KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION
STRATEGIC PLAN

2023–2026

Kwänlin Dän Naįįį yu

KWANLIN PEOPLE LIVE HERE

OUR VISION

We are strengthening our Nation ***together***.

OUR MISSION

We empower our Citizens to come together and make our Nation stronger.

OUR VALUES

- We are strong together. We help each other to feel that we belong.
- We always work on deepening our connections with the land, each other, ourselves, and our culture.
- We all have value and we share our knowledge and skills with each other.
- We celebrate creativity and always try find better ways to do things.
- We listen with our hearts.
- We are self-sufficient.
- We are self-determining and we respect each other's right to self-determination.
- We are caretakers of the land and our Nation. Our roots go deep into this land.
- We honour and respect our elders. We honour and uphold the dignity of all.

OUR PRIORITIES

1

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH CIRCLES OF SUPPORT.

2

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH OUR NATION'S GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS.

3

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH KWÄDÄY DÄN K'E (OUR LONG AGO PEOPLE'S WAY).

4

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS AND NATION THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Nàts'etsat WE ARE STRONG – STRENGTH

Alhayea TOGETHER – CONNECTION

KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION

PRIORITY 1

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS
THROUGH CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

THIS MEANS

We all have something to offer.
We want to ask every Citizen:

How would you like to help our nation?

And we want to help make that happen. With the help of Citizens and staff, we will redesign the way we support our Citizens. Together, we will design a platform based on circles of support that help our Citizens to develop and share their gifts with our Nation. This is the 2023-2026 Council's primary initiative.

This new approach will not be a program that people have to fit into. The circles of support will be available to everyone. The circles of support will be based on the following four principles:

i. **Everyone is unique.** There is no one-size fits all. The approach needs to be flexible, adapted for each Citizen.

ii. **Equity.** Anyone can use the Circles of Support, but support will be provided according to need and not all supports will be the same.

iii. **Personal responsibility.** Everyone has a duty to be responsible for their own lives as much as possible.

iv. **Everyone has something to contribute.** We all have talents and abilities that help to strengthen our nation.

The circles of support will help our Citizens to:

i. Feel a sense of belonging;

ii. Be self-determining while also maintaining responsibility;

iii. Develop their skills, knowledge, and passions; and

iv. Share their gifts with our Nation.

By returning to a more-traditional way of doing things, we are creating a pathway for all our future generations.

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, WE WILL...

1. Ensure the design and implementation of a circle-based support platform rooted in our traditional ways that will help all Citizens flourish.
2. Undertake processes that will modify existing programs, policies, budgets and organizational structure to implement the new design of support.
3. Improve access to programs and supports for all Citizens.
4. Advance the supportive health and housing initiative that will provide care for the unique needs of those struggling with mental health and addictions.

PRIORITY 2

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH OUR NATION'S GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

THIS MEANS

Our Vision is to empower our Citizens to make the Nation stronger.

A system of governance must be both responsive and effective while ensuring that there are appropriate accountability and controls in place.

Citizens need to know both their rights and their responsibilities for our government to be effective. When the government operations are more accessible and communications more effective Citizens will have a better understanding of how they can be involved more deeply in the government and why it matters.

When Citizens participate in shaping our Nation, they deserve to know if and how they have been heard. They deserve to know that their participation matters. This is an important part of empowering our Citizens.

Working for our government helps make this happen. By adopting an effective Citizen-first hiring policy we help to send a message that Citizens have a place in their government.

The General Assembly is made up of Citizens and the Assembly expresses the will of the Citizens. Their direction needs to be seriously considered and, where appropriate, implemented.

Committees made up of empowered Citizens helps make our government stronger. We can support effective committees by ensuring that they are made up of empowered representatives of the Nation.

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, WE WILL...

1. Engage in reviews of the Constitution, the Governance Act and the Financial Administration Act.
2. Strengthen our Citizens understanding of governance policy, legislation development and budgeting processes and outcomes through workshops, engagement sessions and training opportunities.
3. Continue to grow and develop our government and our community through regular public engagement processes and opportunities that result in increased Citizen participation.
4. Build a trained and skilled KDFN workforce through effective hiring practices, training programs and mentorship opportunities.
5. Support General Assembly resolutions by timely consideration and implementation of appropriate resolutions.
6. Advance Committee effectiveness by ensuring appropriate composition that will support desired outcomes.

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH OUR NATION'S GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

2

PRIORITY 3

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS THROUGH KWÄDÄY DÄN K'E (OUR LONG AGO PEOPLE'S WAY)

THIS MEANS

We are our languages.

Our languages are integral for program development and planning and to identify Citizen's needs. Self-Identity is integral to each Citizen's pride in self and their overall wellbeing. This needs to be brought into all areas of our government.

We need to increase opportunities for Citizens to connect with the land and each other. This includes culture camps, cultural activities workshops, celebrations, ceremony, and gatherings.

Kwanlin Dün Families need opportunities to honour their identity and celebrate self with Elders, traditional knowledge keepers, researchers, language learners, and with educational practitioners that can help them learn about their familial lineages, and cultural and linguistic origins.

Youth developing connections with Elders is an important way to train our future Elders and leaders, and to ensure the intergenerational transmission of our ways.

We must ensure the protection of KDFN's cultural, environmental, and natural resource values and interests.

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, WE WILL...

1. Undertake processes that will support the development and implementation of a Language and Cultural Reawakening Strategy that focuses on heritage, ancestry, genealogy, intensive language and culture awareness, and land-based programming.
2. Work with departments and Citizens to develop and implement a full-time intensive/immersion language program.
3. Continue to increase the opportunities for cultural connection through on-the-land cultural camps and other cultural activities for all Citizens.
4. Continue to create, explore, grow and develop the land-based and culturally rooted education programs in early learning and school-aged Citizens.
5. Take steps to ensure opportunities are provided that deepen and strengthen the connections of Elders and Youth.
6. Work with KDFN departments and other governments to continue planning and developing policies and guidance that protects our values and natural resources.

PRIORITY 4

EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS AND NATION THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THIS MEANS

Housing can contribute to dependence or self-sufficiency. We want our Citizens to be self-sufficient.

Having legislative authority over housing on our Settlement Lands is an important aspect of self-determination.

There is a shortage of housing and it is preventing our Citizens from flourishing.

A Housing Strategy needs to consider the complex needs of Citizens and effectively address the presenting needs.

There will be significant infrastructure development over the coming decades and the Community Services Department needs to be prepared.

Healthy environments lead to healthy people and healthy families. Mental, emotional and spiritual health can involve respite opportunities for our Citizens must include year-round access to Jackson Lake Healing Camp.

Working with our development corporation Chu Níikwän LP, we aim to advance projects on settlement land that generates revenue for our First Nation. We are also assessing and pursuing business and development opportunities. For example, KDFN's recent purchase of Sky High Wilderness Ranch.

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, WE WILL...

1. Continuously improve policies and strategies that will result in reduced waiting lists for home rentals.
2. Explore the development of a KDFN Landlord and Tenant Act.
3. Create a 5-Year Capital Plan.
4. Improve and advance housing sustainability by reviewing and restructuring the Community Service Department.
5. Build and support a sustainable leadership model at Jackson Lake Healing Camp and ensure greater access year-round to traditional knowledge and healing practices in a land-based environment for all Citizens.
6. Create a long-term strategic vision for Sky High Wilderness Ranch.
7. Support Chu Níikwän LP to be successful as the economic arm of KDFN.
8. Support Citizens to realize Homeownership

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