



Ban on the unauthorized harvesting of ?ayut

On August 13, 2025, the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) announced an **immediate ban** on harvesting **?ayut** (Canby's Lovage) by anyone outside the Ktunaxa community for the remainder of 2025.

The ban is for areas within **?amak?is Ktunaxa in B.C.**, (map on the next page) and **applies to non-Ktunaxa visitors**.

Due to destructive harvesting by non-Ktunaxa groups, some ?ayut patches in ?amak?is Ktunaxa have suffered **considerable damage**.

Rights: Ktunaxa stewardship responsibilities and inherent right to enact them in ?amak?is Ktunaxa are recognized by **?a-knumu?tiit**, Ktunaxa law (our covenant with the Creator), the *Ktunaxa Land Declaration*, and by Section 35 of *Canada's Constitution Act* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 11-1*.

Ask first: Groups from outside our territory who want to harvest next year **must seek written approval** in advance, and Ktunaxa First Nations retain the right to refuse.

Key Quote

"?ayut is a sacred cultural medicine. It's crucial for the health and well-being of Ktunaxa communities."

Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Council Chair

Quick Facts

Sacred Plant

?ayut is a vital cultural medicine to Ktunaxa.

Commercial Harvesting

Up to 50 unauthorized harvesters were active **per day** in some areas.

Damage

Ktunaxa guardians found torn-up soil, broken tools, & overharvested patches.

Concerns

?ayut takes years to reach maturity. Overharvesting risks long-term depletion.

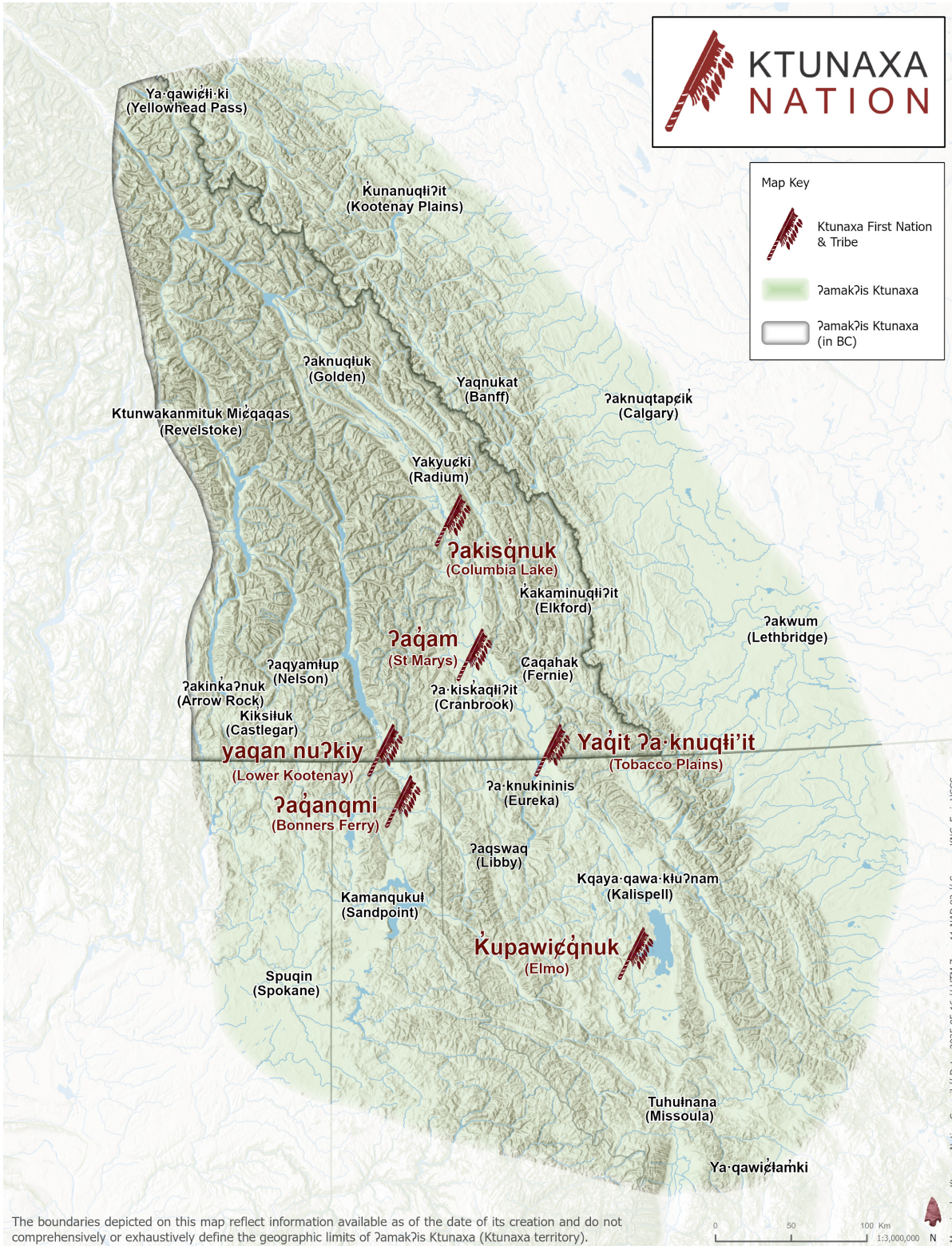
Authority

Ktunaxa First Nations' Knowledge Holders, Elders and Leaders issued the ban, **effective from August 13 until 2026**.



Contact

ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa



Read the full statement here.



Ktunaxa First Nations



ʔakisq̄nuk First Nation
akisq̄nuk.org



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www.aqam.net



Yaqan Nuʔkiy
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