



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

Tisel?lza (January) The month of the golden eagle

Benen Ses ?Elhtsish (February) The month the bears have their cubs.



Sacred Fires Ceremony 2022

Photo Credit: Jody Nishima

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Health Manager

Connie Jasper



Welcome to 2022. I hope that you got to enjoy some time over the holidays to be with family or friends. We definitely had some winter weather over the holidays.

We are now 2 full years into the Pandemic and many of us are feeling Pandemic fatigue. With the Omicron virus we are seeing transmission at a much higher rate and higher hospitalization than with the previous variants. However, for those vaccinated the symptoms seem to be less severe.

Our team at the Nation have been supporting Vaccine Clinics and getting Rapid Tests to communities. In December we held a Vaccine Clinic for staff members and in January we held a clinic for our members living in the Williams Lake area. A very special thank you to the nurses that assisted Brittany with the vaccine clinics, Dana Pedersen, Lyndy Friesen and Sam Rizcu.

New nurses were hired by Tl'etinqox and ?Esdilagh to work at the community level. Xeni's nurse Linda Gill retired and left the community in December. We are working with Xeni to recruit. We would like to wish Linda and Ken all the best as they are spending the winter in Mexico before returning to their home in Fort St. John.

We also have some vacancies in the Mental Health field in communities and are working to get these positions filled. We welcomed a couple new Clinicians to our team as well and they will be introduced in the near future.

We spent the month of January assisting communities to prepare for the Williams Lake First Nations release of initial work done at St. Joseph's Mission. On January 25, 2022 we assisted the Women's Council with an event at the Lakeside office to hear the live feed and provide some support.

We have a number of events coming over the next few months. Starting with Health Planning on February 1st.



Community Nutritionist

Carleigh Walters



Hello 2022! Before we get into the new year, here is where we left off in 2021. In Tsideldel I spent more time with Juanita working on meal planning and helped her provide traditional lunches for health staff in training.

This was on top her weekly meals for elders. In December, Xeni Gwet'in hosted a Health Beat Challenge. Lorna, Brittany and myself from the health staff helped with this process and went out again to do a follow up session 8 weeks later. My main role was to help community members to make attainable goals related to health. Also, in Xeni Gwet'in, I have been fortunate to tag along with Denisiqi where

we have visited the school, hung out with the youth group and even participated in a girl's night at the youth centre. Next in Tl'esqox, I have spent time with health staff learning about their needs in the community and hosted a conversation around meals for individuals with chewing problems. I received valuable feedback from community members and created a culturally appropriate resource with their insight. Like I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I was scheduled to present at the Yunesit'in baby group. During my scheduled time to go there was a shortage of food in grocery stores so we had to get creative with low inventory. The parents that came were very understanding and participants got to go home with a meal to share with their families. Then, right before Christmas, I went to Yunesit'in and hosted a "Snack Board" workshop to provide families with ideas for a simple yet nutritious way to offer a meal. We also chatted about iron, the Canadian Food Guide and snack ideas.

Now into 2022. Early this year our health staff went to ?Esdilagh to meet the new Health Director, Carlos. I am very excited to work with Carlos and help him offer community members healthy meals! Also, in January, I assisted at the multiday vaccination clinics that were organized by our nurse Brittany. Currently, our health team is working hard to plan for the 2022 Diabetes Road Show and I am learning lots throughout the process. I look forward to working with all communities and have exciting opportunities brewing for 2022!

Health Programs Coordinator

Lorna Elkins



My co-workers and I went back to Xení for their Healthbeat Challenge follow-up with their walking group. We had a good day with the staffs and the weather was great. We also had a Booster clinic with our staffs and their spouses before the Christmas holidays.

In the New Year, I had delivered Rapid Testing kits to a couple of the communities that haven't picked up their shipment. We had our two-day Covid Vaccine clinic

for off-reserve members and to anyone who wanted their booster vaccine. We had a good few days and had a good turnout.

I attended the Sacred Fire that was hosted by Tsilhqot'in Women Council at our Lakeside office. The weather was great and we had a great turn out for the event. We had some support group that came and joined the event. The Women's Council had done a great job hosting the event.

This week will be busy with zoom meetings with our Tsilhqot'in communities for our first Diabetes Roadshow planning meetings.

The dates for the Diabetes Roadshow are as follows:

- February 28th Tl'esqox
- March 1st & 2nd Tsideldel
- March 3rd & 4th Tl'etinqox
- March 7th & 8th Yunesit'in
- March 9th & 10th Xení
- March 11th ?Esdilagh

I'm looking forward to the Diabetes Roadshow and going out to the communities.

Happy February and enjoy what's left of winter.

Health Receptionist

Hazel Quilt



On December 10, 2021, before the Christmas break, I took part in helping with the booster shot clinic with health staff at the TNG Lakeside office.

The Christmas break was so nice, a much-needed break. I got to go to Kamloops and visit my son and his family. Visited friends that I haven't seen since I moved back to Williams Lake.

On January 18th and 20th, 2022 the booster shot clinic was held for off reserve band members by TNG Health Staff. I sure enjoyed calling people and making appointments.

On January 25th, the Sacred Fires ceremony was held at the TNG Lakeside Office and I listened to the announcement of the Residential School findings of remains. That was a hard day for everyone. I'm glad I was there with people who did show up for that. That is it for now, take care everyone.

Registered Nurse

Brittany Handel



In December, our team did a follow up visit to Xeni for the ISPARC Health Beat challenge. If communities are interested participating- they can contact Lorna, the TNG Health Program planner. As well, our team hosted a covid vaccine booster clinic at the lake side office.

After the holidays, the Omicron variant was announced and much of health's focus turned to that due to the variant's high rate of infection and transmissibility. With the ongoing provincial guideline changes, we are working hard to ensure that we are reviewing and updating the nursing stations and community members with the most current guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. Our team hosted a vaccine clinic again at the lake side office and had a great turn out. With the surge in covid cases, the province rolled out the deployment of rapid tests for community members. To ensure that the tests did not freeze, our team travelled to communities to deliver to the nursing station. We are continually working with the nursing stations to provide education and updated information on self-testing and reporting.

February is a busy planning month for us. TNG health planning is occurring virtually this month due to Omicron, and hopefully can be done soon in person when it is safer to do so. I am involved in cultural safety meetings with Interior Health to advocate for changes within the hospital setting to create safer spaces and enhanced supports. A large focus for February is planning the 6th annual diabetes roadshow, which is led by Lorna. There is a lot of planning involved to ensure that the days in community go smoothly and that community members get the most benefits during our time there. Be sure to reach out to your nursing station to inquire

about appointment times! As well, I am working with health staff in each community to support in telehealth operations. This includes maintenance of the equipment and staff training. This is a great way for people to access various types of health services and limit the amount of travel and time spent- and is a great opportunity to access care while staying safe from covid.

As always, our team is here to help answer questions so please feel free to reach out. Please stay safe and be kind to each other during these times. Spring is coming up soon, and hopefully covid can move into an endemic state.

Mental Health Clinical Lead

Ellen Williams



The last few months have definitely had its shares of ups and down. Our Counselling Team is continuing to work through the challenges of COVID, having a smaller team and recruiting for new clinicians. Its difficult to know when and how this will change in the upcoming months but we continue to try to be grateful for what we do have and we are leaning into our community partners more than ever. Denisiqi, Interior Health, Indian Residential School Survivors Society and FNHA are a few of our current resources that are part of the plan to build up mental health services for the Nation. As well, some communities are utilizing their local healers and cultural workers to meet communities acute mental health needs. Our team hopes that in the coming months there will be more normalcy with reduced COVID restrictions and our aim is to solidify a mental health plan involving all of our partners. I think the COVID pandemic has reminded us that we have to be pro active, adaptable and open to change. With this in mind, we go forward to a new year, ensuring that our mental health services reflect what we have learned.

TIPS FOR GETTING THROUGH WINTER

Winter blues are a thing..common, normal and warranted in some parts of Canada. Sometimes I find even walking out of the house in my big boots, 3 layers, and puffy hats gets me tired! However, I remind myself

that we are fortunate to have all seasons here in the Caribou and sometimes it takes practicing mindfulness (and a little effort) to find the joy that seems to come easier in the summer months.

Here are some tips to get through this time of year.

1. **Get out the front door.** If you are dressed warmly and you make it that far, you might as well keep going. Even a 10 minute walk outside can make all of the difference to your mental health. Our ancestors usually lived outside most of the day, and homes were mostly for shelter and sleepy time. We heal outside in the wind, snow, cold and the sun. Make it a goal to get outside at least one time each day. Set a time at the beginning of each day and promise yourself you will get outside, even if you just stand there! You will feel good about yourself if you do this one thing for just you.

2. **This is the season you get to enjoy warm soups and hot tea.** Its rare in the summer that I eat a hot stew or soup, and if I do, it does not give the same satisfaction of warming up your body on a cold winter day. Try making your hot soup or stew and take it outside to eat! This may sound a little uncomfortable (where to sit!), but give it a try! Bring a mat you can sit on, a lawn chair and ask a friend to join you. You might see that it gives you this nice comforting feeling of being warm and nourished while outside in the cold environment. You can also take your hot tea or coffee outside too. Little experiences like this help remind you to enjoy the winter foods which we miss in our hot summers.

3. **Winter activities.** Ever been ice fishing with a buddy? Actually its quite relaxing and rewarding in many ways. Fresh air, peaceful nature, and your mind clears as you focus on getting a catch. Bring a snack, chair and an ice fishing rod and ask around to see if anyone is going ice fishing in the community. You will find many people go regularly and would welcome people coming to join in. We have a lot of lakes in this area and nothing is more satisfying than catching your own fish to make a healthy dinner. You can also snow shoe, go for winter hikes, ice skate, swim in indoor pools and sit in the sauna afterward. Take a quick walk around Scout Island and you will see others on the trail and on the lake, enjoying the winter weather. No bad weather, only bad outfit choices so dress warm.

Stewardship Manager

Luke Doxtator

Brrrr we sure had some cold weather and lots of snow this year. I'm so glad that we bought a new furnace a few years ago to keep up with the cold miserable weather we had to keep us warm while inside.

The amount of snow that fell this winter was crazy. I have lived in Williams Lake since 2001 and I do not recall ever seeing this much snow accumulate.

Well enough about the cold and snow, please see below some of the highlights from the TSD this past winter.

TSD staffing: We are fortunate to have Gracie Frost start as the Wildlife Technician apprentice. Gracie was our receptionist and transitioned into the TSD starting January. She will be working along side of Mitch on all Wildlife files.

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.



This winter if time and weather allow we will be collaring a few different ungulate species. One of these are the bighorn sheep from the four mountain herds. The capture and collaring will allow us to test to determine if any of these four herds are infected with the disease *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, which has caused die-offs in numerous herds throughout North America and has been found within the Fraser River herds. The collaring will allow us to determine critical use sites and movement rates between herds to better protect and manage for. The collars are tan coloured with black numbers.

We will also be collaring Roosevelt Elk that are located in the Homathko-Tatlayoko area. These elk are the Roosevelt elk, which are the coastal subspecies of elk, based on preliminary fecal pellets submitted by Xeni staff. The Rocky Mountain elk are concentrated in the Quesnel area. The goal of this project is to determine if these coastal Roosevelt elk will move out of the mountains into the drier habitat or if they are likely to stay in the moister habitat. These collars are brown coloured with white numbers.

Feral horse mares are planned to be collared mainly in the North Chilcotin but a few in the South Chilcotin as well. There is limited information for feral horses in the area but a lot of horses. There are a few objectives with this project including what their survival rate is, what habitats they use and if they are competing with moose. These collars are either all black belts or black belts with white numbers.

Wildlife Biologist

Mitchell Warne

The TNG Stewardship department has a number of projects on the go or should have on the go. Below are the overviews of some of the projects.

The five grizzly bears that we collared in the fall all travelled to their den sites and started napping between November 28th and December 10th. The dens are all in the mountain areas and were as far as ~42km away from their capture site. So now we wait for spring to see where these grizzlies travel to.



TNG is also collaring moose, both cows and bulls. This projects objectives include determining if moose are readily utilizing the wildfire and mountain pine beetle areas of the West Chilcotin the same way as the primary prey theory says they will be, how are moose and feral horses interacting, and are bull moose habitat needs the same as cow moose and if not what can we do to improve things to make more moose for sustenance. We are collaring cow moose in the North Chilcotin while BC has cow moose collared in the South Chilcotin. TNG Cow moose collars are white with black numbers (BC's are only black belts) and TNGs bull moose collars are either all black or black with white numbers.

In terms of harvesting collared animals; we ask that you do not harvest cow moose with the white collars.

Bull moose are in black belts except for remote locations so you are not likely to find bulls with white numbers. However, if you do find a bull with white numbers we would prefer, if you can, that you do not harvest that bull since those collars are out for four years. Bull moose with only black belts would be out for no more than two years so there isn't the same concern. If you do harvest any of the collared animals please contact TNG and/or contact Mitchell Warne. Each collar has a metal plate attached to it with contact information to call or email so that we can come pick up the collar. We just want the collar back to download the data from it.

We will also be completing a few surveys focused on determining if there are any caribou remaining that spend winter in the windswept alpine, an updated feral horse population survey for the NW portion of the Territory, and elk surveys West of the Fraser River to determine if they are increasing in number.

We will have a busy rest of the winter and spring so that the Nation gets the information it needs to make management decisions for these species moving forward.

If you have any questions the collaring program or in wildlife in general you can contact me using the below information;

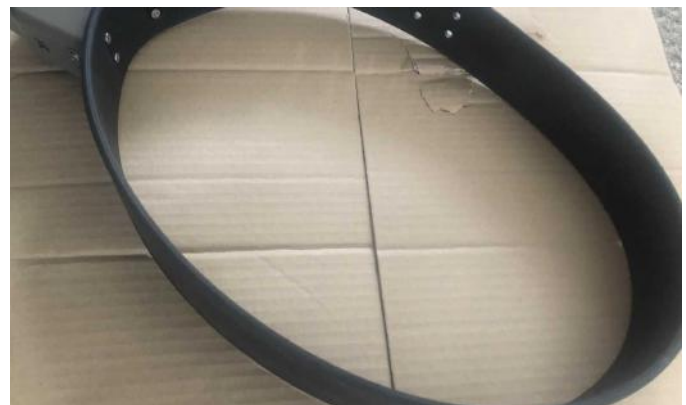
Mitchell Warne R.P.Bio.
 TNGs Wildlife Biologist
 Phone: 780-814-2026
 E-mail: mwarne@tsilhqotin.ca



[PHOTO 1]
 TNG Cow Moose Collar



[PHOTO 2]
 TNG Bull Moose Collar with White Numbers and Expanding Belt



[PHOTO 3]
 TNG Cow Moose Collar TNG Bull Moose Collar with Black Belt and No Numbers



[PHOTO 4]
 TNG Cow Moose Collar Bull Elk Collar (back) and Bighorn Ram Collar (front) with Expanding Belts

Mining, Oil & Gas Coordinator

Helga Harlander



Mining Update

TNG received engagement letters from two companies that plan to apply for mineral exploration permits:

- Amarc plans to apply for another five year permit for the Ike property. The current permit is due to expire. The company has not carried out any exploration activities in the last years.
- Goldplay Mining, a junior exploration company, sent an introduction letter. The company holds mineral claims west of Tatlayoko Lake and is searching for Gold and Copper. They carried out a rock and soil sampling program in 2021 for which they didn't need a permit.

Government consultation on these exploration projects is expected within the next months.

Trivia: Rare Earth Elements

(with information from: U.S. Geological Survey & NRCAN)

What are rare earth elements?

The rare earth elements (REE) are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table plus scandium and yttrium.

What are rare earth elements used for?

Rare-earth elements (REE) are necessary components of more than 200 products across a wide range of applications, especially high-tech consumer products, such as cellular telephones, computer hard drives, electric and hybrid vehicles, and flat-screen monitors and televisions. Significant defense applications include electronic displays, guidance systems, lasers, and radar and sonar systems.

Where are rare earth elements found?

Rare earth elements are common in the earth's crust but rarely in economic concentrations. Canada has

some of the largest known reserves and resources of rare earths in the world. There are a number of advanced exploration projects in Canada, including in BC.

Where are rare earth elements currently produced?

China produces approximately 60% of the world supply, followed by the USA (~15%), Myanmar (~10%) and Australia (~10%).



Rare earth elements (REEs) are a group of 15 elements referred to as the lanthanide series in the periodic table of elements. Scandium and yttrium, while not true REEs, are also included in this categorization because they exhibit similar properties to the lanthanides and are found in the same ore bodies. REEs are key components in many electronic devices that we use in our daily lives, as well as in a variety of industrial applications.

Key facts

- Canada has some of the largest known reserves and resources (measured and indicated) of rare earths in the world, estimated at over 15 million tonnes of rare earth oxides.
- China is the world's largest producer of REEs, accounting for over 60% of global annual production, estimated at 132,000 tonnes in 2019.

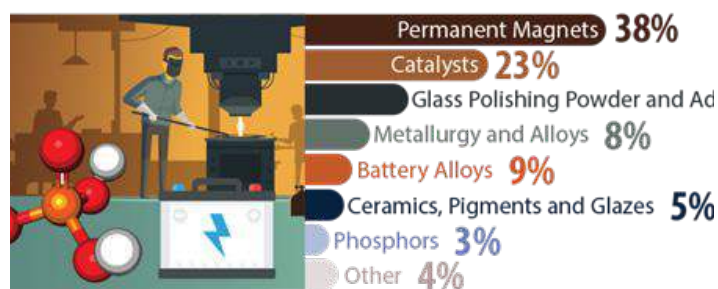
Learn more about rare earth elements:

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/minerals-mining/minerals-metals-facts/rare-earth-elements-facts/20522#L1>

Rare earth elements (REEs) are used in a variety of industrial applications, including electronics, clean energy, aerospace, automotive and defence.

The manufacturing of permanent magnets represents the single largest and most important end use for REEs, accounting for 38% of total forecasted demand. Permanent magnets are an essential component of modern electronics used in cell phones, televisions, computers, automobiles, wind turbines, jet aircraft and many other products. REEs are also widely used in high-technology and "green" products because of their luminescent and catalytic properties.

Rare earth elements uses, 2019



This graph shows the major industrial uses of REEs forecasted for 2019. The largest use is in permanent magnets (38%); followed by catalysts (23%); glass polishing powder and additives (13%); metallurgy and alloys (8%); battery alloys (6%); ceramics, pigments and glazes (5%); phosphors (3%); and other products (4%).

Production

While not a current producer of REEs, Canada is host to a number of advanced exploration projects and some of the largest reserves and resources (measured and indicated) of these metals, estimated at almost 15 million tonnes of rare earth oxides.

REEs are categorized as being either “light” or “heavy”:

- Light REEs (lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium and scandium) are produced in global abundance and are in surplus supply
- Heavy REEs (terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium and yttrium) are produced mainly in China and are in limited supply. Global efforts to bring new resources to the marketplace continue.

Many of Canada’s most advanced REEs exploration projects contain high concentrations of the globally valued heavy REEs used in high-technology and clean-energy applications.

Learn more about why rare earth elements are important: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/simply-science/why-are-rare-earth-elements-important-ask-nrcan/20667>

International context

China is the world’s largest producer of REEs, accounting for over 60% of global annual production, estimated at 132,000 tonnes for 2019. Most of the remaining 40% is shared between the United States,

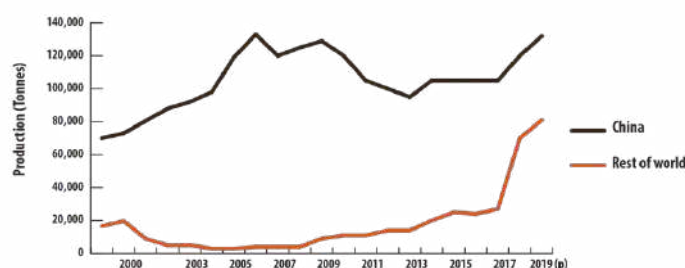
Burma (Myanmar), Australia and India. China remains virtually the only producer of the valued heavy REEs.

World production of REEs, by country, 2019 (p)

Ranking	Country	Thousand tonnes	Percentage of total
1	China	132.0	62.0%
2	United States	26.0	12.2%
3	Burma (Myanmar)	22.0	10.3%
4	Australia	21.0	9.9%
5	India	3.0	1.4%
-	Other countries	9.0	4.2%
-	Total	213.0	100.0%

The United States was the world’s largest supplier of REEs until the emergence of China in the mid-1990s. China was virtually the world’s sole REEs supplier until 2012, when the now-bankrupt US producer Molycorp Inc. and the Australian company Lynas Corporation Ltd. commenced commercial production.

World REEs production, 1988–2018 (p)



This 30-year graph shows REE production by China compared with the rest of the world. In 1989, China’s production was estimated at 20,000 tonnes while the rest of the world had an estimated production of 22,000 tonnes. By 2006, China’s production was estimated to have reached 119,000 tonnes, while the rest of the world produced 4,000 tonnes. In 2019, China produced an estimated 132,000 tonnes, while the rest of the world produced an estimated 81,000 tonnes.

Notes and sources

Why are rare earth elements important? (Ask NRCAN) podcast
<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/simply-science/why-are-rare-earth-elements-important-ask-nrcan/20667>

All slides will be presented on during the community engagement sessions in February. Until next time, stay safe and warm;

Helga Harlander

Gibraltar Mine

Upcoming submissions (end of March 2022):

- Five-year Mine and Reclamation Plan update
- Application to construct a water treatment plant
- Application to increase effluent discharge to the Fraser River

GIS Team Lead & Portal Administrator

Sarah Gash



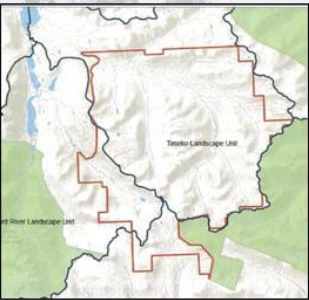
So it is official. I am now the shortest one in the family, besides the dog. Sigh, I am okay with it other than it means the littles in my family aren't so little anymore. Christmas was a great break despite having our furnace quit at -35. Lots of time to huddle under a blanket watching TV or reading and I took up a new hobby baking so had the oven going lots which had the side benefit of keeping the kitchen warm.

The new year is upon us and with it a renewed energy and motivation to forward the good work we are completing in mapping.

Some exciting news first. Teriann, GIS Apprentice, has embarked on an extended learning opportunity, taking GIS training through Okanagan College. We are excited for her new challenge and looking forward to see what she might be able to contribute to the team once she has completed the 5-month program. Teriann continues to check in with us during our GIS team meetings, and has also been able to contribute to some ongoing work with ArcGIS Online and Survey123.

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 to make sure we are able to share data as requested, make visually appealing, accurate, and current maps and enable better efficient data collection. Sometimes this work takes a bit longer as we are often distracted by the pressing more urgent work, but we stay on track and keep each other up to date.

Amarc – Ike Project



- Permit due to expire in March
- Amarc plans to apply for another 5-year permit
- No field work completed in the last years

Goldplay Mining – Goldstorm South



- Junior Exploration company
- Goldplay sent introduction letter
- No application for an exploration permit so far

Some key projects I have been focusing on include conducting analysis and summaries to support discussion around the recently announce BC Old Growth Deferral Strategy. The BC Government has made some recommendations on areas throughout the province that meet old growth forest criteria. Some of these areas coincide with the T̓silhqot̓in territory and I have provided mapping and summaries to the stewardship and negotiations departments to allow them to discuss the process internally and with BC, by consultative areas and by territory.

Last fall maps for each consultative area were provided by me for T̓silhqot̓in Stewardship Council Representatives showing all lakes in the T̓silhqot̓in territory that have been stocked with varied fish species in the last 4 years. Lakes that might benefit from stocking might thereby be identified.

GIS is keeping up work to support the Nen team, wildlife and housing, either with map requests, data request or tools for data collection. Housing Reps have done a great job of collecting addresses and house locations. We will be working with them to fill in gaps, identify new houses in community and getting new addresses assigned. We had the opportunity to attend the Nen Retreat in Sun Peaks in late November. It was a valuable opportunity to get to know the team, and discuss in broad terms the goals of the group. We are looking forward to engaging with the team more as priorities are identified.

I have also reinitiated a campaign I started last year to implement a new server to house the TNG Stewardship Planning Portal and a new instance of NextCloud. The new server will have enough storage to accommodate broader use by TNG staff. NextCloud is a web-based platform for data sharing much like Google Drive and Dropbox however, NextCloud software, and data shared on it, lives on a server at TNG, not in some data storage facility of Google's choosing. The Portal has always been housed on a server at TNG, adhering to data sovereignty guidelines before it was even a movement. Setting up NextCloud as an alternate way of sharing information upholds this vision of asserting control over TNG data and information, thereby asserting TNG's place in the digital world. Myanna has been piloting this software to share documents and information with a Members Only group. It has been a success so we will start to

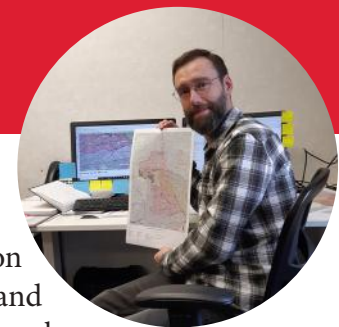
register TNG staff users and consultants in a measured and strategic way until the new server is up and running.

Sechanalyagh,
Sarah Gash



GIS Technician

Adam Gaudet



Hello everyone and Happy New Year! The winter break was great. I got to catch up on some neglected housework and repairs and also had time to make some wonderfully big family dinners. So very nice!

As for work, I am currently creating a mineral tenure map of active permits and referral submissions in the Territory. I am just about done with this and will send it off to Helga for final review.

Other recent work includes a finalizing review of our roads update process. I'm sure Mark will have mentioned this before but this process is important for GIS as roads do get updated frequently enough, so it is important to have the most up-to-date spatial data for mapping purposes.

I have also been working on an automation process to send out emails from a mailing list. This can be important tool for various processes such as during wildfire season where information can be in the hands of emergency management in a quick and efficient manner.

I also recently created a flight path map as Stewardship may (will?) be flying to collect aerial information on wildhorses within the Territory. A similar project was undertaken by the Province in 2019. Wildlife will duplicate the study path and make an updated record of the numbers for this current year.

I also did some general drone troubleshooting before the break. There was an issue where the drone camera would switch off after a few minutes of flying, basically rendering the user blind in the air when flying. Thankfully this is no longer the case anymore and the pilot now has “eyes in the sky” again.

Before the break I also completed some JIBC (Justice Institute of British Columbia) Emergency Management courses. These courses were a general overview of what to expect and be prepared for in case of emergency. I did a similar course when I first started at TNG back in January 2020, but it is still a good refresher in that emergencies are a frequent enough occurrence here in the Cariboo.

Besides that, I am just trying to enjoy the rest of winter and happy that temperatures are no longer in the absolute frozen range.

Sechanalyagh,
Adam Gaudet

GIS Technician
Mark Schnider



Greetings All

Since the last newsletter I was mainly focused on completing the scripting writing and testing for the roads update process. I am now in the final testing phase of this project. Other projects and activities I have worked on include: attending the Nen retreat at Sun Peaks; creating, testing, and upgrading Survey 123 checklist for the Downtown Office H&S inspection; and various miscellaneous GIS requests. I have also enrolled in the introductory Tsilhqot'in language class at TRU, taught by Wanda Dick. It's going well.

One handy trick I learned over the Xmas break. A large propane BBQ can be used as an oven to bake sponge cake for the Xmas trifle, and to roast the Xmas turkey.

Mark Schnider

GIS Apprentice
Teriann Elkins



Gweta?aghunt'I (Good Day),

Hope everyone is well and keeping safe, I've been missing the community visits and seeing familiar faces!

It's been awhile since I gave an update, I've been super busy learning! I am currently taking the 'GIS Advanced Certificate' program through Okanagan College in Salmon Arm. My classes are online so it has definitely been a learning curve to get the hang of things but it has been wonderful! I will be unavailable until the beginning of June as my class schedule is full time, I am looking forward to returning and using the skills I have learned.

HUGE shout out to my supporters, Thank You to Chief Lennon, Sarah, Jenny, Tony and Luke for cheering me on and helping me in any way they could, I am so grateful for my TNG Family and the support I have received while in school! I truly do appreciate being the first apprentice for Tsilhqotin National Government as a 'GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Apprentice'

Teriann Elkins

Fisheries

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

The TNG Fisheries Department continues to celebrate successful T̓silhqot̓in fisheries for both Ja̓s̓ (Chinook) and T̓s̓eman (sockeye) in 2021! After consecutive record-low salmon returns in 2019 and 2020 and two years of fishery closures, 2021 was a much better year for salmon returns to T̓silhqot̓in Territory, and for T̓silhqot̓in fisheries.



TNG Fisheries has wrapped up an extremely busy and successful 2021 field season, and we're now focusing on post-season analysis and planning. Here's a summary of some of our current top priorities as we prepare for the 2022 season.

Alaska by-catch impacts on T̓silhqot̓in Fisheries

In 2019, 78,000 Fraser River sockeye were caught as by-catch in Alaska's pink salmon commercial fishery, including approx. 45,000 Chilko Lake sockeye. That same year, T̓silhqot̓in Chiefs closed the T̓silhqot̓in sockeye fishery out of extreme conservation concern for these fish, which had returned in record-low numbers and were further impacted by the Big Bar Landslide. TNG Fisheries is actively working with Leadership and TNG senior managers to address this issue.

2021 Post-Season Fisheries Analysis / 2022 Pre-Season Planning

The Fisheries team continues to analyze 2021 post-season information to better understand the 2021 fishery. We will begin 2022 preliminary forecast analysis as information becomes available in February. We'll provide updates in our spring meetings, including initial predictions about the upcoming season.

2022 Field Season Planning

Leonard English, Winston Bambrick, and Gerald William are preparing for another busy field season in 2022, including spring steelhead aerial assessments. TNG Fisheries will run our annual programs including catch monitoring, stock assessment, and non-retention test fisheries, and continue advancing new strategic initiatives including emergency enhancement, water monitoring, and Chilcotin River steelhead recovery initiatives.



[PHOTO 2 – Gerald Steelhead Assessment]
Caption: Fisheries Technician Gerald William conducting aerial/helicopter steelhead assessment.

Spotlight on TNG Conservation Hatchery Development – a new strategic initiative

A T̓silhqot̓in-led conservation hatchery in T̓silhqot̓in Territory is a Nation-wide priority among all 6 communities for rebuilding vulnerable and endangered fish populations and fisheries. The TNG Fisheries department has conducted over 3 years of technical work including baseline data collection, feasibility assessments, and engineering design.



[PHOTO 3 – Leonard stream flow]
Caption: Fisheries Coordinator Leonard English measuring stream flow at the Hanceville hatchery site.



[PHOTO 4 – ADV]

Caption: TNG Fisheries staff Leonard English and Winston Bambrick, TNG Rangers Jimmy Harry and Jason Hance, and hydrologist Derek Brzoza measuring water discharge at Hanceville using an Acoustic Doppler Velocimeter (ADV).



[PHOTO 5 – Winston]

Caption: Fisheries Technician Winston Bambrick using survey equipment at the Hanceville hatchery site.

In **March 2021**, T̓silhqot̓in Leadership confirmed a plan to begin the staged development of a conservation hatchery.

Interim Hatchery in a Box (HIB):

TNG Fisheries is now in the process of establishing an interim, modular conservation hatchery in T̓silhqot̓in Territory, designed and made by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA). This “hatchery-in-a-Box” (HIB) will be installed in T̓silhqot̓in Territory at the old Hanceville hatchery site.

TNG’s customized HIB will consist of 2 modular c-cans (shipping containers) that contain key equipment needed for a conservation hatchery, including egg incubation trays, rearing tanks for juvenile fish, and electrical and plumbing systems.



[PHOTO 6 – HIB on truck]

Caption: Example of ONA’s modular Hatchery-in-a-Box – adapted c-can.

[PHOTO 7 – HIB interior]



Caption: Standard Hatchery-in-a-Box c-can interior with rearing tank and incubation trays.

This interim conservation hatchery is anticipated to be installed and reading for **testing in August 2022**, with the intention for the hatchery to be **operational and ready to incubate eggs and rear juvenile salmon by August 2023**.

TNG Fisheries will concurrently work to develop resources and capacity toward building a **long-term hatchery** to expand our future capacity for rebuilding fish populations in T̓silhqot̓in Territory.

Meeting with Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray – November 30, 2021:

Chief Joe Alphonse and Chief Francis Laceese travelled to Ottawa to meet with newly appointed Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray. Minister Murray expressed support for the hatchery concept, noting strong alignment of T̓silhqot̓in Nation and DFO goals toward long-term recovery and rebuilding of vulnerable fish populations.

The Chiefs also invited Minister Murray to visit the T̓silhqot̓in Territory next summer or fall to see the salmon returns first hand, and to witness the unique and sustainable T̓silhqot̓in dipnet fishery.



[PHOTOS 8 and 9 – Minister meeting 1 and 2]
Caption: Chief Joe Alphonse and Chief Francis Laceese with Jay Nelson, meeting with Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray in Ottawa and her staff.



[PHOTO 10 – Minister tweet]
A Twitter from Minister Murray after a successful meeting with T̓silhqot̓in Leadership .

Current and Upcoming 2022 Fisheries Communications and Engagement

Current (Dec to early Feb) – Annual post-season fisheries meetings with each community:

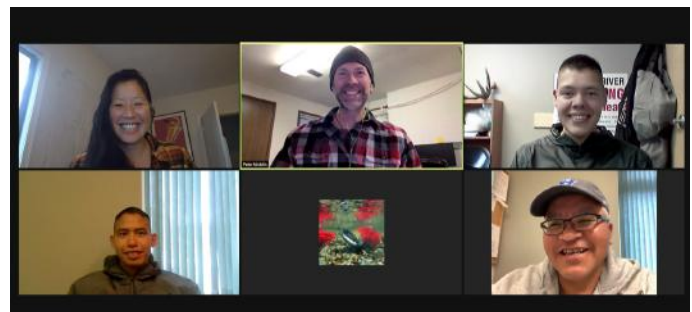
We are currently conducting meetings for Leadership and staff of each of the 6 communities as part of our annual engagement process. These post-season meetings provide an overview of the 2021 fishery, TNG Fisheries Department activities, and key priorities moving forward. These meetings provide a critical opportunity for discussion with each community to inform our annual planning process.

Upcoming (spring to summer) – Communications and engagement sessions:

- **March 2022:** TNG Citizen Engagement Sessions (virtual – Zoom)
- **Spring 2022 (April or May):** TNG Fisheries Forum (hopefully in-person, COVID dependent)
- **July to September:** In-season communications – weekly fisheries bulletins, weekly fisheries Zoom calls
- **Ongoing communications** directly with Leadership as needed (Chiefs’ meetings, etc.)

Sechanalyagh!

the TNG Fisheries Team



Executive Lead

Jay Nelson

I want to start this update by honouring and holding up the survivors of St. Joseph's Mission, your families and communities, and the children that did not return home. Sacred fires burned this week in each T̓silhqot̓in Community and at TNG. As always, it is inspiring and heartening to see the T̓silhqot̓in come together and lift each other up, even in the hardest of times.



Through the winter, the Chiefs and TNG team have continued to work hard to deliver positive change for the Nation. In December, a small delegation (Chief Joe Alphonse, Chief Francis Laceese and Peyal Laceese) travelled to Ottawa for a series of meetings with Cabinet Ministers and Indigenous leaders. It was the first delegation to Ottawa since the start of the pandemic.

In each meeting, the Chiefs set out a vision of T̓silhqot̓in self-determination, reclaiming jurisdiction and exercising responsibility for people, families, communities, lands, and waters. Peyal started each meeting with a drum song that echoed through offices and down the halls of government. COVID protocols were strictly followed and for that reason only a small team travelled to Ottawa to maintain the momentum of nation-building, while the other four Chiefs stayed near home to support the Communities. A powerful week of strong connections.

Minister Marc Miller

The Chiefs met with Minister Miller in his new role as Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. The Chiefs shared some of the progress in nation-building under the Gwets̓en Nilt̓i Pathway Agreement with Canada and BC, and highlighted priority areas for work with his Ministry, including tribal police and community safety, Indigenous-led emergency management, international advocacy, and “land back”.



Minister Joyce Murray

Meeting with the new Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Joyce Murray, the Chiefs describes how the T̓silhqot̓in are the “River People” and the importance of the Chilko salmon runs that spawn in the heart of T̓silhqot̓in title lands. The Chiefs offered the opportunity to partner on a T̓silhqot̓in-led conservation hatchery for the Chilcotin Watershed, and the Minister expressed her commitment to Indigenous fisheries rights and the need for long-term rebuilding and recovery of endangered stocks.



Jagmeet Singh

Reconciliation is bigger than any political party – it is nation-to-nation. For that reason, the Chiefs made time to meet with Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party. Mr. Singh was joined by Lori Idlout, Member of Parliament for Nunavut and NDP Critic on Indigenous Affairs. It was a strong connection and the Chiefs gifted Ms Idlout with buckskin beaded gloves from the T̓silhqot̓in.



Minister Patty Hajdu

Patty Hajdu is new in the role of Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, but her background in tackling social issues at the community level was clear from this first meeting with the T̓silhqot̓'in Chiefs. The Chiefs raised a number of priorities with Minister Hajdu, including reclaiming jurisdiction for T̓silhqot̓'in children, the dire need for better homes and infrastructure, emergency management and more.

Minister Bill Blair

The Chiefs met with Minister Bill Blair to advocate for a new model of Indigenous-led emergency management. They discussed the progress under the Collaborative Emergency Management Agreement between the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation, Canada and BC, and the need to take even bigger strides in the months to come.



Minister Carolyn Bennett

The Chiefs reunited with Minister Carolyn Bennett in her new role as Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. The Chiefs shared some of the successes and achievements of the Gwets̓'en Nilt̓'i Pathway Agreement and thanked Minister Bennett for her role in championing this opportunity for the T̓silhqot̓'in peoples. Chiefs and Minister discussed the challenges of mental health and addictions for Indigenous communities, and the promise of new (and very old) approaches like the equine programs launched in T̓silhqot̓'in communities.



President Natan Obed

The Chiefs were honoured to meet with Natan Obed, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, to share experiences and discuss the challenges on the path of self-determination. Mr. Obed was joined by the ITK Executive Director, Elizabeth Ford. It was a lot of learning and sharing packed into one meeting, and the Chiefs sincerely hope to maintain that connection.



Susannah Goshko

The Chiefs concluded by meeting with the British High Commissioner to Canada, Susannah Goshko, who recently arrived in Canada, and expressed her commitment to learning about the history and cultures of Indigenous peoples as a priority for her and her staff. The Chiefs shared some T̓silhqot̓'in history with the High Commissioner and encouraged her to continue on this path of learning. Peyal brought the meeting, and the trip, to a close with a final song.



Stay warm and safe and healthy! Nanexwenuwes̓'in (I will see you all again)!

Housing & Infrastructure

Senior Advisor

Shawn Wiebe



Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas holidays and is well rested to begin 2022. I had a number of things I hoped to accomplish over the holidays but the cold weather made those tasks more difficult so we just hunkered down and tried to keep warm. During the few warmer days I did manage to get out on my (new to me) snowmobile and explore some trails and have a great time. Ron Sturgess and will also be brining our sleds out to the Xení Gwet'in snowmobile races. Being a fairly new rider, I don't expect to win any races but I expect to have a great time participating. Chief Jimmy started the trash talking early (all in good humor of course) so I am really looking forward to being out in Xení and partaking in the activities.

The end of 2022 saw a lot of work happen with the T̓silhqot'in Housing & Infrastructure Authority. This recently formed group made up of Band Administrators/Council members or key staff from each community dug into the difficult tasks right from our first meeting in November. Thanks to their hard work and dedication the group is close to consensus on the formula used to calculate the renovations and new construction for each community and there is a lot of optimism going into our February meeting that a recommendation can be presented to the Chief's approval.

I was fortunate enough before the Christmas break to be able to spend the day in community helping the construction team with a roof rebuild. We built the roof on the ground and will crane the old roof off of the house and crane the completed new roof onto the house. This is a faster and safer way to work and will allow us to change the roof over in one day so we need a smaller window of good weather. A time laps vide was created of the construction of the roof structure so look for that on our YouTube, Facebook or the TNG website under Housing & Infrastructure. We hope to post another video of the old roof being removed and the new roof structure being craned into place once that is completed.

The Housing & Infrastructure and Construction teams have been involved in discussions with the Industrial Trades Authority (ITA), the organization responsible for regulating trades training and certification and they have offered to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the T̓silhqot'in Nation which will allow collaboration on how to build trades training programs that better fit Indigenous communities. Our next steps are to jointly develop the MOU for the Chiefs review and begin the hard work. This will likely be a topic for future community engagement once the MOU is signed.

The Construction Foundation of BC has also reached out to TNG with some potential funding to support trades training inn ways that will allow us to continue with ongoing trades training for carpentry and other trades that will be identified through the recent survey that was in communities before and after the holidays. Their training will provide funds for living supports which has been difficult to secure in the past so I am optimistic that they will be a good partner to have so that we can support future trades training for deni.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the winter months and is already enjoying the longer days. Please stay safe and keep your loved ones close at heart. I look forward to a time when we can get out to more community meetings and events as the pandemic subsides (fingers crossed).



Administrative Assistant

Bridget Rosette



Spring is coming! I hope everyone found time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends even with the cold weather we had. I have to say I'm enjoying the days getting longer and not going to and leaving work in the dark any more LOL.

I'm looking forward to what 2022 brings especially welcoming my fourth grandchild. January was my two-year anniversary at TNG and 2022 looks like it will be a busy year in the Housing and Infrastructure department. I have miss traveling to the communities and hope we can get back to having in-person engagements and events in 2022.

I have been assisting Angela, Training Coordinator with the second carpentry program and the training survey. It's exciting to have another carpentry program happening that will offer members a career in the construction trade and with all the construction planned in the communities there will be employment opportunities.

Bridget Rosette
Administration Assistant

Training Coordinator

Angela Duren



Hello readers! Is it newsletter time already? Wow, the time has truly flown by at warp speed, it seems! This is my second newsletter submission since being hired back in September 2021 as the Housing and Infrastructure Training Coordinator. This is my first winter here as well, and I have been mesmerized by how beautiful Williams Lake and the surrounding area are throughout the seasons. I have to admit I was shocked by the significant snowfall we have had. I have never experienced this much before in such a short

time. I felt like I had been hibernating with all of the snow, cold weather and Covid-19 restrictions, making it hard to get out of the house over the holiday break. I am happy that the roads are better and that I get to drive by the lake to say hello to nature and admire its beauty.

Well enough of that, and onto much more exciting training news! The TNG and the Housing and Infrastructure Department are thrilled to share that the Residential Carpentry Foundation Training program starts on January 31, 2022 in Toosey Old School! I wanted to take this time to congratulate all of those beginning the program. Know that the TNG, the nation, your community, families, loved ones and friends are all so proud of you as you embark on your carpentry training journey! And don't forget, YOU! You should also be proud of taking your first step towards becoming a red seal journey person in carpentry!

There has been a great response from our trades training survey to help us understand what types of trades training community members would like to see available in the future from TNG. For participating in the survey, one nation member's name will be drawn to win the iPad mini on February 2, 2022, during a Facebook live event. Good luck in the draw, but most of all, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, concerns, hopes and dreams for future training opportunities from the housing and infrastructure department. Until next time readers, stay safe and don't forget to visit the TNG social media pages for updates on our current students in training.

Construction Manager

Sherry Wiebe



I can hardly believe that we are already heading into February! The longer days are welcome for sure.

We have been busy through the fall and winter with construction work and renovations. Among other things we have levelled a house and replaced windows as part of the Tl'etinqox RRAP Renovation funding project. The trusses finally arrived just before Christmas for a home that was partially burned. We are building the roof for that house on the ground, where it is safer and more efficient than working at height. We will remove the existing roof in one piece with a crane and will 'fly' the new roof into place soon. See picture below of this work in the beginning stages.

In November construction and housing were part of the citizen engagement sessions which went well.

We have also held some training for the construction staff. In November we sent everyone to get their Level 1 first aid. Everyone passed with flying colours. When Covid limited our ability to do work in communities at the beginning of the year, we put our construction staff through some online training on topics such as: dealing with mould in homes, ladder safety, construction site safety and information, WHMIS and Personal Protective Equipment. In addition, we have an employee who will be taking an asbestos abatement course in February so that we can deal with asbestos 'in house' as well.

We are excited that another Carpentry Foundation Training Program just started this week. We are currently working with Industry Training Authority (ITA) to register carpentry apprentices that work with us and to record their hours so that they can work towards their Red Seal certification. We are also working to set up programs so they can continue on with their education after the first year.

I was delighted to attend the grand opening for the beautiful Yunesit'in Guest House. The Yunesit'in Guest

House was built around the 'Forest to Frame' concept where the building was built by Yunesit'in's own carpenters and many of the components came from their own timber and (Yunesit'in Leading Edge) mill.

I am pleased to announce that Terry Dunn has joined us as Construction Project Manager and Brandon Hare (Tl'etinqox member) has started work with us as an apprentice carpenter. Welcome to the TNG family Brandon and Terry!

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. We are looking for Construction Foremen and Forewomen, Carpenters, as well as General Labourers that are interested in learning on the job.



[PHOTO 1]
Caitlin putting up a roof in Tl'etinqox.

Construction Project Manager

Terry Dunn



Hi, my name is Terry Dunn and my new position is Construction Project Manager with TNG. It is a great honor to be working for an organization with such a strong commitment to making a difference for all First Nations. My

many years of experience working with First Nations throughout British Columbia has allowed me to understand the true cultural strength and values each nation brings forward.

NEGOTIATIONS - HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

I began my journey, with First Nations the day I was born, as my great Grandmother was full Plains Cree, living in Saskatchewan and my great Grandfather was an immigrant from Ireland. I was born in Burnaby BC. It wasn't until many years later that the call for me was to pursue a career working with First Nations. Up to that point my career was in construction. I also had the dream of running my own business so my wife Kelly and I started a renovation company in Chetwynd BC. That business evolved into a retail store front, as we became a Benjamin Moore paint and home décor store. We used our store to promote local artisans work. Our store had many works from the local First Nations.

It was there that West Moberly First Nations ask me if I would be interested in working for them, at the same time Kelly was approached by the Saulneau First Nation to become their Director of Family Services. Kelly has her Bachelor of Social Work degree. We closed our business down and accepted the positions that were offered to us.

Since then my work with First Nations has been extremely rewarding. I obtained my Masters Certification in Project Management from UNBC and I also completed my Passive House Certification through Passive House Canada. I was an active member of First Nation Housing and Infrastructure of BC and have participate in National Conferences with AFN Canada. I have traveled around BC and my last project was with the Gw'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nations ('GNN') in Port Hardy, where I has honored to look after the construction of GNN's Bighouse, along with work with BC Housing in the construction of a 108-unit apartment project.

My hobbies are fishing, hunting and most importantly our four legged family - our horses.

I look forward to working with the team at TNG and being part of great things to come in the future.

Best Regards
Terry Dunn. MCPM

Senior Advisor - Tsilhqot'in Nen

JP Laplante



Gzinas,

I hope this finds everyone well. Here is an update on some of the Nen-related negotiations work at TNG. Nen Planning Retreat

In late November we held a very successful Nen Planning Retreat that included representatives from all 6 communities. It was amazing to have people together in person again - it had been almost 6 months since we'd been able to gather as a Nen planning team, and about one year since there had been in-person community engagement. Zoom just isn't the same!

This was a chance for us to refocus our efforts on Tsilhqot'in Nen planning (land use planning), and to welcome Beringia Community Planning consultants to our collective effort. Beringia has worked in Tsideldel and Xenigwet'in (and for TNG) on health planning, and we send them a warm welcome from the Nen team. Some of you may have met Jeff Cook and Paula Hay before. Jeff, Paula and a number of their colleagues will be supporting us in our Nen planning moving forward.

The retreat benefited from having a wide range of community leaders, including Councillors, knowledge-holders, and staff in attendance at Sun Peaks. We are beginning the work to develop a Project Charter and work plans to get the Nen planning process advanced.

UBC

In December 2021, we had the honour to work with the Education and Cultural team (Jody Nishima and Randy Radney) and our partners at UBC to witness the signing of an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding between the Tsilhqot'in Nation and the University of British Columbia. This is a huge achievement and further reflects the leadership of the Tsilhqot'in Nation on the world stage.

Forestry

There are many strategic-level forestry initiatives underway led by Jeremy Boyd and the Stewardship

Dpt., with our support. These include preparing for the upcoming Williams Lake Timber Supply Review process for the Williams Lake TSA, and several other policy-related forestry initiatives that BC has begun. If you have any questions about these please contact Jeremy or myself.

Mining

Chief Francis with TNG is supporting the Gitxaala Nation's lawsuit against BC's mining laws through a Union of BC Indian Chiefs resolution at their upcoming Chiefs Council Meeting (Feb 23 and 24). Gitxaala is challenging BC's laws which allow for "free entry" of mining companies, with zero consultation and no consent from First Nations (except for the declared title area). The First Nations Energy and Mining Council has also released a discussion paper on the topic of respecting Indigenous sovereignty with respect to the mining sector. You can find it here: http://fnemc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FNEMC_mining_consent_FinalReport.pdf

Cultural Heritage Coordinator

Shane Doddridge



There are many projects happening with Tsilhqot'in heritage. We are increasing the number of Tsilhqot'in language road and trail signs, negotiating name changes to BC Parks, and rolling out the many priorities outlined in our TNG strategic plan on Tsilhqot'in heritage. Of these, policy development is taking the front seat. What would a Tsilhqot'in heritage policy look like? That's up to you!

We will be engaging with Tsilhqot'in, leaders, elders, youth, and staff to help us shape this policy. We will develop clear definitions of Tsilhqot'in heritage, and describe how the Nation wants to see it managed. For example, what kinds of Tsilhqot'in heritage sites are on the territory? How should they be protected and celebrated? What are the appropriate protocols for handling Tsilhqot'in artifacts, and what are our expectations for archaeologists working on the territory?

I'm looking forward to engaging with you on these and other projects over the next few months.

Shane Doddridge

Resource Management Coordinator

Cynthia Fell



Over the winter months, between the shovelling the snow and sanding the ice, I have been keeping busy with project planning, scheduling interviews and meetings. See a few updates below:

Made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework

Lauren Arnold, PhD Candidate from UBC's Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, and I are in the process of interviewing Nation representatives to support the development of the T̓silhqot'in Nation's Impact Assessment and Cumulative Effect Assessment Process. Sechanalyagh to everyone who has agree to participate in interview. Your feedback is important! More information on this project and material from our previous workshops can be found on TNG's webpage (www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment).

TNG's Climate Health Action Strategy

Collaboration and discussions with the T̓silhqot'in Food Security and Food Sovereignty Advisory Committee, and Dawn Morrison, the Founder, Chair and Coordinator of the BC Food Systems Networking Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, and her team on the development of the Nations Food Sovereignty and Food Security Framework have been fruitful. We will be bringing on additional support to bring the Climate Health Action Strategy to communities and schools.

Nen Planning Coordinator

Breanna Charleyboy



Hello Everyone,

Happy new year. It's been an exciting journey since I started in September. We have welcomed Beringia Community Planning Inc. to our team. Beringia works collaboratively with Indigenous & First Nations communities to strengthen community health and relations, respect, and honour culture, promote land stewardship and generate economic independence for current and future generations. We had a Nen Planning retreat at Sun Peaks on November 24th and 25th. It was an exciting opportunity to connect with each of the six T̓silhqot'in Nation's nen coordinators, councillors, GIS team and learn each of your unique planning interests and needs. Working through barriers with covid we have maintained a forward planning monumental with zoom calls, emails, and phone calls. With the help of each the communities' reps we are building a living library which will entail all the important values, needs, and visions each community has created. Early March we plan to have a second nen planning in person planning session with Beringia. From there we hope to have our team mentor and meet and have in person planning session within each community.

-Breanna Charleyboy



[PHOTO 1]
Nen Planning Retreat at Sun Peaks

Education Manager

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

K'an ʔeguh xi gweʔlin. Days have just started getting longer and morning walks with my dogs are still dark and cold, but not as bad as a couple weeks ago. It's a good time to be out on the land!



[PHOTO 1]
Winter Sunset.

TNG Service

Through the fall and winter, the education team has been disappointed to have to isolate to protect TNG communities from the spread of COVID-19, and we are just now beginning to plan renewed visits to communities in the coming season as the weather and health improve. We celebrate the recognition of TNG as an institute of higher learning with the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA), a division of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) here in BC. This recognition allows us to network with successful programs in adult and language education throughout neighbouring nations. It also allows us to partner more effectively with universities, colleges, and other post-secondary training programs to bring more opportunities to the TNG communities.



[PHOTO 2]
Ses nenilhʔin

Our membership with the First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA), a national gathering of educators from all over Canada has increased our opportunities to network with relevant programs in education and language throughout Canada. I was asked to participate on a panel discussion online concerning strategies to increase the control local nations have over their school programs at all levels. Lisa was also encouraged to participate in several days of formal training in education management and administration. These events were valuable for us as we look forward to the day when T̓silhqot'in people are overseeing every education level within the nation. In this regard of course, we need to survey communities to gather concepts and principles seen as fundamentally T̓silhqot'in and ensure they are foundations of our future education programs at all levels. Although my areas of responsibility are adult education and language, Lisa and I work hard to coordinate our efforts. In this way, we hope to achieve a seamless education system that works from the very youngest ages throughout the entire span of life education.

Adult Programs

Programs begun by June Lulua and Russell Ross Myers (along with the teaching expertise of Maria Myers) continue to flourish, and TRU university credit T̓silhqot'in courses have begun this month (January 2022). It is anticipated that a level two course will build upon this first course in the coming fall semester, with level three to follow in early 2023.

At the same time, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) has offered TNG a package of courses at a single price leading to a certificate for language teachers. This would represent an adaptation and renewal of the earlier programs designed by Titi Kunkel and others and with the support of Sherry Stump and Blaine Grinder. We are exploring this offer and discussing how we may serve the students who went through the earlier program but had to miss out on certain of their courses, due to crisis and emergency situations. It is hoped that we will have news to announce regarding these courses and programs in the spring newsletter 2022.

TNG leaders and the University of British Columbia (UBC) leaders signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), providing an overarching description of the relationship between the two organisations. This MOU will guide research program design and operation, and lead to a deeper relationship between TNG and UBC. Later in the year, a face-to-face workshop is planned to be held on T̓silhqot̓in title land.

Between these various gatherings in person and online, I have also met with individual students, planning their study programs this winter and in the coming years. I have sought funding and other support for such students, as well as high-quality remote courses for students who cannot relocate to far-away universities.

Language Programs

Post-secondary education and other adult training programs and courses are only half of my job at TNG; I also work with the education team to supervise programs and courses that encourage greater language learning and use in the nation. There have been two major contributors to greater understanding from outside the nation; these are the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC, www.fpcc.ca) here in BC, and Cultural Survival (<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/>), an organization working with Indigenous Peoples in 10 countries around the world towards language and cultural revitalization and renewal. Recently, a webinar townhall considered questions concerning a new model of funding that the Assembly of First Nations would like to propose to the government of Canada that would provide for longer-term funding of programs, as well as greater stability and security of the programs.

Here at home, the education team has been working with a group based in Tl̓esqox, but involving language speakers from several communities in the nation. “T̓silhqot̓in Ch'ih Yaltig Nanagwedetalt'ilh” aims to produce an object-based curriculum that will be used in immersion daycares there and in other communities. 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. A team of staff travelled to stores and have begun to purchase some of the objects that will be used in this language immersion program.



[PHOTO 3]
Learning Tools.

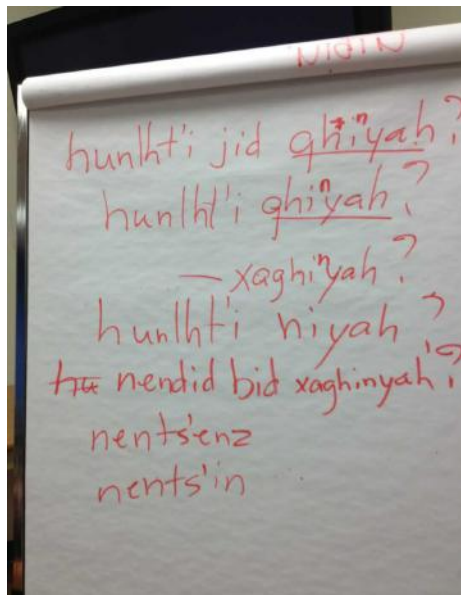
I have also been taking the TRU course taught by Wanda Dick on campus and online. I am getting more opportunities to practice speaking the language, and this also helps me encourage others from TNG who are taking the course. In addition, Wanda and I have just begun working to plan out the curriculum for all three levels of university T̓silhqot̓in that will be offered in the coming semesters.

Technology

The CIRA-funded program I reported in the last newsletter (Autumn 2021) has continued to move forward. We have received approval from the Tl̓esqox leadership to install equipment that would connect some community homes to the Internet, in order to test the reliability and performance of the system. 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. Once this system is developed and online, there will be abundant need for trained staff to provide and maintain technology for people who desire it within the nation. With this in view, we have planned training for a small number of people, who will install the necessary equipment this spring in Tl̓esqox. As further grants are obtained, we hope to see creation of a small business installing and maintaining similar systems as communities need them.

Staff devoted to computer programming to design the T̓silhqot̓in dictionary application anticipate limited testing of the functioning software very soon and

plan to release a public version by the end of the fiscal year (March 2022). This new software will provide meaningful support to those within the nation who are learning the language, as well as many who teach it to others.



[PHOTO 4]
Writings.

Nanexwenuwēs'in!

Education Manager

ECE & K-12 Programs

Lisa Boyd



Happy New Year!

The Education team presented at the virtual TNG Community Engagements for the month of November. We presented to the communities with the idea of presenting when education first started at Tsilhqot'in National Government to what Education is now. The education team is available to answer your questions. If you need assistance with reaching your education goals and don't know where to start, we are available to assist.

I attended and participated in Tsideldel's I.D.E.A Project: Indigenous Matriarchs in Leadership with Tsideldel members and invited guests as we had to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines. The I.D.E.A. Project is hosted by Shirley-Pat Chamberlain and Joyce Charleyboy to share the roles and responsibilities

as Tsilhqot'in Dechen Ts'edilthtan had/has many components for guiding all the different roles within the community. The Three-Day session was a great opportunity to connect, learn, and share with strong Tsilhqot'in women. We all had a purpose and it was our curiosity to educate and share with others. The greatest gift we can pass on to our children is be proud of who you are through our traditions, culture and language.

I attended the virtual NITEP Graduation on November 29, 2021. There were graduates from the Cariboo NITEP Cohort. It was great hear the NITEP graduates stories of how they persevered through their studies and now starting their teaching careers. I hope to see NITEP graduates in their home community schools and school district schools. Indigenous teachers make a difference in the lives of indigenous children and youth." Change is needed for healing and the land is creating its own change." From one of the NITEP alumni's speech to the graduates.

It has been a privilege to be part of the Tsilhqot'in Food Sovereignty team hosted and curated by Dawn Morrison. I look forward to the engagements with team as well as earn about Tsilhqot'in values and foodlands. Food Security in education looks at how place-based learning about food can support the BC curriculum's "experiential approach to learning," and support teachers to "develop the practice of teaching outside, on the land, independent of the 'school building.'"

The Tsilhqot'in Education Committee met before winter break and early January to share educational opportunities that relate to our nation members. We had a representative from Junior Achievement of British Columbia (JABC) share their initiatives and upcoming educational events and programs. JABC Programs focus on financial literacy, work-readiness and entrepreneurship. There programs are self-directed online and free of charge, <https://jabc.ca/programs/>. Thank you to our education leaders who have been great advocates for our nation's youth.

For my own personal growth, I have been participating in the Indigenous Governance course taught by Russ Myers. I have gained so much knowledge on Tsilhqot'in history and leadership with a great class discussions and knowledgeable presenters.

Sechanalyagh

Lisa Boyd, Education Manager ECE & K-12 Programs

Community Education Liaison Sherry Stump



December 7th, 2021 Education Committee zoom meeting. The Education Committee's purpose is to provide advocacy as a unified voice on Indigenous education and training for the T̓silhqot'in Nation which includes; K-12, Post-Secondary, Adult Education and training. Promote quality education, share resources, resource people, knowledge and expertise enhancing education goals supporting our T̓silhqot'in students. Announcement, throughout the month of December grad gift cards were mailed out to each of the communities Grad students. The graduation list was provided by each communities Education Coordinator/Manager.

December 14-16, 2021 Participated in T̓sideldel's I.D.E.A. Project: Indigenous Matriarchs in Leadership at T̓silhqot'in National Government - Negotiations and External Affairs Lakeside Office for 2 days. Facilitated by Shirley-Pat Chamberlain, Joyce Cooper and Maggie Ranger.

Tuesday December 14th : Sharing Circle focused on roles and responsibilities, and how all the roles utilized the seasonal round in their daily activities. Roles to be explored: the family unit, women and men, community, societies, Elders, Healers.
Wednesday December 15th: Wildcrafting with Maggie Ranger

January 6, 2022 Education Committee zoom meeting.

January 26-28th, 2022 NIB Trust Fund "T̓silhqot'in Chi'ih Yaltig Nanagwedeteghalt'ish - We Will Revitalize Our Chilcotin Language (WWROCL) Project. This project is in partnership with T̓'esqox to purchase supplies for the object-based language kit.

Thompson Rivers University Kamloops Campus Aboriginal Service Plan Professional Services Agreement renewal 2022 "Youth Science,

Language & Cultural Educational Programming." The T̓silhqot'in National Government will partner with Yeqox Nilin Justice Society engaging with their youth to deliver on the land-based activities providing ecological knowledge, hunting, fishing, medicine gathering, etc. Tentative dates of the project will be the week of March 7-11, 2022 or March 14-18th, 2022. The Aboriginal Service Plan is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and the project goals are as follows:

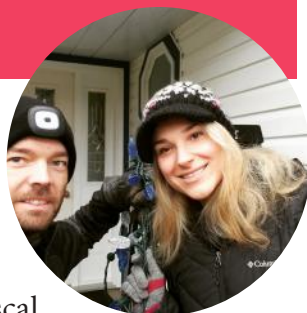
- Meet the student needs of the T̓silhqot'in nation youth by engaging learners through cultural awareness, on the land teachings with language revitalization with knowledge keepers;
- Increased Aboriginal student participation, community partnerships, elder involvement, student support services, education programming and research opportunities for Aboriginal learners, community, elders, faculty and staff;
- Increased Aboriginal community involvement and partnerships at Thompson Rivers University.

Student recruiting will be organized by Yeqox Nilin Justice Society and a formal poster will be provided closer to the March 2022 dates, also keeping in mind Covid protocols for coordinating events.

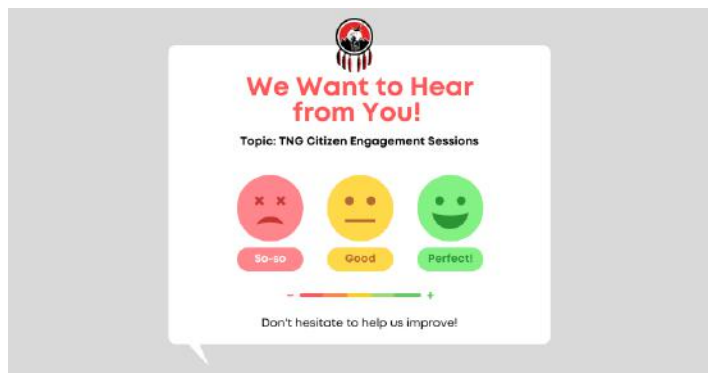


Communications Manager

Jacey Warne



Firstly, I'd like to thank all the community members who took our survey and provided feedback regarding the virtual TNG Citizen Engagement sessions that were hosted this fiscal year. We are eager to incorporate that feedback into next fiscal's Citizen Engagement sessions beginning in April 2022.



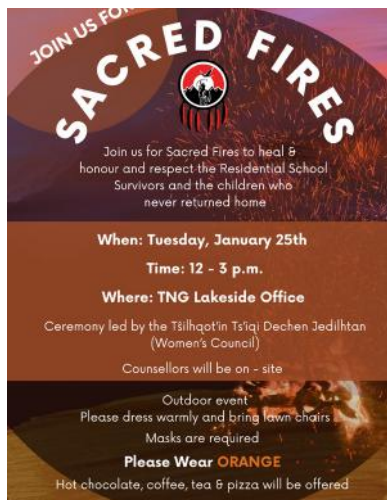
For the month of February, we will continue to host the Citizen engagement sessions virtually via Zoom. Please read our Communications Advisor, Corrin William's section of this newsletter for more details. I know the whole team at TNG is hoping to be in communities again soon, myself included.

The month of January has flown by, which I find unusual for January. I usually find that January is the longest and most drawn out month of the year! I think that is because there has been a lot going on for the Nation.

Since the last newsletter in the Fall, there has been a lot of media on a variety of topics including: The Memorandum of Understanding between the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation and UBC, high stumpage rates, the Alaskan Commercial Fishery, the loss of Carmelita Abraham and the news regarding potential burials found at St. Joseph's Mission.

If you are interested in reading any of these press releases or past one's, please visit the TNG website: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/press-releases/>

TNG held a Sacred Fires ceremony in response to the findings at St. Joseph's Mission on January 25, 2022 at the TNG Lakeside Office. The ceremony was led by the T̓silhqot̓'in T̓s'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council). I have included some photos from that day. Photo Credit: Laureen Carruthers.



I hope you stay warm this Winter and remember to reach out to the Health Team (250) 398-8575, if you need to get connected to someone to talk to or need counselling. I have also included some resources for mental health support on the next page.

Be well,
Jacey Warne
Communications Manager

RESOURCES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

St. Joseph's Residential School Announcement for preliminary geophysical findings of investigation.



- IRSSS 24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-800-721-0066
- Cultural Supports Online: 604-985-4404
- Cultural Supports Online: 604-985-4404
- KUU-US: Toll Free 1-800-588-8717
- Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society: 1-888-403-3123
- Hope for Wellness Helpline: 1-855-242-3310
- Interior Health Crisis Line: 1-888-353-2273
- British Columbia Crisis Center: 1-800-784-2433
- Canadian Mental Health BC: 1-800-555-8222
- First Nations and Aboriginal 24/7 Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717
- Youth Line: 1-250-723-2040
- Adult Line: 1-250-723-4050

*Members living on reserve: Please access your local Health Center to connect with a counsellor in your area.

*If you are experiencing any problems connecting with any of the above numbers please contact Ellen Williams at: 250-267-4009 or ellen@tsilhqotin.ca

Communications Advisor

Corrin Williams



Hello all, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with love and laughter. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope that this finds you all healthy and safe. I had a family filled Christmas with my 5 children and my 7 grand babies. Needless to say, it was pure chaos but I loved every second of it. With the holidays over and done I am back in the office preparing for upcoming community engagement.

I find it hard to believe it has been several months since the last newsletter. Where does the time go? Since the Fall Newsletter I have been busy preparing Community Engagement Sessions for November and organizing for the first sessions of the year in January. As everyone is well aware COVID reared its ugly head again and unfortunately the engagement sessions have all had to be via Zoom to everyone's disappointment.

In January the Communications department created a survey for Community Engagement sessions that can be found on the TNG website and I have also provided the link below. If you have time we would love to hear from you. The results of the survey will help us to prepare our next year of engagement sessions, and your comments and suggestions will help us determine what you liked or did not like, and try to incorporate the changes over the next year of sessions. The survey closes February 6th, 2022.

Community Engagement Survey
<https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/#:~:text=https%3A//poll.app.do/>

I have my fingers and toes crossed, hoping that we will be able to get back into community for in person sessions very soon. I look forward to the warmer weather and seeing you all in the near future.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

CorrinWilliams@tsilhqotin.ca or (778)799-2145
 Ext:2095

Departments presenting in February & March

Month	Community	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3	Sign-Up or Guest Spot
February					
	Esdilagh	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
Feb. 22 nd	Tl'esqox	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
Feb. 2 nd	Tl'etinqox	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
Feb. 8 th	Tsideldel	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
Feb. 14 th	Xeni Gwet'in	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
Feb. 15 th	Yunesit'in	Stewardship	Emergency	Dandzen/Economic Development	
March					
	Esdilagh	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	
Mar. 22 nd	Tl'esqox	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	
Mar. 2 nd	Tl'etinqox	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	
Mar. 8 th	Tsideldel	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	
Mar. 15 th	Xeni Gwet'in	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	
Mar. 21 st	Yunesit'in	Fisheries	Nen	C&E - Rangers	

Communications Project Specialist Myanna Desaulniers

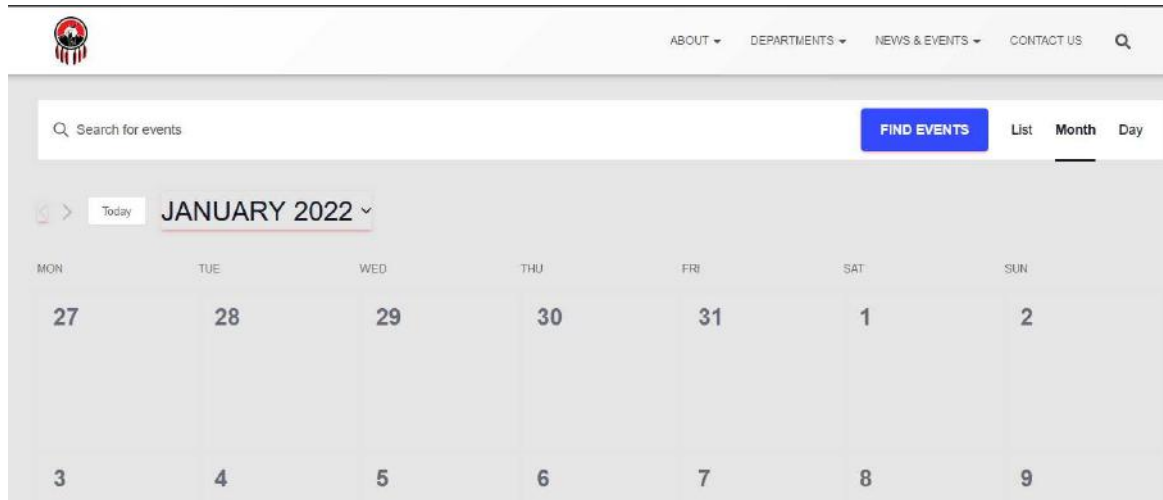


Hi Everyone,
I hope everyone still has lots of wood in their wood sheds and is enjoying the snow and ice these days. People have been saying that this is how winters use to be in the territory. What do you think?

New Webpages!

TNG has a few new webpages since our Fall 2021 Newsletter. There is now an events webpage at tsilhqotin.ca/events and a training webpage for housing and infrastructure specific training (found at tsilhqotin.ca/housing/training). TNG also launched the Tsilhqot'in Deni webpage in December that allows Tsilhqot'in Deni to be able to view information that is only for Nation members. This includes things like the TNG Annual General Report and a recording of the event in case you missed it.

[PHOTO 1]
Events Page on
tsilhqotin.ca



[PHOTO 2]
Some fun photos of
the Nation over the
past few years.

