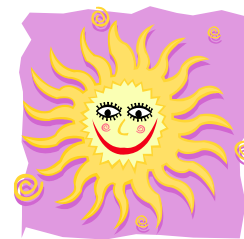




WET'SUWET'EN VOICE



Summer 2011

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Wet 'suwet' en Child & Family Services

TODAY, all Child and Family Services are guided by the laws, policies and procedures of the Provincial (Ministry of Child and Family Services) and Federally through (INAC) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. These services are seen in your communities' as Social Workers through Ministry of Child and Family Services and/or Band Social Workers.

The vision of full jurisdiction over CHILD and FAMILY services began decades ago and in early 1990, this vision started to be realized through the efforts of Lyndale George who was completing her masters program. It was at this time the leadership entered into what is called Directive 20 dash 1, a federal program that delegates authorities to FN to establish a Child and Family Services under the policies of the Provincial Child and Family Services Act.

Wet'suwet'en elders, community leaders, youth and professionals have worked tirelessly to meet the requirements set out the provincial and federal governments to develop a FN AGENCY. In 2002 Hag-

wilget Village Council and Moricetown Band both passed a band council resolution supporting the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs move to the planning stages.

The creation of policies and guidelines, data collection from communities to count the number of children on and off reserve; and cross referencing the level of services being provided by the Ministry of Child and Family Services, and the services through INAC. Despite the ongoing efforts and completion of the numerous policies developed through the Wet'suwet'en Agency Planning Funds received by the Province of BC, we cannot proceed with the planning until the Wet'suwet'en receive the accurate numbers that truly reflect the number of Wet'suwet'en Children registered in Moricetown and Hagwilget and the number of children and families that access all levels of services through the Ministry of Child and Family Services. The Wet'suwet'en have sought out political meetings with the Ministers' responsible for Children and Families and have confirmed meetings for September 26, 2011 to discuss the challenges of completing the planning process.

A very well experienced team have been selected and brought together to move forward with the technical and administrative work that is required to create a service deliver plan that meets the needs of our children, families and communities; Bill Mackenzie, Allen Cummings, Gretchen Woodman, Judy Walton & Sandra George.

MORE CONTACT INFO:

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Strategic WFC meeting held at the OW lead by Allen Cummings.

NWCC GRAND OPENING PARTNERS WITH WET'SUWET'EN POLE RAISING EVENT



The celebration took place at 3966 2nd Avenue on September 23, 2011. The day's events featured the blessing and raising of a 28-foot red cedar totem pole, carved by local artists Ron Austin and James Madam and raised in partnership with the Wet'suwet'en, and a ceremonial feast with traditional First Nations singing and drumming. Visitors were able to take self-guided tours through the Gold LEED designed-campus which now features additional classroom space, wet and dry science labs, and a multi-purpose shop for trades programs.

"Northwest BC has a number of major projects on the go that require thousands of skilled workers, so the expansion of the Smithers Campus couldn't have come at a better time," says NWCC President, Dr. Denise Henning. "This beautiful facility will help NWCC better meet the educational needs of the region and I hope everyone will come help us celebrate that fact."

The campus opened to classes earlier this year for the spring and summer semesters following the 18-month, two-phase renewal and expansion project. In addition to being a joint federal-provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) project, the renewal and expansion work was also part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.



James Madam & Gail working together



Master Carver Ron Austin

CAMP CALEDONIA CULTURE CAMP

AUGUST 8–12, 2011



Submitted by: Cinnamon Holland—Camp Coordinator

We had 23 children in total from the ages 8-16. Originally this culture camp was aiming at our Wet'suwet'en foster children; however, we only had 3 foster children who were attending so we included our urban Wet'suwet'en children. Diana Vantunen was one of the camp counselors and our driver Delores Alfred was our Cultural advisor and Betty Tait was the camp cook.

Camp Outline: Our goal was to teach traditional Wet'suwet'en culturally related skills & knowledge such as drum making, mini button blankets, medicine pouches & beading with Mabel Forsythe and Delores Alfred. We also focused on Wet'suwet'en Language. We offered 3 workshops; plant identification and the awareness of bears, genealogy and drugs and alcohol abuse.

Camp Activities: Drum making, drum sticks, medicine pouches, mini button blankets, beading, berry picking, making soap-berry ice-cream, camp games, volley ball, kite flying, Wet'suwet'en language lessons, circle meetings/elder's story telling and traditional stories, lake swimming, camp fire with marshmallow roast and canoe riding.

Overall the camp was a success and we came together at the end to discuss recommendations from the children and camp coordinator for the next culture camp.



Wet'suwet'en

Unlocking Aboriginal Justice

"I enjoyed the trip to Vancouver the SCARED STRAIGHT TOUR made me realize how precious life is n how lucky we r !!!"

~ Darlene Larose

"Thanks To Sherry McKinnon for taking me to the Scared Straight tour was really an Eye Opener Now I made my Choice I'm not going to go out Drinking Anymore and do my Best to try and convince my friends about it!! ε"

~ Marie Forsythe Morris

"Scared Straight was an awesome trip to go on! Eye opener for all ages! Thanks to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en for giving me the opportunity to go! Mixing up the group with elders n youth was a great mix. It really made me thank God for all I have and will never take for granted again."

~ Sheila Mitchell



On July 14 – 16, WUAJ brought a total of 17 Wet'suwet'en members to the Scared Straight tour on the Vancouver East Hastings Street. This was an eye opener for all who attended on the affects of drugs and alcohol abuse. Each person we talk to have said they don't recommend even the smallest amount of drugs or alcohol as it easily increases to harder types of drugs. All of who we talked to have had their fair share of heart-breaks and after the fear of being downtown subsided that was all you felt for the people there. I would encourage this program to everyone.

Submitted by: Sherry McKinnon—Program Coordinator



Wet'suwet'en

Unlocking Aboriginal Justice

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS:

On June 15th, Sherry McKinnon was requested by the RCMP and Gitksan Health to facilitate a workshop on Elder Abuse. Covering signs of abuse and how to recognize them as well as possible charges if found guilty of Elder abuse. This workshop was well received and members who attended request a follow-up at a later date.

ANNUAL COURTLINKS PROGRAM:

Each year we bring a group of 12 or more to the Courtlinks Program offered by the Justice Education of BC Society. On August 13 & 14, WUAJ brought a total of 18 youth from Southbank all the way to Hagwilget attended.

This program allows for our youth to see and learn first hand what the process is in our Provincial and Supreme Court as well as the duties and responsibilities each of the legal professions involved.

YOUTH GATHERING:

On August 2nd & 3rd, Sandra George, WUAJ Youth worker (Summer position) had the opportunity to join the First Nation Action & Support Team, Julie Morrison coordinate a two-day workshop on youth related issues focusing on suicide prevention.

FIELD TRIPS ON LOCAL TERRITORIES:

Promoting healthy living allowed for our members to be guided on hikes with Sandra George. Sandra brought youth and adults on exploration visits to different sites. WUAJ also provided opportunity to bring elders, adults and children berry picking.

INTERAGENCY VISITS:

Sandra had the opportunity to meet with other youth workers within the Bulkley Valley that included the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre, Youth Empowerment Program, Moricetown Band, Houston Friendship Center and the Health and Wellness Centre in Southbank, BC. WUAJ continues to reach out to the eastern territories at least once a month to keep our connections strong.

CLIENTELE:

As of September 1, 2011 WUAJ has a total of 16 Bail/Probation clients, 2 Victim files and 1 WUAJ file. Our clients are all located in the Wet'suwet'en territories and due to the effectiveness of our program we are seeing an increase in referrals from the Burns Lake/Southbank area.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 14, Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Information session, Moricetown Multiplex
- September 21, Southbank client intake
- September 29, Sherry McKinnon to facilitate a workshop at the Dreamcatcher 3rd Annual Youth Conference in Chase, BC

WEDZIN KWAH at RISK

Can we still save the river?

Submitted by: *Francois Depey, GIS COORDINATOR*

Three new provincial parks have been created at the headwaters of Wedzin Kwah (Morice River) mostly in order, to protect salmon spawning grounds. Two of those parks were recommended by Wet'suwet'en chiefs and all of them were approved by them. It was a good step; however since salmon come from the ocean, in order to spawn, they can only make it to those protected areas if their lives are not threatened along the way. Their habitat spread from the headwater to the estuary and beyond, in the subarctic Pacific.

Nowadays, the most dangerous threat may not come from that far away. Only a few kilometers downstream from the Morice Provincial Park boundary, Enbridge "proposed" to have two pipelines for oil coming from the Tar Sands and condensate coming from overseas via Kitimat, crossing under Wedzin Kwah. The recent pipeline accident on the Yellowstone River reminded us that even an underground crossing is not exactly safe. If such a spill would happen on Wedzin Kwah, at the river crossing or anywhere else along the 50 kilometers where pipelines would follow the river and its tributaries, it is very unlikely salmon would recover. After a spill, it is not possible to clean a river to return it to its original state.

Is there a way to protect the whole Wedzin Kwah watershed from the headwater to the estuary?

Some portions of other watersheds have been turned into protected areas, such as the Babine corridor. In other places in the province, groups of citizens and government agencies worked together to improve the protection of salmon habitat such as on the Adams River. Other groups of citizens and first nation members work on the protection of the Skeena Watershed, but clearly we could not turn the whole watershed into a protected area under provincial or federal jurisdiction.

Are government parks the only options for protection of areas within first nation territories?

Though their existence is arguably as old and widespread as human civilization itself, territories and areas conserved by indigenous people and local communities have only recently gained attention in conservation circles. Many indigenous people and local communities have self proclaimed their territories, protected areas. They now benefit from stronger support from international groups. Member organizations represent indigenous groups from around the world. When one of these protected areas is threatened by dangerous forms of developments, this organization can be the whistle blower and action can collectively be taken against a state or threatening industries. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en has recently been accepted as member of that organization.

The upper Wedzin Kwah watershed (all water flowing into the river upstream from the confluence of the Gosnell river with the Wedzin Kwah) could become one of those protected areas. It would provide an additional tool for the Wet'suwet'en to fight the threat of an oil pipeline that would follow the river and cross it upstream from the confluence of those two rivers mentioned above.

It would generate global attention on a river, salmon and a culture. It could also attract funding to do additional work to monitor the watershed and improve the fish inventory.

The Upper Wedzin Kwah watershed can still be protected



NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

AUGUST: Nadina River Hatchery Visit

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is registered as an Intervener for the Joint Review Panel (JRP) hearings. What this means is that our voice will be heard by the panel and that the OW will receive all correspondence that concerns the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.

In saying that, your voice is an asset that needs to be heard. Your participation in the process is going to help stop this project. Please stop by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and talk to our EA Coordinator: Mike Ridsdale about your territory, your livelihood, your tradition. Add your voice to those who want to protect what is ours.



Nadina Spawning Channels. Photo by OW



Sockeye entering Spawning channels. Photo by OW

There is uncertainty regarding spawning success in Fraser river tributaries, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en conducted a visit to the Nadina River Hatchery within Wet'suwet'en Territory to monitor and evaluate the effect of Hatchery operations. The Sockeye were just arriving into the site and there was around 1,300 sockeye within the channels with more arriving on a consistent basis.

In talking to the caretakers of the Hatchery they were expecting close to 20-30 thousand sockeye to enter the facility. Last year they had slightly over 30 thousand sockeye in the channels, and were visited by 13 different Grizzly Bears feeding on the salmon. The expected peak run is around September 20th, if you want to visit the facility it is a long drive over rough roads that are heavily used by logging trucks, and other heavy machinery. But there is a Nadina Lodge close to the Hatchery that will provide shelter at \$45/night, and you will have to bring your own sleeping bags and food.

Submitted by: Mike Ridsdale—EA Coordinator

Huckleberry Mine TMF (Tailing Management Facility) 3 Investigation

Recently, Huckleberry Mine has released a report on their TMF 3 expansion of their tailings, mining facility, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en felt that there wasn't enough information on the Cultural aspect within their reports. There was very little evidence showing that Aboriginal peoples occupied the area within their expansion site. The OW sent a team into the expansion site to investigate and see if the reports were correct.

In the pre-contact and historic periods, trails formed the travel and communication network of the region. Trails were linked, facilitating people to travel, trade, interact, and access spiritual sites, ceremonial locations, home-sites, and resource gathering locales. The understanding of Wet'suwet'en cultural heritage comes from appreciating the cultural relationships that grew over thousands of years.

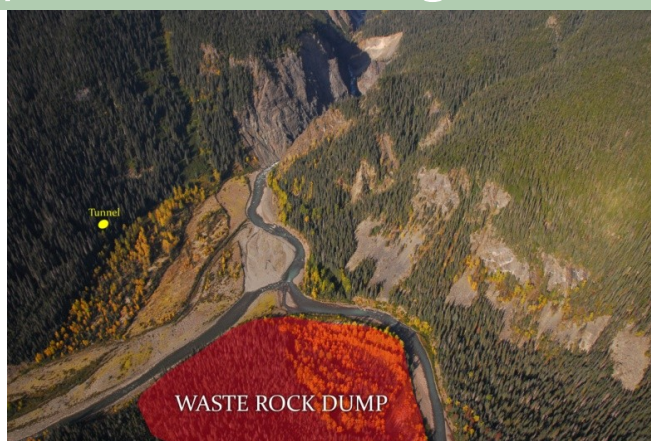
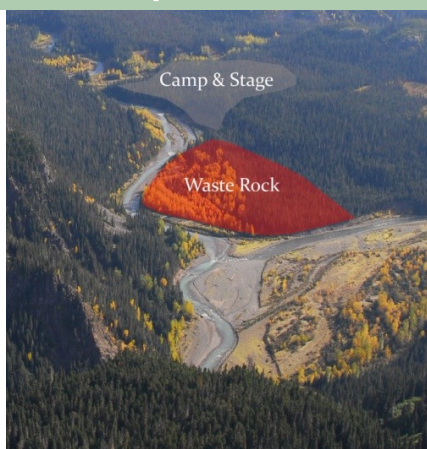
The TMP 3 area had several swamps and hilly rough terrain. The OW team worked in teams of two to cover areas of interest. The investigation was a success, and several First Nation trails were located within the TMF 3 site. All features were GPS'd (Global Positioning System) to facilitate mapping and easy location finding or positioning, if needed, in the near future.



Bent Trees that were used as trail markers. Photos by OW

The Wet'suwet'en cultural heritage reconnaissance of the proposed TMF 3 area resulted in two main findings consisting of a trail corridor and scattered groups of culturally modified trees. The trail corridor is marked by a relatively large number of bent pine trees and was likely utilized as a trapping and hunting trail.

September: Clore/Burnie River Investigation



Burnie River, Clore River Confluence

The purpose of this investigation was to document preliminary cultural heritage reconnaissance activities conducted by Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW) concerning the proposed Waste Rock and Staging Area for the Clore Tunnelling proposed by Enbridge Pipeline. The proposed tunnelling is located within Wet'suwet'en territory.

The project purpose is to document traditional use or cultural features, which could affect or indicate potential infringement of aboriginal rights as defined by Canada's Constitution as well as the legal relationship between British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en as defined by the Courts.

Features Found:



BENT TREES



CONIBEAR TRAPS



OLD HISTORIC TRAIL

Cultural features noted are pockets of scattered bent trees in various locations including the wetland sites and benched plateaus, blazed trees, and traps placed in trees for easy access; several Wet'suwet'en trails that would be threatened along the Proposed Pipeline route.

The Wet'suwet'en possess an acute awareness of our past and pride in our culture today. We have a strong connection to the territory, and though it has not been heavily used for some fifty years; this is our home. In briefly reviewing our cultural history since the time of Euro-Canadian contact in the area, through the transition period to the present, it is clear to see the social disruption that Wet'suwet'en people and culture have experienced.

Currently, these are important times for Wet'suwet'en people. The lifestyles, accomplishments, and artistic traditions of our people, who have survived the changes wrought by cultural interaction, depopulation, diffusion and colonialism, have never been of greater interest or influence than presently; this is why we need to preserve and protect as much of our territory as we can from development that threatens our way of life.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR Motions Carried June—July 2011

March 29 & 30 meetings cancelled due to the passing of Chief Woos

April 26 & 27 meetings cancelled due to passing of Murphy Namox

May 3 & 4 meetings cancelled due to the passing of Fred Joseph

No chief meetings were held in August—Chiefs on summer break

Motion #: 2011- 034: The WHC approves \$2,000.00 per clan to support clan runners activities to June 30, 2011.

Moved by: N'umgyx

2nd by: Gyologit

Motion passed: June 18, 2011

Motion #:2011-035: With addition of clan runners and negotiator, the WHC authorize the OW to negotiate funding from B.C. and Canada to implement the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Governance Authority Initiative.

Moved by: Wilaat

2nd by: Gisday'wa

Motion passed: June 18, 2011 all in favor.

Wigetimstachol was absent for this motion.

Motion 2011-036: The table recognizes Gyologit as representative for Cas Yex as an official board member.

Moved by: Namoks

2nd by: N'umgyx

Motion passed: June 18, 2011

Motion: 2011-039: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs delegate administrative, operational and business decision making authorities over NRFL 71014 to Walter Joseph - Fisheries Manager, David deWit – Natural Resources Manager and Debbie Pierre – Executive Director. Decision making records will be kept, list of decisions be presented to WHC, Management team will ensure clan/house consultation occurs.

MOVED BY: Madeek

2ND BY: Samooh

Motion Carried: June 16, 2011

Motion 2011-040 : WHC mandates the Natural Resources department to seek designation for Upper Wedzin Kwah / Morice River watershed as "Area Conserved by Indigenous Peoples" (ICCA).

Moved by: Gyologit 2nd by: N'umgyx

Motion Carried: June 16, 2011

WET'SUWET'EN TREATY OFFICE SOCIETY

Motion 2011-042

Be it resolved: Effective June 17, 2011 the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society formally represents Laksilyu (Kwan Beegh yex, G'en egh I_a yex, Tsee K'alK'e yex), Gil_seyhu (Yex T'sa wit'ant, Kayex), Gitdumden (Cassyex, Kaiyexweniits, Anaskaski), Laksamshu (Madzeyx and Tasaiyex), Tsayu (Djakanyex and Tsa k'en Yex), the total land base of 19,174 square kilometres

Motion: 2011-043: Approval from WHC to spend \$36,000-\$40,000 to purchase a 2008 - 40,000 km, 1 ton replacement vehicle for existing 2001 fishery truck.

Moved by: Namoks 2nd by: Madeek

Motion Carried: June 17, 2011

Opposing: N'umgyx

Upcoming Chief Meetings

September 27 & 28, 2011

October 25 & 26, 2011

November 28 & 29, 2011

December 12 & 13, 2011

Enbridge Update Meeting

When: Saturday, 08 Oct 2011—10:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Where: College of New Caledonia - Gymnasium – 545 Highway 16 West, Burns Lake, B.C.

Description: The Natural Resource Department of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en will be hosting an All-Clans meeting on Saturday, 08 Oct 2011 to present information to clan members on the proposed Enbridge pipeline and answer any questions you may have.

The meeting will be held at the College of New Caledonia - Gymnasium in Burns Lake. Lunch will be provided. Travel and accommodations will not be provided. Contact Mike Ridsdale at (250) 847-3630 or send email to mike.ridsdale@wetsuweten.com no later than October 04, 2011 to confirm your attendance.

WE ARE GROWING—NEW EMPLOYEES



GRETCHEN WOODMAN, WFC COORDINATOR

Gretchen has recently joined the Wet'suwet'en team to assist with the new initiatives ANABIP program and the delegation planning work to develop a Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Services Agency. Gretchen has been working in the Smithers Ministry of Children & Family Development office for over ten years – for several years as a frontline social worker primarily working in Morice-town, and for the past 5 years as the team leader for the child protection and guardianship team. Gretchen holds

a degree in social work (BSW) and a degree in psychology (BA). Gretchen is currently working on a Masters degree in conflict analysis and management through Royal Roads University. She is the proud mother of two girls: Maya (11) and Hannah (9). Her family enjoys travelling and has recently travelled to Indonesia, Turkey and Scotland. Gretchen is passionate about strengths-based, community driven, collaborative social work practice. She is both thrilled and honored to be invited to work with and for the Wet'suwet'en Nation.

DEE DEE JANZEN, RECEPTIONIST

My name is Dee Dee Janzen and I am from the Nisga'a Nation, New Aiyansh BC, and also from the Cree Nation from Northern Saskatchewan. I have 3 children; 2 daughters, who live in Smithers, and a son who is currently in the Canadian forces who has recently been deployed to Libya on the HMCS Vancouver. I also have 4 grandsons, 3 of which live in Victoria with my son and his wife and one who lives in Smithers. I have been employed by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en as the front receptionist since May of 2011. I was previously the receptionist in 2009 but left my position to pursue further education at the Northwest Community College. I really enjoy working at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en as we have a great staff who are a lot of fun to work with.



SANDRA GEORGE, WFC PRACTICUM STUDENT

Hi, My name is Sandra George and I am a member of the Gitdumden clan, our head chief is Madeek—Jeff Brown in the house of Anaskaski—Where it Lies Blocking the Trail. I am working towards completing the Bachelor's of Social Work Practicum—Field Education at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. My 3rd year practicum placement started Sept. 7, 2011 and the end date is Dec. 2nd, 2011. I look forward to working with the Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Services Authority under the supervision of Gretchen Woodman, WFC Coordinator.