

20 | SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
24 | Nisga'a Nation

MAY 6 - 10 / GITWINKSIHLKW

*Nda dim wilaa
dip gilaahl
angoogam'*

*Ahl Lip wilaa loom',
lip ayuugam' ganhl
lip algaxam'*



Envisioning a Future Together



Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

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

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

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

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

Yay nit, Nisga'a nuum –

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

Ga'adiithl gook'diit iit sit'aadiithl gagedim hahlalshl hlaa jagam-ak'hlgwit guun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME TO THE 2024 Special Assembly

Dignitaries, Chiefs, Matriarchs, & Youth of the Nisga'a Nation, on behalf of our Executive, I wish to extend a warm welcome onto Nisga'a Lands to all those who traveled from the seven Nisga'a communities and beyond.

We are proud to have the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw host this year's biennial assembly. We are here to provide you with Government updates.

We are the proud descendants of the Nisga'a Land Committee and the Nisga'a Tribal Council (NTC). If it wasn't for the work of our grandmothers and grandfathers, we wouldn't be where we are today. We are now past 50 years of the famous Calder Case decision, the struggle that took place in the Supreme Court of Canada was the last thread of hope in 1973 for the NTC Executive. The Calder decision was the first time the Canadian legal system acknowledged aboriginal title to the land. That court case victory was not only a victory for the Nisga'a Nation, but it provided a pathway for the Indigenous people in Canada today. As a result, tripartite working relations and implementation is on a strong path to reconciliation for all.

It is truly an honor walk in the path of our ancestors, to work with all organizations, and everyone here to discuss agenda items on the decision table. This year's theme "Envisioning a Future Together" provides you with an opportunity to speak about what is most important to you and what you would like to see to move our Nation forward. Enjoy the assembly and remember that we are always stronger when we work together.

Si'aamhl wilsim',

Nisga'a Lisims Government
Yats' / Eva Clayton
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



50 YEARS COMMEMORATING the 50th anniversary of the Calder Decision

WELCOME
to the 2024
Nisga'a Nation
Special Assembly
from host village
Gitwinksihlkw!



NLG EXECUTIVE

First Row, L - R: Charles Morven, Secretary-Treasurer, Eva Clayton, President, Brian Tait, Executive Chairperson, Herbert Morven, Chair, Council of Elders,

Second Row, L - R: Keith Azak, Terrace Executive Representative, Donald Leeson, Sr., Laxgalts'ap Chief Councillor, Elaine Moore, Gitwinksihlkw Chief Councillor, Claude Barton, Sr., Gingolx Chief Councillor, Calvin Morven, Gitlaxt'aamiks Chief Councillor, Clifford Morgan, Prince Rupert-Port Edward Executive Representative. Missing from photos: Honourable Member Andrea Burrell, Vancouver Executive Representative.



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Special Assembly Agenda



*Nda dim wilaa dip
gilaahl angooгам*

*Ahl Lip wilaa loom', lip ayuugam'
ganhl lip algaxam'*



*Envisioning
a Future
Together*

Monday / May 6, 2024

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Opening Ceremonies

- + Presentation of ᑕanim Siwilyeeᓃskw – Council of Elders, Nisga'a Common Bowl (LCD)
- + Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation – Sim'oogit K'eeᓃkw, Herb Morven / Youth Rep.
- + Call to Order – Chairperson Brian Tait
- + Invocation by Damian Azak, Pastor

Introduction of Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Elaine Moore & Chief Councillor Don Leeson
- + Reading of the Special Assembly Rules of Procedure

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Welcome Address

- + Elaine Moore, Chief Councillor – Gitwinksihlkw
- + Eva Clayton, President of the Nisga'a Nation

12:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Calvin Morven & Urban Local Representative Keith Azak
- + Call to Order

1:05pm NLG Executive Officers Reports

- + President Eva Clayton
- + Executive Chairperson Brian Tait
- + Secretary-Treasurer Charles Morven
- + Chair Council of Elders Herb Morven

Executive Senior Management Reports

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

3:00pm Nutrition Break

3:15pm Question & Answer Period

5:00pm Door Prize, Adjournment & Welcome Dinner

Tuesday / May 7, 2024

- 8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00am Call to Order – 2 Co-Chairs**
- + Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell, & Chief Councillor Claude Barton Sr.
 - + Invocation by Reverend Harry Moore
 - + Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure
- 9:15am Reporting Session**
- + Programs & Services Committee, Janice Angus, A/Director
- 10:00am Morning Break**
- 10:15am Question & Answer Period**
- 12:00pm Lunch Break – Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School Special Presentation**
- 1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs**
- + Co-Chairs: Keith Azak & Clifford Morgan, Executive Representatives
 - + Call to Order
- 1:05pm Reporting Session**
- + Fisheries & Wildlife Committee, Harry Nyce, Director
- 2:00pm Question & Answer Period**
- 3:00pm Nutrition Break**
- 3:15pm Presentations**
- + TELUS Services
 - + New NLG website
- Questions, comments, or concerns can be emailed to:**
- + andrewb@nisgaanation.ca (TELUS)
 - + paulm@nisgaanation.ca (website)
- 4:30pm School District #92 (Nisga'a) Report**
- SD#92 (Nisga'a) Board Members & Matthew Monkman, Superintendent
- 5:00pm Door Prize, Adjournment**

Wednesday / May 8, 2024

NISGA'A CITIZENS DAY

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Call to Order & – 2 Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Calvin Morvin & Urban Local Representative Clifford Morgan
- + Invocation by Reverend Harry Moore
- + Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure

9:15am Reporting Session

- + Lands & Resources Committee – Mansell Griffin, Director
- + Borders on Nisga'a Lands

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Reporting Session

- + Contracting & Economic Development

Question & Answer Period

12:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Elaine Moore & Chief Councillor Don Leeson
- + Call to Order

1:05pm Reporting Session

- + Ksi Lisims LNG project
- + Northern Transmission Line – Roger Harris

2:30pm + Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project

3:00pm Nutrition Break

3:15pm Question & Answer Period

4:00pm Reporting Session

- + Nisga'a Valley Health Authority Board & Corinne McKay, CEO

4:30pm Question & Answer Period

5:00pm Door Prize & Adjournment for the day

Thursday / May 9, 2024

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Call to Order & – 2 Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Don Leeson & Urban Local Representative Keith Azak
- + Invocation by Reverend Harry Moore
- + Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure

9:15am Reporting Session

- + Language & Culture Directorate, Council of Elders, & Esther Adams, Director

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Question & Answer Period

12:00pm Lunch Break – Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School Special Presentation

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Calvin Morven & Urban Local Representative Clifford Morgan
- + Call to Order

1:05pm Reporting Session

- + Capital Finance Commission, Eric Nyce, Director

2:00pm Question & Answer Period

3:00pm Nutrition Break

3:15pm Reporting Session

- + Wilp Wiloxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute Board & Deanna Nyce, CEO

3:45pm Question & Answer Period

4:30pm Reporting Session

- + Nisga'a Growth Corporation, Arthur Mercer, CEO & Board
- + Question & Answer

5:00pm Door prize & Adjournment

5:15pm Celebrating 50 years of the Calder Decision in the Supreme Court of Canada

- + Commemoration Ceremony for the late Dr. Frank Calder
- + Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive

6:00pm Traditional Nisga'a Stew Banquet: Emcee, Anthony Moore

Friday / May 10, 2024

8:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Call to Order – 2 Co-Chairs

- + Chief Councillor Elaine Moore & Urban Local Representative Clifford Morgan
- + Invocation by Damian Azak, Pastor
- + Daily reading of the Rules of Procedure

9:15am Reporting Session

- + Nisga'a Village Governments, Chief Administration Officer presentations
- + Darlene Morgan, Nisga'a Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks
- + John Johanson, Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw
- + Bobby Clark, Nisga'a Village of Laxgalts'ap
- + George Moore, Nisga'a Village of Gingolx

10:00am Morning Break

10:15am Urban Local Administration Reports

- + Blair Mirau, CEO, Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society
- + Anthony Robinson, CEO, Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society

11:15am Question & Answer Period

12:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Introduction of Co-Chairs

- + Urban Local Representative Andrea Burrell & Chief Councillor Claude Barton Sr.
- + Call to order

1:05pm Reflection for Executive Officers & Senior Management

- + Executive Chairperson Brian Tait
- + Secretary-Treasurer Charles Morven
- + Chair Council of Elders Herb Morven

2:00pm Closing Remarks

- + Chief Councillor's Closing Remarks
- + President's Closing Remarks

Door Prize Draws & Retirement of Ganim Siwilyeeñskw



Calvin Morven
Chief Councillor
GITLAᖃT'AAMIKS



Claude Barton, Sr.
Chief Councillor
GINᖃOLX



Andrea Burrell
Executive
Representative
TS'AMIKS /
VANCOUVER



Elaine Moore
Chief Councillor
GITWINKSIHLKW



Keith Azak
Executive
Representative
GITLAᖃDAX /
TERRACE

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

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



Donald Leeson, Sr.
Chief Councillor
LAXᖃALTS'AP



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

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

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

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

Special Assembly Reports



*Nda dim wilaa dip
gilaahl angooгам*

*Ahl Lip wilaa loom', lip ayuugam'
ganhl lip algaxam'*



*Envisioning
a Future
Together*



Office of the President

Yats' / Eva Clayton
PRESIDENT

SIMGIGAT, SIGIDIM-HAANAQ, K'UBA WILKSIHLKW ÇANHL TXAANITKWSHL K'UBA TK'IHLKW. Chiefs, Matriarchs, our youth, children, honoured and distinguished guests, welcome to the Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation.

Assembly theme: *Envisioning A Future Together*

How do we envision a future together? We begin by identifying common goals/objectives as One. Then we work at it together to achieve what we want, whether it's for Nisga'a governance, or economic prosperity. We must work in the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Çoot – One heart, One path, One Nation. We are stronger together.

Governance

Nisga'a Lisims Government is pleased to report that we have been working diligently to provide good governance to the Nisga'a Nation. What is good governance? Governments are required to be open, accountable, and transparent. After 20+ years in operation, Nisga'a Lisims Government can now say we are definitely moving forward. Going into the future, Nisga'a Government will continue to evolve.

Governance Review

In 2022 we reported that the NLG Executive approved an Organizational Review, the first for NLG. We are pleased to announce that this review began in 2023. The Review will serve as our Performance Measurement Framework to gage NLG's performance while ensuring that our government is moving in the right direction to meet its objectives and outcomes.

Legislative Review

The Executive appointed a Legislative Review Committee to review the Nisga'a legislation that was created in 2000 for Nisga'a Government to begin its operations. The Executive saw the need to review Nisga'a legislation to ensure our legislation is up to date, correct, and that there is a process in place to repeal Nisga'a legislation.

Administrative Decisions Review Act

Nisga'a Lisims Government, during the 2016-2020 term of office, invited Ombudsman Jay Chalke to meet with the Executive to discuss procedural fairness. Ombudsman Chalke will be reviewing the *Administrative Decisions Review Act* to ensure that it meets today's requirements for procedural fairness.

Ombudsman Chalke will be meeting with the Village Governments to discuss standards for fair actions and decisions in the delivery of public programs and services.

Nisga'a Employee Protection Act

NLG currently has this underway, a law to protect our workers. As a government, we must ensure that our employees are protected.

Nisga'a Child & Family Services

NLG is currently considering strategies on how we can move from delegated authority to full authority for our children. We know that this is a monumental task and recognize that it can take a lot of time to develop a Nisga'a model for child & family services.

Resource Development

Nisga'a Lisims Government continues to pursue business opportunities. Our Lead for the Executive, is our Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Morven. This has been a very busy portfolio which involves industrial relations, building relationships, public engagements to build and continue business relationships.

Economic Prosperity

NLG has been actively pursuing successful growth in the Nisga'a economy. Economic prosperity is important as it serves as a key

element in our quality of life. As Nisga'a, we all must assist in bringing prosperity to our Nation.

Tourism

NLG continues to look at ways to attract tourists at the Nisga'a national level. This is also an opportunity for Nisga'a Village Governments to bring opportunities to their Village Corporations. What we need is to have our citizens participate to display Nisga'a hospitality by taking our tourism to another level of having Nisga'a citizens provide various products and services. There is funding for small business start-up at your Village Government level, or NLG.

Mental Health & Wellness

We have heard the cries of the people to improve the delivery of mental health and wellness programs/services. The problem we have at this point is that when our people go for treatment, there are no supports for them when they return from treatment so that they can move to a path of recovery. Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a has approved the development of a Nisga'a Mental Health & Wellness Act. Work is currently underway on the roll out of this Act.

Language & Culture

The work to establish the Nisga'a Language and Cultural Centre continues. When the federal government announced its 2024 budget, the funding allocation to Indigenous language revitalization falls short of what is needed to save Indigenous languages. This didn't deter the work of NLG, it is our responsibility to save the Nisga'a language.

Education

NLG continues to address the concerns about the standard of education that our children receive today. We are pleased that School District 92 (Nisga'a) has a new Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Matthew Monkman. The Executive had the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent, and what a breath of fresh air. No doubt, you will be seeing changes as the School District Board of School Trustees moves forward to make necessary changes.

Prior to COVID 19, NLG had the opportunity to meet with then Minister of Education, Rob Fleming about the Nisga'a schools. NLG lobbied Mr. Fleming about the standard of education in our schools, and expressed to him that our schools are in need of renovations. Mr. Fleming had committed to tour the Nass to visit our schools from K-12. COVID 19 hit and Rob Fleming was unable to tour the Nisga'a schools. Since then, there has been change to the provincial Minister of Education. NLG will continue to lobby BC for funding to renovate the Nisga'a schools.

Land Claims Agreement Coalition

The Nisga'a Nation continues to participate in this Coalition of Modern Day Treaties. The Nisga'a Nation holds a co-Chair position with the LCAC alongside Nunavut Tungavut. The purpose of the Coalition is to share and discuss common issues and goals to implement our Treaties.

Tahltan Nation

Nisga'a Lisims Government entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so that the two Nations can work together in resource development. Treaty Creek corporation was born out of the MOU. Additional information can be provided to you upon request.

Nisga'a Benefits Agreements

These are the agreements that were negotiated, over the years, between the Nisga'a Nation and the various mining companies. NLG continues to work with the mining companies to ensure that the provisions of those agreements are fulfilled. Especially as it relates to Nisga'a employment and public education. We have many Nisga'a citizens who are employed by the various mining companies.

Ksi Lisims LNG Project

The Ksi Lisims LNG project team continues to work on this project. We look forward to the day we can look at the opening of this facility. The project team works diligently on the project, and has been providing monthly reports to the Executive. The team has also held numerous Open Houses in our Nisga'a communities and Locals. These Open Houses will begin again, perhaps in June. I want to encourage you to attend the Open Houses to find out more about the project.

LNG Pipeline

NLG has announced the purchase of the PRGT pipeline. The technical and paperwork is still in play on the purchase of the pipeline. It is premature for me to speak about the roll out.

First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI)

NLG is a founding member of the FNCI. The FNCI works towards addressing global climate change, and has launched initiatives to assist in changing policies around Indigenous involvement in global climate change. Executive Chairman Brian Tait is our representative on the FNCI initiatives such as K'uul Power which is looking at a second transmission line from Terrace to Prince George.

Emergency Preparedness

The Nisga'a Villages have been encouraged to develop emergency preparedness plans in the event of emergencies that may be brought on by atmospheric rains and extreme weather conditions. Your safety is important. NLG looks forward to reviewing the emergency plans of the Village Governments.

Nisga'a Highways

Nisga'a Lisims Government continues to lobby our Treaty partners to improve Highway 113, right from Terrace to Gingolx. We know that our highway is in need of major repairs. We have also been lobbying the provincial government to replace the one lane bridges to two lane bridges. This is especially important as we move forward with our projects.

Cranberry Connector

The need for a second access road out of the Nass continues to be on our radar. We have been lobbying the mining companies for support to get the Cranberry Connector built for all in the Northwest.

Environmental Act

The Nisga'a Environmental Assessment Act has been in the development stage and is nearing completion. The draft has been sent out to the Village Governments for their review and input. NLG looks forward to receiving that input.

Nisga'a Youth

Nisga'a youth and the youth councils are important for the future of the Nisga'a Nation. Nisga'a youth must prepare for their time to take over in cultural roles, within Nisga'a Government, and the many Nisga'a organizations.

Nations Royalty

NLG is pleased with the creation of Nations Royalty. Nations Royalty is set to become Canada's largest majority Indigenous-owned public company. It is also poised for future growth. Work on the roll out of Nations Royalty continues. Please watch for further news about Nations Royalty.

Nisga'a Growth Corporation (NGC)

The NGC is wholly owned by the Nisga'a Nation with a mandate to create sustainable economic prosperity for the Nisga'a Nation. NLG understands the need to separate business from government. NLG is the regulatory body and NGC is the business vehicle to facilitate partnerships with Nisga'a businesses first and foremost.

From Dreams to Justice: 50 Years since the Calder Case Decision in the Supreme Court of Canada

On behalf of Nisga'a Government, it is my pleasure to acknowledge and pay tribute to our Late great leaders who were instrumental in bringing the Nation's land question to the Supreme Court of Canada. 2024 marks 50 years since the Calder decision was made by the Supreme Court of Canada. The 1973 decision was the first time that the Canadian legal system acknowledged the existence of Aboriginal title to land. It was a long hard struggle for the Nisga'a Nation, and for our Leaders who stood alone. But they stood bold, strong and proud. They never deviated from their position that the land was Nisga'a land: "lock, stock and barrel".

Conclusion

Nisga'a Lisims Government has been very busy since the 2022 Special Assembly. We will continue to provide good governance. We will also continue to encourage you so that you can contribute to the economic prosperity of the Nisga'a Nation. Remember: we are #strongertogether.

ᑕᑭᑭ'iiithl h'i'y, t'oooyak'siy' n'isi'm.
Thank you.

**Yats' / Eva Clayton,
PRESIDENT,
NISGA'A NATION**

Newsworthy Items from 2022 – 2024

Note: these items were posted on the Nisga'a Nation page.

- + “Discover Nisga'a” – Redefines Tourism in Northwest British Columbia, March 21, 2022
- + Communique to Nisga'a Citizens: Section 87 Tax Exemption, July 22 2022
- + Happening today | Youth & Elders Forum 2022, November 1, 2022
- + Nisga'a Education Conference, October 3, 2022
- + All Nisga'a Citizens are invited: Ksi Lisims LNG Project is hosting multiple open houses, April 2022
- + Nisga'a Nation leadership meet with Premier Eby and Cabinet Ministers in Vancouver this week, November 29, 2022
- + The Nisga'a Nation Welcomes the Honourable Melanie Mark & her daughter Makayla Mark to their ancestral territories, July 28, 2022
- + Nisga'a Youth Training Opportunity: Gordon Foundation Youth Treaty Negotiation & Treaty Simulation, February 16, 2022
- + Virtual Open House on Ksi Lisims LNG, February 7, 2022
- + Nisga'a Nation Celebrates Hoobiyee with Song and Dance, Laay Pole Raising and International Panel Discussion on Ni'isjoohl Pole Repatriation, February 22, 2022
- + Industry Invitation to an Open House – Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw, June 28, 2022
- + NLG Executive Approves Execution of Letter of Intent for the Development of Nisga'a Emergency Health
- + Transportation Program Ended in July 31, 2022 but still going today based on need
- + Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Visitor's Centre – Naming Ceremony, July 9, 2022
- + Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a Convenes in Special Sitting to Amend Budget to Increase Post-Secondary Living Allowance February 10, 2023
- + Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a Adopts Annual Budget, Amends FFA Resulting in Increased Funding and Passes Unanimous Motion to Begin Work to Implement Nisga'a Mental Health Act March 31, 2022
- + Advisory Update – water on road May 23, 2023
- + Tahltan Nation and Nisga'a Nation Announce New Partnership That Will Maximize Economic Benefits at the Seabridge KSM Project January 26, 2023
- + Communique: Update on Restoration of Section 87 Tax Exemption January 12, 2023
- + Bursary Opportunity | 2023 BC Regional Mining Alliance Bursary Program, apply today!
- + For immediate release: Introducing NLG's New Chief Executive Officer Andrew D. Robinson October 10, 2023
- + Nisga'a Lisims Government Urges Calm and Respect for the Law – “Raven Clan Outlaws” Encampment August 29, 2023



- + For immediate release | Nisga'a Lisims Government files lawsuit in supreme court of British Columbia against illegal occupants of Nisga'a treaty areas for interfering with treaty rights, December 21, 2023
- + Best resources for Restoration of the Section 87 Tax Exemption and Taxation on Nisga'a Lands, December 19, 2023
- + Nisga'a Youth attend the 5th National Modern Treaty Simulation, February 26, 2023 in Ottawa
- + Province issues Readiness Decision to Ksi Lisims LNG Project, March 16, 2023
- + As Long as the Sun Shines, the Grass Grows and the Rivers Flow. Treaty 5, March 28, 2023
- + Tlicho Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council visit the Nisga'a Nation, July 26, 2023
- + Nisga'a and TELUS activate first 20GB connectivity circuit, marking the beginning of a new 10-year partnership
- + For immediate release | Nisga'a Lisims government appeals B.C. Supreme court procedural ruling in Gitanyow litigation, February 2, 2024
- + For immediate release | Nations Royalty set to become Canada's largest majority indigenous-owned public company, poised for future growth. February 5, 2024
- + For immediate release | from dreams to justice: 50 years since the Calder case decision in the supreme court of Canada, January 31, 2024
- + For immediate release | Nisga'a Lisims Government response to article on energy project near Anyox, British Columbia, February 16, 2024
- + Nisga'a Lisims Government and government of British Columbia sign agreement, settle disagreements on interpretation of Nisga'a treaty, February 23, 2024
- + Communique to Nisga'a citizens | disbursement of \$2,500 gift to Nisga'a citizens to be distributed by Nisga'a villages and Nisga'a urban locals, March 27, 2024
- + For immediate release | Nations Royalty closes \$10 million offering and appoints directors and officers, April 11, 2024





Office of the Executive Chairperson

Brian Tait
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

GOOD DAY TO EVERYONE. IT IS A PLEASURE to see so many of our people show up to participate in the special assembly of our Nisga'a Nation. Welcome to our citizens and guests that have been invited.

First, we thank our host community of Gitwinksihlkw. We thank our creator for providing us with this day for us to share, work and learn from each other.

I begin my report by acknowledging all the leaders that have gone to the spiritual world that have contributed to the health and wellbeing of our people. Many of us have been working very hard to implement our treaty in the way it was meant to be. We have seen and experienced many challenges to our treaty that have been successfully dealt with. We need to focus our attentions on what we were elected to carry out on your behalf. To govern in accordance with our supreme law, our Nisga'a Constitution.

Our citizens have been crying out for help in many areas of our delivery of services. We are not alone in shortages or lack of support in areas of health, housing, jobs, training, addictions and security in our communities. We must

stay focused and work together to provide the necessary solutions for the health and wellbeing of all our citizens.

About four years ago we got reports of bullying and harassment in the workplace, we have introduced an Employee Protection Policy or Act that is presently being worked on and hopefully will be adopted soon. We appreciate all our citizens that observe our meetings whether it is a WSN or executive meeting. Openness and transparency are very important in the work that we carry out for you. We will always need improvements in communications to improve our deliverance.

We are living in exciting times where it is possible for us to become independent, where we will not have to beg for support resources to help ourselves. There is a huge opportunity for us to build prosperity with our own resources with major projects in our lands. To protect ourselves from development we have given directions to our law firm to create an environmental assessment act that will prevent us from spending a lot of time and resources on negotiations that would normally take place. This act is nearing completion.

The Nisga'a Nation is founded on values and principles that have always been shared by all Nisga'a.

We Honor the traditions of our ancestors, the authority of our Ayuuk, and the wisdom of our elders. As Nisga'a we practice the principle of the common bowl. As Nisga'a we must respect the dignity of each person. Our Simgigat, Sigidim-hanaak and respected elders nurture the spirit of the Nisga'a Nation, provide guidance to the interpretation of our Ayuuk. Our Simgigat, Sigidim-hanaak and respected elders advise our government on matters relating to traditional values of the Nisga'a Nation through the council of elders provided for in our constitution.

The Simgigat, Sigidim-hanaak and respected elders contribute to the unity of the Nisga'a Nation and the harmony of individuals and families within the Nisga'a nation during times of personal and national dispute.

Our Nisga'a Constitution is the supreme law of the Nisga'a Nation. When our government makes rules the chairs of all our institutions and organizations must ensure that our constitution is not breached.

One Heart, One Path, One Nation.

Brian Tait,
EXECUTIVE
CHAIRPERSON



Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

Charles Morven

SECRETARY TREASURER - FINANCE COMMITTEE

I EXTEND MY WARMEST WELCOME TO ALL NISGA'A CITIZENS for the 11th Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation hosted by the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw. I express my appreciation to this community for all your hard work preparing for the Nisga'a people's Assembly. This year's Special Assembly will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Calder Case.

Secretary-Treasurer Responsibilities

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

Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement

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

the second Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2009, which was amended by agreements dated March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2019. The Parties entered into the third Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2019, which was amended by agreements dated March 15, 2020, June 15, 2020, March 31, 2021, April 1, 2021, April 1, 2022, and April 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024.

Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process

Co-development between Canada and Indigenous governments which began in May 2016 resulted in the completion of the Policy in 2019. The Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process has provided significant financial returns to date:

1. Own-source-revenue moratorium (2017) – savings of approx. \$4M per year
2. Gap-closing funding (2018) – one time funding of \$8.7M
3. More than doubled governance funding (2019) – additional \$9.0M
4. Interim lands, resources, and treaty management funding increase (2019) – additional \$1.5M

5. Infrastructure funding (2021)
6. Housing funding (2022)
7. New Infrastructure "Stage 1": updated list of Schedule C assets, increased major maintenance and replacement funding, plus increased operations & maintenance funding (2023).

Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Amendments

In 2019, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation entered into the Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3 (the "FFA No. 3"), which significantly improved the financial position of the Nisga'a Nation. The parties have amended that agreement six times already, primarily to add time-limited, incremental funding in respect of health and water and wastewater systems, as well as to facilitate the transfer to the Nisga'a nation its share of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund as grant funding.

Overview of the FFA Amending Agreements

1. Major maintenance and replacement funding for Schedule C listed assets 162% increase to \$7,239,853 (FY2023) annually.
2. Operations and maintenance funding 249% increase to \$4,389,837 (FY2023) annually.

3. The Nisga'a Nation will receive an additional \$38,595,073 over 5 fiscal years (starting the current fiscal year FY2023) for housing funding announced in federal Budget 2022 in addition to the \$44,683,317 over a four-year period that the Nisga'a Nation received in federal Budget 2021 for housing and infrastructure.
4. The Nisga'a Nation will receive additionally Operations & Maintenance Funding for Water & Wastewater, \$1,214,883 (FY2023) and \$1,261,219 (FY2024).
5. Extend Budget 2017 Infrastructure Funding with \$179,689 annually for 7 years (FY2022-28).

Nisga'a Nation Financial Goals

To gain financial independence from Canada over time, the Nisga'a Nation will need to set a goal to have \$8 Billion under management to allow for that to happen. The Nisga'a Nation has begun the process to achieve that goal by beginning the following:

Nation's Royalty Corp

In a groundbreaking development for Canada's natural resources and Indigenous business sector, the Nisga'a Nation and Vega Mining Inc. ("Vega") announced that they have entered into an agreement dated February 1, 2024, pursuant to which, among other things, Vega will acquire from the Nisga'a Nation the rights to five annual benefit payment entitlements (the "Royalties") in Benefit Agreements the Nisga'a Nation has in place in

respect of mines and projects within the Golden Triangle Area located in northwest British Columbia, in exchange for common shares in the capital of Vega (the "Transaction"). Upon completion of the Transaction, Vega will be majority owned by the Nisga'a Nation and will be renamed "Nations Royalty Corp." ("Nations Royalty" or the "Company").

The Company's vision is to unite First Nations and Indigenous groups across Canada, welcoming external investors to join the Company as shareholders. Nations Royalty is set to become Canada's largest majority Indigenous-owned public company, poised to be a significant player in the mining royalty sector.

The Company's vision will also include Capacity Building to Nisga'a Citizens over time to have total control over the company. There will be opportunities into the future of the company for board training for public companies and to run the company in high administrative positions within the company.

Ksi Lisims LNG

Ksi Lisims LNG is currently in the environmental assessment process and will get the announcement on the Environmental Permit for the project in and around the late fall of 2024 following the BC Provincial Election.

The Ksi Lisims LNG team will continue to have discussions with other Indigenous nations along the pipeline and are also

currently working and supporting other indigenous nations along the proposed twinning of the current Northwest Transmission line from Treaty 8 territory to Terrace. The Nisga'a Nation is also working on an additional line from Terrace to the Ksi Lisims LNG Floating Facility Site at Wil Milit.

The Nisga'a Nation with its partner Western LNG purchased the pipeline for the project from TC Energy in which the Nisga'a Nation will be 50% owner of the pipeline.

Telus Agreement

The Nisga'a Nation entered into an agreement with Telus to have control over the infrastructure. The Nisga'a Nation will also have control over which cell service providers will have access to connection to cell service. The agreement with Telus also allows the Nation to build capacity in partnership with Telus to Nisga'a Citizens.

Nisga'a Growth Corporation

The Nisga'a Nation has been told by the Nisga'a Citizens to get out of business, so the creation of the Nisga'a Growth Corporation was formed as a way of separating government from economic development. The Nisga'a Growth Corporation is in its first year and will be reporting on their activities and what work they will be doing on the creation of a financial action plan.

Restricted Treaty Loan Proceeds			
Date	Description		Balance
INFLOWS			
2021-03-31	Treaty Loan Reimbursement - Year 1	FY2021	15,734,217.67
2022-03-31	Treaty Loan Reimbursement - Year 2	FY2022	15,734,217.67
2023-03-13	Treaty Loan Reimbursement - Year 3	FY2023	15,734,217.67
	Interest (net of bank fees) - Years 1 thru 3		1,540,024.04
			\$ 48,742,677.05
OUTFLOWS			
Gift Payments	WSN - One-Time Gift Disbursement - via VGs, ULs		(14,122,500.00)
Admin Fees	Administration Fees - NLG, VGs, ULs		(1,299,240.13)
			\$ (15,421,740.13)
PENDING			
	Treaty Loan Receivable - Year 4	FY2024	15,734,217.67
	Treaty Loan Receivable - Year 5	FY2025	15,734,217.67
	WSN Treaty Gift - Accrual - 18+	FY2022	(1,077,500.00)
	WSN Treaty Gift - Accrual - Under 17	FY2022	(4,917,500.00)
			25,473,435.34
	WSN Treaty Gift #2 - Pending disbursement		(20,185,000.00)
	WSN Treaty Gift #2 - Admin fees		(1,457,250.00)
			(21,642,250.00)
	Remaining Treaty Loan		\$ 37,152,122.26
	Treaty Loan Revenues		78,671,088.35
	Interest		1,540,024.04
	Treaty Loan Gifts		(40,302,500.00)
	Admin Fees		(2,756,490.13)
			\$ 37,152,122.26

Treaty Loan Repayment Gift disbursements

Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), approved distributions of two gifts of \$2,500 for Nisga'a citizens and for the establishment of a trust for younger Nisga'a citizens until they are no longer minors. Beneficiaries will apply for their distribution in the year that they turn 19 and receive their distribution in January. The Nisga'a Minors' Trust Agreement is based on the Nisga'a Settlement Trust Agreement with

funds invested in Guaranteed Investment Certificates or similar investments.

Nisga'a Commercial Fisheries Opportunity Fund

The fund was established via the Nisga'a Final Agreement, Chapter 8 Fisheries. Funding was provided to enable the Nisga'a Nation to increase its capacity, in the form of commercial licences, or vessels and commercial licences, to participate in the general commercial fishery

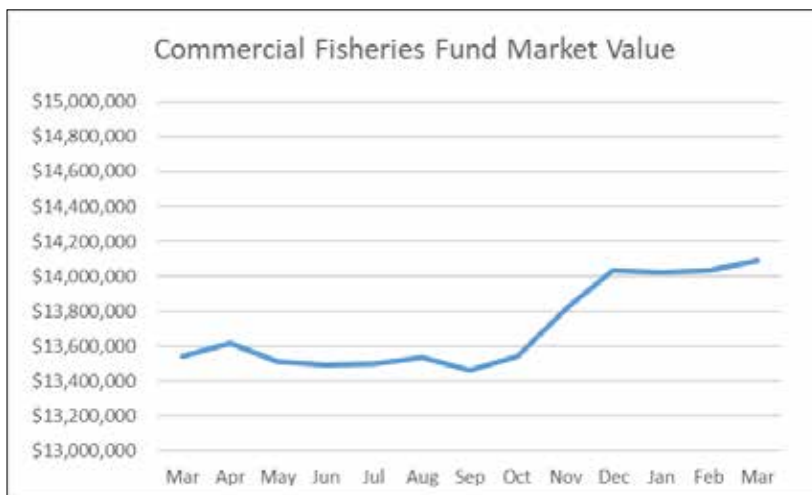
in British Columbia. The Nisga'a Nation knowing that the existing funding provided in the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Commercial Fisheries Fund) failed to address the current needs of Nisga'a fishers, deemed it appropriate to have Nisga'a Growth Corp to take the lead on an analysis to support discussions with Canada on amendment of the Treaty to allow greater flexibility in how these funds can be used.

In 2023, the program supported 32 fishers for a total of \$285,613 for licences, fisher registration cards, fuel, repairs & maintenance, and moorage. (in 2022 - 34 fishers for \$322,838). In addition, the Commercial Fisheries Fund is invested to ensure its sustainability. At the fiscal period ending March 31, 2023, the fund's market value was \$14,090,676.

Income Tax Arrangements

In 2023, the Nisga'a Nation, Canada, and British Columbia each consented to amendments to the Nisga'a Final Agreement to restore the section 87 tax exemption to Nisga'a citizens and on Nisga'a former reserves as of January 1, 2024.

In October 2023, Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a passed a motion to not tax income that is otherwise exempt under the section 87 tax exemption, and not to continue to impose Nisga'a personal income tax and Nisga'a goods and services tax (GST).



Also, at the October 2023 sitting, WSN enacted an exemption from Nisga'a property taxes for Nisga'a citizens starting in 2024. The new property tax exemption is the result of collaboration between the Government of British Columbia and Nisga'a Lisims Government. Also, status individuals making purchases on Nisga'a former reserves will be able to do so free of provincial sales tax (PST) starting January 1, 2024.

With making the decision to move to tax exemption, with the announcement from Canada on the treaty negotiation policy change, the Nisga'a Nation is in continued discussions with Finance Canada to increase the former reserve boundaries. In the policy change Canada announced they did not take into consideration how our Villages have increased in size since the Nisga'a Treaty came into

effect on May 11, 2000. Talks will continue until we come to a resolve to increase the tax exemption boundaries.

Fiscal 2024/25 Budget

The Federal Fiscal Financing Agreement (“FFA”) remains the single largest revenue source, and the 2024/25 fiscal budget fully allocated all FFA transfers. Highlights of the 2024/25 fiscal budget are as follows:

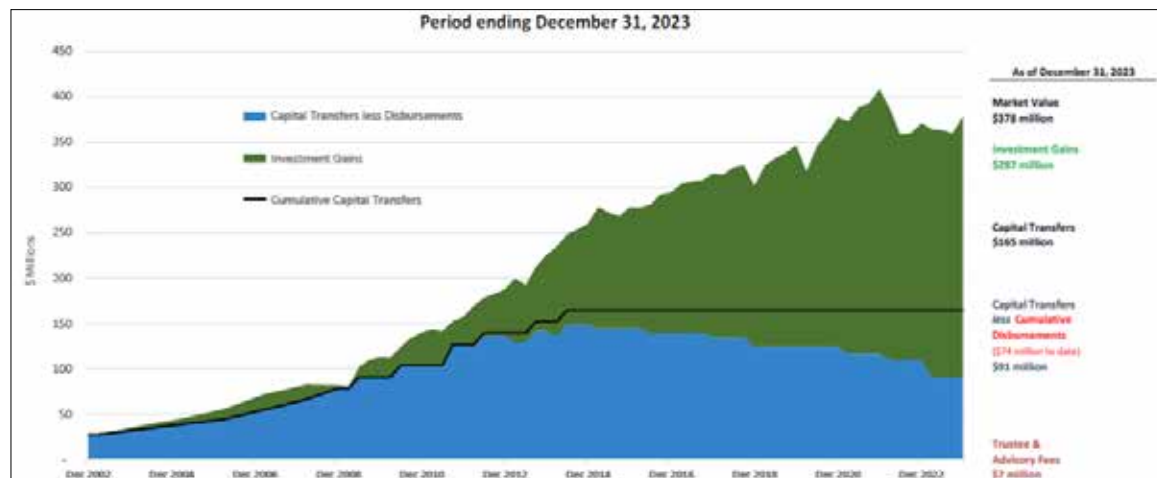
- + Total available funding of \$177.5 million.
- + Total Nisga'a Lisims Government expenditures of \$98.3 million.
- + Total funding for Nisga'a Villages, Urban Locals, Wilp Wilxo'oskwil Nisga'a Institute (WWNI), School District No. 92, and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA), and Elders distributions total \$77.8 million.

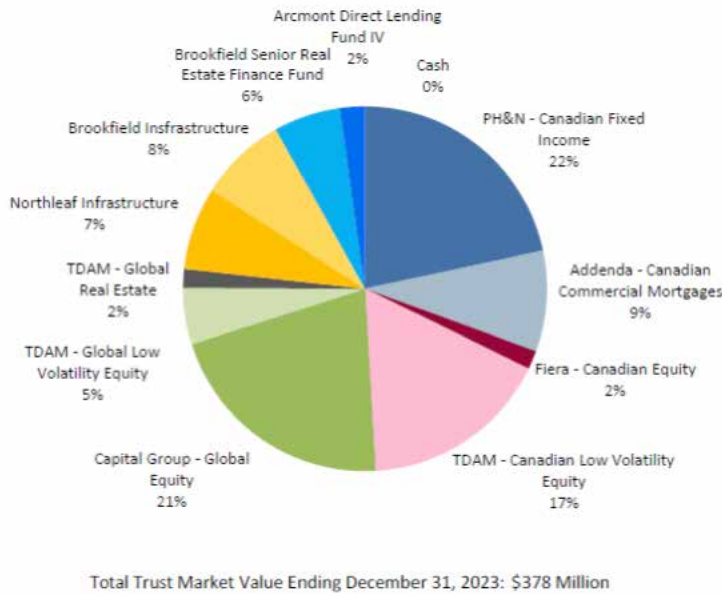
2024/25 Fiscal Budget – Statement of Operations

	2024/25 (Unaudited)
Revenues	
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	\$ 101,784,800
Settlement Trust appropriation	9,708,004
Taxation and industry agreement revenues	8,827,159
Grants and other revenues	8,844,438
Treaty loan repayment proceeds	12,847,224
Infrastructure and Housing	31,972,283
Accumulated Surplus Drawdown	5,700,000
	\$ 177,481,888
Nisga'a Lisims Government expenditures	\$ 98,330,148
Transfers and operating grants	
Nisga'a Village Governments	\$ 33,815,110
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	23,984,125
Nisga'a School Board #92	11,020,128
Nisga'a Urban Locals	6,195,945
Wilp Wilxo'oskwil Nisga'a Institute	1,459,902
Distribution to Elders	1,380,000
	\$ 77,835,210
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 1,316,330
Less Depreciation (non-cash)	1,250,000
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 66,330

Settlement Trust

The Trust is valued at \$378 million at the end of 2023. Over the past twelve months, the Trust returned 7.1%, but underperformed its benchmark by 4.1% due to poor performance from its equity fund





managers and Brookfield’s private debt fund BSREF. Considering longer periods, the Trust’s performance is impressive, earning an average return of 7.2% for the past 10 years.

Conclusion

I bring this report to a close by thanking you, those of you in the Nisga’a Nation who had confidence in me to represent the citizens in Nisga’a Lisims Government as we move into the last of the year of the 2020-2024 term.

Though steps and achievements have been made to fulfill the mandate of the Secretary-Treasurer, the work entailed in the financial component of Nisga’a government is huge. Being that a leader is only as good as the people one works with, I would like to

acknowledge the Chief Financial Officer, Terry Holt and his department and the Nisga’a Finance Committee who all worked diligently with the Secretary-Treasurer to achieve our goals.

Director, Eric Nyce, is to be acknowledged as well for the achievements made as Director of Capital Housing and Facilities Operations.

I would also like to give recognition to the Ksi Lisims LNG team for the continued hard work that is put in.

A big thank you to all the elected representatives with your hard work and support throughout this term. There have been many challenges and we had to work our way through to find resolution to some of the work.

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

With that I would like to thank my wife especially for all her support over the course of the term, without it the work would be so much more difficult to manage. I would also like to thank the rest of my family and friends who have shown their continued support.

As Nisga’a, our life experiences and understanding of what good governance means to us, and our ability to listen and learn from one another, and in networking with others, is what makes us strong as Nisga’a people and allows us to continue moving forward with “One Heart, One Path and as One Nation.” With these principles in mind and in my heart, I will continue to work hard to fulfill my mandated obligations as Secretary-Treasurer throughout the remainder of this term.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Morven
SECRETARY-TREASURER



Office of the Chairperson of the Council of Elders

Sim'ooigit K'eełkw / Herbert Morven
CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF ELDERS

AMAA SA AS NÍSÍM.

This past year there were two very important meetings held with all of our Nisga'a Chieftains and Matriarchs. The first was to inform our Nation that we were going to court to protect our Treaty and all that our nation achieved in negotiating the settlement of the "Nisga'a land question." Some of the Justices who rule on "Land Issues such as who traditionally owns land," do not understand what our nation has achieved in our negotiations and say no to our request to participate in the court cases which will affect our lives.

The second one was held April 2-3, 2024. "Dim sidaḡatkwhl Ayuukhl Nisga'a."

This meeting was held to encourage our Chieftains and Matriarchs to exercise their "knowledge and wisdom of our Cultural values" so that we do not stray from how we live our culture and how we apply our values to our lives.

"Lip Wilaa Loom" Includes:

- + Feasts, Nisga'a names and Ango'oskw.
- + Yuuhlank'askw, Hawahlkws
- + Adoption vs Taking in
- + Protocol to address "Breach of Ayuuk"

All of the information gathered have yet to be collated. When this work gets done then all of the village governments and our Nisga'a locals outside of Nisga'a lands will receive copies to share with their respective communities.

At the end of the meetings our Brothers and Sisters from Gitwinkshlkw requested that each of our respective communities in K'lii Lisims host follow up meetings that we are dedicated and committed to applying our "cultural inheritance" to our lives.

The request was agreed to, so it will happen. The next meeting will be in Gitwinkshlkw.

Our Council of Elders had a number meetings to establish a work plan so that we can function properly. This COE committee is appointed by Lisims Government through each community in Lisims valley selecting and putting forward the names of the Elders from their communities.

We were working to establish a process so that we can identify priorities and recommend to Lisims Government how issues of concern can be dealt with in a good way. We did not get it done and

there is no excuse for not getting it done. We must get it done so that we have roots from which to nurture our lives as a 'Self-governing Nation.' We each have the responsibility to keep our "Cultural Inheritance alive."

Today we must ensure that our Elected Officials, our Administrative Officials and Staff in all of our Nisga'a Entities begin to speak Sim'algax, continue to be an active participant in our cultural lives so that our initiatives as a nation will be enhanced to bear fruit in all of our lives just as our Ancestors did.

Kwsdaksa'sguruhl ts'eets'iks, sim'algax, lip-wilaa-loom, aks ganhl txaa nitkwshl limksit kw'idaayim. We inherited our language, our cultural values, our lands and all the resources which grow on and in our lands and waters. We have a collective responsibility to protect all that we have on our lands and in our waters. We have no time to fight amongst each other. We have no time to fight with our neighbors.

Our Ancestors opened our lands and waters so that our relatives and our neighbors would be able to trade and harvest the food resources they needed to fend off famine and starvation we all experience from time to time.



This is not text-book knowledge. We still do this each year. We were instructed by our Ancestors through each generation of Nisga'a leadership not to put a price on food to anyone. Should we do this our food resources will be lost to us.

Our spiritual relationship with our relatives with whom we share our lands and waters took root with our Ancestors as they observed their lives unfolding on and in our lands and waters.

We must apply this to our respective DNA to keep all of this alive in us each day.

As I write this report I am reminded of the first three speeches offered to us by three Elder Nisga'a Statesman during our transition government meeting post Treaty Negotiations on September 2000.

Wahlin Sim'oogit Hleek, the late Dr. Joseph Gosnell – "no elected member should come into these chambers with a hidden agenda to undermine our government."

The late Dr, Frank Calder – "If there is anything that I can offer given my years as an elected person, "Know why you are making laws. Then know how to."

Wahlin Sim'oogit Gaakw'ihleen, the late Hubert Doolan – "Keep these chambers as Sacred, Keep it as a Holy Place. If you are going to fight, you stay outside because in here you are dealing about life and for life. So keep these chambers as a Holy place."

When I got home that night I shared these words with Nita my wife. Her response really quick was "Wow what a high standard for our government. Be transparent in your actions. Be knowledgeable in your decision making and above all be mindful that government is a Sacred Institution."

Gan wilt,
Si aarh ji wilsimh.
Li haagwil huuwilsimh
li simgit wilsimh.

Herbert K'eexkw
CHAIRPERSON,
COUNCIL OF ELDERS





Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Robinson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dispute Resolution & Litigation Updates

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEEDINGS

As a result of persistent breaches of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the "Nisga'a Treaty") by the federal and provincial Crown, Nisga'a Lisims Government commenced dispute resolution proceedings on October 11, 2019, in order to persuade our treaty partners to honour and respect the commitments made to the Nisga'a Nation in the Nisga'a Treaty. Many breaches of the Nisga'a Treaty relate to the federal and provincial Crowns ignoring Nisga'a Treaty rights to pursue reconciliation on the unproven and undefined rights asserted by the Nisga'a Nation's neighbours.

The federal and provincial Crowns each purported to implement policies of recognizing assertions of Aboriginal rights, without a requirement for the asserted rights to be plausible, much less proven or defined by the relevant Indigenous groups. These federal and provincial approaches ignore the fact that many Indigenous groups assert rights in areas where modern treaty parties, such as the Nisga'a Nation, already have established treaty rights and interests, and the implementation of these policies by Canada and British Columbia in recent years has resulted in repeated breaches of

the Nisga'a Treaty. Indeed, while the Nisga'a Treaty recognizes that the Nisga'a Nation has lived in the Nass Area "since time immemorial", the Crown continued to respect the assertions of other Indigenous groups within portions of the Nass Area.

The Dispute Resolution Chapter of the Nisga'a Treaty sets out mandatory processes to address breaches or the improper implementation of the Nisga'a Treaty. Nisga'a Lisims Government was required to utilize these processes to resolve numerous breaches of the Nisga'a Treaty by Canada and British Columbia, before turning to the courts. These proceedings were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as intervening federal, provincial and Nisga'a elections.

However, Nisga'a Lisims Government and the provincial Crown settled the dispute in February 2024, with the provincial Crown acknowledging that it cannot breach Nisga'a treaty rights to pursue reconciliation efforts with neighbouring Indigenous groups. Moreover, the provincial Crown acknowledged, for the first time since the effective date of the Nisga'a Treaty, that the Treaty is enforceable against Aboriginal rights being asserted by other

Indigenous groups within the Nass Area, and as to the unique scope of the Environmental Assessment and Protection Chapter of the Treaty. These are significant acknowledgments.

Now that the provincial Crown and Nisga'a Lisims Government have agreed on the proper approach to implementing the Nisga'a Treaty, Nisga'a Lisims Government is hopeful that a final settlement of these issues can be achieved with the federal Crown within the coming months.

"ALLIED TRIBES" INJUNCTION LITIGATION

The Nisga'a Nation and province have been in negotiations for a number of years regarding the Nisga'a Nation's purchase of vacant "Crown land" at Ts'im Sgalt (Iceberg Bay) and Ts'im Sgaawa'a (Nasoga Gulf) (the "Nasoga Gulf Transaction"). The Nasoga Gulf Transaction includes the purchase of approx. 22,508 ha of upland in fee simple, and the addition of these lands to Nisga'a Lands. This transaction would return portions of Nisga'a traditional territory to the ownership and jurisdiction of the Nisga'a Nation.

In August 2021, however, the Lax Kw'alaams Band and the Metlakatla First Nation, referring to themselves as the "Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla,"

commenced a lawsuit in the Supreme Court of British Columbia (“BCSC”) claiming that they hold exclusive Aboriginal title over the lands that are subject to the Nasoga Gulf Transaction. The federal and provincial Crowns, as well as the Nisga’a Nation, are parties to this lawsuit and have each denied the Allied Tribes’ claims.

In March 2022, the Allied Tribes sought an injunction from the BCSC, seeking to stop the provincial and federal Crowns from taking steps to conclude the Nasoga Gulf Transaction. The federal and provincial Crowns, as well as the Nisga’a Nation, each opposed the Allied Tribes’ application. However, in May 2022, the BCSC awarded the Allied Tribes’ an injunction.

Nisga’a Lisims Government identified a number of alleged errors with the BCSC’s decision, and as such, appealed that decision to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia. In June 2023, the Court of Appeal accepted Nisga’a Lisims Government’s arguments and overturned the BCSC’s decision. As a result this victory by Nisga’a Lisims Government, the federal and provincial Crowns, as well as the Nisga’a Nation, have taken steps to advance the Nasoga Gulf Transaction.

The Allied Tribes have, however, sought leave to further appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Supreme Court of Canada has not yet decided whether to hear the Allied Tribes’ appeal. Nisga’a Lisims Government anticipates that decision will be made any week now.

In the meantime, Nisga’a Lisims Government is taking steps to ensure this litigation does not further delay the Nasoga Gulf Transaction from proceeding. As with all important litigation matters, Nisga’a Lisims Government will provide an update to Nisga’a citizens when there is more information.

GITANYOW ABORIGINAL TITLE LITIGATION

In 2003, the “Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs” commenced an action against the federal and provincial Crowns in the BCSC seeking to establish that they have exclusive Aboriginal title within portions of the Nass Area.

Because the Gitanyow’s claims may affect Nisga’a treaty rights and interests, and are contrary to the Nisga’a Nation’s history over Nisga’a traditional territory, Nisga’a Lisims Government determined that it should become a party to this action. The Nisga’a Treaty

provides Nisga’a Lisims Government with a treaty right to become a full party to any legal proceeding where an issue may arise in respect of the interpretation or validity of the Nisga’a Treaty, or the validity or applicability of an Nisga’a law.

In September 2023, Nisga’a Lisims Government applied under the Nisga’a Treaty to become a full party to the Gitanyow’s Aboriginal title action.

In January 2024, however, the BCSC rejected Nisga’a Lisims Government’s application, and ruled that the Nisga’a Nation could not be a full party to the litigation. Nisga’a Lisims Government has identified a number of alleged errors with the BCSC’s decision, and as such, has appealed that decision to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia.

Nisga’a Lisims Government’s appeal has not yet been heard or decided. If Nisga’a Lisims Government’s appeal is successful, the Nisga’a Nation may participate fully in the Gitanyow’s litigation and lead evidence and expert evidence in respect of the Nisga’a Nation’s history over Nisga’a traditional territory, and make other legal arguments. Nisga’a Lisims Government continues to prepare for this outcome.



“RAVEN CLAN OUTLAWS”

LITIGATION

Starting some time ago, certain Gitanyow individuals styling themselves as the “Raven Clan Outlaws” began occupying, and destroying the natural landscape of, portions of Nisga’a traditional territory located between Kilometer 11 and Kilometer 13 of the Nass Forest Service Road. These are lands within Nisga’a traditional territory, and throughout which Nisga’a citizens have treaty rights. The “Raven Clan Outlaws” publicly claimed that, because of their unproven assertions of Aboriginal rights, they did not require any government authorization and did not need to comply with any Crown law or the Nisga’a Treaty.

In December 2023, Nisga’a Lisims Government commenced an action in the BCSC against all individuals occupying these lands. The main purpose of the action is to show that individuals cannot interfere with the exercise of Nisga’a treaty rights, contrary to the Nisga’a Treaty.

No hearing in the BCSC has been held to resolve this action. However, Nisga’a Lisims Government understands that, in response to the action, the “Raven Clan Outlaws” resiled from their position and have applied for applicable government authorizations.

This matter remains outstanding, and Nisga’a Lisims Government will provide an update to Nisga’a citizens when there is more information.

Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project

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

In March 2024, the Nisga’a Nation and Western LNG entered into a letter agreement with TC Energy Corporation to purchase the PRGT Project. Once completed, this purchase will be a historic development that will further advance Indigenous co-owned and developed energy projects in Canada and will create an abundance of opportunity for Indigenous participation in a major infrastructure project. The Nisga’a Nation looks forward to meeting with other Indigenous nations along the PRGT route and developing an approach to meaningful engagement and equity participation.

In the coming months, Nisga’a citizens will start to see more construction activities on Nisga’a Lands, including a camp facility at Nass Camp, in an effort to begin construction of the PRGT Project. Nisga’a owned businesses or Nisga’a citizens who wish to better understand relevant contracting or employment opportunities are encouraged to contact the Industry Relations Office at 250-633-3000 or Nisga’a Employment

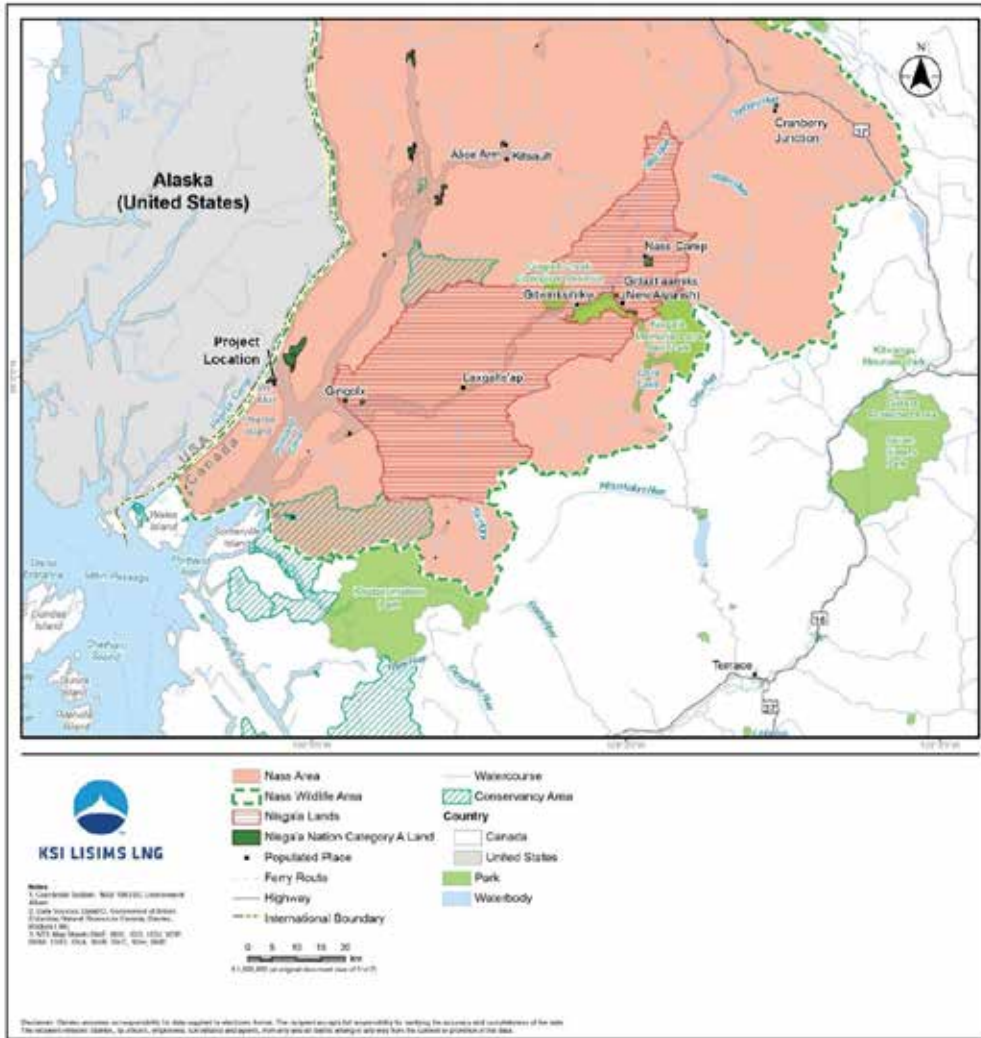
Skills & Training at 250-633-3000. Nisga’a citizens who wish to obtain additional information in respect of the PRGT Project are encouraged to review the information at <https://www.bc-er.ca/what-we-regulate/major-projects/prince-rupert-gas-transmission/> and <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/58851d9aaecd9001b826b33/project-details>

Ksi Lisims LNG Facility

The Nisga’a Nation has actively pursued LNG opportunities to achieve its goal of bringing sustainable economic development to the Nisga’a Nation. In 2022, the Nisga’a Nation entered into a cooperative endeavours agreement to form a consortium with Rockies LNG Partners, a partnership of Canadian natural gas producers, and Western LNG, an experienced developer and operator of LNG and related energy infrastructure facilities, to co-develop a Nisga’a Nation led floating LNG facility – Ksi Lisims LNG (the “Ksi Lisims LNG Project”).

Ksi Lisims, meaning “from the Nass River,” is a proposed 12-million-tonne-per-year liquified natural gas project located on Pearse Island at Wil Milit. Wil Milit is Category A lands owned in fee simple by the Nisga’a Nation and is located approximately 15 kilometers west of the Nisga’a Village of Gingolx.

Ksi Lisims LNG’s governance structure provides the Nisga’a Nation with meaningful input into project development,



management and operations, ensuring it is designed and operated in a manner consistent with the Nisga’a Nation’s commitment to stewardship of the land and its people.

Over the last few years, Ksi Lisims LNG has achieved many significant regulatory and developmental milestones, including obtaining its 40 year license to export LNG from the Canadian Energy Regulator in December 2022, filing its application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate in October 2023, and entering into its first offtake agreement with Shell Eastern

Trading Pte. Ltd. in January 2024. Nisga’a citizens who wish to obtain additional information in respect of the Ksi Lisims LNG Project are encouraged to review the information contained at <https://www.ksilisimslng.com/>

Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line

The Nisga’a Nation is proposing to develop a 287 kV electric transmission line to interconnect the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG project with clean, renewable electricity from the BC Hydro grid. In addition to connecting the Ksi Lisims LNG project to BC Hydro’s grid, the Nass

Valley Regional Transmission Line (“NVRTL”) will strengthen and reinforce the electricity service to Nisga’a citizens and Nisga’a businesses in the four Nisga’a Villages. The NVRTL will also improve reliability and largely eliminate power outages in the Nass Valley.

As a co-developer of the NVRTL, the Nisga’a Nation will ensure that the NVRTL route is located, designed and constructed in a manner that aligns with the Nisga’a Final Agreement, including, conducting an assessment under Chapter 10 – Environmental

Assessment and Protection of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. The current proposed route will be investigated this year to confirm its viability, both from a technical and environmental perspective.

The construction and operations phase of the NVRTL will provide economic opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a businesses. The Industry Relations office is coordinating with the project team in order to maximize the Nation's opportunities.

Brucejack Mine – Newmont Corp

In 2015 NLG entered into a Project Agreement with Pretium Resources Inc. with respect to an underground gold and silver mine near Brucejack Lake (located outside the Nass Area). Under the Benefits Agreement Pretium Resources will make a series of lump sum payments to the Nisga'a Nation upon the occurrence of certain milestones.

The Nisga'a Nation started receiving payments from Pretium in 2017 upon the commencement of commercial production at the Brucejack mine. In addition to lump sum payments, Pretium Resources also makes annual payments to the Nisga'a Nation based on percentage of the mineral tax payable by Pretium for the year to the BC government.

The Benefits Agreement also provides opportunities in respect of contracting and employment for Nisga'a Businesses and Nisga'a citizens. Since its first full year of production, in 2018, Pretium

has consistently maintained Indigenous employment levels of approximately 30%. Of this number and in 2023 approximately 25% of this workforce comprises Nisga'a citizens.

In March 2022, Newcrest Mining Limited acquired Pretium Resources Inc. and in November 2023, Newmont Corp., a Denver based mining company, acquired Newcrest and the Brucejack Mine. The Nisga'a Nation anticipates the same level of engagement under the new corporate structure. Nisga'a Representatives continue to meet regularly with Newmont to discuss current operations and any potential plans for expansion.

KSM Mine

In 2014 NLG entered into a Benefits Agreement with Seabridge Gold in relation to a gold, copper, silver and molybdenum mine development proposed by Seabridge (the "KSM Project"). Pursuant to the agreement, Seabridge will make lump sum payments to NLG and issue common shares to NLG in the capital of Seabridge upon achieving certain milestones. Likewise, the agreement also includes opportunities in respect of contracting and employment for Nisga'a Businesses and Nisga'a citizens once the KSM Project advances beyond the exploration phase.

In 2023, KSM Mining ULC ("KSM-Co"), announced the closing of the sale of a US\$150 million secured note to Sprott Resource Streaming and Royalty Corp. The US\$150

million will be used to complete the physical works at KSM in an effort for Seabridge to achieve a designation of 'substantially started' from the B.C. government. In January 2024, Seabridge announced that KSMCo applied to the British Columbia Environment Assessment Office for its substantial start decision.

NLG and Seabridge will continue to work closely to ensure that Nisga'a citizens and businesses have access to the employment, training and contracting opportunities in connection with this upcoming work.

Premier Mine

In 2021 NLG entered into a Project Agreement with Ascot Resources Ltd. ("Ascot") with respect to the proposed development of Premier Gold Mine near Stewart, B.C. Ascot acquired IDM Resources in 2019 and the agreement with Ascot replaces the previous 2019 Benefits Agreement negotiated by NLG with IDM Mining Ltd. for the Red Mountain Project. On April 8, 2024, Ascot announced the commencement of ore processing at Premier Gold Mine.

Under the Benefits Agreement, Ascot will make a series of lump sum payments to the Nisga'a Nation upon the occurrence of certain regulatory and production milestones. The Nisga'a Nation started receiving payments in 2021 upon the execution of the Benefits Agreement. In addition to lump sum payments, Ascot will also make annual payments to the

Nisga'a Nation based on percentage of the mineral tax payable by Ascot each year to the BC government.

WindRiver

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

FNCI

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

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

Nations Royalty

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

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

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

Land Claims Agreement Coalition

The Land Claims Agreement Coalition ("LCAC") was established in 2003 by modern treaty holders, with the Nisga'a Nation among its founding members. Since its inception, the LCAC has been co-chaired by the Nisga'a Nation and Nunavut

Tunngavik Incorporated. Its primary objective is to ensure the full implementation of modern treaties in both spirit and intent, collaborating closely with the Government of Canada and other stakeholders to achieve this goal.

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

During the conference, Secretary-Treasurer Charles Morven and I delivered a presentation on the First Nations' Climate Initiative. Secretary-Treasurer Morven also discussed the role of the Nisga'a treaty in fostering a resilient Indigenous economy. Dr. Adam Perry and Shannon West-Johnson presented research titled "Creating Community Surveys to Understand Wellness Needs - Data Gathering Methods for Data Sovereignty" on behalf of NLG.



Industry Relations Office

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

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

to keeping this dashboard relevant by collaborating with partners to ensure regular updates with pertinent labour force information.

Moreover, the Industry Reporting tool on SharePoint serves as a repository for regional labour force participation data and trends compiled by the IRO. This data plays a crucial role in supporting senior management's decision-making processes at NLG, enabling informed strategies to maximize the benefits of Nisga'a participation in various industry endeavours.

Andrew Robinson,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





Office of the Executive Director

Janice Angus
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HELLO! WELCOME TO NISGA'A NATION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY!

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

The Executive Director works with the Directors and Managers throughout NLG, more directly with Fish and Wildlife, Programs and Service, Nisga'a Museum and Economic Development to achieve the priorities set in a variety of areas.

This report will be in respect to the various areas I have been involved in, more so, in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations

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

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

My role was specific to the hiring committee to hire the Executive Director for Modern Day Treaty Alliance.

Fiscal Policy work – Self Governing Indigenous Groups

As part of the broader scope of work being undertaken by Self Governing Indigenous Groups

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

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

Health

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



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

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

Since this report, review in various capacity continues, which includes the renewal of the 2013 Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) between Nisga'a Lisims Government and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority.

Education

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

The consultants presented their final report (the "Report") to Executive in May and June 2019. The Report includes 129 recommendations that could be implemented whichever option is chosen. The Report further recommends that

the Nisga'a Nation leave the provincial public education system and create a Nisga'a Education Authority to provide K-12 education on Nisga'a Lands. The Executive instructed the CEO to undertake further research on the recommendations and options contained in the Report as well as to obtain legal advice on the background and status of the legal relationship between the Nisga'a Nation, SD92 and British Columbia.

In November 2019, the Officers, the CEO, the Executive Director and Village Chief Councillors met with the BC Minister of Education at the First Nations Leadership Gathering. At the meeting, Minister Fleming committed to working with SD92 to improve outcomes as soon as possible. Minister Fleming also agreed to mandate staff to provide information and assistance to help the Nisga'a Nation determine which option will, in the long-term, best meet the needs of SD92 students and deliver real improvements in student outcomes.

As a follow-up to the meeting with the Minister the Executive authorized the release of the Report to the Board, Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer of SD92, and to the BC Ministry of Education. Copies of the Report were accordingly released to the Chair of the Board of Education of SD92 and the BC Ministry of Education.

In March 2020 the Executive Director met with Jennifer McCrea, an Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Education, and Rod Allen, an education expert

hired by the Ministry to identify ways the Ministry can support the Nisga'a Nation and SD92 to improve student outcomes in the near future. Minister Fleming and Mr. Allen were scheduled to visit Nisga'a Lands to meet with Executive, SD92 and communities in March and April, but those visits have been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Minister's objective for his meeting with the Executive is to learn about the key issues facing SD92 from their perspective, to understand the cultural context for education on Nisga'a Lands, and to hear Executive's priorities and vision for education on Nisga'a Lands.

The Executive met with Minister Whiteside (the Minister of Education following the election) via videoconference meeting in March 2021. At this meeting the Minister reiterated her Ministry's commitment to working with the Nisga'a Nation and School District #92 (Nisga'a) ("SD92") to improve student outcomes as soon as possible. The Executive also received a report from Mr. Allen regarding his findings about the significant changes that are needed within SD92, and his recommendations for future improvements. The Executive also recognized that positive changes have taken place with the appointment of Ms. Jensen as the SD92 Superintendent, and her recent work with Mr. Allen and the Ministry. The Executive sought, and received, the Minister's support for Mr. Allen to continue to work with SD92.



Since this report, we have been actively meeting with the previous School District 92 (SD92) Superintendent, Jill Jensen, to discuss the work done to address the report, which includes recruiting and retaining professional teaching staff.

SD92 has been working with the province and school districts in the northwest area to develop a recruitment and retention strategy.

2023 was a challenging year for school district, due to teacher shortage, the district worked with North Island Distant Education School to ensure students continue to meet their academic courses needed.

In 2024, meetings continue, with new superintendent, Matthew Monkman. Discussions include addresses to the Strategic Plan, Local Education Agreements with Village Governments, NLG and Indigenous Council.

Economic Development

Over the past year, Economic Development has gone through a review of the workplan and scope of work. With the implementation of the Nisga'a Growth Corporation, the primary scope of work for the Economic Development department is the Nisga'a Business Development fund.

NISGA'A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

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

NLG conducted an administrative review of the application in response to feedback from Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a businesses that the Business Development Fund Application was confusing and cumbersome document. To ensure that more Nisga'a citizens complete applications, the new application has been streamlined and additional resources have been linked. NLG is set to launch the streamlined application shortly.

Since the 2022 report, it is unclear if the administrative review was launched, as the application process continued to be incomplete and cumbersome.

2024, the application process has been reviewed and relaunched.

The responsibility of the Economic Development department is to provide support assistance to Nisga'a Citizens applying for funding, analysis of programming and linking citizens with programs like Work BC, that provides support to new entrepreneurs for business startoffs.

Nisga'a Museum

It has been an eventful two years at Nisga'a Museum. Museum visitation rebounded to pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels by the end of our 2022 season, while other museum offerings including education programs, rentals, and community events continue to grow. Of note, the museum exhibited a curated collection from the Skeena Salmon Arts show in partnership with the Terrace Art Gallery in September 2022, as well as launching a sponsored runway fashion show that November. The inaugural show, *From Darkness to Light*, inspired by a collaboration with Lillian Tait, was held in Gitlaxt'aamiks (2022) and the second runway show, *Resilience & Renewal* was held in Gitwinksihlkw (2023). To date, the works of eight Nisga'a designers of traditional and contemporary regalia, apparel, jewelry, and accessories have been featured between both shows.

Highlighting Nisga'a and other Indigenous artists and art entrepreneurs is also prioritized through an expanded gift store at the museum. A greater selection of merchandise and artwork, including nearly 20 participating Nisga'a artists, has markedly increased gift shop sales per visitor. To maintain and expand upon this revenue growth, a Retail Coordinator was added to the museum's staff.

These and other successes focused on achieving goals laid out in the museum's five-year strategic plan. A key premise of the plan included expanding the museum's collection through acquisition and additional repatriation of cultural belongings. These efforts were facilitated, in part, by external infrastructure funding that provided for consolidation of museum storage rooms to create an archival collections space with compacting storage. New acquisitions to the permanent collection include works by contemporary Nisga'a artists late Norman Tait, Alver Tait, Robert E. Stanley, Murphy Stanley Jr., and Randy Adams. In 2023, the Nisga'a Museum proudly assisted the efforts of Wilps Ni'isjoohl to return and raise their memorial pts'aan (totem pole) within the museum gallery.

Quality of Life Initiative

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

The Quality of Life Department works diligently to:

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

At the time of this report, QoL has completed the Regional Health Survey, a contracted service through First Nation Health Authority.

Quality of life strategies continue to be incorporated in all of NLG's programs and services, which has decreased the workload of the Quality-of-Life department. FY 2025, in review of programming, the decision was made to eliminate the department.

Conclusion

The last two years have had a lot of transitioning, from CEO to various departmental staffing, which has highlighted the strength of the NLG administrative foundation structure and staff in core programming.

The role of Executive Director will continue to work with Director of Programs and Services, the Director of Fish and Wildlife, manager of NEST, Nisga'a Museum and the Economic Development Coordinator.

It has been a great honor to be appointed to the role of Acting Executive Director in June 2023. With continued guidance and support, the future endeavors will continue to thrive.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Janice Angus, BPA, MBA
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Office of the In-House Legal Counsel / Law Clerk

Amanda Miller
LAW CLERK

GREETINGS TO SPECIAL ASSEMBLY 2024 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS!

The office of the In-House Legal Counsel is a small but busy component of Nisga'a Lisims Government. We are:

- + **AMANDA MILLER**
Law Clerk since March 2023
- + **MYRLE MORVEN**
Legislative Assistant since March 2013 and Reporting Officer since November 2013.
- + **ASHLEY MORGAN**
Legal Assistant since March 2024

Law Clerk

As Law Clerk, I advise Nisga'a Lisims Government on local legal matters and on interpretation of Nisga'a Nation laws. I also serve as the resource person to Executive, Executive committees, and Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a. I work closely with general counsel, Aldridge Rosling, who have been providing legal advice to the Nisga'a Nation for many years on a wide variety of subjects and who draft laws and complex agreements for the consideration of the Executive and WSN.

I work with the CEO, Acting Executive Director, and the Manager Executive Services to review matters brought forward to the Executive for decision. My task is to review

any materials giving rise to issues prior to the monthly Executive meetings, and to draft the wording of motions for Executive's consideration. During Executive meetings, I work with the Chairperson of Nisga'a Lisims Government to resolve any matters that may arise.

Since 2016, the Legislative Assistant Myrle Morven has been accompanying me at Executive, taking control of more new functions each meeting. Together with Manager of Executive Services, Roberta Clayton, Myrle and I ensure that resolutions of Executive are accurately recorded and safely stored in the database that Roberta has created for that purpose.

I also work with the Speaker, the CEO, and the Legislative Assistant to coordinate the sittings for Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a. I advise the Speaker and Nisga'a representatives on matters in the House, draft motions, and answer questions with respect to the interpretation of Nisga'a laws during question period. The Legislative Assistant sends notice of sittings to elected members, organizes WSN meeting materials before sittings, and after sittings ensures that records of WSN business and resolutions are accurately kept.

Myrle has created two databases in relation to our WSN work. One is modeled on Roberta Clayton's Executive database, and tracks WSN resolutions. The other manages information related to the elected members, including each member's oath of office, disclosure statements, and any Code of Conduct related materials.

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

Legislative Assistant / Reporting Officer

Greetings Special Assembly 2024 attendees. My name is Myrle Morven (née Grandison) and I am the Legislative Assistant. My job has me working closely with the Law Clerk on most matters involving governance and laws of Nisga'a Lisims Government.



2024 marks 11 years as Legislative Assistant and over the last two years I have taken on more responsibility during the absence of the Law Clerk from November 2021 to March 2023. Thankfully, I had been groomed to fulfil this role and although it was highly stressful, I enjoyed the challenge.

I also maintain the database that houses the Nisga'a Registry of Laws, which contains each original enactment passed by Executive or Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a since May 11, 2000. To date, the Nisga'a Registry of Laws consists of 275 enactments. This database and others I work with have been customized to stay within the parameters of NLG Legislation.

The Nisga'a Registry of Laws is updated each time a new act is passed by Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a or a new regulation is passed by the Executive. I provide assistance to the Law Clerk by taking on the responsibility for sending the Notice of Enactment to the provincial and federal government and to all Nisga'a Village Governments and Nisga'a Urban Local offices. Nisga'a Lisims Government employees, other government entities and Nisga'a citizens contact me in order to obtain a copy of a given Nisga'a law or regulation.

I also work with the Speaker of the House, Law Clerk and others to ensure that the business of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a is carried out.

I issue the Notice of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a sittings on behalf of the Speaker and prepare any materials for distribution in the House.

Since March 2023 when the current Law Clerk came on staff, I have been sharing my corporate knowledge. Our department is evolving into a well-oiled machine once again. In-House Legal Counsel welcomed a new Legal Assistant in March 2024.

In my role as Reporting Officer, I am the first point of contact for citizens who have concerns regarding their elected representatives. I receive code complaints and forward as necessary once my initial assessment is completed.

My work here at Nisga'a Lisims Government has its challenges and its rewards. I look forward to the future with great anticipation. T'ooyaksim' nisim, ii aama sadihl Nisga'a loosim'.

Legal Assistant

Greetings! I'm Ashley Morgan, and I am delighted to have joined the esteemed In-House Legal Counsel team on March 12, 2024. Although I'm a recent addition to the team, I bring with me a wealth of experience in the legal realm, particularly in Estate Planning, Estate Administration and Real Estate Law. Some of you might recognize me from my involvement in coordinating the Wills and Estates clinic.

In my role as the Legal Assistant, I undertake a diverse array of administrative tasks to support the Law Clerk and Legislative Assistant. My responsibilities include maintaining meticulous organization of administrative files, processing legal invoices, overseeing requests for legal services, and facilitating travel arrangements when required.

Embarking on this new journey with Nisga'a Lisims Government fills me with excitement and optimism. I'm eager to contribute my skills and dedication to this organization as I navigate this new legal field.

An Important Note Concerning Personal Legal Issues

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

There are some free, publicly available materials or services that may assist individuals with some frequently encountered legal issues. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Amanda or Myrle for further information.



Directorate of Human Resources

Pearl Dyer

HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

HELLO EVERYONE, AND

WELCOME! It is an honour for us to report on the key initiatives undertaken by the Human Resources Directorate during the past two years since our 2022 Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation.

The Human Resources Directorate of NLG provides full cycle HR support, advice, guidance and resources to all Managers and Employees of NLG. At NLG, we recognize that our people are our most valuable asset, and we remain committed to fostering an environment where they can thrive and contribute to our collective success. Key areas of responsibility include:

General Workplace

Administration – such as HR related policy development, staff communications, Organizational Charts, documentation management, attendance management, HR reporting and presentations.

Selection & Recruitment – encompasses organizational needs, job evaluation and description development, posting and advertising opportunities, shortlisting and interviewing candidates, contract negotiation, documentation, relocation assistance and onboarding.

Group Benefits & Pension Plan

Administration – Includes membership plan application management, enrolment and termination. Also includes Short and Long Term Disability claims management. At the strategic level includes service negotiation and plan reporting to governing bodies.

Labour Relations which would

include confidential matters, investigations, workplace accommodation, progressive discipline, etc.

Occupational Health & Safety –

includes OHS committee training, Occupational First Aid Attendant training, safety supplies acquisition, as well as administrative support to the OHS committee.

Staff Training & Development

which includes formal training plans linked to learning opportunities for personal growth, building internal capacity and succession planning. Also includes performance management and goal setting tied to department and organizational work plans.

Employee Recognition, Engagement & Wellness –

initiatives include a variety of activities such as Long Service and Educational Achievement Recognition, Apparel Programs, various engagement

activities, workplace wellness programs, and Employee/Family Assistance Program as examples.

In reviewing this report, you will note that items of a sensitive nature are not covered due to reasons pertaining to confidentiality. Items that are reported are captured into themes related to:

- + HR Operational Objectives
- + Occupational Health and Safety
- + Staff Training
- + Employee Recognition, Engagement and Wellness
- + NLG Employees Give back

Our report on key activities since the 2022 Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation:

HR Operational Objectives

- + HR-related policies continue to be evaluated for currency and are revised or newly developed as required.
- + NLG's 360-degree Performance Evaluation survey continues as one part of the overall evaluative process for Managers and Directors. We continue with the online platform for survey distribution that we implemented several years ago. The platform allows for ease in report compilation of the

results received, and also removes systems barriers and compatibility issues that existed previously.

- + Existing Job Descriptions continue to be reviewed for currency at the initiation of the position incumbent, respective supervisor, or prior to posting to fill a vacancy. As well, new job descriptions have been developed where new positions have been created throughout the reporting period.
- + All-staff meetings take place from time to time, ideally quarterly or as-needed. Since then, more manageable department or directorate meetings took place virtually at the discretion of the respective Director/Manager.
- + Recruitment Fair in partnership with Black Press Group took place in October of 2022 and 2023. The recruitment fair was a valuable opportunity for NLG HR to connect with talented individuals, promote our employer brand, and gather valuable insights for future recruitment endeavors.
- + Pension and Benefits information sessions are due to continue for NLG Staff. The next in-person session is scheduled for June 2024. These sessions are well attended by staff and are facilitated by representatives from Ace Insurance. Staff are also able to secure individual appointments to further discuss particulars of their specific investment plans and

benefit needs. Future offerings will be facilitated from time to time and as required.

- + With the assist of both internal and external expertise, a research project has been initiated to investigate Pension Plan options for Elected Representatives. This work is ongoing.
- + The HR department completed the initiation of several significant data projects heading into the Spring of 2017, and this documentation storage process continues to date. These data systems include: e-storage of employment competition files; e-storage of former employee files and subsequent destruction of corresponding paper files; an employee training records data base; an employee emergency contact data base; and an employee long service data base. Most significantly, all current NLG paper employee HR files are also stored electronically which proved essential. Data systems are fine-tuned as required for functionality, and the data is updated as new information is obtained.
- + HR-related forms and documents continue to be evaluated for currency and are revised or newly developed as required.
- + Meetings are held at least once annually with our partners at Acera Insurance for a high level review of benefit utilization rates, pension contribution reports, and contract renewals.

Occupational Health & Safety:

- + The NLG Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee continues with its mandate as a well-organized, dynamic and empowered group. Regular meetings and worksite inspections continue in accordance with Canada Labour Code legislation under the leadership of two co-chairs: one Hourly Staff Representative, and one Management Representative. The committee operates with the support of Capital Projects, Maintenance and HR Staff as required. The succession process for replacing outgoing committee members on regular rotation has been developed and functions effectively. The Committee works diligently and methodically to develop and revise OHS policies/procedures/documents, and continues to keep workplace safety top of mind for all. As of writing this report, current committee members are: Faith Tait (Co-Chair), Roberta Clayton, Alan Lambright and one vacant spot representing Management workers; and Marianne Guno (Co-Chair), Tanya Clayton, Kimberly McDonald and James Percival representing Hourly workers. We thank those that have served on the OHS Committee in years prior.
- + The First Aid centre in the main NLG building near lower level reception continues to house essential supplies. This revered location remains unlocked at all times for accessibility in the event of an emergency. Casual access is prohibited and only currently certified OFA1

(or higher delegation) attendants as listed on the First Aid centre door, are permitted.

- + NLG continues to invest in essential First Aid equipment and supplies. Inventory is monitored regularly and at least once annually, disposable supplies are ordered to replenish stock, and additional equipment is secured to match and fully maximize increased in-house OFA capacity and expertise. Three AED (automated external defibrillator) units are housed in three different locations: at the main NLG Building; in our NCFS office in New Aiyansh; and at the Museum in Laxgalts'ap. Ongoing inspections and renewed battery packs are acquired in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- + First Aid training is typically held once annually at one of the NLG worksites for a cross-section of NLG employees to obtain their OFA level 1 certification as a new attendant, or to recertify those with their 3-year certification due to expire. This training does also include a module specific to AED utilization. While this training has not been hosted

on-site for the past two years, plans are underway to resume this required training.

- + Workstation ergonomic assessments are conducted on an as-needed basis for NLG staff. Physiotherapists are engaged to conduct assessments, report and provide recommendations for modifications.
- + Typically each spring, NLG would send a contingent of sitting OHS Committee members to the 2-day Annual Western Conference on Safety, held in Vancouver. The most recent delegation attended the April 18 & 19, 2024 Conference.

Staff Training

- + Individual Staff Training and Development continues to be supported in accordance with established training policy. Varying degrees of assistance is approved at the Directorate level with HR consultation and strategic guidance as needed. NLG continues to strive for building internal capacity and succession planning, and works to facilitate local training opportunities where possible, with needs identified in employee

performance reviews and training plans. Group training is hosted throughout the year in accordance with strategic direction and work plans established by each Directorate of NLG. Over the past two years in particular, much of this training has been conducted virtually.

- + NLG continues to support formal education as it relates Nisga'a Language and Culture. Each fiscal year, allocation for 4 seat registrations of formal accredited study via WWNI are available for staff, sponsored through the HR Directorate, in support of established training objectives.
- + Fostering a culture of continuous learning creates a stronger, dynamic workforce and builds our internal capacity. We encourage staff presently enrolled in their chosen fields of study and look forward to celebrating their success upon completion.
- + Our leadership development initiatives have yielded promising results, with an increasing number of internal promotions and leadership roles filled by existing employees.



Employee Recognition, Engagement & Wellness

- + The well-being of our employees remains a top priority, and we have expanded our health and wellness offerings to support physical, mental, and emotional health. A new provider Homewood Health for Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) was launched in November 2023. The counselling service is strictly confidential and is available to all regular NLG employees and their enrolled dependents. HR Director receives an annual report on utilization rates only. We are pleased to report that utilization is strong which is very encouraging. Knowing that our employees and their dependents utilize the service that is provided for as part of their benefits package indicates a good return on NLG's investment in employee well-being. HR Department staff continue to promote the service by way of direct consultation, posters, distribution of e-newsletters, printed brochures etc.
- + The NLG Employee Goodwill program continues whereby employees hospitalized due to the birth of a child, receive a gift and a card of well-wishes sent on behalf of everyone at NLG.
- + Over the years, NLG has initiated inter-departmental wellness and learning opportunities for a wide range of physical abilities and interests taking into account the diversity and age demographics in our workforce. Examples of previous activities include: the Walking Program; 'Green-Thumb' Gardening Program; The Skeena Valley Relay Race; On-site Singing Lessons; etc. During the pandemic, we collaborated virtually to compile a Spotify playlist entitled 'Don't Worry, Be Happy!' where participants submitted catchy tunes for inclusion. As of writing this report, plans are still to be finalized for this year's wellness activities.
- + The HR department continues to hold a small inventory of office / space-friendly exercise equipment / supplies, available on a sign-out basis to NLG staff. Items include yoga mats / blocks, ankle/wrist weights, weighted skipping ropes, stretching equipment etc.
- + The NLG Employee Apparel program continues as an exclusive benefit for regular, and temporary regular employees. Garments are embroidered or otherwise emblazoned with the NLG logo, consistent with our corporate image and branding. Apparel program items are presented in a reusable fabric 'gift bag' in an effort to promote reduction in gift wrapping and paper waste. While in-person attendance and gathering restrictions prevented our traditional presentation format, we returned to group in-person events in December 2022 (post Covid-19 restrictions) employees were gifted a soft-shell Storm Tech jacket in 2022 and a Storm-Tech tote bag in 2023.
- + The NLG 'Birthday Wishes' program continues whereby each regular employee receives discreet recognition and well-wishes from the HR department staff. Prior to 2020, staff would receive a small NLG-branded or First Nations-inspired gift and in-house crafted personal birthday card on their birthday. Over the past couple of years, we transitioned to a personalized e-card format. We are looking forward to a return to a modestly enhanced program for 2024.
- + April 2022, April 2023 and April 24, 2024, marked Administrative Professionals Day at NLG. All staff were invited to celebrate with light refreshments and lunch as presentations were made in recognition of the contributions of our NLG Administrative Support Staff.

- + June is typically the month that NLG celebrates our annual Public Service / Employee Appreciation and Recognition event. This annual luncheon is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the commitment and excellence of all NLG Employees. In addition, we take the opportunity to highlight individual and group achievements, as well as organizational accomplishments. We are cautiously optimistic of a return to this highly anticipated event for 2024.
- + The HR department participates in Retirement Celebrations and Farewell events as they occur throughout the year. Luncheon celebrations are typically hosted by the applicable department and presentations are made in recognition of departing staff's dedicated service to NLG and to Nisga'a citizens. Most recent events took place in December 2022 and December 2023, to honor two retirees.
- + The NLG HR department looks forward to again engaging with employees organization-wide in a variety of ways throughout the year. Such activities we wish to resume may include: Annual Halloween Costume

Contests; the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest; Secret Santa Gift Exchange; Festive Decoration of NLG Main office, staff-initiated potluck luncheons etc.

- + Our NLG Employee Long Service Recognition Program continues whereby staff are recognized for attaining 5-year incremental milestones of service to NLG and to the citizens of our nation. Presentations are made each year in December, as part of the Employee Christmas dinner celebration.

NLG Employees Give Back

- + NLG Employees wear Pink! Each year in February there is an annual nationally designated day for Anti-Bullying awareness. NLG staff wear pink in support of this national campaign each year.
- + Traditionally each year, NLG employees would raise funds for BC Children's Hospital by participating in 'Jeans Day!'. The fundraiser was suspended for the past two years and we look forward to its return. We also look forward to the return of the fun and competitive component to this fundraiser, where participants are

encouraged to do their best 'Canadian Tuxedo' by dressing head to toe in denim!

- + September 30th each year, (or the closest business day), staff wear Orange in recognition of 'Orange Shirt Day: 'Every Child Matters' in remembrance of Residential School Survivors. September 30, 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday implemented at NLG.
- + Each year, NLG employees initiate an annual Food Drive held during the first three weeks of December. NLG staff again stepped up and collected \$1640 in 2022 and \$1260 in 2023. In the last two years, the Food Hamper Campaign raised a total of \$2900 that was donated directly to the Gitwinksihlkw Salvation Army Food Share Program that services the entire Nass Valley. This event is a resounding success each year it is organized and we look forward to its return later this year. A huge 'thank you' to all who contribute to this group effort!





Directorate of Finance

Terry L. Holt
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

THE DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE

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

The Accounting department maintains all the financial records of NLG and compiles financial reports from all Nisga’a entities. To that end, it processes all financial transactions, prepares financial reports, and develops and maintains all internal controls for NLG including compilation and development of the Nisga’a Nation’s budgets and forecasted cash flows. For the 2023 fiscal year, the auditors (Deloitte LLP) provided an unqualified audit opinion and determined that the financial records of NLG have been maintained in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. This is the best type of audit report the Government can receive.

Nisga’a Lisims Government / Summary Financial Information

Fiscal 2023 summary financial information (as per the audited consolidated financial statements of Nisga’a Lisims Government) follows. Highlights include:

- + Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) and related funding of \$91.6 million, and Total revenues of \$188.9 million,
- + Financial assets of \$474.3 million inclusive of cash, investments, and settlement trust funds,
- + Tangible capital assets of \$25.2 million,
- + Accumulated surplus of \$381.2 million.



FISCAL 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS as at March 31 (with Fiscal 2022)
(as per the audited consolidated financial statements of Nisga'a Lisims Government)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2023	2022
Revenues		
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	\$ 91,613,511	\$ 87,453,943
Investment Income, interest, and dividends	22,678,356	14,741,795
Gains on sale of investments	-	2,163,607
Tax revenue	9,584,438	8,541,743
Other revenue	57,364,128	27,411,665
Targeted funding - ISC	2,314,732	2,195,039
Revenue from commercial entities	4,695,409	2,295,704
Contribution from Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust	650,000	600,000
	188,900,574	145,403,496
Operating expenses	42,769,737	34,185,017
Transfers and operating grants		
Nisga'a Village Governments	37,919,074	39,359,026
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	21,214,472	14,816,299
Nisga'a School Board #92	10,977,151	10,090,740
Nisga'a Urban Locals	4,515,785	14,037,771
Wiip Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	790,272	996,142
Nisga'a Citizens	-	6,790,000
	118,186,491	120,274,995
Annual operating surplus	70,714,083	25,128,501
Accumulated operating surplus, beginning of year	381,200,738	356,072,237
Accumulated surplus, end of year	451,914,821	381,200,738

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 55,199,780	\$ 44,755,071
Restricted Cash	68,143,669	42,890,462
Accounts and loans receivable	47,993,455	14,163,083
Designated cash	21,595,272	17,009,267
Designated investments - capital finance commission	46,679,184	43,725,624
Designated investments - commercial fisheries trust	13,541,306	-
Designated trust funds	369,734,779	311,082,921
Investments in other entities	1,439,645	681,470
	624,327,090	474,307,898
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	25,041,738	29,082,601
Deferred revenue and deposits received	48,955,675	28,119,533
Silviculture obligation	1,078,616	1,071,693
Capital Finance Commission deferred revenue	67,114,986	60,608,773
	142,191,015	118,882,600
Net financial assets	482,136,075	355,425,298
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets	26,613,120	25,204,436
Prepaid expenses	591,530	571,004
	27,204,650	25,775,440
Accumulated surplus	509,340,725	381,200,738

Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) Negotiations

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

The current agreement implements new and interim policies under Canada's Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy. The Nisga'a Nation's participation in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process resulted in Canada's Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy approval in June 2018. The policy was co-developed in collaboration with other self-governing Indigenous governments and Canada. The new policy establishes a clear and transparent framework that is intended to provide sufficient fiscal resources to Indigenous governments to fulfill their responsibilities.

The Parties entered into the initial Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement on May 11, 2000, which was amended by amendment agreements dated July 3, 2003, February 2, 2004, March 30, 2006, March 30, 2008, and March 30, 2009. The Parties entered into the second Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2009, which was amended by agreements dated March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2019. The Parties entered into the third Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement dated April 1, 2019, which was amended by agreements dated March 15, 2020, June 15, 2020, March 31, 2021, April 1, 2021, April 1, 2022, April 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust

The Nisga'a Settlement Trust was established to provide for the future benefit of the Nisga'a Nation. Over the years, the Trust has accumulated value through the receipt of capital transfers from Canada, British Columbia, and through investment returns provided by the Trust Fund. Since the inception of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust, the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada, a member company of the Royal Bank Financial Group, has been appointed as Trustee and is responsible for the administration of the Trust. The Government has appointed a Trustee to hold, protect and grow this portion of Nisga'a Final Agreement proceeds. The Settlement Trust Fund is valued at \$373.3 million as at December 31, 2023. For the Trust to maintain its real value, it must grow at least at the rate of Spending + Total Fees

+ Own Source Revenue Tax Accrual + Inflation. It should be noted that the Trust takes a long-term view regarding its investment policy. While fluctuations are expected in economic conditions and market results, the expectation is that the Trust will earn a positive return over the long term. Nevertheless, past investment performance results are not necessarily indicative of future performance results.

2024 / 25 Fiscal Budget

On or before March 30 Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN) must adopt a provisional budget for the Nisga'a Nation for the next fiscal year. The 2024/2025 Budget for the Nisga'a Nation was reviewed and recommended by the Nisga'a Finance Committee on March 13, 2024, and a resolution adopted by the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive on March 22, 2024, which approved and recommended it for adoption by Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a.

The Federal Fiscal Financing Agreement ("FFA") remains the single largest revenue source, and the 2024/25 fiscal budget fully allocated all FFA transfers. Highlights of the 2024/25 fiscal budget are as follows:

- + Total available funding of \$177.5 million.
- + Total Nisga'a Lisims Government expenditures of \$98.3 million.
- + Total funding for Nisga'a Villages, Urban Locals, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI), School District No. 92, and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA), and Elders distributions total \$77.8 million.

2024 / 25 Fiscal Budget – Statement of Operations

	2024/25 (Unaudited)
Revenues	
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	\$ 101,784,600
Settlement Trust appropriation	9,706,004
Taxation and industry agreement revenues	6,627,159
Grants and other revenues	8,844,436
Treaty loan repayment proceeds	12,847,224
Infrastructure and Housing	31,972,263
Accumulated Surplus Drawdown	5,700,000
	\$ 177,481,686
Nisga'a Lisims Government expenditures	\$ 98,330,146
Transfers and operating grants	
Nisga'a Village Governments	\$ 33,815,110
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	23,964,125
Nisga'a School Board #92	11,020,128
Nisga'a Urban Locals	6,195,945
Wiip Wiix'o'oskwil Nisga'a Institute	1,459,902
Distribution to Elders	1,380,000
	\$ 77,835,210
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 1,316,330
Less Depreciation (non-cash)	1,250,000
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 66,330

Key Initiatives

1. Continue to support the Nisga'a Nation participation in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process with Canada.
2. Continue to support the Nisga'a Nation participation in the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process with the Province of BC.
3. Continue to work closely with the trustee and investment management partners to monitor Settlement Trust investments to ensure long-term growth and liquidity within a risk-constrained framework.
4. Provide support for industry development initiatives within the Nass Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry L. Holt
Chief Financial Officer





Directorate of Programs & Services

Janice Angus (R)
ACTING DIRECTOR

AMAA SA AS NISIM' FROM THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES STAFF AND COMMITTEES.

The Programs and Services Directorate staff proudly present this 2024 Special Assembly report to the Nisga'a Nation with feelings of gratitude and sincerely appreciation. Over the past two years, we have accomplished much success in our program growth, such as restructuring the formerly know Child and Family Services Court Resource team, now known as the Office of Designated Representative.

Language and Culture has transitioned into their own directorate – this report can be found under the Language and Culture headline.

We are sure you will enjoy reading about the capacity building opportunities, the on-going policy development & amendments, and the program successes and developments that each of our department teams have diligently work on throughout the year.

The Programs and Services Directorate's responsibility is the implementation and functional control over the delivery of public programs and services. The programs and services include

the Nisga'a Citizenship, Office of Designated Representative, Access to Justice, Social Development (social services), Nisga'a Child and Family Service,

In addition to the programs and service offered through Nisga'a Lisims Government, Programs and Service, portfolio includes, School District 92 K-12 education, village government post-secondary education assistance program, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute and Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA).

The Directorate works with two standing committees, the Programs & Services Committee and the Public Order, Peace and Safety (POPS) committee; as well as draws upon the appropriate resources from staff and the Nisga'a entities.

We would like to extend our sincerely appreciate for the collaborative efforts, historical and legislative knowledge, and experience and pro-active perspectives that each of the standing committee members contributes to the Directorate.

Programs & Services Committee:

Elected (Alternate):
ELAINE MOORE, Chair
ARLENE LINCOLN (CLAUDE BARTON), Gingolx
WALLACE CLARK (PAMELA WRIGHT), Laxgalts'ap
PETER LAMBRIGHT (ANDREW NYCE), Gitwinksihlkw
TARON SCOTT (ERIC CLAYTON), Gitlaxt'aamiks
ANDREA BURRELL, Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society
KEITH AZAK, NLG Representative, Gitlaxdax
JUANITA PARNELL, Gitmaxmak'ay

Resource:

Director of Programs and Service and Managers – P&S Directorate
AMANDA MILLER, IHLC

Pops Committee:

Elected (alternate)
CALVIN MORVEN, Chair
JOHN F. MOORE (ARLENE LINCOLN), Gingolx
PAMELA WRIGHT (WALLACE CLARK), Laxgalts'ap
ANDREW NYCE, Gitwinksihlkw
LEONARD GUNO (DENISE ELI), Gitlaxt'aamiks
ANDREA BURRELL, Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society

Resource:

Access to Justice, Director of Programs and Service, P&S Directorate

WALTER MCKAY,

Director of Enforcement and Emergency Services

AMANDA MILLER, IHLC

SGT. TOBY JENNINGS,
Detachment Commander
- Lisims Nass Valley RCMP

Office of the Designated Representative for the Nisga'a Nation (Formerly: Court Resources Team – CRT)

BY JANET NISYOK, Manager

+ **MARY TEMPLE,**

Coordinator/Advocate

+ **MARLENE MOORE,**

Coordinator/Advocate

+ **KAILEY HALVORSON,** interim

Administrative Assistant

+ **GRACE CLAYTON,**

Administrative Assistant
(on leave)

Under the authority of the Nisga'a Final Agreement Paragraph 94 and 95, we have standing in any judicial proceeding in which custody of a Nisga'a child is in dispute under the *Child & Family Community Service Act*, *Family Law Act* and the *Adoptions Act*, where the court will consider any evidence and representations in respect of Nisga'a laws and customs in addition to any other matters it is required by law to consider.

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

In addition to attending to and fulfilling standing in court, we provide:

- + Advocacy
- + Assist with seeking resources.
- + Assist families with understanding the processes that they experience under CFCSA, FLA and *Adoptions Act*.
- + Ensure quality assurance in practice.
- + Collection of Data for Statistics
- + Building relationships and networking
- + We collaborate with Nisga'a Lisims Government Language and Culture department to bridge the gap between our systemic work, and the cultural components we wish to honor. They are our connection to our Simigat and,
 - + Building awareness of the work we do
 - + Building awareness of the challenges
 - + How do we work with implementing a more cultural lens in the work we do?

Office of the Designated

Representative (formerly known as Nisga'a Child & Family Court Resource Team) has undergone significant changes in the last year.

Our office under the directorate of Nisga'a Lisims Government Programs & Services, officially changed the name due to ongoing confusion on the role we fulfill on behalf of the Nation, and to differentiate our role from Nisga'a Child and Family Services which is a delegated service under the province.

SIMILARITIES IN ROLES:

- + Both NCFS and Office of the Designated Representative for Nisga'a Nation are involved in matters regarding Nisga'a children.
- + Both NCFS and Office of Designated Rep office work under NLG Programs & Services

DIFFERENCE IN ROLES:

- NCFS does delegated work for the province on behalf of the Director for Child and Family Services guided by the *Child and Family Service Act*.
- + NCFS works within delegated authority from the province (C6, C3, C4),
 - + C6 work – Child Protection is jurisdictional, and work is done on Nisga'a lands only.
 - + C4 work – Guardianship work is conducted from offices in Terrace, Prince Rupert and Aiyansh
 - + C3 Resource/Voluntary Services – work is held from offices in Terrace, Prince Rupert and Aiyansh.

OFFICE OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

- + Workers are not delegated social workers,
- + Our work is guided by Nisga'a Final Agreement, under which we have standing in court on behalf of the designated representative for the Nation.
- + The term "standing" means, we are a party to proceedings, and have the ability to provide input in matters from the point of involvement in CFCSA, FLA or *Adoptions Act* matters, throughout the process to court phase, and thereafter.

Our Changes to Processes & Focus

- + **ADVOCACY** - We have expanded the scope of what it means to advocate for the Nisga'a child. In the past this department stated in the old brochure that the former CRT do not act as advocates for parents or family. Today, we acknowledge that advocacy for the Nisga'a Child means to advocate for the child's family connections and that includes the parents.
- + **QUALITY ASSURANCE** - being knowledgeable in practice, knowing and understanding terms, and processes under CFCSA, FLA and *Adoptions to* effectively advocate, to make note gaps, and initiating improvements where necessary.
- + **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** - Improving internal processes to manage the information we receive for validity and accuracy.
- + **COLLECTION OF DATA** - Data is vital to help us understand circumstances our Nisga'a children and families endure. The

- goal for the collection of data is to produce statistics to analyze and identify trends, and areas for improvement. We can also utilize this data for the creation of effective programming to suit the needs of the people.
- + We have entered into an agreement with **TAIGA HEALTH COUNSELLING, CONSULTING AND RESEARCH** to complete a full program evaluation of our department, and to assist us with forming the basis to collect data efficiently and accurately, analyzing the data etc.
 - + Collection of Data
 - + Improving ways to collect data.
 - + Analyze data - What do the statistics say?
 - + Program development.

For the Future

- We look forward to future improvements to our office and the role we fulfill. Currently, the following is the work that is planned:
- + **Adoptions Act** - forming criteria and policy on ways in which we'd like to monitor/oversee the adoptions of Nisga'a children.
 - + Important that we know where our children are going.
 - + Important to know that family are informed and included.
 - + To create Nisga'a policy and guidelines on how to manage adoptions planning according to Nisga'a ways of being.
 - + Permanency Planning - Cultural Safety Agreements
 - + Forming criteria and policy.

- + **Data Collection** - The data collection will be analyzed to inform us on improvements, changes that are needed and potential program creation to address matters involving our most vulnerable, our Nisga'a children, our future.

Jurisdiction? How will Nisga'a proceed?

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

What is the Nisga'a Lisims Government Designated Representative?

The Director of Programs and Services of Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) is designated as the representative for the Nisga'a Nation, as represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government, under British Columbia child and family legislation, including the *Child, Family Community Services Act*

(CFCSA), the *Family Law Act* (FLA) and the *Adoption Act*. As the NLG Designated Representative, the Director of Programs and Services receives notice each time the issue of the custody or guardianship of a Nisga'a child comes before the courts anywhere in the province of British Columbia. The Director of Programs and Services, together with the NLG Court Resources Team, participate in child and family court proceedings on behalf of NLG to ensure that Nisga'a children retain their Nisga'a cultural identity and maintain their connection to Nisga'a family and to the Nisga'a community.

Our Mission

To ensure that every Nisga'a child involved in child and family court proceedings preserves his or her Nisga'a cultural identity.

LEGISLATION & TREATY

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

Child, Family and Community

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

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

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

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Once the NLG Designated Representative, the Director of Programs and Services, is informed of court proceedings involving the custody or guardianship of a Nisga'a child. A member of the Court Resources Team can attend court and participate in the proceedings in order to ensure that the Nisga'a heritage of the child and the connection with Nisga'a family and community is

protected. Outside of court, the Court Resources Team work with child protection workers (for Ministry of Children and Family development as well as for Delegated Aboriginal Agencies), and with guardianship or adoptions workers, in order to provide a liaison to the Nisga'a community and to establish meaningful cultural plans.

Education

Nisga'a Nation ensures the provision for the deliver of Education programs and services for Nursery, or Pre-school, the instruction of Kindergarten to grade 12, access to Post-Secondary programs and the instruction of Post-Secondary programs. Administration of public policy and FFA reporting is provided through Nisga'a Lisims Government working with Nisga'a Village Government Administrations and the service providers. The Nation is committed to providing equitable service to the citizens, closing gaps, improving Education learning outcomes, effective service delivery and compliance with Programs and *Services Delivery Act*.

The Programs and Services committee receives updates from administration on the ongoing collaborative work with the Village Governments, School District 92, Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institute and NVHA.



Nisga’a Nation Third Biennial Education Conference: R.I.S.E (Resilience, Indigenous, Spiritual, Empowered)

The education conference was cohosted by Nisga’a Lisims Government, and host community, Gingolx Village Government. It provided a forum of discussions, presentations, and an array of educational topics for Nisga’a citizens.

The conference theme was developed by students at Nisga’a Elementary Secondary School (NESS), through a Youth Engagement Forum held on June 1, 2022.

The conference consisted of panel presentations by Nisga’a Employment Skills and Training (NEST), Ksi Lisims LNG, Education journeys, Nisga’a language and Culture, Arts and Culture: Paths to Wellness and Reconciliation, Diversity in Action, Early Learning (Nisga’a Child and Family Supported Services), Creating our Future: Self-Governance and Thunder Sky: Motivational and Inspirational Speaker; Justin Young of the Anishabe Bloodvain Nation, Manitoba.

Questions were posed by the attendees during the conference and online.

Evaluation Highlights

Conference attendees received an evaluation upon registration consisting of overall appreciation for the conference context, conference facilitation and presentations.

Conference Registration

Registration opened to the public on Monday October 3, 2022 at 8:00 am. Registration tables were staffed with knowledgeable and friendly conference staff (GVG + NLG). The conference was overseen throughout the duration by on-site staff, information tables, and catering consisting of both morning and afternoon nutritional breaks and lunch. There were 412 registrants in attendance at the event, and numerous online views.

SURVEY RESULTS

1 = FAIR 3 = GOOD 2 = AVERAGE
4 = EXCELLENT ELDERS (60 AND OVER)

GENERAL (19 - 59 YEARS)

	Day 1- AM/ PPT	Day 1- PM/ PPT	Day 2- AM/ PPT	Day 2- PM/ PPT	Day 3 AM/ PPT	Timelines for three days	Overall Rating of conference
4	2	1	2	1	1	1	0
3	5	6	5	4	1	1	2
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
	11	9	9	5	2	2	2

	Day 1- Morning Presentations	Day 1- Afternoon Presentation	Day 2- Morning Presentations	Day 2- Afternoon Presentations	Day 3- Morning Presentations	Timelines for Three Days	Overall Rating of Conference
4	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	1	2	3	2	2	0	1

Registration Stats

PARTICIPANTS	03-Oct	04-Oct	05-Oct	TOTAL
YOUTH (18 & Under)	37	10	15	62
GENERAL	85	81	53	219
ELDERS	45	47	39	131
TOTAL	167	138	107	412

Conference Objectives

PURPOSE

- + Focus on education for Nisga'a citizens from early learning to post-secondary.
- + Provide information on education, First Nation self-governance, arts and culture, early learning (Nisga'a Child and Family Supported Services), Nisga'a language and culture, diversity in Action (LGBTQIA2) and disabilities and Thunder Sky (Justin Young – Motivational / Inspirational speaker).
- + Three levels of education in the Nass Valley: Early learning (Nursery + Head Start), Public education (School District 92 Nisga'a) and Post-Secondary (Wilp Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI), that focuses on three areas: academic, vocational and technical and continuing education.

The Nisga'a Nation recognizes that Education plays an important role in the plans for the prosperity for the Nation. Nisga'a Lisims Government continues to improve its education system, providing opportunities for learners to access and engage in lifelong learning to participate and contribute to building the prosperity, through the economy and strength of Nisga'a society.

Nursery Education

The Nursery program is delivered through the four Village Governments, providing Head start, Pre-school, and Daycare programs.

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Instruction

The Kindergarten to Grade 12 program is delivered through School District 92 (SD 92) on Nisga'a Lands. The program provision aligned with British Columbia's publicly funded school system. The Board of School Trustees are elected during the BC Municipalities Election. There are five trustees for this School District. Nisga'a Lisims Government works in partnership with the SD 92 to provide for curriculum, instruction, assessment, evaluation and ensuring Nisga'a language and culture programming while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley children completing the K to 12 program.

School District #92 (Nisga'a) collaborates regularly with the community.

- + hosting School Board meetings
- + Schools host parent-teacher meetings
- + collaborates on Youth and Elder Workshops
- + collaborates on Education Conference
- + collaborates with Education Service Providers

B.C. Performance Standards

The standard of education at School District #92 (Nisga'a) has been guided by policy and legislation, including the *School Act* and the English Language Arts K-7 Integrated Resource Package. During the reporting period, School District #92 began moving towards B.C. Performance Standards. Developed for voluntary use in British Columbia schools, the B.C. Performance Standards describe the professional judgments of a significant number of educators about standards and expectations for the following key areas of learning:

- + Reading and Writing;
- + Numeracy;
- + Social Responsibility;
- + Information and Communications Technology Integration;
- + Healthy Living.

Access to Post-Secondary Education

The access to Nisga'a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program is provided through the four Village Governments and services Nisga'a wherever they may live, off and on Nisga'a Lands. The program assists Nisga'a citizens, ordinarily resident in Canada, in embracing the principles of academic freedom and responsibility. This is achieved by maintaining Nisga'a identity and cultural values and by ensuring access to high-quality education that responds to the Nisga'a Nation's diverse community, leadership, self-government needs and prosperity of the Nation.

**Combined Post-Secondary enrollment & completion rates of Nisga’a citizens*
Post-Secondary Education Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) Reporting: (FFA E.12)**

YEAR	ENROLLMENT		COMPLETION RATE %	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
2022-2023	125	62	31%	15%
2021-2022	140	67	66 %	70%
2020-2021	139	63	57%	37%
2018-2019	112	68	40%	78%
2017 -2018	165	100	32%	71%
2015-2016	130	74	51%	70%
2014-2015	118	132	57%	66%
2013-2014	135	166	49%	56%
2012-2013	145	72	54%	65%
2011-2012	153	128	66%	85%
2010-2011	169	107	53%	65%
2009-2010	144	87	70%	75%
2008-2009	128	92	48%	52%
2007-2008	152	104	49%	47%
2006-2007	126	58	42%	47%

*Nisga’a Citizens who were eligible to graduate. Includes university, college, Open Learning Agency, institutes, and private post-secondary institutions.

**Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement – Education Report
Kindergarten to Grade 12 (FFA E.11)**

FISCAL YEAR: 2022-2023	ENROLLMENT						COMPLETION RATE		TOTAL
	NISGA'A VILLAGE OPERATED SCHOOL	INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	PROVINCIAL SCHOOL (SD 92 NISGA'A)		Nisga'a Village Operated School	Independent School	Provisional School (SD 92 Nisga'a)		
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	
Kindergarten			19	11					
Elementary (Graded)			96	101					
Elementary (Ungraded)				86					
Secondary (Graded)			86	1					
Secondary (Ungraded)			5	11					
Dogwood Completion Certificate			13	2					
School Leaving Certificate									
TOTAL			219	212					

**Post-Secondary Instruction
Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl
Nisga’a Institute**

Wilp Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a, provides post Secondary Instruction. Wilp Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute (WWNI) is a not-for-profit, community driven, student focused Indigenous post-secondary and

training institute that works in four areas: academic, vocational and technical, and continuing community education. Through partnerships with a number of public post-secondary institutes, including a Federated Agreement with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), WWNI delivers a range of programs and training

opportunities, including Master of Arts First Nations Studies, Bachelor of Arts (First Nations Studies), University/College preparation, Grade 12 achievement, vocational/technical training, and continuing education programs.

During the reporting period, WWNI reported course enrolments in academic programs and course enrolments in vocational/technical programs.

**UNBC WILP WILXO'OSKWHL
NISGA'A ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION FUND**

The UNBC Wilp Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Endowment Foundation (a registered charitable society) was established in order to build a secure, independent funding base for WWNI's capital projects, student scholarships and bursaries, faculty and staff development, and other priorities. From its inception, WWNI has received strong support from the Nisga'a people, British Columbia, and Canada Foundation.

Social Development

General principle of the Social Development Program:

"Individuals and families are responsible for managing their own affairs and maintaining themselves to the extent that their resources permit. The Social Development program provides financial support to eligible adults and their dependents that are unable to meet their basic needs."

Program Vision

The Nisga'a Social Development program is committed to developing and delivering programs and services that strive towards building healthy and economically prosperous communities, where children, youth and adults have hope and opportunities and where a safety net, to those most in need, is in place to ensure a sound

quality of life for all who reside in the Nisga'a Villages. This vision will be achieved by:

- + Providing equitable access to all programs and services that is consistent throughout all four Nisga'a Villages.
- + Creating a path for independence through employment and opportunity to enhance skills.
- + Respecting the basic needs of safety and shelter.

Collaboration between Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Village Governments expanded when the Social Development Working Group was established in 2013. The Social Development Working Group is made up of the four Village Government's Social Development Administrators and/or Director of Programs & Services. Senior Administration from the four Nisga'a Villages also participate in the SDWG meetings.

The Social Development Working group members provided input into the social development policy and policy amendments. The objectives of the Social Development Working Group are to identify approaches to meet the needs of clients who most require support while ensuring that dependency is addressed in a way that empowers and supports clients to be self-sufficient. Taking into consideration that many clients require additional support to be self-sufficient, there were many discussions on how to ensure that clients who have physical or mental health challenges are appropriately assessed so that they receive adequate supports.

Secondary to this are discussions on ways in which policy can reduce the dependency on Social Programs.

Program Administration

- + The Nisga'a Social Development program provides financial social benefits and services to individuals and families, resident on Nisga'a Lands, who are in need. Need is determined by the application of an assessment means test, and other applicable eligibility requirements.

Policy Development

On September 28, 2017, the Programs and Services Directorate presented a revised Nisga'a Social Development Policy to the Executive, which was adopted effective October 1st, 2017. This policy now includes a procedures manual as well as all relevant forms and templates.

On October 26, 2017, a few policy amendment recommendations were presented to Executive to adopt that resulted in increases in the following categories of Social Assistance:

- + All Social Assistance files
- + Disability Level II files

The Social Development Working Group hosted a series of Community Consultations (prior to presentation to Executive) and Community Information Sessions (once the Executive adopted the amendments) to ensure that citizens have an opportunity for input and to be aware of the most current versions of the Social Development Policy.

We are developing a Nation-wide data base of statistics and expenditure tracking that will be used, in part, for policy development. For example, we are aware that the single employable male demographic category has historically been the highest caseload throughout all four Nisga'a Villages. In response to this, we have developed policies such as the Roadmap to Independence and focused training initiatives based upon the client action plans. Our statistics show that the numbers of single, male employable on Social Assistance has steadily decreased. The Social Development Working Group continues to review and provide recommendations for amendments to ensure that we are equal and comparable to Provincial standards.

Enrolment & Eligibility Program Highlights

Enrollment Committee Members:

- LORNA E. AZAK** - Canada
- Alternate - **HEATHER STEPHENS**
- KATHLEEN CLAYTON** - Laxgibuu
- Alternate - **DORCAS STEWART**
- LAVINA CLAYTON** - Laxsgiik
- ALTERNATE - **DEBORAH AZAK**
- DIANA RAI** - Gisk'aast
- Alternate - **ERIC GRANDISON**

The Enrollment Committee meets at least 6 times per year. January, March, April, July, September, and November. The committee continues with paperless meetings utilizing iPads for reviewing applications for Nisga'a Citizenship. This initiative was driven by the 2014-2016 committee. It is a pleasure to work with the Committee members and their dedication to the important work of carrying out Chapter 20 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement of Citizenship Law.

ADDRESS UPDATES: All citizens are encouraged to provide current addresses and name changes by contacting Enrollment and Eligibility. Parents are encouraged to apply for Nisga'a Citizenship as soon as possible after the baby is born.



What We Do
ENROLLMENT & ELIGIBILITY

Nisga'a citizens are strongly encouraged to keep their information current with Nisga'a Lisims Government Enrolment and Eligibility Department.

Requests are welcome for:

- Enrollment Application for New Citizens
- Change of Address
- Name Change
- Confirmation of Nisga'a Citizenship
- Nisga'a Citizenship Cards

 EMAIL: NEPID@NISGAANATION.CA
CALL: 1-888-311-9457
NISGAANATION.CA

NISGA'A POPULATION DATABASE

Wednesday, March 06, 2024

District	Gender	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-9	10-14	15-17	18	19	20-24	25-29	30	31-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	Total
Gingic	Female	2		1		1	1	3	13	5	2	1	10	6	2	11	9	6	12	19	9	10	5	7	13	149
	Male	1	2	1	4	1	3	12	14	7	1	2	16	17	5	10	15	7	13	17	13	15	16	14	9	254
Gitwinkshikw	Female			1	1	2	2	2	5	8	2	3	8	8	2	3	8	7	5	5	5	6	5	8		105
	Male		2			3	1	6	8	8	3		8	4	1	8	5	16	7	6	3	8	7	4	7	185
Laxgath'ap	Female	1	3	4	5	1	16	20	13	4	4	18	9	4	13	17	13	10	19	14	21	9	8			247
	Male		3	1	5	3	4	18	17	17	5	3	9	18	1	18	16	34	31	15	17	23	15	11	15	290
New Alyanah	Female	1	4	2	2	6	5	17	28	21	1	2	14	22	5	16	15	18	16	22	16	25	31	17	15	327
	Male	1	4	3	4	3	3	18	20	22	5	4	32	16	4	24	34	25	19	21	22	21	27	20	21	362
Prince Rupert	Female	1	3	4	9	4	11	43	53	32	8	9	68	67	10	57	44	31	31	40	46	35	38	20	31	688
	Male		4	3	7	2	15	25	57	29	8	13	83	62	15	55	41	22	29	47	42	42	31	20	26	878
Prince Rupert Affiliated	Female		1	1	2	2	6	17	26	9	4	3	17	29	3	15	26	20	21	19	12	9	14	9	5	265
	Male		1	2		1	4	12	23	13	6	3	17	17	8	17	18	13	16	21	15	8	14	3	3	232
Terrace	Female	4	3	9	11	18	16	77	70	86	7	17	53	65	15	69	66	25	27	26	26	24	16	8	15	744
	Male	3	6	14	17	12	19	71	88	64	13	20	61	80	8	63	60	48	33	37	29	20	24	6	8	789
Terrace Affiliated	Female	1	1	3	4	4	6	21	38	21	6	8	28	35	3	20	29	29	23	19	18	17	10	7	8	383
	Male	2	2	4	1	5	7	30	43	27	6	12	41	33	6	22	32	18	19	22	8	10	7	8	9	377
Vancouver	Female	1	0	4	0	4	9	46	55	27	5	15	74	63	15	45	61	47	50	48	45	42	36	22	26	747
	Male	3	2	6	5	4	8	47	58	42	15	11	51	66	8	50	57	41	36	45	41	26	14	15	12	655
Vancouver Affiliated	Female	2	3	2	3	3	4	18	23	15	6	2	32	29	9	24	28	13	25	22	21	11	14	9	11	325
	Male	1	1	6	4	8	5	18	32	20	4	8	32	23	8	22	22	19	14	17	8	10	3			312
Unknown Address	Female							1	3	1	1		2	7	1	1	3	5	8	8	1	8	3			86
	Male							1	3	1	1	4	4	1	7	5	4	11	5	6	1	2	1			58
USA	Female												1	6	11	1	7	8	10	9	8	6	7	11	14	118
	Male												5	9	3	7	8	12	4	6	9	7	11	3	8	98
Total		23	48	70	84	95	126	532	737	445	115	341	671	688	130	595	828	491	487	495	441	394	388	255	268	8500

Unknown address means correspondence was mailed and returned undeliverable. Addresses can be updated by email: npid@nisgaanation.ca

**Access To Justice Department
NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT**

Vision

Involve every Nisga'a citizen in promoting the safety of our communities by building on the strengths of individuals, families and communities.

Mission

Reflect and empower Nisga'a Ayuuk (Nisga'a law) in all aspects of our livelihood including the justice system.

Goal

To empower the Nisga'a house system (huwilp) to be involved in resolution of issues a house may be facing, whether it is with the Canadian Justice System, family, community, or school; with the ultimate goal of having long houses in each community where each house will return to resolve conflict, celebrate successes and provide a place for ceremonies.

Program Description

The Access to Justice Department manages the programs under the administration of Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Access to Justice Department receives funding through contribution agreements from: the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (Corrections Branch); Attorney General and Minister of Justice (the Province); Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Department provides

justice related services to the communities of: Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihkw and Gitlaxt'aamiks.

The **ABORIGINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM** assists in the monitoring of adults on supervision orders with BC's Correction Branch, liaises between Nisga'a communities and the Canadian justice system, encourages the revival of traditional Nisga'a ways of resolving conflict; and ensures Nisga'a communities have access to relevant legal information and services.

The **LISIMS NASS VALLEY RCMP VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM** provides emotional support to victims of crime during their recovery and involvement with the justice process, information about the justice system, and liaises with Crown Counsel to assist with court orientation.

The **YUUHLIMKASKW PROGRAM** (Restorative Justice) provides culturally appropriate alternative justice solutions. Yuuhlimkaskw (a Nisga'a way of counseling, guiding, cautioning, and supporting community members), is a proactive approach which involves the community exploring the underlying causes of problem behavior.

Client Confidentiality

All information a client gives to the Access to Justice Department staff is kept confidential and will not disclose any client information to a third party unless that disclosure is authorized by the client.

**Strategies developed that meet the needs of our clients and their families & empower people with information and tools:
Lip Wilaa Loom**

The Nisga'a Access to Justice, Nisga'a Child & Family, Nisga'a Nations Designated representative office and Nisga'a Language and Culture Directorate embarked on a project to incorporate Lip Wilaa Loom (our traditional ways of being and practices) into the justice systems. Through this consultation with Simgigat ganhl Sigidim-haanaq' we will identify and develop processes to strengthen support through connecting best practices of our traditional responses.

The ultimate vision is for all matters to be transferred to the Wilp system. The Wilp system provides guidance, connection to family, and more connection and accountability to their behavior. The Wilp system will be involved in creating wellness plans for their members, and members will then be accountable to their Wilp.

Safety Programs with Youth

Facilitated safety programs to youth in partnership with Ayuuk Nisga'a, Nisga'a school in partnership with Nisga'a Valley health and Nisga'a Child and Family: programs include safety in relationships, internet safety and exploitation.

Homelessness Project

December 2023, we initiated and collaborated with NLG programs and services to do an outreach and connect with the homeless citizens on the streets of Terrace.

**Access to Justice
Department Staff**

FAITH TAIT

Justice Department Manager
Restorative Justice
Phone: (250) 633-3070
Located in the Nisga'a Lisims
Government office

MILLIE PERCIVAL

Victim Services Coordinator
Phone: (250) 633-3012
Located in the Nisga'a Lisims
Government office

MARIETTA MCKAY

Youth Justice
Phone: (250) 633-3062
Located in the Laxgalts'ap Village
Government office

**Nisga'a Child & Family
Services (NCFS)
Organization Information**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is maintaining the Nisga'a Family using Ayuukhl Nisga'a to ensure the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and cultural well-being of all Nisga'a children.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Working with Nisga'a families means that families should be involved in the planning and delivery of services to Nisga'a families including the parents and children. Services need to be planned and provided to the family to ensure that the cultural, social, and physical well-being of Nisga'a children is paramount while ensuring that their safety and wellbeing is central to planning.

PROGRAM UPDATES

DELEGATED SOCIAL WORKERS

Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) provides Child Safety, Guardianship, Resources, and Support Services for Nisga'a families. The agency strengthens families to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children in the least intrusive way possible, consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and polices.

Nisga'a Child and Family Services provides services in our Delegated Service Delivery Area that consists of on Nisga'a Lands and in the Northwest Corridor (Terrace & Prince Rupert). We are given Delegation from Provincial Aboriginal Policy and Service Support of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

Nisga'a Child and Family Services on Nisga'a Lands has been responsible for full Child Safety Delegated (C6) work since May 01, 2017. This includes all Delegated services from Child Safety (C6), Guardianship (C4), and Resources & Support Services (C3).

Nisga'a Child and Family Services offices in Terrace and Prince Rupert are delegated to C4 and are responsible for the delivery of services in the Northwest Corridor. Both offices are responsible for Guardianship (C4), Resources and Support Services (C3).

Nisga'a Child and Family Services strives to work in collaboration with partnering agencies, service

providers, and community. We continue to host annual community consultations in the 4 Communities on Nisga'a Lands, Terrace, and Prince Rupert. We have monthly meetings with Terrace MCFD to ensure planning for our mutual clients is in collaboration. We also reach out to other resources such as School District 92, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, and the Village Governments plus services in the Terrace area to have wrap around services for our families that we service.

Practice is shifting to where NCFS is working with families that need support to break the cycle of trauma responses, such as domestic violence, addiction, mental health, and general neglect. NCFS workers are developing working relationships to ensure we have no children taken into care under the court system. In the past two years we have been able to create agreements with parents and family members to ensure their children are with approved family members while the parents focus on their wellness. This approach is to have family involved in the planning and caring for their families has proven to work and is the least intrusive option for the children.

Foster parent recruitment is ongoing by our resource teams in the Nass Valley, Terrace, and Prince Rupert. In taking on the C6 delegated child safety work, it became evident that more homes were needed to provide the care and support of children needing to leave their family home and allow

for these children to remain in the community. The volume of work to develop foster homes along with continuing to support our foster homes as per delegated practice Standards, is vast.

Resource Social Workers work on recruiting and completing SAFE home studies (Structured Analysis Family Evaluation) on potential foster home and respite homes. This home study is a delegated responsibly to ensure that foster homes offer the best of care to those children that are unable to remain at home. The Resource worker also supports foster homes already in existence. The child safety team works with those child (ren) and youth who come into temporary care of NCFS in the Nass Valley, acting as their guardian and making decisions around the child's ongoing care and safety.

Permanency planning with family or within community is the focus areas for NCFS. This is accomplished by approaching family members, grandparents, great grandparents, aunties, uncles, and other extended family to determine if they can be a foster home or become an out of care option for their family member.

All NCFS office provide Guardianship to children/youth who are in Continual Custody of the Director. Children who have been identified by MCFD as unable to return to parents have their files transferred to NCFS for ongoing support after there is a Continuing Custody Order granted by the Courts. Once a Nisga'a child's file is received, the Guardianship worker at Nisga'a

Child and Family Services immediately begins permanency planning for Nisga'a children. Permanency planning is premised on the fact that every child deserves a forever family to care for them until they age out at 19 years old.

The Guardianship Social Workers do excellent work in looking after the needs of children on their case load to ensure that the needs of the children are being met with the utmost diligence. NCFS recognizes that Culture is a Nisga'a child's inherent foundation to life, which will impact their understanding of their traditional language, spirituality, and rich heritage. The cultural plan for Nisga'a children in care provides a guide for those involved in planning for the child and represents a commitment to ensuring that each Nisga'a child in the care of the NCFS is connected to his or her culture.

NCFS as a delegated agency will be providing the new SAJE aging out program that will be offered to youth and young adults, who have been in the care of the Director, to support them until they are 27 years of age.

Practice now includes our work with Indigenous communities and providing notice of significant measures and / or abiding by the Indigenous community Coordination Agreement and / or Indigenous Jurisdiction Laws. This is to ensure that they are all Indigenous Communities have knowledge of the family's situation when involved with a delegated agency

and to have the ability to participate in the planning for their family and children within their Cultural and Jurisdiction Laws.

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Our Family Group Conference Coordinator (FGC) works alongside the NCFS and MCFD social workers to help find family that may be potential caregivers for children removed from their parents and will provide guidance for families to create family plans.

Other meetings that FGC facilitates is aging out planning meetings, end of file family meetings, family planning meetings to address ongoing concerns lead by social workers, and any meetings that are circumstantial to family planning.

Support Services Programs within Nisga'a Child & Family Services

NISGA'A INFANT DEVELOPMENT (NIDP)

NIDP works in the four Nisga'a Communities, Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx. The primary focus is supporting families in understanding and meeting the needs of infant and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities.

Referrals are accepted from parents, Head Start, Nursery School or any Medical Practitioners.

The eligibility criteria for NIDP are infants 0 to 3 years:

- + Established risk – diagnosed medical disorder.
- + Biological risk – infants that have a history of prenatal, perinatal, neonatal, and/or early developmental events that may affect their central nervous system and result in developmental difficulties.
- + Psychosocial risk – infants who have a statistically increased probability of development because of individual susceptibilities aggravated by environments in which there may be inadequate response to the infant’s physical development and/or social emotional needs.

NIDP offers Baby Massage, Parent Child Mother Goose, Baby Food Making, Nobody’s Perfect, Mom’s Pop’s & Tot’s, Swimming program, Elder Involvement, and one on one caseloads on a weekly and monthly basis.

NISGA’A SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT (NSCD)

NSCD work in Gitlaxt’aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts’ap, and Gingolx. Their primary focus is through Nisga’a culture, values, and traditions. NSCD support families and childcare setting with

the development and inclusion of children who have physical, emotional, mental, social development developmental delays or disabilities. NSCD assist families and childcare providers in planning for individual and/ or groups of children to ensure their inclusion in day-to-day activities. NSCD activities include home visits, after-school activities, and cultural field trips such as food preservation.

Referrals are accepted from parents, Head Start, Nursery, Schools, or any Medical Practitioners.

FAMILY SKILLS WORKERS (FSW)

NCFS has three Family Skills Workers who serve the four Nisga’a Communities and one who serves Terrace, Prince Rupert, and Kitimat.

Referrals to the program come directly from Nisga’a Child and Family Social Workers. Most activities are home visits, one to one parenting programs, support parent child groups, and supporting access between parents and children. The Family Skills program supports the work of the Social Workers with our mutual clients with goals that enhance their parenting.

Information Sessions

HEALTH

Date	Location
April 9	Gingolx Wilp Sayt K’il’im Goot 301 Front Street
April 17 (Rescheduled)	Laxgalts’ap LCC Cafeteria 441 Church Avenue

Date	Location
April 16	Gitwinksihlkw GVG Boardroom 3004 Ts’oohl Ts’ap Avenue
April 18	Gitlaxt’aamiks Gitmidiik Auditorium 5216 Tait Avenue

NLG has a service delivery agreement with the Nisga’a Valley Health Authority. The Nisga’a Valley Health Authority is the Health Authority responsible for helping Nisga’a and non-Nisga’a citizens residing on Nisga’a lands maintain and improve their health. The Nisga’a Valley Health Authority Board of Directors works directly with the Nisga’a Lisims Government Executive to ensure the Nation’s health care system serves the needs of Nisga’a and non-Nisga’a citizens who reside in the Nass Valley.





Directorate of Language & Culture

Esther K'yo'o Adams
DIRECTOR

LUU-AM-AAMHL ÇAÇOODIM WIL BAKWSIM. K'oomaxgumhl hilthl aguhl dim guudisim yukwhl gilmuwirim loosim sa tgun. We're happy that you are here. We hope that you will have lots to take away as you listen to our reports.

Background

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

As a follow-up to the 2022 report, Nisga'a Lisims Government was granted funding through Indigenous Languages and Culture Program – Indigenous Language Component for the program “Revitalizing Nisga'a Cultural Identity by Preserving and Strengthening the Nisga'a Language. The funding contribution agreement is to support Nisga'a nation's activities and programming to reclaim, revitalize, maintain, and strengthen our language. The duration of the fixed contribution agreement was April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023. Many challenges were met in the efforts to work within the contribution agreement and timelines, COVID being the biggest.

In March 2023 the fixed contribution agreement was amended to

a flexible contribution agreement which ends on March 31, 2025.

2023 to Current

The scope of the language revitalization project through the contribution agreement offers opportunity to enhance the collection of language and cultural material resources to support and preserve historical documentation to safeguard the documentation but also digitize material so that it can be accessible to Nisga'a when needed. Our work to date, meets the funding requirements and demonstrates the need for continued funding to eternity.

The Director for Language and Culture was hired in November 2022. The Language and Culture Directorate was formalized via Executive Resolution in July 2023 and the transition of staff was completed in September 2023. Our team members are:

- + **ESTHER ADAMS**, Director
- + **LYDIA STEPHENS**, Language & Culture Program Manager
- + **NITA MORVEN**, Ayuukhl Nisga'a Sr. Researcher
- + **CONNIE AZAK**, Ayuukhl Nisga'a Researcher
- + **CINDY CLAYTON**, Records Management Technician
- + **DESTINEE CLAYTON**, Administrative Support
- + **KATHERINE CLAYTON** Data Entry Clerk

We contract various positions as needed.

Ayuukhl Nisga'a archives are under the Directorate and we provide administrative support to the Council of Elders.

The Language and Culture staff work out of Raven House in New Aiyansh. We are currently setting up the resources in a library which will be accessible by the public.

When the lease agreement with SD 92 (Nisga'a) was signed, they agreed that we oversee and manage the language resources that are housed in Raven House. The language resources, which we refer to as the Bi & Bi Collection and SD 92 (Nisga'a) Collection date back to when Bi & Bi began in the late 70's, so the dialect reflects lip wilaa loomh – our way of being. We are forever indebted to SD 92 (Nisga'a) for agreeing to share the resources. This is being formalized through a sharing agreement.

Interim Language & Culture Authority

The process of formalizing the interim language and culture authority is ongoing. We want to ensure that we follow through with the resolution as presented by the elders in September 17, 2007: that there be a stand alone Nisga'a language and culture authority. We must also consider

the President’s statement in 2014 when the Language and Culture Authority founding members were appointed, that the authority will be non-political. This is reiterated by the current President.

To achieve this, we must acknowledge the role of Council of Elders as set out in Nisga’a legislation and that is to advise Nisga’a Lisims Government on matters relating to Nisga’a ayuuk as it pertains to government initiatives. We also must respect the role of the Simgigat ganhl Sigidim-haanak of each wilp and their authority regarding their ang’oskw, traditional names, ayuuk, yuuhlimk’askw and other matters. Only then can we define the role of the authority and proceed with formalizing the authority. The vetting committee has been actively vetting language content in existing resources.

Once the authority is formalized, the following committees and other working groups will be put in place:

- + Vetting committee: vetting of language content for authentication
- + Technical committee: language act, policies and procedures, terms of reference, copyright, a Nisga’a language authority to measure fluency,
- + Steering committee: suggest language programs and initiatives

Language Programs & Initiatives

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- + Digitize Ksiiskw documentary
- + Reprint Yuuhlimk’askw series booklets – insert audio recording of Nisga’a language content with English translation.

IN PROGRESS

- + Reprint Nisga’a Phrase Dictionary in hardcover
- + Produce an audio recording of contents of Nisga’a Phrase Dictionary
- + Sim’algax 101 social media interactive language learning (includes weekly zoom sessions)
- + animation projects
- + Nisga’a language app
- + Through stakeholder engagement, we would like to plan for:
 - + Language house
 - + Language nests
 - + Community language picnics
 - + Language immersion
 - + Talking circles
- + Land-based and experiential language learning

Other Projects & Initiatives

- + Web site construction: provide a one stop shop for access to resources and language learning tools, pod casts, zoom talking circles, language learning opportunities,
- + obtain streaming rights to video publications (continuing)
- + permission to reproduce and distribute video publications (ongoing)
- + digitization of audio and video recordings (ongoing)
- + digitization of language resources (ongoing)

Our goal is to have 100% fluent Nisga’a speakers.

Long-term plans

Video documentary: Lip wilaa loon, lip ayuugam, lip algaxam, portraying Nisga’a people on Nisga’a lands and with a Nisga’a narrator.

Support to Stakeholders

- + Nisga’a Urban Locals: Gitmaxmak’ay, Gitlaxdax and Ts’amiks.
- + Nisga’a Child and Family Services
- + Office of the Designated Representative
- + Access to Justice Department
- + Hli Goothl Wilp Adokshl Nisga’a
- + SD 92 (Nisga’a) – land-based learning initiatives and supporting curriculum developer and elder in residence (we’ve had classes visiting and engaging in discussions)
- + Nisga’a Valley Health Authority

Adhoc Requests

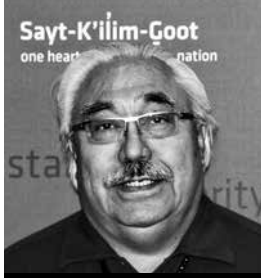
- + Laxgalts’ap daycare
- + Laxgalts’ap Village Government Administration
- + Coast Mountain School District
- + UBC Fish 101
- + Ksi Lisims LNG

Ayuukhl Nisga’a Archives & Research Team

- + The Ayuukhl Nisga’a archives policy and procedure and the Access to Information form have now been transferred to in-house legal counsel for review. In the meantime, we are utilizing the interim documents.
- + The research team continues to research to support the litigation process.
- + As collections are received, our Records Management Technician proceeds with inventory, categorizing and cataloguing.

Closing

Way ga’asirhhl gasgoohl hahlalshl dii jabim ts’im directorate. Gagetkw. ii wii t’is wil dip t’ooyaks dip nidiit an hlimumim yukwhl wilim.



Directorate of Fisheries & Wildlife

Sim'oogit Hleek / Harry Nyce Sr.
DIRECTOR

WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR REPORT on Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department program activities from 2022 to 2023. Since our last report in 2022, many activities have been successfully undertaken, helping to ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife populations in the Nass Area for all Nisga'a citizens to enjoy now and in the future.

Each year, Nisga'a citizens continue to become more knowledgeable about our treaty, fish and wildlife regulations, and program activities over the past 24 years of implementing the Nisga'a Treaty. In understanding and sharing a vision for the sustainable management of our fish and wildlife resources, our people share in the success of our program and guide our future.

This report summarizes Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department activities for the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024, demonstrating our performance and fiscal responsibility in administrating these activities.

Fisheries

The Nisga'a Fisheries Program is now entering its 34th year (one of the longest active First Nation fisheries programs in Canada) and celebrating a long history of fisheries scientific datasets that are

used to manage northern salmon fisheries. Starting in 1992, the award-winning program has helped protect the fisheries resources of K'ali Aksim Lisims while providing long-term sustainable fisheries by utilizing proven traditional techniques as well as modern innovative science. Wherever possible, Nisga'a Traditional Knowledge continues to be integrated into the program from fishers and elders taking advantage of generations of proven sustainable practices. The Nisga'a Nation's fisheries knowledge and experiences with managing fisheries were recently shared in a book (chapter 3), "This Place is Who We Are" by Katherine Palmer Gordon that was sponsored by Coast Funds and published in 2023.

Over the years, the fisheries program has been a significant employer of Nisga'a citizens, averaging 45 individuals since 1992 and employing 23 in 2022 and 31 in 2023 to conduct 25-30 annual fisheries projects. The employment of Nisga'a citizens is a primary goal of the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, established when the Nisga'a Treaty started in 2000 to provide annual funding from interest accrued, that promotes and supports Nisga'a participation in the stewardship of Nass Area fisheries and management. During the period of 2022-2023 project activities, NFWD was managed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife

(Sim'oogit Hleek – Harry Nyce Sr.), and supported by Coastal Projects Manager (Blair Stewart), Fisheries Biologist (Niva Percival), fisheries and wildlife biologists from LGL Limited, and many fisheries and wildlife technical and administrative staff.

Of the fisheries and wildlife technical and administrative staff that worked from 2022 to 2023, several individuals were employed by the fisheries program for: 1. over 30 years including Tim Angus (32 years), Ben Gonu Jr. (31 years), and Reggie Robinson (31 years in 2022), 2. over 20 years including April Angus (29 years), Tanya Clayton (25 years), Kirby Guno (24 years), and Ben Gonu Sr. (23 years), and 3. over 15 years including Brian Adams (19 years), Nicole Morven (16 years), Gary Gonu (15 years), and Larry Azak (15 years).

The annual goals of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program are to:

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

4. Determine factors limiting healthy salmon and non-salmon production in the Nass watershed.
5. Provide training and employment for Nisga'a citizens.

Core annual Nisga'a Treaty projects have been funded by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, Fiscal Financing Agreement with Canada, and Nisga'a Lisims Government. The annual projects conducted in 2022 and 2023 included:

- + Program planning, coordination, and support to conducting 25-30 fisheries projects each year.
- + Fishwheels (tagging, biological assessment (age, sex, size, genetics), and population estimates).
- + Salmon and non-salmon catch monitoring.
- + Oolichan catch monitoring.
- + Oolichan spawning stock biomass assessments (i.e., egg/larvae counting).
- + Dungeness Crab assessment studies.
- + Ts'oohl Ts'ap juvenile and adult coho counting fences.
- + Meziadin fishway salmon counts.
- + Kwinageese video counting weir.
- + Gingit and other non-Meziadin sockeye escapement surveys.
- + Lower and coastal Nass coho, pink, and chum escapement surveys.
- + Crew training (e.g., first aid, Swiftwater rescue).

Additional projects were funded by contracts in 2022 and 2023 with:

- + **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS:** 1. Nass Area shellfish biotoxin monitoring project (all years), 2. Area 3 Charter Patrol (all years), 3. Nass Area coho salmon genetic sampling and mark-recapture tag recovery projects (2022-2023), 4. DFO's Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP) projects: Nass marine juvenile salmon and eelgrass assessments (2022), 5. DFO's net pen engagement review (2022-2023), 6. DFO's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program's (FFHPP) habitat policy reviews (2023), and 7. DFO's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) Nisga'a salmon catch App model transformation project (2023 - Year 1 of 3).
- + **MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND & RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP (FLNRORD):** summer-run steelhead population estimates, Dolly Varden tagging, and Meziadin Bull Trout acoustic/Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging projects (2022-2023).
- + **PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION:** Sockeye and chinook DNA studies (2022-2023), chinook tagging/population and escapement projects including Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging (2022-2023); lower/coastal Nass Area pink, chum, and chinook escapement surveys (2022-2023).
- + **COAST FUNDS:** Nass marine juvenile salmon project (2022).

- + **PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION:** Nass salmon and steelhead population status report and online updating to the Pacific Salmon Explorer (<https://salmonexplorer.ca/#!/nass>) showing Nass Area salmon and steelhead status (2022-2023).

Nass River Salmon Returns

Nass River salmon returns in 2022 and 2023 were the 18th and 2nd best returns in 33 years, respectively (Table 1). Total run sizes were 1.7 and 3.7 million salmon returning respectively in 2022 and 2023. Most (67%) of the salmon returns from 2023 were pink salmon which represented the highest return in a 33-year period and was 3.4 times larger than average (Table 1). Prior to 2022, Nass salmon returns were impacted due to poor marine ocean survival and growing conditions from extreme warm ocean temperatures that occurred from 2014 to 2016 including the "warm water blob" phenomena in 2015. Nass sockeye salmon returns from 2022 to 2023 were the 17th and 15th best of 33 years of return, respectively, averaging 638,000 total run size and well below average (765,000). The forecasted salmon returns in 2024 are predicted to be the 21st best of 33 years (Table 1) with 1.6 million Nass salmon predicted to return and below average (1.9 million). All Nisga'a citizens should take pride for their part in supporting a tremendously successful fisheries program over the last 32 years with Nass salmon escapement (spawning) goals being reached in most return years with continued rebuilding of Nass Area chum and chinook salmon stocks (Figure 1).

The relatively low returns of Nass sockeye over the past five years resulted in lower Nisga'a annual entitlements (33,000-103,000 (2023) vs. 80,000 average) for Nass sockeye and fewer economic fisheries opportunities in the individual sale fisheries that only occurred in 2022 and 1,500 sockeye were harvested and sold in 2023. For 2024 forecast projections for Nass salmon, 166,000 salmon (range: 105,000 to 253,000) may be available for food fisheries and potential sale opportunities.

2022 & 2023 Highlights – Fisheries

- + Successfully implemented 24 fisheries projects (including 10 contracts) in 2022 and 25 fisheries projects (including 10 contracts) in 2023 that enabled the monitoring of salmon returns to the Nass River and to Nass Area streams.
- + Projects conducted in 2022 and 2023 included high technology with the use of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags for assessing upper Nass

Chinook salmon individual passage through Meziadin fishway and Kwinageese weir facilities. Several Nass marine studies (juvenile salmon and eelgrass) were conducted in 2022 and 2023.

- + The Nass sockeye genetic program continued in 2022 and 2023 including DNA analyses of 10 sub-stocks and reconstructions of returns over 40 years (1982-2022) as funded by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

Table 1. Total run size estimates of Nass River salmon from 1992-2023 & forecasted for 2024 including 33-year ranking of best years.

Year	Sockeye	Pink	Chinook	Coho	Chum	Total Salmon	Steelhead	Sockeye	Pink	Chinook	Coho	Chum	Total Salmon	Steelhead
1992	1,960,000	392,000	37,200	305,000	67,000	2,761,200	9,000	2	23	11	13	14	4	29
1993	2,151,000	1,205,000	47,700	119,000	323,000	3,845,700	17,000	1	5	3	32	1	1	19
1994	837,000	222,000	45,000	759,000	149,000	2,012,000	13,000	13	27	6	2	4	13	22
1995	1,169,000	1,010,000	22,800	151,000	113,000	2,465,800	6,000	5	9	24	29	7	10	32
1996	1,055,000	370,000	43,700	208,000	61,000	1,937,700	28,000	6	18	7	24	16	15	7
1997	995,000	475,000	38,100	61,000	43,000	1,622,100	22,000	7	20	10	15	18	20	14
1998	712,000	167,000	48,000	134,000	290,000	1,351,000	31,000	13	31	2	31	2	26	5
1999	843,000	1,454,000	30,500	207,000	89,000	2,623,500	23,000	10	4	16	26	9	7	13
2000	625,000	600,000	34,700	208,000	40,000	1,507,700	21,000	16	17	13	24	21	22	17
2001	582,000	2,093,000	52,400	374,000	90,000	3,191,400	27,000	19	2	1	10	8	3	8
2002	1,404,000	693,000	31,800	378,000	32,000	2,538,400	22,000	3	14	15	8	22	8	14
2003	1,177,000	1,155,000	46,200	261,000	87,000	2,726,200	25,000	4	6	4	17	10	5	10
2004	985,000	782,000	33,600	223,000	82,000	2,105,600	11,000	8	12	14	22	12	11	26
2005	667,000	1,523,000	28,300	374,000	42,000	2,634,300	12,000	14	3	18	10	20	6	25
2006	775,000	141,000	45,800	195,000	72,000	1,228,800	7,000	12	32	5	27	13	27	31
2007	602,000	1,015,000	41,300	282,000	21,000	1,961,300	22,000	18	8	8	15	28	14	14
2008	380,000	55,000	30,800	193,000	4,000	662,400	18,000	29	33	17	28	33	33	18
2009	575,000	912,000	40,200	480,000	29,000	2,036,200	47,000	20	11	9	5	23	12	1
2010	439,000	203,000	27,800	277,000	10,000	956,800	25,000	28	28	10	16	31	30	10
2011	557,000	180,000	19,500	209,000	8,000	973,500	30,000	21	30	29	23	32	29	6
2012	477,000	302,000	17,200	255,000	18,000	1,069,200	16,000	26	25	31	18	29	28	20
2013	504,000	1,116,000	16,200	876,000	17,000	2,529,200	11,000	24	7	32	1	30	9	26
2014	553,000	161,000	21,600	141,000	25,000	1,501,600	26,000	22	21	21	6	26	23	9
2015	870,000	457,000	35,200	249,000	62,000	1,673,200	24,000	9	22	12	19	15	19	12
2016	442,000	387,000	19,700	508,000	29,000	1,385,700	34,000	27	24	28	4	23	25	4
2017	369,000	964,000	11,700	370,000	25,000	1,739,700	11,000	31	10	33	12	26	16	26
2018	316,000	286,000	21,100	149,000	50,000	805,100	35,000	32	26	23	30	19	32	2
2019	377,000	190,000	21,000	238,000	29,000	855,000	16,000	30	29	26	20	23	31	20
2020	296,000	776,000	22,100	232,000	114,000	1,440,100	5,000	33	13	25	21	6	24	33
2021	503,000	639,000	21,000	375,000	160,000	1,698,000	9,000	24	15	26	9	3	17	29
2022	623,000	320,000	24,200	398,000	118,000	1,683,200	13,000	17	19	22	7	5	18	22
2023	654,000	2,428,000	18,900	513,000	55,000	3,768,900	35,000	15	1	30	3	17	2	2
2024	530,000	635,000	26,200	294,000	84,000	1,569,200	13,000	23	16	20	14	11	21	22

MEANS:	
92-23	765,000
733,000	31,000
313,000	74,000
1,915,000	20,000

* Color coding from mean averages from 1992-2023. Green - above average, Tan - below average but higher than 1 SD, and Red - below average and lower than 1 SD.

COLOR CODING:	
BEST RETURN:	1
WORST:	33

Good	1-11
Fair	12-21
Poor	22-33

Figure 1. Net escapement (spawning) estimates of Nass River salmon from 1992–2023.



2022 & 2023 Highlights – Fisheries, continued

- + Several DFO policy reviews were conducted by NFWD in 2022 and 2023 including engagements in net-pen aquaculture, habitat policies (offsetting and habitat banking) and restoration priorities, Nass salmon and steelhead population methods using mark-recapture modelling, and Nass sockeye escapement goal review as part

of the Pacific Salmon Treaty review for both Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon.

- + NFWD continued to conduct coastal salmon escapement surveys in the Nass marine Area in 2022 and 2023, primarily Pink, Chum and Coho salmon monitoring that is supported by Pacific Salmon Treaty funding.
- + Rebuilding salmon stocks was a major theme for the Nass River with no commercial gillnet fisheries conducted in 2022 and

2023 to support rebuilding Nass salmon runs. Meziadin Sockeye escapement met and exceeded escapement target in 2022 and 2023 after returns were well below escapement target from 2015 to 2020.

- + Aggregate escapement goals were met for all Nass salmon, except Chinook in 2023 where Chinook stocks continue to have low productivity since 2011.

- + Nisga'a entitlements were well managed with large number of salmon foregone in Nisga'a fisheries in 2022 and 2023 to promote rebuilding of Nass salmon stocks and support DFO's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) launched in 2021.
- + Safe shellfish harvest openings were numerous as informed by biotoxin sampling conducted by NFWD. The Nass oolichan returns were monitored and 152 tonnes was harvested in 2022 and 99 tonnes was harvested in 2023 in the Nisga'a fishery, respectively. The harvests were well below average (194 tonnes) compared to harvests since 1997. NFWD conducted oolichan egg and larvae tows in each of the years to estimate spawning biomass. Most of the Nisga'a harvest of oolichan is after they spawn.
- + Continued training and development of Nisga'a community members in technical and biologist positions.
- + NFWD continued to work with the Nisga'a Treaty Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC) while successfully monitoring annual returns of salmon/steelhead.
- + search projects. The LFCT fund has reached over \$22 million from \$13 million originally invested when Nisga'a Treaty was implemented in 2000, but annual disbursements are approximately \$650,000 (37% of the core program budget) of the \$1.7 million-dollar annual core program.
- + Approach the 2024 season with caution for harvesting Chinook and sockeye salmon that were impacted by poor brood year returns in 2020 and anticipated juvenile production. The Nass sockeye in 2020 was the lowest return in over 40 years (only 296,000 vs. 765,000 average).
- + Continue to promote the rebuilding of salmon runs to Kwinageese River for salmon and steelhead from previous blocked runs by implementing measures to reduce harvest impacts on these stocks.
- + Continue rebuilding Nass area chum stocks and reaching escapement goal (45,000) on an annual basis.
- + Continue to review DFO's Wild Salmon Policy and Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) conditions from 2010-2015 for all species by assessing stock status and determining biologically based escapement goals for recommending conservation unit benchmarks for Nass salmon stocks.
- + Continue to build knowledge base for Nass Area marine waters and non-salmon species to support future Nisga'a Treaty negotiations including learning new population assessment methodologies in assessing Halibut, crab, and prawn and shrimp populations in Nass marine areas.
- + The departure of the NFWD Fisheries Manager and Wildlife Biologist in 2021 has left vacancies that will need to be filled in the future as well as technical staff positions that are becoming more challenging to fill each year.
- + Continue to promote Nisga'a post-secondary education in fisheries. Approximately \$200,000 is available from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund (through donations made by LGL Limited) to fund post secondary education for Nisga'a citizens interested in becoming Fisheries Biologists.

Key Areas of Concern or Priorities for 2024 & future – Fisheries

- + Continue to secure base level funding support to Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund projects to annually fund core escapement projects in the future from the fund's interest to protect Nass salmon returns and support contracted re-

Wildlife & Migratory Birds

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

The Nisga'a Wildlife Program is administered by the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department of Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Nass Wildlife Committee is a tripartite body comprising members from the Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia, and Canada.

In accordance with the Nisga'a Treaty, the Committee addresses matters of wildlife and migratory bird conservation and management in the Nass Wildlife Area and Nass Area, respectively. The Committee meets twice a year and reviews population and harvest-monitoring data to inform wildlife and migratory birds management, including making annual recommendations to the Minister regarding total allowable harvests of designated species (i.e., moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear). In addition, the Committee prepares an Annual Management Plan for wildlife and migratory bird harvests, including identification of Nisga'a harvesters as well as species-specific harvest methods, timing, location, and monitoring. To track the harvest of designated species by Nisga'a harvesters, NLG uses a permit system for moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear.

Highlights of the Nisga'a Wildlife Program – 2022–2023:

- + The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife (Sim'oogit Hleek – Harry Nyce Sr.) continued his role as Co-Chair of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council.
- + Moose in the Nass Wildlife Area are counted by surveyors in helicopters every 4–6 years. With an estimated 1159 moose in the Nass Wildlife Area, results of the survey in January 2023 suggested that the moose population is recovering from the lows observed during the 2007 and 2011 and shows a stable trend since the 2017 survey.
- + Although the number of Nisga'a harvesters applying for a moose permit exceeds the number of permits available (96), the number of moose harvested by Nisga'a harvesters (8) is well below the Nisga'a Allocation (44). Note that numbers are for the 2022–23 hunting season.
- + The number of mountain goats and grizzly bears harvested by

- Nisga'a harvesters remains well below the Nisga'a allocation of those designated species.
- + Designated species harvest monitoring is ongoing.
- + Based on incidental sightings during the 2023 moose survey, the wolf population in the Nass Wildlife Area appears to be very healthy.
- + The Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department continues to be involved in provincial initiatives such as the *Wildlife Act* review and the Xadaa (Moose) Ungulate Winter Range project in that part of the Kispiox Timber Supply Area overlapping the Nass Wildlife Area.
- + The Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department continues to be involved in federal initiatives such as those concerning species at risk in the Nass Area.

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





Directorate of Lands & Resources

Mansell Griffin
DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTORATE OF LANDS AND RESOURCES, over the past couple of years, continues to be heavily involved in Environmental Assessment processes in addition to working to keep alive the prospect of a natural gas pipeline, development of the Ksi Lisims LNG project at Wil Milit (aka Whiskey Bay), planning of its associated Transmission Line, development of the draft *Nisga'a Environmental Assessment Act* and numerous other facets of land and land title management on Nisga'a Lands as well as the broader Nass Area

As previously reported, understanding, maintaining, and even enhancing the environmental and cultural impacts of all projects both on Nisga'a Lands and within the entire Nass Area, remains a primary land management goal, regardless of the project. Our staff works tirelessly to review and respond to the mountain of referrals, reports, projects, and interests for any project within the Nass Area, from large complex federal environmental assessments to small projects like the issuance of road permits. The processes have been in place for several years and while they must constantly evolve, they have remained consistent with the original goals and objective of the Nass Area Strategy. We strive to always remember who owns the land, its importance to Nisga'a Citizens, maintaining

our obligations under the Treaty and the constitution of the Nisga'a Nation.

There continue to be staffing challenges, and successes. At a staffing level we have had a number of changes and we continue to grow to meet the challenges ahead. Since our last update:

- + Our former administrative assistant, Kimberly MacDonald, has left Lands and Resources and Nicole Sampare is our new Administrative Assistant;
- + In the Lands Dept we have two new faces: Christian Stevens and Reg Robinson are Heritage Resource Officers ;
- + For the Forest Resources Dept we continue to struggle to find staff and at the time of writing are in the process of hiring Initial Attack (IA) crew members and a Fire Warden.
- + In the Nisga'a Land Title Office there have been a few changes. We have a new Registrar of Land Titles – Stacy Maurier, and a new Registry Clerk – Alyssa Lewis.

Departments & staff within the Directorate include:

1. Directors Office:

- + **MANSELL GRIFFIN**, Director of Lands and Resources

- + **NICOLE SAMPARE**, Administrative Assistant.

2. Lands Department:

- + **DAVID CASSIDY**, Lands Manager
- + **TRACEY MCKAY**, Supervisor, Lands Administration
- + **KATHRYN MCLEOD**, Lands Officer (on leave)
- + **JOHN-FRANCIS LANE**, Lands Officer
- + **REG ROBINSON**, Heritage Resource Officer
- + **CHRISTIAN STEVENS**, Heritage Resource Officer

3. Forest Resources Department:

- + **RODNEY MOORE**, Forest Resources Manager,
- + Nisga'a Resource Officer (vacant)
- + Nisga'a Resource Officer (vacant)
- + Fire Warden (soon to be filled)
- + IA crew members (soon to be filled)

4. GIS Department

- + **LIAM WOODFORD**, GIS Technician

5. Land Title Office

- + **STACY MAURIER**, Registrar of Land Titles
- + **ALYSSA LEWIS**, Registry Clerk

Lands Department

The Lands Department is responsible for the implementation of the Lands, Access and Roads and Rights of Way chapters of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. *The Nisga'a Land Act, Nisga'a Lands Designation Act and Nisga'a Highway Construction Act* are the primary legislative documents that regulate the use, management and ownership of Nisga'a Lisims Lands (Lands not registered in the Nisga'a Land Title Office), although other acts also include provisions that affect Nisga'a Lands.

The Lands Department is organized into a number of program units. Overall management is the responsibility of the Lands Manager, although specific tasks within program areas are assigned to Lands staff in accordance with their interest and training. Program areas are linked to the approved budget of Nisga'a Lisims Government, and through the budget to the priorities established by Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a. All staff members are responsible for keeping their projects within approved budgets.

The Lands Department has been involved in regional land use planning, maintaining communication with the local Highways staff regarding the maintenance of Hwy 113, working with the Oil and Gas Commission's (now called the BC Energy Regulator) natural resource sector aboriginal liaison program, evaluating referrals from BC and Canada and participating in Environmental Assessments.

LAND MANAGEMENT

As part of Land Management for Nisga'a Lands we install and maintain signage, conduct land use planning, maintain the various land use plans we have for Nisga'a Lands and our fee simple properties, conduct inspections on our properties and on tenures on Nisga'a Lands and review the ongoing Boundary survey's being undertaken by BC (such as the Nisga'a Highway Corridor surveys).

LISIMS LAND REGISTRY

The Lisims Land Registry is the record of all interests in Nisga'a Lands granted by the Nisga'a Nation. We have had relatively little activity in the Lands Registry these past few years.

INSPECTIONS

We periodically inspect land tenures such as the various Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and Village operated quarries or the Landfill and we annually inspect our fee simple properties. As our properties are currently undeveloped inspection largely consists of inspecting for evidence of trespass and where there are existing buildings inspecting to determine safety of the structures.

LAND USE PLANNING:

HLGU ISGWIT HOTSPRINGS

- + We now have two staff who work at the site to provide access every day of the week and some evenings.
- + We are working collaboratively with the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) to provide access for a number of wellness programs to benefit the health and wellness of our Citizens and their families.

NISGA'A ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LEGISLATION

NLG is currently reviewing draft Environmental Assessment legislation in accordance with Chapter 10 of the Treaty. The Act has been prepared to a draft stage and at the time of writing we are in the midst of the process of consultations with each Village and Urban government. Reviews are also planned with the Lands and Resources Committee prior to it moving forward to the Executive and ultimately to Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a for its consideration and approval.

NISGA'A HIGHWAY

Although the Nisga'a Highway is excluded from Nisga'a Lands, there is a range of issues associated with the highway that require involvement of Lands staff. Some of these issues include:

PERMITS

The on-going construction and maintenance projects associated with the Highway create a need to permit contractors, MoTI employees, B.C. Hydro employees and others to undertake works on Nisga'a Lands. This use can range from the storage of equipment or materials to the siting and permitting of asphalt plants or other temporary facilities. Permits are issued for each use in order to manage liability issues avoid land or resource use conflicts.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has the right to access gravel on Nisga'a Lands for the purposes of maintaining the Nisga'a Highway. This access is managed through a series of

gravel management plans that are approved by Nisga'a Lisims Government. This ensures that gravel is available for both the Ministry of Transportation and its contractors and Nisga'a citizens and villages. NLG is working with MoTI to ensure the gravel management plans will work for both MoTI and the Nisga'a Nation in the long term.

EMIL ANDERSON MAINTENANCE

NLG continues to work closely with the highway maintenance contractor.

CRANBERRY FOREST SERVICE ROAD

Efforts continue to see this road upgraded and made part of the Nisga'a Highway – with limited success to date. Please be careful on this road.

BRIDGES

We continue to work toward the goal of having all of the single lane bridges on the Nisga'a Highway upgraded. A new design for the bridge at the bottom of the hill where the Highway crosses Ksi Sii Aks, near Gitlaxt'aamiks has been completed. Staff at MoTI are now in the process of seeking budgetary approval to construct the bridge. Unfortunately this is unchanged from our report two years ago.

Evaluating Referrals & Participating in Environmental Assessments

We routinely receive referrals for Notices of Work for mineral exploration and land tenure applications for tenure on Crown Lands from EMLI (Energy Mines and Low Carbon Initiative), MoF (Ministry of Forests) and DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) – all within the Nass Area. Of these we

typically ask for more information regarding impacts to our Treaty Interests (such as fish and wildlife) and what benefits will accrue from these projects to Nisga'a Citizens (such as employment and contract opportunities). We are slowly starting to see more and more Nisga'a Citizens being afforded and taking up these opportunities in the mineral exploration industry.

Nass Stewardship Protocol (NSP)

We continue to work with BC to complete this protocol to ensure that the environmental reviews of permits and decisions that are outside the formal Environmental Assessment process are done in accordance with the relevant Treaty provisions and take appropriately into account any impacts to Nisga'a Lands, residents of Nisga'a Lands and Nisga'a Treaty Interests. (progress on this file has been very slow these past couple years).

KSM MINE

The company, Seabridge Gold, continues to apply for permits and has done considerable work on their fish habitat compensation program.

BRUCEJACK MINE (PRETIUM RESOURCES)

This mine is operating and has a number of Nisga'a Citizens in its employ.

RED MOUNTAIN (IDM MINING)

The project has received its EA Certificate and has since been purchased by Ascot Gold. The project is now included by Ascot as part of a project they are advancing at Premier Mine. (this is unchanged from the last report).

WINDRIVER

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

This project is still in the pre-application phase of its EA.

PREMIER MINE

The mine has worked through a number of permits, has installed an upgraded water treatment plant and improved its tailings storage facility. They may be in a position soon to start operations.

KSI LISIMS LNG

As both a partner and reviewer of this project, staff are involved both in the planning and review of the project and its environmental assessment. The EA for the project continues to advance and our staff continue to be involved to ensure our interests not only in the economic benefits of the project but also that its effects to our environmental, social and cultural impacts are understood, avoided and/or mitigated.

PRGT PIPELINE

There will be considerable activity this summer and fall as PRGT will be doing work across Nisga'a Lands improving roads and bridges as well as clearing much of the right of way as it endeavours to obtain a positive substantial start determination.

NASS VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSMISSION LINE

We are working with our consultants to determine and study the optimal route between a proposed substation at Big Cedar and the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG facility at Whiskey Bay.

Forest Resources Department

The Forest Resources Department manages Nisga'a forests to assure sustainability of forest resources for future generations and provide employment opportunities through planning and executing various forestry work. The operations are guided by the *Nisga'a Forest Act*, regulations, and sound professional practices. Nisga'a forest practices meet or exceed BC official standards and are in conformity with The Nisga'a Final Agreement.

NISGA'A PUBLIC LANDS LICENCE (NPLL)

Kalii Aks Timber Corp continues to be the licence holder but at the time of writing work is underway to move this company under the umbrella of the Nisga'a Growth Corp.

WILDFIRE CREW

The Wildfire Crew was first established in 2015. The past number of years though have seen this crew change directorates a couple times and grow vastly in size under the leadership of the Directorate of Enforcement and Emergency Services only to see it reduced again to three. We are working to see the team hired, trained and prepared for the coming season.

FOREST RESOURCE OFFICERS

We are working to establish a program wherein we can train

interested individuals for these very important roles to monitor and protect our forest resources on Nisga'a Lands. If you or anyone you know is interested in this field please let us know!

Land Title Office

The Nisga'a Land Title Office records all fee simple titles to Registered Nisga'a Lands and charges against those titles. This includes new grants of fee simple ownership under the *Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act* and all Nisga'a Village Entitlements and Nisga'a Nation Entitlements.

The Nisga'a Land Title Office is located beside the main reception desk on the upper level of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Administration building in Gitlaxt'aamiks. Office hours are 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Monday through Friday. You can reach us by telephone at 250 633 3028 or by email at land.title@nisgaanation.ca.

Land Title Office Staff

STACY MAURIER,
Registrar of Land Titles
stacy.maurier@nisgaanation.ca

The Registrar of Land Titles is responsible for the implementation of the Land Title chapter of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, and the

provisions of the *Nisga'a Land Title Act*, the *Nisga'a Village Entitlement Act*, *Nisga'a Nation Entitlement Act* and *Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act*. The Registrar is an Officer of WSN as set out in the *Nisga'a Effective Date Procedures Act*. The Registrar is also responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Land Title Office and for making sure that all registration applications are accurate and complete. She also supervises the Registry Clerk and monitors land title work programs and budgets.

ALYSSA LEWIS,
Registry Clerk
alysal@nisgaanation.ca

The Registry Clerk is the first point of contact for land title matters. Her responsibilities include intake of land title applications, correspondence, filing and general administrative assistance.

LAND TITLE OFFICE BUDGET

The 2024/25 budget for the Nisga'a Land Title Office is \$378,353.00, a decrease of \$20,254.00 compared to the 2023/24 budget. This decrease is primarily due to a vacant position in the land title office and a reduction in the amount of money paid into the assurance fund.



LAND TITLE OFFICE ACTIVITY

A summary of land title activity for the last calendar year is set out in the table at right.

Requests for assistance by Nisga’a Citizens and Village Government staff continue to account for most of the Land Title Office workload.

We are happy to provide help and information to anyone who wants to register a transaction in the Nisga’a Land Title Register. This includes assisting clients with understanding application forms, fees and processes, registering transactions on lands in both the Restricted Register and Fee Simple Register, and providing general information about Registered Nisga’a Lands.

This year, we are offering in-person meetings to Village government staff who are frequent users of the Nisga’a Land Title Office. In addition, we are once again offering land title clinics for Nisga’a citizens, which will allow people to meet with us to discuss their land title matters on a one-to-one basis.

The Nisga’a Land Title Office is updating its current land title software, which will allow the Office to move to online searches. In preparation for the new Land Title software’s online search capabilities, the Nisga’a Land Title website is also being updated. The new software and the website are expected to be operational in May 2024.

2022 – CURRENT NLTO ACTIVITY	TOTALS
RESTRICTED REGISTER ACTIVITY	
Raise or cancel title	7
Register, transfer or cancel a charge	41
Register or cancel a notice or order	2
Other	0
FEE SIMPLE REGISTRY ACTIVITY	
Grant, transfer, or cancel the title	2
Register, transfer or cancel a charge	1
Register or cancel a notice or order	0
Other	1
NISGA’A CITIZEN SUPPORT	
Information requests	94
Assistance with forms and documents	48
Other	2
NISGA’A VILLAGE SUPPORT	
Information requests	187
Assistance with forms and documents	4
Other	0
NLG SUPPORT	
Information requests	7
Assistance with forms and documents	17
Other	0
EXTERNAL (NON-NISGA’A) SUPPORT	
Information requests	2
Assistance with forms and documents	5
Other	0

THE FOLLOW-UP TO ISSUES RAISED AT THE 2022 SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

There were no issues related to the Nisga’a Land Title Office brought forward at the 2022 Special Assembly that required follow-up.

Please visit our new website at www.nisgaalandtitle.ca.



Directorate of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Paul Mercer
ACTING DIRECTOR

IT IS GREAT TO BE WITH YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN

at the Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation. Special thanks to the the Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw, hosts of the biennial gathering of the nation.

For the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department, I am happy to provide our updates for 2022 – 2024 report. It has been a great two years working with the organization, Nisga'a entities, and the people of the Nisga'a Nation.

Our team is growing, consists of a few, but is of many skill sets valuable to the organization.

PAUL ANDREW MERCER,
A/Director of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

MARIANNE GUNO,
Communications Coordinator

VACANT

- + Communications Officer
- + Videographer
- + Youth Engagement Coordinator
- + Administrative Assistant

Nisga'a Vision Statement

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

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

Communications

Consistent with our Communications Strategy the Communications team continues to handle day-to-day operations for the organization that includes:

Media Relations

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

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

Website & Social Media Management

We work collaboratively with all NLG departments on vital communication notices, events, ceremonies, and milestone achievements where the Nisga'a Villages and Nisga'a Institutions join us for distribution of information through our national website and local websites. With the vast amount of followers on our NLG social media sites, we provide supports to Nisga'a entities such as SD#92 (Nisga'a) and the Nisga'a Valley Health authority for relay of information to the Nisga'a Nation as well.

For the new and improved website, we are happy to launch in the coming months. We look forward to providing virtual workshops on how to operate and submit application forms with ease. With improved platform capabilities, we can better serve the organization with daily notices, announcements,



application form process, and real-time cultural arrangement updates. With all the governance milestones, economic development, cultural events and many great programs and services, I am proud of our technicians for your time and dedication to the nation's website and mobile website.

Intergovernmental Relations

TRIPARTITE

IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS:

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department continues to work with representatives from Canada and British Columbia on the Tripartite Implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Completing the reports is a very time-consuming process but is of great value to the organizations history and shows trends of annual progress of all departments.

All implementation reports are available on our website at www.nisgaanation.ca/implementation-reports dating back to 2000 to 2021. 2022-2023 is currently in translation stages, and 2023-2024 is currently progressing milestone upon milestone.

Land Claims Agreements Coalition

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

The Coalition will see it's 22nd year of working collaboratively and pooling its collective resources to carry on the important work in many facets directly related to the government-to-government relationship each modern treaty nation has with the Federal government.

To date, monthly meetings take place with a team of technicians and treaty nation experts to coordinate an annual gathering in February 2025, that will give treaty nation leaders the opportunity to provide impactful perspective to the decision table with BC and Canada.

Nisga'a Youth Engagement:

Nisga'a Youth have many strong roles in the 7 Nisga'a communities and are 2368 strong today. With that magnitude of strength and education as their resilience, opportunity is at the forefront to unite the 7 councils and all membership to obtain valuable solutions for decision tables. Those contributions to governance, health, & educational policies will help us shape programs and services around evolving needs and gear toward prosperity and wellness goals.





As a nation that excels in modern treaty, ownership of lands, resources, infrastructure, fibre optic technology, partnerships with 4 Village Governments, 3 Urban Locals, 4 Nisga'a Health Authorities, SD#92 (Nisga'a), Nisga'a Employment Skills & Training, Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a Institute with post-secondary partnerships throughout BC and Canada, is the perfect storm for conferences, events, and cultural ceremonies. All wellness and promising pathways to spaces they can call their own, state of the art, and Nisga'a Youth approved.

Media Creation

Media creation is key to capturing the history of the Nisga'a Nation. Media production first started in the early 80s by the President of the Nisga'a Tribal Council (NTC), the late James Gosnell who was inspired by his father, the late Eli Gosnell. With those efforts, the NTC managed to capture elder conferences, oral history, NTC conventions, cultural events and all the men and woman who dedicated their lives to the foundation of Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Nisga'a Nation.

Today, we follow suit with videography, post-production, livestream, photography, audio recording, archive management, video and cassette digitization, cataloging, digital designs with high end editing software and state of the art hardware. Delivering article writing, website management, event planning skill sets, we can coordinate any size events with large screen presentations, films, quality sound, and an entertaining agenda with in-house commercial advertisement, productions wouldn't be possible without the audience and the participation of the Nisga'a People. Anyone with interest in media, this is the organization to work for.

Biennial Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Department has the honour and privilege of being the primary event coordinators for this historic event. With a fully strengthened workplan, intergovernmental coordination partnerships, the support of the NLG Senior Management Team, NLG Executive, Wilp Si'ayuuqhl Nisga'a, NLG Administration and Village Governments, this event wouldn't be possible without the Nisga'a people.

While we do much of the logistics leading up to large events, we rely heavily on the most Sr. Executive, boards, committees, and most important, the Nisga'a Communities to fulfill agenda items on the decision table.

In conclusion, thank you all for the many years of support, without you our department wouldn't be, our team is honored to carry out administration for President Eva Clayton and the Nisga'a People.

Tooyaksiy' nisim!

Paul Mercer,
ACTING DIRECTOR,
COMMUNICATIONS
& INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

Gwiix-Gigiinaxgum Neeqhl





Directorate of Enforcement & Emergency Services

Walter McKay
DIRECTOR

Department of Compliance & Enforcement

Throughout the year, the C&E department focuses on violations of the *Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act*, the *Nisga'a Forest Act* and/or the *Nisga'a Offence Act*. In addition, the C&E department works on educating Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a recreational users of the Nass Wildlife Area. Our department has provided public education presentations on how to prevent human/wildlife conflict, how to be safe around aggressive animals and how to co-exist with wildlife in the Nisga'a villages. Educating hunters/anglers regarding the regulations and expectations of all users in the Nass Wildlife Area is an area that all officers actively engage and offers the opportunity for a positive relationship between the officers and the public.

The C&E department has five "seasons": Hunting, Eulachon, Salmon Fishing, Mushrooms and Training. C&E officers patrol the Nass Wildlife Area by vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, riverboat, ocean patrol boat, foot patrol and by helicopter. C&E officers will often join forces with the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service ("BCCOS"), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans ("DFO"), the Lisims/Nass Valley RCMP and other governing agencies including the Compliance and Enforcement division of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development ("FLNRORD").

Over the past 12 months, the C&E department has been directly involved in numerous files pertaining to illegal fishing and/or illegal hunting on or near Nisga'a Lands

and dealing with parks issues. With the declining amount of wildlife/fish resources available to Nisga'a Citizens, it is imperative that preventative enforcement action is taken to protect Nisga'a Treaty interests and apprehend any individual who chooses to violate the *Nisga'a Offence Act*, the *Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act* and/or the *Nisga'a Forest Act*.

These precious resources are in decline and one of the priorities of C&E department is to ensure that fish and wildlife resources continue to be available for future generations.

The C&E department has overcome many obstacles to enable our department to work with agencies such as British Columbia Conservation Officer Service (BCCOS).

Departments and staff within the Directorate include:

1. Directors Office:

- + Walter McKay, Director of Enforcement & Emergency Services ("EES").

2. Compliance & Enforcement Department ("C&E"):

- + Benjamin Moore, C&E Manager,
- + Kyle Azak, Field Supervisor,

- + Erwin Alexander, C&E Officer (LTD),
- + Luke Mueller, C&E Officer,
- + Kyle Azak, C&E Officer,
- + Maverick Moore, C&E Officer.

3. Emergency Response Services Department ("ERS"):

- + Anthony Moore, ERS Manager,
- + Aiden Clayton, Health, Safety and Environment Officer,
- + Errol Nyce, Emergency Response Officer

- + Michael Moore, Emergency Response & Search and Rescue Officer.

4. Security Department

- + Alan Lambright, Security Coordinator.

For example, the department has purchased two bear traps and two grizzly traps and we are looking to purchase a fourth bear trap to help save or remove these beautiful animals safely away from the public. Our department has an agreement with BCCOS to display their reporting telephone number on all C&E patrol trucks. When a member of the public calls this number concerning incidents effecting the Nisga'a Nation, BCCOS will provide a report for us to respond. In addition, throughout the year, the C&E team has worked with the RCMP on Road Checks. These check stops enabled our department to help educate our citizens and the public.

At the beginning of each spring, the C&E department launches a "bear aware" campaign to help educate and prepare the Nisga'a citizens. The campaign starts on social media followed by information placed at each of the community government buildings, post offices and schools. We have developed door hangers and magnets to inform the citizens of wildlife in the neighborhood. We have also started community foot patrols and community outreach programs such as delivering wood to the elders, visiting schools or attending important events held within the Nisga'a Nation.

Lastly, in March 2020, the C&E office introduced an online reporting feature that operates as a dispatch tool for the department 24-7. Whenever an online report is

filed all officers who receive this report will respond accordingly. For greater convenience, the online reporting tool has been added to the C&E Facebook page as we have found that people prefer to report incidents and violations on Facebook (this online option resulted in an increase in calls by 60%).

Department of Emergency Response Services

Through the *Emergency Program Act* and the Nisga'a Lisims Government ("NLG") Safety Policy, the Emergency Response Services department is responsible for emergency management, Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary, Spill Response and Occupational Health and Safety on Nisga'a Lands and within the Nass Area. The *Emergency Program Act* delegates emergency responsibilities to the Emergency Response Services manager. The ERS manager identifies the risks that are within or related to his area of responsibility, including those related to critical infrastructure, as well as the following:

- + Prepare emergency management plans in respect to those risks,
- + Maintain, test and implement those plans, and
- + Conduct exercises and training related to those plans.

These, and other acts of Nisga'a Lisims Government, can be found at www.nisgaanation.ca

ERS is responsible for ensuring that Nisga'a Lisims Government, as an organization, is ready to respond to any event or emergency that threatens the safety and security of Nisga'a citizens, its own organization and infrastructure, its employees and that the Nisga'a Lisims Government has the capability and capacity to:

- + Respond to emergencies, providing leadership, assistance and support.
- + Fulfill its emergency response mandate and obligations in support federal, provincial and regional emergency response operations.
- + Enable the Emergency Response Services Department to deliver critical services during emergency and disaster situations.
- + Ensure its own employees have the support, knowledge and training to protect themselves during emergencies and to enable them to report for duty during emergencies.
- + Nisga'a Marine Search and Rescue,
- + Emergency Operation Center,
- + 911 service,
- + Occupational Health and Safety.

Some highlights of the last year include the approval for a vessel under the Oceans Protection Plan by the Canadian Coast Guard, which will help establish the Nisga'a Nation being part of the Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary ("CN-CGA").



Department of Security

As the Directorate of Enforcement and Emergency Services matured, it has become clear that there is a need for a security strategy for the Nisga'a Lisims Government in order to ensure the safety and security of NLG employees, visitors, and NLG property.

The establishment of the Security Department is a proactive measure to address current, and future, security and safety concerns of all those who work for, or enter, NLG offices.

NLG, along with the EOC committee, developed numerous COVID-19 related restrictions and protocols for NLG buildings and employees, restrictions and protocols that are controlled and monitored by the Security department.

Over the last two years, the Security Department has established a uniformed presence at NLG with security officers trained to deal with most emergencies. Along with the uniformed presence, there is a security workstation located at the entrance of the NLG main building which allows for a quick response in case of an incident.

At present, the Security Department is working with the IT department and Capital to improve the electronic system in NLG. The goal is to update the camera system, install a new wireless system and create a keyless entry system. These improvements will allow for monitoring of all access and movement in NLG thereby adding additional safety and security within NLG.

Lastly, the mandate of the Security department is to provide a safe, comfortable and relaxing work environment for all staff and guests within NLG (and the satellite offices), with the capacity to:

- + Have someone on site who can handle security matters professionally,
- + Control the flow of traffic and improve customer services, and
- + Promote a sense of order and reduce stress levels in emergencies.

Walter Mckay,
DIRECTOR,
ENFORCEMENT
& EMERGENCY SERVICES





Capital, Housing & Facilities Operations

Eric Nyce
DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR OF CAPITAL, HOUSING AND FACILITY OPERATIONS (the “Director”), formerly under the Directorate of Finance, is now a Directorate reporting to the Chief Executive Officer. Below is a general overview as to the current projects, processes, and procedures in place.

The Directors main responsibilities are to provide support to the Nisga’a Nation in the following areas:

- + Collaborative Fiscal Policy Negotiations
- + Nisga’a Nation Capital Projects & Special Projects
- + Nisga’a Capital Finance Commission & Nisga’a Capital (New Asset) Finance Commission
- + Nisga’a Housing Program
- + Reaching Home: Homelessness
- + Climate Change Initiatives
- + Facility Operations & Maintenance of Nisga’a Lisims Government Assets

Collaborative Fiscal Policy Negotiations

The Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process Policy addresses the fiscal relationship between Canada and self-governing Indigenous Governments. The Policy guides federal officials in developing fiscal agreements between Canada and Indigenous Governments. A milestone was reached by Fiscal

Policy Participants in mid-December 2017, which was the creation of the Self-Government Fiscal Policy to replace Canada’s July 2015 Fiscal Approach.

In this document, Canada recognized infrastructure disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in many communities. As part of the new fiscal model, Canada committed to work collaboratively with Indigenous Governments to identify these infrastructure gaps, and to develop plans to close the gaps over time with federal funding and other tools and fiscal resources as may be appropriate.

Canada proposal includes determining expenditure need for the Nisga’a Nation by developing a standard set of Indigenous Government Community Assets through a principle-based approach, and to apply this standard set of assets to Nisga’a Nation specific circumstances. If gaps exist, the set of assets in each of the Nisga’a Nation communities is intended to be brought in line with the standard set over time.

Canada will also implement an expenditure need approach for housing that recognizes factors such as housing program costs (staff, equipment, etc.), possible rental subsidy programs,

operations and maintenance, major repair and replacement, and expected revenue at market rates where appropriate. This will also include the development of a principle-based approach to determine a standard set of housing for self-governing Indigenous governments, which can be applied to Nisga’a Nation circumstances.

Infrastructure disparities also include Public (social) housing. This is an issue dealt with by governments at various levels (municipal, provincial/territorial, federal) as well as Indigenous Governments. Therefore, coordination and cooperation with other governments and agencies will be necessary to assure efficient and effective use of available funds and new investments.

Highlights of the work completed by the Directorate are as follows:

NISGA’A NATION FISCAL FINANCING AMENDMENTS

In 2019, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga’a Nation entered into the Nisga’a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement No. 3 (the “FFA No. 3”), which significantly improved the financial position of the Nisga’a Nation. The parties have amended that agreement six times already, primarily to add time-limited, incremental funding

in respect of health and water and wastewater systems, as well as to facilitate the transfer to the Nisga'a nation its share of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund as grant funding.

OVERVIEW OF THE FFA AMENDING AGREEMENTS

1. Increase the annual major maintenance and replacement funding for Schedule C listed assets by 162% to \$7,239,853 (FY2023);
2. increase the operations and maintenance funding by 249% to \$4,389,837 (FY2023); and
3. commit to providing the Nisga'a Nation with \$38,595,073 over 5 fiscal years (starting the current fiscal year FY2023) as the Nisga'a Nation's share of the

Indigenous housing funding announced in federal Budget 2022.

4. Additional Operations & Maintenance Funding for Water & Wastewater, \$1,214,883 (FY2023) and \$1,261,219 (FY2024)
5. Extend Budget 2017 Infrastructure Funding with \$179,689 annually for 7 years (FY2022-28)

SCHEDULE C FUND

Table 1 below summarizes the funding to be received by the Capital Finance Commission (CFC) for the new Schedule C Assets:

The new CFC Funding for Schedule C Assets merges previous allocation for Major Maintenance and Replacement into a new funding category called Lifecycle funding.

A new funding stream for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) will become a part of the Schedule C Funding. Funding for both Lifecycle and O&M budgets are presented and approved by the CFC, as required by each Asset Owners needs for the fiscal year requested.

B2022 HOUSING INVESTMENT

Table 2 shows the increase in funding for the new funding outlined in the Budget 2022 Housing Investment, as approved for implementation of the Action Plan. The Capital Finance Commission receives the funding and Action Plan, establish a new program and approve Terms and Conditions for the funding. This is a similar process outlined with the Budget 2021 – Housing & Infrastructure funding received in a prior FFA Amending Agreement.

Table 1 – Amended Schedule C (FY2023)

ASSET OWNER	O&M	LIFECYCLE	TOTAL
Gingolx	\$1,634,465	\$1,534,760	\$3,169,225
Gitwinksihlkw	\$832,484	\$992,628	\$1,825,113
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	\$302,590	\$510,924	\$813,515
Laxgalts'ap	\$615,430	\$1,177,793.58	\$1,793,223
New Aiyansh	\$818,035	\$2,145,636	\$2,963,672
Nisga'a Lisims Government	\$186,835	\$878,111	\$1,064,947
Total Funding	\$4,389,840	\$7,239,854	\$11,629,695





Table 2 – B2022 Housing Investment

FUNDING PER CATEGORY	YEAR 1 (11.5%)	YEAR 2 (15.9%)	YEAR 3 (21.2%)	YEAR 4 (23.0%)	YEAR 5 (28.3%)
Suitability (40%)	\$1,762,686	\$2,455,178	\$3,281,176	\$3,556,494	\$4,382,492
Adequacy (30%)	\$1,322,014	\$1,841,383	\$2,460,882	2,667,371	\$3,286,869
O&M (20%)	\$881,343	\$1,227,589	\$1,640,588	\$1,778,247	\$2,191,246
Capacity Supports (10%)	\$440,671	\$613,794	\$820,294	\$889,123	\$1,095,623
Total Funding	\$4,406,716	\$6,137,946	\$8,202,942	\$8,891,237	\$10,956,232

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDING

Table 3 below shows the additional funding outlined in the FFA No.3 Amending Agreement #5&6 listed under Table 5 – Miscellaneous Amounts.

Nisga’a Nation / Well-being Projects from Budget 2018 – “Gap Closing Projects”

The Nisga’a Capital Finance Commission (CFC) has secured funding and successfully progressed both Gap Closing Projects beyond Phase 1 and Phase 2 of NLG’s project planning, encompassing assessment and pre-design stages. The CFC has been instrumental in advancing these projects, considering capital construction costs, and planning for the long-term operational and maintenance needs essential for sustaining the structures and associated activities.

In both instances, meticulous site and geotechnical plans were devised, supported by comprehensive research and evidence, aimed at bolstering developments adjacent to these projects. This effort has significantly aided the Villages of Gitlaxt’aamiks and Laxgalts’ap in preparing and strategizing for multiple developments in proximity to these site builds.

However, upon thorough examination of the project assessments, pre-designs, conceptual drawings, and budgets, concerns emerged regarding the escalating regional construction costs. Given the pressing need for Elder care across the Nation, there was a consensus that prioritizing the construction of the residential care facility was imperative. Consequently, the CFC Motion #3-2024-03-20 was passed, reflecting the decision to

advance and support the relocation of the Residential Care Facility project to Phase 3, the Pre-Construction Phase.

Further discussions with the Nation’s Executive, scheduled for late April, will play a pivotal role in finalizing funding allocations. It is anticipated that funding received from the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to these projects will be pooled to facilitate the construction of a single-wing option tailored for independent/assisted residential care. However, there remains the possibility of earmarking funds for the Language and Culture Center, contingent upon the Executive’s decision to redirect and pool funds towards a single project.

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Funding

FISCAL YEAR	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Water & Wastewater Operations and Maintenance	\$1,131,688	\$1,169,726	\$1,214,883	\$1,261,219
Budget 2017 Infrastructure	N/A	\$179,689	\$179,689	\$179,689

LANGUAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

The following comprehensive site plans illustrate the meticulous planning and strategic efforts undertaken to support the overall site design and project planning phases for the placement of the Language and Cultural building on a suitable site plan. NLG collaborated closely

with Range Architects and the Laxgalts'ap Village administration to devise an overarching site design for the area, aimed at facilitating project developments.

Geotechnical and hydraulic assessments, conducted by Northwest Hydraulics, were commissioned to

evaluate flood characteristics, and assess considerations for the area, including flood extent mapping and cultural risk assessments. These assessments informed the necessary site planning adjustments in alignment with the community's aspirations to expand housing initiatives.





The assessment and pre-design work have provided the Laxgalts'ap Village Government with invaluable insights, enabling progressive considerations for the next steps in broader construction planning, encompassing economic development, tourism, and community growth.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY

The envisioned center (above) aims to serve as a beacon of hope and compassion for Nisga'a well-being, particularly in supporting Elders through their end-of-life journey and offering assistance to families during these challenging times. Rooted in cultural traditions, the center fosters an environment where families actively participate in providing care to their loved ones. It serves as a space for sharing and celebrating the profound wisdom, reverence, and respect inherent in the teachings of Elders, enriching the final days of their loved ones.

The proposed development entails a 15-20 unit residential care center designed to accommodate both independent and assisted living. Additionally, there are plans to explore long-term and palliative care options, contingent upon operational circumstances and funding availability, to further support Nisga'a Elders and their families through the end-of-life phase. Situated in "Gosnell Place," Gitlaxt'aamiks, the proposed building infrastructure is strategically planned to allow for future expansion, including extended levels of care. This ensures that Elders can "age-in-place" while maintaining their connections to the Nisga'a community and culture.

The care facility serves as a sustainable long-term solution for Elders requiring a spectrum of personal and medical care services. Its proximity to the health services offered by the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA) further enhances the comprehensive support available to Elders and to their families.

Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission & Nisga'a Capital (New Asset) Finance Commission

NLG's Capital Finance Commission (CFC) was established to enable the financing of major maintenance or replacement projects of FFA listed assets to ensure they are maintained and replaced in accordance with a lifecycle management program. The objective is to ensure that there are sufficient funds on hand to maintain and ultimately replace those assets. In addition, the Commission is responsible for management and control of the Capital Finance Commission Fund in accordance with the *Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission Act*. The CFC has established a CFC Investment Fund that allows the funds not immediately required to be invested to meet the future needs of the assets. The CFC meets to consider submissions under Schedule C of the FFA quarterly or as required by the needs of the CFC.



The CFC also consider submissions under the *Nisga'a Capital (New Assets) Finance Commission Act*. This Act deals with funding for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and replacement of new capital projects that have received funding through appropriations through negotiated contribution agreements or under the annual budget process.

CFC FUNDING SUMMARY

The CFC Fund is now broken down into two separate funds, the old CFC Fund and the New CFC Fund.

The Old CFC Fund tracks Major Maintenance and Replacement funding for the original 176 Schedule C Assets. In addition, the interest is tracked and recorded.

As of February 29, 2024 the Interest balance is \$9,736,017 in additional funding for the Old CFC Fund.

The New CFC Fund relates to the new funding in FFA No.3 Amending Agreement #5 and tracks both Lifecycle and Operations & Maintenance Funding for the new 200 Schedule C Assets. As of February 29, 2024 the Interest balance is \$758,734 in additional funding for the New CFC Fund.

CFC INVESTMENT FUND SUMMARY

In addition to maintaining the CFC databases and tracking asset funds available, the Director plays

Old CFC Fund Activities - FY 2024 Actual

Fund	Opening Balance	Transfers in 2024	Transfers out 2024	Closing Balance
Major Maintenance - NA	3,226,439.83	533,720.46	0.00	3,760,160.29
Replacement - NA	10,947,264.34	741,782.67	424,961.99	11,264,085.02
Major Maintenance - GW	1,890,278.91	211,930.15	51,426.17	2,050,782.88
Replacement - GW	4,710,042.37	330,908.67	0.00	5,040,951.04
Major Maintenance - LX	3,979,889.01	419,898.33	58,686.54	4,341,100.81
Replacement - LX	1,435,201.05	503,063.61	0.00	1,938,264.66
Major Maintenance - GX	2,316,892.54	335,632.19	237,258.59	2,415,266.14
Replacement - GX	6,039,038.09	494,116.76	308,745.00	6,224,409.85
Major Maintenance - NLG	4,153,168.09	433,443.75	108,596.78	4,478,015.06
Replacement - NLG	6,311,607.77	364,230.41	0.00	6,675,838.17
Major Maintenance - NVHA	2,301,650.44	294,936.32	292,520.00	2,304,066.76
Replacement - NVHA	1,464,138.18	156,913.68	0.00	1,621,051.87
Total	48,775,610.62	4,820,577.00	1,482,195.07	52,113,992.55

New CFC Fund Activities - FY 2024 Actual

Fund	Opening Balance	Transfers in 2024	Transfers out 2024	Closing Balance
O&M - NA	520,777.83	557,284.52	0.00	1,078,062.35
Lifecycle - NA	791,425.16	837,940.46	0.00	1,629,365.62
O&M - GW	531,830.56	569,112.04	832,484.00	268,458.60
Lifecycle - GW	368,386.45	390,038.01	0.00	758,424.46
O&M - LX	393,164.00	420,115.18	0.00	813,279.18
Lifecycle - LX	437,105.75	461,499.28	0.00	898,605.03
O&M - GX	1,044,176.88	1,117,374.00	0.00	2,161,550.88
Lifecycle - GX	569,583.95	603,060.72	0.00	1,172,644.67
O&M - NLG	121,182.54	129,677.47	0.00	250,860.02
Lifecycle - NLG	330,757.19	350,197.15	0.00	680,954.34
O&M - NVHA	193,309.18	206,860.21	0.00	400,169.39
Lifecycle - NVHA	189,615.51	200,759.99	0.00	390,375.50
Total	5,491,315.01	5,843,919.03	832,484.00	10,502,750.04



a key role for the investment of funds. The CFC Investment fund as of February 29, 2024 is \$49,533,401.70 and this includes initial Capital Investment was \$35,000,000.00 of the Old CFC Funds. These funds are separate from the regular CFC funds that are available to meet the immediate needs of the CFC.

Nisga’a Housing Program

The CFC is also responsible for administering the Nations residential housing program. The Nisga’a Housing Program follows the Nisga’a Residential Housing Program Regulations, made under the *Nisga’a Capital (New Asset) Finance Commission Act*. The Regulation establishes the eligibility criteria and an application process for citizens to apply for funding in respect of rental premises and the acquisition, construction and renovation of owner-occupied resident premises. The Regulations also require the Villages to prepare and maintain a housing inventory and provide reports to the CFC. The planning, budgeting, tracking, and reporting of the Housing Assets follow the same process as the Schedule C and New Assets.

The development of a Uniform Housing Policy and Grants are underway, but because of the huge

undertaking work is still in progress. The Villages of Gitwinksihlkw and Laxgalts’ap have adopted Residential Housing Policies for their communities and have adopted two grant programs.

FFA Housing Funds (Table 4)

have been amended through negotiations of the FFA to now reflect inflationary increases annually. These funds flow through the Nisga’a Budget as a standing appropriation to the CFC. Budget requests are made by the four Nisga’a Villages and expenditures are approved by the CFC.

NISGA’A URBAN GRANT PROGRAM

NLG has a separate program for Nisga’a off Nisga’a Lands. The Nisga’a Urban Housing Program consists of two grants: Nisga’a Urban Housing Grant and Nisga’a Urban Home Renovation Grant. Each grant is to a maximum of \$10,000 and we have made allocations for 10 grants to each program under the Provisional Budget. Any Nisga’a Citizen residing off Nisga’a Lands is eligible. The full policy and guidelines for these grants are available on our website.

BC HOUSING MOU

In February 2020, the Nisga’a Nation as represented by Nisga’a Nation (Executive), Gitlaxt’aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts’ap, and

Gingolx has signed a 3-year MOU with BC Housing. This MOU was extended on March 23, 2023, for an additional 3 years and \$25,000 was provided to assist in the completion of the Building Condition Assessments.

The purpose of this MOU is to develop and share best practices in residential asset management. We will work to build asset management capacity within our administration, collect housing data, review the current policies, programs, funding, and reporting. The ultimate goal is to create an asset management plan and a housing plan through best housing practices that meet Nisga’a housing needs close gaps, all while meeting the demands of our legislation. A Project Charter, Steering Committee and Working Group to complete the work outlined in the MOU with BC Housing.

ADDITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

To add to the growing awareness, demands, expectations, and supports of our Nisga’a Nation and their housing needs we are continuously researching, networking, and applying to various resources that we believe to be great opportunities that will help equip us with the tools needed to address our housing needs and close gaps which are:

Table 4 – FFA Housing Funds

FUNDING PER VILLAGE	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Aiyansh (38.48%)	\$538,720	\$580,235	\$614,338	\$635,323
Gitwinksihlkw (11.95%)	\$167,300	\$180,192	\$190,783	\$197,300
Laxgalts’ap (22.81%)	\$319,340	\$343,949	\$364,164	\$376,604
Gingolx (26.76%)	\$374,640	\$403,510	\$427,226	\$441,820
Total Funding	\$1,400,000	\$1,507,888	\$1,596,513	\$1,651,048



CAPACITY BUILDING

- + Successful applications to various initiatives including Advancing Indigenous Management, First Nations Housing Professional Designation, Asset Planner Training, BC Housing – Home Maintenance Training and 5 skills plus modules – Plumbing, Electrical, Janitorial, HVAC, Common Building Maintenance.

CMHC PROGRAMS

- + The Nisga’a Nation has successfully advanced through to Stage 3 of the Housing Supply Challenge. The “One Heart, One Path, One Nation, The Mixed-Use Building Development” Project advances to Stage 2 seen resulted in \$250,000 to support the development of a prototype of our project. Stage 3 will be announced in April of 2024 and will result in \$2,691,000 to support the development of our mixed-use building project in each of the four Nisga’a Villages.
- + CMHC Sec 95 projects for the construction of multiple housing units to BC Step code 4
- + 4 unit Townhouse in Gingolx, 4 single family homes in Laxgalts’ap, 2 duplexes and a 4-plex in Gitwinksihlkw.
- + Housing Co-investment Program resulted in \$885,000 in funding to support up to 59 Nisga’a Housing Units being renovated through cost sharing agreements.

- + Seed Funding provides financial assistance to help with early development activities and predevelopment costs, we have successfully received funding for multiple projects in our Housing Action Plans.
- + Successful Applications towards multiple Housing Project Youth Interns to learn and lend support in all our housing deliverables.
- + Various CMHC RRAP/ERP/HASI Projects approved to help renovate/retrofit citizen homes in need.

BC HYDRO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- + The Nisga’a Nations Residential Energy Conservation and Training Project hired 8 people to train, assess, and install energy saving kits (\$250+ per kit) to reduce the energy consumption and potential cost of energy for all 657 home in the Nass. This program achieved 25% completion and will relaunch in the 2024 year with aims to complete the program.

UBCM HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- + Awarded \$60,000 in funding to complete the Nisga’a Lisims Government Housing Needs Report on March 10, 2022. This report provided an in depth analysis of the current housing needs, issues, and realities across Gingolx, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts’ap, Gitlaxt’aamiks, Terrace, Prince Rupert and Vancouver, and aims to

strengthen the understanding of what kinds of housing are needed, and inform plans, policies and development decisions.

SOFTWARE

- + Utilize Asset Planner & Norming Asset Management software to assist with planning, tracking, and reporting of our programs, and projects in a structured and consistent manner.

Nisga’a Housing Building Official & Building Department Initiative

The directorate has supported the development undergone by building official in training in accordance with the CFC resolution and the ongoing development of a building permitting system/building department tailored to serve each Nisga’a village. This initiative aims to fully leverage Nisga’a legislation to maximize the benefits for individual villages.

The training of a building official and the development of a building permitting system demonstrate a proactive approach towards leveraging Nisga’a legislation to its full potential. A partnership with The City of Terrace has been a key tool in the progress of this work, BOABC has also been extremely supportive in reaching goals of the established training plan. By equipping trainee with the necessary skills and establishing efficient administrative processes, we aim to maximize the benefits of Nisga’a legislation for each individual village while ensuring compliance with regulatory



standards with build quality and standards in mind. This initiative underscores our commitment to promoting sustainable development and community prosperity within the Nisga'a Nation.

Nisga'a Reaching Home: Homelessness Program

Funding Received: Nisga'a Lisims Government has received funding for the Reaching Home program as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020/21: \$188,223
 Fiscal Year 2021/22: \$701,945
 Fiscal Year 2022/23: \$701,945
 Fiscal Year 2023/24: \$701,945

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED: \$2,294,058

On May 3, 2022, the CFC approved Motion #12-2022-05-03, which included budget allocation and directives for the Reaching Home Program. The Navigator carried out Directives (A) Housing Services and, Directive (E) Capital Investments as stated in Canada's Reaching Home Strategy Agreement.

Activities: Year 2022 - 2023

YEAR	ADMINISTRATION	DIRECTIVE A: HOUSING	DIRECTIVE E: CAPITAL INVESTMENT
2020/21	0	0	\$0
2021/22	0	0	\$200,000
2022/23	\$46,709	\$17,513 - 11 units	\$200,000
2023/24	\$22,920	\$12,435 - 8 units	\$450,000

A new funding agreement has been reached with Nisga'a Lisims Government for the Reaching Home Program as follows:

Fiscal Year 2024/25: \$532,582
 Fiscal Year 2025/26: \$532,582
 Fiscal Year 2026/27: \$332,326
 Fiscal Year 2027/28: \$332,325

TOTAL FUNDING : \$1,729,815

Nisga'a Climate Change Initiatives - Funding Successes & Work Plans

Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) – \$81,082/year for FY2023-FY2028

- + Energy & Emissions Inventory – In progress
- + development of a base-line energy and emissions inventory of Nisga'a buildings, transportation, and waste; from government, businesses, and households, as well as land-use on Nisga'a Territory.
- + Communications & Engagement – Ongoing

- + engagement with Nisga'a Nation members, NLG and Village Government Representatives, to improve understanding of the objectives, timelines, and desired outcomes of these climate initiatives. Deep Energy Retrofit Work Planning – Pilot Project Phase

- + Consider a 5-Year workplan and approach for a large-scale, deep-energy retrofits program.
- + Draft Climate Action Plan for the Nation – Not Started
 - + Collecting Information from existing initiatives.
- + Training & Capacity Building for the Nation – Ongoing
 - + Diverse training/capacity building activities for elected officials, NLG and Village Government Staff, Nation members, carpentry and trades students, and industry representatives in the region, that are associated with NLG's ongoing climate initiatives.
- + Development of a Nisga'a Nation Building Standard – Not Started
 - + Consultation with Nisga'a communities, housing staff, trades, and building official on adoption pathways/ timelines.



BCAFN Low-Carbon Transportation Pilot Project (LcTP)

– \$65,000 for FY2025

- + Establish a Nisga'a Low-Carbon Transportation Plan in partnership with BCAFN and Community Energy Association

CIRNAC – Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda (ICL) – \$200,000 for FY2025

- + Federal funding towards climate work planning and community engagement
- + Findings from this work will be brought to CIRNAC to create a Memorandum to Cabinet, that will support self-determined action in addressing Indigenous Peoples' climate priorities.
- + The funding will also enable the phased implementation of distinctions-based climate strategies.

BC Hydro – Indigenous Energy Management Pilot Program (IEM) - \$100,000/year for FY2025-FY2026

- + Selected to participate in BC Hydro's IEM pilot program.
- + This program will fund Nisga'a's Climate Action position to help carry out Nisga'a climate goals.

Facility Operations & Maintenance of Nisga'a Lisims Government Assets

As part the Directors main responsibilities and with the support of 11 staff, the Facilities Operations & Maintenance is responsible for ensuring preventative periodic cleaning, maintenance, repairs, major maintenance and replacement of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Assets, which include 16 facilities and over 40 vehicles, making sure that all Nisga'a Lisims Government employees have a safe and reliable assets to carry out the mandates of their services to the Nisga'a Nation.

In accordance with the lifecycle management program and the Asset Management Plan, for any major maintenance or replacement projects of FFA listed assets or new projects, we submit through the submission and approval process of the Capital Finance Commission (CFC), ensuring meets all the merits required under the *Capital Finance Commission Act* and *Capital (New Assets) Finance Commission Act*.

The Director is also responsible for the safety, operations and management of Nisga'a Lisims Government Fleet, in addition to the maintenance, repair, licensing, driver compliance and dispatch

of the company fleet of vehicles and equipment and the daily operations and reporting.

To support the delivery of the Facilities Operations & Maintenance services an updated Facility Operations, Fleet Policy and Procedures is being updated and developed. It is a set of integrated processes that will help the organization make informed decisions about the assets they own and the services they provide. These Policies and Procedures will detail information about procedures, schedules and actions required to provide an agreed level of service in the most cost-effective way while outlining associated risks.

Conclusion

I look forward to continuing my role as the Director of Capital, Housing and Facility Operations to the best of my ability and hope that this and upcoming reports to the Nisga'a Nation through the Special Assembly are well received. I wish you all the best and look forward to meeting and discussing the work of my Directorate.

Eric Nyce,
DIRECTOR,
CAPITAL, HOUSING
& FACILITIES OPERATIONS





Directorate of Information Technology

Andrew Borne
DIRECTOR

IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING INFRASTRUCTURE and inter-dependence of technology to the government, institutions and residents of the Nass Valley, the Directorate of Information Technology was formed in July of 2021. The Directorate of Information Technology has three primary functions for Nisga'a Lisims Government. Each function plays a key role in the implementation of programs and services provided to Nisga'a citizens wherever they may reside.

1. Data Assurance – Information Governance & Cyber Security

One of our primary objectives is ensuring the security of data entrusted to the government by Nisga'a citizens or third parties. Sensitive or personal data such as populace data, financial databases, geographical databases, and legislation must be handled in such a way so as to ensure this data is protected and safe but easily accessible for the implementation of internal programs and services.

Because of our focus on security, the Directorate of Information Technology uses annual external network penetration testing. Through this testing, known active exploits and at risk systems can now be addressed quickly and assuredly, to maintain the confidence of the data stored on NLG's internal systems. As well, subscriptions

to services that report on common vulnerability and exposure lists, also reduce risk and exposure to known exploits. Other tools such as encryption, multi factor authentication and strict application controls to maintain control, privacy and assurance of all data stored within the Nation, are also used through policies driven by our directorate.

Data assurance is key to all aspects of government, and our directorate must maintain viable backups that are safe in case of disaster. With offline and offsite backups, the Nation's data is protected from the ever-growing threats of the online world. As well, the use of replicated data through technologies like virtualization and storage networks, provide for increased availability during the power uncertainties which afflict Nisga'a Lands. These back-ups and data replication add another level of resiliency which is required to ensure our government implements best practices of data assurance.

The Directorate of Information Technologies' underlying processes provide confidence in our government and facilitate third party data exchanges. Our directorate is involved in the data exchanges with First Nation's Health Authority, local Village Governments, School District 92, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, the provincial and federal governments, and so on. Building on these principles, NLG

is independently pursuing the principles of ownership, control, access and protection which will allow our Nation to have autonomy and data sovereignty.

2. Daily Support & Institutional Growth

Through a supportive role, the Directorate of Information Technology is responsible for ensuring employees and guests have access to and understand the technological tools required to accomplish their daily tasks.

However, our directorate also has to assess the future needs of a growing government. Expanded directorates and increasing citizen outreach means that additional buildings must be interconnected and secured. With this growth in the Nass area, our directorate has grown in staff to better support and align with future landscapes.

Additionally, virtual platforms like Zoom have enabled Nisga'a citizens to witness and participate in their working government for the first time regardless of where that person may reside in the world. Again helping maintain a transparent and accountable government.

3. Infrastructure & Operations

Since 2004, the Nisga'a Nation has slowly expanded its own infrastructure within Nisga'a Lands and between Nisga'a Lands and Terrace. The Nation's

infrastructures includes fiber, fibre cable terminations, agreements with third party users on Nisga'a lands to provide cellular service through cellular towers and microwave structures, and coaxial systems used by television and/or internet providers. Infrastructures you can see, including fibre and coaxial (television) cable running below the power line on hydro poles alongside the HWY 113 corridor, orange buildings called central offices containing electronics and networking devices capable of tens of gigabits of transported data per second, and metal cellular towers that reach hundreds of feet into the air reaching into each village and along our highway corridors. Our directorate manages all infrastructure owned by the Nisga'a Nation and all agreements with third party providers.

With the evolution of cellular services within the Nass Valley, Lisims Internet and Technology Services Incorporated (LITS) was incorporated and is affiliated with our directorate. As the sole shareholder of LITS, the Executive of Nisga'a Lisim's Government mandated that LITS provide services to residents of the Nass Valley with comparable or better internet services than urban centres with a zero profit model, as well as, maintain and report on the Nation's owned technology infrastructure. This government service model has allowed the Nation to be awarded approximately 4 million dollars to build out a fiber to the home network. The Nisga'a Village of Gingolx was the first village to have fibre to

the home but the other villages of Laxgalts'ap, Gltwinksihlkw and Gitlaxtaamiks have now been completed.

Our total application for funding totals almost 13 million dollars. This additional funding was used, not only, to provide fibre to the home in the remaining villages but will now be used to provide ubiquitous cellular coverage from Nass Camp to the east along the 113 highway to Gingolx in the west. Our aspiration is that this expanded cellular coverage will improve health and safety for Nisga'a citizens traveling along Hwy 113 during treacherous weather and increase the potential for tourism and other commercial opportunities on Nisga'a Lands.

The Future

Looking forward, the Directorate of Information Technology is working with its industry partners to further educate its staff to maintain the Nisga'a owned cellular infrastructures. Leveraging neighbors within our close region, the directorate is looking to expand the cellular networks to include a southern route along hwy 113, as well as a possibility to expand into the hwy 37 corridor. These improved and expanded infrastructures also will allow for more health services such as e-911 and immersive activities with the new Language and Culture initiatives. Additionally, this directorate is researching a maker space like initiative to allow for interested Nisga'a citizens to have hands out experience with tools otherwise unavailable to them. 3D printers,

network components and design, engraving machines, and so forth as being looked into, as examples. Through updated equipment and further education, these ideas will improve the clarity of transmissions from things like the legislative chamber broadcast, to allow for Nisga'a citizens everywhere to witness the progression, to being able to call for help when the weather turns treacherous, and overall strengthen the Nisga'a Nation in the spirit of Sayt-K'i'lim-Çoot.

Staff within the Directorate of Information Technology

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Andrew Borne,
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T'ooyaqsim̓ n̓isim̓



Nisga'a Lisims Government

Sayt-K'ilim-Goot
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