

For Immediate Release – November 16 2023



Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation declares Hada & Kakweikan Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area

T'Sou-ke Territory/Sooke, BC

On November 16, 2023, the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (KHFN) elected and hereditary chiefs, with the support of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Hereditary Chiefs, declared the Hada & Kakweikan Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area ("IPCA") under their own law. The declaration confirms KHFN's long-term Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis management and stewardship responsibilities of the Hada & Kakweikan IPCA, and wider territory.

Located within the Broughton Archipelago in British Columbia, Hada (Bond Sound) and Kakweikan (Thompson Sound) are supernatural and sacred areas that span mountain top to sea floor. The IPCA covers over 40,000 hectares adjacent to the Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala IPCA declared by the Mamalilikulla First Nation in November 2021. These areas have been greatly impacted by overfishing and the depletion of cherished and culturally important species including eulachon, littleneck clams, Pacific herring, and Pacific salmon.

KHFN is committed to preventing the extinction of wild salmon in their territory and recently succeeded in removing Atlantic salmon farms from their waters. The Declaration of this IPCA is the next step in protecting all salmon migratory routes and ensuring wild salmon populations will be safe from harmful industrial activities moving forward.

As Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw people, the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation declares this IPCA under its inherent jurisdiction and in keeping with ancestral responsibilities for its unceded traditional lands, waters, skies, and *ma'mikas* (natural resources). The Nation is protecting these areas to restore biodiversity and advance food security.

"It is past time that KHFN and all Indigenous Nations become fully recognized as the proper caretakers of our lands and waters. For too long, we have witnessed the impacts caused by other governments and industries who have benefited from extractive practices in our territories to the detriment of the food resources that sustain our people. This IPCA represents our vision for a future where all beings thrive. Upholding our laws will ensure that the medicines, the foods, the cedar, the salmon, the eulachon and all of the *ma'mikas* that are sacred to our people will always be there," says Hereditary and Elected KHFN Chief, Tlakuglus, Rick Johnson.

The IPCA is part of KHFN's broader vision to revitalize their culture, language, and law. These areas are a hub for cultural revitalization exemplified by the establishment of the [Nawalakw](#) healing centre and cultural youth camp.

The declaration of Hada & Kakweikan IPCA was made at the Estuary to Old Growth gathering of First Nations hosted by the T'Sou-ke First Nation. KHFN is working with neighbouring Indigenous nations and Crown governments to ensure harmonized, long-term protection for the IPCA. KHFN invites governments and citizens to support them in the vision for the Hada & Kakweikan IPCA.

"In the era of reconciliation, supporting the KHFN with their IPCA is the right thing to do. Natural resources will be better protected, food security will be advanced, Indigenous employment will increase, and the economy will stabilize. The government should welcome a partnership with KHFN on this IPCA. Everybody wins – Crown governments, KHFN, the territory and the public," says Hereditary Chief, Dr. Robert Joseph.

"KHFN looks forward to discussing with BC and Canada how they can support our IPCA, in keeping with commitments they made to partner with First Nations to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030, and the recently announced Tripartite Nature Agreement," says Hereditary Chief OI Siwid, Mike Willie.

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For more information, please contact:

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Additional resources:

Hada & Kakweikan IPCA Declaration (Attached)
Hada & Kakweikan IPCA Backgrounder (Attached)
Map of K̓w̓i̓k̓w̓asut'inuxw Haxwa'mis Territory & IPCA (Attached)
Attached and available online: <https://khfn.ca/our-future/>