



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government Newsletter

January 2012

President Stevens Addresses PM At Crown — First Nations Gathering

Jan. 27, 2012, Ottawa — During his speech at the Crown — First Nations Gathering held in Ottawa this Tuesday, President Mitchell Stevens called on the Prime Minister and federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to develop a new federal Implementation Policy and expand responsibility for modern-day Treaties beyond simply the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs to all relevant federal departments.

President Stevens stated, "Together with all other modern Treaty groups in Canada we have called for a new federal implementation policy." President Stevens further commented "One immediate step that could be taken would be for the government of Canada to finally recognize what we are all so aware of — the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is simply not capable of ensuring that our Treaties are properly implemented. Our Treaties are with the Crown, not the Department — but other departments continue to ignore or belittle them. Even AANO's Deputy Minister testified to the Senate that, in respect of fulfilling our Treaties, his department could do little more than 'haggle' with the other departments."

"In our view, the statutory provisions that make the department responsible for the implementation of our agreements must be augmented by similar provisions in the Acts of all of the other departments whose activities touch on or are affected by our Treaties. That simple step would demonstrate an understanding that our Treaty is with the Crown, and it would require the entire government to treat the Crown's constitutional obligations seriously," stated President Stevens.

"By and large, the government of Canada's approach to treaty implementation has been no more than to fulfill each

treaty's narrow, legal obligations. But even then, whether through indifference or design, the Government has often failed to implement even its specific obligations. The government of Canada has appeared to be generally unconcerned with working to achieve the overall broad objectives of the entire agreements" stated President Stevens.

The Crown — First Nations gathering was an effort directed at improving the relationship between the Harper government and First Nations across Canada. In attendance were all the principal players in Crown First Nation relations: the Governor General David Johnston, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs John Duncan, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo, the Vice-Chiefs of the AFN, and First Nations from across Canada. While the event was televised on CPAC, the comments by President Steven's were made during the non-televised section of the meeting. AFN National Chief Atleo called for the abolition of the *Indian Act* as several First Nations have moved beyond it. The *Indian Act* ceased to apply to citizens of the Nisga'a Nation on the effective date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, May 11, 2000.

AFN Regional Vice-Chief Jody Wilson-Reybold also called on the Prime Minister to improve relations and move beyond the colonial relationship between First Nations and Canada. Also in attendance were the Chief Councillor of the Gitwinksihlkw Village Government Peter Lambright, Chief Councillor of the Laxgalts'ap Village Government Willard Martin, and Deputy Chief Councillor of the Laxgalts'ap Village Government William Moore.

NLG Opposes Northern Gateway Project

On January 19, 2012 NLG President Mitchell Stevens today expressed the Nisga'a Nation's solidarity with the Aboriginal Nations and other Canadians who are opposed to the construction of the Northern Gateway Project by Enbridge Incorporated.

"The northwest coast of British Columbia and the miles of pristine wilderness across which this pipeline will run are precious treasures which must be protected", said President Stevens. "First Nations have vital stewardship responsibilities in protecting their lands and resources from destruction at the hands of the petroleum industry".

While the proposed pipeline will not run through the territory subject to the Nisga'a Treaty, the Nisga'a Nation is greatly concerned about the threat that an oil tanker mishap would pose to the fish and other marine resources to which Nisga'a citizens are entitled under the Treaty and on which Nisga'a citizens depend for food and commerce.

"If an oil tanker were to have an accident, the tides and ocean currents could drive any oil straight into Observatory Canal and Portland Inlet; indeed it might enter the estuary of the Nass River itself. This would be an utter catastrophe", continued President Stevens.

The Nisga'a Nation categorically rejects recent efforts by the Prime Minister and his Ministers to suggest that opponents of the pipeline are environmental radicals or

doing the bidding of foreign interests. "When the Nisga'a Nation signed our Treaty we became proud Canadians", said President Stevens. "The Aboriginal Nations whose lands, resources, and livelihoods are threatened by the Northern Gateway Project are Canadians who welcome the support and solidarity of anyone who values the protection of our lands, rivers and resources more than the short-term profits of the multi-national oil industry".

The Nisga'a Nation of the Nass River area of northwest British Columbia entered into the first modern Treaty in British Columbia in 2000.

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute and iTunes

WWNI is proud to announce that the WWNI Nisga'a Language App is now available, free of cost for downloading from iTunes.

The app is available for use on the iPod Touch, iPhone and iPad .

This exciting endeavor has been made possible with WWNI's longstanding and positive relationship with First Peoples Heritage and Cultural Council with funding provided by New Relationship Trust. WWNI looks forward to our continued successful relationship in language revitalization.

Link to the app: <http://itunes.apple.com/app/nisgaa/id490034233?mt=8>

WWNI wishes the Nisga'a Nation many happy downloads and continued support in revitalization of the Nisga'a language. T'ooyaksiy niin!

Some Important Dates

All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert

February 5 – 11, 2012

Hobiye in Gitlaxt'aamiks, BC

February 24 – 25, 2012

Special Assembly in Gingolx

May 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2012

Settlement Trust

There continues to be degrees of volatility in global markets, fears of world recession and the European financial crisis. NLG actively reviews the Trust's long-term investment strategy to ensure the Trust is still in a position to meet its long-term objective — to secure long term gains.

	Dec 2011	Sep 2011
Market Value — end of month	\$155,737,019	\$152,335,688
COST:		
Capital contributed	126,728,496	126,728,496
Cumulative realized investment income	20,225,844	19,361,471
Total cost	146,954,340	146,089,967
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	8,782,679	6,245,721

Nisga'a Fisheries Program

“Celebrating 20 Years of Success”

In their monthly report to the NLG Executive, the Nisga'a Fisheries & Wildlife Directorate tabled their report on activity for 2011. Below is a summary of accomplishments:

- Saved Kwinageese salmon and Steelhead runs to the Kwinageese River in 2012.
- 20 years of successful programs conducted with public recognition for excellence in fisheries management.
- Maintained MSC status for Nass Sockeye in high standing after achieving the highest overall assessment (93 out of 100) of all Pacific Region Sockeye stocks from MSC review with certification received in 2010.
- Completed two science reviews with DFO to assess stock status of Nass Sockeye and Chum salmon stocks as part of the MSC certification conditions.
- Protected Nass salmon and Steelhead stocks with accurate in-season management, tracking of runs both in Canada and Alaska, and making all escapement goals in the majority of years since the start of the program;
- Maintained status as one of 29 Chinook stocks used to manage Pacific Region Chinook fisheries as part of the Pacific Salmon Commission's Sentinel Chinook Stock Program;
- Continued training and development of Nisga'a people in technical and biologist positions — 35 tech positions and 2–3 biologist/manager positions;
- Continued sustainable fishery management practices where conservation and food fish needs are priority over economic opportunities; and
- Active participation in the stewardship of the Nass River watershed to protect fisheries & wildlife resources and habitat.

Nisga'a Commercial Group Employment Stats for 2011

Information provided by the Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies (NCG) shows how NCG assisted in the placement of 22 Nisga'a citizens in 2011 in the mining sector. These seasonal employees come from the four Nisga'a Villages and surrounding urban area and worked in mine exploration camps under a Mining Services contract NCG secured with various mining companies.

The 22 seasonal employees is an increase from the three that NCG employed in 2009. NCG is pleased with the steady increase and will continue to make employment statistics available in all sectors of the Commercial Group's operation, as they become available.

Hobiye — Gitlaxt'aamiks February 24 & 25, 2012

The Gitlaxt'aamiks Ceremonial Dancers and the Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks cordially invites you to join us as we celebrate our Nisga'a New Year!

Dance groups interested in performing, please contact Edna Tait at ednatait@hotmail.ca or Director Lyle Adams at ladams17@hotmail.com. The deadline to register your dance group is January 31, 2012.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim- Goot — One Heart, One Path, One Nation, we welcome you to our community and to our beautiful Nass Valley!

We look forward to sharing our culture and Nisga'a hospitality with you. Thank you.

Gitlaxt'aamiks Ceremonial Dancers

Certified Fallers Challenge NTL Readiness Program



To help build the capacity of the Nisga'a Nation, it was determined that the Nass Valley had many citizens possessing career experience within the logging industry but lacked the required Worksafe BC Fallers or the Oil and Gas Enform Level III certification. It was then concluded a program could be developed for this highly specialized training in conjunction with Central Interior Regional Training Institute.

Falling trees by hand requires highly specialized skills and a commitment to working safely every day. Fallers

need to be aware of physical hazards, the dangers of fatigue and stress and the exacting requirements of meeting production demands.

To help support these individuals the Nisga'a Lisims Government, Economic Development Department submitted a proposal to PGNAETA to develop a Faller Training program within the Nass Valley. It was determined once these individuals obtained this highly in demand Worksafe BC endorsed certification; individuals would be able to participate in work related to the construction of the NTL line and throughout the world in the oil and gas industries.

NLG is proud to announce not only were they able to access the required funding but produced a 100% success rate resulting in 19 Enform Level III Faller and nine Level I Bucker and Limber certifications. This will provide increased opportunities for employment, while allowing a better quality of life for individual and family through increased confidence for finding meaningful employment with the new certification.

As employment opportunities will continue to increase throughout the area, the Economic Development department of NLG will continue to look for ways to meet the ever changing demands within industry.

Prosperity For The Nisga'a Nation

February 17th, 18th, 2012 in Laxgalts'ap
**Economic Development Strategic Plan
Business Forum**

The Prosperity for the Nisga'a Nation project is significant because it will develop key scenarios and an economic development framework and strengthen the groundwork for Nisga'a economic success. The purpose of this Economic Development Forum's is to develop interest in workforce opportunities, education and training in a Nisga'a context through an interactive format and provide the opportunity for strategic input while building the context for entrepreneurship and prosperity.

Prosperity For The Nisga'a Nation Business Forum Agenda

Day 1: Friday, February 17th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Agenda items include: Workforce Opportunities, Training and Education

Day 2: Saturday, February 18th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Agenda items include: Industry Perspectives, Education Institutions, Funders Presentations, Business Think Tank: Ideas for Businesses Entrepreneurship and A Strategic Framework for Economic Prosperity.

Note: The Friday session format meets the needs of secondary school participants and other participants



This newsletter is published by:
Nisga'a Lisims Government
PO Box 231, 2000 Lisims Drive
New Aiyansh, BC V0J 1A0

T 250 633 3000
Toll-free 1 866 633 0888
www.nisgaalisims.ca
www.nnkn.ca

If you have news or a story to tell, please contact Bobby Clark by phone or email at:
bclark@nisgaa.net