



Aam Wil  
Bakwsim' /  
Welcome ...



# ...to a land

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 twenty-second year of the Treaty, from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.



of  
power  
and  
plenty

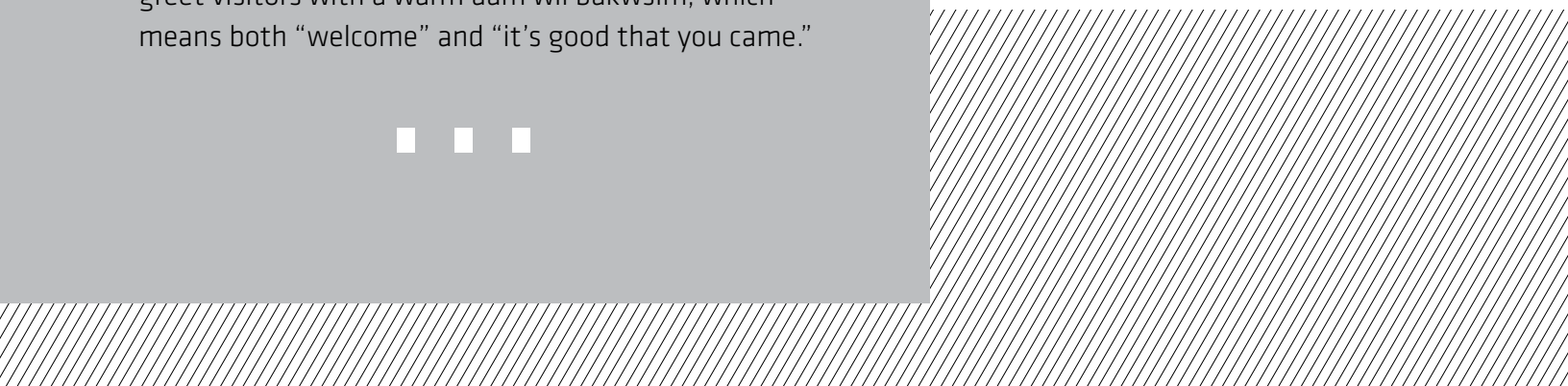


# homeland

is a word close to  
the hearts of people  
everywhere /

Ours is crowned by soaring peaks, including the four Saviour Mountains where our ancestors took refuge during the Great Flood. From here, K'alii-Aksim-Lisims (the Nass River) begins its long and storied journey connecting the heavens, earth, and sea. Along the way, it collides with a vast lava flow and becomes the spawning grounds of five species of Pacific salmon. Whales, dolphins, and porpoises pass through the estuary where the river pours into the bay. From these shores, we have repelled invaders, received visitors, and launched countless journeys.

In 2000, the Nisga'a Final Agreement recognized the physical and spiritual home of the Nisga'a. Today, we greet visitors with a warm aam wil bakwsim', which means both "welcome" and "it's good that you came."





## Nisga'a Lands /

In 2022, the Nisga'a Nation opened a dedicated portal to welcome the world. We're working to build our tourism industry in partnership with British Columbia and Canada. The Discover Nisga'a website now showcases Nisga'a Lands, hospitality, and culture.

On Nisga'a Lands, visitors discover vast lava beds, lush temperate rainforests, and a world-renowned collection of Northwest Coast Indigenous art and artifacts. On Nisga'a Lands, the majesty of the natural world and the legacy of its people are yours to experience and enjoy.

[www.discovernisgaa.com](http://www.discovernisgaa.com)



## NISGA'A – PEOPLE OF K'ALII-AKSIM-LISIMS / NISGA'A NUUM – HLI GADIHL K'ALII-AKSIM-LISIMS

### OUR LAND

K'alii-Aksim Lisims 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 8,033 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 people 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 the 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-Çoot: 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-Çoot, 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;
- + our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

Níhl gan aluut'aahl naa núum 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 CULTURE & HERITAGE

The 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-haanaq (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:

- + authenticating and authorizing Nisga'a culture;
- + promoting the authority of Nisga'a adawaak (oral history)
- + preserving Nisga'a documented information;
- + 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 language and culture initiatives by various NLG stakeholders;

- + researching, interpreting, and developing documentation as it relates to Nisga'a culture and history;
- + supporting the Integrated Strategic Plan for Family Wellness;
- + planning and coordinating Elders and Youth Workshops; and
- + supporting other NLG language and culture initiatives.

### 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 (\$60,000, including a COVID-19 renumeration amount of \$1,400).

## 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.

During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Museum collaborated with the UBC Museum of Anthropology (MOA) with respect to the seismic upgrade of their Great Hall and a pole in their collection that belongs to Wilps Laay. Nisga'a Museum staff participated in discussions with both MOA and Sim'oogit Laay.



*"The traditional roles of Simgigat and Sigidim-haanaḱ, 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-haanaḱ will continue to provide guidance and interpretation of the Ayuuk to Nisga'a Government."*

**DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION**



# Ts'im ganwilaak'ils wil luusisgihl gandidils / Learning is a way of life

## NISGA'A EDUCATION

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.

### **NURSERY EDUCATION**

The Nursery program is delivered through the four Nisga'a Village Governments and provides Headstart, Preschool, and Daycare programs. Early Childhood Educators organize and plan local events, initiatives, and training for families and staff. Lisims Early Learners Partners (LELP) collaborate with Nisga'a Children and Family Services, Nisga'a Child Support Services, School District #92 (Nisga'a), Social Development, and Nisga'a Lisims Government Programs and Services. LELP has contributed to the collaboration of Welcome Baby Blanket Ceremonies, the Strawberry Festival, and Welcome to Kindergarten events that support first steps in the process of lifelong learning.

### **PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION**

On Nisga'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisga'a) [SD92], part of British Columbia's publicly funded school system. Created in 1977, SD92 is the first

Indigenous-run school district in Canada. 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 SD92 a total of \$8,347,842 (year ending June 30, 2022) in operating funding.

### **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. SD92 is moving toward 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; and
- + healthy living.

**Combined Post-Secondary Enrollment & Completion Rates of Nisga'a citizens\***

YEAR	ENROLLMENT		COMPLETION RATE %	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
2021-2022	140	67	65%	70%
2020-2021	141	63	56%	37%
2019-2020	188	84	56%	62%
2018-2019	112	68	40%	78%
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.

**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.

**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 1,879 course completions in Nisga'a Language and Culture.

During the reporting period, WWNI reported 86 course enrolments in academic programs. Since WWNI's incorporation in 1993, graduates have earned the following credentials.

**ACADEMIC**

- + 1 Master of Arts (FNST) Degree with Distinction
- + 57 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**

- + 67 Nisga'a Studies Certificates
- + 16 First Nations Language – Nisga'a Certificates
- + 65 General First Nations Studies Certificates
- + 8 Nisga'a Language Fluency Certificates

**VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES**

- + 199 (various)

**WWNI Funding Sources**

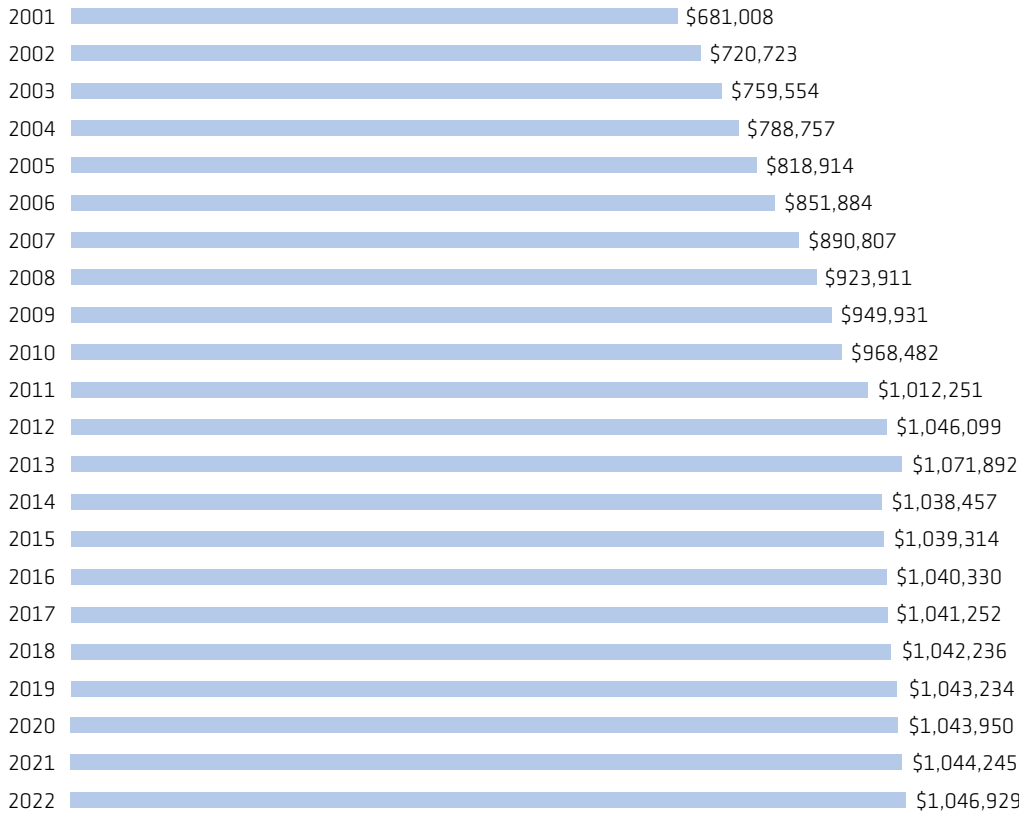
<b>NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT</b>	\$227,709
<b>NISGA'A NATION FFA – CANADA</b>	\$487,094
<b>NISGA'A NATION FFA – BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>	\$280,000
<b>UNBC / WWNI FEDERATED AGREEMENT (BRITISH COLUMBIA)</b>	\$216,000
<b>MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION (BRITISH COLUMBIA)</b>	\$121,000
<b>MINISTRY OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE SKILLS (BRITISH COLUMBIA)</b>	\$30,000
<b>UNBC / WWNI ENDOWMENT FUND*</b>	\$47,372

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

\*Through the Vancouver Foundation. Current fund value: \$1,043,234.



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



\*Annual fund value (on March 31).

**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.

*"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**

# Sgihl ǵandi'ak̄hla'amskw loom', ǵan wil dip dixyugwihl ha'am wil / We strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance

## NISGA'A ECONOMY

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 Indigenous Skills and Employment 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 reporting period, NEST delivered various training programs, including: Bladerunners, Pathways to Employment, Essential Skills, Adult Dogwood Preparation, and Economic Recovery Training. These programs were funded with term funding from British Columbia and Canada. Core funding is provided by Canada through a shared cost agreement (effective from 2019-2029) and through the Fiscal Finance Agreement.

### **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. Since inception, the Nisga'a Business Development Fund has funded 56 projects.

During the reporting period, NLG launched the Nisga'a Nation Business Incubator (NNBI) to provide support for early-stage Nisga'a entrepreneurs to assist them through the steps of launching and operating a new business. The NNBI is committed to increasing the number of successful Nisga'a business operators and strengthening existing Nisga'a enterprises by providing support to entrepreneurs in five key areas: infrastructure, business services, financing, "people connectivity," and training. Initially launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NNBI provides connections to resources, funding, and mentorship for early-stage Nisga'a entrepreneurs whether they are located on Nisga'a Lands, or beyond, at [www.nnbi.ca](http://www.nnbi.ca).

### 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. All harvested cutblocks on Nisga'a Lands are regenerated through planting and natural regrowth. To ensure reforestation, NLG collects a silviculture levy for each harvested cutblock.

The K'ali Ak's Timber Corporation (KATC) is the holder of the Nisga'a Public Lands Licence. KATC operates under the KATC Forest Development Plan (Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2025), which is available for review at the NLG office in Gitlaxt'aamiks, the four Nisga'a Village offices, the three Nisga'a Urban Local offices, and the KATC office. The sole shareholder of the corporation is the Nisga'a Nation.

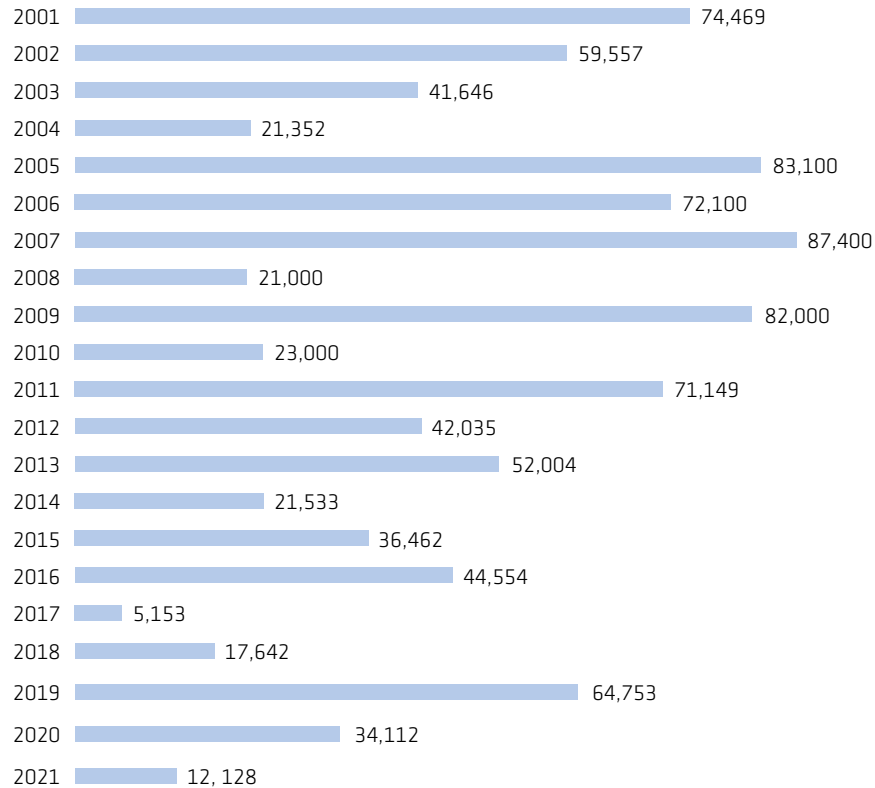
### PROVINCIAL FUNDING: FORESTRY & ROADS

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 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: a tour to monitor the status of Spruce Beetle infestation including the Fulmar (previous outbreak area); and inspection of 71.67 km of road including completion of light to heavy surface brushing, repair due to slides, and grading.



### Cubic Metres of Nisga'a Timber Harvests



### DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Directorate of Enforcement and Emergency Services includes the Department of Compliance and Enforcement, the Department of Emergency Response Services, and the Department of Security.

#### Department of Compliance & Enforcement

The Department of Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) focuses on protecting the natural resources of Nisga'a Lands and the natural inheritance of the Nisga'a Nation. This is accomplished through enforcing the *Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act*, the *Nisga'a Forest Act* and the *Nisga'a Offence Act*, and through educating Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a recreational users of the Nass Wildlife Area. C&E provides public education presentations on how to prevent human/wildlife conflict, how to be safe around aggressive animals, and how to coexist with wildlife in Nisga'a Villages.

C&E strives to educate hunters/anglers regarding the regulations and expectations of all users in the Nass Wildlife Area while maintaining a positive relationship with the public.

During the reporting period, C&E undertook the following activities:

- + ongoing community engagement and education;
- + monitoring public safety and marine activities;
- + enforcement of laws protecting natural resources;
- + conducting training exercises, regular inspections, investigations, and evidence gathering;
- + emergency response;
- + presenting evidence in court;
- + monitoring the internet for sales of fish and wildlife;
- + removal of problem wildlife; and
- + search and rescue operations.

### **Department of Emergency Response Services**

The Department of Emergency Response Services (ERS) follows four pillars of emergency management to help the Nisga'a Villages before, during, and after a crisis. These include: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response. ERS is responsible for ensuring that NLG is ready to respond to any event or emergency that threatens the safety and security of Nisga'a citizens, its own organization, infrastructure, and employees. It has the capability and capacity to:

- + identify the risks related to critical infrastructure;
- + prepare emergency management plans in respect to those risks;
- + maintain, test, and implement those plans; and
- + conduct exercises and training.

ERS is also responsible for:

- + emergency management in an Emergency Operation Centre and/or incident command post;
- + Nisga'a Emergency Health Transportation Program;
- + marine environmental spill response;
- + structure fire services and support;
- + land environmental spill response;
- + Nisga'a ground search and rescue;
- + Nisga'a marine search and rescue;
- + climate change and adaptation;
- + wildland fire services and wildland urban interface; and
- + development of next generation 911 service on Nisga'a Lands.

### **Department of Security**

The Directorate of Enforcement and Emergency Services coordinates the security strategy for NLG in order to ensure the safety and security of NLG employees, visitors, and property. It addresses security and safety concerns and ensures coordination of updates, notices, threat assessment, planning, and liaising with appropriate agencies, including the RCMP, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and Emergency Health Services (EHS).

### **WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM**

NLG'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 River) is the spawning ground of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and oolichan. NLG, Canada, and British Columbia manage the Nass River salmon and steelhead stocks to preserve these valuable fisheries resources; support food, social, and ceremonial fisheries for Nisga'a people; and, when abundant, support opportunities for commercial fisheries that are beneficial to all Canadians. The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program is facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC), which is comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation. The fisheries program utilizes fish wheels and other technologies developed over a 30-year period on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessments on a variety of fish species throughout the Nass Area. NLG works with British Columbia to manage the steelhead and trout freshwater and lake sport fisheries.

For the past 30 years, the Nass salmon and steelhead stock status has been monitored annually by NLG's Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department (NFWD). The fisheries program employed 29 Nisga'a citizens during the reporting period with fewer staff hired than past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On average, since 1992, 46 Nisga'a community members have been employed seasonally or fulltime (with a range between 24 and 114).



**Salmon Harvested in Nisga'a Individual & Communal Sale Fisheries, 2000-2021**

	<b>SOCKEYE</b>	<b>COHO</b>	<b>PINK</b>	<b>CHUM</b>	<b>CHINOOK</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
2000	70,731	554	2,606	151	0	\$890,000
2001	51,427	12,068	75,820	1,078	0	\$640,000
2002	108,814	6,800	0	0	0	\$1,180,000
2003	114,572	13,672	14,075	23	0	\$1,330,000
2004	116,671	17,170	8,983	0	0	\$1,620,000
2005	82,679	12,585	2,361	577	857	\$960,000
2006	64,253	5,249	3,042	948	1,946	\$670,000
2007	33,624	6,372	3,688	697	2,435	\$480,000
2008	17,728	793	3,438	276	0	\$210,000
2009	45,542	10,406	20,895	0	1,597	\$620,000
2010	33,818	7,768	1,338	1	28	\$410,000
2011	18,364	1,134	40,460	0	874	\$260,000
2012	39,961	9,037	3,628	0	649	\$720,000
2013	45,618	11,096	16,848	0	0	\$790,000
2014	49,744	5,951	944	0	0	\$570,000
2015	114,153	4,801	19,422	0	2,062	\$1,430,000
2016	8,400	5,560	7,165	1,896	66	\$220,000
2017	11,773	7,209	4,419	11	0	\$390,000
2018	10,335	0	284	0	0	\$172,000
2019	16,287	10	1,346	45	0	\$313,000
2020	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
<b>MEAN</b>	<b>53,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>\$694,000</b>

\*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.

The goals of the fisheries program are to:

- + monitor Nass salmon and steelhead returns to reach spawning goals and provide sustainable fisheries;
- + provide information required for Nass Area salmon, steelhead, and non-salmonid fisheries management and implement the fisheries provisions of the Nisga'a Treaty;
- + determine run size, timing, and Nisga'a entitlement estimates for Nass salmon each year;
- + determine factors limiting salmon, steelhead, and non-salmonid production; and
- + provide training and employment for Nisga'a people.

During the reporting period, food, social and ceremonial fisheries were priority and no commercial gillnet sale fisheries occurred in the Nass marine or in-river waters. This was due to below average returns for all Nass salmon species other than pink and chum salmon, which had five selective commercial seine fisheries in the Nass marine. The Nass sockeye total return (502,000) was well below average (744,000) and the eleventh lowest return over a 40-year period (1982-2021).

During the reporting period, numerous fisheries projects were completed. These projects monitored salmon and steelhead returns to the Nass River, which assisted in reaching spawning goals for each species. Core fisheries projects were funded by the Nisga'a Lisims Government, Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund, and a Fiscal Financing Agreement. These projects included:

- + program planning and coordination;
- + fishwheels (tagging and population estimates);
- + salmon and non-salmon catch monitoring;
- + oolichan catch monitoring and egg/larvae biomass surveys (population estimates);
- + Ts'oohl Ts'ap juvenile and adult coho counting fences and coded wire tagging project (northern wild coho index population);
- + Meziadin Fishway (salmon and steelhead counting);
- + Kwinageese video-counting weir;
- + non-Meziadin sockeye surveys including monitoring returns to Gingit Creek and other lower Nass River systems;
- + Lower Nass coho, pink, and chum surveys; and
- + field crew training.

Additional projects were funded by DFO, British Columbia, and the Pacific Salmon Commission Northern Fund.

During the reporting period, NFWD:

- + successfully implemented 25 fisheries projects, including three new assessment projects:
  1. sockeye, Chinook, and coho "Passive Integrated Tag (PIT)" tagging studies funded by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC);
  2. Bull Trout acoustic tagging in Meziadin Lake with British Columbia; and
  3. Nass estuary research studies of eelgrass and juvenile salmon that were funded by DFO's Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP);
- + engaged in comprehensive research reviews with DFO and British Columbia, including the review of Nass River mark-recapture methods and estimates for sockeye, chinook, coho, and summer-run steelhead from 1994 to 2019, and biological escapement goals for Nass sockeye salmon as part of PSC's evaluation of Pacific Salmon Treaty allocations;

- + helped achieve escapement goals for Nass salmon including sockeye, coho, pink, and chum, and summer-run steelhead while minimizing Chinook catches in a low return year;
- + protected availability of salmon and steelhead for Nisga'a food, social, and ceremonial fisheries while reaching spawning goals for all species except Chinook in overall low salmon returns to the Nass River;
- + tracked Nisga'a entitlement targets of salmon accurately but the Nisga'a Nation did not harvest the total entitlement of Nass salmon (26,000 sockeye, 51,000 pink, 13,000 coho and 9,600 chum) to support DFO's new Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) to rebuild British Columbia's salmon stocks;
- + engaged youth through presence at career fairs; and
- + continued to increase the capacity of NFWD employees through ongoing training.

#### **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 Fund (LFACTF) that was established as part of the Nisga'a Treaty. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the trust, and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Management Committee are considered 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. To date, two Nisga'a community members have been recipients of LCTF funding to support post-secondary education in biological sciences to become biologists of the NFWD.

**Lisims Trust\***

	<b>NET ASSET</b>	<b>DISBURSEMENT</b>
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	\$550,000
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
2018	\$18,960,902	\$600,000
2019	\$18,700,000	\$600,000
2020	\$19,700,000	\$600,000
2021	\$22,100,000	\$650,000

\*Annual fund value on March 31.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

The Nisga'a Wildlife Program monitors activities that may affect wildlife and migratory birds within areas designated under the Nisga'a Treaty. The Nass Wildlife Committee, a tripartite group comprised of members representing the Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia, and Canada advises wildlife management and harvest within the 16,101-square-kilometre Nass Wildlife Area. Under the Treaty, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear were identified as Designated Species, resulting in specific Nisga'a allocations under the Total Allowable Harvest. Annually, the Committee reviews available data and makes recommendations regarding Total Allowable Harvests to British Columbia. The Annual Management Plan for the Nass Wildlife Area includes the Nisga'a Allocation for the Designated Species and other important information regarding other wildlife species, including migratory birds.

To track the harvest of designated species, NLG employs a permitting system for moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear to track yearly harvests by Nisga'a citizens. In-season tracking of annual harvests provide close monitoring and adaptive management of each species. The effectiveness of harvest monitoring has aided the Nass moose population recovery.

During the reporting period:

- + NLG's Director of Fisheries and Wildlife was appointed as Co-Chair of the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council;
- + NFWD participated in the First Nation BC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Forum;
- + a late-winter survey of Steller sea lions and Harbour seals was completed in the Nass Wildlife Area;
- + a Harbour seal feasibility study was conducted through the Certification and Market Access Program for seals;
- + work was completed on an updated Mountain Goat Aerial Survey;
- + multi-nation collaboration took place on the Kispiox Timber Supply Area Moose Habitat Assessment and Ungulate Winter Range delineation; and
- + designated Species Harvest Monitoring was conducted.

**WORKING GROUP 6****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 percent of the total Nass Area.

*“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**

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.

**Seabridge Gold Inc. / Kerr-Sulphurets Mitchell (KSM) Mine**

NLG and Seabridge Gold Inc. (Seabridge) have a Benefits Agreement in connection with Seabridge's proposed Kerr-Sulphurets Mitchell (KSM) Mine Project, which would include an open-pit gold, copper, silver, and molybdenum

mine development near the headwaters of the Unuk River. 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. The deadline by which work must begin on the mine was extended to July 29, 2024.

During the reporting period, British Columbia granted a two-year extension to KSM Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate (through July 29, 2026) due to impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Brucejack Mine**

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, the Nisga'a Nation receives lump sum payments upon the occurrence of certain milestones. 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 British Columbia. 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 percent.

During the reporting period, Newcrest Mining Limited acquired Pretium Resources Inc. The Nisga'a Nation anticipates the same level of engagement under the new corporate structure. Nisga'a representatives met with Newcrest to discuss current operations and any potential plans for expansion.

### **Premier Mine**

In 2021, NLG entered into a Project Agreement with Ascot Resources Ltd. with respect to the proposed development of a gold mine located near Stewart, British Columbia. Ascot Resources 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. Under the Project Agreement Ascot Resources will make a series of lump sum payments to the Nisga'a Nation upon the occurrence of certain regulatory and production milestones. In addition to lump sum payments, Ascot Resources will also make annual payments to the Nisga'a Nation based on percentage of the mineral tax payable by Ascot Resources for the year to British Columbia.

The Project Agreement is structured to maximize opportunities in respect of contracting and employment for Nisga'a businesses and Nisga'a citizens by establishing a Business Opportunities Committee.

### **Ksi Lisims LNG Project**

The KSI Lisims LNG project includes proposed investments in floating liquified natural gas facilities on the West Coast, as well as an 850-kilometre pipeline route and drilling in northeast British Columbia. The Nisga'a Nation, together with its partners Western LNG and Rockies LNG, have submitted a Detailed Project Description with the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office, major step in a comprehensive regulatory process that will fully access the project and

its impacts. The assessment is compliant with Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement to ensure the Nation's interests and priorities are considered.

### **Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project**

The Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project (WCGT) is a plan to develop a natural gas transmission system from the Cypress area in northeast British Columbia to the Prince Rupert area. It will include 851 km to 872 km of 912 mm to 1219 mm diameter pipeline and up to five compressor stations. In an effort to enable the Ksi Lisims LNG Project to advance, it is important for the Nisga'a Nation to ensure a similar arrangement that the Nation has with the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project (PRGT) is in place with the WCGT project. The WCGT project completed a comprehensive environmental assessment in 2014, following a corridor through Nisga'a Lands similar to that of the PRGT project. Discussions about finalizing an agreement continue.

During the reporting period, British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office received an Application from Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Ltd. (the certificate holder) to amend Environmental Assessment Certificate #E14-04 for the Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project, a gas pipeline running from northeast B.C. to Prince Rupert. Through this amendment, the certificate holder is seeking to shorten the total length of the proposed pipeline and remove the first 138 kilometres of the northeastern most portion of the Certified Pipeline Corridor as it has been determined to no longer be required.

### **Windriver Hydro Projects**

WindRiver Power Corporation has proposed the Kinskuch Hydroelectric Project, a 50 to 80 megawatt power project located approximately 150 kilometres north of Terrace. The project consists of a dam and storage reservoir at Kinskuch Lake and a tunnel, penstock, power house, and transmission line in the upper Kinskuch River system and Nass Valley.

The Nisga'a Nation and WindRiver completed a Project Agreement for the Kinskuch Lake Project in 2018. Although the project is not currently being advanced, the good working relationship established with WindRiver led to the Nisga'a Nation's engagement of WindRiver Power Corporation as a partner in developing the transmission infrastructure for the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG 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, Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (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. During the reporting period, this proposal remained under discussion.

### 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 increased prosperity for Nisga'a citizens.

The Nisga'a Land Title system is unique in the world. Considered to be a best practice model internationally, it is the only Indigenous title system that has standing in both the Canadian Council of Land Title Officials and the International Registrars of Title Council.

Wil dip adiigwil nidixdidalk̓tdim̓ ḡan wilhl  
sgihl ax̓yookskw sk̓'apdim̓ / We inspire  
trust and understanding through  
effective communication

## COMMUNICATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate of the 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. During the reporting period, the Special Assembly was postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to biennial Special Assemblies, the directorate:

- + publishes NLG's newsletter;
- + maintains and enhances NLG's website ([www.nisgaanation.ca](http://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; and
- + 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 ground-breaking 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, the 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 huwilp (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.

During the reporting period, Nisga'a youth organized and took part in numerous health and wellness, educational, employment, and youth government initiatives designed to nurture, train, and inspire Nisga'a youth.



*"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**



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

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Guided by Nisga'a culture and best practices from around the world, the 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 (FFA) 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.

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 including an interim policy on fiscal capacity. 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 current agreement has a five-year term ending March 31, 2024.

During the reporting period, funding from Canada amounted to \$90,586,060 for federally-supported programs and services, including: education, social development, health, physical works (capital/housing), local government, and non-commercial fisheries. Funding from British Columbia totalled \$5,546,220. 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.

### 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, NLG received \$26,057,576 from Canada and \$2,804,000 from British Columbia for healthcare funding.

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 Lisims Government's Nation Health Plan "A Shared Path to Improved Health" is available on the NVHA website: [www.nisgahealth.bc.ca](http://www.nisgahealth.bc.ca).

During the reporting period, NVHA continued to provide emergency response and vaccinations to Nisga'a citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nisga'a Lisims Government commends NVHA physicians, nurses, and staff for enduring the pressures and demands of this global pandemic and for being there for Nisga'a citizens and residents during this trying time.

### **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 families through the promotion and utilization of the Ayuuk. With offices located in Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh), 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 \$6,557,619 for social programs as a part of the total funding under the Fiscal Financing Agreement. British Columbia provided \$2,197,560 for both delegated and non-delegated 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; and
- + 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; and
- + Family Support Services.

### **CHILD PROTECTION (C-6) STATUS**

Under British Columbia's *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, Child Protection (or C-6) status allows for Nisga'a control over an important area of child and family service delivery—empowering delegated NCFS staff to conduct child welfare investigations. NCFS works diligently to ensure children stay with family and avoid going into care. NCFS focuses on a Nisga'a cultural foundation for practice and programming, while ensuring that the needs of both Nisga'a families and legislative requirements are met. 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 Fiscal Financing Agreement (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; and
- + Community Preventative Services.

### POLICING SERVICES

Police services on Nisga'a Lands are provided through the Police Services Funding Contribution Agreement between NLG and British Columbia. A Community Tripartite Agreement outlines how the RCMP delivers policing services to the Nisga'a Nation. The NLG Public Order Peace and Safety Committee is the consultative group that ensures the terms of this agreement are met to the satisfaction of the Nisga'a Nation.

### 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 \$138,932 annually from British Columbia.)
- + The **YUHLIMK'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 \$99,370 annually from Canada.)
- + The **NASS VALLEY RCMP VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM** provides emotional support to victims of crime during their recovery and involvement with the justice process. (Funded \$73,440 annually by British Columbia.)

### NISGA'A 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](http://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 Real Property Tax Enforcement Amendment Regulation, 2020;
- + Nisga'a Emergency Program Regulation;
- + *Nisga'a Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, 2021;
- + Nisga'a Real Property Tax Enforcement Amendment Regulation, 2021;
- + Nisga'a Permissive Exemptions Regulation, 2022; and
- + Nisga'a Land Title Amendment Regulation, 2022.

### 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.

**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
2019	\$323,220,658
2020	\$372,610,566
2021	\$372,107,672

\*Annual fund value on March 31.

**CAPITAL FINANCE COMMISSION**

NLC'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*.

The CFC is also responsible for administering the Nisga'a Housing Program, which 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 Nisga'a Villages to prepare and maintain a housing inventory and provide reports to the CFC. During the reporting period, a Uniform Housing Policy and Grants was under development.

**COLLABORATIVE FISCAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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 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's proposal includes determining expenditure need for the Nisga'a Nation by developing a standard set of Indigenous Government Community Assets that takes into consideration infrastructure benchmarks established by comparable non-Indigenous communities as well as Indigenous government-specific considerations, 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 may recognize 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.

Adequacy, quality, and quantity of Nisga'a Nation housing stock is an issue that Canada and Nisga'a Nation can explore to identify short term "catch-up" pressures on the current housing stock. Canada is funding comprehensive housing assessments for each Nisga'a Village. Evidence provided by these assessments will assist in developing gap assessments.

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. Coordination and cooperation with other governments and agencies will be necessary to ensure efficient and effective use of available funds and new investments.

- + Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission and Nisga'a Capital (New Asset) Finance Commission;
- + Nisga'a Housing Program;
- + Nisga'a Nation Umbrella Insurance;
- + Nisga'a Subdivision Approving Officer; and
- + Facility Operations and Maintenance of NLG assets.

**CAPITAL, HOUSING, & FACILITIES OPERATIONS**

During the reporting period, NLG established the Directorate of Capital, Housing, and Facility Operations to provide support to the Nisga'a Nation in the following areas:

- + Collaborative Fiscal Policy development process;
- + Nisga'a Nation Capital Projects and Special Projects;

The directorate completed the Nisga'a Nation Asset Condition / Financial Needs Assessment, and the Nisga'a Nation Operations / Maintenance Gap Analysis and Asset Management Plan.

**NISGA'A NATION HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION PLAN**

During the reporting period, an action plan was completed that outlines the Nisga'a Nation's priorities for funding from the federal Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund (ICIF). These include the following.

	YEARS 1 & 2	YEARS 3 & 4
NLG (strategy, planning and policy under the Nisga'a Nation Asset Management Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Infrastructure Planning and Design</li> <li>• Emergency Management Service</li> <li>• Water/Wastewater Treatment</li> <li>• Land Use Planning/Official Community Plan (OCP)</li> <li>• Strategic Initiative Management</li> <li>• Financial Planning and Analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Services</li> <li>• Policy Development</li> <li>• Employee Training</li> <li>• Waste Collection</li> <li>• Waste Diversion</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Infrastructure Resilience (Climate)</li> </ul>
Laxgalts'ap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewer Main/Water Main Looping project</li> <li>• Reservoir Enhancement</li> <li>• 10 Lot Servicing/New Subdivision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage Treatment Facility</li> <li>• Water Treatment Facility</li> <li>• Multi-residential 6-plex</li> </ul>
Gitwinksihlkw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot Buy Back/Build 2 4-plex units</li> <li>• Subdivision Development/Feasibility (OCP Updates)</li> <li>• Trailer Court Densification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subdivision Design</li> <li>• 10 Major Renovations</li> <li>• Reservoir Enhancement</li> </ul>
Gingolx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy Back Vacant Lots, Phase 1 and 2</li> <li>• Water Treatment Facility</li> <li>• Subdivision Feasibility (OCP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subdivision Design</li> <li>• 10 Major Renovations</li> <li>• Buy Back Vacant Lots, Phases 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>• 2 New Build Grants</li> </ul>
Gitlaxt'aamiks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subdivision Design (OCP Updates)</li> <li>• Elders Suites</li> <li>• Townhouse Projects (Single Families)</li> <li>• Reservoir Enhancement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subdivision Development</li> <li>• Sewer Lagoon Upgrades</li> <li>• Water Treatment Facility</li> </ul>

The total cost from these projects is estimated at \$103.819 million. The Nisga'a Nation's portion of funds from the Self-Governing Indigenous Government (SGIG) allocation is \$44,683,317 over four years.

During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission received funding and advanced the following "gap closing" projects into Phase 2 (Operations / Maintenance Requirements, Planning & Documentation):

- + a Nisga'a Language & Cultural Centre; and
- + a Nisga'a Residential Care Facility.

### **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 Nisga'a 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 receive a letter from British Columbia Assessment in early January after which Property Tax notices are 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 Homeowner 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 Lands. 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 2021-2022, as required by Nisga'a law.

## 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 the 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](http://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.



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

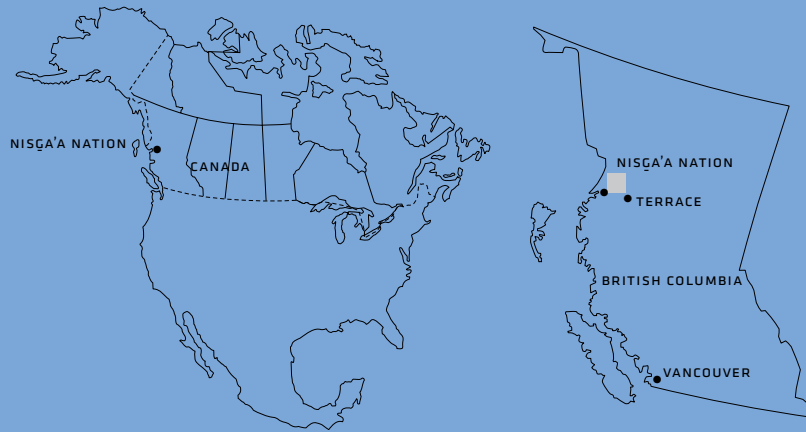
**DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION**

**NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT – SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

All amounts are included in the March 31, 2022 audited consolidated financial statements of the 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](http://www.nisgaanation.ca).

<b>Statement of operations and accumulated surplus</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Fiscal financing agreement and related funding	\$ 87,453,943	\$ 84,940,452
Investment income	14,741,795	14,712,076
Gains on sale of investments	2,163,607	11,527,921
Tax revenue	8,541,743	7,504,371
Other revenue	27,411,665	22,147,723
Targeted funding - ISC	2,195,039	2,825,704
Revenue from commercial entities	2,295,704	1,338,728
Contribution from Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust	600,000	600,000
	<b>145,403,496</b>	<b>145,596,975</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>34,185,017</b>	<b>31,906,292</b>
<b>TRANSFERS AND OPERATING GRANTS</b>		
Nisga'a Village Governments	39,359,026	35,093,027
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	14,816,299	17,562,400
Nisga'a School Board #92	10,090,740	9,707,909
Nisga'a Urban Locals	14,037,771	3,842,771
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	996,142	1,045,510
Nisga'a Citizens	6,790,000	-
	<b>86,089,978</b>	<b>67,251,617</b>
	<b>120,274,995</b>	<b>99,157,909</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>25,128,501</b>	<b>46,439,065</b>
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	356,072,237	309,633,172
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>381,200,738</b>	<b>356,072,237</b>
<b>Consolidated Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash	44,755,071	40,240,927
Restricted Cash	42,890,462	26,059,419
Accounts and loans receivable	14,163,083	3,268,591
Designated cash	17,009,267	13,530,163
Designated investments	43,725,624	41,175,061
Designated trust funds	311,082,921	302,747,242
Investments in other entities	681,470	681,470
	<b>474,307,898</b>	<b>427,702,873</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,082,601	20,568,975
Deferred revenue and deposits received	28,119,533	19,598,558
Silviculture obligation	1,071,693	1,448,093
Capital finance commission deferred revenue	60,608,773	54,030,706
Long-term debt	-	186,167
	<b>118,882,600</b>	<b>95,832,499</b>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>355,425,298</b>	<b>331,870,374</b>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 1)	25,204,436	24,109,558
Prepaid-expenses	571,004	92,305
	<b>25,775,440</b>	<b>24,201,863</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	<b>381,200,738</b>	<b>356,072,237</b>





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- + Nisga'a Lisims Government at 250-633-3000 or [www.nisgaanation.ca](http://www.nisgaanation.ca).

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***“We are Nisga’a, the people of K’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**