



Lheidli T'enneh

Traditional Use and Interest Study Work Plan

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Introduction

We are the Lheidli T'enneh. Our name essentially translates to “people from where the rivers flow together.” The rivers referred to are the *Nee Incha Koh* which means “river with strong undercurrents” and the *Ltha Koh*, the Big Mouth River. These rivers are currently known as the Nechako and the Fraser.

According to our history, as told by our Elders, a large group of our people were led by the Traditional Chiefs and Medicine People to the convergence of these two rivers. According to our Elders, originally these people - our ancestors - had traveled from the Blackwater area.

According to the ways of our people, we were once a migratory people in rhythm with the seasons. Our ancestors would work in their family groups on their hunting and gathering grounds throughout our Territory. Our ancestors were also traders of goods with various groups from neighboring areas. Due to this lifestyle, there were no permanent settlements like we think of them today. However, there were seasonal villages at certain points along the lakes and rivers which were utilized for parts of the year. *Lheidli*, the site of present-day Prince George, was one of these villages. We occupied and used all of our Traditional Territory. This is still true today.

The Traditional Use and Interest Study will allow us to gather land use information of our Traditional Territory. This information would be invaluable to our community as it would allow us to make informed decisions and/or contributions in the operational and strategical planning of the natural resources of this area.

Such informed participation would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of land use planning and resource management of the Ministry of Forests at both the regional and district levels. As well, it may enable a process where all parties can meet their planning obligations.

Overall, the study would improve the relationship between Lheidli T'enneh, industry, and government.

Proposal Overview

Analysis of Existing Resources

Identification of Existing Information Sources

The following are preliminary lists of local and distant information sources. It is anticipated that additional sources will be added in the early phases of the study.

Local Information Sources

Within the Treaty and Council offices we have the following:

1. Map and mylar overlays of land use and land ties resulting from the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council's 1984 *Alcan Land Use and Occupancy Research Project*.
2. Audio tapes, transcriptions, photos and negatives resulting from Wendy Aasen's ethnographical work *Place Name Project* (1989) and *Oral History Project* (1991).¹
3. Photocopies of archived local newspaper articles and Department of Indian Affairs correspondence from the late 1800's to the 1950's.
4. Organized files generated by the treaty process going back to 1988.
5. *Herrick Creek Workplan* which was an ethnographical study of part of the Herrick Creek watershed and served as Lheidli T'enneh's precursor to a Traditional Use Study. The *Herrick Creek Workplan* was used to identify the financial, labour and time requirements for a traditional use study of the whole of Lheidli T'enneh's Traditional Territory.

We have conducted preliminary searches of local repositories of information and believe that the following have direct bearing to the study:

1. Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council may contain archival material (i.e. maps, research projects, audio and video tapes) produced when the Lheidli T'enneh was part of the Tribal Council.
2. Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum archives do contain relevant archival material (i.e. maps, early settler accounts, city records...) which would illustrate and/or demonstrate Lheidli T'enneh land use.
3. College of New Caledonia contains extensive local history and archival sources (i.e. Department of Indian Affairs correspondence, slides, local newspapers...) which would directly aid in the research of Lheidli T'enneh land use.
4. University of Northern British Columbia is the appointed repository of genealogical information gathered by the Flying Missions' which would help clarify genealogical information gathered by the Treaty Office.
5. Archives of the Diocese of Prince George

¹ This work was conducted by Wendy Aasen, who at the time was working on her Master thesis at the University of Alberta. It should be noted that the work she did within the Lheidli T'enneh community was not directly used within her thesis entitled *Should the Clans Decide: The Problems of Modelling Self-Government Among the Carrier-Sekani Indians of British Columbia*.

Distant Information Sources

Through remote access (via Internet) and past work, the following are repositories that are outside the immediate Traditional Territory:

1. British Columbia Archives contains a very extensive collection of archival material that is immediately applicable to Lheidli T'enneh land use. Searches conducted through their website² have resulted in photographs, records, correspondence and maps which would confirm Lheidli T'enneh land use.
2. National Archives contains the vast majority of archival material. Most have been generated through the Department of Indian Affairs and date back to the late 1800s. Some records have been microfilmed (i.e. Record Group 10³...) and can be accessed via inter-library loan. There are some records (late 1950's onwards) that will require consultation either at the provincial branch of the National Archives in Burnaby or direct access at the National Archives in Ottawa via a contractor.
3. Hudson's Bay Archives, which is part of the Manitoba Provincial Archives, possess Post Journals and Reports on Districts from the Hudson's Bay trading post, Fort George. These particular records date from 1887-1906. As these particular records have been microfilmed, it is anticipated that we may be able to arrange for an extended loan of the relevant microfilm reels through inter-library loan. It should be noted that Fort George was established in 1807 and that a more methodical search may be conducted at the Archives via a contractor.
4. Royal British Columbia Museum contain ethnographical information relevant to the study.
5. University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Northern British Columbia, University of Victoria, University of Alberta and other universities contain relevant non-published materials (i.e. theses, ethnographical records, archaeological data...).
6. Canadian Museum of Civilization does contain archival, ethnographical, photographic and sound records that can be utilized for the study. Access could be via an independent contractor.
7. Archaeology Branch (Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture) in Victoria would contain extensive documentation of archaeological sites within the Traditional Territory. Documentation about such sites like Punchaw Lake and Chinlac would aid greatly in the study.

Study Intent

Purpose

We, the Lheidli T'enneh, understand the need and urgency for a traditional use study of our Traditional Territory. The study will serve as a means to identify sites of cultural significance, enable us to record oral histories, gather archival and published materials and will be invaluable for the education of present and future generations.

The study will endeavor to collect and share the most accurate information to ensure that the treaty and aboriginal rights of the Lheidli T'enneh are not infringed upon. This information will enable the Lheidli T'enneh to be more involved in land use and resource management as it will provide vital information necessary to respond to referrals and planning processes. It is understood that the land use information shared does not constitute meaningful consultation for other referrals but rather as a base of knowledge from which consultation can continue to occur.

The process of interviewing Elders and communicating land use information to the community as a whole, will benefit the Lheidli T'enneh as it will strengthen our cultural values and heighten community pride. It should be noted that all information collected will be handled in strict confidentiality and will remain the property of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation.

The study will create both short-term and long-term employment for the community as it provides opportunities for training and new skills to community members.

The study will be of great value in treaty negotiations as it will assist in land selection and identify key cultural sites within the Traditional Territory.

The study will act to build and strengthen the relationship between the Lheidli T'enneh and the government of British Columbia. It is hoped that this relationship would be one of collaboration where there is recognition of the preliminary nature of a traditional use study. This collaborative relationship is necessary for the long-term during the development and maintenance of a viable information system.

Ultimately, the primary goal of the study is the protection of the cultural heritage of our community, the Lheidli T'enneh Nation. It is sincerely hoped that this study will provide a mutual understanding to all of the cultural significance of our Traditional Territory. It is hoped that this collaborative work is the beginning of a meaningful long-term relationship based on respect, equity and empowerment.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify sites of cultural significance, record oral histories, centralize archival and published materials for the education of present and future generations.
- To collect and share the most accurate information to enable the Lheidli T'enneh to be more involved in land use and resource management and to assist the local forest districts as they attempt to fulfill their consultation obligations.
- To build capacity within the Lheidli T'enneh community to collect, maintain and update the inventory on a long-term basis.
- To address the ongoing need for land use information in treaty negotiations.

Description of the Territory Area

Territory Area Description

Beginning from the headwaters of the Muskeg River at the northwestern-most corner of our Traditional Territory⁴, and traveling counterclockwise, our territory is as follows:

Go from the headwaters of the Muskeg River to the headwaters of Whitemud Creek, then southward down the Salmon River to Tsebaitlihkeh Lake, then to Gordon Lake and then Margaret Lake. From there, travel down the Stuart River to Millard Creek, then to the Nechako and on to Culculz Creek. Take the creek south, cross Culculz Lake and continue south along Norman Creek, connecting back with Culculz Creek. Head southward to Eulatazella Lake, then to Naltesby Lake. Travel along Butcherflats Creek to the Chilako River and continue west on that river to Holman Lake, and from there to Pelican Lake. Continue down Natiniko Creek to Moses Lake and then to Nuntzen Lake.

Connect from Nuntzen Lake into the Blackwater River and head eastward to the Fraser River. Travel southward on the Fraser to Marvin Creek. Follow that creek eastward to Chubb Lake. Connect up with the Meadowbank Creek and follow it eastward, then traverse to Neck Lake, then Genevieve Lake, then through the midpoint of Ahbau Lake. Continue directly eastward to Big Valley Creek and follow it to Two Sisters Mountain. Continue northeastward on Summit Creek to the north end of Bowron Lake. Head southwest down that lake to Swan Lake, then Spectacle Lake, then Babcock Lake and on to then southward on the Caribou River to the Matthew River. Take the Matthew River eastward to the headwaters and traverse around the south side of Roberts Peak to Christian Lake. Continue eastward along Niagara Creek to its headwaters, then along the Clearwater River tributary across Mount Goodall and up the Rausch River to the glacier at its headwaters. From that glacier, continue eastward to the headwaters of the Canoe River, and then down the river to the north end of Canoe Reach. Continue along Packsaddle Creek to its headwaters, then traverse Emerald Ridge to Moose Lake and follow the Fraser River to the Yellowhead Pass.

Turn northward up the Alberta/BC border until reaching the intersection with Hiding Creek. Head northward along the creek to the Redwillow River. Follow the Redwillow southwest to Stony Lake, then connect up with Kinuseo Creek and continue eastward on the creek to the junction of Hook Creek and the Murray River. Follow the Murray River south to the junction of the Monkman Creek, then head southwest to Boon Taylor Peak. Follow the height of Land across Mt. Gauthier, then Mt. Jim Young to the Monkman Glacier. Continue southwest to Mt. Barton, then the Three Brothers Peak and down to the north end of Portage Lake. From Portage Lake, traverse westward to Mount Kenchuse, then Mount Beauregard, then Mount Averil and southward across Lost Lake to Barney Lake. Travel westward from there to Echo Lake. From Echo Lake, continue westward to Erickson Lake and then northward to Tang Lake. Traverse northward across Coffeepot Mountain, then westward to Fisher Lake, then Morton Lake, then Tyee Lake. From there, continue westward on the Muskeg River past Clarkson Lake to the headwaters.

Territory Area Size

The estimated size of our Traditional Territory is approximately 1,500,000 hectares.

Schedule

The study will take an estimated eighteen months to complete. The activities will be according to the following time line:

Phase	Duration (1 year)	Goals
Planning	Month 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish study infrastructure Community introduction of study Complete hiring Negotiation of Information Sharing Agreement Training of Community Researchers Define research methodology Development of database and storage system
Documentary Research	Month 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin archival research and analysis Develop a plan for interviews and ground-truthing Produce preliminary mapping.
Interviewing, Ground-truthing and Information Collation	Month 5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete archival research and analysis with community Conduct interviews, translation, and field review of cultural heritage sites Collate and cross-reference information with database, GIS and storage system Prepare Final Report Prepare Final Mapping Community follow-up
Final Report	Month 9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report and Mapping concluded Financial accounting reports Study assessment Transfer PHRD data to the Archaeology Branch

Deliverables

The following are the proposed deliverables for the four phases of the study:

Phase One: Planning

- Initial progress report outlining the establishment of the study;
- Financial accounting reports as determined by the Contract;
- Detailed research plan and methodology for phase 2 documentary research;
- Negotiation of Information Sharing Agreement.

Phase Two: Documentary Research

- Progress reports as determined by the Contract;
- 1:50,000 preliminary mapping based on the documentary research of priority areas within the study area;
- Preliminary mapping report discussing: location of the priority areas(s) within the traditional territory, source(s) of the land use information, and how the documentary information was recorded and mapped;
- Annotated bibliography;
- Detailed research plan and discussion of methodology for phase 3 interviewing and ground-truthing;
- Specifications of a database system which will store Traditional Use Site Inventory Form information;
- Financial accounting reports as determined by the Contract.

Phase Three: Interviewing, Ground-truthing and Information Collation

- Progress reports as determined by the Contract;
- Financial accounting reports as determined by the Contract.

Phase Four: Final Report

- Final study report.
- Final mapping of Traditional Use Sites in the study area. All information must be valid/accurate at the 1:50,000 scale or larger; a 1:20,000 map scale is preferred for operational planning. Information may be mapped using a Geographical Information System (GIS), paper copies, or mylar overlays; and
- Financial accounting reports as determined by the Contract.
- Transfer of PHRD information to the Archaeology Branch.

Methodology

The following methodological approach will guide TUIS information collection:

Community Engagement:

- The community will be notified 2 weeks in advance that a TUI Study will be conducted within the proposed study area.

Interviews:

- Interviewee selection:
 - The following criteria will be used to identify priority candidates;
 - Potential respondents must meet the following minimum prerequisites:
 - Be a Lheidli T'enneh Band member whose name appears on official band list;
 - Have their principal residence in Prince George BC or located within a 150km radius from the study area;
 - Be 19 years or older;
 - Be physically and mentally capable of doing an interview.
 - Respondents will also be selected based on high cultural use of the project study area.
 - The study will aim for a minimum of 15 respondents.
 - Respondents will be selected from the following categories: elders (8 respondents), adults (5 respondents), and youth (2 respondents).
- Interviewers will follow Lheidli T'enneh's TUI interview guidelines and ensure that interviewees sign release forms (including permission form);
 - Interview Room:
 - A designated interview room will be utilized unless the respondent has a disability that makes it difficult to come to a centralized workspace;
 - Centralized workspace allows interview to be conducted in a quiet manner, with proper lighting, space to move maps and equipment with ease, proper table space, privacy, and being un-interrupted;
 - Interview rooms will be in a secure location and locked when not in use;
 - Survey personnel have an ethical obligation to take security seriously;
 - Adequate lighting should be provided and fluorescent lighting should be avoided (create buzzing sound that impacts audio recording and also causes headaches).
 - Interview Recording:
 - All interviews will be recorded
 - Note taking slows the pace of the interview and can never capture the amount of detail picked up by an audio recording;
 - Recording is the only reliable option to prevent the loss of data during the interview;
 - May also capture data that might not be relevant for the immediate purpose but may be valuable in later years;
 - Recording reduces errors in map coding;
 - If respondent prefers not to be recorded, the interview will be conducted with a two-person interview team to allow for proper data capture.
 - Interviewer Mark Data:

- Interviewer is the only person who marks data during map biographies. The respondent should virtually never have a marker pen in hand. He or she should however, always be encouraged to use a pencil as a pointer, to precisely indicate locations.
- Individual Map Set:
 - Interviewers should always record a respondent data on that persons own set of biography maps;
 - Each respondent's interview should start with a clean set of maps (or plastic overlays);
 - Interviewers will avoid contamination. Contamination is said to occur when data sources aren't independent, such as when information is captured during group interviews or when a respondent sees another person's map.
- Interviews will be conducted one-on-one; two-person interview teams will be used when required;
- **Confidentiality:**
 - matters will be explained and discussed with each interviewee;
 - All people hired to collect, process and analyze survey data and produce the research product must be bound by a legal contract under which they commit to safeguarding the confidentiality of information.
- **Groundtruthing:**
 - Where deemed necessary, project sites will be subject to field reconnaissance and groundtruthing; the interviewer(s) will visit the project site location with interviewees prior to the interview session;
 - This allows the interviewee to remember aspects of their memory that is the direct result of being in the field.

Transcribing and Translation:

- Every interview will be transcribed. This means writing out of audio-recorded information, it is required regardless of the languages used in the research project;
- Allows for data to be accessible, this is important when the survey generates thousands of recorded facts about mapped sites;
- All interviews will be conducted in the Carrier language only when needed. Whenever possible, make the interview and audience language the same.

Literature Review:

- Relevant ethnographic and historical documents will be retrieved and reviewed for the purposes of documenting previously identified land and resource use, patterns of historic land and resource use, travel routes, and other information related to Lheidli T'enneh's Aboriginal Interests.

Archaeological Review:

- Archaeological records will be reviewed and compiled. Select sites associated with the Project may be identified for survey.

Mapping:

- will be developed with matters identified from oral interviews, literature search, archaeological records and any other relevant information;
- the source of the specific data shown on final maps must remain unknown to viewers;

Final Interview Data:

- This data will be stored in the Digital database within the Economic Development Office;
- All hard copies of maps, notes, research, documentation, and audio recordings will be stored in appropriate archival quality cabinets;
- All archival documentation will be converted appropriately to keep integrity of data.

Final Report:

- Results of activities undertaken in relation to the TUI study will be compiled into a Final Report for the proponent’s review;
- Interviewees will be provided with a suitable copy of the interview record and any maps that were used during the interview;
- Summary TUI findings; the nature of Lheidli T’enneh’s Rights, Title and interests within the study area, for the purposes of informing an understanding of the nature and characterization of impacts and their effects;
- Potential adverse effects and mitigation strategies/options;
- The report can be edited, amended, or updated based on new information.
- Recommended next steps.

Budget

SALARIES

Research Director:

Community Researcher / GIS operator: (1)

Community Researcher: (2)

Benefits:

TOTAL

FEES

Consultants:

Transcribers:

Translators:

TOTAL

HONORARIA

Cultural Advisors:

Cultural Advisors

TOTAL

TRAVEL

Transportation: Car mileage:

Car (rental) trip:

Air travel:

Accommodation:

Meals:

Per diem rates:

TOTAL

GROUND TRUTHING

Transportation: Car mileage

Helicopter time

Accommodation:

Camp fees

Gear Rental:

TOTAL

Archaeological work

TOTAL

RESEARCH MATERIALS

NTS Maps:

Trim Maps:

GPS Rental:

Archival photocopying:

TOTAL

ADMINISTRATION

Rent:

Contingency:

Administration:

TOTAL

BUDGET TOTAL

Contact

For further information, please contact:

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