

KASKA TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Presented by: the **Kaska Nation** and the **ICT Development Group** of Canada

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ABSTRACT:

The Kaska Traditional Knowledge Network (KTKN) is a dynamic ICT tool that enables Kaska members to contribute to the conservation of their land and resources and to participate in the preservation of their traditional knowledge for generations to come.

The Kaska Nation, in partnership with the ICT Development Group, is pro-actively addressing the need for better resource management and environmental conservation through the development of the KTKN which will enable them to make more informed decisions regarding their land and resources. As responsibility for natural resource management is being transferred from the government to indigenous authorities, the KTKN acts as a technology that facilitates this transfer by providing a knowledge portal that houses various land information management tools. These tools empower the Kaska to, for example, manage contracts relating to resource extraction from their land, register their intellectual property relating to the traditional use of plants, and use monitoring mechanisms to protect their wildlife.

The integration of traditional knowledge and modern scientific knowledge is the key to ensuring sustainable development within Kaska territories and therefore the preservation of traditional knowledge is an important aspect of the KTKN. By bridging the old and the new, the portal encourages wider participation from Kaska members in decision-making regarding environmental issues: elders are able to pass on knowledge about traditional methods while the current generation brings new skill sets back to the community. This innovative form of environmental stewardship is facilitated by high-speed connectivity, a web-based portal, a traditional knowledge directory and geospatial data applications – the various elements that contribute to increasing the Kaska Nation's ability to better manage their land and resources.