

2021 Update



Malahat Nation

Comprehensive Community Plan

Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan

2021 Update

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Malahat



NATION

MALAHAT NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Chronological No. 2021/22-003
File Reference No. GOV-002

The Council of the Malahat Nation				
	D	M	Y	Province
Date of duly convened meeting	03	06	21	BC

WHEREAS the Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan is an overarching document that guides Malahat Nation's strategic planning, identifies the priorities of all departments, and will be referred to by all departments in decision-making;

AND WHEREAS Malahat Nation staff have conducted community consultations to identify the vision, values, objectives, and associated action ideas of the membership for Malahat Nation's future planning and decision-making;

AND WHEREAS the Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan is a living document, and may be updated without prior notice;

AND WHEREAS the Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan 2021 Update officially replaces the previous ones;

AND WHEREAS the Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan 2021 Update is a public document, and may be shared;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE MALAHAT CHIEF & COUNCIL hereby adopt the Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan 2021 Update.

Quorum: 3


 Chief George Harry

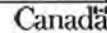
 Councillor Steve Henry

 Councillor Gordon Harry

 Councillor Cindy Harry

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY					
Expenditure	Authority (Indian Act Section)	Source of funds <input type="radio"/> Capital <input type="radio"/> Revenue	Expenditure	Authority (Indian Act Section)	Source of funds <input type="radio"/> Capital <input type="radio"/> Revenue
Recommending officer			Recommending officer		
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Approving officer - Approuvé par			Approving officer		
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The Malahat CCP was made possible by the broad participation and thoughtful input from community members and the Council. Your strong support for the CCP update enabled us to make it a success.

Huy tseep q'u

The word cloud summarized the answers that we heard from the community to the question “Which word comes to your mind when you think about Malahat?” The larger a word is, the more times it was brought up.

The Malahat Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is an overarching plan that guides our journey to self-government. It was first developed and printed in 2007 and was updated once in 2013. This document takes a holistic look at the Malahat community and examines all aspects that form Malahat's future. This is a plan driven and owned by all community members. This plan identifies key values and objectives that guide the Nation's future planning and decision-making. Associated action ideas are also identified to achieve these objectives successfully.

What is a CCP?

How was the CCP created?

The Malahat Nation CCP was made possible by numerous thoughtful community input from Malahat members in two rounds of community consultations. 91 Malahat members, or 25.5% of the total registered population, participated in the community consultations and made the CCP a truly community-driven plan.

In the first round of community consultations, which ran from fall to winter 2020, the Nation solicited community input on strengths and weaknesses of the community, and expectations and imaginations of Malahat's future. Community vision, values, objectives, and associated implementation ideas were identified based on the community input.

The second round, carried out in spring 2021, focused on collecting more implementation ideas for each community objective to draw a clearer path for Malahat's future.

Despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Nation managed to reach out to as many on-reserve and off-reserve members as possible with all health protocols strictly followed. Community consultation sessions were promoted through video clips, Facebook groups, and the Malahat website. Community input was collected from various community and social programs, Elders' Circle, Malahat Market, phone calls, and online surveys.

1

MALAHAT HISTORY





The name "Malahat" comes from the SENĆOŦEN word **MÁLEXEL** and Hul̓qumínum̓ word **Ma'le-'h'xe'l'**, both of which are derived from the words for "caterpillars".

Through its history, Malahat Nation owned and occupied several village sites and resource areas. Two significant village sites are **Keya** (near the mouth of Shawnigan Creek) and **Ma'le-'h'xe'l'** (located between Verdier Point and McPhail). The territory around these villages was used for hunting, fishing, and berry gathering, as well as ritual and ceremonial activities. These areas are rich in cultural heritage resources including archaeological sites that have physical remains including rock art, old village sites and lithic scatters.

Malahat Nation has inherent Aboriginal rights (including title) throughout its territory, which arise from the Nation's long use and occupancy of the territory prior to colonization. These rights include, but are not limited to: the right to traditional, cultural and ceremonial practices, the right to access the land and resources of the territory, the right to self-determination and self-government, and the right to enter into treaties.

The Malahat Nation is a descendent of a signatory of the Douglas Treaties, signed between 1850 and 1854. The Nation entered into the modern treaty process in 1995 and is currently at stage five in the six-stage process. On Feb. 26, 2013, the Malahat Nation signed an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) with the Provincial and Federal Governments. The Malahat Nation ITA is a multi-year agreement that includes the transfer of two parcels of Crown land located in the south Shawnigan Lake area, within the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The terms of the ITA provided for 63.84 hectares to be transferred following the signing of the ITA, and another 119.61 hectares was transferred following the signing of an agreement-in-principle under the BC treaty process. These lands, totalling approximately 183 hectares, are held in fee simple by the Malahat Nation, under a First Nation-designated company.

In December 2017, with support from the Province of British Columbia as part of an innovative treaty land fund, the Malahat Nation acquired the 525 hectare former Bamberton Industrial lands located just south of the Malahat reserve. The industrial portions of the land are held by a Malahat corporation, while the rural/forestry portions of the land are held in trust by the Province of British Columbia until Malahat Nation completes the modern treaty process. These land acquisitions will provide Malahat Nation with industrial, commercial, resource extraction, residential and recreational tourism opportunities to support employment and new sources of revenue.

2

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Malahat Nation is located on the southern end of Vancouver Island, approximately 40 kilometres north of Victoria and approximately 25 kilometres south of Duncan. The community is surrounded by Cowichan Valley and bounded by two main transportation thoroughfares: the Trans-Canada Highway to the west and the Saanich Inlet to the east. Malahat Nation possesses two reserve lands, Malahat 11 and Goldstream 13, encompassing a total of 241.6 hectares (597 acres). The Goldstream 13 is shared with Tseycum, Tsartlip, Tsawout and Pauquachin First Nations.

The Malahat Nation Indian Reserve #11, 239.93 hectares (592.88 acres) in size, is the primary residential and community support hub for the Nation. There is a residential subdivision in the southeast corner of the reserve, in close proximity to community facilities. Malahat has 50 houses on-reserve as of May 2021. Ten of the existing homes are new, constructed from 2018 onwards.

Malahat Creek flows west to east into the Saanich Inlet along the southern portion of the Malahat Nation Land and is recognized as an environmental asset. Mill Bay Road divides the Land along the eastern edge, separating the majority of the land from the waterfront. Mill Bay Road is the only access route to the Mill Bay Ferry, which provides transportation for vehicles to and from Brentwood Bay on the Saanich Peninsula.

Portions of the reserve have been utilized for resource development in the past with relatively recent logging activity and two sites used as soil deposit locations leaving behind a series of access roads and skidder trails. The forested lands have traditionally been a location for hunting and gathering activities, and access to the ocean has provided a base for marine harvesting.





As of September 2020, Malahat Nation identified a total registered population of 357 persons. 55% of the registered members live on Malahat lands. Population growth on-reserve is robust, with 22% growth between 2006 and 2011 and 45% growth from 2011 and 2016. This works out to an average growth rate of 6% growth per year over the 12-year time period from 2006 to 2018, with a population doubling time of 12 years. The community growth rate during these periods is significantly larger than the 1% provincial growth rate.

The traditional languages spoken in Malahat Nation were Hul'qumínum, SENĆOŦEN, and Samish. Malahat Nation works actively on revitalizing the traditional languages. Language components and textbooks are introduced into various programs to facilitate continuation of the traditional languages.

With good access to the Trans-Canada Highway, a ferry connection to the Saanich Peninsula, and close proximity to both the Malahat Industrial Lands and the village of Mill Bay, there are a variety of opportunities for Malahat Nation to provide complimentary services and support the region's economic development. Access to the ocean creates opportunities for cultivating economic opportunities based on the attractive ocean views and access to world-class recreational opportunities.

Malahat has been collaborating with neighbouring municipalities and Nations in an effort to establish ongoing communication and coherent growth strategies. Fostering these relationships has allowed for an excellent flow of resources and strengthened partnerships to grow the south Vancouver Island communities in a fashion that supports the vision of Malahat Nation and our neighbours both to the south and north.





3

Vision and Values

Our Vision

We are a unified community; our distinct cultural values are celebrated and live on forever; our languages, traditions and teachings from our ancestors are valued and passed down over the generations. We are committed to the wellbeing of all our people and the sustainability of our lands and resources. Together as one, we support and respect each other and embrace a bright future with member-focused services, empowered leadership and great potential.



Our values

Substantial community input helped us identify 7 values of Malahat. Alphabetically, they are:

- **Community Growth**
- **Community Services**
- **Community Unity**
- **Cultural Continuity**
- **Cultural Respect**
- **Empowerment & Leadership**
- **Government Transparency**

4

Objectives

with implementation ideas



Community Growth



Business and economic development on-reserve is relevant to the membership and provides local access to services.

Objective 1: Malahat has a robust economy that provides local services to Malahat members.

Implementation ideas:

- 1.1.1. Set up more retail businesses on-reserve, such as coffee shops, stores, and restaurants;
- 1.1.2. Invest profits of our businesses in housing and education for members;
- 1.1.3. Explore the tourism market to boost Malahat's economy.

Objective 2: Malahat members have multiple employment opportunities, including as business owners and entrepreneurs.

Implementation ideas:

- 1.2.1. Provide more job opportunities, especially on-reserve opportunities, to the membership;
- 1.2.2. Enable community members as business leaders;
- 1.2.3. Support members with entrepreneurial businesses on-reserve.

Community Growth

Business and economic development on-reserve is relevant to the membership and provides local access to services.



Objective 3: Economic growth and environmental protection are well-balanced.

Implementation ideas:

- 1.3.1. Continue to pursue opportunities to expand our land base;
- 1.3.2. Encourage non-contaminating developments on-reserve;
- 1.3.3. Develop contaminating development on lands that we do not live on;
- 1.3.4. Develop laws for a balance between development and environmental protection on our lands.

Community Services

Inclusive community services support the wellbeing of all Malahat members.



Objective 1: Housing demands are met through a clear and transparent allocation process with a variety of housing options available.

Implementation ideas:

- 2.1.1. Increase housing inventory to provide more affordable houses for both on- and off-reserve members;
- 2.1.2. Cater to individual and family housing needs by providing various choices of housing types and sizes, including 4+ bedroom homes, seniors homes, and multi-generational housing;
- 2.1.3. Improve the transparency and clarity of the housing application process including communicating privacy protections and prerequisites;
- 2.1.4. Increase awareness of the support available throughout housing application process;
- 2.1.5. Revise housing rental agreement and involve the membership in the revision process;
- 2.1.6. Have larger rooms in the new houses;
- 2.1.7. Build houses with accessibility considerations;
- 2.1.8. Have a second exit in every house for safety considerations;
- 2.1.9. Provide routine maintenance check for each house;
- 2.1.10. Offer housing opportunities to members of other Nations who marry members or live/work on-reserve.

Community Services

Inclusive community services support the wellbeing of all Malahat members.



Objective 2: Services provided to Malahat members are efficient, proactive, and responsive to the community's needs.

Implementation ideas:

- 2.2.1. Develop processes for responding to the issues of members in a timely manner;
- 2.2.2. Explore approaches for easier access to community services (for example, providing transportation for community programs, events, grocery shopping, and medical services);
- 2.2.3. Provide Malahat-operated emergency services.

Community Services

Inclusive community services support the wellbeing of all Malahat members.



Objective 3: Community amenities and infrastructure are improved.

Implementation ideas:

- 2.3.1. Pave and mark the roads and install street lights;
- 2.3.2. Provide improved, regular garbage collections;
- 2.3.3. Introduce recycling and compost programs, along with pertinent education;
- 2.3.4. Create more community gardens;
- 2.3.5. Build a larger daycare;
- 2.3.6. Have outdoor community gathering and outdoor fitness spots;
- 2.3.7. Have our own church;
- 2.3.8. Have another cemetery;
- 2.3.9. Have consistent street number signs for houses;
- 2.3.10. Have more trails connecting houses, the Band Office, and places where people work on-reserve;
- 2.3.11. Have a smoke shed;
- 2.3.12. Continue to pursue relocation of the ferry terminal off-reserve;
- 2.3.13. Designate parking lots along Mill Bay Road.

Community Services

Inclusive community services support the wellbeing of all Malahat members.



Objective 4: The physical and emotional wellbeing of Malahat members is strong and well-supported.

Implementation ideas:

- 2.4.1. Create more initiatives for mental and emotional health support to members;
- 2.4.2. Develop a sober community with increased support on alcohol and substance addiction;
- 2.4.3. Build more recreational and sport facilities;
- 2.4.4. Provide more healing support;
- 2.4.5. Provide more health services in the community (for example, massage therapy, acupuncture therapy, counselling, physiotherapy, etc.);
- 2.4.6. Have green spaces around houses;
- 2.4.7. Provide support on healthy diet;
- 2.4.8. Provide healthy food to members;
- 2.4.9. Foster suicide prevention awareness.

Community Services

Inclusive community services support the wellbeing of all Malahat members.



Objective 5: The Malahat community is safe and peaceful.

Implementation ideas:

- 2.5.1. Introduce security measures that take effect 24/7 and install more monitoring facilities;
- 2.5.2. Establish a security crew and a neighbourhood watch scheme;
- 2.5.3. Develop initiatives for improving safety for women and children;
- 2.5.4. Have security at the bus stop in the morning and after-school hours to ensure children's safety;
- 2.5.5. Develop a scheme where family heads can address/prevent concerns and problems with Chief and Council;
- 2.5.6. Council takes responsibility for community safety;
- 2.5.7. Improve fire safety of houses;
- 2.5.8. Establish evacuation plan for each building in the community.

Community Unity

All Malahat members, young and old, take care of one another in a strong community.



Objective 1: Community members come together with support and trust for each other.

Implementation ideas:

- 3.1.1. Emphasize inclusion of off-reserve members in community programs and events;
- 3.1.2. Provide transportation for off-reserve members to community programs and events;
- 3.1.3. Send notice well ahead of events so everyone can have enough time to schedule for them;
- 3.1.4. Advertise the annual projects of Malahat Nation with community members so everyone knows what will happen in the community;
- 3.1.5. Encourage more neighbourhood-based support for Elders, such as checking-ins;
- 3.1.6. Celebrate Elders' birthdays and prepare birthday gifts for them;
- 3.1.7. Hold more community and regional sports activities and events;
- 3.1.8. Host cultural recognition days with other communities, organizations, and companies.

Community Unity

All Malahat members, young and old, take care of one another in a strong community.



Objective 2: More inclusive community and social programs are available to members.

Implementation ideas:

- 3.2.1. Provide more community programs to every age group;
- 3.2.2. Develop more community programs for people with special needs, such as after-school students, single parents, autistic kids;
- 3.2.3. Attract more kids to community programs;
- 3.2.4. Include people with disabilities in community programs and activities to reduce social isolation;
- 3.2.5. Provide programs for young parents and infants;
- 3.2.6. Collaborate with other communities to provide programs for off-reserve children;
- 3.2.7. Have community and social programs at weekends.

Cultural Continuity

Malahat members celebrate and carry forward the spirit of Malahat culture with pride.



Objective 1: There are strong connections between generations for cultural knowledge to be transferred.

Implementation ideas:

- 4.1.1. Provide programs and opportunities for Elders and youth to connect, so that Elders can share their experience and knowledge;
- 4.1.2. Educate young generations about our culture, teachings, and basic life skills such as hunting and fishing;
- 4.1.3. Revitalize canoeing as a key aspect of Malahat Nation cultural identity through canoe racing events and programs;
- 4.1.4. Record traditional stories;
- 4.1.5. Create a common archive of Malahat cultural and historical information and photos that is accessible to members (for example, a Facebook page);
- 4.1.6. Teach kids our family tree;
- 4.1.7. Host more cultural events;
- 4.1.8. Celebrate Malahat Food Day.

Cultural Continuity

Malahat members celebrate and carry forward the spirit of Malahat culture with pride.



Objective 2: Malahat's traditional languages are revitalized.

Implementation ideas:

- 4.2.1. Collaborate with other Nations, tribes, and First Peoples Cultural Council on teaching our kids Hulqumínum, SENĆOŦEN, and Samish;
- 4.2.2. Continue to provide traditional language courses to members, including kids;
- 4.2.3. Teach traditional languages through various ways, such as singing, drumming, storytelling, and games;
- 4.2.4. Develop a Facebook page or a web page for learning traditional languages;
- 4.2.5. Film videos with the Elders about our languages;
- 4.2.6. Have youths participate in making dictionaries;
- 4.2.7. Rename our places in our traditional languages;
- 4.2.8. Put traditional languages on road signs and maps.

Cultural Respect

Malahat culture and values are well-known, acknowledged, and embraced.



Objective 1: The hired administration of Malahat Nation has a strong understanding of and respect for Malahat culture and history.

Implementation ideas:

- 5.1.1. Provide educational resources to staff about Malahat and Indigenous culture, history, traditions, and languages;
- 5.1.2. Ensure that staff clearly demonstrate and communicate to Malahat members their respect, understanding and awareness of Malahat territories, history and culture;
- 5.1.3. Integrate understanding and respect for Malahat culture into daily work activities of staff members;
- 5.1.4. Give preference in hiring process to candidates who have knowledge and understanding of Coast Salish history and teachings;
- 5.1.5. Invite staff to community and social programs for trust building.

Cultural Respect

Malahat culture and values are well-known, acknowledged, and embraced.



Objective 2: Cultural protocols and norms are widely understood and respected.

Implementation ideas:

- 5.2.1. Develop sense of agreement in community around respectful behaviours, including during ceremonies and events;
- 5.2.2. Emphasize and revitalize respect for women and children in Malahat culture;
- 5.2.3. Perform traditional blessings with drums and songs at the beginning of events and activities;
- 5.2.4. Bring back traditional ways of teaching.

Cultural Respect

Malahat culture and values are well-known, acknowledged, and embraced.



Objective 3: Malahat's natural beauty is celebrated and environmental stewardship recognized.

Implementation ideas:

- 5.3.1. Improve environmental protection in response to public littering and setting up memorial sites on Mill Bay Rd, and to abandoned vehicles on Malahat lands;
- 5.3.2. Create outdoor opportunities to learn about the environment;
- 5.3.3. Educate people to respect our jurisdiction on Malahat lands;
- 5.3.4. Teach people about renewable energy and ways to protect the environment;
- 5.3.5. Ensure a sustainable use of our resources so future generations can enjoy them;
- 5.3.6. Organize community clean-up days;
- 5.3.7. Carry out clam bed restoration;
- 5.3.8. Replant the trees that were cut down.

Empowerment & Leadership

Malahat members have leadership roles in the community and are supported in accomplishing personal career goals.



Objective 1: Malahat members are empowered in key positions of leadership and decision-making and therefore responsive to the true needs of the community.

Implementation ideas:

- 6.1.1. Hire and support members in decision-making positions within the government (for example, manager and director roles);
- 6.1.2. Achieve self-governance;
- 6.1.3. Take on leadership in the region and bring more benefits to the Nation;
- 6.1.4. Enable members to take on professional leadership roles within the community (for example, as doctors, nurses, counsellors, and lawyers);
- 6.1.5. Establish committees including a youth committee and young adult committee, with communication between them;
- 6.1.6. Build self-resiliency and pride of the community;
- 6.1.7. Establish an employment and training office.

Empowerment & Leadership

Malahat members have leadership roles in the community and are supported in accomplishing personal career goals.



Objective 2: Malahat members are well-prepared and supported on an individual basis to pursue their career goals.

Implementation ideas:

- 6.2.1. Provide career training and support that is individualized and accessible for every community member;
- 6.2.2. Support each community member with setting and pursuing career goals that match their personal desires and abilities;
- 6.2.3. Minimize barriers for programs and training so that support is more accessible to members (for example, no requirements for educational level);
- 6.2.4. Explore internship opportunities for the membership to gain work experience;
- 6.2.5. Provide career support for people with disabilities;
- 6.2.6. Collaborate with the tribal council, other communities, and local organizations for training and employment opportunities;
- 6.2.7. Provide computer training programs;
- 6.2.8. Provide more employment/job seeking information to members.

Empowerment & Leadership

Malahat members have leadership roles in the community and are supported in accomplishing personal career goals.



Objective 3: Malahat takes a leading role in providing education to members.

Implementation ideas:

- 6.3.1. Create our own school system that provides K-12 and post-secondary programs so that members can be in leadership and decision-making positions within the government or run business on-reserve;
- 6.3.2. Explore collaboration opportunities with neighbouring communities and the tribal council in education;
- 6.3.3. Provide future education for graduates;
- 6.3.4. Offer evening classes to members who have day jobs;
- 6.3.5. Encourage school attendance by providing incentives to students;
- 6.3.6. Hire a community teacher;
- 6.3.7. Provide education to members to support community growth.

Government Transparency

The Malahat government makes decisions and provides services with openness and transparency.



Objective 1: The relationship between the Malahat administration and membership is based on transparency, respect and understanding.

Implementation ideas:

- 7.1.1. Increase the frequency of updates and communications with on- and off-reserve members, especially from Chief and Council;
- 7.1.2. Provide clear information about supports (for example, financial, housing, and food) available to on- and off-reserve members and eligibility;
- 7.1.3. Continue to ensure supports provided to on- and off-reserve members are as fair as possible;
- 7.1.4. Build community knowledge around treaty negotiations, process, and alternatives;
- 7.1.5. Advertise annual strategic goals in a way that they are easily accessible to all members;
- 7.1.6. Improve community knowledge and communication around environmental protection, including contamination of our resources and lands caused by past, current and proposed developments;
- 7.1.7. Publish staff job descriptions so that members know the responsibilities of each staff member and how they can prepare themselves for similar careers.



5

Appendix

Imagine 2070: the future of Malahat in our kids' eyes

During the community consultations for the CCP, Malahat Nation invited our kids to imagine what they would like to see in the community 50 years later. Here are some marvellous ideas we heard from them:



Education & culture

- library
- college/university
- school
- museum
- church
- cultural building
- education of traditional food and medicines
- sweat lodge

Commercial development

- retail stores
- restaurants
- coffee shop
- movie theatre
- shopping mall
- gas station
- Malahat gift & coffee shop
- Walmart
- office building

Housing

- Elders' home/senior houses

Recreational and transportation infrastructure

- fitness centre/gym
- soccer field
- swimming pool
- doghouse/dog park
- water park
- bike lanes/bike paths
- playgrounds
- waterfront walkway
- bowling alley
- golf course/mini golf
- health centre
- youth centre
- recreational centre
- commuter train station
- fire hall
- hospital
- Malahat bus
- more roads and sidewalks
- police station
- seaplane
- skatepark
- trails
- water taxi



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