



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation

President's Message /////

Sustainable prosperity and self-reliance / the choice is ours

2013 so far has marked an important year for milestones in the history of Nisga'a Nation. It is the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation of 1763. It's the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Nisga'a Petition. It is also the 40th Anniversary of the Calder decision.

2014 will also be an equally important year in our history since under the Treaty it will mark 14th year of capital

transfer payments, and the last year that Nisga'a Nation will receive its final capital payment from Canada. After May 11, 2014, there will be no more capital transfers from Canada. We will have received the entire \$190 million dollars due to us under the Nisga'a Treaty.

Of course, we will continue to receive annual payments under our Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA). But no

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Supreme Court of Canada Refuses to hear challenge to the constitutionality of the Nisga'a Treaty

Gitlaxt'aamiks BC, August 22, 2013 – Today the Nisga'a Nation welcomed the decision of the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court of Canada, as it declined to hear the challenge to the constitutional validity of the Nisga'a Treaty brought by James Robinson and Mercy Thomas.

An extremely pleased Mitchell Stevens, President of the Nisga'a Nation, stated "Today is a great day for the

Nisga'a Nation because the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court of Canada, has put to rest the challenge to what our elders have always taught us – that we have a constitutionally protected right of self-government. The Nisga'a Nation has never doubted that our Treaty is consistent with the Canadian constitution. This decision brings this challenge to our Treaty to an end."

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matter how much we receive, our FFA alone will not be sufficient to build the wealth of the Nation.

As our Mission Statement provides, we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance. We want to stand on our own two feet, and achieve prosperity for ourselves.

The only way to achieve sustainable prosperity is to participate in the Canadian economy. Fortunately, we don't have far to travel to participate because the Canadian economy has come to our backyard, right to the Nass Area.

We have completed our project with BC Hydro and built the transmission line which will provide energy for more development. Nisga'a Lisims Government has entered into a non-binding agreement in principle with Seabridge Gold to work towards developing a benefits agreement for the Nation.

There are more projects knocking on our door in the area of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and proponents who are wishing to explore these developments are asking us, and asking you, what we want.

So if we want to achieve sustainable prosperity and self-reliance, if we want jobs, royalties and joint participation to build for the future, this is our chance. These proponents are coming to our communities and asking us what we want.

Through our Treaty, we will have all the protections we need to ensure that developments take place on our lands in a manner that protects our interests and protects our people for the long term.

So attend as many info sessions about development projects as you can. Get all the documents you can read. Ask the hard questions. Say what you think. If you agree, then be prepared when those opportunities materialize.

The choice is yours.

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the decision of the BC Court of Appeal which handed down its decision on February 5, 2013. That Court ruled "The Treaty has been carefully crafted to respect constitutional principle and to fit into the wider constitutional fabric of Canada. It is what it purports to be: an honourable attempt to resolve important but disputed claims, to achieve reconciliation, and to lay the foundation for a productive and harmonious future relationship between the Nisga'a Nation and the non-Aboriginal population of Canada."

In October 2011, the BC Supreme Court had also ruled that the challenge to the legal validity of Nisga'a Treaty by Robinson and Thomas failed because the Treaty is consistent with the Canadian constitution. A similar

challenge to the validity of the Treaty by Gordon Campbell and others was dismissed in 2001 by the BC Supreme Court.

President Stevens went on to say "Now that our right of self-government has been finally and thoroughly affirmed, we can look forward to the work of pursuing sustainable prosperity for our people without having to deal with this distraction which has cost Nisga'a Lisims Government a great deal of money in legal costs. I can assure Nisga'a citizens that we will be endeavoring to recover at least some of these legal costs."

The reasons for judgment can be found at www.nisgaanation.ca

Project “Spread a Little Sunshine!”



How did NLG celebrate Earth Day? NLG staff proudly observed Earth Day by participating in the “Spread a Little Sunshine” project initiated by the Human Resources Department at NLG. The friendly staff project/competition started on Earth Day – April 22, 2013 and ended on August 30, 2013.

Under this project, NLG staff were randomly divided up into 6 teams each of whom competed with one another by having a contest as to who could grow the tallest sunflower the fastest!

It's a low cost, fun project that does not take much time, and makes the world a little more green. *Si'aamhl wilin, Cheryl Pelletier for another great idea!*

To view more photos, visit <http://nnkn.zenfolio.com/p587900755>



L-R: Team Captains Cheryl Pelletier, Bev Azak, Charlene Ousey, Ben Davidson, Maxine Azak and Pearl Munroe.

Honouring a lifetime of Service to the Nisga'a Nation / Edmond Wright



Honouring a lifetime of service, over 300 friends, colleagues and community members gathered on Saturday evening, September 7, 2013, in Gitlaxt'aamiks to pay homage to a man who dedicated 42 years of service to his community and to the Nisga'a Nation.

Edmond Wright, Sim'oogit K'amluugidis, was honored along with his wife Millicent Wright, his children, Ruth Robinson, James Wright and Michelle Stevens, their spouses, and grandchildren at a recognition dinner hosted by the Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks. Chief Gerald Robinson welcomed those in attendance, and supper was served. During the meal, the Mass Band lead by Reverend Harry Moore gave a resounding musical rendition of such Nisga'a favourites as the blues march "Raunchy" which was greatly appreciated by all in the hall.

This performance was followed by a special slideshow presentation which chronicled the life, education, awards, and

accomplishments of Edmond over the many decades for his Village and for the Nisga'a Nation. Listed were the numerous committees and organizations that Edmond served on over many years. Also noted, were his many years of service as Secretary-Treasurer for Nisga'a Tribal Council and Nisga'a Lisims Government, his work as a negotiator, and his extensive contributions towards the fiscal architecture of the Nisga'a government that exists today. Above all, his commitment to his family and community shone through the long list of achievements.

A long list of well wishers then spoke.

President Mitchell Stevens spoke on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, recounting the many lessons learned in working with Edmond over the years. In particular, President Stevens made special mention of honouring Millicent and their children for sharing their father these many years with the Nation so Edmond could bring home the Treaty.

There was the toast by Deputy Chief Councillor Keith Clayton. Ed's longtime friend Frank Parnell shared residential school experiences, and how Edmond led the establishment of a group to look out for the younger members at residential school. On behalf of the law firm



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of Aldridge and Rosling, long time legal counsel Marcus Bartley spoke about Edmond's prodigious mind and memory which was "like a steel trap." Bill Moore then spoke, followed by Edmond's uncle Oscar Mercer who shared his recollections of his nephew. The Mayor of Terrace made a presentation of a picture of a Kermode Bear and shared some perspective on just how amazing a 42 year record of public service really was. One speaker humorously shared how Edmond became very strongly associated with the expression "no bloody way."

It was a moment of fond family reflections when Edmond's immediate family siblings spoke. His sister Lorene Plante shared how Edmond was groomed from an early age for leadership by his grandmother who encouraged Edmond's mother to continue to feed his eager young mind. This was because Edmond's grandmother foresaw how Edmond was going to be a great leader some day. His sister Darlene Morgan, CAO Gitlaxt'aamiks, shared that although Edmond was away at residential school in Edmonton, she and her sisters were always reminded by Edmond to write to Santa in Alberta. Each Christmas, Edmond ensured that the list that was sent to Santa in Edmonton was always filled.



A representative from each of the four Nisga'a Villages was on hand to make comments or a presentation, some of which included:

- A certificate from Nisga'a Lisims Government recognizing 42 years of public service
- Very generous gifts from Gitlaxt'aamiks and Laxgalts'ap for Edmond and Millicent to enjoy in their retirement.

There were thanks from the Anglican Church Women's (ACW) Auxillary where Shirley Moven, Chair of the Council



of Elders, praised the foresight of Edmond's grandmother for identifying his leadership potential from such an early age. The cooks also spoke. Long time friend Gary Tait described the meaning of the word K'ubawilksihlkw, which literally translated includes the notion of 'being around' – to be a runner/gofer, to help, and ultimately to learn the meaning of community service. This is how the path towards leadership has been groomed at the community level for centuries within Nisga'a culture; Edmond's life is a living example of this tradition. Gary summed it up by stating "Edmond was there."

When Edmond finally spoke, he thanked those in attendance and thanked everyone for the generous gifts. He echoed the sentiments of his friend Gary Tait, reinforcing how the tradition of community service needs to continue. He also commented about the accomplishments of the Treaty and the negotiation techniques which were used to achieve the benefits we have today in our Treaty. Edmond spoke fondly of his late friend President Nelson Leeson. He was as gracious as ever in his thanks to the people.

The evening was closed with a traditional prayer, followed by a dance for all to have some fun.

In all, it was a wonderful evening of reflection and praise for a man who has very quietly and humbly in the tradition of a Sim'oogit made an enormous contribution to the resolution of the land question in BC, the history of the Treaty making process in Canada, and whose accomplishments will echo long into the future of the Nisga'a Nation.

To view more photos of this special occasion please visit <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.540203296044937.1073741828.233541510044452&type=3>

Nass sockeye a surprise

*From The Terrace Standard, by Anna Killen,
August 14, 2013*

It may be a dismal year for sockeye in the Skeena River, but the Nass River sockeye returned in higher levels than first predicted, meaning the Nisga'a were able to harvest 25,000 more sockeye than anticipated.

And a strong Nass sockeye run early in the season which saw in-season estimates skyrocket meant that those who manage the Nass fishery were able to open it up to commercial fishermen who were unable to fish Skeena sockeye. "It was stable, and it shows positive signs for the future with some of the biological data that's been collected," said Richard Alexander, Nisga'a Fisheries Stock Assessment Management Biologist, of the Nass return.

"We've basically made the conservation goals. We were able to detect that the run was coming in stronger than forecast, and that provided more commercial opportunities – both for the commercial fishing gill net and seine fleet, as well as the Nisga'a economic fishery."

The Nisga'a Lisims Government's fisheries and wildlife department has managed the Nass watershed since 1992, in partnership with provincial and federal government, and the majority of the extensive program's budget comes from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, established in 2000 as part of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. What typically happens is that the season starts on the Nass, and then when the Skeena opens the fleet splits – but that wasn't the case that year due to the low sockeye numbers on the Skeena.

But the strong, early Nass run meant that the Nass was able to handle more pressure than it typically would, while still being conscious of conservation goals. The Nass provided 16 days of commercial fishing for gill nets, and 18 days of commercial seine fisheries.

"There was more fisheries, higher Nisga'a entitlement, but we were very cautious that the run could potentially be early – those early (in season) forecasts were really high," Alexander said, noting the Nisga'a Nation was able to harvest 25,000 more sockeye than pre-season predictions called for.

Early in-season predictions were calling for between 750,000 to 1,000,000 sockeye – which would have put the Nass sockeye well above average – but that eventually levelled off. "On average, the Nass usually has about 600,000 for sockeye that comes into Canada every year," said Alexander. "Our pre-season forecast was almost about half of that – 345,000. And so now we're currently sitting at around 455,000." That's still less than average, but better than previous years, and Alexander says the sockeye coming through were predominantly four-year-olds, with a healthy push of jacks during the early pulse – which bodes well for next year's predictions.

And spawning levels are also looking promising. "About 70 per cent of the Nass sockeye spawn in the Meziadin river system, and our goal there is to reach 160,000 and if we can reach that then we're doing really well," Alexander said.

"They're sitting at 108,000 – typically at this time of year they're at 86,000 – so we're on good track to reach the escapement goal there," he said, noting that they've also achieved the aggregate escapement goal in terms of having enough fish in the upper Nass to reach all spawning grounds, which is 200,000.

The Nass was closed for two weeks in July to allow a weak stock to travel through, a move crucial to stock management and that showed the co-operation of the fisheries stakeholders. "I think that it shows really good management that the commercial fishery, especially in a year when the Skeena was not open, that they were essentially shut down from sockeye retention for almost two weeks, and the Nisga'a did not do any sale fisheries in the same period," said Alexander.

"You really need the co-operation of groups," he said. "We're in an age of uncertainty, so when you're doing fisheries or water management, you need to have systems in place during the year that allow you to adjust based on the information you collect. You want to have the information that helps guide you so you don't overfish on a poor return year, you provide economic opportunities to sustain these fisheries when it's able to so you don't lose out," Alexander continued. Fishwheels are used on the Nass to provide counts of returning salmon.

Total Return to Canada (TRTC) and Nisga'a Entitlement Estimates for Nass Salmon

The in-season TRTC and Nisga'a entitlement estimates for Nass salmon were higher for Nass Sockeye, Coho, Pink, and Chum than pre-season forecasts based on in-season data. In-season Nass Chinook estimates were lower than preseason forecasts, and no harvest surplus was identified for Nass Area Chum salmon as the in-season TRTC estimate was not above the minimum escapement goal (30,000). Based on the in-season data,

Nass salmon TRTC returns in 2013 were above average for Coho and Pink, and below average for Sockeye, Chinook, and Chum based on historical mean TRTC data from 1994 – 2012. Nisga'a harvests in 2013 were close to in-season catch potentials except for Pink: Sockeye ~71,000 vs. ~75,000, Chinook ~3,900 versus ~3,500 (plus underage), Coho ~19,000 vs. 19,200, Pink: ~36,000 vs. ~201,000, and Chum 100 vs. <500.

PRE-SEASON TRTC & ENTITLEMENT FORECASTS	SOCK	CHIN	COHO	PINK-ODD	CHUM
Historical Mean TRTC (1994-2012)	590,000	34,000	160,000	1,100,000	57,000
Pre-Season TRTC Forecast	344,000	20,000	172,000	886,000	12,000
Pre-Season Nisga'a Entitlement	50,144	4,200	13,760	103,556	No Surplus
Cum Nisga'a Underage (+) Overage (-) 2000-12	4,836	2,100	2,419	-30,057	30,240
Total Pre-season Nisga'a Catch Potential	55,000	6,300	16,000	73,000	No Surplus

IN-SEASON TRTC & ENTITLEMENT ESTIMATES	SOCK	CHIN	COHO	PINK-ODD	CHUM
Projected TRTC based on Mean Run % & MR EST	434,000	16,000	246,000	1,534,000	14,400
Estimated %TRTC to date: Mean, Run Timing	100%	100%	98%	NA	NA
Minimum Forecast	433,000	16,000	241,000	833,000	7,700
Maximum Forecast	437,000	16,000	276,000	4,272,000	42,900
In-Season Nisga'a Entitlement Target	70,066	3,330	19,200	201,944	No Surplus
In-Season Underage (+) Overage (-)	4,836	505	2,419	-30,057	Small Return
NLG Selective Demonstration Fishery Allocation	5,008	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total In-Season Nisga'a Catch Potential	80,000	3,800	22,000	172,000	No Surplus
Minimum Entitlement Forecast	80,000	3,400	19,200	64,943	No Surplus
Maximum Entitlement Forecast	81,000	3,400	19,200	643,057	3,400

For Nass Pink and Chum, we used historical harvest rates to estimate the ranges for TRTC and Nisga'a entitlements in 2013 based on the commercial catch data in Area 3 (~2,362,000 Pink; ~73,000 Chum including releases) and a Nass stock adjustment (26% Pink, 1.3% Chum) based on historical commercial catch estimates. The historical Area 3 harvest rates (and Nass stock adjustments) for Pink were based on odd year estimates from 1985-2007 (mean=40%, min=14%, max=74%), and for Chum were based on commercial catch data from 2004-2012 including release data (mean=7%, min=2%, max=12%).



Nisga'a Lisims Government – Terrace Office Open

The Nisga'a Lisims Government – Terrace Office is officially open. The office is open Monday–Friday from 9am–5pm.

Bonita Young-Mercer is the The Nisga'a Lisims Government – Terrace Office Programs & Services Coordinator and may be reached at:

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Helicopter installs Northwest Transmission Line towers

A helicopter is used to place new transmission towers for BC Hydro's Northwest Transmission Line. Visit BC Hydro's website to see a brief video of how the NTL towers are constructed: http://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2013/helicopter-installs-northwest-transmission-line-towers.html

Approximately 1,000 towers called "guyed Y lattice" towers are being installed along the right-of-way for the new line. Each tower weighs about 9.5 tonnes and is about 27 metres high. Helicopter installation is necessary in areas where the terrain is challenging.

The video shows a helicopter carrying a tower from the "fly yard" where the structure was assembled, to the site where it will be placed. A construction crew guides the tower onto its pre-constructed foundation and connects the four guy lines, which hold the tower into place.

The tower placement began in July and continues through the fall. NAE was involved in clearing work to construct a portion of the line.

Kleanza Cathers from Gingolx competes in Swim Championships

Nisga'a Lisims Government recently supported Kleanza Cathers from Gingolx to compete in the Far Western Championship swim meet in San Jose, California. There were 1,700 of some of the best swimmers in their respective age groups from across Canada, USA and Mexico in attendance.

Kleanza, 13 years of age, competed extremely well in the 13–14 girls division. She swam to her personal best times, and attained two more tough national time standards for her age group, for a total of three personal best times. Kleanza is only the second swimmer from northwest BC to qualify in three swims for age group nationals.

The Far Western Championship meet is consistently one of the fastest age group meets in the USA. In its tenth decade, the Far Western Championships saw Olympic

and World Champions, including US Olympic Champion Michael Phelps, compete in it as age group swimmers.

Her mother, Laverne Cathers (maiden name Smythe), provided us with a photo of Kleanza swimming in the 400 metre event on her way to qualifying for the Canadian age group nationals in the event.

Laverne went on to state, "We just wanted to say a big thank you for your support of Kleanza..." Nisga'a Lisims Government provided a financial contribution to support Kleanza's participation in the event from the Sports and Recreation fund, which is open to application from all Nisga'a citizens, particularly our youth, who are competing in sporting events.

Our congratulations to Kleanza for achieving these amazing milestones. *S'aamhl wilin Kleanza – continue to swim well!*

Unique Weaving Night at the Nisga'a Museum

On Wednesday, August 21, between the hours of 9:30am and 4:30pm the Nisga'a Museum in Laxgalts'ap hosted two master weavers in its orientation gallery. Vanessa Morgan and Crystal Rogers set up their loom and wove a traditional Nisga'a Gwiis Halayt or "Chilkat" blanket as they have become known today. While they wove visitors to the museum were able to learn about the ancient traditions associated with this type of weaving, understand how this sort of weaving was appropriated by other First Nation communities, and discover the evolution of weaving, as a cultural practice, within Nisga'a Nation.

Vanessa Morgan (Wiit Gidaaw) is G̓anada (Frog) of Wilps Haym'aas. Daughter of George and Norma Morgan of the villages of Gingolx/Gitwinsiłkw. "Since I was a young lady, I have been interested in weaving. This was when I first saw my great-grandfather, the late Charlie Barton, dressed in a Gwiis Halayt blanket in an old black and white photo. This ancient traditional weave belongs to the Nisga'a Nation; it may have been lost amongst our nation, but not forgotten. Many of our blankets were taken by collectors and put in museums; many of the blankets were burned as well as our looms. The Tlingit people were given a Killerwhale apron that was made by Nisga'a women that was married to a Tlingit man. When he died the apron was sent to his family. The Tlingit women took apart the apron and studied it and wove it back together again. Presently there are women in other nations learning the Gwiis Halayt weaving, I believe that it is about time the Gwiis Halayt is brought back 'home' to the Nisga'a Nation. I have been weaving now for 10 years, my dream is to see a lot of our Nisga'a women weaving the Gwiis Halayt, and our Simgigat dressed in their Wilps Gwiis Halayt blankets during feasts and other important functions", says Morgan.

The Chilkat blanket has become synonymous with the Tlingit Nation of north-western British Columbia. Throughout history First Nations of the north-west region have traded with one another. The exchange of goods such



Gwiis Halayt (Dancing Robe) in the Nisga'a Museum. Acquired at Laxgalts'ap, 1905, likely from a Sim'oogit of Anki'daa.

as fish, baskets, and oolichan grease coincided with the trade of technology and knowledge including traditional arts and crafts techniques. The traditional Nisga'a Gwiis Halayt was made of mountain goat wool spun over a core of cedar-bark string. Historically, men hunted the goat, constructed the frame on which the weaving was done and painted the design board from which the women, who did the weaving, took the design and developed the blanket for a chief. The design of the blanket often represents an animal or ayukws (crest) of a Nisga'a wip or house. Often the construction of a blanket would take one year to complete.

"This unique, one-day demonstration provided the Nisga'a Museum with a way to connect the past with the present," notes museum director Darrin Martens. "The museum has only one Gwiis Halayt dating back to the early 20th Century. Once part of Charles Newcombe's collection, this blanket was originally purchased, we believe, from a chief who lived in the ancient village of Anki'daa along the Nass River. It subsequently made its way into the collection of the Royal British Columbia Museum and was repatriated to Nisga'a territory in 2000. This program will allow us and the community at large to learn more about weaving techniques, how they connect us with the past and illustrate the importance of objects like this within the Nisga'a Museum collection."

Nisga'a Nation and Seabridge Gold Confirm Agreement in Principle on Key Elements of KSM Benefits Agreement

The Nisga'a Nation and Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge) (TSX:SEA; NYSE:SA) are pleased to announce that they have reached agreement in principle on material components of a Benefits Agreement in connection with Seabridge's proposed KSM Project located in northwestern British Columbia.

Mitchell Stevens, President of the Nisga'a Nation, comments that:

"The Nisga'a Nation and Seabridge have worked diligently over the last number of months towards reaching agreement on material terms related to economic benefits, opportunities for jobs and contracting, ongoing engagement and project certainty.

"We appreciate Seabridge's approach to working with the Nisga'a Nation. They started working with us early on in the development phase of the KSM Mine and they have taken seriously and been very responsive to our concerns around the environmental and social impacts of the project on Nisga'a Treaty interests. As well, Seabridge has demonstrated a real willingness to assist the Nisga'a Nation in creating genuine economic opportunities for, and building the capacity of, Nisga'a citizens.

"Reaching agreement in principle demonstrates that the Nisga'a Nation is open for business, and that we support environmentally responsible economic development that respects the interests of the Nation under our Treaty. Seabridge has demonstrated an ability to work cooperatively with us on both counts. We look forward to concluding the Benefits Agreement negotiations as quickly as possible and continuing our participation in the environmental assessment process for the KSM Project."

Seabridge Chairman and CEO Rudi Fronk responded that:

"The Nisga'a Nation's approach to negotiations has been professional and co-operative from the very beginning.

We believe that the key points of the Benefits Agreement that have now been settled provide the basis for a genuine partnership between Seabridge and the Nisga'a Nation for many decades to come. The Nisga'a Nation's representatives have made many valuable contributions to the evolution of the KSM Project's design. We have listened to their environmental, cultural and economic concerns, which have been reasonable and well thought out, and we have incorporated responses to these concerns into the final design which is now in the formal Environmental Assessment review process. From our perspective, our on-going relationship with the Nisga'a Nation, which began more than five years ago, captures the spirit of mutual respect and careful attention to detail that is needed in the development of major mining projects. Our agreement with the Nisga'a Nation can hopefully be a springboard for achieving agreements with the other First Nations who also have an interest in the success of KSM."

The KSM Mine is one of several mines currently proposed for the Nass Area, including Pretium Resources Inc.'s Brucejack Mine, and Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.'s Kitsault Mine, each of which are subject to the provisions of the Environmental Assessment and Protection chapter of the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

Seabridge holds a 100% interest in several North American gold projects. The Company's principal assets are the KSM property located near Stewart, British Columbia, Canada and the Courageous Lake gold project located in Canada's Northwest Territories. For a breakdown of Seabridge's mineral reserves and mineral resources by category please visit the Company's website at <http://www.seabridgegold.net/resources.php>.

ON BEHALF OF NISGA'A NATION

"Mitch Stevens"

President, Nisga'a Lisims Government

RCMP Officials Visit the Nass Valley

RCMP North District Commander Rod Booth greeted NLG officials and staff at Nisga'a Lisims Government on August 14, 2013. Superintendent Booth was accompanied by outgoing Lisims Nass Valley Detachment Commander Sgt. Donovan Tait and Constable Anthony Fletcher. Superintendent Booth is informally touring the Nass Valley, which is part of the geographically large North District under his oversight and includes 37 detachments.

Chairperson Kevin McKay, Chairperson of the Council of Elders Shirley Morven, Director of Programs & Services Roberta Stewart, Chair of the Public Order Peace and Safety (POPS) committee Ron Nyce and other POPS committee members were also in attendance.

Speaking on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation, Chairperson McKay provided welcoming comments to Supt. Booth, providing him with a background of the Nation's relationship with the RCMP which began in the 1950s. McKay then went on to explain how the relationship evolved over decades and finally post-Treaty into what is now known as the Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) – an agreement between the Nisga'a Nation, Canada and British Columbia that sets out the expectations and various authorities that the relationship continues under.

McKay then acknowledged the large geographic region under Supt. Booth's responsibility, "We are truly grateful that you have taken time out of your busy schedule to come and visit us," said McKay. "In order to be effective in carrying out that responsibility it must take a great deal of creativity and innovation, so we are very appreciative of your efforts in visiting us."

Supt. Booth and others were treated to a feast of various salmon and oolichan dishes, to which he extended his gratitude by saying, "Thank you for the wonderful meal. I could see if I lived here I might have to buy bigger clothes!"



Nisga'a artisan, Bradley Percival, presenting RCMP North District Commander Rod Booth with Nisga'a drum.

Supt. Booth also apprised Nisga'a officials of future plans for the RCMP to bring Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton to the North, including the Nass Valley in the early Fall to demonstrate RCMP policing in the northern region. "I want her to see the wonderful, amazing communities we serve (in the north) and the work that goes on in restorative justice and with your Public Order Peace and Safety committee."

Both Chairperson Kevin McKay and Supt. Rod Booth also credited outgoing detachment commander Sgt. Donovan Tait for his years of service to the Nisga'a Nation. Tait will move on to work on Vancouver Island later this summer. "Certainly our loss is their gain," said McKay of Tait's departure from the Nass Valley to the Island. "I have described Tait, in the short time that he has been amongst our people as a man who has demonstrated clearly that he is a man of the people."

"Sgt. Tait, on behalf of the RCMP, I cannot replicate the thanks you have received from this community, but I acknowledge and thank you in front of your friends here that what you've done is outstanding and has not gone unnoticed," said Booth.

Concluding the agenda was a presentation from Nisga'a artisan Bradley Percival. Supt. Booth was presented with a drum painted with the Nisga'a Nation hayatskw and the RCMP logo which was formally unveiled at the Lisims RCMP Detachment last winter.

Photos of the informal meet and greet can be viewed at <http://nnkn.zenfolio.com/p432207807>

BC's Attorney General Visits Nisga'a Nation

Gitlaxt'aamiks, September 25, 2013 / The Honourable Suzanne Anton, Minister of Attorney General for British Columbia, honoured Nisga'a Nation with a brief visit to the Nass Valley on Wednesday evening.



The meeting began with opening comments by Chairperson McKay who cited the work of Nisga'a Nation to improve policing in the Nass Valley and the many years of work with the RCMP and the Attorney General to achieve the result.

Chief Councillor Ron Nyce then recalled his work as Chair of the POPS committee where he worked with administration to find ways to improve policing and the relationship.

All members of the executive welcomed the Minister. The Secretary-Treasurer Corrine McKay suggested

Minister Anton appeared to be considerably impressed by the NLG administration building and the legislative chambers saying "This is one of my first visits to the far north, and to your beautiful area."

The Minister was escorted by the top RCMP Official for Northern BC, Superintendent Rod Booth, who had his second visit to the Nass, and former Lisims Detachment Commander Don Murray. Murray was one of a series of recent former detachment commanders at Lisims Detachment who have demonstrated a commitment to community policing in the Nass Valley, the most recent being Sgt. Donovan Tait.



a group photo of the women of BC and Nisga'a Nation who have made accomplishments, which we show above.

At the close, Superintendent made a presentation to the Chairperson McKay of a fine RCMP blanket.

Overall, it was an affirmation of the effective working relations between those involved in the administration of justice in BC, and the Nisga'a Lisims Government.



Gwich'in conference on Indigenous Self-government



NLG Executive Chairperson Kevin McKay ventured north to Inuvik, Northwest Territories earlier this month to participate as a panel presenter at the National Conference on Indigenous Self-government hosted by the Gwich'in Tribal Council on September 10-12, 2013.

First Nations and Inuit leaders and youth delegates from Nunavut, the Yukon, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Quebec were warmly welcomed by the Gwich'in Nation to share their self-governance experiences.

The Gwich'in Nation, who settled their comprehensive land claims agreement in 1992 are currently in negotiation of a self-government agreement. "The Nisga'a Nation wishes the Gwich'in much success because it is true self-government that will unlock the potential opportunities the Gwich'in Land Claims Agreement promises" said Chairperson McKay.

Panel presentations over the course of the two days included, Linking Governance to Capacity and Training which Chairperson McKay participated in; Aboriginal Youth in Leadership Positions which Communications Officer Bobby Clark participated in. Innovative Aboriginal Governance Models; Building Aboriginal Economies on Strong Political Foundations; Youth Leading Positive Change in their Communities; Successes in Aboriginal Education rounded off the remainder of the conference agenda. "The inclusive approach of the conference format was evident in the level of participation by community members", remarked McKay. "This will result in a stronger model of self-government for the Gwich'in, as it is indeed a collective responsibility."

The Gwich'in Tribal Council and Nisga'a Lisims Government are both members of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition, along with other First Nations and Inuit organizations across Canada who have modern land claims agreements with Canada.

Village Government Process in Assisting NLG Selection for the Council of Elders

We have had some inquiries as to what the process is at NLG for the selection of the Council of Elders. Below is the procedure as documented in the *Nisga'a Government Act*.

As per Part 4 of the *Nisga'a Government Act* (July 29, 2011) regarding appointment to the Council of Elders, section 44 (2) of that Act provides that each year, the Chief Councillor of a Nisga'a Village Government must provide a reasonable opportunity for all persons who ordinarily reside in the relevant Nisga'a Village and who meet the qualifications set out in subsection (1), to advise the Chief Councillor by September 15 of that year whether they would be prepared to accept an appointment in November of the year as a member of the Council.

Under section 44 (1), a person is eligible to hold office as a member of the Council if the person

- (a) is
 - (i) a Nisga'a citizen,
 - (ii) a Sim'oogit, Sigidimnak' or other respected Nisga'a elder,
 - (iii) ordinarily resident on Nisga'a Lands, and
 - (iv) at least 60 years of age,
- (b) is not
 - (i) a member of the House
 - (ii) a member of the Nisga'a Administrative Decisions Review Board, or
 - (iii) the Nisga'a Elections Officer, and
- (c) would not have been disqualified under the *Nisga'a Elections Act* as a candidate for election to office as a member of the House, on a ground other than membership in the Council of Elders, if an election under that Act had been held on the date of the person's appointment as a member of the Council.

Elders prepared to sit a term of two (2) years on the Council of Elders and who meet the qualifications for candidacy, can request a Declaration of Eligibility form and the Council of Elders Request Form for Status of Prescribed Debt from your Nisga'a Village Administration office. The completed Declaration of Eligibility form and the Council of Elders Request Form for Status of Prescribed Debt, must be completed, signed and sent to Nisga'a Lisims Government, Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department.

Please also read the Addendum to the Declaration of the Eligibility and section 15, Qualifications to stand for office in the *Nisga'a Elections Act*. Elders must also go to the RCMP Detachment and request a current Criminal Record Check to qualify for candidacy for the Council of Elders.

Four regular members and four alternate members will be selected for appointment to the Council of Elders for a two year term. One Elder will be selected from each of the Nisga'a Villages for a regular member and an alternate member.

This year the members whose term will expire in December 2013 are:

REGULAR MEMBERS:

Harry Moore, Gingolx
Andrew Mercer, Laxgalts'ap
Jacob Nyce, Gitwinksihlkw
Lorene Plante, Gitlaxt'aamiks

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

Mercy Moore, Gitwinksihlkw
Gary Davis, Gitlaxt'aamiks

Sa'amhl wilin

Nisga'a acting correctly regarding Avanti moly mine

The news website BC Localnews.com published the following letter from our CEO at NLG Collier Azak to the editor of the Terrace Standard. The CEO's letter was written in response to a letter regarding NLG's approach to the proposed Avanti Moly Mine project:

Dear Sir:

There is little doubt that the issues surrounding Avanti Kitsault Mine Ltd.'s proposed redevelopment of the historic Kitsault mine are complex in a number of ways.

However, in his letter posted Aug. 28, 2013, ("Nisga'a Need Avanti Mine"), Mr. Gregg Cavagnaro ignored these complexities, asserting that Nisga'a Lisims Government should simply take a heads down/hands off approach with respect to the proposed mine.

Mr. Cavagnaro's letter not only over-simplifies matters, but it is based on a number of misconceptions which I hope to clarify.

Avanti has proposed redeveloping the Kitsault Mine, an open-pit molybdenum mine which has operated off-and-on since 1911.

This project triggers environmental assessment obligations on both British Columbia and Canada under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, as the proposed operations may have negative environmental, social, economic and cultural effects on Nisga'a people.

British Columbia failed to complete the assessments required by the Nisga'a Treaty, and despite these breaches of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, issued an environmental assessment certificate for the project last March.

The Nisga'a Nation, though not necessarily opposed to the mine itself, has commenced court proceedings to require British Columbia to perform the assessments required by the treaty.

Mr. Cavagnaro states the Nisga'a Lisims Government's approach is improper, because: 1.) the Nisga'a Nation should just trust that it is not in a mining company's "best interest to carry out shoddy environmental practices"; and 2.) British Columbia has approved the proposed project, and since Nisga'a citizens are British Columbia residents, they should respect the laws of the province.

These points overlook the history of the Kitsault mine, where former mine operators, permitted by federal regulations, dumped the mine's tailings and waste rock directly into Alice Arm.

This discharge by previous mine operators was approved by the federal and provincial governments. It has resulted in elevated levels of metals, including arsenic and cadmium, and the degradation of the marine and freshwater environment in Lime Creek and Alice Arm to this day.

It would not be an overstatement to say that the Kitsault mine is one of the, if not the, black stains on Canada's environmental protection record.

This historical pollution caused the Nisga'a Tribal Council to demand that the Nisga'a Final Agreement include specific environmental obligations, which both the federal and provincial governments must comply with whenever a proposed project may affect residents of Nisga'a treaty lands.

These environmental protection obligations are today set out in the treaty.

In specific response to Mr. Cavagnaro's statement that Nisga'a citizens should "respect the laws of this province", he should be aware that the Nisga'a Final Agreement is given the force of law under both the provincial and federal legislation which brought the treaty into force.

The Nisga'a Nation is, therefore, showing respect for provincial laws when they demand that British Columbia comply with the legal obligations set out in the environmental assessment portions of the Nisga'a Final Agreement-part of the "laws of this province".

Given the above, Mr. Cavagnaro's opinion that Nisga'a Lisims Government is being overly cautious and disregarding provincial laws both ignores the history of the mine at issue and incorrectly states what the laws of this province are.

Nisga'a Lisims Government has set job creation and economic development as one of its primary goals, and the Nisga'a Nation has supported a number of projects in recent years which benefit this region of British Columbia.

Indeed, just last month, Seabridge Gold Inc. praised the Nisga'a Nation's reasonableness and cooperation in negotiations respecting their proposed gold mine-a project with the potential to create a number of jobs in the area. Nisga'a Lisims Government has repeatedly stated it is open for business and seeks to work with proponents willing to undertake the assessments required by the Treaty.

Projects like the proposed Seabridge mine show Nisga'a Lisims Government's commitment to this goal.

That said, Nisga'a Lisims Government will not allow the federal and provincial government to disregard their obligations under the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

Mr. Cavagnaro has asked the Nisga'a Nation to "get down to business". In seeking to create jobs while respecting the terms of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, I believe Nisga'a Lisims Government is doing precisely this.

Collier Azak,
Nisga'a Lisims Government,
Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh), BC



Hydro Plant Operator

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL DUTIES

The services to be provided are to ensure the safe, effective and efficient operation of the Hydro Site. Typical duties include but are not limited to;

- Operation of plant, starting and stopping units as necessary.
- Maintain and organize production and maintenance records.
- Report required information to the Head Operator/Operations Supervisor.
- Regular visits to the hydro site.
- Respond in a timely and safe manner to any incidents that may occur at the facility.
- Keep the facility clean and in presentable order at all times.
- Provide regular basic maintenance to the various equipment of the facility as described in the Operations & Maintenance Manual and according to any extra instruction as provided by the Head Operator/Operations Supervisor.
- Maintain good records of all maintenance items and provide them to the Head Operator/Operations Supervisor upon completion.
- Maintain all vehicles and equipment used for transportation to and on the site.
- Maintain all other equipment, such as safety equipment, fire extinguishers, tools etc...
- Maintain roadways onsite. Includes snow removal, brushing, grading and ditching.
- Maintain buildings and grounds including weed control, brush control and some basic landscaping.
- Maintain all building structures.
- Represent Owner of the Site to the general public.
- Supervise, provide for and assist any contractors hired to do major or minor work at the station.
- Operate distribution class substation and transmission lines.
- Operate construction equipment as required.
- Repair minor electrical and mechanical failures as required.
- Pickup and deliver any components required for the facility operations.
- Acquire and keep current all safety training, boat safety, First Aid etc... that is required by law.
- Liaison with BC Hydro regarding operational issues.
- Must be able to work shiftwork and live in the Stewart, BC area.
- Must have and maintain a valid drivers' license.

REPORTING PROTOCOL

Under normal circumstances the Plant Operator would report to the Head Operator and the Head Operator would then report to the Operations Supervisor or Manager based in Mississauga. However, all Plant Operators are invited to participate in weekly conference call with management and other Operators from BC and Ontario to update one another and share work experiences.

DESIRED SKILLS

- Journeymen Electrician and or power and controls background
- Ability to read and follow electrical/mechanical schematic diagrams
- Troubleshooting skills
- Wildlife avoidance and outdoor survival skills
- Ability to work in a team environment

WORKING HOURS

- Site duties would include 8-hour days, 5 days a week in a typical week.
- Extended stay at Annex Building during bad winter weather.
- On Call hours to respond to plant emergencies.

TRAINING

- First Aid
- All other required safety training

Please contact Long Lake Hydro Project for further details.



The closing date is October 31st, 2013.
Submit your cover letter and resume to:

Chris Young

c/o Regional Power Inc.

Chris.young@regionalpower.com

llhi_operations@icloud.com

Home phone: 250 636 2422

Office: 1 604 759 4763

Highlights from NLG Executive Meeting September 25-26, 2013

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 September 26, 2013 **Finance**

MOVED THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government receive the recommendation of the Nisga'a Finance Committee that an amendment to the stipend policy, including an increase to the Chair of the Council of Elders, be considered and that the May 3, 2013 memorandum from the Chief Executive Officer of the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw arising from the four Village of governments meeting of May 1, 2013 be tabled.

Resolution / Adopted September 26, 2013 **Memorandum of Agreement**

MOVED THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government direct the Chief Executive Officer of Nisga'a Lisims Government to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the First Nations Health Authority and the Nisga'a Nation regarding the administration of Medical Services Plan premiums on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation for the term beginning October 1, 2013 and ending March 31, 2014, substantially in the form set out in the Memorandum of Agreement attached to this motion as Appendix "A."

Resolution / Adopted September 26, 2013 **Terms of Reference**

MOVED THAT the Executive approve and adopt the Nisga'a Museum Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, attached to this motion as Appendix "A."

Resolution / Adopted September 26, 2013 **Village Emergency Plan**

CONSIDERING THAT section 6(2) of the *Nisga'a Emergency Program Act* (the "Act") requires each Nisga'a Village to prepare an emergency plan (a "Village Emergency Plan") that sets out the general direction and framework for emergency management in respect of the applicable Village;

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Nisga'a Village Government of Laxgalts'ap, with the support of Nisga'a Lisims Government, has engaged in the Nisga'a Village Plans Project and has recently completed and approved its Village Emergency Plan;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT section 6(4) of the Act provides that a Village Emergency Plan comes into effect when it is approved by the Nisga'a Village Government and the NLG Executive;

MOVED THAT the Executive approve the Laxgalts'ap Village Emergency Plan attached to this motion as Appendix "A."

Resolution / Adopted September 26, 2013 **NCFS Policies**

CONSIDERING THAT in October 2012 the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the "Ministry") completed an Operational Review of the delegated services of Nisga'a Child and Family Services ("NCFS") at a Guardianship (C-4) level on Nisga'a Lands and in the Northwest Corridor (the "Operational Review 2012");

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT among the recommendations advanced by the Ministry in the Operational Review 2012 was that Nisga'a Lisims Government adopt policies specific to NCFS in respect of human resources and training, client confidentiality and information sharing, use of the Ministry's Management Information System, and contracted services for service providers;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Ministry also recommended in its Operational Review 2012 that Nisga'a Lisims Government revise its present Employee Policy Manual to incorporate sections specific to NCFS delegated employees regarding: reporting relationships, liability, critical incident support, and detailed information on recruitment and retention of professional staff for the program;

continued on page 19

MOVED THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government approve and endorse the following policies:

1. Policy Statement No. 1: Nisga'a Lisims Government / NCFS Human Resources and Training Policy
2. Policy Statement No. 2: Nisga'a Lisims Government / NCFS Client Confidentiality and Information Sharing
3. Policy Statement No. 3: Nisga'a Lisims Government / NCFS Management Information System
4. Policy Statement No.4: Nisga'a Lisims Government / NCFS Contracted Services;

AND ALSO approve and endorse:

5. the Nisga'a Lisims Government Bulletin PA00006 entitled NCFS Additional Employment and Training Requirements and Opportunities, with its attached Schedule entitled Nisga'a Lisims Government Dual Accountability Policy;

EACH substantially in the form attached to this motion.

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.

Call for Expressions of Interest / Nisga'a Museum Advisory Committee

The Nisga'a Museum is seeking expressions of interest from Nisga'a citizens ordinarily resident in the Nass Valley and/or from the regional Nisga'a urban locals (due to budgetary restrictions, Vancouver is excluded at this time) for voluntary service on the museum's advisory committee.

The Nisga'a Museum will pay for regional travel and provide refreshments at all meetings and sub-committee meetings where appropriate.

Interested Nisga'a citizens may forward letter of interest with most recent curriculum vitae (or resumé) by 4:30pm on October 15, 2013 to:

Darrin Martens, Museum Director
PO Box 300 – 810 Highway Drive
Laxgalts'ap, BC V0J 1X0
Email: darrinm@nisgaa.net
Fax: 250 621 3305

We thank all those who express an interest in serving the community through the museum advisory committee however space is limited. Individuals selected to be on the advisory committee will be notified on or before November 1, 2013.

For more information and to review the Nisga'a Museum Advisory Committee Terms of Reference please visit www.nisgaamuseum.ca



This newsletter is published by:
Nisga'a Lisims Government
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by phone or email at:
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