



May 5-9, 2014 / Gitwinksihkw

Nisga'a Nation

Special Assembly Report

Summary of Key Issues, Responses and Action Items
from Assembly Record of Proceedings



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

Contents

Introduction	1
Executive Panel Presentation	2
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Finance	11
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Lands & Resources	18
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Fisheries & Wildlife	26
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations	32
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Programs & Services	34
Q&A Session	
Directorate of Economic Development / NEST	43
Supporting Prosperity for the Nisga'a Nation	
Q&A Session	
Proponent Presentations – TransCanada / Spectra Energy	48
Q&A Session	
Reflections from the Executive Office	55
Concluding Remarks	
Online Questions	65
From Nisga'a Citizens	

Introduction

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

In May 2014, the Nisga'a Nation gathered for a Special Assembly in Gitwinksihlkw for several days to discuss central issues facing the Nation.

In respect of that Assembly, this report summarizes and identifies:

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

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

It is hoped that this report will provide:

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

Executive Panel Presentation

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / DURING THIS SESSION, CITIZENS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR COMMENTS AND CONCERNS REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE PANEL PRESENTATION. TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDED: THE NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION LINE, B.C. HYDRO BILLING, PROPONENT AGREEMENTS, AMBULANCE SERVICES, AND THE NISGA'A VALLEY HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Reference Document:

Executive Panel Presentation

Subject / Northwest Transmission Line (NTL)

Comments

- Monies were paid to the Nisga'a Nation – how much and how was that amount divided?
- Suggestion: In respect to Nisga'a Nation benefits, perhaps subsidize BC Hydro bills.
- Suggestion: Have BC Hydro change their billing. The average comes from down south, that is how their billing works by average.

Response

- The benefits from the NTL flowed into our general revenues, there was no specific division of the benefits realized with the agreement. The final amount will come when the line is completed. We have been receiving milestone payments.
- Final payment from BC Hydro will be commissioned in a matter of months.
- Each community received \$315,000 for local priority funding.
- We will be discussing various issues with BC Hydro in regard to the power services to our citizens and power outages. The meeting was canceled but will be pursued.
- Regarding the issues that come out of NTL, there is an implementation committee that addresses specific issues that relate to NTL. The advantage of this committee is that we are able to direct issues to them in a timely fashion.

Subject / Proponent Agreements and Communication

Comments

- Concerns about the communication style of the Nation regarding proponent agreements. Our Nation didn't know about more than half of the proponents coming through.
- What are the impacts within the Benefits Agreement?
- Pipelines: What happens after they come onto our lands? How are you managing these proponents?

Response

- We have a number of proponents we are meeting with. The only agreements we have to date are Long Lake Hydro and NTL. Others are in various stages of development.
- Communications: Every one of the initiatives NLG undertakes with proponents starts at the Executive level, this is where we get direction. There are various levels that are reported to at the Executive level. As we are required to maintain non-disclosure agreements, discussions are in-camera.
- The Executive is much like the provincial cabinet, in that the same provisions apply to this cabinet.
- There are different levels of information sharing that we are discussing right now. We are working with our General Counsel on the communication flow to our people.
- LNG discussions take up a lot of time and we are managing to maintain communications.
- Long Lake Hydro and BC Hydro NTL have been completed. Other projects that are proposed include: the KMP, KSM, Kinskuch – WindRiver Hydro Project, the Stewart World Port, TransCanada pipeline, and Spectra Energy pipeline. These projects are still ongoing, but we ensure they comply with Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

Subject / Northwest Transmission Line Budget

Comments

- Suggestion: Announce the amount of money received from the NTL.
- Budget process/provisional process: Have been receiving funds for local priorities since 2000, before the NTL. This is news to hear that communities received \$315,000 for local priorities from NTL.
- There are major concerns with high BC Hydro bills.

Response

- Official transfer from Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) is supposed to be \$15 million. We have been fighting with B.C. and the Federal Government, we're taxed at 46%. Municipalities don't get double taxed.
- B.C. has had the Nisga'a property tax for 22 months and 18 days. We have gone to draft legislation for B.C. As long as the line is on our property we will receive tax. They want to tax on top of our tax.
- We aren't interested in a pipeline unless there is a plant on our property. The province has been resistant to dealing with the issue. Major companies want to invest \$30 – 40 billion but are afraid they'll be taxed out of business.

Subject / Ayuuk Writing

Comments

- "Oolichan of the Nass": Sent it to NLG about six years ago, marked draft. Sent it again to NLG. Needs to be approved by NLG before publishing.

Response

- We encourage all our Nisga'a writers to write, and all our writers to publish.

Subject / Skills Training and Employment

Comments

- Our people are sent away for heavy equipment training, but there is a stumbling block. A lot of money is spent on skills training, but when people do get jobs they are burning brush or pushing a shovel.
- Concerns that unions block our people from going to work. If you don't have enough training hours, you are not qualified?

Response

- The Nisga'a Employment, Skills and Training (NEST) office is open. NEST has been trying to build that bridge between training and jobs by working with prospective proponents, those institutions, and those people who have faced the blocks.
- We encourage you to bring this up at the NEST presentation on Wednesday.

Subject / Spectra Energy and TransCanada

Comments

- We heard from Spectra Energy and TransCanada: I want to know the value of the gas that goes through daily. Spectra and TransCanada sidestepped the question yesterday.

Response

- Because of the fluctuation of the world price for natural gas, we cannot give a specific number for its value. But to give a sense of the potential volumes, Spectra expects to carry 2 billion cubic feet (bcf/d) and TransCanada expects to move x bci through their pipelines 4.2 bcf/d. Multiply that amount by the price of natural gas and you get an estimate of the potential scope of gross revenues per day.

Subject / Ambulance Services

Comments

- Would like NLG to address the issue of "no ambulance" in the valley.
- We have trained people, why can't we have a program to help them further their education to be paramedics?

Response

- We now have B.C. Ambulance for two years, they will provide us with a Unit Chief here in the valley, and a coordinator who will train our people.

Subject / Mental Illness, BC Hydro Billing

Comments

- Suggestion: Increase the NVHA mental illness budget.
- Suggestion: Address BC Hydro billing as they are continuously raising their bills.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / NVHA Board Member, Physicians

Comments

- Concerns about the length of time NVHA board members sit on the board. There is no way in the Constitution that members should sit for two years.
- Concerns over Livecare. There are supposed to be a certain number of physicians in our health centres.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / Personal Income Tax

Comments

- 46% goes to the Nisga'a Nation – why is 95% transferred to the Nisga'a Nation?

Response

- Under the Taxation agreement we have with Canada, the Nisga'a Nation receives about 95% of the tax revenue from income taxes paid by Nisga'a citizens and residents of the Nass Valley. Through OSR, Canada claws back 46% of that by reducing the funding transfers we receive under our Fiscal Funding Agreement. This arrangement is made possible by virtue of the Nisga'a Treaty, which provides for the Nisga'a Nation to enter into this type of arrangement.

Subject / Northwest Transmission Line

Comments

- Concerns over the NTL: Gitlaxt'aamiks water was breached, Section 10 was breached, the *Forestry Act* was breached, the riparian zone was breached.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / Unattended Fishing Nets and Equipment

Comments

- Concerns with fishing nets floating around unattended in the river and getting tangled in trees. Consider recommendation that whenever fisheries committee goes to inform citizens about exercising rights that there be safety mechanisms put in place for the Nass River. Our fishers need to take ownership of their equipment and take it in when they are finished fishing and not leave it out on the river.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / K'aats Document

Comments

- NLG invested a great deal of resources and time into the K'aats document and it should be presented for public record.

Response

- We support this suggestion.

Subject / Personal Income Tax

Comments

- Suggestion that everyone should be compensated for personal income tax. There was a big impact when taxation was implemented.

Response

- Personal income tax is your business.

Subject / School District (SD) #92

Comments

- SD#92 has great difficulty meeting the expectations of our students, which is not acceptable. We want to see more of our students go on to post-secondary school but when they leave high school they are stranded in the Nass Valley unless they make a special effort to meet the requirements of moving on.

Response

- The Executive will consider a motion on the K-12 program through Program and Services.

Subject / Delivery of Health Services

Comments

- There is a fiduciary responsibility for health services delivery. Would like to hear how Programs and Services intends to improve that delivery through funding agreements and holding those agencies accountable.

Response

- We had an internal audit on the NVHA, not to discredit them but to see where the failures were, how we failed to support them, and see where the problems were. It is important that you hear this. In order to take care of our people, we have to take care of ourselves first. We had a total of 16 doctors within one and a half years – a revolving door, records were lost. We said this has to stop. We sit at the finance table where we had a big fight. Why are we getting 2.5 full time equivalents (FTE's) for service? Canada/B.C. pulled it out – we get 3.3 (FTE's).

Subject / Special Assembly Location

Comments

- Does the Special Assembly have to be held in the Nass Valley? Why not look at a proponent sponsoring the Assembly in Prince Rupert?

Response

- This is presently the established practice of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Subject / General Comments and Appreciation

Comments

- Would like to give appreciation for everything that has gone on this week. Have seen a change in attitude, respect shown and a willingness to make change. Want to encourage the officers. Have seen a willingness to bring everyone together and include everyone in our growth.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / Telehealth

Comments

- Concerned that Telehealth is taking over for physical doctors. When negotiating for our health clinic we recognized the importance of having doctors in the valley.

Response

- You have four full time resident physicians in each of your communities who will communicate through Telemedicine.

Finance

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION CITIZENS VOICED THEIR CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT PROPERTY TAX, THE COMMERCIAL FISHER'S FUND, NISGA'A COMMERCIAL GROUP AND NASS AREA ENTERPRISES, AS WELL AS SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN CARE.

Reference Document:

Finance Report

Subject / Taxation

Comments

- Taxation: People don't know the process, it should have been explained better. Contact Minister of National Revenue. Information should have been attached to all T4s and to all Village Governments; elected members should have informed communities.

Response

- This information was communicated and included during the Nisga'a Elections. A "check the box" Campaign was advertised on the radio, in newsletters and on the Nation's website.
- Information sheets were inserted in T4s of all employees of NLG, VGs, NVHA, SD92, and WWNI. Media resources were used to reach Nisga'a people in various regions.
- The purpose now is to inform people to check the box next year, if they haven't this year, to ensure that Nisga'a Nation receive the tax paid by residents on Nisga'a Lands next tax year.
- All Nisga'a citizens were eligible for a Special Election for the 2013 tax year only. (See page 39 of the Special Assembly booklet.) Each Nisga'a citizen should carefully consider whether this election is to their benefit as each individual's tax and financial situation will be different.
- If an individual did not "check the box" on their T1 or file a special election, it may still be possible to correct this by filing a T1-Adjustment. However this form is mainly a request that Canada Revenue Agency reassess a tax return which they may not accept.

Subject / Centralized Funds

Comments

- Will the Nation be working together for FFA negotiations and preparing uniform presentations? Presentations will require a lot of preparation and future generations are to be relying upon this funding. This approach will ensure we are not competing for the same funding dollars.

Response

- The goal of the CFO is to be inclusive to entities and villages. FFA is in negotiations with Canada and B.C. In terms of negotiations, we have input from villages and entities, such as education, social welfare, and housing. There is no conscious effort to be centralized. We have a small population. We try to make strategic and inclusive decisions to meet the Nation's needs as outlined by the Village Governments and various departments within NLG and entities.

Subject / Property Tax, Commercial Fishers Grant

Comments

- Property tax was supposed to be in effect in 2012. Is it going to be retroactive to 2012?
- Commercial fishers grant: Is there a timeline for applications?

Response

- Property tax: Delays with B.C. are what have caused delayed implementation of Real Property Tax. The Nation is still in negotiations and is optimistic that an agreement will be finalized by the summer. Retroactivity is an issue that is currently being discussed.
- Commercial fishers grant: Do not believe there is a timeline.

Subject / Nass Area Enterprises (NAE), Fisherman's Fund

Comments

- No report on NAE, it has been four years. Who sits on the board? Where are the financial reports?
- Fisherman's fund: Finances, \$1 1.5 million, 1998, in Greenville. (We're) trying to get licenses. Twenty-five grants were given out last year, \$30,000 for each successful applicant. Have been trying to ask the amount given out and to whom, but am told the information is confidential. We have a right to know. Who owns the boat? Did you see the actual proof of boat ownership? We don't want another study, we need answers.

Response

- NAE reports through their boards, through their Annual General Assembly at the NLG Executive. NAE's financial information is included in NLG's financial statements.
- Fisheries grants: We are reviewing the process and working with colleagues in Economic Development and Fisheries to address the issues.

Subject / NLG Surplus

Comments

- NLG has a surplus of \$260 million somewhere. All of us are struggling. NLG should be investing in our people and helping us. Suggestion that all Nisga'a citizens get \$10,000 each from the surplus. \$5,000 for kids in trust for post-secondary education. Let us decide about how to use the funds.

Response

- Surplus: Thank you for the suggestion. The surplus mainly represents the investments in the Settlement Trust which are monies set aside for the future. Finance is careful to ensure that expenditures from the Settlement Trust do not harm the ability of the Trust to sustain itself, grow, and benefit many future generations. We work together with elected members on how best to allocate sustainable spending.

Subject / Nisga'a Commercial Group (NCG) and NAE

Comments

- What has NCG done, and what have they taken in? We want the reporting process and accountability of our entities.
- Taxation information: Suggestion for a education session for communities so that families can plan toward their taxes.
- NAE: How did they get the money? How did they benefit?

Response

- NLG's financial statements include specific notes which provide separated financial information on NLG's commercial entities. Notes 8 and 23 contain pertinent details. Note 22 also provides details on transactions between NLG and the commercial entities. NAE was capitalized using a loan from RBC. NLG provided no start up capital. NAE contracted with BC Hydro for contract work and repaid RBC using that money.

Subject / Support for Children in Care

Comments

- Concerns about Nisga'a Child and Family Services and support for children in care. Children have been in care for over 12 years. No help from NLG. More education and support is needed for parents so kids are not put into foster care.

Response

- Finance is dedicated to working with Programs and Services and working on C6 delegation. This is a question for the Director of Programs and Services.
- Referred to Programs and Services Directorate.

Subject / Fire Equipment Funding

Comments

- Our fire equipment is outdated, does not meet standards and does not comply with home insurance costs. If we upgrade our equipment, the home insurance cost to homeowners would decrease. The cost of a fire truck outweighs the cost of an upgrade request.

Response

- There are different pots of money to deal with this. CFC did address some issues regarding the funding of fire equipment. There is funding under FFA (municipal services) that is transferred to the fire department, roads and bridges, etc. that goes to villages. We intend to address the issue of inadequate funding at FFA negotiations.

Subject / Children in Care

Comments

- What can NLG do to help families with children in care in Vancouver? We are “out of the jurisdiction” for funding for kids away from their families.
- Programs in Vancouver: Where can we go?

Response

- Finance is committed to providing assistance to all Nisga’a citizens, regardless of their residence. We work with our P&S partners to prioritize projects and allocate funding. To specific program operations though, would direct that inquiry to the Director of Programs and Services to respond during her presentation.

Subject / Property Tax, Fire Department

Comments

- Property tax: We are not prepared to retroactively pay property tax. That message should be brought forward.
- Property tax: Exemption on social housing in Gitlaxt’aamiks. Property tax is based on residential units, we rent property (32 units) and should not have to pay the tax for the property.
- Fire department: It sounded really nice about the (amount) we receive. But we need that for a number of different areas. People cannot afford home insurance. We are the most active fire department and our equipment and finance needs to take this on their level.

Response

- The province is at the table, and we are working on all issues surrounding property tax. We cannot divulge where we are with negotiations. We can report back to the Executive, but not about the negotiations, it is in early stages.
- It should be noted though that, as reported at the 2012 Special Assembly, there will be no property tax for years 2013 and earlier due to legislative quirks in the *B.C. Assessment Act*. Property taxes will only be owing for the current year, 2014, forward.
- If a property tax agreement is not finalized this year, there is the possibility that B.C. will attempt to apply and collect property taxes. Discussions with B.C. on this potential scenario are ongoing.
- The Nation reserves the right for permissive exemptions and Nisga’a Government can choose to make various properties exempt, including social housing. This is provided for under Nisga’a law.

- Currently there is a set limit of funding with a long list of funding requests, and we are working to balance allocations to meet various needs. We need information from Village Governments to understand the priorities of various needs. This would also be helpful moving forward with FFA negotiations.
- Operational and maintenance funding: Those village administrators who assisted with the negotiation of the current FFA will recall the Nation made serious attempts at increased funding. However those attempts were mostly unsuccessful and we will need to redouble our efforts in this funding area. Particularly, we have made housing a priority in the upcoming budget and for FFA.

Lands & Resources

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF THE NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION LINE ON WATER QUALITY, MUSHROOM PICKING, LOGGING PRACTICES, AND TIMBER HARVEST RIGHTS. THERE WERE ALSO CONCERNS VOICED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN B.C. HYDRO AND VILLAGE GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR INVOLVEMENT OF VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NEGOTIATION OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS.

Reference Document:

Lands & Resources Presentation

Subject / Northwest Transmission Line (NTL)

Comments

- Concerns about drinking water in the Gitzyon watershed. Lands and Resources should have a record that Chapter 10 of the Treaty was breached during the process.
- Trees were cut and left in the water. This issue is about our lives. Our drinking water is valuable. A question was posed to the Executive and no response was received. Our environment and Treaty were breached, and what are the consequences? Who is responsible for this breach?

Response

- The Environmental Assessment Certificate Commitments Table required that BC Hydro mitigate any potential impacts within the Watershed identified in the Land Use Plan for Nisga'a Lands.
- No legal requirements were breached, but the Environmental Impact Commitments Table constituted an obligation on BC Hydro to work with NLG to develop mitigation plans.
- Several mitigation plans for debris removal on Gitzyon Creek and another large tributary, reporting requirements, water sampling, windthrow, burning of debris, slope stability, plan development and communication with Village Government administration, were developed and implemented. These plans continue to be implemented and revised as necessary.
- Water safety was never at risk, water tests never produced any significant variations from upstream water quality.
- Mitigation plans continue to be instituted and shared with Village Governments.
- The Director will provide an update to the Executive on the current status of the watershed mitigation plans and further work in May. Several matters remain outstanding.

Subject / Northwest Transmission Line

Comments

- Were riparian management zone requirements not followed? What laws are in place to ensure this doesn't occur again?

Response

- The authorization under the *Land Act* enabled the proponent to clear the land as necessary to construct a transmission line. They were required to advise NLG prior to the clearing activities, this did not occur. The plan was implemented very poorly resulting in downstream transport of a small amount of fine branches, small debris, and needles.
- Future authorizations under the *Land Act* within community watersheds will include more detailed riparian assessments and plans, and clearer requirements to advise NLG and Village Governments. Other options such as the application of *Nisga'a Forest Act* riparian requirements may be considered.

Subject / Mushroom Picking Restrictions

Comments

- Are you considering restricting the east side of the Nass River to allow the mushroom harvest to Nisga'a citizens only?

Response

- We review the regulations and any regulatory changes annually. Currently the west side of the Nass, north of Gitwinksihlkw, is restricted to Nisga'a citizens only. Expanding this to include the east side is not expected this year.
- The Executive has the authority to add further restrictions through regulation.

Subject / Logging Practices and Waste

Comments

- Why is so much waste left behind after logging? What does the Lands and Resources department do to ensure we collect stumps, and to reduce the waste?

Response

- For cutblocks harvested under the Nisga'a Public Lands Licence, any waste and residue left on the block after logging is billed to the licensee at the same rate they would pay for utilized timber. Also, NLG may force the licensee to remove waste and residue from the block if it's seen as a fire hazard or a limitation to reforestation.
- The Northwest Transmission Line has a somewhat lower standard for utilization due to the larger proportion of younger and smaller timber. We have no mechanism to recover the value of the waste as a result of this clearing.
- Follow up: Implement residue and waste value recovery mechanisms within *Land Act* authorizations, and a higher standard for utilization.

Subject / Avanti Kitsault Mine

Comments

- What is happening with Avanti? Are they going ahead with their mining?

Response

- A new management team for Avanti has been making significant progress towards addressing NLG concerns. We are hopeful that an agreement can be made soon.
- We will continue to ensure our Treaty rights are upheld and that B.C. and Canada meet their obligations within the Treaty.

Subject / Fishery Bay

Comments

- Are we allowed to set up new camps at Fishery Bay, and how much land are we allowed if we are?

Response

- In spring of 2014 the executive adopted a Management Plan for Fishery Bay. This met the requirement imposed by the Land Use Plan for Nisga'a Lands to ensure that any developments on Fishery Bay meet the requirements for a site within the Heritage Conservation Zone of the Land Use Plan.
- As a result of adopting the Management Plan for Fishery Bay, Nisga'a citizens are now able to apply for a *Land Act* authorization for an established lot (surveyed lots are shown within the management plan).

Subject / Communication with BC Hydro

Comments

- BC Hydro will only speak to Nisga'a Lisims Government and not Village Governments? Can this be changed by the Executive?

Response

- The BC Hydro procedure to establish mitigation plans within the Environmental Assessment Commitments Table is through discussion with NLG.
- NLG shares information with the Village Government representative.
- BC Hydro and Village Governments are free to engage with each other to address any questions related to water.

Subject / Inland and Commercial Fisheries

Comments

- Inland and Commercial Fishing: What is the difference? Boat, motor, and four nets, costs are expensive. Could you look at giving inland fishermen the same treatment as marine fisherman? Can inland fisheries be considered as commercial?

Response

- Questions directed to Fisheries and Wildlife.

Subject / Water at Gitzyon Creek

Comments

- To this day, we have not received any information about the prescription. Would it be possible for our Village Government to have a look at this prescription?

Response

- We have several mitigation plans and all have been shared as drafts for discussion with the established contact representative at the Village Government. The final prescriptions are also shared, as are all correspondence related to modifications to the prescription, implementation, timing and results. Over the past eight months they have been shared and will continue to be.

Subject / Timber Harvest Rights

Comments

- Is there a process for Village Government companies to obtain timber harvest rights on Nisga'a Lands?

Response

- On Village Lands, NLG will work with the Village Government to get a Forest Development Plan approved. Since the timber is owned by the Nisga'a Nation, the executive would approve a Timber Harvest Licence, which would pass title for the timber to the licensee.
- For Nisga'a public lands, the successful model and preferred process has been to have a business-to-business relationship with the village company and the holder of the Nisga'a Public Lands Licence, Lisims Forest Resources. This ensures that the obligations resulting from the logging are wholly contained and generally speeds up the process since much of the planning has already been completed.

Subject / Construction on Traplines

Comments

- Owner of a trapline outside Nisga'a Lands: Would like to build a small cabin on the trapline. Who do I talk to and how long will the process take?

Response

- Traplines are provincial government jurisdiction on Crown lands. The trapline holder should contact the Ministry of Environment in Smithers to obtain information. Lands and Resources staff can assist with obtaining the necessary contact information.

Subject / Mushroom-picking Garbage on Nisga'a Lands

Comments

- The people who go to pick mushrooms leave their empty beer cans, on trees and on the ground, so they can find their way home. People build tents on the west side of the Nass and leave their garbage piled high. It's time, as Nisga'a, that we take stock of who we are.
- Why are we allowing people to come on to our lands and disrespect it? It's time for us to change our way of thinking in regards to our precious land. Everything is being thrown out, it seems like we're not looking after our land like our ancestors. It's time for us to sit together and plan, put policies in place, put a stop to people stripping our land.
- Mushroom pickers leave garbage all over, in our communities, tarps all over, total disregard for the sacredness our ancestors used the land for. It's time the whole Nation starts to take a look at who we are, why we are, where we are.

Response

- NLG Lands and Resources continually allocates funds to clean up garbage on Nisga'a Lands related to mushroom camps and illegal dumping. Where possible investigations are made to determine the party responsible.

Subject / Resource Development and Representatives from Village Government

Comments

- Concerns with potential resource development: If Gingolx was going to be affected, then a Gingolx member should be included in the negotiations. This is a small perspective but it should be heard and considered. Our administration and local government need to be heard. NLG was not to get involved with community business.

Response

- In 2013, the Executive took steps to ensure that an Executive member representing the communities most likely to be affected was included in all levels of discussions on major resource developments within the Nass Area.

Fisheries & Wildlife

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS WERE RAISED ABOUT ELIGIBILITY FOR AND ACCESS TO NISGA'A NATION FISHERIES LICENSES, ALLOCATION OF THE SALMON FISHERY, CHANGES TO THE CRAB BOUNDARY, REGULATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL SALES FISHERY, AS WELL AS THE PROTECTION OF KINCOLITH CREEK SPAWNING AREA.

Reference Document:

Fisheries & Wildlife Presentation

Subject / Northern Nation Fisheries Corporation (NNFC) Licensing

Comments

- We all know that the fisheries predicted a big run in the Fraser, and our fisherman want access to that fish. The Nisga'a were supposed to own one third of those licenses. Our Nisga'a fishermen want access to the licenses that were available only to certain fisherman but we were refused.

Response

- William Moore is on the NNFC board. There are a total of 254 commercial salmon licences. Licenses have been changed regarding species and the area's allowable catch by DFO. NNFC decided to designate licenses that are good for five years, in three areas (Southern Area E, Central Area D, and Northern). Each license requires \$650 so it can be used, and you have to apply for the license through NNFC as they have a priority list. Only after the licenses have been given out to the fishermen who have successfully applied, do they become first come first serve. DFO locked in some licenses, and NNFC could not access them. Any license available after May becomes available for in-river fisheries.
- NLG applied for 40 licenses but received 30 for NNFC.

Subject / Moose Permit Lottery

Comments

- It seems that only certain people get the moose permit. Suggestion that the moose permits be split equally between the four villages.

Response

- We will bring your suggestion to the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Subject / Decline of Chum and Chinook Stock

Comments

- I've fished in 2013 in the in-land fishery and was amazed at the amount of Chinook salmon that was taken. What is the regulation length for gillnet nets? I believe some fishers go over the regulation size. There seems to be no check on how deep the nets are in the inland fishery.

Response

- The regulated net size is 30-40 corks for safety purposes.

Subject / Crab Boundary

Comments

- The crab boundary is currently outside Kincolith to the government dock. We want it changed from Arrendale to Northpoint. We want the crab for our own Nisga'a fishers not the commercial fishery. Female crabs are being taken by the Chinese fishermen, and no one is checking on them.

Response

- Our current president handed a letter to Ottawa regarding the crab boundary. We are still getting non-compliance in that regard. Commercial fishers have been cooperating with us. There are 13 licenses available and eight were utilized. Commercial fishers are allowed 400 traps and they cut themselves down to 200 traps.

Subject / Salmon Allocation and Fisheries Enhancement

Comments

- If we have 50,000 pieces of salmon available to us, why are we only allowed 10,000 pieces for the IS fishery? Who are we conserving the fish for, Alaska? Our own people want access to this fish. Why aren't we enhancing our fish?

Response

- We use a formula to determine our allocation, which is calculated from the numbers through the Total Return To Canada, 18% of which is given to Alaska.
- Elders advised us in the past not to go into the area of enhancement. In saying that, we tried an enhancement program at the Ksi Aks, where we enhanced approximately 80,000 Chinook and 50,000 Coho. Our equipment was vandalized, and due to that, we lost the opportunity in terms of funding. Regarding the enhancement of Chum, we were denied funding by DFO.

Subject / Sale of Food Fish

Comments

- We have a lot of people coming down to Kincolith and fishing halibut and crab and then selling it. They don't have licenses to do that.

Response

- We share the concern, the domestic catch is for food only. The sale of food fish is not permitted. The committee has been discussing ways of controlling the situation, and we'll have rules and regulations for controlling this soon. We also have a harvest wheel that was made by the elders years ago that we'd like to publish soon. NLG will have a ruling on the sale of food soon.

Subject / Impacts of Global Warming, DFO

Comments

- Have there been any studies that are conclusive about the impact of global warming on our fisheries?
- IS fisheries: What identifies us as an inland sales fishery? Why are we limited to only one buyer during the IS fishery?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of DFO during the IS fishery? We don't see them during the fisheries in Kincolith because they say that the Prince Rupert DFO is responsible for our area.

Response

- We are keeping an eye on the effects of global warming. Our consultants (LGL) are tracking the situation, and there is a group of scientists that meets every two years regarding the situation. The rise in the temperature of the water is due to the lack of glacier water melt. Fish will travel deeper if the water is too warm near the surface.
- In regards to the DFO in Kincolith, you're right. We've been talking to them regarding their division of work between Prince Rupert and New Aiyansh. We will have our own enforcement team patrolling the area. In regards to the one buyer issue, I'll leave that to the Nisga'a Commercial Group.

Subject / NNFC Licenses

Comments

- Three tribal council groups: Nisga'a, Gitksan, Northcoast tribe. Of all the fishermen that used to do commercial fishing, 12 were left out. I went to the NNFC office at the end of March to ask for a D license (Johnston Straight License), but was told they were all gone. Asked where the 70 Nisga'a licenses went and was told they were all taken. I would like to make a motion that we Nisga'a have the right of first refusal of those licenses. Last year, we saw white fisherman with the NNFC sign on the side of their boats. How are we going to get those licenses back? We could be fishing for you guys if you knew what you were doing. Salmon is worth more than steaks right now.
- There are 10 licenses in the Fraser River, I hope they're Nisga'a fishermen.

Response

- There is a process and formula that the board works with in regards to the licenses.
- The Fraser River licenses were done before our time.

Subject / Fishing, Fallen Trees in Kincolith Creek Spawning Area

Comments

- The Kincolith Creek is a wild salmon spawning area and there are people fishing for Steelhead in that creek. We'd like a moratorium on that area.
- Can the fisheries officers patrol the area of Kincolith Creek?
- There are trees falling down in the spawning area. Can fisheries do something regarding clean up?

Response

- We share your concern. The people going in that area are guides who have grandfathered their opportunity. As for a moratorium in that area, we can discuss it again.
- The enforcement team is listening and we support the checks in that area.
- Fallen trees: We can do a survey in that area and see what can be done about it.

Subject / Spelling of Nisga'a Names at Sites

Comments

- The Nisga'a spelling of our sites needs to be spelled correctly.

Response

- We're hoping to change those in time.

Subject / Health of Our Fish Since Disaster in Japan

Comments

- How are the tests going?

Response

- Health and Welfare Canada and DFO check for that. DFO checks on the outside and we check further in. Our fishwheels gather information, and they watch for any changes.

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / NISGA'A CITIZENS INQUIRED AS TO WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ABOUT THIS MEETING FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY.

Reference Document:

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations Presentation

Subject / Access to Special Assembly Information, Honouring Women

Comments

- Will the information from the Special Assembly and about the Honouring Women ceremony be available following the Special Assembly?

Response

- We will be making the information about the Special Assembly generally available on our website, including the Honouring Women ceremony, and will be addressing questions through our Special Assembly report summarizing the notes from our departments.
-

Subject / Online Questions

Comments

- What happens to questions sent from viewers online?

Response

- When time permits on the agenda, the Chairpersons may entertain questions on the floor from online viewers. Also, all questions received from online viewers are provided to all departments within NLG for follow up, and questions are also incorporated into the Special Assembly post report.

Programs & Services

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION, PARTICIPANTS VOICED CONCERNS ABOUT THE NEED FOR SAFE HOMES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ABUSIVE SITUATIONS. QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS OFFERED BY NISGA'A CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AND ABOUT HOW TO ACCESS THEM. CONCERNS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED ABOUT THE NEED TO ADDRESS SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING MORE CULTURAL PROGRAMS TO BRING ELDERS AND YOUTH TOGETHER.

Reference Document:

Programs & Services Presentation

Subject / Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department

Comments

- Chiefs and matriarchs: You have written the laws that we are to follow (referring to the feast book).
- Address the ways of our young people – we are mixing our traditional ways.
- We are becoming weak in our traditional ways.
- Counselling comes at a wedding. I would like you to consider this, it is still the chiefs and matriarchs who are responsible.
- This work is so deep that you are doing, and it is on our behalf. And yet the Chiefs and matriarchs are left out of the counselling process. We are weakened. Kids don't listen anymore; don't hear our voices. Matriarchs are charged with counselling.
- It is the Chieftains and Matriarchs who are to carry on the traditions, but the Chieftains are being left out of the process.

Response

- The comments and inquiries on the *Feast* book will be brought to the Council of Elders for review and feedback.
- Council of Elders will discuss plans for a workshop with Simgigat and Sigidim Haanak for consideration. To disburse documents provided by Council of Elders and Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department: Regarding *K'aats*, the *Feast* book and *Lock, Stock and Barrel* documents.

Subject / Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS), Foster Parenting

Comments

- Inquiry about additional funds to take foster children into Terrace for sports events.

Response

- Client was contacted and referred to the NCFS social worker that she works with.
- Follow up: Referred to NCFS social worker.

Subject / Special Assembly, Safe Homes for Women and Children

Comments

- Suggestion: At the Special Assembly, there should be an equal amount of time for questions as the presenters are provided.
- Are there safe homes for women and children and elders in abusive situations in the valley?

Response

- Suggestion will be passed onto the Special Assembly planning committee.
- There are no safe homes in the valley at this time. There are discussions in individual communities about creating safe homes for women, elders and children.
- Follow up: NLG Special Assembly planning Committee and Individual Village Governments.

Subject / Elders Council

Comments

- Suggestion: Open the Enrolment and Eligibility Elder's committee to include a youth on the committee to learn.

Response

- Elder's Enrolment Committee is a criteria of the citizenship regulations.
- Follow up: Any other persons designated to the committee will be in violation of the regulations.

Subject / Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) Budget

Comments

- Suggestion: Programs and Services increase the NYAC budget to \$15,000.

Response

- NYAC and Youth Organizing Youth (YOY) workplans will need to be submitted to examine a budget increase.

Subject / School District #92

Comments

- Suggestion: School District 92 hold public meetings in each community.
- Education is important, and we feel ignored.

Response

- Suggestion will be forwarded to SD#92.

Subject / Children in Care

Comments

- What action is being taken to help families with children in care in Vancouver?

Response

- Nisga'a family support and advocate resources are being implemented for the Vancouver Nisga'a Ts'amiks.

Subject / Counselling, Social Problems

Comments

- There are huge social problems in our communities, and we need counseling and programs to be developed that help deal with the affects of residential school and colonization. How are you going to address this?

Response

- We aim to coordinate resources among the helping organizations, i.e. child and youth mental health counselling, Children and Family Services, youth workers, and by developing long term programs.

Subject / Safe Homes for Women Experiencing Violence

Comments

- Support the comments about safe homes for women, and to start bringing programs into the communities to raise aware about abuse.

Response

- Community education is ongoing with sexual exploitation and we are planning future education on abuse and violence.

Subject / Healing Centre and Treatment

Comments

- In 2012, there was a question asked about opening a healing centre at Vetter Lodge. It could be a treatment centre.
- Immediate steps are needed to stop the violence against women.

Response

- Suggestion will be presented to economic development and within the strategic plan to address violence with a treatment model for families.

Subject / Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) and Livecare

Comments

- Regarding the issue of Livecare: NVHA was alerted that a man needed immediate care. Family members participated in live care for four months but by the time the follow up was conducted with a live physician, he was diagnosed with stage four liver cancer. He lived for six months.
- Humiliated with the service of live care.

Response

- Director will review the matter with NVHA.

Subject / Nisga'a Laws and Acts

Comments

- Provide clarity to the Nisga'a Societies: Under the *Society Act*, are they in Nisga'a laws as well?
- Suggestion: Review of Programs and Services funding received.
- Monthly financials should also provide dates to determine efficiency and a comprehensive review of funding received.
- Communities need to be involved in addressing areas of need, as there has not been a adequate involvement of our people. Processes are not followed and honoured.
- Society boards and staff need more education of Nisga'a laws.

Response

- Director of Programs and Services and CFO will examine the Societies' reports. In addition, there are plans to develop service delivery agreements with each local society.

Subject / Family Support in Vancouver for Children in Care

Comments

- What is needed is a support program in Vancouver for families when children are in care.
- NCFS tells families in Vancouver that the families are out of their jurisdiction, therefore they cannot help them.
- Resources are needed to ensure the kids are not taken away from parents.

Response

- A Nisga'a Family Support position is being implemented in Vancouver Ts'amiks
- NCFS staff will forward the requests to NLG support resources in the interim.
- In addition to this support position, there are plans to advocate for additional resources.

Subject / Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department

Comments

- Thank you to Programs and Services for the elder and youth gathering.
- Have been working with youth for seven years, and have found that they want more interaction with elders, more programs and language retreats.
- Suggestion: Enhance language skills outside of institutions; and that COE focus on language programs and retreats to connect youth back to lands, such as old sites and old villages.
- Suggestion: Provide new material to help with language and learning such as protocols.
- Want to see more Nisga'a language and culture programming provided.

Response

- Culture and language are being enhanced in the schools. As well, the urban societies are all offering culture and language courses.
- The Council of Elders and Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department appreciated the participation of the youth, elders and community delegates at the Nisga'a Youth and Elder Forum, interest and engagement was a great success.
- The suggestion and request to provide for more language workshops with the youth and elders will be provided to the Council of Elders.
- Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department currently employs a Language Coordinator who provides for and supports the efforts of Nisga'a Lisims Government language revitalization program and services. The Language Coordinator achieved a grant to support moving forward with the Nisga'a Language and Culture Authority and its implementation. Planning is projected for the first orders of the Language and Culture Authority.

Subject / Conflict of Interest and Denial of Services

Comments

- Family in crisis: I have reached out to the crisis team but services were denied due to a conflict of interest. A relative works in the building. Not feeling supported, feel like an intruder
- Where does one go if family are in a conflict of interest?

Response

- Due to insufficient information this situation cannot be responded to.
- In conflict of interest situations there are alternative support services that are offered.

Subject / Special Needs Care

Comments

- Have written letters at all levels requesting assistance for special needs care, only to be referred back and rejected.
- How come you don't have programs and services that support our special needs children?
- Had home support for about ten months but it was cut off due to lack of funding.

Response

- Varied special needs services are offered within the schools, home care services, NVHA and with MCFD.

Subject / Access to Traditional Healers

Comments

- We have traditional healers in the valley. Can we have access to these here?

Response

- Suggestions will be forwarded to NVHA.

Subject / Support for Special Needs

Comments

- We need support for families in Prince Rupert with special needs. (For example one family has a son with autism and they need support).
- We're told there is no help until age 19. We need to prevent those in need from being denied based on age.

Response

- Families may access MCFD for youth and children with special needs, especially autism assessments and supports.

Subject / Ambulance and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority

Comments

- Ambulance first responders: We do not have a vehicle to transport people so we transport them in the back of our pickups. We have been trying get support or a vehicle.
- "B.C. Responders" is not a certificate it is a licence.
- Every year we try to work with NVHA and the individual we deal with is let go or leaves, and our issues have been passed to different individuals each year.
- Lean on health authorities and address this and have them stop worrying about their raises next year.
- Ask the NVHA to deal with the tasks at hand.

Response

- NVHA will be informed of this situation. NVHA is currently in the process of engaging with B.C. Emergency Services to have an ambulance and a paramedic to service the Nass Valley.

Subject / Justice System

Comments

- There is a concern regarding cultural obligations for those under house arrest entering community buildings (a Chief was handcuffed and escorted out).
- Where is the cultural protocol to address such an issue?

Response

- This will be reviewed with the Public Order, Peace and Safety Committee.

Subject / Recognizing Chieftains

Comments

- To the Chieftain who spoke this morning: We have forgotten the authority of the chieftain and yet it is our family lands that were offered so we can realize our Treaty.
- In the old days, if you walked on someone's land without authority, you were breaking one of our laws, this does not happen today.
- The past chiefs spent a lot of money to support our self-government and we have forgotten this.
- We have forgotten to consult our Chieftains that are not at the table.
- We are here to welcome all the leaders, who have come in from the Nisga'a Nation. Thank you and welcome into the Nass Valley.
- In the culture of our grandfathers, when people come to our land, we recognize them, it is our law.

Response

- Chiefs from each community did welcome the visitors into the Nisga'a lands and to the Assembly.

Economic Development / NEST

Supporting Prosperity for the Nisga'a Nation

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION, PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR A TREATMENT AND HEALING CENTRE ON NISGA'A LANDS, POSSIBLY AT VETTER LODGE. CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS WERE ALSO VOICED ABOUT ELIGIBILITY FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHER'S FUND AND THE COAST OPPORTUNITY FUND, AS WELL AS HOW TO ACCESS EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH NEST (NISGA'A EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND TRAINING).

Reference Document:

Economic Development / NEST Presentation

Subject / Healing Centre

Comments

- How can we address the needs of our citizens who require healing and treatment?
- The Vetter Lodge was suggested as a healing or treatment centre.

Response

- Will follow up with appropriate people within NLG with respect to Vetter Lodge being used as a healing centre.

Subject / Vetter Falls

Comments

- How does that investment affect ownership? Who is going to be steering the direction of Vetter Falls Lodge?

Response

- The Executive makes the decision on this.

Subject / Commercial Fishers Fund (CFF)

Comments

- Feeling discriminated against: Inland and marine fishers have the same wear and tear on boats and should both be eligible to receive CFF.
- Who received these CFF grants?
- Request for a meeting with the Executive to discuss the Commercial Fishers Fund.
- IS Fishery: Why are they excluded and are they going to be given an opportunity to access funding?

Response

- We are assisting in administering the fund and developing an investment strategy. It is up to the Executive to maximize the program.
- A question was asked about providing a list of active Nisga'a fishers and a list of inactive fishers. A question was asked about releasing a list of names of all applicants on file. My response was that any applications to the CFF program and the NBDF program are confidential.

- Will there be flexibility on this fund program to allow gillnet fishers to access the fund without an N License?
- Why can't a person who owns two boats access this fund?
- The Executive makes the decision on this.
- Nisga'a fishers requested a meeting with the NLG Executive at the next Executive meeting to discuss their concerns.
- The Executive would need to review and make that decision regarding the IS Fishery and gillnet fishers gaining access to the fund.
- The CFF allows for one grant, i.e. one fisher, one boat. \$30,000 per boat is available. Working on investment strategy to maximize the program.

Subject / Coast Opportunity Fund (COF)

Comments

- How do you apply to this fund and how much is allocated to Nisga'a? Is there a priority on how this is disbursed?

Response

- Applications for COF are done through one's respective Nisga'a Village Governments (NVE). The applicant would require a resolution from the NVE to support an application to the COF program. Each NVE received \$250,000.

Subject / Nisga'a Commercial Group (NCG), Nass Area Enterprise (NAE)

Comments

- Are there financial statements available from NCG and NAE?

Response

- Refer to the respective companies and their boards, NCG and NAE.

Subject / Cellular Service

Comments

- How long until there is cell service?

Response

- Cell service is not yet in the plans.

Subject / Economic Development

Comments

- Wellness centre is a good investment and will generate income.
- Invest in education.
- Support a development strategy of keeping money here, reinvesting here.

Response

- Statement: No response required.

Subject / Quality of Life

Comments

- What can the culture do to help when in crisis?

Response

- Cultural approaches have been used in child family services, diversion programs such as Yuuklamkaskw, and other dispute resolution processes.

Subject / Employment

Comments

- Vancouver Urban Local rep. wants to know if we would be able to access funds to attend employment training events in the Nass Valley?

Response

- Specific NEST funds are intended for Nisga'a citizens residing in Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Kitimat, Terrace, Thornhill, Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx.

Subject / Friendship Centre

Comments

- Suggestion: Open a friendship centre for our people that you don't have to pay for. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Response

- Please visit the B.C. and National Friendship Centre websites.

Subject / Training and Employment for New Mothers

Comments

- What programs do you offer for new mothers? Is there a training allowance?

Response

- Come see us, we are more than happy to help as long as the training results in employment.

Subject / Grade 12

Comments

- Will there be any money? I already have a degree. Will there be money available for me? What about housing for Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI) students?

Response

- NEST funds are specific to helping Nisga'a citizens in our coverage area to find meaningful employment. Village Government funding comes from other sources and cannot overlap services. Agree that we need housing. There are many discussions going on regarding housing.

Proponent Presentations

TransCanada / Spectra Energy

Question & Answer Session

SUMMARY / IN THIS SESSION, CITIZENS RESPONDED TO THE PROPONENT PRESENTATIONS WITH CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECTS AS WELL AS THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS THE MEMORIAL LAVA BED PARK. QUESTIONS WERE ALSO VOICED ABOUT THE KINDS OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO NISGA'A CITIZENS, THE LONG TERM BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS TO NISGA'A COMMUNITIES, AND THE MITIGATION OF ANY NEGATIVE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECTS.

Reference Document:

TransCanada Presentation

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is TransCanada (TC) in discussion with other First Nations in the upper regions of the Nass Area? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an opportunity to meet with prime contractors, and to meet with representatives to discuss what those opportunities are, as well as training information. A prime contractor has not been selected yet. Once they are in place they will meet with Nisga'a Lands representatives. Career opportunities for compressor station: There will be 10-12 positions available. Experience and qualifications: There are specialized positions, mid-level positions available. The reality of the job opportunities is during the construction phase of the project. Some folks will not have the ability to participate in the higher level sections of the project. Transferable positions to another position is possible but not likely.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects on marine habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about traditional foods affected by the pipeline (PL) in the marine habitat. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Park LNG Plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion: Refer to the lava park as a memorial park. Suggestion: Have Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant on Nisga'a Lands. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting will be union? Will TC meet with prime contractors to ensure we are prepared and have a "red seal" trained person? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where are your failures, please share them. How many long term jobs can you commit to Nisga'a Nation? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will this process be streamlined? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality Heritage Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon emissions: What is the total generated? Carbon tax credits? Is there anything in the benefits agreement to upgrade the parks? 	

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on salmon stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long will the LNG be exported? • Will TransCanada provide natural gas to residents? • Training opportunities: Will there be full time tech position for the lifetime of the project? • What are the effects of the development on salmon stocks? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside workers: TC needs to ensure they have the skilled workers in place. But will ensure commitment to Nisga'a for employment opportunities. • TC will work with outside companies if and when needed. • Marine bio: TC has been conducting EA impact assessments in a number routes. Some potential routes have been dropped due to the amount of impacts. TC is committed to avoid EA impacts. • Dredging: The marine pipeline is controlled and very technical. • Killer whales: Will bring this information to our biologist. There was a study done on killer whales on other projects. • There is continued monitoring through technical devices – “pigs.” • A comprehensive emergency program is in place. • Reporting system and spill kits during construction on LNG equipment to ensure minimum environmental impact. • There are carbon emissions from all projects, and these are reported to the Federal and Provincial Governments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to land owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide examples of benefits to past land owners. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job training • Qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What qualifications are needed to operate compressor stations? • When do our guys start the job training? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Outside workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Nisga'a to have higher level employment. • Will you be bringing in outside workers to the valley for employment? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting off land and water: We should be compensated for all work that is being done. 	

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging in estuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you going to be changing the estuaries due to dredging, and how will you be creating new ones? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lava Bed Memorial Park: We recognize this is a sensitive area, but there are a number of reasons – due to habitat area, geotech results – that terrain in other areas is not suitable. • Pipeline is for 20 years as contracted. Probably will be utilized much longer than that. • Access to natural gas from reserves to communities for home use: It would be up to the owners of the natural gas to make this decision. • TC is consulting with other First Nations groups with treaty rights. • Financial status of the project: Will provide benefits and is in discussion. • On job training for compressor station: Have one Nisga'a citizen working in Alberta with intent to bring him back to work on the project here in the Nass. • Will continue to work with NLG to assure a benefits agreement is established.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What guarantee do you have for environmental protection of water quality? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lava beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are you going through Lava beds? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we need five to six years experience to get work on the pipeline? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial status of project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the financial status for the development of the pipeline and for shareholders for the lifetime of the pipeline? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Nasoga Gulf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasoga Gulf: What kind of studies are being done? There are killer whales that come into this area, what is going to be done to protect this area? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referendum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be a referendum vote on the project? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on environment and tourism • Job creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism: How do we know that there will be no major impacts to the environment? • Job creation for our people should be mandatory. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to Nisga'a Lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the amount of benefits Nisga'a Lands will receive from project. 	

Reference Document:

Spectra Energy Presentation

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWNI-UNBC have a university in the valley, will you assist with funding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not at the end of the discussions and they will be ongoing for awhile.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many administrative positions will be available for the Nisga'a? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution buildings: Spectra has a history of supporting educational institutions to assist in responding to the demand jobs on the LNG pipeline.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What compensation plan is in place for both land and water resources (cultural foods)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for First Nations: It has been difficult to import people from the urban areas. Will be working with institutions to train residents living in the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't forget about those Nisga'a who live outside of the Nass Area. • Please be aware of the social impacts of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat for Humanity: Looking forward to expanding on this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the impacts of boreholes on traplines? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social issues: Concerns with effects of wealth and increase of substance abuse. Will work with communities to discuss further.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranberry Connector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Cranberry Connector be upgraded to highway standards? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been instances where there was a break in a pipeline due to slope stability and it was resolved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Create workshops on life skills to assist with social impacts. • Build safe houses to deal with social impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectra is very deliberate in the placing of the pipeline and ensures the integrity of the pipeline. Monitoring is consistent to ensure there are no further impacts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion: Build a home for elders here in the Nass rather than having to go to Terrace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will not plan to drill on a trapline that is in operation and will work with people to ensure less impacts.

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the impact to wildlife and marine habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will make the public aware of where the pipelines are put in the ground. • Capacity improvements: Spectra will work with you on that. • Life skills: Willing to work with communities on these issues and to develop programs. • Small business: We will forward information to contractors. • Recognize the long term effects on social structures, elders. Building to assist with issues. • Environmental effects: Mitigation plans with the communities are ongoing. • Sediment erosion: There are a lot of considerations. • Marine habitat: Will continue to survey and to share information. • Earthquakes: There are designs in place for PL in the area of faultlines. If there was a failure, there are emergency plans that are in planning. For example, there was a place where a major earthquake happened and the pipeline was not impacted. • Memorial Lava Bed Park: Spectra will be very considerate in this area. The technical side is to ensure that the ground work is done and to make sure there are no impacts on the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural disasters • Cultural education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the impacts if there are natural disasters such as earthquakes? • What are the opportunities that would assist with preserving cultural education? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on where the pipelines are going to be placed and what the impacts will be to the area. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royalties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be royalties for businesses where the pipeline goes through their property? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural duties • Invasive plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nisga'a citizens have cultural duties and as employees, must have allowable time to participate in our cultural duties. • Invasive plants: We will not allow invasive plants in our area and will not comply with Provincial standards. 	

Subject	Comments	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the weight that the pipelines can carry? • Are there transferable skills from the forestry sector to pipeline jobs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectra will ensure there are opportunities for small business, and available jobs. • Archeological heritage inspection: Will avoid sensitive areas by speaking with elders, NLG, and communities with respect to historical areas. • Forestry on the right-of-way: Opportunities will be made available. • There are speciality jobs that qualified individuals will fill. Other jobs will be made available for citizens. Training in these speciality areas can be made available in the education institutions. A database with NEST will be utilized. • Cultural harvest resources: Spectra is aware of the importance of this and will work with NLG on this issue. • Fracking: Has been done safely in a few areas. Spectra understands the concerns. Spectra is willing to share studies and speak with communities at a later time. • Tailings: Soil disturbance will be avoided if Spectra takes this route. • Hockey arenas: Assets to the community, support the idea.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources: We want to make sure our resources are sustainable for the survival of future generations. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fracking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns about hydraulic fracking in a number of communities. How is Spectra going to resolve this ongoing issue? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of pipelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts in mining area of Kitsault: What are the effects of the pipeline on tailings? 	

Reflections from the Executive Office

Concluding Remarks

H. MITCHELL STEVENS / OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KEVIN MCKAY / OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

CORINNE MCKAY / OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

SHIRLEY MORVEN / OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF ELDERS

COLLIER AZAK / OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

H. Mitchell Stevens / President

Thank you to the Chieftains and those elders who sit with Nisga'a Government. They are the ones that govern each village. We are honoured to see all the Chiefs and hear them speak to this Assembly.

Thank you to our hosts, the people of Gitwinksihlkw, for a job well done.

The tax is from the Provincial government. The Nisga'a Nation's position is that there will be no retroactive property tax.

We have heard concerns raised in the villages that dollars within the operations and maintenance budgets are not enough. The final budget process will be in October 2014. There has been a gradual increase since the Effective Date of the Treaty, and we are aware that we are still in a catch-up phase.

The Council of Elders have the power and right. Respect your chiefs and matriarchs in your house; you must follow them.

In regards to our land, present yourself about the land, this goes to everyone on Nisga'a Lands. This is our land, your land. We are the largest real estate owners in B.C.; we no longer live on reserves.

We have heard questions and concerns, regarding the reporting of Nass Area Enterprises and Nisga'a Commercial Group. There is a regularly scheduled Annual General Meeting that happens with the shareholders (Executive) in July of each year.

As of May, accreditation of NVHA has been granted. Our equipment is so archaic, and we have lost our lab x-ray. We will now have a technician/radiologist in the valley, and starting in June we are going to have a ultrasound technician. This is the power of the industry, by law there are certain requirements that have to be adhered to. We are 80 minutes closer than any other medical facility. I see a new hospital opening in the Nass in very short order. There is no need to destroy the building that is already there, we need to build a new one. The current building can be converted to respite care.

We have people who can assist in training and capacity building, and bring in the right people to teach our youth. This has been done through BCIT. All of our youth can participate in this. There are about 23 people who signed up but only three attended. What happened? Chiefs, matriarchs: We must communicate to our children that these opportunities are there. It appears that we are just wasting money when we requested some assistance and we pay and no one shows up to participate. We will be bystanders in this development.

Encourage the young people who are taking the training to stick with it. I am glad to hear that Gitlaxt'aamiks has a group of people in Vancouver getting their "red shield" training. We need your help to talk with your children.

Taxation is at 46%; Own Source Revenue (OSR) agreement with Canada. Personal tax is your business.

The Nisga'a constitution is the supreme law. We are not disposing of any land. We are considering a right of way. The Nisga'a Nation fought for 113 years to get land – we are not disposing of any land. In fact, we have added in excess of 400 hectares of land to Nisga'a Lands. The Nisga'a Nation has defeated all court challenges to the legality of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. It has withstood all challenges.

In respect to Nass Area Strategy, as of May 2013, Chief Councillors have been appointed to act as proponents for projects and to flow information back to your elected officials.

When I was younger, I heard an elder Chieftain say that our meetings should be held on Nisga'a Lands, not outside of the valley. We do not receive any taxes or funding from Vancouver or any of those urban communities. We do not receive their share. What are we going to do, Chiefs and Matriarchs? Are we going to be paying land taxes to those living outside of Nisga'a Lands? Our ancestors foresaw this.

In reference to the Special Assembly book, page 34, regarding the Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA): You must understand the FFA is a side agreement to the Nisga'a Treaty, it is not a guaranteed source of money nor is it "treaty money." There is a clause in the Treaty that the Parties may negotiate. What that says, is that at a whim, Canada can do away with that. They are already starting a process of fiscal harmonization. Through the omnibus bills, they are going through the back door.

The challenge to the Nisga'a Nation Constitution and validity of the Treaty, according to the documentation, has cost the Nisga'a Nation close to \$7 million in defending the Treaty. The majority of those challenges were by Nisga'a people. You have to be aware of that.

This is the final year of the \$22 million transfer, happening in two days. To prepare for that, a financial management plan has been put in place to ensure the stabilization of funding. In 2012, the NVHA got a 9.9% increase, SD 4%, WWNI 2.3 %, Gitlaxt'aamiks 7.6 %, Gitwinksihlkw 10 %, Laxgalts'ap 6.5 %, Gingolx 6.3 %, Terrace 13.7 %, Prince Rupert 2.4 %, Vancouver 11.7 %. The averages of those increases to the four villages came out to 7.3% stabilization and Urban Locals 8.5% stabilization. We have done this while our budget decreased .4%. Job well done to the Finance Department.

We are in negotiations for the next FFA. Canada's mandating process is very arduous; they still don't have a mandate to negotiate with us. In preparation, all the villages, the entire Nation, got only a 0.7% increase in the provisional budget for this year. We have tightened up to prepare ourselves. We must be able to prove to Canada that there is a definite need for more funding.

To those people who did not make it to the microphone: Thank you for your understanding. You can forward questions to Communications and Intergovernmental Relations. Final reports/ responses will be addressed in a two month timeline.

Also, the Nisga'a Museum has an event on May 11, 2014 – the Effective Date of the Treaty. It is an Arts Festival, also Mother's Day. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you.

Kevin McKay / Executive Chairperson

Good morning to all the delegates, Nisga'a citizens, non-Nisga'a, and those of you on livestream. It is very encouraging to see your commitment to this assembly throughout the week.

The Nisga'a Nation will celebrate the 14th anniversary of the implementation of our sacred Treaty. This is the seventh Nisga'a Nation Assembly, pursuant to the Constitution. In support of the President's comments, I would like to offer my perspective.

The Special Assembly is an assembly of the Nisga'a Nation. It takes a lot of dedication and commitment to see this process through. I acknowledge all the contributions that make this a success.

To the host community, Gitwinksihlkw: Through you, Chief Councilor Ron Nyce, we communicate our deep appreciation of the tremendous efforts put forward by your leadership and community.

It has been a very productive week.

Highlights:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the clergies of the respective churches in our lands.

On Wednesday afternoon, there was a very moving and touching ceremony carried out by "Honouring our Women." It goes without saying that this is very appropriate given that we are a matrilineal society. The reason why it was so effective, is because it was carried out with quiet dignity. We walked in unity with the generations of our women, present and future.

I acknowledge the contribution of three outstanding Nisga'a citizens. It was great to hear from Mr. Hubert Doolan who is a founding member of the Nisga'a Tribal Council. In addition, we heard from our guest speakers – Simoogit Hleek and Simoogit Kamluugidis. Thank you for your contribution.

I chair Executive meetings, and have noted some concerns that the Executive needs to address. We will make it a priority for legislative reform.

Thank you all for your contribution at the Assembly this week.

Corinne McKay / Secretary-Treasurer

Highlights

We have heard your concerns and want to assure you that we do not wait for the Special Assembly to hear your concerns. As officers, and we traveled to the communities/locals last fall and we heard your concerns on a frequent basis – more often, through your elected officials that sit on the Executive.

There were concerns raised in areas of housing, health service issues, employment, proponents, and the FFA.

To address these concerns, we turn our attention to those vehicles we have through our administration, without stepping on toes within those entities.

Concerns were raised regarding Nass Area Enterprises (NAE); the President already stated that they will be reporting at an AGM in July. We will be meeting on May 16th with the NAE and will communicate issues that were raised here.

Issues were raised regarding Communications. There is a survey that the NLG Communications department has developed.

We heard that in the fishing industry it was not uncommon for a person to own more than one boat.

It was suggested that with the Settlement Trust we take out \$10,000 to provide to our citizens. The former Secretary Treasurer presented the origin of this Trust and its history. If we leave that alone, that \$227 million would be \$400 million in 10 years. Those funds are for our great grandchildren. It is my opinion that with the direction the Nation is going, that fund will be available for your children. There is power to leaving that fund in the bank to compound.

Concerns were raised on BC Hydro costs, and this will be addressed by BC Hydro. The MLA was also in the assembly hall when this was raised and I am sure that he has noted this.

There was reference to fire fighting equipment and turnout gear. There was approval granted for one of the communities last week but it was not defined in the *Capital Commission Act*. It was approved because of the importance of supporting our fire departments. We have raised this as an issue with the Implementation Committee.

For “Honouring our Women,” we recognized two of our staff members – Nita Morven and Marianne Guno – as they were unable to be at our Assembly.

Thank you for taking the time to be here and to hear the work of the Nation.

We are challenged with resources. When we considered this year’s budget we had to send them back to refine budgets and to cut where possible, while preserving the integrity of our core programs. You should be aware of the cost of the legal challenges to our Nation – the “Treaty Challenge” case cost the Nation \$3.1 million, the Human Rights case cost over \$250,000. We are obligated to defend the Nation and to bring out a legal team to file the necessary documents. If we don’t, we are liable.

To the hosts, Gitwinksihlkw – thank you for your hospitality.

Thank you.

Shirley Morven / Chairperson, Council of Elders

Highlights:

Thank you to the host, Gitwinksihlkw, for your hospitality.

NLG Senior Management and staff – thank you for coordinating this Assembly.

It is important to practice free speech, but we do have rules of procedures to follow for the Special Assembly.

I want to acknowledge the women who worked on the “Honouring our Women” ceremony. We honour our first Nisga’a Language Teachers – Audrey McKay, Verna Williams, Nita Morven, Adele Gosnell, Rosie Robinson, Lydia Barton, and Tina McKay.

We have talked about wealth-making – we do have three or four adaawaks to do this without feeling left behind. I suggest that we gather these wealth-making adaawak to be compiled into books so people can get the wealth and wisdom of our ancestors. Every one of these adaawak have spirit guides within them. Ensure that we do follow some of these old laws that let us be here today.

Message to the Assembly floor:

- maintain very high traditional standards in everything you do,
- stay focused on whatever you are pursuing so you are successful,
- be really deliberate in what you are doing, in what you do, so you can reach your goals.

Thank you.

Collier Azak / Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for being with us, right to the end, to discuss all the work we are doing here in the Nisga'a Nation. Thank you, each of you. It is because of all of you that we sit in the office of the Nisga'a Nation.

Thank you to Gitwinksihlkw Village Government – you did a great job in helping NLG make this gathering possible.

The President, along with the other officers, have responded to a lot of the issues that have been raised this week.

Highlights:

From the administration side, the Directors and Senior Staff have kept important notes and questions that have been raised. A full report on responses will be provided. The President spoke to this and has given a timeline.

Certain administrative areas were touched on:

Finance is encouraged to maintain a close relationship with Village Governments and Urban Locals through the Chief Financial Officers (CFO), at CAO levels, and to continue to address issues that come out in that area. One of the important objectives ahead of us is the Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) negotiations that are beginning this month. I want to encourage continued work between the Village Governments, Urban Locals, and CFO so that a complete report is compiled for these FFA negotiations.

We need to use the Northwest Transmission Line as a learning experience: environmentally, commercially, and socially. We are working with proponents that come looking to begin developments in our area. We heard we need to have a strong presence in the Nass Area, and that it be maintained and enhanced.

In the area of Programs and Services, there were a lot of issues raised in health, education, and preparation for the work ahead of us with new developments coming to our area. A lot of these different areas link to NLG through our Programs and Services Directorate. There are service delivery agreements in place with our institutions. In order for us to respond in a timely fashion, we are going to address the issue of providing the resources required in our Programs and Services Directorate so that there are enough resources to respond to these different areas. Before the end of the fiscal year, we hope to have in place a Deputy Director of Programs and Services.

Questions about the Commercial Fisheries Fund were raised and we would like to inform you that there is a policy in place and that the Executive can make changes. We have noted those fisher's concerns.

In conclusion: A reminder that the Quality of Life Strategy, begun a number of years ago, is now going to be addressed through administration. All are encouraged to be engaged in future discussions. Have confidence and faith in NLG managers who will be coordinating this initiative. Our goal is to prepare a document for the next Special Assembly.

Thank you to those who stepped forward to voice opinions, express concerns, and ask questions. This is what makes your government work.

Thank you.

Online Questions

From Nisga'a Citizens

SUMMARY / NISGA'A CITIZENS EMAILED QUESTIONS THAT COVERED A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING: GOVERNMENT SIZE AND TRANSPARENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, CAPITAL PROJECTS, THE ELDERS PACKAGE, NLG FINANCES, THE VALUE-ADDED FORESTRY INDUSTRY, HELP FOR NISGA'A FISHERMEN, NISGA'A LANGUAGE PROGRAMS, ACCESS TO ASSEMBLY INFORMATION, AND THE FISHERIES GRANT.

Executive Office

Subject / Various Subjects

Comments

- Are there any plans to build an elders home for our Nisga'a elders?
- What plans will be made to create a business platform of small businesses on our homeland in the interest of retaining wealth?
- Are there any plans on restructuring the existing government model to make it more efficient in terms of size? Do we really need 24 councillors for just over 2,000 Nisga'a citizens living on the homeland?
- Is our government dedicated to bringing more transparency?
- I know that the environment is regulated federally and provincially, but that doesn't mean we cannot put our own input into what we expect in terms of regulations when it comes to the environment, especially when every environment is unique in different areas. How dedicated are we to the environment with regulations? Are those regulations public? How big of a role do Nisga'as play in monitoring the environment?
- What sacrifices will Nisga'as have to consider in the interest of the (proponent) proposals?
- I've heard that no pipeline will go through Nisga'a territory without an LNG plant. It sounds like the LNG plant has already been accepted as an idea. What environmental standards have been given confidence to (in order to) accept an LNG plant as a potential project?

Response

- Housing is a Nisga'a Village Government area of responsibility, so you are encouraged to contact your Nisga'a Village Government to see what plans they may have.
- NLG is committed to sustainable prosperity and encourages Nisga'a citizens to establish their own businesses to create wealth in the Nation. Among our many initiatives, we have established the Nisga'a Business Development Fund which provides funding to Nisga'a citizens to establish businesses, and makes available resources to small businesses, including an online small business development guide. We encourage all interested individuals to contact Bert Mercer of the Nisga'a Business Development Fund at (250) 633-3000 or bertramm@nisgaa.net or visit our website: www.nisgaanation.ca/funding
- There are presently no plans to restructure the existing government, but we will take this observation back to our government for further consideration as this would require a constitutional amendment to amend the current representation at NLG.
- Yes, our government is dedicated to transparency. Our website and social media provide daily access to the activities of our government to the people. We provide reporting through our monthly newsletter. Our biennial Special Assemblies provide an opportunity for all Nisga'a citizens to obtain information on our government and to ask questions. We have webcast it, and are providing a post-assembly report to follow up on your queries. This is but one example of our commitment to being transparent to Nisga'a citizens.

- Are there any other energy producing projects being considered such as wind power or solar energy?
- Unions can be made to accept our trained workers. What strategy is being put forward to get our workers involved on a larger scale?
- I've heard that many don't say anything in regards to our government when they have their job on the line. In my mind that isn't right. What code of conduct is in place to protect the rights of employees?
- Thank you for taking the time to read over my questions.
- Environmental regulations: It is the stated policy of Nisga'a Nation to ensure that no development will take place without ensuring that it is safe for our people and will have minimal impact on our natural environment. The Treaty provides us with the tools to ensure this result under Chapter 10 of the environmental chapter. We proved this in our dispute under our Treaty with Canada and B.C. regarding the Avanti Mining proposal which, as originally proposed, did not adequately address our human and marine aquatic health and environmental concerns. As a result of the delays to the project, due to the dispute and threatened litigation, Avanti has entered into a benefits agreement which includes guidelines which ensure that all relevant water quality concerns are addressed. We would also add that Nisga'a Government has the ability to draw down our own Environmental Assessment legislation as may be needed to supplement the protections under the Nisga'a Treaty.
- LNG plant: Our president has travelled to the communities and discussed at length at the Special Assembly the current position of NLG – we are not interested in simply an LNG pipeline coming through our territories; we are interested in a LNG pipeline that will connect to an LNG facility on or near Nisga'a Lands that would ensure we obtain long term tangible benefits from such developments on Nisga'a Lands. Before any project would take place, we would require that the project address all appropriate health, safety and environmental concerns at the proposal stage in the same way every other project must comply with the Nisga'a Treaty.

- Other energy producing projects: We are exploring several energy options including wind and hydroelectric power generation. As a result of our agreement to the Northern Transmission Line, the infrastructure is in place to ensure that we can market any power we generate to the main grid.
- Strategies to get our workers involved: As part of the Nass Area Strategy, all proponents are informed that in addition to economic participation, royalties and other benefits, our people must be given an opportunity to obtain meaningful employment on these projects. These opportunities are now assured as set out in the Avanti and Seabridge benefit agreements. Our people must also be ready for these opportunities. Our NEST program as administered by Gary Patsey supports Nisga'a citizens to take advantage of these opportunities. Gary has recently issued a call for resumes on the Nisga'a Nation website, so please contact their offices for more information about the opportunities available to you.

Directorate of Finance

Subject / Capital Projects

Comments

- Why was there no help at all for the family of ten in Laxgalts'ap who lost their house to a fire?
- Our nation did not lift a finger at all when this had happened! They lost everything in the house!
- How can our nation raise \$15,000+ for people not from our nation and then not do anything for their own people that live in the Nass Valley and work for our people?

Response

- NLG retains a fund for donations and sponsorships. Monies are separately allocated for sports and recreation and general assistance dollars. Individuals, groups or teams looking for assistance can apply by submitting a formal written request to the Office of the CEO.

Subject / Elders Package

Comments

- Why are we still giving out the Elders Package? The Elders Package was meant to repay the people that helped out with the expenses of the Treaty. Most of the people turning 60 weren't even old enough to help out. We could be using this money elsewhere. For example: Youth programs, housing projects, etc. Instead of giving out money that is spent all in one month. Youth Council gets \$15,000 every year and they have to budget for the whole year and people spend this money from the Elders Package within a month or two of getting it.
- Start acting on what you say "our youth are our future." I hear this too much but I don't see anything done to actually show our youth that they mean a lot to us!

Response

- NLG has periodically reviewed the cost of the Elders Package and has at times contemplated either adjusting the amount of the Elders Package, replacing the Elders Package with a different program, or discontinuing the package altogether. No firm decisions have been made on the Elders Package but it will be reviewed next at the Nation's final budget.

Comments

- The Provisional Budget provides lump sum payments to Village Governments from the TEST program (Service Canada). Can this be explained? It does not appear the Urban Locals received these same lump sum payments. Can the rationale be explained?
- In reference to the Investment Portfolio: Congratulations on the Nation's Trust Fund. Is there a plan to distribute dividends to the Shareholders? Can you expand on the plan?
- Are there any plans of streamlining Government or Administration?
- What were the benefits to the Nation of the immense travel budgets in the past two years?
- Congratulations on the Taxation Revenue shown.
- Thank you for entertaining our questions.

Response

- The Nation has committed to delivering the TESI program in the Fiscal Financing Agreement and receives funding from Canada to do so. Funding is only provided to the Village Governments because the Nation's commitment only extends to individuals on Nisga'a Lands. Canada does not provide funding for the delivery of this program outside of Nisga'a Lands.
- There is no plan to distribute dividends directly to Nisga'a citizens. Doing so would result in significant income tax liabilities accruing to Nisga'a citizens. Instead, the Nation's plan is to use the Trust's assets to provide benefits to Nisga'a citizens by way of the delivery of programs and services which would not have any income tax effects.
- At this time, the government is continuing to expand the services and programs that it delivers so growth is required. However, when reviewing how best to grow the organization, we always make decisions based upon the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.
- While the Nation's travel costs have increased over the years, the amount of reimbursements the Nation receives for these costs have also increased. When government representatives travel, it is to meet with other levels of government, proponents for resource development or to defend the Nisga'a Final Agreement either in court or some other dispute resolution process. The cumulative benefits include successful defense of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, benefit agreements, and revenue sharing agreements.

Directorate of Lands & Resources – Forestry

Subject / Value-added Forestry Industry Opportunities

Comments

- Are their contingency plans on how to best utilize the remaining harvestable timber Inside Nisga'a core lands?
- When harvesting one time resources that take years to replace through reforestation, is it wise to continue to promote selling in an open market? As the developer of the policies and regulations, Lisims Government has the opportunity to explore other uses of the fibre being harvested, and through the political body the means to make connections with other entities that may be able to use those resources and create opportunities in the added value industry.
- For instance, a company that makes doors, moulding or even laminated beams – these types of business require smaller volumes of fibre and if they had forged relationships with any of the communities might consider relocating their production of these products to the Nass.
- So instead of promoting the current trend of harvesting volume and having limited work opportunities for Nisga'a, suggestion to take a more firm direction to promote light industry that will generate more permanent opportunities and open the door to a new avenue to the self-reliance we seek.
- I realize this will not make the floor for question period but I hope that it will go into the suggestion pile that may be read or shared during the recap.

Response

- Management of forest resources on Nisga'a Lands are governed by the *Nisga'a Forest Act*, regulations and policies. On an economic level – that includes licencing forest operations for commercial purposes, and on forest resources and a biodiversity level – it is to guarantee sustainability of resources for future generations of Nisga'a people. Notably, our forest management law is based on the best available forestry practices in B.C., and in fact exceeds current practices in the province. Annual harvest levels set up through timbers supply review for sustainable forest management are below annual available cut for Nisga'a Lands.
- The question in a nutshell is whether the Nisga'a Lisims Government is open to the idea of alternative utilization of timber resources other than harvesting for revenue. The answer is yes. NLG is actively looking into new avenues. Our staff has been participating in conferences and symposiums about new technologies and trends in natural resources development.

Directorate of Fisheries & Wildlife

Subject / Help for Nisga'a Fishermen

Comments

- How is it that it took 13 years for anything to be done with our fishing industry? I was the youngest fisherman on the Nass River when this Treaty was signed.
- There was a public announcement made on TV by Mr. Gosnell, at the time, and it is also in the Nisga'a Final Agreement, that we will be getting fishing licenses and our boats will be paid out from the banks or from whomever held the mortgage. That never happened. Now look at our fishing fleet, there is only a handful of us. The Nisga'a fishermen used to have the biggest fleet on the coast, and now it is the smallest. Why?
- When there are other communities on the coast doing everything they can to assist their fishermen – with licenses like halibut, trolling, crabs, because they know that is the only source of income for their fishermen, and there is limited amounts of work in the community – it seems as though we Nisga'a fishermen were put on the back burner. Why?
- The Nisga'a fishermen were a striving force in the fishing industry. I remember one Nisga'a fishing meet that was held in Gingolx a few years ago, a question from one of the older fishermen was, "why are you guys opening the Nisga'a fishing so early?" The answer was, "so you can get your stamps." Well, to let you all know that the stamps were out the door years ago. It's not like sitting behind a desk, we have to catch so much a day to make up for the EI and the tax and the fuel.

Response

- Each year there is an annual fishing plan developed by the Nisga'a Fish Wheel Staff. All fish activity falls within Treaty regulations.
- There was no statement to buy fishing licenses or boats. There was a \$13.5 million fund to access fishing licenses.
- The Treaty provides for salmon allocation for commercial purposes. Other fish/skill fish allocation for commercial fisheries have yet to be negotiated. Other tribes were provided licenses by DFO.
- Commercial fish openings are determined by the expected fish run size.
- Yes, fishing is a business, and fish catches are where the money is made to pay for expenses.
- NLG supports Fishermen.
- There is an opportunity for fishermen and it's provided for.
- NLG supports fishing and this year in 2014 a \$30,000 grant was approved.
- As mentioned, a \$30,000 grant was made by NLG. No pay back – only asked to prove that the boat will be fished.

- It's not like fishing inland. The declining commercial fleet we have now have big bills – fuel, maintenance, repairs, nets, food and deckhands to pay, not to mention the cost of the fishing licenses.
- We the Nisga'a fishermen need our people behind us. What would you guys do without us?
- If we the Nisga'a fishermen were to say no, and just stay tied up when Nisga'a fishing opens, how would you feel to be put on the back burner, how much would you lose in revenue?
- We the Nisga'a fishermen lost our livelihood because we believed that our government would stand behind us.
- It is time to start putting your words into action and start helping us out.

Directorate of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Subject / Assembly Booklet, Online Questions

Comments

- Is it possible for us to receive the booklets in advance, before each Assembly, so we can review the documents or reports, and send our emails in regarding the reports?
- When exactly are the emails that are sent in going to be addressed on the agenda of this Assembly?
- I managed to catch one of our people who expressed she was asked to write her concerns two years ago, and never got a reply or help in regards to her concerns.

Response

- The NLG Communications Department endeavors to provide timely information to Nisga'a citizens. In the case of the Special Assembly, our practice is to officially release and make available the booklet on the first day of the Special Assembly and post it online so it is immediately available. We anticipate this will be our practice going forward, particularly where the booklet contains information that is timed for official release with the beginning of the Special Assembly.

Subject / Honouring Women Ceremony

Comments

- I would like to know if the women's presentation will be available online?

Response

- The slideshow that was presented during the ceremony is currently being finalized by the videographer and the Honouring Women committee. Once finalized it will be made available on the NLG website.
- The livestream of the ceremony is available at the following link: <https://new.livestream.com/accounts/8043264/events/2944457/videos/50254899>

Directorate of Programs & Services – Ayuukhl Nisga'a

Subject / Nisga'a Language Programs for Children

Comments

- Question: Can we develop a program that allows our children attending urban areas like Terrace to carry on with their Language program? For example, my grandson in Kindergarten knew "Oh Canada" fluently and by memory (in Nisga'a). Today he can only recite it in English.
- We need to find a way to keep our children enthused with the language so they won't be isolated from their people, families, and stories.

Response

- Yes, a children's language program may be offered in Terrace. Please contact the NLG Terrace Office and speak with the Coordinator to put the request forward. I too will forward your response to the Terrace Coordinator.

Subject / Use of Hobiye Name

Comments

- Who is receiving the comments? Please acknowledge receipt and state who is responding.
- My comment is for the floor in regards to the annual Hobiye celebration name. I've recently viewed a company truck bearing the name "Hobiye" which was shocking. The name has traditional meaning for Nisga'a as a nation. Hobiye is recognized by non-Nisga'a as a Nisga'a Nation celebration.
- Will the company's business gain or hamper the reputation of the Nation?
- I feel this is very disrespectful.
- Currently (the name) is being used for self gain for one individual. Can we as a people request the company to change the name?

Response

- The Director of Programs & Services is receiving and responding to the comments from the Special Assembly.
- The name "Hobiye" being used by a business truck will be brought to the attention of the Council of Elders.

Directorate of Economic Development

Subject / Fisheries Grant

Comments

- I have a question in regards to the \$30,000 fisherman's grant: I put in an application for the grant and was denied because I'm not a commercial fisherman.
- I have a 37ft. Deltaga fibre glass fishing vessel. I've been fishing for Nisga'a Fish since the inception of inland and marine fishing. Like the commercial fishermen, I do have wear and tear and expenses. In a sense I am a fisherman that works for Nisga'a Fish (NLG) and no one else, and yet commercial fishermen who fish for canneries got the grant. I have put a lot of money into my vessel – rebuilt engine, nets, and many items that fall to wear and tear.
- I heard that the grant was awarded to a Simoogit who isn't a commercial fisherman as I know his boat is really run down and needs the TLC.
- I have tried every year to (apply to) NNFC to lease a license to no avail, as they do not have a license that would fit my vessel.
- I feel discriminated against for not being a commercial fisherman. I am asking that I and Nisga'a citizens who own gillnet boats be awarded the grant. I will continue each year to fish for Nisga'a Fish.
- I look forward to a favourable response.

Response

- The Executive has only approved for Nisga'a Commercial Fishermen that have Gilnet Boats.
- Gilnet Boats must possess an "N" license from NNFC to qualify.
- The NLG Executive would need to expand the program to Fishermen that don't meet the program guidelines. An executive resolution would need to be passed
- This boat would require an A1 Salmon License. NNFC doesn't carry this type. NNFC only leases "N" licenses.

General Comment

Subject / Honouring Women

Comments

- I received this from the Mother's Group of Canada. It is what I read periodically with the hope of our future, and considering you have just honoured the Nisga'a Women, I thought this would be appropriate to share:
Christ Has No Body
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours
– Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)
(Born in Spain, Teresa entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen, and later earned a reputation as a mystic, reformer, and writer who experienced divine visions. She founded a convent, and wrote the book "The Way of Perfection" for her nuns. Other important books by her include her Autobiography and "The Interior Castle.")

Response

- NLG appreciates receiving this statement.