



Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation

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HADA (Bond Sound) & KAKWEIKAN (Thompson Sound) INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREA DECLARATION

As Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw peoples, we hold inherent rights and title, jurisdiction and decision-making authority over our unceded traditional lands, watersheds, skies, and *ma'mikas* (natural resources). Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (KHFN) territory spans from Wakeman Sound to the waters between Gilford Island and Village Island, and south to the territory of our neighbours, Mamalilikala. Our ancestors passed on to us responsibilities to past, present, and future generations to protect our territories as they are the foundation of our way of life.

The Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation Elected Chief and Council, together with the Hereditary Chiefs of the Nation and with the support of the undersigned Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Hereditary Chiefs, declare the area of Hada (Bond Sound) and Kakweikan (Thompson Sound) as the Hada & Kakweikan Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area ("IPCA") as shown in the map attached as Appendix A. This area is protected by our laws under our inherent jurisdiction and authority.

The **Hada & Kakweikan IPCA** is *Nawalakw* (supernatural and sacred). This area is crucial to our *nuygmbalis* (our ancestral stories from our Territories that tell our core values and the history of our people from the beginning). **Hada** is where our first ancestor, *Hawilkwala* (Cedar Dancer) came out of a *Wilkw* (cedar tree) at *Lilawayas* (where he came out at). Later, he changed his name to *Tsekame'*. *Tsekame's* first ancestor originates from **Kakweikan** and descended from two *Kulus* (supernatural birds) who transformed from their original form and became human.

The **Hada & Kakweikan IPCA** spans from mountaintop to seafloor. It is a breadbasket for our people, home to many species we rely upon, on land and in the ocean. It includes critical watersheds, ecology, village sites, and other cultural sites representative of our rich cultural heritage. The IPCA has been impacted by overfishing and the depletion of cherished and culturally important species including eulachon, littleneck clams, Pacific herring, and Pacific salmon.

This Declaration confirms our long-term and Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis governance, management and planning of the Hada & Kakweikan IPCA. It is made in accordance with our laws and inherent stewardship responsibilities for our territory. Our right to establish this IPCA comes from our inherent Aboriginal rights and title and from our relationship as stewards of this land for thousands of years. As we continue to govern and manage our entire territory,

we are taking steps now to protect this area given its unique importance and expect to set aside other IPCAs in the future.

This Declaration confirms our commitment to **restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity and natural balance** of our lands, waters, and *ma'mikas* within the IPCA for continued cultural, food security, educational, traditional and economic uses for the benefit of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis people. Our laws require us to act in a precautionary manner when making decisions about our lands, waters, and *ma'mikas*. When our laws are followed and our lands and waters are taken care of in a good way, the *ma'mikas* upon which KHFN life and culture depend will thrive and will sustain them.

This Declaration confirms that our stewardship of the IPCA will focus on:

- Restoring and maintaining our connection to our unceded traditional lands, waters, watersheds, skies, and *ma'mikas*;
- Restoring and maintaining our cultural food security and spiritual resources in the IPCA;
- Practicing our culture and applying our language, stories, songs, dances, and place names to the IPCA;
- Protecting and managing the IPCA's cultural and archaeological resources;
- Protecting, conserving, and restoring the IPCA's significant marine, terrestrial and freshwater habitats and culturally important species;
- Conserving and restoring the ecological integrity and natural balance in the IPCA's watersheds, keystone cultural species, and habitats;
- Continuing our governance and stewardship in the IPCA, including by generating long-term funding for governance capacity;
- Generating a sustainable economy for our people that allows continued KHFN use and ensures the well-being of our territory; and
- Monitoring and enforcing our laws within the IPCA through a KHFN-operated guardian program.

This Declaration reflects our intent to review existing parks, conservancies, tenures, and other designations and authorizations that have been issued by the Crown for the use of our lands, waters, and *ma'mikas* within the IPCA without the free, prior and informed consent of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation.

This Declaration reflects our desire to work with the Crown to address historical injustices including the lack of consultation during land use planning and protected area processes and ongoing Crown decision-making that conflicts with our governance and laws.

This Declaration reflects our good faith efforts to assist Canada and British Columbia in achieving their respective targets for land and marine protection and conservation.

This Declaration demonstrates our commitment to helping the Crown advance implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in a meaningful way.

To support this IPCA, **we invite Crown governments to work with us to recognize this IPCA and ensure Crown decisions uphold K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis First Nation laws. We invite all those operating in our territory to support and respect our IPCA vision and the future plans we release. We expect all other governments and third parties to refrain from activities, approvals or other actions that are inconsistent with the purposes of the IPCA.**

This Declaration is made in accordance with K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis First Nation inherent rights and title which are constitutionally recognized and affirmed by section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982*.

This Declaration is made in accordance with K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis First Nation rights to ownership, control over use, conservation, and protection, and setting of priorities for its traditional lands, territories, and resources, which are recognized by Articles 26(1-3), Article 29(1), and Article 32(1) of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

This Declaration is made without prejudice to the K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis First Nation's:

- inherent Aboriginal rights and title interests and claims;
- potential reconciliation agreements; and
- existing management, planning, or revenue sharing agreements and partnerships with Canada and British Columbia, proponents and stakeholders, non-government organizations, and other First Nations.

The K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis First Nation intends to continue to honour these commitments in accordance with its inherent, Aboriginal, and human rights.

We, the undersigned hereditary and elected leadership of K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḵw H̓axwa'mis, agreed and supported by the undersigned hereditary leadership of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw, confirm this Declaration under our laws, jurisdiction, and authorities, in accordance with, and supported by, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* and section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

APPENDIX "A"

Map of the K̓w̓ik̓w̓asut'inuḡw H̓axwa'mis First Nation Hada (Bond Sound) & Kakweikan (Thompson Sound) IPCA

