



## Lhatš'aš'in Memorial Day held in Quesnel

Lhatš'aš'in Memorial day was held in Quesnel this year on October 26th beside ʔElhdaqox (the Fraser River). This was the same spot where 5 of the 6 War Chiefs were wrongfully hanged during the Chilcotin War of 1864.

Speeches were given by neighbouring Chiefs, Tsilhqot'in Nits'ilʔin-Qi, and former Chief Tommy Billyboy. Tl'etinqox member, Kayla Phillips was also recognized for her artwork that we have on pins, hoodies, and canvases in the Nation.



Some highlights:

- Chinook at the Hatchery - p.4
- TNG's New Look - p.11
- Traditional Dance - p.14
- Mental Health - p.16
- Tsilhqot'in Citizenship - p.17
- Access Management - p.21







*For those not yet born*

# NIDLIN NEWS

December 2023



## Phase 4 Going On 5

This quarter our team worked on what we called “Phase 4” in this phase we used community direction to visualize a model and shared it with the community for input. Next January our team will be coming back to community to work on phase 5.

## Nidlin Takes On Conference

In the month of October our Nidlin Engagement Team (Loni Solomon, Ethan Hunlin, Tanisleigh Evans, Keanna Saunders, and Marilyn Charleyboy) attended and presented at the “Our Children Our Way Conference”. Our team was able to learn a lot as well as check out Vancouver in the evenings.



[WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS](http://WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS)







The baby Ja&sh as at the hatchery have reached the alevin stage! The orange part is the yolk sac, which will provide nutrients until it is fully absorbed; the Ja&sh will then reach the fry stage.

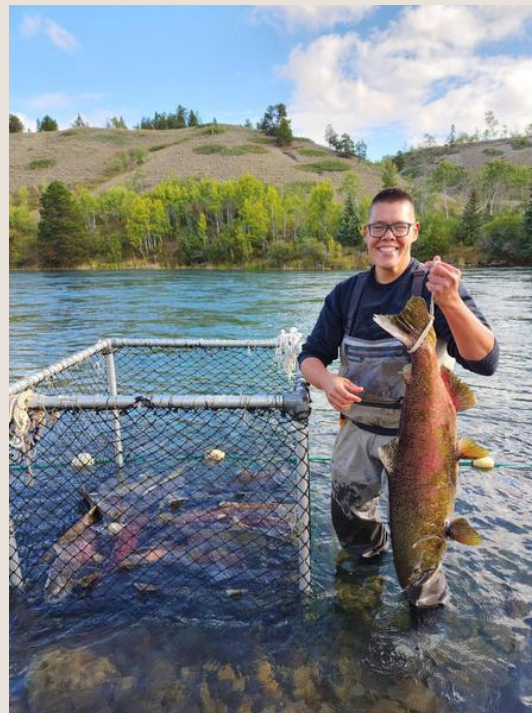
## T&shilhqot'in Salmon Conservation Hatchery – we did it!

Our interim T&shilhqot'in-led salmon conservation hatchery is now up and running! We began full hatchery operation in September 2023 with our first batch of Chilko Ja&sh (Chinook) eggs. This is a key milestone in our staged approach to developing long-term hatchery capacity in T&shilhqot'in Territory.

The Ja&sh in the hatchery are now in the alevin stage (see photo above), which means they still have their yolk sac. Once the sac is fully absorbed, they will become fry, which the stage in which Ja&sh in the wild would emerge from the gravel and begin to search for food. We plan to pond the fry in early February 2024, and release them into the Chilko system near Henry's Crossing in mid April 2024.



Bringing the first eggs to the hatchery (Sept 2023).  
Winston, Wayne, Randy, Michelle Tung



Collecting the first eggs for the hatchery – Chilko Ja&sh (Chinook) eggs for our coded wire tag program - Fisheries Technician Winston Bambrick



Senior Fisheries Technician Gerald William and Fisheries Field Coordinator Leonard English conducting fall field work on the Taseko River.

## Fisheries - 2023 Season is a wrap

Our busy 2023 field season is now complete, and was a huge success! Our highly skilled and experienced TNG Fisheries crew successfully carried out our annual stock assessment and monitoring programs, including activities from the air, water, and ground to support the protection and recovery of all T̓silhqot̓in salmon stocks. These programs have resulted in one of the richest fisheries data sets in BC, which directly supports priority setting and decision making by T̓silhqot̓in Leadership.



Aerial assessment of Chilko Ja̓s (Chinook) and Ts̓'eman (Sept 2023). Biologist Pete Nicklin in the helicopter counting Chilko Ja̓s and looking at Chilko Ts̓'eman distribution.



Pete's view of the Chilko – the dark areas are Ts̓'eman (you can see the footprint of the Chilko smolt fence and the Rangers cabin in the background).





## Fisheries - 2023 Season is a wrap

Since September, we have conducted and completed our annual fall stock assessment projects that include

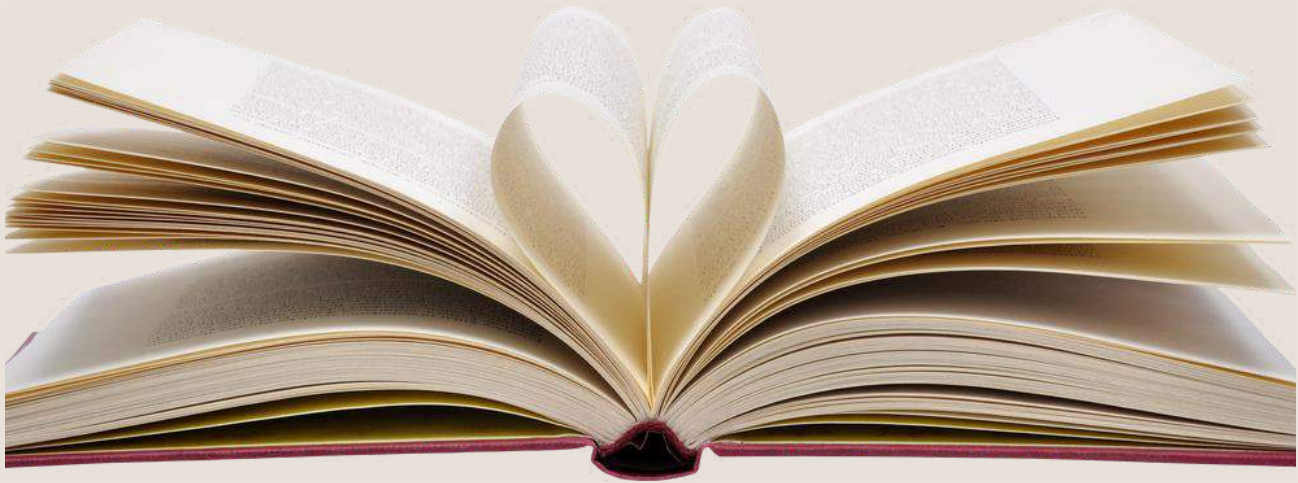
- Chilko Ja̓s (Chinook) application/mark and recapture program, which provides an estimate of population size and demographics;
- Aerial assessment/helicopter counts for Ja̓s, Ts'eman (sockeye), and Ts'eman Dalkw'ish (coho);
- Continued SONAR assessment and data analysis for Ja̓s and Ts'eman in the Che̓qox (Chilcotin), T̓ilhqox (Chilko), and Dasiqox (Taseko) systems;
- Chilko Ts'eman dead pitch to assess sex ratio and spawning success;



Senior Fisheries Technician Gerald William conducting Ts'eman dead pitch on the Chilko, and a close encounter with a bear! (Sept 2023)

- Chilko Ja̓s brood stock collection for the coded wire tag program – and the first eggs for the TNG hatchery!

We are now shifting our focus to collecting and analyzing post-season information from the 2023 season. In the new year, we will also begin reviewing preliminary forecast information as it becomes available, and planning for the 2024 season.



## Tutoring the Nation's Secondary Students

TNG Grade 10-12 students are getting tutorial help twice a week during the school year. This program represents a three-way partnership between TNG, TRU, and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy, TRU providing funding, TNG, the organization, and the Partners for Literacy, the space and tutors to help TNG students catch up or stay up with their studies at Williams Lake Senior Secondary.

One of the tutors recently reported, "Just wanted to let you know what fun [we] are having with the secondary drop-in students. We have met some great kids! Almost all have been more than once. One gal comes every session.



Dave Julius - counsellor at LCSS - WL campus has put a set of textbooks together for us to have as reference. It really helps us to refresh our memories on all the process steps."

The tutoring program will take a break over the holidays and resume in mid-January.



## Renewal of the Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement

The Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement was signed in 2019 between Canada, B.C. and the T̂silhqot'in Nation. This Agreement sets out the high level goals within all of the "8 Pillars" to create transformative change within the Nation and for the T̂silhqot'in people.

In 2024, the Agreement is planned to be renewed. The Nation is working to secure a 10-year agreement with the resourcing attached to it that will support the work to be done.

Meetings were held in each community in July that outlined the high-level work happening under the Agreement. Large posters were hung in each community that show, in a very visual way, what that work looks like.

More information and a T̂silhqot'in translation:



> 250-392-3918

> [www.tsilhqotin.ca](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca)

# THE 8 PILLARS

WHAT WE ARE STRIVING TOWARDS



## T̂SILHQOT'IN GOVERNANCE

- Full self-government for T̂silhqot'in people
- According to T̂silhqot'in laws, institutions and values



## STRONG LANGUAGE & CULTURE

- T̂silhqot'in members fluent in, and proud of, their language and culture



## T̂SILHQOT'IN MANAGEMENT OF LANDS & RESOURCES

- T̂silhqot'in management of the lands, resources and wildlife
- Sustainable for future generations



## HEALTHY CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Health indicators on par or better than non-Aboriginal communities
- Programs delivered by T̂silhqot'in, based on T̂silhqot'in laws and values



## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Standard of Living on par or better than non-Aboriginal communities
- Adequate housing, clean water, roads, infrastructure, etc.



## JUSTICE

- Education and support for T̂silhqot'in communities
- Innovative preventative strategies and alternatives



## EDUCATION

- Funding and outcomes on par or better than non-Aboriginal schools
- Real opportunities for post-secondary education and training



## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC BASE

- Sufficient and sustainable economic base to support the above outcomes





New home in Yunešit'in

## Housing in Communities

The TNG Construction Management Company continued to do renovations and bring new homes to communities throughout the Fall. This includes:

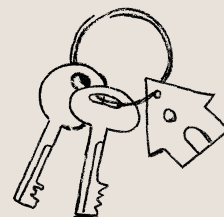
- ʔEsdilagh has two new homes in their community that are set on foundations;
- Tšideldel has five new homes in their community;
- Tl'etinqox has one large renovations happening in their community that should be complete before Christmas;
- Yunešit'in had two new homes delivered late this summer as well;



Renovations being done in Tl'etinqox

Currently the construction company employs 6 Tšilhqot'in members that have gone through the carpentry training at Toosey Old School with 4 of them completing their Level 3 carpentry this year. See next page for more details on this.

If you have any questions about housing in your community, please talk to your community Housing Manager.





TNG Level 3 Carpentry students

## Level 3 Carpentry Course Complete!

TNG ran its first Level 3 Carpentry Apprenticeship program this Fall. The students included Duane Hink, Catlin Cahoose, Trevor Quilt, Brandon Hare, Lee Myers and Mathew Alphonse.

The program involves learning about things such as building codes and bylaws, concrete formwork, roof systems, installing cabinets, and other finishing practices. Most of the students work with the T̓silhqot̓'in Construction Management Company to get their apprenticeship hours towards becoming a red seal



Surrounded by books in the classroom

carpenter. You may see them in the communities helping to build and renovate homes.

If you are interested in taking part in upcoming training in carpentry, reach out to Whitney Quilt, TNG Housing Training Coordinator, at 778-799-2145.







## TNG has expanded its brand!

TNG has enhanced its' brand to further represent the Nation's history and identity. The brand was co-created with the engagement of T̄silhqot'in deni, TNG employees and the T̄silhqot'in Nits'il?in-Qi.

The brand represents unity, strength, pride, vision, and confidence. The brand colour palette was inspired by the natural colours of the T̄silhqot'in landscape while other graphics were drawn from motifs found on T̄silhqot'in baskets, known as quat̄'s'ay.

The logo was changed so that it can be applied in more ways.



The original designer of the logo from 1989, Tl'etinqox member Paul Grinder, was involved in the process to ensure that the logo stayed true to the history and concept.

TNG has some great new merchandise that will be coming out in the New Year as well. Stay tuned!

Scan for a peek at some swag





## Težtan Totem Pole Ceremony

The Težtan 9-Year Anniversary Totem Celebration at Težtan Biny was a celebration and ceremony honouring T̄silhqot̄'in history and sharing knowledge, songs, gifts, and prayers.

On October 4, 2023 T̄silhqot̄'in Nits'il̄'in Roger William, Nits'il̄'in Otis Guichon, and Nits'il̄'in Francis Laceese welcomed Nuuchah-nulth master carver, Tim Paul, his granddaughter, Katrina and grandson Kenneth to Težtan Biny where T̄silhqot̄'in communities gathered to celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the historic pole raising ceremony on October 2, 2014.

The pole was carved and gifted to the T̄silhqot̄'in by Tim Paul in 2014 to honour the fight to protect Težtan Biny and the creation of the Dasiqox Tribal Park, and symbolizes an ongoing alliance between the two Nations.



Former Nits'il̄'in Russell Myers Ross attended the ceremony and was honoured for his work in the creation of the Dasiqox Tribal Park.

Nits'il̄'in Francis Laceese addressed the gathering, "Thank you for honouring Težtan Biny and the Territory and for the gift from our allies in helping us to protect this important place."

More on next page





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## Težtan Biny Totem Pole Ceremony...continued

At the ceremony, Tim Paul gifted a Thunderbird mask to the T̄silhqot'in and it was placed at the base of the totem with eagle down, signifying protection from the ancestors. Cultural Ambassador, Peyal Laceese sang the Thunderbird song that accompanies the mask.

The Thunderbird mask and song signifies the allyship alliance between the Nuuchahnulth and the T̄silhqot'in. Ten years previously, Nits'il'in Joe Alphonse and Cultural Ambassador Peyal Laceese were invited to visit Tim and his family in Port Alberni and were gifted the Nuuchahnulth Thunderbird song. The song was translated into T̄silhqot'in, by Peyal and is being passed on to the youth.

“When I look at the totem pole I remember Joe and I visiting Tim and he asked, what is our treasure? It is the salmon and our connection – our water flows down and connects to the waters there. Protecting the waters here and all the way down in reciprocity protects the water and salmon there.”

After the totem ceremony, a water ceremony followed at Težtan Biny with songs and prayers focusing on the unity of the Nation and continuing to protect the fish and water.

“Water and salmon are a big part of who we are and it's important to carry these traditions on and to bring our children here,” said Marilyn Baptiste. “When we're on the land with our families and babies, we find unity.”

A gift exchange followed with a meal around the fire. Tim's family presented gifts to honour the T̄silhqot'in families that lived in the Dasiqox area and to honour the relationships that help take care of the totem, and those keeping the Thunderbird song alive.

Tim spoke about deepening unity and relationships with T̄silhqot'in families from the area since putting up the pole, and how the gift from his heart connects with everyone connected to the area and how both Nations depend on their waters and streams want to protect salmon and the health and well-being of their families.

“We need to keep rebuilding, re-educating, and gather to keep the cultural teachings in a good way,” he said. Rare dentalium shell necklaces and earrings from the Nuuchahnulth Territory were gifted, along with beadwork, Devil's Club salve and beads for protection, and rocks from their home Territory in Ahousaht First Nation, to anchor their connections. In exchange, Tim and his grandson were honoured with gifts from the T̄silhqot'in including handmade buckskin gloves and moccasins and earrings for Tim's granddaughter.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## **Nenqayni Ch'ih Ts'enadash ~ The Way We Dance**

*Written by Hana Kamea Kemble, Project Coordinator, TNG Health*

On November 4, 2023, at T̄sideldel Culture Centre, the Nenqayni Ch'ih Ts'enadash (The Way We Dance) project of TNG Health hosted a dance project films screening event. This event was organized to share 7 new films made about reviving traditional dance within the T̄silhqot'in Nation. Over 30 people attended. One of them said the following about the films: "Dancing to our traditional songs and being proud of how our people danced to drums. Keeping it alive for the children." Another person said "This was very powerful. I am so proud of everyone who made this project happen. Awakening our traditional dancing, these films are amazing."

The 7 new films (some of which are short and some longer) are now accessible to Nation members through TNG's YouTube site and TNG's Communications can support that access for your community as wanted (the films are just not accessible to the general public outside of the Nation in order to respect sacred traditional knowledge found in the films). A learning packet and copies of the films have also been given to each of the 6 Nation schools for students to learn from.

The making of these special films was the culmination of the work of many people, spanning the years 2017-2023 and involved filming dance and song workshops on the land, interviews with Elders and knowledge keepers, and special dance focused gatherings of elders at the Nation Gathering. This project thanks and acknowledges all those who were involved over those years. You can feel proud of your contributions!







# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## **Nenqayni Ch'ih Ts'enadash ~ The Way We Dance...continued**

*Written by Hana Kamea Kemble, Project Coordinator, TNG Health*

We acknowledge that there are many more elders with knowledge of traditional dance practices of their grandparents and communities while growing up in the 1900's, that can be shared, and if you wish to share your knowledge, please contact Connie Jasper at TNG Health.

The three key components of this project were: 1) knowledge gathering (research and documentation to be archived through TNG), 2) experiential knowledge sharing and 3) building capacity for the T̓silhqot'in Nation by increasing awareness of the culture, knowledge, skills and wellbeing held within Dance. The project held the goal of increasing the ability for all six (6) T̓silhqot'in communities to participate in Dance for Wellness.

It is truly hoped that through the vehicle of the 7 films available to communities for screenings, that all 6 T̓silhqot'in communities will feel inspired to continue to create more sharing circles and incorporate dance/song into cultural events and in-school teaching.



Left: One of the many interviews with T̓silhqot'in knowledge keepers regarding traditional dance



Gathering input on mental health supports - more on next page



# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## TNG Health - Mental Health

*Written by Ellen Smith*



TNG Mental Health has had a great start to the Winter! We have spent most of 2023 visiting communities and getting valuable input on mental health services needed for the Nation. Following these visits, we have been meeting with our partners in health, First Nations Health Authority and Interior Health Authority, to work towards meeting some of these needs. It's been a great collaboration and so far, we are making progress in the following areas of mental health.

**Mental Health Crisis Response:** In each community, it has been identified that when a mental health crisis occurs, resources are limited for both the person in the crisis, as well as the people in community affected by the crisis. We now have a working group set up to start addressing this need for support and are looking at training opportunities for members in the community that offer support, as well as setting up a healing response team to attend communities during the aftermath of a stressful or traumatic mental health incident. Our next step in this evaluation phase is to visit each community again in the spring, in order to specifically focus on what the T̓silhqot'in people would like to see during these difficult times and what would be the most culturally appropriate approach to offering healing and care to those who need it.

**Substance Use Awareness and Education:** Communities also gave feedback with regards to better options for addiction recovery. It can be so confusing on what the pathway to health looks like and community members deserve to have less barriers and more services when it comes to helping a loved one work on this wellness goal. Our team is looking at supporting the current wellness workers in community, as well as providing in-community educational opportunities that cover this topic in greater detail.

Finally, in January, we are welcoming the Makokis Family, who are Indigenous professional speakers and excellent advocates for bettering ourselves after difficult life events. They will come to each community from January 23 to January 25th. Posters on the event should be out before the beginning of the holidays. There will be lunch a prizes available as well! We are grateful as a team to be able to face the New Year with new hopes of progress and forward movement in providing better mental health services to the T̓silhqot'in Nation 😊





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## Governance

*Written by Shawnee Palmantier*

### Update and Happy Holidays Everyone!

The Governance team once again wishes you the very best holiday season! We thank you for a great year of gatherings, engagement and governance!

Sechanalyagh for providing us direction on the draft T̄silhqot'in Water Law, Code of Conduct, Citizenship, Unity Chief and Structure of Governance. We continue to wish for direction on these topics if you have any more insight to share.

### Citizenship

We continue to wish to further discussion citizenship with you. Citizenship has been a powerful tool to harm Indigenous Nations and continues to isolate and create imbalance. The rates of parenting-out (children born non-registered as Indians) is increasing. This has consequences for our citizenship.

Citizenship was an important issue during the title case as the court asked, “who are the right holders?” The court understood it was a community larger than the “registered members” of the Indian Band... that many others identify as T̄silhqot'in people.

Unfortunately, the Nation doesn't have influence over “who is a registered Indian” but know T̄silhqot'in citizenship. T̄silhqot'in citizenship has little to do with registration under the *Indian Act*.

Currently, we understand the T̄silhqot'in people to be those that are T̄silhqot'in and their descendants. It does not matter if they are “registered Indians” but that they have T̄silhqot'in in ancestry.

The T̄silhqot'in people shared their desire to be inclusive of their descendants and maintain their population long into the future.





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## **Governance...continued**

*Written by Shawnee Palmantier*

### **Code of Conduct and Financial Accounting**

We also confirmed the community supports having a Code of Conduct in the constitution. This Code would direct the elected leaders and staff to make decisions in the “Best interests of the Nation.” The Code would also direct the leaders and staff to disclose any conflicts and remove themselves from those decisions.

The financial accounting we propose in the T̓silhqot̓in Constitution requires the National government to continue to maintain financial records and provide annual financial disclosure to the Nation. This obligation would be in the constitution rather than as directed by Society’s Act. There was a lot of support for this.

### **Structure of Government**

We provided a structure of government that is based on the current structure having the Nits’il̓in-qi, Nits’il̓in-yaz-qi, community members and staff supported by the ʔEsggidam, Elders, Women’s Council, and Former Chiefs. These bodies work together and support each other making a stronger government.

We are keen on hearing back on potential improvements, feedback or changes? This feedback is important for us! We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Governance Committee**

Our Committee has been meeting and providing feedback to us. In particular, we thank them for their direction on the Child and Family legislation. They called a special meeting in December to specifically review the legislation and invited support. The meeting assisted our work and we owe much gratitude. The Governance Committee have provided thoughtful discussion on the legislation and we can see their direction will be critical to the practice after we have full jurisdiction.





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## **Governance...continued**

*Written by Shawnee Palmantier*

### **T̓silhqot̓'in T̓s̓'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council)**

The Women's Council have been actively meeting providing the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation recommendations and directions as well. They have been meeting with staff to discuss Nen projects and the Child and Family legislation. We very much appreciate their time and direction.

The Council has also taken on an important project in hopes of making Nation projects and initiatives better for Indigenous women and the 2SLGBTQI+ community. We may not realize that projects and initiatives that are well intended can have adverse consequences for Indigenous women and the 2SLGBTQI+ community. We must consider how our work, actions impact them before we act. The Women's Council are informing a toolkit to help in doing this! This is important, heavy work but are excited it is on its way!

Again, our Governance Team thank you and wish you the very best holiday! Sechanalyagh!





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## Stewardship Update

*Written by Luke Doxtator*

I'm sure I'm not the only one wishing for some snow soon. This winter seems very odd not having much snow yet and warm weather as well. I'm sure mother nature will eventually get back on track so we can once again get back to our winter activities. Here is a quick snapshot of some of the great work the Stewardship department is working on. I would also like to take the time to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas. May you be blessed by being surrounded with lots of family and friends during the holidays.

### TSD staffing:

We are currently trying to recruit an Access Management Coordinator to join our team. The job ad can be found on our website but also on indeed.ca. My hopes are to have this filled by a community member since you all know the territory better than anyone else. The position will mostly be field work, but during the winter, we would take the opportunity to catch the individual up on all the current work to date, and start working with the communities to plan out the areas that have already been identified for access management. So, if you have some forestry background, interest in wildlife and like being in the field, please consider applying for this opportunity.

Most of us have recovered from the IT issues we have been dealing with for the past few months. There are some departments that are still having some issues, such as the GIS team so it may be a little harder to get maps done as quickly as they once were able to produce.



Drone photo of the Gwetsilh fire







# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## Stewardship Update...continued

*Written by Luke Doxtator*

### Temporary Access management:

This year we were able to get some high priority areas addressed with some temporary access management measures. There were 8 gates in the South Chilcotin that we had chained and locked to prevent LEH hunters from entering. We partnered with Tolko, BC and our amazing TNG Rangers to monitor the gates. We also had 3 loop roads on the 100 road cut off with concrete blocks. These were all temporary measures until we start the planning for the mid to long term measures which will occur this winter and for the next couple of years. Our goals are to set a road density within all the landscape units of the territory. This will enhance wildlife populations and ease some of the hunting pressures from LEH hunters as well.

### NEN Transformation Table (NTT):

We have been working with the NEN team on developing workplans for items such as habitat/ecosystem restorations, access management, species management, data management, compliance & enforcement, and research. All of these workplans are the start of some great work that we can do on the territory. We strive for full jurisdiction on all of these items and updates will follow as we “plug away” at them.

In closing, please be safe this winter. Ensure the ice is thick enough to fish, you dress warm in case of a breakdown, and I hope Santa is good to you all.



Left - Red Mountain FSR Access Management. Right - Groundhog FSR Access Management



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

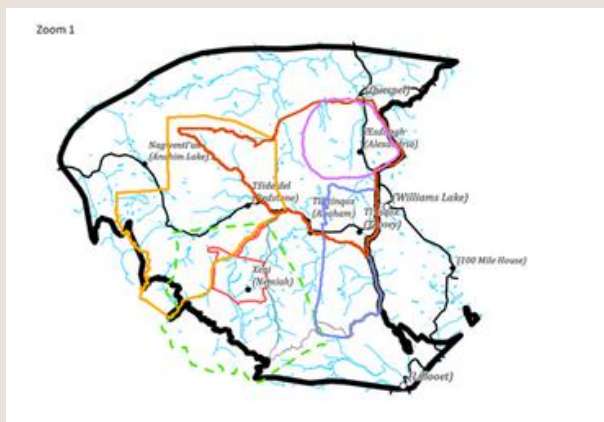


## GIS - Mapping

*Written by Sarah Gash*

Happy Winter everyone! We have a new person in GIS. Brent Miron joined us in TNG Mapping in early October. Brent brings lots of mapping experience mostly gained in Ontario in the forestry sector. He is fitting in well with the team, and contributing in valuable ways to help keep the work moving along. Adam departed at the beginning of September to move to Cornwall to be closer to his parents. We will miss his contributions and wish him well in his new adventure in municipal government. Meanwhile I am grateful for Mark's work ethic and positive attitude when it comes to getting things done. He continually adds value to everything he tackles and is exceedingly pleasant to work with despite some of the challenges facing us. Thank you, Mark!

Regarding mapping requests and data, TNG GIS supports most departments with mapping, analysis and data management in some form. For this issue I'd like to focus on one key function we do in GIS. Field data collection! In the last couple of years, we have been integrating process for capturing our own data. Recording and generating, managing, storing, and tracking our own custom information to support projects we are involved in will help TNG exercise autonomy and jurisdiction in the territory. Collecting information allows us to take ownership, and control of the data and the knowledge it gives us. It also allows us to contribute in more knowing ways to decision making.



Left - Figure 1 Territory Zoom. Right - Figure 2 Area Zoom  
Both maps explained on the next page





# TNG STAFF REPORTS

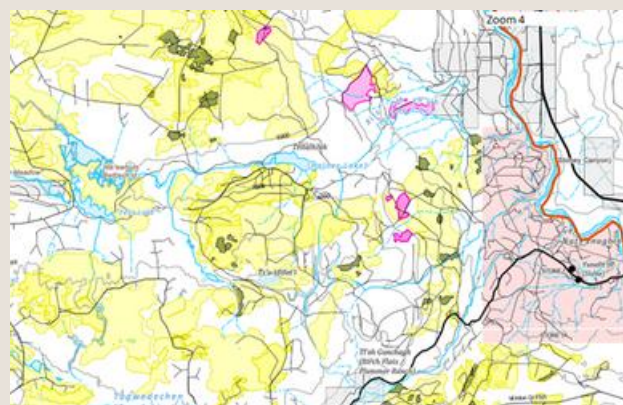
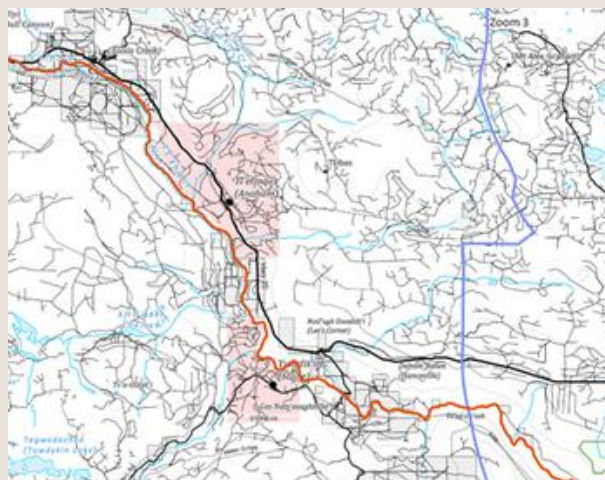


## GIS - Mapping...continued

*Written by Sarah Gash*

### TNG GIS implementation of FieldMaps:

Mark has recently migrated our map-based field data collection app from ESRI Arc Collector to FieldMaps. Well done Mark! We continue to also use Survey123 for our more form-based data collection. As part of the migration Mark has implemented a custom TNG base map as the background for our data collection layers. The base map includes placenames, custom TNG layers such as T̄silhqot̄'in Title and Rights, Dasiqox Initiative, and Draft consultative areas and caretaker areas. Also included are TNG custom roads data for the territory, and all the other base data layers that make our hard copy maps high quality and visually appealing. The base data is scale dependant so shows just the right details when zoomed in and out. See below for some images at the various scales. You can see how the data goes from course (highways only for roads) all the way to fine (on block roads) as you zoom into an area. This is better for visual quality and ability to read the map, and get what you need out of it. Figure 1 (previous page) is the full territory zoom and Figure 4 shows the finest data zoom.



Left - Figure 3 Community Zoom. Right - Figure 4 Local zoom



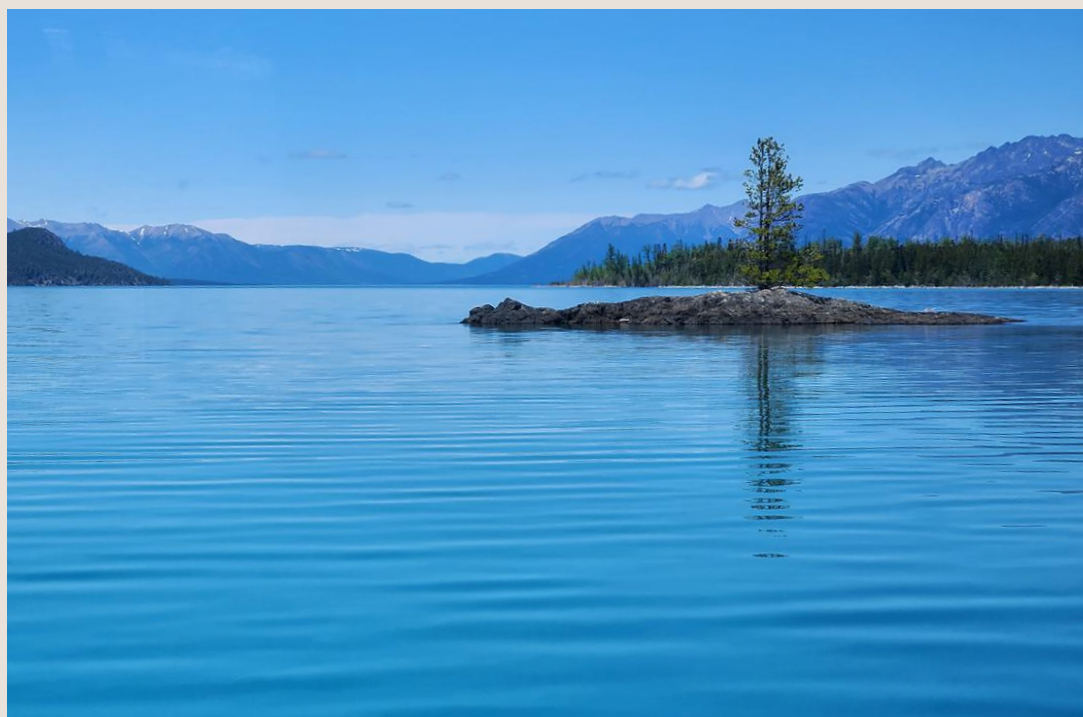
# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## GIS - Mapping...continued

*Written by Sarah Gash*

In addition to the improvements to the basemaps, some of the layers that we have custom built for field data collection include traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), wildlife sightings, wildlife camera installation locations, capture sites for wildlife collaring program, T̄silhqot̄'in signage locations, access management features (bridges, gates, berms etc), house locations and house status data, invasive plant sites, range inspections, forestry field audit reporting, mining inspection, non-game surveys, caribou, moose and deer surveys and scat collection surveys to name a few! Our field data collection has never been better. Staff who are using, or are exploring using our data collection layers are TNG Wildlife, Stewardship Referral staff, Rangers, Housing, Nen Team, and Heritage. We always like getting feedback from those that use it on ways to improve or add to the layers. We have heard that the TEK layer is particularly popular with some Yunēsit̄'in elders! Thanks for that feedback.







# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## CCR and Shell Tree Planting Project

*Written by Jeremy Boyd*

From 2021 to 2023, Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation (CCR), a partnership between Tl'etinqox and Tâideldel, managed a tree planting project with Shell and TNG.

Local Foresters from CCR, with joint talks with Yunešit'in, chose IR lands because there is no funding from the Federal government to assist on reforesting burnt IR areas. The Nation's common forestry goal post-2017 wildfires is to bring back our forests for our future generations. This tree planting project was a great example of partnerships and supporting community business.

### Timeline:

1. Actual tree planting work began April 24, 2021 on Yunešit'in IR lands.
2. Second year tree planting work began April 23, 2022 on Yunešit'in IR lands.
3. Third year tree planting work began May 2, 2023 on Yunešit'in and Tâideldel IR Lands.

### Areas planted:

- 3.6 hectares planted on Tâideldel First Nation I.R that was burnt by 2017 wildfire.
- 364.9 hectares planted on Yunešit'in I.R that was burnt was burnt by 2017 wildfire.
- 368.9 hectares total was planted by the corporate fund (i.e. Shell).





# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## CCR and Shell Tree Planting Project...continued

*Written by Jeremy Boyd*

There was a total of 824,000 tree seedlings fill planted on the burnt I.R Lands. Fill planting was the silviculture methodology used because the local Foresters knew there would be the natural ingress of trees post-2017 Wildfires.

- 66.6% of the tree seedlings planted was Douglas-fir because the burnt Fir leading stands were vacant of natural tree growth;
- 22.3% of the tree seedling planted was Lodgepole Pine because a lot of burnt Pine leading stands had trees growing back naturally;
- 8.5% of the tree seedlings was Yellow Pine (climate change tree selection);
- 1.8% of the tree seedlings was Western Larch (climate change tree selection); and
- 0.8% of the tree seedlings was Spruce.

A heat dome (drought) and deer browse killed some fir seedling leading to re-plants in areas on Yunešit'in IR Lands. Future drought and deer browse will continue to occur on the tree plantation but a lot of trees have been planted and grown in naturally to produce a good forest over time. The project was under budget despite the re-planting of areas on Yunešit'in IR. 71% of all work under this tree planting project was done by Tšilhqot'in forestry businesses. Tšilhqot'in Forestry businesses collaborating between the Yunešit'in, Tšideldel, Tl'etincox made this project successful. This tree planting provided work for the Tšilhqot'in forestry businesses from surveying, layout, tree planting supervision, and some machine work. Access to IR lands by Yunešit'in and Tšideldel is a big factor of success as well. 85% of the work was local employment and 15% was non-local employment to grow the tree seedling from nurseries.

Tšilhqot'in Nation forestry is always open for opportunities. Feel free to get in touch with us!



Nits'il'in Lennon Solomon was a big support to this project by advocating for the burnt IR lands around Yunešit'in to be planted.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS



## T̂silhqot'in Rustic Group Lodging

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Rustic Group Lodging site activation began on August 10th to host T̂silhqot'in members and other First Nations displaced due to evacuation orders and alerts. The T̂silhqot'in Rustic Group Lodging site had the capacity to host up to 100 occupants in tents and the addition of RV sites if needed. Wildfire risk levels picked up during the week of the Nation gathering August 14-18, and the model and flexibility of the site provided the opportunity to host BCWS firefighter crews while fighting the Siwash fire.

One of the primary purposes of the Rustic Group Lodging site was to ensure that the T̂silhqot'in have a culturally safe environment for members in the event of evacuation during a wildfire emergency. The 2017 *Wildfires Awakened Us* Report identified that Nation community members recalled negative experiences associated with evacuating from their communities. Group lodging experiences included sleeping on cots in gymnasiums, eating non-traditional foods, and being viewed with distrust by staff and volunteers in these situations. These experiences can resurface past traumas from residential school and elders are vulnerable to the impacts of being forced from their homes. T̂silhqot'in leadership does not want Nation members to live through these situations again.

The *Wildfires Awakened Us* Report identified that the Nation was seeking improvements for T̂silhqot'in people during evacuations. The rustic group lodging was an example of these improvements being put into practice.



Nexwechanalyagh to Tl'esqox for their amazing support with the group lodging







**Tsilhqot'in**  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

## Tsilhqot'in Youth Ambassador

TNG is looking for two Tsilhqot'in youth to attend the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2024 in New York

### **To apply:**

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Tell us why you feel you would be a good candidate as a Tsilhqot'in Youth Ambassador
- Tell us about yourself and the ways you practice your Tsilhqot'in culture and traditions
- Confirm that you either have, OR are able to obtain, a passport for travel
- Submissions can be in writing or video format

**Deadline: January 9, 2024**

**Questions and submissions can be sent to [PemaRhidar@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:PemaRhidar@tsilhqotin.ca)**

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Dolly Kershaw: [dkershaw@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:dkershaw@tsilhqotin.ca)

Wylie Bystedt: [wylie@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:wylie@tsilhqotin.ca)

Or call 250-392-3918



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March 6 & 7, 2024 Xeni

March 8, 2024 ?Esdilagh

**Contact:** Your local health clinic to book an appointment







TNG wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and all the best for health and happiness in 2024.

