



MEDIA WRITE-UP
HOMELESS BENEFIT
MAJAGALEEHL NISGA'A
DECEMBER 1, 2016

Who is Majagaleehl Nisga'a

In recent years, each Nisga'a community band had experienced the loss of many of the senior, more experienced members and a decline in newer, younger membership. However the presence of the bands was still notable at community functions such as weddings, festivals, memorials, funerals and other community events with a core group from each community keeping the tradition alive.

It was Mid-September 2014 when the core group of all 4 village concert band members decided to united as one and perform for the 102nd Annual Grey Cup Parade in Vancouver. A recruitment campaign was in place to invite new members and others to dust of their instruments. In that campaign, our membership has grown to 128 musicians and 16 flag bears spanning 5 generations. The Nisga'a United Band brought the four Nass Valley communities together to work toward their common goal as the Majagaleehl Nisga'a, meaning the "Flower of the Nass Valley" and symbolizes how the various communities are working as one in the spirit of Sayt-K'il'im-Goot (one heart, one path, one nation). When Majagaleehl was born, an Executive Board of members containing one representative from each Nisga'a village concert/brass band and managers whom are all volunteers to assist with the planning and administration functions.

While our group prepared for fundraising events, we are humbled by the overwhelming amount of support from not only our Nisga'a community, but also from the Terrace Community and the surrounding areas as we fundraised for trips to the 102nd Annual Grey Cup Parade in Vancouver, the Calgary Stampede and to more local functions such as the Prince Rupert Seafest Parade and Terrace River Boat Days Parade. It is because of this, Majagaleehl decided we needed to return our thanks and wanted to do so in a way that would be beneficial.

Why the Homeless Benefit

As a whole, Majagaleehl Nisga'a believes homelessness is not immune to everyone, and that this is an issue shared by all Nations and Communities. Majagaleehl Nisga'a recognized that the homeless population in the terrace area was beginning to grow and as a group, we felt compelled to try organize a benefit to raise funds to assist the homeless initiatives that are already in place.

The process used to make a decision on the allocation of funds was to engage in conversations with all the homeless program providers. Based on the professional manner of services provided, it was decided that Ksan house society will be the primary recipient of funds raised and the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen is the other recipient.

It is our wish that the respective entities provide enhanced programs and services throughout the Terrace area in respect of our most vulnerable population, the Homeless. We would also like to thanks everyone who played a part through the planning stages and all volunteers who stepped forward to turn this idea into a reality.

Majagaleehl Nisga'a