

Gwa'ni Project Engagement Report:

WHAT WE HEARD



'NAMGIS
FIRST NATION

April 2022

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This report was made possible by the generosity of spirit and leadership of Gwa'ni Project Team, including Chief Don Svanvik from 'Namgis First Nation, Minister Katrine Conroy and all team members who have supported the project throughout each phase of work thus far.

Established under the Memorandum of Understanding for Modernized Land Use Planning, the Gwa'ni Project Team is a small government-to-government group with representation from both 'Namgis First Nation and the Government of British Columbia, and their dedication to building strong relationships has proven key to the progress of the Gwa'ni Project and will be critical during the development of consensus recommendations.

There once lived a man named Gwa'nalalis.

When the Transformer (or Creator), Kaniki'lakw, travelled around the world, he was eventually returned to the place where Gwa'nalalis lived. In an earlier encounter, the Transformer had beaten Gwa'nalalis, who was ready for his return. Kaniki'lakw asked, "Would you like to become a cedar tree?"

Gwa'nalalis replied, "No, Cedar trees, when struck by lightning, split and fall. Then they rot away for as long as the days dawn in the world."

Kaniki'lakw asked again, "Would you like to become mountain?"

"No", Gwa'nalalis answered, "For mountains have slides and crumble away for as long as the days dawn in the world."

The Transformer asked a third question. "Would you like to become a large boulder?"

Again, Gwa'nalalis answered, "No. Do not let me become a boulder, for I may crack in half and crumble away as long as the days dawn in the world."

Finally, Kaniki'lakw asked, "Would you like to become a river?"

"Yes, let me become a river that I may flow for as long as the days shall dawn in the world," Gwa'nalalis replied. Putting his hand on Gwa'nalalis' forehead and pushing him down prone, Kaniki'lakw said, "There, friend, you will be a river and many kinds of salmon will come to you to provide food for your descendants for as long as the days shall dawn in the world."

And so, the man Gwa'nalalis became the river, Gwa'ni.

Executive Summary

The Gwa'ni Project aims to evaluate the existing Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) and engage with local stakeholders who can provide input and direction for the modernization of the VILUP. The Gwa'ni Project engagement strategy and activities are vital to ensure that stakeholders will have confidence in and will feel their interests and perspectives are reflected in a modernized land use plan. Through this engagement, the Gwa'ni Project aimed to introduce stakeholders to the project and share information about land use planning, to address questions and concerns about the project, receive feedback on land use planning values, and to form strong relationships with local First Nations, governments, industry, and the public.

A fulsome analysis of engagement results can be found within this report, and key takeaways of this round of engagement can be summarized into the following themes:

BALANCE

In addition to confirming the importance of the Gwa'ni Project values, stakeholders and all those engaged in the project have emphasized the need for balance among the values, as well as balance between the various economic and environmental considerations of the project. When asked about whether to prioritize economic activity or healthy ecosystems, 72% of survey respondents agreed that the Nimpkish Valley should be managed in a way that maintains both economic activity and healthy ecosystems. Calls for balance in economic and ecological considerations were also emphasized by sub-groups of survey respondents, including full-time residents, local small business owners, and people who work in forestry.

The need for a balance of values and considerations was also heavily emphasized in all five virtual stakeholder engagement meetings, where every stakeholder group acknowledged the challenge in prioritizing values. The challenge with ranking or prioritizing some values over others is largely due to how interconnected they are with one another. Engagement results clearly indicated that in an ideal modernized land use plan, all project values would be considered, and striking a balance should also be an objective of the overall land use planning process in order to consider the interests of all rightsholders and stakeholders in the Nimpkish Valley.

LOCAL INPUT

Stakeholders and those engaged in the project thus far have largely been targeted because of their close relationship with the Nimpkish Valley. However, they emphasized the need to focus on ensuring local input is at the forefront of planning and execution of the project. Stakeholders noted that they would like to see a land use planning process that includes – and prioritizes – local perspectives and focuses on building relationships and partnerships to best serve the people who live and work in the planning area. Local input should be more heavily weighted than input from anyone who lives outside of the Nimpkish Valley, and this feedback is important for the Gwa'ni Project Team as they plan and execute future phases of engagement and modernized land use planning.

PREDICTABILITY IN THE FOREST SECTOR

The importance of maintaining a sustainable but productive land base for forestry activity was highlighted as a priority for many stakeholders and survey respondents. In discussing the importance of forestry to the economy and livelihoods of people living and working in the region, concepts of sustainability, stability, and certainty were emphasized to ensure that timber harvesting levels would sustain viable employment while also remaining consistent with the values of all stakeholders. Stakeholders also noted that sustaining a productive forestry industry is vital for securing long-term investment in the region, maintaining certainty for companies' existing investments, and providing opportunities for future investment. This certainty is important to create sustainability and economic certainty not only for those who work directly in forestry, but also for the broader community of people who live, work and recreate in the North Island.

However, one of the top concerns of survey respondents who are Indigenous with ancestral ties to the Nimpkish Valley was that timber harvest levels would increase, which is in direct contrast with one of the top concerns of respondents who work in forestry, who are concerned about decreased timber harvest levels. Mitigating these concerns will be important to address in future information sharing and public engagement efforts, and especially in the development of future consensus recommendations.

INDIGENOUS FOREST VALUES

Indigenous forest values were recognized as a high priority across multiple stakeholder groups. It was ranked among the top three most important values by both forestry tenure holders and contractors as well as members of the public advisory groups who attended virtual stakeholder

meetings. These stakeholders also noted that the emphasis placed on Indigenous forest values represents a commitment to prioritizing the rights and interests of 'Namgis. It is important for the Gwa'ni Project to address 'Namgis forest values and ensure they are respected as a broader demonstration of the commitment to partnership building and reconciliation in the Nimpkish Valley.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Survey respondents and virtual meeting participants stressed the need for more information on the Gwa'ni Project and land use planning more generally. Engagement participants expressed that they do not feel well-versed in technical aspects of land use planning and its related terminology, and require more information in order to continue to share their perspectives in future engagement opportunities.

The concerns expressed by some stakeholders also shed light on the need for more transparency and plain language public communication about what the Gwa'ni Project is and what it is not. More specifically, concerns were expressed about how the project will impact private land ownership and rights. Private land ownership will not be affected by the Gwa'ni Project, however the prevalence of these concerns indicates that stakeholders need to be better informed about how a modernized land use plan could impact different groups.

There are also concerns about misinformation, specifically misinformation about the forestry industry and logging activities in the Nimpkish Valley. These concerns illuminate the further need for more transparent information sharing both to and among stakeholder groups so that relationships may be built during the development of a modernized land use plan.

CONFIRMATION OF GWA'NI PROJECT VALUES

Stakeholder responses confirmed that the 15 Gwa'ni Project values that have been developed by the Project Team are accurately reflective of the values of people who are connected to the Nimpkish Valley. The Gwa'ni Project is guided by these foundational values, and it was important to confirm that they are the values that are to be prioritized in this project and used to inform its work. Knowing that these 15 values accurately represent the priorities and key concerns of people who live, work, and visit the Nimpkish Valley, the Gwa'ni Project Team can move forward with confidence knowing that these values will inform what can happen on lands, rivers, lakes, watersheds, and forests in the planning area. The Gwa'ni Project values are listed and described later in this report.

Introduction

THE GWA'NI PROJECT

In January 2021, 'Namgis First Nation and the BC government signed a Memorandum of Understanding to officially form a partnership to develop a modernized land-use plan for the majority of the Nimpkish Valley – a process known as the Gwa'ni Project. The project is a demonstration of the shared commitment between the 'Namgis First Nation Government and the Government of BC to collaborate on land use planning and natural resource management in a manner that is informed by the principles set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

The Gwa'ni Project seeks to evaluate the existing Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) in order to provide more effective management direction for the resource values within the project area. The Memorandum of Understanding directs the Project Team to develop and share recommendations about how resources and lands within the Nimpkish Valley should be managed for future generations, and the Project Team will be developing these recommendations for consideration by the 'Namgis First Nation and BC governments. The final land-use plan will cover lands, rivers, lakes, watersheds, and forests from the mouth of the Nimpkish River to the Vernon Lake watershed, and it will guide land use within the planning area.

The Gwa'ni Project is not a Treaty or Land Claims Agreement process however, it is an important step in advancing reconciliation, the implementation of UNDRIP, and ensuring that natural resource planning in BC is aligned with the principles and intent of DRIPA. It is a government-to-government partnership with the purpose of achieving the objectives set out in the 2021 MOU, while also incorporating collaboration with local government and soliciting input from communities, stakeholders and from the public. The Gwa'ni Project is not a new land use plan. However, the results of the Gwa'ni Project may result in amendments to the VILUP and/or other legislative, administrative or management options. These amendments would implement the province's values and interests in addition to 'Namgis' values and interests related to Aboriginal Title and Rights within the Nimpkish Valley.

Modernized Land Use Planning

The key elements of modernized land use planning are:

- **Reconciliation** with Indigenous governments and the Crown's commitment to the inclusive and robust implementation of UNDRIP.
- **Community and stakeholder engagement** as the key to ensuring that communities and stakeholders are engaged in land and resource planning in a way that acknowledges, respects, and prioritizes their rights.
- **A strong and stable economy** as a goal of the BC government, Indigenous governments, and industry. The engagement portion of the modernized land use planning process facilitates relationship building and identifies solutions needed to advance economic opportunities for rural communities that will create lasting economic benefits for all.
- **Consideration of climate change** and the role it plays in understanding cumulative effects that affect the land base, including species-at-risk management, wildfires, flooding, and drought.

Gwa'ni Project Values

The Gwa'ni Project is guided by 15 foundational values, held by both 'Namgis and BC. Identifying these values was one of the first steps taken in this project and they are being used to inform its work; guiding what can happen on lands, rivers, lakes, watersheds, and forests in the planning area.

The Gwa'ni Project values are:



Biodiversity

The diversity and connectivity of life found within terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.



Aquatic habitat and fish

Fish populations, spawning grounds, aquatic species and habitats.



Wildlife

Animal habitats and populations, including opportunities for viewing, trapping, and hunting.



Water

Water quality and quantity from safe and healthy water sources.



Karst

An area of land made up of and shaped by the erosion of limestone, such as sink holes and caves.



Soil

Soil health, productivity and stability.



Indigenous Forest Values

Encompassing the duty to ensure that the cultural, environmental and spiritual vitality of the waters, lands, and resources are protected and used sustainably for future generations of people, plants and animals.



Timber

Timber and forest health that promotes biodiversity, creates economic opportunity and minimizes wildfire risk.



NTFP

Non-timber forest products that are used as food sources, or other important substances, materials and/or commodities that come from forests.



Recreation

Participation in outdoor opportunities such as camping, hiking, water sports, fishing and more.



Tourism

High-quality experiences and recreation opportunities in efforts to attract visitors and stimulate economic growth in the area.



Access

Ability to approach, enter and use the project area.



Visuals

The beauty of the natural landscapes and scenery of the project area.



Minerals

Sand, gravel, metals and other materials extracted by mining.



Cultural

Spaces for all cultural traditions and activities throughout the project area.

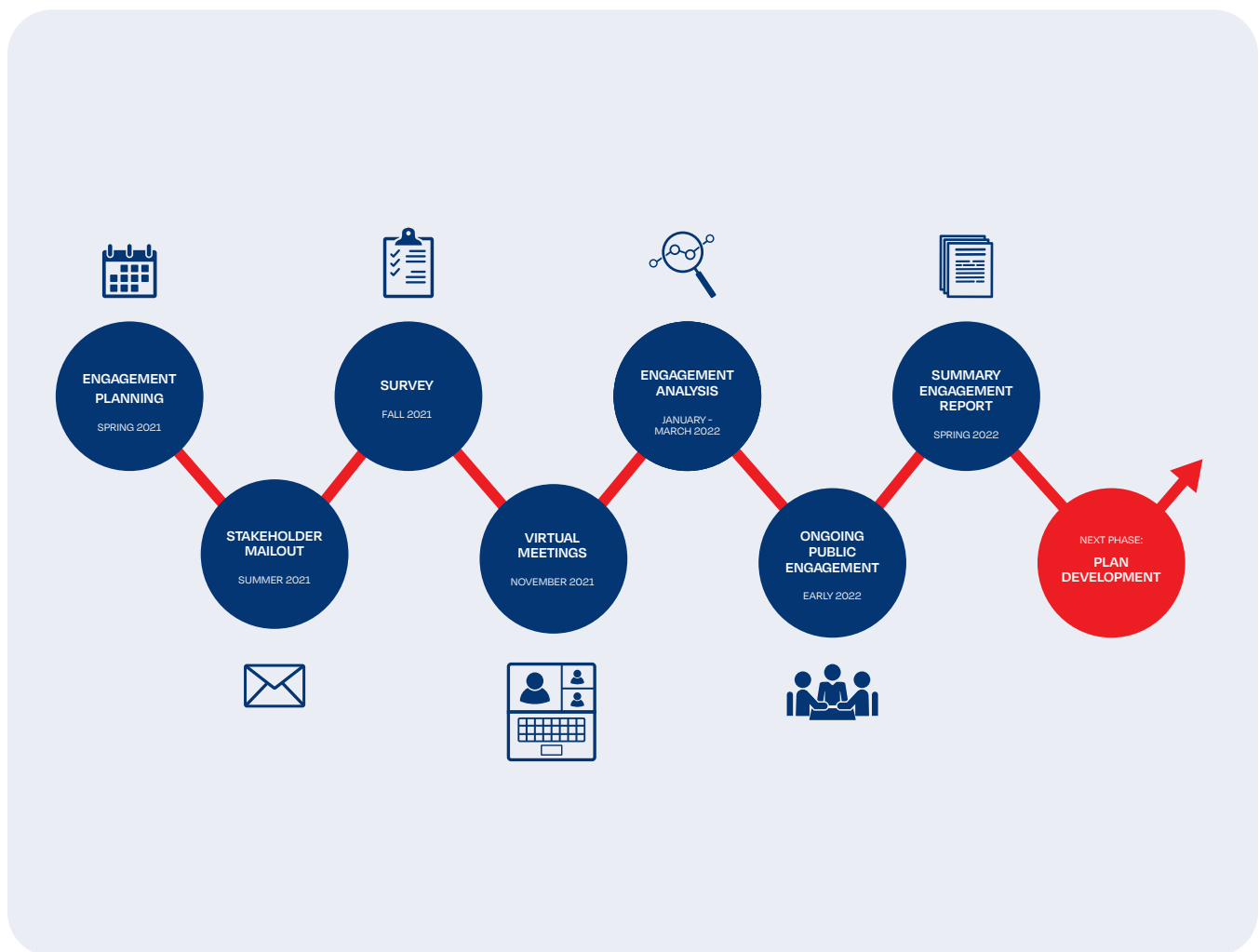
Gwa'ni Project Team

Established under the Memorandum of Understanding for Modernized Land Use Planning, the Gwa'ni Project Team is a small government-to-government group with three levels: the Technical Committee, the Steering Committee, and the Executive Committee. At each level of the Project Team, there is representation from both 'Namgis First Nation and the BC Government as a demonstration of the shared approach being taken to managing natural resources in the Gwa'ni Project area. (See Appendix A for a complete list of the Gwa'ni Project Team members). Over the coming years, the Project Team will undertake multiple phases of work, including:

- Identifying gaps in the information and resources that are required to plan for the Gwa'ni Project and completing appropriate studies to fill those gaps;

- Assessing current conditions and management directions;
- Developing, analyzing, and evaluating the impacts and benefits of different land use management options; and
- Developing and evaluating a set of consensus recommendations intended to achieve a shared land use planning vision.

The process diagram shown below illustrates the phases of public engagement of the Gwa'ni Project.



Socio-economic and Environmental Assessment (SEEA)

As part of the Gwa'ni Project process, EcoPlan International and Hatfield Consultant LLP have been contracted to conduct a socio-economic and environmental assessment (SEEA). The objective of the SEEA is to estimate incremental changes to socio-economic and environmental conditions that would occur within the project area due to the implementation of a land use plan, by comparing at least one alternative planning scenario to the current conditions that exist. Its goal is to measure the impacts of alternate management options against the status quo. There are three key steps to the SEEA:

1. **Base case:** The base case scenario is a prediction from the baseline conditions that currently exist in the plan area. It involves researching background information, engaging with affected communities, and identifying key values to develop a base case.
2. **Management scenarios:** Alternative management scenarios are then developed to reflect a desired future state relevant to the LUP. The quality and results of engagement are very important to the development of these management scenarios because they are used to highlight key issues, concerns and interests associated with the plan area. These are then used in developing alternative scenarios or proposed changes to land use and management practices within the plan area.
3. **Assessment:** The socio-economic and environmental effects and changes in land use from each management scenario are assessed against the base case.

EcoPlan International and Hatfield Consultant LLP are currently in the process of preparing the base case, and some of the information and analysis that results from the current phase of public engagement will inform the SEEA.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Collaboration with 'Namgis, BC, local governments and stakeholders is crucial to the success of each phase of the Gwa'ni Project, and this Gwa'ni Project What We Heard Report is intended to provide stakeholders with a summary of the project and an analysis of results from the active engagement that occurred in 2021. The Gwa'ni Project Team will undertake multiple phases of work including supporting the socio-economic environmental assessment, visioning for the future, and beginning the development of the land use plan, and there will be more opportunities for stakeholders to share their input through various phases of the project.

Methodology

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

At the outset of the Gwa'ni Project, the Gwa'ni Project Team contracted the Castlemain Group as engagement specialists to provide recommendations and guide the project's public engagement components. In early 2021, the team collaborated to update an engagement strategy that establishes an approach and seven guiding principles for stakeholder engagement: representation, transparency, accessibility, verity, timeliness, neutrality, and respect. The engagement strategy was an important foundation for the planning and execution of all engagement processes as it helped to ensure a credible and impartial engagement process that stakeholders would have confidence in and would feel reflected their interests and perspectives.

The engagement strategy established the following communication and engagement objectives for the Gwa'ni Project:

- To engage with identified stakeholders throughout the planning process, with specific engagement and comment periods taking place at milestone stages;
- To share information broadly, address concerns and questions of identified stakeholders and the public;
- To receive input from identified stakeholders on land use planning values and what is most important about those values to inform consensus recommendations;
- To communicate the government-to-government nature of the Gwa'ni Project, and how it supports the parties' goals to advance reconciliation; and

To build and maintain a good working relationship with local governments, industry, other stakeholders and the public.

The strategy also supported the Project Team in deciding how to identify and connect with the key stakeholder groups, and individuals within each group. Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, local governments, industry, the public and other stakeholder groups were identified as targets for engagement based on their social, economic, cultural, and environmental interests. Stakeholders were

initially organized by their expected interest in the project, level of influence over the project and the extent to which the Project Team would require direct, values-specific feedback to develop consensus recommendations.

Ultimately, a list of stakeholders was developed that was organized into the following groups:

- Local government
- Local business
- Tourism and recreation groups
- Forestry tenure holders
- Public advisory groups

GWA'NI PROJECT WEBSITE

The BC government has an online central hub where the public may go to access information on all active land use planning projects in the province. This site allows users to find related project information and documents, respond to surveys, read reports and analyses, and submit feedback to the project teams of active land use planning projects.

The Gwa'ni Project website was set up and launched in March 2021 as an online home for all project information and updates including a map of the planning area, an overview of the modernized land use planning process, project FAQs, a project brochure, and contact information for the project team. The website is also updated regularly as the project progresses through each of its engagement phases of planning, initiation, plan development, implementation and evaluation. This What We Heard Report will also be shared publicly and on the Gwa'ni Project website to ensure adherence to the guiding principles of engagement as set out in the engagement strategy.

NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT

Over 200 letters were sent to stakeholders and interests groups in the spring of 2021, announcing the project. Postcards were mailed out to the same stakeholders in the autumn of 2021, informing them of upcoming opportunities that stakeholders and members of the public would have to engage with the project, where they could find additional information about it, as well as an invitation to complete the public Gwa'ni Project survey and a contact email address for people to ask questions or request information about the project.

PUBLIC SURVEY

The online public Gwa'ni Project survey was launched on October 27, 2021 and closed on December 31, 2021. The

survey was open to the public and was created to elicit feedback from a broad audience of stakeholders with the following key objectives:

- To gather information on the relative importance of the Gwa'ni Project values to stakeholders;
- To understand how the Nimpkish Valley is currently being used by the public;
- To understand stakeholders' priorities when it comes to the Nimpkish Valley;
- To get a sense of how public stakeholders would like to be engaged and informed about the Gwa'ni Project moving forward; and
- To collect input to inform the modernized land use planning process.

The survey was promoted through the postcards and posted on the Gwa'ni Project website and North Island Gazette website over the course of two months. The link to the survey was also shared in the five virtual stakeholder meetings that took place in late November and early December 2021. The survey contained 16 questions including demographic questions, multiple choice questions, rating questions, and open-ended questions. A full summary and cross-tabulation analysis of survey results is provided later in this report and a list of survey questions can be found in Appendix C.

VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The Gwa'ni Project Team had initially intended to hold an in-person open house as a means of connecting with stakeholders and building relationships, however the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health restrictions on in-person gatherings prevented any in-person engagements from taking place. At the end of November and beginning of December 2021, five virtual stakeholder meetings were held with key stakeholder groups identified by the Gwa'ni Project Technical Committee. These engagement sessions provided opportunities for the Gwa'ni Project team to share updates about the MLUP and SEEA processes with members of each stakeholder group, while inviting feedback from identified individuals and organizations on their land use planning priorities and values. The meetings also allowed the Gwa'ni Project team to gather stakeholder-specific feedback about overall MLUP goals.

Gwa'ni Project Stakeholders: Virtual Engagement Sessions

Local Government

- Town of Port McNeill
- Regional District of Mount Waddington
- Woss Community Association
- Hyde Creek Advisory Commission

Local Business

- Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
- Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce
- 'Namgis Business Development Corporation
- Community Futures – Mount Waddington

Tourism and Recreation

- Vancouver Island North Tourism
- Mount Cain Alpine Park Society
- Broughton Sports Club
- Destiny River Adventures Ltd.
- Rein Forest Riders
- Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group
- BC Speleological Federation
- Mount Cain Cabin Owners Society

Forestry Tenure Holders and Contractors

- Western Forest Products (WFP)
- Atli Resources Corporation
- Danyas
- Lemare/C&E
- Holbrook Dyson Logging Ltd.
- R.M.B. Trucking Inc.
- Cochrane Contracting Ltd.
- JF Trucking Ltd.
- Nimpkish Logging Ltd.
- Van Isle Falling Ltd.
- Blue Collar Industries Ltd.
- Steel Creek Pole Corp.
- BC Timber Sales

Public Advisory Groups and Forestry Related Interest Groups

- Vancouver Island North Woodlands Advisory Group (VINWAG)*
- Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Council (NWAC)*
- United Steelworkers
- Private Forest Landowners

*Advisory group related to WFP's Sustainable Forest Management Certification (Canadian Standards Association)

With the support of Castlemain, the Gwa'ni Project Technical Committee scheduled one meeting for each of the stakeholder groups, and personal invitations were drafted and sent to participants via email. The meetings were held on Zoom and were designed to be small working sessions with a maximum of 20 participants. A full list of virtual meeting attendees can be found in Appendix B. In addition to gathering feedback for the consensus recommendations, the sessions were also an opportunity:

- To inform stakeholders about the Gwa'ni Project process;
- To build relationships between the Gwa'ni Project team and stakeholders;
- To hear from stakeholders and better understand their perspectives;
- To allow stakeholders to expand on survey responses through more focused questions; and
- To create dialogue within the identified stakeholder groups to understand commonly shared opinions, concerns, and priorities.

Each meeting began with the story of Gwa'nalalis, followed by introductions to the Gwa'ni Project Technical Committee and an overview of the Gwa'ni Project and the SEEA process. Following this introductory presentation, stakeholders participated in facilitated engagement activities using Mentimeter, a virtual engagement tool that allows participants to see the results of their input tabulated and synthesized in real-time. The Mentimeter segment of virtual meetings consisted of baseline activities (six activities that were repeated with every stakeholder group) and stakeholder specific activities (2-3 questions specific to each stakeholder group). These baseline activities and each set of stakeholder-specific questions are listed in Appendix D.

Each meeting concluded with a summary and wrap up discussion led by members of the Gwa'ni Project Technical Committee, as well as an invitation to stay engaged and informed about the project moving forward.

Limitations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing restrictions on in-person gatherings, all communications and active engagement activities of the Gwa'ni Project have taken place virtually. The Gwa'ni Project Team initially preferred to hold an in-person open house as a form of engagement, and has heard feedback from stakeholders that in-person engagements are preferred for purposes of relationship building and information sharing. The Project Team acknowledge the importance of in-person engagement and the deeper relationships that develop through face-to-face meetings, and hope that future engagements will allow for in-person options.

Summary of Engagement Results

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

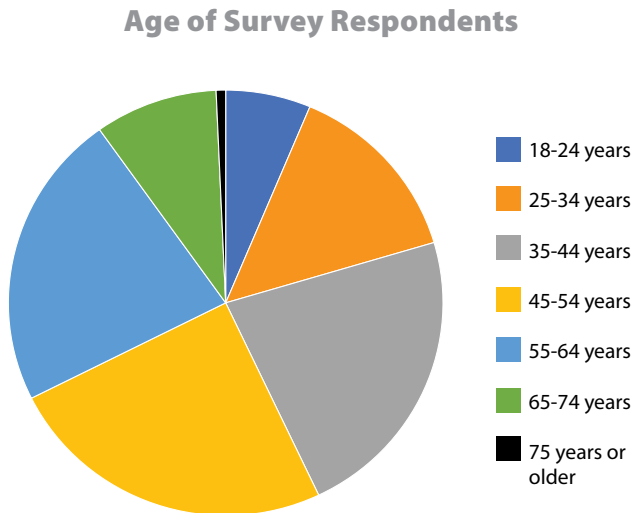
As noted earlier in this report, the Gwa'ni Project engagement survey was designed to collect input for the development of a modernized land use plan and will inform future engagement activities. It was meant to assess respondents' understanding or awareness of the Gwa'ni Project, as well as their priorities and interests when it comes to land use planning on Vancouver Island and more specifically, within the project area.

Survey respondents were targeted based on the groups identified in the Engagement Strategy, and individuals who attended virtual stakeholder meetings were asked to circulate the survey among their own professional and personal networks. The survey was also open to the public, and so in addition to those stakeholder groups who were specifically targeted, interested members of the public were also welcome to respond to the survey.

Demographic Data

144 people completed the Gwa'ni Project public survey. Respondents were relatively evenly distributed across age group categories, with the largest proportion falling between the ages of 45-54 years old. A full summary of the ages of survey respondents is captured in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Age of Survey Respondents



Of the 144 survey respondents, 49 (34%) identified as female, 82 (57%) identified as male, 11 (7%) preferred not to share their gender identity and one person self-identified using their own preferred terms. One respondent did not answer the question.

Survey respondents have overlapping relationships with the Nimpkish Valley based on how often they work, live, visit, and enjoy the area, if at all¹. Respondents may also be Indigenous people with long-standing ancestral ties to the territory, business owners, tenure holders, or have other interests in the Nimpkish Valley.

¹ The response rate for the question "Where do you live most of the time?" was relatively low, with a mere 58% of people answering the question. This resulted in a gap in capturing data of where a large proportion of respondents live full-time.

The 144 survey respondents characterized their relationship to the Nimpkish Valley as follows:

- 27 full time residents
- 15 part time residents
- 24 full time workers
- 26 part time workers
- 19 business owners
- 13 tenure holders
- 61 regular visitors (visit more than twice/year)
- 12 occasional visitors (visit less than twice/year)
- 6 Indigenous people with ancestral ties to land

Respondents were also asked to identify the industry that they currently work in, with nearly half identifying that they work in the forestry industry. The following is a list of professional industries that were represented in significant ways by the survey respondents:

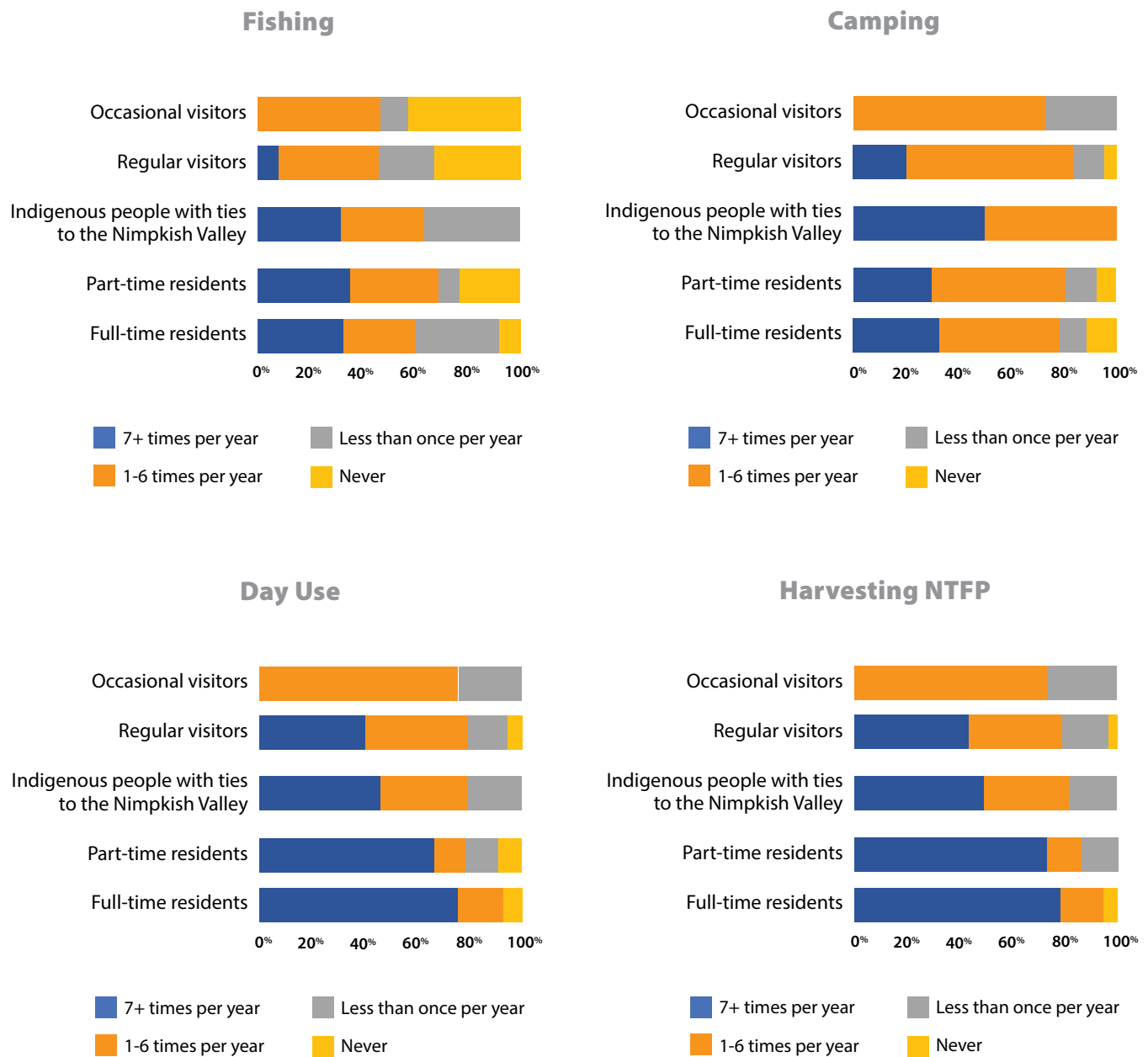
- 71 people work in forestry
- 14 people work in tourism and/or recreation
- 17 people work in environmental services and/or advocacy
- 15 people are small business owners
- 10 people work in public service

Use of the Nimpkish Valley

The Nimpkish Valley is used for several recreational and cultural activities by those who live, work, and visit in the area, as well as those Indigenous peoples who have long-standing and deep familial ties to the land and territory.

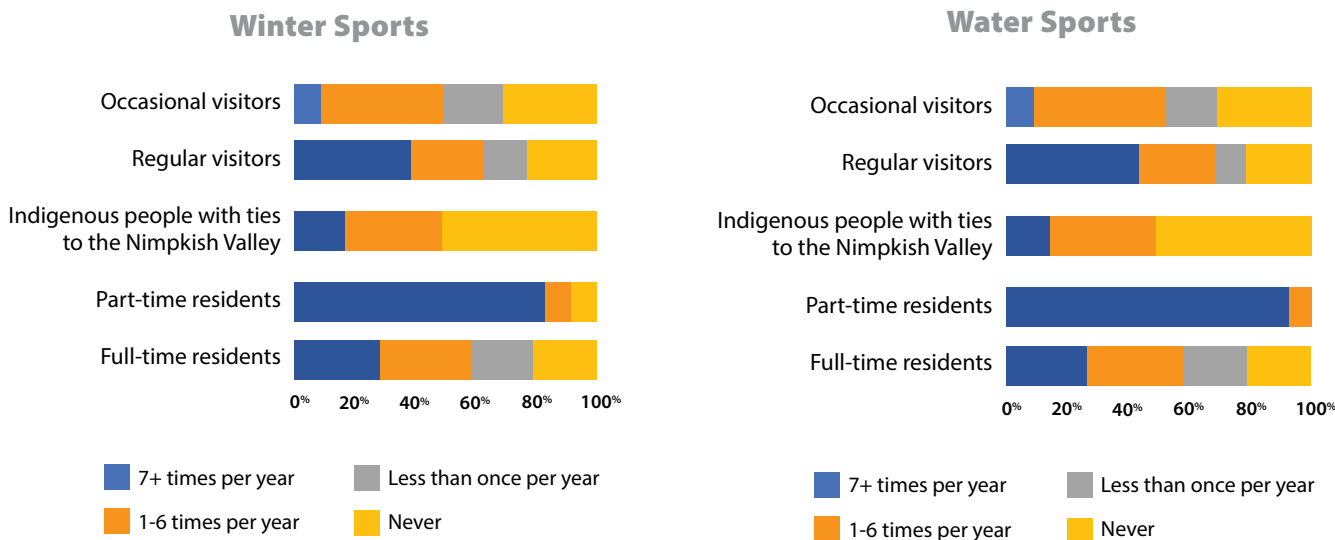
The four most popular recreation activities that survey respondents enjoy and participate in within the Nimpkish Valley are fishing, camping, day use activities such as hiking and picnicking, and harvesting non-timber forest products such as berries, mushrooms, and bark boughs. According to cross-tabulation analysis of the frequency at which respondents recreate and participate in these four activities, harvesting non-timber forest products is the activity that is done most regularly, specifically by residents of the Nimpkish Valley (both full-time and part-time), regular visitors to the Nimpkish Valley (visit more than twice a year), and Indigenous people who have ancestral ties to the territory. Day use activities are also very popular, especially for full-time and part-time residents. Figures 2-5 below compare the frequency at which each of the four activities are enjoyed by five different groups: occasional visitors, regular visitors, Indigenous people with ancestral ties to the Nimpkish Valley, part-time residents, and full-time residents of the Nimpkish Valley.

Figures 2-5: Frequency of current participation in recreation activities in the Nimpkish Valley



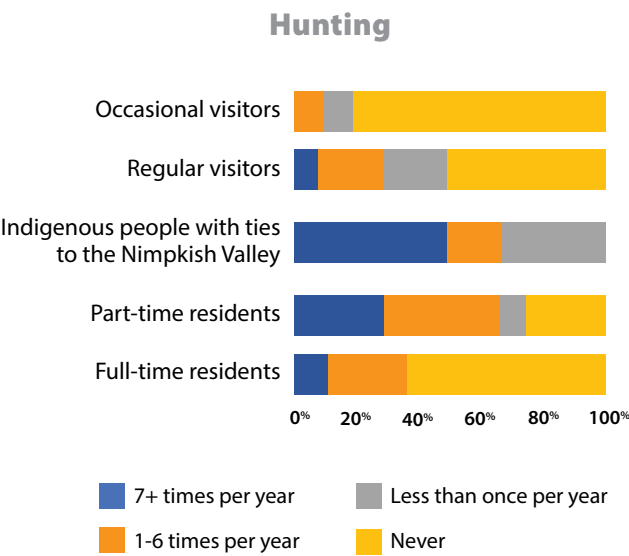
Survey respondents were also asked about how frequently they use the Nimpkish Valley for hunting, water sports and winter sports. While these activities are less popular, particularly among full-time residents, they are still enjoyed to varying degrees by different groups. More specifically, winter sports (i.e., skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing) and water sports (wind surfing, kite surfing and boating) are very popular among part-time residents of the Nimpkish Valley. Also of note, Indigenous respondents are the most avid hunters in the area. Figures 6-8 below compare the frequency at which these three activities are enjoyed by five different groups: occasional visitors, regular visitors, Indigenous people with ancestral ties to the Nimpkish Valley, part-time residents, and full-time residents of the Nimpkish Valley.

Figures 6-8: Frequency of current participation in recreation activities in the Nimpkish Valley



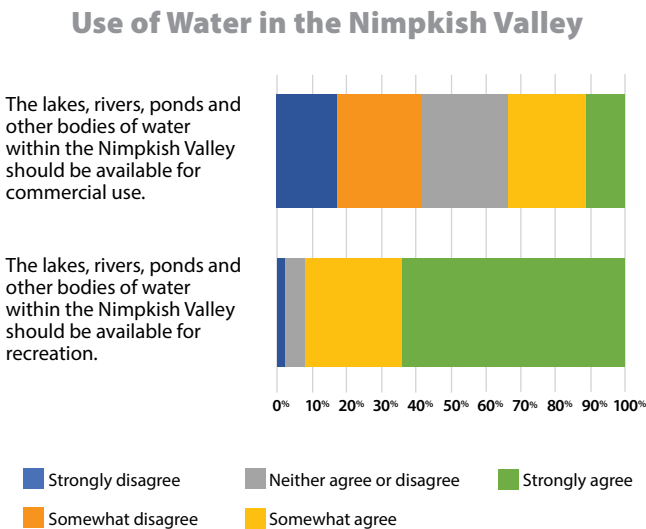
Survey respondents were also asked about how often they participate in caving, equestrian and motorized recreation activities such as quadding and snowmobiling however, responses indicated that these activities do not have a significant level of popularity among those surveyed. Only 5% of respondents said that they *ever* do equestrian in the Nimpkish Valley, while just 20% said that they go caving more than once a year, and less than half of all respondents participate in motorized recreation more than once a year. In addition to the activities included in the survey, respondents noted that they use the territory to enjoy other activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, and for general enjoyment of the beautiful landscapes that the area has to offer. One respondent also noted that the Nimpkish Valley has cultural and spiritual value to them, explaining that they use it for “retreats, cleansing, and ceremonies”.

Beyond the recreation activities that people enjoy in the Nimpkish Valley, the survey was used to get information about how stakeholders related to a set of value statements presented within the survey. These value statements were aimed at gauging perspectives on how the forests, lakes, rivers, and areas of cultural significance within the Project Area should be managed. Understanding these perspectives and priorities was also a way to better understand how the Gwa’ni Project values may be reflected in the development of a modernized land use plan. There was almost total consensus from survey respondents about the cleanliness of water, with 93% strongly agreeing that the lakes, rivers, ponds and other bodies of water within the Nimpkish Valley should be clean. However, there were



differing opinions on how the lakes, rivers, ponds and other bodies of water in the Nimpkish Valley should actually be *used*. Figure 9 below illustrates the perspectives of survey respondents on the recreation and commercial use of lakes, rivers, ponds, and other bodies of water in the Nimpkish Valley. The results clearly indicate that while there is strong support for bodies of water being available and used for recreational purposes, there is almost near consensus they should not be used for commercial activities.

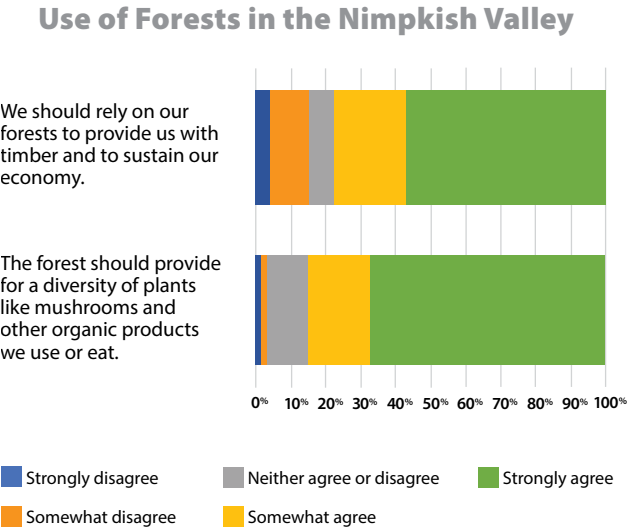
Figure 9: Perspectives on the use of water in the Nimpkish Valley for recreation and commercial purposes



These results are helpful in the analysis and testing of the Gwa’ni Project values, because they reflect the prioritization of some values over others when it comes to the use of water in the Nimpkish Valley. The 93% of respondents who strongly agree that the lakes, rivers, ponds and other bodies of water within the Nimpkish Valley should be clean are indirectly expressing that they value water, biodiversity, aquatic habitats and fish, cultural values and recreation over the use of water for commercial or economic purposes.

Respondents were similarly asked to share their perspectives on how they think forests, including both timber and non-timber forest products, should be used in the Nimpkish Valley. More specifically, they were asked whether the forest should be relied upon to provide plants and products for humans to use and eat, as well as whether or not forests should be relied on to provide timber as a means of sustaining the economy. The results, shown in Figure 10 below, indicate a high level of agreement that the forest should provide for a diversity of plants and products for people to use and eat, with a combined total of 85% of respondents either identifying that they somewhat or strongly agree. There was also clear agreement from respondents that the forests should be relied upon for the economic value of timber, with 77% indicating that they either somewhat or strongly agree that we should rely on forests to provide timber to sustain the economy.

Figure 10: Perspectives on the use of forests in the Nimpkish Valley for economic and other human uses



These responses indirectly reflect support for the Gwa’ni Project values that forests and forest health rely on, including timber, non-timber forest products, soil, and Indigenous forest values. Survey respondents also took the opportunity to elaborate on the significance that the health of forests and forestry economy has on their lives, emphasizing that there should be a working forest that is conducive to sustainable harvesting and planting activities. One person simply noted, “forestry feeds my family,” underscoring the need for commercial forestry to strike a balance that both respects the environment and supports those who are financially dependent upon the industry .

Values and Priorities Related to the Nimpkish Valley

Understanding the values and priorities held by people who live in, work, visit and enjoy the Nimpkish Valley is very important to the development of a modernized land use plan. Survey respondents were asked about their values and most pressing priorities as they relate to land use planning and management in the Nimpkish Valley. In their responses, 72% of all respondents reflected that they would like to see balance between ecological and economic considerations when it comes to the future of land use planning, agreeing that “the Nimpkish Valley should be managed in a way that maintains both economic activity and healthy ecosystems”. On the other hand, 24% most agreed that “protecting the health of the Nimpkish Valley lands, water and natural ecosystems should be a priority, even at the risk of slowing down economic activity”. While this group reflected a smaller proportion of respondents, it is still significant. However, it should also be noted that of those who would like to see environmental considerations prioritized over economic considerations, only four either live or work full-time in the Nimpkish Valley. Figures 11 and 12 below illustrate the level of agreement that various groups have with statements about priorities for the future of land use planning in the Nimpkish Valley.

Figure 11: Priorities for Future Land Management in the Nimpkish Valley by Relationship to Project Area

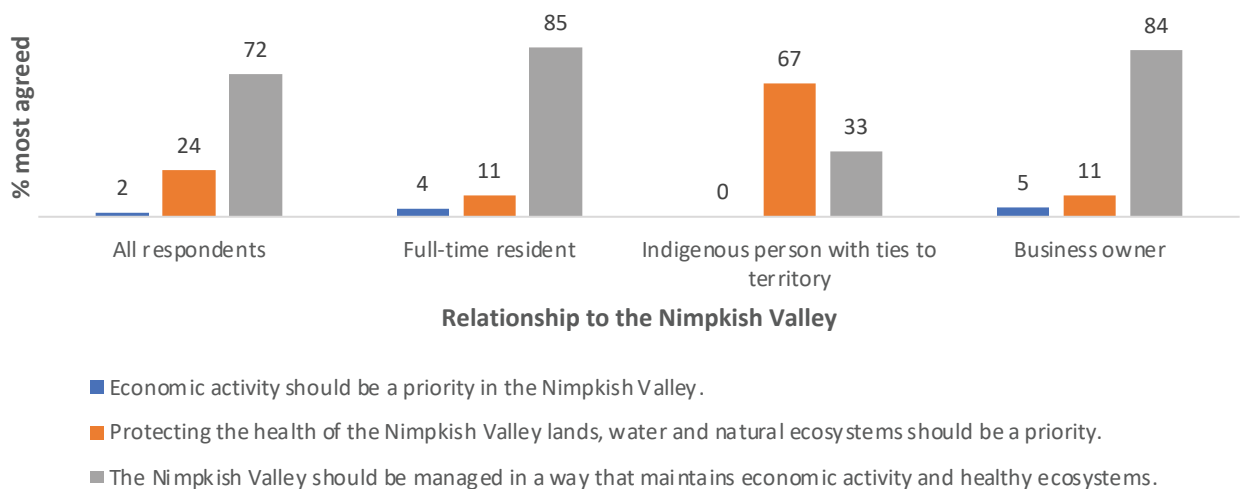
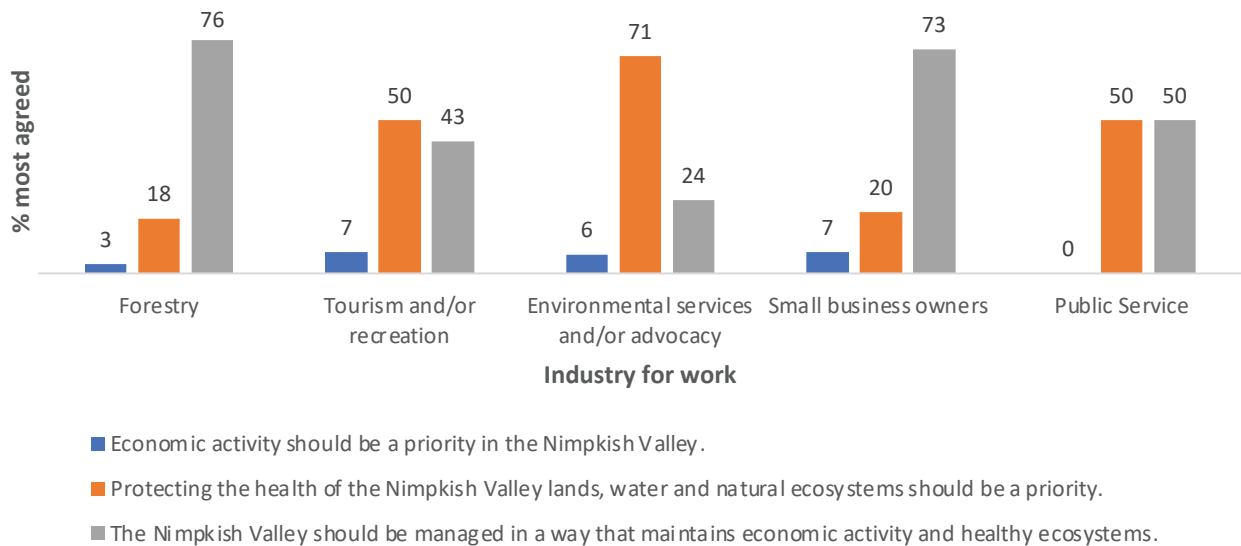


Figure 12: Priorities for Future Land Management in the Nimpkish Valley by Industry

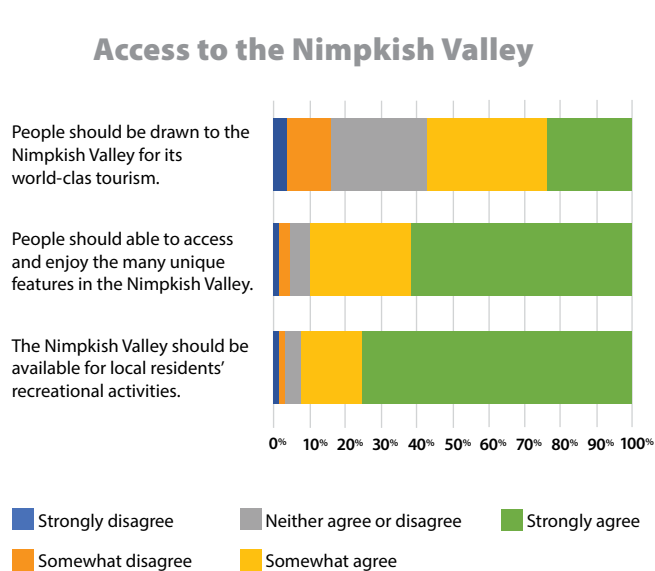


Building upon these statements, respondents elaborated on additional concepts and themes that further reflect their values. These included: agriculture, economy, working forests, protection, restoration, balance, forest health, Indigenous leadership, forest stewardship, climate resilience, and residential development. While several of these additional concepts are already reflected within the existing Gwa'ni Project values, residential development and climate resiliency may be considered as new values added to inform the project. Additionally, some of these additional themes identified by survey respondents are helpful in guiding the future of the Gwa'ni Project in various ways. For example, understanding the importance of local involvement may be a new consideration when it comes to project engagement principles. Explicit consideration of the local economy and a working forest may inform the SEEA process, and increased consideration for Indigenous leadership is important for the ongoing government-to-government mandate.

Looking ahead to the future of how land might be used and managed in the Nimpkish Valley, it is crucial to know what residents, employees, business owners and visitors see for the future of the territory. It is also very important for the Gwa'ni Project Team to test the values that have already been established, and understand any values that require new or increased consideration. Understanding these perspectives are important in gathering insights about the values that local stakeholders have, and how they would like to see those values reflected in a modernized land use plan.

One approach to understanding stakeholder values is evaluating how much access to the Nimpkish Valley local stakeholders would like to see made available both to their neighbours and to tourists. Survey respondents agreed that they would like to see the Nimpkish Valley be accessible and enjoyed by people, especially by locals (see Figure 12 below). However, responses were less favourable when it came to drawing tourists from outside of the Nimpkish Valley to visit the area, with 44% of respondents either disagreeing or expressing indifference to the prospect of inviting tourism to the area. This data shows that while people are not overwhelmingly opposed to opening and welcoming tourism to the Nimpkish Valley, they are less eager for the territory to be accessible to visitors than locals, residents, of those who frequent the Nimpkish Valley.

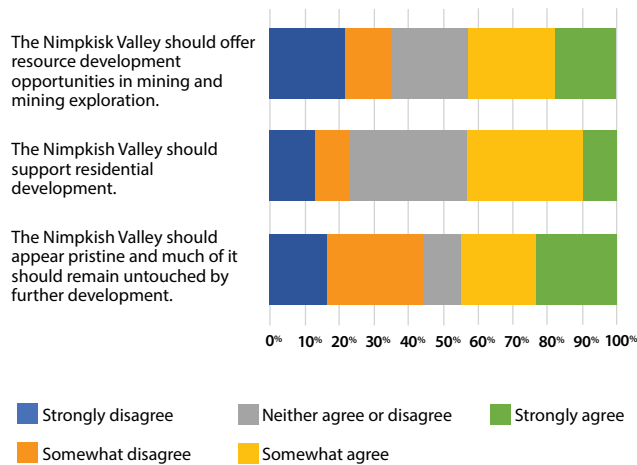
Figure 13: Perspectives on local and tourist access to the Nimpkish Valley



Survey respondents expressed even less overt support for future development opportunities in the Nimpkish Valley, as the number of people who agree (44%) that there should not be further development in the area is almost the same as the number of people who disagree (45%) with the same statement. There were other similarly split opinions on whether the Nimpkish Valley should offer resource development opportunities in mining exploration, and whether the Nimpkish Valley should support residential development. These may be areas to explore in future engagement to better understand the type of development that stakeholders are or are not interested in or open to.

Figure 14: Perspectives on potential new development and exploration in the Nimpkish Valley

Future Development in the Nimpkish Valley



In addition to reflecting how water, forests and land should be used, a modernized land use planning process will also speak to the *protection* of these resources. Specifically, responses indicated strong support for the protection and preservation of some of the natural resources that live and exist in the Nimpkish Valley in order to reflect the values and priorities of survey respondents. More specifically, a combined total of 95% of people indicated that they either somewhat or strongly agree that fish and their habitat should be protected and, where needed, restored. This is important guidance for the Gwa’ni Project and the modernized land use planning process, because as a tool to make decisions about how resources will be used, the MLUP will also govern how resources are managed, protected, and in the case of fish and their habitats, preserved.

There was also strong support for the careful management of areas that hold cultural significance in the Nimpkish Valley, demonstrated by 93% of respondents indicating that they either somewhat or strongly agree that culturally significant places and resources should be managed with care and respect.

Respondents were also asked about other value statements or words that describe their priorities that they would like to see reflected in a modernized land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley. While there was only a 52% response rate to this question, those who did respond took it as an opportunity to note other aspects of the land and resources within the Nimpkish Valley that they would like to see prioritized to

reflect values that they hold. A response that was repeated by respondents spoke to the old growth management within the project area, with one person stating that “the land use plan should identify a working forest, made up of a combination of second growth and old growth”.

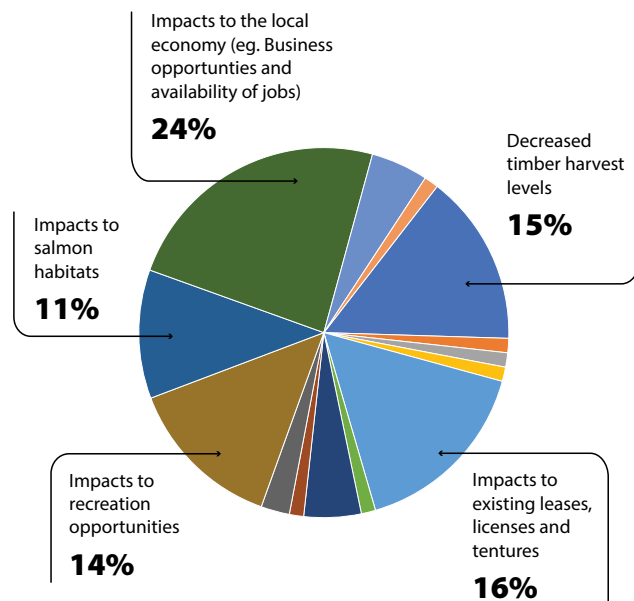
The prioritization of Indigenous partnership and perspectives was also identified by survey respondents, with emphasis being placed on the importance of Indigenous governance, self-determination, and autonomy over unceded lands. “Indigenous peoples and their perspectives should be taken into account first and foremost,” said one person, with another writing that Indigenous governments should have a heavy influence over decisions that are made. Another respondent answered that while forestry is an important component to life in the Nimpkish Valley, the approaches taken to managing forests need to be sustainable and reflective of Indigenous values, including that “forest stewardship practices should align with tradition Indigenous knowledge”.

Concerns about the Nimpkish Valley

For public stakeholder input to properly inform the land use planning process, it is important to understand the greatest concerns that people have. Based on their relationship to the Nimpkish Valley, industry of work, and cultural and/or ancestral ties to the area, stakeholders hold varying concerns about what the MLUP could mean for them, their rights, their property, and their ways of life. The below analysis takes a closer look at the top concerns expressed by survey respondents regarding a new land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley.

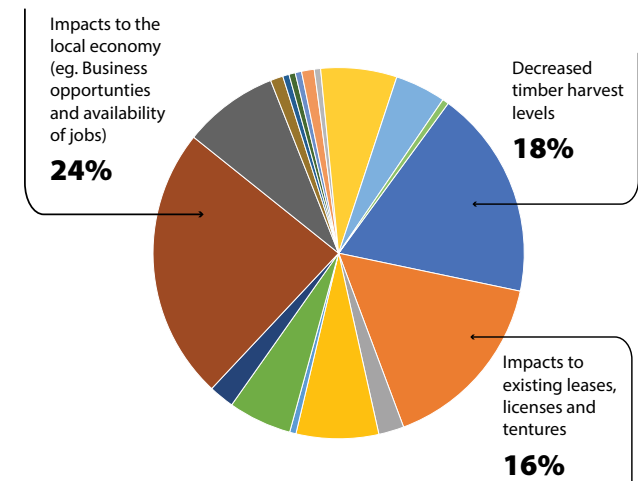
For those who live in the Nimpkish Valley on a full-time basis, some concerns are more pressing than others based on their unique economic, social, cultural and property interests. When asked about their top concerns regarding the Gwa’ni Project and a modernized land use plan, full-time residents identified that their concerns, illustrated in Figure 14, are: 1) impacts to the local economy including business opportunities and the availability of jobs, 2) impacts to existing leases, licenses and tenures, 3) decreased timber harvest levels, 4) impacts to recreation opportunities, and 5) impacts to salmon habitats.

Figure 15: Full-time residents' top concerns with a new land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley



Because the local economy is reliant upon the forestry industry, the concerns of locals are also similarly aligned with the concerns identified by survey respondents who work in forestry, which are: 1) impacts to the local economy, 2) decreased timber harvest levels, and 3) impacts to existing leases, licenses and tenures (shown in Figure 15). Understanding these issues is important for the development of a modernized land use plan because while some concerns may be addressed by the MLUP itself, other fears can and should be addressed through transparent communication and public engagement throughout the modernized land use planning process. Those concerns which require better and ongoing public information sharing are important for the Gwa'ni Project Team to understand and will inform future engagement planning and activities in the hopes of mitigating stakeholder concerns.

Figure 16: Forestry workers' top concerns with a new land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley



While a smaller proportion of survey respondents identified themselves as Indigenous people with ancestral ties to the Nimpkish Valley, their concerns about the Gwa'ni Project and a modernized land use plan are very important to note. Impacts to salmon, impacts to wildlife habitat, and increased timber harvest levels were the top three concerns identified by this group of survey respondents. Interestingly, the third concern – increased timber harvest levels – is in direct contrast with one of the top concerns expressed by respondents who work in forestry, who are concerned about *decreased* timber harvest levels. This is an important flag for the Gwa'ni Project Team, and mitigating these concerns will be important to address in future information sharing and public engagement efforts, and especially in the development of future consensus recommendations.

In addition to these concerns, survey respondents were asked to share additional questions and concerns they have as the land use planning process progresses. Several people noted their concerns about how the Gwa'ni Project might impact them directly, based on their unique interests as forestry workers, cabin owners, current residents and private landowners. People expressed concerns about how exactly a modernized land use plan will affect their private interests and land ownership in the Nimpkish Valley, if at all. Private land will not be affected by the Gwa'ni Project, but these comments indicate the need for more publicly available information to be shared with specific stakeholder groups based on their unique interests, so that they have a better understanding of what the Gwa'ni Project is and what it is not.

VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING RESULTS

In late 2021, five virtual stakeholder meetings were held with key stakeholder groups identified by the Gwa'ni Project Technical Committee. These engagement sessions provided opportunities for the Gwa'ni Project team to familiarize stakeholders with the project, confirm project values, share updates about the MLUP and SEEA processes, and invite feedback from identified individuals and organizations on their specific land use planning priorities. The meetings also allowed the Gwa'ni Project team to gather stakeholder-specific feedback about overall goals of modernized land use planning and the trade-offs between priorities that they may or may not be willing to make in order for some values to be prioritized over others.

Local Government

Three local government stakeholders attended and participated in the virtual meeting that took place on November 30, 2021.

To understand how participants prioritize each of the Gwa'ni Project values, they were asked to rank the values in their perceived order of importance. The aggregate results of the ranking were:

Highest-ranked values	Lowest-ranked values
Biodiversity	Non-timber forest products
Timber	Minerals & karst
Access	Soil

Despite completing the ranking exercise, it's important to note that participants expressed challenges doing the activity because they felt a general lack of familiarity and comfort with the topic of land use planning. They placed a lot of emphasis on the concept of balance, frequently noting that they would ideally like to see balance between all the project values and that it was difficult to prioritize some values over others since they are so interconnected. Ranking the values posed a significant challenge in striking a balance between environmental concerns and economic concerns, namely ensuring support for job creation and the local economy. More specifically, participants noted that making trade-offs between the health of ecosystems and the health of the economy is complex, and weighing the need for cultural recognition and ecological health against

the need for a strong economy is their highest priority but also their greatest challenge.

Using a word cloud, the participants then highlighted specific words and phrases they consider to be of high importance including "balance," "culture," "jobs," "longevity," "transparency," "climate action," "community," "access" and "economy".

Land Use Designations

The local government representatives were also asked to indicate how they would like to see land proportionally allocated within the project area within a set of standard land use designations. The aggregate results of local government officials' responses were:

1. General resource management zones (33%)
2. Low intensity resource extraction areas (28%)
3. Protected areas (25%)
4. High intensity resource extraction areas (13%)¹

It is important to note that participants expressed challenges with their lack of technical knowledge about the various resource management zones and after seeing the way that land is currently allocated in the project area, some acknowledged that they would have answered the question differently. However, during discussions about the allocation of lands into these four zones, they noted that the weight of economic benefits – including tourism, logging and recreation – make some zones more important to them than others.

Looking forward to the future of land use planning in the Nimpkish Valley, local government representatives stressed that relationships are of utmost importance. They would like to see a land use planning process that is inclusive and based in respect – prioritizing relationship and partnership building to best serve the people who live and work in the area. They emphasized that to ensure the modernized land use plan considers the diverse activities that take place on the land base, local input should be more heavily

¹ **Protected Areas:** Land where forest harvesting is not intended to occur and natural processes, like fires and blow-down, are left undisturbed.

Low Intensity Resource Extraction Areas: Lands where environmental, recreational and cultural values are prioritized, but some logging will occur using more selective harvest strategies, that allow forests to grow older and remove lower volumes of timber.

General Resource Management Zones: Land where logging activities occur following standard management strategies which attempt to balance timber values with environmental, recreation and cultural values.

High Intensity Resource Extraction Areas: Land where logging activities have a high priority, with the expectation that high volumes of timber will be harvested, which could impact environmental, recreation and cultural values.

weighted than input from anyone who lives outside of the North Island, and explicitly noted that the plan should not be directed or led by environmental non-profits (eNGOs). Ultimately, local business representatives called for the modernized land use plan to address the realities of today while looking toward the future in a way that will account for intergenerational changes in community priorities and developments in forest and climate science.

Tourism and Recreation Stakeholders

There were 12 individuals from the tourism and recreation industries who attended and participated in the virtual stakeholder meeting held on December 1, 2021.

The words and phrases of importance identified by the tourism and recreation stakeholder group were closely aligned with activities and values important to their respective industries. These included: “hiking”, “camping”, “caving”, “skiing”, and “wild”. When ranking the Gwa’ni Project values in order of perceived importance, tourism and recreation stakeholders ranked them as follows:

Highest-ranked values	Lowest-ranked values
Aquatic habitat and fish & Wildlife	Non-timber forest products
Recreation	Timber
Cultural	Minerals & Karst

Stakeholders stressed that maintaining balance among all the values is needed to maximize tourism and recreation opportunities in the valley, and suggested that the values be examined as a whole rather than in isolation from one another. Examples of the values’ interconnection that were given during the meeting include:

Biodiversity (ranked 4th): “protection of biodiversity is necessary for any of the other activities and should be the foundation of the land-use plan”.

Karst (ranked 8th): “connected to fish habitat, water quality, forest health, soils and lastly recreation. To separate them shows a great misunderstanding of what karst is”.

Visuals (ranked 5th): cannot be maintained or sustained without the prioritization of biodiversity, timber, forestry and water, and are made accessible because of logging and roads.

Ultimately, the tourism and recreation stakeholders stressed the need for a modernized land use plan to strike a balance between prioritizing industry, recreation and conservation in the Nimpkish Valley. They indicated that emphasis should be placed on conserving ecological systems, protecting recreation activities, and supporting economic activity, and all the values that are related to those high-level objectives should be focused on as opposed to concentrating on only three of the project values.

Land Use Designations

When asked to indicate how they would like to see land proportionally allocated within the project area, local business participants allocated the land as follows:

1. Protected areas (33%)
2. General resource management zones (27%)
3. Low intensity resource extraction areas (26%)
4. High intensity resource extraction areas (14%)

Participants acknowledged that for those people who are not knowledgeable about different zoning types, it can be difficult to delineate between low, general and high intensity logging when they see it happening in the territory. As one participant noted, for someone unfamiliar with forestry activities or with the territory, “logging is logging is logging,” and when people see logging taking place and they do not know or understand the industry, their perceptions are often skewed in a negative way. Participants blamed some of this misunderstanding on mainstream media depictions of forestry, expressing concern about the depiction of logging and the forestry industry within popular media. They noted that when the average person sees cut blocks or clearcutting, they associate the activity with being bad for the natural environment, even if that is not necessarily the case. They explained that without logging, activity and access in the Nimpkish Valley would be challenged and reduced, and called upon the project team to mitigate misconceptions about these activities.

When looking ahead to what they would like land use planning to look like for the Nimpkish Valley, the tourism and recreation stakeholders identified three key areas of priority:

- Improving and expanding access of the territory for recreational use and enjoyment
- Clarifying misconceptions
- Improving public education about logging; and sustaining the land for future generations

With respect to improving and expanding access to the territory, participants shared that they would like to see consistent access to mountains and recreation areas, including areas with caving opportunities, back country exploration, Mount Cain, and those places with particularly spectacular views, tourist appeal, alpine and subalpine areas. They noted that this continued access is important for both locals and tourists.

Participants also stressed that moving forward, they would like to see the development of public educational resources, data, and general guidance on land use planning itself. Suggestions for resources included guidance on accessing culturally significant areas, data about trees, forestry, and fish populations, and efforts for clearing up misinformation about the logging industry.

The underlying principle of the entire land use planning process, as indicated by discussion among tourism and recreation participants, should be sustaining the land for future generations. To do this, they explained that a modernized land use plan must create a sustainable balance between economic growth, maintenance, and conservation.

Forestry Tenure Holders and Contractors Stakeholders

Thirteen individuals representing forestry tenure holders and contractors attended and participated in the virtual stakeholder meeting held on December 6, 2021.

When ranking the Gwa'ni Project values in order of perceived importance, tenure holders and contractors ranked as follows:

Highest-ranked values	Lowest-ranked values
Timber	Minerals
Aquatic habitat and fish	Tourism and visuals
Indigenous forest values	Non-timber forest products

Participants clearly stated that local economic considerations – specifically the need for long-term stable employment opportunities – are an absolute priority for them, and that a healthy working forest is the key to many of their priorities and values. There was strong consensus that timber plays an integral role in the success of local economies, and that the interconnectedness of timber harvesting and economic prosperity cannot and should not

be looked at as exclusive of one another. When explaining the absolute importance of timber in the Nimpkish Valley, one person put it simply; “timber is the driver. Balancing and managing the other values is why developing land use plans is so important. A strong economy provides great opportunities”.

Participants also identified the following as values that they felt should have been included in the Gwa'ni Project values:

- Local economies
- Forestry economy
- Rural communities
- Employment
- Reconciliation
- Sustainability of harvesting

The prioritization of forestry and harvesting was also emphasized in conversations about potential trade-offs that may have to be made between the Gwa'ni Project values, with one person stating that they would be willing to limit access and tourism opportunities if it meant higher paying employment in forestry. On the other hand, others noted that maintaining recreation and tourism opportunities in the region supports the economic viability and enjoyment of local communities and adds to successful employee retention, which can otherwise be difficult in such a rural area. Ultimately, the group concluded that to make decisions about trade-offs, there needs to be more opportunities to collaborate and communicate with other residents and workers in the North Island, thereby improving their common understanding of what is important to others in the area.

Participants went on to express their understanding that Indigenous forest values, ranked third highest in importance, are vital to ensuring the 'Namgis have a successful forest economy and acknowledged that addressing 'Namgis forest values will promote economic and planning confidence in the area. As one participant stated, “we need to ensure Indigenous forest values are respected over certain types of motorized recreation” as a means of demonstrating a commitment to the partnerships being built with 'Namgis First Nation.

Land Use Designations

Forestry tenure holders and contractors were then asked to indicate how they would like to see land proportionally allocated within the project area. The aggregate results of their allocation was:

1. General resource management zones (48%)

2. High intensity resource extraction areas (23%)
3. Low intensity resource extraction areas (15%)
4. Protected areas (14%)

To explain their allocation decisions, participants noted that the current provincial legislation already protects important sensitive features and values during the process of developing harvest areas. There are already parks and other protected spaces in the project area that have been set aside to ensure social and environmental values are preserved long-term and therefore, participants did not feel the need for more space to be allocated to protected spaces.

In their discussions on land allocation within the project area, the group once again emphasized that the strength and stability of the local economy is heavily reliant upon the sustainable harvesting of timber, with one person noting “a working forest is very important for local economies, which includes Indigenous economies”. They explained that the high intensity extraction areas are important to ensure harvesting levels are not greatly reduced, while general resource management areas are important to allow other economic opportunities. It was further noted that the long-term availability of pulp logs and residual salvage opportunities (waste wood utilization) relies on the sustainability of timber harvesting operations as well, and some were concerned with the prospect of those operations being reduced. Participants further expressed explicit concern that jobs may be at risk depending on the sustainability and long-term viability of forestry activities and generating a stable source of income on Northern Vancouver Island. To accomplish this, they explained, there must be a sustainable level of timber harvesting to ensure that a balance of social, environmental and economic objectives is met, thereby fostering healthy communities and a healthy environment in the long-term.

According to the forestry tenure holders and contractors, the most important feature of a modernized land use plan will be its ability to provide long-term certainty and predictability to residents and workers on the North Island. One attendee summarized this well, saying “drive certainty into the business cycle and you will drive health and stability into community”. They emphasized terms such as “sustainability”, “stability”, “viability”, “certainty” and “long-term” to describe the characteristics of an ideal land use plan. “Transparency, predictability and fairness will provide a stable climate for investment, employment and healthy communities,” said one person. At the heart of ensuring this predictability, they explained, is consistent and meaningful consultation processes with *Namgis* and local stakeholders to ensure that timber harvesting and forestry activities are consistent with the values of all stakeholders

while also ensuring sustainable levels of employment and economic prosperity are possible. Forest tenure holders and contractors also agreed that a modernized land use plan could be an important tool in providing stability and predictability to harvest levels. This certainty would:

- Ensure that harvest levels are high enough to sustain a viable industry
- Help secure long-term investment in sustainable natural resource development in the region
- Provide comfort to employees seeking long-term job security
- Maintain certainty for companies’ existing investments
- Create opportunity for future investments

The group provided suggestions for mechanisms to achieve this stability including ensuring a dedicated land base for forestry activity and allowing forestry businesses to develop standing timber inventories of permits and a flow of operations over several years. Participants also explained that forest management is likely to continue to become more important in a changing climate, making long-term economic investment an increasingly important component of land use planning. Accordingly, the tenure holders and contractors group highlighted the need for timeliness of the Gwa’ni Project in terms of both the development and implementation of a modernized land use plan. In the face of a changing climate, economy and political environment, completing the Gwa’ni Project in a timely way is crucial to ensure it is relevant to local needs and priorities, while remaining adaptable to the needs and considerations of future generations.

Similar to tourism and recreation stakeholders, forestry tenure holders and contractors explained that they are frustrated by the significant amount of misinformation in the media and on social media about the ways that forestry activities are carried out. They expressed concern with the ways that the public perceive the forestry industry to be contradictory to efforts of combatting climate change, explaining that sustainable forest management should and does include balancing social, economic and environmental values. Ultimately, the group encouraged better education and a reframing of the way that forestry is perceived by the public and other stakeholders, with one person saying, “forests in BC are a well-managed renewable resource, and they should be celebrated as a green product that can take the place of more detrimental materials such as plastic, concrete and illegally harvested timber from other countries”. The group also said that the modernized land use planning process needs to be one that fosters trust so that local partners, businesses and investors can

have confidence in the long-term sustainability of the local economy. Trust must also be built and nurtured between the province, 'Namgis First Nation, and local stakeholders for a plan to have long-term success, participants agreed. They identified the need for a common understanding of the expectations of both 'Namgis First Nation and the public in terms of forestry and permitted economic activity on the land base; "confidence for the 'Namgis that their needs are being addressed and confidence for the forestry sector within the North Island," stated one attendee. Participants also expressed their desire for more opportunities to partner with 'Namgis, recognizing the importance of the First Nation's involvement and leadership of land use in the territory. "Having a mutually-developed and mutually agreed-upon long term plan for timber harvesting and other opportunities in the Gwa'ni plan area could provide the certainty needed for forestry businesses to invest in the region and maintain a sustainable level of business development and employment into the future," one person explained.

The tenure holders and contractors noted some specific locations within the project area that they hope become focal points of the modernized land use plan. These included North and South ends of Nimpkish Lake, areas near the Nimpkish River, as well as Vernon Lake. Vernon Lake specifically was identified as an area that should be focused on because forestry operations are able to co-exist with the many recreational opportunities in the area such as fishing, camping, and hunting.

Local Business Stakeholders

Three local business stakeholders attended and participated in the virtual meeting that took place on December 8, 2021.

The key words emphasized by local business participants throughout the session were "opportunity" and "employment". When asked to rank the Gwa'ni Project values, participants responded as follows:

Highest-ranked values	Lowest-ranked values
Timber	Water
Tourism and visuals	Biodiversity
Recreation	Karst and soil

Participants noted that the bottom three values simply do not rank as high when it comes to the interests of businesses in the Nimpkish Valley, and agreed that almost all sectors of the business community rely on tourism dollars and the health of natural resource-based industries. "Fishing and logging are resource-based industries that are large contributors to the local economy along with the vendors and suppliers who rely on them," one participant explained, and while ecological considerations are important, they do not have the same level of value to the business community as economic considerations do". Participants noted that they consider this focus on economy to be more important than environmental considerations, however they are also "trying to figure out the balance, and what the prioritization of these values means for jobs, economy, biodiversity, desires and needs of 'Namgis and BC", noting that "we all must be willing to shift priorities to make community peace and prosperity".

Land Use Designations

When asked to indicate how they want to see land proportionally allocated within the project area, the local business participants indicated that they would like to see the following allocation:

- 1. Low intensity resource extraction areas (33%)
- 2. General resource management zones (28%)
- 3. Protected areas (24%)
- 4. High intensity resource extraction areas (16%)

When discussing the results of the exercise, participants acknowledged that they have limited knowledge on zoning and land use planning in general, and that their answers might be different if they had more knowledge about the topic. However, participants also agreed that they felt a natural inclination towards more space being allocated for protected lands and low intensity resource extraction based on preconceptions of what high intensity extraction might look like. One person did say that "high intensity sounds evil," which influenced their decision to allocate more to protected lands and low intensity extraction. This comment could also be an example of the type of negative portrayal and misconception that both tourism and recreation stakeholders as well as tenure holders and contractors mentioned in their engagement sessions.

When discussing how they would like land use planning to move forward for the Nimpkish Valley, local business stakeholders were the most adamant in their expression of interest for public education and information sharing. Suggestions were also made for the use of plain language and online social media platforms to generate interest

and excitement about stakeholder involvement in the project. Participants further urged consideration and empathy for the fact that people are afraid of change, particularly business owners who have been forced to face a great deal of uncertainty over the past 22 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. “The amount of adapting that small business have had to do in the last year and a half has been hard and people are resistant to more,” explained one participant, highlighting the need for transparent communication about modernized land use planning. Participants noted that a knowledge gap currently exists, and that this gap needs to be closed to build trust among the business community and other stakeholders who might be concerned about what a modernized land use planning process might mean for them. They very clearly communicated the need for transparent, digestible and plain-language information about the Gwa’ni Project and land use planning process overall, including:

- Continuous project updates
- Relationship and respectful partnership building
- Face-to-face engagement with smaller groups
- More public information sharing and consultation
- Clarity on what can and cannot be done with a land use plan (i.e., defined spaces and activities included in the plan)

Participants noted that they would like to see a land use plan that sets high-level strategic priorities for the land base and provides long-term goals with short- and medium-term actions that are easy for the public to digest. They explained that providing this type of ‘road map’ would allow all local stakeholders to fully understand the high-level objectives of the plan and therefore invest and act accordingly. They also provided input on what they would like to see included in these high-level objectives, noting that in the interest of local businesses and economic activity, more focus should be placed on economic considerations over environmental ones. More specifically they noted that priority should be placed on:

- Investment in infrastructure to support local tourism
- Support for local businesses
- Continued partnership building with Western Forest Products and BC Timber Sales

Local business stakeholders further elaborated on these economic priorities by explaining that local businesses largely rely upon dollars generated by tourism and natural resource industries. Economic generation is of significant value to the business community, and this economic generation is heavily reliant upon the tourism and

recreation industries as well as the sustainability of natural resources such as fish, logging, water cleanliness, and maintaining the beauty of natural landscapes. The role that these natural resources play in tourism and recreation are by extension very important to the success of local businesses who rely on the support of people who visit the Nimpkish Valley as tourists and recreators.

Public Advisory Groups and Forestry Related Interest Groups

There were five stakeholders who joined and participated at the virtual meeting for public advisory groups and forestry related interest groups on December 9, 2021. It should be noted that a few participants in this session experienced some technical difficulties working within Zoom and Mentimeter however, efforts were made to mitigate these challenges and ensure the perspectives of each participant were reflected in engagement results.

When asked to rank the Gwa’ni Project values, participants responded as follows:

Highest-ranked values	Lowest-ranked values
Water	Karst and soil
Indigenous forest values	Access
Timber	Non-timber forest products

“Sustainable” was a key word emphasized by the public advisory groups and forestry related interest group stakeholders. The sustainability of both environment and economy was identified as being of high importance to the group; they acknowledged the interconnectedness of all values, particularly ties between the environmental (i.e., water, fish, biodiversity and Indigenous forest values) and the economic considerations of the project area (i.e., jobs and the forestry industry). Participants noted that sustainability is also important for future predictability and consistency of the land base, which were two other concepts heavily emphasized by participants. They explained that sustainability of the land base is intrinsically linked with the sustainability of jobs and the local economy, and shared that long-term predictability and certainty on the land base is of very high importance for long range planning, particularly in the face of climate change and increasing cumulative effects impacting the local communities.

Land Use Designations

When asked to indicate how they would like to see land proportionally allocated within the project area, public advisory groups and forestry related interest groups said they would like to see land allocated as follows:

1. High intensity resource extraction areas (31%)
2. General resource management zones (30%)
3. Low intensity resource extraction areas (20%)
4. Protected areas (19%)

To elaborate on these results, one participant put it simply; “we are loggers, we want to work”. Participants shared that they would like to see a working forest combined with recreation opportunities in the Nimpkish Valley, once again emphasizing the value and benefits of each type of land designation type and the importance of working to maintain some balance and flexibility among them in the interest of forestry workers.

Finally, participants identified several areas that they consider to be of high importance within the Project Area, and where they would the modernized land use plan to focus on. These areas include Nimpkish Lake Provincial Park and the south end of Nimpkish Lake where the River meets the Lake, which participants identified as being important for its beauty and visuals, recreation activities and hunting.

Discussion

The Gwa’ni Project engagement activities conducted thus far were designed to provide opportunities for people to engage in conversation around the Gwa’ni Project, the values that should inform a modernized land use plan, and the future of land use planning in the Nimpkish Valley. The Gwa’ni Project engagement strategy and activities are vital to ensuring that stakeholders feel their interests and perspectives are reflected in a modernized land use plan. Even more specifically, Indigenous peoples, and people who live, work, and recreate in the Nimpkish Valley will need to continue to stay engaged by providing continuous feedback about their visions for a modernized land use plan. For the Gwa’ni Project to be truly representative, collaborative, and sustainable, ongoing engagement is crucial, and through this engagement, the project will continue to introduce stakeholders to the project and share information about land use planning.

The engagement that has been completed will inform the next steps that need to be taken to address questions and concerns about the project, receive feedback on land use planning values, and to form strong relationships with local First Nations, governments, industry, and the public. The summary findings of this report will inform preliminary development of a modernized land use plan as well as future phases of engagement. The Gwa’ni Project will continue to build off the key themes and findings from this phase and use them to develop future planning and engagement activities with local stakeholders who can provide further input and direction for the modernization of the VILUP. The key themes resulting from this round of engagement are summarized in the table below, along with an identification of next steps that may be taken by the Gwa’ni Project in order to address and build upon these key themes.

Themes for Further Exploration	Summary of Input
Balance	The engagement confirms that there is a need for the Gwa'ni Project to strike a balance among the project values and between the economic and environmental considerations of the project. The need for a balance of values and considerations was emphasized by those who have been engaged thus far in the project, with several stakeholder groups identifying that trying to rank or prioritize the values was difficult and, in some cases, unhelpful. This challenge stems from the interconnectedness that the values have with one another. Moving forward, striking this balance should be an objective of future engagement and the modernized land use planning process.
Local Input	Future engagement should focus on ensuring local input is prioritized in the planning and execution of the Gwa'ni Project. Local input should be more heavily weighted than input from anyone who lives outside of the North Island, and the Gwa'ni Project Team will consider this as they plan the next phases of engagement for the project.
Predictability in the Forest Sector	Sustainability, stability, and certainty were emphasized to ensure that timber harvesting levels would sustain viable levels of employment and a healthy forestry industry. This is important in providing forestry workers with job security, and it is vital for securing long-term investment in the region. Stakeholders identified that a modernized land use plan should provide long-term predictability within the forestry sector in order to create economic certainty for foresters and for the broader community of people who live, work and recreate in the North Island. The results of the survey and stakeholder meetings also indicate concerns about an increase in timber harvest levels. Future engagement and planning of the Gwa'ni Project will focus on better understanding and addressing these concerns through information sharing and public engagement efforts.
Public education and information	<p>Stakeholders who have been engaged thus far have stressed a clear need for more public information on the Gwa'ni Project and land use planning processes. There was an overarching sentiment that the average member of the public requires more information about this project in order to continue to stay engaged and contribute to future public consultations.</p> <p>Moving forward, more transparent communication is required to better inform the public about what the Gwa'ni Project is and what it is not. These future communications will clarify concerns that have been expressed thus far, including how the project will impact private land ownership and rights, and concerns of misinformation about the forestry industry and logging activities in the Nimpkish Valley. The next phases of the Gwa'ni Project should focus on sharing transparent information as a means of building strong relationships and trust both with and among stakeholders.</p>
Gwa'ni Project Values	The 15 Gwa'ni Project values identified in this report accurately reflect of the values of people who live in, work in, and visit the Nimpkish Valley. The Gwa'ni Project will continue to be guided by these foundational values, and they will be used to inform future phases of engagement with local stakeholders.
Indigenous Forest Values	Indigenous forest values were identified as a high priority across multiple stakeholder groups. In addition to multiple stakeholder groups ranking this as a value that they would like to see prioritized by the Gwa'ni Project, the importance of recognizing Indigenous forest values also signifies a commitment to prioritizing the rights and interests of 'Namgis First Nation and reconciliation efforts more broadly. Moving forward, it will be important for the Gwa'ni Project to ensure that the forest values of 'Namgis First Nation are better understood and reflected in future phases of the project.

APPENDIX A: Gwa'ni Project Team Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elected Chief Don Svanvik	'Namgis First Nation
Minister Katrine Conroy	B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

STEERING COMMITTEE

Joseph Isaac	Councillor, 'Namgis First Nation
Kelly Speck	Councillor, 'Namgis First Nation
Jessica Coster	Executive Director, Strategic Projects, Regional Operations Division, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
Andrew Ashford	District Manager, North Island Central Coast Resource District, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Port McNeill)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ron Cotton	Land and Resources Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Nanaimo)
Rachel Dalton	Representative of the 'Namgis First Nation
Kathy DesRochers	Resource Manager, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Port McNeill)
Cyndy Grant	Land and Resources Specialist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Port McNeill)
Mike Green	Representative of the 'Namgis First Nation
Pam Silver	Section Head, Resource Initiatives, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Nanaimo)
Devin Sullivan	Land & Resource Coordinator, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (Nanaimo)
Brian Svanvik	Natural Resources Director, 'Namgis First Nation

APPENDIX B: List of Virtual Stakeholder Meeting Invitees and Attendees

Name of Invitee	Organization	Attended (Y/N)
Local Government – November 30, 2021		
Councillor Shelley Downey	Town of Port McNeill	Y
Councillor Ann-Marie Baron	Town of Port McNeill	Y
Chair Andrew Hory	Regional District of Mount Waddington	Y
Director Rod Sherrell	Woss Community Association	N
Dave Rushton	Woss Community Association	N
Director James Furney	Hyde Creek Advisory Commission	N
Tourism and Recreation – December 1, 2021		
Natalie Stewart	Vancouver Island North Tourism	N
Jeff Gaetz	Mount Cain Cabin Owners Society	Y
Jennifer Lash	Mount Cain Cabin Owners Society	Y
Gaby Wickstrom	Broughton Sports Club	Y
Greg Westwood	Broughton Sports Club	Y
Erin Pickering	Mount Cain Alpine Park Society	Y
Dave Steele	Mount Cain Alpine Park Society	Y
Darren Anonson	Mount Cain Alpine Park Society	Y
Jamie Turko	Destiny River Adventures Ltd.	N
Gerry Fowler	BC Speleological Federation	Y
David Wall	BC Speleological Federation	Y
Stuart Taylor	BC Speleological Federation	Y
Martin Davis	BC Speleological Federation	Y
Franck Tuot	Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group	Y
Tim English	Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group	N
Liz Gatcher	Rein Forest Riders	N

Name of Invitee	Organization	Attended (Y/N)
Forestry Tenure Holders and Contractors – December 6, 2021		
Stuart Glen	WFP	Y
Charlotte Mellstrom	WFP	Y
Shannon Janzen	WFP	N
Rob Shambrook	WFP	Y
Doug Mosher	Atli Resources Corporation	Y
Mason Harris	Danyas	Y
Eric Dutcyvich	Lemare/C&E	Y
Andrew Murray	Lemare	Y
Troy Browne	R.M.B. Trucking	N
Justin Rigsby	Holbrook Dyson Logging Ltd.	Y
Rob Wood	Holbrook Dyson Logging Ltd.	N
Bob Cochrane	Cochrane Contracting Ltd.	Y
Ron Tucker	Nimpkish Logging Ltd.	Y
Tamara Meggitt	Loonies for Loggers	Y
Terry Greaves	Van Isle Falling Ltd.	Y
Trevor Egely	BCTS	Y
Ivan Hall	JF Trucking Ltd.	N
Ken Fraser	Blue Collar Trucking Industries Ltd.	N
Dennis Nelson	Steel Creek Pole Corp.	N
Local Business – December 8, 2021		
Kevin Ainsworth	'Namgis Business Development Corporation	N
Riley Zimmerman	Community Futures – Mount Waddington	Y
Angela Smith	Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce	N
Chris Callanan	Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce	Y
Elizabeth Aman-Hume	Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce	Y
Public Advisory Groups and Forestry Related Interest Groups – December 9, 2021		
Dan Jorgensen	United Steelworkers	Y
Megan Hanacek	Private Forest Land Owners	N
John Tidbury	VINWAG	Y
Jon Flintoft	VINWAG	Y
Leighton Wishart	VINWAG	Y
Charlotte Mellstrom	NWAC	Y

SECTION 1: YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GWA'NI

1. What is your relationship to the Nimpkish Valley? [select all that apply]

- Full-time resident
- Part-time resident
- Work full-time in the Nimpkish Valley
- Work part-time in the Nimpkish Valley
- Business owner
- Tenure holder
- Regular visitor [more than twice a year]
- Occasional visitor [less than twice a year]
- Indigenous person with ancestral ties to the Nimpkish Valley
- Other [please describe]

2. Where do you live most of the time?

- Area A (Malcom Island)
- Area B (Winter Harbour-Holberg, Quatsino, Coal Harbour)
- Area C (Hyde Creek)
- Area D (Woss)
- Alert Bay
- Port Alice
- Port Hardy
- Port McNeill
- Strathcona Regional District
- First Nation Community [please describe]
- Other (please describe)

3. Where do you work? [Select all that apply]

- The Nimpkish Valley
- Malcom Island
- Winter Harbour – Holberg
- Coal Harbour
- Hyde Creek
- Quatsino
- Woss
- Alert Bay
- Port Alice
- Port Hardy
- Port McNeill
- Strathcona Regional District
- First Nation Community [please describe]
- Other [please describe]

4. Which of the following categories best describe the industry you primarily work in? [Select all that apply]

- Recreation and/or tourism
- Hospitality
- Agriculture
- Fishing and/or Hunting
- Forestry
- Mining/mineral exploration
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Environmental Services
- Retail, Wholesale Trade
- Information and/or Technology
- Education
- Health and/or Social Services
- Finance and/or Insurance
- Art and/or Entertainment
- Public Service
- Administration and/or Business Support
- Real Estate and Development
- Transportation and/or Warehousing
- Utilities
- Legal Services
- Student
- Retired
- Homemaker
- Environmental Advocacy
- Small business
- Other [please specify]

5. Which of the following categories best describe the industry you primarily work in? [Select all that apply]

ACTIVITY	LESS THAN ONCE A YEAR	1-6 TIMES PER YEAR	7-12 TIMES PER YEAR	MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH	MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK
Fishing					
Hunting					
Water sports and recreation (e.g., wind surfing, kite surfing, boating etc.)					
Caving					
Front country skiing/snowboarding					
Back country skiing/snowboarding					
Equestrian					
Camping					
Picnicking and day use					
Motorized recreation (e.g., quadding; snowmobiling)					

If you use Nimpkish Valley for any other recreational activities, please describe them here:

SECTION 2: YOUR PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

6. Tell us how consistent each of the following value statements are with your priorities in relation to the Nimpkish Valley.

VALUE STATEMENTS	VERY CONSISTENT	SOMEWHAT CONSISTENT	NEITHER CONSISTENT OR INCONSISTENT	SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT	VERY INCONSISTENT
The Nimpkish Valley should have an abundance of plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms					
The forest should provide for a diversity plants like mushrooms and other organic products we use or eat.					
We should rely on our forests to provide us with timber and to sustain our economy.					
The lakes, rivers, ponds and other bodies of water within the Nimpkish valley should be clean and have potential to be used for agriculture, industrial and recreational purposes.					
The fish and their habitat should be protected and, where needed, restored.					
People should be drawn to the Nimpkish Valley for its world-class tourism and cultural tourism.					
The Nimpkish Valley should offer resource development opportunities in mining and mining exploration					
People should easily be able access and enjoy the many unique features in the Nimpkish Valley					
The Nimpkish Valley should appear pristine and much of it should remain untouched by further development					
The cultural, historical and archeological significance of the Nimpkish Valley to 'Namgis First Nation is well understood and culturally significant places and resources should be managed with care and respect.					

7. What are other value statements or words that describe priorities you believe should be reflected in a modernized land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley?

8. Based on your experience in the Nimpkish Valley, which of these statements do you most agree with:

- ☐ Protecting the health of the Nimpkish Valley lands, water and natural ecosystems should be a priority, even at the risk of slowing down economic activity?
- ☐ Economic activity should be a priority in the the Nimpkish Valley, even if there is a risk to the health of our land, water and natural ecosystems?
- ☐ The Nimpkish Valley should be managed in a way that maintains economic activity and healthy ecosystems.
- ☐ Unsure

**9. What are your top three concerns regarding a new land use plan for Nimpkish Valley that may result from this Project?
[Please select three]**

- Impacts to the local economy (eg. Business opportunities and availability of jobs)
- Impacts to salmon habitats
- Impacts to old growth forests (forests that have never been commercially harvested)
- Increased timber harvest levels
- Decreased timber harvest levels
- Impacts to wildlife habitat
- Impacts to recreation opportunities
- Impacts to existing leases, licenses and tenures
- Impacts to protected areas
- Other [please specify]

10. How important are the following considerations for making land use decisions in the Nimpkish Valley?

	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	A LITTLE IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
Availability of food, energy and water					
Sustainability for future generations					
Protecting lands and water from pollution and degradation					
Public safety and disaster avoidance					
Science, facts, and expert knowledge about the area (incl. Indigenous knowledge)					
Jobs and economic development					
First Nations rights, interests and stewardship responsibilities					
Interest of all British Columbians					
Minimizing rules and regulations					
Climate adaptation					

SECTION 3: MORE ABOUT YOU AND HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ENGAGED IN THE GWA'NI PROJECT

11. Which of the following best describes your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Two-Spirit
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self describe [please specify]

12. Which of the following describes your total household income in 2020?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$69,999
- \$70,000 to \$89,999
- \$90,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more
- Prefer not to say

13. How old are you?

- 18-24 years
- 25-44 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 year
- 55-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75 years or older

14. Generally, what additional information would help you to better understand modernized land use planning processes, including the Gwa'ni Project?

- The Modernized Land Use Planning (MLUP) process in British Columbia
- The role of stakeholders in the MLUP process
- The role of stakeholders in the Gwa'ni Project
- The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP)
- MLUP projects elsewhere in BC
- Other [please specify]

15. Generally, what's your preferred method of engagement?

- Email
- Website
- Social Media
- Mail
- Other [please specify]

16. What are other value statements or words that describe priorities you believe should be reflected in a modernized land use plan for the Nimpkish Valley?

APPENDIX D: Virtual Engagement Activities & Questions

BASELINE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Rank the following values in order of importance (1-12):

☐ Access	☐ Minerals
☐ Aquatic habitat and fish & Wildlife	☐ Non timber forest products
☐ Biodiversity	☐ Recreation
☐ Cultural	☐ Timber
☐ Indigenous Forest Values	☐ Tourism and Visuals
☐ Karst & Soil	☐ Water

2. Share more information about why you ranked the way that you did. Are there any values missing from this list?
3. When ranking these values, you made decisions about trade offs. How and why did you decide what you are willing to give up for your priorities?
4. Out of 100, indicate how land use should be proportionally allocated within the project area. Keep in mind the legal context of BC (Allocate % of each land use to add up to 100%)
- Protected Areas: Land where forest harvesting is not intended to occur and natural processes, like fires and blow-down, are left undisturbed.
 - Low Intensity Resource Extraction Areas: Lands where environmental, recreational and cultural values are prioritized, but some logging will occur using more selective harvest strategies, that allow forests to grow older and remove lower volumes of timber.
 - General Resource Management Zones: Land where logging activities occur following standard management strategies which attempt to balance timber values with environmental, recreation and cultural values.
 - High Intensity Resource Extraction Areas: Land where logging activities have a high priority, with the expectation that high volumes of timber will be harvested, which could impact environmental, recreation and cultural values.
5. Why do you consider one or some of these levels of zoning more important than the others?
6. Drop a pin on the map of the Project area to indicate areas that you consider to be of specifically high priority or opportunity. Tell us where you dropped your pin and why you consider that area a priority and/or place of opportunity.

STAKEHOLDER-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. When you think about your government's objectives and mandates, what words come to mind?
2. How could a modernized land use plan facilitate your government's relationship building with local stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders?
3. What changes would you like to see to current Land Use Planning to achieve your governance objectives and mandates?

STAKEHOLDER-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS: TOURISM AND RECREATION

1. What is the feedback that you currently hear from members, guests, and clients about the tourism/recreation opportunities in the Nimpkish Valley?
2. How could a modernized land use plan positively impact scenery, opportunities for recreation, access to the territory, etc.?

STAKEHOLDER-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS: FORESTRY TENURE HOLDERS AND CONTRACTORS

1. How would you like to see a modernized land use plan improve planning predictability and economic viability?
2. How can the work we are doing now (this modernized land use planning process) improve and support the future of forestry within the Project area?

STAKEHOLDER-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS: LOCAL BUSINESS

1. What words come to mind when you consider how modernized land use planning relates to your business/organizational goals?
2. What changes do you want to see to current land use planning that would support or help your business?

STAKEHOLDER-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS: PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUPS AND FORESTRY RELATED INTEREST GROUPS

1. How do you envision a modernized land use plan supporting your organization's goals?
2. What words would you use to describe your ideal vision for future generations using the Nimpkish Valley?

Stay informed and engaged about the project:

<https://landuseplanning.gov.bc.ca/>

Gwa'ni Project email:

Gwani.Project@gov.bc.ca



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