



FOR RELEASE

November 28, 2018

### **Kwanlin Dün First Nation successfully registers settlement land in Yukon Land Titles Office**

WHITEHORSE – Kwanlin Dün First Nation has received the first Certificate of Title for Category A Settlement Land from the Yukon Land Titles Office.

It is now possible for individuals or businesses to purchase a leasehold interest on Settlement Land and register it in the Yukon Land Titles Office. Leasehold interests may be bought and sold, and eligible purchasers can qualify for mortgages and other financing options.

A leasehold interest on Settlement Land provides certainty of exclusive possession of that land for the duration of the lease. While the First Nation remains the owner of the Settlement Land, the Yukon *Land Titles Act, 2015* applies to any leasehold interest registered in the Yukon Land Titles Office.

As Kwanlin Dün First Nation begins to unlock the potential of its Final Agreement and develop Settlement Land, it will adhere to the guiding principles of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation 2017 Traditional Territory Land Vision and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Community Lands Plan, which will be finalized in 2019.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is the largest private landowner in the City of Whitehorse. Responsible land development – both commercial and residential – is a key to the First Nation's long-term economic sustainability.

#### **Quotes**

This is a step in what has been a long process that allows for the interesting work to begin. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, through the Chu Níikwän Development Corporation, has built solid foundations for financing, we have built a legal framework, and we've tested these processes within the existing system. We are happy to announce that those who choose to live and work in our traditional territory will soon have more choices as to where they build their homes and businesses.

- Chief Doris Bill

This is an historic step toward greater economic self-determination for Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Our government is pleased to be working together with Kwanlin Dün to increase opportunities for land and economic development on their settlement land in and around Whitehorse. We will continue to collaborate with Yukon First Nations and support the implementation of their Final Agreements.

- Premier Sandy Silver

The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation have worked hand in hand to enable their settlement land to be registered in the Yukon Land Titles Office without impacting Aboriginal title of their land. This innovative approach is part of our government's broader effort to modernize Yukon's land titles system to meet the needs of all Yukoners.

- Minister of Justice Tracy-Anne McPhee

### Quick facts

In recent years, KDFN Council amended its Self-Government Agreement (2015) to ensure registered leases have priority over Aboriginal rights, interests and title for the period of the lease agreement. The Government of Yukon amended its *Land Titles Act* in 2016 to allow Settlement Land and leases to be registered in the Yukon Land Titles Office.

Since then, legal and financial structures have been established to allow for long-term (up to 125 year) leases that can be registered in the Land Titles Office. When a lease ends, Aboriginal rights, interests and title resume priority.

Earlier this year, Kwanlin Dün First Nation successfully registered a small piece of Settlement Land at the Land Titles Office, which enables financing to be obtained.

This winter, Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizens will be consulted about a draft Community Lands Plan, which will guide the planning and use of KDFN settlement land within the City of Whitehorse and inform the City of Whitehorse's Official Community Plan.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Settlement Land and Traditional Territory maps are available at:

<https://bit.ly/2raLDwV>

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