


The Power to Approve

NISGA'A FINAL AGREEMENT /
Implementation Report 2017-2018

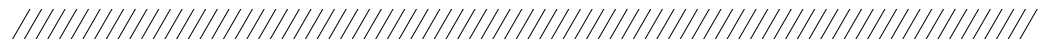


The Nisga'a Final Agreement is British Columbia's first modern treaty. A landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples, the Treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000. The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation are partners in the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), which sets out Nisga'a Lands and the Nisga'a people's right of self-government. Because three governments share responsibility for the Treaty, an implementation committee was formed to provide a forum for the partners to discuss its implementation.

This report summarizes the progress made in the eighteenth year of the Treaty, from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Welcoming Opportunity

**In the Nisga'a language,
Aam Wil Bakwsim' means "welcome."
It also means, "It is good that you came."**



The Nisga'a people are known for our hospitality. We are also known as seasoned, principled negotiators. Through the Nisga'a Final Agreement, our land claim is settled and our rights are secure. While other jurisdictions struggle to attract investment due to uncertainty, the Nisga'a Nation is getting down to business. Here, the question, "Who owns the land?" is settled once and for all. Our Treaty empowers us with the authority to fully assess and green-light projects — it gives us the power to approve.

Around the world, Indigenous peoples look to us as an example of how First Nations can negotiate their way to success. Now, we're using that experience to attract opportunity for our people and our fellow Canadians. The Nisga'a Nation offers tremendous potential for responsible, sustainable development. We are busy making history — and building a brighter future in Northwest British Columbia.



*The following are but a few of the major projects approved on Nisga'a Lands since the →
Nisga'a Final Agreement.*



Northwest Transmission Line

The Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) is a 335-kilometre, 287-kilovolt transmission line between Skeena Substation (near Terrace) and a new substation near Bob Quinn Lake. The benefit agreement between the Nisga'a Nation and BC Hydro ensures that Nisga'a citizens benefit and the environment is protected. The benefit agreement also includes the installation of fibre optic line to improve connectivity between Nisga'a Villages and the wider world.

- ➔ proposal and consultation / 2008
- ➔ environmental assessment complete / 2010
- ➔ construction complete / 2014





Long Lake Hydroelectric Project

The Long Lake Hydroelectric Project is a 31 mega-watt power generation facility, located 25 kilometres north of Stewart, close to the British Columbia /Alaska border. The construction of a ten-kilometre, 138-kilovolt transmission line connects the site to the BC Hydro grid, with opportunities to interconnect with other regional projects. This agreement provides for revenue sharing through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, a right of first refusal for the Nisga'a Nation to purchase the project, and employment and business opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and businesses.

- ➔ proposal and consultation / 2014
- ➔ environmental assessment complete / 2015
- ➔ power generation begins / 2016





Brucejack Mine

Brucejack Mine, an underground gold and silver mine near Brucejack Lake, is operated by Pretium Resources Inc. Under the Benefits Agreement, Pretium Resources Inc. makes a series of lump sum payments to the Nisga'a Nation upon the occurrence of certain milestones, annual payment (based on a percentage of the mineral tax annually payable by Pretium to British Columbia), and opportunities for contracting and employment for Nisga'a businesses and Nisga'a citizens.

- ➔ proposal and consultation / 2014
- ➔ assessment complete and agreement reached / 2015
- ➔ mine becomes operational / 2017





OUR LAND

K̓'alii-Aksim Lisims (the Nass River) flows through a land of sacred mountains and dense forests on Canada's Pacific Coast. The Nisga'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since before recorded time. Today, the Nisga'a Nation includes more than 7,619 people residing in the Nisga'a Villages of Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw, Gitlaxt'aamiks (formerly New Aiyansh) and beyond the Nass Valley in Terrace, Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Greater Vancouver, and across North America.

OUR TREATY

May 11, 2000, marked the end of a 113-year journey — and the first steps in a new direction. On that date, the Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the *Indian Act* ceased to apply to Nisga'a people (except for the purpose of determining whether an individual is an "Indian"). The Nisga'a Final Agreement is the first treaty in British Columbia to provide constitutional certainty in respect of an Aboriginal people's Section 35 right to self-government. The Treaty recognizes Nisga'a Lands (2,000 square kilometres) and opens the door for joint economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's natural resources. An example of hope, trust, and cooperation, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is being studied by governments and Aboriginal peoples the world over.

OUR GOVERNMENT

Proud British Columbians and Canadians, Nisga'a citizens are responsible for building and maintaining their own institutions. The Nisga'a Nation is represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) — a modern, forward thinking administration based on traditional culture and values. Nisga'a Government has the authority to pass laws on a broad range of matters. At the same time, Nisga'a lawmaking authority is concurrent with federal and provincial authority. Designed to assure democracy, transparency, and accountability, Nisga'a Government is comprised of NLG, the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and three Nisga'a Urban Locals.

OUR VISION

"Sayt-K'ilim-Ḡoot: one heart, one path, one nation." NLG is committed to ensuring its programs, services, and day-to-day operations reflect this vision. In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Ḡoot, the Nisga'a Nation is a place where:

- 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 communication; and
- our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

"We are Nisga'a, the people of K̓'alii-Aksim Lisims. From time immemorial, we have lived in the lands that K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl gave to our ancestors."

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION / 1998

Nisga'a

Culture & Heritage

Nilhl gan aluut'aahl naa nuum wil dip hooxhl Ayuukhl Nisga'a ganhl lip algaxam ganhl lip wilaa loom / Our Ayuuk, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity

Nisga'a Lisims Government is committed to protecting and promoting Nisga'a culture in all aspects of society. Ayuukhl Nisga'a — the ancient laws and customs of the Nisga'a people — informs, guides, and inspires Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a Constitution provides that Simgigat (chiefs), Sigidim haanak (matriarchs), and respected Nisga'a elders advise Nisga'a Government on matters relating to the traditional values of the Nisga'a Nation through the Council of Elders, and that Nisga'a Government must respect and encourage the use of the Nisga'a language and the practice of Nisga'a culture.

AYUUKHL NISGA'A DEPARTMENT

The Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department (AND) protects, preserves, and promotes Nisga'a language, culture, and history. This is achieved through:

- developing and maintaining a catalogue system for Nisga'a archives;
- digitizing audio interviews with elders and past leaders;
- resource and administrative support for the Council of Elders and various government committees;
- collaborating and supporting various language and culture initiatives by various NLG stakeholders;
- research and production of resource materials on key aspects of Nisga'a culture;
- supporting other NLG language and culture initiatives.

During the reporting period, the *Frank Calder* and *Nisga'a Treaty* exhibits were unveiled at the Canadian Museum of History in Hull, Nisga'a exhibits were unveiled at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, and the *Hoobix* exhibit was unveiled at the Nisga'a Museum in Laxgalts'ap. The Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department continued to support various museum exhibits as well as coordinating the efforts fluent Nisga'a speakers for interviews, recordings, and adaawaḱ.

ANHLUUT'UKWSIM LAXMIHL ANGWINGA'ASA'ANSKWHL NISGA'A / NISGA'A MEMORIAL LAVA BED PARK

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park — the first provincial park managed jointly by a First Nation and British Columbia — offers spectacular natural features and a dramatic introduction to Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. With a 16-site vehicle campground, picnic areas, visitor information centre, boat launches, and short hikes, the park offers visitors a wide variety of activities and a chance to learn more about Nisga'a culture and the natural history of the region. British Columbia funds an annual agreement for park services and maintenance (\$45,000).

NISGA'A MUSEUM

Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a, the Nisga'a Museum, is the permanent home of the Ancestors' Collection — over 300 Nisga'a artifacts that have been repatriated through the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a means "The Heart of Nisga'a House Crests," a name that celebrates the importance of Nisga'a tribes and tribal crests in Nisga'a society. With a design

inspired by traditional Nisga'a longhouses, feast dishes, and canoes, the 929 square metre facility contains exquisitely carved masks, bentwood boxes, headdresses, and soul catchers acquired from the Nass Valley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A permanent home for the preservation and celebration of all that is Nisga'a, the Nisga'a Museum is becoming a centre of research, learning, and cultural tourism in northwest British Columbia.



"The traditional roles of Simgigat and Sigidim haanaḵ, and respected Nisga'a elders, as recognized and honoured in Nisga'a culture from time immemorial, will be respected; Nisga'a elders, Simgigat and Sigidim haanaḵ will continue to provide guidance and interpretation of the Ayuuk to Nisga'a Government."

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION

Nisga'a Education

*Ts'im ganwilaak'ils wil luusisghl gandidils /
Learning is a way of life*

The Nisga'a Nation is committed to improving its education system, helping adult learners gain more training, and encouraging all Nisga'a to engage in lifelong learning to help build the economy and strengthen Nisga'a society.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

On Nisga'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisga'a), part of British Columbia's publicly funded school system. The school board consists of four Nisga'a members (representing each Nisga'a Village) and one non-Nisga'a member. NLG works in partnership with the school district to foster and protect Nisga'a language and culture while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley youth.

During the reporting period, British Columbia allocated to School District #92 (Nisga'a) a total of \$7,538,073 in operating funding for the 2017/2018 school year, as well as \$132,612 in CommunityLink payments, which helps provide services such as breakfast and lunch programs, community school programs, school-based support workers, and counselling for at-risk children and youth. Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School also received a \$4,640 grant from British Columbia for its school-based Parent Advisory Council.

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. School District #92 is 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.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Nisga'a Post-Secondary Education Funding Policy's mission is to assist 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, and self-government needs. During the reporting period, over 200 students were sponsored for post-secondary education funding.

Combined Post-Secondary enrollment and completion rates of Nisga'a citizens*

YEAR	ENROLLMENT		COMPLETION RATE %	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
2017-2018	165	100	32%	71%
2016-2017	146	85	51%	54%
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%

*Who were eligible to graduate. Includes university, college, Open Learning Agency, institutes, & private post-secondary institutions.



NISGA'A NATION EDUCATION CONFERENCE

During the reporting period, NLG hosted the Nisga'a Nation Education Conference: Dim Hugax-am Hlo'o Nuum, We Walk Together (NNEC) at Laxgalts'ap. The conference was well attended and provided for engagement, inspiration, and valuable practice. The conference was developed with the collaboration of NLG, the Village Governments, School District 92, and WWNI. The agenda recognized the goals of engaging students, parents, education partners and decision makers.

WILP WILXO'OSKWHL NISGA'A INSTITUTE

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.

Nisga'a Language and Culture courses continue to be WWNI's most subscribed courses. To date, WWNI has recorded 1,664 course completions in Nisga'a Culture.

During the reporting period, WWNI reported 135 course enrolments in academic programs and 84 course enrolments in vocational/technical programs. Since WWNI's incorporation in 1993, graduates have earned the following credentials.

ACADEMIC

- 1 Master of Arts (FNST) Degree with Distinction
- 47 Bachelor of Arts
- 2 Bachelor of Science (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 Bachelor of Commerce (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 Education Diploma in Nisga'a Language and Culture
- 3 Honorary Doctorate of Laws
- 1 Professor Emerita
- 1 Honorary Nisga'a Studies Certificate

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES

- 57 Nisga'a Studies Certificates
- 15 First Nations Language — Nisga'a Certificates
- 53 General First Nations Studies Certificates

VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES

- 187 (various)

WWNI Funding Sources

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT	\$320,837
NISGA'A NATION FFA – CANADA	\$487,097
NISGA'A NATION FFA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)	\$280,000
UNBC / WWNI FEDERATED AGREEMENT (BRITISH COLUMBIA)	\$216,000
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION (BRITISH COLUMBIA)	\$121,000
UNBC / WWNI ENDOWMENT FUND*	\$43,900

*Accrued interest from this fund provides partial support to Nisga'a Language at the WWNI Institute.

*Through the Vancouver Foundation. Current fund value: \$1,039,314.

UNBC WILP WILXO'OSKWHL NISGA'A ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FUND

The UNBC 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. In a demonstration of support, the Nisga'a business community initially contributed \$100,000, and later made a \$250,000 donation to the Nisga'a Endowment Fund (as it was then known). This was generously matched by British Columbia and UNBC. The endowment has continued to grow under the UNBC Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Endowment Foundation.

UNBC Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Endowment Foundation Fund*

2001	\$681,008
2002	\$720,723
2003	\$759,554
2004	\$788,757
2005	\$818,914
2006	\$851,884
2007	\$890,807
2008	\$923,911
2009	\$949,931
2010	\$968,482
2011	\$1,012,251
2012	\$1,046,099
2013	\$1,071,892
2014	\$1,038,457
2015	\$1,039,314
2016	\$1,040,330
2017	\$1,041,252
2018	\$1,042,236

*Annual fund value (on March 31).

“We commit ourselves to the values of our Ayuuk, which have always sustained us and by which we govern ourselves, and we each acknowledge our accountability to those values, and to the Nisga'a Nation.”

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION

Nisga'a Economy

*Sgihl gandi'akhla'amskw loom', gan wil dip dixyugwihl ha'am wil /
We strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance*

The Nisga'a Nation is a fully integrated part of the economy of northwest British Columbia. Seasonal resource industries are complemented by full-time employment in the government, education, and healthcare sectors. Recent development projects have helped expand and diversify employment opportunities.

NISGA'A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through the department of Nisga'a Economic Development, NLG provides Nisga'a entrepreneurs and organizations with access to business information, tools, and financial capital. NLG is investing in research and development, infrastructure, strategic partnerships, and a variety of projects to stimulate the Nisga'a economy, support Nisga'a citizens, and promote a new era of economic prosperity and sustainability. Since the Effective Date of the Treaty, NLG has worked to lay a foundation for prosperity and self-determination through collaboration with Nisga'a Village Governments and Nisga'a Urban Locals. This effort is resulting in a shared vision for sustainable economic prosperity.

NISGA'A EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS, & TRAINING

NLG and Canada work together to provide the Aboriginal Skills, Employment, and Training program for Nisga'a citizens. This partnership has resulted in the Nisga'a Employment, Skills, and Training (NEST) program. NEST's mandate is to help Nisga'a people thrive and succeed in a rapidly developing economy by helping them

find meaningful, demand-driven, employment. NEST has offices in Gitlaxt'aamiks, Terrace, and Prince Rupert.

During the previous reporting period, representatives of NLG and British Columbia held a joint press conference respecting the announcement of \$2.1 million investment from British Columbia for job skills training to be administered by NEST. Over three years, that investment is being utilized in the NLG Path to Employment program, which will provide training, work experience, and entry to trades apprenticeships for 215 participants from Nisga'a communities.

During the reporting period, NEST added a funded BladeRunners program that provides Nisga'a youth with entry-level training in the construction and mining industries.

VETTER FALLS LODGE

In 2010, the Nisga'a Nation purchased Vetter Falls Lodge (the "Lodge") and three adjacent parcels of land. The Lodge and land parcels are registered in the provincial fee simple land title system. At the time, the Lodge was unusable as a bed and breakfast accommodation because it did not have a power line and the bridge leading to the Lodge was in need of replacement. In 2015, NLG obtained infrastructure funding from Coast Opportunity Funds as well as funding for the first year of operations of the Lodge. The funds were used to install power lines, replace the bridge, update the septic system, and other

basic infrastructure updates. NLG entered into a management agreement with MRC Consulting and anticipates that the Lodge will be operational by the summer of 2018. Through the NEST program, MRC is in a unique position to offer opportunities to Nisga'a apprentices in hotel management, catering, and restaurant operation. In addition, the Lodge will offer a consignment program showcasing Nisga'a art.

NISGA'A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

With the goal of helping Nisga'a entrepreneurs compete in the global marketplace, the Nisga'a Business Development Fund provides advice, services, and funding. Recipients include both new and established Nisga'a enterprises with promising products or services targeted at a variety of market sectors. Funds are provided for business support and capacity building, feasibility studies and development costs, and capital investments for business infrastructure. These investments are intended to help applicants leverage funds from lending institutions and other equity programs. Tourism projects, retail and home-based businesses, small industry development, and corporate projects have all received investments.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

NLG manages Nisga'a forests to protect this natural inheritance and to provide employment for Nisga'a people. Ecological sustainability is a prime consideration in the development and approval of all operations within Nisga'a Lands, and the *Nisga'a Forest Act* sets high standards to maintain biodiversity. NLG also manages all land and forest resources on Nisga'a Lands, including non-timber resources. Pine mushrooms, a popular delicacy in Asia, are a valuable resource found in Nisga'a forests and are harvested seasonally.

The forest resources on Nisga'a Lands represent a vast range of potential opportunities. Since the Effective Date, a significantly depressed forest economy has meant that only a relatively small timber harvest volume was economically

viable. This situation has improved. The Nisga'a Nation has yet to harvest up to the quota set in Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) and the resulting backlog of volume provides opportunities to intensify production. With rising wood prices and changing markets, it is expected that harvest levels will increase.

All harvested cut blocks on Nisga'a Lands are regenerated through planting and natural regeneration. To ensure reforestation, NLG collects a silviculture levy for each harvested cut block.

Lisims Forest Resources LP (LFR) is the sole license holder on Nisga'a Lands. LFR operates under NLG's 2015–2019 Forest Development Plan, which is publicly available at both the NLG office in Gitlaxt'aamiks and the Nisga'a Pacific Ventures Office.

During the reporting period, the department of forestry designed a comprehensive plan to mitigate the spruce beetle outbreak where it is the most prominent — the Fulmar area within the Ksi Sii Aks management unit. The work included the deployment of pheromones traps and baits, tree traps, and harvest sanitation blocks where most infested trees are located.

Two active logging blocks and two block-and-road permit files were ready for review during the reporting period. It was determined that, due to a considerable backlog, harvesting levels can be increased. The Nisga'a Public Land License has plans to intensify production during the next (2018–2019) reporting period, and will embark on a large blocks and roads engineering program. Eighteen Nisga'a citizens were employed in five different forestry projects during the reporting period.

PROVINCIAL FUNDING: FORESTRY & ROADS

In 2003, following the bankruptcy of New Skeena Forest Products, British Columbia assumed responsibility for completing unfulfilled treaty obligations. The work includes replanting cut-blocks, maintaining

Cubic Metres of Nisga'a Timber Harvests

2001	74,469
2002	59,557
2003	41,646
2004	21,352
2005	83,100
2006	72,100 / \$4,479,502
2007	87,400 / \$5,583,262
2008	21,000 / \$2,233,743
2009	82,000 / \$3,804,395
2010	23,000 / \$2,100,000
2011	71,149 / \$6,263,463
2012	42,035 / \$3,194,660
2013	52,004 / \$3,135,637
2014	21,533 / \$1,405,865
2015	36,462 / \$2,370,030
2016	44,554 / \$4,093,126
2017	5,153 / \$784,753

*Dollar value of timber sales reported beginning in 2006.

roads, and decommissioning two abandoned work sites. Under the Treaty, British Columbia also maintains ownership of the Nisga'a Highway corridor, the right of way for secondary provincial roads, and responsibility for the repair and maintenance of those roads. The following are highlights of the work undertaken by British Columbia during the reporting period.

- Following consultation with NLG, cutting permits were issued for two salvage harvesting permits submitted by the Tree Farm Licence (TFL) holder, Coast Tsimshian Resources (CTR).
- CTR carried out harvesting operations of spruce beetle infested stands at Fulmar Creek totalling 80.6 hectares.
- A spruce beetle detection flight (\$7,532) was undertaken to monitor high-risk stands identified by hazard mapping. More extensive and spreading populations of spruce beetle were identified, mapped, and shared with the local licensee steering committee including First Nations.
- Reconnaissance on specific spruce beetle infested stands was undertaken to identify

additional licensee opportunities for salvage harvest in areas situated near Nisga'a Lands. Contract work (\$77,963) for beetle probing in these stands was resumed and included preliminary development work for seven blocks. The annual review of provincial forest health (aerial overview) also helped to identify areas of infestation.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE

The Lands and Resources Directorate is responsible for emergency planning and response. The directorate remains focused on training, running exercises, planning, and promoting public awareness.

The directorate supports Nisga'a Emergency Operations Centre personnel participation in British Columbia-sponsored Emergency Management training throughout the northwest region. In addition, the directorate undertakes periodic discussion and tabletop training exercises to enhance familiarity with the Emergency Plan, protocols, and other public awareness initiatives such as "Shake Out BC," an annual earthquake preparedness drill.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

NLC's Seasonal Wildland Firefighter Program includes an initial attack crew, whose duties include: preparedness to fight wildfires, patrolling, wildfire fighting training, promoting public awareness of wildfires, liaison with Village Government fire departments, and educating youth. In addition, the wildfire crew performs brushing on forestry roads, light maintenance of culverts, removing litter, and supporting activities on recreational sites.

NISGA'A FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

One of the healthiest river systems in the world, K'ali-Aksim Lisims (the Nass) is the spawning ground of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and eulachon. NLC and Canada manage the Nass River salmon fishery to preserve the resource, provide for Nisga'a citizens, and support a modern, sustainable fishing industry. Facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC), which is comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation, the Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program utilizes fish wheels and other technologies on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessments on a variety of species throughout the Nass Area. NLC works with British Columbia to manage the non-salmon sport fishery.

Since 1992, the Nass salmon stock status has been monitored annually by NLC's Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department (NFWD). The fisheries program employed 39 Nisga'a citizens in 2017.

During the reporting period, NFWD:

- successfully implemented 30 projects, including contracts that enabled the monitoring of salmon returns to coastal Nass Area salmon streams, estimating Nass Eulachon spawning numbers, rebuilding Gingolx side-channel habitat, and conducting bull trout population estimates at Meziadin Lake;
- met escapement goals for sockeye, coho, pink, and summer run steelhead;
- achieved Nisga'a entitlement targets (no overharvesting occurred);
- successfully completed aerial moose surveys in the Nass Area and Nass Wildlife Area;
- worked with Nass Wildlife Committee to successfully monitor annual hunts;
- actively participated in the stewardship of the Nass River watershed to protect fisheries and wildlife resources and habitat;
- completed third consecutive annual sampling for presence of contamination from the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan (one Nass pink salmon showed a slight trace of radioactive contamination);
- continued training and development of NFWD employees through ongoing programs, including acoustic telemetry technology



Salmon Harvested in Individual and Communal Sale Fisheries

	SOCKEYE	COHO	PINK	CHUM	CHINOOK	REVENUE
2001	51,427	12,068	75,820	1,078	0	\$637,000
2002	108,814	6,800	0	0	0	\$1,177,000
2003	114,572	13,672	14,075	23	0	\$1,326,000
2004	116,671	17,170	8,983	0	0	\$1,619,000
2005	82,679	12,585	2,361	577	857	\$956,000
2006	64,253	5,249	3,042	948	1,946	\$671,000
2007	33,624	6,372	3,688	697	2,435	\$484,000
2008	17,728	793	3,438	276	0	\$206,126
2009	45,542	10,406	20,895	0	1,597	\$624,000
2010	33,818	7,768	1,338	1	28	\$440,000
2011	18,364	1,134	40,460	0	874	\$347,435
2012	39,961	9,037	3,628	0	649	\$961,124
2013	45,618	11,096	16,848	0	0	\$1,278,777
2014	49,744	5,951	944	0	0	\$600,000
2015	114,153	4,801	19,422	0	2,062	\$1,111,000
2016	8,400	5,560	7,165	1,896	66	\$313,923
2017	11,773	7,209	4,419	11	0	\$400,248

Chart based on the estimated number of individual fish caught during the Individual and Communal Sale fisheries. Estimated revenue to local economy based on annual average weight and price per pound for each species in Area 3 commercial fisheries.

(tagging bull trout on Meziadin Lake) in partnership with British Columbia fisheries staff;

- awarded Pacific Salmon Commission funding (for 2018) to conduct large-scale radio tagging and genetic projects on Nass sockeye, and population assessment surveys for Upper Nass Chinook, Coastal Nass Area chum, and coho salmon.

During the reporting period, sockeye and coho salmon runs allowed for a limited individual sale fisheries in both the marine and river environments. Low sockeye returns to Canada in severely limited the number of IS openings.

NASS RIVER: A CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE FISHERY

The health of the Nass River continues to garner international acclaim. During the reporting period, the Nass sockeye fishery was again certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable fishery. Maintaining this highly respected certification is a testament to the management of Nass salmon stocks under the framework of the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

NASS RIVER CHINOOK: A SENTINEL STOCK

Since 2009, the upper Nass River Chinook stock has been recognized by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) as a "Sentinel Stock," one of the 29 stocks that are used to manage all Chinook stocks harvested in the Pacific Region fisheries and critical to the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between Canada and the United States. During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department was awarded its tenth annual installment of this multi-year program funding to enhance its ability to accurately estimate the abundance of these critical Chinook populations. In addition, the PSC helped support the review of Coastal Nass Area chum escapement methods (year four of a four-year study).

**LISIMS FISHERIES
CONSERVATION TRUST**

The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program applies the highest standards in the areas of conservation and environmental protection to ensure a healthy, productive aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is ensured, in part, by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the trust, and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Management Committee are taken into account in sponsoring projects, programs, and activities that are in keeping with the trust's objectives. The trust promotes conservation and protection of Nass Area fish species, facilitates sustainable management, and supports Nisga'a participation in fishery stewardship for the benefit of all Canadians.

Lisims Trust*

	NET ASSET	DISBURSEMENT
2001	\$13,720,000	\$0
2002	\$12,300,000	\$0
2003	\$12,210,000	\$0
2004	\$13,370,000	\$313,000
2005	\$14,860,000	\$600,000
2006	\$15,590,000	\$600,000
2007	\$15,650,000	\$550,000
2008	\$12,230,000	\$0
2009	\$14,390,000	\$550,000
2010	\$15,428,380	\$550,000
2011	\$14,127,661	\$575,000
2012	\$14,586,330	\$550,000
2013	\$15,853,237	\$550,000
2014	\$14,100,000	\$550,000
2015	\$15,287,167	\$550,000
2016	\$17,473,934	\$550,000
2017	\$18,296,930	\$650,000

*Approximate Net Asset Value (on Dec. 31).



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Resource Enforcement, Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Directorate of Lands and Resources work together to enforce Nisga'a procedures, policies, and laws under the *Fisheries and Wildlife Act*, *Nisga'a Forest Act*, and *Nisga'a Offence Act*. The department divides its year into five seasons: Eulachon, Fishing, Mushroom, Hunting, and Training. During the reporting period, enforcement officers could be found patrolling the Nass Wildlife Area by vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, and boat. With the goal of protecting and preserving the region's natural resources, NLG's Department of Resource Enforcement works with DFO and British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service to ensure that all Nisga'a, provincial, and federal laws are enforced on Nisga'a Lands.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As a member of the tripartite Nass Wildlife Committee, NLG co-manages wildlife in the 16,101 square kilometre Nass Wildlife Area. Under the Treaty, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear have been identified as designated species for which there are specific Nisga'a allocations. The committee reviews available data annually and makes recommendations regarding total allowable harvests and annual management plans. British Columbia uses this information to establish total allowable harvests and approve the annual management plans. The Nass Wildlife Committee meets biannually and monitors annual hunts. Through the Fiscal Financing Agreement, British Columbia provides \$20,000 annually to NLG for wildlife management. NLG has implemented a permit system to manage the harvest of designated species by Nisga'a citizens.

Previously, the Nass Wildlife Committee and British Columbia identified the need for a comprehensive plan to reverse the decline of Nass moose populations and re-establish population levels. As a result, during the reporting period, NLG voluntarily reduced its treaty-allocated take and British Columbia closed the recreational moose harvest to residents.

PROVINCIAL BAN ON LICENCED GRIZZLY BEAR HUNTING

During the reporting period, British Columbia enacted regulatory amendments to prohibit the licenced hunting of grizzly bears. The ban will not impact Nisga'a citizens' ability to "continue to hunt grizzly bear in traditionally used areas for food, social or ceremonial purposes or pursuant to a treaty right." In addition to harvesting and possessing grizzly bear parts or meat, the rights of Nisga'a citizens to trade and barter grizzly bear parts and meat will still be permitted in accordance with the Treaty, and export and import of grizzly bear meat and parts will still be permitted in accordance with provincial regulations and Nisga'a laws.

WORKING GROUP & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NLG's Nass Area Strategy Working Group (NASWG) reviews and prepares responses for various environmental referrals and processes. NASWG regularly reviews referrals from British Columbia and Canada regarding mineral exploration projects, land tenures, forest tenures, and environmental permits. NLG's participation in various external Environmental Assessment processes is also managed by NASWG.

NASS AREA STRATEGY

Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the Nisga'a Nation has substantial treaty rights throughout the 27,000-square-kilometre (approximate) Nass Area. The Nisga'a Nation owns and has control over development on Nisga'a Lands, which make up about eight per cent of the total Nass Area. The Nisga'a Nation also has comprehensive rights relating to consultation and environmental assessment over proposed developments in the rest of the Nass Area.

The Nass Area Strategy was developed to ensure that proposed resource developments in the Nass Area comply with all Nisga'a Treaty rights. The Nisga'a Nation evaluates proposals by assessing a project's potential environmental, social, and

cultural impacts; the proposed strategies to mitigate those impacts; and the potential economic benefit to the Nisga'a Nation.

NLG does not rely on technical experts of proponents. Where necessary, NLG hires technical experts to provide advice. The costs of participating in environmental assessments (i.e. hiring technical experts and negotiating benefits agreements) are paid for by project proponents through capacity funding agreements. Canada and British Columbia also undertake environmental assessments of any project that may impact Nisga'a Lands or interests and consult NLG in this process.

During the reporting period, NLG took part in numerous Environmental Assessments and entered into various agreements involving projects that may impact the Nisga'a Nation's treaty interests. The following are the most notable of these projects.

WINDRIVER KINSKUCH LAKE PROJECT

Previously, the Nisga'a Nation and WindRiver completed a Project Agreement for the Kinskuch Lake Project, a 50-megawatt hydroelectric project that will use glacier-fed Kinskuch Lake (north of the Nass Valley) as a reservoir. Nisga'a Land around the lake will add to the size of the reservoir, and a 60-kilometre line will connect to the BC Hydro Aiyansh Substation.

Under the agreement, the Nisga'a Nation will be a partner in the project, hold an interest in the equity of the project, and hold voting rights and appropriate board representation. The agreement contains provisions in respect of payments on the occurrence of the following events: (a) the signing of the impact benefits agreement, (b) signing of an electricity purchase agreement with BC Hydro, and (c) project commissioning. The agreement provides for employment and service opportunities, training and employment plans, as well as contracting opportunities.

During the reporting period, WindRiver continued to pursue an Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) with BC Hydro, however, the situation remained challenging given the British Columbia's recent decision to proceed with the Site C project, making the demand for power from other generation projects like the Kinskuch Lake Project minimal.

PRINCE RUPERT GAS TRANSMISSION LTD. (PRGT)

The Nisga'a Nation and Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd. (PRGT) have an agreement on a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline from northeast British Columbia, through Nisga'a Lands, to the coast. The agreement provides the Nisga'a Nation with significant direct financial benefits including annual payments over the life of the project, capacity funding, exclusive contracting opportunities for right-of-way clearing, camp services, security, and medical services on Nisga'a Lands. Additionally, the Nisga'a Nation and PRGT will work together to determine whether the Nisga'a Nation can establish a future natural gas distribution scheme to serve homes within the Nass Valley.

In addition to the Benefits Agreement with PRGT, the Nisga'a Nation entered into an agreement with British Columbia to provide for the sharing of benefits associated with the project. Under the agreement, British Columbia will pay lump sum milestone payments as well as yearly payments over the life of the project. The PNW LNG plant is proposed as the terminus of the PRGT pipeline and has undergone a federal environmental assessment. NLG granted to PRGT a license of occupation under section 6 of the *Nisga'a Land Act*.

During the reporting period, Pacific Northwest LNG announced that it would not be proceeding with its proposed LNG facility. However, the Nisga'a Nation's agreement with PRGT remains effective and the Nisga'a Nation and PRGT are continuing to pursue

opportunities for LNG development to utilize the corridor it has created for the PRGT project.

PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION

Pursuant to the agreement allowing PRGT to build a natural gas pipeline through the Nass Area and Nisga'a Lands, the Nisga'a Nation has an option to secure capacity in the proposed PRGT pipeline for use by an LNG developer selected by and in partnership with the Nisga'a Nation. The Nisga'a Nation has been actively pursuing opportunities for LNG development in the vicinity of Nasoga Gulf. Although no project is proposed for this location at this time, the area may eventually be developed and may include LNG or other infrastructure development.

The Treaty provides for the addition of lands to Nisga'a Lands provided that they are owned by the Nisga'a Nation in fee simple, are contiguous to Nisga'a Lands, and that British Columbia and Canada agree to the addition of the lands to Nisga'a Lands.

In 2015, the Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia entered into negotiations regarding the purchase of the upland, a long-term lease of the foreshore at Nasoga Gulf and the addition of the Nasoga Gulf upland to Nisga'a Lands. Canada has indicated support for this initiative subject to concluding its obligations to consult. Should the transaction be concluded, the Nisga'a Final Agreement would apply to the Nasoga Gulf upland, including concurrent application of federal, provincial, and Nisga'a law. In 2016, WSN passed resolutions directing that funds be made available to complete the purchase. The terms of the draft purchase and sale agreement, and the long-term lease, are confidential until all terms have been finalized and the transfer is complete. The proposed land transactions are contingent on provincial consultation with potentially impacted First Nations.

SEABRIDGE GOLD INC. / KSM MINE

NLG and Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge) have a Benefits Agreement in connection with Seabridge's proposed KSM Project, which would include an open-pit gold, copper, silver, and molybdenum mine development near the headwaters of the Unuk River. The project is known as the Kerr-Sulphurets Mitchell (KSM) Mine. The agreement includes commitments by Seabridge regarding jobs and contracting opportunities at the KSM Project, education and training, financial payments, and a framework for working together on ongoing development matters. This comprehensive agreement also addresses concerns expressed by the Nisga'a Nation around the potential environmental and social impacts of the KSM Project.

During the reporting period, a \$19.7 million exploration program commenced, consisting of 28,000 meters of drilling and other surface work.

RED MOUNTAIN MINE (IDM MINING)

IDM Mining has proposed the exploration and development of the Red Mountain Gold Mine project, located 15 kilometres east of Stewart. NLG is a member of the Environmental Assessment Working Group that is selecting valued components that the proponent must evaluate and satisfy in order to obtain an environmental assessment certificate. During the reporting period, the environmental assessments and benefits agreement negotiations were nearing conclusion.

BRUCEJACK MINE (PRETIUM RESOURCES INC.)

Previously, NLG entered into a Project Agreement with Pretium Resources Inc. with respect to the potential underground gold and silver mine near Brucejack Lake. Under the Benefits Agreement, Pretium Resources Inc. will make a series of lump sum payments to the Nisga'a Nation upon the occurrence of certain milestones. Further, the Nisga'a Nation receives an annual

payment based on a percentage of the mineral tax annually payable by Pretium Resources Inc. to British Columbia.

The Benefits Agreement also provides opportunities in respect of contracting and employment for Nisga'a Businesses and Nisga'a citizens. In addition, the Nisga'a Nation entered into an Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) with British Columbia, which will see the Province share a percentage of the mineral tax revenue collected from the mine in each year.

During the reporting period, Pretium Resources Inc. achieved commercial production and revenue sharing payments commenced.

NASS STEWARDSHIP PROTOCOL (NSP)

Previously, NLG and British Columbia began working to develop a 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 into account any impacts to Nisga'a Lands, residents of Nisga'a Lands, and Nisga'a Treaty interests.

During the reporting period, significant progress was made, particularly in the area of forestry and the review of and assessment of impacts resulting from the renewal or approval of Forest Stewardship Plans in the Nass Area. This work is ongoing with the objective of finalizing a protocol in the near future.

NISGA'A LAND TITLE

Holding the title to one's own land offers the potential to generate capital for economic development. Developing nations and their citizens are crippled by their inability to use the title to their lands as a means of raising capital. No longer bound by the *Indian Act*, this should not be the case for the Nisga'a Nation or its citizens. Yet Nisga'a citizens have, until recently, been unable to benefit from the equity in their homes and Nisga'a Villages have been unable to capitalize on their assets. The Nisga'a Individual Landholding Project has changed this.

Unrestricted fee simple ownership, possible since October 2012, allows Nisga'a citizens to own land in fee simple and to be able to approach lending institutions for a mortgage without requiring a guarantee from the Nisga'a Nation. Providing Nisga'a citizens with the ability to use their residential properties to raise capital — like other Canadians — unlocks an important resource for supporting economic growth, investment, and increase prosperity for Nisga'a citizens.

The Nisga'a Land Title system is unique in the world, considered to be a best practice model internationally, and is the only Aboriginal title system that has membership in both the Canadian Conference of Land Title Officials and the International Registrars of Title Organization.

“The Nisga'a Nation will prosper as a self-reliant society with a sustainable economy. Nisga'a culture, self-determination, and well-being will be preserved and enhanced for generations to come.”

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

*Wil dip adigwil nidixdidalk̓tdim̓ gan wilhl s̓gihl ax̓y ookskw sk̓'apdim̓ /
We inspire trust and understanding through effective communication*

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate of Nisga'a Lisims Government works to improve the way government members communicate with each other, Nisga'a citizens, its Treaty partners, and the wider world.

COMMUNICATING WITH CITIZENS

NLG is committed to maintaining open, honest, and effective channels of communication. Special Assemblies are held every two years, where government members report (both in person and in a printed report) on all areas of governance and public programs. Every Nisga'a citizen has the right to attend and speak at Special Assemblies and the proceedings are webcast to ensure all Nisga'a citizens are able to participate.

In addition to biennial Special Assemblies, the directorate:

- publishes NLG's monthly newsletter;
- maintains and enhances NLG's website (www.nisgaanation.ca) and social media;
- develops and maintains websites and social media for major events;
- webcasts important events;
- broadcasts Nisga'a news and information to Nisga'a Villages, Urban Locals, and Nisga'a institutions;
- compiles and maintains a photo gallery of significant events.

REACHING THE WIDER WORLD

While some issues and initiatives are specific to Nisga'a citizens, others may have regional, provincial, or national implications. The Nisga'a Final Agreement is a groundbreaking treaty and its implementation is being closely watched. Fostering a broad understanding of the Treaty is the goal of the directorate's public relations efforts. This goal is achieved through the production and distribution of information packages, videos, media alerts, press releases, interviews, and collaborating with Treaty partners (Canada and British Columbia) in the production of this report.

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT COALITION

When it comes to treaty making, Nisga'a Lisims Government has a wealth of experience to share. As a way of reaching out to and partnering with First Nations across Canada, NLG is a member of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC). The objective of the LCAC is to lobby Canada to put in place a federal Implementation Policy that supports the full implementation of modern day treaties, such as the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

From time immemorial, Nisga'a elders have selected youth and trained them to become leaders of their respective wilps (houses). In keeping with this tradition, Nisga'a Government continues to engage and train the leaders of tomorrow. NLG is committed to improving

access for Nisga'a youth to programs and services by involving them in the social and economic decision-making of government. This is accomplished through the Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC). Each Nisga'a Village and each Nisga'a Urban Local has its own Youth Council, which sends a representative to the seven-member NYAC.



“We are Nisga'a. We declare to the world that we are a unique Aboriginal nation of Canada, proud of our history, and assured in our future. We claim and take our rightful place as equal participants in Canadian society. Our destiny is living peacefully together with the other nations of Canada.”

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION

Programs & Services

*Dimt hugaxam diyeem' nidiit t an dixde'entgum' /
Our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs*

Guided by Nisga'a culture and best practices from around the world, Nisga'a Lisims Government works to improve the lives of Nisga'a people. In partnership with the four Nisga'a Village Governments, NLG delivers a wide range of culturally appropriate programs and services in the areas of health, education, social development, local services, and access to justice.

FISCAL FINANCING AGREEMENT

The Treaty requires the Parties to enter into a Fiscal Financing Agreement describing the financial relationship among the Parties. The FFA sets out funding amounts from Canada and British Columbia to NLG for supporting agreed-upon government programs and services, and for supporting treaty implementation activities. The FFA also sets out terms, conditions, and reporting requirements for transfer payments.

During the reporting period, funding from Canada amounted to \$68,735,501 million for federally-supported programs and services, including: education, social development, health, physical works (capital/housing), local government, and non-commercial fisheries. British Columbia paid \$5,013,410. All federal and provincial transfers were completed on time.

Canada and British Columbia may also provide additional program or project funding to NLG to support specific initiatives; these funding amounts are indicated in relevant sections of this report. The Parties signed the current Nisga'a Nation FFA on February 26, 2010 with effective dates of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2015. The term of the current agreement was extended

to March 31, 2017. During the reporting period, negotiations for the new FFA continued and the term of the current agreement was extended again, until March 31, 2019.

NISGA'A VALLEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

Nisga'a Government manages the delivery of healthcare in Nisga'a communities through the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA). Registered under the *Societies Act*, the elected body includes representatives from the four Nisga'a Villages and an elected representative from the non-Nisga'a community.

Responsible for creating and maintaining facilities and promoting medical and public healthcare programs, NVHA operates a diagnostic centre in Gitlaxt'aamiks and satellite clinics in the other Nisga'a Villages, providing physician services, home care, cultural community health representatives, and the administration of non-insured health benefits. During the reporting period, through the Fiscal Financing Agreement, NVHA received \$21,700,826 million from Canada and \$2,283,407 from British Columbia.

Nisga'a Valley Health Authority is guided by the Nisga'a Nation Health Plan, which was developed in collaboration with NLG, the four Nisga'a Villages, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority Board, medical teams, and employees. The Nisga'a Nation Health Plan "A Shared Path to Improved Health" is available on the NVHA website: www.nisgahealth.bc.ca.

NISGA'A CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

NLG provides service options to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and policies. This is achieved through Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS), which works to support Nisga'a families through the promotion and utilization of the Ayuuk. With offices located in Gitlaxt'aamiks, Terrace, and Prince Rupert, NCFS provides both statutory services (an extension of the child welfare law) and non-statutory services (volunteer community services). During the reporting period, Canada provided \$5.1 million for social programs and British Columbia provided \$2,197,560 for delegated and non-delegated services. British Columbia also contributed \$149,471 for child and youth mental health services.

NCFS offers support services for families, which promote sound parenting practices and respite care. Voluntary care agreements allow parents to place their children in a safe, approved home during medical treatment or training. Special Needs Agreements ensure the safe care of children with special needs.

NCFS also distributes support payments to families for providing foster care for Nisga'a children in Nisga'a family care homes. Other services include:

- Family Group Conference Program, which provides a venue for alternative family dispute resolution;
- Infant Development Program, which benefits children from birth to three years of age by providing support and education for parents;
- Supported Child Care Development Program, which supports and provides advocacy for children with special needs.

NCFS surplus funds provide resources for the following NLG programs:

- Youth Worker Program;
- Recreation Program;
- Community Workshops;
- Family Support Services.

CHILD PROTECTION (C-6) STATUS

Nisga'a Child and Family Services and British Columbia have been preparing for the transition to Child Protection (or C-6) status. Under British Columbia's *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, C-6 status allows for Nisga'a control over the last important area of child and family service delivery, empowering delegated NCFS staff to conduct child welfare investigations, remove children at risk, and make representations to family court with respect to children in need of protection. This is an important step in the evolution of NLG, one that has the potential to make an enormous, positive change in the lives of Nisga'a children and their families.

Previously, NCFS received Delegated C-6 status from the Aboriginal Policy and Service Support division of British Columbia's Ministry of Children and Family Development. A transition phase was in effect as work that has been carried out by the Ministry of Children and Family Development moved to the NCFS office in Gitlaxt'aamiks.

During the reporting period, Nisga'a Child and Family Services received Delegated C-6 status from British Columbia's Aboriginal Policy and Service Support of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Full Child Safety Delegated C-6 work began May 1, 2017. Community meetings were held shortly thereafter to inform the four Nisga'a communities of the transition. Provincial Delegation for C-6 to NCFS is limited to the Nass Valley; British Columbia's MCFD Terrace retains responsibility for C-6 delegated work for Nisga'a families in Terrace.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

NLG is committed to supporting healthy and economically prosperous Nisga'a communities where children, youth, and adults have hope and opportunities, as well as access to social programs that support a healthy living standard. This is accomplished by developing individual and family strengths and by providing access to social services that will enhance self-sufficiency. As social policies are continuously evolving,

NLG keeps apprised of any provincial changes and ensures NLG's policies and services are reasonably comparable to those available to residents elsewhere in British Columbia.

The following programs are funded through the FFA:

- Basic Needs;
- Training Employment Support;
- Special Needs;
- Family Violence Prevention;
- Guardian Financial Assistance;
- Community Support Services;
- Adult In-Home Care;
- National Child Benefit Reinvestment;
- Employment Initiatives;
- Community Preventative Services.

POLICING SERVICES

During the reporting period, police services on Nisga'a Lands were provided through the Police Services Funding Contribution Agreement between NLG and British Columbia.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

NLG's Access to Justice Department works to involve every Nisga'a citizen in promoting safety by building on the strengths of individuals, families, and communities. The Justice Department supports the prevention and resolution of conflicts by increasing awareness of the Nisga'a Ayuuk and Canadian laws through the following programs.



- The **ABORIGINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM** assists the justice system in improving its relevance and effectiveness in Nisga'a communities; encourages the revival of traditional Nisga'a practices in resolving conflict; develops alternative programming to deal with deterrence and prevention, diversion, sentencing, rehabilitation, and incarceration; and encourages crime prevention through information, education, and community development programming with Nisga'a communities. (Funded \$104,319 annually from British Columbia.)
- The **YUUHLIMK'ASKW PROGRAM** and **YOUTH JUSTICE PROGRAM** provide culturally appropriate alternative justice solutions and help Nisga'a communities effectively respond to youth justice issues/needs. (Funded \$87,890 annually from Canada.)
- The **NASS VALLEY RCMP VICTIMS SERVICES PROGRAM** provides emotional support to victims of crime during their recovery and involvement with the justice process. (Funded \$37,641 annually by British Columbia.)

REGISTRY OF LAWS

The Nisga'a Registry of Laws is housed in NLG's offices and is available to the public. Updated on a regular basis, the registry consists of laws, regulations, and amendments currently in force, which are now available on the NLG website at: www.nisgaanation.ca.

During the reporting period, NLG's legislature, Wilp Si'ayuuḱhl Nisga'a (WSN), passed the following legislation and enacted the following regulations:

- Nisga'a Home Owner Grant Amendment Regulation;
 - Nisga'a Miscellaneous Regulations Amendment Regulation;
 - Nisga'a Real Property Tax Enforcement Amendment Regulation;
 - Nisga'a Programs and Services Regulation;
 - Nisga'a Permissive Exemptions Regulation;
- Nisga'a Conditions of Appropriation Regulation;
 - Nisga'a Real Property Tax Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 2);
 - *Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Amendment Act.*

NISGA'A SETTLEMENT TRUST

Under the Treaty, the capital transfer to the Nisga'a Nation was paid over 14 years. NLG has developed a risk budgeting framework for these funds, known as the Nisga'a Settlement Trust. NLG diligently monitors the trust to ensure continued growth. Where other elected administrations routinely plan four to five years into the future, the primary goal of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust is to provide financial stability to the Nisga'a Nation through the seventh generation.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust*

2003	\$27,028,368
2004	\$36,903,676
2005	\$44,858,894
2006	\$55,504,793
2007	\$71,875,085
2008	\$82,520,867
2009	\$78,990,071
2010	\$112,361,793
2011	\$143,959,977
2012	\$164,888,996
2013	\$192,581,720
2014	\$234,058,417
2015	\$278,350,704
2016	\$303,670,753
2017	\$314,900,000
2018	\$301,432,192

*Annual fund value on March 31.

CAPITAL FINANCE COMMISSION

NLG's Capital Finance Commission (CFC) was established to enable the financing of major maintenance or replacement of FFA listed 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 meets to consider submissions under Schedule C of the FFA, and to consider submissions under the *New Assets Act*.

PERSONAL INCOME TAXATION

Under the Treaty, the income tax exemption for Nisga'a citizens, and all Status Indians employed on Nisga'a Lands, ceased to apply effective January 1, 2013. Nisga'a citizens are no longer exempt from income tax if they are employed on any reserve land in Canada. Prior to the conclusion of the exemption, NLG negotiated and executed revenue sharing agreements with Canada and British Columbia. Under these agreements, income taxes paid by Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands flow to the Nation. In addition, some income taxes paid by non-Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands also flow to the Nisga'a Nation. Residency is determined as the ordinary residence of the individual on the last calendar day of each tax year (December 31st).

CONSUMPTION TAXATION

In accordance with the Treaty, the exemption from consumption taxes ceased to apply effective June 1, 2008 for all status Indians within Nisga'a Lands and for Nisga'a citizens elsewhere in Canada. Effective July 30, 2008, under a tax administration agreement with Canada, Canada collects and administers the Nisga'a Goods and Services tax on behalf of NLG. The Nisga'a Goods and Services Tax replaces the federal goods and services tax on Nisga'a Lands and is payable by both Nisga'a citizens and other persons on Nisga'a Lands. Under the 2013 Provincial Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement (PSTRSA), British Columbia shares 50 percent of provincial

sales tax revenues estimated to be attributable to Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands. The PSTRSA replaces all previous consumption taxation agreements between the Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia.

PROPERTY TAXATION

Under the Real Property Tax Co-ordination Agreement between the Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia, NLG began levying and collecting real property taxes on properties held by both Nisga'a citizens and persons other than Nisga'a citizens on Nisga'a Lands in 2015.

All residents on Nisga'a Lands received a letter from British Columbia Assessment in early January after which Property Tax notices were issued from NLG's Property Tax Administrator. The assessment provided Nisga'a citizen homeowners with an initial objective valuation of their property. NLG managed the impact of these assessments through a series of measures similarly employed by governments throughout British Columbia, including the Home Owner Grant, the Low Income Grant Program, and exemptions for NLG's public service and other institutions.

The British Columbia Assessment system will be of enormous value to the Nisga'a Nation when industrial and commercial properties are developed on Nisga'a Land. The tax revenue from those developments will provide funding for infrastructure, as well as social and economic programs.

BALANCED BUDGET

During the reporting period, WSN passed a balanced final budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, as required by Nisga'a law.

“We are Nisga'a, the people of K'alii-Aksim Lisims. May K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl continue to protect our land and nation.”

DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

A pillar in the foundation of good governance is a government's ability to maintain transparency and accountability in its day-to-day operation. The Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation (Nisga'a Constitution) came into effect on May 11, 2000, and provides for the establishment of Nisga'a Lisims Government, each of the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and the three Nisga'a Urban Locals. The Nisga'a Constitution further called for the establishment of Nisga'a Laws, which, among other things, contain provisions for transparency and accountability in government decision-making and financial administration.

The *Nisga'a Government Act* stipulates requirements for the frequency of meetings of various bodies, such as WSN, the NLG Executive, the Council of Elders, and all other House committees of Nisga'a Government. The *Nisga'a Government Act* also enforces the Members' Code of Conduct, which specifies requirements with respect to the conduct of each elected and appointed Nisga'a representative while serving in their official capacity.

The Nisga'a Government's standards of financial administration are comparable to standards generally accepted for governments in Canada. There are requirements in Nisga'a Laws for budgets, quarterly reports, annual reports, and audits of the financial activities of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions.

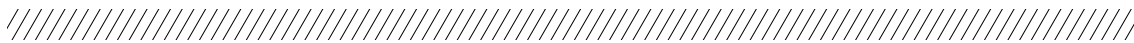
The *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* stipulates details for oversight, management and control of all financial matters of the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Government, and Nisga'a Public Institutions. Under the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* there must be an annual independent audit of financial statements of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions, which is made available for inspection by Nisga'a citizens and is available on the Nisga'a Lisims Government website: www.nisgaanation.ca.

The Nisga'a Nation is also accountable to the governments of Canada and British Columbia for the funding provided by those governments and fulfills this obligation by submitting reports and audits, annually or as required.

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All amounts are included in the March 31, 2018 audited consolidated financial statements of Nisga'a Lisims Government or have been calculated from those financial statements. The statements are available to all Nisga'a citizens by appointment, or on www.nisgaanation.ca.

Statement of operations and accumulated surplus	2018	2017
REVENUES		
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	\$ 67,365,897	\$65,663,536
Investment Income	19,406,339	13,278,812
Tax revenue	7,407,810	2,493,439
Share of commercial entities' revenue	2,833,877	1,595,630
Other revenues	6,189,320	5,344,660
	103,203,243	88,376,077
Operating expenses	26,272,377	35,990,188
Transfers and operating grants		
Nisga'a Village Governments	24,710,277	25,746,435
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	16,263,362	16,308,562
Nisga'a School Board #92	8,479,721	8,292,274
Nisga'a Urban Locals	1,999,526	1,966,616
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	1,007,245	934,532
	52,460,131	53,248,419
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	24,470,735	(862,530)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	243,668,813	244,531,343
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	268,139,548	243,668,813
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	2018	2017
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and other current assets	3,503,255	3,564,218
Accounts and loans receivable	1,887,043	3,165,225
Capital Finance Commission receivable	—	—
Designated cash	13,347,829	9,216,556
Designated investments	27,250,804	26,002,058
Designated trust funds	261,735,122	248,475,765
Investments in other entities	681,470	764,756
	308,405,523	291,188,578
LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness	545,056	189,737
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	20,131,976	31,883,437
Deferred revenues and deposits received	3,155,642	3,076,304
Funds held for silviculture	—	1,806,076
Silviculture obligation	1,238,454	—
Capital Finance Commission deferred revenue	39,922,936	34,858,417
Long-term debt	1,526,567	1,966,263
	66,520,631	73,780,234
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	241,884,892	217,408,344
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets	25,861,081	25,903,252
Other non-financial assets	393,575	357,217
	26,254,656	26,260,469
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	268,139,548	243,668,813



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