



June Quarterly Meeting Presentation Outline

Update on K'ómoks Treaty Legislation

Agenda

1. Housekeeping
2. Update on Bill 20: K'omoks Treaty
3. Timeline of Recent Efforts
4. What Wei Wai Kum Has Done
5. Next Steps



We are committed to transparency and keeping the community informed as we assert our Section 35 rights.

Today's update reflects what has happened throughout the legislative process and the steps we've taken to make our voices heard and what we plan to move forward.



Bill 20

K'omoks Treaty Update



Direct Concerns

No Recognition of Liǵʷiǵdaǵʷ or Walitsama Heritage or Laws

80% Claimed Territory Overlap; No Recognition of WWK Core Territory

Gives K'omoks Stronger Rights to Interfere with WWK Projects in the Future

Lack of Meaningful Consultation/ Accommodation



Timeline of Recent Efforts

2022

Protocol discussions begin with K'omoks and Wei Wai Kai, but later K'omoks and Wei Wai Kai pushed Wei Wai Kum out of the tripartite process.

2022-
onward

From 2022, Wei Wai Kum requested K'omoks to attend cultural meetings in the Gukwdzi to share family connections, history and culture to try and find solutions based on Indigenous law. K'omoks has repeatedly refused to participate.

2024

Government negotiators made two written commitments not to do a handshake or initial the K'omoks Treaty until deep consultation and accommodation negotiations with Wei Wai Kum. The Government broke both commitments.



Timeline of Recent Efforts (continued)

March
2025

Walitsama descendants filed an injunction to pause the process and create space for a protocol. The court found the application premature because no formal harm had yet occurred. The work continued through other channels.

November
2025

WWK meets with the Premier's office and Ministers to ask for commitments to resolve K'omoks issues. Commitments were made to follow up but nothing happened.



Timeline of Recent Efforts

February
2026

Met with provincial Ministry confirmed the governments have no mandate to address WWK issues but were still planning to bring KFN treaty to the provincial legislature for ratification.

April, 10
2026

Met with K'omoks, they continued to put forward pre-conditions to negotiating any protocols. One of their conditions is that they want to be able to terminate any protocol at any point in the future

April 14,
2026

Bill 20 K'omoks Treaty is introduced into the legislature.



Timeline of Recent Efforts

April 30,
2026

WWK and Lax Kw'alaams present a detailed dispute resolution process to the provincial government based on Indigenous law. They formally ask the province to delay Bill 20 to allow time for dispute resolution in the Gukwdzi

April
2026

WWK holds the media conference/event calling on the Province to pause the K'ómoks legislation.

April–
Present

Lax Kw'alaams and Wei Wai Kum leadership have been in Victoria nearly every week, calling on the government to pause the treaty legislation for 180 days to meaningfully consult.



Timeline of Recent Efforts (continued)

May 20,
2026

Bill 20 K'omoks Treaty passed second reading and into the committee stage.

May 21,
2026

At 5:30 p.m., the Government quietly moved the K'omoks Treaty onto the agenda for Committee debates and broke its commitment to clear communication and a detailed response to WWK. Minister Chandra Herbert began answering questions, often giving inaccurate or incomplete answers.

May 27,
2026

Bill 20 K'omoks Treaty passed committee stage.

May 28,
2026

Bill 20 K'omoks Treaty passed third reading.



Provincial to Federal: What Does this Mean for Wei Wai Kum?

- While the Province has completed its legislative process, the K'omoks Treaty must still go through the federal process before it can be full implemented.
- In practical terms, the treaty now moves from Victoria to Ottawa.
- The federal government must still complete its own ratification process.
- Wei Wai Kum leaders will be travelling to Ottawa to inform and pressure federal MPs.



What WWK Has Done



What WWK Has Done

Injunction Filing

- In February 2025, Salmon River Band descendants sought an injunction to halt K'ómoks' Treaty ratification vote pending a court decision on membership and reserve issues tied to the 1940/41 amalgamation.
- The court dismissed the request, saying it was too early because B.C. and Canada still need to ratify. They found no “irreparable harm” and were concerned about potential consequences of delaying the treaty process.



What WWK Has Done

Cultural Event and Media Conference in April

- WWKum invited Chiefs and knowledge-keepers from other Nations to Victoria and many attended. They confirmed Indigenous Law and LKT Territory.
- K'ómoks declined to attend but 6 Conservative MLAs and staffers were present.
- Despite us expressing the importance of their attendance, the Premier and Ministers declined to meet.
- On April 20, WWK, Lax Kw'alaams and the Nine Allied Tribes held a media conference at the legislature in Victoria calling on BC MLAs to pause Bill 20 ahead of debate.



What WWK Has Done

Briefing Notes and Information Sent to MLAs

- March 27, 2026: Open Letter sent to MLAs identifying concerns regarding K'ómoks' impacts and infringements, requesting necessary revisions and accommodations, and providing a treaty review summary table.
- May 5, 2026: Wreckonciliation Briefing Note in response to Crown accommodation proposal May 1, 2026.
- Lengthy K'ómoks' response memo tries to counter our March 27 points, cites "false narratives" and ultimately confuses MLAs and muddies the waters., with many of its own false statements.



What WWK Has Done

Lax Kw'alaams Alliance

- WWK and LK have worked together on media statements and releases
- Weekly presence in Victoria, with regular meetings with Conservative and Green MLAs
- Letters sent to government and responses issued
- Minister Chandra Herbert was invited to the Gukwdzi for protocol discussions but did not attend. Says he might come to the Gukwdzi in Campbell River in June



What WWK Has Done

Weekly Presence in Victoria

- Meetings with Conservative and Green MLAs – Since the Government was not willing to meet with WWK, WWK travelled to Victoria to meet with the Green Party and Conservative Party. The intent was to bring them up to date and ask them to ask questions and make statements on behalf of WWKum and Lax Kw'alaams and to try and delay the K'omoks Treaty ratification to support the dispute resolution process.



What WWK Has Done

Support Letters to Impacted Nations

Letters requesting support were sent to the following Nations:

From Wei Wai Kum

- Da'naxda'xw
- Tlowitsis
- Mowachaht-Muchalaht
- Snuneymuxw
- Te'mexw Treaty Association
- Snaw-naw-as
- Hupacasath
- Qualicum
- Tseshaht
- Penelakut
- Lyackson
- Halalt
- Xa'xtsa
- Stz'uminus
- Cowichan Tribes
- su'uubaa-asatx
- Tla'amin
- Klahoose
- Homalco

From Lax Kw'alaams & Nine Allied Tribes

- Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs
- Gitxsan Huwilp Government
- Hwlitsum First Nation
- Kispiox
- Tahltan
- Canim Lake (Tsq'escen')



WWK's Proposal for 180-Day Pause to K'omoks Ratification

We proposed a pause to allow a dispute resolution process based on our Indigenous Law and to allow reasonable amendments to the K'ómoks Treaty.

We have proposed maintaining Salmon River as a reserve, recognizing our core territory, and requiring binding protocols within the Treaty. We are willing to reciprocate on all of these.

The Dispute Resolution proposal is currently structured in two phases:

- **Phase 1: Meetings in the Gukwdzi with Chiefs and Knowledge-Keepers and an independent academic to record observations**
- **Phase 2: Facilitated resolution to find solutions based on Indigenous Law**



WWK's Proposal for the Pause Period (continued)

- The process includes participation from BC, Canada, KFN, and BCTC
- Senior BC and Canada representatives would participate, but not lead
- We are requesting technical support and funding from the B.C. Treaty Commission.
- Lax Kw'alaams, and Nine Allied Tribes would have a similar process and we would support each other.



Legal Options Being Considered



Legal Options Being Considered

- Options include: failure to consult; Salmon River case; and Aboriginal Title.
- Failure to consult - The governments has broke two written promises and have failed to meaningfully consult or accommodate. However, winning a failure to consult case **only results** in more consultation.
- Walitsama descendants can continue the Salmon River Reserve case. There have been discussions about adding more representative plaintiffs.
- We need to document oral histories and cultural knowledge through statutory declarations or affidavits from Nancy Henderson and other knowledge holders for use in this and future legal actions.



Legal Options Being Considered

- There are many options for Aboriginal title claims. One key decision is whether to claim the whole Territory or specific strategic areas.
- A geographically narrow title claim, like the Nuchatlaht Title Case, presents advantages such as fewer defendants, simpler procedural issues with Crown lands, a stronger likelihood of success, lower costs, and greater leverage.
- Specific areas for narrow claims could include the Salmon River watershed, Loughborough Inlet, claim gardens, fishing weirs, village sites including the historic village at Comox, and the John Hart Dam.



Playing Offence Now

South of the Oyster
River
ON THE TABLE FOR
WWKum

Expand our SOI Map

Send out notices to
government
entities in Comox,
Courtenay and
Cumberland



The Approach Going Forward

Considerations for
filing Title Claim

Maintain a strong
alliance with Allies

Continue providing
transparent, clear
communication with
community members.
Your voice matters.



Q&A



Thank you!



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