



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 21, 2023

Background on the Nisga'a Treaty

Gitlaxt'aamiks, British Columbia

The Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Nisga'a Treaty) came into effect on May 11, 2000. The Nisga'a Nation, along with the Governments of British Columbia and Canada, are parties to the Nisga'a Treaty. The Provincial and Federal Governments passed settlement legislation in 1999 and 2000, respectively, giving the Nisga'a Treaty the force of law and making it binding on all persons (including persons not party to the treaty).

The Nisga'a Treaty sets out the Nisga'a Nation's rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. It was the first modern-day treaty signed in British Columbia and the first treaty in Canada to fully set out and constitutionally protect an Indigenous Nation's right to self-government and authority to make laws over its land and for its people.

The Nisga'a Nation, which is represented by the Nisga'a Lisims Government, owns about 2,019 square kilometres of land in the Nass Valley on British Columbia's northwest coast. The Nisga'a Nation also has constitutionally protected rights in the Nisga'a Nation's traditional territory (referred to as the Nass Area, which includes the Nass Wildlife Area, under the Nisga'a Treaty).

Nisga'a citizens have constitutionally protected rights to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area under *Chapter 9 – Wildlife and Migratory Birds* of the Nisga'a Treaty. These rights are subject only to authorized Crown uses. Prior to authorizing such uses, the Crown must consult with the Nisga'a Nation regarding potential impacts to the Nisga'a Nation's treaty rights and, where appropriate, accommodate the Nisga'a Nation.

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