



About the Wordshare Project^{1, 2}

1. **Wordshare Project.** Since 2023, the Wordshare Project (WP) has shared translation solutions into the Westcoast languages Ditidaht and Nuuchahnulth. Our goals are to make sure that our languages have words to talk about modern concepts, and that speakers in different communities can understand each other. Since 2025, we meet five times a year.
2. **Membership.** Participation in the Wordshare Project is open to all Westcoast people and nations, those working with our languages, and invited guests.
3. **Procedures.** We (1) identify important concepts that lack established translations, (2) gather translations, (3) share them widely, and (4) support elders, speakers, and nations to express their recommendations. When appropriate, (5) we share reports on our conclusions.
4. **Values.** Our work is based on the following values.
 - **tiičap • Preservation.** Our central purpose is to keep Westcoast languages alive.
 - **?iisaak • Respect.** This project is a safe space, where everyone is treated with respect.
 - **?iic̓aapap • Support.** We share recommendations, not prescriptions. We do not tell people how to speak. We are open to how people are talking now.
 - **hašahʔap • Conservatism.** We favour old words over new ones. We make new words only when needed. We are open to words that have been forgotten, and words borrowed from other lects, that is dialects or languages, ex. *łiłqm̓is* ‘electricity’, *tak̓cuuyak* ‘guitar’, *tataʔitq̓kuk* ‘cucumber’, *pasayuksʔath* ‘French person’, *paak* ‘Easter’, *piano* ‘piano’.
 - **čawaackʷi • One language, many dialects.** New words should be similar across lects, while protecting each lect’s integrity, ex. BQ *qich̓s̓ii*, CT *łiish̓s̓ii* ‘writer, secretary’.
 - **hiišuu • Consensus.** We consider all ideas, but try to find consensus. We are willing to compromise. We support participants’ right to divergent opinions.
 - **?aʔiic̓um • Elders.** We are guided by our elders. We cite our sources rigorously.
 - **?uuščak • Utility.** We illustrate words in complete sentences and in context.
 - **naaʔuuʔap • Transparency.** Our reports are public information.
5. **Documents.** The project relies in part on the following documents.
 - **About the Wordshare Project.** This document.
 - **Translation memo.** A one-page summary of best practices in translation.
 - **quuquuʔacsap.** A longer, dual-language discussion of best practices.
 - **Wordshare sheet.** A spreadsheet of translation solutions.
 - **Wordshare archive.** An archive of translations for particular projects.
 - **Wordshare reports.** Recommended translations on particular topics.
6. **Contact.** You can contact us at wordshare.wawaayak-at-gmail.com, or reach out directly to one of our editors. As of 2025, our editors are *maaxm̓awicimqa* Kimberly Baines, *hinatinyis* (Brittany Coté), *šimin* David Inman, and *łiisłiisaʔap̓* Adam Werle.

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² The Wordshare salal berry logo is adapted from a design by Flaticon (flaticon.com).