



Tla-o-qui-aht Haʼwiih working with BC to recognize Tribal Parks Protected Areas and Implement Land Vision

The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation has taken a major step to see our Tribal Parks and Land Vision recognized and supported by the Province of British Columbia. The Province's public engagement on the proposed [Clayoquot Sound Conservancies](#) concluded on April 10, 2024. For Tla-o-qui-aht, this a crucial part of our vision to remove competing tenures from our Title lands and restore our customary stewardship traditions in a modern context.

In 1984, Tla-o-qui-aht leadership declared the wanačas hihuuʼis (Meares Island) Tribal Park to reassert our Indigenous stewardship rights and responsibilities. Tla-o-qui-aht demonstrated clear title to these lands in the 1985 *Meares Island title case* and won an injunction against the clear-cutting of our intergenerational coastal temperate rainforest gardens. The same title exists on the hiisawista (Esowista) peninsula, ʔaʔukmin (Kennedy Lake watershed), and hiłsyakłis ʔunaacuł (Tranquil River watershed), and the islands of Tla-o-qui-aht haʼuuli (~traditional territory). These areas were later declared as Tribal Parks in 2014. Because of Nuu-chah-nulth stewardship and resistance against unsustainable resource extraction, Clayoquot Sound is home to the largest intact tracts of old-growth costal temperate rainforests on Vancouver Island.

Tla-o-qui-aht applauds BC in its support for the implementation of Tla-o-qui-aht's Land Vision. These are meaningful actions towards the aspirations of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Wider acknowledgement and recognition of the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks will encourage more respectful use of Tla-o-qui-aht lands and waters. The survival of these precious forests will allow future generations to continue practicing our cultural ways, will stabilize the climate in this region, and will provide much needed habitat for a diversity of species.

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