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Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs Acquire Lake Kathlyn School for Seat of Government

Children, the Heart of a Nation.

There is a saying that the children are at the center of the table when the Wet'suwet'en make decisions. Amongst the seemingly immediate pressures in life and challenges in society, we need to remind ourselves what is truly important: nurturing values that will sustain a healthy way of life, a sense of place, and cultural resilience are some of the principles in our heart when we hold our children.

The Wet'suwet'en will have a new seat of government, in the future, at the Lake Kathlyn School. Lake Kathlyn, *Tasdliz Bin* in the Wet'suwet'en language, has historic and cultural significance for the Wet'suwet'en. Our oral history speaks of a creature that lived within the lake which threatened the people living along the shore. The Clans and Neighboring Nations came together to heat stones and boil the lake which defeated the creature. Lake Kathlyn is thus a symbol of connection for the Wet'suwet'en; a place where people from different backgrounds and places gather to unite. Connection – to the land, to the community – within the Wet'suwet'en Nation is our vision for the future of the facility.

Possession of ownership for the school will occur in June 2020. The Wet'suwet'en want to ensure the current tenant "*Bright Beginnings Childcare*" and the families that use their services feel welcome during the transition of ownership. The lease *Bright Beginnings* has for the facility will be honoured, and will remain in full force and effect until it expires in June 2021. Childcare plays an important role in our community as does the relationship we create and maintain.

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