

'Namgis First Nation Council Meeting
January 7, 2026 9:30am Learning Centre

Council: Victor Isaac; Irene Speck; Ivy Peers; Kelly Speck; Molly Willie; Verna Ambers; Don Speck

Zoom: Jessica Barudin; Ernest Alfred

Staff: Senior Administrator Jamie Hill; Assistant Administrator Hazel Cook
 Council Executive Assistant Gina Wadhams

9:45am	Welcome to new and re-elected Councillors.
Agenda Approval	2026-Jan-07 (01): MOLLY WILLIE/IRENE SPECK That we approve the agenda with additions: Wellness Centre (IC); Primary Care (IC); Minister's Visit; Island Health Drone; Delegate: Don Svanvik; Fish Farm Media; Youth Centre Update; Emergency Housing; Post-Secondary; Land Code Delegate; Heat Pumps. CARRIED
Lands Code Manager	10-10:18am: Samantha Webster – Zoom Council to review FAQs and send questions to Samantha Webster. Council requests Holly at a future Council meeting to discuss Land Code. Council will call on Samantha this afternoon when delegate is present to discuss Housing Project.
Minutes Approval December 3, 2025 Business Arising New Years Dinners Rectory Specific Claims AGM NBDC	2026-Jan-07 (02): KELLY SPECK/IRENE SPECK That we approve the edited minutes of December 3, 2025. CARRIED Administration is currently working on details with organizers. Question on why Molly Willie's copy of the minutes were not redacted when she was asked to leave the meeting during this discussion? Administration responds: These are regular minutes and open to the public therefore, no reason to redact. Letter was signed by Victor Isaac and sent out. <i>Council request the letter be posted on social media.</i> Council request planning sessions to start now. <i>Administration state that internal planning meeting is on January 8 or 9, 2026. Administration has reached out to facilitator.</i> Was an apology posted to the membership because of no spring/summer meeting? <i>No this has not been done.</i> <i>Council suggests breakout groups like last meeting. Council also requests the Directors to be present at AGM to respond to questions.</i> <i>Council requests the rec centre, school and big house all be blocked off during these dates and not permit any bookings of our buildings.</i> Change Danyas under NBDC – change ownership. Conflict of Interest with Mike Green and Brian Svanvik. <i>Administration to setup Special Meeting with Stan Ashcroft.</i>
Nanaimo Indian Hospital	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant Project summary provided to Council. 2026-Jan-07 (03): KELLY SPECK/MOLLY WILLIE That we approve sending a Letter of Support to Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for 'Healing Histories, Transforming Futures: Intergenerational Learning and Truth-

	<i>Telling for Survivors and Indigenous Youth Health Pathways</i>’ AND for the five-year duration of the project, in lieu of funding contributions, we offer \$7,500 in-kind support for both culturally grounded counselling support and organizational support to collaboratively create with our fellow member nations the proposed Regional Health Conference and all associated activities. CARRIED
Research Guidelines	Flag this for Governance Committee to review.
	Molly Willie leaves meeting
First Peoples’ Cultural Council	2026-Jan-07 (04): ERNEST ALFRED/IRENE SPECK That we approve sending a Letter of Support to the First Peoples’ Cultural Council for the U’mista Cultural Practices application. CARRIED
	Molly Willie returns to meeting
Land Code	TABLED – Council requests Administration to invite Holly Vear to a future Council meeting.
BATI	Final disbursement of Industry Funds from BATI program to the three Nations. 2026-Jan-07 (05): MOLLY WILLIE/IVY PEERS That we authorize the release of \$660,875.72 to Mamalilikulla First Nation; \$660,875.72 to Kwikwasut’inuxw Haxwa’mis First Nation; \$660,875.72 to ‘Namgis First Nation. CARRIED
Residential School	Statement on Residential School Denialism <i>Council request the Statement Against Denialism, showing solidarity with survivors and supporting the important work currently being carried out across the province be posted on Social Media.</i>
Quilts for Survivors	Quilts for Survivors: names of survivors in our nation – names can be forwarded by Project Manager. Financial Assistance: TABLED. Administration to review donation fund on what is available.
BCAAP Funding	Village of Alert Bay is applying for BC Air Access Program (BCAAP) funding for Airport Upgrades. 2026-Jan-07 (06): IVY PEERS/VERNA AMBERS That we approve Letter of Support for Airport Master Plan at Alert Bay Airport. CARRIED
Bi-Election	Polling date: April 2026 2026-Jan-07 (07): IVY PEERS/IRENE SPECK That we approve expenditure of up to \$25,000 for the Bi-Election in April 2026. CARRIED
Minister Visit	Update from Kelly Speck – visit Matt Leroy (from the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship reached out to the nation. Matt is responsible for Land Use Planning and for implementation of the Gwan’i recommendations. He is also the decision-maker for the soon to completed changes to the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan.) His Minister wants to come to the territory in recognition of the Gwan’i project – especially as the changes to the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) are the first changes developed in partnership with a first nation and the changes reflect our stewardship values. Key changes under VILUP are to put in place special management zones and general management zones that effectively remove enhanced forestry in our territory, create a water conservation network to protect bodies of water in the territory and protect specific areas from forestry. The changes are the legal foundation piece that underpins our draft forest landscape plan and the resulting forest operations plan. The Minister is excited by

	these changes as it represents reconciliation and emphasizes stewardship of land & resources. January 18, 2026 is the date for the Minister's visit. Things covered in preliminary discussion with Seamus Wolfe, Minister's Chief of Staff, who called almost immediately: • Arriving Saturday night in Port McNeill • Minister travelling with communications person, Minister's office staff member plus likely someone from Ministry • Potential agenda? Suggestion is coming to Alert Bay off first ferry and meeting at U'mista (could be a walk through/tour, brief meeting, ceremony?), leaving on noon ferry. Visit Kuterra site (TBC) and visit to part of territory (possibly walking hatchery site and along river) • Length of time of her visit? 9:30- 3:30ish • Will this timeframe cross over lunch hour – yes, would need to have a catering arranged – maybe a “bagged lunch to eat while on the ferry? • Does she still wish to go out into the territory? Yes but location needs to be safe and accessible • Communications? – they would like to bring a communications person who would take pictures and ideally capture a few short videos of NFN attendees speaking about importance of changes to VILUP to protect the environment, conservation and reconciliation. They would then release a PR on Monday with some of the pictures. ~~~~~ Planning discussions need to take place. Kelly Speck has been talking with Brian Svanvik. There will be no staff at the Kuterra site. • Need to reach out to the U'mista ASAP to arrange for opening venue. • Purchase gift? Dollar value and department number? • Jean Bell will be present for this event. • Kelly Speck, Molly Willie and Ernest Alfred will meet tomorrow.
Island Health	Discussions on drone information transportation. Kelly Speck shared information with Brian Svanvik. Potential use with guardianship program, forestry. 2026-Jan-07 (08): MOLLY WILLIE/DON SPECK That we approve providing a Letter of Support to Island Health. CARRIED
Youth Centre	What is the delay with the youth centre? Contents in the soil was flagged. PME went through restructuring. Based on Canada's involvement, there were delays with criteria to meet. Foundation is not down. Diane Alfred has reached out to Dan Edwards for an update. Village Office was using the site for their work on Town Square. Hard stop on site to Village Office. PME needs to give us answers around this. Inconsistency across the board on this site. Bring in all players – key to get everyone in the same room to coordinate a schedule to bring together a plan for the youth. Inter-Agency meeting needs to take place with us. Invite company that had the plans for the Nurses' Residence. <i>Council request PME representatives at future Council meeting to answer our questions: timeline, when building will be arriving, remedy challenges? Exercise our political will.</i>

	<i>Start talking at our table on the long-term plans.</i> <i>If Council members have questions for PME, email to Hazel Cook and they will be forwarded for their response.</i>
Don Svanvik – Delegate	1:35pm – Don Svanvik joins Council meeting Don Svanvik voices his concerns with the Housing Project. Were there other proposals reviewed? Lots to be determined. Causing pressure on the members to vote when there is clearly not enough information. They need to prove to us that they can do it. Renewal Development delivered the building that will accommodate the Lands Department. They said they can move the building, and they did it in a short period of time. Council discuss lots, water, infrastructure. Currently, there are three feasibility studies taking place right now. 2:30pm – Don Svanvik leaves meeting
Housing Project	Council member is surprised that Sean Jones and/or Lloyd Roberts did not half the conversation when brought up at the Forum – sending a delegate from the Forum to tell Council what to do. Shocked with language and outcome. Moving too fast on this vote. Came on quickly – ‘trust me’ approach. 2026-Jan-07 (09): IVY PEERS/MOLLY WILLIE That the Housing Vote be postponed to a future date so we can make an informed decision, and Council has all information before going to membership, before coming back to Council, this is to go to the Finance Committee and Housing Committee. CARRIED <i>Council directs Administration to inform Samantha Webster that the Housing Project vote is to be postponed. Membership is to be informed that the meetings and vote are on hold and that this information is posted on social media.</i> <i>Council requests report at the January 21, 2026 Council meeting. What is the contractual information with this company? What is the reference to MOI with Renewal Development – Council is not familiar with this. Is there an existing document? Administration is to look into.</i>
Post-Secondary	Issue with post-secondary cheques not being sent. Comptroller was trying to use an alternate route but that didn't happen. Council states to use cheques until sorted out. There were lots of problems – stressed out. Many students not being able to pay rent. <i>Senior Administrator will request a report from Comptroller and report back to Council.</i>
Heat Pumps	Maintenance and repairs on these units? Elders having problems with heat pumps. Not working properly for quite some time. Homeowners have been informed that it is their responsibility. Suggestion to survey homeowners who have heat pumps for information on how the system is functioning. Emergency Fund? Talked about in past Council meeting. Where is this at? Look back into Council minutes when discussed (September?).

	Suggestion to add to Housing Committee agenda: Heat pump maintenance? Who can homeowners call? Who is checking on the elders? Should be a schedule on when heat pumps were installed. Setup service schedule. Hot water tanks - when installed? Need a dedicated person to this – fulltime job. Suggestion that Public Works may be able to do. There would be a price attached.
In-Camera	2026-Jan-07 (10): ERNEST ALFRED/KELLY SPECK That we go In-Camera. CARRIED 2026-Jan-07 (11): IVY PEERS/MOLLY WILLIE That we go out of In-Camera. CARRIED
Fish Farm	SMK Media and For the Love of Wild Salmon – <i>refer to Finance Committee.</i>
Council Portfolios	TABLED – add to January 21, 2026 Council agenda
Our Gathering	2026-Jan-07 (12): MOLLY WILLIE/ERNEST ALFRED Council members interested in taking part in Our Gathering virtually, contact Senior Administrator and you will be registered to Zoom into meeting. CARRIED

Adjourn at 4:30pm



Signature



Date

