



Education and Language

By Chief Clay Pountney

Hadih and Happy New School Year to all Lheidli students whether you be students in K-12, starting a new program at UNBC or CNC or planning to take a training workshop this fall to upgrade your skills. Education is a lifelong journey and I hope my mine never ends.

Before I share my thoughts on Education and Language, I want to offer a 'shout out' to everyone who contributed to the August edition of *Lheidli Whut'en Dustl'us*. Members have told me that they are very pleased that we are once again producing a monthly newsletter as a means to help keep members informed but also, that it looks very professional and reflects a positive image for our community and nation. Congratulations again to everyone involved.

EDUCATION

While some people may think the new school-year is just for kids, I believe we all need to be involved in supporting not only our K-12 students but all our learners. I'm starting this new school year a little more apprehensive than usual as we face some real challenges in supporting our students during their time in School District No. 57 (Prince George).

Recent discussions with the Aboriginal Education Committee of SD57 suggest that many of our students face serious challenges with their reading, math and other skills. Many may not be receiving the support they require to achieve the requirements for graduation.

So, as the new school year begins, we will resume regular meetings with the Aboriginal Education Committee of SD57. We will also resume work on our call to have one of the trustee positions on the Board of Education be allocated for a Lheidli member. Only when we are at the decision-making table will we be able to properly support Lheidli and other indigenous students.

I have also written the Minister of Education requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss the challenges in SD57 faced by indigenous students including our Lheidli youth. I will apprise you of developments in this regard in future newsletters.

LANGUAGE

In last month's newsletter we heard from Elder Edith Frederick about our new program to revitalize our Lheidli Dakelh language. 'Edie' is being assisted in this effort by Janet Kozak and Vince Joseph. I want to thank all three on behalf of Council for accepting this critical challenge for our community and our nation. This is no easy task by any description.

The program will involve digitizing video and audio interviews with elders that date back to the 1980s. We are being assisted in this process by The Exploration Place and I want to thank them on behalf of Council for their help.

The program will also include meeting with our Elders and gaining their support. Our language team will then consider best approaches for engaging with the rest of our community.

One of key challenges with a program like this is how best to connect with a majority of our members when one-third live on-reserve, one-third in Prince George and one-third elsewhere in BC, Canada and the United States. We'll use technology wherever we can and leave no stone unturned in our efforts to not only save our language but to motivate our members to learn it and share it with their family and friends.

Our language revitalization program has also caught the attention of the media. Cole Kelly with Vista Radio and MyPGNow (www.myprincegeorgenow.com) has produced a video story featuring Edie and Vince talking about the importance of saving our language and our program to achieve this. We will also post the video story to our own website (www.lheidl.ca).

2019 AGA

I hope to see a good turnout for the Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Sept. 14 and 15. It will take place in the Northside neighbourhood between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day. This is our chance to come together as a community, celebrate our past and plan for a vibrant, sustainable future.

It is a great opportunity to remind ourselves that we are the title-holders of our territory and discuss the importance of asserting ourselves in everything that takes place on our lands. I've asked the weather folks to ensure that we have sunny skies and warm temperatures for both Sat, Sept. 14 and Sun, Sept. 15 so here's hoping and I will see you there.

Snachailya.



Overview of Federal Impact Assessment Act, Canadian Energy Regulator Act, and Canadian Navigable Waters Act.

On August 28, 2019, the enactment of Bill C-69 will bring into force three pieces of federal legislation which will significantly overhaul environmental regulation processes in Canada. The *Impact Assessment Act* (“**IAA**”) will replace the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (“**CEAA 2012**”), the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* (“**CERA**”) will replace the *National Energy Board Act* and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (“**CNWA**”) will significantly amend the *Navigation Protection Act*.

According to the federal government, the major legislative changes comprising Bill C-69 are intended to modernize environmental assessment processes in Canada and restore public faith in these processes. The federal government has touted the changes as strengthening environmental protections and promoting reconciliation with Indigenous communities. However, these pieces of legislation are likely to fall short of the government’s hype.

Perhaps the most significant changes made to Canada’s environmental regulation regime are those made under the *IAA*. The *IAA* replaces *CEAA 2012* as the governing legislation for environmental assessments in Canada. *CEAA 2012* has long been criticized by environmentalists, Indigenous groups and project proponents for the uncertainty it has creates with respect to both environmental protections and project approvals. Unfortunately, the *IAA* has adopted a similar structure to *CEAA 2012*. While the *IAA* has added Indigenous culture, traditional knowledge, and Section 35 rights as factors to be considered in the environmental assessment process, there is no indication for regulators as to how, or to what degree, these factors must be taken into account. The *IAA* relies on a vague “public interest” test to determine whether or not a project should be approved, but it is far from certain whose interests will take precedence when making these decisions.

The *CERA* and the *CNWA* offer similar promises for stronger environmental protections and increased Indigenous participation, but neither offer the adequate substantive protections that are sorely needed. *CERA* is flawed because the new energy regulator created thereunder will be largely relying upon the flawed *IAA*, and the corresponding Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, in many of its decision-making processes. The *CNWA*, on the other hand, has a very narrow focus on *navigability* (to the exclusion of environmental concerns) which could allow many projects protected under the former *Navigation Protection Act* to slip through the cracks.

In sum, the upcoming legislative changes under Bill C-69 ought to be viewed with a healthy skepticism. It remains to be seen how the new legislation will be carried out in practice. However, to date, the federal government’s promotion of Bill C-69 has been high on self-promotion, while the legislation itself is low on substance and does not create a clear path forward for protecting the environment or promoting reconciliation.

Lheidli T'enneh Tourism Coordinator Posting.



Tourism is a growing sector in British Columbia and provides an annual revenue of \$18.4 billion to various service areas including accommodation and food, transportation, and retail. As such, Destination BC (DBC), Northern BC Tourism (NBCT), Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) and Tourism Prince George (TPG) work with stakeholders to promote our region through various programs areas including;

- Destination Development
- Indigenous Tourism
- Remarkable Experiences
- Travel Trade & Media Relations
- Social Media & Content Development
- Co-operative Marketing

Indigenous Tourism is rapidly growing sector as more and more 'visitors' are seeking to experience and learn about Indigenous peoples and their cultures. Through tourism, LTN has an opportunity to grow, advance, and share our culture, language and knowledge systems with the world.

In partnership with TPG, LTN will be hiring a Tourism Coordinator to develop and implement a Tourism Strategy for LTN. The job posting could be viewed on www.lheidli.ca and various LTN facebook pages.

Chun T'oh Whudujut (Ancient Forest) Working Group.

On September 1st, 2018 Lheidli T'enneh Nation and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy signed a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging and committing the 'parties' to;

The Parties have a common interest in preserving the old growth cedar stands in Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area (the "Park") east of Prince George.

The area of the Park is within the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh.

The Parties wish to work together collaboratively, on a government to government basis, on the planning and management of the Park in a manner that respects the interests of both the Lheidli T'enneh and the Province.

The Parties will continue to work towards a strategic agreement.

BC Parks has provided LTN a limited amount of funds via a service contract with LTN to begin working on drafting the Collaborative Park Management Agreement. Karyn Sharp of Little Frog Consulting has been contracted to begin this work. On March 6th, 2019 we held a Community Engagement Session to provide information, answer questions and gather input from LTN members regarding Chun T'oh Whudujut and LTN's interests. Members interested in participating in the Chun T'oh Whudujut Working Group were contacted and

attended the first meeting on August 24th, 2019. The CTW WG will continue to meet once a month and provide Karyn with input and direction in order to ensure LTN's interests are maintained and asserted as we continue drafting this agreement.

Canada Nature Fund; Target 1 Challenge proposal update.

In March 2019, LTN submitted a proposal to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada Nature Fund; Target 1 Challenge. Canada's Target 1 Challenge was a nation-wide initiative to develop a plan to achieve Canada's international biodiversity commitment to conserve a minimum of 17% land and freshwater by 2020. Indigenous protected and conserved areas are part of these measures. LTN proposed the Ltha Koh Headwaters and connected areas as the protected area to gain conservancy status.

There was a total of 148 project proposals across Canada that were submitted for the Target 1 Challenge. On August 19th, 2019 we received notice that LTN was not successful in our application. We requested from Environment and Climate Change Canada a comprehensive list of successful applicants, however due to applicants 'sensitive components' they were unable to provide us this information.

Various news outlets have relayed that a total of 27 initiatives to create new Indigenous protected and conserved areas in Canada will be supported. In BC, the Tahltan Central Government, Clayoquot Sound, and the proposed Kaska Indigenous Protected and Conserved area have been successful in their applications.

Land Transfer to Lheidli T'enneh Nation.

In February 2019, Lheidli T'enneh Nation received a donation of two regional district land lots from Ms. Penelope Harris. These lots are located in the Willow River community and were originally purchased by Ms. Harris as investment property. LTN Chief and Council thanked Ms. Harris with gifts and public acknowledgments of her generosity.

Ms Penelope Harris stated,

"I feel that there is nothing we can do to fix all the things we've done wrong as a society to Canada's Aboriginal peoples, I just think we can have a better future together, so what are we doing right now to make things right? The line we were all fed about what the Canadian identity was, how great the Canadian story was, that has now fallen to pieces for all to see. Good. We were all duped. We've been lied to for generations upon generations. But we know that now. We can make choices for the future to be better and be together. I'm absolutely sure they will be much better stewards of this land."

<https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/local-news/landowner-donates-land-to-lheidli-t-enneh-1.23795039>



LTN has no current development plans for the gifted lots, however we will ensure that Ms. Penelope Harris will continue to be recognized in some fashion should the land be development in the future.



House of Ancestors Conference Center Nominated for Chamber of Commerce Award

By Caisy Jackson

Congratulations to the team at 'Uda Dene Baiyoh' House of Ancestors Conference Center has been nominated for the 2019 'Top Indigenous Owned Business' award in the Prince George Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. Finalists in all categories will be recognized at a Nominees Reception at the College of New Caledonia on September 12. Winners will be announced at the Business Excellence Awards Gala at the Prince George Playhouse on October 18. The Lheidli T'enneh Nation salutes all the nominees in all 2019 Prince George Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards categories.

Top Indigenous Owned Business Proudly Presented by Pacific BioEnergy Corporation

This business has showcased the best of indigenous (First Nations, Metis & Inuit) entrepreneurship in Prince George. This business is majority-owned by an indigenous person, community or organization. This business has distinguished itself for excellence, innovation and customer service.



LTN Child Care Center Project Update

By Vince Joseph

Lheidli T'enneh Nation is currently exploring the opportunity to build a Child Care Center in Prince George that would serve Lheidli and other indigenous children and families. The BC Government has made development of new child care spaces a key priority and are making funding of up to \$3 million available to construct new child care space including the building, fixtures and

furnishings.

LTN has approached Exploration Place to be a partner in the program. They have expertise as a longtime child care provider in the community and are currently developing indigenous cultural and language programming.

Research has shown that children who have access to early childhood education are likely to do better and stay longer in school, and experience better health and less poverty. Provision of full-day child care services to Lheidli and indigenous families allows parents to return to school or pursue training programs to enjoy higher paying and more fulfilling jobs and educational goals.

In preparation for possible development of an LTN Child Care Centre, the College of New Caledonia (CNC) has expressed an interest in working closely with us on this initiative. CNC provides Early Childhood Education programs and I would welcome hearing from anyone interested in pursuing this training.

Lands, Capital Projects and Public Works Update



August was a busy month for the departments, we have been working with housing to ensure that the new builds are progressing on track. We have also been working with our contractors to ensure the road paving project will be complete by October 31 this year (hopefully before snow). New wood sheds have been built and will be delivered very soon, as well as we are starting to get the winter wood for the community. Speed bumps are being installed on the south side, and there will be speed bumps installed on northside once the paving is complete. The Lands Authority has been busy developing some zoning bylaws and policies and procedures for lands development procedures. The department is always open to comments and suggestions, so please do not hesitate to reach out to provide us with your valuable feedback. Thank you very much and have a great school year to the students!



Wood Sheds



Fisheries Building



Houses in the Southside Neighbourhood

Spoooner appointed as Director of Aboriginal Education

Aug. 22, 2019 --

The Board of Education is pleased to announce that Pamela Spoooner has been appointed as Director of Aboriginal Education in School District No. 57 (Prince George).

Spoooner, who holds Masters degrees in Education and First Nations Studies, is moving into the position after serving as Principal of Aboriginal Education in School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) during the 2018-19 school year. Prior to that, she was at Prince George's Nusdeh Yoh Elementary School – an Aboriginal Choice school – for six years. Spoooner's last four years at Nusdeh Yoh were as Principal.

"Her experience and her knowledge of community in Prince George and the North is extraordinary," said Rod Allen, Superintendent of Schools for School District No. 57. "We're so happy to have her back in the SD 57 family.

"She's a transformational leader who always puts the best interests of students first. She is well-known as a master teacher, having taught senior-level math courses for 13 years."

Spoooner becomes the first Director of Aboriginal Education in School District No. 57.

"This new position demonstrates the importance that the Board places on Aboriginal education, as well as strong and growing relationships with the Indigenous community," Allen said.

School District No. 57 is situated on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in Prince George, the McLeod Lake Indian Band in the Mackenzie region and the Simpcw First Nation in Valemount. More than 23 per cent of students in the school district identify as Aboriginal.



Fisheries

This year has been defined by two events... 1) the return of Fraser sockeye to the Fraser-approach marine area far below their forecast abundance, and potentially at a historical-record low abundance level, and 2) the upstream migration impediment posed by the Big Bar Landslide. Fisheries for Fraser bound sockeye in the marine area have remained closed, and all fisheries for sockeye in the Fraser River have remained closed. Crews continue with efforts to improve fish passage at the slide site, and more than 20,000 salmon have been moved above the slide via helicopter. Updates on the efforts to move fish and improve migration success 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>

A Lheidli crew has completed spawning chinook surveys in several Robson Valley tributaries and have seen very few fish that have successfully returned. Numbers are too low to attempt emergency enhancement operations. Lheidli's fisheries personnel are involved in preparations for emergency chinook enhancement efforts on other spawning streams, as well as for Bowron sockeye – pending the availability of a viable number of spawners.

Sturgeon sampling/monitoring projects continue.



Big Bar Side Rescue 2019



HEALTH CENTER REPORT



On September 10, 2019 we will have the Grand Opening of our new temporary Health Centre. We have more space, privacy and a wonderful welcoming set up. Come and join us! Planning for a new permanent Health Center are proceeding and we expect to 'break ground' next spring.

On July 31 the Mobile Support Team worked with the Health Centre to plan and organize Beach Day at the swimming hole. We had a BBQ, activities for the kids and a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another. We even had a mommy bear and her baby off in the distance checking out what we were doing.

On August 9 the Health Centre staff went to Save On Foods to learn how to become better shoppers through the grocery store tour. We learned about the marketing strategy of how the grocery store is laid out, reading labels and received some handouts to remember the things we learned.

Berry Picking happened on August 12 – the Mobile Support Team and the Health Centre organized this event. A group went out to a berry picking farm.

Phyllis Seymour went to Kamloops last month to attend a 'Train the Trainer' workshop on Community Kitchens. During the workshop she learned more about meal planning, teaching how to cook meals, and offering nutritional information on the meals, and now she can share all she learned with our community.



Berry Picking 2019



Beach Day 2019



Barbara Allan

Capacity Development & Training Officer/Workforce Promoter

**April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019: Service Delivery
53 Clients (Average)**

**Job Starts Supports/Employment Retention: 21 Clients
(Employed)**

Skilled Training: 33 Clients

Group Session in Specialized Training Initiative: 8 Clients (Hospitality)

Results of Closed Casefiles:

Employed: 39 Clients

Returned to School: 2 Clients

**April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019: Service Delivery
11 Clients (New Intakes)**

Job Starts Supports/Employment Retention: 10 Clients (Employed)

Returned to School: 3 Clients

Referrals to other Agencies: 4 Clients

Highlights: I was able to follow a structured Time Management Plan, within the workplace. This has allowed me to become more efficient while working with Program Department Budgets, Proposal Development, Project Management Strategies and Meeting Minutes.

Challenges: The challenges I face today, would be working on a mutual client, with other Employment & Training Coordinators, getting the Participant Information Forms (PIFs) EI verified in a timely manner, prior to a client's training.

Portfolios

- Indigenous Skills & Employment Training Strategy (ISETS)
- Indigenous Skills Training Development Fund (ISTDF)
- Lheidli Dakelh Language Revitalization Project



Work with Me!

Dates to remember:

September 10, 2019 Grad Opening Health Center

September 14 & 15, 2019 AGA

If membership would like to share photos or information on www.lheidli.ca, Lheidli T'enneh or Lheidli T'enneh Marketplace Facebook page please message myself on Facebook, email to dseymour@lheidli.ca or stop by the downtown office at 215 George Street, Prince George, to give me a copy. I would like to have a contest for a \$25.00 Gift Card for the nicest photo submission, community members will be selecting the favorite one of the bunch. I am always looking for feedback on the Newsletter both content and layout. I am still accepting Webpage Surveys for the Webpage as we are rebranding.

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