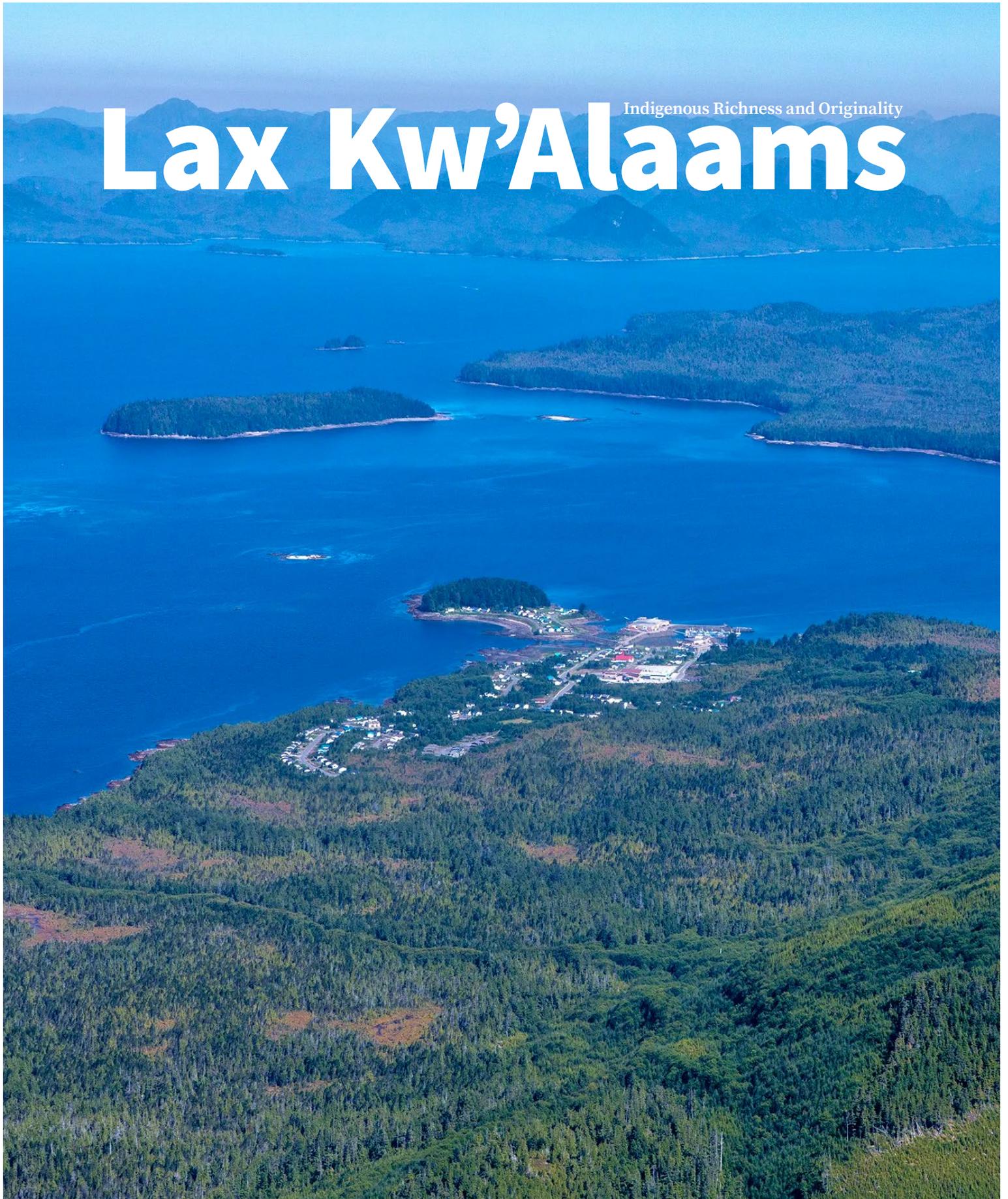


Lax Kw'Alaams

Indigenous Richness and Originality



Vol 1, Issue 1



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Contents

COVID IMPACTS..... 2

LANI KING—EDUCATION COORDINATOR/GRANT WRITER..... 3

 LISA GREEN, ASSISTANT TO THE CAO..... 3

COUNCIL APPOINTS FOUR COMMITTEES..... 4

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT AND OUTFLOW 5

WATER INTAKE LINE..... 5

 MENTORED WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAM..... 5

 CHILDCARE BUILDING IN LAX KW’ALAAMS..... 6

Lax Kw’alaams Ferry..... 6

APARTMENTS IN PRINCE RUPERT—60 UNITS 7

 HOUSING UPDATE..... 7

 FINANCIAL REVIEW 8

 LAX KW’ALAAMS DECEMBER GIFT 2020 8

COAST TSIMSHIAN ACADEMY—SCHOOL START REPORT 8

Mayor’s Message



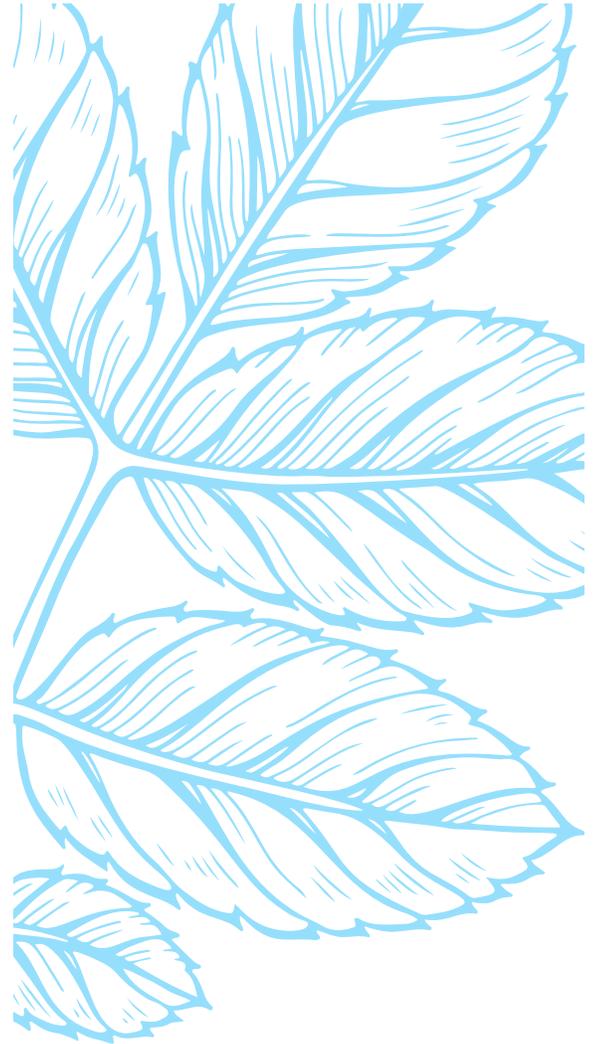
COVID IMPACTS

The COVID epidemic and social distancing limitations have imposed severe impacts on Council’s ability to interact with the community. It has also limited our ability to travel to Vancouver for discussions with government on reconciliation, and constrained us from talking face to face with our many consultants. This has been ongoing since March and I have therefore instructed Administration to start communicating with our membership by writing a monthly newsletter. We won’t get into politics, we will simply keep you informed of the many initiatives we are pursuing, and we hope you enjoy the updates. We have always talked about transparency, so here it is, right in front of you!

There are many positive things going on in our community. Unfortunately, there are those who always try to bring us down with negativity, be it on the streets or on social media. As a community, let’s rally together during these difficult times, let’s support one another, and let’s build our future.

We can smile or we can attack. Which way do you want to go?





LANI KING—EDUCATION COORDINATOR/ GRANT WRITER

Lani King (Leggeat) will be starting her position as Education Coordinator / Grant Writer on November 2, 2020.

She is a proud member of the Lax Kw'alaams Band and part of the Tsimshian Nation. She is from the Gitando Tribe and from the Gispwudwada (killerWhale) Clan. She belongs to the House of Gamiyaam. Her grandparents are Mary Enockson (Dennis) and Axel Enockson who was from Norway. Her mother is Norma Jones (Enockson) and father is Matthew Leggeat Sr.

She brings with her 20 years of work experience working for MCFD in administration including 17 years as Supervisor of Administration. In 2011 she attended SFU pursuing a career as a Career Development Practitioner. After completing her training she worked with First Nations people as a Life Skills facilitator and consultant for First Nation communities.

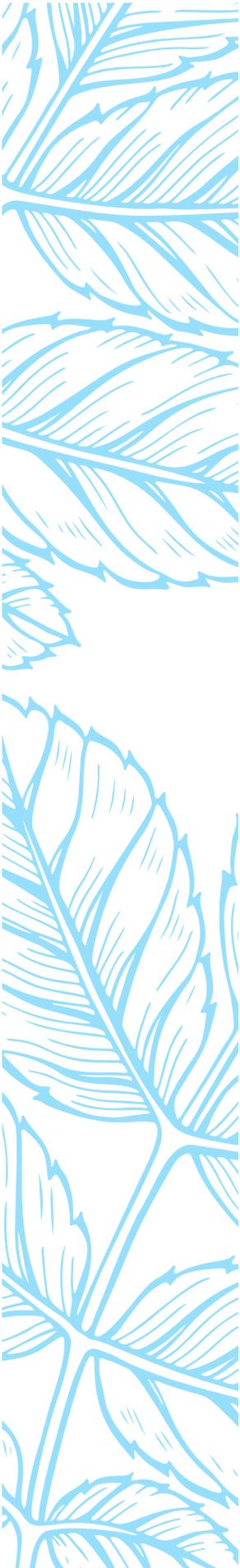
Lani worked at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre as Director of Career, Employment and Education. She also worked as Manager of Education and Support Services at Tsawout First Nation. Joining her on her journey will be her mother Norma Jones.

'My philosophy is to approach my work with commitment, resilience and perseverance.'

LISA GREEN, ASSISTANT TO THE CAO

Lisa Green has taken on the new role of Assistant to the CAO on September 8th. She has worked as the Education Coordinator since July 2004. For the time being she is working as Education Coordinator in the mornings and her new position in the afternoons. She will train the new Education Coordinator and will then take on her new position full-time.

She has her certificate and diploma in business administration and Associates of Arts Degree and currently working on her last course towards her Bachelor of General Studies - Applied Studies at Athabasca University.



COUNCIL APPOINTS FOUR COMMITTEES

Mayor Reece has appointed four committees to research capital projects.

Councillors Ted White, Andy Tait, Betty Reece and Leona Wells have been appointed to the Waterfront Development Project. Why do we need an industrial garage and fuel tanks on our waterfront? Can't they be placed elsewhere? Why don't we have a small restaurant, a mini gas bar and convenience store, why isn't there a place our people can sit informally and talk? Why can't we have park benches looking over our waters? What's the game plan? How much? What will it look like?

Councillors Betty Reece, Angela Green, and Ted White have been appointed to the Administration Building Research Project. We are one of BC's largest First Nations governments but our building is embarrassing, old and incapable of expansion. Wiring, networking and storage has become safety issues and as you know, Council has been relegated to the log house on the water. Projects of this nature are usually funded by the First Nation itself, how can we get around this? What does the money flow look like?

Councillors Kelly Sampson, Braden Dudoward, Gerri Alexcee and Joey Wesley have been assigned to the Soccer Dome Project. There are relatively inexpensive soccer domes throughout Canada and British Columbia that allow for soccer and lacrosse to be played throughout the year. Council is looking at a facility that has an internal track where people can walk / run throughout the year.

Councillors Robby Hughes, Joey Wesley, Gerry Alexcee, Braden Dudoward and Harvey Russell Jr. will be investigating the possibility of a daily water shuttle into Rupert. Can we shuttle Band employees into Rupert early in the morning so that they can work there and return home at night? Will industry help us with that process? Can we build parking lots at both ends to accommodate their vehicles? We are aware of creative funding opportunities that would allow our members to remain in Lax Kw'alaams while working in Prince Rupert, so let's see what is possible.



Sample of Concrete Tank Aerated Lagoons—Heiltsuk (Bella Bella)

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT AND OUTFLOW

Council has submitted a \$15.8 million proposal to the Government of Canada for a sewage treatment plant and outflow pipe (wastewater system).

As members may know, we are one of the last First Nations in BC discharging raw sewage into the ocean. The submission decommissions the current outflow pipe, pumps sewage 1.4 kms alongside Bay Road into a two-cell sewage treatment plant. After treatment, clean water is discharged into the ocean.

An environmental study has been completed and placed before DFO in order to protect marine life. Indigenous Services Canada will take several months to review the 70 designs in the submission and we hope for feedback within six months.

WATER INTAKE LINE

The Band has secured funding for replacement of the water intake line from the upper dam. The contract was tendered and awarded to Adventure Paving of Prince Rupert for just under \$2 million. The pipe supplies water to our water treatment plant. It was showing signs of corrosion. A temporary bypass will be installed, the old pipe removed, and new piping installed. Residents will not experience any disruption to water service.



MENTORED WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Lax Kw'alaams Band in partnership with the Lax Kw'alaams Business Development is offering various short term courses to community members from September 7 to October 15th. Courses: Bear Aware, OFAL1, TE, Fall Protection, TDG, WHMIS, Learn 2 Drive, CSTS, Ground Disturbance, Rigging & Safety, ENFORM L1, Forklifting, H2S Alive and Flagging.

After the training is over, 4 youth (between ages of 15 to 30) will be employed by the Lax Kw'alaams Band for approximately 16 weeks working at the maintenance department.





CHILDCARE BUILDING IN LAX KW'ALAAMS

A survey completed in December 2019 identified 182 Lax Kw'alaams children under the ages of 12 who need childcare services. A big thank you to all who completed the survey. The Province announced that a childcare facility will be built in Lax Kw'alaams to accommodate 62 spaces. The Province has committed \$40,000 per space, totalling a contribution of \$2,480,000. The design phase will start this October and we hope to have shovels in the ground by spring.

Lax Kw'alaams has partnered with Coast Mountain College to provide training in Early Childhood Education for interested members. Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) is designed to prepare students with the necessary skills, knowledge and learning dispositions to be provincially certified as an early childhood educator with a specialty in care and education of infants and toddlers.

We are working towards having training to members this coming January 2021 in Lax Kw'alaams. More information on the training



Lax Kw'alaams Ferry

She's Back!

Effective Friday, October 30, 2020

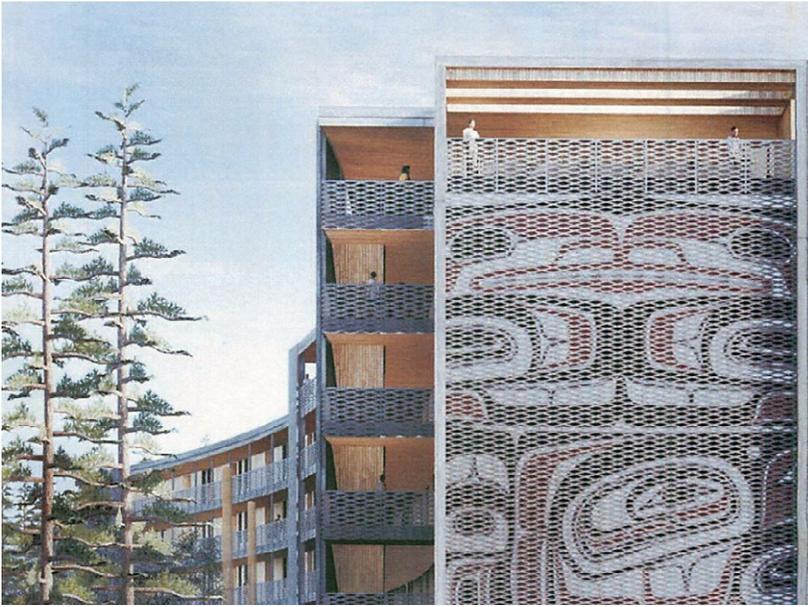
We are pleased to announce that the Spirit of Lax Kw'alaams has returned from a major retrofit and will be back in service for the afternoon sailing on Friday, October 30th.

We thank our members for their patience over the last two months. Despite a few hiccups things have gone smoothly but it is nice to have the Nicola back.

Sailings will be as before:

	Depart Aero Point	Depart Tuck Inlet
Monday to Saturday	8:00am	9:00am
	5:00pm	6:00pm
Sunday	11:00am	12:00pm
	4:00pm	5:00pm





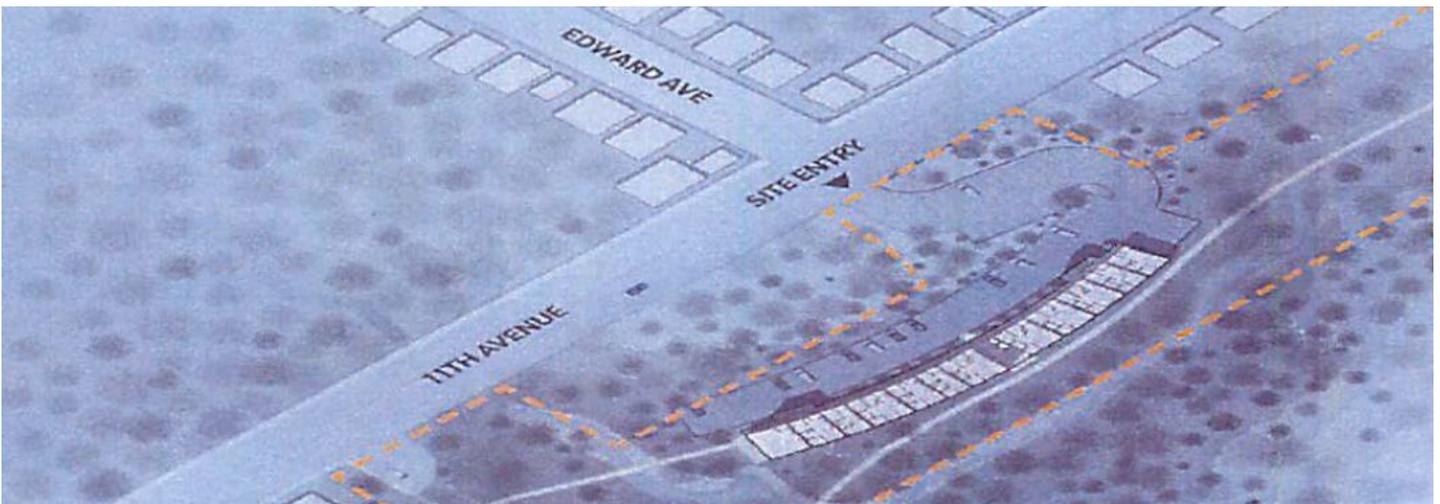
APARTMENTS IN PRINCE RUPERT—60 UNITS

We are pleased to announce that the City of Prince Rupert is in the process of trying to rezone a parcel of land on 11th Avenue which will be the site of a new 60-unit apartment building for our members. The building will be 5 or 6 stories high and will have 12 one bedroom units, 18 two bedroom units, and 30 three bedroom units. All units will be fully adaptable for special needs and where needed, the handicapped.

The City of Prince Rupert has been extremely generous in providing us with the land. A community group developing a trail network through the community is aware of the project and will try to tie a trail network to the nearby schools.

We hope to have shoves in the ground by spring in what will be an 18-24 month construction project. We are going into design phase fairly quickly and will start showing you the building in more detail.

Below: Proposed site on 11th Avenue East and Edward Avenue.



HOUSING UPDATE

Other than the 60-unit apartment building in Prince Rupert, the Band has completed or is about to complete four other housing projects. The elders' eightplex is finished with some minor deficiencies remaining and applications are still being sought. The ten housing units on Mountainview should be finished at the end of November, as should the six CHMC modular homes. There are another twenty units in design phase and construction should start in the spring. In our next newsletter we will inform you of rental costs and how to apply. Construction has been hampered because of COVID and deficiencies, but we are getting there! Residents are assured that all personnel working on site were tested for COVID prior to entering the community.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Administration is currently reviewing all finances and reported to Council that \$1.1 million has been spent from 2015–17 on wrongful dismissal lawsuits. This does not include legal fees and forensic audits. The critical issue was governance and political interference in the application of labour law. Council has ensured that professional managers are hired in each sector and only two management positions remain to be filled.

LAX KW'ALAAMS DECEMBER GIFT 2020

Deadline is February 28, 2020

The Lax Kw'alaams Band is providing a ONE TIME GIFT of \$500 for Lax Kw'alaams Registered Band Members. The dates of the 'Gift' are December 1/20' to February 28/21'.

The application form will be available soon. The gift will be in time for a December mail out.

Only list Registered Lax Kw'alaams Band Members on the application. Adding non-members slows down the processes. Documentation providing guardianship may be required. If you owe arrears to the Lax Kw'alaams Band, there will be a 10% deduction per person. Also there are different rules from Family Maintenance this year. Once you receive your cheque be sure to cash it right away. If it is misplaced it will take a while to reissue another cheque.

“Our learning community is working diligently to protect not only the health of our students but also their right to a well-rounded and engaging educational journey” Skye Mitchell, CTA Principal

COAST TSIMSHIAN ACADEMY—SCHOOL START REPORT

The Coast Tsimshian Academy learning community is going forward boldly into the new academic year. While the bulk of the CTA staff have remained with the school, they are blessed by the addition of three teachers who are new to the community.

Newlyweds Mr. & Mrs. John Josafatow have come to CTA from Alberta and bring with them a wealth of experience in their respective duties in Grade 4 and Senior Math. Both Mr. and Mrs. Josafatow endured their quarantine with good humour and are enjoying their new tasks thoroughly.

Ms. Siri Svensson is the new Physical Education teacher who has recently graduated from the University of Calgary. Ms. Svensson brings with her, along with a host of other accomplishments, the distinction of being awarded the title of Athletics Alberta Grassroots Coach of the Year in Alberta for 2017. We have some substantial new talent on campus this year!

The threat of COVID 19 has forever changed what is considered Best Practice for K to 12 education. Because of this, there are new routines for day to day education at CTA. Using the rotation of students on a morning/afternoon basis as well as a day on/day off basis, the number of students sharing an educational venue has been reduced considerably. In addition, all students and staff in common areas such as hallways are striving to wear non-medical masks at all times. Both of these measures will help lessen the exposure of students to any communicable illness.

While this may give the impression of a part-time education, students are provided with substantial work to address which they shall take home to work on while they are not physically on campus. This approach is called Blended Education and will support full-time engagement for students and will also open a window for Parents and Caregivers to share in what the student(s) in their home are working on.

Despite all these changes, students are still able to enjoy regular physical education classes and breakfast/lunch meals are still provided to all students who choose them on a regular basis. Our 2020/2021 school year will be like no other year before.



Lax Kw'alaams Band

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