

# Iłè dọ gha gọta: In Tł̄chọ Unity...

To Preserve and Protect Our Lands,  
Language, Culture and Way of Life.

## Strategic Framework and Intentions

for the 4th Tł̄chọ Assembly 2017-2021

# Creating a Strategic Framework for the Tłı̨chǫ Government

“We are the Tłı̨chǫ. We are an Aboriginal people of Canada. We are a people of the North. We follow in the footsteps of our ancestors and acknowledge our Elders as the keepers of our living memory, self-determination, values and way of life.” – *Preamble to the Tłı̨chǫ Constitution*

Our Elders’ vision “Iłè dq gha gǫita” or “In Tłı̨chǫ Unity” speaks to being one people, one nation, where we continue to live on our ancestral lands, and celebrate our language, culture and way of life. We want the best of our traditions and values to continue to shape and influence our government institutions and our work.

This Strategic Framework for the Tłı̨chǫ Government begins with an understanding of the shared history and homeland of the Tłı̨chǫ people. This understanding is captured by the Tłı̨chǫ Constitution.

The Tłı̨chǫ Constitution gives voice to our mission on “what we do as a Tłı̨chǫ Government”. The strategic intentions of our plans emerge from the mission of the Government and are shaped by the expectations of our communities, and information gathered from within our Government and outside. Information includes strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that shape the development of strategies and initiatives. The six strategic intentions describe the foundation of our work, and shape our strategies and key initiatives.

This Strategic Framework includes:

- The Vision, Mission and Strategic Intentions of our Government.
- Intentions, along with strategies, and the key initiatives and plans to meet our goals.
- A description of the planning process and the roles of citizens, elected leaders and staff.
- A description of Tłı̨chǫ principles for guiding planning and decision-making.



# Vision, Mission and Six Strategic Intentions

Our vision, “In Tłıchǫ Unity”, has been affirmed by each successive Assembly and speaks to being one people, united by a shared history and experience, shared lands, language, culture and way of life.

Our mission emerges from the Tłıchǫ Constitution section 2.1, created by our Tłıchǫ Elders and approved at a meeting in Behchokǫ, NT, in 2000.

The six strategic intentions emerge from the Constitution, Tłıchǫ Agreement and the expectations of our communities as voiced by our Grand Chief, community Chiefs and Assembly Members.



# Strategy at a Glance 2017-2021

## OUR LAND

### 1 INTENTIONS

Sustain Our Lands,  
Water and Wildlife

#### Strategic Directions

- Protect and manage lands and wildlife according to our traditional values.
- Provide support and advice to Tłıchǵo Government on issues of renewable resource management, including caribou, plant harvesting and forest management on Tłıchǵo lands.
- Work in collaboration with other governments and agencies in the co-management of renewable resources.
- Promote ecological research of value to the Tłıchǵo communities and Tłıchǵo Government.

#### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Implementation of the Tłıchǵo Wenek'e/Tłıchǵo Land Use Plan (TLUP). **(DCLP)**
- Administration of Tłıchǵo lands by receiving and processing applications for use of Tłıchǵo lands using the TLUP. **(DCLP)**
- Develop and maintain Mapping and GIS information. **(DCLP)**
- Gather and preserve TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) information. **(DCLP)**
- Monitor the Tłıchǵo aquatic ecosystem, especially the Marion watershed.
- Develop mechanisms to monitor impacts of Tłıchǵo All Season Road. **(DCLP)**
- Providing support and assistance to outside researchers who conduct research of value to the TG. **(DCLP)**
- Effectively participate in regulatory review processes for projects that may have impacts within Mǫwhì Gogha Dè Nǵłkèè. **(DCLP)**
- Implement an Environmental Monitoring Training Program, rotating between the Tłıchǵo communities, to train citizens to participate in environmental monitoring on Tłıchǵo lands. **(DCLP)**
- Protect areas of cultural and natural importance by working collaboratively with the Government of Canada, the Government of the NWT and other Indigenous governments. **(EXEC, DCLP)**
- Work collaboratively with other governments. **(EXEC, DCLP)**

Key to TG Departments  
and Organizations  
responsible for Key  
Initiatives and Plans:

**CIServ** – Client Services

**CPServ** – Corporate  
Services

**DCLP** – Culture and  
Lands Protection

**ECP** – Early Childhood  
Programs

**EXEC** – Executive

**SOCP** – Social Programs

**TIC** – Tłıchǵo Investment  
Corporation

# OUR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND WAY OF LIFE

## 2 INTENTIONS

### Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life

#### Strategic Directions

- Provide opportunities to learn about and practice our language, culture and way of life, especially for youth.
- Preserve, protect and promote traditional knowledge.
- Develop resources to revitalize language, culture and way of life.
- Encourage research that preserves, protects and promotes our way of life and/or includes and is shaped by our language, cultural and way of life.
- Develop the necessary Government legislation and policies to preserve, protect and promote our language, culture and way of life.

#### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Support cultural activities, including administration of Tłı̨ch̨o Harvester's Subsidy and activities such as hunting, trapping, trail-making and fishing as well as sewing and artwork. **(DCLP)**
- Organize activities and travel on the land with Elders and youth such as "Trails of our Ancestors" and "İmbè". **(DCLP)**
- Organize traditional recreation and celebrations such as drumming, dancing and hand games. **(DCLP)**
- Continue development of the "Tłı̨ch̨o Cultural Commons Digital Archives" with digitized materials containing documents, audio recordings, photographs, film and video. **(DCLP)**
- Re-develop "Dedats'eetsaa Research and Training Institute" Board of Directors to support TG research and TK policy development. **(DCLP)**
- Develop media and other resources to support cultural knowledge courses in the schools and in public such as Tłı̨ch̨o history, Tłı̨ch̨o land Claims, Tłı̨ch̨o language courses, the Tłı̨ch̨o-English dictionary project. **(DCLP)**
- Support health care research in Tłı̨ch̨o communities, and the NWT generally, through administration of the Hotı̨ Ts'eeda research project with Canadian Institute of Health Research. **(DCLP)**
- Support land claims research through administration of the research project with Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council LCAC (Land Claim Agreement Coalition). **(DCLP)**
- Develop research tools and measure language vitality, analysis of trends of cultural strength. **(DCLP)**

#### Key to TG Departments and Organizations responsible for Key Initiatives and Plans:

**CLServ** – Client Services

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Services

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# HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## 3 INTENTIONS

Build Strong Healthy Communities  
with Opportunities for Healing and Wellness

### Strategic Directions

- Improve the quality of life for Tłıchǰo citizens in the areas of education, health, wellness and justice.
- Identify and address issues related to education, health, wellness and justice faced by Tłıchǰo citizens through traditional research methodologies (Participatory Action Research).
- Implement Early Childhood Strategy and Framework to support early childhood programs and services for healthy children and families.
- Encouraging citizens to participate in advanced training and post-secondary education.
- Support traditional activities of our people and their families, related to illness and deaths in the family, within the Tłıchǰo communities.

### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Deliver culturally sensitive, community programs and services to support healthy outcomes for mothers, babies and families. **(SOCP)**
- Provide information programming in all communities to support youth suicide prevention, Indigenous diabetes, and mental health and addictions. **(SOCP)**
- Provide services to victims of crimes to assist with the emotional and physical consequences of crime and the related justice processes. **(SOCP)**
- Implement crime prevention programs for Tłıchǰo citizens. **(SOCP)**
- Provide alternative sentencing programs and services for Tłıchǰo citizens. **(SOCP)**
- Provide early Childhood programs and services in all communities, including Aboriginal Headstart in Behchokǰ. **(ECP)**
- Collaborate with TCSA, GNWT and other agencies to implement a comprehensive wellness strategy in the Tłıchǰo communities such as “Healing Paths and Voices”. **(EXEC, SOCP)**
- Provide travel funding for families, through donations, for funerals in the Tłıchǰo communities and family escorts in the case of serious illnesses. **(SOCP)**

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## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

# 4 INTENTIONS

## Strengthen Tłıchǫ Governance and Institutions

### Strategic Directions

- Ensure Government operates in a manner consistent with Tłıchǫ Government laws, policy, priorities and strategies, and in their absence, using commonly accepted standard operating procedures.
- Increase effectiveness and collaboration among Tłıchǫ management.
- Strengthen IT infrastructure in all communities to provide the best digital tools and communication to Assembly members, Chiefs, managers and staff.
- Supporting the growth and development of institutional partners in our communities under the Tłıchǫ Agreement, including Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency, Renewable Resource Board and Community Governments.
- Renegotiate Intergovernmental Services Agreement with Canada and GNWT while building effective partnerships with Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency.

### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Continuous development of a comprehensive and effective framework of policies, processes and systems that are well understood and used by TG Departments to achieve effective control, monitoring and enforcement of TG laws and policies. **(EXEC, CPSERV)**
- Organize semi-annual training sessions for managers to increase collaboration and communication among managers. **(EXEC)**
- Implement IT Infrastructure Plan. **(EXEC)**
- Informing the public about government programs, services, policies and priorities through traditional communication practices and modern media on sites such as [www.tlicho.ca](http://www.tlicho.ca), [www.research.tlicho.ca](http://www.research.tlicho.ca), [www.facebook.com/Tlicho](http://www.facebook.com/Tlicho), <https://onlinestore.tlicho.ca/>. **(EXEC, CLSERV)**
- Monitor and maintain the Enrolment Registry of Tłıchǫ citizens. **(CLSERV)**

#### Key to TG Departments and Organizations responsible for Key Initiatives and Plans:

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## PROSPERITY AND EMPLOYMENT

# 5 INTENTIONS

Build Tłıchǰ Prosperity and Employment through Economic Development

### Strategic Directions

- Enhance economic independence, prosperity and future certainty for Tłıchǰ citizens by creating sustainable economic development in the region, including a traditional economy.
- Protect the capital transfers under Chapter 24 of the Tłıchǰ Agreement as a perpetual endowment for the benefit of all Tłıchǰ citizens, now and into the future.

### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Invest in Tłıchǰ All Season Road to Whatı. **(EXEC, CLSERV, TIC)**
- Implement Infrastructure Planning Strategy. **(EXEC)**
- Tłıchǰ Region Training and Economic Development Strategy. **(CLSERV, TIC)**
- Implementing Traditional Harvester's Economy Plan. **(CLSERV, TIC)**
- Encouraging the employment of Tłıchǰ citizens. **(All Departments, TIC, TCSA)**
- Improving access to education by providing assistance to Tłıchǰ citizens through student support programs and financial top up support for post-secondary education through the One Nation Education (ONE) Student Financial Assistance program. **(CLSERV)**

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## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

# 6 INTENTIONS

### Create Effective Government to Government Relationships with Other Peoples

#### Strategic Directions

- Advise the Tłıchǫ Government on consultations, initiatives and proposals in regards to any federal initiatives related to the operations of environmental boards and agencies in the NWT.
- Advise the parties of the Tłıchǫ Intergovernmental Services Agreement related to the Tłıchǫ language, culture and way of life.
- Participate in bilateral agreements with the federal and territorial governments to improve working relationships and resolve issues of importance to the Tłıchǫ Government.
- Participate in territorial and national Indigenous organizations to advance key interests of the Tłıchǫ Government.

#### Key Initiatives and Plans

- Liaison with Working Group to manage mining files, with a view towards overlapping interests that occur, specifically in the regulatory process of environmental assessment for any files. **(EXEC, DCLP)**
- Oversee, review, participate and intervene as necessary in legislation and policy developed by Canada/GNWT to ensure protection of Tłıchǫ rights under the Tłıchǫ Agreement, or Tłıchǫ language, culture and way of life. **(EXEC, DCLP)**
- Research the necessary legislation, policy and practices, including, but not limited to, intellectual and cultural property rights to protect Tłıchǫ language, culture and way of life. **(EXEC, DCLP)**
- Participate in bilateral agreements with the federal and territorial governments to improve working relationships and resolve issues of importance to the Tłıchǫ Government as per “Working Together” MOU, NWT Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management and the Tłıchǫ Implementation Plan agenda. **(EXEC)**
- Participate in restructuring of the Dene Nation. **(EXEC)**
- Participate in the Land Claims Agreement Coalition. **(EXEC)**

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# “Nàdàa Gètsètì” ...Looking Forward

“Nàdàa Gètsètì” or ...Looking Forward is the process for the creation and management of our strategic planning framework. The strategic framework contains our vision, mission, intentions and guiding principles.

## **The Role of Tłıchọ Citizens**

Annual updates at the Tłıchọ Gathering assist in reviewing our progress and making changes to our intentions and strategies as necessary. Reporting to the Assembly provides the opportunity to account for outcomes and indicators of performance, or what was “intended to be done”. It also allows for communication and feedback from our citizens, which in turn, will be used to shape existing intentions and plans, and create new ones.

## **The Role of the Tłıchọ Assembly and Chiefs Executive Council**

The Assembly and the Chiefs Executive Council gives voice to Tłıchọ Nation community expectations and answers the question: “What do we do as a Government?” ...What are our strategic intentions?

The Assembly and the Chiefs Executive Council review the intentions, grant the power to move forward and authorize the necessary expenditure of resources, approve the laws, the policy and the overall strategies. The Chiefs Executive Council verify the performance of the Government.

## **The Roles of Management and Staff**

The management and staff develop operational plans to implement the intentions and answers the question “How do we implement the intentions of the Government?” Managers and staff produce the operational plans and determine the most effective organizational design for the Government, develop the laws, policy and strategies, and the yearly operational work plans.

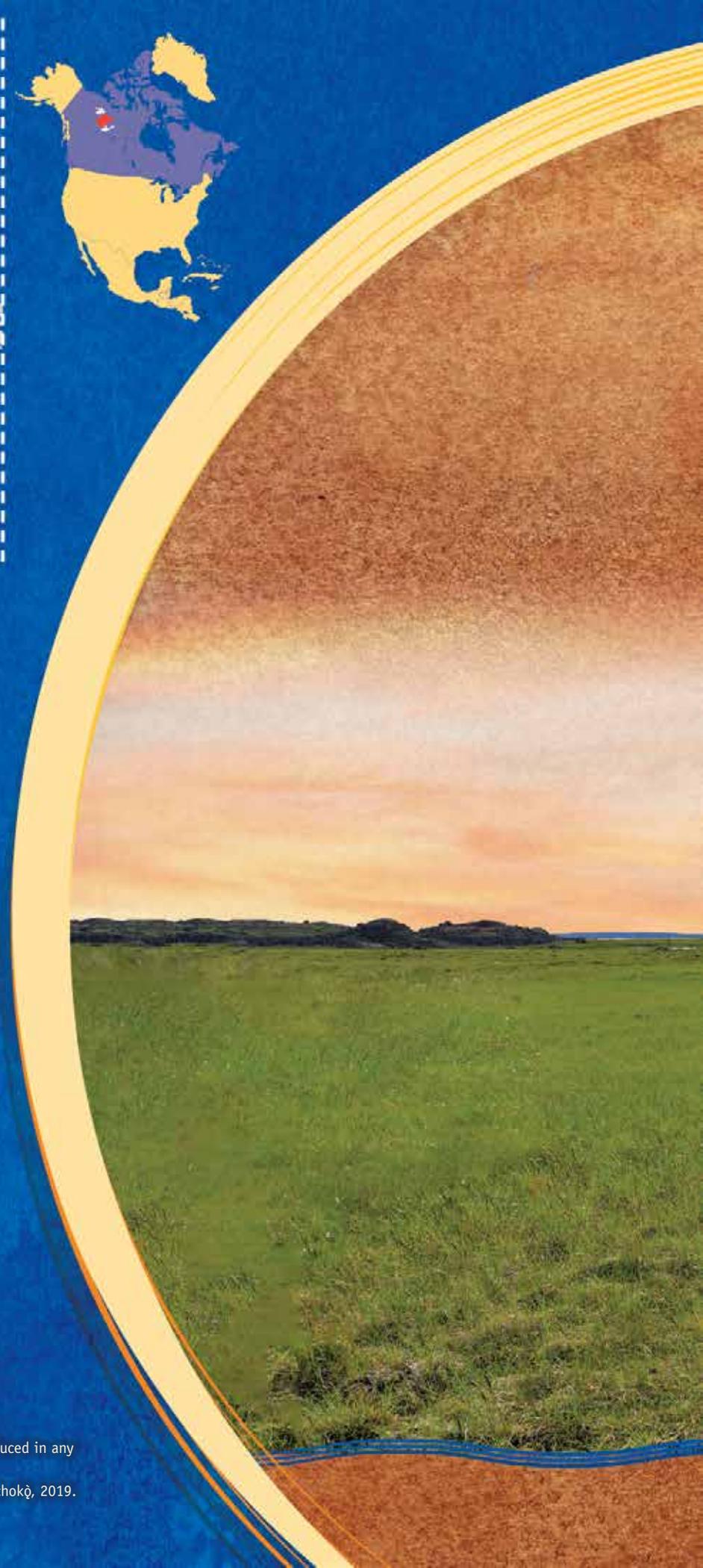
# Tłıchǫ Principles for Guiding Planning and Decision-making

Indigenous planning is said to be based upon intergenerational participation and consensus in development and implementation by Elders and youth. It is based upon a long-term view, not short-term expediency, sometimes called a “seven generation planning model” (see Walker, Jojola and Natcher 2013).

Our principles are written in our Constitution, and guide the planning and the decision-making from which our laws, our policies and our planning actions as a Government take their strength and direction.

## Principles from the Tłıchǫ Constitution include:

<b>Nq̄tsı́ eyıtsò asìì hazòò</b>	The expression of our relationship with the Creator and respect for the interconnectedness of all living things.
<b>Tıı eyıts’ò ndę wek’e ts’ędì</b>	To act as custodian of our lands, water and resources.
<b>Goyatı gonàwo wek’e ts’ędì</b>	To protect our language, culture and way of life.
<b>Hazòò ełe k’e ahts’ıwo</b>	To strive for representation and work towards consensus.
<b>Ełesee ts’ıdı</b>	To act with respect and fairness without discrimination or abuse.
<b>Ełęxę eghàlàets’ęda</b>	The importance of cooperation and working together.
<b>Dets’o ts’ewhı ts’ęda</b>	The importance of healing, harmony and self-sufficiency.
<b>Edà ts’ıwq̄ sìì wek’a yàhts’e Tı ha goq̄o</b>	The full free expression and participation of Tłıchǫ citizens in their government.
<b>Dedaa ho ts’ıdı</b>	Respecting the needs and interests of other peoples.



**Mòwhì Gogha Dè Njtlèè**

Gamètì ● Wèkweèti ●  
 Whatì ●  
 Behchokò ●  
 Yellowknife ●  
 Dettah ●  
 Fort Resolution ●  
 Hay River ●  
 Kakisa ●  
 Fort Providence ●



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