



Gitxaala Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gitxaala Nation Calls for a Pause Ahead of Legislative Debate on Treaty Bills.

LAX KLAN, DOLPHIN ISLAND, B.C. – April 22, 2026 – Gitxaala Nation calls for a pause in second reading and debate of Bill 21 on the Kitselas Treaty, until its free, prior and informed consent can be given after protocol and accommodation agreements are reached with British Columbia and Kitselas First Nation. Until that occurs, Gitxaala Nation calls for the immediate suspension of the provincial government's actions to advance the ratification of the Kitselas Treaty through Bill 21.

Gitxaala Hereditary Chiefs and Elected Council remain firm that the Kitselas Treaty will directly impact Laxyuubm Gitxaala, the territory on the north coast of British Columbia that has been home to Gitxaala Nation for over 10,000 years. British Columbia has not upheld the honour of the Crown and accommodated Gitxaala for those adverse impacts; another example of colonial processes impeding on Gitxaala rights and title to our lands, our waters, and our way of life.

Gitxaala leadership has been clear that British Columbia and Kitselas First Nation must recognize and respect Gitxaala Adaawx (histories), Ayaawx (laws), and Gugwilx'ya'ansk (practices and inherited responsibilities). Respecting these laws means negotiating agreements with our Nation to address concerns on how this and other treaties will give away lands, harvesting rights and governance rights to others in Laxyuubm Gitxaala in contravention of Gitxaala laws.

While Gitxaala respects that its First Nation neighbours have the choice to pursue modern treaties, there has been no agreement on how to reconcile the treaty rights in the Kitselas Treaty with Gitxaala Adaawx, Ayaawx and Gugwilx'ya'ansk. That conversation remains unfinished.

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About Gitxaala Nation

The people of the Gitxaala Nation have lived on the North Coast of British Columbia, including the Prince Rupert Harbour Area, since time immemorial and are one of the most ancient societies in the region.

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