



# WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

Spring  
2012

## YINKA DENE ALLIANCE FREEDOM TRAIN

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Submitted by: Chief Namoks—(John Ridsdale)

What an interesting and historic journey this was! The Yinka Dene Alliance Freedom Train was comprised of many of the First nations throughout B.C., from the Coastal Nations to the affected peoples of the Athabasca Watersheds around the Alberta Tar Sands and regions affected.

We had started this journey with the hopes of educating Canadians of the devastating impacts that the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project would have on our lands, people and culture and we hoped to garner support for our cause by meeting our fellow First Nations and concerned Canadians throughout our journey to Toronto. We addressed the investors and shareholders at Enbridge Annual General meeting on May 9, 2012.

and commitment on your side, you have no choice but to move forward with your journey knowing that you would succeed. It was inspiring to meet so many people that encouraged us to continue and let us know we were doing the right thing.

The trip consisted of 2 weeks of travel by train (hence "Freedom Train" and meeting and educating Canadians, as well as, getting their input into the fact that FN and Canadians are not having their voices heard against policy changes in the Environmental Act and the "Freedom" not to allow this proposed project. At each of the stops (Jasper,

Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg & Toronto) the FN people hosted feasts and information sessions for us to participate in. It was so gratifying to know that no matter where we went in Canada, there were people there to support us and make sure of our safety and well being.



During the train ride there were people aboard who changed their vacation plans to accompany us right to Toronto! All along the route to Toronto there were individuals who joined us, knowing they needed to have their voices heard and that this was the perfect venue for it.



Thursday,  
June 21st, 2012

## How did the Journey turn out?

- \*\*\* It showed us we are not alone.
- \*\*\* It showed us that each and every persons voice is important.
- \*\*\* It proved that we can make changes.
- \*\*\* Lastly, when you are right, you are right. Don't let anything stand in your way or let anything try to quiet your voice.

**Unity**

Unity is there, sometimes you just have to search for it, sometimes you have to travel far afield to see it, but it is there!

The Yinka Dene Alliance took a Freedom Train across Canada to enforce their legal ban on the Enbridge Northern Gateway oil pipelines and tankers project, and to stand up for their freedom to choose their own future.

inevitable oil spills.

The Yinka Dene Alliance is a coalition of Carrier and Sekani First Nations in northern BC that includes Nadleh Whut'en, Nak'azdli, Takla Lake, Saik'uz, and Wet'suwet'en First Nations whose territory comprises 25% of the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway oil pipelines and tankers project. The First Nations people of the Yinka Dene Alliance have occupied their territories since time out of mind. They have joined forces with other First Nations to oppose - and legally ban - the Enbridge Northern Gateway tar sands oil pipeline and tanker proposal from their traditional territories.

Yinka Dene territories are found in the headwaters of the Fraser, Skeena and Mackenzie/Arctic watersheds. Their people have relied on salmon for countless generations, and the Enbridge project poses a direct threat to our already threatened salmon populations and habitat, with approximately 500 salmon bearing rivers and streams potentially impacted by the dual oil and condensate pipelines.

A large delegation of Yinka Dene people travelled with allied First Nations from their traditional territories in northern BC all the way to Toronto, with events in Jasper, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Ottawa. They went directly to Enbridge's leadership and the centre of financial power in Toronto, at Enbridge's annual shareholders meeting. These oil pipelines and tankers threaten the very survival of First Nations peoples with devastating oil spills. That is why the Yinka Dene Alliance took this Freedom Train across Canada: to stand up for the freedom to live according to their own cultures, the freedom to govern themselves and their lands, and the freedom of all of us from the catastrophic risks of big oil and their







NO OIL PIPELINES OR TANKERS  
IN OUR LANDS

Enbridge's annual shareholders' meeting in Toronto - May 2012

"This is about our freedom to choose our future, our freedom to live according to our own culture, our freedom to govern ourselves and our lands, and our freedom from the catastrophic risks of an Enbridge pipeline oil spill. We are fighting for our very survival. An oil spill into our lands and waters threatens our health, our culture, and our very existence as separate peoples."

Chief Jackie Thomas  
Saik'uz First Nation,  
member of the Yinka Dene Alliance

FREEDOM TRAIN 2012



# Canyon Opening: July 27, 2012

Celebrating the return of salmon and our “tar sand pipeline free” river.



## Get ready for another (hot!) picture...

**With way more people!**

Those of you who were on Moricetown Bridge on a very cold day of November 2011 will not forget it. The water under the bridge had frozen overnight. We still managed to stay long enough on the bridge to sing a few songs accompanied by the drums. The picture went viral around the world!

In July, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Fisheries and Wildlife department will organize a big barbecue to celebrate the return of salmon to Moricetown on their way to their spawning grounds. It will be an opportunity to take another picture above the banner expressing our opposition to the proposed Enbridge tar sand pipeline. The dual pipeline would cross Wet'suwet'en territories on a 170 km long corridor following Wedzin Kwah (Morice River) and its tributaries for 40 km and crossing it a few kilometers downstream from the Morice Lake outflow. The proposed construction alone would have significant impacts on our territory. A spill would have dramatic consequences to the river, the fish and the people.

This time we guarantee there won't be any ice on the river or snow on the bridge. Fishing will happen in the canyon and we'll try to get as many of us in the picture as possible. Everybody is welcome.

**Join us to express your  
concerns!**

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# 2012 Mineral Exploration & Mining Update

Submitted by: David Belford, Mineral Liaison



Global demand for Wet'suwet'en minerals and metals continues to be high despite market uncertainty.

These include: **Bard Ventures Ltd.** (Lone Pine) - Laksamshyu (Tsaiyex), **Deerhorn Metals Inc.** (Linguist Lake) - Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten), **Duncastle Gold** (Sultana) - Laksilyu (Tsekalbaixex), **Eagle Peak Resources Ltd.** (Onion) - Gitdumden (Casyex), **Rich Rock Resources Inc.** (Serp Crk), **Huckleberry Mines Ltd.** - Gil\_seyhu (Kayex), **Lions Gate Metals Inc.**

(HBM) - Gitdumden (Casyex) and Laksilyu (Tsekalbaixex), and **Quartz Mtn. Resources Inc.** (Buck) - Gil\_seyhu (Kayex), Gitdumden (Anaskaski), Tsayu (Tsa K'ex Yex) and Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex).

## New mineral exploration companies to the territories in 2012 include;

**Rich Rock Resources Inc.** early heli-based drilling in Serp Creek head waters on Laksilyu (Kwenbaixex) territories.

**Golden Tiger Mineral Resources Inc.** early heli-base drilling and IP Surveys in the Reiser Creek, Spring Mountain area on Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex) territories.

**Grande Portage Resources Inc.** early heli-base prospecting, mapping and sampling on the Telkwa Pass Project located on Laksilyu (Ginehklaiyex) territories.

**International Samuel Exploration Corp.** is conducting a heli-based drill program on Gitdumden (Anaskaski) territories.

**New Chris Minerals Ltd.** will be conducting heli-borne geophysics surveys, and 7 hole drill program on

Communications & Engagement Agreements (CEAs) assert clan title, rights and interests, provide clan members an opportunity to raise concerns, covers clan meeting costs, and supports OW Natural Resources review, and response to Mines Act applications for mineral exploration.

Gil\_seyhu (Yextsowiten) territories on the western shore of Nanika Lake.

At the Spring 2012 Clan meetings, members asked to be updated quarterly on natural resources use and development on the territories. In our summer round of clan meetings we plan to visit some of these active mineral exploration sites to familiarize clan members with mineral exploration on their territories.



# Anuk Nu'At'en Ba'glgh'iyi z'ilhdic Program (ANABIP)

## *"We are talking about our ways"*

Submitted by: Tara William-Alfred



*Pictured : ANABIP Team - Gretchen Woodman, Lorraine Naziel, Tara William-Alfred, Diana VanTunen.*

In the month of March we welcomed two employees to the ANABIP team: Wilawhl (Lorraine Naziel), ANABIP Program Coordinator and Tara William-Alfred, ANABIP Program Assistant. Since the arrival of the two new staff members, we have been busy. We had a team day to finalize the process of our client's wellness plans. After a very productive day out on the territory the wellness plans are revised and ready to go. Excitingly enough, the wellness plan are unique in that they involve cultural identity, cultural practice, connection to the lands, and also support our client's vision of what a healthy, happy family looks like in their lives.

From the point of wellness plan completion, we work with our client to identify community resources. We also developed our six-month strategic work plan; this draft work plan was presented to our Negotiations team (tri-partite Moricetown Band, Hagwilget Village and Moricetown Band) as well as to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs for approval. (ANABIP reports to the Chief's Table once a month to update them on the progress of the program as well as get final comments on the direction of the program).

The ANABIP Announcement Feast (official opening) took place on April 20, which was hosted by the Hagwilget Village / Spookw House. We had about 120 people witness the event. Our Hereditary Chiefs and witnesses/guests shared many words of wisdom and support. Since the official opening of the ANABIP program, our staff has been working in collaboration with researchers in neighboring communities, with the Moricetown Child Welfare Committee and Moricetown Elementary School, Hagwilget Village Staff, Northwest Community College, Gitxsan Child & Family Services and School District #54. Networking and collaboration with other organizations will continue. We also set up a booth set up at the Smithers Trade show, our staff promoted our program and we generated significant interest in the Wet'suwet'en Culture and our program. It would be exciting to see more Wet'suwet'en booths next year to display our talented artists as well as entrepreneurs.







From there we took a ride out to Quick where we had a beautiful pot luck lunch on the Bulkley River Trails along the banks of the Bulkley River.

To have the staff out of the office and actively interacting on the territory is an excellent way to both practice and learn more of our traditions.

As part of staff training and development, we started language classes in early April, which was a brilliant idea, language classes are now a part of our work plan to assist us in further promoting our culture. ANABIP staff also received a technology lesson in the use of the Mac computers. Our staff also participated in our first Office of Wet'suwet'en staff development day, which was hosted by the Natural Resources team and took place out on the territory. It was a culturally educational day for all our staff and we look forward to continuing this practice through out the summer.

ANABIP / Natural Resource Coordinator also coordinated a Birch Bark Basket Harvesting trip; Dziih (Irene Brown) joined us to teach us how to harvest and preserve the birch bark, the use for red willow, as well as finding the cedar root required to sew the baskets together. This initial excursion was meant to assist ANABIP in preparing for future cultural excursions when we take clients with us on to the territories. Lorraine & Diana have been developing and updating our cultural resource guide. Our focus in phase one of the program is for the cultural

resource guide to identify experts that could possibly teach cultural activity for the spring and summer. For example, we spent a day in Hagwilget updating the "House of Spookw" genealogy charts, along with getting to know the names of the chiefs involved. It was amazing to see how large the Spookw house is. The house membership is spread out from Gitxsan territory, throughout Wet'suwet'en territory and on to the Carrier Sekani territories. Tara and Gretchen are updating a community resource guide as well. It looks to be a very busy upcoming spring and summer as the referrals are coming in. It is an exciting process.

The staff of the OW are scheduled to participate in a Staff Development Day the first Friday of the month commencing May 4th—September 7th, 2012.

Our first development day took us to Seymour trail where the Natural Resource team explained the medicinal plants, trees and shrubs to the staff. We took a 45 minute hike up and for some of the less travelled staff, the hike was very "invigorating".



**"A late chief once told us, "we must be on the ground and see with our own eyes, then we will understand."**



*Pictured David Dewit and Irene Brown digging for cedar roots.*

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

*Issued by: Sharon Cormier—ECD Preschool Teacher/Administrative Assistant*

## Beginnings Preschool went for field trip to the Smithers Post Office.



The children had a tour of the post office and were shown where the mail arrived on the trucks, they got to stand into the cage that the mail is put into.

Jody also showed the children where Santa's letters got put for him to take. The children really enjoyed our tour.



## CROSSROADS CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

*Submitted by: Walter Joseph, Fisheries Manager*

Crossroads Cultural Resource Management (Crossroads CRM) will be coming to Moricetown Canyon in June to perform some long overdue excavation work.

In 2004, the construction of the current interpretive centre resulted in a large amount of cultural heritage being discovered. Some of the cultural heritage is on display in the interpretive centre. However, there is still some earth that needs to be screened for artifacts.

Also, there is a trail within the canyon area that needs to be widened, which will require some archaeological attention.

During this project, Crossroads CRM will be providing cultural resource management training, education and employment. Together, this should make for a very exciting summer in Moricetown Canyon! More information will be circulated to the community shortly.

Rick Budhwa is the owner of Crossroads CRM ([www.crossroadscrm.com](http://www.crossroadscrm.com)) and will be the Project Director. He is also a member of the Gitdumden Clan. He can be reached at (250) 877-9858. Feel free to contact Rick with any questions you may have.

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## Plans underway to mark Smithers' Centennial—2013

The Town of Smithers will mark its 100th birthday next year and plans are underway to celebrate. The 2013 Celebration Committee conducted a small poll to generate ideas for a Legacy Project. Sean Mitchell, Legacy Project Coordinator says there were four main project categories submitted; a skate park plaza, or skate part expansion, a green space, gathering place on Main Street, a museum-library expansion-rebuild or a recreation facility. The Committee recommended that the green space on Main Street be selected as it was felt it was more representative as a legacy project for the community. The Centennial celebration committee has applied for grants to help fund the estimated \$200,000 project. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en have a representative on this committee. Pictured below is the location of where the green area will be situated. The plan is to have a stage area as well as seating, foliage and In the plans there is an area for a Totem Pole that will be visible down Main Street.

The Centennial celebration will take place August 2—10, 2013.



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## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR Motions Carried** **February–April, 2012**

### **February 2012**

Motion: 2012-010: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs agree to proceed with the creation of a joint venture between Wet'suwet'en Ventures Ltd. Partnership and Summit Camps. The final agreement must be vetted through the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs contingent upon meeting with Dean Allen.

Motion 2012-014: Motion to accept James Namox as Thin House representative.

Motion 2012-015: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs direct the Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Services planning committee to seek the willingness of all Wet'suwet'en communities to join under the auspices of Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Services.

Motion 2012-016: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary chiefs agree to proceed with bilateral negotiations between the Province of B.C. and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en for Wet'suwet'en Child and Family Services.

Motion 2012-018: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs agree to move forward with building relations with the Tahltan Elders to assist with their work.

Motion 2012-019: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve of the All Clans Fisheries meeting on March 30, 2012.

### **MARCH 2012**

Motion 2012-030: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the purchase of a new Kubota tractor for the Fisheries Department utilizing the surplus in the Fisheries budget up to \$25,000.00.

Motion: 2012-033: Motion to solicit funds from existing proponents to complete the 4 of 5 cabins utilizing the cabin building model.

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## APRIL 2012

Motion 2012-035: The WHC support Kelah's decision to intervene in the Moulton Court Case and will direct Peter Grant to intervene on behalf of Kelah and WHC.

Motion: 2012-036: The B.O.D. agrees to pay wages to John Ridsdale while he is attending the YINKA DENE FREEDOM TRAIN. APRIL 28 - MAY 11, 2012.

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## Upcoming Chief Meetings

June 28 & 29, 2012

July 24 & 25, 2012

No chief meetings scheduled in August

September 25 & 26, 2012

October 30 & 31, 2012

November 27 & 28, 2012

December 11 & 12, 2012

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**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.**

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY  
THE LOCATION OF  
THIS PICTURE???

# **WELCOME!!!**

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en would like to extend a warm welcome to Lorraine Naziel, Tara William-Alfred and Theresa Morris.



Lorraine Naziel  
ANABIP Coordinator



Tara William-Alfred  
ANABIP Program Assistant



Theresa Morris,  
Summer Student with Natural Resources

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