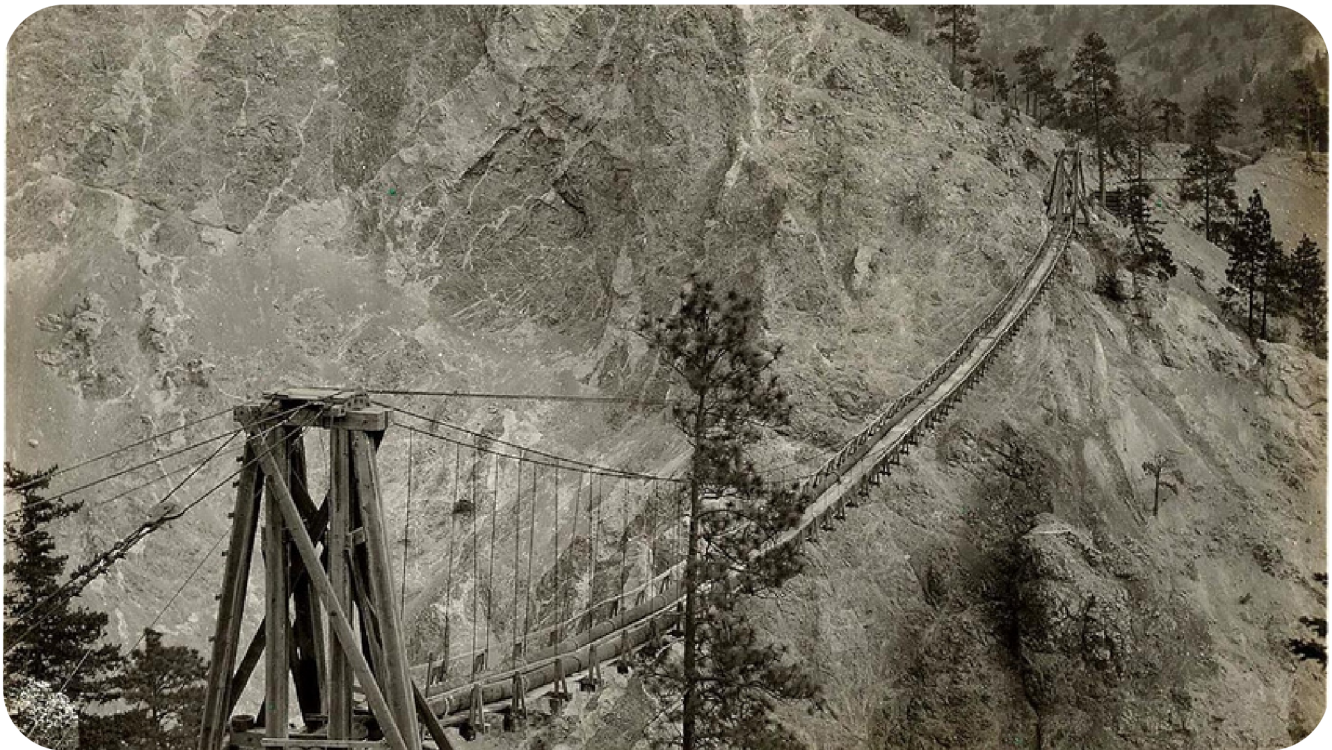


NNTC NEWSLETTER



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



Pictured above is suspension bridge at Lytton 1913.

INSIDE

January nkshAytkn

Stick Games event celebrates Nlaka'pamux culture, community, and traditional practices, featuring competitions and cultural activities. (pg. 2)

February nkshAytkn Genealogy

John Haugen hosted a gathering to explore genealogical ties between the Roberts family and Nlaka'pamux. (pg. 3, 4)

March nkshAytkn

Community session on Thompson River Salish Dictionary fosters Nlaka'pamux language preservation in Merritt and online. (pg. 5)

Skagit Relicensing Impact

NNTC engages in Skagit River hydroelectric project relicensing to safeguard Nlaka'pamux rights and environmental integrity over 50 years. (pg. 6)

New Director of Administration

Lee Anne Hunsbedt appointed Director of Administration at Nlaka'pamux Nation, bringing deep community commitment and experience. (pg. 7)

Grizzly Conservation Efforts

A.E.W. LP intensifies efforts to monitor and support the endangered Grizzly population in Fountain Valley-Hat Creek. (pg. 8)

Elk Population Monitoring

A.E.W. LP conducts an Elk Assessment in Lytton to track movement, health, and ensure road safety for the herd. (pg. 9)

AEW Employment Review

AEW 2023 reflects significant employment growth and extensive training, enhancing community skills and job opportunities. (pg. 10, 11)

Caterers Wanted

Seeking skilled caterers for events; offering competitive rates and opportunities to showcase culinary talents. (pg. 12)

CONTACT US!

Stick Games: A Day of Tradition and Community



On January 4th, 2024, the Battlefield Community Center in Lytton, BC, a special event titled "Stick Games," organized by John Haugen, was held. This indigenous game, known locally as lahal or shlahal, drew a crowd of approximately 30 people who gathered to celebrate and participate in this traditional pastime.

The event kicked off at 10 am with an opening prayer by Kevin Duncan, followed by a welcoming speech from Chief Niakia Hanna. He reflected on the importance of stick games in revitalizing Nlaka'pamux culture and the significance of coming together as a community. The day proceeded with various activities, including a teabag elimination round, and the main event, the stick games competition.

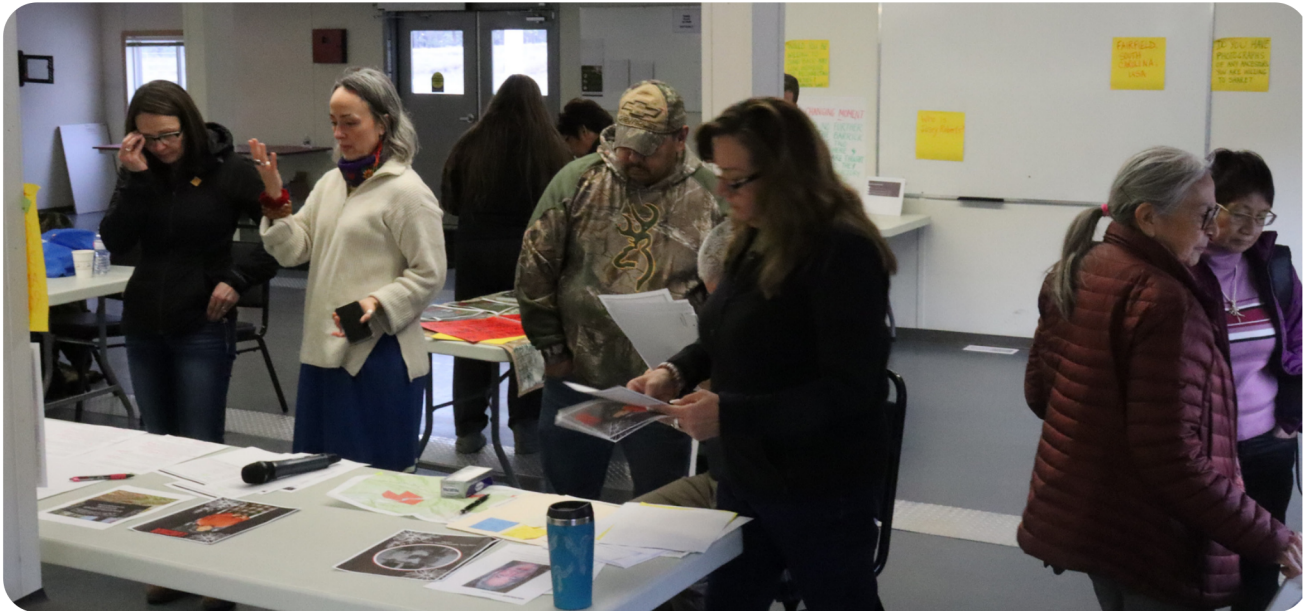
Four teams competed in the bone games, with the Rattlesnake team emerging victorious. Throughout the day, there were speeches, drumming, and a special segment for National Ribbon Skirt Day, where participants showcased their ribbon skirts and shared their stories.

The event also featured announcements about future community activities, such as hunt camp, fish camp, and a monthly shlahal game. Harvey Dunstan, a respected elder, shared his thoughts on the importance of community gatherings for personal healing and connection.

The stick games event was not just a competition but a celebration of culture, family, and community. It served as a reminder of the strength and resilience of the Nlaka'pamux people and the importance of preserving traditional practices for future generations.



Genealogical Gathering Unravels Rich History



On February 4th, 2024, John Haugen hosted nkshAytkn at the Battlefield Community Center in Lytton, BC. The gathering, titled "Are You Connected to the Roberts Family?", invited members of the community to explore their connections to the Roberts family, a settler family whose descendants have intermingled with the Nlaka'pamux people over generations.

Event Highlights:

The event, led by John Haugen, was well-attended, with participants bringing a wealth of family photos, trees, old documents, and records to share and explore. The day was rich with stories of connections and discoveries, as community members delved into their heritage and learned more about their intertwined histories.

John Haugen opened the event with a compelling talk, explaining the origin of the Roberts family from Fairfield, South Carolina, and their migration to what is now known as Foster's Farm. He highlighted the significant marriage between Mr. Roberts and a Nlaka'pamux woman, which marked the beginning of a long lineage intertwined with local families. John also pointed out that many records of these connections are kept in various locations, including Williams Lake and a large family research center in Vernon, which could be valuable resources for those interested in genealogical research.



United by Ancestry.

Notable Discussions:

Andrea Laforet's Genealogical Contributions: Andrea, a former Curator at the Canadian Museum, was commended for her extensive research and publication on the Spuzzum family and other genealogical works that continue to benefit the Nlaka'pamux community.

Exciting Discoveries:

A story shared by John about a family tree discovered in a roll of wallpaper purchased from a Value Village in Campbell River highlighted the unexpected ways in which lost family histories can resurface.

Genealogy and Connection:

Several attendees shared their personal stories and connections, underscoring the complexity and depth of family histories within the community. Notably, Jennifer Brown spoke about her genealogical research and workshops, emphasizing the importance of maintaining and accessing records, even those as cemetery plots and headstone details. Her dedication to preserving and documenting our heritage was a poignant reminder of the personal connections to our shared past.

Looking Forward:

The event closed with discussions of future gatherings and continued exploration of Nlaka'pamux genealogy. John Haugen announced the next nkshAytkn, focusing on the Thompson River Salish Dictionary, which will help community members better understand and use this crucial resource in their language and cultural preservation efforts.

The gathering was not only a chance to learn about genealogical ties but also an opportunity to strengthen community bonds and ensure that the stories of our ancestors continue to be told and remembered.

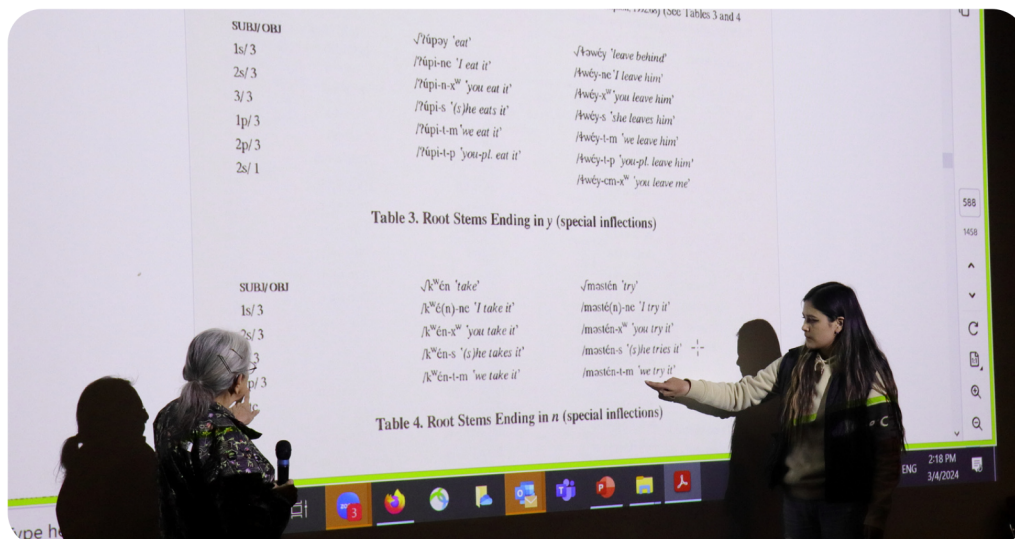
Deepening Connections: Exploring the Thompson River Salish Dictionary at NVIT



On March 4th, 2024, community members gathered both in-person at the NVIT Auditorium in Merritt, BC and remotely via the Can-8 Virtual Lab for an enriching session titled "Using and Knowing the Thompson River Salish Dictionary," hosted by Mandy Na'zinek Jimmie and John Haugen. The workshop explored the structure and practical use of the Thompson River Salish Dictionary, essential for understanding and preserving Nlaka'pamuxcin.

Participants brought their dictionaries and engaged in group activities that enhanced their understanding of the language. The event featured a comprehensive presentation by Mandy Jimmie, delivered in collaboration with the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly's nlaka'pamuxcin program staff. This allowed for a dynamic interaction, with attendees participating both on-site and online, fostering a wider community engagement.

This session celebrated Nlaka'pamux heritage and marked a significant step in the ongoing efforts to preserve the language, accommodating both local and remote community members effectively.



NNTC Engages in Skagit River Relicensing to Safeguard Nlaka’pamux Interests and Cultural Heritage

Work is continuing on the relicensing of the Seattle City Light hydro-electric project on the Skagit River. NNTC is participating in the relicensing process to protect Nlaka’pamux title and rights and ensure the Nlaka’pamux will be involved in protection of cultural resources and practices through the term of the licence – possibly 50 years. One of the issues is a plan by Seattle City Light to have fish passage to bring salmon to Ross Lake, which would mean salmon spawning in the Nlaka’pamux waters in the Upper Skagit Valley. We cannot agree to this unless adequate studies have been done to ensure there will be no negative impact to Nlaka’pamux title and rights including to the resident trout population and the eco-system as a whole.

Karen Dunstan and Kevin Duncan went to Seattle to meet in person with others involved in SCL relicensing to work on protection related to recreational uses in the Nlaka’pamux homeland – Upper Skagit Valley. Monthly workshops are held to deal with fish passage, recreation, cultural resources, and terrestrial concerns. NNTC participates in all relevant meetings/workshops. It is a busy time.

NNTC leadership invited members of Swinomish Senate to meet on March 6th at the Vancouver office. Stories were shared, relatives in common noted, and issues related to settlement on the SCL relicensing discussed. NNTC hosted lunch. The next meeting will be in the Swinomish homeland in April . Building relations with our neighbouring Nations has always been important.



Swinomish and NNTC Leadership

Welcoming Lee Anne Hunsbedt: Our New Director of Administration at NNTC



I am thrilled to introduce myself as the newly appointed Director of Administration at the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council. My name is Lee Anne Hunsbedt, and I am honored to embark on this new journey within our communities.

With over a decade of experience as a Health Manager for Fraser Thompson Indian Services Society, overseeing health programs, I bring a wealth of knowledge and dedication to my new role. My responsibilities will encompass human resources management, office administration, communication and community engagement, all vital components in fostering the growth and development of our communities.

Born and raised in Lytton, with roots deeply intertwined with our heritage, I have a profound love of our traditions and a firm commitment to preserving our language. Additionally, I am a proud parent to three wonderful children and blessed with three beautiful grandchildren.

Residing in Skuppah, I am surrounded by the beauty of our land and the warmth of our communities. My passion for animals, both big and small, further strengthens my connection to our environment and our way of life.

I am eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come with this new position, and I am dedicated to serving our community with integrity, compassion, and diligence. Together, let us work towards a bright future for the Nlaka'pamux Nation.

WANTED – Grizzly Sightings'



Over the last two years the A.E.W. LP has been on the search for Grizzly bears in the Fountain Valley – Hat Creek region, and this year we are asking for your help.

Grizzly bears are a vital part of the Canadian wildlife ecosystem, unfortunately within the Fountain Valley – Hat Creek region, located within the Nlaka'pamux homeland, they are considered endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

At A.E.W we are doing everything in our power to determine if the local Grizzly population are transitory in the region or the last of a decreasing population. Since 2021, we have deployed remote wildlife cameras, throughout the region to catch sightings of these elusive creatures so that we can determine population numbers, health of the animals, create opportunities for rehabilitation, and re-build a healthy population in the area.

Cameras were placed in areas known to be favourites of the Grizzly such as, alpine meadows, berry patches, rivers and lake areas. The cameras were left out from May to November; being removed before the bears head into hibernation. Over the years we have seen many animals like black bears, mule deer, moose, and squirrels; but unfortunately, we have yet to see a Grizzly. Grizzly bears try to avoid humans where possible, and with the increase in activities such as forestry, mining, human expansion and roads grizzly bears are having difficulty keeping up.

This is why A.E.W is working hard to get the facts, so that we can play an active role in supporting the Grizzly live abundant lives in the Fountain Valley – Hat Creek region. In the upcoming season we are increasing the number of cameras that we are placing in the area and baiting them with Grizzly loving fish oils and scents. We are also placing hair snags, modelling suitable habitat, and implementing eDNA analysis. All in efforts to increase our data and chances of spotting local Grizzly bears.

This is where YOU can help us. No one knows this area better than the community and we are asking for your help in finding the Grizzly bears. If you are out in the Fountain Valley – Hat Creek and spot a Grizzly in the wild, we want to hear from you. Please contact Glenn Sidwell at 778-254-8825 with your sightings or send us a message via our website www.aewlp.ca; and be a part of this important study of our local Grizzly bear.

This article was contributed by AEW.

Tracking and Preserving the Lytton Elk Herd: A Vital Conservation Effort



There is nothing more exciting than seeing an animal in the wild while travelling through beautiful British Columbia. Most people, when they think of elk in British Columbia, think of the famous elk herd in the Rockies. They can be seen along Highway 1, through Banff National Park, or around the town of Jasper.

In 1973, thirty-nine elk were transplanted from Jasper into the Lytton area, and they quickly began to thrive; partly due to a large wildfire that had recently been in the area. By the 1990's the herd had grown in numbers, peaking around one hundred and fifty. Since then, they have slowly declined to what they are now, roughly 40 animals.

The herd can often be seen grazing along the highway between Lytton and Boston Bar, which can be exciting for the passersby, but causes a threat of highway mortality to the population.

This is why A.E.W.LP has been tasked with the Elk Assessment, to monitor and track the movements of individuals and the herd. Our hopes are to learn not only the movement patterns but also genetic diversity, and over all health of the herd. Collecting this data will help us better understand these elk so that we can create new ways of keeping them and drivers safe.

We began the study this Spring, as we corralled and collared nine GPS collars. The elk were baited with alfalfa, molasses and apple mash, the cows were then tranquilized and fitted with tracking collars.

We took the opportunity to also gather other information while each cow was sedated. Samples of hair were taken to retrieve cortisol levels and DNA to determine the genetics of the herd. Fecal samples to determine if parasites were present, and finally blood to determine pregnancy, health, white blood cell count and trace minerals.

With smaller necks, the cows were perfect to wear these lightweight collars. Posing little threat to the cow wearing them, the collars will stay on for 2-3 years while sending a tracking transmission every two hours. After the assessment period, the collars are automatically released, or remotely released via radio signal. Each cow barely notices its presence or absence once finished.

Tracking the herd will give us invaluable information like habitat use, post-wildfire use and mortality information so that we can support the health and growth of the herd. We would appreciate if the community could contact Glenn Sidwell at 778-254-8825 if they see any Elk that have been hit and killed along the highway, or send us a message via our website www.aewlp.ca. Please do not try to remove the collars if found, call Glenn and report as soon as possible.

This article was contributed by AEW.



**Nlaka'pamux Nation
Tribal Council**

A.E.W.LP

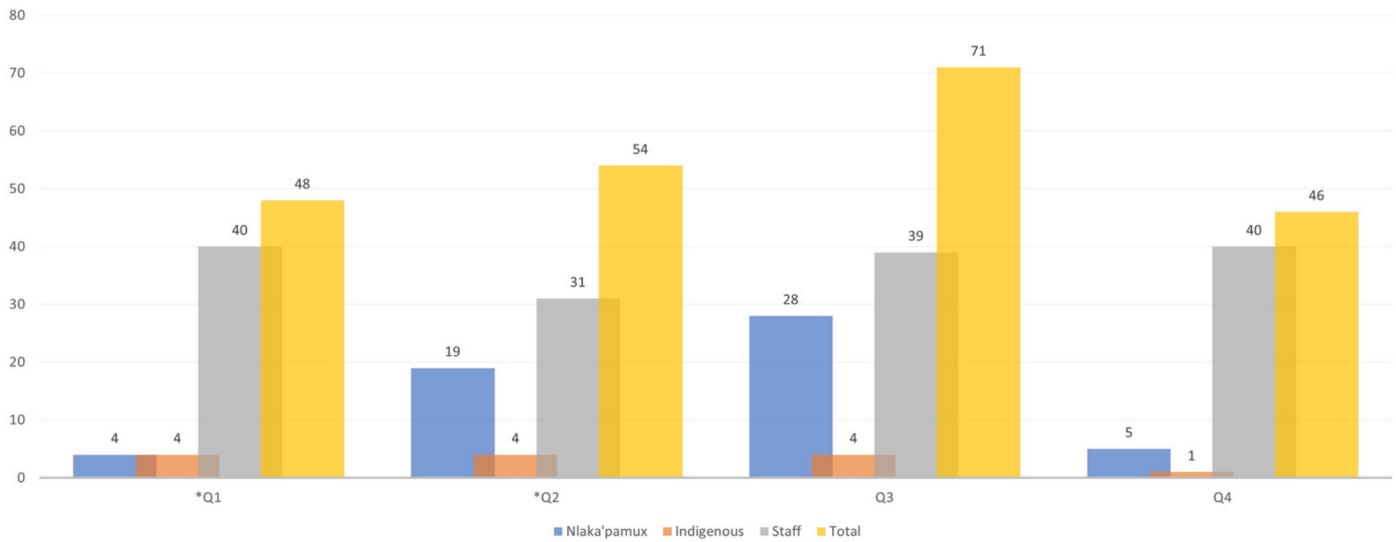
AEW LP 2023 Employment & Training In Review

| AEW 2023 Total Employment | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| New Job Postings | 7 |
| Number of Hires | *41 |

*approximate value



AEW 2023 Total Employment Numbers



*approximate values

NNTC Training 2023

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|
| 15 Community Members | March 9-24, 2023 | AEW | Cultural Heritage & Environmental Field Tech Training (RISC, EMCPP, OFA1, Wildlife Awareness, UTV/ATV) (ASETS & CALC) | \$74,000 |
| 3 Community Members and Staff | April 11-14 | AEW, FTISS | Drone Training was arranged by FTISS various funding sources | \$9,123 |
| 15 Community Members | April 17-June 23, 2023 | Nhwelmen Construction | TRU Road Builders \ Heavy Construction Foundation Program and Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship/ Nhwelmen Construction provided training site location and co-ordinator plus student supports (\$40k from BC Hydro, TRU, ITA and ASETS funded program) | \$551,857 |
| Community Member | Aug 14, 2023 | FTISS | Summer student training/Wages (BC Hydro) | \$10,530 |
| Community Member | Sept 13-14, 2023 | AEW | NRTG Electrofishing Certification (BC Hydro) | 1082 |
| Community Member | Oct 16-27, 2023 | AEW | OFA3 (BC Hydro) | 1625 |
| | | | Total for 2023 | \$648,217 |

CALL FOR CATERERS!

Are you passionate about food and hospitality? Do you have a knack for creating delectable dishes that leave a lasting impression? We're on the look out for talented caterers to join our roster for various events.

Rates:

- Lunch: 25.00 per person
- Dinner: 28.00 per person

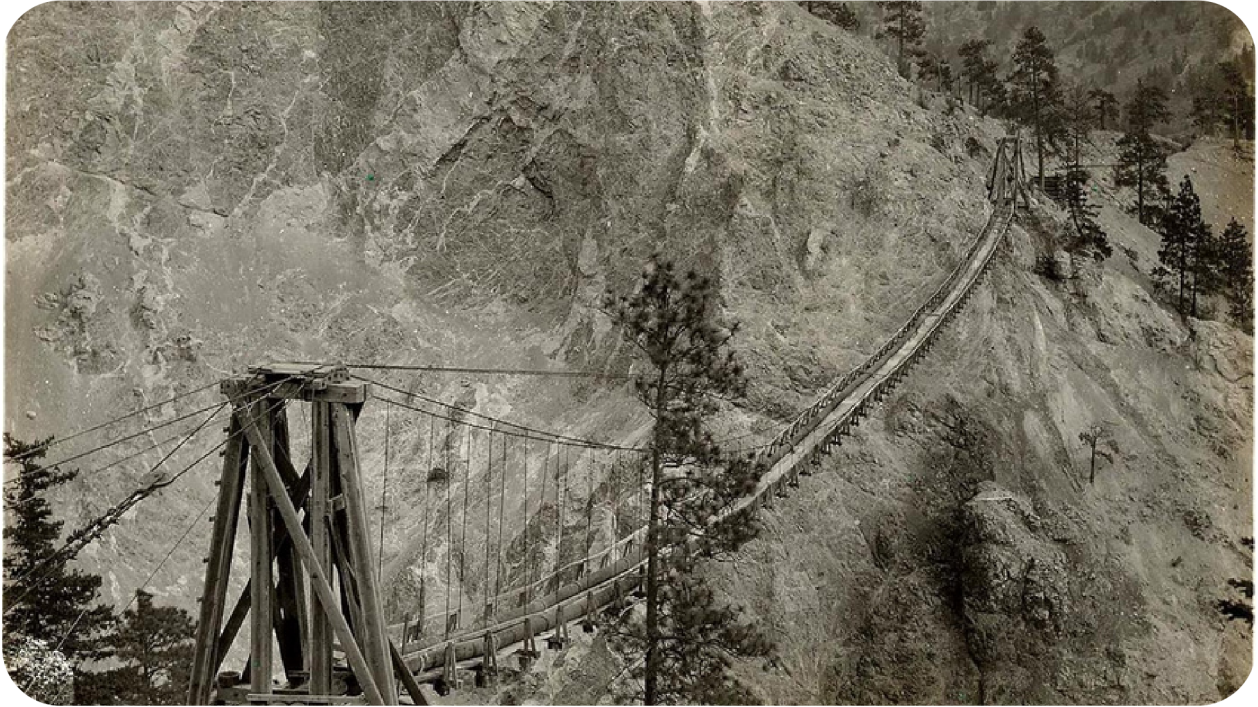
What's Included:

- Beverages
- Desserts
- The meal
- Cutlery and dinnerware
- Transportation (your own)

If you're interested in showcasing your culinary skills and becoming part of our community caterers, please reach out to Nathan Brown 250-455-2711 to be added to our list. Let's make every event unforgettable with delicious food and impeccable service!



Lytton Past and Present



Suspension bridge at Lytton, BC approximately 1913



Lytton, BC April 2024

NNTC Website and Newsletter Sign-up

Check Out Our Website!

Hello Wonderful Community,

We are excited to invite you to explore our website! After considerable effort and dedication, we have developed a digital space that is intuitive, user-friendly, and brimming with all the resources and information you value from us. To keep you connected and ensure you never miss an update, we've introduced a feature that allows you to have our newsletter delivered directly to your email inbox. Here's how you can set it up:

Visit Our Website

Take a moment to explore our new website at nntc.ca

Newsletter Sign-Up

On our homepage, you'll find a 'Newsletter Sign-Up' section. Simply enter your email address to subscribe.

Stay Updated

Be the first to receive all our latest news, updates, and exclusive content, all conveniently in your email.

Connect With Us on Facebook

If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook to join in the conversation and to stay updated with all our latest posts and announcements. Share the news about our website with your friends and family to help us grow our vibrant community. We thank you for your continued support and are excited to welcome you to our online home. We have many exciting things in store for you, and by signing up for our newsletter, you'll ensure you won't miss a thing.

Visit Our Website & Sign-Up for the Newsletter <https://nntc.ca/news/>

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. We look forward to sharing this chapter with you!

Warm regards,
The NNTC Team

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**