

Xi (Winter) Newsletter



Tsilhqot'in
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



Ancestral Belongings Return Home

A Tsilhqot'in delegation travelled to Vancouver February 26-29 for a historic event. There were 17 delegates representing the six Tsilhqot'in communities, including both elders and youth, who visited the Tsilhqot'in collections held at two museums and one UBC laboratory.

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Over two days, the group viewed large collections of qat̓s'ay (root baskets), ʔesqi-ch'i (baby baskets), stone tools, and other ancestral belongings. All of the baskets were smudged in ceremony and prayer.



After a successful repatriation request to the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) last summer, the delegation brought all 61 objects from the MOV collection back home with them.

TNG is planning for an open house near the Title Celebration on June 26 for community members to view the belongings. At that time, the belongings will be distributed among the six communities.





Nation World Café held in Tl'etingox

On February 21 TNG held a Nation World Café where staff set up tables to talk with T̓silhqot̓'in members about what they are working on.



We had 50 people attend with some really great feedback from everyone. Carla Alphonse emceed the event with Joyce Charleyboy providing an opening drum song and Angie Stump providing the opening prayer.

The tables we had set up included lands, mapping, education and language, housing, job opportunities, economic development, governance, and more.

It is important for us to have these events so that members can see what we do at TNG and our staff can have more opportunities to learn about the needs of the communities and people.





Violent Threat Risk Assessment Training

The TNG Education department hosted the Violence Threat Risk Assessment training (VTRA) level 2 on February 8-9 at the Gibraltar room. There were 29 participants from Denisiqi, Foundry, School District 27, T̓silhqot̓in Community school staff, and community members. This training was a follow up from the VTRA training level 1 hosted in November 2022.

The instructor Bonnie Randall was an amazing mentor for this training. Grounded in her experience as a social



worker in Alberta for over 25 years, she brings vast clinical experience combined with an ability to tell stories, which improves the VTRA learning for all professional disciplines.



The purpose of VTRA is to prevent violent incidents from happening. We look for early warning signs and worrisome behaviour and try to intervene early by wrapping around the child or youth, working with the parents and community agencies to put the right support in place at the right time.





All T̂silhqot̂'in Chiefs and Council meet to Discuss Children and Families

On February 22 T̂silhqot̂'in Nits'il̂in-Qi and Nits'il̂in-Yaz-Qi came together to discuss the path of the Nation towards reclaiming jurisdiction for T̂silhqot̂'in children and families. It was a powerful and positive night as the Nation moves forward in unity.



The process of reclaiming jurisdiction for T̂silhqot̂'in children and families involves engagement, gathering information, developing legislation,



thinking through service models, and creating a financial plan for the program. The legislation is titled T̂silhqot̂'in ʔEsqax Sutsel Jeniyax, which directly translates to “T̂silhqot̂'in children growing up in a good way.”

For questions about this process, contact Loni Solomon, Engagement Coordinator for Nidlin at 250-398-8575.



"Don't let diabetes stand in the way to enjoying your life.
Come together and fight against it."

The 8th Annual Diabetes Roadshow

The Eighth Annual Diabetes Roadshow

The eighth annual Diabetes Roadshow was divided into two week-long sessions in February and March this year. From February 5 to 9, the health team visited Tl'esqox, Yunešit'in, and Tšideldel and the other three communities were visited March 4-8.

"We're really proud of our Diabetes Roadshow program that visits Nation communities every year – this marks our eighth year."

Each visit started with check-ins for diabetics and screening for diabetes (including A1C, blood sugar, and blood pressure). The team provided support for people managing diabetes, and worked closely with care aids in



communities to provide more information about managing health.

Two highlights of the Diabetes Roadshow are "Dia-Bingo" and the Health Beat Challenge. Dia-bingo is a fun bingo game focused on Diabetes and is a great learning experience. The Health Beat Challenge encourages people to walk for health. Participants screen for A1C and cholesterol, then record their blood pressure and grip strength during a six minute fast-paced walk. They repeat the challenge in three months to compare results.





TNG STAFF REPORT

HEALTH



Written by Ellen Williams



What a way to start the year! At TNG Health, community engagement is our favorite way of offering service to the Nation. After feedback from the T̄silhqot'in communities, we secured motivational speakers to travel to all six communities.

We did it in 3 days!

The Makokis family is known across Canada for their advocacy on two spirited couples and they speak first hand about the challenges of growing up on reserve and overcoming barriers. It was an honour and privilege to have them attend our communities, meet with the people and teach about the importance of believing in oneself, despite hardship. Thanks to all who made this tour happen and to everyone who attended the workshops.





TNG STAFF REPORT CONSTRUCTION



Written by Mike Neufeld



We are happy to share that our construction crew is doing a great job and learning new things every day! They are currently working in T̂sidedel and completing housing assessments for that community. Once these assessments are done, our team will identify the next community and reach out to their housing managers to coordinate inspections. We expect this to happen over the next couple of weeks.

We are currently renovating a cabin in T̂sidedel and have several other renovations planned for communities. We are waiting for families to move into new houses before we can work on their current homes.

One of our key priorities over the coming months, is to secure funds for the next five years worth of projected housing needs. We look forward to sharing more about this process in future newsletters!





TNG STAFF REPORT

ADULT EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE



Written by Randy Radney and Lisa Boyd



Ranger training also began in February with the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). This is our first time working with NVIT and it will lead to a Environmental Natural Resources Technician certificate for our rangers. It is off to a great start so far! We are now exploring an NVIT program in mental health and a University of Northern British Columbia program in healthcare for our healthcare staff in TNG communities.

In February, level 2 of the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training was held and we are happy to report that our attendees have both level 1 and 2 now. The next step is to hold special VTRA training that will support children and youth in our communities.

One of the major long-term goals in our department is to revitalize the T̓silhqot̓in language and create a plan for language learning among youth and adults in the Nation. We've taken a great step towards this goal by rebuilding the T̓silhqot̓in Language Advisory committee. In the upcoming months, we will also be holding a training through the First Peoples Culture Centre for language teachers.





TNG STAFF REPORT COMMUNICATIONS



Written by Nikki Berreth



For 2024, the Communications team is coordinating with departments to update documents and materials under the new brand guidelines and develop new ways to share our work with communities. This includes building new recruitment materials for the HR team in order to attract new employees and a renewed TNG website. We can't wait to share it with you.

To increase staff engagement and cultural learning in the workplace, our Internal Communications Coordinator Lisa Bland has been building a Lunch & Learn series. On February 14, we were pleased to have Joyce Charleyboy and her sister, Geraldine Elkins, join us on with T̂silhqot̂'in songs and drumming as well as personal stories. Staff events like this keep us connected to the communities we serve and we are looking forward to our next Lunch & Learn event with TNG's Executive Director Jenny Philbrick on T̂silhqot̂'in customs and protocols.



“We were taught to be aware of our surroundings and to sing for people who were hurting.” - Joyce Charleyboy





TNG STAFF REPORT

FISHERIES



Written by Aimee Arsenault



We are building a pre-season forecast for salmon stocks returning to the T̄silhqot'in Nation/Chilcotin Watershed. Like the weather, this forecast is a best guess that will improve as we get closer to July. The parents of the 2024 returning Ts'eman (sockeye) were impacted by the Big Bar landslide, and the Jās (Chinook) populations remain a conservation concern in 2024.

Our fieldwork season runs April-November and we have three spring projects.

- T̄silhqox (Chilko) Ts'eman smolt outmigration project with the DFO.
- Chilko Jas juvenile coded wire tag release at Henry's Crossing.
- Ongoing water monitoring work of critical natal systems

The T̄silhqot'in Salmon Conservation Hatchery began operation last September with our first batch of Chilko Jās eggs which is key for rebuilding the declining salmon populations. The Jās are now in the alevin stage and once their yolk sac is absorbed, they will become fry and be transferred into rearing tanks. We plan to release the fry into the Chilko system near Henry's Crossing in mid-April.

