



August 15, 2024

To: Haítzaqv Members

On Behalf Of: Haítzaqv Joint Leadership – Haítzaqv Tribal Council, Haítzaqv Yímas, and Mn'uyaqs Council

Re: The Haítzaqv Constitution

Dear Haítzaqv Membership,

We are proud to announce that over 10 years of deliberation, many in-depth discussions and diligent drafting, we developed a written constitution for consideration and review by our whole community. The *Qáikasas Ğvi'las: The great laws of the Haítzaqv*, presents a distinct opportunity for our community to reclaim what rightfully belongs to us and embrace the path of true and meaningful self-determination.

Attached to this letter is the latest draft of the *Qáikasas Ğvi'las: The great laws of the Haítzaqv* for consideration and approval by our community. Over the next 6-months, we will gather together to receive feedback, hear different perspectives, and move our community forward.

The *Qáikasas Ğvi'las: The great laws of the Haítzaqv*, is based upon our Ğviłás, Łáxváı, and Núym̓ and articulates our foundational governance principles. For example, this draft Constitution addresses the following:

- Establishing the Haítzaqv Government, beyond the *Indian Act*.
- Constitutionalizing our current hybrid model of elected and Hereditary leadership with advice from the Mn'uyaqs, all working together.
- Affirming our rights, freedoms, and responsibilities as a people.
- Affirming our relationship (ownership and jurisdiction) to our territory.
- Transparency & accountability in leadership and decision making.
- Breathing life into our Ğviłás and Łáxváı.

Haítzaqv Joint Leadership comprised of the Haítzaqv Tribal Council and Haítzaqv Yímas, with support from the Mn'uyaqs Council, unanimously endorsed this draft of the Constitution for community engagement. It is now time for the people to gather to discuss the Constitution and decide our collective path forward, between retaining the oppressive *Indian Act* or embracing self-determination rooted in Ğviłás with this Constitution. We look forward to hearing from the members over the next 6-months, with a referendum vote in early 2025.

We invite you to participate in the upcoming Constitutional Forums, (both in-person and virtual) in Bella Bella, Vancouver, and Nanaimo in September 2024. In the meantime, please watch out for community updates and events, or email us at Heiltsuk.Constitution@Heiltsuk.ca