

The Nisga'a Nation

Special Assembly > 2006



Sayt-K'il'im-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation

Gitwinksihlkw May 1-5





Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council 2006

Chris Nelson – Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Cherie Mercer and Janet Nisyok - New Aiyansh, Damian Azak – Gitwinksihlkw, Dorothy McKay – Terrace and Jolene Sampare – Vancouver.

Danica Moore of Laxgalts'ap and Hubert Barton, Jr. of Gingolx are not pictured here.

Paving the way to a brighter future...



Day 1- Monday May 1, 2006.

**9:00am –
12:00pm**

Registration

1:00 pm **Presentation of Ganim Siwilyee'enskw**

Call to Order by Chairperson: Kevin McKay

Invocation by Gitwinksihlkw Salvation Army
– Captain Oliver McNeil

Introduction of: Co-Chairs: Eva Clayton
 Franklin Alexcee

Introduction of Translators for the week

1:30 pm **Welcome address** by Chief Councillor of Gitwinksihlkw,
Ron Nyce

Opening Remarks by President of the Nisga'a Nation, **Page 9**
Sim'oogit Axlaawaals, Mr. Nelson Leeson

2:00 pm Reading of Special Assembly Rules of Procedure – **Page 7**
Special Assembly Rules Committee

Adoption of Agenda

Executive Officers Reports

2:15 pm **President – Mr. Nelson Leeson**,
Sim'oogit Axlaawaals

2:40 pm **NLG Chairperson – Mr. Kevin McKay** **Page 10**
W'ii Ajiksim Gibaygum Xsgaak

3:05 pm **Secretary-Treasurer – Mr. Edmond Wright** **Page 12**
Sim'oogit K'amluugidis

3:30 pm **Chief Executive Officer – Edward Allen** **Page 15**

Please note the Council of Elders will provide full report on Day four

4:00 pm Executive Officer Reports – Question Period

5:00 pm Adjournment for the day. Evening activities will be
announced by the host community.

Day 2 - Tuesday, May 2, 2006.

- 8:00 am** Registration
- 9:00 am **Call to Order by:** Co-Chairs: Willard Martin
Ben Stewart
Invocation by The Reverend James Moore
- 9:15 am **Gitwinksihlkw Village Government** **Page 38**
Presentation and Question period
- 10:30 am **Directorate of Programs & Services** **Page 17**
– Calvin Albright, Director
Presentation and Question period
- 12:00 pm Lunch and entertainment
Co-Chairs: Ron Nyce
George Moore
- 1:00 pm **Laxgalts'ap Village Government** **Page 41**
Presentation and Question period
- 2:15 pm **Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society** **Page 51**
Presentation and Question Period
- 3:30 pm **Legal Counsel – Tracy Fleck** **Page 32**
Presentation and Question Period
- 5:00 pm Adjournment for the day. Evening activities will be announced by the host community.



 Day 3 – Wednesday, May 3, 2006

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am **Call to Order by:** Co-Chairs: Eva Clayton
Fern Scodane

Invocation by The Reverend Harry Moore

9:15 am **Directorate of Fish & Wildlife** **Page 23**
– Harry Nyce Sr., Director

Presentation and Question Period

10:30 am **Gingolx Village Government** **Page 44**
Presentation and Question Period

12:00 pm Lunch and entertainment

Co-Chairs: Willard Martin
Ron Nyce

1:00 pm **Directorate of Lands and Resources** **Page 21**
– Collier Azak, Director

Presentation and Question Period

2:15 pm **Terrace Nisga'a Society** **Page 46**
Presentation and Question Period

3:30 pm **Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council** **Page 53**
Introduction & Informational Presentation

5:00 pm Adjournment for the day. Evening activities will be announced by the host community.



Day 4 – Thursday, May 4, 2006

- 800 am** Registration
- 9:00 am **Call to Order by:** Co-Chairs: George Moore
Ben Stewart
- Invocation** by The Reverend Gary Davis, Sr.
- 9:15 am **Finance Report** **Page 26**
- Edmond Wright, Secretary-Treasurer
Frederic Tolmie, Director of Finance
Edward Allen, Chief Executive Officer
Wilf Blondé, Chief Executive Officer, Nisga'a
Corporations **Page 28**
- Presentation and Question Period
- 12:00 Lunch and Entertainment
Co-Chairs: Willard Martin
Fern Scodane
- 1:00 pm **New Aiyansh Village Government** **Page 34**
Presentation and Question Period
- 2:15 pm **Gitmaxmak'ay Prince Rupert/Port Edward** **Page 48**
Nisga'a Society
Presentation and Question Period
- 3:30 pm **Council of Elders** **Page 55**
– Chester Moore, Chairperson
Presentation and Question Period
- 5:00 pm Adjournment for the day. Evening activities will be announced by the host community.

NISGA'A HIGHWAY



Please Don't Litter!
Nisga'a Lisims Government
Directorate of Lands and Resources

Day 5 – Friday, May 5, 2006

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am Call to Order by: Co-Chairs: George Moore
Franklin Alexcee

Invocation by Captain Oliver McNeil

9:15 am **Directorate of Communications & Inter-Governmental Relations – Les Clayton, Director** **Page 29**
Presentation and Question Period

Closing of Special Assembly

10:45 am **Lt. Governor, The Honourable Iona Campagnolo**

Closing Remarks by President Nelson Leeson

12:00 **Retirement of Ganim Siwilyee'enskw and**

Closing Prayer

Closing Lunch



**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE 2006
NISGA'A NATION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY**

1. The Chairpersons will be members of the NLG Executive who are not Officers of the NLG Executive.
2. All sessions will start on time.
3. Any person under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs will not be allowed in the assembly hall.
4. Mobile radiophones must be turned off before they can be brought into the assembly hall and must remain off inside the assembly hall. Only emergency and security personnel will be allowed to operate mobile radio phones in the assembly hall.
5. Nisga'a citizens may register as delegates of the special assembly ("Delegates"). Non-Nisga'a citizens may register as observers of the special assembly ("Observers"). Only persons who have registered at the special assembly are entitled to be present in the assembly hall.
6. Delegates may ask questions about the presentation given and must keep the question to no more than 2 minutes.
7. Delegates may make recommendations to Nisga'a Government regarding a matter on the agenda.
8. Presenters must allow at least one third of their time allocation for question period.
9. Each presentation and question-period must be completed within the time allotted on the agenda.
10. In recognition of Nisga'a laws, no recommendations are to be made that undermine any Nisga'a laws or will obligate Nisga'a Government to appropriate or expend funds.
11. In addition to the above rules, the Chairpersons of the special assembly have the authority and discretion necessary to preserve order and decorum.



COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Our vision...

In the Spirit of Sayt-K'il'im-Goot, 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 communications, and
- Our governance and services evolve to meet our peoples' needs.

ONE HEART, ONE PATH,
ONE NATION

Sayt k'iehl benähl
Luu-yoäguë ahl ts'im
Sayt k'ieim boot.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Simgigat, Sigidimhaanak', k'uba wilskihlkw, ganhl txaa n'itkwshl k'uba-tk'ihlkw, it is my distinct honour and pleasure to welcome all of you to the third Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation since the Nisga'a Treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000.

Through hard work, planning and our common bowl philosophy, we have come together to make the Nisga'a Nation one of the most successfully innovative First Nations in Canada. This year, the Community of Gitwinksihlkw hosts the Special Assembly of the Nation.

The Special Assemblies of the Nisga'a Nation are a statutory obligation. Our democracy depends on a knowledgeable Nisga'a citizenry. Access to a range of information enables our people to participate in public life, help determine priorities for public spending, receive equal access to justice, and to hold our elected members accountable. For this reason, the Nation will meet May 1 through 5 to talk about the performance of our government.

Respectfully,

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT



Sim'oogit AXLAAWAALS
Mr. Nelson Leeson, President



Office of the CHAIRPERSON

Greetings and a warm welcome to all Nisga'a delegates of the 3^d Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation since May 11, 2000. Also, a cordial welcome is extended to our non-Nisga'a guests in attendance. The Village of Gitwinksihlkw will host the 2006 Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation. As always, we look forward to experiencing the excellent hospitality that the Village of Gitwinksihlkw is known for.

It has been almost 6 years since the effective date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, a.k.a. the Nisga'a Treaty. It has been approximately 2 years since the last Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation, which was held in the Village of Laxgalts'ap. It has been approximately 18 months since the last General Election of the Nisga'a Nation.

One of the more important accomplishments of the Nisga'a Treaty was the re-empowerment of the Nisga'a citizens to govern themselves through the Nisga'a Government provisions. Although Nisga'a Government is relatively young, there are many positive signs that the Nisga'a Nation is managing the change that is required to transform from the Indian Act Band Councils to Nisga'a Lisims Government. This would not be possible were it not for the excellent leadership provided from the inaugural Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG). Their vision continues to guide NLG to the present day.

My main responsibility is to Chair all meetings of the NLG Executive. The regular meetings of the NLG Executive are held once every month. The NLG Executive reports to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN) whenever it meets (usually every 3 months). The NLG Executive appointed me as Chair of the Lands and Resources Committee. I am also the designated executive member for the Nisga'a Land Act, Nisga'a Land Title Act and the Nisga'a Forest Act. I am also a member of the Programs and Services Committee.

On January 31 & February 1, 2006, NLG elected leaders, senior management and staff participated in a Strategic Visioning Workshop. It was facilitated by Mr. Harold Tarbell of Tarbell & Associates. This was a follow-up to NLG's Strategic Planning efforts, which were held in 2002 and 2003. The workshop was mandated by a resolution of NLG Executive. The main purpose was to focus on developing a common vision statement. Other important goals in this workshop were to identify critical strategic issues and to develop realistic action plans. The essence of the vision statement produced is captured in the tag line: One Heart, One Path, One Nation. This also (appropriately) was chosen as the theme for the 2006 Special Assembly. There was consensus by all workshop participants that the results would be brought back to all 4 Nisga'a Villages and 3 Urban Nisga'a Societies for their input. By doing this, NLG would ensure the process was inclusive of the Nisga'a Nation. In the workshop, 5 critical strategic issues were identified. This is where feedback from Nisga'a citizens is important. Your

input into the following areas can help NLG develop strategies, goals, and tasks as we move forward:

- a) How do we work together as a Nation?
- b) What do we need to do to be more inclusive of our stakeholders?
- c) How will we respond as community needs change and our government systems evolve?
- d) What do we need to do to achieve sustainable prosperity?
- e) How can we create effective, efficient internal communications?

In addition, the follow up requires NLG's Senior Management to refine the vision statement into a mission statement, which is relevant to the various departments within NLG. Senior Management's work is ongoing in this regard. As this is to happen over a multi-year timeframe, updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

The Nisga'a Nation has directed NLG to provide for the creation of wealth based on the principles of a free market economy. The most visible change in this regard is to separate business decisions from political decisions. During the 2006 Special Assembly, you will be updated on the status of this change.

To demonstrate NLG's commitment to giving our Nisga'a youth a voice in their government, funds have been set aside in the Nisga'a Nations Annual Budget specifically for this. Essentially funds have been given to the 4 Nisga'a Village Governments and 3 Urban Local Societies to assist in organizing their Youth Councils (ages 15 years – 29 years). Each Youth Council is represented by the Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council who will meet regularly with NLG.

NLG is obligated to hold a Special Assembly every 2 years. In addition to the regular reports provided in the 4 Nisga'a Villages and 3 Urban Local Societies, the Special Assembly will provide an opportunity for Nisga'a citizens to speak directly to your elected leaders. You are also reminded that virtually all meetings of NLG are open for the public to observe.

It is my sincere hope that the 2006 Special Assembly provides satisfactory levels of information and a fair opportunity for Nisga'a citizens to speak directly to NLG.

- Respectfully yours,
Kevin McKay
NLG Chairperson



Office of the SECRETARY-TREASURER

Welcome everyone, to the 3rd Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation since the effective date of the Nisga'a Treaty. Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a has given direction that special assemblies will be held every two years.

Next week on May 11, 2006, we will be celebrating the 6th anniversary of our Treaty coming into effect. Last year we celebrated the 5th anniversary by having an open house at the Nisga'a Lisims Government building. Over 500 Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a enjoying themselves reminiscing, viewing photos, videos, documents, communication technology, along with winning door prizes and enjoyed the food provided.

Although the following report is brief, I will be able to expand on the topics during my participation on the agenda of the special assembly, and I will be available to answer questions from you during the assembly.

Nisga'a Nation Budget

The Nisga'a Financial Administration Act requires a budget development process for the draft provisional budget for a fiscal year to meet various target dates for review by the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Secretary Treasurer and Director of Finance, NLG Finance Committee, Nisga'a Village Governments, Nisga'a Urban Locals and the NLG Executive.

On March 22, 2006, the NLG Finance Committee adopted a resolution recommending that Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a adopt the 2006/07 Nisga'a Nation Draft Provisional Budget.

Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a held its meetings on March 28 & 29, 2006 and adopted a resolution on March 29, 2006 that approved the 2006/07 Nisga'a Nation Provisional Budget. The final budget for the Nisga'a Nation must be approved by Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a by October 31, 2006.

Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA)

Since May 31, 2005, we have been in tripartite negotiations attempting to reach agreement on a second Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement.

The four Nisga'a Villages, three Nisga'a Urban Locals, Wilp Wilxo'oskwahl Nisga'a, Nisga'a Valley Health Board, School District No. 92 (Nisga'a), and Nisga'a Lisims Government all participated by developing and presenting their FFA budget proposals to Canada and British Columbia.

All of our FFA budget proposals have been completed, and we are nearing completion of the redrafting of the fiscal financing agreement. Upon completion of the redrafting of the agreement, Canada and British Columbia will then make

their funding offer to the Nisga'a Nation. Funding negotiations will then be on in our attempt to reach agreement.

We have made amendments to the initial FFA that the FFA will continue in effect for two years from its original expiry date, or upon the written agreement of the Parties, for a shorter period or a longer period, while we attempt to reach a new fiscal financing agreement.

Also, if the new FFA is signed by December 15 of any fiscal year during the period of the continuance of the initial agreement, the date of the new FFA taking effect will be retroactively dated at April 1 of that fiscal year.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust

The capital transfer (Treaty Funds) will be paid to the Nisga'a Nation over a 14-year period.

Presently, Royal Bank of Canada Investment is the Investment Manager for the Nisga'a Settlement Trust, and Royal Trust is the Trustee.

In May 2005, NLG Executive retained Watson Wyatt to assist in the development of a risk budgeting framework for the Nisga'a Settlement Trust.

On February 9, 2006, the NLG Finance Committee adopted a resolution recommending that the NLG Executive adopt the Nisga'a Lisims Government Risk Budgeting Analysis Report from Watson Wyatt dated February 9, 2006 as our Nisga'a Settlement Trust Investment Strategy. The NLG Executive adopted a resolution on February 20, 2006 approving the NLG Finance Committee recommendation.

Further updates will be provided to you by our Director of Finance during this Special Assembly.

Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission

Canada has provided the Nisga'a Nation with funding to enable the replacement and major maintenance of agreed-upon capital assets.

The commission functions under the jurisdiction of the Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission (NCFC) Act. The owners of the capital assets are the four Nisga'a Villages and the Nisga'a Nation. As Secretary Treasurer, I chair the NCFC meetings, and each Nisga'a Village Government appoints their Commissioner. A sixth commissioner is appointed by the NLG Executive.

External Activities

The Nisga'a Nation was involved in 2003 with other modern treaty nations to address the issue of the implementation of treaties. Since the conference in November 2003, the Land Claims Agreement Coalition was formed to continue to press the federal government for a new policy to properly implement modern treaties.

On June 27 to 30, 2006 in Gatineau, Quebec the coalition is co-hosting a second conference “Achieving Objectives: A New Approach to Land Claims Agreements in Canada”.

When our schedule permits, we participate in the meetings of the B.C. First Nations Summit and the Assembly of First Nations.

I volunteer as a member of the Board of Directors of Northern Native Broadcasting (Terrace, BC) – CFNR FM Radio, and presently I serve as the President.

We continue to participate in meetings with the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nations, and I serve as a member of their Executive Committee.

Conclusion

I want to thank the Nisga'a Village Governments and Nisga'a Urban Locals, both your elected members and staff for your participation and budget development in the Tripartite FFA Negotiations and Nisga'a Nation budget development.

Also a big thank you to Mr. Fred Tolmie, Director of Finance, and his staff for the great work they are providing to the Nisga'a Nation.

I will be able to provide you with additional information that relates to my position as an Officer and Secretary Treasurer during the Special Assembly.

Edmond Wright
Secretary-Treasurer



Office of the CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Good afternoon to you all and greetings!

It is quite a task to report the progress of the Nisga'a Nation from the last 2 years and overall from the last 5 years. So much has happened that it seems a challenge to provide such an overview in 2 pages and to update you in 30 minutes. So I will focus on the key areas, which include our vision statement, and NLG personnel and structural re-organizations.

Our Vision Statement

We now have a draft vision statement for you to consider: *One heart, One path, One Nation*. A vision statement describes where we as a Nation would like to be in the next 5 or 10 years. Like the vision of our elders to resolve the land question, this vision statement describes the overall destination i.e. 'a place where' our government and our Nation should be moving towards.

A vision statement serves as a compass providing us direction and giving us a sense of the kinds of activities we should be focusing on. In this way, we at NLG can re-frame our priorities to ensure our programs, services and day-to-day operations align with this vision.

Some keys from this statement are

1. *In accordance with Sayt K'il'im Goot* – our unity has been our greatest asset and reason for our success – if we are to progress, it must continue to be our focus in the partnerships between Villages, Urban Locals, NLG and our Nisga'a Institutions.
2. *Our Ayuuk, language and culture* – these will continue to play a key role in our lives.
3. *Learning is a way of life* – this means improving our education system and encouraging learners to seek more training, and also a commitment to life-long learning for all generations to build our economy and maintain our governance.
4. *Sustainable prosperity and self-reliance* - we strive for economic prosperity through developing a place where business can grow, but also social prosperity in health, education and social programs and services.
5. *Trust and understanding through effective communications* – we have established a new communications directorate to improve the way we communicate with each other, to our Nisga'a citizens and the world.
6. *Our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs* – we will need to review our programs and see how we can make improvements.

This is some of what this statement means to us at NLG.

The real question is – what does this vision statement mean to you? We would very much appreciate your feedback on this at our assembly.

NLG Personnel and Structural Reorganization

To achieve this vision statement means having the right team for the job – in that respect, I believe NLG now has one of the best aboriginal management teams in the country. Some of the changes include:

1. Finance – we welcome Frederic Tolmie as our *Director of Finance*. Fred is one of Canada's Aboriginal Chartered Accountants and has extensive experience in economic development, and much knowledge in finance. As well, we have a new Controller, Clay Harmon who is a CGA and has extensive experience running finance departments.
2. Communications – we have established a new directorate of Communications and Inter-governmental Relations headed by Les Clayton who will seek to improve our communications to the Nation and the world, and assist in strengthening the ties between NLG, Villages & Urban Locals and Nisga'a Institutions.
3. Programs and Services – we have a new Director, Calvin Albright, who is Cree from Saskatchewan. He has a Masters Degree in Social Work and is very knowledgeable about program development.
4. In House Counsel – We now have Tracy Fleck, LL.B., who also has a Masters degree in law. Tracy is also Cree from Alberta. She brings extensive corporate and aboriginal law experience to assist NLG as it moves forward to have more legal services in house (*unfortunately, Tracy is not operating a legal aid office so is not available to provide legal advice to the public*).
5. Corporate Development – Wilf Blonde has also recently joined us as CEO of the Nisga'a Corporations. Wilf is also a Chartered Accountant and has extensive business experience. He served as the Chief Financial Officer with the Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network and assisted them with their financial re-organizations. Wilf will assist us in re-organizing our corporations to ensure they are profitable and creating wealth in using the assets of the Nation.

With these additions to our existing team of Collier Azak, Director of Lands & Resources and Harry Nyce, Director of Fish & Wildlife, we are poised to do great things in the next 5 years.

Respectfully submitted by...

Edward Allen, Chief Executive Officer

Directorate of PROGRAMS & SERVICES

1.0 Introduction

I am pleased to present the report to this special assembly, even though I have only been in this position since February 2006. I want to acknowledge the assistance of the former Programs and Services Director and the current staff for the leadership and commitment to the excellent quality of service to the Nisga'a Nation. A noteworthy and exciting new project that begins to address the needs of Nisga'a Nation youth is the Nisga'a Youth Council. See the Nisga'a Youth Council Report booklet for more information. This is one example to demonstrate to our youth that the Nation values them and their input.

It should be noted that this report does not include information related to the Director's role with respect to Nisga'a health and education services. They have their own respective reporting processes to the Nisga'a Nation. A more detailed report is available at our table or by contacting us at the office.

2.0 Enrolment and Eligibility Department

Manager Diane Stewart

Mandate

To register all Nisga'a citizens whether they reside in or away from the Nass Valley.

Description

The department provides two key services:

- registration of citizenship;
- Elders Package.

Accomplishments to date

This department continues to be challenged with establishing a database that is consistent, verifies citizenship, and allows entitlement to Nisga'a programs. The department continues to develop policies on program eligibility and guidelines for approval of the appropriate NLG committee or Council of Elders.

3.0 Access to Justice

Manager Faith Tait

Mandate

Support Nisga'a members in the prevention and resolution of conflicts through increasing awareness of Nisga'a Ayuuk and Canadian laws, legal processes, and traditions.

Program Description

The Access to Justice Department operates its own programs, and works in partnership with other organizations, in order to carry out the Department's mandate.

The Department's programs include:

- Aboriginal Justice;

-
- Yuuhlimk'askw Program, and
 - Lisims Nass Valley RCMP Victim Services Program.

Accomplishments to date:

Our restorative justice is now fully operational and includes the community of Gingolx. They now have trained facilitators. We also have a close respectful working relationship with the Lisims RCMP; the Sergeant has ensured the officers have taken facilitator training. For the period of April 05 to March 06, we have received 28 files. This means members of the Nisga'a Nation who have come in conflict with the law have been dealt with through our restorative justice program. This means we have been able to offer meaningful accountability and have assisted in restoring our people back into the community.

4.0 **Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department (AND)**

Manager Gary Tait

Mandate

To protect, preserve, and promote Nisga'a language, culture, and history.

Program Description

The work of AND solidifies the foundation upon which the cultural component of every program and service delivered through NLG is or could be based. AND's services, therefore, ensure the cultural integrity of all NLG programs and services. This is achieved by preserving the past, and also ensuring that knowledge and interpretation of traditions enhance the natural evolution of Nisga'a practices in the present and future. Unless Nisga'a citizens continue to value their traditional language and culture, it will be virtually impossible to put into practice the principles set out in the Treaty.

AND creates documentation to provide a Nisga'a interpretation of language and culture, enabling Nisga'a people to be empowered by having a broader understanding of what is meant by Nisga'a identity.

Accomplishments to date

One of the most significant items that went well for AND is the significant progress on toward the completion of the **Yukw Document**. It represents the very essence of all that is Nisga'a. The **Yukw Document** represents for the first time that a cornerstone of the Nisga'a Nation is preserved and to be used by future generations of Nisga'a. This document also serves as a tribute to all those that have contributed to its completion, some of whom have passed on. What is worthy to note, is that AND has gone without a manager at various intervals, and Nita Morven, the researcher responsible for compiling the **Yukw Document**, has served as the manager during these times. She should be commended for her work.

5.0 Child and Family Services Program Director, Maurice Squires

Program Mandate

Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) provides service options to ensure the best interest, protection, and well-being of Nisga'a children in the least intrusive way possible, consistent with both Nisga'a Ayuuk and British Columbia legislation and policies.

Program Description

The NCFS receives delegation under BC's *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, and currently operates at the second level of delegation (there are three levels in total). Funding for services on core lands comes from the FFA, while funding for services off core lands comes through a contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

NCFS programs under “**Level 12**” include but are not limited to:

Support services for families – Funded through both the FFA and contracts with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), this Program is offered to the Nisga'a communities in the Nass Valley and in the urban locals.

Voluntary care agreements - Funded through both the FFA and contracts with the MCFD, this Program is offered to the Nisga'a communities in the Nass Valley and in the urban locals.

Special needs agreements – Funded through both the FFA and contracts with the MCFD, this Program is offered to the Nisga'a communities in the Nass Valley and in the urban locals.

Establishing family care homes - Funded through both the FFA and contracts with the MCFD, this Program is offered to the Nisga'a communities in the Nass Valley and in the urban locals.

CFS programs under “**Level 13**” include all those provided under “Level 12” as well as guardianship of Nisga'a children in care, on a non-voluntary, temporary, or continuing custody basis. Funding is given through both the FFA (for the four villages) and contracts with MCFD (for the urban locals).

Accomplishment to date:

The children-in-care rate in the Nass Valley is less than one per cent and is lower than the provincial and national rate. While not proven in a scientific fashion the emphasis of providing resources to the villages for family support surely contributes to this trend. The agency has recently successfully completed a practice audit and this set the stage for providing protection services; this means the agency will be negotiating for additional human resources and it will also be necessary for the agency to be housed in a separate facility.

6.0 Social Development

Advisor Jeanette Costello

Mandate

To assist persons living on Nisga'a land in maintaining a basic standard of living by developing individual and family strengths, and by assisting program recipients access services that will enhance their ability to assume primary responsibility for their own affairs.

Program Description

The first eight programs listed below are funded through the FFA, with the intent that services are reasonably comparable to those available to residents elsewhere in BC.

Basic Needs (social assistance)

Special Needs

Guardian Financial Assistance (GFA)

Adult in-home care

National Child Benefit Reinvestment

Training Employment Support Initiatives (TESI)

Family Violence

Community Social Services

NOTE: The last four programs are funded through any funds that may be left unspent each year from the budget of Child and Family Services. All twelve programs are delivered by the four Nisga'a Village administrations.

- Family Support Services
- Recreation Director Program
- Youth Worker Program
- Community Workshops

Accomplishments to date:

Nisga'a Lisims Government in partnership with the 4 villages in the Nass Valley have established a social safety net. The challenge is to bring clarity to such issues as compliance, role clarification between villages and NLG, developing meaningful training initiatives that lead to self-sustaining situations to the unemployed employable Nisga'a members and ongoing policy review. In the immediate future, a comprehensive review of the social development program will be initiated.

In closing, we have been challenged by the recently incorporated Nation vision, Sayt-K'il'im-Goot, *One Heart, One Path, One Nation* into our work. We will do our part to help the Nisga'a Nation be strong and unified.

Respectfully submitted by...

Calvin Albright, Director of Programs & Services

Directorate of LANDS & RESOURCES

The Lands and Resources Directorate of Nisga'a Lisims Government is pleased to be a part of the 2006 Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation in Gitwinksihlkw. Unlike the 2004 Special Assembly booklet report, this report will be more general in nature.

Since the 2004 Special Assembly in Laxgalts'ap there has been a WSN election which has seen some changes in the Lands and Resources Committee membership which currently includes:

- Kevin McKay, Chairperson and also Executive Chair of NLG
- Ben Stewart, NLG Executive member
- Fern Scodane, NLG Executive member
- Jacob McKay, Laxgalts'ap Village Government
- Peter Squires, Gitwinksihlkw Village Government
- Claude Barton, Gingolx village Government
- Keith Tait, New Aiyansh Village Government

As well, since the 2004 Special Assembly, staffing in the Lands and Resources Directorate has also gone through some changes. For instance, the position of Lands Manager and Registrar of Land Titles has been separated and we now have Diane Cragg remaining as Registrar of Land Titles, under contract, and Mansell Griffin, formerly Lands Officer, now the Lands Manager. We have found that this organizational change, implemented almost one year ago, is working out well and affords the separation and independence that is required between the Land Title Office and the rest of the Lands Department.

Overall, there has been staff reduction of Lands and Resources by three since 2004. Three of our Resources officers from the Forest Resources department have moved over to Lisims Forest Resources Ltd., which is the corporation established by WSN to carry out the forest resources business of the nation under the Nisga'a Public Lands License. As a result of the staff migration our Forest Resources Department hired in November a new Resources Officer. Sean Harris, a Nisga'a forest technician, is from New Aiyansh and comes to us with many years of good practical forestry experience.

The GIS Department has also endured some change with management of the Department now falling under the control of the Forest Resources Manager rather than the Lands Manager.

The Directorate staff includes:

- Director of Lands and Resources – Collier Azak
 - Administrative Assistant – Fran Johnson
- Forest Resources Manager – Warren Fekete, RPF
 - GIS Technician – Kimi Hisanaga, BA
 - Resources Officer – Sean Harris, For. Tech.

-
- Lands Manager – Mansell Griffin, BA
 - Lands Officer – Henry Moore
 - Registrar of Land Titles – Diane Cragg, BA, MA
 - Registry Clerk – Dorothy Elliott

The Lands and Resources presentation on Day III of the assembly will include updates in the following areas:

- Post-Forestry Transition Period
- Botanical Forest Products
- Forest Resources Compliance and Enforcement
- Lands Survey Issues – Special Surveys and Nisga'a Boundary
- Lisims Land Policy
- Hydro-electric “Run-of-River” Feasibility Project

Written reports will also be made available at the assembly which will cover those program and resource portfolio areas in Lands and Resources that are not covered in the verbal presentation on Day III. The Director, the Managers and Registrar will be available as part of the presentation to answer questions.

Lands and Resources will also be maintaining a table during the assembly which will provide information, brochures and maps on the various areas of our jurisdiction.

Our Forest Resources Department provided seedlings, free of charge, at the 2004 Assembly and it is our plan to continue with the practice this year given how popular it was two years ago. Our Forest Resources Manager will also be demonstrating, as an example, how much these seedlings can grow in 2 years!

Finally, it is our hope and objective that we can play a part in making this a very successful Assembly for 2006. Our Directorate is currently working towards the development of a mission statement which will outline our goals and priorities based on the Vision Statement that was recently adopted by WSN.

Please do not hesitate to visit us at our table. Ask questions. Provide us with your constructive comments and most importantly, do have a very good week in Gitwinksihlkw. *li si'aamhl wilsim'!*

Respectfully submitted by....

Collier Azak, Director of Lands & Resources



Directorate of FISH & WILDLIFE

Fisheries

The goals and principles of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program are:

- To provide better information for management to define escapement goals, provide timely catch and escapement estimates and identify factors limiting production,
- To invest in people, technology and training,
- To build a sustainable fisheries management system for multi species and to integrate harvesting and stock assessment,
- To be involved in Joint Fisheries Management with DFO and the Province via the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC), this leads to cooperative planning.

In 2004 and 2005, the following project activities took place:

1. Program Administration	13. Lower Nass chum DNA collection
2. Fishwheel Program	14. Bio-toxicity Studies
3. Salmon Catch Monitoring	15. Eulachon catch and biosample project
4. Zolzap Keystream Studies (<i>2004 only</i>)	16. Sport Fishery Monitoring (<i>2004 only</i>)
5. Gingit Creek Sockeye Surveys	17. Non-salmon catch monitoring
6. Upper Nass Chinook Escapement Surveys	18. Communal Harvesting (sockeye and coho)
7. Meziadin Fishway	19. IS Permit Sales
8. Marine Catch Patrol Monitoring Area 3-12	20. Habitat Study
9. Training (First Aid, Swiftwater Rescue)	21. Upper Nass Coho radio telemetry study (<i>2005 only</i>)
10. Upper Nass Steelhead Radio Telemetry Study	22. Kincolith Hatchery (chinook and chum enhancement)
11. Area 3-12 Sockeye ID Study (Scale/DNA)	23. Kincolith Escapement Monitoring (weir program, <i>2005 only</i>)
12. Lower Nass/Coastal Coho Surveys	24. Nass Watershed Stream Gauging Project (<i>2004 only</i>)

Nisga'a Fisheries also conducted many tours for industry, government and media in 2004 and 2005.

A few highlights of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program in 2005:

Fishwheel Program

Six fishwheels were operated in 2005, two at Gitwinksihlkw and four at Grease Harbour. Genetic tissue and scales were collected at the fishwheels for stock identification and aging. System wide net escapement to the Nass spawning grounds (including Meziadin) in 2005 for sockeye, chinook, coho and steelhead were estimated as follows:

Species	Upper Nass Net Escapement to spawning areas	Target Escapement	Meziadin Counts [3 July to 17 Oct] (tags recovered)	Meziadin Target Escapement
Sockeye	226,000	200,000	142,859 (3,820)	160,000
Chinook	14,200	15,000	641 (33)	500
Coho	87,500	60,000	7,189 (259)	2000
Steelhead	5,800	?	85 (10)	50

Salmon Catch Monitoring

As in past years, there was a monitor in each of the four communities who interviewed fishers who were fishing for domestic purposes. They also interviewed fishers who participated in the IS Fishery to keep track of the number of fish that were captured. This information was then used to generate an estimate of catch for all species of salmon and steelhead by Nisga'a and to track total catch of fish to compare with the treaty allocation. Estimates of catch for each of the Nisga'a fisheries in 2005 were:

Species	Domestic Catch	IS Fishery Catch	Communal Catch	Total Catch
Sockeye	30,099	65,688	16,991	112,778
Chinook	857	5,573	0	6,430
Pink	2,122	2,421	0	4,543
Coho	2,027	4,202	8,533	14,762
Chum	128	577	0	705
Steelhead	247	0	0	247

Upper Nass Coho and Steelhead Radio Tagging Program

The main objectives of this program were to:

- Determine abundance and stock composition of Middle/Upper Nass coho and steelhead stocks,
- Validate historical mark-recapture technique that uses on tributary (Meziadin) for tag recovery (mark rate),
- Validate the habitat-based model distributions and escapement goals.

Some findings from this program were:

- Differences in Upper Nass coho stock distributions between the habitat-based model and the telemetry study,
- Lower Nass stocks are caught at the Gitwinksihlkw fishwheel and contribute to past estimates of Upper Nass coho escapement,
- Significant holding in the mainstream may play a factor in Upper Nass mark-recapture estimates.

Individual Sales Fishery

In 2004, 370 IS permits were sold to Nisga'a citizens and an additional 67 were issued to individuals over 60 years of age. In 2005, 352 IS permits were sold to Nisga'a citizens and 64 were issued to individuals over 60 years of age.

There were 16 sockeye openings (6 marine, 10 in-river) and 5 coho openings (1 marine, 5 in-river) in 2004. In 2005, there were 10 sockeye openings (4 marine, 6 in-river) and 3 coho openings (1 marine, 2 in-river). The reduction in openings in 2005 was directly related to the lower total return to Canada (TRTC) in 2005.

In summary, the Nisga'a Fisheries Program is working as planned;

- **Escapement goals are achieved for Nass Area stocks,**
- **Allocations are harvested from productive stocks,**
- **Small stocks are monitored (i.e. Gingit sockeye),**
- **JFMC – efficient and effective,**
- **Reliable in-season information for fishery management,**
- **Effective regulations and enforcement,**
- **Complete catch accounting resulting in no disputes between the governments.**

Wildlife

Wildlife are managed jointly by the Nass Wildlife Committee which is comprised of members from Nisga'a, Canadian and Provincial Governments. This committee determines annual harvest levels and provides input to annual management plans. Nisga'a Lisims Government manages wildlife for long-term health and vitality.

Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife staff continue to monitor harvest of all wildlife species. Moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear have been identified as "Designated Species" and for which an allocation has been determined. The Nisga'a Lisims Government has instituted a permit system in which a permit must be obtained in order to hunt the designated species. This system allows NLG wildlife staff to track harvests and monitor allocations.

A moose population survey will be conducted in the very near future (winter of 2006) for which the province has provided funds.

Respectfully submitted by...

Harry Nyce, Sr., Director of Fish & Wildlife
Cheryl Stephens, Manager
Blair Stewart, Manager



Directorate of FINANCE

The Finance Department is pursuing significant improvements to internal controls, Financial Administrative Act compliance and best practices.

Budget

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, budget preparation processes were improved to ensure that every line item of expenditure has a budget. The results are improved cost control, error detection, expenditure monitoring and accountability for results. Continuing improvements to the budget preparation process ensure budgets are prepared on a timely basis and with a greater degree of accuracy. Timely budgets have enabled a comprehensive review of planned expenditures by the finance committee, village governments and the executive prior to recommendation to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a for approval. These budget improvements are also promoting efficiency and effectiveness. This enables Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) to do more with less. This is demonstrated in the shifting of financial resources. Since March 2005, NLG's annual operating budgets have been reduced by \$1.4 million. During this same period of time, transfers to village governments increased by a similar amount.

Settlement Trust Fund

NLG retained actuaries to assist with the financial planning of the interim settlement fund. As a result of planning, Nisga'a Nation has confirmed its objectives to inflation protect the capital of the fund for future generations. Preserving the capital of the trust ensures that the settlement trust fund remains in existence for the benefit of future generations, forever. An appropriate analogy is an apple tree. The tree trunk and branches of an apple tree represents the capital of the settlement trust fund. The apples, which are produced every year represent the annual investment income of the trust fund. NLG's financial objective is to preserve the capital or the "tree trunk and branches" of the settlement trust fund and only spend the "apples" or investment income after adjusting for inflation. In doing so, NLG is ensuring the preservation of the revenue generating capacity of the trust, which ensures that future generations will benefit. A 25-year plan is being prepared which confirms the objectives, investment principles and an investment policy statement of the trust fund along with investment performance benchmarks and annual spending limitations to meet this objective. NLG will monitor the actual performance of the trust fund against these benchmarks and will adjust its investment policy and spending to ensure that the trust achieves its objectives.

Internal Controls

NLG has reviewed its systems of internal controls, which are designed to protect and preserve the Nation's assets as well as ensure the accuracy of our year-end financial statements. Improvements are being sought in this area and the results are promising. Financial statements are prepared, compared to budget and previous year's performance and reported to the executive on a monthly basis. The audited financial statements are completed and reviewed by the finance committee and executive, prior to review and approval by WSN within legislative timeframes. The finance committee meets directly with NLG's independent external auditor on an "in-camera" basis and can ask any questions it deems

necessary to ensure that the finance function is accountable. Systems of internal controls are being designed to prevent or detect errors and ensure that transfers are being made on a timely basis. Continued improvements are sought in reducing the time lag in the disbursement of payments under the Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission. Savings are being sought in the cost of NLG expenses. NLG has issued a Request for Proposal for its commercial banking services. NLG was also successful in achieving a 15% cost savings in the cost of its employee health benefits plan. Knowledge transfer, cost reductions, real-time risk management and value for money in legal services are the resulting benefits of having established in-house legal counsel within NLG during the fiscal year.

Cash management improvements are resulting in an increase in investment income per dollar invested and reductions in the cost of interest expense. These practices are also reducing NLG's exposure to own source revenue obligations. NLG will continue to review its major expenditures for additional cost efficiencies. This includes, long distance telephone charges, travel expenses, major maintenance of capital assets, salaries and benefits as well as consulting and professional fees.

NLG Corporations

A fundamental principle for business success is ensuring an appropriate degree of separation between business and government decision-making. The NLG corporations are being restructured to separate activities of the government from the business interests of the corporations. Professional management was hired and an independent board of directors will be appointed. The objective is to ensure self-sufficiency of the business interests of the Nisga'a Nation and less dependence upon the government for cash investments.

Planned Activities

- The negotiation of the new fiscal financing agreement (FFA) continues. The objective of this negotiation is to secure an adequate level of funding that will enable NLG to provide public programs and services that will meet the needs of Nisga'a Citizens'.
- We'll review the Nisga'a Financial Administration Act to ensure compliance with all areas of the act. One area that has been identified is the requirement for a universal chart of accounts. By achieving compliance in this area will ensure consistent reporting standards as well as assisting with our own source revenue reporting requirements.
- NLG has made significant progress in meeting all reporting requirements of the FFA. One outstanding area is the reporting of own source revenues. This is expected to be completed shortly and, when complete, NLG will be compliant with the FFA reporting requirements to Canada and British Columbia.
- Records and information management centre will be established in NLG to properly manage the records and information within NLG.

Respectfully submitted by...

Frederic Tolmie, Director of Finance

**Nisga'a Corporations
Presentation to Nisga'a Special Assembly
May 2006**

Past - present – and future

The Nisga'a corporations that were put in place to utilize the resources of the nation for the benefit of its citizens have managed to accomplish some important milestones:

- Employment – in the fishery and forestry activities,
- Understanding of the resources and how they can be used in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner,
- That management is hard work and requires education, experience and wisdom.

However, these have come at significant cost:

- To the Nisga'a treasury – the corporations have accumulated losses in excess of \$3.5 million.
- To people – the conflicts among regulation of the resources, management of business, and welfare of citizens has resulted in turnover of personnel because these conflicts are inherently hard if not impossible to manage, all at the same time, by the same people.

In the Implementation report 2004 – 2005 (called “open”) it was stated that:

“now that these corporations are up and running, NLG is committed to establishing an economic development board to oversee these and other opportunities. This process began during the reporting period and NLG aims to have a CEO and board of directors in place in 2006. While Nisga'a government will continue its role of facilitating and promoting development, the day-to-day running of those entities will be outside the purview of elected officials, freeing them to concentrate on governance while allowing those with proven business acumen to move the economy forward.”

I am here as the first step in that vision – as the CEO.

My initial task is organization. Chief Operating Officers have been set up for each of the fishery, forestry and communications organizations.

Another initial task involves some short-term actions, the overriding objective of which is to stop the bleeding. This includes:

- No make-work projects – we will not create jobs for the sake of creating jobs – all jobs will have to have an economic justification to the corporations;
- Frugality – we will not spend funds for any other reason than to enhance the bottom line;

- No more handouts – we will live within our means and not run to the nation for funding that we are undertaking as a result of a decision by our board.

These objectives will not be easy.

- The prior objective of some, if not a significant portion, of the activities in the corporations was the creation of jobs at any cost. No longer.
- You will find, for example, that this fishing season will see fewer people working for Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd. In addition, lower prices paid for fish; while at the same time higher selling prices to our end customers is being pursued.
- For forest resources, we will work harder to obtain the best prices for Nisga'a timber and mushrooms, employ more Nisga'a resources and keep costs under control.
- EnTel Communications will focus on two critical areas – customer services and the completion of the glass fiber infrastructure – the last major investment for NLG.

Another short-term activity will be the forming of a board of directors for the corporations. In the past, most board members were employees of NLG. The new board will have no NLG employees and will come from the business community – with a mixture of skills, education and backgrounds.

Some longer-term initiatives will begin before the year is out. We will examine the business plans of each organization and modify them in light of the current mandate. We will establish a vision and mission statement or statements for the operation that is consistent with the NLG vision but focused on business and the bottom line.

I look forward to reporting to you, at the next assembly, that we have made progress by showing a positive bottom line and putting the corporations on a solid business foundation.

Thank you.



Wilf Blondé
Chief Executive Officer
Nisga'a Corporations
-Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.
-Lisims Forest Resources L.P.
-enTel Communications Inc.
-Wilp Sy'oon Wilderness Lodge Ltd.
-Nisga'a West Coast Stevedoring (1999) Ltd.
-Lisims Backcountry Ltd.
PHONE: 250.633.2696
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Directorate of COMMUNICATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Communications & Inter-Governmental Relations (CIR) Directorate is a new group established August 2005 and by February of 2006; the unit is actually created through staff transfers and reorganization. The clusters of operational responsibilities have for the most part already existed within the NLG system, now the work is into one area of responsibility.

Inter-Governmental Relations

Since May 11, 2000, a transformed relationship between the NLG and the federal and provincial governments established within the context of the Treaty Agreement and Fiscal Financial Agreement (FFA). Equally important is the transformed and contemporary relationship between the Village Governments, the Urban Locals and other agencies — first nations and otherwise.

The Treaty contains over 155 obligations in any number of combinations with each Party and this translates into a comprehensive reconstruction of Nisga'a governance and self-government.

Even though the transformation process seems slow for many and progress on program and governance reforms is seen as being too little, major efforts are being made. Much of this view takes place when some of the Nation's citizens (and many public servants) are unaware of what the NLG or the Nation is doing in terms of the progress with the Treaty Agreement and how much work continues with the federal and provincial systems.

Communications

There has been an increasing awareness to improve communications within the Nation between NLG, the villages, urban locals and between the NLG and the outside world. When the Treaty obligations and opportunities are set in the context of a contemporary administration, the proper use of Information and Communication Technology in our Nisga'a public administrations becomes a strategic objective. We will encourage all our administrations to have a communication plan as part of the legislative and operational developments.

Analysis of Problems

The Nisga'a citizens and even public servants are not properly informed about the Nation's activities or reforms. The citizens are thus unaware of the Nation's activities, including economic development, program development and relations with the federal and provincial systems. In fact, administrative information and internal communication in the Nation is weak, and in this context, the lack of awareness is a major problem identified.

For most citizens and some public servants, the work regarding the Treaty Agreement is complete and do not view the Agreement as a "process" of proceedings, actions, measures and accountability. The commentary to this is that the lack of communication is inherently hostile and what surfaces is a notion

of a “we — they” attitude. Therefore, the preparation of a communication strategy for that purpose is thus a necessity.

Emergency Planning

During this period the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan was approved; staff attended a number of related workshops and maintained contact with the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). Internally, our GIS department produced and continues to up date village maps to show important information, such as, propane tanks in the home vicinity, location of water lines – essentially the critical infrastructure that may present hazards or can help with the response planning.

The Directorate staff includes:

Director of Communications & Inter-Governmental Relations	G. Les Clayton
Administrative Assistant	Fran Johnson
Communications Coordinator	Eric Grandison
Special Projects Officer / Legislative Assistant	Bobby Clark

Some visits and projects we assisted with during the report period:

- The Foreign Affairs Canada, Embassies & Consulates;
 - Trade Commissioner, Asia and Oceania Commercial Relations
 - Office of the Minister of International Trade
 - Office of the Auditor General of Canada
 - Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Honourable Tom Christensen
 - Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
 - New Zealand High Commission, Graham Kelly
 - Members from the BC Treaty Commission, Judge Steven Point
 - The Honourable Judge L. S. Tony Mandamin
 - WestBank First Nation
 - BC Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo
 - Coastal Community Network
- Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC) – a group of Organizations that have Agreements with the federal government; and formed to promote the federal system to have an Implementation Policy.
 - Tripartite Annual Report – it should be noted our Annual Report of 2003-2004 won National acclaim for graphics and will be on a National tour with others.
 - Provide monthly newsletters of current events regarding government activities and items of interest to the Nation.
 - Continue information management regarding Emergency Response planning and preparation.
 - Continue to work with First Nation organization that request visits and internal workshops regarding our operations and information exchange.
 - Continue to work with both governments to plan visits for information exchange.

Respectfully submitted by...

G. Les Clayton, Director of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

The Office of LEGAL COUNSEL

Tansi,

I am a Cree woman from Treaty No. 6, Alberta. I have worked with Aboriginal organizations across Canada providing legal advice on governance, land & resource management and corporate commercial activities. I teach Aboriginal law on-line with AFOA Canada and Athabasca University and I am winding down my work as an adjudicator for Indian residential schools ADR process. I believe in good governance for our communities and sit as a board member for the National Centre for First Nation Governance.

I joined Nisga'a Lisims Government as In-House Legal Counsel on December 15, 2005. It is a great privilege for me to be working with such an extraordinary First Nation. I am also the Law Clerk.

In-House Legal Counsel

I am a member of Senior Management and I report to the Chief Executive Officer. My job is to coordinate the provision of legal services to Nisga'a Lisims Government ("NLG"). I work closely with General Counsel to ensure that each of our directorates gets superior legal services at reasonable costs. Over time, our legal costs should be reduced and redirected to support internal legal services.

I am also responsible for retaining legal counsel for Nisga'a institutions and Nisga'a corporations. While I do not advise these independent bodies, I do advise NLG as shareholder or as lawmaker. For example, I provide legal advice on the impact of the Treaty and Nisga'a laws on proposed business activities.

One of my objectives is to provide the directorates with the legal tools they need to carry out their statutory obligations. By providing on-site legal advice to the directorates, I can empower NLG staff to use the applicable laws more readily and assist them to generate policies.

I believe that every Nisga'a citizen should be able to pick up a Nisga'a law and understand how it works. To accomplish this, I will be working with the directorates to generate user-friendly information bulletins on Nisga'a laws and the Treaty.

Law Clerk

In capacity as Law Clerk, I report to NLG Executive and Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a ("WSN"). My job is to provide legal advice and procedural support to NLG Executive and WSN. I work closely with the Chief Executive Officer and the Legislative Assistant ("Clerk") to generate agendas and record the proceedings.

With the repeal of the *Nisga'a Lisims Government Act* and replacement by the *Nisga'a Government Act*, we will be recommending revisions to the rules and procedures for the various governmental bodies.

Our primary objective is to provide accurate and meaningful recordings of discussions and proceedings of WSN and NLG Executive for Nisga'a citizens. Both of these bodies are open to the public and are recorded. However, we wish to improve public access by posting agendas and minutes on the website and perhaps web-casting members' statements and question period.

We will also be making improvements to our law registry. By the end of the calendar year, we will have revised and consolidated Nisga'a laws (statutes and regulations). We propose to make them available for use by Nisga'a citizens in a reading room at our offices and on-line.

Aiy Aiy

In closing, I look forward to working with WSN, NLG Executive and NLG staff to carry out the functions of In-House Legal Counsel and Law Clerk. Please do not hesitate to contact my offices if you have further questions. Cynthia Clayton, Legal Assistant plays a key role in supporting both of my roles and actively participates in Law Clerk responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted by...

Tracy Fleck, In-House Legal Counsel



Nisga'a Village of NEW AIYANSH – Programs and Services 2004-2007

Program Budgets:

From April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2007, New Aiyansh Village Government will have received a total of \$13,737,133.00 for the delivery of Program & Services under the Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement. Of this NAVG received a total of \$860,000.00 in one-time treaty funds, which are non-FFA funds.

Our 3-year budget analysis shows the following:

Social Development Budgets	\$3,820,181.00	28%	Budget
Education Budget	\$3,236,692.00	25%	Budget
Administration	\$2,236,692.00	16.3%	Budget
Municipal Services	\$ 674,220.00	04.7%	Budget
Housing	\$1,616,160.00	12.0%	Budget
Other Programs	\$1,023,900.00	07.5%	Budget
Non FFA Funds	\$ 891,428.00	06.5%	Budget
Total 3-year program & Services	\$13,737,133.00		Budget

As you can see from the budget percentages, Social Development & Education require the largest portion of our budget. Municipal services, i.e. Operation & Maintenance, Public works and Landfill receive the lowest percentage of the budget even though these services include water, sewer, roads, street lighting, landfill/refuse collection and fire protection.

Administration:

New Aiyansh Village Government has 32 full time staff positions within the organization. In conjunction with seasonal employment initiatives, these numbers usually rise in excess of 90 employees.

Employment & Training Initiatives:

To meet the community demands for employment opportunities and criteria, NAVG offered various training initiatives.

These training initiatives included, Super Host, Food Safe, Flagging, Transportation Endorsement, WHIMIS, Cashier, First Aid, Drivers Training, class 4 & 5, Air Brakes, Basic Computers, Aboriginal Best for Entrepreneurs, Heavy Duty equipment, Resume writing, Contractor Training, Cultural Food Preparation, Letter Writing, Public Speaking, Preventive Maintenance Management, Public Building Maintenance, First Responders, Critical Stress Management, Conflict Resolution, How to Deal with Difficult People, Communications, Budget Preparation and Time Management.

Such training initiatives afforded us the following results:

- 1/ Flagging: 10 out of 12 people were hired for seasonal work.
- 2/ Cashier training: 8 out of 15 people were hired.
- 3/ Food Safe/Super Host: 12 out of 15 people were hired for seasonal work.
- 4/ First Aid, Level 3: 4 out of 8 people were hired for seasonal work.

- 5/ Contractor Training: 3 out of 4 contractors were awarded Housing contracts

Over the past 2 years, 37 community members were able to find seasonal employment based on their training certificates.

PROGRAM PROJECT UPDATES

Social Development: 2004-2006

Employment & Training Initiatives, Workshops, Meals on Wheels, Homemaker Services, Family Support Services, Smokehouse Project, Old Aiyansh Brushing & Weeding Project, Harlem Crowns, Gino Odjick Workshop, Meth = Death Workshop, Youth Work Experience (12 youth), Emergency Food Bank, Annual Christmas Hampers and Income Tested Programs.

Social Development: 2006-2007

Training Initiatives, 27 Workforce Taskgroup, CAP Site, Family Support Worker, Life Skills Training, Smokehouse Project, Meals on Wheels, Homemaker Services and Youth Resource Centre.

Administration: 2004-2006

Updated Policy Manual, Job Description, Finance Policy, and Employee Evaluations, Conducted Organizational review, Conducted Financial review of all Programs & Services, Moved Public meeting to Workshop styles, Trained staff in Budget preparation, Incorporated staff work plans for all programs, Established Terms of Reference for Committee meetings, Update Staff Skills Inventory to include refresher training courses, Utilized the services of all staff in preparation of the new FFA.

Finance:

For the year ended March 31, 2005, NAVG received an "unqualified" audit status. This is the highest possible grade you can receive for an audit. The Finance staff was commended by NAVG for achieving this status.

Governance:

There was numerous changes made within NAVG regarding how the Village Government conducts itself. Activity Logs which outlines each elected official' duties for each month has been incorporated to enhance the NLG stipend policy. NAVG is working on a governance manual for elected officials that will encompass Council's Political Roles & Responsibilities, Council's Functional Roles & Responsibilities, Code of Conduct, Financial matters and Committee meeting processes.

Education: 2004-2006

NAVIG funded 162 Post Secondary students and 11 students through our Employment & Training program for Trades.

Education: 2006-2007

We project we will fund approximately 55 students for Post Secondary and possible 5 students for Trades programs.

Based on the above, NAVIG will have funded a total of 233 students over 3 years.

Nursery/Headstart: 2004-2005:

NAVIG made a decision to restructure these programs and moved to a fully licensed daycare centre. Both buildings were renovated to meet licensed requirements, new equipment was ordered, we have new playground equipment and most recently, the purchase of a School Bus for our Nursery/Headstart students.

O & M Public Works:

Due to the size of New Aiyansh, the cost to maintain public facilities and infrastructures is very costly. New Aiyansh is currently working on Phasing in Community Service Fees for refuse collection, water, sewer, roads, street lighting and fire protection. Phase I will be in effect June 1, 2006 for refuse collection.

Public works projects over the past 2 years include the Nisga'a Highway Project, sub-division paving, water works upgrade, leak detection, sewage lagoon upgrade, landfill management, purchase of loader for landfill site, community building preventative maintenance plan, fit-up of community buildings, village roads repairs, annual maintenance work of water & sewer facilities.

Landfill Site:

NAVIG currently manages the Landfill site on behalf of the Nation. In 2004, NAVIG received an award for the management of the site.

Our nation needs to be aware, that in the event the Landfill is to be shut down, the cost will be in excess of 2 million dollars. This is what the cost could be to convert the land back to its original state. For 2005-2006 NAVIG has incorporated an 8% CAPPING fee from revenue generated for the Landfill for this purpose.

Economic Development:

Through our CCDP worker, NAVIG offers Business support, Business Plan Training, budget preparation and proposal writing assistance to our clients. As well, NAVIG offers Economic Development grants up to a maximum of \$2,500.00 and Business loans up to a maximum of \$10,000.00 to our members living on Village lands. For members living in urban areas, such applications are reverted to NLG for consideration.

From 2004-2006, NAVG issued \$38,388.00 in grants & loans. For the 2006-2007 year, we currently have 4 loan applications on file.

Housing:

From 2004-2006 NAVG contracted to Sii tax Development the completion of 6 new housing units, 18 major renovations, 32 minor renovations, and negotiated a payout of CMHC units. Effective September 2005, NAVG reverted the Housing Program back to Village Government to meet program delivery requirements. NAVG is currently working a new 5 year Housing Plan that will include new housing, major renovations, minor renovations, elders' renovations and mold remediation.

Community Preventative Services:

This program could be cited as one our most successful program in terms of the strides New Aiyansh has made with our youth. Prior to 2004, the community of New Aiyansh had the highest suicide & suicide attempts within our nation. This program gave us the opportunity to design youth programs spearheaded by our Youth themselves.

Youth programs & projects for the past 2 years include:

Rec Centre sports activities, Steve Nash basketball, Youth dances, Drug & alcohol workshops, Meth=Death workshop, ASRA sport team ID camps, Summer day camps, arts & crafts, field trips, Youth exchange program, games nites, winter carnivals, sports days, team tournaments, Gino Odjick workshop, Harlem Crowns, movie nites, D.A.R.E. Programs, Career fairs, Cultural activities Hip Hop workshop, Tour De Nass bike race, Canoe & boat safety, Canoe races, Hiking tours and Crab fest Youth workshops.

Capital Projects:

From 2004-2006, NAVG completed the following Capital Projects:

Recreation Centre expansion, Arts & Culture Centre, Sub-division Paving project, Water leak detection, design of sewage lagoon, Waterworks up-grade design for upper village, totem pole project, Village road repair, conceptual design of new ball field, Community garden, Feasibility of Fire Hall renovations.

2006-2007, Projects include:

New public works Maintenance shop and storage shed, animal control shelter, public works office, renovations of Fire Hall & fit up of equipment, South Access road, sewage lagoon, Upper village water works, Phase I of Ball field, Purchase of a shuttle bus, purchase of public works vehicle, purchase of garbage truck, Upper village drainage project, replacement of old asbestos waterlines in lower village, Mini-mill project, Royal Bank Agency Banking centre, and BC Hydro smart project.

In closing, the NAVG and staff look forward to the new 5 year Fiscal Funding Arrangement as we continue to strive towards true self-government.

Nisga'a Village of GITWINKSIHLKW

The Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw is pleased to welcome all Nisga'a citizens, visitors, and guests to the 2006 Special Assembly. We are delighted to have you here, and we look forward to working with you in support of our Nation.

The business, of administering funds to the Village of Gitwinksihlkw and maintaining law, order, and good government, has been challenging since the effective date of the Treaty. We have experienced many successes and many difficulties. The successes resulted from a combined effort of the Nation and we are extremely grateful for the assistance. The difficulties have centered on funding levels provided by the first fiscal financing agreement, and the collection of accounts. These difficulties resulted in service interruptions and deficit budgets in attempting to cover our statutory obligations. The collection of accounts resulted in a growing deficit that is now receiving action as we apply various Nisga'a, federal and provincial laws.

The funding agreement is to provide for the administration of government, but it did not fully contemplate or appreciate the immense scope of responsibility and costs associated with self-government. As with the other Nisga'a Villages and Nisga'a Lisims Government, we have received additional funding from a variety of sources and the annual payments of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust, in the absence of fiscal transfers from Ottawa and Victoria. We are also in agreement with the Nation and Villages to manage our financial resources to grow the Treaty funds to enable our Nation to become self-sufficient.

The first funding agreement has been extended while we attempt to reach agreement with Canada and British Columbia on the second fiscal financing agreement. Over the last several months, we have been working with the other Villages and the Nation to provide justification for increased budgets. The final result was a funding model to provide a basic infrastructure of government programs and services that our people require.

In documenting and arranging plans to support our various positions to the second funding agreement, it became apparent that we have lost and gained people over the last six years. We saw a large out-migration pattern emerge in the 3 years following the effective date with nearly half of the amount returning since 2003. Through analysis of our Villages, we have also seen a decrease in unemployment and an increase in the number of Nisga'a becoming educated at various institutions and at various levels. These are very positive indicators of what we have accomplished and a sign of continued growth.

The budgets for social assistance have been utilized, but at lower levels than in previous years. As part of the Social Development programs, the Community Preventative Services programs have been very useful to the development of our Village and especially our Youth. These programs are now assisted with the services of the 24-passenger Youth Bus, which our Village organizations use as part of various sports and youth development activities. As always, when our Youth benefit, it positions them to gain an appreciation for their communities and knowledge of supporting themselves.

The budgets for post secondary, elementary, and nursery education continue to be used to the maximum while secondary or high school budgets are not fully spent due to student absences. Our nursery funds support the Headstart program at the child daycare centre – Gitwinksihlkw Wil Sii Sit'aatkws. Our elementary funds assist students and parents as well as Gitwinksihlkw Elementary School along with other funds for elementary education programs. Gitwinksihlkw now has more than 30 university bachelor, master and PhD degrees completed and completing this year at Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a and elsewhere. Also, we have numerous technical diplomas and trade certificates within our membership.

We are extremely proud of all Nisga'a that have concentrated on completing and furthering their educational goals. We are conscious of the aspirations of our registered members that have expressed and shown their commitment to improving themselves through post secondary programs; and we are careful to encourage and not discourage those hopes and dreams in order that they become a reality, which benefits all of us.

Our housing and economic development programs have been limited, in part, due to funding shortfalls. As discussed earlier, we have begun to regularize house payments to assist our residents to become self-sufficient homeowners. This has been difficult to manage, however we are confident that this goal will be reached. As in the other Villages, we have many plans for the construction, renovation, and repair of housing units. Our economic development programs have benefited from the sourcing of additional funds, and we are working to enhance this program through various means including an on-line database for residents to obtain information on establishing and maintaining businesses. We were fortunate to receive the construction of a Tourist Centre, Nass Bridges, as another economic venture for our Village. We continue a controlling interest in a logging license and while we have had difficulties, we are mindful of available markets for timber, however, market prices dictate available economic gains.

Since the 2004 Assembly in Laxgalts'ap, we have been fortunate to complete many projects, although we have several major plans continuing. Our pending projects include the installation of a new drinking water supply, which will begin Fall 2006; and a 75-lot subdivision which we are scheduling for first phase construction in Fall 2007. The time taken to complete all necessary studies on the drinking water supply has delayed the subdivision. Once the first phase of the subdivision is complete, we will have room for housing construction.

Through the Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission, projects completed since 2004 include major maintenance of our Administration building, Recreation Centre, drainage infrastructure, suspension bridge, roads and water system. These major maintenance items include roofing replacement, lighting upgrades, road dust control, and many others. Also, we were fortunate to receive further assistance from the Commission to begin the engineering design work of our drinking water system, subdivision, and the construction of a new child daycare building.

One of our projects, under design and fundraising effort, is the construction of an indoor swimming pool. On Friday of this week, we will be assisted by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo, to perform a sod-turning ceremony at the proposed construction site. You are welcome to celebrate this with us.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the Assembly!

Gitwinksihlkw Village Government and Staff



Nisga'a Village of LAXGALTS'AP

Some of the major accomplishments over the past two years include:

Capital Projects & Infrastructure

- Completed community water source upgrading resulting in a reliable water supply – this included construction of wells, pumphouse and new reservoir.
- Completed Phase 1 of the Subdivision resulting in 10 fully serviced lots ready for construction in 2006.
- Completed financing and planning to construct three houses to accommodate RCMP members in our community—units to be completed during 2006.
- Secured funding to build an additional building on the Nursery Day Care site – this will provide much needed room to accommodate increased interaction of parents and elders within the head start program. Construction in 2006.
- Planned and consulted community construct a new Recreation Centre which will have a feast hall that seats 800 and includes an indoor swimming pool.
- Planned Live Cultural Spaces site to be located beside the Nisga'a Museum.
- Prioritized financing for the completion of our Road Upgrade project.
- Worked with funding sources to identify and develop a second stage-housing complex for individuals, children and families dealing with family violence. It is anticipated that this initiative will be completed within the 2006 fiscal year.

Community Governance

- Received many compliments about our elders' involvement. Our community is fortunate to have a very active Elders Society – whenever we have external parties wanting to meet; we receive a good turn out from our elders.
- Youth formed a Youth Council – we encourage our youth in their leadership and look forward to working closely with you!
- Worked with the community to revamp the Laxgalts'ap Cultural and Community Services Society in order to promote and develop the social economy.

Community Programs

- Accomplishments of our "Gwilksquudimhl Lip Wila Loom Ganhl Algax – Taking back our Culture and Language" project include having two citizens trained in video and audio who have developed the skills to train more community members and developed archives of 12 elders' stories about Wilp structure, traditional food preparation and Nisga'a laws.
- We have obtained many successes in additional funding in our Nursery Day Care over the past two years resulting in increased programming and

staffing; we now are able to employ three Licensed Early Childhood Educators (ECE) and two staff members who are in training to be Licensed ECEs.

Community Services

- Our Recreation Centre has become a vibrant facility with increased programming – for 2006/2007 we plan to expand programming by offering workshops identified by the community facilitated by people from our community.
- Our community website can be reached at www.geocities.com/laxgaltsap2004/ - in partnership with the Nisga'a Nation Knowledge Network (NNKN), we plan to provide more easily accessible public information through our website.
- The Laxgalts'ap Parent Club has become very active meeting monthly and have developed a Career and Education Planning booklet for students and parents as well as being able to send parents away on professional development opportunities.
- The Gitxatin Housing Society has actively worked with members to fill the current 10 building lots with new housing and additional low-income housing – future plans are being considered for additional housing that will fill the needs of a growing community.
- Worked with the RCMP and NLG Programs & Services to obtain funding for a violence awareness initiative for youth.
- Worked with funding agencies to fund a series of workshops for youth facilitated by elders on Ayuuk Nisga'a.
- Worked with CFNR Radio on the creation of a Community Radio Station that can be used to support the language initiatives

Training and Education

- In 2004/2005, sponsored 82 post secondary students with 22 completions.
- In 2005/2006, sponsored 84 post secondary students with 19 completions.
- Supported 54 students at Laxgalts'ap Elementary School and 61 students at NESS.
- In partnership with NWCC and WWN, we are offering a four month Essential Skills for Work program in our community – we plan to continue offering either this program or an Employment Skills program through the NNKN project.
- Other successes include participation in Aboriginal Youth Future In Recreation and Sport Training resulting in two National Lifeguard Service Awards, three Bronze Crosses, eleven Standard First Aid, CPR A and CPR C as well as two PADI Scuba Diving Certifications.
- Developed a series of workshops in preparation for Laxgalts'ap projects (rebuilding Laxgalts'ap's cultural landscape).
- Developed a series of cultural workshops i.e.: carving, jewelry making and traditional knife making to prepare individuals for employment at the live cultural spaces / museum site.

- Developed the framework for the traditional media center and produced material on elders' stories.

Economic Development

- Laxgalts'ap Forest Corporation secured fiber to operate for the full year in the past year employing 23 workers (95% Nisga'a) – expanding from logging, sort yard operation, booming and towing to value added (log home building and small milling) in 2006.
- Became proud member of Nisga'a Business Alliance (NBA).
- More reporting to come at the Special Assembly – See you all there!

Laxgalts'ap Village Government and Staff



Nisga'a Village of GINGOLX

Gingolx Village Government wishes to welcome everyone to the Special Assembly. We look forward to working over the next few days in cooperation with all citizens toward achieving a brighter future for the Nisga'a. It is in this way that we will achieve our vision of '*One Heart, One Path, One Nation!*'

Community Governance:

We have experienced many changes over the past 2 years – some good, others not so good. We do have plans to ensure that the Gingolx Participation Program gets off the ground immediately following this week. This involves community meetings, newsletters, using our website, and media centre.

There have been challenges that involve elected members, community members and all ages. This must be addressed soon, by community so that we can move forward. We are ensuring a transparent and accountable governing body, reflected in our excellent fiscal responsibility that is evidenced in our financial statements and annual audits.

We must improve our reporting to the public, and are committed to this beginning immediately.

Community Economic Development:

The outlook of Gingolx is to better prepare our community and its infrastructure for ongoing developments that will greatly enhance our lifestyles:

1. *Angox Hydro Electric* – we are 2% shareholders with this company, and have an option to increase this to 10%. This is being negotiated, and financing of the additional 8% is being sought after. There is an employment component to this partnership that will see upwards of 40 Git-Gingolx employed very soon. We only await the construction start up date from the contractors and sub-contractors. The project will present jobs for a term of 8 to possibly 18 months. These range from heavy duty operators, truck drivers, Labourers, camp maintenance workers, cooks, etc. Announcements will be made in Gingolx so please keep updated through our office. Gingolx may be selling our camp facility to this operation due to lack of use over the past 2 years.
2. *Gingolx Long House* – we have celebrated the opening of this beautiful facility and have enjoyed its use over the past year. We are requesting a community organization to oversee the operation. Boardwalks were also a part of this building to reflect part of Gingolx's history. Many thanks goes out to the young artists who did a beautiful job in the building atmosphere. Thank you also to those in the building committee, fundraisers and all funding agencies, and the Gingolx Sawmill workers.
3. *Sea Wall* – This structure is in place with much thanks for the Nisga'a Lisims Government, INAC and Larry Oviatt Construction. This structure is intended to provide flood and erosion protection but also lends to community beautification.
4. *Community Hall Expansion* – the current facility can no longer adequately host larger events. The growth of the Nation and the community dictates that we expand. Gingolx free land space is very limited, requiring creativity by those involved, to maximize floor space within the current building footprint. This will be a joint effort between Gingolx Village

Government, Nisga'a Lisims Government and other funding agencies. This will enhance community use and also term jobs for our residents.

5. *Cultural / Outdoor Recreational Space* – previous village government had begun this project, that includes an upgraded ball field, outdoor stage for Crabfest, and other events along with open green space which will include vendor space, parking space and possible additional long houses.

Future Capital Projects:

- Westridge Subdivision which will include residential spaces, parks, commercial space and Emergency Shelters.
- Road upgrade and infrastructure upgrade – this includes that replacing of a sewer treatment plant, relocating existing sewer lines and the paving of our village roads.
- Daycare / Nursery space – a new building will be constructed and \$500,000 has been awarded for the completion.
- Boat launches / Net loft – we are seeking support of local fishers, tourists and our neighboring communities to begin funding search.
- Teacherages are being considered for replacement to ensure we have quality housing. We feel this will help us in retaining quality educators to enhance a quality learning environment.

Others will be announced following our community planning sessions.

Vision

- Gingolx Village Government is dedicated to making Gingolx a safe, healthy and prosperous community, with a brighter future for all Git-Gingolx.
- Since the drafting of this vision, we have been challenged to achieve the statement. This statement is so large that it requires daily commitment by all members, elected and non-elected.
- Gingolx now must re-visit its vision statement to ensure compliance with the Vision of the Nisga'a Nation. This will be done in a public meeting with our residents.

Enjoy this Special Assembly, in the spirit of forbearance!
Gingolx Village Government and Staff

For information on the activities of the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx, contact:

Gingolx Village Government
General Delivery
Kincolith, BC V0V 1B0
Tel: (250)-326 4212



Urban Nisga'a Society of TERRACE

Mandate

The Terrace Nisga'a Society Constitution states that our purpose is to enhance the social, economic, physical, and spiritual well being of the Nisga'a citizens whose ordinary residence is within the City of Terrace and Kitimat, Prince George, Smithers, Hazelton, Vanderhoof and south to Williams Lake.

The Terrace Nisga'a Society has undergone significant change since the last Assembly, most of which have taken place during the last year. Through the diligent work and dedication of our Government representatives, Board of Directors, and staff, we have reformed a strong foundation with which to effectively address the needs and concerns of the Nisga'a people living in our catchment area. The first task that became evident was the need to work together as one, Sayt K'ilim Goothl, in the true spirit of the Nisga'a.

Governance

Terrace Nisga'a Society is governed by the Society Act through a Board of Directors that have adopted the motto "Transparency" and have demonstrated this motto with consistent reporting to the membership on a bi-monthly basis; and in turn increasing the confidence of the membership. The Board has also decided to focus on building a community spirit through a bi-monthly potluck gathering, separate from the meetings for reporting.

We have found that the tools of International Certification Canada would assist us in fulfilling our mandate and living up to our motto, therefore, a decision was made to acquire re-certification. This certification enables us to deliver consistent and equal service to our membership through a quality management system. We received re-certification in March 2006.

Programs and Services

The first big task was to establish lines of communication with our members, to better assess what issues they were facing. This was accomplished through the development of our website (mytns.ca), a society newsletter, various public postings, radio/newspaper ads, public meetings, and through encouraged word of mouth. As a result, we are getting better turnouts at meetings, and the traffic in the office has also increased. Members are much more comfortable, and confident, that their voices are being heard. With that, the next task was to determine what programs we were capable of offering immediately, and would be of most benefit to our members. The Terrace Nisga'a Society provides programs and services to citizens from Terrace east to the Alberta border, and as far south as Williams Lake. The population breakdown for this region is as follows: 0 to 12 yrs – 186 M, 158 F (26.6%); 13 to 19 yrs – 132 M, 106 F (18.4%); 20 to 39 yrs – 199 M, 224 F (32.7%); 40 to 59 yrs – 106 M, 122 F (17.6%); 60 + yrs – 26 M, 33 F (4.7%). The total population is 1292, of which 1014 are located in the Terrace/Thornhill area, and 278 are located in the affiliated areas. This number is increased when taking into account those citizens with unknown addresses. (Source: Nisga'a Lisims Approved Application List, October/05)

Following is a brief overview of the programs and services that have taken place through the P & S department since June 2005:

- Assistance to families to access various organized sports (i.e. soccer, softball) – ongoing.
- Graduation Dinner, to recognize the achievement of all Nisga'a students completing their educational pursuits, from Headstart to Post Secondary programs – June 27, 2005.
- Summer Youth Program, with funding support from Skeena Native Development Society, delivered a drop-in summer program for Youth up to 18yrs (movie nights, bowling, water slides, etc.) – July to September.
- Distribution of Education Gifts, to assist families with start up fees – August to October.
- Establishment of Yuletide Committee to oversee planning/fundraising for Christmas Dinner – October.
- Youth Halloween Party – October 28, 2005.
- Yuletide Fundraising Dance – November 11, 2005.
- Provision of swimming passes – ongoing.
- Nisga'a Language and Culture Program, accessible to all members 5 yrs and older – January to June 2006.
- Nisga'a Youth Council (15-29yrs), established in February, officially inaugurated on March 23, 2006

Given the above population statistics, it is evident that the urban populations are largely comprised of citizens less than 40 years of age. There is a desperate need for increased funding in the key areas of education, community development, and health and wellness. Nearly half of our membership (582 or 45%) is Youth, 19 years or less.

Fundraising is a huge part of the Public sector for non-profit societies, and that effort is an ongoing process. Alternate funding sources are continuously being sought, and only with time and persistence can we begin to take advantage of those opportunities. The Terrace Nisga'a Society thanks NLG for their continued support through some difficult times, and also for the opportunity to express our views to the Nation through this General Assembly.

Economic Development and Language and Culture

An opportunity arose within the tourism sector; and the Terrace Nisga'a Society took advantage by entering into a Lease Agreement with the City of Terrace for space in a prime tourist location beneath the George Little House. This space is now used as an art studio by local Nisga'a artisans to expose Nisga'a culture through drawings; wood, gold, and silver carving; weaving; and invite any other forms of Nisga'a artwork. The name of the studio is "Wilp SimGan" or House of Red Cedar. Phase two of this project will be to develop a marketing hub for other Nisga'a artists or tourist attractions mainly through the World Wide Web.

Terrace Nisga'a Society Board & Staff

Urban Nisga'a Society of Prince Rupert / Port Edward

Board of Directors

- Farley Stewart, Chairperson
- Cliff Morgan, Vice Chairperson
- Maynard Angus, Secretary Treasurer
- Franklin Alexcee, Director/Government Rep
- Juanita Parnell, Director/Government Rep
- Ellis Young, Director
- Peter Nelson, Director
- Chris Nelson, Director

Staff

- Carol Smythe-Doolan, Programs & Services Coordinator
- Sharon Oskey, Administrative Assistant
- Bruce Brown, Computer Tech
- Christine McMillan, Accounting Tech
- John Cecil, Manager

Sayt Kilim Goot Development Corporation Board of Directors

- Valerie Stewart, Chairperson
- Dick Leeson, Director
- Alan Hooper, Director

Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Youth Council

- Chris E. Nelson, Youth Advisory Appointee
- Cynthia Oskey
- Celeste Alexcee
- Dayna Nelson
- Tenille Alexcee
- Ivan Lincoln Jr

Gitmaxmak'ay Budget from NLG

Administration	\$145, 175.00
• Training	\$22,000.00
Economic Development	\$33,000.00
Government Reps – Travel	\$22,000.00
Programs & Services	
• Education	\$53,350.00
• Language & Culture	\$57,200.00
• Nisga'a Youth Council	\$15,714.00
• NCSI	<u>\$46,000.00</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$394,439.00</u>



Other Programs & Services

- HOYOP – Helping our Young ones Prosper
- 2010 Arts Now
- Aboriginal Health Initiative Program “Family First”
- First Peoples Heritage Language & Culture Council
- Services Canada Youth Work Experience
- Industry Canada Computer Access Program

Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Activities & Future Goals

Language & Culture

- Cultural Teaching & Learning
- Cultural Activities
- Language/Dictionary workshops
- Traditional Dancing
- Elders/Youth Eco Tours

2010 Arts Now

- Youth Programs
- Cost Share Program
- Learning Traditional skills
- Food Harvesting
- Eco-Tours
- Drum Making
- Regalia Making

NCSI – Nisga'a Community Support Initiatives

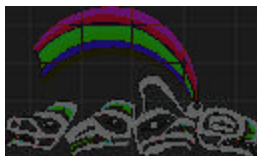
- Activities
- Sports & Recreation
- Movies
- Family Entertainment
- Families is Nisga'a Children 18yrs and under

Helping Our Young Ones Prosper – HOYOP

- Youth Resource Worker
- Youth Programs
- Crime Prevention
- Workshops

Aboriginal Health Initiative – Family First

- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease
- Addictions
- Cost Share Program



Gitmaxmak'ay Youth Council

- Voice for Nisga'a Youth
- One representative will have the opportunity to present to the NLG Executive and/or WSN
- Council had elections to appoint representative
- Health and Healing, Sports and Recreation and Innovative Programs are key areas

Sayt Kilim Goot Development Corporation

- Value Added Fish Plant
- Location – possibly Port Edward
- Processing under utilized fish
- Domestic Market
- Tourism
- Circle Tours
- Attractions

Economic Development – Society

- Co-op Housing (Non Profit)
 - Apprenticeships
 - Maintenance
 - Management
- Affordable housing (purchase)

Gitmaxmak'ay Prince Rupert / Port Edward Nisga'a Society



Urban Nisga'a Society of VANCOUVER

NTVS strives to maintain Nisga'a Values and Philosophies and to raise the quality of life by providing quality programs and services that meet the unique needs of our membership.

Our mandate is to enhance the Social, Economical, Physical, Cultural and Spiritual well – being of Nisga'a Citizens whose ordinary residence is within the Lower Mainland of BC or the greater Victoria or Nanaimo areas of Vancouver Island.

Membership:

NLG defines our membership to include the 840 Nisga'a Citizens, which live in the following areas: Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, North Delta, Fort Langley, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, North Vancouver, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria and West Vancouver. (16 Cities/Towns).

Our affiliated members include the other 39 cities/towns of which there are 317 identified members.

The Society has a contractual agreement with NLG to deliver the K-12 Education gifts to members as NLG's defined "Vancouver Membership and Affiliates".

The other programs we provide are the Nisga'a Community Support Initiatives for children & youth up to 18 years of age, Nisga'a Language and Culture; however, as a society we do not receive funds from NLG to include the "Vancouver affiliated" members in these initiatives.

NTVS tends to the following on a daily basis:

The various types of requests we receive from our membership, which includes all 55 Cities and Towns and Nisga'a from our homelands. The short falls with post secondary students to cover all basic living expenses i.e.: monthly bus-passes rent and food and for community support in cases of emergencies. Our members and members from our home lands requesting medical support in the areas of meals, transportation, parking, community support, quality support in understanding the system and medical terminology. Many members face hardship in areas of in-between jobs-not enough money to get to a job interview, getting to and from work, or school.

Some of our members need to get from one city to the next to visit family in hospitals or attend meetings or Nisga'a functions.

We get a lot of request for financial assistance from members wanting to go home to visit their family member who are terminally ill and to go home to attend funerals.

Many individuals become disabled i.e. broken leg, arm etc, and do not have support to carry out basic housework or tending to daily family responsibilities.

NTVS Goals:

We intend on continuing to enhance cooperating with services, governments and other organizations, which concern themselves with the advancement of Nisga'a Citizens and their families within our Society.

Under Economic Development, we are implementing joint ventures as a partnership with others to save costs and provide quality service to our membership.

We will provide summer student programs by hiring a post-secondary student to fill an administrative assistant position, which will enhance our technical and communications for the benefit of getting our membership more informed and updated on a quick level. Other position in our future are a community / events planner that will update the list of community activities for the year and develop a template to coordinate all community activities for the year, this person's line of work will be important for our membership to become more involved at a larger scale. Also a recreation assistant will assist in developing programs that will aim to provide enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programs of personal development which is of highest quality and widest research. These initiatives will help our very diverse membership who live in very wide areas to build on their relationship and work towards unity

Partnership requests:

Request to work with NVHA in addressing the need for a hospital liaison worker to provide assistance to our membership of NTVS and those who come to Vancouver for medical emergencies.

Work in partnership with social workers and Roots program that are responsible for the Nisga'a Children in care, to assist them with developing family trees (immediate and extended) to assist with the teachings of our Nisga'a Language, Culture and Traditions, and the need to include these children in community functions.

Community Functions:

We had our regular Christmas gathering where we had approximately 300 attendees, like wise with our Nisga'a New year; we have our regular graduation dinner where we recognize individuals graduating from Kindergarten, grade 7, 12 and post secondary. We have had a successful Nisga'a movie night out and supported our Nisga'a Ts'amiks Dancers to attend the Tsimshian Haayuuk – 10th anniversary celebration.

Some innovative approaches that we have taken to reach our goals have been community forums, surveys, and finding ways to utilize the specialties held by our constituents. All of which have contributed to bridging the gap between our leaders and the membership, and have allowed us to be more community driven.

Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society Board & Staff

Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC)

Nisga'a Lisims Government is committed to address the issue of Nisga'a youth not having access to programs and services, which foster and bolster the involvement of youth in the social, economic and decision-making processes of Nisga'a Government.

A recommendation from the Programs & Services Committee meeting of May 19th, 2005 resulted in NLG Executive Resolution 2005/23 Wednesday, May 25th, 2006 authorizing the Nisga'a Nation in partnership with Rural Voices and the Federal Rural Secretariat to launch a 3 year project titled the Integrated Hub Model (IHM). The Integrated Hub Model is being used as a test model for the Government of Canada's Models for Rural Development and Community Capacity Building research Initiative.

The decision was guided by the potential to collaborate activities of the IHM with the recent focus on leadership capacity building of Nisga'a youth through the development of Nisga'a Youth Councils and Nisga'a Youth Advisory Councils.

The project objectives are:

- To test a mechanism for integrating services which improves accessibility for Nisga'a.
- To support leadership and capacity building activities at the community level to integrate the development of social service programs and supports for Nisga'a children, youth and families.
- To identify key barriers in community service integration.
- To research and document, over a three year period, how communities create more integrated service / supports that are flexible and community driven.
- To generate and disseminate findings about service delivery, community infrastructure and capacity building.
- To inform Government policy development, program development and service sector training opportunities.
- To develop a dynamic, interactive series of training modules to enhance training of various individuals to perform community mobilization and system integration roles in the voluntary social service sector.

Nisga'a Lisims Government provided seed monies from the 2005/06 Final Budget for the establishment of NYC's and NYAC's. On March 15th, 2006 the

NLG Programs & Services Committee hosted a “Meet and Greet” the NYC’s; NYAC’s and the new Director of Programs & Services.

It was a very exciting and historical day; the Programs & Services Committee; P&S Director; Managers and NYAC representatives provided self-introductions and shared dreams, visions and concerns of Nisga'a youth. A major concern, which was shared by all, was the preservation of the Nisga'a language and culture for generations to come.

The following are the representatives to the NYAC:

Gingolx Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Hubert Barton III
Laxgalts'ap Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Danica Moore
Gitwinksihlkw Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Damian Azak
New Aiyansh Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Cherie Mercer
Terrace Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Dorothy McKay
Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Chris E. Nelson
Vancouver Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council	Vacant

The NLG Programs & Services Committee was pleased to hear reports from the NYAC representatives of the goals and visions of the respective NYC's.

A few of the initiatives and workshops being hosted by the Nisga'a Youth Councils are Career Fairs; Fashion Shows; REDD Nation A & D Workshops; Nisga'a Dictionary Studies; Mental Health Grooming & Wellness Workshop; Celebration of BC Youth Week; Nisga'a Youth Council National Conference. Attendance to YMCA conferences and BC Rural Summit in Osoyoos are other examples of the NYC's representing the Nisga'a Nation.

Most if not all NYC's are still organizing and establishing membership; they are all to be commended for their diligence in getting more members and the admirable leadership qualities, which they are modeling, for the Nation.

Si aamhl wilsim

Respectfully submitted by

NLG Programs & Services Department



Elder's Council

Introduction

The mandate of the Council of Elders is contained in the Oath of Office. When an elder is sworn in, he/she accepts the responsibility to counsel and advise the Nisga'a Government. Council members swear an oath that they will "uphold the Ayuuk of the Nisga'a Nation and provide guidance, wisdom and interpretation of the Ayuuk to those who seek it."

The councilor also promises to "work to preserve the peace and unity of the Nisga'a Nation by encouraging the Nisga'a Lisims Government and Village Government to provide good, effective and accountable government for the Nisga'a Nation.

The council is mandated to meet approximately six times a year and the meetings must coincide with the WSN meetings. We get our direction from WSN proceedings and from the Nisga'a Executive.

In the last two years, the council has dealt with many issues, which include; Eligibility & Enrollment; Kaats; health and health board; youth & Connection with youth; treaty implementation issues; museum or lack of one; the Yukw Document; restorative Justice and Nisga'a language and culture issues.

In the last two years, this council has seen the Yukw document completed and ready for printing and publishing and thanks to a lot of people. For many reasons the museum has not been completed. One of the main reasons was the lack of resources.

For their future endeavors, this council hopes to raise the profile of every elder in their respective communities as resources for guidance and wisdom to all levels of the Nisga'a society. This council will also make a direct and active connection with the youth and Nisga'a Youth Councils and hope to play a prominent role in their development.

Other issues that confront the Nisga'a Nation that this council hopes to get involved in are the Restorative Justice issues where we offer assistance and advice. This council also pledges its support as our youth and other community entities and members develop ways and means to deal with the drug problems that plague the communities the world over.

The Chairperson of the Council of Elders is also a member of the Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive, as well as Wilp Si'Ayuukhl Nisga'a.

Respectfully submitted by...

Chester Moore, Chairperson – Council of Elders
Sim'oogit Hlayimwil

