



NISGA'A TS'AMIKS VANCOUVER SOCIETY

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Nisga'a Ts'amiks Community Meeting Minutes January 21, 2023

We acknowledge that we live and work on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples

1. **Call to Order:** 1:00 pm – Open prayer; Matt Azak

Protocol; Matt Azak and Travis Angus

Reading meeting rules; Lavita Trimble

2. **Welcome Address;** Sherry Small

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** January 21, 2023

Moved by; Matt Azak

Seconded by; Debbie Lincoln

All in Favor

Motion carried

4. **Approval of the Community Meeting minutes** from November 19, 2022

Moved by; Esther Calder

Seconded by; Allison McKay-Molander

All in Favor

Motion Carried

5. **Executive Member Report:** Andrea Burrell absent due to family matter

6. **WSN Representative Update:** Sherry Small gave verbal report

7. **Administrative Reports:**

a. **Tony Robinson, CEO**

i. **Housing Project Plan update;**

- Partnership with Makola Housing and Luma Native Housing to provide housing for our members.
- More update at next community meeting
- Bring draft housing plan to Board meeting in March before we present to the community.

Q – Will the housing specifically be for Nisga'a or do we have to go on a wait list?

Tony – It will be for Nisga'a.

Q – How do we register for housing? Are they taking names?

Tony – Next step is to bring to the community then create a Housing Society. After the 2 steps then we'll look at members filling the units.

Q – If I get a unit and my grandchildren come down for Education, will they be able to stay with me?

Tony – It will be in the Housing Society rules & regulations.

Sherry – Housing will change our constitution and laws same with the Boundaries discussion.

ii. Economic Development; 2 separate objectives:

- Conduct survey to develop an inventory of Nisga'a Entrepreneurs & small businesses.
- Support NTVS event staff to structure a NTVS Entrepreneurial Award Program or event to recognize successful Nisga'a Entrepreneurs.

Tony – We will have a Ts'amiks Business Gala on April 14 & 15, 2023. Last year we had 30 Nisga'a Entrepreneurs at our workshop, we'll invite them for the Ts'amiks Business Gala. And this year during the Gala, we'll have a day (Saturday) for the Youth. We'll send the word out for information so we can nominate Nisga'a Entrepreneurs for successful business.

iii. Electoral Boundaries;

- NLG provides Ts'amiks with funding for program & services in the Greater Vancouver area including Victoria for our members. Although we provide services to the rest of Vancouver Island including the Interior and south of Williams Lake, we don't receive funding for them. We will be having a community meeting regarding this very important issue and will require community input.

Sherry – Nisga'a Government Act requires we have to engage with the community for the Electoral Boundaries.

b. Communications Update; Arrie Sturdivant, gave verbal update

- Board would like to see any complaints regarding communications including what are the community needs so we can address it. The members would like to see statistics on how many Elders were called, have community help with the call-outs, have a lateral violence & bully workshop. They were happy to see the newsletters going out again. Tony said there will be lateral violence workshop in April for the community.

8. New Business: Youth Conference discussion;

- The Board agreed the importance of a youth conference that will capture their story and not forget who they are. It was suggested to get the youth involved as young as toddlers as they are sponges at that age. Begin an Aboriginal Head start program and have Elders counsel and teach the youth protocol.

Q – How are we going to welcome the youth when they are shy?

Travis – Our theme is "Restoring our Roots", that's where it starts.

Sherry – Our grandmother's would always hug each other when they saw each other and if they didn't know each other they would acknowledge them.

Lavita - Spoke of her Sundance experience and the significance of our cave on the Lava Beds and how it taught the young girls to take care of themselves and that they are sacred. This is the kind of teachings our youth should know.

a. Next Meeting Date: TBA

b. Other: Elders Report – Matt Azak

- Suggested NTVS Elders form their own Society so we don't always rely on NTVS. Elections will be on February 14, 2023 at the next Elders meeting where a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will be elected. Also the Regional Elders Gathering (Vancouver) and National Elders Gathering (Edmonton) will happen and we have to decide which one to attend. He reminded that the Elders will be always there for the community.
- Discussion on the implications if we operate on our own and how that will work. Matt said like the villages back home where they have their own society, we will not break away. He said we will continue to expand with the younger Elders and have them help with the older ones. We will continue to fundraise.

Travis - We will have to have policy in place for this.

i. Closing remarks: NTVS Elder – Joe Calder

- Treat members with respect both, during the NTVS Community Collaboration meeting and outside of the meeting.
- Be prompt in arriving to the meeting and in returning from breaks.
- Turn cell phones off or to vibrate.
- If you must take urgent calls on the cell phone, take your conversation outside.
- Please stand when addressing the floor [it makes hearing easier] & state your name
- Present yourself in a positive manner.
- Talk one at a time, waiting to be recognized by the Chairperson.
- Limit side conversations.
- Be patient when listening to others speak and do not interrupt them.
- Members need to stay on the topic being discussed.
- When a topic or agenda item has been discussed fully, do not bring the same subject back up.
- Don't discuss personal issues during the meeting, except when it is about the subject being discussed by the Committee
- Don't make threats or rude comments to members.
- Address any concerns about the discussion or the meeting with the Chairperson. It is the Chairperson's job to bring the meeting to order.
- If members feel they cannot talk about issues or concerns during the meeting, they can talk to the facilitators or the NTVS BoD's.
- Be respectful of other people's ideas or situations.

HAVE A GOOD TIME AND ENJOY EACH OTHER

Attendance;

1. Joe Calder
2. Esther Calder
3. Sam McKay
4. Matt Azak
5. Malcolm Stewart
6. Sabrina Stevens
7. Sadie Wesley
8. Lindsay Dawson
9. Debbie Lincoln
10. Effie Lincoln
11. John Stevens

Via Zoom;

12. Cookie Le Pretre
13. Alison McKay-Molander
14. Jessie Alexander
15. Paige Peters
16. Loretta McMillian
17. Flora M Stewart
18. Gaylene Woods

Prize draw: Cookie Le Pretre