

Tswwassen First Nation

GOVERNMENT OFFICE

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TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

[Website](#)

[AANDC Profile](#)

[Province of BC Profile](#)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Tsawwassen First Nation is located in the Greater Vancouver area of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, adjacent to the South Arm of the Fraser River and the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal.

PRONUNCIATION

Tsawwassen is pronounced tsa-wah-sen.

LANGUAGE:

Hul'q'umi'num'/Halq'eméylem/hənqəminəḿ



MEMBERSHIP

Total Registered Population is 491, with 276 living off Tsawwassen lands, as of October 16, 2020.

CRITICAL HABITAT ON RESERVE

[Fill in when more data become available].

SAR ON RESERVE

[Fill in when more data become available].

CONTACTS

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

	Name
Chief	Ken Baird

Members of the Tsawwassen Legislature	Laura Cassidy
	Louise Ahlm
	Steve Stark
	Valerie Cross
	Sheila Williams
	Loretta Williams
	Tia Williams
	Victoria Williams
	Kathy Genge
	Mike Baird
	Melinda Cassidy
	Maryanne Adams
	Terri Splockton

AFFILIATIONS

NAUT'SA MAWT TRIBAL COUNCIL

The eleven member Nations range from T'Sou-ke on the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Klahoose on Cortes Island and Toba Inlet in the northern part of the Salish Sea. Other members include: Tsleil-Waututh on Burrard Inlet and Indian Arm, Tsawwassen near the mouth of the Fraser River, Malahat in Saanich Inlet, Halalt on the Chemainus River, Stz'uminus at Oyster Bay, Shell Beach and Kulleet Bay, Snuneymuxw on the Nanaimo River, Snaw-naw-as on Nanoose Bay, Homalco from Campbell River and Bute Inlet, and Tla'amin on the Strait of Georgia and Okeover Arm.

NmTC offers services in five core delivery areas that include: economic development; financial management; community planning; technical services; and governance.

LANDS

The Tsawwassen First Nation has full ownership and jurisdiction over 724 hectares of former reserve land.

CURRENT STATUS

Treaties

- The Tsawwassen First Nation was the first nation to finalize a Treaty through the BC Treaty Process. The [Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement](#) came into effect on April

3, 2009. It was negotiated between Canada, British Columbia and the Tsawwassen First Nation under the B.C. treaty process. It grants them full ownership of 724 ha of land (rather than it being a reserve), as well as self-governance rights, fishing & hunting rights and rights to natural resources on their land.

Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables

- The Tsawwassen First Nation is not participating at this time.

First Nations Land Management Act

- The Tsawwassen First Nation is not participating at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Tsawwassen First Nation established the TFN Economic Development Corporation in 2009. They intend to “develop Tsawwassen Lands in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, and to facilitate business relationships”. As of 2020, they have attracted \$1 billion in private investments on Tsawwassen Lands.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACT

Position	Contact Info
TFN Economic Development Corporation	604-943-2112 info@tfnedc.com

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Find the list of small businesses on Tsawwassen First Nation [here](#).

Business	Description	Link
Deltaport Logistics	Deltaport Logistics Centre which will accommodate ~4.5 million square feet of state-of-the-art intermodal, goods handling, light manufacturing, warehousing and distribution services.	https://tfnedc.com/industrial-development/
Tsawwassen Mills	A destination retail and entertainment centre covering over 1.4 million square feet.	https://www.tsawwassenmills.com/en/

ISSUES OF CONCERN OR INTEREST

PIPELINES

The Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) suggested that the end of the Trans Mountain Pipeline should be moved from its current location to the Tsawwassen First Nation. However, the Chief of Tsawwassen does not support this suggestion, nor does Tsawwassen support the pipeline itself.

TERMINAL 2

There is concern over the proposed creation of Roberts Bank Terminal 2, which is an expansion of the existing port structure. This would increase water traffic significantly and endanger the marine life, such as the Chinook Salmon, in the area. Furthermore, it would push young salmon into the path of Killer Whales, endangering both species. The Federal Review Panel asserted that this development would have adverse affects on the Tsawwassen First Nation (find their report [here](#)). Specifically, the Panel concluded that RBT2 would likely result in:

- “Significant adverse and cumulative effects on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band in the Project area”; and
- “Significant adverse effects on cultural heritage for Tsawwassen First Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation in the Project area”.

The Port of Vancouver has requested an extension of the deadline for the federal decision on this project from the Minister of ECCC. They cited the need for continued consultation as one of the reason for this delay. Find the letter [here](#).

HUPCASATH FIRST NATION vs CANADA

The Hupacasath First Nation took Canada to court over the signing of an international trade agreement with China, alleging that the Canadian Government should have consulted with them before making this agreement. The Federal Court of Appeal decided that Canada did not have a duty to consult in 2015. Tsawwassen First Nation support this case.

SPECIES AT RISK

Tsawwassen First Nation is participating in a program called “Addressing conservation knowledge and expertise gaps for the People of the Salish Sea”. This partnership, formed through the Naut’sa mawt Tribal Council, aims to build expertise among First Nations in identifying native plants, species at risk, and invasive plants, while bridging gaps between traditional cultural values and modern scientific approaches. The goal of program is identifying species at risk, as well as culturally significant species, while restoring threatened habitat areas,

Map of TFN traditional territory and lands:



Source: <http://tsawwassenfirstnation.com/about-tfn/our-nation/>

Field Code Changed