



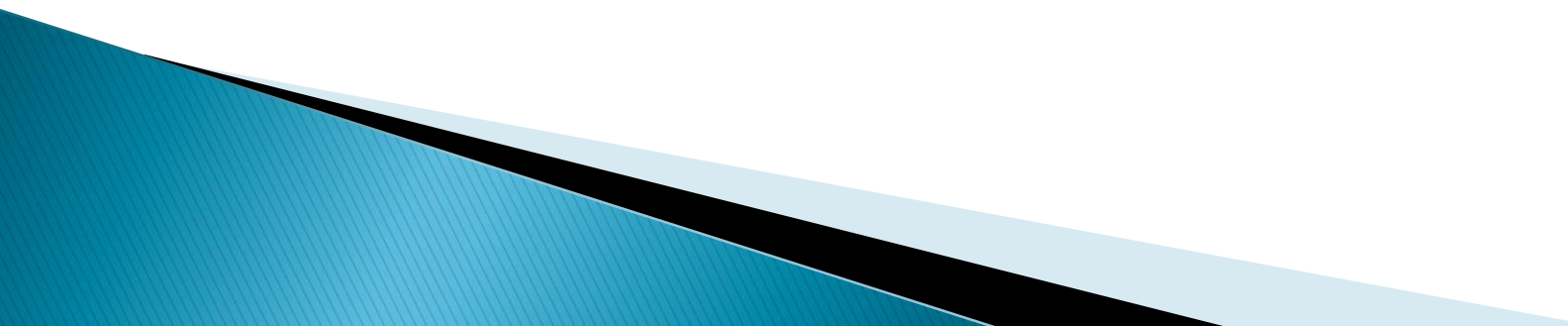
The Haisla Experience; Ten Years of Learning

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Chief Councilor

The Haisla

- ▶ 1 700 members
- ▶ Traditional territory on north coast of BC
- ▶ Experienced Industry since Alcan arrived in 1950s.

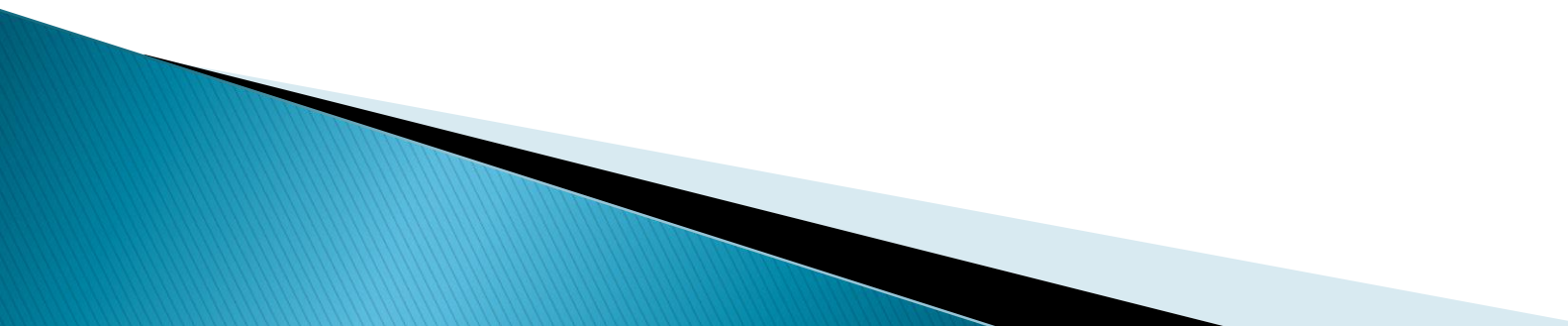
Business as Usual

- ▶ Indian Act and funding.
 - ▶ Treaty.
 - ▶ Aboriginal Rights and Title (ART).
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Business as Un-Usual

- ▶ Only economic development can produce meaningful, practical, every day benefits FN people want.
- ▶ Haisla way: Supplement all three processes with Economic Development (Own Source or Third Party)

The Indian Act

- ▶ Relevant through funding provided for health, education, other services.
 - ▶ Many strings attached, and penalties.
 - ▶ First in BC to receive ten-year block funding -- recognition of our financial management and discipline.
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Treaty

- ▶ Very complicated through negotiations as well as implementation
- ▶ Consume years and \$\$\$
- ▶ Mis-understandings. Sovereignty? Nationhood? Independence?
- ▶ Even under Treaty dependence on transfer payments and tight rules for our role.

ART

- ▶ Clear rules through caselaw, but “how” is anything but clear.
- ▶ All parties have expectations, all want progress but little agreement on process or outcomes.
- ▶ Realistically can all parties achieve 100% of what they want?

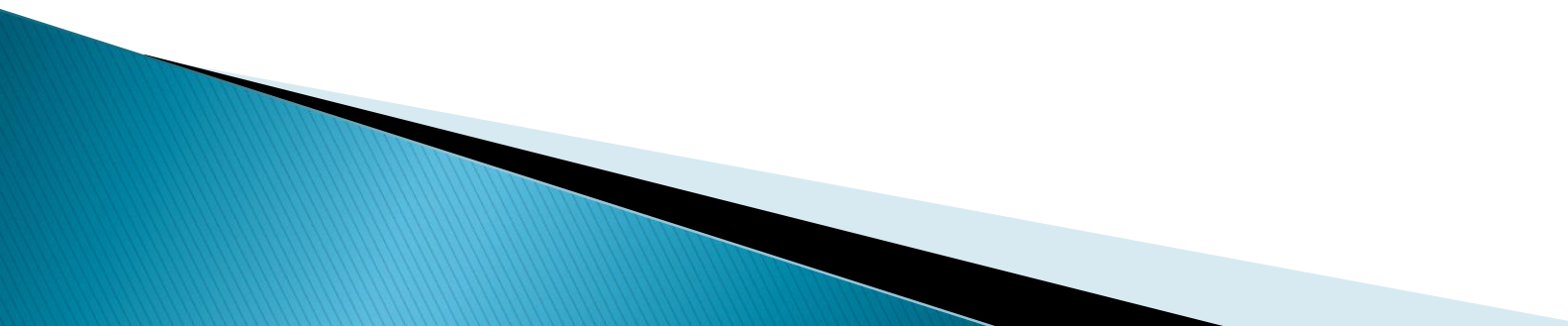
Tsih'quot'in

- ▶ Was only a matter of time. Does not dramatically change what was already underway in BC.
- ▶ Need to reconcile aboriginal title with Crown title -- and to what extent?
- ▶ Policies, authority, legislation, shared decision-making. Who takes on what?

Haisla Solution

- ▶ Do the parties (us, gov't, proponents) want to resolve issues?
- ▶ We have to know specifically what we want. Not always clear.
- ▶ “Independence and self-determination” -- what does that specifically mean?

What it means to Haisla..

- ▶ Land -- ownership and control through reserves /ATR, fee simple, lease, whatever works.
 - ▶ Determined and strategic focus. Resist distraction politics.
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Today

- ▶ We are achieving everything that Treaty promised, and everything our people wanted.
- ▶ Within the existing systems and structures.

Results

- ▶ HNC is responsible for -- bereavement fund, sports fund, elders fund, health fund, land management, some permitting decisions, infrastructure -- and more.
 - ▶ It is one of the toughest roads we've ever taken but ...
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