



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

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Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) Strategic Planning Terms of Reference: Indigenous Connection — Working Towards Truth & Reconciliation

Why Indigenous Connection?

The Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) is located on and operates entirely within Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory. This territory is comprised of seven First Nations communities: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

In 2018, the Crown and Williams Treaty First Nations (WTFN) reached a settlement that recognized that harvesting rights and access to land within the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory were not intended to be surrendered by the 1923 Williams Treaty.

As an organization operating in this territory, KLT has a moral and legal responsibility when planning and executing our conservation work. Based on recommendations made to KLT, we should aim to:

1. Acknowledge the past and ongoing errors of conservation that have led to the displacement from the land and harvest rights of the people of the WTFN, contributing to the loss of cultural continuity.
2. Understand the cultural value of the lands that we own and consult with the WTFN during planning that may affect harvest rights and access.
3. Collaborate with members of the WTFN to advance reconciliation through conservation initiatives, integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous stewardship, and aiming for collaborative and co-managed decision-making where feasible and appropriate.

KLT looks to honour and learn from the teachings of Anishinaabe, recognizing the value of their knowledge systems and contribution to stewardship of the land known as the Kawarthas. Where appropriate relationships have been developed we can work towards integrating non-Western worldviews into our conservation practices in the spirit of collaboration (sometimes referred to as “two-eyes seeing”).



KLT's Background with Indigenous Collaboration and Reconciliation

Cross-cultural events: In 2019-2020, KLT hosted four Indigenous-focused workshops/learning walks (in-person and virtual events). These events were led by expert knowledge keepers who provided cultural education, examples of Indigenous land stewardship, and education on effective collaboration with Indigenous communities on conservation projects. These events were very popular compared to other events and were attended by approximately 250 people.

Consultation with Williams Treaty First Nations

- Conversations with Curve Lake First Nations Council and their Land Resources Manager started in 2018 and centred around co-management discussions for John Earle Chase Memorial Park. Elders and staff have visited the property and learned about our management and opportunities for collaboration.
- KLT hired Gary Pritchard (4 Directions of Conservation Consulting) in 2021 to assist KLT with its Indigenous engagement planning and relationship-building with Williams Treaty First Nations.
- Co-management discussions with Hiawatha First Nations for the van Nostrand property have started and should be finalized by the end of 2022. Naming rights and co-management of the van Nostrand property are the hoped-for outcomes of engagement with Hiawatha.
- Indigenous land management surveys and recommendations were conducted by Canadian Bushcraft for KLT's newly acquired Nogies Creek and Balsam Lake properties (donated by Kawartha Conservation).

Internal Training

- 2021: KLT participated in a three-day workshop titled, "Diversity 101: Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression" that was mandatory for staff. KLT Board members and trustees were invited to attend.

Other inspiring Indigenous land management work in Canada and the land trust sector

[Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership](#)

[Land Needs Guardians](#)

[Indigenous Leadership Initiative](#)

[Nature Conservancy of Canada](#)



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Your Participation

- We want your expertise and vision to plan what can be accomplished in the next eight years if we take an Indigenous connections approach.
- We want you to be bold and think creatively.
- We expect everyone to listen deeply. A simple protocol for careful listening and a process for making decisions will be presented by a facilitator at the first meeting of each group.
- You are not required to attend all meetings and can attend meetings for other strategies as you like. However, any decisions made at meetings where you are not present need to be considered final and will not be revisited because of your absence.
- We expect participants to also help research their topic, possibly interviewing key informants who cannot participate in the meeting. A basic interview tool and instructions will be provided.
- We request that everyone read the information circulated in preparation for the meeting and participate in discussions.
- This strategy is unique in that KLT hopes to be allies to communities that have traditionally been excluded from conservation planning. Therefore, the purpose of this working group is to set a foundation of strategic thought that will be built upon and finalized through consultation. We recognize the importance of paying for knowledge and expertise from Williams Treaty First Nation community members.

Outcome

The working group will create a recommendation to the KLT Board related to how Indigenous connections relates to our strategic objectives. It will address the following:

- Define the strategy. Include a metric that indicates what KLT will have accomplished by 2030 by collaborating with WTFN.
- Describe eight years of tactics that KLT might use to best implement the strategy.
- Use the “KLT Toolkit” to inform the tactics. Propose new tools if required.
- Connect the tactics to progress toward KLT’s strategic objectives. Often, a tactic will help achieve multiple strategic objectives.



Milestones

- Mid-May: First meeting
- Late June: Draft circulated to the Board
- July: Paid consultation and working sessions begin
- October: Wrap-up

Meetings

The Committee will meet bi-weekly starting mid-May and end in October. Meetings will be held in person in the KLT boardroom with an option to attend virtually if needed.

The designated KLT staff member will maintain written notes of all meetings, which will be shared with members of the Committee, KLT staff, Board members and other involved strategic planning committees and advisors.

Resources

The Committee will receive the necessary resources from the KLT to fulfil its mandate, including administrative support from the designated KLT staff member and technical expertise from the Director of Community Conservation and/or Executive Director.

KLT's Toolkit

When considering how we will create impact by enacting an Indigenous connections strategy, consider the following toolkit.

Permanent Protection

We become owners of land to protect it forever against development. Donations of land and acquiring rights on land (CEAs) are major tools. Purchasing land is used to protect pieces of critical importance.

Land Stewardship

We manage our lands to minimize impact, enhance nature, and invite the public to experience nature. We work with other conservation organizations to steward and restore their protected land.

Volunteers

People power our impact. Boots in the mud or behind the scenes, our impact is because of the contributions of people who love the land.



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Community Conservation

Finding synergy between land protection and the needs of the community can make conservation projects relevant to more people and grow our impact. This can be achieved by listening and responding to the needs of the community.

Support Landowners

Landowners will decide the future of our landscape. Our Partners in Conservation program thanks them for the care they take of their lands and helps them to take on stewardship and restoration projects.

Fundraising

We bring in government investments in conservation to this region and increase conservation-minded philanthropical efforts. Individuals are inspired to donate because of their connections to our cause.

Communication

We have a voice that can inspire and educate people on why land is worth protecting.

Partnerships

We work with others with skills in social services, education, research, technology, environment, agriculture, and business to expand the impact of our land conservation efforts.

Back End

Good governance, technology, and systems are all critical enablers of our work.

