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I send my prayers across our Nation, to those that are grieving, ill or battling cancer; my heart is with you.

The summer months were a busy time for Nisga’a Lisims Government. We celebrated the finalization of the Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3 with our Treaty partners. The new FFA significantly improves funding for governance, land and resource management and programs and services delivery.

While we celebrate successes, we are also experiencing challenges. The Gitanyow trespass on Nisga’a Lands identified serious contraventions of the Treaty by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Nisga’a Nation has since served notice to launch the dispute resolution chapter of the Nisga’a Treaty to address these serious matters.

A great accomplishment for the Nass Valley this summer was the establishment of a 20-man wildland fire crew. The crew maintained fire routes, addressed high risk areas, and fought fires. The crew also assisted Terrace Search and Rescue in the successful search of a Nisga’a mushroom picker. Congratulations and si’aamhl wilsim’ to the hardworking wildfire crew!

The warm weather allowed for more outdoor activities, and I was pleased to see Nisga’a youth engage in The Nisga’a Amazing Race event in August, working as teams while learning about Nisga’a language and culture and interacting with their peers. Later in August, seven of our high school aged youth attended a tour of the Ascot mine in Stewart, B.C., and I am again encouraged to see our young people thinking about their future careers.

As the school year begins, I encourage students of all ages to focus on their studies; your education will enrich your lives.
Press Release: Nisga’a Nation Purchase of Lands in the Vicinity of Nasoga Gulf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nisga’a Nation Purchase of Lands in the Vicinity of Nasoga Gulf

June 7, 2019 – Gitlaxt’aatamiks, B.C. – Nisga’a Lisims Government believes the recent opposition to its purchase of Crown land at Nasoga Gulf by two neighboring Indigenous groups is politically motivated.

The Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation have recently launched a public campaign to stop the Nisga’a Nation’s purchase of lands, and lease of foreshore and submerged lands, at Nasoga Gulf on British Columbia’s north coast.

In February 2016, Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Government of British Columbia concluded commercial terms for the Nisga’a Nation to purchase the lands and lease the foreshore and submerged lands under Crown land policy and at fair market value. The area covered by the transaction has been part of the exclusive territory of the Nisga’a Nation since time immemorial, and is already included in areas where the Nisga’a Nation has constitutionally protected rights and co-management responsibilities under BC’s first modern treaty, the Nisga’a Final Agreement or Nisga’a Treaty.

The goal of the transaction is to allow the Nisga’a Nation to pursue economic development activities in its treaty areas in a way that benefits Nisga’a citizens and all British Columbians. Nisga’a Lisims Government has been working with the Government of British Columbia to achieve this goal, which is an objective of the Nisga’a Treaty.

The lands to be purchased are also contiguous with Nisga’a Lands which are wholly owned by the Nisga’a Nation and, under the Nisga’a Treaty and the transaction terms, will be added to those lands.

The Nisga’a Nation considers that the attack on the NDP by Lax Kw’alaams and Metlakatla in the Province newspaper this morning is unfair and unjustified. The Government of British Columbia has been consulting with the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation about the transaction for well over three years and is still engaged in this process of consultation.
Nisga’a Lisims Government published notice of its intention to purchase these lands in March 2016, and has invited the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation to discuss the transaction on many occasions since.

“Over the last three years, Nisga’a Lisims Government has made repeated attempts to meet with our neighbours, Lax Kw’alaams and Metlakatla, and discuss this land purchase, but our efforts were rebuffed,” says Eva Clayton, President of Nisga’a Lisims Government. “Essentially, we are purchasing our own land at fair market value—lands that are already included in our Treaty areas—so that we can pursue economic development to benefit the Nisga’a Nation and all British Columbians.”

Nisga’a Lisims Government most recently proposed a meeting on June 11th to discuss the transaction with the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation. Nisga’a Lisims Government sought to use the meeting to reassure them that any concerns they have regarding their asserted rights or title to this area would be protected by the Nisga’a Treaty if they were ever able to establish those rights in court or through a treaty or land claims agreement. However, before this meeting date was accepted, Nisga’a Lisims Government learned through press releases that the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation had organized community opposition events.

“It is unclear why Lax Kw’alaams and Metlakatla have waited until now—many years after being advised of and consulted on the transaction, and just before our proposed meeting date—to take this position,” President Clayton says. The Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation each have general elections this fall.

BACKGROUND

- **Time immemorial** – The transaction area is part of the exclusive territory of the Nisga’a Nation.
- **May 21, 1913** – The Nisga’a Nation lodges its Petition to His Majesty’s Privy Council in London, which states that the Nisga’a Nation has “exclusively possessed, occupied and used and exercised sovereignty over”, among others, the transaction area.
- **May 11, 2000** – The Nisga’a Final Agreement, BC’s first modern treaty, comes into effect and recognizes, among other things, that the Nisga’a Nation has treaty rights and co-management responsibilities over the transaction area. The Preamble to the Nisga’a Final Agreement also recognizes that the Nisga’a Nation “has lived in the Nass Area”—which includes the transaction area—“since time immemorial”. The Nisga’a Final Agreement has provisions ensuring that if any other neighbouring Indigenous group finally establishes—by way of judicial determination, treaty or land claims agreement—that it has Aboriginal rights or title, those established rights and title are protected from any adverse effects.
- **Late 2014 to February 2016** – Nisga’a Lisims Government and British Columbia engage in discussions regarding the transaction and conclude the commercial terms for the Nisga’a Nation to purchase the land and lease the foreshore and submerged lands at fair market value under Crown land policy.
- **March 29, 2016** – British Columbia begins consulting with the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation in respect of the transaction.

- **March 30, 2016** – Nisga’a Lisims Government publishes notice of its intention to purchase the transaction area from the province. This same month, Nisga’a Lisims Government approves the funds necessary to finance the transaction.

- **2016 to 2018** – Nisga’a Lisims Government invites the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation to directly discuss the transaction on many occasions, none of which are accepted.

- **May 21, 2019** – The Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation invite Nisga’a Lisims Government to discuss the transaction.

- **June 5, 2019** – Nisga’a Lisims Government accepts this invitation and proposes a meeting date of June 11, 2019.

- **June 6, 2019** – Nisga’a Lisims Government learns through press notifications that—before any meeting can take place—the Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation have organized community opposition events regarding the transaction.

- **Fall 2019** – The Lax Kw’alaams Indian Band and Metlakatla First Nation each have general elections for their elected Mayor/Chief and councilors.
The Nisga’a Post Secondary Education Assistance Program Policy was developed by the Education Administrators from the 4 villages and NLG, Directorate of Programs and Services. The policy was approved at the June Executive meeting.

The policy provides guidelines to determine eligibility for financial assistance to attend a post-secondary or training institution. This assistance is not intended to cover 100% of the costs. Applicants are encouraged to apply for additional assistance.

Nisga’a citizens or Nisga’a Indians usually living in Canada or the US are eligible for funding. Programs eligible for assistance include accredited college programs, university degree programs, apprenticeship and trades programs and programs leading to a professional designation.

Support for tuition, compulsory fees and books and supplies up to the maximum specified in the policy may be available for all eligible students. Eligible full-time students may also receive living and travel allowances and some support for tutoring. Living allowances may include some support for dependents for those whose spouse makes $20,000 or less.

The policy limits the number of years during which a person can receive funding based on the program taken. The policy requires that students have a grade point average of C+ or better to maintain their funding eligibility. Students who do not have a C+ grade point average will be given a chance to improve their grades. Those who do not and those who don't complete their program will have their funding terminated. If funding is terminated all money received must be repaid before the person will be eligible for funding again.

There are deadlines by which applications must be submitted before June 15 for programs starting in September (July 15 this year only), October 15 for programs starting in January, and March 15 for programs starting in May or over the summer. It is expected that available funds will have been allocated by September applications for the winter and/or spring/summer semesters will only be considered if additional funds become available.

The policy also includes:
• an incentive grant program which provides awards to those who have completed programs in a number of subject areas with good grades;
• procedures which specify how funds awarded will be disbursed;
• an appeals procedure to be followed if there are disagreements about an Education Administrators application of the policy

This summary outlines some of the policy features. Please refer to the official document available on the NLG website, www.nisgaanation.ca, or contact your Education Administrator for details.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nisga’a Nation Mourns The Passing of W. Tom Molloy

New Aiyansh – July 3, 2019: It is with great sadness that the Nisga’a Nation joins the family, the province of Saskatchewan and the country of Canada on mourning the untimely passing of the late Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor W. Tom Molloy.

“We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Lt. Governor Molloy,” said Nisga’a Nation President Eva Clayton. “Tom was the Chief Federal Negotiator for the conclusion of the landmark Nisga’a Treaty. ‘Spirit and intent’ are words we use commonly to remind the world of the incredible effort and compromise it takes all parties around a negotiating table and as the lead Federal Negotiator, Tom genuinely had the best interest of the Nisga’a Nation at heart.”

“I last saw Tom at the Governor General’s 50th Anniversary of the Order of Canada,” said Nisga’a Ambassador and then President and Nisga’a Nation Chief Negotiator, Dr. Joseph Gosnell. “We had a moment to remember those intensive days around the negotiating table. Tom always remained a friend of the Nisga’a Nation. We extend heartfelt condolences to his family.”

“Tom’s efforts to see the Nisga’a Treaty through the federal ratification process were essential and unwavering,” said Jim Aldridge, Nisga’a Nation General Counsel. “He won the respect of all parties through his steadfastness.”

The Nisga’a Final Agreement (the “Nisga’a Treaty”) came into effect on May 11, 2000 and is a tripartite agreement between the Nisga’a Nation, the Crown in Right of Canada and the Crown in Right of British Columbia. Lt. Governor Molloy played a key role on the part of Canada in concluding negotiations that would see British Columbia’s first modern treaty realized 19 years ago.

-30-
Report all Poachers and Polluters

NLG - Compliance & Enforcement would like to advise the public to: Please call this number to report Wildlife issues, poachers and polluters.

1-877-952-7277
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilp Si’ayuuḵhl Nisga’a Approves New Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement

On June 28, 2019, Wilp Si’ayuuḵhl Nisga’a ratified its third Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement, which Nisga’a Lisims Government negotiated with Canada and British Columbia. The Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement is now awaiting ratification by British Columbia and Canada and it is hoped that the Agreement will be fully signed in the coming weeks.

Once ratified by all three parties, the Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement will provide for fiscal transfers from Canada to the Nisga’a Nation of over $80 million a year for governance and the delivery of programs and services. The new agreement provides approximately $15 million more in annual fiscal benefits to the Nisga’a Nation above that of the previous fiscal financing agreement, in the form of increased funding and relief from the practice of deducting amounts from fiscal transfers on account of the Nisga’a Nation’s other sources of revenues. Nisga’a Lisims Government worked closely with Canada to develop its new Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy, which enabled these increased annual fiscal benefits.

British Columbia also provides funding for programs and services under the Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement. In the agreement, British Columbia promises to create a new policy for its fiscal relationship with the Nisga’a Nation based on the Nisga’a Treaty, The Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement also specifically contemplates further negotiations:

- with Canada to add assets to the list of assets in Schedule C so that the Nisga’a Nation can receive life-cycle and operations and maintenance funding for those additional assets;

- with British Columbia to increase funding for child & family services delivered by Nisga’a Child & Family Services in the northwest Corridor (primarily Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kitimat); and

- with Canada to improve program and services funding over time as Canada expands its new Collaborative Self-government Fiscal Policy to cover additional funding areas.

Nisga’a Lisims Government intends to continue to work closely with Canada to improve its fiscal policy for funding modern treaty nations in the areas of education, health, social and housing programs.
Under the Nisga’a Lisims Government’s newly established Enforcement & Emergency Services Directorate, the Emergency Response Services Department hired 20 wildfire crew members for the 2019 Fire Season.

Throughout the fire season, the Wildfire Unit Crew conducted a fuel treatment project for high risk communities (Gitlaxt’aamiks and Gitwinksishlkws), running through drills and exercises in different areas of the Nass Valley, maintaining secondary access roads, and responding to reports of wildfires on Nisga’a Lands. As such, the crew has already been putting their skills to good use. They were called by B.C. Wildfire Service to do mop-up on the Kalum Lake fire. They also responded to a house fire on Gosnell Crescent in Gitlaxt’aamiks and put out many spot fires and kept the fire from spreading uphill. On July 8, the crew responded to a fire caused by lightning on Tankers road in Irene Meadows.

When asked about the challenges of the intensive training for the crew, Emergency Response Manager Anthony Moore said, “It has been an ongoing learning experience for our crew of getting tips and tricks and adapting them the following week." But regarding the positive aspects of the training, he added, “our debriefing with the crews after responding to an emergency has been the most positive. Hearing the excitement and willingness to keep going with training and drills knowing they are protecting our homes and families.”

The 20 person crew is organized into 4 squads. Each squad has 1 Crew Leader, 1 Medic, 1 Sawyer and 2 Fire Crew Members.

2. BRAVO SQUAD: Crew Leader – Roderick Robinson, Medic – Alvin Lee Mckay, Sawyer – Garth Monroe, Crew Daniel Bouchnet & Aiden Clayton
3. CHARLIE SQUAD: Crew Leader – Curtis Robinson, Medic-Brent Mckay, Sawyer – Gilbert Morven, Crew – Skyler Guno & Terry Clayton

To report a wildland fire, the department can be reached at Nisga’a Lisims Government at 250-633-3000 during business hours. To report a wildfire outside of business hours, BC Wildfire Service should be called at 1-800-663-5555. Thank you to the Wildfire Crew for their dedication and hard work!
Adrienne Nisyok, an Indigenous woman living in Kitimat, B.C., has been an electrician for 22 years. “My dad was an electrician and he inspired me to follow in his footsteps,” she says. At age 17, she was the youngest class member in her pre-apprenticeship course. “Coming from the small community of New Aiyansh, it was culture shock to go to university in Kamloops,” she recalls. “There was one other Indigenous woman who attended the first part of the program and when she dropped out, I was alone. What helped me get through that first year was the support of my family, instructor and classmates.”

She worked the first year of her apprenticeship with her father’s residential electrical company, but I decided to venture out to gain commercial work experience. “I sent out my resume to every company I could think of and received one reply,” she says. “I worked for that company for 13 years.”

For the past six years, she’s worked as an industrial electrician at a sawmill in Terrace. “I love being an electrician, not only because I learn more about the trade each day, but because I learn more about myself,” she says. “I’ve developed the strength to work alongside men and feel confident and strong enough to offer my skills and ideas to the workplace.”
Andrea Reid Accepts Assistant Professor Position at UBC

Nisga’a Nation member Andrea Reid has accepted the position of Assistant Professor, Indigenous Fisheries with the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries at the University of British Columbia. The post, which begins in January 2021, will involve teaching, research and mentorship. As part of this position she will also chair the Indigenous Fisheries Research Unit.

A Ph.D. candidate, Reid is currently co-supervised between Carleton University and the University of British Columbia for her Ph.D. in Biology centered on Pacific salmon fisheries and conservation. She is particularly interested in studying rivers and other freshwater systems and how they underpin and support communities in B.C.

Part of Reid’s work has been engaging with young people through camps and programs to help them explore the natural world. Since 2016, she has led an annual youth science camp in Gingolx via the Indigenous Student Ambassador program, with support from NSERC and the Gingolx Village Government. “I think it’s really important to share work, get the youth on the water and open their eyes to biology and fisheries, and get them curious about the natural world. We’ve had a lot of strong students that are naturals in the fisheries world. “

Reid is also a co-founder of Riperia, a not-for-profit that creates wilderness expeditions for youth ages 14-16 that have limited access to outdoor programming. Their first expedition will happen in August 2019, a five day canoe and camping trip with 12 youth in the Poisson Blanc Regional Park in Quebec. “We hope to host an expedition in northern B.C. in 2021,” says Reid.

She is also anticipating working with and supporting Nisga’a youth. “I very much look forward to helping Nisga’a students in general feel like they have a place in the university setting, if that’s something they want,” Reid says. “Whether they’re going into fisheries or not, working directly with me or not, I look forward to being a presence on the UBC Campus and in Vancouver to help Nisga’a students of all disciplines and study levels (undergraduate to graduate to post-graduate) navigate that transition, and academia more generally.”

Congratulations on your upcoming post, (soon to be) Dr. Reid!
NLG Executive Approves Execution of Letter of Intent for the Development of Nisga’a Emergency Health Transportation Program

At its monthly meeting on July 25, 2019, the NLG Executive endorsed a letter of intent that would form a unique relationship between the Nisga’a Nation, BC Emergency Health Services, First Nations Health Authority and the Laxgalts’ap Village Government for the development of a Nisga’a Emergency Health Transportation Program.

“This is indeed a step forward for our citizens who have been calling for emergency transportation services,” said President Eva Clayton. “This is only the beginning of what will enhance the safety and security of residents in the Nass Valley.”

Nisga’a Valley Health Authority – the health services delivery agency in the Nass Valley acknowledges that the absence of coordinated Emergency Health Transportation infrastructure contributes to a longer lapse in tertiary response and treatment times, thus potentiating increased morbidity and mortality. Once executed by the four parties, the non-binding pilot agreement will be implemented and developed over a 3 year period between August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2022.

Nisga’a Delegation Meets Kitsum Kalum Leadership

A contingent of Nisga’a Nation elected and hereditary leaders met with Kitsum Kalum leaders at Kitsum Kalum Community Centre on July 31st. The meeting was pursuant to provincial government consultation requirements in respect of the Nisga’a Nation’s purchase of Crown Land in the vicinity of Nasoga Gulf.

After productive information and dialogue exchange, Nisga’a Nation officials were happy to receive the support of Kitsum Kalum on the proposed land purchase. Kitsum Kalum support referenced the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Tsimshian and Nisga’a Nations in Prince Rupert where territorial boundaries had been agreed to. The two nations also expressed interest in reviving earlier talks on the commissioning and raising of a totem pole at the territorial boundary at Sand Lake.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nisga’a Government Issues Notice of Trespass to Immediately Cease Unauthorized Activity on Nisga’a Lands

July 26, 2019 – New Aiyansh, B.C. – Following alarming reports and evidence of unauthorized activities taking place within Nisga’a Lands, the NLG Executive provided direction to Nisga’a Government staff to take immediate steps to issue notices of trespass pursuant to the Nisga’a Land Act to all non-Nisga’a individuals conducting unauthorized activities on Nisga’a Lands in the vicinity of Ginsgox (Kinsuch) on the Nass River.

The area in question is within the almost 2000 sq. km. of Nisga’a Lands owned in fee simple by the Nisga’a Nation through the Nisga’a Final Agreement – a constitutionally-protected and binding Treaty between the Nisga’a Nation with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

“We have been aware of trespass activity and illegal use of our land for some time”, said Nisga’a Nation President Eva Clayton. “We count on our Treaty partners to enforce the law and our Treaty immediately. Otherwise we will advance our efforts to higher levels, if not to the dispute resolution provisions within the Treaty.”

The notice of trespass to be delivered by senior Nisga’a Government officials within the Directorates of Lands & Resources and Enforcement and Emergency Services calls on the trespassers “…to cease the unauthorized activity and, within 24 hours of the delivery of this Notice, that you remove all tents, buildings, improvements, equipment or other chattels located at the Nisga’a Lands Site, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Nisga’a Land Act”.

The Nisga’a Final Agreement came into effect on May 11, 2000 after a 113 year quest by generations of Nisga’a leaders for a just and honourable settlement. The Nisga’a Nation stands firm on the constitutionality of the Nisga’a Treaty and fully expects and anticipates its Treaty partners to do the same.

For further information, contact:
Directorate Communications & Intergovernmental Relations
(250) 633 3000 – communications@nisgaa.net
By a unanimous vote, Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a adopted the Independent Auditors Report and consolidated financial statements at its sitting on Monday July 29, 2019.

Nisga’a Lisims Government (the "Government") has received a "clean", unmodified opinion on its consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2019.

The Independent Auditors Report issued by Deloitte states, in part "In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Government as at March 31, 2019 and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards."

This indicates that the auditors (Deloitte LLP) have determined that NLG’s financial statements are free from material misstatement. In addition, an unmodified opinion indicates that the financial records have been maintained in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. This is the best type of report the Government can receive.

Deloitte presented the 2019 Consolidated Financial Statements to the Nisga’a Finance Committee on on July 23, 2019. The NLG Executive then accepted the recommendation of the Nisga’a Finance Committee at their meeting on July 24, 2019 and further recommended that Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a accept the Independent Auditors Report and related consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2019.

The 2019 Consolidated Financial Statements may be viewed on the NLG website.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 9th, 2019

NEW GARDEN CENTRE STORE COMING TO SEAL COVE

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. – Rupert Lawn & Garden is pleased to announce plans to construct a new garden centre store in Seal Cove this offseason.

Owned and operated by the Gitmaxmak’ay Nisga’a, Rupert Lawn & Garden recently awarded the construction contract to Rupert Wood & Steel, with demolition of the existing structure scheduled for the end of August. Construction is expected to be completed in March before a grand re-opening in late March or early April 2020.

Expansion plans include the demolition and disposal of the entire existing structure and the installation of new foundations and utilities. The new store will use locally sourced timber, have skylights for lots of natural light, have a level-entry and handi-accessible washroom, more off-street parking, space for offering bulk topsoil, and increase the building footprint.

“We are thrilled to continue expanding to better serve our customers” said Blair Mirau, CEO, “this new store will be brighter, bigger and more vibrant and we can’t wait to show everyone next season.”

From now until August 21st, Rupert Lawn & Garden is hosting a construction clearance sale in order to make room. For more details, check our www.rupertilawn.ca or Rupert Lawn & Garden on Facebook or Google.

ABOUT THE GITMAXMAK’AY NISGA’A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
The Gitmaxmak’ay Nisga’a Economic Development Corporation (GNEDC) is a community-owned social enterprise. Wholly-owned by the Gitmaxmak’ay Nisga’a Society, the mission of the GNEDC is to create jobs and revenues to support non-profit programs for Nisga’a citizens in Prince Rupert and Port Edward in the areas of language, culture, education, and youth. The GNEDC was the recipient of a 2016 BC Aboriginal Business Outstanding Achievement Award in the Community-owned business category.

MEDIA CONTACTS
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Office | 250.627.1595
Cell | 778.894.7712
Email | blair@gitmaxmakay.ca
The graph below depicts the historical growth of the Nisga’a Settlement Trust. In 2014, the last capital transfer payment from Canada was received. Capital transfers to the trust contributed $164 million over fourteen years. The value of the trust at the end of 2014 was $260.8 million with capital transfers and investment return.

Since 2014, the sole contributor to the growth of the trust has been investment returns. The market value of the trust at the period ending March 31, 2019 was $324 million.
Melanie Mark - Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training was in Terrace on August 15, 2019 to make a major announcement that will benefit all northern Indigenous communities.

"Improving access to driver training in Indigenous communities was a clear call to action and systemic concern that First Nations leaders have raised with me," said Minister Mark in a news release issued. "Opening doors for individuals in more rural areas provides them access to the training and skills required to be independent members of their communities. This expanded support will also empower Indigenous peoples, especially women, to travel with a greater sense of safety along the Highway 16 corridor."

The expanded support will see the All Nations Driving Academy received $360,000 to provide courses and services to Indigenous communities in the North Coast to assist aspiring drivers obtain their Class 7 learner and novice driver’s licences. The funding builds on a previous investment of $80,000 that has helped 214 people acquire the training to date.

Nisga’a citizens who want more information on how to benefit and access this fundamental training can contact Nisga’a Employment Skills and Training (NEST), or the All Nations Driving Academy.
The 2nd Annual Nisga’a Amazing Race took place on August 9, 2019.

Nisga’a youth competed in groups as they raced across the Nass Valley. Starting in Gingolx, they competed in challenges at various stops through the valley. They dug trenches with the wildfire crew, took water samples at Hlgu Isgwit, learned about fire hoses at Gwinha, learned Nisga’a songs in New Aiyansh, ran 5km to Vetter Falls, took photos at Crater Creek, and ended at Lava Lake where they performed the Nisga’a songs for the judges. The team from Gingolx came in first!

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped bring this event together - the NLG Lands and Enforcement departments along with NCFS made everything possible!

Look for information on the 2020 race next spring!
Nisga’a youth were invited on a tour of the Premier and Red Mountain mines on August 21-22, courtesy of Ascot Resources. The seven youth that attended were invited from the four villages and the group was helmed by NLG Youth Engagement Coordinator Leslie Robinson, along with three other chaperones. The group traveled via the Gitwinksihlkw bus to Stewart, B.C. where they were greeted by Ascot advisor and exploration geologist Rob McLeod, along with other company representatives. Safety was a constant theme during the trip and everyone was equipped with the proper PPE when necessary!

The youth learned about the array of career paths available in the mining industry and the opportunities and challenges that accompany them. Ascot CEO Derek White conducted the Premier tour and spoke extensively about the modern methods of mining that ensure environmental responsibility during all aspects of exploration and production.

After the Premier tour, helicopters transported the youth 15km east of Stewart to the Red Mountain camp where they spent the night. Nisga’a Nation members Stephen Bolton and Kim Azak were working at the camp and gave the group a warm welcome. The next morning, Mr. McLeod led the group in an underground tour of the Red Mountain mine. The altitude resulted in strong winds and wintry weather conditions, but having layers of PPE helped with the cold! A final helicopter trip brought everyone back to Stewart, and the group headed back to the Nass Valley.

A big thank you to the folks at Ascot Resources for their hospitality, but particularly for their engagement with the youth. Providing information and encouragement regarding career paths that would allow Nisga’a to stay and work in the NW helps those youth making important decisions.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilp Sí’yuuúkhí Nisg’aa’ Approves New Nisg’aa’ Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement

Nisg’aa’ Lisims Government is pleased to announce that the Nisg’aa’ Nation, Canada and British Columbia have all ratified and signed the new Nisg’aa’ Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3. That agreement substantially improves the financial position of the Nisg’aa’ Nation.

The main benefits of the new Nisg’aa’ Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3 are: improved governance funding, improved lands and resource funding, and a lack of reduction in federal funding on account of the Nisg’aa’ Nation’s other revenues. The Nisg’aa’ Nation has the discretion to allocate these new resources as it sees fit through its usual budget process which includes approval of the budget by Wilp Sí’yuuúkhí Nisg’aa’. The agreement contemplates further improvements to funding as Canada’s fiscal policy improves.

The Secretary-Treasurer led a negotiation team comprised of senior staff and general counsel. That team worked with Canada in the federal Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process to revise Canada’s policy on its fiscal relationship with modern treaty holders and other self-governing Indigenous governments. That work laid the foundation for the successful negotiation of the new Nisg’aa’ Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3. The new Nisg’aa’ Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3 was ratified by Wilp Sí’yuuúkhí Nisg’aa’ in June, by British Columbia in July, and by Canada in August. The agreement is effective retroactive to April 1, 2019, and will be in force for at least 5 years.

The Nisg’aa’ Treaty requires that the Nisg’aa’ Nation, Canada and British Columbia periodically negotiate new fiscal agreements under which British Columbia and Canada provide funding to the Nisg’aa’ Nation for the operation of Nisg’aa’ Nation governments, for land & resource management, and for delivery of various agreed-upon programs and services.

The Nisg’aa’ Lisims Government Executive celebrated Canada’s new policy and the new fiscal financing agreement at an event with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, in Vancouver. Also in attendance were self-governing Indigenous governments (which includes many modern treaty holders) from British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.
Resolution 2019/ 71/ June 26, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive adopt the Agenda for the Executive Meeting, dated June 26 and 27, 2019 as amended.

Resolution 2019/ 72/ June 26, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive adopt the Summary of Resolutions and Proceedings of the Executive for May 21, 22 and 23, and June 7, 2019, as presented.

Resolution 2019/ 73/ June 26, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive adopt the financial statements for the periods ending April 30, 2019 and May 31, 2019 as presented by the Chief Financial Officer and as attached to this motion.

Resolution 2019/ 74/ June 26, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Trustee of the Nisga’a Settlement Trust, Royal Trust Corporation Canada (the “Trustee”), wishes to replace its current investment manager, Connor Clark & Lund (“CC&L”), for the Nisga’a Settlement Trust’s Canadian bond holdings;

AND CONSIDERING THAT PBI Actuarial Consultants Ltd. undertook on behalf of the parties to the Nisga’a Settlement Trust (the “Trust”), but acting entirely independently from the Trustee, a search for a new Canadian bond manager for the Trust;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT at the conclusion of its search, PBI Actuarial Consultants Ltd. PBI recommended that the Nisga’a Finance Committee consider two Canadian bond managers, one of whom - Phillips, Hager and North Investment Management (“PH&N”) - is affiliated with the Trustee;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Nisga’a Finance Committee, having interviewed both prospective Canadian bond managers for the Trust, expressed its preference for engaging PH&N in this role;

AND CONSIDERING THAT section 6.1 of the Settlement Trust Agreement provides that the Trustee is not disqualified or prevented from acting by reason of any personal interest which it or any affiliate or other related party may have, direct or indirect, in any matter relating to the Nisga’a Settlement Trust, including any activities of the Trustee on behalf of the Nisga’a Settlement Trust, provided that the consent of the Executive is obtained;

MOVED THAT the Executive endorse the recommendation of the Nisga’a Finance Committee and accept the appointment of PH&N as an investment manager to replace CC&L, acknowledging that PH&N is an affiliate of the Trustee.

Resolution 2019/ 75/ June 26, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive receive the minutes of the Nisga’a Finance Committee meetings held on June 19 & 25, 2019 as presented.
NLG Executive June 2019 Resolutions

Resolution 2019/ 76/ June 26, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga’a Finance Committee has recognized that $550,086 in interest has been allocated to the Commercial Fishers Fund in the approved Nisga’a Nation provisional budget for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year;

AND CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga’a Finance Committee has recommended that $105,000 of the interest amount be provided in payment to the Northern Native Fishing Corporation in order to support Nisga’a fishers in the 2019 fishing season, while the Nisga’a Finance Committee explores more permanent funding arrangements;

MOVED THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government accept the recommendation of the Nisga’a Finance Committee and pay $105,000 to Northern Native Fishing Corporation in order to support Nisga’a fishers in the 2019 fishing season.

Resolution 2019/ 79/ June 26, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government (the “Executive”) has reviewed a memorandum dated June 12, 2019 prepared by the Lands and Resources Directorate concerning a parcel of land for sale by its owner (the “Block B DL 2625 property”) as described in the site plan attached to this motion as Appendix “A”;

AND CONSIDERING THAT the Block B DL 2625 property
1. is located approximately 2.1 kilometers from the Village of New Aiyansh;
2. is legally described as Block B, District Lot 2625, Cassiar District, PID: 015-191-532; and
3. has been appraised in an appraisal provided by Steve Cullis Appraisals dated January 24, 2019 (the “Steve Cullis appraisal”), attached to this motion as Appendix B;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Steve Cullis appraisal provides an appraised value for the Block B DL 2625 property of $40,000.00;

MOVED THAT the Executive authorize the Director of Lands and Resources, acting on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation:
1. to make an offer to purchase the Block B DL 2625 parcel in an amount not to exceed $45,000; and
2. if the offer is accepted, to
   a) draft a purchase and sale agreement together with whatever ancillary documents may be required or desirable to finalize the purchase of the Block B DL 2625 parcel on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation (the “Purchase Agreement”); and
   b) deliver the Purchase Agreement for execution by the current owner of the Block B DL 2625 parcel.

Resolution 2019/ 80/ June 27, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government (the “Executive”) has reviewed a memorandum dated June 12, 2019 prepared by the Lands and Resources Directorate concerning a parcel of land for sale by its owner (the “Brouwer property”) as described in the site plan attached to this motion as Appendix “A”;

AND CONSIDERING THAT the Brouwer property
1. is located approximately two kilometers from the Village of New Aiyansh;
2. is legally described as the Eastern½ of the Northeast ¼ of the fractional southeast ¼ of District Lot 1712 Cassiar District, PID: 015-676-111; and
3. has been appraised in appraisal provided by Appraisals Northwest dated December 21, 2018 (the “Appraisals Northwest appraisal”), attached to this motion as Appendix “B”;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Steve Cullis appraisal provides an appraised value for the Block B DL 2625 property of $40,000.00;

MOVED THAT the Executive authorize the Director of Lands and Resources, acting on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation:
1. to make an offer to purchase the Block B DL 2625 parcel in an amount not to exceed $45,000; and
2. if the offer is accepted, to
   a) draft a purchase and sale agreement together with whatever ancillary documents may be required or desirable to finalize the purchase of the Block B DL 2625 parcel on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation (the “Purchase Agreement”); and
   b) deliver the Purchase Agreement for execution by the current owner of the Block B DL 2625 parcel.
AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Appraisals Northwest appraisal provides an appraised value for the Brouwer property of $14,500.00;

MOVED THAT the Executive authorize the Director of Lands and Resources, acting on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation:
1. to make an offer to purchase the Brouwer property in an amount not to exceed $15,000; and
2. if the offer is accepted, to
   a) draft a purchase and sale agreement together with whatever ancillary documents may be required or desirable to finalize the purchase of the Brouwer property on behalf of the Nisga’a Nation (the “Purchase Agreement”);
   b) deliver the Purchase Agreement for execution by the current owner of the Brouwer property; and
   c) when title has been transferred to the Nisga’a Nation, take such steps as may be necessary to add the Brouwer property to Nisga’a Lands.

Resolution 2019/ 82/ June 27, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government has considered a report provided by the Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Relations (the “Director”) dated June 25, 2019 and entitled “Rogers Public Relations Event - July 2019” (the “Rogers report”);

MOVED THAT the Executive receive the Rogers report and direct that the Director work toward option #3 (July 2019 WSN).

Resolution 2019/ 81/ June 27, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government has considered a report provided by the Director of Lands and Resources (the “Director”) dated June 19, 2019 concerning possible uses of the recently purchased Tseax River Inn (the “Tseax Inn report”);

MOVED THAT the Executive accept the recommendation of the Director to forward consideration of the Tseax Inn report to the Lands and Resources Committee, the Capital Finance Committee, and the NLG Economic Development group for consideration.
Resolution 2019/ 89/ July 24, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive adopt the Agenda for the Executive Meeting, dated July 24 & 25, 2019 as presented.

Resolution 2019/ 90/ July 24, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive adopt the Summary of Resolutions and Proceedings of the Executive for June 26, 27 & 28, 2019, as presented.

Resolution 2019/ 91/ July 24, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive
1. adopt the draft Nisga’a Lisims Government 2018/2019 Audited Financial Statements as at March 31, 2019, attached to this motion as Appendix “A” (the “Draft Audit”), and
2. recommend to Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a that it adopt the Draft Audit.

Resolution 2019/ 92/ July 24, 2019

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive receive the minutes of the Nisga’ a Finance Committee meetings held on July 5 and 23, 2019, as presented.

Resolution 2019/ 93/ July 24, 2019

MOVED THAT the Executive accept the recommendation of the finance Committee as reflected in the Finance Committee’s motion S 2019-07-05 and direct the Chief Executive Officer to provide direction to his staff to implement the recommendations.

Resolution 2019/ 94/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Capital Projects Manager has provided a briefing to the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government concerning certain interests, properties or assets that the Nisga’a Village of Gitlax’t’amliks has requested to purchase (the “Designated Assets”):

MOVED THAT the Executive
1. express its agreement in principle with the transfer of the Designated Assets from Nisga’a Nation to the Nisga’a Village of Gitlax’t’amliks; and
2. direct the Capital Projects Manager to a) carry out whatever processes and to complete whatever documents may be required for the transfer of the Designated Assets; and b) return to the Executive for any further direction or authorization required.

Resolution 2019/ 95/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT under section 8 of the Nisga’a Personnel Administration Act the Chief Executive Officer of Nisga’a Lisims Government must prepare and present to Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a, as soon as practicable after the end of a fiscal year, a report respecting employment within the Nisga’a Nation and Nisga’a Lisims Institutions during that fiscal year;

the Director of Human Resources has prepared on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer a report on employment for 2018-2019 fiscal year (the “CEO Annual Report on Employment 2018-2019”) attached to this motion as Appendix “A”;

Resolution 2019/ 96/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT Bear Creek Contracting Ltd. (“Bear Creek”) has applied under section 17 of the Nisga’a Land Act for a licence of occupation enabling it to remove up to 5,000 cubic meters of prepared gravel materials from the Ksi T’in Gravel Pit.

MOVED THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive (the “Executive”) grant to Bear Creek a licence of occupation under section 6 of the Nisga’a Land Act, as follows:
1. the Director of Lands and Resources (the “Director”), on behalf of the Executive, be authorized to deliver to an authorized representative of Bear Creek, for execution and return, a licence of occupation substantially in the form attached to this motion as Appendix “A” (the “Licence”); and
2. upon the execution and return of the Licence to the Director, the Director of the Lands and Resources Committee be authorized to date and execute the Licence on behalf of the Executive.

Resolution 2019/ 97/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT
1. the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive may, under section 15(1) of the Nisga’a Landholding Transition Act (the “Act”), make regulations it considers advisable for the purposes of the Act; and
2. it is desirable to amend the Nisga’a Landholding Transition Regulation in order to clarify the prescribed forms and instruments that may be registered, deposited, filed or given for the purposes of the Act;
3. the Lands and Resources Committee has reviewed and recommends the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Nisga’a Landholding Transition Regulation;

MOVED THAT:
1. the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive enact, under the Act, the Nisga’a Landholding Transition Amendment Regulation, 2019 attached to this motion as Appendix “A” (the “Regulation”);
2. the Regulation come into force on the date that it is signed in accordance with this motion;
3. the Chairperson of Nisga’a Lisims Government be authorized to sign the Regulation to evidence its enactment.

Resolution 2019/ 98/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive may, under section 236(1) of the Nisga’a Land Title Act (the “Act”), make regulations it considers advisable for the purposes of the Act; and

MOVED THAT:
1. the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive enact, under the Act, the Nisga’a Land Title Amendment Regulation, 2019 attached to this motion as Appendix “A” (the “Regulation”);
2. the Regulation come into force on the date that it is signed in accordance with this motion;
3. the Chairperson of Nisga’a Lisims Government be authorized to sign the Regulation to evidence its enactment.
NLG Executive July 2019 Resolutions

Resolution 2019/ 99/ July 24, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government (the “Executive”) has reviewed a memorandum provided by the Director of Lands and Resources dated July 19, 2019 and entitled “Proposed land exchange with the Nisga’a Village of Laxgalts’ap” (the “Land Exchange memorandum”);

MOVED THAT the Executive express its conditional approval of Option 1 as set out in the Land Exchange memorandum and direct the Director of Lands and Resources to begin preparing the materials required to bring the matter before Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a.

Resolution 2019/ 101/ July 25, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a passed Resolution 2004 / 03, directing the Nisga’a Nation to consider establishing an annual budget allocation to hold a Special Assembly every two years;

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the last Special Assembly was held in Gingolx in May of 2018;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT under section 62 of the Nisga’a Government Act the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive (the “Executive”) a) may call a Special Assembly by passing a motion with the support of at least two-thirds of its members; b) must determine the date, duration and location of the Special Assembly if so called;

MOVED THAT the Executive:
1. call a Special Assembly of the Nisga’a Nation to take place in the Nisga’a Village of Laxgalts’ap from May 11 to May 15, 2020 and;
2. direct the Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Relations to coordinate the preliminary planning for the Special Assembly and provide periodic reports to the Executive, as requested.

Resolution 2019/ 102/ July 25, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT on May 23, 2019 the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government (the “Executive”) passed resolution 2019/67 expressing its approval of the Nisga’a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program Policy, 2019;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT during implementation discussions, the Chief Administrative Officers of the four Nisga’a Village...
Governments raised concerns with the content of the Nisga’a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program Policy, 2019 and the process that led to the approval by Executive;

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government administration is working with the Village Governments to address these concerns;

MOVED THAT the Executive resolution 2019/67 be rescinded, and that the Nisga’a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program Policy, 2014 remain in force until the issues identified by the Village Governments can be discussed and any resulting changes to the policy be brought before the Executive in an amended Nisga’a Post Secondary Education Assistance Program Policy for 2019.

Resolution 2019/103/July 25, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga’a Lisims Government has reviewed a memorandum provided by the Social Development Policy Analyst and Support entitled “Social Assistance Rate Increase” (the “Social Assistance Rate Increase memorandum”) attached as Appendix “A” to this motion, which

1. refers to a rate increase notice issued by the Province of British Columbia (the “BC rate increase notice”) and
2. recommends an equivalent rate increase under the Nisga’a Nation Social Assistance policy;

MOVED THAT Executive adopt the rate increase and amend the Nisga’a Nation Social Assistance policy in accordance with the Social Assistance Rate Increase memorandum, to be effective as of April 1, 2019, with retroactive payments.

Resolution 2019/104/July 25, 2019

CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive (the “Executive”) has received reports in respect of persons engaged in activities described in section 34(a) of the Nisga’a Land Act on Lisims land (the “Unauthorized Activities”),

MOVED THAT the Executive

• authorize the Director of Enforcement and Emergency Services and his delegates to issue to any person engaged in Unauthorized Activities a notice, substantially in the form attached to this motion or with such changes as the Director of Enforcement and Emergency Services, in consultation with the Director of Lands and Resources, determines appropriate (the “Notice”);
• require the person to whom a Notice is issued to take the steps set out in the Notice; and
• instruct the Director of Lands and Resources to take the action set out in the Notice.
RESOLUTION 2019 / 12

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED THAT under Rule 73 of the Rules of Procedure of Wilp Si’ayukhl Nisga’a (the “Rules”), the Rules be suspended to the extent necessary to permit Wilp Si’ayukhl Nisga’a to proceed at this special sitting solely with the items of business specified in the order of business included in the notice of the sitting issued by the Speaker.

MOVED BY: Brian Tait
SECONDED BY: Matthew Bright

VOTE:
Yes 35 No 0 Abstain 0

Date: June 28, 2019

RESOLUTION 2019 / 13

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED THAT Wilp Si’ayukhl Nisga’a adopt the proposed agenda for this sitting included in the notice of this special sitting issued by the Speaker.

MOVED BY: Claude Barton
SECONDED BY: Sheldon Martin

VOTE:
Yes 35 No 0 Abstain 0

Date: June 28, 2019

RESOLUTION 2019 / 14

CONSIDERING THAT a proposal has been made for the Nisga’a Nation to enter into the Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (No. 3) with Canada and British Columbia, substantially in the form attached to this motion as Appendix “A” (“the NNFFA No. 3”);

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED THAT Wilp Si’ayukhl Nisga’a request and consider a report from the Nisga’a Finance Committee on the NNFFA No. 3.

MOVED BY: Corinne McKay, Secretary-Treasurer
SECONDED BY: George Moore

VOTE:
Yes 35 No 0 Abstain 0

Date: June 28, 2019
RESOLUTION 2019 / 16

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED THAT Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a adopt the proposed agenda for this sitting included in the notice of this sitting issued by the Speaker.

MOVED BY: Brian Tait
SECONDED BY: George Moore

VOTE:
Yes 34  No 0  Abstain 0

Date: July 29, 2019

RESOLUTION 2019 / 17

CONSIDERING THAT the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive has adopted the draft Nisga’a Lisims Government Audited Financial Statements as at March 31, 2019 (the “Draft Audit”), and has recommended by Executive Resolution 2019 / 91, dated July 24, 2019, that Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a adopt the Draft Audit;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED THAT Wilp Si’ayuukhl Nisga’a hereby adopts and approves the Draft Audit attached as Appendix “A” to this motion.

MOVED BY: Corinne McKay, Secretary-Treasurer
SECONDED BY: Claude Barton

VOTE:
Yes 32  No 0  Abstain 0

Date: July 29, 2019
Nisga’a Lisims Government
Sayt-K’ilim-Ćoot
one heart, one path, one nation