

MAY 11 - 15
NEW AIYANSH

20
26



SIMGIT MAKSKW NUUM AHL TS'IM MIN-NIT'INSKW / STANDING FIRM IN OUR TREATY

Special Assembly of the
Nisga'a Nation

Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

Nisga'a nuum, hli gadihl K'alii-Aksim Lisims –

Gi'namis K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl ts'eets'iks wil jogam hli daa la'oo'y.

Adaawa'kdihl Simgigat ganhl Sigidim Haanak' hli Ayuugahl Ango'osgurh.

Hlo'otdirhhl hli al'alga'xhl ganiye'etgurh ahl dim sayt-k'ilhl ts'ak'.

Yay nit, Nisga'a nuum –

Hlaa luu-wit'ax gigathl hlagats'uurm ahl ts'im-hahlals ii hlaa jaga-sakswahl hlagats'uurm andoosda'a, hli t an haldim-dibaxhl wiit'isim hahlals tgun-sa.

Ga'adiithl gookdiit iit sit'aadiithl gagedim hahlalshl hlaa jagam-akhlgwit guun.

Hlaa wil huxw hak'sim sigyootkwahl maal guun, ii nuurm an diyeet.

Hlaa dildalt'inhl Nisga'a ahl han'ijok –

Liksgigat nuurm, ii hlaa wil tk'al-haxhuksgurm ahl Canada, li luu-am'aamhl gagoodim wil hlaa aluut'aahl genxhl dim yoxgurh.

Sa tgun ii lip maksgurm, ii sayt k'il wilaa maksgurm ganhl hli gadihl Canada ii ts'im gaks dim wil hlo'om.

Nit'inhl K'alii-Aksim Nisga'ahl lip Ayuugam ii dip huxw nit'inhl hugax nda wilaa dip wilaayit.

Guudirhhl Hli Algaxhl K'alii-Aksim Lisims, ii hlaa hliskw dip japt ii dip sida'xgathl Ayuugam ahl dim wilaa sayt dildilsihl Nisga'a ganhl gabiihl dim huxw haldim-yeet, ahl dim dip luu-yoxkwat, dim ii dip hugaxam diyeet, dim ganii wilaa aam dim wilaa jaxjogam.

Wannihl dim wilaa dildilsihl ahl ts'im Lip Ayuugam ganhl Lip Wilaa Loom, ii dim dip diheek'alt ga'agwihl dim dildilsihl ganhl naahl dim dagalaanit loom, dim wilaa sghl Amaa Wil ahl Nisga'a.

Wilaa t diyeehl Simgigat ganhl Sigidim Haanak' ganhl t'ist'isithl Ayuugam hli daa la'oo'y, nihl dim hlo'otdirhhl ii nidiit dim an t de'entkwahl Nisga'a Lisims Government dim t wilaa diyeediithl Ayuuk.

Hlaa nihl Gansimutkws tgunhl sigit ahl Nisga'a, ahl wil t K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl gan wilhl galksi-lagim ahl lax-ts'eets'ikshl ginamit loom, ii nit dim t an de'etgurh dim wilaa Lip Gigadirh.

Yay nit, hli gadihl K'alii-Aksim Lisims nuurm –

Gwinayirhhl hli k'e'em-goots K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl an t ginamhl ts'eets'iks loomhl dim adigwil luu-sbayt hitkwat sk'apdirh.

WELCOME TO THE 2026 Special Assembly

ON BEHALF OF NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT, IT IS MY HONOUR TO WELCOME ALL CITIZENS, LEADERS, ELDERS, YOUTH, GUESTS, AND PARTNERS TO THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NISGA'A NATION.

We gather today with purpose and pride—to reflect on our shared journey and to report on milestone achievements realized between **2024 and 2026**. These years represent meaningful progress across our nation, guided by the vision of our ancestors and strengthened by the unity and determination of our people. This Assembly provides an important opportunity to account to our citizens, to celebrate successes, and to openly acknowledge the work that continues ahead.

This year also marks a historic moment: **26th anniversary of the Nisga'a Treaty**. For twenty-six years, the Treaty has stood as a foundation for self-government, recognition, and self-determination. It has enabled the Nisga'a Nation to chart our own path, assert our rights, and build institutions that reflect Nisga'a values, laws, and traditions. As we honour this milestone, we also recommit ourselves to safeguarding the Treaty for future generations.

Our theme for this Special Assembly, *Simgit Maḵskw N'uurh'ahl Ts'im MinNit'inskw* – *Standing Firm in our Treaty*, captures the strength, resolve, and responsibility that define this moment. It reminds us that the Treaty is not only a legal framework, but a living agreement—one that requires stewardship, vigilance, and unity. Standing

firm means honouring the sacrifices of those who negotiated the Treaty, and ensuring its promises continue to benefit our children and grandchildren.

The presence of Nisga'a citizens from our communities and away, along with our leaders and partners, strengthens this assembly. Your participation reflects a shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and collective progress. We thank each of you for taking the time to be here, to listen, to contribute, and to help shape the future of the Nisga'a Nation.

As we conclude our Nisga'a Day Celebration, we warmly invite everyone to join us for the **Nisga'a Day Banquet and Awards Ceremony**. This special evening is an opportunity to celebrate excellence, recognize service, and honour those who have made outstanding contributions to our Nation.

Thank you for standing together as Nisga'a people—grounded in our history, confident in our governance, and firm in our Treaty.

With respect and gratitude,

Eva Clayton,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Nisga'a Lisims Government



WELCOME
to the 2026
Nisga'a Nation
Special Assembly
from host village
New Aiyansh!





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Special Assembly Agenda



Simgit Maḵskw Nuum'ahl
Ts'im Min-Nit'inskw
Standing Firm in our Treaty



MONDAY / MAY 11, 2026

NISGA'A GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION DAY

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Opening Ceremonies

- Presentation of Ɔanim Siwilyeeḥskw – Council of Elders, GCD song – Our Grandfathers Crest.
- Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation – Sim'oogit Lik'iḥskw, Alvin Azak/ Nisga'a Youth.
- Call to Order – Chairperson Debra Febril
- Invocation by Sim'oogit Luudisdoos, Rev. Harry Moore Sr.

9:30am Introduction of Co-Chairs

- Sheldon Martin, & Urban Local Representative Cliff Morgan
- Reading of the Special Assembly Rules of Procedure

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Welcome Address

- Calvin Morven, Chief Councillor– New Aiyansh
- Eva Clayton, President of the Nisga'a Nation

12:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- Chief Councillor Calvin Morven & Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell
- Call to Order

1:05pm NLG Executive Officers Reports

- President Eva Clayton
- Executive Chairperson Debra Febril
- Secretary-Treasurer Charles Morven
- Chair Council of Elders Alvin Azak

Executive Senior Management Reports

- Chief Executive Officer Andrew Robinson
- A/ Executive Director Janice Angus
- Chief Financial Officer Terry Holt

3:00pm Nutrition Break

3:15pm Question & Answer Period

4:30pm Door Prize & Adjournment

5:00pm Nisga'a Day Banquet – Nisga'a Stew

“Celebrating Our Successes” featuring our youth, Nisga'a award recipients, celebrating our citizen's accomplishments so that we can inspire each other and youth.

TUESDAY / MAY 12, 2026

NISGA'A PROGRAMS & SERVICES DAY

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Call to Order – Two Co-Chairs

- Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell, & Chief Councillor Peter Lambright
- Invocation by Salvation Army, Damian Azak
- Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure

9:15am Reporting Session

- Programs & Services Committee

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Question & Answer Period

12:00pm Lunch Break – NESS Band Performance

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- Chief Councillor Nathaniel Alexcee & Urban Representative Cliff Morgan
- Call to Order

1:05pm Reporting Session

- Nisga'a Language & Culture, Director Esther Adams
Nisga'a Nation website, Communications Team

3:00pm Nutrition Break

Questions, comments, or concerns, email to:
assembly2026@nisgaanation.ca

**3:15pm Council of Elders Chairperson & Members of Council of Elders
“Language and Culture Brainstorming Session”**

5:00pm Door Prize, Adjournment



WEDNESDAY / MAY 13, 2026

NISGA'A CITIZENS DAY: FINANCE & BUSINESS

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Call to Order – Two Co-Chairs

- Chief Councillor Calvin Morvin & Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell
- Invocation by Sim'ooqit Luudisdoos, Reverend Harry Moore Sr.
- Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure

9:15am Reporting Session

- Industry Relations Office Update on policy engagement and Nisga'a Business Process

9:45am Question & Answer Period

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Reporting Session

- Economic Development: Village Governments/Urban Local/Nisga'a Growth Corporation.
Each presentation: 15 minutes

12:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- Chief Councillor Nathaniel Alexcee, & Urban Representative David Griffin
- Call to Order

1:05pm Reporting Session

- NLG Finance and Trust

3:00pm Nutrition Break

3:15pm Question & Answer Period

5:00pm Door Prize & Adjournment for the day

THURSDAY / MAY 14, 2026

EDUCATION & HEALTH DAY

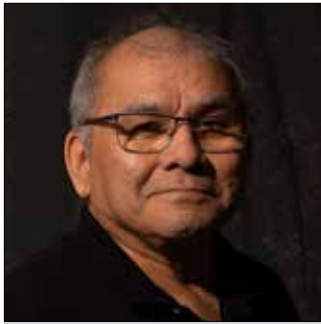
- 8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00am Call to Order – Two Co-Chairs**
- Chief Councillor Sheldon Martin, & Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell
 - Invocation by Sim'ogit Luudisdoos, Reverend Harry Moore Sr.
 - Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure
- 9:15am Reporting Session**
- WWNI Board of Directors and CEO
- 9:40am Question & Answer Period**
- 10:00am Morning Break**
- 10:15am Reporting Session**
- School District # 92 Board Members for Each Nisga'a Village Superintendent
- 10:45am Question & Answer Period**
- 12:00pm Lunch Break – New Aiyansh Headstart Performance**
- 1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs**
- Chief Councillor Calvin Morven & Urban Local Representative Clifford Morgan
 - Call to Order
- 1:05pm Reporting Session**
- NVHA Board of Directors Report: NVHA Update
- 2:00pm NVHA CEO Nations Health Plan Presentation**
- 3:00pm Nutrition Break**
- 3:15pm Question & Answer Period**
- 5:00pm Door prizes & Adjournment for the day**

Friday / May 15, 2026

WHAT WE HEARD: OUR COLLECTIVE PATH FORWARD

- 8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00am Call to Order – Two Co-Chairs**
- Chief Councillor Peter Lambright, & Urban Local Representative Cliff Morgan
 - Invocation by Salvation Army, Damian Azak
 - Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure
- 9:15am Reporting Session**
- Four Post Plan 2024-2028
- 10:00am Morning Break**
- 10:30 am Question & Answer Period**
- 12:00pm Lunch Break**
- 1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs - Call to Order**
- Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell, & Chief Councillor Nathaniel Alexcee
- 1:05pm Reflection for Executive Officers & Senior Management**
- Executive Chairperson Debra Febril
 - Secretary-Treasurer Charles Morven
 - Chair Council of Elders Alvin Azak
- 2:00pm Closing Remarks**
- Chief Councillor's Closing Remarks
 - President's Closing Remarks
- 3:00pm Door Prize Draws & Retirement of Ganim Siwilyee'nskw**





Calvin Morven
Chief Councillor
GITLAḶT'AAMIKS



Nathaniel Alexcee
Chief Councillor
GINGOLX



Andrea Burrell
Executive
Representative
TS'AMIKS /
VANCOUVER



Peter Lambricht
Chief Councillor
GITWINKSIHLKW



David Griffin
Executive
Representative
GITLAḶDAX /
TERRACE

Special Assembly Co-Chairs are members of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive who are not Officers of the Nisga'a Nation.

The Co-Chairs will oversee each reporting session throughout the week, will enforce the Special Assembly Rules of Procedure and will preserve the order and decorum.



Sheldon Robinson
Chief Councillor
LAḶGALTS'AP



**Sim'oogit Ni'is K'amalaa /
Clifford Morgan**
GITMAḶMAK'AY / PRINCE
RUPERT - PORT EDWARD

Political rights: Every Nisga'a citizen has the right to make political choices, to participate in political activities, and to express a view on any public issue¹

1. The Chairpersons shall be members of the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Executive Committees who are not Officers of the NLG Executive.
2. All sessions will start on time.
3. Disorderly conduct is strictly prohibited in the assembly hall and virtually on Zoom – such conduct may result in removal from the assembly hall or Zoom platform.
4. Cellular phones and other transmitting devices must be muted while the Assembly is in session, however this does not preclude the use of the photo features on phones.
5. VHF mobile radiophones must be turned off before they can be brought in to the assembly hall and must remain off inside the assembly hall.
6. Nisga'a citizens may register as delegates of the Special Assembly ("Delegates").
7. Non-Nisga'a citizens may register as observers of the Special Assembly ("Observers"). Only persons who have registered at the Special Assembly are entitled to present in the assembly hall.
8. Delegates may ask questions about the presentation given and must keep the question to no more than 2 minutes. Each Delegate must identify themselves by first and last name and community that they reside in when questions are posed on the Special Assembly floor. Delegates are asked to avoid referring to matters before the court or to the personal or confidential information of others.
9. Delegates attending the Special Assembly virtually via Zoom are encouraged to pose their questions in writing via the 'Q&A' function on Zoom. Presenters may respond to questions in writing in this manner.
10. In recognition of the importance of hearing from Nisga'a citizens who do not normally have direct access to government to ask their questions, Nisga'a representatives and Nisga'a Lisims Government employees will not address the assembly during questions periods.
11. Delegates may make recommendations to Nisga'a Government regarding a matter on the agenda.
12. Presenters must allow at least one third of their time allocation for question period.
13. Each presentation and question period must be completed within the time allotted on the agenda.
14. In recognition of Nisga'a laws enacted by Wilp Si'ayuuḵhl Nisga'a, recommendations will not obligate Nisga'a Government to appropriate or expend funds, and must not be contrary to Nisga'a enactments.
15. In addition to the above rules, the Chairpersons of the Special Assembly have the authority and discretion necessary to preserve order and decorum, and to ensure that the meeting proceeds in accordance with Nisga'a law.
16. Daily door prize draws will be conducted at the end of each day for Delegates of the Assembly who are: (a) present in the meeting room when the draw is held, and (b) not Nisga'a Lisims Government employees, Nisga'a representatives, and Nisga'a entity employees.

¹ Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation, Chapter 2, Rights, par 11

Special Assembly Reports



Simgit Maḵskw Nuum'ahl
Ts'im Min-Nit'inskw
Standing Firm in our Treaty





Office of the President

Eva Clayton
PRESIDENT

THE THEME FOR THIS SPECIAL ASSEMBLY IS APPROPRIATE AS WE CONTINUE TO STAND STRONG WITH OUR TREATY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) continues to maintain courage, strength, and perseverance while dealing with governance matters and business development.

It has been an honour to serve the Nisga'a Lisims Government as the President for the past year and a half. I thank our Executive Committee, Council of Elders, Wilp Si'Ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), and our NLG staff. I recognize the strength that lies within our government. We are stronger when we work together to advance our shared goals.

NISGA'A TREATY

NLG continues to work to implement the Nisga'a Treaty. We strive to ensure our Treaty partners, British Columbia, and Canada work with us to implement the Treaty in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

GOVERNANCE

The NLG continues to establish Nisga'a Government to be self-determined, self-sufficient, and to be truly self-governing.

NISGA'A LEGISLATION

The Executive established the NLG Legislative Review Committee with a mandate to review outdated legislation. That work began last term and continues this term of office.

PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS

As your government, we are legally required to establish procedural fairness. The Ombudsman of BC was invited to meet with the Executive, and Nisga'a senior administrators to discuss procedural fairness. Procedural fairness is where you, as citizens, have the right to be heard and to ensure decision-makers are unbiased. I look forward to receiving reports on how our administrations, on the settlement lands, set up procedural fairness.

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT COALITION (LCAC)

Since the formation of the LCAC, the Nisga'a Lisims Government continues in its capacity as the Co-Chair of the LCAC. The Office of the President carries out the duties of the Co-Chair for the LCAC. Duties include chairing the annual general leadership meetings of the LCAC and inter-governmental meetings required to influence government officials to enact, amend, or defeat legislation or policies. Bill C-10 is currently at the report stage in the House of Commons. The bill is designed to establish the *Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation Act* and an independent Commissioner to oversee federal compliance with modern treaties between Canada and Indigenous groups. Its aim is to promote accountability and strengthen relationships between all parties.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

NLG has the responsibility of resource development on Nisga'a Lands. We want to ensure sustainable development so we continue to improve the quality of life for our Nation today and tomorrow. The Resource Development Lead for NLG is our Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Morven, who serves on the Project Team for Ksi Lisims Government and is the lead for existing and proposed development. There is no decision-making mandate for his work; when required, that is the responsibility of the Executive.

NISGA'A ENVIRONMENTAL ACT

NLG recognizes the need to ensure environmental protection as we move forward with economic growth for long-term prosperity. NLG enacted the *Nisga'a Environmental Act* on July 30, 2024. This Act established a framework for reviewing projects on Nisga'a Lands. It came into effect in 2025.

NISGA'A MENTAL HEALTH

Work is ongoing to establish and enact the Nisga'a Mental Health Act. This need was identified by WSN in 2023 as an urgent need due to the many issues and concerns our Nation has experienced.

NLG ADMINISTRATION

The NLG administration is headed by CEO, Andrew Robinson. Andrew comes to NLG with extensive governance experience. He continues to work towards the implementation of the WSN Four Points Pillar and strategic plan established by Wilp Si'Ayuukhl Nisga'a. He oversees the implementation of the Nisga'a Treaty with the Deputy Ministers of the BC and the federal government. The CEO reports to the Executive.

Respectfully,

Eva Clayton,

PRESIDENT

Nisga'a Lisims Government





Office of the Executive Chairperson

Debra Febril
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, RESPECTED LEADERS, ELDERS, AND CITIZENS OF THE NISGA'A NATION – THANK YOU FOR GATHERING TODAY. It is an honour to report on the work carried out on behalf of our Nation and its governing institutions. Our progress over this period reflects not only the responsibilities of the Executive Chair, but the collective strength, guidance, and commitment of our people. I offer this report in the spirit of transparency, accountability, and continued service to Nisga'a self-government.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to the Special Assembly to provide a comprehensive account of executive level activities undertaken by the Executive Chair during the reporting period of November 2024 through April 2026. The report outlines governance leadership, executive coordination, intergovernmental engagement, committee oversight, and strategic advocacy carried out in service to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

2. EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Throughout the reporting period, the Executive Chair participated in executive governance through Officers' Briefings, coordination with Executive members, board training and committee meetings, intergovernmental engagement, and attendance at multiple conferences and events to support Nation projects and build strategic relationships. These activities supported informed decision-making, stable leadership, and progress on the Nation's priorities. Focus areas included governance oversight, fiscal and policy alignment, legal responsibilities, and external representation.

From November 2024 to April 2026, all Executive Chair duties were carried out within the legal, constitutional, and governance framework established by the Nisga'a Final Agreement and related legislation.

The role functioned as a stewardship position that supports Nisga'a self-government by upholding institutional integrity, complying with legislation, and respecting collective decision-making authority.

Under Nisga'a law, the Executive Chair's responsibilities are defined by the Nation's governing institutions and laws rather than personal discretion. This report confirms that the work performed during the reporting period aligned with the legislative intent and governance principles of Nisga'a self-government legislation.

3. LEGISLATED ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Under my legislated role and responsibilities, the Executive Chairperson provides leadership to the Executive, supports good governance, and ensures the vision and priorities of the Nisga'a Nation are advanced in a manner consistent with our laws, values, and cultural foundation.

Follow Nisga'a law. Make sure all work respects the Nisga'a Constitution, the Nisga'a Final Agreement, and all Nisga'a laws.

Support lawful and effective governance. Help ensure the Executive carries out their duties properly, responsibly, and in line with legal and governance requirements.

Work with other governments. Take part in intergovernmental relations that fall under Nisga'a Lisims Government's responsibilities.

Protect integrity and transparency. Promote honest, accountable, and transparent processes, and make sure decisions follow proper procedures.

Participate in Executive leadership. Chair Executive meetings, attend briefings, work with other Officers and members, and provide oversight for committees and governance activities.

4. MEETINGS CALLED WITHOUT CHAIR INPUT

Between August 2025 and April 2026, several special or extraordinary Executive meetings were convened without consultation with the Executive Chair and in circumstances that prevented attendance. These meetings were: August 12, 2025; August 26, 2025; September 17, 2025 (formally scheduled, then cancelled and replaced informally on September 16, 2025); September 29, 2025; October 7, 2025; October 28, 2025; and April 27, 2026.

The only meeting the Chair was able to attend during this period was the September 16, 2025 informal lunch meeting, joined at the last minute after being made aware informally.

This pattern reflects a series of meetings called without Chair input, contrary to expected governance practice and established norms of Executive coordination.

5. CHAIR ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY (NOVEMBER 2024 - APRIL 2026)

A consolidated record of governance, leadership, and external relations participation shows sustained engagement across all areas of responsibility. This list reflects only formally scheduled meetings and does not include informal or ad-hoc discussions that occurred outside the established Executive meeting process.

Aggregate Participation

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Governance & Leadership Meetings	58
Officer Briefings	25
External Relations Meetings (incl. travel)	30
Total Recorded Meeting Participation	113

These activities supported decision-making, oversight, policy development, leadership coordination, and intergovernmental relations.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I acknowledge the contributions of the Executive Committee, senior management, and staff who supported the preparation of the Summary Report and Program Book, as well as those who continue to contribute to the success of the Nisga'a Nation.

7. CLOSING

As we gather for the 2026 Special Assembly, this report is offered in the spirit of reflection, celebration, and collective forward-thinking. Together, we continue to build a strong future for our people while honouring the foundation laid by those before us.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Febril,
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON





Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

Charles Morven

SECRETARY TREASURER - FINANCE COMMITTEE

WELCOME. I EXTEND MY WARMEST WELCOME TO ALL NISGA'A CITIZENS FOR THE 12TH SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NISGA'A NATION HOSTED BY THE NISGA'A VILLAGE OF NEW AIYANSH. I express my appreciation to this community for all your hard work preparing for the Nisga'a People's Assembly. This year's Special Assembly will mark the 26th anniversary of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (Nisga'a Treaty).

SECRETARY-TREASURER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Secretary-Treasurer, in accordance with Nisga'a Law, has the responsibility of overseeing the overall administration of the Nisga'a Nation Finances as well as the administration of the Capital Assets of the Nisga'a Nation. Therefore, the Secretary-Treasurer holds the responsibility of Chairperson for the Nisga'a Finance Committee and Capital Finance Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer also oversees the management of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust.

FINANCES & KEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. Building Financial Stability

- a. Approval of draft Nisga'a Lisims Government Audited Financial Statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2025, demonstrating sound financial leadership and a sound financial position.
- b. Investment returns of the Settlement Trust have remained strong, greater than 7% over the past 10 years. Through fiduciary oversight, asset mix has been adjusted over time to allow for higher returns at comparable levels of risk. Settlement Trust balance on December 31, 2025 totaled \$454.8 million.

- c. Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (No. 3) Amending Agreement ("Amendment No. 9") was approved in March 2026 providing additional time-limited funding:
 - Distinction Based Mental Wellness Funding (one-time funding of \$497,813)
 - Anti-Indigenous Racism [Health] Funding (\$155,025 over four years)
 - Greener Homes Funding (\$291,154 over four years)
 - Budget 2024 Housing & Infrastructure (\$3,035,792 per year, over four years)
- d. Establishing the Nisga'a Nation as a major economic engine with projects that we continue to lead.
 - **NATIONS ROYALTY**
Founded by the Nisga'a Nation in 2024, Nations Royalty was established to become a top global royalty company, focused on Indigenous-owned royalties on precious metals and other natural resources. In February of 2026, the company qualified for trade on the highest-level market of the Over-the-Counter Market in the United States. This milestone enhances visibility and accessibility among U.S. investors and improves liquidity. Common shares of Nations Royalty will also continue to trade on the TSX Venture Exchange in Canada.

- **STEWART BULK TERMINAL PURCHASE – SEPTEMBER 2025**

The Nisga'a Nation, Tahltan Nation Development Limited Partnership (TNDLP), and Arrow Transportation Systems Inc., through a joint venture, acquired Stewart Bulk Terminals Limited which owns and operates the Port of Stewart Bulk Terminal. This acquisition represents a significant step toward economic self-determination with the ownership of a major piece of infrastructure in our territory.

- **KSI LISIMS LNG – SEPTEMBER 2025**

Co-owned by the Nisga'a Nation and Western LNG, the Ksi Lisims LNG project is the biggest single Nisga'a partnership and opportunity for economic growth in the foreseeable future. Future equity ownership opportunities are also under development for other Indigenous nations along the pipeline corridor. In September of 2025, Ksi Lisims LNG received an Environmental Assessment Certificate from the Government of British Columbia and a positive Decision Statement from the Government of Canada. This confirmed the project meets or exceeds the high standards of BC, Canada, and the Nisga'a Nation including environmental protection, Indigenous and public engagement, and community benefits. Funding is in place to fully support the remaining development activities for the project through a Final Investment Decision (FID). The project will be a world leader in lower-carbon LNG production, powered by renewable hydroelectricity.

- Newly announced projects summarized on the Government of Canada's Major Projects Office (MPO) website (with the expected impacts detailed in the Prime Minister of Canada's announcements) include Ksi Lisims LNG, North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL), and Red Chris Mine Expansion (BC), all of which will significantly benefit the Nisga'a Nation.

2. Transparency, responsibility & oversight in the management of public funds

- Formal budget process is in place incorporating reviews, modifications, recommendations, and approval from Nisga'a Finance Committee, Nisga'a Government Executive, and Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN).
- Amendments to the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* were made to provide each of the Nisga'a Villages, Urban Locals, and Entities greater flexibility regarding how they manage their respective financial budgets, and to fulfill the obligations in the Fiscal Financing Agreement.
- Annual review and approval of Nisga'a Lisims Government Audited Financial Statements by an independent audit firm, Nisga'a Finance Committee, Nisga'a Government Executive, and WSN.
- Updates on Finance department activities, status of invested funds, and status of Nations Royalty shares provided to Nisga'a Lisims Government monthly.
- Financial statements presented to Nisga'a Lisims Government quarterly.
- Budget status updates will now be presented to Nisga'a Finance Committee on a quarterly basis to oversee challenges or opportunities and for possible budget amendments.
- Fiscal policy updates are provided regularly to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

3. Fiscal process work with Canada

Over the past three years, this process work has developed expenditure need methodologies under the Greenbook Policy that are targeted and evidence-based. Three more are now ready for Cabinet.

- Lands, Resources, and Treaty Management (LRTM): Approval of LRTM would mean ongoing capacity support for lands and resource management on SCIG/M5-owned lands.

- b. Infrastructure (Phase II) would provide capacity to plan for and invest in essential community infrastructure on a lifecycle basis – on everything from roads to administrative and community buildings, to essential utilities, while beginning to address historic gaps in community infrastructure.
- c. Language Revitalization: Lays the foundation for broader language recovery and revitalization in our communities and our governments.

In addition, work will continue under this fiscal process to advance and overcome barriers to economic development and prosperity by prioritizing expenditure need model development in recognized areas such as lands and resource management on traditional territories, economic development, housing, and taxation.

Fiscal process work with British Columbia

In Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3, the Nisga'a Nation obtained a commitment from BC to start a process modeled on the federal policy process. The new BC funding model has already resulted in substantial new resources for BC modern treaty nations for LRTM activities in "traditional territory" or "treaty area" (i.e., the Nass Area). This resulted in significant additional land and resource management funding for the Nisga'a Nation.

We will also continue to press BC to change its laws so that the province can provide grant funding to the BC modern treaty nations, similar to Canada, and raise other fiscal priority matters.

CONCLUSION

I bring this report to a close by thanking you, those of you in the Nisga'a Nation who had the confidence in me to represent the citizens of Nisga'a Lisims

Government as we move into the mid-term of the 2024-2028 term. This year has been a challenging and difficult time – going into mid-term – and I owe a lot of gratitude to many individuals who have shown continued support through it all.

I would like to acknowledge the Chief Financial Officer, Terry Holt, Deputy Director of Finance, Akimi Okabe, the finance department, and the Nisga'a Finance Committee who all worked diligently with the Secretary-Treasurer as we work towards achieving our goals.

I must also send a note of gratitude to Eric Nyce and his team under the directorship of Capital Housing and Facilities Operations. The team faced many challenges yet remained diligent in carrying out their work; it has not been easy.

As we move into the Final Investment Decision (FID), I would also like to recognize the Ksi Lisims LNG team for the continued hard work they put in day in and day out.

Each group that I have had the pleasure of working with has put in many hard days and time away from their families. I would also like to thank their families for their understanding and the support they have given them – that support has not gone unnoticed.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my wife, Nicole, and daughter, Peyton, for their continued support over the course of the term, without it, the work would be so much more difficult to manage.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Morven,
SECRETARY-TREASURER





Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Robinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WELCOME. AAMA SA, TO ALL NISGA'A CITIZENS, GUESTS, AND DIGNITARIES, WELCOME TO THE NISGA'A NATION'S BI-ANNUAL SPECIAL ASSEMBLY.

I have been the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) since October 2023, and I look forward to providing my support, guidance, and expertise to all levels of our Nations government in the administrative capacity of the Chief Executive Officer. Since the last special assembly, it has been an exciting time – seeing the hard work of our Nation come to life. From the attainment of the certification for Prince Rupert Gas Transmission, to the Memorandum of Understanding with BC Hydro for the Nass Valley Transmission, to the acquisition of Stewart Bulk Terminals, the Nation is on a path of asset attainment and economic diversification. Administratively, the process of complaints assessment and the development of a more functional complaints process (sometimes referred to as the “whistle blower” process) is well underway. A thorough plan has been developed with the help of British Columbia's Ombudsperson, allowing for a strategic approach to administrative complaints and modernization of the Nisga'a Administrative Decisions Review Board.

NISGA'A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

As stated under Section 6 of the Nisga'a Nation Constitution, the public service of the Nisga'a Nation is to be administered in accordance with certain values and principles, including a high standard of ethics, efficient and effective use of resources, impartial and equitable services, and response to public engagement, while providing accurate, accessible, and timely information to our citizens.

The structure of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Administration is led by the office of the Chief Executive Officer who is appointed by and accountable to the NLG Executive, in accordance with the *Nisga'a Lisims Government Act* (Section 41). The CEO has many duties set out in statutes; fundamentally, the responsibilities

include directing administration of Nisga'a Lisims Government, advising the Executive on matters within the responsibility of the Executive, implementing resolutions of the Executive, and carrying out other functions assigned to the CEO by any NLG enactment of the Executive.

The Executive is responsible for establishing the primary rules of the governance of the public administration under the *Nisga'a Personnel Administration Act* (section 2) and evaluating the job of the CEO in carrying out their responsibilities and exercising the authority of the CEO under the *Personnel Administration Act* and regulations (section 2 (j), (k)).

The framework includes the responsibility of the CEO to appoint the various Directors, with the approval of the Executive under the *Nisga'a Personnel Administration Act* (sections 5 (2) (c)). Nisga'a Lisims Government completed its governance review which considered all facets of Nisga'a Lisims Government, each of the Nation's entities, and how they function in a modern treaty context. To date, we have not created new directorates and have only addressed the position of Programs and Services Director, which was filled this year. The Governance Review called for a strategic approach within Nisga'a Lisims Government, which would build a path towards a stronger future. In parallel to this work is the work of In House Legal and the Legislative Review Committee, which in turn lends itself to the first Nisga'a Nation Strategic Plan – The Four Post Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

WILP SI'AYUUKHL NISGA'A FOUR POST PLAN 2024-2028

The first strategic plan of the Nisga'a Nation was developed based on the Governance Review and recommendations focused on the need for strategic alignment within Nisga'a Government, village governments, urban locals, and all entities. Strategic governance alignment will provide a path for adminis-

tration to begin to establish its overall directives and workplans to achieve the goals of the Nation. Addressing the plan as a government is critical to the success of the first ever strategic plan. The four posts of the strategic plan are comparable to the main posts that held up our traditional long houses, which were critical components for the stability of our homes, where teaching, language, culture, business, ceremony, and the progression of our Huwilps interconnectedness was born.

Corner Post One is focused on the Legislative and Political framework that ensures Nisga'a Laws are updated, reflective of our position in our self-governance journey, transparent, and accountable to our legislative and political process. A key component of this post is the focus on Nisga'a Language and the enhancement of its use in Nisga'a Legislation and integration into day-to-day government communications.

Corner Post Two – Social and Citizens Post – looks at performance measures and assessment of programs and services across administration. How are services supporting our people across the life spectrum and how are these services reflective of the demographic shifts occurring for the Nisga'a Nation. All of this, along with citizenship procedures, are being evaluated as our government gains more detailed information about the programs and services for all Nisga'a citizens.

Corner Post Three is the Economic and Fiscal Accountability Post. This post is critical to the development, enhancement, and financial efficiency our government must achieve. Understanding where governance spending is targeted and how assessment of spending practices, budgetary process, village/urban/entities, and borrowing practices all expose the Nation if not assessed. Critical to all the economic and fiscal practices is financial fluency and the development of a wealth plan for the Nisga'a Nation. Allowing our government to develop a plan for Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN) ensures our people are front and centre with regards to benefits, opportunities, business outcomes, and proper planning for our collective future.

Corner Post Four is the Cultural Continuity and Growth Post. A post focused on the use of our cultural systems of representation in the Nisga'a Governance process through the Council of Elders, national archives development, and access for all Nisga'a Citizens. Developing access plans for Huwilps is fundamental to their individual and collective cultural continuity. While engaged in these developments, Nisga'a Lisims Government staff will search for more ceremonial aspects shared in the archives for integration into Nisga'a government practices. Cultural growth is fundamental to the development of our self-governance program.

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project

Nisga'a Lisims Government, on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation and Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Limited Partnership ("PRGT"), entered into a Benefits Agreement on October 29, 2014, in connection with the proposed LNG pipeline from northeast BC, through Nisga'a Lands, to its terminus on the northwest coast of BC (the "PRGT Project").

In 2025, PRGT received its environmental certificate after work was completed along with right of way. This certificate for the Nisga'a Nation and its partner, Western LNG, is vital to the success of the energy corridor our Nation has invested in since 2010. All parties continue to work collaboratively with our treaty partners, energy regulators, and external partners to achieve final investment decisions.

In the coming months, Nisga'a citizens will start to see more activities on Nisga'a Lands, mainly focused on right of way assessment, environmental scans, and geotechnical assessments. Nisga'a owned businesses and/or Nisga'a citizens who wish to better understand relevant contracting or employment opportunities are encouraged to contact the Industry Relations Office at 250-633-3000 or Nisga'a Employment Skills & Training at 250-633-3000. Nisga'a citizens who wish to obtain additional information in respect of the PRGT Project are encouraged to review the information at <https://www.bc-er.ca/what-we-regulate/major-projects/prince-rupert-gas-transmission/> and <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/588511d9aaecd9001b826b33/project-details>.

Assessment Certificate in October 2023, and entering into its first offtake agreement with Shell Eastern Trading Pte. Ltd. in January 2024. Nisga'a citizens who wish to obtain additional information in respect of the Ksi Lisims LNG Project are encouraged to review www.ksilisimslng.com.

Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line

The Nisga'a Nation is proposing to develop a 287 kV electric transmission line to interconnect the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG project with clean, renewable electricity from the BC Hydro grid. In addition to connecting the Ksi Lisims LNG project to BC Hydro's grid, the Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line ("NVRTL") will strengthen and reinforce the electricity service to Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a businesses in the four Nisga'a Villages. The NVRTL will also improve reliability and largely eliminate power outages in the Nass Valley.

As a co-developer of the NVRTL, the Nisga'a Nisga'a Nation will ensure the NVRTL route is located, designed, and constructed in a manner that aligns with the Nisga'a Final Agreement, including conducting an assessment under Chapter 10 – Environmental Assessment and Protection of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. The proposed route has gone through community consultation, engagement, lands and resources committee, executive, and WSN numerous times to achieve its legislative right to move forward on Nisga'a Lands.

The interconnect provided within the NVRT right of way also contains an option to provide looping electrical power to all Nisga'a Villages. This was a critical point shared by Nisga'a citizens – wanting to achieve a better quality of life with consistent electricity. The construction and operations phase of the NVRTL will provide economic opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a businesses. The Industry Relations office is coordinating with the project team to maximize the Nation's opportunities.

MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE – MINING SECTOR Brucejack Mine – Newmont Corporation

In 2015, Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) entered into a Project Agreement with Pretium Resources Inc. for the Brucejack underground gold and silver mine. The agreement provides milestone-based payments and

ongoing annual payments tied to provincial mineral tax revenues, with payments commencing in 2017 following commercial production.

Ownership transitioned to Newmont Corporation in 2023. The agreement also establishes provisions for employment and contracting opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and businesses. Since 2018, Brucejack has maintained Indigenous employment levels of approximately 30%, with Nisga'a citizens comprising a significant portion of this workforce.

Recent reporting (2025) indicates continued strong participation, with approximately 1,024 direct employees and over 1,300 workers, including contractors. Of these, 27% identify as Indigenous, with approximately 60 Nisga'a employees across a range of roles.

Newmont continues to support workforce development and readiness initiatives aligned with regional labour needs, including the Nisga'a Culinary Arts Pilot Program which provides job-shadowing, paid placements, mentorship, and onboarding pathways. Broader socio-economic contributions remain consistent, including over \$150,000 in annual Nisga'a-directed investments and long-term support through the Nisga'a Minerals Legacy Fund (a fund to support post-secondary education in the mining sector).

NLG continues to regularly engage with Newmont to advance employment, procurement, and long-term benefit outcomes under current operations.

KSM Project – Seabridge Gold Inc.

In 2014, NLG entered into a Benefits Agreement with Seabridge Gold Inc. in relation to the KSM Project, a proposed large-scale gold, copper, silver, and molybdenum mine. The agreement includes milestone-based payments, equity participation through share issuance, and provisions for employment and contracting opportunities as the project advances.

KSM remains in the pre-construction advancement phase. In 2023, KSM Mining ULC secured US\$150 million in financing to advance physical works required to achieve a "substantially started" designation, with an application submitted to the BC Environmental Assessment Office in 2024.

Notwithstanding its current stage, Seabridge has demonstrated sustained investment in regional workforce development. Since 2016, the company has contributed approximately \$300,000 to education and training initiatives and distributed over \$785,000 in bursaries to northwest BC students across academic and trades pathways.

Seabridge has also been a key supporter of Nisga'a-led workforce readiness initiatives including the Culinary Arts Training Pilot Program, supporting training delivery, wage subsidies, and job placement pathways. These efforts align with NLG's broader approach to workforce readiness and long-term employment outcomes.

NLG and Seabridge continue to collaborate on strengthening procurement pathways and ensuring Nisga'a businesses are positioned to participate meaningfully in future development phases. Coordination with neighbouring Nations (Tahltan), including through Treaty Creek-related activities, provides a stable foundation for project advancement.

Premier Mine – Cambria Gold Mines Inc.

In 2021, NLG entered into a Project Agreement with Ascot Resources Ltd. (now Cambria Gold Mines Inc.) in relation to the development of the Premier Gold Mine near Stewart, British Columbia. This agreement replaced the earlier 2019 Benefits Agreement with IDM Mining Ltd. for the Red Mountain Project.

The agreement provides milestone-based payments and ongoing annual payments tied to provincial mineral tax revenues, alongside provisions for employment and contracting opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and businesses. Payments commenced in 2021 upon execution of the agreement.

On April 8, 2024, the project achieved a key milestone with the commencement of ore processing, marking the transition into early production.

Recent reporting (December 2025) indicates growing Nisga'a participation across both employment and contracting. The project workforce totals 64 employees, including 10 Nisga'a employees (16%), with 20 Nisga'a

employees engaged year-to-date. In addition, 13 Nisga'a businesses and partners have been engaged, with approximately \$25.7 million in aggregate spend associated with these arrangements.

While some Nisga'a businesses have benefited directly, a significant portion of this spend has occurred through partnership structures, including joint ventures, rather than being directed solely to Nisga'a-owned businesses. This highlights an opportunity to increase direct procurement participation.

Cambria continues to work with NLG to strengthen hiring pathways and align procurement opportunities with Nisga'a business capacity, with a focus on increasing direct subcontracting and participation as the project moves toward steady-state operations.

Mining Sector Outlook – Continued strength into 2026

Across all three projects, NLG has secured strong agreements that are delivering employment, training, and contracting outcomes at varying stages of development. Brucejack continues to provide stable, ongoing benefits under operations, while Premier is transitioning into early production with emerging participation outcomes. KSM remains in the advancement phase, with continued investment in workforce readiness and strong Indigenous alignment.

Moving forward, the primary opportunity remains increasing direct participation of Nisga'a-owned businesses in procurement as projects advance into construction and steady-state operations.

WindRiver

The Nisga'a Nation and WindRiver Power Corporation completed a Project Agreement for the Kinskuch Lake Project in 2018. Although that project is not currently being advanced, the good working relationship established with WindRiver led to the Nisga'a Nation engaging senior executives from WindRiver Power Corporation as a partner in developing the transmission infrastructure, Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line, for the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG Project.

Stewart Bulk Terminals

In 2025, the Nisga'a Nation, Tahltan Nation, and Arrow began looking at the Stewart Bulk Terminal. In carrying out due diligence, it became apparent that the work being done by both Nations in mining and in trucking with Arrow would bring great value to the Nations if we garnered full control of a port moving the concentrate out of Stewart.

With the support of the treaty partners, both Nations along with Arrow were successful in acquiring Stewart Bulk Terminals, becoming the first majority owned First Nations Port in Canada. An application is currently with the Infrastructure Bank of Canada for modernization of the port facility. More advanced plans, opportunities, and postings can be found at www.nisgaanation.ca.

First Nations Climate Initiative

The First Nations Climate Initiative ("FNCI") is an Indigenous-led collaborative forum dedicated to the fight against climate change, alleviating First Nations' poverty, restoring ecosystems in First Nations' traditional territories, and enabling Indigenous people to be leading actors in the decarbonized economy. FNCI was established in October 2019 and is comprised of four member nations: the Nisga'a Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Haisla Nation, and Halfway River First Nation.

FNCI is pursuing various priorities including driving investment in nature-based projects that restore ecosystems in First Nations' traditional territories and electrifying natural gas infrastructure across northwest BC.

Nations Royalty

On February 1, 2024, the Nisga'a Nation entered into an agreement with Vega Mining Inc. ("Vega"), pursuant to which Vega will acquire from the Nisga'a Nation the rights to five annual benefit payment streams in exchange for common shares in the capital of Vega. Upon completion of this arrangement, Nations Royalty will be the largest majority Indigenous owned public company in Canada.

The five annual benefit payment streams are in respect of the following properties:

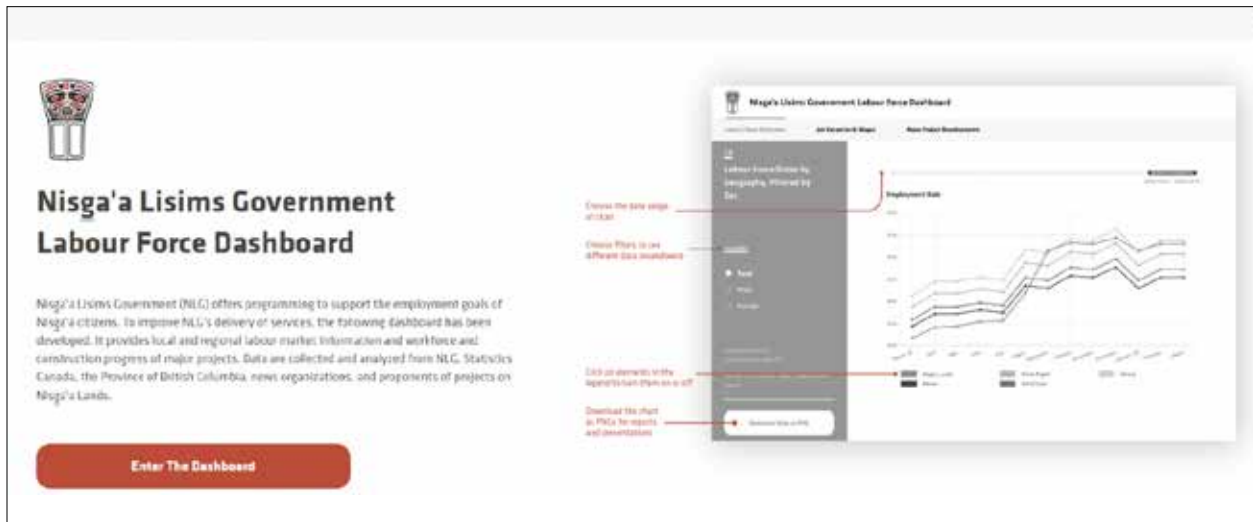
- The Brucejack gold mine operated by Pretium Resources Inc., a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Newmont Corporation;
- The KSM Copper-Gold-Silver-Molybdenum deposit, currently in development by Seabridge Gold Inc.;
- The Premier Gold Project and Red Mountain Gold Deposit, in construction by Ascot Resources Ltd.; and
- The Kitsault Molybdenum Deposit, a large, fully permitted brownfield site owned and being actively advanced by New Moly LLC, majority-owned by Resource Capital Fund VI L.P.

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT COALITION

The Land Claims Agreement Coalition ("LCAC") was established in 2003 by modern treaty holders, with the Nisga'a Nation among its founding members. Since its inception, the LCAC has been co-chaired by the Nisga'a Nation and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Its primary objective is to ensure the full implementation of modern treaties in both spirit and intent, collaborating closely with the Government of Canada and other stakeholders to achieve this goal.

From February 28 to March 2, 2023, the LCAC hosted a National Conference in Ottawa, featuring meetings with the Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Marc Miller. This gathering provided a platform for the Nisga'a Nation's leadership to engage with counterparts from other Indigenous nations and government representatives – to advance essential issues facing modern treaty nations including access to improved housing, and language and cultural revitalization. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to participate in intensive working group discussions, technical training sessions, and academic research presentations.

In 2025-2026, LCAC representatives pushed the House of Commons hard on Bill C-10. The bill was moved to committee and has now been passed back to the House of Commons and Senate for their reading and process of Canada's first ever Modern Treaty Commissionaire. This is exciting news and critical for the development and enhancement of the spirit and intent of all modern treaties in Canada.



INDUSTRY RELATIONS OFFICE

The Industry Relations Office (IRO) is an integral component of the Nisga'a Lisims Government, operating under the Executive Arm to facilitate contracting and employment opportunities for the Nisga'a people. The IRO fosters robust business relationships among industry partners, socio-economic and development entities, organizations, and the Nation's government through close collaboration with economic development managers, officers from village governments, urban locals, and senior management.

NLG has implemented several initiatives to enhance procurement processes and promote Nisga'a participation in projects across industries such as mining, oil and gas, and liquefied natural gas (LNG). These initiatives include adhering to a "Tier System" and Policy, which encourages the active involvement of Nisga'a companies and a Nisga'a workforce, as captured on the Nisga'a Business Roster. Noteworthy among NLG's efforts is the NLG Labour Force Dashboard, providing real-time local and regional labour market insights and updates on workforce and construction progress for major projects in British Columbia's northwest. The IRO remains dedicated to keeping this dashboard relevant by collaborating with partners to ensure regular updates with pertinent labour force information.

Moreover, the Industry Reporting tool on SharePoint serves as a repository for regional labour force participation data and trends compiled by the IRO. This data plays a crucial role in supporting senior management's

decision-making processes at NLG, enabling informed strategies to maximize the benefits of Nisga'a participation in various industry endeavours.

CONCLUSION

In my tenure as CEO, I am excited about the opportunities and alignment that can occur for our citizens and see many wonderful things on the horizon. By effectively managing and gauging expectations of equitable deliverance of programs and services across Nisga'a Government, we can begin to see the scope and functionality of our systems of representation, so we can bring that back to the people - to have a more fulsome discussion on our future along the Lisims as Nisga'a people since time immemorial.

Being BC's first modern treaty government has had both its ups and downs for our people; legal challenges, legislative and governance assessments and evaluations, and economic diversification through asset acquisition are all critical steps we must take. Building a multifaceted plan for our Nation that is enshrined in good governance, updated legislation, adaptive administration, and an informed population that understands the conduits in which it can truly contribute and assist our Nation is the true measure of our success.

**Andrew Robinson,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Office of the Executive Director

Janice Angus
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NIT! WELCOME TO NISGA'A NATION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY!

I have been working in the office of the Executive Director since June 2022, Acting Executive Director, since June 2023, and Executive Director since April 2026.

The Executive Director works with the Directors and Managers within Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG), including but not limited to Fish and Wildlife; Programs and Services; Language and Culture; Nisga'a Museum; Nisga'a Employment, Skills, and Training (NEST); Economic Development; Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) and Office of Designated Representative; external oversight Service Delivery Agreement for NVHA; WWNI; and SD92.

The objective over the last two years within NLG has been succession and strategic planning.

This report is in respect to the various areas I have been involved in since Special Assembly 2024.

ALLIANCE OF BC MODERN TREATY NATIONS

The Alliance was formed by the Tsawwassen First Nation, the Tla'amin Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, and Yuułuꞑiꞑaꞑ Government in July 2018 to collaborate on areas of mutual interest related to treaty implementation in British Columbia. The parties signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) formalizing the commitment to work together as the Alliance in July 2018. Nisga'a Nation joined the Alliance in November 2019.

The Alliance has created several documents to guide how the members will work together, beginning with the *Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)*, a *Terms of Reference*, and a *Work Plan*. The *Memorandum of Cooperation* outlines the terms of the agreement

between the members of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, including the Alliance's mandate, purpose, and priorities. The first MOC was signed by leaders of the seven participating Nations on July 24, 2018. A second MOC was signed by leaders of the eight participating Nations on November 4, 2019, when Nisga'a Nation joined the Alliance. The *Terms of Reference* outlines the Alliance vision, mission, and principles and how the member nations of the Alliance will work together. The *Work Plan* identifies priority issues requiring joint action by the Alliance, as well as issues where the Alliance will continue to monitor developments and share information.

During the last couple of years, participation has been specific to engaging with BC on the *Heritage Conservation Act* Transformation Project (HCATP), Repatriation framework, Ministry of Child and Family Services (MCFD) working group, and toxic drug.

As part of the broader scope of work being undertaken by Self Governing Indigenous Groups (SGIGs) with respect to Fiscal Policy at the Federal level, the work has been broken out into separate "tables" for discussion and resolution. Each table considers the unique aspect of the area of work and works towards a resolution for funding the area under the respective funding arrangements for the SGIGs. As part of this work the Executive Director sits on the Culture, Language, and Heritage (CLH) table with the Director of Language and Culture, and Toxic Drug.

1. Continue to operate SD92 as a public school district under provincial law but improve its operations and governance as well as its arrangements with the Nisga'a Nation.
2. Convert one or more schools within SD92 into independent schools under the *Independent Schools Act*.



3. Create a new education system under new Nisga'a legislation.

HEALTH

Service Delivery Agreement, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA)

July 2021, the Executive provided direction on steps to improve the delivery of Nisga'a health services and Nisga'a Lisims Government's operational relationship with the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director, and general counsel have taken several steps to move forward with the Executive's July direction.

In November 2021, the Executive reviewed and approved an initial list of Nisga'a health services action items to address issues identified to date. Included in this list is an update review by the Consultant who did the previous review in 2018 to see how the recommendations were addressed, if there were any outstanding recommendations to be addressed, and to look at the relevancy of those outstanding recommendations since the initial review. This work concluded in March 2022 and is under review by the Executive.

Since this report, review in various capacity continues, which includes the renewal of the 2013 Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) between Nisga'a Lisims Government and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority. We currently have a draft SDA requiring review by both parties. Once this has been signed, a five-year Nation Health Plan and a five-year evaluation will be conducted.

Northern First Nation Alliance (NFNA)

NFNA was formally established in 2020, as a collaborative initiative between seven Nations: Haisla, Nisga'a, Kitsumkalum, Kitselas, Gitxaala, Gitsan, and Gitga'at, focusing on four pillars:

1. Housing
2. Employment, education, and training
3. Youth and elders
4. Health and wellness

The highlight for this past year has been the legacy project, which is a response to the ongoing crisis of

substance misuse that continues to impact our communities. Red Road Recovery grand opening took place December 2, 2025.

EDUCATION

In July 2018, Executive selected a group of consultants to undertake a comprehensive review of SD92. The purpose of this review was to identify ways to improve student outcomes within SD92. The review considered the following options:

The consultants presented their final report (the "Report") to Executive in May and June 2019. The Report includes 129 recommendations that could be implemented regardless of the option chosen. The Report recommends the Nisga'a Nation leave the provincial public education system and create a Nisga'a Education Authority to provide K-12 education on Nisga'a Lands. The Executive instructed the CEO to undertake further research on the recommendations and options contained in the Report and to obtain legal advice on the background and status of the legal relationship between the Nisga'a Nation, SD92, and British Columbia.

In November 2025, Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive met with BC Minister of Education at the First Nations Leadership Gathering, reminding Minister Beare of the commitment made to Nisga'a regarding the review. At this meeting, Minister Beare committed to working with SD92 to improve outcomes as soon as possible.

Administratively, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Education, Jennifer McCrae, and Senior Advisor - Indigenous Relations, Brad Baker, have been working with NLG to support the recommendations of the review - to improve student outcomes.

Since this report, legislative changes included Indigenous Education Council (IEC) in each school district, including SD92. Executive appointees include:

- Sheena Johansen, Gitwinksihlkw
- Marylee Watts, Gingolx
- Peter Leeson, Laxgalts'ap
- Taron Scott, Gitlaxt'aamiks

In addition to the IEC, SD92 will meet with each village government to develop a Local Education Agreement, followed by a strategic plan encompassing input from the villages, LEA, and IEC.

NISGA'A EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS & TRAINING (NEST)

Nisga'a Employment, Skills & Training (NEST) continues to offer training to provide Nisga'a citizens with in-demand skills and skills associated with meaningful employment. The department continues to deliver in-demand training and employment services to Nisga'a citizens as identified by employment opportunities within the northwest BC region. NEST works within the Nisga'a Lisims Government Administration organization structure.

NEST delivers relevant, employable, and marketable skills for Nisga'a citizens that fill labour market supply gaps within the NEST service area of Terrace, Kitimat, Port Edward, Prince Rupert, and the Nass Valley.

NEST's core services include pre-employment guidance to Nisga'a citizens; employment and training funding; coordination and hosting of cohort training; advisory; and advocacy to citizens, employers, and other labour market development stakeholders. NEST provides targeted labour market programming and development services through acquired funding from other sources as funding becomes available.

NEST is directly funded by Employment, Social Development Canada by way of a shared cost agreement effective from 2019-2029 and through the tri-partite fiscal finance agreement for the geographical area of Prince Rupert/Port Ed, Terrace, and Nass Valley. The Annual Operating plan for NEST includes training, skill development, employment, and advancement of Nisga'a citizens in meaningful employment opportunities. The outcomes include improved quality of life and a stronger, more resilient workforce that is available to employment opportunities within regional stakeholders, including local employers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Coordinator launched the Nisga'a Business Development Fund under a new application process and policy.

Nisga'a Business Development Fund

The Nisga'a Nation Nisga'a Business Development Fund was established under the *Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act* in 2007, and an application process was implemented under Regulation.

Since NLG administrative review of the Nisga'a Business Development and Economic Development program, a new application process has been launched.

To date, Nisga'a businesses have received funding to support their businesses.

The Economic Development Coordinator provides support and assistance to Nisga'a Citizens applying for funding, on-going analysis of programming, and connects citizens with programs such as WorkBC which provides support to new entrepreneurs for business start-offs.

NISGA'A MUSEUM

Since April 2025, Nisga'a Museum has been without a curator/director. We are optimistic the position will be filled soon. Acting Executive Director has had oversight of operations and repatriation of the "Eagle-Halibut Pts'aan."

In September 2025, with the assistance of the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at the University of British Columbia and Wilps Laay, Pts'aan "Eagle-Halibut Pole" was welcomed home and raised at the Nisga'a Museum where Nisga'a Nation will continue to care for the pts'aan.

We would like to thank the MOA, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), and Heritage Canada Museum Assistance Program (MAP) for their contributions towards the repatriation of the pts'aan back to Nisga'a land and exhibit.

Chairperson for Council of Elders and myself also sit on the Art of Northwest committee for the Canadian Museum of History. They are planning to bring back the 1927 exhibit. This time they plan to incorporate the voices/history of First Nations people, including Nisga'a.



QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE

This initiative is Nisga'a Lisims Government's approach to measuring quality of life as a component of well-being for Nisga'a citizens. It serves as one piece of a broader strategy and builds from an Indicator Framework NLG developed in 2014.

The Quality of Life department works diligently to:

1. Consistently measure the quality of life of Nisga'a citizens over time; and
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the policies, programs, and services created to improve the quality of life of Nisga'a citizens.

Quality of life strategies continue to be incorporated in all of NLG's programs and services.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Director will continue to work with Directors of Programs and Services; Fish and Wildlife; Language and Culture; manager of NEST; Nisga'a Museum; Economic Development Coordinator; NCFS; and Office of Designated Rep.

As a fellow Nisga'a citizen working for Nisga'a Nation, I am honored to support the endeavours of the Nation's strategic plan and the programs and services available to our people.

Wishing each one of you a very wonderful week, full of information and answered questions.

Respectfully submitted by,

Janice Angus, BPA, MBA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NISGA'A CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES (NCFS)

"By maintaining the Nisga'a Family through the utilization of the Ayuuk, we will ensure the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and cultural well-being of all Nisga'a children."

NCFS honours the strength of our families, our culture, and our communities, striving to keep children within their homes and connected to their roots by providing resources and support needed to develop and preserve their wellbeing.

NCFS has offices located in New Aiyansh, Terrace, and Prince Rupert.

Through a service delivery agreement with the Province of BC, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare grants authority to NCFS to administer parts of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA). While providing child and family services pursuant to the *Provincial Act*, these services are delivered in a manner that reflects recognition of the unique needs of Nisga'a children and families.

Off Nisga'a lands, NCFS delivers C3-Resources & Voluntary Services and C4-Guardianship Services to Nisga'a children and families across the Northwest Corridor (Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, and Port Edward).

C3 Services-Resources

NCFS Resource team offers non-protection voluntary services such as Voluntary Care Agreements, Special Needs Agreements, and Support Service Agreements for families who require support.

The Resource team recruits, approves, and provides direct support to foster homes. NCFS is committed to provide safe alternate care for Nisga'a Children, ensuring their wellbeing while honouring and preserving Nisga'a identity.

The resource team is responsible for the training and ongoing support of foster families caring for Nisga'a children and youth.

Foster care is meant to be temporary. Foster care provides a safe and secure home for children who are unable to live with a parent while the parents are seeking the support they require to safely resume care for their child.

Open your heart; open your home. There is an urgent need for Nisga'a caregivers. If you are interested or would like more information on being a caregiver, contact an NCFS resource worker for the Nass 250-633-2603, for Terrace 250-635-3008 and Prince Rupert 250-627-4141.

**C4 Services-Guardianship**

The NCFS Guardianship team serves as the legal guardian for Nisga'a children and youth who are in the continuing care of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. The team is committed to supporting the wellbeing of children and youth by maintaining strong connections to their families, cultures, and communities.

The Guardianship team provides ongoing opportunities for children and youth in care to engage meaningfully in Nisga'a culture and ensures they have regular opportunities to visit and stay connected to their home communities.

C6-Child Protection

NCFS is responsible for delivering C3, C4, and C6 services with full C6 delegation established in May 2017 in Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx. C6 includes all the legal responsibilities of C3 and C4 plus full authority for child protection duties, including investigation of child abuse or neglect reports, placing children in care, obtaining court orders and developing safety plans.

NCFS works hard to keep children out of care and remain in the home and in the community. We acknowledge that the existing colonial system in place is derived from legislation and policy. NCFS undertakes the process of bringing culture, traditional knowledge, and guidance to our practice. NCFS acknowledges the strength of the families, the wilp, and the community working together to maintain safety and wellbeing of children and families.

When children cannot safely remain in the home, NCFS empowers families to make decisions together to ensure a child can be cared for by extended family.

Post Majority Services

Support does not stop once a child turns 19 years old. NCFS are now supporting more young Nisga'a adults who have aged out of care. NCFS can provide support until their 27th birthday. Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) offers young adults improved income and housing supports; wellness and mental health benefits; and opportunities to pursue life-skills, training, and cultural connections up to their 27th birthday. To be eligible, youth must have:

- Reached their 19th birthday while on a Youth Agreement, a Continuing Custody Order, or were under the personal guardianship of a director; or
- Achieved permanency between the ages of 12-19 (i.e., adoption after being in care, or under section 54.1 or 54.01); or
- Had 24 months of cumulative time in care between the ages of 12-19, in any care status excluding 54.1, 54.01 or adoption.
- They were in a comparable arrangement under Indigenous law.

Key Priorities & Service Approach

NCFS is working on advancing practice from child protection response towards early intervention and prevention services. This has been a challenge due to current funding constraints. NCFS recognizes fiscal limitations will restrict the pace of improvements.

NCFS has been working to strengthen collaboration with community partners such as School District 92, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA), and Village Governments. This work is designed to leverage shared resources and deliver coordinated prevention services. NCFS realizes the surface-level fixes do not work long term and urges service providers and community organizations to commit to systemic reform so every sector is supported. By working together, we can fill in the gaps of services so every Nisga'a child can be safe, supported, and thrive. A key for prevention services is that they are accepted by those who need them the most.

Family Group Conferencing (FGC)

NCFS acknowledges that families have the capacity and expertise to address family concerns and develop their own care plans with success and accountability. The program facilitates the following collaborative meeting processes:

- Family Group Conferences (FGC);
- Family Case Planning Conferences (FCPC) – which can help develop family plans to provide safety for children;
- Youth Transition Conferences (YTC) – which supports aging our planning; and

- Permanency Planning Meetings (PPM) – which is the process of securing a long-term, stable living arrangement that provides children with a sense of belonging and supports their overall well-being. It aims to minimise disruptions and promote security for a child.

SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Nisga'a Infant Development Program (NIDP)

The NIDP provides support for families of children aged birth to three years who are at risk for, or already have a delay in development. The NIDP consultant uses an inclusive, family-centred approach when working with families to support their children. The NIDP team visits families in their homes or in a community setting, working with an integrated approach to services. Participation is voluntary, and services are grounded in a culturally sensitive, family-centred approach that supports early development and connection.

Nisga'a Supported Child Development (NSCD)

The Supported Child Development program supports families through in-school and at-home care for Nisga'a children. Whether your child is experiencing behavioural challenges, emotional regulation difficulties, is believed to have a disability, or has been diagnosed with a disability, NSCD is here to help. The NSCD team takes a Nisga'a-centred, relationship-based approach to foster connection, community, and success.

Family Skills Workers (FSW)

The Family Skills team provides in-home parenting support, supervised access, and nurturing capabilities among families. They work directly with families and/or youth referred by self-referral or by social workers. Family Skills workers aid families by providing support, resources, and cultural practices to help families navigate complexities of the child welfare system. The objective is to have our Nisga'a children, youth, and parents gain knowledgeable, empowerment, and assertiveness in their newfound skills to effectively manage their situation.

Emerging Priorities

NCFS recently completed an external agency review which confirmed the urgent need to strengthen service delivery. The findings clearly identify a required shift from a child protection and crisis response model to a prevention and early intervention model. This shift is critical to improving outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Current State

NCFS continues to operate within a resource constrained environment which limits its ability to implement this transformation at the required pace. Demand remains high, workloads are significant, and the current model is heavily weighted towards reactive intervention rather than proactive family support.

Strategic Direction

NCFS is committed to transitioning toward a prevention focused, family wellness model emphasizing early intervention, cultural connection, and family empowerment. This shift aligns with long term goals of reducing system involvement, strengthening families, and improving child safety outcomes.

What is required

To move forward effectively, NCFS requires:

- Support from treaty partners (NCFS has been denied funding made available to other nations since treaty)
- A sustainable financial approach (including the ability to retain and reinvest program surpluses)

Children and families cannot afford delays. While NCFS is committed to leading this transformation, meaningful progress depends on timely investment, structural alignment, and government support. This is not only a service improvement initiative – it is a necessary shift to reduce long-term costs and improve outcomes for our future generations. Children are our most valuable resource, let's protect our future.

Submitted by,

Michael Davis

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,

NISGA'A CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



Office of the In-House Legal Counsel / Law Clerk

Amanda Miller
LAW CLERK

GREETINGS TO SPECIAL ASSEMBLY 2026

DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS! The office of the In-House Legal Counsel / Law Clerk is a growing and busy component of Nisga'a Lisims Government. The team/department is comprised of:

AMANDA MILLER,

Law Clerk / Lead In-House Legal Counsel since March 2023

MIRANDA SHARPE,

In-House Legal Counsel since September 2024

CATHERINE HAMILL,

In-House Legal Counsel since April 2026

MYRLE MORVEN,

Legislative Assistant since March 2013 and Reporting Officer since November 2013

Ashley Morgan,

Legal Assistant since March 2024

LAW CLERK

As Law Clerk, I advise Nisga'a Lisims Government on local legal matters and on interpretation of Nisga'a Nation laws. I also serve as the resource person to the Executive, Executive committees, and Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a (WSN). I work closely with external legal counsel on a wide variety of subjects such as litigation, major projects, and complex agreements for the consideration of the Executive and WSN.

Our office works with the CEO, Executive Director, and the Manager of Executive Services to review matters brought forward to the Executive for decision. Our tasks include reviewing materials giving rise to issues prior to the monthly Executive meetings and drafting the wording of motions for Executive's consideration.

We also work with the Speaker, the CEO, and the Legislative Assistant to coordinate the sittings for Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a. We advise the Speaker and

Nisga'a representatives on matters in the House, draft motions, and answer questions with respect to the interpretation of Nisga'a laws during question period.

The Legislative Assistant sends notice of sittings to elected members; organizes WSN meeting materials before sittings; and after sittings, ensures records of WSN business and resolutions are accurately kept. Myrle has created two databases in relation to our WSN work. One of the databases tracks WSN resolutions and the other database manages information related to the elected members, including each member's oath of office, disclosure statements, and any Code of Conduct related materials.

Under the *Nisga'a Government Act*, it is the responsibility of the Law Clerk to maintain the Nisga'a Registry of Laws. The most important or frequently used Nisga'a acts and regulations are accessible electronically on the Nisga'a Lisims Government website. However, the public may access any Nisga'a enactment – current or historical – by contacting the Legislative Assistant.

Legislative Assistant / Reporting Officer

As Legislative Assistant, I work closely with In-House Legal Counsel / Law Clerk on matters involving the governance and laws of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Together with the Law Clerk, I maintain the database that houses the Nisga'a Registry of Laws. The Nisga'a Registry of Laws contains each original enactment passed by Executive or Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a since 2000. To date, the Nisga'a Registry consists of 294 enactments.

The Nisga'a Registry of Laws is updated each time a new act is passed by Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a or a new regulation is passed by the Executive. The Legislative Assistant assists the Law Clerk by sending

the Notice of Enactment to the provincial and federal governments, all Nisga'a Village Governments, and Nisga'a Urban Local offices. Nisga'a Lisims Government employees, other government entities, and Nisga'a citizens contact me to obtain a copy of a given Nisga'a law or regulation.

The Legislative Assistant works with the Speaker, Law Clerk, and others to ensure that the business of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a is carried out in accordance with Nisga'a Law. The Notices of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a sittings are issued by my office on behalf of the Speaker of the House. I also prepare any materials for distribution in the House.

On November 18, 2013, the CEO of Nisga'a Lisims Government appointed me Reporting Officer under the Members' Code of Conduct (the "Code"). As Reporting Officer, I respond to Nisga'a citizens who have questions concerning the Code or processes under the Code. I am responsible for reviewing complaints submitted under the Code to ensure they meet the formal requirements with respect to dates and follow the prescribed form. The Reporting Officer also ensures new members of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a are sworn in and files the required disclosure forms. My office houses the disclosure and other forms related to Nisga'a representatives.

March 18, 2026, marks my thirteenth year in this position. I have attended 29 regular sittings in addition to every Special or Extraordinary Sitting called under the *Nisga'a Government Act*. This job is challenging, but it is truly my honour to carry out this work on behalf of the Nation. T'ooyaksiy' nisim and I wish you all a Happy Nisga'a Day.

Legal Assistant

As the Legal Assistant, I play a key role in supporting the Law Clerk, In-House Legal Counsel, and Legislative Assistant through a wide range of administrative functions. My responsibilities include maintaining highly organized administrative files, processing legal invoices, managing requests for legal services, and coordinating travel arrangements as needed.

As of April 1, 2026, I have been appointed as a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for the Province of British Columbia, further strengthening my ability to support both our team and the Nation in the execution of legal documents.

I am grateful to continue growing in this role with Nisga'a Lisims Government and look forward to contributing my skills and dedication to the organization.

An Important Note Concerning Personal Legal Issues

The Office of In-House Legal Counsel frequently receives calls from individuals requiring advice on personal legal matter. Unfortunately, the role of In-House Legal Counsel is limited to providing legal advice to the Nisga'a Lisims Government and cannot assist individual Nisga'a citizens or Nisga'a Government employees with personal legal matters.



Office of the Designated Representative for the Nisga'a Nation

Abeline (Abby) Stewart,
MANAGER/DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

ABELINE (ABBY) STEWART,
Manager/Designated Representative

ANNIE STEWART,
Court Coordinator/Advocate

GRACE CLAYTON,
Administrative Assistant

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE NISGA'A FINAL AGREEMENT PARAGRAPH 94 AND 95, we have standing in any judicial proceeding in which custody of a Nisga'a child is in dispute under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), *Family Law Act* (FLA), and the *Adoptions Act*, where the court will consider any evidence and representations in respect of Nisga'a laws and customs in addition to any other matters it is required by law to consider.

This means we are a party to court proceedings and have standing for all court matters pertaining to Nisga'a children across Canada. The most important are the collective discussions held prior to court where we ensure that family is included in decision-making matters pertaining to their child(ren) – to ensure they remain connected and that their cultural identity is supported. In short, we have a say and input in all matters in court and any meetings prior to court.

As well as attending to and fulfilling standing in court, we:

- Provide advocacy
- Assist with resource seeking
- Assist families in understanding the processes they experience under CFCSA, FLA, and *Adoptions Act*
- Ensure quality assurance in practice
- Collect data for statistics
- Build relationships and network

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT A GREATER CULTURAL LENS IN OUR WORK?

- We collaborate with Nisga'a Lisims Government Language and Culture department to bridge the gap between our systemic work and the cultural components we wish to honour. They are our connection to our families.
- We collaborate with Nisga'a Lisims Enrollment and Citizenship department.

The Office of the Designated Representative for the Nisga'a Nation is under the directorate of Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive Director. This office officially changed its name in 2022 due to ongoing confusion about the role we fulfill on behalf of the Nation, and to differentiate our role from Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) who are a delegated child welfare service under the province.

SIMILARITIES IN ROLES:

- Both NCFS and Office of the Designated Representative for Nisga'a Nation are involved in matters pertaining to Nisga'a children.
- Both NCFS and Office of Designated Representative office work under the Executive Director for the Nisga'a Lisims Government.

DIFFERENCE IN ROLES:

- NCFS does delegated work for the province on behalf of the Director for Child and Family Services guided by the *Child and Family Service Act of BC*.
- NCFS works within delegated authority from the province to implement C6, C4, and C3 work for the Nisga'a Nation:
 - C6 work – Child protection is jurisdictional. This means NCFS only has jurisdiction on Nisga'a lands to do child protection and to respond to child protection calls. The work is done in the four Nisga'a communities on Nisga'a lands only.

- C4 work – Guardianship work is held and carried out from offices in Terrace, Prince Rupert, and New Aiyansh.
- C3 work – Resource/Voluntary Services work is performed from offices in Terrace, Prince Rupert, and New Aiyansh.

OFFICE OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

- Workers are not delegated social workers, however having knowledge of the child welfare policies and procedures as well as jurisdiction for both on and off Nisga'a lands helps with advocacy.
- Our work is guided by Nisga'a Final Agreement under which we have standing in court on behalf of the designated representative for the Nation.
 - The term “standing” means we are a party to proceedings and have ability to provide input in matters from the point of involvement in CFCSA, FLA, and/or *Adoptions Act* matters, throughout the process to court phase, and thereafter.
- **Advocacy** – We have expanded the scope of what it means to advocate for the Nisga'a child. In the past, this department stated in the old brochure that the former CRT did not act as advocates for parents or family. Today, we acknowledge that advocacy for the Nisga'a Child means advocating for the child's family connections, which includes the parents. This is an important piece of our work, as we understand the significance of having a voice for our Nisga'a families.
- **Quality assurance** – Being knowledgeable in social work practice; knowing and understanding terms and processes under CFCSA, FLA, and *Adoptions Act* to effectively advocate; noting gaps; and initiating improvements where necessary.
- **Information management** – Improving internal processes to manage the information we receive for validity and accuracy.
- **Collection of data** – Data is vital to help us understand the circumstances our Nisga'a children and families endure. The goal for the collection of data is to produce statistics to analyze and identify trends and areas for improvement. We can also utilize this data for the creation of effective programming to suit the needs of the people. We track how many court proceedings we are party to and the location of those proceedings.

FOR THE FUTURE:

We look forward to future improvements to our office and the role we fulfill.

Adoptions Act – Before a Nisga'a child can be placed for adoption, a director of an adoption agency must make every reasonable effort to discuss the child's placement with the Designated Representative for NLG.

- Important to know where our children are going. Important to know that family are informed and included.
- Create Nisga'a policy and guidelines on how to manage adoptions planning according to Nisga'a ways of being.

☞ Permanency Planning – Cultural Safety Agreements.

- Forming criteria and policy.

JURISDICTION? HOW WILL NISGA'A PROCEED?

- Bill C-92 – an act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families – was co-developed by the Government of Canada and Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners. This act provides Indigenous communities with a pathway to apply their inherent jurisdiction over the care of their own children and families that follows their own traditional laws and values. It also affirms the rights of Indigenous communities to develop policies, laws, and practices based on their histories, cultures, and circumstances. Communities can choose their own solutions for their children and families and implement and enforce policies and laws at their own pace.

WHAT IS THE NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE?

The manager of the Office of the Designated Representative is designated as the representative for the Nisga'a Nation, as represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government, under British Columbia child and family legislation, including the *Child, Family and Community Services Act*, the *Family Law Act*, and the *Adoption Act*. As the NLG Designated Representative, the manager receives notices each time the issue of custody or guardianship of a Nisga'a child comes before the courts anywhere across Canada. The Office of the Designated Representative participates in child and family court proceedings on behalf of NLG to ensure Nisga'a children retain their Nisga'a cultural identity and maintain their connection to Nisga'a family and to the Nisga'a community.

INDIGENOUS GOVERNING BODY (IGB)

The Office of the Designated Representative also represents NLG in the capacity of the IGB. This means Notices of Significant Measures are sent to our office and we respond accordingly.

Section 12 of the federal *Act* respecting First Nation, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families requires the director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to provide notice of significant measures to the Indigenous Governing Body to which a child belongs.

- *S.C 2019 C.24 2019.06.21 An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families.*

A Notice of Significant Measures is a legal requirement under federal Canadian legislation (Bill C-92) and provincial child welfare acts mandating child protection agencies inform Indigenous Governing Bodies, parents, and care providers before taking major actions regarding an Indigenous child.

“Significant measures” include actions that substantially change a child's day-to-day life, safety, or legal status, such as:

- **Apprehension or removal** of a child from their home.
- **Court proceedings** related to child protection.
- **Placement changes** including moving a child to a new foster home or out-of-home arrangement.
- **Placement for adoption.**
- **Critical incidents** or urgent, non-routine safety plan changes.

Once the NLG Designated Representative is informed of the court proceedings involving the custody or guardianship of a Nisga'a child, a member of the Nisga'a Designated Representative's office can attend court and participate in the proceedings. Their participation in these proceedings is to ensure the Nisga'a heritage of the child and the connection with Nisga'a family and community is protected and adhered to as much as possible.

Our mission: To ensure every Nisga'a child involved in child and family court proceedings preserves their Nisga'a cultural identity.

LEGISLATION AND TREATY RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Nisga'a Final Agreement (Treaty): Nisga'a Government has standing in any judicial proceeding in which custody of a Nisga'a child is in dispute, and the court will consider any evidence and representations in respect of Nisga'a laws and customs. (See Chapter 11, paras. 94-95, and 98.)

Child, Family and Community Services Act: The Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) of any other Indigenous Child and Family Services (IFSC) agency, including NCFS, must inform NLG when a Nisga'a child is the subject of a presentation hearing or an application for a temporary or continuing custody order. A representative for NLG may then appear and participate in these court proceedings. (See sections 33.1(4)(d), 34(3)(e), 36(2.1)(f), 38(1)(c.1), and 42.1(3)(c).)

Family Law Act: If an application for guardianship is made in respect of a Nisga'a child, the applicant must serve NLG with notice of the proceeding. (See section 208.)

Adoption Act: Before a Nisga'a child may be placed for adoption, a director of adoption or an adoption agency must make reasonable efforts to discuss the child's placement with NLG. (See section 7(1)(a.1).)

Outside of court, the Office of the Designated Representative works with child protection workers, e.g., the MCFD of another IFCS, guardianship, or adoption workers, to provide a liaison to the Nisga'a community and to establish meaningful cultural plans.

In 2025, the office participated in 108 family matters (216 children) in 31 different locations across Canada for court proceedings. Outside of court, our office participated in family case conferences, family group conference, mediations, and many phone consultations with child protection workers.

In the future, we hope to expand the office so we can attend every family meeting in person, regardless of location, and to attend all court proceedings. It is vital to have a voice for our Nisga'a children.





Directorate of Finance

Terry L. Holt
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

THE DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (THE “CFO”). The CFO oversees Finance and Accounting for the Nisga’a Lisims Government (NLG). The office of the CFO is created by the *Nisga’a Financial Administration Act* and has responsibilities and authorities under various pieces of Nisga’a Legislation including the *Nisga’a Financial Administration Act*, the *Nisga’a Capital Finance Commission Act*, and the *Nisga’a Programs and Services Delivery Act*. The CFO is responsible for the evaluation of financial management throughout the Nisga’a Nation, Nisga’a Villages, and Nisga’a Institutions, and is responsible for recommendations for improvements considered necessary.

The Accounting department maintains all the financial records of NLG and compiles financial reports from all Nisga’a entities. To that end, it processes all financial transactions, prepares financial reports, and develops and maintains all internal controls for NLG. For the 2025 fiscal year, the auditors (Deloitte LLP) provided an unqualified audit opinion and determined that the financial records of NLG have been maintained in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (“PSAS”). This audit report indicates a “clean opinion” with no reservations. It is the best type of report NLG can receive, indicating that its financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, and comply with Canadian public sector accounting standards. It signifies that the auditors found no material misstatements or exceptions, ensuring the financial records are reliable.

NISGA’A LISIMS GOVERNMENT - SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Nisga’a Lisims Government remains in a strong financial position. Fiscal 2025 summary financial information (as per the audited consolidated financial statements of Nisga’a Lisims Government) follows. Highlights include:

- Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) and related funding of \$100 million, and total revenues of \$163 million.
- Financial assets of \$719 million inclusive of cash, investments, and settlement trust funds.
- Tangible capital assets of \$35 million, and accumulated surplus of \$542 million.

FISCAL FINANCING AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

The Treaty sets out the principles, matters to be considered, and contents of the Fiscal Financing Agreement. The Fiscal Financing Agreement is a tripartite framework agreement that was signed between the Nisga’a Nation, British Columbia, and Canada. The Parties to this agreement must be guided by the treaty provisions in formulating and conducting negotiations. The Parties will negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on a fiscal financing agreement by which funding will be provided to the Nisga’a Nation to enable the provision of agreed-upon public programs and services to Nisga’a citizens and, where applicable, non-Nisga’a occupants of Nisga’a Lands, at levels reasonably comparable to those generally prevailing in northwest British Columbia.

The Parties entered into the initial Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement on May 11, 2000, which was amended by amendment agreements dated July 3, 2003; February 2, 2004; March 30, 2006; March 30, 2008; and March 30, 2009. The Parties entered into the second Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2009, which was amended by agreements dated March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2019. The Parties entered into the third Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2019, which

was subsequently amended by eight amendment agreements (March 15, 2020; June 15, 2020; March 31, 2021; April 1, 2021; April 1, 2022; April 1, 2023; April 1, 2024; and April 1, 2025). The April 1, 2023 amendment extended FFA No. 3 to March 31, 2034. This extension ensures that there is no Own-Source Revenue (OSR) deduction from fiscal transfers until the 2034/35 fiscal year due to the existing moratorium on funding reductions (clawbacks) under the Own-Source Revenue (OSR) policy".

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2025	2024
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 77,831,499	\$ 58,743,466
Restricted cash	84,141,389	102,086,830
Accounts and loans receivable	7,590,318	22,877,520
Designated cash	47,054,357	37,750,520
Designated investments - capital finance commission	57,396,069	50,175,914
Designated investments - commercial fisheries trust	15,079,868	14,090,676
Designated trust funds	421,461,014	392,554,819
Other investments	8,302,973	4,916,658
	718,857,487	683,196,403
Liabilities		
Deferred revenue and deposits received	81,844,123	70,282,400
Silviculture obligation	957,957	1,200,098
Capital Finance Commission deferred revenue	104,100,863	87,923,317
	212,237,079	195,845,809
Net financial assets	506,620,408	487,350,594
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets	34,537,835	27,735,532
Prepaid expenses	817,312	655,759
	35,355,147	28,391,291
Accumulated surplus	541,975,555	515,741,885

NISGA’A SETTLEMENT TRUST

The Nisga’a Settlement Trust was established to provide for the future benefit of the Nisga’a Nation. Over the years, the Trust has accumulated value through the receipt of capital transfers from Canada, British Columbia, and through investment returns provided by the Trust Fund. Since the inception of the Nisga’a Settlement Trust, the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada, a member company of the Royal Bank Financial Group, has been appointed as Trustee and is responsible for the administration of the Trust. The government has appointed a Trustee to hold, protect, and grow this portion of Nisga’a Final Agreement proceeds. For the Trust to maintain its real value, it must grow at a minimum rate of Spending + Total Fees + Own Source Revenue Tax Accrual + Inflation. It should be noted that the Trust takes a long-term view regarding its investment policy. While fluctuations are expected in economic conditions and market results, the expectation is that the Trust will earn a positive return over the long term. The Settlement Trust Fund was valued at \$454.8 million as of December 31, 2025.

KEY INITIATIVES

1. Support the Nisga’a Nation participation in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process with Canada.
2. Support the Nisga’a Nation participation in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process with the province of BC.
3. Work closely with the trustee and investment management partners to monitor Settlement Trust investments to ensure long-term growth and liquidity within a risk-constrained framework.
4. Work to refine the budget process in line with Nisga’a Lisims Finance Committee, Nisga’a Lisims Executive, and Wilp Si’ayuuqhl Nisga’a (WSN) direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry L. Holt

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER





Directorate of Programs & Services

Cherie Mercer
DIRECTOR

ON BEHALF OF THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE, I PRESENT THIS 2026 REPORT WITH HUMILITY AND RESPECT FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO US. Our Committee provides oversight, guidance, and legislative support to the Programs & Services Directorate, ensuring the work carried out under this portfolio remains aligned with Nisga'a law, the *Programs & Services Delivery Act*, and the Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN) Strategic Plan.

Throughout the past year, the Committee has remained focused on strengthening governance, supporting administrative clarity, and ensuring the programs under this Directorate continue to serve Nisga'a citizens with consistency, fairness, and accountability.

MANDATE OF THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Programs & Services Committee is established under the Executive Rules and the *Nisga'a Governance Act*. The Committee's mandate is to provide oversight, advice, and motions to the Executive on matters within its policy scope, including:

- the *Nisga'a Programs and Services Delivery Act*
- the *Nisga'a Citizenship Act*
- related Chapters of the Nisga'a Treaty
- relationships with social service providers

The Committee fulfills this mandate by reviewing program updates, considering policy matters, and ensuring that recommendations brought forward remain aligned with Nisga'a legislation and the longterm direction of the Nation.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Programs & Services Committee is responsible for reviewing program updates, considering policy matters within its mandate, and ensuring that recommendations brought forward remain aligned with Nisga'a legislation and Executive direction. The Committee reviews its provisional and final budgets, the annual work plan prepared by the Director, and the quarterly operating statements of the Programs & Services Directorate. The Committee also ensures that motions and decisions remain within its policy scope and are prepared for Executive consideration in a clear and timely manner. Through this work, the Committee supports steady governance and helps maintain clarity across all program areas under the Directorate.

Chair & Directorate Support

The Chair works closely with the Director of Programs & Services to ensure the Committee is organized, informed, and able to execute its policy mandate. Together, they prepare and circulate agendas and materials in advance of meetings, ensure quorum is confirmed, and support focused discussion on matters within the Committee's legislative responsibilities. The Director provides the reports, background information, and administrative preparation needed for informed decisionmaking; maintains accurate records of attendance and motions; and presents Committee-approved motions to the Executive. Through this shared approach, the Chair and the Directorate ensure the Committee's work is steady, accountable, and aligned with Nisga'a law and Executive direction.

Director's Leadership

The Director of Programs & Services provides steady leadership across the Directorate, ensuring all program areas operate in alignment with the Committee's Terms of Reference and the legislative framework guiding this portfolio. The Director prepares program updates and motions for Committee consideration, coordinates the development of annual work plans, and ensures that matters brought forward are ready for informed discussion and decision-making. Through ongoing oversight and support to staff, the Director maintains strong administrative practices, upholds governance and reporting requirements, and ensures the Directorate's work remains consistent with Nisga'a law, Executive direction, and the long-term goals of the Nation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (2025 - 2026)

1. Governance & Oversight

Over the past year, the Committee supported the Directorate by reviewing quarterly operating statements, adopting motions and proceedings, and engaging in legislative and policy discussions that strengthened clarity across the portfolio. The Committee also coordinated with Village Governments and Nisga'a entities to ensure that program delivery remained consistent and aligned with Executive direction. Through this work, the Committee contributed to strong governance and accountability across all program areas under the Directorate.

2. Citizenship Administration

In the area of Citizenship, the Committee received periodic updates from the Director on Enrolment Committee activities, application processes, address updates, and Enrolment Register maintenance. These updates supported the Committee's understanding of how the *Nisga'a Citizenship Act* is being administered and ensured the Committee remained informed at the governance level. During the reporting period, the Committee approved, and the Executive subsequently adopted, its support for the *Nisga'a Citizenship Act* 2025155, further strengthening the legislative foundation for this important area of work.

3. Social Development

The Committee received periodic updates on Social Development, including information on financial supports for eligible citizens and the status of the recent policy review. Although the Social Development Working Group has completed its work and the updated policy is now awaiting Executive approval, reporting from the Village Governments has remained consistent and reliable, even with a current vacancy in the program area. These updates ensured the Committee remained informed at the governance level while the Directorate continued to manage the program in alignment with the *Programs & Services Delivery Act*.

4. Access to Justice

The Committee received periodic updates on justice-related services delivered through federal and provincial contracts, under Canada's Indigenous Justice Program and the justice services provided through the BC Corrections agreement. These contracted services include restorative justice supports, victim services, youth justice initiatives, and culturally grounded approaches such as Yuuhlimk'askw, as well as screening, monitoring, and community-based alternatives outlined in the BC Corrections contract. The updates ensured the Committee remained informed at the governance level while service delivery continued under the terms of the contribution agreements. These services continue to strengthen community safety and support culturally informed pathways within the justice system.

Longhouse Revival Initiative

The Committee received a presentation on the Longhouse Revival Initiative – a collaborative effort between Nisga'a Lisims Government and the BC First Nations Justice Council. Supported through the CommunityBased Justice Fund, this initiative aims to “build longhouses in each village to act as places of healing and wellness” and to strengthen culturally grounded responses to conflict and community harms. The work includes the creation of Longhouse Revival Working Group, community engagement across the Nation, and the development of a Nisga'a Justice Plan rooted in Ayuukhl Nisga'a. This initiative reflects a longterm vision of restoring traditional approaches to wellness, accountability, and safety.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE WSN STRATEGIC PLAN & FOUR PILLARS

Pillar 1: Sustainable Programs & Services

- Oversight of social development, postsecondary, access to justice, and citizenship
- Support for strengthened administrative processes

Pillar 2: Strong Governance & Accountability

- Regular Committee meetings and legislative oversight
- Review of financials, policies, and program updates
- Support for clear administrative practices

Pillar 3: Nisga'a Citizens & Families

- Oversight of programs supporting families and vulnerable citizens
- Support for cultural protection through program delivery
- Justice services strengthening community wellbeing

Pillar 4: Capacity, Culture & Future Generations

- Support for education pathways and lifelong learning
- Cultural integration in justice and social programming
- Data-informed planning for future programming

PRIORITIES FOR 2026 - 2027

- Continued oversight of program delivery and legislative compliance
- Support for policy updates upon Executive approval
- Strengthening governance clarity across all program areas
- Ongoing alignment with the WSN Strategic Plan and Four Pillars

CLOSING STATEMENT

On behalf of the Programs & Services Committee, I extend appreciation to the staff, Village Governments, and Nisga'a entities who contribute to this work. We remain committed to providing steady oversight, grounded in Nisga'a law and guided by the longterm direction of the Nation.

**Sheldon Martin,
CHAIR, PROGRAMS
& SERVICES COMMITTEE**





**LUU-AM-AAMHL ÇAÇOODIM' WIL BAKWSIM'.
K'OOMAXGUM'HL HILTHL AGUHL DIM GUUDISIM'
YUKWHL GILMUWIM' LOOSIM' SA TGUN.** We're happy that you are here. We hope that you will have lots to take away as you listen to our reports.

BACKGROUND

The language planning initiative began in January 2014 with a grant from First People's Cultural Council. An interim language and culture authority was established, at which time the strategic plan, terms of reference and action plan were drafted. The drafts have been updated periodically.

In 2020, NLG received funding for the program "Revitalizing Nisga'a Cultural Identity by Preserving and Strengthening the Nisga'a Language." The original agreement was for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023.

In March 2023, the agreement was amended to a flexible contribution agreement which was scheduled to end on March 31, 2025. Heritage Canada has recognized the level of progression we have made since 2022 and has agreed to continue funding to March 31, 2030, utilizing the accumulated surplus.

REVITALIZATION

The scope of the language revitalization project, through the contribution agreement, offers opportunity to enhance the collection of language and cultural material and to support and preserve historical documentation – safeguarding the information by digitizing it, so it is accessible to Nisga'a when needed. To date, our work meets the funding requirements and demonstrates the need for continued funding. Our work also fits into NLG's strategic plan.

The Language & Culture Directorate provides administrative support to the Council of Elders.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE ACT

The draft Language and Culture Act passed the first reading at the October 2025 sitting of Wilp Si'ayuuḵhl Nisga'a. The Council of Elders reviewed and provided input in December 2025, and in March 2026, we conducted community consultations in the four Nisga'a villages with opportunity for all Nisga'a citizens to participate daily via Zoom. The Act passed the second and third reading in March 2026. We are now in implementation stage.

**LANGUAGE & CULTURE AUTHORITY:
T'AN DIYEEHL LIP ALGAḶAM' ÇANHL
LIP WILAA LOOM' (BOARD)**

We have been successful in ensuring we follow through with the resolution as presented by the elders on September 17, 2007: that there be a stand-alone Nisga'a language and culture authority. T'an Diyeehl Lip Algaxam' Çanhl Lip Wilaa Loom' is a non-political body.

As we move forward, we acknowledge the role of Council of Elders as set out in Nisga'a legislation – to advise NLG on matters relating to Nisga'a ayuuk as it pertains to government initiatives. We also respect the role of the Simgigat ganhl Sigidim-haanaḵ' of each Wilp and their authority regarding their ango'oskw, traditional names, ayuuk, yuuhlimḵ'askw, and other matters.

T'an Diyeehl Lip Algaxam' Çanhl Lip Wilaa Loom' is being formally established during this implementation process. The following committees and other working groups will be established:

- Vetting committee: vetting of language content for authentication (active since 2022).
- Technical committee: develop policies and procedures, terms of reference, work with NLG to address copyright, and for the Nisga'a Nation to recommend T'an Diyeehl Lip Algaḡarḡ Ḡanhł Lip Wilaa Looḡ board as the Nisga'a language authority to recommend proficient speakers of our language for a First Nations Language Certificate through the BC Teachers Council.
- Steering committee: suggest language programs and initiatives.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

We continue to use the SD92 (Nisga'a) Bi & Bi and SD92 (Nisga'a) collections, which contain Nisga'a language that was used when we were very active on the land. We are actively creating new learning tools which are uploaded to our website upon completion.

- The Yuuhlimḡ'askw Series and five Robert Munsch translated books, both with audio recordings, are available online and for purchase at Raven House.
- The Nisga'a Phrase Dictionary was reprinted in hard-cover and is available for purchase at Raven House.
- Five 6-minute Nisga'a animations are viewable on our website.
- In October 2025, we hosted our first language symposium. We plan to have one in each village.
- nsgaalanguage.ca was launched in December 2025. This is a one-stop shop for access to resources and language learning tools, podcasts, Zoom language learning sessions and talking circles, language learning opportunities, and more.

IN PROGRESS

- We have purchased equipment enabling us to host Sim'algaḡ Zoom sessions, which will begin very shortly.
- We have also purchased puppets so we can share the language in a fun and safe environment for all ages.
- Data entry to the Nisga'a language app is ongoing.

OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

- Continue to obtain streaming rights to video publications.
- Continue digitization of audio and video recordings and language resources.

Through stakeholder engagement, we will plan for:

- A language house;
- Language nests;
- Community language picnics and language symposiums;
- Language immersion;
- Talking circles;
- Land-based and experiential learning; and
- More!

LONG-TERM PLANS

Video documentary: Lip wilaa looḡ, lip ayuugaḡ, lip algaḡarḡ, portraying Nisga'a people on Nisga'a lands with a Nisga'a narrator.

SUPPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS

- Nisga'a Child and Family Services
- Office of the Designated Representative
- Access to Justice Department on their longhouse project
- Hli Ḡoothł Wilp Adokshł Nisga'a
- SD92 (Nisga'a) – developing a resource sharing agreement and presenting during their professional development
- Nisga'a Valley Health Authority

ADHOC REQUESTS

- Assisted in the creation of a cultural awareness program for Ksi Lisims LNG and PRGT.
- Working with Nisga'a Fisheries.
- Provided input to the Stewart signage project and tour guide brochure.

AYUUKHL NISGA'A ARCHIVES & RESEARCH TEAM

- Our researcher continues to work diligently with General Counsel. They also work with our team to interview knowledge keepers to continue to preserve lip wilaa loom.
- The Ayuukhl Nisga'a archives policy and procedure and the Access to Information form is being updated. In the meantime, we are utilizing the interim forms.
- Our Records Management Technician continues with categorizing and cataloguing resources as we receive them. This is a crucial step in setting up the archives so the organization knows what we have. Plans will then be put in place regarding how the archives will be shaped, and how they can be viewed and used.

CLOSING

Way ga'asimhl gasgoohl hahlaishl dii jabim ts'im directorate. Gagetkw. ii wii t'is wil dip t'ooyaks dip nidiit an hlimoomim yukwhl wilirh.

Best wishes to all, on behalf of our team:

ESTHER ADAMS,

Director

LYDIA STEPHENS,

Language & Culture Program Manager

CONNIE AZAK,

Ayuukhl Nisga'a Researcher

CINDY CLAYTON,

Records Management Technician

DESTINEE CLAYTON,

Administrative Support

ASHNEEL RAI,

Audio/Video Technician





Directorate of Fisheries & Wildlife

Sim'oogit Hleek / Harry Nyce Sr.
DIRECTOR

WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE OUR REPORT ON NISGA'A FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (NFWD) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2024 AND 2025.

Since our last report in 2023, many activities have successfully been undertaken, helping ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife populations in the Nass Area for all Nisga'a citizens to enjoy now and in the future.

Each year, Nisga'a citizens continue to become more knowledgeable about our treaty, fish, and wildlife regulations, and program activities over the past 26 years of implementing the Nisga'a Treaty. In understanding and sharing a vision for the sustainable management of our fish and wildlife resources, our people share in the success of our fisheries and wildlife program and guide our future.

This report summarizes Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department activities for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, demonstrating our performance and fiscal responsibility in administrating these activities.

FISHERIES

The Nisga'a Fisheries Program is now entering its 35th year (one of the longest active First Nation fisheries programs in Canada) and celebrating a long history of fisheries scientific datasets which are used to manage northern salmon fisheries. Starting in 1992, the award-winning program has helped protect the fisheries resources of K'ali Aksim Lisims while providing long-term sustainable fisheries by utilizing proven traditional techniques as well as modern innovative science. Wherever possible, Nisga'a Traditional Knowledge continues to be integrated into the program from fishers and elders – utilizing generations of proven sustainable practices. The Nisga'a Nation's fisheries knowledge and experiences with managing fisheries

continue to be publicly shared, e.g., in 2023 (Chapter 3 in "This Place is Who We Are" by Katherine Palmer Gordon) and 2025 ("River Of Abundance: How Fishwheels Are Driving Nisga'a Nation's Salmon Stewardship," a Coast Funds video publication (<https://coastfunds.ca/stories/nisgaa-salmon-stewardship>) featuring NFWD's Nass Chinook radio-tagging conservation project).

Over the years, the fisheries program has been a significant employer of Nisga'a citizens, averaging 39 individuals since 1992; employing 35 in 2024 and 33 in 2025 to conduct 27-30 annual fisheries projects. The employment of Nisga'a citizens is a primary goal of the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, established when the Nisga'a Treaty started in 2000 – to provide annual funding from interest accrued – that promotes and supports Nisga'a participation in the stewardship of Nass Area fisheries and management.

During the period of 2024-2025 project activities, NFWD was managed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife (Sim'oogit Hleek- Harry Nyce Sr.), and supported by Coastal Project Manager (Blair Stewart), Fisheries Biologists (Niva Percival and James Griffin), Senior Fisheries Technicians (Tim Angus, Kirby Guno, Ben Gonu Jr., Nicole Morven, and April Angus), administrative support staff (Tanya Clayton [2024], Teniel Palmer [2025], Lonny Stewart, and Richard Azak), many fisheries and wildlife technical staff, and fisheries and wildlife professional biologists from LGL Limited.

Of the fisheries and wildlife technical and administrative staff that worked from 2024 to 2025, several individuals were employed by the fisheries program for:

1. over 30 years including Tim Angus (34 years), Ben Gonu Jr. (33 years), and April Angus (31 years);

2. over 20 years including Tanya Clayton (26 years [2024]), Kirby Guno (26 years), and Ben Gonu Sr. (24 years [2024]);
3. over 15 years including the late Brian Adams (19 years [2024]), Nicole Morven (18 years), Gary Gonu (17 years), and Larry Azak (17 years); and
4. over 10 years including Richard Azak (13 years), Franklin McDonald (12 years), and Shaquille Barton (11 years).

Annual goals of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program:

1. Monitor Nass River returns of salmon and steelhead to reach spawning goals and provide sustainable fisheries.
2. Provide information required for better fisheries management including harvests of Nass salmon and non-salmon fish in commercial, sport, and other fisheries.
3. Determine run size, timing, and Nisga'a Treaty salmon entitlement estimates.
4. Determine factors limiting healthy salmon and non-salmon production in the Nass watershed.
5. Provide training and employment to Nisga'a citizens.

Annual core Nisga'a Treaty projects have been funded by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, Fiscal Financing Agreement with Canada, and Nisga'a Lisims Government. The annual projects conducted in 2024 and 2025 included:

- Program planning, coordination, and support conducting up to 30 fisheries projects each year.
- Fishwheels (tagging, biological assessment (age, sex, size, genetics), and population estimates).
- Salmon and non-salmon catch monitoring.
- Oolichan catch monitoring.
- Oolichan spawning stock biomass assessments (i.e., egg/larvae counting).
- Dungeness crab assessment studies.

- Ts'oohl Ts'ap juvenile and adult coho counting fences.
- Meziadin fishway salmon counts.
- Kwinageese video counting weir.
- Gingit and other non-Meziadin sockeye escapement surveys.
- Lower and coastal Nass coho, pink, and chum escapement surveys.
- Steelhead and trout assessments.
- Crew training (e.g., first aid, Swiftwater rescue).

Additional projects that were funded by contracts in 2024 (11 projects) and 2025 (11 projects) were with:

- **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & OCEANS (DFO):**
 1. Nass Area shellfish biotoxin monitoring project (2024 & 2025);
 2. Area 3 Charter Patrol (2024 & 2025);
 3. DFO's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) Nisga'a salmon multi-year catch model modernization and analyses project (2024 & 2025); and
 4. Stewart Cumulative effects projects – Bear River Oolichan spawning assessment project (2024) and Nass marine juvenile assessment project (2025).
- **MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND & RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP, SKEENA REGION:**
 1. Summer-run steelhead tagging (2024) and population estimates (2024 & 2025); and
 2. Dolly Varden tagging assessment projects (2024 & 2025).
- **PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION:**
 1. 1-2. Sockeye and Chinook DNA studies (2024 & 2025);
 4. Chinook tagging/population and escapement projects including Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging (2024 & 2025);

- 5. Lower/coastal Nass Area pink, chum, and Chinook escapement surveys (2024 & 2025); and
 - 6. Nass Chinook escapement goal review project (Year 1).
- **COAST FUNDS:**
 - 1. Nass Chinook salmon radio-tagging project (2024).

Prior to 2022, Nass salmon returns were impacted due to poor marine ocean survival and growing conditions from extreme warm ocean temperatures that occurred from 2014 to 2016 including the "warm water blob" phenomena in 2015 and highest-heat marine heat waves in 2025. The forecasted salmon returns for 2026 are predicted to be the 18th best in the past 35 years (Table 1), with 1.8 million Nass salmon predicted to return, which is below average (2.0 million). All Nisga'a citizens should continue to take pride in supporting a tremendously successful fisheries program. Over the last 34 years of the program, Nass salmon escapement (spawning) goals have been achieved in most return years with continued rebuilding of Nass Area chum and Chinook salmon stocks (Figure 1).

Since Nisga'a Treaty implementation, a total of 2.8 million salmon (55% of total accumulated entitlement allocations) have been harvested in Nisga'a fisheries

NASS RIVER SALMON RETURNS

Nass River salmon returns in 2024 and 2025 were the 12th and third best returns in 34 years, respectively (Table 1). Total run sizes were 2.2 and 3.2 million salmon returning in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Most (72%) of the salmon returns from 2025 were pink salmon which represented the second highest return in a 34-year period and was 2.1 times larger than the odd-year return average (Table 1).

TABLE 1. TOTAL RUN SIZE ESTIMATES OF NASS RIVER SALMON & SUMMER-RUN STEELHEAD FROM 1992-2025 & FORECASTED FOR 2026 INCLUDING 35-YEAR RANKING OF BEST YEARS.

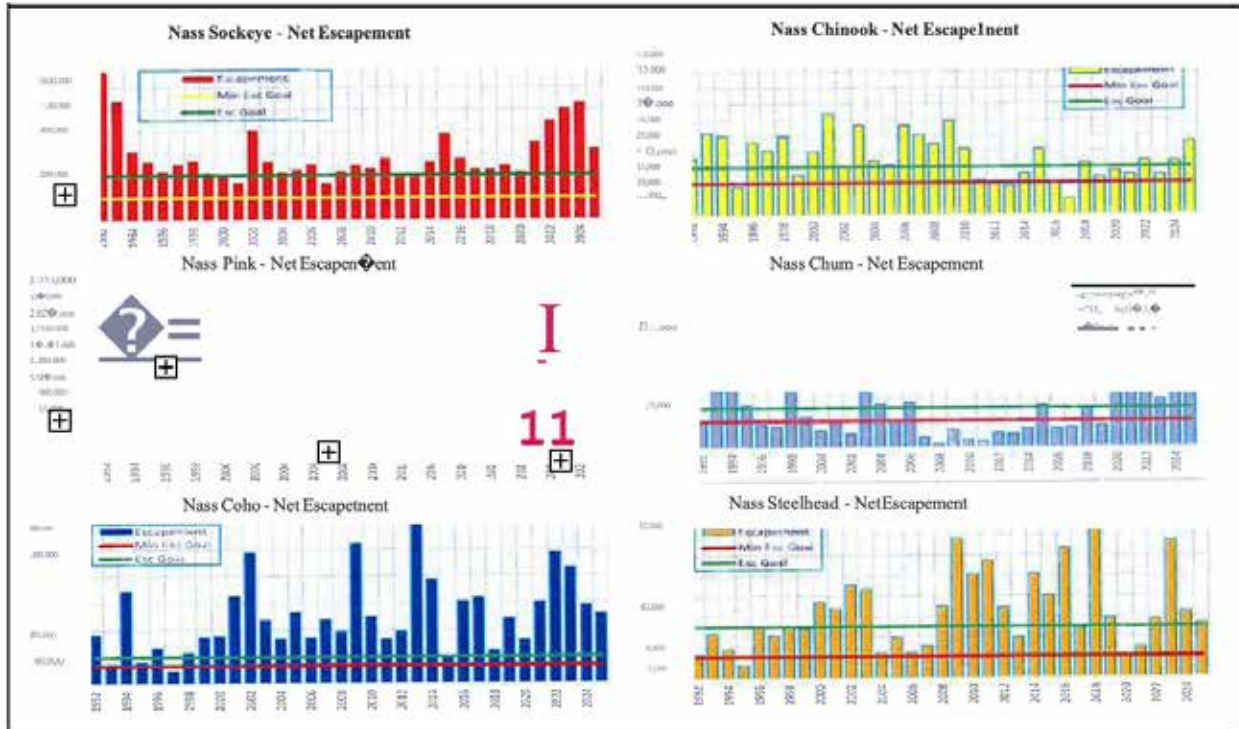
Year	Sockeye	Pink	Chinook	Coho	Chum	Total Salmon	Steelhead	Sockeye	Pink	Chinook	Coho	Chum	Total Salmon	Steelhead
1992	1,960,000	389,000	272,000	301,000	67,000	2,758,000	9,000	25	14	14	14	14	14	14
1993	2,151,000	1,205,000	48,000	119,000	322,000	1,846,000	17,000	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
1994	837,000	270,000	45,000	759,000	140,000	2,010,000	11,000	29	4	4	4	4	4	26
1995	1,169,000	1,010,000	23,000	1,110,000	140,000	2,466,000	6,000	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
1996	1,055,000	569,000	44,000	208,000	61,000	1,937,000	25,000	6	7	19	19	19	19	19
1997	950,000	475,000	38,000	61,000	33,000	1,622,000	25,000	7	22	20	20	20	20	14
1998	722,000	652,000	65,000	112,000	290,000	1,346,000	41,000	19	2	2	2	2	2	6
1999	842,000	1,069,000	30,000	207,000	89,000	1,613,000	11,000	10	17	26	26	26	26	17
2000	825,000	390,000	30,000	300,000	80,000	1,502,000	27,000	19	19	26	26	26	26	17
2001	673,000	2,197,000	30,000	374,000	90,000	3,191,000	22,000	21	17	12	26	24	24	8
2002	1,484,000	691,000	26,000	276,000	12,000	2,536,000	25,000	14	6	16	13	9	9	23
2003	1,177,000	564,000	16,000	65,000	87,000	2,222,000	8,000	14	4	16	13	9	9	23
2004	985,000	1,568,000	24,000	24,000	82,000	2,979,000	10,000	4	4	24	24	24	24	23
2005	667,000	14,520,000	46,000	74,000	42,000	15,219,000	12,000	16	14	30	22	13	13	28
2006	970,000	151,000	11,000	11,000	73,000	1,219,000	7,000	19	29	16	30	30	30	8
2007	1,111,000	1,018,000	30,000	482,000	20,000	1,961,000	9,000	31	8	8	30	30	30	34
2008	89,000	57,000	40,000	193,000	29,000	664,000	18,000	22	17	5	30	30	30	18
2009	575,000	928,000	18,000	89,000	10,000	2,035,000	47,000	19	19	17	27	27	27	10
2010	479,000	499,000	28,000	477,000	8,000	953,000	25,000	1	30	19	34	34	34	10
2011	257,000	1,003,000	20,000	200,000	78,000	974,000	30,000	20	20	23	23	23	23	4
2012	477,000	451,000	30,000	264,000	26,000	1,049,000	16,000	17	17	16	20	20	20	21
2013	504,000	1,077,000	16,000	849,000	17,000	2,490,000	10,000	3	21	25	25	25	25	28
2014	350,000	75,000	11,000	1,495,000	65,000	1,495,000	26,000	6	6	26	26	26	26	9
2015	870,000	427,000	35,000	1,643,000	11,000	1,643,000	24,000	28	12	21	21	21	21	12
2016	942,000	367,000	20,000	508,000	20,000	1,866,000	34,000	20	20	4	23	23	23	4
2017	569,000	92,000	20,000	370,000	25,000	1,119,000	12,000	23	23	7	24	24	24	26
2018	449,000	209,000	8,000	807,000	8,000	807,000	15,000	21	22	22	22	22	22	2
2019	943,000	943,000	21,000	217,000	20,000	943,000	16,000	32	15	27	17	17	17	7
2020	296,000	799,000	24,000	212,000	114,000	1,422,000	5,000	18	18	21	21	21	21	11
2021	809,000	636,000	30,000	374,000	100,000	1,895,000	9,000	18	18	14	18	18	18	11
2022	622,000	510,000	23,000	1,092,000	118,000	1,092,000	15,000	18	21	7	7	7	7	4
2023	698,000	2,518,000	17,000	545,000	65,000	3,841,000	35,000	15	12	1	1	1	1	2
2024	791,000	1,053,000	24,000	1,257,000	112,000	2,249,000	17,000	12	9	11	19	19	19	19
2025	478,000	2,286,000	11,000	293,000	101,000	3,191,000	14,000	27	2	15	13	13	13	25
2026	597,000	92,000	22,000	394,000	96,000	1,111,000	15,200	20	16	26	26	26	26	24

from 5.2 million provided as Nisga'a Treaty entitlements from 2000 to 2025. Entitlement harvests included Nass sockeye (91%), Chinook (89%), coho (57%), Nass Area pink (19%), and chum (17%). The average Nisga'a annual entitlements of Nass sockeye salmon over the past five years (93,000 [range: 65,000-126,000]) has been below the 2000-2025 average (198,000 [range: 62,000-559,000]) due to lower returns; but permitted opportunities for sale fisheries by Nisga'a Economic Corporations were conducted in 2024 and 2025 with 76,000 and 73,000 Nass sockeye harvested in treaty and DFO demonstration sale fisheries, respectively. For 2026 pre-season forecast projections for Nass salmon, 236,000 salmon are predicted to be available for food fisheries (61,000) and potential sale (175,000) opportunities. Pre-season projected forecast totals for 2026 include 109,000 Nass sockeye, 88,000 pink, 27,000 coho, 7,000 chum, and 4,600 Chinook.

2024 & 2025 HIGHLIGHTS – FISHERIES

- Successfully implemented 30 fisheries projects (including 11 contracts) in 2024 and 27 fisheries projects (including 11 contracts) in 2025 that enabled the monitoring of salmon returns to the Nass River and to Nass Area streams and determining Nass Area non-salmon status.
- Projects conducted in 2024 and 2025 included high technology with the use of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and radio-transmitters (2024) for assessing upper Nass Chinook salmon individual passage through Meziadin fishway and Kwinageese weir facilities and determining that Chinook salmon can bypass the Cranberry falls. Several Nass marine studies (oolichan spawning assessments and juvenile salmon) were conducted in 2024 and 2025.

FIGURE 1. NET ESCAPEMENT (SPAWNING) ESTIMATES OF NASS RIVER SALMON & SUMMER-RUN STEELHEAD FROM 1992-2025.



- The Nass sockeye and Chinook genetic programs continued in 2024 and 2025 including DNA analyses of sub-stocks and reconstructions of returns over 43 years (1982-2025) for Nass sockeye as funded by the Pacific Salmon Commission. These informed escapement goal reviews for Nass sockeye (2024) and Nass Chinook (2025) which are important in implementing the Nisga'a Treaty.
- Several DFO science reviews were conducted by NFWD in 2024 and 2025 including Nass salmon and steelhead population methods using mark-recapture modelling, and Nass sockeye escapement goal review as part of the Pacific Salmon Treaty review for both Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon.
- NFWD continued to conduct coastal salmon escapement surveys in the Nass Marine Area in 2024 and 2025, primarily pink, chum, Chinook, and coho salmon monitoring supported by Pacific Salmon Treaty funding.
- Aggregate escapement goals were met for all Nass salmon, including Chinook. (Chinook stocks have had low productivity since 2011.) Although aggregate escapement targets were reached, the Upper Nass Chinook run size target (13,000) was not reached in 2025. Achieving run size targets is critically important in rebuilding Nass Chinook populations to healthy levels, as current returns are almost half the abundance of the 1990s and mid-2000s.
- Nisga'a entitlements were well managed and did not exceed allocations in 2024 and 2025. NLG's fisheries management continues to promote rebuilding of Nass salmon stocks in support of DFO's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) launched in 2021 for increasing Nass salmon populations for domestic and economic fisheries when abundant enough.
- Safe shellfish harvest openings were numerous, as informed by biotoxin sampling conducted by NFWD. The Nass oolichan returns were monitored; 152 tonnes were harvested in 2022 and 99 tonnes were harvested in 2023 in the Nisga'a fishery. The harvests were well below average (194 tonnes) when compared to harvests since 1997. NFWD conducted oolichan egg and larvae tows in each of the years to estimate spawning biomass. Most of the Nisga'a harvest of oolichan is after they spawn.

- Continued training and development of Nisga'a community members in technical and biologist positions, with James Griffin becoming a biologist in 2024. A total of 10 junior technician positions were filled by new hires from Nisga'a communities in 2024 and 2025.
- NFWD continued to work with the Nisga'a Treaty Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC) while successfully monitoring annual returns of salmon/steelhead.

KEY AREAS OF CONCERN AND/OR PRIORITIES FOR 2026 & FUTURE – FISHERIES

- Continue to secure base level funding support for Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust (LFCT) Fund projects to fund future core escapement projects, annually, from the fund's interest – to protect Nass salmon returns and support contracted research projects. The LFCT fund has reached approximately \$23 million from the \$13 million originally invested when Nisga'a Treaty was implemented in 2000. Annual disbursements have increased to \$1,100,000, but funding is only covering 61% of the \$1.8 million-dollar annual core program that DFO and Nisga'a use for managing Nass Area salmon and Nisga'a Treaty implementation.
- Approach the 2026 season with caution for harvesting Nass Chinook. There have been low returns of Nass Chinook salmon over the past 16 years (2010-2025), where the escapement goal (15,000) to the Nass Area has only been reached in six years of the years. In 2025, the upper Nass Chinook escapement was below target (11,000 vs. 13,000) but good returns to coastal Nass streams (12,700) for 22,900 spawners which provides hope of good rebuilding in future.
- Continue to promote the rebuilding of salmon runs to Kwinageese River for salmon and steelhead from previous blocked runs by implementing measures to reduce harvest impacts on these stocks when they are migrating through lower river.
- Continue rebuilding Nass area chum stocks and reaching escapement goal (45,000) on an annual basis.

- Continue to review DFO's Wild Salmon Policy conditions for all species by assessing stock status and determining biologically based escapement goals for recommending conservation unit benchmarks for Nass salmon stocks. Nass Chinook escapement goal is under review by DFO and Nisga'a in 2026 (Year 2).
- Continue to build knowledge base for Nass Area marine waters and non-salmon species to support future Nisga'a Treaty negotiations including learning new population assessment methodologies in assessing Halibut, crab, and prawn and shrimp populations in Nass marine areas. Conduct marine surveys to monitor for invasive European Green Crab (not detected yet).
- Continue to promote Nisga'a post-secondary education in fisheries. Approximately \$225,000 is available from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund (through donations made by LGL Limited) to fund post-secondary education for Nisga'a citizens interested in becoming Fisheries Biologists. Currently one Nisga'a applicant is enrolled in post-secondary education, and two past Nisga'a recipients have become Nisga'a fisheries biologists.

WILDLIFE & MIGRATORY BIRDS

Nisga'a citizens have Treaty rights to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) and to harvest migratory birds in the Nass Area. Moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear are "designated species" under the Treaty. This means the Treaty defines a specific Nisga'a allocation that is determined from a total allowable harvest. Harvests of other species of wildlife and migratory birds are not restricted in this way.

The Nisga'a Wildlife Program is administered by the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department of Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Nass Wildlife Committee is a tripartite body comprised of members from the Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia, and Canada. In accordance with the Nisga'a Treaty, the Committee addresses matters of wildlife and migratory bird conservation and management in the Nass Wildlife Area and Nass Area. Nisga'a Lisims Government is supported internally by the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Committee.

The Nass Wildlife Committee meets twice a year and reviews population and harvest-monitoring data to inform wildlife and migratory bird management, including making annual recommendations to the Minister regarding total allowable harvests of designated species (i.e., moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear). The Treaty prescribes how the Total Allowable Harvest is used to set the Nisga'a Allocation of these species. The Committee also prepares an Annual Management Plan for wildlife and migratory bird harvests, including identification of Nisga'a harvesters as well as species-specific harvest methods, timing, location, and monitoring. To track the harvest of designated species by Nisga'a harvesters, NLG uses a permit system for moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NISGA'A WILDLIFE PROGRAM / 2024-2025

- The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife (Sim'oogit Hleek-Harry Nyce Sr.) continued his role as Co-Chair of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council.
- The tripartite Nass Wildlife Committee met twice in both years (2024 and 2025).
- Moose in the Nass Wildlife Area are counted by surveyors in helicopters every four to six years. With an estimated 1,159 moose in the Nass Wildlife Area, results of the survey in January 2023 indicated the moose population is recovering from the lows observed during 2007 and 2011 and shows a stable trend since the 2017 survey.
- From October 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025, from total allowable harvest calculations, the Nisga'a allocation for moose, mountain goat, and grizzly was 45, 15, and seven, respectively. A total of 18 kills were reported for moose from 96 permits issued and no kills were reported for other allocated species. In the 2025 season, 24 moose were harvested.
- The number of mountain goats and grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a harvesters remains well below the Nisga'a Allocation of those designated species.

- Future wildlife surveys planned:
 - i. Mountain goat survey in the NWA is planned for August 2026.
 - ii. Moose survey in the NWA is planned for 2028.
- NFWD continued to be involved in provincial initiatives such as the *Wildlife Act* review and the Xadaa (Moose) Ungulate Winter Range project in the part of the Kispiox Timber Supply Area overlapping the Nass Wildlife Area.
- NFWD continued to be involved in federal initiatives such as those concerning species at risk in the Nass Area. During the period, NFWD reviewed:
 - the draft Management Plan for the Grizzly Bear, Western Population in Canada,
 - ii. the draft Management Plan for the Wolverine in Canada, and
 - iii. the draft Action Plan for Killer Whales.
- NFWD provided input to a Marbled Murrelet survey in the Nass Area as led by the Province of BC.
- Provided input to the Grizzly Bear Stewardship Framework and Commercial Bear Viewing Strategy led by the Province of BC.
- In 2025, Dr. Evie Jones was hired as a full-time Wildlife biologist.
- A Wildlife Coexistence working group started in March 2026 to support community bear safety engagements.

**Sim'oogit Hleek /
Harry Nyce Sr.,
DIRECTOR, FISHERIES
& WILDLIFE**





Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Paul Mercer
MANAGER

IT IS GREAT TO BE WITH YOU ALL, ONCE AGAIN, AT THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NISGA'A NATION. Special thanks to the Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks, hosts of the biennial gathering of the nation.

I am happy to provide the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations department's updates for the 2024-2026 report. It has been a great two years working with the organization, Nisga'a entities, and for the people of the Nisga'a Nation.

COMMUNICATING WITH NISGA'A CITIZENS, BC, CANADA, & MEDIA

We are proud to have accomplished five biennial Special Assemblies, iconic photography, video production, webcasting, newsletters, a national photo archive, and outstanding graphic designed merchandise.

The Nisga'a Treaty is a ground-breaking treaty, and its implementation and major projects are closely watched by BC, Canada, First Nation Groups, industry, and partners across the world.

Albeit small, our team is growing and offers many valuable skills to the department and the organization. Our team includes:

CHANDRA BARTON,
Communications Assistant

ZARIAH CLAYTON,
Youth Engagement Coordinator

HANNAH BLOCK,
Content Advisor

PAUL ANDREW MERCER,
Manager of Communications
and Intergovernmental Relations

NISGA'A VISION STATEMENT

The Vision Statement, developed by Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a in 2006, continues to guide our work for the Nisga'a Nation:

- Our Ayuuk – language and culture are the foundation of our identity;
- Learning is a way of life;
- We strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance;
- We inspire trust and understanding through effective communications; and
- Our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

COMMUNICATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

Consistent with our Communications Plan, the Communications team continues to handle operations for the organization and working groups which include:

MEDIA RELATIONS

The department conducts daily media scans of national, regional, and local news media for stories relating directly to the Nisga'a Nation or stories of interest to the social, political, and/or economic endeavours of the Nisga'a Nation. These media stories are then shared with the NLG Executive, Senior Management, and others.

We also coordinate all incoming inquiries from media and work with the Office of the President and the Chief Executive Officer in the coordinated response to inquiries. The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations department also works with various NLG departments in the drafting and distribution of press releases as required.

**WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT**

We work collaboratively with 24 NLG departments on vital communication notices, events, ceremonies, and milestone achievements; the Nisga'a Villages and Nisga'a Institutions partner with us for distribution of information through our national website and local websites. With a large social media following, we provide support to Nisga'a entities such as SD#92 (Nisga'a) and the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority – sharing information to the Nisga'a Nation.

Regarding the website, we share updates such as cultural events, celebration events, news, achievements/success stories, announcements, application form processes, contact information, and real-time cultural arrangement updates. With all the governance milestones, economic developments, cultural events, and many great programs and services, I am proud of the time and dedication our department technicians contribute to the nation's website.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**Land Claims Agreements Coalition**

In 2003, the Nisga'a Nation leadership of the day met and collaborated with fellow Inuit and First Nations Modern Treaty Nations to form the Land Claims Agreements Coalition (LCAC). As a founding member of the Coalition, the Nisga'a Nation leadership has proudly held the position of the First Nations Co-Chair of the LCAC – a vote of confidence and a testament to the political leadership and technical expertise of Nisga'a Nation's General Counsel Jim Aldridge, K.C. He has contributed tremendously towards the efforts of the Coalition's endeavours to have the Government of Canada adopt a comprehensive modern treaty implementation policy as signatory and partner to the 26+ modern treaty nations across Canada.

The Coalition will see its 26th year of working collaboratively and pooling its collective resources to carry on the important work in many facets directly related to the government-to-government relationship each modern treaty nation has with the federal government.

Alliance of British Columbia Modern Treaty Nations**ESTABLISHMENT**

The Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (ABCMTN) is a coalition that works together to advance and advocate for areas of shared interest relating to the implementation of modern treaties in British Columbia. Membership includes each of the eight First Nations in BC with modern treaties in effect:

1. Huu-ay-aht First Nations
2. Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations
3. Nisga'a Nation
4. Tla'amin Nation
5. Toquaht Nation
6. Tsawwassen First Nation
7. Uchucklesaht Tribe
8. Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government

A technical expert from each nation is a part of the ABCMTN planning group which meets virtually to conduct framework on shared interests on such topics as implementation, economic, political, and social. When opportunity arises, the group meets in-person at both the Annual BC Premier's Forum and the First Nation Leadership Gathering.

NISGA'A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Today's 2,368 Nisga'a Youth play vital roles in the seven Nisga'a communities. With a youth population of this magnitude and education as their resilience, opportunity is at the forefront – to unite the seven councils and all membership to obtain valuable solutions for decision tables. Contributions to governance, health, and educational policies will help administration shape programs, services, and policies around the evolving needs of 2026 – geared towards prosperity and wellness goals. The Youth Engagement Coordinator aims to meet with youth across the Nation to initiate all projects and workplans for the councils.

As a nation that excels in modern treaty, ownership of lands, resources, infrastructure, fibre optic technology, partnerships with four Village Governments, three Urban Locals, four Nisga'a Health Authorities, SD#92 (Nisga'a), and Nisga'a Employment Skills & Training, Wilp Wilx'o'skwahl Nisga'a Institute, with post-secondary



partnerships throughout BC and Canada, is ideal for conferences, events, and cultural ceremonies – offering state-of-the-art, Nisga'a Youth-approved spaces they can call their own.

MEDIA CREATION

Media creation is key to capturing the history of the Nisga'a Nation. Media production first started in the early 1980s by the President of the Nisga'a Tribal Council (NTC), the late James Gosnell, who was inspired by his father, the late Eli Gosnell. Through their efforts, the NTC managed to capture elder conferences, oral history, NTC conventions, cultural events, and all the men and woman who dedicated their lives to the foundation of Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Nisga'a Nation.

Today, we follow suit with videography, post-production, livestream, photography, audio recording, archive management, video and cassette digitization, cataloging, and digital designs with high-end editing software and state-of-the-art hardware.

Delivering article writing, website management, and event planning, we can coordinate events of any size – offering large screen presentations, films, quality sound, and an entertaining agenda with in-house

commercial advertisement. Productions would not be possible without department collaboration and the participation of the Nisga'a People. Anyone with interest in media – this is the team to work for.

BIENNIAL SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NISGA'A NATION

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department has the honour and privilege of being the primary event coordinators for this historic event. We have a strong workplan; intergovernmental coordination partnerships; and the support of the NLG Senior Management Team, NLG Executive, Wilp Si'ayuuḵhl Nisga'a, NLG Administration, and Village Governments. This event would not be possible without the Nisga'a People.

T'ooyakṣiy' nisim!
Gwiix-Gigiinaxgum Neeḵhl

Paul Mercer,
MANAGER,
COMMUNICATIONS
& INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS



WITH THANKS



T'OOYAKSIY' NISIM!

We respectfully extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers of the Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation. Your dedication, planning, and commitment have made it possible for our Nation to come together in a meaningful and well-organized way.

We also acknowledge and thank the Nisga'a Communities in attendance, who have taken time each day to commute and be present. Your participation, voices, and engagement are vital to the strength of our Assembly and our collective decision-making.

Our deep appreciation goes to the cooks and kitchen teams who consistently give their very best in food preparation. Your hard work and care nourish not only our bodies, but also our sense of community and togetherness throughout this Assembly.

We are grateful to our guests and partners who continue to stand with us, always making time to join us at our events. Your ongoing support, collaboration, and presence greatly contribute to the success of our gatherings and to the shared work we do together.

Without the efforts of the organizers, the participation of Nisga'a Citizens, and the strength of our partnerships, this Special Assembly would not be possible. Each role plays an important part in moving our Nation forward.

As we proceed through the Special Assembly, we encourage all questions, comments, and concerns to be brought forward during the designated question periods, or submitted by email to: assembly2026@nisgaanation.ca.

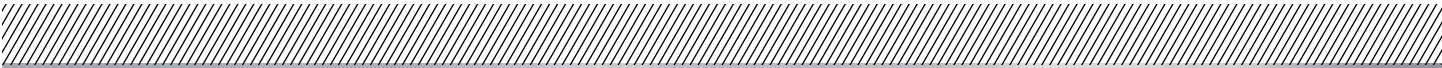
We welcome your input and would love to hear from you.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Goot – One Heart, One Path, One Nation.



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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