

# Indigenous Guardians Toolkit

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## What is the Toolkit?

The Indigenous Guardians Toolkit is a place for communities across Canada to learn, share and connect about Indigenous Guardian programs, be inspired by other communities, find practical information, and share experiences.

The Toolkit is designed for people who are looking for easy-to-access information about building and implementing Guardian programs. Every Indigenous Guardian program is unique, so the information throughout the Toolkit is intended to be used, modified, copied, printed, downloaded, shared and added to.



Kitasoo Xai'Xais Guardian (Credit: Jason Houston)

## A Look Inside the Toolkit



### Getting Started

- 1 Get to Know the Toolkit
- 2 Learn About Indigenous Guardian Programs
- 3 Start an Indigenous Guardian Program



### Ready to Plan

- 4 Create a Vision, Plan and Prioritize
- 5 Set up a Governance Structure
- 6 Fund an Indigenous Guardian program



### Operating a Program

- 7 Hire and Manage Staff
- 8 Run a Safe Operation
- 9 Develop Training and Build Capacity



### Guardians at Work

- 10 Monitor and Collect Data
- 11 Conduct Research
- 12 Establish Presence and Authority



### Building Relationships

- 13 Engage the Community
- 14 Involve Youth
- 15 Establish Relationships with Resource Agencies
- 16 Create a Network or Alliance

## Indigenous Guardians Across Canada

The Toolkit includes a growing map of Indigenous Guardian programs, and is a powerful demonstration of the extent to which Indigenous communities are monitoring, protecting and stewarding their lands and waters.

If your community has an Indigenous Guardian program and isn't on the map, please contact us to add your program!



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Tahltan Guardian (Credit: Jarett Quock)

## Who is the Toolkit for?

The Toolkit is designed to be used by anyone who is developing, managing, or implementing an Indigenous Guardian program or supporting guardian activities.

Whether you are a community leader looking to get started, a program manager looking for new ways to fund core activities, or an Indigenous Guardian looking for information about what other communities are doing, you have come to the right place.

In the Toolkit, you will find tips, worksheets, templates, infosheets, stories, community resources, links and more to help build and strengthen Indigenous Guardian programs.

## Share Your Stories and Experiences

The Toolkit is a living repository of resources, stories and experiences—a place to share what has and hasn't worked in building or implementing Indigenous Guardian programs. The Toolkit will evolve and grow over time as new content, tips, stories, resources and links are added by communities.

**Be part of the Toolkit and contribute to this collective effort of supporting and strengthening Indigenous Guardian programs by:**

- Sharing your stories, experiences, or resources related to your existing or emerging Indigenous Guardian program.
- Suggesting other useful resources that you think Indigenous Guardian programs can benefit from that could be part of the Toolkit.

## A Word of Thanks

The Indigenous Guardians Toolkit is the result of a collective effort and hard work by many people across the country. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the people who helped to inspire, draft, review, refine, gather and share information to create the Toolkit. Indigenous peoples have been stewarding their lands and waters since time immemorial. We acknowledge and thank all those who continue to fulfill this role of caring for their lands and waters.

The Toolkit was developed by Nature United in collaboration with Indigenous partners and practitioners, including an Advisory Group rich with experience in building and supporting Indigenous Guardian programs across Canada. Nature United is a Canadian charity affiliated with The Nature Conservancy, which works globally to conserve the land and waters on which all life depends. [www.natureunited.ca](http://www.natureunited.ca)