



Community-Directed Territory Visitation & Use Protocol

Speck Family & Heghums Village

Gilakas'la – Welcome to Gwawas, the territory of the Gwawa'enuxw People.

Now - **ka'salaxda'xw'la's!** (*Pay Attention!*)

The strong community that stewards the lands, waters, and all life within Gwawas invites you to share this place but demands the respect of a reciprocal relationship. For too long settlers and visitors to this territory have taken without supporting the people and the environment that has sustained us since time immemorial. Without giving back, we will all lose what is most important.

Our community, along with our neighbours and friends from afar, work together, as one, supportive of each other and are always careful with our finite resources, if we take, we must give back. This deep rooted Traditional Knowledge and culture of stewardship is what unites our community and gives us strength in this place. While gwawas has seen over-extraction of its resources for far too long, Gwawas iga'nakwala (Gwawa'enuxw territory is healing).

For our visitors, it is important to take stock of some the key points below as you join us in Gwawa'enuxw Territory:

- The Community is responsible for Gwawas – for the territory, the lands, waters, and for all living beings within Gwawas. Decisions of land-use, law and regulations, and consumptive participation must be consulted on and approved by the community.
- **A'ekala** – *Do a good job!* This means with your work, but also with your relationship to the people and this place.
- **Maya'xala** – *To respect all things.* This includes yourself, all your relations and acquaintances, the land, the water, and all the life that this territory supports. We respect the land and the knowledge passed down from our ancestors and we protect this place for our great-grandchildren and their great-grandchildren

Before you come, and especially before you leave, ask yourself these questions, and take pride in how you are representing yourself and your privilege to be in Gwawas.

- Why are you in Gwawas? (*What are you doing? Who do you represent?*)
- How are you coming to Gwawas? (*What are your values? Are you bringing potentially damaging perspectives or ignorance?*)
- What are you leaving with the community? How will you engage in reciprocity?
- What is your relationship to or have you been invited by the community?