

# Taku River Tlingit

## A MULTI YEAR PERSPECTIVE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TAKU RIVER TLINGIT

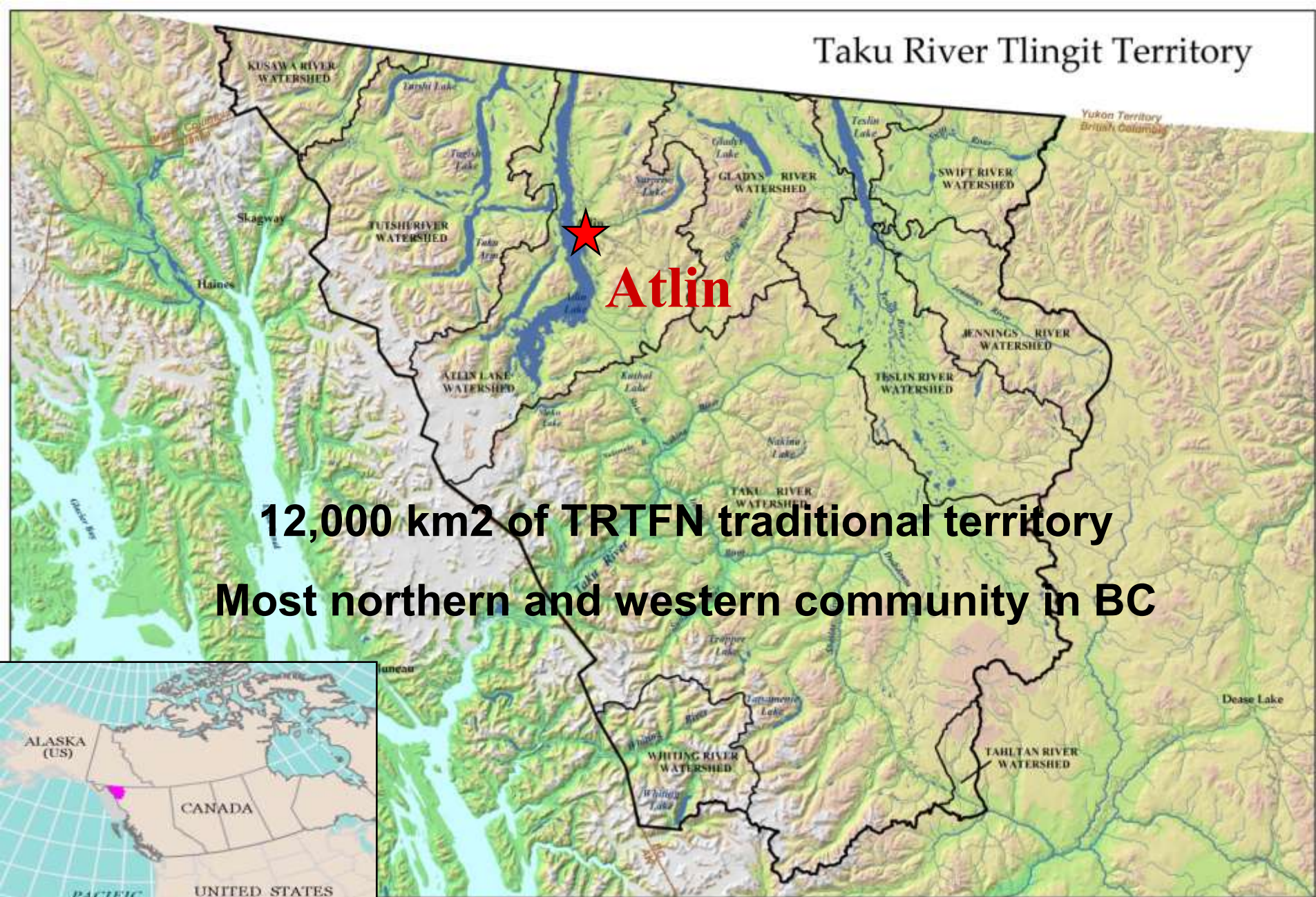
07 October, 2008

Peter Kirby

TRTFN



# Taku River Tlingit Territory



**12,000 km<sup>2</sup> of TRTFN traditional territory**  
**Most northern and western community in BC**



# Combining 3 Important Goals

The TRTFN are actively building a working model that can help sustain our people for many generations to come.

- 1. Revival of cultural values and sustenance**
- 2. Responsible management of resources**
- 3. Sustainable economic development**



# Sustainable Development



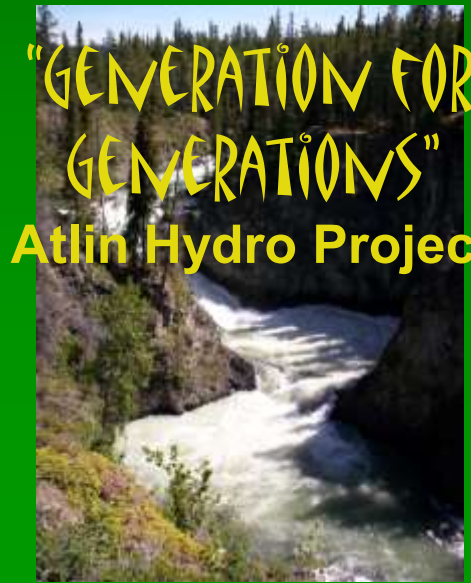
# TRTFN Development Corporations

Taku River Tlingit  
First Nation

Atlin Tlingit  
Development  
Corporation

Taku Land  
Corporation

Taku Wild  
Corporation



"GENERATION FOR  
GENERATIONS"  
Atlin Hydro Project



# Atlin view yesterday!



# Guiding Principles TRT Constitution

- **“Historically, our people had laws and customs through which they successfully governed our traditional territory and protected it for future generations. Now we are the caretakers for those yet to come. We are thankful and shall only take from our traditional territory what we need to ensure our well being and self-determination as Tlingit.”**



# Hà tlatgi hà khustiyxh sìti “Our Land is Our Future”

## Vision and Management Direction Document

The purpose of the document is to describe our vision for TRT territory. It describes how we want to see our land and natural resources used, managed, and protected for the benefit of present and future generations.



# Hà tlatgi hà khustiyxh sìti

- This document also promotes sustainable economic development and capacity building within our Nation. We want to manage our land and resources wisely while also providing more jobs and economic benefit for our citizens, all people in our territory, and others who want to share in the wealth of our territory. (aka BC and Canada)



# Downtown Atlin next week!



# Why We Needed a Land Plan

- To describe a TRT vision for the future of our land
- To plan ahead for ourselves, rather than react to others
  - LRMP? Watershed-level plans?
- To protect, conserve and manage our natural resources, now and for the future
- To identify opportunities for jobs and economic development for our people
- To demonstrate our rights, title and interests on the land



# Assessment of TRT Information

- **Review of past studies:**
  - **1994. Study of Development Impacts Throughout the Taku Watershed.**
  - **1994-5. Living Within Ha Da TI'Atgi**
  - **1994-95. Carcross Tagish Traditional Knowledge Project**
  - **1996. Ha Tlatki Ha Kustiye: Our Land, Our Way of Life**
  - **1997. Environmental Audit**
  - **1997. Impacts of Tulsequah Mine Project on TRTN Traditional Land Use**
  - **1997-98. Physical Development Plan**
  - **2000. Five Year TRTFN Strategic Plan**



# What The Assessment Told Us (1)

- We care deeply about our land and way of life
- Our use of the land is extensive, long-standing and well documented
- We want TRT land to be managed sustainably - to provide present and future benefits for the Nation
- TRT members want sustainable jobs and opportunities - from resource use and conservation.
- We are concerned about poorly planned developments in our territory - Taku watershed, around Atlin



## **What the Assessment Told Us (2)**

- We care deeply about our land and way of life**
- Our use of the land is extensive, long-standing and well documented**
- We want TRT land to be managed sustainably - to provide present and future benefits for the Nation**
- TRT members want sustainable jobs and opportunities - from resource use and conservation.**
- We are concerned about poorly planned developments in our territory - Taku watershed, around Atlin**



# **Economic Projects**

- **Hydro project**

**Taku Wild project**

**Atlin Tlingit Development Corp Project**

**Community Infrastructure Projects**

**Water Treatment Plant Project**

**Waste Water Treatment Project**



# Hydro Project

- **2.0 MW modified run of river project**
- **Meets needs of Atlin for next 20 yrs**
- **First 100% Aboriginal owned hydro project in Canada, and perhaps the world**
- **Great source of pride for our people**
- **Secure source of revenue for present and future generations**

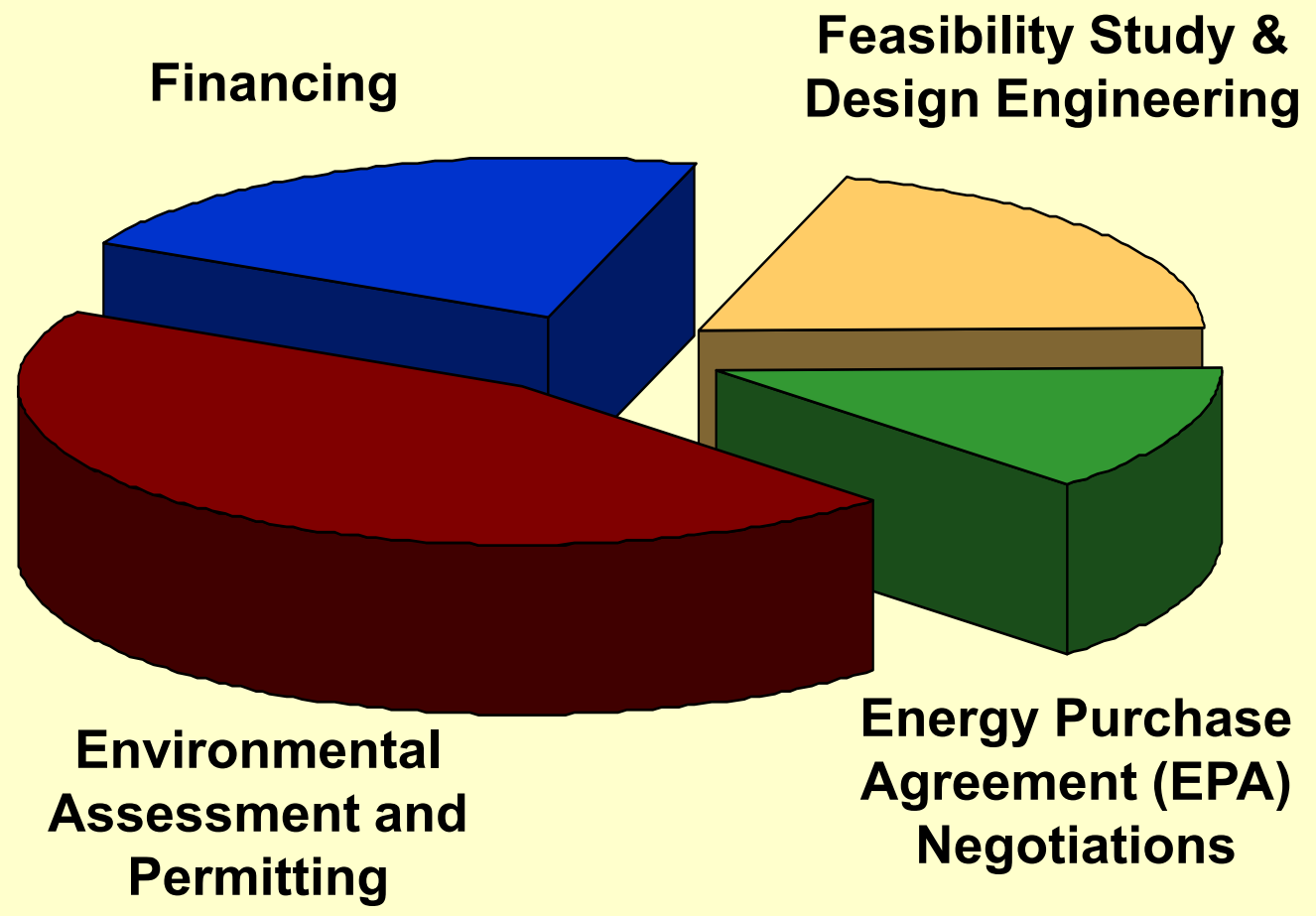


# Hydro Project

- ***You can do much of the development work in house (supervised by professionals if needed).***
  - ***TRTFN provided fisheries and wildlife expertise for the biological impacts assessment.***
  - ***Rather than hire a company to do it all, we hired them to train our people to do all the hydrology work.***
  - ***Other areas we did in-house: Project Management, Administration, Technical Reporting, Field Recon, Preliminary Mapping, Photography....***
- ***This helps increase owner equity, provides local employment, and builds HR capacity.***



# Main Areas of Project Management Effort – 2004 to 2008



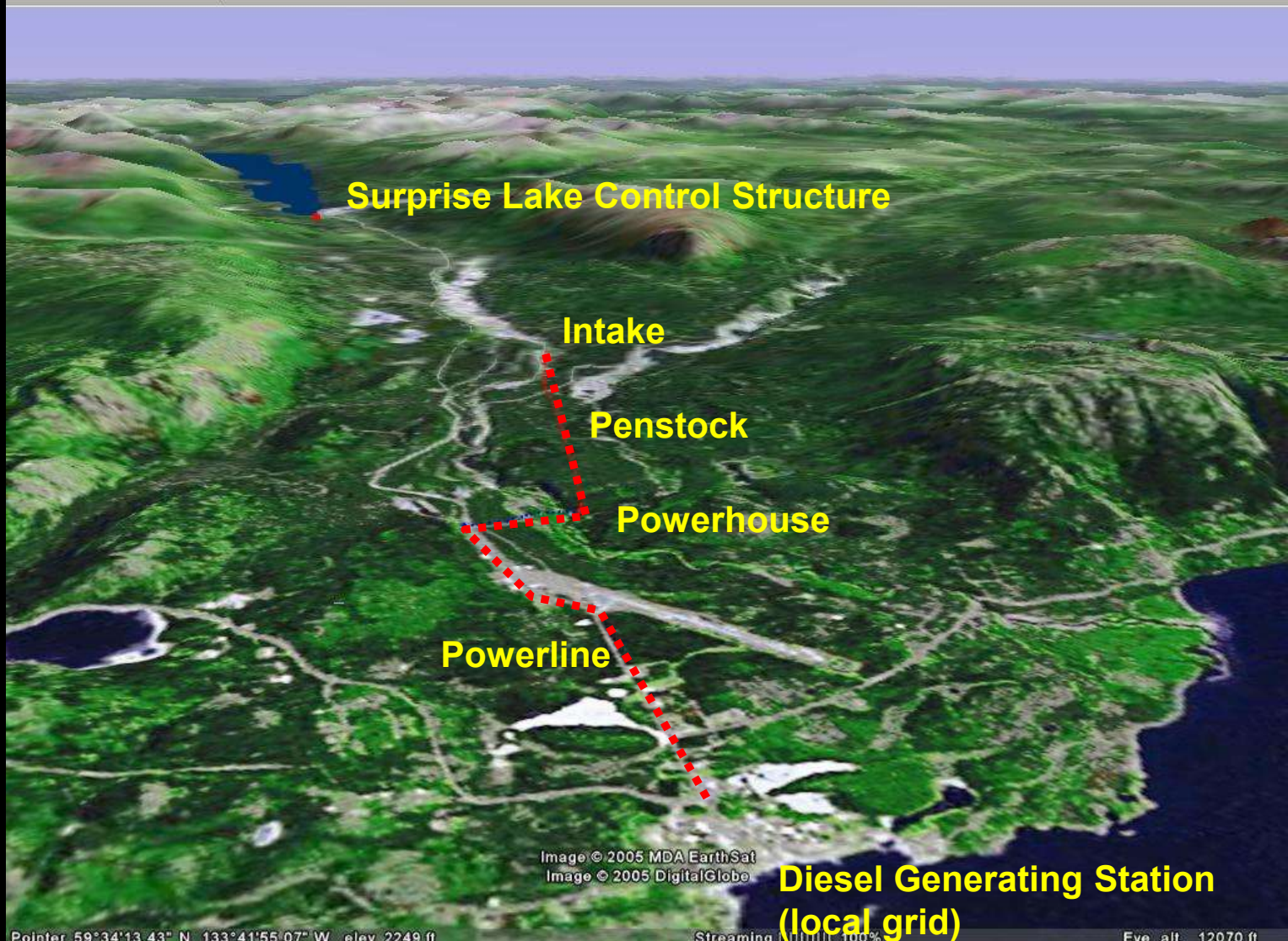
# TRT STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Training and Capacity Development



# Google Earth Looking East

File Edit View Add Tools Help



TRT STRATEGIES FOR  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

# Surprise Lake a few days ago, really!



# Hydro project - Employment and Contracting

- 25 jobs during construction
- Some subcontracting opportunities
- Operations – will hire a TRTFN employee interested in technical training and post secondary education, to assist with operating the hydro plant and the diesels on backup.



# Penstock Pipeline



3.66 km length

105 m gross vertical head

48' diameter high density polyethylene

**Buried 2 m deep, minimal impacts  
to wildlife and human movement**

# Looking Ahead a Generation

- Years of steady revenue stream to TRTFN, not tied down with government restrictions and reporting requirements.
- Source of TRTFN business investment money, equity to leverage funding, community projects, TRTFN citizens benefit.
- We started this project in earnest about 6 years ago



# TRT Governance

TRT treated the hydro project company (TLC) like any other company wishing to undertake a development in Tlingit territory

Funding

**Taku Land Corporation provided funding to cover costs of all Phases of work to facilitate TRTFN's involvement in the environmental and development process.**



# Taku Wild Products Limited

[www.takuwild.com](http://www.takuwild.com)

Don't forget to go to [www.takuwild.com](http://www.takuwild.com)

Taku Wild is a like the hydro project, a project borne out of a community desire

Taku Wild is a commercial fishing business that employs 20 commercial fishers

- operates a landing station that employs up to 6 staff

- has an sales and administration staff of 2



# Taku Wild

**Taku Wild was the first company we formed that began as a result of extensive community consultation with TRT citizens.**

**The hydro project followed that consultative model and included all Atlin citizens.**

**Taku Wild makes a bit of money but its purpose is to invest in habitat restoration and maintenance and stewardship.**



# Taku Wild

- TRT fishers wanted to form this company
- All citizens wanted to be on the river fishing
- TW earns revenue that goes into infrastructure on the river to support the fishers
- TW creates about 30 seasonal jobs, has built about \$400k infrastructure on the river, and invests in habitat restoration
- 8 years ago Taku Wild was only an idea



# TRT Governance

- That infrastructure and those fishers also help demonstrate ownership for rights and title discussions with other governments
- Taku Wild collects data that is useful for TRT at the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiating table with Canada (DFO) and USA/Alaska (ADF&G)
- This information has helped TRT and Canada negotiate greater numbers for Canadian commercial harvest
- Greater numbers for the Canadian commercial harvest helps Taku Wild earn more revenue and employ more people



# Atlin Tlingit Development Corp

- ATDC was formed to help TRT cut costs for fuel
- Building and home heating fuel and vehicle fuel
- Costs were high because there was a monopoly in Atlin prior to ATDC starting to operate
- We found we could save money and create a bit of employment but not necessarily make a lot of money
- Expansion needed to occur to generate revenue



# ATDC

- **ATDC expanded into project management (for the hydro project)**
- **Expanded into Environmental Services (to serve local mines and the hydro project)**
- **And expanded its fuel services to sell to more local placer miners as the price of gold increased – so did the amount of machinery on the creeks**



# ATDC

- **60,000L and 25,000L Enviro tanks**
- **966D loader**
- **580 Super K Case Backhoe**
- **Fuel delivery truck**
- **Water truck**
- **Grader**
- **Work truck and trailers**
- **5 years ago all ATDC owned was a 25,000L Enviro tank**



# Project Development

*This owner must plan for:*

- *A multi-year dedicated commitment of resources.*
- *Continuity of Leadership and project champion (project team, coordinator or manager).*
- *Getting community support and involvement.*
- *Appropriate technical support to address knowledge gaps.*



# TRT Strategies

- **Have stable Leadership**
  - **Clan System or traditional system of governance**
- **Have organizational capacity or hire it**
- **Consult extensively with constituents**
- **Demonstrate capacity**



## **Stable Leadership**

**Provides security to investors and employees**

**Provides continuity for multi-year projects**

**Provides better understanding for complexities of project development**

**For TRT that is our Clan System of Governance**



# Organizational Capacity

**This stems from stable Leadership  
Many First Nation's and small towns  
have a few who do a lot**

**We found we needed to work on  
creating an environment that was  
attractive to investors and  
employees**

**Once we have that we can get pro-  
active rather than reactive**



## **Consultation**

**Our first step in this was to ask our citizens how they wanted to be consulted (phone, community meetings, internet, etc)**

**Then we consult in a manner consistent with their requests**

**This provides ownership and also provides an opportunity for dialogue**

**Dialogue has helped us build consensus on ideas and projects that at first had the community fairly divided**



# Demonstrate Capacity

- We found that if we can demonstrate capacity other governments and businesses want to work with us more readily
- This provides opportunity for cooperation by all parties involved
- It also allows us to provide opportunity for stakeholders to realize their objectives by working with TRT



# Demonstrate Capacity

- This has worked well for us.
- We are now beginning to engage in discussions for future plans
- More and more these discussions lead to Cultural Revival



# Culture

- TRT is fortunate to have Wayne Carlick come home after years away
- Wayne is helping us all to build a broader foundation for our Cultural Revival
- This is building pride and that pride is manifesting itself in healthier people who are more able to work for and support our community and corporate development



# Culture

- **TRT has built a Cultural Activities Building**
- **This building houses our 37 foot cedar canoe**
- **The self healing that happens when our citizens work on the canoe, regalia, and language with the children helps build pride**



## ***Future Planning Discussions***

**As we near completion of some projects we have to instigate conversations with citizens to see what they see in the future and what they think our resources are best applied toward.**

**The following slides are some ideas folks have expressed interest in.**



# Education and Training

- Address gaps in Post Secondary Education Assistance
- Scholarships – TRTFN, Atlin
- Gaps in primary/secondary education ?
- Gaps in TFLC funding
- Other ?



# **Business Development (1 of 2)**

- **TRTFN citizen business developm't**
- **Micro loan program**
- **Invest in expanding existing ventures to create new jobs, increase profitability:**
  - **Taku Wild – Salmon processing**
  - **ATDC – garage, office, new fuel truck**
  - **Hydro project – invest in maximizing the revenue from the un-used capacity**



## Business Development (2 of 2)

- Invest in leveraging financing for **NEW VENTURES** to create new jobs and profits. Some ideas from the community:
  - Bottled Water exporting
  - Greenhouse produce
  - Construction fleet – trucks, equipment
  - Quarry, screening plant and dump truck
  - Tourism?
  - Other...?



# Social Programs and Healing

- Elder heat – firewood, heating oil
- Healing opportunities and programs
- Income top-ups or incentives
- Emergency fund ?
- Life skills or other workshops
- Cash equity to leverage additional funding programs
- Daycare programs?
- Other ? (*what are the gaps?*)



# Citizen Benefits

- Shareholder structure
- Citizens investing in TRTFN corporations
- Dividends to shareholders
- Joint ventures with citizen businesses
- Other?



# Culture and Recreation

- Camps, trail maintenance, people on land
- Tlingit Art, Music, Dance, Language, Regalia
- Artifact preservation, storage, display
- Cemetery maintenance
- Celebrations in Juneau (travel)
- Other?



# Resource Management & Land Claims

- Legal bills
- Negotiations and consultants
- GIS operations
- Mining policy implementation?
- L&R management training
- Environmental technician training
- Other ?



# Community Infrastructure

- Five Mile Marina upgrades
- Skating rink, playgrounds, picnic areas, camps...
- Gaps in O&M budget
- Equity to leverage additional funds for capital projects – new infrastructure, housing, etc..
- Other ?



# For More Information:

**Salaryman: Peter Kirby**

**Phone: 250-651-7930**

**Email**

**[takubasin@yahoo.com](mailto:takubasin@yahoo.com)**

**Box 132, Atlin BC, V0W1A0**



THANK YOU

**GUNALCHEESH**

