



# Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



## President's Message // // // //

### Oolichan, Health, Natural Resources

**GOOD NEWS!** By our efforts and our Treaty, we have ensured that the Nass River Oolichans have NOT been declared an endangered species by the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) which makes these designations. Had this occurred, COSEWIC could have attempted to severely limit our access to our historic fishery. Through our own fishery department studies and lobbying efforts, we clearly demonstrated that the Nass oolichan were not in need of such designation. My thanks to our staff and advisors who worked to ensure this result.

Preparations are underway to begin negotiations for our next Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA). The FFA ensures that Nisga'a Nation receives transfer payments from the federal and provincial government to provide agreed-upon services to us. As a reminder, I ask that all departments, Nisga'a Village Governments and Nisga'a Urban Locals assist our Chief Financial Officer Brian Fitzpatrick by ensuring he has all the information he requires to carry out the important task of getting us ready for the fall. We need this info to be successful at the fiscal negotiations table.

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### Nisga'a Day

May 11, 2013 marked the 13th anniversary since the effective date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the "Nisga'a Treaty"). To commemorate the special occasion, Nisga'a citizens converged at Nisga'a Lisims Government for an open house on Friday May 10, 2013.



Emphasizing the importance of Nisga'a youth and their role as future leaders of the Nisga'a Nation, President

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### 100th Anniversary of the 1913 Petition

In Gitlaxt'aamiks Nisga'a Nation President H. Mitchell Stevens and the Nisga'a Nation commemorated the 100th anniversary of the famous 1913 Petition. "May 21, 1913 was the date that the Nisga'a Land Committee formally lodged the Petition to His Majesty's Privy Council in London, England in which they asserted their Aboriginal rights and ownership of our traditional territory," explained Stevens.

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**President's Message...** / continued from page 1

Health is an important subject matter that has already been agreed to under the FFA which includes funding for the provision of health services and payment of health premiums. Since funding has already been covered under the FFA, the federal government cannot unilaterally make any changes to these mechanisms. So while there has been a lot of discussion about the newly established BC First Nations Health Council 'taking over' administration of health funding, it is our firm position that our interests and funding remain unaffected by any such new organization. We fought hard to have these services recognized under our FFA so we would have control over areas such as health and education. Therefore, we will not permit any changes to our existing funding mechanisms or levels without a fight.

We are pleased and optimistic with the approach by the new federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Bernard Valcourt, who appears to be listening to the nations. He has already met with Nisga'a Nation at the Land Claims Agreement Coalition

conference, and after hearing our collective concerns, taken steps to amend the proposed federal *Clean Water Act* to remove some of its provisions which negatively impact modern-day treaty groups such as Nisga'a Nation. So we are hopeful that we can continue to build effective relations with Canada through the new minister.

Finally, I want to say to the Nisga'a citizens of all the Nisga'a Villages, we have heard your elected representatives on the matter of natural resource development in the Nass Area and responded. Each of the four Nisga'a Village Governments (NVG) has now been assigned direct responsibility to engage proponents wishing to pursue natural resource developments in the Nass Area. Each NVG will be responsible to host public sessions in each of the four Villages. This will ensure NVG are involved and allocate some of the workload in engaging proponents.

Please enjoy this newsletter.

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**Nisga'a Day...** / continued from page 1

Stevens and the NLG Executive Officers welcomed NESS secondary students from grades 9–12 to a formal meet and greet. Due to prior commitments, President Stevens was unable to participate in person, but did take the time to produce a podcast for the students to give them a warm welcome and Happy Nisga'a Day greetings. "Our Treaty is providing us with enormous opportunities to participate in developments taking place in the north", explained Stevens. "You have a prosperous future ahead of you if you work hard now to make yourself ready for it." Check out the video at [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca).

Executive Chairperson Kevin McKay, Secretary-Treasurer Corinne McKay and Chairperson of the Council of Elders Shirley Morven each welcomed the students and provided them with a comprehensive presentation on the history of the Nisga'a Treaty and an overview of their respective roles in Nisga'a government.

Following a lunch shared with the NESS students, the afternoon was then open to the general public. Several hundred Nisga'a citizens were in and out of the NLG building throughout the course of the afternoon and were engaged in discussions with NLG Executive Officers and staff. Door prizes were generously distributed, including

a trip for two donated by NLG, won by Gitlaxt'aamiks resident Chantelle Elliott!

Nisga'a Day celebrations also included the official launch of the new Nisga'a Lisims Government website [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca). Enormous in size, the new site is the one-stop-shop for information on all things Nisga'a – including governance and services, language and culture and other economic and employment opportunities within the Nisga'a Nation.

In addition to the celebration of the 13th anniversary of the Treaty, the Nisga'a Nation also celebrates other significant milestones including; the 100th anniversary of the famous 1913 Petition lodged by the Nisga'a Land Committee; the 40th anniversary of the landmark Calder Case and the 20th anniversary of the opening of Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI) – the Nisga'a Nation's own post-secondary institution.

Finally, during Nisga'a Day, we captured video footage of Nisga'a citizens and encouraged them to wish their friends, families and Nisga'a Nation a happy Nisga'a day. Check it out, also on our website at [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca).

While the 1913 Petition achieved little for the Nisga'a Nation with colonial governments in 1913, it is evidence that the Nisga'a assertion to have exclusively possessed, occupied and used and exercised sovereignty over Nisga'a traditional territory. This is the same area of land the Nisga'a received constitutionally protected rights to in the Nisga'a Final Agreement. "Our leaders (of the day) were astute enough to know that over time there would be evolution," concluded Stevens.

President Stevens went on to encourage Nisga'a youth and citizens to familiarize themselves with such major milestones as the 1913 Petition, stating "those historical milestones are what give us our mandate. It's important that we understand our history."

The Nisga'a Nation also commemorates a number of other significant milestone events from our history books including:

- 40 Years – 1973 Calder Decision in Supreme Court of Canada



MEMBERS OF THE LAND COMMITTEE OF THE NISGA TRIBE.  
Photograph taken at Aiyansh, Naas River, upon occasion of a meeting of the Tribe held there in October, 1913.

- 20 Years – 1993 Establishment of Wilp Wilxo'oskwil Nisga'a Institute (WWNI)
- 13 Years – 2000 Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement

For further information on the history of the Nisga'a Nation, visit our new website at [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca).

## Womens Corner // // // //

Starting on May 29, the **Nisga'a Women's Footprints to Wellness Workshop** was held at the Laxgalts'ap Community Centre. It was a two-day healing workshop facilitated by Melissa Myer which began at 8:30am and went to 4:30pm each day. According to the conference materials, Ms. Meyer's uses an approach called the Psychology of Vision – A Path of the Heart. Through seminars and one-to-one coaching it has helped tens of thousands of people around the world to improve their lives, relationships, and health by giving them an understanding of themselves and others. A total of 84 Nisga'a women of all ages, from grade 11 and 12 all the way to elders, attended these sessions.

Guided by the conference theme "if we heal our women, we can begin to heal our Nation", the workshop promoted and encouraged:

- Group healing
- Individual Healing
- Confidence Building
- Tools for individuals to help themselves process trauma
- Psychology and Vision
- Emotional Healing

One of the intentions of this event is to explore fundraising to host a similar future workshop, in Gitlaxt'aamiks.

# NLG Job Appointments

## **DIRECTOR, PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

I am pleased to formally welcome Roberta Stewart as our new Director of Programs & Services.

Roberta most recently worked at Nisga'a Valley Health where she was the Mental Health and Wellness Manager. Prior to that, Roberta worked at the Justice Institute for 10 years as a Program Manager, and also carried out extensive contract work in the 10 years previous to that. Roberta has an amazing history of directly related experience, is well connected, and has established effective partnerships with agencies and organizations that will prove both beneficial and essential in continuing to move the mandate of the Programs & Services Directorate forward.

Roberta has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Trinity Western University, as well as a Masters Degree in Business Administration from City University of Seattle, Washington.

## **NISGA'A MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

It gives me great pleasure to formally announce that Darrin Martens has officially accepted the Nisga'a Museum Director position.

Darrin has over 20 years of professional museum experience spanning all areas of museum operation. Darrin worked most recently at the Burnaby Art Gallery for nearly 10 years, turning a near crisis situation into a resounding success! We are excited to see the energy that Darrin brings to the position and look forward to hearing proposed plans going forward.

Darrin has an extensive portfolio of education credentials including: a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Regina; a Post Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies plus a Master of Arts – Art History – Critical Curatorial Studies from UBC. In addition, Darrin has attained Fellowship status at the J. Paul Getty Trust Museum Leadership Institute in California. Such an extensive path of education – wow!

Darrin has recently relocated from Burnaby and has taken up residence in the Village of Laxgalts'ap.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

On March 21st we announced Collier Azak's temporary 3-month appointment as our interim CEO. The plan at that time was to post and permanently fill the position prior to the expiration of that 3-month appointment. I am happy to advise that the selection process has been concluded.

Interviews were conducted on Tuesday, May 21st and the formal recommendation of the selection committee was presented to and passed by the Executive in-camera.

I am pleased to announce that Collier Azak has officially been appointed as our Chief Executive Officer for Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Please join me in congratulating Collier.

We will now proceed quickly to post and permanently fill the Director of Lands and Resources position that is currently being filled on a temporary basis by Warren Fekete.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support during this time of transition for Nisga'a Lisims Government.

## **ENFORCEMENT MANAGER**

I am pleased to formally announce that Zane Testawich has been appointed to the position of Enforcement Manager.

Zane brings to the position extensive hands-on Enforcement experience, as well as a myriad of skills that have proven critical to his success as an emerging leader within our organization. In addition, Zane has positioned himself and NLG in solid partnerships with critical external Enforcement Officials. With a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from UNBC, coupled with many post secondary

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certifications including the Investigation and Enforcement Skills Certificate from the Justice Institute of BC – we are confident that Zane is well equipped for this new position at Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Zane has been with Nisga'a Lisims Government since August of 2011, starting initially as an Enforcement Officer in the Lands and Resources Directorate. Since that time, Zane willingly took on more responsibilities and training, advancing to the Enforcement Coordinator role until recently. Zane's dedication to the Enforcement department at NLG is undeniable and we look forward to his continued success at this new level of leadership, as our Enforcement Manager.

#### **LANDS OFFICER**

I am pleased to announce that Anthony Moore joined Nisga'a Lisims Government as our new Lands Officer. Anthony will be working with Tracey and Mansell and the rest of the Lands and Resources Directorate, and can be found on the upper level of the NLG building.

Anthony has worked in the mineral exploration industry for nearly 10 years and brings many transferrable skills to his new role at NLG. Anthony completed his formal education through NWCC in Smithers, specializing in Reclamation and Prospecting (RAP) and Camp Management. Anthony has completed a myriad of safety-related training programs, including Master Scuba Diver and WCB Unrestricted Occupational Scuba Diver certifications.

#### **REGISTRY CLERK**

I am happy to announce that Kristy Barton was the successful candidate for the position of Registry Clerk competition.

Many of us already know Kristy from her previous role with the Nisga'a Elections Office, and more recently as one of our very own casual call-ins at the NLG and NCFS offices.

Kristy will be working with Dorothy Elliott, Deputy Registrar of Land Titles, and can be found on the upper level of the NLG building, across the hall from Dorothy.

#### **ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

I am pleased to welcome Greg Moore to Nisga'a Lisims Government as our newest Enforcement Officer recruit.

Many of us may recall that Greg worked for Nisga'a Fisheries for a short while in 2007 then left the valley for a few years for further education and training. Greg returns to the Nisga'a Nation having recently served as Lead Seaman for the Canadian Armed Forces stationed in Esquimalt, BC. After a lengthy release process from the Armed Forces, Greg is finally here and excited to join our Enforcement Team.



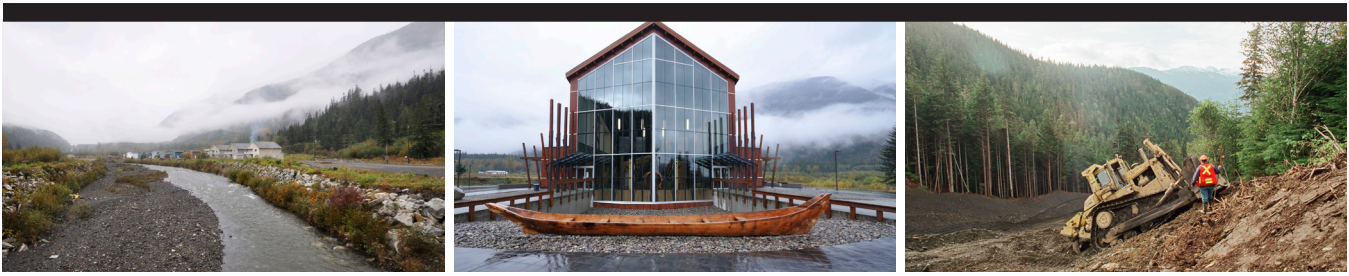
**I congratulate and welcome everyone to their respective positions within Nisga'a Lisims Government.**

Cheryl Pelletier, CHRP / Manager, Human Resources / Nisga'a Lisims Government

## **Austin Re-elected**

Robin Austin was re-elected for a third term as the NDP MLA for Skeena in the recent provincial elections. Austin was first elected in 2005, and re-elected in 2009. Austin won by a narrow margin – beating out Carol Leclerc of

the BC Liberal Party, Mike Brousseau of the Conservative Party and Trevor Hendry of the BC Party. Austin has served in the role as Fisheries critic for the NDP shadow cabinet.



# Laxgalts'ap / Empowering community opportunity

Laxgalts'ap Village Government is working hard to empower its people to prepare for upcoming opportunities – and is achieving great success. We recently had a visit from the administrator for Laxgalts'ap, Andrew Robinson. We are grateful Andrew took the time to share information about these initiatives to improve the quality of life of Nisga'a citizens in Laxgalts'ap.

Laxgalts'ap has been offering an interdisciplinary training program to assist its young people work towards completion of grade 12 and moving beyond to post-secondary education. Of the 20 participants to this program, 15 are planning to continue on and are applying to the village for post-secondary training – a success rate of 75%. Most of these grads were approved for post-secondary assistance.

In addition to preparing learners for education, several have enrolled in further training to become cooks and certified chefs. Nine students applied to Northwest Community College (NWCC) cooks training program where they are learning to prepare meals for large groups of people. 95% of these students have confirmed they will continue with further cooks training in Terrace. These training initiatives have been so successful, they are now being offered to adults to get them properly certified for mining, oil and gas, tourism, and business and government program.

Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a has also been involved in providing a nurses training program. A total of five students have graduated from this program to become licensed practicing nurses, one of whom is from Laxgalts'ap, and two from Gitlaxt'aamiks. Congratulations to them for completing, it will benefit our elders to have our own certified people – congratulations to all our grads who are moving forward!

As well, Laxgalts'ap has enrolled students in a heavy equipment operators training course, and there appears

to be interest from other members set to start mid-June. This program will train individuals who want to operate loaders, graders, dozers and reticulating dump trucks. This program will be run with NWCC. Once completed successfully, this program will certify people to work in mines, mine development, and mine creation – with necessary certification to be ticketed. Nass Area Enterprises continues to work with Laxgalts'ap in communicating potential employment and opportunities.

Laxgalts'ap administration is looking at improving overall well being of children and youth in elementary and high school by introducing a tutoring program to increase the grade 11 literacy and numeracy of all of its community members.

Tourism is also being explored to highlight local businesses, amenities and services. A sign will be erected in coming weeks, and we encourage all Nisga'a citizens to come on down and check it out. Laxgalts'ap is also operating a carving program – we encourage all carvers in the valley to visit the carving shed and inquire how to attain status as a visiting carver during the tourist season. The Village Government has also commissioned a call for artists. Further, the Village has cleaned up the community, taken down all derelict houses and will demolish the old Rec Centre to ensure public safety.

The community is continuing quarterly meetings with the public, and will bring forward the Village Emergency Preparedness Plan as a result of public discussions regarding public safety. About 120 citizens show up at each meeting.

This list is just a snapshot of what Laxgalts'ap is doing on behalf of its Nisga'a citizens. Its easy to see that the Village is poised to reap the benefits from these investments in its future. Check out our new website: [www.laxgaltsap.ca](http://www.laxgaltsap.ca).

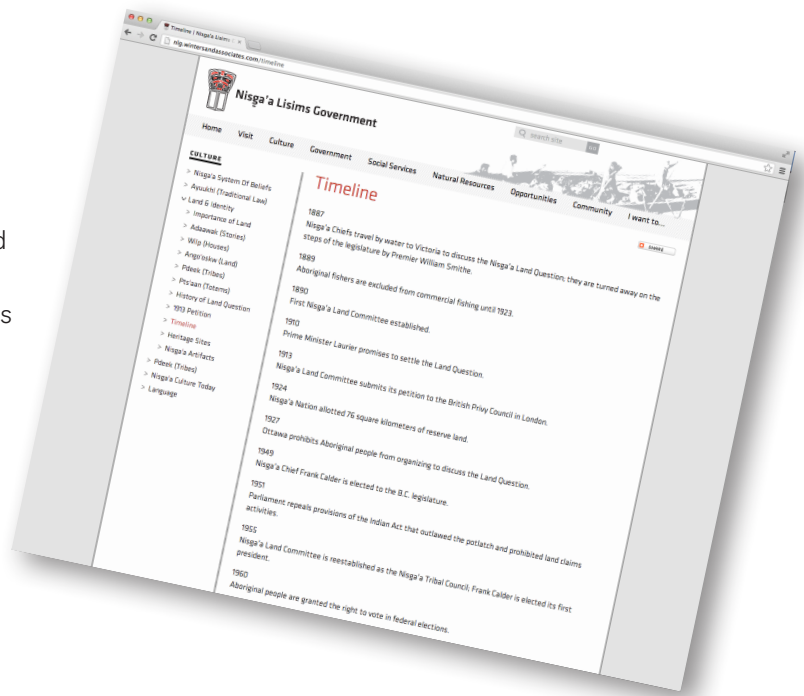
# NLG Website

In this issue of the newsletter President H. Mitchell Stevens commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Petition. There has probably been no more talked about petition in the history of Canadian Aboriginal politics. Our new website was designed to allow viewers to easily access information like the 1913 petition and related information.

On the main navigation bar on the home page of [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca) go to "Culture" then choose "History of Land Question" [www.nisgaanation.ca/history-land-question](http://www.nisgaanation.ca/history-land-question) to read a distilled background on the evolution of the Nisga'a "Land Question" as it relates to the 1913 Petition.

For a more detailed journey on our ancestors struggle to achieve the first "Modern Day" treaty in BC, go to "Timeline" [www.nisgaanation.ca/timeline](http://www.nisgaanation.ca/timeline) for a descriptive read of important moments from the year 1887 to 2010. As Nisga'a Government continues to evolve, we will most surely add more important milestones and dates beyond 2010 to the timeline. Our website has also been designed to evolve, grow, and adapt in the same way.

With any new website, there is a period of ironing out things to make sure all the technical elements work well. Over the next while we are fine tuning and adjusting elements on the site to ensure everything is working as it was intended.



## \* Nisga'a Lisims Government Audited Financial Statements Retrieval

We often receive requests for Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Audited Financial Statements. These statements are always available on our website: [www.nisgaanation.ca/audited-financial-statements](http://www.nisgaanation.ca/audited-financial-statements).

Should you require further information, please direct your inquires to the NLG Finance Department via telephone toll-free 1-866-633-0888.

## Settlement Trust

Opinions vary as to the degree of stability in global markets. In Europe, financial uncertainty is still a concern. NLG actively reviews the Trust's longterm investment strategy to ensure the Trust is still in a position to meet its long-term objective – to secure long term gains.

Market Value – end of month

**Apr 2013**  
\$194,530,424

**COST:**

Capital contributed

139,545,302

Distributions to the Nisga'a Nation

(9,850,479)

Cumulative realized investment income

54,942,486

Total cost

184,637,309

Unrealized Gain (Loss)

9,893,115

# Highlights from NLG Executive Meeting April / May 2013

The following is a summary, and for certain resolutions an excerpt, of NLG resolutions from the most recent meeting of the NLG Executive.

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## Resolution / Adopted April 12, 2013 Opportunity Analysis

MOVED THAT The Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive:

1. adopt the Nisga'a Commercial Fisheries Fund Investment Opportunity Analysis prepared by Ecotrust Canada in its final form as attached to this motion as Appendix "A"; and
2. direct the Economic Development Manager to proceed with the implementation of Option 2 of the three investment scenarios set out in the Summary of Potential Outcomes attached to this motion as Appendix "8".

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## Resolution / Adopted April 12, 2013 By-election

CONSIDERING THAT the resignation of Arthur Johnson Jr. on March 14, 2013 created a vacancy in one of the Village Councillor offices within the Nisga'a Village Government of Gitlaxt'aamiks;

AND CONSIDERING THAT section 4 of the *Nisga'a Elections Act* provides that, if a vacancy occurs between regular elections, the Executive must determine a date for an election to fill the vacancy that is not more than 150 days after the occurrence of the vacancy;

MOVED THAT the Executive declare July 17, 2013 to be the by-election date for the current vacancy in one of the Village Councillor offices within the Nisga'a Village Government of Gitlaxt'aamiks.

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## Resolution / Adopted May 22, 2013 Finance

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive endorse the application for funding submitted by the Economic Development Manager on behalf of Nisga'a Lisims Government to the New Relationship Trust Foundation for the amount of \$25,000 to assist in the development of policy for the Nisga'a Commercial Fisheries Fund.

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## Resolution / Adopted May 22, 2013 Nisga'a Heritage Conservation Act

CONSIDERING THAT

1. the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive (the "Executive") by Resolution 2003 / 96 directed the Director of Lands and Resources and the Director of Programs and Services to collaborate to create a *Nisga'a Government Heritage Conservation Act* that will enhance the current provincial legislation to meet the needs of the Nisga'a Nation (the "legislative project"), and directed that budget allocations be reviewed for the purposes of the legislative project; and
2. the legislative project did not reach fruition following Resolution 2003 / 96; and

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT that the Programs and Services Committee has recently passed a resolution recommending the development of a *Nisga'a Heritage Act* to protect Nisga'a intellectual property;

MOVED THAT the Executive direct the Chief Executive Officer to

1. work with the Programs and Services directorate and legal counsel to consider the creation of legislation designed to preserve and protect Nisga'a heritage; and
2. provide an update to the Executive concerning this legislative project.

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## Resolution / Adopted May 22, 2013 Enrolment and Eligibility Committee

CONSIDERING THAT

1. the Enrolment and Eligibility Committee (the "E&E Committee") requires new appointments;
2. the Manager of the Enrolment Department of the Nisga'a Lisims Government (the "Manager") has made certain recommendations in respect of who should be appointed as members and alternates to the E&E Committee; and



3. section 15(1) of the *Nisga'a Citizenship Act* requires that the E&E Committee consist of one voting member from each of the four Nisga'a tribes and one alternate member from each of the four Nisga'a tribes;

MOVED THAT

1. the Executive appoint the following four members to the E&E Committee, representing each of the four Nisga'a tribes:  
 Verna Williams of Gitlaxt'aamiks (Ganada)  
 Mercy Moore of Gitwinksihlkw (Laxsgiik)  
 Wilma Moore of Laxgalts'ap (Gisk'aast)  
 Nelson Clayton of Gingolx (Laxgibuu)
2. the Executive appoint the following alternates to the E&E Committee, representing each of the four Nisga'a tribes:  
 Rosie Robinson of Gitlaxt'aamiks (Laxgibuu)  
 Victoria Stevens of Laxgalts'ap (Ganada)  
 Lavinia Clayton of Gingolx (Laxsgiik)  
 Peter Stevens, Sr. of Gingolx (Gisk'aast)

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**Resolution / Adopted May 23, 2013**  
**Land Claims Agreement Coalition Conference**

CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga'a Nation is a participant in the Land Claims Agreement Coalition which will be hosting a conference this year;

MOVED THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government authorize the Chief Executive Officer of Nisga'a Lisims Government to contribute \$2,625.00 towards the cost of the anticipated Land Claims Agreement Coalition Conference.

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**Resolution / Adopted May 23, 2013**  
**Public Order, Peace and Safety Committee**

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government (the "Executive") acknowledges that the Nisga'a Village Governments require an efficient and harmonized means of enforcing Village enactments; and

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT that the Public Order, Peace and Safety Committee has expressed its preference for the creation of an umbrella or enabling Act that would allow the Village Governments to draw down their own ticketing enforcement legislation to facilitate enforcement of Village laws;

MOVED THAT the Executive direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Programs and Services directorate and legal counsel to

1. consider the creation of legislation enabling Village Governments to draw down their own ticketing enforcement legislation to facilitate enforcement of Village laws; and
2. provide an update to the Executive concerning this legislative project.

*In addition to the items referenced above, regular business carried out by the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government includes opening prayer, adoption of agenda, minutes and financial statements.*



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