

NNTC NEWSLETTER



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



Elders during their visit to the Skagit. Article on Page 2!

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Elders Visit to Skagit

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Recovery Task Force

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Fundraising/Holiday Message

NNTC has participated in a few holiday fundraising efforts. Also: read this year's Leader's Holiday Message. (pg. 8, 9)

CONTACT US!

Elders Visit to Skagit - with special recognition to Barry Charlie

During the last year, cultural surveyors Kevin Duncan, Chad and Nathan Edwards spent ten weeks off the grid working in the southern part of the Nlaka'pamux territory that lies south of the border, in Washington State. Their task was to identify sites and landscapes occupied over the last millennia by their ancestors: the purpose is to protect these sites from Seattle City Light reservoir project operations and related public recreation activities. Under Washington States legislation it is the ground-truthing and evidence of Nlaka'pamux Elders the area that give the sites and areas the most protection.



Nlaka'pamux Elders who made the trip to groundtruth Nlaka'pamux landscape of Upper Skagit River Valley 27-29 September (not all pictured above)

2022: Jean McLeod, Coldwater - Art Sam, Nooaitch - Ester Vogt, Nooaitch - Harold Bobb, Spuzzum - Gordon Edwards, Spuzzum - Harold Thomas, Boston Bar - Jack McIntyre, Skuppah - Dr. Ruby Dunstan, Nickeyeah - Amy Charlie, Lytton - John Haugan, Lytton - Jim Brown, Lytton - Les Edmonds, Ashcroft

Nlaka'pamux Assistants to Elders: Autumn Walkem, Nicomen - Stacy Mussell, Boothroyd - Karen Dunstan, Lytton.

Nlaka'pamux Cultural Surveyors: Kevin Duncan, Lytton - Chad Edwards, Spuzzum - Nathan Edwards, Spuzzum

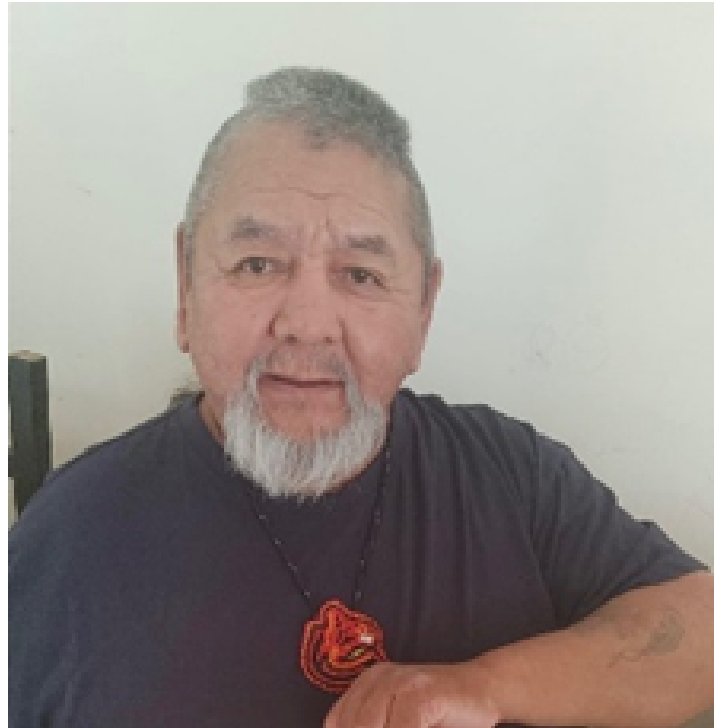
Twelve Nlaka'pamux Elders chose to do this important work: they came from the three main rivers in the territory above the border. Over half are Nlaka'pamux speaking, over half are over 80, and they come with very different kinds of expertise. And they came to work: when they were warned on the first day – it is still smoky down there and a good chance of rain – the answer was – well? Let's get going! It was a three-day trip as we had to travel through Washington State to the south of the Ross reservoir, stay in a workers' construction camp and be a barge at 7 a.m. to cross over another dam to Ross Reservoir. Seeing the three surveyors greeting us there was emotional. US. Parks had lent us their big old boat – and a captain. The water was too low for docks, but everyone managed to get ashore on the beaches for stops. We went slowly up the reservoir, survey leader Kevin Duncan pointing out the identified sites and landscapes and answering questions. It was a long exhausting day but everyone said it was extraordinary to be back in their lands, sad to see the trees and lands and old sites under water, ready to see how much of their temEEx and nhwbeent remained above the water but feeling glad to make the connections again and all said they can't wait to come back – once the Hope-Hozomeen road is open again!

We would like to also recognize the work of Barry Charlie.

Barry is very well known in the cultural survey world – for his experience and kindness and generosity. He was one of the surveyors in the first cultural survey of Nlaka’pamux lands south of the border, along the Skagit River and his contribution to identifying where Nlaka’pamux had been over the last centuries in this watershed – what they were doing – and how and at what season – was major.

He loved being out there, camping off the grid for weeks at a time, understanding the welcoming by the ancestors. He loves the cultural survey work in his territory – at Lytton at Highland Valley – always talking more to Elders and to other surveyors, always learning. He is also always generous in teaching younger surveyors.

Unfortunately, due to medical issues, Barry was unable to carry out the Skagit surveys during the last year. We look forward to Barry’s recovery and his return to guide us in our work.



Halloween Visit

NNTC had a special visit from Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux School students at Halloween.

Great costumes everyone. Thanks for the visit!

The work NNTC is doing is for the benefit of youth and future generations.



Spotlight on: Wildfire Recovery Task Force

The Wildfire Recovery Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional effort to address recovery of the people, communities and region impacted by the 2021 wildfires. NNTC, the province of British Columbia, and the government of Canada are the three jurisdictional bodies that make up the Task Force. Together, they co-developed commitments letters that help guide their work.

The underlying principle of this approach to wildfire recovery is that together, developing pathways and solutions to the challenges faced are done in collaboration, with innovation, and with Nlaka'pamux Title, Rights, culture, and values central to all. NNTC's participation is to keep Nlaka'pamux, and member community interests a key focus in Task Force efforts. That requires critical review and change to the ways things have always been done.

Today, we would like to share two initiatives of the land-based recovery work to demonstrate NNTC's role in the Task Force and how Nlaka'pamux is exercising jurisdiction in recovery efforts.

The first initiative is the development of salvage guidelines that will provide licensees with guidance on salvage applications in the homeland now and in the future. Currently, the province's application of salvage guidelines in the Nlaka'pamux homeland is varied due to the homeland being transected by 7 different TSA's and multiple licensees each with its own guidelines. Permits applications for salvage operations are developed according to key strategies identified by the licensee. Key strategies in the development of salvage applications for one licensee in the homeland includes target salvage areas and engagement with key stakeholders.

For identifying target salvage areas, this licensee prioritizes moderate to high burn severity areas identified through fire intensity mapping. Alternatively, NNTC developed guidelines refocus licensee identification of target salvage in highest burn severity areas and wood that is burnt, likely to die within 1-2 years of the fire, and are within the fire perimeter. NNTC and the province are currently piloting a project to spatially map principles and other Nlaka'pamux values for consideration in broader recovery plans.

The second initiative is development and implementation of Nlaka'pamux rehabilitation standards for addressing impacts of wildfire suppression activities.

Wildfire suppression efforts during a wildfire can involve many tactics, including establishing fireguards, which is an indirect method of fire control. This is accomplished through the strategic placement of hand or machine guards to create a break in fuels (trees, grasses, etc.) down to mineral soil in front of the fire to help slow or prevent fire spread. Rehabilitating the disturbed ground and re-establishing vegetation on the fireguards is required. The current process used by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources has been developed in isolation of Indigenous people. Under the Task Force commitments, NNTC and BC have worked together to develop new standards and practices for rehabilitating fireguards in the fire impacted areas of the homeland, which includes jointly developing seeding recommendations for all fire guards. A pilot project has been developed that will ensure that seeding in areas of high cultural significance will be revegetated with a Nlaka'pamux appropriate seed mix.

Leadership Meeting

The 2022 B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering was held in Vancouver November 28-30th.

The NNTC Chiefs had one-on-one meetings with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Minister of Forests, Minister of Mines, Minister of Finance, and Ministry of Mental Health representatives.

The Chiefs lobbied and offered alternatives related to many issues including fire recovery, old growth forest preservation, quA-ymn solar project, taxation, and emergency preparedness.

At the gathering, Trenton McIntyre, a Skuppah member, was providing information on UNDRIP working with the Declarations Act Secretariat.



Back row: Chief Janet Webster, Chief Doug McIntyre, Chief Mike Campbell
Front row: Chief Matt Pasco, Chair



Skuppah Councillor Sherry McIntyre and Trenton McIntyre

In Remembrance

Dan McKay – April 14, 1956 - Sept 22, 2021

Dan McKay had worked with NNTC as a heritage field technician on various archaeological field programs since 2015. He was a kind and gentle giant in the field and fondly called “Conan” by his peers. Dan was excited and proud of the work he did and enjoyed the company and collaboration in the field.

Dan was evacuated to Merritt during the fires. He had to stay in camp, but didn't complain, he was glad that his family was with him, and everyone was safe. He would send photos of the camp meals, he loved the food and said he was glad he didn't have to cook each evening. His booming laugh, knowledge of the land and positive energy will be missed by all who knew him.



Clint Charlie – Aug 12, 1990 – Aug 17, 2022

Clint Charlie had worked at AEW since 2017 as part of the archaeology team. He was honing his skills as a heritage field technician. Clint enjoyed working at HVC and on forestry projects. Doing heritage field reconnaissance was where he really excelled. Clint cared about his community and worked as part of the firefighting crews in 2021 and 2022. He is sorely missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.



Joint Staff Meeting

2022 has been a very full year at NNTC and the related entities working to protect and advance Nlaka’pamux title and rights.

On November 23, 2022, the first NNTC joint staff meeting was held. Staff from NNTC, Fraser Thompson Indian Services Society (FTISS), Nlaka’pamux Services Society (NSS), a choomEEEnsh a Nlaka’pamux (ACAN) and JouDem LP all met. Over 70 staff attended in person while others joined in virtually.



Photo: AEW staff lining up to introduce themselves.

There has been an incredible growth in staff recently. Staff learned JouDem grew from 6 employees in April 2022 to 85 employees in November 2022! AEW has had continual growth since 2019 and now employs over 100 people annually. One of the very positive aspects of the meeting was seeing so many of our Nlaka’pamux community members proudly working with NNTC entities. We appreciate their hard work and dedication. Together, these entities, staff, and leadership meet the mandate of NNTC to protect and advance Nlaka’pamux title and rights.

Watch for the next NNTC Newsletter when the different NNTC-related entities will be discussed.

At the staff meeting, each staff member introduced themselves – a common theme was how people appreciated working for an organization that is about protecting the land and resources in the best interest of the Nlaka’pamux - not making a profit for anonymous shareholders. We work to follow the fundamental Nlaka’pamux law: **“Take care of the land the land will take care of you”**.

When the businesses were established, their purpose was to work to protect title and rights. Profits are to be used collectively and re-invested to build the economic independence needed to fully exercise jurisdiction. After incredibly hard work and much dedication, the business entities are becoming profitable.

There have been some “growing pains” along the way, but the sense staff and leadership shared at the staff meeting was that a strong foundation has been created for positive opportunities now and in the future including further Nlaka’pamux employment.

Everyone agreed they would like to have another joint gathering in the spring to continue growing the awareness about Nlaka’pamux title and rights and the work being done by others in the different NNTC related entities.

Fundraising Efforts

NNTC was pleased to be able to support the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux School chocolate fundraising program. Great to be able to support the school and have chocolates to enjoy!



NNTC was also pleased to be able to help support the Lytton First Nation Elders Christmas luncheon.



Gladys Grenier with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Elders Luncheon.



NNTC Calendar

NNTC continued the tradition this year of having photos of the Elders taken to create a calendar.

This year, the Elders requested that their families be included too. The calendars are enjoyed all year and are a token of appreciation from NNTC to the Elders. Watch for copies of the calendar in the new year. Wishing everyone all the best for 2023!



In this photo: Dr. Ruby Dunstan, Elder, Past Chief Lytton First Nation and her family. Photo taken as part of the calendar photo sessions.

Leader's Holiday Message

The Chiefs and staff of NNTC wish everyone a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season with time to spend with family and friends.

We know Christmas and the holiday season can also be a difficult time. If you need someone to talk to you can call the **toll-free telephone support and crisis intervention counselling line, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1 877 820-7444 or the culturally sensitive crisis line at 1-800-588-8717.**



Lillian, Executive Administrative Assistant, in the Christmas spirit, helps prepare for NNTC staff gathering.

What would you like to see in our next newsletter?

As always, 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 Nlakapamux@nntc.ca for any ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter!



**Nlaka'pamux Nation
Tribal Council**