

HUWILT GITXSAN GOVERNMENT **GALD'M MAHLASXW** (SPREAD THE WORD)



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Gordon Sebastian

Dear Gitxsan members,

NEW CHANGES AHEAD

This year will bring some exciting new additions to the Gitxsan Huwilp Government. We have resources in place to inform our members on what is happening. We wanted to support our Chiefs so they can communicate with their Wilps and create tools to help achieve this. Visit <http://gitxsan.ca/aboutchiefs/> to see a full list of participating Chiefs and the team supporting them.

COMMUNICATIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT

We've hired a communications team and over the course of the next few months you'll see more newsletters, community bulletins, meeting videos and interviews, frequently asked questions and answers, website updates and a social media (Facebook) presence.

Our newsletters are hand delivered door-to-door on a monthly/bi-monthly basis. Didn't receive yours? Email our communications team at communications@gitxsan.ca and ask for your copy.

You'll start to see our communication coordinators taking photos, our video coordinators recording meetings; ads on Facebook asking for your contact address so we can email you updates or send them right to your mailbox and we will be utilizing the media to bring awareness to the initiatives that are important to us, such as protecting our fish and banning non-Gitxsan people from fishing our rivers on our territory.

YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED.

I've realized that communications needs to be a priority. Through our communication efforts so far, we've realized that there are many members that have questions. We plan on providing monthly updates and as we sort out logistics and create improved systems, I ask for your patience. We are doing our best as we onboard and train our energetic communications team. There are always growing pains as with any new initiatives that are launched, and with that being said, I'm impressed with the progress our communication team members have made in a mere three months.

Sincerely,
Gordon Sebastian

Purpose of the Newsletter

These newsletters will provide updates for members about Gitxsan Huwilp Government activity including:

Important meetings and news updates

Tracking ongoing conversations and issues

Historical facts and education about Gitxsan history

Interesting stories about Gitxsan members and initiatives in the laxyip and beyond

Opportunities for you to get involved

If you have an idea or a question, please email us at communications@gitxsan.ca. We would love to hear from you.

CONNECT WITH US

Want to learn more and stay up to date?

Go to our Facebook page by searching Gitxsan Huwilp Government and follow the page. Check out our new website which is updated frequently at Gitxsan.ca and while you're there sign yourself up or any family members that would like more information but don't have access to a computer for updates. We can mail or email information to you depending on your preference. Share these channels with your family members, friends and neighbors – this is just of one of the many steps toward informing, engaging and inspiring the Gitxsan to stand behind what they believe in.

NEW RECREATION CENTRE:

Chiefs Get A Sneak Peek Inside Hazelton's New Recreation Centre



This summer one of Hazelton's most exciting community projects – a state of the art, year-round recreation facility adjacent to the old ice rink – is set to open with an NHL-sized ice rink, a basketball court, a fitness centre, banquet facilities and a host of other amenities.

The grand opening is set for September, but on April 12, 14 Hereditary Chiefs, four Huwilp Government staff and a handful of others and were treated to a tour of the new facility, which will include programs and services for all ages and a variety of sporting and cultural interests.

"This facility is a place of belonging and hope for all people. Because of this facility our children will be stronger, safer, and ready for the future. We did this together and we should be proud," says Hereditary Chief Brian Williams.

Excitement was visible as Chiefs toured through the gymnasium, the ice rink and bleachers, and team change rooms. Finally, participants were treated to an up-close encounter with the facility's new Zamboni, with some of the more adventurous Chiefs even taking a turn to sit proudly in the driver's seat.

The recreation centre has been made possible by the financial contributions and collaboration of many people and organizations in the Upper Skeena region and beyond including private donors, federal and provincial governments, Bulkley Valley Credit Union, Royal Bank of Canada, the Vancouver Canucks, Gitxsan Government Commission and the Treaty Society.



Once open, it will become a huge part of the social, economic and physical wellness of the whole region as a host to tournaments, public skating, weddings, birthdays, conferences, workshops and gatherings.

The Huwilp Government representatives in attendance expressed their appreciation to Peter Newbery and Carol Huynh for their vision and hard work in making this happen for Hazelton and its people.

The facility will open sometime this summer, with a grand opening event to celebrate to be held in the fall.





1867

Canada constitution act created

1846

First contact between colonialists and Gitxsan people

1925

Canada outlawed the feast (Liligit)

1932

Five chiefs charged

1982

Gitxsan and Wetseweten Chiefs sue BC and Canada for ownership and jurisdiction over our laxyip

1986

Dropped the colonial system (band councils) and went fully into the hereditary system

1996

BC left the treaty negotiations

1994

Gitxsan Treaty Society is formed from the CAT team members

1997

The landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision (The Delgamuukw Decision) was handed down Dec. 11, 1997. Since then, other First Nations in BC, across Canada and around the world are using the Delgamuukw decision to seek justice on aboriginal title through the courts and through negotiations.

2000

Trilateral negotiations begin again between Gitxsan, Canada and BC

2003

Interim forest agreement reached, resulting in forest licensing.

2009-2010

Gitxsan Development Corporation created to build the local economy from the ground up

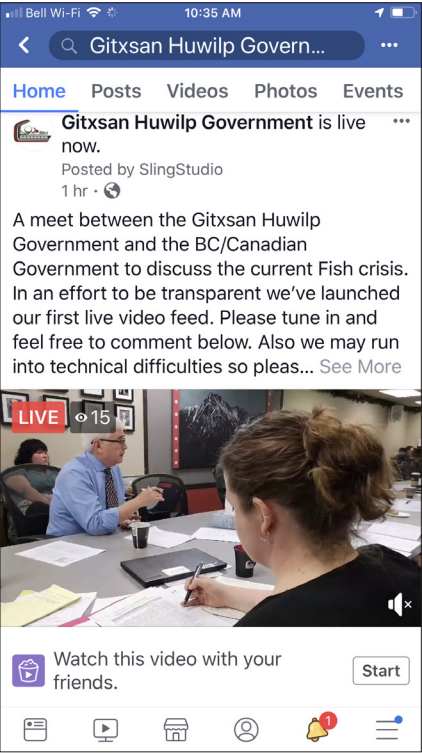
2018

Present Gitxsan Huwilp Government structure established by Simogyet (Hereditary Chiefs), organized into downriver chiefs and upriver chiefs. First objective is to address the salmon crisis with an overarching goal to protect and preserve the Gitxsan way of life.



NEW! We live stream our meetings onto our facebook account

For more detailed review visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/gitxsanhuwilpgov/>



Crisis Management Meeting Update: April/May 2019

Initiated and led by Gitxsan Simgiigyet, the Crisis Management Team is an advisory group to the Gitxsan Huwilp Government. The crisis at-hand is the issue of protecting the fisheries tenure along the Skeena.

The Ayook dictates the Anaat boundaries for each Wilp. According to our law, one Wilp cannot enter another Wilp's Anaat to hunt or fish without permission.



However, the province and the federal government provide access to outsiders through various permits through the permitting process, which is trespassing. The Crisis team will address issues like

how to enforce the fishing ban and deal with access and trespass on our territory.

Every month the Crisis Management Team meets and has invited the Province and Canada to participate in learning about the Gitxsan laws and jurisdiction and coming together to work on a solution. The Crisis Management Team is set out to bring together everyone's intelligence, perspectives, and influence to figure out how to proceed with a shared objective for the 2020 season.

What is the primary issue?

Trespass over the Gitxsan's Annat (fishing sites) by non-native permit holders. The Gitxsan people have laws that have existed for 1000's of years that dictate by who can, and when, fishing holes can be accessed and permission is required (even if you are Gitxsan) by the hereditary chief whose family owns the fishing sites. Some of our fishing sites have become inaccessible due to government infrastructure such as railways. We have a fish crisis problem— environmental changes, habitat destructions by forestry, access and low stock counts.

Proposed Interim Solution

We will require further collaboration and enforcement commitment from the Government and BC Province to support the Gitxsan hereditary chiefs' decision to prohibit all recreational and sport fishing in 2019. This announcement is a step to building awareness on the fish tenure and jurisdiction that exists within the Gitxsan territory and creating a deeper understanding from our stakeholders like the Canadian Gov-

"In our traditions, we usually prepare fish to share amongst our families and our feasts, we were never told how and when we could do this on our own fishing sites. We were taught by our ancestors that we only take what we need and to never play with our fish as there will be retribution for that." –Robin Alexander

ernment and the Province of BC and the general public.

Actions

The Gitxsan Hereditary Chief's issued another press release to the media detailing the closure on April 30, 2019 which was picked up by local media and tourism organizations like CFNR, CFTK TV and Terrace Standard.

Additional Outcomes & Collaboration

On May 10 the Gitxsan Huwilp Government has invited representatives from BC and Canada to visit a Gitxsan Fish Camp to learn more about the Gitxsan culture and the Gitxsan laws that have existed related to fishing sites. This initiative is to help Canada and BC understand and respect the fish jurisdiction that already exists amongst the Gitxsan and will invite decision makers to make changes to their permitting processes to help better create a collaborative approach to our Fish Crisis Issue at hand.

Future Collaboration & Meetings

Meetings have been confirmed to undertake presentations by the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs, BC and Canada to talk and their jurisdictions and an action plan to address a more collaborative approach between all three governments. A discussion that was proposed was to create an administrative tribunal or committee to adjudicate on the Fish Crisis Issue.

Further dialogue is required, and the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs are hopeful that the recent fish closure announcement applies weight on stakeholders to move on policies for enforcement and collaboration.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs Prohibit All Recreational and Sport Fishing in 2019

"All persons holding recreational fishing permits and/or fish guiding licenses are no longer allowed to trespass in Gitxsan territory. People need to know that when they fish here, they are trespassing in controlled territory," says Brian Williams, Chair of Gigeenix (Up River Chiefs).

Since September 2017, in a historic milestone for the Gitxsan, 38 Hereditary Chiefs - dubbed the Huwilp Government - have been working together to protect the salmon habitat, as salmon are integral to the diet and culture of the indigenous peoples in the Skeena Watershed. The Chiefs are enforcing individual Indigenous rights to the fisheries and bringing awareness for the traditional Gitxsan fisheries tenure (Anaat) along the Skeena River. Central to the Chiefs' working together, and building on the 2018 ban, is a recreational and sport fishing ban for all license/permit holders in the 2019 season.

"All persons holding recreational fishing permits and/or fish guiding licenses are no longer allowed to trespass in Gitxsan territory. People need to know that when they fish here, they are trespassing in controlled territory," says Brian Williams, Chair of Gigeenix (Up River Chiefs).

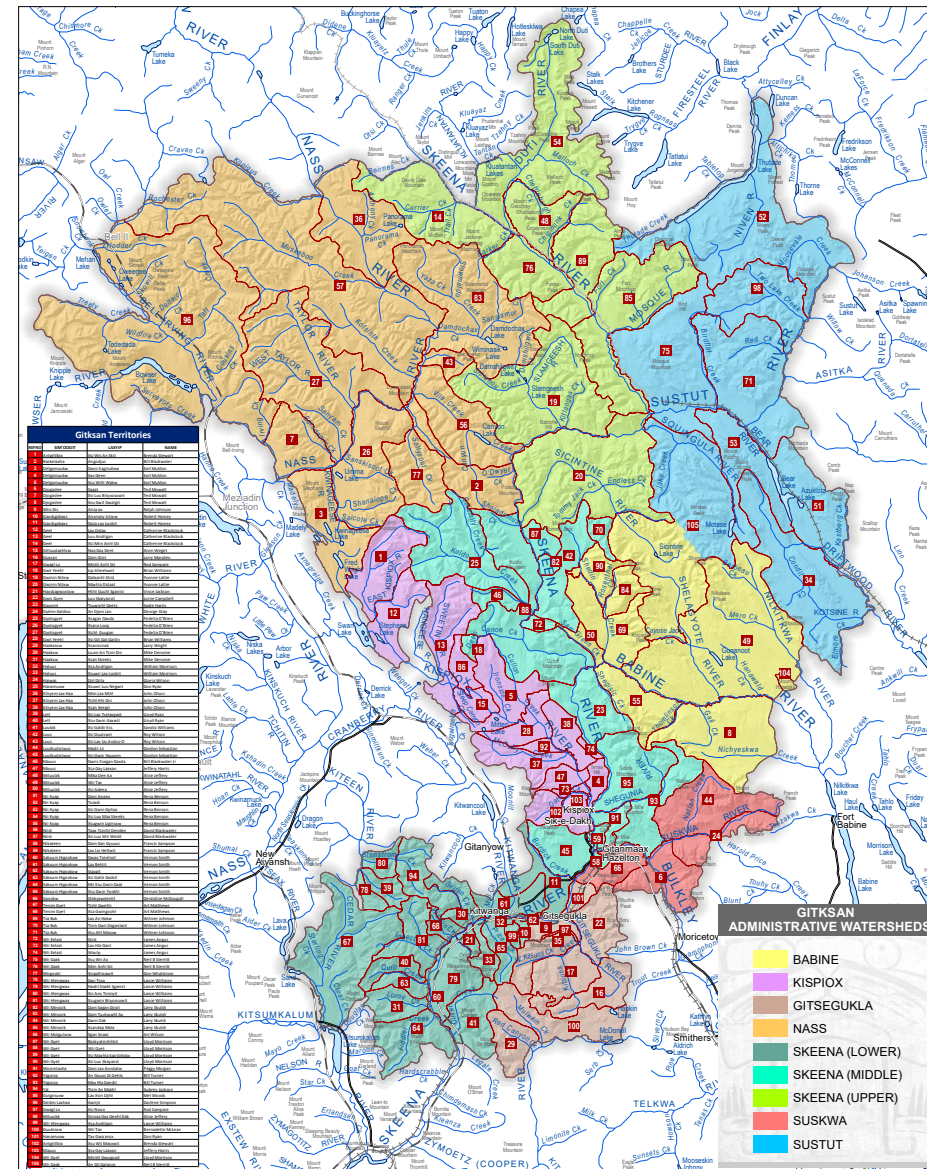
An advisory committee called 'Crisis Team' has been created by the Chiefs to focus on discussing public access to fisheries tenure/Anaat for the year 2020. The committee's mandate also includes an advisory role with stakeholders like BC and Canada and collaboration with other First Nations dealing with the salmon crisis, as part of the Skeena Nations Fish Forum Protocol.

The Crisis team is collaborating with the government to create a future process where all recreational fishers require permission from individual Chiefs to fish on the river. While the ban marks the beginning of an ambitious journey, the process fully respects the Daxgyet of the Simgiigyet and adheres to the tenets of the traditional system (Ayook, Adaakw and Lilliget).

"Our fish are in crisis and this is an ongoing situation with a track record that has been going downhill. We have to do something. The next step we talk about is to find a path to turn this around and banning recreational and sports fishers from fishing our traditional territory is a step in the right direction," says Art Wilson (Wiimoulglx-sw), Gitxsan Hereditary Chief.

A communication platform that includes a website, newsletters and live streaming of meetings has been created to promote transparency around the decisions and actions of Huwilp Government. A full list of participating Chiefs is posted. While 38 Chiefs are currently participating, and the goal is to reflect all of the traditional Gitxsan Anaat.

Read more about the Huwilp Government at www.gitxsan.ca.



JOB ALERT

We are looking for an on-call photographer who would also double as our video assistant on an on-call basis. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please email us at communications@gitxsan.ca.

HAVE A PHOTO WE CAN SHARE?

Submit and enter to win!

Send us a copy at communications@gitxsan.com with your name and contact information and every submission will be entered for a chance to win a \$50.00 gift card to the Gitanmaax Market. Draw takes place on August 5 at 1 pm. Follow our facebook page to see the winner!

The photo submission contest winner for last issue's winner is Robert Mathews! Thank you for submitting your photo of Sdikeyoodin and Hospital Lake!



MEET THE TEAM

We've been hard at working training and hiring our new communications team. We have been getting asked who is behind our video live streaming, our website and our social media efforts. We will profile our staff and Chiefs in every issue. This month's issue is profiling Darius Muldoe who is the Digital Media and Graphics Coordinator for the Gitxsan Huwilp Government and his role is recording, live streaming and editing the meetings and interviews and community events related to the office. He will also be responsible for posting on our social media channel as well. You can reach out to him directly at media@gitxsan.ca.



Check out this interview with Darius Muldoe.

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Darius Muldoe. The film industry has been a passion of mine for years now. I was at first self-taught, using Sony Vegas Pro to edit videos I recorded for my YouTube channel. I still have that going but I've switched to Premiere Pro for editing. I attended the Toronto Film School after my high school graduation, where I learned more about the industry. The program I took at the film school was focused more toward the technical side of things because that's what I'm most interested in. During and after the film school, I continued to edit my own videos for my Esports Organisation and YouTube, as well as those who have reached out to me edit their content. What inspires me is simple: passion. Entertaining people through moving pictures is what I love to do.

How will this role advance your aspirations?

All of the work we do adds to my portfolio which will push me toward my upcoming goals.

Best piece of advice for aspiring videographers?

Always seek to improve your work and expand your horizons. Work with as many people as possible because the film industry is very competitive and growing.

Favourite food/show?

My favourite food to have are wings. My ABSOLUTE favourite movies are all things Marvel. I love the Marvel Cinematic Universe through and through. I look to eventually create movies just as big as Marvel.

How to get involved

REGISTER FOR UPDATES ONLINE AT:

www.gitxsan.ca

OR PHONE AND ASK FOR VANESSA

1-866-842-6780

FOLLOW US

[Facebook.com/gitxsanhuwilpgov](https://www.facebook.com/gitxsanhuwilpgov)

ATTEND AN EVENT

Watch for details, including live streaming, in the weeks to come

HAVE A QUESTION?

Email communications@gitxsan.ca or stop by the Gitxsan Government's Office.