

## PRINCIPLES: FUNDAMENTALS OF NEXWAGWEZ?AN - DASIQOX TRIBAL PARK

**Principle 1: Everything is Interconnected.** T̓ìlhqot’ìn people protect the Dasiqox Tribal Park so that it will remain wild and pristine. We ensure that the land, animals, and people are strong and healthy together, because we are part of each other. The Dasiqox Tribal Park is an expression of all our voices, a place connecting us through time.

**Principle 2: Water is life.** T̓ìlhqot’ìn are the river people. All use of the land will keep the waters of the Dasiqox Tribal Park clean and flowing, and the ground nourished with water. Our water is pure, and supports all the life that we know and love in our territory.

**Principle 3: Respect.** We commit to maintaining our traditional practice of taking only what we need. We will behave respectfully towards water, mountains, all aspects of the land, and the plants, animals, and the people that dwell here. Being respectful includes asking consent before using or impacting the communities and lands of the Dasiqox Tribal Park, and honouring the answer. We expect that all visitors, settlers, and guests to our territory will conduct themselves with the same ethic.

**Principle 4: Healing, Health, and Well-being.** As T̓ìlhqot’ìn people, our health and well-being cannot be separated from that of the land, water, and air. We eat from the land; the water and air give us life. Our medicine comes from the land. The Dasiqox Tribal Park protects space for all of us to heal from hurts, restoring the land and ourselves to find strength and to thrive. We feel excited to go to those special places in the Tribal Park where we feel most happy and spend time having fun!

**Principle 5: Honouring Spirit.** As T̓ìlhqot’ìn, we protect the spirit of the land that is part of our own spirits. Nexwagwez?an is a place where we can be quiet, listening to the voices of nature and the animals and plants that live there. We recognize the power of the spirits that are the landscape around us – mountains, waters, and all parts of the Dasiqox Tribal Park. It holds places where we can connect with our ancestors in the places that they travelled, and share with future generations.

**Principle 6: Caretaking.** T̓ìlhqot’ìn people are the caretakers of our lands. It is our responsibility and our right to steward how the land is used by local people and by visitors. We exercise this responsibility as guardians and monitors, and as we practice our traditional ways of knowing and being on the land.

**Principle 7: Thriving Culture.** Dasiqox Tribal Park is a place for T̓ìlhqot’ìn people, our culture, and our language to thrive. In the places our people have known and spent time for many generations, we speak our own language, and connect with families and friends while practicing traditional ways of life. We share the stories that connect us to those places and to each other. In those places, we learn and grow strong in who we are as T̓ìlhqot’ìn people.

**Principle 8: Sharing knowledge.** It is out on the land where we learn, teach, and share T̓ìlhqot’ìn knowledge through the past, present, and future. We learn from each other, and from the land, the animals. The Dasiqox Tribal Park is our space to spend family time together on the land. It is where we hunt, fish, and create opportunities for youth and children to learn, to experience happiness and freedom, to know who they are.