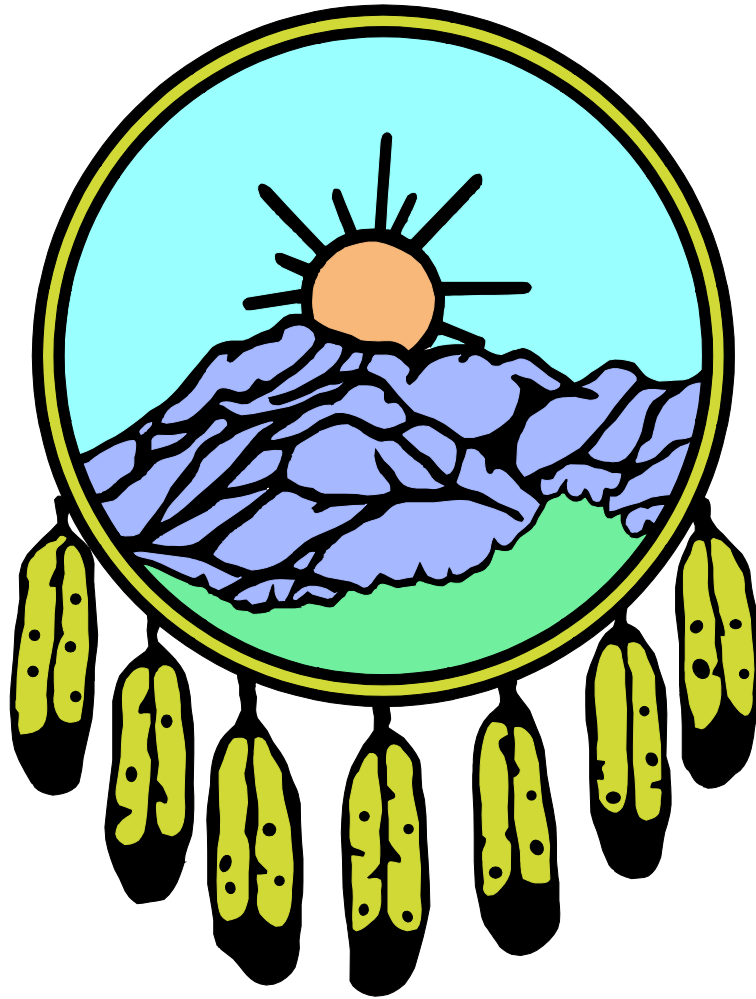


# 2017 Annual Report ᑭᓴᓂᓄᓂᓂ ᑭᓴᓂ ᑭᓴᓂ



August 2017

## Lorne Shovar

*Chief, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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Good morning, I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone for coming to the 2017 ʔakisq̓nuk AGA. We hope that everyone finds this year's AGA informative and most of all fun!

This past year has been very busy with some new initiatives.

The council has been working hard to equalize programs and services for both on and off-reserve members.

We have been working with Indian Beach Estates to upgrade their water system. To do this we have enacted a service tax law to pay for the system. This is where we tax the residents of IBE a set amount every year to pay for the new water system. This tax came into effect this year and the work on the water system will begin this fall.

I have been working with staff from the Province and ʔakisq̓nuk to protect the Madias Tatley area. We have a verbal agreement to close off the area to non-Nation members. We are trying to change the access road to where it can be closed off. We are just waiting for information on the mine and weather we will have to provide access.

We have also been working on various housing initiatives, like new housing on reserve as well as possibly a new housing authority. We have started a new housing program which will help with needed repairs for home owners. Where they can apply to have assistance with major repairs. This is available to both on and off-reserve members.

We have a number of committees that have been operating very well this past year. These committees have been busy and have been doing good work and I hope that this continues long into the future.

This is just some of the work that has been ongoing this past year and there has been more. If there are questions about this or anything else please feel free to contact me or any other council member.

Thank you again for attending this year.

*Lorne Shovar, Chief*

## Stephen Olson

*Senior Administrative Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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As I only joined the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation on July 10<sup>th</sup>, I do not really have a lot to report. As I noted in my newsletter contributions, I was formerly employed as a Band Administrator with the Soda Creek Indian Band, the Stz'uminus First Nation, the Kwakiutl Indian Band and the Wuikinuxw First Nation. As you probably can tell, my work has taken me from Rivers Inlet to Vancouver Island to the Caribou and now the East Kootenays. Each of my former positions offered unique opportunities and challenges and I expect that will prove the case with ʔakisq̓nuk.

I believe that a Band Administrator has three primary responsibilities, all of which are of equal importance. Firstly I have a responsibility to be responsive to the needs, concerns and aspirations of the membership. It is my job to see that life in the community is, as much as possible, free of stress and disruption and that Band staff offer the highest level and quality of service. To that end, should any member have a concern or issue they wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. Secondly, I have a responsibility to staff to make sure they have the skills, expertise, support and tools they need to do their job as efficiently and effectively as possible. Lastly, I have a responsibility to Council to see that their decisions are implemented in a timely and efficient manner and that the Administration works effectively to achieve the goals and aspirations of the elected representatives of the community.

My initial exposure to the region has been characterized by beautiful weather although that has been undermined somewhat by the ongoing threat of wildfires. To date, we have been fortunate that we have not experienced any fires that might threaten the community. However, the Band Office will remain vigilant should the situation change.

Looking ahead, I am anticipating progress on the Community Recreation Centre, as well as on the commercial lot and necessary upgrades to the campsite. It should be a busy year. As I noted in my opening, I am still quite new to my position. However, I will continue to report to members using the newsletter in order to keep readers abreast of events as they occur. I hope everyone enjoys the AGA and a special thanks to staff and volunteers for helping to make it the success I'm sure it will be.

*Stephen Olson, Senior Administrative Officer*

## Kristi Kowalski

*Senior Financial Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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The past year has been a busy one and we are on track to continue that pace in an ongoing effort to meet the Finance Department's goals for the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation:

- To have reliable and accurate management of finances;
- To provide transparent and understandable reporting to Band members, Council and staff; and
- To strengthen efficient and effective finance department operations.

The three full time positions within the Finance department look after not only the day to day administration of ʔakisq̓nuk finances but also several other special projects to meet deadlines in order of priority. A few highlights for the year include:

**Timely and accurate financial information** – we have improved our accounting programs to be able to provide Managers with monthly financial reports and Council with quarterly financial statements. The sharing of this information will assist with decision making and oversight responsibilities.

**Policy Development** – In January of 2017 we were fortunate to be granted professional consulting advice pertaining to policy development and revision from the First Nation Financial Management Board (FNFMB). This resulted in two consultants visiting us to meet with Council and staff, and subsequently, providing preliminary draft policies for the following areas: Governance, Finance, Human Resources and Information Management. These policies are crucial in achieving a good financial management system, as we target a completion date of March 31, 2018. Once these policies are approved by Council, they will be available to you, as membership, so you can read, review and understand why we have implemented certain policies.

**Development of the Indian Beach Estates (IBE) Service Tax** – we are happy to report that everything was completed in March 2017 and AFN has started collecting \$864 from all 127 taxpayers at IBE in 2017. This service tax will be used to fully cover the cost of the water distribution system down at IBE, which is estimated to be \$2 million. AFN will continue to collect this tax each year until the cost of the water system is paid back in full. This is a huge accomplishment for AFN as we are the only First Nation in Canada to do such a thing. As a result, we have been featured in the First Nation Tax Commission's quarterly publication which is distributed to 450+ electronic subscribers in addition to the mail outs. Great advertising and we will surely be helpful in providing assistance with any other First Nations looking to do something similar.

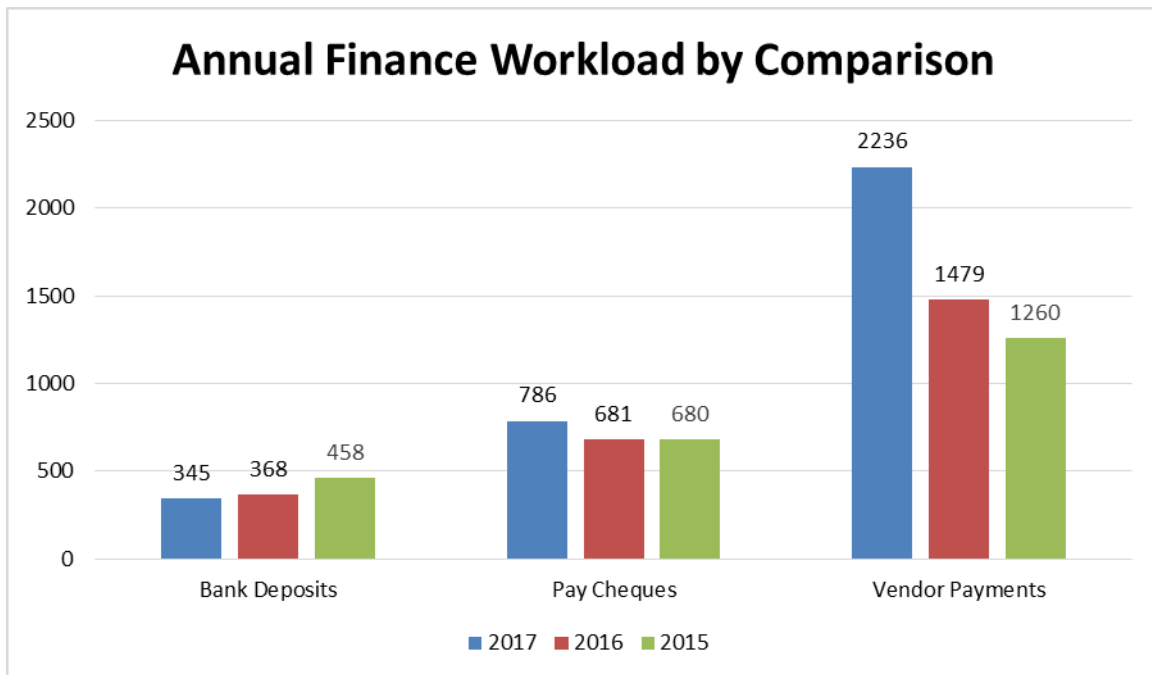
**Training and development** – Finance is an ever-changing role within any organization affected by technology, programming and accounting standards. In order to keep current with such changes, it is imperative to continue training in order to develop new skills and create new efficiencies. During the year, all three Finance staff attended training sessions applicable to their position to assist with growth and development. We can also proudly say that the Senior Financial Officer and the Accounting Assistant received a full scholarship to attend a Financial Management conference in Vancouver held by the Aboriginal Financial Officers of B.C..

## Kristi Kowalski

*Senior Financial Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

**Audited financial statements** — The audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2017 were presented to and approved by Council in June 2017. The financial statements are attached to the annual report and will be presented at the Annual General Assembly on Sunday morning. The auditors were very pleased with the state of the financial records. This is a continued result of numerous positive changes to the accounting processes and procedures to improve reliability, accuracy, and efficiency.

As you can see it has been busy. We may be a small team but have a great teamwork environment and strive to provide the best service that we can in a timely manner. Below is a snapshot of the change in workload we have experienced over the past three years:



With a full complement of staff in place at AFN as of fall 2016, we have experienced increasing demands on our time and resources as the organization and community continues to grow. In other areas, we were able to find efficiencies which helped to reduce the volume of some tasks. To provide the same or a better quality of service, we have recently developed a new position in our department to support this (which you may have seen advertised), allowing for areas like Housing and Economic Development (to name a few), to construct their ideas into realities without any holdup. We anticipate several large projects in the coming year and are excited to be a part of that growth for the community to see what we can do as an organization.

Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have some comments or questions.

Kristi Kowalski CPA, CA, Senior Financial Officer

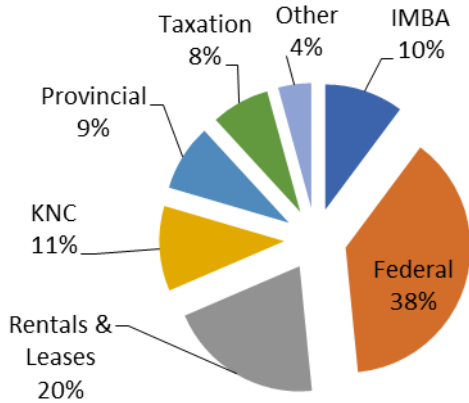
Wanda Laboucan, Accounting Assistant

Gayle Michel, Accounts Payable Clerk

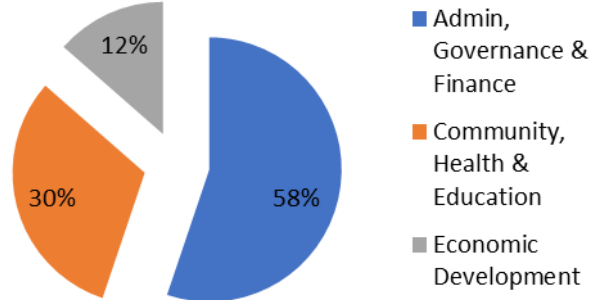
Kristi Kowalski

Senior Financial Officer, Pakisqnuk First Nation

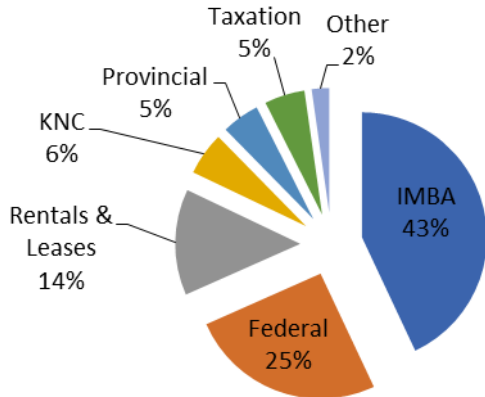
### 2016/17 Revenue Sources



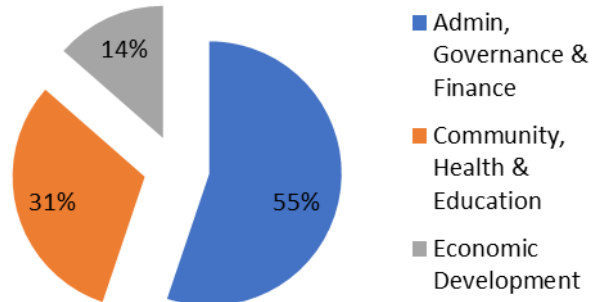
### Expenditures by Segment



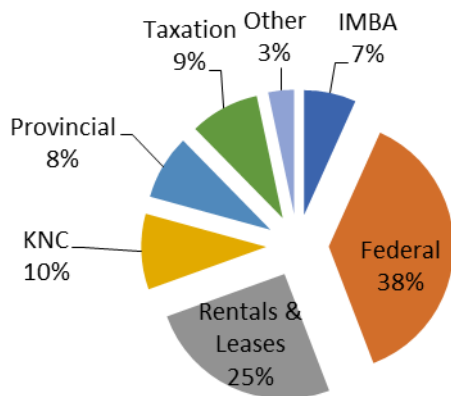
### 2015/16 Revenue Sources



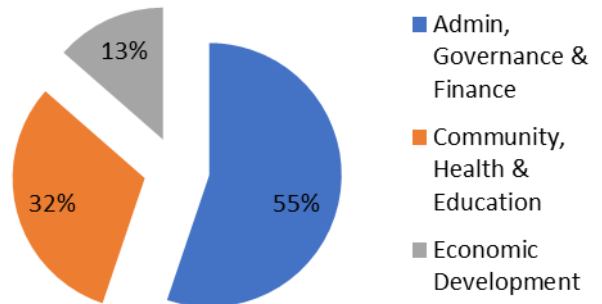
### Expenditures by Segment



### 2014/15 Revenue Sources



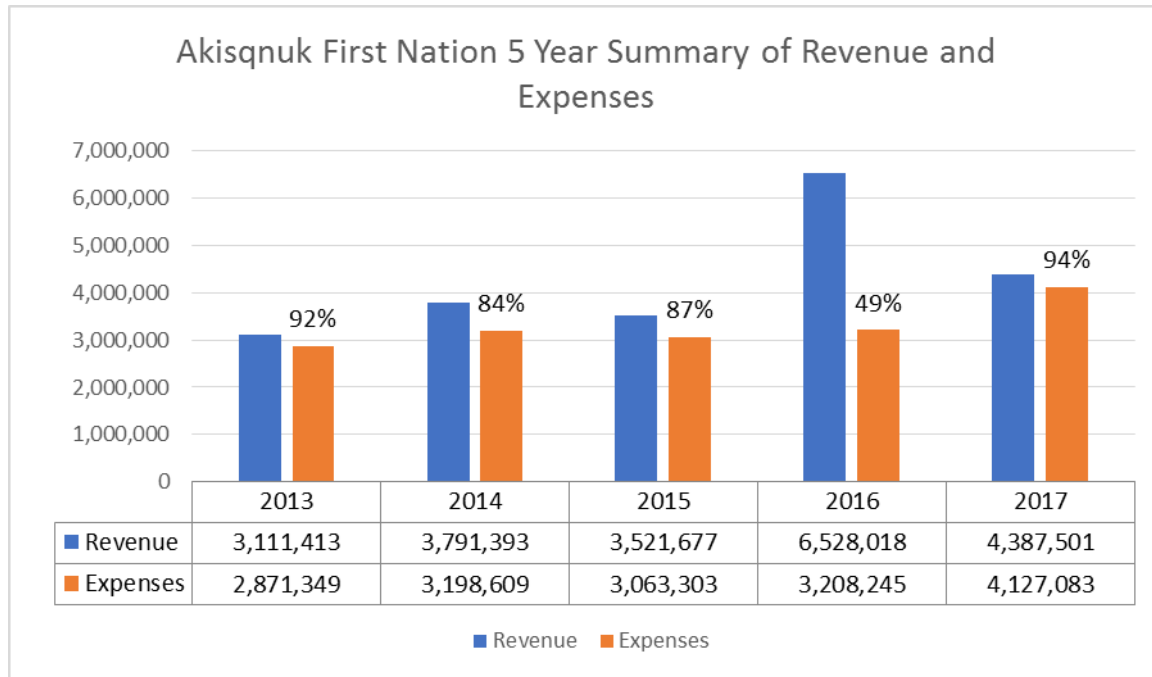
### Expenditures by Segment



The biggest change in the last three-year period is the amount of revenue received through the signing of the most recent IMBA. In 2017, we saw larger amount of revenue from INAC to support multiple departments, which is a result of increased staffing here at AFN. Overall spending by segment is very consistent from year to year with very minimal changes.

## Kristi Kowalski

Senior Financial Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation



### Revenues

Revenue has been fairly consistent over the 5-year period from 2013 to 2017, with the exception of 2016, in which AFN received \$2.5 million from the IMBA agreement which was signed in March, 2016.

2017 saw a slight increase in revenue from 2013 to 2015 as AFN was able to secure additional funding from several sources with a full complement of staff.

### Expenses

Expenses were very consistent from 2013 to 2016, with a jump in 2017. This jump is a result of addition revenue secured and spent by managers for the year. As well, with a full complement of staff, AFN was better able to provide full programming for the year.

The percentages (%) shown on the chart above illustrate the percentage of expenses in comparison to the total revenue that was received. We can see that generally AFN has been spending most of the revenues that has come into the organization, with the exception of 2016, showing that the IMBA dollars were unspent.

### Cash Position

The result of the AFN's activities each year, that being the revenues coming in and the expenses going out, affect the overall cash balance each year. The cash position of AFN at March 31, 2017 is a balance of \$11,766,429, up \$727,373 from last year's balance of \$11,039,056 at the same point in time. We continue to maintain a very strong cash position.

*Kristi Kowalski, Senior Financial Officer, on behalf of the Finance Department*

## Allan Nicholas

*Community Facilities Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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### **Progress in 2016/17**

Since April 1/2017, new fiscal year, using community members as much as possible. Working with lands manager on weed control. Brushing and weeding along roadsides and some FireSmart work in the community and around some residential areas. Assisting other departments within the administration: health, housing, economic development and Little Badger Daycare. Work on the cemetery fence progressed quite well, using five community members and some rental equipment. Still working to complete gate, parking, and road work. Monument plans being worked on. Continuing to work with maintenance worker and casual labour to maintain community core area.

### **Current Initiatives**

Currently working on completing cemetery work, working with health department and other staff, managers, community members on raising awareness about emergency planning as a community. Continue developing maintenance routines for core area and future projects. Preparation of community core area for ʔakisq̓nuk General Assembly.

Continuing general maintenance and repairs on community facilities, working with community and staff.

### **Future Initiatives**

Continue to do work on community facilities and within the community and work to improve quality of service and cooperation between staff, managers and membership.

*Allan Nicholas, Community Facilities Manager*



## Heather Rennebohm

*Economic Development Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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Starting in the fall of 2016, the Economic Development Officer (EDO) and the Economic Development Committee have been working with feedback received at the AGA 2016 specifically about how AFN needed to bring community to consensus on economic development priorities and, then, how we need to move from plans to action on those priorities. We developed a set of Economic Development Project Criteria and a scoring system to allow us to rank projects both past and future as follows:

For projects that have been talked about for awhile, the scoring system has allowed EDO and Committee to assess which ones are most advantageous to community and how best to move them from the planning phase into action/build/funding phase;

For new projects/ideas/contract opportunities, the scoring system allows us to quickly and consistently assess the feasibility, fit and advantages of each new idea. For example, the call for bids on the Columbia Valley Landfill Operation and Management Contract ranked high on the scoring system.

Using this ranking system, the Committee has assessed all prior projects and scored them resulting in three projects and two initiatives rising to the level of “Action Items for 2017/18”. All five are listed below with descriptions of actions to date for each.

### PROJECTS

**Expansion of Lakeshore Resort and Campground (LSRC):** The final draft of a Business Plan for this expansion is in process and some expansions to LSRC customer experience have occurred including kayak rentals, additional sites with power and the B.C. Museums funded interpretive trail project. In the fall, plans will be presented and considered for new “LSRC Welcome Centre”

**Development of Commercial Lot 37-4:** in March 2017, EDO started on Head Lease application and applied for an INAC grant to put in an access road and infrastructure. The Head Lease application requirements have almost been fully met (awaiting the environmental impact update) and the lease should be in our hands by end of September. The grant funds have been conditionally approved and we will see road and servicing construction begin on Lot 37-4 in October 2017. At that point, we will begin advertising and looking for businesses to sub-lease.

**AFN Recreation Centre:** in the second quarter of 2017, all prior designs and studies were reviewed and compiled into concept drawings, meetings were held, and budgets (capital and operating) were drafted. In June, Chief and Council approved a two-phase contract to design and, if the design is acceptable, to build our Recreation Centre. The feasibility studies for the capital funding and the ongoing, profitable operation of the Centre have been completed based on community survey results (58 opinions collected) and site visits to other First Nations with recreation centres.

### INITIATIVES

**AFN Small Business Development Grant Program:** The program policy and application form was completed last year and then we ran a trial in the first quarter of 2017. The trial resulted in several applications and two successful grant recipients. We were able to test our application forms and the tracking process through this

## Heather Rennebohm

*Economic Development Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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trial period. With minor revisions, Chief and Council have approved the program policy and the designation of an annual amount to be awarded to small business applicants. The first round of 2017/18 applicants will be processed in September.

**Assessment of Business Development Structure:** Because the LSRC project includes bringing this operation away from its current program designation and putting it under a business structure, the EDO has been researching various corporate structures. After this research and legal consultation, we are ready to recommend a restructuring and management agreement for LSRC as part of the Business Plan which will come to Finance Committee and then to Chief and Council in October.

In order to support these projects, initiatives and the six strategic priorities of Chief and Council, this department has been seeking funding through a number of grant applications several of which have been approved;

B.C. Museums grant for LSRC Interpretive Trail	\$19,000
Updating of our Comprehensive Community Plan	\$21,000
Professional and Institutional Development (Membership Code)	\$24,000
CORP Funding for Lot 37-4 Infrastructure	\$201,000

And several which are still in process;

Columbia Basin Trust (Recreation Centre)	\$500,000
B.C. INAC FNIIP (Community Core area roads)	\$300,000

And several more to be applied for in September;

B.C. Gaming Capital Projects (Recreation Centre)	\$500,000
B.C. Gaming PAC Projects (Rec Centre Equipment)	\$200,000

The EDO work plan calls for promoting AFN values and Priorities regionally. This is being done through participation in the Columbia Valley Economic Development Commission and in following invitations to bid on service contracts in the area.

*Heather Rennebohm, Economic Development Officer*

## Stephanie Sam

*Manager of Education/Language and Culture, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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### **Elementary / Secondary**

We had 17 students in the local schools included in our Nominal Roll report to INAC.

We had two students graduate with their Grade 12 Dogwood Diploma.

We had one student enter Kindergarten in one of the local schools.

Regular ongoing communications with the local schools, and Aboriginal Education Support Workers to identify any additional supports required for student success.

Schools have been regularly accessing our Knowledge Keepers, in order to provide teachings to students on local First Nations culture and history.

We are working with School District #6 on updating Local Education Agreement.

We had a few ʔakisq̓nuk representatives attend the annual gathering for the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. This was to review the agreement and celebrate successes of our students.

### **Post Secondary**

We had five post secondary students completing their academic year of studies. This year we have four continuing students.

We also have two new students being funded for post secondary studies.

We had one graduate from post secondary. Here is her Update:



My name is Alexis Vitaliano (née Fisher) and I am a 22 year old Ktunaxa Nation citizen. I am from ʔakisq̓nuk but I grew up in Aqam.

I graduated from Mount Baker Secondary School in 2012. From the beginning of that school year I knew I wanted to continue my studies in social work.

I started post-secondary school the year after high school at the College of the Rockies. I was enrolled in the Transfer Studies Program. I was at COTR for two and a half years full time each semester. During this time I met a lot of amazing instructors and students. I

love COTR. Without it I wouldn't have made it to Vancouver Island University (VIU).

COTR helped me apply for two field schools while I attended. The first was to Guatemala for ten days and the second was to London, England for three weeks. For each experience a group students studied the area we were travelling to before the trip, then we would travel together to our destination and learn while there, then come home to finish our studies with both book work and personal experiences. It was an incredible time for me. I am so grateful I was able to experience these trips with the help of COTR faculty and ʔakisq̓nuk.

I was accepted to two schools for my third year of university. The first was Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and the second was VIU. I chose VIU because the entire program was offered online so I didn't have to leave my home in Cranbrook. I started at VIU in 2015. I attended full-time online: five courses one

## Stephanie Sam

*Manager of Education/Language and Culture, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

semester, then three courses and a full-time practicum the second semester for each year at VIU. VIU was where I completed my Bachelor of Social Work Program. It was a lot of hard work and a lot to get used to but I loved it.

In April, 2017 I completed the last few courses needed for my degree. After final papers were submitted I officially graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Because I completed my final practicum in a child welfare setting I graduated with a child welfare specialization on my degree. I completed all four years of post-secondary with grades ranging from B- to A+ and I made the Dean's List each semester of all four years.

Overall, the last four and a half years have been amazing for me. They were hard but now that I am done they were definitely worth all the hard work. Throughout it all I had a huge support system of family, friends, community, and especially ʔakisq̓nuk.

Right after graduating in April I applied for a position within the Ktunaxa Nation in Cranbrook and I got the job! It is my first after-post-secondary job. I am now an official social worker within the Ktunaxa Nation in my home town working with community members.

My future plans include applying for a position as a child welfare social worker in the community and attending school again to get a Master's degree. These are two future goals, though. For right now I am happy where I am at.

Thank you, Alexis

This year, we are hoping to have two post secondary graduates.

We wish all of our students all the best in their academic studies.

### **K-12 Literacy Grant**

We received funds from New Relationship Trust, for literacy activities. We invited community families out for dinner and literacy activities in the Band Hall. Each family was able to take home activities which they could do as a family. We also provided each child with the opportunity to order through Scholastic, items which encourage learning in reading, math and science. Through this, we were also able to support the Little Badgers Early Learning Program, as they received credits for all orders placed through the centre.

### **Youth Network Coordinator**

We have secured funding to have a Youth Network Coordinator. This is through funding from Columbia Basin Trust.

This position should be filled soon, and we look forward to having the Youth voice included in our programs and services.

Columbia Basin Trust will also be providing us with funding in order to host regular Knowledge Keeper roundtables, in order to have the input and guidance from the community.

## Stephanie Sam

*Manager of Education/Language and Culture, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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### **Elders/Youth Grants**

We have also secured funding through First Nations Education Steering Committee, for a “Bridging the Generations” project.

Details have not yet been determined, but we are hopeful to have some exciting activities in place, based on the input of the community.

### **Career Promotion and Awareness Project**

We have been successful in securing funds from First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy under the Skills Link Program.

This is a grant that will support field trips for our Youth and community members to learn about different careers and post secondary opportunities.

More details will be coming.

*Stephanie Sam, Manager of Education / Language and Culture*

## Patsy Nicholas

*Health Programs Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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Health has continued to offer clinics with Dr. Page, physio, chiropractor, foot care, and massage. We are all working at providing better opportunities for wellness for individuals that would be suited specifically to, and for, them. Dr. Page's visits, foot care and massage are all offered out of the Health Center. Other services are offered in Invermere and are on a case-by-case basis. Members can request a service and have it as part of their wellness plan.

In November, National Addictions Awareness Week was a full week of activities, education, and get togethers. The events were very successful with many participants.

In December, hampers were again delivered to every home on reserve. Members living off-reserve received funds to purchase a turkey dinner. Health also participated in the strategy sessions for work plans at Fairmont.

Health Department staff members have participated in the following training:

Danny Burgoyne — palliative care, diabetes, suicide intervention, and dementia

Shelley Soloway — tuberculosis screening and testing, roots of trauma, B.C. patient quality and safety, and attended an educational workshop on Lyme Disease. Shelley has also been talking with the quality department of the First Nations' Health Authority (FNHA) to ensure members are getting the best quality of care and continue to do so.

Patsy Nicholas — B.C. patient quality and safety, educational workshop on Lyme Disease, Mustimuhw training for patient travel (allowing for increased patient confidentiality). To ensure members are receiving the best quality of care, Patsy has also attended the FNHA Regional Health Caucus, B.C. First Nation Health Directors' Association meetings, First Nation Health Directors' annual general meeting, Elder/Youth health dialogue, gathering of wisdom, and the Elders' gathering.

All Health team members now have their Food Safe certificates and the Health Department is hoping to start preparing some meals in addition to the duck traditional dinner. Our first lunch will be liver and heart. We are aiming for October if all goes as planned.

All of the health team attended the Nation AGA in Tobacco Plains.

In July, 2017 Gerard Gregoire, was hired as Community Wellness Facilitator.

Health is working to provide individualized services to each member. Ensuring all ʔakisq̓nuk members here or away from home have access to the services they need and require, each member getting the best quality care possible.

*Patsy Nicholas, Health Programs Manager*

## Stella Sam

*Housing Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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Dear ʔakisq̓nuknik,

It has been a great pleasure to work for you for the past year and I look forward to many more!

In this past year, we have accomplished some great things that we are very proud to report on:

**Home Owners' Matching Grant program:** A new grant has been designed to help home owners perform repairs in their homes. So far, six members have been awarded the grant and taken advantage of this opportunity to perform health and safety repairs to their home.

**Records management:** a housing database has been purchased and it is now our main tool to keep track of our assets, maintenance schedule, etc. This is a great new resource to maintain accurate and up-to-date information in the department.

**Community capacity:** The department trained eight members in basic carpentry and electrical skills. An energy efficiency workshop has also been offered to all in the community. Additionally, two members benefited from extra one-on-one training on energy efficiency solutions. One member has also been trained in solar panel design and insulation. We will continue to offer more training as we move forward, stay tuned!

**Internships:** The department is now working with its second intern! Cheyenne Jimmy offered housing assistance for seven months during the first internship. We are now in the second internship and Melissa Teneese will be with the department for the next seven months. These are paid internships and are an effort to increase community capacity by offering training and mentorship through paid employment. We have also just opened two new short term mentorship positions for energy champions in the community.

**Home inspections:** many home owners on reserve, and some off reserve, opted to have their home inspected through the department. Home owners that participated in this initiative have been sent a report of inspection on the recommended renovations for their homes as well as a list of grants that may be available to them. The department has advised that members can approach the staff for help in applying for grants. We are now in the process of reaching out to community to perform energy efficiency inspections and support members with solutions at no cost to the household.

**Insurance:** The department has been able to secure partnership with an insurance company that is able and willing to offer home and content insurance on reserve. All Nations' Trust is also offering a group discount of 11% to any ʔakisq̓nuk member that lives in B.C. As many members know, on reserve insurance can be quite difficult to obtain, and hence, having this new partnership with All Nations' Trust is a great support! To allow for more insurance options the department will be hosting an insurance fair on September 13<sup>th</sup> where several insurance companies will be present to answer questions, provide quotes and educate participants in insurance policies. More details to follow!

**Housing Authority:** We are actively seeking a management system that will allow for most efficient housing services to all of membership as well as increase our funding opportunities. In this endeavor, we are in the process of creating a Housing Society that will be able to successfully manage all of ʔakisq̓nuk housing

## Stella Sam

*Housing Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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assets while ʔakisq̓nuk maintains full ownership. Bylaws and an agency agreement have been developed and are now being reviewed by leadership.

**Partnerships:** Many new partnerships have been built over the past year. These partners have, and are eager to continue to, support ʔakisq̓nuk with financial means to reach some of our goals. Some of our new partners include Columbia Basin Trust, B.C. Housing, First Nations Market Housing Fund, CMHC, and B.C. Hydro. The housing department also works closely with the social and economic department to best serve our tenants and members.

**Arrears reduction:** We are happy to report that arrears are being paid off at a phenomenal rate. All tenants, with one exception, have been paying their rent in full and making large contributions to their arrears! This is a clear demonstration of members taking responsibility over their housing! This also helps ʔakisq̓nuk in further funding opportunities: if we can show funders and leadership that our community is ready to participate responsibility in rental housing solutions, we certainly have a much greater chance to successfully access new grants and funding opportunities!

**Home Transfers:**

According to AFN policy, members who have lived in the old section 95 CMHC homes for more than 10 years and have no arrears are eligible to have their home and CP transfer to their names. So far three members have received a home transfer this past year! We expect at least two more tenants from the current housing stock to have their home transferred to their names in this coming year!

**New housing developments:**

Six new units are expected to be built spring 2018. We are now in the design phase of these units. We have completed environmental mitigation, a full geotechnical assessment, and reviewed previous archeological reports for the site. The funder for these units will be CMHC and they will be built on Band land and will be strictly rental units. We currently have 32 families on our rental waiting list. The department has developed and presented a business case to leadership and will be building six new units per year for the next three years. A transition house, to address needs of members aged out of foster care system, is also part of the new construction plans for the next three years.

The Housing department has also made many efforts to improve communication with community. These include consultation with Elders, newsletter updates, community meetings and home notices. We continue to strive to improve communication, cultural integration, and quality of service to memberships. Any and all suggestions to the department are most welcome!

Taxa,

*Stella Sam, Housing Manager*



## Kaylene Earl

*Manager, Lakeshore Resort and Campground*

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Ki'suk Kyukyit

LSCR profits during the 2015/16 season of \$78,946.00 was allocated to the following:

\$26,000.00 – LSRC asset depreciation costs

\$30,000.00 – Governance costs

\$22,946.00 – Applied to outstanding deficit (prior to 2012)

The seasonal staff began work on March 14/16 clearing of all old docks, stairs and debris of the bank and beach area. Topsoil was delivered for seeding of the reclaimed land on the south side which now provided a greenspace for our guests and seasonal tenants to enjoy. A barrier fence has been installed to encourage our guests from going to the edge of the bank.

Our opening day for the 2016 season was May 6, 2016 and we had over 9,732 guests and visitors to Lakeshore Resort and Campground. This number does not reflect the seasonal tenants.

Both myself and Jacqueline have been attending destination development workshops that Destination B.C. has been facilitating.

B.C. Ministry of Environment Invasive Mussel Defense Program held a workshop in Cranbrook which Peter, Charlotte and myself attended to learn how to inspect boats that are launching at Lakeshore Resort and Campground to prevent the invasive mussels from entering our waters.

We have secured two billboards to advertise for both north and south bound traffic which has increased our "drive by" guests. We have heard the comments, "Wow, we never knew this was here" even from locals.

During our staff orientation in May of this year, the team worked together (without my help) and we now have a Mission Statement and Vision Statement.

Mission Statement: Promote active participation in a safe and inclusive outdoor environment

Vision Statement: We will promote for generations to come, an Aboriginal cultural tourism experience

As of July 31, 2017, we had missed out on over \$138,095.00 revenue compared to over \$90,000.00 missed revenue in 2016. These numbers are derived from the following:

- \$ 10,457.50 due to not having full serviced sites available
- \$ 450.00 due to not opening until May 5
- \$ 3,500.00 prospective wedding booking for 2017, missed due to off-season Manager's time off
- \$ 1,180.00 due to campground having no vacancy (full weekends)
- \$ 6,043.00 due to cabin being booked
- \$ 5,464.50 due to all electrical sites being booked

## Kaylene Earl

*Manager, Lakeshore Resort and Campground*

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- \$ 2,000.00 due to lack of boat mooring availability
- \$109,000.00 due to a waiting list for seasonally leased sites

This does not reflect store sales, and is only for people that we have spoken to on the phone or emailed. It does not reflect the number of potential guests that look on our website and see that we cannot accommodate their needs.

We have added eight more electrical sites bringing the total to 19 electrical sites. This still presents the problem of not having a sani-dump of site. During this season, we have referred over 400 guests to sani-dumps within the valley which charge \$10.00-\$20.00 per dump, which again is missed revenue of over \$6,000.00.

The 2018 season is starting to look like it will be another busy year as we have already received 76 overnight bookings as well as a wedding booking and our regular returning guests are now realizing that if they want a specific site, that they need to book early.

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*Kaylene Earl, Manager, Lakeshore Resort and Campground*

## Adrian Bergles

*Lands Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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Ki'suk Kyukyit

The ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation lands department is made up of Adrian Bergles, lands manager, with excellent support from Amanda Armstrong who serves as land code development assistant.

Some highlights from the lands department:

### **Land Code**

Land Code writing and development has been ongoing since 2015. While that is longer than initially anticipated, it reflects an incredible amount of community outreach and participation, primarily through the Land Code Development Committee. The hard work continues toward a referendum and I encourage ʔakisq̓nuknik to remain engaged and informed on this self-governance initiative for reserve lands.

In the opinion of the ʔakisq̓nuk lands department, the Land Code is a key tool for changing and improving quality of life on the reserve. It will be far superior to the *Indian Act*, which is often a block in the way of progress for the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation and ʔakisq̓nuknik.

Land Code is authorized by the ʔak̓smak̓nik (First Nation people) negotiated and created First Nation's Land Management Act and via a land code ʔakisq̓nuk would take full legal authority over its reserve land.

The vote date for the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Land Code referendum was postponed (it was originally scheduled for September of this year). The target for the Land Code referendum, as determined by the Land Code Creation Committee, is now within the next year. For information contact Adrian in the Band Office or visit [www.akisq̓nuk.org/content/land-management](http://www.akisq̓nuk.org/content/land-management)

Land code development committee meetings are open to all ʔakisq̓nuknik and copies of the draft land code are available from the lands department.

### **Forestry Management**

Over the past year approximately 30 hectares have been restored for wildlife and fuel reduction on reserve and a large, over 90 hectare, project in the Madias Tatley area has been completed. These works have been carried out by private contractors who have provided employment for ʔakisq̓nuknik. Funding is made available through INAC and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation program (on reserve) and the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (off reserve) by way of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society. Grant applications are ongoing and treatments will continue on reserve and in the Madias Tatley area in the coming year.

### **Renewal Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Work on this project was completed over the past year with Registered Professional Foresters from the ʔakisq̓nuk and Ktunaxa Nation-owned Nupqu Development Corporation. This plan will best inform upcoming forest fuel reduction treatments on and near the reserve to provide the most benefit for ʔakisq̓nuk homes and infrastructure. Funding was granted through the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and the Columbia Basin Trust.

## Adrian Bergles

*Lands Manager, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation*

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### **Renewal of the Land Use Plan**

Over the past year and with the key support of Amanda Armstrong, the Akisq̓nuk First Nation Land Use Plan was renewed. The project was led by B&A Planning Group from Calgary with funding provided by INAC and the Columbia Basin Trust. Based on input from ʔakisq̓nuknik The plan identified four key, and achievable priorities for action: Conservation Lands Management; Lot 37-4 Commercial Development; Priority areas for housing development; and Lakeshore Campground and Resort expansion. The document remains a draft until ratified.

### **FireSmart**

In 2016 ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation was recognized as a FireSmart community. This is largely a communication effort with some on the ground treatments to inform ʔakisq̓nuknik how they can protect their own homes and lands from wildfire **before** an emergency. The ʔakisq̓nuk FireSmart Committee (Beatrice Stevens, Cheyenne Nicholas-Hall, and Glynda Joseph) as well as the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation Lands Department deserve the credit for this achievement. Work continues to retain our certification for 2017 — look for a community FireSmart Awareness Day this fall. Funding for this initiative was provided by the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative by way of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society.

### **Land Additions to Reserve**

Band Council Resolutions have been submitted and the formal process to have two pieces of land added to the reserve has begun. Working with the governments of Canada and British Columbia, the lands department seeks to have a gravel pit at the middle of the reserve and an 18 hectare piece of land along the Columbia River added to reserve. The gravel pit was taken from the reserve in the 1960s when Highway 93/95 was built and the 18 hectare piece of land was, mistakenly, not included in the reserve land base at the time of its original land survey in 1886.

### **Treatment of Invasive Plants on the ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation**

Goat herd grazing weed treatment carried out again this year in July and August. The goats will likely be back in future years. Other methods of controlling the spread of invasive weeds, specifically knapweed, is mowing in selected areas.

Lands department staff are available to answer questions and can help ʔakisq̓nuknik with land transfers and wills and estate planning. We aim for first-rate customer (ʔakisq̓nuknik) service.

*Adrian Bergles, Lands Manager*