



XENI GWET'IN

NENQAY USE PLAN

SUMMARY



PREPARED BY

Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government
October 2024

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Prepared by Michelle Myers, Nicole Cesta and Samantha Green
Technical Advising by Krystie Babalos and Emily Campbell

NENQAY USE PLAN

Nenqay, which encompasses nen (land), tū (water), and all living beings, is the foundation of all life. As the T̄silhqot'in people of Xenigwet'in, we have planned, cared for and been sustained by nenqay since the time of our ʔēsigham (ancestors).

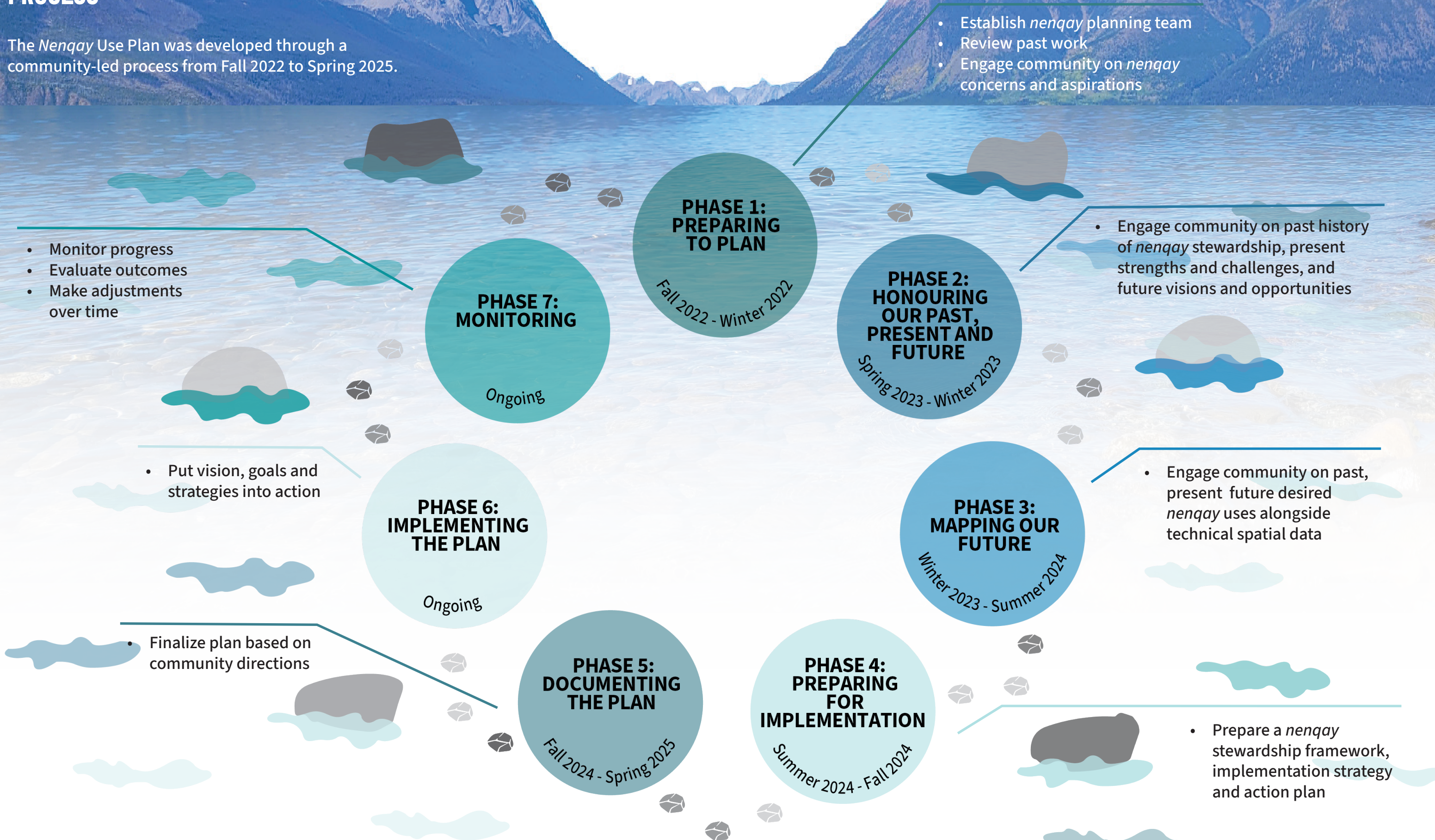
The Xenigwet'in *Nenqay* Use Plan defines our community's vision, values, directions and pathways for the stewardship of the Xenigwet'in caretaker area. The Plan is an expression of Xenigwet'in First Nations Government and community's views and will guide the activities of all people within our land and waters.

The purpose of the *Nenqay* Use Plan is to guide Xenigwet'in priorities as they relate to the control, protection, and stewardship of our caretaker area and wider T̄silhqot'in territory by:

- Exercising our inherent rights and responsibilities.
- Guiding decision-making and governance related to *nenqay*.
- Promoting community health, well-being, and connection to *nenqay*.
- Preserving and revitalizing T̄silhqot'in culture, language, traditions, heritage and spirituality.
- Strengthening our role as caretakers of the *nenqay*.

PROCESS

The *Nenqay* Use Plan was developed through a community-led process from Fall 2022 to Spring 2025.



METHODS

1. Community Knowledge Gathering

Over 130 community members, including elders, children, youth, hunters, trappers, fishers and knowledge keepers, shared knowledge on the history of *nenqay* stewardship, current *nenqay* conditions and future visions, directions and actions.

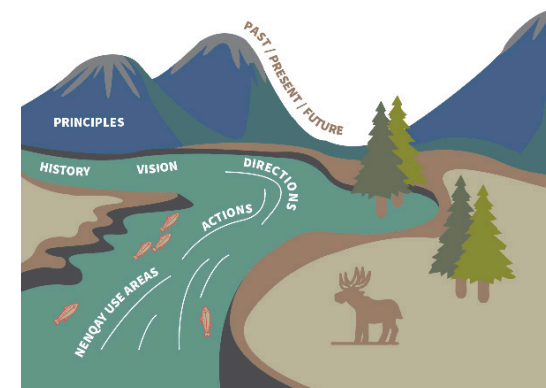


2. Nenqay Literature Review

60 Xeni Gwet'in laws, plans and reports were reviewed and 11 informed the *nenqay* stewardship framework. Best practices from Indigenous land use plans were also reviewed.

3. Situational Analysis

The findings from the literature review and community engagement were woven together to summarize *nenqay* strengths, challenges and opportunities.

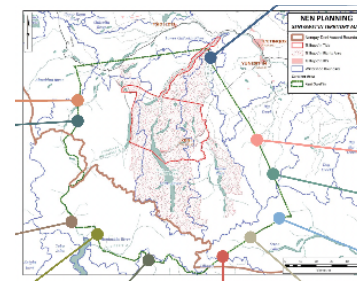


4. Nenqay Stewardship Framework

The *nenqay* stewardship framework defines how we want to govern and manage *nenqay*, honouring our past history and guiding our future vision, principles, directions, goals, objectives and actions.

5. Nenqay Mapping

A variety of mapping 'tools' are being used to develop *nenqay* use areas/zones.



6. Action Planning

An action plan was created to outline how to achieve the vision of the Plan.

7. Legal Advising

Legal advice will ensure the Plan aligns with T̓silhqot'in rights and governance.

LISTENING & LEARNING



EVENTS

- 15 PEOPLE WORLD CAFE (2022)
- 33 PEOPLE DAY OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (JUNE 5, 2023)
- 10 PEOPLE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE (JUNE 6, 2023)
- 15 PEOPLE WORLD CAFE (JUNE 13, 2023)
- 15 PEOPLE WORLD CAFE (SEPT 19, 2023)
- COMMUNITY NENQAY MAPPING BRAINSTORM (JULY 3, 2024)



SURVEYS

- 60 RESPONSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY
- 77 RESPONSES STRATEGIC BENCHMARK REPORT SURVEY
- NENQAY MAPPING FIELD SURVEY



INTERVIEWS

- 5 ELDERS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ELDERS INTERVIEWS



NENQAY ADVISORY GROUP

- 11 PEOPLE SEPT 22, 2023 MEETING
- 5 PEOPLE DEC 18, 2023 MEETING

WE'VE GATHERED WITH 130+ PEOPLE

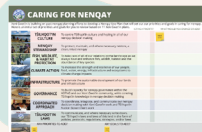


1 NEWSLETTER

1 CHIEF AND COUNCIL BRIEF



1 NENQAY PLAN PRESENTATION



8 POSTERS

- NENQAY VISION POSTER
- NENQAY PRINCIPLES POSTER
- NENQAY PRIORITIES AND GOALS POSTER
- NENQAY ENGAGEMENT POSTER
- NENQAY MAPPING POSTER
- NENQAY STORIES POSTER

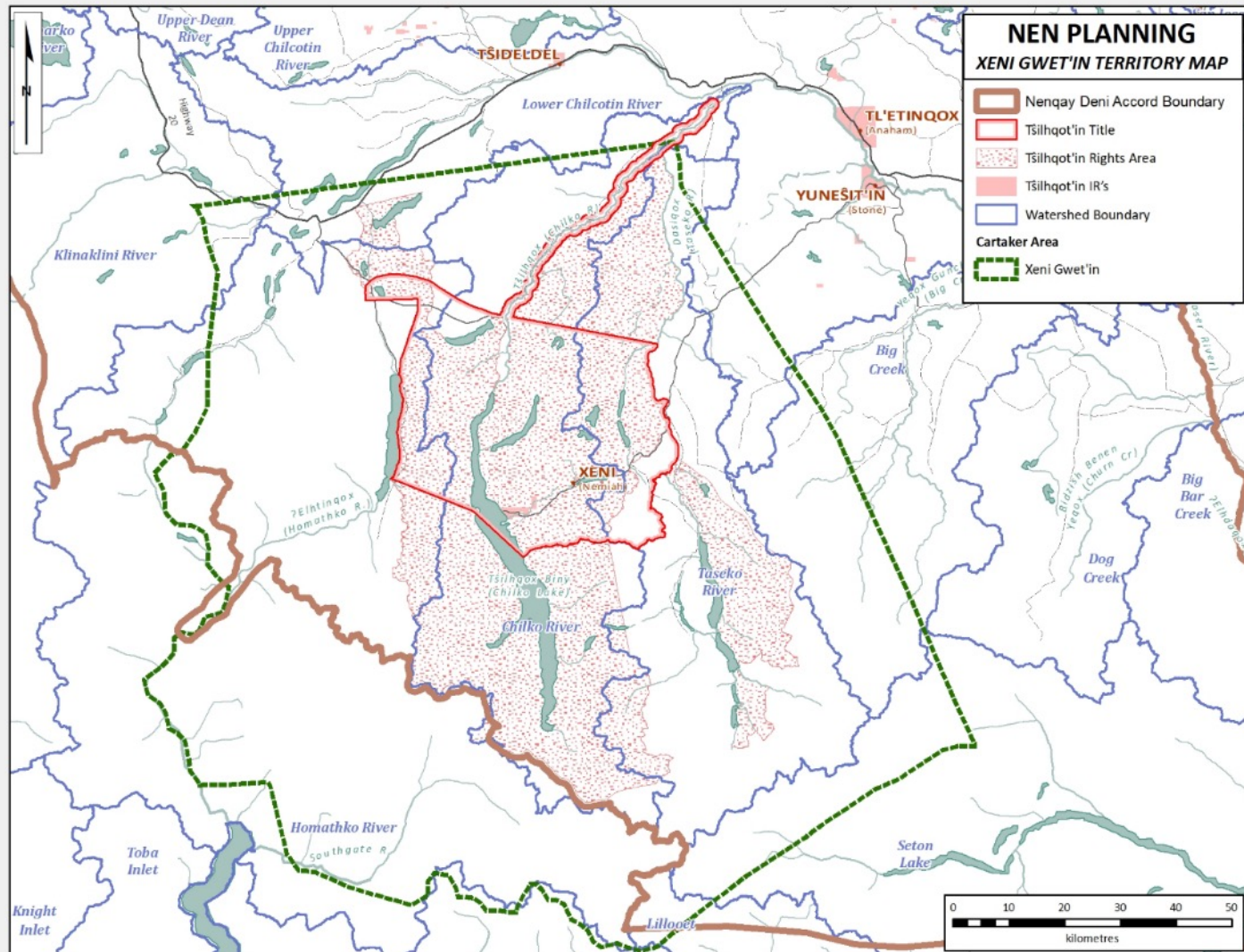
SHARING & MATERIALS

SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government is one of six communities forming the T̓silhqot'in Nation, located in the T̓silhqot'in territory. The name T̓silhqot'in loosely translates to "people of the river" or "people of the blue water". Xeni Gwet'in means "people of Xeni", with Xeni referring to the Nemiah Valley.

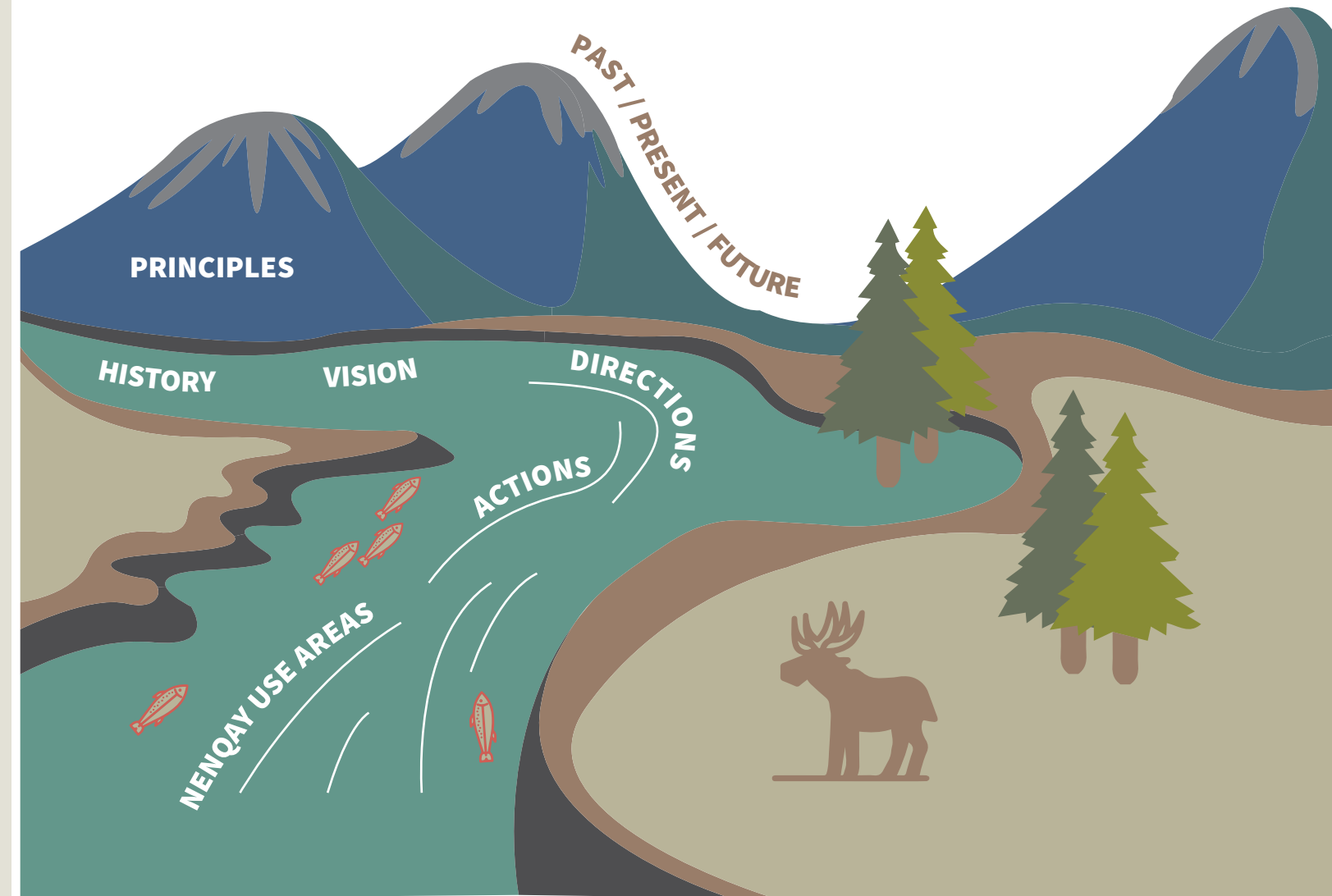
The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area is a vast and pristine wilderness within the T̓silhqot'in territory, located in the Chilko Forest Region of British Columbia. This area stretches across the drainage systems of Chilko Lake and Chilko River, as well as the Taseko Lake and River system, and the Tsuniah, Nemiah, and Elkin Valleys. The *Nenqay* Use Plan covers the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area as shown in the map below.

Xeni Gwet'in Territory



NENQAY STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

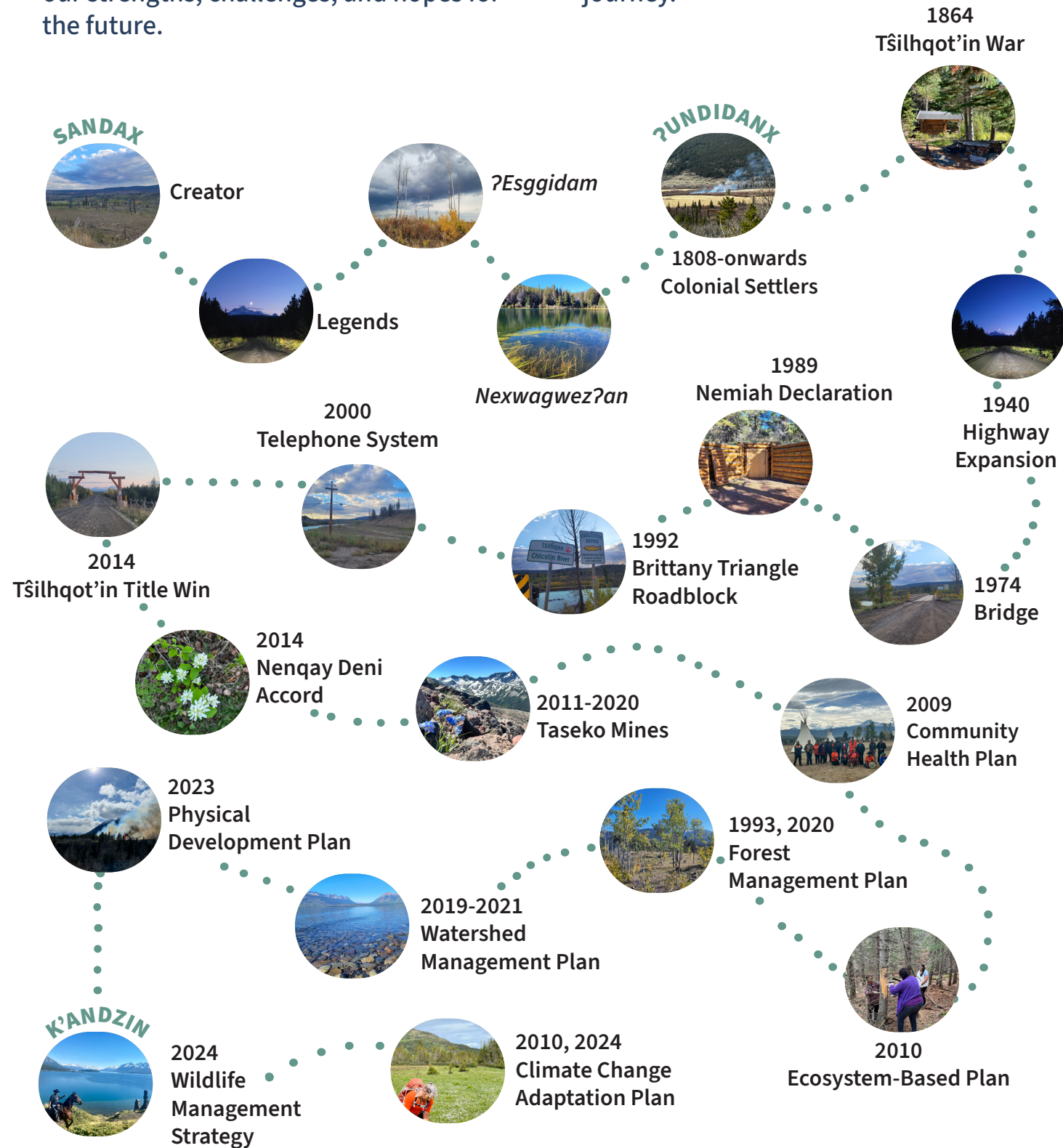
The Xeni Gwet'in are stewards of our caretaker area, dedicated to sustainable development. Here is a proposed framework for *nenqay* stewardship, and we are seeking community input on how to improve it.



OUR HISTORY

When planning for the future, it's important to reflect on our past history to understand our strengths, challenges, and hopes for the future.

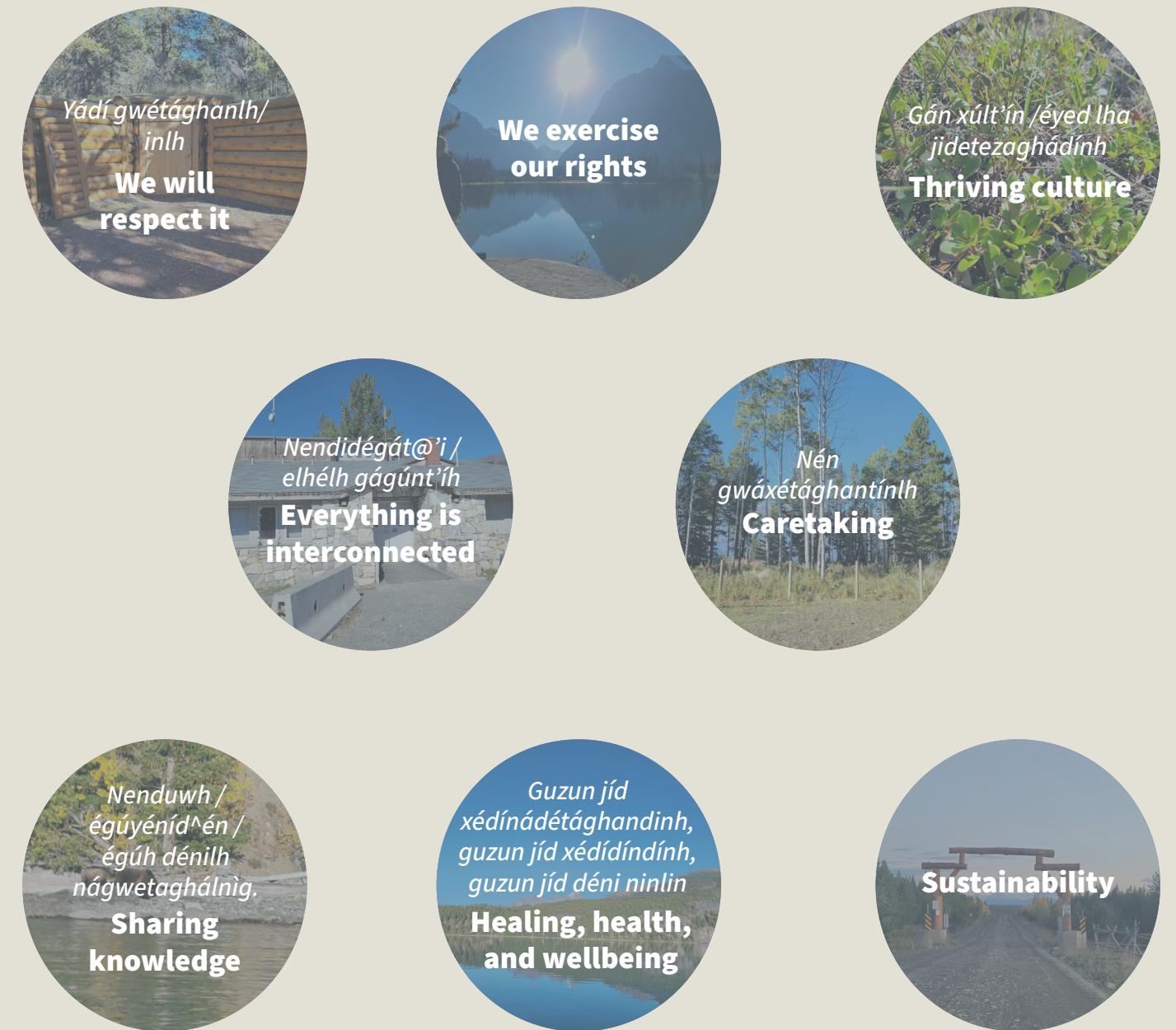
The visual below shows key milestones in the Xeni Gwet'in *nenqay* stewardship journey.



VISION

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government will continue to uphold our inherent responsibilities as caretakers of the lands in the same manner of our *?essidgham*. The management of the *nenqay* in any boundary will be done in accordance with our traditional values to ensure the continuation of our nation sovereignty.

PRINCIPLES



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



TŜILHQOT'IN CULTURE

Preserve and revitalize Xeni Gwet'in culture, language, knowledge and livelihoods in all of our *nenqay* planning, decision-making and action.



NEN (LAND) MANAGEMENT

First take care of the land, as the land takes care of all of us. Protect, maintain, restore and develop a healthy and intact *nenqay* and manage land uses to support ecological integrity, cultural heritage, and the health of the land and people.



TŪ (WATER) MANAGEMENT

Protect, maintain, restore, and holistically manage watersheds as our Xeni Gwet'in people have always done.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Protect and sustainably manage healthy and diverse forests to preserve and responsibly harvest plants and medicines for the health of our community.



FISH, WILDLIFE & HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Care for all our relations by maintaining healthy relationships and habitats for the animals that provide our food and medicine.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Control our food systems by ensuring access to culturally appropriate, healthy, and sustainable food.



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Responsibly develop our lands where necessary with sustainable water, energy, sanitary, waste, buildings, transportation and telecommunications.



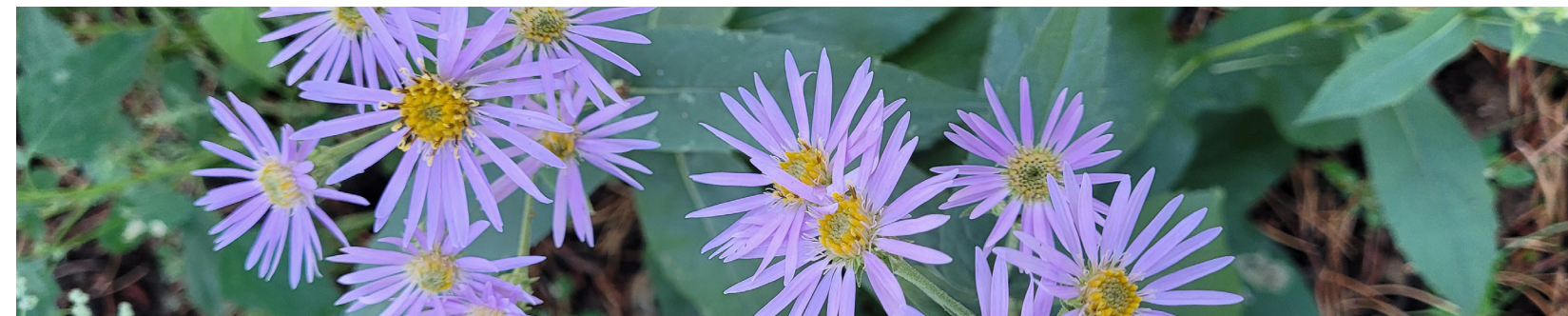
CLIMATE ACTION

Increase the health, safety and preparedness of the Xeni Gwet'in community and caretaker area to the impacts of climate change.



STRONG GOVERNANCE

Strengthen *nenqay* governance within the XGFNG and community by continuing to assert our rights, title and jurisdiction, document Tŝilhqot'in laws, center Tŝilhqot'in knowledge in all *nenqay* decision-making and enhance collaboration and communication between XGFNG, TNG and external partners.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Sechanalyagh (thank you) for being a part of shaping the *Nenqay* Use Plan. As we continue on the path of *nenqay* stewardship planning, we invite you to stay engaged and share your insights.

Your voice is essential in planning for a resilient future—let’s work together to protect our lands, waters, and community.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Join a community event to share your ideas for *nenqay* mapping and stewardship and help prioritize future actions.
- Talk to Niki Cesta to share your knowledge. You can reach her at (647) 637 7942 and Nicole.Cesta@xeni-gwetin.ca.



SECHANALYAGH (THANK YOU)

The *Nenqay* Use Plan is a reflection of the knowledge and dedication of the Tsilhqot’in people of Xeni Gwet’in — past, present and future. The Plan is dedicated to our ancestors and elders, who have shared their knowledge and wisdom over time. We also dedicate the Plan to future generations, who will carry forward the stewardship of Xeni Gwet’in *nenqay* and the implementation of this Plan, guided by our elders and knowledge keepers.

Thank you to the many collaborators and contributors to the *Nenqay* Use Plan for your leadership, guidance and support.

Chief and Council

Chief Roger William
Councillor James Lulua Jr.
Councillor Stephanie Quilt

Xeni Gwet’in Government

Dalton Baptiste
Michelle Myers
Samantha Green
Nicole Cesta
Lori Saunders
John Lerner
Edmund Haines

Nenqay Advisory Group

Xeni Lulua
Dinah Lulua
Cameron Lulua
Patrick Lulua
Jacqueline Merritt
David Setah

Community Members

Alex Lulua
Betty Lulua
Doreen Lulua
James Lulua Sr.
Sonya Lulua
Elsie Quilt
Marty Quilt
Vera Quilt
Kaleena Rosette
Timothy Rosette
Laura Setah
Evans Stump
Maryann Solomon
Phyllis William
Annie C. Williams
Curtis William
Eileen William

Children and Youth

Brooklyn	Hudson	Kenneth
Coda	Jessie John	Landen
Daniela	Jocelyn	Nathan
Eddie	Juniper	Sylvie

A special thank you to the non-human relatives of Xeni Gwet’in who inspire this work and who are always with the lands and waters.

