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HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

October 2013



PHOTO: PATRICK SHANNON

Donnie Edenshaw of the Tluu Xaadaa Naay dance group welcomes the Canucks



HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

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A Message From the Vice-President

Xaadaa Laaisis,

With the holiday season fast approaching us, and Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en just around the corner, it seems like only yesterday this council was being sworn into office. Although it seems that this year has passed us by quickly, CHN has been busy finalizing marine plans, strengthening decision-making processes under the *Kunst'aa guu - Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol*, building on communications, developing policies, supporting the preservation of our language, and the list goes on... There is no time for the CHN to stand still, as there are many issues that affect the Haida nation, its way of life and its approach to resolving the title issue.

October is Haida House of Assembly time, the place where Haida citizens review annual reports from the elected representatives, table resolutions for debate, and provide direction to the CHN. I encourage all Haida citizens of voting age (16 and over), to attend and share your opinions on the issues impacting our communities and provide feedback to the

elected body on its ongoing work, as we are a stronger nation when working together.

The CHN Operations Department fills the role of supporting CHN governance. There have been some changes within the department on the staffing side, as long-time employee, Darlene Squires, who was the CHN Operations Manager, has chosen work closer to home and has taken a position with the Skidegate Band Council. We wish her all the best in her new role there.

Leticia Hill has been filling the role of operations manager on an interim basis. We have also hired Kimberly Robinson as Secretary, Denise Russ as Receptionist and our newest employee, Kaisha Richardson, as Secretary. Welcome to Kimberly, Denise and Kaisha.

I would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season and all the best to you and yours in 2014.

- Ginn waadluuwan uu 'laa isdaa aayaagan,
Trevor Russ

New Haida Basketball Team Duds



CHN rep, Robert Bennett, and SBC Councillor, Duane Alsop, sporting the new Haida nation basketball swag! Last year's ANBT champs were gifted with the Haida nation warm-up gear to acknowledge their wins and represent unity. CHN, the Skidegate Band Council and Old Massett Village Council, as well as the teams themselves, helped pay for the new gear.



Photo: Jaynee Peterneil

Haidas convene to march in support of the TRC Walk in Vancouver on September 22. (l-r) Michaela McGuire, Desiree Wilson, Jason Alsop, Niisii Joy and Kwiaahwah Jones



Skidegate Band Council Gifts SHIP with Banner

On September 6th, the Skidegate Band Council gifted a banner to elders at SHIP. It features SHIP's logo and recognizes the significance of the relationship between the language centre and the band council. Members of both groups exchanged words of mutual respect and gratitude and celebrated their shared successes with a large, generous lunch.

Truth and Reconciliation: September 18 - 21

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) reports approximately 150,000 children were taken from their homes and sent to residential schools between 1870 - 1996:

“...[Aboriginal children] were taken from their families and communities in order to be stripped of language, cultural identity and traditions. Canada's attempt to wipe out Aboriginal cultures failed. But it left an urgent need for reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.”

The TRC hosted a multi-day gathering in

Vancouver to share the realities and legacies of Canada's residential school systems. Thousands of survivors and supporters participated in statement gatherings, cultural performances, films, and traditional healing ceremonies. On Sunday, September 22, an estimated 70,000 people marched the streets of Vancouver to recognize the healing and reconciliation of residential-school survivors.

TRC events take place throughout Canada and are dedicated to the Seven Sacred Teachings: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.

Haida Gwaii Management Council

The Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) was formed through the *Kunst'aa Guu - Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol* signed between the Council of the Haida Nation and the Provincial Government in 2009. The HGMC is comprised of representatives from the Haida and provincial governments - Allan Davidson and Guujaaw are the representatives on behalf of the Haida nation. Focusing on implementing and amending the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement, establishing and implementing the Land Use Objectives for forest practices on-Island, and approving the Annual Allowable Cut for Haida Gwaii are just some of the responsibilities that fall to the HGMC.

Student Exchange Program

During the 2014 spring break, 30 students from Haida Gwaii will visit Ottawa, and 30 youngsters from Ottawa will visit the Islands as part of a national exchange program. The young guests visiting from Canada's capital will come and learn about Mount Moresby Adventure Camp, the Haida Heritage Centre, Spirit Lake, and stay at the Hiellen campsite. Haida Gwaii's

youth travelling to Ottawa will visit Parliament Hill, the Canadian mint, and the Museum of Civilization, and more. Adolescents from Haida Gwaii will be selected based on previous attendance at a Rediscovery camp on-Island or involvement with youth initiatives. The *Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada* will contribute \$75,000 to travel expenses. Island youth leaders, Gid Uuwans, *Dana Moraes*, Harmony Williams, Kris Olsen, and Desiree Wilson will help organize and chaperone the exchange.

\$17,000 for Xaayda Kil/Xaad Kil

The First Peoples' Cultural Council allocated \$17,000 to language revitalization planning on Haida Gwaii. Gid Uuwans, *Dana Moraes* applied for the grant in July and the Haida language was one of only eight indigenous languages to receive a grant. Ms Moraes plans to work with Haida teachers and learners on this initiative and will also help form an advisory committee that will meet before the new year.



Photo: Mario Beauregard

Media Attention and Meaningful Action

Nestlé’s operations in Hope, British Columbia, created a media stir in early August. Public attention turned to the world’s largest food corporation as British Columbians learned that over 250 million litres of BC’s groundwater is taken from local watersheds, then bottled up and sold to thirsty consumers. The bottled-water industry generates some \$50 billion worldwide every year.

Organizations, local residents, and citizens quickly looked to the province’s *Water Act*, enacted in 1909, which indicates that Nestlé doesn’t require a license to access this or any other fresh water in BC. Chilliwack’s citizen-based organization, *The WaterWealth Project*, argues that bottled water isn’t the only industry exploiting BC’s fresh water – mining, agriculture, and fracked gas all require massive amounts of water that are essentially unregulated and free of charge.

The Chawathil First Nation, whose traditional territory Nestlé is operating in, argues the current *Water Act* represents the government’s continued neglect for aboriginal rights and title. According to the Chawathil First Nation’s elected chief, industry’s business-as-usual practices must change. “It’s no different than the way business has been done in this province since Europeans first arrived [...] we want to see business operate in a way that respects our rights and ensures that our community is benefiting from the use of our lands and water.”

BC’s environment minister has agreed that the former *Water Act* is outdated and plans to consult with people across the province to create the modern *Water Sustainability Act*.

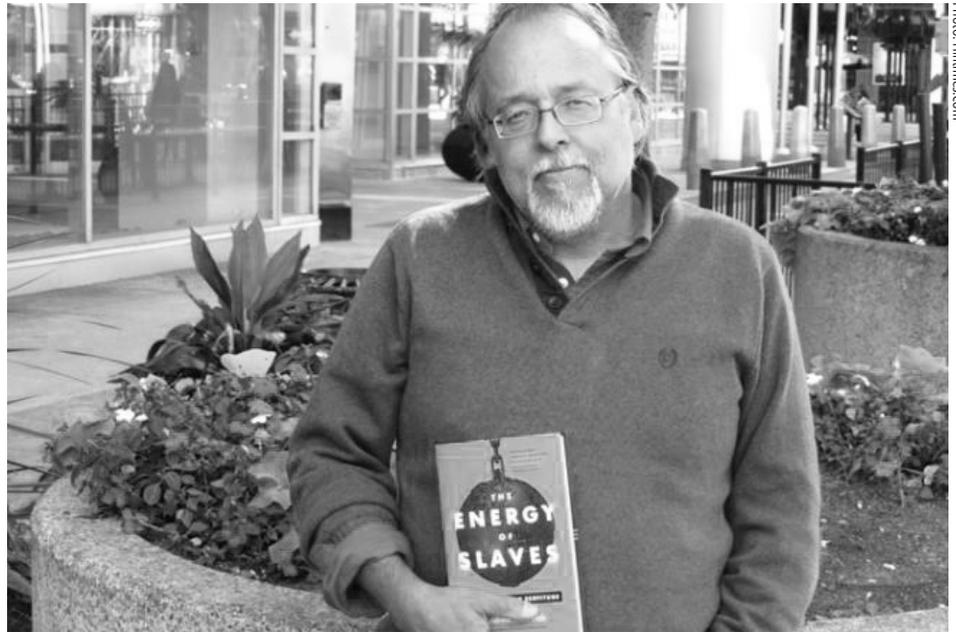


Photo: Hillman.com

A Conversation With Andrew Nikiforuk

By Valine Crist

Late last spring I had the chance to talk about Enbridge’s proposed Northern Gateway, the potential impacts of natural gas development in BC, and the morality of large-scale oil and gas projects with renowned journalist and award-winning author, Andrew Nikiforuk. Here is a look into that conversation.

“We’re not just talking about our grandchildren, we’re talking about our children. We do not have the right to acidify the oceans, and we don’t have the right to destabilize the climate. That’s playing God, but that is exactly what we do with oil — we like to play God. It gives us an enormous amount of power, and we become as crazy and outrageous as Greek gods,” Andrew Nikiforuk tells me as we sit on north beach in early May. We’re immersed in a discussion on Canada’s energy issues and I find this statement almost too matter-of-fact.

Recently I had been struggling to grasp the rate of resource development in BC. Many of the oil and gas projects currently proposed could impact us here on Haida Gwaii and I’d been thinking about what a conundrum resource projects are. I’d also been wondering why conversations are so

rigid and starkly divided amongst people who value the economy and people who cherish the environment. Why are the moral consequences of resource development all too often overlooked?

Almost serendipitously, these reflections coincided with Mr Nikiforuk’s visit to Haida Gwaii. The local Arts Council had invited him to do readings from his new book, *The Energy of Slaves*, and I scheduled some time to talk with him while he was here.

As we sit overlooking the Dixon Entrance on a typically breezy evening, I pose some questions to the esteemed author whose work I’ve been admiring from afar. This is a surreal opportunity and I quickly assess that although he is extremely knowledgeable and a commanding speaker, he maintains a down-to-earth demeanour.

Mr Nikiforuk’s decades of work have largely focused on energy issues in Canada, particularly the Alberta tar sands. He paints a vivid picture of what motivated this work by telling me that the oil industry quickly started to change the economic, political, and environmental character of the province he calls home: “At a personal level, I could see communities that I knew and that I loved changing very quickly.” Meanwhile,

he explains, the Alberta government wasn't saving anything; there was no strategy, no plan, and most importantly, no discussion on the pace and scale of development in the tar sands.

Mr Nikiforuk says fast money became available with the tar sands boom in Alberta and he describes how greed became visible with an influx of fancy cars and other luxuries. "I found the pace of the project corrosive to the quality of life and democracy in the province. It was these ethical concerns that got me going."

I find this analysis disconcerting and start to wonder whether there might be some parallels between the dramatic development in the tar sands and BC's feverish approach to export natural gas, so I ask if this province might be heading in a similar direction. Without hesitation he says, yes, it seems that BC wants to recreate the tar sands experience and generate an economic boom using liquefied natural gas.

According to Mr Nikiforuk, there is an incredible amount of money in the oil and gas industry — he cites construction and maintenance crews making \$100,000+ a year. Although the pay can be extremely high, the industry does not employ a lot of people and this creates the visible division between the haves and the have-nots that he sees in Alberta.

Like many critics, he agrees there is a role for some natural gas development in BC, but also maintains that First Nations and nearby communities — the people who stand to be directly impacted — must be included in decision-making and must contribute to responsible development. Mr Nikiforuk recommends that British Columbians ask some key questions:

Where is the money from gas extraction going? What kind of environmental monitoring will be done? What are the ethical considerations of CO2 emissions? (BC's fracked gas has high CO2 emissions and Mr Nikiforuk argues the province can't develop the industry and keep any of its climate change agreements.)

Following this advice, I ask him: "Where does water fit into the conversation about oil and gas?" He replies that water needs to be protected first, *but it's not*, and then goes on to summarize the lack of regulation of this vital resource.

As it stands, the oil and gas industry regulates its own water usage; it issues its own licenses and there's no external body monitoring water usage or contamination. It's clear this mass giveaway of fresh water is, even now, shocking to Mr Nikiforuk.

He tells me that 12 barrels of fresh water are used to process just one barrel of tar sands oil, and this leaves approximately four barrels of wastewater. "There is no incentive to improve that sort of water usage because it's basically given away for free and it's the same thing [with the gas industry in] northern BC — industry basically gets the water for free."

Allowing industry to use and contaminate vast amounts of fresh water is concerning but continues as common practice. Why? One of the reasons is because most Canadians live in urban settings and resource development takes place on rural landscapes, far from anyone's imagination. Industry's obscene and irresponsible use of water, he says, continues because there is an incredible amount of money available in the development of hydrocarbons, and as long as this is the case, we will continue to sacrifice other public resources, such as water.

Enbridge's Northern Gateway proposal captured Mr Nikiforuk's attention when it was first proposed in 2003, and I ask how he sees the proposal coming to an end.

"It's going to be one of those defining political battles in the nation's history. It's going to be a real fight," he says. "The [federal] government is going to continue pushing the proposal as hard as they can, and I think First Nations will make sure the project never happens, and, in so doing, they will serve as the conscience for Canada."

He tells me he's hopeful because of the inspiring coalition of First Nations, ordinary British Columbians, and Canadian citizens who recognize that the Northern Gateway project is a serious threat to the future of the country. "That pipeline will not be built... stopping Gateway will be an incredible victory," he declares in his typically forceful manner.

While he is hopeful for the future, Mr Nikiforuk insists that Canadians need to have informed conversations. "There'll be two fights," he says, "One to stop the pipeline, and the other will be to control the pace and scale of energy development

of shale gas, and, again, it should be highly limited development for the benefit of British Columbians."

He then refers to Peter Lougheed, the Conservative Premier of Alberta from 1971-1985 who provided early advice on tar sands development. Lougheed's principles for responsible resource development were: behave like an owner; collect your fair share; save for a rainy day; add value; go slow; and practice statecraft.

As we near the end of our conversation, I ask what it might take for people to start having discussions about the morality of our actions and today's status quo. His response is uncertain but honest: "I'm not quite sure anymore what it's going to take." Mr Nikiforuk speculates it might take a series of emergencies, a more extreme and unstable climate, or an economic catastrophe. A combination of these just might become a catalyst for change. Collectively, he asserts, we have to analyze how much energy we need and live within our means.

But in the absence of wisdom and temperance, every energy relationship becomes a matter of dominion rather than stewardship. Petroleum's Olympian impact has caused human civilizations to again fall prey to hubris. Once dependent on the energy of slaves, we are now slaves to petroleum and its masters. And this time, without Zeus to rescue us, we must challenge the ancient paradigm ourselves and find our own path to using energy on a moral, just, and truly human scale.

— from *The Energy of Slaves*



Tyson Brown

Summer Students



Mr Prevast spends both his work time and his spare time exploring Haida Gwaii's lands and waters – he was one of 42 youth who paddled to the Legacy Pole raising in August.

Jonas Prevast, Student Surveyor

“Looking for CMTs, monumental trees, and cultural plants is significant to all Haidas. It was the only job I wanted on-Island and I got it, so I was really happy.”

CHN's mapping office was pleased to have an enthusiastic and energetic student surveyor this summer season. Jonas Prevast spent most of his time with CHN crews working in the field. He gained hands-on skills and knowledge conducting soil sampling, identifying culturally modified trees, and recording monumental trees.

“Growing up, it was me and my older brother running through the forest, exploring as far back as we could with the daylight that we had. In this job I feel way more connected to the land than sitting at home or in an office somewhere. It was my connection to the land that got me this job.”

This year Mr Prevast started Grade 12 and after graduating hopes to find similar work in forestry, ideally with Taan Forest.



Nang King.aay 'Uwans Sding looks north toward Moresby Camp aboard a 'Laanaa Daagang.nga Gawga (Swan Bay) Rediscovery vessel on the way from the Legacy Pole raising in Hlk'yaa GawGa (Windy Bay).

Nang King.aay 'Uwans Sding, Josh Vandal, Biologist Assistant

This summer season Haida Fisheries hired Nang King.aay 'Uwans Sding to apprentice under Senior Technician Kenny Williams and Salmon Biologist Mark Spoljaric. His experience included coho smolt tagging, in-stream restoration on Athlii Gwaii (Lyll Island), and stream surveys. He also helped with creel interviews, which involve collecting information about catch numbers-and-locations from fishers.

Nang King.aay 'Uwans Sding will continue to work with Haida Fisheries this fall counting sockeye and coho escapement and exploring chum creeks. In the new year he plans to return to Kwantlen Polytechnic University to finish his diploma in Criminology, which he hopes will help him find work with the Vancouver Police Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hydaburg Xaad kil: Sḡan

Old Massett Xaad kil: Sḡan

HlGaagilda Xaayda kil: Sḡan

Latin: *Sebastes ruberrimus*

English: Yelloweye Rockfish (or 'red snapper')

While rock cod tend to live much longer than most other fish, sḡan leave most others well behind in terms of lifespan. Averaging between 114 and 120 years old, they can sometimes live to be over 150 years old! During this time, mothers can give birth to up to 2.7 million live young.

Sḡan, as larvae, hunt plankton offshore for several months before flowing with the currents to settle into their permanent residences. Most sḡan are fond of home and are often known to spend their entire life on a single rock-pile. The distinctive colouring of young sḡan (red) and old sḡan (yellow) led scientists to think they were separate species. In rare instances, sḡan have been found at a maximum depth of 1560 feet.

For every 100 sḡan counted in Californian waters in 1980, there are now only seven. For every 100 counted in Oregon waters, today's surveys record a mere 13.



Photo: Mariken Lagasse

Delighted kayaker, Rachel White, catches a juvenile sḡan.



Christian White and Donnie Edenshaw lead the Tluu Xaadaa Naay dancers in song welcoming the Vancouver Canucks to the Tluu Xaadaa Nay (*Canoe People House*) in Old Massett.

September 10th, 2013: A day to remember

By Graham Richard

It was clear the Canucks had thoroughly enjoyed their fishing retreat as they stepped off the helicopter at the Massett airport on September 10th. General Manager, Mike Gillis, said he was very happy with the team's three-day stay at the *West Coast Fishing Club*, which included motivational speakers and team-building activities. Most of all, they enjoyed catching a few of the Islands' wild fish, something defenseman Alexander Edler and winger Zack Kassian talked about excitedly as they served fans lunch at the Old Massett Community Hall later in the day.

The morning started with initial greetings at the airport by event coordinator and Massett Mayor, Andrew Merilees. After this, the team was quickly ushered to Tluu Xaadaa Naay (*Canoe People House*) where the Tluu Xaadaa Naay dancers sang as the team entered on a red carpet. The chiefs and

matriarchs of Haida Gwaii welcomed the team, shaking their hands line-on-line. CHN President, kil tlaats'gaa, *Peter Lantin* affirmed the enthusiasm and support of local fans in his speech, and proudly introduced the Haida singers and dancers.

About 10 dancers performed four songs: Entering the House, Chief's Dance, I Love Haida Gwaii, and tsinnii Joe Weir's song. The crowd joined in the singing to welcome the Canucks and share the power of Haida masks and creatures. Dancer and weaver, Xyaahl Guu Laas, *Colleen Williams*, was happy with how the Canucks personally thanked the dancers, saying, "It was amazing, and they'd never seen anything like that before." While Xyaahl Guu Laas expected a larger crowd, she was happy to have an exclusive audience and lots of space to perform, "especially since [the Canucks] weren't going to get that

opportunity again." Chief Councillor Ken Rea also commented that almost every one of the Canucks thanked the dancers for sharing the performance and welcoming them to Haida Gwaii.

By the time the team arrived at the Old Massett Community Hall, its members were starting to look settled. Here, they marched in with another grand entrance onto a raised stage, where each player was announced and the swarm of Islanders cheered for every player.

About twenty volunteers prepared lunch for hundreds of fans and the Canucks helped serve the avalanche of excited Islanders. The Canucks team contributed 1500 hot dogs to the event and organizer and lodge owner, Rick Grange, the CHN, and OMVC provided fresh halibut and salmon. In the days leading up to the event, countless volunteers gave



their time to help organize the big day and many locals contributed by cooking for the occasion. Both OMVC and CHN offered employees time off to ensure there were enough volunteers on hand.

After their official introductions, the team dispersed to activity stations – playing with children in the park, grappling with table-hockey, and running drills in the gym. “It was so amazing to watch the reaction of all the fans, young and old,” said committed hockey fan, Mr Rea. “All I did was walk around and take it all in – I did some organizing, but I didn’t try to talk to anyone. I just watched everybody. Being probably one of the biggest Canucks fans in town I had to keep myself

under control.” Although the crowds were clearly overjoyed, everyone was respectful and polite with their guests, and Chief Councillor Rea made sure to acknowledge the security team: the RCMP and local volunteer firefighters.

Fin, the Canucks’ mascot, led cheers with a large drum gifted by Sgaalanglaay Gaamdamaay, *Vern Williams* and painted by Sil Lung Guu Gung, *Sharleen White-Davidson*. “I was just so happy for all the elders and kids,” said Sgaalanglaay Gaamdamaay. “They got all the attention from the Canucks.”

Media coverage was plentiful and included a helicopter with a mounted camera,

flying low over the ecstatic crowd. This and other footage of Haida Gwaii were featured in two recent Canucks exhibition games in Vancouver.

Some Canucks described how important the visit was to them: Winger, Alex Burrows, commented in a later interview that he “didn’t realize how strong the culture was in the north.” The team’s staff also told Mayor Merilees the team was “absolutely thrilled with their experience, and they couldn’t see any way the event might’ve gone better.” The mayor believes players were overwhelmed with the generous welcome they experienced, a feeling Haida Gwaii’s avid hockey fans would certainly understand.



Page 8, clockwise from left: Canucks players and hereditary chiefs pose for a photo op at the team's official welcome in Old Massett; President Peter Lantin welcoming the team and honoured guests at the Tluu Xaadaa Naay longhouse; Chief Councillor Ken Rea displaying the jersey gifted to Haida Gwaii at the event; Jannik Hansen (front) and Ryan Kesler (back) arriving at the Tluu Xaadaa Naay longhouse; Exhilarated fans welcoming Vancouver Canucks to the Old Massett Community Hall; Finn leads cheers with his new drum, fuelling the animated crowd.

Photo of Finn drumming by Graham Richard, all other photographs by Patrick Shannon.

Page 9, clockwise from left: (l-r) Alexander Edler, Roberto Luongo, Zack Kassian, Ryan Kesler, Dan Hamhuis are gifted with Haida paddles as part of the closing ceremonies; (l-r) Captain Sedin and brother, Daniel, looking out to the enlivened crowds; Chris Higgins and Adam Prytula play a friendly game of table hockey, all part of the day's fun; Zack Kassian helping serve the masses who came out to celebrate the Canucks' appearance on-Island; (l-r) Penny Hans, Irene Bruce, and Darlene (Doll) Squires amidst a sea of hockey enthusiasts waving flags and sporting their Canucks gear; (l-r) Roberto Luongo, Mike Gillis, and John Tortorella hold their smiles for a few more photos; Henrik Sedin plays floor hockey with some young Haida Gwaii fans.

Third Seasonal Session

The Dialogue Between CHN and Citizens Continues

The thrill of the Canucks' appearance on Haida Gwaii took a lot of the Islands' energy, but Haida citizens, hereditary chiefs, CHN staff and elected leaders still trickled into the Old Massett Community Hall in the early morning of September 12 for the third Seasonal Session of 2013. Committed citizens came prepared with a load of relevant, well-crafted questions that maintained two days of dialogue with elected representatives.

Seasonal Sessions provide the opportunity for each CHN committee to report to Haida citizens on their activities and answer any questions. Because this was Council's third session, the reps were familiar with their roles and had gained enough experience to address issues quite thoroughly. During the reports, staff and reps quickly jotted notes as citizens fired inquiries and concerns, and made thoughtful recommendations to each of the committees.

President's Address

As is tradition, the day started with the executive reports, which were carefully executed and examined attentively. To open his report, President Peter Lantin summarized the work of the past few months. "It has been an incredibly busy summer," he said. "This Council is nine months in [and] we're hitting a lot of important milestones together." He recalled what a memorable and eventful season it was with the Legacy Pole raising at Hlk'yaa GawGa (*Windy Bay*) and spoke enthusiastically about the historic Vancouver Canucks' team-building retreat on Haida Gwaii that took place in the same hall mere days before. Although the past few months were full of fun, Mr Lantin pointed out that the Council inherited a load of work and has been addressing many important issues on the nation's behalf.

Legal Work

The President explained that although Haida title is the sole mandate of the CHN, there are external forces that sometimes demand attention and distract from working directly on the title case. The first six months of legal work under this Council were spent almost entirely on Enbridge's Joint Review Panel

hearings. The result of the hearings is now a waiting game as the panel prepares its final recommendation to the federal cabinet, which is expected by December 31, 2013. With the Enbridge environmental review now at a standstill, defending the nation's position by intervening in the Tsihqot'in Appeal has become a priority.

Last year the British Columbia Court of Appeal (BCCA) ruled that Canada would grant aboriginal title to small tracts of land only if the First Nations could prove use or occupation (for example, villages and fishing, hunting, or harvesting areas) prior to and at the time of contact. In consultation with legal counsel, White Raven Law, CHN determined this decision compromises the Haida nation's approach to reconciliation and the Haida title case.

At the end of July, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) granted the Haida nation intervenor status in the Tsihqot'in Appeal; the Haida Nation is one of 17 intervenors in the case. Also among the intervenors is the federal government, which is arguing the SCC uphold the BCCA decision. In contrast, Amnesty International is intervening to argue the BCCA decision is inconsistent with international standards governing human rights, specifically indigenous rights. The SCC decided the Council of the Haida Nation will not be permitted time to present oral argument at the hearing of the appeal on November 7, 2013 in Ottawa.

Mr Lantin's report continued with an update on the Reconciliation Team, which is comprised of the Executive Committee and representatives of the Hereditary Chiefs' Council, as well as both Band Councils. The Reconciliation Team continues to engage with Canada and is providing the federal government with guiding documents to help it understand the Haida nation's objectives through reconciliation. These documents, which were submitted to the government at the end of September, fit within several themes, such as: fisheries management, oceans management, economic opportunities, and marine shipping and navigation, among others.

Regarding the Haida nation's approach to reconciliation, Mr Lantin described the

Legacy Pole as an important recognition of the effective working relationship between the Haida nation and government of Canada. The event brought a number of federal and provincial government representatives and bureaucrats together allowing for very genuine and meaningful discussions. "The Legacy Pole raising was the best thing that could have happened – it tangibly displays that reconciliation is a real and positive opportunity. It really works."

Haida Unity

Another of CHN's priorities, and a resounding concern among citizens, is Haida unity. On this matter, elected reps point to the Economic Working Group that was formed earlier this year. Acknowledging that the Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council, and the CHN have a mandate to work on economic development, the Working Group will help to create a one-door policy to economic development on Haida Gwaii. It represents the beginning of a new relationship and will help guide the future of Islands governance. "There is a lot to resolve and we're not going to shy away from any topics," reported Mr Lantin, who said the document will strive to create positive change in the Islands' communities.

Castlemain, the consulting group hired to conduct the first phase of the Economic Development Framework, will begin their work focusing on:

- researching other economically successful First Nations structures;
- developing a comprehensive review of the economic policies and governance of the Haida nation;
- building a census of Haida businesses and relationships, a survey of Haida businesses and key stakeholders;
- outlining economic opportunities available to the Haida nation, and
- conducting a survey of external businesses and industries in order to understand their perception of doing business in Haida territory.

Intellectual Property

A number of citizens at the Summer Session expressed concerns about the Haida name being used without the nation's permission.

Citizens want to assert the nation's right to protect the Haida name against cultural appropriation and misuse. In one recent incident, an online company was reprinting CHN's logo without permission (Robert Davidson officially gifted the logo to the nation in 1986). After consulting with a Vancouver-based law firm, CHN issued a cease and desist letter to the company for copyright infringement. While copyright issues like this can be quite straightforward, *trademark issues*, such as using the Haida name without permission, can be much more complicated. Citizens who have further concerns about copyright or trademark issues were encouraged to bring the issues to the House of Assembly for review.

2013 House of Assembly

Skidegate Community Hall

October 15
9 am - 4:30 pm

October 16
1 pm - 8 pm

October 17 & 18
9 am - 4:30 pm

Haida Nation Strategic Plan

The current Council has identified a strong need for a strategic plan for the nation. In 2008, CHN started developing a strategic plan, and there are several documents, plans, and agreements in place that steer the direction of the Haida nation, but these have to be compiled into a single document. The Haida Nation Strategic Plan will provide a framework and process for the CHN and all Haida communities to explore their core values and establish a vision for the future of the Islands.

From the Secretariat of the Haida Nation Report: CHN Representatives have been moved to a monthly honorarium payment of \$1,000. This payment includes three days of meetings and two days of reading and reviewing documents (and an additional day for a chairperson to work with staff) each month. This pilot project was implemented in July and will continue until March 2014.

Education and Health Working Group

A number of citizens spoke to the importance of our youth and their post-secondary education. As suggested by Haida citizen, Leslie Brown, we need to know who is going

to post-secondary and prepare for them to return home to work. The young people of Haida Gwaii are the future – something that was recognized and celebrated at the Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly this past spring – and the Council is very aware of the importance of youth and education. The CHN is committed to working with both Skidegate and Old Massett to track who is going away to study and also identify what they are studying at post-secondary. The CHN will also continue to focus on building capacity on-Island.

The Education, Health, and Social Working Group was created to help identify how CHN can support the Band Councils' initiatives, particularly around education. The Working Group includes: Peter Lantin, Trevor Russ, Jason Alsop, Kiefer Collison, Pansy Collison, April Churchill, Godfrey Williams, Lyndale George, and Duane Alsop.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee welcomes representative Shawn Edenshaw who is replacing outgoing committee member Allan Davidson.

Chair Cynthia Samuels outlined the Policy Committee's workload during the last quarter, which included developing and/or updating Committee Terms of Reference, Committee Rules of Order, and the House of Assembly Rules of Order. Ian Benoit, Policy Analyst, focused on these policies over the summer months and has now returned to his program at Simon Fraser University for the fall and winter.

Another ongoing initiative of this committee is the citizenship registry. CHN's Citizenship Clerk, Mallary Russ, and Mr Benoit have been working to develop a process for Haida citizens to register in CHN's database. They are working with the Policy Committee to draft policies and build a registration process for this program.

Solutions Table

As of June 30, 2013, the Solutions Table has reviewed 39 files that included Road Permits, Cutting Permits, Map Reserve, Industrial Lease, Park Use Permit, Heritage Inspection Permits, Investigative License, Rock Pits, and Notice of Works.

Throughout the executive reports and committee reports, a number of citizens expressed concerns about logging practices

on-Island, as more land is being cleared along the highway from Port Clements to Old Massett. "I'm worried about all of the logging roads we're seeing – we're seeing patches of logging all the way from Port to Masset. All we see is stumps and trees. What about the visual impacts in these areas?" asked Chief Giteewans, Vern Brown. Many more citizens raised concerns along these lines, looking for answers on why logging rates seem to have increased and seeking clarification on logging private land vs. Crown land.

Editor's Note: Logging along the settlement corridor will be examined in upcoming issues of Haida Laas. The logging that is now visible along the highway on Graham Island, the protected areas, and sustainability values that the CHN is committed to upholding will all be reviewed.

Culture and Language Committee

Citizens spoke passionately about the revitalizations of Xaayda kil / Xaad kil (Skidegate / Old Massett dialect). With the financial commitment announced at the last Seasonal Session, the public had several questions about how the \$300,000 would be spent. Will the Culture and Language Committee hire an experienced facilitator? Will elders be compensated for their time and expertise? Can the program keep administration costs to a minimum? Some voiced frustration with the fact that language is always talked about as a priority, but there still aren't enough fluent speakers. Others encouraged language programs to be accessible and asserted that these funds must be distributed evenly and fairly.

Committee Chair Jason Alsop assured the room that there will be a series of public forums to which citizens can bring their questions and opinions. The public meetings will allow teachers and learners the opportunity to contribute to a national language strategy.

Focusing on integrity

One of the overarching messages that came from citizens at the Summer Session was integrity. Integrity has brought our government to where it is today, and maintaining this integrity will ensure the CHN and Haida citizens will continue to succeed. This was the third and final reporting-out session for 2013. Citizens are invited to meet with Council at the House of Assembly later this month.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 15TH- 18TH

2013

Tuesday - Friday

SKIDEGATE COMMUNITY HALL

OCTOBER 15TH

(Lunch served) 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

OCTOBER 16TH

(Dinner served) 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH

(Lunch served) 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

As per 2009 HOA Resolution:

Please bring your own cup, bowl, plate and cutlery.

