



# Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

October / November 2011

## Nisga'a Elders and Youth Gathering



On October 4, 5, 6, 2011 the Nisga'a Elders and Youth Gathering was hosted by Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government, Council of Elders and Nisga'a Lisims Government, Gitlaxt'aamiks, BC.

This event was an opportunity for all to come forward to voice concerns or issues in regards to the Ayuuk, language and culture. Delegates were also given the opportunity to provide solutions to some of these issues.

On the first two days there were five break-out sessions where issues such as feast protocols, responsibility of Simgigat, k'aats, hawahlkws, preservation of language and culture, traditional harvesting, Nisga'a women, etc. were discussed. The discussions went well with many of the participants being elders and youth.

The National Youth Advisory Council of Nisga'a Lisims Government had a panel of which the following participated: Kim Azak, Lena Doolan, Arthur Johnson Jr., Gilbert Morven and Julian Davis. These individuals voiced their concerns and observations on the Feast System, Language and Culture, and Traditional Harvesting & Environmental Protection of Resources. Once each member voiced concerns or asked a question, the elders were given the opportunity to respond to offer encouragement and feedback.

Included on the agenda was a Power Point presentation on day I given by Millie Percival of the Access to Justice Dept. in regards to "Impacts of Colonialism". The presentation was given in hopes that it would give an understanding of the past and present, in order to put our concerns into context, and together find solutions that will satisfy the nation. On Day III we had two Introductory Presentations:

**The First presenter was Roberta Stewart** of Nisga'a Valley Health. Roberta introduced the project "Wilp: Home is where the Healing Begins". This Hub Projects involves members from the Council of Elders, representatives from each Nisga'a community, surrounding areas and Nisga'a Valley Health, and this project covers the overall health of the Nation.

**The second presenter was Shirley Morven**, she introduced the Nisga'a Heritage Preservation Society members as follows: Jacob Nyce, President, Larry Derrick, Alex Angus, Herbert Morven, Alice Azak, Hester McKay, Audrey McKay, Adele Gosnell, Verna Williams and Nita Morven.

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The Society's Mandate is "To honor our ancestors and our future generation by working towards the **REVITALIZATION** of the Nisga'a Language and Culture; To ensure the **PERPETUATION** of the Nisga'a language and culture by keeping language and culture strong enough to survive for future generations; To ensure that Nisga'a language and culture have **PROTECTION** from extinction".

Concluding the presentations, the "Journey Home Group" of Nisga'a Ts'amiks was welcomed into the Community. For many it was their first time in the valley, therefore it was quite an emotional event. The group was welcomed by our elders, followed by traditional dancing and feasting.

Many thanks to Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government and staff who made it very easy for all to work as a team.

**Thank you to Stacey Gosnell** and catering crew. As usual the food was delicious and plentiful. **Thank you to Earl Munroe** and the maintenance crew for ensuring the safety of all, and that all was in place.

**Thank you to Gloria Morven**, for acquiring sponsorships from: Avanti Kitsault Mines, Acadia Mechanical, AllNorth

Consultants Ltd., KSM Project Seabridge Gold and CFNR. Many thanks to these companies for the large donations towards this gathering. Also, thank you to NLG for the large financial donation towards this gathering.

Thank you to Nisga'a Valley Health for responding to our request and providing health services for our elders.

Many thanks to all on the Planning Committee – representatives from the communities within the valley, the Council of Elders, volunteers from Programs and Services, NLG, and Ayuukhl Nisga'a. Your encouragement and wisdom gave us the courage to continue walking forward with respect, and the willingness to help others to understand the importance of our way of life.

In conclusion, all minutes, notes, recommendations and solutions will be forwarded to the Council of Elders for review and discussion. All follow-ups will be done in a timely manner, and if required, recommendations will be forwarded to Nisga'a Lisims Government for approval.

Thank you all again, to all involved. It is so important that we work as one, in order to walk forward, and continue to be a strong and proud Nation.

T'ooyaksiy' n'isim'

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## Reminder regarding transferring Nisga'a Village Entitlements:

Did you know that at the time of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, some of the grants of Nisga'a Village entitlement were granted in the name of one spouse only, and the name of the wife was left off of the grant?

The village of Laxgalts'ap raised this issue with the Nisga'a Lisims Government in 2007, and the result of their efforts was an amendment to the *Nisga'a Land Title Regulation* that assisted Nisga'a citizens to correct this oversight.

The amendment to the regulation allows the spouse who holds the entitlement to add his or her spouse as an owner of the entitlement without paying the Nisga'a Land Title Office registration fee.

This exemption has not been used by anyone in the last year, and consideration is being given to cancelling the

exemption next spring. That means that if you want to take advantage of the exemption, you should do so as soon as possible.

You can contact the Nisga'a Land Title Office to see if you qualify, and we can also provide you with a package that contains the necessary forms and instructions to complete the registration process.

Please note that a fee may still be required to have your signature witnessed by a lawyer or notary public.

Contact for the Nisga'a Land Title Office is as follows:

Dorothy Elliott  
Registry Clerk  
Nisga'a Land Title Office

Direct: (250) 633-3091  
Fax: (250) 633-2051  
Email: [land\\_title@nisgaa.net](mailto:land_title@nisgaa.net)  
Toll Free: 1-866-633-0888

# Community Sessions Held

During the weeks of September 12th to Sept 22nd, community sessions regarding the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) project were held in the four Nisga'a villages and three urban locals. The community sessions covered a description of the Northwest Transmission Line project, the role of the NTL Community Coordinator (Chris Young), employment and business opportunities, and the creation of Nass Area Enterprises (NAE). Nass Area Enterprises was created by the Nisga'a Lisims Government to be the representative of the Nisga'a Nation for large infrastructure projects in the Nass Area.

Nass Area Enterprises is tasked with assisting citizens find and obtain employment and business opportunities.

To help you, Nass Area Enterprises needs some key information regarding your skills, interests and desires for employment. As a result, NAE is requesting that you complete the Employment Opportunities Expression of Interest card that can be obtained at your village government office, urban local office or the NAE website [www.nassareaenterprises.com](http://www.nassareaenterprises.com).

The recorded attendance and number of Employment Opportunities Expression of Interest cards received from the different villages and urban locals is shown in the following table.

A copy of the community session presentation can be found at [www.nassareaenterprises.com](http://www.nassareaenterprises.com).

Location	Community Information Session Date	Recorded Attendance	Employment Opportunities Expression of Interest Cards Received
Gitlaxt'aamiks	September 12	49	9
Laxgalts'ap	September 13	34	13
Prince Rupert	September 14	16	n/a
Vancouver	September 17	5	n/a
Terrace	September 20th	24	16
Gitwinksihlkw	September 21st	6	n/a
Gingolx	September 22nd	32	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>47</b>

## Settlement Trust

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, the Trust has lost 5.4% in value due to volatility in global markets, fears of world recession and the European financial crisis. NLG is actively reviewing the Trust's long-term investment strategy to ensure the Trust is still in a position to meet its long-term objective. This will likely result in some short-term losses to secure long term gains.

	Sep 2011	Aug 2011
Market Value – end of month	\$152,335,688	\$156,919,925
<b>COST:</b>		
Capital contributed	126,728,496	126,728,496
Cumulative realized investment income	19,361,471	19,739,834
Total cost	<u>146,089,967</u>	<u>146,468,330</u>
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	6,245,721	10,451,595



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Monday October 17, 2011

To Our People of the Nisga'a Nation

T'ooyaksim' Nisim'

A tremendous step forward on the Journey of Nisga'a Ts'amiks has been taken. Nisga'a Ts'amiks has reconnected and our healing is underway, as we move forward as a community, we pause and give thanks to the Creator for all the blessings we received on our Journey. We also know that this Journey would not have been the success it was, without the kind and generous hearts of all our family and new friends of K'alii Aksim Lisims.

The Journey Participants would like to thank each and every person in the Nass Valley for showing true Nisga'a hospitality. We all enjoyed our comfortable beds, our meals were amazing and the stories and teachings were so very meaningful. Each of us has taken an aspect of Nisga'a life with us that we will nourish, develop and share with our community. For many of us this Journey has been life changing and we look forward to returning home to play our role within our respective Wilp when our family has work to do.

Words cannot really express the happiness we have within our hearts for all the wonderful things the Nisga'a Nation has to offer! We represent the Nation here in Ts'amiks where we stand strong and united; practicing "Sayt-K'ilim-Goot", our visit home has given us the means to keep going. Again, our Journey has been a success because of the people of the Nisga'a Nation, without your hard work and dedication we wouldn't have experienced such a wonderful home coming. To hear the words "Welcome Home" made the whole trip worthwhile.

Si'aamhl Wilsim' ii T'ooyaksim' Nisim'

Nisga'a Ts'amiks Journey Home Participants



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