


Reclaiming Language and Land in Indigenous Digital Landscapes
Emily Comeau
ICLDC8 Virtual Conference
March 2023

[https://trt.geolive.ca/map.html?mapitem=\[18\]](https://trt.geolive.ca/map.html?mapitem=[18])



*“The Land Guardians act as the “eyes and ears” of TRTFN Lands
Department by monitoring land activities that inform decision-making.”
(<http://takhuatlen.org/trtfn-land-guardians/>)*



Language and Land

“We see ancestral language as a means to access the fundamental knowledge base that has arisen from experiences and interactions with the places where those languages live.” (Rosborough & Rorick 2017, p. 12)

*“These two, the land and language, work in unison, creating an ever-deepening relation between the speaker and the environment.”
(Daniels-Fiss 2008, p. 238)*

“Our specific place names identify specific locations within our land, and connect geographic locations with memories of past events, with knowledge of environment and landscape. They anchor our history in the land, including its landscape, in ways that connect us to the history of long ago [...], providing oral maps for the land.”
(Ignace 2008, p. 171)

“Digital technology creates environments for language learners and speakers, allows for the creation and sharing of language materials, permits greater access to the language, and more importantly, expands the realm of communication.”

(Galla 2016, p. 1144)

“Technology may intervene through immersive experiences, re-igniting relations, connecting people to ancestral knowledge through the use of digital applications like AR, VR and iterative game play.”

(Arista 2020, p. 103)

Na'vi Prototype



<https://www.wdwmagic.com/attractions/avatar/gallery/24jul2015-avatar-overview/24796.htm>

IMT Home Page

Getting Started with the Image Markup Tool

Bookmark Restart Go back



<Image Markup Tool />

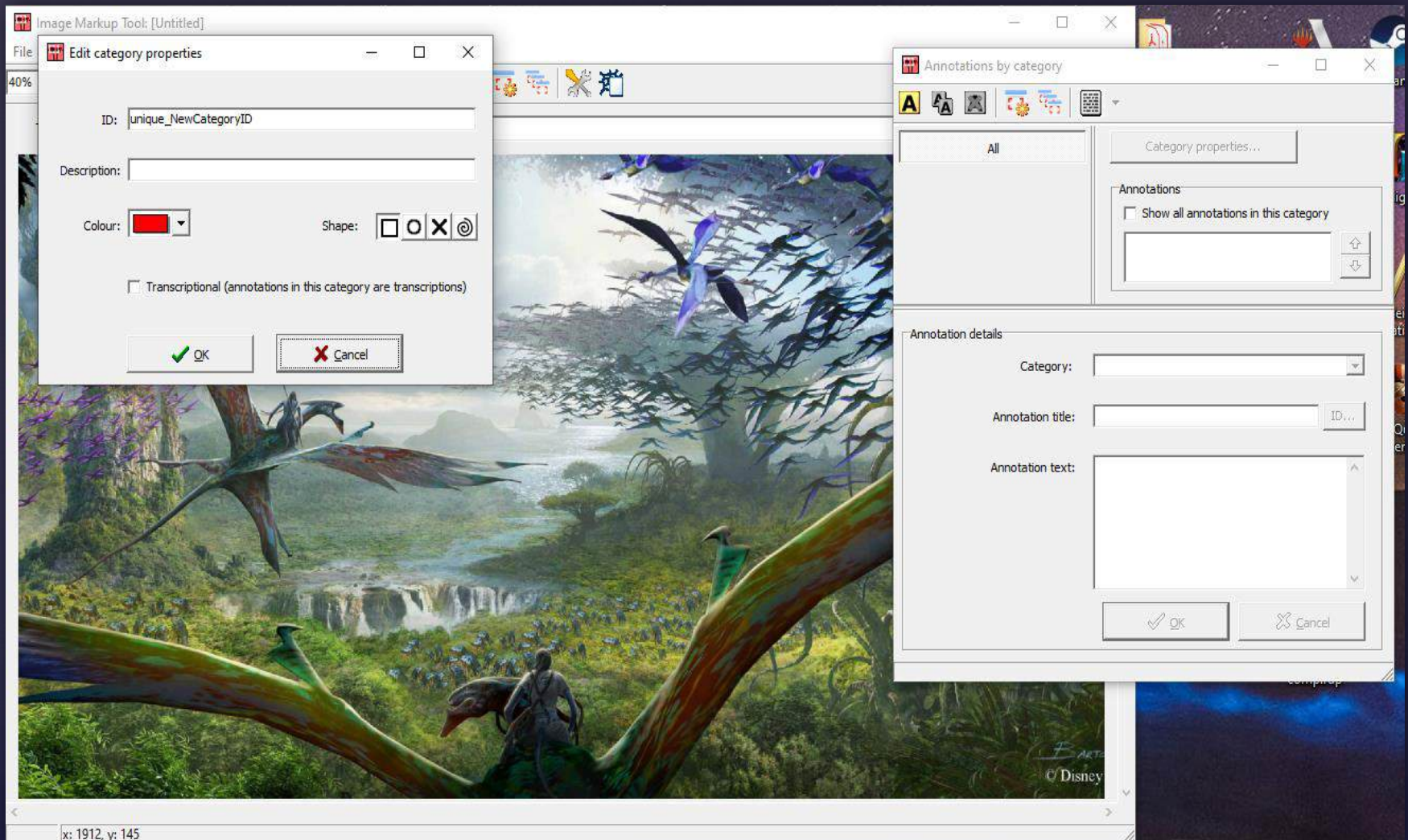
Welcome! This is an introductory tutorial which will take you step-by-step through the process of annotating an image with the Image Markup Tool. Click on the button below to start.

Start

IMT Home Page

https://hcmc.uvic.ca/~mholmes/image_markup/tutorial/getting_started.htm

Na'vi Prototype



Na'vi Prototype

Category	Na'vi term	English meaning	Additional info	Source
atxkxe (land)	Eywa'eveng	Pandora	"from Eywa Gaia and 'eveng child"	https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)	ram	mountain		https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)	Ayram Alusing	Hallelujah Mountain	"from ram mountain and ling hover"	https://james-camer
atxkxe (land)	txampay	ocean	"from txan much and pay water"	https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)	spono	island		https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)	kilvan	river		https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)	kxor	waterfall	waterfalls noted for its deafening	https://files.learnna
atxkxe (land)		Valley of Origins	home of the Ni'awve Clan	https://james-camer
taw (sky)	Tsawke	sun (Alpha Centauri A, or Rigil Kentaurus)		https://james-camer
taw (sky)	Naranawm	Polyphemus	planet that Pandora orbits	https://files.learnna
taw (sky)	oare	moon		https://files.learnna
ioang (animal/beast)	pa'li	direhorse		(https://www.pando
ioang (animal/beast)	ikran	mountain banshee		(https://www.pando
ioang (animal/beast)	ikranay	forest banshee		(https://www.pando
ewll ('ewll, plant)	pxiut	razor palm	"sharp tree"	(https://james-came
ewll ('ewll, plant)	tautral	beanstalk palm	"sky tree"	https://www.pando
ewll ('ewll, plant)	utral	tree		
ewll ('ewll, plant)	utraltsyip	bush		
ewll ('ewll, plant)	ana	hanging vine		https://files.learnna
ewll ('ewll, plant)	Kelutral	Home Tree		https://james-camer
ewll ('ewll, plant)	na'ring	forest		https://files.learnna
ewll ('ewll, plant)	syeptute	hyneman	"from syep trap and tute person"	(https://files.learnna
navi (Na'vi)	Ikran Makto	ikran riders		https://james-camer
navi (Na'vi)	Ikrimaya	riders' rite of passag	"The name 'Ikrimaya' is also used to c	https://james-camer
navi (Na'vi)	Tsaheylyu	a rider's lifelong bond with ikran		https://james-camer

Na'vi Prototype

Navi_landscape.jpg

Annotations

atxkxe (land objects) - including geological formations, landforms, and water features

Ayram Alusing

kxor

ram

Eywa'eveng

txampay

spono

kilvan

Valley of Origins

taw (sky objects) - both inside and outside Pandora's atmosphere

oare

Tsawke

Naranawm

piwopx

ioang (animals) - anywhere in the landscape (both land and sky)

pa'li

pa'li

ikran

ikran

ikranay

ikranay

'ewil (plants) - including any visible flora

Kelutral

utral

utraltsyip

tautral

syseptute

syseptute

pxiut

'ana

'ana

na'ring

na'ring

Na'vi (people) related terms, including cultural information

Ikrana Maktoyu

Tsaheylu

Ikrimaya

Ikrimaya

X

Ikrimaya

Ikrimaya, the Ikrana Maktoyu rite of passage, where riders capture and initiate Tsaheylu, a rider's lifelong bond with their ikran. Also describes the Na'vi pathway to the ikran rookery in the Ayram Alusing. [Pronunciation](#), [Avatar Wiki](#)

Disney

https://github.com/skyefree/navi_landscape_annotated

Goat Island.jpg

Annotations

X'áat' (island) - including land extending into or surrounded by a body of water

Jánwu X'áat'i

Liyaat'i X'áa

Héen (water) - including lakes, rivers, creeks, bays, etc.

Aa Tlein

At-xeegi Tlein

Liyaat'i X'áa Jigei

Shaa (mountain) - includes ridges, hills, mountains, etc.

A Xeegi Deiyi' Shaa

t'éex

Kéewaa ("up-in-sky") - including weather

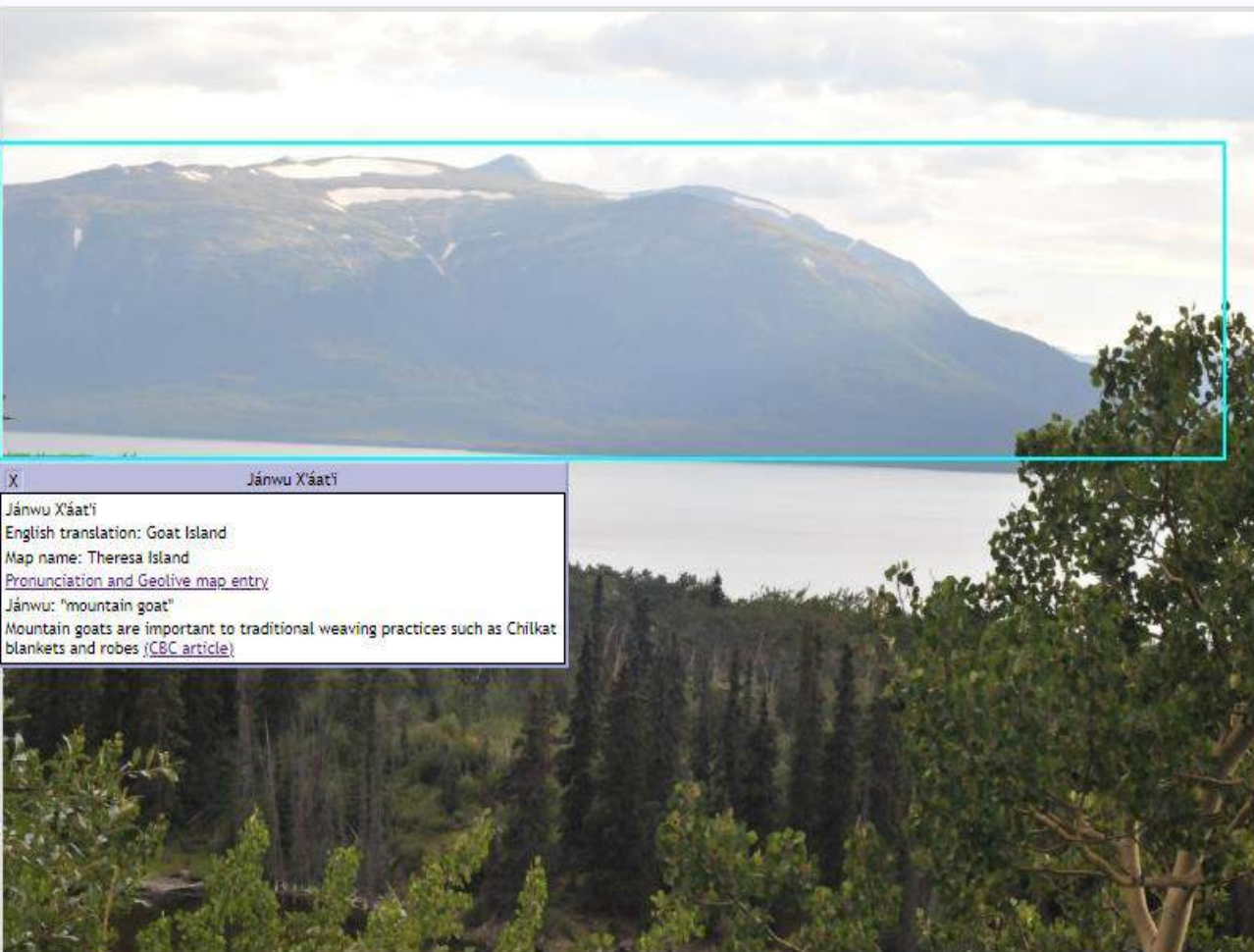
góos'

Kayaani (vegetation) - including plants and trees

keishish

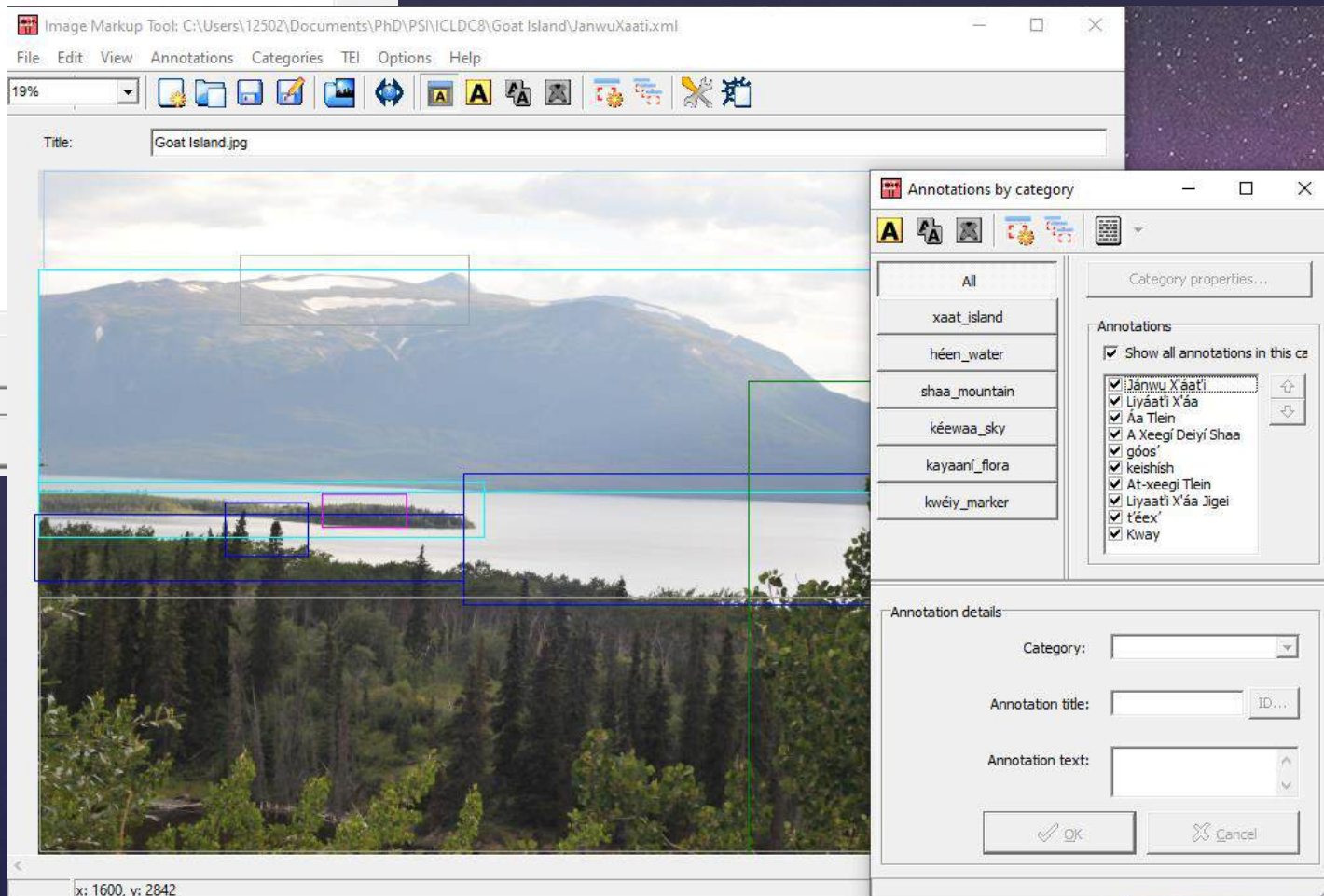
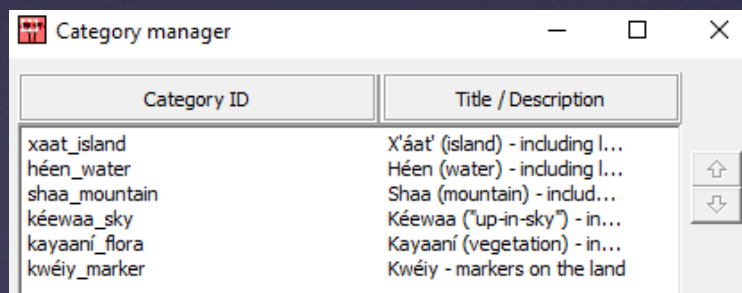
Kwéiy - markers on the land

Kway



X Jánwu X'áat'i

Jánwu X'áat'i
 English translation: Goat Island
 Map name: Theresa Island
[Pronunciation and Geolive map entry](#)
 Jánwu: "mountain goat"
 Mountain goats are important to traditional weaving practices such as Chilkat blankets and robes ([CBC article](#))



Navi_landscape.jpg



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 Initiate T
 Na'vi pati
 Avatar W

Goat Island.jpg



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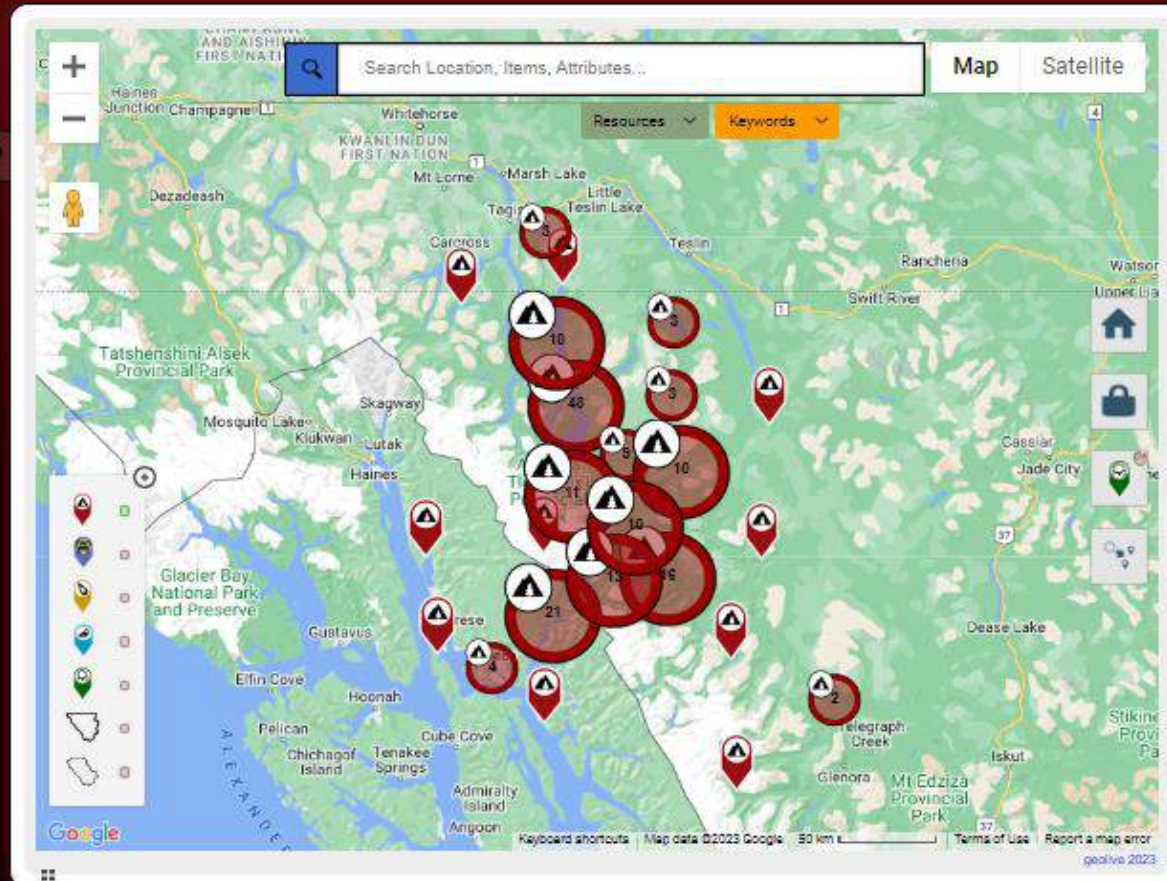
MAP

WHY PLACE NAMES ARE IMPORTANT



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT PLACE NAMES

Yak'ei yee xwsateen! Welcome!



• CONTRIBUTORS
• STORIES
• TLINGIT LANGUAGE
• CONTACT US

• INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
• GETTING STARTED
• FAQ

• VISITING TAKU RIVER TLINGIT TERRITORY
• PLACE NAMES IN THE CLASSROOM

<https://trt.geolive.ca/map.html>



Taku River Tlingit Place Names Website by trt.geolive.ca is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#)



Gunálchéesh
Thank you!

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