

Nisga'a Lisims Government Newsletter

February 2016 Issue

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February 26-27, 2016, Hobiye 2016 hosted by Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks.
Darkness to Light story performed by the Gitlaxt'aamiks Ceremonial Dancers.
Photo Courtesy of Benjamin Gou II.

President's Message

In the month of February we made two trips to Ottawa to meet with Federal officials from various departments to lobby the government on issues of importance to the Nisga'a Nation and to pursue our aspirations in respect of sustainable development.

We also met with our partners on the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC) in our annual leadership meeting. The Nisga'a Nation is co-chair of the LCAC and our participation is important as we are lobbying the federal government to adopt an implementation policy that will recognize a government-to-government relationship in the implementation of all modern treaties in Canada.

We continue in our efforts of pursuing our vision of sustainable prosperity to build our economy in the Nass Valley. The NLG Executive, comprised of the most senior elected officials from NLG, Nisga'a Villages and Nisga'a Urban Locals continue to receive reports. As one can appreciate, we cannot divulge the details given the privileged and confidential nature of discussions between the governments of BC, Canada and the Nisga'a Nation.

I can assure the Nisga'a Nation that we will make a report to our citizenry at our biennial Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation May 2-6, 2016 in Gitlaxt'aamiks. We will also continue with our



Photo Courtesy Matt Kawei/
copyright: eye4nature photography

periodic visits to each Nisga'a Village and Nisga'a Urban Local.

On March 14, 15 & 16, 2016, the Nisga'a Nation will be host to the BC Assembly of First Nations Special Chief's Assembly that will take place at the Laxgalts'ap Community Centre in Laxgalts'ap.

This is an event of historic proportion, as the BC AFN typically hosts its meetings in Vancouver. This will be an opportunity for the Nisga'a Nation to showcase our beautiful Nisga'a Lands, culture and hospitality to the upwards of 200 Chiefs and other guests that will accompany them.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to all of the Nisga'a Nation's Simgigat, Sigidimhaanak' and Cultural Dance groups to be in attendance in full regalia at the Cultural Day festivities on Monday March 14, 2016 to formally welcome our guests on to Nisga'a Lands in true Nisga'a fashion! Cultural Dance group leaders may contact William Moore to confirm your community group's participation.

I would like to congratulate the Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks for an excellent job in hosting the annual Hoobiye celebrations on February 26 & 27, 2016. It was very nice to see friends and family unite to celebrate our new season of harvest.

Si'aamhl wilsim'! / Continue to be diligent in all that you do

Sayt-K'ílim-Goot / one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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New Aiyansh BC / Canada V0J 1A0
NISCANATION.CA

February 4, 2016

Ms. Melanie Mark, MLA
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
1303 Commercial Drive
Vancouver BC, V5L3X5

Dear Ms. Mark:

The Nisga'a Nation congratulates you on a successful campaign to become the first aboriginal woman in British Columbia to be elected to the Provincial Legislature for the riding of Vancouver-Mount Pleasant.

We are extremely proud that you are continuing on the path taken by Frank Calder and Larry Guno by choosing to serve in public office. Today is another milestone in the history of the Nisga'a people and for aboriginal women across British Columbia.

We have every confidence you will be an outstanding representative in serving your constituents.

Yours truly,

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell Stevens".

H. Mitchell Stevens
President

Newly appointed Nisga'a Elections Officer



A newly appointed Nisga'a Elections Officer will be at the helm of the pending Nisga'a Election in November of this year.

Esther Adams was formally appointed Nisga'a Elections Officer by the NLG Executive on January 28, 2016. As required by section 73 of the Nisga'a Election Act, Mrs. Adams formally made her solemn declaration as Nisga'a Elections Officer at the NLG Executive in Gitlaxt'aamiks on February 18, 2016. Congratulations Esther!

Sheldon Martin takes Oath of Office as Non-Executive Member for Vancouver Nisga'a Urban



Sheldon Martin, who was the successful candidate in the January 26 by-election in the Vancouver Nisga'a Urban Local was formally sworn in to office as Non-Executive Member for the Vancouver Nisga'a Urban Local at the NLG Executive meeting in Gitlaxt'aamiks on February 18.

In his congratulatory remarks to Mr. Martin on behalf of the Executive, Chairperson Kevin McKay stated, "We are confident, as indeed are your constituents that you have the capacity, the acumen and dedication to meet the challenges that will be put before you as you serve your community and our Nation."

Chairperson McKay also made note that Sheldon is now the youngest serving elected member in Nisga'a Government, and also the tallest!

Sheldon will hold office until the pending regular Nisga'a Election is conducted in November of this year.

Congratulations Sheldon!

Maurice Squires Honoured by his Peers at Director's Forum - Indigenous Perspectives Society



Feb 10th, 2016: The Director's Forum through the Indigenous Perspectives Society (IPS) hosted an "Honoring Dinner" for Maurice Squires at the Marriott Hotel in Richmond BC. This forum is made up of all the Directors of the 20 Delegated Aboriginal Child Welfare Agencies throughout the Province that Maurice had worked with over the past 20 plus years. Maurice was recognized for his hard work and dedication as a very skilled professional who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of First Nations children provincially and nationally.

Under Maurice's leadership, the Northwest Band Social Worker's Association (NWBSWA) successfully saw over 40 First Nations social workers from Northern communities get their BSW degrees without having to travel South and become disconnected from their families and cultural responsibilities at home. 15 BSW grads from this program went on to complete their MSW degree and 1 (so far) has completed his PhD. Maurice's insight and experience was also instrumental in setting up the UNBC Social Work program that is still helping Northerners get the education they need to stay in and help their own communities.

Maurice has shown such vision and leadership for social work and child welfare throughout BC and Canada. He has dealt with Government

throughout his professional career. Although much of his best work benefitted the Nisga'a Tribal Council/ Nisga'a Lisims Government, he has always worked to serve First Nations. In holding executive positions on the boards of the Caring For First Nations Children Society, the BC Child Care Society, the UNBC Board of Governors and the Northern Health Authority, Maurice has travelled extensively throughout BC, where he has contributed his culturally-informed and academically-trained analysis towards resolving the many pernicious inequities facing First Nations children and families.

Maurice was successful in negotiating copyright of the Aboriginal Social Worker Training Program curriculum and the development of the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators (AOPSI).

Maurice's principled diligence when sitting across the negotiating table from the Crown during Treaty talks led to a major precedent for First Nations child welfare that is being referenced by Indigenous peoples around the world. Maurice's work to entrench inherent rights to Nisga'a based child welfare authority within the Nisga'a Final Agreement has been widely cited in legal briefs and textbooks.

Within academia, Maurice's MSW thesis has been cited numerous times. In her globally recognized book on Indigenous Methodologies, Maurice's friend, Dr Maggie Kovach quoted his statement: "If you are not solving the problem within the context of the culture, you're creating another form of assimilation." Indigenous Masters and PhD. Students from Australia and the American Southwest have cited this specific quote in their graduate theses. Maurice's words and work are truly serving Indigenous peoples at home and around the world.

Congratulations Maurice!

National Anti-Bullying Day



NLG's Human Resources Department has once again partnered with the Laxgalts'ap Village Government to provide Anti-Bullying t-shirts to participating staff of Pink Shirt Day - a national anti-bullying campaign to end bullying.

Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School (NESS) also participated in a march to spread awareness to National Anti-Bullying Day. NESS Elementary and Primary students, teachers and staff marched from the school to Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government and back.

The Nisga'a Nation says Haw'it Bullying!

Motivational Speaker Mike Scott addresses Nisga'a Youth



Motivational speaker Mike Scott addressed Nisga'a Youth both in Terrace and at Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School where he shared his life experiences of various struggles that he endured and overcame. There was no censorship as directed by the Principal of the school to demonstrate to the Youth of how real and upfront life can be and some deep aspects of his story left the audience feeling the direct emotion of his story. We commend Mike on his courage to share his story and his goal to spread awareness to the issues that commonly impact Indigenous peoples.

Keith Azak, Nisga'a Urban Local Representative of Terrace was able to show Mike and his group around Terrace and around the Nass Valley. Mike also attend Day 1 of the Hoobiyee festivities in Gitlaxt'aamiks and he shared that this was his first Indigenous cultural event that he attended in BC.

Si'aamhl Wilin Mike! (Continue to do well)



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

13th Special Chiefs Assembly

March 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2016

Laxgalts'ap Community Centre, Greenville, BC

IMPORTANT SAVE THE DATE

To: All BC Chiefs and Delegates
From: BC Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson

The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) will be hosting the Special Chiefs Assembly on March 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2016 on Nisga'a Territory at the Laxgalts'ap Community Centre located at 441 Church Street in Greenville, BC V0J 1X0.

More information to follow.

Contact us at:

BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
312-345 Chief Alex Thomas Way
Kamloops, B.C.
V2H 1H1

Tel: 250-828-9757
Fax: 250-828-9893
Email: executive.assisant@bcafn.ca
Web: www.bcafn.ca

Hoobiye 2016 in Gitlaxt'aamiks



Grand Entry - Photo Courtesy Benjamin Gonu II



Passing of the Hoobiye Moon - Photo Courtesy Lena Griffin



Grand Finale - Photo Courtesy Lena Griffin

Congratulations on a job well done to the Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks and Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government for hosting Hoobiye 2016!

Over 2,000 people participated and spectated at this year's Hoobiye festivities. To make this event a success Gitlaxt'aamiks came together to accommodate guests by taking in billets, preparing supper dishes for the Tribal Picnic, providing breakfast, lunch, supper and snacks on a continuous basis at another facility and provided transportation. It was announced that the volunteers and staff made 9,000 meals.

Opening remarks by Sim'oogit Hleek - Joseph Gosnell Sr, guest speaker Nathan Cullen addressed the Nisga'a Nation and guests and Robin Austin, MLA was even selected to dance not only once but 5 times in one crowd participation song.

At the Grand Finale of Hoobiye the moon was passed onto the respective Simgigat of the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw where Hoobiye 2017 will be hosted.

Hoobiye to the Nisga'a Nation! May your harvest year be full and plentiful!

AwesomeNESS students receive numerous awards!



Today marks a special day when students receive special honour awards for the 1st Semester. There were 70 awards handed out to students at the Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School. Keep up the great work!

Si'aamhl wilsim!

NEST Launched New Website on February 10!

Please go to www.nisgaaworks.ca for the latest info on jobs, training, and information for prospective employers

The Nisga'a Employment, Skills & Training (NEST) department is pleased to announce the launch of www.nisgaaworks.ca scheduled for February 10, 2016!

With a job-matching portal, calendar of upcoming training opportunities and seminars, links to valuable resources, and more, www.nisgaaworks.ca is an engine for your employment success!

We encourage all Nisga'a citizens to visit our site to access employment opportunities from proponents who work closely with the Nisga'a Nation. They can also access resources and information about training, employment readiness, and important life skills.

Nisga'a Pathways to Employment Program

Nisga'a Pathways to Employment Program is seeking Nisga'a Citizens to utilize their artistic abilities to design our new branding logo. Our vision is to support and enhance the Social, Physical, Emotional and training needs of our Nisga'a clients.

Our goal as the NPEP team is to help our people to achieve personal growth and success. In time we will be incorporating a Nisga'a Life Skills program for our clients. We want to ensure our clients are healthy in mind, body, and spirit with a connection to our land and culture.

This contest will be open to all Nisga'a citizens with a challenge to incorporate our culture with the NPEP vision that results in a dynamic Logo. Deadline for submissions is March 10th, 2016 please submit to your local Employment Readiness Assistant or NEST head office located at 5012 Tait Avenue, Gitlaxt'aamiks BC V0J 1X0.

A prize of \$600.00 will be awarded to the successful submission.






Nisga'a
Employment,
Skills &
Training



NEST BOOTCAMP

March 14th – April 1st 2016

Courses being offered in Nass Valley				
Occupational First Aid Level 1				
Transportation Endorsement				
WHMIS				
Transportation of Dangerous Goods				
Traffic Control Person				
Fall Protection				
H2S Alive				
Construction Safety Training System				
Rigging				
Life Skills				

March 14 th	March 15 th	March 16 th	March 17 th	March 18 th
OFA 1	TE	WHMIS & TDG	TCP	TCP
March 21 st	March 22 nd	March 23 rd	March 24 th	March 25 th
FP	H2S Alive	CSTS 9.0	Rigging	Rigging
March 28 th	March 29 th	March 30 th	March 31 st	April 1 st
Life Skills	Life Skills	Life Skills	Life Skills	Ceremony

Apply today:

NEST Head Office
5012 Tait Avenue
Gitlaxt'aamiks, BC, V0J 1T0
1.844.633.2210 or 250.633.2210
Email: nest@nisgaan.net

Please Note:

- Only Completed applications will be reviewed.
- If more than 12 applications are received. They will then go through a light interview process

Applications can be found on nisgaaworks.ca

40th Annual BC Elder's Gathering - July 2016

40th Annual BC Elders Gathering in Williams Lake, BC July 11, 12, 13, 14, 2016

To all BC First Nations Communities and Annual BC Elders Gathering Society Sponsor Partners

The host for the 40th Annual BC Elders Gathering under the guidance of Councillor Cecil Grinder and Elder Stan Stump is the Tl'etinqox Government from the Tsilhqot'in Nation with support from the Secwepemc, Carrier, Nuxalk & St'át'imc communities.

The 40th Annual BC Elders Gathering, will be held July 12, 13 & 14, 2016 in Williams Lake, British Columbia. Next year's 2016 gathering will begin with the "early bird Wild West Celebration day" on Monday July 11 at the Williams Lake Stampede grounds beginning with a mountain race and Rodeo. A camp site on the Stampede Grounds is set up for motor homes and tents with cultural activities, Pow Wow, Sweat Lodges, healing circles and Slahal tournaments already in the early planning stages.

With the enormous excitement the elders from all across British Columbia have already demonstrated with next year's gathering being held in Williams Lake, the organizing committee is already looking at a shuttle service to the gathering for hotels in Quesnel, Williams Lake, Lac la Hache and 100 Mile House. The committee is putting together a list of camp sites for tents and motor homes. A list of billet and bed and breakfast locations is already being developed. With the early bird Wild West Celebration elders groups may wish to book four days this year.

The hunters, fisherman and cooks are already talking about making preparations for the traditional feasts. Tours are already being planned that will provide the opportunity for elders and guests to witness the rich culture, history and beauty of the Region.

Meetings have already taken place with the Cariboo Regional District (CRD), Tsilhqot'in Nation Chiefs, Williams Lake City Hall, Williams Lake Indian Band, Cariboo Friendship Centre, Waste disposal service providers, Food Service providers, Portable washroom facilities providers, Williams Lake Tourism, Cariboo-Chilcotin School District, Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex, Williams Lake Stampede Grounds and many others in making preparations for the gathering.

Our next planning meeting for the 40th Annual BC Elders Gathering with the host community elders will take place July 31, 2015.

It is the hope of the Annual BC Elders Gathering Society that all 203 First Nations Communities in the province attend the 40th Annual BC Elders Gathering in Williams Lake. It is also our wish that the Chief or their designated representative from every community attends the gathering in respect for their elders.

We look forward to all our sponsor partners and invited guests attending next year's gathering to share a meal and get to know the traditions and rich culture of our First People.

For inquiries and registration, please contact:

Cecil Grinder, Councillor
Tl'etinqox-t'in Health Services
PO Box 168
Alexis Creek, BC
V0L 1A0
Phone: 250-394-4240 ext 219.
Fax: 250-394-4234.
Email: cgrinder@tletinqoxin.ca

Employment Opportunities



Nisga'a Lisims Government

JOB POSTING

POSTED: February 26, 2016 **CLOSES: March 18, 2016**

T 250 633 3000 / F 250 633 2367
T 1 866 633 0888
PO Box 231 / 2000 Lisims Dr
New Aiyansh BC / Canada V0J 1A0
NISGAANATION.CA

POSITION: Resources Social Worker
SALARY RANGE: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience and per the NCFS Wage Grid
SUPERVISOR: Team Leader - Nisga'a Child and Family Services
HOURS: 35 hours per week **TERM:** Full Time – Permanent **LOCATION:** Prince Rupert

JOB SUMMARY:

The Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) Resources Social Worker is primarily responsible for recruiting, developing and maintaining a range of resources in which to place children in care.

DUTIES:

- Under the direction of the supervisor, the Resource Social Worker (RSW) receives requests from social workers for placement of children being brought into care on an emergency and planned basis.
- The RSW coordinates placements for children being discharged from a resource and coordinates out-of-region placements are required.
- The RSW liaises with district offices regarding placements of children in care, and facilitates the provision of foster home resources;
- The RSW recruits and develops contracted resources and monitors the provision of services;
- The RSW supports foster homes and contracted resources and investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect in child welfare in accordance with regional and provincial protocols.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS, EXPERIENCE:

- A Master's degree in a related human service field or a Bachelor of Social Work Degree (BSW), or a degree in a human services field plus one year of related experience is preferred. A recognize diploma in the human services field plus 3 years' experience in child and family services may be considered.
- Preference may be given to candidates who possess a BSW or related degree with work related experience. Consideration may be given to candidates possessing a college certificate with experience working with Aboriginal communities both on and off reserve. Preference will be given to candidates with C3 Delegation obtained within the past two years. Candidates without C3 Delegation will be required to obtain.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Well-developed interpersonal counseling and assessment skills including oral and written communication skills;
- Solid understanding of the Child, Family and Community Services Act;
- Solid understanding of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal programs and agencies, both government and community based, including referral processes;
- Ability to work effectively with program staff, agency staff, social workers and other personnel from the public and private sectors;
- Ability to apply tact and diplomacy in dealing with others in particular when dealing with sensitive issues;
- Strong organizational and time management skills;
- Computer skills and proficient use of software such as Microsoft Word and Outlook.

OTHER:

- 3 recent work related references will be required;
- Valid BC Class 5 Drivers License with current abstract is essential as extensive travel may be required
- Successful applicant will be subject to a criminal record check.

Applicants are required to submit resume with cover letter describing their qualifications and experience prior to **5:00 pm Friday, March 18, 2016**. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for interview will be contacted. Please be advised social media checks are part of the recruiting process.

ALL RESUME PACKAGES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

Nisga'a Lisims Government
Attention: Human Resource Department
P.O. BOX 231, Gitlaxt'aamiks, B.C., V0J 1A0
Fax: 250-633-2367 Email: hrdept@niscгаа.net



NLG February 2016 Executive Resolutions

Resolution 2016/09/ February 17, 2016

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive Director presented to the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government (the "Executive") on December 15, 2015 a memorandum entitled "Analysis on terminating funding to the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority" (the "December 2015 Health memorandum");

AND CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT the Executive members have now been asked to consider which of the options provided in the December 2015 Health memorandum they wish to pursue;

MOVED THAT the Executive direct Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director to proceed by pursuing the option outlined as Option C in the December 2015 Health memorandum.



Resolution 2016/10/ February 17, 2016

MOVED THAT:
the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive adopt the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2015, and for the period ending January 31, 2016, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer and attached to this motion



Resolution 2016/11/ February 17, 2016

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive receive the minutes of the Nisga'a Finance Committee meeting held on January 11, 2016.



Resolution 2016/12/ February 17, 2016

CONSIDERING THAT M'Deek Development Group Ltd. ("M'Deek") has requested the issuance of licence of occupation issued under section 17 of the Nisga'a Land Act to operate a commercial gravel pit on Nisga'a Lands;

MOVED THAT under section 6 of the Nisga'a Land Act, and subject to the consent of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a, the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive grant to M'Deek a licence of occupation in the form substantially the same as the one attached to this motion as Appendix "A".

1. the Deputy Director of Lands and Resources, on behalf of the Executive, be authorized to deliver to M'Deek, for execution and return, a renewed licence of occupation substantially in the form attached to this motion as Appendix "A" with the Legal Description Schedule and the Site Plan Schedule of the licence completed to the Deputy Director's satisfaction; and
2. upon the execution by M'Deek and return to the Deputy Director of the licence of occupation delivered under paragraph (1), the Director be authorized to date and execute the licence of occupation on behalf of the Executive.



NLG February 2016 Executive Resolutions

Resolution 2016/13/ February 17, 2016

CONSIDERING THAT it is anticipated that Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a, acting under section 4.2(b) of the trust agreement respecting the Nisga'a Settlement Trust dated December 20, 2000, as amended (the "Trust Agreement"), may at its next sitting pass a resolution directing the current Trustee, as defined in the Trust Agreement (the "Trustee"), of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust to make a distribution from the Trust Fund, as defined in the Trust Agreement (the "Trust Fund"), to the Nisga'a Nation on the terms set out below;

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive, acting under section 4.3 of the Trust Agreement, notify the Trustee that it is anticipated that Wilp Si'syuukhl Nisga'a may at its next sitting pass a resolution directing the Trustee to make a distribution from the Trust Fund to the Nisga'a Nation:

1. in the total amount of \$4,677,249; and
2. to be paid in one instalment on March 30, 2016.

Resolution 2016/14/ February 17, 2016

CONSIDERING THAT pursuant to section 22 of the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive (the "Executive") must adopt a draft annual fishing plan prepared by the Director of Fish and Wildlife (the "Director");

MOVED THAT the Executive:

1. approve and adopt the draft Nisga'a annual fishing plan for 2016 | 2017 prepared by the Director and attached to this motion as Schedule "A" (the "Annual Fishing Plan");
2. direct the Director to forward the Annual Fishing Plan to the Joint Fisheries Management Committee; and
3. direct the Director to publish the Annual Fishing Plan in accordance with Nisga'a Law.

Resolution 2016/15/ February 17, 2016

CONSIDERING THAT the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government (the "Executive") has reviewed the recommendation of the Fish and Wildlife Committee set out its briefing note dated January 18, 2016 and presented to the Executive on February 17, 2016 concerning the current lack of representation from northern British Columbia on the Pacific Salmon Commission;

MOVED THAT the Executive recommend to Canada that commissioners be appointed to the Pacific Salmon Commission on a basis which provides equal representation to all major watersheds, namely the Nass and Skeena River watersheds in British Columbia.



This newsletter is published by:
Nisga'a Lisims Government
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If you have news or a story to tell, please contact the Communications and Inter-governmental Relations Department
by email at:
comm@nisgaa.net