



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Benen Ne?ed i lh (April) The month the birds come back

Benen Gwets'enedz i sh (May) The planting month



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253 4th Avenue North
Williams Lake BC, V2G 4T4
Phone: (250) 392-3918

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Finance Manager

Linda Haig-Brown

Hello! My name is Linda Haig-Brown, I am a Tsilhqot'in member from the community of Yunesit'in.

I became the finance manager in June of 2019. I originally started at TNG in 2016, full-time, as the finance officer. I mostly worked in accounts payable; at that time we only had two finance workers. In 2017, we hired Andrea William as accounts payable and I moved into payroll. As TNG continued to expand, in 2018, we grew the finance department to two accounts payable positions, a payroll clerk, a finance officer and a finance manager.



Our finance manager at the time continually pushed and mentored me and she eventually retired in 2019. It has been a huge learning curve as not only the finance department, but the entire TNG organization continues to expand. I am super grateful to the training that I have received, super supportive managers/supervisors and for the finance team. Shout out to the finance team for putting up with me:

Andrea William (maternity leave), Georgina Stump, Tammy Haller and Kori-Jo Stump.



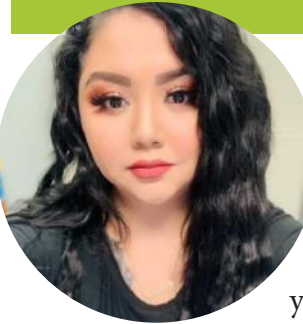
If you ever feel you want a run down of what we do in Finance or how our finances are doing just reach out. Sechanalyagh. Gwetaghunt'i

Linda Haig-Brown
Finance Manager

Accounts Payable

Kori-Jo Stump

Hello, my name is Kori-Jo Stump I am from the community of ?Esdilagh First Nation. I have been working with Tsilhqot'in National Government for the past 5 years and for the last 2



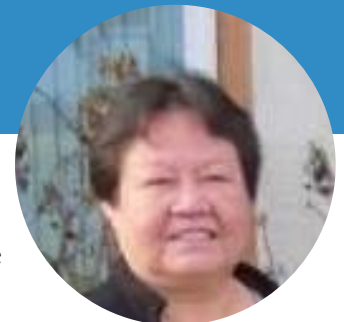
years have been working in the Finance Department as Accounts Payable. My weekly duties consist of coding, entering, printing and filing data while also assisting staff and businesses with our accounts. I am always happy to help.

Kori-Jo Stump
Accounts Payable

Payroll Officer

Georgina Stump

Hello! My name is Georgina (Gina) Stump, I am a Tsilhqot'in member from the community of T'letinqox.



I have taken over the Payroll Officer position since November 16, 2020 for a term of one year until Andrea is back on November 15, 2021. Andrea was here for a month training and showing me where everything is and what her job as a Payroll Officer entails. I have worked for many non-profit organizations as a Finance Officer for the past 14 years. These non-profit organizations were small in comparison to Tsilhqot'in National Government, I did all the work as the sole Finance Officer. All of the non-profit organizations that I have worked for had their books audited every year.

What I do in the Payroll Department:

- Collect and print out timesheets, make sure the Managers have signed their approval or emailed their approval
- Prepare the receiver general for payment every pay day

- Complete the bank reconciliations every month
- Enter the Group Health data onto a spreadsheet every month
- Enter the Group Health data into the bank entry for the bank reconciliation every month
- Enroll members for Manulife online
- Enroll members for Group Health online
- Enter new employees into the system from the new employee form that the HR Team hands over to me

Georgina Stump
Payroll Officer

Data Entry Clerk

Tammy Haller



Hi everyone,
Well spring has sprung and allergies are here. I am a tsilhqot'in member from Yunesit'in (Stone). I am married to Jonathan Setah and a mother of four (Phillip, Darian, Samuel and Dean) and love to be a part of their lives. We also have taken in Matthius Charleyboy and accept him as a son. Jonathan and I are also proud to be grandparents to Mikayla Haller, daughter to Darian Haller and Jesse Pete.



I have been with the Tsilhqot'in National Government on and off. I first started working with TNG July 2013 as Stewardship Senior Administrative Assistant until September 2015 when I went to attend post-secondary school at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. I missed home and returned to Williams Lake in 2018. I got a summer position with TNG Fisheries which was different and I loved it. Immediately after that (September 2018) I got the full-time position as Receptionist at TNG Lakeside Office. A month

later (October 2018) bumped up to Administrative Assistant to Sub-Table Managers. I definitely enjoyed working at the Lakeside Office and I miss all the members in the meetings that I attended and the Lakeside Office staff. I then worked part-time as TNG Administrative Assistant and Finance Data Entry Clerk from July 2020 until full-time Data Entry Clerk on August 2020. I have been with TNG for almost 5 years. I have always loved playing with numbers. I wanted to be an Accountant or Bookkeeper when I graduated high-school but life happened. Now, I want to continue my education in the Finance field. The ladies in the Finance department are great and we work well as a team. This year is my first time helping out with the finance year end and preparing for the new fiscal year. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge and to continue working with TNG.



I definitely miss TNG/Tsilhqot'in community events, because that is when I can take pictures of our staff and our community members. I can occasionally, take the time to take pictures if I can of some TNG functions. Photography is my hobby and my passion. I also posted a picture of April 26th full moon.

I had a scare when Covid first hit a year ago. I was new to diabetes and it spiked. It was a wakeup call and definitely changed my ways. I eat healthier and exercise. I currently lost 43.5 pounds since then. I love hiking and taking pictures of my hiking adventures.

The weather is warmer so enjoy your adventures and see our beautiful back yard. Stay safe and take care.

Tammy Haller,
Finance Data Entry Clerk

Health Manager

Connie Jasper



Welcome to Spring. Hope this finds everyone well. With the weather getting nicer we hope that you are getting some for time outside.

Vaccine Clinics have been on the forefront for us. We have completed all First Doses for Communities and also offered a Clinic in Williams Lake for our Off Reserve Members. Second dose Vaccine is set to arrive in Communities in early May. So if you received a Vaccine in January in one of the communities you are now eligible for your second dose. Please contact your community and they will let you know the dates.

Province wide we are still seeing high daily numbers and there are currently travel restrictions for non essential travel. With the numbers remaining high in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Coastal we want people to remain careful and continue to follow the Covid precautions. The Variants transmit quicker and easier then the original Covid 19.

We have a Nation Health Meeting on May 3rd to give updates to the Communities on what is going on in health.

We have had some changes to staffing. Hannah who was our Dietitian has moved to Prince George to be closer to her family. She will be returning as part of the Diabetes Road Show. We have also said goodbye to Melody who was a Clinician in Toosey and ?Esdilagh. Also Daniel and Laurie will be helping a baby into their family in May and they will be moving away to be closer to family. We are always sad to lose such great people who have worked in the Nation but we also know that people need to look after themselves as well. Wishing each of you all the best and our hearts are so full with what you have brought to our team and our Nations.

I want to take the time to say a huge Thank you to the nurses who worked to make our Vaccine Clinics such a success. Our Community nurses came in to Williams

Lake to assist with the off reserve clinic. It was so much fun to work with all of you at once. We have such great nurses.

Connie Jasper
Health Manager



Photos 1-4: The Nurses who helped with Off-Reserve Vaccine Clinics



Photos 5: Ellen Willams, TNG Mental Health Team Lead bike riding

Mental Health Team Lead

Ellen Williams



Happy Spring Everyone!
For those of you who have not met me, I'm the Mental Health Team Leader for TNG. My role is to supervise clinicians who provide mental health care to the Nation. As well, I assist with the implementation of mental health programs and work collaboratively with community agencies. One of my favorite ways to cope with life stress is to get outside and ride my bike! It helps me focus on what's in front of me and be mindful and appreciative of the land we are privileged to live on. It's great exercise too!! I highly recommend biking this season! With COVID restrictions, we have to be creative in the way we get out and enjoy life!!

background and understanding when working with clients. Welcome Michelle!

Ellen Williams
Mental Health Team Lead
ellen@tsilhqotin.ca

BUSY SPRING! HERES WHAT WE WERE UP TO AS A MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

Shopping Fun!

Our clinicians were asked to purchase items of therapeutic value for each community. They worked many hours to shop and deliver thousands of dollars of helpful tools to each community. Everything from art supplies to new furniture is being supplied to the health centers in order to make for a more welcoming and warm experience.

Hired! Mental Health Coordinator and New Clinician

We were able to recruit and hire Amanda Johnson as the new Mental Health Coordinator for Tsideldel. She's been busy with helping clinicians and wellness workers since her first day last month. So grateful to have her help!!

With two of our clinicians leaving us in May, we also hired clinician Michelle Francis to provide interim mental health care for Yunesit'in and Xenigwet'in communities. Michelle has been working in the area for many years and most recently facilitating the Horse Program. With her experience living in the area and knowing many of the community members, she will have invaluable

Health Receptionist

Hazel Quilt



Hi there!! My name is Hazel Quilt, I'm from Yunešit'in but have been away for 27 years, lived in Kamloops. My father was Isaac Myers and my mother was Katy Quilt Char.

Moved back February 2020 and found an apartment in Williams Lake in April 1, 2020. I was on CERB EI from April to October 2020. October 27, 2020, I started working as an on-call receptionist for TNG Downtown office. When the reception job for the Health Department opened up, I applied, got the job and I started January 25, 2021.

After the Easter long weekend, April 6, 2021 to April 12, 2021 I started getting calls from First Nations to get their covid 1st shot, I started giving appointments to people and the week after that, April 13 to 16th, 2021, I was part of the team for the 1st Covid shots of Moderna at TNG Lakeside Office. I was one of the recipients during that time. Sadly, I was one of those that reacted to the shot, so I had to take time off to recover from the side effects. I got the covid test just to be safe and it was negative. I was so relieved for that result.

In the midst of all this, on a personal level I been packing and cleaning my apartment to move closer to work so if my car ever breaks down, I can just walk to work. I feel frazzled even on a normal day because of too much stuff going on. Hopefully, I never have to move again, it's too stressful.

On a positive note, to work for my people again is such a bonus and to use my language again is so awesome.

Hazel Quilt
Health Receptionist

Health Programs Coordinator

Lorna Elkins



Hello everyone!

Hope you are all enjoying the spring weather.

Our second Diabetes

Roadshow planning meeting,

Hannah & I traveled out to communities and met with the

health staff and asked what they would

like to see in their community during the Diabetes Roadshow. I'm also organizing a Foot Care Refresher training for our Tšilhqot'in community home support workers and we have 10 participants that signed-up for the training. On the EOC side I have helped Tl'esqox with their grocery orders through Sysco for their on & off community members. For their off-reserve members a few TNG staff helped boxed the groceries and we set up a drive through for their members to drive in and drive out with their grocery box.

My third Diabetes Roadshow planning meeting I traveled out to community and meet with the health staffs. We will have one last planning meeting to finalize everything and work on their agendas. I also assisted with TNG's Covid vaccine clinic that was held at our Lakeside office gymnasium for three days. The following week I helped Three Corners set-up the Lakeside office gymnasium for their Covid vaccine clinic.

That is all my update for now.

Lorna Elkins
Health Programs Coordinator



Fall, 2018 at Chilko Lake.
Our first year in the communities with TNG.

Sechanalyagh

Dear community members,

It has been an honour to serve as TNG Mental Wellness Counsellors in Xeni Gwet'in, Yunesit'in and T'lesqox for the past 3 years. Sechanalyagh for this incredible and beautiful opportunity. We have learned so much from your community members, with teachings and lessons that will last a lifetime.

One of the most valuable teachings that we have gained from you is to honour family bonds between children and elders. As we prepare to welcome a child of our own in just a few short weeks, we have decided to move closer to family on Vancouver Island to strengthen these bonds and raise our child with the help and love of elders and family.

Due to COVID restrictions, we regret that we haven't been able to connect with you on your beautiful territory in-person as much as we would have liked during this past year. We have been very grateful that some community members continued accessing mental wellness support by phone and video. It has been hard to say goodbye without being regularly in community and on the land. Despite this difficult year, we will carry memories of resilience, healing, and beautiful gatherings and connections with us into our next journey.

You will forever be in our hearts. Sending blessings, warmth and continued wellness to all. We will miss you all very, very much.

With love,
Daniel Ducheck & Laurie Potter
April 29, 2021

Wildlife Biologist

Mitchell Warne



How to Understand British Columbia's Caribou Estimates.

The Province of British Columbia conducts caribou surveys throughout the province, which they then use to inform their management decisions. These surveys are different than the moose SRB surveys that were discussed in the previous newsletter.

The purpose of this article is not to explain how the caribou surveys are conducted in detail nor to justify their use but instead provide information on what the numbers mean from these surveys.

In late June BC often flies surveys in the Itcha-Ilgachuz calving grounds to estimate the population and the number of calves that have survived the first few weeks of life. BC uses the information gathered from this flight and follow up flights on the collared caribou to determine a population estimate. In the 2020 June Calf Recruitment survey BC estimated 508 caribou in the Itcha-Ilgachuz population. They also determined 30% of these caribou were calves. This is different from the moose calf ratio where they compare the number of calves to the number of cows. With caribou this calf percentage is comparing the number of calves to the combination of male and female adults and juveniles.

Unlike moose, caribou are not managed with density nor is that calculated for caribou. Instead the focus is on calf recruitment and overall population estimates. Another survey BC may complete is the March Calf Recruitment survey. This is to estimate the number of caribou calves that have survived through most of the winter. Similar to June this survey is comparing the number of calves to adults. In March 2021 the estimate was 24% calves, which were the calves from the June 2020 survey. The estimate is 16% of calves need to be alive in March in order to maintain the herd at its current level. To further add to the confusion all three herds (Itcha-Ilgachuz, Rainbows and Charlotte-Alplands) share the same wintering

habitat in the West Chilcotin. This means that the March Calf Recruitment survey is a combination of all three herds because they cannot specify which herds the observed caribou are from.

Since there is currently no limited entry hunt or open season there are no fall rut surveys being completed to estimate the bull to cow ratio. The target ratio is 35 bulls:100 cows. BC has completed some of these surveys in the past but the majority of the surveys have been in June or March.

To complicate things a bit more, the Rainbows and the Charlotte-Alplands caribou herds may also be surveyed in June but due to their small populations and few to no collared caribou these surveys do not estimate the number of animals but simply the number observed. The Rainbows herd had 24 caribou observed in the June 2020 survey and the Charlotte-Alplands herd had 25 caribou also in June 2020. Unlike the Itcha-Ilgachuz herd these are the actual number of the caribou seen during the survey not the estimated number, the observed Itcha-Ilgachuz caribou in 2020 was 382 plus 14 collared animals.



If you have any questions about the caribou surveys or caribou in general you can contact me using the below information;

Mitchell Warne R.P.Bio.
 TNGs Wildlife Biologist
 Phone: 780-814-2026
 E-mail: mwarne@tsilhqotin.ca

Mining, Oil and Gas Coordinator

Helga Harlander



MINING EXPLORATION UPDATE

Blackdome & Elizabeth (Tempus Resources)

Tempus Resources has notified TNG that there are no plans for exploration activities at the Blackdome site this year. The site will only be accessed to carry out environmental monitoring and safety inspections of the mine site and associated infrastructure. The company however plans to conduct a high resolution aeromagnetic survey of the entire Elizabeth claim area and drill 7,500 m there in the 2021 field season.

Perk-Rocky (Ethos Gold)

Ethos Gold is planning to drill six diamond drill holes this season. They anticipate to start work at the site during the first week of June. Archeological surveys will be conducted prior to any ground disturbance.

IKE (Amarc)

Amarc notified TNG that they anticipate to drill six holes this season at the IKE claims. This is not yet certain as they first have to secure financing for the exploration program.

TNG has not received any further information so far about mining exploration activities for the 2021 field season by other permit holders.

Helga Harlander
Mining, Oil & Gas Coordinator

GIS Team Lead & Portal Administrator

Sarah Gash



Happy Spring! I am so much happier now that the time changed and we can be outside into the evenings. My yard is just now snow free, so getting out gardening, biking and hiking is in my future.

For mapping updates I have a number of items to report. Much focus has been paid recently to data collection. Mapping staff have been hard at work getting ready for the summer field season adding new surveys for wildlife sightings, shed antler collection, road hazard assessments, access management and so on. Updating all iPads with new security measures, reference documents for field work, updated surveys and layers as well as updated navigation maps has also been completed. We are looking forward to supporting the Rangers, Referral Workers, Wildlife crews and anyone headed out into the territory. Hopefully mapping staff will all get a chance to have a day or two out on the land as well.

We have in place an improved wildfire mapping script to help us process and map wildfire activity to support TNG and communities as we head into the wildfire season. Hopefully we won't need this very often, however good to be prepared. Thank you to Jennifer Marr who built this tool. Jenn was with us for a short 3 months and we wish her well at BCTS.

We have provided map support for Xenia to assist with transitioning Range Tenure to Title oversight and been in discussions to help with survey design for Range Inspections.

The housing survey was distributed last fall, and slowly data is being collected. We are anxious to update our records so we can update maps and help the Housing Authority to manage information tied to a location. Eventually this information will be used for emergency management, housing status and long term planning as well as budgeting for improvements and new houses.

There has been lots going on in IT since the new year. We installed a new server in the downtown office. Migrating, and getting everyone set up and working with the new system has been difficult, but we seem to be nearly there. Thank you to Zack and Riley and Gary for tirelessly addressing issues as they come up. They have been overwhelmed with requests for IT support.

Then of course there is always Portal Administration. Lots of new users and troubleshooting going on, particularly since the server migration and internet issues we have experienced. I conducted training for new staff in February. We also meet as the Stewardship team to discuss best practices and common mistakes and how to correct them.

I am grateful to have gotten my COVID shot this past week. Yet another wonderful benefit of being TNG staff. I received the lovely gift from Interior Health with smudge supplies with a grateful heart.

Sechanalyagh,
Sarah Gash

GIS Technician

Adam Gaudet



Hi everyone!

There's been quite a bit going on the last little while in the GIS department. I've been busy making treeplanting maps to support the Communities in the upcoming planting season. There looks to be about 28,000 ha set to be planted which translates to about 34 million more little spruce, pine and fir trees in the Territory. Like my old planting crew boss used to say: "That's a lot of lumber!"

I've also just completed a small 8.5" x 11" direction map for Yunešit'in for their new Highway 420 Cannabis Store that is set to open soon. Hope everything goes well with this project!

I also just completed a Traditional Ecological Knowledge course set up by TNG via Zoom through UNBC. It was great to see and spend time with my fellow team members whom I don't often get to see or talk to that often anymore because of covid. Good work everyone and sechanlayagh!

That's pretty much it for me. I'm excited about the super nice weather we've been having lately. I think I will go out and get some Vitamin D from that warm early spring sky!

Sechanalyagh! Until next time!

Adam

GIS Apprentice

Teriann Elkins



Hello, I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather because I sure am. Lately I've been going out for batting practices with a few friends. I am also super excited about women's outdoor soccer that will be starting soon, I haven't played in 2 years!

I've been keeping busy with the normal GIS tasks; right now, I am putting a presentation together for field staff, and for staff who would like to learn how to use the apps we use to collect field data. We will be learning how to use Avenza Maps, iBooks, Google Drive, The Stewardship Portal, ArcGIS Field Maps, ArcGIS Dashboards and ArcGIS Survey123.

Cheers,
GIS Apprentice, Teriann Elkins

Fisheries

Randy Billyboy & Team

Hello everyone!

Fisheries are vitally important to TNG communities, and the fisheries department is working on a number of projects and programs to support the recovery and rebuilding of all salmon species in T̓silhqot̓in Territory.

This is just the beginning of the Tse'man (sockeye) smolt outmigration. By May 3, we'd seen 7.4 million smolts begin their migration to sea. By the time you read this, that number will be even higher! The data changes day to day, but we'll keep folks informed through regular fisheries updates.

April marked the beginning of fieldwork season, and the crew is already hard at work to support the salmon. As the season ramps up again, here's some news on what we've been up to.

Fisheries Team News:

The fisheries team has grown a lot over the past 2 years! Our core team is:

- Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Manager
- Pete Nicklin, Fisheries Biologist
- Michelle Tung, Fisheries Strategy Lead (on leave)
- Leonard English, Fisheries Coordinator
- Winston Bambrick, Fisheries Technician
- Gerald William, Fisheries Technician

We've also partnered with experts for specific projects and programs:

- Andrea Sterling, Biologist: Water Quality and Quantity (WQQ) Program; Conservation Hatchery Feasibility and Emergency Enhancement
- John Hagen, Conservation Biologist: Chilcotin Steelhead
- Gottfried Pestal, Quantitative Biologist: Biological Benchmarks
- Aimee Arsenault, Fisheries Communications Lead



Our heartfelt congratulations to Michelle Tung! She had a baby girl on April 10. While Michelle is on parental leave, JP LaPlante is filling in on the strategic/governance side of things. Michelle has been the “engine and the glue” for TNG Fisheries and her absence is really felt on our team! These are big shoes to fill.



Photo 1: Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Manager; Pete Nicklin, Fisheries Biologist; Winston Bambrick, Fisheries Technician; and Aimee Arsenault, Fisheries Communications.

Salmon Post-Season Analysis (2019-2020)

We're working on analyzing and sharing post-season information from 2019 and 2020. It takes a long time to fully compile Jaś (Chinook) and Tse'man (sockeye) information because it comes from so many different sources. We're analyzing TNG fisheries data along with information from both the US and Canada. The fisheries team will be sharing information with TNG leadership and communities as part of our regular communications.

As we all know, 2020 was a very difficult year in many ways—and salmon were no exception. Returns hit record low numbers, and the continued impact from the Big Bar Landslide was a “crisis on top of a crisis”. Big Bar continues to be a major concern for salmon in 2021.

Salmon Pre-season Planning (2021)

We're reviewing pre-season forecasts for this year's salmon returns (2021) and DFO's proposed management approaches. We met with Fisheries Minister staff and senior DFO to express TNG's serious concerns about declining salmon over the past 2 years, and to remind Canada of their commitments under

the Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement.

We also submitted a detailed response to DFO's Salmon IFMP (Integrated Fisheries Management Plan) expressing ongoing concern and the urgent need for DFO to strengthen management measures and recovery efforts for salmon.

T̓silhqot'in Leadership, TNG senior staff and TNG Fisheries are fighting hard for T̓silhqot'in salmon and fisheries. Our team is grateful for the support from Leadership in these difficult last 2 years.

Field Projects:

It's a difficult time for salmon, but TNG is proactive in advancing Nation-wide rebuilding objectives and priorities. Fieldwork season is April to November, so we've been busy planning for our many 2021 field projects and the salmon return. Here's a summary of our field projects:

T̓silhqox (Chilko) Smolt Project:

A collaboration between TNG Fisheries and DFO to count migrating juvenile Ts̓eman (sockeye). In the past we've relied on the smolt fence, which is a problem when water is too high to put in the fence. This year we're testing a new SONAR system to compare with the smolt fence. If successful, it can be used when water levels are high.



Photo 2: T̓silhqox Ts̓eman (Chilko sockeye) smolt fence operating with a TNG and DFO crew that includes TNG Fisheries Technicians Winston Bambrick and Gerald William.

T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Program:

The smolt release on April 14 was a success! 30,000 smolts from 2019 brood/parent stock were released. The CWT program is important to our science work because it allows us to track juvenile Ja̓s (Chinook). We put tiny metal tags in the noses of Ja̓s babies. Once we release them, we can track where they go in the ocean, how many are being harvested in marine and river fisheries, and their overall survival before they return to the river to spawn in 2023 and 2024.



Photo 3: T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) Coded Wire Tag (CWT) smolt release on April 14, 2021 (Henry's Crossing). 30,000 tagged Ja̓s (chinook) smolts were released. We'll track where they go in the ocean, how many are harvested, and their overall survival.

Tislagh (steelhead) counts:

Helicopter flights are planned for May and June to count spawners in the T̓silhqox (Chilko) River. Ground surveys will be done to count them in Elkin Creek. In the fall and winter, we'll do genetics work to understand Tislagh (steelhead) interactions with resident rainbow trout—the same species but with a different life history! We're also hoping to tag adult Tislagh from the fish field at Big Bar to learn more about their upstream migration to their spawning grounds.

Emergency Enhancement:

TNG meets regularly with DFO and other First Nations to plan for 2021 Ja̓s (Chinook) and Ts̓eman (sockeye) emergency enhancement to support the recovery and rebuilding of stocks impacted by the Big Bar Landslide.

Healthy Watersheds Initiative – Water Quality and Quantity Program (WQQ):

The WQQ program was identified by TNG Leadership as a priority and is part of the 5-year Fisheries Action Plan. This program is a collaborative effort between TNG Fisheries and TNG Rangers. Shout out to the Rangers who went above and beyond to check site access ahead of the April field visits!



Photo 4: Xeni Gwet'in Ranger Bruce Lulua at Nemiah Creek, water monitoring site evaluation for the WQQ program.

WQQ objectives for 2021:

1. Establish 8-10 initial stations in critical T̄silhqot'in salmon nursery areas.
2. Build TNG capacity in water monitoring.
3. Establish indicators for watershed health, including climate change impacts.
4. Complement existing government stations for more comprehensive water monitoring.

Fisheries Technician Leonard English is now training on Aquarius, a specialized database to house and analyze water data. From April to June, we're working on site evaluation and training for new monitoring stations. In July we'll work on station installation, and monitoring will be active throughout the fall and winter.

This program provides baseline salmon habitat data and critical information for emergency enhancement activities (conservation/rebuilding). Gathering, consolidating and managing water data in-house also supports data sovereignty (ownership and control of data), which is critical to responding to climate change and other impacts on fish and habitat.

We look forward bringing folks out into the field to see the stations in action in the fall!

Photo 5: TNG Fisheries Coordinator Leonard English at Chilanko River, water monitoring site evaluation for the WQQ program.



This project is supported through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, delivered by the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC, with financial support from the Province of BC as part of its \$10-billion COVID-19 response.

Other upcoming fieldwork activities and events:

Spring 2021:

- Gwedés Chežqox Jaš (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) fry release (May 6) – see photos!
- Chežich'ed Biny (Chilcotin Lake) Habitat Restoration Project Site Assessment (May 5)

Summer-Fall 2021:

- Chežqox (Chilcotin River) SONAR assessment and test fishery: TNG Fisheries will assess Ts'eman (sockeye) and Jaš (chinook) migration into the Chežqox (Chilcotin), T̄silhqox (Chilko) and Dasiqox (Taseko) Rivers (July-August)
- Dasiqox (Taseko River) SONAR Project: TNG Fisheries, with support from the TNG Rangers, will monitor returning Dasiqox Ts'eman (Taseko sockeye) and Jaš (Chinook) via SONAR as they migrate to their spawning beds (August)
- TNG Fisheries Catch Monitoring Program (July-September)
- Gwedés Chežqox (Upper Chilcotin) Emergency

Enhancement: Ja̓s (Chinook) brood capture for emergency enhancement for conservation/rebuilding (July-August)

- Helicopter counts of Che̓qox (Little Chilcotin), Elkin, and T̓ilhqox (Chilko) Ts̓eman (sockeye) and Ja̓s (Chinook) (August-September)
- T̓ilhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) mark and recapture, T̓ilhqox Ts̓eman (Chilko sockeye) SONAR counts (August-September)
- T̓ilhqox Ts̓eman Dalkw'ish (Chilko coho) helicopter counts (November)

Thank you for reading our fisheries update. As we approach the 2021 fishing season, we'll be sure to keep folks up to date on TNG fisheries activities and the state of T̓ilhqot'in salmon.

Sechanalyagh!

Randy Billyboy & Team

Executive Lead

Jay Nelson

I hope Spring (ʔEghulhts'en) is starting to warm your spirit after such a long, challenging winter. Here at TNG, we are concluding our annual performance reviews and it is a good time to reflect and take stock, and plan for the year ahead. Once again, I am so inspired by our team at TNG: each team member commits their heart fully to the work that they do for the communities and is dedicated to bringing about positive change. You'll see several exciting projects and achievements in this newsletter, along with a schedule of virtual community meetings on a number of topics.

You may have heard recently about a national “clean water” class action lawsuit that First Nations in Ontario and Manitoba filed against the Government of Canada. This lawsuit seeks damages from Canada for its failure to provide safe and clean water to communities on reserve. This class action was “certified” by the courts recently, which means that it will proceed on behalf of everyone in the “class” – in this case, all First Nations people who lived on reserve during a water advisory (e.g. “boil water” advisory) that lasted more than one year since 1995. All of the T̓silhqot̓in communities have had water advisories for longer than a year since 1995, so members living in community during those periods are automatically part of the class and eligible for a portion of any damages or settlement that result from the lawsuit. I have included a Q+A about that class action for your information and will provide updates as it proceeds. (See pages 17 & 18 of the newsletter)



ʔEghulhts'en ʔelagi xanelhyish: flowers grow in the Spring. I try to clear my mind each morning on a walk with our adventurous little dog, and lately the wildflowers are in full bloom. I hope you and your family are feeling that positive change in the air. I am looking forward to the work ahead, I believe that in the months to come we will see more and more signs of transformation as the hard work and commitment of the T̓silhqot̓in over the past years, decades and generations continues to bloom. Gwetaghunt'ih.

Jay Nelson
Executive Lead



Schedule A

Legal Notice

Are You a Member of a First Nation That Has Been Subject To A Long-Term Drinking Water Advisory?

A Lawsuit May Affect You and Your First Nation. Please Read this Carefully.

You could be affected by class action litigation regarding the lack of access to clean drinking water on First Nations reserves.

The Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench and the Federal Court of Canada decided that a class action on behalf of a "Class" of both First Nations and band members may proceed. Band members can choose whether to stay in the Class. First Nations can choose whether to join the Class. There is no money available now and no guarantee that the class action will succeed.

The Courts appointed Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Chief Doreen Spence, Curve Lake First Nation, Chief Emily Whetung, Neskantaga First Nation, and Chief Christopher Moonias to act as representative Plaintiffs for the Class.

What is this case about?

This class action asserts that Canada breached its obligations by failing to ensure that First Nations communities had adequate access to clean drinking water. The class action asserts that members of these communities and the communities themselves were harmed emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually. The class action asserts that Canada has breached its fiduciary duties, its duty of care, and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Court has not decided whether any of these assertions are true. If there is no settlement, the Plaintiffs will have to prove their claims in Court.

If you have questions about this class action, you can contact **Eric Khan** 1(800) 538-0009 or info@classaction2.com.

Who represents the class?

The Court has appointed McCarthy Tétrault LLP and Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP to represent the Class as "Class Counsel". You do not have to pay Class Counsel, or anyone else, to participate. If Class Counsel obtains money or benefits for the Class they may ask for lawyers' fees and costs, which would be deducted from any money or benefits recovered for Class members.

Individuals Class Members: Who is included and who is excluded?

Band Members Included: The Class includes band members (as defined by the *Indian Act*): (a) whose reserve was subject to a drinking water advisory (such as a boil water advisory, etc.) that lasted at least one year at any time from November 20, 1995 to the present; (b) had not died before November 20, 2017; and (c) ordinarily lived on their reserve.

Band Members Excluded: Members of the Tsuu T'ina Nation, Sucker Creek First Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, the Blood Tribe, Okanagan Indian Band, and Michael Darryl Isnardy are excluded from this class action.

Individuals: What are your options?

Stay in the Class: To stay in the Class, you do not have to do anything. If the Class obtains money or benefits, Class Counsel will give notice about how to ask for your share. You will be legally bound by all orders and judgments, and you will not be able to sue Canada about the legal claims in this case.

Staying in the Class will not impact the supports received from community-based agencies that are funded by any government.

Get out of the Class: If you do not want to participate in this class action litigation, you need to remove yourself by opting out. If you opt out, you cannot get money or benefits from this litigation. To opt out, please visit [NTD: Insert Administrator's website for this action] to obtain an opt out coupon, or write to CA2 Inc., 9 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B2 requesting to be removed from this class action. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and signature. **Your request to opt out must be sent by [NTD: 120 days from the date of the first publication of notice].**

First Nations: What are your options?

Elect to join the Class: First Nations that wish to join the Class and assert claims on behalf of their community must take action to opt in. To opt in, or to seek more information, please contact the Administrator at 1(800)538-0009 or info@classaction2.com. First Nations may also contact Class Counsel Stephanie Willsey (toll free: 1-877-244-7711; swillsey@mccarthy.ca) or Class Counsel Kevin Hille ((416) 598-3694; khille@oktlaw.com). **Your request to opt in must be sent no later than 120 days before Class members' claims are determined.**

How Can I Get More Information?

Name of Administrator: CA2

Contact Information: 1(800)538-0009 or info@classaction2.com

Getting Information To People Who Need It

The representative Plaintiffs and Class Counsel ask for the help of health care workers, social workers, First Nations community leaders, family members, caregivers and friends of Class members in getting information to Class members who would have trouble reading or understanding this notice. More information about this lawsuit is available at the website or by contacting the Administrator. Please show this notice to people who may be impacted by this lawsuit or their caregivers.

Senior Advisor, Housing & Infrastructure

Shawn Wiebe



As nice as it is to have had such a beautiful and warm April, it is unfortunate that it has to result in flooding and road wash-outs as a result of the rapid snow melt combined with the already saturated ground due to the heavy fall rains we received last year. As Sherry and I are moving off of our ranch near Horsefly to a smaller, more manageable property closer to Williams Lake we have had to deal with similar issues that most of our communities have been struggling with including long detours due to the Horsefly Road washout, sink holes that nearly swallow a truck and trailer and living in a constant state of disarray with as we slowly get unpacked and try to create organization at our new home. The road washouts, terrible gravel roads and detours have really given me a new appreciation of what many of you face on a daily basis. On the positive side, we are really looking forward to a much shorter drive to work, less animals to look after and faster internet as we were able to get in on the beta testing of Starlink Internet services. This is a huge improvement from our previous internet provider Xplornet.

I recently presented to the Chiefs to discuss a path forward with the Federal Housing Investment and with the number of contributing factors, the most impactful being the pandemic, we have not been able to complete the data collection that is required to formulate a fair distribution of the Federal Housing Funds so we are working with the Housing Managers, Band Managers and Housing Portfolio Councilors from each community with a goal to collect all the data and present a Distribution Strategy by this time next year. While this is happening, we will be building and strengthening partnerships as well as building the capacity of the Construction Management Company. While the data collection and meetings with leadership in each Community is happening to develop the Distribution Strategy for the Federal Housing Investment we will begin with 3 renovations or a number of new roofs in each community along with the other Community led projects supported by the

Nation Construction Management Company. This will allow us to build capacity, create careers for Nation Members, develop community specific home designs for each community, and allow Communities to develop policies that support a sustainable housing program.

We are also looking at ways to improve communications so we are working with the communications team and former Chief Russel Ross on some new communications materials and strategies to keep everyone better informed on Housing & Infrastructure. While we have been presenting to leadership in each Community in person or with Zoom, we will also be developing a process for information sessions with community members and we are hopeful that we can find a way to make these more interactive.

Shawn Wiebe
Senior Advisor, Housing & Infrastructure

Administrative Assistant

Bridget Rosette

Carpentry Foundation Training Program

Our Carpentry program is coming to an end on May 20, 2021. It has been a long haul for our students with having to extend the program for 5 weeks due to COVID. They are looking forward to finishing and start working. The students will be working with TNG's Employment Coordinator, Tiana Johnny to create or update their résumés before graduation. There are carpentry positions coming up within the Nation and all the students were encouraged to submit their résumé as they will be priority.



We have still been able to bring our monthly lunches to the students, though only a couple of the housing staff can attend due to COVID. The lunches give everyone an opportunity to visit (at a distance) and it is great to hear what the students are learning and what projects they have done or are working on. We just had our last lunch on April 27th and we had KFC, nobody had a birthday in April, so we changed up our desert with pie and ice cream. The students had a self test that morning and during lunch were reviewing the answers. At each lunch we like to have guest speakers attend to give a little speech to the class. For this lunch we had Jenny Philbrick, TNG's Executive Director and Pat France, one of TNG's Construction Superintendents to address the students. Jenny gave a warm, supportive speech on how everyone is so proud of each and everyone who is in the program, addressing the challenges they have overcome, including COVID, how TNG is here to support them even after the program is over with résumé building, job search and just being there if they have any questions or concerns. Pat shared a bit about how he got into construction, how he started at the bottom sweeping floors, and he regrets not getting his Red Seal and encouraged everyone to continue with their education to get theirs, how awesome it is to see a female in the class, and told us in Alberta, where Pat is from, there is an all female Construction business.

A graduation is being planned for the students to showcase their accomplishments and to give them all recognition of what they have done. Everyone involved in making this Carpentry program a success is very proud of everyone in this program!



Photo 1: Footing Formwork



Photo 2: Footing Bracing



Photo 3: Forming Bulkhead

Asset Management Coordinator

Elio Ibrahim

As my journey with the T̓silhqot̓in National Government (TNG) has come to an end as I am moving to a new job and city for personal reasons, I would to convey my appreciation to everyone I met here since September of 2020. It is for sure difficult to leave an employer or should I say a family like TNG.



During my tenure at TNG, I have worked on centralizing the infrastructure data of the T̓silhqot̓in communities through creating an inventory for infrastructure owned and operated by the communities, as a first step in the Nation level asset management program. The data collected was also used to build the foundation of a level of service framework and a risk framework for infrastructure services. These developed frameworks would help communities assess the infrastructure performance and risk associated with infrastructure service which would enable them to better plan, prioritize infrastructure investments, and build business cases for funding. Furthermore, I put together training funding applications that were successful such as: the “Operationalizing Asset Management” and “levels of Service Workshop” courses funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which allowed the Housing and Infrastructure team at TNG and community members to work with industry experts and other local governments, including the City of New Westminster and the Cariboo Regional District on overcoming barriers to desired asset management practices. The work performed by our team in the “Operationalizing Asset Management” course is going to be published as a case study in the very near future.

I was also able to help TNG build connections with organizations in the asset management community of practice such as Asset Management BC, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, engineering firms, and the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative thanks to the support of the Housing and Infrastructure team. I hope that these connections would result in

more collaboration and opportunities for TNG and T̓silhqot̓in communities in the future.

In the last few weeks, I’ve been working on scoping, collecting, and reviewing proposals for an infrastructure capacity assessment project that would allow the communities to know what more infrastructure is needed to build more homes. The technical preparation for the project has been done and the project scope is to be presented to communities for approval and support. I’ve been also drafting an asset management strategy and roadmap to serve as a 3-year work plan and to help in transitioning the Asset Management Coordinator role to a future employee.

Sechanalhyagh everyone,
Elio Ibrahim
Asset Management Coordinator

Housing Project Manager

Jackson Crick



As April comes to an end and the days are getting longer, I am glad to see the last of the ice disappear from the lake and I am really looking forward to getting out on the lake on my kayak. Here are some of the projects that I am working on.

BC Housing’s Housing Assessment Pilot Project

Including the T̓silhqot̓in Nation there are four Indigenous Nations participating in the BC Housing Assessment Pilot Project. The goals are to establish a steering committee, prepare a work plan and prepare our working group for training in software and housing assessments. The house assessments will give us an evaluation that we can use for negotiations with the federal/provincial governments, strategic planning for communities and will give us a more accurate picture of what our housing needs are for renovations and new homes in each community. We have monthly online lunch and learn sessions on a variety of topics offered to anyone interested in housing issues in our

communities. I recently participated in a Sharing Knowledge series to discuss the Housing Assessment Pilot project and access to the online recording of that discussion is being made available to the participating Nations. Mapping needs to be completed in Tl'etinqox, Tlesqox, Tsidedel and ?Esdilagh in order to get the baseline data information to for the housing assessment software.

The Housing Solutions Lab

I am working with former Chief Russell Ross on this project that was led by Yunesit'in Government and is a partnership with Tsilhqot'in National Government, Ecotrust Canada and RADIUS-SFU to discuss pathways to sustainable housing solutions in the communities. Created with the intention of facilitating a space for community members and partners to share knowledge and information, generate ideas, and develop solutions to collectively overcome housing-related challenges. The Housing Solutions Lab will work together with community and leadership to create housing solutions, bridge community actions and projects with the Nation and develop documents relevant for communities and the Nation. We had our first workshop on March 17. We have a follow-up workshop planned for May 13.

First Nation Market Housing Fund (the Fund)

I am working with each community to assist with the application process in order to access the Capacity Development Program. The Fund's Capacity Development Program supports Nation building, governments, and citizens to make use of the Credit Enhancement Facility on a sustained basis. Establishing a governance framework that includes laws, policies, codes, and practices that are clear, well understood, implemented by qualified people, and most importantly trusted by its citizens. The Fund's broad range of capacity development products are tailored to the local needs of First Nations to support their journey to a sustainable housing system.

Energy Assessments for 3 renovation houses in each community

I am working with an Energy advisor to scheduled an energy assessment for 3 homes in each of the 5 participating communities throughout the month of May. These assessments will provide a baseline assessment on what it takes to improve the energy efficiency of our homes by 25%. This energy efficiency

improvement is intended to be incorporated into our renovations in order to bring our homes into closer alignment with the BC Building Code as well as open up other funding opportunities.

Jackson Crick
Housing Project Manager

Construction Manager

Sherry Wiebe



Hello all,
Happy spring! As we gear up for renovations and new construction in Communities, the two new Construction Superintendents (Eric Davies & Pat France) that were mentioned in the previous newsletter have now started; currently we're advertising for more Superintendents to manage upcoming construction projects, as well as an Estimator/Purchaser so that we can develop quicker costing estimates and create coordinated purchasing of construction materials to take advantage of our buying power at a Nation level. We're also in the final stages of hiring a Training Coordinator to set up and manage trades training for deni.

The Carpentry Foundation students will be graduating this month which will be perfect timing to help out with the upcoming construction projects. Watch for 'help wanted' advertising in Communities – we will need deni with carpentry experience, as well as general help that have no carpentry experience. If you or someone you know are interested in working with the TNG construction management company to create and improve housing in the Tsilhqot'in communities, please send a resume to Tiana Johnny, Employment Coordinator at tiana@tsilhqotin.ca or call her at (250) 392-3918.

As COVID protocols are changing and allowing us to move forward with new home construction and renovations, we are starting 5 RRAP renos at Anaham this week, followed by rebuild of a partial fire loss in that community as well as construction of foundations for the 6 new homes at Xenigwet'in through the Rapid Housing Initiative.

COVID has created shortages of many different construction products and the effects of the freezing weather in Texas in February are also being felt. Many plastic related products needed in the construction world including resin are produced in Texas. Resin is a binding agent that is used in adhesives and coatings (paint, plastics etc). Facilities in Texas experienced frozen pipes, resulting in major clean up and repair before production was able to resume, resulting in major shortages and increased prices in everything from paint and roof shingles to hardi plank siding and far beyond these items.

In a year that already had serious challenges worldwide in the manufacturing of construction material, this freeze in Texas has created even more unprecedented issues. And we have yet to realize the impacts of the supply chain disruptions from the cargo ship blocking Suez Canal which certainly will not help matters. With all of that being said, Monisha has been drafting starting points for Tsihqot'in specific houses, we're moving forward with plans for renovations in each of the 6 communities, while being very aware that we want to create the most 'bang for our buck' by not rushing into too much new construction this year and overspending on items that we expect will have reduced costs as supply catches up to demand in the construction world.

Sherry Wiebe
Construction Manager

Construction Superintendent

Pat France



Pat France is one of the Construction Superintendents that recently started working for the TNG construction management company.

He brings over 40 years experience in the construction business as a subcontractor, project manager/supervisor.

Pat was born in Edmonton Alberta, moved to the USA as a baby and returned to Alberta when he was 10 yrs old (many moons ago). He graduated from high school in 1977 and entered the workforce that summer

working construction in the summer and working in the oil patch in the winter months.

After doing this routine for 6 years Pat decided to concentrate solely on the construction trade. In 1988 he formed his own framing and renovation company. More recently the company has been doing new construction and renovations in both residential and commercial applications. When Pat moved to BC to work with TNG, he entrusted his two sons to run the company in his absence.

Pat is considered to be a go getter and hard worker who takes pride in his work and treats every project as if he was building it for himself. He isn't intimidated by any construction project regardless of size, complexity or budget.

In his prime Pat was extremely active in sports hockey, baseball, football, tennis, biking and taekwando but a rash of injuries has limited his participation in these disciplines.

Pat has been coaching hockey for 30 years, with the last 5 years at the junior level in Alberta. He has seen a number of his former players take their talents to the NCAA and the pros.

Pat's new love is his pal Duke, an American bulldog who is 2 ½ years old. He brought Duke along with him to TNG/BC (against the protests of both of his sons).

Pat is looking forward to the challenges that come with relocating to a new region and the start up of the new construction management company within TNG.
GO OILERS!!!!

Pat France
Construction Superintendent

Construction Superintendent

Eric Davies



Eric Davies is one of the new Construction Superintendents for the Tsilhqotin National Government. Eric was born and raised in the West Point Grey area of Vancouver. Here he spent his youth growing up in the family home and graduating from his local high school. The passion for working with wood started young when his mother owned and operated an antique shop. Eric married and moved to Ladner, BC, a small and quaint fishing and farming village. Here he raised three sons and operated his construction business as a sole proprietorship. Eric contracted to many high profile construction companies. He has supervised projects from start to finish, and also focused on building custom homes and residential renovations. Eric's pride could always be found in the heritage home restorations and finishing work on these projects in the Vancouver area.

Eric and his family moved to the Chilcotin 15 years ago to Big Creek where they owned and operated Teepee Heart Guest Ranch. This is where they began to experience close relationships with some of the local Tsilhqotin people, familiarized with their culture and language. During this wonderful chapter of their lives, Eric continued his contracting business in the lower mainland during the ranch off season.

After living the family dream out West, Eric and his wife moved to a ranch in Springhouse. Today he enjoys the country lifestyle of farming horse quality hay. Eric has always been an avid sports fan. He played many sports growing up and coached his son's soccer teams. His other interests are fishing, hiking, trail riding, refinishing antiques, and pretty much anything to do with the great outdoors. Eric is very excited to grow with the TNG team and looks forward to a bright future.

Eric Davies
Construction Superintendent

Building Our Strength - Our Way



Federal Vs. T'silhqot'in

Federal Gov. Way

Communities must apply for funding on their own with restrictions and no guarantees.

Communities must apply for housing money from Federal Gov. with no promise of getting it.

No funding for capacity development (housing managers, architects, admin).

Only partial payment provided for new homes.

Less money available means lower quality and unsafe homes are built and renovated.

Some communities have built few or no homes in 20+ years.



T'silhqot'in Way

Nation negotiated much more funding, with far fewer restrictions, than communities have ever seen.

Nation receives more funds than ever provided in history for the benefit of the communities.

Funding available for capacity development and investment in training.

Opportunity for fully funded new homes of high quality.

Increased amount of money allows for T'silhqot'in specific designs, use of T'silhqot'in products, T'silhqot'in employment and safe and sustainable homes.

Housing builds and major renovations planned for all communities.

Senior Advisor, Tsilhqot'in Nen

J.P. Laplante

Hi folks,

The Nen Team wishes everyone a safe and happy Spring. I am definitely enjoying having the long warm days to get outside. Here are some updates from our team, and my apologies for missing the Winter newsletter due to some time away.



Gwets'en Nilt'i Implementation

Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement implementation continues, with a focus on particular projects that communities have been working on. Broader engagement has been focused on the Province, and includes setting up focused discussion on elements from the "nen" pathway of the Agreement. You can find it here on pages 32-40. Contact me if you don't have a copy and would like one.

Some changes to our team occurred early in 2021. First, we welcomed Cynthia Fell to our team in a new position entitled Resource Management Coordinator. Cynthia brings lots of technical expertise and is excited to apply that knowledge to our work for the Nation. We also said farewell to Becky Bravi, who had been our Nen Planning Coordinator at TNG since 2020. Lastly, Shane Doddridge has stepped back from almost-full-time to part-time in order to finish his Master's research and thesis.

Fisheries

The Nen team plays a support role to the Fisheries Dpt. at TNG. We have been in particular focused on serious concerns the team has with proposed new fisheries management measures for Jas (chinook), and the pre-feasibility work towards establishing a Tsilhqot'in hatchery. We remain on high alert due to the alarming declines in Tsilhqot'in salmon and steelhead stocks, made worse by Big Bar.

Gibraltar Appeal

I have continued to support ?Esdilagh and TNG in the appeal of an amended discharge permit that allowed for increased discharge from Gibraltar Mine to the Fraser River just below ?Esdilagh. This has been a significant area of work because we had

Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) hearings from March 15th and they continue into May, finishing with closing oral arguments on May 20 and May 21. You can watch the hearing via livestream at the EAB's website: http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/hearing_schedules/index.htm

Nen Planning

The nen planning continues, with Nen Coordinators established in the 6 communities. There is a need to back-fill the TNG Nen Planning Coordinator position ASAP, but in the meantime, I've been doing my best to support the communities to advance their projects.

Work with Neighbours

Working with neighbouring Nations to foster stronger relationships remains one of our top priorities.

Meetings with neighbours continue but have been impacted by COVID and our collective busy schedules. We expect this work to continue through the Spring and Summer.

J.P. Laplante

Senior Advisor, Tsilhqot'in Nen

Resource Management Coordinator

Cynthia Fell



Over the last few months, I have been gradually getting to know more staff at TNG and within communities and becoming more familiar with the many projects and programs that are running. For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Cynthia and I am the Resource Management Coordinator on the Nen Team. I am an agrologist and worked for a number of years as a research biologist. I have experience in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem management. I completed a Natural Resources Sciences Degree with Co-op Distinction from Thompson Rivers University and have 14 years of work experience in resource management including: forest and range management, fish and wildlife management, soil and water management, fire ecology and rehabilitation. I am happy to be part of the team here at TNG.

A few things I have been focussed on over the past few months include:

- Conducting an environmental scan of T̓silhqot̓in Territory to inform Category B work and working on data management and data sharing with the Province
- Working collaboratively with TNGs Stewardship department to ensure decisions made by the province support the TN-BC vision including collaboration on the Timber Supply Review
- Working with the Nen Team, communities and the province on Cultural Heritage Resource management
- Establishing an approach to develop a made in T̓silhqot̓in Environmental Assessment and collaborating with UBC on Cumulative Effects Research

that will include site protection measures, archaeology policy, museum repatriation, and so on. I hope to be back working for TNG full time this fall.

My master's research interviews have been on hold since the pandemic has reached us, but I am still able to do place name interviews online or over the phone. If you would like to learn more or participate in this study, give me a shout! Phone: 250-649-6662 or Email: shane.doddridge@gmail.com.

Shane Doddridge
Cultural Heritage Coordinator

Made in T̓silhqot̓in Environmental Assessment

We will be launching a virtual introduction to this project in early June. The purpose of this project is to develop an Environmental Assessment reflective of T̓silhqot̓in values in order to support communities and with respect for T̓silhqot̓in rights and title. This Environmental Assessment Framework will cover the T̓silhqot̓in Nation's decision-making process, decision-making criteria for deciding whether to consent to proposed projects, and T̓silhqot̓in thresholds or criteria for deciding which projects require EAs.

Resource Management Coordinator
Cynthia Fell

Cultural Heritage Coordinator Shane Doddridge

Hello everyone. I'm currently working hard on my schoolwork these days, so my time with TNG is minimal. However, we are continuing to work hard to develop a strategic road-map for cultural heritage protection



Education Manager

J. Randolph Radney, Ph.D.



ʔEgults'en gwezlin gwanisni!
As signs of spring become more evident in the region, leaders in higher education and language programs are at their busiest. Trades and academic planners are trying to forecast what the coming school year will look like as more classroom instruction is planned. As we enter a second year of physical distancing to curb the spread of COVID, visionary T̓silhqot'in leaders and language teachers are putting together online courses to help TNG people learn to speak properly. Many communities have begun new training programs, while other programs, like the carpentry training, near completion.

It's now several months since my last report, and all of us on the education team are still yearning to get out to communities and hear from people. Now that we have received our initial doses of vaccine, we have been given permission to visit where we have been invited, and we hope to begin these visits very soon. It has been too long since I heard T̓silhqot'in spoken in the same room where I was!

Among many things I can report, we had a successful initial meeting with administrators at TRU, with a dean promising to continue to offer remote instruction so that students can attend courses taught in classrooms in Williams Lake and Kamloops via internet connection without leaving their home communities. Baldev Pooni, the dean for the Williams Lake campus of TRU and of the Trades programs at TRU assured me he would support such remote offering of courses even after the classroom programs resume this coming fall.



His opinion was that any course taught in classrooms of TRU (either campus) at any level or in any subject should be available to students who have a reliable internet connection.

Now, in all this visionary talk of remote education, I am very aware that an opportunity is not the same as success. Remote education is hard, and the mere opportunity to learn does not provide all the necessary tools for learning. Many of you could be facing situations where you don't have all these learning tools, and it would help me if you would let me know your situation, so I can better understand the learning supports we need to develop for TNG communities.



All the talk about learning challenges can make it seem like we are discouraged, but we have a great deal to celebrate. The first-of-its-kind language fluency degree program has been inaugurated in BC this year, a cooperative program between the En'owkin Centre, UBCO, and NVIT that will see students able to receive a BA in the Syilx language. Programs in other regions of BC are being adapted to serve other languages similarly and in cooperation with other universities, so we may one day see students graduate universities in BC with a degree in T̓silhqot'in fluency, where their learning on the land as well as online and in the classroom is properly recognized by academic authorities.

In addition to partnership opportunities being explored with TRU and NVIT, we are also meeting with UBC and other universities regarding partnership opportunities. Although it is still very much 'early days' in these meetings, possibilities abound. Also, I am excited to hear of funding granted to many of the member communities for curriculum development, training courses and programs, and other exciting initiatives. My own involvement in these great things has been very marginal, but I rejoice that so much hard work is being recognized and rewarded at

the community level. There is a lot to celebrate in language and adult education!

I also want to report how helpful Jody Nishima and J.P. LaPlante have been as I come to understand my role in education at TNG. Having Lisa Boyd and Sherry Stump on the education team here at TNG has been a pleasure, as well, since they have talents and understanding that I lack in many areas. In addition, the TNG Nits'il?in Qi have supported and sustained me with their counsel and wisdom. I have particularly benefited from the advice of Nits'il?in Jimmy Lulua, Nits'il?in Francis Laceese, Nits'il?in Otis Guichon, and Nits'il?in Troy Baptiste. Each of these men have helped me on separate occasions, so I want to acknowledge their specific help individually as well as together with the other Nits'il?in Qi. Recently, as my role has become more known at TNG and the member communities, I have begun to receive individual requests to help with courses, programs, and long-range education plans, both from office staff and community members, and I find this exciting and fulfilling. Please contact me if you have a training goal in mind and want someone to talk with about your plans. With the weather moderating, several people have also dropped by my home just to visit; this is greatly appreciated!

Sechanalhyagh! Nanexwenuwēs?in!

Randy Radney, PhD
Education Manager - Adult & Language Programs

Education Manager

Lisa Boyd



Benen Gwets'enedish (May)
We are approaching a new season and more reason to be outdoors taking in the sun. The last haul for all students in completing their last semester or term for the summer. Although this has been a trying year for students, parents, educators and support staff in all educational settings. We have managed to pull through our first year of school in a COVID pandemic with support from BC health authorities to improve health safety guidelines on hygiene, physical distancing, masks, and contact tracing communication. As well as, parents

teaching their child(ren) the importance of following health guidelines so they can have a safe school year.

An update on what I have been doing since the last report, I have attended the Tsilhqot'in National Government Community updates via zoom to introduce myself and to be available for any questions regarding Education in Early Childhood and K-12 programs. It was a pleasure to see community members attend the online sessions as it isn't our normal community visits. I am looking forward to future community visits when it is safe to do so. The education department has been working with School District 27 in areas of communication and relationship building. School District 27 have acknowledged the beauty of the Tsilhqot'in land and have planned field trips to view the Tsilhqot'in educational opportunities like Farewell and the solar farm. I would like to acknowledge and thank the TNG staff who took on the opportunity out of their busy schedules to be available for the students of school district 27. I hear it from fellow teachers, how excited they are to go out on the land.

In addition to educational opportunities, the education team has been working with the education coordinators to plan for a nation graduation and what that would look like virtually. We want to make it a special day for all graduates in high school, and post-secondary following COVID guidelines. I look forward to working the communities and meeting the graduates.

In closing, I would like to share what I have been doing for my own educational journey. I completed my course in "Matriarchs in Training" on April 26, 2021 with a great group of strong women and wonderful instructors. One of our assignments was to write a vow, a promise to ourselves and why I am a matriarch. Of all the academic courses I have taken this was the hardest to do because I had to take off my teacher hat. I learned to believe in myself and my fellow classmates by saying affirmations, be in the moment – meditation and take time to yourself. Here is my vow: "I am connected to the sacred element earth. I am powerful knowing I carry my knowledge to share. I promise to embrace all gifts that have crossed my path. I walk with my matriarchs. I am a matriarch."

Sechanalhyagh. Nanexwenuwēs?in!

Lisa Boyd
Education Manager, ECE and K-12 Programs

Communications Manager

Jacey Warne



I am definitely echoing all of the excitement from my co-workers about Spring finally being here. This is my first year planting a garden and I am super excited to see all of my flowers and veggies grow! My husband Mitchell, yes, the TNG Biologist, built some frames for our garden and I supervised!



Photo 1: Garden in the making

Photo 2: Garden planted

April marks a new fiscal year at TNG, so all of the departments have been in full reporting mode for the last month or so including the Communications department. I actually enjoy the fiscal year-end because it is an opportunity to reflect back on the year and recognize all that the Nation has accomplished, identify areas that need worked on and make goals for the future.

Citizen Engagement Meeting Schedule

One area that has been challenging over the last year was citizen engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was very grateful that Daana Gilpin assisted the Communications department to get us through the year and hosted the citizen engagement sessions for TNG. This year I wanted all of the TNG departments to commit to a schedule for citizen engagement and for the communities to have more consistent dates and times to join these meetings, as well as know which departments would be presenting at what meetings. Therefore, Communications is now hosting these meetings as a set schedule. Hooray! And I hope you will join us! (Meeting schedule on page 29.)

Public Announcements

In the midst of all the reporting, planning and scheduling, the Communications department also supported the Social Table with its exciting release of the COVID-19 report, Dada Nentsen Gha Yatastig in late March 2021. Chief Joe Alphonse joined UBC researchers Dr. Jocelyn Stacey, Emma Feltes and Crystal Verhaeghe and Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond on a public webinar in early April 2021. If you missed the webinar, you can still watch it online on the UBC Learning Circle website here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6VSdbv3PPw>

We're Hiring!

Lastly, and importantly, TNG Communications is looking to fill the position of Communications Advisor. If you are a great communicator, who is organized, creative and has strong attention-to-detail, we want to hear from you! Please check out the job posting at tsilhqotin.ca and submit your resume, cover letter, references to bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca by Friday, May, 14, 2021 at 4 pm.

Thanks everyone and I hope you are enjoying the springtime!

Jacey Warne
Communications Manager

TNG Citizen Engagement Meetings – May 2021				
Time	(45 mins each)	1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	1:45 pm -2:30 pm	2:30 pm -3:15 pm
Month	Community	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3
May				
Tuesday, May 11th	Esdilagh	Health	Emergency	Fisheries
Thursday, May 13th	Tl'esqox	Health	Emergency	Fisheries
Monday, May 17th	Tl'etinqox	Health	Emergency	Fisheries
Tuesday, May 18th	Tsideldel	Health	Emergency	Fisheries
Tuesday, May 25th	Xeni Gwet'in	Health	Emergency	Fisheries
Thursday, May 27th	Yunesit'in	Health	Emergency	Fisheries

Time	(45 mins each)	1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	1:45 pm -2:30 pm	2:30 pm -3:15 pm
Month	Community	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3
June				
To be announced	Esdilagh	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev
To be announced	Tl'esqox	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev
To be announced	Tl'etinqox	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev
To be announced	Tsideldel	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev
To be announced	Xeni Gwet'in	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev
To be announced	Yunesit'in	Negotiations	Housing	Dandzen/ Ec Dev

Time	(45 mins each)	1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	1:45 pm -2:30 pm	2:30 pm -3:15 pm
Month	Community	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3
July				
To be announced	Esdilagh	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers
To be announced	Tl'esqox	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers
To be announced	Tl'etinqox	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers
To be announced	Tsideldel	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers
To be announced	Xeni Gwet'in	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers
To be announced	Yunesit'in	Governance	DTA	C&E - Rangers

Communications Project Specialist

Myanna Desaulniers



Hi Everyone,
March and April have brought some amazing weather and I hope everyone has been able to be outside in some way.

Tsilhqot'in Photo Books

TNG has another shipment of the Tsilhqot'in Voices Photobook. If you would like to purchase one as a gift or as a form of education (school or otherwise), they are \$35 each and can be bought at the Lakeside office (778-799-2145)

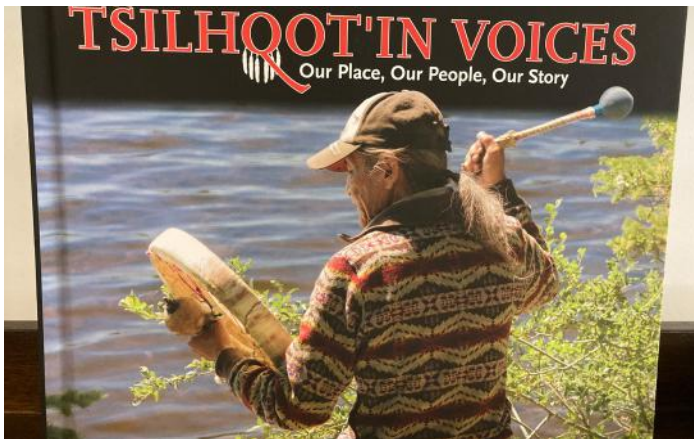


Photo 1: Tsilhqot'in Voices Photo Book

Increasing Awareness

A lot of my work as the Communications Project Specialist is about increasing awareness. There are so many great projects happening through the Nation that it is important that Tsilhqot'in citizens are able to get involved and be aware of the work.

Lately I have been working on the Gibraltar discharge permit appeal as well as helping the TNG Housing & Infrastructure department to raise awareness about their programs and plans.

Comment!

If you have any thoughts on how TNG can improve its communication or any great ideas for holding virtual events – please contact me at myanna@tsilhqotin.ca or 778-799-2145.

Lastly, congrats to Tl'etinqox for the new gas station. The kids and I are loving the ice cream and suckers on our outings there.

Myanna Desaulniers
Communications Project Specialist



Photo 2: Overlooking where the Tsilhqot'in River meets the ʔeldhdaqox River



Photo 3: Big Day Out to the Gas Station

Elders Reviving Traditional Dance

- How does dancing help us be well physically, culturally and emotionally?
- How does traditional dance transmit cultural knowledge, language and identity?
- How is dance important to reviving Tsilhqot'in culture and ceremony?
- Who are the Elders still carrying precious knowledge of Tsilhqot'in traditional dances and music, who may not have had an opportunity to pass on these dances?
- How can this knowledge be passed down in a good and timely way to the Tsilhqot'in youth of today?

These are big questions currently being explored by Elders and youth at Tsideldel community, through the Reviving Traditional Tsilhqot'in Dance Project begun in the spring of 2019. This project was first initiated by Elders (both teachers at Tsideldel School) Edna Lulua and Lina Williams and then came to include the teachings and knowledge of other Elders spanning Tsideldel and Tletincox communities: Angelina Stump, Jeannette Stump, Linda Jack and Ila Lulua (as well as Rose Hunlin supporting with song).

We are forever grateful for the leadership and teachings of these Elders and teachers. Hoping to connect with more Elders in different communities who might remember the dances of previous generations, if you or your family remember any dances we hope you will get in touch with this project so we can integrate your knowledge. That way the youth of tomorrow may benefit. The project is currently being co-coordinated by Crystal Stump (Tsideldel Health staff: tddheadstart@tsideldel.org) and TNG mental wellness counsellor Hana Kamea (hanakameaexpressivearts@gmail.com).



Photo 1: (Left to Right: Jessica Gilpin, Edna Lulua, Lina Williams, Ila Lulua, Angelina Stump and Linda Jack)

Sometimes we have heard community members say “the Tsilhqot'in did not have dances”, and yet through this project as we have begun to connect with Elders, we have found that many do in fact have a visual and body memory of dances as taught by their parents or grandparents or great-grandparents.

It seems that there may well have been quite a few Tsilhqot'in dances, just as there were (and are) many songs with drumming to dance to. This makes sense since cross-culturally all indigenous cultures of the world have dances for events like birth, death/grief, marriage/celebrations, hunting, war, and everyday activities like planting food or collecting berries, and honouring the animals that sustain life.

Could it be that colonialism including 7 generations of residential school child/family separations, church and government influences, and different traumatic events have impacted the flow of this cultural dance knowledge being passed down? This is the question this project has been exploring. We have also been asking how can traditional dance be revived as a wellness practice for communities? We also wish to acknowledge community members who practice Pow-Wow dancing and other traditions.

There is little photographic evidence of the Tsilhqot'in dances in this century past, but there are oral traditions and stories and Elders still alive today with this knowledge in their memory. The “Eagle” dance, The “Moose” dance, The “Berry Picking” dance, The “Blanket Dance” (all of which have Tsilhqot'in language names) the Tsideldel Dancers are currently practicing for cultural revival. We have also heard from one Elder in one community that there used to be dances that would take place the night before a funeral,

in order to “lift the spirit up” after someone had passed away.

Knowledge of the Tsilhqot’in traditional regalia that would have been worn during dances and ceremonies also carries forward. This is something the Elders and youth at Tsidedel have been creating for our newly formed dance troupe, the Tsidedel Dancers, with youth learning to sew and design images and colours that have both personal and cultural meaning.

We have also learned from project guest teacher Jeannette Stump (Tletincox member) that some years ago while visiting Bella Coola, she had been taught a Tsilhqot’in dance by Nuxalk Elders who had remembered the Tsilhqot’in people dancing at events in their community in olden days. These Elders taught Jeannette The “Arrow dance” as they remembered it. We were fortunate to have Jeannette teach a group of youth that dance at Tsidedel School in August 2019.

In January 2020, 12 youth and 8 Elders and adults travelled to Vancouver as invited guests to perform at the First Nations Health Authority conference. The conference theme focused on “Reclaiming”.



Photo 2: Tsidedel Dancers of all ages (and Singers/ Drummers) perform at the First Nations Health Authority conference in Vancouver, January 2020.

World renowned First Nations choreographer Michelle Olson of Raven Spirit Dance Company (of the Tr’ondek Hwech’in First Nation) was instrumental in helping our group to create basic choreography, organizing the dancers into how they might travel in space, how many times they may like to repeat movements and interact with each other, and teaching about how to tell a story through dance. Two days of workshops and rehearsals with Michelle took

place at the Dance Centre in Vancouver, where the youth also got to see youth from all different cultures learning different dance styles. Michelle offered choices for the dance group and Elders to say yes or no to including, and also drew from the movements that dancers were expressing in the moment.

As a group there was consensus amongst the Elders that it was ok to choreograph and embellish these traditional Tsilhqot’in dance movements, and invite the youth to help shape choreography too in preparing for our performances at the Museum of Anthropology. Michelle shared her knowledge of dance of the Interior as well as from her traditions in the Yukon. In her own people’s story she shared that during the 1890s Chief Isaac had known that dances and songs were at risk of being lost during the Goldrush era in the Yukon, as the area was overwhelmed with gold miners and negative impacts of Colonialism. He therefore had the wisdom to ask another community up river to keep and safeguard the songs and dances for his First Nation. Many, many years later when members of Trondek Hwech’in First Nation connected to the people they had entrusted with the keeping of their songs and dances, that community had kept them alive and the songs and dances began to be revived in the TH Nation, according to Michelle.

So perhaps Jeannette Stump’s having being taught a Tsilhqot’in dance by the Bella Coola Elders is similar in nature. We are thankful to Jeannette for sharing this dance and are hoping to continue to research and understand more about Tsihqot’in traditional dance from others who may be carrying this knowledge.



Photo 3: Tsidedel dancers rehearse with support from Michelle, Vancouver Jan 2020

The Tsidedel Dancers learned from Michelle Olson about the value of both preserving intact traditional dances. We also learned that when dance traditions may have been lost somewhat or all the steps are not clear, that it can be ok to also create new movements that tell the story of the Tsilhqot'in community now in the present day. Creating dance is an important practice for emotional healing and supports resiliency after trauma. We also learned that dances can tell important stories of the Tsilhqot'in past, just like a film or book can. With this Reviving Traditional Dance project we want to encourage youth to integrate and honour traditional dance teachings as well as create dance stories for self-expression and healing in today's world.

Sechanalyagh Guzun to TNG Health for its support of this project as well as to Tsidedel Health and Band leadership.

Project co-coordinator Crystal Stump invites requests from other Tsilhqot'in communities for the Tsidedel dancers to participate in their community events. With Covid here, our project had to slow down and pause, but we hope to jumpstart our research and learning in 2021 and again would really welcome hearing from more Elders with knowledge of Tsihqot'i'n traditional dance, or from those who may have learned dances from your Elders.

We plan to be out on the land this summer dancing in community and hope many of you can join us.

With respect,
Crystal Stump and Hana Kamea
Tsidedel Health 250-481-1133

For more reading on reviving traditional dance in other BC First Nations:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/how-indigenous-culture-is-dancing-its-way-into-the-next-generation-1.4556682>

For a visit to Michelle Olson's website at Raven Spirit Dance: <https://ravenspiritdance.com> (they also have [online dance workshops](#))



Photo 4: Rehearsing with Michelle Olson at the Dance Centre in downtown Vancouver, January 2020, before performing at the FNHA Conference



Photo 5: Tsidedel Dancers dancing at the Museum of Anthropology, January 2020



Photo 6: Members of the Tsidedel Dancers and Singers group at the Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver January 2020.