

shishalh-B.C. Joint Land Use Plan

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Public and Stakeholder Feedback Received

April 2021



Thank you to the 681 members of the public and the 18 community groups, organizations and governments that contributed to the first phase of engagement on the Shishalh-B.C. Land Use Plan. The participants included individuals from local governments, industry, environmental organizations, recreational and tourism groups and community associations.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The shishalh Nation and the Province of British Columbia are co-developing a Land Use Plan (LUP) as part of their commitment to true, lasting reconciliation, co-operation, and partnership based on recognition and respect for shishalh rights and title and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

This Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report outlines what we did and what we heard from stakeholder and public engagement throughout the first phase of the shishalh-B.C. joint land use planning process. Between November 2020 and February 2021, the Land Use Planning Table delivered communication materials and hosted engagement activities to identify stakeholder **interests, concerns and opportunities** related to the planning process.¹

Communications and engagement activities in this phase included:



Of the 671 participants that responded to the questionnaire, the majority resided in Madeira Park (158), Garden Bay (118), Sechelt (116) and Pender Harbour (112). The following interests, concerns and opportunities raised in this initial engagement are summarized by theme and listed in alphabetical order.

INTERESTS

Interests in the swiya that were highlighted by engagement participants fall under the following broad themes:



Economic

Sustainable resource extraction in the swiya to support regional economic development and local industries.



Environmental

Preservation of the natural areas and environmental values of the swiya, including the forests and watershed quality, and protection of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats.



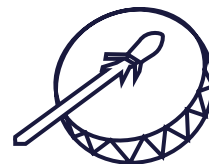
Recreational²

Access to outdoor activities and recreational tourism in the swiya including mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing and water sports.



Residential³

Full-time or part-time residences located in the swiya and the protection of private property rights.



Reconciliation

Recognition and respect for shishalh Nation's governance and historic and continuing relationship to the land. Respect for shishalh worldview, culture, language, knowledge, history and art.

Did you know?

This Land Use Planning process is built on the recognition of and implementation of shishalh Nation rights and title.

¹ This summary reflects the perspectives shared with us through public and stakeholder engagement and does not reflect the views of the Province or the shishalh Nation. shishalh Nation also engaged directly with their membership. The results of engagement with shishalh community members are not included in this report.

² Although recreation is not one of the joint Land Use Plan's initial planning themes (biodiversity, watershed integrity, resources important to shishalh culture, sustainable economic development), understanding recreational interests is important to this process, and specifically how these interests can be considered in relation to the key planning themes.

³ The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands and federal lands.

CONCERNS

Concerns relating to this planning process and land management in the swiya raised by engagement participants in this first phase include:



Coordination Between Initiatives

Short-term and long-term land use planning that is siloed or not aligned with other planning processes on the swiya.



Environmental Conservation

Negative impacts on environmental health in the swiya, including wildlife habitat, watershed integrity and potential loss of old growth forest from logging and other industry.



Impacts on Private and Leased Lands

Impacts on private lands ⁴ and concerns about lands that they currently lease from the Province.



Level of Stakeholder Involvement

Lack of incorporation of all viewpoints and needs of residents, industries, governments and communities in the swiya.



Loss of Recreational Opportunity

Lack of access to land for recreational use, fear of negative impacts on recreational areas from increased development and importance of conserving land for recreational activities such as hiking and biking.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities raised by engagement participants relating to this process and land management in the swiya include:



Enhanced Environmental Conservation

Advancement of collaborative forest, watershed, marine, and endangered species habitat conservation.



Increased Knowledge

Collection of more data on existing land and resources and increased knowledge of the swiya to support evidence-based and holistic land and resource management.



Local Economic Development

Low impact eco-tourism and recreational opportunities and sustainable logging practices without clearcutting forested areas.



Outdoor Recreation

Enhancement of recreational spaces for locals and tourists, including provincial parks, such as Mount Elphinstone.



Rights and Reconciliation

Recognition and implementation of shishalh rights and title and advancement of true reconciliation.



Strengthened Relationships

Healing partnerships between shishalh Nation and the non-Indigenous community through land stewardship.

Did you know?

The LUP process will meet the standards of UNDRIP.

⁴ The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands and federal lands.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In October 2018, shishalh Nation and the Province of British Columbia signed the [shishalh-B.C. Foundation Agreement](#). The Foundation Agreement is a commitment to true, lasting reconciliation, co-operation, and partnership, based on recognition and respect for shishalh rights and title and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In November 2019, British Columbia passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* that commits in law to upholding the minimum human rights standards in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The Foundation Agreement is a government-to-government agreement that commits both parties to a process to fundamentally transform the relationship between shishalh Nation and the Province of British Columbia. The shishalh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table (LUPT) is one of several collaborative forums established under the Foundation Agreement, and is tasked with undertaking the technical planning and coordination work required to draft a land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya.

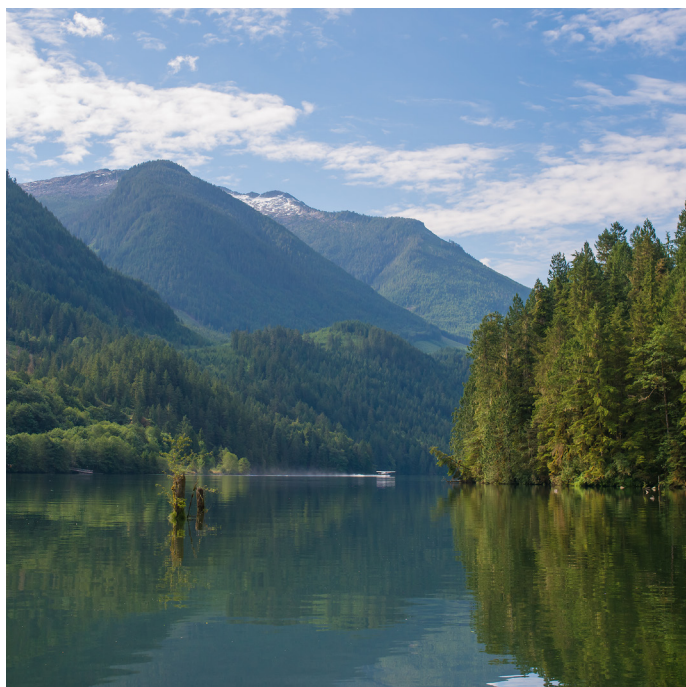
The joint Land Use Plan (LUP) is one way shishalh Nation and the Province are implementing the transformative change that has been committed to by both parties in the Foundation Agreement. The LUP, and the process of its development, must also meet the standards of UNDRIP.

The joint land use planning process will allow shishalh Nation and the Province to make progress on our Foundation Agreement goals of:

- » Recognition and Implementation of shishalh title and rights;
- » Sharing stewardship of the swiya;
- » Creating economic prosperity for shishalh people and those choosing to live, work and play within the swiya;
- » Protecting cultural sites;
- » Revitalizing shishalh culture and language; and,
- » Strengthening shishalh self-government.

The joint Land Use Plan will articulate a shared vision for the stewardship of land and resources in the swiya on the following initial planning themes:

- » **Biodiversity**
- » **Watershed integrity**
- » **Resources important to shishalh culture**
- » **Sustainable economic development**



WHAT IS THE SWIYA?

The word swiya describes the lands and waters that shishalh Nation has occupied and utilized since time immemorial and can be translated as world, birthplace, lands or “territory”.

The [swiya](#) extends from xwesam (Roberts Creek) in the southeast to the height of land located north of xenichen (head of Queen’s Reach) in the north, kwekwenis (Lang Bay) to the west and spilksen (Texada Island) to the south (see Image 1).

The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands, and federal lands.



IMAGE 1: OVERVIEW MAP OF THE SWIYA

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

shishalh Nation Land Management

shishalh Nation has governed its swiya since time immemorial through shishalh's laws and jurisdiction. In 2007, shishalh Nation, based on shishalh laws, developed the *lil xemit tems swiya nelh mes stutula: A Strategic Land Use Plan for the shishalh Nation*, which identifies values and goals for managing land and resources in the swiya.

In 2013, shishalh Nation developed the *Lands and Resources Decision-Making Policy* and process for lands and resources in the swiya, which, based on shishalh law, outlines shishalh's expectations regarding resource management, including development, and documents the practices and principles that guide decision making relating to the use of land, water, and resources of the swiya.

Provincial Management

The Province now working with Indigenous governments, makes decisions under provincial laws about the use of lands, or lands covered by water, which includes much of the swiya. Certain areas of the swiya have been designated by the Province as provincial parks and protected areas. Landscape level plans for sustaining elements of biodiversity (e.g., Old Growth Management Areas, wildlife trees) have been developed for most of the landscape units overlapping the swiya, but there is currently no higher level strategic provincial land use plan (i.e. Land and Resource Management Plan) for the swiya.

PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT PHASES

PROJECT TIMELINE AND PHASES

Engagement with stakeholders and the public is an important part of our land use planning approach. The engagement process follows a period of pre-planning which included preliminary discussions between shishalh and B.C. on land use and management issues, the signing of the Foundation Agreement and the establishment of the shishalh-B.C. Land Use Planning Table.

The planning process for this project will occur in four major project phases over the course of four years (see Image 2).

Phase 1: Setting the Stage (we are here).

In this phase, the Land Use Planning Table will establish how they will work together, set a workplan and identify gaps in information and resources. Stakeholders and members of the public will be informed of the planning scope and engaged in early identification of interests, concerns and opportunities regarding the planning process.⁵

Phase 2: Assessing the Current State.

During Phase 2, studies will be conducted to fill information gaps. The Land Use Planning Table will assess the current condition and trend for key planning theme values. Stakeholders and the public will be engaged to identify interests related to key management issues.

Phase 3: Developing Management Options and Recommendations.

In Phase 3, the Land Use Planning Table will develop and analyse different land and resource management options. The impacts and benefits of these management options will be explored with stakeholders to help determine a recommended management approach.

Phase 4: Completing the Draft Land Use Plan.

Phase 4 is where the draft joint Land Use Plan will be shared with stakeholders and the public.

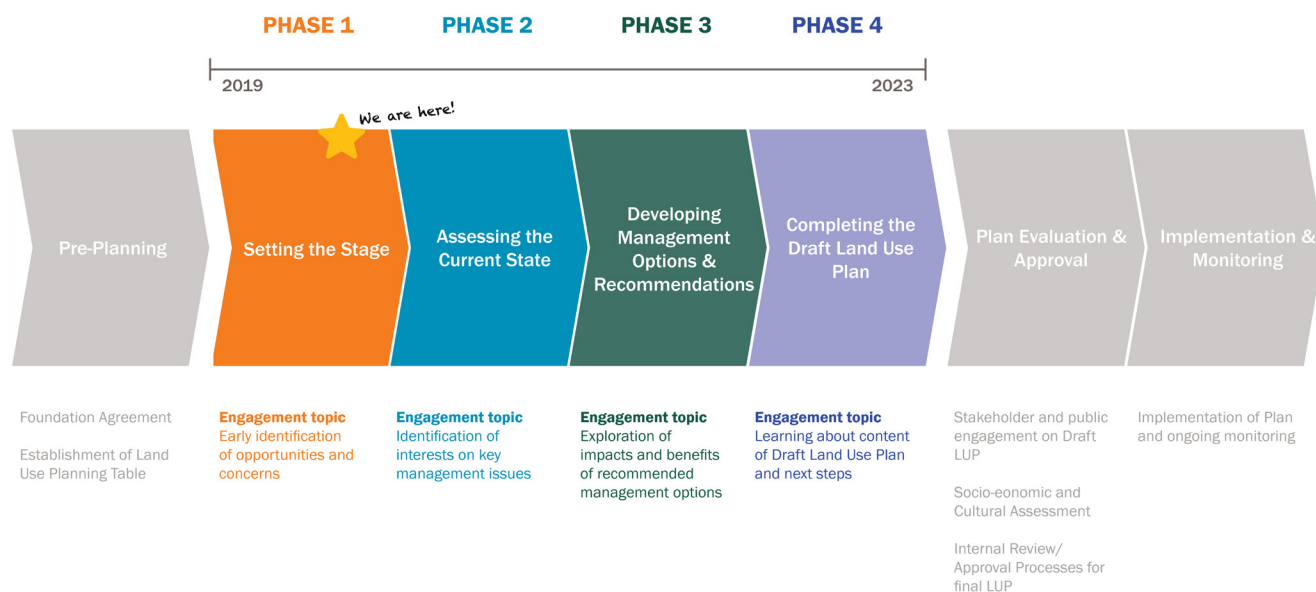


IMAGE 2: PHASES OF THE LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS

⁵ During this phase, shishalh Nation engaged with its community members on the values and principles that will guide the process. The results of that separate stream of engagement are not included in this report.



The objectives of this first Phase of engagement are to:

- » Inform stakeholders and the general public through various communication and engagement activities of historical context, scope and goals of the land use planning process;
- » Involve stakeholders and the general public in the early identification of interests, concerns and opportunities related to the land use planning process.

A separate stakeholder and public engagement approach for the Draft LUP will be determined following the completion of Phase 4 by October 4th, 2023. After this date, the next Phases of land use planning are expected to focus on:

- » Stakeholder and public engagement on the Draft LUP;
- » shishalh Nation and B.C. government Internal Review/ Approval Processes for the final LUP;
- » Preparation of the final LUP submission for decision by shishalh and B.C. governments;
- » LUP implementation including: associated agreements with planning partners, legal land use designations, legal land use objectives, and key projects; and
- » Monitoring planning outcomes to assess the LUP's effectiveness and develop a review and feedback process for applying new information to the LUP.



WHAT WE DID

To meet the engagement objectives identified above, the following communications and engagement activities were undertaken.

COMMUNICATIONS

PROJECT WEBSITE

A [project website](#) was established to serve as a central hub for information about the project. It includes project background documents, information about engagement opportunities and engagement summary reports. It also provides an option for the public to sign up for periodic project updates.

BACKGROUNDER AND FAQs

A [project backgrounder](#) was assembled to provide information on:

- The history of the project,
- Introduction to the joint Land Use Plan and process; and
- Opportunities for engagement

In addition, a [FAQs document](#) was assembled to provide answers to questions about project history, scope and process.

LOCAL MEDIA

Information about the Land Use Planning process and public questionnaire was sent to the following publications who ran stories about the engagement process:

- Coast Reporter,
- The Local Weekly; and
- The Harbour Spiel

EMAIL ENQUIRIES AND NOTIFICATIONS

Contact information was posted on the project website and enquiries were responded to and logged. Notifications were also sent to a range of stakeholders advising them of the launch of the project website and public questionnaire. The stakeholders had interests relating to industry, recreation, tourism, environment, and local government.

ENGAGEMENT

PRE-INTERVIEWS

Structured one-on-one conversations guided by an interview guide designed to gather initial individual perspectives and ideas from key influencers. 13 interviews were held in the spring of 2020 with organizations representing recreation, conservation, industry and local government interests.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

In November and December 2020, 3 virtual workshops were held with stakeholder groups which included local governments and industry representatives. The purpose of these workshops was to identify initial interests, concerns and opportunities relating to the land use planning process.

PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE

An online questionnaire with a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions was made available via the shishalh-BC Land Use Planning page between December 11th 2020 and January 31st 2021 ⁶. The objectives of the questionnaire were to:

- » Inform the general public of the historical context, scope and goals of the Foundation Agreement and joint land use planning process;
- » Involve the general public in identifying early interests, concerns and opportunities relating to the land use planning process; and
- » Provide an overview of the land use plan engagement process and opportunities for public input.

The questionnaire received 671 responses in total including 28 mailed submissions.

⁶ Extended access to the questionnaire was granted to participants who requested it.

WHO PARTICIPATED

Questionnaire participants had the option to identify which coastal community or communities they are a part of (see Figure 1).

Of those participants that responded, the majority selected Madeira Park (158), Garden Bay (118), Sechelt (116) and Pender Harbour (112).

Gambier Island (1), Tla’amin Nation (1) and Skwxwu7mesh/Squamish Nation (2) were selected least often.

Of those that selected “Other community on the Sunshine Coast (72), most did not specify a location and some specified Ruby Lake. Many also selected Madeira Park and/or Garden Bay when selecting “Other”.

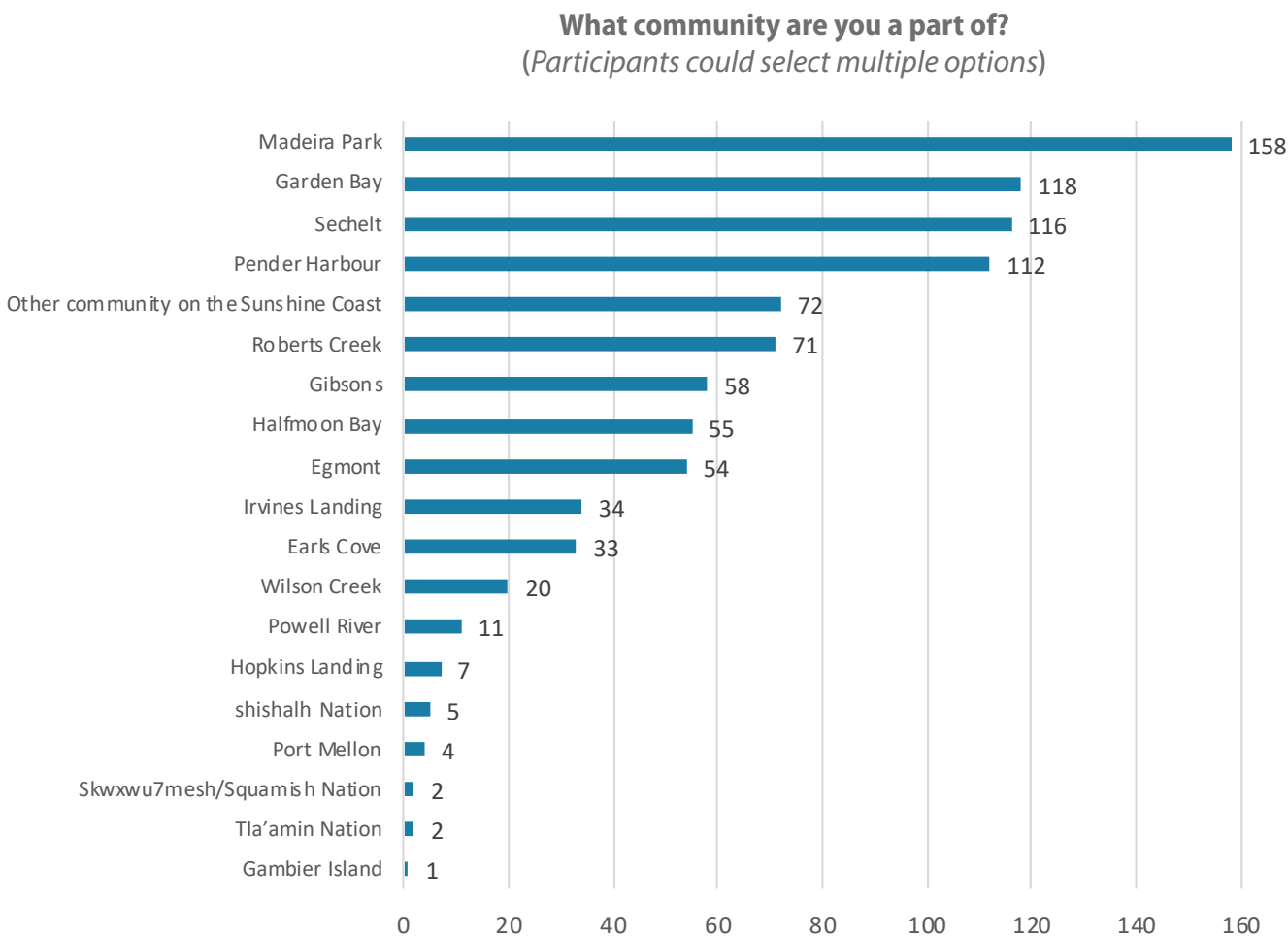


FIGURE 1: QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS BY COMMUNITY

Questionnaire participants also had the option of identifying which industry they primarily work in (see Figure 2).

Of those participants that responded, most (266) indicated that they are retired. Excluding retirement, participant representation was highest in health and/or social assistance (37), recreation and/or tourism (36) and education (35).

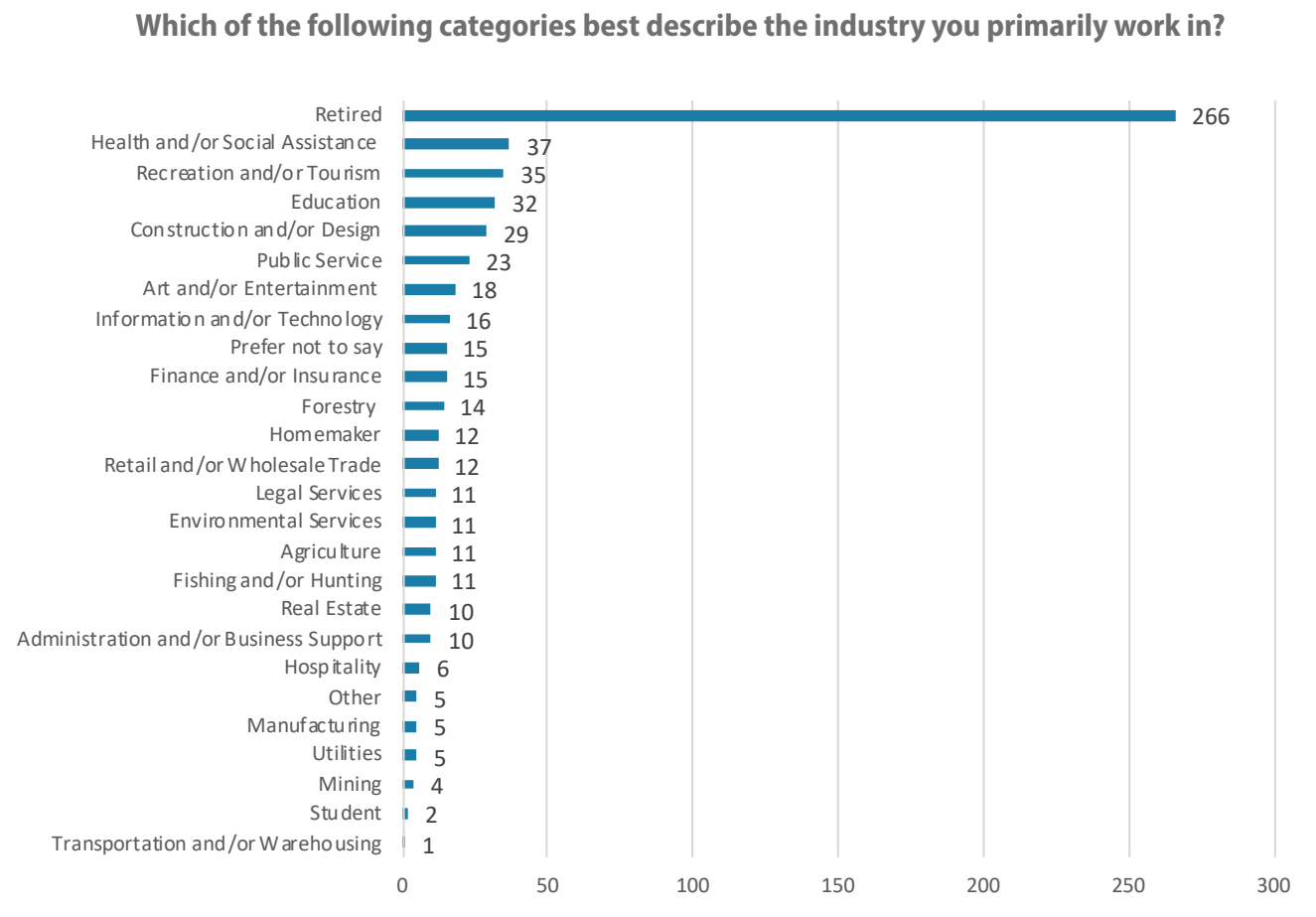


FIGURE 2: QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS BY INDUSTRY

WHAT WE HEARD

The following content was summarized from public feedback received during this engagement period and does not reflect the views of shishalh Nation or the Province.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE SWIYA

Questionnaire participants had the option of identifying their relationship(s) to the swiya (see Figure 3). Of those participants that responded, most (452) indicated that they are full-time residents while recreational use (182) and part-time resident (128) were the second and third most frequently selected answer.

Recreational use was often selected in parallel with other answers; recreational use was selected by 23% of regular visitors, 18% of part-time residents, 9% of full-time residents and 9% of those who work in the swiya.

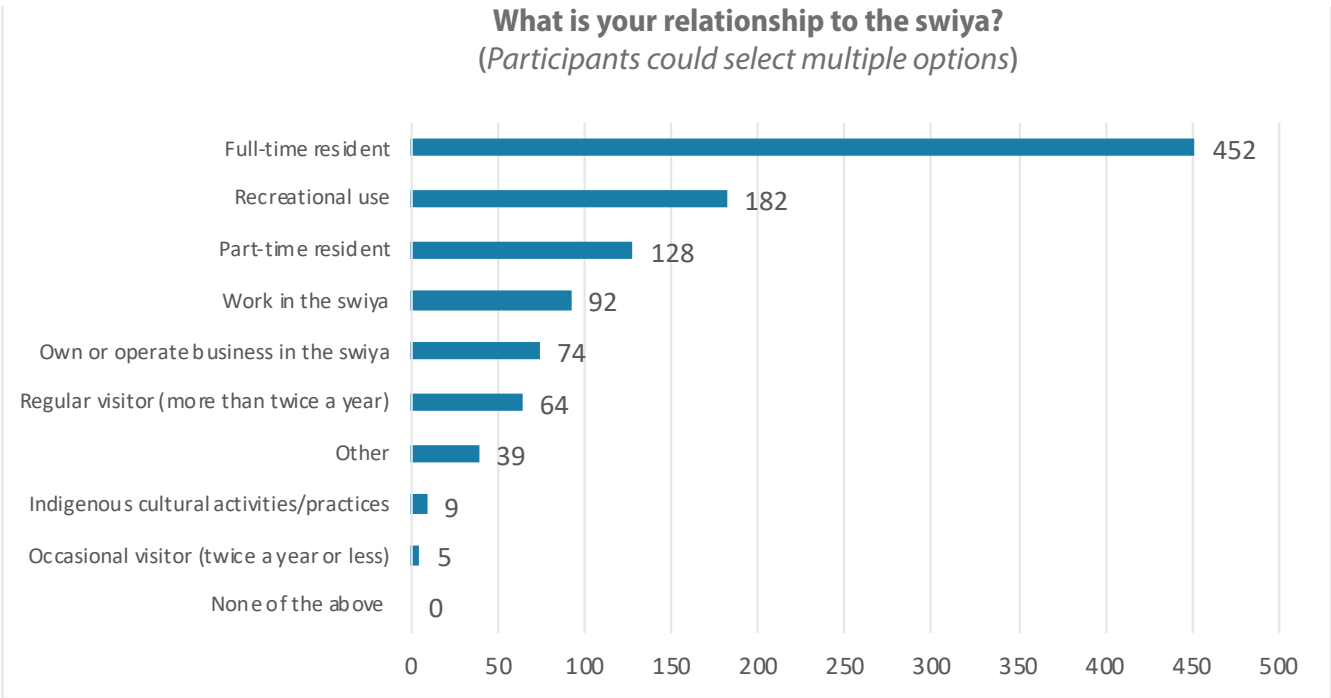


FIGURE 3: QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS BY RELATIONSHIP TO SWIYA

INTERESTS IN THE SWIYA

Many questionnaire participants indicated that they are full-time or part-time residents, and along with interests relating to their rights as private landowners, many also highlighted recreational and environmental conservation interests.

Mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, paddle boarding and other watersports were among the dominant recreational activities that participants took part in. Many value the waterways, old growth forest and healthy ecosystems in the swiya and expressed gratitude for the ability to easily access these areas for recreational purposes. Maintenance and expansion of recreational areas is of interest to many for local enjoyment and economic development achieved through tourism. Many indicated a connection to the ocean and enjoy spending time in the water and along the shoreline.

Participants voiced strong interest in preserving the swiya for future generations. Many enjoy spending time with their children recreating in the forest, exploring the natural environmental and learning about shishalh history and culture.

Those in forestry and resource extraction indicated interest in exploring economic development opportunities that are aligned with existing activity. These could provide long term economic benefits and would leverage existing infrastructure.

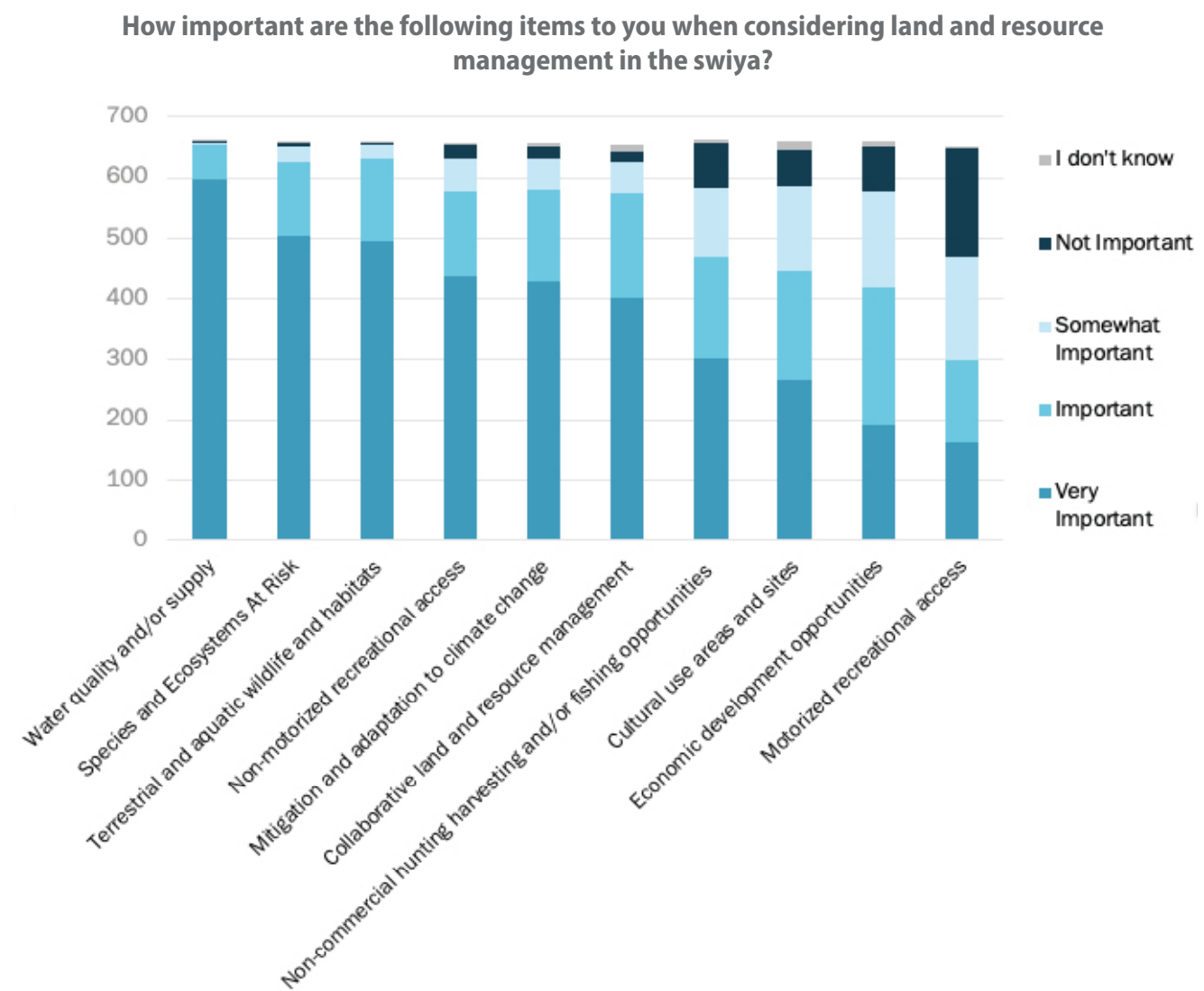


FIGURE 4: IMPORTANCE OF LAND MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS BY QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS

To further understand their interests, questionnaire participants were asked to rate the importance of the following ten land use management elements:

- Non-commercial hunting harvesting and/or fishing opportunities
- Motorized recreational access
- Non-motorized recreational access
- Mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Cultural use areas and sites
- Economic development opportunities
- Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and habitats
- Species and Ecosystems At Risk; and
- Collaborative land and resource management
- Water quality and/or supply

Water quality and/or supply was rated “Very Important” most frequently (598) followed by Species and ecosystems at risk (504) and Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and habitats (495). Economic development opportunities had a variation of support as did Motorized vehicle access. Motorized vehicle access was most likely to be rated “Not Important” (178), although the majority still deemed it somewhat to very important.

Participants who included additional comments indicated that environmental preservation, private land rights ⁷ and collaborative land use management should be key land management considerations.

PROJECT CONCERNS

Concerns relating to this planning process and land management in the swiya raised by engagement participants in this first phase include:

Environmental Degradation

Questionnaire participants are concerned about the overall environmental well-being of the swiya. Participants fear that increasing development pressures threaten natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat and watershed integrity. Some also fear that development interests could supersede environmental concerns raised by the community and advocacy groups. Some feel that it is important to incorporate environmental conservation into the planning process to preserve environmental health. Others highlighted the importance of demonstrating the greater value of the environment beyond resource extraction.

Level of Stakeholder Involvement

There is concern among some participants that the process and eventual LUP may not reflect all community viewpoints, needs and concerns. Some fear that resident needs and perspectives will not be fairly represented in the process and in future land use management decisions. Others are concerned that development and resource extraction interests will outweigh local community input, and some feel that the process will ultimately be driven by provincial government representatives lacking local context.

Coordination Between Initiatives

Local government, forestry operators and those in resource extraction raised questions about how other regional land and resource planning processes have linkages to the shishalh- B.C. land use planning process. Some are concerned about the potential for near-term and long-term planning to occur in silos and indicated the need for identifying linkages and synergy across plans to reduce duplicated initiatives, improve information sharing and enhance coordinated efforts.

⁷ The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands and federal lands.

Impacts to Private and Lease Lands

Some participants expressed concern and raised questions about impacts on private land rights and concerns about lands that they currently lease from the Province. It is worth noting here that the joint land use plan will not apply to private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs) shishalh fee-simple lands and federal lands.

Recreational Opportunity Loss

Some participants are concerned that new land management regulations could limit access to lands used for public recreation. Some participants feel that all community members should have equal access to recreational lands. Others fear that growing development will damage lake and waterway health, negatively impacting recreational fishing and watersport opportunities.

Loss of Forests

Forest conservation is important to many participants, with an emphasis on old growth and mature forest protection. Logging and clearcutting were raised as concerns for many and some are fearful that increasing development will lead to additional forest loss. Participants feel that logging of the swiya should be dramatically decreased and that sustainable, selective logging should be pursued if tree harvesting is to continue.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Collaboration

Participants highlighted the opportunity to strengthen and create partnerships with environmental community grassroots organizations supporting shared stewardship. Forest licensees expressed hope for meaningful collaboration to further efforts for co-management of lands and resources. Some feel this was also an unprecedented opportunity for information sharing, allowing collaborators to draw on a diversity of expertise and resources that exist in the swiya.

Local government indicated that this was an important and exciting time to pursue various meaningful opportunities for collaboration with both shishalh Nation and the Province. Local governments also identified that there were already synergies between the shishalh-B.C. LUP and regional planning initiatives, setting the tone for further alignment of future plans and initiatives.

Many respondents feel that ultimately this was a chance to listen and better understand the needs and perspectives of shishalh Nation in order to effectively support in this process and beyond. Many also expressed that this was an opportunity to shift towards a new process for working together in a respectful and effective manner.

Community Connectedness

Questionnaire participants feel strongly that the joint LUP development process is a significant opportunity to strengthen community connection and improve understanding and respect between groups, with emphasis on relationship building between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Many feel that this is a chance to build trust between these communities through shared values, meaningful collaboration and honest communication.

Many participants acknowledged there has been racial tension between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents, sometimes fueled by anti-Indigenous racism. Many of these same participants expressed hope that this land use planning process can aid in healing and relationship-building through respect, education, communication and mutually beneficial outcomes.

Some feel that it is important to obtain input from distinct communities and groups to build trust, demonstrate respect and promote buy-in.

Environmental Conservation

Participants firmly indicated that the joint LUP is a pivotal opportunity to enhance environmental conservation in the swiya. Many feel that forest protection, especially old growth forest, is a critical priority and feel that the LUP should address logging and clearcutting practices that threaten tree abundance. Others described the need to consider the current and future impacts of climate change, highlighting the need to integrate adaptation and mitigation measures to protect communities and the environment. Others highlighted the opportunity to identify priority conservation areas. Improved waste management and increased recycling was suggested by some to reduce adverse environmental impacts. It is worth noting here that municipal infrastructure planning is outside of the scope of the shishalh-B.C. land use planning process.

Watershed health was another opportunity area for participants, and some emphasized the need to ensure clean, adequate water supply for people and wildlife. Marine conservation was raised by some as an important consideration, with an emphasis on foreshore protection, habitat protection and fisheries restoration. Others highlighted the opportunity for planning for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats.

Some feel that environmental conservation could benefit from the application of Indigenous stewardship practices and feel that there is a broader opportunity for collaborative community environmental management and conservation. Forest licensees described opportunities to strengthen and leverage existing partnerships to advance reconciliation and sustainability efforts.

Those in the mining industry identified opportunities for decommissioning mines and land reclamation, restoring the land back to its original state. Some indicated that assigning value to land is an important step in understanding suitability for resource extraction activities and associated mitigation strategies.

Holistic Economic Growth

Throughout the questionnaire, participants voiced strong hopes for a shift towards more sustainable economic growth as a result of the joint LUP, as it pertains to both the environment and the community. Many feel that it is crucial to balance economic growth with environmental protection, with an emphasis on watershed, wildlife and old growth forest considerations. Some feel that the LUP could be an opportunity to innovate and collaborate, as well as strengthen environmental protections, economic health and community capacity.

Participants feel that it is important to guarantee long-term, stable employment for current and future community members, with many suggesting a transition away from resource extraction towards less environmentally impactful and more resilient, emerging industries. Many participants indicated that low-impact tourism, outdoor recreation, and sustainable forestry were emerging economic sectors that should be considered in the future growth and development of the swiya. Some indicated that tourism and recreation could focus on the rich cultural and historical history of the swiya and that cultural and historical preservation could be achieved through economic development. Most questionnaire participants who own a business in, or work in the swiya, underscored the importance of balancing environmental conservation with economic development.

There was a strong sentiment around promoting local economic growth and supporting small businesses in the swiya. Some suggested keeping forestry profits in the community through local timber processing. Others suggested supporting Indigenous-owned economic ventures and businesses. Others feel it is important to strengthen environmentally conscious local food security, including rejection of open water fish farming. Overall, participants feel that the joint LUP should set the direction for a more adaptive, resilient and diverse local economy.

Forest licensees are hopeful about opportunities to strengthen and advance sustainable resource-based economic activity with the goal of maintaining environmental health and contributing to local economic success. Forest licensees see an opportunity to improve clarity around forest license procurement.

Those in the mining industry highlighted opportunities to complement habitat restoration and conservation activities through resource extraction activities, ensuring that their efforts and environment interests are not in opposition and competition. Pursuing innovative, sustainable mining opportunities locally was identified as a chance to control rising costs of aggregate materials and support the economic health of communities in and around the swiya.

Inventory of Baseline Data

Participants highlighted the opportunity to fill information gaps needed to assess the current condition of lands and resources in the swiya and support evidence-based land and resource management. There is an opportunity to collect baseline information that is current and comprehensive based on both Indigenous Knowledge and laws, and western science including an updated forest inventory.

Recognition and Implementation of shishalh Rights and Title

Some participants referenced the opportunity to respect Indigenous Rights and decision-making authority and honour existing shishalh land and resource management practices. Many commented in support of the objectives of the *2007 shishalh Strategic Land Use Plan* and highlighted the opportunity to carry forward this holistic approach to restoration, land management and economic development.

Reconciliation

Throughout the questionnaire, participants underscored the importance of respecting shishalh rights, knowledge, and history. Many described the joint LUP as an opportunity to meaningfully advance reconciliation. Others feel that this is a chance to promote and celebrate Indigenous language and culture through art and education in the non-Indigenous community. This sentiment was echoed by those who operate in forestry and resource extraction, as well as local government, whom expressed interest in opportunities for improved and deeper understanding of swiya values and respect for shishalh land stewardship.

Recreational Opportunities

Many participants indicated that environmental conservation was essential to preserve land for recreational uses, ranging from lake activities to hiking and biking. Participants feel it is important to retain public access to these parks and to protect them for community enjoyment.

Participants suggested expanding provincial park land to enhance environmental conservation, with many focusing specifically on connecting the three separate parcels of Mount Elphinstone Provincial Park. Participants feel strongly that this park is integral for environmental preservation.

Sustainable Development

Participants indicated a desire to restrict future development to existing urban areas to preserve the natural environment and mitigate sprawl. Some participants also acknowledged that future commercial and residential development is needed to accommodate anticipated growth and that adequate water resources and community infrastructure, such as highway improvements and outdoor gathering spaces, need to be secured prior to development.

Participants indicated a desire to pursue appropriately scaled housing and development, integrating active transportation, innovative green construction practices and climate change adaption measures. Participants also expressed a desire to prioritize affordable housing, focusing on a diversity of housing types and sizes. It is worth noting here that municipal infrastructure and planning for community housing is outside of the scope of the shishalh-B.C. land use planning process.

PROCESS VALUES

Questionnaire participants were asked to rate the importance of the following nine process values to guide the land use planning process:

- **Transparent:** summarized results of engagement will be reported out
- **Inclusive:** all interested parties are provided with opportunities to participate
- **Respectful:** recognizing that viewpoints, interests and values of others have merit
- **Timely:** efficient planning process
- **Synergies:** embrace opportunities for coordinating with other related initiatives when/where appropriate to do so
- **Evidence-based:** decisions are made based on current and ongoing understandings, drawing from data/research available for the swiya
- **Adaptive:** decisions are adapted based on ongoing research and monitoring
- **Holistic:** consider a broad range of available information sources to support key planning themes and recognize their interconnectivity
- **Balanced:** decisions consider a balancing of cultural, environmental and economic values

Across all nine values, most participants rated them as “Very Important” or “Important”. Transparent, inclusive and respectful were most frequently rated “Very important” (534, 534, 513) by participants (see Figure 5). Holistic and balanced were rated “Not important” (24, 22) most frequently, but both values were still rated as “Very Important” or “Important” overall. Synergies was most frequently rated “I don’t know” (37) indicating that participants may need further information about how this value translates into action.

Participants who included additional comments underlined the importance of inclusivity and transparency.

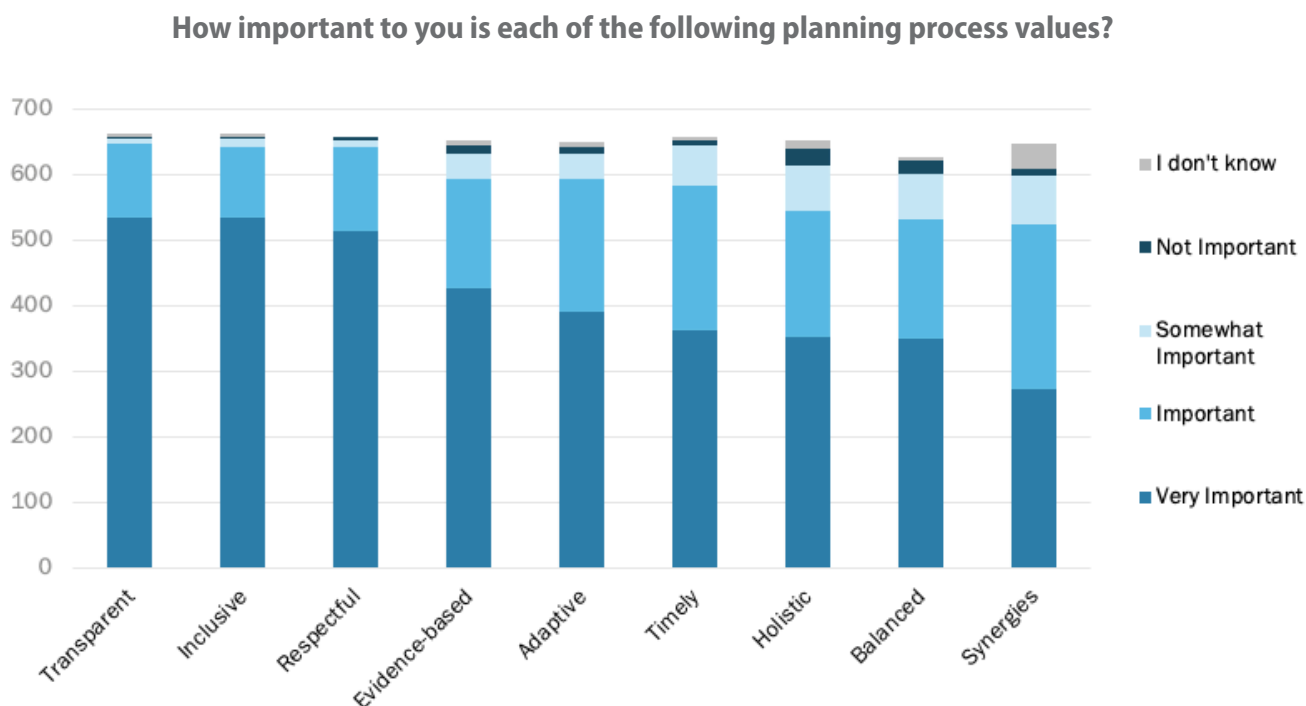


FIGURE 5: IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING PROCESS VALUES BY QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS

Transparency

The need for process transparency and clarity was echoed across the questionnaire. Many desire a clear understanding of how resident input may be used in the development of the land use plan. Some distrust the process because of previous engagements in their communities and are concerned that the process will not be transparent to all those who chose to live, work and play in the swiya.

Clear Communication

Clear communication was raised by many as crucial component of this process. Participants and local government value clear communication of information using plain language through a variety of outreach methods. Some indicated that adequate notice of engagement opportunities was important to foster meaningful participation from a diversity of stakeholders. Others recommended the establishment of an advisory table including local governments, stakeholders and local media.

Local government identified a need to better clarify jurisdictional roles and responsibilities as it pertains to land management to set clear expectations for ongoing involvement and to ensure consistent communication to the public.

Fairness

The importance of a fair and balanced process was woven throughout participant responses. Many residents indicated that all viewpoints need to be equally heard, with some concerned about the potential for bias in the process. Some are also concerned that special interest groups could commandeer the process. Some indicated that the process outcomes should create mutually beneficial outcomes for all community members in the swiya.

Inclusivity

Participants communicated a need for all community members and groups to have the opportunity to participate throughout the process and for different facets of the community to be fairly and adequately represented. An inclusive, respectful process was at the core of many questionnaire responses and many indicated that this was key to fostering collaboration, collective innovation and harmony between groups.

Licensees, including those in forestry and resource extraction, indicated that effective coordination of efforts is needed between all groups included throughout the process and beyond.

Local government feel it is important to consider the support and resources required to ensure that all groups can fully participate in a meaningful way. Other participants suggested finding ways to cover participation expenses for stakeholder organizations.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE LEARNINGS

Questionnaire participants were asked what they would like to know more about to support their understanding of the land use planning process. Participants showed a strong interest in most topics (see Figure 6), with the majority of questionnaire participants indicating an interest in learning more about what the Land Use Plan will do and how lands in the swiya are managed now.

Many desire additional information about if, and how, private land rights might be affected ⁸, and about existing foreshore tenures. Some are concerned about the potential for land ownership cost increase and would like clarifying information on the topic.

Resident participants desire further clarity on land management roles and responsibilities, indicating some confusion around who would manage what land.

What would you like to know more about to support your ongoing participation in this land use planning process?

(Participants could select multiple options)

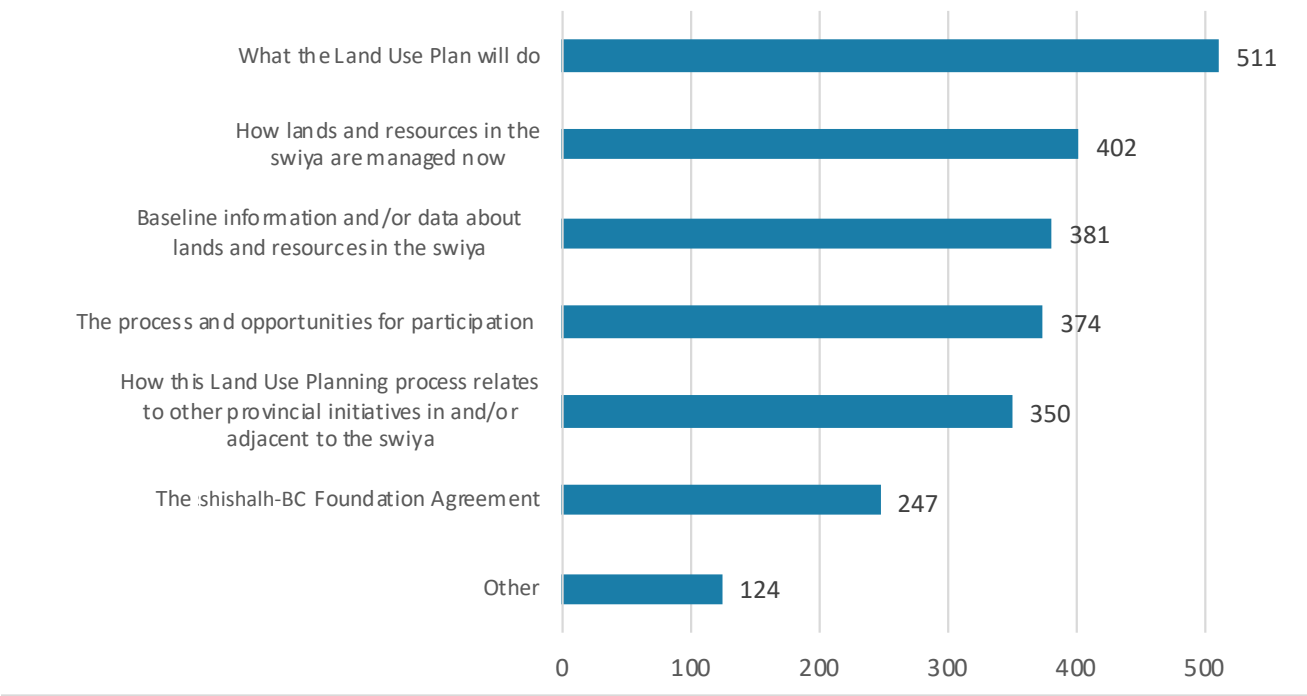


FIGURE 6: TOPICS FOR FURTHER LEARNING BY QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPANTS

⁸ The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands and federal lands.

NEXT STEPS

LINK BETWEEN WHAT WE HEARD AND THE INITIAL PLANNING THEMES

The joint Land Use Plan will articulate a shared vision for the stewardship of land and resources in the swiya on the following initial planning themes:

- Biodiversity
- Watershed integrity
- Resources important to shishalh culture; and
- Sustainable economic development

In this initial phase of engagement, much of what we heard **relates directly to these initial planning themes.**

Biodiversity: participants raised interests, concerns and opportunities relating to preservation of natural areas, including the protection of old growth and mature forests and wildlife and endangered species habitat

Watershed integrity: participants raised interests, concerns and opportunities relating to the health of the swiya watershed and water quality as well as aquatic habitats

Resources important to the shishalh culture and way of life: participants raised interests, concerns and opportunities relating to respect and recognition for shishalh traditional knowledge, stewardship and relationship to the land

Sustainable economic development: participants raised interests, concerns and opportunities relating to low impact eco-tourism and sustainable resource extraction to promote local and regional economic growth

While other interests, concerns and opportunities heard throughout Phase 1 engagement may not be initial planning themes, it is important to recognize how they can be **considered in relation to the initial planning themes.**

Some of these include:

- outdoor recreational opportunities;
- coordination between short-term and long-term planning initiatives;
- increased knowledge for land and resource management; and,
- strengthened relationships and healing partnership between shishalh Nation and the non-Indigenous community

Also important to report out on are themes heard through engagement that **will not be addressed in the Land Use Plan.** These include:

- impacts on private and leased lands ⁹
- housing and infrastructure ¹⁰
- waste management ¹⁰

⁹ The joint land use plan for the shishalh Nation swiya will not apply to: private lands, shishalh Nation Lands (SNLs), shishalh fee simple lands and federal lands.

¹⁰ Municipal infrastructure and planning for community housing is outside of the scope of the shishalh-B.C. land use planning process

WHAT WILL THIS INPUT HELP INFORM?

The input received during this initial phase of engagement will inform the work of the Land Use Planning Table as they move into the next phase of the process: assessing the current state.

In the next phase of engagement, the Land Use Planning Table will share with the public and stakeholders key findings from their research on current condition and management priorities in the swiya. The public and stakeholders will have an opportunity to learn about and share their interests on key management issues.

In addition, this initial understanding of early interests, concerns, and opportunities will help shape the engagement and information-sharing plan with stakeholders and the public for the shishalh-B.C. land use planning process.

Visit the [shishalh-B.C. LUP project website](#) for latest project information and opportunities to get involved.



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