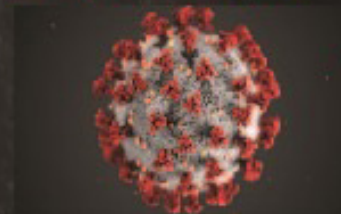


LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT





Report from Chief Dolleen Logan

Hadih members. I had no idea it would be so hard to cast my mind back over a year to remember what I was doing as a Councillor in the fiscal year April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. However, it did not take me long to remember COVID-19. Many of us were still at home for the 1st Lockdown aimed at trying to flatten the curve of infections when the new fiscal year started.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Once the world got to Spring 2020 it realized that the COVID-19 pandemic was more widespread than first expected and infecting older folks in communities everywhere. LTFN Council and Administration started meeting weekly with our Health Team (Tamara Seymour and Community Nurse Jennifer Coleman) to learn about COVID-19 and better understand the initial safety protocols. Those included social distancing, using hand sanitizer often and meeting in small groups. As spring gave way to summer public health officials recommended wearing masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and then we learned that vaccines were in development to help as well.

Through the Summer of 2020 Council and Administration continued to meet weekly to assess the impacts on our members and we implemented COVID safety protocols at all our offices. Once the early vaccines were approved for use our Health Team scheduled Vaccine Clinics for our members. The First Nations Health Authority was also providing advice to our Health Team along with regular information updates from Northern Health and the BC Center for Disease Control. We communicated regularly with members through our Facebook Page and Website. Once Fall 2020 arrived all of BC and Canada were in lockdown mode again with restrictions on the size of gatherings and access to public buildings. Most of our members opted to receive the initial two vaccinations as recommended by public health officials. But the realization that COVID-19 could be around for awhile started to sink in.

We were unable to host an Annual General Assembly in 2020 and then had to cancel our annual Christmas Dinner. All meetings, conferences and conventions were cancelled, and we all had to learn what a ZOOM meeting was. But as our community has been here for at least 9000 years, this wasn't the first major public health crisis we had to learn to deal with. Council and Administration keep meeting weekly to assess the situation and our Health and Maintenance Staff made sure our offices received additional COVID safety cleaning and members, staff and visitors adhered to strict safety protocols.

As we ended the 2020-2021 fiscal year it was clear that COVID would be around for at least another year and maybe longer.

Thankfully we fared better than other First Nations when it came to impacts on individuals and their communities during the first full year of COVID-19 and we are thankful that trend has continued.

HEALTH CENTER

While our collective focus was on COVID-19 Council and Administration did manage to keep most projects and programs going. We all watched the new Health Center take shape after the ground-breaking in the Spring of 2020. This project gave us all hope that we would soon have a modern, well-equipped health facility.

DAYCARE CENTER

We were also fortunate to receive provincial funding for a 75-space Daycare facility and this project will move us forward even further in providing services to our members.





Report from Executive Director

Joe Gosnell

Hello Lheidli T'enneh members. As Chief Logan has reported all our fiscal year 2020-2021 was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the priority topic at every Chief and Council meeting and in all our Emergency Planning Committee meetings. Rarely a day went by when Chief and Council, and our Administration team weren't discussing how to keep members, staff, and visitors safe while we all learned as much as possible about COVID-19 and how to keep people safe while continuing to provide services and support to all members.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

LTFN's Emergency Response Plan includes details about what we will do to support members in the event of floods or wildfires impacting the North and Southside subdivisions, but nothing could prepare us for the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a global public health crisis that found its way to the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and every other nation in BC and across Canada. It hit hard and it hit fast once it was arrived in BC and elder citizens were the most vulnerable. LTFN from the outset took a very cautious approach to learning about COVID-19 and implementing safety measures to protect our members. We relied on the expertise and information from the BC Public Health Officer and local agencies such as the First Nations Health Authority and the Northern Health Authority.

With all the advice and recommendations from the BC Government and the various Health Authorities was critical to our success in caring for Lheidli members I cannot say enough about the great work and dedication of Health Manager Tamara Seymour and our Community Health Nurse Jennifer Coleman. During periods where our offices were closed and our support staff were working from home, Tamara and Jennifer made regular visits to members in the North and Southside subdivisions and were available to advise Chief and Council, and Administration. The success seen in caring for our members is due in large part to the work of Tamara and Jennifer throughout the two long years of the COVID pandemic but especially during the 2020-2021 fiscal year when everyone waited for the BC Vaccination program to roll out.

The other LTFN Department which stepped up to provide superb service and assistance to our members was our Public Works department specifically Duncan Seymour and John West. While our offices were closed for periods during 2020-2021 and staff were working from home, Duncan and John were making sure Elders had firewood, community streets were cleared of snow and garbage pick-up and other services continued. Chief, Council, and Administration wish to thank this team for all their hard work.

As we neared the end of March of 2021, it was clear that we would be entering a 2nd year of the COVID pandemic as the Province of BC through the various health agencies continued to make vaccines available to protect people against COVID. The good news was that LTFN had learned many valuable lessons during 2020-2021 that we could apply to our COVID

Response in 2021-2022. More on this in the 2021-2022 Annual Report.

SOLID FINANCIAL FOUNDATION FOR LTFN

One of the impacts of COVID during 2020-2021 was the realisation that members could not gather for special events such as the Annual General Assembly, National Indigenous Peoples Day, or the Annual Lheidli Christmas Dinner. The message during Year One of the COVID-19 pandemic was stay home whenever possible, only gather with immediate family members, always wear a mask, and use hand sanitizer regularly.

What Chief and Council, and Administration struggled with was to keep members informed about non-COVID related news within the nation. One of the best stories of 2020-2021 was the tremendous work done by our Finance Department under the direction of Towfiqul Islam who during 2020-2021 was our Chief Financial Officer and Compliance and now delegated Deputy Executive Director. As you will read in Towfiqul's financial report, our nation realized an unexpected boost in revenue thanks to over \$6 Million in a Treaty Forgiveness Loan. The bottom-line as they say in Finance is that LTFN built a solid financial foundation during 2020-2021 and your nation is in a great fiscal position because of it. You can learn more by reading Towfiqul's Report.

CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic LTFN was able to 'break ground' and begin construction of the new Health Center on the Northside subdivision. This a project that had been in planning for many, many years and one that members considered a top priority. Work continued through the 2021-2022 fiscal year and is scheduled to officially open April 2022.

The other great news during fiscal 2020-2021 was that LTFN received funding to build a 75-seat Daycare Center! Again, this project had been under consideration for many years and work is expected to begin later this year 2022.

IN CONCLUSION

Administration wishes to thank Council who were in place during fiscal year 2020-2021. I also want members to be aware of the excellent work of our staff who despite some incredible challenges stepped up during a year that none of us will forget to provide services and support to Lheidli members who live in the territory and to those who live elsewhere. Thank you all for your dedication, understanding and support.





Report from Deputy Executive Director (Finance & Compliance)

Towfiqul Islam M. Comm (Accounting), M. Comm(Management), MBA,
PGD (Mgt Acctg), CGA L4

INTERPRETATION OF COMPARATIVE AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-21 & 2019-20

Comparison of Financial Performance:

The comparative Financial Report has been prepared from the information of Audited Financial Statement for the year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Full version of the audited financial statements can be viewed from Lheidli Website in the following link:

<https://www.lheidli.ca/governance/finance-department/>

The Fiscal year for our organization is April to March. For the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Lheidli T'enneh had an overall revenue \$18.98 Million.

In 2019-20 there was a Revenue for Treaty Forgiveness Loan for \$6.34 Million which was an extraordinary revenue for the year. The operating Revenue after excluding the treaty loan forgiveness during 2019-2020 was \$14.88 Million.

We have an increase in Operating Revenue \$4.1 Million (\$18.98M – \$14.88M) which is an increase of 27.59%.

An overall Revenue decreased by \$2.24 Million.

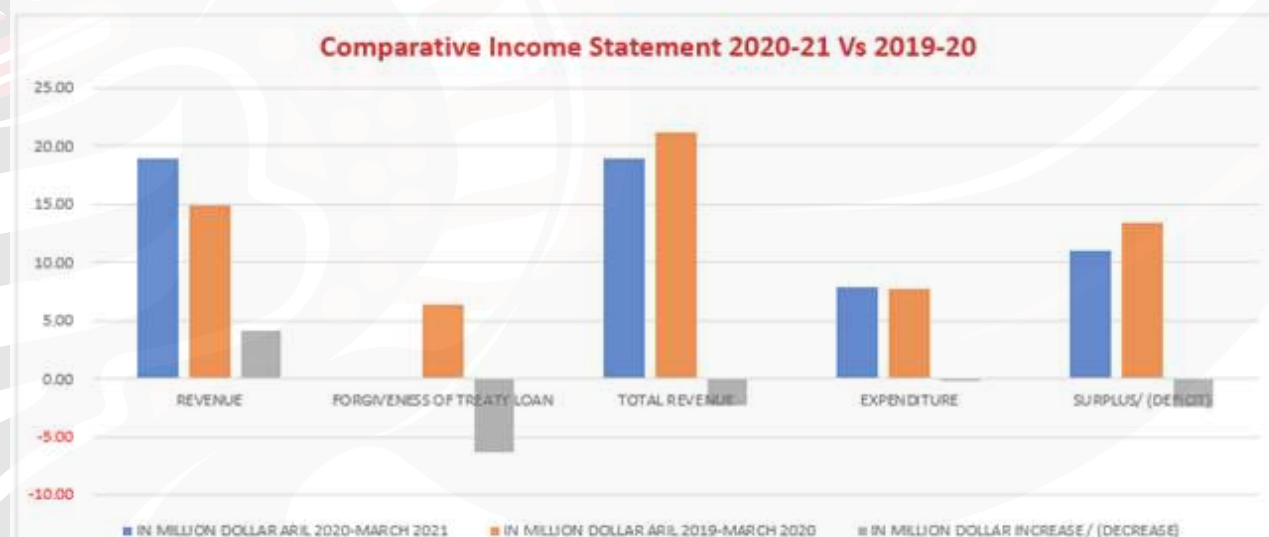
The Expenditure during 2020-2021 was \$7.93 Million. Comparing with 2019-2020 an overall expenditure increased by \$0.13 Million which is a 1.65% increase.

The Bottom line for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 represents a surplus of \$11.06. Comparing with 2020-2021 an overall deficit of \$2.37 Million which is 17.63%. If we exclude last year extraordinary treaty forgiveness the Surplus would increase by \$3.98 Million which would have an increment of 56.17%.

LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
2020-21 Vs 2019-20



PARTICULARS	IN MILLION DOLLAR			% OF INCREASE / GROWTH
	ARIL 2020- MARCH 2021	ARIL 2019- MARCH 2020	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	
REVENUE	18.98	14.88	4.11	27.59%
FORGIVENESS OF TREATY LOAN	0.00	6.34	-6.34	
TOTAL REVENUE	18.98	21.22	-2.24	-10.54%
EXPENDITURE	7.93	7.80	-0.13	-1.65%
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	11.06	13.42	-2.37	-17.63%

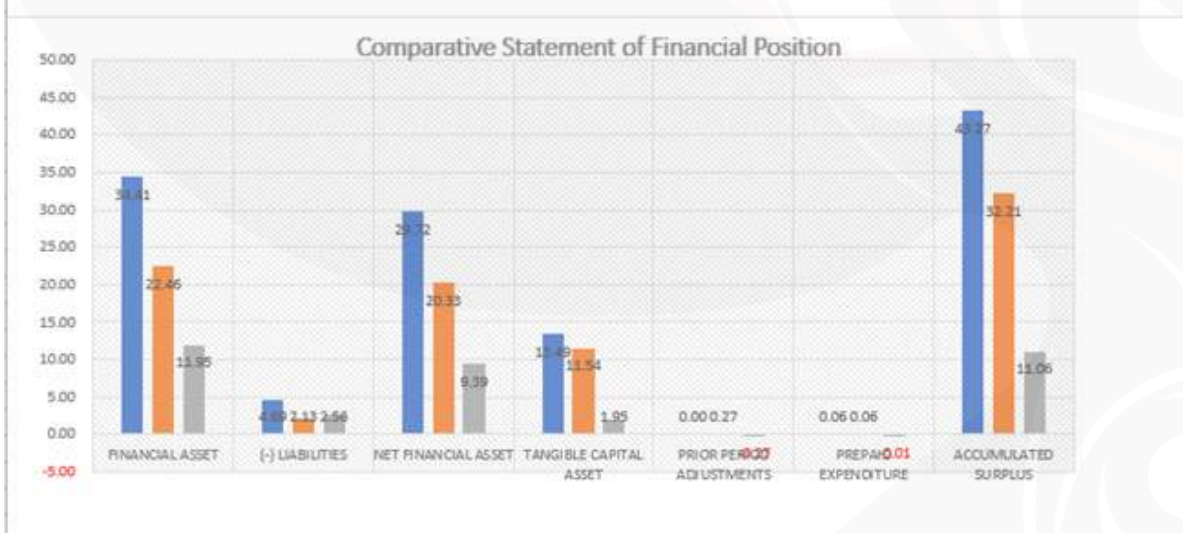


Comparison of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2021, The Band had a Net Financial Asset \$29.72 Million after subtracting the total liabilities from the Financial Asset. Comparing to fiscal year 2019-20, an overall increment of \$9.39 Million which is 46.18%.

The Accumulated Surplus has increased to \$43.27 Million during Fiscal Year 2020-21 by \$11.06 Million which is 34.35% increment from Fiscal Year 2019-20.

LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MARCH 31, 2021 Vs MARCH 31, 2020				
PARTICULARS	IN MILLION DOLLAR			
	ARIL 2020- MARCH 2021	ARIL 2019- MARCH 2020	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	% OF INCREASE / GROWTH
FINANCIAL ASSET	34.41	22.46	11.95	53.195%
(-) LIABILITIES	4.69	2.13	2.56	120.17%
NET FINANCIAL ASSET	29.72	20.33	9.39	46.18%
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSET	13.49	11.54	1.95	16.89%
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS	0.00	0.27	-0.27	0.00%
PREPAID EXPENDITURE	0.06	0.06	-0.01	-9.09%
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	43.27	32.21	11.06	34.35%



REVENUE SEGMENT:

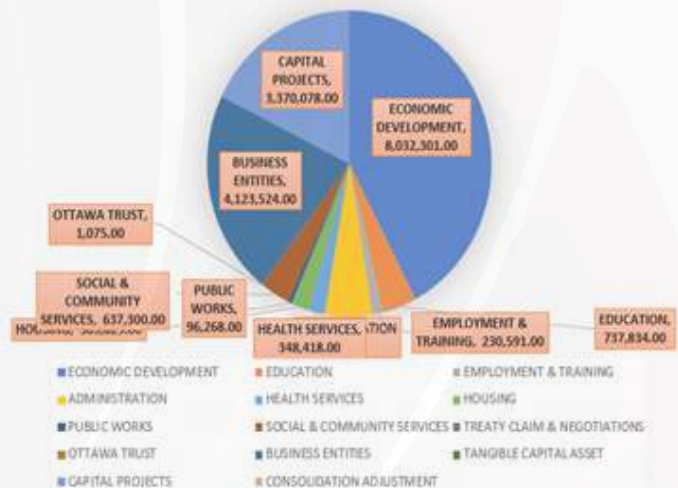
LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION

REVENUE SEGMENT

For the Fiscal Year 2020 -2021

Serial #	SEGMENT	REVENUE
1	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	8,032,301.00
2	EDUCATION	737,834.00
3	EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING	230,591.00
4	ADMINISTRATION	1,023,544.00
5	HEALTH SERVICES	348,418.00
6	HOUSING	383,629.00
7	PUBLIC WORKS	96,268.00
8	SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES	637,300.00
9	TREATY CLAIM & NEGOTIATIONS	
10	OTTAWA TRUST	1,075.00
11	BUSINESS ENTITIES	4,123,524.00
12	TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSET	
13	CAPITAL PROJECTS	3,370,078.00
14	CONSOLIDATION ADJUSTMENT	
	Total	18,984,562.00

REVENUE SEGMENT



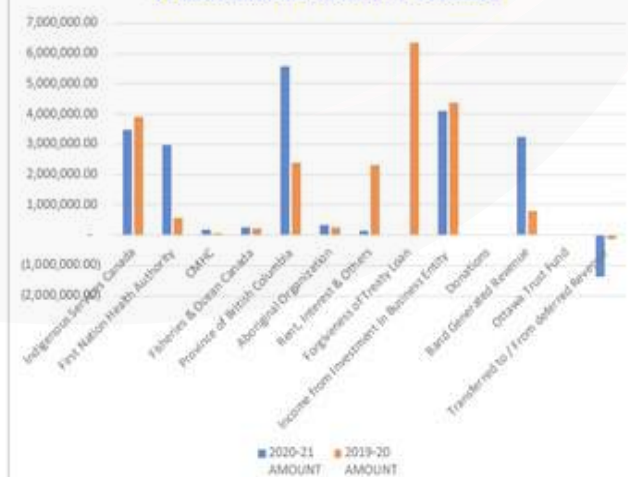
SOURCE OF FUNDING:

LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION

COMPARISON OF SOURCE OF FUNDING

FUNDING AGENCY	2020-21 AMOUNT	2019-20 AMOUNT
Indigenous Services Canada	3,483,369.00	3,898,749.00
First Nation Health Authority	2,969,026.00	567,520.00
CMHC	182,307.00	77,538.00
Fisheries & Ocean Canada	272,800.00	224,900.00
Province of British Columbia	5,581,755.00	2,401,630.00
Aboriginal Organization	328,153.00	276,769.00
Rent, Interest & Others	143,598.00	2,304,034.00
Forgiveness of Treaty Loan	-	6,343,526.00
Income from Investment in Business Entity	4,123,524.00	4,381,091.00
Donations	18,444.00	40,860.00
Band Generated Revenue	3,265,790.00	818,805.00
Ottawa Trust Fund		1,049.00
Transferred to / From deferred Revenue	(1,384,204.00)	(114,063.00)
	18,984,562.00	21,222,408.00

COMPARISON OF SOURCE OF FUNDING

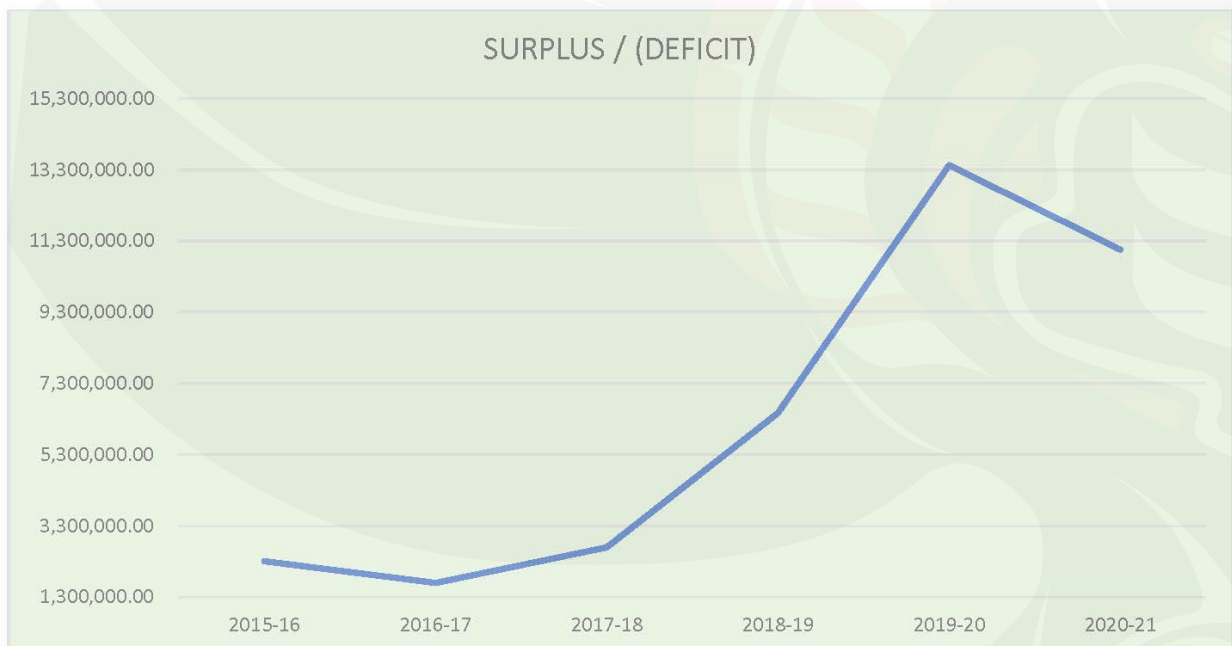


LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION

Year to Year Financial Performance



YEAR	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)
2015-16	7,315,728.00	5,010,342.00	2,305,386.00
2016-17	8,285,268.00	6,590,616.00	1,694,652.00
2017-18	7,705,795.00	5,012,970.00	2,692,825.00
2018-19	13,194,999.00	6,727,956.00	6,467,043.00
2019-20	21,222,408.00	7,798,402.00	13,424,006.00
2020-21	18,984,562.00	7,927,211.00	11,057,351.00

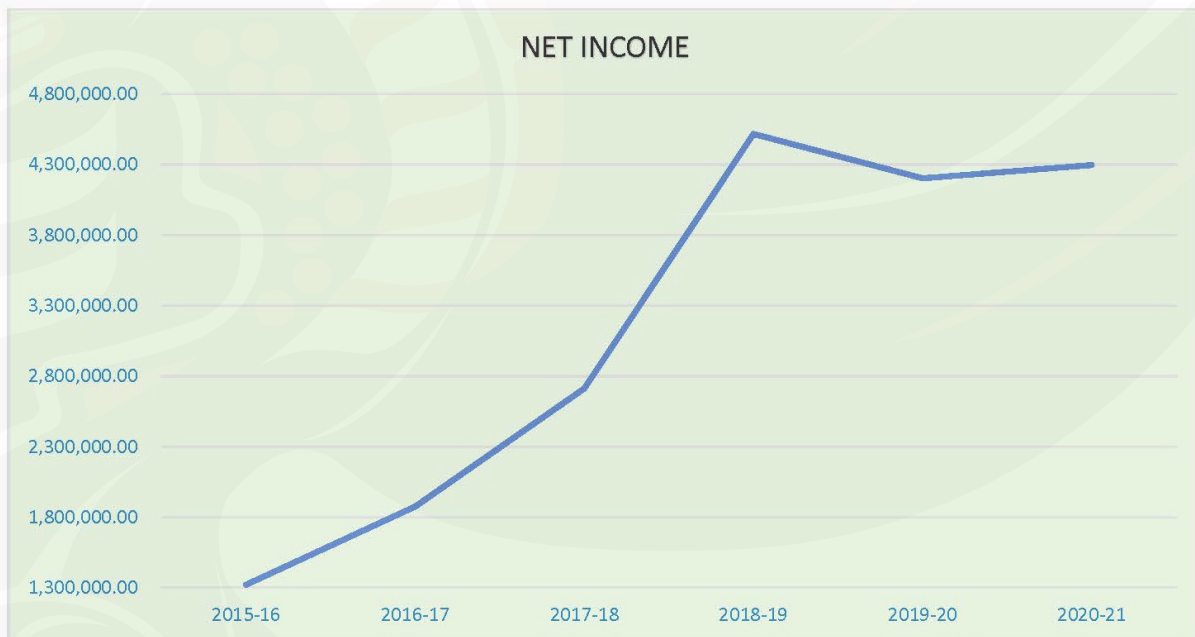


TANO T'ENNEH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Year to Year Financial Performance



YEAR	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	NET INCOME
2015-16	1,450,117.00	128,150.00	1,321,967.00
2016-17	2,163,630.00	287,397.00	1,876,233.00
2017-18	2,923,893.00	211,292.00	2,712,601.00
2018-19	4,812,537.00	295,718.00	4,516,819.00
2019-20	4,758,818.00	556,270.00	4,202,548.00
2020-21	4,832,392.00	536,451.00	4,295,941.00



New Employees



Public Works

Duncan Seymour

who resides in the Northside Neighbourhood. He lives with his wife Krystal and they have two rembuncious kids, Lakoda 6 and Dakotah 4.

Duncan will be working full time as the Public Works and taking over the water technician duties by attending classes to obtain his EOCP certification. Welcome aboard Duncan!



Natural Resources GIS Technician

Dalainey Bozoki

Hello! As many of you know my name is Dalainey Bozoki. I am Michael and Ann Bozoki's oldest daughter and I have one younger sister. I am a member of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and previously I have worked on developing our nation's Head Start Program. I chose to leave the position to make way for someone with a more applicable skillset and passion for the program. Most recently I have been hired as the Natural Resources GIS Technician – in other words: I make Maps. So, if anyone needs a map feel free to give me a call.

Throw Back





Report from Capital Projects & Assets Management

Zawad Abedin, EIT

Hadih, Community Members. I hope you are doing well during these difficult times. From Capital Projects and Asset Management department, I am presenting the updates for the year of 2020-21.



There are other activities going on in the department as well. We do support other departments as when required to write grant applications, provide support as well. There are some capacity building planning going on too. We are planning to start doing all IT activities within our organizational capacity and also, start doing maintenance activities with a defined Level of Services to the community members.

Levels of service are specific parameters that describe the extent and quality of community services that the administration provides to community members.

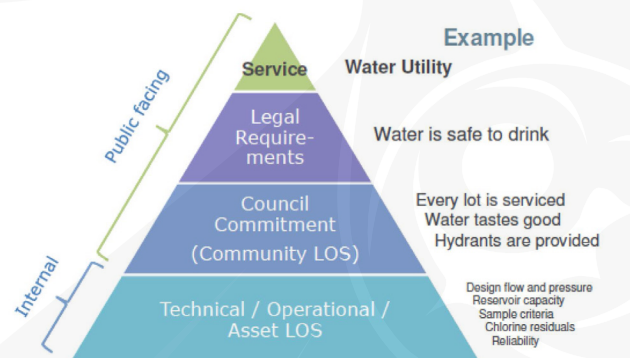
2 PERSPECTIVES

Community (customer) LOS





The levels at which the customer is receiving service, from an experiential perspective.

Technical (operational/asset) LOS

The adequacy of assets to provide customer services, from a physical characteristics perspective.



Promises vs Achievement (based on last annual report)

Priority Area	Promise	Actual Achievement	How do we feel?
Timely Completion of ongoing projects	By Fall 2021, Subdivision and Road projects will be completed	As of March 2021, we are on track to accomplish the target	
Bringing Maintenance Management plan (MMP) to life	To complete MMP	MMP is completed, and in consequence, Asset Management (AM) Plan funding application is in progress	
Strategize the AM to ensure best use of LTFN resources	To prepare and adhere to a policy	Funding application is in progress	
FMB certification achievement	To prepare the nation to achieve FMB certification	Certification received, March 30, 2021	

PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22

Timely
Completion of
ongoing
projects

Applying and
secure funding
for planned
projects

Strategize the
Asset
Management
Plan for best use
of LTN Resources

Ensure best use
of O&M funds
retaining the
Level of Service
to Community





Report from Health Manager

Tamara Seymour

Lheidli T'enneh Health Department dedicated much of its time towards COVID-19 efforts providing the education and support required during the hard months during the pandemic. From April 2020 to March 2021, there were many uncertain times for our community and administration as we were paving a path through unknown territory. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the health staff who worked tirelessly throughout the year supporting members and administration.

The health team continued to provide direct medical care and support to ensure guidance was available within the medical systems in the community and Prince George. All staff coordinate amongst the team to provide essential care and support. Many other Nations and organizations faced through the 2020-21 year when in-person contact was limited due to the ongoing pandemic. Virtual platforms and safety protocols for in-person support were instructed to ensure both members and staff were safe.

There has been an effort in completing the 'Health and Wellness Plan.' Still, with community engagement coming to a halt due to COVID-19 event/gathering restrictions, we have had to postpone organizing an event. We hope to gather with our community to gain critical input from our members. A focus of our department was to work with additional departments on emergency and COVID-19 planning on a community and administration basis. Over the year, clinics were held as per protocols to ensure that we could safely have essential medical clinics. Services, clinics and supports include:

- Medical Clinics held by the LTN Health Centre:
- Flu shot clinic, November 2020, 70 participants
- Eye exam clinic, April 2020, 68 participants
- Diabetes clinic, September 2020, 22 participants
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics, March 2021 and June 2021, 89% vaccinated community-wide
- Elder programming – a monthly gathering for activities with elders on-reserve or elders who would like to participate. In 2020, there was a BINGO activity before the province closure, which was a successful event as many elders joined.
- A virtual BINGO began in November 2020 that went into the new year 2021. The health staff conducted virtual live-streamed BINGO numbers for members who picked up printed copies of BINGO cards.
- Weekly check-ins during the COVID-19 pandemic, including elders'
- Food hampers: 3 hampers over the year (pre-COVID, during COVID and Christmas turkey hampers)
- Developed planned event – Health and wellness week (cancelled due to Province restrictions as per last week of March 2020)

- Elder Ensure program: delivery of ensuring to all elders requiring
- Fish hand out to all LTN members
- Partnered with the Family Development team to conduct 'walking group' in the warmer months encouraging members to walk with staff during lunch on both Northside and Southside reserve for an hour walk
- Medication/prescription program – pickup and delivery by Nurse Jennifer
- Scheduling doctor appointments and offering technology for appointments for members that did not have a phone or computer
- Ongoing planning for annual programming as per restrictions of COVID-19
- Weekly water tracks
- The mobile support team continues to provide LTN mental health supports for on and off reserves
- Partnership with YMCA for interactive play and gym memberships for all LTN members and families to participate in utilizing the gym and programming

Our team looks forward to seeing more community members and holding fun workshops over the next year!



Report from Housing Manager

Tabatha Flynn

In 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Housing Department continued to face ongoing issues related to Covid 19 as well as changes in staff.

With on and off shutdowns, strict Covid 19 protocols, and the everchanging rules and regulations from the Province of BC, the Housing Department maintained ongoing maintenance as requested.

We were able to renovate 4 non-CMHC homes from June 2020 to March 2021. Two additional non-CMHC homes had also began renovations in March 2021 which were set to finish in the 2021-2022 year.

We hope you are all staying healthy and safe.



Report from Acting Education Manager

Mel Aksidan

COVID-19 IMPACTS STUDENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic hit school kids as hard as anyone in the Spring of 2020 when it first arrived in BC and Canada. Schools were closed for the initial lockdown to flatten the curve and the rest of the school year was a bit scary for many to say the least. We were all still learning about COVID-19 when Summer Break started. A welcome time for students, parents, and guardians. But when the new school year began in September 2020 safety protocols such as social distancing, hand sanitizer and no after-school activities were the norm. All while public health officials awaited certification of vaccinations to help protect individuals and slow the spread of the coronavirus. To suggest the 2020-2021 school year was anything but upsetting for everyone in the public school system would be a gross understatement.

CHALLENGES IN SD57

If concerns about COVID-19 were not enough, Indigenous students were still falling through the cracks of the K-12 system and facing systemic racism in SD57. In some cases, we had students in Grades 8-10 with reading and other skills at a Grade 4 level. Despite the commitments made during the historic Balhats (Potlatch) in November 2019 issues and challenges with Indigenous education in SD57 persisted.

TOGETHER WE WORK FOR OUR STUDENTS AND ALL STUDENTS

The Education teams for Lheidli T'enneh and the McLeod Lake Indian Band began to meet and work together in 2019. Not surprising, many of the challenges Lheidli students were experiencing were the same as McLeod Lake students. The two communities established the Joint Education Team (JET) in 2019 and formalized their commitment to work together in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both Chiefs. During the 2020-2021 school year the JET made several public statements about issues and challenges for Indigenous students in SD57. The JET also reached out to Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and in early 2021 the Minister appointed two Special Advisors to investigate the concerns raised by the JET.



Report from Capacity, Development & Training

Barbara Allan

Intervention Report

61	Intakes
56	Interventions
37	Employed
25	Job Starts

Casefile Summary

75	Casefiles
41	Closed to Employed
8	Client intake no Intervention
3	Returned to School

Overview

Agreements
Funding Initiatives
Non-funding Initiatives
Highlights
Conclusion

Agreements

Indigenous Skills Employment Strategy (ISETS)
First Nation Service Agreement – Lheidli T'enneh and PGNAETA
EAS – 40 Members

North Central Strategies – Job Development PGNAETA
Target specialized training – Environmental Monitoring, PAL, Wildlife Monitor, Industry Certificates
EAS – 12 members
UTV – 20 members

Province of British Columbia – Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Modified Agreement signed for extension to June 30, 2021 (4-year Contribution Agreement)
EAS – 103 members

Funding Initiatives include:

- Specialized training
- Course Purchase via online
- Work Related Supplies
- Mobility
- Wage Subsidy

- Trades
- Supplementary Allowances

Non-funding Initiatives:

- Employment Counseling
- Resume Development
- Job Search
- Labour Market Research
- Referrals

Highlights

Oil & Gas Certificates
WHMIS
Transportation Endorsement
OFA Level 1
Construction Safety Training Certificate
Pipeline Construction Safety Training
Transportation of Dangerous Goods
H2S
Fall Protection
Fire and Spark Watch
Gas Detection
Oilfield Driver Awareness
Bear Aware
PAL
Shotgun Safety
UTV
Wildlife Monitor

Conclusion

Goals

155 Community members accessed training

Priority Actions

Maintain all aspects of communication for employment and training initiatives

KPI's

Fill employment and training initiatives with skilled workers
15+ Employed
14 Members took the Drivers' Safety Training Program

Resources

Participant Information Form (PIF)
Irwin's Industrial Safety Services
ARMs Database



Report from Economic Development Manager

Claudia Barreira

Hello Lheidli T'enneh Members,

Now that some of the COVID 19 restrictions were gradually lifted, our Economic Development team is very excited about personally connecting with each of Lheidli's members. We would like to hear from you, understand your job needs, career expectations or business ideas and connect you with the industry or help you develop a career/business plan.

Our department has engaged with different stakeholders from industry, government, academia, and not-for-profit partners to create new opportunities to support you and the Nation. The goal is to establish sustainable and long-term working relationships that could financially support the Nation's long-term goals and benefit current and future generations.

We expect to have some exciting new projects announced very soon. Until then, we keep evaluating the progression of current projects such as Arbios Biotech, Fortescue, Iris Energy, BC Hydro, and facilitating job opportunities for our members as well as business opportunities for member-owned businesses. We are promoting joint ventures between member-owned companies and industry and Nation-owned businesses, building internal capacity together and expanding the scope of business.

JOB BOARD @ TANO

In collaboration with Barb Allan, Jason Pierrero and Doug Olson, we create a job board at the Gas station in Shelley Reserve. This way, all our members can access job and training opportunities available. We expect to have it ready at the latest by the end of March. Our beautiful House of Ancestors' Team also offered to create a similar space downtown. We are working hard to have the website and social media up to date to share any opportunities online. Our goal is to get the information to you and support you every step along the way. We want you to grow and prosper!

PARTNERSHIPS

We are also participating in regular Roundtables with stakeholders from local Economic Development Organizations, Local, Regional, and Provincial governments, and other industry experts in Economic Development. The goal is to develop a Cross-Regional Economic Development Strategy that will create a shared vision and support an eco-system of collaborative economic development opportunities, enhance economic exchange, and encourage the region's economic growth.

COLLABORATION

Our close collaboration with Lheidli T'enneh Natural Resources Department has provided a powerful insight into what the industry has been up to and keeps track of all the investments made in Lheidli T'enneh Territory.

TOURISM

In terms of Tourism, we are thrilled to announce that we expect to start the construction of the Ancient Forest Boardwalk earlier in the Summer. We invite all members that would like to participate in this project to contact us. We would like to see our youth involved in constructing such a beautiful project. Our Tourism team is also participating in other various initiatives in collaboration with Tourism Prince George and BC Northern Tourism Association to support the tourism plans and objectives of the Nation.

Our Economic Development team is expecting a busy and exciting Summer, so keep tuned and reach out! We would love to hear from you and be able to support you!



Report from Fisheries Consultant

Brian Toth

Fisheries program activities in 2020-21 focused on the following activities and projects:

1. Maintaining information flow related to numerous consultation processes that are intended to provide guidance and advice to fish management decisions.
2. Undertaking conservation-based enhancement efforts for Bowron sockeye and several upper Fraser chinook stocks.
3. Enumerating spawning chinook in several Robson Valley streams.
4. Continuing efforts to identify critical white sturgeon habitats in the upper Fraser.
5. Monitoring juvenile white sturgeon.
6. Supporting riverbank and riparian restoration works in the Chilako River; and
7. Managing Lheidli's FSC salmon fishery.

Many of the chinook and sockeye stocks that Lheidli relies upon are in decline and have recently been assessed as being of Threatened or Endangered status. The Big Bar Slide has created additional impacts and uncertainty around annual returns. Forecast returns in 2020 were poor and Lheidli (and other Fraser First Nations) were requested to curtail their chinook and sockeye harvest. As a result of this situation, there were no salmon fishing opportunities in the upper Fraser and opportunities in other areas were curtailed.

Plans to implement “natal” Bowron sockeye brood collection and enhancement were in place but only a single female was collected from the upper Bowron River. Escapement beyond Big Bar slide to the Bowron’s spawning areas was estimated at ~345 spawners. Forty-four (44) Bowron sockeye (id’d via genetic analysis) were collected below the Big Bar Slide and transported to DFO’s Cultus Lake lab facility. Approximately 11,000 fry were released into the upper Bowron River on May 12, 2021. Clearing work to facilitate boat access to spawning areas was completed in 2020 to facilitate access for brood collection and monitoring activities.

Improved numbers of chinook spawners were observed in the Robson Valley tributaries annually enumerated by Lheidli crews (relative to the 2019 extreme lows), but they returned considerably later than typical timing in 2020. Chinook returns throughout the upper Fraser followed this trend.


Much smaller than anticipated numbers of sockeye returned to spawning areas beyond Lheidli Territory – approximately 30 Early Stuart, 30,000 Nadina, 44,410 Stellako, and 4,762 Late Stuart were estimated to have returned to spawning grounds. In the interests of conservation, no FSC salmon fishing took place in Lheidli Territory.

White sturgeon monitoring efforts continued in 2019. Additional Nechako-origin hatchery juvenile white sturgeon were identified within the Fraser River. A risk assessment is underway to inform consideration of any threat these fish may pose to sturgeon in the Fraser River.

Plans were developed through winter (20)-spring (21) to consider and implement emergency enhancement options in 2021 (for chinook and sockeye), depending on migration challenges observed at Big Bar. Fisheries program personnel received information on the status of the landslide and other matters through the winter/spring 2021 and assisted with brood collection activities in summer 2021.

Riverbank and riparian restoration work on the Chilako River have been ongoing through 2020/21 with a crew of Lheidli personnel working with partners to complete extensive field work.





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