



GITXAAŁA NATION

2022-2023

COUNCIL AND
ADMINISTRATION
ANNUAL REPORTS



**Gitxaala
Nation**





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INTRODUCTION – CHIEF LINDA INNES

This past year has been a year of continued growth and learning by myself and Council. We have had many opportunities to connect with other First Nations, local levels of government and businesses by attending functions, openings, and meetings to promote our community and Nation.

Each year we undertake a strategic planning and evaluation of our strategic plans and priorities. As a result, restructuring was required to address and respond to priority areas of governance and operations. Strategic planning is necessary to determine the direction for our organization. The visioning of the Governing Council is taken from the years of work on the Gitxaala National Wellness Plan and the newly completed Comprehensive Plan.

We envision honouring our ancestors, protecting the territory, strengthening our culture and language, fostering a healthy, resilient community based on our mutual obligation for wellness. Our mission is to protect, and prioritize the well-being of our citizens, community, lands, waters, and resources through collaboration, effective policies, and sustainable development. What we leave behind for future generations determines our priorities.

Over the past year there has been greater work as we strive for greater territorial governance and meet the challenges of colonial infringement on our title and rights. Work will be ongoing with the Mineral Tenure Committee and the Joint Committee on Reconciliation and Treaty Response. The impacts of colonial systems such as treaty process impacts Gitxaala title and rights. Gitxaala has never ceded or surrendered our title and rights, and we stand on our ayaax,



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adaax, and guugwilthyaansk. There is a significant amount of work in front of us to ensure free prior informed consent.

The *Mineral Tenure Act* is a colonial act that has impacted Gitxaala territory where mineral claim staking has occurred without Gitxaala consent, and exploratory mining under the *Mines Act* has occurred without a proper

environmental assessment. We continue to negotiate as well as appeal through the courts for justice for Gitxaala territory.

The Joint Committee on Reconciliation and Treaty Response continues to meet on the treaty issues that impact Gitxaala ayaax, adaax, and gugwilthyansk. Talks are ongoing with Canada and British Columbia and the Committee will continue to report back to the Hereditary Table and membership.

While we are impacted by colonial systems, there is somewhat of a transformation as legislation changes to improve greater control for First Nations under acts such as the First Nations Education Jurisdiction, First Nations Child Welfare legislation, and First Nations Financial Administration By-law, all of which require a greater deal of capacity development within Gitxaala to effectively administer sustainable services for the health and well-being of Gitxaala membership.

Education Jurisdiction

Gitxaala leadership is exploring Education Jurisdiction with the support of the First Nations Education Steering Committee. Jurisdiction over education is the formal recognition by the federal and provincial governments of First Nations' inherent rights to make laws related to the education of our children. This includes law-making authority over curriculum development, graduation requirements, teacher certification and school certification. This will enable a First Nation to take



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control over the Education in the communities; to make it their own and to ensure it is suitable to their needs.

The direct funding listed in the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) will continue along with the additional New Jurisdiction Funding, which will be for the following:

- Funding to support ratification.
- One-time Funding to support implementation of jurisdiction.
- On-going *Governance Funding* to support the implementation of jurisdiction and their new governance responsibilities.

Lastly, it is important to note that the First Nation can withdraw from this process and the funding will go back to the BCTEA.

Child Welfare Jurisdiction

Gitxaala continues to work with NIFCS and MCFD for child welfare issues. The best protection for child welfare is our culture, traditions, and services that are preventative and keep children out of care, addressing and healing from trauma.

Gitxaala Financial Administration By-Law 2018

In 2018, Gitxaala adopted the *Gitxaala Nation Financial Administration By-Law*. The by-law sets out Governing council responsibilities as well as the authority to delegate responsibilities within the administration through the Chief Administrative Officer. Policy and procedural development is ongoing, along with an active Finance and Audit Committee. The Financial Administration By-law and the Indigenous Services Grant sets out the annual reporting requirements for Gitxaala Governing Council and the Gitxaala Administration. Other tools available



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include the *Financial Administration Law* which is a stronger tool and provides more supports to the Gitxaala Nation are being implemented.

Economic Development

The Gitxaala Development Corporation (GECO) is seeing growth in business development and acquisition. The most recent business development includes the Saltwater Bakery and the acquisition of the iconic Crest Hotel which is prime real estate and we are proud to have seized this opportunity. The Gitxaala Development Corporation operates at arm's length from the Gitxaala Governing

Council and has a Hereditary Advisory Committee along with separate board of directors. Although GECO is arms length, it is still accountable to the nation and reports as well as undergoes auditing and reporting. As a policy, 20% of the profits are returned to the Gitxaala Nation annually and the remaining into economic development opportunities.

Housing

Housing continues to grow in Gitxaala along with home renovations. Last years strategic plan and housing policy continues to evolve. Congratulations to the housing department for the completion of the duplex units for women, children, under the homelessness strategy and rapid housing allocation. We look forward to seeing the occupation of the first ever tiny home projects for single members. In summary, we look forward to greater engagement as we strive to serve Gitxaala in governance, education, social, health, and economic opportunities now and into the future. Governing council will provide reports over the duration of the AGM along with the administration providing reports.

Tooyusit nuun,
Chief Linda Innes



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CHIEF LINDA INNES

The three main portfolios as Chief Council include: Treaty Response and Reconciliation, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Economic Development.

The primary goal of Treaty Response is to provide high-level engagement with Canada, British Columbia and to ensure Gitxaala laws, use and occupation, and jurisdiction of our traditional territory is recognized as the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum Treaties infringe on Gitxaala Nation title and rights.

The primary goal of the Reconciliation process is to ensure a process is in place that recognizes the inherent authority and jurisdiction of our hereditary governance, while exploring a Reconciliation Framework Agreement with Canada and British Columbia.

The primary goal of Economic Development is to diversify economic opportunities, and create economic wealth for Gitxaala through sustainable economic opportunities.

In addition, over an 8-month period, I held portfolio responsibilities with Education Portfolio and Child & Youth Family Services. We negotiated funding to support the enhancement of the social development department to meet the services needs of Lax Klan, and support child welfare issues for Gitxaala Nation.

Gitxaala Treaty response is a result of the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum treaty process. Gitxaala is not in treaty but is impacted by the infringement of Canada and British Columbia Treaty process. A joint committee has been established from hereditary and council members to respond to Canada, British Columbia, Kitselas and Kitsumkalum. Gitxaala has legal representation at each step of the



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process. Community engagement has and will continue to occur with the hereditary chiefs, matriarchs, and our nation members as we proceed to protect the legal interest of Gitxaala. Next steps include ongoing engagement and reporting to Simgygyets, Gitxaala, nation to nation meetings with Kitselas and Kitsumkalum, and ongoing engagement with Canada and British Columbia representatives as the treaties will adversely impact our title and rights.

Gitxaala Reconciliation process was entered into in 2020 to explore the opportunities, risk, and benefits. Covid was a challenge so there was little progress. The purpose of the RFA sets out good faith measures, reconciles Gitxaala law and jurisdictions, recognizes Gitxaala Title and Rights, provides priority measures, short and long-term, establishes a positive working relationship with the two crowns, and implements Gitxaala's self-government rights incrementally. First step was to enter into a reconciliation framework agreement (RFA) and is the framework for the parties to negotiate further agreements leading to Crown recognition of Gitxaala governance and Gitxaala title on Gitxaala territory.

RFA will continue to engage with hereditary table and community and hopefully come to an agreement on good faith measures and a mandate to proceed. Gitxaala engagement on Gitxaala ayaax, adaax, and gugwiltiyaansk.

Gitxaala Governing Council and Hereditary Chiefs launched a judicial review of seven mineral claims in their territory, on Lax Knaga Dzal (Banks Island), and more broadly challenging the Mines Act and Mineral Tenure Act. Gitxaala sought a declaration that the province owes a duty to consult Gitxaala prior to granting mineral claims, quash the 7 mineral claims on Lax Knaga Dzal, and interpretation of the legal effect of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.



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Economic Development operates at arm's length from the governing council table. The benefits of this approach reduce risk to the Gitxaala Nation and its members, effectively compartmentalize businesses and allocate resources, separate business from politics, allow outside expertise/advisors when circumstances warrant, and maximize tax benefits.

Education remains a high priority and through our Administration, structural changes and supports are in place. We look forward to ensuring the right conditions are created to ensure all members benefit from the education opportunities from cradle to grave.

While Education is under a separate portfolio, as Elected Chief, my mandate is to support all portfolios and support the right governance model and policies that create the conditions so all Gitxaala will reach their success.

Child and Youth Family services works in connection with federal and provincial legislative changes. As NIFCS board member avenues are being explored on how to best respond and participate in the legislative changes to increase healthier outcomes for Gitxaala children no matter where they live.

Child welfare at a federal and provincial level continues to evolve. Although governing council is responsible for the reserve, the legislative changes impact child welfare no matter where our children have been apprehended or live. Actions to include prevention and promotion of key strategic priority areas that enhance improved outcomes and prevent issues that cause for children to enter care. Gitxaala must learn, understand, and uphold our own laws on child welfare.



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As a result of the courts not quashing the current claims, and DRIPA is a political promise as opposed a legal tool, Gitxaala has launched an appeal to the court to protect Gitxaala territory from further harm of claim staking, and appealing and working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines for interim measures that include no staking zones. Talks are ongoing with the province and larger political tables.

DEPUTY CHIEF BRUCE INNES

I would express my deepest condolences to families that have lost loved ones recently and over the last few years. It has been very tough but as Gitxaala people I expect we would pull together to help the grieving families in times of need. Love and Peace to you all.

In Education Lax Klan School started off with a welcome to staff and students. As a sport-minded student myself, I was asked to present to my experience in school and in sports in general. It was an honour for me to do that. Brenna Innes who is volunteering as a coach for upcoming JR. All Native joined me in giving a message of how playing sports and getting an education work hand in hand.

I am also working with Calvin Demerais who, a former Indigenous Police Officer. Calvin recommended I be on the Indigenous Compliance Committee which consists of several Bands in BC with similar issues. We are working on changing the Community Police job description to Community Safety Officer which we think will be more effective. We are developing a Community Safety Course with NVIT for our Security to take and leave the Policing to the RCMP. We hope to have this course developed early next year although no timeline has been set. The Indigenous Compliance Committee meets once a month. Lots of discussion on alcohol bylaw and other bylaws.



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We took part in Strategic Planning sessions. Planning sessions were presented from different points of view. It was very interesting to see how things look different from each point of view. Strategic Planning is communicating our services to community members which is all our responsibility as Leaders and employees.

Other activities volunteer/committees/boards I am on include : The Kitkatla Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders. Early in the year we had (EEWS) Early Earthquake Warning System installed at the Firehall. The system is collecting data at the moment and as soon as other communities have their EEWS installed we will be able to monitor the information. This EEWS will give us an extra 7 minutes should an earthquake occur as it monitors the different waves that occur before and actual earthquake. Those 7 minutes could be crucial for us. I am very proud to be working with this group of volunteers.

The North Coast First Nations Stewardship Society which I am an alternate for Chief Linda Innes. This group is made up of Chief Councillors from Kitselas, Kitsum Kalum, Gitgaat and Gitxaala. We look forward to seeing the working group come to Gitxaala some time in the new year to meet the community.

A sub-group is the North Coast Stewardship Society which consists of Metlakatla Laxwalaams and Gitxaala. I am Secretary/Treasurer of this group. Every 2 years a representative is chosen to be on the Board of the Northern Native Fishing Corporation. I have been alternating this position with a representative from Metlakatla.

I began working with the Mineral Tenure Act challenge Gitxaala has launched and representatives were chosen to speak on Gitxaala's behalf during the challenge. We are hoping this challenge sets precedent in how governments whether



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Federal or Provincial deal with First Nations Governments and their territories.
Protecting Lands and Resources is our goal.

These are just some of activities I am involved in as I am part in Council. In closing I would like to wish all our members a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COUNCILLOR BRENNIA INNES

In my role as a Health portfolio holder, I have been actively involved in collaborating with the Northern First Nations Alliance to address the pressing need for a wholistic detox and treatment center in the northwest region. As the chair of the NFNA (Northern First Nations Alliance), I had the opportunity to meet with various key stakeholders including Premier David Eby, Minister Mental Health and Addictions - Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Health- Adrian Dix, MLA Ellis Ross, MLA Michael Lee, and MLA Jennifer Rice. Engaging with these leaders including our advocacy for financial support of a detox center, treatment center and aftercare facility.

As a Justice portfolio holder, we have been faced with the longstanding challenge of finding ways to support our members who are struggling with alcohol and drugs, while also ensuring community safety by upholding the liquor control bylaw.

As President of the Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing Society, our board has undertaken a significant project to develop twenty 3–4-bedroom family townhomes on Kootenay Avenue. This initiative is being carried out in partnership with BC Housing, which is funding the entire \$16 million cost of the project. The development of these townhomes demonstrates a commitment to providing much-needed housing for Gitxaala families in the Prince Rupert area.



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Health:

As chair of the NFNA, during our meetings with key stake holders, we reached a consensus to establish a partnership between the NFNA, Northern Health Authority, FNHA (First Nations Health Authority), and MMHA (Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions). This partnership has formed a working group that aims to advance the design of a detox center in Terrace, BC which will cater to the needs of all NFNA members (Gitxaala, Nisga'a, Tsimshian, Haisla and Gitanyow). To ensure a meaningful and effective collaboration, we have passed a term of reference that emphasizes the importance of reconciliation and creating a genuine partnership. This approach will enable us to better serve our members and address their specific needs.

Moving forward, the meetings held in Victoria and Vancouver with provincial leaders have been instrumental in advancing our work, recognizing the urgency of the toxic drug crisis. We are pleased to announce that we have received a commitment from the province to establish a detox center. Currently, our focus is on securing funding for the facilities. We anticipate a decision on the funding for a treatment center and after-care facility by year-end.

Justice:

To address the social issues in Lax Klan, we have been working towards the creation of a Justice Coordinator position. A Justice Coordinator will act as a liaison to justice partners in Prince Rupert and advocate for our community

members who are in conflict with the law. In July, we organized a Justice Forum that provided an opportunity for open discussion among our members. This forum allowed us to collectively find solutions to meet the needs of our members, given the limited resources in our community. The audience in the forum



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participated in a community march around Lax Klan, with a banner and a chant in Sm'alg yax led by Gitxaala Hereditary Leader Nishaywaaxs: Yugyetgm hasaagm

diduulsa ada yugyetgm galt'sap - "A healthy life is what I want, and a health community."

To achieve our goal of creating much needed supports for mental health and addictions in Lax Klan, and creating a safer community for all, we have identified several key outcomes and actions for the Justice department in Lax Klan:

1. Establish a Justice Coordinator position that will act as a liaison to justice partners in Prince Rupert and advocate for our community members who are in conflict with the law and ensure that appropriate supports are in place for individuals struggling with mental health and addictions.
2. Develop a community-based restorative justice program that focuses on healing, rehabilitation, and reconciliation to address the underlying causes of criminal behavior, provide support and resources for individuals struggling with mental health and addictions, and promote community safety and well-being.
3. Strengthening community partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and community members is crucial in addressing mental health and addiction issues and creating a safer community. We will actively collaborate with these stakeholders to share resources, knowledge, and expertise, and ensure a coordinated and wholistic approach to supporting our community members.
4. Advocate for policy changes by engaging at the provincial and federal levels, reminding governments of DRIPA and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. This will involve advocating for increased funding for mental health and addictions services, changes to legislation and the



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5. implementation of evidence-based practices in the field of mental health and addictions within the justice system.

By focusing on these outcomes and taking action, we are confident that we can create the much needed supports for justice, and mental health and addiction in

Lax Klan, and ultimately, create a safer and healthier community for all Gitxaala members.

Prince Rupert Indigenous Housing Society:

Following the archaeological assessment that took place earlier this year, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site in August. Civil work is now underway for the new development.

Discussions are underway to expand housing options within Gitxaala Territory in the Prince Rupert area. The potential expansion could make a significant impact on addressing housing needs for Gitxaala members. Additionally, policy is being developed for the utilization of the commercial kitchen for future revenue-generating opportunities. The development of policies will reduce liability and reflects a commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents and stakeholders.

COUNCILLOR JOSCELIN LEWIS

Over the past year, my main portfolios have been Social Development, Housing, & Justice.

Social Development



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Worked collaboratively with NIFCS & administration, to recruit a Social Development team; job descriptions were developed, job postings went out, funding secured & identified for the Band Social Worker, Income Assistance Worker/Indian Registry Administrator, 2 Youth Empowerment Workers & Family Support Worker. Developed a TOR for SD Committee

As a NIFCS Board of Directors Alternate, we meet quarterly to strategize & secure funding from government to work towards Child Welfare Jurisdiction and for programs and services for Children & Families for all Gitxaala members.

NIFCS also offers Leadership training for all NIFCS Board Members. We meet with all representatives of the 7 Nations that NIFCS works for & update the organizations Strategic Priorities

A Social Development Forum was held in Lax Klan, to update membership on programs and services the team provides as well as to gather feedback from membership on what they would like to see offered.

Next steps are to continue to meet with NIFCS and/or other external funders as well as members to work towards Child Welfare Jurisdiction. Ensure continuous funding is secured for the department for current and additional programs & services.

Housing

Through community engagement sessions, Housing successfully updated the Nation's Housing Policy which was approved by Governing Council.

Travelled to Calgary to view Modular homes that were being constructed for Lax Klan and to request information & advocate for the department regarding the units around timelines, transporting to community, weather durability, deficiencies etc.



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Next steps are to have a community engagement session to update members on the New Housing Policy. Meet with ISC on funding opportunities.

Justice

Worked with portfolio holders to create a job description for Justice Coordinator for Gitxaala. Held a successful Justice Forum in Lax Klan to gather feedback from members on what the Justice Department will be responsible for once the

department is developed. Discussed the Alcohol by-law and all of members present, wish to keep the by-law.

Next steps are to have another community engagement session to update on the report that resulted from the forum, identify and secure funding for a Justice Coordinator position.

Governance/Administration

Governance Training, Strategic Priorities meeting with Admin & Directors, ensuring the priorities are in alignment with the Community Comprehensive Plan. Annual General Meeting: update membership of the highlights and work in progress on an annual basis & to receive feedback and suggestions.

Education

Was a member of the Education Board for Lach Klan School. Assisted in the planning & participated in the Education Forum held in Lax Klan.

YOUTH COUNCILLOR JAMIE ANGUS

As the elected Youth Councillor, I sit on all portfolios as an observer and am happy to be included in all decision making. As youth councillor, I am grasping all the information. Throughout the year I am gradually finding my voice and getting out of my comfort zone.



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Social Development

I also worked together with fellow Councillors, Administration & NIFCS to Create a Social Development Team. We worked together to create the team which consists of a band social worker, youth empowerment workers, Income Assistance/Indian Registry & family support worker. It is Great to see many youths out being active in their activities and now have many opportunities.

The Youth Empowerment workers have daily activities for youth and have a monthly calendar available.

I have also attended an Our Children Our Way a National Forum for Indigenous Child & Family Well-being which was a great experience where I got to hear what helped and support youth needed which was someone who cared and consistency. That was a quite an experience to witness and hear all other types of programs and supports that are out there.

Language & Culture

I sat on the language and culture committee for the Cultural Centre that will be built in the community – I sat in on many meeting where they had many discussions on the design and the layout of the building alongside with the committee members.

Next steps are to finalize the design, construction management & then the construction of the Carving shed and Cultural Centre.

Apart of the language and culture group, the drummers and dancers successfully hosted a North Coast Night in Prince Rupert. It was a great event to get to go to Prince Rupert, gather many nations together and share our culture with song and dance



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Repatriation Committee:

This is a committee of community volunteers. The committee meets on a regular basis to design and facilitate community protocols and celebrations.

- Return of the grizzly bear totem pole in May 2023. This included a feast and celebration.
- In June 2023 on National Indigenous Peoples Day, the stone mask returned home for a visit and celebration at the Community Hall

We plan to gather more items and repatriate them to Gitxaala.

Justice

Our justice portfolio has been working towards creating a justice coordinator job position so that this position can work and support our community members – including work with partners in Prince Rupert. A Justice Forum was held in community where we had a facilitator and heard from community regarding their concerns and what they wanted to see for our community.

COUNCILLOR MARION BROWN, MBA

Since assuming the role of Elected Councillor in 2022, I'm delighted to present my areas of responsibility, which include Finance, Administration, and Communication, both within and outside our nation. It is my honour as a dedicated servant of the Gitxaala Nation to have diligently worked towards enhancing financial stability and fiscal responsibility within our community. In the realm of finance, I have harnessed my experience to devise effective strategies for managing budgets efficiently, fostering investment growth, and ensuring transparency in financial reporting.



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Furthermore, as a portfolio holder of administration, I have prioritized streamlining administrative processes, optimizing organizational efficiency, and cultivating collaboration among various departments. Recognizing that effective communication is vital to both internal and external operations, I have endeavored to facilitate clear and open lines of dialogue within our nation and foster connections beyond our nation.

Moreover, with my involvement in the Gitxaala Nation Trust, I've had the opportunity to contribute to the preservation of our nation's principal investments while actively supporting initiatives that generate sustainable opportunities for the Gitxaala people. Harnessing my experience and passion for these portfolios, I am fully committed to serving the diverse needs of our community and driving positive change.

Finance:

Over the past year, our nation has implemented a successful initiative to invest idle cash in Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) with variable terms. These GICs continuously roll over at maturity, allowing us to generate income for our nation. Through this initiative, we were able to generate approximately \$1 million dollars. In the realm of finance, our focus was primarily directed towards the Gitxaala Nation's Financial Administration Bylaw (FAB) and the establishment of the Finance & Audit Committee. It is crucial for us to comprehend the roles of the FAC, Elected Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Financial Officer, as it is our collective responsibility to ensure adherence to our fiduciary duty by abiding by the FAB. As the Finance and Audit Chair, I am actively involved in formulating policies and procedures for spending, including capital assets policy, procurement policy, and distribution policies.

To enhance the financial management of the nation, it would be beneficial to conduct reviews of the Financial Administration Bylaw (FAB) to properly serve our nation. Additionally, collaborating with the Financial Management Board to



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leverage their capacity development services and expertise would be advantageous. These efforts will contribute to the formation of organizational memory, fostering a culture of learning and growth, and ultimately helping the organization achieve its scalable goals. These will be conducted through policy and procedure to fully comply with our fiduciary responsibilities.

Administration and Communication:

In addition to our development of policies reflecting traditional and administration responsibilities, the Gitxaala Nation has recognized the importance

of a stronger communication strategy both within and outside our nation. We believe in celebrating our citizens' successes and acknowledging their contributions to our community. To achieve this, we have implemented various communication channels, including media releases, social media notices, and community events that showcase our accomplishments and inform our citizens on important matters. This proactive approach ensures that our citizens are well-informed and engaged in the affairs of our nation. As we navigate through a period of restructuring, administration and communication play a crucial role in facilitating a smooth transition to our new organizational structure. While holding our traditional values in high regard, we also embrace the need for growth and development. By building capacity within our nation and hiring qualified individuals for key roles, we strengthen our ability to take the Gitxaala Nation to new heights of progress and prosperity.

We have been developing balancing tradition with modernity, with policies that reflects our commitment to promoting employee well-being, ensuring job security, and providing opportunities for professional growth. By considering our traditional responsibilities, we are creating a policy that not only supports the nation's employees but also aligns with our values and strengthens our sense of unity as a nation.



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Gitxaala Nation Trust:

Within the Gitxaala Nation Trust, our portfolio has experienced continuous growth. One of the main reasons for our success is our risk-averse investment policy, which has allowed us to navigate the volatility of the world market. Despite the challenges, we have managed to amass an impressive \$21 million in funds, with an additional income account exceeding \$1 million. To ensure the responsible use of these resources, we adhere to a stringent spending policy that governs how we access and allocate funds. As part of this commitment, we are in the process of implementing a Trust Spending Bylaw to further regulate and guide our financial decisions. While its execution is still pending, this bylaw will provide a solid framework that ensures the integrity and sustainability of our trust's financial activities.

The Gitxaala Nation Trust is dedicated to the growth of our investments and the preservation of our nation's wealth. With a firm commitment to our fiduciary responsibilities, we strive to ensure a secure and prosperous future for our people. Central to our financial management is the Trust Spending By-Law, a vital legal document that guides our spending decisions. It offers a framework for responsible and strategic investment, balancing the need for current and future generations. By adhering to this law, we ensure that our nation's wealth is sustained and utilized in a manner that benefits our community at large. Through careful stewardship, we will continue to strengthen our investments and pave the way for a prosperous future for the Gitxaala Nation.

COUNCILLOR MARCIA ROBINSON

Upon taking office as Elected Councillor in 2022, my portfolios consisted of Education, Finance, and Health, along with representation on the LKS Education Board, Finance & Audit Committee, and external committees with TRICORP Board, First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) Board, and FNESC Post-Secondary Subcommittee.



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Education: The focus of this work was to better understand the supports in place to assist our students and staff in Lach Klan school, to determine and define the roles of the School Board, and what more Governing Council can do to assist education in Lax Klan. The Education Forum held back in February 2023 was a great start to hearing from our community members.

We are exploring *Education Jurisdiction*, which will give us the ability to make laws related to the education of our children. This includes law-making authority over curriculum development, graduation requirements, teacher certification and school certification. This process will enable Gitxaała Nation to take control over education in the community; to make it our own and to ensure it is suitable to our needs. We have since expressed interest in Education Jurisdiction and will receive support from FNEESC both professionally and financially as we move towards

obtaining Education Jurisdiction. Lastly, it is important to note that we can withdraw from this process and go back to the regular BCTEA funding.

The process has commenced to create an Education Committee. Community engagement sessions are forthcoming in the near future that will assist us as we move towards an in-depth look at education jurisdiction.

Finance: The focus of the work was around the Gitxaała Nation's Financial Administration Bylaw (FAB) and the formation of the Finance & Audit Committee. It is our responsibility to understand the roles of the FAC, Elected Council, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Financial Officer. It is our collective responsibility to ensure we are adhering to our fiduciary duty by adhering to the FAB.

The FAC is an advisory role to the Elected Council, and it is important we determine what is needed to ensure our Nation is adhering to this bylaw. Some of this work involves the review of policies and procedures, IT assessment, etc. to determine the gaps. The FAB is a guiding document for the entire organization and is meant to enhance the Nation's financial stability and operations.



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Regular reviews of the FAB would be helpful for the organization along with working with the Financial Management Board to enlist their capacity development services and expertise.

Health: During the last year and a half, the focus was how we can support our members along with learning more about First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the work they are doing at the government level to support our members.

It is important that we are involved at the FNHA government level as this is where we seek support and influence the changes needed not only for our community but for the other BC First Nations experiencing the same challenges. Over the past several years, FNHA has been working in collaboration with BC First Nations on a 10yr Strategy on the Social Determinants of Health. This strategy was Accepted and Approved by majority of BC First Nations at the March 2023 FNHA Caucus meeting.

With respect to the 10-year Strategy for the Social Determinants of Health, the next step for FNHA is to develop an implementation plan. Monitoring of this initiative will be a benefit for the Nation, as it will impact the community level health programs and services.

In addition to these portfolios, I additionally provide support and sit on the committee for the Joint Committee for Reconciliation Treaty Response (JCRTTR) and on occasion, the Mineral Tenure Act case. With the recent reorganization came changes to the portfolios, where I now serve as portfolio to Gitxaała Territorial Management Agency Board (GTMA), Education & Culture, and a representative on the Coastal First Nations Board.



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ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Administration

Todd Corrigan was the interim Chief Administering Officer (CAO) for 6 months commencing in February 2023. Mr. Corrigan did a fantastic job with Administration up to fiscal year end 2023. The interim CAO worked very well with the Governing Council to move the Nation forward.

Prior to Todd Corrigan, the position was Band Administrator, held by April Lamon. Commencing in September 2023, Maureen Tommy took over as the new full-time CAO for the Nation.

Human Resources

In 2023/2023 Human Resources was under the Chief Financial Officer. As part of the re-organization, it was moved to the CAO. Through a successful search process, a permanent Human Resources Manager was secured and brought into the Nation.

Under Gitxaala's Financial Administration By-law (FAB), it is recognized that good governance involves a complex strategic plan for all departments reporting to the CAO and the Chief Financial Officer.

Governing Council worked diligently to develop a rigorous recruitment plan for both the CAO and the Human Resources Manager. Developing a strong Administration team is integral to good governance which benefits our citizens.

The interim CAO commenced with plans for a new organization chart. The planning and discussions amongst Governing Council were extensive and successful to date.



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Please check next year's Annual Audit for a fuller update from the CAO and the HR Manager.

All Departments developed an annual work plan with realistic goals and objectives that will lead the Nation towards self-governance.

As the Nation experienced significant change through fiscal 2023, the new CAO, HR Manager and Administrative team are excited to deliver strong results on behalf of Gitxaala members.

We are excited to work closely with members on developing and enhancing services that are needed to support our community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Housing

We have completed to date; 10 mold renovations along with taken care of 60% of our work orders. Completed 5 new construction builds through the Section 95 mortgages from CMHC.

The 4 new modular projects are completed as of February 2023.

Capital Projects:

Feasibility study is now complete for the New West Bay Subdivision project, anticipating tendering by mid-November.

ACRS:

Plan for action is underway, we can now begin the larger scale items with the band recent purchase of new machinery



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With the recent construction of new homes in community, we have now put a significant dent in our overcrowding issues. Under the newly developed 5-year plan, we can expect to curve this in the right direction, achieving our goal of healthy, energy efficient homes for all that suit the communities needs.

Employment up to 25 individuals have been employed through housing over the last 12 months.

Basic Home Maintenance workshops:

Training and teaching community members to maintain their own homes

RHI:

The 3 duplex modulars were a success. Although a costly project, the community benefitted with 8 new 3-bedroom units. With deficiencies expected, the new units are housing community members and with the lessons learned, we know the best direction for future housing in community is to design and stick build ourselves

Section 95 new homes:

The 5 small homes benefitted us, by keeping the labour force within our community by building and training our own people, as well as building to suit the communities needs. The next go round of Section 95 homes will be on a much larger scale

10 mold renovations:

With the 10 mold funded homes nearing completion, we have submitted for an additional 10 mold renovations, which will take care of all major mold issues in community.



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ACRS:

We have approximately 172 action items to complete and now with new machinery we can complete these tasks within the community, saving us literally 10s of thousands of dollars, not to mention creating employment within the community.

Teacherage renovations:

Over the last few months, we have performed much needed retrofits to the existing teacherages

New warehouse location:

With the new Cultural center project starting up, we have purchased the materials as well as secured the area for the new warehouse, that will house, Public Works and housings materials and equipment

CLC tools and training contributions:

We would like to acknowledge the CLC department for the generous contribution of new tools and equipment as well as much needed training over the last year

West Bay Subdivision:

New 80 lot subdivision set to go out to tender by mid-November

Overall, the work plan is in place and with its first year a success - despite a few setbacks - the plan is working.

We are cleaning up years of housing issues, that are finally coming into place. We have a strong team that has proven themselves over the last year and we are confident we will achieve our goals with the communities best interest in mind



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Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Department was able to achieve several key goals, including bringing professionals to the community and supporting members through programs and services. These included but are not limited to:

Men's Group to Haisla	Pride Parade
Non-Violent Communication – IRSSS	Women's Day
Celebrating our Survivors Dinner	Wellness Circle (7)
Foot Doctor	Brighter Smiles Dentist/Pediatrics
Mobile foot Care Clinic	Diabetes mobile clinic
Dentist	Grief & Loss workshop
Workplace harassment, bullying seminar.	Optometrist

With the IRSS team coming to community we had a lot of staff attend the first day and then the next day it was for Community members. We have a committee going so that we will have more workshops for community on this as this needs follow-up. Following the workshop a feast was held to honour and celebrate our survivors. Survivors were gifted with a blanket and t-shirt and other items. The next day it was for Community members. More than 20 members attended.

A group of men went to Kitamat for '*Dudes Club*', they enjoyed what they heard. A total of 11 men who attended, the most from all surrounding communities to attend.

The visiting specialist who come to community do an awesome job, the people who see them are happy. The brighter smiles team is awesome as we just started having the dentistry team come to community - a lot of children got their teeth worked on.



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The Pride Parade was the first that we had and that was a great turnout with 134 who took part, people were dressed up, many team members joined in, and cars/vans were decorated, and refreshments were served after the parade was done. Additionally, the Women's Day event was a huge success - there was a dinner for the women and they were all gifted with flowers.

The mobile foot clinic was a first, they were happy with how many patients they seen.

Wellness circle is hosted by Sapna (councillor) and that is every Saturday.

The Non-Violent Communication was a 3-day workshop with 16 in attendance the first day, second day 14 in attendance and third day 20 people in attendance. Grief & Loss workshop was for employees on the first day, 53 employees in attendance.

Cat Martin (foot Dr) is here for 2 days and sees around 20 patients, she also does home visits to our Elders.

The Dentist comes to community twice a year, sees around 24 patients each visit. The optometrist comes to community twice a year and sees around 54 patients within 3 days.

Mobile foot Dr. Clinic, this is the first time they came to Community. A lot of people from surrounding Communities go to see them in Vancouver and asked if they will come up North. They were here for 2 days and they seen 28 patients withing the 2 days, they were quite happy with the turnout.

Brighter Smiles Pediatrics Team, they came to community and seen 24 patients (new born/toddlers/youth) the parents are really happy that their child/ren get this one on one with the pediatrics team.



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Brighter Smiles Dental Team – the BSDT has come to community twice, they went into the school to talk with students about the importance of brushing their teeth. In their 4 day visit they seen a total of 38 patients, a lot of the children are caught up with their dental work now that we have the BSDT coming to community, we are still working on when their next visit will be. With BSDT coming to community the regular dentist can focus more on the adults and appointments are going good.

Diabetes Mobile Team – came to community a few years ago, they finally made it back to community again and was a great turnout of people who came to see them. A lot of people were assessed and were happy when they were done.

I am happy with the visiting specialist who come to Community, always great to hear the feedback on how their stay was. To hear how happy they are with how many patients they see. Looking forward to each visit as this is what our members need. We work to see our Community members happy, work from your heart.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Guided by the Hereditary Table and project-specific committees, the Culture and Language Department supports Sm'algyax learning, cultural programming, and documentation, archive development, and repatriation.

From April 2022 – March 2023, the Language and Culture department has engaged in Sm'algyax audio and video recordings with Gitxaala fluent Sm'algyax speakers and has presented updates to Gitxaala's 'Community Knowledge Keeper'

regarding the database hosted by Kwusen

Development of Gitxaala Virtual Museum - <https://gitxaalamuseum.com>. The



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department has worked to secure grants for Gitxaala repatriation and Sm'algyax digitization work to continue. Dustin Johnson was hired as Documentation and Recording Coordinator/Cultural Programs Manager and Gitxaala Repatriation Lead. The department increased cultural activities in Lax Klan and Lax Kxeen in the lead-up to the Grizzly Bear Totem Pole repatriation, including hosting of North Coast Night at the Civic Center.

Sm'algyax audio and video recordings will build upon what was previously shared by Gitxaala Elders Past and Present and go into a digital archive for Gitxaala Nation to access virtually.

The Gitxaala Virtual Museum creates an online platform to showcase the bringing home of long-lost cultural treasures to Gitxaala Nation Territory, and with room for more returning home.

Grants secured will continue to build upon Gitxaala Nation repatriation work and Sm'algyax preservation and revitalization.

Gitxaala Language and Culture deliverables:

- Draft public virtual museum online with photos, news items, 3-D models, and exhibition on Midiigm Pts'aan (grizzly bear totem pole);
- Relationship were established with 16 museums for digital and physical repatriation of Gitxaala cultural treasures, archival photos and cultural documents;
- Gitxaala Repatriation Committee meetings held consistently, as well as fundraising activities and cultural gatherings hosted by Gitxaala in the lead-up to



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the repatriation of the Midiigm Pts'aan (Grizzly Bear Totem Pole) from the Peabody Museum at Harvard University in April 2023;

- Sm'algyax audio and video recordings conducted with Gitxaala Elders and fluent Sm'algyax speakers, stored on Gitxaala Nation's Sharepoint site for future launch of the First Voices new online platform, as well as digital archiving on the 'Community Knowledge Keeper' revised platform (approximately a January 2024 launch);

- Sm'algyax classes (2) held in Lax Klan as well as drum-making, regalia-making, and cedar bark-processing workshops in January and February 2023;

- Community-based documentation of Gitxaala Adaawx, Ayaawx, and Gugwilya'ansk, including updating and sharing of genealogy charts via Sm'gyigyet permission;

- Planning stages for the scanning and digitization of Gitxaala Nation-owned narratives, interviews, ethnographic research notes, and community cultural documents housed at the Gitxaala Nation office in Prince Rupert (formerly G.E.M./G.T.M.A.), for return to Lax Klan to the Language and Culture office.

- Collections Management and Repatriation policies drafted.

Much of the repatriation efforts leading up to the physical return to Lax Klan of the Midiigm Pts'aan laid the foundation for Gitxaala's Repatriation Project and has since become well-known among the north coast as well as in international circles. Bringing home the Midiigm Pts'aan as the first of 80+ Gitxaala nluut'isk (cultural treasures) was in upholding Na Halit'aam Ayaawgm Gitxaala – 'Standing on Gitxaala Laws. Many workshops were held in early 2023 and collectively



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maintained the momentum in bringing our totem pole home, which was and still is one of the largest community feasts held in years.

The department will continue to develop its team to action items and create an infrastructure that will enable the Nations language and culture revitalization to flourish through the engagement of all fluent and silent speakers, artists, and community experts.

The department will develop effective partnerships between Lach Klan school and with community to develop effective strategies that will support the engagement of families and support learning at all ages.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING CENTRE (CLC)

The Education and Training division supports member access to career and educational planning services and supports, post-secondary education pursuits, training and employment, and referral services. We operate Continuous Learning Centres (CLC) in Lax Klan and Prince Rupert and serve members wherever they live. Over this past year, the CLC team has worked to increase partnerships and secured external funding to extend the benefits available to the Nation. Cross-departmental collaborations have led to the delivery of meaningful education and training that has increased member employability and supported departmental and community volunteer workforce needs including fire and response. The division has worked with our joint- and other partners to launch training opportunities and employment pathways across multiple sectors. The department has continued to work with other departments to advance ways to support reattachment to meaningful work for all.



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Post-secondary has continued to build relationships with educational institutions to identify opportunities and supports for members pursuing post-secondary accreditation and has worked to improve communications and supports for members. A number of graduates have been engaged as Ambassadors and will help to launch this as a new offering in the coming year. The division has created the space to support the integration of culture and language into the curriculum and have worked with Language and Culture and other community partners to host activities such as weaving, drum-making, regalia-making, and recording. Assessment and feedback from community has led to the development of an adult literacy program and a pathways program incorporating essential skills, upgrading, and culture and language. Strategies will continue to develop that promote linkages between k-12, adult education, and traditional knowledge keepers.

The CLC offered over 15 courses, programs, and certifications in Lax Klan and Prince Rupert from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2023. The CLC also supported individual course purchase for training offered by external agencies and prepared students for successful attainment of their driver licensing. A number of programs offered in partnership with external partners led to employment for members in the areas of Office Administration, Environmental monitoring, Trades, and Early Childhood Education.

36 students were supported in post-secondary at 16 institutions in over 20 programs. Collaboration between the CLC, Social Development and Fisheries led to several successful partnerships including wood distribution to elders and the present build of a wood storage shed in community; food fishery distributions in Lax Klan and Prince Rupert (data used to inform fisheries reporting), and employment of 13 members to meet short-term employment needs through the



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support of the Day Labor program. The program has also effectively supported individuals and families on their path to wellness.

Over this past year, the CLC has offered numerous short- and long-term training courses and programs in both locations. Short-term offerings included delivery of:

- Chainsaw safety
- Pleasure craft operations (SVOP, Restricted Radio Operator and MEDA3) which has led to the individual course purchase for members in the 60 tonnes presently offered in PR.
- Occupational First Aid, Transportation Endorsement
- Caregiver First Aid
- Babysitting
- Class 5 Driver licensing (L and N) with a current application for delivery of a Class 2 bus driver
- Food safe
- Trades Exploration, Carpentry Level 2 (Level 3 scheduled for February/24)
- In partnership with Union/s and JV Partners: Scaffolding, Insulator Training

In many cases, supports for employment included certification training, purchase of gear, and career and educational counselling. In addition, supports and referral to counselling and other services enabled individuals to advance on a path of recovery. In community, the CLC hosted a full open house attended by elders, youth, departments, and community.

Partnerships with external agencies have included Tri-corp, VIU and Gitxaala Environment for delivery of Environmental Monitoring course development and certification; Nicola Valley Institute of Technology for delivery of Office



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Administration program in Prince Rupert, Tri-corp and FNEC for the delivery of two summer work programs; Okanagan College for the delivery of Carpentry Level 2, and Hecate Strait for the delivery of Driver training and other short-term certification courses.

Language and Culture collaborations:

In partnership with Language and Culture and other community organizations: drum-making (which incorporated fluent speakers, song and storytelling, recording, and multiple elders support); cedar bark weaving; regalia making; as well as hosting drum and dance practice at the campus.

Post-secondary

The Educational policies for post-secondary and the CLC are designed to support equitable member access to post-secondary education, training, and employment. Policy guidelines will be reviewed regularly for transparency and relevance, and to ensure process and support measures are effective in supporting members' attainment of their personal, educational and employment goals. Over this past year, we have recognized gaps in our ability to serve Nation members and are working to make changes that will lead to improved support for training that at present, doesn't qualify under present policy.

Post-secondary has continued to build relationships with educational institutions by connecting with First Nations Access Liaisons, Educational Advisors, and departmental supports to strengthen our abilities to support members transitioning and attending programs. The Educational policies for post-secondary and the CLC are designed to support equitable member access to post-secondary education, training, and employment and presently being reviewed for consistency and best practice.



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Several graduates have been engaged as Ambassadors and will help to launch this as a new program offering in the coming year. Students are graduates of BCIT, Douglas College, UNBC and other institutes from a cross-section of program areas. We paid out over \$40,000 in entrance, graduate and returning student scholarships and will continue to seek additional external supports to increase scholarship offerings. Information is shared with students for external financial supports as received. We were successful with two grant applications and offered 10 positions for students in community through Tri-corp and FNEESC.

Day Labour Program:

Over this past year, the Day Labour Program supported members through referral and support for access to wellness services and included many cross-departmental collaborations that led to the attachment to meaningful work that helped to meet many community-identified needs. Highlights included wood distribution to elders as well as food fishery distributions in Lax Klan and Prince Rupert.

The CLC has been committed to employing collaborative approaches to meet the employment and training needs of the Nation departments and the Nation members. This past year resources have been focused on developing relationships with Nation authorities, departmental process, and policy development, supporting departmental professional development and training needs, implementing cross-training offerings with Lach Klan school, and maximizing employment services and support. The division continues to be guided by the ETE plan to ensure we are aligned with the visions and values of Gitxaała Nation. We continue to develop new and expanded partnerships and celebrate and support successful member transition to training and employment with our joint venture partners. We will continue to seek ways to strengthen our



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communication methods to maximize the reach to members to share recruit, employment, and other opportunities.

The integrated approach to meeting the needs of Nation members and advancing the goals of the Nation has allowed the division to provide necessary wrap around supports and offer ladder education and training has led to the successful submission for funding that will support adult literacy, multi-level upgrading, direct and expanded training with joint venture partners and others across multiple sectors.

Delivery of marine training has led to the support for individuals to pursue upper-level marine training including at present, 60-tonne certification; VIU certification in Environmental Monitoring and potential employment with Gitxaala Environment; Carpentry Level 3 offering in winter 2024; Professional Cook 1 and Prep Cook partnership with Git Lach M'oon and Coast Mountain College; Pathways to the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art.

The CLC team will continue to advance the goals of the 2020/2030 Education, Training and Employment plan and continue to make improvements to policy and practice to maximize benefit for members and Nation. Our work will continue internally with other departments to support staff training and professional development needs. Supports at both locations have expanded to include resume writing, employer liaison, interview space, application and documentation submissions, and notification of employment opportunities across the region and will continue to develop based on community feedback.



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LACH KLAN SCHOOL

Lach Klan school welcomed over 70 students to the school in fall 2022 and celebrated four graduates at a ceremony from grade 12 in June of this year. The school worked to provide a culturally safe environment through the presence of language, cultural practice, and teachings. It achieved this with the engagement of elders and fluent speakers in the classroom and at the school. The incorporation of land-based learning activities provided students with the opportunity to learn more about traditional Gitxaała way of life through hands-on learning on the land, use of the landscape, harvesting and food preservation, and other activities.

The school participated in the education forum in the spring of this year which explored what the future of education and education could look like in Lax Klan. These conversations were an opportunity for Nation members to share their voice, take time to reflect, listen, and build a foundation for the conversations to continue. The exploration of educational jurisdiction was introduced and will warrant further conversations, visioning, and other activities in the coming academic year.

The educational forum was a successful first step to engage the community in conversations regarding the future of education and learning in the community. Initial conversations regarding educational jurisdiction supported the Nation's application to further explore an interest in pursuit of educational jurisdiction. Further discussions with Nation members will help to identify what educational jurisdiction could mean as an option for the Nation.

The school continued to engage traditional knowledge keepers to offer land-based learning initiatives that helped bridge the gap between the youth and elders, provided opportunities to share traditional knowledge, and strengthened



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a return to cultural practice across all ages. Through effective language and cultural programming which incorporated elders, fluent speakers, and master artists in the school, students learned their culture through participation, conversation, and safe practice in a culturally safe environment.

Exposure to trades training through dual credit opportunities allowed students to participate in trades and other certification courses including professional cook training, early childhood education, chainsaw safety, first aid, and safety training. High school students participated in a provincial tour of post-secondary institutions and were able to learn about courses and programs offered across the province.

In addition to participation in dual credit and land-based learning activities, both elementary and high school field trips allowed students to participate in courses offered in Kitsumkalum, explore other culture and practices through visits to the Nisga'a and other museums, and see and hear about opportunities for education across the province. Students participated in several certification opportunities including driver training, chainsaw safety, first aid and cook training which incorporated teachings and visits by experts in the field. These opportunities supported students who participated in student summer work activities. In class students learned weaving, drawing/painting, drumming, song, and dance. Students also participated in community activities and learned further about cultural practice through community feasting and other activities.

The educational forum was the first in many conversations to come regarding the vision for learning in Lax Klan. Next steps include the engagement with Nation members to co-create a vision of what education and learning can look like as well as the exploration of educational jurisdiction for the school.



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The school continues to focus on preparing students for graduation and their achievement of the dogwood. Exploration of all options for course delivery including the use of connected classrooms will be explored to maximize course availability to high school students. Every effort will continue to be made to provide a culturally safe learning environment intended to help students and staff thrive, and to prepare students for successful transition to life beyond high school.

We will continue to work together to offer a culturally safe learning environment that is welcoming to all, offers a curriculum that supports student achievement of graduation requirements and prepares them for success in future educational opportunities and life.

PUBLIC WORKS

The planned water plant upgrade continues with work commencing in the new year. We are unsure of the defined start date but will be replacing both sand filters with new sand to both filters. We are in the process of installing a flock tank & a settling tank. When this is complete it should extend the life of the sand filters, and piping. Pumps in our raw water is also scheduled for a complete upgrade. Everything for this project has been ordered. Upon arrival to Lax Klan, we will schedule a date for circuit rider. Additionally, the control panel in water plant will be upgraded. Finally, the old retaining wall for the drinking water must be replaced and the water intake must be replaced. This work includes the need for replacement of the old reservoir water tank.

During the first week of June, Public works hired six people from the social development program, known as 'WOP'. These team members work for 9 to 10



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months and qualify for employment insurance. Their duties in the community included: cutting grass throughout the community, recycling, and garbage pickup, fuel services, and work at the lagoon. The program has been running for 3 years this year, and I am happy that all six workers will complete this program and qualify for employment insurance. Way to go team!

Public Works applied for, and secured, funds from Indigenous Service Canada (ISC). The amount requested and received was \$180,000.00. These funds were utilized to purchase a 2017 International 7500 SBA 6x4 Tandem Axle roll off truck. It is our hope to have the roll off truck delivered by the end of November 2023. I would like to thank Roger Vickers for finding the roll off truck

Clean BC Plastic

Gitxaala Nation apply for a government grant for \$320,000.00 this will be installment payments the first payment will be \$160,000.00 and second one later will be \$160,000.00 with the first payment we will be purchasing a new fabric shelter & a new bailer this grant will be used to collect plastic on recycling days I would like to thank Francesca with the help applying for the grant funds

ACRS Lift Stations

Beach St lift station is complete. We have replaced the 4 hp lift station pumps with 6.5 lift station pumps and replaced ultrasonic level sensor and the controller with a new one. Once replaced the engineer will calibrate and program the level sensor and controller to ensure that it gives proper automatic pump operation, Beach St order spare lift station pumps

Coast Road Lift Station

Purchase a new Lift station pump for coast Road, order spare lift station pump.



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East Bay Lift Station

Need to replace electrical kiosk as it is showing signs of rust on the unit and order a new kiosk selector switch for pump 2.

Band Office Lift Station

Need to repair mounting bracket for level sensor and we have a spare lift station pump. We hope to have the Watanabe Engineering here in the new year to finish all 3 lift stations: Coast Rd/ Band Office/ East Bay.

BAND SOCIAL WORK

As social development shall be responsible for implementing and coordinating social activities such as workshops, educational programs, and services for the benefit of the community. As Band Rep Social Worker, we are working closely with NICS and MCFD on child welfare cases. Any challenges met by membership we would do our best to support the families or individuals.

- Identify those in need and interview clients individually, in families, or groups.
- Provide referrals to counselling and therapy to assist clients in developing skills to deal with and resolve their own personal problems
- In conjunction with NIFCS/MCFD respond and investigate any reports about child's need for safety
- Consult with families with the focus on safety issues, prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Keep the children connected to the families with the goal of preserving their cultural identity of the children



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- Involved with at least 20 - 25 child welfare cases outside of community
- Monthly update meetings with NIFCS
- Proposed monthly update meetings with MCFD
- Continuous working relationship with F Child Welfare Agencies
- Worked with Health Department in sending men to a Men's Wellness Camp in Haisla
- Worker with Health Department in having a "celebrating our survivors" dinner
- Worked with Health Department in bringing Non-Violent communication workshop to community (thanks to all staff who attended)

- AGAINST ALL ODDS BASKETBALL CAMP
 - July 2023 - 4 days up to 55 attended
 - December 2023 - up to 40 expected to attend. (Original supposed to be this week but postponed due to death)
- Family Support and I are attending a 5-day workshop on: Trauma Informed Care & Therapeutic Process
- Indian Residential School Survivors Society
 - July 24/25/26 - IRS, drum making, food & nutrition
 - August 15/16/17 - Non-Violent Communication
 - October 11/12 - Grief and Loss
- Two other project is a working relationship between social development, CLC & fisheries:
 - Food Fish Distribution
 - Wood Project
- As for the "Celebrating our Survivors - although it seemed small it was a success...we celebrated with 4 survivors at this dinner. This dinner was a team effort with social development, health, and Lach Klan School



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Social Development will continue to develop an on-going working relationship with outside agencies and departments within the nation to bring resources into community.

We will continue to focus on prevention work, working with families and individual.

Continue to work on child welfare issues and Bill C-92



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Ernie Bolton holding Gamayaammask, found at the Audain Art Museum. The mask had been sold in auctions and was held in private collections



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