



# WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

July 2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## Wet'suwet'en Governance

Wet'suwet'en Governance	1-2
Town of Smithers Protocol Agreement	3
Update on Enbridge JRP	4
Journey of a Banner	5
Canada-China FIPA	6
David Black—Black Press	7
Smithers Centennial Quilt	8
Soapberry Picking	9
Staff Development	10
Wet'suwet'en Language Classes	11
Wet'suwet'en Women's Empowerment Camp	12-13
Chief Meeting passed Motions	14-15
New Employee Welcome	16

*Submitted by: Allen Cummings & Judy Walton, Wet'suwet'en Governance Charter Team*

It is our great pleasure on behalf of the Governance Charter team to provide an update regarding the work that has been completed to date and, provide information regarding future planning occurring over the next 8 month period. The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs acted upon interests expressed in Clan meetings and work undertaken previously to amalgamate Wet'suwet'en Inuk Nu'at'en (laws), traditions, Clan and House Group institutions reconciled with participating First Nation administration's authorities and systems into a written Governance Charter (akin to a Constitution) that outlines the Wet'suwet'en system of government excluding sacred laws, traditions and customs, as inclusion could compromise them.

Creation of the Governance Charter is intended to support multiple goals and objectives including serving as a key educational tool for Wet'suwet'en members to help strengthen hereditary cultural knowledge and practices, systems and Inuk Nu'at'en. The Governance Charter will also support establishment of new relationships with external governments and industry's based on recognition, respect and reconciliation of inherent Wet'suwet'en title and rights to 22,000 sq. km's of traditional lands and resources thereon never ceded, surrendered or relinquished. Wet'suwet'en rights, title and self government interests are recognized and affirmed pursuant to Wet'suwet'en Inuk Nu'at'en, s. 35 (1) of the *Canadian Constitution Act* (1982), and per legal decisions including *Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa. British Columbia* (1997), and *Hagwilnegh v. Canadian Forest Products* (2011).

Some significant work that has been completed includes the formation of a Wet'suwet'en Governance Charter Advisory Committee (WGAC) with membership as follows to provide guidance and direction in all phases of creation:

- 13 Dinī Ze' (High Chiefs), Ts'ake Ze' (Female Chiefs) or designates
- Elected Chiefs of participating Wet'suwet'en First Nations<sup>1</sup>
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en Executive Director
- Natural Resources department designate
- Wellness Committee designate
- Youth representative designate
- Spruce Roots Group designate
- External cultural advisor

<sup>1</sup> All 5 Wet'suwet'en First Nation administrations received advance invitations with 2 participating at the initial WGAC meeting; we are hopeful this will increase and all materials created will be forwarded on an ongoing basis.

(Cont. Page 2 Governance)

### MORE CONTACT INFO:

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(Governance, cont. from page 1)

The initial meeting of the WGCAC was held on June 27, 2013, and a draft Terms of Reference (TOR), Work Plan, and draft Power Point presentation were reviewed, deliberated upon, and guidance and direction was received profoundly strengthening all materials. The TOR serves to provide a collective vision, goals and objectives, and spells out the duties and responsibilities of the members including decision-making and accountability. The Work Plan serves as the guide for the Governance Charter Team identifying all work tasks, deliverables, timelines, and person (s) responsible to carry out the work. The Power Point presentation will serve as a tool to help facilitate understanding, and garner participation and support in an inclusive manner when Clan, House Group, community and youth engagement meetings occur, commencing circa September 2013. A Governance Charter framework outline is now in development and will be a key discussion topic at the next WGCAC meeting to be held on July 19, 2013.

One concern that was expressed at the initial WGCAC meeting was a fear that creating a written Governance Charter document might somehow lead to a loss of First Nation status. We wish to reply to that concern by saying that in no way, shape or form will a Governance Charter have any bearing or impact upon status held by Wet'suwet'en members. Moreover, as part of the Work Plan tasks we will have legal analysis conducted by the law firm Mandel Pinder at different junctures to ensure that we in no way create any adverse impacts for Wet'suwet'en members. Our sole goal and objective rather, is to bring all Wet'suwet'en Inuk Nu'at'en (laws) into one written document to serve as an invaluable instrument to help advance Wet'suwet'en interests and aspirations.

The Governance Charter Team with support from WGCAC members will be developing a schedule to conduct Clan, House Group, community and Youth group engagements as it is our unequivocal goal that our work is done in a transparent, accountable and inclusive participatory approach with Wet'suwet'en members so that your voices and wisdom are wholly integrated in the development of the Governance Charter. It is our sole goal to do the best job we can, in a manner reflecting accurately the interests and vision of Wet'suwet'en members.

If at any time you have any questions, concerns, comments, or wish to obtain copies of any of the aforementioned information documents, please do not hesitate to contact the Governance Charter Team at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Mesiyh

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# PROTOCOL AGREEMENT TOWN OF SMITHERS AND OFFICE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en and the Town of Smithers originally signed a protocol agreement in January of 2011. The term for the Protocol Agreement will be for one year from the date of signing by both organizations.

At our June 27th, 2013 Chief Meeting the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs approved the renewal of the Town of Smithers and OW protocol agreement for 5 years with recommendation that advertisement or pamphlets be created for distribution.

## Guiding Principles

The Town of Smithers and Office of the Wet'suwet'en share a number of principles that guide this Protocol Agreement:

- **We believe this agreement is a living document.** It is the intent of both parties that over time the relationship will grow and the agreement will be revised to reflect the relative priorities of both organizations over time.
- **We believe in mutual respect.** We treat one another in the way we, ourselves, want to be treated. Each one of us is provided the opportunity to speak and contribute in our own way towards the activities in this Protocol Agreement.
- **We recognize the mandates and commitment of our organizations.** The Town of Smithers as a municipal government under the Local Government Act and Community Charter and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en as an organization governed by the Hereditary Chiefs residing throughout the traditional territories.
- **We believe in cooperation.** There are many areas of mutual interest where opportunities can be increased by working together. Acting in an inclusive and collaborative manner are tangible ways to demonstrate cooperation. We have many common goals, especially when it comes to wanting the best future possible for our children.
- **We recognize that good communication builds trust between our organizations.** When we connect as people who care about our communities we are more inclined to develop common solutions to the mutual challenges we face. Creating an understanding based on the strengths from each other's cultures allows us to find common ground. We must also have the ability to agree to disagree but still move ahead together on other topics of mutual interest.

# Enbridge Northern Gateway Joint Review Panel Hearings

*Submitted by Mike Ridsdale, Environmental Assessment Coordinator—OW*

The Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline application review is coming to a close for the Interveners'. As you know the Office of the Wet'suwet'en has been fully involved into the process. The most challenging aspect of this process was the volumes of documents, quasi-judicial hearings, and to say the least is the heart and soul that our membership has put into this process.

It is our sincerest hope that we've presented the Wet'suwet'en concerns and passion in the manner befitting your aspirations and beliefs during this time. We would like to thank all of you that have participated in meetings, protests, and giving your stories in regards to this proposed project.

This was one process of a pipeline application, there are many more, perhaps not as rigorous, but, as destructive in regards to Wet'suwet'en Title, Wet'suwet'en Rights. Required changes in Federal and Provincial legislation towards First Nations recognition is needed, and sought by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Your advice and leadership is highly valued towards Wet'suwet'en house territories that we all



have to protect as Wet'suwet'en, the advice and teachings from our ancestors live within each of you, their words were entrusted to you; we want to help keep that trust.

As mentioned, there are several more pipeline projects that are currently proposed within your house territories, please keep yourself informed by contacting the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and ask our EA Coordinator about the specifics, and how you too can be involved.

For more information please see article with the submission at [www.wetsuweten.com](http://www.wetsuweten.com).



# *The Journey of the banner...*



Last Summer, on July 27, 2012 -canyon opening day- many residents of Moricetown and the Bulkley Valley gathered on the bridge to express their opposition to the proposed Enbridge dual bitumen pipeline project. The banner was later removed by the Ministry of Transportation as they were concerned the short screws used for anchors would affect the "structural integrity" of the bridge!!!



Last June, the banner traveled to Terrace for the last public event of the Joint Review Panel. The banner was front stage when Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs (Wah Tah K'eght, Na'moks, Hagwilnegh and T'sek'ot (not on the picture) spoke to the audience to reiterate their opposition to any pipelines within Wet'suwet'en Territory. Keep your eyes opened, the banner could show up again around Moricetown Canyon.

**Will we see you for Canyon opening on Friday, July 26 ?**



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# Canada-China FIPA (Foreign Investment Protection Agreement June 5, 2013 Courthouse Square, Vancouver B.C

*Submitted by: Chief Na'Moks (John Ridsdale), Referrals Coordinator—OW*

I At noon on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 I attended a Rally in support of one of our First Nations in B.C. Hundreds of people rallied in Vancouver in solidarity with the Hupacasath First Nation, a First Nation from Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, which is in federal court June 5 to 7 to challenge the Canada-China Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA).



The injunction against the FIPA, which has support from the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, Chiefs of Ontario, and a dozen other civil society groups including the Council of Canadians, is based on the impacts the treaty's excessive corporate "rights" could have on Indigenous communities and the Government of Canada's failure to consult with First Nations before signing the deal late last year.

Canada has paid out \$160 million to U.S. companies under similar investor protections in the North American Free Trade Agreement. We are on the hook for another \$5-billion in claims, including a demand for \$250 million in compensation because Quebec's partial moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas deprives Lone Pine resources of the "right" to profit from this unwanted resource project.

It's not a matter of *if* China-based companies will sue Canada but *when* -- and for how many millions or billions of dollars. On that basic level, we can't afford to let Harper ratify the FIPA.

As stated in the earlier paragraph, these deals with foreign countries have not been brought to the Canadian Public or to First Nations for their approval or consent. For the Wet'suwet'en, the impacts of these deals is that there may not be room for us to enhance our authority or jurisdiction on our Territories. As the First Nations on Vancouver Island are Treaty Nations (which the Wet'suwet'en have never signed, it will be interesting to see the response from Governments during this Court Case. We must always be aware of any Court Challenges, as they may assist us in the future. We wish the Hupacasath well in their endeavor to hold the Government in having transparency and clarity to First Nations and Canadians when it comes to removing or approving Industrial activities on First Nation Lands.

## David Black Proponent for an Oil Refinery

FN SUMMIT MEETING—June 5-7, 2013

*Submitted by: Chief Na'Moks (John Ridsdale), Referrals Coordinator—OW*

On the morning of Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> I had noticed that David Black was being introduced to Elected Chiefs and Councils of the Bands in and around Wet'suwet'en

Territory. As a backgrounder, David Black is the individual who is proposing an Oil Refinery in Kitimaat. The Oil, that would be refined, would be brought to Kitimaat through a Proposed Pipeline that would travel through Wet'suwet'en Territory. A very similar plan as to what Enbridge had proposed for their Pipeline.

I was extremely fortunate that a few of the Elected Leadership had approached me to inform me that there was to be a meeting in one of the side rooms for David Black to address the Chiefs and Councils. There were offers from Elected Chiefs for them to give up their seats at the meeting in order for me to attend on behalf of the Hereditary Leadership of the Wet'suwet'en.



David Black, Founder and Owner of Black Press is behind a plan to build a \$25-billion refinery near Kitimaat and a pipeline from Alberta.

I sat in on the meeting and was quite surprised that the proposal for the Pipeline was so very similar to the Enbridge Project, a project that the Wet'suwet'en had been adamantly opposed. After Mr. Black had presented his view of the project and "benefits" to First Nations, there was an opportunity to question him on the project and the process of communication that he was adapting:

1. Why was he presenting this proposed project to Elected Leadership of Bands instead of the Traditional Leadership, who represent the people and lands of First Nations.
2. Was his tactic to avoid speaking to the Nations, as a whole, and try to have discussions with individual Bands?
3. Why was there an interest in having a project so similar to the Proposed Enbridge Project, knowing there is such strong opposition to it?
4. Would he respect the Traditional Governance of First Nations?
5. He was reminded of the "Divide and Conquer" tactics of the past, and that there must be face to face meetings with First Nations, and would this be the path he follows?
6. Are there other options out there that he would pursue, that would not infringe on First Nations Rights?
7. Was he aware that First Nations demand Free, Prior, and Informed Consent before any such projects occur on their lands?

On some of these questions he seemed quite familiar with, just that he wasn't prepared to answer completely at this point. He then stated that this was an initial preliminary meeting that he would try to contact all First Nations along the Proposed Pipeline Route.

It must be noted that there have been no applications sent regarding this proposed project, only that he has land available in Kitimaat for the Proposed Oil Refinery. I was very impressed with the responses from others, besides myself, for asking these questions. The importance of attending the meeting was stressed numerous times by others who were there. One of the comments was simple and to the point "Do not forget who truly owns and manages the lands, it is us, the First Nations". I believe that the Wet'suwet'en will be contacted in the near future in order for him to discuss his project, *at least this is what he had stated.*

# SMITHERS CENTENNIAL

This year Smithers turns 100 years old! There are many celebrations taking place throughout the year. This Centennial Quilt was made by Caroline Heinrichs and includes various pictures within the Bulkley Valley.



The Office of the Wet'suwet'en logo is on one of blocks on the centennial quilt as well as a block entitled "Wet'suwet'en Home" (directly below the OW logo) which honors the original people of this area, the [Wet'suwet'en Nation](#). This block was made from a conversation Caroline had with Charrine Lace, Todd's wife who spoke of this kind of memory she had of the original style homes. The dancers are wearing Caroline's version of traditional regalia similar to this image.

On **August 2nd**, the new stage area will open at the corner of Main and Broadway in Smithers. Chief T'sek'ot (Ron Austin) was hired to carve 5 crests that will be secured on the front top of the stage area.

Opening ceremonies will begin at approximately **5:00 p.m.** with a welcoming to Gitdumden territory and Wet'suwet'en dancers and singers will follow with a performance. There will be plenty of other festivities and food to take in.

## Mark your calendars and be part of the festivities!



# SOAP BERRY PICKING

*Submitted by: Dianna Johansen, ECD pre-School Teacher—OW*

Early Childhood Development and ANABIP have come together this summer to provide cultural experiences to families from our communities and programs and to start the summer off we have had a great turn out of families to learn how to pick and jar Soap Berries. We have been everyday for one week picking then bringing them back to the center for cleaning and jarring, it was a wonderful process and look forward to a successful summer with fish day camps and other events happening throughout.



**Berry Pickers**

Here are some highlights families had while Soap Berry Picking:

- . Picking Partners for safety reasons as well as quantity.
- . Actually learning how to jar them properly.
- . Watching the girls scream when they seen spiders in the TREES.
- . Having the opportunity to teach what I was taught by my grandparents.
- . Learning how to jar them.
- . Getting to eat them while I picked them.

We have also gone over what we could do better next time we go picking and more safety rules and issues that we will need next time we are out on the territories especially for Huckleberry Picking.

We have accommodated 7 families with the help from Diana Creyke, Tara William, Tara Stewart and myself Dianna Johansen.



**Picking berries, bucket of berries, boiling berries, canning berries and lastly a big bowl of Niwus!**

# June Staff Development Day

## Owen Hat

Owen Hat is a volcanic rock formation known as a “volcanic plug”. The volcanic plug was formed long ago when molten rock pushed through the earth’s crust.

The lower portion of Owen Hat is made of “column basalt” which is where the molten rock cooled slowly; presumably in the ground and six sided columns formed (see photo to bottom right).

The top portion of Owen Hat cooled a lot faster, presumably above ground producing a fine grained rock (see photo top right).

There is camping in the area around the base of Owen Hat. As it is one of the only places to rock climb in the area, it has become an increasingly popular destination for local climbers and therefore, a good place to find out more about local lore.

The staff enjoyed lunch then travelled to Francois Lake for a little fishing. As always, the NR department were a wealth of knowledge along the way.





# WET'SUWET'EN HINIC (LANGUAGE) CLASSES

As mandated by the Hereditary Chiefs, the OW staff are now taking Wet'suwet'en Language classes every Friday morning. The classes are being taught by Lillian Morris.

At the first meeting the staff were taught the following salutations:

**Bin Honzu—Good morning**

**Dinī Ze' — Male Chiefs**

**Ts'ake ze' - Female Chiefs**

**Skiy Ze' - Children of High Chief**

**Si Sozi—My name is ...**

**Sibep—My father's name ...**

**Sine—My mother's name ...**

**T'sit ni in Sibep—my late father's name...**

**T'sit ni in Sine—my late mother's name...**

**Dīs Dikh (clan)**

**'Et Yikw (house)**

Each staff member had to stand and introduce themselves and family members to the rest of the class.

The staff finished their class by starting to learn numbers. We got to 1-10.

**lhk'iy—īNek—two**

**tak'iy**

**dīnc'iy—four**

**kwile' - five**

**gīstan—six**

**dik'alt'iy—seven**

**'idinc'iy—eight**

**ihk'iy ts'et—nine**

**winize—ten**



A few days following our language class, Lillian surprised staff with a pop quiz by phoning the office and having staff speak to her in Wet'suwet'en. That was a surprise!

Some of the staff practice daily with their new skills. Although we have a LONG LONG way to go, it is well worth the time and effort.

If you are interested in learning Wet'suwet'en Language, contact the Wet'suwet'en Language Authority through our office—250-847-3630.



***“Did you Know?***

***That of @ 5000***

***Wet'suwet'en less than***

***3% are fluent speakers***

***of the Wet'suwet'en***

***Language”***



# Wet'suwet'en Women's Empowerment Camp (WVEC) 2013

Submitted by: Lorraine Naziel, ANABIP Program Coordinator—OW

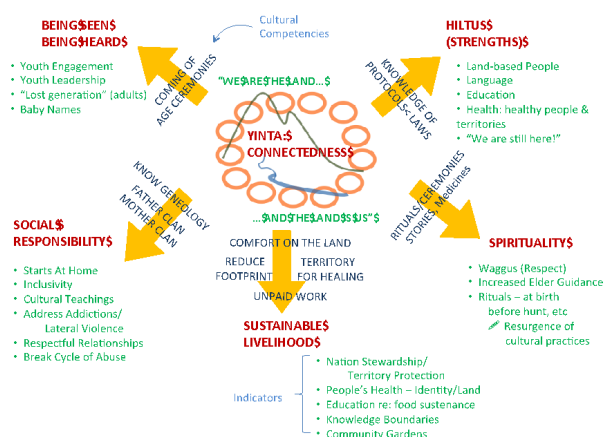
The ANABIP team lead was Lorraine Naziel, with assistance from Gretchen Woodman. Drivers were Tara William Alfred, Diana Creyke and Tara McKinnon. Jolene Andrew of the Laksilyu clan was hired for a brief period to assist in camp coordination and water safety. The camp was held July 2-5, 2013 on the Gil\_seyhu clan's, Goohtaht Territory at Honeagh Bin (otherwise known as Takysie Lake, BC). The proper protocol was followed by asking permission of the Gil\_seyhu house chiefs to host a camp out on the territory, as well, the elder and two cooks were Gil\_seyhu.

This WVEC agenda was based on the 2013 ANABIP work plan. The camp was one of the first opportunities to apply the Wet'suwet'en holistic wellness conceptual draft framework (see Figure 1). By utilizing the conceptual framework, the ANABIP staff's goal was to provide services in all areas.

The direction of the ANABIP women's camp was based on the following five cultural competencies which connect the key elements of wellness to Yinta "We are the land and the land is us". Surrounding Yinta are the 13 House Groups representing the membership of the Wet'suwet'en nation.



Figure 1



excited to be presented with her very own copy. "For me, it was fabulous to see the changes and to be part of this whole process. I was really happy to be a Wet'suwet'en woman" (participant).

**2. Hiltus (Strengths)** "Feels like the chains have been broken around me - I feel free" (participant). The camp was organized by Wet'suwet'en women, all the guest speakers were well educated Wet'suwet'en women. There was a lot of sharing of personal stories and healing journeys, which were concluded in presenting ideas of how to achieve wellness and health in the here and now. Teaching on the Wet'suwet'en history of colonization and decolonization were done by Molly Wickham (Gitdumden) and Carla Lewis (Gitdumden) and myself with a vision towards health and healing. There was a whole array of interactive games, and plenty of circle time. Comments in the final evaluations spoke to the strength in this area; "My strength was always with me, I just had it in my back pocket, now it's out there once again" (participant), "This camp helped me take a bigger step to not be shy, I am really thankful for that" (participant), "This is a great step shaking off the shackles of self hate" (participant).

**3. Spirituality** "Being here showed me how I can bring back spirituality into my life - Massih" (participant). The basis of Wet'suwet'en conduct is 'Waguss' or respect. From the start of the camp the women all agreed to make this the cornerstone of how we talk to and treat each other. The elders offered guidance; cultural support, encouragement and the women cherished this component of the camp. Art supplies and activity were led by Jolene, vision boards (personal goal setting) were made and there were ladies (including myself) who sang and drummed Wet'suwet'en clan songs and the well known "Women's Warrior Song", one night around the fire.

**1. Being Seen/Being Heard** "This camp gave me overall encouragement to be a part of something more" (participant). The women that came together were of all ages; teenagers to elders. The anticipated attendance was for 20 participants, when it was all said and done we had 27 participants, which was a huge success! In the Wet'suwet'en Wellness Organization research, there is a group of people have expressed they do not receive services and consider themselves a "lost generation" as there are elders, youth and children's programs but not enough supports in place for them as parents to camp, learn traditional practices or be taken care of. The women in this category thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Among the highlights of mini workshops were communication, creating safety, respectful relationships and identifying alternatives to violence. The presentation by Birdy Markert, Laksilyu, (School District #54 Bulkley Valley) and her curriculum team Roseanna Jackson and Jana Fox was a highlight. The ladies shared their ideas on developing curriculum based on the book "Niwhts'ide'ni Hibi't'en - The Ways of Our Ancestors. Each participant was



**4. Sustainable Livelihood** *"This is a new beginning and I met new friends and new prospective outlook on my life"* (participant). There was time for a medicine walk to Cheslatta Falls led by David deWit of the Natural Resources Department of the Office of Wet'suwet'en. In this time the women identified cultural foods from the land and picked soapberries. There was an on-going expressed need for traditional food security, which continues to be a strong theme in our work with families. The women have a growing understanding that the health of the land and ecosystem is necessary to protect in order to continue having healthy water, fish, animals, plants and medicines. For many women, this was their first extended trip out into the territory. There were many tears and laughter as they told each other stories of childhood and the love of grandparents out on the land. Sandra Martin-Harris (Laksilyu) taught about the relationship to land and how important our relationship to the land is in regards to healing, health and wellness.

**5. Social Responsibility** A teaching most common but almost always over looked is we as women, must take care of our selves before we can take care of others. An emphasis was made to provide balanced meals, water and to have a counselor on site should there be a need for one-on-one care. The Northern Society for Domestic Peace offered June Wickham (Gitdumden) as full-time support staff to be at the entire camp. She was well received and we gained from her presence. We also had a Master Reiki practitioner Jennifer Wickham provide optional services. She kept the women grounded and with good energy throughout. Almost all the women signed up. There was an emphasis on breaking the cycle of abuse and on developing respectful relationships. Women such as the workshop presenters and myself took time to share our personal, on-going healing journey emphasizing the necessity to understand our history, arm our selves with knowledge and do the necessary work of healing. The women were overwhelmed with emotion by the week's end. *"I didn't know where I was gonna go, but now I know"* *"I don't know where I was...but now I know...I have people standing behind me and believe in me"* (participant). *"I felt that every circle we had took the Bad Parts out of my soul and lifted my heart even more"* (participant).

The elders say, "we are the land, and the land is us", I believe healing happened in this place. It was an honor and privilege to wrap our arms around each other with hearts full of love, support, caring and sharing. I know we will never forget this experience in empowerment. To all involved, I will "see you next time" and Tabi Missiyh to all of you who made my dream a reality!



## BOARD OF DIRECTOR Motions Carried February 2013 - June 2013

**Motion 2013-020:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs mandate staff and legal council to work with the Bulkley Valley Research Centre and the Province to develop a Terms of Reference for a Governance Establishment Committee for the Morice monitoring Trust.

Moved by: Samooh      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Namox

Motion passed: February 27, 2013

Opposed: None

**Motion 2013-023:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approves funding for the WUAJ Urban Wet'suwet'en Conference March 22-24, 2013 to a maximum of \$16,000.00.

Moved by: Namox      2<sup>nd</sup> by: T'sek'ot

Motion passed: February 27, 2013

**Motion 2013-024:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to allocate \$125,000.00 towards legal fees to support the Kelah Court Case.

Moved by: Madeek      Second by: Hagwilnegh

Motion Carried: March 15, 2013

All in favor

**Motion 2013-026:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs request a meeting with Allen Cummings on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 to discuss the governance TRM contract.

Moved by: Na'moks      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Hagwilnegh

Motion passed: March 26, 2013

**Motion 2013-029:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs mandate the OW Staff to pursue federal funding to support the Wet'suwet'en off-reserve housing strategy.

Moved by: Wihaliy'te      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Samooh

Motion passed: March 26, 2013

**Motion: 2013-031:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs continue their support to not allow geotechnical drilling on the Morice River.

Moved by: Madeek      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Na'Moks

Motion carried: March 26, 2013

**Motion: 2013-033:** The WHC want OW staff to attend Wet'suwet'en Language classes twice per week.

Moved by: Hagwilnegh      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Madeek

Motion Carried: March 26, 2013



**Motion 2013-047:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve Natural Resources to proceed with the UTM Joint Ventures Agreement pending legal review.

Moved by: Na'Moks      2nd by: Mutt

Motion passed: May 28, 2013

Decision: Unanimous

**Motion 2013-049:** Motion to provide a letter of support for Neil Bazil's application for funding contingent on approval from all Laksilyu houses.

Moved by: Samooh      2nd by: Na'Moks

Motion passed: May 28, 2013

**Motion 2013-052:** The Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs approve the renewal of the Town of Smithers and OW protocol agreement for 5 years with recommendation that advertisement or pamphlets be created for distribution.

Moved by: Samooh      2nd by: Na'Moks

Motion passed: June 27, 2013

**Motion 2013-056:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs approve the purchase and installation of flooring from Smithers Lumber for the upper floor of the OW building.

Moved by: Na'Moks      2nd by: Lay'oh

Motion passed: June 27, 2013

**Motion 2013-057:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs approve the purchase of a 2008 Dodge Caravan van from Lee Story in the amount of \$11,000. The total cost of this vehicle will be incurred as an expense within the Administration program department for the purposes of Administrative and HSS program service delivery pending the VIN check for past accidents and liens.

Moved by: Samooh      2nd by: Na'Moks

Motion passed: June 27, 2013

**Motion 2013-058:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs approve \$5,000 per year for the next 3 years to the BVEDA.

Moved by: Na'Moks      2nd by: Madeek

Motion passed: June 27, 2013

**Motion 2013-059:** The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approves the Natural Resource department to participate in the Regulatory Process to review the proposed PNG project.

Moved by: Madeek      2nd by: Samooh

Motion passed: June 27, 2013

Carried: Unanimously

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### **Upcoming Chief Meetings**

**July 30 & 31, 2013**

**September 23 & 24, 2013**

**October 29 & 30, 2013**

**November 26 & 27, 2013**

**December 18, 2013**

**All members are welcome to participate in the chief meetings. The meetings are held at the OW and are from 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Minutes of meetings are available upon request.**

## OFFICE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN WELCOMES ALLEN CUMMINGS, GOVERNANCE DIRECTOR TO THEIR TEAM!

Hadih,

It is my great privilege and honour to have joined the wonderful Office of the Wet'suwet'en team! Please allow me to introduce myself and brief background:

I have previously served as the Executive Director in the creation of a Children and Family Services organization in northeast British Columbia building the organization from a budget of \$ 40,000 contract funding to more than \$ 1.6 Million in annualized funding.



Previous to that I worked for more than 7 years as the Regional Manager for Aboriginal Services with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (2001-2008) with key duties including leading all negotiations with the 6 First Nation delegated child welfare agencies in the North Region for the devolution transfer of resources supporting their assuming increased provision of statutory and support services to their member communities and people.

Prior to assuming that position I had the tremendous honour of working as the Ministerial Assistant to Grand Chief Edward John when he was the Minister for the Ministry of Children and Family Development (2000-2001).

My first professional job I secured upon completing my Bachelor of Arts Degree (major in Criminology) from Simon Fraser University was as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Forests in the Vanderhoof and then Prince George Forest Districts.

One of my greatest sources of pride and achievement has been volunteering my time, first as the Manager for the Prince George Bantam AAA Rep Hockey team in 1999 & 2000, then serving as the Chairperson for the then Air Canada Cup National Midget Hockey Championship which enabled me to work closely with Hockey Canada, and a wonderful 24 member Host Committee of dedicated selfless people from Prince George and area. I also had the distinct privilege of serving as the Chairperson for two additional National Championship events in Prince George which were the: 2003 Senior Men's Canadian Baseball Championship, and 2007 Canadian National Fast Pitch Championship.

I am of Cree ancestry from my "Sine", love fishing and have long been a tremendous admirer of the leadership the Wet'suwet'en Nation has demonstrated including the tremendous co-success in advancing and winning the historic Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa decision to the Supreme Court of Canada, thus, I feel very blessed and fortunate, and look forward to meeting you all soon!