



Canyon *Current*

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 4 - Issue 16 March 2012

Kitselas Master Land Use Plan Complete



Aerial image of the community of Gitaus. The Kitselas Master Land Use Plan will be used to support and guide future decisions about land use on-reserve, within a clear, accountable decision-making process. Photo Morris Mason

After a year of consultation and eager anticipation the Kitselas Master Land Use Plan was unveiled to the community of Kitselas on March 28th 2012 at the Gitaus Administration Building.

The engagement process for the Land Use Plan (LUP) was ground-breaking and has introduced community members to a new level of participation in what happens on Kitselas Reserve Lands.

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In the Community

Kitselas Easter Celebration - April 9th 11am - 6 pm at Gitaus Firehall and Band Office. *Come out for a fun filled day of activities for the kids!* Easter Treasure hunt, Egg Colouring, Three Legged Race, Balloon popping contest, Apple Bopping, Tug o War, Water Balloon Toss and BBQ! Volunteers Appreciated.

Kitselas Elders Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser April 6th (Good Friday) at the Elder's Centre - Gitaus. 8:00 - 11:00 am. \$5/ Plate.

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

Tuesday, April 10th from 1 -3 pm at the Queensway Office.
Please bring copies of any tickets you may have, even if they are expired. If you have a lap top computer, please bring it as well.

Food Safe Course at the Gitaus Admin Building - Date TBA.

Only 14 seats available - first come first serve. For information or to register for this training opportunity contact Jada at 250.635.5084 ext. 225

Kitimat Valley Institute - Entry Level Construction Training

from April 16-21. Registration is Tuesday April 10 at 1:00pm at KVI (Kitimat, BC). Funding is available for qualified applicants. If you are interested in attending this registration and need a ride please call Sandy Watson at 250.635.8882 ext 245 (room for 4 people only). This event is open to any person who would like to attend.

Ice Cream & Slushies for Sale. Cones: \$1.00-\$3.00; Slushies: \$1.50-\$2.50. To order text Elaine at 250-975-0892

Healthy Food Distribution for pregnant women and diagnosed diabetics. To take place Wednesday and Thursday (prior to the 20th of every month). Other individuals who do not fit into the category of intended recipients can participate in this program at a cost of \$10.00. Contact the Kitselas Health Department for more information.

Ongoing:

Kitselas Coffee House: Canceled

Kitselas Soup Kitchen Tuesdays at Noon - Gitaus Admin Bldg.

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.



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4562 Queensway Drive
Terrace, BC V8G 3X6
Phone: 250.635.8882 ext. 242
Fax: 250.635.8793

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

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



Community Health Nurse, Catherine Tanski and 4th Year Nursing Student, Cassandra Beaupre enjoy puppet playtime with the kids at Kitselas Headstart. Photo courtesy: Joan Mason-Nyce

Hugh Ormrid, Dental Therapist will be in Kitselas.

April 9, 11, 13, 23, 25, 27th

Call the Kitselas Health Department to if you would like Hugh to schedule an appointment for you at 250.635.5084



Danielle Morrison, Resident Care Attendant for Kitselas was among 30 nominees to receive an Award of Recognition at the Personal Care Workers Forum February 7-8, 2012 in Richmond BC. Danielle was nominated by the community of Kitselas to be recognized for her work in the community along with her peers in the profession. Danielle is a familiar face and constant voice in the community. She was nominated for her constant dedication to her home care clients. Way to go Danielle!

Employment Office Info:

Ideas and suggestions for potential weekly workshops to help individuals prepare for employment are welcomed. Please stay tuned for more opportunities to come.

New job postings and an essential skills in the trades binder have been added.

Rio Tinto Alcan is on a hiring blitz. Get your resumes and cover letters sent off! If you need help, stop by and see Sandy, Employment Counselor (see office hours below).

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Gitau Admin Office. Call 250.635.5084 ext. 229

Tuesdays at Queensway Office call 250.635.8882 ext. 245

E: employment@kitselas.com



GARBAGE REMOVAL

For the safety of our workers please ensure garbage bags are not so heavy that they are difficult to throw into the garbage truck. Please remember the three bag limit. Large scale garbage removal is \$25 a load.





Kitselas Youth attended the 'Gathering Our Voices: Youth Conference March 20-23, 2012 in Nanaimo, BC. The annual event is an opportunity for young people aged 14-24 to take part in a dynamic conference that focuses on Health, Language, Culture, the Environment, Employment, Education, Sports and Recreation. The conference featured workshops, cultural activities, an interactive Career and Education fair, and evening entertainment. *Photo: Lynn Wright*

Administration Report to Kitselas Members

I have been with the Kitselas Band Council for only 2 months now and have enjoyed getting to know the community, staff and council. There are many exciting opportunities happening for the band: AIP negotiations, Land Use Plan, employment opportunities in the area, agreements with industry, and the Health HUB. Council and I are also planning to have strategic planning sessions soon and training for staff and council to improve our services. There are many opportunities available so the band will continue to evaluate how best to assist the community. I will have more to report as I continue to assess the needs of the band and community. If you have concerns please contact me at the Gitaus office.

Happy Easter to everyone, I hope to see people at the Easter Breakfast held by the Elder's Group Friday April 6, 2012!

Jason Majore, KBC Director of Administration

Kitselas Rediscovery Dream Closer to Reality



Ken McDames holds a conch that is housed in a special box presented to First Nations groups that are working toward establishing 'Rediscovery' Camps in their communities.

Dreams of a Rediscovery camp for Kitselas are starting to be realized. The Rediscovery movement first started in Haida Gwaii in 1978. The youth focused initiative aims to help young people reconnect with the land and their heritage. Aimed at combatting drug and alcohol abuse and other issues facing youth today the movement has grown to 21 camps in BC.

Ken McDames recently received a special token from Haida Gwaii that is passed on from group to group as they form their Rediscovery Camps. A bentwood box which houses a conch has made an extensive journey to Kitselas having passed through many hands before. Ken indicates that all of the supplies for the camp are ready and there are training opportunities to lead the camp. For more information call Ken at 250-638-8059 and visit the website www.rediscovery.org.

De-mystifying Taxes

Economist Bill Stipdonk delivered a presentation to Kitselas members on Taxation March 10th 2012 at the Kitselas Hall. While taxation would not become a reality until at least 12 years after a Final Agreement (a possible 20 years from now), it is important to discuss this complex topic. The afternoon session created an opportunity for community members to learn more and ask questions as they begin to weigh the Draft Agreement-in-Principle in preparation for a ratification vote on this important check point in treaty negotiations. This information is part of a series of communications engagements planned over the coming months for Kitselas members.

Taxation is the most misunderstood aspect of treaty negotiations. Nothing makes people more apprehensive and anxious than taxation. However, it is important to understand the benefits associated with taxation and what it really means for the Kitselas.

Outlined below are some common misconceptions and facts on the topic. More detailed information on taxation will be sent to Kitselas members in April.

This article and related information is based on a presentation developed by Bill Stipdonk, Metrix Consulting Ltd.©

Myth: The Elders and Poor will be impacted most by taxation and this is wrong.

Fact: The tax system is progressive meaning that low-income persons pay less and in some cases no taxes. The more you earn the more taxes you pay. Generally, low-income individuals will pay no property tax or income tax.

Myth: Tax exemption is a right, and we are taking it away.

Fact: Tax exemption is not a right, it is an interpretation of section 87 of the Indian Act which states:

*“Notwithstanding any other Act of Parliament or any Act of the legislature of a province, but subject to section 83, the following property is exempt from taxation, namely,
-the interests of an Indian or band in reserve lands or surrendered lands; and
-the personal property of an Indian or a band situated on reserve”*

It's important to remember this was written BEFORE there was income and sales taxes and has been interpreted to apply to income and sales taxes on reserves. Revenue Canada and the courts (who interpret the Act and other laws) have been making it more difficult to obtain section 87 exemptions by tightening requirements and requiring audits – it could be gone tomorrow. Arguably one can insist that section 87 is a right – but the Indian Act is only an Administrative document, it doesn't protect Aboriginal Rights, section 35 of the Canadian Constitution does.

General Questions and Answers:

Q: Why can't we stay tax-free?

A: Phasing out of tax exemption is a fundamental position of Canada and BC in treaty negotiations.

Q: When will tax exemption be phased out?

A: Generally, tax exemption is phased out 8-12 years post-treaty. On the current timeline, the completion of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) is almost complete. The Kitselas will vote on the AIP and a 'Yes' vote will give the negotiators permission to carry forward to Final Agreement negotiations, which could take an additional 4-5 years to complete. Taxation could be a reality for Kitselas in about 20 years.

Q: What will happen to the taxes we pay?

A: Kitselas First Nation will enter into side-agreements with Canada and BC so income and sales taxes coming back into the community for the benefit of Kitselas citizens. This revenue would come with no strings attached and can be used as the Kitselas First Nation sees fit.

Q: What about the difficulty the Nisga'a are facing now, how are we going to be different?

A: The Nisga'a Final Agreement does not provide for tax sharing. Their agreement excludes them from receiving benefits from any tax agreement. The Kitselas Final Agreement would be fundamentally different as it assumes there will be a tax agreement between Kitselas, BC and Canada. This piece would be a significant part of Final Agreement negotiations.

Please feel free to direct further concerns and questions to the Kitselas Treaty Office at 250.635.8882
E: newsroom@kitselas.com

Chief Negotiator for Kitselas Retires



To the People of Kitselas:

“For the last 40 years my main goal was to find a solution to the outstanding historical land claim of the Kitselas people, sometimes called the “Kitselas Land Question”. Without settling this question real progress is not possible.

I had originally planned to retire before Christmas of 2011 before I turned 71. As I told the elders of Kitselas, retirement does not mean I am going away; I am not leaving Kitselas, there is still work to be done.

Effective March the 31st, I am retired. What it means is I am no longer on the Kitselas payroll, no more holiday pay, no sick leave, no benefits of any kind. I am no longer an employee of Kitselas.

We all have personal choices to make from time to time and I have made mine, my reasons are my own. The work that we are doing in the Treaty Office is vital and cannot be interrupted, it must continue. The need for continuity has been recognized by the Band Council and so I have been asked to fill an advisory role on a day by day basis. The task is to try and finish the job.

As long as I can maintain my health and energy I will continue to try and finish the work started by my grandparents. My grandchildren and great grandchildren provide me with the energy and inspiration needed to continue.” - Mel Bevan

After many years of service long standing Chief Negotiator Mel Bevan (Sm’oogyt Satzan) has retired. Mel has been Chief Negotiator for the Kitselas Treaty Team since 1995. Prior to his position as Chief Negotiator, Mel held positions of Manager for various Bands, tribal and provincial organizations and was once Chief Councilor for Kitselas.

Mel has been involved with many aboriginal organizations throughout Northern BC. His involvements include founder and past president of the Upper Skeena Community Law Society, founder and past president of the Lax Gels Community Law Society, past president of the Council of Tsimshian Nations and Tsimshian Tribal Council, founder of CFNR Radio and he helped establish Muks’kum’ol Housing Society while president of the Kermode Friendship Centre. Mel is a recipient of the Governor Generals Confederation Award for Community Service.

Mel has also been involved with the National Centre for First Nations Governance, Director of the Northwest Tribal Treaty Society, Chair of the Northwest Tribal Treaty Governance Committee and Advisory Board Member of the Financial Management Board.

We would like to thank Mel for his commitment to Kitselas and congratulate him on the amazing work he has accomplished over the years. His mentorship has been a guiding force in the Treaty Office - we wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter.

Deconstructing the Indian Act: Dinner & Discussion

April 13th 2012 at 4:30 pm
Kitselas Hall



Guest Speaker: Manny Jules **Catering:** Verna Inkster (Chinese Food)

In order to understand where we are today, we need to start from the beginning. This meeting will explore the history of the Indian Act and why we are negotiating treaties. We'll talk about what hasn't been working and the opportunities a treaty creates.

Please call our office to arrange for transportation. Children's Activity Table will be available.



Kitselas Treaty
Negotiations

250.635.8882
www.kitselas.com/treaty
Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/KitselasTreaty>

'Talking Stick': A Kitselas Treaty Publication -- Preview

A new publication that focuses on Kitselas Treaty negotiations and other treaty related news and information across BC is coming this April 2012 - stay tuned for more on these stories....



Chief Negotiators Mel Bevan (Kitselas) and Gerald Wesley (Tsimshian First Nation Treaty Society) met with Honorable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (Left) and Honorable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (Right) while on a visit to Comox, BC to witness the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle for the Komoks First Nation.

Bottom Left: Councillor Stewart Hardy, Komoks First Nation with Ministers Polak and Duncan at the AIP signing in Comox, BC March 24th 2012.

Bottom Right: the Treaty Communications team attended Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (Government session of the Nisga'a Lisims Government) on March 27th and 28th. It was a great opportunity to see self-government in action.



The Kitselas Treaty Office has hired a number of Kitselas Band Members to provide information to the Membership with regards to where Kitselas is at in the Treaty Process. These individuals are responsible for delivering information and answer any questions or concerns. If they are unable to answer questions or comments posed during home visits they will be passed along to a technical team, such as legal counsel, a tax experts and so forth. Please understand the communication team are here to ensure the Kitselas Membership are informed regarding the Kitselas Treaty Process. The communication team has been hired for a purpose and we cannot permit them to be subjected to any abuse be it verbal or any other form.

Comments, suggestions and concerns regarding the door-to-door process should be directed to Hilary or Glenn at 250.635.8882, thank you.

Kitselas Master Land Use Plan Complete

The Kitselas Reserve Lands Management Act, enacted in 2005, transferred all authorities and responsibility for Kitselas Reserve Lands from the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada (AANDC – formerly known as INAC) to the Kitselas Chief and Council. This means 25% of the Indian Act no longer applies to the administration of land management on Kitselas reserve lands. Kitselas has exclusive legislated authority over how its reserve lands are used and managed.

The LUP defines what can and cannot happen on Kitselas reserve lands, and may place conditions on certain kinds of development. However, the LUP does not affect lands outside reserve. Land Use Planning is not part of the current treaty negotiations, but will have to be re-visited post-treaty.

It is important to keep in mind that the LUP is not a development proposal. The ideas presented in the plan are only possibilities and is not intended to outline physical development projects that Band should fund and undertake. The LUP is also not an economic development plan, a business plan or a strategic plan. The LUP is intended to be used by: an individual considering new uses for Kitselas reserve lands to see if their idea is compatible with the community vision; the Lands Management Office to guide review of land

use applications and; by Chief and Council, to inform and guide decisions about land use.

The Kitselas Master Land Use Plan must still be accepted by Chief and Council before it is official. Once it has gone through this stage of the approval process it will be posted on-line.

Kitselas members are encouraged to be in touch with Sonja Foss, Lands Manager for any questions related to the Master Land Use Plan or other issues related to existing reserve lands. Sonja can be reached at 250.635.8882 ext 232 or via email:sfoss@kitselas.com.

Segments of this article have been taken directly from the 'Kitselas Master Land Use Plan' written and distributed by the Kitselas Lands Management Office.



Sonja Foss and Keisha-Lee Erickson stand ready for the Open-House and LUP Presentation March 28th 2012.



Northwest Inter-Nation Family & Community Services Society

4562 Queensway Drive
Terrace, BC
V8G 3X6
Ph: 250-638-0451
Fax: 250-638-8930
Toll Free: 1-888-310-3311
Email: info@nifcs.org

Hazel Trego from Pacifica Counselling and Consulting Services will be providing five information sessional sessions in our Terrace and Prince Rupert offices.

Topics for each session will be:

1. Understanding Trauma's Effects
2. Understanding the Effect of Disrupted Attachment
3. Building a Safe Place for Healing
4. Coping with Feelings and Behaviour
5. Becoming an Advocate and Preventing Secondary Trauma (Care for the Caregiver)

These workshops will be interactive and participants will have resources to take with them. Best learning takes place with follow ups for discussion, problems solving, and support when participants have had some time to put skills to use.

First session in Terrace: April 21 at the Terrace NIFCS office 2:30pm to 4:30pm

First session in Prince Rupert: April 23 at the Prince Rupert NIFCS office 2:30 to 4:30pm

Refreshments will be provided, Come out and Enjoy!