

# Lingit Kusteeyi Revitalizing Tlingit Law for Land and Wildlife

CMN conference February 2020

T'akhu A'Tlen Conservancy on behalf of  
Taku River Tlingit First Nation



# Taku River Tlingit Territory



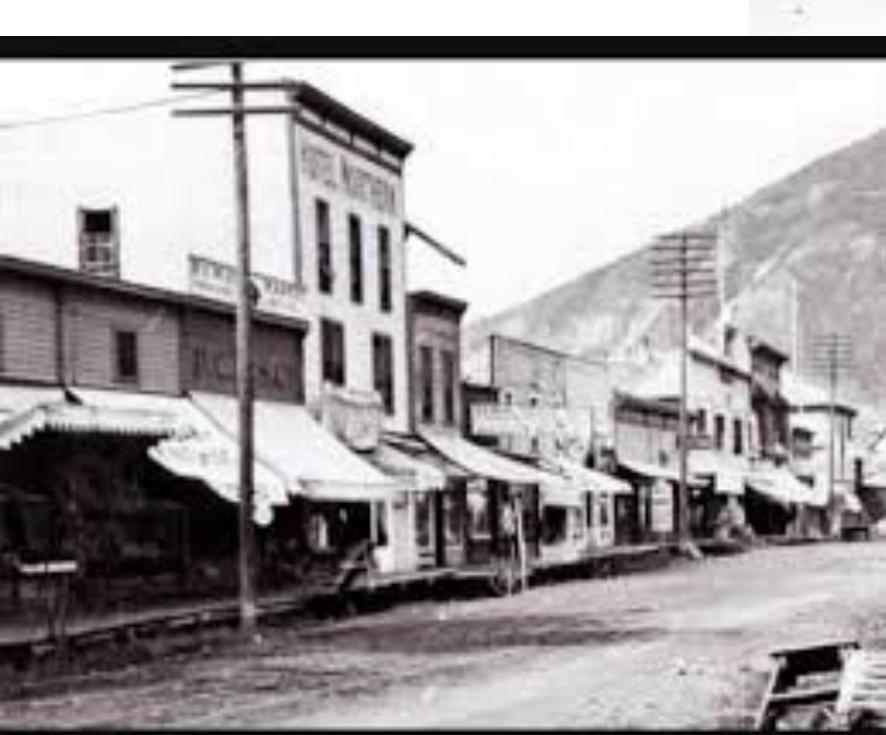
# Taku River Tlingit Territory

- Abundant wildlife population & healthy land
- Relationship between Tlingit people & land/wildlife grounded in Tlingit law



# Taku River Tlingit Territory

- Klondike gold rush of 1897 brought over 10,000 people to Atlin
- Significant impact to land & wildlife



# Taku River Tlingit Territory

- Impacts continue to this day



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# Project Summary

Engage with Tlingit law, articulate these laws, and apply them to rebuilding the relationship between wildlife and people

- Develop Wildlife Protocol of Tlingit expectations for interacting with wildlife
- Support healing from the impacts of colonization and empower citizens to engage with wildlife through lens of Tlingit laws
- Decolonization of wildlife management to re-generate historical abundance of wildlife
- Develop new mechanisms for TRTFN led conservation

# Partnerships

Primarily: Taku River Tlingit First Nation & T'akhu A'Tlen Conservancy

Secondarily: West Coast Environmental Law

Currently forming relationship with Dechinta Center for Research and Learning



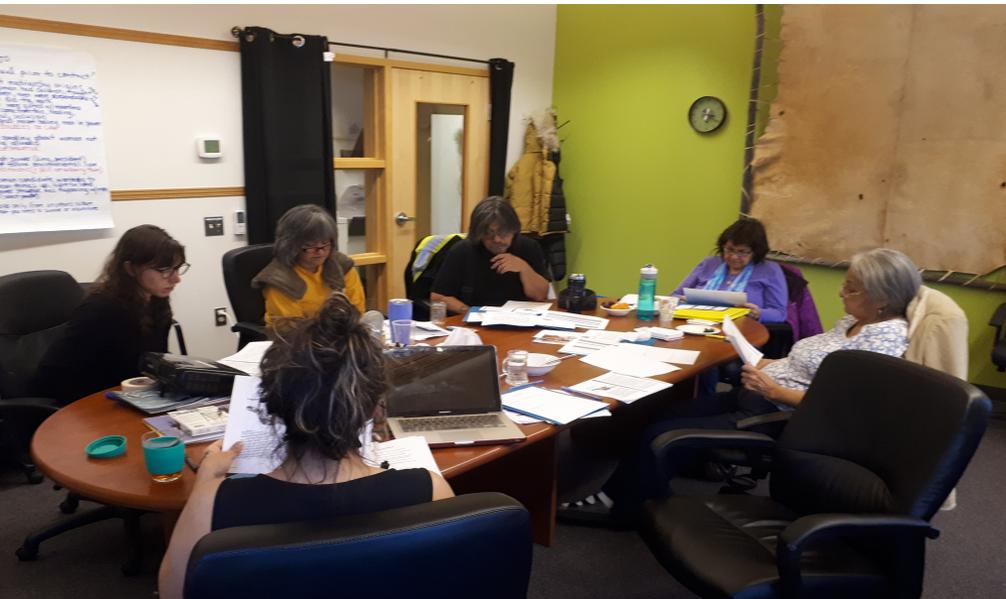
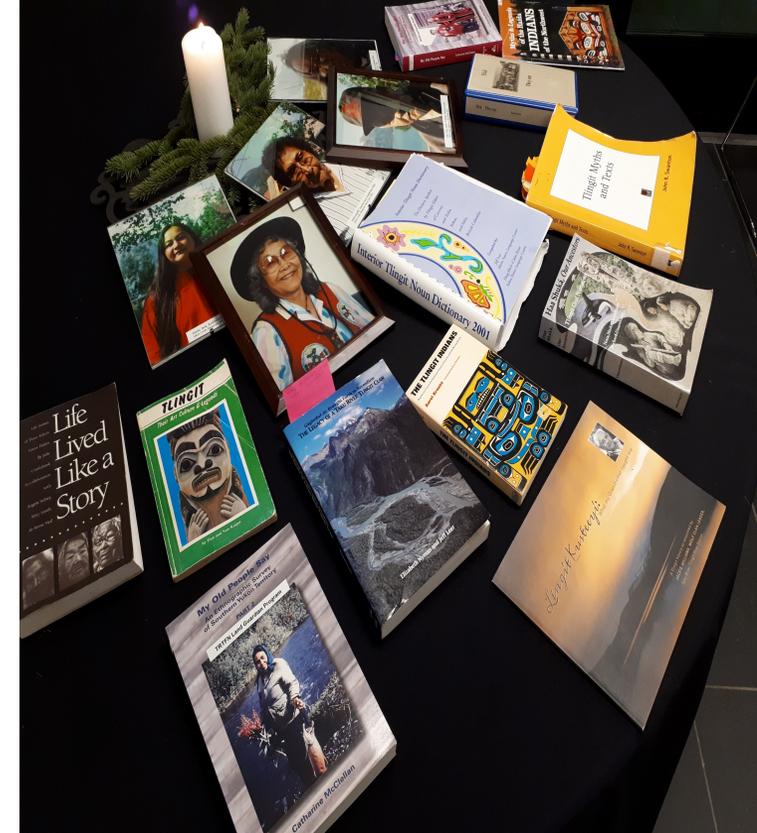
# Deliverables

- Year 1
  - Research/Community engagement (interviews)—“What are Tlingit laws related to the land and wildlife?”
  - Capacity building
  - Draft of Tlingit legal principles document
- Year 2
  - Knowledge mobilization
  - Develop Tlingit Wildlife Protocol
- Year 3
  - Research Tlingit law for specific species & develop protocols based on this
  - Knowledge mobilization



# Methods

- Routed in Indigenous methodologies
- Application of decolonization lens
- Review of published/previously recorded knowledge
- Meaningful community engagement



# Year 1 Highlights

- Deeper method of capacity building for Tlingit youth based on mentorship & understanding the complexity of people's lives
- Tlingit researchers gathering Tlingit knowledge
- Mobilizing knowledge of Tlingit law through stories shared in Tlingit language
- Over 30 Legal principles identified



# Knowledge Co-Production through knowledge mobilization activities

- Law camps restore the connection b/w community & traditional laws
- Law camps enable the co-production of Tlingit understandings of law b/w Elders & youth
- Knowledge stays within the community



# Lingit Kusteeyi & CMN

- Being part of a research network allows us to understand the connections and potential partnerships btw our work and other mountain research.
- In order to build sustainable mountain spaces we need to support Indigenous led research that empowers communities to practice their knowledge systems.



# Questions

