

# GITDUMDEN CLAN MEETING



8/19/2009

FINAL REPORT

This report is a summary of the 3 day community forum which took place on June 26th, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28th, 2009 at the small feast hall in the Moricetown Multiplex.



# Gitdumden clan meeting

DAY ONE – JUNE 26, 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 day Gitdumden 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.
- Warner presented Gitdumden clan information on maps.
- I encourage you to share stories about the territory, history of Gitdumden you have been taught
- This afternoon the Natural Resources will discuss projects on the Gitdumden territories.
- Judy and I went through all of the treaty documentation, sifted through and threw away duplicate papers. We ended up with a large table with the papers filed chronologically. This amounted to approximately \$12 million dollars over 15 years. As a result of this, we have decided to create a Distinctly Wet'suwet'en Treaty which involves the clans input and decisions on what the clans want to see what they want on their territories. What does Gitdumden want to see on their territory? On day 3 you will identify which clan members will work hard for your future.
- 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 the 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 need to find our mandate to the treaty table and it comes from each of the clans. You don't need to depend on someone else doing the job for you. Don't wait for OW to do something for your clan. Your resources are within your clan. With those resources, you can deal with industry. You can decide your future. It might mean setting up your office, dealing with ministries. I ask you to think about that over the next 3 days, discuss your future.
- Our Elders talk about the days when clans sat together to discuss their territories. We can now make stories for the future generation rather than hear stories.
- You will see your territories tomorrow. All of your ancestors are here.
- Warner reviewed the history of Wet'suwet'en ( attached presentation)



The treaty process is not the right path for us. This process takes your title away from you

## 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.

- 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.

- 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 the 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. We are going to move quickly to asserting title and rights and we should move back to making a proper claim on these fronts
- 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.
- 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.

- The treaty process is not the right path for us. This process takes your title away from you. We need to be aggressive as to what we can do on the land. I can quickly take you through the treaty process. They have a formula and figure how much they will offer you in cash. Our neighbors in the Nass signed a treaty, speak to them and they will tell you the same story. \$750,000 per person is what they will offer you. When they give you that money, you will not own the land. They will also offer you land and that will be around Moricetown. They also have a formula, one section of land. They are still trying to get you off the land. I'm interested in discussing the options with you.
- The government is not sharing the rent with you they have earned through mining tax, forestry (stumpage), transmission lines. I've been pushing the government to deal with revenue sharing.
- A lot of people have fallen asleep since we did the court case. I've been away for 10 years from this area. I left to try to show other people around the province you can deal with these issues on your land and should be able to benefit from these resources. I want to move quickly and hope you will be prepared to engage in this process.
- I want to share what we do as Gitksan. They are setting up their authority on the land. We have done all the policy for the whole tribe. We've done work on water, forest, wild life, mines and minerals, oil and gas, those are huge areas. We are now working on regulatory regime. We are prepared to share this with the Wet'suwet'en.
- You will see what your people were doing on this land tomorrow. It was so sophisticated. They understood the ecosystems. They were micro-ecosystem management. This is not taught in any university in the world. Look at land base, the objective was to ensure that salmon went to every household. The most sophisticated of medicines in the world is being lost and we need to change that. Nobody discusses that, no matter what project is happening.
- We want to see how we can work with you. We will show you all of the forums. Consultation & Accommodation, treaty, the court are all forums. This is the most important forum that allows you to come together and work together and manifests itself in the feast hall. The decision making processes you have is another institution you have. You have a form of government; it is a lot more sophisticated than what happens in parliament. It is a voluntary system and you must participate if you want it, if you don't, you will miss out.
- You will have to deal with fisheries, forestry, wildlife, caribou and industry. 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.
- I am interested in engaging the house groups and feel this is the only way to go. We need to mobilize people on the land and have them provide for themselves. We will set out to work on this.





- 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

Carmen Nikal: I am adopted into Gitdumden. I am here for my daughter and children she may have and children of clan members. Times are difficult, so many social problems and poverty. I listen and think, I see far into the future and am doing okay today. Many are not. When you are living in a community without adequate housing, how do people resist the urge to accept the money? How do you help people see what is offered while working toward their own economy; that can take decades.

*Part of what I can say, the reality is what you do on the land. In spite of what happens, the land provides for us and we need to protect that.*

Rene Tom: Huckleberry mines, there is a lot of creeks that impact Morice river. Why is nothing done about that?

*This came up when dealing with Blue Pearl mine. It is a project that does have an impact on our waters. The tailing ponds are the issues around mines. You need to figure out how to design them. I see a lot of companies won't spend the money to protect those ponds. There are new technologies now and we need to deal with Huckleberry mines on this issue. You need to be involved in the processes early. Do not be afraid to say no if the company does not respond to what you want.*

Greg George: You mentioned the clans, how do we plan to do that. Why treaty? We are at different levels. One of our house groups has formed a society. We have no money and are trying to access resources to address education, health. We tried to work with governments but the guidelines restrict us. We cannot move forward and a lot is happening on the sides of our desks. We would like a dedicated organization for our house group. We tried capacity funds through INAC and it did not work. Can we approach with your team?

*We have been trying to get the decision that the authority for the land is the house group and they must get organized. You must organize yourselves. You should be handling all of that. We have been trying to bring the house groups with clans to work together to deal with these issues so people can handle C&A discussions, all discussions with the companies and government. We are getting close to that. The EA office has official policy they recognizes the house groups. It is a challenge. Work on capacity agreements is one of the many fronts that people need to work on. If we are involved with capacity agreements in the OW, it should trickle on down to the house groups. As a project gets to that point to go forward, the capacity agreement will assist you. We are working on revenue sharing and do not have to wait for treaty to do this. My preference is to work with the house groups and clans. This afternoon we will discuss projects on Gitdumden territory.*



Vivian Tom: Education, New Zealand has their people going to University to get degrees. Why don't we have the same rights? They send enough for 10 students to attend university, why can't everyone go like in New Zealand? Couldn't INAC and other organizations get together to open doors for university? New Zealand gets it for free.

*Nothing will change in terms of education inside of treaty. The last chapter was on fiscal relations and what happens to money from territories and how does it get distributed back into the territories. We could set out your own policies, benefits from different companies. Have them put funds aside for scholarship for people in the community for undergrad and graduate work. If a country deems education a priority, it will happen and that is where we need to go. Post secondary education does not have to happen only in large cities, they can be brought here. Technical schools need to be pushed. 95% of our people do not go onto university; they go to trade and technical schools.*

Jerry William: We have to pay the treaty money back with interest. How can we walk away from this?

*Repayment of loans is coming up real quick here. I have tried to make people not accept the deals at the treaty table. I said do not do that as it will get back to you. There are different ways it can be done. If you reject the offer put on the table, you can get out of it. The total amount of money for these negotiations such as revenue sharing can do that. You can do a lot of things on the commercial front. The Society Act is legislation that tells you how to behave.*

Molly Wickham: I live in Victoria and have been going to school for 8 years. I want to address issue of mines. They are not training our own people on the mines. We need to look at training our people for trades.

*We need to look at other activities on the land, look at impacts on policies of each house group and you will see you have very little left.*

Jerry: Rather than dealing with provincial and federal governments, can we deal with international treaties?

*Nothing is stopping us from talking to other parts of world. Canada wants to talk to us in regards to protecting sovereignty for Canada. It is not for our interests*

Prayer: Archie Alec

Lunch

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Introductions of Natural Resources Team

Background of OW: The Delgamuukw Court case started in late 70's – Wet'suwet'en & Gitksan made a declaration that we have not lost our lands and would not sign treaties. INAC imposed their government. Wet'suwet'en & Gitksan stood up for their title of their land. We did not extinguish our rights. 12 years



after the court case, we have been distracted by the treaty process. Today we will plan the future for your territories. There is also a duty to consult. It is the clan's responsibility to say we hold title.

It is important to note we work on behalf of our hereditary chiefs who represent our clan members.

1987 Delgamuukw/Gisdaywa - The 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.

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.

We have proposals on breathing life into trails, erecting houses and cabins. We need to be on the territory. We can only do so much from our homes and offices. We reclaim our authority by doing this.

We need clan runners to check emails and go to the elders to update them on what is happening. This is to empower the clan. We need to have resources and clan meetings; we need your input as there is only a small group in our NR department.

The Ski hill is on Gitdumden territory. We need to meet with the clan to see what will best meet the needs of the Gitdumden.

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. 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.

There is access to education but it has its challenges. When Gitdumden starts talking about what they want on their territory, they need to assess what skills are necessary. If we know what we want to do, we can partner with industry and get training for on the ground positions.

We were in discussions with Blue Pearl mines and they are still trying to get their EA permit. The chiefs were concerned with the quality of water. There was no data. Blue Pearl said the water would meet drinking water quality. The information revealed they could not remove arsenic and other heavy metals. Another way they would take out ore would cut across mountain towards Storey corner near Moricetown then back through Smithers. This is the one of the last areas for Laksilyu and Gitdumden that have that has not been



impacted by logging. There is a Coastal ecosystem there. The area bodes great wildlife habitat and trails. That is the scenario now and we have decide our future for these different projects.

Another project is the railways that go through. In 1996 CN was a public company and turned private. Old Acts allowed Canada to build railways. Title around railways has not been transferred and they legally do not have title. They want to double up tracks in Gitdumden territory. They came to us as they have to disturb lands around crown lands. They thought they could go through us and we stopped them. We have to recognize their territories and speak on your title. We start off with letter writing. We have an opportunity to address the issues with CN. They continue to spraying pesticides along the railway tracks.

Trespass, Wet'suwet'en managed our territories from other nations and utilized trail and highways. Our ancestor had an elaborate and economic trade system. We have proposals on breathing life into those trails, erecting houses and cabins. We need to be on the territory. We can only do so much from our homes and offices. We reclaim our authority by doing this.

## Discussion:

How do we get money from our trap lines to build the cabins?

*It will be through the clans or treaty negotiator. It took the government a long time to take the Wet'suwet'en off their territories. The government overlaps layers of jurisdiction. We have access to a grant which will assist us to build 5 cabins. We will put displaced forest workers on this project. Contact me or Warner for more information.*

Layne Boucher will talk about a proposal he is doing and it involves the trails around Owen Lake tomorrow.

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 Gitdumden to do something with. Yellow dotted maps 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.

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 Gitdumden.

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 Gitdumden. A lot of great things can happen working together.

## Discussion:

*If we know a project is not good for our territory, why can't we say no? We need to have the power to say no together as a clan.*

*Due to case law, the government will not grant FN this control. I believe there are ways of saying no. They don't recognize that aboriginals have veto power. We can say we protect the area for our medicines. Clans need to mobilize together to show their strength.*

*Some clan members don't know what is going on here.*

*We use Facebook, our website, newsletters, faxes to band offices and Friendship Centres, Bulkley Browser, CFNR and The Peak radio stations. We need to work on sharing with our families. If you are Wet'suwet'en, how do we communicate that. It is empowering the clans. Genealogy charts need to be updated. Through registrations from these meetings, we now have mail out addresses and emails. Clans need to have their own clan meetings. There are not as many feasts as there used to be. After this weekend, tell clan members what they have missed. We are open to other avenues.*

*Does OW have access to family members for children in care?*

*Diana does through Reconnections.*

*Can we have access to the Natural Resource data base?*

*We can share that information but we cannot give out access to this information. We have a membership logon in our website and will post these minutes. We can publish burial sites, etc.*

Education: Right to education. All bands get monies for education. If you are not on a band list you are on a clan list. We need to use INAC system for now to empower education for all members.



## 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 to attend the 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 Gitdumden, you need to tell us what to do, you need to be informed and we need to inform you.
- David Belford will update on mining activity.



- 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

- The exploration of minerals and metals on Gitdumden House territories presents challenges, threats and opportunities to Wet'suwet'en. The challenge for Gitdumden House members is to determine which mineral resource development projects to support and which projects to oppose as a threat to other values on the house territories. Threats can include potentially negative impacts to water, fish, wildlife, the environment and cultural values from the release of toxins, acid rock drainage, increased road access and infringements to title and rights.
- Opportunities presented by mineral exploration and mine development include training, employments, business development and revenue sharing.
- There are eight (8) mineral exploration sites and two (2) gravel deposits that have been active on Gitdumden House territories since 2005.
- Most advanced activities mineral exploration is as follows:
- Blue Pearl Mining Inc.'s Davidson Project on Hudson Bay Mountain is the most developed.. They are seeking an EA certificate. In November, 2008 the EA requested more information as the government agency, community or ourselves were not happy with the water quality discharged into the Bulkley. Discussions will begin again. The chiefs oppose it due to water quality and haul route. We asked Blue Pearl to come forward with changes.
- Eagle Peak Resources (Onion Project) on Astlais Mountain in the Babines has the potential to become an open pit Copper/moly mine but the company will likely option the site to a different company for development.
- In the Nanika River Area – Nanika Resources Inc. (Lucky Ship Moly Project) has a high potential to negatively impact salmon spawning and rearing areas. We have expressed our concern to the



government and company in 2007. Since then Nanika has gone through a reorganization and have not done any work in that area.

- We need your input on all of these major mine developments so we can respond with your interests.
- When we received these referrals, we use Consultation & Accommodation guidelines to start the process for permits and applications. We have insisted that the government consults us. The mining industry has been motivated to speak to us, more so than the government. We have a minerals resources policy that companies must adhere to.
- It is important for clans to pass on information on these areas.
- The last couple of years I have put people into the mining industry (@ 12). It is good to have Wet'suwet'en on these project so we can catch negative impacts.
- We need to provide a united front to government and industry.

**Molly:** What kind of notice do you get when companies are proposing exploration? What can we do at this point?

*We receive mineral exploration applications and notice of work from the Minister of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources and are given 30 days to respond. Mineral exploration companies go to government to get applications and permits, then we contact them to inform them of our title, rights and interests and discuss the project and inform them of the Chief's requirements for a Memorandum of Understanding. We are asserting our Rights and Title and they will wait for us.*

*In the last 3 years mining recognizes they have to see us at the OW and many are talking to us. This gives us an opportunity to discuss accommodation. Early this spring we put out a notice to everyone on the territories. The requirement is for industry to speak to us and a sign a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure Wet'suwet'en have a direct voice with the company. They may go to government, but they also recognize they must meet with us. This is why we need clan input. These are your territories.*

*We are building a track record to acknowledge our territories. This is the first time we have asked the clans. We can engage when we get work permits, if clans don't want to engage, we can say no from the start. The mineral title belongs to us, how can we few take on the government? The unity of plans must be put in place first. The clans need to mobilize, know their territories, whose names are attached over the territories, we have been too complacent.*

**Carmen:** I'm amazed how much mining activity there is on Gitdumden territory. You have a lot of work. In BC in the last year is the independent power projects and the government allows hydro electric power on small streams (almost 100 in the province). I could go tomorrow and seek a claim for a power project to sell hydro. Are you involved in tracking this?

*There is increasing amount of interest in alternative energy, wood fiber, and gasification of fiber in woods. All are making demands on the territory. We need to collectively discuss this.*

*We have been fighting coalbed methane which produces energy for homes. We can say no only for so long because we use power. What is a cleaner way of doing it? We are working with some companies like wind*



power. There is only 1 person interested in Hagwilget and they are looking at east Boulder Creek. This could be advantageous as river power is not favorable as they call it "anchor ice". More are done on the coast where it is milder. We need to keep our ear to the ground. Government controls these projects. BC Hydro controls the whole process. We won't have to ask BC Hydro for permission. There will be an energy crisis in the future and we need to be involved. We need to create solutions and business opportunities.

**Rene:** Can you give us an update on Mountain Pine Beetle?

Pine trees planted are being hit by the beetles. One reason is that they only planted one species. Now they plant 3 species by forest companies. They don't want a functional ecosystem; they want it to be logged in another 100 years. We have many tree farms. We work on berries and need to put our own efforts to plant what we want. We are working with Woodmere nursery for carbon credits. Plant your gardens; it is a way of taking authority back. There is an opportunity to buy Woodmere Nursery and the Wet'suwet'en can create employment and ecosystems.

- Consultation and accommodation guidelines were put together in 2007 which require crown to consult with 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 that takes from these guidelines and puts in a policy that requires Wet'suwet'en rights and titles. There needs to be consultation in regards to project are not only impacting water and lands but also needs to accommodate the desires of the Gitdumden clan. They must include employment, revenue sharing and business opportunities.
- I tell the government and private sectors that the OW does not have revenue coming in. They need to provide us that.
- A memorandum of understanding will go out to all mineral companies that will require them to pay us money to ensure we have capacity to consult with industry and government

## 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.



These parks are in large areas in remote places. Few people have had a chance to go there. This map shows the southern part of the territory and where parks are located.

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 Gitdumden territory. It takes a good boat to go to the East branch of the lake in high winds. The south end is close to Kitimat with different climate. It is more coastal and you can find very large trees.

Class A parks have the highest level of protection in BC. No natural resource extractions can be done, no mining or harvesting of trees. For Wet'suwet'en it does not change anything for activities like hunting and trapping. If there was a treaty, chances are government would group everything towards Moricetown. These parks protect lands and will never be turned into private land. We have information on cultural heritage and trails and they are displayed on the green maps.

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

NENIKEKH is the proper spelling (according to the Wet'suwet'en language authority) and will be part of the official name for the park. It means: "meandering river, canoe following river". It indicates people used to have canoes there. People would dig canoes in the winter/spring and use them to go down the river below the falls, across Wedzin Bin (Morice Lake) and down Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) to go fishing in Moricetown. The park is split between Gitdumden and Gil\_seyhu. We can get together with Gil\_seyhu 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.

We are working on a booklet as to what we are doing with the parks. We will have a discussion at the chiefs meeting to see what they want to do with the parks and sign a co-management plan with B.C.

Chief meetings are open to all members. If you want to get involved, talk to Karen Plasway. Karen has been hired to collect as much input as possible for co-management plan. We want to meet with knowledgeable people regarding the six parks and if you know of anyone, please let her know so she can interview them. We have flyers on the table for July 30<sup>th</sup>.

[Is there a possibility of bottling our own water?](#)



*It doesn't just have to be from the parks. All ideas are good, take the opportunity to go to the chiefs.*

Peter David: China Creek – Discussing our tradition, our territory is between Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en. The sign is in the wrong place. It should be erected at China Creek. We don't speak Wet'suwet'en anymore. Our communication is the most important thing. I only learnt of this meeting two days ago.

Woos: 15 years we have been talking with the government. This began in 1952. The elders would get together. How many of you know your territories? Today we can get a job anywhere. Our constitution is our territory. We have done nothing with it. Look what you want from the government, tell them what you want and then they will get it straight. Pipelines will kill our fish. There was a mine going up at Atna Bay. If that mine goes in, the waters will be polluted and we will lose everything. We have been at the treaty table and are getting nowhere. Our lands are being clear cut, big industry comes in. There are 2 mines in Smithers we are trying to stop. We stopped one in Telkwa a few years ago. That is what I want to do with all the mines to support our grandchildren coming up. Our ancestors walked up from here to Morris Lake. I've been to Huckleberry mine. We are losing our spawning grounds due to mines. I know all the names from Burns Lake to Moricetown. I try to lead the best I can. Someday you will be here. It's nice to see you. You talk about treaty; I've been up north 4 times to sign papers. Look at the Nisga'a treaty; you will pay tax on reserve. Within 5 years they lost everything. Is that what we want, I said no. I'm not ready for that. We are trying to save all the water we can from Owen Lake to Bulkley Lake. There is an old mine at Bulkley Lake that will start up again.

David: One good success story is when the chiefs opposed coalbed methane in Telkwa. The government was trying to advertise gas tenure. We had native and non-natives standing up. They went to the CEO of the company and they took a stand. To this date the government has not advertised this tenure.

I spoke earlier of the 2 pipelines that have been proposed and have the potential to destroy our fish. Our leaders have said no and it will be the biggest fight in the century. It will be an active summer, gives us more reason to mobilize the clans and we can take this opportunity to help our future.

The clan maps come from the court case. We told chiefs that it is up to their clans to put up signs. We have signs and posts available, we need to get together as a clan and decide where we will put them

## Discussion:

I heard a problem with communication that is discussed at the chief table and clan members are not aware of it. We try to solve that by the website. The best tool we can use is the website. It has been rebuilt and has a section for NR dept. Anytime we go in 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.

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



*When we met in Moricetown there was a misunderstanding that these parks are not Wet'suwet'en parks. They are BC parks and are going to be co-managed by BC Parks and the Wet'suwet'en. At times they were close to Wet'suwet'en boundaries and asked them to adjust their heir park boundaries to meet Wet'suwet'en boundaries. The government is behind this project.*

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, the 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.

## Karen Plasway

I have a pamphlet for you with all six parks in there which include house groups. I am gathering stories what can be included in the park planning process such as special sites, ie Moose lookout and medicinal plants. All those things count and it is your input I need to know about so it can be included in the plan but does not have to be for the public. MOE and OW will keep this information. Parks will not be accessible to public where trails may be. We require suggested Wet'suwet'en names for 6 parks. It can be a story related to the lake. If you have stories, I would like to interview you so we have this recorded and how it can be designated into parks management.

# Gitdumden clan meeting

DAY THREE – JUNE 28, 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 chiefs 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 but 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
- Natural Resources 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.
- Our job is to understand Gitdumden concerns and explain these to the federal and provincial governments, be your messengers. Gitdumden can decide what they want on their territories; you do not need the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to do that for you. You have a lot of strong people amongst you, your ancestors did not have the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to tell them to build cabins, they did it on their own
- Come up with ideas that are Gitdumden ideas, think of bigger ideas, perhaps a Gitdumden trust, getting back on land, building cabins, forestry, be sovereign
- 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. Pipelines that are going through you territory will go ahead and we must make a stand.
- You have a tremendous opportunity today to plan for your future. You are on Gitdumden territory; listen to the spirits reminding you of what was important to them.

Prayer: Wigetimstachol





## Sovereignty – Don Ryan

The court talked about the institutions you have on your land, house groups and chiefs. The laws you have amongst yourself are those 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.

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.

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

You cannot sit around and talk anymore. There are 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.

# Gitdumden Work Plan



# June 28, 2009

## TREATY

Take back our title and rights  
We want territorial rights  
Taxation: Land and industry

## CULTURAL

rites of passage  
feasts- focus on youth  
reconnected to elders & chiefs  
governance  
hands on experience on territory  
document stories & legends  
acting out in feasts, drama theatre,  
drum in chief - dance to their seats  
youth will learn where seats are  
fill positions of inactive names  
go to elders, parents, relatives and ask questions  
trap lines - utilize - build summer homes  
rebuild cabins - bring children to teach them  
revitalize and utilize language  
get back to land and teach the language  
clan meetings once or twice per month in each territory  
support for hereditary leadership - support youth  
chiefs training - we are being watched today  
bridging the gaps - local organizations, OW, band  
office, chief & council, friendship centre  
recommendation to have youth beside chiefs for  
language barrier  
OW open Facebook for each chief  
educate clan members about wing chiefs and proper  
pronunciation



OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TEACH YOUTH CULTURE, DO NOT  
RELY ON OW  
RESPECT FATHER CLANS - THEY SUPPORT YOU  
COMMUNICATION - USE WALKING STICKS TO GO DOOR TO DOOR  
TO ATTEND FEASTS ETC.  
PLACED IN WELLNESS WHEEL  
CHILD BIRTHING  
HOUSE PITS, CACHE PITS  
RESISTANCE CAMPS - STRONG BODY, MIND, SPIRIT AND TO EACH OTHER  
BRING TRADITIONS BACK TO OUR PEOPLE  
WET'SUWET'EN CLASS VERSUS FRENCH CLASS  
STORIES - SHARE AND CIRCULATE SO WE KNOW HOW OUR ANCESTORS LIVED  
LINEAGE AND FAMILY TREE  
LEARN OUR OWN TRAPLINES-COMPENSATION FOR TRAP LINES  
TAKEN AWAY FROM ALL OF US.  
ARTS & CRAFTS, CANOES, TOTEM POLES, MOOSE HIDE PREPARATION  
FORMER FISHING SITES  
CULTURE - TEXT BOOK IN PROCESS  
MEDICINES  
USE FEAST TO RAISE MONEY TO ASSIST CULTURE, I.E. TRANSPORTATION  
FACILITY RENTALS

## EDUCATION

HAVE OUR OWN PEOPLE TEACH YOUTH  
HAVE RESPECT FOR ALL CLANS - LEARN THEIR  
BOUNDARIES.  
MENTORSHIP  
LANGUAGE  
DRUMMING & SINGING  
CLAN RETREATS

## WATER

LIFE FOR MAN, ANIMALS AND PLANTS  
ECOLOGY AND HABITAT



## Resources

Office of the Wet'suwet'en – Natural Resources Dept.  
UAJ  
Establish programs ourselves (MCFD)  
No to pipelines – start pushing back  
Want a say in all industry coming onto our territories  
We need to be consulted

## FEASTS

UPHOLD VALUES  
LEARN RESPECT TOWARDS EACH OTHER  
LEARN OUR LAWS  
LEARN ALL CULTURAL AREAS  
SHOW OCCUPANCY

## UNITY

ALL CLANS, BANDS & FAMILY

## COMMUNICATION

WORD OF MOUTH  
POTLATCH  
TALKING STICK  
GROUP TO COMMUNICATE  
CALENDARS, EMAILS

## ECONOMY

SATELLITE OFFICE IN VANCOUVER  
Incorporate buses with clean fuel