



# Sayt-K'ílim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

September 2012

## President's Message /

As we head into the fall, it is worth noting that along with our continued push to provide employment opportunity and economic growth in the valley – we have not lost sight of the important role education plays. Our young people and even our adults gain everything from the ability to learn and experience programs that will benefit their personal and future financial well being. Many of our Elders who are no longer with us would be pleased and truly amazed at the level of education that exists today right here in the valley. Our youth can now fulfill many of their educational goals without having to leave their homes.

On that note, School District #92 has recently worked at fine tuning how to structure and best achieve effective program delivery – that should allow for more dedicated student/teacher interaction among other benefits.

The interview in this issue with Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI) CEO Deanna Nyce is most informative. Strong post-secondary education is absolutely imperative if we are to build our Nation from within for the future. We all know today's youth are our future leaders – if they can learn and live here, we are confident they will have a vested interest in ensuring our Nation succeeds and thrives. So, NLG's continued support of education remains unabated.

Living in the Nass Valley, we are all aware that our lives can be interrupted by the powerful forces of nature. Spring floods have at times caused roads and bridges to be washed out. We have worked hard at alleviating this from being a constant over the past years and, we have

continued on page 2

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## Back to School Marches



Simgigat, Sigidimhaanaḱ', parents, grandparents, and community leaders joined students in back to school marches in each Nisga'a Village in early September.

The marches – symbolic of the trust and partnership between Nisga'a Nation and the administration and teachers of School District Schools – were also a celebratory kick-off to the Board of School Trustees' restructuring initiative which took effect in this new school year.

continued on page 2

an exceptional Emergency Plan in place. However, one thing of which we all need to be aware is the possibility of an earthquake. We are located on and very near to the coastline – earthquakes are a real possibility. Take a look at the article on the “Great BC ShakeOut”, an earthquake safety drill happening on October 18th in BC and simultaneously with other participating countries. The more we learn about what to do in this situation, it goes without saying, the more safe we will be.

Our department of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations is working on the amalgamation of NLG’s website [nisgaalisims.ca](http://nisgaalisims.ca) and the Nisga’a Nation Knowledge

Network [nnkn.ca](http://nnkn.ca) into one cohesive website. After much input, research and analysis, we feel one site will allow us to deliver a user-friendly, up-to-date site that will best fulfill all our needs.

On a closing note and reinforcing why we believe so much in education, all of us at NLG send a cheerful “bon voyage” to Samantha Nyce as she heads off to Germany to compete in the “World Culinary Olympics” starting on October 6th. We have complete confidence in the skills Samantha possesses and have no doubt she will be a great representative of Team Canada and the Nisga’a Nation.



The Board initiated two rounds of community consultations in each Nisga’a Village earlier this Spring to present three restructuring options. Recognizing Options 1 (status quo) and 2 (gradual change) would provide little to no change and improvement in the delivery of education, most were in favour of Option 3 (restructuring). In the end, the Board did not have the unanimous support for either of the three options, therefore, went back to the drawing board and presented a fourth option to Nisga’a Villages, which has been implemented (see next para).

The restructuring changes include: the Nathan Barton Elementary school in Gingolx is now a K to grade 4 school; Alvin A. McKay in Laxgalts’ap is now a middle school with grades 5–8, which includes grades 7 & 8 students from Gitlaxt’aamiks, Laxgalts’ap & Gingolx; Nisga’a Elementary Secondary School (NESS) in Gitlaxt’aamiks is now grades K–6 and grades 9–12.

While the restructuring was met with some resistance, some of the benefits include the elimination of split grade class rooms, affording teachers more focus on single grade classroom instruction; children from all villages will begin lifelong friendships at an earlier age; new music program delivery in downriver schools; senior level high school students can now enjoy cafeteria space, more classroom space and more dedicated student/teacher time at NESS.

After receiving the Ganim Siwilyeenskwa from Chiefs and Matriarchs in each Nisga’a Village, Superintendent Philippe Brulot made a solemn promise that the Nation will see significant improvements in education delivery over the next five years.

For complete photo coverage of the Back to School marches, visit the photo gallery at [www.nnkn.ca](http://www.nnkn.ca).

# Samantha Nyce Goes to World Culinary Olympics

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**Another one of our own is off to compete with the best in the World!**

**Samantha Nyce of Gitwinksihlkw will be competing at the International Exhibition of Culinary Arts 2012, hosted in Eurfurt, Germany starting on October 6th. This prestigious competition is a tremendous opportunity for Samantha to showcase her skills. Two other aboriginal Canadians will also be competing.**

The International Culinary Exhibition, well-known to chefs around the world as the “World Culinary Olympics”, was carried out for the first time in 1900. This professional competition which takes place every four years will be entered by 45 nations from all over the world. Samantha mentioned there will be 1,600 chefs in competition for the Olympic glory – with judges from all over the world. It will be a 10 hour flight to Eurfurt, and she will be in Germany for eight days. Samantha is planning a five-course festive meal.

**“I want to showcase authentic aboriginal cuisine, so I will be showcasing Nisga’a cuisine with ingredients such as oolichan, lava berry, soap berry, pine mushrooms, herring eggs, seaweed” she said.**

Her other aboriginal colleagues will be preparing tapas and a cold platter of aboriginal cuisine.

2012 marks an important step forward for aboriginal people in this event. In 2008, the aboriginal culinary team attended the event in support of Team Canada. But this

time, Samantha will be participating as a member of Team Canada – as individual participants.

Samantha expressed her deepest thanks to her family and supporters. She also thanked NLG, WWNI and the Elders Terrace Nisga’a Society who all provided donations to support her trip.

**“I’m very proud to be going to represent the Nisga’a people and aboriginal people in Canada,” stated Samantha.**

Congratulations Samantha, good luck, and bon appétit!

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## Leslie Varley receives scholarship

SFU EMBA student Leslie Varley received the 2012 Nancy McKinstry graduate student scholarship for leadership. The \$1,500 award is given to a Beedie School of Business graduate student who has been a leader in promoting opportunities for women in business.

Varley is the Director of Aboriginal Health with the Provincial Health Services Authority since 2008. In her leadership role, she has helped develop a provincial strategy for advancing Aboriginal health, including leading cultural competency training for health professionals. She is also part of the first cohort of the Beedie School of Business' new Executive MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership program.

# The Great BC ShakeOut

This earthquake drill happening on **October 18th, 2012, at 10:18 am** is part of a major initiative to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness in BC. California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Nevada, Idaho, Guam, Puerto Rico and Southern Italy are also participating.

Wherever you are – at **10:18 am**, take the time to follow the earthquake safety drill procedure steps:

**DROP** – to the ground

**COVER** – get under a sturdy table or chair

**HOLD ON** – until the shaking stops

Do this for at least 60 seconds – of course, make sure you are in an environment where it is safe to do so.

## Why is it important?

The coast of BC is most at risk of an earthquake in Canada. On average 1,200 earthquakes are recorded each year. While many are small and go unnoticed, an earthquake with the magnitude to cause severe structural damage can occur.

## Teach your children!

Explain and play the earthquake safety drill game. Make DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON terms your children become familiar with. Yell “earthquake” and tell the kids to go under the table and hold on – or get them to crouch under an interior wall away from windows (tell them to crouch, tuck, and cover their head and neck). Find some earthquake safe places in your home that will help them know where to go in the event of an earthquake.

## Things to do to prepare for an earthquake:

1. Secure items in their space (home and work)
2. Have a disaster plan
3. Prepare emergency supplies
4. Practice how to protect yourself

Content for this article was condensed from a paper posted by the ShakeOut BC Organizing Committee. For complete information on this important event visit [www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)

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## New NLG Website /

Nisga'a Lisims Government communications team is in the process of revising and consolidating the current Nisga'a Nation Knowledge Network site (nnkn.ca) and the Nisga'a Lisims Government website (nisgaalisims.ca) website and incorporating them into one official internet presence which will be [nisgaalisims.ca](http://nisgaalisims.ca).

After much review, a survey and productive meetings with the CEO, Directors and staff at NLG, it is felt that we will all benefit from having one well-thought-out and well-developed website. We also plan to solicit insight and ideas from Nisga'a citizens. The new site will be developed to best-practice web design standards but will maintain many user-friendly features and the appeal of NNKN.

Our main goal with the new [nisgaalisims.ca](http://nisgaalisims.ca) website is to focus on areas really important to Nisga'a citizens – and to strengthen our connection with Nisga'a citizens.

A major advantage in having one site will be the ability to have credible and current information that is easily accessible and constantly up-to-date. Efficiently managed and well maintained, the new site will improve all of our access to information – that we require to be well informed on governance issues, important services, economic and job opportunities, cultural events and interesting happenings within our Nation.

At the same time, the new website will provide relevant information to our outside visitors; where are we, how to get here, where to stay, what to do here, what the cultural attractions are, business inquiry access, how our government works, where the villages are, our locals, and obviously information about our famous Nisga'a Treaty.

We are excited about the new site and are working hard on its content and development.

# Back to School, for adults

Now that it's time to head back to school, it's also back to school for many of our adult Nisga'a learners at Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI). We took a moment to learn a little more about WWNI from Deanna Nyce, CEO for WWNI.

## What is WWNI?

WWNI is a non-profit organization incorporated under the *Society Act* of British Columbia. The WWNI Board of Directors is made up of one representative from each of the four villages in the Nass Valley and a Chair elected at large to represent Nisga'a Lisims Government. WWNI is affiliated with the University of Northern British Columbia, Northwest Community College, and other BC public post-secondary institutions for the delivery and accreditation of its courses and programs.

## When did WWNI start? What is WWNI's mandate?

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (WWNI) incorporated in 1993 to provide quality post-secondary education and training to people within the Nisga'a community, and to ensure the survival of Nisga'a language and culture.

## What kinds of programs does WWNI offer?

WWNI is a four pronged institution offering academic, vocational, technical, and continuing education for adults. For example, a student can complete a full Bachelor of Arts degree in First Nations Studies – Nisga'a or complete upgrading or grade 12 in the University-College Entrance Preparation program.

## What types of accreditation does WWNI offer?

WWNI works in conjunction with its educational partners University of Northern British Columbia, Northwest Community College, and BC public post-secondary institutions for the delivery of many accredited programs, including:

- Bachelor of Arts, First Nations Studies – Nisga'a
- Northern Advancement Program (University preparation)
- Masters of Arts Degree in First Nations Studies
- Vocational and Technical Training
- University/College Preparation
- Nisga'a Language and Culture, and
- Continuing education programs



Deanna Nyce, WWNI CEO

## What is unique about WWNI offerings?

WWNI is the only place where students can earn a university accredited certificate in Nisga'a Studies.

## Who does WWNI serve?

WWNI is a dynamic educational institution that changes and grows as it responds to the needs and wishes of the communities it serves. WWNI serves the post-secondary needs of Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a people resident in New Aiyansh, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx, in Nisga'a Urban Locals located in Terrace, Prince Rupert/Port Edward, and Vancouver, and attracts students from all regions of the province as well as from across Canada and internationally.

## Overall, how would you rate WWNI's performance?

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute has enjoyed a remarkable success rate of 99%. We attribute this to the successful relationships we have developed and nurtured with our educational partners, the dedication and tireless hard work of the entire WWNI staff and the desire of our students to learn, apply themselves and excel in their chosen field of study. We are developing leaders, our students go on to become teachers, principals, anthropologists, lawyers and more – they enrich their communities and open new doors for future generations to gain intellectually and economically.

For more information visit [www.wwni.bc.ca](http://www.wwni.bc.ca)



# Nisga'a Elections Office / Notice of Regular Election

In accordance with the *Nisga'a Elections Act*, the general voting day for the next regular election of the Nisga'a Government will be **Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm**

*Notice In Accordance With Nisga'a Law*

The following elected offices will be filled in this regular election:

## **OFFICERS OF NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT**

President  
Chairperson  
Secretary Treasurer  
Chairperson of the Council of Elders

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITLAᖃT'AAMIKS**

Chief Councillor  
Village Councillors (seven to be elected)

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW**

Chief Councillor  
Village Councillors (four to be elected)

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF LAᖃGALTS'AP**

Chief Councillor  
Village Councillors (six to be elected)

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GINGOLX**

Chief Councillor  
Village Councillors (five to be elected)

## **TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives  
(two to be elected)

## **PRINCE RUPERT/PORT EDWARD NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives  
(two to be elected)

## **VANCOUVER NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL**

Nisga'a Urban Local Representatives  
(two to be elected)

The regular election will take place in the following areas:

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITLAᖃT'AAMIKS**

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW**

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF LAᖃGALTS'AP**

## **NISGA'A VILLAGE OF GINGOLX**

## **TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA**

## **PRINCE RUPERT/PORT EDWARD NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA**

## **VANCOUVER NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL AREA**

The regular election will take place in the following additional voting location:

## **CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE**



**For more information  
please contact:**

### **Jean Clayton**

Nisga'a Elections Officer  
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Toll-free: 866 633 2715  
E-mail: [jeanc@nisgaaelections.ca](mailto:jeanc@nisgaaelections.ca)

Dated: July 18, 2012  
This notice of Regular Election has been corrected  
and revised as of July 18, 2012.

# Highlights from NLG Executive Meeting September 27–28, 2012

The following is a summary, and for certain resolutions an excerpt, of NLG resolutions from the most recent meeting of the NLG Executive.

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## **Resolution 2012/75, Adopted Sept 27** **General (CFO) – Adoption of July and August 2012** **Financial Statements**

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive adopt the financial statements for the periods ending July 31, 2012 and August 31, 2012 as presented by the Chief Financial Officer and attached to this resolution.

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## **Resolution 2012/76, Adopted Sept 27** **CEO – Shareholder resolutions for Nisga'a** **Commercial Entities**

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive, representing the Nisga'a Nation as the sole Shareholder of Nass Area Enterprises Ltd., Nass Area Properties Ltd., Entel Communications Inc., Lisims Backcountry Adventures Inc. and Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.:

1. pass the special shareholder resolutions attached to this motion as Appendix "A" to Appendix "E" (the "Special Resolutions"); and
2. authorize the President of the Nisga'a Nation to sign the Special Resolutions on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation.

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## **Resolution 2012/77, Adopted Sept 28** **Programs and Services – CPS Options Paper**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. the Programs and Services Committee of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive has received and reviewed a Community Preventative Services (CPS) Options Paper (the "CPS Options Paper") attached to this motion as Appendix "A"; and

2. the Programs and Services Committee recommends that the Director of Programs and Services proceed with developing Option 2 as set out in the CPS Options Paper;

MOVED THAT the Executive direct the Director of Programs and Services to proceed with developing Option 2 of the CPS Options Paper and to bring forward policies to implement Option 2 for Executive's consideration.

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## **Resolution 2012/78, Adopted Sept 28** **CFO – Personal Income Tax Act and Administration** **Agreement**

CONSIDERING THAT it is in the interest of the Nisga'a Nation that:

1. the Nisga'a Nation enter into an agreement with Canada in respect of income taxation substantially in the form of the Personal Income Tax Administration Agreement (the "Administration Agreement") attached to this motion as Appendix "A"; and
2. Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a enact legislation in respect of income taxation substantially in the form of the *Nisga'a Personal Income Tax Act* (the "*Nisga'a Act*") attached to this motion as Appendix "B".

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive recommend the Administration Agreement and the *Nisga'a Act* to the Nisga'a Finance Committee and Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a, with any modifications to the date set out in paragraph 29(a) of the Administration Agreement and the in force provision set out in section 8 of the *Nisga'a Act* as the Chief Financial Officer considers advisable.

continued on page 8

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**Resolution 2012/79, Adopted Sept 28**  
**CEO – Appointment of Chair to Fish and Wildlife**  
**Committee**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. the resignation effective August 31, 2012 of Charles Franklin Alexcee as Nisga'a Urban Local Executive member and director for the Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Prince Rupert / Port Edward Society has created a vacancy in the position of Chair of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Committee;
2. under section 6 of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive Committee Terms of Reference adopted by the Executive as Resolution 2008/117 (the "Executive Committee Terms of Reference"), any person appointed as chairperson of a Standing Committee must be a member of the Executive;
3. under section 7 of the Nisga'a Executive Committee Terms of Reference, any vacancy occurring in the position of chairperson of a Standing Committee must be filled by resolution of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive;

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive appoint Clifford Azak as Chair of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Fisheries and Wildlife Committee.

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**Resolution 2012/80, Adopted Sept 28**  
**Funding Application to Coast Opportunity Funds –**  
**Nass Moose Recovery Plan**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive has reviewed a project application submitted by the Director of Fish and Wildlife of Nisga'a Lisims Government to Coast Opportunity Funds on August 22, 2012 addressing a Nass Moose Recovery Plan to be implemented in the Nass Wildlife Area (the "Moose Recovery Plan") with a project cost of \$64,900;
2. an outline of the Moose Recovery Plan is attached as Appendix "A" to this motion;

MOVED THAT the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive approve the Moose Recovery Plan project application.

*In addition to the items referenced above, regular business carried out by the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government includes opening prayer, adoption of agenda, minutes and financial statements.*



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