

WET'SUWET'EN VOICE

FIRST ROUND OF CLAN CONSULTATION MEETINGS COMPLETE

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Submitted by: Judy Walton

Round one of the clan consultation meetings has now been completed.

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 clans travelled through their territories by 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 the territories be kept in the pristine state as 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 detri-



mental impacts on the territories.

It is clear that after the 5 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 to a sovereign future.

The treaty team is now prepared for Round 2 of clan consultation where the proposed treaty from the federal and provincial governments and clan initiatives will be reviewed. Subjects such as governance, taxation, lands, water, cultural heritage and language, etc. will be reviewed and discussed with the clan members.

The treaty team would like to thank all clan members that came out to the consultation meetings to share their ideas of what they want envision for the future of their territories.

All Clans Governance meetings is scheduled for **October 23, 24 & 25, 2009 at the Moricetown Multiplex.**

To register contact Judy Walton at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Phone:
(250) 847-3630

Email:
judy.walton@wetsuweten.com

Registration deadline October 16, 2009.



Laksilyu working group

- THE RIVER, SALMON AND PEOPLE -

Submitted by: Francois Depey

Clear blue-green river in danger

Wedzin Kwa, is often under threat these days. One of those threats could even challenge the meaning of its name: the “river with clear blue/green water”.

Enbridge, a pipeline company has proposed to build a pipeline along the upper portion of the river. This 1000km pipeline would connect the tar sands in Alberta and a supertanker terminal in Kitimat; and would cross the river less than 15 km downstream from the outflow at Wedzin Bin (Morice lake). The pipeline would follow Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) for more than 30 kilometers and carry petroleum products such as oil and condensate. Wedzin Kwa flows from Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake) to the Skeena river at K’san. That is the main corridor followed by salmon to swim from the ocean to their spawning grounds in Wet’suwet’en territory. No doubt a failure in the pipeline that would trigger an oil spill would be devastating for the river and its salmon. Enbridge has a very poor track record in terms of that kind of accidents. That is only one of the reasons why Wet’suwet’en chiefs opposed the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline project. Other major concerns are:

- The potential impact of construction with clearing of at least 30 meters right of way through the crossing of the whole Wet’suwet’en territory.
- Supporting the pipeline project would be a way to encourage additional tar sand damages that already have dramatic impact on other first nations territories and health in Alberta.

Oil and condensate would be transported by super tankers from and to Kitimat exposing all the coast to potential spills that

would have dramatic effect on environment, food supplies and populations.

All nations against oil pipelines

Wet’suwet’en hosted an ***All Nations Energy Summit*** in June of 2009 on the territory to discuss pipeline issues with all other nations whose territories are located on the proposed route. The event was open to natives and non-natives alike and was an opportunity to create an alliance of all those affected by the proposed project.

It is not the first time that a gathering of concerned citizens in the Wedzin Kwa (Bulkley River) or Skeena watershed managed to influence the position of government or the industry:

- In 2007 the company that intended to drill for coalbed methane gas in Telkwa, renounced to do so after a Wet’suwet’en chief delegation went to express their opposition at its head office in Calgary and after several protests in the streets of Smithers.

in March 2008 the government announced a moratorium on fish farms in northern waters, in response to the strong opposition of Skeena watershed residents.

“One threat could even challenge the meaning of its name; the “river with clear blue/green water”.



Ali, the swimmer with members of Skeena Watershed First Nations: (clockwise) Nole Loveman (Sacred Headwaters, Tahltan), Billy Blackwater (Kispiox, Gitxsan), (K'san, Gitxsan), youths (Kitsguelcla, Gitxsan), (Kitselas, Tsimshian), Dancers and drummers (Port Edwards, Tsimchan), Sharon Bryant & David Wells (Kitsumkalum, Tsimchan), Wet'suwet'en chiefs, Mamie Wesley & Alice Jeffrey (Glen Vowell, Gitxsan).

Photographers: Brian Huntington, Pat Moss and Amanda Follett.

SWIM TO UNITE

In 2009, the Skeena watershed is still threatened by pipelines and drilling for coalbed methane at its source in the Sacred headwaters. That is what convinced a woman from the Bulkley Valley to swim the entire length of the Skeena river from source to mouth: 610km. Her goal was to inform residents from the watershed and raise awareness regarding threats to the rivers and its salmon.



Ali Howard jumped in the Skeena water in Tahltan territory and swam across Gitxsan, Gitanyow, and Tsimshian territories during her 28 days journey. It took her close to two weeks to reach the first village at the confluence with the Kispiox river. As she got out of the water, she was welcomed by a Gitxsan delegation from Kispiox village. Several speeches to praise the river and the initiative taken by Ali and her team were given. All guests were treated with food and Ali returned to the river. Beside her team of 8 paddlers (2 kayaks and 2 rafts), Ali was now followed by close to 60 other paddlers who would escort her to K'san. Among them was a Wet'suwet'en delegation: Freda Huson, Nenli Naziel, Satzi Naziel, Warner Naziel, Melanie Angus, and Mel Bazil. Mel had brought the big 15 passengers "Northern Dancer" canoe from the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre in Smithers. He was the skipper for that group and they invited other paddlers to join them as well.



The next stop was Glen vowel where Mamie Wesley wrapped her in a white towel in sign of protection. Gifts were exchanged. Further downstream people were cheering for Ali from the 4 mile bridge. In Cedar creek the group was joined by Nathan Cullen (MP for the Skeena-Bulkley Valley) and Doug Donaldson (MLA for the Stikine) who swam along with Ali right to K'san. Once Ali got out of the water in K'san, she was welcomed by a Gitksan chief who smudged her and each member of her team for cleansing and protection for the rest of their journey. A stage was raised in their honour. Several people got a chance to talk as well as Ali. Coming from the Wedzin Kwa (Bulkley River) tributary was a Wet'suwet'en delegation. Chief Madeek (Jeff Brown), Chief Kloum Khun (Alphonse Gagnon) and John Ridsdale (on behalf of chief Namox) spoke about previous involvement of the nation to oppose coal bed methane exploration in Telkwa, current opposition to the Enbridge pipeline and the support provided to the Tahltan nation for their battle against Royal Dutch Shell.

From there, Ali and her team went on, down the river and were welcomed in each community along the way: Kitseguecla, Kitwanga, Kitselas, Terrace, Kitsumkalum. Regalias and drums were out. The message was clear and pretty much identical in each community, "we stand by you Ali, and support your initiative to protect our river and save the salmon".

28 days after leaving the sacred headwaters, 610km further down river and many many strokes away, Ali finally arrived at the cannery in Port Edward. Tsimshian drummers and dancers were singing while Ali and Chris Gee, the safety boat kayaker where approaching pushed by the tidal current.

Battles are far from over but with her dream and determination, she managed to unite all nations and non-native communities to resist a development project that would threaten the integrity of the watershed.

It is all about the future of the river, salmon and people.



Dzel K'ant Friendship Centre & Office of the Wet'suwet'en Warrior Camp

Submitted by: Warner Naziel



The long anticipated *Dzel K'ant Friendship Center* and *Office of the Wet'suwet'en Warrior Camp* was a raving success! The successful joint proposal, authored by the two organizations, resulted in 16 participants, 5 full-time DFC staff, one full-time OW staff member, a cook, a driver and a volunteer coming out to the inaugural camp. The location chosen was Tac'its'olhen Bin (Poplar Lake) which sits in C'ilhts'ekhyu's 'Unis hot'en territory.

The activities included lectures on Western Education,

Traditional Knowledge Holders and Practitioners, Traditional Storytelling, Traditional Songs, Paddling the *Nyibelh* War Canoe, hunting, safely shooting crossbows, hiking, custom Wet'suwet'en war games, Tai Kwon Do and boxing calisthenics.

The beginning of a new **Warrior Society** is well on its way as recruits came from a variety of Wet'suwet'en families and Wet'suwet'en communities. Parents and guardians were willing to get their youth involved in learning about traditional and contemporary *Lhelunlii'in* (Guardianship of our Territories) and the *Bahnii* (Warrior lifestyle).

The next camp will be on September 18, 19 & 20th, 2009 at Toboggan Creek and Glacier Gulch Creek.

All Chiefs Assembly United in Rejection of Proposed Recognition & Reconciliation Legislation

September 1, 2009

(Coast Salish Traditional Territory/Vancouver, BC - August 28, 2009) - Chiefs and leaders came together this week in a BC All Chiefs Assembly to discuss the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation legislation. The Assembly unanimously endorsed an action strategy to be implemented by an Indigenous Title Action Group on a provincial, national and international level.

"When we travelled through the province, to the many regional sessions and community meetings, we consistently heard the deep concerns of the potential impacts of the proposed legislation on our Indigenous Title and Rights. Our people and leadership judge the Province not by their words but their continued actions that infringe on their territories and resources. **The Province of British Columbia cannot and does not have jurisdiction over our Indigenous Title and Rights and as such the proposed legislation is dead,**" said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit Task Group.

DECLARATION OF THE SIMGILGYET OF THE GITXSAN NATION AND THE DENEZEE OF THE WET'SUWET'EN

The Simigilgyet of the Gitxsan Nation and the Denezee of the Wet'suwet'en were unified in their rejection of the proposed Recognition & Reconciliation Legislation. They united together in North Vancouver on August 27th voicing their declaration and opposition to the proposed legislation.

WHEREAS the Gitxsan and the Wet'suwet'en Nations have always had and always will have the responsibility for preserving, honouring and respecting their territories, land, resources and people; and

WHEREAS within the framework of Canadian law, the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en Nations have aboriginal title and other rights which are recognized and affirmed by the Constitution Act, 1982 and by many other constitutional instruments; and

WHEREAS the Gitxsan and the Wet'suwet'en Nations brought the matter of Delgamuukw/Gisday'wa before the courts in 1984 and pursued this matter through the courts until they eventually obtained a great victory in the landmark Delgamuukw judgement in December 1997 which finally recognized Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en title and rights as existing in Canadian law; and

WHEREAS the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en Nations suffered many difficulties, made many sacrifices and paid a tremendous cost in both financial and, most importantly, human terms in their efforts to achieve the recognition of their title and rights within the Canadian constitution and legal framework; and

WHEREAS the final result of pursuing this action also taught the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en that many tremendous opportunities exist for all First Nations, regardless of their relationship or constitutional status with Canada, to bring true expression of their title back to their Nations where it belongs and where it should be established.

We the Proper Title Holders of our respective Territories declare:

1. The interpretation of Delgamuukw 1997 can be as it was argued that the proper title holders have a matrilineal society that is connected to the territory by its laws and oral histories. Current usage of the court findings have in some respects diminished the real meaning of the Supreme Court findings.
2. It is our duty to protect our gwalyeinsxw (inheritance) for future generations.
3. Our Rights and Title includes decision making (the right to choose what uses the lands may be put), an inescapable economic component (revenue sharing that is consistent with the current case law) and the right to a modest living all in context of sustainability. This means the sustainability of the people, the language and the land.
4. By recognition of this and agreements that reflect these declarations we can give the crown and 3rd parties a certainty that is greater than legislation without proof of title.
5. Attached is our maps of our territories and our boundaries have remained consistent prior to the B.C. Treaty Process and were accepted in the Courts of British Columbia and Canada since the 1970's. We have no faith in the ability of the Crown or any legislation to deal with asserted "overlaps".
6. We will not support any legislation that infringes or limits our rights.
7. Furthermore we ask that respect be given to our decision making process that are inherent in our social structure and will not be usurped by any person or group;

We ask that First Nations and the Crown of British Columbia and Canada receive our declaration as Hereditary Peoples and conduct themselves with the honor and respect that we have treated them in all matters that deal with Inherent rights and title.

A Day in Wet'suwet'en Territory At Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake)

Submitted by: Karen Plasway

Hi there! My name is Karen Plasway. I have been hired to work during the summer 2009 with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW), Natural Resources department. I am responsible for gathering traditional knowledge information within the 6 new provincial parks created in our territory. This information will be included in the management plans for these parks.

In addition, I inform clan members about the parks co-management initiative, note potential concerns, answer questions, and listen to suggestions for future development of the six new parks.



On July 30, 2009, forty-nine Wet'suwet'en toured the new parks, and listened to brief presentations by BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks, and OW Natural Resources staff.

The day started with a stop at Owen Flats and information was provided regarding potential Northern Gateways Pipeline development. As the convoy of vehicles moved along the active logging road, Warner Williams told the logging truck drivers over the radio: "Yes, you better stop and to let the owners come in". Several of the trucks did stop as we drove to our destination.

The scenery was just magnificent as we journeyed out to Morice Lake. Upon arriving, we all enjoyed an awesome lunch provided by the Moricetown Youth Group and began the information session. Several members voiced their concerns and

took the time to ask questions. Some interviews were conducted at the same time.

Many Wet'suwet'en enthusiastically paddled the large canoe "Northern Dancer- nyibelh" on Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake). Mel Bazil from the Dzel Kant Friendship Centre provided the replica canoe. Others took advantage of the time to pick huckleberries around the park. Our youngest members enjoyed swimming and playing in the lake. We all enjoyed ourselves in the fresh, crisp, clean air and water.

There were record breaking heat temperatures in Smithers so we enjoyed a comfortable time by the lake. The heat was not felt until the afternoon as we were packing up getting ready to make our way home.

In closing I would like to thank all participants who went to Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake) on July 30, 2009. I would also like to stress the importance of the Wet'suwet'en participation with BC in the co management of the recently created six provincial parks: Burnie-Shea Park, Old Man Lake Park, Nadina Mountain Park, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park, Morice Lake Park, and Atna River Park. NENIKËKH was added to the name of Nanika-Kidprice Park to reflect the current spelling recommended by the Wet'suwet'en Language Authority, and there is still a need for consensus regarding Wet'suwet'en names for the other five parks.



Other topics that need to be addressed are our Cultural Heritage

and Ceremonial Sites. Those sites can obtain a special designation within the park areas so they can be advertized or protected, based on Wet'suwet'en recommendations.

There will be another opportunity around mid-September for Wet'suwet'en to return and visit old Wet'suwet'en fishing sites.



Thank you all for your time and I look forward to the next trip to Wedzin Bin. Please, contact me at the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to get your name on the list for the next tour, or if you have any questions, concerns, or information on the new Parks.

WET'SUWET'EN AND LIONS GATE METALS SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MEDIA RELEASE:

DATE: August 20, 2009



SMITHERS, BC: The Office of the Wet'su-wet'en, representing the interests of five Clans and thirteen Houses, and the senior executives of Lions Gate Metals (TSV: LGM), have concluded a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU").

The MoU recognizes Wet'suwet'en title, rights and interests on 22,000 sq.kms of traditional territories in northwest BC. Both parties to the MoU are committed to a respectful, consultative relationship with regard to LGM's mineral exploration activities on Wet'suwet'en territories.

"The Wet'suwet'en have never ceded, surrendered, or in any way relinquished title, rights, or responsibility to ensure the environmental integrity of the territories," stated Debbie Pierre, Executive Director, "This MoU is required by Wet'suwet'en Chiefs to ensure meaningful dialogue takes place on land use and resource development within our territories."

"We believe this MOU represents a significant milestone on our path towards realizing mutually beneficial relations with the Wet'suwet'en, local communities and Lions Gate Metals. This MoU also solidifies LGM's position as an industry leader in recognizing the interests of the Wet'suwet'en in the Poplar Lake resource," said Mark Hewett, Director of Lions Gate Metals.

Lions Gate Metals Inc. is a Canadian based, junior resource company focused on the exploration, development, and acquisition of both advanced and early stage mineral projects. Lions Gate Metals owns 100 % of three substantial copper and molybdenum projects located in British Columbia. The management team understands the complex dynamics of the mining industry and has created a highly attractive corporate structure to maximize success.

*"The Wet'suwet'en
have never ceded,
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territories"*

CULTURE CAMP GARAGE SALE

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en hosted a garage sale on Saturday, September 12th with proceeds going to the 2010 Culture Camps.

It was a great pleasure to receive the support of so many Moricetown community members. We also had enough items remaining to bring to Ruby William and Danielle Ogen to replace some of the household items lost in the fire.

**Thanks to everyone for their support and to all of the volunteers
who helped out at the sale!**

“Our laws and House system enabled us to survive and thrive on our lands since time immemorial, and will serve at the heart of our organization”



Wet'suwet'en Chiefs, Moricetown and Hagwilget Move Closer to New Child and Family Authority

MEDIA RELEASE – AUGUST 19, 2009

(Smithers, BC) The Wet'suwet'en have never ceded or relinquished any rights to care for, protect and support Wet'suwet'en children and families. This sacred responsibility extends to wherever Wet'suwet'en children and families may reside.

On July 29, the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs, Hagwilget Village Council and Moricetown Band tabled a Delegated Enabling Agreement with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. This agreement will transfer resources, authority and responsibilities for children and family services, pursuant to BC's Child, Family and Community Services Act.

“At the heart of this initiative is children's right to remain in their families, their communities and their culture,” said Hagwilget Village Council Manager Vern Joseph.

“Traditionally, decisions to remove children were made with the child's families involved, and no children were left behind. We need to support the extended family in taking back this type of responsibility for our children.”

Establishing a Child and Family Services Authority is an interim measure toward reclaiming First Nations' inherent governance rights and responsibilities for aboriginal children and families.

“It is encouraging to reach this milestone in developing a Child and Family Services Authority,” said Trish Naziel, Mediator for Moricetown Band. “The new service delivery model we're creating builds on our diverse culture and traditions. It's an honor to work together to create a new way of supporting our children and families, instilling the knowledge and wisdom of our Wet'suwet'en ancestors.”

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief Madeek of the Gitdumden Clan outlined how the new services will be integrated with the traditional house group system:

“We are building our Child and Family Services Authority to honor and empower our proud culture, traditions, values and Inuk Nu'at'en (law). Our laws and House system enabled us to survive and thrive on our lands since time immemorial, and will serve at the heart of our organization,” said Madeek.

The next step is for the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Indian and Northern Affairs to enter into negotiations on the draft agreement, which the proponents hope will happen in a timely manner.

“We won't accept further delay in reclaiming jurisdiction for our children and families,” said Joseph.

Contact:

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FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

First Nations Summit Congratulates Newly Elected National Chief Shawn Atleo, Expresses Appreciation for Outgoing National Chief Fontaine's Service Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver -

The First Nations Summit today congratulated Chief Shawn *A-in-chut* Atleo on his election as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. Chief Atleo is a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation, and served two terms as the BC Regional Chief of the AFN since 2003.

"We are very pleased for Chief Atleo, and we are especially pleased for First Nations across this country," said Grand Chief Ed John, member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "*A-in-chut* understands national issues that impact the lives of our people, and he is committed to advocating for the changes we need to see in our communities."

Chief Atleo's concerns around Canada's recent refusal to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are shared by the First Nations Summit, and we feel that his dedication to the rights of Aboriginal people around the world is an invaluable quality in the leader of the AFN.

"Chief Atleo shares the desire of many First Nations to overcome the imposed divisions that have often kept us from addressing the many challenges we face," said Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Political Executive member. The Summit also feels that Chief Atleo's extensive experience and long-term involvement with First Nations politics in B.C. will be beneficial as we enter into the next phase of our relationship with the provincial government. "It will help us enormously that he is familiar with the Treaty process and understands the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation legislation," said Dan Smith, Political Executive member. "These are issues that will have long-term impacts on how First Nations interact with the BC government going forward."

The Summit wishes Chief Atleo well during the course of his mandate, and we are confident that he will advance the rights of First Nations during his time as National Chief. The First Nations Summit would also like to express its deepest appreciation to outgoing National Chief Phil Fontaine for his dedicated service and tireless efforts to bring our community issues to the national and international stage.

Parks in Wet'suwet'en Territory: An Update

As you probably know by now, more than a year ago, six new provincial parks have been created within Wet'suwet'en territory:

Nadina Mountain Provincial Park

Morice Lake Provincial Park

Atna River Provincial Park

Burnie Lakes Provincial Park

Nenikëkh / Nanika Kidprice Provincial Park

Old Man Lake Provincial Park

There is an opportunity to share the management of those parks between the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and BC Parks. The first phase of this process consists in developing a Management Plan for each of the 6 parks. It is a chance to include Wet'suwet'en input.

We originally tried to find stories related to those areas to assign new names for those parks. We are still looking for stories but in the meantime, the official Wet'suwet'en spelling has been assigned for **Nenikëkh**, which, according to the Wet'suwet'en Language Authority, means "swirly water".

Providing Wet'suwet'en Input

Karen Plasway from the Gitdumden Clan, has been hired this summer to collect additional information on Cultural Heritage site, importance of those areas for Wet'suwet'en, use and specific management recommendations. The OW Natural Resources department presented the park projects for all clans that have parks in their house territories during the first round of clan meetings. Karen organized two meetings at Wedzin Bin (Morice lake) to collect input from all clan members (see her article in this issue regarding the July meeting). In september, Ron Austin –OW Fisheries ranger- joined us and shuttled many participants with a jet boat along the upper section of Wedzin Kwa (Morice river) at the outflow of the lake, to watch Chinook spawning there. Chief Woos (Roy Morris) was there to welcome us to his territory. Many stories of the area were shared. Some participants still felt that they had more to contribute and Karen organized another meeting in Moricetown on September 16. All non confidential information will be shared with BC parks to be included in management plans. There will still be a chance to include more input, however two public meetings will take place in Houston and Smithers at the end of October to present those draft versions of those plans.



Picture: Chief Woos (Roy Morris), Chief Madeek (Jeff Brown), David Dewit, Ron Austin, Peter David, Chief Wah Tah K'eght (Henry Alfred), John Ridsdale, Freda Michell at Wedzin Bin (Morice lake) on September 9th.

What Relationship with BC Parks?

Co-management is a way to share decisions regarding specific areas (i.e.: parks) between two parties, in this case Wet'suwet'en (represented by OW) and the Ministry of Environment / BC Parks. Field trips in the territory were also an opportunity for staff from both offices as well as members of the Wet'suwet'en nation and the planning team to get to know each other. The idea is to design together plans that are based on real knowledge of those areas and not strictly a bureaucratic exercise. One gathering at Old Man lake and three visits to Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake) contributed to strengthen those relationships. So far no co-management agreement has been signed between the Province and OW. Co-managements between first nations and parks (national and provincial) are not new in Canada. There are many examples of experiences, more or less successful. We would like to provide an opportunity for chiefs and other nation members to meet with representatives from other first nations that are involved in park co-managements. We would really like to invite members of Haida, Nisga'a and Champagne & Aishihik (Yukon) first nations for them to present their experiences. It would be an opportunity to get a better understanding of co-management and how to turn it into a positive experience that would benefit both parties. This one day meeting would most likely take place in October.

Reconnection with Remote Parts of the Territory

The research work we have been conducted for close to one year regarding Wet'suwet'en Cultural Heritage in those parks indicate that it is difficult to find people who lived in those parts of the territory. There is no shortage of proof of past use of those territories however Wet'suwet'en residents are not alive anymore to share their experiences. Most likely, last residents were displaced when Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) enforced the reserve system. We can only rely on interviews conducted during the Delgam Uukv / Gisday Wa court case. We still need to conduct more research to identify those residents and share stories and pictures with clan members and other park visitors. These new parks could also be used as an opportunity for younger Wet'suwet'en generations to get reconnected to remote parts of the territory that are often not easy to access.

There are many ways to turn this initiative into a positive experience and your participation is a vital component for success.

All Members:



In efforts to ensure we are communicating with all Wet'suwet'en members, please phone the office with your mailing information (email or regular mail). Our mailing list is growing daily but we want to be able to reach out to **ALL** of our members!

Office of the Wet'suwet'en

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

September 28th & 29th:

Chief Meetings

Time: 9:00 am—4:30 pm

Location: OW Boardroom

All members welcome!

OCTOBER 23, 24 & 25, 2009

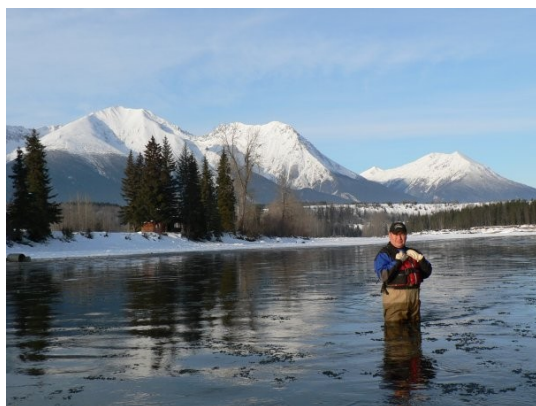
ALL CLANS GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

MORICETOWN MULTIPLEX

For more information, contact Judy Walton at (250) 847-3630 or judy.walton@wetsuweten.com

IN MEMORIAM

FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND EUGENE PIERRE



Office of the Wet'suwet'en Staff, we all work together each day and we become more than co-workers, we become good friends and some consider our team as their family. Each and every staff member of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en are dedicated individuals that bring a host of skills to offer an organization that works towards the betterment of all.

It is with this sentiment, that we care for one another and when one is lost, the loss is profound. However, we carry on their legacies each and every day.

With this, Eugene your memories are fond and your legacies will not be out-lived.

Sineh Kal Ya,

Debbie Pierre, Executive Director

WORD OF THE DAY

SINEH KAL YA

"I am grateful because you have helped me in a critical time of need"

Translation by: Chief T'sek'ot (Ron Austin)