



'NAMGIS FIRST NATION FEBRUARY 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to everyone who attended the February 2026 Annual General Meeting and shared questions, comments, and ideas. This document provides responses from the appropriate departments to the feedback received. Some comments required additional clarification or ongoing work and may be addressed in future updates.



'NĀMĠIS FIRST NATION
LANDS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Lands & Infrastructure

Question/Comment	Answer
Pave and maintain roads; fix potholes, especially bus routes.	This is ongoing work by our public works crew to maintain roads. Larger capital projects to pave gravel sections are in progress or under review.
Sitting areas in residential areas	Need more information on what is being requested
Derelict vehicles need to be removed and limit number of vehicles	The Lands Advisory Committee has drafted a derelict vehicle removal directive and policy that will be reviewed by Chief and Council at the May 20 meeting.
All non insured vehicles on roads should be removed.	Roads on reserve are not public roads but are managed under our Land Code. This can be a discussion brought to the Lands Management Advisory Committee.
Clean yards, not just houses (education?)	We can work on providing some clarity through policy development (new housing policy / tenancy agreements) on expectations for yard maintenance. We can issue some education/communications regarding this as well.
Dog waste removal	Dog owners are responsible for this – we can issue communication/notification and perhaps look at some proactive solutions (waste bins/dog waste bags)
School field still needs repair	This is on the long list of outstanding capital projects – there is limited funding for sports fields
House assessments; roof and bathroom repairs	There are some opportunities for renovation funding – home owners should speak directly with the Housing Department on what their options are.
If the house is paid off, are they a priority anymore?	If a home is privately owned (paid out) then it is the homeowners responsibility to maintain but there are some funding opportunities for renovations and homeowners should connect with the housing department.

Lands & Infrastructure

Question/Comment	Answer
Issues with repairs needed on the walkway – more people walking on the road due to repairs needed.	This is a larger capital project that is on our FNIIP – there are limited funding through the Capital and Infrastructures program for this but our public works team has been working on replacing boards where needed. Please report any areas needing attention to the Lands Department
Upgrade garbage cans – issues with ravens	Noted
Drainage issues – need updated drainage	This is a significant issue through out the community due to the geological conditions of Cormorant Island. We are awaiting funding for a large drainage upgrades project that will target many areas of the community and includes installation/repair/mitigation of drainage issues and road work on the Gatu back road (paving).
Consider multiple types of housing, get creative, more efficient use of spaces.	We have engaged with community many times over the past two years as part of our Housing Strategy work to capture these ideas and explore feasibility. Housing is a complex issue in our community due to restrictive policy frameworks and logistics of building on an island community with challenging geological conditions and limited resources. It is very expensive but what we do know for sure is that approaching the issue with economy of scale in mind is going to tackle the issue with the greatest impact and cost efficiency.
Rebuild or renovate abandoned houses	This is another issue that has been considered in our housing strategy work. Demolishing structures can be challenging and expensive – again , a large scale project would be the most cost effective for the nation but cannot proceed without following the appropriate policy steps – including membership vote.
There is a need for a housing plan (aging homes, member builds, diversity, innovate)	Yes, this has all been considered in our Housing Strategy work which has been ongoing for 2 years (member engagement sessions – online surveys). We also have policy and law development underway to facilitate member builds as well as plans for a new subdivision as potential lot development is a constraint. Any innovative plan needs member and leadership support in order to be actioned.

Lands & Infrastructure

Question/Comment	Answer
All infrastructure is important	Yes
Building in other parts of our territory – recognize need for housing on Vancouver Island for commuters etc.	This need has been consistently captured through our Land Use Plan and Housing Strategy Work – as part of the Housing Strategy final report there will be recommendations on how our reserve and fee simple land could potentially be developed on Vancouver Island.
Population density needs to be considered	This has been considered through our nearly completed Subdivision Feasibility study. We requested an assessment on resource constraints including infrastructure such as the sanitary system and fresh water capacity/availability.
What are the plans for the lands behind the hospital	Green space – this is an extremely sloped area not suitable for development
Grant for seniors for repairs (limited income)	Please connect directly with the Housing Department to consider options
Need more greenspace workers	Noted
More funding needed for housing support	Housing funding provides for regular Operations and Maintenance of the housing department and assets – this is already very limited. To provide more room in this budget we would need to consider raising rents. There are some external funding programs for renovations but if the question is regarding some other aspect of housing support – it may need to be redirected to administration/health.
Need expertise on removal of alder trees (issue on tiny home build as example)	Alder tree clearing continues to be an issue addressed by our Public Works team or private home owners

Lands & Infrastructure

Question/Comment	Answer
Container Homes	This option can be challenging for the humidity in our geographic area and regardless of the structure – transportation, servicing and site work continue to be challenging and expensive.
Replace Yalis Apartments	Our housing department is working on a full re/re of the yalis apartments
Build up for more density/use of space	There are some areas in the community where this would work – IR 2 (old nurses residence property) However, we still need to be mindful on infrastructure and water limitations.
Housing – MRPL – How does it work	This program exists in the current 2011 housing policy to provide home owners the opportunity to access funding to complete major repairs/renovations to their home through an interest free loan that is funded by our Revolving Housing budget. Home owners submit an application to the housing department – there will be an inspection to identify improvements – multiple quotes from contractors are required and approval by the housing committee and chief and council. Once full approval obtained, the member can enter into a loan agreement with the nation. The nation will work with the selected contractor to ensure work is completed and payments will be made by the nation – the member pays back the loan in installments. The balance of the loan is added to the members capital account associated with the house. In future housing policy work we would like to move away from this program and instead facilitate self financing and external funding application support.



'NĀMĠIS FIRST NATION
NATURAL RESOURCES

Forestry & Lands

Question/Comment	Response
Harvesting efforts before logging	We work with all three tenure holders in our territory to plan cedar bark harvesting opportunities before logging. Due to factors such as weather, safety, access, economics, and seasonal timing, it is not always possible to provide harvesting opportunities for every suitable area. We continue to work with Western Forest Products (WFP) to improve access to suitable harvesting areas where possible. There is currently less red cedar available within TFL 47 and the BCTS operating area, so pre-harvest opportunities have not yet been identified in the Bonanza or Vernon Lake watersheds.
Planting after forest fires	Forests affected by harvesting or wildfire are generally replanted. Depending on the situation, replanting may be completed by forestry companies or by the Province of British Columbia. If a wildfire severely damages the soil, replanting may need to be delayed until conditions are suitable, and seeding may be considered. Almost all harvested forest areas are replanted.
Youth learning harvesting and resource stewardship	The Natural Resources Department supports opportunities for youth to learn about harvesting and resource stewardship. Expanding these types of educational programs would require dedicated funding and direction as part of the department's work.
Consistent Guardian Program	The Natural Resources Department is currently restructuring to expand guardian-based work, including monitoring, field work, archaeology, cultural initiatives, and other stewardship activities. Guardian work is carried out in partnership with BC and Canada, as enforcement authority remains with those governments.
Include trapline holders	Members, including trapline holders, are included in Natural Resources engagement processes. There are currently 20 licensed trapline holders within 'N̓amgis Territory, although very little trapping is currently taking place. Five traplines remain under legacy rights held by First Nation families.

Forestry & Lands

Question/Comment	Response
Importance of traditional foods, medicines, and cedar	Cedar has been identified as a key species in long-term forest planning and will continue to be planted where appropriate. Planning has also identified important food and medicinal plants for protection and documentation, with the goal of supporting sustainable harvesting and reducing pressure on commonly accessed harvesting areas. In some situations, alder can benefit cedar growth, although natural forest regeneration must also be carefully managed.
Cedar bark harvesting has high market value	The importance and value of cedar bark harvesting is recognized and considered through Natural Resources planning and stewardship activities.
More communication with members about forestry and lands	The Natural Resources Department plans to host an open house this year and provide more regular updates through the newsletter and website on land and resource management activities.
More information on harvesting medicines and plants safely and sustainably	The Natural Resources Department recognizes the importance of providing information that supports the safe and sustainable harvesting of traditional plants and medicines. Work is underway to document important plant species and support long-term stewardship.
Logging buffers and increased logging truck traffic	Forest management in the Nimpkish Valley is guided by the TFL 37 Forest Landscape Plan, which includes protections, buffers, and other environmental requirements across the landscape. Increased logging truck traffic reflects forestry operations returning to approved harvest levels after several years of reduced activity, combined with increased highway transportation following the closure of rail service.
Education on processing traditional foods	The Natural Resources Department supports education related to processing traditional foods. Expanding these opportunities would require dedicated funding and direction as part of departmental programming.

Forestry & Lands

Question/Comment	Response
Netloft overhaul	The BC lease for the Netloft property expired more than 10 years ago. Renewal of the lease requires an updated management plan and repair plan to be submitted to the Province before redevelopment can proceed.
Ice plant at the Netloft	Previous studies have found that an ice plant alone is not financially sustainable. A broader marine services plan, such as fuel services, boat repair facilities, or other marine infrastructure, would be needed to support its long-term viability.
Training youth in harvesting and food processing	The Natural Resources Department supports opportunities to teach traditional harvesting, hunting, fishing, food preservation, and related skills. Expanding these educational opportunities would require dedicated funding and direction.
Information on what members can harvest and access	Members may harvest many plants, animals, fish, and fungi within applicable conservation measures. Some resources, such as timber or certain fisheries, require permits. Species such as elk are managed jointly with BC to ensure healthy and sustainable populations.
Elk meat package sizes	Elk distribution has shifted from a household-based system to an individual elder distribution, resulting in smaller package sizes so that all eligible elders receive an equitable share. Although more elk are being harvested, the growing number of elders means the available harvest is shared among more recipients.

Forestry & Lands

Question/Comment	Response
Monitoring recreational harvesters ("sporties")	Monitoring recreational harvesting requires significant staff, equipment, and operational funding. The current Aquatic Guardian Program has limited resources, and expanding monitoring would require additional funding.
Fish disposal and food waste	Current practice is to avoid disposing of seafood or game meat in household garbage. When food cannot be distributed because of circumstances such as power outages or storage limitations, efforts are made to redistribute it to community organizations whenever possible.
Community refrigerator / freezer rental	The community blast freezer is expensive to operate and maintain. Previous attempts to implement a rental or usage policy have presented operational challenges.

'NAMGIS



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Justice

Question/Comment	Response
Not aware of any Restorative Justice supports in the North Island	There is currently no formal Restorative Justice program in the North Island. However, when requested, Youth Probation Officer Jeff Tam will work with agencies outside the region to bring restorative justice services to the North Island for youth.
Youth dealing with so many deaths, significant family loss, drinking to cope, and lack of crisis support workers	'Nāmgis Community Services provides several supports for community members, including a Clinical Counsellor (1 day/week), an Art & Play Therapist (2 weeks/month), Community Grief and Loss Workshops with alternative healing therapies, referrals to Orca La Lum Youth Treatment Centre, and youth-specific Grief and Loss Workshops. Youth also have access to Y Star, Pati'yi (Kwakwaka'wakw Primary Care Initiative), the Health Centre Harm Reduction Program, and Island Health's Early Recovery Program.
Counsellors for children and youth at risk	'Nāmgis Community Services has contracted a Clinical Counsellor and an Art & Play Therapist and provides referrals to additional counselling services. Prevention and early intervention remain priorities. The 'Nāmgis Health Centre can also provide information about counselling services for children and youth at risk.
Youth Centre	'Nāmgis Community Services continues to work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and PME to complete the Youth Centre project. Although the project has experienced delays, work is ongoing and the goal is to have the Youth Centre finalized as soon as possible.

Justice

Question/Comment	Response
Healthy outlets for youth	The K'wak'walatsi Child and Family Services Youth Team offers a variety of weekly and annual programs, including cooking classes, drop-in activities, hiking, biking, soccer, volleyball, movie nights, youth conferences, tournaments, fishing derbies, cultural programming, regalia making, and other hands-on workshops. Meals are provided during evening programming.
Counsellors and mental health – introduction to RCMP	The 'N̓am̓gis Community Services team and the K'wak'walatsi Child and Family Services Youth Team have invited the RCMP to attend youth programs and community events to build positive relationships with youth.
Pride building and capacity building for young people	More information is needed to fully understand this comment before a response can be provided.

Education, Language and Culture

Question/Comment	Response
More opportunities for elders and youth	The K'wak'walatsi Child and Family Services (KCFS) Youth Team is currently operating with limited staff while maintaining existing programming. Discussions have taken place about organizing dinners and other activities that bring elders and youth together. KCFS has also contracted an Elder to participate in Thursday evening volleyball and indoor soccer programs. The Youth Council has recommended having an Elder involved in all youth programs and events, and KCFS will continue working toward increasing elder involvement.
Provide meals at cultural nights	Meals are provided during Cultural Night programming two evenings each week.
Child and family cultural nights; U'mista and WLLU offer streams of teaching	KCFS sponsors Cultural Night programming two evenings each week at the WWLU Administration Building while the Council Hall remains closed. The program is open to all community members. KCFS has also hosted cultural workshops, including a drum-making workshop with Joanie Glendale for youth and their parents/guardians, which was well attended.