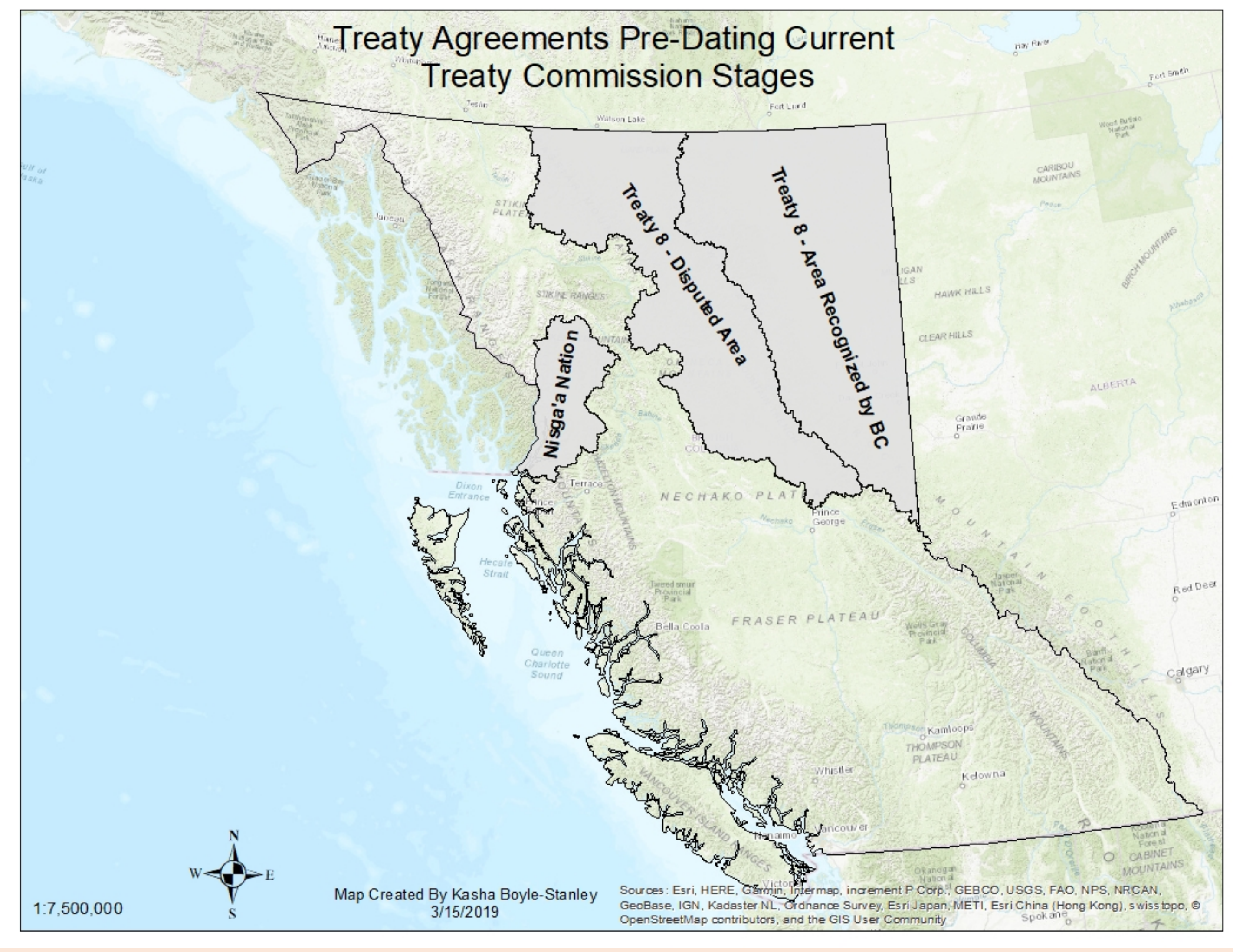
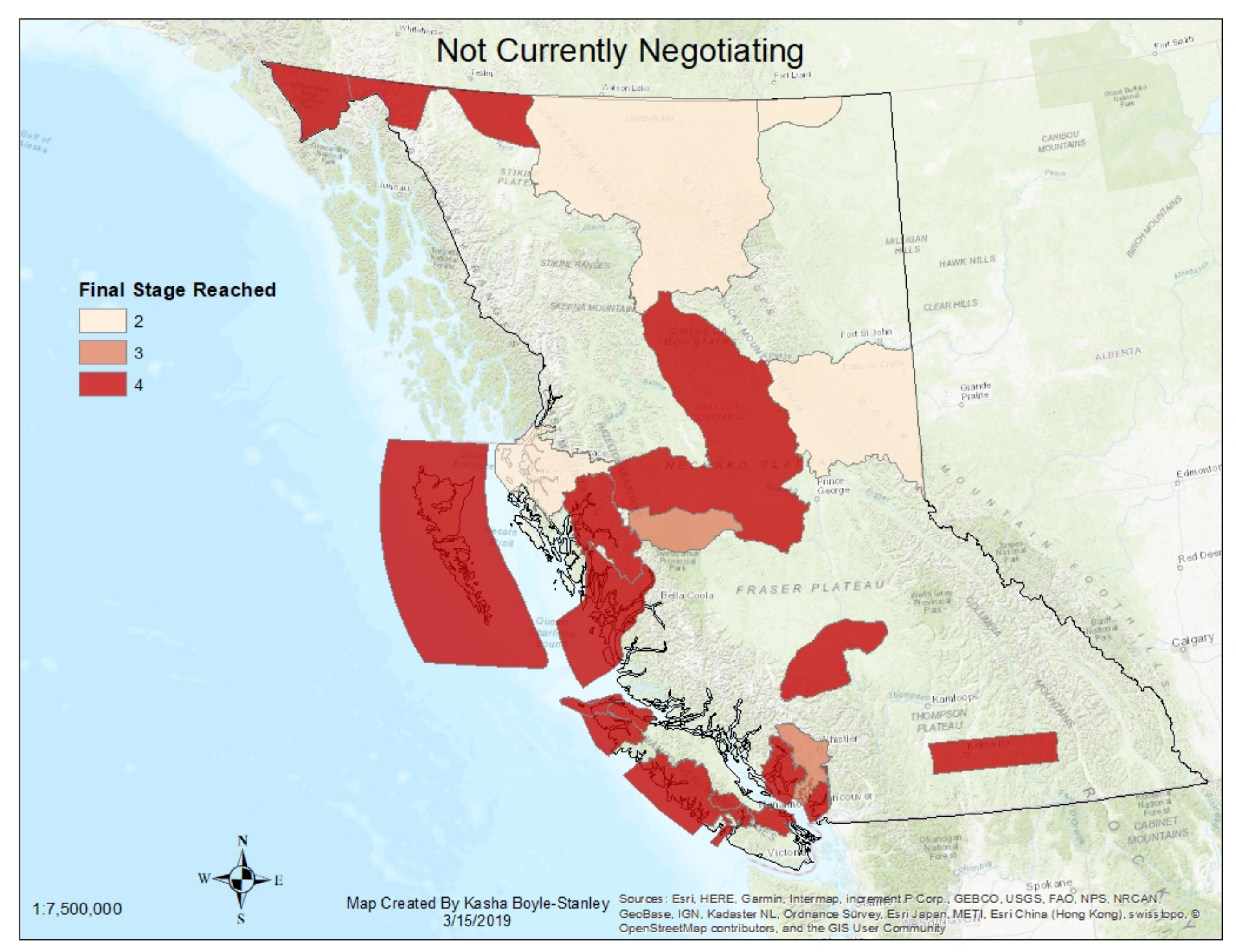


British Columbia’s Indigenous Territories by Stage of Treaty Negotiation

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Ktunaxa, Syilx (Okanagan), and Sinixt Peoples.

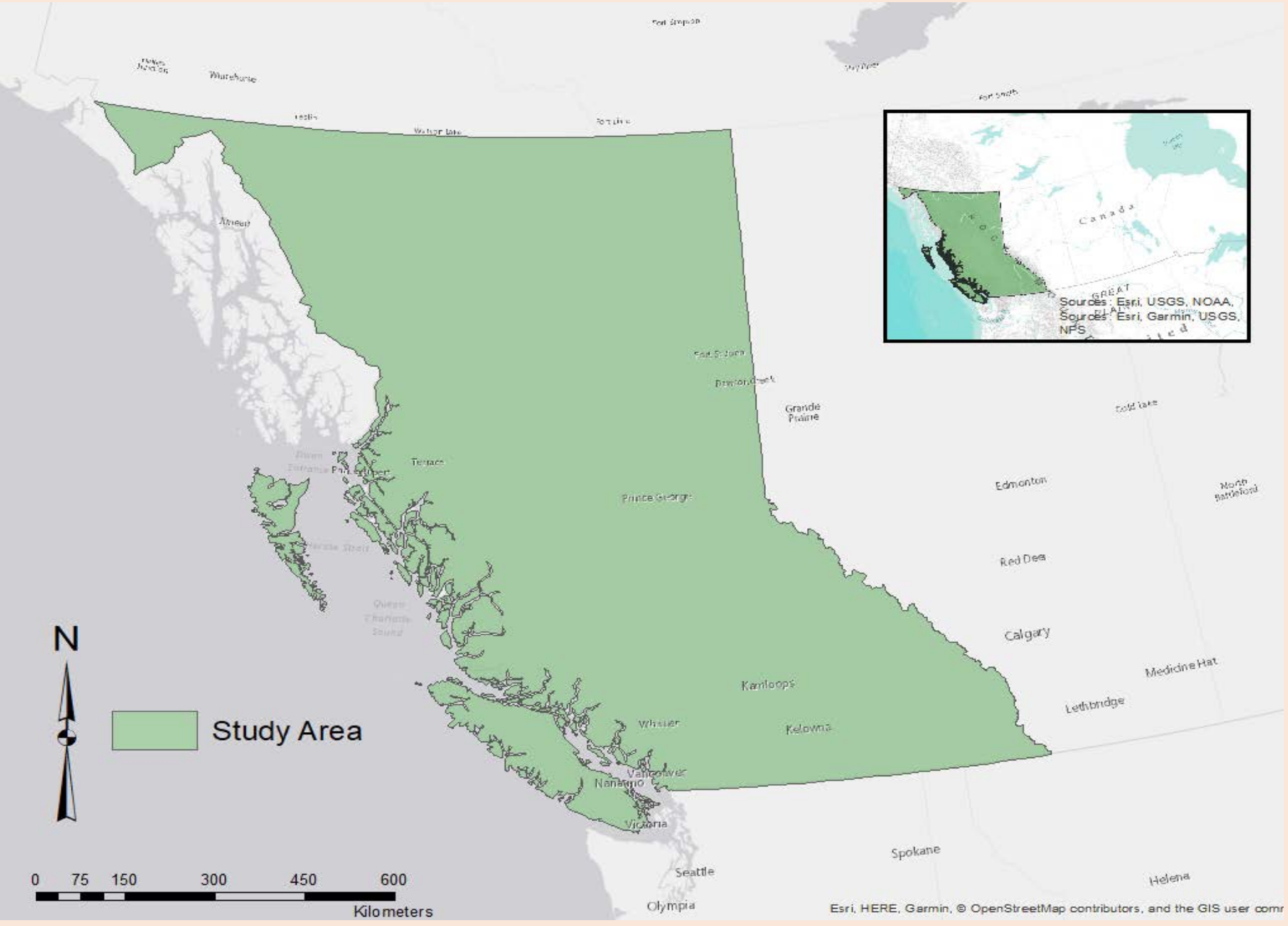


Introduction

Indigenous groups in BC are at various stages of negotiation with the provincial government to establish treaty agreements.

There is a significant amount of overlap between the traditional territories of many of these nations and treaty groups. One objective of this project was to create a web map that would help examine these areas.

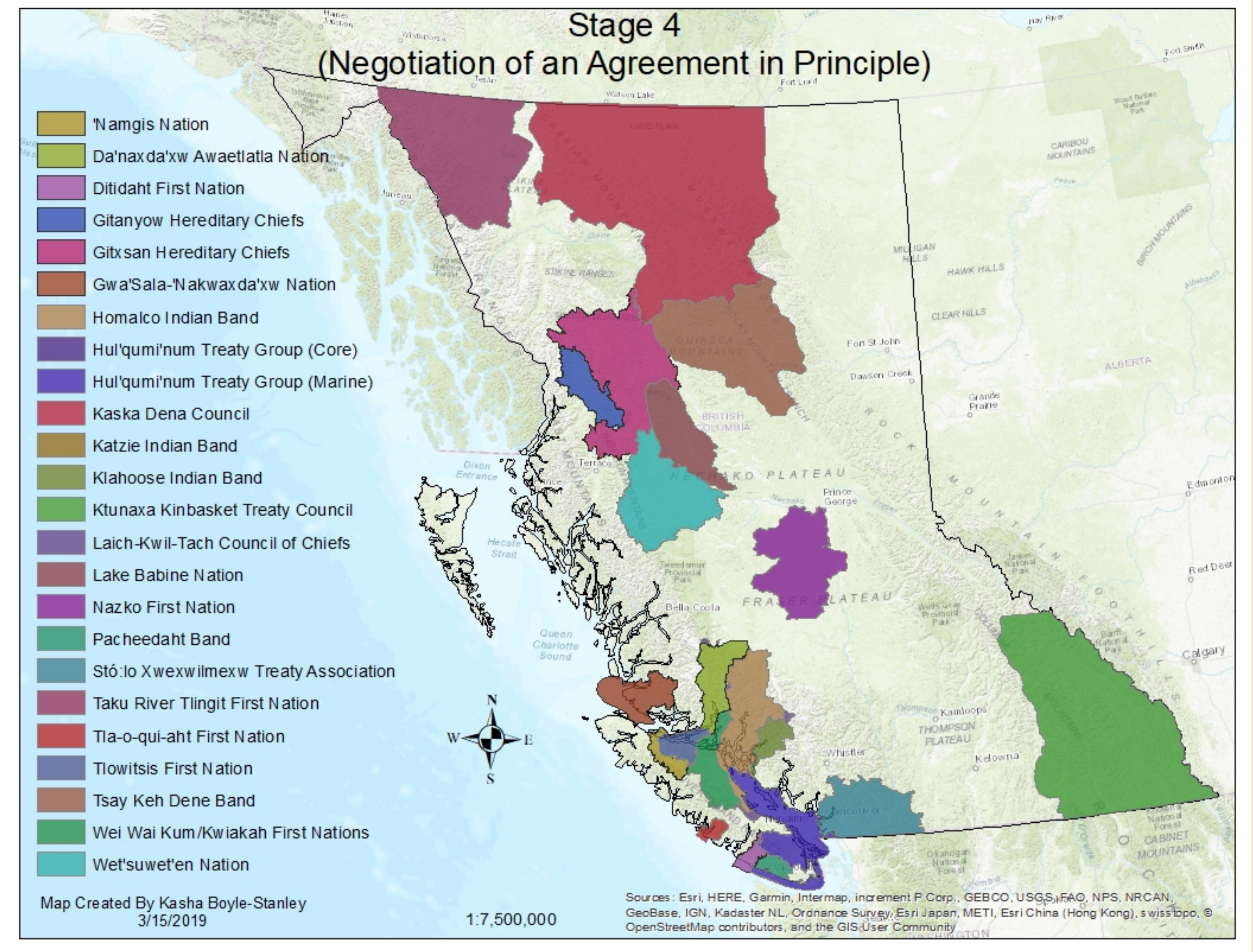
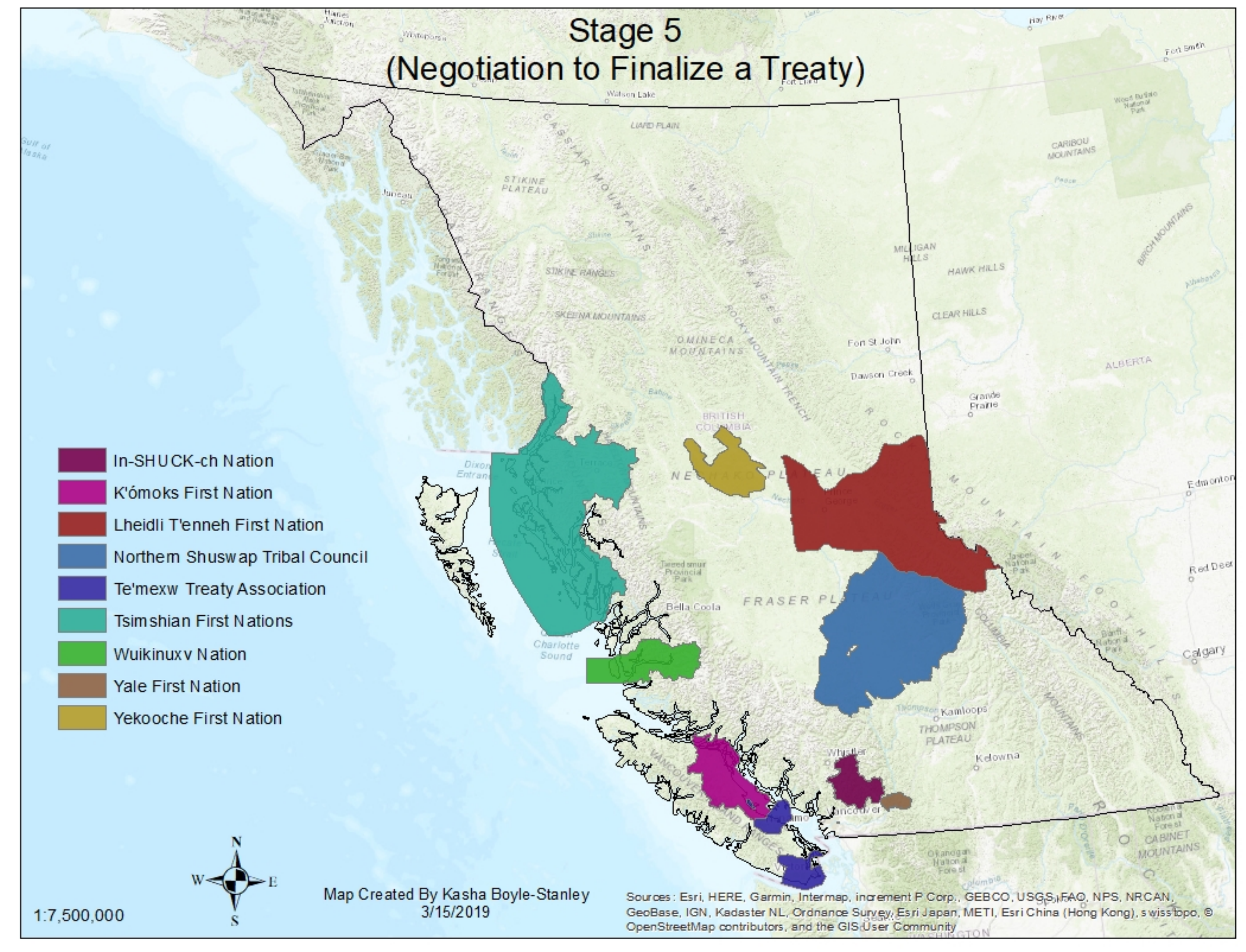
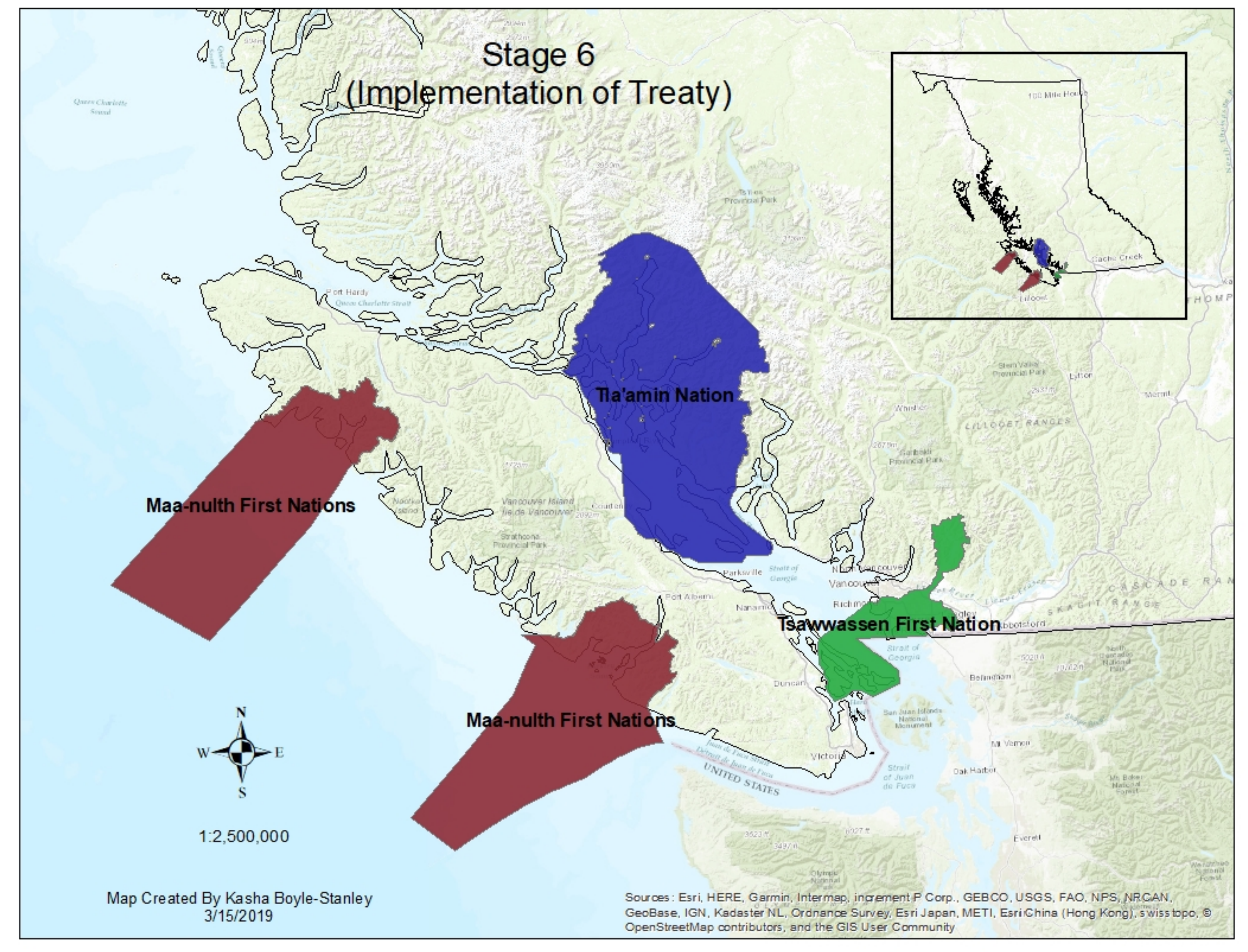
The project also aimed to identify if and how geographic location is affecting or has affected the treaty negotiations of Indigenous groups located in British Columbia. Some Indigenous groups have withdrawn from the treaty process, and a visualization of these groups was created to help to determine why this is happening.



Data Sources:

- DataBC (<https://data.gov.bc.ca/>)
- BC Treaty Commission (bctreaty.ca)

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April 10, 2019



Methods:

Spatial data of BC’s First Nations participating in the treaty process was ordered from DataBC. Using ArcGIS, the spatial data was separated into permanent layers representing Nations at each stage of negotiation. Map products were created to represent each stage of negotiation.

Areas of overlap were then identified using the “dissolve” and “intersect” tools. A map was created to visually represent these areas of overlap and a statistical analysis of the amount of land covered by overlap was completed. A web map was also created to serve as a visual tool to view areas of overlap between traditional territories.

The map products created were compared to a heat map of population density in British Columbia in order to extrapolate trends.

Results

The results of a visual analysis drew three main conclusions:

- 1- Although it may have been beneficial to be proximal to urban centers when finalizing treaties, this proximity is not, in and of itself, a reason why various Indigenous groups are at one stage or another in the negotiation process.
- 2- The traditional territories of Indigenous groups not currently negotiating are all geographically close to at least one other territory with the same classification. Conclusions as to the relevance of this are beyond the scope of this project.
- 3- The area of overlap between traditional territories is 32.1% of the total land mass of the province and 19.5% of the total traditional territory in British Columbia.

Limitations

Scope: The treaty system in British Columbia is very complicated and its intricacies are beyond the scope of this project.

Lack of data: Further analysis would have been possible had temporal data been available for when Indigenous groups were classified as “not currently negotiating” by the BC Treaty Commission.

Representation: There are many Indigenous groups that are not officially recognized by the provincial government and are not represented in this project.

ASSUMPTION: The primary assumption being made in this project is that data provided by the provincial government is concurrent with Indigenous groups’ claimed traditional territories.