



Teslin Tlingit Council

Government Structure



A mix of Tradition and Modern

- ▶ The structure of TTC is a mix of the traditional culture of Clans and a modern government similar to the Yukon Government.
- ❖ The Legislative and Executive parts of TTC are based on the Clans and is only made up of TTC Citizens who are selected by their Clans.
- ❖ The TTC Departments is organized in a similar way to the Yukon Government. Non-Citizens are hired to fill gaps in expertise. TTC tries to employ as many Citizens as possible.



Our Citizens

- ▶ Teslin Tlingit Council has around 800 Citizens.
- ▶ Approximately 300 Citizens live in Teslin, 300 in Whitehorse, the rest are spread throughout Canada and further – we have 3 Citizens living in New York!
- ▶ Who can be a Citizen? The Federal Government of Canada has rules as to who is First Nation. TTC have our own rules about who can be a Citizen.
- ▶ Our rules are based on blood lines, family connections and traditional custom.



Our Clans

- ▶ There are five Clans
 - *Kukhhittan (Raven)*
 - *Ishkitan (Frog)*
 - *Yanyedi (Wolf)*
 - *Deshitan (Split Tailed Beaver)*
 - *Dakhlawedi (Eagle)*
- ▶ You will see our signs of our five Clans everywhere in the our Traditional Territory. They are outside the Heritage Centre, on the walls, on signs and on all documents.
- ▶ Each Clan has a Clan Leader.
- ▶ Most Citizens are part of a Clan. Citizens follow traditional practices when new people join a Clan.



Legislative Part of TTC

- ▶ The Legislative Branch is General Council comprised of 25 members (five from each Clan) appointed by their Clans
- ▶ This is the ultimate political decision-making body of TTC with the power to pass and amend the Constitution, make laws, and respond to the people. It also passes the annual budget.
- ▶ General Council meets approximately four times a year.



Executive Branch



- ▶ The Executive Branch is Executive Council composed of eight members:
 - One member of the each of the five Clans (5)
 - The Chief
 - The Deputy Chief
 - The Executive Elder

- ▶ The Executive Council oversees the laws and policies as approved by General Council and executes other authorities delegated to them by General Council. It provides the link from General Council to the Administration.

- ▶ The Chief in conjunction with the other Executive members is delegated to be responsible for the political direction of TTC.

- ▶ Executive Council meets bi-weekly.



Elders Council

- ▶ Elders Council is composed of Elders 55 years and older and headed by Clan Leaders.
- ▶ Best equated to the Canadian Senate.
- ▶ Elders Council gives advice and direction to the other TTC government branches.
- ▶ Has explicit responsibility to safeguard, encourage and instill the heritage, culture, language and other traditions of the Teslin Tlingit.



Judiciary

- ▶ On February 21, 2011, TTC signed the Administration of Justice Agreement (AJA) with the Government of Canada and Yukon Government after a decade of negotiations.
- ▶ TTC Justice Council will be made up of five (5) Citizens appointed by their Clans. A Chief Peacemaker and Associate Peacemakers will be appointed to conduct the court proceedings.



The Administration

- ▶ The administrative authority is Management Board, which consists of the Chief, Executive Director, and Directors of each department. It manages the approved budget, and supports and assists the other TTC government branches as required.
- ▶ The Administration is delegated to implement TTC legislation, regulations and policies of General Council.
- ▶ It also implements direction from Executive Council.
- ▶ The Chief provides a link back to the Executive Council which is the political body.



TTC Departments

- ▶ The Administration is divided into the following departments:
 - Health and Social
 - Heritage
 - Lands and Resources
 - Capital and Infrastructure
 - Workforce Development
 - Negotiations
 - Finance
 - Executive Services
- ▶ Each department has a Director and is staffed according to responsibilities and workload.



Challenges faced by TTC

- ▶ The challenges of distance.
- ▶ Lots of responsibilities, insufficient funding.
- ▶ Capacity issues.
- ▶ Vague wording in Final Agreements.
- ▶ Lack of understanding and awareness of Yukon Self Governing First Nations by Ottawa.
- ▶ Funding Arrangements
- ▶ Infrastructure Issues DIA legacy(housing).



Our Relationship with Ottawa and Whitehorse

***Land Claims was not the ending of a
relationship with the Federal
Government, but the beginning of a
new one between First Nations and
Ottawa.***

Gunalchish

(thank you)

for taking the time to find out more about the Teslin Tlingit Council and how the Teslin Tlingit First Nation govern themselves.

