NW Traditional Land Composition

• Nadleh territory comprises of 500,000 hectares; with
• 87 lakes, 37 creeks and streams varying in size;
• Reserve lands consisting of
  o 7 parcels of land totaling 969 hectares of land; and
• Conservation areas
  o Ungulate Winter Range – 11676.45
  o Old Growth Management Areas – 2528.22
Wildfires 2018 Response Phase; Our Experience

• Shovel Lake Wildfire Complex burnt an estimated 93,000 hectares;

• Significantly affecting the health of our citizens, our local economy & the spiritual and cultural sites of Nadleh Whut’en First Nation; additionally

• The anguish and stress of being evacuated outside their homes and community, Nadleh Whut’en community members experience the loss of a great part of our traditional territory including very important spiritual sites and cultural building; and

• The physical and emotional health of our citizens being negatively affected to levels unknown to us; including

• Our local economy, primarily based on our traditional practices such as fishing, hunting, medicine and food gathering, were decimated.
Shovel Lake Wildfire Timeline of Events

• Shovel Lake Wildfire (R11498) reported at about July 29, 2018 & BC “Wildfire Services, Northwest Fire Centre responded to the fire which has been deemed as human caused”; and
  o Subsequent BC Wildfire reports the “cause of wildfire under investigation”

• Nadleh Whut’en Council declared a local state of emergency on August 13, 2018; and
  o Guided by version 3 of the NW Emergency Plan activated the Nadleh Whut’en Emergency Operations Centre (EOC); mandated to
    o Protect lives & property and work in collaboration with Federal, Provincial and non-governmental agencies; and

• The Province of BC declared a Provincial State of Emergency August 15, 2018
Shovel Lake Fire Timeline

- **24-Jul**: Fire starts
- **29-Jul**: Regional District of Bulkley Nechako issues evacuation orders
- **03-Aug**: Scott Van Leur starts working with Nadleh EOC
- **08-Aug**: First meeting with BCWS in Nadleh, Marvin Salonas starts driving bus for evacuees
- **13-Aug**: Dinner in Prince George for evacuees
- **18-Aug**: High winds grow the fire
- **23-Aug**: Fire is 20% contained
- **28-Aug**: Nadleh village is evacuated, Vanlam Fire District takes over incident command for Shovel Lake Fire
- **02-Sep**: Ormond Lake Healing Camp is evacuated
- **Meeting**: Meeting with Denny's management in Prince George about racism towards evacuees
- **Meeting**: Meeting with RCMP in Prince George about room being wrecked
- **Evacuation lifted**: Evacuation is lifted, Nadleh members can go home

*Fire Size in ha*
Wildfires 2018 Recovery Phase; Our Experience

• Lack of funding commitment from both Provincial and Federal Governments to First Nation communities; instead

• Diverting responsibility to non-governmental organizations and volunteer groups & many lack experience or resources to undertake massive response to First Nations Recovery needs;

• Managing recovery activities during the 2017 was challenging to affected First Nations due to the lack of coordination & a disjointed system of organizational structures;

• After the wildfires of 2018, the recovery organizational system has not improved;
Recommendations

• Provide adequate levels of funding to BC First Nations to respond to any emergency impacts;

• Clearly identify emergency resources being provided to BC First Nations, including contingency funds provided by BC and Canada for emergency response and recovery; and