



# Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

June / July 2012

## President's Message /

It is shaping up to be a busy and hopefully warm summer for all of us at NLG and for Nisga'a people at large. We had a very successful series of events celebrating "National Aboriginal Day." It made me feel good to see the enthusiastic participation by our members as we continue to recognize this important day for all of us across Canada.

In this issue we take the time to explain in more detail how the "Settlement Trust" is structured. As we have reported — the trust has continued to grow despite the ups and downs of somewhat uncertain global markets. We include information on how the trust is set up, who manages it, what performance expectations NLG has set for it and how it is performing in relation to our expectations. As always, the long-term goal is for the preservation of and continued growth of the trust.

Of interest to all Nisga'a citizens (and this was well reinforced at the Special Assembly) is how the Nation will be affected by taxation. Many aspects of this are still to be worked out, but, I can assure you we will be very diligent in communicating and keeping everyone abreast on this important issue. On the governing side, we are always happy to receive visits from government ministers or members of the official opposition — they allow us to keep Nisga'a Nation at the forefront and provide opportunity to bring up issues or concerns in a less

formal manner. Opposition House Leader Mr. Nathan Cullen, MP for Skeena-Bulkley Valley recently visited us along with a few of his colleagues and we took the time to engage in such dialogue.

We were also pleased to welcome participants from the Governor General's Leadership Conference — we hope their visit to the Nass inspires them as they begin their careers in federal public service. Our path has always been shaped by our elders and I would like to welcome Sim'oogit Baxk'ap (Jacob Nyce) as our recent addition to the Council of Elders. I'm sure Jacob will be a strong addition to the Council. Speaking of good additions, I am pleased that the RCMP seems to be carefully considering who should be staffing the department in the Nass — they are making a good effort to bring in people with skill sets that correspond to our needs for policing.

I want to wish everyone a good summer, wherever it may take you and as always, thank you for participating in and expecting good governance.

**Sim'oogit K'aw'een**  
**H. Mitchell Stevens**  
**President**

# Gitlaxt'aamix Elders host Aboriginal Day celebrations

On Thursday June 21, 2012 in Gitlaxt'aamix, the event began with a parade lead by the Mass-Nass Band. A spokesperson from the Gitlaxt'aamix Village Government (GVG) shared:

**“The elders wanted to dedicate this year’s festivities to those left behind and those that may be affected by various forms of cancer.”**

To support this initiative many of the 34 parade participants created signs or pictures to remember loved ones whom succumbed to cancer or wrote inspiring words of encouragement to others, and even some of the floats featured survivors who are cancer free.

The color theme for many of the organizers and some parade entrants was “pink” the national color for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Sim'oogit Hleek (Dr. Joseph Gosnell) after his opening prayer in Nisga'a began to thank all the people for taking the time to attend the Aboriginal Day festivities. He encouraged all those in attendance to value their health and pay attention to the messages your body is sending you. “We are given one body and it is up to us to take care of it.”

The deputy chief, Gerald Robinson, said “it is important for our community to organize events like this to uplift the community, we need time to have some fun and with the support of our village government administration working with the elders we achieved that.” He also wanted to thank: CFNR, Robin Austin and the communities of Laxsg'galtap, Gingolx and Gitwinksihlkw for their participation.

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**“We are given one body and it is up to us to take care of it.”**

— Sim'oogit Hleek (Dr. Joseph Gosnell)



# Aboriginal Day celebrations / June 21, 2012 / Gitlaxt'aamix



# Nisga'a Elections Office / Notice of Regular Election

In accordance with the *Nisga'a Elections Act*, the general voting day for the next regular election of the Nisga'a Government will be  
**Wednesday, November 7, 2012,  
8:00 am – 8:00 pm**

## Elected Offices

The following elected offices will be filled in this regular election:

### **Officers of Nisga'a Lisims Government**

President

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer

Chairperson for the Council of Elders

### **Nisga'a Village Government of Gitlaxt'aamiks**

Chief Councillor

Village Councillors (seven to be elected)

### **Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw**

Chief Councillor

Village Councillors (four to be elected)

### **Nisga'a Village Government of Laxgalts'ap**

Chief Councillor

Village Councillors (six to be elected)

### **Nisga'a Village Government of Gingolx**

Chief Councillor

Village Councillors (five to be elected)

### **Terrace Nisga'a Urban Local**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives (two to be elected)

### **Prince Rupert/Port Edward Nisga'a Urban Local**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives (two to be elected)

### **Vancouver Nisga'a Urban Local**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives (two to be elected)

## Voting Areas

The regular election will take place in the following voting areas:

**NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITLAXT'AAMIKS**

**NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW**

**NISGA'A VILLAGE OF LAXGALTS'AP**

**NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GINGOLX**

**TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA**

**PRINCE RUPERT/PORT EDWARD NISGA'A  
URBAN LOCAL AREA**

**VANCOUVER NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA**

The regular election will take place in the following additional voting location:

**CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE**



**For more information  
please contact:**

**Jean Clayton**

Nisga'a Elections Officer

Telephone: 250-633-2715

Toll-free: 866-633-2715

E-mail: [jeanc@nisgaaelections.ca](mailto:jeanc@nisgaaelections.ca)

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# Commonly Asked Questions

Many of the questions/queries we receive are directly relevant to existing situations and/or issues we will be addressing in the near future. We will endeavour to answer them in an efficient manner.

## Finance

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**Q: How Nisga'a Nation will be effected by taxation:**

- **How will Own Source Revenue be affected?**
- **Will there be property tax incentive for business on Nisga'a Lands?**
- **Who will enforce property taxation?**
- **What are the timelines for property taxation and who is in charge of providing the information?**

A: NLG provides regular updates to the NLG Executive and Nisga'a Finance Committee on taxation matters. Village administrators are free to attend and are also welcome to provide input at Nisga'a Finance Committee meetings.

Specifically in relation to income tax, we have been in contact with Village administrators to try and coordinate information sessions and workshops on personal income tax; both how individuals will be affected and how employers will have to adjust their payroll systems.

Taxation matters (including property tax) are still currently in negotiation. There are still issues which are stalled due to federal or provincial representatives not having

proper mandates to deal with issues at hand. NLG has taken strategic positions on other issues and it would not be appropriate, and potentially extremely damaging to Nisga'a interests, to provide for an open blog where these points are discussed or debated that could be reviewed and monitored by federal or provincial representatives.

NLG will plan and coordinate public information sessions once details have been concluded.

## Programs & Services

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**Q: What is the delegated model? What are the full services that will be offered to families?**

A: The delegated model is the arrangement by which NLG currently delivers child and family services to Nisga'a children and families. Under this model, the Province of BC authorizes social workers at the Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) to deliver these services. There are up to three levels of authorization that a social worker at NCFS can receive from BC. The first level of authorization is resourcing foster care, or setting up Nisga'a Care. The second is guardianship, or the parenting function for children in care. Finally, the third level is child protection. Child protection includes the ability to investigate whether a child is in need of protection, and remove the child where evidence of the removal is presented to a judge in court. Our social workers are currently delivering guardianship services (level 2), and soon will be delivering child protection services (level 3).

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# Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference

Nisga'a Lisims Government hosted a visit from the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference which brought some of Canada's best and brightest to the Valley to meet with NLG.

The proceedings began with the opening comments from our President Mitch Stevens, with comments as well from the Secretary-Treasurer Edmond Wright, and our Chairperson Kevin McKay. This was followed by a brief presentation on key aspects of Nisga'a governance under our Treaty. Our visitors were impressed with the Nass

Valley, our government building, and our principles of governance, which included references to the Nass Area Strategy. Following the meeting, Jacob Nyce closed the proceedings with some closing comments and prayer.

It is hoped that as the participants from the Governor General's Leadership Conference go onto their careers within the federal public service, they will bring with them their knowledge gained from their visit, and forge enduring connections with Nisga'a Nation. We wish them well in their future endeavours.



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# New Council of Elders



Sim'oogit Bax'ap (Jacob Nyce) was sworn in as a regular member for the Council of Elders at the June 20, 2012 NLG

Executive Meeting in Gitlax't'amix. During the ceremony, facilitated by Sim'oogit Luudisdoos (Harry Moore – alternate Chair of the Council of Elders), Sim'oogit Bax'ap thanked the community of Gitwinksihlkw for nominating him to sit with the council of elders; he further talked of the importance of maintaining the land for the generations yet to come.

As defined by the Nisga'a Constitution the role of the Council of Elders is:

(1) Simgigat, Sigidimhaanak', and respected Nisga'a elders may advise Nisga'a Lisims Government on matters relating to the traditional values of the Nisga'a Nation through a Council of Elders composed of:

- (a) the Chairperson of the Council of Elders; and
- (b) other Simgigat, Sigidimhaanak' and respected Nisga'a elders, to be chosen and appointed by Nisga'a Lisims Government in accordance with a law made by Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a.

After the official signing of the newest member of the council of Elders, the executive members signaled their appreciation of the Sim'oogit opening address in a round of applause. The executive chairman, Kevin McKay, concluded the ceremony by offering his congratulations and best wishes to the Sim'oogit.

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# New RCMP Members for Lisims Detachment

## The Nass Valley getting leadership and experience at the RCMP detachment

The Lisims/Nass Valley RCMP are poised to welcome two new officers to the detachment later this summer. Corporal Andrew Phillips is a 12 year veteran of the force and will replace outgoing Corporal Milo Ramsey. Corporal Phillips has served at Campbell River, Ucluelet and Tofino Detachment's. He has an extensive traffic background and is a recognized court expert in criminal motor vehicle crash investigations. He was in-charge of the Municipal Traffic Section in Campbell River and was the acting detachment commander in Ucluelet last year. Cpl. Phillips will be second in command at the Nass detachment.

Constable Spencer Owen brings with him seven years of RCMP experience from Campbell River Detachment. Constable Owen has patrol and street crime experience, mostly recently as the senior officer attached to that city's "Community Response Unit"; a unit that targeted prolific offenders with strategic enforcement. Constable Owen will be the senior constable in the Nass.

Sergeant Donovan Tait says: "Both of these officers can be considered first round draft picks for the Nass Valley; we are very lucky to be getting them. They bring with them knowledge, skills and abilities that will enhance the level of safety in the Nation and competence here at the detachment. Cpl. Phillips traffic and collision investigation experience along with Cst. Owen's street/drug background will supplement our existing membership well."

Sergeant Donovan Tait goes on to share: "They have both chosen to transfer to the Nass Valley, leaving behind highly desirable postings/communities on Vancouver Island. I think the secret is out. The police work in the Nation is very rewarding and we enjoy healthy working relationships with the villages – not to mention the lifestyle and beautiful area we live."

Sergeant Donovan Tait  
Detachment Commander  
Lisims/Nass Valley Detachment  
250-633-2222

# Nisga'a Fisheries Program Stock Assessment Updates / Nisga'a Fisheries In-season Update

The Nisga'a Lisims Government's Fisheries and Wildlife Department has conducted extensive fisheries research on the Nass River since 1992 in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and BC Ministry of Environment. The Nisga'a Fisheries Program celebrated 20 years of operation in 2011 and currently operates 20 high calibre stock assessment, catch monitoring, habitat, and management projects each year.

The majority of funding to the Nisga'a Fisheries Program is from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, established in 2000 as part of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, and the program is guided by the Nisga'a-Canada-BC Joint Fisheries Management Committee and Nisga'a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. The current objectives and priority activities of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program are:

1. Monitor Nass salmon and Steelhead escapement;
2. Monitor salmon and non-salmon harvests in Nisga'a fisheries, in accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement;
3. Determine factors limiting the production of Nass salmon and non-salmon species; and
4. Promote and support Nisga'a participation in the stewardship of Nass Area fisheries.

The Nisga'a Fisheries Program provides weekly in-season updates on program activities including in-season Nass salmon and Steelhead run size forecasts and up-to-date harvest information. These updates can be downloaded above and at the following FTP site that also includes public announcements concerning Nisga'a fishery openings and closures: <ftp://ftp.lgl.com/Nass%20Stock%20Assessment%20Updates/>.

Further information is available on the Nisga'a Lisims Government's website: [www.nisgaalisims.ca/protecting-nass-river](http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/protecting-nass-river).



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# Report on the Trust

As of July 6th, 2012, the Interim Nisga'a Settlement Trust has a market value of \$180,773,208. The trust was established over ten years ago to provide benefit to the Nisga'a Nation and its citizens. Through the years the Trust has accumulated value through the receipt of Capital transfers from Canada or British Columbia and through investment returns provided by the Trust Funds. The investment return of the Trust from April 2002 to June 2012 has averaged 6.3% per year.

The Trust is administered by the Trustee, Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and the Trust Funds are invested by three investment management firms. Each investment manager has a unique investment mandate to follow.

- Connor Clark & Lunn (CCL) is responsible for managing Canadian fixed income which comprises approximately 40% of the Trust assets,
- Scheer Rowlett and Associates manages Canadian equity which comprises 25% of the Trust and
- Capital International manages the remaining 35% in non-Canadian equities.

The Canadian fixed income is limited to bonds that are classified as investment grade while the equities are generally larger companies that trade on recognized stock exchanges around the world. Collectively the investments make up a balanced mandate of stocks and bonds.

The investment returns that the managers provide are strongly influenced by the returns of the markets they invest in. CCL, Scheer Rowlett and Capital International are expected to achieve a rolling four year investment return that is higher than the average for Canadian bonds, Canadian equity and global equity respectively. An index that measures the return of securities within a market is used as a benchmark for comparison. At June 30th, 2012 the investment managers have been managing the trust funds for 3 ¾ years. Over this period CCL has provided an investment return of 11.2% which is 3.6% above its benchmark (DEX Universe Bond Total Return index), Scheer Rowlett has provided an investment return of 2.6% which is 0.1% below its benchmark (S&P TSX Capped Composite Total Return index), and Capital International has provided an investment return of 5.8% which is 3.6% above its benchmark (MSCI World Total Return index C\$).

On a consolidated basis the trust had an investment return of 5.7% over the last 3 ¾ years. The Trust's return was 2.8% above the portfolio benchmark (based on the weighted averages of the market indices) and relative to other portfolios that follow a balanced mandate. Historically the median (middle) investment manager for a balanced pooled fund mandate has been about 0.5% above the market average.

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## From the Desk of Lands and Resources

**Notice: Open Burning Prohibition / Effective: July 13, 2012 – until further notice**

In order to limit the risk of starting forest fires, all open burning is prohibited on Nisga'a Lands. This prohibition does not apply to areas regulated by village government by-laws.

Where village or regional bylaws are in place government the use of open fire or smoke management, contact those authorities for more information.

These restrictions are published under the authority of Section 57(3)(a)(i) of the *Nisga'a Forest Act*.

For updated information, please refer to the Nisga'a Lisims Government website [www.nnkn.ca](http://www.nnkn.ca), or contact Warren Fekete RPF, Nisga'a Lisims Government Forest Resource Manager at 250-633-3092.



# Highlights from NLG Executive Meeting

## June 27–28, 2012

*Following is a summary (excerpted) from the detailed legislation*

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### Resolution 2012/56

CONSIDERING THAT it is desirable to amend the current Nisga'a Fisheries Regulations, NLGSR 2002/11;

MOVED THAT:

the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive enact, under the *Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act*, the Nisga'a Fisheries Amendment Regulation, 2012 attached to this motion as Appendix "A" (the "Regulation");  
the Regulation come into force on the date that it is signed in accordance with this motion;  
the Chairperson of Nisga'a Lisims Government be authorized to sign the Regulation to evidence its enactment.

*Section 33 amended*

*1. section 33(4) of the Nisga'a Fisheries Regulations, 2002 is amended by repealing paragraphs (a) and (b) and substituting the following:*

(a) in an in river or a marine fishery may have their fishing gear in the water during the 24-hour period before the opening of the fishery or during the 24-hour period of the fishery, or

(b) for domestic purposes may have their fishing gear in the water during the 24-hour period before the opening of a fishery or during the 24-hour period after the closing of a fishery.....

The Nisga'a Lisims Government enacted this Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation on June 27, 2012.

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### Resolution 2012/57

CONSIDERING THAT it is desirable to amend the current Nisga'a Elections Regulation, NLGSR 2008/09;

MOVED THAT:

the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive enact, under the *Nisga'a Elections Act*, the Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation, 2012 attached to this motion as Appendix "A" (the "Regulation");  
the Regulation come into force on the date that it is signed in accordance with this motion;  
the Chairperson of Nisga'a Lisims Government be authorized to sign the Regulation to evidence its enactment.

*Section 12.1 amended*

*1. Section 12.1 of the Nisga'a Elections regulation is amended by repealing paragraph (b) and substituting the following:*

(b) monies owed by a citizen to the Nisga'a Nation as a result of the contravention by the Nisga'a citizen of a term or condition of

(i) a contribution agreement or loan agreement entered into between the Nisga'a citizen and the Nisga'a Nation under the *Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act* or the *Nisga'a Economic Development Fund Act*, NLGSR 2002/16, or

(ii) a promissory note or other instrument issued by the Nisga'a citizen to the Nisga'a Nation under an agreement or Act referred to in subparagraph (i);

The Nisga'a Lisims Government enacted this Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation on June 28, 2012.

# Nisga'a Congratulate Sliammon

NLG President H. Mitchell Stevens, sent out congratulations on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation to the Sliammon people for their Treaty ratification (letter below). We deeply respect the hard work and efforts they have put forth towards this important milestone. Sliammon Chief Negotiator Mr. Roy Francis responded with

"We thank the Nisga'a Nation for the positive message that was prepared for us... We are truly happy to be finally free from the *Indian Act*. The Nisga'a Nation has been an inspiration, and a guide for us. We appreciate the work you do, and the many ways you have provided support for Sliammon."

## Nisga'a Lisims Government

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July 12, 2012

**Mr. Roy Francis, Chief Negotiator**  
Sliammon Treaty Society  
4885 A Highway 101  
Powell River, BC V8A 0B6

Dear Mr. Francis:

### Re: Sliammon Treaty Ratification

I write on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation to offer you and citizens of the Sliammon First Nation congratulations on the successful ratification of your Treaty by your community!

No doubt you are joyful and reminiscent of the many generations of men and women whose contributions helped your Nation reach this incredible milestone you have achieved today. Free from the Indian Act, the Sliammon people can enjoy the freedom to determine your own destiny.

As you embark on your journey to implement your inherent right of self-government, know that the Nisga'a Nation stands with you today in solidarity and celebration. May you continue to work steadfastly as you now begin the important work of implementing your historic Treaty.

*Si'aamhl wilsim' / Continue to do well*

Yours truly,

**NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. Mitchell Stevens".

Sim'oogit K'aw'een  
H. Mitchell Stevens, President

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# Nathan Cullen and NDP MPs visit Nisga'a Government



Opposition House Leader Nathan Cullen



NDP Environment Critic Megan Leslie and NDP Fisheries and Oceans Critic Fin Donnelly

Opposition House Leader Nathan Cullen, along with two other Members of Parliament from the NDP, were in Gitlaxt'aamix to attend a meeting of the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government and to share the NDP's concerns about the massive piece of legislation the Harper Government has been pushing through the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Mr. Cullen, who is now House Leader in the House of Commons, thanked the members for accommodating their request to meet. He spoke on the legislation and how the NDP objected to the way Harper was forcing so many changes into law without allowing for proper debate about each change. Although the title of the bill references the budget, many of the changes have little or nothing to do with budgets.

Fin Donnelly, NDP Fisheries and Oceans Critic, spoke about how these amendments will fundamentally change the way fisheries will be managed. Previously, he stated, the goal of fisheries management was to protect fish habitats; now the focus of the proposed changes will narrow the focus to protecting only selected fish species, and those species have not yet been identified. Also the threshold for protection has been raised in effect to consider if those species are in danger of being killed or destroyed.

Megan Leslie, NDP Environment Critic, shared her concerns about how Harper is eroding the protections of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* — almost 1/3 of the bill deals with changes to this act. As a result of these changes, she stated that the expectations were that the number of projects that will require environmental review will shrink from several thousand to less than a dozen. Fewer projects will be required to submit to environmental review.

The Chairperson of the Executive also reminded the NDP that NLG continues also to have concerns about other laws that Harper is seeking to enact respecting clean drinking water.

The Chair further thanked Mr. Cullen and his colleagues for their visit, and hoped they would enjoy the rest of their visit through the valley.



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