



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation

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President's Message

ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE AND EVERYONE at Nisga'a Lisims Government I would like to wish you all a happy new year and best wishes for peace and prosperity in 2015. I would also like to extend our heartfelt condolences to a member of our senior management team, Mr. Warren Fekete and his family who lost his partner Jody in December. I would also like to thank all of the Nisga'a representatives that took the time to represent the Nisga'a Nation at the celebration of life for Jody in Terrace on January 17, 2015.

I would like to congratulate the new appointees to the Council of Elders who have taken their oath of office at the January Executive meeting. As was heard in the oath of office, the Council of Elders plays a very important role in the decisions made by Nisga'a Lisims Government. Therefore, as part of their orientation, the Executive has taken the time to brief Council of Elders on developments that are currently underway. It's important that we take care of our business internally and that we provide the

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More First Nations signing on in support of LNG projects in northern BC

AS RECENT WEEKS HAVE SHOWN, more First Nations in northern BC are choosing to support LNG development.

On January 7, 2015, *Vancouver Sun* reporter Gordon Hoekstra wrote a story, "More First Nations signing on in support of LNG projects in northern BC."

At that time, eight northern BC First Nations had signed revenue-sharing agreements with the BC government or

benefit agreements with the companies proposing the projects, according to a review by *The Vancouver Sun*.

That accounts for support from about 40 per cent of the approximately 20 First Nations affected by the LNG plants on the northwest coast or along the pipelines that originate in northeast BC.

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Council with the same information we have so that they will be aware of what lies ahead for future generations.

On the week of January 26, the Officers travelled to Ottawa and embarked on a full schedule of meetings with Ministers to address several important matters in relation to the implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. We also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the official opposition – the NDP, representatives of the Liberal party and also newly-elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Mr. Perry Bellegarde. We will be returning to Ottawa in late February to continue with those series of meetings and to participate in the Land Claims Agreement Coalition's annual leadership meeting for which I serve as Co-Chair on behalf of Nisga'a Nation.

As we embark on the important undertaking of preparing for the tabling of the Provisional Budget of the Nisga'a Nation for Fiscal Year 2015–2016, I would like to thank in

advance the Nisga'a Finance Committee, the NLG Executive and Wilp Si'ayuuḵhl Nisga'a for all the hard work in ensuring our fiscal responsibilities are duly carried out.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Joe Gosnell, Jr. as he has recently returned home to join the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx as their Chief Administrative Officer. Congratulations and welcome home, Joe!

In closing, I would like to encourage all Nisga'a citizens to continue to be kept informed in respect of the business of your government through this monthly newsletter, our website www.nisgaanation.ca and through your local elected representatives. T'ooyaksiy' ḥisim!

Thank you,
**Sim'oogit K'aween /
H. Mitchell Stevens**
PRESIDENT

Of particular interest was the comments from the Chief of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Karen Ogen. In the interview, Chief Ogen pointed out that:

- her community considers natural gas more benign i.e. having little or no harmful effect, compared to oil because if a natural gas pipeline leaks, the gas evaporates.
- there already is a natural gas pipeline running through the north constructed in 1968 for domestic use. It has had so little impact that most people are unaware of its existence. Chief Ogen indicated that this line has not destroyed their traditional territory or their ability to hunt, fish, or gather traditional foods and medicines.

What is most strikingly similar is the comments that Chief Ogen made about the relationship of such developments to the quality of life for the people. The Wet'suwet'en have also had consider whether to proceed with this economic opportunity or live with the status quo.

Do the Wet'suwet'en continue to depend on declining funding from the federal government, or do they seize the opportunity to generate a long-term economic self-reliance?

This is the same questions that we face at Nisga'a Nation, and it is instructive to hear their answer, which is similar to ours.

**“Do we want a better life for our people?
Yes, we do. How are we going to get it?
Not by sitting here waiting for government
handouts,” Ogen said in an interview.**

To read the full article go to: www.vancouversun.com/business/energy/More+First+Nations+signing+support+projects+northern/10709543/story.html?_lsa=c733-5fe5

Aspiring Nisga'a Entrepreneurs complete two week NEST-BCIT Entrepreneur course



FRONT ROW (L-R): ANDREA CLAYTON; MARY GRANDISON; SARA RUSS; JEAN CLAYTON; DIANA GUNO.
BACK ROW (L-R): CURT JOHNSON; INSTRUCTOR COLIN MCWHINNIE; LUKE MUELLER; NOAH GUNO; KYLE AZAK.

JANUARY 30, 2015 / Aspiring Nisga'a entrepreneurs completed a two-week intensive Entrepreneur course through the British Columbia Institute of Technology and sponsored by Nisga'a Employment Skills and Training (NEST).

Nine students enrolled in the course that ran from January 19–30, 2015 at the Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institute in Gitwinksihlkw. In the two week course, the students learned how to develop business plans and budgets for the start up of their chosen business. Prior to the two-week course, the students also had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver to tour the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) campus on December 8, 2014.

At the completion ceremony, each student presented their business plans in what master of ceremonies Ben Haizim-sque coined 'Nisga'a Dragon's Den'. The aspiring businesses ranged from boat safety training, executive secretarial services, mobile food truck, food catering, massage and nail salon, online news magazine, sewing services, net mending services and a mobile welding company.

Students were then presented with completion certificates by BCIT instructor Colin McWhinnie, followed by a question and answer period with Nisga'a Entrepreneur Steve Johnson – who skillfully provided the students with an overview of his experience in creating and maintaining his three businesses.

"I want to commend the students today," commented NEST Manager Gary Patsey. "...for having the courage, commitment and vision to start up a business. We at NEST and BCIT are happy to support you. It is a tremendous time of opportunity and business development in our area."

Congratulations and best wishes to Kyle Azak; Andrea Clayton; Jean Clayton; Mary Grandison; Curt Johnson; Diana Guno; Noah Guno; Luke Mueller and Sara Russ.

To view more photos of the completion ceremony, visit our photo album: <http://nisgaanation.zenfolio.com/p198713290>.

Nisga'a Business Development Fund and NEST support local business



STEVE JOHNSON (LEFT) AND PERRY AZAK.

IT WAS A BITTERSWEET DAY for Nisga'a Entrepreneur Perry Azak, who this year has chosen to retire and sell his taxi and transportation business 'Tilthski Transport' to younger entrepreneur Steve Johnson of Gitlaxt'aamiks.

Perry established the taxi and transport business in June of 1995 after purchasing the license from Bill Young of Nass Camp. A blustery cold, sunny January 2015 morning where a symbolic transfer of ownership between the two businessmen took place would mark 20 years of successful operation for Perry.

'Tilthski' is a childhood nickname that was bestowed on Perry as a young boy by his father and uncles. The white 15-passenger van that adorns the name has built a prominent presence on the Nisga'a Highway as Perry provided daily taxi to and from Terrace and area as well as business transport services for local governments, institutions and businesses in the Nass Valley.

"It has been a very good run!" commented Azak looking back on the 20 years of service he and his business have provided.

Perry and Steve had established a business relationship through Steve's existing business 'Nass Valley Tours' which provides guided tours of the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed

Park, the Volcano cone and other points of interest in the Nass Valley. Steve often called on Perry's transport business, so when Perry told Steve of his plans to sell the business and retire, the two began the talks on sale.

Steve's business incorporation will become '113 Taxi and Transportation' after the Nisga'a Highway it will run on daily. Steve will continue operating on the existing business transportation schedule, but also plans on diversifying the operation providing taxi service to special events in the region such as the All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert and Hoobiyee in Nisga'a Villages. He also plans on expanding the scope to complement his existing businesses Nass Valley Tours and Nass Valley Foods.

"For Nass Valley Tours, I'm working on certifying and retrofitting my boat to provide boat tours throughout the Valley, as well as kayak and canoe lake tours so the transport business will coincide with that," said Steve of his future plans.

The purchase of the taxi and transportation business was made possible for Steve with support from the **Nisga'a Business Development Fund**, and the Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government. For the individuals the businesses employ, including 1 full-time driver and up to 6 seasonal employees, Steve has received targeted wage subsidy support from **Nisga'a Employment Skills and Training (NEST)**.

To commemorate Perry's retirement, his wife Olive, his children and grandchildren cordially invite family, friends and patrons to a Retirement Celebration Dinner at Ts'oohl Ts'ap Memorial Centre in Gitwinksihlkw on Saturday February 28, 2015 beginning at 4:00pm.

Contact information for 113 Taxi and Transportation may be found on the Nass Valley Tours website: www.nassvalleytours.com

For photos of Perry and Steve's business transfer, visit our photo album: <http://nisgaanation.zenfolio.com/p199693023/h817b96c#h428bca3>

Council of Elders appointees take oath of office



SHIRLEY MORVEN, DR. JOSEPH GOSNELL SR.



PERRY AZAK



ANDREW MERCER



NELSON CLAYTON



OSCAR MERCER



C. STEPHEN AZAK



ELSIE CAMPBELL



CHESTER MOORE

AS A FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS at the monthly NLG Executive meeting on January 20, 2015, newly appointed Regular and Alternate members of the Council of Elders took their Oath of Office as administered by the Chairperson of the Council of Elders Sigidimnak' Angaye'e / Shirley Morven.

Pursuant to NLG Executive Resolution 2014/147, the Executive has appointed the following for a 2 year term commencing in January 2015 and ending in December of 2016:

REGULAR MEMBERS:

Sim'oogit HLEEK / Dr. Joseph Gosnell, Sr.
Gitlaxt'aamiks / Laxsgiik

Sim'oogit DAAᖅAN / Perry Azak
Gitwinksihlkw / Gisk'aast

Sim'oogit WISIN XBIL'TKW / Andrew Mercer
Laxgalts'ap / Gisk'aast

Sim'oogit GWISK'AAYN / Nelson Clayton
Gingolx / Laxgibuu

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

Sim'oogit KSIM ᖅSAAN / Oscar Mercer
Gitlaxt'aamiks / ᖅCanada

Sim'oogit NI'ISBAᖅHL / C. Stephen Azak
Gitwinksihlkw / Gisk'aast

KSIBILAA / Elsie Campbell
Laxgalts'ap / Laxsgiik

Sim'oogit HAYM'AAS / Chester Moore
Gingolx / ᖅCanada

In his congratulatory remarks President Stevens stated, "The Council of Elders play a very important role in the decisions that the government makes." He further thanked each of them for their willingness to serve on the Council.

The new appointees will join the existing Council of Elders who complete their term of office in Dec of 2015, who are:

REGULAR MEMBERS / C. Gary Davis, Jacob Nyce, Alan Moore and Harry Moore

ALTERNATE MEMBERS / Lorene Plante, Mercy Moore, Hester McKay and P. John Stewart

The Council is established pursuant to the Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation and the *Nisga'a Government Act* to nurture the spirit of the Nisga'a Nation; provide guidance to interpretation of the Ayuuk; and advise Nisga'a Government on matters relating to the traditional values of the Nisga'a Nation. For more photos, visit our photo album: <http://nisgaanation.zenfolio.com/p630787375>

Nisga'a Fisheries "Original Art Design Contest" EXTENDED to February 27, 2015

Do you enjoy drawing and painting?

Nisga'a Fisheries & Wildlife will be conducting an original art piece contest with two themes:

- K-Grade 8: What will fishing be like in the future?
- Grade 9-12: What does sustainable fisheries management mean to you?

Please send us your completed original artwork (crayon, pencil, charcoal, watercolor, or acrylic) concerning either of these themes and YOU CAN WIN!

A prize will be awarded to one picture from each category:

- Kindergarten to Grade 4: 1st Prize – iPod Touch
- Grades 5-9: 1st Prize – Xbox One
- Grades 10-12: 1st Prize – Laptop

2nd & 3rd place prizes will also be awarded to each category!

All entries are to be mailed and/or dropped off in person along with entry form by February 27, 2015 to:



Nisga'a Fisheries &
Wildlife Office
PO Box 228 /
New Aiyansh, BC V0J 1A0
Tel: 250 633 2617
Office Hours: 9am to 5pm

CONTEST RULES:

- Must be a Nisga'a citizen
- All artwork must be the student's original creation
- All entries will be judged on the quality and artistic interpretation of chosen theme
- Only one entry per student will be accepted

Entry form: www.nisgaanation.ca/news/nisgaa-fisheries-wildlife-extends-deadline-nisgaa-youth-original-art-piece-contest

Hospital Board Appointment



The NLG Executive is pleased to announce they have appointed Eva Clayton as a Director of the board of the North West Regional Hospital District. We are confident that Eva will represent the best interests of the Nisga'a Nation in her new capacity as a Director. Congratulations Eva.

Nisga'a Museum



2014 visitation at the Nisga'a Museum totalled 3,713. This is a 60% increase over 2013!

CURRENT HOURS (until May 15, 2015):

Mon-Sun, open for tours by appointment
Administration hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm daily

LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP police report

DECEMBER 2014 / I hope everyone had an excellent holiday season and you were able to spend some quality time with your families. This is a new initiative that I hope the people of the Nisga'a Nation consider worthwhile. I am going to start posting a monthly policing report from the LISIMS/Nass Valley Detachment. I find adding a little humour to the report (where appropriate) seems to be well received.

In the month of December 2014 the LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP responded to 112 calls for service. In December, nine prisoners were lodged in detachment cells.

There were six reports of motor vehicle accidents. Please take this as a reminder that with the frequent weather changes driving can be a bit of an adventure. Please allow yourself a little extra time to reach your destination, and make sure your vehicle is properly prepared for winter driving. Winter tires are a requirement until April 1st, 2015.

LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP continue to investigate several serious assaults that took place in the month of December. Charges are being recommended to Crown Counsel.

Alcohol was a major contributor in the majority of criminal offences that took place over the month of December.

On December 20th, 2014 members seized drugs from a vehicle at a road check.

LISIMS/Nass Valley Detachment members made patrols of several social functions on New Year's Eve. It appeared everyone was behaving themselves. Cst. Rosanne "Rosi" Komlos even showed off her best 80s dance moves!

LISIMS/Nass Valley members attended several functions in the month of December. Two school talks were given focusing on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Members attended the Christmas Craft fair, Christmas dinner, the basketball tournament, Christmas parade and the snow queen pageant. Members also attended a "pageant" of a slightly different kind in Gingolx.

If you have information on a crime or wish to report a crime, please contact the LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP at 250 633 2222. You can also contact crime stoppers at 1 800 222 TIPS (8477).

Sincerely,
Sgt. Jim Fenske
Detachment Commander
LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP

Notice of Final Results / Non-Executive Member for Terrace

Notice in Accordance with Nisga'a Law

NOTICE OF FINAL RESULTS FOR NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA IN THE JANUARY 27, 2015 BY-ELECTION FOR THE TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA

The final count for the January 27, 2015 By-Election for the Terrace Nisga'a Urban Local Area was completed on January 28, 2015. As Nisga'a Elections Officer, I declared the following final results for the elected office of Non-Executive Member of the Terrace Nisga'a Urban Local Area:

KEITH C. AZAK **44 ACCEPTED VOTES**
MARLENE J. ROBINSON **24 ACCEPTED VOTES**

Accordingly, under section 58 of the *Nisga'a Elections Act*, I declare elected the following person to the elected office of Non-Executive Member of the Terrace Nisga'a Urban Local Area (one to be elected):

KEITH C. AZAK
January 30, 2015
Jean Clayton
Nisga'a Elections Officer



Assessment and Taxation of Nisga'a Lands

2015 WILL BE THE FIRST YEAR that Nisga'a Land is assessed and taxed. Nisga'a Lisims Government is working together with BC Assessment to assess and tax properties. Here is some information that you will need to know.

ASSESSMENT:

The value of property is assessed by BC Assessment. The value of each property, and the buildings on that property, is calculated. Every property is assessed, whether or not taxes need to be paid. Assessment notices are sent out in early January.

If you need to, you can to appeal the assessed value. Information about how to appeal is available on the Property Assessment Notice. The deadline for appealing an assessment is February 2, 2015.

- For questions about your assessment notice, please contact BC Assessment at 1 866 825 8322 or look at the website www.bcassessment.ca

TAXATION:

The Nisga'a Nation is responsible for taxation of Nisga'a Lands. Tax notices will be sent in May or early June. Taxes must be paid by July 2, 2015 to avoid penalty. Further information will be provided in May to answer any questions you have about your tax notice.

GRANTS:

There will be grants available to reduce the amount of tax that needs to be paid.

Home Owner Grant

A Home Owner Grant is available for your principal residence, which is usually the house you live in. You and your spouse together can only apply for one principal residence. To get the grant you must apply, using the application that is part of your tax notice. The home owner grant reduces, but does not eliminate, the

amount of tax that you pay. The amount of the home owner grant will vary depending on your circumstances. Generally, seniors and persons with disabilities receive a higher grant.

Additional Grant

You are eligible for a one-time additional grant if you sign up for automatic payment of your property taxes from your bank account. Automatic payments will occur 4 times a year, in September, December, March and June. This one-time grant is generally \$200, but is \$75.00 for seniors or persons with disabilities who are already receiving the higher home owner grant. The application form will be sent with the Property Tax Notice. The deadline for signing up is June 15, 2015.

Nisga'a Lisims Government cannot provide specific advice about property taxation. For answers to general questions, or if you need help understanding the process, however, please contact:

Janice Stephens
janices@nisgaa.net
Tel: 250 633 3094
Toll free: 866 633 0888

Property Taxation is new for many residents of Nisga'a Lands. Please don't hesitate to seek help if you don't understand.

For Property Taxation FAQs, see following page.

Property Tax Assessment FAQs

What are the roles of BC Assessment and NLG in the assessment and taxation of my property?

BC Assessment is an independent agency set up to assess property values throughout the province. Its only role is to independently assess the value of your property. It does not send Property Tax Notices and does not administer the Home Owner Grant program.

NLG does not play any role in assessing the value of your property. NLG is responsible for imposing Property Tax and providing Home Owner Grants on Nisga'a Lands. In May or early June, NLG will send you your Property Tax Notice and your Home Owner Grant application form.

How did BC Assessment assess the value of my home?

BC Assessment used aerial photos to calculate the size of all homes on Nisga'a Lands. It also drove through each Nisga'a Village and took a picture of the exterior of each home, so as to have a record of the condition of the home. It then reviewed the sale prices of homes of comparable size and exterior condition in rural communities in the northwest of the province, including in such communities as Hazelton and Stewart. It used this sales-price information from other communities to provide general guidance for the valuation of homes on Nisga'a Lands.

BC Assessment does not take the interior condition of a home into account in assessing the value of the home. Its normal assessment procedure does not involve inspecting the interior of homes anywhere in the province.

If you would like to confirm what information was used in assessing the value of your home, you can call BC Assessment at 1 866 825 8322.

If you believe that BC Assessment has not considered information about your home that should have been considered in assessing its value (for instance, if your property is regularly subject to flooding and BC Assessment was not aware of that fact), you can make a "complaint" to the Assessor. For information about how to make such a complaint, please see: www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/Appealing%20your%20Property%20Assessment%20

[Notice%20-%205625855%20-%20final.pdf](#). There is no charge or fee for making a complaint. *Please note that if you wish to make a complaint, you must do so by January 31.*

How can my assessed property value be less than the cost to build my home?

This is a valuation question that you should ask BC Assessment. You can call BC Assessment at 1-866-825-8322 and ask for an explanation of the difference between the cost of building your home and the assessed value of your home.

The value of my home as shown on my Property Assessment Notice is low. Will that negatively affect my insurance coverage?

Generally, insurance covers the replacement cost of your home, not the market value of your home. Accordingly, your Property Assessment Notice should not affect your insurance. However, you should check the terms of your insurance and speak with your insurance broker to be sure.

I disagree with the value of my property as shown on my Property Assessment Notice. How do I challenge the value?

You can make a "complaint" to the Assessor. For information about how to make such a complaint, please see: www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/Appealing%20your%20Property%20Assessment%20Notice%20-%205625855%20-%20final.pdf. *Please note that if you wish to make a complaint, you must do so by January 31.* There is no charge or fee for making a complaint.

Should I make a complaint to the Assessor?

Only you can make this decision.

In making your decision, you may wish to consider that a change in the assessed value of your home might have no effect on the net tax that you will be required to pay (if you are eligible for a Home Owner Grant), or it might only have a small effect on your net tax. This is because the assessed

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values of homes on Nisga'a Lands are relatively low and the residential property tax rates on Nisga'a Lands will be relatively low. However, you may have other reasons for making a complaint to the Assessor regarding your Property Assessment Notice.

I am a renter. I do not have a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for my home. Why am I listed as an owner on my Property Assessment Notice?

If the Nisga'a Nation or a Nisga'a Village owns the property that you occupy as your home, you may properly be considered the "owner" for property assessment and taxation purposes even though you are a renter and do not have an entitlement.

The provincial *Residential Tenancy Act* has no bearing on this matter.

I have a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property but I have rented the property to someone else. Who should be considered to be the "owner" of the property for the purposes of assessment and taxation?

This may be a question for the Assessor or the Property Assessment Review Panel.

BC Assessment has made up a provisional Assessment Roll for Nisga'a Lands and has sent out Property Assessment Notices to the "owners" listed on the provisional Assessment Roll. However, it is possible for a person who is listed on the provisional Assessment Roll to make a "complaint" about their listing to the Assessor by January 31. If such a complaint cannot be resolved by the Assessor, it will be referred to the Property Assessment Review Panel for a decision.

After any such complaints are resolved or decided, BC Assessment will finalize the Assessment Roll. The person who is listed on the finalized Assessment Roll as the owner of a property will be responsible for paying the tax on the property.

If you are registered in the Nisga'a Land Title Office as the holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property and have therefore received a Property Assessment Notice as the owner of the property, but you are

not living on the property and have rented the property to someone else who is living on the property, it may not be clear who should be listed on the Assessment Roll and you may wish to consider whether to make a complaint to the Assessor that your tenant should be listed on the Assessment Roll as the owner of the property for property assessment and taxation purposes, instead of you. For information about how to make such a complaint, please see: www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/Appealing%20your%20Property%20Assessment%20Notice%20-%205625855%20-%20final.pdf. Please note that if you wish to make a complaint, you must do so by January 31. There is no charge or fee for making a complaint.

If you were to make such a complaint, your tenant would be notified about the complaint and given the opportunity to participate in the complaint process.

There are two or more holders of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property. Who should be considered to be the "owner" of the property for the purposes of assessment and taxation?

In making up the provisional Assessment Roll for Nisga'a Lands, BC Assessment has listed each holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property as an "owner" of the property.

However, it is possible for a person who is listed on the provisional Assessment Roll to make a "complaint" about their listing to the Assessor by January 31. If such a complaint cannot be resolved by the Assessor, it will be referred to the Property Assessment Review Panel for a decision. After any such complaints are resolved or decided, BC Assessment will finalize the Assessment Roll.

Each holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement who is listed on the finalized Assessment Roll as the owner of a property will be liable for the tax on the property. It will be up to such entitlement holders to decide among themselves how the tax will be paid.

If you are one of two or more holders of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property and have therefore received a Property Assessment Notice as the owner of the property, but you are not living on the property

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and someone else (for instance, one or more of the other entitlement holders) is living on the property, it may not be clear who should be listed on the Assessment Roll and you may wish to consider whether to make a complaint to the Assessor that you should not be listed on the Assessment Roll as an owner of the property. For information about how to make such a complaint, please see: www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/Appealing%20your%20Property%20Assessment%20Notice%20-%205625855%20-%20final.pdf. Please note that if you wish to make a complaint, you must do so by January 31. There is no charge or fee for making a complaint.

If you were to make such a complaint, all of the other holders of the entitlement for the property would be notified about the complaint and given the opportunity to participate in the complaint process.

I am no longer the holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property but I am listed as the "owner" of the property on the Property Assessment Notice. Should I still be listed as the owner? Will I be required to pay the tax on the property?

The person who was the "owner" of a property on November 1, 2014 is the person who should be listed on the Assessment Roll and liable to pay the tax on the property for 2015.

If you were the holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property on November 1, 2014, you will have been listed as the "owner" of the property on the provisional Assessment Roll made up by BC Assessment.

However, it is possible for a person who is listed as an owner on the provisional Assessment Roll to make a "complaint" about their listing to the Assessor by January 31. If such a complaint cannot be resolved by the Assessor, it will be referred to the Property Assessment Review Panel for a decision. After any such complaints are resolved or decided, BC Assessment will finalize the Assessment Roll.

If you are listed on the finalized Assessment Roll as the owner of a property, you will be liable for the tax on the property.

If on November 1, 2014 you were not the holder of a Nisga'a Nation or Nisga'a Village entitlement for a property, or if on that date you were the holder of an entitlement for the

property but were not living on the property and someone else was, it may not be clear who should be listed on the Assessment Roll and you may wish to consider whether to make a complaint to the Assessor that you should not be listed on the Assessment Roll as the owner of the property. For information about how to make such a complaint, please see: www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/Appealing%20your%20Property%20Assessment%20Notice%20-%205625855%20-%20final.pdf. Please note that if you wish to make a complaint, you must do so by January 31. There is no charge or fee for making a complaint.

If you were to make such a complaint, any other person concerned would be notified about the complaint and given the opportunity to participate in the complaint process.

I am a low-income person and I do not know how I will pay the property tax. Am I still required to pay property tax?

NLG has provided for a Home Owner Grant program to greatly reduce the effective amount of property tax that taxpayers will be required to pay.

NLG is also establishing an Additional Grant program under which taxpayers can arrange to pay their tax by automatic withdrawal in manageable quarterly installments. Taxpayers who enroll in this program will receive a one-time Additional Grant on top of any Home Owner Grant they receive.

The property tax that remains to be paid after such grants are taken into account will be payable regardless of the income level of the taxpayer. As is the case elsewhere in the province, taxpayers on Nisga'a Lands must organize their finances so that they can pay their tax.

Am I entitled to a Home Owner Grant and by how much will the grant reduce my taxes?

A person who is listed on the assessment roll as the "owner" of a property can generally claim a Home Owner Grant if the property is that person's principal residence and the person is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

There is a standard Home Owner Grant and there is an enhanced Home Owner Grant. The enhanced Home Owner
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Grant is available if the owner is aged 65 or older. The enhanced Home Owner Grant is also available if the owner (or the spouse or a relative of the owner who lives with the owner) has a permanent, severe disability, provided that some additional criteria are met. The Home Owner Grant reduces but does not eliminate property taxes.

The standard Home Owner Grant reduces taxes by up to \$770, but cannot reduce taxes below \$350 plus an amount of tax required to pay requisitions. In most cases, the standard Home Owner Grant will reduce property taxes on a home on Nisga'a Lands to \$350 plus an amount for requisitions.

The enhanced Home Owner Grant reduces taxes by up to \$1,045, but cannot reduce taxes below \$100 plus the amount of tax required to pay requisitions. In most cases, the enhanced Home Owner Grant will reduce property taxes on a home on Nisga'a Lands to \$100 plus an amount for requisitions.

NLG will be appointing a Home Owner Grant administrator in due course and you will be able to obtain further information about the Home Owner Grant program from the administrator. NLG will send you a Home Owner Grant application form in May or early June together with your Property Tax Notice.

You must apply for a Home Owner Grant every year.

How will the one-time Additional Grant work?

If by June 15, 2015 you sign up to pay your property tax by automatic withdrawal, you will receive a one-time only reduction in your 2015 property tax. You will then pay your property tax for each subsequent year by making four automatic withdrawal installment payments on a specified schedule. For instance, you will pay your 2016 property tax by installments in September 2015, December 2015, March 2016 and June 2016.

More details regarding this Additional Grant, and the application form, will be sent to you with your Property Tax Notice in May or early June.

Where do my taxes go?

Under arrangements made between the Nisga'a Nation and the Province of British Columbia, most of your property

taxes will remain with the Nisga'a Nation. How the money will be spent will be determined through the Nisga'a Nation's budgeting process and, ultimately, by the members of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a.

A small portion of your taxes will go to other government agencies, including the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, the North West Regional Hospital District and BC Assessment. The amount going to the Regional District will be quite modest because of the limited relationship between the Regional District and Nisga'a Lands. A member of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a will be appointed to sit on the board of the North West Regional Hospital District and so the Nisga'a Nation will have an influence on the activities of the Hospital District in the future. BC Assessment, to maintain its independence from taxing authorities, recovers its own costs through a small levy on all properties throughout British Columbia.

Why have I received a Notice of Hearing?

BC Assessment completed the provisional Assessment Roll for Nisga'a Lands in December. It then learned that there were a number of errors and omissions in the Assessment Roll that had to be corrected.

After BC Assessment completes a provisional Assessment Roll, it can only make a change by following certain processes. The main process requires that the change be approved by the Property Assessment Review Panel. Before the Property Assessment Review Panel can approve the change, a "hearing" must be held and the person whose property is involved must be told that the "hearing" is taking place.

The Notice of Hearing you received is telling you that BC Assessment wants to make a change to the provisional Assessment Roll involving you or your property. The change that BC Assessment wants to make is briefly summarized on your Notice of Hearing. The change likely involves either:

- adding your name to the Assessment Roll as the owner of your property (because your name was omitted by mistake when the provisional Assessment Roll was completed in December); or

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- correcting your name or address or the description of your property (because a mistake in that information was made when the provisional Assessment Roll was completed in December).

If you do not understand the correction that BC Assessment is proposing to make, you can contact BC Assessment at the number listed below and get an explanation.

On the hearing date shown on your Notice of Hearing, BC Assessment will present the proposed change to the Property Assessment Review Panel. The Panel can accept or deny the change.

If you agree with the proposed change, then no action on your part is required. You do not need to attend the hearing. You will receive a "Decision Notice" in early April stating whether the Panel has approved the change.

If you do not agree with the proposed change, then you can call the toll free number on your Notice of Hearing and schedule a time for a hearing with the Panel. This will provide you with an opportunity to challenge the proposed change and/or the assessed value of your property. Hearings are informal and can be held in-person or over the phone.

For additional information or clarification, the following BC Assessment sources can be consulted:

Website: www.bcassessment.ca

Email: northwest@bcassessment.ca

Tel: 1 866 825 8322

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Sharon Bohn Extension: 25224

SENIOR APPRAISER:

Tracey Love Extension: 25228

DEPUTY ASSESSOR (MANAGER):

David Keough Extension: 26267

A deceased person has received a Property Assessment Notice. Who pays the tax?

The estate of the deceased person is liable to pay the tax. Taxes should be paid before any property of the estate is distributed to the beneficiary.

Kaisha Woods / BC Aboriginal Student Award propels Terrace student towards her dream



THE PATH TO REALIZING A LIFELONG DREAM of becoming a doctor has been made a little smoother for an 18-year-old Terrace student in her second year at UBC Okanagan. Granddaughter of the Late Ivy Woods of Gitlaxt'aamiks BC. We wish her the best in her academic endeavors. Way to go!!

For further details, visit the website for Kaisha and her story: www.ikbbc.ca/web/kaisha-woods

Business in Vancouver / Consensus at core of major northern mine deal

MANSELL GRIFFIN WAS AN INFANT WHEN his mother joined other Nisga'a members in protesting the Kitsault molybdenum mine, which has operated in fits and starts since the late 1960s. Griffin joined Shane Uren of Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd. at the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia's annual Mineral Exploration Roundup to talk about one of BC's latest junior mining success stories.

Read the entire *Business in Vancouver* article at their website: www.biv.com/article/2015/2/consensus-core-major-northern-mine-deal/

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project update #20

To read the latest on TransCanada's PRGT Project, read the January and February 2015 update:
www.nisgaanation.ca/sites/default/files/2015%2001%2015%20PRGT%20Project%20Activity%20Update%2020.pdf

Property Tax Assessments / FAQ

Do you have questions about property tax assessments? Check out our FAQ page to learn more about property tax assessments at the following link: www.nisgaanation.ca/property-tax-assessment-faqs

AT TAX TIME, IF YOU ARE:

- a) a resident on Nisga'a Lands, OR
- b) a Nisga'a citizen resident on Nisga'a Lands



TICK YES ON YOUR T1 TAX FORM

If you tick yes on your T1 tax form, the taxes you pay will **benefit the Nisga'a Nation and all residents on Nisga'a lands.**

Based upon revenue sharing agreements between the Nisga'a Nation, Canada and BC, taxes paid to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) **are returned to the Nisga'a Nation.**

The cover page of the **T1 General 2014 Tax Form** will include two questions where eligible individuals need to tick the box marked **"YES"** indicating that they are residents on Nisga'a Lands **OR** are a Nisga'a citizen resident on Nisga'a Lands.

Residency information for tax administration agreements

For more information, see Information Sheet T1-BC10(E), *Residency information for tax administration agreements*, included in this package.

Did you reside within **Nisga'a Lands** on December 31, 2014? Yes 1 No 2

If **yes**, are you a citizen of the **Nisga'a Nation**? Yes 1 No 2

The Nisga'a Settlement Trust

In 2014, the Interim Nisga'a Settlement Trust changed its name to the Nisga'a Settlement Trust. At the end of 2014, the value of the Trust stood at \$260.8 million.

Since the inception of the trust, there have been two contributors to growth of the trust value.

The first contributor to the growth has been the capital transfers from Canada that were deposited to the trust. A capital transfer has been deposited annually since the Trust's inception. In May of 2014 the last deposit of capital transfers was made. There will be no further deposit of capital to the Trust.

The second contributor to the growth has been the investment return of the assets of the Trust. The Trust invests in bonds, mortgages and company stock that have provided interest income, dividend income and capital gains.

Since there will be no more capital transfers received by the Trust, any future growth in the Trust value will come solely as a result of the investment return of the assets of the Trust less any withdrawal of funds taken from the Trust.

Capital transfers have contributed \$164 million to the Trust value.

Investment Return has contributed another \$96.8 million to the Trust value.

As of September 30th, the Trust had an average return over the previous 10 years of 8.5%. In other words, for every \$100 dollars of capital transfers deposited to the trust, it has earned an additional \$8.50 on average per year from the investments.

Settlement Trust

Continued geopolitical tensions have meant that global economic recovery continues to be "uneven." 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 2014
Market Value – end of month	\$259,942,906
COST:	
Capital contributed	165,172,258
Distributions to the Nisga'a Nation	(20,500,479)
Cumulative realized investment income	76,697,256
Total cost	<u>221,369,035</u>
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	38,573,871

EXTENSION DATE!!!

Apply for up to \$3000 for education programs and services

Residential School Survivors who received the Common Experience Payment are granted an extended date to apply for up to \$3000 for personal or group education programs and services. If they are unable to utilize the one time fund, they can pass on to a relative to utilize the fund for approved educational entities and groups.

Approximately 24,500 out of the entitled 79,000 applied, so please SHARE.

For further information, visit: www.afn.ca/index.php/en/personal-credits

Senior Administrative Assistant / Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.

Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd. is currently seeking candidates for a newly created position of Senior Administrative Assistant. This is a full-time position located in Terrace, British Columbia.

Reporting to the General Manager, the primary purpose of the position is to oversee all administrative functions and office management of the new Terrace Office. This is an exciting opportunity for you, as the lead administrator, to start up a new office support system.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES AND DUTIES:

- Provide direct administrative support for the General Manager and Avanti Kitsault Mine Leadership Team.
- Be the frontline staff in regards to incoming calls, mail and visitors.
- Review, prepare and improve documents, reports, presentations and correspondence for the leadership team.
- Coordinate logistics of office activities including meetings, seminars, workshops, special projects and events.
- Write meeting minutes and distribute as directed by General Manager.
- Provide office administrative support as required, including maintenance of phone list, booking of venues and catering, and ensuring office supply inventories (stationery and kitchen needs) are well stocked.
- Prepare travel schedules, book travel arrangements and make reservations.
- Help lead the on-boarding of new employees.
- Oversee the construction of the office space to ensure it meets the needs and expectations of the executive and company.
- Monitor leasing and office maintenance contracts, and liaise with building owner when necessary.
- Train and oversee casual administrative assistant as required.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 5 years of experience working as an office administrator or similar, preference will be given to candidates who have helped in office startups.
- Post-secondary Diploma in Business Administration or relevant.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Strong computer skills including all the Microsoft OS.
- Professional, customer service oriented individual with great interpersonal skills.
- Excellent multitasker who strives in a fast paced environment.

If you are interested in working with Avanti Kitsault Mine and possess the necessary skills, experience and qualifications for this position, please immediately forward your resume to careers@alloycorp.com

Thank you to all applicants for your interest in working with us. We will be contacting only those candidates selected for interviews.

As a rapidly growing company, our recruitment needs are constantly evolving and changing. Please continue to visit our Careers section (www.alloycorp.com) and apply for any future openings that may interest you.

Chief Mining Engineer / Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.

Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd. is currently seeing candidates for a newly created position of Chief Mining Engineer.

Reporting to the General Manager, the primary purpose of the position is to be accountable for the overall technical analysis, planning, and control of the Kitsault molybdenum deposit. The individual will play a key role in assisting Operations in leading and managing Kitsault Mine to achieve planned production levels at or below the approved budget costs.

During construction phase, the incumbent will provide mining engineering expertise to ensure mine pre-stripping and construction activities are executed consistent with project plans, approval documents, and corporate policies and to ensure a seamless transition to operations.

Once the mine is operational, the Chief Mining Engineer will develop ongoing mine designs and systems ensuring performance and effectiveness; prepare operating budgets and schedules; as well as manage the engineering and/or technical services team.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES AND DUTIES:

- Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to health, safety, environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

Construction

- Under the direction of the Project Manager, oversee activities related to the construction of the mine as required.

Operation Readiness

- Implement/monitor mine planning and mine design operations to maximize production efficiency and resources.
- Prepare and review mine planning and mine design to increase value to the operation.
- Establish an engineering budget based on information from the overall mine budget and business plan objectives.

- Oversee the completion of economic evaluations and feasibility studies.
- Establish production targets and monitor their achievement and correct or address issues as they arise.
- Optimize grade control and minimize dilution through mine designs and mine plans.
- Ensure designs and applications are consistent with regulatory and company policies and procedures.
- Provide assistance to the operating departments ensuring maximum production, plan their activities and accurately measure key mining specifications.
- Approve new and innovative products, techniques and procedures to increase the value of the operation.

Overall Operations & Strategy of Mine

- Work with the management team to establish the direction and the mid- to long-term operations and project development strategies for the engineering department.
- Assist the management team in the preparation and implementation of the overall engineering budget.
- Provide top-level support and advice to the management team.
- Provide expert advice with respect to engineering procedures and practices.
- Recognize options and implement actions to adopt best practices for engineering.
- Liaise regularly with local Stakeholders.
- Promote Avanti Kitsault Mine within the local communities and industry.
- Other duties as assigned.

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 6 years of progressively senior level experience in Engineering and/or Operations Management.
- Minimum 3 years' experience in a supervisory role.
- Engineering degree or other equivalent qualification.
- Professional Engineer designation required. (Province of British Columbia)
- Extensive experience in mining industry, as well as Greenfield or project developments, a preference.
- Strong computer skills in mine design, scheduling, budgeting, ground control and industrial engineering.
- Respected professional with a proven track record as a strategic leader.
- Excellent financial, strategic planning and organizational abilities.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- Job will be in both the office and field as required.
- Job based out of Vancouver project office until mid-2015 and will transition to site mid-2015.
- Rotation schedule in Vancouver will be Monday-Friday or 10/4.
- Rotation schedule at site still to be determined – it will be based on full complement of operations team.
- Travel as required.
- Quality accommodations provided at site.

If you are interested in working with Avanti Kitsault Mine and possess the necessary skills, experience and qualifications for this position, please immediately forward your resume to careers@alloycorp.com

Thank you to all applicants for your interest in working with us. We will be contacting only those candidates selected for interviews.

As a rapidly growing company, our recruitment needs are constantly evolving and changing. Please continue to visit our Careers section (www.alloycorp.com) and apply for any future openings that may interest you.

Cell Block Guard / LISIMS/Nass Valley Detachment

January 15th, 2015

**RE: LISIMS/NASS VALLEY DETACHMENT
SEEKING GUARDS**

Please be advised that the LISIMS/Nass Valley Detachment is seeking applicants for Cell block guards at the Detachment. Applicants must be of excellent moral character and pass a criminal record check. Applicants must also be willing to be work at all hours of the night with very short notice.

Guards are hired by the BC Commissionaires Services after a thorough security clearance is conducted. The current starting wage is \$21.00 per hour.

If you are interested in this opportunity please stop in at the Detachment to get the process started.

Sincerely,
Sgt. Jim Fenske
Detachment Commander
LISIMS/Nass Valley RCMP

ANNUAL 56TH / ALL-NATIVE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Take pride in your hard work and dedication...

As ambassadors of our communities you've invested in improving your game on the court and continue with the same positive influence off the courts and within your communities.

We wish you a fun-filled week celebrating excellence in talent and good sportsmanship at the 56th Annual All-Native Basketball Tournament.

Si'aamhl wilsim' / Continue to do well

**PRESIDENT H. MITCHELL STEVENS
AND NLG EXECUTIVE & STAFF**



Nisga'a Lisims Government

Sayt-K'ilim-Goot
one heart, one path, one nation



Summary of Resolutions from NLG Executive Meeting December 18, 2014

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

Resolution / Adopted Dec 18, 2014 Nisga'a Pacific Ventures Ltd.

MOVED THAT the name of 1004454 B.C. Ltd. be changed to Nisga'a Pacific Ventures Ltd.

Oscar Mercer, Gitlaḡt'aamiks, ᑕanada
Cator Stephen Azak, Gitwinksihlkw, Gisk'aast
Elsie Campbell, Laxᑕalts'ap, Laxsgiiik
Chester Moore, Gingolx, ᑕanada; and

(3) under section 44(4)(b) of the *Nisga'a Government Act*, the Executive designate

Resolution / Adopted Dec 18, 2014 Council of Elders – Appointments

MOVED THAT:

(1) under section 44(4)(a) of the *Nisga'a Government Act*, the Executive appoint the following persons as regular members of the Council of Elders, each for a term of office of two years, more or less, to commence when they take the oath of office in January of 2015 and to expire when any member of the Council appointed under section 44(4) of the *Nisga'a Government Act* takes the oath of office in December of 2016:

Joseph Gosnell, Sr., Gitlaḡt'aamiks, Laxsgiiik
Perry Azak, Gitwinksihlkw, Gisk'aast
Andrew Mercer, Laxᑕalts'ap, Gisk'aast
Nelson Clayton, Gingolx, Laxgibuu;

(2) under section 44(4)(a) of the *Nisga'a Government Act*, the Executive appoint the following persons as alternate members of the Council of Elders, each for a term of two years, more or less, to commence when they take the oath of office in January of 2015 and to expire when any member of the Council appointed under section 44(4) of the *Nisga'a Government Act* takes the oath of office in December of 2016:

(a) alternate Council member Oscar Mercer as the alternate for regular Council member Joseph Gosnell,

(b) alternate Council member Cator Stephen Azak as the alternate for regular Council member Perry Azak,

(c) alternate Council member Elsie Campbell as the alternate for regular Council member Andrew Mercer, and

(d) alternate Council member Chester Moore as the alternate for regular Council member Nelson Clayton.

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.

Summary of Resolutions from NLG Executive Meeting January 21–22, 2015

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

Resolution / Adopted Jan 21, 2015 Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust – Appointment

MOVED THAT the Executive appoint and recommend to Canada the appointment of Richard Lawrence Richards as the Joint Trustee of the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust, for the term commencing July 12, 2015.

Resolution / Adopted Jan 21, 2015 Annual Fishing Plan

MOVED THAT the Executive:

1. approve and adopt the draft Nisga'a annual fishing plan for 2015/2016 prepared by the Director and attached to this motion as Schedule "A" (the "Annual Fishing Plan");
2. direct the Director to forward the Annual Fishing Plan to the Joint Fisheries Management Committee; and
3. direct the Director to publish the Annual Fishing Plan in accordance with Nisga'a Law.

Resolution / Adopted Jan 22, 2015 NWR Hospital District – Appointment

MOVED THAT:

- (1) on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, the Nisga'a Lisims

Government Executive appoint Eva Clayton as a director of the board of the North West Regional Hospital District under section 17.2 (4) of the Hospital District Act (British Columbia); and

(2) the Chief Executive Officer be authorized to:

- (a) advise Eva Clayton of the reporting and other responsibilities to Nisga'a Lisims Government that Eva Clayton will be expected to satisfy in relation to their appointment as a director of the board of the North West Regional Hospital District; and
- (b) advise the chair of the board of the North West Regional Hospital District of the appointment of Eva Clayton as a director of that board.

Resolution / Adopted Jan 22, 2015 1004454 B.C. Ltd. – Appointment

MOVED THAT:

1. Mr. Glen Leslie Clayton be removed as a director of 1004454 B.C. Ltd., and
2. Mr. Joseph Gosnell, Jr. be appointed as a director of 1004454 B.C. Ltd. effective immediately.

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.



This newsletter is published by:
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edwarda@nisgaa.net