



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 7

WSN Sets Standards For Elected Officials

Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), unanimously passed key amendments to the Nisga'a Elections Act that set even higher standards of conduct on Nisga'a legislators and increase Nisga'a citizens access to voting locations during Nisga'a elections. "Nisga'a Nation is upholding the highest level of governance and accountability through sweeping changes to the Nisga'a Elections Act" stated President Mitchell Stevens.

On Friday July 29, 2011, WSN enacted several amendments to the Nisga'a Elections Act which strengthen the accountability requirements for members of WSN. The amendments require elected members of WSN to resign from certain offices if they wish to serve as elected members of their Village Governments. "This requirement establishes an even higher onus on our elected members to avoid potential conflicts of interest than currently applies to local governments in the provincial context. We're not like other governments with delegated authorities" stated President Mitchell Stevens.

The amendments also enable the Executive of Nisga'a Lisims Government to prescribe one or more additional voting locations to allow Nisga'a citizens to vote on general voting day in locations in addition to the current seven voting areas. "This amendment further expands the reach of the services of the Nisga'a Elections Officer into areas such as Prince George. Previously, the laws have enabled citizens in those areas to participate in Nisga'a elections by mail in ballot. Now those Nisga'a citizens will be able to attend in person at a voting location just like Nisga'a citizens in Vancouver, Terrace and Prince Rupert. Just as our Treaty provides, our governance is continuing to evolve" stated President Stevens.

In his comments to the legislature, President Stevens stated "I want to congratulate you today. The debate was lively, and in the end you carried out your fiduciary obligations by acting in the best interests of the Nisga'a Nation using the powers vested in you by your constituents. You have risen to the occasion which is exactly why the voters put you here."

Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Bursary



In 2010 the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust continued for the third year an educational bursary of \$10,000 to an employee of the Nisga'a Fisheries Programme who was enrolled in a Bachelor of Science programme at the UNBC in Prince George, with the goal of becoming a fisheries biologist. The Trustees are delighted to report that Niva Percival recently completed her studies and in May 2011 was awarded a degree of Bachelor of Science, with a major In Natural Resource Management (wildlife and fisheries) and a minor in Environmental Studies. She has resumed her full time employment in the Nisga'a Fisheries Programme. The Trustees have expressed to the Nisga'a Lisims Government a willingness to financially assist other Nisga'a students in their post-secondary studies in the fisheries and wildlife areas.

Landholding Project Sessions - September

Please see the following schedule for the dates and times of meetings in your community. Please feel free to attend any session.

September 7 in Laxgalts'ap

Elders Session in Nisga'a Only Starts at 3:00PM at Laxgalts'ap Village Government Office
Community Information Session Starts at 7:00PM at Laxgalts'ap Community Hall

September 8 in Gitlaxt'aamiks

Elders Session in Nisga'a Only Starts at 3:00PM
Community Information Session Starts at 7:00PM
Both sessions will be held at Git Midiik Auditorium

September 10 in Vancouver

Community Information Session Starts at 2:00PM
This session will be held at St. David's Church Hall

September 12 in Terrace

Elders Session in Nisga'a Only Starts at 3:00PM
Community Information Session Starts at 7:00PM
Both sessions will be held at TNS Community Room

September 13 in Gitwinksihlkw

Elders Session in Nisga'a Only Starts at 3:00PM
Community Information Session Starts at 7:00PM
Both sessions will be held at Gitwinksihlkw Village Government Office

September 14 in Gingolx

Elders Session in Nisga'a Only Starts at 11:00AM
Community Information Session Starts at 2:00PM

Both sessions will be held at the Wilp Sayt Kilim Goot

September 15 in Prince Rupert

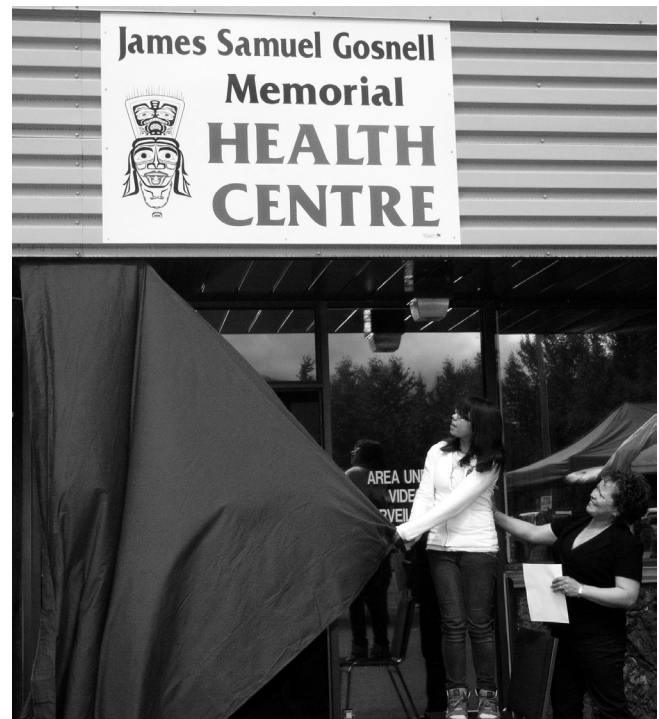
Community Information Session Starts at 7:00PM
This session will be held at Nisga'a Hall

For more information:

Tel.: 250 633-3091 Toll Free: 1 866-633-0888

Email: land.title@nisgaa.net

NVHA Designate JSGMHC As Hospital



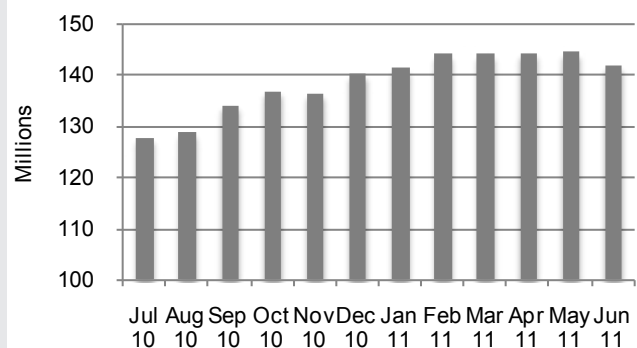
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority designated the James Samuel Gosnell Memorial Health Centre as a hospital under the Hospital Act at a ceremony on July 19, 2011. Sabrina Stevens, great grandchild of the Late James Gosnell, unveiled the plaque to make it official.

Settlement Trust

The value of the settlement trust at the end of June 2011 was 141,720,548. This is a decrease of 2,618,900 (1.8%) over the month.

Over the past year the trust has earned a total of \$17,737,615 in interest.

An investment of \$13.2 million was made in the trust in June 2010.



Nisga'a NTL Opportunity Fairs September 12 – 16

Are you interested in any opportunities that will arise during the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL)? Have you been thinking of supplying services to those who will be working to build this line? From September 12 – 16, there will be NTL Opportunity Fairs for all Nisga'a citizens to be held in the following communities:

- Gitlaxt'aamiks,
- Laxgalts'ap ,
- Gingolx,
- Gitwinksihlkw,
- Terrace & Prince Rupert

(Specific dates for each community will be further announced. Vancouver will be set for another week).

There will be at least two opportunity fairs in each Nisga'a Village and Urban Local. The first opportunity fair will introduce the Nisga'a citizens to the NTL project, job opportunities and subcontracting opportunities. Employment & training opportunities on the NTL project will be presented and explained by the Nass Area Communications Liaison and other NAE representatives. Information packages will be available to any individuals and businesses seeking additional details. Resumes and applications from interested persons will be accepted. NAE will provide refreshments to attendees.

The second opportunity fair will be to provide additional support to those seeking job opportunities and provide additional guidance based on knowledge gained from interaction with key Nisga'a companies (e.g. NCG, GEI) and the selected construction contractor.

Gathering Strength

Hundreds gathered on August 5th at the new community centre in the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx to share a traditional Nisga'a Feast with the approximately 200 canoe paddlers who embarked on the 6th annual "Gathering Strength" canoe journey. This year's route saw the participants depart from the shores of Gingolx at 6:00am on Saturday August 6th with their final destination being Hartley Bay on August 15th.

"These annual canoe journeys now include youth from many cultures, not just Nisga'a or aboriginal youth. So be respectful towards one another. A person's denomination doesn't matter. The most important thing is to follow your heart," stated President Stevens.

President Stevens' words of encouragement were also reinforced by numerous simgigat, sigidimhaanak' and community members, including Sim'oogit Axcwindaskw – Clifford Azak – who has also embarked on the journey with the group.

The evening festivities also included performances by the Kincolith Concert Band, Amihl Saxwhl Lisims Gingolx Men's Choir, a brilliant blend of musical comedy by Gingolx's own "Chug – A – Lugs", the Gingolx Cultural Dancers and later ended with a beautiful "One Nation" cultural singing performance from the 200 paddlers singing both Nisga'a and Tsimshian traditional songs in unity.

The group consists of Nisga'a participants from the Nisga'a Villages of Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gingolx, the urban communities of Gitmaxmak'ay (Prince Rupert/Port Edward) and Ts'amiks (Vancouver), representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and other First Nations communities from BC's north coast and from as far away as Alberta.

Nisga'a Museum Hours & Fees

June 21 - September 5

Open 7 days a week 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Free for children under 5 & Seniors over 60

Scheduled tours available

Children 6 - 17: \$5.00 Adults: \$8.00 Family: \$22.00

At the Museum Gift Store we accept credit & debit cards. Parking is available.

Contact:

Nisga'a Museum

PO Box 300, 810 Highway Drive, Laxgalts'ap, BC
V0J 1X0

Phone: (250) 633-3050

Email: nisgaamuseum@nisgaa.net

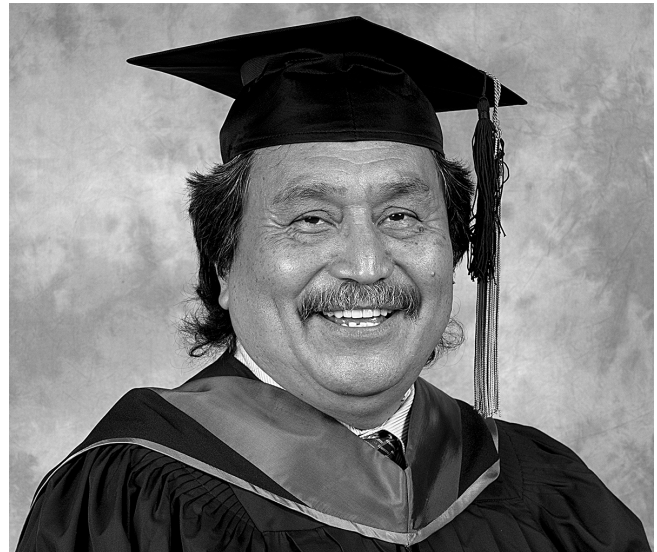
For more information: www.nisgaamuseum.ca

Gitwinksihlkw Summer Student Works Program

We are the Summer Students of Gitwinksihlkw. Paulina Robinson, Student Summer Works Supervisor will be going to UNBC in September. We're grateful that our village government was able to get some funds to establish summer work experience for us. Arthur Azak, Education-Housing Services Manager makes a presentation every morning to us about our responsibilities. We were taught that "rules" do not stop once we leave secondary school. "Rules" become "policies" when we get a job. We are also the "Public Relations Officers" like any other employee of the village government. One of the biggest things we are reminded of is the attitude we bring to our job. All of a sudden we realized we had to get up early to go to work. We were shown that performance evaluations do not stop once we leave school, a measure of our work continues once we get jobs. Another thing we were exposed to was how to read and follow directions. Arthur gave us an opportunity to develop our "To Do List" after we developed our Goals, Objectives and Plans. Our To Do List has become our work plan. Sometimes even when there are policies, we have to use our common sense and there is nothing common about common sense, we have to work at it. The Manager did tell us that there will be times when the job may seem boring and other times when it will be interesting. But we must have a good attitude about work because we are getting paid for what we do. We thank the Canadian Government for establishing this kind of program for young people to begin learning how to be employees. We already know how to work around the house but it is different when you have to report to somebody.

Submitted by Nisga'a Summer Students of Gitwinksihlkw

Nisga'a Graduate



Alvin Azak of Gitwinksihlkw celebrated the achievement of a Master of Business Administration degree recently. Convocation ceremonies were held across northern BC at UNBC's regional campuses in Terrace, Quesnel, and the Nass Valley. Congratulations.

Language Champion

The lifelong dedication of 8 BC First Nations Language Champions was recognized recently at the First Nations Languages Conference in Vancouver. The bi-annual, two day conference is co-hosted by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council. One of the 8 Language Champions for 2011 is Verna Williams (Ts'aa Gabin) - Nisga'a language, Nisga'a Nation, Gitlaxt'aamiks. "We are so proud of our Language Champions," said Tracey Herbert, Executive Dir. at the First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council. "They are a truly inspiring group of people who have dedicated their lives to keeping their languages alive for the next generation of speakers."

From the First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council



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