



2012 / Nisga'a Nation Special Assembly Report

Summary of Key Issues, Responses, & Action Items
from Assembly Record of Proceedings

May 7-11 / Gingolx, B.C.



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot
one heart, one path, one nation

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Introduction to the Report

Special Assemblies of the Nisga'a Nation are provided for by the Nisga'a Constitution.

In May 2012, the Nisga'a Nation gathered for a Special Assembly in Gingolx for several days to discuss central issues facing the Nation.

In respect of that Assembly, this report summarizes and identifies:

1. The key issues that were articulated by Nisga'a citizens,
2. The responses by NLG in relation to the issues identified, and
3. The particular actions items that were, from the record of proceedings, items which respondents indicated that Nisga'a citizens could expect to see some form of follow up.

Where possible, the report has attempted to incorporate the language of the speaker i.e. to use their words and expressions. Minor edits have been made for clarity, and some duplicated questions/responses omitted. Where there may appear to be ungrammatical expressions, this is often due to notes which attempt to capture the actual speaking style of the speaker or which occasionally capture comments in point form.

It is hoped that this report will provide:

- A review of some of the key issues that arose from the conference to ensure that the comments of Nisga'a citizens are afforded an opportunity to be heard,
- Provide information in response to these questions and comments, and
- Identify any actions items to ensure that any such topics are identified and followed-up on.

Executive Panel Presentation

Breakout Session /

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, CITIZENS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE EXECUTIVE PANEL PRESENTATION. COMMENTS AND CONCERNS WERE RAISED COVERING A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE *NISGA'A ELECTIONS ACT*, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, COMMUNICATIONS, FOLLOW-UP FROM THE LAST SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Reference Document:

Executive Panel Presentation

Subject / *Elections Act – Section 35 Amendment to the Nisga'a Government Act*

Comments

- Clarification needed on amendment.
- At last WSN sitting, why was the Bill defeated?
- Why can't the Council of Elder's members sitting at WSN vote on motions?

Response

- Section 35 of the *Nisga'a Elections Amendment Act* amends the Member's Code of Conduct by restricting Nisga'a citizens from holding specified office positions, including an employment position with the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Village, Nisga'a Urban Locals and Nisga'a Institutions. This is what Nisga'a citizens wanted as part of the transparency. It has taken two years to bring this into force. The same amendment restricts Nisga'a citizens from acting as a officer, trustee or Director of the Nisga'a Institutions. Finally, section 35 bars a Nisga'a citizen from holding a position from a public officer whose position is prescribed under section 10(b) of the *Nisga'a Administration Act*.
- This section 35 amendment was passed at the October, 2011, WSN sitting and would be in force November 2012. This private Bill was tabled at the March WSN sitting because this amendment would affect members financially if wanting to run for office. The Private Bill was tabled, debated and defeated by the House.
- The House approved the Council of Elders to sit inside the Chambers to participate in discussions. Our Constitution does not allow anyone other than the Chairperson of the Council of Elders to vote on motions.

Subject / Fiscal Responsibility – Recommendation

Comments

- Village Governments or Nation experiencing deficits: Recommendation must be considered as an expenditure in new fiscal year.

Response

Subject / Finance – Recommendation

Comments

- Change legislation to allow upload of audit to website (village).

Response

Subject / Communications – Recommendation

Comments

- Allow media to report on village government meetings.

Response

Subject / National Housing Policy – Recommendation

Comments

- Would like to see a national housing policy to be followed within our Nation.

Response

Subject / Nisga'a Foundation

Comments

- Very important that during planning there are other entities within the Nation who are doing same type of work, such as WWNI. Important that communications happen.

Response

- Will review recommendation.

Subject / Economic Development

Comments

- Recommendation: Regarding the purchase of Nass Camp and Vetter Lodge, stay away from business ventures and leave it with the entrepreneurs.

Response

- Purchased property through the recommendations of elected members. Regarding Vetter Lodge, we don't want to be on the outside looking in when another developer moves in. Nass Camp is going to be used as a staging area for storage and movement of equipment towers/ cables for the NTL. They have confirmed they will rent space there.

Subject / Prince George Local

Comments

- There are a lot of Nisga'a people in Prince George: need help to start a local.

Response

- There will be a general election polling station happening in Prince George at this year's National elections.
- In regard to Urban Local start up: example, Secretary Treasurer assisted Terrace Local, in NTC days, on drafting a resolution to present at the Nisga'a Annual Assembly which contained their dedication to start up a local, which the Assembly heard and then granted the start up. Similar resolutions were presented by Prince Rupert and Vancouver Nisga'a citizens.

Subject / Nisga'a Language

Comments

- Statement: People working for the Nisga'a Nation should be taking Nisga'a classes.

Response

Subject / Special Assembly

Comments

- Recommendation: Close everything in the Valley to encourage all citizens to attend.

Response

Subject / Emergency Preparedness

Comments

- Have everyone involved.

Response

- Exactly the kind of info. we need when villages start their planning.

Subject / 2010 Special Assembly Follow-Up

Comments

- What happened? There were supposed to be visits but didn't show.

Response

- The Q&A for the last Special Assembly was posted on website and forwarded. As President I attended three in Gingolx, two in Gitwinkshilkw, two in Gitlaxt'aamiks, and one in LVG.
- The 2010 Special Assembly report is included in the materials.

Subject / NCG Report

Comments

- When will we hear the NCG Report?

Response

- The NCG report is scheduled for Wednesday.

Subject / Commercial Trust Fund

Comments

- When can fishers get a hold of the monies held in Trust? We have a right to participate as any other Canadian citizen as equals in fisheries.

Response

- Page 111 – part 58 of NFA.
- There are two funds: Lisims Conservation Trust and Commercial Fisheries Opportunity Fund, directly ties to those non-salmon species allocations. When we have completed negotiations with Canada then we can access that Fund. We don't have a control of their time-lines. They made a statement that they will take a look at the crab outside of Gingolx. Wouldn't commit on halibut. We will move forward.

Nisga'a Emergency Preparedness Committee

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Breakout Session /

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, CONCERNS AND COMMENTS WERE RAISED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE. SPECIFICALLY, CITIZENS WANTED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF RESOURCES AND AID WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND HOW THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

Reference Document:

Emergency Management Plan

Subject / Emergency Operations Centre Involving more than Village Government

Comments

- Newsletters should be given to update citizens. There is worry about all the people left without resources. Soup kitchen for a place for citizens to go and eat.
- The fire department needs to have their own station and teach about fire safety.
- There needs to be more newsletters on emergency preparedness and more help from the community.

Response

- Across the province it is encouraged that citizens have 72-hour preparedness. There is assistance from the local VG.

Subject / Prince Rupert Urban Local Plan

Comments

- There should be a generator at the community hall for people to gather at the hall.
- Need to get serious about adopting an emergency plan for the Prince Rupert Local.
- A copy of the presentation was requested.
- The City of Prince Rupert needs to prepare for an emergency response.

Response

- Will share the Emergency Plan on the website and provide copies.
- Emergency Social Services provide for them after their place is damaged. Also training for emergency social services.
- Additional information regarding emergency preparedness is provided on the website www.pep.bc.ca

Subject / Nisga'a Lisims Government Point of Contact & Social Services

Comments

- Do you have a list of contacts for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)?
- Is there some form of alternate plan in case a situation occurs?
- What about anything that goes on beyond 72 hours?
- Request to provide households with daily needs such as food, emergency needs etc.
- Where is NLG going to set up social services?
- At what time is NLG going to set up the Evacuation Plan?
- Will NLG be conducting those plans with VG's?

Response

- We will keep the contact list up-to-date.
- We have a couple of cases where we have done coordination with various agencies such as NVHA, DFO, and RCMP to coordinate the transport of emergency medical supplies. After 72 hours we worked with the agencies to transport grocery supplies from Prince Rupert to Gingolx.
- As indicated in the presentation, we will adapt the plan to each Nisga'a village, and identify all plans to each specific village.

Subject / EOC Enquiries

Comments

- Reinforce with the EOC that GVG recognizes that NLG is the main EOC. In their absence who do we recognize as the next person in line?
- We had to set up the EOC centre because the GVG couldn't contact any of the Directors.
- There needs to be a designated person within the local villages to be trained.
- Thank you for sorting out the satellite phones.
- Wildland fire training: Six from the fire department at NA Fire Department. There are trained people but no equipment.
- Who can declare a state of emergency? Everyone needs to know in the Nisga'a Nation who can declare a state of emergency.
- It's very important that every village has trained EOC personnel.

Response

- There is a provision for a coordinator and that's my position.
- My job is to encourage everyone to be ready to respond. The Executive Director is the person in charge from NLG. The positions shift depending on the decisions made. It is all a matter of interest of training. This is how backup is addressed. It can be done by whoever is available on site.
- The president of NLG makes the declaration of a local state of emergency.
- The concerns that are being brought up are making the communities more aware.

Subject / Emergencies within Gingolx

Comments

- Does the president have a red phone in his office? Because we need to get a hold of him in a few moments.
- We need to be able to move within 15 minutes or less. Need to get the notice to our people as soon as possible.
- Village Governments recognize the social economy within Gingolx.
- The Gingolx VG has provided each home with an emergency preparedness package for the first 72 hours.
- Prepped Main Hall for an emergency with a generator that accommodates heating, electricity, etc. in the event of any emergency.
- We need to train community members.
- Is there going to be an additional amount for training local members just in case our current members are not in the village?

Response

- I don't think he has a red phone in his office. Definitely reachable when he is on the road.
- Your concerns will be to the officers.
- While declaring a state of emergency, it is possible to ignite the declaration of a state of emergency without approval by the President in the event he is unavailable and it is deemed necessary.
- Without a state of emergency, villages can activate the plan.
- We'll note your comments to be put forward for the next Special Assembly Report.
- NLG doesn't have a responsibility to ensure that citizens are individually prepared.

Subject / Pandemic Plan Recommendation

Comments

- Addressing a pandemic plan is really important. Wanted to make note of the work we have done with NVHA.
- Encourages the other communities to work on their pandemic plan.
- Thanks to John Kervel for the exercises that were done, they really opened the eyes of the local villages.

Response

Finance

Breakout Session / 1

SUMMARY / THIS BREAKOUT SESSION DEALT WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SPORTS AND RECREATION FUND, THE NLG BUDGET, COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH MANAGING THE SETTLEMENT TRUST AND THE NISGA'A COMMERCIAL GROUP. CITIZENS WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THEY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY INCOME TAX AND PROPERTY TAX.

Reference Document:

Finance Directorate

Subject / Sports & Recreation Fund

Comments

- In regards to the \$200,000 provided for sports and recreation, couldn't the money be used for a healing centre or to support family structure? Sports are important but those individuals can still engage in fundraising. It looks like this money is replacing the need to fundraise.

Response

- The sports and recreation fund was created after discussion and requests at the Finance Committee, Executive, WSN and the Special Assembly about supporting teams. This was also approximately during the time of the 2010 Olympics. NLG had previously already been providing donations and support to the All-Native Basketball Tournaments so this fund separates those monies from the other donations.
- The purpose of the fund is to assist groups or individuals who are working hard and are developing skills in sporting activities but have a financial barrier preventing them from excelling. The scope of the fund is pretty broad and can provide funding for other activities like dance.
- When someone applies for funding, they do not receive the full amount for their trip, so a component of fundraising is still required. As the fund gets more popular, it is possible that each application could receive less funding as well as further requiring teams or groups to fundraise.

Subject / NLG Budget

Comments

- Is it possible to review the budget for NLG?

Response

- The audited financial statements include budget information within the Statement of Operations. The budgeted revenues and expenditures for each activity is listed as well as the expected surplus.
- The budget itself is available for inspection at the Lisims building by any Nisga'a citizen upon request.

Subject / Settlement Trust Management Costs

Comments

- What are the costs of managing the Settlement Trust? Some citizens are able to read and understand financial information quite well and we would like more detailed reporting than just the value of the Trust. We hear that monies were withdrawn from the Trust to subsidize losses in previous years, is that the case?

Response

- The costs of managing the Settlement Trust are included in the audited financial statements as a separate line item in the Statement of Operations titled "Settlement Fund." The costs are approximately \$900k and are based upon the market value of the Trust. The higher the market value, the more fees are paid.
- Detailed reporting is provided to the Finance Committee and WSN, and the public is free to attend those meetings. We have the Trustees and Investment Managers report their results every year to the Finance Committee and the next scheduled meeting is in July.
- Page 29 of the report shows the activities of the Trust and there have been withdrawals and loans from the Trust. We have engaged in loan activities when NLG engages in activity, for example the Nass Area Strategy, where we expect reimbursement, but that reimbursement is not immediately received. It can sometimes take six to 12 months to receive reimbursement. We take loans from the Trust because it is cheaper

than taking monies from an external financial institution and because the interest paid is included in the Trust's investment income. It is keeping more of Nisga'a money within Nisga'a control. Since March, 2012, when the report was prepared, NLG has repaid all the loans which it has taken out from the Trust.

Subject / Management Fees

Comments

- There was some discussion that the management fees were renegotiated. Is this true?

Response

- The fees themselves were renegotiated and have been reduced as a percentage of the market value. The dollar amount of the fees has increased but, because there are economies of scale to managing a larger portfolio, the calculation of the fees uses a lower percentage so it costs the Nation less in fees when the Trust is performing well.

Subject / Budget Surplus

Comments

- What is the reason for the large surplus? Our communities need money to assist the people and there is a concern that NLG keeps putting money into failing commercial ventures. NLG should look at what its priorities are and provide those surpluses to assist citizens.

Response

- Finance is one element of the government. We do go through a budget process. We do ask Village Government and Urban Locals about what money is needed. The surplus doesn't have to be spent each year, it can be carried over and each year NLG has given each community additional money.
- Over the past 4-5 years the Nisga'a Nation has not given any additional money to the Commercial Group. Only the start up funds. We have forced them to get their own money.

Subject / NCG

Comments

- Where are the financial reports on the Nisga'a Commercial Group? There is very little reporting on them and it is unknown whether they are involved with the transmission line. What is their strategic plan? Maybe they should have a website and give reports to the community. It is recommended that the NCG provide public reporting to each of the four villages.

Response

- Financial information for the NCG is included in NLG's audited financial statements. If the notes to NLG's audited financial statements are reviewed, there is a variety of detail about their assets and liabilities. On schedule 2, their statement of operations is represented in the column titled "Investment Fund." The accumulated deficit there relates to the initial startup of those entities.
- NLG has the opportunity to negotiate direct contract awards for the NTL. NLG has looked to obtain these contracts centrally on behalf of all Nisga'a entrepreneurs. There will be a presentation on Wednesday afternoon on the status of these negotiations, but NCG has been involved.

Subject / Sports & Recreation Fund

Comments

- How can the Nass Band access funds from NLG for the purchase of new instruments and uniforms? The Nass Band is receiving invitations to attend various events but is having difficulty finding money.

Response

- There are two options that are available. The Sports and Recreation fund was born due to requests from citizens at the special assembly and villages at the finance committee. The same can occur here where the villages can put forward the request at the next budget meeting to request a fund to be set up. NLG has acknowledged the importance of a music program and has acted upon requests to support the music program at SD92.

- In regards to specific funds that could be accessed by the Nass Band, depending on the type of activity that the band is expected to be engaged in, it is possible for an application to be made to the Economic Development Manager to access a Business Development Grant or an application to be made to the CEO's office to access the Sports and Recreation fund.

Subject / Property Tax

Comments

- How will property taxes and income taxes affect individuals on income assistance? If the housing authorities have to pay property tax, they could increase the rent charged to individuals on income assistance.

Response

- NLG is working on developing the property tax model, and the elected members have the ability to provide relief as they see fit. There is no desire to put a hardship on Nisga'a citizens.
- The income tax effect will likely be nominal as the amount of money provided to individuals on income assistance is fairly low and is likely below the level for income taxation if income assistance isn't already deemed non-taxable.

Subject / Social Development

Comments

- Are there additional funds for staffing of social development or for providing training? How about for the post secondary program?

Response

- The SD Advisor position at NLG is currently vacant and there is a budget allocation to fill that position. Programs and Services is working with Finance to develop a realistic plan on potentially adding other staff should the operational plan require it.

Subject / Income Tax

Comments

- If an employee travels on behalf of their employer and gets paid for their costs, is that taxable income?

Response

- If the employee is simply getting reimbursed for costs related to their employment, there is no income tax effect.

Subject / Property Taxes

Comments

- What are the timelines for property tax? Who is responsible for providing information sessions? There is a lack of information there and this needs to start soon. There are some home owners who don't know how property tax will affect them.

Response

- The responsibility for providing information sessions falls to NLG. We do intend to provide those sessions however it is difficult to do so given the current status of property tax negotiations. There are a few principles that have yet to be agreed upon and thus it could be a source of misinformation for NLG to provide information that has yet to be agreed upon. It would cause a lot of confusion if NLG were to make a statement in one meeting and then subsequently be forced to retract it in another.

Subject / Fisheries Start-Up Program

Comments

- Inland fishermen have been struggling with their operational expenditures. Is there something that can be done to help them?
- How are taxes going to affect senior citizens? When people are receiving pensions and they have only that fixed amount of income, given that hydro bills are \$600, how are they going to be able to adjust?
- Is there a possibility of NLG having a pension for its citizens?

Response

- There was a fisheries start up program for inland fishers where individuals could receive \$2,000. Half of the money would be free while the other half would have to be repaid. The repaid monies could then be offered to other fishermen. However very few individuals repaid their \$1,000 so the fund was discontinued for lack of monies. It is unfortunate that this was the case as it could have continued to exist to help inland fishermen today.

- Seniors receiving pension monies from Canada could very well be below the minimum level for income tax so there could be no monies owing there. By submitting tax returns though, they can receive a rebate for GST/HST paid which reduces or eliminates the cost of consumption taxes on seniors. There is also a potential property tax deferral system that NLG could enact. Individuals over the age of 55 would be able to charge their property taxes as a lien against their home. When the home is sold or passed on to their kids, the taxes would then become due. Considering that the home would likely be fully paid off, it seems reasonable for the kids to pay a little something in order to get a free home.
- The elder's package is a program that has cost NLG almost \$7 million in the past ten years and is expected to cost another \$12 million over the next ten years. We are looking at the sustainability of this program and are considering replacing it with something else. One of the options is to replace it with a pension but these are very preliminary discussions.

Subject / Home Owner's Grant

Comments

- What is the additional home owner's grant?

Response

- The additional home owner's grant is a program established by B.C. to provide property tax relief to individuals over the age of 65. The grant reduces property tax by \$275 though it cannot reduce tax payable below \$100. The illustration in the report assumes NLG will mirror the program, though this is something that will have to be decided upon by WSN.

Finance

Breakout Session / 2

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT THE REIMBURSEMENT OF NEGOTIATION COSTS, THE FUTURE OF THE ELDER'S PACKAGE, THE MANAGING OF THE SETTLEMENT TRUST, EXECUTIVE PENSION PLANS, AS WELL AS CONCERNS ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES FOR THOSE ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Reference Document:

Directorate of Finance Presentation

Subject / Negotiation Costs Reimbursement and LFCT

Comments

- The documents refer to reimbursement of negotiation costs in relation to impact benefit agreements. Is this capacity funding?
- Who appoints the Trustees of the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust?

Response

- Yes, capacity funding reimburses the Nation for negotiation costs.
- The LFCT has three trustees. One appointed each by Canada and the Nisga'a Nation and a third who is jointly agreed upon.

Subject / Elder's Package

Comments

- Is the Elder's package being phased out?

Response

- There is discussion occurring as to the sustainability of the Elder's package. With an expected \$12m to be paid out over the next 10 years, it would have to come from the Settlement Trust. No decisions have been made about phasing it out or replacing it.

Subject / Executive Compensation

Comments

- Does the Executive get a pension plan?

Response

- Elected members must follow the stipend policy for their compensation which allows the elected members to receive a pension if a plan is approved by the Executive. Currently there is no pension plan approved nor has there been health benefits provided to elected members. Given the amount of travel that elected members engage in and

the potential health risks associated with that amount of travel, direction has been provided to administration to put forward a plan for benefits similar to those received by employees of NLG and the VGs.

Subject / Settlement Trust

Comments

- Who is the Trustee for the Settlement Trust?

Response

- The Trustee is Royal Trust, an arm of the Royal Bank of Canada. They manage other Aboriginal trusts as well.

Subject / Settlement Trust

Comments

- Does the Settlement Trust have an investment policy statement and trust agreement? Are these available for public review?

Response

- There is a trust agreement and investment policy statement approved by the Finance Committee and WSN, though they are not public documents. Elected members and NLG staff can respond to questions in relation to it and reports are provided to the Finance Committee on the investments.

Subject / Settlement Trust

Comments

- How does a firm become an investment manager? Is there a request for proposal?

Response

- The Nisga'a Nation is only the beneficiary of the trust, with Royal Trust acting as Trustee. It is the Trustee's responsibility to engage in the day-to-day administration of the Trust including the selection of investment managers. Should new managers be required or new investment types be desired, Royal Trust engages in a search. The Nisga'a Nation has an opportunity to provide input on the process.

Subject / Settlement Trust

Comments

- Who are the investment managers?

Response

- The three investment managers are Connor, Clark & Lunn, Scheer Rowlett and Capital International.

Subject / Property Tax and Social Assistance

Comments

- Within the B.C. property tax system, individuals who own homes or vehicles are required to sell them if they apply for social assistance. Will the Nisga'a Government similarly require individuals to do the same in the Nass?

Response

- It is a fairly logical argument to make that individuals with valuable assets should be required to access the equity in those assets before accessing social assistance. The Province does have a system in place which defines what types of assets individuals receiving income assistance can retain but they do not need to dispose all of their assets.
- The Nisga'a reserves discretion over both the property tax system as well as the social development system. It would thus be within the authority of the elected members to make a decision within either policy as to which direction they wish to take.
- The immediate concern right now though is to provide education on taxation to all citizens so that they understand how the system works.

Subject / Elder's Package

Comments

- What year will the Elder's package be phased out?

Response

- There is no immediate time frame for phasing it out. There will first need to be a decision as to whether to retain the current package or to change it. Once that decision is made, some analysis will need to occur on what to replace it with, if anything. Should the decision be made to phase it out or remove it, it likely will not be made effective immediately but happen over a period of time. However that time period cannot be determined until the first decisions are made.

Finance

Breakout Session / 3

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, QUESTIONS WERE RAISED REGARDING FUNDS FOR ADULT EDUCATION, ACCESSING URBAN RENOVATION GRANTS, FUNDING OF THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FUND, AND OWN SOURCE REVENUE. IN ADDITION, CITIZENS RAISED SEVERAL CONCERNS RELATED TO PROPERTY TAXES.

Reference Document:

Directorate of Finance Presentation

Subject / Education Funds

Comments

- The School District needs additional funding for adult education. While the School District included additional monies for Language & Culture and the music program, there were reductions elsewhere. The First Nations Education Steering Committee is not providing funding anymore. It is hoped that SD92 and NLG can work together to get increased funding to the schools.
- Does the Village of Gingolx get monies for adult education?

Response

- The provincial funding formula is complex in its calculations but provides for, among other things, funding for unique geographic factors when school districts have to service large areas with few students, second language funding and adult education funding. NLG follows that same formula. Like many school districts in BC though, there is declining enrolment at SD92. The decrease in enrolment has mostly been offset by inflation adjustors to the per pupil funding rate but it can result in reduced funding.
- Adult education funding is difficult as Nisga'a adults have different needs and timetables than adults living in other school districts. NLG and SD92 have agreed to provide a separate funding formula for this but the details have yet to be finalized.
- The funding under the original FFA provided additional monies to Gingolx because it was more isolated than it currently is. The current FFA flows that funding forward and Gingolx has used that money to provide an adult education program.

Subject / Urban Renovation Grants

Comments

- Is there a policy on the urban renovation grant program and who is prioritized? It does not seem that many individuals in Vancouver are getting approved. Can the allocation be increased for renovation grants?

Response

- NLG developed the urban renovation grant in program in 2007 and developed the policy at that time. It is currently posted to the NLG website with the application forms.
- There have always been more applications than grants available so we have had to prioritize to individuals where there were health and wellness concerns related to elders or children. Those applicants who are unsuccessful in one year do have their applications carried forward to the next year, though we generally ask for new quotes.
- The majority of the applications we receive are for individuals living in the Prince Rupert and Terrace areas.
- We have previously done a one-time increase in the amount of funding for this renovation grant program to get through some backlog. We are reviewing this program along with the urban housing grant program to see if monies can be re-allocated between the two on an as needed basis.

Subject / Urban Renovation Grants

Comments

- Is there a deadline for the urban renovation grant applications?
- Who do I contact at NLG for the status?

Response

- There is no deadline though new budget allocations are made available in April. By the end of the summer, the allocation is usually spent so it is more likely to be deferred until next April.
- The contact at NLG is Akimi Okabe.

Comments

- Where did the surpluses from prior years come from? Were the monies to the villages and health authority divided amongst them? It appears that NVHA needs more money since they no longer have a dentist and it would be nice if they had an optometrist.

Response

- The renewed FFA provided for \$8.4 million in one-time funding to compensate the Nation for the delay in renegotiating the FFA. It was monies meant to reimburse NLG for funding already provided to the villages and locals so it was already spent by the time it was received. The surplus therefore is a representation of that.
- Other aspects of the surpluses relate to investment income earned within the Settlement Trust. The Surplus in fiscal 2011 also relates to government costs for which NLG was able to receive reimbursement for from Nass Area Strategy proponents. The 2012 surplus mainly relates to Impact Benefit Agreement monies.
- The \$1.1 million provided to each village was divided amongst the four and includes monies for land management, local priorities and additional funding for governance and administration. We provide the full amount of funding we receive under the FFA for health services to the NVHA. They have their own processes to ensure proper budget allocations for required services though we do speak to them and monitor them to ensure we are meeting our treaty and contractual requirements.

Subject / Commercial Fisheries Fund

Comments

- Why can't we access the \$11 million Commercial Fisheries Fund? Politicians and fishermen seem to have a different perspective on what this money is for and how it should be accessed. We should have everyone meet to ensure we are all on the same page.

Response

- NLG wishes to ensure the money is used most effectively and efficiently and there is definitely some disagreement on how to do that. The value of the fund is \$13 million and the only policy on it is the one or two paragraphs in the Treaty. It is something that is being worked on.

Subject / Finance

Comments

- Can you provide some additional detail on what the tangible capital assets, other revenues and \$187 million accumulated surplus represents?

Response

- Tangible assets are all the physical assets owned by NLG including the Lisims building, the Museum, Nass Camp, Vetter Lodge and miscellaneous equipment and furniture. It also includes the 2000 square km of Nisga'a Lands.
- Other revenue mainly represents investment income from the Trust, contractual monies from DFO, the Province and other entities as well as disbursements from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust.
- The accumulated surplus is a representation of the "equity" of NLG. It is the assets net of the liabilities of NLG.

Subject / Finance

Comments

- Are there any conflicts of interests that exist when NLG signs a contract with someone for funding?

Response

- No, these are either government programs that are available to all First Nations or other entities, or are from other government entities that provide funding to meet certain objectives. For example, the Job Opportunities Program was to give individuals the opportunity to gain work. It dovetailed with silviculture work that NLG would normally have to engage in anyways, so it was beneficial to use external funding rather than NLG's own.

Subject / Special Assembly Funding

Comments

- How much money is provided to each local to for their members to attend special events like the Special Assembly?
- How are people accountable for money that they receive?
- Prince Rupert and Terrace have received some assistance in their buildings, can Vancouver receive some as well?

Response

- No community, Urban Local, or Village, has been provided monies for their members or residents to attend the Special Assembly. The only monies provided is for the elected members to attend.
- There have been issues in the past where the trust that NLG places in each organization to manage its finances has been breached. NLG continues to monitor each organization through financial and other reporting. Each community has to present their budget to the Finance committee and has to justify their expenditures to that committee.
- There has been some discussion at the Finance Committee to provide some assistance to Vancouver for their building. The last instructions provided were for Vancouver to provide a plan for the Finance Committee to consider.

Subject / Property Taxes

Comments

- If individuals on social assistance and government-use buildings are tax exempt, it appears to be a heavy burden for those communities who provide them services. Will the NLG pay anything into the property tax system? How about the homes maintained by the school district and health authority?

Response

- It is up to WSN to decide whether individuals who are on social assistance will be exempt from property tax.
- Provincial government offices operated in Vancouver do not pay property tax to the municipality but they do pay grants in lieu of taxes to recognize that they do use some municipal services. There has been no discussion about NLG, SD92 or NVHA providing similar grants in lieu of taxes, however it is again something that would be up to WSN.

Subject / Property Taxes

Comments

- Who will receive property tax revenues? Is it going to the B.C. government for disbursement back to the Nisga'a?

Response

- Taxes will be paid to NLG directly and net revenues flowed to each village thereafter. NLG will administer the program.

Subject / Property Taxes

Comments

- For a commercial business operating on Nisga'a Lands, are there going to be any property tax incentives for them?
- Where does the property tax jurisdiction end?

Response

- The major discussions have been on residential taxes which are what B.C. is most concerned about. NLG will have discretion over commercial property tax though there have been no decisions made. There are a very small number of businesses within Nisga'a Lands that would have to pay commercial property taxes, so it is not a large immediate concern.
- The jurisdiction of the Nisga'a property tax regime will not likely go beyond Nisga'a Treaty Lands.

Subject / Own Source Revenue (OSR) and Taxes

Comments

- How will Own Source Revenue affect taxation?

Response

- OSR is a complicated topic in that it is a federal construct to reduce federal funding to a First Nation that can generate its own funding. The property tax system and the provincial income tax revenue sharing would likely have no OSR consequences. The federal government has indicated a desire to reduce federal funding on a dollar for dollar basis in relation to federal income tax revenues created. NLG believes this would be a disincentive to engage in any taxation and believes the appropriate rate should be 46%. A negotiation of this issue is quite likely though it may also lead to engagement of the conflict resolution provisions within the Treaty.

Subject / Special Assembly Funds & Elder's Packages

Comments

- How much money was given to each local for the special assembly? At one time, each local was given the same amount despite the differences in geographic location.
- Will there be a survey done to see how many citizens attended from each community? It would be interesting to see.
- There should be some financial compensation provided to elders who attend.
- Has it been reviewed how feasible it would be to remove the Elder's package? Will it be replaced by something else?

Response

- Special assembly funding is derived by the planning committee. NLG provides monies to the host village for its expenditures and does the necessary calculations. Each local receives money for travel of their elected members and the distance from the Nass of each local adjusts the monies paid.
- The attendance sheets do allow for analysis of the individuals who attend and it may be possible for NLG to provide that information.

- The Elder's package is being discussed by the elected members. The Elder's package was meant to recompense individuals who suffered under the *Indian Act*, and to compensate individuals who took their jewelry, their gold, and sold it to provide funding to the Nisga'a to go through the negotiation process. There are now some individuals approaching 60 who did not have to sacrifice in that way. It is unclear therefore whether the Elder's package is meeting its original purpose moving forward.
- Follow-up: Analysis and reporting on the distribution of delegates who attended the special assembly.

Subject / Taxes, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Comments

- Does CRA have the authority to seize homes willed to an individual who has an income tax liability?

Response

- NLG will not be involved in the enforcement and collection of income tax. The usual CRA provisions will apply and unfortunately it is not immediately known what those provisions are.
- Follow-up: Research and provide information on CRA asset seizure provisions.

Subject / NLG Assets and Investments

Comments

- Does NLG own any assets in urban areas?
- Has NLG considered investing in properties in Vancouver or Gingsolx that could create jobs?

Response

- The only two assets owned by NLG off Nisga'a Lands are two properties in Terrace.
- We do critically review investment opportunities and would consider opportunities outside the Nisga'a Lands though there is nothing immediately that we are looking at.

Subject / Programs & Services

Comments

- We need more information about what is being done to protect our children in care.

Response

- We are now going into C-6 and wanting to take care of our kids where they live. We are looking for Nisga'a foster homes for the children we will be responsible for.

Subject / Property Taxes

Comments

- What happens if an elder refuses to pay property taxes?
- Who enforces the paying of property taxes?

Response

- Enforcement is one of the principals that are currently being negotiated with the Province.
- Elders have the option of deferring their property tax. These taxes would act as a lien on the property which would have to be paid when sold or bequeathed to the son or daughter of the homeowner.

Subject / Taxes

Comments

- Without taxation, how are Urban Locals able to generate their own revenues?

Response

- Prince Rupert is attempting to generate revenues from renting out their building as is Terrace. Vancouver holds events like Hobiye where it tries to generate revenues from vendor sales. Each village is also looking to engage in commercial opportunities to generate revenues aside from taxation. The Urban Locals also are looking to see where they can get additional funding. This may also be through fundraising and approaching various not-for-profit societies.

Fisheries & Wildlife

Breakout Session / 1

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS WERE RAISED RELATED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING, HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSING FEES, THE EFFECTS OF SPORT FISHING, THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TRUST FUND, AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF MINING AND LOGGING ON FISHERIES.

Reference Document:

Fisheries & Wildlife Presentation

Subject / Unusual Fish

Comments

- A fish was caught last year that had lime green fins, did that have anything to do with the disaster in Japan?

Response

- We did receive a fish in the same condition and sent it away for investigation, it had nothing to do with the disaster in Japan. The fish was actually okay to eat and was not contaminated.

Subject / Commercial Fishing

Comments

- With commercial fishing, if the low pre-estimated numbers are not correct, does Nisga'a Fisheries have a contingency plan if the fish do show up?

Response

- There is going to be a commercial fishing opportunity this year. We're also going to set up a meeting with all Nisga'a commercial fishers in June to set up marine date openings.

Subject / Commercial Fishing Fees

Comments

- There are concerns that the commercial fishers are not able to pay for their insurance fees this year. Ocean Fishery used to pay for those fees for the commercial fishers and will no longer be doing that.

Response

- The license fees are out of our hands.

Subject / Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund

Comments

- Is it true the Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund is used to finance the Nisga'a Fisheries program? If so, that's not what the fund was created for.

Response

- The Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund is not tied to the fisheries program. We have a Conservation Trust Fund that finances our department.

Subject / Hunting & Fishing Fees, Nisga'a Rights

Comments

- Nisga'a people should not have to pay fees to hunt or fish. All we should need to hunt or gather food to sustain ourselves is our Nisga'a Citizen card, not a license.
- Non-Nisga'a have more rights on our own land than we Nisga'a do.
- A sign should be put up at Tseax so boats can't go up there because it is a spawning ground.
- How many creeks on our land are Chum creeks? We can enhance those creeks.

Response

- Fees for commercial opportunities pay for administration.
- Most of the sport fisherman have been grandfathered-in. NLG can't do much about that. However, we will charge \$35 fee per day.
- Boats are not allowed in the Tseax, if you see any there, please report it.
- Chum stocks look pretty grim, we'll do everything we can to help the Chum stock.

Subject / Mining, Fisheries & Wildlife

Comments

- Mining activity in our area will not only impact our nation but it will affect other nations. Our government needs to get involved. Gitwinksihlkw draws water from our own river, concerned for the health of our people.
- Happy to hear that the department of Fisheries & Wildlife will try do something about the wolf situation.

Response

- With the mining companies, we haven't heard anything yet. The Northwest Transmission line will be clearcut 300 feet wide and 250 KM long, KSM gold mine is the most dangerous of all.
- Regarding logging, NLG forestry has been addressing the issue.
- Regarding the concern of too much Steelhead in the river, sport fishing will take a lot.

- Logging on Lava Lake: Now we're having slides.
- Doesn't agree with breaking dams.
- NF should have a Steelhead fishery, Steelhead are predator fish.

Subject / Sport Fishing

Comments

- Steelhead: Is the catch all from sport fishers? Sport fishing Chinook in June: Does that affect our numbers?

Response

- Haven't had any indication that the fishing has had a negative impact on the numbers.

Subject / Fisheries License Fees, Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund, Halibut

Comments

- License fee is \$1700 a year. This has quite an impact on the fishers. I often wonder why the commercial fishery can't make a profit.
- The Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund was meant to help the fisherman but that hasn't happened yet.
- Mining companies are a big concern. Would like to see a paper that has listed all the concerns of our people.
- We need help getting a Halibut quota.

Response

- NNFC is having a meeting on May 18th, I'll bring your license fee issue to them. The finance committee handles the commercial fishery fund.

Fisheries & Wildlife

Breakout Session / 2

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, CITIZENS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT THE COHO FISHERY AND DFO, CONCERNS ABOUT HOW POLLUTION FROM THE JAPANESE TSUNAMI WILL AFFECT FISH STOCKS, ISSUES RELATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL SALES FISHERY OPENING, AND QUOTA NUMBERS. IN ADDITION, QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ABOUT BEAR, WOLF AND MOOSE POPULATIONS IN THE NASS VALLEY.

Reference Document:

Fisheries & Wildlife Presentation

Subject / Coho Fishery & DFO

Comments

- Two years in a row the fisherman have not had opportunity to fish Coho. Suggest that the F&W not fish Coho and have the fisherman fish the Coho.
- 600 for sockeye quotas is not enough. Taking the Coho catches away from us is damaging our income. Why is DFO not here? The fishers have issues with DFO.

Response

- We will look at the Coho issue again, we want to utilize the lost revenue that's there. The committee as well as the director has advised that there will not be any fish harvested off the F&W's this year.
- Regarding DFO, we can not comment on your issue.

Subject / Coho Fishery & Ishkinish

Comments

- There is concern with sport fishing and Coho fishing in the Xginx and Ishkinish areas.

Response

- Ishkinish is on our list of concerns that will be brought to our next meeting with the province.

Subject / Angling Plan

Comments

- Is there a timeline of the angling plan that you're working on?

Response

Subject / Moose, Bear and Wolf Populations

Comments

- It used to be “take what you need” with moose. Do you have any numbers on the amount of moose being taken out of our valley today? With the bear and wolf population in the Nass Valley, do you have any statistics with these animals?
- Are you aware of the amount of fish that are taken from the upper Nass, from the Gitanyow and others up there?
- Where is the Director of Fish and Wildlife?

Response

- The director is away on bereavement. Bear and wolf populations are both healthy. With the moose depletion, we’re looking at other issues involved with that, such as the natural predators of the species.
- Reports will be given to us by the end of the month with the Gitanyow numbers of harvest.

Subject / Mining

Comments

- Can we get shares from the mining company before mining starts?

Response

- We don't deal with the mining issues.

Subject / Government Vehicles

Comments

- How are the government vehicles and boats being paid for?

Response

Subject / Japanese Tsunami, IS Fishery, Inland Fishery

Comments

- What impact would the Japanese tsunami, and all the after affects of the disaster such as debris, etc. have on the Nass River stocks? A study should be done prior to Sockeye season.
- Individual sales opportunities, for most people, is the only income for those people for the entire year. The department seems to make it very hard for fishers to participate.
- Regarding opening dates for the inland fisheries, which opens when the fish pass Laxgalts'ap. Need NF to come up with a proper schedule.

Response

- Stock numbers have changed, but not sure if the Japan disaster is the reason why.
- IS fishery, buying stations are manned by the Nisga'a Commercial Group, you need to bring your questions to them.
- Director has agreed to meet with fishers to consult opening dates in June sometime.
- We are looking to have a Coho fishery this year.

Subject / IS Fishery Opening, Quota Numbers

Comments

- IS opening: When will you meet with all commercial fisherman? Prince Rupert fisherman should sit in on meeting. Why is the number of Gingolx employees so low?
- Will NF consider changing the quota numbers?

Response

- Regarding the past marine opening dates, we will take a fresh start with the fishermen. Commercial license fund can be brought to the finance committee. At the meeting with the fishermen, that's where we can talk about the quota numbers.

Subject / Habitat Studies

Comments

- Who is doing the habitat studies?
- Is NF actually involved with the studies?

Response

- Most studies are done by our own technicians with the consultant groups. Regarding the slide in Kwinagees, we're trying to get in there again. We need to see how stable the slopes are to try to permanently repair the system.

Subject / Increase of Bear, Wolf, Cougar and Grizzly Populations

Comments

- The bear, wolf, cougar and grizzly populations are increasing in our community. Has there been a relocation program going on that we don't know about?

Response

- We aren't aware of any relocation programs going on with these species.

Subject / Decline of Moose Population

Comments

- Moose average only three calves, black bear produce two to three cubs a year and wolves produce twelve cubs. The moose are declining because of wolves and black bear.
- Outside people are hunting moose on our land.

Response

- Your information is correct, we need to look at everything to map a direction on how we want to proceed with the declining moose population issue.

Subject / Sport Fishing

Comments

- Concerned about the sport fisherman.

Response

- Not a new concern, it's been a problem for all nations that we need to discuss further with the province.

Subject / Effects of Japanese Tsunami on Water Quality

Comments

- About the Japan disaster, is our fisheries management able to get some sort of testing done now in regards to the water, affecting all species of salmon in our river? Will you consider doing water tests to check for liquid chemicals?

Response

- We have been doing water testing in the area for the past ten years. We may have to expand the program a bit more, and add more biotoxin stations.

Subject / Crab Boundary, Kincolith Creek, Seal Hunt

Comments

- Not satisfied with the current crab boundary. NF management needs to help us move the crab boundary for our village and for our nation.
- Can Nisga'a Fisheries set a moratorium on our Kincolith creek?
- Possibility of a seal hunt?

Response

- We have been discussing the boundary, and we will be doing a crab study this year. We did a study a few years back that showed a good, healthy crab stock, we'll see with the new study if the crab numbers have changed.
- We are meeting with the province next week and will discuss Kincolith Creek.
- A seal hunt would involve a lot of political issues and paper work.

Subject / Effects of Modern Hunting Technology

Comments

- There are no rules for hunters on equipment to use during hunting. We should go back to how we used to hunt years ago, with snow shoes, etc. One moose used to be good enough for one whole family.

Response

- Agreed that hunters are becoming too efficient and use too much technology to hunt our moose. Agrees that nowadays, one moose is not enough.

Subject / Fisheries

Comments

- We should go back to using a gillnet for test fishery so Greenville doesn't miss the runs anymore for IS fisheries.

Response

Lands & Resources

Breakout Session / 1

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION SEVERAL CONCERNS WERE RAISED REGARDING THE FISHERY BAY DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN. CITIZENS WANTED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FISHERY BAY HISTORY AND TO LOCATE HISTORICAL FISHERY BAY MAPS. QUESTIONS WERE ALSO RAISED REGARDING ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY ON NISGA'A LANDS.

Reference Document:

Fishery Bay Draft Management Plan

Subject / Oolichan Harvest

Comments

- Put a stop to others harvesting and selling oolichan.

Response

- Will forward your concern to Fish and Wildlife.

Subject / Hot Springs near Grizzly Hill

Comments

- What about the hot springs near Grizzly Hill?

Response

- Heritage zone: Hot springs zoned by NLG not Provincial.

Subject / Fishery Bay History

Comments

- Fishery Bay history should be made public, so people can access this information as well as restore their lots. We should encourage Nisga'a citizens to continue with their culture. Can NLG hire someone for this purpose?

Response

- We are still collecting information about Fishery Bay. Our long term goal is an educational DVD on Fishery Bay.

Subject / Road Maintenance and Safety

Comments

- What can NLG do to ensure safety on Nisga'a Roads?
- Clearing brush: How much influence do you have over road maintenance?

Response

- The Nisga'a Highway is a provincial highway and owned by the Provincial Government. The extent of our influence is in a liaison capacity with the MOT, Nechako North Coast Maintenance, and the NLG. The specific areas of concern have been made aware to the MOT and NNC.
- The extent of Hydro tree clearance is their ROW. We do our best to notify Hydro and MOT in regards to trees dangerous to the power line or the highway.

Subject / London Bridge, Tourists at Camp Ksedin

Comments

- The same riprap that has been done on Fishery Bay should have been done at London Bridge. The corner is always flooded and should be raised ten more feet.
- We should put signs up in the area to give notice to those who camp on Nisga'a Lands. Noticed people were camping at Ksedin camp with no regard to our culture and traditions or the Treaty.

Response

- A riprap around London Bridge has been discussed with MOT and the response was that it was designed that way and the design was to last more than 20 years. In the past five years it has flooded three times, their reasoning, it is cost efficient to repair the portion of the road.
- In regards to signage, we will be putting signs up in all areas within the lands that are designated for camping. We already have draft signs in place that need to be reviewed before printing. Designated areas such as Dragon Lake and Gingolx are currently closed, so there isn't really anywhere for campers or tourists to go.

Subject / Fishery Bay Map, Ayuukw regarding Wilps

Comments

- Concerns about Fishery Bay areas marked in red on the map such as fishing camps. We have Nisga'a laws (ayuukw) regarding the camps, if your father is still alive and still owns camps, his children can also run the camp, but when he passes on the children cannot pass on the lot to themselves or use that lot.
- Do the younger generations understand the ayuukw? If you are not careful there will be conflict.

Response

- Referred to map on screen where most of the proposed lots have been eroded.
- In response to your concerns and what kind of input you have at this time, our lands manager has had two comprehensive discussions with existing crew leaders and camp owners. We have weighed the issues and it does remain a matter of discussion. The red lines are based on our imagination to get equal sized lots for everyone, and is not set in stone.
- In terms of relationships with families, there has been conflict between children and the families (wilps) with respect to use of the lot.

Subject / Fishery Bay History

Comments

- Thanks to the other speaker for bringing up the history of Fishery Bay, which dates back to the fur trade and grease trails. There was an original map of Fishery Bay produced by the Greenville band council, and it had the names on the lots. The most logical thing to do is to ask Wallace Clark, where that map is.

Response

- We have two lands officers who live in Greenville; we will get them to do further research to locate the map.

Subject / Old Fishery Bay Map

Comments

- The old band office in Greenville is the last place the map was seen, the one Allan is speaking of, there are others who have seen the map, and Willard would like to make sure the map is found.
- Would like to know if the maintenance of Nisga'a Highway 113 could be offered to a local business?

Response

- In terms of local contractors, there are pros and cons on that issue. Contracts are up for renewal very soon, and we have not heard of anyone showing interest.
- If we were to allocate a local contractor, how much and what would the value be? It's possible that they could just break even, and make no profits. That being said, Nechako North Coast Maintenance runs the whole northern area of B.C. roads, so they can make a profit because of geography. The winter maintenance on Nisga'a Highway 113 has been stressed to change it from category Class C to Class B, for the safety of the people on the highways on Nisga'a Lands.

Lands & Resources

Breakout Session / 2

SUMMARY / THIS BREAKOUT SESSION DEALT WITH CONCERNS ABOUT THE FISHERY BAY DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN. SPECIFICALLY, CITIZENS ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE GATHERING OF INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF FISHERY BAY AND HOW TO DETERMINE OWNERSHIP OF PROPOSED AND VACANT LOTS. QUESTIONS WERE ALSO ASKED ABOUT RAISE AND CANCEL TITLE, LAND TITLE, CAMPING RECREATION, FIREWOOD, ILLEGAL DUMPING, AND WASTE REMOVAL ON NISGA'A LANDS.

Reference Document:

Fishery Bay Draft Management Plan, Department Report

Subject / IR 88, Waste from Tourists

Comments

- About the lots allocated to Fishery Bay and the anthropology of Fishery Bay IR 88: In trying to get back the information on lots and who they belong to, how much information have you acquired?
- Concern about waste management: People have been dumping waste on Highway 113. Do we have signs in and around the Nass to let the tourists and the public know to use a proper waste facility?

Response

- We are excited to hear the history of Fishery Bay.
 - We are preparing signs about waste dumping that will be put up in all the main stops on Highway 113.
 - Follow-up: Forward concern to Fish and Wildlife.
-

Subject / Camp Grounds within Nisga'a Lands

Comments

- Too much garbage: Need designated garbage place.

Response

Subject / Fishery Bay

Comments

- IS is going great and the plans are great. Would like to congratulate L&R on a job well done.
- Fishery Bay vacant lots: There are family members that do have claims on vacant lots. Lands should make sure to do more research.

Response

- There has been an extensive interview with Crew Leader and Elders. Through these interviews there has been new information on the camp owners on most of the vacant lots as well as what used to be there. We are aware there needs to be further research, more and more information is coming forward and is being recorded. The Draft Management Plan will summarize conclusions from the interviews.

- Cannot see Fishery Bay being open to tourists during summer because crews leave expensive equipment in the area through the year.
- The plan is great but more information is needed; we need more investigation, and to produce more pictures of Fishery Bay.
- Greenville collected money to maintain the use of boardwalks and waterways.

Subject / Zoning in Communities

Comments

- When lots come together, if there were lands title holders that are deceased, can the village government make that decision on the sale of that land? Or the owner who sells that land?

Response

- Zoning in communities is done by village governments not NLG. It will be in wills and estates.

Subject / Raise and Cancel Title

Comments

- What are Raise and Cancel Titles?

Response

- Currently all lands are owned by NLG, when a title is cancelled it is recorded. Raise some new titles, related to the lots where the museum is, for example, which gets recorded in the Nlsga'a Land Title Office.

Subject / Raise and Cancel Title

Comments

- Is the public allowed to cancel title?

Response

- It is possible, if two lots were consolidated to become one lot. When a Nisga'a citizen owns the land they can cancel title. Only the village government can do this now.

Subject / Camping Recreation

Comments

- Dragon Lake is the only lake set aside for camping recreation. If it's not going to be used, what are the chances of us applying for lands to use for recreation?

Response

- We're open to getting proposals to set up recreation from our own people.
- The executive approves these applications.
- We present the applications to NLG executive, decisions are made from the executive level.

Subject / Accessing Red Cedar Trees

Comments

- Concern about accessing our resources. Is there a location where we could access red cedar for cultural purposes?

Response

- We do not have red cedar, you would be lucky to find one suitable for totem poles and canoe carving. They were taken out by companies in the early 1970s.
- No efficient cedar for our carvers. Rod did try to find red cedar but could not find one. Speak to the Terrace office; they can search for the logs.

Subject / Firewood

Comments

- Regarding the use of firewood during winter, can you give direction as to what land to use for firewood?
- Are there guidelines for firewood cutting?
- Is there a designated area in the Nass Valley for cutting firewood where it is not visible to tourists and citizens, to keep the area looking nice?

Response

- We issue the firewood permits, but have never stated where they had to get it. It has to be standing dry wood. The Forest Manager can direct them to a spot if they are requesting a large area.
- A permit for firewood can be issued right onsite from enforcement worker.

Subject / Consulate Lands, Lands in dispute

Comments

- Village government controls “consulate lands,” which land is that?
- What if the land title is D?

Response

- Depends on the issue.

Subject / Land for Cemetery

Comments

- Are there lands set up specifically for a cemetery? Space is limited.

Response

- That's Village government business, but will assist if it's in village lands. If it is outside, NLG will assist. Village government will have to present to NLG Executive.

Subject / Waste Removal, Landfill

Comments

- Waste removal: Any plans to clean up, or do an environmental assessment?
- Or create a landfill site near Gingolx? Was there an environmental assessment?
- Why is our garbage is being shipped to Aiyansh?

Response

- INAC came up with the development, and shut down the two bottom river ones. Agreed by all band council.
- Each village proceeds in their own plans.

Subject / Availability of Forms from Land Title

Comments

- If Village Governments were educated on the process, and a website was available it would be easier.

Response

- There is a website: www.nisgaalandtitle.ca

Subject / VG vs. NLG

Comments

- What is the procedure if an issue is not solved at a VG level, at what point does NLG get involved?

Response

- Administrative review board can deal with issues not being resolved; we have no jurisdiction on village lands.

Subject / Lands Use Plan – Irene Meadows Watershed

Comments

- Why would NLG issue Irene Meadows as a watershed?

Response

- It is zoned as a community watershed. The decision was made by Executive on request of the non Nisga'a settlers. To protect their drinking water, settlers have water licenses with B.C.

Subject / General Comment

Comments

- Thank you for all the work, did not realize the depth of work that Lands & Resources do for the Nisga'a Nation.

Response

Subject / Improvement of Fishery Bay

Comments

- How do we improve our water system?
- Build a dam?

Response

- A sand pit well which has a system to pressurize the water system. It will be an investment, an expensive investment.

Lands & Resources

Breakout Session / 3

SUMMARY / THIS BREAKOUT SESSION DEALT WITH CONCERNS ABOUT LOTS AT FISHERY BAY. IN ADDITION THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT GARBAGE LEFT FROM CAMPERS AND TOURISTS, ILLEGAL DUMPING, AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THE RECYCLING OF BATTERIES AND ELECTRONICS. CITIZENS ALSO RAISED ISSUES SURROUNDING ACCESS TO RESOURCES ON NISGA'A LANDS INCLUDING FIREWOOD CUTTING, THE MUSHROOM HARVEST, AND BERRY AND CEDAR HARVESTING.

Reference Document:

Fishery Bay Draft Management Plan, Department Report, Forest Resources Report, Enforcement Report

Subject / Fishery Bay Draft Management Plan

Comments

- Nisga'a embraced others who are not of Nisga'a ancestry.
- Who qualifies for land tenure?
- Agrees with the management plan in place.

Response

- How will they be eligible? Any Nisga'a citizens can apply, but it does not mean everyone can get one. Submit an application, the executive considers the application based on its merits and adherence to the *Nisga'a Land Act*.
- Follow-up: forward concern to Fish and Wildlife.

Subject / Fishery Bay

Comments

- Problems at Fishery Bay site, camps.
- Should do a historical study, history has to be recorded.
- It would be good to have information signs about who has fished there before. Ask the individual wilps for the history.
- How are you going to do a historical check on Fishery Bay?

Response

- The lands manager, in consultations with camp owners; from those discussions to discuss further. Reference maps of Fishery Bay are the result of their work done over the years with current camp owners. Consultation with executive and Lands & Resources Committee.
- No individual legally owns any lots; it's owned by the Nation as a whole. The Nation owns Fishery Bay and it's for everyone to utilize.

Subject / Sea Wall, Respect for Nisga'a Lands

Comments

- Laxgalts'ap should have a sea wall because of flooding concerns.
- Along the beaches and government docks it is very dirty. Found a full bottle liquor on the beaches, and car parts.
- Tourists use the side of the road to use the washroom.
- Respect your land.

Response

- Outside of village lands there are reports of people camping here and there. There are three employees in the lands department that do go out annually to inspect known sites used by tourists and campers; clean up is done and signage is also placed. We do not have the jurisdiction to come on village lands.
- Community by-laws should be uniform throughout the Nass Valley regarding waste.
- Litter and garbage control will be considered in the Fishery Bay Management Plan.

Subject / Firewood Cutting

Comments

- Commend the work that has been done so far.
- Concern about the road near Black Point, and the clear cutting along the side of the roads on both sides. It is not too pleasing to the eye. How is that controlled? Is there a certain site where they can go get their firewood?

Response

- The question has been asked at previous meetings in regards to the firewood cutting near Black Point. It depends on the volume they are seeking, if it is a large amount they will designate an area that will not affect the highway and the safety of the public.
- About the village government operation for firewood for the elders, they did come to the office to get a permit after the fact. In future we will be pushing it harder for them to get a firewood permit and possibly designate an area for cutting for large groups.

Comments

- Recalled a year before the last assembly a motion was put forward regarding Nisga'a public use of lands before the village: If there was a firewood allocation, how big was the allocation? Opportunity to secure a license of 150,000 meters: Has that been looked into at all?
- Regarding access to resources: In the absence of the Treaty, the B.C. government has mining acts in place. We're being denied access to the resources, this is one of the biggest factors.
- No confidence in our own people to do the work, regarding NTL, NAE.

Response

- Most work has been completed in a review of the public lands by in-house legal counsel and the forest resource manager. According to our review the license document does not indicate any unfairness to anyone.
- The acquisition of 150,000 meters is available through the Treaty. Our officers and CEO, are working with the provincial ministry, senior minister, to move this forward.
- We are working with provincial government to streamline the application process to satisfy both sides. One area that is going to be worked on is access to resources. Sub-surface legislation is being drafted. Unfortunately it's taking time to work on this process. Had to change lawyers. Geothermal energy: A schedule is going to be put together to meet with in-house legal counsel to address this issue. There will be a draft this summer or early fall.
- NTL: A lot of issues were raised yesterday and L&R is not in a position to respond. Respectfully that can be dealt with tomorrow morning, when they summarize these reports. It is purely technical work being done by L&R, assessments done on site, etc., type and quality of timber, etc., and are in line with Treaty.

Subject / Fishery Bay

Comments

- Kind of hard trying to change the system they use.
- How would you do this if it was in a will?

Response

- Some families pass down use of camps to nephews in the same wilp. Others pass down to their children. The management plan does not deal with this issue. Leave it to families to deal with.

Subject / Illegal Dumping on Nisga'a Lands

Comments

- There is illegal dumping on our lands. We take great pride in the land we live on. At a dump, a whole bunch of bikes and beds were found. Do we need more policing on our lands? At 3000 Beach, we found old beds, mattresses on the side of the roads. If we're going to need more policing on our lands let's put it in place.
- We have to follow B.C. environmental rules. Car batteries, electronics: it costs money to take the stuff to Terrace. Teams can benefit by taking back batteries. In mushroom season the bushes look like a landfill.

Response

- For those of you who don't know about the management of the landfill and illegal dumping issues, for two years now we have been using enforcement. Enforcement officers spend a lot of time driving, doing road checks, and to ensure there is compliance with our laws including illegal dumping.
- Working relationship with RCMP and enforcement.

Subject / Hot Springs, Fishery Bay, Cell Phone Service

Comments

- Recently visited the hot springs to find people camping. I believe this is our land, we have an obligation to inform our visitors and our own people. There is no signage there, no bear proof garbage there. There was a lot of garbage I had to bring home to dispose of. That department should develop infrastructure, areas need to be accessible by all walks of life.
- We need proper restroom facilities at Fishery Bay, for the health and safety of everyone.
- Our Nation seriously needs to get cell phone service. There is no connectivity for business, and there is no 911 service.
- Need proper signage when entering Nisga'a Lands, on both sides (Cranberry Junction).

Response

- Outside of village lands reports of people. Designate it as recreation site, and heritage site. Open to any Nisga'a Citizen to make an application to use sites for recreation.
- Signs will be soon be put up. Communication director about informing visitors and GIS to assist villages to highlight areas may be of interest.
- Cell phone coverage: forwarded to officers.
- Spent some money on the signs by Lava Lake. There is one down by the government dock to inform non-Nisga'a that they're now on Nisga'a Lands.
- Outhouses: Visiting services in general, this is not a new comment. It is a short term priority and we have one lot proposed to be for washroom facilities.
- Follow-up: Cell phone coverage issue forwarded to Executive when they do their summary.

Subject / Resources

Comments

- We have to look at all resources on the land not just above, but below.

Response

Subject / Landfill, Fishery Bay, Berry and Cedar Harvesting

Comments

- Regarding the garbage dump, our village sources our water from there.
- Lots at Fishery Bay: They can't do through lots lines, the boundaries at Fishery Bay.
- Loss of heritage: It is a Nisga'a right to get our wood, and pick the berries. These are our rights, now you have to come get a permit, you can't get out and get the cedar.
- Garbage dump: Isn't open during weekends. We are literally bringing waste to Rosswood or Terrace.

Response

- The location of the landfill site is at a spot where it was determined it will have minimum impact on water and fish and wildlife.
- Water samples are taken, to ensure things are safe.
- Permits: There is no permit for picking berries. It's a free use permit you need for cedar that doesn't cost you anything. Will just need to know where you are harvesting and harvesting of cedar is only for cultural purposes.
- Cedar is a rare resource, we have to ensure it gets managed properly.
- Land fill opening hours are not a responsibility of NLG.

Subject / Forestry Approval

Comments

- Forestry approval: The process should be done in a timely manner. In past experiences they are done in a timely manner.
- Need to streamline the application process. It impacts the productivity of harvesting. Markets change yearly. This should be looked at.

Response

Subject / De-activated Roads, Mushroom Harvest, OA be Closed to Non-Nisga'a

Comments

- De-activation of mushroom picking roads.
- Mushroom buyers will be at Nass Camp. With a second buyer, prices stay up there. Concern about store setting – side of the river is like a store setting. Like to see it closed down to be used just for Nisga'a people, and non-Nisga'a will not be allowed in that area. Suggest closing areas down to non-Nisga'a.

Response

- We monitor the buyers; we don't have control with buyers who set up in Nass Camp, (NAE) to determine what happens in Nass Camp. All we control is monitoring the buyers and pickers.
- Thank you for your input. That is the kind of suggestion we like to hear. For annual management plans: Only a specific area that is exclusive to Nisga'a people.

Subject / Recycling

Comments

- When we start to pay taxes I expect certain things. Batteries are being dumped and not recycled and can poison our rivers and lands.
- Have business plans been presented in regards to the opening of a recycling plant in the Nass Valley?

Response

- A Waste management plan has been developed for Nass Valley.
- Community consultations correctly pointed out taxes pay for them (Waste management), they need to allocate the funds. Landfill will last 50-70 years if we are able to recycle.

Subject / Gardens in Fishery Bay

Comments

- Need to pay more attention to uplands areas, community gardens, and recommendations we can consider: Gardens and boardwalks to control access does not get lost. We have to maintain cultural identity within those lands.

Response

- A system of boardwalks are proposed in the management plan.
- Areas for community gardens are a consideration.

Subject / NTL and Traplines

Comments

- If there is logging there should be a good reason. Would like to know where, and to have every tree ribboned long before falling. Need to know how it will affect the spawning. Who do I see about environmental impacts?

Response

- NTL BC Hydro needs to consult with all trap line holders that are on the NTL. Be happy to discuss it with you later.
- Environmental monitoring is part of the plan.

Subject / Mushroom Harvesting Permits

Comments

- Mushroom harvesting permits:
How much will permits cost?

Response

- Nisga'a 16 years and under and 60 years and over, \$25 between those ages
- Non-Nisga'a is \$75 regardless of age.

Programs & Services

Breakout Session / 1

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION CONCERNS WERE RAISED ABOUT DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, ACCESSING ASSISTANCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, NEPOTISM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SECTION 94 OF THE NISGA'A TREATY, AND THE RIGHTS OF GRANDPARENTS.

Reference Document:

Programs & Services Presentation

Subject / Discrimination in Employment

Comments

- There is a concern about speaking up and being discriminated against for employment opportunities. There should be equal opportunities for all including social assistance recipients.

Response

- It is a needs-based program: There is an appeal process under the policy. While I cannot discuss files, I am available for discussion one-on-one.

Subject / Counselling Services

Comments

- Schizophrenic relative, children in care. There is a need for counselling and other services. Commenter has an open door for troubled adults and children of parents that abuse alcohol.

Response

- Referred to Renata Moore.

Subject / Nepotism

Comments

- There is a concern about nepotism in local governments and domination of one clan. What is the policy to defeat nepotism?

Response

- Council of Elders selection is a VG issue.

Subject / Section 94 Issue

Comments

- Is there access to children taken out of the province?

Response

- Specific cases need to be discussed with TL Moore.

Subject / More Breakout Sessions

Comments

- Observations and suggestions: More breakout sessions are needed in future so that our citizens are heard.
- Need to hear from NVHA and SD 92.

Response

Subject / Rights of Grandparents

Comments

- Concern about grandchild in custody in a non-native home in Victoria. Respondent has a personal issue with mixed background. No Social Worker (SW) available to assist?

Response

- Cannot speak to specific issue. Grandparents have rights, this may be a *Family Relations Act* issue. General laws of application apply.
- This is a policy issue, and a standing issue: Language and culture are a concern.

Subject / Education, Social Development

Comments

- Taxation and public education?
- Social development: PWD and adjudication?
- Policy analyst: Will NLG be hiring one some time soon?
- Concern about Grade 12 graduating with grade 3 level.
- NSEP: Short or long term plan?
- RJS: Limitations to what offences are handled? Wilps, are they handled in person; selection?
- Feast book: Addresses the preservation of our language and culture. Will this be delivered in our schools?

Response

- Taxation question is for the Finance Committee.
- Tripartite committee to look at the issue of redoing applications.

Subject / Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department (AND)

Comments

- Encouragement and compliments to NLG for preserving the language and culture.

Response

Subject / Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

Comments

- MCFD: We need an advocate in the Lower Mainland, it's a difficult system to understand. There are two different scenarios on and off core lands.

Response

- Nisga'a Treaty Section 94 issue relating to standing issue. Family Group Conference Coordinator can provide mediation. It is up to families to request FGC service. VTS has been instrumental in such situations.

Programs & Services

Breakout Session / 2

SUMMARY / THIS BREAKOUT SESSION DEALT WITH ISSUES REGARDING NISGA'A CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AND CHILD PROTECTION, AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES AND YOUTH. IN ADDITION, CITIZENS EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT NOT FOLLOWING THE TRADITIONS OF AYUUKHL NISGA'A, AND WANTED TO SEE MORE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE USE OF NISGA'A LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

Reference Document:

Programs & Services Presentation

Subject / Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS)

Comments

- NCFS: How many social workers do you have? Teach SW's our language and culture. Does not appreciate non-Nisga'a SW's as they do not know our traditions. You are not police, utilize our Nisga'a ayuukhl – our children will not be harmed.

Response

- All SW's are First Nations; lists all and which nation they are from.
- Understanding Nisga'a: The reality is that all work done is in English.
- General laws of application apply.

Subject / Ayuukhl Nisga'a

Comments

- Ayuukhl Nisga'a statement: Pole raising of Luuyaas in Gingolx there is no bloodline connection – it was publicly announced at the settlement feast of the late Jacob Russ. A blatant corruption of our culture.

Response

- Issues within a wilp cannot be spoken into by another wilp. Will speak to Chair of Council of Elders.

Subject / C-6 and NCFS

Comments

- Speaking as a mother, aunt and Nisga'a woman, C-6 apprehension can be very traumatizing and troublesome to the Nass Valley. Caution NCFS to learn more about our culture; we have our own laws.

Response

- We do not allow our children to be abused; laws of general application apply. Section 13: In 57 years of MCFD not one child has been removed from Gitwinksihlkw; families get involved with young parents.

Subject / Urban Nisga'a Language Classes

Comments

- Are there any language classes in the urban areas?

Response

- A question for WWNI: Each Urban receives funds for programs. Redirect the question to PR/PE Nisga'a Society.
- Encouraged to keep asking the question and get other youth involved.

Subject / Programs for Young Families

Comments

- Would like to see a new program begin for new mothers and for supplementing new families.

Response

- The infancy development worker is Jackie Gosnell.
- Social Assistance may have some resources.
- NVHA has programs.

Subject / Youth Enrichment Programs

Comments

- Youth enrichment programs such as "Gathering our Voices" conference: Disappointment with Nisga'a attendance.
- Suggestion that we organize a youth exchange between urban and Nisga'a villages. High risk children should be exposed to both worlds.

Response

- Regarding "Gathering our Voices," 30 Nisga'a attended this year and 50 last year. Haida Gwaii will host a youth gathering. Will bring forward the question on the youth exchange to NYC's; good suggestion.

Subject / Ayuukhl Nisga'a

Comments

- Ayuukhl Nisga'a: Concerned about the direction we are heading, it was not the way we were taught. It is not a laughing matter; there is a chain reaction – it is the responsibility of the undertakers to ensure that we follow our ayuuk. This has to stop, during the grieving process we are not to speak. Cautions those who are in power to take this seriously.

Response

Subject / Nisga'a Ayuuk, Council of Elders, Language Immersion

Comments

- This is a serious matter; we cannot logam dalke is not a good answer. When a chief asks for help we must assist; we have problems when we do not follow our ayuuk.
- Concern with Council of Elders. They should be meeting every three months for three days at a time to address these issues.
- Involved in language immersion with Gingolx VG.

Response

- Will take the suggestion to the Executive about more meetings of the Council of Elders. NVHA are developing a program to involve elders in their programs.

Subject / Success of NCFS and Need for Healing Centre

Comments

- Commends NCFS on their growth in 12 years; looking forward to more progress. Since the closing of Nass Camp, drinking and driving has decreased; positive life changes are happening. Suicides are cut in half.
- A healing centre is needed and is not on the agenda.

Response

- A very substantial proposal was developed and can be revisited.

Subject / NSEP

Comments

- NSEP: It seems that there a lot of big ticket items involved. What steps are being taken to keep money in the Valley?
- May be a question for the Finance presentation. Are there incentives for small businesses such as hairstyling?

Response

- Economic development presentation will be done tomorrow.

Subject / Mining in the Headwaters

Comments

- Concern about mining in the headwaters.
- Is there any training for our young people in the area of mining?

Response

- Economic development presentation will be done tomorrow.

Subject / Social Development, Loss of Traditional Ways

Comments

- Social Development and FFA. Is there shelter and room and board for those living with their parents?
- Where are these funds going if they are not going to our people?
- We never had to obtain licenses or permits to gather our traditional food, today we do.
- Our Treaty is making our sim'oogits lose their power and traditional lands. Encourages elders to get their power back.

Response

- All VGs follow the same policy.
- Points and comments well taken.

Subject / Programs for Youth Under 15

Comments

- Families are constantly asking: What are we doing for youth under 15?
- NYCs: Can we spend this money on youth under 15?

Response

- Bring forward your issues to your leadership.

Subject / Wills and Estates, Database

Comments

- Thanks for the presentation. In reviewing the 2010 notes and 2012 there is no mention of a wills and estates project which falls under P&S. We need public education in this area.
- The database needs to be updated as this is an election year. Encourages those considering to run for office to read the amended *Elections Act*.

Response

Subject / School District Funds

Comments

- School District: One time funds given to all four VGs. Can this be redirected to SD 92? Proposal was presented to all VGs.

Response

- It was only to generate discussion It was a proposal and not direction.
- Concerns will be forwarded on to SD 92.

Subject / Child Protection

Comments

- Concerned as a mother as we realize C-6. Are we following the model of MCFD? Decisions are based on hearsay and judges make the decisions based on this. Is it based on jealousy of one family against another?

Response

- After hours and team make a decision on the matter based on information received for child protection. SWs are trained to do child protection; only piece of legislation that is based on hearsay.

Council of Elders & Youth Panel

Programs & Services

Breakout Session / 3

SUMMARY / IN THIS BREAKOUT SESSION, CITIZENS EXPRESSED CONCERNS RELATED TO THE NISGA'A HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, AND THE NEED FOR PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF THE NISGA'A LANGUAGE, AND THAT THERE BE A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL NISGA'A WAYS OF GOVERNANCE AND PARENTING.

Reference Document:

Council of Elders & Youth Panel Presentation

Subject / Nisga'a Heritage Preservation Society

Comments

- Who do we report to? Nisga'a are not here to be pleased; we are in the process of reaffirming our ways. Has an issue with Nisga'a Heritage Preservation Society (NHPS) and the understanding of those in authority of the role and representation of the society. Social Development, and assuming the autonomy of the Nisga'a: hopes that there will be someone trained.

Response

- NLG Programs & Services reports to the P&S Committee and NLG Executive.
- There will be a restructuring that will happen in the Social Development Advisor office.

Subject / Nisga'a Ayuuk, Youth & Elders

Comments

- Suggests that all employees and elected delegates take a course in the Nisga'a Ayuuk, culture, and language. Clergy have been able to learn our language. Employees and those who come from outside should be hired for a period of one year to teach Nisga'a what they need to learn.
- There is a need for a youth center where youth and elders can gather.
- We need a treatment center, and it has been asked for year after year, especially for our youth.
- Pleased to see that our Justice Department is utilizing our ayuuk in their programs; they need to be more visible especially in the schools.

Response

- Suggestions are recorded and will be reported.
- Suggestions for youth will be brought back to the NYAC and NYCs.
- Regarding the suggestion that the Access to Justice Department go and get training, we do seek free training and are the only department that is not under the FFA.
- Shares vision of elders and the concept of longhouses; also shares the situation of another First Nation. Observation of non-Nisga'a being able to learn language quicker than us because they have one-on-one teaching/mentorship. Overviews operation of the Access to Justice Department.

- There are two different types of governance: Caucasian is paternal and the Nisga'a way is matrilineal.
- Will raise a point that has been raised for some time with no response. Suggestion to hire three university students to research what it will take to get back to our own way of governance where our Simgigat and Sigidimnak are in power. Our constitution is a white man constitution, and most elected representatives cannot speak our language.
- When we receive reports from the university it will not happen overnight, it will need to be discussed and implemented gradually. Example of how we can have our sim'oogits and sigidimank governance can work and does not want to see any more elections.
- Drugs and alcohol: as an alcoholic he knows how an alcoholic thinks. Suggestion that each VG should pass a law that anyone caught bootlegging be fined \$10,000 and after a second time they should be banned. For first offences it should be made mandatory that they attend a treatment center.

Subject / Social Services Dispute

Comments

- A few concerns: Social Services knocked on their door; daughter was a good caregiver for her stepchildren with concerns reported by someone she had a dispute with who lives in Vancouver. Feels that this is/was uncalled for. If a serious accusation comes through we need to take it at face value.

Response

- Has been discussed in the house with no response.
- There are laws that we must follow, it is a difficult question/concern to answer.
- RJ concern will be brought to the COE.

- Restorative Justice: Before the chiefs and matriarchs step forward to this program they should clean their backgrounds.
- Elections and well-known potheads: Those wanting to run for office should be able to say that they are drug free. Make it a requirement to run for office.

Subject / Language Preservation

Comments

- NHPS, NVHA and youth should work together (has being on canoe journey). These entities should work together on language preservation.

Response

Subject / Complaint

Comments

- Hears a phrase that the Director uses where he states that “it is an emotional issue”; it is an excuse to not do the work; hopes that we do not hear that phrase again. Does not want to hear any more insults to our emotional intelligence.

Response

Subject / Programs for Families in Need

Comments

- Comment on the first P&S breakout session where a young mother spoke about her hardships and successes. Reconsider the needs of the low income families that go without; shares her experiences with Infant Development program. Even a gift card would go a long way to help these families that she is approached by over and over.

Response

- It was a successful program.

Subject / Suggestion to Return to Nisga'a Ways

Comments

- Appreciates the suggestions of giving the power back to elders.
- Addresses Maurice as a sim'oogit: Your work load is heavy and suggests that we get rid of the white man's ways and use our own Nisga'a ways.

Response

- We do try very hard to do so, to utilize extended families to regain traditional methods of parenting and the family responsibility that comes with that to problem solve.
- References the FGC process and the need for a second worker to assist Daphne.

Setting Priorities of the Nisga'a Nation

CONCLUDING REMARKS /

EDMOND WRIGHT, SECRETARY-TREASURER

FRED TOLMIE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KEVIN MCKAY, EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

CHERLY STEPHENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

H. MITCHELL STEVENS, PRESIDENT

Edmond Wright / Secretary-Treasurer

Priorities Going Forward

Welcome to the last day of the Special Assembly. Today we will have concluding remarks. We have heard the concerns of our people throughout the week. It is very important that activities such as the Special Assembly happen so that we, as a part of NLG, become better aware of your concerns and review programs that we are implementing and developing. Our government is strengthened by hearing from you. Governance has to include the involvement of everyone, not just elected people. Your elected people are the people that you have designated to stick-handle your affairs.

Major areas:

Nisga'a Nation Budget Process

- Over the past years the process has been accepted and is running smoothly;
 - Nisga'a Finance Committee presents a draft budget to all Nisga'a entities and departments of NLG
 - Nisga'a Villages and Urban Locals also submit and present their budget
 - Nisga'a Institutions inform us of their budget process
 - NLG departments submit and present their budget and workplan
 - WSN is the final authority – 36 elected people – pass or reject the budget.
- The provisional budget must be approved by March 31st of each year, and the final budget is to be approved by October 31st of each year.
- A lot of concern raised on budgets and surpluses. When Villages/NLG review budgets, immediately after WSN approves, each Urban Local and Village government must adopt a provisional and final budget. They must meet the requirements of the programs and services they deliver. The funds they receive are considered to be block funding, which can accommodate inter-fund transfers.
- Surpluses that have been raised is a role up of all entities (Villages/NLG/Urban Locals).

Property Taxation and Income Tax

- NLG Executive is fully briefed in these two areas. Information kits are provided to executive and Urban Locals. In addition, they provide this information to their governments and assist in getting this information in summarized form to the public.
- We hear you and will keep you informed.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust

- CFO/Advisors have started Own Source Revenue (OSR) planning to reduce the effects of OSR that Canada would claim.
- January 1st, 2013 – the investment income of the Trust will be exposed to OSR. Our CFO is now developing and encouraging our Trustees on what to do on the lead up to the trigger date, Jan 1st, 2013.
- We are being briefed on this process. We have \$170 million, market value, in the Trust today. Today we will be receiving an additional \$22.6 million from our Treaty Capital Transfer, and it will be immediately forwarded to our Trust.
- It is important to note that we are restricted in our Treaty on how to invest our Trust. It has to be comparable to a registered retirement savings plan.

Elder's Package

- As the Secretary-Treasurer, who receives authority from the Nisga'a Nation Constitution, the *Nisga'a Government Act*, the NFAA, and other pieces of legislation, when there are issues of concern as Secretary-Treasurer I must bring that to you. If I don't bring it to you, you have every right to come back to me, holding this position: why didn't you live up to your statutory obligation under the Constitution and various Nisga'a laws?
- It is a touchy issue. It is important to note that WSN did not set the age or amount, it was done in the Assembly of the Elders of the Nisga'a Nation and brought forward via resolution on age and amount. The Annual Assembly agreed that it would be \$15,000 and would be 60 years of age.
- Recommended that this be a agenda item at WSN to come forward with options to address at a future Special Assembly.

Proposed Developments in the Nass Area and Future Agreements with Proponents

- For every proponent coming into the Nass Area, Chapter 10 gets triggered – we have to be involved. They provide capacity funding to meet with us, provide and review technical documents and environmental process.
- We will look at funds that will be a new income on future Nisga'a Nation budgets.

Accountability & Transparency

- We fought hard to get Canada to stop stating that we were not accountable and we were not transparent. We met with Ministers in Ottawa, they had no problem with our accountability and transparency.
- Yesterday the WSN met at 5 p.m., followed by the Executive authorizing the amendment agreement. Those are required by accountability mechanisms that are in place.

Health & Education

- A lot of questions have been fielded on health issues. Quite a few years ago, at an Assembly, it was moved that the Health and Education issues be dealt with separately via AGMs. We must continue this process.

Conclusion

- I enjoyed the last few days. Thank you to the host. Lastly, it is important to note that we have open doors. Call us, come see us at our offices, we encourage you to do that.

Fred Tolmie / Chief Executive Officer

This has been a very successful assembly. It is important to hear from the public. The citizens want to see transparency and accountability.

Pace of Change & Development

- The amount of development is evident to everyone. In order to keep up with the pace of change, communication, via consultations and workshops is needed. This is a very important strategy to move forward. We have to ensure everyone is informed.
- Change is a result of opportunity.

Taxation

- We heard you – more information to be given. Taxation is a matter that the Nisga'a Nation spends a lot of time on at Special Assembly.
- The result of that provision of the NFA will not impose a heavy burden of taxes on any other citizen not residing on Nisga'a Lands. We talked about Nisga'a tax, that isn't tax on top of what other Canadian citizens have. Canada and B.C. are sharing room for taxation.

Development in the Nass Area

- The development in the Nass Area is very high. There is clear concern, and it is well received, that there cannot be a tradeoff between economic opportunities.
- Proponents coming to the Valley to develop projects need to talk to the Nisga'a citizens. They need to share their views via consultations. We will ensure proponents are brought in to the communities to hear your concerns. This allows transparency.

Emergency Preparedness

- We have heard you, in particular regards to the tsunami issue. We need to be ready and to plan for this. This will be occurring through communication and education.

Language & Culture

- We need to ensure we are looking at ways to address and ensure our language and culture is passed on to the children. Most importantly, the Nation still wants to preserve this and provide public education.

Cherly Stephens / Executive Director

Reported that her new role with NLG is the Executive Director, and with that role she is responsible with certain directorates, with fisheries falling under this umbrella. In stating this, her report will focus on fishery issues.

Commercial Crab Fishery

- A study will be conducted prior to the crab fishery (and after) to look at impacts.

Enforcement Fishery

- Having a Patrol boat in Area 3: Fisheries department will be looking at this. Also looking at impacts and enforcement concerns within the Nass Area.

IS Fishery

- Concern of harvest limit of fishery: A review will be conducted.

Moose Population

- Need to look at all potential impacts. Will review the management plan.

Programs & Services and C-6 Delegation Transition

- Ongoing consultation with citizens on this transition. Once received this delegation there will be continued evolution and practice to ensure the way we develop and deliver this program that it be culturally appropriate and sensitive to our culture.

Quality of Life

- This is a strategy that NLG is looking at and will be focusing onto our children. It is timely as we move to C-6 delegation. We are also promoting our language and culture to our children.

Youth

- Allow for participation outside Nisga'a lands for youth to receive exposure to the outside world. YOY coordinator has been looking at different avenues for this to happen.

Fishery Bay Draft Management Plan

- Recommendation from sessions that we change our reference to Fishery Bay to Lax Da'oots'ip, to ensure research is complete.
- We are reminded that we are all stewards of our land and to continue to have pride in our land. As the government, we look at ways and means to assist in the stewardship of our Nisga'a Land.

Nisga'a Government

- Nisga'a Government will continue to grow. Proper governance and management take time.

Kevin McKay / Executive Chairperson

Good morning – Happy Nisga'a Day. Our theme for this Special Assembly is very appropriate – Our Journey Continues – implementing our Treaty and governing ourselves to improve our quality of life.

12 Years ago – year 2000

- The Nisga'a Nation left behind the legacy of living under the *Indian Act*. Our *adaawak* tells us that the Nisga'a have been on these lands since before the beginning of time.
 - Ever since we have been on these lands the Nisga'a have evolved into a vibrant, proud, and self-determining people. The *Indian Act* was with us for a little over 130 years and did a lot of damage.
 - Today we celebrate 12 years without the *Indian Act*.
 - The NFA will allow us to get back to where we were prior to the *Indian Act*.
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Nisga'a Government

- One of the biggest opportunities in the NFA is the Nisga'a Government – the inherent right to self-government. Self-government is Nisga'a Government.
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Youth Councils

- One of our priorities is to work with the Youth Councils to help them find themselves in governance.
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Conclusion

- Thank you to the Nisga'a Village of Gingolx for the tremendous hospitality throughout the week.

H. Mitchell Stevens / President

Thank you to the Hosts of the Special Assembly.

We must always include Chiefs and Matriarchs, and listen to them.

Thank you for the support of NLG staff.

We have policies and IHLC to watch every step we take, and that we don't overstep the policies that guide us as we carry out the work of the Nation.

Thank you to the people who carry out programs and services, and most importantly, our CFO.

Thank you to the Directors of NLG. They must write down everything they do and everything they are about to do and give it to the President.

The all importance of Nisga'a Land is what we are discussing.

We ask that you read all the information that was circulated throughout the week. We will walk together, one heart, one mind so we can all live together in harmony.

Back in 1986, our chieftains left behind: Don't forget land that we own, how we live, and laws that we live by. These are the words and laws to live by. We are not here to take away land, we will give you strength so we do not lose the land we own.

To the young generation, we expect the new generation to come out and attend the Nisga'a meetings and feasts. It is up to us, Chieftains, to talk to the young people because they live here in the Valley and we must teach them. If you have the knowledge of the ayuuk, please pass it on to the young people. Go out and help your village. Use the people. Thank you to this young lady who told me please watch our children.

Be very careful with one another, do not speak against your own people in regard to the welfare coming in or RCMP. Love one another, take care of one another.

We are trying our best to create opportunities for our young generation and those generations to come. We own lands now – and we hear of white people coming in to buy land. That is why we are buying back land that white people own, such as Nass Camp.

Speaking on forest tenures, we wrote a letter to the minister regarding Chapter 10 of the NFA – we are going to take this back – 150,000 cu metres. We are going back to our Treaty in regards to logging. That is a very high number in regards to timber. We sat down with the Provincial Government in April, and we told the Minister that we are going to take back the crab fishery outside Gingolx.

It's been a long time and we are still trying to create jobs in the Valley. This is why we established NAE: to create jobs. The Nisga'a always come first in job opportunities.

Don't be disappointed when you don't see change overnight.

Thank you to the CEO, IHLC, CFO and Directors on the work they have been doing and the briefings from before Executive meetings.

In closing, thank you to community of Gingolx for hosting us this week and all those who prepared food for us.

Thank you for coming out to voice your concerns. Your concerns will be answered. We have an obligation to all Nisga'a citizens.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for attending. We are doing what the people have asked us to do.