

### FEATURED

- Patient Travel Changes
- Update on Victor Hanuse
- Culture with Pewi
- RCMP Complaint Filing
- Nimpkish River Suspicious Activities



Strategic Session with Health Centre Staff



T'lisalagi'lakw School Students beading with Joanne Rufus





Based on a foundation of culture, the 'Namgis First Nation Council will strive to create a self-governing, prosperous, healthy community with a strong, self-sustaining economy so that every member has the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

**BAND OFFICE:**  
250-974-5556

**TOLL FREE:**  
1-888-9NAMGIS  
(1-888-962-6447)

**FAX:**  
250-974-5900

**EMAIL:**  
[info@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:info@namgis.bc.ca)

[www.namgis.bc.ca](http://www.namgis.bc.ca)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm

## 'NAMGIS COUNCIL

**CHIEF:**  
Debra Hanuse

**COUNCIL:**  
Arthur Dick  
Sharon Gordon  
Steven Smith  
Kelly Speck  
Bill Wasden  
Victor Isaac  
Robert Mountain  
Dixon Taylor  
Brian Wadhams

Greetings 'Namgis.

Happy New Year! Let's look forward, with hope and optimism, to the challenges and opportunities that 2016 will bring us.



In this edition of Kala'mas I'd like to share information with you about the New Year's Eve Incident, language revitalization and Our Voices, Our Stories.

### New Year's Eve Incident

I would like to begin by apologizing for some miscommunication that occurred in connection with publication of our Community Bulletin regarding an incident that occurred on New Year's Eve between a 'Namgis member and the RCMP, which resulted in injury to one of our members. I understand that some members were concerned that as a Council we only took into account the RCMP's version of the incident and did not consider feedback from witnesses and the community.

The RCMP version of events is the only public information that is available about the incident at this time, as no witnesses have come forward. While there are reports circulating throughout the community about police misconduct in connection with the incident, none of these reports have been shared with the Council as a whole.

We take complaints of police misconduct very seriously. However, without information about the New Year's Eve incident from witnesses, the only information that we have available to us is what's presented by the RCMP.

The search for solutions must be informed by actual incidents of mistreatment experienced by our members. In order to address member concerns about the New Year's Eve incident and other complaints of misconduct or mistreatment, we need to fill information gaps that currently exist.

We are currently working on developing a central process to gather the facts and validate issues regarding police misconduct, with the goal of identifying changes that will eliminate incidents of misconduct and build a more respectful relationship with the RCMP. Sharing information with Council will help us to assess the types and volume of incidents experienced by 'Namgis members. The search for solutions must be informed by a proper assessment of these and other factors. We will preserve the confidentiality of information provided to us.

While Council has no authority to compel RCMP officers to refrain from engaging in complained of actions or behaviors, we are committed to identifying and pursuing solutions to address the concerns and complaints of our members.

If you are a 'Namgis member and wish to inform the search for solutions by sharing information about incidents that you have experienced with law enforcement officials, please contact our Senior Administrator, Hopeton Loudon at 250-974-5556.

### Language Revitalization

There are only five or so indigenous languages in Canada that are expected to survive into the next century. Kwak'wala is not among these five languages. This means that if we do not make significant efforts and strides over the coming years to preserve and revitalize our language, it may perish with the passing of our remaining fluent Kwak'wala language speakers.

The potential loss of a language is a sobering and alarming prospect that should be enough to mobilize any population to take action. However, it is proving more challenging to overcome the legacy of the residential school system where speaking indigenous languages was prohibited and in many cases beaten out of indigenous children. On average, only 3% of indigenous persons, in any given community, will take or complete indigenous language courses offered to them. Nor have any immersion programs throughout the country achieved the goal of language fluency.

What are the lessons that can be learned from all of this? It is abundantly clear that we can't keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results. Focusing all of our energies on developing immersion programs and textbooks on language instruction may help, but will not, on their own, achieve our goal of language preservation and fluency. New approaches are clearly required, and may include experiential learning and conversational rather than text-book instruction.

We can each also do our part by learning words and phrases. Languages are not always learned in a classroom; they are also learned in homes and in communities. We can start by learning a new word or phrase each week and over time build our words and phrases into sentences, with the goal of eventually achieving language fluency. If we take this approach, we don't have to wait for a course or an immersion program. To assist members who wish to learn a word or phrase per week, we will continue to include Kwak'wala words and phrases in our newsletter.

There is a role for the elected leadership. We can seek the funds required for curriculum development, immersion programs, immersion camps and new approaches. We can also liaise with other governing bodies and organizations to develop joint initiatives for language preservation and revitalization. We can establish advisory bodies made up of fluent speakers, language experts and others to offer guidance on how to save our language. We wish to note that North Island College is currently offering a Kwak'wala course at Port Hardy. We have initiated talks with North Island College to see if we can offer this course or a similar course at 'Yalis.

If financial resources are part of the solution, then we have a golden opportunity before us. Monies left over from the Independent Assessment Program for survivors of residential schools have been placed into a trust fund, which is being administered by the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB). The NIB Trust currently consists of approximately \$160 million and is expected to grow to \$200 million. The trustees will make \$5 million available on April 1, 2016 to First Nation and Metis governments and organizations for education programs aimed at healing and education. Each governing body or organization can apply for up to a maximum of \$200,000. The deadline for submitting applications to the NIB Trust is January 15, 2016. 'Namgis will be submitting an application to the NIB Trust. While healing is important, due to the urgency of preserving Kwak'wala, our application will focus on language preservation.

The NIB announced the fund on December 10, 2015, which left us with just over one month to complete our application before the January 15, 2016 deadline. This short time frame, together with the Christmas break, did not afford us enough time to coordinate our efforts with other Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations and organizations such as U'mista and Nuyambalees. If funds are made available through the NIB Trust next year, we will be sure to engage in discussions with other Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations and organizations about coordinating our efforts, as monies through the NIB Trust can help us all make progress towards saving our language.

### Our Voices, Our Stories

Our Voices, Our Stories is a documentary that captures the demolition of the St. Michael's Indian residential school and the healing ceremony that was held at 'Yalis on February 18, 2015. The impetus for the documentary arose in December 2014 when Council secured funds to demolish the building. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided us with the funds on the condition that we complete the demolition by March 31, 2015. This left little time for survivors to visit the site and building one last time. Thus, it became vitally important to capture both the demolition and healing ceremony for those survivors who could not travel to 'Yalis for these events. This objective was met with production of Our Voices, Our Stories.

With additional funds secured from INAC, 'Namgis hired our own award winning videographer Barbara Cranmer to produce the documentary. The demolition, healing ceremony and the stories of some of the survivors who attended the ceremony are masterfully captured by Barbara in Our Voices, Our Stories. We are pleased to report that Our Voices, Our Stories won an award for Best Documentary Short at the annual American Indian Film Festival that was held at San Francisco from November 6-14, 2015.

On November 19, 2015, Our Voices, Our Stories was shown to over 200 community members at 'Yalis. While we would like to arrange for viewings in other communities, at the present time 'Namgis lacks the funds to do so. In the meantime, producer Barbara Cranmer has kindly arranged for viewings of the documentary at various locations on Vancouver Island. We wish to express our gratitude to Barbara for doing so. Efforts to secure resources for more viewings are ongoing and we are hopeful that we can arrange for viewings in other parts of the province later this year.

All profits from the sale of Our Voices, Our Stories will go towards a memorial that will be placed at the site of the former St. Michael's residential school. Profits from the sale of the DVDs will also be used to provide free copies of Our Voices, Our Stories to former students of the St. Michael's residential school. We will be seeking input on the memorial from St. Michael's school survivors and our members.

If you would like to purchase Our Voices, Our Stories, or if you are a survivor of the St. Michael's residential school and you would like your free copy, please contact Gina Wadhams at 250-974-5556 or email her at [info@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:info@namgis.bc.ca). Copies of the DVD are on order and should be available by early to mid-February.

\* \* \*

Challenges can be viewed as opportunities or catalysts for change. We are not without challenges in the coming year. There is much work to do to preserve our language and improve relations with the Canadian state, including its law enforcement branch. Each challenge provides us with an opportunity to move closer towards our goal of reconciliation with Canada. Together and united, we can bring about the change required to build a better future for 'Namgis.





# Traffic Safety and Liquor Control

The Alert Bay detachment of the RCMP has five officers: Sergeant Brett Sinden and Constables Curtis, Blood, Pullin and Bandurak.

The number of officers at Alert Bay was recently increased from four officers to five officers. With the increase in personnel, Sergeant Sinden advised us that the local detachment now has the capacity to engage in greater enforcement activity and community policing.

## Traffic Safety

We have been advised that the RCMP, through observations of the yield sign on Hemlock St., noted a regular practice of drivers conducting U-turns in that intersection which is against Sec. 168 of the Motor Vehicle Act. Sergeant Sinden summarized the rationale for increased emphasis on traffic safety as follows:

“Issues regularly brought forward as safety concerns are: the failing to yield at Hemlock St. and Maple Rd. by the liquor store, the long standing practice of parking in the wrong direction in front of Shop-Rite, excessive speed and cell phone use/texting while driving. Motorists are cautioned against these violations as such actions may result in the imposition of fines.”

We have been advised that the Village of Alert Bay is seeking advice from ICBC Traffic Engineers and the Municipal Insurance Authority for options to resolve the issue at this intersection.

As a preventative and public education measure we are advised that local officers have issued a number of warnings, where they are deemed appropriate, to Cormorant Island residents for speeding, cell use while driving, parking and other traffic infractions, rather than always imposing fines for traffic violations.

Namgis Council and the Village of Alert Bay will be hosting information sessions on traffic safety. Dates and times for these sessions will be posted on our webpages at [www.namgis.bc.ca](http://www.namgis.bc.ca) , [www.alertbay.ca](http://www.alertbay.ca) and on our social media pages.

## Liquor Control

Sergeant Sinden advised that “due to past issues, including one resulting in a death, the RCMP in partnership with the local liquor inspectors, are engaged in greater enforcement of liquor control laws.”

# Senior Administrator

Happy New Year to all and sincere wishes for a rewarding and prosperous 2016! You know in Trinidad what we call 'New Years' Eve' is known as - 'Old Years' Night' – six of one, half dozen of the other! This is another example of how human beings can see and experience the same thing differently. And of course we are all guilty of hearing what we want to hear and disregarding the rest.



Why you ask is Hope so contemplative? Is it the New Year and all that talk about resolutions and setting goals? Is that why he is going all philosophical on us this month?! No, no, not at all! I am reflecting on the New Years' incident. I am told by some members that the incident brought up memories of past policing issues with the RCMP here in this community and hence why many people were upset. I completely understand why many of you have those feelings.

But to move forward, I think we must focus on finding solutions and working together in a constructive way. Our community will benefit if we can have a mutually open, honest and respectful relationship with the RCMP.

Reconciliation is a two way process. It can be between individuals, peoples, communities, organizations and countries. Remember, we can only master ourselves and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. Let's all start from that place. Let's work on replacing the distrust with hope for the future. Together we can change the way things are for the better and we must.

Gilakas'la, Hope



January 18, 2016  
T'lisalagi'lakw School staff and students went to Mount Cain for the day to have some fun in the snow and visit the cabin owned by the 'Namgis First Nation. Fun was had by all!

# Councillor Victor Isaac

## Year in Review



It's great to be back home. I returned in July of 2014 from working for the Federal Government for nine years due to some medical issues and a car accident.

I was elected to Council in December of 2014 and was assigned the Finance and Fisheries portfolios. I was very fortunate to be able to work with my good friend Greg Wadhams on the fisheries issues until his illness. We attended the Island Marine Aquatic Working Group meetings (IMAWG) and the Fraser Salmon Management Council Meetings (FSMC) where Greg is acknowledged as one of the founders of both (IMAWG and FSMC). I am glad that the Namgis First Nation has continued our participation by way of Band Council Resolution to the FSMC and we will continue to protect our rights and ensure fishing opportunities are available.

I have also been involved in the Finance Committee, as I worked as a Funding Services Officer for Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada. My main job with AANDC was to review and audit First Nations financial statements. I was also appointed as a Board Member on an interim basis to Orca Sand and Gravel, Kutera, Mamaomas, and Atli Forestry.

It has been an exciting year to say the least. I will continue to work hard and do the best I can for the 'Namgis Nation.

On a personal note my wife is very happy I am home despite the circumstances. We returned from a two week holiday in Cabo San Lucas on December 28, 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to "Wish you all a Happy New Year" and look forward to seeing you all soon. Gilakasla

pālnakwāla - river rising  
t'itap'mut - footprints

# Patient Travel Changes

Friday – January 15, 2016

The Patient Travel Department at the 'Namgis Health Centre will begin issuing cheques on Monday – April 4, 2016 in place of issuing petty cash. Cheques will be issued for mileage and meal allowances associated to medical travel.



In preparation for this change, members will need to set up an account with a local banking institution. Van City has instructed that they require one piece of picture identification and one piece of government issued identification. Banking hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 3:30pm.

This is a part of our quality service improvements to best meet member needs and we thank you in advance for your patience during this transition.

If you have any questions about this transition, you can call Nicole James at 250-974-5522.

## Interim Health Board Members

'Namgis Health Board

Is seeking two Interim 'Namgis Health Board Members



Responsibilities: The Health Board is responsible to the 'Namgis Band Council and membership of the 'Namgis First Nation, and shall make reports to Council with regard to all health and social services programming.

Qualifications: Knowledge and interest in Health and Social wellness; understanding of Board processes. Must be a 'Namgis Band Member and reside on Cormorant Island. Able to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

Competencies: Have no conflict of interest or legal impediment that would interfere with the Board Members independent judgment. Qualities of: intelligence, strategic thinking, perceptiveness, good judgment and common sense, maturity, ethics, integrity and fairness. Board Members should reflect healthy living – emotionally, physically, spiritually and mentally.

Application Process: Please submit letter of interest and qualifications for review by Committee.

Term of Office: March 2016 – October 2017

Deadline for Applications: January 29, 2016

Submissions to:

Georgia Cook – 'Namgis Health Centre Administrator  
P.O. Box 290, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0  
Phone: 250-974-5522 Fax: 250-974-2736



Jan, Feb & Mar				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
LAM Recreation Centre				
<p>1pm- Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 6yrs and under open gym</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm Womens indoor</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Basketball</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 yrs &amp; under floor hockey</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18 yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11yrs and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm 16 and under Volleyball</p> <p>830-10pm Co-Ed Adult Volleyball</p>	<p><b>1pm Walking Club</b></p> <p>Family Night</p> <p>7pm-10pm</p>
<p>1pm- Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 6yrs and under open gym</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm Womens indoor</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Basketball</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 yrs &amp; under floor hockey</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18 yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11yrs and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm 16 and under Volleyball</p> <p>830-10pm Co-Ed Adult Volleyball</p>	<p><b>1pm Walking Club</b></p> <p>Family Night</p> <p>7pm-10pm</p>
<p>1pm- Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 6yrs and under open gym</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm Womens indoor</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Basketball</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 yrs &amp; under floor hockey</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18 yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Futsal</p>	<p>Adult Volleyball</p> <p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11yrs and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm 16 and under Volleyball</p> <p>830-10pm Co-Ed Adult Volleyball</p>	<p><b>1pm Walking Club</b></p> <p>Family Night</p> <p>7pm-10pm</p>
<p>1pm- Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 6yrs and under open gym</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm Womens indoor</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Basketball</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11 yrs &amp; under floor hockey</p> <p>7-8:30pm 12-18 yrs futsal</p> <p>8:30-10pm Co-Ed Adult Futsal</p>	<p>1pm-Walking Club</p> <p>6-7pm 11yrs and under indoor soccer</p> <p>7-8:30pm 16 and under Volleyball</p> <p>830-10pm Co-Ed Adult Volleyball</p>	<p><b>1pm Walking Club</b></p> <p>Family Night</p> <p>7pm-10pm</p>
<p>Watch for the new events that will be happening at the LAMRC. We also have a fb page.</p>	<p>Family MOVIE NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY AT COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING 6PM-8PM FREE POPCORN AND JUICE PROVIDED. 12 AND UNDER NEED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT</p>	<p>If you have any Questions/ suggestions concerning scheduling you can contact: Dorothy Svanvik at the Rec. Centre. (250) 974-8366 (250)974-5356 ext 3100</p>	<p>Reminders: Family Night: Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.</p> <p>For Rentals you can call Community Services Building 250-974-5356</p>	

# Making a Complaint Against RCMP

## Making a Complaint against the RCMP

### Who can make a complaint?

Anyone with some connection to the conduct of an RCMP officer can make a complaint against the officer. A connection means that:

- the officer's conduct affected you;
- you were present when the conduct occurred; or
- you suffered some harm or loss from it.

### Deadline for filing a complaint

The deadline to complain is one year from the date of the conduct. Make your complaint as soon as possible after an incident, while memories are fresh and evidence is still available.

### How to file a complaint

Persons who wish to file a complaint against the RCMP can do so:

- at a local RCMP detachment, where it is the detachment commander's duty to ensure complaints are dealt with in a professional manner;
- by contacting the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP, which is an independent agency created by Parliament to ensure that complaints made by the public about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially.

Complaints to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission can be made:

online, by completing an online complaint form, which can be found at <http://www.crcc-ccetp.gc.ca/en/make-complaint>;

by telephone at 1-800-665-6878; or

- printing and completing a complaint form in PDF and faxing it to 613-960-6147 or mailing it to:

Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP  
National Intake Office  
P.O. Box 1722, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B3

### What does the Commission do with a complaint?

The Commission usually sends a complaint to the RCMP to investigate (sometimes the Commission will investigate a complaint itself). The RCMP investigates your complaint and then reports to you in writing. If you are satisfied with the report, that's the end of the complaint.

### What if you are not satisfied with the RCMP report on your complaint?

You can ask the Commission to review your complaint. You have 60 days from when you receive the RCMP report to do that.

### Supports available to 'Namgis members

If 'Namgis members would like assistance in obtaining and completing a complaint form or support during a complaint process, please contact any one of the following staff members:

- Brenda Deakin at 250-974-5556
- Rena Hanuse at 250-974-5556
- Sharon Leas at 250-974-5556

# T'łisalagi'lakw School

- This spring we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in our new building.
- Twenty years ago T'łisalagi'lakw School was located in the basement of St Michaels and adjacent portables.
- The New School's Grand Opening was June 21, 1996.
- Please send us your stories and pictures. We would like to document our history from its beginning as an alternate school to our present day students.
- You can plan on attending our Anniversary Celebration on June 21, 2016.



## Nimpkish River ~ Suspicious Activities



We would like to thank the community for being alert to activities occurring within the territory. For the last few months the Fisheries Team has been receiving lots of phone calls and comments over illegal crab fishing at the river. We are looking into the situation; however, so far we have little to go on. If you do see suspicious activities at the river please document the date and time and vessel description and forward these details to Mona ([fisheries@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:fisheries@namgis.bc.ca) or (250) 974-5556). The reporter can remain anonymous, but these details will provide us with the information needed to move forward with this investigation. We have also raised our concerns to DFO, as our enforcement powers are limited.

Some important information for you to be aware of:

- The Nimpkish River and southern side of Alert Bay are located within Fishing Management Area 12-19. The boundary for this area is roughly a line from Lewis Point (Beaver Cove) to Alert Bay to Ledge Point (Port McNeill).
- FSC and Recreational crab fishing is allowed at the river and all of area 12-19 (recreational daily limit of Dungeness and Red Rock is 4 crabs; no FSC daily limit)
- All of Area 12-19 is CLOSED to commercial crab harvesting
- There is a commercial sea urchin harvest currently open in Area 12-19

Any help with this situation is appreciated.

# Victor Hanuse

## Update with Liz Hanuse

Gosh where do I begin without emotions setting in...

I haven't updated you all for some time on my son Victor's health. With his permission I will share our experience, strength and hope while living with two rare diagnosis's.

Since 2010, my son recovered from his kidney transplant. Having only my kidney, both of his kidneys were sent to USA and BC for medical research in hopes to help someone else. This was his choice.

Victor will continue to see Vancouver doctors 3-6 months and have local monthly assessments to make sure all levels are good.

Victor's health has been good. The Doctors have been pretty happy with how he has been responsible with taking medications faithfully. A few years ago the doctor discussed the pros and cons of the effects of being on bone medication for prolonged amount of time. How it would begin to affect the kidney.

Over time, his medications were changed and then eventually he had to discontinue his bone meds. Ironically I had just been on the telephone the day before he fell with USA and BC to zeroing in on a medication in the States.

To get this medication has been a process one would think would only happen in the movies. I approached BC and then the USA Doctors through emails, telephone conferences and appointments. The medication is NOT approved by the FDA and not distributed or used in Canadian pharmacies. So the process is pleading a case as to who my son is, what conditions he has, our financial insurances to what could help cover it. This is stressful!! Something that can help my son is at our fingertips but the process and appeals to get it to him!

We have gone through every avenue, FN health, BC Medical, Victor's disability, my work insurance the list goes on. It is not covered. So now the letters are appealing to see if the USA will cover

20-25% of the \$1,100.00 not including the supply costs PER MONTH, for two years.

When my son fell, I was thinking about what am I going to do. I am the sole provider with one job, ZERO help, no other income, to live and pay bills and this medication... a lot to ponder.

My son was beginning his Christmas shopping in Nanaimo when he lost his balance in the mall. After putting his arm out to try stop his fall, he broke his left arm and his left leg. My son was ambulated to Nanaimo Hospital and then transferred to Vancouver.

During this time of waiting for surgery we talked about many things, his life, loves, and reassuring his fears. We talked of good times, the times we overcame obstacles, the friends and family that means so much to him and I. After four days he was finally operated on removing and replacing his arm plate and his rod in his leg. My son was kept in recovery ward for a few days due to some concerns but was soon moved. Ten days later, on Christmas Day, Victor was transferred to Comox Hospital.

In the midst of this time I was asked to 'go get rest, we will call you'. These nurses obviously don't know Liz Hanuse. I just smiled and thanked them saying "I don't leave". When Victor was taken for tests, or operation, I would dart to my cousins.

To be in a position of uncertainty, to be sitting alone in a hospital hearing my son cry in pain. I find my emotions go from one end to the other. What do I have? I have a cell in my hand to reach out to my older children, to my Dad, to my friends and family.

I talked to Victor about asking for help, how would he feel. We talked about everything, the finances, the fact that I would be off work for a few weeks with him. Then to get the medication started to get him stronger. We had many heart to heart talks, shared many tears, and many hugs.

I then picked up my 100 pound cell phone to ask for help...



My friends my family, my Kwakwakawakw people, you embraced us without batting an eye. The ball began to roll and loonie auctions were planned, raising well over \$6000.00. Fundraisers and donations came forward to help support my sons need!

Many times, I left the room to wipe my eyes, then to come back and read your messages to Victor. To tell him how much he is loved and how you all worry about him. We are forever thankful!!

To leave the hospital on December 28th, my son is still unable to climb stairs, walk and lift items. He is comfy in his room with his walker, wheel chair and other equipment. We recently have gone out to his first car ride to his Doctor's appointment and his eyes were so bright and his smile was so big!

I have continued to talk to the USA offices and call the Doctors regarding the medications to start and the appeal is now in process to try to get a portion paid for. I pray that we see some answers!!

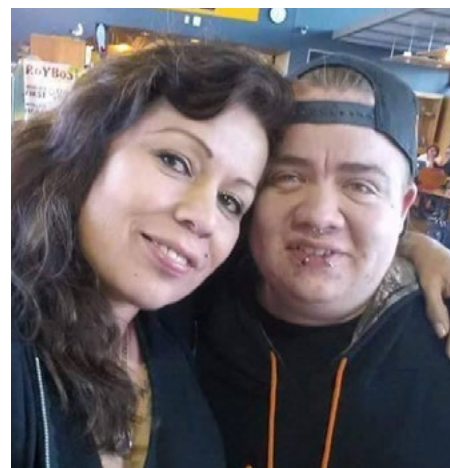
The amount raised will cover six months out of the two year duration.

Another avenue to fundraise, my niece Mariah 'Yaya' Robinson (Wadhams) has started a 'Victor Hanuse Go Fund Me' account where donations can be made. It has recently reached the \$795.00 mark!

Please forward this as we will continue to try raising funds since this bone cycle will be for two years.

I would like to thank every one of you that has been helping fundraise to help my son. I am forever thankful. My son's life will only become better with this medication. I have so many people to thank and all I can do is pay it forward, doing good things for others the way you have done for us.

Gila'kasla



# Culture with Pewi

Gilakas'da'xw'la,

The year has come and gone. So many awesome things happening at the Tłisalagi'lakw School and in my life. First of all, at the school all children are very eager to learn our language. Like I have said in other newsletters that, the method we are using is called Total Physical Response Method "TPR". It is a totally different approach towards learning.

## WHAT IS TPR?

### IT'S ALL IN THE WAY WE LEARN...

TPR is based on the premise that the human brain has a biological program for acquiring any natural language on earth - including the sign language of the deaf. The process is visible when we observe how infants internalize their first language. The secret is a unique "conversation" between the parent and infant. For example, the first conversation is a parent saying, "Look at daddy. Look at daddy." The infant's face turns in the direction of the voice and daddy exclaims, "She's looking at me! She's looking at me!" Dr. Asher calls this "a language-body conversation" because the parent speaks and the infant answers with a physical response such as looking, smiling, laughing, turning, walking, reaching, grasping, holding, sitting, running, and so forth.

Notice that these "conversations" continue for many, many months before the child utters anything more intelligible than "mommy" or "daddy." Although the infant is not yet speaking, the child is imprinting a linguistic map of how the language works. Silently, the child is internalizing the patterns and sounds of the target language.

When the child has decoded enough of the target language, speaking appears spontaneously. The infant's speech will not be perfect, but gradually, the child's utterances will approximate more and more that of a native speaker.

## BENEFITS OF TPR

1 Instant understanding of the target language,

regardless of academic aptitude

2 High Speed Long-term retention

3 Stress-free

We are so repetitive, play many fun games, and they have so much fun that they don't realize how much they learn! You'd be amazed!

We have a split day of Kwa'wala in the morning and song and dance in the afternoon. Our students have learned so much that we had to find other songs for them to learn for the rest of the year. They sincerely love to sing and dance!

If you ever have a chance please come stop by the school and sit in on a class.

## Questions

1. What does the Tłisalagi'lakw school cultural program have to offer? We offer a great program. In the morning we offer Kwa'wala for 25-30 minutes per class, each day for grades Junior Kindergarten-grade 7. In the afternoon, we offer song and dance class for 25-30 minutes per class, each day for grades Junior Kindergarten-grade 7.

2. What are the benefits of people/children being in our community/school? There are so many benefits of people and children in our community and in our school. We have an open program. People are more than welcome to join in, have fun with the kids, and learn together. Once a month, we have "celebrate us" day. Celebrate us brings in so many parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents and siblings. They come to the school to either read with their children, volunteer for luncheons, show and tell, or share their knowledge with the students. In the cultural program, there are so many benefits. Learning about our culture connects and improves togetherness within the community we live in. It also helps us express ourselves and builds our confidence and makes us more proud of learning more about our who we are, our identity. Culture also lessens our stress levels and is great exercise for all who participate in lessons.

So come on to the school to see what we are doing.

3. The importance of the culture- It's important to learn who we are first. Once we learn who we are, we can do anything.

Things to help us to learn more: learn our language, read Kwak'wala, write Kwak'wala, practice dance, song, learn your own history of where your treasures come from and who your family is, share knowledge with one another, visit an elder, do something for an elder, learn a phrase everyday, take part in cultural classes, blanket making, weave, carve, go watch a carver, learn a song or two, learn a dance or two. There are many resources for everyone to enjoy and embrace. Lets put our heads together and make this part of our everyday lives and make time.

### Dance Group

My family has formed a dance group called Yisya'winuxw - "expert dancers". We have been asked to attend the "Dancers of Damelahamid :: Coastal Dance Festival" in March 2016. Such an honor and we all are excited.

Our intentions of the group are to share and learn more about who we are as a family, through our passion of dance and song and to also pass onto the future generation, our children. Exciting times ahead! We'll keep you all posted with news on our trip.

### Words for the month

1. kaxtla'akw - anything fried, (example: fish, eulachons etc)
2. kana - dipping net (for eulachons)
3. samgat'si - container to boil eulachons over the fire
4. samka - put eulachons in hot water, and cover it to boil
5. taga't - eulachon net
6. tak'ila - making an eulachon net
7. t'sandak - dry-smoked eulachons
8. t'samta - eulachons hung on a stick to smoke
9. t'sapa - dipping food (example: eulachon grease)
10. t'sapan - I am having eulachon grease (present tense)
11. t'li'na - eulachon grease
12. tli'na'ka - to add eulachon grease to food
13. wayut'an - half-smoked eulachons
14. Wa'yanx - January (herring spawning time)
15. Dzadza'wanx - February (first eulachon run time)





# How to Raise a Reader?

Like anything else, reading is a skill that becomes better with practice. Reading for pleasure is critical for ensuring that the practice needed to become fluent becomes part of the learners' everyday life, and is not just seen as a classroom-based activity.

## How to Raise a Reader?

1. Read from day one. Start a reading routine in those very first days with a newborn. Even very young babies respond to the warmth of a lap and the soothing sound of a book being read aloud.
2. Share books every day. Read with your child every day, even after he becomes an independent reader.
3. Reread favorites. Most children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Rereading books provides an opportunity to hear or see something that may have been missed the first time, and provides another chance to hear a favorite part.

4. Find the reading and writing in everyday things. Take the time to show your child ways that adults use reading and writing every day. Grocery lists, notes to the teacher, maps, and cooking all involve important reading and writing skills.
5. Talk, talk, talk. A child's vocabulary grows through rich conversations with others. No matter your child's age, narrate what you're doing, talk in full sentences, and sprinkle your conversations with interesting words.

Family Read in Day January 29<sup>th</sup> 11-11:45 am

Home Reading Program

Have you seen this bag?



If not call the child's teacher, you should see this bag full of books coming to your home weekly?

## Reading Power ~ Helping Your Children Become More Powerful Readers and Thinkers

What is Reading Power? Reading Power is a reading comprehension program that teachers at this school are using to help students develop comprehension skills to become more powerful readers and thinkers. The five comprehension strategies, ore Reading Powers, we are teaching are:

1. Connect: What does the story remind me of?
2. Question: What am I wondering about this story?
3. Visualize: What pictures can I make in my head from this story?
4. Infer: What am I thinking about this story that isn't actually written?
5. Transform: How has my thinking changed because of this story?

What are the Key Ideas?

- Learning to read involves two distinct, yet equally

important components:

Decoding: the ability to read the words on the page with fluency and accuracy

Comprehension: the ability to construct meaning from the text

- Comprehension strategies need to be taught directly and explicitly so that students can understand what thinking looks like and sounds like
- Common language of these thinking strategies is essential for helping students acquire the 'language of thinking' across the grades.
- Metacognition, or 'awareness of thinking' is an important component of this program
- We have two voices: a speaking voice and a thinking voice. Good readers pay attention to their thinking voice while they read.
- Teachers and parents can model their thinking voice while they read to and with their children, to help teach and reinforce the strategies.



# New Ideas for the New Year

## Taken from 'Setting the Table'

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year! Some people like to use this time of year to set new goals and dreams for themselves. How can we make healthy choices part of our everyday routine? Time is precious and we all have our habits. Here are a few simple ways you can add a bit of health and healing into your day!

### Self-Care

- Make rest a priority, go to bed at a good time and have some quiet before bed.
- Drink water to flush your system out.
- Be kind to yourself, positive self-talk. Find things to be grateful for each day.
- Laugh to lighten your spirit each day.

### Nourishment

- Spend a few hours a week prepping food, i.e. meal planning, shopping, washing, peeling and chopping. Bring your laptop, phone or iPad into the kitchen and watch your favorite TV show or listen to some music.
- Ask your children to search social media for recipes they want to eat, make or help prepare.
- Ask your friends for their 5 go to dinner meals that are easy, healthy and everyone loves!
- Cook and prep 2 meals on one night so you can take the next night off.
- Reconnect to your love for a crockpot.
- Cook some hardboiled eggs or grab a piece of fruit so you have snacks for the day.
- Have trail mix or nuts in your bag, car or office drawer.
- Make smoothies in the morning if time is tight.

### Activity

- Walk to work, school or to the store.
- Ask someone to be your walking or activity buddy.
- Download an audiobook and walk and listen.

*A healthy lifestyle is made up of everyday choices that make you feel good in the long term. Bumps along the way are normal, so try to be patient.*

# Wheels for Wellness Pilot

## Mount Waddington

January 01 – March 31, 2016



In recognition of the difficulties faced by those who need to access medical appointments down island, Wheels for Wellness is providing a second van to the Mount Waddington (MW) region.

This added service will ensure that all MW residents – including Malcolm and Cormorant Island residents - will be able to travel using Wheels for down island medical appointments.

This is a PILOT PROJECT – Available only from January 01 – March 31 2016

To access the service please call Wheels for Wellness: 1-250-338-0196

For further information or if you have questions please call:

Chris (MW Health Network Coordinator): 250 956 3161

Shirley (Chair, MW Transit Committee)

at the Port McNeill town office: 250 956 3111



## Future Forestry Employment

Throughout the year the 'Namgis Natural Resources Department gets requests from forestry companies working within our territory for temporary laborers in various forest related activities such as, pile burning, tree planting, brushing, etc.

We would like any 'Namgis members who may be interested in future temporary forest work to submit your name and how you can be reached, phone/email, and we will inform you of these opportunities as they arise. When we are notified of an opportunity we will put you in touch with the company who is looking for laborers at that time.

These are physical jobs, outside, usually during rainy times, and generally in a forest cut block setting.

You are responsible for all equipment, travel, accommodations etc. that may be needed to fulfill the requirements for any job that arises, we are connecting 'Namgis workers with Forestry employers, and have no involvement with their hiring process.

Send your name and contact information to [forestry@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:forestry@namgis.bc.ca), or bring your information to the 'Namgis First Nation Administration Office.



**Positive Parenting Program**

We will be using info from the Nobody's Perfect Parenting classes developed by BC Council for Families as well as materials from the First Nation Parenting Program developed by Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba.

Two facilitators both trained by BC Council for Families will be presenting these classes.

**Six classes**  
9:30 - 11:30  
Monday & Tuesday Jan 25 & 26  
Maybe Tuesday & Wednesday Feb 9 & 10  
Monday & Tuesday Feb 22 & 23

Child minding can be made available  
Light snack provided  
Registration: 250-974-5356

**Crisis Lines:**  
Vancouver Island Crisis Line  
1 – 888-494-3888  
24 hour service.

**A & D On call Line**  
250-974-8015

**Alcoholics Anonymous meetings**  
Mondays: 7 p.m. at Sunshine Room  
Wednesdays: 7 p.m. at Sunshine Room  
Sundays: 1 p.m. at NTC (when group in session)

**Narcotics Anonymous meeting**  
Fridays: 7 p.m. at NTC (when group in session)

## 'Namgis Council Portfolios:

**Aboriginal Title and Rights**  
All Council

**Economic Development**  
Sharon Gordon  
Rob Mountain  
Dixon Taylor

**Social Services**  
Kelly Speck  
Brian Wadhams

**Public Works and Housing**  
Kelly Speck  
Victor Isaac

**Education**  
Dixon Taylor  
Sharon Gordon

**Health and Recreation**  
Bill Wasden  
Sharon Gordon

**Community Justice**  
Rob Mountain  
Kelly Speck

**Finance**  
Dixon Taylor  
Victor Isaac

**Aquatic Resources (Fisheries)**  
Victor Isaac  
Rob Mountain  
Art Dick  
Brian Wadhams  
Bill Wasden

**Forestry/Parks & Protected Areas**  
Art Dick  
Steven Smith  
Brian Wadhams

# Scholarship Fund

We are proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 Scholarship Fund were Lacey Perrault, Jakki Dawson & Amber Alfred. The Committee would like to thank the applicants for their dedication to furthering their education.

We would also like to take this time to remind everyone the Scholarship is offered annually. For more information please email: [ssouch@outlook.com](mailto:ssouch@outlook.com) for a list of the criteria. The deadline for applications is May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.



# Garbage

Birds and dogs have become crafty little critters and seem to be able to knock over the garbage cans and somehow, releasing the tops. Public Works Crew members have been picking up several garbage containers and garbage lately.

**Homeowners:** please ensure that your garbage can tops are tied down. Short bungy cords are available at Rona for approximately \$3 ~ these work great for securing the lids.

Thank you!  
Public Works Crew

Namgis Substance Abuse  
Treatment Centre Society  
P. O. Box 290, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0  
Ph: 250-974-5522 Fax: 250-974-2257

2016 Intake Schedule

Session Start/End Date	Program	Graduation Ceremony
January 9 – February 19	Co-ed	February 18
February 27 – April 8	All Male	April 7
April 16 – May 27	All Female	May 26
June 4 – July 15	TBD	July 14
September 10 – October 21	TBD	October 20
October 29 – December 9	TBD	December 8

For Intake Information, contact:

Intake Coordinator – Mary Hunt at 250-974-5522 Ext 2131 : [MaryH@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:MaryH@namgis.bc.ca)  
Alternate contact – Program Director Pat Davis at 250-974-5522 Ext 2101 : [PatD@namgis.bc.ca](mailto:PatD@namgis.bc.ca)

All intakes are offering freedom from substance abuse For an application package, please download from the following website: [www.firstnationstreatment.org](http://www.firstnationstreatment.org)

Completed Intake Application can be faxed to 250-974-2257 or mailed to:

‘Namgis Treatment Centre  
P.O. Box 290 Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0

“Intake dates subject to changes as Program Development arises”