



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NISGA'A TS'AMIKS VANCOUVER SOCIETY
3973 DUMFRIES STREET
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Nit Git Ts'amiks

T'ooyaksiy nisim for your support and patience through the past year. We have, and still are in some very trying times. We, the Board of Directors and staff of Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society greatly appreciate your patience and support.

As you will see in our Annual Report, the Board and staff have been working hard to uphold our mandate, mission and vision to Nisga'a Ts'amiks citizens.

Our Mission is to provide a safe place for our community to meet, celebrate, sing and dance together. To provide programs of healing, language immersion, support for every member and continue to build sustainability for our organization.

We cannot thank you enough for all the love and support during this time. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for all Ts'amik members and staff abiding by the Provincial Health Order and guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Hopefully one day soon we will be able to get together to celebrate and mourn as a nation and a country. We have seen so much loss and have faced so much grief during this time. Please keep each other in your prayers and continue to uphold one another. We encourage all Ts'amiks to reach out to us for counselling, as we can help assist you during this difficult time. Don't forget to check up on one another and if you see someone struggling make sure you share the resources we offer. Nothing says I love you like "let me help you."

As per our 2021 Strategic Planning, great things are happening for our people and community. We will continue to grow, build and support our community in as many areas as we can.

Andrea Doolan
Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021 was a year like no other. When the fiscal year started out, we were looking forward to a great year of events and youth activities. With the added funding grants we were on track to achieving annual goals we had set out in our Resource Allocation Plan.

In March 2020, Covid-19 struck the world with full force. The pandemic presented and continues to present a crisis on a scale many of us have never experienced. The toll it has taken on human life is heartbreaking, while also causing the largest economic downturn for decades.

Covid-19 first hit in late January in China and by mid-March North America, Europe and Latin America had gone into a lock down. We, (NTVS) were suddenly put into a position where programs and services shifted virtually, and we began to assist membership with food security and outreach programs.

The health and safety of our employees and membership is our top priority. From the very beginning of the pandemic, our focus was squarely upon two things:

- Securing the well-being, health and safety of our own employees, and of our members.
- Steering the organization successfully through this unprecedented crisis.

I am proud to report that we achieved both.

We postponed events, implemented comprehensive hygiene standards in our office, provided preventative measurement guidelines to staff and closed our office when required. We worked quickly to provide staff with the tools they needed to work from home and changed office capacity to 50% of employees in the office and the other at home. Even today, our employees work from home on shift schedules.

Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Results

Despite all the challenges, our financial results were not impacted by the negative effects of the pandemic. Revenues increased 78% due to Covid-19 Funding Programs and we were able to achieve a \$200,251 surplus by hosting events and programs virtually to follow health restrictions.

Membership Is at The Center of Everything We Do

The lockdown saw the launch of our most successful digital transition with all events transitioning online. It was great to see the membership adapt to the programs and events we offered via Zoom. Our mobile APP use went from 209 users to 600 receiving updates on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. With the new Communications Coordinator role, we have successfully launched a new website, monthly newsletter and weekly email blast that meets the timely needs of our membership.

2021 Outlook

We all hope that 2021-2022 will be the year in which the world can leave the pandemic behind us. As an organization it will be a milestone year, as our Strategic Plan will play an integral role in our language and cultural programs. We firmly believe that through our culture we have the power to change lives.

In September 2021 we launched our new Strategic Plan that not only focuses on programs and services, but family support services, Two-Spirited programs and increased language and culture. We have begun the first year of our strategic cycle and will continue to meet our strategic objectives pending on funding.

Thank You

2020-2021 was anything but easy; the only way to get through such a year is by working together as a team. Therefore, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society employees. They have demonstrated resilience and have shown great commitment in these unprecedented times.

To further add, I'd like to say thank you to our membership for your trust, We will continue to do everything we can to remain worthy of this trust. I am confident our programs, services and events will continue since we have a strong strategy in place. and are well positioned for the years ahead.

CEO,
Tony Robinson



WHO WE ARE

The Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society was incorporated in November 2000 and currently represents 1,400+ Nisga'a citizens whose ordinary residence is within the greater Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo regions of BC. We also provide services to Nisga'a citizens living on Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia from the Pacific coast to the BC/Alberta border.

Our mandate is to deliver social services for Nisga'a citizens and promote individual, family and community wellness for Ts'amiks living within our boundary and continue to be a liaison between the Nisga'a Lisims Government, Nisga'a locals and Nisga'a citizens.

We meet this mandate by providing social and cultural programs, outreach assistance, food distribution, counselling, and health and wellness workshops.



"SAY'T K'ILIM GOOT" ONE HEART, ONE PATH, ONE NATION

MISSION

To create a community that enhances the social, economic, physical, cultural and spiritual well being of the Nisga'a citizens whose ordinary residence is within southern British Columbia.

VISION

To nurture a vibrant and prosperous community that is an integral part of a unified Nisga'a Nation.

NTVS TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

Throughout the year we are consistently working on programs and services designated for Nisga'a citizens that provide a social and cultural connection to our history. In 2021 we offered all Nisga'a members the chance to register for Beading and Regalia making classes.

BEADING CLASS

This year we offered Nisga'a members the chance to register for our Beading Class with Facilitator Luella Doolan once a week from March 30 to July 20, 2021 to create beautiful beaded earrings, medallions and beaded hats.

The response was great with 30 members participating for the class over Zoom. The total expenses, supplies and facilitator fees totalled \$3,766.

REGALIA MAKING CLASS

We wanted Nisga'a members and citizens to honour their family roots by giving them the chance to learn how to make a vest with their family crest.

We held a group session that was offered from May 3 to June 3, 2021 twice a week in our Gathering Space, facilitated by Marlene Ankerman. We had a total of 7 members participate for the Regalia class. The supplies and facilitator costs totalled \$2,746.

PROGRAMS FOR OUR YOUTH

SOCCER PROGRAM

In the summer of 2021, we kicked off our free Soccer Program for youth aged 7 to 18 years old. The Soccer Program ran from August to September every Sunday at Renfrew Field with Coach Zachary Munroe. We had 13 Ts'amiks youth register for our Soccer Program and are currently working on other sport programs for our youth.

We are happy to offer Nisga'a youth a program that keeps them active and participating with others within our community. The total expense for the Soccer Program totalled \$3,125 plus a permit fee of \$253.

EDUCATION GIFT APPLICATION

In 2016 we kicked off our Education Gift Fund, in which Kindergarten to Grade 12 students were able to collect \$100 towards Back to School costs. In 2020, 30 applicants out of 404 students received funding from the NTVS Education Gift Fund.

This past year, we increased the amount per student to \$150 and had 202 applicants out of 415 students apply for the funds. This was a huge increase based on previous years, with 2021 being the highest number of applicants since we launched the program in 2016.

The total expense assisting Nisga'a students cost NTVS \$30,300.

GRADUATION 2021

Your life is your story, and the adventures ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Due to Covid-19 our Graduation Ceremony for Ts'amik students looked a little different this year. We decided to utilize our Gathering Space and allow our Graduates to book a time slot for a fun photoshoot with a decorative backdrop.

We had 14 participants attend our Graduation Ceremony, which ranged from students graduating elementary and secondary school. The total expense cost \$6,569.

GRADUATION ATTIRE PROGRAM

This year we offered students graduating from Grade 7 and 12 the opportunity to apply for the Grad Attire program which granted each student a \$100 towards clothes for their graduation.

Last year we only had 12 students apply compared to this year where we 20 students received financial assistance for their graduation clothes. The total expense cost \$2,000.

PROGRAMS FOR OUR ELDERS

Due to covid-19 and health and safety concerns we were unable to host as many gatherings for our Elders as we would have liked this past year.

However, we were able to start holding Elder Meetings this past spring via Zoom and in our Gathering Space which our Elders really enjoyed.

ELDERS GIFT CARD ASSISTANCE

This past September we gave each Elder Household \$200 to help them during this difficult time. Each Elder had the option to pick up their gift card from the NTVS office or have it mailed to them.

We received a large abundance of applications, with 134 gift cards being distributed to general households and 26 gift cards being given to affiliate households. In total, we distributed over 160 gift cards for our Elders.

NTVS spent \$44,400 towards our Elders Gift Card program.

NTVS EVENTS



ORANGE T-SHIRT DAY

On September 30, 2021, we held our Orange T-Shirt Day on Truth and Reconciliation Day to honour the 215 missing children discovered in Kamloops, BC among many others across Canada. Between 750 to 800 people (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) stood together in solidarity to grieve, heal and support our community members.

We sold all of our orange t-shirts and ended up raising \$3,646 in t-shirt sales that has been allocated for our Elders.

NTVS ANNUAL BBQ

On August 14, 2021, we invited our community to Trout Lake for our Annual BBQ where we had smoked salmon, burgers, hotdogs and much more. food. We had 75 to 100 members show up to a fun day full of laughter and music at the park.

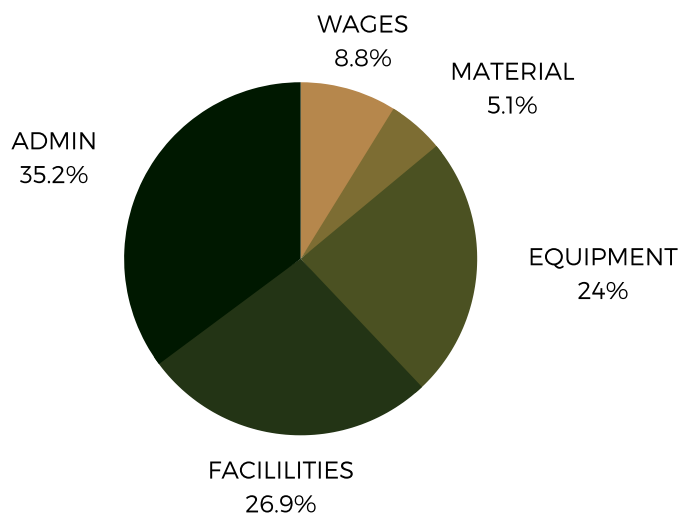
NISGA'A CULTURAL LANGUAGE

In spring of 2020, we received funding from the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) for the Nisga'a Ts'amiks Language Revitalization program. The Nisga'a language revitalization program combined immersion programming and traditional and cultural language programming.

The Nisga'a Language Class benefited Ts'amiks members who were unable to return to our homeland to participate in language classes or gain exposure through everyday life, feasts and ceremonies. The approach and mindset was taught in a holistic manner due to the fact we believe language and culture is a living process.

LANGUAGE EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

We received \$60,000 and spent \$42,513 on facilities, administration costs, wages, equipment and material. We currently have a surplus of \$17,488 that will be carried over into the next fiscal year.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The NTVS Health and Wellness Grant provides Nisga'a Ts'amiks members an opportunity to apply for funding to participate in sport, recreational and wellness activities.

In May 2020 to April 2021, we received 133 applications and spent \$9,613 towards our Health and Wellness grant. This past year we received 47 applications and have spent \$3,386 towards members health and wellness.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

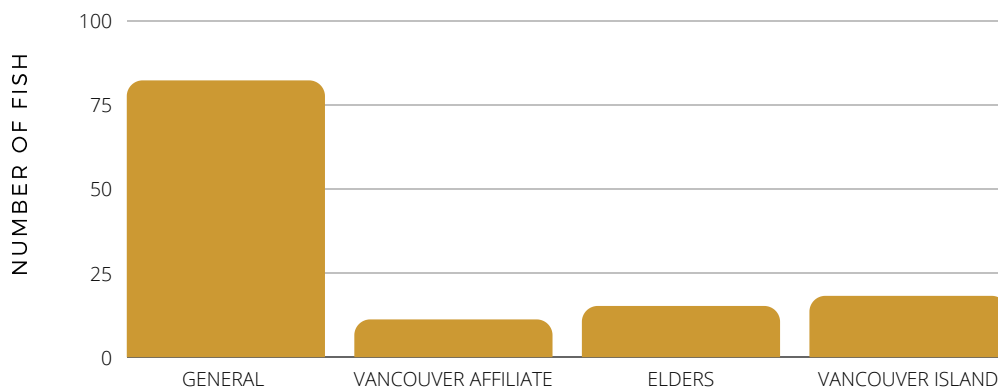
We respect the cultural foods and practices of the Nisga'a Nation and understand our need to care for each other. In 2021 we distributed over 1000 pieces of Oolichan and Sockeye Salmon to our members in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island.

To further meet the needs of our community we announced that we would be delivering fish to our members in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, Kamloops and Kelowna - a first time experience for NTVS. Unfortunately, due to the BC wildfires we had to post-pone the trip, but in October 2021 we delivered salmon to residents outside of the lower mainland.

The total expense for our Sockeye distribution totalled \$22,368 with the total amount for our Oolichan distribution costing \$6,000.

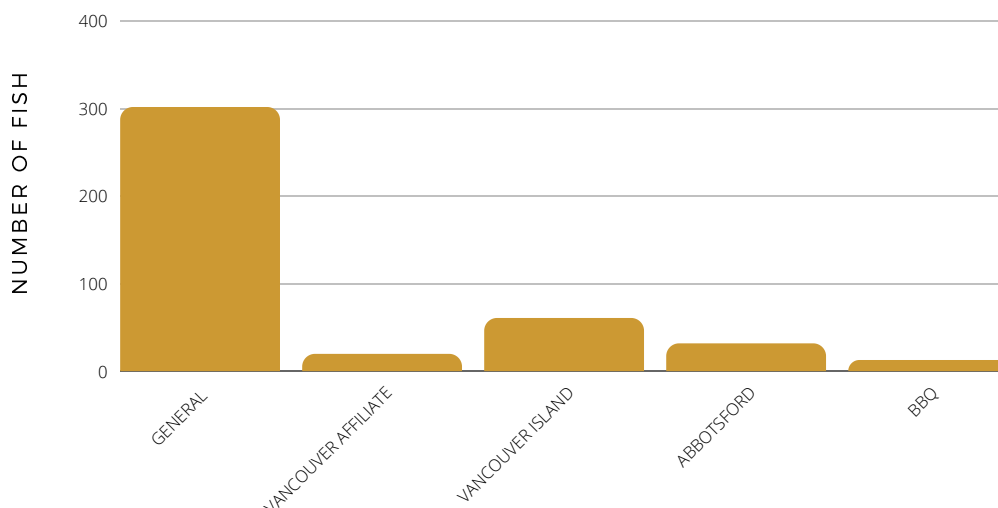
OOLICHAN DISTRIBUTION

This year we distributed Oolichan to 207 Households within the Lower Mainland, compared to 2019 where we distributed 22 Oolichan per Households.



SALMON DISTRIBUTION

This year we bought 1,000 Sockeye from Gingolx and have distributed over 750+ fish to Households across British Columbia.

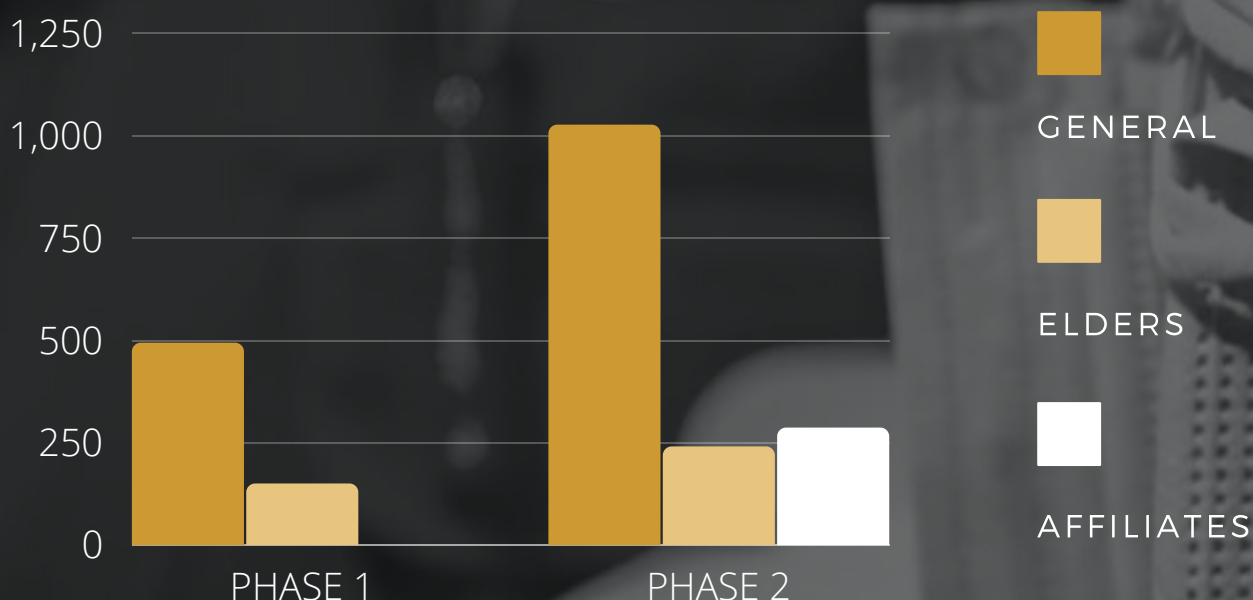


COVID RELIEF

We received a Funding Grant from Red Cross designated to increase food security for 1,605 Indigenous Nisga'a Nation members living in remote areas by directly sending gift cards or delivering groceries from July to September 2020.

The total expense was \$98,520 with 638 households receiving gift cards that were distributed in Phase I and Phase II.

NUMBER OF GIFT CARD DISTRIBUTED PER GROUP



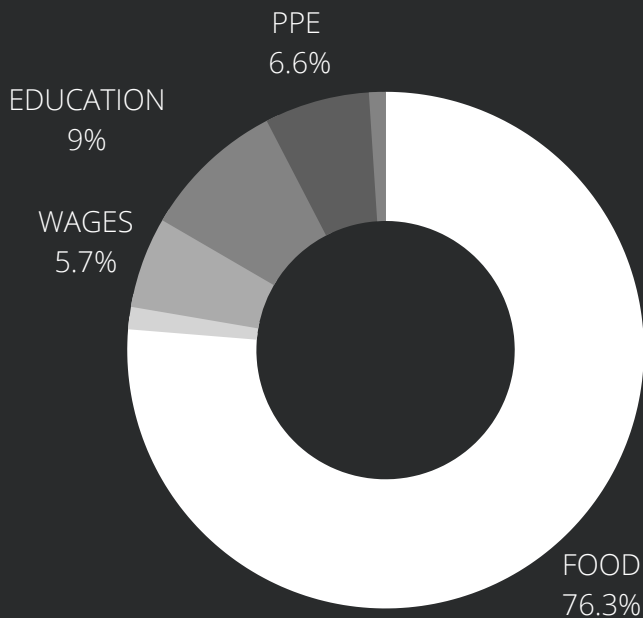
We received an additional Funding grant from Red Cross aimed to provide delivery of traditional foods to members living off Nisga'a lands, counselling for members to help manage and overcome the effects of the pandemic and tutoring services for youth.

We purchased 19 iPads for students and distributed halibut to 263 households. The cost of the iPads totalled \$21,845, with the distribution of halibut costing \$59,896 and the additional costs of wages, online support, training and administration costs totalling \$94,085.

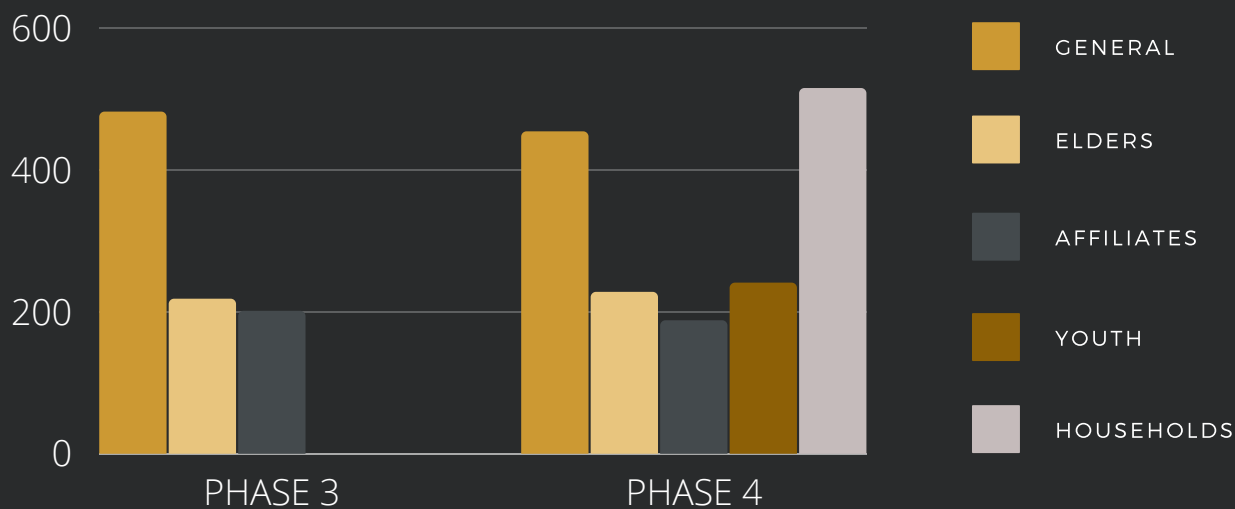
From April 2020 to March 2021, we received funding from Indigenous Community Support through Nisga'a Lisims Government to support and protect our staff and citizens.

The funding covered Phase III and Phase IV of food distribution to members, online learning for Ts'amiks students due to covid, safe travel transportation to and from work for staff, PPE and safety supplies and additional cleaning staff wages.

We received \$347,012 in funding and currently have a surplus of \$75,924 that will be carried over into the next fiscal year.



NUMBER OF GIFT CARD DISTRIBUTION BY GROUP



In total we distributed 1,742 gift cards to members which totalled \$206,808.

OUTREACH ASSISTANCE

Our Outreach Team received a Funding Grant from Lu'ma Housing that oversaw housing needs, prevention and shelter diversions, health services and client support for Nisga'a citizens and members.

We ran these services from March 2021 to fall 2021 and will continue to work with Lu'ma Housing to offer Ts'amiks citizens these services.

PREVENTION AND SHELTER DIVERSION SERVICES

Prevention and shelter services include activities aimed to prevent homelessness by supporting individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness. This support also includes members who are at risk of losing their housing and individuals who have been discharged from public systems. In 2021, we assisted 235 clients which totalled \$42,309.

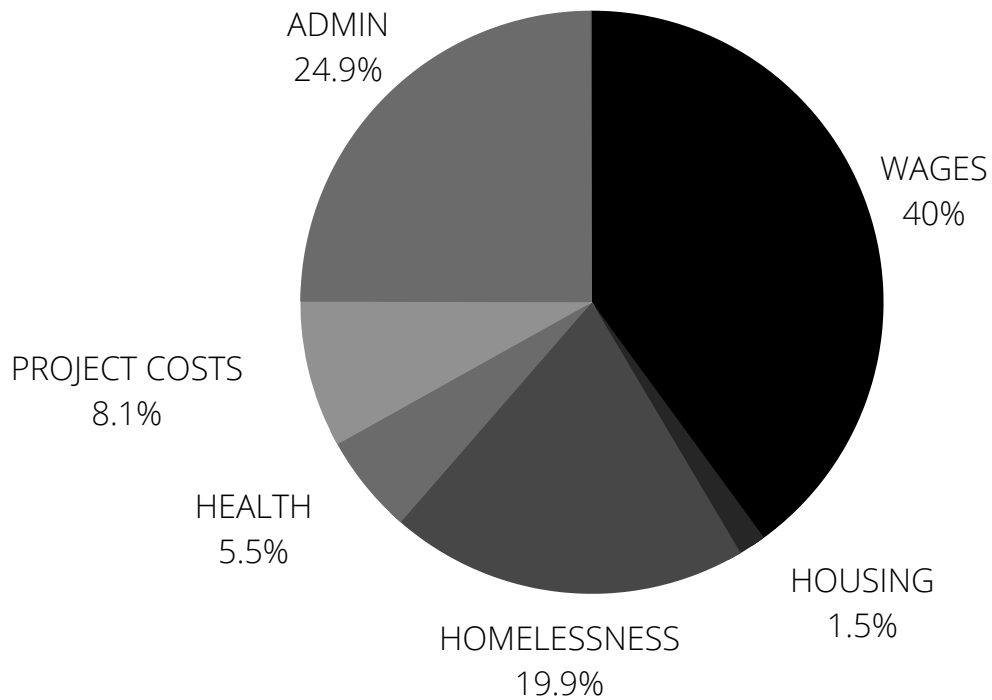
CLIENT SUPPORT

Our client support includes individualized services to help improve integration and provide the provision of basic needs and treatment services. These services are not limited to social and cultural integration of individuals and families.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

We aim to encourage members and communities to take lead in health and medical resources by connecting them to clinical and health and treatment services. Our Outreach Team assisted 27 clients which totalled \$11,720.

OUTREACH EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



HOUSING

The Housing services help individuals or families transitioning into stable housing that has been deemed appropriate and safe. In 2021, we had 3 clients receive support which cost \$3,246.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

NTVS paid \$155,150 in employee wages, project and administration costs to provide outreach services to Ts'amiks members. The project costs are related to administrative activities not included to any other expenditure category and administration costs supporting but not directly related to the delivery of Reaching Home.

In total, our Outreach team assisted 266 clients with our Lu'Ma Housing fund which totalled \$212,400.

CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS

We began 2021 with the goal to provide the best standards of service to our members by providing better online support, transparency of sharing NTVS news across all NTVS platforms and creating new tools that engage with all Ts'amik citizens.

From March to June, we created a new website, began distributing a monthly newsletter and sending weekly emails through our new email blasts.

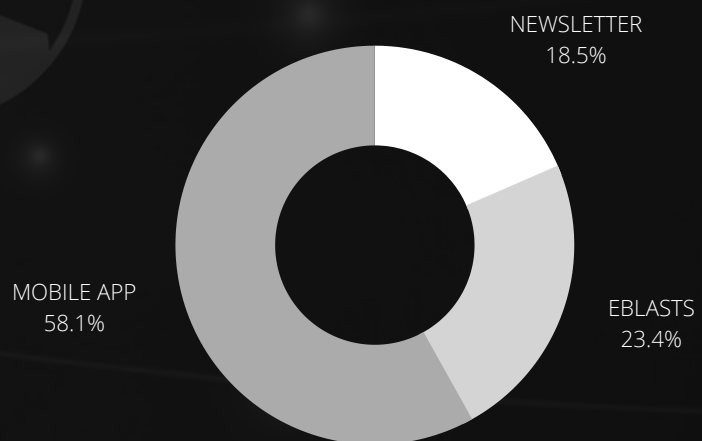
WEBSITE

We did a complete overhaul on our website making it more user friendly and increasing user functionality by providing online applications, a news and events page, career page, photo gallery and other much needed tools.

NEWSLETTER

In the spring of 2021 we began to distribute a Nisga'a monthly newsletter with a primary focus on our Elders.

As of now, we have 206 Elders who receive our newsletter by mail, and we hope to continue to grow our subscribers.



PERCENT OF USERS ON EACH MEDIUM

EMAIL BLASTS

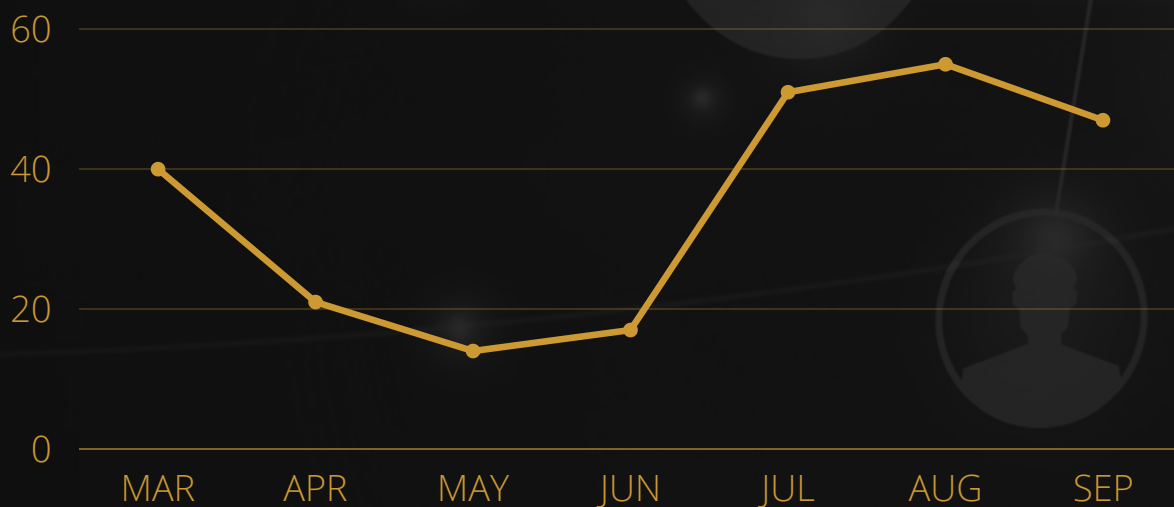
We began sharing NTVS news through email blasts in March 2021, Subscribers stay up to date with important NTVS news and are able to apply for programs and services via email. To date, we have 261 members subscribed to our emails and more joining every week.

MOBILE APP

In July 2021 we launched a social media campaign promoting the benefits of our Mobile App. Within three months we saw a 20% increase of downloads and currently 648 members have downloaded our app.

NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS PER MONTH

The campaign ran from July to August which happened to be our highest months for downloads.



NEXT STEPS

We are very excited and have big plans for the future of NTVS. We have seen a lot of change and growth this past year and will continue to grow as we launch our Ts'amiks Business Fund and work towards a Housing Plan for Nisga'a citizens.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - TS'AMIKS BUSINESS FUND

The Economic Development Initiative provides a range of economic development programs and opportunities to support Nisga'a entrepreneurs and communities. This will include business advisory services, a Nisga'a internship program, online programs and more.

This is the beginning of an exciting time for us as we work towards building the knowledge and experience within our community.

HOUSING PLAN

We are currently working with the Nisga'a Lisims Government on bridging the gap of homelessness within our community, Not only are we providing short-term financial assistance to members in need, but have plans to provide safe and appropriate housing.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Another new beginning for us is the planning and execution of our four-year strategic plan. In September 2021, our Executive Director, Board of Directors, Elders and staff came together to discuss the needs of our community and identify major core areas we need to focus on from 2021 to 2025.

Moving forward the initiatives of NTVS will be based around culture, governance, financial stability and our programs and services.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

TWO-SPIRIT PROGRAMS
FAMILY SUPPORT
HOMELESSNESS
HEALING
ARTS AND CULTURE

CULTURE

TRADITIONAL FOODS
CULTURAL COMPETENCY
CULTURAL INFUSION
TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE
FEASTS

GOVERNANCE

POLICY DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNICATION
ECONOMIC
ACCOUNTABILITY

FINANCIAL STABILITY

FUNDING & GRANTS
FINANCIAL LITERACY
PARTNERSHIPS

OUR STAFF

In 2021 our team expanded, from 6 employees to 16 employees with more plans to grow our team. This is a very exciting for us, as we grow our team, we will be able to meet the needs of Ts'amiks members and do more in the near and far future.

STAFF DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Robinson

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Christie Hamilton

OFFICE MANAGER

Dinara Salikhadenova

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Brad Mercer

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Arrie Sturdivant

ACCOUNTANT

Lindsay Hong

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Laura Lewis

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Jessica Hamilton

PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Carmen Percival

EVENTS MANAGER

Kelly Gill

RECEPTIONIST

Paula Smith

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Denise Azak

OUTREACH WORKER

Lynne Clayton

OUTREACH ASSISTANT

Hazel Nyce

CUSTODIAN

Melissa Johnson

CUSTODIAN

Sadie Wesley