



GITXAALA NATION

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January 27, 2025

Dear Gitxaala community,

I am writing to share an update on a significant step we have taken to ensure the territorial integrity and long-term prosperity of Gitxaala.

On January 27th, 2025, the Lu Sa Hax Hoyaxgm Wil'nat'aal along with Chief and Council filed a lawsuit against the Government of British Columbia, Canada and the Prince Rupert Port Authority. Our goal with the lawsuit is for the Crowns to acknowledge the strength of our claim to the Prince Rupert Harbour and surrounding areas. To date, both Provincial and Federal Crown governments have refused to do so, which has resulted in a flawed approach to consultation and a lack of meaningful accommodation for impacts to our rights and title. This leaves us with no other choice but to seek a resolution through the courts. This action is taken in accordance with the resolution passed by the Hereditary at their meeting in Lax Klan on August 8th, 2024.

This case is about securing the future for our people, honouring our history and creating a path forward for our Nation.

The time is now for British Columbia and Canada to live up to their commitments to reconciliation by acknowledging Gitxaala's Aboriginal Title and Rights.

Over and over again, we have provided strong evidence to the Crown confirming our continuous occupation of the Prince Rupert Harbour area. This evidence includes our *malsk*, *adaawx*, *ayaawx* and *gugwilx'ya'ansk*, our oral history, our Crests and the placenames we have in our dialect for almost every rock in the Harbour. The Crowns have rejected this evidence without ever providing a meaningful explanation for why they are rejecting our perspective; they have not been transparent or fair to us.

Looking ahead, we will continue to keep members updated on the progress of the lawsuit, which may take several years to complete.

Regards,

Lou Ga Gwelks
Chief Councillor Linda Innes