



# Haida Gwaii Management Council

## 2015-16 Annual Report

This Annual Report of the Haida Gwaii Management Council is for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and is submitted to the Parties in accordance with the expectations of the Kunst'aa guu-Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol. It reflects the implementation of the work planning and priorities setting approach undertaken by the Management Council.

This Annual Report has been reviewed and approved by the Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) members.

### **Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) Determination**

The current AAC was determined by the HGMC in 2012. Subsequent implementation of this AAC has raised issues, including public comments, in regard to harvesting levels and species selection practices. In addition, new forest inventory information (e.g. vegetation resource inventory and LIDAR) began to become available. Therefore, the HGMC concluded that a full AAC determination process would be required in the near-term and began the preparatory work necessary, including communication with the provincial Chief Forester on the short and long term steps necessary to prepare a new AAC determination. It continues to be anticipated that an updated AAC will be available in 2017. As part of this process, the HGMC agreed on a fulsome and regular engagement with forest licence holders to discuss AAC and Land Use Objectives Order issues.

### **Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order (LUOO)**

The current LUOO was originally established in 2010 and then updated, approved and consolidated in 2014. Subsequent potential amendments continue to be reviewed and adjudicated by the HGMC in anticipation of a significant amendment to the Order in 2016. This has taken considerable effort on the part of Haida and Provincial staff to support the HGMC, particularly in coming to consensus agreements on changes to the decision making process as well as the amendments themselves. There was agreement on the LUOO Interpretation and Guidance document contents. HGMC determined that the process for review of proposed amendments needs to be more timely and that forest licensee consultation needs to improve.

### **Protected Areas**

Protected area management continues as a high priority for the HGMC, which has authority to approve new protected area management plans, although no management plans were received for approval or amendment. Work is ongoing with respect to updating the management plans for protected areas to align with the recently completed Marine Area Plans.

The HGMC began the process of editing Section 5.4 'Approval of Management Plans for Protected Areas' of the HGMC Policies and Procedures document to clearly define the procedural roles of the Parties and the HGMC when creating or updating Protected Area Management Plans.

The Reconciliation Table began exploring alternative future decision-making and management approaches for protected areas.

The HGMC Chair sent a letter to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, on December 18, 2015 requesting the establishment of a provincial protected area over K'aas Gandlaay. K'aas Gandlaay is a portion of land adjacent

to the Duu Guusd Heritage Site/Conservancy that has high cultural values for the Haida. The area was being considered for inclusion in the Duu Guusd conservancy but a final decision was not ready at the time the original conservancy was approved under Order-in-Council. Work is underway to amend the conservancy to include K'aas Gandlaay.

### **Policies and Standards for Heritage Sites**

Policies and Standards for Heritage Sites drafting continued into 2015-2016 with a presentation from the consultant and Haida archaeologist starting off the year in April.

The HGMC began development of a draft policy for the identification and conservation of heritage sites. The HGMC also sent a letter to British Columbia requesting that decision-making authority under Sections 12 and 14 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* be assigned to the Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District on Haida Gwaii. A response was received in early 2016-2017 supporting further exploration of this request. Once a draft heritage policy document is complete, the HGMC will be seeking a decision to implement this through the Council of the Haida Nation approval process and an Order-in-Council that would establish the policy as regulations by the Province.

HGMC provided advice to the Council of the Haida Nation on the need for development of a package of Haida Heritage Sites Policies and Practices.

### **Forest Strategy**

Work was completed by the HGMC to scope out priorities and next steps on the Forest Strategy. A community forum was hosted by the HGMC as well as further work on scoping out priorities and potential options for coordination of community engagement. Priority items include: training and capacity; encouraging forest workers to live in Haida Gwaii communities; local access to a secure wood supply; and, road access issues. The HGMC was completed its current work on this and now needs the community and stakeholders to step forward and take action on the priority items.

The Forest Strategy work of the HGMC was passed along to the Parties at the January 2016 quarterly meeting.

### **Solutions Table**

The Solutions Table has continued to send in their quarterly reports to the HGMC and they report efficiencies of time using the Streamlined Process relative to the provincial process for consultation and engagement. The Solutions Table also accompanied the HGMC on their annual summer field trip to provide their understanding of heritage and Land Use Objectives Order issues for HGMC consideration.

### **Reconciliation Parties**

The HGMC held a successful meeting with the Parties in January 2016. A number of decisions and directions were agreed to, including:

- The HGMC and the Parties will meet regularly to discuss items of significant policy.
- The Parties will become responsible for completion and implementation of the Forest Strategy.
- There should be an increased budget and capacity to support ongoing HGMC work.
- A long term vision is required to be put in place to guide future activities.



## **2015-2016 Management Council Membership**

### Haida Members

Guujaaw – Appointment expired on March 31, 2016.

Allan Davidson (Skil Helans) – Appointment expired on March 31, 2016.

### Provincial Members

Sharon Hadway – Appointment was extended to December 31, 2016.

Monica Perry – Appointment expired on December 31, 2015.

Brian Bawtinheimer – New appointment began January 1, 2016.

### Chair

Derek Thompson – Appointment expired on March 31, 2016.

## **Funding**

The total funding available to the HGMC for fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 was \$131,876, which was derived from a contribution of \$40,000 from the Haida Nation, \$40,000 from the Province of British Columbia and a carry forward of \$51,876 from FY 2014-2015.