



Danch'iz (Fall) 2022

TNG NEWSLETTER

T̂SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Photo: Lauren Carruthers

Lhat̂s'âʔin Memorial Day Held in Williams Lake

For the first time since its creation in 1999, Lhat̂s'âʔin Memorial Day was held in Williams Lake. This was the 158th year since the Chilcotin War of 1864. Along with our youth, Elders and families, we had Williams Lake Mayor Rathor and Chuck Puchmayr (city council for our Sister City of New Westminster). We had friends from WLFN, CRD, Eagle Bay, MNP, Telus, reps from UBC and UVic, provincial and federal reps, School Districts 27, Shell along with many others we call friends come to gather with the T̂silhqot'in.

The Chilcotin War was a defining moment in T̂silhqot'in history. The six T̂silhqot'in War Nits'il'ʔin (Chiefs) that died defending our people and land are heroes to us. A colonial history that long named them murderers now will recognize them as heroes. The Nation continues the work of its ancestors to maintain our culture and way of life.



SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Gathering - 2*
- Fisheries Forum - 11*
- Housing - 19*
- And more!*



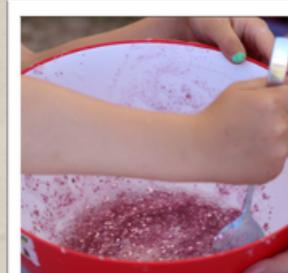


T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Gathering Demonstrates Resilience

The T̓silhqot̓'in Nation Gathering was held at Gwetsilh this Summer and was an amazing gathering with not only an abundance of fish, but an abundance of people, activities, and laughter. There were booths set up with games and activities from Yeqox Nilin, Denisiqi, CCATEC, First Nations Health Authority, TNG departments, T̓silhqot̓'in Community Radio, and more! The Nation showed the amazing skill of the T̓silhqot̓'in people through many games and competitions – including fish gutting, horseshoes, lehal,



moccasin mile, a talent show, and bannock making. Gathering again after a few years away due to COVID was a joy for many. It was held later in August given the Ts'eman are running later in the year. Nexwechanalhyagh to everyone that participated and took part in making this gathering such a great one.



2022
Nation
Gathering





B.C. Premier and Ministers visit Title Lands

September 22nd and 23rd B.C Premier John Horgan and 5 Cabinet Ministers visited title lands with T̓silhqot̓in leaders while staying at the Xeni Gwet̓in owned and operated Nemiah Valley Lodge. The Premier and Ministers discussed opportunities to improve the lives of the T̓silhqot̓in people. The Chiefs discussed taking back jurisdiction for T̓silhqot̓in children and families and focusing on the wellbeing of families. Issues around nen were brought up, including moose populations and monitoring or lands through the T̓silhqot̓in Rangers program

- T̓silhqot̓in Baskets returned to the Nation



A community dinner was hosted at the lodge where B.C. gifted the Nation three T̓silhqot̓in baskets that were in Victoria, being sold in a store. The baskets are amazing handcrafted works that in their time would have been so well made that they could hold water. In return, the Premier was gifted a buckskin vest and gloves in a traditional ceremony at the Traditional Village on T̓silhqox Biny.





T̓silhqot̓'in Traditional Dance being Revived

The TNG Health Traditional Dance project has hosted teaching workshops this past year as well as conducted many research interviews by Elders of other Elders and Knowledge Keepers in T̓silhqot̓'in to hear about their memories and knowledge of traditional dance. During the Nation Gathering at Siwash on Sept 1st, they held a large traditional dance sharing circle. Bruce Baptiste had invited T̓silhqot̓'in members of his Pow Wow dance group based in Williams Lake to share their dances as part of that circle. Joan Gentles is a



key leader in that tradition and also danced at the gathering. This was a great exchange as well of people's thoughts on indigenous traditional dance and why the dancers dance for their own health and well-being, dance as prayer for others, and dance for cultural and family connection.

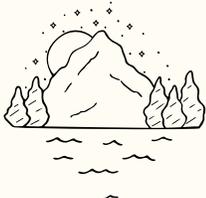


Totem Pole Ceremony held at Težtan Biny

The annual Težtan Biny Totem pole ceremony took place again this year with many people from Xeni Gwet'in and beyond in attendance. Elders came out and shared stories of past gatherings and culture camps. Drummers and singers gathered to witness the blessing of the totem pole and hear about the meaning and symbolism of it. There was also a water ceremony where Marilyn Baptiste gave six different Tšilhqot'in deni



a jar of water that was collected from a mountain stream and considered sacred water for healing. The day also included fishing, cooking and a sweat. The Totem Pole was gifted to the Tšilhqot'in from Nuuchah-nulth master carver Tim Paul and his family from Hoomis in 2014. It also marked the launch of the Dasiqox Park – Nexwagwez'an.





First of its kind Indigenous Wellness Centre Opens in Williams Lake

A first of its kind Indigenous Wellness Centre has opened in Williams Lake. The grand opening was held on November 4th with leaders across the three Nations in and around Williams Lake. The centre itself will have traditional healers, medical professionals, counselling, and other resources all under one roof.



It is a place where Indigenous people can feel respected and understood. It is located at the old Horton Ventures building down from the bowling alley. The address is 281 1st Ave North, Williams Lake.

Wellness



T̓silhqot̓'in Nits̓'il?in in Ottawa

Chief Francis Laceese (Tl'esqox), Chief Jimmy Lulua (Xeni Gwet'in) and Peyal Laceese (TNG Cultural Ambassador) were busy in Ottawa this Fall advancing the work of the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation. Following up from meetings with Premier Horgan and several BC Ministers on declared title lands in September, the Chiefs met with Minister Miller (Crown-Indigenous Relations) and Minister Lametti (Justice)



to set the stage for further T̓silhqot̓'in nation-building and the recognition of T̓silhqot̓'in title, rights and jurisdiction. Peyal started each meeting with a drum song that echoed through the halls of the federal government. The delegation is now headed home after a successful trip.





Tsilhqot'in National Government Hosts second in person Career Fair

On November 18th, TNG hosted a Career Fair in Williams Lake. Other organizations that attended include: Artemis Gold, Telus, Tolko, Save on Foods, Interior Health, Mcdonalds, Tl'etinqox government, Xeni Gwet'in Government, and more. We had 62 attendees with the most visited booths being TNG, Denisiqi, and TRU.



Many of the Tsilhqot'in communities have job openings and are looking to fill them. If you are interested in working with TNG you are encouraged to phone or email our Human Resources department at bspooner@tsilhqotin.ca.





2022 TNG Fisheries Forum

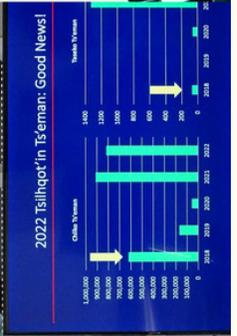
Thank you to all who attended the Annual TNG Fisheries Forum on October 19, 2022 at the Tl'esqox Community Hall! We were delighted by the great turnout from community Leadership and staff and TNG staff – it was fantastic to see everyone, and discuss priorities related to T̓silhqot'in fish and fisheries.

Highlights from the forum included:

- An update and dialogue on the implementation of the T̓silhqot'in Nation-wide Fisheries Vision – how we have advanced nation-wide priorities to date, and our plans for moving forward;
- a technical recap of the great 2022 fishing season, and good news about this year's strong Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye) and Chilko Ja̓s (Chinook) returns;
- A presentation by our highly skilled team members Leonard English and Winston Bambrick on the exciting new T̓silhqot'in Territory-wide water monitoring program. See our feature story below!

Spotlight on the recently completed interim TNG-led conservation hatchery that is ready for installation, and lessons learned from guest experts to help inform this critical work to rebuild priority stocks. See our feature story in the pages ahead!

Nexwechanalhyagh to all who attended this event, contributed to fantastic discussion and feedback, and overall made the forum such a success. For more details, please see the full fisheries report, included in this publication.





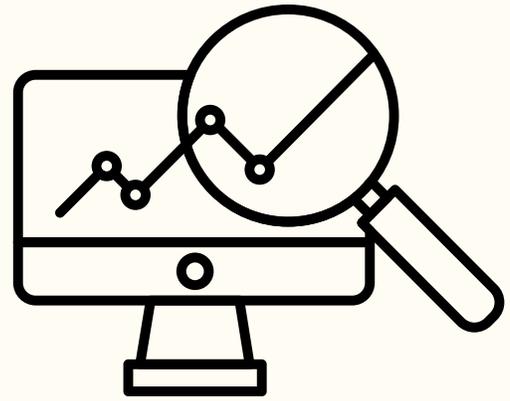
TNG Ranger Jimmy Harry taking a water discharge measurement

Our new T̓silhqot̓in Territory-wide Water Monitoring Program

TNG's Territory-wide water quality and quantity monitoring program was identified as a priority by Leadership in 2018. The program was initiated in 2021 and is focused on 3 key salmon nursery areas – the Chilcotin, Chilko, and Taseko systems. In spring and summer 2021, TNG Fisheries staff Leonard English and Winston Bambrick and the TNG Rangers, with technical support, conducted field visits to identify appropriate water station locations, and installed thirteen stations. A year of continuous data has



Water monitoring station component: Pressure transducer/temperature sensor in an aluminium pipe



Left: TNG Fisheries Field Coordinator Leonard English and UFFCA Nechako WQQ technical lead Rebecca Broadbent using survey equipment at Elkin Creek during October field work.

already been collected and has been directly used to inform our emergency enhancement activities (when to collect brood stock, what temperature to raise the babies, and when to release the fry!).

Congratulations to Leonard, Winston, and the TNG Rangers for building strong capacity in a completely new professional skillset, including use of highly technical and specialized equipment, and data management. This fall, a key priority has been on peer-to-peer learning with Rebecca Broadbent and Ashley Raphael, technical leads from the UFFCA's Nechako monitoring program!



Water monitoring station component: Enclosure with solar panel and antenna.



Delivery of the TNG hatchery to the Lakeside office in July 2022. It was built and delivered by Darwyn Haller, who is from Xeni Gwet'in



Preparing the hatchery site at Hanceville for hatchery installation

TNG Conservation Hatchery – ready for installation!

After 3 years of technical work, TNG’s interim conservation hatchery has been built, was delivered to the TNG South Lakeside office in July, and is now ready for installation!

A T̓silhqot’in-led conservation hatchery right within the Territory was identified by Leadership in 2018 as a Nation-wide priority for rebuilding T̓silhqot’in fish and fisheries. This has been a key strategic focus by TNG Fisheries. In March 2021, Leadership confirmed a plan to begin staged hatchery development,

starting with the interim, mobile “hatchery-in-a-box”, built by the Okanagan Nation Alliance. In October, we completed site preparation for the hatchery, and are aiming to have it installed and hooked up by the end of the year. We will conduct systems testing and training over the next year, with plans for full operation (egg incubation and rearing) by August 2023.

We are concurrently developing capacity and resources to establish a larger-scale permanent hatchery.

Tsilhqot'in Nation Labour Market Study

'Our Nation. Our Future'



What skills does the Nation have and what do we need?

The Tsilhqot'in Nation is conducting a 'Labor Market Study' and coming to a community near you! We are finding out what the Nations capacity is in training and workforce to help best plan for future training and employment opportunities. Basically, we need to know what skills the Nation has and what we need to fill upcoming jobs in the communities. With your help we will be able store this information safely and use as needed.



If you would like to learn more about this project or how you can win prizes contact James Evans at jevans@tsilhqotin.ca or 778-799-2145.





Security Training Completed!

TNG Emergency Services Department hosted a Basic Security Course on November 19 -23rd.

Fourteen students from 4 T̓silhqot̓in communities committed to 5-days of in-person security training. Students learned the fundamental knowledge and skills required by Security Professionals to perform their functions safely, legally and effectively. Security Professionals are able to work in a variety of areas including contracting services, hospitals, educational institutions, banks, retail and more.



Locally those that took this course could provide services during emergency events including, fire, flood and emergency group lodging events.

Fourteen students participated and 100% passed the final exam! Students are now eligible to apply for the Security Worker License to work as a security professional. Congratulations to these students!



Housing & Infrastructure Training

At the end of October, TNG Housing & Infrastructure started the Level 2 Carpentry training program at Toosey Old School. The amazing crew is in the photo above.

To the right we have the results from the training survey conducted at the end of last year and into January 2022. Nexwechanalhyagh to all that did the survey!



T̄SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Survey Results

Housing & Infrastructure Training



Background

In early 2022, the TNG Housing & Infrastructure Department conducted a survey to see what types of housing related training T̄silhqot'in people are interested in.



79

People provided their feedback through paper copies throughout the territory and online.



Training Interests

Almost half of the people are interested in training for plumbing.

44%



Other Trade Interests Include:

- Basic Home Maintenance
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Class 1 Driver's License



Driver's license

88% have their driver's license



REFERENCE

Data based off Training survey completed in January 2022



Marking and foundations in Tsideldel RTM homes

Housing & Infrastructure Steams Ahead

The Housing & Infrastructure department's construction team completed the Rapid Housing homes in Xeni Gwet'in, continue with renovations in Tl'etinqox and are making preparations for Ready to Move (RTM) homes for ʔEsdilagh, Tl'etinqox, Tsideldel and Yunešit'in. The Ready to Move (RTM) homes for these Communities have been constructed and are waiting for the foundations to be completed on site.



Completed RTM home in Xeni Gwet'in

These homes are 1,120 square feet and are built with full 2x6 walls, cement board siding, triple pane windows and are well insulated. The locations of these homes have been selected by the communities and the Nation has started work on the foundations for Tsideldel and Tl'etinqox while Yunesit'in's own construction crew will be installing the foundations in their community.



Housing Strategy Session Held in September

In September, all six T̓silhqot̓in communities and the T̓silhqot̓in National Government put our minds together to envision and dream up what housing might look like in the near future, and for the long term. With great respect for their people, the communities each shared the realities of housing in their communities and the social impacts it has on the people. They each shared what needs to be done to see a sustainable change happen that honours the diverse needs of each homeplace of the Nation.



All communities and TNG each contributed ideas, strategies, and offers of support to one another, enacting the old ways of Nation building.

Remembering what impacts one community impacts all.

We will be sharing what happened in these visioning sessions with the communities in the near future.



Xeni Gwet'in Hosts Health Caucus Meeting

Senior Management from both Interior Health and First Nation Authority (FNHA) held the Quarterly Partnership Accord Leadership Table in Xeni on September 15, 2022.

The Interior Region Nation Executive which consists of a representative from each of the seven nations within the Interior along with Interior Health VPs, Senior Staff, Aboriginal Team Members and Board Chair travelled to Xeni Gwet'in. This is the first time the meeting was held in a remote location. Most times the meetings are in Kamloops or Kelowna.



The group of 22 travelled to Nemiah Valley Lodge on the September 14th where they were treated to an incredible dinner served by the Chef at the Lodge. Chief Jimmy and staff members from Xeni joined the group for dinner and story telling. After the meeting the group travelled to the Traditional Village for dinner and entertainment from the community.



Health Caucus Meeting - continued

Remote Communities are often forgotten when meetings are held in large urban centres. This was an opportunity for them to understand the struggles that are faced by people in remote communities. Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Providers in remote communities is much different than in the Urban Centres. Annie Williams, Health Director in Xeni was able to share some of the struggles that she faces in trying to find nurses and also noted that many of the community



members don't have family doctors. Chief Jimmy talked about the Ambulance issues in Xeni as BC Emergency Health Services does not have an ambulance fit for the roads to Xeni. Many of the guests were very thankful for the experience and very grateful to visit such a beautiful territory.



Supporting Family Wellness

The T̓silhqot'in Nidlin project is working to support family wellness in the Nation. We are taking back our jurisdiction of children and families. The Nidlin team had its first meeting of many with an ISC representative as well as MCFD representative to begin coordination for full child and family jurisdiction in the Nation. The Federal and Provincial government both recognize T̓silhqot'in jurisdiction and look forward to the continued work. The team was also proud to collaborate with the



T̓silhqot'in T̓s'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan to host the T̓silhqot'in Danch'iz Festival. The festival was a family event that highlighted cultural revitalization. The festival included events like the ribbon skirt fashion show; a presentation to showcase traditional wear, lahal, musical entertainment, a talent show, among other entertainment.



Supporting Family Wellness...continued

During November the Nidlin team went to a conference called “Our Children Our Way” that showcases best practices, discusses prevention, community development approaches, and pathways to jurisdiction. The team, alongside Denisiqi, were able to build deep connections and jurisdiction strategies while proudly representing the T̓silhqot̓in Nation.



The Nidlin team looks forward to updating the Nation on the path to jurisdiction in the New Year.





A New Water System comes to Xeni

Xeni Gwet'in is expected to have 10 homes hooked up to water system this winter. It is mostly Elders that live in these homes that now have water, making it ever more important for this project to go through. Previously, those that needed water would pack it from Xeni (Konni) Lake, use other community sources, or use older infiltration galleries.

This project was approved by Indigenous Services Canada in 2021 after Xeni leadership outlined the need for access to water as well as clean drinking water. There were several Xeni community members hired for



the project. At times there were two excavator operators, two laborers, two traffic control workers and a mainline water sealer. In terms of unexpected challenges, they encountered 600 meters of bedrock that took 40 days to break and excavate. The project avoided known archaeological sites. In the future, more homes can also be added to this water system, bringing more homes to the east end of the community.

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Education Update (ECE & K-12 Programs)

Written by Lisa Boyd

Current events in education; meeting the objectives of the UNDRIP and financial literacy and educational programs, and Aboriginal Cultural Safety.

First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA) hosted at Gathering Circle: Meeting the objectives of UNDRIP on September 20, 2022. This Gathering Circle will report on this summer's dialogue with preliminary findings around a community approach in relation to UNDRIP and Indigenous education. It is also an opportunity to have your say into Canada's UNDRIP action plan, its measures and reporting needs as it relates to First Nation education. Some key points shared in the Gathering Circle; family, and individual come first, speak your truth- find your voice, where do we need to move next, our job is to amplify their voice, and integrating growth mindset all related to UNDRIP Article 3. A lifelong advocate and director of lifelong learning, Leslie Whiteeye shared; understand our learning styles, and being an educator isn't just a profession but the way we look and see ourselves related to UNDRIP Article 13.

Article 3 Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 13

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Education Update (ECE & K-12 Programs)

Written by Lisa Boyd



Junior Achievement of BC:

JABC is very pleased to provide programming in Indigenous communities and with Indigenous organizations anywhere in B.C. They have flexible delivery options that include programs like More than Money, expanded to grades K- 5, and Personal Finance, delivered to those up to age 29. For more information, please visit jabc.ca/indigenous.

Interior Health Module 2:

I have been working with the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Educator from the Interior Health. Interior Health is currently working on a complete revision of the curriculum that is provided to Interior Health staff around Aboriginal Cultural Safety. They are striving to come into alignment with recommendation 20 of the In Plain Sight Report and to develop a curriculum into an Anti Indigenous Racism lens. As part of this curriculum refresh interior health is incorporating a 10-minute segment on each of the 7 Host Nations that Interior Health serves. This information will be specific to each Nation and look at Pre-contact life, the effects of contact on the Nation and the resiliency of the Nation today.



left: Kaleb Alphonse from Tl'etinqox graduating!
Right: Language resources

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Education Update (ECE & K-12 Programs)

Written by Lisa Boyd



Education connections, resources and training:

I have been working with an Early Childhood Educator specialist in curriculum development who is passionate about indigenous languages and land-based education. She has created hands on resources to jump start our Tsilhqot'in language and early learning with our input and ideas. The resources she has created are Tsilhqot'in alphabet stamps, Tsilhqot'in alphabet puzzles, Tsilhqot'in animal puzzles and learning trays. We will continue this partnership with Andrea Strang as she is always willingly to learn about the Tsilhqot'in and shares her knowledge.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training (Level one) on November 17-18, 2022. We had 43 participants from Tsilhqot'in communities and schools, school district 27, Denisiqi Society, Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin, Yeqox Nilin Justice Society and women's council. The facilitator for this event was Bonnie Randall who shared her knowledge on Violence Threat Risk Assessment with her extensive background in social work in her home Province of Alberta for over 25 years. The primary purpose of this two-day training is to teach school administrators, counsellors, police officers, and other related partners (community mental health, social services, probation, etc.) the multidisciplinary process of determining if a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target or targets they have threatened. Teams also assess students who already have histories of violence and are concerned about further and/or more serious violence potential. Serious violence is an evolutionary process and most students leave (intentionally or unintentionally) signs and indicators.

VTRA Training



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Education Update (ECE & K-12 Programs)

Written by Lisa Boyd

First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) Language Nest Training with ECE teacher Crystal Stump and language teacher Edna Lulua from Tsideldel Daycare. The two-day training was an opportunity for language nest trainees to learn about the history, purpose, characteristics of language nests, network with other language nests, and immersion practice. It was a great two-days with so many great language speakers who shared their language ideas. It was so empowering to hear the success stories of how communities started their language nest. The goal of a language nest is not to “teach” children the language, but rather to create an environment where language can be acquired naturally, as infants acquire their first language.

Community and local engagement:

Nation Gathering, August 30- September 1, 2022: The education team participated in the Nation Gathering events and hosted the Nation Graduation for graduates of 2022. It was good to see community members from all the T̓silhqot̓in communities and the visitors that stopped to look at the education booth. We are looking forward to the next Nation Gathering 2023.

WL TRU Indigenous Community Meeting with Educators from all local nation communities around Williams Lake. This was an in-person meeting with WL Indigenous Student Services, TRU Indigenous Education (Kamloops) and TRU senior administration to discuss TRU programs, services and supports for Indigenous students at our Williams Lake and Kamloops campuses.

Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin tour with Vanessa from the Children’s Development Centre. We had a sneak peak of the building and the resources available for young people from ages 12-24. The resources available will be mental health, substance use support, primary care, peer support and social services. The opening of the Foundry will be December 5th, 2022.

158th Annual Lhat̓’as̓’in Memorial was hosted at the south lakeside TNG office with openings remarks from all the T̓silhqot̓in chiefs and other indigenous leadership from surrounding Nations. The Education team had an information table set up.

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Stewardship Update

Written by Luke Doxtator

It seemed like Fall completely missed us this year, we had a beautiful long summer, and it appears all of a sudden it was winter. Normally the change of leaves and the beautiful colors are great to experience as folks are out trying to harvest their winter meat needs, but not this year.

The merge of the Stewardship department with compliance & enforcement, and fisheries has been going well.

For the Stewardship Department we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Helga Harlander. Helga accepted a position in the lower mainland so she could be close to her adult children. This has left a gap within our department and she will be dearly missed. Rest assure our amazing referral staff are stick handling the few mining referrals that have come in to ensure nothing falls through the cracks.

The TSC/JRC meetings were done in a hybrid mode of in-person and via zoom. We are continually updating the community reps of all the great work that the Stewardship Department has been working on including referrals, forestry activities such as the Williams Lake Timber Supply Review (WLTSR). Jeremy Boyd has been working diligently with an outside forestry expert and legal council. Jeremy will provide more details within his newsletter report. We also had a lot of updates from Mitchell on all the wildlife projects. We have been holding meetings in the communities as much as possible and encourage all members to attend.

On behalf of the entire Stewardship Staff - I hope you enjoy reading all the updates and tid-bits of information that is provided by all the Stewardship Staff. We look forward to continuing to serve the communities.

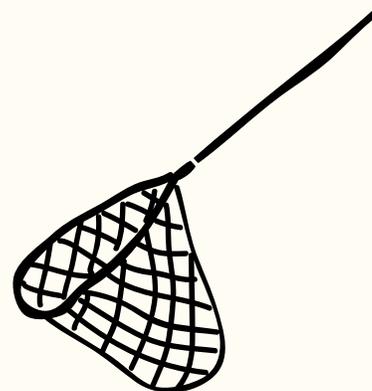
TNG STAFF REPORTS

Fisheries Update

We're happy to celebrate successful fisheries for both Ja̓s (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) in 2022! After consecutive record-low salmon returns and fishery closures in 2019 and 2020, we've had two years of good salmon returns to T̓silhqot'in Territory and good T̓silhqot'in fisheries.



Thomas Billyboy dipnet fishing for Ts'eman at Farwell during the successful 2022 fishing season



Leading up to and throughout the fishing season, the Fisheries Department was all-hands-on-deck to implement our field work programs, analyze in-season data, and provide technical information to support Leadership in-season decision making.

- Provided technical support on Ja̓s and Ts'eman fishery openings.
- Provided weekly updates for T̓silhqot'in Leadership, communities, and TNG senior management and staff via weekly T̓silhqot'in Zoom calls and fisheries bulletins posted on the TNG website.

Technical highlights:

We're still waiting for post-season information for analysis, but here are some technical highlights from the season. The key take away is that 2022 has been a great year for salmon and T̓silhqot'in fisheries!

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Fisheries Update

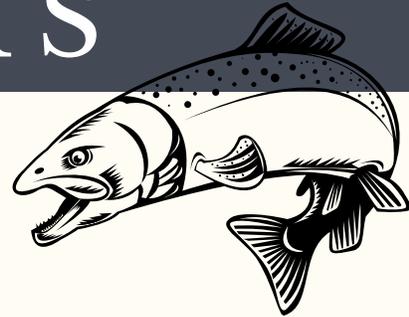
In 2022, extended high flows all along the Fraser River were problematic for the earlier part of the season (spring to mid-July). This severely impacted migration for vulnerable early-timed stocks that return to the Fraser River, including Dasiqox Ts’eman (Taseko sockeye) and Gwedés Chežqox Jaš (Upper Chilcotin Chinook), which spawn in Tšilhqot’in Territory. When water levels dropped to more normal flows in mid-July, salmon migration resumed throughout the Fraser system. Information provided to the TNG Fisheries Team indicates the Big Bar Landslide did not pose a significant passage barrier for Tšilhqox (Chilko) Jaš and Ts’eman, which return to the Territory later in the season; the bulk of these runs arrive in August and September.

Tšilhqox Ts’eman (Chilko Sockeye):

Tšilhqox Ts’eman were again among the strongest of the Fraser salmon runs in 2022. The total in-season Tšilhqox Ts’eman ocean return (near Vancouver Island) is estimated at 1.5 million, and after total fisheries are subtracted (within and outside Tšilhqot’in Territory) the total preliminary in-season spawner return is estimated to be over 800,000, which is approx. 200,000 more than the 2018 parent spawner year. This is great news!

Due to conservation concerns, including difficult river migration conditions which stretched into the normal fishing season, TNG Leadership requested release of Ts’eman until August 6th to allow the vulnerable earlier-timed Dasiqox (Taseko) Ts’eman to pass. This request did not impact the normal Tšilhqox Ts’eman fishery in the Tšilhqot’in watershed for the remainder of the season.

TNG STAFF REPORTS



Fisheries Update

Che̱qox Ja̱s (Chilcotin Chinook):

Che̱qox Ja̱s returned much stronger than the very low 2017 parent spawner year throughout all nursery areas. Numbers are still being analyzed, but we are cautiously optimistic with this return, given the on-going conservation concerns for the Little Chilcotin stocks. We are not “out of the woods” for the Little Chilcotin system, and continue our emergency enhancement efforts for Gwedes Che̱qox (Upper Chilcotin) Ja̱s.

Ṯsilhqot'in Leadership requested that fishers avoid Ja̱s fishing in the Little Chilcotin for the duration of the 2022 fishing season, along with a corresponding request to release Ja̱s in the Che̱qox (Chilcotin) mainstem until the Little Chilcotin fish had passed (until August 1). Normal Ja̱s fishing occurred on the Che̱qox and Ṯsilhqox mainstem rivers on the much stronger Ṯsilhqox Ja̱s run after August 1.

Two key highlights for Ja̱s in 2022:

1. Preliminary estimates for the Ṯsilhqox Ja̱s (Chilko Chinook) return are very encouraging, with over 10,000 Ja̱s spawners throughout their spawning areas – a range of spawner abundance not seen since 2015.
2. Gwedes Che̱qox Ja̱s (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) returned at over 200 spawners – an improvement over the 2017 parent spawner year. We were again successful with our emergency enhancement program on this stock; over 15,000 eggs were collected and are now incubating in the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) conservation hatchery. These baby Ja̱s will be released back into the Gwedes Che̱qox in Spring 2023.

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Fisheries Update

TNG-led field projects

TNG Fisheries runs many projects and programs throughout the year to support the protection and recovery of T̓silhqot̓in salmon, including catch monitoring, stock assessment, emergency enhancement, and water monitoring.

Catch monitoring was completed successfully for Ja̓s (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) fisheries at key fishing sites, with 24 seasonal staff hired (mostly T̓silhqot̓in members). Preliminary catch numbers indicate 100+ Ja̓s and 15,000+ Ts'eman caught in T̓silhqot̓in fisheries. Catch numbers will be finalized in post-season analysis.

Annual stock assessment projects were conducted successfully by our experienced T̓silhqot̓in crew. These projects have expanded in recent years and include:

- Ja̓s (Chinook): aerial assessments; SONAR (Little Chilcotin and Dasiqox); mark and recapture in the T̓silhqox; non-retention test fishery
- Ts'eman (sockeye): SONAR in the Dasiqox and T̓silhqox; ground assessment; biophysical sampling (deadpitch); mark and recapture; boat enumeration; aerial assessment; non-retention test fishery; spring smolt count (fence at T̓silhqox north end)
- Ts'eman Dalkw'ish (Coho): sonar (Little Chilcotin); aerial assessment



Left: TNG Fisheries Technician Gerald William conducting mark and recapture for T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) stock assessment

Right: TNG Fisheries Technicians Winston Bambrick and Gerald William conducting a non-retention dipnet test fishery



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Fisheries Update



TNG Fisheries Field
Coordinator Leonard
English downloading
Dasiqox (Taseko)
SONAR data

New in 2022:

- Chežqox (Chilcotin)/Fraser SONAR feasibility study: This project was a success and we will be looking to add this stock assessment location to our network of data sources to provide critical data for in-season T̄silhqot̄in fisheries going forward.
- With access to Davidson Bridge (on the Dasiqox) granted by Xeni Gwet̄in Leadership, we successfully tested and installed a dual SONAR array to count Dasiqox Ts̄eman and Jās.

With the addition of SONAR assessment in the Dasiqox in 2021, this was the second year for SONAR assessment in all three critical/priority salmon nursery areas (Chežqox, Dasiqox, and T̄silhqox systems).

Our field monitoring work has continued throughout November to capture all salmon runs. After the field season, we'll be back to our desks to conduct our post-season data analysis.

TNG Fisheries stock assessment programs provide critical near-real-time data to directly support TNG Leadership in-season decision making for T̄silhqot̄in fisheries, and inform T̄silhqot̄in priority setting and planning in the post-season. We have expanded our TNG-led annual stock assessment activities in recent years, and TNG's own programs, along with partnerships with DFO, have resulted in one of the richest (if not the richest), most comprehensive sets of salmon and fisheries information in BC.

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Fisheries Update

Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program (WQQ):

The WQQ program was identified as a priority by Leadership in 2018 and is part of TNG's 5-Year Fisheries Action Plan. Established in 2021, this Territory-wide water monitoring program focuses on 3 critical salmon nursery areas – the Che̱qox, Dasiqox, and Ṯsilhqox systems. Thirteen (13) stations have been installed successfully, including 9 water quality and quantity stations and 4 stations that monitor water quality only. TNG Fisheries staff are supported by the TNG Rangers, who have built extensive capacity in water monitoring data collection.

Emergency Enhancement – a key conservation priority:

Emergency enhancement was again a key focus in 2022. The goal is to increase the number of fry/smolt produced from returning spawners to avoid extirpation (local loss of population), preserve biodiversity, and strengthen priority vulnerable stocks. The Fisheries team worked successfully with the UFFCA and the Big Bar response team to conduct brood collection for Gwedes Che̱qox (Upper Chilcotin) Ja̱s and Dasiqox (Taseko) Ts'eman; egg targets were successfully met for both.

Sechanalyagh!

We'd like to end with a huge shout-out to our awesome Fisheries Coordinator, Leonard English, our invaluable and experienced fisheries technicians Gerald William and Winston Bambrick, and the TNG Rangers for their invaluable contribution to TNG Fisheries monitoring and research!

For more information please contact **Randy Billyboy, TNG Fisheries Manager**
Tel: 250-392-3918, ext.113 / email: rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Wildlife Update

Written by Mitch Warne

This fall we returned to the Chilko River area to capture grizzly bears to collar as well we collared bears in the Tsuniah Lake area this year. We added four more sow collars and one boar collar to the program although that was short lived. One of the sows ripped her collar off after about eight days so we only have three sows and one boar from this fall that still have collars remaining. This brings the total of collars still active to six sows and one boar since the other boar from last year had his collar fail in fall after about a month of him being back at the Chilko River.

So far the boar and three sows have gone into hibernation with two sows moving close to where they hibernated last winter. The last sow appears to still be searching for salmon. Only one of the four sows we collared this fall has any cubs and she had a single cub although lots of sows in the area had 1-3 cubs each. Both sows from last fall with cubs still had all their cubs with them this fall.



TNG STAFF REPORTS

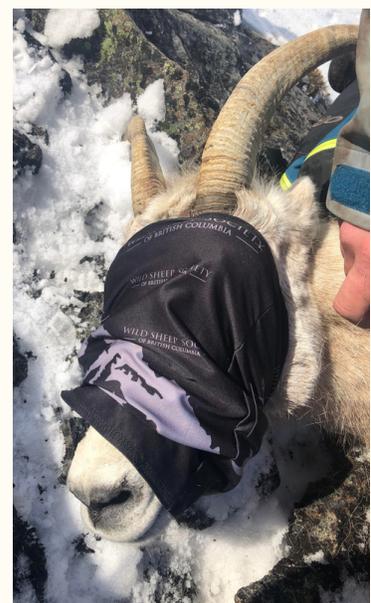
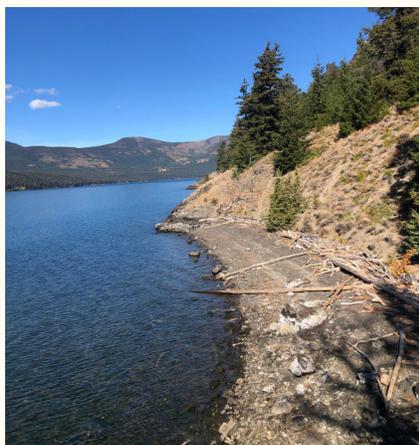
Wildlife Update

Written by Mitch Warne

The bighorn sheep have not had any mortalities since June, which is a good thing, so there are all 13 rams and 21 ewes still being tracked across all four herds. The sheep have all recently begun moving around differently than the summer since the snow started falling with many of the rams moving around large portions of the herd range where other ewes happen to be located.

We have tested some of the mineral licks and placed a few trail cameras out in remote areas to get photos to try and determine lamb ratios and which other species visit those mineral licks including predators. Because they are so remote we won't have photos until next year sometime when we return to the sites. We are excited to share them in the next newsletter.

We have deployed the first of the remote ARUs and bat detectors along with some trail cameras to record which species are in the area with specific goals for the different areas. So if you happen to see a TNG camera or ARU site let me know and I can share which species have been recorded at that site.



TNG STAFF REPORTS



GIS Update

Written by Sarah Gash,

We have exciting news in the GIS department! Adam welcomed a new member to the family. Baby boy, Momiji was born in late September. We extend our sincere congratulations to Adam and Nana and wish the whole family joy and happiness as they get to know the new addition. Adam will be on leave for the short term, but we will look forward to welcoming him back soon.

In the meantime Mark and I continue to complete all and any mapping requests that come our way. I am grateful for Mark's amazing work ethic and positive attitude when it comes to getting things done. Mark has tackled all means of map requests including viewscape analysis, ArcGIS Online FieldMaps planning, and python scripting to download photos. Mark has been particularly occupied supporting wildlife work as there has been multiple map requests from Mitch Warne in recent weeks. Regarding mapping requests and data management, TNG GIS supports most departments. Here are a few projects we have recently been involved with:

Compliance and Enforcement – Mark has been keeping up tabs on surveys designed for the Rangers. He has edits to the Travel Log on his to do list, and administration of data stored on ArcGIS Online to manage. We will also be looking at migrating to FieldMaps from ArcCollector before next field season.

Housing – Sarah has been communicating, and supporting Xeni Gwet'in addressing and data management for house locations. This work needs to be picked up for the other 5 communities, and draft maps of data collected to date needs be completed.

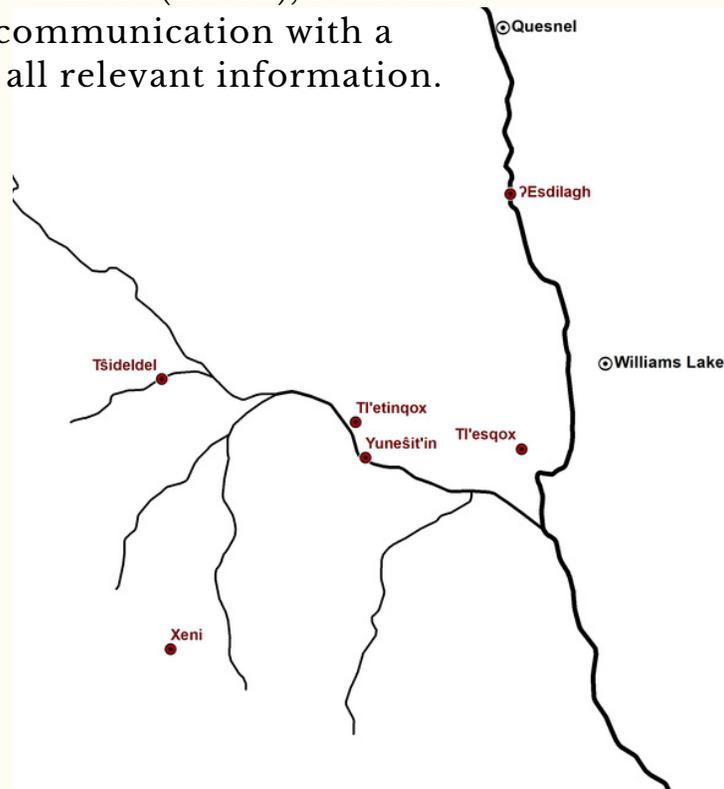
TNG STAFF REPORTS

GIS Update

Written by Sarah Gash,

Nen – Mark has been working with JP LaPlante on completing work Adam started on mapping to support discussions around mining policy development. This includes map production and area summaries. Following the Portal introduction done in the Spring, Sarah designed a new “Nen Lessons Learned form” for the Nen Coordinators to share best practices. Sarah introduced this new form at the October Nen Retreat/Meeting. There will be another opportunity for the Nen to get familiar with the Portal at a future retreat.

Portal – In addition to general administration, we have been successful in signing a FFS agreement with one agency of the Government of Canada. As a result, Sarah has drafted a new form to receive referrals from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), National Hydrological Service (NHS). We are in communication with a representative to make sure we include all relevant information.



TNG STAFF REPORTS

GIS Update

Written by Sarah Gash,

NextCloud - In addition to the TNG Portal, which will be used for Landuse Planning by the Nen team, we have all introduced the Nen team to the file sharing system called NextCloud. This online software will help the Nen team collaborate and share information with each other and others working with them. NextCloud will eventually be rolled out for use by the broader TNG staff. You may already have seen it if you are registered as a TNG Citizen for the Members Only page. Because it is important to the Nation to control and protect its data for the Nation and its communities, both these systems adhere to data sovereignty rules and the data lives on a server in our offices, and accessed via the internet. This is another strong way for TNG to assert its sovereignty over Nation information in the digital world.

Training – Mark and Sarah are both attending a leadership program designed for TNG by Kerry Cook. This program runs 15 weeks, every Wednesday morning.



Chilko Lake for a Bear Research Project - Taken by Cynthia Fell in the Nen Department

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Nen Update

Written by JP Laplante,

Made in T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework

One of the Nen team's major projects for this year is the 'Made in T̓silhqot'in' Impact Assessment Framework. This is an important project to help express T̓silhqot'in jurisdiction over nen (water, lands and resources) because impact assessment (IA, and also called environmental assessment or EA) is simply a careful way of making important decisions that could impact nen.

This project is also an effort to put on paper the Nation's values and criteria that will guide whether or not the communities' and Nation's free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) will be granted for projects. FPIC is one of the key rights enshrined in the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We are in the middle of preparing a draft document (including guiding principles, decision-making criteria and a process) for the communities and leaders to review. Meanwhile we've been updating and seeking feedback from Chiefs, Councillors and others to help make sure we are accurately reflecting what we've heard from the many T̓silhqot'in members who have provided their input to us through meetings, interviews and surveys.



Nation Gathering
talent show!

TNG STAFF REPORTS

Nen Update

Written by JP Laplante,

In October and November, Cynthia Fell was in all six T̄silhqot'in communities presenting to Chiefs and Councils, and also to the Nation's Governance Committee and Stewardship Council. A presentation to the T̄silhqot'in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan Advisory Council (Women's Council) is scheduled soon.

Nexchanalyagh to everyone who has generously shared their time, knowledge and wisdom with us.

Also, in November, we met with Community Nen Planners, Community Nen Managers and Councillors along with our helpers and partners from the University of British Columbia (UBC), and our External Advisory Committee, who we've asked to help us provide independent external advice on the process design. We had very interesting conversations over 2 days that will help us complete the draft.

Over the next few months, we will be focused on incorporating all the advice we have into the draft IA Framework. We will be checking back in with communities in the New Year to ensure this work reflects the Nation's priorities and dechen ts'edilhtan.

If you would like additional information on the Nation's Impact Assessment project, check out TNG's webpage (www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment) and feel free to send an email or call to Cynthia (Resource Management Coordinator, 778-799-2145 or cynthiafell@tsilhqotin.ca).

External Advisory
Committee Meeting

