

2010 Special Assembly Report

Summary of key issues, responses, and action items from
Assembly record of proceedings

Department of Communications
& Inter-Governmental Relations

October 28, 2011



INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

Special Assemblies of the Nisga'a Nation are provided for by the Nisga'a Constitution.

In September 2010, the Nisga'a Nation gathered for a Special Assembly in Laxgalts'ap for several days to discuss central issues facing the Nation.

In respect of that Assembly, this report summarizes and identifies

1. The key issues that were articulated by Nisga'a citizens,
2. The responses by NLG in relation to the issues identified, and
3. The particular actions items that were, from the record of proceedings, items which respondents indicated that Nisga'a citizens could expect to see some form of follow up.

Where possible, the report has attempted to incorporate the language of the speaker i.e. to use their words and expression. Minor edits have been made for clarity, and some duplicated questions/ responses omitted. Where there may appear to be ungrammatical expressions, this is often due to notes which attempt to capture the actual speaking style of the speaker or which occasionally capture comments in point form.

It is hoped that this report will provide:

- A review of some of the key issues that arose from the conference to ensure that the comments of Nisga'a citizens are afforded an opportunity to be heard,
- Provide information in response to these questions and comments, and
- Identify any actions items to ensure that any such topics are identified and followed-up.

This document is a **working copy** of the report in that this is the first full opportunity that Nisga'a citizens, WSN members, NLG departments, and Nisga'a organizations will have to review the report. Some sections of the report will require further information and edits in order to complete this report for the next Special Assembly in 2012 – hence its description as a working copy.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS

The reporting items that appear from the record of proceedings were:

1. Executive Presentation
2. Finance & Economic Development
3. Fisheries and Wildlife
4. Lands and Resources
5. Programs and Services
6. Language and Culture
7. Setting priorities, including summary of Treaty benefits and programs

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

In summary, the questions pertained to the following topics:

Child + custody issues (Vancouver)

FFA – urban locals now included in the Fiscal Finance Agreement

Topic: Sports + recreation funding

Ownership of Nisga'a Lands recognized by the governments of Canada

Concern over buying up land to set for production of restricted substances.

Economic development

Sales of fish

Traditional land

Taxation

Treaty amendments

Imbalance in funding for urban aboriginal

Nisga'a language

Sr. in Rupert

NCG sale of fish

NCG opportunity fund

Angling Guide licenses

Environmental assessment

NCG and financial statements

Need for recourse i.e. ombudsman

Sports & recreational funding

Nisga'a budget

Youth employment

Tourism

Spirituality

Nisga'a elections

This list of topics is reflective of many of the topics that arose repeatedly throughout the assembly, and hence this report. As well, in the last section of this report, the officers took the opportunity to provide a response to these issues as well.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SECTION

These identify comments, questions, or suggestions any of which result in some form of follow up.

Comment, Question for follow up, Suggestion	Potential Action	Department	Result
<p>1. Topic: Child + custody issues (Vancouver) <i>As Nisga'a urban individuals, there is no support. Would like information.</i> Work is in progress to develop policy to provide guidelines on how NLG will exercise that standing. Can look at consultation during development of the guidelines.</p>	<p>Undertake community consultations on issue of standing when developing guidelines</p>	<p>NCFS</p>	
<p>2. Topic: Ownership of Nisga'a Lands recognized by the governments of Canada <i>NTL – going through our northern territory. NTL project stopped due to Gitanyow.</i> NLG has been concerned about the Hanna-Tintina. We have stated that the Hanna-Tintina is incredibly important to the Nisga'a Nation. The project has 30 days to address environmental assessment requirements. The Nisga'a Nation is directly engaged. We have constitutionally protected rights.</p>	<p>Provide follow up on results of Hanna-Tintina activities to address environmental assessment requirements</p>	<p>Lands & Resources</p>	

<p>3. Topic: Taxation <i>We should be allowed to pay taxes so that we can be prepared when 2013 comes around.</i> Our administration has offered a program to NLG employees for savings as if they were paying tax. Personal income tax – the Director of Finance has been working with Revenue Canada in regard to their program where they train the trainer to prepare personal income tax returns.</p> <p>Topic: Personal income tax <i>Need for public education about personal income tax.</i> Public education will be provided.</p> <p>Topic: Community Volunteer Tax Program <i>Will there be training provided?</i> We will provide public education.</p>	<p>Director of Finance to work with CRA to provide info on preparing personal income tax returns</p>	<p>Finance</p>	<p>Director has arranged to have CRA come to valley and provide workshops in all 4 villages on taxation.</p>
<p>4. Topic: Nisga'a Commercial Fisheries Opportunity fund <i>No financial help from NLG, yet we have millions of dollars sitting in government. How long does it take to make a decision on what is going to be done with this money?</i> This fund is currently at \$13.6 million. Work is in progress to establish policies and procedures for this fund.</p>	<p>Report on progress to establish policies and procedures for Fisheries opportunities fund.</p>	<p>Finance/Fish & Wildlife</p>	
<p>5. Topic: NCG <i>I don't understand the NCG. They've been there for 10 years</i></p>	<p>That NCG provide financial</p>	<p>CEO/Director of Communication</p>	<p><i>Suggestion has been</i></p>

<p><i>now. Consists of high profiled people – don't know their role. Wish I could get their financial statements. I can't find anything about NCG, no financial reports, be good to get their own detailed financial reports. Wonder if this can be posted to the NNKN website.</i></p> <p>NCG set up for one important reason – under the Treaty – to capitalize on economic opportunities negotiated under the Treaty.</p> <p>NCG financial statements posting on the NNKN website – good suggestion and is something I will have to look into.</p>	<p>statements on NNKN website</p>	<p>s</p>	<p>forwarded to NCG</p>
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FINANCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Several of the questions related to issues pertaining to funding

- *Small business Development Fund Act – maximum contribution? – how much avail, and where from*
- *How many approved*
 - *turn around time for approved projects*
 - *edibility if bad credit –*
 - *After care to ensure succeed*
- *What is the maximum contribution to individuals?*
- *Will credit history affect people who apply?*
- *Equity - have cash but no assets – do I qualify?*
- *Outstanding loans – what happens in act if default – will it affect future eligibility?*
- *For Village Governments, the number of successful business funded*

- *Economic Development funding – can't access VG funding*
- *Nisga'a business, \$900,000 was provided for 21 projects*
 - *How many successful?*
 - *Involved youth?*
 - *This funding needs to be tied to an Economic Development strategic plan as a goal could be to assist youth in developing home-based business?*
- *5% equity for youth; adults are 10%; youth should be made to pay 10% like adults*
- *Marry SA to economic development funding*
- *Reference was made to 16/37 as a source and TRICOR*

RESPONSE FROM NLG

We can compile a list of businesses without personal information that have been approved through the Small Business Development Fund.

Economic Development staff work closely with TRICOR pending circumstances of the file, e.g. confidentiality. NLG has no jurisdiction in the process for Village Government Economic Development Funding.

The contribution policy does not set out minimum or maximum amounts. The guide is the Act, and its rules and regulations. Applicants are encouraged to leverage other sources of funding.

Additional option for bad credit applications 16/37 Community Futures is an organization who will look at high risk plans. However, it shouldn't affect applications to NLG, as NLG reviews the business plan rather than the individual's history.

Under the NBDFA, after care isn't in the current contribution policy, but is being looked into. Budget appropriations are made annually based upon budget work plans. Monies come from the FFA.

There is no age limit for youth in the Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act. For the two year period: 2008 to 2010, the majority of the funded projects included Nisga'a citizens, Village Governments and corporations. The 5% youth/ 10% for adults equity requirements will be reviewed.

PROPERTY TAXATION

- *Property tax levels*
- *Chart showing levels over \$125,000*
- *whether the Province or NLG is taxation authority*
- *When this may take effect*
- *The BC assessment process: if BC administers this, how will this impact Village Governments*
- *How will ratepayers pay tax if no jobs*
- *Property tax department*
- *The need for public education*
- *The need to be more fully informed as NNKN and newsletter doesn't always work, sometimes need public meetings*

Related to this, question arose about

- *Property taxation and insurance from homes, need fire hall, plan*
- *Home insurance – not aware we are not reserves*

NLG RESPONSE

Property taxation is a great source of revenue for large municipalities with high property values and many homes. The Nass has fewer homes with lower tax revenues. With administrative costs and distributions to health board, school board, etc there won't be much left to distribute to VGs. It will be up to each VG to set priorities.

The amounts referenced are for each year, not monthly.

Information on tax rates will be sent out (by the taxation authority) when details are more formalized.

Village Governments (VGs) will likely need to coordinate their land title offices with BC Assessment and assist in dispute resolution.

The differences are if BC or Nisga'a Nation is the tax authority: if Province is the taxation authority, little work from the VG besides aiding in dispute resolution and land title

coordination. If the Nisga'a Nation is the taxation authority, WSN will decide who will administer NLG or Village Governments.

To generate income for to base, currently looking at employment issues of the Nisga'a Nation, one example is through the NAS & NTL.

On whether VG budgets will change due to taxation, this depends who the taxation authority is, and if WSN decides that NLG or the Village Governments administer property taxation.

WSN will make a decision early/mid 2012 and based on that decision resources will be allocated.

Regarding public info, work will continue in the area of providing public education. As we move closer to a decision on the issue of property taxation, more information will be provided.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PLANNING

These questions related to the need for economic planning, and included suggestions for:

- *Economic development strategic plan*
- *Regional economic development conference*
- *5 year economic development plan*
- *Gitmaxmakay business plan re: halibut quota*
- *Tourism: there has been no business dev in tourism*
- *Fish business plan – halibut licenses*

NLG RESPONSE

The last plan was done in 1998. Work is in progress to develop an economic development strategic plan. We are targeting mid-November 2010 to implement the strategy.

Economic development strategic plan will include everyone, including the youth. There is no age limit for youth in the Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act. For the two year period: 2008 to 2010, the majority of the funded projects included Nisga'a citizens, Village Governments and corporations.

In the near future in coordination with the Villages and Urban Locals to host an economic development conference.

Any plan developed is specific to the Nisga'a Nation.

The Gitmaxmakay application falls under the Nisga'a Commercial Fisheries Opportunity fund.

Not every Village Government has economic development officers.

Tourism will be included in the strategic planning process for economic development.

FISCAL MATTERS

Several queries related to fiscal matters such as

- *FFA increases*
- *Research & Negotiation loan – borrowed to negotiate treaty*
- *Settlement trust – use parts for language and culture*
- *Financial statements – a question of definition i.e. designated cash*

NLG REPSONSE

The FFA increases include adjusters every year, there are other factors such as population. Our funding is based on population year-to-year. What we ask for, and what we get can be different.

This is money that was borrowed by the Nisga'a to negotiate the Treaty. As of the most recent NLG financial statements, the Nisga'a Nation owes \$36 million. *****

TAXATION

A few questions arose about taxation:

- *Consumer taxation – impact of HST*
- *Personal income tax – need more education*
- *Volunteer tax program – training*

NLG RESPONSE

We will have to review the taxation agreement though we suspect that PST is not specifically mentioned. Rather Excise Tax Act is referenced so changes to the Provincial Act would flow through Taxation Agreement.

Public education will be provided (has been recently provided in October 2011 on personal income tax returns) and on the Community volunteer tax program.

OUTSTANDING DEBTS

There were a number of questions relating to outstanding debts:

- Outstanding debts owed to NLG by citizens
- Outstanding loans – repaid?

NLG RESPONSE

NLG is looking at options to recover the funds, and has undertaken amendments in the Nisga'a Government Act.

OTHER TOPICS

Of the remaining topics, they included the following:

- *Business development increase in cost of food*
- *Cedar markets*
- *Nisga'a highway class c*
- *Holdbacks listed*
- *Assembly – costs & who pays*
- *Wills and Estates and land entitlement: address issues of what happens to NVE of deceased*
- *Resources – they explored our territories during negotiations*
- *Social Assistance - \$175 per month – credits*

- *NCG - deficit*
- *Student loans – payoff assistance*
- *Cemeteries – privatizing*
- *Urban home program/ renovation – policies and procedures – 10 grant limit*
- *Elder package – how viable long term*

NLG RESPONSE

The Elders Package has not been scheduled to be eliminated however there are discussions occurring as to its long-term financial viability. With roughly 6000 Nisga'a citizens at \$15k per citizen, the financial burden would be roughly \$90 million. In contrast, the value of the settlement trust at the end of August was \$128 million which does not leave much money left to fund programs and services. As such, we are reviewing the Elders Package to determine whether some adjustments need to be made to the program.

The New Aiyansh Gas Bar and the cedar sawmill are entities of New Aiyansh which we cannot speak into. Encourage you to bring this to the New Aiyansh Village Government to respond.

Highways fall under the jurisdiction of the Nisga'a Lands & Resources development. Encourage you to make that suggestion at that session.

Holdbacks are listed in Nisga'a Nations Financial statements.

There are significant issues involved with wills and land titles. If the registered owner is deceased then it falls to the estate. This has been flagged for further review.

Subsurface resources are included in the Treaty. Any resources discovered belong to the Nation.

Respecting Social Assistance levels, there are many credits available to individuals with low income to reduce their tax burden from credits to rebates. NN can also extend more credits in Property Taxation if NN is the taxation authority.

Respecting student loans, NLG does not have programs to pay off student loans. It's a personal debt.

Designated cash is Capital Projects and can only be spent on Schedule C – that's why it's listed separately.

Respecting privatizing cemeteries, each of the Villages develop their priorities for economic development.

Respecting Urban Housing/ Renovations program, there are only 10 grants available per year.

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW UPS FROM ASSEMBLY FOR FINANCE REPORT

These identify comments, questions, or suggestions any of which result in some form of follow up.

Comment, Question for follow up, Suggestion	Potential Action	Department	Result
<p>6. Topic: Approved business plans <i>How many businesses, and what type of businesses have been funded by NLG through the Small Business Development Fund?</i> We can compile a list of businesses without personal information.</p>	<p>Compile a list of businesses without personal information funded by NLG through the Small Business development fund (although check with legal counsel that applicants have waived privacy concerns in making application)</p>	<p>Economic Development Dept</p>	<p><i>Suggestions to be forwarded to Ec Dev Dept</i></p>
<p>7. Topic: Nisga’a regional economic development conference <i>Does NLG have any plans to have a regional economic development conference?</i> Yes, in the near future in coordination with the Villages and Urban Locals.</p>	<p>Host a Nisga’a regional economic development conference</p>	<p>Economic Development department</p>	<p><i>Forwarded to Ec Dev</i></p>

<p>8. Topic: Wills & Estates and Land Entitlement <i>How will NLG address estates of deceased if individual doesn't hold land entitlement?</i> There are significant issues involved with this. If the registered owner is deceased then it falls to the estate. This has been flagged for further review.</p>	<p>Process to address wills and estates issues (to avoid issues if registered owner deceased).</p>	<p>Not an NLG responsibility per se – however, NLG has been proactive</p>	<p>NLG has arranged to have estates lawyer come and travel throughout the valley and independently advise and assist Nisga'a citizens with NVE</p>
<p>9. Topic: Nisga'a Business Development Fund <i>Our people are concerned about the turn-around time for approved projects. Some projects are time sensitive.</i> NLG has recognized this, and work is ongoing to address this matter.</p>	<p>Update on ongoing work to address turn around time for Nisga'a Development fund</p>	<p>Ec Dev officer</p>	<p><i>Item referred to Ec Dev department</i></p>
<p>10. Topic: Property taxation department <i>If the Nisga'a Nation does get into property taxation, are there plans to set up a department? Are there timelines as to determining who will be the taxation authority?</i> WSN will make a decision early/mid 2012 and based on that decision resources will be allocated.</p> <p>Topic: Property taxation <i>Need to be more fully informed. NNKN and newsletter doesn't always work. Suggestion: public meetings.</i> Excellent suggestion for community consultations.</p>	<p>NLG to make decision in early 2012 to get into property taxation or not</p> <p>Also consider community consultations</p>	<p>Executive/ WSN</p>	

<p>11. Topic: Economic development officers <i>Do the Village Governments have economic development officers? The Assembly kit should have had information on the number of successful businesses that were funded. Nisga'a citizens living in urban centers don't know what amenities exist in each Village.</i></p> <p>Not every Village Government has economic development officers.</p> <p>Excellent suggestion to list existing amenities in each Village.</p>	<p>Follow up on suggestions re: information</p>	<p>Village Governments</p>	
<p>12. Topic: Income assistance and economic development <i>Every Assembly I hear about how many of our people are on income assistance. Why don't you marry economic development with income assistance? Economic development needs to be looked at seriously.</i></p> <p>We will review this to see what options may be available.</p>	<p>Review marrying economic development with income assistance</p>	<p>Economic Development/ Programs and Services/ Finance</p>	
<p>14. Topic: Outstanding debts owed to NLG by Nisga'a Citizens <i>What is being done to collect those debts? Some of the people who owe money are</i></p>	<p>NLG to look at options to recover debts owed by Nisga'a citizens to Nation.</p>	<p>Finance</p>	<p><i>One possible example of responding to demonstrate that it is leading by example: NLG has instituted this</i></p>

<p><i>now either government employees or elected officials. There are rules and regulations in place that state these people cannot owe the Nation money. It's only fair to the Nisga'a Nation that these debts be repaid. It's not fair that only certain people benefited from Treaty funds.</i></p> <p>NLG is looking at options to recover the funds.</p> <p>Topic: Outstanding loans Whether for fisheries or economic development – what is being done to get these loans repaid? These monies came from the Treaty. If these loans are not going to be repaid, I qualify for the money because it came from the Treaty funds.</p> <p>I don't have a complete analysis on all the loans. To the best of my knowledge we haven't forgiven any loans. We will continue to review this matter.</p>			<p><i>policy as part of its amendments to Nisga'a Government Act in respect of elected members of WSN who owe debts to any level of Nisga'a Government</i></p>
<p>15. Topic: Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act <i>After care – does the Act set out a provision for NLG to ensure that these businesses succeed?</i></p> <p>This isn't in the current contribution policy. We can check this out.</p>	<p>Look into aftercare resources available to help businesses receiving development fund act funding</p>	<p>Ec Dev Dept</p>	
<p>16. Topic: Business development – outstanding loans <i>Does the Act set out a</i></p>	<p>Check into provisions of Fund Act respecting</p>	<p>Ec Dev Dept</p>	

<p><i>provision for individuals who default? And how would their future eligibility be affected?</i> We have not crossed that line yet. We will check into this.</p>	<p>default</p>		
<p>17. Topic: Language and Culture <i>Settlement Trust – suggest use the interest to fund language and culture, and student loans. Use these funds (interest) once every ten years.</i> Chairperson of this session, Peter Lambright, indicated that he will address this at the Executive.</p>	<p>Address use of interest from settlement trust to fund language, culture and student loans</p>	<p>Peter Lambright</p>	
<p>18. Topic: Fishing business plan – Gitmaxmak’ay re Halibut Licenses <i>Would like to further discuss this plan with the Economic Development Manager. The door is still open for Mr. Mercer to meet with the Society.</i> Work is in progress to set up meetings with the Urban locals.</p>	<p>Set up meetings with Urban Locals to discuss business plan on halibut licenses.</p>	<p>Ec Dev Dept</p>	
<p>19. Topic: Economic development strategic plan <i>What does it entail? What is it about? Is it about coordinating economic plans and marketing? When are we going to see this strategic plan? When is it going to</i></p>			

<p>come to the communities? The way we're doing things is very limited. It's time that tourism becomes the big-ticket item for us. Example: Grease trail tours – why aren't we doing something? We're not marketing ourselves. We have had so many lost opportunities.</p> <p>The last plan was done in 1998. Work is in progress to develop an economic development strategic plan. We are targeting mid-November 2010 to implement the strategy.</p>			
<p>20. Topic: Tourism We are 10 years into the Treaty and we have no business development in the area of tourism. What have we accomplished in the 10 years? I understand that implementation has been taking place, and continues today.</p> <p>This will be included in the strategic planning process for economic development.</p>	<p>Tourism to be included in strategic planning process.</p>	<p>Ec Dev Dept</p>	
<p>21. Topic: Nisga'a business \$900,000 has been provided to date for 21 projects. How many have been successful? How many involved youth? Economic development strategic plan – will this include youth? How can we assist the youth in developing home-based businesses? What is the age for the youth?</p> <p>Economic development strategic plan will include</p>	<p>Involve youth in the development of the Economic strategic plan</p>	<p>Ec Dev Coordinator</p>	

<p>everyone, including the youth. There is no age limit for youth in the Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act. For the two-year period: 2008 to 2010, the majority of the funded projects included Nisga'a citizens, Village Governments and corporations.</p>			
<p><i>22. Can applicants with urgent renovation requirements take a loan to get the work done and still be eligible for the grant to repay the loan?</i> We receive well in excess of 10 applications per year. Apologize for the poor communications, this will be addressed.</p>	<p>Ensure that Nisga'a citizens are aware that there are 10 grants per year for urban housing program</p>	<p>Finance/ Director of communications</p>	
<p><i>23. My question regards the "Elders Package", I have heard that this package will no longer be available after the year 2012, is this true? It has been said that the reason that this going to be stopped is because they are running out of money, is this true?...If it is, my other concern is if there is no more funds for this is maybe because the Lisims Government and Village Government is paying themselves way to much money, travelling around too much to attend meetings when there is a perfectly good building to have these meetings in Gitlxt'aamix, after all isn't that why the Lisims Government Building was built for? Thank You</i></p>	<p>Review elders package to determine whether adjustments need to be made to the program</p>	<p>Executive</p>	

<p>The Elders Package has not been scheduled to be eliminated however there are discussions occurring as to its long-term financial viability. With roughly 6000 Nisga'a citizens at \$15k per citizen, the financial burden would be roughly \$90 million. In contrast, the value of the settlement trust at the end of August was \$128 million which does not leave much money left to fund programs and services. As such, we are reviewing the Elders Package to determine whether some adjustments need to be made to the program.</p>			
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FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

HUNTING & MONITORING

A number of the comments were directed toward hunting & poaching issues:

- *I stopped one of the trucks, and asked them where they were from, and they stated they were from Montreal. They didn't get the hunting license from NLG, they got their license from the fishing shops in Terrace. If they deplete the bulls in the Nass area, they'll be no mature bulls for the amount of female cows in our area?*
- *Considering the decline the moose population, when there was a huge population it was easy to harvest the moose in January February and so on when there was a lot of moose, we don't get the opportunity as other people do. Can we consider changing the moose harvest timing?*
- *Dates for harvesting moose purpose appear designed to make it harder to harvest the moose*
- *Concerns over enforcement against harvesting of just bear claws and laws of general application to enforce them*

- *Grizzly bear monitoring and if the bears taken down by conservation monitors or by private individuals*
- *bear education*
- *Monitoring the Non-Nisga'a that come into the Nass valley to hunt and harvest fish and oolichans. Non-Nisga'a get first shot at the moose before we even get out there to hunt*
- *A toll booth for entering the Nass Valley to prevent poaching*
- *When will enforcement of wildlife equal fisheries*
- *Who's monitoring our neighbors (Gitanyow & Gitxsan) in regards to moose hunting?*

NLG RESPONSE

Dates for harvesting moose purpose was based on consultations with hunters. In regards to the dragging issue during the oolichan fishery, we are concerned about that as well.

From the wildlife meeting, we asked that a message be sent to the Gitanyow regarding the lack of moose in our territory and that's the most we can do. We sit on a committee that made a decision that we were going to go to Gitanyow to inform them with the issue of the depletion of the moose. Only 1 moose in the wildlife area, not sure if they have lived up to the agreement. We now have an enforcement team that will be monitoring our land and water.

We do have an enforcement team now that will be monitoring closely. It is a joint enforcement team between Fisheries & Wildlife.

We have no control over the people that go into the Ksii Aks, we do have monitors that will be trying monitor all areas.

There are laws of general application in regards to wildlife our enforcement team will be looking at that protection training, will make an enquiry regarding the laws

Suggestion about toll booth will be taken back to the authorities

FISHERIES

In respect of fisheries, the comments were as follows:

- *Impact of Coho management on sockeye fishery*
- *Market fishing with a wooden hook for fishing halibut and a Nisga'a Charter Association.*
- *pink salmon issues, and in odd years the money for pink is good as opposed to even years*
- *IS permits are sold in New Aiyansh and Prince Rupert since Rupert has done so at their own expense*
- *In regards to the Ksii Aks, I have not seen an enforcement officer in the Ksii Aks. We have a lot of sport fishers in the Ksii Aks.*
- *Why sell the fish for \$1.00/pd when you can sell it for \$4.00/pd?*
- *The Ts'imshian band has full control over their water*

NLG RESPONSE

At the time when the coho fishery was decided we were dealing with our allocation of our sockeye. If we go over our entitlement of sockeye we have to pay that back in future years. In terms of management, we were looking at the numbers of sockeye still in the river.

In odd years the money for pink is good as opposed to even years.

We have no control over the people that go into the Ksii Aks, we do have monitors that will be trying monitor all areas.

We'll check into the Ts'imshian's full control over their water, I'm not sure if that's the case. We're working on details regarding the sport fishermen, we are looking at a fee \$35/day.

OOLICHAN

Regarding oolichan, participants at the Assembly asked the following:

- *Oolichan fishing dragging in the dogfish bay area which is closed during oolichan season.*
- *Who's monitoring the Ts'imshian when they fish for our oolichans?*

NLG RESPONSE

We do have a monitoring program in respect to the oolican fishery.

Oolican fishing, dragging in the dogfish bay area which is closed during oolican season.

CRAB

In respect of crab, the issues were:

- We've requested that the boundary be moved outside of Kincolith. *Can Kincolith themselves move that boundary? Are the non-Nisga'a fishers that fish for crabs being monitored?*
- *During Crab fest we had a lot of sport fisherman in Kincolith with no license.*
- Total catch for crab
- *Concern: Commercial Crab fishermen in the Kincolith area*

NLG RESPONSE

We did a survey a few years back and found a lot of information that we do have a lot of crab in the Nass River. The commercial crabbing has 6 weeks out of the year. The village of Kincolith would have issues regarding the move of the boundary (legal issues).

There was a huge flood and damaged a lot of the equipment, Blair spent a number of days trying to rectify the issue. We received \$162,000 a year and were not able to attain it this year. We didn't pull the program, the money comes from the federal government and we're still trying to get it back.

When we relate the commercial crab study, we have done a study that entails a good supply of crab.

Total catch entitlement: 54000, 20000 Marine/25000 In-land fishery

FUNDING ISSUES

Regarding funding issues:

- *Why has the LCT not been utilized for the NF program and wildlife*

- *Maybe it's time we lobby the mining companies and fishing guiding companies for contributions towards the fisheries programs.*

NLG RESPONSE

We are using the conservation trust that provides us with resources along with NLG. Fishwheels-commercial group-market. Repay NF program.

GINGOLX HATCHERY

In respect of Gingolx Hatchery:

- *Questions on the kind of damage was done to the hatchery during the flood that caused it to close*
- *If it will it re-open*
- *Still waiting for an answer from the government.*
- *Recommendation - at the next fiscal budget that the hatchery be a priority.*
- *Queries about funding for hatchery because of no water*

NLG RESPONSE

Yes we're doing what we can to re-open the hatchery, the president has written a letter to re-open and are awaiting a response.

Damage to the hatchery was structural and also was due to issues around the water supply. Ice jam was part of the problem but the weirring ponds in the winter there is no water. It's too cold plus the filtration issue.

In respect of a petition, it did not reach WSN which it was probably intended to go. The money we were given 26 years ago is the same amount of money we received today but costs changed and increased over the years. Realistically we'd need 250 thousand a year to run it

We haven't given up hope on the hatchery and still waiting for an answer from the government. When we relate the commercial crab study, we have done a study that entails a good supply of crab.

Pink contract Issue will be brought to CEO, I believe the CEO answered your letter at special assembly. The hatchery issue will be fought for, we won't give up

on this issue. In odd years the money for pink is good as opposed to even years.

RIVERS AND ENVIROMENTAL CONCERNS

In respect of rivers and environmental concerns:

- *When is Xginx going to be included in plans to monitor it,*
- *Our river needs to be looked at in regards to the depth of the river (it's shallow).*
- *Impact of global warming in our numbers of fish*
- *Forrest fire training for the men and woman of the Valley*
- *Proper garbage disposal at the government dock, economic opportunity*
- *Marine motor training?*

NLG RESPONSE

December is when we do our planning for the up-coming year and that's when we'll take into consideration for Xginx River. Fishwheels, we'll take another look at the process and make sure that the broodstook not be too disturbed.

A number of other governments are taking note of the global warming.

We're looking into the dredging issue. We do have a monitor on the river.

In regards to the dragging issue during the oolican fishery, we are concerned about that as well.

The government dock is an on-going discussion, respect where you are.

Marine motor training we'll get information on that, we'll do a survey on that

NLG RESPONSE

We are using the conservation trust that provides us with resources along with NLG.

NISGA'A COMMERCIAL GROUP (NCG)

On the Nisga'a Commercial group, the comments included:

- *Why does the NF program have so many fish wheels, trucks and vessels.*
- *The commercial group is getting all the fish when the fishery's are closed*
- *Conflict of interest for the commercial group when it is owned by the Nisga'a*
- *We are using the conservation trust that provide us with resources along with NLG*
- *Fish wheels-commercial group-market - repay NF program*
- *Disappointed that there was no Ice delivered at the Greenville landing during the IS*
- *Why sell the fish for \$1.00/pd when you can sell it for \$4.00/pd?*
- *Is there an opportunity for an individual to export our salmon to sell to other companies.*

NLG RESPONSE

Lisims Government provides us with direction, N & F harvest the fish for the commercial group with a contract. Trucks, vessels and fishwheels are required of Government operations.

There has been a change in companies. Arthur Mercer is the CEO for Nisga'a Commercial group. Sea Alaska is purchasing the salmon along with one other company.

In respect of opportunities for individuals to export, you can contact Arthur Mercer.

Re Ice delivery, Harry will bring the issue back to the Nisga'a commercial group.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In respect of career opportunities, participants commented:

- *The IS fishery with people that have jobs is an on-going issue*

- *Kind of education do your employees have from level 1 to 5*
- *Availability of funding program to go into the fisheries program*
- *The politicians and people that have full-time jobs allowed to go IS fishing?*

NLG RESPONSE

The technicians have the following training: for Tech 1: grade 12 and knowledge of the fish species, good health.

You need to apply to the trustees with an education plan, similar to what you'd have to provide to the village governments.

Re Politicians & IS fishery, the IS fishery with people that have jobs is an on going issue, will bring this issue to WSN.

ITEMS FOR FURTHER FOLLOW UP FROM FISHERIES REPORT.

Comment, Question for follow up, Suggestion	Potential Action	Department	Result
<p>1. Topic: Moose Hunting Question with respect to monitoring of non-Nisga'a moose hunters on Nisga'a lands</p>	Under Enforcement?	Fisheries & Wildlife	
<p>2. Our river needs to be looked at in regards to the depth (it's shallow). We're looking into the dredging issue. We do have a monitor on the river.</p>			
<p>3. Sport fishermen without licenses at Crab fest We're working on details regarding sport fishermen, we are looking at a fee of \$35/day.</p>	Provide update	Fisheries & Wildlife	

<p>4. What's happening with the salmon enhancement program? What have you done to rectify the problem regarding damage done to the hatchery? Damage from flooding – Blair spent a number of days rectifying issue. \$162 received annually from federal government – but were not able to attain the funding this year. Attempting to reinstate funding to keep Salmon enhancement program going.</p>		<p>Fisheries & Wildlife</p>	
<p>5. Concern/disappointment no ice delivered to Greenville landing during IS. Director will bring matter to Nisga'a Commercial Group</p>			
<p>6. Why are the politicians and people that have full time jobs allowed to go IS fishing? Director committed to address the issue at WSN</p>		<p>Fisheries & Wildlife</p>	
<p>7. Can we consider changing the moose harvest timing? <i>Were consultations in setting current date.</i></p>	<p>Follow up</p>	<p>Fisheries & Wildlife</p>	
<p>8. Xginx – monitoring as it is the biggest producer of steelhead, pink, Chinook, Coho, etc. December is when we do our planning for the up-coming year and that's when we'll take into consideration for Xginx river. Fishwheels, we'll take another look at the process and make sure that the brood stock no be too disturbed.</p>			
<p>9. Question with respect to marine motor training Marine motor training, we'll get information on that, we'll do a survey on that</p>	<p>Provide more detail, trustees of?</p>	<p>Fisheries & Wildlife</p>	
<p>10. Issue of poaching in the Nass</p>			

<p>Valley, wondering if there can be a tollbooth put outside the Nass Valley for entering the Nass Valley? We do have an enforcement unit started. Tollbooth will be taken back to the authorities for consideration.</p>			
<p>11. Bear Monitoring/Enforcement: Where is the enforcement? Is the enforcement going to be there to protect the animals or the people? What happens to confiscated bear claws? Laws of general application apply with respect to wildlife. Enforcement team will be looking at the protection training Will make an enquiry re: bear claws</p>	<p>Follow up on inquiry re: bear claws</p>	<p>Fisheries & Wildlife</p>	

LANDS & RESOURCES

HIGHWAYS

- *Road from Gingolx to past Lava lake, Nisga'a law is to give Nisga'a a name on the owners trap line. There is a name one chief's trap line. Second question is why and when are the trees going to be removed from side roads that are too close to roads?*
- *Expresses concerns on sidewalks in the community Is our road level going to be changed from Class level C to a higher class*
- *People can believe we can to a better job with snow removal. Committee should reinstate highways committee*
- *The highway into Kincolith, there is two areas that are of great concern that is the sinkholes that are showing on the highway. The community has fought for a long time to get a highway. What are you guys willing to do to upgrade the sinkholes?*
- *Class C highway is what we are graded as, and not salted or sanded half the time, we have to equipment and manpower to look after our highway?*
- *Suggestion that on Nisga'a highway is drive BC and to install a camera on top of grizzly*

- *The government Doc road from the Gingolx village to boats belongs to Lisims Government when is the road going to be fixed? (Village government of Gingolx wants the section of the road turned into part of the highway)*
- *The road from Greenville to Gingolx, trees are like tunnels and need to be cut back. When will the roads be improved?*
- *Regarding right of way, who grants right of way? Should it not be brought to council before granting right of way?*

NLG RESPONSE

Road - Need to meet with Ayuukhl regarding names Ministry of Transportation will review with Lisims. Will discuss with Ministry of Highways in terms of right of way clearance.

Sidewalks - within the communities is the Village Government jurisdiction. Winter highways fall under class C due to insufficient number of vehicles using highways. Rule of volume is 5000 per year for the ministry of transportation to consider moving to another level. This is for Industrial level of traffic on highway as well as commercial. Made an effort to change but not successful, until classification changes we have to stay at Class C.

We used to have a Highways committee before treaty. Introduction of Henry Moore, mentions that Henry works with the ministry of transportation and maintenance contract to ensure things are done properly. Keeping the guys honest, you are correct we have a committee, discussion on highways construction act, ministry of transportation are involved, issues brought up on winter roads are ongoing and is up to executive and add on to lands and resources committee

To add more on points, don't have a legislation of authority over highway. They meet regularly with Ministry of Transportation. People are very displeased with seal coats in Beupre area. Winter maintenance; as we met with them twice a year. Stated there will be a meeting with the ministry soon, to ensure appropriate contacts are presented and will meet them after winter to see how things went with road condition. It was mentioned Henry sits on committee to see how things went; people play a different role to see how things are and how they see. Issues go straight to administration in Terrace and also let Henry know of any situation. Also Henry keeps a log of all complaints and brings the log to the meeting in the spring. Contractors don't have a lot of pull on how ministry of transportation to higher contractors. Nechako has a large region... should break to smaller pieces, working on that and ministry suggested that might be possible. Continue to ask Ministry of Transportation to hire local contractor, i.e. Greenville, Canyon.

Re: Highway to Kincolith - to answer problems with highway system are huge, the ones that are identified are large and we have been talking to the Ministry of Highways. NLG

is now involved with the discussion. At the present maintenance with Nechako do annual program with band-aid work. They develop a summer project of repairing a highways, crack sealing, pot holes etc. much to our disappointment because highway to Kincolith is a provincial highway, provincial standard highways; supposed to have a life span of 20 years. The highway to Kincolith was open 2002, with the huge underline issues, hopefully will be able to address with ministry of transport. If the sink holes still exist, may not have gotten to patch holes this summer, maybe next summer they will get done.

Re: Highway Class C - The comments are noted for maintenance contractor, will bring back to committee, through Lands and Resources Some of our own equipment are used more, but does not answer questions here, not sure in substantial over the year. Highways been classed C, our politicians will need to take and bring attention to the Provincial Cabinet.

Some questions arose, how can be become sub contractor? We investigated and conclusion was sure we can sub-contract to local, we looked at figures and length of highways, how much will an individual earn, and the result would be a break even process. Our goal is to make a profit. So nobody went for it and was provided to each village. For the class C we have argued that many times, to improve the highway users, we must be able to show that we can reach 500 vehicles per day on a stretch of highways and a number commercials and industrial users using the highway in order to progress to the next class.

Grizzly Hill - Camera on grizzly hill is in our favor, as well as lighting. Camera is not good on highway due to darkness.

Re: Government Dock – Ownership of government dock road lies within Gingolx land, and therefore is their jurisdiction. Village Government of Gingolx wants the Section of the road turned into part of the highway. We are in process of the pre mature* of Nisga'a highway; we now review a formal letter that was drafted by lawyers. We have to include a section of the highway in Gingolx.

Roads are younger to Gingolx but are deteriorating rapidly. Need right of way from Sand Gainor bridge, we are treated as less priority than other highway, will get signs of ASAP for logging roads.*

Points out the highways well being towards Nass Camp. The Deputy Ministry of highways was there and we got an update on the road to Nass Camp, they mentioned they would bring this into consideration.

Also, the back road from Nass Camp is now single lane traffic and we are pleading with Lands and Resource to bring this up to the executives and the Ministry of Highways. The classification of highway is a concern, when hydro is shut off, and it becomes state of emergency, when this happens it becomes expensive. Consider as a priority that to better the talks with Ministers and not with bureaucrats, that the highway is priority.

These talks need to be government to government. UBCM coming up and will be talking to Gitwinksihlkw, we need to put in the concern of our maintenance and highways.

Rights of way - Highway right of ways and Village right of ways are different. Village can grant right of way in community. Highways right of way is granted by the Ministry of Highways. Nisga'a highway is owned by province.

LOGGING AND TFL

- *Disagrees with logging. Are you going to ask them to look at the valuable resource before they log there, this is valuable trees, our medicines come from there?*
- *Cellulose had a TFL, river was filled so it would rise; was supposed to be taken out when there logging was done, but this was not done here*
- *Poaching going on cedar logs. Trucks leaving with a hoard of wood, if Lisims is aware of it why are they leaving during the night. Loads of wood seen going out have not originated on Nisga'a' a lands;*
- *Why did Nisga'a not buy TFL#1?*
- *Re Forest restoration, what projects has benefited us? We should know what project benefited us?*
- *What about forest companies come into harvest? Hydro project – what is the status of the project now?*
- *Pubic license was going to under review what is that status of that today? Looking at stats form 132,000 down to 40,000 is a drastic downfall of cut, part of reason is there is a delay in getting approvals and different issues on the blocks*
- *Questions on logging what is the policy to prevent logging road to wash out?*
- *Visual buffer, regarding logging around Lava Lake? Visual buffer is not there*
- *Nisga'a law is to give a name on a Nisga'a owners trap line. There is a name one chief's trap line*
- *Second question is why and when are the trees going to be removed from side roads that are too close to roads?*

NLG RESPONSE

We know where there is log poaching and do regular patrols. No resource for sting operations. People cutting behind garbage dump, will talk to you on that later, need

details; have to classify and open a file on that and send an enforcement officer on that. Require more evidence from you Eric on allegations of what you reported , especially Nass Camp, Vetter Lodge

Non-timber forest products that have been approved for logging, how assessed and other values protected. We tried to do assessments of blocks to ensure that we have taken an inventory of what other uses that may be, and the impact of logging such as devils, club, and other species. We tried to incorporate into site plans, Pine mushroom areas cannot be logged, this is in our policy. One area is TFL holder across the river, where there is a dike.

Re: benefits of reforestation - Logging in 1987, the company was responsible for putting back the forest after logging. Cost in restoration, amount of money is staggering; ministry has no interest in carrying this. In 2005/2006 we identified expense to complete restoration.

Re: logging and washouts, all blocks have geotechnical engineering; recommendations will get written into the operation plans, blocks must be logged in accordance with operation plan; as, this will minimize the risk of any landslides and road failures. Yes, we do have very detail reporting done by geotechnical engineers.

Buffer - the visual buffer a around Lava Lake is Crown land, under tenure, Tsimshan land, personal limits on those standards, establish to B.C. Government, tenure holder are expected to meet and I believe they have exceeded standards. Also, asked to review those standards.

Public License - went under review in 2010 and replaced in May, reviewed to ensure the requirements were met, in regards logging sites issues here and there the compliance is quite good, audits corresponded with the volume. There is no reason to issue a new license, was passed through the review. No enforcement out in plan has been approved. Starts in 2010 and expires in 2014.

Second answer is related to the undercut volumes. Not surprising we have a large undercut, no detailed calculation. Direct representation of areas. Wood not marketable, mass undercut of Nisga'a lands, no plan to have it allocated under existing legislation. Keeping track of it and will present any decisions. Delays and approvals on blocks, we do hold them to a high standard. We are obligated to do that, make sure the blocks meet legislation. Requirement and policies and also include necessary protection so things happen properly. It sometimes does delay things, but large of list of approved blocks, but not marketable to move.... Situation we get a short term market =blimp, sometime get some that need to happen fast....fully accept responsibility for getting things approved and working on getting g things to get dealt with, if doesn't meet the standard. Nothing we can do with forest Act.

When you say status of report, you meant approving the renewal of public land license, we review fairness of licensee, review process is done in house and is still ongoing.

Sand river logging, north of Anuu'al, current logging activity have to follow their plans, leave the buffer with certain limits for benefit of fish habitat.

Class A provincial park. No favors to have cut blocks on lava. Obligated to work with coast Tsimshian resources and their visual studies prior to logging, we want to change and they ignore it, they have changed configuration of their blocks. Need to get standards changed or they are going to continue logging there.

TFL 1 - We didn't buy TFL#1 because we were outbid by coast Tsimshian. Receiver is obligated to take the higher bid.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT ISSUES

- *Have a band list of 400~500 on reserve, need more land base to build more houses?*
- *I received grant money from the Village Government and brought to bank and was mentioned that you need a job to pull through the ropes to build a house. A recommendation is needed. To keep bank happy and village government happy as well.*
- *Recommendation that we use provincial Local Government Act and Community charter rather than develop independent Nisga'a legislation. May be more cost effective. Nisga'a legislation needs to be framed within the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Will pass on comment to legal drafters.*
- *Two major renovations and found out he is not qualified for renovation grants.*
- *Insurance on homes*
- *Homes need to be insured and houses are not up to par, proper renovations. Need to take these things into consideration.*
- *Indian Affairs had comprehensive money for planning, for land, Wish to expand land in Gingolx. Cannot get anywhere and need nations help to build property. Request for nations help in building a new subdivision*
- *Regarding emergency access road outside of our community, we require two roads and we should consider the future*

NLG RESPONSE

Grant money - In terms of land title I cannot advise on how you should proceed on your building. If you had fee simple title it would effective village government from the procedure would be just between you and the bank.

Village Government as they have jurisdiction over housing, we are the support group for Village governments. Village administrator has to write a letter to insurer to state there is an active fire department

Local Government Act - Nisga'a legislation needs to be framed within the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Will pass on comment to legal drafters.

Insurance on homes - Needs to be taken up by Village Government

Subdivision - Request received and transmitted. Generally a matter for Village Government.

Two roads - This is an ongoing matter in regards with the access roads, is in progress with the Village government

MORTGAGES

- *People have to understand that if they default on their mortgage they can lose their house and car.*
- *Mortgage is a big deal, difficulty in the process. Nisga'a citizen support, is it from Land title office or Village government? Need clarification? If this Landholding act is voluntary, in one does volunteer do they lose any rights? In regards to the Landholding Act?*
- *Why are we looking putting mortgages in home and no diverse work force? No employment to capitalize mortgage on the house?*

NLG RESPONSE

Default - Underlying title to Nisga'a Land is with the Nisga'a Nation. It is true that individuals can lose their house if they default on a mortgage.

Mortgage - statistics in report are from the Landholding Act, assists people. This is Dorothy's department. Provision of assistance is not generally resulting in tenures. In regards to Village Government holds the land, you have a right to possess that land, so it is between you and Village Government. If it is fee simple land then the Village Government has no say on that land. Ownership resides with you.

Mortgage/ workforce - The question needs to be addressed to decision-makers as opposed to staff. It is not a compulsory to get a mortgage.

LANDHOLDING LEGISLATION

- *When does this landholding come in effect? When we take our property in to the bank to get a loan? Insurance on home?*
- *What is the time-line, the targets to complete it all? People are getting tired of waiting. What are the real time lines?*
- *Fee simple lands - When an individual decides to enter into an agreement and their mortgage defaults does it go into the bank or to the individual?*
- *When you do get fee simple ownership, for a home or business, does Nisga'a Lisims Government or the Village Government have a backup in case banks take over house? What happens to an existing mortgage of an entitlement if land is granted in fee simple home?*
- *How far are we in the Land Transition Holding Act? Are there supported way of documents going to the bank of securing mortgages? We know this Act is coming into force this year?*
- *If I was to venture into a business and go after fee simple lands to put my business on, do I have to turn my residence into fee simple.*
- *Need clarification in regards to Landholding; How do you go about applying for land for Economic Development? Example; building a hotel/motel.*
- *Second question is regards to the drama that happened towards the Vetter fall lodge? There was not one person in charge and a lot of the community was concerned about the loss of the land. Is there a way of keeping the powers that be? Is there a channel that can be used specifically in this type of ideal?*

NLG RESPONSE

Timeline – for legislative elements is up to WSN. Each Individual Village will not be able to take advantage of legislation until it has adopted a zoning law. Timing is up to the Villages, approximately six months until first village is done. The Individual Landholding Project is a fairly large package to complete. Timeline is roughly six months, optimistic date is 2011. Lands and Resources Directorate has no control over the timing. Third element is zoning laws to be enacted by Village Government. Working diligently, six months is realistic.

Business Venture - It depends, what I can tell in order to mortgage a property it needs to be zoned, you need to get mortgage grants for your business, and you can use that money for whatever you want. The issue is whether or not you can take that business in to your home or not, is up to the Village Government. Confusion was this is a business on another property and put into the home. If you want to mortgage a property for business you cannot get fee simple ownership it stays with the Village Government.

Bank - Yes, if an individual holds Land entitlement and chooses to get fee simple themselves to enter into an agreement with the bank, if they did not enter agreement with village then indeed, if the mortgage as defaulted, then the bank will sell it anyone. Should the individual have fee simple they can sell to a Nisga'a or non Nisga'a.

Fee simple - There could be administrative or legal processes in place such as a right of first refusal to the village or Nation, but they are not built into the legislation. If a mortgage defaults, the bank would be free to sell the fee simple interest to anyone. With respect to a mortgage of an entitlement, the question should be addressed to the Directorate of Finance.

Economic Development - Answer varies depending on where land is located, if land is within Nisga'a village, then it lies under Village Government. If outside village, then will fall under Nisga'a Lands, you apply through Lisims Government. If you have a Nisga'a village entitlement and want to set up a business, if in zoning by-law then you can do that, if you turn into fee simple property.

There have been ongoing discussion between NLG legal counsel and bands (Villages) - are they going to satisfied with response? Response is favorable for a work program to support citizens. Are there are amendments to legislation; should be complete within 4 to 6 months; support to the village to complete zoning bylaws. Timeline is early next spring.

WILLS

- *Whether we look at the situation on lands, because they talk to people from a living will. Thought the broad situation was going to be good, but remember the expense is to achieve the land. Monies raised for the Nisga'a lands.*
- *Wills and estates, controversy, elders have willed property to families?*
- *In regards to where we will gain with the individual with village entitlements, mentions was working with individual. Files are pending because they don't have will... frustration is very high in regards to the steps they have to take, where does it leave individual?*
- *Living will not supposed to be opened until decease. Why did they open*

- *What happens to the individuals in regards to Wills and Estates? Where one spouse has passes on; what is going to happen with the individual*

NLG RESPONSE

Purchase of the land cannot question what is happening to our Nation. Thanks for transfer of lands to families (speaking Nisga'a), Called Nisga'a Village entitlements now attempt to follow what is in place. Our Land Title Office has made attempts to correct. Wills are legal documents and recognize the authority that comes from a will.

Wills and Estates continue to be a problem. Before final agreement federal government is responsible to notify everyone, law was going to change. Provincial government wills and estates were going to apply. Has created issues in regards to old wills. Our legal department set up a series of workshops, for wills and estates outstanding.

Gain - Have no affect on wills and estates, as set out on Final Agreement, provincial laws apply. People will have to go through same step, as in the current system, no change at all.

Living will – This will be followed up on specific issue (letter to be provided by September 27) In general, provincial laws apply to estates of Nisga'a citizens. Wills and Estates Project may be of assistance.

Wills project - NLG has provided the resources to assist families to address Wills and Estates. We will continue. Without that assistance, it can be costly.

WASTE MANAGEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- *In reference to waste management plan and environmental matters. Recycling program may have high cost over runs. Can this program create more employment, Is there environment damage and has it been looked at in bearing of metal in the landfills? Is it an economic bearing and has the commercial group looked into this?*
- *In regards to environmental private holding; there is a log cabin business and dumping of garbage into an area; mentions concerns of garbage dumped into water, contaminates spawning area.*
- *Also, dumping protection, drive down old Aiyansh road, two kilometers in a piece of property with iron, takes a beating of our land, these highways we build on our own dollars, who monitors dumping of our land?*

- *Our Nisga'a' a people leave garbage, we have to call them on that, if you are seen leaving garbage, you do not get a permit next year. Need to call our own people on bringing garbage on our own land, need to build into issuing permits. Time to take ownership and protect our lands.*

NLG RESPONSE

No risk on water supply on adjacent logging lands.

We did complete a waste management project and operating plan to the village government and to my knowledge they are following that plan. Application to INAC to fund that plan, will be brought to executive

- cannot answer what commercial group is examining
- all ideas are welcomed

Require more evidence from you Eric on allegations of what you reported, especially Nass Camp, Vetter Lodge.

Responds to enact legislation to protect our environment, don't have environmental protection in place yet to cover Nisga'a Lands. Federal and Provincial protection is in place that affects Nisga'a Lands. Refer to chapter 10 of Treaty Act as it identifies areas that are covered. Does not have legislation yet and is under consideration. There is a lot of work involved; costs too much to draft. For environment assessment we follow provincial act outside of Nisga'a Lands. We are following Provincial Act closely and to answer your question is not foreseeable in regards to Legislation act.

Still a big debate amongst our people in that area, talk to elders, we are still moving too fast. From elected body stand point we are maintaining a balance. We are always talking about sustainability, our obligation as aboriginal leaders to discuss these issues.

Dumping of garbage, fuel, oil and leaving equipment on Nisga'a Land, we do regular patrol of lands and see people have dumped on certain areas; is cleaned up by summer students most of the time. Putting signs no dumping is not sufficient. Private land that cannot be touched, old Aiyansh land is private, no solution other then education and telling people no dumping. Larger things like equipment, a lot more serious, have dealt with some in the past, as logging operation in regards to oil leak; we treat it before they leave the site.

PUBLIC ACCESS

- *Need to stop access to roads. Is there anything done to tse'ax landing, are we going to stop access to this area? Need n in regards to Park designation, should be Nisga'a Parks, need to stop access to best fishing areas. Has there been consideration provincial parks?*

NLG RESPONSE

If property is purchased by Lisims government, should this go to people when property is purchased, our people should know. CEO will respond. This is of a sensitive nature, discussions are underway of certain estates, like Nass Camp, confidentiality, and we cannot go into detail of specifics. Access on Nisga'a Lands in general, outside Nisga'a' a Lands and private lands. An individual with proper fishing license has the right to fishing.

PUBLIC LANDS

- *A review to be done in regards to public lands, with commercial group; conflict of interest. Need to know and need some answers that we start practicing of si' itgum goot?*

NLG REPONSE

Regarding review of public lands license, the tenure is renewed by the commercial group. In process of carrying out the review of public lands at present.

NTL AND HYDRO

- *The Northwest Transmission line has lot of activity; do they have an actual start date? Another issue is the transmission line, Nisga'a need to be involved*
- *All you hear is X number of Treaty dollars yet we play down empathy [sic] of resource, this is the future of resources treaty was given to start things off. Mainly this is resources,*
- *B.C Hydro is going up, rebates, how are discussion going? Because hydro is paying less for the resource, NLG stop pursuing run of river, isn't there a way NLG can continue to reduce? Put towers on our land are those being talked about? We as a nation will see a reduction in what we pay today?*
- *There has been discussion on training on our people to work on the hydro lines.*

NLG RESPONSE

NTL - The Hydro project start date is sliding and we have a lot of work to do, have requested one month delay and we have indicated start date in early 2011.

Hydro - I am part of the group, expect a meeting with hydro, all details are confidential, all is considered as part of that package. Mentions that all I can tell you that the discussion with hydro are at a deliberate pace and is slow; all that can be said level of discussion is bringing up those matters. We are not prepared to show our hand on what is discussed in details of discussion with Hydro as this is an ongoing matter with the process. On assessment work our people are being hired with Nisga'a commercial group. My perspective is deliberate and at a slow pace.

GEOTHERMAL AND HYDRO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

- *Water – how many decalitres did the nation end up with? Why aren't we trading with the Arabs? Can we trade or sell our water?*
- *Geothermal energy, one of our companies has inquired from NLG for permission to explore. A company in Vancouver offered big money. Letter went to NLG and I have not seen an answer*

NLG RESPONSE

Water reservation - In regards to water question, the volume of water is in the treaty; can't sell water from our reservation.

Geothermal - The company to explore for geothermal is linked into legislation. The executive determined we cannot imply as we don't have mechanisms to apply. Timeline indicated a draft available early in the year 2011.

SUBSURFACE RIGHTS

- *For the sub-surface rights, are working on legislation to enable us Nisga'a to do some work on Nisga'a lands? Is there any timeline on having legislation in place*

NLG RESPONSE

There is no definite time on that; we have legal in-house counsel to draft the sub-surface and energy legislation. Had several meeting between experts and officers, initially looking at October for a draft. May be update made to exact in October/November - to be realistic possible by January.

FOREST FIRE SUPPRESION/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- *Second question is regards to the drama that happened towards the Vetter fall lodge? There was not one person in charge and a lot of the community was concerned about the loss of the land. Is there a way of keeping the powers that be? Is there a channel that can be used specifically in this type of ideal?*
- When are we going to have a team in place to respond to those issues?
Expresses his sorrow for all those involved, they were not told they were not trained to take the job, as these people are volunteers. Take my hat off the Rod Moore who had enough courage to say we cannot go up there, until we are aware of what we are doing, he was all by himself facing 30 people.
- *Admiration to handling the fire; how should we establish the communication as a nation? How are we going to communicate to establish a timeline and get to the elders in a sufficient manner? How do we minimize it?*
- The EOC or PEP in regards to the recent fire and how pertains to L& R. Who has jurisdiction to evacuate communities? Need clarity?

NLG RESPONSE

Vetter Fall Lodge - With respect to communications systems, to my understanding, the fire department has their own channel. It is my duty to attain the stance of the actual fire. Mode of communication is relying on people being calm and responsible; at the same time we did not know how bad the fire was and we needed to analyze the situation. To get authority at the site to determine how bad the fire actually was, it took time to get full extent exactly what was going on in the situation.

The approach we took was the risk we took to attain the fire. Find people who were equipped and had the training. In this case it took a few hours to get this done. We have to discuss this at Lands and Resources meeting as to how the fire was attained. The Committee is going to make a recommendation to executive to put in place some education and training so this does not happen. Include training for people in the community to rectify panic modes as we intend to take steps to prevent emergency situation.

From Committee's stand point, need to work together with each Village Government, to build the capacity for that type of program. Need to relay to each village the procedure, education and training.

Team to respond - With respect to the fire, a team is in place, first responder in terms of wildfire, knowing the standards to have a team in place, equipment, experience is the most important. In order to have a team go out there, they need to have a lot of experience. To get experience, need to go out there more and fight fires. This issue has been brought to the Land and Resource Committee. There is a process in place in B.C. to get this certified and will take resources to get established. Need the will power,

people and experience, equipment; note this is more than one year process. This is the second recommendation made to committee.

Handling fires - it is unique about this area, fire is new thing, and last one was 2004. Need to make sure that the firefighters are safe. Yes, we are lacking in communication and education. Some fire smart pamphlets were brought into office. Need to be an effort within the community and NLG to contain fire in the first four hours.

Emergency Response -The incident commander is RCMP has jurisdiction of evacuation.

VARIOUS SITES

- *Cranberry Junction – there are a lot of dangerous elements coming into the Nass, like heroin, ecstasy. Does Lisims have jurisdiction?*
- *If Fishery Bay is a heritage site, not building around it, suggested bringing everyone and seeing the site and having their opinion. Most of the fishermen down there now would not allow anyone to jump in there and put their camp in there now. Lisims should try to give a hand on building trails and this will bring tourism into the site*
- *Brings up catch 22, I own a house in Kincolith, Ango'sokw don't move your house to fishery bay. Heard individual to get a license to build at Red Bluff.*
- *If Fishery Bay is a heritage site, not building around it, suggested bringing everyone and seeing the site and having their opinion. Most of the fishermen down there now would not allow anyone to jump in there and put their camp in there now. Lisims should try to give a hand on building trails and this will bring tourism into the site.*
- *Talking with village government to help him in repairing his lodge at Doolan's camp. There should be some compassion for him, he is a hereditary chief and elder of our nation: would the fee simple land agreement benefit him? Or land it sits on crown land. So the financial aspect is his own responsibility, cannot get assistance from NLG?*
- *Roads upgrade, the government did not live up to its responsibility. In regards to fishery bay, when are you guys going to spend a million dollars on fishery bay to beautify fishery bay?*
- *Supports comments made from Stewart Doolan; would like to know about Mill Bay? Mill Bay is a fee simple property,*

NLG RESPONSE

Cranberry, In order to investigate in regards to the environmental issue, you should report to enforcement people to get the exact location. In response to transformers, cat site, we need to investigate, but need evidence. Need Eric's assistance on evidence. yes we own the property, camp is not on our property;

Mill Bay is a fee simple property, was purchased separate from Nisga'a lands. Does not apply under the Land act, so is an asset in the same way as a house in Terrace. Procedure is to apply by letter to Lisims and will forward to executives.

Red Bluff, License issued by executive to an individual to establish an Oolichan camp in red bluff, I.R. 13, granted a license of occupation to carry out Oolichan fishing, areas that belong to Port Simpson has a license on Nisga'a Lands.

In regards to the repairs of Doolan's camp, is under fee simple project, the answer is no, can't protect home owners. Nisga'a Lisims Government can enforce crab fishing. Landholding has nothing to do with fisheries. Can look for assistance from other places. Bert Mercer you can ask about that.

Land Use Plan is coming into forces for the Oolichan camps, zoned as a heritage zone. To develop a management plan is difficult and a very sensitive subject, there is more pressure coming in regards to this subject. Doolan's right to build whatever building he wishes, will be working with Doolan's camp and identify what the problems are there.

Fishery Bay, Trails was brought up through community consultation, access is a bigger issue. Should there be any access to camp. Some wanted road. Efforts should be made to bring the trails up to standard. Parking is another issue. All will be brought to NLG committee; we will try to find what will work best. Bring in a surveyor, manuscript plan is suggested.

MUSHROOMS

- *Old village is on mushroom area, guys getting a cutting permit for woods and misuse their permit and selling the wood. What is being done in regards to supervision?*
- *Mushroom season – the west side is closed, the west side of Skimaal, would like to see East side closed and leave for Nisga'a only?*

NLG RESPONSE

There is no logging going on in Gitlakdamix watershed. Not happening.

Mushroom season – the west side is closed, the west side of Skimaal, would like to see East side closed and leave for Nisga'a only? Quinatal access, the decision to remove the bridge is a safety issue to leave open. It needs full reconstruction as there is a liability issue. Quinatal Bridge is for Nisga'a only.

OTHER TOPICS

- *Are we going to use the B.C. Assessment? Can we bring them in right now so we can have something to look at?*
- *For the companies not in your act, are there restrictions as to joining ownership? Property tax and assessment is there something in the act that talks about assessment? Cell phone towers? No signal is there a plan in future for cell phones?*
- *Concerns related to a transfer of an entitlement by Land Title Office staff. What happens in this situation?*
- *One thing bothering me is what safeguards have you given ownership against growing of illicit substances? And who is responsible for that?*
- *Question asked about lands, Ango'oskw was signed away, have you found out about the lands signed away?*

NLG Response

BC Assessment - This is a question for finance department.

Joint ownership is only if you are a Nisga'a Company, for outside Nisga'a Lands is opened and in terms of property tax land holding and acts in general property tax is not an issue that has come up yet until 2013.

As for the property taxes in land tenures any taxes might be payable are the responsibility of tenure holder, no way of assessing land title outside of Nisga'a Lands, need to be aware of risk if you have land outside of Nisga'a lands.

Cell phone is an ongoing issue, Telus is interested, as there are some areas we have on the forefront and we need to address that, but that is all that can be said right now.

Registration; Will follow up directly (initial follow-up September 16, - research and letter to follow by September 26. Difficult without specifics.

Ownership safeguards; It states that we are responsible for contaminants into river, but we do not have environmental laws in place; however, we have to use the current provincial and federal laws to assist us to carry that out. As far as monitoring how people behave on private property, or an area that is not actively done within the law, we do react to reports from individuals in regards to the Land and the public. Currently how we operate at the moment, we have an enforcement team in place, we have them actively out on the land now and have them visible to the public. One area that needs to be considered, current priorities with fisheries, wildlife, mushrooms and timber; however, your issue bears some consideration.

Signed away; Land Use Planning process, brought up issue of swamp point, signs put up on behalf of wild life, correction on Harry Nyce, not Henry Nyce.

ITEMS FOR FURTHER FOLLOW UP:

Comments, Questions for Follow up, Suggestions	Potential Action	Department	Result
<p>1. Road from <u>Gingolx</u> to past lava lake, Nisga'a law is to give a name on a Nisga'a owners trap line. There is a name one chief's trap line. Second question is why and when are the trees going to be removed from side roads that are too close to roads?</p> <p>Need to meet with Ayuukwhl regarding names. Ministry of Transportation will review with Lisims. Will discuss with ministry of highways in terms of right of way clearance.</p>	<p>To discuss with Ministry of Highways Right of Way Clearance:</p>	<p>Lands & Resources Dept</p>	
<p>2. Topic: alleged impropriety related to a transfer of an entitlement by Land Title Office staff</p> <p><i>What happens in this situation?</i></p> <p>Will follow up directly (initial follow-up September 16, - research and letter to follow by</p>	<p>Lands Registrar will look into any concerns provided specifics are provided about any concerns.</p>	<p>Lands Registrar.</p>	

<p>September 26. Difficult without specifics.</p>			
<p>3. Topic: Wills <i>Letter stating daughter and husband are owners of their home. Will was made out she would get the house. Living will not supposed to be opened until decease. Why did they open a living will at the time when not supposed to be open until both were deceased and put daughters name on the house?</i> Will follow up on specific issue (letter to be provided by September 27) In general, provincial laws apply to estates of Nisga'a citizens. Wills and Estates Project may be of assistance.</p>	<p>To follow up on specific issue respecting wills on letter to be provided by Sept 27.</p>	<p>Lands Registrar</p>	
<p>4. Topic: Review of public lands <i>A review to be done in regards to public lands, with commercial group; conflict of interest. Need to know and need some answers that we start practicing of si' itgum goot?</i> Regarding review of public lands license, the tenure is renewed by the commercial group. In process of carrying out the review of public lands at present.</p>	<p>Provide update on process of review of public lands</p>	<p>Land & Resources Department</p>	
<p>5. Topic: Restricting access to areas of Hlginkglkw. <i>Need to stop access to roads. Is there anything done to tse'ax landing, are we going to stop access to this area? Need to stop</i></p>	<p>Provide update on Nass Camp acquisition</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>At the time of the question, was a matter still under discussion. Now can clarify that</p>

<p>access to best fishing areas. Has there been consideration in regards to Park designation, should be Nisga'a Parks, not provincial parks?</p> <p>If property is purchased by Lisims government, should this go to people when property is purchased, our people should know. CEO will respond</p> <p>This is of a sensitive nature, discussions are underway of certain estates, like Nass Camp, confidentiality, and we cannot go into detail of specifics...</p>			<p>NLG has acquired Nass Camp.</p>
<p>6. Topic: Waste management plan/environmental/recycling <i>In reference to waste management plan and environmental matters. Recycling program may have high cost over runs. Can this program create more employment, has an analysis been done on running such a program? Is there environment damage and has it been looked at in bearing of metal in the landfills? Is it an economic bearing and has the commercial group looked into this? No recycling program in waste management.</i></p> <p>We did complete a waste management project and operating plan to the village government and to my knowledge they are following that plan.</p> <p>Application to INAC to fund that plan, will be brought to executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -cannot answer what commercial group is examining -all ideas are welcomed 	<p>Provide update on status of INAC funding of waste management project</p>	<p>Village Government of</p>	
<p>7. Topic: Sub-surface rights <i>For the sub-surface rights, are</i></p>	<p>Provide update on development</p>	<p>Lands & Resources/</p>	

<p><i>working on legislation to enable us Nisga'a to do some work on Nisga'a a lands? Is there are any timeline on having legislation in place?</i></p> <p>There is no definite time on that; we have legal in-house counsel to draft the sub-surface and energy legislation. Had several meeting between experts and officers, initially looking at October for a draft. May be update made to exact in October/November - to be realistic possible by January.</p>	<p>of sub-surface legislation.</p>	<p>In house legal counsel</p>	

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Does NLG have a plan to heal our Nation? How much longer are we going to shut our eyes to the fact that our youth cannot see our hope for life? Are our communities aware of the fact that we do not have faith in the words we hear? Just some of the questions I have for the plan to heal our Nation.*
- *The Nation policy speaks to Provincial comparability, in order to capture “true” comparability within the Nation – we must instill “CENTRALIZED” services for social assistance and social development programs, otherwise we are only subject to Nisga’a Village administration INTERPRETATION*
- *Why are we working for comparability in Social Services when we should be leading?*
- *Staffing shortages and being reasonably comparable to the Province is difficult with administering 11 other programs. Consider providing funding for the Social Development staffing and training.*
- *Taxation will mean many changes in departments; we need to prepare.*
- *Hold workshops in school and within the community for each of the 4 villages:*

- *Suicidal prevention*
 - *Stress management*
 - *Money management*
 - *Self esteem*
 - *Work skills*
 - *Discipline*
 - *Parenting skills*
- *Living in the Lower Mainland, we have access to various workshops on suicide prevention, first aide, mental illness etc.*
 - *connecting urban families to home reserves to educate*
 - *A member of this community by birth and choose to live in Vancouver; has tried to get on this committee but because she does not live in the Valley she can't be.*
 - *Terrace Nisga'a or Kermode Friendship Society youth/elders.*
 - *If NLG is going to conduct the Government like western modern ways- then I think that it should be implemented within to prevent excessive phone calls – letter complaints from distant urban citizens. To also avoid conflicting situations from angry citizens.*
 - *Programs & Services speaks to the use of technology in today's day and age. Why is it that we don't have one computer system to link all social development data to NLG?*
 - *Whatever became of the number of recommendations put forth to NLG Programs & Services report?*
 - *Very interested in being involved with the social network – NLG P&S department is very small in terms of staffing to do the work that needs to be done.*
 - *Recommends that the communication flows in a timely manner and more easily from this Directorate; would like to be able to email the Director of NCFS and get an answer to that question asp.*
 - *Support services – personally went to treatment and came back to no support services. Is a child of God and does not need this counseling now but there are others that need these services.*
 - *Concerns in communities with respect to social development files. Need a review of the files of Social Development in our villages – people are turned away and individuals living with parents and children of their own not receiving any assistance – knows of individuals gaining benefits and living off Nisga'a Lands*

- *None of the Programs & Services department has come to Kincolith.*
- *Not pleased with non-attendance of GVG.*
- *Suggestion from previous presentation – why do we not have a place for men and women to share their experiences.*
- *Support services – personally went to treatment and came back to no support services. Is a child of God and does not need this counseling now but there are others that need these services.*

NLG RESPONSE

Nisga'a Nation Healing Plan is being reviewed by NLG and NVHA. There are Nisga'a stakeholders such as the Nisga'a Nation Social Development Working Group (NNSDWG) and School District # 92 (Nisga'a) that are working together to address this complex matter.

The NSDWG is working collaboratively to address aspects of policy including the interpretation of it. Part of the work is to generate common knowledge among the VG Staff. This is why relationship and dialogue is essential. The role of the group participants in contributing to the development of a new policy is based policy development concepts of implementation, alignment and transfer.

As per attached NSDWG Terms of Reference, the intention of this department is to consult with the Nisga'a public once the NSDW has prepared a new policy model to seek input. This speaks to the need for stakeholder engagement on all levels in this case at the grassroots.

Nisga'a Nation SDWG – work ongoing; see attached terms of reference.

NVHA hold workshops on the traditional roles males and females in Nisga'a society.

Idea: This relates to communications and different levels of functioning as there are several of these workshops delivered in the certain villages but not in others. The levels of functioning refer to the individual's levels as well as the VGs. There is lack congruence in the development of P&S where discretionary powers are granted. Guidelines need to be developed for all VGs so there is resemblance (not identical) in VGs program delivery. This is part of the overall ongoing SDWG.

NVHA does provide counseling and are providing training in this area for their personnel.

OUR ELDERS

- *Makes a comparison in the documents of AND and Justice; a total contradiction of our Ayuuk. Very concerned about the Council of Elders discussions. Social Development / dedicated agency approach is total contradiction of our Ayuuk. Makes suggestions to Access to Justice service delivery.*
- *Happy to see that there is going to be an elders gathering; puzzled as to why the elders are not a bigger part of this assembly. Does not know what the powers of the Council of Elders is; concern about name stealing and need the Coe involvement.*
- *Can you work together with Health Board to build an Elder care unit and womens/child center?*

NLG RESPONSE

Elder care; this concern can be addressed at the Peace, Order and Public Safety Committee.

Council of Elders; will be sitting in the house - WSN

OUR YOUTH

- *Who is in charge of YOY?*
- *Would like to see more programs and services in Gingolx for children – sports and recreation. Current programs are restricted to age groups. Wants to see a hot lunch for their students.*

NLG RESPONSE

Director supervises YOY employees.

SPIRITUALITY

- *Comment: Coming to the Nass is wonderful, but it bothers me to witness lack of attendance at church on Sundays. During funeral the church is packed. How come not on Sunday!?*
- *In regards to the drug problem, can you ask the RCMP to use a dog team on the highway?*

- *Can you work together with Health Board to build an Elder care unit and women's/child center?*
- *Spiritual aspect needs to be presented and workshops developed.*

NLG RESPONSE

Thanks for the suggestion.

Will also refer to local churches and Council of Elders.

CULTURE

- *Nisga'a way and feasting/culture*
- *connecting four villages with urban locals to combine programs whether it is Terrace Nisga'a or Kermode Friendship Society youth/elders*
- *Solution more than a question – comment on wording; we have an issue and does not like to use the word suicide – use taken their life – put more emphasis on life. She hears the words like abusers and victims which we do not have Nisga'a words for*
- *Long house needed for justice situations in each community to uphold our Nisga'a Laws*
- *Carving involvement with Alver Tait and lack of funding during projects and completion – suggests apprenticeship programs. Canoes that are incomplete need more funding to do so*
- *Our visions have to change – he put the onus on himself to quit smoking and drinking. Standardization of Nisga'a Language – we need to start with our teachers*

NLG RESPONSES

Suggestions noted. NVHA and individual Village initiative

Language and culture – Nisga'a stakeholders such as WWNI; Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department and NESS are working collaboratively to keep the Nisga'a language alive.

HEALTH

- *Why are some medications not covered? My Doctor from Terrace faxed to Lisims Health (NVHA) no reply, still waiting for agreement to be okay.*
- *Why don't we have nurses on weekends?*
- *NVHA has a representative from each Nisga'a Village – he/she addresses your concerns at the NVHA Board level.*
- *Mental illnesses - is NVHA going to do something about programs and services in our communities.*
- *In PR is there prenatal care / post natal care / post partum depression services?*

NLG RESPONSE

Prenatal care - Referrals for these services can be sought from your personal doctor.

NVHA administers the Non Insured Health Benefits program.

NVHA has a representative from each Nisga'a Village – he/she addresses your concerns at the NVHA Board level.

The services for people with mental illnesses; NVHA did have a Manager for this and does not know if the position has been filled. NVHA has announced that Roberta Stewart has been offered and accepted the position.

There are NVHA representatives present in this room who you may be able to get more specific information.

EDUCATION

- *The most important thing not on our agenda according to the President is education – k-12 up to elders; wants to see a place for elders to go to school witnessed a 65 year old graduate at UBC. P&S is responsible for education.*
- *With all due respect, Nisga'a elders living outside BC receive \$15,000 elders package; so if k-post secondary not living in BC, why are they not receiving funds?*
- *Education Nation Policy: The same – Education is too important to leave to the interpretation of policy up to each village. Would the Nisga'a consider "centralization" of such important funding as Education?*

- *Hot lunch programs for Elementary and High School. Can High school students tag with Greenville for luncheon.*
- *We need sports, need soccer field year round.*
- *Is there any programs or services for high school? Any special programs for special needs?*
- *These men are somewhat very intoxicated or sometimes under the influence of drugs. It is a matter of time before we have a mishap in our area. My question – How is Nisga’a Lisims and the panel helping us educate our youth and young men and ladies of Nisga’a Nation? We need to look at this issue before we lose someone from our community.*
- *Would like to see more programs and services in Gingolx for children – sports and recreation. Current programs are restricted to age groups. Wants to see a hot lunch for their student*
- *Education pre-school to grade 12; there is a need to encourage our students to do better and not lose their drive to learn. Extra-Curricular activities have been cut and probably due to cutbacks.*
- *How and can we get the Nisga’a Treaty and its various departments integrated into the Nisga’a School District and WWNI curriculum so there is a better understanding of where we are at and where we are going?*
- *Education pre-school to grade 12; there is a need to encourage our students to do better and not lose their drive to learn. Extra-Curricular activities have been cut and probably due to cutbacks.*

NLG RESPONSE

Thank you for your suggestions.

There is a Nisga’a Post – Secondary Education Assistance Policy (NPSEAP) on NNKN- this has been approved by the Executive; the policy clearly establishes who is eligible for funding.

School District # 92 (Nisga’a) is conducting “Hopes and Dreams” consultation; also will be included in Inter-Agency meetings.

School District # 92 Board does have a drive to involve the communities in the decision making. With respect to recreation; there is a call for more funds in this area – we need to work with all communities. We need to look at how we can communicate with each other; sharing of information and not duplicating services.

APPEAL, REVIEW, OMBUDSMAN

- *Need an Ombudsman for the Valley that has no connection to NLG.*
- *Concurs with previous speakers and the appeal process needs to be representative of citizens so that they have some where to go with their concerns – needs to have a comprehensive review.*
- *Need input from everyone one – look at elected official representation. In order to develop we need to look at the future.*

NLG RESPONSE

The last comment speaks to the need of a more thorough approach to stakeholder engagement as the people are not feeling heard. In policy development terms it is called socially acceptable. If a policy is considered socially acceptable, it meets the requirements of being fair and equitable. This in effect leads to improved to an overall sense of unity.

In terms of the concept for the appeals process, conflict resolution principles will be part of the training for the NSDWG. Conflict resolution in the context of “appeals” should be considered a policy tool that leads to improved relationships between all, especially as a means to squelch the “us & them” mentality. It should not be viewed an instrument to generate administrative problems but assist in developing a sense of community and belonging. It will help up to build stronger relations with our constituents and eliminate the notion that we are not following our own policy. It is a pillar of democratic process.

With respect to an Ombudsman - there are appeal processes for social development. There are processes that we are working on to be fair and accountable.

NISGA’A CHILD FAMILY SERVICES

- *She thinks her question is for NCFS; in PR is there prenatal care / post natal care / post partum depression services?*
- *Relative gave her kids up as she is very unstable to look after her.*
- *Need support for kids/teens living in another home; my sister’s daughter is 16 grade 11. Needs support for food/clothing and shelter.*
- *Proper chaperone picking. Last field trip got people who didn’t get involved with kids/teens. Reports some chaperones got taken into strip joints and to bars.*

- *It is my understanding from personal experiences that it is Nisga'a Child Family Services to ensure safety well being of children. (How can they speed the process of services for the safety of Nisga'a children?)*
- *Would it be possible to have something in place for broken families? So that children do not lose their home and living arrangements become difficult having to live with extended family. Would like the Village Government to work with MCFD and NCFS to ensure this does not happen.*

NLG RESPONSE

NCFS brings children in care home to witness Hoobiyee and to connect with their families. Ts'amiks Vancouver

Nisga'a Society is currently undertaking the "Journey Home" to all Nisga'a Villages.

When the MCFD does investigations they check to see if the children are safe to remain in the home.

This question will be given to different agencies and will be answered. Personal and Village Government issue.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

- *Will Social Assistance income for people on SA for reasons, short of jobs, medical reasons and will it change with the high economics of the whole BC. Everything has gone up so high financially but social assistance is still the same, low as ever; start to feel like it is a punishment for being on it.*
- *Social assistance – and people that are on it, how will we deal with the HST with the high cost of gas, food etc.*
- *DBL II question for Social Development – why are there different rates for the Nass and Terrace when we are both municipalities?*
- *families are going hungry make changes fast*
- *DBL II question for Social Development – why are there different rates for the Nass and Terrace when we are both municipalities?*

NLG RESPONSE

Director needs to get more information on this and will do more research.

NNSDWG work ongoing – see attached terms of reference

We have clear instructions from the Executive to revise a number of policies; it is very complex and requires training for the social development workers etc. NNSDWG work continues.

POLICING, VICTIM SERVICES AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- *We need RCMP in our community badly. RCMP says up to our Village Government. But we don't have public safety meetings and don't hear from any of our Village Government for support due to having protection. Verbal, physical abuse is bad and scary. Please make sure and get our Village Government to have acknowledged of our people and not themselves. It is so sad when things go rough. We always don't get positive answers, always put away or ignored. Our Village Government is way too busy to deal with the community.*
- *RCMP said it's up to our Village Government to do anything more. I would like more info on POPS.*
- *Restorative Justice services for Urban?*
- *Victim services, student got beaten up on school bus. Does School District get involved with this?*
- *Concern to address with the POPS Committee – regarding and alcohol and drugs; these are flowing in Gingolx. How can we prevent this? Drug dealers wait on the highway to make deals. Too much – 15 young people out on the road and each had a bottle; one man was stabbed and we were lucky that he is okay. We need housing so that we can have an RCMP in Gingolx, this will help the community. Need RCMP more visible; response time is a big problem. There are 3 RCMP in this community and none 15-20 minutes away. There is a smokehouse location that the young people hang out.*
- *We need a holding cell in Gingolx; shares experience of nephew taking acid and having to wait 4 hours for the response of RCMP. This has happened a number of times.*
- *Response time; after-hours calls are taken by Kamloops. He tried to help an RCMP officer hand cuff his son so he would not get hurt; the officer pepper sprayed his son. This POPS committee is not reporting to their communities.*
- *Concerned about RCMP response time – shares personal experience witnessed on VHF.*

- *Justice and offenders – follow up and after care; after-hours calls going to Prince George requiring information irrelevant to the case.*
- *Concern is with vandalism that is happening in all communities – the costs associated with all Nisga'a complexes.*
- *Social issues need the attention of our own policing.*
- *In regards to the drug problem, can you ask the RCMP to use a dog team on the highway?*

NLG RESPONSE

Suggestions noted.

Directors response is that each community receives funds for CPS and they prioritize based on community needs.

CTA addresses the concerns that Gingolx has; there is a draft letter of expectation to be submitted by each community.

CTA and POPS Committee will undertake community consultations in the future by rotating the location of meetings.

Training is a local Village Government issue.

Policing Agreement in place – Village Government's are required to submit a letter of expectation to address the needs of each Village.

Lisims Nass Valley RCMP has in their "Annual Performance Plan" to enhance their school programs and provide programs such as D.A.R.E, the summer youth academy, and to do more proactive patrols.

POPS Committee has been addressing this and is on every agenda since the committee was formed. POPS plans to rotate their meetings so that they can hear from each community and their concerns. 70 files to deal with and there are 99% related to alcohol and drug issues.

Individual Village Governments will be drafting a 'Letter of Expectation' that is attached to the Community Tripartite Policing Agreement that promotes a cooperative working relationship where the villages and police are responsive to particular needs of the community and that enhance the level of policing services.

NVHA has a crisis response program; there is an interagency underway – there are staff available to assist when people are distressed. NVHA has a booth upstairs at this Assembly.

NCFS Program Director has a MA in Social Worker; does not feel comfortable counseling in crisis situation. Males under 25 and aboriginal need family involvement in crisis situations. Families need to recognize the signs and get mental health counseling.

Approach is to direct to restorative action/justice program to utilize house system, Ayuuk. Also brought to Village Government community public meetings for discussion and have community members deliberate and find solutions.

There is a Restorative Justice Program delivered by the Prince Rupert Aboriginal Justice Society; phone number is (250) 622 – 2891.

Police Dog - This concern can be addressed at the Peace, Order and Public Safety Committee.

Suggestions noted.

SUICIDE

- 18 completed suicides this year; and 17 were alcohol and drug related. 60+ active bootleggers. Attended the last assembly in New Aiyansh; will say the same thing that he has at the last 4 assemblies.
- We need a treatment center in the Nass Valley; with a daybed for young people to utilize when it is needed. We need other services for after hours. Yuuhlimkaskw program is very powerful; where everyone effected is heard from.
- Health and education question; realizes that we have representatives on Boards; who represents me and my child on those Boards? Our ancestors had a value system and we don't have that today. Our young men don't provide for their families the way our ancestors have. As a parent – how can we encourage our male youth? The majority of suicides in the Nass Valley are young males.
- She has other comments to make with regards to oppression; she has spoken up in her community and feels like an outcast.
- But still this helped, the counseling did help with the trauma we went through, but some are still traumatized.
- Suicide hurts, we are losing our children she is asking P&S to help the Nisga'a Nation.

- Suicide – we should not lose our young people; grandparents and parents used to say you are not supposed to die before us. Shares his own suicide experience. The only time we talk about suicide is when it happens. We have suicides and no workshops; no discussions. We have a lot of people in our own system that we can utilize and the elders.
- *With suicide we had this for our family, we still needed more sessions, wish we had more days, in this area. We always talked to our family members and, none of these signs showed up, we found out it was not suicide it was a fishing accident that cause his death. But still this helped, the counseling did help with the trauma we went through, but some are still traumatized.*
- *Solution more than a question – comment on wording; we have an issue and does not like to use the word suicide – use taken their life – put more emphasis on life. She hears the words like abusers and victims which we do not have Nisga'a words for. Would like to see our government taking a more serious look at using the language. Encouragement to keep working hard.*

NLG RESPONSE

Thank you for your suggestions.

This is being addressed by many NLG entities and also will be addressed at an inter-agency gathering to be organized by the P and S Directorate.

NVHA has a crisis response program; there is an interagency underway – there are staff available to assist when people are distressed. NVHA has a booth upstairs at this Assembly.

NCFS Program Director has a MA in Social Worker; does not feel comfortable counseling in crisis situation. Males under 25 and aboriginal need family involvement in crisis situations. Families need to recognize the signs and get mental health counseling.

With respect to information dissemination from Committees; representatives are responsible to report back. NLG Communications also can be utilized.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- *Brought this out 2 years ago – alcohol and drug issues; broken families and parenting concerns are results of the residential schools. Heard about dollars that are available for healing. Went to a workshop 2 years ago and could not bring his children with him because of funding constraints. Recommends the panel start looking at ways to deal with the healing that needs to happen.*

NLG RESPONSE

A very substantial proposal was developed under the previous Director; it was not successful under the National Healing foundation this has been shared with NVHA, there is a lot of useful information.

CITIZENSHIP

- *Citizenship cards are a big issue – they are blurry, we need proper equipment.*

NLG RESPONSE

Manager is working to include this in the 2011/12 Provisional Budget.

OTHER

- Noise and bylaw; has been kept awake and her mother distributed a letter with no response. Would like to see something done about it.
- More of a VG question and will be passed on to them.
- CAND – sit as adjudicators within the house system to resolve the problems associated with Nisga’a names.
- NADRБ – need more teeth, independent body is much needed.
- NNSDWG work is ongoing and terms of reference are attached.

Comment, Question for follow up, Suggestion	Potential Action	Department	Result
<p>1. Topic: Does NLG have a plan to heal our Nation?</p> <p>Nisga’a Nation Healing Plan is being reviewed by NLG and NVHA.</p> <p>There are Nisga’a stakeholders</p>	<p>Developing a healing plan for the</p>	<p>Programs & Services Nisga’a Valley Health Authority</p>	

<p>such as the Nisga'a Nation Social Development Working Group (NNSDWG) and School District #92 (Nisga'a) that are working together to address this complex matter.</p>			
<p>1. Suicides and relation to alcohol and drugs. Comments regarding bootleggers. Need for treatment centre in the Nass Valley, services for afterhours. This is being addressed by many NLG entities and also will be addressed at an inter-agency gathering to be organized by the Programs & Services Directorate.</p>	<p>Communicate what is inter-agency approach to suicides.</p>	<p>Programs & Services</p>	
<p>2. How can we get the Nisga'a Treaty and its various departments integrated into the Nisga'a School District and WWNI curriculum so there is a better understanding of where we are at and where we are going? School District #92 (Nisga'a) is conducting "Hopes and Dreams" consultation; also will be included in Inter-agency meetings.</p>	<p>Refer to Communications & Intergovernmental Relations to initiate curriculum development with schools</p>	<p>Programs & Services Communications & Intergovernmental Relations</p>	
<p>3. In regards to the drug problem, can you ask the RCMP to use a dog team on the highway? Can you work together with Health Board to build an Elder care unit and women/child centre? This concern can be addressed at the Peace,</p>	<p>Provide update if the matter has been discussed at POPS Committee</p>	<p>Programs & Services</p>	

Order and Public Safety (POPS) Committee.			
Connecting Urban Families to home reserves to educate in Nisga'a way and feasting/culture NCFS Brings children in care home to witness Hoobiyee and to connect with their families. Ts'amiks planning "Journey Home" initiative	Update on Journey Home	Programs & Services Ts'amiks	
Residential schools – alcohol and drug issues; broken families and parenting concerns are results of the residential schools. Recommends panel start looking at ways to deal with the healing that needs to happen. Substantive proposal to National Healing Foundation was submitted, but not successful. Proposal has been shared with NVHA, as the information is relevant and useful for any future endeavors	Consider following up on healing proposal	Programs & Services	
4. Support services for individuals returning from treatment centre NVHA does provide counseling and are providing training in this area for their personnel.		Programs and Services NVHA	

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

LANAGUAGE

- Without Nisga'a language and culture – who are we?

NLG RESPONSE

Without language and culture we have no identity.

ROLE OF ELDERS

- *What role will Simgigat have in governance of our Nation?*
- *Where is our authority? The authority of the Simgigat and Sigidim-haanak”?*
- *Today we have to apply for licenses and permits to be on our own lands, to get resources on our own land.*
- *Taxation on 8% of core lands – already gave up so much.*
- *Encouraging that Council of Elders to be present in WSN – to speak for us, e.g. to government/entities.*
- *Council of Elders to exercise authority to advise the Ayuuk for dealing with name controversies.*
- *It’s time we demonstrated “listening” love – role model what is right to our children.*
- *Would you consider having a workshop where the featured panel is the Council of Elders?*
- *The information stored inside each elder is so valuable and they were only given a few minutes. Our culture is what governs us. It gives us our identity. Our language is considered to be severely in danger. If either of these is lost we will no longer be Nisga’a. No longer be unique and then we will just no longer be. It seems that this is of vital importance. Time is of the essence*
- *I will volunteer my time and available resources as a Nisga’a citizen to assist you in making this happen.*
- *I would LOVE to see the spiritual aspect of our Nisga’a Culture brought out in our Programs and Services. It’s there...within us; we just have to allow access through training, workshops & one-to-one consultations. It will bring balance in the heart, emotion, physical & spirit of an individual.*

NLG RESPONSE

The Council of Elders are a group of Simgigat and Sigidimhanak and their mandate is to guide, advise on any cultural issues that arise within the governance of the nation, as well as to maintain peace.

Authority - this will be referred to the Elder's Council It's time we demonstrated "listening" love – role model what is right to our children.

Nisga'a Elders conference being considered

As of October 2010 Council of Elders participate in WSN

Name Controversies – Suggested role is being noted.

Programs and Services suggestion - Being noted. Workshops, etc. can happen through Village Government Programs and Services Dept. as all Village Governments receive dollars for these purposes.

ADAWAAK

- *Want to hear Nisga'a stories.*

NLG REPONSE

Nisga'a stories can be heard through ones own Wilp. Some stories can be accessed through the schools within the nation.

AYUUKHL

- *Why are Ayuuk being broken; why allowing to break Ayuuk?*
 - *Joking in feast of Haniitxoogum wiyitkw (feast of mourning)*
 - *K'aats – if not corrected now will be harder to fix. They should not be allowed in feast hall*
- *To all Nisga'a leaders – don't just know language and culture, but role model Ayuuk*
- *Our culture is what governs us. It gives us our identity. Our language is considered to be severely in danger.*
- *If either of these is lost we will no longer be Nisga'a. No longer be unique and then we will just no longer be.*

NLG RESPONSE

Issues such as this can be forward in writing to the Council of Elders, or may be asked directly of to the simoogit of ones own Wilp.

Without language and culture we have no identity.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

- *Is Executive applying to “Truth and Reconciliation” to reconcile our future? E.g. Residential school impacts – loss of language.*

NLG RESPONSE

Being noted.

SOCIAL ISSUES

- *Why are young men committing suicide in the Nisga’a Nation?*
- *NESS student was handcuffed out of the school; another fell on the floor from being drugged up – why?*
- *It’s time for all governments and elders...Directors to come to our schools; BRING HOPE!*

NLG RESPONSE

There are Nisga’a agencies who do provide programs and services. NLG meets regularly with stakeholders and everyone is working hard at all levels to provide more services.

Youth arrested at school - issue pertaining to the POPS committee and Justice Dept.

RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING NATIONS

- *Is Nisga’a Nation government willing to address “injustices” affecting Nation matters? For example*
 - *the repatriation of totem pole in Prince Rupert now being claimed by a neighboring nation*
 - *Easy access to resources in upper Nass watershed by neighboring nation*
 - *Council of Elders / Ayuukhl Nisga’a be the adjudicators of conflicts/controversies to do with our Nisga’a names.*

NLG RESPONSE

Will forward to the Council of Elders for discussion at their next meeting.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BENEFITS OF THE TREATY

Occasionally it is useful to remind ourselves of the cumulative benefits of the Nisga'a Final Agreement over the last 10 years. The Officers took the opportunity to provide a summary to the Special Assembly of some of these benefits.

1. Village roads improved.
2. Highway connection to Gingolx.
3. Fishery Bay – we've been given direction not to provide easy access into Fishery Bay. Nisga'a Fisheries Committee is the Committee to look at possible improvement.
4. Economic development – this was developed early into the Treaty which eventually led to the Business Development Fund Act to provide the Nation with opportunities in economic development.
5. Economic development funding to the Village Governments and Urban Locals.
6. Training dollars to the Village Governments and Urban Locals.
7. Tax rebate which is shared amongst the Village Governments.
8. Nisga'a Youth Councils have been developed and funded by NLG.
9. Community Preventative Program fund was created on savings from Nisga'a Child & Family Services. This money can fade away as NCFS moves forward.
10. Management Information System funding is provided to each Village Government.
11. enTel
12. Urban home program: renovation grant and new home purchase grant.
13. Sports & recreation – \$100,000 in our budget for Sports and Recreation. We will most likely revisit this in our final budget exercise.
14. Nisga'a Elections, whether it be general or by-elections, we no longer need to go to Canada/BC to have our elections. Citizens can go to the NADRB if there are complaints about our elections. During one election one whole Village Government was removed, the Executive had to address this and a joint decision was made to appoint individuals to oversee the operations of the Village.

15. Code of conduct for elected people. Since 2000 we have had to remove 2 individuals.
16. Nisga'a Commercial Group (NCG) is owned 100% by the Nisga'a Nation. One of most difficult things to do was sever the ties of economic development from government – this needed to be done to avoid conflict.
 - a. We were informed recently that 3 of the NCG Board of Directors will be stepping down from their duties. NLG will look at filling these positions with Nisga'a.
17. Nisga'a Foundation; The Nisga'a Foundation was established by NLG but has not been funded. We need to move forward to establish a Board of Directors to oversee the Foundation.
18. Nisga'a Commercial Opportunity Fund
 - a. Implementation of the Treaty is more time consuming than when we negotiated the Treaty, therefore, we had to be careful to feel our way through the process.
19. Contributions to this Fund:

Canada	=	\$5.5 million
BC	=	\$5.5 million
Total	=	\$11 million
20. Shortly after effective date, the Nisga'a Nation authorized an allocation of \$3 million to assist with the fishery fund. That fund is now well over \$13 million. We will work with BC and Canada regarding license opportunities. We have made some suggestions of people who have a lot of experience in the commercial fishery to assist in building a model.

SETTING PRIORITIES

COMMENTS MADE BY THE OFFICERS & THEIR REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

In addition to the responses provided by the staff and panels, the Officers also compiled a summary of replies to questions that arose during the Assembly.

Employment

How do you bring more jobs into the Valley?

This is a critical area we are engaged in through the Nass Area Strategy (NAS).

Financial Resources

Urban locals have a difficult time meeting its budget requirements.

Every year in March pre-budget exercises occur for Urban Locals, Village Governments and Institutions. Pleased that this exercise is working. The Nisga'a Finance Committee is listening as well as the Executive.

Funding allocations

In 2002, the Urban Locals received \$538,000 in fiscal transfers from NLG. In 2010, the Locals received \$1 million, an increase of 310%

Nisga'a Lisims Government

In 2002, NLG's operating budget was 19.1 billion. At 2010, NLG has received a mere increase of 8.9%

We've heard the concern.

Fishery Bay

We need to ensure that Fishery Bay is protected. How is NLG addressing this?

Fishery Bay is of strategic importance to the Nisga'a Nation, we will continually review the management plan to ensure protection.

Enforcement of Nisga'a Laws

Enforcement of fisheries laws to ensure that we are not overtaken by sports fishers.

Enforcement of Nisga'a laws in Villages is carried out through an Agreement with the RCMP (under the Community Tripartite Agreement). Within this CTA is a "Letter of Expectation" which provides the Nation with an opportunity to state what we expect from the RCMP.

Commercial Fisheries Opportunity Fund

The concern with regard to when the Commercial Fisheries Opportunity Fund will be operational.

There will be a panel of expert Nisga'a commercial fishers to begin planning – we expect to move forward shortly.

Nisga'a Child & Family Services

Concern with regard to child protection off Nisga'a Lands – e.g. Vancouver.

Under the Delegated Enabling Agreement we have the ability to increase services we provide to Nisga'a children not only in the Nass but also in Terrace and Prince Rupert. We are in the planning process to get to level 16. We hope to get that next year. Once achieved we will have the ability to engage BC to provide those services in the lower mainland.

Wills and Estates

Will this project continue?

NLG has provided the resources to assist families to address Wills and Estates. We will continue. Without that assistance, it can be costly.

Individual Landholding Project

When will this project be implemented?

Nisga'a legislation will be considered at WSN, and if approved it will take somewhere around 6 months to implement before we are in position to issue this.

Highway 113

Issue of treacherous roads and request for NLG to dialogue with BC to improve Nisga'a Highway classification from level 'C'.

This issue will be brought to the attention of the Director of Lands and Resources.

Emergency Preparedness System

Recent wild fire – wake up call to improve

The recent wild fire we were faced with was a wake-up call to improve our Emergency Preparedness system. This has been noted.

Subsurface resources

Research is ongoing in this area. In order for this to proceed, there'll be a need for consultation.

Taxation

What is NLG's plan for taxation?

Public education has begun in both property taxation and income tax. The objective to ensure transition is smooth.

NCFS

Child welfare strategy

Andrew Robinson has gained a lot of experience, and has indicated that he would like to meet with NLG. We look forward to dialoguing with Andrew.

Communication

10-year annual report

Will ensure this is improved. We are always open to suggestions.

Council of Elders' handout

No time to address. In near future I hope to have an Elders gathering and that one of the communities will volunteer to host this gathering.

Youth

Been talking to the youth who will also be involved. They will be fundraising to participate.

Financial resources

Those who are conducting traditional feasts, this is a plea to the Wilp to consider the Nisga'a elder's gathering at the time of disbursement of funds.

Council of Elders

Is a new group of people established through the Treaty. Past leaders in their wisdom saw the need to safeguard our culture. We are more or less watchdogs of the government to ensure we don't infringe on Nisga'a Ayuuk. COE also reviews issues relayed to COE by the government (NLG).

Areas of concern regarding cultural issues

As a Ganada, I cannot speak into another pdeek. Role of elders in these issues can perhaps be addressed at the upcoming elders gathering.

Nisga'a language

Children are at school most of day, rest of the time they're at home. Time for families to be responsible to teach your children the Nisga'a language.

Fishery Bay Boat Launch

Fishery bay boat launch – will have to be planned by existing owners.

Gingolx Salmon Enhancement Program

NLG did not withdraw funds, the Department of Fisheries & Oceans withdrew its funding. The work that is being done is not going to be lost through the funding freeze.

Nisga'a Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund

This fund is now at \$14 million. We can't take the capital otherwise it will kill the Trust fund. The interest earned is allocated to the Nisga'a fisheries program.

Home insurance

Each Village Government should get together to bring insurance agencies to the Nass. This type of consultation is important.

Urban Home Programs – request for increase

Urban home programs – renovations and new homes – we hear you loud and clear, this is an item we need to work on.

Programs and Services

We have heard your concern about the various rates whether it be education or social assistance. As set out in the Treaty, we must be comparable to Pacific Northwest or BC. We also have to ensure that we have sufficient funds in those areas to be able to continue these services.

Logging

I will leave this to the President to speak to. The lumber market dictates activities..

Silviculture

We have contracts to ensure that we protect Nisga'a land. These initiatives are ongoing.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust Fund

During the past 6-8 years, the market has been up and down. In the history of markets this usually happens over a 30-year period, so we're doing well.

Total fund = \$128.7 million at August 31, 2010. Over a 25 year period = \$250 million if we continue to only touch 3-4% each year.

Nisga'a Citizens / Village Governments / Urban Locals

Encourage citizens to come to our offices, our doors are always open. Contact our offices for an appointment. We are open to your meetings. We would love to be at your meetings. We have Committee meetings open for you to observe as well as Executive and WSN. We are moving forward. Everything we do, we have a plan.

Role models

The role model panels were a great addition to our agenda. Encourage the NVHB and School District 92 (Nisga'a) to include role model panels in their annual sessions.

WSN Think Tank in Terrace

Produced development of the Nisga'a Vision statement. Kevin read out the vision statement.

Nisga'a Treaty

NLG is empowered by Treaty to make decisions to shape our future.

We now have a responsibility, every citizen, to carry out these decisions. We will continue to carry out these responsibilities based upon our vision statement.

Priorities of the Nisga'a Nation

We will continue to work with senior mgt, legal and tech resources and WSN to fulfill all of the changes necessary. If we all work together we can achieve this within a timeframe (e.g. six months).

Individual Landholding Project

Has been getting international attention. DeSotto, he has taken individual interest into this project. He has been in contact and wants to meet with the Nisga'a.

Subsurface resources

Priority – regulatory framework – governance and policies to allow extraction of subsurface resources.

Nisga'a social dev policy

A priority that reflects the values of the communities, individuals. Those need to be reflected in the Nisga'a Soc Dev policy – heard the concerns loud and clear. This will continue to be a priority as we move forward.

Fiscal Financing Agreement

Recently re-negotiated will ensure our financial needs are secure. Effective from 2009 to 2015.

Youth Councils

Recognize we need to assist our youth in establishing themselves. We will talk directly to each of the youth councils in the 7 locals to get information about their priorities.

Council of Elders

We look forward to the participation of COE in WSN.

Mitchell Stevens, President

[Note: The President spoke in Nisga'a, notes were transcribed by use of our translators – Notes taken by Roberta Clayton]

The President encouraged the Nation to speak up on concerns. Thanked everyone on all their efforts they have given to this Assembly. Thanked Simoogit HLeek for work done this week.

Acknowledged the pronounced Simoogits, then thanked the matriarchs for all their support given to them.

He then acknowledged Chief Oscar Mercer as he is always speaking to him and reminding him not to take anything bad.

Forestry

Heard in the House concerns about using Treaty money in forestry but reported we have not been using Treaty money but using the carbon certificate.

Language and Culture

The President reported, after consultation with the Secretary Treasurer, that monies will be disbursed in the amount of \$300K to SD #92 for them to enforce language and culture in the schools.

Meetings

The President reported that they have attended meetings up and down the Valley, and have on their radar to meet with the Urban Locals.

Code of Conduct

To the Nisga'a Nation, you have elected me to sit in the House, and we as WSN and Executive will work diligently for the Nation. Then announced that the Code of Conduct will be implemented to all programs within the Nation.

Youth Councils

The President acknowledges Kim Azak for representing the Youth, and further encouraged youth to speak up, be vocal in things you do.

All the work that we do is for the benefit of our Nation. No one can just come onto our lands, they will have to pay. We don't want our children left out.

Employment

The President stated that he heard many concerns regarding employment in the Valley. Announced stats to date: 61 workers with LFR, and roughly 121 fishers within the Valley.

He then encouraged parents to encourage their children to continue education after graduation, and find work and make it long term.

Elder's guidance

The President stated that we must always have a sacred moment in all our meetings, and encouraged village governments to involve your respective Elder's in your government meetings.

We, at WSN, have now included our Council of Elders to attend our future WSN meetings.

Comments

Compliments to the NLG Officers, CEO, and staff

Note to file: throughout the question and answer session, many citizens paid compliments to the President, Officers, CEO and staff of Nisga'a Lisims Government for a job well done.

Language and culture

In order to teach our language in the schools we have to have the credentials to teach our language, which therefore, denies our fluent people.

Suggest a three-day conference to address the Nisga'a language and culture.

Fisheries management program

Seems we haven't celebrated that its number one in the world, as a Nation we haven't celebrated that fact. Applaud the government and employees for this. Our river is now certified.

Recent by-election for office of President – recommendation for change

Two of the candidates nominated were elected members of NLG which results in additional by-elections, an additional cost to the government. Elected representative should vacate or resign their positions before running. Propose an amendment to the Nisga'a Elections Act. Need to refine so that there is an element of fairness.

Youth

NLG now going to participate in our youth's lives. Invite each of you to visit and be seen in all of our schools so that you can talk to the youth to prepare them. That way they become a part of your lives, and you become a part of their lives.

Commercial Fisheries Opportunity Fund

Commend the CEOs of NLG for the good job you've done all these years.

Commercial fisheries fund – glad to hear this is finally coming to the table. I look forward to when we can access that fund and hopefully set up programs for this fund. Been 10 yrs since signing of the Treaty first time heard this fund coming to the table.

Code of Conduct

Heard the report on the removal of two members. Thousands of dollars in the urban locals swindled. Laws of general application apply – there should have been criminal charges laid. Our children see this happening and will think that they can steal from the government because the insurance will repay the amounts taken.

Village Government Members

No public meetings. How can they hear the people's concerns if they don't have public meetings? Village Governments must hold these meetings.

Vision Statement

Two days ago my husband put his name in for employment and he was told he can't because he isn't from this community. We have to do away with that mentality if we're to move ahead.

Tax

Treaty states: you "may" tax. Don't be too in a hurry to tax our people.

Nisga'a Social Development Policy

Glad to hear this is going to be accomplished. A lot of our people are forced to be on Social Assistance for reasons of no employment or no qualifications. A lot of us live in poverty – no food in our cupboards. A single person gets 185.00 some Village Governments added on \$50. I'd like to see this policy comparable to BC. I can see very clearly now, I never realized this, but I'm there now.

Nisga'a Education Policy

Adopted in June 2010, thank you for updating and adopting the Education policy.

Elders and youth Center

A center for our elders and youth is needed.

Employment

Look at creating employment for junior elders, a lot of us have talents

Nisga'a Elections

Have to stop dirty politics where people are trashed by other elected people. Why have a process if this is going to be allowed?

School District 92 Board of Directors

Needs to be changed. Many important issues that aren't being addressed.

Gingolx Village Government Members

Our Councillors are never available, always travelling. The business is in the community.

Youth

Recommend the role model panel to all other Nisga'a institution.