



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Klahoose Wilderness Resort Receives Silver Certification from GreenStep Sustainable Tourism

Squirrel Cove, B.C., August 8, 2023 – Klahoose Wilderness Resort is pleased to announce its commitment to sustainability has been recognized with the achievement of Silver Certification from North America's largest certification program for the tourism and hospitality industry, GreenStep Sustainable Tourism.

"We are immensely proud to receive the Silver Certification from GreenStep Sustainable Tourism. This recognition reinforces our steadfast commitment to preserving the natural beauty of the Klahoose Territory through sustainable tourism. As a business that is 100% Indigenous owned by the Klahoose First Nation, we are committed to protecting the environment and its people while welcoming visitors to the territory. We are grateful to our team members and partners whose hard work and dedication have made this achievement possible. We will continue our journey towards even greater sustainability as we demonstrate continued improvements in our sustainable performance to support and improve our grading. We look forward to welcoming guests seeking an eco-conscious and authentic Indigenous experience at Klahoose Wilderness Resort." Ron Buchhorn, Chairman of the Board – Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation (QXMC)

This significant achievement reflects Klahoose Wilderness Resort's commitment to sustainability, conservation, and responsible tourism practices on lands of the lands of the toq qaymix^w (Klahoose) People. The certification represents a major milestone in the resort's ongoing efforts to minimize its ecological footprint and contribute positively to the surrounding environment and local community.

To receive Silver Certification, Klahoose Wilderness Resort had to meet specific standards after a one-on-one assessment was completed by a GreenStep assessor. The process compared the resorts' practices against a set of criteria that are Global Sustainable Tourism Council-Recognized and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"GreenStep offers our congratulations to Klahoose Wilderness Resort for achieving GreenStep Sustainable Tourism Certification. Klahoose has successfully measured the sustainability performance of their operations against 87 globally recognized criteria, and had their results verified by a GreenStep assessor. The process resulted in team building, knowledge sharing, and a detailed action plan towards continuous improvement in support of the sustainable development of the resort in

the coming years. We look forward to following along on their journey as Klahoose Wilderness Resort progresses and demonstrates leadership in sustainable tourism.”
- Jennifer Burling, Director of Sustainable Tourism

By obtaining the Silver Certification, Klahoose Wilderness Resort has demonstrated exceptional dedication to implementing sustainable practices across its facilities, tours, and transportation. Guests visiting the resort can now have peace of mind knowing that they are contributing to a more sustainable and responsible form of tourism.

Some of the key sustainable initiatives at Klahoose Wilderness Resort that contributed to the Silver Certification include:

1. The off-the-grid resort produces its own power. In 2022 the resort redesigned and improved the water intake, Pelton wheel (hydro-wheel) and storage capacity. This new hydroelectrical grid relies on state-of-the-art equipment, allowing us to harness the stream run-off water more efficiently, triple our energy generation and most importantly, enable us to store energy (otherwise lost) so critical during peak consumption periods. The micro-hydroelectric project will cut diesel fuel generators at the off-grid resort, removing up to 38 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.
2. Implementing comprehensive recycling programs, minimizing single-use plastics, and adopting waste reduction strategies throughout the resort. For example, the resort uses refillable natural-based ONEKA shampoo, conditioner, body & hand wash and lotions in our rooms and dish soap for our kitchen. These products are produced by Courtney-based Local Refillery, so the resort is at once helping to support a local company while providing a high-quality package free product. We also provide each guest with a Klahoose Wilderness Resort reusable water bottle during their stay. These efforts help transition our resort to plastic-free and a lower our environmental impact.
3. Partnership with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA) and the North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association (NIMMSA) to develop industry standards, uniform guide training, and ongoing research to protect wildlife habitat in the Salish Sea, Klahoose First Nation Territory and guests' conservation fee that is collected goes towards each of these organization with an emphasis on conservation and education.
4. Contribution to the local economy to support regional coastal communities by purchasing locally sourced and sustainable goods, food and supporting Indigenous and local artists. Examples of this include the purchase of art direct from Coast Salish Indigenous artists and hiring local contractors during the resorts recently completed accommodation, kitchen, and energy system renovations.

5. We prioritize hiring from the surrounding communities where we operate. Eco tours and grizzly bear viewing tours are led by Indigenous guides.
6. Guests who choose to visit Klahoose Wilderness Resort will naturally support Reconciliation Through Travel. The collective effort, a connection to place, its people, and time-gathered-wisdom come together to create lifelong memories while providing a positive impact for us all.

Klahoose Wilderness Resort's achievement of Silver Certification underscores its dedication to sustainable tourism practices. The resort remains steadfast in its commitment to continually improve its sustainability efforts and with ongoing planning with strive for higher certifications in the future.

About Klahoose Wilderness Resort:

Klahoose Wilderness Resort is an award-winning eco-tourism destination nestled in the heart of British Columbia's, Desolation Sound. 100% Indigenous owned, by the Klahoose First Nation, the off-grid resort is surrounded by stunning coastal rainforest and protected calm waters of the Salish Sea, the resort offers guests a unique opportunity to reconnect with nature with an authentic Indigenous experience while enjoying all-inclusive wildlife viewing and cultural packages.

Qathen Xwegus Management Corporation (QXMC) is the Klahoose First Nations Economic Development Corporation tasked with growing Klahoose's role in business, management, sustainable development, and opportunities in the traditional territory.

About GreenStep Sustainable Tourism:

GreenStep Sustainable Tourism is a globally recognized organization that assesses and certifies tourism businesses based on their sustainability practices. The organization aims to promote responsible tourism and provide travelers with reliable information about environmentally conscious travel options.

For more information, please visit: www.klahooseresort.com or contact:
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