

HAIDA LAAS



PC: Bernice Jones

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HAIDA LAAS

NEWS from the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

published by the
Communications Department

Communications & Culture Director
Jutkenjus Laverne Hamilton
Communications Executive Assistant
Lisa Shoop
Social Media/Website Coordinator
Isaiah Washington

Secretariat of the Haida Nation
Administration
415 Frog Street
Box 589, *Gaw Tlagée Old Massett*
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1M0
250-626-5252 1-888-638-7778
chn.masset@haidanation.com

Council of the Haida Nation
President
1 Reservoir Road
Box 98, Daajing Giids
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1S0
250-559-4468 1-877-559-4468
info@haidanation.com

sing.Gad
sáangga.ad
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<www.haidanation.ca>

Haida title simply means ownership and responsibility to live in co-existence with the lands, waters and beings of the natural and supernatural world we share space with. Sovereignty, self-sufficiency and independence come from our ability to exercise the authority that arises from the inherent title passed on from our ancestors, who held control of the territory and have never surrendered.

The authority that arises from ownership is described as Haida laws or jurisdiction. Through the Haida Nation Constitution this lawmaking authority has been vested in the House of Assembly (HOA). Haida citizens can propose policies or legislation and vote to determine whether it is adopted. Our constitution entrusts governing powers to the elected Council of the Haida Nation to take the direction that is passed at the HOA and to develop and enact policies in accordance with the constitution.

Many different types of laws and policies have been passed and implemented to respond to issues facing us over the years. We are now at a place where the revival of our ancient Haida ways are at the forefront of our work. The task is to draw out the lessons from our oral histories and to articulate them in a way that meets our current needs.

It has been told that some of the original laws came from what can be considered the first national meeting when seven representatives, one from each place we came out of the ocean, and, one woman gathered on the highest mountain around **K'aasda Siwaay** *Skidegate Lake*. It was there it was determined to have great respect for everything and to not take more than you need and to not waste anything.

Through experience we have learned that not following these teachings have consequences that are enforced supernaturally and have profound impacts on our lives and future generations.

This is a time of renewal of Haida ways of being across the territory and with each other as humans. Crown recognition of Haida Title is an opportunity to restore the balance of things without conflict and to carve a way forward that respects Haida title. In this process, the crown would begin to withdraw their imposed jurisdiction and create space for the emergence of the Haida way to prevail for the betterment of Haida Gwaii and all people who call our islands home.

The Haida Nation has presented an opportunity for peaceful co-existence to the Canadian government. While it remains to be seen if this transition takes place in a timely way, balance will be restored as the supernatural forces continue to remind us.

Our work to reinstate the proper authority over Haida territory remains consistent; in a way that upholds respect for all things, interconnectedness and our collective well-being in the face of global greed and corruption. Now is the time to gather and go back to the mountain top and redetermine how we co-exist with Haida Gwaii and the world, before the consequences become too much to bear.

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop
President of the Haida Nation

Note about Haida Language:

Throughout this issue and future issues of Haida Laas, you will see the use of **bold**, *italic* and the colours, **blue** and **green**, when we use Haida language in a story. When we use Haida; its first use will be **bold**, *italic* font is the English translation or given name. If Haida is black and **bold**, that term is spelt the same in both dialects or is a name of a place or a person. After first use, we will remove the italicized translation and unbold to familiarize readers with Haida.

Blue represents **Gaw Tlagée Xaad kil** *Old Massett dialect* and green represents **Hlgaagilda Xaayda kil** *Skidegate dialect*.

Gud Ga KilGuhlGa CHN Communications

What does the CHN Communications Program do and how do they support? ComPro posts content from all program areas through social media efforts, choosing news items, links, videos, photos and other resources on an as-needed basis. The goal is to choose quality content that would be of interest to our citizens, and that strengthens the image and recognition of CHN.

Our website houses a few different streams of communications. Part of our website is to keep Haida citizens up to date with CHN information, such as Citizenship, Governance and Elections notices, to name a few. Another part is keeping the Islands' communities updated with timely information, such as the COVID-19 state of emergency. The last part of our website houses multi-media in the form of Haida Laas posts, issues, archives, podcasts, webinars, and photos. The CHN Facebook page is where we post the most. From local job opportunities to community events, as well as ensuring Haida citizens are up to date.

ComPro has two large files under the Communications wing, which include Culture & Language and Tourism. ComPro oversees Haida Place Name Restoration, Haida Language Strategic Plan, Haida Gwaii Pledge and many more. On occasion, ComPro and CHN take on partnerships in creating printed media products such as Haida language learning books,

Haida storybooks, and seasonal round posters to name a few. ComPro connects with our language authorities: [Hilgaagilda Xaayda Kil Naay Skidegate Haida Immersion Program](#) and [Xaad Kil Née](#), to ensure language is used and spelt properly.

For CHN events, ComPro reviews, edits and develops and distributes posters. ComPro does all audio, including setting up speakers, handing out listening devices to Elders and running the mic around. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, ComPro organizes, hosts and livestreams webinars online through their Facebook page.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Council of the Haida Nation has a Research and Film Application process? All film makers and researchers conducting work in Haida Territories must have an approved application before starting work in a community or conducting interviews. Since 2021, the **Gud Ga KilGuhlGa** has been updating forms and developing guiding documents to support research and film activities on Haida Gwaii. Learn more on our website.

Haida Gwaii Pledge

The Haida Gwaii Pledge was officially launched on June 10, 2021. It was the first step in opening back up to respectful vaccinated visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have successfully reached 2,000+ signers within the first year!

www.haidagwaiipledge.ca



It's Official!

On January 7, 2022, the Council of the Haida Nation was proud to announce the restoration of 12 place names on Haida Gwaii. This process has been the result of two years of partnership with the BC Geographical Names Board and consultation with Haida citizens, community, leaders and organizations. Those names are:

1. **T'aalan Stl'áng** *Lepas Bay*
2. **Íits'aaw** *Mission Hill*
3. **Dal Káahlíi** *Delkatla Inlet*
4. **Dal Kún** *Harrison Point*
5. **Taaw Tldáaw** *Tow Hill*
6. **Juus Káahlíi** *Juskatla Inlet*
7. **Kunxana TildaGaaw** *Mount Poole*
8. **GaysiiGas K'iidsii** *Burnaby Strait*
9. **K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay** *Dolomite Narrows / Burnaby Narrows*
10. **Gid Gwaa GyaaGa GawGa** *Poole Inlet*
11. **Sk'yaaw GawGa** *Francis Bay*
12. **Sk'yaaw Kun** *Poole Point*

These 12 names are just the first of many to be rightly restored. There is no end goal for this restoration.

Our next intake will work to restore 20 place names, 10 in [Xaad Kil](#) and 10 in [Xaayda Kil](#). Stay updated through our website and social media channels!

For Haida Nation updates, go to
www.haidanation.ca



@CHN_HaidaNation



@Council of the Haida Nation | Pages



@chn_haidanation

HAIDA TITLE: WHERE WE'RE AT

It may seem quiet, but behind the scenes CHN has been working hard to move the needle toward legal recognition of Haida Title by Canada and BC.

In the *GayGahlda/Kwah.hlahl.dáyaa Changing Tide Framework for Reconciliation*, Canada and BC have recognized Haida Title throughout terrestrial Haida Gwaii in a non-binding agreement for the purposes of negotiation. We are now working to confirm that commitment in a legal agreement, supported by legislation. Our goal is to achieve this landmark in 2023.

We know Haida Title is inherent. The Crown's recognition of Haida Title, however, is a significant political shift. If we think of Haida Title as a bentwood box, Title is the box, and that box is filled with all that Title holds: lands, oceans, governance, culture/language, community wellbeing and so on. How we apply Title in the context of each of these items is the work that lies ahead of us.

Of course, we are not starting from scratch – our Constitution, House of Assembly resolutions, community engagement sessions, strategic and operational plans for governance of lands and waters, CHN workshops, and elected and hereditary leaders all guide the process.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR:

Since signing *GayGahlda/Kwah.hlahl.dáyaa Framework for Reconciliation* in August 2021, we have:

- Negotiated “Good Faith Measures”. These monies assist with land acquisition, social and community amenities, and other cultural priorities. We also have an approved process to allocate those monies in a

transparent manner. Work to acquire priority lands is underway.

- Negotiated a federal commitment to contribute resources to support CHN governance and operations over the next three years.
- Finalized an agreement to develop a **giinuu/yáanuu** sea cucumber management plan, including collecting **giinuu/yáanuu** data.
- Drafted a Letter of Understanding that lays out commitments at the ministerial level to draft a Haida Nation Recognition Agreement and a Haida Title Lands Agreement, supported by a core governance agreement and a fiscal framework.
- Drafted a CHN Recognition Agreement that will legally recognize the Haida Nation, with the CHN as its governing body, in federal and provincial law.
- Scoped content for a Haida Title Lands Agreement that will legally recognize Haida Title throughout terrestrial Haida Gwaii in federal and provincial law.
- Secured a commitment, in principle, to integrate protected areas management supported by a governance arrangement that implements Haida Title.
- Developed an approach to the fiscal framework that will be the basis for negotiations on a land and capital payment as well as ongoing and long-term Haida governance resourcing.
- Initiated the Haida Laws Project to document Haida law and to determine the modern application of Haida laws to contemporary legal issues facing the Nation.

- Provided regular reports to citizens at our seasonal sessions and hosted four community sessions in **HlGaagilda, Gaw Tlagée, T'agwan Vancouver**, and Kxeen *Prince Rupert* when Covid protocols allowed and citizens began to gather again.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

On land, we know that Haida Title means that the terrestrial territories of Haida Gwaii will operate under new political, legal and management frameworks. This includes forested lands, protected areas, and public and private lands. The implementation of terrestrial Haida Title is the priority for the coming year.

We are also working to acquire lands on Haida Gwaii using Good Faith Measures monies or through further negotiations. This work is ongoing. At the same time, we are working to achieve provincially and federally legislated recognition of CHN as a distinct form of government.

Of course, there is far more to Haida Title than just lands, and we will continue to build a solid foundation through the core governance agreement and fiscal framework to advance other aspects of Title. An overarching part of this work is the Haida Laws project and the scoping of a Haida judiciary, both projects being led by members of CHN Legal Team. To further strengthen Haida governance, we are committed to working internally and Nation-wide, with all Haida governing authorities including Band Councils, Hereditary Chiefs, Matriarchs and others.

CHN cannot achieve its mandate without the support and confidence of citizens. We know that this work

has been going on for a long time and that expectations are high. The good news is that we are achieving what we set out to do, and we've made significant progress toward recognition of Haida Title. To keep the momentum going, we will continue to host community

dinner meetings, focus groups, and will use our communication tools (Haida Laas, social media) as much as possible.

We want citizens to be part of the work that we are doing and to actively shape the future of the

Haida Nation and Haida Gwaii.



Some of the questions we've been asked:

Is the GayGahlda/Kwah.hlahl. dáyaa framework a treaty?

The framework agreement is NOT a treaty, nor does it compromise Haida Rights and Title in any way. The agreement is a document that sets the stage for engaging with Canada and BC to work towards **Tll Yahda** making things right based on the recognition of Haida Title to Haida Gwaii. This is a process called "reconciliation" by the Crown, and it enables us to negotiate how Canada and BC can make things right one step at a time.

If we're negotiating how does the Haida Title Case fit in?

The Haida Title case is critical to ensure we achieve our goal. We know that Haida Title can be established in court, however recognition by Canada and BC is just the beginning. We've learned from other Nations' experiences (Tsilhqot'in, Wet'suwet'en) that "Title" means very little if we are not ready to implement our laws, jurisdiction and management. That is why negotiations and litigation go hand-in-hand, so that at the end of the legal road, we don't find ourselves back at the beginning working on what Title means in practice. We also expect that there may be issues that we cannot resolve through negotiations, in which case we have the option to go to court. Overall, our objective is to shave down the size of the Haida

Title Case to those issues we cannot reach agreement on through negotiations.

Why are we buying our own land back?

We have always agreed to approach fee-simple properties on a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis. Fee-simple lands are usually lands held by residents, with a few notable exceptions. These lands amount to 1.7% of the total Haida Gwaii land base. This will be further reduced to 0.7% if we acquire Mosaic/Island Timberlands private lands. Importantly, we are not using Haida Nation money to buy our land back – BC and Canada are funding these purchases. This is one way to achieve control and jurisdiction over Haida territory and once Haida Title is implemented, they will become Haida Title lands.

What about Haida Title and the ocean?

Addressing Haida Title in the oceans is a priority. We know, however, that marine Title is a more challenging legal area with less precedent than land Title. But, again, we are not starting from scratch – there is clear citizen direction on offshore oil and gas development and management of specific fisheries. We completed a Haida Gwaii Marine Plan with BC, developed a **SGaan Kinghlas** Bowie

Seamount management plan with Canada, and implemented marine zoning in Gwaii Haanas. We are working to advance Haida development of a management plan for **Giinuu** sea cucumber and we continue to work with other First Nations on broader issues related to fisheries management, marine protection and transportation. If we find that we are not achieving what we want or need through these other processes, then we can bring issues to our negotiations process with Canada and BC.

Who is leading this work?

The President and Vice-president of CHN are the Lead and Second Negotiators for the Haida Nation, supported by Hereditary Chiefs as required. There is a Haida Reconciliation of Title Team (HRTT) that meets on a monthly basis to discuss and make recommendations to CHN on negotiation and litigation matters. The HRTT includes four CHN representatives, two Hereditary Chiefs, and OMVC and SBC Chief Councillors.

How does the work get done?

A Negotiation Support Team (NST) provides regular technical and strategic support to CHN and HRTT on negotiation matters. The NST includes two Haida advisors, a strategic advisor (and mentee, working with the strategic advisor),

and a negotiations director and executive assistant (who provide senior level technical support). The CHN Legal Team continues to prepare for the Title Case and supports negotiations, meeting with the NST and Lead/Second negotiators regularly.

Why is CHN negotiating legal recognition as a distinct form of government?

Under Crown law the Haida Nation is not currently recognized as a full legal entity and currently carries out work under the BC Societies Act through the Secretariat of the Haida Nation and through individuals acting on behalf of the Haida Nation. This will allow our administration to move beyond the

BC Societies Act and operate under full Haida jurisdiction. Recognition will also enable the Haida Nation to operate as a legal entity whose responsibilities, rights and powers are inherent and protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

What is the mandate of CHN?

The Constitution of the Haida Nation is clear, the Council of the Haida Nation must:

- Steward the lands and waters of the Haida Territories and perpetuate Haida culture and language
- Strive for full independence, sovereignty, and self-sufficiency
- Protect domestic and foreign

interests

- Promote peaceful co-existence with other people and governments
- Strive for the betterment of Indigenous Rights
- Establish land and ocean resource policies consistent with nature's ability to produce
- Regulate access to resources and develop processes for the use and allocation of potential benefits
- Conduct external affairs and provide for the common defense of the Haida Nation

Gaw Tlagée Council of the Haida Nation

The **Gaw Tlagée** Old Massett office, the original Council of the Haida Nation office closed up its doors one last time on June 1, 2022.

The office opened in the early 80's as the Council of the Haida Nation office (you can still see the old office sign on the building today). Before CHN made its home here, it was once a pre-school, and a legal aid office, amongst other things.

It was an office in which many late night and early morning meetings and Nation building decisions were made.

To many, it was a place where some of our most valued teachers mentored us. Teaching us valuable life and professional lessons, always encouraging us. "Go away to post secondary", "continue your education" was the resounding message

heard by many.

Skilay Ernie Collison, Taaw.ga Halaa' Leeyga May Russ, and Lisa Edwards, were among many who worked in that building, not only professionally, but as guiding lights to many who passed through their doors. Leaders in CHN in their guidance, their messages, lessons and care will be carried on through the years and through everyone

whose lives they touched with their shine.

We look forward to the future of CHN and look to the forward movement that comes with this physical representation of change to our organization.

The staff from the office are now working out of the Haida Rose.



PC: Laverne Hamilton



PC: Laverne Hamilton

Connected Coast: Haida Gwaii

*Fraser Los

In today's world, hi-speed Internet is more than just a matter of convenience; it's an essential ingredient for workers and businesses to compete and thrive in an increasingly digital economy. Just as the need for connectivity has grown exponentially, so has the digital divide that long hindered remote coastal communities from taking full advantage of new economic opportunities.

First Nations on the North and Central Coast, and Haida Gwaii, are working together with a range of partners to bridge that digital divide, and playing a key role in establishing BC's Connected Coast—one of the country's largest investments toward bringing hi-speed Internet to coastal communities.

The \$45.4-million Connected Coast project reached a new milestone this summer as 87 kilometres of fibre-optic cable was stretched across the seabed of **KandaliiGwii Hecate Strait**. When the project is complete by March 2023, it will be one of the longest coastal subsea networks in the world—stretching 3,400 kilometres and supplying hi-speed Internet for 139 rural and remote communities, including 48 Indigenous communities. The environmentally benign subsea cable

will stream hundreds of gigabits of data every second—a major positive impact for about 90,000 households in remote communities.

In July 2022, the Council of the Haida Nation and Coastal First Nations (CFN) hosted a gathering of provincial and federal leaders, regional leadership and technology partners, who celebrated the Connected Coast project and discussed new opportunities for innovation and technology. Partners of this historic initiative include Rogers, Microsoft, Connected North, First Nations Technology Council, Innovation Island, Digital Technology Supercluster, Indigenous Tourism BC, Destination BC and CityWest. "It's an exciting time," said President of the Haida Nation **Gaagwiis Jason Alsop**. "To unlock the potential of connecting our Indigenous communities to showcase our culture, our history, and who we are. To transition our coastal communities with economic opportunities, education and training opportunities, benefits for our healthcare system, all of the other potential partnerships and connections we can make with people across Canada and around the world."

To start the two-day gathering, Chief Donald "Duffy" Edgars and

the Old Massett Village Council hosted a dinner at carver **Kihlgua-laans Christian White's** Thuu Xaada Naay longhouse, featuring songs, stories and dances—a great opportunity for those in attendance to get to know each other better. The next day, the group gathered at the community hall, where they celebrated progress so far, then traveled to **HiGaagilda Skidegate** and Daajing Giids, to further spread the news.

During these activities and conversations, politicians and tech leaders learned about challenges, successes and opportunities on Haida Gwaii, and heard directly from Hereditary Chiefs, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, as well as the leadership of CHN, Old Massett Village Council and Skidegate Band Council.

The Connected Coast work on Haida Gwaii is part of wider efforts to improve connectivity throughout the North Pacific Coast. This includes a CFN-Rogers partnership that will improve and expand cellular service in Haida Gwaii with a \$5.2-million investment in five cell towers along Highway 16.

With funding support from Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster and its partners, CFN is working to usher in transformational change across the North and

Central Coast and Haida Gwaii by investing in the region's greatest resource: its people.

CFN has hired tech leaders, drawn from local communities, to create the Coastal First Nations Connectivity Network, which involves a Connectivity Coordinator for each of the three key regions—the North Coast, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii—to help spur innovation.

The coordinators will host community engagement sessions to discuss digital, infrastructure and broadband needs, as well as technical skills and trades required to thrive in the digital economy. In the process, they'll learn about the unique needs and priorities of community leaders, as well as local businesses and residents.

"Improved connectivity on

Haida Gwaii, and across BC's North and Central Coast, will bring transformational change to our communities and a range of new educational, employment and economic opportunities," says Christine Smith-Martin, CEO of Coastal First Nations. "It will allow us to showcase Indigenous technology and stewardship innovation to the world."

ALERT

NEW Fibre Cable Network on Seafloor

CONNECTED COAST

STAY INFORMED

- CHECK UPDATES on CHS charts
- DOWNLOAD live route files from our website

www.connectedcoast.ca/operations

Bringing high-speed Internet accessibility to rural & remote communities along coastal BC, Haida Gwaii & Vancouver Island.

Jan 8/23

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Jan 8/23



PC: Laverne Hamilton

Dreaming of T'aanuu and K'uuna

A bright and beautiful September morning greeted the winners of the T'aanuu and K'uuna Gwaii Haanas trip. CHN, Gwaii Haanas and Morex hosted 23 Haida Citizens who have never been to Gwaii Haanas and it was amazing! Haida citizens entered a draw to travel to T'aanuu Lnagaay and K'uuna Lnagaay. Our first stop was T'aanuu, where we were warmly greeted by Gidin Jaad and

Eric, village Watchmen. Participants made their way through the village site, filled with emotion. The group then travelled to the next location, K'uuna Lnagaay, where participants enjoyed a walk through the larger village site, mostly self-guided, with some assistance from Jamie, our Morex guide. Watch this summer for a chance to enjoy the beauty of Gwaii Haanas.

It was a celebratory summer roll into fall!

With **waahl'ahl** Potlatches and Memorials in full gear



P.C. Candace White

Summer and Fall 2022 brought us 3 **Gya'aang** cedar monumental raisings on Haida Gwaii!

On August 19, 2022 **Kihlgulaans** raised a third **Gya'aang** in front of Tluu **Xaada Naay** and proclaimed it "for the people!" The celebration **waahl'ahl** lasted two days in **Gaw Tlagée** and filled the hall with songs, dances, namings, Heiltsuk and Hydaburg guests, food and gifts and all of the amazing things that we have come to expect from a celebratory **waahl'ahl**!



P.C. Nisii Guilaaw

On September 30, 2022, **Xaayna** seen a pole raised in honour of **Kaayah** 'Laanas hereditary leader **Gaahlaay Watson Price**. Carving of the **gya'aang** was led by brothers **Gwaai** and **Jaalen Edenshaw**. The celebration and honoring of this memorial pole was held in **HlGaagilda**. Guests were also made aware of an amazing cultural treasure that was recovered during preparation, a cultural treasure that appeared to be a bowl with carvings.



P.C. GidadGuudsiliyas Kim Goetzinger

On October 14, 2022, a memorial **gya'aang** was raised in **Gaw Tlagée** at Shark House 2 in honor of **Tlajang Nang Kingaas Ben Davidson**. The carving was led by **Reg Davidson**, with many helpers whose lives **Tlajang Nang Kingaas** touched. From the bottom are the figures: Frog (to represent **Tawni**), Bear, Raven Rattle, and a Shark.

It is clear that our Nation is coming out strong in reflecting the importance of our Language and Culture.

For the People!



PC: Laverne Hamilton

Honouring Kaayahl 'Laanas Hereditary Leader Gaahlaay



PC: Laverne Hamilton

Honouring Tlajang Nang Kingaas



PC: David Hill

Xaayna views



PC: Nisil Guilaaw

Elected Representatives

COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

As the Council of the Haida Nation election term was ending, an election was called for the 2022-2024 term. A special edition of Haida Laas was printed and distributed with the list of nominated candidates and each of their submitted platforms in November 2021. Voting was held on November 27 and December 4, 2021 in all four regions. On January 11, 2022, through Zoom and Facebook live, the following representatives were sworn in as the CHNs representatives:

President

Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop*

Vice-president

Ginn wadluu un uula isdaa ayaagang
Trevor Russ

Gaw Tlagée Regional

Representatives

Guudee Gud Dlaaya *Vince Collison*
Stephen 'Buck' Grosse
Kuuyas 7waahlal gidaak *Lisa Hageman*
Kalaagaa Jaad *Tarah Samuels*

HiGaagilda Regional

Representatives

Xyallaga Daaguuyah *Desi Collinson*
Kung Xangajii *Shawn Cowpar*
Daal Skil *Randolph 'Randy' Pryce Jr.*
Gidin Jaad *Erica Reid*

Kxeen Regional Representatives

Kaakuns *Pansy Collison*
W.R 'Bill' White

T'agwan Regional

Representatives

Laanas *Tamara Davidson*
Yaahl Guula *Tasha Samuels*

The Council of the Haida Nation is the elected government of the Haida Nation and functions in accordance with the Constitution of the Haida Nation. CHN was formalized in 1974 to protect Haida Rights, Title, and lands, waters, and air. Today, our government continues to strive for full independence, sovereignty and self-sufficiency of the Haida Nation.

Old Massett Village Council (OMVC) and Skidegate Band Council (SBC) are elected by their membership and perform the function of a village government under the Indian Act. Councils are responsible for the well-being of the communities and enact legal policies and programs in the areas of Capital, Education, Membership, Health, and Social Development, among others. Village Councils are accountable to each respective community's membership and to the Constitution of the Haida Nation through the Haida Accord.



OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL

On April 14, 2022, a by-election was called for the Old Massett Village Council's Chief Councillor. Three candidates were nominated for the Chief Councillor for the elected council term until December 7, 2023. The polling stations were held on April 25 and May 2 at the **Gaw Tlagée** Old Massett Community Hall from 8am-8pm.

The following are representatives for the Old Massett Village Council for the 2023-2025 election term:

Chief Councillor

Gam Kaay.angsdaas *Donald "Duffy" Edgars*

Representatives

Freda Davis
Guud sGid xyaalaa *Cecil Brown*
Robert Brown
Jade Collison
Goot-Ges *Patrika McEvoy*
Kil Tlaa'sga *Brodie Swanson*
Kuuyang *Lisa White*

SKIDEGATE BAND COUNCIL

The following are representatives from the Skidegate Band Council for the 2020-2023 election term:

Chief Councillor

Ganaay *Billy Yovanovich*

Representatives

Wiigaanad *Sidney Crosby*
John Gladstone
Naajuuwa *Michelle McDonald*
Gord Mills
Nangkilsas *Trent Moraes*
Jaadstaay ga xingans *Michelle Pineault*
Susan Wood



K'alaaga Jaad *Jana Mcleod*

When a family has a loss, Haida Gwaii gathers around those directly involved to offer comfort. Our compassion drives the action needed to assist people going through what is usually the worst time in their lives. We fundraise and offer words to try and soothe their heartbreak. However, there comes a time when we are lost in ways to comfort someone because we cannot imagine their pain. It envelops each word we try to utter, it's a helpless feeling.

Kwiigee *Monica Brown's* daughter, Shaylanna Lewis-Brown, has been missing since March 21, 2020. For the second year The MMIW walk for Shaylanna took place on March 21, 2022 beginning at the Community Hall in **Gaw Tlagée Old Massett**.

We were able to demonstrate our support for this cause, along with Shaylanna's friends and family. The parking places were quickly filling up and a line for those registering for the walk grew. Others just went straight

into the hall. There were tables of door prizes, information booths, and loonie auction items, which included gorgeous beaded earrings, a case of salmon and much more.

Many lined up to get their daily steps in for Shaylanna and en mass we all got underway. It was a great feeling seeing so many people support this movement. It's been a long time coming. Some went the whole distance of 10 kms and others did the loop around the hospital. When we got back lunch was served, speeches were made and the Woman's Warrior song was performed.

It was an excellent turnout. Kwiigee shared what was happening before Shaylanna vanished, it was chilling. She urged people if they seen or heard anything to please let the authorities know. Even the most minor detail can bring new leads to her daughters' discovery. Her Facebook page is "Bring Shaylanna Home" it has up to date information.

Use hashtag **#Bringshaylannahome** on Tiktok,

Twitter, and Facebook. There has to be someone who is out there holding onto information they might think is too minor. Please call the local RCMP at 250.626.3991 or Crimestoppers 1.800.222.8477

Before I left, I stopped by the Indian Residential School Survivors table and visited with their representatives which are Chas Coutlee, MMIWG coordinator for the Vancouver Coastal region, Connie Greyeyes MMIWG coordinator for the Northern region, and Monica's mother Adeline Brown, Resolution Health Support Worker Supervisor. Some services they provide for the those affected by the issue of MMIWG are grief counselling, local victim services, educational workshops and presentations.

Their crisis line is 1.800.721.0066, or phone 604.985.4464 and email <reception@irss.ca>. All schools can look into what the society can do for the students and staff. Learning about what Indigenous People face, and how it might affect their mental health is such an asset to any educational institution.



Haida Child and Family: Caring for ourselves and each other

Nang Kuuyas *Jennifer Dysart*
Executive Director



As I write this, the second National Day of Truth and Reconciliation was acknowledged throughout Haida Gwaii and across the country. This day honours those children who never returned from residential schools, the survivors who did, and all the families and communities so severely impacted by this act of genocide. At Haida Child and Family, our team works with the intergenerational consequences of residential schools every day.

Our organization was formed in 2005 and like other Indigenous Child and Family Services organizations, was intended to bring services in line with our community's expectations. On Haida Gwaii, it had been clearly stated that we want to stop the unnecessary removal of children from their families and have services provided in a culturally appropriate way.

Although we do work differently than the province, we are still legislated by BC's Child, Family and Community Services Act (CFCSA) – for now! At this time, Haida Child & Family provides voluntary services and does not have the authority to make decisions about removing children or placing children. These decisions still rest with the Province, and on Haida Gwaii, the Ministry of Child and Family Development based in Daajing Giids holds that power.

But, change is on the horizon and will benefit all of us. In January 2020, Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth and families, came into effect. The purpose of this

Federal Act is to affirm the inherent rights of Nations to exercise jurisdiction over their child and family services.

There are two main pieces to this Act:

- 1) It sets out National minimum standards for child and family services related to Indigenous children
- 2) It affirms First Nations jurisdiction over Child and Family Services. First Nations have always had jurisdiction over their children and family, but this was NOT recognized by BC or Canada

This Act acknowledges Nations' authority to make legal decisions and judgements over child and family services. Although the Act has its shortcomings — lack of funding commitments and mechanisms for holding Canada accountable, etc — it is the first time that Canada has passed legislation that recognizes First Nations' inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.

Over the next few years, Haida Child & Family will be working with people across the Haida Nation to develop laws around child and family services that are rooted in the **Xaayda Giinaa.ah** *Haida way of being*. Together, we will ensure that the Nation's children and families no longer experience discrimination from a colonial system.

If you're interested in learning more, we have two offices — one in **HiGaagilda** *Skidegate* and one in **Gaw Tlagee** *Old Massett*. Please drop in for a visit! Our team includes:

Board

- Naajuuwa *Michelle McDonald*, Chair & SBC Representative
- 7idansuu *Jim Hart*, Hereditary Chiefs Council Representative, North End Chief
- Gitkinjuaas *Ron Wilson*, Hereditary Chiefs Council Representative, South End Chief
- Mudalaaw *Elizabeth Moore*, CHN Representative
- Freda Davis, OMVC Representative
- Jade Collison, Gaw Tlagee Representative
- Robert Williams, HiGaagilda Representative

Team

- Nang Kuuyas *Jennifer Dysart*, Executive Director
- Karen Wainwright, Director of Practice
- Gulaahlgii Gangs Jaadaa *Victoria Grosse*, Director of Education, Outreach & Communications
- Beverly Van der Weide, Director of Community Wellbeing
- Shirley Jones, Administrative Assistant
- Kristina Russ, Executive Assistant
- Shelly Samuels, Social Worker
- Shelley Gladstone, Cultural Advisor/Generalist Social Worker
- Jason Rupke, Resource Social Worker
- Hayley Dwyer, Social Worker
- Vanessa Belcourt, Social Worker
- Guud giidii *Lisa Bell*, Family Preservation Worker
- St'aay Taw.waay *Carla Russ*, Family Preservation Worker
- Guud Yuwans *Will Russ*, Family Preservation Worker
- Megan Dorrington, Family Preservation Worker
- Char Harasymchuk, Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator
- Alison McDonald, Mental Health Clinician

Haida Language Strategic Plan

The Haida Language Strategic Plan (HLP) has been coming together over the past year. Through consultation with language authorities, Elders, teachers, and learners, a draft of the HLP is going through approvals from the Culture & Language Committee, Hereditary Chiefs Council and the Executive Committee. If you would like to see the HLP, please contact <communications.ea@haidanation.com>.



Survey # 1 Responses

We sent surveys online to reach as many Haida citizens and Island residents as possible, to get a well-rounded gauge of what types of language learners exist, and where they are currently at with their journey to Haida language fluency.

"I just hear it being spoken at potlucks and when chiefs or elected officials make speeches. And even then it's just sporadically"

"Making daily conversation when I can, making social media posts in Haida and using in my email/work documents"

"There are weekly phrases written on the whiteboard at work"

"I try to use very common phrases like good morning and thank you as much as possible but I would love to learn more to be able to speak Haida more fluently!"

"Simple phrases, words, when we label our traditionally gathered food"

*"Our family use the small phrases we know, within our home such as **huus dang hi kinsaang, dang dii kuyaadaang, howaa dagwaan, wahhaa, K'ahngáa, tlàan, hàwksdaa.**"*

"My mom and I talk Haida to each other everyday on the phone"

"Morning team meetings are sometimes started out in Haida with greetings!"

*"Mostly in small phrases that are used during family activities such as making dinner, going for walks, etc. We also like to sit and try to create sentences that apply to situations we want to narrate in **Xaad kil.**"*

*"I teach it daily at work and at the school. I use it in my daily life"
"I read and ask my son about Haida Language materials he brings home from Kindergarten"*

Survey # 2 Responses

In survey 2, we asked language learners about their preferred methods of learning, and what types of learning environments they felt most comfortable in.

"[We need] Smaller groups and matching the people to the people in the groups to be more comfortable"

*"It would be great to have **HiGaagilda Xaayda Kil** beginner and intermediate courses similar to those offered online by **Xaad Kil** office this year- that makes learning more accessible to working people. Coordination between all of the language programs."*

"I would love to see resources that are available to off island Haida people to connect with our culture"

"Different levels of classes weekly. Beginner, intermediate, proficient etc... With a welcoming atmosphere. Incorporating a Haida Language day in the work place would be great as well."

"It's very heavy emotionally to learn"

"More one on one. Especially with people that don't feel confident or are too shy or just feel they can't get it so they won't make an attempt"

"[People] shame you when you don't get it."

"I don't live near my birth place I'd like to see online courses through zoom or a platform that works well for language learners."

*"[I need] Flexible hours to learn."
"More presence online will help normalize it, allows people to feel more comfortable practicing at home until they gain more confidence to speak with others in person."*

"I currently use the Language app "Duolingo" to learn Spanish. Duolingo has Hawaiian and Navajo languages available to learn. I'd like to see Haida as a language option. Makes learning language like a game."

"Inclusiveness and non judgmental atmosphere"

The Haida Nations Response to COVID-19

This article is a short summary of a research project conducted by Jaad Gudgihliwah Michaela M. McGuire - a PhD student, Haida citizen and Vanier scholar. This project took place during the summer of 2021.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 23, 2020, the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) declared the Haida Gwaii State of Emergency (SOE). Through a series of semi-structured interviews with a diverse group of Haida and non-Haida peoples – I examined CHN’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research questions for this project were:

1. How did CHN’s role shift during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response on Haida Gwaii?
2. What lessons can be garnered from CHN’s response to inform future Haida Nation governance?

The 4 main themes that emerged through data analysis are briefly summarized below.

(1) Haida Gwaii All Islands Response: It was a whirlwind to be honest (P3)

We had a visceral reaction, it’s hardly 100 some odd years since we were nearly wiped out by genocide. That visceral reaction lives in us... we knew we had to do what worked for us ... we were just looking out for Haida Gwaii. (P1)

In the incident command emergency response system (ICS) (2021) adopted by CHN, when “multiple jurisdictions” exist, a “unified command” approach can be used that allows for collaboration between organizations (p. 5). The unified command table included Emergency Operation Center (EOC) leads from the settler communities and band councils. Other tables including the All Islands Protocol Table, United

Coast, and a Haida caucus were also developed and utilized to address issues arising during pandemic response.

Reflecting on the Nation’s reaction to COVID-19, P5 recalled *we knew we had to do what worked for us*, and despite jurisdictional tensions stemming from the unified approach CHN stood *strong and really [focused] on the health and safety of our Haida and Islands citizens* (P3).

(2) The amount of work that a skeleton crew did within CHN (P5)

A pretty solid team worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of islands residents (P2), as one participant recalled, the long hours meant they were often living off of chip salad. As P2 reflected: nobody sees behind the scenes ... We could all be scrapping internally – but, to the government we go out there and everybody gathers for a unified approach.

The Women ... just powering through (P1): It takes strong women to support a Nation.

Participants expressed gratitude for the women who held these islands together (P5). P1 recalled that *it was so terrifying, but I think the women had it sorted out.*

Strategic Response: Thinking about the longer term

There were conversations about how measures could eventually be operationalized and what [that] could mean for sovereignty on Haida Gwaii enduring past the pandemic (P7).

Examples of strategic long-term outcomes included movement on sports fishing lodges and establishing a code of conduct, and the essential work permitting process being tied to the *tourism pledge and ...orientation process* (P7).

(3) Jurisdiction and self-determination: The Haida Nation has jurisdiction over Haida Gwaii (P5)

The Constitution of the Haida Nation (2018) under A6. S10 states that “the [CHN] shall provide for the common defense of the Haida Nation” (p. 5), including against a worldwide pandemic.

Acknowledgment of CHN leadership varied amongst the municipal communities and governance.

Reflecting on the islands protocol agreements that CHN has signed with these communities, P4 recalled that it was interesting what a hurdle it was *[for] the municipalities and the regional districts; [and their] unwillingness to push the envelope...from outside the little box [they] are allowed to operate in.*

P1 adds that *to the average person who isn’t aware of our ability to be self-sovereign it would make them scared... The doubt, the why aren’t we doing what BC is doing? Can we do this? I know we can do this...I have always known that we can do whatever we want to govern our Nation the way we see fit.*

P5 shared *I explained this to some of my municipal friends – I said you know we have been through hell and back and... we are still here. We will as an Island, not just the Haida Nation, we will still be here. There are going to be hardships, but we are going to survive... This is Haida Gwaii, Haida territory. The Haida Nation has jurisdiction over Haida Gwaii.*

As Article 4 of UNDRIP reads: “Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in manners related to their internal and local affairs” (United Nations, 2007, pp. 4-5).

P3 recalled that throughout the pandemic *...we have been able to protect*

our own people ...[and that] if you united your local communities together for the greater good of your citizens...you can do really great things. And you can do it without any permissions from the BC government... The Haida Nation is a strong Nation, and we show that – we lead by example. We say we are going to do something, then we do it. Even if we have other people telling us not to do something, we stick to our word and ... our protocols.

(4) Looking back: There is more work to be done (P1): Lessons learned and capacity.

Participants reflected on strengthening assertions of jurisdiction and communication with health authorities and other Islands governance.

Unfortunately, taking care of our own health is often put aside in times of extreme stress. P4 referenced the importance of *self-care and recognizing that if you're not in a good place then you're not [necessarily] making good decisions.* P2 suggested that additional external support could have offset the impacts on staff. P1 added that having support from Elders, mentors, or chiefs and/or matriarchs to provide guidance would have helped and that additional team building within CHN is important moving forward.

A sense of duty to protect Haida Gwaii and the Nation is exemplified as follows:

It's just you have to... there is no other choice. We have to...and there are all of these systems in play against us whether we are saving our own people [from] – a global pandemic or our trees, water, [or whatever it may be]. There is just no choice (P1).

Having to navigate being unprepared to respond to COVID-19 should serve as a lesson moving forward. Participants emphasized the need for additional safety plans, equipment, and

training. In terms of capacity, an analysis is currently underway of the work permits – that will help in terms of understanding employment gaps on island. Further, P1 recalled that *we were in a unified command meeting and there was a tsunami warning... [so] thinking about other emergencies too* and being better prepared in case of power outages. P4 suggested that a broader conversation with everyone involved in the COVID-19 response could be important in terms of getting *“people's feedback [on] what worked and didn't work,”* and subsequently integrating that into future emergency response plans and/or training.

Lessons learned and silver linings: The sovereign acts, all those things pushed us a little more forward (P6)

CHN's role shifted to protecting Haida Gwaii and Haida people from a global pandemic – while simultaneously maintaining the day-to-day governance of the Nation. CHN asserted self-determination through negotiating with BC, asserting jurisdiction, and utilizing this opportunity to move existing files forward. Throughout the pandemic CHN leadership and team was inclusive of all Islands residents and elected representatives. CHN demonstrated the capacity to take on all island's governance issues. In terms of future governance – the areas in which capacity could be increased were illuminated, relationships were developed and strengthened, and CHN came to understand some of the challenges ahead.

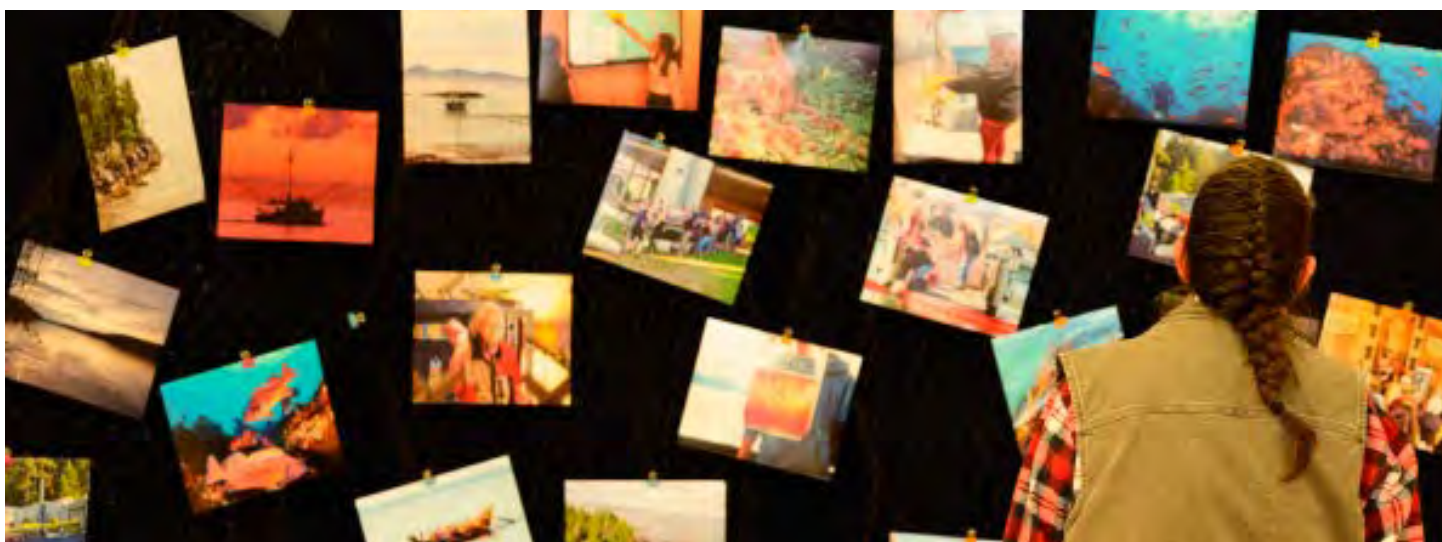
Multiple silver linings were discussed including assertions of jurisdiction, progress on the reconciliation and fisheries reconciliation files (see: Haida Laas, 2020), the development of an emergency response system

(P6), the visitors pledge (see: The Haida Gwaii Pledge, 2021), and the strengthening of inter-governmental relationships (P4). A focus on food independence and the Haida language – highlighted in CHN's webinars – offered some light and distraction from continued stress. P5 recalled that ***there was a lot of beauty in amongst fear and ugliness, so many little diamonds.*** The need for CHN to engage in conversations regarding a Haida Gwaii economy was also discussed.

The lessons learned throughout the course of CHN's pandemic response provide important insight into improving governance, capacity, and continuing to educate Haida and non-Haida Islands residents. Throughout the course of this project, it became clear that a knowledge gap exists on Haida Gwaii in terms of Indigenous rights and self-determination, Haida constitutional rights, inherent values, and ways of being. In asserting Haida jurisdiction and Nationhood CHN was upholding ancestral rights and values in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Authors Note: I would like to say Haawa, Haawa, Haawa to the participants in this study whose openness, laughter, and trust warmed my heart and to the Council of the Haida Nation for their continued guidance and support.





PC: CHN Marine Planning Program - Noah Eisner

Marine Shipping and Safety Community Dinners

Chiixwaay Kaydts'id • Chaawsalii damaan tl'a kingga Beach Watch/Protect

On April 26 and 28, 2022, CHN's Marine Planning Program welcomed over 80 guests at the **Kwiiyans** Hall in **Gaw Tlagée Old Massett** and the **Naagudgiikyagangs Community Hall** in **HiGaagilda Skidegate** to inform Haida and Islands citizens on the ways in which we are protecting Haida waters from marine shipping impacts.

After more than two years of social distancing and precautions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the dinners brought community members together, to raise awareness of how CHN and partners are working together to prevent, prepare, and respond to potential marine incidents.

Welcomed by **Gyahgujaang Robert Russ** and **Guud T'aawt'is Judson Brown**, the CHN Marine Planning Program, and partners from Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard and Gwaii Haanas hosted the evening, beginning with bingo games featuring **Xaad kil**, **Xaayda kil** and marine shipping vocabulary. The communities enjoyed speeches from CHN leadership, including **HiGaagilda** representative, **Daal Skil Randy Pryce Jr.**, CHN President **Gaagwiis Jason**

Also, and senior staff from CHN and partner organizations on the progress made to prevent marine accidents, increase awareness of marine shipping in Haida waters, and to improve preparedness in the event of a marine incident, such as the Simushir event in 2014.

Later in the evening, guests, staff and partners mingled around information booths to learn more about the successes, including the Voluntary Protection Zone established in September 2020 to keep large vessels further offshore

the west coast of Haida Gwaii. Community members also raised other marine shipping concerns and asked thought-provoking questions on the various initiatives.

Háw'aa • Haawa to both communities for coming out, sharing food, showing interest and engaging with CHN Marine Planning Program. For more information on CHN marine planning initiatives, please visit www.haidamarineplanning.com.



PC: CHN Marine Planning Program - Noah Eisner

Creating Space for Wildlife

Over the last two years, Taan Forest and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) have been working on two projects focused on the restoration of close to 300 hectares of habitat on Haida Gwaii.

The first project focused on restoring about 185 hectares of riparian area along **Yaaguun Gandlee** *Yakoun River*.

These areas along the river, also referred to as benches, have been identified as red and blue-listed ecosystems under the Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order (HGLUOO) and contain protected areas for fish habitat and a 100-year flood plain. Restoration activity included spacing trees, the creation of snags and the introduction of coarse woody debris to mimic the natural processes of riparian areas.

“**Yaaguun Gandlee** was logged right to the water and then used to transport logs,” said Jeff Mosher, RPF, Chief Forester, Taan Forest. “These big rivers need small log jams to keep the pools stable in the river ecosystem and along the banks. Right now, the river is missing these big trees which support wildlife, the bank, and trees that will eventually fall into the river and create habitat in the

river.”

One project goal is to manage second growth **kíid spruce** and **ts’úu western red cedar** trees to create large root and branching structures using these long-lived tree species. This management encourages trees to grow larger faster, strengthening the stream bank and providing large organic debris input along the banks of the river.

Opening the stand, creating snags, and stressing trees are some of the tools used to mimic an old growth stand in a shorter time frame. Snags created in riparian areas attract wood-boring insects, which attract birds, and stressed trees produce seeds which attracts birds and squirrels. These species then draw predators like **Stads K’un Northern Goshawk**, the National Bird of Haida Gwaii which is in danger of extinction.

This project created about six months of full-time employment including a local crew of 10 from **Gaw Tlagée Old Massett** who completed the riparian work alongside local riparian specialists.

“The crew from **Gaw Tlagée** did fantastic work and Taan Forest aims to continue to build restoration opportunities on Haida Gwaii,” said Mosher.

Taan Forest intends to continue scaling up the size of the area treated every year. Crews successfully treated 200 hectares in 2021 and Mosher is hoping to treat 1,000 hectares annually—which is equivalent to 10,000 person days of work per year.

“We did an economic analysis of the FESBC funding and close to 90 percent of the investment went right back into the communities of Haida Gwaii,” said Mosher. “Most of the dollar value in the cost of these projects is in the labour, so if we are hiring locally; the money goes right back into supporting communities.”

The second project focused on spacing trees and pruning the lower branches in overly dense conifer stands to create and enhance **Stads K’un** forage habitat. The spacing and pruning was completed by crews from local communities on Haida Gwaii including **Gaw Tlagée** and **HiGaagilda Skidegate**.

“**Stads K’un** has a forage [feeding] range with a 5.2-kilometre radius so we’re targeting the spacing in those areas to encourage the trees to grow faster,” said Mosher.

Reducing the number of trees creates open flight paths between trees for **Stads K’un**, bats, migratory and resident birds and



Planting **ts’úu** along **Yaaguun Gandlee** where heavy equipment and past logging practices scoured the bank.

allows sunlight to reach the plants on the ground. This increases brush and berry development. This also increases food for the small animals like squirrels, **Skáw** *Sooty Grouse*, and songbirds who eat the vegetation, berries, and seeds from the cones, which means there are more small animals available as prey for the **Stads K'un**.

Mosher explains the many benefits of this work and in creating the monitoring plots within the spaced area.

“The monitoring plots are designed to give us an idea of what’s going on with forest growth and wildlife usage patterns,” said Mosher. “We want to know the specific response in forage for **Stads K'un** and snags for saw-whet owls resulting from these changes in canopy structure, and how much benefit there will be for many other wildlife species. At the same time, we are increasing the amount of carbon absorption (CO₂) in a shorter period time than if the stands were left untreated.”

Another example of forest management designed to enhance and protect key species is **táa.n** bear den creation and protection.

Working with **táa.n** den researcher Helen Davies, Taan Forest rehabilitated old **táa.n** dens that were destroyed from past logging practices. Some work has also been completed to create **táa.n** dens from logging debris and stumps in old cuts. This is all to try and increase the number of suitable denning areas for **táa.n**.

Old **ts'uu** or **kíid** stumps with the right features for a **táa.n** den are identified in the project areas and are modified as needed—such as adding a plywood roof or making an entry hole smaller. Game cameras are used to see what kind of interest the dens get from passing **táa.n**. The cameras are checked twice a year - in the spring and fall - to avoid disturbing **táa.naláng** during the late fall and winter.

“We get a lot of window shoppers but not a lot of use yet,” said Mosher. “We checked last fall and are looking forward to seeing if any of the dens were used this winter.”

Mosher notes FESBC funding was key to enabling the work and in starting an initiative for more restoration work.

Taan Forest Limited Partnership, a forest management company, is a subsidiary of Haico (Haida Corporation), a company wholly owned by the Council of the Haida Nation and the Secretariat of the Haida Nation.

Media Contacts:

Taan Forest: Hlganguula Jaad
Sonia Rice, HaiCo Senior Executive Assistant,
<Sonia.rice@haico.ca>.

FESBC: Aleece Laird,
Communications Liaison,
Office: 778.765.0980, Toll Free:
1.877.225.2010, Cell: 250.574.0221,
<communications@fesbc.ca>.



Taan Forest Crew (LtoR): Clarence Thompson, Iihlanga K'adanga Ed Davis, Sophie Simons (Rip Spec.) Charlie Thompson, Dustin Edgars, T'aaGuu iihling. nga Vernon White, Todd Russ, Eri Foster (Rip Spec) Ron Hamilton. Taan Forest would like to acknowledge the passing of crew member Charlie Thompson and express our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.



An old **ts'uu** stump, possibly an old **táa.n** den, is modified to receive a roof and make a smaller entrance hole.



An over-dense conifer stand after spacing treatment. “Teenager” trees were previously too crowded together. Now there is space between the trees for birds to fly and sunlight to reach the ground.



"Our vision is to restore SGang Gwaay in a way that is guided by Haida law, and in a way that enhances continued cultural use of the village." – Hlk'aaluwas

© Parks Canada, R. Gruys

Experience the Living Landscapes of SGang Gwaay through film

Hlk'aaluwas Camille Collinson and Stephanie Fung

In partnership with the **Saahlinda Naay** Haida Gwaii Museum and Gina Ga ga Kyahs'as Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program, Gwaii Haanas recently released this short film about the exciting archaeology work at SGang Gwaay. The 10-minute feature was shot on location in August, 2021 by Haida Gwaii based videographer Gaëtan Lamarre/Silent Rapids Productions. It features project team members **Hlk'aaluwas** Camille Collinson, **Guuajii iihll.ngaay** Paul Rosang, **SGaan Kwahagang** James McGuire, and Parks Canada archaeologist Jenny Cohen.

SGang Gwaay Llnagaay is a Haida Heritage Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the remote, southwest part of Gwaii Haanas. This village site was occupied year-round until shortly after 1880, when **haayhiilas** smallpox,

an introduced disease, decimated the Haida population, forcing Haida to leave SGang Gwaay and consolidate with other villages to the north.

In the winter of 2018, a hurricane force windstorm blew down over a hundred trees at SGang Gwaay. This storm caused extensive damage to species at risk habitat as well as cultural features at the site, including standing poles, the remains of longhouses, and an old cultivation area. Massive tree roots were upended, which lifted ancient floorboards of longhouses and exposed invaluable cultural artifacts and seed banks. The cultural sediments that underlie these remains contain a deep history of Haida way of life.

The blowdown damage provided an exciting opportunity to understand possible impacts of

climate changes, and delve deeper into the history of the village while breathing Haida environmental and cultural stewardship into this landscape. The project team's vision is to restore SGang Gwaay to a living landscape, guided by Haida law, and in a way that enhances continued cultural use of the village where Watchmen live and welcome summer visitors.

The project is guided by the Council of the Haida Nation and Canada through the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board, and is supported with funding from the national Parks Canada conservation program. The Living Landscapes project is the combined effort of many good people working together to protect these artifacts and restore the landscape in a way that enhances continued cultural use of this Haida village site.

How did a windstorm reveal long-hidden artifacts at SGang Gwaay? Find out how by checking out this film:

Gwaii Haanas Facebook: <https://fb.watch/cWhxC2D82R/>

Parks Canada Youtube: <https://youtu.be/hYsYYwbE0XU>



Some members of the project team on site for archaeology field work in August, 2021
© Parks Canada, S. Fung



An argillite carving found in the exposed floorboards of **Naa Ga Agang** People Wish to Be There House. © Parks Canada, Gwaii Haanas CRM Team



Kuunajaad Jenny Cross and Sgaalanglaay Vernon Williams Jr. leading the opening ceremony for the Living Landscapes project in August, 2021, © Parks Canada, C.Collinson



GuuhlGa Siiwaay *Spirit Lake Trail*

K'alaaga Jaad *Jana McLeod*

After some understandable delays, it was time to celebrate! The snow blizzard and rain squalls didn't dampen the spirits of those gathered for the unveiling of **GuuhlGa Siiwaay** *Spirit Lake* trail on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

The last time I was on the trail there were contestants of "The Amazing Race Canada" running around and solving puzzles, so it's been awhile. I was looking forward to the outing.

The crush rock, new signage and boardwalks certainly spruced it up in there. It's like entering a different world where you can forget the stresses of everyday life. The lush surroundings can carry you to a time where things seemed much simpler. Where **ts'uu** *red cedar*, **ts'aagul** *ferns* and **xil** *medicines* are safe. Each and every thing in the forest serves an important purpose. All parts of the plants are used for very specific functions. I had no

clue of the history of the foliage I was looking at, this is where the magic began.

Gaajiiawa *Linda Tollas* is an extraordinary wealth of information. Her humour and knowledge made for a wonderful learning experience. The stories about the ingenuity of the Haida were so interesting, I could have listened to her for hours.

She spoke of finding **glaayingwal** *licorice root* for an elder who had a sore throat and **k'inxan** *moss* used to strain sap. I feel like I could do about ten more walks with her and find out something new each time. The actual trail was so serene and breathtaking, literally! A guide along made for some nice breaks though.

Gaajiiawa has such enthusiasm to share what she knows. What a treasure trove of loveliness she is.

Everyone was so appreciative of her experiences, and light.

Hala ga taa *Come and eat!* Hiilang. nga Jaad *Seraphine* braved the inclement weather to serve up hamburgers, smokies, and drinks. We huddled under the cover outside the trail, ate, visited and waited for the prizes to be drawn.

Do yourself a favour and search up "Spirit Lake Trail" on Facebook. There're some fantastic memories, from funny to very touching on the social platform.

Getting out for some much-needed fresh air and exercise was very rewarding. **Haw'aa** to all who made this day possible. Was worth the gas to take part in such a fantastic day.



HAICO | 2022 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



GAAWÉE JAAD

Gaawée Jaad Serena Smith is from the Ts'aahl Jaanas Clan from [Gaw Tlagée Old Massett](#) and raised in [HIGaagilda Skidegate](#).

"I'm pursuing an undergrad at Simon Fraser University studying international relations and sociology. After I graduate in 2024, I hope to continue my career as a public servant for the Government of Canada. Currently, I'm a student policy officer for Public Services Canada with a focus on Reconciliation. As an Indigenous woman, I want to empower Indigenous people to use their voices and to go after a university education. My time at university has pushed me farther in life, opened up new opportunities, and has helped me grow. Haaw'a to HaiCo for their generosity in awarding me this scholarship, which I will use to support myself while gaining important knowledge of governance, inherent rights, and institutional processes."

K'AAW HAANAS

K'aaw Haanas (sitting pretty) Marissa Abrahams, is from the Tsiits Gitane Eagle Clan of [Gaw Tlagée Old Massett](#). K'aaw Haanas' parents are Josephine and Richard Abrahams and her grandparents are Brenda Mason and Patrick Widen.

"I have lived the majority of my life on Haida Gwaii surrounded by the ocean which is why I have chosen to pursue a career as a marine biologist in hopes of being able to help with the detrimental effects of pollution on our waters. After I complete my four years of study at Simon Fraser University, I plan to begin two years of travelling around the world to experience new places and other cultures. The HaiCo scholarship that I have been granted is greatly appreciated and will help support me in all of the financial burdens that I have back in Vancouver."



KUUYA JIIHLÍ

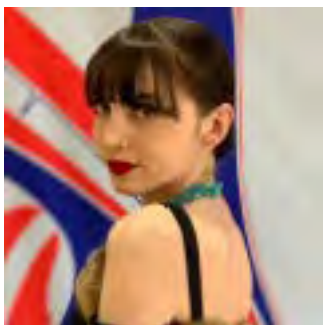
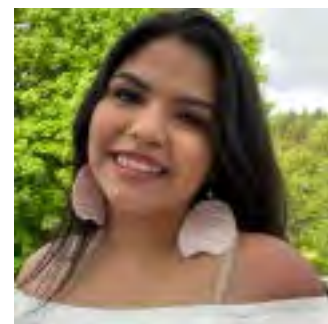
Kuuya Jiihlí Avery Robson is from K'íls [XaaydaGaay Ravens](#) from [K'uuna Llnagaay](#). Kuuya Jiihlí's parents are Della Robson and Ken Brillon and her grandparents were Helen and Lorne Robson.

"Kuuya Jiihlí han.nuu dii kiiGa ga. My learning journey throughout university has been phenomenal in preparing me to work with culturally sensitive material in anthropology and furthering my learning in Indigenous politics and law. I hope this journey will allow these tools I am learning to be applicable to our communities on Haida Gwaii. After I graduate, I aim to work in sectors of cultural resource management, land management, or economic developments such as ecotourism on Haida Gwaii. With the support of the HaiCo Scholarship, I can continue to achieve these educational goals, and in the future hope to support our local communities. Haawa."

TS' AHL JAAD

Ts'ahl Jaad Audrey Parnell is from Yahgu Laanas Raven Clan from Dadens. Ts'ahl Jaad's parents are Maureen Samuels and Wilfred Parnell, and her naanii's are Audrey Samuels and Edith Parnell. You are exactly where you're supposed to be at this moment in time.

"For my educational journey, I'm hoping it leads me to a fulfilling job that allows me to leave a positive impact on whatever community I am in at the time. HaiCo's support during this time is very much appreciated, háw'aa"



XANGII GAN HAANA

Xangii Gan Haana (beautiful to the eyes or beautiful to look at) Dawson Sterrit is from the Naa Saagaas [XaaydaGaay Clan](#) of [HIGaagilda Skidegate](#).

"I hope that by studying business administration, I am exposed to many management opportunities in my future as it is my goal to be a leader in business. This scholarship helps me cover expenses in my academic journey and gives me a better shot at success. Thank you to everyone involved in this award!"

Gudangee Tlaats'gaa, Xaadee Daagwiiyaas Guudang.ngaay Tlaats'iiga, GwaayGalang Daagwiiyah *STRONG MINDS, STRONG NATION 2022 RECIPIENTS*



Zoey Collinson

I've always felt a deep connection to the community, culture and land. I have decided to pursue post-secondary education to earn my Bachelor's in Education degree.

Yaath Gusuus Jessica Collison

I have always loved animals, I raised chickens, ducks and turkeys living on my parent's hobby farm. At the end of my education, I would like to be a farrier part-time as well as a vet tech so I can have a better insight.



Taang.Gunaay Grinder

I chose communications as my field of study going into my post-secondary educational journey not only because I view my ability to communicate as one of my strengths, but also because I believe studying communications will give me the tools to become what I have always truly wanted, which is to be an advocate and a voice. A voice for my community, a voice for all indigenous people and women who need to be heard. I am forever grateful for the support from the CHN for this bursary to help me pursue those dreams as well as the strong sense of community the haida nation has built as a whole.

Francine Hans

When I graduate, I want to move home to Haida Gwaii to be a teacher. I want to inspire our children to follow their dreams. I am extremely honoured for this Bursary. It will help me with my year at UBC.



Tenniel Houston

My goal is to become a Legal Administrative Assistant and move back to Haida Gwaii once I complete my program. I want to apply the knowledge I gained from my studies and use it to benefit the people of Haida Gwaii.

Gudangee Tlaats'gaa, Xaadee Daagwiiyaas **Guudang.ngaay Tlaats'iiga, GwaayGalang Daagwiiyah** ***STRONG MINDS, STRONG NATION 2022 RECIPIENTS***



Desire Nicolson

As I look towards the future, it's my goal to contribute to Indigenous prosperity. I want to work directly with Indigenous communities to create value and help them thrive.

Nang K'angudangaa Kendra Williams

My Naanii has fought many battles in her life, but the effort, love and generosity that broke the cycles, helped shape me into the person I am today. That kind of love and dedication is what inspired me into to get into the Human Services and Social work Field.



Braeden Robbins

I chose culinary arts as I love to cook and try new dishes. I plan on opening my own food truck and possibly a restaurant in the future. This bursary will help me to achieve my goals. Haawa.

Jaadaahl Sanggaang Melody Williams

My education goal is to finish my associates degree at Langara College. I am enrolled under General Arts and Science Diploma at the moment. This fall, I will move into Associate of Arts: Business & Commerce. I wish I would have taken a gap year after high school, I also think it was a good thing that I did, to experience going to school and living on my own. If I didn't, I may not have ever left home at all.



Gudangee Tlaats'gaa, Xaadee Daagwiiyaas Guudang.ngaay Tlaats'iiga, GwaayGalang Daagwiiyah *STRONG MINDS, STRONG NATION 2022 RECIPIENTS*



Xuuts skilaas *Kailyn Swanson*

It is such an honour to receive the Taaw.ga Haala 'Leeyga Memorial Bursary. I am now in my second year of the Biomedical Physiology/Kinesiology program at Simon Fraser University, where I am working towards becoming a Physiotherapist. My decision to venture into this career came from my involvement in sports my whole life and seeing the need for services here on Haida Gwaii. I wish to return home to set up my own practice in my community. Haaw'aa for allowing students the opportunity to represent our nation.

Ts'ahl Jaad *Audrey Parnell*

Howa'a to CHN for supporting me while I pursue my education! I am very grateful.

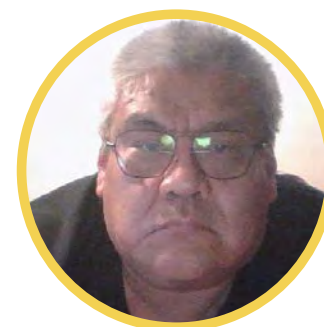


Mary Williams

I'm deeply appreciative of your continued support and am thrilled to be selected in May's honor. I am from the Kuun Laanaas Raven Clan of Old Massett and decided to pursue criminal justice as it has always been a passion of mine. Once I have graduated I would like to travel and see the world before I make my return to Haida Gwaii and begin my life at home.

Danny Stewart

I choose Carpentry because OMVC is putting it on and it's for four years to get our Red Seal in carpentry. This bursary means more tools and/or new work boots maybe both. My plan is to finish this course and get my red seal and help out our village to rebuild our village with new homes. I would like to thank all who put this together so we are able to get help with a trade and/or classes off-island or on-island.



2022 GREAT LIST

The Haida Nation is proud to celebrate and acknowledge graduates in **Gaw Tlagée**, **HiGaagilda** and beyond. The following is a Great List presenting the names of Haida citizens who have completed certification in their field of choice! Congratulations to you all and all the best with your future plans.

Master's

Nicole Kuhn, Master of Science in Information Sciences, University of Washington

Andrea Medley, Master of Arts in Health Sciences/Gerontology, Simon Fraser University

Gid7ahl-Gudsllaay Lalaxaaygans
Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, Master of Laws, University of British Columbia

Bachelor's

Vanessa Belcourt, Bachelor of Social Work, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Jaadxaayyas Fallon Crosby, Bachelor of Education, University of Northern BC

Ethan Kuhn, Bachelor of Science, Informatics, University of Washington

Maluu Annika Martynuik, Bachelor of Education, Vancouver Island University

Paige McGuire, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Queens

Shae-Lyn Pearson, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of BC

Guud Xang.nga Melinda Pick, Bachelor of Education, University of Northern BC

Tiffany Storry, Bachelor of Arts, University of British Columbia

Jaad Tlaaw Paula Varnell, Bachelor of Education, University of Northern BC

Ava-Beth Williams, Bachelor of Tourism Management, Vancouver Island University

Diplomas

Sii Dlaaya Jaad Jasmine Hamilton, Foundations in Welding, BCIT

Jaahljuu Graham Richard, Applied Coastal Ecology, Coast Mountain College

Certificates

Courtney Nielsen, Professional Esthetics, Vancouver Island University

Meghan Parnell, Applied Business Technology Administration, College of New Caledonia

Norine Peaker, Basic Bookkeeping, Vancouver Island University
First Nations Housing Manager, with honours, Vancouver Island University

High School Diplomas

Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay

Aiden Adams-Moraes
Taya Adams-Moraes
Kane Bell
Cory Brown
Jayden Brown
Cassie Collison

Chantal Davis
Lamar Davis
David Delill
Kaiden Davidson
Janelle Edgars
Kwiadda McEvoy
Emrin Ouschan
Nikta Russ
LJ Squires
Maggie White
Wyatt White
Roberta Wesley

Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay

Ts'ah ts'ah Ryleigh Brennan
Zoey Collinson
Nang Daawganaas Stacey Edinger
Taang.Gunaay Grinder
Xaaya Vesta Hageman
Kil Daagwiiya Tamara Hooper
Percy Houston
Ts'aagul Jaad Mackenzie Jones
Aal Guul Xaga Kalei McDonald
Joey Pringle
Jayden Pollard
Victoria "Tori" Ryland
Ty Stewart
Nang K'aadang.ngas Steven Wesley
Dominic Williams
Royce Yaroshuk

Citizens Graduating Off-Island

Kole Jones
Julia Wilson-Rique

Welcoming Delegations and Sharing Knowledge about Cooperative Management



Darlene Small

Last summer Haida Nation leaders and Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board (AMB) members hosted several official delegations at various stages of creating cooperative management frameworks for protected areas in their territories. As with many others in previous years, the delegations were interested in hearing from the Haida Nation and Canada about lessons learned over close to thirty years of cooperative management, as first set out in the Gwaii Haanas Agreement in 1993.

One delegation, visiting in August, included representatives from the Central Coast, including Heiltsuk, Kitasoo Xai'xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations. These Nations are in the midst of considering a marine protected area in their territories similar to the Haida Heritage Site and Marine Conservation Area Reserve in Gwaii Haanas. They were particularly interested in learning about marine operations, including how the AMB introduced zoning in

the **Gina 'Waadluxan KilGuhlGa** Land-Sea-People Management Plan, ensuring 40 percent of Gwaii Haanas is designated as strict protection zones with no commercial fishing permitted while still allowing traditional food harvesting. The delegation visited **Hlk'yah GawGa**, the Gwaii Haanas floating operation station, and also met with members of the CHN Marine Planning, Haida Gwaii Watchmen, and Gwaii Haanas teams.

In June a delegation from the Syilx Okanagan Nation, made up of Osoyoos Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band members, visited Haida Gwaii from the sunny, dry, ranch-lands of southern BC. Their mission was to learn about cooperative management of Gwaii Haanas and consider possibilities for their area. Dressed head-to-toe in rubberized raingear, the group ventured south with Haida Style and Moresby Explorers to **K'uuna Llnagaay**, **Hlk'yah GawGa**, and **Gandll K'in Gwaay. yaay**. For many in the group this



PC: Hilary Thorpe



was the first time meeting barnacles, bat stars and **guuding.ngaay urchin** face-to-face, and certainly a first time experiencing the Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program in action. The group met with the AMB, CHN Executives and Haida Hereditary Leaders at the Haida Heritage Centre. There were many thoughtful questions, and these gave all who participated pause to reflect on the accomplishments over the last 30 years of the Haida Nation and Government of Canada working together.

Haida Nation leaders and AMB members appreciated learning from these delegations about their innovative approaches to stewardship and cooperative management. We wish our neighbouring nations well as they consider establishing protected areas in their territories and entering into management agreements with other governments.

Upcoming Events

February 7 2:00 - 7:00 pm HIGaagilda Naagudgiikyangangs Small Hall
CHN Job Fair

February 8 3:30 - 7:30 pm - Gaw Tlagée Kwiiyaans Community Hall
CHN Job Fair

February 26 - March 4 8:30 - 5:00 HIGaagilda Marine Courses: SVOP, MED-A2, ROC-M & MBFA

March 11 & 12 online

Swiilawiid Haida Gwaii Renewable Energy Symposium

March 17 & 18 Gaw Tlagée

kílsdlaay 7idansuu Potlatch

March 26 - April 1 8:30 - 5:00 Gaw Tlagée Marine Courses: SVOP, MED-A2, ROC-M & MBFA

March 28, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 Gaw Tlagée Gwaii Trust - Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust Community Update & Consultation Sessions

March 30, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 Gamadiis Gwaii Trust - Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust Community Update & Consultation Sessions

April 3, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 HIGaagilda Naagudgiikyangangs

Gwaii Trust - Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust Community Update & Consultation Sessions

April 5, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 K'il Kun

Gwaii Trust - Athlii Gwaii Legacy Trust Community Update & Consultation Sessions

April 4-5 Gaw Tlagée Kwiiyaans Community Hall CHN Spring Session



Community contact information

Gaw Tlagée Old Massett

Old Massett Fire Department: 250-626-5222

Masset Fire Department: 250-626-3334

Health Center: 250-626-3911

Social Development: 250-626-3343

Housing: 250-626-5440

Education: 250-626-5110 Fax: 250-626-5630

Masset Hospital: 250-626-4702

Masset Pharmacy: 250-626-4701

Masset RCMP: 250-626-3991

Gamadiis Port Clements

Port Clements Fire Department: 250-559-4355

Tll.aal Tlell

Tlell Fire Department: 250-557-4348

K'il Kun Sandspit

Sandspit Fire Department: 250-637-2222

HIGaagilda Skidegate

Skidegate Fire Department: 250-559-8321

Health Center: 250-559-4610

Social Development: 250-559-4496 ext 35

Housing: 250-559-4496

Education: 250-559-8247

Daajing Giids

Daajing Giids Fire Department: 250-559-8321

Daajing Giids Hospital Clinic: 250-559-4900

Daajing Giids Pharmacy: 250-559-4910

Daajing Giids RCMP: 250-559-4421

Haida Gwaii

Ambulance: 1-800-461-9911

Poison Control: 1-800-567-8911

BC Hydro Outage: 1-800-224-9376

Wildfire Reporting: 1-800-663-5555