



Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 4 - Issue 16 February 2012

AIP Communications Kick-Off



Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre of the BC Treaty Commission addresses the crowd at the 'Kitselas AIP: Communications Launch' event held February 4th 2012 at the Thornhill Community Centre.

Communications and information from the Kitselas Treaty Office is going to get more intense as an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) is approaching. On February 4th 2012 Kitselas members participated in the 'Communications Launch', a kick-off events that provided an overview of how the Treaty Office will inform the community, and address and answer questions and concerns over the next six months (or more). *MORE INFO INSIDE.*

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In the Community

Kitselas Coffee House: 'Treaty Talks'

Join us every Wednesday at 2:00 pm. Bring your thoughts, questions or voice your concerns.

Upcoming Coffee House Schedule:

February 29th (Kitselas Hall), March 7th (Gitaus Elder's Centre)
March 14th (Kitselas Hall), March 21st (Gitaus Elder's Centre)

Kitselas Master Land Use Plan Review

March 1st at 7 pm - Kitselas Community Hall

Healthy snacks and beverages provided. Please come out to provide your comments, input, issues and concerns before the land use plan moves forward to the approval stage.

Workshop on Employment Possibilities - Everyone Welcome!

March 1st, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu

Presenter: Ulyses Venegas *Topics: Opportunities in the trades, Culinary Arts possibilities, Entrepreneurial opportunities, Will there be 15,000 jobs in the northwest soon?, What it will take to secure one of these many jobs?* **Need more info? Call Fred at 250-635-3301**

Homework Club: Monday to Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm

at Gitaus Administration Building. A space to do homework, to catch up or get additional assistance or support from a tutor. Snacks Provided. Talia Wesley will be available at Queensway/Kulspai. Please contact 250.641.3436 to arrange for services.

Take control of your mental and emotional health!

Counseling services at the Gitaus Administration Building:

Wednesdays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm with Jonathan Whonnack

Thursdays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm with Kathy Wesley

Elders Diabetic Group runs each THURSDAY from

11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Kulspai Health Station. Lunch provided.

Mothers Prenatal Group is each Wednesday from 12:00 - 2:00pm at the Gitaus Administration Building.

First Nations Job Readiness Workshop

Thursday, March 1st and Friday, March 2nd – Kermode Friendship Society Boardroom **LIMITED SEATING – REGISTER EARLY.**

Call Mary Ellen at 250.635.4906 ext 59

Emergency Preparedness Information Session

Wednesday, February 29th 2012 at Terrace Arena Banquet Room 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. For more info call Stacey at 250.315.6100 or email: skennedy@rdks.bc.ca

UBC Summer Science Program for Aboriginal Youth.

Session 1: Sunday, July 1st - Saturday, July 8th (Grades 10-12)

Session 2: Sunday, July 8th - Saturday, July 14th (Grades 8-9).

Application Deadline: March 15th 2012.

For more info contact: summerscienceubc@gmail.com



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www.kitselas.com

Is your mailing address
up-to-date?

Please help us to maintain
communication with the
Kitselas membership. If
you have family and friends
who do not currently
receive information from the
Communications Office please
encourage them to be in touch!

Ph: 250-635-8882 ext 242

E: h.zornow@kitselas.com

follow us on
twitter

@Kitselas

 Visit us on
Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/
CanyonCurrentPage](http://www.facebook.com/CanyonCurrentPage)**

**Kitselas Treaty Group:
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>**

Kitselas Youth Group is fundraising for nine of our youth to attend this years 'Gathering Our Voices: Youth Conference' in Nanaimo, BC March 20th - 23rd 2012.

Please support our youth through any of the following fundraising activities this coming month:

Loonie Auction - March 3rd
12-3 pm at Gitaus Admin Bldg.
*Donations Welcome!

Garage Sale - March 11th
12 - 3 pm at Gitaus Admin Bldg.
*Donations Welcome!

iPad Raffle - Draw: March 16th
1st Prize: iPad
2nd Prize: \$50 Walmart Gift Card
Tickets \$5 each

Food Basket Raffle
Draw: March 17th
Tickets \$5 each
*Donations Welcome!

50/50 Draw every Friday 6pm at Youth Centre. Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Tickets available from Amadeus, Arnela, Colton, DJ, Coy, Dallas, Charles, Jason, and Tatiana!

Need more info? Contact Marcia at 250.635.5084 ext 229 or text: 250.631.8085 or Facebook: KitselasYouthCoordinator



Kitselas Coffee House

'Treaty Talks'

Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for Treaty related discussion.
Bring your questions or concerns and

LET'S TALK!



Contact Hilary Zornow
250.635.8882 ext 242

E: h.zornow@kitselas.com

**LOGO
CONTEST**



KITSELAS/KITSUMKALUM HEALTH HUB

"Working together for the health of our communities."

The Kitselas/Kitsumkalum Community Engagement Hub needs your amazing ideas and representations of the two communities working together towards the health of our people!

1st PRIZE
\$250

The winning logo design will. . .

- 💡 Reflect BOTH communities of Kitsumkalum and Kitselas.
- 💡 Encompass the themes: **HUBS, HEALTH, COMMUNITY.
- 💡 Be an original design.

Deadline: Monday, March 5th, 2012 4:00pm

Open to the communities of Kitsumkalum and Kitselas.

See official entry form for all requirements and regulations.

** "HUB" stands for "**HELPING US BUILD**"

Visit www.fnhc.ca/index.php?community_engagement/community_hubs/ for more information on Hubs.

'LIKE' the Kitselas/Kitsumkalum Health Hub on FACEBOOK.

Visit this link for application: <http://www.kitselas.com/images/uploads/docs/HealthHubLogoContest1.pdf>

Meet our New Team Members...

Director of Administration - Jason Majore



Hello to the people of Kitselas, my name is Jason Majore and I was hired as the Director of Administration February 6, 2012. I am excited to be a part of a community that has a lot of opportunity for growth in the upcoming years. I have a passion for northern BC and the people that live here, as I have for all my life. My mother was Haida and my father is Metis. My wife is attending NWCC, enrolled in the Business Administration program, and my 2 year old daughter is also attending day care there.

I grew up in Houston, BC and moved to Prince George to pursue my education. I achieved my Business Administration Diploma from the College of New Caledonia with Honors and then completed my Bachelor of Commerce Degree majoring in Accounting from the University of Northern BC. I plan to obtain my Certified Management Accounting designation.

I worked in Prince George for a few years as the Community Services Manager for the Yekooche First Nation, before moving to Masset to work as the Band Administrator for my own band, the Old Massett Village Council, on Haida Gwaii. I moved to Terrace in July to work

as the Acting Controller for the Northwest Community College. I have also worked for Friendship Centers, banks, and tribal councils over the years. I had been a member of the Northwest Community College Board of Governors for three years where I was the Finance Chair for two years and the Vice Chair for a year.

I feel my skills, education and years of experience will be an asset to the Kitselas First Nation and look forward to an opportunity to work for your community. There are many challenges ahead but I want to bring structure, fairness and accountability to the administration here and move the community forward in a positive way. I have the support of council to do this and welcome constructive comments from the community to help improve our services. Howaa – Thank You,

Employment Counselor - Sandy Watson



Sandy Watson is our new Employment Counselor.

Originally from Ontario, Sandy moved to Terrace with her husband and two children in 1999. She has spent the last 11 years as a Youth & Family Addictions Counselor with Northwest Addiction Services. Sandy is excited about reconnecting with members from the community she has met before and as she gets settled is looking forward to any feedback in terms of what people hope to see from the Employment Counselling Office. “It’s amazing to be a part of history in the making here in Kitselas with all of the exciting things to come.” says Sandy, “I am super stoked to work toward developing a program that will work for the people and help people find employment.” Welcome Sandy!

Sandy’s hours are from 8:30 to 4:30 and her main office is located at the Queensway Office, but she will be working from the Gitau Office as well. Her number is 250.635.8882 ext 246 and she can be reached via email at employment@kitselas.com

Got Questions? We Got Answers!

The Kitselas Treaty Office is dedicated to ensuring we answer your questions and address your concerns. Our Communications Team is now actively visiting community members to provide a personal presentation on the AIP. We will also be making arrangements to visit the various towns and cities our community members reside to ensure they are informed. Please provide your updated mailing address through any of the contact methods below.

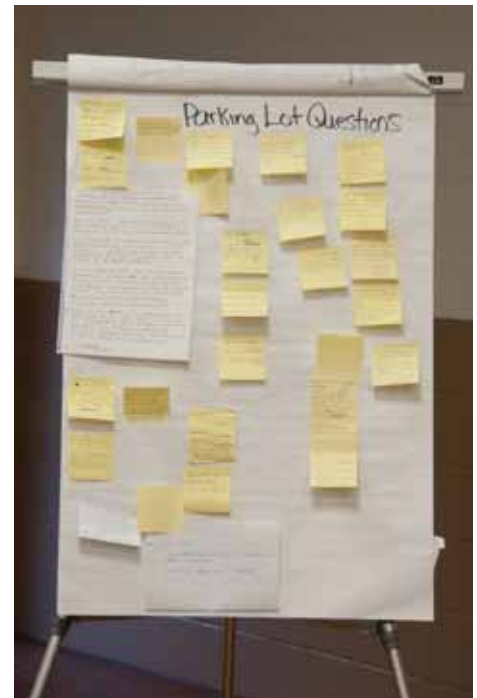
A monthly publication with the latest 'Questions & Answers' will be mailed and posted on-line. We encourage everyone to continue to forward questions and concerns to our office:

Phone: 250.635.8882

Email: newsroom@kitselas.com,

Join the Facebook group: <http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>

Comments and suggestions for improving communications are always welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you!



Questions from community members at the February 4th 2012 'Communications Launch' have been answered, delivered and posted on-line.

The First Nations Council (FNC) is inviting those interested in serving on the Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Advisory Committee. Membership is open to FNC members as well as community members.



The Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Advisory Committee (ACKAC) works to promote an inclusive curriculum which reflects and respects Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal cultural diversity and is inclusive of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal knowledge and pedagogy.

The ACKAC provides a collegial environment in which course and program developers are engaged in a discussion of the following: Should this course/program be Indigenized? Who should I consult to answer this question? What does it mean to Indigenize a course/program? Who should I consult to answer this question? Where is Indigenization manifested in the course/program outline, so students will be aware of the College's goal to promote inclusive curriculum? (Possible examples: course description, selected topics, selected readings, selected learning activities, selected pedagogy, selected evaluation process)

The ACKAC also advises the House of Learning and Applied Research with regard to the promotion of an inclusive curriculum. The ACKAC advises Education Council and First Nations Council on Aboriginal knowledge, culture and/or pedagogy in the curriculum.

If you have an interest in serving on this Committee please contact:

Beverly Moore-Garcia, Chair, ACKAC, via e-mail at BMoore-Garcia@nwcc.bc.ca

Anita Davis, Administrative Assistant, House of Learning & Applied Research at adavis@nwcc.bc.ca

DEADLINE: March 30, 2012

Treaty Communications Amping Up



Left: Commission Dave Haggard addresses the crowd. Right: Chief Judy Gerow opens the event.

The Kitselas Treaty Office hosted an event dubbed the “Kitselas Agreement-in-Principle: Communications Launch” on February 4th 2012 at the Thornhill Community Centre. This event introduced Kitselas members to the communications plan that will unroll over the next six months or more to ensure they have the information they need to cast a confident vote on the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). Kitselas members were introduced to their Communications Team that will be going door-to-door to talk about the AIP and heard from various guest speakers, including Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre and Commissioner Dave Haggard of the BC Treaty Commission.

“Just think,” stated Chief Judy Gerow in her opening address,

“under our treaty we will no longer be tied to the Indian Act. We won’t have to check every move with meddling INAC bureaucrats. We will be free and independent citizens of this country.” The theme of freedom and independence resounded throughout the day with various presenters. Our guest speakers from the BC Treaty Commission were able to provide insight into their experience with treaty-making. Sophie Pierre stated, “we are afraid of treaty... there has been a lot of stuff that happened, but we want to bring our people back to where they were and through treaty we rebuild our nations.” Dave Haggard added, “the government will no longer be able to trample over the land. This is only the beginning of the journey, but what a journey it will be.”

Chief Negotiator for Kitselas, Mel Bevan, reflected on the history of Kitselas and the efforts of the ancestors who began the journey toward independence. He stated, “the Agreement-in-Principle is the first milestone we will have to pass in taking back our place in our homeland. Young people all across Canada are beginning to realize there is much more to us than ‘the people who live on Indian reserves’, we are the people of the canyon. It’s time to take it back.”

The Kitselas are nearing an important turning point in history. After 20 years of negotiations an Agreement-in-Principle is finally in sight. While the AIP is not a legally binding agreement, it is the first step toward finishing the work the elders began all those years ago.

The Communications Team will be knocking on your door!

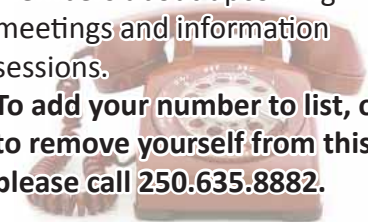
We are committed to ensuring Kitselas members have all the information they need. Our Communications Team will be visiting homes in Gitaus and Kulspai over the coming months to deliver an over-view of the AIP and take your questions and concerns. This is your chance to clarify your points of concern and learn more about what is on the table. If you are not comfortable having someone come to your home, alternate arrangements can be made. We thank you for this opportunity!

Please come out to the Community Round-Table every Wednesday at 7pm at the Gitaus Fire Hall.

Would you like a phone call reminder for upcoming events?

We have started a database of local numbers so we can contact members about upcoming meetings and information sessions.

To add your number to list, or to remove yourself from this list please call 250.635.8882.



Why are we only getting communications now?

Efforts have been made over the years to communicate the Treaty process to the Kitselas. However, now that the AIP is nearing completion the information we have to offer is more concrete. Presenting information that was in a constant state of change would have been misleading and confusing. This is what has been done to-date....

Newsletters from the Kitselas Treaty Office started going out to the community in 1995 at the outset of Treaty negotiations to explain what was going to happen and to encourage community feedback. Regular updates of activities were sent to community members from this time through the newsletter as recently as 2000.

In 2000 community meetings were held to explain what was going on. Community meetings were also held from this period from time to time to update community members.

In 2008 an official Communications Department was established and

the Canyon Current - our monthly newsletter was born.

Beginning September 8th, 2008 a series of 13 booklets outlining the 26 chapters of the AIP was mailed to every member of the Kitselas Band that our communications department was able to find. The last of the series was mail in July of 2010. The booklets detail the finer points of the AIP on a chapter by chapter basis in a simple and concise language (these packages, and any new publications, are now available on the new website www.kitselas.com).

In the summer of 2011 we published the booklet "Understanding the AIP" that was mailed to all members. The booklet is a condensed version of the original 13 books. The booklet describes in a brief paragraph the purpose behind each chapter of the AIP.

The Treaty office has produced two DVDs to explain Treaty and Self-Government. Titled: "Clean Slate: The People of the Grizzly"

video-graphical overview on the history and the purpose behind Kitselas treaty negotiations and "Government by the People" a video-graphical overview of Self-Government. These DVDs have been publicly screened and mailed to all members (they are also available on-line)

The Kitselas website was updated in 2011 and is regularly updated to improve usability and to provide information. We also have an active presence on Facebook and Twitter and will use You Tube to a greater extent in the future.

We have participated in the Terrace Trade Show and Aboriginal Days and will be present at various community events. We will also be hosting a number of community meetings over the next six months or more.

We are now unrolling a new phase of communications to explore all aspects of the AIP. We will be reaching out to community members locally and outside the community - stay tuned!

The AIP Approval Process

It is IMPORTANT to remember that your negotiators or the Band Council DO NOT have the authority to sign or even initial the AIP before it has gone through a community approval process.

Right now our negotiations are approaching what is referred to as a "handshake agreement".

A "handshake" does not mean we have an actual finished agreement, it means we have a "tentative agreement". In other words, we have a document we can agree to but changes can still be made. It is not an official agreement until it is signed.

There will NOT be a vote on the AIP UNTIL the Government of Canada has gone through its approval process, which we have no control over and may take a number of months. We cannot predict how long this will take. There may be further negotiations before it is signed. For instance, the Government of Canada may chose to open a paragraph in the DRAFT AIP and the wording will have to be negotiated again.

After it is signed by Canada, BC and Kitselas, we will call for a community meeting to decide if the people of Kitselas have a clear enough understanding of the AIP to vote on it, a date for the vote will be set at that time. Everyone will have an opportunity to vote.

The outcome of that vote will determine whether or not we proceed to final treaty negotiations.

The date for the vote can not be set yet, it could happen by October 2012 at the earliest, but is likely to happen LATER - we cannot provide a concrete date or time line.

TAXATION

INFORMATION SESSION

March 10th 2012 - Kitselas Hall

12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

- Lunch Provided -

Taxation is the most misunderstood aspect of treaty negotiations. While taxation would not become a reality until at least 12 years after a Final Agreement, it is important to learn more now.

Join us for an afternoon information session with an opportunity to ask questions and get answers from our Tax Expert Bill Stipdonk.

More Upcoming Meetings & Dates:

April 13th - Deconstructing the Indian Act

May 17th - Why Treaty?: Settling the Land Question

June 2nd - Self-Government and the Constitution

Mark your calendars! More details to be announced...



Kitselas Treaty
Negotiations

Ph: 250.635.8882
kitselas.com/treaty