



**Lheidli T'enneh**

*Wheni Lheidli T'enneh ts'inli*

# *Lheidli Whut'en Dustl'us*

Issue 04 | November 2019



## **UNDRIP, Relationships and Remembrance**

**By Chief Clayton Pounteny**

History was made on October 24 when BC Premier John Horgan introduced legislation to enshrine the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). If passed, BC would be the first province to bring the internationally recognized standards outlined in UNDRIP into law. This is significant for the Lheidli T'enneh Nation as it is for the other 203 First Nations in BC as it will ensure that we will be part of the decisions which affect our members and our territories. We thank Premier Horgan and his government for taking this bold step forward towards true and lasting reconciliation. We also look forward to participating in what will be new consultation processes between the Province of BC and BC First Nations.

Our nation made some history of its own when on October 15, our Council and staff met with Chief and Council and staff of the Simpcw First Nation. Our nations have used and shared stewardship of the lands around Valemount and throughout the Robson Valley for many, many years. In the past, this been a source of friction between our nations but we agreed during our meeting that we must work together to move forward towards our own reconciliation and mutual benefits for our members. We will consider in the months to come, development of a protocol or MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to guide communications and development of a new relationship. Chief Shelly Loring also invited our Council and staff to visit the Simpcw territory in the spring.

We also accepted an invitation in early October to travel to McBride and meet with Mayor Eugene (Gene) Runtz, his Council and staff. This is part of the excellent relationships we have built over many years with the local governments in our territory. Our relationships with our First Nations neighbors and the communities in our territory are important to our future and the road to reconciliation.

As we enter November celebrating the substantive completion of six new homes for our members and the opening of our new Business Office in downtown Prince George, I know many will join me in remembering the indigenous soldiers who fought alongside their non-indigenous compatriots who served in the two World Wars. Remembrance Day on November 11 provides the opportunity once a year to remember those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. It wasn't easy when indigenous soldiers returned from the two great wars but we will never forget their sacrifice. I'm aware of two Lheidli members who served in WWII and I honour, Max Pius and Alec Paul Sr.

Snachailya.

## **HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN SIMPCW FIRST NATION AND LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION**

For the first time in recent memory the Chief and Council of the Simpcw First Nation met with the Chief and Council of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The meeting took place at the Lheidli Band Office on October 15. Simpcw Chief Shelly Loring, three Council members and a staff representative made the trip from their home community of Barriere about an hour east of Kamloops. The two groups had been working for several months to schedule a joint meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest and a willingness to strengthen the relationship between the two First Nations.

The two nations have for many years used and shared stewardship over lands in the Robson Valley and Valemount areas. In past years, the two nations had communicated and shared information about their histories and use of the area but had never met to discuss current use and stewardship. This changed with the meeting on Oct 15 and both sides agreed that the meeting was long overdue and very positive.

Both nations also agreed to consider development of a communications and relationship protocol or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would guide ongoing communication and scheduling of further meetings. Chief Loring also invited Chief Pountney and Council to visit Simpcw territory and Barriere next spring. The two nations celebrated the historic meeting by exchanging gifts including a framed print from a Simpcw artist to be displayed in the Lheidli Band Office.





## BC TO ENSHRINE UNDRIP – SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**By: Malcomn McPherson**

The aim of the concept of “Free Prior Informed Consent” is to establish bottom up participation and consultation of an Indigenous population prior to the beginning of a development on ancestral land or using resources within the Indigenous population's territory. If passed, British Columbia's Bill 41 will make it the first province in Canada to codify the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Once implemented, Bill 41 will significantly alter the way major resource projects are approached on Indigenous territories. Set out in 46 Articles, UNDRIP calls on state governments to engage with Indigenous nations, communities and cultures in such a way that bolsters the preservation of traditional territories and ways of life. Article 32 of UNDRIP grants Indigenous peoples “the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.” It also says governments “shall consult and cooperate in good faith” with Indigenous peoples through their own representative institutions, in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of “any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.”

Bill 41 requires the government to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with UNDRIP and to prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of UNDRIP. The provincial minister must report annually on the progress that has been made towards implementing the necessary measures and achieving the goals in the action plan. Bill 41 also provides for agreements to be entered into with Indigenous governing bodies, including agreements relating to the exercise of a statutory power of decision. The present controversy relating to the implementation of Bill 41 is that it will give Indigenous groups in British Columbia the power of veto over industrial projects.

This has been the subject of much speculation and debate, with many Indigenous spokespeople taking the position that there is no mention of the word “veto” in UNDRIP, and that the term “consent” cannot properly be interpreted to equate to “veto.”









## ENBRIDGE COURT CASE – ONE YEAR LATER

**By Malcolm Macpherson**

October 9<sup>th</sup> of this year marked the 1 year anniversary date of the Enbridge explosion which caused much trauma and distress to Lheidli T'enneh residents living on reserve. Lheidli T'enneh Council took the opportunity to remind media outlets seeking an update that the lawsuit against Enbridge is ongoing and that safety remains the top priority.

As it happens, Enbridge had another gas pipeline explode on August 1, 2019, killing a 58 year old woman from Kentucky, and sending many to the hospital with critical injuries. Legal counsel Malcolm Macpherson spoke to CBC news reporter Carolina de Ryk on the explosion anniversary date of October 9th, reminding the listening public of the necessity of ensuring aging energy infrastructure is proactively mitigated. Malcolm also emphasized the trauma experienced by Lheidli T'enneh members, and the community's lack of confidence in Enbridge's ability to safely transport hydrocarbons through Lheidli T'enneh lands.

By way of update, Lheidli T'enneh is presently engaged in the documents gathering and exchange phase of its lawsuit with Enbridge. In late August of this year, with the help of Councilors Dolleen Logan and Helen Buzas, Clark Wilson gathered the bulk of the documents in Lheidli T'enneh's possession relevant to Enbridge's defense. This evidence gathering process is iterative, and efforts are currently underway to ensure that Lheidli T'enneh can confidently state it has taken the time and expended the resources to gather and exchange those documents of interest and relevance to Enbridge's legal position.

Similarly, Enbridge is presently involved in the same documents collection and sorting process, and is required to provide Lheidli T'enneh with that evidence which supports its notice of civil claim. Enbridge has vast amounts of information in its possession relevant to Lheidli T'enneh's lawsuit, and confirms it is making progress sourcing relevant disclosure documents. At this point, formal documents exchange by both parties is expected in late November of 2019. Following documents exchange and upon the review of the evidence obtained, Council will evaluate next steps with legal counsel.

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### Lheidli T'enneh Men's Group

Next Meeting

When: November 04 & 18th, 2019

Where: Family Development Office, Northside Neighborhood

Dinner Included

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**Lheidli T'enneh**

# NOVEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
*** SFGFRC is located at 1200 La Salle Ave					01	02
03	04 <b>After School Drop In</b> Band Office 3-4:30 <b>Men's Group</b> Fam Dev office 5-7	05 <b>Community Kitchen</b> SFGFRC 11- 1:30	06 <b>Soups On</b> Band Office 12-1:30	07 <b>Children's Drum Practice</b> Northside Pick up @ school Drop off @ 5:30PM <b>Community Kitchen</b> Northside 2-4:30	08	09
10	11 <i>Office Closed</i>	12	13 <b>Creative Corner</b> SFGFRC 10-2 <b>Soups On</b> Fam Dev Office 12-1:30	14 <b>Children's Drum Practice</b> Northside Pick up @ school Drop off @ 5:30PM	15	16
17	18 <b>Men's Group</b> Fam Dev office 5-7	19 <b>Community Kitchen</b> SFGFRC 11- 1:30	20 <b>Soups On</b> Band Office 12-1:30	21 <b>Children's Drum Practice</b> Northside Pick up @ school Drop off @ 5:30PM <b>Community Kitchen</b> Band Office 2-4:30	22	23
24	25 <b>After School Drop In</b> Band Office 3-4:30	26	27 <b>Soups On</b> Fam Dev Office 12-1:30 <b>Creative Corner</b> SFGFRC 10-2	28	29 <b>Pro D Day</b> <i>See flyer for details</i>	30

For more information please contact the Family Development Office at (250) 962-9730.  
FB page: Lheidli T'enneh Family Development and Health Services



## NEW Rental Homes for Lheidli T'enneh Members

**By: Wendy Jael**

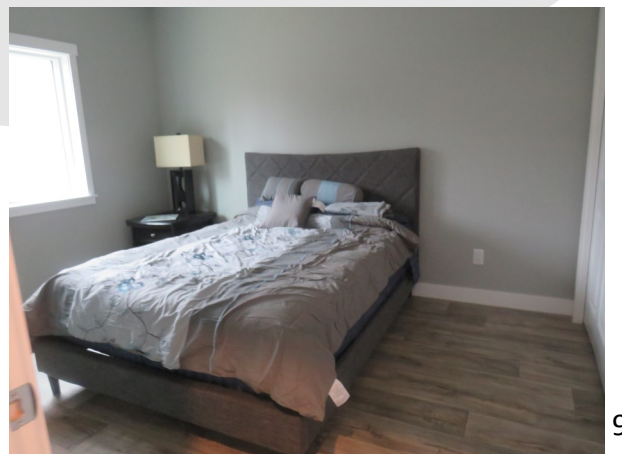
Lheidli T'enneh Elder Peter John cut a ribbon today to mark the completion of six new rental homes for Lheidli members. He is also the first Lheidli member to move into one of the homes. These are the first new rental homes built by the Lheidli T'enneh Nation (LTN) in over 15 years and are part of a comprehensive program to upgrade both the Southside IR2 and Northside IR2 neighborhoods.

LTN Chief Clay Pountney said much of the credit for the new rental homes and neighborhood upgrades goes to former Chief Dominic Frederick and the previous Council. These projects always start with vision followed by intense planning and then you have to go find the funds to pay for it. All that hard work over the past few years has come to fruition this year with construction of three new rental homes in the Southside neighborhood and three new rental homes in the Northside neighborhood. Today is a proud day for all Lheidli members."

LTN Housing Manager Wendy Jael stated "These new rental homes are the most energy efficient available and include wider hallways and doorways for people with mobility challenges. Each home is about 900 Square feet with two bedrooms, one bathroom and ample storage space. Construction of the new homes began in May and our members have enjoyed watching the progress through the summer and into the fall. The three rental homes in Southside will be ready for occupancy before Christmas while the three rental homes in Northside will be ready for occupancy before the end of January. I want to pay special tribute to the team at Eberle & Sons Construction who won the contract to build these homes. This Prince George construction company embraced our vision for ultimate energy efficiency and ease of living for mobility challenged people. We can't thank them enough for their commitment to our project and the professionalism they displayed throughout the construction period."











## Fisheries

**By: Brian Toth**

In October, Lheidli fisheries personnel have continued monitoring white sturgeon within the upper Fraser and lower Nechako. Key components of the program include monitoring radio tagged adults, and monitoring the distribution of juveniles, including the presence of hatchery juveniles from the Nechako white sturgeon hatchery in Vanderhoof. The program's other field activities are now complete/

wrapped-up.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Big Bar Landslide had devastating impacts on the numbers of sockeye and chinook returning to the upper Fraser and into Lheidli's fishing area. Returns of earlier timed sockeye stocks (Early Stuart, Bowron and Nadina) were very poor, as were returns of earlier-timed chinook. Returns of later-timed "summer run sockeye" were slightly better with a total of ~69,000 sockeye counted on the Stellako River spawning grounds, and late Stuart spawning systems showing ~<10,000 spawners returning. Later-timed chinook also appear to have had better success navigating the landslide, with counts of spawners in the Nechako River in the range of 1,100. Estimates of chinook and sockeye spawners will be refined/finalized in the coming months.

Information about the landslide, including regular updates, can be found at the following link.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/incident-summaries/big-bar-landslide-incident>

### **After School Drop In**

*UPDATE for Parents & Students*

#### **Southside – Band Office Board Room**

***Dates:*** November 04th & 25th

***From*** 3:00-4:30PM

Students please bring homework if you have it. We will have games and other activities.

Snacks will be provided.



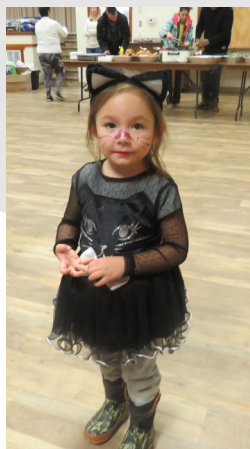
## **Ts'uhoot'i Whuzadel Balhats**

**By: Joan Brett**

The purpose of this Balhats is to further solidify the commitment of reconciliation between SD57 Admin, new teachers and the Aboriginal Education Department Staff with Lheidli T'enneh. A Lheidli T'enneh consultation team has been developed for outreach to the community, and what began as a meet and greet resulted in the reestablishment of the Dakelh Balhats in our territory. Ts'uhoot'i Whuzadel (Welcoming) Balhats: Honoring a New Beginning will be hosted by ALL CLANS of the Lheidli T'enneh. In the process, the team invited neighboring Dakelh community members to share their knowledge and teachings with Lheidli T'enneh Elders to help revitalize the Balhats in our territory. We thank the Elders of the Nazko, Saik'uz, Yekooche, Tl'azt'en, Nak'azdli for their time and advice and look forward to continuing the work with our Elders and community members to come together as a community through the Balhats.



HALLOWEEN  
PARTY 2019







## Natural Resources Department

**By: Chus Sam**

Hadi all members, I hope many of you have been successful moose hunting this year! I am pleased to announce the Lheidli T'enneh Natural Resources (NR) Department is now a stand-alone department. In the past, the NR department was part of the Economic Development Office, but has now been restructured. I have been promoted to the Natural Resources Manager and will be taking on a bigger role with leadership and community in assisting negotiations with industry and government.

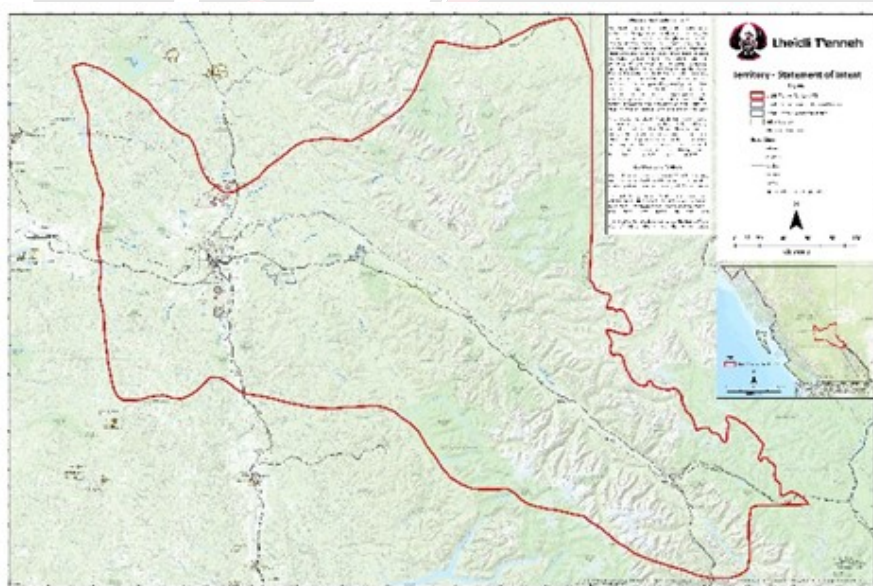
The Natural Resources Department works with the Lheidli T'enneh Executive Director and Chief and Council which plays an integral element at the Nation level for assertions of title and rights and also receiving our fair share of the resources.

In recent months since the election, Lheidli T'enneh has been aggressively engaging with industries such as forestry, mining, and tourism; but also, with the Province of BC regarding expectations for current and proposed projects such as the crown land sales, Ministry of Transportation, BC Hydro, Traplines, and guide outfitters for example. We have taken a new approach to companies and government when it comes to using Lheidli T'enneh resources.

In the near future, the NR Department will be developing an archives library for Lheidli T'enneh traditional use and traditional ecological knowledge from existing and new information. This development of the archives will allow Lheidli T'enneh to preserve vital information recorded from members from Traditional Use Studies and various other studies conducted by Lheidli T'enneh and other first nation. These archives are critical for Lheidli T'enneh members to preserve and develop as this provides strength and connection to the land which is used to negotiate accommodations to impacts to Lheidli T'enneh aboriginal title and rights.

Recently, members requested my assistance to establish a cabin within the territory. If anyone is also interested to please contact me as I can assist with the identification of a suitable location, notification process to the government, and to make sure you are able to practice your traditional once the cabin is established.

I would like to let the members know if they have any concerns related to the Lheidli T'enneh Territory to please get in contact with me and I will address your concerns to the best of my ability. I look forward to any feedback from all members of Lheidli T'enneh.



*Save the Date*

*~December 10, 2019~*

## **Lheidli T'enneh Community Christmas Dinner**

Please join us for our Annual Community Christmas Dinner! There will be a traditional turkey dinner, entertainment, and door prizes! Rides will be available.

**Uda Dune Baiyoh  
5:30pm to 8:30pm.**

For more information please contact  
Dolleen Logan 250-963-8451 or [dlogan@lheidli.ca](mailto:dlogan@lheidli.ca)



**Lheidli T'enneh**

*When Lheidli T'enneh is in!*







## **Lands**

**By: Adam Kantakis**

The Lands department has been busy setting up the new office, and re-organizing the archival files. We have been working on the Emergency Management Plan which will cover off how best to address a specific emergency. There will be community meetings coming up to discuss a community plan as well as the emergency plan.

## **Capital Projects**

The road construction season has wrapped up for the year, unfortunately due to weather issues, the roads on north side were not able to be completed. Landooz Road will be finally paved next spring. We apologize for not being able to complete the roads this year, but the weather this summer has been quite difficult. The fisheries building is complete and ready for use, there will be additional rooms framed in over the winter to allow for a bathroom and office space in the building. The waste water system design has been completed and submitted to ISC for their approval for funding. It is hopeful that they will approve the project and begin construction next summer.

## **Public Works**

The public works staff have been busy getting ready for winter. We have received some high quality firewood, and the staff have been cutting and chopping and delivering to those who heat with firewood. They have also repaired all of the hydrants on both north- and south- sides, which will allow for fire protection for all houses on reserve. The staff have also been working with the housing construction contractors to ensure the 6 new houses are built before winter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the department if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks!



# HEAD START'S NIGHT AT THE OBSERVATORY

Come see the stars at the Prince George  
Astronomical Society! And don't forget to  
dress warmly - its cold out there!

Friday, November 8, 2019

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

7365 Tedford Road

(Near West Lake)

Families of kids aged 6 and under welcome!

Snacks, Entry, and Transportation Provided.

All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Let me know if you are interested in attending.

The Bus leaves the Band Office at 6:15 and The Northside Trailers at 6:45.

Dalainey Bozoki

AHSOR Outreach Coordinator

250-562-0847



# STAFF DIRECTORY



Barb Allan  
Training and Capacity



Brian Toth  
Biologist



Brenda Smith-Hannala  
Community Social Worker



Candace Godwin  
Receptionist



Chus Sam  
Natural Resource Manager



Clarence John  
Councilor



Clayton Pounteny  
Chief



Dalaniey Bozoki  
Head Start



Deryl Seymour  
Communication/



Dolleen Logan  
Councilor/Lead Assistant



Edith Frederick  
Language



Helen Buzas  
Councilor/Receptionist



Jan Shannon  
Lands Consultant



Jennifer Coleman  
Health



Joan Brett  
Community Social Worker





Joshua Seymour  
Councilor



Joe Gosnell Jr  
Executive Director



John West  
Housing Intern



Kaitlin John  
Health Intern



Kenora Stewart  
Receptionist



Kyle McIntosh  
Special Projects



Leo Hebert  
Housing Consultant



Mike Blanchette  
Public Works



Phyllis Seymour  
Water/Health



Rena Zatorski  
Economic Development



Tabatha Flynn  
Junior Accountant



Tasheena Seymour  
Status Card/  
Family Development



Towfique Islam  
Finance Manager



Vincent Joseph  
Health Manager



Wendy Jael  
Housing Manager



Wendy Rednap  
Finance



## Work with Me People!

Hello all, I am going to take this time to mention that I have taken on the responsibility of Tourism Liaison personnel. I have attended the Tourism Summit recently, hosted by Tourism Prince George. This opened my eyes as to how much I haven't even thought of when talking Tourism. I was approached by a representative from United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Sebastien Goupil, wanted to know more about the Ancient Forest, I was not willing to share as it was my first day on the job. Right now I want to collect information and present it to membership to see what they have to say.

My first priority is to work on a strategy with the help from Tourism Prince George, I will be working with the fantastic people from Tourism Prince George but mainly with Miss Camilia Sanchez, some people may know her from the Treaty team. We will be attending the Indigenous Tourism Conference in Kelowna on November 12, 13, and 14th, 2019. I will keep the membership informed of what's going on. Right now I am gathering information and will keep you posted.

I will be posting on Facebook and have shared pictures from the Health Center Grand Opening and the AGA 2019, under the Lheidli T'enneh official site.

Awetza

## Contact Information

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Toll-Free: 1.877.963.8451  
Fax: 250.963.6954

### Lands & Economic Development Office

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Prince George, BC • V2L 1R1

Phone: 250.562.0847

### Learning Centre & Health Office

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