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**Summary of Key Ideas from the
Future of Howe Sound Forum - November 5th, 2022, 9:30-1:30
Gleneagles Clubhouse – Ch'axáy in West Vancouver**

Read a [summary of the event and who attended here.](#)

Objective:

- Invite a dialogue on the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan, a land and marine use plan. [Read the background here.](#)
- Learn about the work of the Howe Sound Community Forums, hear perspectives from around the region and contribute thoughts toward the future of the Biosphere region.

Vision for the future desired state for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound

Key summary of the current vision statement from Sticky notes and roundtable discussions:

- The structure of the statement, such as shortening, more poetic, more compelling, improved sentence structure, reduced duplication
- Measures behind the words, such as how do we measure “healthy”. More reference to First Nations, re-Indigenization, regenerative.
- Popular suggestions were to replace “leave no one behind” with equitable, inclusive and resilient.

We invite more discussion and poetic ways to envision and encourage organizations to consider their vision statement and how their purpose contributes.

Revised vision for the Unity Plan

In the future desired state for the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound ocean and watershed, the marine and terrestrial realms will function properly through integrated ecosystems. This foundation will support an inclusive, equitable society and resilient economy where humanity and nature thrive.

In the ensuing months and years, we will track progress based on measurements and indicators that align with this vision. These measurements will form part of our regular reporting structure.

The SWOT – Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.



In September 2015, Canada and all other 192 United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN General Assembly. This initiative is a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

[Read about the Global Goals here.](#)

There are 17 sustainable development goals with over 100 actions associated. This is a balanced approach toward a sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

Setting the context - what was on people’s mind November 5th, 2022:

Strong winds the night before the event caused power outages and many felled trees. For some, this affected their attendance, and for others a challenging commute. Severe water shortages on the Sunshine Coast continue as freezing temperatures affect an already depleted the water source. Municipal elections took place on October 15th and for some, this was the first time newly elected leaders were engaging in conversations related to the biosphere region.

Themes emerging from Roundtable discussions and presentations: Narratives from the sticky notes, roundtable discussion and presentations and highlighted SDGs:



Climate

While there is passion for climate action and a *strength* in the buy-in from communities around the region, there is still a *weakness* with inadequate transit, and some feel actions are only getting started. It was questioned whether we are collectively doing enough with water/sanitation, transportation, and buildings.

There are *opportunities* for building retrofits, getting more people involved, more community and public education and outreach, and advocacy to put pressure on local governments. There could be a more coordinated approach to shared goals for climate action and opposition to new fossil fuel infrastructure.

There are real *threats* being experienced that will continue to worsen. The expectation of the current drought worsening was notable. We need to act on actions fast and bold enough to be more resilient.



Natural assets/land/biodiversity

There is a great appreciation of our natural assets, and a perceived healthier marine environment evidenced by marine life returning. *Strength* of actions to enhance



marine life with eelgrass planting, community shoreline clean ups to remove plastics, and protections such as our nature reserves and the discovery of glass sponge reefs.

There is more *opportunity* for appropriate and sustainable recreational access both above and below water. There can be more education at recreation areas and opportunities for improved management of tourism, understanding the cumulative effects and the bigger picture of habitat loss. We can also improve the use and storage of water and use our natural assets wisely for climate mitigation and a greener economy.

Still *threatening* the environment is the fibre layer on the seabed from log booms and continued activities from the forest sector as it impacts aquifer recharge areas, intertidal areas and removal of old growth trees.



Infrastructure

There is *strength* in the community dialogue on the Sunshine Coast about aquifers and seeking alternative water sources where there is severe shortage and the planning of densification in place of sprawl.

A weakness is the lack of a good transportation management plan for the Sea to Sky and continued volume increases and demands on the highway.



Perceived *threats* include new fossil fuel infrastructure for export of LNG. Community-related infrastructure *threats* include communities with a lack of adequate storm water infrastructure and increased property values that inhibit affordable housing. In addition, some areas see a lack of understanding of water sources while regional development pressures continue.



There is *opportunity* to improve our monitoring and knowledge of sanitary, sewer and effluent management and drinking water to improve water sustainability.

Through the exploration of vital signs, it was noted there is a lack of coordination among emergency responders across the region. This puts seniors and others at risk should there be a major disaster.



Governance.

A *Strength* is the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw leadership is working well, with more support, more youth involved and the renewal of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw land use plan. With more say of First Nations over what is being done on the land, this is a positive change. The UNESCO biosphere designation and co-governance is viewed as positive, with a watershed focus that transcends boundaries and jurisdictions grounded in the ecosystem. There is generally a supportive political climate.



Opportunities exist to gain more understanding of the science and the need to prioritize environmental goals; this is needed in the permitting and approval processes. The many jurisdictions need to work together, align and coordinate mandates under one regional governance structure. There is a need to improve ministry collaboration for watershed and recharge protection and improve policy management in the marine environment. In addition, there can be improved economic investment aligned with the SDG goals for greater impact.

Opportunities under good governance include an improved transportation management plan, and more reporting by local governments on key indicators and data. There is also opportunity to have a multi-sectoral approach. Specific opportunities mentioned were a review the Energy Step Code, using the Ocean Watch Action Committee for setting directions and priorities of municipalities and other targeted actions for region-wide efforts on biodiversity strategies.



It was recognized that there is more opportunity to align with Indigenous ways of knowing, re-Indigenization across the region and to work on reconciliation. The Vital Signs report could consider local food security, particularly Indigenous food sources and the relationship of environment to mental health.

More outreach, education and enforcement by those in governance roles. Improvements to legal and regulatory tools could also be enhanced.

There is a lack of government funding and enforcement that *threatens* protection of the environment such as Species at Risk and important habitat and sensitive ecosystems. It is viewed that decisions are made without the right information, science and local community knowledge. Insufficient preparation for extensive wildfire, particularly in rural areas such as the islands, was also recognized.



People

The region's *strengths* lie among the people who are passionate and committed to improving the many goals. These include those who put their efforts to streamkeeping and cleanup efforts. There is good access to research and academic resources, using the knowledge we have from data sources such as the Marine Reference Guide and the Cumulative Effects reports. There are many organizations, partnerships and collaborations at work and we can take advantage of industry knowledge, and First Nations' access to funding.



There are more *opportunities* to increase human resources for mapping and data collection, education and continued grassroots effects. We can also inform more people about the big picture, cumulative impacts and how many groups there are. In addition, there is opportunity to inform more residents about the Biosphere and its works on biodiversity conservation.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



We can continue building and using our knowledge base to keep improving the cumulative effects framework. By utilizing the framework of the Biosphere to educate and elevate our works, we may smooth jurisdictional conflicts and prevent working in silos through connecting the linkages of the SDGs. We can utilize our Indigenous consultants to support new ways of thinking and the works of the Squamish wildlife connectivity project to be strategic with development plans.

We can increase engagement through more industry participating in solutions, and encourage more engagement with other First Nations, include the Tsleil-Waututh Rights & Titles department, and facilitate cross-governmental problem solving.

Community members can be more involved through storytelling, linking resources, aligning priorities and more data gathering for mapping and knowledge sharing. The Unity Plan can also focus on connected policies and plans and alignment of priorities.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The *threats* recognized are people putting pressure on lands and waters, increased tourism and recreation and tension between rural landowners and urban users.

The increasing negative effects on mental health and wellness due to an uncertain future and trauma from climate were also recognized, while at the same time we are losing Indigenous knowledge. To overcome this, we need more action, less dialogue.

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Note: These narratives are subject to interpretation of the sticky notes. Feedback is welcome at admin@howesoundbri.org.