



# WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

Winter 2013

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## Wet'suwet'en Grandmothers host Peaceful Rally for Idle No More

Wet'suwet'en Grandmothers hosted a rally in Smithers on Saturday, January 19th, 2013 in Smithers. They were accompanied by Hereditary Chiefs, Chief & Council from the Moricetown Band, Mayor Taylor Bachrach as well as other FN and Smithers community members.

The rally began at the Courthouse on Main Street, entwined its way down Main Street and ended up at St. Joseph's school auditorium where speeches took place along with a light lunch and beverages. Drumming from the rally could be heard far and wide on Smithers streets.

The purpose of the rally was to engage each other in peaceful discussions regarding Idle no More and the education that is required for everyone to understand what the purpose of the movement is.

Unfortunately there have been reports of physical and verbal abuse in Smithers and other communities as a result of the Idle no More movement. This was the first of many opportunities to educate the public. There will be more scheduled meetings in Moricetown and Smithers to further educate the public and quell any further violence.



Pictured (left to right) Chief Wila'at (Sue Alfred) , Chief Wah tah K'eght (Henry Alfred), Chief Namox (John Ridsdale), Chief Hagwilnegh ( Ron Mitchell) and Chief Kalsitt (Vi Gellenbeck)

*Submitted by: Francois Depey, GIS Coordinator*

## Should we walk again on those Wet'suwet'en trails?

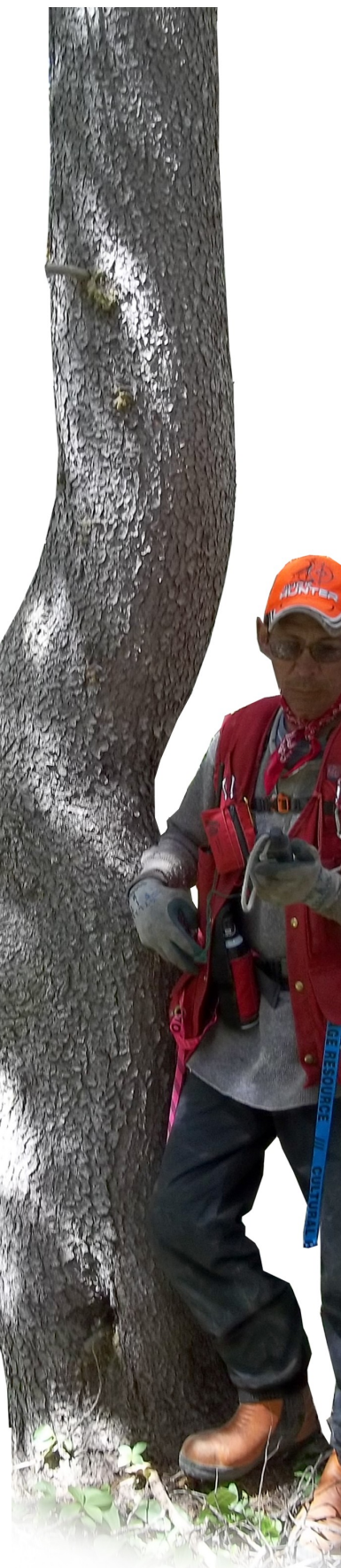
There is a rich and amazingly dense Wet'suwet'en trail network spreading across the territory and extending beyond the territorial boundaries to connect with other nation territories. Several trails connected with the coast, going across mountain ranges on the west side of the territory and connected with Haisla territories. Those trails have not been used for more than half a century. Other trails are still in use. Some have disappeared, damaged by developments. Some are now paved. Trail routes across the Wet'suwet'en landscape made so much sense they became the secondary roads and highways of the present.

Many trails have been documented with the help of elders to generate maps for the Delgamuukw/Gisday Wa court case. For more than 10 years, the OW Natural Resources department has been involved inventorying and surveying some of those trails. GPS has allowed us to produce more detailed maps of the extensive trail network.

Well defined trails attract wildlife, which in turn contribute to keeping them open. It partially explains why Wet'suwet'en trail beds often remain in fairly good shape despite the lack of human presence and use for more than 50 years. Tree markers clearly demonstrate that they were used and maintained by people. Beside blazes, bent trees and occasionally knotted trees are other types of Culturally Modified Trees (CMT), used as trail markers.

Many trails are not in use anymore due to displacement (Indian reserves, residential schools...) of Wet'suwet'en who used to reside there. Some areas of the territory may now be perceived as remote and isolated and therefore trails tend to not be used and to disappear from memories. Trails are non-renewable cultural heritage resources that remind us that no so long ago Wet'suwet'en would travel for seasonal migrations and many other traditional uses. Should those trails vanish? They could be maintained and used to share a portion of the Wet'suwet'en history.

Would clan members be interested to promote the (non mechanical?) use of those trails in such way it would not jeopardize traditional rights but could promote the Wet'suwet'en history and culture? The Natural Resources department would be prepared to support such initiatives. Please, get in touch with us if you have ideas or suggestions.





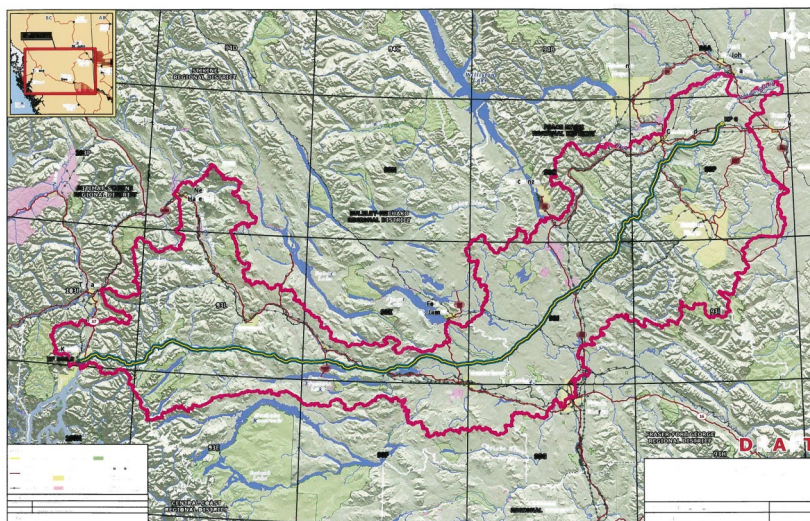
# COASTAL GASLINK PIPELINE PROJECT

*Submitted by: David Belford, Mineral Liaison*

In addition to Enbridge's twin oil pipeline project, and Pacific Trails Pipeline's gas/oil pipeline project, TransCanada's Coastal GasLink project proposes to construct a 650-kilometre natural gas pipeline from Dawson Creek, B.C., to LNG Canada's proposed liquefied natural gas facility near Kitimat, B.C.

Shell Canada Limited and its LNG Canada joint venture partners selected TransCanada Pipeline Inc. to take on the project which will cross clan territories paralleling the Wetzin kwah (Morice River) before entering the Clore River system.

In 2012 **Coastal GasLink Pipeline Ltd.**, a wholly owned TransCanada subsidiary, met with OW Natural Resources staff to present a project overview.



The project, announced on June 5, 2012, involves construction of a 48 metre wide corridor with 48-inch (1219 mm) diameter pipe, in addition to the construction and operation of up to three metering stations and one compressor station.

Coastal GasLink is meeting with First Nation Band Councils along the pipeline route, and the Crown is going through the motions of consulting stakeholder groups and First Nations about the Project.

The Company has filed a Project description with BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in Fall 2012, and will be conducting field studies on the proposed route this year. As with all industrial activity, OW Natural Resources is seeking a Communication s & Engagement Agreement with Coastal GasLink which will support review and response to Crown referrals, and preliminary assessment of project infringements and impacts.

Coastal GasLink is planning on submitting an application for an Environmental Assessment certificate in 2014.

**Refer to Motion 2013-011—Page 11**

# COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

The Legion Hall in Smithers was filled with conversation and laughter as 32 citizens representative of the Town of Smithers, Moricetown Band, Office of the Wet'suwet'en staff and Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs joined in a community to community forum. There were also youth from Smithers Youth Council, the ICount Program in Moricetown and Moricetown Band Student Council.

Community to Community (C2C) forums are a program designed by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) and the First Nations Summit (FNS) in 1997. The program is administered by the UBCM and supported by the FNS. Local governments can apply for a small grant that helps toward the cost of hosting a local event. Forums are designed and led by the local communities involved and give people the opportunity to build relationships and identify ways in which they can work closer together.



*The late Chief Pat Namox stated many times over that it is time for the Wet'suwet'en Nation to "create a new memory in the minds of our children".*

The late Chief Pat Namox had stated many times over that it is time for the Wet'suwet'en Nation to create a new memory in the minds of their children. This statement struck a chord with the planning committee. And so the title and theme for the C2C forum was, Creating a new memory together. Anne Docherty was contracted by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to facilitate the evening.

As a result of breakout groups, the messaging around respect, collaborative, equality, trust and support were a common theme. Memories we will be proud of included accomplishing what we set out to do, children of both communities playing and laughing together.

The C2C forum planning committee will review the results of the forum and move forward with next steps.



# PROPOSED PACIFIC TRAILS PIPELINE

The Moricetown Band Council and Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs held a meeting in Smithers at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Jan 30, 2013.

Discussions were centered around the First Nations Limited Partnership (FNLP) and Pacific Trails Pipeline (PTP). PTP said that they were not getting anywhere with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and they wanted to know if Moricetown Band will sign onto a Benefits agreement.

In today's meeting at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en; the Moricetown Band Council announced that they are supporting the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs decision on "No PTP Development on Wet'suwet'en Territory".

*...we will meet with our hereditary chiefs and whatever their decision is, we will back them up.*

*Duane Mitchell  
Moricetown Chief*

**THE WET'SUWET'EN HEREDITARY CHIEFS THANKED THE MORICETOWN BAND COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND INVITED THEM TO TALK TO OTHER BAND COUNCILS IN DENOUNCING PTP DEVELOPMENT IN WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY**





# WET'SUWET'EN FLAG

There has been a request from the Hudson Bay Mountain to fly a Wet'suwet'en Flag on the ski hill alongside of the British Columbia and Canadian flags.

Our plan is to use our Office of the Wet'suwet'en logo as a national flag. We are building nationhood. Feed back from the Hereditary Chiefs is that "it is Wet'suwet'en territory and a Wet'suwet'en flag would be a good thing".

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en is in the process of drafting flags. The drafts will be brought forth to the Hereditary Chiefs for approval.

**Refer to approved motion 2013-010 on Page 11.**

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Lake Kathlyn grade 6 & 7 students are fundraising for their year end trip to Haida Gwaii. If you have unwanted bottles you can bring them to the Bulkley Valley Bottle Depot located at 3318 Victoria Drive, Smithers and let them know it is for the Fundraising project for Lake Kathlyn students.

The class is also selling hanging baskets, a variety of flowers and strawberries and herbs which will arrive May 16, 2013.

**Contact Lake Kathlyn for further information—  
(250) 847-9427**



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## **Join the Sgt. Rock and her Rebels Relay Team!** **(aka Smithers RCMP and Moricetown Band)**

Hadee! Hello!

Recruiting team members for this year's Relay for Life! We are once again putting a team in and the more the merrier! We set up a tent, bring snacks, listen to music, have many laughs and take turns walking the track - usually in pairs.

The Relay is Saturday, June 8th and runs from noon to midnight. If you can't come for the whole 12 hours - you can still join up and come for just a few hours. Please join online - or contact me directly and I'll sign you up online. **Cancer has touched us all - let's fight back!**

Kimberly Delwisch

# COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS

On September 4, 2012 the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development announced plans to work with its partners on a new approach to treaty & self-government negotiations. "The current process allows negotiations to carry on for years, with no foreseeable end, creating financial liabilities for Aboriginal communities and impeding economic investment opportunities". To accelerate progress in negotiations, Canada is moving toward a results-based approach. Canada will focus its resources on tables with the greatest potential for success, while considering options to improve access to other tools outside the negotiation process that address Aboriginal rights and promote economic development and self-sufficiency. Canada will also look at ways to speed up its internal process. It is based on a 3 tier pillar approach.

1. Results-based negotiations to achieve results with partners.
2. Promoting more effective use of other tools to address aboriginal rights & promote economic development and self-sufficiency.
3. Speeding up the treaty process.

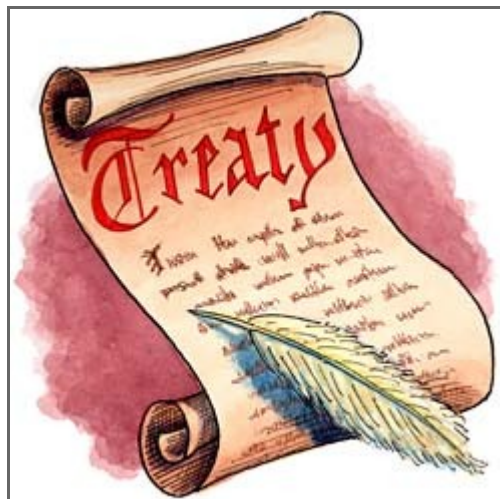
The Wet'suwet'en opted out of treaty negotiations in 2009.

On November 12, 2012 two senior negotiators from Vancouver Treaties & Aboriginal Government met with the Hereditary Chiefs. Their purpose was to bring back an assessment report based on verbal conversations with the Hereditary Chiefs to their superiors. A political decision will be made from this assessment. The BC Treaty Commission nor the provincial government are part of this discussion. When asked if the Wet'suwet'en could see the written report being submitted by the federal negotiators, the Chiefs were told no, that the report would not be shared with them.

The Hereditary chiefs felt there would be uncertainty around their subject of the submission based on the interpretations of the federal negotiators. The chiefs felt a written submission would capture their intentions and would give them certainty. The hereditary chiefs then declined to respond to the federal negotiators and that the Hereditary Chiefs would submit a written report.

On December 17, 2012 the Hereditary Chiefs met again with the federal negotiators and the provincial government sent an observer. Chief Namox read the official submission from the Hereditary Chiefs. Please contact the OW for a copy of this submission.

The federal negotiators felt this was a very "thoughtful paper". The meeting concluded that there would be a decision made in the spring of 2013.



# 2013 Youth & Elders Camp

## Rough Acres Bible Camp

### Sponsored by ANABIP in partnership with WUAJ

*Submitted by: Tara William, ANABIP Program Assistant*

Our main aspect within our program is to help create a safe and healthy atmosphere to support relationships between our Wet'suwet'en Youth & Elders. To promote healthy living among all people of all ages; to encourage youth to become more active in the feast hall and in leadership with guidance and support of our elders; to connect the elders with the youth through the provision of social and recreational activities, health related workshops and mentoring opportunities. To inspire students of all ages to further their education.

Due to a death in the community of Moricetown, we had a lack of elder participants out of respect for the Laksilyu clan and family of the deceased. We had four elderly ladies that kept their commitment to our youth and stayed on site all weekend.

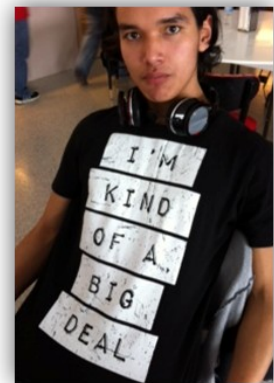
#### Build on Social Strengths

We had facilitators join us from International Institute of Child Rights & Development (IICRD) from Victoria, BC. Their purpose for the weekend was to have the youth comfortable enough to do social mapping in the communities they all resided in. We had 15 youth from Moricetown and 10 from Smithers. Two maps were created of how the Youth view Moricetown and Smithers, buildings, streets, etc. Once these maps were complete, they were asked to identify all the places they knew that they felt safe and supported in community; an example was used of grandma's house, or maybe a social program such as the Youth Empowerment Program. The youth also had opportunity to identify the unsafe places in community, the outstanding answer was Highway 16 - youth commuting into Moricetown from the Two mile area was unsafe for walking, lack of transportation to Smithers for them to seek employment, and the women who have gone missing was identified.

We also had a young man, who was also a chaperone who grew up learning of his hunting and trapping territory, who openly shared with our young Wet'suwet'en men his teachings and passed on his knowledge to the participants. He brought them on an old Wet'suwet'en trail behind the camp location and showed them how to set a trap for Gunih' (Martin).

Additionally we also the Natural Resources Team come out and review the Traditional Clan Territories, informing the youth of our responsibility to our lands and resources. How our maps are structured into the 5 clans and 13 house groups. Our camp site was next to

"Irrigation Lake" and our hereditary Chief Namoks (John Ridsdale) explained the story behind how it became a man made lake, and told our youth how they can tell which lakes are man made and which are natural lake settings. One of our elders shared a picture of a tree she was born at, close by the trail our NR team took us on, she also explained there was an old cabin that belonged to Bill Nye, who was a well known Wet'suwet'en Ancestor which was far from where we were residing for the weekend. So our Youth expressed interest to make a time to go find the cabin in the spring with our staff and NR Team. While we were out on the old Wet'suwet'en Trail, our NR Team introduced what we were to be looking for as Culturally Modified Trees - Specific Markings, knots in the trees, burn marks, old tree stumps, etc. We had 5 youth that fully engaged in this and spoke of interest in working with the Natural Resources Department.





### Build on Personal Strengths

We had a variety of Active Learning games facilitated by our chaperones as well as Youth took leadership in facilitating games. Little did they realize they were building skills for team work, confidence, and self empowerment. They got to see how their small groups forming into who became natural leaders, and how communication was important in completing goals and tasks. You will see in the power point further description of the ice breaker/team building games that were utilized thru the weekend.

We had a Somatics instructor come to our camp site and talk about importance of our stance, to root ourselves, and he explained what happens when we root ourselves? The youth caught onto this pretty quickly as they identified they felt confident in themselves. We had our Elders engage with the youth, teaching them to introduce themselves in Wet'suwet'en:

<b>Wet'suwet'en Language:</b>	<b>English Translation:</b>
Hadih' Soendzin you?	Hi How are
Si Sozi (say their name)	My name is
_____	
(Clan they originate) Dees Da'	I come from
_____ Clan.	
Mussiyh'	Thank you.

Due to the death in community, we had our youth and elders identify what clan they belong to, as the death in community was a Laksilyu member, we had youth that social responsibility to the Wet'suwet'en Community. There was a smoke feast to be hosted in Moricetown on Saturday, February 16, 2013, our youth prepared sandwiches as their contribution to the smoke feast, and our Laksilyu youth attended the feast, helping serve and learn as part of our Wet'suwet'en traditional practice. Before departing to the feast, one of our male chaperones who is also being groomed for a name, took it upon himself to show our youth how a traditional feast invite would look, if they were to go out and invite people to a smoke feast/potlatch. You will also see a video clip of this in the power point. As a result of the 3 youth who attended the smoke feast, 2 of the 3 girls attended the funeral potlatch and stayed from start to finish.

### Building Strengths on Belief

We had a presentation on Internet Safety: the presentation covered various areas of how to keep yourself safe with your personal online profiles; for example facebook. Definitions of cyber bullying, consequences of cyber bullying, how we as community can stop bullying, what to do and where can we go for support when we are in these types of situations, how we can support each other when bullying is an issue. Youth had identified for themselves where in communities and schools can they seek support when or if this is an issue for themselves, friends, or family.

Beliefs, as our Elders have belief in prayer and have been raised catholic, our youth respected that and asked for prayer before meals and before bed time. At one point in the weekend, our facilitator had forgotten to pray before a meal, two youth stood up at their table and offered prayer. That was an inspiring moment. We also had a group of young men and women who took it upon themselves to be caretakers of our elders, ensuring they were fed at meal times with food and drinks, and checking in on them before bedtime if they required anything else. We had youth volunteer all weekend to assist our kitchen staff with washing dishes or clean up. Also before meal time, our youth were quizzed on Wet'suwet'en Language, they were asked to say words in Wet'suwet'en such as: Moose - Hadah, Beaver - Tsa, Horse - Hesliyh, Cow - Misdus, as well as counting from 1 to 10.



## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR Motions Carried** **Nov. 2012 - January 2013**

### **November 29th, 2011**

Motion 2012-083: That OW enters into discussions with the NWCC to establish FN studies in Smithers.

Moved by: Hagwilnegh

Moved by: Namox

Motion moved: November 27, 2012

Motion 2012-086: The Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs support the OW to explore joint venture discussions with UTM Exploration Services.

Moved by: Madeek      2<sup>nd</sup> by: Lay'oh

Motion passed: November 28, 2012

Motion 2012-090: Motion to accept Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office audited Statement year ending March 31, 2012 as presented.

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

Motion Passed: November 28, 2012

### **JANUARY 2013**

Motion 2013-002: The Hereditary Chiefs agree to proceed to redrafting the 1996 NWCC affiliation agreement.

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

Motion Passed: January 29, 2013

Motion 2013-006: The Hereditary Chiefs appoint Namox to attend the March 6-8, 2013 FN Summit meeting.

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

Motion passed: January 30, 2013

Motion 2013-007: Motion to approve November 27 & 28, 2012 records of decisions.

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

Motion passed: January 30, 2013

Motion 2013-009: Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and Moricetown band agree to work in collaboration to stand united in our opposition of PTP

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

Motion passed: January 30, 2013

[\(See article on Page 5 for further details\)](#)

Motion 2013-010: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs support the creation of a Wet'suwet'en Nation flag utilizing the Office of the Wet'suwet'en logo.

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

Motion passed: January 30, 2013

[\(See article on Page 6 for further details\)](#)

Motion 2013-011: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approves the Natural Resource department to participate in the Regulatory Process to review the proposed Coastal Gaslink Project.

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

Motion passed: January 30, 2013

[\(See article on Page 3 for further details\)](#)

Motion: 2013-014: The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs want to explore a protocol and/or MOU with Regional District of Kitimat Stikine

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

Motion Carried: January 30, 2013

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### **Upcoming Chief Meetings**

**March 26 & 27, 2013**

**April 23 & 24, 2013**

**May 28 & 29, 2013**

**June 25 & 26, 2013**

**July 30 & 31, 2013**

**No chief meetings scheduled in August**

**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.**



# Wet'suwet'en Holistic Wellness Working Group Update

*Submitted by: Gretchen Woodman, WCFS Program Coordinator*

As many people already know, AANDC walked away from the tri-partite negotiation table over a year ago regarding the development of a Wet'suwet'en Delegated Agency. Since that time, Wet'suwet'en decision makers, spanning both hereditary and electoral governance structures have been hard at work to develop a distinctly Wet'suwet'en holistic wellness framework. What this means is that the focus has moved from being strictly about child welfare to a much broader community wellness framework, which encompasses issues of child safety but also looks at health and well being of all community members.

In November 2012, a group of decision makers came together for a two-day visioning/strategic planning session to begin to name what wellness means from a Wet'suwet'en perspective. These decision makers identified the following 5 key wellness themes: Hilhtus (building on our strengths), Spirituality, Social Responsibility (how we are with each other), Sustainable Livelihood (food security on the territory and internal Nation economies), and Yinta (Connectedness of all things).

In January-February 2013, we conducted 3 youth focus groups to gain a youth perspective regarding wellness. These youth identified a 6<sup>th</sup> wellness theme: Being seen/Being heard. On March 1, 2013, the staff of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Moricetown Band and Hagwilget Village came together for a full day to discuss the emerging Wet'suwet'en holistic wellness framework. This day focused on making the themes identified above actionable.



Next steps: The ANABIP staff is conducting individual House Chief interviews to review the Wet'suwet'en wellness findings to date. These House Chief interviews also include how we can engage with individual house groups regarding wellness. If you have an interest in contributing to this exciting process, please contact your House Chief or either Gretchen or Lorraine at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. We are planning more community events in the coming months with the aim to include as many Wet'suwet'en voices in the creation of this wellness framework as possible. Our ultimate aim is to create a Wellness Agency instead of a Delegated Agency.