



T̓SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

Benen Neʔed i lh (April) The month the birds come back

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

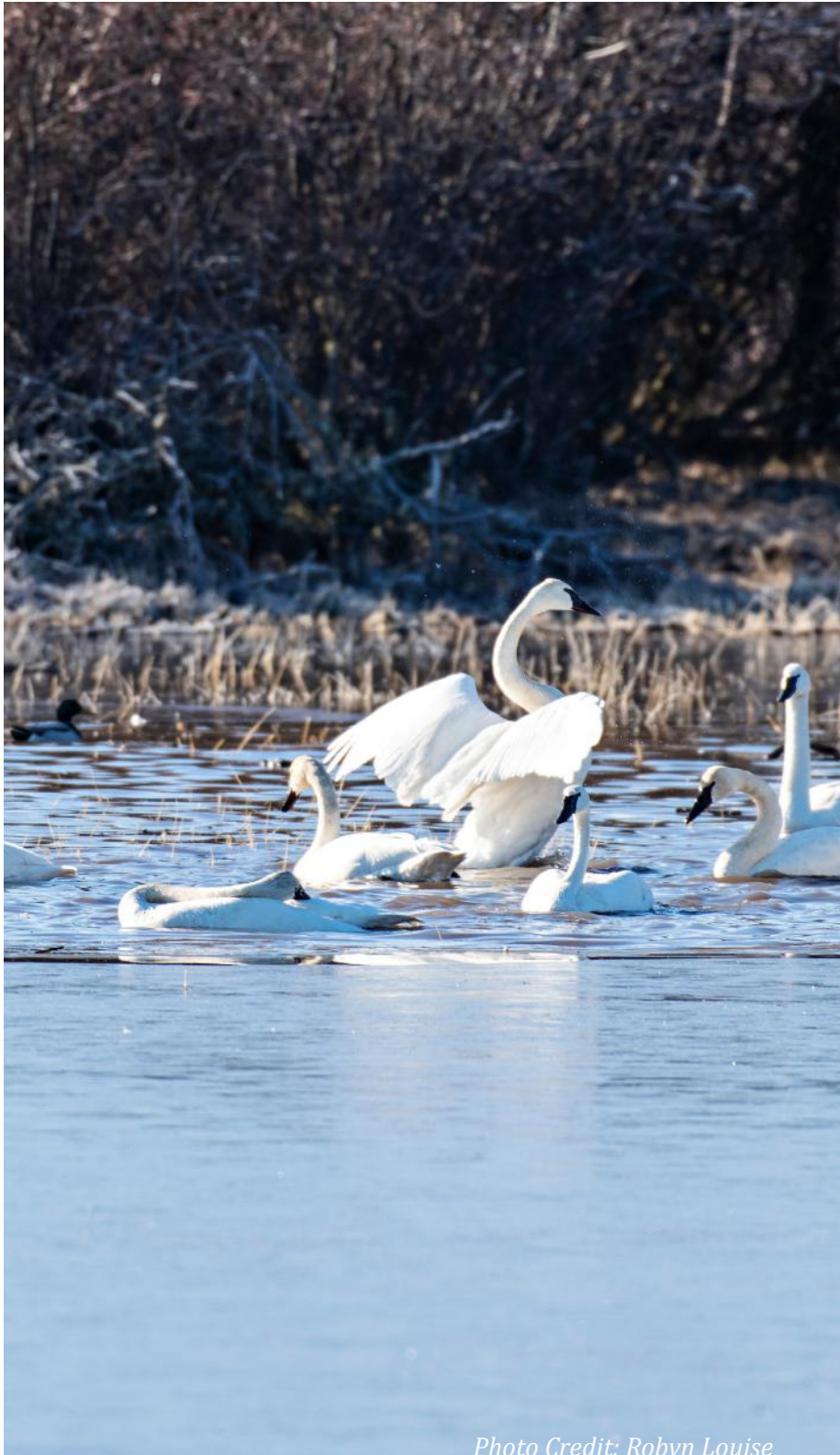
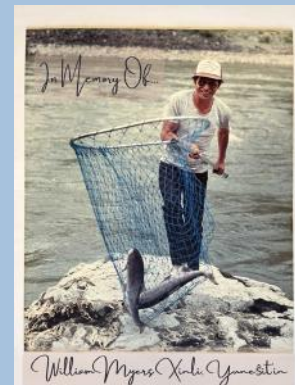


Photo Credit: Robyn Louise

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## Health Manager

Connie Jasper



We have had a busy few months in Health. Although some restrictions around Covid have lessened we still have cases circulating around the communities. Everyone is still reminded to protect themselves the best they can. It is really great to have in person meetings again.

On March 31st we had a day of planning for Mental Health for the Nation and partnered with Interior Health to provide information on services. It was a great day.

The Williams Lake First Nations Wellness Centre is moving along and is expected to open in the Fall. Equine Assisted Learning Training is coming up in early May. This allows those that were trained facilitators in the past to have a refresher course. We have invited two people from each community to participate.

Interior Region Health Caucus is set for May 2 to 4th in Penticton. This is the first in person meeting since 2019. It is a chance for Leadership and Health Directors to meet in regards to Health.

Wishing everyone a great spring and looking forward to more events on the land in the near future.

## Community Nutritionist

Carleigh Walters



Hello Spring! It seems to be the busy time of year but it is exciting!

My first Diabetes Roadshow took place from February 28th to March 11th. Jam packing all six communities into two weeks was busy but fun! I enjoyed getting to know our extended health team and

learning more about their roles. It was amazing to see so many people in the health clinics gathered to get a check-up, screened or practice some self-care.

Right after the Diabetes Roadshow, I went to Esdilagh to cook with Ashley and Candice for their freezer meal program. Carlos is looking to revamp that program once again and I am excited to see how I can help. Then, at the very tail end of March, we had our annual Health Planning Meeting. That was the first time I had been in a room with so many people in years. The day was filled with much needed laughter and conversation. It was also a great learning opportunity about TNG Health and Interior Health resources that are available to community members.

Now into April, I was just in Tlesqox hosting a healthy eating workshop. It was a success! There was a great turnout and valuable conversation took place.



We spoke about food groups, healthy eating habits and label reading. Following our chat, we had a nutritious lunch together. I love seeing how food



can bring people together! Also, in April I went out to Yunesit'in to host a vegetable workshop with the students. We made our own personal pizzas with a variety of vegetable toppings to choose from.

Coming up on June 2nd we have the All Nations Spring Classic. It is a 5/10km walk/run. Jamie, Ann, Kayla, Bev, Lorna and myself are busy making plans for the event. I am excited for everything to fall in place and to see people gather once again. I hope to see you all out there! If you would like a training schedule or resources let me know! Email me at [carleighwalters@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:carleighwalters@tsilhqotin.ca) or give me a call at the TNG Health Office. Happy training!

# Health Programs Coordinator

Lorna Elkins



Happy Spring everyone!

We had two weeks to plan our 6th Annual Diabetes Roadshow with our 6 T̄silhqot̄in communities.

Our first planning meeting was by Zoom, then the second planning meeting we went to a few communities in-person and the rest was done by Zoom.

On February 28th through to March 4th, we were in T̄lesqox, T̄sideldel and T̄letinqox, then the following week March 7th – 11th we were in Yunešit̄in, Xeni and ʔEsdilagh. It was a good two weeks out in communities for our Diabetes Roadshow.

During the Diabetes Roadshow we brought along with us Foot Care by Jackie Altrows, LPN and Massage by Cameron Self to provide services in each community. They were quite busy in each community. Some communities provided a traditional healer while we were in their community, other communities waited until we were done in their community.

The table below shows how many community members we've seen during our Diabetes Roadshow; which includes: full screening, screening, foot care, massage and traditional healing.

Community	Total Attendance
T̄lesqox	31
T̄sideldel (2 days)	57
T̄letinqox (2 days)	80
Yunešit̄in (2 days)	85
Xeni (2 days)	87
ʔEsdilagh	30



[PHOTO 1]  
Xeni Gwet̄in  
Diabetes  
Roadshow



[PHOTO 2]  
T̄sideldel  
Diabetes  
Roadshow



[PHOTO 3]  
T̄letinqox  
Diabetes  
Roadshow



[PHOTO 4]  
T̄lesqox  
Diabetes  
Roadshow

I helped out at the T̄silhqot̄in Women's Council Spring Festival that they hosted in T̄lesqox. They had the horse program provide horseback riding to anyone that wanted to ride, reiki, traditional healer, and someone there with their traditional medicine. They had a good turn out both days and a lot of good information.

We hosted a Health Planning workshop with our communities that included health directors, mental health clinicians, NNADAP workers, Wellness workers, and nurses. A lot of brain storming and gathering information on what the community has and needs.

I've attending the National Indigenous Peoples Day planning by Zoom with Northern Shuswap Tribal Council and surrounding communities/organizations. There will be a lot of organizing/planning for this year's National Indigenous Peoples Day event in June. TNG Health along with Three Corners Health and Yeqox Nilin (former Punky Lake) will be hosting our Walk/Run event at the Riske Creek Forestry camp, which will happen in June.

## Health Receptionist

Hazel Quilt

In January after the Xmas holiday, I took part in the Covid booster shot clinic that was held. I got to set up the appointments with those who previously got the shot and had gone to the clinic to get their second Covid shot -- this is the part that I absolutely love. I'm the staff member who is in the office all the time.



Just recently, I was going to go to out to Bull Canyon, but I had to opt out because I could not find my housekey. I was so frazzled because we needed to leave by 8 a.m and I didn't find my key until 8:25 a.m. Hopefully, next year I can attend.

I have signed up for courses that pertain to emergency and to upgrade my skills in Word and Excel with the library. The nice thing about doing courses online is that the library offers them free for anyone to take. I'm going to volunteer for future gatherings as they come up, such as National Indigenous Day, the Nation Gathering, etc..

Until my next report, take good care everyone as Covid is still out there.

## Registered Nurse

Brittany Handel



Hard to believe Spring is already here! February kept our team busy as we prepared the final details for the 6th Annual Diabetes Roadshow. At the beginning of March, we were on the road for a total of 2 weeks. They were a busy few weeks, but a good busy- we had so much fun. We enjoyed being able to be safely back in communities providing services and being able to connect with everyone in person. As we are always learning, we took great feedback from community staff and members on ways that we can improve our delivery of services for next year.

As the opioid crisis continues, we felt the effects deeply in communities. As a response to help support community, we have been working with FNHA staff to facilitate more education on naloxone training as a means for harm reduction. FNHA has introduced a program called "Not just Naloxone", which encompasses a holistic approach to facilitate community-based discussion surrounding racism and prohibition in Canada, decolonizing substance use, incorporating indigenous harm reduction practices, building on trauma and resiliency informed practice, and anti stigma work. Keep your eyes posted for if your community has chosen to host these workshops. As always, the nurses at the nursing station are always there to provide information and education surrounding naloxone when you need it.

As covid is still present, I have been working on keeping up to date with current best practices for immunizations and rapid testing, based on provincial guidelines. I am continuing to engage in educational opportunities to enhance services that we are able to deliver, some of which included: fundamentals of immunization workshops, attending a virtual rural health equity conference and "lets talk overdose" conference, and InterRAI training with Interior Health. I am continually working to build knowledge and support the nurses within communities so that we can all work towards achieving our health and wellness goals. The health teams have been working hard with

health and strategic planning to listen to the needs of the nation and implement plans on community levels to ensure that they meet everyone's needs. I am looking forward to seeing how each community carry's their health plans out over the next year

our communities in the near future. This rebuilding of our mental health team is so important and I know that once we are up and running in full capacity again, more positive outcomes will follow.

## Mental Health Clinical Lead

Ellen Williams



As usual, spring is brining new hope and change.

As the weather improves, sometimes, so does mental health. Many people struggle with seasonal blues or even SAD (seasonal affective disorder)

and welcome the sun and the flowers blooming. Its very fascinating how cross culturally springtime is universally known for bringing about some kind of rebirth or rejuvenation. Take this time to appreciate the beauty of this season and celebrate that there is always a chance for change and something better coming your way.

On our mental health team, we are experiencing this same transition. Our winter was hard, as we grappled with trying to meet the needs of community, with a much smaller team. We relied heavily on community partners and other professionals and found that there are resources available that are ready and willing to help. This proved to be a great opportunity to expand our team and an important reminder that its ok to lean on others in times of need.

An excellent example of this was our Mental Health Planning Meeting, hosted by TNG. It was a chance for several community health staff and our community partners to come together and share our services, our ideas and our goals in a collaborative environment. It was both fun and informative and I was so grateful to have so many people participate. From this gathering, we were able to identify important next steps to mental health interventions and to also celebrate those successes that have been achieved so far.

As well, keeping with the theme of spring change and hope, we are also getting in more applicants applying to work as clinicians in community and we are very hopeful that we will have clinicians in all of

## Stewardship Manager

Luke Doxtator

Oh the longer days, the feeling of the hotter sun, and the ice off the lakes, that to me are the signs of spring time. As the Stewardship department gears up for the changing of the season, we want to provide a snapshot of some of the great work we are all doing.



**Wildlife:** As usual there is quite a bit going on with the wildlife work. Mitchell's report will get into details on all the amazing projects. It is great to see so much research being done. We are filling the gaps that the province doesn't have, and these will lead into management decisions and provide members with a greater understanding of what's going on with wildlife in your territory.

**Referrals:** We continue to receive referrals through our portal and Gene Cooper, Ruthie Jackson, Helga Harlander, Percy Guichon and Jeremy Boyd work on these with community input to ensure that these do not fall through the cracks. We will be presenting on the referrals for each community individually so members are aware of what is happening with activities such as logging, mining, and other activities.

**Forestry:** Jeremy and team have been busy with preparing for the new Timber Supply Review (TSR) that will be coming soon. The TSR is a BC process that is done roughly every 5 to 10 years to determine what the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) will be for the Williams Lake Timber Supply (WLTS). TNG along with community businesses representatives, external consultant, and legal have been preparing the Terms of Reference (TOR) for how we will proceed and be involved with the determination on how much timber will be made available within the WLTS. Early indications is that the AAH will be lowered from the current 3,000,000m<sup>3</sup>. This will have an affect on all licensees that have activities within the area.

In closing, I hope everyone is out enjoying the decent weather we have been having and getting outside

and enjoying themselves. We look very forward to coming out to the communities and updating, but more importantly, visiting with everyone. It's been a long 2 years since we have been able to have meaningful discussions and we are all looking forward to it.

## Wildlife Biologist

Mitchell Warne



Since our last newsletter in winter, we were able to move forward with one of the planned collaring projects and have an update on the other collaring project.

The five grizzly bears that were collared along the Chilko area last fall are all out of their dens now with most of them coming out of their dens during the third week of April. We did see a lot of grizzly bears out of their dens in late March while on a different project, but the ones we collared appear to prefer sleeping in. They haven't really decided yet on where they are headed with some of them still in the vicinity of their dens.

We completed the bighorn sheep collaring project for the four mountain herds in the Territory at the end of winter. We were able to deploy most of the collars within the Tsuniah/Nemiah herd, the Tsilos herd, the Taseko herd and the Dash/Relay herd. The Yohetta portion of the Tsilos/Yohetta herd appears to have been lost. This is often referred to as "extirpated", which is basically the extinction of the sheep on that mountain but not a loss of the species.





We have some more projects that we have proposed and are planning for this summer and will provide updates if we get them going. So check back in the next newsletter for updates on what the crews have been up to.

Travis joined us on a couple of the collars so he can now brag to the other Rangers he has the most experience with collaring (bighorn and grizzly bears). Although the collars have only been out for a month, a few sheep have already moved between mountains or major portions of their mountain, so I look forward to providing a more in-depth update at the Stewardship Community Engagement session later this fall.

The below table has a breakdown of the number of sheep collared per herd and the minimum number of sheep per herd. We say minimum because once we deployed the collars for that herd, we did not keep searching for more sheep, so there could be more sheep that we did not see.

Herd	Rams Collared	Ewes Collared	Total Collared	Minimum Sheep
Tsuniah/Nemiah	4	8	12	35
Tsilos	1	2	3	7
Taseko	5	9	14	47
Dash/Relay	3	7	10	30
	13	26	39	119

## Mining, Oil & Gas Coordinator

Helga Harlander

### Mining Industry in BC in 2021

Mineral exploration expenditures in British Columbia reached \$660 million in 2021. (In 2020, the industry spent \$422 million in the Province.)



Projects in this region included:

- Inomin Mines, Beaver-Lynx: Ground magnetic survey, drilling 5 holes (715m)
- Tempus Resources Ltd., Blackdome-Elizabeth: Alteration study, drilling 28 holes (7,740m)
- Kingfisher Metals Corp., Goldrange: Drilling 14 holes (4,925m)

The BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation forecasts a total value of mine production for 2021 at \$12.6 billion including coal, copper, gold, industrial minerals, aggregate, zinc, silver, molybdenum and lead.

British Columbia is Canada's leading producer of copper and only producer of molybdenum.

Source: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2021. British Columbia Geological Survey, Information Circular 2022-01. [http://cmscontent.nrs.gov.bc.ca/geoscience/PublicationCatalogue/InformationCircular/BCGS\\_IC2022-01-01.pdf](http://cmscontent.nrs.gov.bc.ca/geoscience/PublicationCatalogue/InformationCircular/BCGS_IC2022-01-01.pdf)

### Critical Minerals

In 2021 Natural Resources Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals that are:

- Essential to Canada's economic security
- Required for Canada's transition to a low-carbon economy
- A sustainable source of critical minerals for our partners

### Clean Energy Transition

A range of critical minerals are required for the manufacture of motors and batteries for electric vehicles, including copper, lithium, nickel, manganese, cobalt, graphite and rare earth elements. According to a May 2021 report by the International Energy Agency, electric vehicles currently use approximately six times more minerals than conventional vehicles. Batteries account for most of the additional mineral requirement.

The main critical minerals for solar photovoltaic (PV) are copper, silicon and silver. The demand for copper to produce solar PV is expected to more than double between 2020 and 2040. It is hoped that technical innovation can help curb the increasing demand for silicon and silver.

Electricity plays a significant role in the transition to a clean energy economy. To accommodate the electricity generated from renewable sources and the need for more flexibility (e.g. access points) will require the expansion of the electricity grid. New transmission and distribution lines will have to be installed and many existing ones will have to be upgraded. Copper and aluminum are the main materials in wires and cables.

Source: The Role of Critical Minerals in clean Energy Transitions, May 2021, IEA Publications [www.iea.org](http://www.iea.org)



## GIS Team Lead & Portal Administrator

Sarah Gash

Welcome back spring! So grateful for the longer days, the warmer spring sun and the birds singing again.



Teriann, GIS Apprentice, continues to have success in her GIS courses. She has recently switched to part-time studies which will allow her more time to absorb the materials and look for ways at TNG to apply her new skills while still in the program. She will be in training until December.

Adam, Mark and I continue to complete all and any mapping requests that come our way while still managing to find time for the work that goes on in the background. Mark is working at creating a base map package for our mobile device mapping software, so field workers can benefit from custom TNG layers and information including place names, Rights and Title and updated harvest history and roads data.

Adam has focused his 'extra' time on some significant developments in scripting to make some processes more efficient. Additionally, he has figured out how to create temporal maps. These maps can help us see information over time. Sarah continues to support and administer (with the help of Jodie) the TNG Stewardship Planning Portal. Of note Sarah has been experimenting with testing on Portal Version 3, a new version of the Portal that has some interesting upgrades to functionality and mapping tools.

Regarding mapping requests and data management, TNG GIS supports most departments. Here are a few

projects we have recently been involved with:

**Wildlife** – GIS has supported Mitch, Gracie and the team of community wildlife crews with survey design for collecting important wildlife research including collaring program for goats, wild horses, bears and moose. This data will be used for assessing population status, provide mapping of habitat and will hopefully inform decision making around hunting, predator control, and habitat stewardship.

We have been providing map location for mortality events in the collaring program so that field crews can retrieve collars.

**Housing** – Draft updated maps of house locations and addresses is in the works following input to fill gaps found in the survey results collected by the Housing Reps in community.

**Nen** – GIS has provided support for the Nen team with training and support using NextCloud. We are supporting Beringia and Breanna (Nen Team Coordinator) move forward with deciding what mapping support and data management support the Nen team needs. Next up is a Portal Introduction and discussion. Sarah and Mark both attended the Nen Retreat held at Quaaout Lodge on Little Shuswap Lake near Chase, BC in early March. Adam attended via zoom.

**Rangers** – GIS has provided maps and surveys for the rangers to collect information about their activities on the land, TNG signage placement, wildlife camera locations and other territory wide observations.

**Forestry** – Planting season will be ramping up in the coming weeks. TNG GIS uses data downloaded from the Portal provided by licensees and BC to map and report on planting activities planned for the territory.

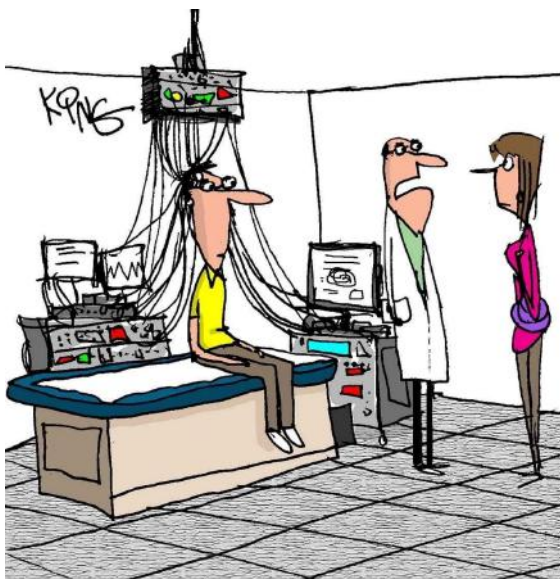
**Economic Development** – GIS has provided mapping to support the Tourism Strategy Project, mapping all TNG and T̓silhqot̓in community tourism businesses.

**Title Transition** – GIS has provided support for Title planning and tenure management. This has included a map for T̓silhqox River management plan, Declared Title Boundary mapping, and recommendations regarding field data collection. We have also provided Xenii with range tenure in Title mapping.

Emergency Management – The whole GIS team has been taking EOC training modules through the Justice Institute in preparation for being part of the Emergency Operations Planning section in case TNG needs to activate. We have also provided surveys for the collection of Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability details in communities. As part of the Housing Authority project to collect house locations, emergency preparation maps will be updated and circulated to communities.

Recently we have initiated piloting a file sharing system called NextCloud. This online software will help the Nen team collaborate and share information with each other and others working with them to forward nen planning. NextCloud will eventually be rolled out for use by the broader TNG staff. You may already have seen it if you are registered as a TNG Citizen for the Members Only page. In anticipation of greater use and a need for larger capacity, we have, at the same time, contracted our Portal developer to purchase and install new enhanced hardware to accommodate NextCloud and the ever-growing Portal database. Because it is important to the Nation to control and protect it's data for the Nation and it's communities, both these systems adhere to data sovereignty rules and the data lives on a server in our offices, and accessed via the internet. This is a strong way for TNG to assert its place in the digital world.

Bravo to our whole team for the continued hard work and commitment to TNG mapping!



*"It took some time, but we were able to locate the password he's been needing. Please tell him to write it down when he gets home."*

## GIS Technician

Adam Gaudet



Hi everyone,  
It looks like spring is upon us which is always a welcome thing. Spring is also the season where GIS has to prepare for upcoming projects for the field season. Some of the things I've been busy with as of late include:

- Updating and tweaking our automated wildfire mapping process where maps are automatically uploaded every morning to Nextcloud for use by Emergency Management if needed, though hopefully they are never needed. New this year is a temporal gif map that will be created and updated daily to show fire progression in the form of a gif animation.
- Developing an email alarm script that will be on the lookout for particular keywords or information from a given email address and then proceed to do a mapping process based on this information. What drove this project is the need to be prepared for mortality events with Stewardship's collaring program. It is imperative that Wildlife collects animal remains as soon as possible after a mortality event occurs, and as such maps are needed to support this work. This has been a large portion of my time for the last month or so, but it is a good process to build and have in place in that it can be re-formatted and applied to other projects that require as-soon-as-something-happens map production.

Things that I have just recently completed include:

- A T̄silhqot'in Tourism Map for Economic Development - basically a map highlighting some T̄silhqot'in businesses and recreation sites and activities within the territory.
- An invasive plants species survey form for the Rangers for an invasive plant project that will commence at some point this summer in conjunction with the Province.

And of course there are the other general GIS housekeeping work that always find new and interesting ways to keep me busy such as making sure iPads and the information on them are up-to-date, as well as taking map requests as they come in the door.

I should also note that I will begin another emergency management training course with the Justice Institute of BC at the start of May. I am always looking to develop new skills and learn about management practices for emergency events, especially so with my mapping background.

That's all for this time around.

## GIS Technician

Mark Schnider



Greetings All

Since the last newsletter I have completed the Roads Update project I was working on prior to Christmas, and started a project involving the development of basemap data to assist with various surveys and field data capture. I have also completed the introductory Tsilhqot'in language class offered at TRU, and am hoping to enroll in the second class offered this coming September. This will require a significant amount of practice on my part, please stop by GIS for a quick visit so I can practice.

## Emergency Services Manager

Bev Atkins



Greetings from the Emergency Services Department! Spring is here and our team can be compared to everything fresh and growing after a long winter. Emergency Services is working through transitions in staffing and position assignments.

Emergency Services is primarily funded through the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA). CEMA is made up of government agencies including:

- T̓silhqot̓in National Government: including; Jody Nishima, Connie Jasper, Shawn Wiebe and Bev Atkins.
- Provincial:
  - Emergency Management BC (EMBC);
  - BC Wildfire;
  - Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR);
- Federal:
  - Indigenous Services Canada

A five year agreement is currently in the signing phase. Securing a steady funding stream is still a challenge.

### **Bev Atkins** – Manager Emergency Services

Bev has been employed at TNG for one year now. Bev comes to TNG after 42 years in the forest industry. Experiences include working for Ministry of Forests (FLNRO) in several areas including; Silviculture, First Nations Relations, BCTS on the harvesting side, BC Wildfire in prevention and logistics. Additionally, she worked with the UBC Research Forest managing the silviculture department for 14 years. Bev was born in Williams Lake and grew up on the family farm at Meldrum Creek where her brother is the fourth-generation farmer. Bev is married to Spencer and is a member of the T̓letinqox community.

### **Preparedness**

Our focus is on preparedness. Preparedness for what? Well the cold evenings are definitely helping with flood risk. However people should be preparing for the eventual snowmelt and potential flooding. Wildfires are already occurring on the landscape in the Chilcotin and other areas in the Province. Green grass is coming but until then expect that there is a risk for wildfires.

Myanna from Communications has been working with us to develop a Social Media campaign on being prepared and things you can do to reduce the threat around your home. There is a FREE online **Firesmart 101** course available. Take the course and submit your certificate of completion to [myanna@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:myanna@tsilhqotin.ca) to be entered to **WIN** a table top heater!

Don't forget to build your "Grab and Go Bag" as it is NOT too early. Please ensure you have copies of your identification in your bag or photos on your phone. It is always a good idea to include a utility bill to confirm your home address.

### **Training Opportunities**

Emergency Services is working on a number of training initiatives including:

- EOC Basics – attendees to include those working in the Emergency Operations Centre for the nation or in communities.
- BC Wildfire Boot Camp – Scheduled for May 10 to 16th. This is led by BC Wildfire and includes all of the training required to be hired. There is potential for some of the successful graduates to be offered a position with the crews.
- EMBC Finance Training – was completed mid-April for nation and community finance staff.
- L1 First Aid Training with potential to add Transportation Endorsement – currently in the communities hands to complete list of attendees. Training will be delivered by FNESS.
- Forklift Training – will be offered to the communities and TNG staff. We will be seeking a

few people from each community to participate.

- Basic Security – we will be offering online training through the Justice Institute of BC.

TNG Emergency Services will be based out of the downtown TNG Office.

## Emergency Services Assistant Tanya Meldrum



Hello everyone,  
I would like to say thank you to everyone for providing me a new warm welcome as I started with TNG in Emergency Services Department as the Administrative Assistant, I am excited to be here!

My name is Tanya Meldrum I'm Tsihqot'in from the community Tl'etinqox, I grew up in Meldrum Creek on our family homestead, my parents are Willy Meldrum and Debbie Price. I have two grown boys Mason & Colton Seaward.

My hobbies are fishing, kayaking, camping and anything crafts, this year I started to learn beadwork and star quilts, next up I would love to learn medicines so If you have knowledge I would love to learn. I am so happy that spring has arrived, a season for growth and new beginnings.



**SOME TIPS TO:**

# Make your home resistant to fire

**01 SHEDS AND FIREWOOD**



Keep sheds and firewood at least 10 meters away from the house



**02 KEEP YOUR YARD TIDY**



- Mow grass
- Remove dead branches
- Remove old vehicles



**03 HOME CONSTRUCTION**

- Use fire resistant siding
- A tin roof is best
- Use a spark arrestor on chimney
- Use fire rates doors with proper seal





Tsihqot'in National Government  
Emergency Services

### WHY IS FLOODING HAPPENING?



Due to large areas of dead trees, the soil is unable to absorb water like it used to. This could last for 3 to 7 years.

The water takes nutrients with it, making regrowth difficult.

Soil nutrients end up in creeks and rivers as sediment which is not good for fish.

Find out more: [tsilhqotin.ca/emergency](https://tsilhqotin.ca/emergency)



**TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## FREE FIRESMART 101 COURSE!

Send TNG a photo of your certificate of completion by May 30th and be entered into a draw for a table top heater!




Submit to [myanna@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:myanna@tsilhqotin.ca)

Online course available at:  
<https://firesmartcanada.ca/programs/firesmart-101/>




## Fisheries

Randy Billyboy (Fisheries Manager)  
Michelle Tung (Fisheries Strategy Lead)  
Pete Nicklin (Fisheries Biologist)

### TNG Fisheries Team:

Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Manager  
Michelle Tung, Fisheries Strategy Lead  
Pete Nicklin, Fisheries Biologist  
Leonard English, Fisheries Field Coordinator  
Winston Bambrick, Fisheries Technician  
Gerald William, Fisheries Technician



As we continue to celebrate a successful fishing season in 2021, the Fisheries Department's work to prepare for the 2022 season is well underway.

### SALMON PRE-SEASON PLANNING (2022):

Early predictions for salmon returns are like very early weather forecasts and can be thought of as “informed guessing” – highly uncertain, but helpful to support fisheries planning. For the 2022 fishing season, here are pre-season “guestimates” for Chinook and sockeye returns.

#### Ja̓s (Chinook):

- The outlook for Ja̓s (Chinook) suggests Ja̓s populations that return to the T̓silhqot̓in Territory will remain a conservation concern in 2022. High spring run-off may affect passage and migration timing for T̓silhqox (Chilko) Ja̓s.
- TNG Fisheries will analyze Ja̓s information from the Lower Fraser test fishery and Big Bar throughout April, May, and June. An updated estimate for Ja̓s returning to the Upper Fraser (including T̓silhqot̓in Territory) will be available in mid-June.

#### T̓silhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye):

- The pre-season forecast range for T̓silhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye) is 482,000 to 4.732 million, with a mid-forecast estimate of 1.463 million. This pre-season forecast information, while highly uncertain, indicates that there will likely be a good return of

sockeye to support a sustainable T̓silhqot̓in fishery in 2022.

- Ts'eman (sockeye) in-season information is available starting in late July. TNG Fisheries analyzes information in near real-time and provides regular updates to Leadership and communities through the fishing season.

TNG Fisheries reviews in-season information in near real-time and provides regular updates to inform technical planning and recommendations to Leadership in fisheries management. Updates are provided to Leadership and community members weekly during the fishing season in our Fisheries Bulletin, posted to the TNG website.

### FIELD PROJECTS – SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

April marked the beginning of a busy fieldwork season for the fisheries crew, and we're working on numerous projects and programs to support the recovery and rebuilding of all salmon species in T̓silhqot̓in Territory.

#### Stock Assessment:

Our experienced crew is preparing for our annual stock assessment programs, which run from April to November. We're collecting critical information about the health of all T̓silhqot̓in stocks on the ground, by boat, and in the air, which informs fisheries priority-setting and planning, and directly supports T̓silhqot̓in Leadership decision-making on fisheries.

Spring stock assessment work includes:

- **T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Program:** 127,000 tagged smolts were successfully released on April 13, 2022 at Henry's Crossing. This project allows us to track where juvenile Ja̓s go in the ocean, how many are harvested, and their overall survival. The Fisheries team is pleased to see so many smolts returned to the river.



Photos 1 and 2

Caption: On April 13, TNG Fisheries crew and DFO staff released 127,000 tagged T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) at Henry’s Crossing – part of the Coded Wire Tag (CWT) project for Ja̓s stock assessment.

- T̓silhqox Ts’eman (Chilko sockeye) smolt (juvenile) outmigration:** A collaboration between TNG Fisheries and DFO to assess juvenile Ts’eman (sockeye) as they begin their migration to the ocean. We’re currently installing the smolt fence and our new upward-facing SONAR system to count smolts and collect critical early life stage information about T̓silhqox Ts’eman that will return to T̓silhqot’in territory in 2024. As of April 28, the crew had counted 2.7 million smolts. The crew has had some minor setbacks in this project with increased algae bloom covering gear and equipment.



Photo 3

Caption: TNG Fisheries Technician Gerald William working at the Chilko smolt fence to assessing juvenile T̓silhqox Ts’eman (Chilko sockeye) as they begin their migration to the ocean.



Photo 4

Caption: Winston Bambrick and Leonard English at the Chilko smolt counting fence, in one of the counting “sheds” sitting on top of the fence.



Photo 5

Caption: Upward and side facing SONARs counting sockeye smolts downstream from the smolt fence (upstream from Canoe Crossing). The crew is cleaning algae from the SONAR units. SONAR counts are being compared to smolt fence counts.

**Strategic Projects:**

Since the introduction of the TNG Fisheries Strategic Framework and Fisheries Action Plan in 2019, we’ve expanded the TNG Fisheries program to include new strategic initiatives.

- Winter Coho Project:** TNG Fisheries conducted a new field study of juvenile coho salmon in T̓silhqot’in Territory. The information collected will contribute to our understanding of how coho utilize T̓silhqot’in Territory to improve TN’s approach to coho recovery, and to support biodiversity in T̓silhqot’in salmon nurseries. This initial pilot was conducted successfully in March and TNG Fisheries will continue and expand this project moving forward.



Photo 6

Caption: Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy holding a trap for our winter field study of juvenile coho salmon.



- **Tislagh (Steelhead) Recovery Research:** This May, TNG will continue its third year of aerial flights to assess the number of returning Chilcotin River Steelhead. We will be expanding our program from three to five flights, to provide crucial information to inform recovery planning for this critically endangered stock.
- **Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring:** TNG Fisheries established a water quality and quantity monitoring program in 2021 – we installed 9 monitoring stations focused on critical salmon nursery areas, and conducted winter data collection and ice safety training for Fisheries staff and TNG Rangers. This spring, TNG Fisheries will focus on collecting spring-timed flow and water quality measurements as a critical component for our data analysis. Thanks to the TNG Rangers for their invaluable contributions to this program.



Photo 7  
Caption: Fisheries team and Rangers training in winter techniques for water quality and quantity monitoring – March 2022.

- **Emergency Enhancement:** TNG Fisheries has been working on “emergency enhancement” (raising salmon in hatcheries from eggs to fry to increase survival) for priority vulnerable and endangered T̓silhqot̓’in stocks since 2020. This spring we look forward to fry (juvenile) releases for Gweddes Chežqox Jaš (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) on May 9 and Dasiqox Ts̓eman (Taseko sockeye) on May 24.
- **Conservation Hatchery Program:** A T̓silhqot̓’in-led conservation hatchery in T̓silhqot̓’in Territory is a Nation-wide priority for rebuilding our fish and fisheries. After 3 years of technical work, we’re on track for hatchery installation by August 2022 for testing and training, with an aim for full operation for egg incubation and rearing by September 2023.

**SPRING AND SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT:**

TNG Fisheries provides information on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities through various channels throughout the year. We also engage regularly throughout the year with T̓silhqot̓’in Leadership to inform fisheries planning, priorities, and decision making.

**TNG FISHERIES FORUM**

Postponed until October 2022

This is an annual forum for community Leadership and staff to meet and discuss key fisheries topics and priorities.

**WEEKLY IN-SEASON FISHERIES COMMUNICATIONS**

Mid-July to September 2022

During the fishing season, TNG Fisheries hosts weekly update Zoom calls for T̓silhqot̓’in Leadership and staff. We also provide weekly Fisheries Bulletins, which are publicly available on the TNG website. Both the weekly calls and bulletins provide information on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities.

Fisheries Bulletins, fisheries opening and closure notices, and more information about TNG Fisheries and our programs are all available on the Fisheries Department page on the T̓silhqot̓’in Nation website here: [www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries)



For questions, please contact TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy at [rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca) or 250-392-3918. For more information, please visit [www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries)

Sechanalyagh!  
The TNG Fisheries Team

## Executive Lead

Jay Nelson

Finally Spring! I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and longer days. As the winter months came to a close, we have been busy supporting the Chiefs with a series of important meetings and events – many of them *in person*, which is a refreshing change from videoconferences and phone calls.



In early March, we held a Leadership Table with Premier Horgan and several Ministers. The Leadership Table is meant to bring together the T̓silhqot̓in Chiefs and the Premier and Ministers on a regular basis, to drive the commitments in the *Gwets'en Nilt'i* Pathway Agreement from the highest levels of government. Because of COVID-19, this Leadership Table was the first in over two years. It was a positive and powerful reunion – an opportunity to take stock of progress and set direction for the future. The Premier and Ministers gratefully accepted an invitation from the Chiefs to hold an upcoming Leadership Tables in the declared title area – stay tuned!

That same week, we hosted a celebration for Chief Joe Alphonse in Victoria, the day after he received the Order of British Columbia, the highest honour that the Province can bestow on a citizen. Many dignitaries attended the event to honour Chief Joe and the T̓silhqot̓in Nation for your role in advancing Aboriginal rights and title and changing this province (and country) for the better, including AFN National Chief Roseanne Archibald, the Lieutenant-Governor, several BC Ministers, and others. But it still felt like a family affair, thanks to the involvement of Chief Joe's nephew Hunter, his family, and representatives from T̓letinqox and the Nation.

On the federal side, the Chiefs hosted Minister Marc Miller (Crown-Indigenous Relations) for dinner at the South Lakeside Office at the end of March, and two weeks later Minister Lametti (Justice) and his team joined for dinner as well. Both meetings were opportunities to share a meal, connect with the Ministers, and discuss priorities for change for the Nation and T̓silhqot̓in communities.



We received notice at the last minute that the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues would be held in person this year, for limited delegations. As you will see in this newsletter, Chief Francis Laceese (our “International Chief”) and Peyal Laceese (Cultural Ambassador) represented the T̓silhqot̓in Nation at the United Nations, where Chief Francis delivered a powerful statement on behalf of the T̓silhqot̓in Nation calling on all governments around the world to *fully* implement and honour the human rights of Indigenous peoples under the United Nations Declaration – without any further delay.



We have been busy on many other fronts as well. We supported Chief Joe Alphonse and Chief Jimmy Lulua with presentations to the Pacific Salmon Commission, calling for action on Alaska commercial fisheries that are intercepting Chilkot salmon runs – this work continues. The Nation renewed its *Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement (CEMA)* with BC and Canada for another five years. CEMA is a one-of-a-kind agreement that brings BC, Canada and the T̓silhqot̓in Nation to the table to support our vision of Indigenous-led emergency management. We launched the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the Nation, hosted and attended planning retreats, supported the Xenigwet̓in “Title Road Show”, and many, many other projects described in more detail in this newsletter.

As always, it is such an honour to work for the T̓silhqot̓in Nation, with such a dedicated and committed team. And we still find time to share a laugh every now and then. Hopefully we will see you soon at one of our community engagement sessions! Nanexwenuwes̓in (*I will see you all again!*)!

## Executive Assistant

Daana Gilpin

Benen Neʔedil̓h – The month the birds come back.

We have amazing administration staff at TNG Lakeside Office:

**Cheiro Guichon** – from T̓sideldel, works with our Nen team

**Tanisleigh Evans** – works with our Governance Team

**Kayla Wycotte** – front desk Reception, and amazing at cleaning, organizing front desk area, office supplies and our kitchen.

**Bridget Rosette** – from Esketemc First Nation, works with our Housing Team

**Laura Sopher** – works with our Housing Team

My name is Daana Gilpin, T̓ʔetin̓qox Desni. I have worked within T̓silhqot̓in National Government for just over 12 years, and live in Williams Lake. I’ve had a few different roles so far, Employment Coordinator and Indian Registry Administrator for seven years, and now as an Executive Assistant for five years.



I have learned and have grown a lot. My work is along side our six T̓silhqot̓in Nits̓ilʔin, and our Executive Director, and TNG Managers, and staff. I assist with Chiefs’ planning, coordination of their meetings, as well as their travel within communities or outside of Williams Lake when needed.

### Sister City New Westminster

I work along side New Westminster Council member Chuck Puchmayr and their team, for our annual Chief ʔAhan Memorial July 18th. I have also assisted and coordinated emergency supplies that were sent to TNG during the COVID-19 pandemic (disposable face masks, fire fighting gear, winter gear).

### TNG Events

I have been assisting with our TNG events which includes planning, set up, delivery, and clean up, through the years, whether it is here at South Lakeside, or out in our communities. I have learned a lot doing this work and I am thankful to have the help of amazing staff. I also supervise Tiana Johnny (from T̓ʔetin̓qox), this is a new role, and she is amazing to work with.

### TNG South Lakeside Office

This is a role that keeps me quite busy. I currently assist or take on the duties at front desk as Receptionist, and assist with meeting set up, OWL set up, booking boardrooms, cleaning, and what else might be needed at the office. Our door is always open and it is important to me when I am there to create a welcoming space for everyone.

### Administration meetings

I have assisted with coordinating quarterly TNG Administration meetings, where we break bread, share ideas, as well as get up to date on events, meetings, and work together to ensure administration duties are where they should be in our organization. We have started with just our Lakeside staff, now it has grown to include all administration and most important our work with our Finance team.

### Emergency Operations

My work with EOC is to assist with coordination, sorting, delivery of food and emergency supplies sent to each of our T̓silhqot̓in communities when a natural disaster might arise (floods), and also includes wildfires. I appreciate learning from our staff and most important helping others.

## Governance

Shawnee Palmantier (Manager)  
Renee Racette (Legal Counsel)

The Governance sub-table are excited to be planning engagement with the T̓silhqot̓'in communities for this spring/summer! It has been a long pandemic and very isolating. We have missed meeting with you and discussing governance! We know our work is not complete without your critical direction and support. We hope you will come attend our governance sessions starting in June.



We are planning to discuss T̓silhqot̓'in government decision making approaches. We know small and large decisions are made by our government(s) about how we operate every day. Sometimes, it is best to make decision as a Nation, sometimes decisions are best done locally!

We hope to ask you questions like: What decisions are we making well? What decisions could we be doing better? Who should be making such governance decisions? Are we best to manage moose, fisheries, as a Nation? What decisions should our community governments have? These are important and we have generations of governments we can learn from! We also hope to talk to you about the roles and responsibilities of all community and government. Let's talk! We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will meet with us in June!

The Governance team participated in six salmon and water ceremonies this year. Although we had very small events due to the pandemic, they were important. We hope to host further gatherings this year, including a T̓silhqot̓'in Chejaghetadelh like the one hosted by Esdilagh prior to Covid. We have a first draft of a Water Law that we hope captures the good work of the community in engagement on T̓silhqot̓'in Water Law. We hope you will discuss this with us and give us your feedback and direction. The Team will then redraft the law based upon the direction and feedback from the communities and leadership.

The Food Security and Sovereignty Project continues to be underway with a draft report completed by Dawn Morrison based on advice and recommendations from the Advisory Committee. The draft report has been provided to the Chiefs Council. The next step for the Project is hiring a coordinator for Phase 2 and a Nation Food Security Forum. We thank everyone for their participation and look forward to sharing the draft report with you.

Again, we are enthusiastic about meeting with you this spring and hope you will come share your thoughts with us!

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

### Hunilht'ah from T̓silhqot̓'in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan Advisory Council (Women's Council)

We hope you and your family are well. We are looking forward to the warm weather and new growth on our nen. We provide this update to you in hopes of keeping you better aware of our work.

We completed the Wahkohtowin Lodge training (steps toward building child and family legislation) in February 2022. This brought us together to discuss how we can support building the child and family legislation through our T̓silhqot̓'in Nidlin project. We discussed teachings and ancient T̓silhqot̓'in stories about child care and family relations. We hope you will get involved as the engagement team (Joan Gentles and Angelina Stump) come to your community. There will be much engagement over the next few years. We are working to support this important Project.



The Council and some community members completed Andrew Bear Training (matters such as suicide prevention, depression, elder abuse, etc.). This program was helpful but very challenging. We discussed topics that are hard but critical.

We hosted the Seasonal Gathering in T'lesqox in March 2022. It was well attended and we had a wonderful event. There was much laughter, storytelling, songs and beautiful ribbon skirts. We plan to host a second Seasonal Gathering at Williams Lake, Lakeside TNG office June 24 (evening) and 25th. Make sure to come and enjoy some community time!

The Council finished our Strategic Planning event this week, including an annual plan for work and events in 2022 and 2023. The Council are planning cultural and healing events (Sacred Fires, MMIWG, etc) this year. We also have many initiatives in hopes to support improvement of the lives of our people.



We are actively providing feedback to various TNG departments and attending TNG Board of Director meetings. The Council is refining their processes and communications. The Council have recently hired a part time coordinator to support their work and events.

We are hosted another Sacred Fires event on May 5, 2022 at Lakeside the TNG office to pray for and honour our women and girls.

We hope you are taking care of yourself and your family.

The T̓silhqot̓in Nation's **T̓silhqot̓in Nidlin** (We are T̓silhqot̓in) initiative is revitalizing and recording traditional laws to keep T̓silhqot̓in children safe and support them to grow up well – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. New T̓silhqot̓in legislation for children and families will reflect your values and requires everyone in the Nation to provide their knowledge, vision, hopes, and perspectives so T̓silhqot̓in children are supported through a worldview that encompasses land, knowledge, values, and relationships with all living things.

Our team has grown, and we are very grateful to have Joan Gentles and Angie Stump as our new T̓silhqot̓in Nidlin Communication and Engagement Coordinators. Joan Gentles and Angie Stump are T̓silhqot̓in Elders, language speakers, and leaders who have made immeasurable positive impacts on the lives of T̓silhqot̓in people over the course of their lives. Joan and Angie are engaging with T̓silhqot̓in families and groups both on and off reserves to hear how you want T̓silhqot̓in children to be cared for and how to keep them safe. We hope that you will support this initiative by bringing your guidance and experiences, perspectives and knowledge to Joan and Angie when they are in your community.



Photo 1  
Caption: Joan Gentles



Photo 2  
Caption: Angie Stump

Sechanalyagh, T̓silhqot̓in Nidlin Initiative Team

## Housing & Infrastructure

### Senior Advisor

Shawn Wiebe



As spring begins to show itself a little here and a little there I am reminded of a saying my dad used to say every spring. “Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, do you know where the lawn mower is?” of course that meant that it was time to start mowing the lawn and other yard chores that came with the longer warmer days. This year I am confused as it feels like a lawn mowing day one day and a snow shoveling day the next.

It has been exciting to have the TNG offices and communities having more face to face meetings and gatherings. I have definitely been out and about more this last few months than it seems we were in the last year due to the pandemic. In February I went out with the construction crew and assisted with craning the roof off of one of the renovations they were working on and craning on the new roof that we had built on the ground as shared in the last newsletter. The time lapse video of the roof construction and roof exchange has been shared on Facebook and I believe may also be on the TNG website under Housing & Infrastructure.

The Housing & Infrastructure Authority (THIA) has had some really good meetings this Spring as we begin to develop the process to flow funds for renovation and new construction projects. We developed some key points for a Terms or Reference to guide the THIA when the group was first conceived late last year and now that we have worked together now for 6 months we reviewed the key points and all agreed that they described well what the group was created to do and that the group was following those key points very well.

The Carpentry Foundation Training that is happening out at Toosey Old School has hit the half way milestone and Angela and Bridget coordinated a student appreciation day with some great games, prizes and food. Sechanalyagh to Chief’s Joe, Otis and Jimmy for attending the event and having some great words to say to help keep the participants motivated and excited about their learnings. I think it helped that the event

had two of the best grillers in the Cariboo with myself and Tony Trotman manning the barbeques for them.

I spent the better part of a week in Kamloops at the Xenigwet’in strategic planning session and learned a lot about some of the challenges that they are facing as well as some of the opportunities they have coming their way. We were able to develop some strategies around how to better work together on those opportunities as well as the challenges. These planning sessions were then followed up with a 1-day planning session specific to housing & infrastructure to make sure that the projects that the Nation is assisting with had a good path forward and accommodated the other projects that Xenigwet’in has on the go.

I had the privilege of supporting the Chiefs in an evening meeting here at the South Lakeside office with the Honourable Mac Miller, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. There was lots of great discussion between the Minister and the Chiefs in attendance and we showcased some of the time-lapse videos of some of our construction projects as well as the virtual tours made by our drafter. It was a great opportunity for the Chiefs to promote the hard work of the deni who are apprenticing for the TNG Construction Department.



I also made a trip to ?Esdilagh to take a closer look at the planned renovation projects and the preferred location of the Ready to Move homes that are scheduled to be delivered later this summer. I then made a similar visit to Yunešit’in but took the time to check out the progress on the Ready to Assemble home that was built by the Leading Edge mill and the Yunešit’in Construction team. And we took a bit of time to look at possible sites for future subdivision development. I was also lucky enough to be invited by

Chief Lennon to tour the Leading-Edge facility to see what they had on the go and what they had big plans for.

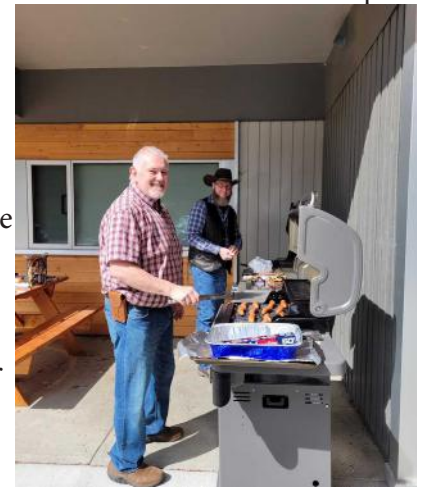


The Housing & Infrastructure team has grown over the past two years and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with a group of amazing people. I'm kept busy with providing administration support with the Housing & Infrastructure department and have enjoyed taking minutes at both T̓silhqot̓in Housing & Infrastructure Authority (THIA) and T̓silhqot̓in Housing & Infrastructure Working Group (THIWG) tables. I have learned so much over the last couple years with housing and I keep learning more with both of these tables.

The THIWG has identified that Housing Policies are a high priority and great discussions and ideas have already started. We are looking at having a workshop just on this topic as there is so much to talk about and it will be nice to see everyone in person.



I have been assisting with the Residential Carpentry Foundation Program this year and it's awesome to meet the students and see them learn the carpentry trade. The students have class every second Friday to do online tickets so that keeps me busy helping Angela plan for those days. We just had a Student Appreciation Day at the South Lakeside office on April 22nd and I enjoyed planning the event and had help from the amazing TNG staff! The weather was beautiful, and everyone enjoyed the BBQ and cake. Chief Joe, Chief Otis, and Chief Jimmy were able to join us for lunch and say some encouraging words to the students.



I really look forward to getting out to communities and on the land this summer and am keeping my fingers crossed that there are no reasons not to have a Nation Gathering as well as all the cultural events in each community. The BBQ here at the South Lakeside office had a positive buzz of energy and reminded me how much we need those kinds of events and social interactions and how much there were missed these last couple of years.

## Administrative Assistant

Bridget Rosette



It's the end of April already and I'm ready for the warm weather. I have been getting my horses in shape for the coming barrel racing season and just getting out on the trails is my happy place.

## Training Coordinator

Angela Duren



I happily watched the snow dissipate and give way to tiny green blades of grass popping up in its place. Birds gathered in a fury of chatter gliding in and out of the freshly budded lilac tree limbs

beneath my window. They created a melody I have longed to hear during the stark gray days of winter, that spring is finally here! In celebrating the arrival of spring, I recently purchased a suction cup clear bird feeder for my window, which allows you to watch little birds up close. I also couldn't help myself and buy a lovely bright pink pot of geraniums to brighten up my deck. The simple things make me happy; give me some flowers, a book, and a great cup of coffee, and I am a happy lady! Here are some fun personal spring bucket items I hope to do:

- Weekend road trips
- Walking expeditions around Williams Lake
- Adding several new tropical houseplants to my collection
- Growing as many flowers as I can fit on my deck

### Current Training

As you may have read in the previous editions, our Residential Construction Foundation Training Program is at Toosey Old School. The students have been busy learning trades-math and building codes. They have recently completed building small projects like a wood puzzle, cutting board and sawhorses. As the weather continues to warm, the students will be working and training outside and eventually touring active construction sites currently underway in communities.

April 22, 2022, marked an approximate halfway point for the students. We celebrated this milestone by having a carpentry student appreciation celebration and BBQ at TNG South Lakeside. Chief Joe Alphonse from Tl'etinqox, Chief Otis Guichon from Tsideldel and Chief Jimmy Lulua from Xeni Gwet'in were in attendance and shared beautiful words of wisdom and encouragement with the carpentry students. Also in attendance to celebrate the carpentry students were Tl'etinqox Education Coordinator Melanie Johnny, Tlesqox Education Coordinator Loni Solomon and Tsideldel Education Coordinator Lenore Case. Thank you to everyone who attended, shared words of wisdom, donated gifts to the students, helped with preparations, BBQ grilling, cleanup, and much more. You all truly made the day so wonderful. Thank you all!

We look forward to the Residential Carpentry Foundations Training program students graduating at the end of July!

### Future projects

The need and demand for trained carpenters are incredibly high. The TNG Housing and Infrastructure Department's hope for the future is to expand training opportunities for community members, which could include running carpentry levels 1 and 2, hopefully in the fall of 2022. We will be working closely with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) to bring these and possibly other training opportunities under the housing and infrastructure window to community members in the near future. Stay tuned for more information.

Currently, in the planning stages is creating a positive awareness campaign to support bridging the gap for women considering entering the trades. We hope to create an interactive event encompassing inspirational female leadership, women trade entrepreneurship opportunities, and women supporting women.

Please stay up to date on our students' activities, events and future training opportunities by visiting our training page at <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/housing/training/> or by checking our social media platforms.



CARPENTRY STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY April 22, 2022



## Facilities & Fleet Manager

Nic Wyatt



Hello everyone,

Hope everyone is doing well and keeping safe. My name is Nic Wyatt, and I come to TNG from years in the Sports & Entertainment industry, primarily in Facilities and Operations & management. Most of what I did was revolved around ice hockey, concerts, day to day bookings, and other large-scale events. Over the years, I've acquired many certifications regarding the industry from my Arena Operator courses, Refrigeration Operator, and many others. I've been a part of health and Safety boards, event planning, and coordinated with Work safe & Technical Safety in the past. I look forward to bringing my knowledge and experience to the table for TNG.

As the summer months come around, I am looking to spend a lot more of my time outdoors, enjoying the weather, trails, and camping. I've recently acquired a Golden Retriever / Lab puppy (her name is Willow), and I'm looking forward to bringing her along for the adventure! I'm also quite a big hockey fan, and love to play in my spare time.

As I've settled into my position the last few months, I've gotten to meet many of your face to face now, and it has been wonderful! However, there is many of you out in various communities that I have yet to meet and look forward to seeing you in the future. I've enjoyed joining TNG as the Facilities and Fleet Manager where we are operationalizing Facilities and Fleet Management within the Housing & Infrastructure department to maximize economies of scale, develop efficiencies and develop / career opportunities for Deni. My goal for the Facilities is to be proactive rather than reactive regarding maintenance and be able to address any issues or concerns in house, rather than contracting out, and hopefully one day create positions for members.

As for the vehicle fleet, one of the things I've been working on was addressing insurance & NSC. Over the course of the next few months to a year, I would

like to be able to address consolidating purchases for both Facilities & Fleet into fewer suppliers, with the goal in mind to reduce spending, and receive a higher quality of service. It would be fantastic to see TNG grow relationships with our purchasing partners and continue that growth overtime.

Hope everyone has a great summer ahead! I look forward to visiting the communities, and meeting everyone.

## Construction Manager

Sherry Wiebe



Interesting weather we are having so far this spring!

TNG Construction crews have been busy through the winter and spring with construction work

and renovations. Among other things, we have installed new windows, flooring, toilets and vanities as part of the T'letinqox RRAP Renovation funding project. This project is now 'wrapped' up!

For a partially burned house project, we built the roof on the ground, where it is safer and more efficient than working at height. We used a crane to remove the old roof and then the crane 'flew' the new roof onto the house (see picture below).



That same house has now been fully insulated (including upgrades to bring it to Code standard) and drywalled, new doors have been installed and the exterior cladding is starting this week. Once the weather is warm enough to spray it, we will be using a durable thermal cork based product on the exterior of this house. The product is water, mold and mildew resistant, fire retardant, low maintenance and eco friendly.

Several more roofs have been replaced at Tl'etinqox and crews have been out at Xenigwet'in working on the Rapid Houses so that we can get them completed as soon as possible.

A big thanks to our construction leads and crews for their patience and persistence as we have tried to keep renovation work moving forward in a good way despite the challenges of Covid. Because they ride together to job sites and often work in homes of elders and community members, we asked them to be very careful in assessing their own health in order to protect others. This has meant some days that we had to be creative with our direction or plans for the day and they took this all in stride. Sechanalyagh!

Last month we met with leadership at ?Esdilagh about their renovations and visited three homes that require substantial renovations.

?Esdilagh, Tl'etinqox, Tsideldel & Yunesit'in have committed to Ready to Move (RTM) homes for their communities, therefore those houses have been ordered and deposits have been paid to the supplier with delivery expected for this summer/fall. We have travelled to all of the communities except for Tsideldel so far to look at potential locations for the RTM homes which will allow us to start planning for the foundation installations and related site works. Tomorrow we are heading to Tsideldel to look at the location(s) that they have for their RTM home and we will also look at the next renovation on their list to be completed so that a plan can be put together for that.

The Carpentry Foundation Training Program is well under way and we are looking forward to the graduation of the students this summer!

We are working to set up more programs for the TNG carpentry apprentices so that they can continue on with their education after the first year and all the way to their final Red Seal certification.

TNG Construction employees have the option of having all of their hours registered with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) of BC so that they count towards their Red Seal carpentry certification. At this point, all of our carpentry apprentices on our construction crews are registered with ITA and all hours worked by them count towards their Red Seal carpentry certification.

We are currently working with the ITA of BC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to strengthen the relationship even further between TNG and this well respected training authority. ITA is the governing body for Red Seal certification for many trades and other non trades career options so this relationship will be very valuable going forward.

One of our site leads Damon Sopher has been away at hazardous material courses so that as we do renovations on older houses and buildings, we are careful to consider how to handle any asbestos or other hazardous materials that might be in the structures so that we keep residents and our construction crew safe. We are looking at bringing in local training for hazardous materials related to construction and will reach out to each community to see if they would like us to include any of their staff in this training.

We are very pleased to be adding an additional Red Seal journeyman carpenter to lead our crews. His name is Giorgio (Gio) Linguanti, he will be starting with us in two weeks. More about him in our next newsletter.

If you or someone you know is interested in working with the TNG construction management department to create and improve housing in the Tsilhqot'in communities, please send a resume to Brittany at [bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca). We are looking for Construction Foremen and Forewomen, Carpenters, as well as General Labourers that are interested in learning on the job.

## Senior Advisor - T̓silhqot'in Nen

JP Laplante



Happy spring everyone. I know it has been a difficult winter with lots of loss in the Nation. My condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, and I hope that Spring and Summer see better times. Here is an update on some of the Nen-related negotiations work at TNG.

### Nen Planning

Our land use planning work continues to build momentum. We call this “Nen Planning” to acknowledge a more wholistic approach that isn't just about “land use” but more about healthy relationships with the land, water, and all life, and T̓silhqot'in responsibilities to steward and care for your nenqay. We are still in “phase 1” of our nen planning process. This is the “planning to plan” phase. Breanna Charleyboy will provide more of an update on this process, but I want to acknowledge the work of Breanna, our support team, and the Community Nen Coordinators who keep this work advancing.

### Forestry

There are many strategic-level forestry initiatives underway led by Jeremy Boyd and the Stewardship Dpt., with our support. To help us get organized about what the Nation should be focusing on, we have organized a 2-day Forests Strategy Forum (May 9 and 10). A summary report will be prepared afterwards and Nation members can get copies of this from TNG staff. If you have any questions about these please contact Jeremy or myself.

### Climate Health

Cynthia Fell and our contractor Ave Dersch have been busy over the past couple of months preparing for community engagement sessions around climate health and in particular, food security and climate change.

They visited ?Esdilagh in April, the Stewardship Council and the Governance Committee, and have

upcoming dates in May in Xení Gwet'in, Yunesit'in, T̓sideldel, T̓lesqox and hopefully (COVID allowing), T̓letinqox. The project also involves the T̓silhqot'in schools which is great to see. This project is made possible by funding from the First Nations Health Authority.

### Cultural Heritage Strategy & Bull Canyon Archaeology

Shane Doddridge has been busy getting TNG's Cultural Heritage Strategy approved and printed. Copies are now available at TNG and at Band offices. We have also been running an archaeology assessment in Bull Canyon. If you see the crew please wave – we are proud that several community members are working on the crew and sharing their wisdom and knowledge with the archaeologists we've hired for this important work.



[PHOTOS 1, 2, & 3]  
T̓siyi Archaeological Investigation Project Opening

## Resource Management Coordinator

Cynthia Fell



When I was growing up, I wanted to be a ballerina, a botanist and an astronaut. What a sight I would have been dancing on the moon planting flowers! When I was kid, a ballet teacher come to Tatla Lake and taught a bunch of us girls how to dance like ballerinas. With mirrors lining the walls, I can still see the reflection of all of us girls, from Tatla Lake and T̓sideldel, dancing and giggling in the Tatla Lake Community Hall. That's as close as I ever became to becoming a ballerina. I've followed my passion for plants much longer.

Spring has arrived and with the changing of the seasons comes new opportunities. Seeds start to germinate and dormant buds awaken. The growing season begins after the last hard frost in the spring and ends after the first hard frost in the fall. Plants continue to grow as long as temperature and moisture conditions are suitable. The length of the growing season has increased in Canada over the last number of decades. These changes affect what plants will grow where and how productive they are.

### **Climate Modeling to Inform Changes to Food Security**

We are still conducting many meetings virtually but it really has been nice to visit communities and connect in-person. We look forward to sharing the information we have put together for the climate modelling work to support the Nation's priorities and concerns. Models allow us to put together our best understanding of complex real-world systems in a simplified way. We are keen to hear additional feedback from community members.

Over the past eight months, we have been working with ESSA Technology Ltd. evaluating model outputs from climate projections and alternative modeling approached for community priorities in relation to T̓silhqot'in food security. We have worked on developing a better understanding of the predicted seasonal changes to temperature and precipitation

patterns and what the implications are for the Nation's food security. We will be bringing modelling outputs to communities on climate variables (temperature and precipitation), specific plants and plant communities and habitats.

We have brought on Dr. Ave Dersch, Principal of Moccasin Flower Consulting, to support on community and school engagement for this project. Ave has over 15 years experience working in the field of traditional land and resource use, archaeology and community-based monitoring of traditional lands and resources. We are thrilled to be collaborating with Ave.

We started community engagement on this project in March and April and are planning upcoming community engagement events in May and June. Engagement on this project is inclusive of community meetings and activities for community schools. Notices for events are posted on TNGs Facebook page and fliers will be sent to communities to help advertise upcoming events.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information on meeting dates and times or if you have any questions or comments about this project.

### **Made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework**

To support the development of the Nation's Impact Assessment Framework, Lauren Arnold, PhD Candidate from UBCs Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, and I have conducted a number of interviews with elders and knowledge holders within the Nation over the winter and into the spring. Our team will be focussing efforts on developing a draft for the Impact Assessment Framework over the summer and fall. An internal review will be conducted on the Impact Assessment Framework Draft and feedback will be sought from the Nation. We will also be looking to an external Advisory Committee for advice on the Nation's Impact Assessment Framework.

More information on this project and material from our previous workshops can be found on TNGs webpage ([www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment)).

Cynthia Fell  
[cynthiafell@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:cynthiafell@tsilhqotin.ca)

## Project Manager

Ave Derch



Hello. My name is Ave Dersch and my background is in anthropology. I am working with JP LaPlante and Cynthia Fell to provide project management support for this study. I hope to meet you at an upcoming community meeting.

### Climate Modelling to Inform Changes to Food Security in T̓silhqot'in Nen

#### Why are we doing this project?

- We are at an important place in time where T̓silhqot'in food security is threatened by climate change.
- No one knows the extent of climate change risks and they have not been looked at with a T̓silhqot'in perspective.

We have prepared a number of climate projection models (maps) for T̓silhqot'in Nen as they relate to food security including:

1. Where and how plant communities are predicted to change
2. Where and how precipitation (i.e., rain and snow) is projected to change
3. What areas are predicted to become drier
4. What areas are predicted to become warmer
5. Where saskatoon berries are predicted to grow

#### Upcoming Community Meetings:

- Xení Gwet'in- May 24, 2022- 12-2pm- Lunch and Door Prizes
- T̓l̓sqox- May 25, 2022- 12-2pm- Lunch and Door Prizes

- Yunešit'in- May 25, 2022- 5-7pm- Dinner and Bingo
- T̓sidedel- May 26, 2022- 12-2pm- Lunch and Door Prizes



[PHOTO 1] Mountain Potato

## Nen Planning Coordinator

Breanna Charleyboy



The 2nd Nen Planning Retreat at Chase BC—Bringing Our Vision To Life provided an opportunity for T̓silhqot̓'in Nation and Community leaders, members, staff, and Nen Coordinators to bring the vision co-created at the first retreat to life and to refine the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Nen Plan and process. We are grateful for those who participated, sharing their wisdom, knowledge, insights and ideas. The Nen Planning Retreat provided an opportunity for TNG and the six Communities Nen Planning Teams to reconnect, and to share their needs and priorities for moving the nen process forward. Overall, participants helped co-develop a T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Nen Plan Project Charter; they honoured past nen planning efforts by sharing stories, events and milestones; they developed a shared vision and framework for engagement and communications, and identified mapping, information management and resource needs. This Nen Planning Retreat aims to help T̓silhqot̓'in Nation and Community leaders, members, staff, and Nen Coordinators navigate some of the complexity of nen planning and to strengthen their ability to plan on their own terms, in mutually supportive ways. We anticipate T̓silhqot̓'in Nation and community leaders, staff, Nen Coordinators, and community members will gather again in June 2022 to define the next phase of the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation and Community nen planning processes.



[PHOTOS 1 & 2]

2nd Nen Planning Retreat in Chase, B.C.

With the wisdom of the past, six T̓silhqot̓'in Communities are developing Community Nen Plans, created by and for our people, to honour our values and to provide a guide for caring for a healthy and self-sustaining nen. The Community Nen Plans will be brought together in a T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Nen Plan. Nen Planning will require data management – the creation, analysis, storage and sharing of data.

TNG and the Council of Chiefs have given direction to prepare a community-led nen planning process that will ultimately lead to six Community Nen Plans and a Nation Nen Plan that identifies our core values, principles, needs, preferences and priorities for managing and protecting nen. Nen Plan components are to be identified through a collaborative, community-led process that is based in our relationship to nen, and is culturally respectful, inclusive, participatory, capacity-driven, strength-based, sustainable, holistic and integrative and that leads to a living plan for generations.

**PRINCIPLES** provide a guiding compass for Nen Planning. Principles were identified by the wisdom and knowledge of TNG and Community Nen Planning Teams, as well as from past nen planning efforts. T̓silhqot̓'in Nation's 14 guiding principles for Nen Planning include: » Respect » Responsibility » Trusting Relationships » Honoring Culture and Language » Honesty and Integrity » Inclusion and Accessibility » Community Led » Community Safety and Consent » Community Sovereignty and Ownership » Sustainability » Holistic and Interconnected » Intergenerational – past, present and future planning and learning » Communication and reciprocity » Adaptable

The T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Nen Plan is intended to serve as a guide for managing the priorities of T̓silhqot̓'in as

they relate to the control, protection and management of our territories. The Nen Plan content goals shared by Nen Planners include:

- To honour the prayers and intentions of our ʔesggidam
- To honor the knowledge of our people, elders, youth, families and leaders
- To support community health and healing
- To enhance the social aspects of nen
- To build team work among TNG and Community leadership, members, staff
- To build community training and capacity building in nen fields
- To celebrate and assert T̓silhqot̓in values, culture, language, and traditions
- To share Elders' knowledge and teachings to be carried forward for the future
- To protect and heal nen for future generations
- To empower our people to protect nen
- To manage climate change and emergencies
- To guide community-based nen decisions, stewardship strategies and actions
- To decide on future development with policies
- To create land use laws and orders that guide land use decisions
- To identify what is allowed on nen and which lands to protect and steward
- To strengthen our self-determination and governance
- To continue to assert T̓silhqot̓in rights, title and control across our territories
- To affirm and respect the Communities autonomy and unity
- To guide external relations, negotiations and assertions with others (Canada, BC, First Nations and private parties)
- To create nen laws, orders and policies legally binding on others

### NEXT STEPS

Next steps identified for the T̓silhqot̓in Nation Nen Plan process in **Spring 2022** involve:

1. Finalizing and bringing the Project Charter to leadership
2. Creating a Nen Planning Retreat Summary Report
3. Developing plans for community visits
4. Organizing TNG and Community meetings
5. Organizing Nen Mapping Team meetings

Next steps identified for **Summer 2022** involve:

6. Organizing a Nen Planning Retreat 3 in June

7. Hosting a small gathering for Nen Coordinators

8. Building the process and 'soft launch' Phase 2

'Understanding our Past and Present'

9. Developing an Information Management Strategy

In **Fall 2022**, steps will be taken to:

10. Launch Phase 2 'Understanding Our Past and Present'

11. Hold a multi-departmental gathering of key people

12. Develop a T̓silhqot̓in Nation Nen Plan

Communications and Engagement Strategy

13. Develop a funding strategy

## Education Manager

Adult & Language Programs  
J. Randolph Radney, Ph.D.



K'an ʔeguh ʔeghulhts'en gweʔlin. Even my early walks are in full daylight now. It's a good time to be out on the land!

### TNG Service

The education team has been happy to be able to visit several communities during the winter and early spring. We enjoyed interacting with the ECE staff at their event in March, and also had a great time learning with the youth of the nation on the land during their time on the land. We have been at community events in Xeni, Tl'esqox, and Tsideldel, but some events at ʔEsdilagh, Yuneʔit'in, and Tl'etinqox had to be postponed or canceled to protect community members from potential COVID contact.

In the coming weeks, we hope to visit each community each month to hear from community members, students, parents, and leaders concerning how we can support education at every level in the nation. We are also planning our support and participation at several community and nation events in the coming spring and summer, including graduations, culture camps, and other gatherings.

### Language Programs

We continue to support and encourage the development of curriculum and other language revitalization efforts in the nation at several locations. "Tsilhqot'in Ch'ih Yaltig Nanagwedetalt'ilh" has gathered an object-based curriculum kit that will be used in immersion daycares there. This kit could also be purchased and used in daycares in other communities that are interested. The approach involves experiential pre-literacy activities, using play to support learning the language. The goal is not merely to learn a language, but to live well in community with others.

### Technology

The CIRA-funded program has continued to move forward and is close to implementation. The emerging technology is innovative, with the capacity to offer extensive and reliable communications with the world and between communities, even during times of crisis.

We anticipate that this pilot will demonstrate that communities can be affordably and efficiently connected to Internet services that will allow people access to the world and also to other TNG communities from their homes throughout the nation. Staff developing the Tsilhqot'in Digital Phrasebook application have released a public version for use. This new software (available at <https://testing.tsilhqotinlanguage.ca/>) will provide meaningful support to those within the nation who are learning the language, as well as many who teach it to others. This app uses the Internet browser of your choice presently, but versions are very close to release that work directly on your mobile device of choice. Nanexwenuwes'in!

## Education Manager

ECE & K-12 Programs  
Lisa Boyd



Spring is here. I am looking forward to warmer days and months ahead. The education team has been meeting with the education committee on education planning and advocating Indigenous Education. We are looking forward to hosting a Nation Graduation for graduates of 2022 at the Tsilhqot'in Nation Gathering this summer 2022.

What is new in education? The Ministry of Education is now "Ministry of Education and Child Care." What does that mean? This move signifies important early learning opportunities and support for future educational success. Child care being in the same ministry with K-12 programs, anticipates that early care and learning will be afforded similar access and consideration that the ministry provides to schools. Families can expect better access to quality, inclusive child care and choice. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/education>

Some community visits over the past few months include visits to Xeni Gwet'in, Tsideldel, and Tl'esqox. I attended Xeni Gwet'in's community engagement for the first time. It was good to visit the community, engage with the community members and see the great things happening in the community.



I took the time to visit Naghtaneqed Elementary Jr. Secondary School and met the staff and toured the school building. Randy Radney and I visited the Xení Gwet'in First Nations Daycare Centre to support the ECE teacher with educational technology. We look forward to seeing Xení Gwet'in's new Daycare facility. It has been great working with Tl'esqox on We Will Revitalize Our Chilcotin Language and seeing the language being shared at community engagements. Everyone is a learner from our youngest generation to our oldest generation. The commitment to revitalize language takes a community to work together. I attended a session at Bendziny resort for the Tsilhqot'in Winter Indigenizing Science & Language Revitalization Camp and what a great opportunity for our youth to be engaged with on the land learning. Yunesit'in school grade 5-8 class visited the Tsilhqot'in National Government to get a tour of the offices and radio station and met some of the departments that were available.

I attended a virtual event hosted by the Okanagan Alliance, "Early Years Gathering". The attendees were from the Okanagan Nation who have community daycare centres in the community. What was shared at the event was language, culture and educational resources within the community and within BC. BC Aboriginal Child Care Society shared a presentation on Moe the Mouse and how to adapt it to your Language. For future engagement, TNG education was invited to future Early Years events to collaborate with their community daycare centres.

I hosted an ECE Professional Development Day on March 22, 2022 for ECE teachers, assistants and language/culture teachers. I had 15 participants attend the event and 3 presenters. The presenters were from Okanagan Alliance- Early Years Coordinator, Vernon School district - Early Years expert and Denisiqi Services Society- Early Years team. The event was to acknowledge our early years teachers and language teachers and their dedication to our youngest generation. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our ECE teachers, language and culture teachers to our youngest learners.

- 1) Susie Lulua, Xení Gwet'in, 23 years + Language
- 2) Brenda Billyboy Stump, Xení Gwet'in, 17 years in Early Childhood Education
- 3) Selina Myers, Yunesit'in, 25 + years in Language and culture

- 4) Cherilyn Stump, Yunesit'in, 19 years Early Childhood Education
- 5) Crystal Stump, Tsideldel, 21 years Early Childhood Education
- 6) Edna Lulua, Tsideldel, 25 + years in Language (started 1974)
- 7) Trudy Stump, Tl'etincox, 17 years in Early Childhood Education
- 8) Trena Haller, Tl'esqox, 20 + years in Early Childhood Education & Language

The UNBC Southern-Central Advisory Council had their quarterly meeting on April 21. TNG education took part in the meeting to meet the Deans and see what educational opportunities are available at UNBC. UNBC takes the time to inform stakeholders and ways UNBC can support the needs of the community in and around the South-Central region, and to identify areas for collaboration and partnership.

The Deans of UNBC's five Faculties were in attendance.

- Dr. Kriston Rennie, Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities
- Dr. Deborah Roberts, Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering
- Dr. Peter Reiners, Dean, Faculty of Environment
- Dr. Ronald Camp II, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics and Interim Dean, Faculty of Human and Health Science.

### Junior Achievement of BC- World of choices

Here are the upcoming WOC JABC:

1. April 7th World of Choices Skilled Trades: <https://forms.office.com/r/zJVZv67jcr>
2. April 28th World of Choices Tourism and Hospitality: <https://forms.office.com/r/EbW5hhyb2S>
3. May 12th World of Choices Agriculture and Natural Resources: <https://forms.office.com/r/XqqWMhcrye>
4. June 2nd World of Choices Indigenous Businesses: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZCPqjtiKqA>

If you are in Grade 6-Grade 12, please sign up to these free events. If you can't attend these events, sign up and they will send you the pre-recorded event. This is a great opportunity to explore educational opportunities. Enjoy the weather and be safe.

## Community Education Liaison

Sherry Stump



March 3, 2022  
Education Coordinator's  
Committee Monthly meeting

March 4, 2022 (FNESC) First  
Nations Education Steering  
Committee Board of Director's Quarterly meeting

March 7, 2022 Chilcotin War Unit Plan presentation with the New Westminster School District No. 40, coordinated by Connie Swan, District Principal for Indigenous Education. TNG facilitating team were Sherry Stump, Daana Gilpin along with SD No. 27 Cariboo Chilcotin Shannon Rerie presented to six teachers at the New Westminster's Secondary School Library.

Connie Swan's comment, "So blessed & honored to have members of T̓silhqot̓in Nation & Williams Lake SD to come and present the Chilcotin War Unit this morning. The traditional song and drum at the House of Commons during the exoneration speech touched my heart and move me to tears. Many thanks to Sherry, Shannon and Daana for sharing their history – this story needs to be told. It was our very first meeting in person...one more step towards reconciliation!"

The T̓silhqot̓in war chief ʔAhan was wrongfully arrested, tried and executed in 1865 in New Westminster. TNG is part of the (MAC) Memorialization Advisory Committee with SD No. 40 as the stakeholder for chief ʔAhan, there will be a memorialization wall recognizing the history for all those buried at the old High School location in New Westminster. TNG signed a Memorandum of Agreement on sister community's relationship with New Westminster with a commitment to work together and support each other in reconciliation.

March 14-17, 2022 Aboriginal Service Plan Thompson River's University contract renewal 2022. TNG partnered with Yeqox Nilin Justice Society to plan the T̓silhqot̓in Winter Indigenizing Science & Language Revitalization camp coordinated by Shirley-Pat Chamberlain. Local knowledge keepers and elders

utilized during the 4 days. Bus transportation from Williams Lake to Bendziny was provided by Adventure Charters.

- 14th – Bendziny – Language on the land learning
- Blessing and song ~ Elders Mary William & Edna Lulua with Knowledge Keeper Joyce Cooper
  - On the land Protocols with Knowledge Keepers Gary Stiemann & Grant Alphonse
  - Fishing – harvesting willow and preparing rods with Knowledge Keeper Gene Cooper
  - Knowledge sharing circle with Elder Mary, Elder Johnny Lulua, Joyce Charleyboy, Linda Jack and Grant Alphonse;
  - Hide scraping & salting with Knowledge Keeper Blaine Grinder
  - Do's and Don'ts of Rifle Safety with Knowledge Keeper Randy Billyboy

- 15th – Bendziny – Language on the land learning
- Blessing and song ~ Elders Mary William & Joyce Cooper;
  - On the land Protocols with Knowledge Keepers Gary Stiemann & Grant Alphonse;
  - Fishing – harvesting willow and preparing rods with Knowledge Keeper Gene Cooper;
  - Knowledge sharing circle with Elder Mary William, Elder Johnny Lulua, Joyce Cooper, Linda Jack and Grant Alphonse;
  - Hide scraping & salting with Knowledge Keeper Blaine Grinder;
  - WWROCL Project – T̓silhqot̓in object-based language learning POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER: Dipnet making with Knowledge Keeper Joyce Cooper.

- 16th – TRU Gathering place, Williams Lake campus
- Welcoming by elder in-residence Cecile Deroose;
  - Knowledge Sharing Circle WWROCL Project, TRU faculty introductions, Youth;
  - Indigenous Pranayama Yoga by Heather Cherrise;
  - T̓silhqot̓in object-based language learning by Linda Jack & Randy Radney;
  - Campus Tour (Culinary Arts class, Trades & Electrical shop) & Swag.

17th – TNG Negotiations Gym, Lakeside

- Blessing and song ~ Knowledge Keeper Gary Stiemann
- Medicine Wheel by elder Edna Lulua;
- T̓silhqot'in teachings Harvesting and medicine picking protocols, processes & practices with Knowledge Keeper Joyce Cooper;
- Medicine making and Wildcrafting with Maggie Ranger;
- Batman Movie.

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops campus  
 Aboriginal Service Plan Contract partnership  
 response to this year's Winter camp final report by  
 Kerrie Russell, Indigenous Education Supervisor

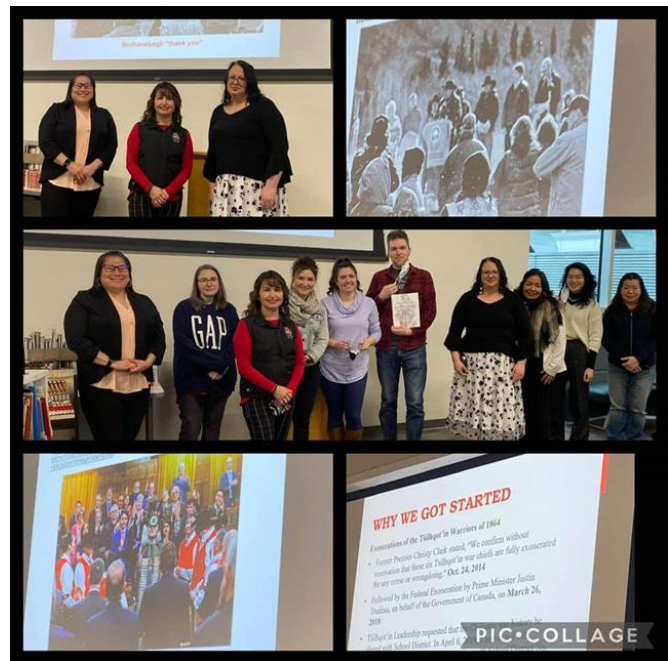
*“Oh WOW Sherry, you are truly AMAZING. I cannot believe the turn around and attention to details. How do we replicate you? The information provided is perfect! The report with images is powerful capturing the experience. If you have any images we could also place in the report, we would definitely welcome these. Sherry, thank you so much for working with us and the fantastic work you do. They are lucky to have you. Stay in touch and if you need anything at all, please reach out. Talk soon please.”*

April 7, 2022  
 Education Committee monthly meeting

April 11, 2022  
 TNG Education update World Café, Negotiations gymnasium

April 25th, 2022  
 Chilcotin War Unit Inspire Zoom Presentation, School District No. 73 (Kamloops)Teacher's Conference

April 29th, 2022  
 Chilcotin War Unit Plan Presentation at School District No. 27 Lake Secondary for local Teacher's and First Nation support workers. Facilitating team are Shannon Rerie SD. No 27, TNG team; Sherry Stump, Daana Gilpin, Joyce Charleyboy.



[PHOTO 1]  
 T̓sidedel Elder Mary William with her granddaughter Jessica, Bendziny - Photo credit: Lauren Carruthers



[PHOTO 2]  
 Youth Ice fishing Bendziny - Photo credit: Lauren Carruthers

## Communications Manager

Jacey Warne



Spring is in the Air – Finally! I am eager to soak up the sunshine, as I know you are all likely ready to do the same!

I wanted to start off by sharing with you that this will be my final newsletter before I am headed off for maternity leave in June. Mitchell and I have a baby on the way! Myanna Desaulniers will be covering as Interim Communications Manager during my leave.



### We're Hiring!

The Communications department is seeking a Communications Coordinator, term position, that will be supporting the Communications team during my maternity leave. If you are interested in applying, please visit [www.tsilhqotin.ca](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca) for further information on the job posting and how to apply.

### Citizen Engagement (CE)

The Communications department has been hard at work over the last couple of months, preparing a schedule for this fiscal year's Citizen Engagement (CE), which will be led by Corrin Williams, Communications Advisor. We are THRILLED to be back in the communities for these, and hope that the CE schedule provides more in-depth and quality engagements this year. You can learn more about the CE schedule in Corrin's section to better get an idea of the plan and when departments will be presenting in the communities. I'm also excited to share that the schedule includes an evening on and off-reserve World Café session, which will be held on June 7th and includes all TNG departments. More details on the poster on page 38 of this newsletter. We hope you'll come out to join us!

### Media

Since the last newsletter, we have also had issued the following press releases:

May 6, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Nation Demand a Leadership Role to Address Prolific Offenders

May 5, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Ts̓'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) Host Sacred Fire Ceremony in Honour of National Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Day: Call for Meaningful Action to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People

March 29, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Chiefs Call for Meaningful Role in St. Joseph's Mission Site-Investigation

March 23, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Nation Releases Heritage Strategy

March 4, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Nation celebrates Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse being awarded the Order of British Columbia

February 23, 2022: T̓silhqot̓in Chiefs Raise Alarm with Pacific Salmon Treaty Commissioners: Call on Commission to "solve Alaskan fishery problem now" prior to 2022 harvest

These press releases and others can be found on the tsilhqotin.ca website here: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/press-releases/>

I know the Communications team and entire TNG team are really looking forward to all the gatherings and events that are lined up over the next few months.

If you are curious about the upcoming gatherings and events, please visit <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/events/>

Wishing you all a warm and sunny Summer!

Warmly,  
Jacey Warne  
Communications Manager

## Communications Advisor

Corrin Williams



Happy Spring Everyone! I hope this finds you well and enjoying the warmer weather. It certainly has been busy the past few months, which has made it go by quickly.

I am excited to share with you some changes to the Community Engagement Schedule, recap the first part of 2022, and end with an update on some Nation events that will be taking place in the near future.

In January the Communications Department had circulated a survey for feedback on how you felt the Community Engagement Sessions had gone in 2021. With the results from the survey the Community Engagement Schedule was revised for 2022/2023, starting in April.

One of the things identified from the survey, was a need for an evening session for off-reserve members as well as for members who are unable to attend their community's afternoon session. The new schedule now includes, 2 Café Style evening sessions, and all members are welcome!

The schedule was also modified to 10 months of scheduled engagement, with no engagement in August and December.

Lastly, 7 of the 10 months will focus on one TNG department instead of 2 or 3 departments as we have done in the past. In some cases where a project involves more than one department they may choose to team up in order to provide the communities with the most comprehensive updates for the sessions. In the end our key motivation for the changes to Community Engagement are to make it fun, interactive, informative, and to keep the T̓silhqot̓in Members updated on the ongoing work TNG is involved in for the Nation.

Speaking of work in the Nation, in April I had the honour of supporting Xeni Gwet̓in Chief and Council with their Declared Title Land Roadshow, a

presentation sharing their knowledge on the “good, bad, and the ugly” of being the stewards of title land and giving other communities an inside look at what is needed on the path towards getting title.

May brings spring flowers, and T̓silhqot̓in Nən into community for engagement on their, Climate Modelling to Inform Changes to Food Security Project. Three of the six communities have had their sessions in April, the remaining sessions in May are as follows:

**Xeni Gwet̓in** - May 24, 2022 at the Government Office - 12:00 – 2:00. Lunch provided and draw prizes!

**Tl̓'esqox** - May 25, 2022 at the Community Hall - 12:00 – 2:00. Lunch provided and draw prizes!

**T̓sideldel** – May 26, 2022 at the Culture Centre - 12:00 – 2:00. Lunch provided and draw prizes!

In June the Governance Sub-Table will visit each community to update on Dechen T̓sedilhtan (the T̓silhqot̓in Constitution), Nation Tu (water) Law, T̓silhqot̓in Nidlin (child and family jurisdiction). Please watch the TNG Facebook page or the TNG website in late May for these session dates.

Join us on June 7, 2022 for our first Café Style Off-Reserve Session at TNG Lakeside Gymnasium 5:00 pm- 8:00 pm. The great thing about the evening session is you have the opportunity to engage with each TNG department one on one. Dinner will be provided and we will be playing a TNG style BINGO game for some great prizes!

### Additional celebrations in June:

Tuesday June 21, 2022 is National Indigenous Peoples Day

Nation's Title Win Day Celebration on Sunday June 26, 2022

Well, that does it for me this time around.

I would like to thank you for your time and express my gratitude for all the support and kindness shown to me when I am out in community, it is the reason I love what I do.

I wish you good health and happiness,  
Corrin Williams – Communications Advisor  
corrinwilliams@tsilhqotin.ca or 778-799-2145 Ext: 2095

TNG  
*World Café*  
 On and Off-Reserve  
 Community  
 ENGAGEMENT



Come gather with us for a fun, informative evening!

**Tuesday June 7, 2022**  
**5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

We will start with a delicious Dinner and end the evening with a chance to win some terrific door prizes !

*The Details*

- **This event is open to both on and off-reserve T̓silhqot'in members.**
- It will be Café style, where each person can sit, talk, and give suggestions to TNG staff members from each department.
- We will be playing a TNG style **BINGO** game for prizes, so stop by some, or stop by all stations for a chance to win!
- We hope to see you there!

*The Departments*

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Human Resources          | • Stewardship              |
| • Emergency Services       | • T̓silhqot'in Nen         |
| • T̓silhqot'in Radio       | • Declared Title Area      |
| • Fisheries                | • Governance               |
| • Health                   | • Economic                 |
| • Language & Culture       | • Development              |
| • Fisheries                | • Dandzen                  |
| • Communications           | • Social                   |
| • Compliance & Enforcement | • Housing & Infrastructure |

*Location*

TNG Lakeside Gym - 1729 South Lakeside Drive

For more information contact: Corrin Williams 778-799-2145 or corrinwilliams@tsilhqotin.ca

## Communications Project Specialist

Myanna Desaulniers



Communications is chugging along here at TNG. Here are some updates:

### Events!

As much as people don't often visit webpages as often as social media, we still work hard to keep our pages up to date. Our most recent fun addition is the Events page. We will try our best to post all Nation events, meetings, etc. to this calendar for everyone to see.

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



### Tsilhqot'in Deni webpage

If you haven't yet, sign up for the Tsilhqot'in Deni webpage. This page has information that is meant ONLY for Tsilhqot'in members. We have videos, reports, and other information located there. [www.tsilhqotin.ca/deni](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/deni)

### Creativity

I am always looking for new ways to involve Nation members in activities at the Nation level. I have been working with the heritage department to find creative ways of celebrating, protecting, understanding and

practicing heritage. Pulling from the heritage strategic plan, there will be some fun engagement sessions this spring/summer.

I am also working with Emergency Services to build awareness of emergency preparation in communities. See their page in this newsletter for some of the postings. We also have a few contests running that have already past their deadline. One was a TikTok challenge and the other was a drawing contest for the schools in the territory.

Here is a photo of my kids and I at the ceremony for the archaeologists to start their work at Tsiyi. Playing in the dirt as always.



## Economic Development Manager

Dolly Kershaw



We continue to work on exploring clean energy projects that were identified in the Nation Clean Energy Plan - we have received funding for the geothermal, biomass and wind power assessment – Barkley Project Group will be working with us on this Initiative.

Another project we are exploring is the expansion of the current solar farm from a 1.25 MW to a 5MW – the pre-feasibility study has been completed and we will be initiating an economic burden study to review the amount of money people are spending on power and heating home compared to their household income, this information will be beneficial for the feasibility study.

**A small solar panel system** will be installed at Tlesqox's youth centre – this is for demonstration purposes and will have an information board visible for individuals to see and read how solar panels generate energy.

The provincial and federal governments have made mandates to reduce emissions of Greenhouse Gases(GHG) by 2030 so we really must educate ourselves on how we can change our way of conducting business and general everyday living to meet these goals. Reducing GHG emissions will make for an overall healthier environment for everyone.

**The Nation Tourism Plan** is still in progress and are still conducting surveys. We do have some dates planned for May and June to be in communities. If you haven't already done so, please complete the survey by clicking on this link. We have some great prizes up for grab.

The tourism plan will help us with a roadmap of future tourism activities that will reflect market trends and current aspirations of communities and the Nation while protecting our values and principles.

[https://corexmsn88lcl6rnrx3vq.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_727pYO3o1Hcx4mq](https://corexmsn88lcl6rnrx3vq.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_727pYO3o1Hcx4mq)

We would love to put on another entrepreneurship training program, if anyone is interested in starting their own business please contact me at [dkershaw@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:dkershaw@tsilhqotin.ca)

Currently the Economic Development is going through a program review with an outside consultant to see how we can improve our services.



## International Relations



### Highlights:

#### T̓ìlhqot̓'in help open Reception at the Government of Canada Mission to the UN.

- A reception was hosted by the Government of Canada and opened by the T̓ìlhqot̓'in, AFN, Metis, and Inuit.
- The reception provided time to strengthen relations with Canada representatives - Ambassador Rae, Minister Miller and Minister Hajdu – and discuss both the successes and the areas of T̓ìlhqot̓'in work needing particular focus.
- Minister Miller had just returned from visiting T̓ìlhqot̓'in Chiefs in Williams Lake.
- Chief Francis delivers a speech from the UN floor
- After navigating various formal, and informal processes, Chief Francis gave a powerful speech to the forum.
- Chief Francis acknowledged he was one of six T̓ìlhqot̓'in Chiefs and spoke to the T̓ìlhqot̓'in people's fight for survival – for the Nation's lands, waters, way of life – and basic human rights.
- The speech also highlighted the threat from the mining and logging industry – and their impacts on wildlife and culture.
- Chief Francis relayed he was at the forum to

share the T̓ìlhqot̓'in experience and hold Canada accountable.

- His speech was translated into multiple languages for the world to hear. The T̓ìlhqot̓'in speech had supporters wait all day to hear the Chief's statement and stand behind him.



#### T̓ìlhqot̓'in delegates established strong relations with UN Ambassador Bob Rae

Bob Rae, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, met Chief Francis on the first day and there was a lot of respect shown to Chief and the T̓ìlhqot̓'in Nation.



- He relayed how he taught for years about the Supreme Court decision and how happy he was to meet Chief.
- This was another opportunity to build relations not only with Canada representatives but Indigenous leaders from across Canada (AFN, Inuit, Metis).
- The visit ended with Ambassador Rae provided T̓ìlhqot̓'in gifts.
- Chief invited the Ambassador to the territory

### Contributed to a new beginning for a North American Indigenous Caucus

- Every region in the world has an Indigenous Caucus to assist region specific coordination, organization and mobilization to address common issues.
- The North American Caucus has been relatively dormant for several years
- This was the first meeting in years to bring US and Canadian delegates together. The goal was to initiate a caucus renewal so North American Indigenous Peoples could be unified and better prepared to elevate issues/solutions.
- The T̓silhqot̓in Nation was the only Canadian First Nation represented and they shared their recommendations for a Caucus renewal. Chief Francis supported the direction of a NA Caucus and expressed a range of topics needing focus (including mining human rights violations, need for holistic social strategies, and healing).



- A small committee was established to support the initial steps at re-establishing the Caucus.

### Met with UN Special Rapporteur Francisco Cali Tzay



- The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues is Guatemalan but lived in Vancouver as a political refugee for 7 years. Both he and Chief Francis had many stories to share and soon realized their stories had threads of overlap and they knew the same people.
- There was also interest from the Special Rapporteur to visit BC and learn more about the protection of water. Chief Francis talked about the mining industry and its impact on the T̓silhqot̓in people/food security.
- He had received the T̓silhqot̓in/UBC Covid report that will be incorporated into his UN COVID report.



### New Knowledge & Allies

The delegation returned home with new knowledge and allies (both Indigenous and with the Government of Canada). The experience gained will help inform new strategic approaches with the ultimate goal to improve the lives of T̓silhqot̓in citizens and advance the Nation.