

Canyon *Current*

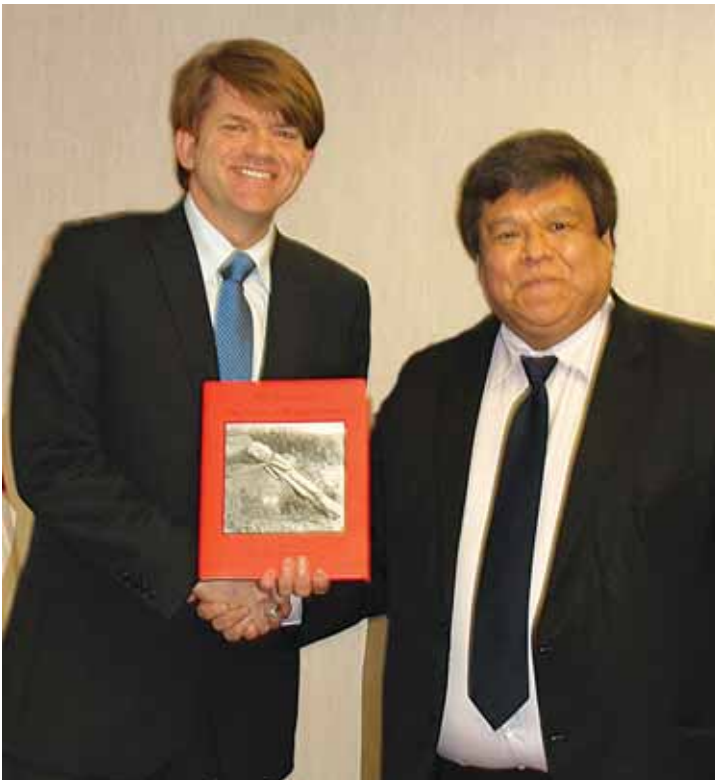
“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 3 - Issue 6 March 2011

Canada Announces Agreement with Kitselas and Kitsumkalum on Prince Rupert Terminal



Despite the short notice a good crowd was present to witness the official announcement by the Government of Canada acknowledging the recent agreements with the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations on the expansion of the Prince Rupert Port. Details Inside! Pictured (above) representatives and community members pose with Brian Jean Parliamentary Secretary. (Right) Chief Glenn Bennett makes a presentation to Brian Jean, MP



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In the Community

Kitselas Science & Technology Career Fair March 22nd at Gitaus Admin Building starts at 10am. Open to students in grades 7-12, parents welcome! Snack & Lunch provided. Transportation available - leaves bus stop in front of CFNR building at 9:30 am sharp. Each participant will receive a \$20 gift card. Call Dawn for more info at 250-631-9355.

Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu NHL Playoff Pool Fundraiser. Cost to participate will be \$10.00. We will provide more information on prizes and when we will get the draft started for this fun activity.

Sunrunners Loonie Auction/Bake Sale March 26th 1pm at the Kulspai Community Hall.

Sunrunners iPod Touch Raffle tickets \$5 or 3 for \$10 available from any member of the Sunrun Team - Draw Date: April 8th

Kitselas Kids Safety Committee "Signs of Safety Training" March 28th 9am - 3:30 pm. Light snack & Lunch Provided. At Gitaus Admin Office

Technology Safety - Info Session March 31st. Kitselas Youth Centre at 7pm

Ongoing

Women's Wellness Group meets every Tuesday from 6-9 at the Gitaus Office. **No Women's Wellness Group meeting during Spring Break (March 21st to 25th). The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 29th and it will be a potluck.**

Elders Walk/Swim - Tuesdays For more info call Sharlene at 635-5084 ext 237. Please bring a snack and drink.

Elder's Tea - Wednesdays Everyone is welcome to join this weekly gathering at the Elder's Centre (Gitaus) 1-3 pm.

Elder's Group meets every Thursday for lunch at the Satellite Office - Kulspai at 12:00 pm

Floor Hockey - Fridays from 7-9 pm at the Kulspai Community Hall. Call Dustin Parker for more information at 635-1985.

Alcoholics Anonymous - rides available to attend the Wednesday noon hour meeting. Please arrive at the Band Office by 11:30 am.

Parent Connection every Wednesday at 12:00 pm Gitaus Band Office. Join in for lunch, questions and sharing.

Sm'algayx Lessons - Wednesdays 10am - 12pm and 1 - 2:30 pm at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu. Please call the school in advance to confirm your attendance at 635-3301.

Do you have a community event, story or photo you would like to share? Community submissions are always welcomed at the Canyon Current! The next deadline for submissions is **Friday April 15th 2011**. Email: newsroom@kitselas.com OR Phone: 250-635-8882 ext 242



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"Increasing Knowledge
Together
for a Better Tomorrow"

**Volume 3 Issue 6
March 2011**

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PARENTS! Please keep your children away from worksites as there are many items that can cause bodily harm. Also please ensure you keep your pets contained as they are getting into the new houses. Thank you for your cooperation - Housing Dept.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter please email h.zornow@kitselas.com Your address will also be included on a distribution list for any news or updates that come through the communications office.



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

Council Connector

The Council met on February 21st, 23rd and March 9th 2011. Outlined are some of the significant highlights from these meetings.

On February 21st Council presented Chief Patterson of the Thornhill Fire Department with a gift of thanks to acknowledge his presence at the Pole Raising on September 11th 2010. Council also received a letter of resignation from Sue Bevan as Health Director who, we are sad to report, will leave the Kitselas Administration on May 27th 2011. We wish her the best of luck with all future endeavors. The Council was briefed on the on-going discussions with INAC regarding the need to identify and drill a well for a new water supply to the communities of Gitaus and Kulspai as the existing infrastructure is nearing the end of its life. Kitselas has provided all of the data required by INAC and consultants David Nairne & Associates who will now assess the data to determine whether the Kitselas are able to access any additional funds to research and implement this much needed infrastructure. More information on this item will be available to the public as it develops.

On February 23rd Council heard from Housing Manager, Ulysses Venegas, who expressed concern over rental arrears which may impede the Housing Departments' ability to access funding from CMHC for the construction of new homes. Notices have been sent to community members who are in arrears and they are encouraged to meet with Ulysses to discuss a repayment plan. **Unfortunately, the Housing Department will have to enforce evictions on those who do**

not take action to pay their rent. Ulysses also reported to Council that the Housing Committee has met to review applications from members wishing to move into the new homes in Gitaus, successful applicants will be contacted regarding their application. Questions can be directed to Ulysses at the Administration Office 250-635-5084 ext. 232.

At this same meeting Council also witnessed an act of self-governance by the Committee to Council who under the authority of the Committee to Council Act created a new position for the Kitselas Administration called the Director of Development and Implementation (see story on

page 5 for more).

At the meeting held March 9th Sharon Bennett was appointed the Electoral Officer for the upcoming Council elections this June 2011. Sharon received her Electoral Officer Training through INAC in 1997.

Ken McDames Sr. gave an oral presentation of his attendance at the First Nations Social Development Society's Workshop "Celebrating our Success, Giving Hope and Inspiring Communities". Ken attended the workshop with Social Development Manager, Steve Bernard. The two participated in a number of working groups over this two-day event (all related to the field of social development).

All Kitselas Members are invited to join us for the first in a series of Community Engagements discussing...

Self-Government

Join us for the debut of a brand-new film about the Kitselas for the Kitselas...

"People of the Grizzly: Government by the People"

Followed by a discussion on the realization of Self-Government for the Kitselas Nation

March 24th 2011 - Thursday
Gitaus Administration Building

Two Presentations:

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Door Prizes - Refreshments - Child minding



Kitselas Treaty
Community Engagement Series

Contact: Hilary Zornow 250.635.8882 ext 242

Self-Government through Committee to Council

The *Kitselas Reserve Lands Management Act* (2005) created for the Kitselas the authority to create laws as they relate to the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of Kitselas Lands in addition to a number of other provisions, which includes the “creation of management and administrative bodies or agencies”. This is significant because previously INAC had the sole authority to do this; now the Kitselas can do it for themselves meeting the needs of the community with their own vision. The most recent creation of the *Director of Development and Implementation* position (to be posted) at the Council meeting held February 23rd is the first act of self-government as it relates to the ability for the Kitselas Administration to create new positions for the organization.

The Committee to Council Act, which is now a Kitselas law,

was enacted October 5th 2010 and established the Committee to Council which is comprised of Administration Managers (staff). Their responsibilities include monitoring and prioritizing community issues on an on-going basis and for matters requiring immediate action, give direction to respond or develop policies for recommendation to Chief and Council if required.

The Committee is still in its infancy and has begun meeting regularly. As the Administration moves forward members can expect to see the Committee in action as self-government becomes a reality.

The Committee to Council is currently comprised of: Glenn Bennett (Chair), Teri Muldon (Finance), Wilfred McKenzie (Resources), Sue Bevan (Health), Judy Gerow and Mel Bevan.

Stay tuned for more information as the Committee establishes its role in the community...

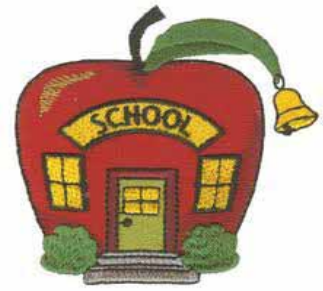
National Child Benefit Reinvestment

from Steve Bernard, Social Development

There have been a few questions around the community regarding the National Child Benefit Reinvestment (NCB). This money comes as a transfer payment from the federal government as a way to elevate child poverty in aboriginal communities. IN the past this money would transfer to the provincial government, but sometimes this money did not make it equally to the communities. The federal government then decided to pay this money directly to the communities through INAC. The amount of money we receive is based on the total number of children that I report living on

social assistance. The money is then used for the \$100.00 per household the community members have received in the past at September and in December. The remainder of this money is used to pay for work experience programs, cultural programs and support for parents in emergencies. I then have to submit a yearly report to INAC that lists these expenditures.

I hope this helps to clarify what the NCB is and how it is spent and alleviate any concerns that have been raised in response to this source funding. If you have additional questions please be in touch at 250-635-5084 ext. 227.



Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselaus will be closed between March 21st and March 25th for Spring Break, Fred will be in Tuesday, and Wednesday, of that week between 10am-2pm to meet with students about their performance and help students that want to complete their assignments. If you have any questions or suggestions please call Fred at 250-635-3301.



Kitselas Treaty
is on
facebook

Join our Group at
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>
and invite others to join!



Council Signs Capacity Agreement with Swift Power

The Kitselas First Nation has recently signed a Capacity Funding Agreement with Swift Power, a sustainable energy company based in Vancouver, BC. Swift Power has a number of projects in British Columbia with the objective of developing clean energy solutions.

Swift Power began the consultation process with various First Nations groups, including the Kitselas, within the vicinity of their proposed project in 2008. Swift Power is interested in developing a run-of-river project 25 km west of Terrace called the Dasque Cluster Project. This project consists of the Dasque and Middle Creeks which have been identified as appropriate for sustainable power generation. The Capacity Funding Agreement will provide the funds required for the Kitselas to assess the project through the engagement of specialty consultants and covering wages for Resource Centre staff who will also lend their expertise to the project assessment.

A run-of-river project uses water flow to generate electricity. Rather than develop river dams, a run-of-

river operation will divert water from a river to lessen the impact on fish habitats, the water is also returned to the river making a run-of-river operation ecologically friendly. Traditional damming methods significantly and permanently damage land and aquatic habitats. Damming involves flooding massive tracts of land and alters the spawning habits of salmon in the rivers that have been dammed.

If the Dasque Creek Project is viewed favorably through the assessment process Swift Power and the Kitselas would look forward to the development of an Impacts Benefit Agreement. Alexi Zawadzki, Vice President of Swift Power, states “we really



Cheif Bennett and Wilfred McKenzie (far left) present a gift to Alexi Zawadzki, Swift Power.

enjoy our time with Kitselas, it has been quite constructive, we really appreciate our relationship.” He adds, “we want the Kitselas to know that Swift Power intends to further cultivate our relationship and we look forward to the long-term continued development of agreements such as the one we have recently signed.”

To learn more about Swift Power please visit the website at www.swiftpower.ca

Policing for Kitselas

Since November 2010 Cst. Ryan Smith is the designated investigator/contact for the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum Bands. As the First Nations Officer with the Terrace RCMP Detachment his responsibilities include attending Band Council meetings, program delivery (such as drug/alcohol/safety talks), and attending special functions in addition to providing basic policing services to the communities. He splits his time between Kitselas and Kitsumkalum and you will likely get to know him

as he continues to be a presence in Gitaus and Kulspai.

Cst. Smith grew up in the North being born and raised in Yellowknife. He has lived in several isolated communities in the Northwest Territories and worked as a Conservation Officer until joining the RCMP from Inuvik. He joined the Terrace Detachment in the fall of 2009.

**For personal reasons Cst. Smith declined a photograph*

**Commission for
Public Complaints
Against the RCMP
1-800-665-6878 or
TTY (for the deaf)
1-866-432-5837**



Canada Announces Port of Prince Rupert Agreement



L-R: Chief Glenn Bennett, Mel Bevan, Brian Jean MP, Alex Bolton (Kitsumkalum) and Chief Don Roberts (Kitsumkalum)

As indicated in previous issues of the *Canyon Current* the Kitselas have been involved in negotiations with the Port of Prince Rupert in response to the expansion of the terminal facility.

On March 14th 2011 at the Best Western Inn, Terrace BC, Parliamentary Secretary Brian Jean (on behalf of the Honorable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities) and Anita Boscaroli, Director General for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, formally announced the benefits agreements that have been met with both the

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations. The benefits agreement signed by the Kitselas represent a settlement of \$1.9 million dollars that will be earmarked for economic development projects, which includes capacity building initiatives (training) for Kitselas members.

Chief Glenn Bennett made a number of presentations to key players in the successful negotiation of this agreement and the feeling of the announcement was one of excitement as the Kitselas look forward to the possibilities this settlement represents.

The Kitselas are also looking forward to the successful completion of the Specific Claims process for Ketonda IR # 7, which will represent another source of revenue for the membership. In recent months the Kitselas have also signed a benefits agreement with BC Hydro for the Northwest Transmission Line and a capacity funding agreement with Swift Power (pg. 5). Through open-communication and a willingness to negotiate more organizations have approached Kitselas and at it is clear that this is truly a time of opportunity for the community.



WE ARE LIVE! The newly re-vamped website is ready for public viewing! We invite you to visit www.kitselas.com and get acquainted. We feel the new layout and structure of the site will be easier to navigate. The site is a work in progress as we will be adding more content in the weeks to come and users can anticipate regular updates in the future. We want to know what you think and if there is anything we can do to make it better. Please use the contact form found in the 'Contact Us' section (at the very top of the page) to submit your feedback. See you on-line!

Kitselas creates 'A Vision' for the Community



A crowd of around 80 people were present to help further develop 'A Vision for Kitselas' on March 16th, 2011 - an initiative spearheaded by the Lands Department.

As the Kitselas numbers continue to grow and more individuals wish to come home, land use planning is critical to ensure the land is developed in conjunction with the needs of the community. The needs of the community are often guided by a vision and currently the Kitselas Vision is comprised of 6 themes: Home, History, Services, Community & Character, Community & Culture, Independence. Within all of these things a draft vision was presented to the community and refined through different exercises. Community members had a chance to elaborate on the six themes presented and took part in a mapping exercise which identified the various areas in the traditional territory, Gitaus, Kulspai and Endudoon that they value the most. Over the next few weeks Sonja Foss and Peter Whitelaw (HB Laranrc) will be digitizing all of the information and will re-present

the materials to the community in April. Stay tuned to our newly developed website (www.kitselas.com) where all of the details regarding the vision and land use planning will be made available.

This was an extremely positive event for the community and it was clear that the everyone was feeling optimistic with the possibility of being able to shape the future of their community. Now that the Kitselas have a form of self-government through the *Kitselas Reserve Lands Management Act* they have the ability to make their hopes and dreams for tomorrow a reality. Now is the time for the Kitselas to stake their own claim on their own lands without the guidance of Indian and Northern Affairs.

This year promises to bring even more great news for the Kitselas Nation so start talking - join us on Facebook and start a discussion based on the many opportunities you see and share your thoughts. This is an era of possibility and at this point we are only limited by our imaginations!



Community members broke out into groups to discuss the future of Kitselas



Corky Douglas and Cherlyn Billy

On March 3rd 2011 the Kitselas Administrative Staff participated in a two-day workshop on Policy Development. Cherlyn Billy and Charles "Corkey" Douglas, from the National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG), delivered the workshop. The Centre works with various First Nations organizations with the mandate to assist Native communities strengthen day-to-day operations and assist with efforts to implement the inherent right to self-government. Kitselas has already begun implementing various elements of self-government, and aims to continue to move in this positive direction. The staff have the task of developing policies (that do not currently exist) for their various departments in order to meet the needs of the membership and ensure the administration is run in an open, transparent and accountable manner. Policy is also critical to ensure effective governance as it creates a standard for operations not only for program delivery, but internally for staff members. The community will be apprised as this initiative develops, in the meantime the Kitselas Administration would like to assure the membership that improving service delivery remains top priority.

Elder's Group 20th Anniversary

On February 28th the Gitselasu Elder's Group celebrated 20 years together to the date of the very first meeting in 1991 held at Lili Mason's home. Prior to the opening of the Centre located in Gitaus the elders would meet in various homes with the aim of fellowship and planning for activities they could look forward to. Chris Mason was the first president of the group and his picture is displayed along a new homage at the Centre with all of the members who have now passed onto the next life.

The event was a wonderful celebration of the achievements of the Elder's Group filled with memories and recollections of the great times they have shared. It was noted at the celebration that the Elder's were in fact the very first Native dancing group in the Kitselas community. They recalled receiving a standing ovation at the Prince Rupert Elder's Conference for being the oldest dance group

which made them very proud. Soon after this appearance more young people wanted to join the dance group and the rest is history.

Anyone is welcome to join the Elder's Group, they need only to pay a \$5.00 membership fee for the year. The Elder's are actively fundraising to support a trip to the Elder's Conference in Abbotsford July 12th -14th hosted by the Stolo Nation. For the month of April they have tentatively planned: a Bake Sale at the Gitaus Office starting at 10 am on April 1st; a Loonie Auction at 5pm at the Kulspai Hall on the 16th and a Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 am at the Elder's Centre April 22nd. Mark your calendars and stay tuned!

The Following individuals won door prizes at the celebration, congratulations: Victor Wright, Jada Seymour, Darlene Seymour, Montanna Mckinnon, Majestic Joseph, David Wells, Capt. Rosa Moulton, Lisa Joseph, Sharon Bennett, Lila Rose Dennis.



Lucille Seymour (top) and Phyllis McNeil looking great at the Elder's 20th Anniversary Celebration

