

ḵamḵamdzakwānḵ | May

ḴALA'MAS

Issue: May 15, 2026



Yo 'Namgis! Spring is here, June Sports is around the corner, and election results are in.

Congratulations to our recently Elected Chief **Don Svanvik** and Councillor **Brian Wadhams** during our 2026 Election.

As we head into a busy season filled with community gatherings, events, and programming, we encourage everyone to continue checking our Facebook, Instagram, App, and Website for updates and announcements.

Speaking of June Sports, our Big House Field is currently scheduled to reopen on May 21st following maintenance work. If anything changes, updates will be shared through our communication channels.

You'll also read more in this issue about ongoing restoration work at the Gukwdzi (Big House), Lands and Infrastructure projects, community programs, and celebrations happening throughout the community.

Gilakas'la,

Stay updated with the latest community news, events, and announcements through our:

- **Facebook:** [@namgisnation](#)
- **Instagram:** [@namgisnation](#)
- **Website:** www.namgis.bc.ca
- **App:** *Hawk Communications*
 - Read more how to download and request an account here:
 - namgis.bc.ca/introducing-the-namgis-app

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CLOSED

Victoria Day is
May 18, 2026.
*Our offices will
be closed.*

LANDS & INFRASTRUCTURE

[Read the full update online:](https://namgis.bc.ca/lands-infrastructure-updates-spring-2026)
namgis.bc.ca/lands-infrastructure-updates-spring-2026

LANDS & INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Our Lands & Infrastructure team continues to keep busy this spring. We'll keep the Newsletter portion condensed, but for more details see the post on the website!

COMMUNITY SPACES

- Council Hall has reopened with occupancy limitations (100 max) following recent structural assessment work
- Big House Field is currently scheduled to reopen May 21 following maintenance work

LANDS

- Ongoing Legacy Issues Project work continues
- GIS mapping and survey preparation work remains underway
- Survey work is expected to begin in coming months

PUBLIC WORKS

- A new UTV has been added to the Public Works fleet
- Seasonal landscaping and maintenance is underway
- Staff recently completed another successful Spring Cleanup

CAPITAL PROJECTS & HOUSING

Current work includes:

- Drainage and road improvement planning
- Smitty's Hill water main replacement planning
- Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA upgrades
- Housing subdivision feasibility work
- Completion of two new CMHC homes on Atli
- Upcoming Housing Policy updates

[See Housing site:](https://namgis.bc.ca/housing)
namgis.bc.ca/housing

Gukwdzi Restoration Project Underway

Restoration work is currently underway at the Gukwdzi (Big House) as crews continue repainting and completing improvement work on this important cultural space within the community.

This work is part of ongoing efforts to help maintain and preserve community infrastructure and gathering spaces for future generations. Community members may notice continued activity around the Gukwdzi over the coming weeks as restoration work progresses.

Additional updates and photos will continue to be shared as the project moves forward.



[Read the full story online:
namgis.bc.ca/gukwdzi-
restoration-project-
underway](https://namgis.bc.ca/gukwdzi-restoration-project-underway)



Photos of Quinn Speck, *Udzistalis* Johnathan Henderson, Allan Davidson Jr.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Meet Our New CMT Crew Lead

Please join us in welcoming Parker Maceachern as the new CMT Crew Lead.

Originally from Prince Edward Island, Parker moved to the North Island eight years ago with his wife and has since built a career in natural resources, gaining hands-on experience across a variety of field environments and sectors.

Parker shared that he looks forward to getting more involved with the community and connecting with people throughout his work.

Welcome to the team, Parker!



"If you see our crew out and about, don't hesitate to stop and say hi – I'm always happy to connect and share stories!"

Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery

The Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation continues important work helping recover one of Canada's most endangered mammals.

Known in Kwakwaka'wakw as "Papika," marmots once existed throughout alpine areas within 'Namgis Traditional Territory, including areas near present-day Schoen Lake Provincial Park.

After population numbers dropped to dangerously low levels in the early 2000s, recovery efforts involving captive breeding, habitat restoration, monitoring, and reintroduction programs have helped the species slowly recover.

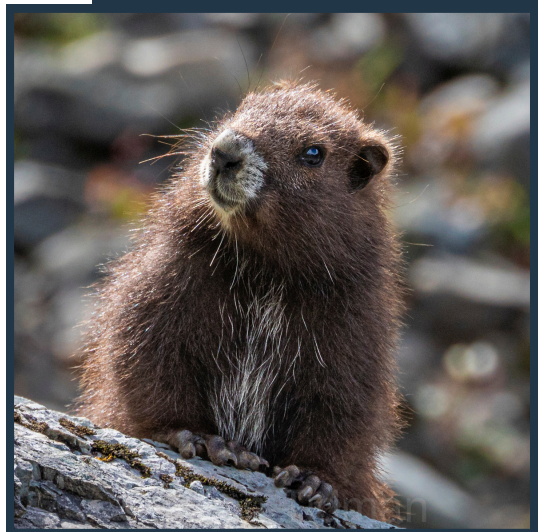
In exciting news, recent monitoring near Schoen Lake identified active marmot burrows and several marmot sightings in the Mount Cain and Mount Seth areas.

Community members hiking in alpine areas are encouraged to report marmot sightings to the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation.

Since the recovery program began:

- 747 marmots have been released
- 420 wild marmots were counted in 2025 – the highest number recorded during field monitoring

[Read the full story online:](https://namgis.bc.ca/vancouver-island-marmot-recovery)
namgis.bc.ca/vancouver-island-marmot-recovery



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Welcoming Natasha to the Team



“Coming back to the birthplace of my father and giving back to the community that gave me him has been a dream of mine since I was a teen.”

The 'N̄amgis Home and Community Care Program is pleased to welcome Natasha as our new part-time Home Support Worker.

Natasha shared her strong connection to culture, community, and holistic care, noting the importance of supporting Elders and community members through both healthcare and cultural connection.

She is a certified birth and loss doula and a registered Healthcare Aid who brings a compassionate and culturally grounded approach to care.

Walas Gilakas'la, Natasha – and welcome to the team!

Home Support Worker Services

The 'N̄amgis Home and Community Care Program supports community members in living safely, independently, and with dignity in their own homes.

Services may include:

- Personal care support
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Mobility assistance
- Caregiver respite
- Appointment support
- Cultural and community connection

Referrals are accepted from:

- Healthcare providers
- Family members
- Friends
- Self-referrals

Eligibility is based on client need following an in-home assessment.

**For more information,
please contact:**

Teliah Vollick RN(c) BSN
Home Care Coordinator
250-974-5522 ext. 2184

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2nd Patient Travel Information Session

- Wednesday, June 10th
- 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM
- At the Cormorant Island Learning Centre

Join us for lunch and to hear about FNHA updates to Patient Travel.

Followed by a Q&A and door prizes!

Diabetes Tea & Talk

Wednesday, May 27

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Health Centre Boardroom

Join us for a friendly conversation over tea:

- Tips for managing diabetes
- Questions and support

Harm Reduction Schedule for May & June

MAY 13	Pata'yi Meet & Greet with Jamie and Benedict	3 to 6 PM NHC Boardroom
MAY 27	Dr. Kellarhaults, Addiction Doctor	10 AM to 2 PM Drop In @ NHC
JUNE 20	Indigenous Day with Harm Reduction Scavenger Hunt on June Sports	12 to 2 PM Big House Field
JUNE 21		11 AM to 1 PM Big House Field
JUNE 24	Dr. Kellarhaults, Addiction Doctor	10 AM to 2 PM Drop In @ NHC



['Namgis Health Centre](#)



['Namgis Wellness Centre](#)



['Namgis Harm Reduction Services and Supplies](#)

EDUCATION

Community members interested in participating are encouraged to register early to help confirm course availability.

Employment & Training

Food Safe Course



Training provided by NVIATS.

Date: May 20, 2026

Workplace Training Opportunities

Date: May 29, 2026

Training opportunities include:

- WHMIS
- Infection Control
- Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace



To register or learn more, contact:

Trish Alfred

- 250-974-8221
- 250-974-5556 ext. 3401
- Trish.Alfred@namgis.bc.ca



'NAMGIS FIRST NATION

HEALTHY KIDS
FAIR

CHILDREN AGES 3-5

Children born January to December 2021 & 2022
January to June 2023

FRIDAY MAY 29, 2026

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

At the 'Namgis Health Centre

REGISTER BEFORE 1 PM and receive a \$50 gift card

And be entered for ONE of the DOOR PRIZES!!!!

4 x \$50.00 Gift Cards & 1 Grand Door Prize (worth \$200.00 approx.)

Diabetic Educator – **Healthy eating tips and information**

Growth and Development Screening – **Developmental Milestones**

Immunization Consultation – **Q&A for parents and immunization record support**

Mother Goose Story Time

and so much more....

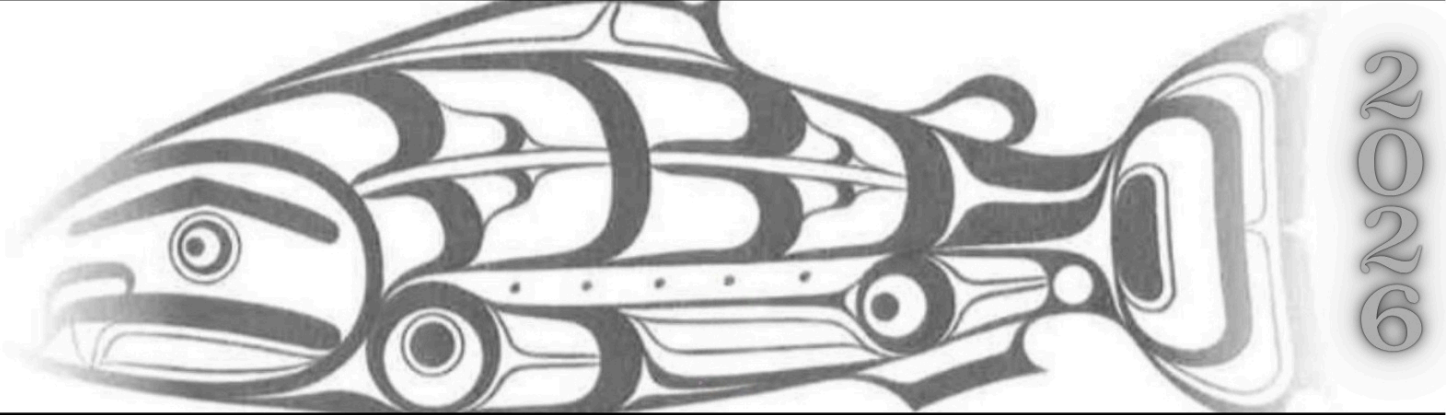
Contact Yvonne Wilson (250) 974-7073 if you have any questions.

Sponsored by: 'Namgis First Nation, 'Namgis Health Centre,
'Namgis Community Services, Ministry of Education - Early Learning and Child
Care, Jordan's Principle



Salmon Pageant

41st Salmon Princess & 37th Salmon Prince



Muḅanxwatsanx Gwagwaḅanx Maḅgwaḅnaḅgayu
adḅabutsakila - 'Namgis Gukwdzi lax 'Yalis

(Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. - Alert Bay Bighouse)



Salmon Prince & Salmon Princess candidate **ages 12-18** (birth years 2008-2014)
Junior Attendant candidate **ages 4-6** (birth years 2020-2022)

ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, June 15, 2026 by 3:00 PM



Come to witness, celebrate, and support our talented Kwakwaka'wakw youth demonstrate their cultural awareness, gifts, and knowledge.



For more information, please contact a committee member:
ḅḅisalagi'lakw School (250) 974-5591 or junesportspageant@namgis.bc.ca

