



# TŜILHQOT'IN NIDLIN



## RECLAIMING JURISDICTION OF FAMILY SERVICES

NEWSLETTER #1 | JULY 2023

The Tŕilhqot'in Nation has always asserted an inherent right to self-government that includes jurisdiction over our own families and children. As a part of this journey, the Tŕilhqot'in Nation is working towards reclaiming jurisdiction of family services.

Since time immemorial, the Tŕilhqot'in have raised healthy and thriving children and youth based on Tŕilhqot'in culture and traditions. It's important that we honour our culture and laws around how our families can be supported and held up in strong and respectful ways.



**We will draw on the strength of our ʔEsggidam (ancestors) to preserve our families and traditions for future generations.**

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The best way to raise T̂silhqot̂'in children is on the land.

## Project Background

In September 2020, the Nitiŝ'il̂'in-Qi (Council of Chiefs) and the T̂silhqot̂'in Tŝ'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) supported efforts to begin making plans and figuring out how we can take back control of family services. This will include:

1. **Creating a T̂silhqot̂'in Family Law that follows existing T̂silhqot̂'in laws and values.**
2. **Developing a new service model to decide which family services are provided and how they will be delivered to families.**

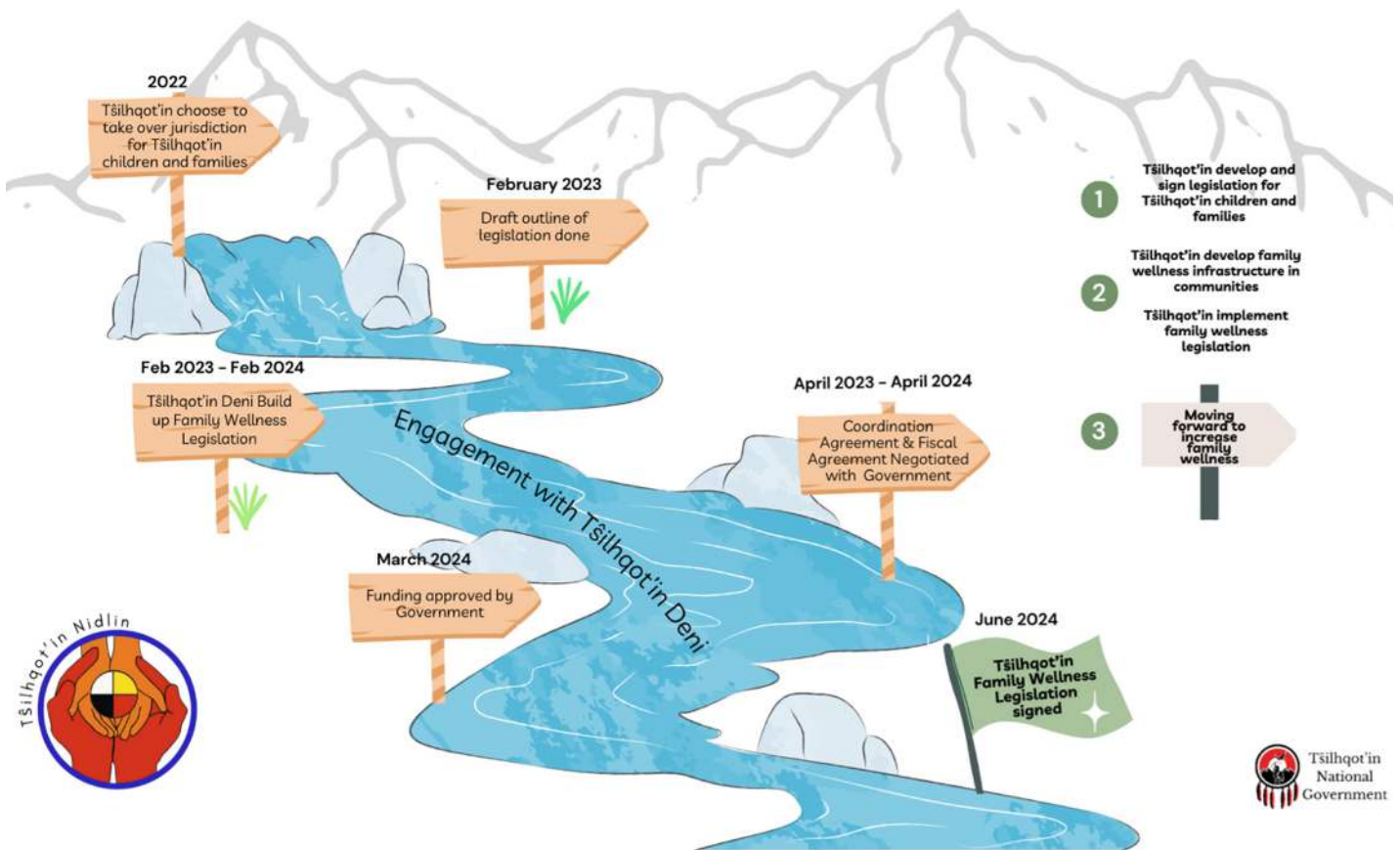
The new law and service model will help T̂silhqot̂'in Nation in continuing to assert our rights to self-govern. We will assert our law to the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.





# Project Timeline

On June 26, 2024 the Nation will be hosting Federal, Provincial, and First Nation leaders to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision and show to the world what we have achieved in the past ten years by working together as partners. To further mark the event, we are working towards having the T̓silhqot̓'in coordination agreement signed at this time.

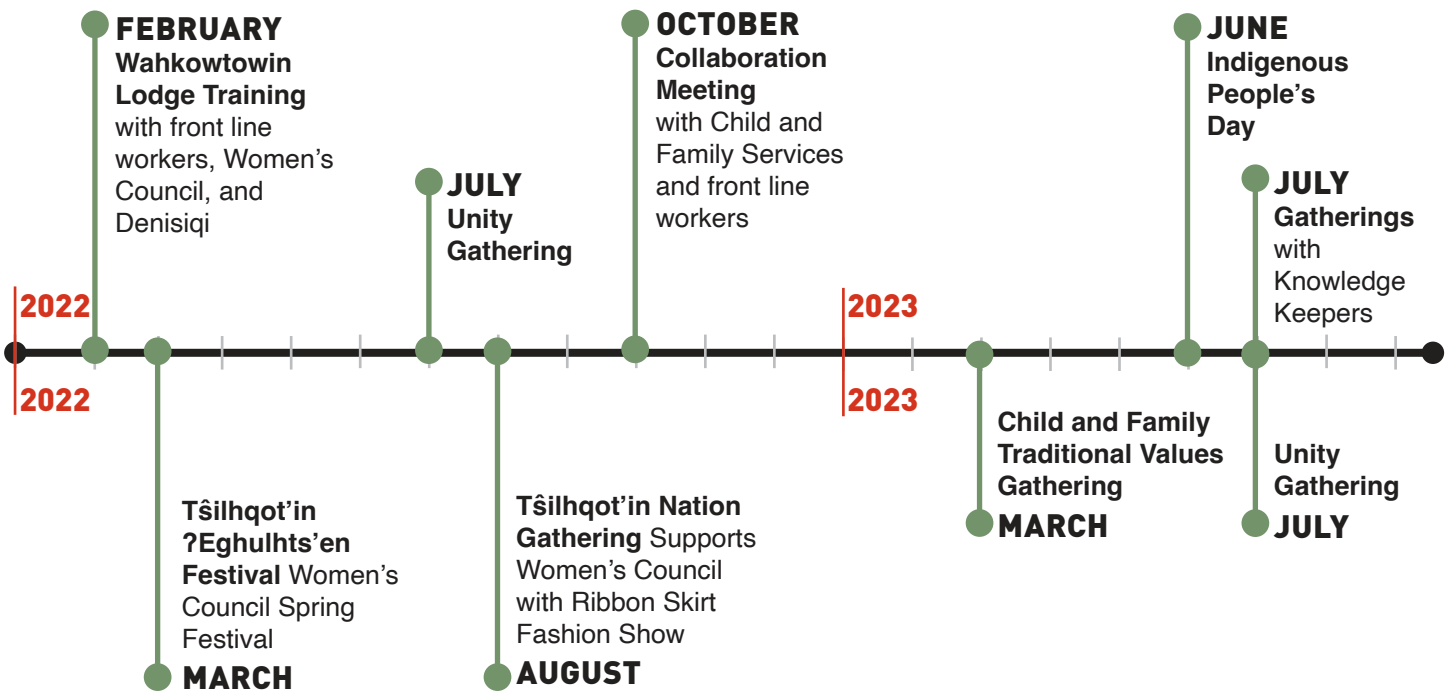


Timeline and key milestones of the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation's Nidlin Initiative



# Overview of Phase 1 Engagement

When we plan, our community takes the lead. That means that community members guide the process and have all the information they need to decide what is most important for our family services. The T̓silhqot̓'in Nidlin team has been attending gatherings and events and connecting with community members through interviews and surveys, as shown on the timeline below and engagement summary on the following page, to learn about our traditions and ways of raising children. We are using this wisdom and guidance to create our T̓silhqot̓'in Family Law and new services and programs.



Our first phase of work since the initiative began has focused on:

- Introducing the Engagement Coordinators to the communities
- Gathering and sharing introductory information related to the treatment of children and family at a community and Nation level
- Engaging communities on T̓silhqot̓'in protocols and laws



# WORKING TOGETHER

42

Team Meetings



16

Informational Products



25

Media Posts

# SHARING INFORMATION

# GETTING DIRECTION

163

Interviews & Surveys

29 Elders

13 Youth

121 Adults

115 Women

47 Men

1 Unknown

**Tsilhqot'in Nidlin**  
Reclaiming Jurisdiction of  
Family Services

# ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

January - June 2023



17

Community Gatherings

7

Women's Council Events

# MAKING CONNECTIONS



## Themes of Engagement

Community members have shared their knowledge of the following three areas:



Thematic areas of focus of community engagement

## T̂silhqot'in Approach to Raising Children

Through talking and listening to community members, we have learned that the T̂silhqot'in way of supporting families is a community effort. Community members have told us that when families are doing well, the whole community is doing well. This idea is the basis for us all working together to help protect children and families. We also honour T̂silhqot'in culture and traditions that make us who we are and keep us strong. By working together like this, we can create a place where T̂silhqot'in children and families can thrive.



Groups involved in raising children



## Prevention Programs

During the first phase of engagement, community members shared the importance of prevention programs that help to keep children and families safe and healthy. These programs should be available to all community members.

### Prevention

Prevention programs include activities that help keep children and families safe and healthy. These programs focus on teaching important skills and provide opportunities for children and families to learn and practice their culture.

	Programs	Infrastructure
Family & Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Parenting Program</li> <li>• Family Workshops</li> <li>• Family Wellness Planning</li> <li>• Elders/Youth Connection Programs</li> <li>• Youth Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Housing</li> <li>• Elders Centre</li> <li>• Youth Centre</li> <li>• Family Services Building</li> <li>• Tutoring/Learning Centre</li> </ul>
Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation and Fitness</li> <li>• Training (e.g., in trauma-informed care)</li> <li>• Art Programs</li> <li>• Horse Program</li> <li>• Gardening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-in-one Wellness Centre</li> <li>• Community Gardens and Greenhouses</li> <li>• Recreation Hall</li> <li>• Woodsheds</li> <li>• Healing/Retreat Centre</li> </ul>
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-based Programming</li> <li>• Language Teachings</li> <li>• Hunting Camps</li> <li>• Culture Camps</li> <li>• Harvesting</li> <li>• Medicine Gathering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweats</li> <li>• Smoke Houses</li> <li>• Pit Houses</li> <li>• Community Hall</li> <li>• Cultural Centre</li> <li>• Outdoor Gathering Spaces</li> </ul>

Prevention program and infrastructure needs

“  
Treat others how you would like to be treated.”





***Each family has their own unique way of teaching and understanding the transfer of knowledge.***



***I may not be able to do much, but I will do what I can.***



***Letting kids be kids, playing outside and letting them ask many questions as they need, learning to live on the land.***



***Children learn the best by doing in the context of relationships, whether it is ?Etsu or a school teacher.***







***“I took kids in to make sure they had food on the table, and I had seven kids of my own.”***



***“Be very supportive to the family, no matter the situation, by teaching your own kids the same way.”***



***“Treat others how you would like to be treated.”***

***“I myself was a foster care parent, which was very helpful for my family and extended families.”***





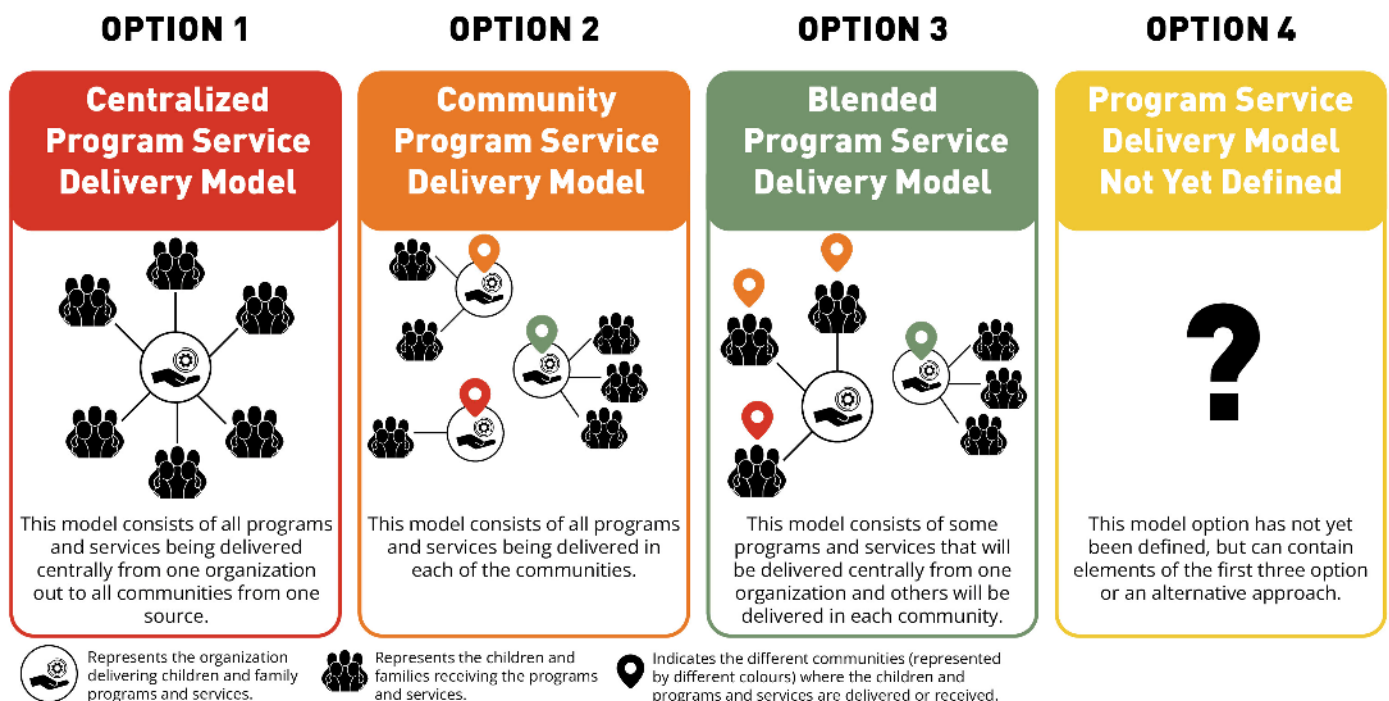
# Next Steps for Phase 2 Engagement

During the next phase of engagement, the Nidlin team will focus on:

- **Sharing back what we have heard from the community during the first phase of engagement**
- **Gathering ideas from community members on intervention services and protection protocols to include in the T̂silhqot̂'in Family Law**
- **Engaging communities and core engagement groups, including front line workers and those closely impacted by family services**

## Service Delivery Model

The Nidlin team will be looking to community members to help decide how services will be delivered to families, including where the services are located and which individuals or organizations provide the services. The options below are a starting point to consider how services can be delivered by one central organization, by organizations within each community, or a mix at the nation and community level.



### Family Program Service Delivery Model options



## Intervention and Protection

During Phase 1, we heard from community members about the importance of prevention programs to keep families safe and healthy. During Phase 2, we are focused on understanding more about what members want to see when families need more support or when others need to step in to protect the safety of children and families.

### Intervention

Intervention services provide additional support to children and families who are dealing with challenges. These services offer help, guidance and solutions to make things better for families facing difficulties.

### Protection

Protection protocols tell us what should happen when a child may be in an unsafe situation. When a child is being mistreated, abused, or neglected, protection services help families to create a plan to ensure the child's safety.

To build a T̓silhqot̓'in system of intervention and protection, we are looking to hear from community members about:

1. What are the ways to support and help families? Who should be involved?
2. Where are the spaces where families would be comfortable receiving support?
3. What are the roles of different groups, departments, and organizations in intervention and protection?
4. What steps and activities are needed to support and help our families in intervention and protection situations?

“

**Family is important. My dad taught us to depend on each other.**





**Connect with us:**  
 July 17 - August 18, 2023  
 Phase 2 Community Engagement  
 July 25-26, 2023  
 T̂silhqot̂'in Chejaghetadelh Gathering (Unity Gathering)

## Connect with the Nidlin Team

Community members have shared many teachings and values that we will honour as we work towards our vision for family services in the community. The Nidlin team will continue working with communities to develop the T̂silhqot̂'in Family Law and decide how services will be delivered in each community.

### NIDLIN ENGAGEMENT TEAM MEMBERS



**TANISLEIGH EVANS**  
 T̂silhqot̂'in Nidlin Engagement Lead  
 Tanisleigh has worked for the T̂silhqot̂'in Nation for 2 years. Tanisleigh is Cree and grew up in and around the T̂silhqot̂'in territory. Tanis has been able to ride into town with Tl'etinnox for the last 7 years. She has worked with the Women's Council in her time at TNG and has been able to get to know and love the T̂silhqot̂'in.



**LONI SOLOMON**  
 T̂silhqot̂'in Nidlin Engagement Coordinator  
 Loni has worked with the T̂silhqot̂'in Nidlin team for the last 7 months. Loni is no stranger to the T̂silhqot̂'in as she is an on-reserve member of Yunešit̂'in and worked with TNG at the original building. Loni is a mom and a T̂silhqot̂'in matriarch in the making, working towards jurisdiction.



**ETHAN HUNLIN**  
 T̂silhqot̂'in Nidlin Youth Engagement Coordinator  
 Ethan has worked with the T̂silhqot̂'in Nation for the last 6 months. Ethan is a T̂sidedel member and previously worked with youth in his community. Ethan is passionate about youth work and helping people with his Nation. Ethan is currently putting his passion into reclaiming family jurisdiction in the T̂silhqot̂'in Nation.



**KEANNA SAUNDERS**  
 Senior Administrative Assistant  
 Keanna has worked for the T̂silhqot̂'in Nation for 1.5 years, starting as a receptionist and, as of April 2023, the Administrative Assistant with Nidlin. Keanna is First Nations and Métis, originating from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Keanna is a big family person and loves to spend free time with family and animals out in nature. Keanna's future plan in life is to work with kids and is looking forward to making a difference and the future with TNG.