



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

NEWSLETTER **SUMMER 2021**

Jaŝ Sa (July) The month of Spring Salmon

Tŝeman Za (August) The month of the Sockeye



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Message to the Reader:

Please note that at the time of writing the TNG Summer newsletter the COVID-19 cases remained low in the area, and therefore in-person events and meetings were being scheduled. However, since the writing of the newsletter cases have significantly increased in the area resulting in the TNG to postpone in-person events and meetings. Please monitor the TNG website or social media pages to find out when, and if, some of these in-person events and meetings have been rescheduled, or if they will now will be held virtually.” We thank you for your understanding and hope we can gather together soon.

TNG Website

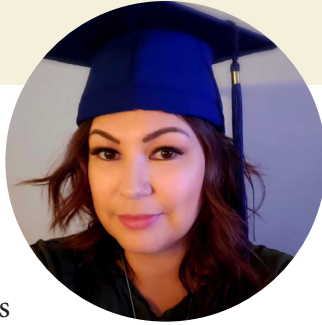
<https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/>



TNG Executive Director

Jenny Philbrick

We are busy here at TNG. I am loving this warm weather and happy to be in communities and to be able to attend events again. In June we celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day in the park. We collaborated with Yeqox Nilin and Denisiqi and had hundreds of people join us.



I'm happy to announce that I have completed the Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Indigenous Business and Leadership. It was very challenging to work, go to school and raise a family... but it was so worth it. I want to say a sechanalyagh to my friends and family for sticking by me and supporting me over the last 3 years.

We are busy preparing and planning for the Nation Gathering happening at Anah Lake from August 11th to 13th. I look forward to seeing everyone!

In July I attended the grand opening of Tsideldel's Bendziny Wellness Resort. It is amazing to see communities buying back our traditional territory and purchasing business that will create jobs and revenue for the communities.

I also attended the Ahan memorial in our sister city New Westminster where Chief Jimmy did an excellent job emceeing the event. I want to thank Chuck Puchmayer for his gracious hosting.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to have a proper farewell for Chief Roy Stump. Last week Roy came in to pick up his gift from TNG. TNG sends a huge Sechanalyagh to Roy for all his hard work, dedication and contribution to ?Esdilagh and the Tsilhqotin Nation.



Finance Manager

Linda Haig-Brown

We are just in the process of finalizing our third-party audit. This is something that organizations have to do on a yearly basis to continue to receive ISC and FNHA funding. For this specific type of audit (3-day field audit), auditors come in and review our:



- accounts receivable (money coming into the organization)
- accounts payable (money being paid out) and
- payroll (money paid to employees).

The auditors review and check that our internal controls are being followed. Internal controls are like policies that make sure monies are being spent on what they are meant to be spent on. For example, making sure that Chief approved and/or funder approved budgets are being followed. But, also that all invoices, timesheets, payroll and accounts payable have multiple levels of approval.

Auditors also review our Chief meeting minutes so they can keep on top of workplans and general guidelines from Chiefs. This helps give them an understanding of the layout of our organization. The end product is a full written report (audited financial statements) of where the organization sits financially. The report shows total revenues and expenses for the whole organization. It also shows any monies that is owing (mortgages), monies owed (organizations that umbrella under TNG), as well as other areas to show financial stability for TNG as a whole.

Within the report it shows all of the specific programs, and in particular provides for FNHA and ISC to have a third party view of their funding pots and how much was spent.

For the fiscal year 2019-20 the audited financial statements were attached to the AGA report, which will be the same for 2020-21, to be scheduled sometime in December 2021. If you would ever like to sit and review them, my door is always open.



Photo 1: the TNG Finance Team (Left to Right); Georgina Stump, Andrea William, Tammy Haller, Linda Haig-Brown & Kori-Jo Stump.

Health Manager

Connie Jasper

We are so happy to see things opening up a little after 16 months of lockdown due to Covid. We have been able to complete 2nd doses of Vaccine in communities as well as off reserve.



Our Health Team attended the Celebration at Puntzi for Bendziny Wellness Resort. It was so great to be out on the land.

We had a Health Directors lunch out on the land at Bull Canyon. We had a chance to say Thank you to the Health Directors for all their hard work. It felt so good to be all together in person. Thanks for the amazing work everyone.

We have a couple of new staff joining our team. Our Community Nutritionist and Registered Nurse will be on board with us shortly.

The Williams Lake First Nations Wellness Centre is currently going through Renovations and the planned opening date is early 2022. This will be a Primary Care Centre for all First Nations living both on and off reserve. It is a joint project with all three Nations and FNHA.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Summer and I will see you at upcoming gatherings.



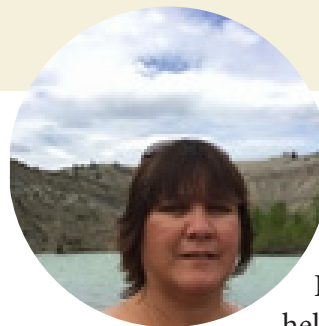
Photo 1: Elders at Tsideldel Resort Grand Opening



Photo 2: Drummers at Tsideldel Resort Grand Opening

Health Programs Coordinator

Lorna Elkins



Hope everyone is enjoying the hot weather that we've been having.

For my update, I've been busy helping organize our Nation Gathering with my co-workers and community representatives. We have 2 more planning meetings to finalize everything. Thanks to everyone for their input.

I've attended Tsideldel First Nations grand opening of their Bendziny Wellness Resort in Puntzi Lake. It was a beautiful day and was great to spend some time with community members and neighbouring communities. Great job to the organizers.

I'm hoping to attend some community gatherings this summer as well. It's great to get out and visit with community members and help out.

We finished up our 5th Annual Diabetes Roadshow with Carrier Sekani in June. We were out in all of our 6 communities for two weeks. The Diabetes Roadshow was a little different this year as most the communities decided not to have any presentations and just by appointment only, because of the Covid regulations. It was still a great turn out.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mental Health Team Lead

Ellen Williams

Happy Summer Everyone! For those of you who have not met me, I'm the Mental Health Team Leader for TNG. My role is to supervise clinicians who provide mental health care to the Nation. As well, I assist with the implementation of mental health programs and work collaboratively with community agencies.



Diabetes Roadshow

This year I was happy to accompany Lorna Elkins and the Carrier Sekani health team to promote diabetes screening and education in the communities. This two week event involved in-person visiting of the health centers in Esdilagh, T'lesqox, T'letinqox, Tsideldel, Yunesit'in and Xeni Gwet'in. Many community members attended and accessed the different health services offered, such as massage, diabetes screening, physio, traditional healing, foot care and workshops.

Mental Health Team

As we said goodbye to clinicians Daniel and Laurie, we've also had to prepare for the departure of Hana Kamea, who has been a counselor with the Nation for many years. She is going to be leaving our Team in September and we are now in the process of recruiting a counsellor to continue her role as Child and Youth clinician. Hana has truly set the bar high with her exceptional connection to the community of Tsideldel and will definitely be missed. In particular, her expressive art and movement workshops were well attended and greatly valued as a safe and welcome venue for those that wished to heal through music and creativity. Thank you, Hana, for your dedication and care to the communities you worked with and to our clinical health team!

Health Directors Appreciation Lunch

COVID, Natural Disasters, Tragedies have taken their toll on all of the communities. We are so fortunate that we have Health Directors in each community, helping people navigate through mental health, physical health and emergencies. To show our gratitude, our Health

Team (Connie Jasper, Lorna Elkins, Hazel Quilt) put together a BBQ lunch to celebrate the Health Director Team. Most importantly, we wanted to show our support and let the team know that we are here to work together and that they are not alone. It is so great to be able to begin meeting in-person again and to share our stories, burdens and successes.

Going Forward

As COVID restrictions are starting to lift and people are able to meet in-person, we are looking forward to starting up more in-person mental health groups for the Fall for both youth and adults. Keep watching the TNG or the community Facebook pages for more updates.

Ellen Williams

Mental Health Team Lead

ellen@tsilhqotin.ca



Photo 3: Diabetes Roadshow 2021



Photo 4: In T'lesqox for the Diabetes Roadshow

Health Receptionist

Hazel Quilt



Time for another update,
how time flies.

On June 14th and 15th the vaccination clinic was held at the TNG Lakeside Office for the Moderna shots. Three Corners and TNG teamed up together. I stepped in as time keeper for those two days. On the first day, I was flustered the whole time, trying to keep track of the 15 minutes after people received the shot to make sure they were okay to drive. The second day, I felt better and more confident because I knew what to expect. We had over two hundred people come to the clinic for their shots. The majority of the people we accommodated were the ones that got their first shot back in April. The fun part for me was calling and making appointments.

On July 7th, I went out to the Tl'etinqox Office with Lorna, a meeting for the ?Esqax Qanajidi. I haven't been part of those types of meeting in a long time, it was a learning curve to be a part of one again. It's amazing how much people have to plan and work together to pull off a real big event like this one.

On July 8th, I went with Lorna out to the grand opening of resort that Tsideldel purchased. It was a beautiful day for people to celebrate. I sat with Chief Otis' mother most of the time that I was out there. Two of the eldest elders from Tsideldel cut the ribbon, that was such an honor to see that.

On July 14th, I went out to Bull Canyon with Lorna, met Connie out there for the Health Directors' Appreciation Luncheon, another beautiful outing. To be close to the river was refreshing. It was an awesome smorgasbord of food. Meeting the Health Directors, visiting with one another and enjoying the beautiful weather was such a bonus.

On July 23rd, I attended the TNG Staff BBQ. It was a good day and the weather was nice.

Until next time.

Emergency Services

Brian Moore & Team

Reaction to wildfires and other incidents around us:

Operations

- Incident Response
 - Dan and Brian have responded to 6 wildfires, 4 flooding and 1 request for assistance calls so far this year
 - We have also responded to 4 flood assessment calls for the Cariboo Regional District because they have no resources west of the Fraser River
- Structural Firefighting Course
 - Through TNG's engagement meetings, Dan is presenting communities with our plan to deliver structural firefighting courses to each of our villages

Planning

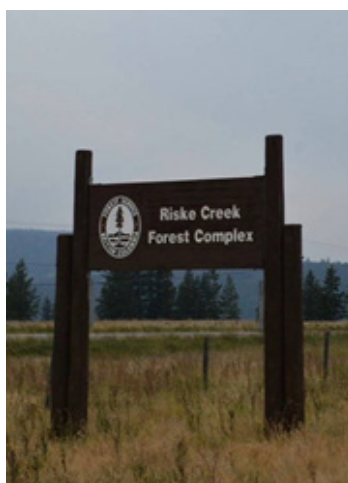
- As we wrap up work on our Nation-wide hazard analysis we are beginning to work on response plans – these are community and incident based (for example, we are developing fire plans that will be different for each of our communities, just like flood plans will be)
- We are also enhancing our business continuity plan (for example, what do we do if we have to evacuate one or more TNG offices)

Riske Creek Forest Complex

After two years of negotiation with the BC Wildfire Service we have secured a tenure lease for the Riske Creek Forest Complex, just west of the T'lesqox turnoff on Highway 20.

We are now in the process of cleaning the complex up after sitting idle for more than a few years. Overgrown grass has been cut so now we can see what we have to deal with.

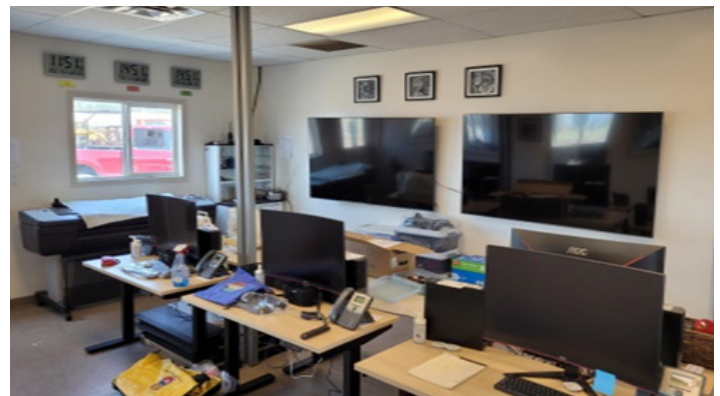
We know the complex had extensive infrastructure in place such as power, water and septic services, but we do not know what condition any are in, so evaluators will be brought in before this winter. Then we can make any necessary repairs before the snow starts.



Emergency Operations Centre

The complex will be home for our offices, the emergency operations centre (both of which are currently at the solar farm office), as well as a training facility for structural and wildland firefighting.

In 2020 we received almost \$150,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to purchase all of our office equipment, computers and telephones.



This year we were very fortunate to receive another \$150,000 to purchase a back-up generator and two-way radio equipment to ensure we can serve our communities even if the power goes out.

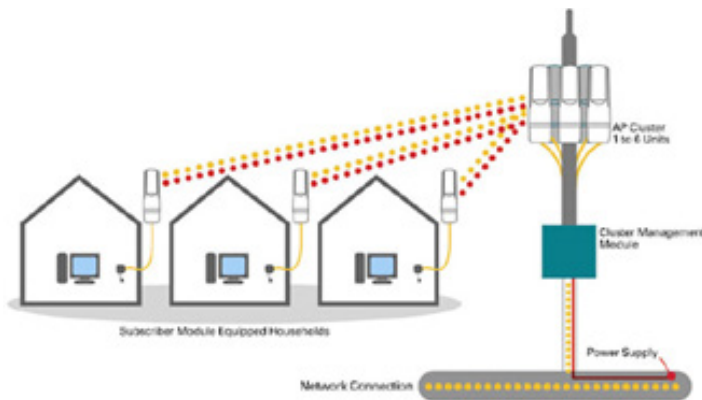


As we get settled in, our plan is to also establish our T̓silhqot'in Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Emergency Management; a research and development hub where we can introduce traditional practices and knowledge into existing western courses.

T̓silhqot'in Community Network Pilot Project (Canadian Internet Registration Association Grant)

On the topic of communications, we just received a \$100,000 grant for an Internet pilot project that will serve not only Emergency Services, but eventually also our six communities, beginning with T'lesqox. We will be using a distribution network to test the pilot's effectiveness based on:

- Wi-Fi technologies,
- TV White Space, and
- Fibre optic cables



As a Tsilhqot'in managed and owned network, we are strengthening our nation's access to one another, leading the way towards vibrant and resilient Tsilhqot'in communities through future internet access capabilities.

Offering Wi-Fi is a little bit different from cellular but it will create similar “bubbles” of connectivity, so as someone drives through them they will be able to send and receive phone calls and texts.

Another goal of the project is to offer community members with options when it comes to getting internet into homes; with the hope competitiveness among other providers will drive down the cost.

2017 Wildfire Report Calls to Action Progress Report



Many of you know there are 33 calls to action within the Fires Awakened Us but did you know there are more than 100 sub-components of them? Since the Emergency Services Department was created almost 3 years ago our team has been working hard to address all of these as quickly as possible to make the Tsilhqot'in Nation ready and independent for any emergency. To date we have completed or are actively working on over half of them!

Logistics

Emergency Support Services (ESS)

Our nation has developed our own strategy for accommodating our own people in the event of evacuations. Previously community members



registered for support services in another community. This year Emergency Services will coordinate a full-scale **Emergency Services Reception and Lodging Centre** located in Tl'esqox community.

If a community is evacuated Emergency Services in coordination with Tl'esqox community will provide the gathering location where you will register and have 100% of the services provided for you. This will include; food, lodging (tenting area), health care and cultural activities. The Community Hall, Toosey Old School, Health Centre, Cultural Area and the lodging site will provide the space required to support our community members.

As this is a new initiative we will be seeking your support to assist us. If you are impacted and need to utilize this service we request that you bring blankets, sleeping bags, tents or RV's to supplement the lodging area.

Equipment Registration:

Equipment Registration forms were sent to every community. We would appreciate you registering any equipment with Emergency Services. Equipment includes everything that has insurance, WorkSafe coverage and General Liability Insurance. We are interested in everything from back hoes, busses, vans, cargo trucks, excavator's, dozers and more!

People:

We are interested in knowing about you if you are a community cook, driver, danger tree assessor/faller, experienced in security and more! Please reach out to Emergency Services if you can provide support to assist us in the ESS centre.

Wildlife Biologist

Mitchell Warne

How to Understand British Columbia's Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Surveys in the Chilcotin.



The Province of British Columbia conducts both bighorn sheep and mountain goat surveys throughout the province, which they then use to inform their management decisions. These surveys are different within the Region from both the moose SRB and caribou surveys that were discussed in the previous newsletters.

The purpose of this article is not to explain how the sheep and goat surveys are conducted in detail nor to justify their use but instead provide information on what the numbers from these surveys mean.

The California bighorn sheep in the region are found in various areas in three different herd types: Fraser River, migratory, and mountain herds. These herds are all surveyed in the same way. Flights occur in February or March to count the sheep via helicopters when there is still enough snow on the ground allowing the bighorns to stand out and for the tracks to be followed. The best time is to survey shortly after a snowfall.

Bighorn sheep are counted via the helicopter surveys and classified as lambs, ewes, rams or unclassified. The rams are also further classified based on their horn size. The result is a minimum count for each herd because this is the minimum that could be out there (as there may actually be more but there isn't fewer.) There is no estimation of the population and because some animals may have been missed during the survey this is called a minimum count and not the population or maximum count.

Mountain goats in the region are surveyed using the same methods as the bighorn sheep except they are usually completed in July or August.

They are surveyed in late summer when their white coats stand out better against the landscape. They are counted as kids, yearlings, nannies, billies or unclassified and the total is also the minimum count. There are no population estimate completed and the results are the same as the bighorns.

These minimum counts are used for management decisions and form a trend by comparing the minimum counts over time. This is the same concept as using a population estimate trend for management decisions but with sheep and goats there is no estimation just the minimum count.

If you have any questions about the bighorn sheep or mountain goat surveys or in general you can contact me using the below information;

Mitchell Warne R.P.Bio.
TNGs Wildlife Biologist
Phone: 780-814-2026
E-mail: mwarne@tsilhqotin.ca



Photo 1: Bighorn sheep



Photo 2: How many mountain goats do you see?



BAT EXCLUSION & MITIGATION TRAINING

This is a free course to provide training to community members to be able to complete bat exclusion work on buildings for their community. The course includes a rabies vaccine.

DATES:

September 16th | 9a.m – 4p.m | In-person, Location to be determined
September 17th | 9a.m – 4p.m | In-person, Location to be determined

Course will include information on:

Bat species, biology, disease, and handling.
How to identify access points, prevention, safety, and education.

To Apply: you will need to fill in a CCATEC application form.
Please contact Mitchell Warne, TNG Wildlife Biologist at mwarne@tsilhqotin.ca for the application form **by September 1st at 4:30 p.m.**



GIS Team Lead & Portal Administrator

Sarah Gash

Awe Summer. I love this time of year. Harvest time. My garden is a bounty. We have been eating fresh veggies for a while now, snacking on cucumbers, peas, and radishes. Right now the raspberries are ripe and I spend a few minutes every morning picking for my cereal. The deer seem to be liking it too, and managed to sneak into the fenced garden and bite off the tops of most of the cabbage and some of the broccoli. So maddening, but understandable. The garden is so lush in this dry time of year.



Photo 1: Raspberries

First off, I'd like to introduce Mark Schnider as our new GIS technician. Mark comes to TNG with a wealth of GIS experience, and we are excited to see his contributions in the coming months. So far this summer GIS has been busy supporting the field season. Of note is the push we have made to get the housing surveying completed. Teriann has spent a number of days in community to help the housing team get the surveys underway and complete. She is spending lots of time cleaning up records and finalizing details.



Photo 2: Visiting Chilko Lake

Adam, Teriann and I spent a lovely day driving about Xenia confirming a few points in early July. We then spent a few hours at Chilko Lake, giving Adam an official tour of the heritage site and the shoreline. I am in awe every time I am there. My favourite place for sure.

We have also provided mapping and data collection tools for wildlife work underway for Caribou, Moose, Bighorn sheep population studies. It is exciting and interesting work, that Adam has taken charge of.

We have also implemented a survey to help manage photo data collected with wildlife cameras deployed throughout the territory. We are tracking camera installations, and have provided a survey for Rangers to upload wildlife pictures captured on the cameras for assessment of wildlife populations and activity. Sadly, for us, the scat survey didn't need our help this year so we are not getting as many field days as we did last year.

Portal Admin is always a priority and we have been busy registering lots of new users, troubleshooting submissions. Our developer has released a test version of the new Portal Version 3 that I will be testing and reviewing in the coming weeks.

As always we are producing regular wildfire activity maps during the high fire season. Adam has taken our models and process and written a super script to do it all automatically and then some, so we are able to create these maps with the click of a button.

The BC Government also has this great interactive map showing fire perimeters, evacuation alerts and orders which is great for at a glance information:

<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f0ac328d88c74d07aa2ee385abe2a41b>

Use your mouse to zoom in as it is scale dependant and you won't see details unless you are more zoomed to a regional level.

GIS is keeping up work to support the Nen team, either with map requests or data requests. We have also had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with some of the Nen managers to discuss some of their priority projects. It has been really great to see people again.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Nation gathering!

GIS Technician

Adam Gaudet



Hi everyone,

It has been a busy time in the mapping department at TNG with a steady stream of map requests coming in the door. Wildlife (well, Mitch) always finds a way to keep me busy – this time with caribou, moose, and bighorn sheep projects.

I have also been helping J.P. a little bit with NEN mapping for the various tenure types within the Territory.

My main focus as of late though has been wildfire mapping where I've been busy fine-tuning an automated process that will get very clean and nice looking maps out the door early every morning so everyone can be up-to-date on the most recent wildfire activity in the Territory.

On a sad note, Teriann and I got the boot (evicted?) from our temporary large and spacious conference room office and moved back into our little GIS corner. Ah well – I guess all good things can't last.

Moving offices aside, I was fortunate enough to get out to community for the first time in well over a year and got to participate in the Title Celebration out in Xeni a few weeks ago. The weather couldn't have been nicer and it was so great seeing everyone on such a special day!

The GIS Team also made another trip to Xeni - this time for a data collection/team building day which for me also included a first-time trip to Chilko Lake that was way, way, way prettier than I had imagined. I thought I could sort of picture it from all the photos I had seen since starting at TNG, as well as Gene's drone footage, in addition to mapping it almost every day – and you think you sort of get an idea of the size and scale of it (I mean, it's large on a map, so it must be large when there in person, right?), but it doesn't really hit you until you're there on the shoreline and looking at the cyan-blue water while feeling a steady cool breeze pushing up the lake. It was marvelous!



Photo 1: First Time visiting Chilko Lake.

Besides that, I will be on holidays starting Friday (July 23, so by the time this newsletter reaches you) and will be visiting my family in Ontario. We're pretty excited in that it's been over a year-and-a-half since we last saw each other in person, as well as we will bring our soon-to-be 1 year-old son (Yuzuki) to meet his grandparents (Jiji & Baba) for the first time, in addition to nibbling on some delicious cheese curds at the St. Alberts cheese factory (<http://fromagestalbert.com/?lang=en>) - which I have noticed are now being sold by the kg at Wholesale here in town, though there's nothing like getting cheese curds freshly pressed from the source earlier that day. If it doesn't squeak, then it's not a true cheese curd.

Anyways, that is all for now. I hope everyone else has a great rest of summer!

Sechanalyagh,
Adam

GIS Technician

Mark Schnider

Hello, my name is Mark Schnider and I started July 19, 2021 as a GIS Technician in Stewardship. I was born and raised outside the small town of Edgewater in BC's East Kootenay region (just north of Radium Hot Springs / Invermere area). I graduated from UVIC in 1993 with a BS.c in Physical Geography have been a GIS Technician, mostly in operational forestry, since then; first with Timberland Consultants in Nelson, followed by several years with the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, also in Nelson, and finally with Maple Leaf Forestry Ltd. in Cranbrook, where I was also their Health and Safety Coordinator, until a COVID workplace reduction occurred in 2019.

Through patience, perseverance, and a bit of luck I was rewarded with a position as GIS Technician for the Tsilhqot'in National Government.

I have always enjoyed learning about the Earth and the interactions of flora, fauna, and their associated landscapes either through reading or by direct observation as I spent many an hour on the claybanks overlooking the Columbia River Wetlands with my Nana's dog discovering the world as it happens.

I look forward to bringing my GIS and Physical Geography skills, knowledge, and insights to the Tsilhqot'in National Government hoping these will be of benefit to current and future generations, and I also look forward to learning more of the Tsilhqot'in language and culture.

Sechanalhyagh.
Mark

GIS Apprentice

Teriann Elkins

Hi Everyone!

I've been pretty busy lately with training summer students for GIS Tasks for the Housing Project. We went over ArcGIS Survey123 and how to use the Navigation Maps on Avenza while you're out in the field. When using the Survey123 app, we have to visit every home in community and fill in a Survey that was created by the GIS Team, in the survey there are fields/attributes you can fill in with basic house info and you also include a photo of the home. So far, I've visited 4 out of 6 communities this month and I'm proud to say 4 communities have completed the housing surveying! I am now able to clean up the data and eventually produce new Emergency Prep Maps once all 6 communities are complete.

Other than that, I will be troubleshooting the wildlife survey, prepping Yunesit'in' iPads for field work, cleaning up house data, planning community visits and completing map requests when they are assigned.



The GIS Team had recently got to visit Nu Chugh Beniz Provincial Park on Chilko Lake in Nemiah, it was beautiful! It was my first time being at that specific location. I will definitely be making another trip there before the summer ends. I took some beautiful photos of my coworkers and a couple good selfies while the wind settled a little....

On a personal note, I will be away for two weeks for my annual holidays and when I return I will be certified to save lives again!

Have a wonderful day,
Teriann Elkins



Photo 1: The GIS Team out at Chilko Lake.



Photo 2: Serving Ice Cream at TNG's Staff BBQ.

Fisheries

Randy Billyboy & Team

Hello everyone!

The TNG Fisheries Department has grown a lot over the past 2 years! Our core team is:

- Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Manager
- Pete Nicklin, Fisheries Biologist
- Michelle Tung, Fisheries Strategy Lead (on leave)
- Leonard English, Fisheries Coordinator
- Winston Bambrick, Fisheries Technician
- Gerald William, Fisheries Technician

We've also partnered with experts for specific projects and programs:

- Andrea Sterling, Biologist: Water Quality and Quantity (WQQ) Program; Conservation Hatchery Feasibility and Emergency Enhancement
- John Hagen, Conservation Biologist: Chilcotin Steelhead
- Gottfried Pestal, Quantitative Biologist: Biological Benchmarks
- Aimee Arsenault, Communications

During the fishing season we see lots of growth in the TNG Fisheries team, with roughly 18 people employed directly or indirectly to support science and technical work, communications, and the catch monitoring program.

In-Season Update:

We're into the salmon fishing season now, the busiest time of the year for the TNG Fisheries Department! The salmon in-season period began in mid July, and after the first few weeks, salmon information is flowing in from assessments along the migration route from the ocean to the spawning grounds.



Photo 1: TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Technician Winston Bambrick, and Fisheries Field Coordinator Leonard English scoping access for Ja̓s (Chinook) emergency enhancement, overlooking Chilcotin Lake.



Photo 2: Fisheries Biologist Pete Nicklin and the TNG and DFO crew installing the Taseko SONAR system to count Ts̓eman (sockeye) and Ja̓s (Chinook) migrating through the Taseko River.



Photo 3: TNG's Taseko SONAR field site camp, complete with newly constructed electric fence. Shoutout to the TNG Rangers for putting that safety feature in place for us!

After 2 years of no fishing due to extreme conservation concerns for Ts̓eman (sockeye) and Ja̓s (Chinook), we're glad that Tsilhqot'in member communities were finally able to get out on the water and do some Ja̓s fishing. As the season progresses, we'll be speaking

with DFO and T̓silhqot̓in Leadership about potential T̓s̓eman openings later in the season.

TNG Fisheries Department Activities:

After the hardship that T̓silhqot̓in communities have faced over the last couple of years of no fishing, this year we're focusing on communications and information sharing as a priority to keep everyone informed on the state of T̓silhqot̓in salmon runs and fisheries.

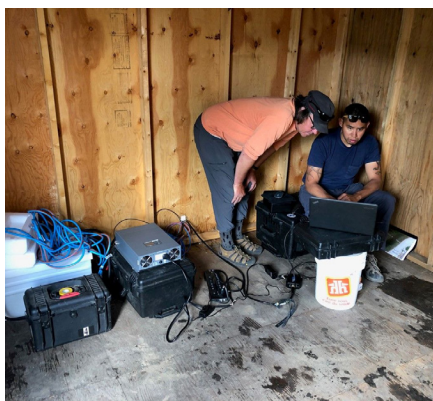


Photo 4 (Left): TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy and DFO Technician Tim Pankratz working on computer set-up for the Taseko SONAR.

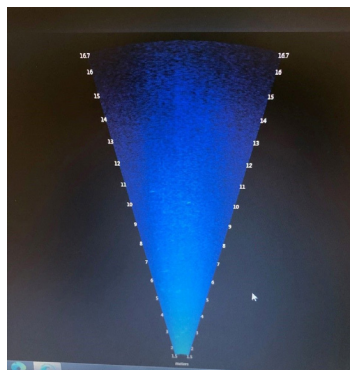


Photo 5 (Left): Taseko SONAR image capture where we can see salmon migrating through; the white blips are the rocks on the bottom of the river.

Photo 6 (Right): TNG Fisheries Manager Randy Billyboy dipnetting for Ja̓s̓ (Chinook) at Gwetsilh (Siwash) and checking on catch monitoring at TNG fishing sites.



Other in-season activities include:

- collecting science data through a number of different programs
- compiling and analyzing in-season information from other sources (e.g., DFO, Pacific Salmon Commission)
- counting fish harvested by T̓silhqot̓in membership through our catch monitoring program
- Emergency enhancement activities to support the rebuilding of at-risk salmon stocks that are important to T̓silhqot̓in member communities
- Territory-wide water monitoring through our Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program
- Stock assessment and information analysis to inform decision making, including partnership with annual DFO programs and our own on-the-ground assessments throughout the Territory—e.g., dipnet test fisheries, SONAR assessment in the Lower Chilcotin and Taseko systems, and telemetry stations to track radio tagged Ja̓s̓ (Chinook) and T̓s̓eman (sockeye).



Photo 7: Water monitoring station at Chilcotin Lake for TNG's Water Quality and Quantity monitoring program; station installations were completed in July!

Weekly Fish/Fishing Season Updates for T̓silhqot̓in Communities – Wednesday afternoons:

The TNG Fisheries Department is providing weekly in-season salmon updates on Wednesdays via Zoom calls and written fisheries bulletins.

We're focusing on providing the best information to inform T̓silhqot̓in Leadership decision-making on fisheries, and to keep T̓silhqot̓in people up to date.

The weekly fisheries bulletins and the information to join the weekly Zoom call updates are posted on the Fisheries page on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries.

Executive Lead

Jay Nelson

Happy summer everyone,

As I write this update, I'm grateful to finally be back at the TNG office at South Lakeside! I've been working from home in Victoria for several months, so it is great to see friends and colleagues again and catch up with new staff that I've only known on a screen. There's a good energy in the office, it is buzzing with activity, and the younger staff are excited to head out to Farwell Canyon with dip nets to see if they can get their Jaḥ. I'm grateful for summer and that people are down at the river fishing for Jaḥ again.

Our TNG Negotiations team is meeting face-to-face this week for some important planning sessions. The Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement provides a huge opportunity for Nation-building over the next 5 years. We are holding team planning sessions to make sure we have a strong action plan for the next 5 years that will bring powerful, positive change for the Nation and the Communities. We are excited for big steps ahead: standing up T̓silhqot'in governance and laws, reclaiming jurisdiction for children and supporting families, caring for the nen (lands and waters and resources) and protecting important cultural sites, helping more people learn and speak their T̓silhqot'in language, creating jobs, training and education, and much more.

We use the "8 Pillars" as our mandate and guide and – as always – we look to you for our direction. We will be at the Gatherings and in the Communities this summer and fall to get feedback, so please look for us and share your thoughts and help shape the future for the T̓silhqot'in. And I'm planning to camp out at Anah Lake for the Nation Gathering, August 11-13, so hopefully I will see you there!



THE 8 PILLARS



WHAT WE ARE
STRIVING
TOWARDS



T̓SILHQOT'IN GOVERNANCE

- Full self-government for T̓silhqot'in people
- According to T̓silhqot'in laws, institutions and values



STRONG LANGUAGE & CULTURE

- T̓silhqot'in members fluent in, and proud of, their language and culture



T̓SILHQOT'IN MANAGEMENT OF LANDS & RESOURCES

- T̓silhqot'in management of the lands, resources and wildlife
- Sustainable for future generations



HEALTHY CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Health indicators on par or better than non-Aboriginal communities
- Programs delivered by T̓silhqot'in, based on T̓silhqot'in laws and values



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Standard of Living on par or better than non-Aboriginal communities
- Adequate housing, clean water, roads, infrastructure, etc



JUSTICE

- Education and support for T̓silhqot'in communities
- Innovative preventative strategies and alternatives



EDUCATION

- Funding and outcomes on par or better than non-Aboriginal schools
- Real opportunities for post-secondary education and training



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC BASE

- Sufficient and sustainable economic base to support the above outcomes

Governance

Shawnee Palmantier & Team

Child Protection Law Making and the Tsilhqot'in people

It is very timely that we are working towards building a Tsilhqot'in Child Protection law. Children are of central importance to the Tsilhqot'in people and so this law must be a priority. We also know with all the recent horrible findings that protecting our children and families is critical. Indigenous people have a very troubled history involving the improper care of their children. We have to do better. We need to make positive changes.

A Tsilhqot'in Child Protection law will remove the provincial jurisdiction on all child protection matters that we pass law on. A Tsilhqot'in Child Protection law can truly be one that reflects the culture and needs of the Tsilhqot'in people. We intend to build a law that is truly Tsilhqot'in. We hope this law can be a step towards care of Tsilhqot'in children that empowers the communities. We hope this can be another step towards healing and restoration of healthy communities.

While we have exciting hopes and plans for this new law, it can only really be truly Tsilhqot'in if the citizens direct us on how to proceed. We must receive meaningful direction from the communities. This means we know we must speak to and hear from as many community members as possible. We are hoping you might share your knowledge and thoughts on what is important to you? How can we support our families? How can we take care of children when families are struggling? How do we provide appropriate support to families and children? What does a Tsilhqot'in Child Protection law look like?

We have so many questions and are seeking direction from the entire Tsilhqot'in Nation. We hope you will come and meet with us when we come to present to your communities this August and throughout the year. It is important everyone makes a difference and

has a voice by meeting with us and sharing their vital direction.

Tsilhqot'in Water Law

The precious waters in the territory require protection. Human development can have great adverse impacts on the quality and quantity of water in the territory. This can be a product of big business or small settlements. Therefore, we know it is important to take action and be clear on what protections we need to provide. We also must share these laws with the world including business and any type of developers.

The Tsilhqot'in people have ancient laws on the protection of water. We were grateful for all the elders and knowledge keepers who have shared their knowledge and wisdom with us over the past years as we assemble these ancient laws. These laws will be an important piece of drafting a Tsilhqot'in Water law. We know it is critical to incorporate these ancient teachings, laws and directives.

Although we have recorded these important laws, we know there is also a new reality that we must address.

There is a lot of pressure on the territory to provide for the settler communities. We also know that the Tsilhqot'in values, teachings and laws can sometimes conflict with settler laws. Global warming, ranching and other activities can also have adverse impacts that we must discuss and hopefully address. Therefore, we must find many solutions to protect the territorial waters.

We hope you will take time to come tell us your views and direction on the protection of waters in the territory. We would be keen to have discussions and receive direction on how we can do this! Please take time to come meet with us at our governance presentations this year as we start meeting again! We look forward to seeing you again and hearing from you.

Contacts for the Governance Sub – table:

Shawnee Palmantier, Governance Sub-table Manager

Email: spalmantier@tsilhqotin.ca

Ph:(778) 799-2145

Renee Racette, TNG Legal Counsel

Email: RRacette@tsilhqotin.ca



Senior Advisor, Housing & Infrastructure

Shawn Wiebe



It seemed that 2020 took an eternity to get through and yet 2021 is racing by at a breakneck pace. Sherry and I are settling into our new home/property and with fewer chores to do each night and on weekends, we have taken the time to really enjoy time on our horses riding on the many trails that lead out from the back of our property.

It has been a whirlwind of activity and exciting milestones with first Carpentry Foundation Program graduation celebration and construction beginning on the Rapid Housing Initiative and how to get the homes transported to Xeni from Williams Lake. We are frantically looking after the last-minute details as the first 3 of 6 homes are scheduled to be delivered on Thursday, August 12th.

I am also looking to assess how satisfied T̓silhqot̓in Deni are with their community infrastructure like water quality. From this we would develop a budget and schedule to have infrastructure improved if needed.

Our GIS team has been going out to each community to assist the Housing Manager with Mapping Projects, which will provide new, up to date maps for each community as well as the information required to create community housing profiles so that we can begin housing condition assessments in each community. These housing assessments are needed so the communities can know where renovations should start and how much it will cost.

For the past few months I have been presenting to communities through our zoom information sessions about what is happening in housing.

If things go according to plan for the housing deliveries I am really looking forward to seeing everybody out on the land at the Nation Gathering and getting out to community more often as well as having our Housing Managers meetings in person again.



Photo 1: New dump trailer for the Construction Management Company.

Housing Project Manager

Jackson Crick



We are continuing to work with our partners at BC Housing to create a database of the housing assets in each community for the BC Housing Asset Management project. The BC Housing Asset Management project will give us the opportunity to:

- Inspect every house in all six T̓silhqot̓in communities
- Identify repairs and flag renovations that will give the house a longer life
- Make houses more energy efficient
- Make it safer for the occupants.

This database will also give our communities the leverage they need to negotiate with the federal government for funding that we need for housing.

We've completed: a) 3 workshops with the T̓silhqot̓in Housing Lab; b) a partnership between TNG, Ecotrust and CMHC that created a dialogue between all the T̓silhqot̓in members, to better understand the history of housing in our communities and our hopes for where housing will be in the future.

I'm continuing to work with the housing managers in each community to encourage them to pursue an application to the First Nation Market Housing Fund (the Fund) so that each community can take advantage of the funding available.

The Fund is a great opportunity for the communities to build capacity in their housing department. The Fund pays for training and workshops in anything that can be related to housing; including finance, governance, management and has even paid for the tuition for a bachelor's degree when it was demonstrated that the education could be used toward benefitting the housing department.

Administrative Assistant

Bridget Rosette

Hi everyone!

It's hard to believe we are in August already and the days are getting shorter!

I have been enjoying competing with my horses in barrel racing, cattle sorting and gymkhanas locally in Williams Lake. I'm also involved in the BC Barrel Racers Association and have been the president for the past 4 years - we are having our 2021 finals in Quesnel on August 20-22. I enjoyed the staff golf fun day and JP (my partner) gave me helpful tips as that was my 2nd time golfing and I'm looking forward to the Farwell Canyon hike in August.



The Carpentry Foundation Training program is over, and we held the graduation on May 18, 2021, at South Lakeside office. Jenny Philbrick did an amazing job emceeing the event and Chief Joe welcomed everyone and congratulated the students on their hard work and dedication to the program. The students received gifts from their communities, TNG's Housing & Infrastructure and Jeff, the instructor. I'm a bit sad that the program is over as I will miss seeing everyone, but the great news is the program was a huge success with everyone who completed the program all finding employment in the carpentry sector.

The Housing & Infrastructure and the Construction company are keeping me busy with administration with all the exciting things happening. I also attended a Project Management course through UBC. The course was very interesting, and I learned a lot of valuable information to put into my toolbox. I'm looking forward to going out to the Nation Gathering at Anah Lake, as this will be my first one since being with TNG.



HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT IN YOUR HOME



Close your windows in
the heat of the day and
open them when the
outside is cooler than
inside the house



Attach aluminum foil to
cardboard and attach it on
the outside of your window
to reflect the heat



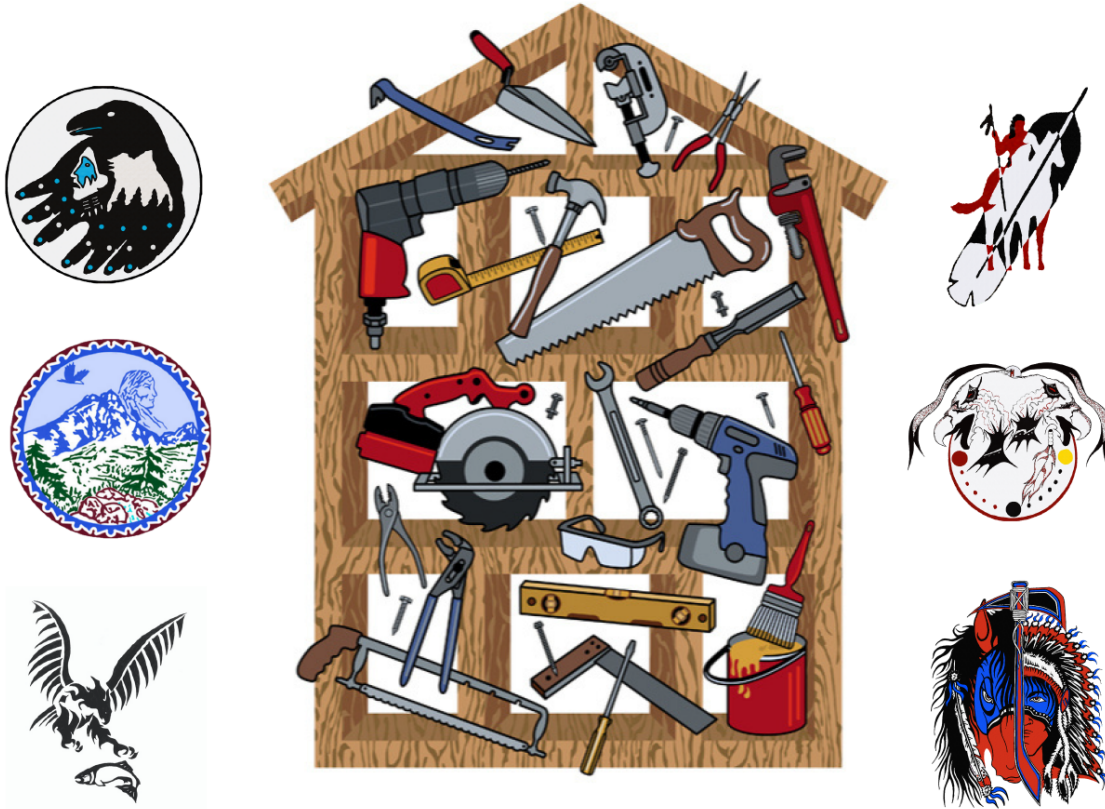
Don't use your
oven/stove if possible.
Cook on a BBQ or camp
stove outside if you can

Well insulated homes
will withstand hot and
cold temperatures best



If using your stove,
use the exhaust fan

www.tsilhqotin.ca/housing



JOIN US!

CARPENTERS & GENERAL LABOURERS NEEDED

All levels of carpentry and general labour needed

FOR UPCOMING WORK IN YOUR T̑ILHQOT'IN COMMUNITY



Interested in working with us? You can work part or full time, as an employee or contractor. Call Brittany Spooner, Human Resource Generalist, at 250-392-3918 or email bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca for more info.

Construction Manager

Sherry Wiebe

Wow I can't believe August is here already! Lots has been happening on the projects that were mentioned in the Spring newsletter. For the six new homes that Xeni Gwet'in is receiving from the Rapid Housing Initiative, the excavations are completed and footings are in place for the first three homes. Foundation walls are being stood up this week and will be ready for when the first three pre-fab houses arrive on the 12th of August.



Photo 1: Damon Sopher

This project has encountered some challenges along the way with manufacturing and supply delays due to Covid-19 and issues with trying to get the homes out to Xeni. With hours of planning and communications with various suppliers, departments and ministries the challenges are being resolved and the houses can now be transported to the remote community.

A big thank you to the Craftsman Carpentry Program that helped with the foundations of the Rapid Housing Initiative in Xeni. Organized with June Lulua, we were able to have the trainees in the program use the foundation work as experience in their program. There are a few projects happening at Tl'etinqox with the work continuing along with the five RRAP (renovations); the trusses have been ordered, just waiting for them to be built then the crew can start on the rebuild of the partial fire loss house.



Photo 2
(Left):
Craftsman
Carpentry
Program

Tl'etinqox chose to have a number of new roofs replaced on Elders' houses which are scheduled to start on August 9th. If you have any questions about this, please contact the housing manager at Tl'etinqox. Renovations will also be starting soon in the other Tsilhqot'in communities.

With the help from some of our carpentry staff and summer students the six picnic tables at South Lakeside office are being sanded and stained, they will look amazing when finished. Watch for 'help wanted' advertising in Communities – we will need more deni with carpentry experience, as well as general labours that have no carpentry experience but want to learn and be part of the work on housing. If you or someone you know are interested in working with the TNG construction management department to create and improve housing in the Tsilhqot'in communities, please talk to Brittany, TNG Human Resource Generalist, at bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca.

Grant Bertrand, our new Estimator/Purchaser also started work in early July. Grant's experience will allow us to develop quicker costing estimates and create coordinated purchasing of construction materials to take advantage of our buying power at the Nation level. Grant's intro is also included in this newsletter.

Recently we have also added the following people to our construction team:

1. Trevor Quilt (Tsilhqot'in Nation member, graduated from TNG Carpentry Foundation program in May/21)
2. Catlin Cahoose (Ulkatcho Nation member, graduated from the TNG Carpentry Foundation program in May/21)
3. Travis Frank (Tsilhqot'in Nation member, graduated from the TNG Carpentry Foundation program in May/21)
4. Billy Alphonse (Tsilhqot'in Nation member)

5. Brandon Stump
(Tsilhqot'in Nation member)
6. Mathew Alphonse
(Tsilhqot'in Nation member)
7. Cole Myers (Tsilhqot'in Nation member, summer student)
8. Aidan Wycotte
(Tsilhqot'in Nation member, summer student)
9. Paul Lee (Secwépemc Nation member, 4th year Carpentry apprentice)



Photo 3: Aidan Wycotte
(Summer Student)

Please join me in welcoming them to the TNG family!

Estimator/Purchaser

Grant Bertrand

Hi everyone!

For those of you who have not met me, I am working with the TNG Construction Management department to provide estimating, purchasing and project management for projects throughout the Tsilhqot'in Nation.

A little bit about my past that I am excited to share with you – many years ago I started working on various construction projects that included residential, commercial, industrial and recreational builds.

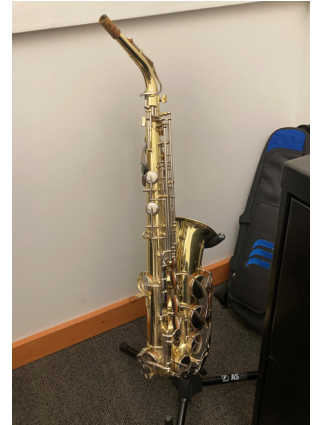
I then received an Engineering Design Technology Diploma from the College of New Caledonia and have continued to advance my understanding of building knowledge with courses related to restoration, building inspection, concrete testing, building envelope advancements and project management fundamentals. My education in building technology coupled with working along side amazing co-workers here at TNG will continue to increase my knowledge as I do my best to provide solutions on TNG's construction projects in the many communities.

This team work will lead to successful completion of projects for today and in the future.



I am settling into my new position and have already started to work with local contractors, vendors and other service providers so I can assist with developing quicker cost estimates to ensure purchasing of materials are cost effective and of quality material for all housing projects. I am also very interested to learn Tsilhqot'in language. I have already become familiar with a few words!

I do my best to keep healthy by walking, swimming and playing almost any team sport. I also enjoy playing guitar and saxophone. I enjoy hearing other co-workers showcase their talents around the office. Very cool!



I am excited to be part of this venture with TNG and I look forward to meeting everyone while working with the Housing & Infrastructure Department.

Construction Superintendent

Damon Sopher

Hi, my name is Damon Sopher, I have been hired by Tsilhqot'in National Government as one of the Construction Superintendents.

I have a strong background in construction and have my Red Seal certification in carpentry. I have mostly been working at the community of Xeni Gwet'in where we are preparing sites and constructing foundations for the six Rapid Housing Initiative houses. The first three of the six houses are scheduled to arrive in early August. The community members have made me feel very welcome and I have enjoyed all of the community events that I have attended. The team I have been working with at Xeni (Trevor Quilt, Catlin Cahoose & Paul Lee) are really great. Jim & Dinah Lulua's hospitality has been excellent too! We've been staying there for quite a few weeks.

My wife Laura and I have recently purchased a house in Williams Lake and we look forward to exploring the hiking trails and all that Williams Lake has to offer.



Senior Advisor, Tsilhqot'in Nen

J.P. Laplante

Hi folks,

Happy summer. I hope you have not been overly affected by the fires or heat waves, and that the Jâs fishing has been good. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Nation Gathering and other events. Here are some updates from our Nen Team.



Gwets'en Nilt'i Implementation

Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement implementation work continues. We recently responded to BC's draft Action Plan for their Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The work at the table with BC is still generally planning work on how best to advance the Nation's goal of full recognition of Tsilhqot'in Title and Rights. Some of the more exciting work relates to on-the-ground projects that are underway and being led by Shane and Cynthia – an archaeological impact assessment at Tsiyi, the “made in Tsilhqot'in” impact assessment design project (which is very much a nen governance project), and a climate change and food security project.

Gibraltar Appeal

We continue to await the decision from the Environmental Appeal Board (“EAB”) to learn about the outcome of the ?Esdilagh/TNG appeal of an amended discharge permit that allowed for increased discharge from Gibraltar Mine to the Fraser River just below ?Esdilagh. I've also been supporting ?Esdilagh reps to plan for improved governance and engagement related to the mine.

Forestry

The Nen Team is supporting TNG's Forester, Jeremy Boyd, and the Stewardship Department, in several forestry-related initiatives. One project is preparation for the anticipated timber supply review for the Williams Lake Timber Supply Area. The second project is to respond to BC's “Forest Intentions Paper” which proposes a number of new policy changes but doesn't address Indigenous Rights and Title.

Nen Planning

The nen planning process continues, with Nen Coordinators established in the 6 communities. We welcome Thelma Stump to the table as the new Nen Planning Coordinator for ?Esdilagh. She brings a deep knowledge of the communities and Territory, and has experience with planning as she was the Health Director in ?Esdilagh when the health plans were developed. We also thank Kristina Twan for her amazing work over the past several years – she remains with us but in a different role at ?Esdilagh. TNG is actively recruiting to backfill the TNG Nen Planning Coordinator position.

In July, we were very excited to have our first in-person Coordinator's meeting at TNG's Lakeside Office. It was great to actually see people and not just on a screen. We agreed that we would meet in-person (COVID allowing) once per month and rotate these meetings through the communities starting in September – so hopefully members get to learn more when we see you in community. Please ask any of us (TNG or community staff) questions if you have any! We hope that more formal community engagement, including interviews, will be in place by the Fall.

As a reminder, as of July, this is the Nen/Nenqay Coordinators/Managers:

- Tsideldel: Talia Baptiste
- Tl'etingox: Tracey Elkins
- ?Esdilagh: Thelma Stump
- Tl'esqox: Jason Houde
- Yunesit'in: Trina Setah
- Xeni Gwet'in: Michelle Myers (Manager) and Shannon Woods (Coordinator)

Resource Management Coordinator

Cythnia Fell



I hope this letter finds you all well. With the ease in Covid restrictions, it's been nice to be able to have some in-person meetings with TNG staff and community members.

Please find below an update on the made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework development process and an introduction to the T̓silhqot'in National Government's Climate Health Action Strategy.

Made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework

In June, we had a virtual launch to introduce the made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework hosted by TNG's Executive Director, Jenny Philbrick. T̓silhqot'in cultural ambassador, Peyal Laceese, conducted a beautiful Opening Ceremony to remind us of the importance of taking care of ourselves, taking care of mother earth and seeking guidance and direction. The T̓silhqot'in Chiefs shared inspirational words.

In July, we put on two virtual workshops. The first workshop focused on the federal and provincial environmental assessment processes (aka impact assessment) and current opportunities for indigenous involvement. Dr. Kevin Hanna from the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research at UBC provided us with an introduction to environmental impact assessment and Canada's Federal Impact Assessment Act. Dominique Nouvet, legal counsel to TNG, presented an overview of the provincial environmental assessment process and opportunities for indigenous involvement. The second workshop focused on Indigenous-led impact assessments. Jeff Nishima-Miller, a graduate student studying under Dr. Kevin Hanna, presented on the emergence of Indigenous-led Impact Assessment and how other Nations have designed and implemented their own assessment processes. Aaron Bruce of Aaron Bruce Law, presented on how his Nation, the Squamish Nation, developed their own environmental assessment process. It was wonderful to hear from the T̓silhqot'in elders and community members during these virtual

meetings. We are looking forward to the continued dialogue with communities. If you missed any of these events, TNG's impact assessment webpage (www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment) has more information, including a recording of the virtual Opening Ceremony and copies of the workshop presentation.

We will also be organizing fall workshops for this project. They will focus around the discussion on cumulative effects and developing an Impact Assessment Framework reflective of the T̓silhqot'in Nations values and vision. Please watch for more information – we hope to be in the communities in late September or early October.

The T̓silhqot'in National Government's Climate Health Action Strategy

TNG is proud to share that we have secured some funding from the First Nations Health Authority to develop a Climate Health Action Strategy. The goal of the Strategy will be to address T̓silhqot'in community concerns in regards to food security as impacted by climate change. To help do that, we will recruit climate modeling experts and work closely with community representatives to project future changes in climatic conditions and identify the risks to the Nation's and communities' priority values. The project will also identify data gaps and what kinds of environmental monitoring would be required to better inform us about changes to the priority values (e.g., one value could be having enough clean water).

Adaptation planning will be conducted once a risk assessment is completed. TNG will also work to increase Nation and community awareness about climate health action through the development of educational and communication materials for youth, elders and knowledge keepers and to bring these groups together to support the intergenerational transfer of knowledge. This project will also support the Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food Security work that Governance Sub-Table Manager, Shawnee Palmantier, has been working on with the Founder, Chair and Coordinator of the BC Food Systems Networking Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Dawn Morrison. Again, community engagement sessions will be planned later this year – keep an eye out for more information, including our booth at the Nation Gathering August 11-13. I hope to see you there!

Cultural Heritage Coordinator

Shane Doddridge



Hello everyone. We are continuing to work hard to develop a strategic road-map for heritage protection that will include site protection measures, archaeology policy, museum repatriation, and so on.

We are also continuing negotiations regarding Bull Canyon gravel pit, and we are planning for more archaeology work there this September to better understand the impacts of the pit, the highway, and Bull Canyon Park to T̓silhqot'in ancestral heritage. We will be offering RISC and CMT training for archaeology this August, and will be accepting those students onto field crews in September. To sign up for training please contact Cheiro Guichon cheiro@tsilhqotin.ca.

I am still currently at school, and I hope to be back working for TNG full time this fall.

Education Manager

J. Randolph Radney, Ph.D.



Dan gwežlin ʔeguh gwanisni! As summer brings heat and smoke becomes more evident in the region, many people are cautiously planning for back-to-school in the fall. While most of the details can be arranged in communities or at the schools where courses are being taken, there may be special circumstances or programs that require more than the community or the school can offer. With this in view, TNG citizens should contact the education team, if any of you are facing obstacles or difficulties to see whether we can assist in any way. We are happy to help!

The initial encouraging news that TRU would support remote learning in the coming year appears to have been retracted, and TRU has indicated that they are only prepared to offer their classroom courses in Williams Lake and Kamloops to students attending their classes in person. Although this is disappointing, we are working with a consultant from Xeni and also with remote institutions to bring more programs into the communities of TNG. It would help us very much to know what courses are most attractive for us to bring to each community. Some communities need adult basic education and upgrading to be able to enter university studies or trades programs. Others may not need this training, but may have other needs we don't know about. If you have ideas about the sort of training you would like to see brought to your community, please contact us as soon as you can.

It has been several months since my last report. All of us on the education team are rejoicing that we have been able to get out to communities and visit people. The Title Day gathering was special, to hear from the Nits'ilʔin Qi and leaders and to visit with many Xeni Gwet'in. Then, we were honoured to be at the Bendziny Resort opening celebration near Tši Deldel and to catch up with family there. Finally, we have been invited several times to meet with people at Tl'esqox (a special thanks to Nits'ilʔin Francis and his invitation to eat "ʔabeleš and ʔorangeš" :) with them). It has been good to spend time with former

students and old friends. I also got to meet many new people from the community. Looking to the future, gatherings near Tl'etinqox and at Yunešit'in are planned in August, and we hope to be able to visit with people from those communities, as well as at ʔEsdilagh during their community engagement meetings.

In my last newsletter report, I mentioned the development of a diploma in Tšilhqot'in fluency for university credit. When I brought this idea to the Nits'ilʔin Qi, I received counsel to gather a group of Tšilhqot'in who have experience at university. In this way, we can get advice on what works (and what doesn't!) in university education from more of a Tšilhqot'in point of view. This will allow us to put together a program that actually serves Tšilhqot'in students. At the same time, we also received encouragement to gather a group of teachers and others working with language learners, so that the language courses properly reflect Tšilhqot'in values and ways. Since that time, an elder Tšilhqot'in teacher has also encouraged me to make that discussion part of my visits to each of the six communities, so that I get input from all of them, and save them travel time. I hope to get this done in the remainder of the year as we continue to visit communities.

TNG meetings with UBC have continued to move forward, and we are hoping to bring leaders from the nation and from the university together on Tšilhqot'in Nen this fall for an initial workshop to explore our relationship.

As I write this summer report, the education team is planning a meeting with the education coordinators in early August. We are excited about this, since it will be our first in-person meeting for more than a year. The focus of our meeting will be celebrating all the graduates who have finished their programs during the COVID crisis. We hope we can properly honour them all at the nation gathering in mid-August.

As my role has become more known at TNG and in the member communities, I have received more individual requests to help with courses, programs, funding, and long-range education plans, both from office staff and community members, and I find this exciting and fulfilling. Please contact me if you have a training goal in mind and want someone to talk with about your plans. Nanexwenuwēsʔin!

Education Manager

Lisa Boyd

Summer is here. We have waited for the day we could be out enjoying summer events with family and friends. A time when families are gathering, harvesting, fishing and hunting to ensure traditional activities are being preserved and the land is kept healthy.

I have made a few community visits so far, such as: Xenigwet'in - 7th Annual Tsilhqot'in Title Celebration, Tsideldel – Grand Opening of Bendziny Resort and Tlesqox- Youth Cultural Camp. It was great to witness the community's accomplishments and share the experience with others. At the Xenigwet'in 7th Annual Tsilhqot'in Celebration, it was great to listen to the speeches and the performance by Nuxalk leadership and dancers. Some of the youth dancers spoke in their language giving thanks and recognition to the Tsilhqot'in nation. Bendziny Resort Grand Opening was opened by prayer from a Tsideldel elder and stories shared by elders of their traditional upbringing at Puntzi Lake.

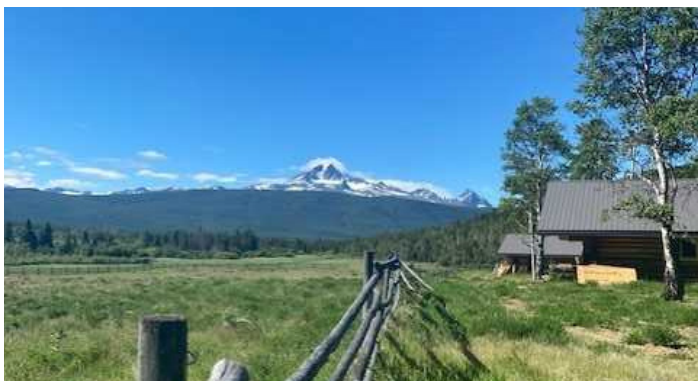


Photo 1: View from Nemiah Valley Lodge



Photo 2 : Puntzi Lake taken from Bendziny Resort



Photo 3 (Left): Edna Lulua and Lina Williams shared their stories of "How each family had a fishing/camping spot along the lake – each one had their own name." Puntzi Lake (Bendziny Resort Grand Opening) Bendziny Resort



Photo 4 (Right): Edna Lulua (Tsideldel) making bannock at Bendziny Resort Grand opening.

The education team attended Tlesqox's Youth Cultural Camp, Tanning hide session with Mary William and Christine Isnardy. Tlesqox has a great set up at their cultural camp by a creek overlooking a team of horses. It is good to see the great activities and programs that are happening in the communities like equine programs, culture camps, and outdoor learning provides students a real-world learning experience that will set them up for success in life beyond school. An upcoming event that will be happening in education, is the Nation graduation for high school and post-secondary students at the Nation Gathering at Anah Lake, August 11-13, 2021. We are working with the education coordinators and the event coordinator to make this event successful. This is the time to celebrate with our families and communities for our high school and post-secondary graduates.



Photo 5: Mary William (Tsideldel/Xenigwet'in) prepping hide



Photo 6 : Tl'esqox cultural camp (tanning hide session)

Summer is the time for students to recoup before back to school in-person learning this fall. The beginning of



September is a crucial time for schools to ensure the health and safety of students and staff are at the highest priority to support the transition. However, online learning and homeschooling will remain available for students.

Photo 7: Matthew Boyd-Gilbert at Bendziny Resort Grand opening eating nuwish (soap berries).

Here are some important links to review for the upcoming school year:

Links to BC COVID-19 School Plan for 2021-2022:

BC Schools: Planning for a full return to the classroom
 COVID-19 safe schools - Province of British Columbia
[gov.bc.ca](https://www.gov.bc.ca)

The K-12 Daily Health Check website and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user-experience for K to 12 students.

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/>

Sechanalhyagh,
 Lisa Boyd

Community Education Liaison

Sherry Stump



How to Juice Soap Berries

You will need the following;

- 2 pots
- Cheese cloth
- Sifter or strainer
- Gloves – so that you don't stain your hands from the red soap berries
- Canning Jars

Instructions

1. Clean the soap berries.
2. Place cleaned berries in a large pot.
3. Add some water, do not overfill (estimate 1 or 2 cups) since the soap berries contain their own juices
4. Boil for 30 minutes, add sugar (1/2 cup or less depending on the amount of berries & size of the pot).
5. Sterilize your canning jars and boil the lids.
6. Allow soap berries to cool for 15 mins or more.
7. Use the cheese cloth to strain the berries in another pot.
8. Boil a 3-5 minutes.
9. While the berries are still hot pour into the sterilized jars.
10. Remember to wipe the top of jars before sealing.
11. Place in a cool place and the jars will seal.



Communications Manager

Jacey Warne

I have really been enjoying the warm weather this Summer and so has my garden! Although, I'll admit that the heat waves are a bit too hot for my liking. Along with the hot weather has come the increased risk of wildfires throughout the province.



Emergency Services Webpage

Communications continues to support the TNG Emergency Operations Centre with sharing any information that we receive regarding wildfires and other emergencies. Did you know that the Emergency Services team has its own page on the TNG website? You can visit <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/emergency/> to see the TNG EOC's current activation level, view TNG Emergency bulletins, or for various emergency resources or contact information.

New Communications Staff, YAY!

Since our last newsletter in the Spring, TNG has hired a new Communications Advisor, her name is Corrin Williams. Some of you may have already had the opportunity to meet Corrin during the July and August Citizen Engagement meetings that are now being held in-person and virtually. Corrin is a welcomed addition to the Communications Team and will share the upcoming Citizen Engagement meetings for August in her section of the newsletter.

Public Announcements

Over the summer, Communications has been involved with public announcements regarding the remains found at the former residential schools, the BC Law Society's ruling regarding the Stephen John Bronstein case, the temporary Jaâ (Chinook) Opening which ended on July 30, 2021, the CIRA Community Investment Program Grant, the Chief ?Ahan Memorial in New Westminster, Celebrating Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse's appointment to Order of BC and congratulating Mary Simon on her historic appointment as Governor General of Canada. Read the latest press releases and public announcements on the TNG website: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/>

Come visit us at the Nation Gathering!

Communications will be setting up an information booth at the upcoming Nation Gathering at Anah Lake from August 11-13. Be sure to come and say hello and check out some of the materials to see what TNG and the Nation have been up to over that last while.

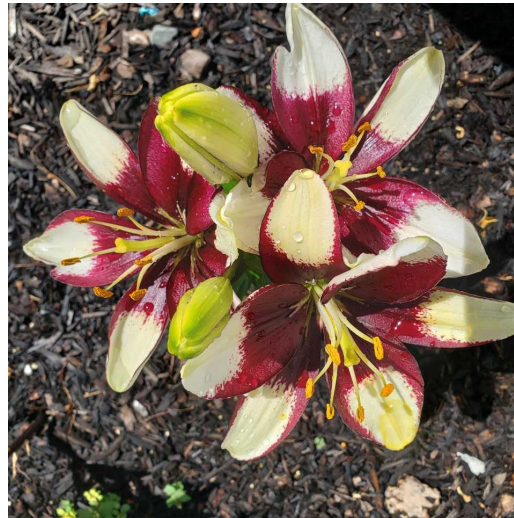


Photo 1
(Left):
Lilies in my garden!

CHINOOK TEMPORARY OPENING ENDING

The Tšilhqot'in Council of Chiefs declared a temporary opening of Tšilhqot'in Chinook (Jaâ) Fisheries to members effective Friday, July 16th at 6 PM - Friday, July 30th at 6 PM

The Temporary Opening Ends Tonight, July 30th at 6 PM.

The past two weeks have been a great opportunity for our people to practice our culture and harvest one of our traditional food sources.

We thank everyone for their continued commitment to preserving and protecting our traditional fisheries and hope that the later sockeye runs will support a temporary opening as well. We will make that announcement in the weeks ahead.

CHINOOK TEMPORARY OPENING

The Tšilhqot'in Chief and Council are declaring a temporary opening of Tšilhqot'in Chinook (Jaâ) Fisheries to members effective Friday, July 16th at 6 PM - Friday, July 30th at 6 PM

The Temporary Opening is strictly for Chinook (Jaâ) in the Lower Chilcotin River, this includes the Chilko system up to Gwetslin (Siwash Bridge) and the waters of the Fraser River from the Ferry Road south of ?Edsllagh (Alexandria) to ?Edsllagh (northern boundary of Alexander Indian Reserve)

The Temporary Opening is to allow for sustenance and ceremonial fishing.

At this time, please release any Sockeye (T'a'man) and take only the Chinook (Jaâ) you need due to conservation concerns for these early run salmon (Upper Chilcotin, Early Stuart, Bowron and Taseko).

We are hopeful that the later sockeye runs will support an opening and we will make that announcement soon.

The Temporary Opening will be re-evaluated and monitored weekly.

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED!

Stay up-to-date on TNG Fisheries: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries/>

Photo 2: Chinook Temporary Opening Notices



Photo 3: Social Media Post Congratulating Chief Joe on appointment to the Order of BC.

Communications Advisor

Corrin Williams

Hello Everyone!

I would like to introduce myself. My Name is Corrin (Corry) Williams, I have lived in the Williams Lake area for 28 years. I married a local man whose roots were firmly planted here and have enjoyed raising our 5 children here in the Williams Lake area. Over the years I have worked in several different sectors but my last eight years were in the health sector doing what I love which is working with and helping people in the community.



I started with TNG at the end of June in the Communications department. My role is Communications Advisor, which involves several different responsibilities, some of which I am still learning. My favorite part of my new position so far is coordinating and hosting the Citizen Engagement Sessions held in the 6 communities. I came to TNG at an opportune time as it coincided with the relaxing of COVID restrictions which made it possible to do Community Engagement Sessions in person as well as virtually for those still unable or more comfortable to attend this way.

We usually have 3 TNG department managers presenting who update the communities on all the exciting projects they are working on and the status of those projects. Our goal is to meet in each community once a month for these updates. I am very excited and look forward to meeting each and everyone while I visit your community over the next few months.

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact myself at TNG at (778) 799-2415

Following are the upcoming sessions for August, and also the schedule of presenters for September and October.



TNG CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

MEETINGS START AT 1 PM

PRESENTERS

SOCIAL-CULTURAL-EDUCATION- JUSTICE

Manager, Jody Nishima

EDUCATION-ECE-K-12 PROGRAM & LANGUAGE- ADULT

Manager, Lisa Boyd & Manager, Randy Rodney

RADIO/LANGUAGE

Community Radio Advisor, Racine Jeff

WHERE

7ESDILAGH - TUESDAY AUGUST 24TH, WESTSIDE HEALTH CENTRE

TL'ESQOX - TUESDAY AUGUST 10TH, BAND OFFICE

TL'ETINQOX - TUESDAY AUGUST 17TH, CULTURE CAMP

TSIDELDEL - PRESENTER MATERIALS WILL BE CIRCULATED

XENI GWET'IN - PRESENTER MATERIALS WILL BE CIRCULATED

YUNESIT'IN - MONDAY AUGUST 16TH, ZOOM MEETING

JOIN US VIRTUALLY

You are still able to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom if you wish. You may join the Zoom meeting through a computer, smartphone or your home phone.

TO REGISTER

Please contact Corrin Williams, Communications Advisor at CorrinWilliams@tsilhqotin.ca or call 778-799-2415



Note: Citizen Engagement meetings are being held virtually for the month of August.

Time		1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	2:30 pm - 3:15 pm
Month	Community	Department 1	Department 2	Department 3
September				
TBA	Esdilagh	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
TBA	TL'esqox	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
TBA	TL'etinqox	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
TBA	Tsideldel	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
TBA	Xeni Gwet'in	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
TBA	Yunesit'in	Administrative	Stewardship	Nen
October				
TBA	Esdilagh	Negotiations	Governance	DTA
TBA	TL'esqox	Negotiations	Governance	DTA
TBA	TL'etinqox	Negotiations	Governance	DTA
TBA	Tsideldel	Negotiations	Governance	DTA
TBA	Xeni Gwet'in	Negotiations	Governance	DTA
TBA	Yunesit'in	Negotiations	Governance	DTA

Communications Project Specialist

Myanna Desaulniers



Hi Everyone,
With vaccinations reaching almost everyone in our area we are now able to have more in person meetings and gatherings. For communications this means switching gears between virtual communication to more face to face and print materials that we can provide. I am still on the Housing & Infrastructure team to help with communication of the many projects they have happening and being able to communicate that in a clear and effective way that the T̓silhqot'in Deni would like.

I have been developing a webpage where T̓silhqot'in Deni can go to get information about TNG activities that are confidential to T̓silhqot'in – meaning only T̓silhqot'in are allowed to view or read it. This would include things like Annual General Assembly recordings and reports. Right now, the Governance Committee is reviewing the webpage and making recommendation back to me. Please stay tuned for more updates once we get this up and running. I work part time at the Lakeside office so if you ever want to contact me please feel free to give me a call on Wednesdays or Fridays at (778) 799-2145 ext, 3290.



Photo 2: A calm morning on Lhuy Nachasgwen Gunlin during the heat wave; View of T̓s'yl'əōš from Nemiah Valley Lodge



Photo 3: Eagle Lake



Photo 1: My Zucchini's are even bigger this year!

Dasiqox Tribal Park

DASIQOX
TRIBAL PARK



TS'IL?OS CEREMONIAL OFFERING TREK

AUGUST 15-20, 2021

Interested? Email
Dasiqox@gmail.com

2 Hiking Trips to Ts'il?os glaciers
Looking to build a team of hikers

Interested? Call
1-250-394-4099

Once reached the glaciers, ceremonial offerings will be given

Trip will take 3 nights

Team will finish hiking trip with community welcome dinner

POWER OF OFFERINGS

We give offerings because we acknowledge the power of gratitude. With this acknowledgement, we use this power to give thanks to the spirits that make up our world. Whether its food offerings in the fire, tobacco offerings when we gather medicines, or an offering in the shape of words or song, Indigenous peoples from all over the world know that when we interact with the world, we need to show respect and reciprocity.

This is why we will trek to the base of the sacred mountain Tsi'l?os and show our respect. We will do this by offering medicines, food, and songs.

We hope these treks will bring together our next generation with the shared gratitude for the glaciers that replenish our waters. In order to work together as Tsilhqot'in speaking people, we cannot continue identifying ourselves through the status card numbers the Canadian Government has forced upon us. Instead, we need to nourish our identity to the waters. These waters feed our animals and fish. These waters keep our lands together -- this is why we need to show gratitude to the glaciers that birth our waters.

Let's create something new together; an exciting future that inspires and challenges our youth, and teaches a new generation of Tsilhqot'in the power of our mountains and waters -- by actually going there and feeling their power up close.

