

# GIL\_SEYHU CLAN MEETING



8/19/2009

FINAL REPORT

This report is a summary of the 3 day community forum which took place on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at Francois Lake Hall.



# Gil\_seyhu clan meeting

DAY ONE – MAY 1, 2009

## Warner Naziel

- I was working for CSTC and I received a job offer for this Researcher/Asst. Negotiator position and I gave it a lot of thought. I was with my children in Prince George and had a good job. I started working as Asst. Negotiator/Researcher in November, 2008.
- I am committed to not wasting any time if I am sacrificing my time away from children, so the work must be valuable.
- By the end of the three days, Gil\_seyhu meetings you will have an idea where you want to go in your future. I have no memory of clans getting together to discuss the strategy of their future. Our ancestors knew our territories and looked after them; they were stewards of the land and managed it for their unborn children and us.
- I only hear of headstone, death feasts.
- Warner presented Gil\_seyhu clan information on maps.
- I encourage you to share stories about the territory, history of Gil\_seyhu you have been taught
- This afternoon the Natural Resources will discuss projects on the Gil\_seyhu territories.
- Warner reviewed the history of Wet'suwet'en ( attached presentation)
- Judy and I organized all treaty documents from 1995 – 2007 which amounted to @ \$12 million dollars.
- At the Treaty table today we discuss the Wet'suwet'en way of doing business. The governments are used to dealing with bands rather than hereditary system and do not want to sit with clan groups. We told them they knew they were sitting with the hereditary system and had to talk to the people.
- We decided on this way of doing business, what do you want to see in your treaty. We can make your ancestors proud of the people working together.
- Your will see your territories tomorrow. All of your ancestors are here.

## Don Ryan

- The Court case was a loss but we won on a political scale. I spent a lot of time as a witness on the land. I had problems putting together the evidence and south side was one of the more difficult ones for me.
- The fight we are doing is a continuation of what Warner showed you.
- The issues are still the same for you and what we did in the court cases.



**TREATY  
DISCUSSIONS  
TELL YOU  
WATER IS NOT  
ON THE TABLE.  
IF YOU OWN  
THE BOTTOM  
OF THE LAKE,  
YOU OWN  
THOSE RIGHTS  
THERE. THE  
WATER  
LICENSE THAT  
RIO TINTO  
PAYS FOR ON  
AN ANNUAL  
BASIS IS \$1.5  
MILLION  
DOLLARS PER  
YEAR.**

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- Alcan was a major target due to what they did to you. That agreement in 1948 had a major impact on you. Look what we have now from 1948 to now – it is still the same issue.
- You have to tackle the new company that took over for Alcan – Rio Tinto. They now own most of your territory. The chiefs have asked me to come in to deal with these issues, do work with the treaty and take on Rio Tinto. You need to pick up the work from the court case and tackle Rio Tinto. They are a major company from Australia.
- The treaty discussions are very basic issues. I told the chiefs I would move quickly at the treaty table to put the chapters on the table which are now on the table. We need to continue to meet to discuss those chapters. What I am seeing is that it is not going to deal with your issues.
- The Alcan agreement in treaty discussions is not on the table. All lands in yellow and red on map are not on the table. All waters (on map) on your land are not on the table. What is there left to talk about?
- My involvement is to set out places where you can use your legal interests to get what you need. I can help with litigation, the court. The treaty negotiations, I've done all that and I made a decision years ago not to do negotiations but here I am. You convinced me to come back to the table and I told you 15 years ago not to do that which is why I am disappointed. You said go do the court case and we got a victory on title and rights. They told us in court your title is un-extinguished all over your territory – 100%. They also said there is an economic component to that over all your lands. That is what you got in 1997. The government wants you to give up the title and rights in return you will get something simple. Warner and I have a plan to work with you. You will read every chapter put on the table from Canada and BC and Wet'suwet'en have to respond to it.
- Treaty discussions tell you water is not on the table. If you own the bottom of the lake, you own those rights in there. The water license that Rio Tinto pays for on an annual basis is \$15 million per year. This is coming off your territory. You can imagine how much Rio Tinto makes on electricity from your water. OW must tackle this. You need to get involved in this and I can show you how this can be done, in courts, treaty discussions, discussions on consultation & accommodation.
- Consultation & Accommodation: When they sold Alcan to Rio Tinto, the clan has a right to stand up and say this cannot be sold. Don't give up, put up your hand now. We are in a position to stop them from selling that electricity. We sent a letter to the headquarters in London, we need to get



organized (this clan). This can't be left up to OW, but we as a group having this clan, we will work out this issue.

- We are going to move quickly to asserting title and rights and we should move back to making a proper claim on these fronts. Rio Tinto offers this opportunity for you.
- Another issue is that you have lost most of the salmon on your land. You are at the headwaters of the Frazer system. You have lost a huge resource on the land where you come from. When you lost salmon, you had to go into the Skeena system. The salmon is in trouble there now. We will make that argument for you. On the Skeena side, fish coming back to your territory is hardly any at all. It is collapsing due to huge transfers. The rivers are collapsing in terms of food. The food on your territories is so small you are in trouble. We need to figure out how to change that.
- There are a number of issues we cannot solve at the treaty table. Canada does not like me discussing submerged lands as you have a case here on what they have done to you. Hagwilget just got \$21.5 million. If that is the case for a rock in Hagwilget, what do you think the loss is to you?
- I am interested in discussing the forests which you will hear this afternoon. I'm not concerned about what remains, I am concerned about what is going to be here 100-200 years from now. It is a major issue; our children to come are going to ask themselves, what we did as chiefs today. Why did we not tackle these issues?
- I am excited about working with the Wet'suwet'en but this will take years. Most of us elders won't be around to see the results of the work we have started.
- I have been a negotiator most of my life. It requires 5% of my time to go to government negotiators. The big work is working with you. 80-90% must be dealt with people on the ground. If we don't do that, they will succeed in moving you off the land.
- You will have to deal with fisheries, forestry, wildlife, caribou and Rio Tinto. There must be coordinated effort by working with the clans and house groups. It cannot be solved by being in Smithers and relying on a small office doing your business or small bands. We must have a presence on the land.
- The issues for us on the treaty table are a competing claim. You have people on the treaty table discussing these issues, and Carrier Sekanie is claiming the same thing in Prince George. The band councils are doing different things. We must sit and talk to them and bring everyone together. There will be tension on these fronts. You have a situation where pipelines and competing claims must be sorted out.
- I want to finish that all things are not so bad; we have done a lot of work over the years which are useful and can be used when taking these issues on. The court case, the treaty discussion, you need to use that work with people on you land base.

## Discussion:

**You have been discussing water and land, what about air? For 10 years I was paying \$10.00 for 49 years talking on the air. Cell phones we pay for time and air.**



Those resources belong to you. Water quality, air quality is an issue. Are mercury studies being done?

### Where does the money go that Alcan makes?

Rio Tinto makes money off the territory from the electricity. That is where they are making their money. You must figure out how to deal with the problems. You should make a claim for water tax. The government is making lots of money off your land; they don't want to discuss that at the treaty table. They tell us they will speak to us at the end of the chapters and have a treaty.

### Small operators were taken off forest and industries in the 50's. A lot of natives had mills and the government said we don't need you, they have big companies. Can you fit that into your discussions?

The forest economy has collapsed. We need to figure out how we can get involved in that as things come forward. It requires planning how this will be done on your territory. We need to sit and plan it out, come back together and make a plan. The big trees have been logged off, left us with very little. Plantations are in trouble.

Warner: I have friend in Smithers from Ontario and 10 years ago he owned a machine shop. He told me that they utilize blockades back east and he doesn't think treaty is any good. Back east they signed a treaty and they lost everything. He was a white guy from Ontario. The natives now have problems today; there will be no more reserves.

Don: You don't have to go far when we discuss the treaty, you will see what it can and cannot do which is our objective. You are discussing treaty 3. In treaty 8 in 1899 they ceded their title. You don't want to do that. You do not want to surrender title to the government and that is what we tell them. If that is your position, how will we do that?

### Hagwilget got money from fisheries. How can Moricetown go about getting theirs? Was the settlement based on the size of rock or population?

Theirs was above the rock and population but was constructed on band population. Warner showed you a picture of that canyon. In the court case we told them how old that canyon is, 11,000 years old. All canyons are the same age. Do you think the model had anything to do with 9,000 years? No, it is a model constructed on kilos of salmon eaten per year. That is your questions to Hagwilget. You can apply that discussion what happened to you on your land which is a million times different what they discussed, the salmon is lost here. You have mercury pollution which is a killer.

Dept of highways dropped a bridge there.

### How close is your treaty to the Nisga'a model?

I seem them all the same. The objective of the treaty is for you to cede and surrender your title. They actually gave up and got some money and got some core lands and got other fee simple lands. The other one they use is the Tsawassen agreement. It is a small community on the coast. It is not different than what they have for you. Treaty 8 which was completed in 1899 is no different. Treaties before confederation have names rather than numbers. In BC, Douglas Treaty on Vancouver Island is before confederation and the results are the same.



*Treaties force you to do a land selection. Their objective is to take you off your land and push you towards Moricetown. Even if you did a land selection, what would the core lands be?*

### **Negotiations are preset, how hard do we have to fight?**

*We will come at the treaty discussions from another angle as you have an opportunity as you have a completely different approach. You don't need a treaty to do that, you systematically go after your resources.*

**I feel governments come with hats in their hands asking how much they can have. It does not seem right.**

*It is not right. The point is you should turn the table around and tell them. You have un-extinguished rights, go to next level and claim it. Put up your hand. We need to do this, turn it around. The discussion on minerals will be discussed this afternoon. We can change the process of how things get done on your territory as of today. You should be calling for proposals. I'm telling everyone to do this. Ask how it will be done and how will your interests be dealt with. The crown has to come to you, look at what they are making on your territory. We will show you transmission lines, taxes they are taking from you. With pipelines, and document that went to cabinet for PTP from Kitimat to border of Alberta, assessment was \$7.5 million per year. That should be on the table for discussion. Water license should be on the table and we can make that issue take place here. We can't stand around anymore.*

**Priests changed words on what our ancestors were saying for their advantage. They did not know how to speak and write. Shows how the government worked with priests to put the children in residential school. Sounds the same here today, the government control everything without Wet'suwet'en permission. All territory is crown land, the come up with different excuses to take what they want.**

*We will change that but it can only happen if you are involved. I say that to all clans. It is the only way we can make that happen. We will keep working with you.*

**If you put this in media and tell them we are protesting our rights by meeting here; let media get a hold of these conversations.**

*I think once we have media involved we should be doing something. Right now we are in discussions. Let's get work going then tell them what we are doing once we have our plans put together.*

## **NATURAL RESOURCES – David deWit**

Introductions of Natural Resources Team

Important to note we work on behalf of our hereditary chiefs who represent our clan members. We have been handling consultation.

1987 Delgamuukw Supreme Court of Canada recognized aboriginal title to land has never been extinguished and brings us here to today. The government and industry have a duty to consult for development on the land. We have been doing this from our department without a lot of success and we need the support of the clans.



This policy allows us financial resources to research projects. The pipeline proposed goes along the Morice River and crosses Gosnell. We researched our activities in the past, trails, what impacts would there be if they dug a big hole to bury this pipe. The impacts from this hole will impact water quality and fisheries. It will open a road that hunters will use with ATV's and areas not opened before.

We had a number of community meetings to share this information with you. It is for us to look at proposals to see benefits and impacts. It is your territory and we want to stimulate this conservation to blaze a trail to the future. If projects are not approved, we are here to support you. We will support you if you agree.

Revenue sharing and joint ventures are possible but it takes everyone to work together. We cannot do it alone in our department, we need your direction. The clan should give us direction, we really need that. It is a huge territory, 22,000 sq km. We only have 5 staff but we have a lot technology that we are willing to share with clans to achieve their goals.

Maps show where government gave away mineral rights away without asking you. Along with them are water rights and private land that the government plans to sell. We need to bring this information to you. On our tour tomorrow we will show you areas around that are open for Gil\_seyhu to do something with. Also land on Ootsa Lake is owned by Rio Tinto. Yellow dotted map are home places of your ancestors. Purple lines were Wet'suwet'en highways. Over time we have been put onto reserves, been distracted on what we could be doing on the territory. We want to show you opportunities and what is being proposed.

Plantations or tree farms are being created. The shrubs underneath the trees are being brushed aside. One project is hiring berry pickers and there is a project with Woodmere where we can take seeds from berries, grow huckleberry and soap berries in greenhouses. Clans are travelling far to harvest berries. We want the clans to grown berries that suit their needs, closer to home, decide to have a cabin on the territory. If we do the work and put those berries back, we are taking ownership.

Cabins: It is up to clans to decide where they want cabins. Look at the home place maps, take youth out and there is potential for tourism. Our kids could be tour guides, processing berries. We are discussing possible partnership with Woodmere Nursery. Our territories were a garden, we did not have to plant them, and we utilized them. A greenhouse makes it easier to grow inside and put out on the territories. 1/2 of our territory has been logged. Industry is planning to log again. I hear the need for botanicals, devils club and berries. We want to support the stewards of the land and help it heal. A lot of trees are dying from beetle kill which shade the waters. Industry is looking at how they can make money, not what they are leaving behind. There are a lot of solutions and opportunity. We need this discussion.

We must engage clans, this has been a weakness in the past, and we could have done a better job if we had open communication. We need to share information we receive and get direction from the clan and this is how we can move forward. Our ancestors protected these lands in war and court. We need to manage our lands for the future



On your trip tomorrow, solutions will come up. On Sunday, you will do some brainstorming ideas for your future. Those plans will provide us direction how we can work for Gil-seyhu.

We are developing a Wet'suwet'en accommodation and consultation policy. Consultation to date is designed by government. It is a process where government said aboriginal title has not been extinguished. Prove to us you use the lands. We have lost a lot of information, we have information our elders have given us. Information in your names, in songs, dances at potlatches, we would like to try to enhance and promote. We need to be proud where we came from and show our youth. That is where our title comes from. With the consultation process, we need to report to clan member the proposed activities.

It will be beneficial to give us direction, coming from your hearts and Gil\_seyhu. A lot of great things can happen working together.

## Discussion:

**In 1960 a natural gas pipeline went through. Can you open up discussions on that? It goes right through the territories. CN goes through lots of territories and we should put a claim on them too.**

*In late 1950/60's the first pipeline was put through before a duty to consult. At that time we were organized to take this challenge. There have been a couple of explosions due to landslides coming down. The same company wants to build another pipeline, 36" instead of 8". The Chiefs are very concerned. We are very active on that issue. The company says we will not deal with the past project but will work on the new pipeline. A 36" oil pipeline is proposed and they want to ship condensate used to dilute tar from tar sands. Our chiefs are opposed to having oil transported through the Bulkley and Morice. When there is a spill or accident, or oil tankers coming into Kitimat, there is potential to wipe out salmon stocks.*

**Is this meeting open for all Gil\_seyhu? Relatives across the lake did not attend.**

*Yes, there are no bands, just clans. We sent invitations to all communities. Further meetings will target all clan members.*

**When you discuss this information with the chiefs, they are not passing that information to the band members. This is the first time I am hearing of this and I am excited.**

*We need to do more work of sharing information and this is the first of many more meetings to come.*





## John Ridsdale – Referrals

- Google earth map shows Wet'suwet'en territories. Blunt creek area, shows cut block and agricultural areas. Each year we need to know what is going on the territories.
- I have 1800 referrals in my system. Our hope is you will send people to assist the OW. Our schooling with the technicians is to bring it to the people. We have requested someone with each clan, environmental monitoring assistant program at NWCC. These assistants will be out learning how to research and information will come back to the clans. Clans can decide if the project can proceed.
- We are against industry when they do not clean up their mess.
- We want more of our own people trained. It is an opportunity for youth to stay home and take care of their territory.
- We have 38 house territories we have coded and now government is using our system and recognizes our system. They accepted rights and title when they started using our maps.
- All maps displayed have been done in-house at OW
- Wind power projects, they send digital information and we overlay this information over our territorial maps.
- A lot of information came through the court case. Our department works day and night for the Wet'suwet'en people.
- Warner and Don spoke about telling the public we have a right to be on the territory. I made a few copies of an announcement we sent out (attached). It shows that all projects must be done with full consultation. David spoke of pipelines, chiefs worry if you let one pipeline in, it becomes a corridor. CN will transport this but they follow our river systems.
- All trails were one ridge above a water system. Highways were built over our trails. When transporting, our water is at risk.
- I spoke about the price of water. They are taking water tenures throughout BC. On the lower mainland it is 700 on the waterways.
- Warner spoke about land titles. We send letters and maps showing our concerns. We have Layers for moose, berries, medicines and show them our concerns and they come back they will issue the tenure anyway.
- We sent a letter to the senior land officers, province and federal. It is an important statement, we did not cede our territory, and they dismiss us and do not take us seriously. This letter says they are infringing on our rights.
- Parks: Access, can we still do our hunting and trapping, they cannot stop Wet'suwet'en traditional practices. Our aboriginal rights have not been relinquished. We need to be consulted before any projects go on the territories.
- As Gil\_seyhu, you need to tell us what to do, you need to be informed and we need to inform you.
- David will update on Uncha Lake where they made a gravel pit on the location where we had ovens.



- Impacts we had from forestry where we served a writ to BC timber sales. BC has logging practice. They were logging across the lake and building roads and looking for gravel to build roads. They came across depressions and did not know at time, before refrigerators, we wrapped our dried meats in skunk cabbage leaves and stored in holes in ground called food caches. We cooked in ground ovens. We had cache pits and ovens by Uncha Lake. BC timber sales dug up gravel and destroyed pits. We did not know if there were bones. We served a writ and sued BC timbers sales, you destroyed our cultural heritage.
- The Government likes Indians to fight amongst themselves, divide and conquer mentality.
- Our case was held up as the government said they will compensate Skin Tyee and Nee Tai Bhun to agree. That held us up. We could not go anywhere due to no unity. The case is still there but it is dormant right now. We could unite together to overcome this. We can't let government stir the ant pile and make us fight between each other. I hope in time more clan members will come as there is strength in numbers. In late 2006 we served that writ.
- We are working on a protocol agreement with these communities.

## David Belford – Minerals Liaison

- I want to give you an overview of our approach in mineral companies and government.
- Consultation and accommodation guidelines were put together in 2007 which require the crown to consult Wet'suwet'en. These guidelines also require industry to contact us about their projects. The guidelines include steps to ensure we have meaningful consultation.
- We have developed a minerals resources policy based on these guidelines and Wet'suwet'en title, rights and interests. Consultation with the Crown agency and project proponents considers not only impacts to water and lands but also needs to accommodate the interests of the Gil\_seyhu clan. These interests must include opportunities for employment, revenue sharing and business development.
- As OW does not have revenue/funding to support consultation, the Crown (government agencies) and private sector land use and resource developers are informed that they must provide funds in support.
- As mandated by the Chief's, all mineral companies are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en that includes a grant to support our capacity to consult with industry and government.
- There are 14 mineral exploration sites active since 2006 on Gil\_seyhu territories. Some are stated as follows:
  - Low Profile Ventures - Copper Star – north of Chism Lake (early stage exploration)
  - Low Profile Ventures - Lund – in Gosnell area (early stage exploration)
  - Lions Gate Metals Inc. – North side of Poplar Lake area (early stage exploration)
  - Anglo Columbian – New Moon (Morice/Aetna Bay). (Early stage exploration – no activity since the creation of the park).
  - Terrane Metals (Berg) – Sibola Mtns (early stage exploration – no activity planned in 2009)



- Gold Reach Resources – Ox/Seel Lake area – no activity in 2009
- Andy Horsefield – Located on Buck Flats Road (Bob Creek area) – Placer gold exploration
- Innovative Energy – Uncha Lake area - shallow surface trenching, looking for pearlite. In 2007/08 there were 27 mineral explorations on Wet'suwet'en territories. Due to the global recession, venture capital for exploration in 2009 will be considerably reduced but expected increase again in 2010. We need to prepare our position, our policy and intent to ensure everyone knows if you are doing anything on Wet'suwet'en territory, our interests must be considered from the beginning.

## Discussion:

Lions Gate Metals, Poplar Lake Copper/Moly property made an announcement saying they will go ahead with property regardless of the downturn of the economy. That is my wife's home territory. Her sister was born downstream from there and there are grave sites there. We are interested and want to keep in touch with what is happening there. There are several grave sites that are not marked and a house is still there. One person told me it would be close to a camp site in that area where we like to spend time. It is our home territory. That is what this meeting is all about. We want to be informed instead of finding out on the news or radio. Everything seems to be signed and sealed before we know. This information is important what we have heard today. Thank you for that.

*Poplar Lake area is important to Russell's family. There are many cultural heritage sites there. Last year when I met with Lions Gate, I told him he had to talk to Elsie and your family about this project.*

We did that with Huckleberry Mines and we got no jobs. With Lions Gate, we want to negotiate to put our people to work – working/teaching program. We could put a satellite office in Houston. We would like to have kids trained. We want to train our people and put them to work. Our family has a lot of expertise in machine operating. They put in their own people to work and before we know it, it's completed. This is a good start. We live in Houston and see what is going on.

*With their interests in Poplar Lake area, it is important they are informed about cultural heritage areas and that they need to be protected, but what will the families receive? What about business development and employment opportunities? In the past years I have put dozens of people to work. Exploration companies know if they hire Wet'suwet'en, it is one good mark in their favor.*

I saw a pamphlet about Nanika Lake. Americans are flying in to do trophy hunting. It is a long way out, I was told by elders that the territory is too far out and that the Wet'suwet'en cannot get to it or use it. It has not been trapped on since 1945 since my dad went out. My dad was married to Gil\_seyhu. I'd like to know who gave permission to do this business on Wet'suwet'en territory. My dad said he gets there by river raft, stays 3 months and comes back with same raft. He trapped for 15 years. I would like to go to this land. I saw pictures of Nanika. It is Gil\_seyhu territory and deep in my heart I want to go there. I was told by elders it is very important to look after your territory. How can you do it if you don't walk on it and only read about it on a pamphlet? My dad saw homemade traps set by his dad Caspit, had



**no camera. Information is passed on to me, it hurts, not to come on territories, white people come on territories and take what they want and not fair to Wet'suwet'en people.**

*The government granted a guiding license without consulting the Wet'suwet'en. In so far as accessing this territory, the OW will be arranging tours of the new parks created in the Morice Lake area.*

**The cabin being used at Poplar Lake for cultural camps. Who ensured our culture is being followed out there. Young women protocols need to be addresses such as their monthly cycles. The camps are not moving around like it used to. Are there going to be cabins built in different houses? Our family maintains that cabin, my parents and aunty take care of it. Every time they come back, wood is gone, and a mess is made. Respect must be there. My parents are getting old. They go out every spring to ready the cabin for summer. In fall we do char fishing. There are cows in the territory, close to lake; their mess goes into the lake. We fish for char. What can the office do about the cows?**

*These concerns about Poplar Lake have been noted and will be relayed to the appropriate Crown agency. The cattle are injected with medicine and antibiotics and that affects water quality. We are in discussions around agriculture, grazing leases and will open up discussions with those that hold licenses and government and ensure these issues are addressed.*

*I commend Gil-seyhu on the maintenance of their cabins. We had 5 cabins built, one burnt down, some were hard to get to and some were not maintained. The cabins must be taken care of. We as Natural Resources can address the agriculture issues but it is a piece of pride for Gil\_seyhu to maintain that cabin.*

**I want to know if you have a mailing list. House groups are not forwarding information to members.**

*From your registration we have email addresses and mailing lists. Gil\_seyhu needs to work out within house groups to coordinate information. Until we complete address lists, please share information. It is also up to you where you want the cabins.*

**Have you set up a meeting for the culture camps? Discuss protocols, processes on the territories. We want the camps rotated.**

*HSS organizes the meetings.*

*Debbie: This year there different approaches to culture camp as chiefs said want a more culturally appropriate program. A lot of became a recreation camp. Even workers identified ways they can bring culture to camps. We have a revamped the program that will be an immersion program. Language, NR teams, medicinal medicines, harvesting meats and fish. They have been calling for an advisory board. They want to meet in the next couple of weeks. In the past we utilized elders to provide guidance for culture camps. Camp dates will be on our website.*

*Cabins: It is important that the clans have ownership over cabins. The intent is to get people back on the territories and manage settlement areas. The challenge is to maintain them, if locked or prohibited, they cannot be vandalized. The cabins are used all year round by forestry worker, etc. and there is no monitoring. It is a recommendation for all cabins to have signs posted.*



## Francois Depey – Provincial Parks

6 new provincial parks have been created in Wet'suwet'en territory in 2008. Chiefs supported the decision during the Government to Government (G2G) forum that followed the Morice Lands and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) in 2007. They recommended to include Wedzin Bin (Morice lake) as one of those parks as it is a very critical spawning area for Wedzin Kwa (Bulkley/Morice rivers) salmon.

The 6 parks are (in brackets: **CLAN - HOUSE / Chief**):

- Burnie-Shea Lakes (TSAYU - DJAKANYEX / **Kweese**)
- Atna River (GILSEYHYU - C'INIGGIT NENIKEKH / **Goohlaht**)
- Morice Lake (GILSEYHYU - C'INIGGIT NENIKEKH / **Goohlaht & GITDUMDEN - LHUDI BIN / Woos**)
- Nenikëkh - Nanika Kidprice (GILSEYHYU - C'INIGGIT NENIKEKH / **Goohlaht & GITDUMDEN - LHUDI BIN / Woos**)
- Nadina Mountain (GITDUMDEN - KEEXWINITS / **Gisday Wa**)
- Old Man Lake (GILSEYHYU - KAYEX / **Samooch & LAKSILYU - GINEHKLAIYEX / Hagwilnegh**)

Milestones:

- 2008: The office of the Wet'suwet'en Natural Resource department requested that Parks boundaries should match Wet'suwet'en house territory boundaries as much as possible. BC government/Ministry of Environment (MOE) complied with this request for some parks.
- September 15, 2008: first meeting to work collaboratively with BC MOE/Parks on management plans for the 6 new parks.
- September 29, 2008: presentation of the project at the chief meeting.
- November 6, 2008: Park naming meeting in Moricetown – opportunity Moricetown students to get together with elders and listen to stories that could be used to rename parks with Wet'suwet'en names.
- November 25, 2008: report on parks at chiefs meeting.
- February 11, 2009: Parks meeting for all clans in Moricetown.
- March 2009: "Nenikëkh" is adopted as new spelling (suggested by Wet'suwet'en Language Authority) for Nanika park.



- May 1, 2009: presentation for Gilshyu clan meeting at Francois Lake hall.
- Summer 2009: hiring of Karen Plasway by BC Conservation Corp for Cultural Heritage research and input in management plans.
- June 26, 2009: presentation for Gitdumden clan meeting in Moricetown.
- July 30, 2009: All clan meeting to discuss park co-management ideas at Wedzin Bin
- August 17, 2009: presentation for Tsayu clan meeting in Moricetown.

In September 2009 we plan to organize another day on the territory to go with boats to some historical fishing camps at the outflow of Wedzin Bin in Wedzin Kwa and to see the Chinook spawning dunes in the river.

We also intend to have a full day meeting with chiefs (open to clan members) to discuss various options in terms of co-management agreement with BC government based on experiences from other first nation. We would like to invite representatives of the Haida and possibly from the Champagne Aishihik (Yukon) nations.

The Parks are in large areas which are in remote places. Few people have had a chance to go there. (Francois presents southern part of territories and shows where parks are on map).

The Logo was designed by Warner Naziel for the Natural Resource department and we now use it for this co-management project.

One park is Morice Lake. We went with BC parks rangers for a ride on a boat to the lake. Our mission was to identify cultural heritage features. A portion of the park is within Gil-seyhu territory and is actually on the western branch of Morice Lake, towards Atna Bay and river. It takes a good boat to get there in high winds. It is close to Kitimat with big forests and trees.

They have the highest level of protection in BC – Class a Park. No natural resource extractions can be done, no mining, harvest trees. It does not change anything for activities for hunting and trapping for Wet'suwet'en. If there was a treaty, government would group everything towards Moricetown. These parks protect lands and will never be turned into private land. We have info on cultural heritage and trails and have on green maps.

A trail around the lake shore is as far as the southern part of the lake and is close to Kitimat. The trail was used for trade with coastal nations. We need input from your clan what you want to do with this park. You could have valuable, historical information on trails, camps, maintain trails and encourage people to use them. New trails will bring tourism, Wet'suwet'en guides, cabin building. It is difficult to access; you will have to fly in. It has been done in other places in the territory.

There has been a cabin built by people in Houston, actually located on the border between Gil\_seyhu and Gitdumden. It is a Century Cabin – BC parks asked if we want to cut pine trees and bring a small sawmill in and improve the cabin.

### Where is this cabin?



*It is on Morice Lake, on a small arm towards Atna River by a small creek. By that place there was mining prospecting by New Moon. We drew a boundary around their claim. This claim is surrounded by 2 parks and they have no access to go there except to fly in.*

**It is on entrance to Atna Bay. I have been there a few times.**

Another benefit from the natural resource plan is we agreed with government we should have water management to monitor the water on Morice River. It was started last year and was one by fisheries department. They collected water samples to test and monitor how the water quality is now and should exploration come in, see how it affects the water in future. Lorraine Naziel was in charge of it last year.

We need to try to find people have knowledge of this area to promote and protect it. A job was advertised for a Wet'suwet'en person to get involved in our planning and the time to work is for 3 months to spend time in the parks. If you know of anyone who has knowledge in this area, let us know. You said you had no chance to know your territories; we want elders to come with us and have a chance to go there. It can be rough weather, but it is a great opportunity to know your territory. We must find ways for the parks to benefit Wet'suwet'en people.

We encourage young Wet'suwet'en to apply for a ranger position with BC parks. We did not hire anyone due to a budget. Hopefully next week we will hire a planner and want it to be a Wet'suwet'en. 3 Wet'suwet'en of 17 have applied. We are short listing for 3 on Wednesday. We will know by next week.

Atna River is within Gil\_seyhu territory. We expect your clan to give us feedback. It is very remote. You cannot go by power boat. It is difficult to get information about that park. It does not prevent your input on what you want on that park, trails etc. It is important to get feedback as soon as next week as we have a meeting with the planning team MOE, parks and independent contractors. Public meetings will be done to have feedback on these parks. Better to express your opinions before these meetings.

Nanika – Used for by Wet'suwet'en and meaning is told it means “meandering river, canoe following river”. It indicates people used to have canoes there. Idea before fishing in Moricetown, leave this area and portage at bottom of waterfall, flow to Moricetown. The park is split between Gil\_seyhu and Gitdumden. We can get together with Gitdumden and yourself to come up with a plan. We have had some good experience when co-managing with the province and it is good to have Wet'suwet'en think of the decision process and get as many people from FN government, decisions are made unanimously.

Haida Gwaii had a watchman program involved in management of parks. It would be good to train people under the OW and we will have a broader knowledge than what a basic ranger has. We are exploring solutions.

NWCC offers a Watchman Program in Prince Rupert.



## Discussion:

I heard there was a problem with communication with what is discussed at the chief table and clan members are not aware of it. We try to solve that by the website as it is the best tool we can use. The website has been rebuilt and has a section for the Natural Resource department. Anytime we go on the territories, we will post a summary of what we have done and will inform people when we are going there.

We had a meeting in February with all clans and we committed to produce a package for everyone. I apologize we have not done that yet. Newsletters are also posted in the website.

### Where can we get pictures of Nanika Falls?

*Judy can provide prints. There are several slide shows on the internet.*

### What is the government's view on these proposed parks?

*When we met at the Parks meeting in February 2009 there was a misunderstanding regarding the status of those parks. They are BC parks and are going to be co-managed by BC Parks and the Wet'suwet'en. These parks have been approved by the BC government. One of our first requests was to adjust park boundaries so they will follow as to meet Wet'suwet'en boundaries.*

**In the past the land was set aside. If they found good timber or minerals, they have said no more parks and went for the resources. That is why I was hesitant but now I am okay if they can be saved for our future children. Hopefully it will be there forever.**

*David: The chiefs are fully involved in that. Several projects they agreed to work on, water management, park management and old growth forest to protect our old trees. We feel it will benefit industry. Industry said we protect all old growth in parks and we said it was outside the parks so don't mix up everything here. Parks already have secured this. All other projects were a failure. This is a lot of satisfaction as we worked together as government and is something that is good. We are working on good faith on both sides. Most have English names and we have renamed them with Wet'suwet'en names. We need your input. Nanika has been renamed. We need a name for Morice Park and Atna River.*

David:

A couple of ideas for tomorrow, your clan have a lot of skills from education to economic development and you need to work together for your future. There is nothing stopping us except our own will to do something. The late leader, Sara Layton says elders gave their information, authority is there, people just have to do the work and put actions ahead.

Enjoy your trip tomorrow. There are ideas and opportunities you have been thinking about and this is the time on Sunday to do some planning. There are no boundaries, no limitations, the territory is available for your use and we want to support you with your vision and dreams for your grandchildren.





# Gil\_seyhu clan meeting

DAY TWO – MAY 3, 2009

## Overview – Warner Naziel

### Friday – Natural resources presentation

- Referral process
- Wood lot licenses
- Agricultural expansion
- Proposed mines

### Saturday – Field Trip

- We made history by going out on our territory together.

### Sunday – Work Plan

- The mandate comes from the clans. I did not want to take direction from an isolated group of people; I wanted to talk to the Clans to present their information to the treaty table.
- Each chief represents a larger group of people so we brought the clans together
- We took those concerns of the Laksamshu clan to the treaty table and told them what their clan wants to see in a treaty.
- On day one you got a general interest of our history
- Treaty does not sound like a good idea but I'm involved in it. Our ideas for the treaty table are that we will come forth with a message from the clans what they want for their future. The MTWG may have an opportunity to sit with the clans. They are in negotiations with a hereditary system, have worked with bands for many years, a language they speak well.
- Gitinyou, Gitxsan & Wet'suwet'en are all part of Delgamuukw. We want to ensure they know they are working with the clans and house groups
- NR is interested in getting more direction as they are unsure what the clan's strategy is. This is an opportunity to discuss what is important to you.
- We walked trails; felt the cabin, something tangible, a chance to feel Madeline, felt she was there with us.
- Our job is to understand Gil\_seyhu concerns and explain these to the federal and provincial governments, be your messengers. Gil\_seyhu can decide what they want on their



territories; you do not need the OW to do that for you. You have a lot of strong people amongst you, your ancestors did not have the OW to tell them to build cabins, they did it on their own

- Come up with ideas that are Gil\_seyhu ideas, think of bigger ideas, perhaps a Gil\_seyhu trust, getting back on land, building cabins, forestry, be sovereign
- There will be a posting in the newspapers that talks about the Wet'suwet'en are asserting themselves. We are sending out a reminder that land purchased was illegal, it belongs to us, they can still be neighbors
- This is not the last of our meetings. We are asking you for a plan and strategy, tell the treaty team what you want us do.
- Logging & mining concerns. What about Rio Tinto and government making a ton of money off of fee simple lands. Pipelines that are going through you territory will go ahead and we must make a stand.
- We stopped at Uncha Lake cemetery – very important people that were fighting for the land there.
- Chiefs spoke at table, aboriginal rights and title belong to the unborn children. His ancestors were fighting for our aboriginal rights and title, survivors from the epidemic and residential schools.
- You have a tremendous opportunity today to plan for your future. You are on Gil-seyhu territory; listen to the spirits reminding you of what was important to them.

## Nisga'a Treaty - Liz Haizimsque

I want to enlighten you on what we went through. It is very important you get the input of all the people. They had meetings once per year. Chiefs started land claims 113 years ago. The ones that follow, they wanted to settle the land claim as it was going on so long. We lost 80% of our land. Some down in the valley don't own the land anymore. Aiyansh, you can't get gas, no tax for gas and in a couple of years we will be taxed for our jobs. There are a lot of people that do not agree with this. A lot of the people got swayed because it was so overwhelming. 10% did not want the treaty. I was one and it did not mean anything as I was outvoted. We are not status anymore. My ancestors fought for their land and now it is run by white people.

## Craig Haizimsque

I could not talk about the treaty as I did not know about it. I was in high school and there was an annual meeting at the community hall. We were not kept in the loop. Someone was asking me how it went about, all I know a few top chiefs went to Vancouver regularly, spent \$500.00/day to negotiate on tourism, fishing, hunting and land rights. We only got updated once per year.



The implementation will be in 2012. We are carbon, GST taxed, and in 2012 it will be fully implemented. We will need to tax the people to take care of the municipality. That whole reserve, we live in a white people's world. Everyone will be shell shocked and it will be depressing as they are not used to making money. They are used to be given money on 12 portfolios. If you don't spend it, you don't get more next year. We are a 3rd party government. We will be on our own.

An example on finances, my brother was living in Toronto for 4 years and thrived. He was on City Council for Toronto city and associated with presidents of banks. He thought he would do well when he came back. These businessmen wanted an investment of \$1.75 million and to bring a return of \$40 million for technology. They wanted Nisga'a to be their 5<sup>th</sup> partner. They all came from Toronto with our leaders and the elementary questions being asked were simple and they said no.

Give out a legal document 2,000 sq km. (8% of what our ancestors were fighting for). Some were influencing the elders and a few people were informed but they voted against it.

I want to speak to younger people; elders will not be around forever. Our treaty took 113 years. Now we live with the consequences. I heard this was the first day, it is extremely important to keep everyone informed. Ask what they are negotiating. I can't understand the legal documents. I wanted to stress the importance.

Our \$298 million trust fund is gone. An elder from Gingolx asked what happened, where are we on this map? We almost fell off the map. None of our traditions lands we owned for centuries exist.

I see both sides, I work with BC Hydro, am living off reserve. I can see now that I am more informed and the importance of it. Once the treaty is signed, you cannot go back and say we changed our mind. Stay informed; don't

Our \$298 million trust fund is gone. An elder from Gingolx asked what happened, where are we on this map? We almost fell off the map. None of our traditions lands we owned for centuries exist.



settle for once a year meetings. Ours are now every 4 years.

Warner: You now have an idea of the types of things treaty give you. It is up to the clan, what will you do about the DFO, Rio Tinto, forestry, how will you plan your future?

Song: Lillian Morris

Prayer: Samooh

Lunch

## HSS – Sherry McKinnon

Community Accountability Board. We require 2 representatives. It is a 2 year volunteer program. We need commitment. Whoever is chosen is required to go through a criminal record check. Training will be done by Sherry. Members are needed by Gil\_seyhu and Gitdumden.

(Representative) Lillian Morris.

(Alternate) Helen Mitchell

## Sovereignty – Don Ryan

I talked about different forums you have and you have to be involved in all of those forums. This is the most important one for all of us. The court case said title & rights comes from the occupation of the land. You know all different camps and features of your territories you have described over thousands of years and I hear you say you will continue. You must occupy your land.

Institutions you have on your land, house groups, chiefs, that is what the court talked about. The laws you have amongst yourself that your ancestors created thousands of years ago. 13,000 years your ancestors have been on this land. It is about sovereignty. You have the right to have your own laws, decisions on your land. You must make those decisions. I have seen in past few years you have stopped making decisions on your land. We need to reverse that. Chiefs must step up and take up this responsibility. It will not be off loaded onto me as a negotiator. I am giving it back to you. You have heard my opinion on treaty and Nisga'a. It will not solve problems you have on your house territories.



Your exercise for now is you need to make a decision how you will take back those house territories and you will tell us today. I can give you all treaty chapters and study together and will take 3 days or longer. You must be committed. Tackle Rio Tinto – it is a huge project for you. 1948 agreement is very important. How many of you have read it (between Alcan and BC)? You need to do that to understand that agreement. I've talked to elders that are now gone decades ago about this. I can still hear their voices when I hear you talk about the 1948 agreement. Alcan manages a lot of your territory. We will bring you the agreement and map on what Rio Tinto holds on your territory. It requires you come here. We can discuss what we can do with Rio Tinto. When Alcan was sold, you should have put up your hand and we are now behind and must catch up. What is benefit, management regime, objectives on Rio Tinto?

Treaty

Litigation

Consultation & Accommodation

Rio Tinto

Mining

Forestry

You cannot give this to someone else. You cannot dump it on OW. You take all of your business and put it on Debbie. You have done that. Anything goes wrong, we blame her. You did that to me before. You asked me to come in and I'm not targeting anyone, my voice is loud as I am a chief, we all are in this room. We can't blame our chiefs anymore. We are all chiefs that can make decisions.

You cannot sit around and talk anymore. You have a big responsibility; you control the top end of this watershed. I've hear moratorium mentioned. You have that obligation to protect this as you are being removed from the lower parts of the land. Fee simple lands all around. They are taking away the best parts of the land. I will show everyone how that is done. You will not let OW run consultation and accommodation. You have to do it. The C&A process comes to you in the house and clan. These are new words for lots of people and I will show you how this is done.

This is the best forum. Title and rights are held by the houses and clans. All 5 clans need to work together to protect Title & Rights.

You have 15-20 minutes to create a Decision Making Model

- How will you make decisions
- Inform us how.



## Decision Making Model

Education in all departments

Direct negotiators

Financial Management

Environmental Protection

Selection of member

Policy guidelines

Trust funds

Clan meeting planning

House chiefs

Clan Rep for each major issues, mining, forestry, Rio Tinto, Water, pipeline,

Communication

All decisions written in Wet'suwet'en before going to government

Rio Tinto

- Open discussions
- Hereditary system
- Feast system

Forest Agreement

- Where does it sit now
- Use feast hall
- Clan reps at table
- Respect in the feast hall
- Chiefs need to be careful how they conduct themselves, do not bring shame on the house
- No chief is to leave feast hall upset
- Father clan brings chief back in
- Chief with feather must host feast
- No political issues to interfere



- Before DIA we used feast system
- Chiefs need to talk history of traditional territory and young need to be taught
- Younger must be accountable to each other
- Clan meetings when issues come up – clans make decisions, to house chief and to table
- Each clan makes decision on territory, we need an AGM so we can make the decision and have an all clan meeting so each clan knows what the others are doing and support each other and our house chiefs.
- Standing as one against the government
- All members must be responsible for each other

Don: You are struggling and you cannot struggle with this issue. I don't know all the wing chiefs here and how the house functions. I know the chiefs, house names. I was looking to see if you have wing chiefs in your house. I am from the fireweed clan. (Don discussed his system).

Referrals come to us (chiefs). Delegate out to who is responsible. Chief has obligation to delegate out to other people. We need to understand historically how your decisions were made. I was told you met all the time over your territory. You moved on your land, seasonal ground. This area was grasslands historically. You had rotation burns on your land.

Set up a schedule for the clan. I will meet with your house groups. We set up watershed tables and bring them all together. Set the dates for this year and don't wait too long. You have a lot of work to do. I heard you discuss monthly and quarterly meetings. What will it be?

Samoo: What about industry timelines?

- It is critical for you to be organized

Birch Bark House, Unis'ot'en (Dark House) & Thin House



# Gil\_seyhu Work Plan May 3, 2009



## FORESTRY

Logging - seedlings to harvesting

Forest health

License

Ensure locations are clean and safe

Logging roads need to be deactivated

Mountain pine beetle - use for smokehouses, log houses, cabins

All logs cut on trap line,

Logging trucks travelling through territory

Silva culture





Ensure pesticides are not used for re-growth

## MINING

Endaco mines, have not addressed what has been done to the watershed

Huckleberry mine

Get permission first and clans be compensated

Rio Tinto - compensation

Pipeline must pay compensation through OW or band office

Poplar Lake, mining for copper - we do not agree, want to work with staff to develop a plan

Moratorium on industry that will have negative effects on our territory

## CULTURAL

More culturally appropriate camps run by Gil\_seyhu

Training Centre

Education from kindergarten to Grade 12

Generic FN program specific to Wet'suwet'en

Self Government

History reported & brought back to clan

We must be accountable for what we develop

Regular meetings to discuss activities

Respect

Potlatch system

Child rearing process

Bring back traditional names, which are vacant, songs & stories

Territory names - Map with Gil\_seyhu territory with Wet'suwet'en names as in past

Signage - recognize significant land marks on territory

Access to maps

Traditional medicines to be taught to youth

Log cabins

Graveyards - lost, 2 families fixed graveyard, band do same

Ask outsiders to respect our lands

One culture camp for every house to understand trap line

Chief names that go with the land

Chief songs and meanings should be brought back for our future children

Chiefs must be consulted on traditional territory at culture camps

Host camps over all territories (5 clan)

Do not want industry to affect our territories



Genealogy needs to be updated.

It is our responsibility to add our own names for our future children

Will teach youth of the hereditary system.

Offer culture camp to non-natives for revenue

Each house organize camp workers & decide on activities

## Education

Gil\_seyhu consultation process

Clear connection to negotiators

Ensure information is factual to make decisions

Increase communication, lack of information on treaty

Calling for a treaty model & see future for children

Still talking about same issues from 1995

Gap between new generation and old generation. Need to understand each other

Need at least one week before meeting notification

Need open communication with OW

Quarterly house meetings - educate clan

Newsletters, not everyone have access to technology.

Members want to see newsletters to see what affects houses

Inform each house of industry

Chiefs meetings hosted during day and members work.

Mentor program to attend chief meetings to learn treaty process

Information not communicated to young generations

Transparency and confidentially - conversations around treaty

Issues brought forward from community to AGM table, they cannot deal with issues then and there. Want them to be addressed when they are brought there

Advertising from all meetings - use more than one medium.

More detailed presentations on industry are needed for each house.

We received a broad stroke - need to have more of these meetings through

Gil meetings or quarterly meetings. Need our issues brought forward to make informed decisions.

Mentor to sit with chiefs, information provided in writing and brought back to clan

Report chief meetings through video and post on website immediately

Show how decisions were made historically

Remove government, we will rule our traditional territory



## WATER

Rio Tinto did not pay for rights  
Rivers need to be cleaned  
Rio Tinto compensation required  
Maps provided to houses to use for planning and visual aids  
Require more information to develop a plan  
Set up more house meetings for discussion

## Pipeline

No to all pipelines  
Kitimat is where fish come from and must be protected  
Ootsa lake is our territory  
Require more info to enable us to make decisions  
Maps provided to house to use for planning and visual aids

## FISHING

We need Board of Directors from Gil\_seyhu clan  
We need someone with who is a fluent speaker and knowledgeable on all activities  
Fish hatchery, house be contacted for future meetings

## HUNTING/GATHERING

Access & rights diminishing  
Look after the animals  
Fishing & trapping  
FN Trappers Assn. – employ youth  
We need to hunt and fish on our territories.

## ECONOMICS

Revenue sharing amongst clans  
Compensation on loss of resources (retroactive)  
Equal opportunity  
Create jobs through land claims



Gil\_seyhu first rights to jobs  
Some FN companies do not support FN members  
Receiving notices on activity & not consulted  
Gil\_seyhu have right to say no  
Clans not respected from international owners  
Calling for 100% jurisdiction  
Agreements made over years to support negotiators  
Protocol agreements  
Bands receive compensation for flooding, personal belongings lost but families on territories are not considered.  
Tax on all industry  
Industry to supply employment, FN set up for failure, not equal wages & treatment poor  
Monitor all promises made to FN  
Too many broken promises  
Cheslatta to give update  
1/2 mill should be given to Gil\_seyhu  
Cheslatta views Gil\_seyhu as outsiders. Want history to be known  
Management decisions must come from the community  
More clan meetings and newsletters once per month  
We need a casino

## LANDS

Rangers based on Wet'suwet'en laws  
Responsible for our territories  
Claims that Indians are owners  
Notice sent out  
Create alliances  
Who is responsible for leasing  
Land overlap - OW to develop maps  
Governments want to separate us over lands.  
We want to overcome these issues.  
Maps available at each clan feast  
Want to come together as one nation to converse with government.  
Lands are not for sale - need to be compensated for our loss through royalties.  
Continue future meetings for planning  
Road upgrades required. Need to access traditional territories.  
No trespassing on traditional territories.



Stake claim on our territory and let industry know they cannot take over.  
Industry needs to consult and get permission to have business  
Elders can teach us on traditional use of our lands.  
We must be caretakers of our land as Wet'suwet'en  
Band government interfering with traditional territories and governance.  
Jurisdiction on developing Wet'suwet'en laws.

## AGRICULTURE

Farmers/cattle

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Pesticide use on herbarium  
Don't dirty territories  
Chemicals being used  
Preserve food, health of land  
Clean up creeks and lakes  
Groom members (education)

## Health

Addictions  
Help others, don't go against each other  
Members must be treated equally

## Tourism

Overlaps with other nations, Gil\_seyhu are 100% owners  
Guiders  
Hunting beaver in 1930's