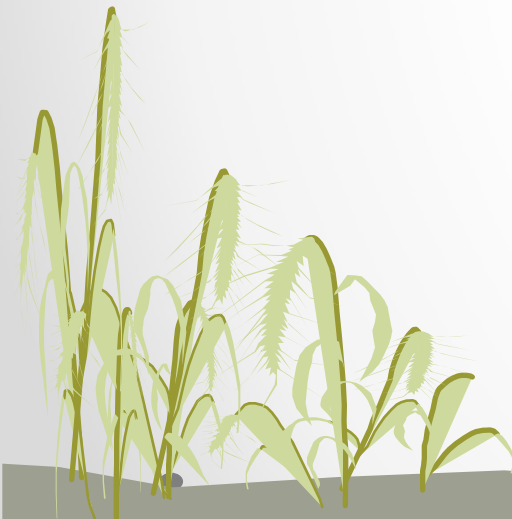


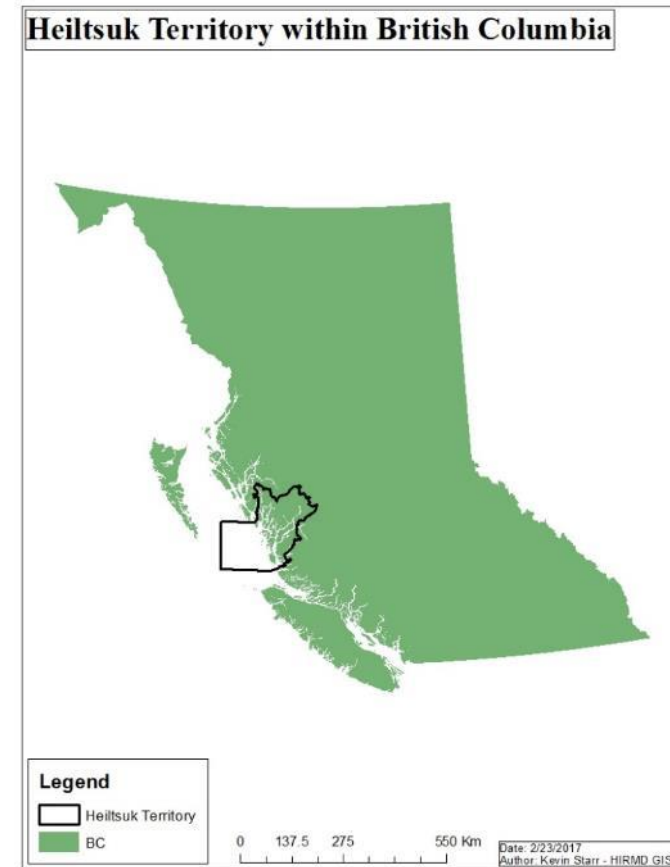
Qqs Projects Society

An introduction



The Heiltsuk and Bella Bella

- Heiltsuk Nation is located in Bella Bella, BC in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest
- Membership of ~2,500 governed jointly by an elected council and hereditary leadership



Qqs (Eyes) Projects Society

- Founded as a society in 1999 and secured charitable status in 2002
- Original mandate: “Open the eyes of Heiltsuk youth to their responsibility as stewards of their land, culture, and resources”
- Strong focus on land-based education and cultural revitalization



Programs Overview

- FAMILY: Koeye Camps, isolation program, family camps, community
- LAND: Intimacy, passion, stewardship, knowledge
- SPIRIT/CULTURE: Language, lineage, values, gvi'ilas, teaching nights
- COMMUNITY: Coat Giveaway, gardens, food, elders, leadership, after school programs, training, retreats



Koeye Sanctuary

Koeye Lodge

- Purchased in 2002, fire in 2011, reopened 2016
- Heiltsuk carpenters and sawmill
- Purpose built for Heiltsuk families and entities (Ex. Youth Centre workshops, BBCS field trips, Soc Dev family camps)
- Culturally appropriate and sustainably powered



Koeye Camp

- Primary focus on culture and language revitalization as instructed by late “Pops”
- Build first bighouse in HTT in living memory in 2006, and raised first mortuary pole in living memory in 2007
- Kids who are connected to their culture and language have a strong sense of identity and personal wellness



Koeye Camp

Activities include:

- Food harvesting
- Traditional canoe pulling
- Cedar bark pulling and weaving
- Plant dyes & bead making
- Medicinal plant harvest and preparation
- Exploring arch sites & CMTs
- Learning history & family trees
- Storytelling, singing, dancing
- Language lessons
- “Feast Day”

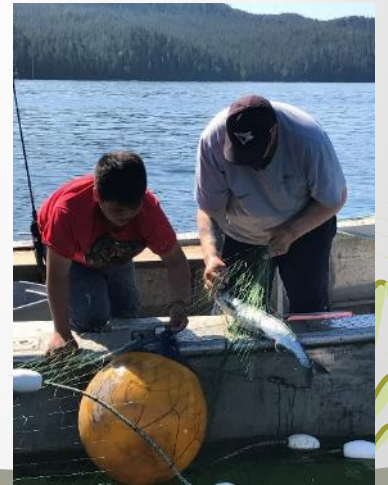


Koeye Camp

- Sharing learning and best practices through exchanges
- Neighbouring communities (Ex. Wuikinuxv, Kitasoo-Xai'xais), other First Nations (Ex. La Loche, SK & Lutsel K'e, NWT), and international (Ex. Ainu from Japan & Agua Caliente Band from California)
- Want to maintain a program that builds resilience and wellness of Heiltsuk community & offers a path to other communities developing similar programs



Koeye Camp: Some last pictures!



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