Questions & Answers - November 13 - Joint Kitselas X Kitsumkalum Treaty Information Session

Thank you to the Kitselas Members who joined us in person and via Zoom for the special joint Kitselas and Kitsumkalum Treaty Information Session on November 13.

The recording from our November 13 meeting is now accessible in the Members' Area of the www.kitselastreaty.ca website, ensuring that all members can stay informed and involved in our discussions.

Please find below a summary of Kitselas Members' Q&As from the meeting.

Q – Will there be an opportunity for both communities to meet again if there is a desire to do so and jointly review the Treaty?
A – Sure, if Kitselas members believe there is value in another joint meeting, the Treaty Office can approach Kitsumkalum to judge their interest

Q – Can we change the ratification vote date if the People decide they're not ready?
A – Kitselas chooses the voting date for our Treaty and Constitution. As you know, we have been working on the Treaty for over 30 years and feel confident we have negotiated the best offer for Kitselas Members to decide on. Is it perfect - no. Will we get a better deal by waiting - I don't think so.

So, the only real question is whether the community has enough time and information to vote on this proposed Treaty. After four years and almost 100 community engagement meetings, plus 50ish packages sent to every house, your Treaty team feels it is time to vote in April 2025. Of course, if you have questions, there are five months between now and the vote to ask them.

Q – Can Canada cancel the Treaty?
A – The Constitution and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are the most important laws in Canada. Treaties with First Nations are just below the Constitution, making them very important. The only way to cancel a treaty would be to change Canada's Constitution, which is extremely difficult, almost impossible without a war. Because of this, it's safe to say that Canada is unlikely ever to cancel a treaty with First Nations.

Q – Was inflation factored into the Treaty Settlement amount? The cost of everything has gone up significantly. Life is getting harder. What if we don't have enough money?
A – Yes. Inflation is hard on everyone, and we understand that costs are rising. That's why

the Treaty money is protected against inflation. The funds will hold their value even if it takes years to finalize.

The Treaty gives Kitselas and Kitsumkalum money that will be invested to help cover increasing costs for things like education, health care, and supporting members wherever they live. Of course, all current programs also receive inflationary adjustments each year.

The government offered us a settlement during the AIP process that started at $35 million but has grown to ~$140 million. And if we invest this money wisely, it could generate $6–$8 million each year, which can help with things like education, infrastructure, health care, and elder pensions. Additionally, we will continue to receive funding for all programs and services as we do now, which will also increase with inflation.