

WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

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Clan Meeting Updates:

- Completed the first round of clan meetings for Laksamshu, Laksilyu & Gil_seyhu.
- Gitdumden clan meeting scheduled for June 26-28, 2009 at the Small Feast Hall in Moricetown
- Tsayu Clan meeting date to be determined



Wet'suwet'en move toward Sovereignty

The Gil_seyhu, Laksamshu & Laksilyu. Completed their first series of meetings with the Treaty Team.

Day one of each meeting Warner Naziel provided an overview of the History of the Wet'suwet'en and the Natural Resources department discussed projects on the particular territories, briefing on referrals, mineral exploration and parks.

Day two the clan travelled through their territories by tour bus while the elders passed on the history of the land and shared information regarding significant areas to their clan.

Day three the clans began developing their work plans depicting their vision of what they see as the future of their territories. The strategies included types of industry, cultural background/ information, economics, lands, agriculture, fisheries and water.

There were common themes amongst all clan groups that they foresee their territories kept in the pristine state as



Gil_seyhu Clan meeting—working on plans for their future

much as possible while working in partnership with industry to create projects that all Wet'suwet'en can be part of economically.

It was also apparent that fee simple lands are a contentious issue with all clans and they encouraged the treaty negotiators to discuss these lands with the governments. Pipelines were also discussed

due to their detrimental impacts on the territories. It is clear that after the 3 clan meetings that the Wet'suwet'en have a clear vision of what they want for the future of their territories, and the future of their children. They are well on their way for a sovereign future.

2009 SUMMER CULTURE CAMPS

The deadline for culture camp application forms is **JUNE 15, 2009**. The dates for the camps are as follows:

July 5-11, 2009 BOYS CAMP (AGES 11-14 YEARS)

August 2-8, 2009 GIRLS CAMP (AGES 11-14 YEARS)

August 16-22, 2009 BOYS & GIRLS CAMP (AGES 8-12 YEARS)

For more information, please call Leonard Frazer at (250) 847-3630

“Empower First Nations right to free, prior and informed consent on developments that would impact our Rights, Title and interest on unceded lands.”



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY JUNE 21, 2009

ALL NATIONS ENERGY SUMMIT

The [Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs](#) invite you to participate in an All Nations Energy Summit. All Nations addressing current energy issues including Enbridge Northern Gateway Project and the need for planning a sustainable energy future.

Tara Marsden 250-614-3317
tdmarsden@gmail.com



ALL Nations Energy Summit

Date: June 6th 2009
 Location: Moricetown Multiplex - 32 KM West of Smithers, BC

Agenda for the event will be forthcoming.

CONTACT:
 Roxanne Wesley 250-847-3630
Roxanne.wesley@wetsuweten.com
 or

WELCOMING POLE FEAST

On JUNE 3RD, 2009 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. THE WELCOMING POLE FEAST WAS HELD AT THE SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL GYM.

ONDARY SCHOOL. INCLUDING - THE UNVEILING OF THE NEW "ELDER MURALS".

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE POLE.

IT WAS PRESENTED BY THE WET'SUWET'EN NATION AND SMITHERS SEC-

DONATIONS TOWARDS THE TOTEM POLE WERE ACCEPTED DURING THE FEAST. T-SHIRTS & PRINTS WERE ONSALE -

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL - (250) 847-2231

MORICETOWN NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

COME OUT AND CELEBRATE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY WITH THE WET'SUWET'EN NATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2009 AT THE BALLPARK BESIDE THE MULTIPLEX IN MORICETOWN. OPENING CEREMONIES AT 12:00 PM.

MITTEE IS LOOKING FOR ARTISTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SET UP A BOOTH AT THIS EVENT. SHARE YOUR PAINTINGS, CARVINGS, BEADWORK, SHAWLS, BLANKETS, QUILTS, ETC.... ps DID WE MENTION THAT BOOTH SPACE IS ABSOLUTELY **FREE!!!**

OR BOBBI AT THE MORICETOWN HEALTH CENTRE (250) 847-9328

LIVE OUTDOOR CONCERT! FIRST NATIONS HIP HOP ARTIST "OSTWELVE".

CRAFT VENDORS

THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY PLANNING COM-

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL **CHARMAYNE**

FOOD VENDORS

“WALK 4 JUSTICE” - HIGHWAY OF TEARS

Walk4Justice has a full day, May 29, 2009 8am at the Downtown Eastside Women's Center, 302 Columbia Street.

We will be leaving for a 1500 km walk to Prince Rupert, BC! We will walk to Prince Rupert, BC to publicly address the key issues faced by marginalized, missing and murdered women, children and their families. We will be demanding a public inquiry for the more than three thousand unsolved cases of missing and murdered women & children in

the last 10 years. Sadly, 80% are Aboriginal. We are looking for ongoing support for the families of these missing and murdered women. We need action from the investigative, judicial and government bodies of this province to end this violence against our women. With unyielding support from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, Assembly of First Nations, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Public Service Alliance Canada, Amnesty International, BC Government Employees

Union, United Native Nations, Native Women's Association of Canada, Longshoreman's Union Local 500, BCGEU, BC Federation of Labor and most importantly, the support of Canada.



Route Dates

Burns Lake /Houston June 12
 Houston/ Smithers June 13
 Smithers/Moricetown June 14
 Moricetown/Hazelton June 16
 Hazelton/ Kitwanga June 17
 Kitwanga /Terrace June 18
 Terrace /Prince Rupert June 22

2009 ANNUAL WET'SUWET'EN GOLF OPEN POSTPONED

It is with great disappointment that we have made the decision to postpone our annual Wet'suwet'en Open until 2010. Due to the economic downfall, the decline in sponsorship and donations, it will not be financially viable for the Office of the Wet'suwet'en

to host the golf tournament this year.

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en thanks you for your understanding while we endure this most difficult economic situation.

We look forward to seeing you all back in 2010!



Just Call him “doc”

On Friday, May 29th, 2009 Hereditary Chief Gisdawya (Alfred Joseph) received his honorary doctoral degree from UNBC in Prince George. Alfred Joseph from Hagwilget has been a proponent for Aboriginal land rights since the 1960s, serving as a co-plaintiff in the landmark Delgumukw-Gisdawya court case. He is also a carver, historian,

and education advocate, who assisted in the development of courses for UNBC on local aboriginal cultures. Congratulations Gisdawya,



L to R: Chiefs Samooh, Madeek, Gisdawya, Kloum Khun & John Ridsdale

daywa, we are all so very proud of you and the continued work you do for the Wet'suwet'en as Hereditary Chief for the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

It's a very Aboriginal thing to do, to give younger people greater responsibilities within the community as they become able to take those responsibilities on. It is a culturally appropriate transfer of roles that involves respect in both directions.. from the younger to the older and the older to the younger.

Jackie Huggins - Respect - Indigenous - Responsibility

Office of the Wet'suwet'en

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We are on the Web!!
www.wetsuweten.com

*"When employees
and employers,
even coworkers,
have a commitment
to one another,
everyone benefits"*



Joan Hunt, Carmen Nikal & Karen Plasway

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en was created as a central office for the Wet'suwet'en Nation. The Office offers many services throughout the Nation focusing on the main areas of Lands and Resources (including Fisheries), Human and Social Services and Treaty Negotiations. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is located on Gitdumden territory. Our office has been in its operation since 1994 however was affiliated with the Gitksan Nation for many years. Our office is not a tribal council however we fulfill similar administrative functions as a tribal council. The most significant difference is the Office of the Wet'suwet'en does not receive core funding (continuous funding from one year to the next) from any form of government. Each year negotiations with both the federal and provincial governments must take place to seek funding for the upcoming year. This situation creates added responsibility for management to ensure that programs meet goals to illustrate successes and generate support for continued funding. Accessing new monies requires proactive and persistent leadership while ensuring program goals are being met and growth is effective. Our office is governed by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs residing throughout the traditional territories. The Chiefs meet at least monthly and often weekly to address specific issues that management needs direction for. Meetings are held throughout the territories in various locations.

NEW TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Joan Hunt has joined our organization as the new **Human and Social Services Manager**. Joan has been a part of our organization since 2001 under the Human and Social Services Department. Joan has strong administrative skills, works well with all of the departments throughout OW and is an advocate for members to excel in their professional and personal development

On May 4th, 2009 **Carmen Nikal** began a 6 month position as Community Development Social Worker with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. She will be a part of a team of staff working with representatives of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and Hagwilget and Moricetown bands on development of a Wet'suwet'en **Child & Family Services Authority**. This project began several years ago and has inched its way forward to the final stages of planning and the start of negotiations with provincial & federal governments to establish a framework for the Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Services Authority to deliver services to its members.

Karen (Naziel) Plasway has been hired by the British Columbia Conservation Foundations and will be working with the **Ministry of Environment and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en as the First Nations Planning Intern**. Her job will be to collect information to ensure Wet'suwet'en cultural values and traditional areas are protected within the planning of the six provincial parks that have been designated in the Wet'suwet'en territory.