



# Q & A

with Kitsumkalum's New Economic Development Officer

- Terry Bennett

**Q: Tell us about yourself?**

**A:** I am a Certified Management Accountant with over 35 years experience in the forest industry. Grew up and graduated in Terrace. Also was the Chief Financial officer of the Terrace Lumber Company and before that General Manager of Sawmills for New Skeena Forest Products.

**Q: What is your mandate as the New EDO?**

**A:** To facilitate, promote and ensure community economic development. My mandate is also to secure opportunities for economic business development, entrepreneurial promotion and development for the creation of local employment.

**Q: What will be your priorities and vision?**

**A:** Research and provide recommendations on economic development opportunities which provide a basis to allow the Kitsumkalum Band to become self sufficient and self reliant.

**Q: How do you plan on making First Nations Economies work?**

**A:** By developing business ventures which are aligned with the First Nations cultural priorities.

**Q: Any message you would like to give to members?**

**A:** Economic development is a community effort not an individual effort and in order for economic development to succeed it must have the support of the community as a whole. I am thrilled to be a part of the team and look forward to developing all the promising opportunities with the Kitsumkalum people. I have an open door policy and am always available to discuss economic initiatives with anyone.

To get in touch with Terry Bennett you can reach him by email at: [tbennett@kitsumkalum.bc.ca](mailto:tbennett@kitsumkalum.bc.ca) or feel free to call the band office directly.

# Kitsumkalum's TREATY TIMES

Together, Getting It Right



A free publication published by the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office that informs our people on our Treaty.

## TREATY TIMES PHOTO & STORY CONTEST

The Kitsumkalum Treaty Office is looking for story or photo submissions on your family, the Kitsumkalum scenery, community events, history, your life journey, the challenges and the successes of living here, or anything you think would be a great addition to the Treaty Times. Send your story or photo to the Treaty Times. If your story is featured in a Treaty Times issue you will receive a promotional gift.

Send your story or photo to:

Fax: (250) 635-6196  
Email: [rubby@nikitamarketing.com](mailto:rubby@nikitamarketing.com)  
Mail: Nikita Marketing Communications  
2270 Thornhill Street, Terrace BC, V8G 4Z4  
or drop off at the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office

## ENTER TO WIN a getaway for 2!

(Secret location to be announced)

- Step 1: Attend the next community treaty meeting
- Step 2: Complete & submit your treaty survey
- Step 3: Enter your contact information in our draw box

Increase your chances to win by completing the survey at every meeting! One entry per person per meeting.

Didn't receive any treaty information? Your address may need updating. Join our mail list by sending us your name, address, phone number and email address to [rubby@nikitamarketing.com](mailto:rubby@nikitamarketing.com) or call 250-635-0105.

## TREATY TRIVIA | SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY TO WIN A PROMOTIONAL PRIZE PACK!

Prize will be drawn at the at the next community meeting.

**Q: Who is the new head of the BC Treaty Commission?**

**Answer:**  
Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

One entry per person and you must be present in order to claim the prize. Prize will be drawn in the month March and the winner will be announced at the community treaty meeting.

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KITSUMKALUM FIRST NATIONS



INVOLVE • INFORM • INSPIRE

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Photo contributors: Baritha Barikitt, Rob Gerow and Heather Bohn

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# Old Learning's and New Beginnings

Everyone here at the Treaty Office would like to wish a Happy New Year to you and your family. Cheers to a New Year and a fresh start with new and exciting opportunities within the community. With that being said - it's back to work!

The New Year means we will be creating new schedules for meetings, developing work plans for treaty negotiations and implementing new strategies for community engagement and consultation.

This time of year is not only about planning for the future, but a time to reflect on our past challenges and successes. We have processed the knowledge we gained from last year and are incorporating it into this year's communication strategy.

Our goal for the New Year is to continue encouraging members to get involved during Stage 4 of the treaty process: agreement in principle. The treaty office has made a commitment to all band members to continue incorporating your thoughts and suggestions to develop solutions to treaty issues. Your feedback is important and we value your thoughts. In the next coming months, our communications team will be reaching out to you and will be asking for commitment for participation. **Together, Getting it Right!**

Sincerely,  
Alex Bolton



"Kitsumkalum Treaty Office  
wishes you Happy New Years"

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### KITSUMKALUM TREATY OFFICE: COMMUNITY MEETING - TO BE ANNOUNCED

We will be announcing a date for the next community treaty meeting shortly.

### WORKING GROUP - ON GOING

Our communications team will be in touch with community members in order to start gathering feedback on each chapter in the Agreement in Principle. If you would like to participate please call our communications consultant at Nikita Marketing Communications at 250.635.0105.

### Kitsumkalum All Candidates Forum

Feb 17th, 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Students invite you to the Kitsumkalum All Candidates Forum February 17th, 2009 7:00pm - 8:30pm at the 'Na Aksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre

### Kitsumkalum Election Day

February 25th

Election will be held at the Kitsumkalum Community Centre Wednesday Feb 25th, 2009 from 9AM - 8PM.

## CONTACT US

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[www.kitsumkalum.bc.ca/treaty](http://www.kitsumkalum.bc.ca/treaty)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



Congratulations to our winners who are pictured here after receiving their prizes! Names were drawn during our community meeting on November 12th.



## NEW HEAD of BC Treaty Commission Announced

Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, announced today that the new chief commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission will be Chief Sophie Pierre of the Ktunaxa Nation. "B.C., Canada and the First Nations Summit have reached consensus on this high-profile and challenging position," said de Jong. "Appointing the right person is essential to ensure that the Treaty Commission works in an effective manner. We are confident that Sophie Pierre has the experience, knowledge and energy to bring to the role and I firmly believe that she is the right person to guide the commission forward in the important task of advancing negotiations and facilitating fair and durable treaties."

**"We are very pleased that Chief Pierre has accepted this important and challenging role as chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission."**

The chief commissioner is appointed jointly by B.C., Canada and the First Nations Summit, and the appointment will require ratification by all three principals.

"We are very pleased that Chief Pierre has accepted this important and challenging role as chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission," said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive. "Chief Pierre is a highly regarded First Nations leader who has worked tirelessly to create improved opportunities for First Nations people in her community as well as across Canada. We are confident she will be effective in her new role, providing clear and decisive leadership and strengthening the renewal of the negotiation of fair, just and honourable agreements in B.C."

"Chief Sophie Pierre has shown strong and consistent leadership, not only in her community, but in our province and at the treaty table," said Chuck Strahl, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and

Northern Development. "She has the ability to bring groups together in partnership for the benefit of all Canadians. We look forward to working with her and the other commissioners to create opportunities for all British Columbians through the modern treaty-making process."

Sophie Pierre will replace Grand Chief Steven Point, who left in 2007, as chief commissioner. In the interim, the current treaty commissioners have acted as chief commissioner. Sophie Pierre is a respected leader among B.C. First Nations. She led the St. Mary's Indian Band for more than 20 years as elected chief and has dedicated her energy and enthusiasm to improving

the quality of life and opportunity for her community and for First Nations throughout B.C. Born in Cranbrook, she holds a business administration diploma from Camosun College.

Some of Chief Pierre's other achievements include receipt of the Order of British Columbia in 2002 and, in 2003, of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the business category. Her business acumen and commitment to her people, evidenced through youth activities, women's advocacy and elders' support, have made her one of the most recognized Aboriginal leaders in the country.

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent and neutral body, founded in 1992 to facilitate the negotiations of treaties with First Nations in British Columbia.

# What is Tsimshian First Nations (TFN) Treaty Society?

The Tsimshian First Nations (TFN) Treaty Society is comprised of five Tsimshian First Nations in Northwestern British Columbia in effort to achieve a treaty agreement(s) with Canada and British Columbia under the British Columbia Treaty Commission process. The purpose of the Society is to administer funds for treaty negotiations received on behalf of the Kitselas, Gitga'at, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nations.

## TSIMSHIAN FIRST NATIONS TREATY SOCIETY'S CHIEF TREATY NEGOTIATOR GERALD D. WESLEY

Treaty Update by TFN Treaty Society's Chief Negotiator Gerald D. Wesley

### Times of Change

Treaty negotiations in British Columbia continues to be a challenge however despite the obstacles and the frustrations felt at all levels, First Nation people persevere and maintain the path that will see more positive changes and better social and working circumstances for us all.

The United States has recently elected the first African-American person in their history to the highest position in that country – Barack Obama becomes President of the United States in January 2009. Imagine the changes and the struggles the black people of America have undergone – from slavery to Presidential profile in less than 200 years! First Nations in B.C. pursue similar results – that our people are able to care for themselves –not just to subsist but to live healthy, prosperous lives, where our people are no longer viewed as second class, where we have capable, intellectual and practical leaders in every segment of society – not just ours but of all society.

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The current international economic crisis started in the United States but now covers the globe. How it may affect First Nations is not yet determined but rest assured we will be hurt. If history is any indication, when times are tough and government starts tightening its budget controls First Nations are near the top of cuts. Housing, Education, Health services and Economic Development may be visible impact areas that our Chiefs and Council will face. Until we are in a stronger position that enables control over our own economic circumstances we will always be subject to the will of the federal or provincial government's direction.

On November 13, 2008, one of the West Coast of Vancouver Island Tribes – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation signed an 'Incremental Treaty Agreement' with British Columbia. While not a full comprehensive treaty, it does provide that community with immediate access to

### "On November 13, 2008, one of the West Coast of Vancouver Island Tribes – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation signed an 'Incremental Treaty Agreement' with British Columbia."

some of their traditional territory for residential and economic purposes. The Incremental Treaty Agreement also provides them with \$600,000 capacity funding to assist with development purposes. This is the first agreement of its kind as part of the BC treaty negotiation process. The Tsimshian First Nations of Kitselas, Kitsumkalum and Metlakatla were engaged in negotiation for a fishery Incremental Treaty Agreement through 2006-07 however have now set aside that effort to concentrate on full comprehensive treaty results.

British Columbia is now officially 150 years old! While that may be a reason of celebration by some, it's also a time for First Nations to re-state the fact that there is unfinished business involving First Nations. Grand Chief Ed John is well known to the Tsimshian through his involvement with the First Nations Summit.

He recently wrote an editorial article to the Vancouver Sun and the Province Newspapers reminding people of the shortcomings of British Columbia and its successive governments. He states:

"...We share an incredibly beautiful and resource-rich land which has provided for a livelihood for most British Columbians. Not necessarily for B.C. First Nations, however. The goodwill of the people and the political will of governments is required to address socio-economic disparities and honourably and fairly resolve the 'land question.' John goes on to say that as a result of legal victories by First Nations governments must rectify myths and incorrect facts put in place by the first governor of this province and maintained by successive governments. "This, however is a difficult and complicated political and legal undertaking." As with the Tsimshian effort, the Grand Chief maintains a position that government does not have the legal authority to extinguish first nations' aboriginal rights and title and urges both the federal and provincial governments to provide workable mandates that will allow them to engage in positive discussion and negotiations with First Nations.

The B.C. Treaty Commission released its annual report on the status of treaty-making in BC on November 26. In that report, Acting Chief Commissioner Jody Wilson states the Commission sees four good opportunities to move treaty negotiations forward and see more treaties achieved. The opportunities are: an Incremental Treaty Process as with the recent Tla-o-qui-aht agreement;

opportunity through effort of a Common Table approach to overcome key obstacles; opportunity for more agreements if Canada confirms a mandate over fishery issues similar to agreements reached with the Tsawwassen Nation and the Maa-nulth First Nations; and finally if the BC First Nations Leadership Council and the provincial government can achieve a workable 'recognition and reconciliation act' to address aboriginal rights and title in this province. Wilson also states "A treaty is not the one, all encompassing answer to every problem and challenge facing First Nations; nor can negotiations occur in isolation from other important initiatives and events that impact aboriginal people." The annual report closes with statement that a sustained and determined focus is required by the parties if these opportunities are to be realized as a way forward for treaty negotiations. We have come to a new year. Let us hope and pray for success, health and new opportunity for our members, whether we are at home or away. Hug your children and your family. Best of the season to you all!



# CHANGES AHEAD — TREATY OFFICE MEETS WITH COMMUNITY

Recap - Community Treaty Meeting November 12th, 2008

The most recent community treaty meeting was held on November 12th at the Kitsumkalum Hall. Forty-three band members were in attendance, including a series of speakers. Community members interacted actively throughout the meeting by asking questions, and also provided feedback via a survey distributed by the Treaty Office. The points brought up by band members will be integrated into the treaty office's strategies in the near future, in order to improve communication.

Mark Stevenson, a contracted legal advisor for the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office, was the central speaker at the meeting. His ongoing role at meetings is to facilitate discussion on the progress of each chapter in the Agreement in Principle (AIP), emphasizing everyday language and direct answers to community questions. He works as a legal advisor on all Kitsumkalum treaty issues.

Other speakers included Alex Bolton, of the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office, who opened the proceedings. Gerald Wesley, of the Tsimshian First Nations Treaty Society, spoke on the progress of talks between the various Tsimshian Nations and the provincial and federal governments. Delegates from Federal and the Provincial governments (particularly, the BC Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Department) were also present during the meeting.

Alex Bolton stressed the importance of an informed community and outlined the treaty office's strategies to maintain constant communication. "To address the questions of our people, the treaty office will be creating booklets that detail the progress of each of the chapters and answer questions arising from our community meetings.

In conjunction we also aim to have a follow up forum designed to discuss other feedback made by our people. This will help our people be kept informed and involved, and is especially important since it is hard for members to attend all the community meetings and be kept up to date," Bolton said.

There are a total of 25 chapters in the Kitsumkalum Agreement in Principle and this agreement will form the basis of the treaty. The AIP is not legally binding and is in Stage 4 of 6 of the Treaty Process.

Each of the ongoing monthly meetings centres on discussions of two chapters of the Agreement in Principle. There have been three community meetings so far, and the last four chapters under discussion were: Ratification of the Final Agreement, Approval of the Agreement-in-Principle, Implementation and Eligibility & Enrolment.

"Our records indicate that there is a slight increase in attendance and there does seem to be a growing number of new faces at every meeting," said Ruby Gill Ware, the Treaty Office's communications consultant. "We aim to continue to increase attendance by creating targeted outreach campaigns during Stage 4 of the treaty process. Research also indicates that the most effective way to increase attendance during community treaty meetings is through word of mouth, and we would like to continue to encourage members to bring someone else along."

**To provide feedback contact the treaty office or Nikita Marketing Communications at 250-635-0105.**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the CFNR Storm Dragon Boat Team who won the the 3rd annual dragon boat Regatta at Lakelse Lake this past summer.



The final results were as follows:

**A Division**

- 1st CFNR Storm - (CFNR Classic Rock)
- 2nd Tragically Quick - (Kitimat Community Team)
- 3rd Rio Tinto Alcan Dragons (Rio Tinto Alcan)

**B Division**

- 1st Northern Spirit - (Kitimat Womans Dragon Boat Club)
- 2nd A Team - (Hawkair)
- 3rd City Slickers - (City of Terrace)

**C Division**

- 1st Lakelse Lake Dragons - (Terrace Community Team)
- 2nd Nisga'a (Nisga'a Youth Society)
- 3rd Rainbow Warriors - (Prince Rupert Breast Cancer Survivors)



## BUFFY SAINT-MARIE PERFORMS AT KITSUMKALUM HALL

**Folk legend Buffy Saint-Marie performed October 1st in Terrace at the Kitsumkalum Hall.**

She moved on to make many more accomplishments and many contributions to the arts and music industry and remains as a true musical legend to this day.

The unforgettable performance at Kitsumkalum Hall on October 1st was a once in a lifetime experience for some as Buffy St. Marie's heartfelt emotion penetrated the audience as she belted out passionate lyrics of the most famous songs ever written by and about aboriginal(s).

Her lyrics, her voice and her emotion have an unwavering sense of honesty and sincerity. It was one of the most amazing concerts that have come through this community and it was a great pleasure to see Kitsumkalum take a part in making it happen. Thank-you Buffy St. Marie - for evoking emotions of pride in our heritage.

Her songs have been performed by many great artists such as Donovan who performed her great anti war song of the sixties entitled "Universal Soldier". At age 24, Buffy Saint-Marie had also appeared all over Europe, Canada, Australia and Asia, receiving honours, medals and awards which continue to this day. Her song "Until It's Time for You to Go" was recorded by Elvis and Barbara and Cher, and her "Universal Soldier" became the anthem of the peace movement.

The Treaty Office will continue to ask members to participate in survey's during our meetings as your feedback, suggestions and questions is key to successful community engagement and consultation.

### NOVEMBER 12TH SURVEY RESULTS

**SURVEY FEEDBACK AND RESULTS**

Results indicate 95% people at the community meeting find the information presented easy to understand.



**STRATEGY IMPLEMENTED**

Due to the nature of the content and the difficult legal language used, the treaty office will continue to strive to make legal language in the Agreement in Principle easy to understand by creating story boards, chapter specific brochures and booklets.

Survey responses indicated that providing dinner would attract more members because meetings tend to take place during dinner time.



The treaty office is planning on scheduling community treaty meetings and providing a catered dinner in the near future.

Many participants requested chapter specific frequently asked questions and answers section be introduced to the communication materials



The next issue of the Treaty Times will address questions asked during treaty meetings and a briefing document for each chapter will be produced

*Community consultation is an integral part of the treaty process and requires careful preparation and strategic planning. To ensure open communication and success, the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office has retained local agency Nikita Marketing Communications to ensure proper communication strategies are implemented to involve, educate, and engage Kitsumkalum people during the treaty process. Ruby Gill Ware, owner of Nikita Marketing Communications, has 10 years of industry experience and access to a satellite team of professionals that is available to support the community engagement process.*