



Declaration of the Wilp Wii Litsxw Meziadin Indigenous Protected Area

- ◆ Wilp Wii Litsxw hereby affirms in accordance with the Gitanyow Ayookxw our responsibility to protect the area within the Meziadin watershed to ensure the survival of salmon for future generations and for healthy ecosystems.
- ◆ Wilp Wii Litsxw is concerned about the potential impact of mining, mineral exploration, railway and other major industrial development on the salmon spawning habitat in the watershed and is acting on the inherent right of self-governance to uphold Gwelx ye'enst.
- ◆ Wilp Wii Litsxw wishes to ensure food security and response to the climate crisis by protecting a major habitat system in the Nass Watershed.
- ◆ Wilp Wii Litsxw works in cooperation with the other 7 Gitanyow Wilp for the betterment of the Huwilp and the Lax'yip through the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan. In 2012, the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan became law and protected the Hanna and Tintina Creeks, and it includes provisions for updates. In 2016 Wilp Wii Litsxw became aware of higher abundance of salmon spawning in Strohn Creek, and have taken every step possible since then to protect Strohn, and its tributary Surprise Creek.



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- ◆ Salmon is vital to the Gitanyow culture, governance, physical and social well-being of our members. Without salmon, we lose our identity, history, and connection to the land and to future generations.
- ◆ Today we take the important step to continue to protect the Meziadin Watershed, while still allowing and promoting sustainable development. The Indigenous Protected Area is not a park. It is a new way of being with the land and water, in respect, but also ensuring our people and our neighbours can sustain themselves with employment opportunities.
- ◆ This Declaration is accompanied by a Draft Management Plan which outlines what activities are allowable in the Meziadin Indigenous Protected Area, and which activities are prohibited. It also outlines the value of the area, and why we are protecting it. The Draft Management Plan will be open for Wilp and public review, comments and feedback are welcome. The review period will be 6 months and following that a final Management Plan will be shared with all affected parties, and other levels of government.
- ◆ In addition to the Gitanyow Ayookxw, this Declaration is supported by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the *Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan*, the *B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and numerous legal precedents including the *Delgamuukw/Gis Day Wa* Supreme Court decision and the *Wii Litsxw* BC court decision of 2008, and other cases regarding aboriginal title.
- ◆ We invite fellow Gitanyow Wilps and our Gitksan amna'gotxw and na'dil to witness and affirm this Declaration.



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Simalgyax Summary

- ◆ *Hoogyax'm aluu ta dinhl Wilp Wii Litsxw Ayookxwhl Gitanyow, dim wela di di'y diithl mi'soh Lax Meziadin el lehl nidiit atiks't ga len'm.*
- ◆ *Luu wentxw go'ots Wilp Wii Litsxw ehl en ha hle'els, nedy hasak dit dim't luu bait wii lakxw diit en sa huun.*
- ◆ *Ha sakhl Wilp Wii Litsxw dim hooyax'm ama gya'atxwhl win luu lo'olhl hun.*
- ◆ *Sa'it neda ki'ihl Sim gi gyet lax yip'm Gitanyow ii luu sii paxs diit ayookxw ii hoogyax'm di di'it diit gant ligil diit ga ahl An'hahl'yee ganhl Xsi'andilgan.*
- ◆ *Jeeda neehl hun ii k'al kwootxwhl wila di dils'm ganhl nidiit atiks't ga len'm.*
- ◆ *Sim git litxw nuum sa tuun dim k'al yee dim dip di'di'yhl Meziadin. Dox en ha hleels't lax yip ganhl lax aks ehl hla ga t'suum.*
- ◆ *Lip dox k'sa'winksxw hoox diit ent mehlihl guuhl da akxw diit ganhl guuhl need'y da akxw't dim jebxw't lax Meziadin. Iixw dii nii tahl guut gan wihl dip di di'ihl lax yip Meziadin.*
- ◆ *Sa'it oo'm hla ga t'suum ehl Gitanyow, Gitxsan amnagotxw ganhl na'dil'm, dim gya'as'm wen hoogyax'm aluu tahl ayookxw ganhl dim wila di di'itxw Lax yip Meziadin.*



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Signed on behalf of Wilp Wii Litsxw:

Andy Johnson Sr

Andy Johnson Sr, Han'oyak - Witness

Malii

Glen Williams/Malii, Gitanyow President

Tyrone Hill

Tyrone Hill, Go'nganalque

Josh

Josh Rush, Txa'goo'latxws

JL

Joel Starlund, Sk'a'nism Tsa 'Win'Giit

RHill

Rita Hill

Yvonne Starlund

Yvonne Starlund, Atgunsax

Barb Hyzims

Barb Hyzims, Hatagamyee

Tim Martin

Tim Martin, Txa Wokxw

Andy Johnson Jr

Andy Johnson Jr, Lu lagamsok

Gregory Rush

Gregory Rush Sr, Wii Litsxw

Date: August 28, 2021



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