing impacts and support recover.

Setback

The distance between the nearest point of a structure and a specified boundary such as a Culturally Significant Place. This area must generally remain open and free from obstructions unless exceptions are granted by Chief and Council.

Sustainable Resources Zone

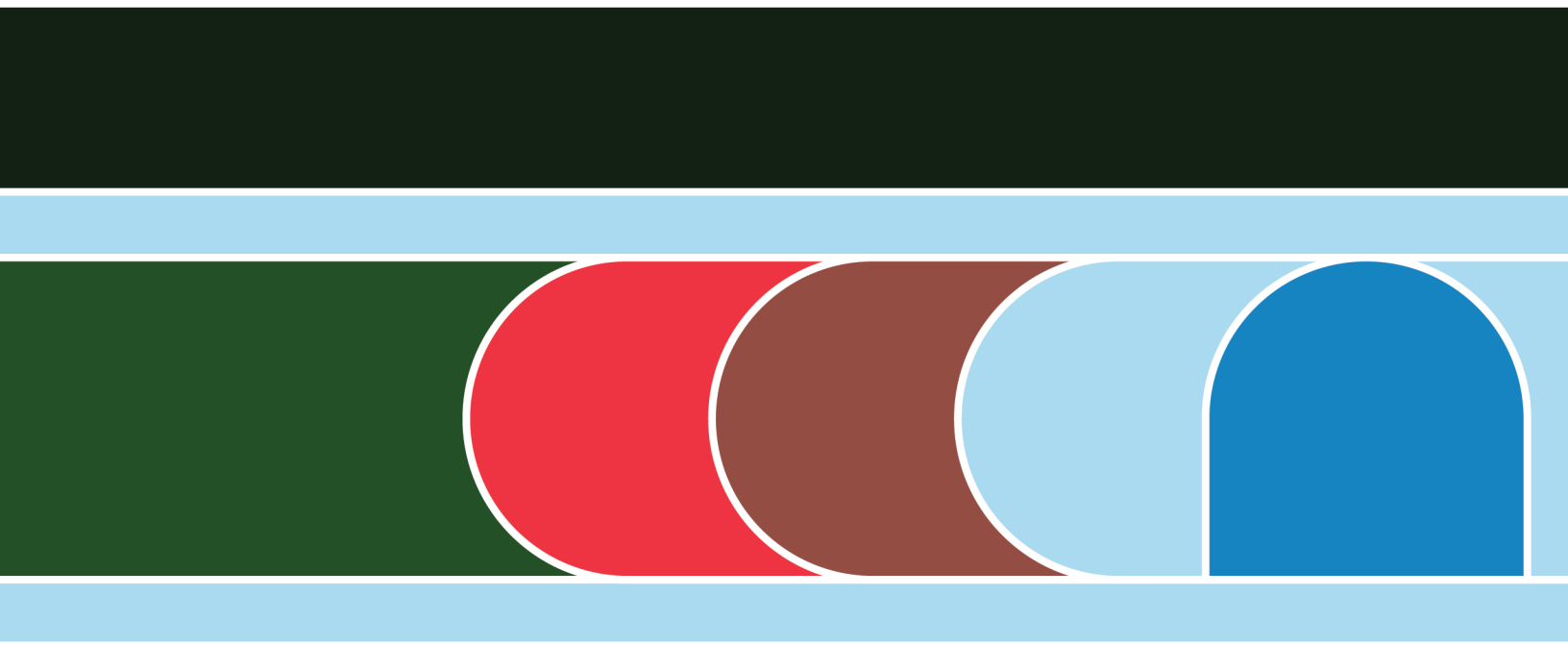
A type of zone in the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan that applies to areas for which the objective is to provide economic opportunities and benefits.

Traditional

The customary ways of our ancestors. Note that the term should not be interpreted to imply that our ways are outdated or in any way suggest they are obsolete or irrelevant in the context of modern practice.

Ts'ekeza'

The Dakelh title of a female hereditary leader.



1. INTRODUCTION



1.1. ABOUT OUR PLAN

As Nak'azdli Whut'enne, we have a deep-rooted connection to the land. Since time immemorial, we have been responsible for caring for our ancestral territory and we continue to do so today – recognizing that we borrow them from our future elders. Our people have worked diligently through considerable adversity to look after our lands and relatives and build a prosperous, self-sufficient, and supportive Dakelh community.

The *Nak'azdli Land Code*, ratified in 2016, returned control over development on our reserve lands (administered under the *Indian Act*) to our Nation and recognized our law-making powers within the colonial land governance framework. *The Land Stewardship Plan*, approved in 2021, marked a major milestone in our efforts to reclaim our birthright as the caretakers and protectors of the entirety of our territory, so that we can continue to carry out our legal and spiritual obligations as Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

The Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Land Use Plan (Plan) is driven by our connection to, and responsibility for our lands and waters. Its purpose is to guide the future use and development of our reserve lands according to Nek'un'a ("our way"). It does so by:

- Articulating a **community-led vision** that describes the future that we want to achieve for our Nation (Section 3).
- Providing an **action statement and guiding principles** that together are intended to inform and guide our approach to reserve land management (Section 3);
- Including **background information** about Nak'azdli Whut'en, with attention to our demographics, our unique geographical and social setting, and the physical constraints of our land base (e.g., available land, infrastructure) (Section 4);
- Setting out a **framework** of goals, objectives, and policies that align with our self-defined vision for the future (Section 5); and
- Identifying **Land Use Zone boundaries** that will help us to ensure that we are making land use decisions that reflect our values and goals (Section 6).

This Plan is intended to support Nak'azdli leadership and staff in planning for and making decisions about our reserve lands on behalf of our community in the coming years. It reinforces our commitment to Dakelh lifeways, emphasizes our strengths as a Nation, provides tools to help us action our vision, and designates lands to support the steady growth of a vibrant Nak'azdli community for generations to come.



1.2. BUILDING ON PAST PLANNING WORK

This plan has been informed by the following community planning documents available at the time of development:

Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code (2016)

The *Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code* was ratified in July 2016 and sets out Nak'azdli principles, rules, and administrative structures for exercising authority over our reserve lands. The commitments, policies, and implementation processes for this Plan have been checked for compliance with the land management requirements set out in the *Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code*.

Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan (2021)

The *Land Stewardship Plan* is a nation-rebuilding tool that “promotes well-considered use of the land and waters of Nak'azdli Whut'en to ensure community sustainability.”² Our *Land Stewardship Plan* is a living document that provides high-level direction regarding land use and development for the entirety of Nak'azdli territory, which encompasses approximately 2.5 million hectares of land.³

Within our *Land Stewardship Plan* our territory is divided into two main stewardship zones: the Sustainable Resources Zone and the Recovery Emphasis Zone. Additional stewardship zones are also provided within the *Land Stewardship Plan* to meet its objectives. Descriptions of these Land Stewardship Zones can be found in the Definitions Table below (see Table 1), while Sections 6 and 7 of this Plan outline the overlapping Land Stewardship Zones as they relate to each reserve.

Nak'azdli Community Plan Framework, Made by Nak'azdli for Nak'azdli (2013)

The *Community Planning Framework* was initiated in July 2011 and completed in 2013. This framework was designed to support decision-making, communication, community governance, and capacity building to improve development and infrastructure planning in the future. The framework identifies seven core themes and 21 overarching goals with associated actions and success indicators,⁴ which were reviewed for alignment with the goals, objectives, and supporting policies within this Plan.

Nak'azdli Band Residential Occupancy By-law (2011)

The *Nak'azdli Band Residential Occupancy By-law (“Housing Policies”)* was first developed in 2003 and later revised in 2011 with the goal of supporting the provision of access to affordable, adequate, and sustainable housing options for our members. This *Housing Policies* document was developed to support and regulate the allocation, use, occupancy, and obligations of all parties accessing and providing Nation-owned housing.⁵ The policies of this Plan require that new housing projects align with the *Housing Policies* document as a condition of approval.

2 Land Forest People Consulting Ltd. “*Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report.*” (Nak'azdli Whut'en, 2021)

3 Ibid

4 Nak'azdli Whut'en, “*Nak'azdli Community Plan Framework.*” (Nak'azdli Whut'en, 2013)

5 Nak'azdli Whut'en Band Council, “*Nak'azdli Band Residential Occupancy By-Law.*” (Nak'azdli Whut'en, 2003)

1.3. HOW TO USE OUR PLAN

This Plan applies to the seventeen (17) Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands within Nak'azdli territory (Figure 1, p. 11). Through the *Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code*, management of reserve lands falls under the direct control of our Nation. This Plan focuses immediate planning efforts on five (5) reserves that were prioritized by the community (Section 6), with the remaining reserves to be considered in more detail as community needs and priorities evolve (Section 7).

1.3.1. Land Use Zoning

The policies identified in Section 5 are categorized as general policies that apply to all reserve lands, regardless of zone, and Land Use Zone-specific policies. Our Land Use Zones are discussed in Section 5 and provide a framework to ensure that land use decisions occur in a way that is consistent, fair, and transparent. Section 6 includes maps that illustrate how our Land Use Zones have been applied to our reserve lands.

New land use proposals within these areas are expected to align with both general policies (Section 5.2) and Land Use Zone-specific policies (Sections 5.3 - 5.10).

The boundaries of Certificate of Possession (CP) Lands are also identified on the Land Use Zone maps in Section 6. To promote best practices, community cohesion, and safe design standards, consistency with the policies of this Plan will also be required for new development proposals within CP Lands.

1.3.2. Land Use Zone Boundaries

For the purposes of determining the location of the boundary in situations where the dimensions are not provided, the scaling provided on the respective Land Use Zone map will be used to calculate the location of the Land Use Zone boundary. Where a Land Use Zone boundary abuts a natural water boundary such as a lake, stream or wetland, the feature's visible high-water mark will represent the physical Land Use Zone boundary. Where a Land Use Zone boundary falls upon a road, highway, or railway, the centerline will define the boundary.

1.3.3. Pre-Existing Uses

This Plan acknowledges that some buildings and land uses, once allowed by Nak'azdli Whut'en, may no longer align with the Land Use Zone policies established by this Plan at the time of ratification. In these cases, the existing land uses will be given special consideration and exempted from the policies within this Plan. However, if the existing use is discontinued for a period of six months or more (taking into consideration seasonal / cultural activities such as harvesting and agriculture) or if more than 75% of the value of the building or structure above its foundation is damaged or destroyed, then a new land use proposal should be submitted and considered based on its alignment with the policies and objectives identified in Section 5 of this Plan.

1.3.4. Future Land Use Priorities

While this plan focuses on only 5 reserve land areas, Section 7 provides high-level descriptions of each of the remaining 12 reserves (e.g., area, geographic location, and overlap with any applicable zone boundaries identified in the *Nak'azdli Land Stewardship Plan*). Each reserve summary includes suggested Land Use Zones based on community input that are intended to support future planning efforts. Section 7 also includes aerial images of each reserve.

1.3.5. Inconsistencies between Land Use Plans

Should any inconsistencies between this Plan and the *Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Code* arise, the *Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Code* is correct.



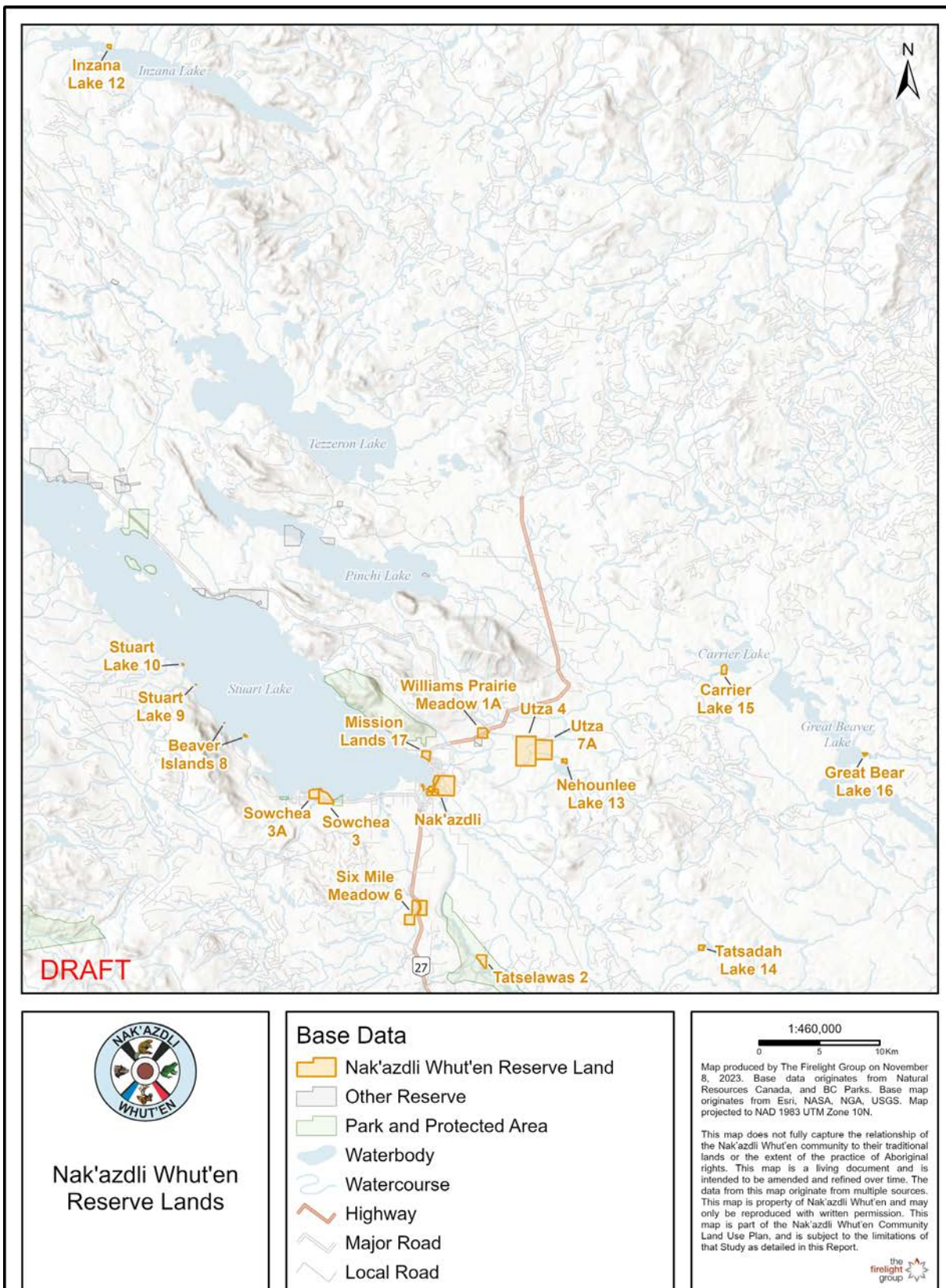
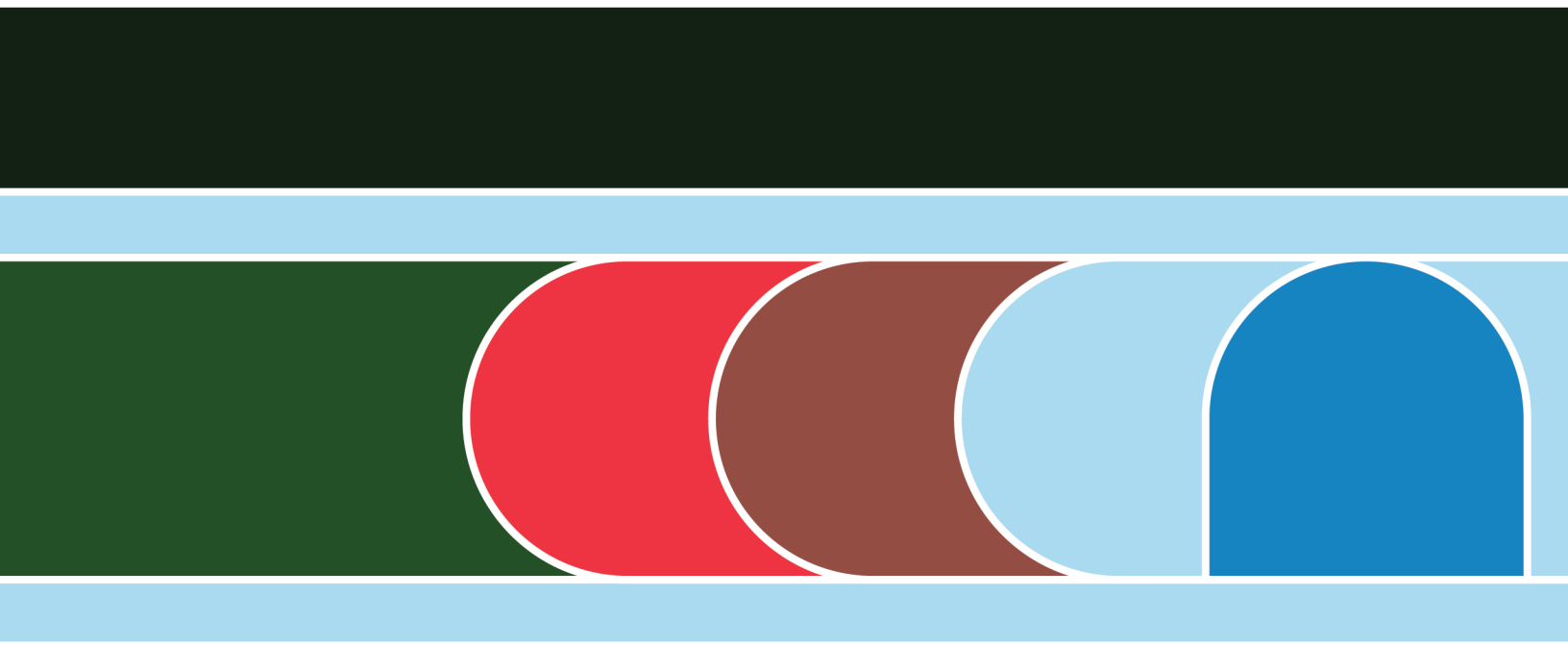


Figure 1. Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands



2. OUR COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1. PLANNING PROCESS

The process for developing our Plan began in March of 2023 and was completed over a 16-month timeline. It involved five project phases, each of which included a significant investment of time and effort from our community.

Our Plan was created with the assistance of the Community Land Use Plan Working Group (the Working Group), which was comprised of Nak'azdli Whut'en staff and leadership. The Working Group met regularly to guide and support community engagement and review draft Plan content during each project phase.

2.1.1. Phase 1: Planning to Plan

During Phase 1, we were focused on establishing the project team, creating a work plan, and developing a robust and inclusive engagement strategy. Phase 1 was also our first opportunity to introduce the project to our community and begin to identify our strengths and challenges in managing our lands. Considering our community's unique Nek'un'a and needs, the main goal of this phase was to figure out a good process for effectively and meaningfully including community voices, visioning, and priorities. Through designing an approach that was unique to our community, we were able to create a Plan that reflects who we are and where we want to go.

Phase 1 Project Highlights:

- Held project kick-off meetings and presentations;
- Formed the Working Group;
- Created the Community Land Use Plan Engagement Strategy;
- Developed the Community Land Use Planning 101 handout; and
- Facilitated the first community engagement event:
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en 2023 AGA Community kick-off presentation (September 2023)

2.1.2. Phase 2: Where Are We Now?

Phase 2 was focused on understanding our community's history, current situation, and how our reserve lands are currently used by our community. This also involved gathering information on how our lands were used in the past. We met the objectives of Phase 2 by reviewing background documents and community data, surveying members to understand their needs and expectations, and hosting visioning workshops. These efforts helped to shape future conversations about key land use issues, opportunities, and desired future outcomes.

Phase 2 Project Highlights:

- Created the Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Land Use Plan Background Report;
- Prepared maps to support community engagement;
- Held interviews with Nak'azdli Whut'en staff and leadership (3);
- Created a project newsletter (Project Update Newsletter #1); and
- Organized and facilitated several community engagement events:
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Visioning Workshop (November 2023)
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en Youth Centre Visioning Workshop (November 2023)
 - » Community-wide Survey (January 2024)

2.1.3. Phase 3: Where Do We Want to Go?

Phase 3 was dedicated to working collaboratively with community members to draft a vision for the future of Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands. This vision statement is central to our Plan and is supported by an action statement outlining how we will achieve it, and guiding principles that form the foundation of the Plan. We held interactive community events to understand our community's land use goals through hands-on mapping activities. These activities helped us prioritize the reserve lands that members want our leaders and decision makers to focus on for the first five years of this Plan.

Phase 3 Project Highlights:

- Drafted a vision statement, action statement, and guiding principles;
- Worked with a trusted Elder to translate our guiding principles into Dakelh;
- Created a project newsletter (Project Update Newsletter #2); and
- Organized and facilitated a second round of community engagement events:
 - » Prince George Community Mapping Workshop (February 2024)
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Mapping Workshop (February 2024)
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en Elders Mapping Workshop (April 2024)
 - » Nak'azdli Whut'en 14+ Youth Mapping Workshop (April 2024)
 - » Vancouver Community Mapping Workshop (April 2024)

2.1.4. Phase 4: How Will We Get There?

During Phase 4, we organized all community input from previous phases to start drafting the Plan. We refined the vision statement, action statement and guiding principles through multiple rounds of document drafting with feedback from the Working Group and community members. We also created draft Land Use Zone maps for the five reserves prioritized in Phase 3, and drafted the goals, objectives, and policies that form the policy framework of our Plan.

Phase 4 Project Highlights:

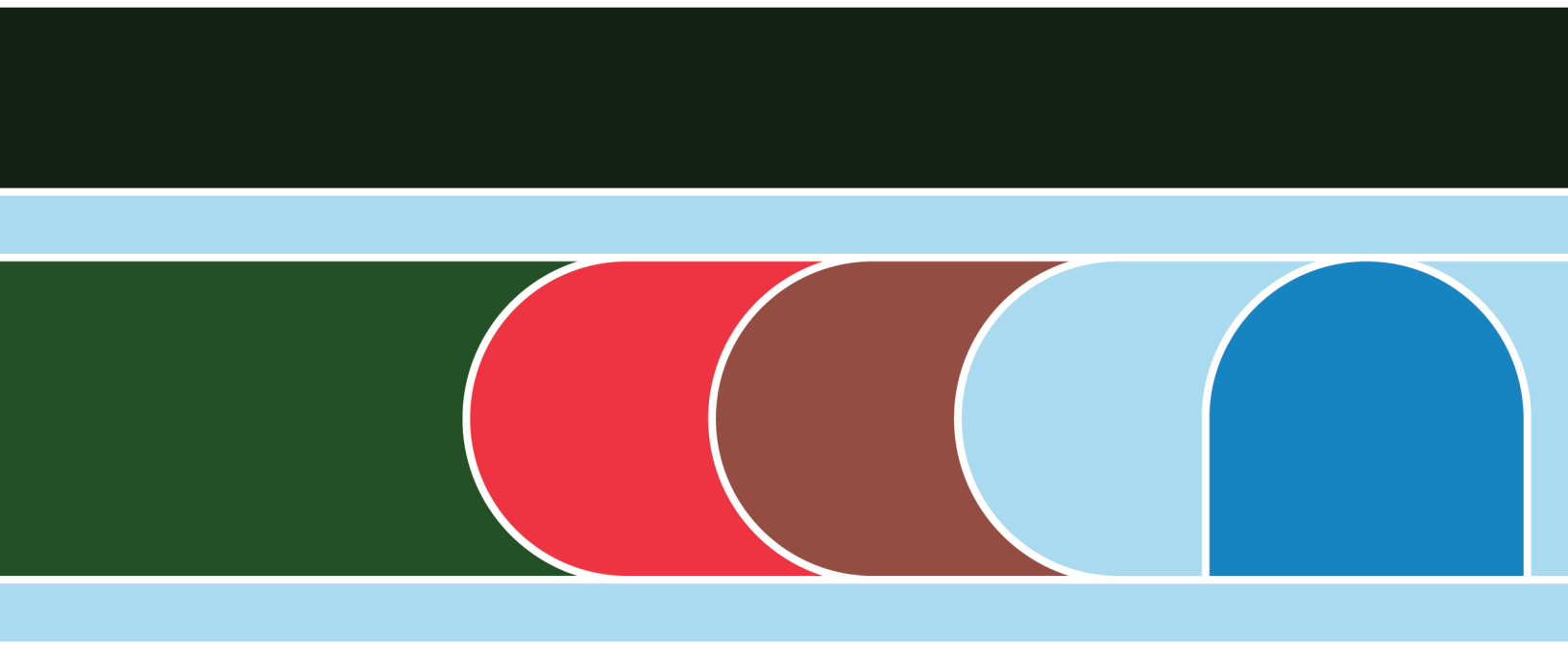
- Finalized our community vision statement, action statement, and guiding principles;
- Drafted Land Use Zone concept maps;
- Drafted Plan goals, objectives, and policies;
- Hosted a final community engagement event:
 - » Virtual Community Verification Workshop (May 2024)

2.1.5. Phase 5: Have We Arrived?

Phase 5 was focused on refining, verifying, and finalizing our draft Plan, and celebrating its completion.

Phase 5 Project Highlights:

- Finalized our Community Land Use Plan;
- Held a virtual Working Group verification workshop (June 2024); and
- Presented the draft Plan to Chief and Council at a virtual verification workshop (June 2024).



3. OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This section describes our community vision for the future alongside our Plan's action statement and a set of guiding principles. These reflections of our community's voices will guide future land management and planning decisions within Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands.

3.1. OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision statement is an aspirational declaration of where our community wants to be in the future. The vision statement below was created through community input and feedback to reflect who we are as a Nation. It sets the direction for where we want our Plan to take us in the future. It is a thoughtful blend of common themes from community engagement and past vision statements from our Land Stewardship Plan (2021) and Nak'azdli Community Plan Framework (2013).

Nak'azdli Whut'enne are proud to share the following vision that reflects the future we have collectively defined for our community:

Nak'azdli Whut'en is a resilient and proud Nation deeply rooted in our Yinka Dene ways, values, beliefs, knowledge, and inherent rights. We are healthy, educated, and self-sustaining, connected to our lands and waters, and we know our Dakelh language. Offering a place for everyone, we value healthy relationships among all Nak'azdli Whut'enne. We are honoured to care for the land in trust for our future elders.



3.2. OUR ACTION STATEMENT

Our action statement concisely outlines how we will achieve our vision. It is rooted in the values that underpin our efforts to help us remain grounded in who we are as a people. The action statement plays an essential role in the decision-making process by focusing the attention of our leadership and decision makers on the advancement of our community vision in a way that is reflective of Nek'un'a and our values. Similar to our vision statement, our action statement was created through a highly collaborative process that spanned many iterative rounds of community input, refinement, and verification:

We will prioritize holistic planning for present and future generations by learning, living, and sharing our language, culture, and traditions to establish a sense of belonging within every person. When developing our reserve lands within our sacred traditional territory, we will make decisions with care and transparency, focusing on environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic viability as we cultivate healthy relationships. We challenge the future.



3.3. OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our guiding principles are the foundation of our Plan. They were created by our community to inform our Plan, guide staff and leadership, and support Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve land management. They are brief, yet meaningful statements about our beliefs and values that describe how we want to live and work toward our future in a good way:

TS'YANTSUK 'UTS'ULH'EN-I DAKELH K'UN'A 'UTS'OOT'EN

(Rooted in Culture)

We will draw guidance from our history and acknowledge the importance of our Neghunni, clans, Keyohs, and traditional governance systems. Anchored by our Dakelh culture and Nek'un'a, we are empowered to move forward with a clear purpose and deep sense of belonging.

TS'IYANNE T'EHONINZUN

(Informed Membership)

We will uphold and improve communication and accountability with all community members. To ensure Nak'azdli Whut'en evolves and withstands the tests of time, we will make thoughtful decisions and provide an honest, informed, transparent, and consistent process when planning for the future of our reserve lands.

BA BULH DENE USLIEN HAWUUN LIE'

(Protect All My Relationships)

It is our birthright, honour, and responsibility to care for all Nak'azdli Whut'enne by protecting the plants, medicines, animals, fish, air, lands, and waters. We will prioritize sustainable Dakelh practices and protect the knowledge of our ancestors, to create a resilient and thriving community.

NUS DEE HUWU NUNINUZUT

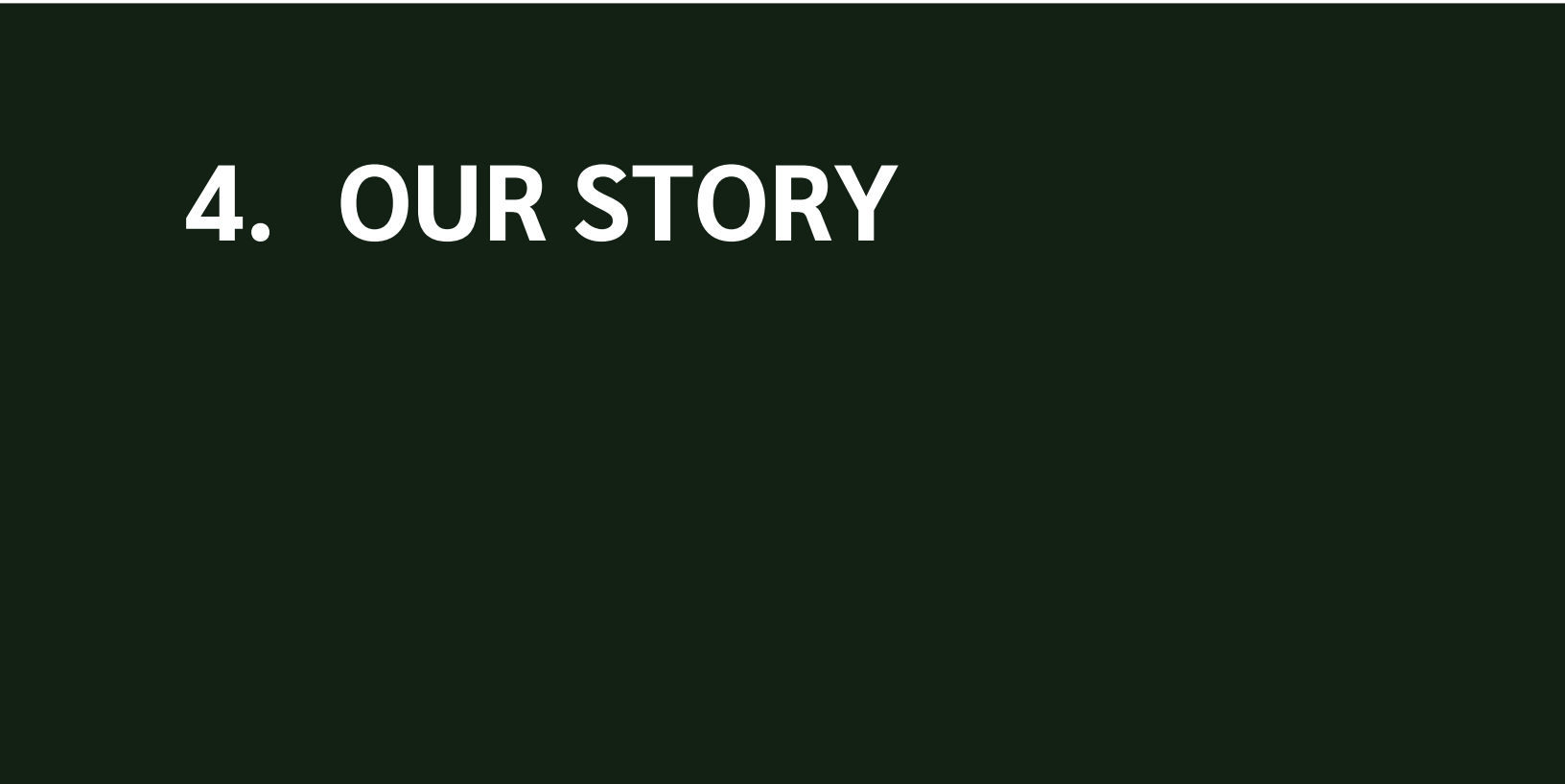
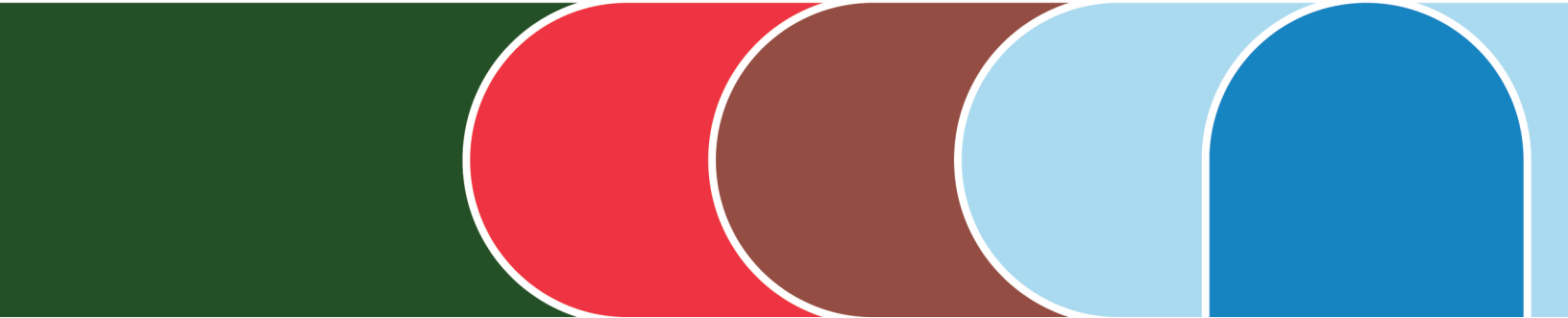
(Many Generations – Future Thinking)

We are committed to ensuring a sustainable future that transcends many generations. When making decisions about developing our reserve lands, we will prioritize environmental responsibility, social equity, and economic viability through a Dakelh planning lens to build a legacy that our grandchildren's grandchildren will be proud of.

KEYOH HOONZOO WHULHI

(Building a Safe and Healthy Community)

Recognizing the weight of historical trauma, we will focus on internal healing and reconciliation. Grounded in love, respect, kindness, and care, we will endeavour to heal both our land and our people. We will prioritize the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness of our people. Our community is dedicated to creating a safe, aware, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all who call it home or come to visit.



4. OUR STORY

This section provides a brief overview of our story as Nak'azdli Whut'enne, speaking to our past, present, and future.

4.1. OUR HISTORY

Since time immemorial, Nak'azdli Whut'enne have resided in the area where the Nak'alkoh (Stuart River) meets the southern shore of Nak'albun (Stuart Lake), one of the largest lakes located in what is now known as British Columbia. Our ancestral territory spans 28,000 square kilometres and extends to the upper reaches of the Skeena and Fraser Rivers.

The story of The Little Dwarves and the Creation of Nak'azdli shares how Nak'azdli Whut'en began and is a fitting way to mark the beginning of our story within this Plan.



Image Source: [unknown]. 1AD. "Fort St. James." P. UBC Archives Photograph Collection. January 1. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0142206>.



Image Source: [unknown]. 1947. "Fort St. James." P. UBC Archives Photograph Collection. January 1. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.14288/1.0142194>.

‘Uda yinka da’, Dunet’um-ne, ‘Utna-ne yaz ubuhutni, enne. Nak’al Dzulh bet whuhut’i. Lhelhdun keyoh whut’en-ne lhst’odutni’ink’ez lhezidla inle’. ‘Et huwa, ‘Utna-ne yaz ‘ink’ez Nak’azdli whut’en-ne te lhat lhuhugan inle’.

Long ago, there were little people called dwarves that lived in the Nak’azdli area. It used to be that people from different places didn’t get along and sometimes even hated each other.

‘Ilhoh, “Utnane yaz ‘ula’ts’i be Nak’alghun ts’e hutizba.

One time the Little Dwarves came down to the south end of Nak’alghun in their bark canoes to war with the people of Nak’azdli.

“Ohda’, Nak’alghun whut’at, ‘et ts’o ‘ulh ti nanint’i.

In those days, the south end of the lake was blocked off by a great causeway.

Lhuhugan whutoh, lhai k’aza hutizso k’et, duts’l bet whuts’un, nyoo ‘ulh dube’hidunilhtso we nda’ huntiz’il.

During the battle, the Little Dwarves shot so many arrows from their canoes that the arrows broke through the dam, causing it to float downstream.

‘Ulh dube’hidunilhtso we nda’ huntiz’il ‘ink’ez noo suli’. ‘I ‘unt’oh ‘andit “Noo Yiz” ys’utni,ookw’uzts’e cha “Tl’otizdli” ts’uwuhutni.

When they shot the dam open it floated off and formed an island which is now called “Noo Yiz”, or “Long Island”. One side of the island is now called “Tl’otizdli”, or “Grassy Outlet”, the grass where the arrows floated off.

‘Utnaneyaz k’a lhai tahalhtseh, ‘I k’a tizdli. “ ‘Utnaneyaz k’a bulh tizdli”, ni whe ‘unti, ndi khuni.

After that, people called that place “ ‘Utnaneyaz k’a bulh tizdli” or Nak’azdli, which means “the place where the Little Dwarves’ arrows floated off”.

‘Et ‘a

Source: Prince, Louis Billy. n.d. “The Little Dwarves and the Creation of Nak’azdli.” Nak’azdli Whut’en.

Nak'azdli Whut'enne are Dakelhne meaning "people who go around by boat", also known as Carrier People. Our traditional governance system is a matrilineal clan system, with hereditary chiefs and clan elders in key leadership roles.⁶ Central to this system is the bah'lats, which is the core governance institution of the Dakelhne.⁷ There are four clans that make up Nak'azdli Whut'en society: Lhts'umusyoo (Beaver), Lusilyoo (Frog), Kwuna Ba Whuten (Caribou), and Lohjabou (Bear). Each clan is comprised of smaller sub-clans, or families. These clans and sub-clans each have certain rights and responsibilities within distinct geographical areas in our territory known as "keyohs". For countless generations, our people have cared for their keyohs, and in return, our lands have provided for us.

Historically, Dakelhne ways of life revolved around the seasons, with a strong emphasis on harvesting fish, including varieties of salmon and trout.⁸ In the summer months, Nak'azdli Whut'enne lived in established villages with their extended families, while in the winter months, families travelled to seasonal homes within their respective keyohs.⁹ Nak'azdli Whut'enne have always lived and maintained reciprocal relationships and deep connections with the land, following the ways of our ancestors, maintaining Nek'un'a, and passing Dakelh teachings, practices, stories, and knowledge from one generation to the next.¹⁰

Colonizers arrived in Nak'azdli territory in the early 1800s. Upon their arrival, they were received by the great Chief Kw'eh.¹¹ Shortly after this meeting, the Stuart Lake trading post was established in Fort St. James along the shores of Nak'albun. The Stuart Lake Post was the second permanent fur trade post constructed by the North West Company west of the Rocky Mountains. It did not take long for the area to become a key hub for the fur trade in northern British Columbia.¹²

Colonization significantly impacted our people. In 1876, the Canadian government passed the Indian Act, which set out laws that gave the government control over the lives of First Nations people, including the establishment of reserve lands for "registered Indians" and restricted our movement, land use, and settlement, among other things. Although our traditional lands remained unceded, meaning that we never signed a treaty or otherwise gave up any rights to our territory, reserves for Nak'azdli were set out in 1892.¹³

At first, our people remained largely unaffected by the changes, but in the early 1900s, the government made traditional fishing practices illegal.¹⁴ Shortly thereafter, in 1922, the

6 Prince, Nicholette, "Nak'azdli Whut'en Wheni Noh Bulh Yas-Ulhtuk". (Nak'azdli Whut'en, n.d.)

7 For more information on Carrier people and governance systems please see the Nak'azdli Whut'en website "Dakelh Culture." (Nak'azdli Whut'en, n.d.) <https://www.nakazdliwhuten.ca/dakelh-culture>. Or "CSFS Member Nations" (Carrier Sekani Family Services, n.d.) <https://www.csfs.org/about-us/overview-culture>.

8 Poser, "The Carrier Language: A Brief Introduction."

9 Land Forest People Consulting Ltd. "Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report." Poser, "The Carrier Language: A Brief Introduction."

10 Land Forest People Consulting Ltd. "Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report."

11 Nak'azdli Whut'en, "History of Nak'azdli." (Nak'azdli Whut'en, n.d.)

12 Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Nak'azdli Community Plan Framework."

13 Northern Health, Nak'azdli Whut'en, and Tl'azten First Nation, "Nak'azdli 'ink'ez Tl'azt'en Wheni Noh Bulh Yas'ulhtuk - Nak'azdli and Tl'azten: We Are Telling You." (Northern Health, Nak'azdli Whut'en, and Tl'azten First Nation, 2015)

14 Ibid.

Lejac Residential School opened, and around the same period, the provincial government established the registered trapline system and began surveying trapline boundaries. Many Nak'azdli Whut'en families were forced to outline their keyoh boundaries and register them as trap lines to try and protect their rights under this new system. However, according to Canadian law, the newly registered traplines could only be held by a single male individual, which undermined our traditional and matrilineal systems of title, inheritance, and stewardship.¹⁵

Throughout the 1900s, our people suffered many hardships. Yet, despite the government's best efforts to control and assimilate us, we remain proud and strong Dakelhne today. The Lejac Residential School closed in 1976.¹⁶

4.2. OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

4.2.1. Location, Population, and Demographics

Nak'azdli Whut'en's current total registered member population is approximately 2,062. Approximately 34% (704) of our members live on reserve, while 62% (1,289) live in other parts of BC and beyond (Figure 2).¹⁷ Most of our on-reserve members reside in our main community officially titled Nak'azdli IR #1, which is colloquially known as "Fort". Fort is located directly adjacent to the District of Fort St. James, approximately 60 km from Vanderhoof and 153 km from Prince George. Many of our off-reserve members live in Fort St. James, while others live in and around urban centers such as Prince George, Kamloops, and Vancouver (among other locations).

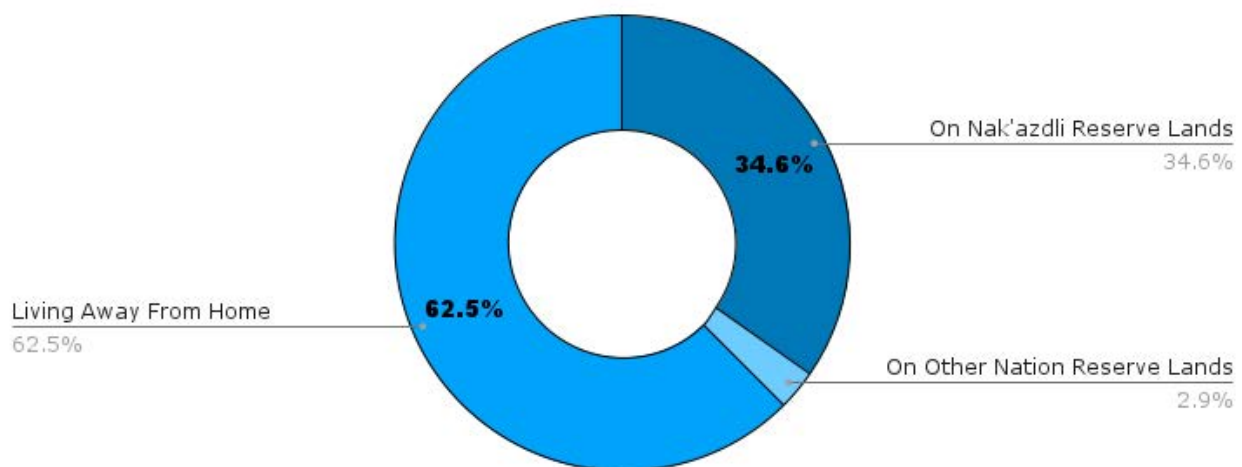


Figure 2. Proportion of Registered Members Living On and Off Reserve

15 Land Forest People Consulting Ltd. "Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report."

16 There is so much more to be said about Nak'azdli's history. For more information, 2019's *Nak'azdli 'ink'ez Tl'az'en Wheni noh bulk yas'ulhtuk / Nak'azdli and Tl'azten: We Are Telling You* is a great foundational resource. It can be accessed at indigenousealthnh.ca/sites/default/files/2019-11-26/Nakazdli-and-T'lazten.pdf.

17 It is important to note that these numbers are based on data that is limited to registered members, meaning that non-member relatives living on reserve are not accounted for.

Historically, our territory’s central location in what is now known as the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (BNRD) made Nak’azdli a well-known gathering place. We are bordered by neighbouring Dakelh communities, including, but not limited to, Yekooche First Nation and Tl’azt’en Nation.¹⁸ In total, we have 17 reserve lands located in various locations throughout our territory (Figure 1). Together, our reserve lands cover a land base of over 1500 ha (Table 1). For reference, this combined area is less than 1% of the total extent of Nak’azdli traditional territory.

Table 1. Nak’azdli Reserves Location and Size

RESERVE NAME	LOCATION	SIZE
Nak’azdli IR #1	Coast District, Range 5, at Fort St. James southeast end of Nak’albun.	297 hectares
Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1a	Coast District, Range 5, on Manson Creek Road, 4 miles north-east of Fort St. James.	64.70 hectares
Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2	Coast District, Range 5, on the left bank of the Stuart River, 10 miles southeast of Fort St. James.	55 hectares
Sowchea IR #3	Coast District, Range 5, on the south shore of Nak’albun, 6 miles west of Fort St. James.	91.10 hectares.
Sowchea IR #3a	Coast District, Range 5, Lot 4313, on the south shore of Nak’albun, west of and adjoining I.R. No. 3.	59.10 hectares
Uzta (Nahounil Creek) IR #4	Coast District, Range 5, on Nahounli Creek, 5 miles north-east of Fort St. James.	388.50 hectares
Six Mile Meadow IR #6	Coast District, Range 5, on Pitka Creek, 7 miles south of Fort St. James.	210.40 hectares
Uzta (Nahounil Creek) IR #7a	Coast District, Range 5, on Nahounli Creek, 6 miles northeast of Fort St. James, east of and adjoining I.R. No.4.	217.70 hectares
Beaver Island IR #8	Coast District. RGE5, Lots 2160 And 2166 2 small islands off the SW shore of Nak’albun, about 11 miles NW of Fort St. James.	2.80 hectares

18 Fort St James Visitor Information Centre, “We Are Fort St James.” (Fort St James, 2023)
Nak’azdli Whut’en, “Nak’azdli Community Plan Framework.”

RESERVE NAME	LOCATION	SIZE
Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9	Coast District, Range 5, Lot 2161, Hungry Island, a small Island in Nak'albun, 13 miles N.W. of Fort St. James.	0.20 hectares
Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10	Coast District, Range 5, Lot 2162, Dunah Island, a small island in Nak'albun, 15 miles west of Fort St. James.	1 hectare
Inzana Lake IR #12	Coast District, Range 5, Lot 2163 on the north shore of Inzana Lake.	8.60 hectares
Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13	Coast District, Range 5, Block A of Lot 4720 on the north shore of Nahounli Lake 6 miles east of Fort St. James	11 hectares
Tatsadah Lake IR #14	Cariboo District, Lot 10115, at the west end of Tatsadah Lake north of the Stuart River.	17.20 hectares
Carrier Lake IR #15	Cariboo District, Lot 10113 on Carrier Lake, at the outlet into the Ocock River.	29.90 hectares
Great Bear Lake IR #16	Cariboo District, Lot 10114, on the northeast shore of Great Beaver Lake.	4.0 hectares
Mission Reserve Lands IR #17	Coast District, Range 5, Lot 1266, on the south-eastern shore of Stuart Lake, adjacent to the District of Fort. St. James.	41.90 hectares

Of our 2,062 registered Nak'azdli members, 1,021 are males and 1,041 are females (Figure 3).¹⁹ According to the 2021 Census, the average age of on-reserve members is 39.4 years, with the largest age cohort being between 0-14 years (Figure 4).

¹⁹ Nak'azdli Whut'en Registration Administrator, "Member data" (Nak'azdli Whut'en, May 2024)

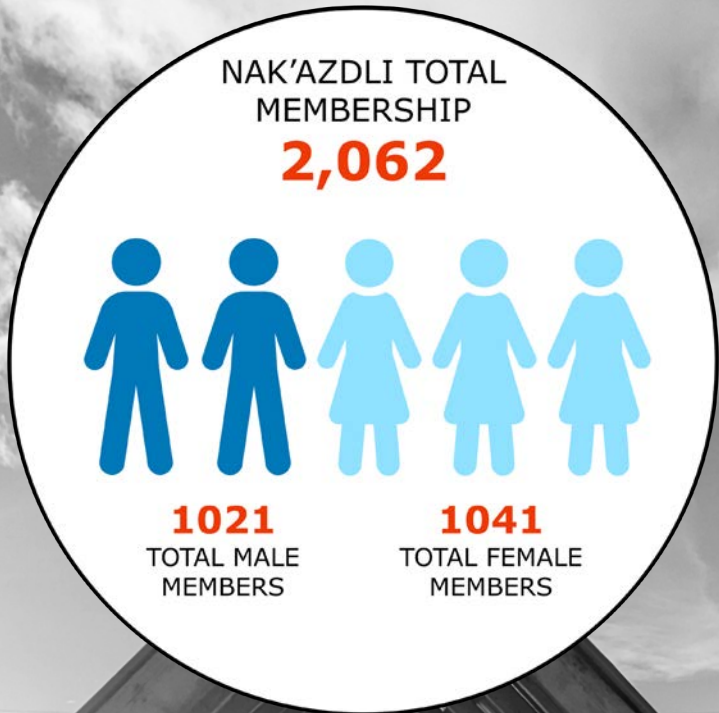


Figure 3. Total Nak'azdli Membership

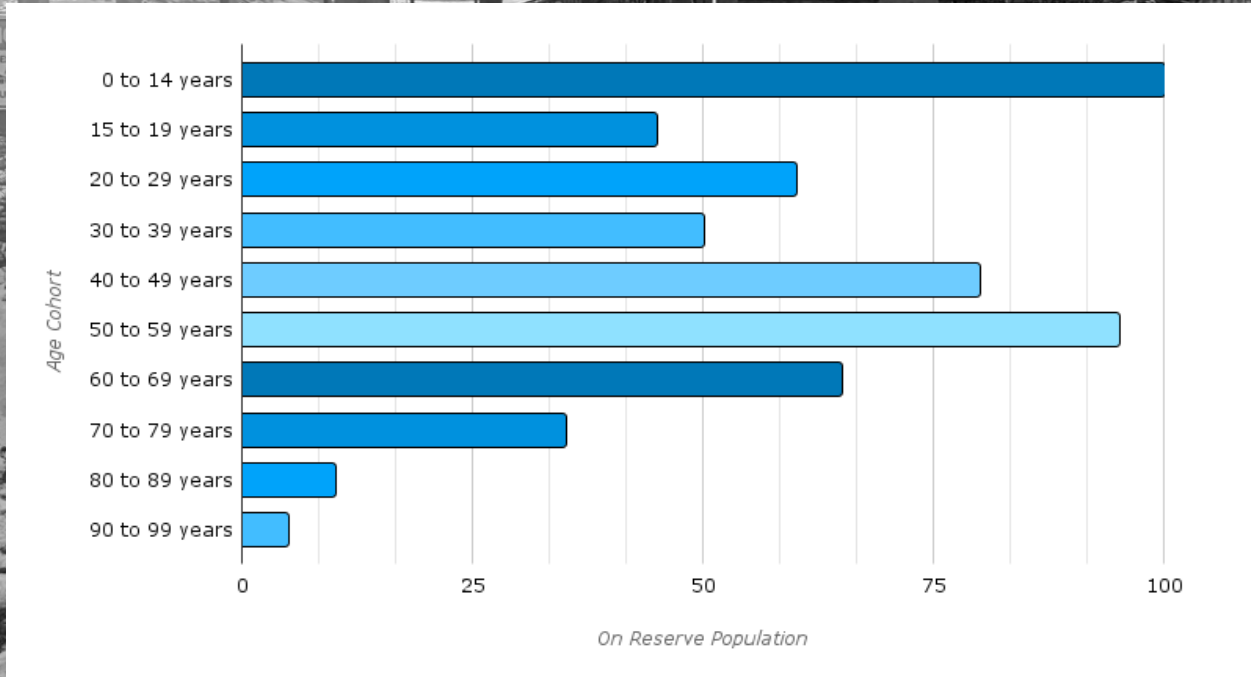


Figure 4. Nak'azdli On-Reserve Population

4.2.2. Neghunni (Language) and Culture

Nak'azdli Whut'en belongs to the Athapaskan Carrier-speaking cultural group and is part of the Carrier Nation of the Dene.²⁰ The Carrier language is at risk, with fewer than 10% of Carrier people speaking it fluently. However, since the 1970s, Nak'azdli Whut'en have been working hard to preserve Dakelh through the Yinka Déné Language Institute, which promotes Carrier culture and language.²¹ According to Census Canada, 45 community members living on-reserve currently speak Dakelh as their primary language.²²

Nak'azdli Whut'en are passionate about living and strengthening Dakelh culture. Many of our community members are working to revitalize the use of Neghunni and songs, and we live and practice our culture together by participating in community events, spending time on the land and water, harvesting, processing, and preparing traditional foods, sharing important stories, and passing our ways and knowledge on to the next generation. Historically, Dakelhne traditions were oral, and this is how our ways were shared and learned within our community. Today, our children are still taught the importance of listening, but much more of our history is being recorded and shared through the written word.²³ Books written by Nak'azdli Whut'en sharing Dakelh culture and history include (but are not limited to):

- Lillian Sam and Frieda Klippenstein, *Chief Kw'eh Remembered* (2017);
- Herbert Shane Hartman, *Isla's New Drum* (2020);
- Francois Prince, *The Eagle Feather Story* (2020);
- Leona Prince, *A Dance Through the Seasons* (2021)
- Gabrielle Prince and Leona Prince, *Be a Good Ancestor* (2022);
- Nicholette Prince, *Nak'azdli Whut'en Wheni noh bulh yas-ulhtuk* (2023); and,
- Peggy Janicki, *The Secret Pocket* (2023)

4.2.3. Clans and Keyohs

Our Nation has a strong clan system, with our four clans including Lhts'umusyoo (Beaver), Lusilyoo (Frog), Kwuna Ba Whuten (Caribou), and Lohjabou (Bear). People are born into the clan of their mother, and those belonging to the same clan are considered family. Historically, marriages between different clans created connections that enabled families to have access to more than one hunting territory.²⁴ Our ancestral territory covers approximately 42 distinct keyohs, with keyoh and trapline holders playing an active and important role in stewarding our territory.²⁵

20 Nak'azdli Whut'en, "History of Nak'azdli."
Land Forest People Consulting Ltd "Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Planning Report."

21 Poser, "The Carrier Language: A Brief Introduction."

22 Ibid.

23 Ibid.

24 Prince, "Nak'azdli Whut'en Wheni Noh Bulh Yas-Ulhtuk"

25 Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Nak'azdli Community Plan Framework."

The figure below shows the flags associated with each Nak'azdli clan.²⁶

Lusilyoo
(Frog)



Kwuna Ba Whuten
(Caribou)



Lohjabou
(Bear)



Lhts'umusyoo
(Beaver)



Figure 5. Nak'azdli Whut'en Clan Flags

As part of the engagement efforts for this Plan, invitations to community meetings were sent directly to the keyoh representatives with keyoh boundaries that overlap our reserve lands. This direction was taken to ensure that our planning approach was in alignment with our Nek'un'a and reflective of our first guiding principle: ts'iyantsuk 'uts'ulh'en-i dakelh k'un'a 'uts'oot'en (rooted in culture).

4.2.4. Administration and Leadership

Due to the laws imposed on us under the Indian Act, our Nation has both a traditional governance system and an elected council of representatives. Our elected government includes one chief and eight council members.

Our administration has ten departments, all of which report to the Chief Operating Officer, who is responsible to our elected chief and council. These ten departments and their reporting structure are shown in the organizational chart provided in Figure 6:

²⁶ Nak'azdli Whut'en, "History of Nak'azdli."

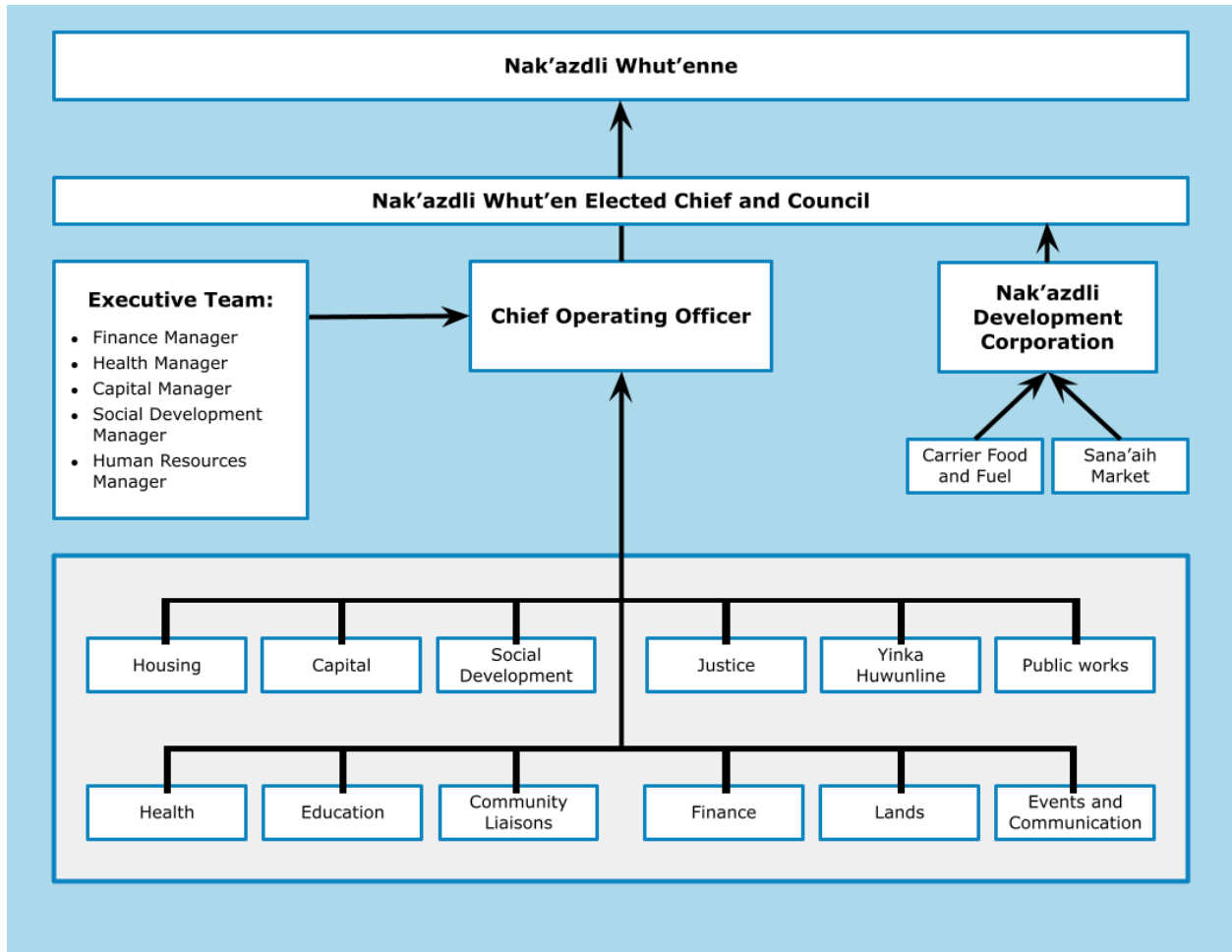


Figure 6. Nak'azdli Whut'en Administration Organizational Chart

Nak'azdli Development Corporation

The Nak'azdli Development Corporation (NDC) was established in 1987.²⁷ Since that time, Nak'azdli Whut'en has established and continues to own, partially or in whole, a number of businesses through the NDC. As Figure 6 shows, NDC-owned companies include Sana'aih Market, Carrier Food and Fuel ("Petro"), and Nak'al Koh Logging. NDC is also a partner in Nus De Environmental Services and Jaboon Holdings.²⁸

27 Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Nak'azdli Development Corporation" (Nak'azdli Whut'en, May 25, 2015)

28 Prince, "Nak'azdli Whut'en Wheni Noh Bulh Yas-Ulhtuk"

4.2.5. Housing

Housing is a pressing issue for Nak’azdli Whut’enne, affecting families both on reserve, in nearby Fort St. James, and beyond. Regional economic activity, rising costs of building materials and labour, and chronic underfunding from government have strained housing stock, leading to higher prices, overcrowding, and limited options.²⁹ Many Nak’azdli Whut’enne would like to return home to live on reserve, but are prevented from doing so due to the lack of housing. This scarcity has caused a geographical disconnect among our community members and hinders our ability to practice our Dakelh culture and lifeways.³⁰

In 2013, Chief and Council lifted a moratorium on new housing and initiated several projects, including a recent plan to build 30 new homes on IR #1.³¹ Nak’azdli currently has 68 band-owned houses, with four under renovation and 64 occupied as rental units. Community members must apply annually to be waitlisted for band-owned housing, with 56 families currently on the waitlist.

Key housing barriers include limited funding for new housing on reserve, limited housing varieties to meet the needs of diverse household sizes, and limited resources to support home maintenance and renovations. Members living away from home also identified a need for housing support, particularly in urban centers such as Vancouver. Community engagement throughout the planning process for this Plan consistently highlighted the need to prioritize various housing types, particularly single-family homes, single-person homes, and multi-family homes.

According to 2021 Census data and illustrated in Figure 7, Nak’azdli members living on reserve reside in a variety of housing types, including apartments, single-detached homes, semi-detached homes, and movable homes (e.g., mobile homes), with an average household size of 2.6 people.³²

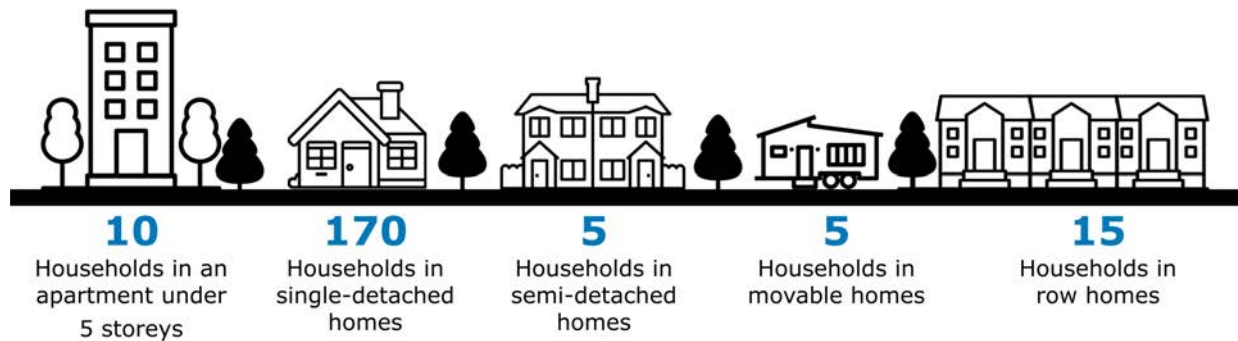


Figure 7. Housing Types On Reserve

29 Quintessential Research Group Inc. “Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Spectra Energy’s Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project on Nak’azdli Band and Community Members.” (Nak’azdli Whut’enne. 2014)

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

32 Statistics Canada, “2021 Census of Population - Nak’azdli, Indian Reserve (IR) [Census Subdivision], British Columbia.” (Statistics Canada, 2021)



4.3. OUR FUTURE

4.3.1. Anticipated Growth

To better understand population trends in a way that would enable us to calculate a reliable growth projection for Nak'azdli Whut'en, best practices would direct us to compare the most recent on-reserve population data with historical on-reserve data trends. However, it is important to note that the efficacy of this type of comparison is limited due to discrepancies in the federal population datasets and actual community population data (i.e., internal membership records do not align with federal data because federal data sets do not include non-members living on reserve). For these reasons, it is difficult to extend the historical population trend data into the future in a way that reliably predicts growth and informs planning decisions for future housing, services, and amenities.

Stepping back, the number of members that currently report living on reserve has clearly changed over time, regardless of data discrepancies. The available data shows that the Nak'azdli Whut'en on-reserve member population has steadily increased over the past 20 years at a growth rate of 1.5%, with our largest age cohort between 0 and 14 years of age (see Table 2, below, and Figure 4, above).³³ The dominance of the 0-14 age cohort within our population data should be monitored and considered to better understand the opportunities and future planning efforts we can undertake to support our youth in the coming years. Children and youth are the heart of our community and ensuring that we have adequate spaces in classrooms, daycares, and recreational activities is crucial for our community's' success. To support our youth, Nak'azdli's administration should gather and analyze data on daycare and classroom spaces and age-specific programs. This will help identify if more capacity is needed, and allow for proactive planning.

There are many factors that will influence how our on-reserve population changes in the coming years, including available housing and economic activity that may lead to local employment opportunities and affect land use decisions. Table 2, below, identifies and attempts to predict potential growth projections through the application of multiple growth

33 Statistics Canada, "2021 Census of Population - Nak'azdli, Indian Reserve (IRI) [Census Subdivision], British Columbia."

rate scenarios. The current 1.5% growth rate is provided and contrasted by alternative growth rate scenarios to help us consider how our on-reserve population trends may fluctuate over time relative to steady, increasing, or decreasing growth rates.

Table 2. Growth Projections for Nak’azdli’s On-Reserve Population

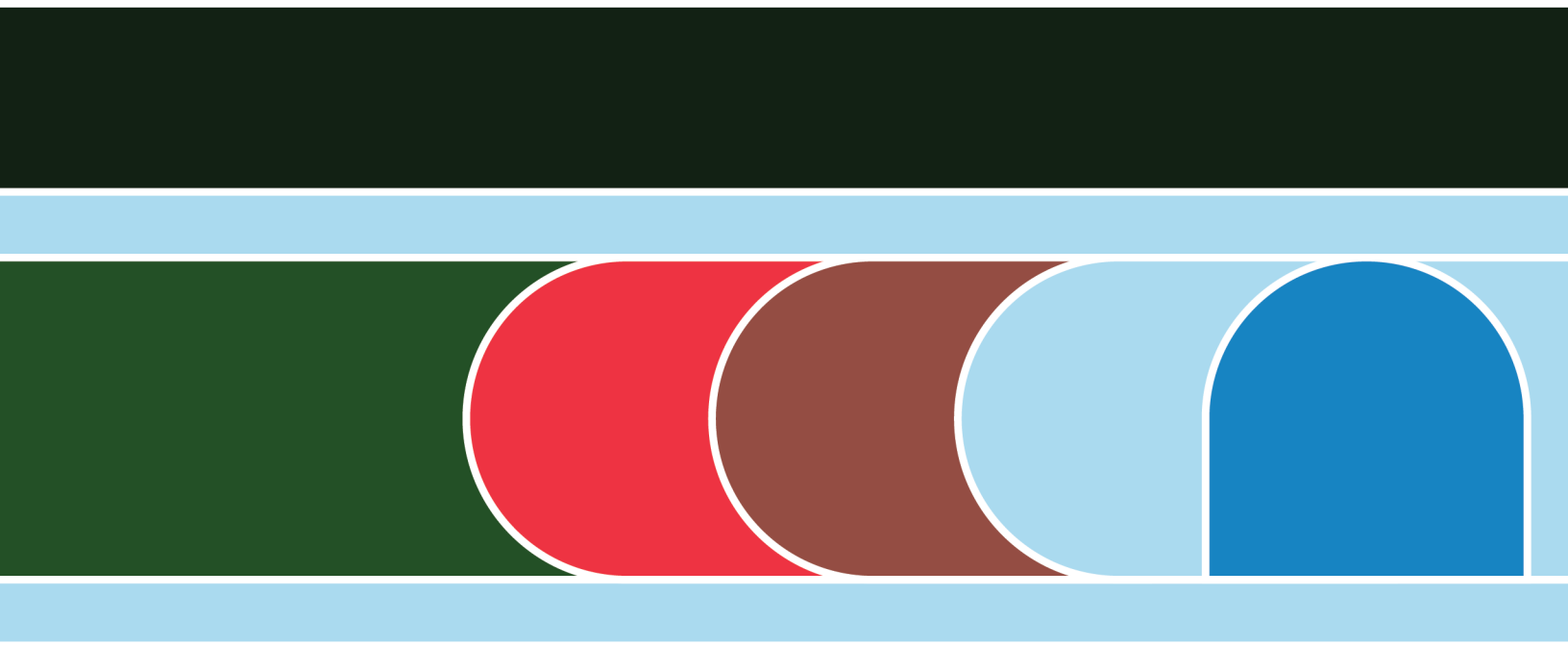
Growth Rate	2023	2033	2043	2053
0.5%	698	733	771	810
1.0%	698	771	851	940
1.5%	698	810	940	1,091
5.0%	698	1,136	1,852	3,016
10.0%	698	1,810	4695	12,179

As part of the 2029 comprehensive 5-year review of this Plan (Section 8.4), the on-reserve population data should be revisited to measure the correlational factor between new housing construction, new economic activity, and changing demographics. Once this analysis is done, new benchmarks can be set for future housing starts, infrastructure, and amenities.

4.3.2. Infrastructure

Infrastructure planning is essential for a self-sufficient community and directly affects quantity of services and therefore quality of life experienced by on-reserve residents. The demographic and population projections should guide future infrastructure planning to ensure that growth stays within our capacity to support it. The Nak’azdli Whut’en Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) report, a comprehensive reference, should be used to aid in understanding our current infrastructure inventory and capacities so that we can plan appropriately for the future needs of our community. Future versions of this Plan should include an asset management plan with updated information about infrastructure demands, pressures, and capacities. This approach will help us to identify necessary upgrades before problems occur, which in turn will reduce operating and maintenance costs, and support funding applications to address future needs.

The District of Fort St. James is the current operator of the existing sewage lagoon, which is located within the boundary of IR #1 and is a shared system for both the District of Fort St. James and for Nak’azdli Whut’enne who call IR #1 home. Nak’azdli is currently engaged in discussions with the District of Fort St. James regarding future wastewater treatment options as well as future land use opportunities for the existing sewage lagoon site. The community will be included in the planning process to consider future water treatment management options for Nak’azdli reserve lands.



5. COMMUNITY PLANNING



Land Use Zones provide a framework for practical community land use planning and management. The following section identifies:

- **Goals** to guide the management and development of Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands;
- **General objectives and policies** that apply to land use and development activities within all Land Use Zones;
- **Specific Land Use Zone objectives and policies**, which apply to land use and development activities within each respective Land Use Zone, and
- **Priority action items** that are recommended as extending opportunities to further the objectives of this Plan.

Good practice dictates that future land use decisions should align with the goals, objectives, and policies identified in this section. These guidelines support future development planning and land use activities in support of Nek'un'a. By upholding the policies of this Plan, we work toward achieving our goals and objectives. In doing so, we advance our vision for the future of Nak'azdli Whut'en lands.

The objectives of each Land Use Zone are identified throughout this section alongside examples of land uses that may be supportable within each Land Use Zone. These land use examples are provided for informational purposes and are not meant to be exhaustive. When deciding whether a use should be allowed within a specified area, the following questions should be considered:

- Whether or not the proposed use will negatively impact the objectives of the respective Land Use Zone;
- Whether or not the proposed use is in alignment with the policies of the respective Land Use Zone; and
- Whether or not the proposed use will have a negative impact on a given site or on the lands and people surrounding the specified area.

5.1. OUR GOALS

A goal gives us a clear target to work towards, guiding our actions to achieve our community's desired outcomes. The Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Use Plan goals are as follows:



1. To have a safe, livable community;



2. To have a healthy community with a range of services and opportunities to support healthy lifestyles;



3. To create a self-sustaining community;



4. To have sufficient housing on reserve to accommodate members living on reserve and those waiting to return home;



5. To plan the community in a good way that fosters environmental stewardship and sustainability; and



6. To integrate our cultural practices into each stage of the community planning process to honour and preserve our heritage while nurturing a cohesive community identity.

Our goals are high-level, ambitious, and future oriented, which makes measuring their success difficult. To make sure that this Plan can be put into action, we have outlined specific objectives for each Land Use Zone (Sections 5.3 to 5.10). These objectives are intended to provide clear, measurable milestones or targets that support our goals. They serve as a roadmap to accomplish our big-picture goals and help to ensure that progress is both tangible and attainable.

Each of our goals is accompanied by a unique icon. The icons are intended to serve as a wayfinding tool, which will help us to understand the connections between the goals, objectives, and policies throughout the Plan.

Goals are high-level and future-oriented, providing a clear target to guide actions and decisions for the benefit of our community.

Objectives represent our desired future state for specific land use designations. They are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) to ensure successful plan implementation.

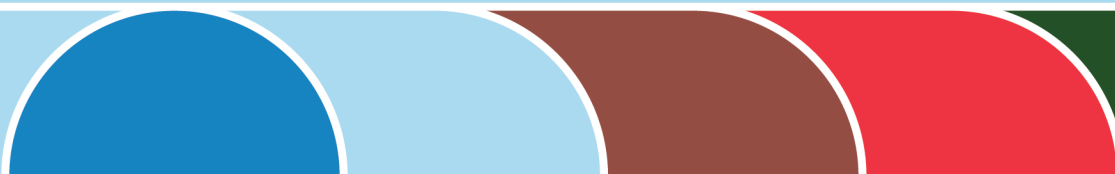
Policies are established to assist Nak'azdli Whut'en in upholding our guiding principles and accomplishing our goals and objectives concerning land use.



5.2. GENERAL LAND USE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The following general objectives and policies are broad in nature and apply to land use and development within all Land Use Zones. As outlined in Section 19.2 of the Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code, all use and development of Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands is subject to the Reserve Land Code. Our general land use policies have been organized into seven policy areas, which are defined below, with the corresponding objectives and policies provided in Table 3.

1. **Culturally Significant Places and cultural resources:** General objectives and policies are provided to protect and preserve Culturally Significant Places and resources, which may include (but are not limited to) historical and archaeological areas. Valuable cultural sites and unearthed ancestral belongings are to be protected.
2. **Community accessibility, utilities, and servicing:** General objectives and policies regarding community accessibility, utilities, and servicing are provided to ensure comprehensive access to essential services and utilities, such as water, electricity, and transportation, and to facilitate equitable access to services and infrastructure. Access to adequate services and infrastructure will enhance the quality of life of all who live in and visit our community, and ensure we function efficiently and effectively.
3. **Community safety and wellbeing:** General objectives and policies regarding community safety and well-being are provided to ensure that we create safe and healthy living environments for all community members, and to help us prioritize community safety through crime prevention, disaster preparedness, and health initiatives.
4. **Culture, Neghunni, and identity:** General objectives and policies regarding culture, Neghunni and identity are provided to support and promote incorporating our unique cultural identity, Nek'un'a and Neghunni, within our built community. These purposeful efforts will ensure our presence remains visible to our community members and neighbours.



5. **Environmentally sensitive areas:** General objectives and policies regarding environmentally sensitive areas are provided to protect natural habitats and ecosystems vulnerable to development and human activities, and to maintain biodiversity, support ecological balance, and ensure that natural resources are available for future generations.

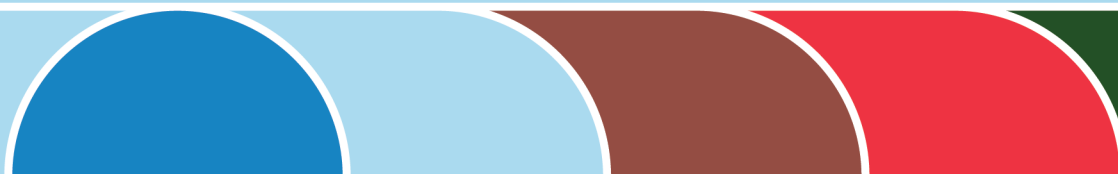
Environmentally sensitive areas are identified as areas that are unstable, degraded, or have sensitive environmental features. Environmentally sensitive areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Areas where the landscape or vegetation provides habitat for important species, including nesting sites, etc.;
 - b. Areas that connect important habitats together and provide natural movement corridors for animals;
 - c. Areas that have slopes greater than 15% (unless determined otherwise by a qualified geotechnical engineer); and
 - d. Areas identified as environmentally sensitive areas through pre-planning input from elders and Nak'azdli Whut'enne.
6. **Infrastructure and development:** General objectives and policies regarding infrastructure and development are provided to ensure adequate construction and maintenance of infrastructure and land development; encourage sustainable growth; improve connectivity; and support economic development by providing the necessary foundation for residential, commercial, and industrial development.
 7. **Sustainability:** General sustainability objectives and policies are provided to promote practices that meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations. These objectives and policies will find balance between economic, social, and environmental objectives, fostering long-term resilience and resource efficiency throughout future community development phases.



Table 3. General Objectives and Policies

General Objectives and Policies		
Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
<p>1 Culturally Significant Places and Cultural Resources</p>	<p>A Prioritize appropriate use and stewardship of cultural resources, including Culturally Significant Places and ancestral belongings, by managing, preserving, and protecting them from disturbance within Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve land.</p>	<p>1 Nak'azdli Whut'en is the authority on what constitutes a Culturally Significant Place on Nak'azdli reserve lands and within Nak'azdli territory more broadly.</p> <p>2 Any Culturally Significant Place located on Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands will not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed by anyone for whatever purposes, unless express permission to do so is granted by Nak'azdli Whut'en.</p> <p>3 Pre-planning for new construction and development shall, as determined by Nak'azdli Whut'en, require an archaeological assessment under the guidance and supervision of the Lands Department or their designate.</p> <p>4 Development will stop upon the discovery of known or potential Culturally Significant Places until the cultural value and significance of the discovery has been determined by the Lands Department, Nak'azdli Whut'en elders, and keyoh holders or designates.</p>



General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
	<p>B</p> <p>Ensure development only takes place following appropriate archaeological assessments and setback identification as directed by Nak'azdli Whut'en.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Appropriate cultural setbacks for Culturally Significant Places will be established in collaboration with the Lands Department based on the nature of the site and/or any associated cultural uses. 2 Once an appropriate cultural setback distance is identified, no development or construction-related activities will occur within the established setback unless exempted by the Lands Department. Setback areas shall be clearly indicated on all site planning and construction drawings. 3 Exceptions to cultural setbacks may be made to allow for path construction, boardwalks, viewing platforms, or structures designed to control access, but they must be approved by the Lands Department and may require community input. 4 During development and construction activities, protection of Culturally Significant Places will be maintained by indicating the boundaries of cultural setback areas with high visibility flagging, signage, and/or fencing.

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
<p>2 Community Accessibility, Utilities, and Servicing</p>	<p>A Encourage coordinated planning and development of essential community infrastructure—such as transportation, utilities, and communication networks—to support both current and future community needs.</p>	<p>1 Until such time that Nak’azdli Whut’en has developed a transportation and access plan, Nak’azdli may, at its discretion, rely upon relevant road standards, policies, and guidelines to determine best practices for new developments or planned improvements.</p> <p>2 As a condition of approval for new developments within Nak’azdli reserve lands, safe and reliable ingress/egress with adequate sightlines, sidewalks, and road surfacing may be required. Costs associated with this infrastructure will be the responsibility of the developer when required for non-Nation-led or third-party projects.</p> <p>3 All new development will demonstrate how the site will be adequately serviced with water, sanitary sewer, and power to meet the needs of the development prior to approval. Nak’azdli Whut’en reserves the right to withhold from contributing to the cost of these works for non-Nation-led or third-party projects.</p> <p>4 Access to safe and clean drinking water is recognized as an essential responsibility of the Crown and Nak’azdli Whut’en and will be provided for all members living on Nak’azdli reserve lands in accordance with Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
		<p>5 New development will identify opportunities for improved telecommunications such as fiberoptic and/or alternative broadband internet service providers, where possible.</p> <p>6 Nak'azdli Whut'en will work with the community of Fort St. James and neighbouring landowners to identify mutually beneficial servicing agreements, easement, and other infrastructure upgrades. Planning for site servicing (i.e., water, wastewater, etc.) will also consider extending road infrastructure with stubbed services to the project phase boundary to proactively plan for future development.</p> <p>7 The siting of underground utilities such as telecommunications and hydro will be encouraged, where feasible, within road rights-of-ways.</p> <hr/> <p>8 Nak'azdli Whut'en reserves the right to review development applications for consistency with this Plan and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.</p>
	<p>B Ensure community infrastructure, facilities, and amenities are accessible to all of our community members, regardless of age or capability level.</p>	<p>1 Nak'azdli Whut'en will ensure that essential community services such as transit routes, health clinics, and grocery stores are centrally located.</p> <p>2 New building designs shall be universally accessible by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
	<p>C Ensure waste management systems are designed, constructed, and maintained in a sustainable manner to avoid negative impacts on our people and lands.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 All proposed landfill sites must adhere to environmental guidelines and standards throughout the full lifecycle of their operation (see General Policy 5-C1). 2 All septic/sewage system designs will be sealed by a qualified professional and meet or exceed provincial environmental health standards. 3 Bear and wildlife proof recycling and waste bins will be used at waste transfer stations and at other strategic locations within the community. 4 All recyclables and hazardous waste disposal sites will comply with environmental best practices to mitigate contamination and human health related risks. 5 Nak'azdli Whut'en supports the District of Fort St. James in the creation of a new, or upgrade to the existing, shared sewage lagoon. 6 Following the construction and activation of a new, shared sewage lagoon, the existing sewage lagoon will be properly decommissioned, remediated, and returned to a pre-development state at the sole expense of the District of Fort St. James. Once fully remediated, the lands will be returned to Nak'azdli Whut'en at the earliest possible date.

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
<p>3 Community Safety and Wellbeing</p>	<p>A Promote a high quality of life for all Nak'azdli Whut'enne to ensure that all members, residents, and visitors feel safe and welcome in Nak'azdli Whut'en.</p>	<p>1 Any dog permitted to run at large, left outside to cause disturbances such as excessive barking, property damage, or the overturning of garbage bins, and/or displaying aggressive dog behaviour such as biting or attacking beyond the owner's property will be subject to warnings and eventually may be impounded by a dog keeper hired by the Lands Department.</p> <p>2 Where possible, mature trees shall be retained during development to promote more community greenspace.</p> <p>3 The continuous accumulation of rubbish, discarded materials, and/or derelict vehicles is not supported on band-owned premises and may result in action by Nak'azdli Whut'en.</p> <p>4 Construction activities shall be carried out between 7:30am and 8pm on any weekday that is not a holiday, and between 10am and 8pm on any Saturday that is not a holiday. Construction is not permitted on Sundays. Exemptions will be determined by Nak'azdli Whut'en and will consider proximity to residential areas and community priorities regarding construction timelines.</p>

General Objectives and Policies		
Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
		<p>5 Sounds from a radio, television, musical instrument, or voice amplification equipment shall not cause an unreasonable disturbance to surrounding lands. Exemptions include potlatches, ceremonial and community events, and other events as determined by Nak'azdli Whut'en.</p>
	<p>B Promote awareness and prepare for emergency resilience in all aspects of community planning.</p>	<p>1 Development will provide suitable accessibility for emergency response (i.e., fire trucks).</p> <p>2 All buildings and future developments on Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands will have a posted lot number that is clearly visible from the road to ensure prompt and efficient emergency response.</p> <p>3 All buildings where community use is permitted (e.g., community facilities, administration office, commercial businesses, etc.) will have visible muster points with directional signage.</p> <p>4 Prior to approval, all new development proposals will be required to confirm the feasibility of achieving a minimum litres per minute (LPM), as identified by the Fire Underwriters Survey, needed to meet basic water supply standards (minimum requirement) for fire suppression purposes while sustaining daily use prior to approval.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
4 Culture, Neghunni, and Identity	A Place Dakelh culture and Nek'un'a at the centre of community life.	<p>1 Nak'azdli Whut'en will ensure that cultural and spiritual connections to Nak'azdli reserve lands and waters are considered when developing or making changes to the land.</p> <p>2 Redesign of utility boxes to reflect historical or current Dakelh art and designs will be supported in collaboration with utility providers (e.g., BC Hydro).</p>
	B Celebrate Nak'azdli Whut'en identity through use of Neghunni in community signage.	<p>1 Nak'azdli Whut'en will celebrate Dakelh culture, identity, and Nek'un'a by restoring and returning to the use of Neghunni names to identify reserve lands, environmental features, landmarks, building names, and signage for wayfinding.</p> <p>a. All new signage should feature Neghunni first, followed by the English translation.</p> <p>b. Old signage that does not feature Neghunni should be updated when possible. Priority should be given to highly visible areas.</p> <p>New signage shall also communicate Nak'azdli expectations for respectful land use by visitors where appropriate.</p>
	C Support and encourage community access to, and cultural use of, Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands.	<p>1 Traditional use activities, including traditional harvesting activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking, food and medicinal plant gathering, will be supported on all Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
<p>5 Environmentally Sensitive Areas</p>	<p>A Protect environmentally sensitive areas, including waterways, waterbodies, riparian areas, and habitat areas.</p>	<p>1 Tree and ground cover removal shall be avoided, where possible, during the bird nesting window, which extends from March 16th to August 17th each year to avoid disturbance and destruction of active nests and their eggs.</p> <p>2 Pre-planning for development may, as determined by Nak'azdli Whut'en, require an investigation to identify and assess environmentally sensitive areas under the guidance and supervision of the Lands Department.</p> <p>3 In the event that environmentally sensitive areas are identified during pre-planning, site plans and construction documents shall outline the steps that will be taken to mitigate potential impacts (e.g., establishing appropriate setback distances, erosion, and sediment control plans). Proposed mitigation measures shall be approved by the Lands Department prior to site development activities, as applicable.</p> <p>4 Nak'azdli Whut'en reserves the right to request bonds or other provisions, including the enforcement of environmental laws and associated fines, to protect the environmental integrity of environmentally sensitive areas.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
	<p>B Conserve and maintain natural values, features, and conditions whenever possible.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 New proposals for development on-reserve will demonstrate how the proposed land use will not threaten or impair the downstream structural and functional integrity of Nak'azdli Whut'en watersheds. 2 Efforts will be made to prevent and eliminate the spread of invasive species on Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands (e.g., noxious weeds). 3 Development activities will be set back a minimum of 15 meters from the top-of-bank of non-fish-bearing waterways. Setback areas should be clearly indicated on all site planning and construction drawings. Nak'azdli Whut'en may, at its discretion, exercise the right to increase this setback based on site-specific conditions and/or recommendations from a qualified professional. 4 A report sealed by a qualified professional identifying appropriate riparian setbacks will be submitted to the Lands Department for any development proposed in the vicinity of a fish-bearing creek or watercourse.

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
	<p>C Ensure future development on Nak’azdli Whut’en land adheres to or exceeds, relevant provincial or federal environmental standards and regulations, as applicable.</p>	<p>1 In the absence of any Nak’azdli-specific policies regarding environmental protection and assessment, applicable federal environmental regulations will apply (e.g., Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act).</p> <p>2 A report sealed by a qualified professional identifying appropriate geotechnical setbacks will be required for development proposed within lands steeper than a grade of 15% to maintain the structural integrity of the slope. This includes any development that requires the construction of a structure, whether permanent or temporary in nature, or that requires alteration to the slope face in any way.</p>
<p>6 Infrastructure and Development</p>	<p>A Ensure development within Nak’azdli Whut’en is safe, reliable, and compliant with current regulation; meets the needs of our community; and fosters a strong sense of place.</p>	<p>1 All new building development(s) will meet and/or exceed the standards identified in the National Building Code of Canada.</p> <p>2 Development proposals shall provide site plans that include lighting, sidewalks, traffic calming measures (e.g., speed bumps), and emergency access to address the safety concerns of the community.</p>

General Objectives and Policies

Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
		<p>3 As a condition of approval for new development, a concept plan that includes but is not limited to building footprints, building design, servicing/ infrastructure plans, site access, and vehicle maneuverability (including parking) will be submitted to the Lands Department for approval.</p> <p>4 Potentially dangerous or nuisance-causing uses, or otherwise incompatible developments shall be located so that they do not negatively affect existing development or designated future land uses.</p>

General Objectives and Policies		
Policy Area	Objectives	Policies
7 Sustainability	<p>A To build sustainable and resilient infrastructure designed to withstand use and climate change impacts in the long term.</p>	<p>1 Green building design principles that support water and air quality, water and energy conservation, and efficient waste management practices will be encouraged.</p> <p>2 Building designs that incorporate alternative energy sources such as solar panels may be required at the design stage to avoid the high costs associated with future retrofitting.</p>
	<p>B To minimize the environmental impacts of future development.</p>	<p>1 New development proposals will be required to mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat, as applicable.</p> <p>2 New development will take into account the preservation and enhancement of natural vegetation where possible.</p> <p>3 All land development will examine and address the risk of site contamination prior to construction.</p> <p>4 Indigenous plant and tree species shall be maintained and/or incorporated into site design wherever possible. Nak'azdli Whut'en encourages development that preserves existing natural features including forest cover in site design (See General Policy 3-A-2).</p>





5.3. CULTURAL PROTECTION AND TRADITIONAL LAND USE ZONE

The Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone is intended to protect wildlife habitat, biodiversity, areas of historical and/or cultural significance, and areas that support traditional use activities (e.g., traditional harvesting areas). These areas are critical to maintaining Nek'un'a, and development should be limited to culturally appropriate activities on a case-by-case basis. The Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.3.3 provide guidance recommendations to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Examples of land uses that are compatible with the Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone include, but are not limited to: traditional harvesting, land-based learning, spiritual places, traditional burial sites, and cultural camps. This Zone may also include higher impact uses such as ecotourism pending an assessment of their impacts, as warranted. Large areas of land in a natural state within our reserves may also be zoned Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone for the purposes of protecting intact areas for the use of current and future generations.

5.3.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new land use proposals adhere to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.






B. To safeguard and transmit Dakelh knowledge, practices, and oral histories associated with traditional use areas to ensure the continuity of Nek'un'a throughout future generations.



C. To promote sustainable management practices and traditional use activities.



5.3.2. Policies

Table 4. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development in the Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone will align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.3.1, the policies presented in Section 5.3.2 and with the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2 to ensure consistency throughout our community. 2. Land use proposals that do not align with this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities to engage in traditional Dakelh land use activities (e.g., harvesting and processing traditional foods) will be prioritized in this zone to encourage land-based learning and promote the transfer of knowledge within our community.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued community access to traditional use areas, cultural education, traditional use activities, knowledge transmission, and environmental stewardship will be prioritized when considering new land uses within this Land Use Zone.

5.3.3. Priority Actions

Table 5. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an inventory of sites identifying locations where existing or potential future opportunities exist for the community to practice traditional and/or cultural activities. This inventory could include sites with potential for land-based learning or key locations for future culture camps.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a community calendar to identify upcoming educational programs, workshops, as well as community-led initiatives and events that celebrate our Dakelh heritage. Opportunities for knowledge transmission and connection with Nek'un'a and our Dakelh lifeways should be prioritized for our youth.



5.4. RESIDENTIAL LAND USE ZONE

The Residential Land Use Zone is intended to:

1. Provide guidance for managing growth in our community;
2. Ensure that community members have access to safe and sustainable housing options; and
3. Promote healthy and walkable community areas that provide access to greenspace, community services, and cultural and spiritual places/opportunities.

The Residential Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.4.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Residential Land Use Zone include single and multi-family housing, housing for elders, and can include low-impact accessory uses such as home-based businesses. Supportive or long-term care housing for elders, or persons living with disabilities, are also supported in the Residential Land Use Zone. This Land Use Zone should be considered in areas with community services such as power and community sewer, or in areas where the feasibility of onsite servicing, including water for fire suppression, has been confirmed. Culturally appropriate land stewardship is a priority in these areas.

5.4.1. Objectives



- A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new residential development adheres to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.



- B. To create vibrant and livable neighbourhoods by facilitating the development of new residential housing in conjunction with the provision of essential social and physical infrastructure, including sidewalks, street lighting, vegetative buffers, playgrounds, and cultural spaces.




- C. To meet the various needs of individuals and families in Nak'azdli Whut'en by providing a wide range of housing options (types and sizes).

5.4.2. Policies

Table 6. Residential Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Residential Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="402 415 1398 562">1. Development in the Residential Land Use Zone will align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.4.1, the policies presented in Section 5.4.2 and with the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2 to ensure consistency throughout our community. <li data-bbox="402 604 1349 709">2. Applications for residential development that do not align with this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval. <li data-bbox="402 751 1398 1003">3. Prior to approval, all new residential development proposals will be required to confirm the feasibility of achieving a minimum litres per minute (LPM), as identified by the Fire Underwriters Survey, needed to meet basic water supply standards (minimum requirement) for fire suppression purposes while sustaining daily use prior to approval. This requirement applies to all reserves but is emphasized within the Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A due to known groundwater constraints.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="402 1056 1360 1161">1. All new residential housing projects proposed on reserve should incorporate adequate social and physical infrastructure to support the needs and well-being of residents. <li data-bbox="402 1203 1382 1308">2. Age-friendly features such as benches, shelters and wayfinding signage along pedestrian routes shall be provided to support the mobility and continued independence of elders. <li data-bbox="402 1350 1382 1455">3. Sidewalks or off-set pedestrian pathways will be incorporated into new residential developments to promote walkability, pedestrian safety, and connectivity. <li data-bbox="402 1497 1328 1602">4. Street lighting infrastructure will be installed in tandem with new construction in residential areas, where possible, to enhance public safety, improve visibility and deter crime. <li data-bbox="402 1644 1328 1749">5. Where possible, existing residential areas should be retrofitted with lighting fixtures mounted to existing Hydro poles or other available infrastructure to increase the safety of these areas.

	<p>6. 10 m wide vegetated buffers (trees/berms) will be established, where possible, to separate residential developments from major highways, commercial uses, and agricultural uses to reduce visual and/or noise impacts. Larger buffers may be required on a case-by-case basis depending on the adjacent land use and potential impacts to community members.</p>
 <p>C</p>	<p>1. All new housing development proposals should be consistent with the <i>Nak'azdli Band Residential Occupancy By-law</i>.</p> <p>2. New ATR parcels shall be prioritized adjacent to the Mission Lands IR #17 for residential development, to provide diverse housing options in support of Nak'albun teachers and families of varied sizes, compositions, and income levels.</p> <p>3. New elder housing shall be established in centrally located areas, adjacent to frequently accessed services to enhance accessibility, promote community integration, and ensure the well-being and convenience for our elders.</p> <p>4. Home-based businesses that generate offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odour, heat, glare, or electrical interference on surrounding properties should consider locating within industrially zoned areas.</p> <p>5. Outdoor storage associated with home-based businesses should be avoided, where possible, unless fully contained within an enclosed structure and/or screened from view with landscaping or a fence.</p>



5.4.3. Priority Actions

Table 7 Residential Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Residential Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 B	1. Invest in transportation infrastructure, such as a shuttle bus, to enhance accessibility between IR #1 and Mission Lands IR #17, as well between Fort St. James and IR #17 for Nak’azdli families.
 C	1. Identify suitable infill sites for new elder housing developments with convenient and accessible proximity to existing essential services. 2. Establish design standards for elder housing developments to promote accessibility, safety, and comfort for residents including features such as barrier-free access, age-friendly design and proximity to transportation opportunities. 3. Coordinate negotiations with CP Land holders and provide incentives to encourage new housing developments such as carriage housing, basement suites and small-scale infill in search of mutually beneficial housing opportunities. 4. Conduct a housing needs assessment to identify and analyse changing housing demand, demographic trends, and underserved populations within Nak’azdli Whut’en to inform future policy decisions and resource allocation. 5. Facilitate community-led housing initiatives such as self-help housing projects that empower residents to participate in the planning, design and management of their housing solutions. 6. Create development permit guidelines that regulate the exterior form and character of new multi-family buildings to highlight our Nak’azdli Whut’en cultural identity. Guidelines may include, but not be limited to, the incorporation of culturally relevant building materials, signage featuring Dakelh placenames and wayfinding, accessible features, and landscaping.



5.5. COMMUNITY AMENITY LAND USE ZONE

The Community Amenity Land Use Zone is intended to support and accommodate community-oriented land uses such as community-owned and operated buildings, facilities, and recreation areas requiring permanent structures such as a multi-plex sports arena.

The Community Amenity Land Use Zone is a broad and flexible Land Use Zone that supports:

1. Providing the space to support a range of uses that generate community participation and pride;
2. Strengthening community bonds; and
3. Providing opportunities for togetherness and cultural enrichment.

The Community Amenity Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.5.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Community Amenity Land Use Zone include educational facilities, daycares, community centres, sporting multi-plexes, the catholic cemetery, and can include low-impact secondary uses such as office uses and limited retail space. This Land Use Zone should be considered within centrally located areas with community services such as power and sewer, or in areas where community expansion is supported.

5.5.1. Objectives



- A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new community amenity development adheres to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.






- B. To support programs and initiatives that uplift community members and provide health and wellness, recreation, and entertainment opportunities.



- C. To create a self-sustaining and liveable community through the provision of a broad range of community spaces that are safe, welcoming, and accessible for all.

5.5.2. Policies

Table 8. Community Amenity Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Community Amenity Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development in the Community Amenity Land Use Zone will align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.5.1, the policies presented in Section 5.5.2 and with the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2 to ensure consistency throughout our community 2. Applications for new community land use projects that do not align with the policies of this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional uses such as schools, health centres, and religious assembly or cultural ceremonial centres shall be centrally located and should include opportunities for shared spaces to maximise accessibility and multi-purpose usage within the community, where possible.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New community amenities/developments shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include spaces for sharing and practicing Dakelh culture (e.g., places to display our art, spaces for community celebrations and gatherings, and spaces for making traditional crafts or doing other cultural activities); b. Include signage featuring Neghunni words and syllabics; c. Architecturally refer to our traditional building styles and practices; and d. Be named in a way that honours our Dakelh culture and history. 2. The catholic cemetery will be protected from the encroachment of incompatible land uses and activities.


3. New community amenity developments shall be required to provide adequate onsite parking spaces based on the type, size and intended use of the facility. At a minimum, parking spaces should be provided at a ratio of five (5) parking stalls per 100 m² of gross floor area of the principal building for community facilities. The provision of visitor parking spaces shall be included into the site design in addition to employee parking for facilities such as schools, daycares and administrative buildings.

4. Building setbacks will be established to provide adequate space between buildings and adjacent sidewalks, protect privacy, and mitigate potential impacts caused by overshadowing or stormwater runoff. Setbacks may be determined on a case-by-case basis and should consider the proposed building height, type of use proposed, surrounding properties and architectural features. As a guide, the minimum recommended setbacks between the property line and community amenity buildings are as follows:

Front Lot Line	Exterior Side Lot Line	Rear Lot Line	Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use
6 metre	4.5 metres	4.5 metres	1.8 metres with a fence or landscape screen

5.5.3. Priority Actions

Table 9. Community Amenity Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Community Amenity Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 C	1. Create development permit guidelines that regulate the exterior form and character of new community amenities to highlight our Nak'azdli Whut'en cultural identity. Guidelines may include, but not be limited to, the incorporation of culturally relevant building materials, signage featuring Dakelh placenames and wayfinding, accessible features, and landscaping.

5.6. COMMERCIAL LAND USE ZONE

A convenient and functional commercial land base plays an essential role in building a self-sustaining community. However, determining what constitutes a successful commercial development is dependent on many different factors and can evolve over time. The Commercial Land Use Zone is intentionally flexible to permit a wide range of commercial uses. The Commercial Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.6.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Commercial Land Use Zone include but are not limited to restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, hair salons, commercial buildings with multiple leasable spaces and can include low-impact secondary uses such as office uses, limited onsite storage, and parking. This type of Land Use Zone should be prioritized in areas that are fully serviced with community infrastructure such as power and sewer or in areas where community expansion is supported. Supported land uses can include member-owned, band-owned or third-party businesses.

5.6.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new community amenity development adheres to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.



B. To empower entrepreneurial community members to achieve their business goals through tailored support and resources.



C. To stimulate economic growth by supporting business development and investment opportunities through commercial land designation.



D. To prioritize the incorporation of Nek'un'a into new commercial ventures, fostering a holistic relationship between our culture and entrepreneurship for sustainable and culturally-appropriate business development.



E. To promote awareness, appreciation, and community identity by enhancing the visibility of our Nation and culture within new commercial developments, particularly along main transportation corridors.

5.6.2. Policies

Table 10. Commercial Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Commercial Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development in the Commercial Land Use Zone will align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.6.1, the policies presented in Section 5.6.2 and with the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2 to ensure consistency throughout our community. 2. Applications for new commercial development that do not align with the policies of this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New commercial buildings shall, where possible, include at least one additional leasable space to be reserved for the exclusive use of member-owned businesses. 2. Opportunities for member and community-owned businesses that promote mutually beneficial joint venture opportunities to support economic development, job creation, and training will be prioritized when considering new commercial developments.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New proposals for commercial development will be encouraged to locate within the commercial lands situated along the highway corridor to establish a commercial hub that is centrally-located within the community. 2. New commercial developments will be required, where possible, to provide adequate onsite parking spaces based on the type, size and intended use of the business. At a minimum, parking spaces should be provided for commercial land uses at a ratio of five (5) parking stalls per 100 m² of gross floor area of the principal building. 3. Parking areas shall be easily accessible, well-lit, and regularly maintained for snow and rubbish removal, as needed, to enhance convenience and safety.



D

1. Commercial proposals that contribute to the well-being of our members and align with our Nek'un'a will be prioritized to improve their ability to compete effectively against non-traditional competitors.
2. Band-owned businesses will prioritize Nak'azdli Whut'enne, where possible, when hiring for new positions.



E

1. All business signs, together with their supporting structures and associated electrical equipment shall be maintained in a safe, clean condition and in good order until removed or demolished.

1. The owner of any sign that may be in danger of falling, or that poses a safety risk, will be required to fix or remove the sign at the discretion of the Lands Department.




3. Building setbacks will be established to provide adequate space between buildings and adjacent sidewalks, protect privacy, and mitigate potential impacts caused by overshadowing or stormwater runoff. Setbacks may be determined on a case-by-case basis and should consider the proposed building height, type of use proposed, surrounding properties and architectural features. As a guide, the minimum recommended setbacks between the property line and commercial buildings are as follows:

Front Lot Line	Exterior Side Lot Line	Rear Lot Line	Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use
4.5 metre	3.0 metres	1.8 metres	1.8 metres with a fence or landscape screen

4. Site designs for new commercial buildings shall include landscaping that incorporates native plants that are hardy to the local climate and include a 40-60 mix of deciduous and coniferous plantings to promote year-round visual interest.

5.6.3. Priority Actions

Table 11. Commercial Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Commercial Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 A	1. Develop an asset-management plan to identify opportunities for investment in critical new infrastructure to service commercially-zoned lands such as transportation networks, utilities and broadband access.
 B	1. Establish and fund programs specifically designed to provide tailored support and resources to entrepreneurial-minded community members.
 E	1. Create development permit guidelines that regulate the exterior form and character of new commercial buildings to highlight our Nak'azdli Whut'en cultural identity. Guidelines may include, but not be limited to, the incorporation of culturally relevant building materials, signage featuring Dakelh placenames and wayfinding, accessible features, and landscaping.



5.7. PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS LAND USE ZONE

The Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone is intended to support the retention and/or development of green spaces and natural areas within our reserve lands, and community participation in both passive and active recreational activities. Parks and natural areas are known to support community togetherness and connection. The Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.7.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone are those that support active recreation infrastructure, including (but not limited to) baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and skateboard parks, as well as passive recreation opportunities such as walking trails, natural greenspace, Buffers, open greenspace and viewsapes. These land uses may also include low-impact secondary uses such as parking, concession stands, and temporary pop-up commercial uses such as artisan or farmers markets. Lands within the Parks and Natural Areas may also be used for outdoor events such as weddings and community gatherings.

Servicing is not required in this Land Use Zone; however, servicing connections should be considered through future land use proposals to support AV connection, restroom facilities, and lighting infrastructure within recreational areas.

5.7.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new land use proposals adhere to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.



B. To safeguard sensitive natural areas for present and future generations.



C. To improve quality of life through the provision of recreation, leisure, and cultural experiences that support and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.






D. To foster a deeper understanding of, connection to, and appreciation for nature and our Dakelh culture through the creation of recreational infrastructure such as interpretive trails, and the promotion of land-based learning activities and opportunities.





E. To enhance connectivity within the community through the creation of greenways to promote biodiversity, facilitate wildlife movement, and provide pedestrian pathways.

5.7.2. Policies



Table 12. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development in the Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone will align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.7.1, the policies presented in Section 5.7.2, and the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2. 2. New land use proposals that do not align with the policies of this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreational land use proposals adjacent to waterways or within sensitive areas such as wetlands will be required to integrate land stewardship practices that support conservation objectives while meeting community needs. 2. Incompatible land use development within sensitive areas such as wetlands will not be supported within this Land Use Zone unless otherwise supported by recommendations from an appropriate qualified professional. 3. Any development planned within known floodplains or areas with a high groundwater table will require recommendations by a qualified professional as a condition of approval.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newly created parks, trails, and open spaces shall be serviced at the time of development, where possible and appropriate, to create opportunities for future restroom facilities, AV connections for bandstands, and lighting infrastructure. 2. New recreational use structures, such as gazebos, band stands, and platforms, will be designed according to, at minimum, the standards set out in the National Building Code of Canada to promote community safety.

 D	1. Parks and Natural Areas will be maintained to an appropriate standard that is aesthetically pleasing, clear of rubbish, safe, and accessible to showcase the natural beauty and biodiversity of the area as well as to provide opportunities to host activities that highlight Dakelh values and Culturally Significant Places.
	2. Interpretive trails that highlight Culturally Significant Places may be permitted, where appropriate, in the Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone to provide community opportunities to learn about our Dakelh lifeways and history. Trail infrastructure will include the provision of garbage receptacles, adequate parking spaces, and clear directional trail markings.
	3. Tourism considerations that would permit non-member access to interpretive trails will guard against the potential impacts to the Culturally Significant Place. Adequate parking will be provided and clearly demarcated with visitor conduct expectations posted in a highly visible location.
 E	1. New development proposals will prioritize, where possible, the retention of mature trees and incorporate greenspaces and connective pedestrian corridors into site design.
	2. Greenways will be designed to connect residential areas with other community destinations to promote active transportation.

5.7.3. Priority Actions

Table 13. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 C	1. Create a Community Recreation Plan to identify community goals and future opportunities for community amenities such as an indoor sport multi-plex, year-round outdoor recreational infrastructure and a variety of community spaces to encourage healthy lifestyles. The Community Recreation Plan should aim to identify and achieve health, recreation, and quality of life-related objectives and promote equitable access to parks and natural areas for people of all ages, abilities, and needs.
 D	1. Develop land-based learning programs and activities that offer hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature, learn about local ecosystems and share traditional knowledge.



5.8. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND USE ZONE

The Light Industrial Land Use Zone supports a range of light manufacturing, processing, and industrial uses. It is generally appropriate for areas with community services such as power and sewer. Best practices for industrial land uses encourage direct access to major roadways and buffering and/or separation from residential or other non-compatible land uses. The Light Industrial Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.8.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone may include, but not be limited to, animal shelters, consulting or contractor uses, greenhouses, recycling transfer stations, and carwash businesses. These land uses may also include low-impact secondary uses such as vehicle fleet parking, office uses, and limited accessory retail. This type of Land Use Zone should be prioritized in areas that are fully serviced with community infrastructure such as power and sewer or in areas where community expansion is supported. Supported land uses can include member-owned, band-owned or third-party businesses.

5.8.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new land use proposals adhere to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.





B. To encourage a robust and resilient economy, economic growth and job creation by providing training opportunities for community members as well as an adequate land base to support a diverse range of light industrial activities.



C. To ensure safety while minimizing negative impacts on neighbouring areas and properties.



5.8.2. Policies

Table 14 Light Industrial Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Light Industrial Land Use Zone Policies								
 <p>A</p>	<p>1. Development in areas zoned for light industrial use should align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.8.1, the policies presented in Section 5.8.2 and to the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2.</p> <p>2. New land use proposals that do not align with the policies of this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.</p>								
 <p>B</p>	<p>1. Building setbacks will be established to provide adequate space between buildings and adjacent sidewalks, protect privacy, and mitigate potential impacts caused by overshadowing or stormwater runoff. Setbacks may be determined on a case-by-case basis and should consider the proposed building height, type of use proposed, surrounding properties and architectural features. As a guide, the minimum recommended setbacks between the property line and commercial buildings are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="453 1058 1411 1346"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="453 1058 693 1184">Front Lot Line</th> <th data-bbox="693 1058 932 1184">Exterior Side Lot Line</th> <th data-bbox="932 1058 1170 1184">Rear Lot Line</th> <th data-bbox="1170 1058 1411 1184">Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="453 1184 693 1346">4.5 metre</td> <td data-bbox="693 1184 932 1346">3.0 metres</td> <td data-bbox="932 1184 1170 1346">3.0 metres</td> <td data-bbox="1170 1184 1411 1346">3.0 metres with a fence or landscaped buffer</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Impacts to surrounding properties such as noise, dust, vibration, odour, and/or pollution caused by a light industrial use should be addressed at the time of the application and may be subject to limitations on use if impacts are identified following approval.</p>	Front Lot Line	Exterior Side Lot Line	Rear Lot Line	Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use	4.5 metre	3.0 metres	3.0 metres	3.0 metres with a fence or landscaped buffer
Front Lot Line	Exterior Side Lot Line	Rear Lot Line	Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use						
4.5 metre	3.0 metres	3.0 metres	3.0 metres with a fence or landscaped buffer						

5.8.3. Priority Actions

Table 15. Industrial Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Light Industrial Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 A	1. Develop an asset-management plan to identify opportunities for investment in critical new infrastructure to service industrially-zoned lands such as transportation networks, utilities and broadband access.
 B	1. Facilitate networking events, industry clusters and collaborative partnerships to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and skills development in low-impact industries.





5.9. HEAVY INDUSTRIAL LAND USE ZONE

The Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone allows for activities such as large resource extraction projects, manufacturing, and industrial uses. Industrial land use best practices encourage direct access to major roadways and buffering and/or separation from residential or other non-compatible land uses.

Land uses that are compatible with the Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone may include, but not be limited to, steel fabrication, recycling plants, wrecking yards, sawmills, and landfills. These land uses may also include secondary uses such as vehicle fleet parking, office uses, limited accessory retail, and outdoor storage. This type of Land Use Zone should be prioritized in areas that are fully serviced with community infrastructure such as power and sewer or in areas where community expansion is supported. Supported land uses can include member-owned, band-owned or third-party businesses.

5.9.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new land use proposals adhere to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.



B. To minimize environmental impacts through sustainable industrial practices.






C. To support the revitalization of underutilized industrial areas to maximize land productivity and economic value.



D. To mitigate the impacts of heavy industrial development on surrounding properties.

5.9.2. Policies

Table 16. Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone Policies

Objective	Heavy Industrial Land Use Zone Policies
 A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development in areas zoned for heavy industrial use should align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.9.1. Development in areas zoned for heavy industrial use are also subject to the zone-specific policies presented in Section 5.9.2 and the general policies in Section 5.2. 2. Applications for proposed heavy industrial development that do not align with this Plan may be subject to modification or denial, and/or may require an amendment to this Plan prior to approval.
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications for proposed heavy industrial development will include an examination of site contamination risks and proposed mitigation measures. 2. The Lands Department may, at their discretion, conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with environmental best practices and hold non-compliant businesses accountable for their impacts. 3. Depending on the type of project proposed, an environmental baseline assessment that determines the pre-development condition of the land may be required by the Lands Department as part of the application process. 4. At the discretion of the Lands Department, a Closure Plan shall be required of all external proponents (i.e., non-member and non-Nation-owned companies) as a condition of development approval or prior to granting a lease. Such an approach will increase the ability to address and escalate issues with proponents who fail to meet the expectations of the Nation.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brownfield sites (e.g., former industrial sites) will be prioritized for new development, where possible, based on location, access to existing infrastructure, market demand, and environmental considerations. 2. Adaptive reuse of existing industrial buildings will be prioritized to maximize land productivity and promote a diverse range of industrial uses.



D

1. Building setbacks will be established to provide adequate space between buildings and adjacent sidewalks, protect privacy, and mitigate potential impacts caused by overshadowing or stormwater runoff. Setbacks may be determined on a case-by-case basis and should consider the proposed building height, type of use proposed, surrounding properties and architectural features. As a guide, the minimum recommended setbacks between the property line and commercial buildings are as follows:

Front Lot Line	Exterior Side Lot Line	Rear Lot Line	Lot Line Abutting a Residential Use
6.0 metres	6.0 metres	6.0 metres	20.0 metres

2. Impacts to surrounding properties such as noise, dust, vibration, odour, and/or pollution caused by a heavy industrial use should be addressed at the time of the application and may be subject to limitations on use if impacts are identified following approval.



5.10. AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ZONE

The Agricultural Land Use Zone supports intensive to light agricultural uses and discourages development that may impact the future agricultural capability of the land. Agricultural areas are intended to provide educational opportunities, job creation, lease-based revenue, and access to local food sources. The Agricultural Land Use Zone Priority Actions in Section 5.10.3 provide guidance to support the next steps for achieving our goals and objectives beyond the policy framework provided in this section.

Land uses that are compatible with the Agricultural Land Use Zone may include, but not be limited to, health and wellness ranches, ranching (i.e., cattle, bison, elk), solar farms, community farming, greenhouses, food production. These land uses may also include low-impact secondary uses such as residential, employee boarding, and limited accessory retail such as corn mazes, produce stands, and pumpkin patches.

5.10.1. Objectives



A. To promote sustainable, equitable, and community-oriented growth by ensuring that all new land use proposals adhere to the guiding principles and goals outlined in this Plan.






B. To proactively plan for climate and emergency resiliency.



C. To improve members' access to healthy foods while safeguarding against adverse impacts of farming activity.



5.10.2. Policies

Table 17. Agricultural Land Use Zone Policies

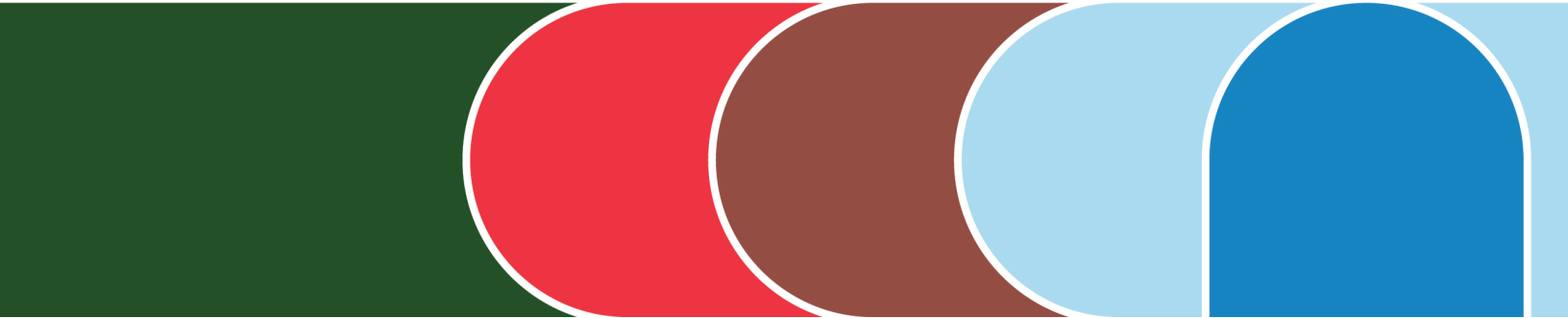
Objective	Agricultural Land Use Zone Policies
 A	1. Development in areas zoned for agricultural use should align with and support the objectives identified in Section 5.10.1, the policies presented in Section 5.10.2 and to the general objectives and policies in Section 5.2.
 B	1. Vegetated buffers shall be retained and/or established between non-agricultural land uses and active farms to prevent negative impacts to the agricultural capability of the farm. 2. New agricultural land use proposals may be required to provide an emergency evacuation plan to prepare for wildfire and other natural disasters that may pose a threat to the lives of humans and animals on the farm.
 C	1. Seasonal or temporary retail will be supported to sell locally farmed medicines, fish, meat, and produce. 2. Impacts to surrounding properties such as noise, dust, vibration, odour, and/or pollution caused by an agricultural use and may be subject to limitations on use.

5.10.3. Priority Actions

Table 18. Agricultural Land Use Zone Priority Actions

Objective	Agricultural Land Use Zone Priority Actions
 B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and establish partnerships that prioritize carbon-conscious farming methods in recognition of the role that agriculture plays in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
 C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and establish a fruits and vegetables educational program at the Nak'albun Elementary school. Locally sourced fruits and vegetables should be incorporated into this plan to spread awareness about the importance of sustainable food practices and agriculture in the community.





6. LAND USE ZONING

During the development of this Plan, we recognized that we could not address every concern immediately, and we also realized that if we tried to make plans for all 17 of our reserves right away, our Plan would quickly become outdated. Consequently, we instead worked with our membership to identify Nak'azdli Whut'en's top land use planning priorities. This approach helped us to understand that at present, our community is most concerned about planning for the following reserve lands and have therefore limited the application of our Land Use Zones (detailed in Section 5) to these five reserves:

1. Nak'azdli IR #1
2. Sowchea IR #3
3. Sowchea IR #3A
4. Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A
5. Mission Reserve IR #17

This section describes each reserve, provides an overview of the pertinent zoning, and includes corresponding maps. The following section (Section 7) describes the other 12 reserves and outlines future planning priorities for each, based on community input. It is anticipated that the reserves identified in Section 7 may be planned in more detail (i.e., zoned) in future updates of this Plan, depending on the emerging needs and priorities of the community.

The reserves identified in Sections 6 and 7 are listed in the order that they were prioritized by community members during our planning process. This approach reflects the community's voice while guiding our focus in the years to come, and promoting the effective use of community resources. By following the community's priorities, we aim to create a relevant and adaptable Plan that addresses the most urgent needs now, while allowing for future adjustments.

We honour and acknowledge Nek'un'a and in doing so, we respect the traditional role of those entrusted to steward the keyohs within our territory as we plan for the future of our communal reserve lands. We will continue to look for ways to find balance between our traditional keyoh land management systems and those imposed upon us because of the *Indian Act*.

6.1. NAK'AZDLI IR #1

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Nak'azdli IR #1 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Habitation Zone.

Nak'azdli IR #1 covers 297 hectares on the western shore of Nak'albun. It is located within the southeastern part of Nak'azdli ancestral territory and is adjacent to the southern boundary of Fort St. James, and comprises residential, industrial, and community-use areas such as the harbour, skate park, administration building, community greenhouse, dog kennels, and emergency response centre.

Community members identified that Nak'azdli IR #1 is a main priority for immediate considerations and land use planning efforts. This reserve has been the location of our main community for many years with a variety of changes to the landscape over time. Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones have been applied to achieve the priorities identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne:

1. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone;
2. Residential Land Use Zone;
3. Commercial Land Use Zone
4. Community Amenity Land Use Zone;
5. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone;
6. Agricultural Land Use Zone; and
7. Light and Heavy Industrial Land Use Zones.

Figure 8 illustrates the boundaries of the Land Use Zones referenced in this section as they apply to Naka'zdli IR #1.

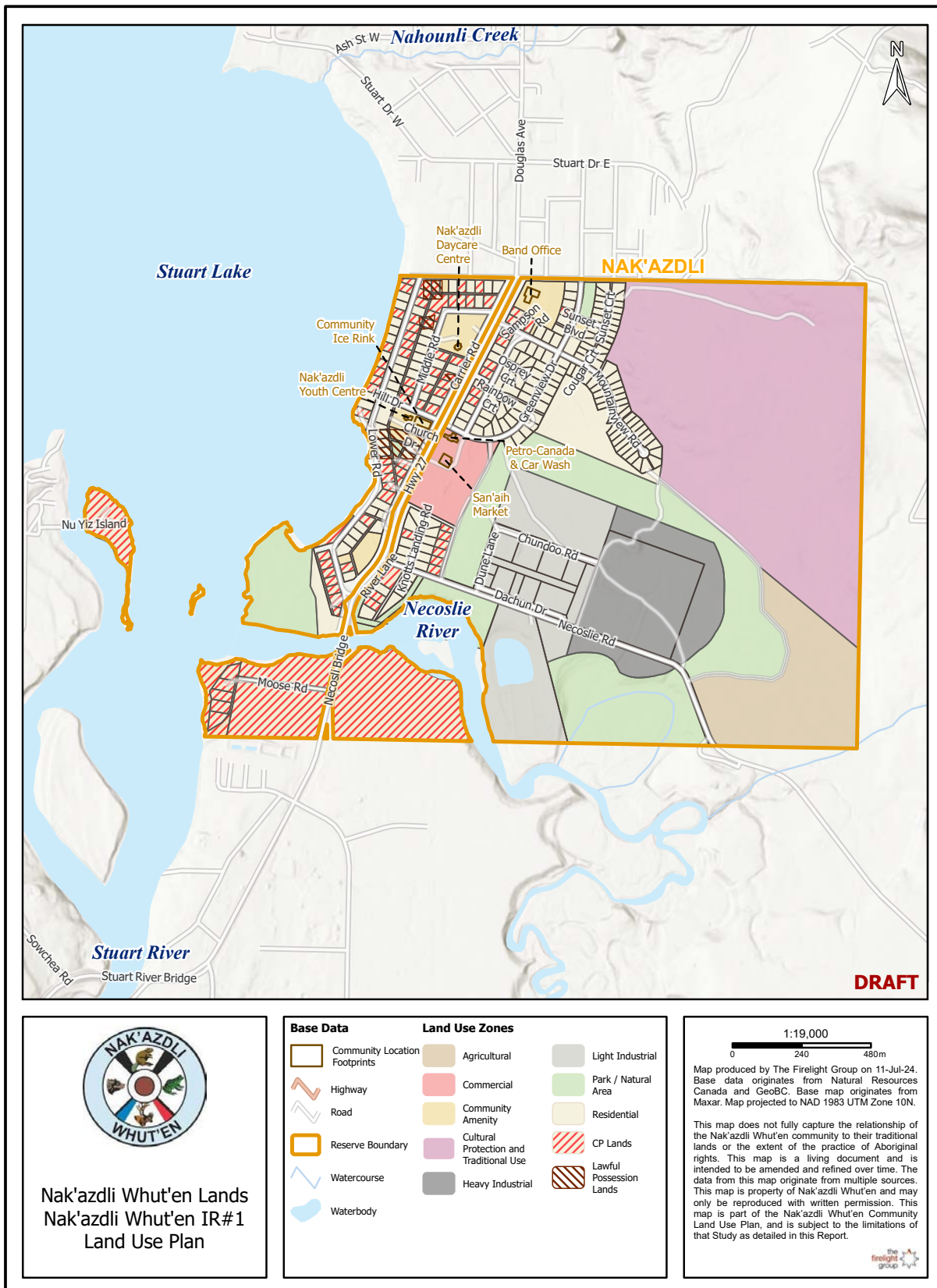


Figure 8. Nak'azdli IR #1 Land Use Zoning Map

6.2. SOWCHEA IR #3 AND SOWCHEA IR #3A

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Sowchea IR #3 and IR #3A fall within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Zone.

Sowchea IR #3 and IR #3A are adjoining reserves located on the northern shores of Nak'albun, on the southeastern side of Nak'azdli traditional territory. Sowchea IR #3 and IR #3A total a combined 150.2 hectares.

Community members identified that both Sowchea IR #3 and Sowchea IR #3A are the second highest priority for focused planning efforts within this Plan. We learned from the current Certificate of Possession (CP) land holder of IR #3A that historically, this area was used as an early village site by Nak'azdli Whut'enne. Post-colonization, both IR #3 and IR #3A were transferred as part of the Veterans Land Act and later, IR #3 was transferred back to the Crown to become part of the communal reserve land base of Nak'azdli Whut'en. Sowchea IR #3A, however, has continued to be passed down through generations through the CP lands process.

Today, Sowchea IR #3 is substantially covered in wetlands and provides camping spaces administered through the band as well as other community and traditional uses. Sowchea IR #3A has been recommended by the CP land holder as a possible location for future interpretive trails along the shoreline to share Nak'azdli Whut'en history with the community. Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones have been applied to achieve the priorities identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne:

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone;

Figure 9 illustrates the boundaries of the Land Use Zones referenced in this section as they apply to Sowchea IR #3 and IR #3A.

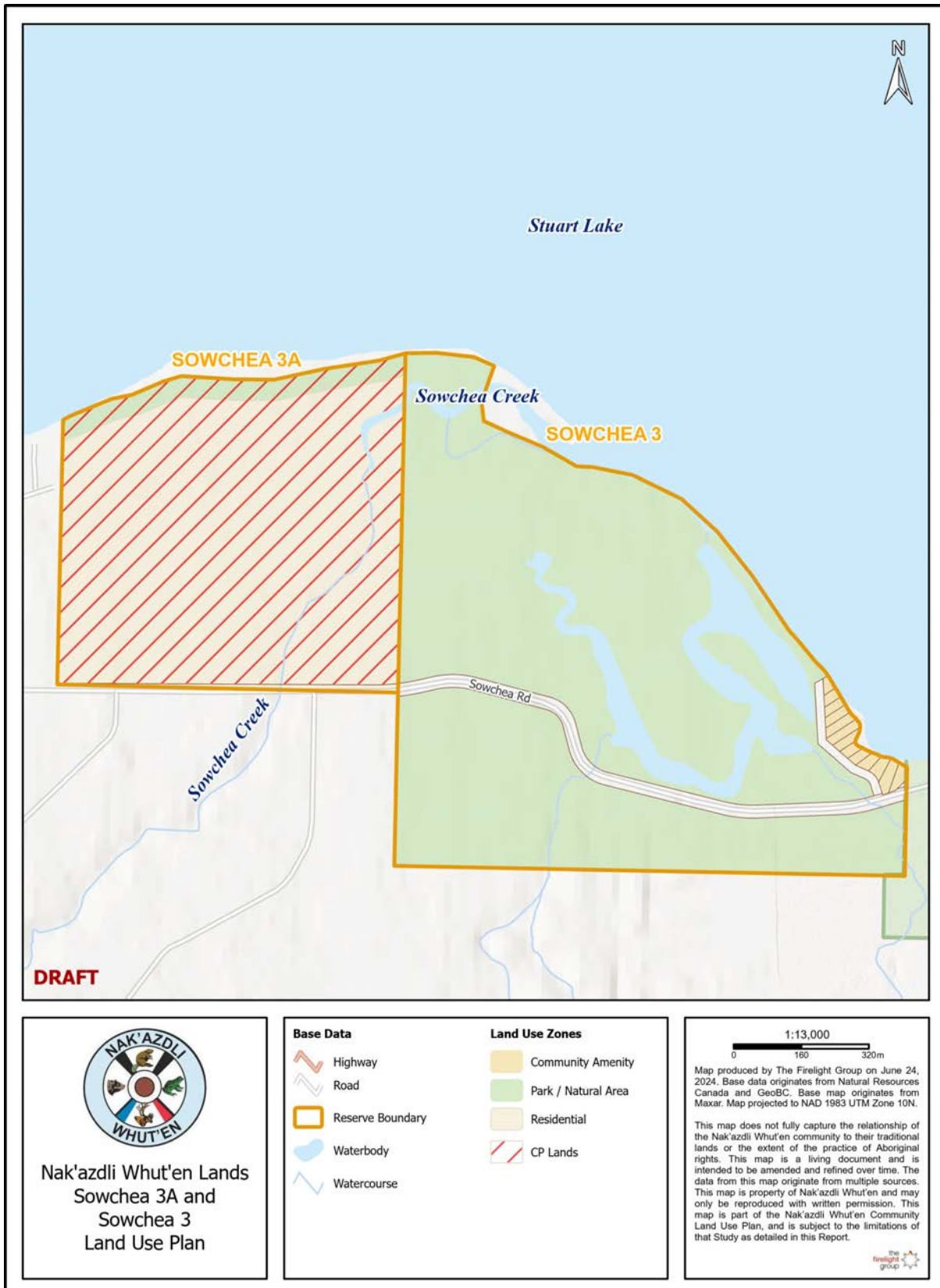


Figure 9. Sowchea IR #3 and Sowchea IR #3A Land Use Zoning Map

6.3. WILLIAMS PRAIRIE MEADOW IR #1A

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A is a populated area located north of Fort St. James. The reserve totals 64.70 hectares, with less than half the area subdivided into lots. Williams Prairie Meadow Reserve currently provides residential land uses.

Community members identified that Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A is the third highest priority for focused planning efforts within this Plan. Currently, this reserve includes residential dwellings, but access to potable water is severely constrained due to a broken well. Existing residents currently transport water onsite and the lack of potable water is a barrier that has impeded the development of additional housing or other land uses in recent years. Any future development considered on IR #1A will require proof-of-feasibility to access a reliable and sustained potable water source as a condition of approval.

Given the known development constraints, development within IR #1A is currently limited to uses that do not require permanent water sources, such as a remote culture camp. In the future, the high need for new on-reserve housing could be addressed on IR #1A, provided that positive water feasibility studies are completed. Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones have been applied to achieve the priorities identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 10 illustrates the boundaries of the Land Use Zones referenced in this section as they apply to Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A.

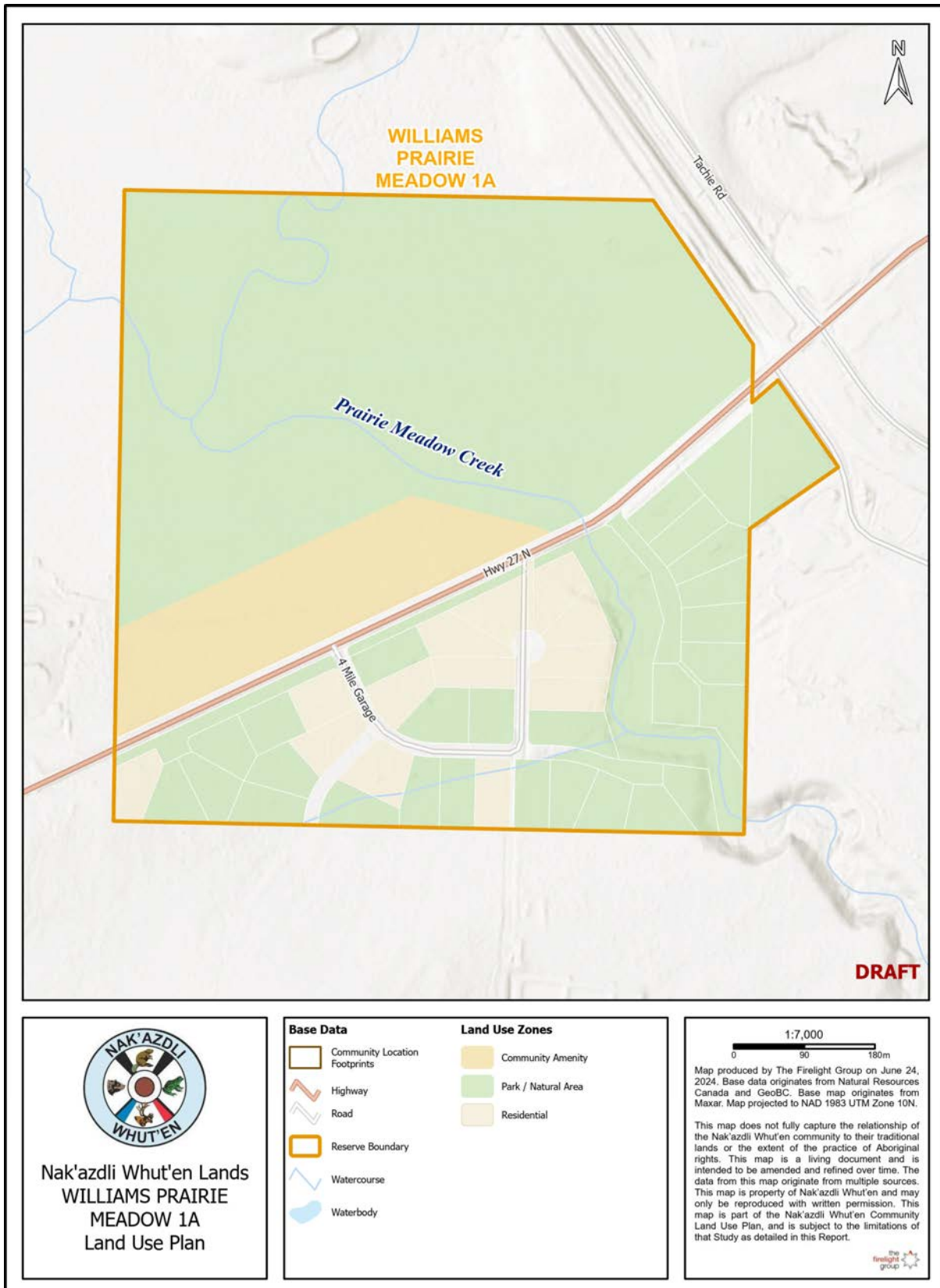


Figure 10. Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1A Land Use Zoning Map

6.4. MISSION RESERVE IR #17

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, the Mission Reserve IR #17 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Habitation Zone.

The Mission Reserve IR #17 totals 41.90 hectares on the south side of Fort St. James. It is home to the Nak'albun Elementary School, Our Lady of Good Hope Church, and a community graveyard. Community members identified Mission Reserve IR #17 as the fourth highest priority to focus our planning efforts within this Plan. When IR #17 became registered reserve lands, the understanding was that the lands would be used only for educational and cultural purposes in perpetuity. Through community engagement for this Plan, community members consistently identified this area as a place where the children of Nak'albun Elementary practice land-based learning such as maintaining trap-lines and snowshoeing, and also as an ideal location for a cultural centre and/or community centre. The northern portion of this land was also identified as a good example of developable lands that should be left in their natural state so that future generations will still have good land left to plan for.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones have been applied to achieve the priorities identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone;
2. Cultural and Traditional Land Use Zone; and
3. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 11 illustrates the boundaries of the Land Use Zones referenced in this section as they apply to Mission Reserve IR #17.

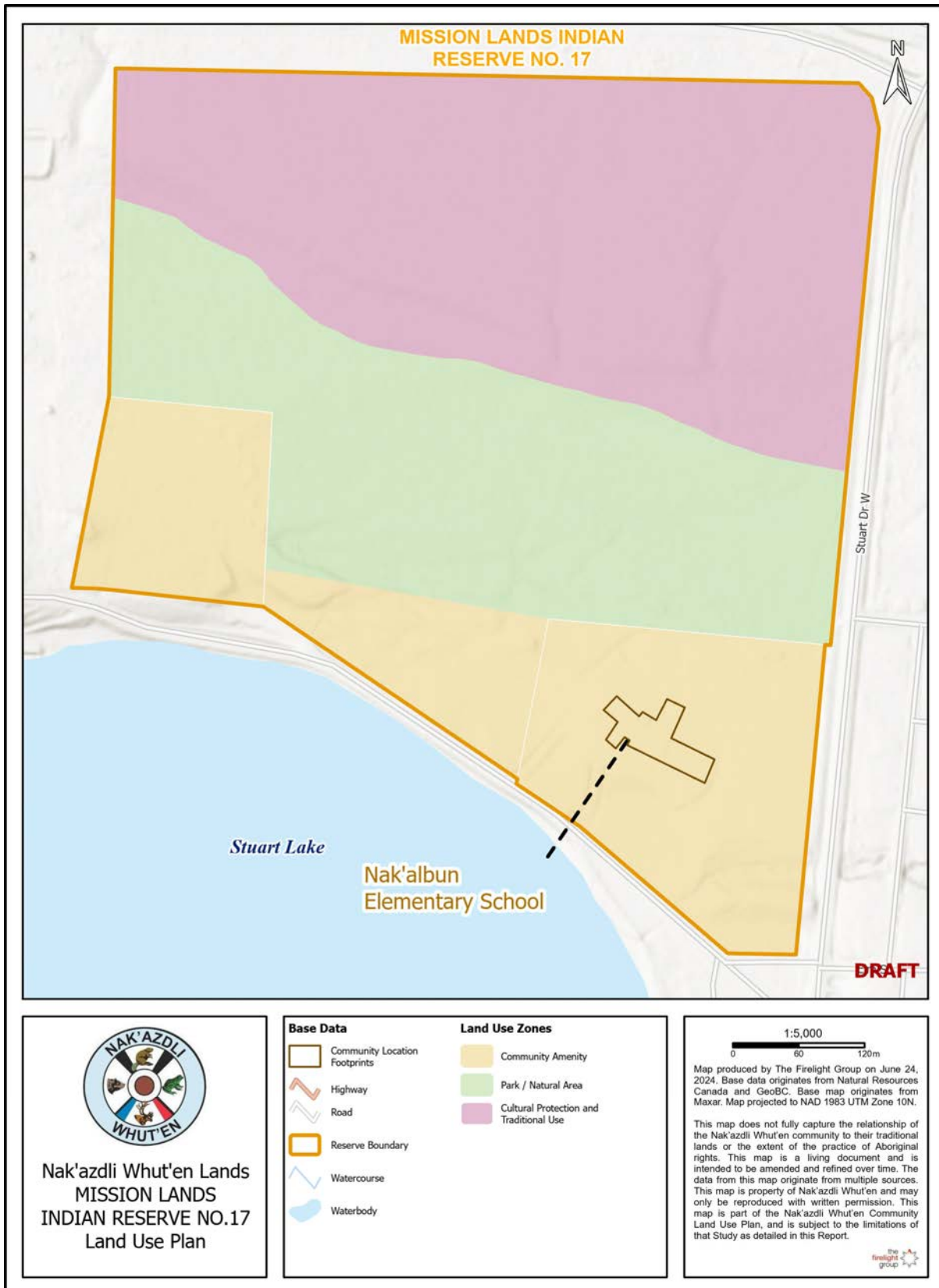
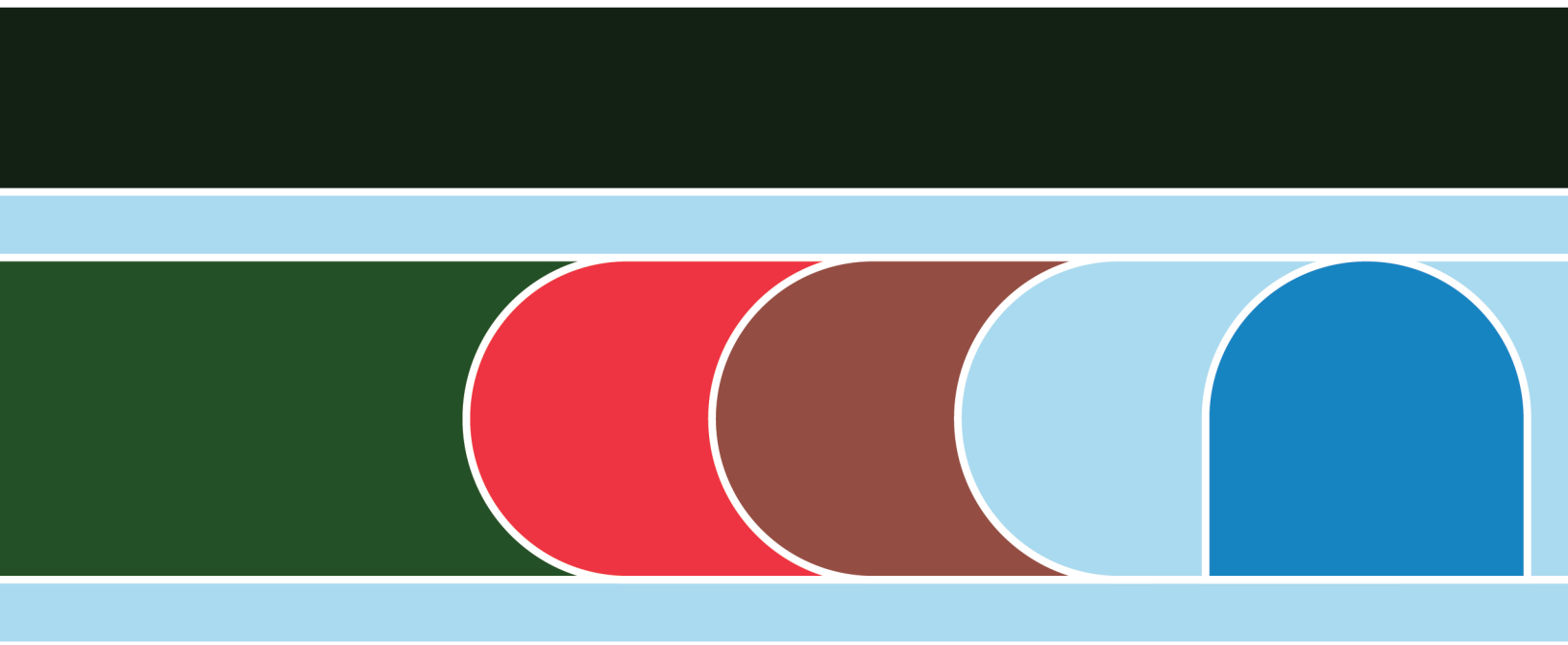


Figure 11. Mission Reserve IR #17 Land Use Zoning Map





7. CONTEXT FOR FUTURE PLANNING

This section identifies community priorities for future land use and zoning for the twelve (12) remaining Nak'azdli Whut'en reserve lands. Further community engagement will be required to plan for these lands in the future. At this time, all general policies identified in Section 5.2 apply to these reserves. The zone-specific policies outlined in Sections 5.3 to 5.10 will not apply until Land Use Zone boundaries are established for these areas.

As noted in Section 6, the order of the 12 remaining reserves presented in this section reflects the community's prioritization. The land uses and suggested Land Use Zones for each reserve are based on community input. For consistency with Section 6 above, affected keyohs and their respective keyoh holders should be identified prior to planning for future land use on these reserves.

7.1. SIX MILE MEADOW IR #6

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Six Mile Meadow IR #6 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Six Mile Meadow IR #6 is located in the southeast portion of our traditional territory. It covers 210.40 hectares, is bisected by Highway 27 and is characterized by multiple small water bodies and muskeg. Community members note this area was once used for haying and is part of an active wildlife corridor. Possible future uses identified by the community include agriculture, hobby farms, tourism, and camping.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Commercial Land Use Zone;
2. Community Amenity Land Use Zone;
3. Light Industrial Land Use Zone; and the
4. Agricultural Land Use Zone.

Figure 12 illustrates the reserve boundaries of Six Mile Meadow IR #6.



Figure 12. Six Mile Meadow IR #6 Aerial View Map

7.2. UZTA (NAHOUNLI CREEK) IR #4

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #4 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #4 covers 388.50 hectares in the southeast of our traditional territory. A road bisects the northern portion of this reserve connecting to an adjacent industrial area beyond the reserve land boundary. This area was identified as including water courses that support seasonal salmon runs and was considered by the community as a potential location for a future healing center and cultural camp.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 13 illustrates the reserve boundaries of Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #4.

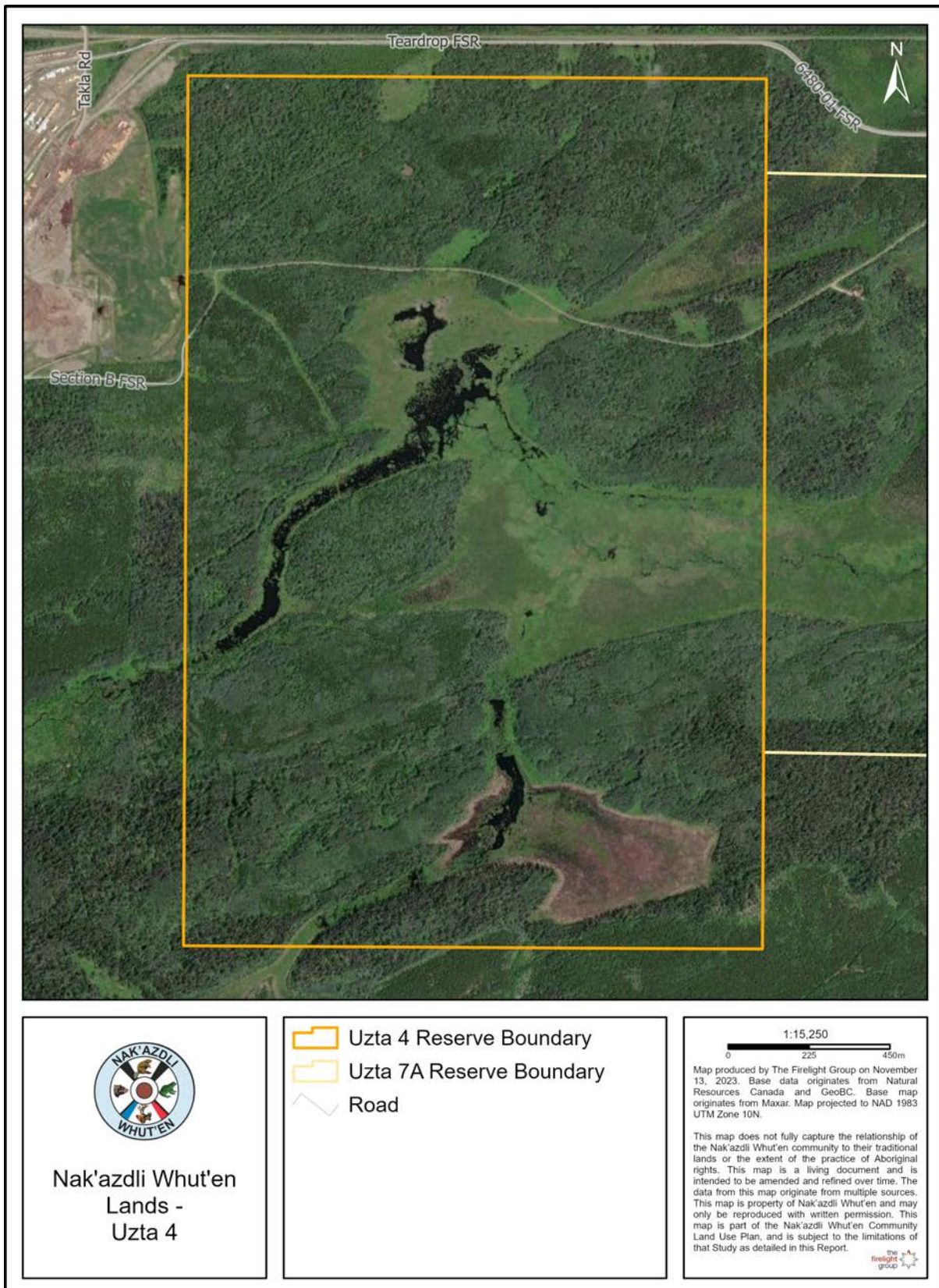


Figure 13. Uzta (Nahounlil Creek) IR #4 Aerial View Map

7.3. UZTA (NAHOUNLI CREEK) IR #7A

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A shares its western-most reserve boundary with Utza IR #4 (Nahounli Creek) IR #4. The reserve totals 217.70 hectares with much of the land covered in muskeg. Community members note that at one time, preliminary land use planning may have taken place for this reserve and that this area could be a good place for camping and tourism.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 14 illustrates the reserve boundaries of Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A.

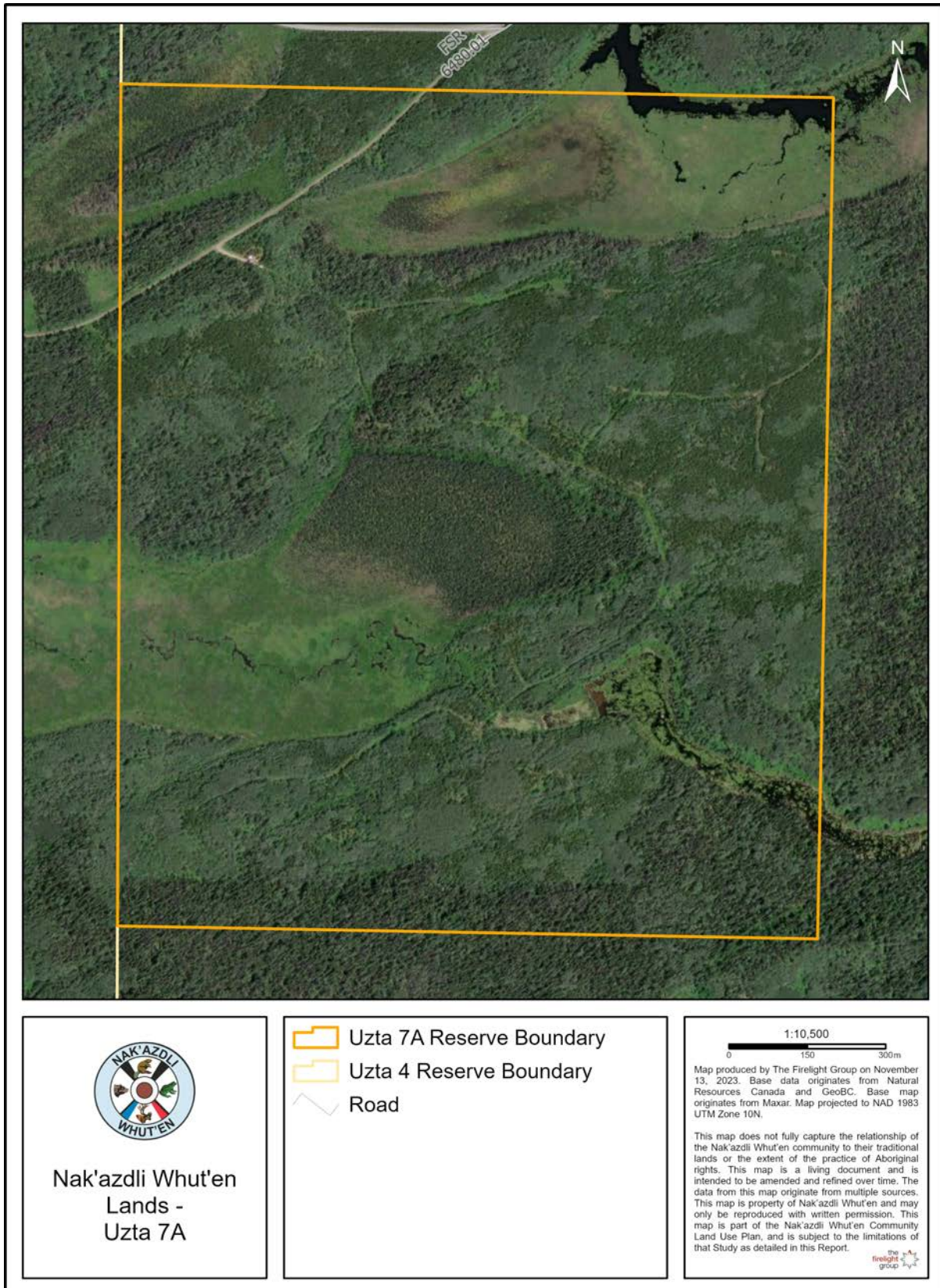


Figure 14. Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A Aerial View Map

7.4. NEHOUNLEE LAKE (SIX MILE LAKE) IR #13

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13 covers 11 hectares and is located to the east of Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #4 and Uzta (Nahounli Creek) IR #7A. It is not accessible by motor vehicle.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne:

1. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 15 illustrates the reserve boundaries of Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.

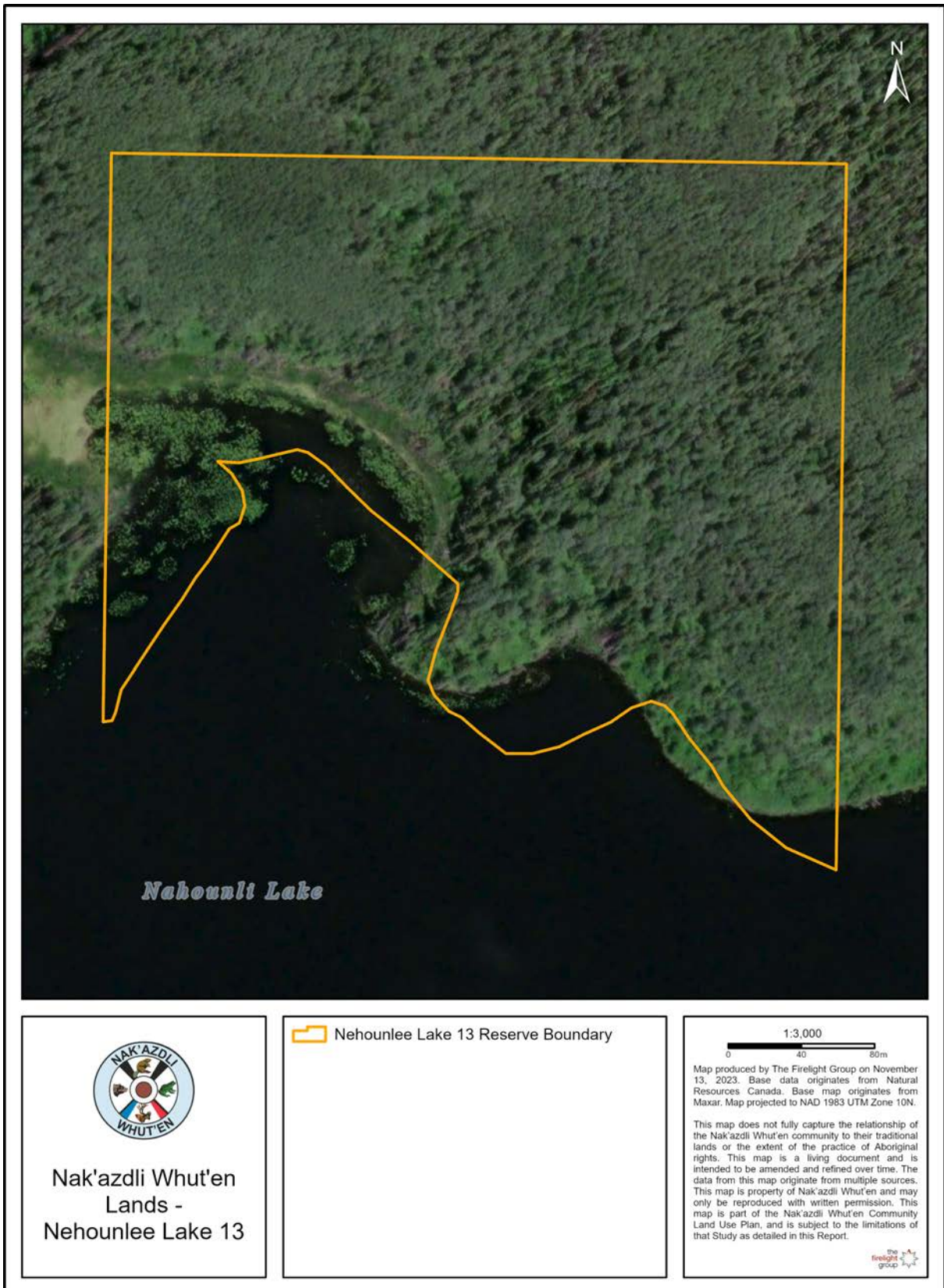


Figure 15. Nehounlee Lake (Six Mile Lake) IR #13 Aerial View Map

7.5. TATSELAWAS (STUART RIVER) IR #2

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Zone.

Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2 covers 55 hectares and was identified by our community as a potential area for a cultural camp and community cabins.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone;
2. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
3. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone.

Figure 16, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.

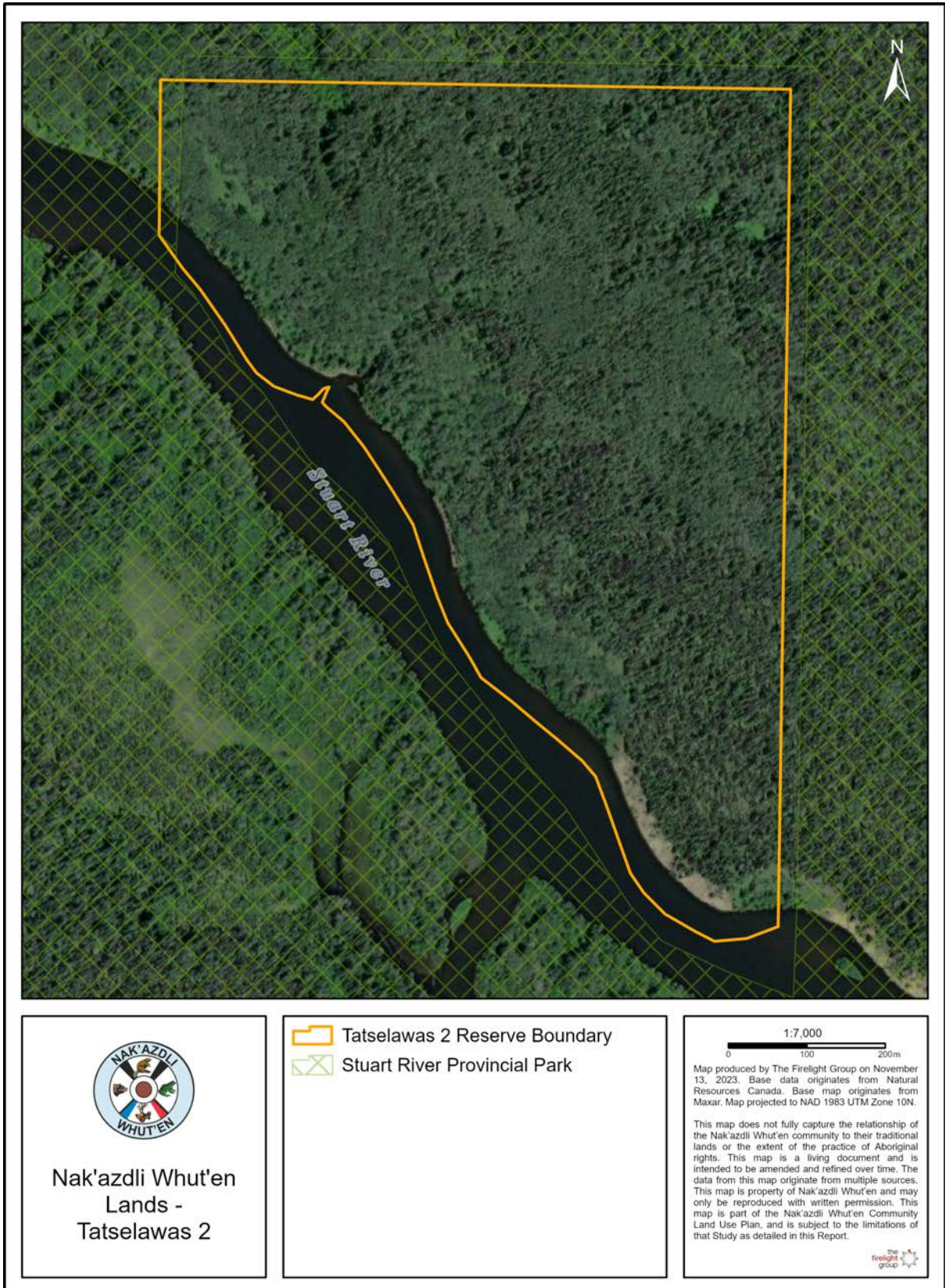


Figure 16. Tatselawas (Stuart River) IR #2 Aerial View Map

7.6. INZANA LAKE IR #12

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Inzana Lake IR #12 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Zone.

Inzana Lake IR #12 is located on the northwestern shore of Inzana Lake, near the western boundary of our traditional territory, covering 8.60 hectares. Community members noted that this area is good for fishing and other traditional and community uses.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone; and the
2. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone.

Figure 17, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Inzana Lake IR #12.



Figure 17. Inzana Lake IR #12 Aerial View Map

7.7. TATSADAH LAKE IR #14

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Tatsadah Lake IR# 14 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone. It is also located directly north of an identified Protection Zone.

Tatsadah Lake IR# 14 covers 17.20 hectares and is located within the southern portion of our ancestral territory on the shores of Tatsadah Lake. It is currently used for hunting, as well as seasonal cabins and trails.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Commercial Land Use Zone;
2. Agricultural Land Use Zone; and the
3. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 18, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Tatsadah Lake IR #14. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.

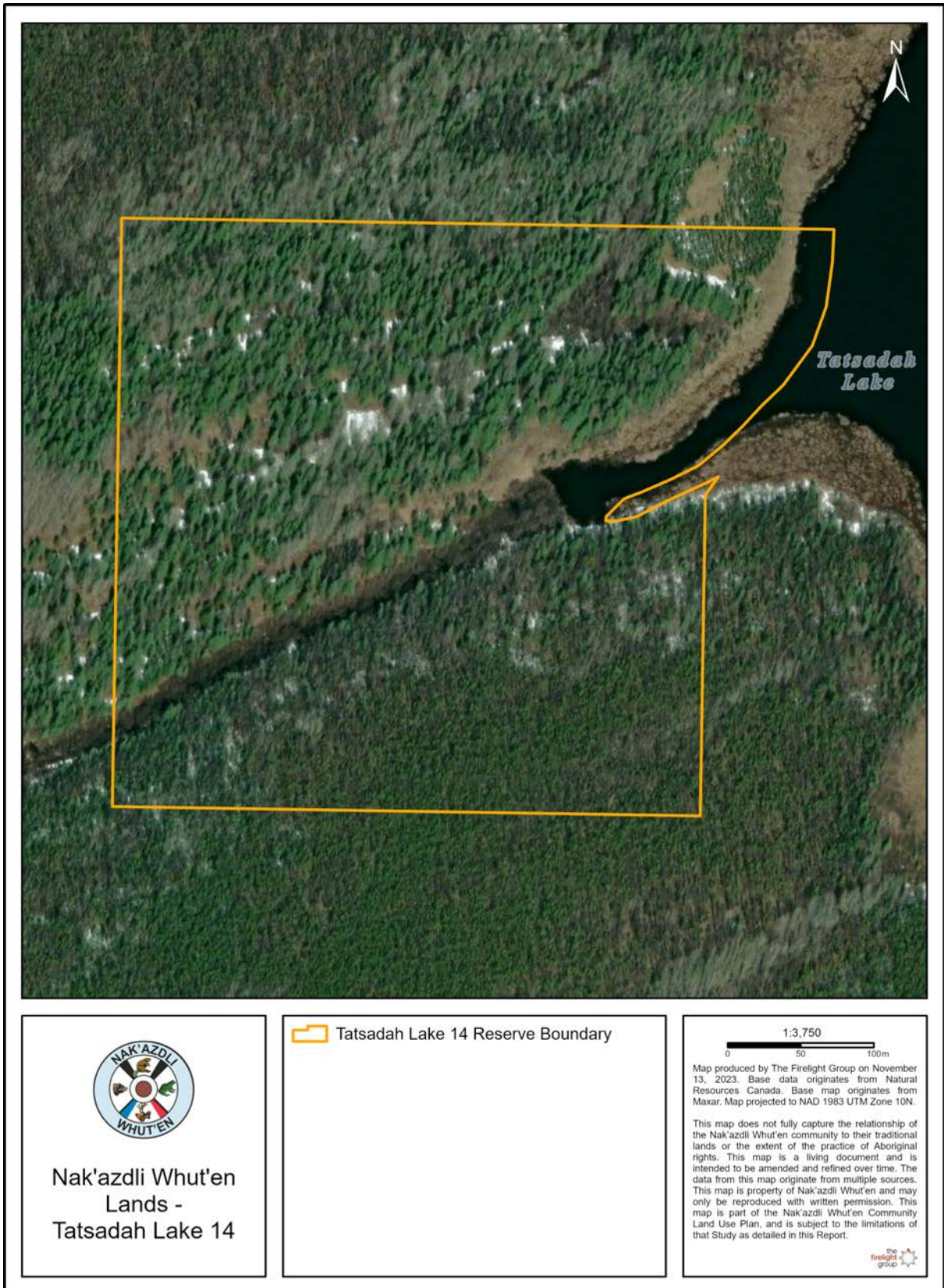


Figure 18. Tatsadah Lake IR #14 Aerial View Map

7.8. STUART LAKE (HUNGRY ISLAND) IR #9

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Zone.

Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9 is a small, 0.20 hectare island located off the northern shore of Nak'albun. Community members note that it is good area for fishing and hosting fishing derbies, and may hold potential for a future fish camp.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 19, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.

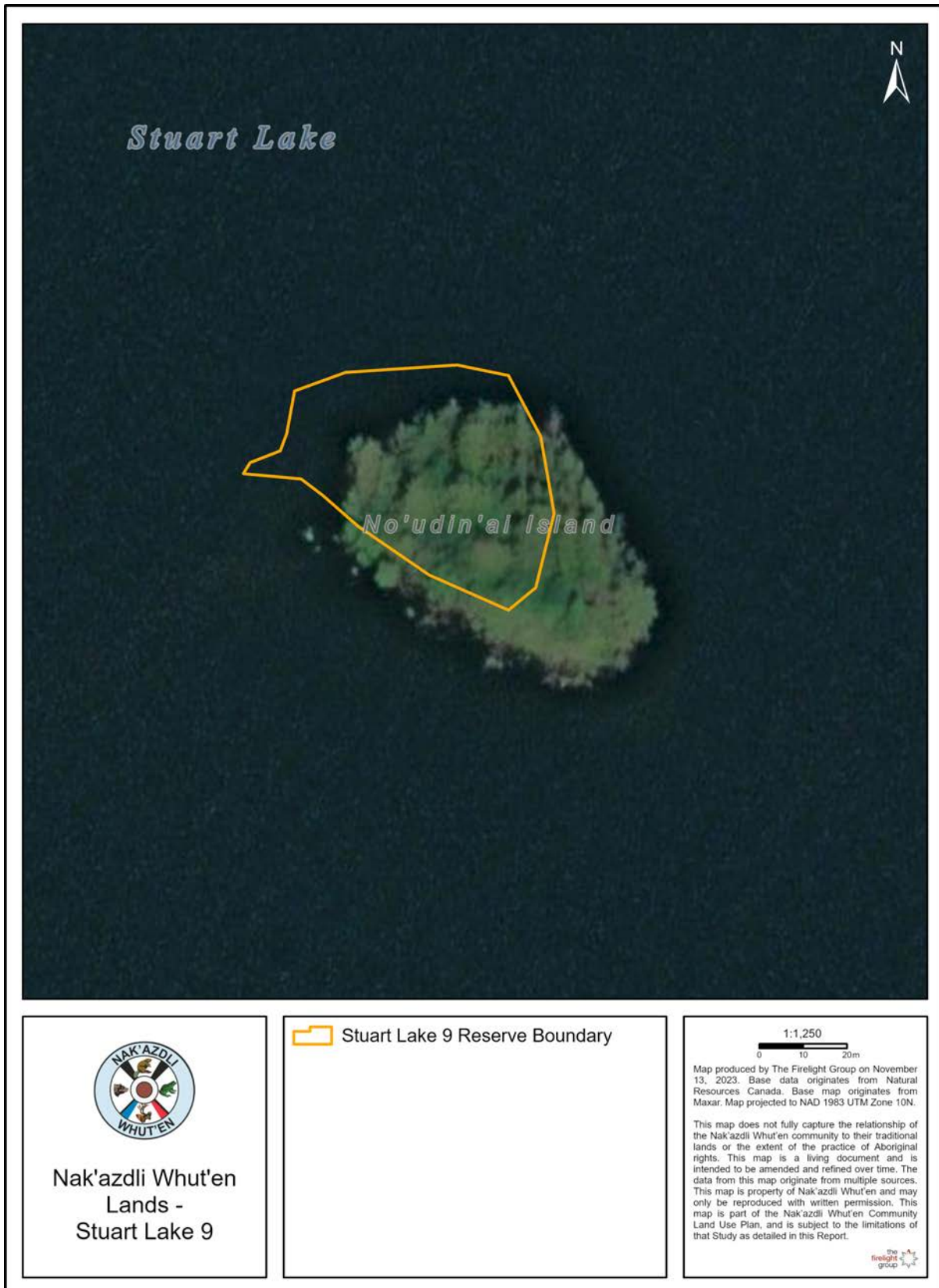


Figure 19. Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9 Aerial View Map

7.9. STUART LAKE (DUNAH ISLAND) IR #10

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Zone.

Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10 is slightly larger than Stuart Lake (Hungry Island) IR #9, at 1 hectare. The island sits on the border of Nak'azdli traditional territory. Community members noted that this area is currently used for picnics and is a possible location for a future healing gazebo.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
2. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone.

Figure 20, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.



Figure 20. Stuart Lake (Dunah Island) IR #10 Aerial View Map

7.10. GREAT BEAR LAKE IR #16

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Great Bear Lake IR #16 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Great Bear Lake IR #16 covers 4 hectares on the northern edge of Great Beaver Lake. The Land Code identifies IR #16 as Great Bear Lake; however, an amendment is required to correct the name to Great Beaver Lake IR #16. Once the Land Code has been amended to reflect the correct name for IR #16, this Plan can also be amended.

Forest fires have impacted lands to the north of this reserve, and access was previously limited due to a damaged bridge and road access from the east. In recent years, a new road was created by the keyoh holders to restore access to the reserve. Community members noted the importance of this area to spring salmon and the need to protect and maintain its waterways for the future.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone;
2. Community Amenity Land Use Zone; and the
3. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone.

Figure 21, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Great Bear Lake IR #16. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.



Figure 21. Great Bear Lake IR #16 Aerial View Map

7.11. CARRIER LAKE IR #15

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Carrier Lake IR #15 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit and the Recovery Emphasis Zone.

Carrier Lake IR #15 is 29.90 hectares in size and is located on the shores of Carrier Lake, split by the Ocock River. Community members noted that this area may have been used for harvesting activities such as hunting and was once the location of a cabin.

Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Cultural Protection and Traditional Land Use Zone;
2. Residential Land Use Zone; and the
3. Community Amenity Land Use Zone.

Figure 22, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Carrier Lake IR #15. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.

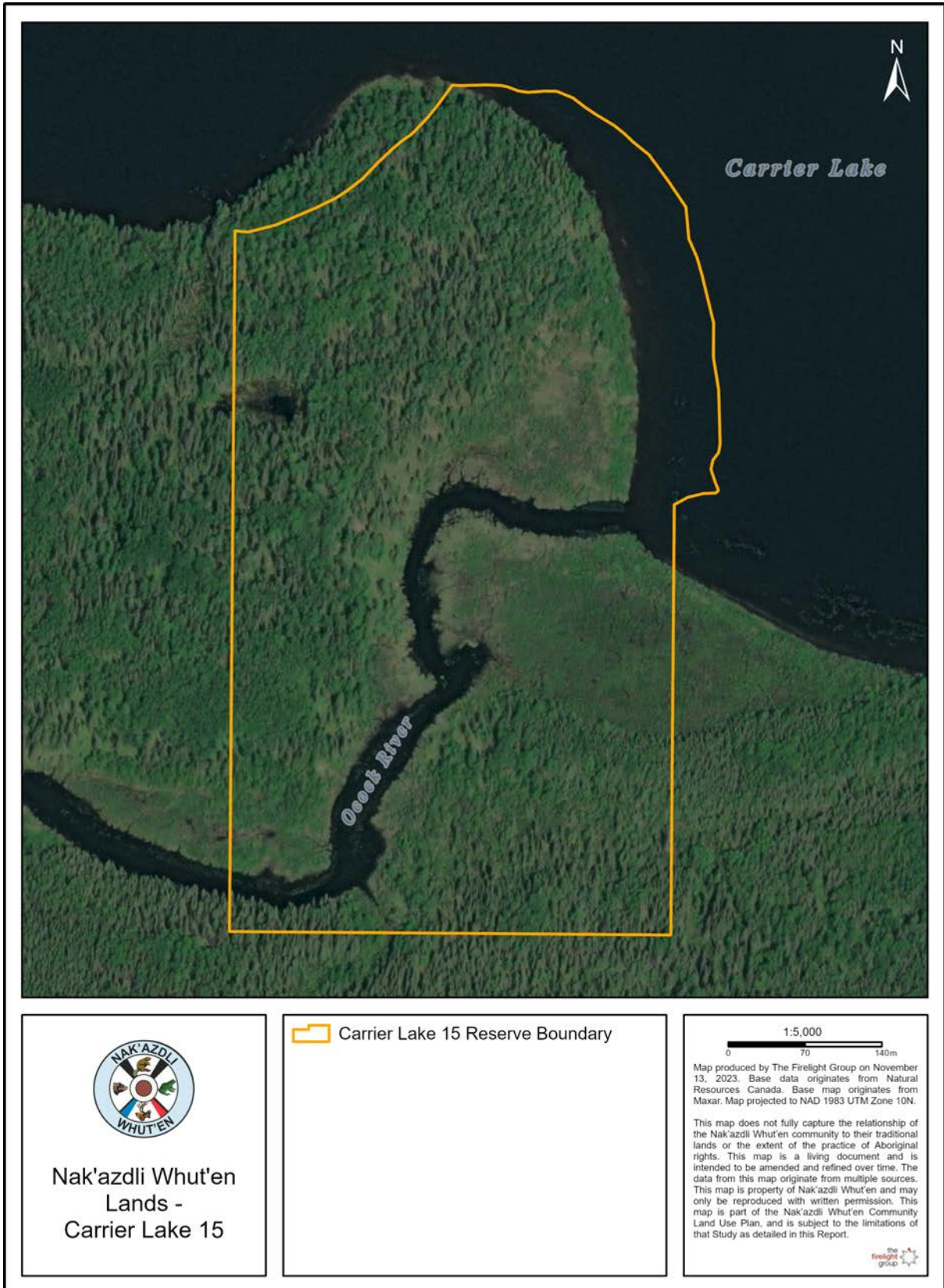


Figure 22. Carrier Lake IR #15 Aerial View Map

7.12. BEAVER ISLANDS IR #8

Under our Land Stewardship Plan, Beaver Islands IR #8 falls within the Stuart River Land Stewardship Unit, the Recovery Emphasis Zone, and a Protection Area.

Beaver Islands IR #8 is an island located off the shores of Nak'albun and covers 2.8 hectares. Community members note that these islands are home to many ants and have been used as a fish harvesting location over time.

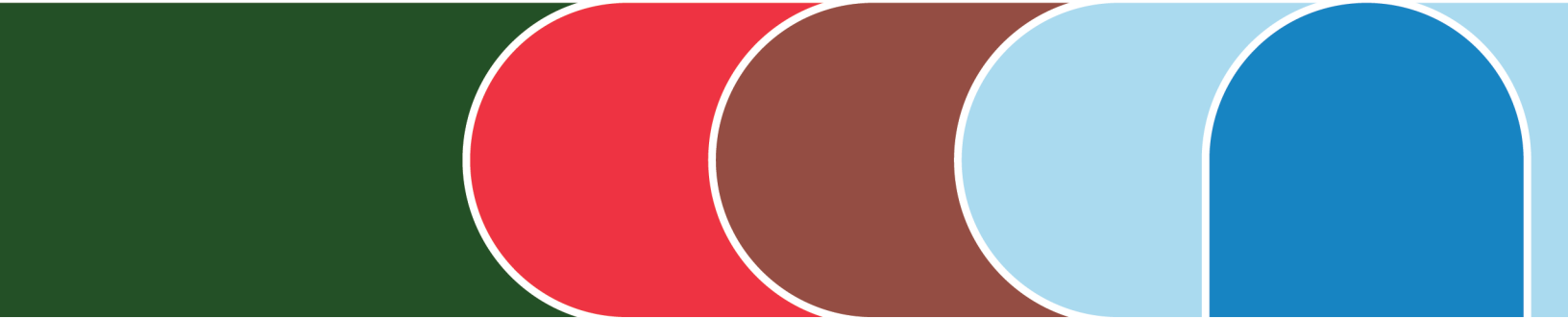
Within the context of this Plan, the following Land Use Zones would support efforts to achieve the potential land uses identified by Nak'azdli Whut'enne.

1. Parks and Natural Areas Land Use Zone;
2. Cultural Protections and Traditional Land Use Zone; and the
3. Community Amenity Land Use Zone.

Figure 23, shown below, illustrates the reserve boundaries of Beaver Islands IR #8. It's important to note that the reserve boundary identified does not align with the land-water boundary; this misalignment may be due to outdated survey data and changes in the landscape or environment over time.



Figure 23. Beaver Islands IR #8 Aerial View Map



8. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING OUR SUCCESS

In developing this Plan, our community members worked hard, provided heartfelt input, and expressed their hopes and goals for the future. With the knowledge that this Plan is only effective if it is achievable, this section outlines:

- The roles and responsibilities associated with implementing the Plan;
- How it will be approved and implemented in accordance with the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Code;
- Strategies for monitoring progress; and
- How implementation may be funded as we work toward our goals.

Plan implementation is an iterative, cyclical process. Below, Figures 24 and 25 describe the cycles that form the framework for informing and supporting Plan implementation following ratification. As the figures demonstrate, there are ongoing opportunities for community members to be involved throughout Plan implementation – for example, when Plan updates take place, and when amendments are proposed. This approach keeps the Plan adaptable and responsive to Nak'azdli's changing needs, and ensures that it stays relevant, transparent, effective, and valuable over the long term.

Figure 25 illustrates the role of community members and leadership in Plan implementation, while Figure 26 illustrates the internal, ongoing implementation process that is carried out by Nak'azdli staff. These processes are explained in greater detail in Sections 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4.



Figure 24. Community Land Use Plan Implementation Process

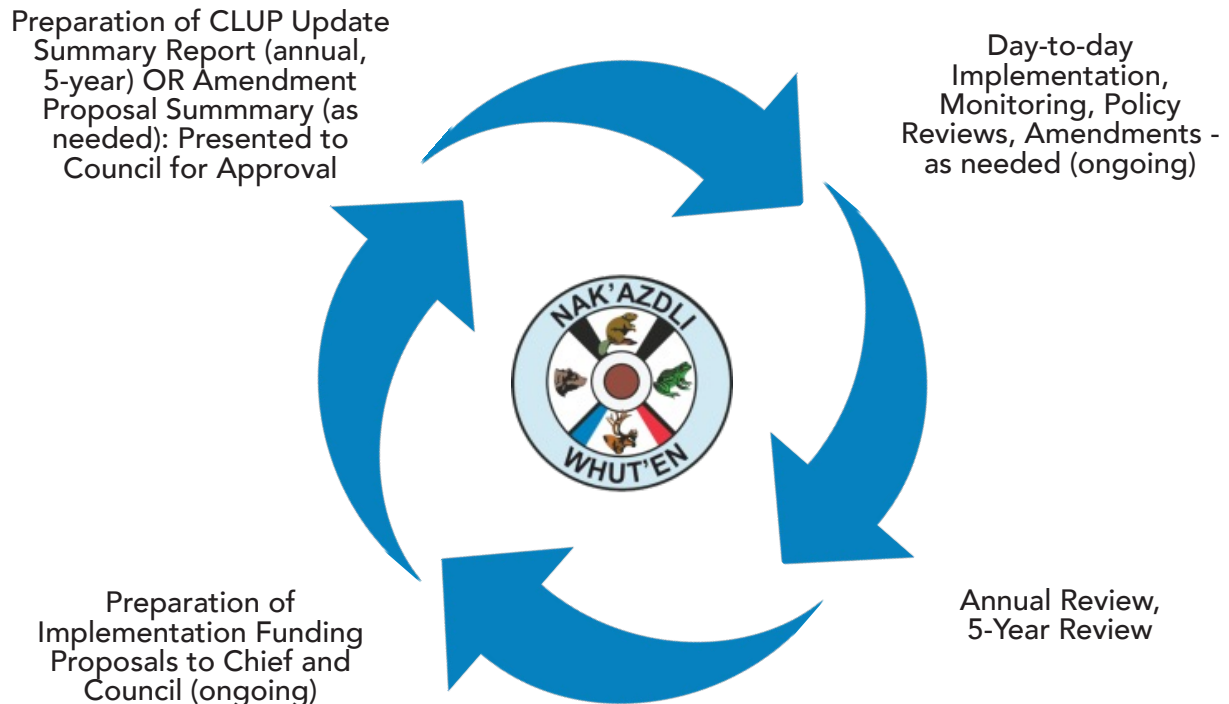


Figure 25. Internal Operational Community Land Use Plan Implementation Process

8.1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone has a role to play to ensure the successful and meaningful implementation of our Plan. These roles and responsibilities are described below.

8.1.1. Chief and Council

The Nak'azdli Whut'en Chief and Council hold various responsibilities regarding this Plan. These include the final review and approval of the Plan, adopting it as a Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Law, and reviewing and approving any major future amendments (as outlined in Section 8.3). Chief and Council may also play a role in delegating day-to-day Plan implementation responsibilities to staff.

8.1.2. Nak'azdli Whut'en Lands Department

The Nak'azdli Whut'en Lands Department, or an alternate as designated by Council, is responsible for overseeing Plan implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Broadly, this role may include, but is not limited to:

1. Identifying implementation funding opportunities and developing funding applications;
2. Communicating the Plan's objectives and policies to internal and external parties (e.g., NDC, other departments, contractors);
3. Reviewing development proposals for alignment with the Plan and reporting up to Council to ensure they have the information they need to make informed decisions;
4. Providing recommendations for amendments to the Plan to Council (as needed);
5. Ensuring the Plan is maintained and updated as needed, including managing progress reporting for the annual and 5-year reviews (as applicable);
6. Ensuring that opportunities for the community to engage and provide feedback are provided; and
7. Working with other departments within Nak'azdli's administration to identify and carry out actions and strategies that support Plan implementation;
8. Providing progress reports to Chief and Council and the community on an annual basis.

8.1.3. Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands Advisory Committee

Section 22 of the Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code provides for the establishment of a Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands Advisory Committee. Although this Advisory Committee is not yet formed, it is expected that, along with the Lands Department, it will help implement the Plan. This includes monitoring progress and regularly reviewing policies to ensure that future land use decisions align with the Plan. The specific roles and responsibilities associated with Plan implementation should be outlined in an Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

8.1.4. Nak'azdli Whut'enne

As this Plan is intended to be a living document, it will be important for all Nak'azdli Whut'enne to continue to be informed and engaged in how it is put into action and any updates (amendments) that are made. The Plan is more likely to align with our community's changing vision, needs, and priorities into the future if all Nak'azdli Whut'enne remain connected with its progress and continue to share their ideas.

8.2. APPROVAL PROCESS

For Framework Agreement Signatory First Nations, land use plans are ratified as land laws and enacted through the guiding policy framework provided in their land codes. Moving forward, in compliance with the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Code, this Plan will be implemented through the enforcement of the general policies and Land Use Zone-specific policies contained in the zoning designations outlined in Section 5. In this way, our administration will work towards achieving the Plan's commitments.

Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code outline the process by which Council is able to make laws respecting the development, conservation, protection, management, use, and possession of reserve land. These land laws may include the authorization, regulation, control, and prohibition of reserve land use, zoning, subdivision control, and reserve land development. To become implementable Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Law, ratification of this Plan as well as any future major amendments (Section 8.3.2), and future comprehensive updates (Section 8.4.2) must undergo three readings in accordance with Sections 9 to 11 of the *Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land Code*.

8.3. AMENDING THIS PLAN

A list outlining all major and minor amendments to this Plan should be recorded in Appendix A. Amendments to this Plan can occur at any time but are most likely to occur as part of the regularly scheduled annual and five-year Plan reviews (Section 8.4). The level of reporting and notification required for an amendment depends on the type of amendment being proposed, as explained below. Additional guidance for the amendment process and the associated community notification is provided in the Implementation Toolkit.





8.3.1. Minor Amendments

The Nak'azdli Whut'en Chief and Council or their appointed designate can approve minor amendments to the Plan, such as changes to the implementation and monitoring process and commitments set out in Section 8 of this Plan (e.g., a staffing change or change in review timelines), or edits to fix typographical or clerical errors. A minor amendment can be completed administratively with a reduced level of community notification.

The Implementation Toolkit provides further operational guidance to clarify the factors and procedures that may influence how or when minor amendments are made to this Plan.

8.3.2. Major Amendments

Major amendments may include, but are not limited to, proposed changes to the vision, objectives, general policies, Land Use Zone boundaries, community priorities, maps and/or an expansion of the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land base (ATR processes). All major amendments will be considered by Chief and Council as part of a community meeting where members are invited to attend and participate.

Major amendments can be brought to Chief and Council at any time. At a minimum, Chief and Council, or their appointed designate, may recommend major amendments to this Plan as part of the 5-year review. Major amendments require approval by Chief and Council in the same manner as the Plan was originally ratified, with opportunities for community engagement. The recommended procedural steps for completing a major amendment are provided in the Implementation Toolkit.

8.4. MONITORING THE PLAN'S PROGRESS

This Plan is intended to evolve over time and should be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis as major amendments are proposed to ensure it remains aligned with the best interests of Nak'azdli Whut'en.

8.4.1. Annual Review

For the Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands Advisory Committee or Chief and Council's alternatively appointed designate, the main purpose of the annual review is to identify opportunities for amendments that would facilitate the alignment of future projects with the objectives identified within the Plan. For example, the annual review should look ahead to consider new development projects such as elders housing or leasable commercial spaces that are being planned for the upcoming year, so that any resulting amendments to this Plan can be made proactively as part of the preliminary planning process.

8.4.2. Comprehensive Five-Year Review

To ensure that this Plan remains a living document that can keep pace with changes in the community, the Band Manager, Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands Advisory Committee, or Chief and Council's alternatively appointed designate, will complete a comprehensive review of this Plan every five years (with the first review occurring in 2029). As part of this 5-year review process, it will be important to:

1. Engage with the community to provide an update on the Plan's implementation progress to date;
2. To review the relevance of the goals, objectives, and policies and refine as needed; and
3. To gather feedback from members regarding any major amendments that may be proposed to update and prepare the Plan for implementation over the next 5 years.

This approach will promote the longevity and relevancy of the Plan well beyond the 5-year mark. The Implementation Toolkit includes a more thorough summary of the 5-year review process, and includes a set of recommended operational procedures to clarify roles and set the review up for success.

8.5. FUNDING THE PLAN

Securing funding for the implementation, monitoring, and updating of the Plan will be an ongoing process. Each department will keep careful watch of funding opportunities and consider them within the context of implementation. For example, where this Plan identifies a need for new housing on reserve, and funding sources are identified by our administration that would align with the objectives of this Plan, a proposal would be prepared, which highlights how the funding source is expected to support the implementation of the housing policies contained within this Plan. If supported by Council, an application for funding will then be submitted to the relevant approving body for approval and implementation.

8.6. BEYOND OUR PLAN

Once ratified, this Plan will be adopted as a Nak'azdli Whuten Land Law, meaning that other plans that come after it will need to reflect the policies and direction set by this Plan. Further, this Plan may guide future funding applications and will provide a framework for reviewing new development proposals so that the future use of Nak'azdli reserve lands continues to align with the policies of this Plan. Recognizing that this is no small feat for the community, this section provides opportunities beyond this Plan that may strengthen its implementation and review processes while promoting the continued strengthening of implementation approaches moving forward.

8.6.1. Community-owned Census Project

Population projections are calculated by comparing census data trends and are used to estimate community growth and inform planning processes in a proactive way. This approach endeavours to ensure that the resources available on-reserve align with the changing needs of the community; however, the limitations of the federal census datasets (Section 4.3.1), may cause discrepancies in population projections, fail to accurately represent on-reserve population demographics, and create misleading growth-rate scenarios. To avoid this, a community-owned census program is recommended to align with best practices when planning for our future. This community-owned census program would survey the on-reserve population every four years to create a current and reliable database of demographic information that will inform future allocations for funding and amenities such as daycares, schools, health services, housing and recreational infrastructure.

8.6.2. Community Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy

Implementation sections within land use plans typically serve as a starting point for implementation, but often, more comprehensive implementation strategies are needed. To address this, additional funding may be available specifically for supporting implementation projects that will help Nak'azdli leadership and staff in their roles to implement this Plan effectively. While the Plan includes a high-level Implementation Toolkit to support the operational steps behind Plan implementation, the development of a stand-alone

Nak'azdli land use plan implementation strategy is recommended to support effective Plan implementation. The First Nations Land Management Resource Centre may be able to support Nak'azdli to identify potential funding sources.

8.6.3. Future Planning

This Plan is limited to planning within the boundaries of Nak'azdli Whut'en's 17 reserves, with a focus on the five reserve lands prioritized by community members during the Plan's engagement process. As noted in Section 6, our community members selected the following five reserve lands for comprehensive planning: Nak'azdli IR #1, Williams Prairie Meadow IR #1a, Sowchea IR #3, Sowchea IR#3a, and the Mission Reserve IR#17. Comprehensive planning included the identification of Land Use Zone boundaries and the development of detailed zoning maps.

Community priorities will change over time as the objectives within this Plan are achieved. Priorities like housing and economic development are dynamic and will evolve based on the needs of the community. This recognition was the determining factor for focusing this Plan more narrowly on only five reserves. Planning for all 17 reserves from the start would have ignored potential changes and growth, and would not have been consistent with the Nak'azdli worldview of holding space and preserving opportunities for future generations. Moving forward, planning for the remaining 12 reserves should be done as new priorities emerge. These priorities should be identified as part of the comprehensive 5-year reviews scheduled for this Plan.

This approach promotes thoughtful land use planning by enabling decisions and amendments to the Plan to be made in manageable increments. Additionally, it allows for a more accurate consideration of the community's evolving priorities and needs while preserving land for future planning and use for generations to come.



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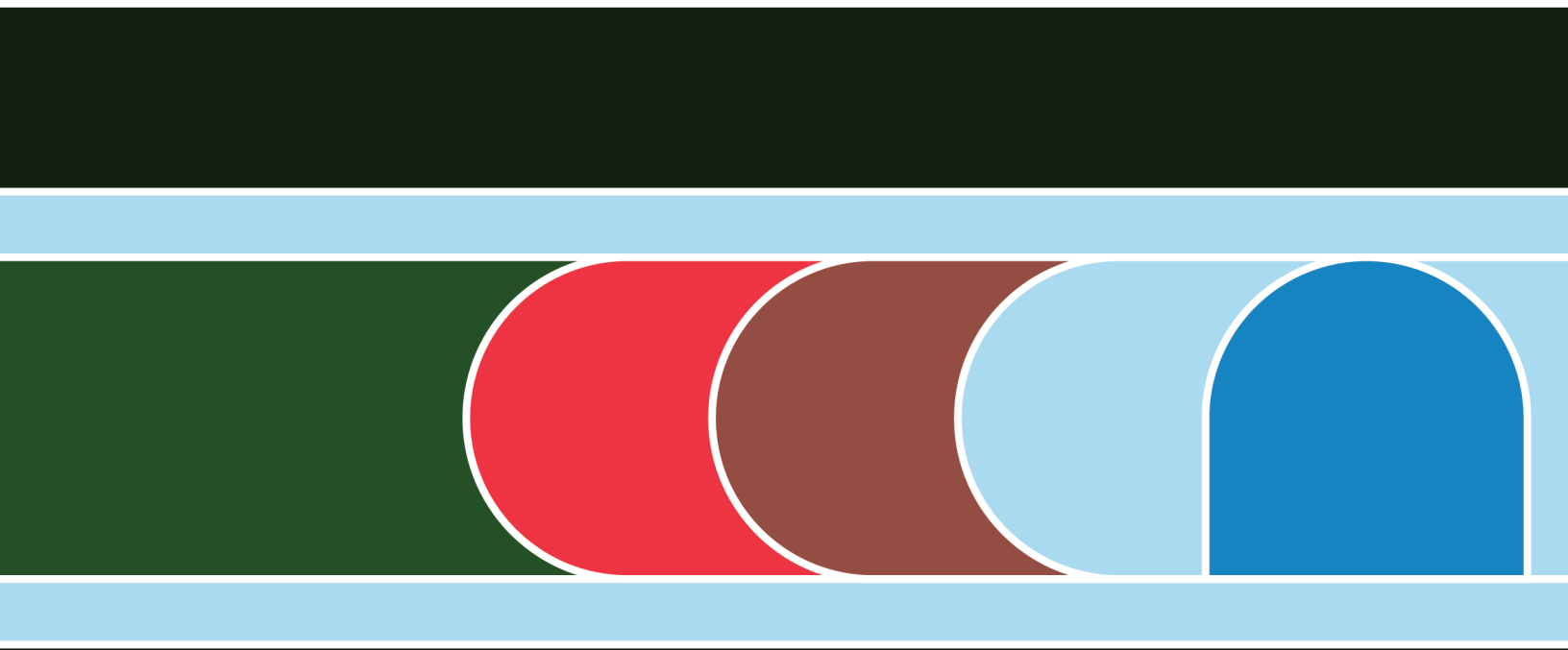
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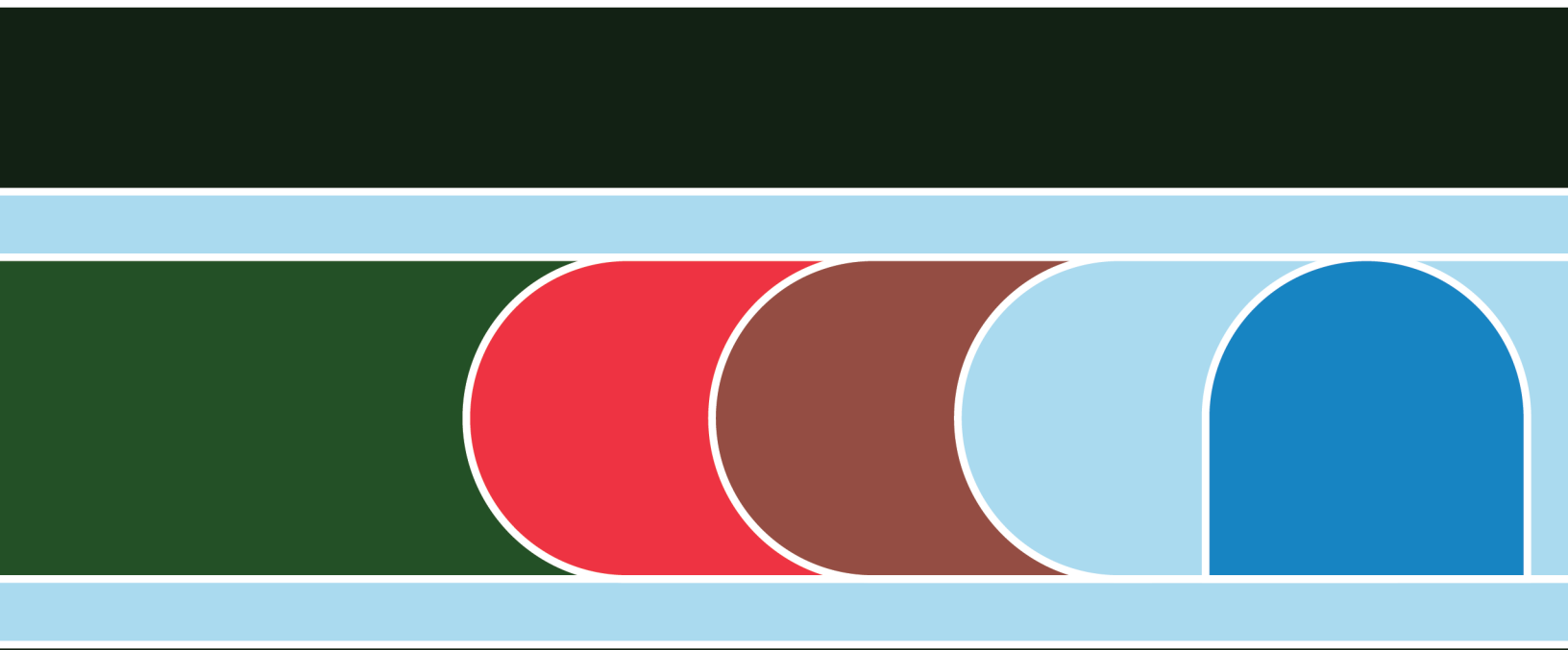
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APPENDIX A: PLAN AMENDMENTS

Table 19. Plan Amendments

Date	Minor or Major Amendment	Section Amended	Amendment	Approved By:
Dec 3, 2024	Ratification of plan	All	Ratification and adoption of plan	Chief and Council



**APPENDIX B:
ADDITIONAL CONTEXT
MAPS**

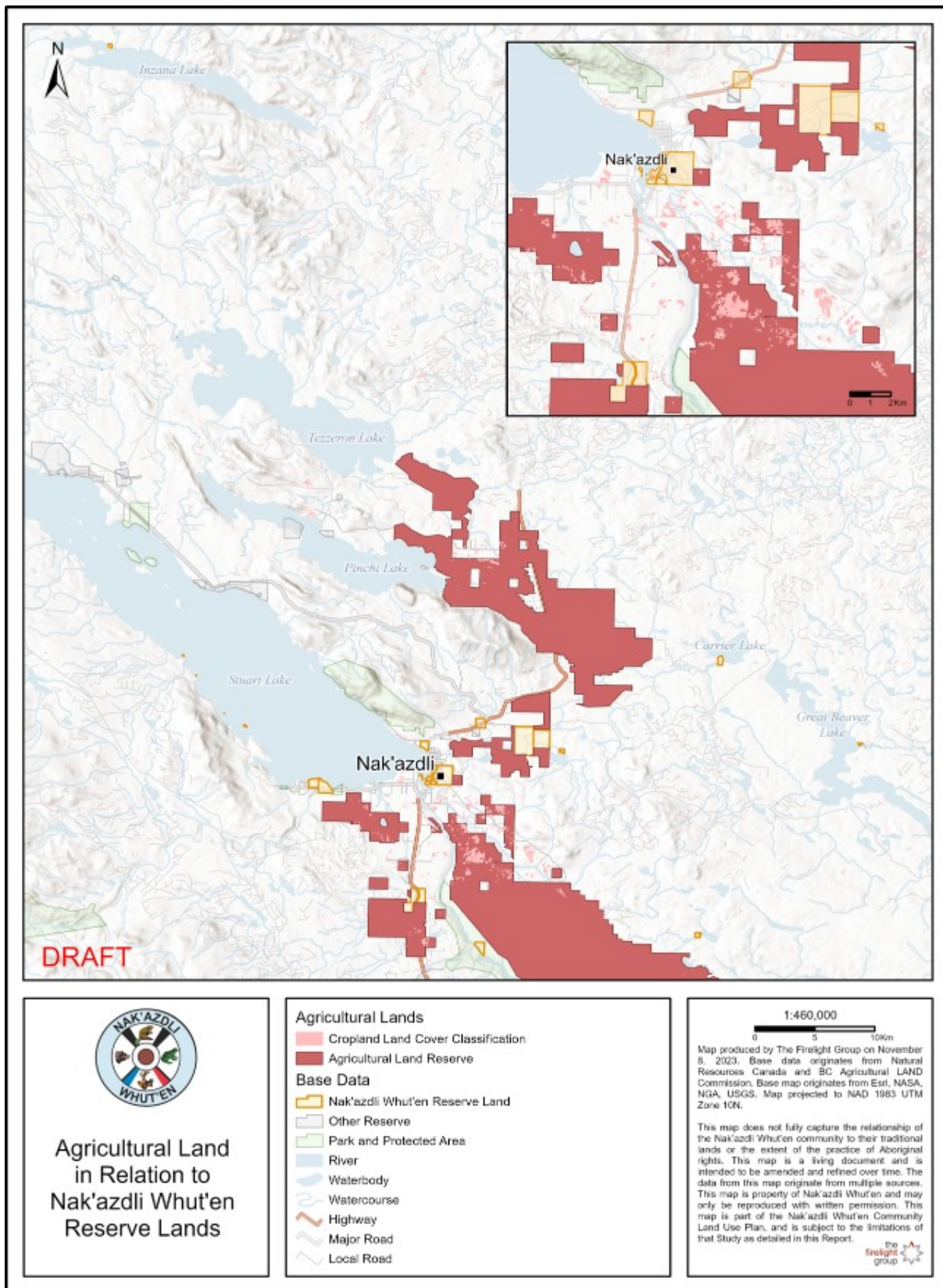


Figure 26. Agriculture Lands in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands

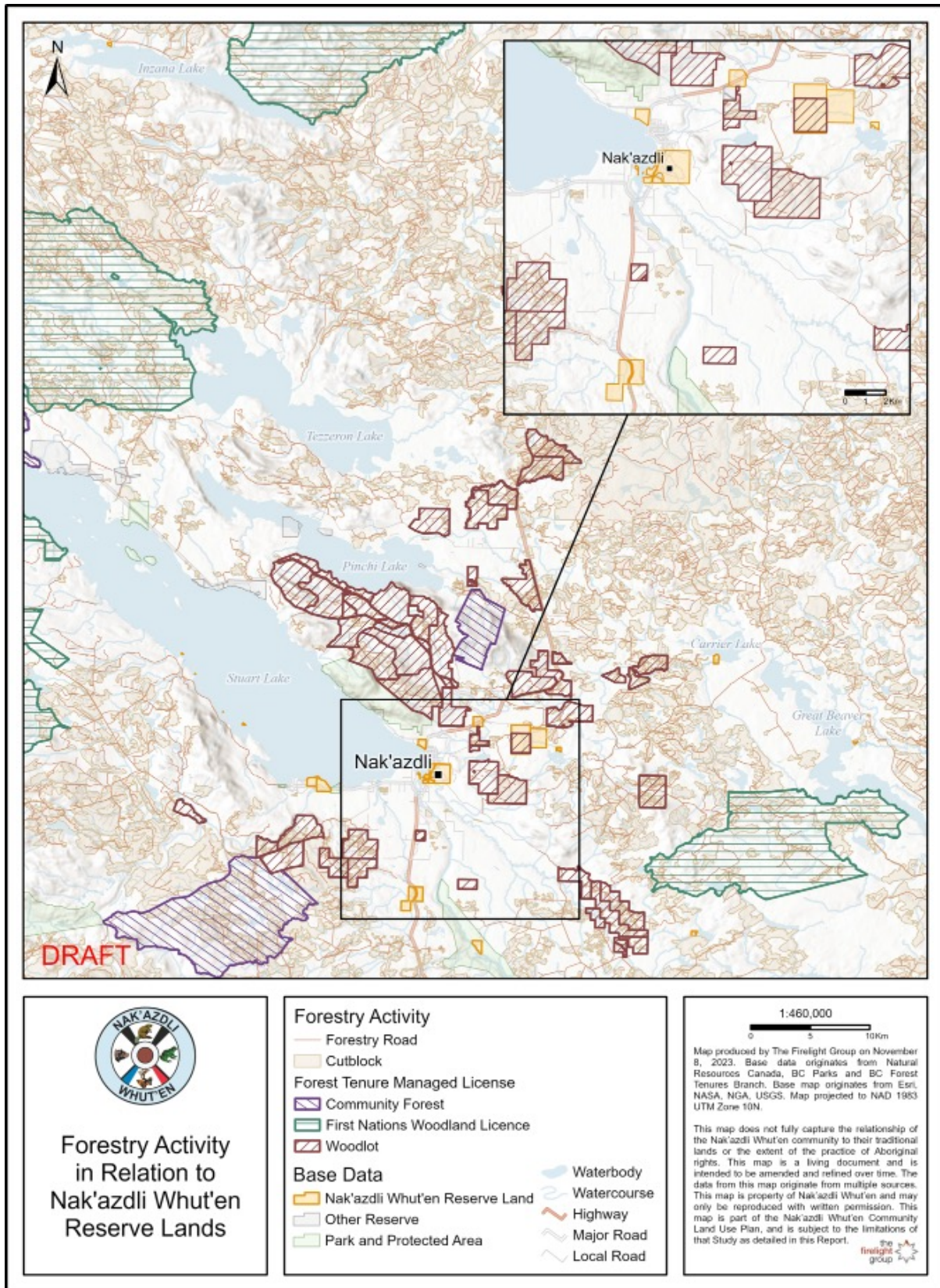


Figure 27. Forestry Activity in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Lands

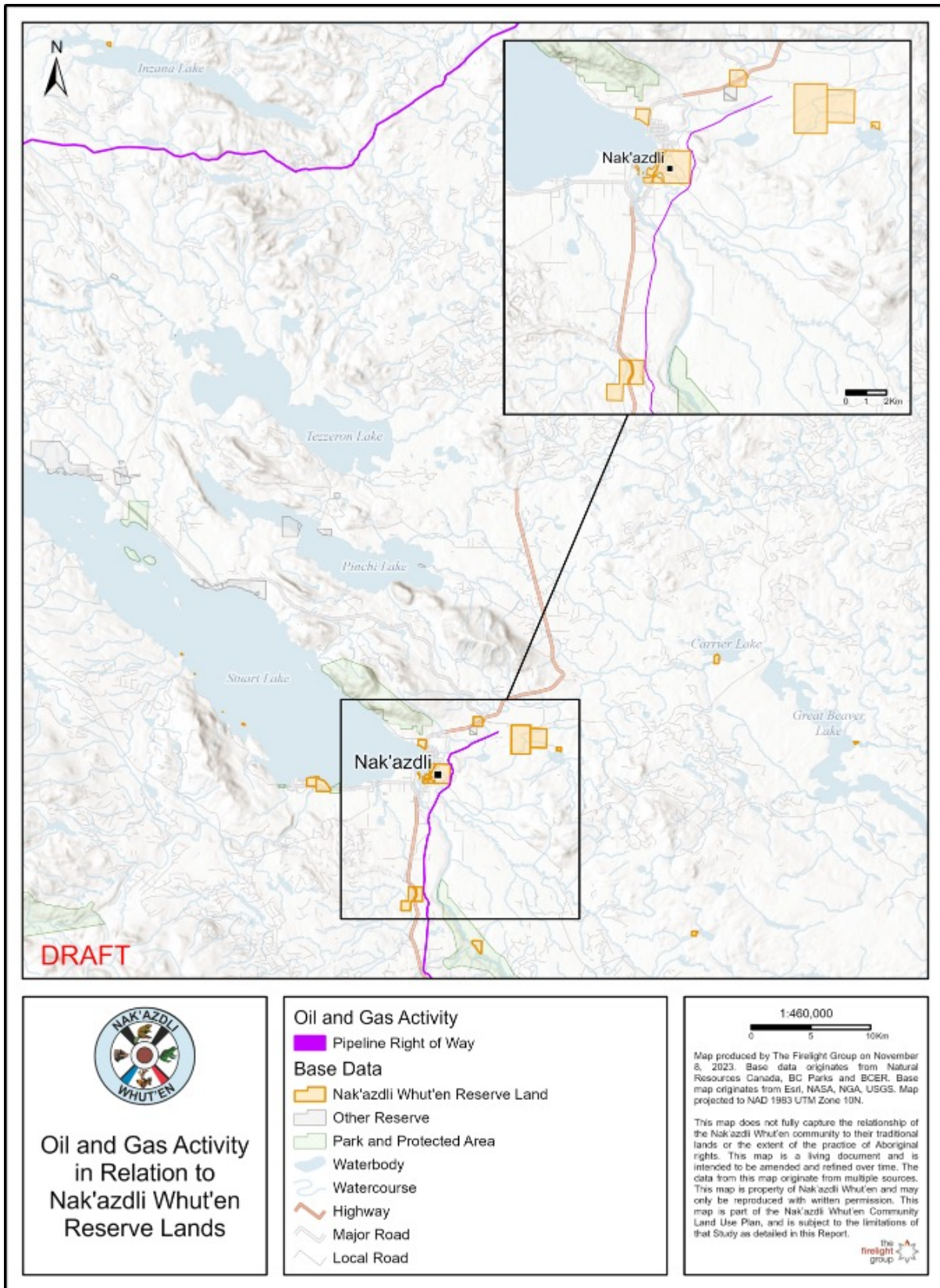
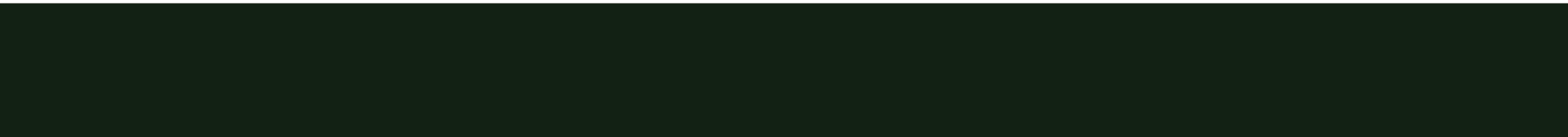
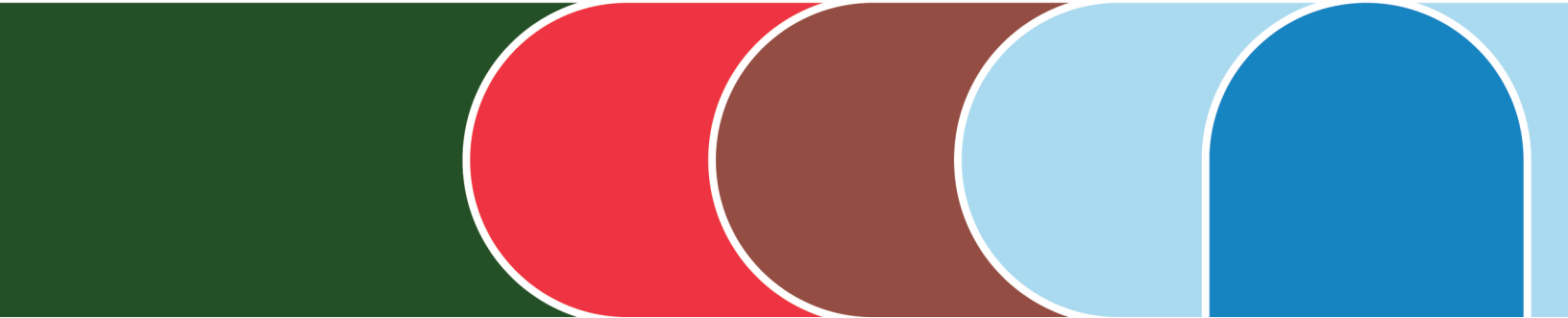


Figure 28. Oil and Gas Activity in Relation to Nak'azdli Whut'en Reserve Land



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assistance of The Firelight Group