



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028

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INTRODUCTION

The Kluane National Park Management Board (KNPMB), ‘the Board’ was established in 1995 with the signing of the Champagne & Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Final Agreement. In 2003 Kluane First Nation (KFN) ratified their Final Agreement joining the Board.

The Final Agreements and the mandate of the Board guide the cooperative management of Kluane National Park and Reserve (KNPR). The Board is a direct link between KNPR and the communities bordering the park, ensuring a local perspective to cooperative management.

The Board is comprised of representatives from three parties, CAFN, KFN and Government of Canada. Each party has equal representation with 2 voting seats each. There is a non-voting, ex-officio seat for the Site Manager of KNPR.

OUR TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Ellen Bielawski, Board Member (Government of Canada)

Tom Buzzell, Chair (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations)

Robin Chambers, Vice-Chair (Kluane First Nation)

Todd Chambers, Board Member (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations)

Elsabé Kloppers, Board Member (Government of Canada)

Grace Southwick, Board Member (Kluane First Nation)

Craig McKinnon, Ex-Officio (Site Manager, Kluane National Park and Reserve)

STAFF

Aynslie Ogden, Office Manager

BOARD STRUCTURE AND MANDATE

The authority, role and responsibility of KNPMB is currently defined as an advisory body to Parks Canada which directly makes recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

It is the role of KNPMB to ensure that the implementation of the Kluane National Park Management Plan considers the recognition, respect and support of First Nations' Land Claims agreements and to act as a conduit for local people to participate in park management areas such as:

- Ecological monitoring
- Cultural reintegration
- Identify, understand, communicate and protect Southern Tutchone cultural resources
- Heritage tourism
- Interpretation and outreach
- First Nation opportunities
- Recreational use
- Visitor services
- Harvest zones
- Trails, routes, and air access

The Board may make recommendations to the Minister on all matters pertaining to the development and management of the Park and Thechàl Region, including:

- routes, methods and modes of access for harvesting
- harvest limits, including allowable harvests, and seasons for harvesting
- locations and methods of harvesting
- the management of Heritage Resources
- designating or modifying No Harvesting Zones
- revisions to the Park Management Plan
- matters related to the development or management of the Park Reserve and Park forwarded to the Board by the Minister
- proposed Park Reserve and Park boundary adjustments

- co-ordinating the management of Fish and Wildlife populations which cross the boundary of the Park Reserve and Park with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, affected Renewable Resources Councils and other responsible agencies
- existing and proposed Legislation relating to the Park Reserve and Park
- means to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge in the management of the natural and cultural resources of the Park Reserve and Park.

The Board is obligated to meet 12 times per year

PLANNING CONTEXT

Opportunities:

- Board Members bring diverse perspectives and backgrounds

Challenges:

- Staffing and Board turnover directly affects the effectiveness of the Board
- Appointments are the responsibility of the Minister, therefore any time delays for new Board member appointments can affect quorum
- Maintaining staggered appointments can be difficult and takes time
- The recommendation process to the Federal Minister is rigid
- External factors can affect Board timelines and agenda.
- Negative historical perceptions of legacy of the Park and old Board issues can affect current relationships with the community
- A lack of public knowledge about what the Board does can lead to low community and First Nations engagement

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles for the Board align with those developed with our park co-operative management planning partners.

Kwiyaajàl' – Welcome

Kluane National Park and Reserve is a place for everyone, a place to learn and experience, and a place where connections can be made.

*Drums are a voice, of stories, celebration or sadness.
Drums welcome, invite dance or bookend stories.
Each drum has its own voice and together they speak
for a time and place.*



Nàts'jt'är - Respect

It is important to listen and to learn from each other so we can build strong relationships, trust each other, and work together for our common goals.

A long time ago, it was a chaotic time in the world of animals. Beaverman organized the animals so they all had their own niche in the world and could interact and live with one another in a way that benefited all, over time.



Kwädäy kwändür jenīth'a k'e kīdān

– We listen and learn the long ago teachings

Sharing our knowledge is a circular process from elder to youth and is based on generations of experiences that can be passed on to our future leaders.

A mother bear teaches her young how to thrive and survive in the world. This knowledge is passed on, generation to generation. The feather snare makes a background circle and represents traditional knowledge and technology. It is made of simple resources, but its application is effective. It is fragile, yet portable and replaceable.



Artwork & Interpretation
by Frances Oles

Dazhän nän käy yè dàkeyi dágghàshūr t'ù ghàkwīnji
– We are all thankful for our land,
it gives us all that we need for life

Everything is connected and our strength and resilience comes from our connections to our land and water. We must work together to ensure that those connections remain to support a healthy environment and people.

A watershed. The air and mountains create a landscape that permits plants, animals and people to thrive. The mycelia encircling the landscape represents interconnectedness that nurtures. The bead floral design represents people and balance.



Nłaye uk'anjthät
– You people are thinking about it together

We guide our decisions by using land-based traditional knowledge and scientific information to form one vision.

The two trees are separate species yet they support each other. The ochre circles represent human ideas and tradition. There are four, indicating the four directions. The sprout represents new ideas that come from sharing.



Shàwthän kuk'àts'änätà dāzhän nän käy
– Everyone look after the land very well

As caretakers, we have a responsibility to ensure that our decisions reflect our values and that the connections between the land, the water and the people who live here remain forever.

Our hands on the land represent care and intent.

STRATEGIC GOALS

A. Nighą shāw nǐdhän dákéyi làádal yu

We are happy you have come to our country

This goal is focused on strengthening relationships and making connections. Be a listening partner that continually supports and cultivates the relationships with the First Nations and the local communities. Following the lead of the First Nations, help to create space and opportunities to incorporate Traditional Knowledge in all aspects of discussion and recommendations.

B. Dǎzhän k'e ndasǎdiíye

This is the way we work

This goal is focussed on actively pursuing the Board Mandate. Fulfill the mandate of the Board as outlined in Chapter 10 of the CAFN and KFN Final Agreements, and especially those areas whose boundaries can be explored while capturing the “spirit and intent” of the Agreements.

C. Shadǎtth'i k'è sòthän ghàkenǎdǎn

They all learn well sitting in a circle

This goal is focused on building a strong and effective Board. Advance the capacity of the Board through streamlining internal processes and educating external community on the authorities of the Board.

D. Dǎn ts'ǎn kwíshe k'è sòthän jennítth'ą

When I talk to people, I understand well

This goal is focussed on enhancing communications and engagement. Strengthen communication protocols and practices that improve engagement with the communities with the strategy to meet people where they are at.

STRATEGIES AND DELIVERABLES

A | Nighā shāw nīdhān dákéyi làádal yu

Be a listening partner that continually supports and cultivates the relationships with the First Nations and communities. Following the lead of the First Nations helps to create space and opportunities to incorporate Traditional Knowledge in all aspects of discussion and recommendations.

SP-A1 Increase representation in the community

1. Meet annually with Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation governments and Elders Councils
2. Attend events held in communities within the region and in Whitehorse

SP-A2 Incorporate Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing and doing into discussions and recommendations process

1. Use First Nations Language in documents, internal proceedings and at events, as appropriate.
2. Work with the community and knowledge-keepers to incorporate their perspectives and language in Board recommendations.
3. Support culture camps and activities that reconnect First Nations citizens with KNPR.

B | Dāzhān k'e ndasādiíye

Fulfill the mandate of the Board as outlined in guiding documents and examine those areas where boundaries can be explored considering the “spirit and intent” of the Agreements.

SP-B1 Investigate the boundaries of the mandate.

1. Capitalize on the areas the Board can pursue independently
2. Consult with Chief and Council at Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation regarding the cultural assets held by Parks Canada

C | Shadāth'i k'è sòthān ghākenādān

Advance the capacity of the Board through reviewing internal processes, making improvements, identifying gaps and investing in the growth of Board members.

SP-C1 Review internal processes with a view to finding efficiencies and improvements.

1. Stay up to date with best practices
2. Continue to work to build capacity for present and future board members

D | Dän ts'än kwíshe k'è sòthän jennítth'ą

Strengthen communication protocols and practices that improve engagement with the communities with the agenda to meet people where they are at.

SP-D1 Clear up public perceptions of what the Board does.

1. Share information with the community through the website, social media, newsletter, and/or at public meetings.
2. Increase community awareness and knowledge about the Board's mandate.

SP-D2 Take a proactive approach to sharing information and communicating results of recommendations.

1. Work with partners to share stories as needed.
2. Develop innovative ways for the community to engage with the Board i.e., gathering feedback online
3. Create a process to facilitate presentations by delegations to the Board at Board meetings

[Back cover]

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