



HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL of the HAIDA NATION

published by the

Council of the Haida Nation

Managing Editor
Simon Davies

Business Administrator
Amanda Reid-Stevens

Writers
Valine Crist – Researcher/Writer
Graham Richard – Skidegate Writer

Web
Laughing Sea Design (Mare Levesque)

editor@haidanation.net
p.250.559.4468

Council of the Haida Nation Administrator

Box 589, Old Massett
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1M0
p.250.626.5252
f.250.626.3403
1.888.638.7778
chn_hts@haidanation.ca

Council of the Haida Nation President

Box 98, Queen Charlotte
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1S0
p.250.559.4468
f.250.559.8951
1.877.559.4468
chn_hts@haidanation.net

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Got a lust for language?

Come and participate in the 14th Annual Haida Language Gathering in Vancouver!

Join us in discussing Haida language curriculum, teaching materials, Haida orthographies and dictionaries, master/apprentice techniques, and more! Come and get inspired by our dedicated, passionate teachers and learners and hear about the exciting revitalization initiatives in place.

The Annual Haida Language Gathering brings speakers, teachers, learners, and novices together from all three dialects: Xaayda Kil (Skidegate), Xaad Kil (Old Massett), and Xaat Kil (Alaska).

April 20th and 21st, 2013 • Georgian Court Hotel, Vancouver, BC

Call for Expressions of Interest

We are compiling an inventory of local suppliers who are interested in being considered for contracting requirements we may have. On the immediate horizon are the celebration activities around the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement, including the Legacy Pole raising at Windy Bay in August 2013. The following are examples of some of the services we may require:

- Event planners (coordination of traditional community-celebrations)
- Caterers (*Food Safe* qualified and capable of feeding up to 1000 people)
- Seamstress (production of traditional Haida regalia)
- Marine transportation suppliers (transporting people and equipment)
- Equipment contractors: backhoes, hiabs, cranes, etc.
- Building contractors: carpenters, electricians, plumbers, labourers, etc.
- Marketing/Communications contractors: writers, educators, graphic designers, artists, printers, sign-makers, photographers, videographers, film editors, website managers, event planners

Once the inventory is established, contractors/suppliers may be invited to submit bids on any contracts we are considering within your area of specialty.

Please provide a brief letter expressing your interest and the services and/or equipment you provide. Please mail your information to:

Liz McEwan, Finance Manager
Gwaii Haanas Field Unit – Parks Canada Agency
P.O. Box 37, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0

or drop it off at our office at the Gwaii Haanas Offices at the Haida Heritage Centre, 60 – Second Beach Road, Skidegate.

Please note: If you responded to our advertisements in previous years, there is no need to resubmit an Expression of Interest unless you wish to update your information. Your company's name will continue to be kept in our inventory. Submissions are requested by April 12, 2013.



Kiefer Collison appointed

Council of the Haida Nation representative Kiefer Collison, of Old Massett, was appointed Chair of the Haida Child and Family Services Society board. The board is in place to build a new model for child welfare that reflects the traditional Haida way of life. •

Matthews leading the team

Sharon Matthews is taking on the team leadership at Haida Child and Family Services while the society is in the process of hiring a new executive director and team leader. It is expected that these two positions will be filled in the very near future. •

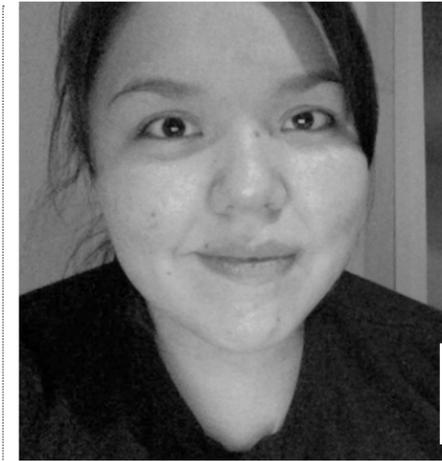
Setso appointed

Old Massett resident Brad Setso has been appointed by the Council of the Haida Nation to the chair of the Gwaii Trust. Mr Setso previously served two terms on the Gwaii Trust, including a year as vice-chair. He has a variety of experience that includes serving as a regional district board member, a band councillor and as a member of a number of community groups.

“I have a candid and fair approach to chairing a meeting,” Mr Setso said. “And, in the interest of making good decisions, there needs to be differing points of view and opinions expressed. I think it is these things that generate lively discussion and keep people engaged.” •

Baybutt managing

“I’ll be overseeing daily operations, supervising our employees, and tracking processing,” said Shawn Baybutt, the new operations manager for Haida Wild Seafoods (formerly known as SeaPack) which was recently purchased by HaiCo. Mr Baybutt, 43, moved to the Islands seven years ago and gained local marine experience working as a lodge guide and, later, as lodge manager at Langara. This is his third year of working for the custom fish-processing plant and he is looking forward to the different role. “It’s going to be new and, I know, will be a good challenge for me.”



Heading for the sun: Jaasaljuus Yakgujanaas received the Fernandez Earle Scholarship to study marine biology in Hawai’i.

Of sunscreen and scholarship

by Valine Crist

Jaasaljuus Yakgujanaas will attend Hawai’i Pacific University as the 2013 recipient of the Fernandez Earle Scholarship!

Jaasaljuus, 17, has always had a fascination with, and appreciation for, the ocean, and she says Haida Gwaii is the ideal place to make a career in that field. “I feel that by becoming a marine biologist I will have an opportunity to give back to the ocean and be doing something that I love.” Because of its renowned marine program, studying at Hawai’i Pacific was her first choice, and the scholarship has made her post-secondary aspirations a dream come true.

“When I found out I was the recipient, I was in shock! I still cannot believe I was given such an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Jaasaljuus exclaimed. Moving so far from home, she says that she will be sure to bring a supply of nourishing Haida Gwaii salmon, and for the first time in her life will need to pack sunscreen.

Born and raised in Old Massett, Jaasaljuus – whose name translates to ‘precious woman’ – will be graduating from George M. Dawson Secondary this June. Working with partner universities,

the Fernandez Earle Scholarship Foundation was founded in memory of Kane Fernandez and Roger Earle – both had a passion for education, and sports fishing on Haida Gwaii. The scholarship is awarded to one Islands student each year and is based on academic achievements and an extensive interview process. •

HaiCo board vacancy

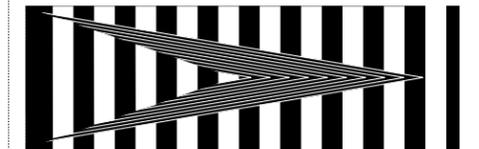
HaiCo is looking to fill two positions on their board of directors. Applications submitted will be reviewed by a nominator committee which will make a recommendation to the HaiCo board. The committee consists of four members of the CHN, two from the Hereditary Chiefs Council, and one each from the Skidegate Band Council and the Old Massett Village Council

If you are interested in serving as a HaiCo board member, please submit a letter and resume by 4 pm April 12, to Peter Lantin, President, Council of Haida Nation, Box 98, Queen Charlotte, Haida Gwaii V0T 1S0, or email chn.skidegate@haidanation.net

The HaiCo nominator committee is comprised of: Trevor Russ, Percy Crosby, Allan Davidson, Jason Alsop, Darin Swanson, James Cowpar and an OMVC representative. •

HaiCo touching base

In response to feedback from Haida citizens and direction from the Council of the Haida Nation, HaiCo will host two Community Information Sessions this spring – one in Skidegate (May 15) and one in Old Massett (May 16). The format will be similar to CHN’s Seasonal Sessions: the Haida-owned corporation will report on its work and Haida citizens will have the opportunity to ask questions. HaiCo will also provide its 2012 financials with a comparison to the 2011 summaries. •



A light moment



Photos: Full Moon Photo/Jason Sharfo

December 2012: The newly elected Council of the Haida Nation enjoys a light moment before settling into their duties. Rep's clockwise from top left: Jason Alsop, Skidegate; Allan Davidson, Vancouver; Peter Lantin, President; Trevor Russ, Vice-president; Shawn Cowpar, Skidegate; Shawn Edenshaw, Vancouver; Robert Davis, Massett; Kiefer Collison, Massett; Robert Bennett, Massett; Guujaaw, Skidegate; Cynthia Samuels, Massett; Percy Crosby, Skidegate. Back right: Sdiithladaa and LaVerne Davies share in the moment. Missing: Pansy Collison and Frank Parnell, Prince Rupert. The Council of the Haida Nation representatives were sworn in on December 14, 2012 at the new CHN administration building in Skidegate. About 150 people attended the opening of the building which, was followed by the swearing-in ceremony of the reps.

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Council of the Haida Nation – Winter Session

Frank and open dialogue mark first meeting of new council

It was a “honeymoon” said more than one person at the conclusion of the first public sitting of the newly elected Council of the Haida Nation. And, on reflection, there is some truth in that observation. As most citizens who attend the CHN Seasonal Sessions know, the heat in the room can go from cool to extreme in a matter of seconds, depending on the level of passion displayed during discussion of a particular subject or statement. That swing in temperature, though often difficult, frequently removes ‘roadblocks’ in discussions and propels issues from talk to action – things do get done!

The Winter Session began with a new and noticeably younger Council in place, and an entirely different energy in the room. Agenda items were presented to the session and citizens were asked to discuss issues, offer opinion and provide suggestions on ways to move particular items along.

In his opening remarks, President of the Haida Nation Peter Lantin said that he was looking for open communication between all parties to ensure citizens are informed and provided the detail they need, on all the issues. “I want to get everyone on the same page with the same information,” he explained. “I am looking for a broader buy-in so that the ownership of the nation’s issues does not weigh only on the executive.”

Mr Lantin then gave a thorough overview of what those issues are. At the top of the agenda and calling for immediate attention, he said, was working with the Band Councils and hereditary leaders on economic development opportunities and a protocol to guide future development, and a Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly (May 8-10) that will seek the answer

to: What is the future of governance on Haida Gwaii?

Progress made

Reconciliation of Haida and crown title has been at the forefront of the nation’s business since filing the title case in 2001. An agreement between the Haida nation and the crown put the case on hold in December 2008 but that agreement expired in 2012, allowing the nation to take the case to court at any time. Since the 2001 filing, negotiations with the province have been generally productive and considered fruitful; the Kunst’aa Guu – Kunst’aayah Reconciliation Protocol

the marine environment and access to resources, and the other will look at governance and the reconciliation of Haida and crown title. “Progress is being made,” Mr Lantin said at the Winter Session, “but this is going to be a long journey.”

The two working groups are made up of federal government and Haida appointments. Russ Jones and Robert Davis have been appointed by CHN to the technical working group, which is discussing the marine component, and Guujaaw and Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson will be working on designing a negotiation framework for the full process.



The Haida Reconciliation of Title Team includes: Peter Lantin, Trevor Russ, Guujaaw, Robert Davis, Sgaann 7iw7waans, Gaahlaay, Robert Williams and Harold Yeltatzie.

(2009) is considered a substantial outcome of those negotiations. The same cannot be said of negotiations with the federal government. Over the years, talks have been occurring intermittently with representatives of the federal government, and though they have attended the negotiation meetings, they have been in the room as observers only, as they have received no mandate from their government to negotiate. Obviously, little progress has been made.

But things have shifted, and since the lifting of the abeyance agreement, representatives of the federal government have made an effort to engage in talks with the Haida Reconciliation of Title Team. The CHN met recently with the feds, and two working groups have been struck; both groups will concentrate on building terms of reference for negotiating – one group will look at co-management of

A step up

Having served as an Old Massett regional representative for the past five years, newly elected Vice-president Trevor Russ said that he had spent the past month getting up-to-speed on CHN committee work and portfolios. This was a formidable task, he said, and further explained that having to be conversant with all of the nation’s business is a big step from serving on committees as a regional rep.

Throughout the month, the President and Vice-president also met with White Raven Law for an overview of the title case, Coastal First Nations/Great Bear Initiative staff, the Coast Opportunity Fund and various CHN committees. The new leadership is interested in using the latest technologies, such as video conferencing, to keep regional rep’s and

Open dialogue – cont’d next page

Council of the Haida Nation – Winter Session

Open dialogue – from page 5

citizens informed on a regular basis. They also intend to use social media to provide information that is current, and implement discussion of issues on-line.

Appointments made

Following every CHN election the appointment of rep’s to committees and boards takes place. This is usually a “subtle” process of jockeying, with rep’s speed-negotiating to secure a place on one committee or another. This year, the appointments were read aloud at the Winter Session, which took some time as there are upwards of 30 committees and working groups – however the announcement did give notice to citizens about the function of each committee, as well as who had been appointed, and the name of each contact person. Regional rep’s new to the CHN were also asked to introduce themselves.

The nation’s business is done at the committee level, which includes the Executive Committee, and recommendations from the committees go to the full Council of the Haida Nation for approval.

Resolutions passed at the House of Assembly add to the long task-list of the CHN. At the 2012 HoA, 11 resolutions were passed. These were also read

aloud during the Winter Session and included directives for action such as: downsizing the Haida Child and Family Services board (the board has gone from 9 members to 7); HaiCo holding a shareholders’ meeting (information sessions will be held May 15 in Skidegate and May 16 in Old Massett – October is slated for the shareholders’ meeting); the Village Councils, Hereditary Chiefs Council and CHN reviewing and coordinating economic projects (the Haida Economic Protocol Working Group will be addressing this issue); and developing a core budget for Haida language programs (this directive is being worked on by the Culture and Language Committee).

HaiCo

HaiCo’s Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Ainsworth, gave a brief overview of operations. This time of the year is busy for HaiCo, especially in the tourism division, with the Haida House at Tllaal and the Inn at Sandspit opening up along with the fishing lodges. Haida House will be opening May 1, with the Sandspit Inn following shortly thereafter. As of March 20 the lodges are still tied up in Alliford Bay but are expected to head out to their west coast locations on May 25. Money was put into upgrading some of the barges, with a major overhaul of one that

is to become crew quarters for the Whale Channel and Milbanke Sound operations. In Tllaal, Haida House is building a meeting room and making improvements to other rooms. The House will be open seven days a week once the visitor season is upon us.

“Getting off diesel is what we need to do,” is a phrase often heard on Haida Gwaii. With the majority of our electricity produced through the burning of diesel, and with the issue of climate change in the media every day, going green has been on the Islands’ agenda for a few years now. BC Hydro put out a call for clean-energy proposals in order to “get off diesel” and HaiCo answered the call with a proposal called HaiCo Clean Energy. The project would take the wood waste from HaiCo’s logging operations, including that of the Skidegate Band Council’s pole peeling plant at Ferguson Bay, and burn it to produce electricity. The project could produce a dozen full-time jobs, with profits from the clean-energy plant going to the Haida treasury.

“It has been a good year,” said HaiCo’s Chief Operating Officer Bob Brash, partly because of good weather conditions for winter logging. Taan’s target harvest for 2013 is just over 300,000 cubic metres. A joint venture between Abfam Enterprises and the Old Massett Village Council will see about a dozen workers travelling from Old Massett to the mill in Port Clements. Access to timber has been an issue for the mill over its 35+ years of operation and parties feel confident that the joint-venture should ensure a steadier supply than in the past. Mr Brash said there are 2500 cubic metres of wood ready for the saw upon startup.

See HaiCo’s February newsletter IINAASDLL for more information. It’s available for download at: haico.ca.

Haida Economic Protocol Working Group struck

An agreement for the CHN, Band Councils and Hereditary Chiefs Council to work together on a coordinated approach to drafting an economic protocol is the result of an all-day meeting held January 23 at Kay Llnagaay. With most of the Haida nation’s leadership in attendance, the day was spent addressing concerns arising from economic development projects that have been in play over the last few years, and specifically within the last six months.

A variety of opinions were expressed about these projects, and suggestions were presented to deal with issues that are a result of the projects. A clear delineation of the authorities and mandates of CHN and Band Councils was identified as the major item that needed to be addressed in an economic protocol. Two other issues hitting the floor were those of individuals and businesses promoting development projects to one council and playing off another, and the question: When does a project become the business of the nation?

“People and businesses with good development ideas need one place where they can access the Haida Nation and get the answers they need,” said Peter Lantin, President of the Haida Nation. “The development of a Haida Economic Protocol will take away any guessing of what the requirements are [to operate on Haida Gwaii].”

A working group has been struck and the economic protocol will be the first document in an initiative that will also see the drafting of national policy for child welfare, education and health.

- The members of the Economic Protocol Working Group are:
- CHN Trevor Russ
 - CHN Peter Lantin
 - OMVC Ken Rea
 - SBC Robert Williams, Russ Jones
 - HCC Giteewans
 - HCC Chee Xial Taaiixou

Islands Youth are asked:

What is the future of governance on Haida Gwaii?

Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly: May 8 – 10, 2013
Old Massett Community Hall

According to Harmony Williams, Old Massett Youth Coordinator, the 2013 Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly “will be an opportunity for all Haida Gwaii youth to experience what the Council of the Haida Nation is. It’ll be the chance for youth to understand what CHN does and how they function.” The three-day event will provide unique opportunities for youth to start learning about Haida governance, and the focus will extend beyond that to include Islands municipalities, the regional district, and Band Councils.

“This is really about preparing our future leadership. A handful of the youth who turn up to this assembly will become our future leaders,” said Ms Williams.

April Churchill and the late Ernie Collison organized the first Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly in 1993. Ms Williams has reignited community interest and

lobbied for support at CHN’s House of Assembly last year to host another Islands-wide youth gathering. With the CHN’s support, the working group – Percy Crosby, Jason Alsop, Cynthia Samuels, Robert Davis, Kiefer Collison, Harmony Williams, and Amber Bellis – have scheduled the 2013 assembly exactly 20 years after the first one.

The working group is developing an agenda, and Ms Williams said she envisions this assembly will be formatted much like the last: workshops during the day, followed by sports, entertainment, and film screenings in the evenings. Evening entertainment and discussions will allow for all community members to come and participate.

“This is really about preparing our future leadership.”



HOW IT WORKS

Resolution #5 was passed at the 2012 House of Assembly and mandates the CHN to establish a Youth Committee to organize a Youth Assembly.

Resolution #5: Council of the Haida Nation Youth Assembly

Submitted by: Harmony Williams

WHEREAS: The Council of the Haida Nation sponsored a Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly that included educational workshops about issues relevant at the time. Many of the youth who attended the 1993 Youth Assembly are now in leadership roles in our Nation. 2013 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Youth Assembly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Council of the Haida Nation establish a Youth Committee to engage youth in the business of the Haida Nation, including education and communication [and] that the Council of the Haida Nation organize a second Youth Assembly for May 2013 in Old Massett.

Let us have it!

The CHN Communications Committee wants to know what you need to know. Please send us your thoughts on ways the CHN can report to you ... what would be helpful, what do you read/listen to, and what is the best way to get information to you?

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at **250.559.4468**; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by **No.1 – Reservoir Rd., Skidegate**



The Haida Provider steams north

The *Haida Provider* has been sold and is moving to Homer, Alaska where it will be used for seining salmon and herring. The Council of the Haida Nation owned the vessel for some 15 years and used it to support annual dive surveys and research projects. The Provider also brought in food fish each year for the villages.

“It was a great vessel while we had it but it was docked for a majority of the year – it just wasn’t the best utilization of our resources,” says Haida Fisheries Program Manager, Brad Setso.

To better utilize the vessel, the Haida Fisheries Committee was going to outfit the boat to go crabbing. The largest license – one of three that CHN has access to – specifies that 1179 pots can be fished, which meant the Fisheries Committee had to buy that number to gear up.

In early December, the marine broker Mr Setso was working with to purchase the pots came to him with a proposition: Why doesn’t CHN sell the *Haida Provider* and buy the *Lasqueti Fisher No. 1*? The



The *Lasqueti Fisher* will be renamed the *Haida Provider*.

Lasqueti, which is already outfitted for crabbing, included 900 pots in the deal. This meant that the Fisheries Program would have what they needed to start fishing and have to buy only 300 additional pots. Mr Setso pursued the sale, a deal was struck, and the vessel was purchased.

Local mariners may be familiar with the 59’ *Lasqueti Fisher No.1* because Masset resident Russell Wiley fished the boat around Haida Gwaii before it was sold to the Lasqueti Fishing Company. The vessel, built in 1980, is approved for crabbing in Area A, which covers much of Dixon Entrance, and has worked primarily in Hecate Strait.

“We’ve purchased a structurally- and mechanically-sound vessel,” said Mr Setso. “The purchase went through the Haida Fisheries Committee, the CHN Executive Committee and CHN Board for approval. It made sense to everybody.” Haida Fisheries intends on buying 300 more crab pots, which will be manufactured locally, and will deliver catches on-Island for processing. The *Lasqueti Fisher No. 1* will be renamed the *Haida Provider*. •

Early education bears fruit

Talking politics, sports and community with Peter Lantin

Citizens of the Haida Nation might know him as Pistol Pete from his broadcasts of basketball games at the ‘All-Native’, others may know of his work as chair of the Gwaii Trust, but today we know him as President of the Haida Nation. *Haida Laas* sat down with Peter Lantin to talk about his life, his politics, and his priorities while in office.

By Valine Crist

The accomplishments of the Haida Nation are many ... but they are few compared to the challenges ahead. At the top of the list is the reconciliation of Haida and crown title, followed by the ongoing tweaking of a co-management system with the provincial government regarding the lands and near-shore waters, the development of policy to address the political and business relationship with HaiCo, and tying into the complexities of revitalizing our language. Through the years the nation has worked on these issues with varying degrees of success. With new leadership, citizens can expect a fresh approach and a new style – one of consultation and open dialogue.

“What the Haida Nation has accomplished is truly remarkable and I think we can all feel proud of this and have confidence in where we’re going,” said the recently acclaimed Haida Nation President, Peter Lantin. In fact, one of the priorities in his three-year term is to communicate these accomplishments to Haida citizens. With this foundation and context, Mr Lantin says, citizens can become meaningfully involved in guiding the future of the nation.

Raised by his social- and cultural-activist nannii, Ethel Jones, and with role models like his goggie, Alex Jones, (also known as ‘Scumby’), Mr Lantin was politically aware at a very early age. He says he always knew that as a Haida citizen he had a responsibility to get involved with the nation’s affairs, and this early education and way of life instilled a real passion in him. When citizens encouraged Mr Lantin to run in the 2012 national election, he realized



Photo: Allan Wilson

Newly sworn-in President Peter Lantin dances for those who witnessed his swearing-in.

and understood that this was what his family had been preparing him for.

After graduating from George M. Dawson in 1992, Mr Lantin attended Carleton University where he was enrolled in one of Canada’s top radio and television broadcasting programs. It was a highly competitive environment and only 300 students were accepted to the three-year program. As the program progressed, students were weeded out, leaving only 30 students in the final year. Mr Lantin did not make it to that final year, and at age 18, he felt that his childhood dream of sports broadcasting was over. But in 2006, Mr Lantin, aka Pistol Pete, made his broadcasting debut at the All-Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert. Recently, after eight

consecutive years at the ANBT mic, he announced he would step away from this role to focus on his presidential responsibilities, but emphasized, “I made it. For me, providing commentary to the games at the All-Native was like broadcasting the NBA!”

Before taking on the presidency of the Haida nation, Mr Lantin chaired the Gwaii Trust for three years, an experience he describes as shaping his approach to communications and building his confidence operating in the field of business. His time there also honed his abilities to combine a variety of opinions and facilitate group decision-making. He believes these skills

Early education – cont’d next page

Early education – from page 9

will be beneficial to the Council of the Haida Nation, which brings together 14 elected representatives from four communities (Old Massett, Skidegate, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver) and hereditary leadership.

“It’s a lot of work to continually consult with one another, to make sure that everyone’s being listened to,” he stressed, “and to make sure everyone understands a decision and its implications. But, that’s what we have to do as a council.”

Part of this process of consultation is directed at maintaining the nation’s

legal and political position and strength. Mr Lantin contended that every Haida citizen should be aware of and understand the unique position their nation is in with the federal and provincial governments: The Haida have what is considered one of the strongest title cases in Canada. With that knowledge citizens will also have the responsibility of charting the nation’s path over the next few years, meaning the responsibility will not fall on the shoulders of only one person, he said. Mr Lantin considers himself only one member of a team of leaders and believes citizens have a responsibility to keep informed and educate themselves

about the issues in front of them.

One of those issues, front and center, is the reconciliation of Haida and crown titles. “We have created our own innovative negotiation process based on reconciliation,” he said, acknowledging the work of past councils. “We’ve been very bold in blazing our own path. We have been successful with the provincial government and signed the Kunst’aa Guu – Kunst’aayah Reconciliation Protocol, and we will continue that same approach with Canada.”

Mr Lantin has also identified other key priorities to tackle over the next few years. Foremost is the development and growth of HaiCo, the nation’s arms-length economic initiative. He would like to see HaiCo develop business policy that ensures values, such as sustainability, are enacted so that citizens can see how policy influences the work being accomplished on the ground, in a practical way.

“I was very intrigued with the immediate success of Haida economics and I’m talking about HaiCo. I want to continue a lot of the good work that HaiCo is doing. But it’s got to be done in a way that does business differently. You can slap a Haida label on anything and call it Haida, but is it truly a Haida company? Does it have Haida values? I want to see things being done differently.”

While on the campaign trail, Mr Lantin heard from many citizens who expressed deep concern about the survival of Haida language. Developing a strategy for the revitalization of the language is critical, he insisted, as is encouraging youth to get involved in politics and having them speak up on issues.

While studying social sciences at UVic, Mr Lantin became involved in the world of national and international student politics. This new perspective added to his early political education in Old Massett with naanii Ethel and his goggie, and further prepared him for his current political career. In his second year of studies, he was appointed to the

UVic Student Union as the First Nations representative. The next year he decided to run in the union’s general election – and won a seat – which freed up a space for another First Nations person to fill the appointed position.

“I was one of the first First Nations people to get elected at-large at UVic, and from there I became involved in the Canadian Federation of Students,” Mr Lantin detailed. The Canadian Federation of Students is the largest student organization in Canada, and from there he was soon appointed the Chair of the Native Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students. In this position he met many people and travelled to the Czech Republic and Germany, representing Canadian indigenous youth. Politics was in his blood and Mr Lantin was hitting a stride. But, upon his return to UVic from Europe an unexpected tragedy hit Old Massett.

Although noticeably painful for him to talk about, Mr Lantin quietly recounts, “Back in 1998, I was going into my graduating semester at UVic and my good friend, Justin Yeltatzie, passed away. I knew that I had to come home and pay my respects – this was my group, these were my friends.”

Witnessing the devastation this premature death caused throughout the community, Mr Lantin declined a job that summer working in foreign policy development in Ottawa and instead came home to work with the Gwaii Trust Youth Program. Reflecting on his decision to come home, he said that Mr

Yeltatzie’s death sparked a realization about the interconnections and intricacies of a community’s health, and he decided that applying his experience and focusing his energy at home was the best thing for him to do.

“Having Trevor [Russ] here has been awesome – he’s of the same generation as me and has the same ideals and points of view on how to approach things. He also brings the knowledge and the continuity of what’s happened

over the past six years – he’s been hugely helpful – it’s been amazing so far.”

While Mr Lantin feels well equipped for this new position, leading the Haida nation is a feat that comes with some serious challenges. After living away from home for 10 years, the new president says that he has to re-familiarize himself with the life, customs, and values on Haida Gwaii. He also knows that he is stepping into some very big shoes. The Haida Nation has had many strong leaders who have brought us to where we are today – it’s a high bar.

“How do you follow in Guujaaw’s footsteps? I’m not going to. He was the right person at the time and did an incredible job for over 13 years, but it’s just not realistic for anybody to expect me to do what he’s done,” Mr Lantin explained.

“My challenge is to carve out what’s going to be my legacy. I’m a professional guy and

well-spoken, but it’s time for me to apply my experience to the nation’s politic, start learning my language and really embrace my culture – it’s time for me to walk the talk.” •



Photo: Alan Wilson

Peter Lantin reflects for a moment before being sworn in as President of the Haida Nation.



Peter Lantin, President of the Haida Nation speaking in Prince Rupert at the Idle No More rally. The rally was held to coincide with the All-Native Basketball Tournament.

The Haida nation believes in Idle No More

Last month, in his first public speaking event on the mainland as President of the Haida nation, Peter Lantin addressed an Idle No More gathering during the All-Native Basketball Tournament.

Following are some remarks from his speech:

“On behalf of the Haida Nation, we support [the Idle No More movement] and we show our support by joining all of the other First Nations of the north coast by uniting to help increase awareness of what this movement means to not only First Nations, but to all Canadians.”

“The Haida nation has a history of making stances when we believe something that is sacred to us is being threatened by forces that do not understand our connection to, and reliance on, the health and well-being and our forests and oceans.”

“This movement is empowering thousands of First Nations people, young and old alike, to not only stand up for what we feel is right, but also become more aware and knowledgeable of exactly what is happening with this current government’s approach to passing legislation that affects our well-being in a harmful manner.”

“At the time,” Mr Lantin said, “I felt my political life ended at university and I started to focus my energy on youth work. I later moved on to finance and facilitation, but now I’m back working in the political arena. This is where I’m meant to be and I’m very confident in my abilities.”

A practical man, Mr Lantin recognizes and acknowledges those who have helped him transition from private citizen into the new role as president and continue to support him in that position.



Tyson Brown

B-ball: Players leave it on the court



The All-Native Basketball Tournament's top scorers (L) Tyler York (136 points) and Desi Collinson (145 points) give everything for the Skidegate Senior Saints.

By Graham Richard • Photo's courtesy of James Sawyer

The intense rivalry at the All-Native Basketball Tournament climaxed February 16 in Prince Rupert. Kitkatla took the competition so seriously that the community had their whole village jumping on boats and seaplanes to fill the hall in Prince Rupert. With an empty village, the silence in their houses was in stark contrast to the roars and jeers of the crowd packed into the Performance House at Kay L'nagaay [Haida Heritage Centre].

Around 60 people gathered to watch the game streamed in real-time to the heritage centre via the internet. Aay Aay Hans helped to run the operation and temporary breaks in the signal only made the feelings in the crowd more intense. Sitting at Kay you could hear the cheers of the Kitkatla crowd and we wished

our teams could hear the roar of our community at home.

This year our players earned several top honours at the All-Native. The Massett Masters won in their category, and four of the players earned five tournament titles. David Hill and Robert Williams made it onto the tournament's Masters All-Star Team. Abe Brown was recognized as the Best Defensive Player and Most Valuable Player, and Hill snagged Mr. Hustle. Massett Masters were the Most Sportsmanlike Team this year, which, beyond athletic talent, shows the deep character of those who represent us at the All-Native. In the Intermediate category, Skidegate Saint Joel Richardson earned an All-Star award and the team brought home two wins and Massett's Intermediate team brought home three

winning games.

The Skidegate Senior Saints won their division, and the players with the most time on the court included Desi Collinson, Darcy Pearson, Tyler York, Duane Alsop, and centre Jason Alsop. Collinson earned more points than any other player in the tournament, scoring 145 points with a game point average of 18.1. York followed him closely, earning 136 points with a game point average of 17.

Flair, craft and skill

Although the Skidegate girls did not bring home a win in the women's tournament, athlete Khataya Brown says that the experience was good. She emphasized that the real importance of the games is to see the other teams come

together, and to cheer on all the groups, even competitors. Senior division Most Valuable Player Desi Collinson agrees. He said like all sports, basketball brings communities together. To him, Haida basketball is about strong leadership, flair, craft and skill, with Massett, Hydaburg and Skidegate standing together as one nation. "If we can come together during sport," Collinson insisted, "we can do it any other time. At the All-Native the whole coast is hugging. When one team drops out, their fans cheer for another."

Point Guard Tyler York says the best part of his experience with the Saints was being accepted to play with the Skidegate team. York, a Massett resident, said it was a reminder that we are all in this together. Saints coach David Wahl said that a multitude of player injuries made practice

tough and it was difficult to know how Tyler would fit in until the last week of practices. York, power forward Duane Alsop and shooting guard Darcy Pearson all had bad ankle-sprains. Collinson had a concussion, and Aaron Hans suffered from knee and shoulder trouble. It was a hard year, with a lot of injuries, but even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. Against these odds, in the last week leading up to the tournament, when Collinson and York got together for the first time, it was pretty obvious that it would work out, Wahl said. Unselfish play and hard work propelled them on to their wins.

According to York, losing the first game was the best thing that could've happened. Everyone stopped doing their own thing, realizing the team needed to unite and prepare carefully for each game. Wahl adds that while things could have easily fallen apart after the first game, teammates didn't attack each other as can happen, but stayed positive. Wahl said there is no excuse for the loss, but it really forced improvement quickly and

over the next couple of years.

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that's Skidegate basketball. "That's why we're winning," Collinson says. "That's what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it's a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It's life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life."

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that men with busy lives can't play a lot of games leading up to



Haida Gwaii teams show their colours at the opening ceremony.

the All-Native. They can often struggle to sort out the team hierarchy and there can be infighting on benches. But this year, team members have been playing together for a long time, and have been through many ups and downs together. As a team they have also focused on fundraising, coaching, and community events, deepening their friendships. "It's a team for the whole year," Wahl praised. "The team has some really impressive people: Duane is a community leader, Jason is in political leadership, Josh Wesley is a morning basketball coach, and York is a carver. They are serious and

united the team. Collinson said that even though this first loss was a low point for him, the lowest point was when the Intermediate men lost. They put a lot of work into their game, and finished lower than expected. Khataya Brown says that in spite of their loss she is determined to become a leading player, and today the women's team is working to ready themselves for a tournament coming up in Kitimat. She wants to inspire more girls to join the team. "I really hope all the girls coming up can see they now have a place to come for basketball," says Brown. She hopes the women's team can become as strong as the boys, as they continue to practice

can't play a lot of games leading up to the All-Native. They can often struggle to sort out the team hierarchy and there can be infighting on benches. But this year, team members have been playing together for a long time, and have been through many ups and downs together. As a team they have also focused on fundraising, coaching, and community events, deepening their friendships. "It's a team for the whole year," Wahl praised. "The team has some really impressive people: Duane is a community leader, Jason is in political leadership, Josh Wesley is a morning basketball coach, and York is a carver. They are serious and

B-ball cont'd page 15



Attitude is all part of the game. Above (l-r): Khataya Brown, Desiree McNeil and Nicole Funk. Below: (l-r) Dion Lewis, Rollie Williams and Crystal Young.



B-ball – from page 13

take their lives seriously, so it isn't a big jump to take basketball seriously. Even when Darcy fishes or golfs, he takes it seriously.

Vitality, health and confidence

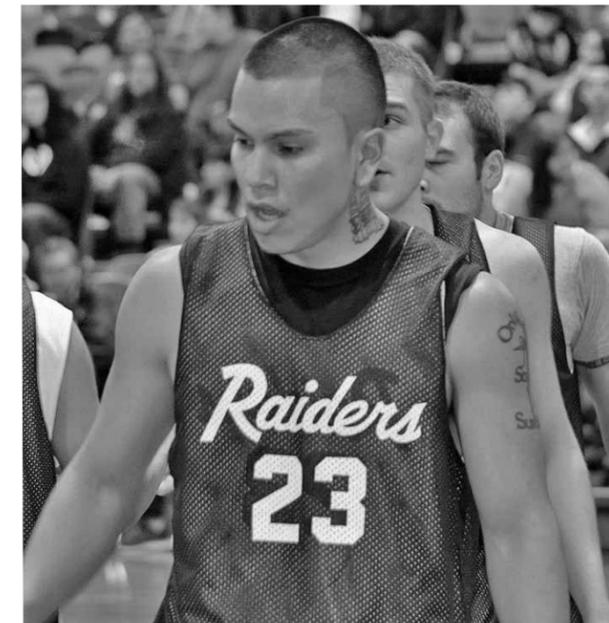
At the player celebration dinner in Skidegate, coach Wahl said that Desi Collinson's real contribution to the community is how much and how consistently he invests in younger people. Role models dedicated to mentorship grow new and stronger players in each successive generation, he said.

Duane Alsop stood and read a letter from Brian Gladstone. Gladstone's powerful words emphasized the intergenerational nature of sport, and as one generation was inspired by the integrity of players like Percy Williams, the fearlessness of Volker Young, and the intensity of Sid and Calvin Crosby, so now the younger players look up to today's Senior Saints. Jason Alsop emphasized that the Saints' win truly represents the long-term, intergenerational support and love of Haida Gwaii's community, and that as we heal ourselves and one another, our youth will continue to grow in vitality, health and confidence. The most Senior Saint – Percy Williams – spoke about the construction of the George Brown Recreation Centre and the inspiration it has provided through generations in the community. Wahl added that every player, from the oldest players down to the elementary school students, see themselves as members of the Saints. "The Saints have been around for 50 years," he said. "Everyone who has been a Saint is still a Saint, and young players are a part of that, too."

Work ethic

Massetts Masters MVP Abe Brown attributes their win to hard work and

plentiful time for training. Players were disciplined, avoided alcohol, and lived with positive attitudes and clean minds. "That's how to play good basketball right," asserted Brown. "It is great to know what it takes to win and be successful. A lot of our guys haven't been playing for the last five or ten years, but



Massetts Raider Gary Brown

they really put the work in and really played hard. Those guys got themselves into shape. It makes it easier – you're not ashamed. We stick with the basics and play great defense." Those sentiments were reflected with the Masters receiving the Most Sportsmanlike Team award at the tournament.

Massetts Masters All-Star David Hill emphasized that the practices were really hard, but nobody complained, and that their physical conditioning was the biggest factor. "I had to work a lot on my own, but the practices were really hard. We practiced on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday – man, that was tough! The kids, our youth – Juniors and Intermediates – saw how hard we were working, when they were hanging out. And we're busting our tails harder than they did! I hope it set the tone, set a higher standard of work

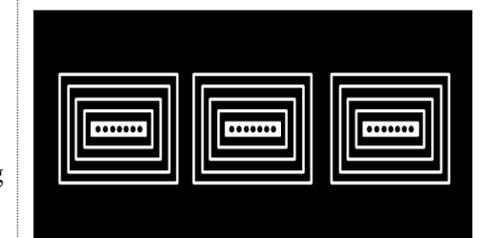
ethic. We were proud to win, but also getting the Most Sportsmanlike Team award proved you can win with class and respect. The crowd cheered really hard when they called the Masters' name for the award."

Masters' coach Trevor Russ is younger than all of his players, but everyone respects him by listening and attending all the "killer practices". Brown says Russ earns that respect by really understanding the game and having played with the team members since childhood. "There are people who say they know the game, but the people who really know the game know you need to work hard. Russ coaches with structure, simplicity, discipline, and fun. He is not so much about singularity, and teaches a lot about passing and unselfish play."

You don't go anywhere without money

Every Massett Master interviewed said they would like to thank Memory Brown for her incredibly good fundraising. They say that without her they never would've got to the tournament. They would also like to thank their fans and our bingo players!

Collinson said the meaning of the Skidegate Saints' and Massett Masters' wins is that "we set a high standard for our community, and we want to live up to high expectations. Younger players are attending university. Basketball put that drive in them, and it is so important for our young people to succeed." And that's a slam-dunk! •



One for all and all for one

Submitted by the Healthy Communities Society
Leslie Bellis, Board Member

On March 6th, the Healthy Communities Society hosted a drug awareness meeting in the Old Massett Community Hall in partnership with the Masset RCMP detachment, Old Massett Village Council, and the Village of Masset. Also in attendance were the drug and alcohol counsellors for Masset and Old Massett. The meeting was extremely well attended, reflecting the seriousness with which the people of Old Massett and Masset regard drug abuse and crime in their communities. We were also pleased to see that every on-Island member of the Masset RCMP attended the meeting, ready to talk about drug issues and respond to community concerns.

The meeting was structured around a series of short presentations from the RCMP, focusing on different dimensions of substance abuse, drug crime, and RCMP policy. In particular, the RCMP asked that community members provide personal information when they call

in with information on drug related incidents. The officers explained that while anonymity might seem safer when calling in tips on crime, in fact it is impossible for the RCMP to guarantee the safety of callers when following up on information if they are unable to identify or contact them.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for community members to ask questions and voice their concerns to the RCMP and their neighbours. Some spoke powerfully about the ways in which their families had been affected by drugs, sharing their stories with honesty and courage. Almost everyone who spoke agreed that in times of need, it was the community's responsibility to pull together and help each other, offering support to those going through difficult times in their own lives or their families. The message was clear: Making positive change in the community was a job for everyone – RCMP, health care workers, and everyone else

The drug and alcohol counsellors also reminded the audience that they cannot make visits to people unsolicited. Counsellors and care workers are trained to provide many different forms of support, but community members need to ask for their help before they are able to assist them. Finally, it was asked that we all work together to help each other and show that drugs are not an answer and that drug crime cannot be allowed to continue in our communities. In order to work towards these important goals, the Healthy Communities Society will soon be hosting another meeting focused on drug related issues. A planning meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7 PM, at the Healthy Communities office. Everyone is welcome to attend. •



DID YOU KNOW?

Indian status is a designation defined by the Canadian government in the Indian Act. Eligibility and registration to be considered a status Indian, or to register for Band membership, is managed through local Band offices, ie: Skidegate and Old Massett. There are over one million status Indians registered through approximately 615 Bands across Canada.

The Council of Haida Nation's Haida Citizenship Registry is a separate process whereby Haida citizenship is defined by the nation.

Opportunities for local university students

Submitted by the Higher Education Society

Here at the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society, we want to deliver world-class university-level education inspired by the people, communities and environments of Haida Gwaii.

We offer two semesters in Natural Resource Studies each year: one from September to December with a natural science focus, and another from January to April with a social science focus. Each semester includes five fully accredited courses (15 upper-level credits) that are infused with a balance of local guest speakers, field excursions and classroom learning. These credits are transferrable, which means that they can often count towards a degree that a student is already working towards with another institution.

The Haida Gwaii semesters are an excellent opportunity for local students to study at home for four months, while earning credits and diversifying their university experience. It's a great way for people who are completing degrees at far-away schools to take some time to live and learn at home, or, for those taking distance education, this is a good strategy for connecting with other students and transitioning back into a classroom setting.

And of course, having local students in the class contributes tremendously by adding valuable perspectives, experiences, and insights. Engaging more local students is really important to us.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in learning more about this opportunity, please call 250.559.7885 (ext. 240), or email admin@haidagwaisemester.com or stop by our office at the Haida Heritage Centre. We are currently accepting applications for Fall 2013 and Winter 2014. •

Small changes have big impact

By Graham Richard

A quiet but powerful gathering of over 70 elders, village councillors, and citizens came together in prayer to support the Idle No More movement, at Skidegate on January 18th. Elders made food offerings to the ancestors and prayed for peace. Prayers for wisdom were also sent to the Assembly of First Nations as it was deliberating with the federal government, and prayers for guidance were sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. With the assembly gathered around a small fire Erica Ryan-Gagne sang a peace song.

Bringing Idle No More to the country's westernmost point shows our participation in what is a worldwide movement that includes millions of people. The Skidegate contribution to the movement was not so much in protest against the threat of the federal government's omnibus bills that change First Nations' and environmental law, but in support of wisdom and peace for the citizens involved in Idle No More and the legislators involved in shaping Canadian law. "Expressing solidarity with Idle No More is important," said Skidegate resident Rose Russ.

Idle No More's website calls the movement "a revolution, which honours and fulfills indigenous sovereignty, which protects the land and water," and the site emphasizes the need for "sustainable, renewable development".

The grassroots movement has no single leader – instead, each individual or community makes their own contribution to the movement's direction and velocity. The four women who started the movement – Jessica Gordon, Sylvia McAdam, Sheelah McLean, and Nina Wilson – wanted it to belong to

Small changes - cont'd next page



Above: Taking it to the streets! Taija Russ joined the 70+ Islanders in support of Idle No More. Below: Gwaaganad and Willard Wilson fly the flag.



“ It is so easy for a very small thing ” to destroy even the largest ship.

Small changes - from page 17

the people and hoped it would take on a life of its own. It has, and it continues to shape-change as time moves on. This approach and the movement reflect the diversity of cultures that span the country, emphasizing each person’s unique relationship with Canada. However, as members of the Islands community have pointed out, groups acting on their own or from their own perspectives can confuse other participants, the government, and observers about the larger direction and goals of the movement. Activities such as these can be a distraction from the movement’s initial purpose, which was to bring attention to new federal laws within Bill C-38 and Bill C-45. Idle No More has united First Nations and many others – it has awakened the world to the environmental and sovereignty issues that these new laws confront.

The feelings and action that have galvanized around these Bills are not new. Here on Haida Gwaii, as in most places across Canada, issues with federal laws stretch back at least as far as the establishment of Indian Reserves in the 1850s.

Bill C-45, which was approved in December 2012, “allows for easier opening of treaty lands and territory”,

according to the Idle No More website. Until now, approval for leasing Reserve lands, also known as land designations, went to a community vote that required a majority of Band membership to cast a ballot, and also required a majority vote (that is, 50%-plus-one in order to approve or reject a land lease). With the change in law, Reserve lands can be leased with a simple majority vote, regardless of voter turnout, and so the decision could be made by a handful of Band members.

The legislation also allows the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to call a community meeting to vote on the ‘absolute surrender’ of Reserve lands to Her Majesty the Queen. The absolute and unconditional surrender of Reserve lands is significant because it entails completely forfeiting control of a tract of land.

The federal government claims that these changes will help to ‘streamline’ leasing opportunities for economic development on Reserves in Canada, while First Nations leaders say that they were not consulted and that the changes will reduce land protection.

Bill C-45 also made changes to the Navigation Protection Act. Under the new laws developers are no longer required to prove power lines and pipelines will not harm waterways that they cross nor parallel construction projects. Instead, the

transportation minister has provided a list of waterways protected under the Act. Waterways that are not on the list have no such protection. This change to the Act is only the latest move in diminishing the protection of waterways.

An earlier Bill – Bill C-38 – changed the name from the Navigable Waters Protection Act to the Navigation Protection Act. Removing the word “water” from the title symbolically dissolved the Act’s significance in protecting the environment. In concert with the above, standards in the Environmental Assessment Act have once again been lowered. They were already diminished in Bill C-38, but C-45 reduced the types of projects requiring environmental approval even further.

Conversations about the two omnibus Bills are taking place not only at INM gatherings but also in the Islands community at large. Elders at the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program emphasize that our ancestors taught us to respect and honour the earth and warned against the danger of any initiative that will make it easier for “oil ships to overshadow our waters”. As they say, “It is so easy for a very small thing to destroy even the largest ship.” Perhaps ‘small’ adjustments in Canadian law are a lot like that – a small change in the wording of Bill C-45 significantly alters our relationship with Canada and the environment. If we wish to oppose these dangers that face us now, it is important to show the unity, informedness, and conviction that Idle No More urges.

A full version of Bills C-38 and C-45 can be found at: <http://parl.gc.ca/>



DID YOU KNOW?

March 22nd was World Water Day! The United Nations dedicated this day to focus attention on the world’s freshwater sources and advocate for responsible stewardship of this precious resource. This year was the 20th annual day to recognize water and the theme was: Water Cooperation. Find out more at: unwater.org

An opportune time

At the Council of the Haida Nation’s Winter Session the *Haida Nation Children and Youth Declaration* was referred to more than once. With a Youth Assembly planned for May (see back cover) and a focus being put on Haida Child and

Family Services, reprinting the declaration seems appropriate. The declaration is also available for download as a pdf at haidanation.ca. Go to the “agreements” page. •



Haida Nation Children and Youth Declaration

As Haida Children and Youth, we declare that we have the following Rights that are a central part of our cultural heritage and legacy.

- We have the right to live with our parents, grandparents and family members; and in a community that is safe and free from unhealthy influences and behaviors;
- We have the right to access all the resources that the land, sea, and air have to offer;
- We have the right to practice our culture, language and traditions in a manner that expresses who we are as young Haida;
- We have the right to be informed and meaningfully involved in the governance affairs of the Nation;
- We have the right to freedom of choice and expression, particularly as this relates to our individuality;
- We have the right to design and deliver programs, services, interventions and events that support our needs and aspirations.

We understand that with these Rights come Responsibilities; that one cannot exist without the other.

We are responsible for conducting ourselves in a manner that bestows respect upon our selves and the Haida Nation as a whole:

- We are responsible to become informed regarding the affairs of the Haida Nation and how we may contribute to the wellbeing and advancement of our people;
- We are responsible to our Elders, past, present and

future, ensuring we lead a life that reflects favourably upon our traditional teachings and values;

- We are responsible for using the resources that the land, sea and air have to offer in a sustainable manner, never taking more than we need, ensuring the resources are there for future generations;
- We are responsible to one another, recognizing that no one walks alone, all of us belonging to a vibrant, family-based Nation’
- We are responsible for our choices and the resulting consequences, both good and bad, that flows from these choices; and
- We are responsible for our Nation, as the Haida Nation is only as strong as the level of support and input it receives from its’ citizens.

The Haida Nation will continue to prosper, embracing a child-centered approach that holds our children and youth in high regard, recognizing that Haida children and youth are the future and the future is now.

The Haida Nation Children and Youth Declaration was drafted, signed and witnessed by over 150 youth August 19, 2010.



HAIDA GWAII YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**Old Massett Community Hall
May 8 - 10, 2013**

workshops • sports • entertainment