

NNTC NEWSLETTER



Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC)'s quarterly news, announcements, and cultural and historical pieces



Pictured above is the new site of the Skuppah Food Security Centre.

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Skuppah's Food Security Centre

Skuppah is building a food security Centre. Learn more about this initiative here. (pg. 2)

February's NkshAytkn

See more on February's NkshAytkn, held at the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux School. See more here. (pg. 3)

NNTC Staff News

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Minister Ma meets with Chiefs & NNTC

Minister Ma met with the Chiefs and representatives of NNTC in February at Skuppah. Read more about the visit here. (pg. 4)

NUO meeting at Lytton

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Youth Corner - Write for us!

Interested in writing for the NNTC newsletter. Get more info here. (pg. 6)

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Recovery Update

There are many community and nation-based initiatives supported by the Task Force including food security. A food bank to support the area previously operated in the Village of Lytton. In 2021, it was also razed along with the local grocery store, the entire Village of Lytton and Nlaka'pamux homes and community structures. In response, Lytton First Nation, Skuppah Indian Band, Siska Indian Band, Nicomen Indian Band and Kanaka Bar Indian Band set up and implemented community-based relief centres where Nlaka'pamux could access food. The operations were managed with community volunteer front-line workers and early operational costs were covered by individual communities.

Through the Task Force, the representatives and front-line workers from these communities were engaged to better understand what was needed and how those needs could be supported. Through this engagement and in partnership with Food Bank BC, the need for a regional centre and services beyond food were identified and a proposal for the regional centre is being developed. Although a clear picture of what this centre will offer to the communities is still developing, its core purpose is to provide food and support to the communities, support community-based relief operations with their past or current needs and work with food-based business enterprises to meet the complexity of food needs.

Skuppah's Food Security Centre

Construction has begun and the centre is expected to be completed in late Fall 2023. The Centre will provide food, will have food storage facilities for every family in the Skuppah community, as well as areas for processing fish and game. Skuppah is also pleased that three new homes are being built in the community and funded by Indigenous Services Canada rather than the usual practice of having to take out a mortgage to pay for new homes. Congratulations to Skuppah on its accomplishments!



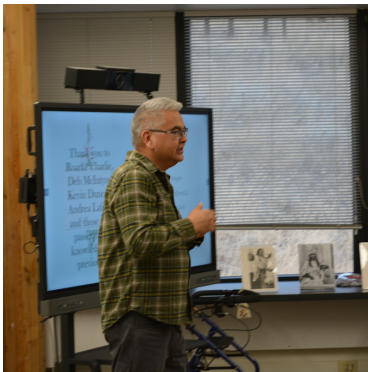
Chief Doug McIntyre

February's NkshAytkn Meeting

NkshAytkns are held every month on the 4th day whether it is a week day or a weekend. This is an important way for our people to gather, share wisdom and knowledge and to learn. Everyone is welcome.

In February, the NkshAytkn was held at the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux School. The topic of discussion was repatriation – Bringing ancestral remains from institutions. There was also a community discussion on DNA testing.

On March 4, 2023 NNTC held its 89th nkshAytkn gathering! The topic of discussion was Nlaka'pamux Women's Headgear. John Haugen facilitated. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Several archival photographs and other references were shared and lots of interesting discussions arose about women's headgear including talking about the different materials our ancestors used to make them.



NNTC Staff News

NNTC is pleased to welcome Julie Brown as our new archivist!

"My name is Julie Marlene Brown I am the new Archivist for the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council research unit. I lived in Lytton most of my life. I have graduated from Kumsheen Secondary School class of 2000. I am a strong Nlaka'pamux Woman. I live a healthy, and traditional lifestyle. I speak simple phrases in my Nlaka'pamux language but would love to learn more. I am 40 years old and a mother of 4 beautiful children. My hobbies are sewing, beading, and spending time with family and friends. I am always ready and willing to learn new things."





Deb and her new grandson Tucker Ty

Good news – In January, Debbie McIntyre shifted her work from NNTC Finance to being the NNTC Cultural Resources Coordinator. Deb did research, fisheries, archival and cultural work with NNTC prior to working in Finance. Deb has been with the NNTC for over 35 years.

Debbie is extremely knowledgeable and skilled. In her new role, she has been working on Nlaka’pamux land use and occupancy mapping, interviewing Elders, participating in cultural resource protection in the Skagit and assisting with NkshAytks as well as mentoring new NNTC staff. The protection of cultural resources is a critical aspect of protecting and advancing Nlaka’pamux title and rights. We appreciate very much Deb’s hard work and dedication.

Minister Ma meets with Chiefs & NNTC

The Honourable Bowinn Ma, BC Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, met with the Chiefs and representatives of NNTC in February at Skuppah. Minister Ma contacted Chief Matt Pasco, NNTC Chair, immediately upon her appointment as Minister requesting to meet with NNTC. The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is a new ministry formed in December 2022. We had a productive meeting with Minister Ma including discussions around renewable energy as an element to address climate change – climate change being a major factor in the emergencies Nlaka’pamux communities have had to deal with recently including fire and floods.



NUO meeting at Lytton

In January, the NNTC team working on Nlaka’pamux land use and occupancy met in Lytton. Archival, legal, specific claims and cultural resources staff all participated.

Pictured to the right are team members preparing for interviews with Elders and knowledge keepers who are sharing their stories, knowledge and wisdom. Thank you!



NUO meeting for Skagit

Skagit / Seattle City Light Re-Licensing Update

In January, the NNTC team working on the Skagit Hydro Project relicensing and Nlaka'pamux use and occupancy mapping met with archaeologists Kelly Bush and Michael Klassen at the home of Pauline Douglas. The work these teams are doing is helping to inform the Historic Properties Management Plan. This plan is part of the relicensing requirements. Advocating for terms to protect Nlaka'pamux interests is critical. Nlaka'pamux interests have been recognized in the USA but the Nlaka'pamux are not a recognized tribe so management plans are all the more important.

The Skagit - Nlaka'pamux Cultural Resources Survey Resumes this Spring in the southern Nlaka'pamux homeland

Four cultural surveyors will return this spring to the Skagit. Kevin Duncan lead surveyor, Chad and Nathan Edwards of Spuzzum will be joined this spring by Karen Dunstan of LFN. The Ross Lake reservoir is drawn down considerably every spring to allow for melting snow and flood control – and this is a good time to see those areas that are usually inundated. But it will also be an opportunity to visit a specific and special area that they were not able to survey due to the fires last fall. It is for this survey – and for her experience in winter harvesting that Karen was asked to join the team. They will be in there for two week-long sessions. We will be asking some Elders to visit those areas soon after.

Last fall twelve Nlaka'pamux Elders travelled to the reservoir to discuss the cultural surveyor findings and questions. On return Elders said they wanted to go back, and this time with family members – and when do we go back? We are arranging for another trip this fall: it should be a lot easier as we can access the reservoir from the north.



Karen Dunstan, Kevin Duncan, Michael Klassen, Pauline Douglas, Deb McIntyre, Kelly Bush at Historic Properties Management Plan meeting.

Meet Vince

Vince Brown is an accomplished Nlaka’pamux basket maker. His art takes him to the Skagit Valley where he finds the natural resources including cedar that he uses to make baskets as well as harvesting pine mushrooms. Vince has helped the NNTC in our efforts to protect cultural and natural resources impacted by the Seattle City Light Skagit hydro project by sharing his knowledge of the Skagit Valley.



NNTC works to protect the Nlaka’pamux homeland so that our traditions can live on and be practiced by future generations. Vince is Lillian Grenier’s brother. Lillian is the Executive Assistant at NNTC.

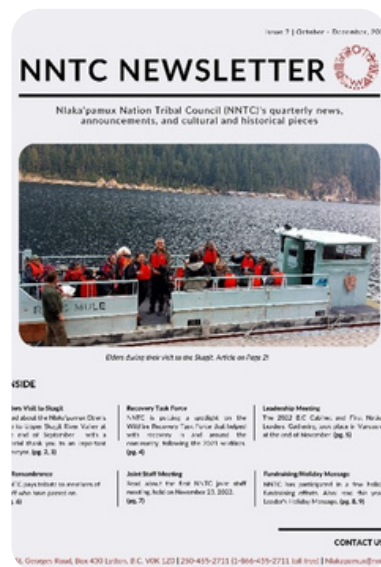
Pictured here Lillian Grenier, Executive Assistant and Jessie August, Strategic Initiatives & Governance Lead. Jessie works closely with the Fire Recovery Task Force (NNTC-BC-Canada Coordination Task Force on Wildfire Recovery and Rail Safety).



Youth Corner - Write for us!

NNTC publishes a newsletter four times a year. This is a way to help keep the community informed about what NNTC is doing and to share ideas.

We would like to hear from Nlaka’pamux youth and are asking any young people who are interested in writing an article for the NNTC newsletter to please contact Deb McIntyre (dmcintyre@nntc.ca). This is an opportunity to share your thoughts and perspectives. The work NNTC does is to benefit the Nlaka’pamux now and for future generations.



What would you like to see in our next newsletter?

NNTC leadership and staff are here to answer your questions, provide updates, and support our community in any way we can. We're always eager to share more of our heritage, including Nlaka'pamux cultural and historical pieces.

- Do you have any Nlaka'pamux stories that you'd like to have featured in our next quarterly newsletter?
- Are there any specific updates that you'd like us to highlight next quarter?

We want your feedback!

Send us an email at Nlaka'pamux@nntc.ca for any ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter!

