



Council Report

June 2025

Faro Burgoyne

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Encroachment Response working group

June 3rd

This working group is in response to the ongoing territory encroachment issues that we have been facing. This issue regularly comes up in council, leadership and band meetings. It was decided that an ongoing regular meeting is required to give this issue the attention it deserves. This was our first weekly meeting. We discussed who we would like to invite to future meetings ie. membership, elders, staff. We went over our high-level concerns which are pretty much the encroachment issues from neighboring nations from every direction of amakis Ktunaxa. Particular concerns like the land acknowledgment and curriculum at SD6, as well as signage were listed. At the end of the agenda we discussed and listed what to do about it. There were many angles discussed. My high level summery is there is many actions we can take but must choose wisely and be strategic about which ones we implement and in which order at the end of the day we are all Indigenous and fight the same fight for the most part. Finding a balance between being assertive to protect the integrity of our rights and culture, lifting up our own nation and not suppressing another requires a very dynamic approach.

G2G with South East Initiative Secretariat

June 3rd

We started off by updating us on some of the action items from our last meeting:

- Lake Windermere motorized restrictions (monotarium letter was brought up)
- Efforts to clean up the Barite mine by Madias (Moving very slow)
- KR#3 paving passed along to ministry of transportation
- Our issues with the local TSA has been passed along to the ministry of forest

We talked about the ABMP in the elk valley and the potential of entering into a bilateral agreement with the province. The SEIS are in talks with all the different KFNs and are meeting us where we are. There for our agreements may look different and be tailored to our priorities. The primary focus is the environmental governance of Qukin ?amak?is, but this ongoing communications is a great way to voice all of our concerns with the BC government. I asked if bill 15 would affect our negotiation with EVR on their FRX expansion and the answer was no. Bill 15 will affect new projects only.

Without Water Symposium

June 5th

A symposium to address watershed knowledge and decision making in Qukin ?amak?is. This event was organized by Ya?it ?a-knuq?i't, Living Lakes Canada, and the Elk River Alliance as Partners of the Elk River Watershed Collaborative Monitoring Program . This session was hosted at Ya?it ?a-knuq?i't and was an effort to unite stakeholders to develop a cohesive understanding of watershed health. I would say mission accomplished. This event was well organized with very informative and had engaging content. In attendance was FN Leadership from YQT, AFN, and the Piikani Nation as well as leadership from Sparwood, Elkford, Fernie and BC. There was reps from a hand full of environmental organizations, hydrologist, scientists, reps from Aqam and reps from EVR. Two big issues that we are currently facing is dropping water levels and contamination. Across the board there is reports of water levels dropping in aquifers, wetlands, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. At Ya?it ?a-knuq?i't there is some small lakes that have gone completely dry causing loss of aquatic life and forced migration of other wild life. Both on and off reserve there is many reports of well water dropping or going completely dry. One of the hydrologists said that in the YQT region they are currently in a level 3 drought which is very uncommon for June which usually we are at peak water levels at this time. Fresh clean water is becoming harder to get and the water we manage to get we contaminate then manage poorly resulting in further contamination downstream. Pollution from industry, municipalities and the general public, licensed and unlicensed combined with loose/out dated colonial policy playing a big part. The big question is how do we take the knowledge and data we have to make a difference in decision making to ensure a future for the next generations. No one seemed to have an obvious answer which is understandable because if there was one this problem would be not a problem anymore. The consensus I picked up is that keeping the convocation alive and showing up again and again will provide traction and hopefully attract more

people to join the fight and maybe one day we can influence the proper decisions needed to secure the perseverance of our sacred ancestor Water. Some quotes that resonated with me were:

- “We need to be curious of how our water works in order to protect it”
- “We have an abundance of fresh and clean water in Canada. Until we don’t. Then it’s too late”
- “How many times have you checked the air pressure in your spare tire”
- In regard to bill 15 “The BC government should be fast tracking efforts to protect the environment”
- In regard to new FN leadership “don’t go chasing cars”

In the afternoon we took a tour of Yaqit ʔa·knuqʔiʔit and visited some of their lakes. One had good flow and consistent levels and the other two were being restored by their guardians. Lake Shotnana had to be dug deeper with equipment to penetrate the water table again. Over a long period of time of animal and livestock grazing the clay had become too compact and the water was being blocked from rising through it. At the other lake we visited they had drilled a well and tapped into an aquifer 170 ft down and were using a solar array to pump the water into the formally dried out pit. It was cool to see innovative efforts to support these essential habitats.

Encroachment response working group meeting #2

June 10th

After our first meeting there were some unfinished items from the agenda. We picked up where we left off and added items to our list of general concerns, particular concerns and actions in response. Many items were added in all categories. Our plan moving forward will be to prioritize and assign actions to the appropriate people.

Chief and Council meeting highlights

June 11th

- Amended housing policy for new units. Discussion about bringing back housing committee.
- Approved application to be sent for Fire Smart Community Funding Program
- Decision to move forward with next steps for implementing Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations.
- Decision to add Wiyu and Madias property’s to the reserve
- The Policy coordinator presented us his 6 month policy modernization plan which included:
 - Creating a complete list of current policies, procedures, and bylaws
 - Auditing policy files to locate the most current, approved versions
 - Setting up a shared folder system with clearly labeled files
 - Drafting a Policy Governance Framework and document templates
 - Piloting updates to 1–2 priority policies
 - Sharing progress with leadership and preparing long-term tools

KKCFSS Strategic Planning Session

June 12

This strategy session was called to address the current state of KKCFSS. Months ago there was an incident that resulted with the CEO being let go. This incident shined light on the significant issues within the organization of the agency and at that time the board contracted Two Bears Consulting to do a review and put together a report on the agency. Attendees at this session was KKCFSS Board of Directors and senior KKCFSS staff. Bart presented a slide show of his summarized findings and provided us with his considerations for KKCFSS strategic reset. There was many considerations that were recommended and I think the general consensus is that we should implement them all but for the sake of capacity and efficiency we did an exercise with helped us narrow down 6 key considerations that we should start with. Staff are going to take these considerations and create a work plan for the board to review at a later date.

KKCFSS Board meeting

June 12th

We discussed the process for the hiring of the new CEO Which has over 90 applicants. We postponed the KKCFSS AGA due to capacity issues. And discussed putting a pause on all major projects and expansions until the agency is back on its feet.

Governance Session

June 16th

During this session we reviewed the Governance policy and the next steps in sorting out council remuneration. As we went through the Governance policy, we had discussion about sections that need work. The full-time council positions being the center to most of the required changes. Some of the methodology used in the policy was brought on by a consultant and it was decided that much work needs to be done to capture us as ?akisqnuknik and how we govern ourselves in the current policy it seems to be a top down approach which doesn't reflect how we see our positions and how we want them to be moving forward. Something along the lines of a circle will be more appropriate with membership guiding leadership, Leadership providing direction to staff and staff delivering services to the membership. Council remuneration was in the hands of the Governance Director before his termination and is now being picked up by Nasukin. This process has been a long and difficult one considering the due diligence needed and conflict of interests requiring the involvement of outside entities. Ideally, we get it right and establish a remuneration system that lasts for many years of future Council.

AFN Enterprises Board meeting

June 16th

Waiting for proposal from Generation Homes for the first 12 houses on Windermere property. Lakeshore has over 200 reservations for this season. Rec center operating as per usual. The glulam mass timber production facility is a go, and we are waiting for an offer that we can invest in. Due diligence is being done on a data center investment opportunity. There was discussion on creating an investment policy. The HR policy manuals have been updated for Rec Center and Lake Shore and we reviewed budget projections for this year and the next.

Encroachment working group meeting #3

June 17th

This meeting mostly consisted of us updating the people that were invited to the working group. As David went through the work that has been done there was opportunity for questions and comments. It was nice to hear some questions and comments from a fresh perspective sparking productive convocation.

Meeting with Columbia Wetland Stewardship Partners

June 17th

Rick Hoar met with Al and I to discuss a proposal in which they want to expand the wetlands wild life management by 250m width wise for the whole length putting most of the focus on securing lands on the west side of the valley which is mostly crown land. Rick shared a lot of interesting wild life data maps and mentioned some wildlife corridors that they are also working on.

C&C Meeting highlights

June 25th

- Motion to continue meetings as usual through August
- Approved notice to address behavior on social media
- Discussed an AFN lead prescribed burn

KNCS Leadership Meeting highlights

- Discussion about Burbot recovery program lead by KNC
- Youth appointment for legacy trust Michael Spoonhunter was selected
- Discussed Declaration Implementation Strategy and Plan Framework
- Update on Nation Healing Strategy
- There was a long discussion that started day one and continued into day two about the FRX Readiness discussion. We have been presented on this several times in the last year originally EVR wanted KNCS's stance on the project and if we supported the project description to be sent for an Environmental Assessment. EVR has recently changed their tune and have decided to go ahead with sending the project description any way. Given the current political landscape with the Provincial and Federal Governments pushing for projects like this it is clear that EVR does not feel that they need our approval. We were presented with a few options to on how to respond. And after several hours of discussion we decided not to oppose the decision but to state that the consultation was not effective and to support YQT to be the lead on how we move forward with the relationship with EVR (so long they send us a formal proposal on what this looks like in September) and in the meantime Nasukin Cheryl is going to get the ball rolling to pursue a section 6-7 agreement between the province and the 4 Ktunaxa Bands. In hopes to establish the decision-making power that we need and currently don't have.

Band Meeting

June 30th

- **IBE** – A request to have membership meeting. We are currently in discussion with legal on some areas of importance and once we receive that feedback a mtg will be set and if we can share what legal provided
- **CCP** – Membership would like to have information on the plan. It was suggested to bring the information to the AGA – David to communicate with Jose Galdamez
- **VORR** – An update was reported to Membership. We let them know we have a lot of support from Invermere and signage at Naked Sands. It was also mentioned to share at AGA
- **Band Mtg policy** – Don has a draft he will share far and wide with membership – this can be shared to get feedback at the AGA