



Lax Kw'alaams Band

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Week of July 6 – 11, 2014

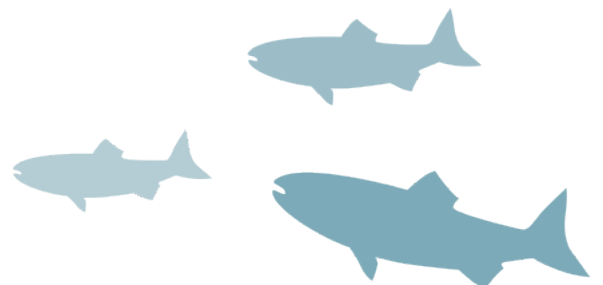
I would like to take this opportunity to update members on the work the Lax Kw'alaams Band Council is doing on a number of issues for the benefit of our membership.

Communication with our Members

As most of you know, this year we launched a new website and communications plan to improve communications with our members. Last month, we held a series of community meetings about LNG. We were very pleased with the turnout from members. We even webcasted the Vancouver meeting live over the Internet. We are now set up to webcast more of our presentations and meetings in the future. Our goal is to eventually webcast Council Meetings live over the Internet.

Improving our Connectivity

A short time ago, our community had only dial-up Internet access. The Band first worked hard to get "high speed" (10 Mbps) Internet, and was subsequently successful in reaching 30 Mbps. Getting to that point required a lot of negotiating with Telus as well as a large upgrade to our equipment and infrastructure. Recently, Council was presented with a proposal to supply fiber optic access to the community through the Band-owned Rose Island Ventures, which supplies television and Internet to the community. In response, Council approved a total package of \$290,000 to bring fiber optics to the community: \$150,000 will come from the Band Trust Fund, and \$140,000 will come from Band funds. The Band went out to search for additional funding and also secured a \$120,000 grant. All of this will allow us to repackage our television and Internet services in the community to provide better service to the school, the health centre, Band office and the entire community.



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Fish Programs

Through our fisheries program, we negotiated 10 additional trawl licences for our fisher members. We are also continuing the Food Fish Program, which aims to provide fresh fish to as many members as possible. The program began with fish deliveries to members in Lax Kw'alaams and it has now been expanded to include members in Prince Rupert. This is a large undertaking, but we are all happy to be able to do this for our members!

Exciting Community Building Projects

The steel has now arrived and the construction of the new school is underway! This school is going to be very beneficial for our young members. The Band Council has also approved a new hardwood floor for the Recreation Centre as well as new seating. We will celebrate the re-opening of the renovated gym through a youth basketball tournament; plans for that are currently underway.

This Week's Travels

Everything we do at Council is to secure benefits for our members, and it often requires travel and meetings to promote those opportunities. We do not just wait for opportunity to come to us; we are out there actively promoting the Band, its companies and joint ventures while asserting our title rights.

Monday:

- Attended the Board Meeting of the First Nations Limited Partnership (FNLP) in Vancouver. This is the group of First Nations that have an agreement on the Pacific Trails Pipeline going to the Apache Project in Kitimat. Through the FNLP, we have a joint benefit agreement and a number of issues needed to be addressed at the Board level.

Tuesday:

- Met with legal counsel in Vancouver to address a range of LNG issues.
- Met with Bechtel Limited to discuss training, employment and business opportunities in relation to a number of LNG projects in our traditional territory. Interestingly, Bechtel is also bidding to build the Petronas project proposed for Lelu Island. The face-to-face meeting gave us an opportunity to communicate Lax Kw'alaams' objections to the Lelu Island project.

Thursday:

- Attended a meeting scheduled by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), a federal government department. The meeting was our second one with NRCan. Their objective is to get our input on the issues related to the Petronas project. We have held firm to our position that the project will not go ahead with its present trestle, which we see as being a huge risk to the marine environment and our sea resources. I have said it many times, and will continue to say, that **we will never approve any project that we see as putting our marine environment and sea resources at risk**. At the meeting, the issue of sediment movement in the Prince Rupert Harbour was raised. Sediment can have a

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huge negative impact on the fisheries and other sea resources, so it is extremely important to understand the movement of sediment as a result of disturbance during construction. Petronas reported that they have taken 400 samples to collect information and the Prince Rupert Port has collected 40 samples. We have collected 4,000 samples. Lax Kw'alaams is supporting a sediment project by SedTrend Analysis at a cost of \$600,000 that will provide us with the scientific information required to fully understand sediment movement in the Prince Rupert Harbour. Everyone was stunned by Lax Kw'alaams' initiative in this project, which is being done through our Fisheries Management Department. To get more information on SedTrend Analysis, please see their website at www.sedtrend.com.

Friday:

- We met with Shell Canada representatives to work on a Capacity Funding Agreement. This agreement will provide funding to the Band to allow comment on the proposed Shell LNG project in Kitimat. The reason we have interest in this project is due to the potential conflicts that could occur due to shipping through the Lax Kw'alaams traditional territory.

That brings us to the end of the week. Next week, I will be spending most the time in the office, where there is always so much to be done! Please stay tuned for next week's report.

Please feel free to contact me directly at Garry_Reece@hotmail.com or through the Band Office at 1-877-725-3293.

Best wishes,

Garry Reece