

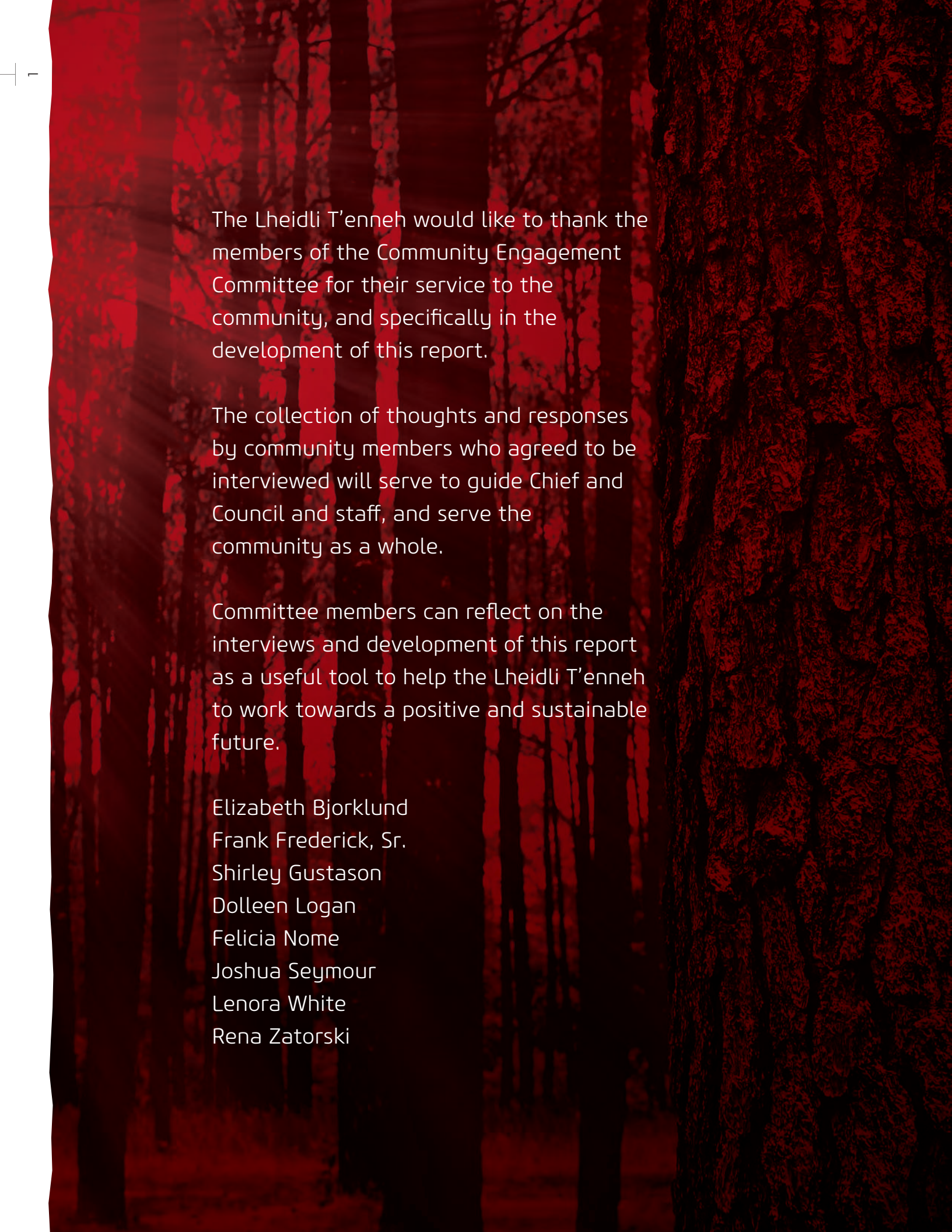
A collection of voices

HOUSECALLS & INTERVIEWS REPORT



Lheidli T'enneh

Wheni Lheidli T'enneh ts'inli



The Lheidli T'enneh would like to thank the members of the Community Engagement Committee for their service to the community, and specifically in the development of this report.

The collection of thoughts and responses by community members who agreed to be interviewed will serve to guide Chief and Council and staff, and serve the community as a whole.

Committee members can reflect on the interviews and development of this report as a useful tool to help the Lheidli T'enneh to work towards a positive and sustainable future.

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Executive Overview

The House Calls/Interviews process began following an Open House hosted by the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) on Mother's Day 2012. The Open House was part of the Three Paths Program which was implemented to look at three options for community growth and development for the Lheidli T'enneh.

The options were; status quo (Lheidli today), treaty, or self-determination. Open House participants were asked to comment on three questions.

1. **What do you hope for your community?**
2. **What can we do together to make a difference?**
3. **What can I do to make this happen?**

Many community members who attended the Open House said they would prefer to share their thoughts and ideas in one-on-one conversations versus in a public forum such as the Open House. The House Calls/Interviews process was determined to be the best option to accommodate community members. It began in 2012 and concluded in September 2013. CEC members spent the fall of 2013 reviewing their interviews and compiling responses. This work was completed in January 2014 and the House Calls/Interviews (HCI) report is the result.

312 community members were contacted as part of the HCI process and 115 agreed to be interviewed. 88 community members asked for information packages only and the others either declined an interview or did not respond to calls. Some who agreed to be interviewed questioned the need for the HCI process while others were happy to hear from a community member, especially those living out-of-town. Still others said they hadn't heard about the treaty in some time and others wanted to know about the status of the specific claim.

■ *What do you hope for your community?*

UNITY

In responses to question one, the need for unity within the Lheidli T'enneh is repeated most often. Many respondents feel there should more time and resources spent on bringing the community closer together through community gatherings, cultural awareness events, language classes and other celebrations. Many feel that development of a 'Gathering Place' either on-reserve or in downtown Prince George would help restore the Lheidli identity and bring community members closer together.

SELF SUFFICIENCY

Community members participating in the interviews also want to see the Lheidli T'enneh become self-sufficient again. However, in the responses provided during the interviews there is no clear choice expressed as to which model of self-sufficiency might work best for the community. There are many questions and concerns about the proposed treaty with Canada and BC. There are questions about land values, impacts on individual Lheidli members and status, and financial impacts of the treaty. Some suggest the Lheidli T'enneh would be better off pursuing a path of self-determination and negotiate access to more resources with BC and Canada and pursue more joint-ventures with the private sector.

Some say they don't understand the treaty while others say they would welcome more information upon which to make an informed decision when the 2nd ratification vote is held. People are also unsure about the status of the specific claim and that the agreement-in-principle (AIP) doesn't recognize that there is an outstanding specific claim.

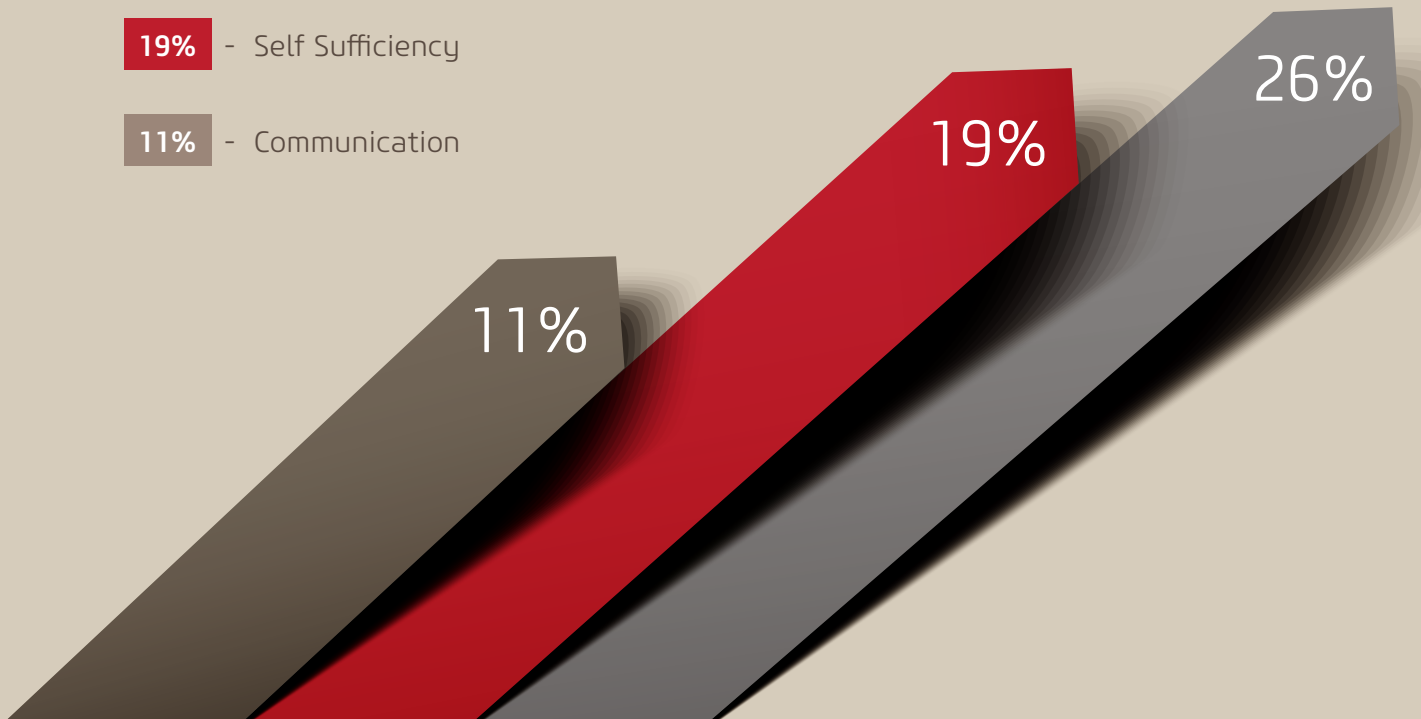
COMMUNICATION

Many respondents would like to see more communication between Chief and Council and community members, and more communication within the community generally about special events, project meetings and other business/news/events of interest to Lheidli members.

26% - Unity

19% - Self Sufficiency

11% - Communication



■ *What can we do together to make a difference?*

31%

RESPECTFUL INTERACTION/HEALING ACTIVITIES

In responses to question two, a majority of respondents suggested they feel respectful interaction amongst community members and more healing activities would make a positive difference for the Lheidli T'enneh. Participants offered a comprehensive and wide range of suggestions and ideas to accomplish this. More cultural healing events, more community picnics, more education, more transparency, reenergize the clan system and individuals taking responsibility for their actions are just a small sample of the dozens of ideas given in response to this question.

23%

TRUST/INCLUSIVITY

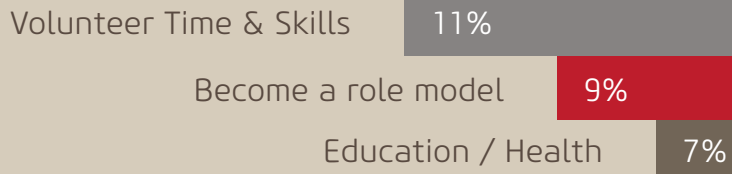
Many respondents feel much could be done to improve trust between Chief and Council and Administration, and within the community as a whole. Others don't feel their voices are heard about regular community business (programs, services, special activities) or when new initiatives are being considered. Some suggest more workshops be held to allow community members to offer their ideas and suggestions and that these workshops would allow out-of-town community members more opportunities to participate in regular community business.

11%

COMMUNICATION

Many respondents feel building trust and a greater sense of inclusion could be accomplished in part, by improved communication. More mail-outs, better use of the internet, more information on the Lheidli website, video recording of meetings posted on the Lheidli website are some of the suggestions about how to improve communication and in turn, build trust and a feeling of inclusion amongst community members.

■ *What can I do to make this happen?*



VOLUNTEER TIME AND SKILLS

In responses to question three, people most often said they would be willing to volunteer their time and skills to help build a better community. This indicates a strong sense of ownership of the community by individuals and a willingness to help improve the community. Respondents are clear in accepting responsibility to help others in the community.

BECOME A BETTER ROLE MODEL

Many respondents feel they can become better role models in the community by seeking more education, getting more involved in the community, helping organize cultural activities, working with youth and become better informed about regular community business to name a few. There is a strong awareness that when individuals improve their lives, they help improve the community.

EDUCATION / HEALTH

Respondents feel this can be accomplished with more education, more attention to health and wellness, greater participation in community activities, more honesty and respect for others and becoming more involved in the community.

*“Approach with open
minds, listen to each
other despite differences
of opinion”*

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member

Background

The Lheidli T'enneh, Canada and British Columbia concluded a final agreement for a treaty on October 29, 2006. The final agreement was rejected by a narrow margin in a vote held in 2007. In response, Chief and Council undertook a survey of community members to determine why the final agreement was rejected. The survey was conducted by a third-party polling company and produced a number of conclusions including; community members didn't know enough about the proposed treaty, some wanted to know more about how the treaty would impact community members both on reserve and off, and others simply did not feel a treaty was the way to go for the Lheidli T'enneh.

In 2009, a Governance Working Group was established to act on the conclusions and recommendations outlined in the community survey report. The GWG organized a number of information sessions designed to help community members better understand the proposed treaty. A tour of Lheidli community members to visit the Nisga'a was also organized to allow Lheidli members to hear directly from Nisga'a elders, leaders and community members about the challenges and opportunities that came when the Nisga'a signed a treaty with Canada and BC.

Chief and Council determined in 2010, that a referendum would be conducted to determine if a 2nd ratification vote should be held to determine whether to accept or reject the treaty. In November 2010, the referendum passed by a narrow margin.

In 2011, the GWG became the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) to carry on the work of communicating and engaging community members about the future of the Lheidli T'enneh. The CEC held a community meeting on Mother's Day 2012 to update community members and seek feedback on how best to move the community forward in dealing with the treaty question. The event was attended by about 150 community members and what emerged from the facilitated conversation was strong encouragement to look at alternatives to a treaty.

People pointed to several BC First Nations such as Westbank and the Council of the Haida Nation having achieved prosperity and sustainability without having signed a treaty. The CEC took the feedback gathered at this event and developed the Three Paths Project. The project essentially set out to share information and gather feedback from community members about three options the Lheidli T'enneh could choose to build a positive, sustainable future.

- Path One was to maintain the status quo and rely on revenues from the federal government and Lheidli businesses to sustain the community.
- Path Two would be to approve the final agreement with Canada and BC and sign the treaty.
- Path Three would be a self-sustaining model of continued business development, joint ventures with industry and new initiatives with B C and Canada.

Community members who attended the Mother's Day 2012 Community Meeting also said they felt they didn't always know what Chief and Council were doing on the community's behalf and encouraged more communication with community members.

The CEC determined that it would provide community members with an opportunity to learn more about the three options and receive feedback directly from community members through in-person or over-the-phone interviews. The interviews were started in late 2012 and concluded in the summer of 2013. This report captures the feedback received from community members who took part in the process.

Facts and Responses from the House Call / Interview Process

How many community members were contacted?

312

How many agreed to be interviewed?

115

How many asked for information packages?

88

How many community members who were contacted live?

- Prince George 70%
- Northwest BC / Prince Rupert 3%
- Northeast BC 2%
- Cariboo / Okanagan 11%
- Lower Mainland 8%
- Edmonton & Rest of Alberta 5%
- Elsewhere (New Zealand) 1%

■ *What did community members have to say about the House Calls / Interview process?*

- Questioned the process and need.
- Liked the personalized contact.
- Waste of time.
- Gave ideas at the Open Houses.
- Confused about purpose of the working group.
- Happy to see people coming.
- Hadn't heard about treaty process in some time.
- Didn't listen to anything family head had to say, don't care about the treaty.
- Been done already, Mother's Day gathering was a waste of money.
- Right steps in the right direction.
- Mother's Day meeting was very successful.
- Awesome we are going to be visiting people individually in the community.
- Why are we doing this.
- What do the three questions have to do with anything.
- Members voted no to the treaty, doesn't no mean no.
- Don't feel comfortable doing an interview.
- Need more get-togethers on a regular basis.
- When is the Band going to deal with the specific claim.
- Why do this as nothing ever changes and the same people get everything.
- Elders need more support and visits.
- Don't understand the treaty, its too much to read and overwhelming.
- Who gives Chief and Council direction.
- Want all community members treated equally and with respect.
- Happy to see some things are improving.
- Communication is very important.
- Many said they could answer question #1 but found questions #2 and #3 hard to answer.
- Don't feel I belong except when its time to vote. Ashamed to be Lheidli. ■

■ General Responses to Question 1:

What do you hope for our community?

- More unity, community gatherings and to be together.
- Healthier community. No drugs.
- Lheidli language needs to come back.
- Clan system needs to be brought back and community needs to come together ceremonially, culturally.
- Band needs to be finally self-sufficient.
- Would like to see more community members own businesses.
- Healing.
- More things for kids on reserve.
- More activities for younger ones and someone to spend time with. Parents need to participate in more activities with their children. More culture and language activities for children.
- Daycare.
- Cultural food preparation.
- The church becomes a strong tool within the community again.
- Success in our growth. Examp.: Band owned store/s and self-sufficient government.
- Economic development.
- Education for young people. Trades training.
- Help for people with drugs or alcohol addictions.
- More resources to help people with their lives and young people to overcome obstacles in their lives.
- More counselling, tutors, rides, money and childcare.
- More events.
- Transportation.
- More funding, more programs and protocols that allow for more gatherings.
- Everyone in the community treated equally.
- More communication within the community about how band resources are spent.
- See the band do well and succeed for future generations.
- Harmonious functional community.
- Own source revenue.
- Partnerships with different agencies.

- Come together and strive for a common goal of being self-sufficient based on resource opportunities because community missing out.
- Independence from government.
- Go back to being stewards of the land, stand up for the land, have more attend rallies / public events, dealing with land issues.
- Environmental issues.
- Band members need to be more aware of what's happening in the territory and not just Chief and Council.
- Capacity building.
- More education support.
- Resources and tools for more success.
- Confidence for community members.
- More support for band members.
- Sustainable future for everyone. Positive outlook for the entire community.
- More jobs so everyone can earn a good living.
- Catch up with the rest of society.
- Ability for members to voice opinions.
- Less politics.
- Security and more things for future generations.
- No red tape in the education department.
- Stronger community and more working together.
- Kids group where the kids give direction.
- More kids sports, healthy living, positive ways to deal with life.
- Overcome pain and suffering as a community and as individuals.
- All matters that have been silenced for years addressed in a healing, healthy and supportive environment.
- Lheidli people more connected to their surroundings and take responsibility for resources. Example: New Zealand Moaris who are guardians of the sky, land and sea.
- Having no clan system and protocols makes people lost about their identity.
- Leadership to be open and accountable to the community. You are met with a stone wall when requesting documents. "I feel left out and saddened by this. It is hurtful and makes me feel like we are not a community at all."
- Want Lheidli to be happy, healthy and know who they are.
- Lheidli to have land in town for a community hall.
- Self-determination to bring growth.

- “I understand the difficulty in healthy communications amongst families. I myself have struggled and reached out to get help, so that you can be upset and angry even without hurting other people in a way I respond to these emotions. This is hard work, and for many First Nations we were never taught these skills, nor were our parents or our grandparents, but these are the skills I want to see passed on to future generations.”
- Support opportunities for cultural growth and the sharing of traditional knowledge amongst Lheidli people.
- On-reserve opportunities (language, culture events) need to be available to off-reserve community members.
- Skill sharing between on and off reserve community members.
- Equality for all regardless of where they live.
- Band should start small businesses...gas station, store, crafts and thrift store.
- More funding for education and training. Help community members finish courses.
- Find more partnerships with businesses. Lheidli to move forward and not sit idle.
- Deal with the Specific Claim ASAP.
- Better communication. Questions answered when they are asked.
- More support for elders and those on low-income. Transportation to appointments and those living alone should have medic-alerts.
- Lheidli T’enneh need to unite.
- More houses and keep them updated.
- More gatherings and updates on what’s happening.
- For all members to gain from the treaty if it goes through.
- This engagement process to be successful.
- Culture – to live off the land.
- Succeed and stable government.
- Communication – our own interpretation and not someone else speaking to us.
- Success – We’ve never had it, fighting to stay above water for 30 years.
- Political and financial stability. Chief and Council change too often for anyone to actually learn their role and then its time for elections.
- Equality – Don’t feel connected with the nation.
- Independence – Guiding, business ventures, partnerships, other avenues.
- Financial stability for future generations and generations to come.
- Unity – better understanding of each other.
- Unity – no divisions.
- Self-respect – Acts to be proud of.

- Unified communication.
- Unity – Separation gone on reserve/off reserve and in-town and out-of-town.
- Highlight education for all to see possible achievements. On demand schooling sometimes need certification for jobs that can't wait for spring.
- Lheidli people need to run Lheidli T'enneh. We have lots of educated people.
- Culture just isn't medicine, language, living off the land, it's a way of life all these things together.
- Remove barriers for education.
- Unity – everyone bands together with one voice.
- Unity – get along as a unit instead of two steps forward five steps back.
- Need more friendly communication between band members.
- Equality – baby steps level it out for everyone, slowly getting better.
- Unity – more meetings, the more we are exposed to each other the better.
- As a nation we'd better get our ducks in a row. We're a nation. Treat each other with respect.
- Come together as a nation equally. Treated equal, have equal say in all important decisions concerning our nation.
- All to be self-sufficient for better self-esteem, feel good from the inside.
- Unity – together as one unit.
- Culture – Move forward blending the old with the new. Synergy, move forward with new technology and resources, maintain heritage, get back to ceremonies that used to happen.
- Lheidli to expand into small business.
- More unity to be a nation. Let go of bad feelings. Form a band not fight.
- Unity was the most talked about topic.
- Rehabilitation for drugs and alcohol.
- More activities for kids.
- Some kind of bus system from reserves to town.
- More cultural activities. Youth group, Summer culture camps, Education and training.
- Respect.
- Have more community meetings to inform the membership of band ventures and opportunities.
- Community members being more involved in the services provided LTFN.
- Need Talking Circles – need to listen to each other.
- Life styles, health teachings and workshop. ■

*“Community members
need to come together
to change the nation”*

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member



■ General Responses to Question 2: *What can we do together to make a difference?*

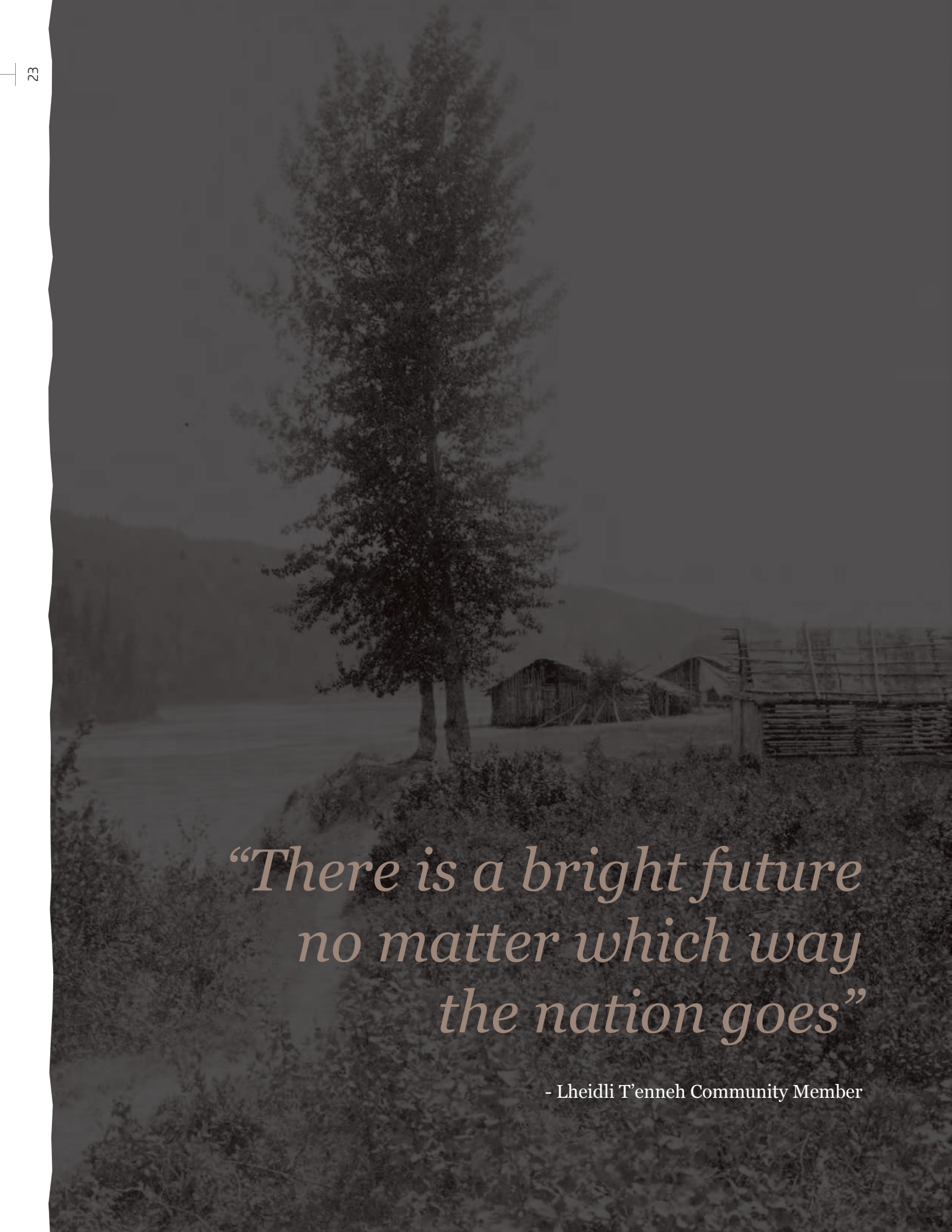
- Be informed, ask questions.
- Try to be positive and help others be positive.
- Planning and goal setting for ourselves and our community.
- Holding people to promises and commitments.
- Get educated.
- Learn more about my culture.
- Be a good role model.
- Volunteer and help when needed.
- Have every possible avenue explored to improve communication and involve more people on important decisions and brought to meetings and share information with the community.
- Drug free, feel good from the inside and not from outside influences.
- Get together have respectful open mike question-answer sessions and written down thoughts so that everyone can use their comfort zone.
- Clear communications and transparency in Nation operations.
- Administration must take responsibility for its actions.
- Mature mannered communication on Facebook or similar social media sites.
- More meetings with no hidden agendas.
- We all need to work together.
- Let`s build a relationship together so our kids can prosper together. Trust, Respect and live off the land.
- Everyone off social assistance to be successful. Work ethic, dependability, and break the dependency cycle (handouts). Accountability required by members taking training and education that get a job and must keep it.
- Bury past issues, approach with open minds, and listen to each other despite differences of opinion.
- Record meetings (DVD), more mail outs, previous mail outs posted on the website. More use of the internet to keep people informed.
- Educate ourselves, reinstate culture in our lives. More self-identity.
- Take responsibility for our own choices.
- Get education out of the rut. Bury the past.
- Put tunnel vision aside.

- Child minding at meetings so parents can participate more fully.
- More workshops so everyone is involved and to allow out-of-town members more opportunity to participate.
- “Culture is lost that’s how we got away from the Band. We need gatherings without a reason because anger comes out at meetings held once a year or so, instead of more meetings so that issues can be dealt with immediately. Not all events open to all members of the Band, only certain members or families. Workshops only available to non-working members because they are held during the week and during normal working hours.”
- Hold more events. Example: Culture camp, take people out on the land.
- Create gardens, garden boxes and greenhouses.
- Reinvent ourselves ceremoniously, start the clan system again.
- Develop partnerships within Prince George. Example: Canfor to take advantage of resources.
- Band needs to start using the leverage it has within the territory and the businesses on and within the territory.
- Need to stand behind Band leadership.
- Need to let go of the differences/grudges to become one, to become strong. People need to put their crap behind them.
- Make Band functions more welcoming, not so scary.
- Force people to break the bad vibe that they’ve been carrying around with them in their heart.
- Have everybody’s input, more minds, and different thoughts.
- Stay together, forget the past and fighting, and move on.
- Have a ‘dry dance’, fun events, potluck style dinners and things for the adults to do together.
- Do anger management together for healing purposes.
- Have healing programs (cultural stuff) and do it in large groups.
- Hard question to answer because if there is always going to be division in the community, us doing anything together is impossible.
- Community picnics, set up camps, berry picking trips.
- Be like white people and charge taxes and use the money for Band issues.
- Parents and children need to participate in programs together to strengthen the family unit.
- Cultural healing circles.
- Community members need to come together to change the nation.

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- Respect needs to be brought back.
- Have get-togethers once a month.
- Give everyone a chance to share their ideas and recommendations...like a suggestion box.
- Reach out to Band members; see them in person or on the internet. Example: website. Update outreach, messages for events need to get out more.
- Participate in the clan system and bring back the language.
- More community members need to come out for events.
- Newsletter needs to get up and running again to inform the people. Have it tell all the band business. Example: Meetings and minutes.
- Contact band members to update contact information.
- Band office never giving up and always reaching out to band members.
- Have employees available to help band members.
- Band needs to work together to keep the members more informed about what is going on.
- Paradigm shift in people's mindset, the way we do things today has to change.
- Issues have to be dealt with individually or together to accept, deal with in the most positive way we can.
- Need to start with the individual self no matter what model we follow, systematic, when you change it has a ripple effect on generations.
- Leadership has a significant role in change because the framework established by leadership materializes everything else in a community. If leadership is unwilling or incapable of change its difficult for community to follow suit.
- DIA limits us in how we run our community (in a square box) we need to step out of our current situation but how we do it is limited by options 1) Treaty, 2) litigation (limited resources), 3) Status quo, 4) Self-government (land code/taxation, these two small pieces give us flexibility managing our own lives and systems). Don't think there is a 'best route' out of the above 4 options. Treaty seems to be the best option at this point in time.
- Community has to let go of biases.
- Everyone in the community is going to have to make a commitment to bettering the community.
- We need to accept and forgive the trauma in our lives.
- Utilize the outside community.
- Need demographics of all Band members.

- Look at the resources in the community, people's skill levels, ask people's aspirations then develop them.
- Be visionary, see ahead as a community.
- More gatherings to bridge the division amongst community members.
- Have more recreational stuff; drumming, music (good way to break barriers), sports, food and casual gatherings.
- Education! People need to realize how important it is.
- Technology needs to be stepped up with the Band.
- Stand up for each other, especially the ones who have no voice.
- More workshops (suicide, drug & alcohol, counselling on reserve) to help people feel better about themselves and then have follow-up workshops.
- More interaction between schools and the community. Example: More parent-teacher interviews.
- More voices being heard from the nation.
- Sharing of knowledge and information more openly.
- Make leadership decisions more transparent to the membership. Example: Providing fair responses to members who seek information on a decision being made.
- Treat each other with respect, regardless of where we live and our family name.
- Move forward as a nation, more involvement in Downtown PG.
- Keep reserve clean, community gardens, flowers.
- Get attractions on reserve to attract tourists, sell Lheidli mementos, sell Lheidli artist's work.
- Push for changes, how members are treated. More involvement by members on how money is spent.
- Help each other when needed.
- More activities for members on reserve and in town.
- Communication of all Band business.
- Stop letting government keep us divided. United we stand, divided we fall.
- Make sure the next generations have a brighter future.
- Deal with Specific Claim ASAP. ■



*“There is a bright future
no matter which way
the nation goes”*

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member

■ General Responses to Question 3: *What can I do to make this happen?*


- Offer skills that could benefit others.
- Participate fully and honestly.
- Be an example to youth on how to treat elders.
- Make suggestions to the community including more Family Fun Days.
- Offer to teach home-making skills to all.
- Languages classes taught by more than one qualified teacher.
- Contribute as much information and help to make things happen.
- Get more education and help those in need of guidance.
- Take better care yourself. Get back to how it used to be, positive change.
- Make it to more meetings while recognizing it is hard to find time given our busy lives. More conversation electronically.
- Keep my kids involved. Never considered true members even with strong lineage. We know your lineage but you're still not one of us. A lot less prejudice today.
- Everyone's future is up to them.
- Leadership needs to address outstanding feelings.
- Get more funding to support your processes to achieve success. You shouldn't have to pinch pennies when trying to get things done.
- I would go to more meetings if they were like the Open House.
- Keep the website updated.
- I will volunteer whenever someone calls me.
- Share drumming ethics and proper techniques.
- Like to attend next meetings.
- I will become a role model for healthy living by having people see me walking. I was happy to show my high school diploma when I received it at age 61.
- Get my education and help the younger members of the community.
- Listen to the elders we have left before its too late. Learn what we missed when we were growing up.
- Respect each other.
- Learn our culture and pass it on. (language, dance, medicine, singing, drumming)
- Support future generations schooling and training. Help them to love themselves and believe in themselves.
- Be more informed about Band dealings.

- Vote in new Chief and Council.
- Learn how to get along, we're stronger united.
- More on-the-job training for older members.
- Need more stores, gas station, opportunities.
- Get into teaching cultural activities to members. Example: Beading.
- Volunteer services and knowledge.
- Do whatever Band needs people to do.
- Band needs to have simpler forms and have access to different forms of learning. Example: CDs and DVDs.
- Get more involved in the community.
- Teach the kids and all members the knowledge they have.
- Work with the kids.
- Try to be a role model.
- Set up safe-houses for men, women and children to escape violence.
- Talk to the younger people it is their future coming up.
- Stay in contact with the Band.
- Try to attend more events.
- Read up on the treaty to figure out what it means, pay more attention to the Family Head.
- Research, be ambitious, get educated, need to educate people.
- Should have a doctor who is Lheidli.
- Band members should be Board members of CNC and UNBC.
- Band members should be working in local mills.
- Band members should be everywhere in Prince George.
- People within themselves have to want to change to make the change in our Lheidli community.
- 2nd vote needs to happen sooner than later.
- Not willing to sign treaty to lose status for grandchildren.
- Get more involved with the treaty.
- Working and volunteering for the community and outside the community.
- Networking and establishing positive relationships internally and externally.
- Learn how to forgive and be honest with ourselves and each other.
- Drum group participation.
- Pass knowledge to the youth.
- Volunteer time and be accessible.

- Whatever is asked, like fishing and sports (help out in any way).
- Encourage people who need it, leaders. Elders, and youth.
- Elder's tea with leadership and youth.
- Everyone needs to encourage each other and spread good feelings.
- Be employed, do the job as good as you can.
- Be responsible for your life.
- Make more events happen for the kids.
- Bring own family to community events.
- "All people need to do is ask me for help in something and I will help if I can. I have sent my resume around to staff in the past and had zero response. This was very disappointing to me." ■

“Listen to the Elders and learn what we missed growing up”

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member



*“Brighter futures
for generations
to come”*

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member

■ *Provide any additional comments/ responses given by community members.*

- Why are off-reserve members not included in the treaty? It states that the treaty is for the on-reserve members only. This is government keeping us divided.
- The treaty package is too small.
- How many members live on-reserve.
- Not willing to give our rights as aboriginal people (taxation, medical, dental).
- Why did Band enroll our kids when the treaty doesn't affect off-reserve members. We don't anything from the treaty.
- Band members need a hall in town or land with tax exemption.
- The treaty is a joke. Vote no to treaty.
- Treaty isn't negotiated in good faith. Government wants to keep us divided so they can control us.
- Ashamed to be Lheidli T'enneh.
- Don't trust the ones in charge to control and run things.
- Gas station on-reserve was talked about and there are questions about why we don't have one.
- Wonder if economic development ventures within the city limits.
- What kinds of business can be established on lands in town.
- Discussion of community meeting hall (longhouse type) that could be used for our gatherings.
- Building could bring revenues by offering it to outside clients to pay for the employees and running of the building. Not just a little building, I'm talking huge.
- A lot of meetings have come to our territory and they go to the Civic Centre, Coast and so on. These could be our customers. If you build it they will come.
- I think we would have a lot of support from neighbouring Bands.
- Excitement of a gathering place to call our own.
- Things on reserve changed after residential school.
- People don't feel as safe on-reserve as they did in the past.
- Voices are not being heard. Members suggest things and (Band office) never listen.
- Disagree with some things in the treaty.
- Scared about the treaty because of how complicated it is.
- China willing to invest in Lheidli territory with people and their resources.
- Terrified what the treaty means for future generations.

- Losing status is scary because can't afford dental and medical. How does treaty affect this issue?
- Need more information to feel comfortable about making a decision where treaty is concerned.
- People learn differently when Band distributes information, need to take that into consideration and have visual/hearing/audio forms of information distributed. Example: Smaller words, touch and people reading out loud. 10-15 test questions to see how people learn may be useful to have information absorbed more thoroughly with individual members.
- Don't know about treaty at all.
- Don't agree with losing medical, dental and status.
- Don't know much about treaty because of too heavy politics.
- Need to get back to old ways as much as we can.
- Treaty can work once healing begins, get everyone to agree, Band members need to learn more and they need to know the money is going to be safe.
- Are we going to have a treaty consultant?
- Are people going to be able to change rules without community consent/support?
- Have an exercise establishment on-reserve.
- Don't understand treaty, relied on word of mouth, would like to understand treaty more.
- Know we are still in the process of trying to negotiate the treaty, see good things coming from the treaty, we need to move on and get a piece of the pie while we still can. There are a lot of benefits for rebuilding our Nation.
- Don't know why we are going through the treaty, don't understand the treaty because its too hard to read.
- Wishes treaty was done, it got voted no and the government bullied us for the 2nd vote.
- Governments aren't respecting the 'no vote'. Need to look at ways to move on from the 'no vote'.
- Hard to move on because we are stuck in limbo. We need to take ownership of territory and move on past the treaty.
- Claim territory, take ownership, we have no presence in Prince George community, need to build bridges and stand up as a nation to make a presence in Prince George.
- Get the 2nd ratification vote over with.

- Don't agree with treaty, they are trying to rip us off, they should have offered more. We need to be guaranteed there is going to be something there for our children and our next generations.
- Lheidli treaty is the richest per capita treaty there is.
- There is no business plan to explain how the treaty would be implemented.
- Need a work plan.
- Concerned about long term security.
- There is always room for improvement.
- There is a bright future no matter which way the nation goes; treaty or no treaty.
- Government too far apart for treaty to go through, money could be worth nothing in the future then what are we going to do as a nation.
- We need to prepare to go back to the old ways because if the future turns bleak (no more resources, we run out of resources) we need to go back to the land.
- Politics are holding us back.
- Work ethic within the Band is different from in-town.
- Against the treaty when originally voted, now government is finalizing everything, might as well get something while we can.
- If we go with treaty now, now it's not looking too bad.
- Treaty monies would be start-up monies for other companies, get into mining.
- Readiness in self-determination is confidence in leadership.
- Communication should be better.
- Create more understandings of treaty for members, don't know how you would but it would be useful.
- Youth would be beneficial to talk to, get as many points of view as possible.
- Facebook is a good form of communication, a good way to reach out to people.
- Not well informed about treaty.
- Would like to know what it would look like for Hydro and Telus under the treaty.
- Would like to find out more information about the land being offered. The legal descriptions in the appendices to the final agreement are not very helpful in illustrating what the lands have on them. Interesting to find out more about the lands in appendices A-4 Plans 6-10 (out near Nechako and Cranbrook Hill) and near Hutda, Stony and Arrow Lakes. Curious whether these ones are forest or otherwise. Also do we have a table that shows valuations for lands included in the final agreement.
- Opinions of the community always rule the outcome. Once someone has either a negative or positive outlook it spreads throughout the community.

- The biggest failure of our final agreement is that it does not acknowledge Lheidli T'enneh/Crown history and it does not allow for our traditional areas within the city to be recognized. All the pain attached to the move to Shelly and the history of how the Lheidli people have been treated over the years has been ignored in the final agreement. There are examples given of how the New Zealand Maori have in their agreement acknowledgements given to their people from the government about all the wrongs done to the people and how they have had their traditional names renamed to substantial landmarks.
- To ensure that Lheidli T'enneh will be in a better position or at least a status quo position with opportunities for growth/expansion/increased self-sufficiency, if we ratify the treaty.
- There are a lot of things to consider regarding how this agreement would financially impact the community and if it will impact the funds received from the federal government.
- Do you know if any work has been done on the financial impact of the final agreement on the Lheidli T'enneh? Perhaps a comparison of the current financial and human resource costs of running things to what they would look like after the treaty.
- Treaty is not going to work unless the leadership will be fully accountable to the community and transparent with the community and representative of the community views. This is not happening right now. Leadership needs to involve the community on high-level decision making and report back to the community on a regular basis on ventures that are being undertaken.
- "Another hindrance to the treaty being ratified is that people are still hurting because the treaty does not fix the pain of the past. It does not heal the generations of trauma and abuse and suicide and neglect that our people have faced."
- Government needs to take responsibility and acknowledge the pain and trauma our nation has endured. Example: By forcing Lheidli people off their land and excluding and ignoring them for years and taking Lheidli children away generation after generation.
- Specific grievance must be addressed in the treaty settlement.
- Be beneficial to reintroduce the agreement-in-principle in a more fun and better way so people can grasp it better.
- Can't bring growth without revenues.
- We need more investors, joint ventures, 3 or 4 partners on a project.

- Do they have the AIP readily available to community members? If so, they should let community members know.
- Bring it forward that we are not Shelley Indians but Lheidli T'enneh or Old Fort George Band.
- I feel embarrassed to say that I am Lheidli T'enneh because we are not successful. I don't say I'm Lheidli, I say I am an Indian.
- Too much in-fighting.
- I don't see a lot of positive progress but we're changing and people will feel more comfortable saying they are Lheidli.
- I feel proud through my Dad. He was Lheidli. We need one of our own who cares about students leading the education department so there is more Lheidli pride developed. We were ashamed in the past to say who we were and what our names were but we're now proud.
- I feel proud, happy and good to be here.
- I have conflicting feelings because pride and responsibility go hand in hand.
- Other people don't know that I'm Lheidli because I'm kind of embarrassed to say who I am because of the lack of progress our Band has achieved due to lack of funds to complete new initiatives.
- Need to have more community meetings.
- Plans need to move ahead with the treaty. It was not part of the 2012 Open House.
- Treaty needs to be mentioned more often.
- Good Open House in 2012, no fighting, everyone listened to each other.
- Feel outside looking in and awkward at meetings.
- Treaty now is possible. If you asked me a few years ago I would have said no.
- Good for the community as it brought people together.
- Need more info on treaty. What happens? What if we get it? What if it fails?
- Never read what's in the treaty just what I heard and that was conflicting info.
- We have too many professional students who take course after course and don't do anything with the training. We need to help people understand that education is important to sustain a person.
- We have to go on our own right now for future generations. What's best for them not us right now.
- We need more revenues from partnerships.
- Province is arrogant with our resources.
- I need all the information before I can make an informed decision.
- We need an easy-to-read treaty package.

- We don't need \$400K per each year from the DIA when we can receive \$1.4M each year from the treaty.
- We need to build a relationship with the Haida as they have successfully negotiated with BC and Canada without a treaty.
- What was the treaty worth? What is it worth today? What is the projected worth in 2-3 years through investments?
- Specific Claim is different from the treaty.
- Bill C3 is a shot in the teeth. What about the other 24 years that I was not considered an Indian. Status hasn't changed a thing.
- I don't what the treaty is all about.
- Go out on a limb, take a shot to expand through self-determination.
- What's in the treaty right now?
- Treaty, pretty sure we could live without it.
- Self-determination, use our natural resources.
- What are our options?
- Need to be educated about the treaty, need to be ready for it.
- Self-determination, I don't know a lot about it.
- We need capacity building regardless of which way we go.
- Self-government is feasible but we have to want it, we can either prosper or lose it all to take this on.
- Combine treaty information with annual gathering.
- A gas station and small store would bring back some pride to the people.
- Go on our own first and get our own money, then look at the option of treaty.
- We need to move ahead with or without a treaty. Either way there will be tough times but that's okay as long as we keep trying.
- As a community we are not ready for a 2nd ratification vote on the treaty. We are not ready as a community. There is too much division on-reserve and off-reserve and in town and out of town.
- If you are not ready you had better be prepared for the consequences. Look at the Nisga'a, they are tearing each other apart and only a few are happy.
- Let's go with self-determination. We don't need a treaty. We are already moving forward. It may be slow but its happening. A lot has changed in the past few years in education and how the administration is conducting itself.
- I know some about the proposed treaty, the lands on a map for example. If you say anything about the treaty there is someone behind you saying negative things about it and you start to think that way. ■

■ *Provide additional comments/responses interviewers found profound, important or just plain interesting.*

- Initially all were welcome to the meeting/interview but curiosity as to the reason.
- Many were under the impression that the ratification vote was already 'no'.
- "In my lifetime I will not see a treaty but my grandchildren probably will."
- Concern about how the community is divided, north and south sides of the reserve not to mention in-town members.
- Not a sense of unity within the community at any level.
- Membership feels distant and unwelcomed.
- Select members are only benefitting and getting the opportunities.
- Lack of communication or short notice for events, training, etc. and not adequate for most to take advantage of.
- It was troubling to find that the attitude of this being a 'waste of time' really being a reality for some. I think this was why we didn't get more interviews.
- Concern about how business is happening and impacts of a person's perception of process.
- So many different and complex lives our members live.
- For the family structures, opportunities for schooling, housing, transportation, employment and human resources assistance to name a few.
- "Band doesn't care or want to help."
- Others are active and somewhat 'successful' in their endeavours at the moment didn't really think that some business opportunities were passing us by.
- Inquiries into how treaty affects business and working in our territory.
- Nation members says to succeed we go together as one unit with equality.
- Nation administration says to succeed we need a stable government.
- How do we bring these two sides to a level playing field?
- Communication – by whatever means possible.
- Embracing community members – through communication.
- Stable government – through faith of a community because of clear communication.
- Follow the thoughts above and we resolve the chicken and egg situation. As for the band it is clear that a lot more communication is required between Chief and Council and nation members. ■

“We need to get our
laugh back,
a genuine laugh.

When people know their roots, they
know they belong.”

- Lheidli T'enneh Community Member



Lheidli T'enneh

Wheni Lheidli T'enneh ts'inli

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