To: SAH/UTC
From: Kevin King
Date: 7 August 2023
Subject: Three Latin Lambdas for version 16.0 Request

The Heiltsuk community is grateful to have received the exciting news that the UTC agreed to assign provisional code points to the three Latin lambda characters proposed in L2/23-191. The community understands that these three characters are expected to be published in version 17.0 of the Unicode Standard, in September 2025.

Request

We would like to explore the possibility of submitting a request to have the three Latin lambda characters published in version 16.0 of the Standard, for September 2024. The Heiltsuk language community – alongside the other Wakashan and Salishan communities – has a need to begin working with these characters as soon as possible towards their language revitalization and preservation programs.

Why

- Most fluent speakers in these communities are Elders over the age of 65, and as such, these efforts are time-sensitive due to fluent speaker loss, and the urgency to engage the youth in the community in active language use, of which digital platforms are significant.

- The Heiltsuk community will have to delay their language revitalization and preservation programming schedules.

- The Heiltsuk community is ready to begin contributing language translation data to CLDR beginning with the next contribution period, where the new characters will be used for encoding texts.

- The Heiltsuk community has already begun planning with their language technology partners (Aidan Pine / First People's Cultural Council / University of British Columbia) towards updating:
    - Their local keyboard and third-party font tools.
    - Converting their language databases to the new characters, including their online dictionary, built and maintained in partnership with University of British Columbia.
    - A communications campaign is being prepared and will be issued to the wider user community to announce the forthcoming characters, and guide the transition towards using the three Latin characters (primarily, the availability

of the capital lambdas, and the switch from Greek small lambda to Latin small lambda)
- ○ This work would be able to be completed by September 2024, to be ready for the release schedule of version 16.0.