



**KATZIE**  
FIRST NATION  
...Land of the Moss

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## **KATZIE FIRST NATION RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT METRO VANCOUVER'S WIDGEON MARSH REGIONAL PARK PUBLIC OPENING**

Katzie First Nation (Katzie) has informed Metro Vancouver of significant concerns regarding the November 1, 2025, limited opening of its new Widgeon Marsh Regional Park, which is located northeast of Coquitlam.

The park will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except in the event of severe weather or construction. Visitors will be able to access the park by making a vehicle parking reservation, coming by bicycle, walking in, or paddling in via Widgeon Slough. On Saturdays and Sundays, visitors can also reserve seats on the free shuttle that will pick up and drop off in the vicinity of the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station.

ḱéθqəł (Widgeon Creek) is a Katzie Cultural Keystone Place and the entire Widgeon Valley is core Katzie territory. Katzie is the host Nation of this territory and has never ceded or surrendered rights or title. For generations, we have lived in relationship with the Widgeon Valley, and it has been a place for teaching and learning.

Given the cultural significance of the Widgeon Valley, we have been working with Metro Vancouver since 2019 to establish a co-management agreement for its new park, and throughout the Valley. That work has included discussions with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECC), BC Parks, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), the Nature Trust of BC and Ducks Unlimited. This engagement with multiple organizations has been a central aspect of Katzie's strategy to protect the whole Widgeon Valley, as we want to ensure that all of Widgeon, not just the lands owned by Metro Vancouver, are protected and properly managed.

We take our role as hereditary caretakers very seriously. So, when we learned that Metro Vancouver was planning a limited opening of the park with little notice, without our involvement, and before we have finalized our co-management agreement, we were shocked and dismayed.

The new Metro Vancouver park is the gateway to the entire Widgeon Valley, and this has potential impacts not just within the park, but beyond as well. Among our serious concerns are increased risks from forest fires, on the environment (including on fish and wildlife), and on our cultural sites.

Despite these serious concerns, Katzie First Nation remains committed to finalizing a co-management agreement with Metro Vancouver to avoid these and other risks. It is Katzie's intention to have this co-management agreement completed before the park is fully opened to the public. We have made this clear to Metro Vancouver and are hopeful that

they will work with us to ensure that nothing else is implemented or built without the involvement of Katzie. Our Guardians will also be present during the limited opening to monitor the proceedings. Their role is to uphold our hereditary responsibilities as caretakers of the Valley.

**Katzie First Nation Chief and Council**



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Chief Grace George



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Councillor David Kenworth



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Councillor Rick Bailey

On annual leave

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Councillor Lisa Adams