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TLA'AMIN NATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENTS

TLA'AMIN NATION

4779 KLAHANIE ROAD, TLA'AMIN, BC, V8A 0C4

ISSUE DATE: DECEMBER 16TH, 2025

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

NO: [948]

Company Name:	_____
Contact Person Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____
Prov:	_____
Postal:	_____
Email:	_____
Phone:	_____

Issue Date: December 16th, 2025 , **Closing Date:** January 23rd, 2026

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL DELIVERY

An electronic copy of your proposal must be delivered by email to:

[**publicworks@tn-bc.ca**](mailto:publicworks@tn-bc.ca)

Attention: Carmen Galligos

Email attachments should be clearly marked with the name of the applicant.

1. SUMMARY

A. RFP SUMMARY

Tla'amin Nation (TN) is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to conduct groundwater availability assessments. Applicants should outline their proposed methodology, schedule, budget efficiency strategies, and approach to ensuring high-quality data that meets the TN's needs.

This groundwater study within Tla'amin Territory will evaluate groundwater availability on Tla'amin Lands. The successful consultant will design and implement a desktop study, including delineating aquifers, developing conceptual hydrogeological models, conducting desktop groundwater availability estimates for priority sites and identifying gaps and uncertainties. They will also give recommendations for a future field program that would help find identified critical information or data gaps. The study will result in information that is reliable, transparent, and suitable for long-term planning and to inform groundwater reservation negotiations under the *Water Sustainability Act* Section 40.

Water is essential to TN's growth and wellbeing. Having a sustainable, safe, water source in remote areas of our Territory will support daily life, economic development, and long-term resilience. Healthy water availability reflects health lands, ecosystems and people. Our goal is to have groundwater sources within our Territory protected and well understood. The study results will inform TN & BC on a groundwater allocation negotiation, and it will help TN plan for future development & sustainable resource management for future generations.

B. ABOUT TLA'AMIN NATION

Tla'amin Nation is part of the Northern-most Coast Salish ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ speaking peoples. Our Nation has almost 1,200 Citizens. We are a growing, forward-thinking First Nation.

Tla'amin Territory spans along the northern part of BC's Sunshine Coast, extending down both sides of the Strait of Georgia, occupying an area over 400km². Our main permanent village (ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ) is located just north of the City of Powell River in BC, along Highway 101. Our people today inherited rich territories and teachings from our Ancestors who have cared for these Lands since time immemorial.

Since April 5, 2016, Tla'amin Nation became self-governing through the Modern Treaty Process. This means that Tla'amin Nation has law-making authority with respect to management, planning, zoning and development on Tla'amin Lands. Federal and provincial law will also apply to all lands owned by Tla'amin Nation.

Tla'amin Nation is kicking off a Land Use Plan renewal project, which will assist in selecting the highest priority Lands to assess during this project. TN has completed a Phase I Assessment to learn about the groundwater availability in ᑕᐱᐱᐩᐩ – our Lands around Lund B.C. which will be available to the successful consultant as background information. A list of known background information that will be made available to the successful consultant is listed in

For more information on the Tla'amin Nation, refer to the Tla'amin Nation website:
www.tlaaminnation.com.

2. PROJECT DETAILS

A. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS & DELIVERABLES

Tla'amin Nation is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to complete the above-mentioned groundwater availability assessments. This consultant will identify and characterize groundwater sources beneath Tla'amin Lands and estimate groundwater availability.

The groundwater availability assessments will be conducted on a site-by-site basis, and sites will be comprised of either a single land parcel or a grouping of adjacent land parcels (Table 1 & Appendix A). Sites will be assessed based on order of priority, and the number of sites included in the contract scope may be scaled based on budget and estimated cost per site.

The work completed under this contract must be conducted by a Professional Geoscientist(s) (P.Geo.) registered with Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC), with expertise in hydrogeology. Professional Engineer(s) (P.Eng.) registered with EGBC, with relevant expertise in hydrogeology will also be considered.

The scope of work will include the following:

1. Project Initiation:

- Initial consultation with TN & Provincial (BC) project teams to confirm project scope and logistical requirements.
- Enter a firm price contract with the Tla'amin Nation for the project deliverables.
- Deliver a project workplan including methods and timelines for completion of the desktop assessments, and a project check-in schedule.

2. Desktop Assessments:

- Inventory existing hydrological and geo-spatial information and data, and identify key information gaps for identified sites;
- Identify relevant groundwater sources for each site and develop a conceptual model of the groundwater regime including hydraulic connectivity with surface water;
- Based on the conceptual model for each site, identify an approach and methodology for estimating groundwater availability. The approach should be reflective and appropriate to the data availability, and all assumptions and uncertainties should be described. Approaches that include comparison of multiple methods and scales (i.e. watershed,

aquifer, and site scale) are preferred. For examples and discussion of some potential methods and approaches based on aquifer type and complexity, see the following public report:

- Sivak, T., M. Wei, A. Kohut and D. Geller, 2024. *Exploring methods for setting groundwater allocation extraction limits and improving understanding of hydraulic connection in B.C.* Water Science Series 2024-13, Province of British Columbia, Victoria. <https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/acat/public/viewReport.do?reportId=63122>
- Estimate groundwater availability for each site, include descriptions and quantification of all assumptions, uncertainty and risks. Where appropriate, groundwater availability estimates should include discussion of potential variability (i.e. seasonal, climate change etc.)
- Recommend safety factors to account for risks, uncertainties, climate change, sea water intrusion, and maintenance of flows to connected surface water bodies and aquifers. For examples and discussion of safety factors, see the following public report:
 - Kohut, A. P., 2021. *Estimating groundwater availability for allocation in British Columbia.* Water Science Series WSS 2021-07, Province of British Columbia, Victoria. <https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/acat/public/viewReport.do?reportId=59189>
- Identify potential risks to water quality for the relevant aquifers, including uncertainty, and exploring options to evaluate risk; and
- Provide recommendations of potential additional work, which could include strategic field investigations or monitoring that could reduce uncertainty and refine understanding at sites with large uncertainty.

3. Deliverables: A list of project deliverables and milestones will be provided with the proposal and project workplan, and at a minimum should include the following:

- Interim meetings with TN & BC at agreed-upon milestones to ensure project outcomes are being met and in alignment.
- Develop and provide a draft and final technical report for TN & BC staff of your findings.
- Create and provide all associated data & mapping files including potential modeling files (i.e. Leapfrog).

3. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The successful applicant must meet the requirements set out in this RFP. Applicants shall submit the following information with their proposal:

- Executive Summary demonstrating understanding of the RFP;
- Number of years the applicant has been in business;
- Identification of key project staff, including:
 - resumes,
 - descriptions of project roles , and
 - Professional designations, with EGBC registration numbers and area of practice;
- Two (2) to three (3) most recent & relevant clients/projects and corresponding references and project outcomes;
- Description of proposed approach and estimated timeline for execution of the project;
- Budgetary costs for all items identified in Section 2. Including, but not limited to, estimates of costs per site for potential project scaling;
- Budgetary costs for any fees associated with consulting with Tla'amin Nation;
- Proposed schedule of deliverables to completion;
- A description of the basis, timing and terms of proposed billings;
- Work Safe BC clearance letter prior to work being awarded; and
- General liability amount (\$) of insurance carried by the company to be identified.

4. EVALUATION

This section details all criteria against which proposals will be evaluated. **Tla'amin Nation reserves the right to not select any proposal.**

Applicants should ensure they fully respond to all submission information outlined above and the criteria listed below to receive full consideration during evaluation.

A shortlist of applicants may be contacted for an interview.

A. CRITERIA

Proposals not clearly demonstrating that they meet the following criteria may be excluded from further consideration during the evaluation process.

Tla'amin Nation reserves the right to keep evaluation documentation confidential.

Proposals for this RFP which meet all criteria will be evaluated as follows:

Proposals meeting the minimum criteria will be evaluated as follows:	Weight
Understanding of the requirements and completeness of proposal	10%
Qualifications and experience, including references	20%
Overall project approach and timeline	35%
Budget estimates	35%
Total	100%

B. RFP SCHEDULE

All questions must be submitted to publicworks@tn-bc.ca by January 9th, 2026. If additional information becomes available, and answers to questions, will be posted as an Addendum to the RFP on our website at: <https://www.tlaaminnation.com/category/rfp/>

The complete proposals must be submitted electronically by 4:00 PM on January 23rd, 2026.

5. TERM

The successful contractor(s) will be contacted by January 30th, 2026, to confirm a Project Schedule. The term of the contract will continue until project scope has reached completion. Key milestone dates for this work are:

- Select successful consultant: January 30th, 2026.
- Deliver Draft Report by: December 4th, 2026.
- Deliver Final Report by: January 29th, 2027.

6. REFERENCES

Tla'amin Nation may conduct reference checks 7 days or more after the proposal is submitted. TN will not enter a contract with any applicant whose references, in the opinion of Tla'amin Nation, do not confirm the information provided in the RFP.

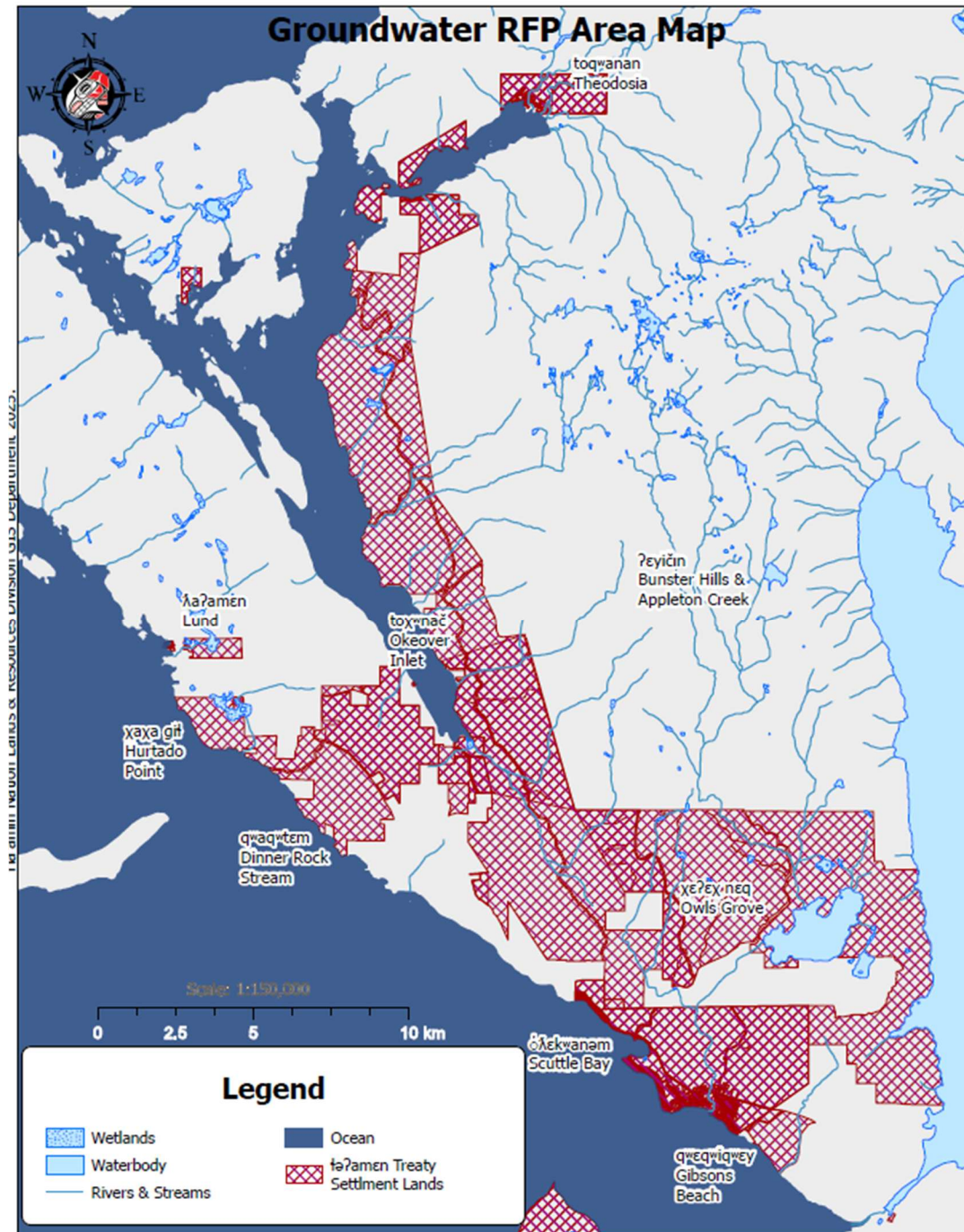
7. INQUIRIES

All inquiries regarding the services of the anticipated contract or the administrative details of the RFP are to be directed to:

Carmen Galligos
Director of Public Works & Capital Infrastructure
Tla'amin Nation
publicworks@tn-bc.ca



APPENDIX A: LOCATION MAP OF POTENTIAL ASSESSMENT SITES



APPENDIX B: LIST OF DATA TO BE SHARED WITH CONTRACTOR

List of spatial information to be provided by the Province to the selected contractor:

- Shapefile of Tla'amin Lands
- Mapped Aquifers
- Streams and Watersheds
- Groundwater well locations (public through GWELLS database, can provide spreadsheet export)
- Existing water licenses for groundwater and surface water (source, location, quantity and purpose)
- All complete and spatialized existing use groundwater license applications (location, quantity and purpose)
- All complete and spatialized new use groundwater and surface water license applications
- Surface Water Reservations
- Water Allocation Notations
- Terrain and bioterrain mapping, where available