XENI GWET'IN
FIRST NATIONS GOVERNMENT
NENQAY USE PLAN

Chief and Council Meeting
By Nicole Cesta, Samantha Green, Krystie Babalos and Emily Campbell
December 16, 2024

AGENDA

TIME	ITEM
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Welcome & Opening
9:10 AM - 9:30 AM	*Nenqay* Use Plan Overview & Discussion
9:30 AM - 9:59 AM	Nenqay Implementation Plan & Discussion
10:00 AM	Closing

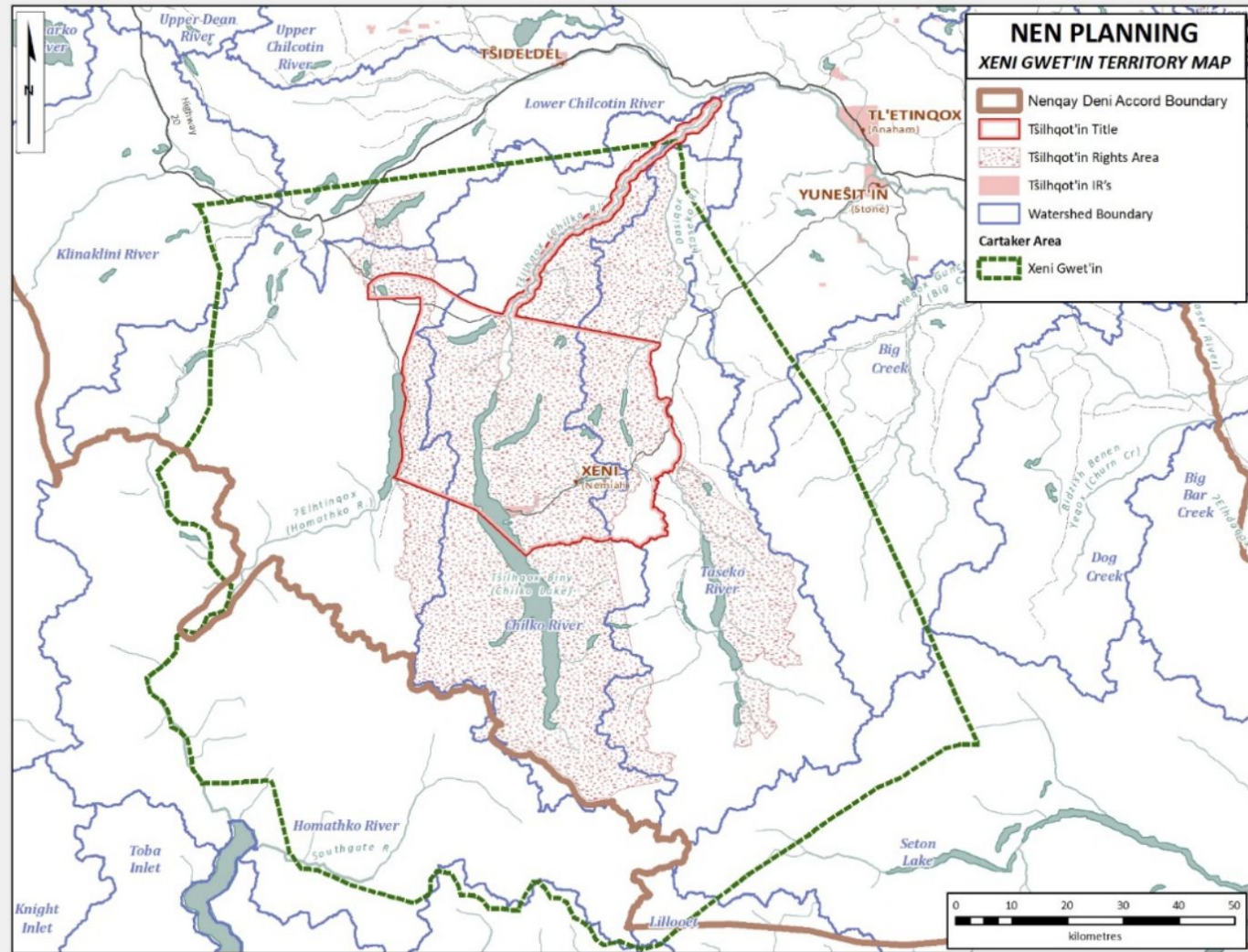# OVERVIEW

NENQAY USE PLAN

A guide for the stewardship of the Xeni Gwet'in territory, with the aim to:

- Exercise our inherent rights and responsibilities
- Strengthen our role as caretakers
- Guide *nenqay* decision-making
- Promote community health and well-being
- Preserve and revitalize culture and language
- Maintain and restore clean, intact ecosystems and watersheds
- Protect and care for fish, wildlife, and their habitats
- Support sustainable livelihoods and infrastructure
- Support Xeni Gwet'in people to share and learn Tŝilhqot'in knowledge and practice our way of life
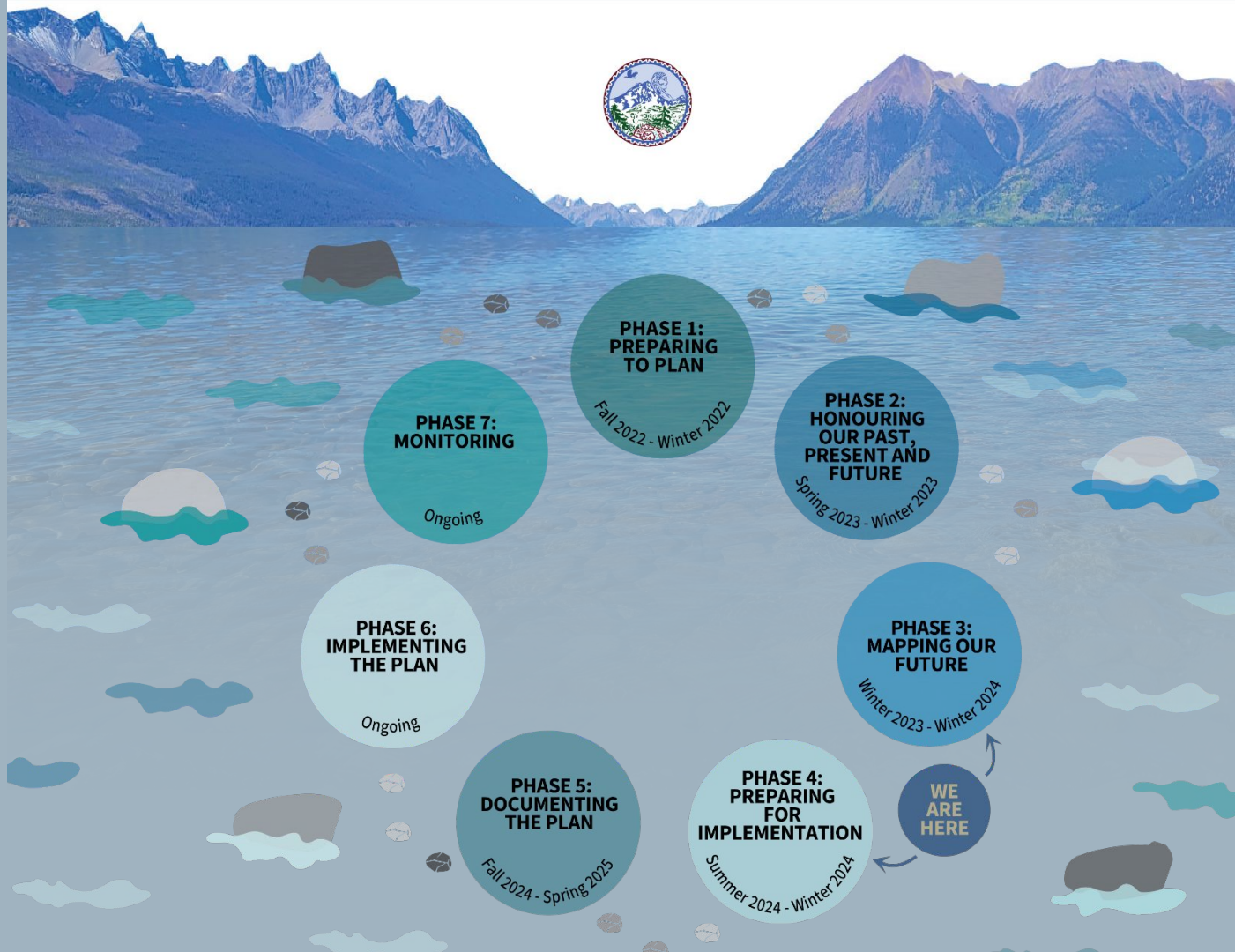
SCOPE

The *Nenqay* Use Plan is focused on the Xeni Gwet'in territory.
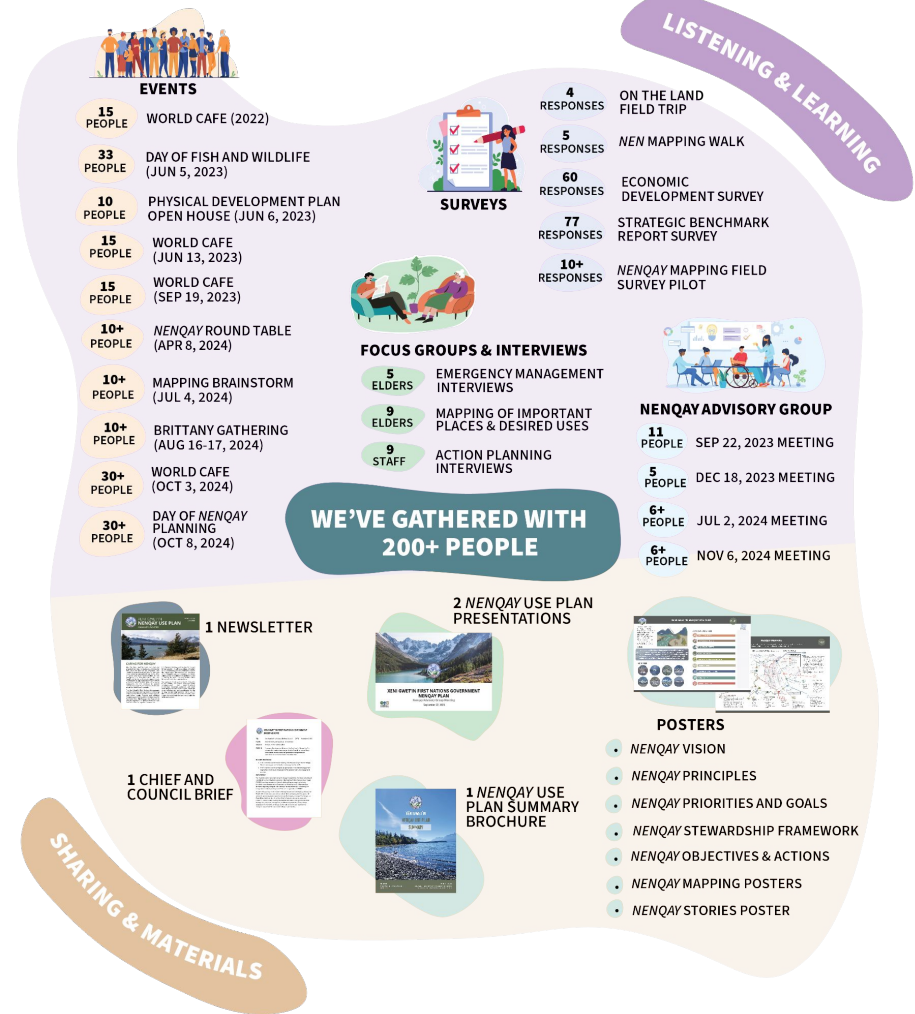
PROCESS

The *Nenqay* Use Plan is being created through a community-led process from Fall 2022 to Spring 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have been gathering with:

- Leadership
- Elders
- Children and Youth
- Members (On and Off Reserve)
- Community Groups
- Knowledge Keepers
- Xeni Gwet'in and TNG Staff

2024 EVENTS

100+ Elders, children, youth, knowledge keepers, members, and staff were engaged at:

10+ ppl	*Nenqay* Round Table (April 8, 2024)
10+ ppl	**Mapping Brainstorm (**July 4, 2024)
6+ ppl	*Nenqay* **Advisory Group (**July 2 & Nov 6, 2024)
10+ ppl	**Brittany Gathering (**August 16-17, 2024)
4 ppl	**On the Land Field Trip (**August 21-22, 2024)
10+ ppl	**World Cafe (**Oct 3, 2024)
30+ ppl	**A Day of *Nenqay* Planning (**Oct 8, 2024)
5 ppl	**Nen Mapping Walk (**Oct 9, 2024)
9 ppl	**Elders Gathering (**Oct 9, 2024)
9 ppl	**Staff Interviews (**Oct 10-Nov 14, 2024)

EVENT FOCUS

Nenqay Stewardship Framework

Nenqay Action Plan

Nenqay Mapping

VISION FOR OUR NENQAY

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 *Ɂeŝǧgidam*. 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

Yádí gwétághanlh/ inlh
We will respect it

We exercise our rights

Gán xúlt'ín /éyed lha jidetezaghádính
Thriving culture

Nendidégát@'i / elhélh gágúnt'íh
Everything is interconnected

Nén gwáxétághantínlh
Caretaking

Nenduwh / égúyéníd^én / égúh dénilh nágwetaghálnìg.
Sharing knowledge

Guzun jíd xédínádétághandinh, guzun jíd xédídíndính, guzun jíd déni ninlin
Healing, health, and wellbeing

Sustainability

NENQAY STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

PAST / PRESENT / FUTURE

PRINCIPLES

HISTORY

VISION

DIRECTIONS

ACTIONS

NENQAY USE AREAS

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

TŜILHQOT'IN CULTURE

NEN (LAND) MANAGEMENT

TŪ (WATER) MANAGEMENT

FOREST MANAGEMENT

FISH, WILDLIFE & HABITAT MANAGEMENT

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

CLIMATE ACTION

STRONG GOVERNANCE

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation Plan outlines pathways for achieving the vision and strategic directions, with a practical action planning tool.

Who It Serves

- **Chief and Council**
  - Support decision-making and resource allocations.
  - Track progress and share milestones and impacts.
- **Community Members**
  - Share goals and priorities.
  - Document actions for all generations.
  - Encourage involvement in stewardship.
- **Staff**
  - Inform XG strategic plan.
  - Guide implementation with priority actions, timelines, roles, and resource needs.
- **Partners/Grantors**
  - Highlight shared goals and collaborations.
  - Secure support by showing actions.

ACTION PLAN

Development Milestones Achieved:

1. **Literature Review:** 30 goals, 95 objectives and 313 actions from 33 XG plans + 30 reports.
2. **Community Support:** Actions prioritized by NAG, members, elders, and staff via event posters and interviews.
3. **Categorization**: Organized into **9 strategic directions with 31 goals, 97 objectives, and 364 actions** that are very high, high, moderate and ongoing priorities.

ACTION PLAN

Upcoming Development Milestones

4. **Community Support:** Continue to engage members on priority actions.

5. **Feasibility Evaluation:** Staff to assess actions for financial cost and staffing and capacity.

6. **Prioritization Score:** Identify most impactful and feasible actions.

7. **Implementation Work Planning:**

   - **What:** Action type and scale.
   - **Who:** Lead, support and primary audiences.
   - **How:** Key tasks for first six months.
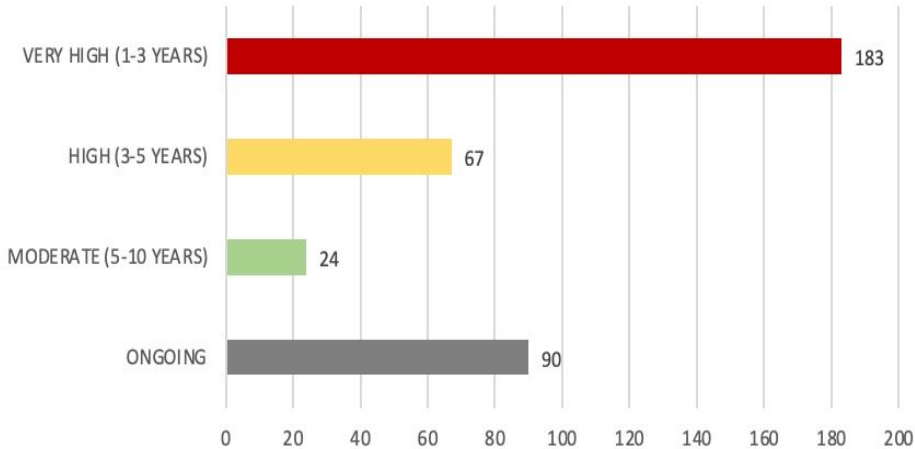   - **When:** Timelines and status.

Nen (Land) Management

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

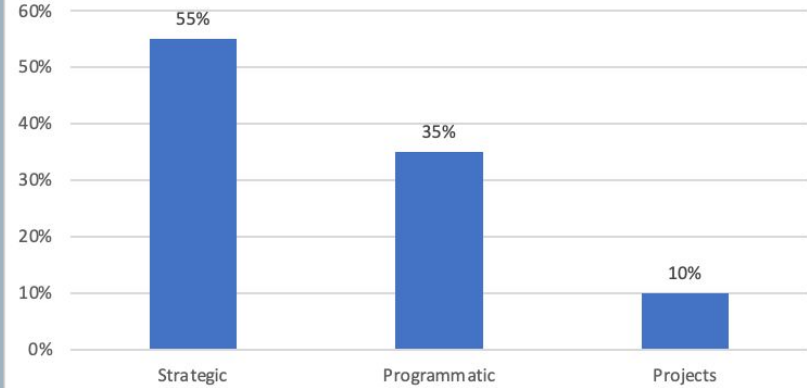| GOAL	OBJECTIVE	#	ACTION	Ranking (2024): Very High / High / Moderate	Ranking (2025): Very High / High / Moderate	Financial Cost: Low / Moderate / High	Staffing / Capacity: No / Maybe / Yes	Total Score	Scale: Strategic / Programmatic / Project	Type: Regulation / Jurisdictional Planning / Policy / Stewardship / Knowledge Building / Outreach / Commemoration / Partnership / Capacity Building	Audience: Internal / External	Lead	Interested	Key Steps in First 3 Months (e.g., meetings, hiring, training, research, funding)
Protect, maintain, restore and develop, where necessary, our lands in alignment with our values.	Protect culturally and ecologically important landscapes and sites.	1	Identify and map sensitive ecosystems/sites for protection with Elders	Very High					Strategic	Planning	External	John		
		2	Protect key cultural sites and ecosystems: gathering/camping areas, village sites, homesteads, cabins, quigley holes, burial/cremation sites, sacred/spiritual areas, fishing sites and medicine harvesting sites.	Very High					Strategic	Planning	External	John		
		3	Limit fragmentation of NGKA by roads, industry and development.	Very High					Programmatic	Stewardship	External	John		
		4	Deactivate/decommission unnecessary roads.	Very High					Project	Stewardship	External	John		
	Plan and operate land management protocols that define human use and protected areas	5	Plan, apply and operate land management protocols, regulations and permits for specific areas.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		a	Rights and Title Area: industry-free, recreational areas with visitor/hunter permits, limits and allowed paths.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		b	Special Cultural & Environmental Areas: protect mountains, water bodies, gathering areas, village sites, quigley holes, burial/ cremation sites, sacred/spiritual areas and medicine harvesting sites.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		c	Community Range: create collective livestock ranges, restore plants for livestock, and ensure fair access, fees and eco-friendly jobs.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		d	Commercial Range: support sustainable ranges, with fair roles, and one license and payment.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		e	Transition: preserve wild plants, allow limited use for wildlife, and use earth-friendly products.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		f	Fish & Wildlife: protect wilderness and habitat, manage access to traplines and fishing sites, and permit guide outfitters/pack/individual trips.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		g	Rehabilitation: Restore plants and ecosystems, stop erosion of grasslands and support jobs.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		h	Recreation: allow respectful use of campgrounds, swimming, boating, hiking areas.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		i	Trails & Movement: trails and corridors for traditional use and regular/seasonal movement.	Very High / High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
			Create fishing and hunting guidelines (e.g. no commercial fishing in rivers, no hunting wildlife younger than 3 years, no hunting in the spring, no paying to hunt)	Very High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
	Establish sustainable land use and design guidelines	6	Develop development permit protocols that:	Very High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		a	Mandate Buffers Around Water Bodies: zones to protect aquatic ecosystems.	Very High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		b	Require Archaeological Studies: Ensure the identification and preservation of cultural heritage sites prior to development.	Very High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
		c	Enforce Environmental Management Plans (EMP): Require comprehensive EMPs for large-scale construction projects to mitigate environmental impacts.	Very High					Strategic	Regulation	External			
	Continue holistic management of land as our people have always done	7	Establish and monitor key indicators of ecosystem health						Programmatic	Knowledge Building	External			
		8	Continue climate modeling of ecosystem changes	Very High / High / Moderate					Strategic	Knowledge Building	External			
		9	Study the ecological footprint of KG community	Moderate					Strategic	Knowledge Building	External			
		10	Assess cumulative effects on ecosystem health	Very High / High / Moderate					Strategic	Knowledge Building	External			
Diversify our economy to support a self-reliant, climate adaptive community that	Diversify economy through eco-tourism	11	Create Tourism Plan for eco-friendly tourism hosted by KG	High / Moderate					Strategic	Planning	Internal			
		a	Ecotourism activities (non-motorized: riding, rafting, boating, guided fishing, agritourism visits to ranches)	Moderate					Strategic	Planning	External			
		b	Develop Phase II Open Yen Business Plan.						Strategic	Planning	External			
		c	Assess snowcat/heli-skiing in Yeketa Valley.	High					Strategic	Planning	External			
		12	Train youth as tourism guides and storytellers	Very High / High / Moderate					Programmatic	Capacity Building	External			

ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Community Support: ~46 community members and staff prioritized 313 actions based on impact and urgency.

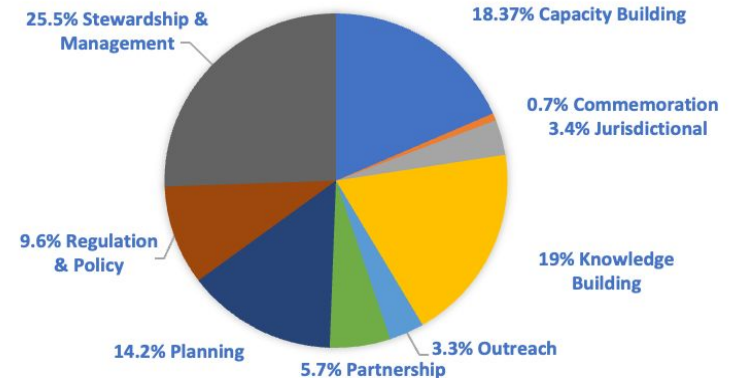**Prioritization Tiers:** 364 Actions (313 Initial + 51 New):

SCALE OF ACTIONS

- Strategic: 55%
- Programmatic: 35%
- Projects: 10%

ACTION PRIORITIZATION

- VERY HIGH (1-3 YEARS): 183
- HIGH (3-5 YEARS): 67
- MODERATE (5-10 YEARS): 24
- ONGOING: 90

ACTION TYPES

- 25.5% Stewardship & Management
- 18.37% Capacity Building
- 0.7% Commemoration
- 3.4% Jurisdictional
- 19% Knowledge Building
- 3.3% Outreach
- 5.7% Partnership
- 14.2% Planning
- 9.6% Regulation & Policy

Tŝilhqot'in Culture

Tŝilhqot'in Culture has 10 objectives and 38 actions.

~10 community members and 1 staff participated, casting a total of 82 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 18 Actions (49 votes)
- **HIGH:** 5 Actions (10 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 3 Actions (23 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 12 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 1. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Teach our young people our language and ways of the land	Teach traditional medicine in school	4
	Support Elders to teach youth Tŝilhqot'in laws and provide trainings for respectful harvesting, fishing and hunting	3
	Organize culture camps for youth to learn from Elders about plants and medicine	3
	Expand Tŝilhqot'in language and culture program after school	3
	Make place name signs with Elders, children and youth	NEW
Develop safe community spaces	Build a community gathering space for culture, education, recreation, gathering and healing from emergencies	3
Increase access to traditional medicine	Create a Traditional Medicine Guide	3
	Host medicine drives with Elders for the Health Clinic	3

Nen (Land) Management

Nen Management has 4 objectives and 12 actions.

~10 community members and 2 staff participated, casting a total of 89 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 7 Actions (49 votes)
- **HIGH:** 1 Action (28 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 3 Actions (12 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 4 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 3. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Protect culturally and ecologically important landscapes and sites	Identify and map sensitive ecosystems/sites for protection with Elders	7
	Protect key cultural sites and ecosystems: gathering/ camping areas, village sites, homesteads, cabins, quigley holes, burial/cremation sites, sacred/spiritual areas, fishing sites, medicine harvesting sites	5
	Limit fragmentation of XGCA by roads, industry and development	3
	Deactivate/decommission unnecessary roads	3
Establish sustainable land use and design guidelines	Develop development permit protocols that: - Mandate Buffers Around Water Bodies - Require Archaeological Studies - Require Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for large-scale construction projects to mitigate environmental impacts	NEW

Tū (Water) Management

Tū Management has 13 objectives and 42 actions.

~30 community members and 2 staff/knowledge keepers participated, casting a total of 351 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 18 Actions (224 votes)
- **HIGH:** 9 Actions (92 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 3 Actions (35 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 12 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 2. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Maintain and protect our water bodies and headwaters within all of our watersheds that are clean enough to drink directly from and abundant	Protect important water sites: ● Seasonal gathering/ fishing, villages, cabins, Quigley holes, sacred/spiritual areas ● Fishing sites (fish spawning and rearing habitat, fish traps/drying/camps) ● Trap beavers to reduce dams	10
	Identify important water sites/features with Elders and share knowledge across generations	7

Climate Action

Climate Action has 12 objectives and 42 actions.

~20 community members and 2 staff participated, casting a total of 250 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 25 Actions (158 votes)
- **HIGH:** 10 Actions (78 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 1 Action (14 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 6 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 8. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Strengthen the emergency support network	Establish a solid Type 3 Firefighting Crew	9
	Create a Functional Contract Base Crew	8
	Form a First Response and Structural Fire On-Call Team	8
	Support an Emergency Program Coordinator	7
Increase community preparedness	Assess and build safe emergency spaces with all season programs for gathering, healing, education, recreation, culture	7
	Develop secondary egress route near Captain George Town / improve road near Henry's Crossing	7
	Monitor and keep evacuation routes clear and accessible	7
	Clean up debris/flammable materials around homes	NEW

Strong Governance

Strong Governance has 10 objectives and 38 actions.

~20 community members and 2 staff participated, casting a total of 207 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 21 Actions (192 votes)
- **HIGH:** 2 Actions (13 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 1 Action (2 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 4 Actions

Table 9. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Communicate, and where necessary write down, Tŝilhqot'in laws and laws of *nenqay* in the form of policies, protocols, and regulations, strategies, and/or laws	Develop priority Xeni Gwet'in laws on: ● Sustainable land use	14
	Develop priority Xeni Gwet'in laws on: ● Water	13
	Develop priority Xeni Gwet'in laws on: ● Wildlife management ● Forest management	12
	Create consultation / referral protocols: ● Add climate risk and adaptation data and actions into referrals process for Indigenous-Crown consultations	NEW
	Develop tourism/visitor protocols: ● Develop rules and licensing for visitors, tour operators and wild food harvesters (fishing, hunting, plant gathering, wildlife viewing, campers, guide outfitters) including requirement to sign in to territory for safety and transparency ● Put up signage to restrict tourist access to sacred sites	NEW

Food Sovereignty

Food Sovereignty has 7 objectives and 36 actions.

~15 community members and 1 staff participated, casting a total of 145 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 21 Actions (106 votes)
- **HIGH:** 6 Actions (30 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 1 Action (9 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 7 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)
- **COMPLETE:** 1 Action

Table 5. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Increase access to community food	Expand school food program with local and traditional meals	6
Plan and operate land management protocols that define human use and protected areas	Build community food assets: ● Smokehouses ● Community and household root cellars	5
	Build community food assets: ● Geo-domes ● Gardens - off-grid system with own water and energy supply ● Greenhouses ● Community and household cattle/poultry slaughter options	4
	Provide food boxes with locally grown, hunted, fished items to elders / vulnerable members	4
	Offer community workshops: ● How to start gardens and greenhouses ● Healthy food and cooking	4
Expand ecosystem-based agriculture	Protect ranches and hayfields from horses by repairing and building fences	NEW

Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Management

Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Management has 13 objectives and 66 actions.

~10 community members and 2 staff participated, casting a total of 293 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 33 Actions (167 votes)
- **HIGH:** 7 Actions (81 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 3 Actions (45 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 23 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 6. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Increase wildlife and habitat stewardship capacity through member participation, training, and involvement, along with funding	Support young people on the land to connect to knowledge through training	5
	Inform community about the Tŝilhqot'in Wildlife Law	5
	Explore options for hiring auxiliary Rangers for predator and horse management	4
	Support community-led on the land and water data collection	NEW
Ensure knowledge and values are used with science to guide decisions	Host events with elders, youth, and members that cultivate an interest in wildlife/ habitat stewardship while celebrating and reinvigorating Tŝilhqot'in ways of being	4
Protect critical fish and wildlife habitat areas	• Conduct wildlife habitat assessments • Exercise water rights and develop water regulations to address gaps in water jurisdiction left out of the title case • Limit commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing if stocks continue to decline	NEW

Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable Infrastructure has 16 objectives and 55 actions.

~10 community members and 3 staff participated, casting a total of 390 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 26 Actions (202 votes)
- **HIGH:** 15 Actions (144 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 3 Actions (44 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 11 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)

Table 7. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Update the Community Energy and Emissions Plan	Seek community input to guide plans for energy sovereignty, self-reliance and net zero buildings, through community energy generation, storage and distribution systems	5
Improve solid waste systems to support community growth	Develop community recycling and composting facilities to reduce waste sent to landfill	5
	Encourage community and businesses to buy recycled and upcycled products	4
Establish a long-term housing and infrastructure framework	Develop a long-term housing strategy	4
	Support Master Plan and Capital Plan implementation	NEW
Retrofit existing buildings	Inspect housing and buildings, especially elder homes	4
	Inform members how to protect homes from climate impacts	4
Expand housing and infrastructure to accommodate population growth	Build new safe, culturally appropriate housing, including: • Complete housing needs assessment • Assess spring and water capacity for new homes • Calculate and supply wood for housing with stoves • Identify locations for new housing • Renovate, retrofit and build new housing	4

Forest Management

Forest Management has 12 objectives and 49 actions.

3 staff/knowledge keepers participated, casting a total of 160 votes:

- **VERY HIGH:** 14 Actions (84 votes)
- **HIGH:** 12 Actions (51 votes)
- **MODERATE:** 6 Actions (25 votes)
- **ONGOING:** 11 Actions (votes tallied from above tiers)
- **COMPLETE:** 12 Actions

Table 4. Sample Very High Priority Actions

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	# VERY HIGH PRIORITY VOTES
Promote forest regeneration and sustainable management	Develop forest management/restoration plans: ● Identify priority areas for afforestation and reforestation ● Research pest tolerant, climate adaptive trees ● Plant/restore (old-growth Douglas Fir stands)	3
	Manage forestry: Harvest wood for community centre, building logs, and timber for wood stoves and biofuel and plant climate adaptive trees	3
Preserve wild plants	Transplant and grow traditional / medicinal plants in suitable areas and plant shade trees near berries and medicine	3
Strengthen community wildfire stewardship and resilience	Strengthen FireSmart community: ● Train local representatives ● Inform community on wildfire risks ● Complete FireSmart assessments of community buildings ● Implement FireSmart actions ● Empower families to take active role in firesmarting home	3
	Implement Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan ● Continue fuel treatments (thin and burn) around buildings ● Engage Cariboo Fire Centre and BC Parks in prescribed fire program ● Practice low-intensity prescribed burns in select areas	3
	● Develop a fire effects monitoring framework	NEW

MILESTONES

Upcoming Steps:

1. Complete feasibility evaluations.
2. Complete second round of community prioritization.
3. Select top actions.
4. Continue *nenqay* mapping.
5. Finalize *Nenqay* Use Plan.
6. Develop implementation work plans.
7. Begin Quick Start actions in 2025.

DISCUSSION

- Are there specific priorities or areas of focus to emphasize in the plan?
- Do you have any recommendations or insights on the proposed implementation process?

SECHANALYAGH!