



Áma Sqwetsp: A Good Journey

Lílwat Nation ANNUAL REPORT 2015





Líl'wat Lámcal

O ku cá7a kúkwpi7
Kúkwstun̓ckacw ti tmícwa, ti qú7a,
múta7 I tákma wa7tśáqwañem,
kúkwstun̓ckacw ti ámha sq̓it,
kúkwstun̓ckacw tákem I tsmá'ltlhkalha
múta7 I tákem I ucwalmícwa.
Áma tśílhas aye

Mount Currie Prayer

Oh Great Creator
Thank you for the land, the water,
And all the food that we eat,
Thank you for the good day,
Thank you for the children
And all our people.
Amen.

— Ékya7 Gloria Wallace
Ucwalmícwts Teacher
Xelólacw Community School



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Message from the Political Chief

Instas *Skalumecw*, my name is Dean Nelson. I have lived here my entire life. I attended the Mount Currie Indian Day School and T̓s̓zil High School in the community where learning Lilwat7úl culture was greatly encouraged. To be presented the culture and to embrace our culture are two very different things. I have always believed that culture can save or condemn a First Nations person depending on where we are in life. I was fortunate to have key people at a crucial time in my life to assist me with the embracing and the practicing of the Lilwat7úl culture that would motivate me to where I am today culturally. As I begin my term as Political Chief for the Lilwat Nation, I am constantly thinking of the power of transformation and strong leadership.

TRANSFORMATION

I have always believed that the strength of Mother Nature and the culture can enhance and shape one's life. Initially, I saw myself standing on the sidelines, watching our culture for most of my youth. When I became a teacher, I saw my students looking to me for direction as to whether or not to participate in our cultural practices. I asked myself, "How can we expect our children to embrace the culture when we cannot ourselves?" I started by holding a drum on the sidelines — again watching. I felt it was my responsibility to do what I could, so I joined the drumming circle and became strong enough to lead some of the Lilwat7úl songs.

LEADERSHIP

I have always felt that if there were changes to make that we are aware of there is no one better to make those changes than ourselves. We can't keep looking for someone to change things for us. Words I live by:

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." — Gandhi

It is truly an honour to serve as the Political Chief of the Lilwat Nation.

Kukwstum̓ckálap,

Skalumecw Chief Dean Nelson



Dean Nelson
Skalumecw



Message from the Culture Chief

It has been quite an experience for me as a person and a leader to come back to be part of what needs to be worked in our culture. I don't know if it's transformation, but leadership is definitely part of it.

I haven't really been away for the last four years; I was mostly resting and healing, right here in our community. Now I am ready to take on the challenges of being Culture Chief.

Genealogy has always been my passion — almost an obsession — and now, with the community's help, this is what I want to pursue. I really want to know who we are, as Liłwat7úl, as Úcwalmícw. More and more families are asking for help with family trees and photo identification, if I don't know, I will ask someone who may know and so forth. It has definitely helped with updating our graveyards and name giving, and, therefore, our identity. I haven't published what I've gathered because of needing to notify families and others before doing so. We will have Ancestry.ca here soon and will need help there for sure.

Preserving our language has been my biggest concern. Currently, fewer than 3% of our people that know how to speak Ucwalmícwts fluently, if we don't do something about this soon our language will be extinct. I am encouraged by the present federal government saying they will fully address the 94 calls to action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report, redressing the legacy of residential schools. These are only a few things I believe we need to do to preserve and resuscitate our culture.

I also fully believe we have much to do ourselves to save our language, our traditions and our identity. I will be presenting on this not only to our council but also to you, the people who have entrusted me to this position. I look forward to this and to working with you for the next few years.

Kukwstumckálap,

Taya Chief Leonard Andrew



Chief Leonard Andrew

Taya

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

My name is Kerry Mehaffey and I am the Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Lilwat Nation. I've worked for the nation for the past eight years in a variety of roles including Lands Officer, Economic Development Officer, and Director of Business and Economic Development. It's an honour to serve the community.

This year marked the end of another five-year planning cycle for the Lilwat Nation. Strategic Plan 2010-2015, the second undertaken by the nation, was developed with community, staff and council input. Some of the key highlights of the past five years were in the areas of improved governance practices and improved financial performance.

A new Custom Election Code removing the Lilwat Nation from the Indian Act election process was adopted, as was the updated Citizenship Code that allows for automatic enrollment when one parent is a citizen of the nation. A Financial Administrative Law allowing for low-interest rate borrowing from the First Nations Financial Authority. Also in the area of improved governance practices was the adoption of the Lilwat Nation Leadership Policy that outlines the roles and responsibilities of elected officials.

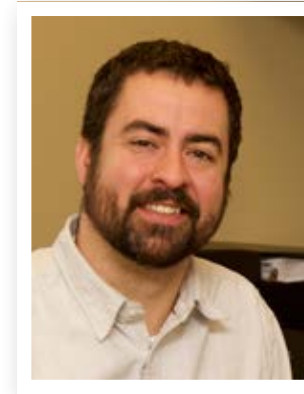
The nation's financial situation has improved greatly over the term of Strategic Plan 2010-2015. The Lilwat Nation realized an increase in its Net Financial Assets, which indicates the organizations overall ability to pay for past spending, of more than \$8 million from (\$4,997,345) in 2010 to \$3,143,396 in 2015. Contributions to the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre also decreased from \$600,000 in 2011 to \$247,144. And the Lilwat Business Corporations grew substantially, from a deficit position of \$1.8 million in 2010 to a \$1.3 million profit in 2015, the third consecutive profitable years.

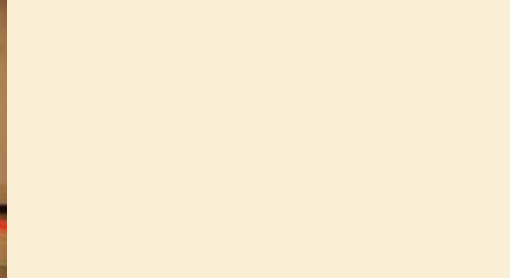
As well, individual departments made major strides towards achieving their specific objectives. The value of the strategic plan is not only in its guidance into what we are trying to achieve but as a tool for reflection. It allows us to examine the goals and priorities set in 2010 and see where we have improved, completed projects, or where work remains. Looking over the achievements of 2010-2015, I'm proud to have been a small part of the many successes the nation experienced during that time.

As the Lilwat Nation embarks on its next planning process, community input into the new strategic plan will be key to its success. We welcome your feedback and input into our shared priorities for the next five years.

Kukwstumckálap,

Kerry Mehaffey





Volunteer Recognition

Youth Soccer Volunteers: Teaching Teamwork, Sportsmanship, and Pride

Youth sports programs can only thrive with the involvement of dedicated adults. This year, we are pleased to recognize the men and women who give their time to the Youth Soccer Association.

For decades, the Lilwat Nation has been producing extraordinary soccer players. Lilwat7úl teams have traveled to Europe, the US and throughout BC. Many players have participated in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Denver, Colorado and the Cowichan Valley, as part of Team BC. And the Lilwat Nation Youth Soccer Association (YSA) teams consistently place in the top three positions at tournaments throughout the region from Sechelt to Lillooet to Seabird Island.

None of this would be possible without the volunteers who have so generously give their time to the YSA over the years. From pre-school to high school, the kids of the community have had the opportunity to play soccer because of people like Jaclyn Jameson, Nathan “Skin” Saul and Hâma7 Alphonse Wallace.

“Soccer gives youth and parents an opportunity to come together for an activity that positively provides health, fitness and social interaction,” says Hâma7, who has been coaching since he set up YSA in 1996.

Jaclyn was one of the first volunteers to join him.

“I started volunteering when my oldest son started playing when he was six years old,” says Jaclyn.

That was 19 years ago. And it looks like she’ll be spending a few more years as treasurer of the association. While her two eldest are now adults, her two youngest children are still involved in the sport and could be until they are 21 years old.

The most popular sport in the world can take as much energy off the field as it does on the field, whether that field is at Xetólacw or Úlilus, Whistler or Toronto, the site of NAIG 2016.

“We have to arrange practices, travel, decide what tournaments we can afford to go to, do the fundraising and find sponsorship,” says the YSA treasurer. “The players are always eager to participate in events like NAIG, but it always comes down to whether or not we can afford it.”

Volunteers also do things like drive minivans full of excited under-10s, bandage twisted ankles and soothe bruised feelings. They teach teamwork and build pride by making the players believe in themselves. Building self-esteem through sport is something that keeps Jaclyn engaged. That and the smiles she sees at every game.

“When the kids are playing, even if they’re not winning, they’re smiling. It’s great to see how it brings families together — parents coming out to cheer the teams on.”

Jaclyn credits much of the success of the YSA to Hâma7, who has coached the game for more than two decades, fostering the sport through his work as recreation manager for the Lilwat Nation.

Coach Nathan Saul is another long serving volunteer, joining the YSA when his 22-year-old daughter was eight. His love of the game keeps him coaching up



From tying shoes to fundraising for tournament travel, the YSA volunteers ensure that children and youth can reach their potential on the field.

to three teams a season and playing in a men’s league in Squamish.

“I’m hoping to play until I’m 55, but I don’t think I’ll ever stop coaching,” says Nathan.

He is passionate about soccer’s ability to build confidence in its players.

“I think the game gives youth an identity. Every game and tournament changes them,” he says.

Jaclyn agrees and wishes more parents would get involved: “If I had to convince someone, I’d say, ‘Do it for our children. Give our children the opportunity to try something different and succeed.’”

Where the Journey has taken the Lílwat Nation: Fulfilling the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan

Reflecting On The End Of One Journey And The Beginning Of Another

The Lílwat Nation began its strategic planning process in 2005-2010 and made substantial movement towards its objectives. The fulfillment of the 2010-2015 Strategic illustrates how the Lílwat Nation is moving towards its goal of the self-governance.

This year marked the conclusion of the Lílwat Nation's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. It was a plan that focused on how to further develop the community with traditional values, such as Níákmen (Our Way), in mind. Today, reflecting back on five years of decisions, plans, projects and programs, it's exciting to see the advances made in all nine areas identified in the strategic plan.

During the past five years, the Lílwat Nation has moved closer towards the goal of self-governance through new policies, improved processes, greater participation in provincial and national organizations, Ucwalmícwts (language) reclamation and cultural practices preservation.

Significant steps have been taken to use the tools that the First Nations Financial Management Board, the First Nations Tax Commission and the First Nations Finance Authority provide. In 2013, the Lílwat Nation strengthened its administrative environment by passing a Financial Administration Law (FAL). This has resulted in access to low-interest, long-term capital. As well, a Property Tax and Assessment Law was passed. This allows the nation to collect property taxes from non-community businesses on reserve. This has given the Lílwat Nation the ability to help finance public infrastructure.

Lílwat Nation participation in provincial and national organizations has increased since 2010. Members of council, staff, committees and boards have represented the interests of the community with organizations such as the First Nations Health Authority, AANDC and the Assembly of First Nations. As well, the nation has entered a partnership at the local level with the Village of Pemberton under the Community Infrastructure Partnership Plan.

The importance of Lílwat7úl culture was recognized in 2015 with the election of a Culture Chief to serve alongside the Political Chief, ensuring that traditional protocols are learned and observed. And the Lílwat7úl Culture Centre has been instrumental in

increasing cultural awareness over the past five years. Advancements in language and culture development have included the introduction of the post-secondary First Nations Culture and Language Program, a two-year university credit course at Tšzil Learning Centre, the publishing of the *Lílwat Ucwalmícwts Dictionary* and the development of a more robust Ucwalmícwts Immersion Program at Xeíólacw Community School.

The effort applied to creating greater educational opportunities has not only been in the areas of culture and language but also in academics. In the past five years, 31 students completed the University College Entrance Program (UCEP); 15 students finished certificate programs; six students received post-secondary diplomas; six students earned bachelor's degrees, and four students received their master's degrees.

During this fiscal year, 73 students enrolled for programs offered at Tšzil Learning Centre. The centre's 2014/15 graduates included two UCEP students who moved into post-secondary programs; three Lílwat Nation Language and Culture Certificate Program participants; five students who earned Education Assistant certificates and one who achieved a Bachelor's of Business Administration.



And Lilwat Nation's new partnership with the Stó:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training promises more opportunities for short-term training to get community members prepared for the workplace.

Putting First Nations health into First Nations hands, a goal outlined in the strategic plan, continues to drive Lilwat Health and Healing's work. The centre has expanded its programs to include doula, hospice, and sexual health services. Psychiatric services have been increased. Eldercare now includes the United Way-sponsored Better at Home program and more healthcare options for issues related to aging.

Economic Development has been an area of great development over the past five years. Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) have been struck, most notably

a \$10 million agreement with BC Hydro, and an IBA for the Upper Lillooet independent power plan that will assist the community for the next 40 years. Strong partnerships have been formed with existing businesses in the area such as Murphy Construction and Lizzie Bay Logging. And for the past three years the nation's corporations, Forestry Ventures, Retail Operations and Construction Enterprises, have been in a profitable position.

Served by Capital Projects and Public Works, the Lilwat Nation's infrastructure has improved, with all community building no up to federal and fire safety codes, water and sewer systems being evaluated and new housing in the works. The delegation of that housing is part of the work Social Development has done to foster greater wellness in the community.

To better assist clients in developing and achieving their long-term goals Social Development ensured that frontline workers received the training they needed.

With finances in order, best practice processes established, a new Chiefs and Council in place and a new strategic plan on the way, the Lilwat Nation ends what has been áma sqwetsp (a good journey) with the hope of another.



Governance and Strategic Planning

A Government Of The People, For The People

The Chiefs and Council, staff and administration of the Lilwat Nation serve the community by being responsive to the needs and concerns of its members. As the nation's government, we aim to foster an environment of trust, transparency and respect. A government of the people, we believe that serving our people must come first. This is reflected in our current activities and the direction we have set for the future — a direction that has come from community.

We believe that listening to the community is the only way to ensure effective government. We do this through a commitment to community consultation. In addition to implementing community engagement strategies, such as General Assemblies, many of our departments have advisory boards, boards of directors or committees composed of community members, elected officials and staff.

For the past five years, Governance's direction has been grounded in recommendations from the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan that was developed through extensive community consultation efforts including workshops and General Assemblies. At their core, strategic plans are vision documents. We are now embarking on the 2015-2023 Strategic Plan to set the course for our next five years of activities. As with the strategic plan that has guided us since 2010, the new plan will outline how to further develop the community with traditional and cultural values in mind.

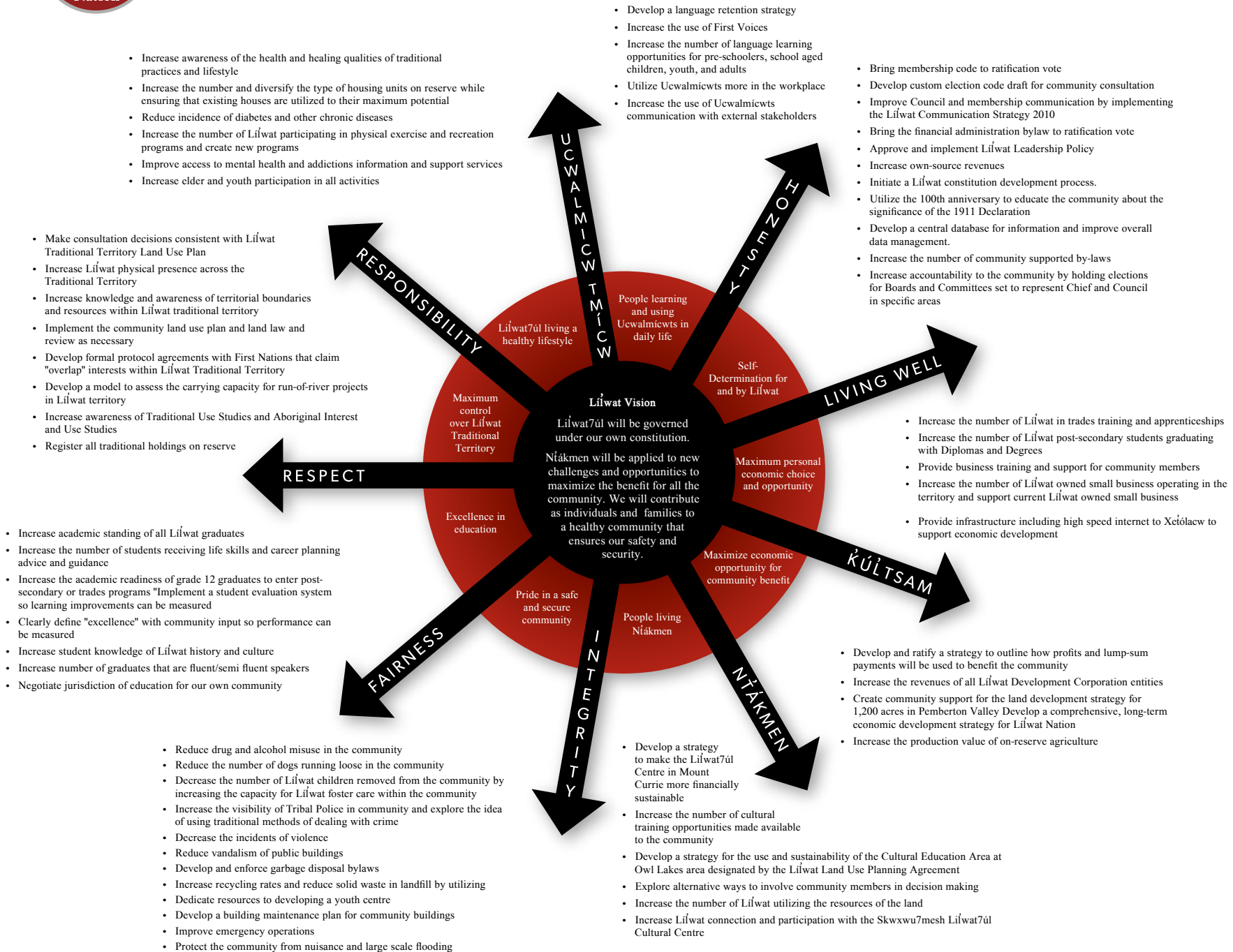
Respect, honesty and fairness, the values of the Lilwat Nation, provide the framework for strategic plans. The 2010-2015 Strategic Plan was founded in the concepts of Níákmen (Our Way) and Kúłtsaḡ (Integrity, responsibility and living well.). These values have infused everything that Governance has done over the period of the plan, from determining policy to addressing practical concerns such as infrastructure, maintenance and housing. All of the projects, goals and areas for exploration identified in the strategic plan have been run through a filter of these values. With input from boards, committees and community members we have fulfilled many of the priorities outlined in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan.

We are proud to share our achievements of the past five years as we look forward to the development of the new strategic plan that will propel the Lilwat Nation forward through 2023.





STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2015



Realizing The Objectives Of The 2010-2015 Strategic Plan

Using our strategic plan to guide our activities we have achieved much since we adopted the five-year plan in 2010. The following is a list of our accomplishments and how they relate to the nine objectives set out in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan.

Using our language in daily life

- Increased use of First Voices.
- Increased opportunities for preschoolers, school-aged children and adults to learn Ucwalmícwts.
- Published the first edition of the Lilwat Ucwalmícwts Dictionary.
- Staff using Ucwalmícwts sign-offs on correspondence and email.
- The position of Culture Chief, fulfilled by fluent Ucwalmícwts speaker, *Taya Leonard Andrew*, has been added to council.

Self-determination for and by Lilwat7úl

- Increased Own Source Revenue through independent power project (IPP) participation agreements, revenue generation from our corporations and revenue sharing agreements for forestry, IPPs and other various tenures on Lilwat Traditional Territory.
- Ratified the \$10 million BC Hydro Settlement Agreement.
- Brought the updated Lilwat Citizenship Code to ratification.*
- Brought the Lilwat Nation Custom Election Code to ratification.*
- Brought the Financial Administration Law to a ratification vote.*
- Approved and implemented the Lilwat Leadership Policy.
- Used the 100th anniversary of the 1911 Declaration to educate the community about the significance of this document. (2011)
- Increased the number of community-supported bylaws including a Taxation Law in conjunction with an Assessment Law and Financial Administration Law.
- The Housing Board, Health Board, Board of Education, and Tšzil Learning Centre are now all elected committees. (The Lilwat Business Corporations, Land Management Board, Land Use Referral Committee continue to be appointed by Chiefs and Council with appropriate Terms of Reference.)

* These laws and policies replace sections of the Indian Act or were created to fill a void in legislation to create rules that had not previously formally existed.



Maximum personal economic choice and opportunity

- Post-secondary education achievement for Lilwat Nation citizens has increased over the past five years. In all, 31 students completed the University College Entrance Program; 15 students finished certificate programs; six students received post-secondary diplomas; six students earned bachelor's degrees, and four students received their master's degrees.
- The Lilwat Nation hosted two Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurial Skills Training sessions at T̓szil Learning Centre with a total of 20 graduates. These 12-day intensive courses were taught and coordinated by a company from within the community.
- The Lilwat Nation is in ongoing discussions with proponents for further investment and revenue sharing opportunities, evaluation of business plans for investment, completion of joint venture agreements for construction and contracting opportunities.
- Since 2010, the Lilwat Business Corporations have generated \$1,525,000 in net operating profits.
- Revenue sharing agreements for forestry, independent power projects and various other tenures throughout Lilwat Traditional Territory have been negotiated during the past five years.
- The number of Lilwat community members in trades and apprenticeships has increased, with 14 community members taking part in "Forestry Bootcamp" through The College of The Rockies and eight community members becoming certified tree fallers through New Faller Training.
- Since 2010, more than 30 people have finished Aboriginal Businesses and Entrepreneurial Skills Training.
- Provided business training and support for community members and increased the number of Lilwat7úl-owned small businesses.
- Developed a land development strategy for 1,200 acres in Pemberton.
- Completed the installation of high-speed Internet for Xeíólacw. Lilwat Health and Healing, Xeíólacw Community School, Fire Hall #2, Tsípun and 250 homes now have access to quality Internet service. The savings across the Lilwat Nation are substantial and revenues are being re-invested in the community.
- Completed the vision gap of on- versus off-reserve agriculture through Sauder School of Business and will be building this into a more detailed Agricultural Plan through the Land Use Planning Pilot Project.

More economic opportunity for community benefits

- Negotiated an Impact Benefit Agreement with Innergex for the Upper Lillooet Hydro Project with economic benefits in excess of \$280 million to the nation over 40 years. Benefits include upfront cash payments, revenue sharing through royalty arrangement through the Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) term and super-royalty in high flow years and an ownership stake in the project after EPA.
- Developed and ratified a strategy outlining how profits and lump sum payments will be used to benefit the community. This has been embedded into the Lilwat Nation's updated financial policies required through the Financial Administration Law.
- The Lilwat Business Corporations have been increasingly successful over the past five years. Net operating profits over the five-year period are approximately \$1,525,000 with sustained growth.

People living Ntákmen

- Financial administration has been improved by incorporating good governance supported by the Financial Administration Law, certification of financial systems by the Financial Management Board allowing us lower interest rates, annual strategic and financial planning, investment of BC Hydro funds and analysis of business and economic development.
- The Lilwat Nation's financial situation has improved through generating its own revenue and reducing payments to the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre.
- Cultural opportunities for the communities have been increased through the introduction of the two-year, post-secondary Lilwat Nation Culture and Language Certificate at T̓szil learning Centre. The program's first cohort graduated in 2015.
- Strengthening the connection to the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre has been achieved through regular and ongoing participation in board meetings, as well as the centre's events and activities.
- Communication between Chiefs and Council and the community has improved.
- The Lilwat Nation has undertaken several agricultural initiatives including an Agricultural Strategy outlining the production value of agriculture on an acre of reserve land.

Pride in a safe and secure community

- New housing has been undertaken.
- A Community Infrastructure Partnership Plan has been entered into with the Village of Pemberton.
- Úllus Community Complex received its license of occupancy.
- Community buildings have been brought into compliance with federal safety and fire safety standards.
- A plan for the maintenance of community buildings has been put in place.
- Working with WAG and the SPCA, the number of "free-range" dogs has been reduced.
- Recycling programs are now in place at both the Old Site and Xéíólacw.
- Regular emergency planning operations meetings are now scheduled.
- Funding from the AANDC and Province of BC to mitigate on-reserve flooding has been obtained.

Excellence in education

- Post-secondary enrollment has increased with students earning diplomas, certificates, bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Student enrollment at Xéíólacw Community School has increased.
- Professional development has increased at XCS and Tšzil Learning Centre.
- The high school credit system has been implemented.
- An excellent Special Needs program has been established with two fully qualified teachers and 12 Education Assistants.
- Language and cultural understanding, as well as literacy and numeracy, has been increased.
- Materials supporting cultural and language education have been improved.
- Special Education Assistants have been trained at the Tšzil Learning Centre.
- Student counseling services have been increased.
- The Stó:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training partnership has been established.

Maximum control over Lílwat Traditional Territory

- Consultations decisions are now supported by the Land Use Plan.
- Increased community's awareness of Lílwat Traditional Territory boundaries and the resources within.
- A much better understanding of run of river project capacities has been achieved and plans to preserve, protect or develop some of these opportunities have been established.
- Traditional use and Aboriginal Interest and Use studies have been undertaken when evaluating any major project that will impact Lílwat Traditional Territory.
- Lílwat Nation is engaged in the ongoing process of registering all traditional holdings on reserve.

Lílwat7úl living a healthy lifestyle

- Preventative health services have increased.
- Health awareness promotion has increased.
- Mental health and addictions services have increased, as has access to mental health professionals. A formal suicide protocol has been adopted and resource staff has been expanded. The goal is to offer excellent services to anyone seeking help to overcome emotional, mental or addiction issues. In 2015, 144 people took advantage of drug and alcohol counselling.
- Community awareness of addictions and their treatment has increased.
- Elders and youth participation has increased in all recreational programs.
- Awareness of traditional practices and culture has increased through activities such as building drums and participation in cultural events.
- Elders' participation in recreational programs has increased by offering weekly exercise programs.
- Caregiver Education and the Better At Home programs have been introduced.
- A nutritionist is now available to the community three times a year.
- Doula service is now available to pregnant women. Nine women took advantage of this service in 2014, the year it was introduced.

Opportunities To Get Involved With Governance

Governance serves the day-to-day operations of the Lilwat Nation, funding Chiefs and Council activities, administration, legal, IT, human resources, communications and special projects. The department also assists with the development of policy. In order to move policy forward, Governance employs public engagement strategies, such as General Assemblies that allow community members to get involved in decision-making. People can also become involved with setting the nation's direction through participation on the boards and committees.

Governance relates to how decisions are made and how the community governs itself. At the beginning of each term councillors are assigned one or more of the following portfolios reflecting the Lilwat Nation's various departments: Community Services, Education, Economic Development, Governance, Health and Healing, Lands and Resources and Operating. Each of these divisions has as at least one council member on its board or committee to serve as a chairperson.

Through either specific project outreach or boards and committees, community members have input into the decisions made by council. Committees and boards are delegated specific authority to make decisions, make recommendations to staff and advise council. Committees are governed by Terms of Reference approved by council and include terms on how decisions are made, the composition of the board and length of term.

Governance also oversees and proposes changes in internal policies and procedures within the band's operations. These areas include finance, personnel, leadership, communications and emergency planning. Ongoing efforts are made to keep these policies current and relevant in all areas of the Lilwat Nation government.

Since 2014, communication with the community has improved by reinstating our monthly newsletter and introducing *Chief and Council Notes*. A new, comprehensive website will be launched in early 2016. Our aim is to attract more community members to help shape the future of the Lilwat Nation. It's a future full of positive possibilities.

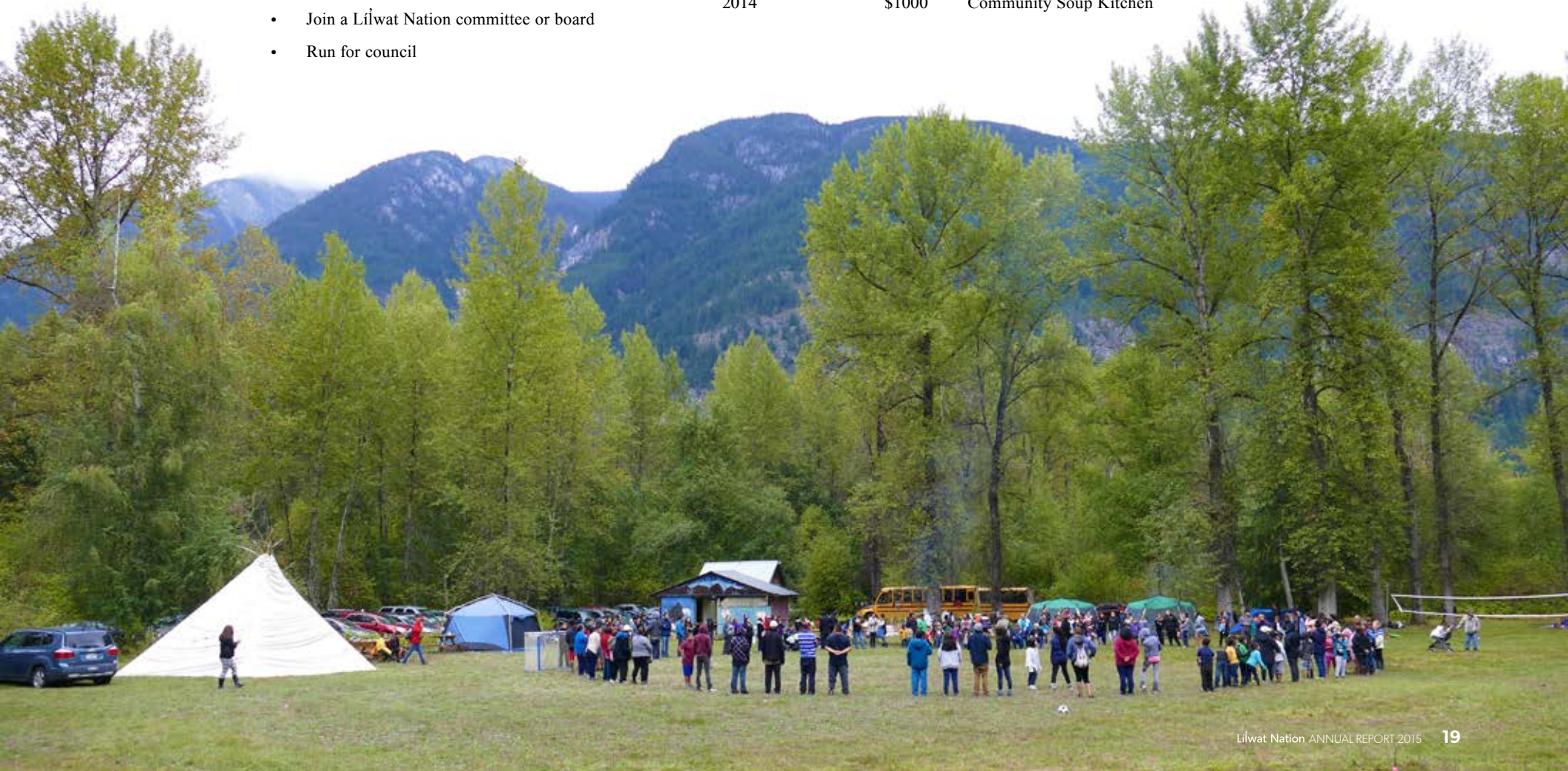
How to get involved

- Attend General Assemblies
- Go to council meetings
- Call your senior managers
- Talk to council members
- Read the Lilwat Nation newsletter
- Visit the website
- Read *Chief and Council Notes*
- Write or email council or staff with your concerns
- Join a Lilwat Nation committee or board
- Run for council

Community Projects the Lilwat Nation has sponsored

The Lilwat Nation is here to support the community, donating staff time and financial resources for special events. here is a sample of the projects that were funded in 2014/15.

April 2014	\$580	Community Clothing Exchange
April 2014	\$3000	Skalúla7 Rediscovery Camp
June 2014	\$3450	Grad 2014
October 2014	\$2000	Pow Wow
December 2014	\$1125	Christmas Bureau
2014	\$1000	Community Soup Kitchen

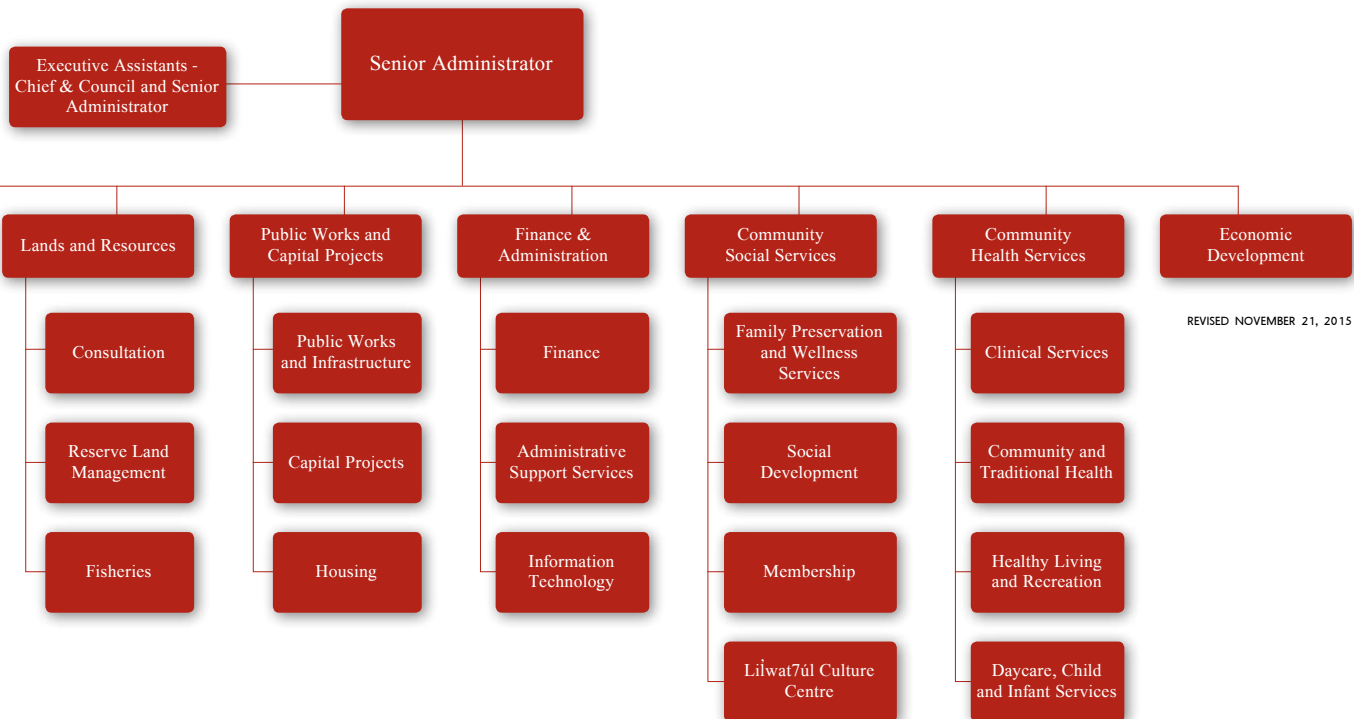




ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The People

Chief and Council

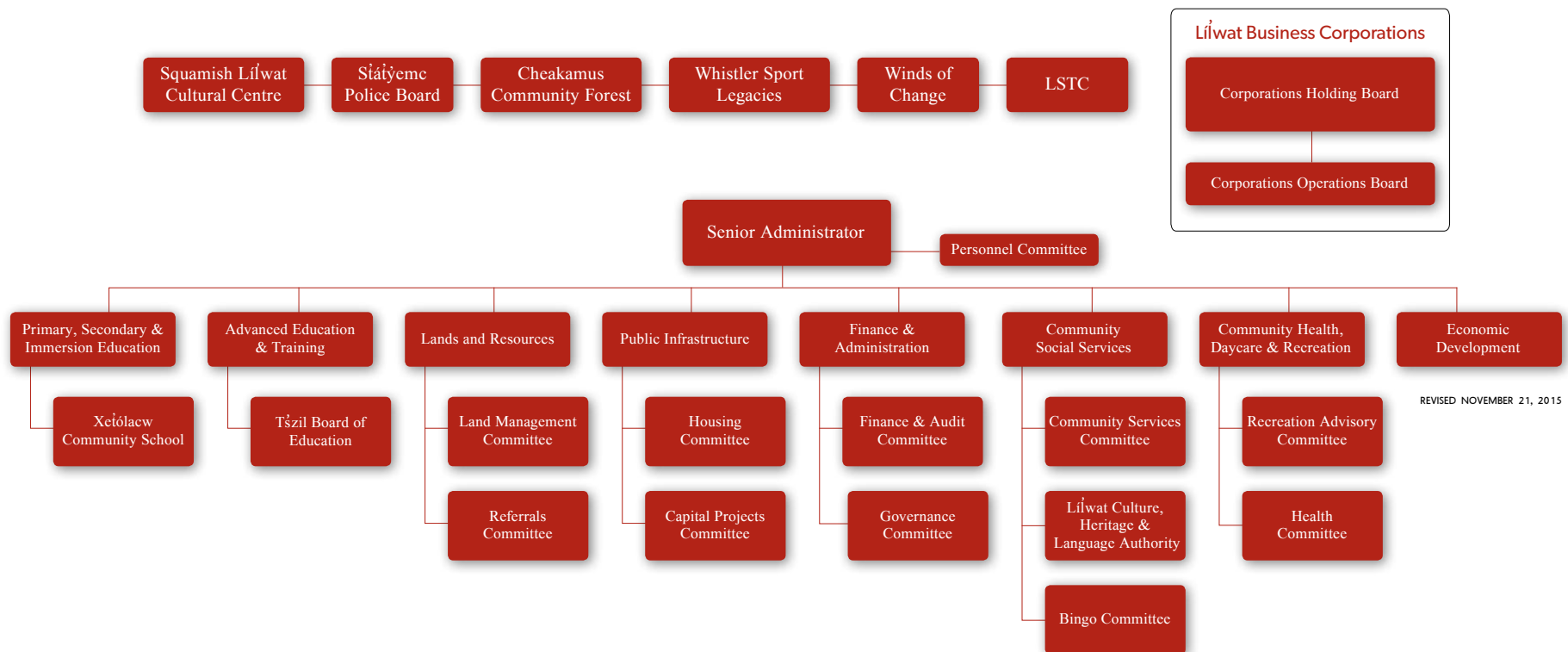




BOARD AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The People

Chief and Council



REVISED NOVEMBER 21, 2015



How The Lílwat Nation Works

The smooth operation of the Lílwat Nation's activities depends upon more than 300 people working towards a common goal of creating a safe, sustainable and culturally aware community. There are 158 full-time, 101 part-time, and 60 seasonal employees working across a variety of sectors from administration to public works. These dedicated women and men uphold traditional values as they endeavor to take the community to the next level.

You many have noticed on the organization charts that "The People" are at the top. Without input from Lílwat Nation citizens, governance can't effectively meet the needs of the community. In the coming months and years, we will continue to increase and develop both community engagement strategies and communication efforts. The Lílwat Nation is unwaveringly dedicated to the principles of transparent and open government. We want you to know how we work and how you can get involved.

Boards and Committees

Helping To Set The Direction Of The Lílwat Nation

The men and women who sit on committees and boards ensure that the Lílwat Nation's work is consistent with its overall vision. Using the Strategic Plan as a guide, these dedicated councillors, staff and community members work hard to advance the goals of the Lílwat Nation. This broad-based participation aids in the delivery of excellent service and programming that addresses the needs of the community.

2014.15 BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Board of Education*

Councillor #1 Nadine Pascal
Councillor #2 Felicity Nelson
Georgina Nelson
Laverne Paul
Dion Pierre
Iris Pierre
Loretta Stager
Rebecca Wallace

*As of Jan. 19, 2015

Councillor #1 Martina Pierre
Councillor #2 Lois Joseph
Georgina Nelson
Laverne Paul
Dion Pierre
Iris Pierre
Loretta Stager
Tara Smith

Health Board

Councillor Tara Smith
Charlotta Andrew
Smokii Edwards
Lydia Gabriel
Loretta Pascal
Yelarah Peters

Housing Board

Councillor #1 Felicity Nelson
Councillor #2 Vaughan Gabriel
Betty Diablo
Matilda Pascal
Glenda Gabriel
Kelly Andrews

Land Management Board

Councillor Josh Anderson
Jordon Gabriel
Clara John
Francis Pascal
Nora Pascal
William Ritchie
Geneva Wallace
Calvin Nelson

Lílwat Holdings Inc. Board of Directors

Councillor #1 Dean Nelson
Councillor #2 Chris Irving
Samantha Wells
Loretta Pascal
Vanessa Dan

T'szil Learning Centre School Board

Councillor Lois Joseph
Rosa Andrew
Georgina Nelson (XCS Rep)
R. Lucy Wallace
Martina Pierre

Capital Projects and Construction Committee

Chief Lucinda Phillips
Councillor #1 Maxine Joseph Bruce
Councillor #2 Felicity Nelson
Sr. Administrator Curt Walker
Director David Dorrans
Director Kerry Mehaffey

Community Services Committee

Councillor #1 Alphonse Wallace
Councillor #2 Felicity Nelson
Debbie Alendal

Finance and Audit Committee

Councillor #1 Chris Irving
Councillor #2 Tara Smith
Sr. Administrator Curt Walker
Sr. Manager Neil McInnes

First Nations Employment Society

Chief Lucinda Phillips

IPP Committee

Councillor #1 Maxine Joseph Bruce
Councillor #2 Dean Nelson
Councillor #3 Rosemary Stager
David Dorrans
Harriet Van Wart

Land Code Steering Committee

Councillor Josh Anderson
Jordon Gabriel
Calvin Nelson
Nora Pascal
Geneva Wallace
Hayden Leo

Land Use Referrals Committee

Councillor #1 Rosemary Stager
Councillor Joshua Anderson
(Alternate)
Chris Irving – sitting as the Lílwat
Business Corporations representative
Ernie Jim
Carl Wallace
Jordon Gabriel

Personnel Committee

Councillor #1 Chris Irving
Councillor #2 Tara Smith
Sr. Administrator Curt Walker

Operating Board of Directors

Councillor #1 Maxine Joseph
Bruce
Councillor #2 Chris Irving
Saad Hassan
Sheldon Tetreault
Jessica Frank

Recreation Committee

Councillor Dean Nelson
Beverly Dan
Craig Dan
Amanda Poirier
Brenda Swakum
Mavis Pascal

Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre

Chief Lucinda Phillips
Councillor Alphonse Wallace
Sr. Administrator Curt Walker

Whistler Sports Legacies

Chief Lucinda Phillips
Sr. Administrator Curt Walker

Winds of Change

Councillor Joanne John
Cedric Jones

Stát'yemc Tribal Council

Councillor #1
Maxine Joseph Bruce
Councillor #2 Vaughan Gabriel

Stát'yemc Tribal Police Service

Councillor Joanne John



Meet The Women And Men Who Represent The Lílwat Nation

The decision to take on a leadership role in a community is one not taken lightly. The responsibilities are many, the time commitment is considerable, and the challenges are often great. It can also be an extremely rewarding experience.

The nine women and men who make up the current Lílwat Nation Council have committed themselves to ensuring that governance reflects the needs of community members. These dedicated individuals will serve the community from 2015 to 2019 as the first council to serve a four-year term in accordance with the Lílwat Nation Election Code adopted in 2013.

*I nkel7aqstenlhkálha.
Our leaders.*



Emháka Felicity Nelson

Portfolio: Community Services (Housing)

Internal Committee: Housing

External Committee: Lower Státýeme Tribal Council

Emháka Felicity Nelson is a tireless proponent for safe and secure housing for members of the Lílwat Nation. She is committed to working to ensure equality and success for Lílwat7úl in the areas of education, job training, employment and economic development. A self-proclaimed “people person” and active listener, *Emháka* enjoys interacting with people and believes it’s essential for elected officials to be available at all times to help address the needs and concerns of community members. The retired Xc’ólacw Community School teacher is honored to serve the Lílwat Nation and is grateful for the community’s trust and belief in her leadership abilities.

Emháka has served for more than 20 years on council.



Hama7 Alphonse Wallace

Portfolio: Community Services
Internal Committees: Community Services Board

Hama7 Alphonse Wallace believes that recreation is key to living a full and healthy life. Working in the Recreation Department, he has fostered many programs to ensure that all members of the Lílwat Nation can realize the health benefits that come from exercise. He enjoys being engaged with Community Services because of the portfolio’s emphasis on health and wellness. *Hama7* believes it’s important for leaders to create more healthy activities for the community and initiate discussions about wellness. Given the community’s high rates of cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease, he sees healthcare as the most pressing issue facing the Lílwat Nation.

Hama7 is in his fifth term on council.



Kik7ak Helena Edmonds

Portfolio: Community Services, Public Works
Internal Committee: Public Works, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Committee

Kik7ak Helena Edmonds credits a deepening appreciation for Lílwat7úl culture for her decision to run for council. With her daughter at university, the Pemberton Secondary School Aboriginal Support Worker, who, among her other duties, supports students in the Ucwalmicwts classes, enrolled in the Lílwat Nation Language and Culture Certificate Program. Fraser Andrew’s spiritual guidance further connected her to the land. This strengthening of her roots convinced her that she was ready to serve the community. Holding the Community Services and Public Works portfolios, *Kik7ak* is looking forward to sharing what she learns with the people. She believes good leadership never moves forward without the support of the people.

Kik7ak is in her first term on council.



Lhpatq Maxine Joseph Bruce

Portfolios: Economic Development and Operating
Internal Committee: Operating Board

Lhpatq Maxine Joseph Bruce is passionate about the economic development of the Lílwat Nation. She has held the Economic Development portfolio for her past four terms on council and has been involved in developing processes to ensure that all economic activities comply with a philosophy close to her heart: For the nation, by the nation. Manager of Fisheries, she is committed to the protection of one of the Lílwat Nation’s natural resources. *Lhpatq* believes that it takes consistency, commitment and community development to move economic development forward. She is inspired by the Albert Einstein quote: “We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them.”

Lhpatq is in her fifth term on council.



Mámaya7 Lois Joseph

Portfolios: Education and Economic Development
Internal Committees: Tšzil Learning Centre Board and Lílwat Holdings Board
External Committee: Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre Board

Mámaya7 Lois Joseph has applied her energy to fostering the preservation of the Lílwat Ucwalmicwts (language) and Lílwat culture. Holding the Education portfolio, she is actively involved in ensuring that language and culture plays an essential role in learning at Xc’ólacw Community School, Tšzil Learning Centre, Pemberton Secondary School and Signal Hill Elementary School. Working with community elders, *Mámaya7* has gained experience in cultural protocols and traditional stories that she shares with the community through her role as manager of the Lílwat7úl Culture Centre. Her vision for the Lílwat Nation is one in which self-reliance is essential, and all people take responsibility.

Mámaya7 is in her 13th term on council.



Petsklh **Vaughan Gabriel**

Portfolio: Governance
Internal Committees: Governance, Personnel, Finance and Audit committees
External Committee: First Nations Financial Authority

Petsklh Vaughan Gabriel believes his biggest strength is his ability to remain open to diverse opinions and carefully listen to what others are saying. He takes the concerns and recommendations of community members and applies it to the work he does as a councillor. His primary commitment is to make the lives of all Lílwat Nation community members better. For *Petsklh*, this means moving economic development initiatives forward and educating people to become self-reliant. A Social Development Worker for the past 12 years, he brings keen insights into what is needed for the community to move forward.

Petsklh is in his fourth term on council.



Sawt **Martina Pierre**

Portfolios: Education and Economic Development
Internal Committees: Xetólaew Community School Board of Education, Lílwat Health and Healing Board, and Lílwat Culture, Heritage and Language Authority
External Committee: Vancouver Coastal Health Hub

Sawt Martina Pierre former dean of Tšzil Learning Centre, Martina is an impassioned educator who holds the Education and Economic Development portfolios. With a master's degree in education focusing on curriculum and instruction, educational leadership and administration, she teaches the Lílwat Nation Language and Culture course through Tšzil Learning Centre and Capilano University. *Sawt's* other area of interest is health. She helps to influence policy and effect change in health care through her work on the Lílwat Health and Healing Board and the Vancouver Coastal Health Hub committee.

Sawt has returned to council this year for her fifth term.



Sik Sik **Joshua Anderson**

Portfolio: Lands and Resources
Internal Committees: Land Management Board and Public Works, Infrastructure and Capital Project Committee

Sik Sik Joshua Anderson, Cultural Delivery Leader at the Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre, has long been committed to language and cultural reclamation and preservation. Having studied Ucwalmícwts when he attended Xetólaew Community School, he is very proud that his two young daughters are now enrolled in the school's Ucwalmícwts Immersion Program. Holding the Lands and Resources portfolio, *Sik Sik* is passionate about ensuring that all decisions governing Lílwat lands — on-reserve and traditional — are empowering to the community. His vision for the nation is one in which Lílwat7ul, coming together to live traditional values, will run it.

Sik Sik is in his third term on council.



Tsekonámus Losí **Rosemary Stager**

Portfolios: Governance and Lands and Resources
Committees: Governance, Personnel, Finance and Audit committees

Tsekonámus Losi Rosemary Stager's goal for the Lílwat Nation is to replace its challenges with opportunities. She sees many of these opportunities as being centred on economic development but believes that this cannot be at the expense of traditional and cultural practices. Holding both the Governance and Lands and Resources portfolios, *Tsekonámus Losi* is committed to working towards the elimination of poverty through the careful development of lands and resources and building capacity within the Lílwat Nation. Her vision is to create a healthy and wealthy community that can help its bright and talented youth realize their dreams.

Tsekonámus Losi is in her fifth term on council.



Celebrating Lílwat7úl Culture

Rejoicing In Saqúta

Mámaya7 Councillor Lois Joseph never intended to be a dancer or run a dance group. She had planned on going into nursing. But life changed all that.

“When I came home after graduating from high school, my mom told me that our people were taking over our own school. She said, ‘You are going to take this teacher training program, I need 15 people in this program, otherwise the money has to go back to DIA (Department of Indian Affairs).’ Being short one person, my mom, *Tsinaya7* Georgina, signed herself up to take the course and worked on getting her degree.”

That fall she found herself, with less than two months training, in front of a class of 19 students. She never left home again.

In 1990, *Mámaya7*’s grandmother, *Temkalt* Adelina Williams, who had run the Lílwat Hand Drummers and Dancers and worked tirelessly for cultural renewal, passed away leaving an unexpected legacy: A wish that her granddaughter keep saqúta (dance) alive. Honoured that her grandmother had confidence in her abilities, the now single mom of four and new member of council, wasn’t sure where she’d find the time and energy. She found it in her classroom full of Grade 4 students.

“I was young; I was worried that the older dancers wouldn’t accept me. I thought it might be best to start my own group. I called a couple people in who knew how to drum. We started having drumming in the classroom,” she says. “I started to pull in the parents, and they started drumming. We’d get together and drum at peoples’ houses.”

From those humble beginnings, the Iswalh (Loon) Dancers have grown into a troupe of almost 40

drummers, singers, and dancers, although a typical performance group is 12 members. They have opened an Olympic Games and welcomed festivalgoers to the largest camping music festival in Canada held on the unceded land of the traditional territory of the Lílwat Nation. While it’s thrilling to dance in front of a televised audience of two billion people, it’s seeing the group dancing at community events that means the most to *Mámaya7*. She loves the gatherings where everyone – from babies held in their mothers’ arms to elders – can join in what she sees as fundamental to Lílwat7úl culture: the telling of stories through drumming, singing and dancing.

“Babies are laying down in their baskets beside the drummers, the drumming seems to relax and calm them, so they just sleep,” says *Mámaya7*.

She muses that some of those babies might become dancers. Strengthening cultural learning in children is clearly something close to her heart. Yet, at one time she was accused of exploiting young dancers by having them perform in Pemberton and Whistler.

“My grandmother said, ‘If the people want to learn, teach them. You go out there and you show people we are alive, we’re still here, and we’ve never been gone.’”

“If we believe in who we are as Lílwat people and we’re showing that we’re still practicing our culture and our language, then that makes us a strong people.”



Mámaya7 Councillor Lois Joseph puts the finishing touch on her daughter Emahoelen Erin Nelson’s regalia.

Today, children are taught to dance from daycare onward, with saqúta being part of the curriculum at Xetólacw Community School. And this year, more than 160 drummers and dancers from Lílwat Nation participated Hobiyece celebrations in Vancouver this year, opening the multi-nation event.

Dancing with her aunt at Hobiyece, *Mámaya7* experienced the depth of spiritual connection that can come from dance. Surrounded by Iswalh Dancers and community members who had joined in the celebration, she felt enveloped by the spirit of her grandmother, filling her with the joy that can be found in saqúta.

Sharing Ucwalmícwts Through The Generations

Asked what she likes best about going to Xetólacw Community School, seven-year-old *Tšexystsen* (Mink) Adriana Anderson doesn't hesitate: "I'm learning the Lilwat language! And math."

The playful, funny, Grade 2 student and her sister, five-year-old *Skil* (Rock Rabbit) Natalya, are Ucwalmícwts Immersion Program students for whom using their traditional names comes as naturally as reciting a Lilwat lamcal (prayer). *Tšexystsen* is in her fourth year in the program and *Skil* is in her second. The girls are learning to speak, read and write a language that is currently spoken by only 3% of the community, and their parents couldn't be prouder.

Parents *Sik Sik* Councillor Josh and *Aka7* Karmen Anderson saw the option of Ucwalmícwts immersion as offering their girls a "more full-on school experience" and a chance to embrace what it means to be Lilwat7úl. It was an opportunity for their daughters to receive an education that reflected the couple's values. The celebration, preservation and reclamation of Lilwat7úl culture are fundamental to the Andersons. The couple are both members of the Iswalh Dancers, Josh is the Cultural Delivery Leader at the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre in Whistler, BC and the whole family participates in cultural events in the community. For *Sik Sik* and *Aka7*, the decision to enrol *Tšexystsen* and *Skil* in the immersion program was an easy one.

"Past family members started the program, and I love that it's all about culture, and of course, the language," says *Aka7*.

Her husband heartily agrees.

"With the immersion class — being in it for your first school years — you get a broader scope to the language.

Being able to target children at an early age when their brains are so active is great. And we have a great opportunity with the elders and teachers we have," he says.

As a six-year-old living in Vancouver, *Sik Sik* had no exposure to Lilwat7úl language or the culture. That would come the next year when he moved to Mount Currie and shortly thereafter enrolled at XCS. By the age of nine, he was a member of the Iswalh Dancers and well on his way to getting a solid cultural education. *Aka7*, born and raised in the community, was familiar with the language her grandparents spoke. Her grandmothers, Jean Andrew and Veronica Bikadi were instrumental in Ucwalmícwts classes being introduced at XCS.

Some of those earliest language teachers are still at teaching at the school. This not only strengthens cultural ties but help to build bonds between the generations.

"When I see elders teaching our kids, it really hits home how important this is," says *Sik Sik*.

Ucwalmícwts is a language that needs to be shared by the generations to keep it alive. The language is being taught to children and youth at the Úllus Child Care Centre and XCS while adults can take post-secondary Ucwalmícwts courses at Tšzil Learning Centre. Increasingly, it is also being used by the Lilwat Nation



The Andersons are one of the families in the community who are helping to preserve the language by participating in Xetólacw Community School's Ucwalmícwts Immersion Program.

administration in small, but consistent ways, such as signing off emails with "kúkwstumckacw" instead of "thank you."

The Anderson family regularly uses Ucwalmícwts in their home, instructing the girls with simple commands they understand such as "Go wash up." The girls' great-grandmothers also speak to them in the Lilwat language. By sharing the language throughout the generations, they helping to keep it alive. As five-year-old *Skil* says, "It's good."

Rediscovering Traditional Lilwat7úl Ways One Camping Trip At A Time

When youth in the community were engaging in very questionable combative activities where a boy was severely injured, *Skalumecw* Chief Dean Nelson knew something had to change. Youth needed a rite of passage that was safe and empowering. *Skalumecw*, then a PE teacher at Xetólacw Community School (XCS) partnered with a school counsellor and started taking young men onto the land.

Ten years later, more than 100 Lilwat7úl youth have been to Skálúla Rediscovery Camp at Big Owl Lake, 15 km up the Owl Ridge drainage. Initially offered as a weeklong, high school Super Course at XCS, attending Skálúla is now mandatory for Grade 8 students.

At camp, students learn self-reliance skills such as fire building, fishing, building dugout canoes and living without the distraction of electronics.

“We’ve started a pit house, and we’ve done some plant identification and berry picking and finding whatever foods are in season, like mushrooms and certain fish,” says the camp’s champion.

He hopes that the addition of a cabin, which is currently 75 per cent finished, will allow the hike-in camp to extend operations into the fall months when hunting can be added to the program. (Anyone with carpentry skills they’d like to share is encouraged to contact the chief through social media.)

“When I got to the Big Owl Lake I knew this was the place we were looking for, it was the place for the camp. I walked out and looked at the lake and said, ‘I’m home.’ This is what I want to the students to feel.

“This is one of the places our ancestors came to pick berries and hunt as they went through seasonal journeys

of survival. This is a place where the peacefulness challenges you to realize you are awake.”

For many students, this wilderness experience is new, and some have mixed emotions about attending Skálúla at first.

“This is a place of promise... you will not feel the same as when you arrived. One student I had said, ‘I never want to go up there again. I had the worst time of my life. I don’t know why you guys do this.’ He spoke out for about a week and then he said, “Wait a minute, I guess it was OK.” Then, ‘I think I’ll go back there.’”

The chief sees the camp, with its emphasis on respect, as a forum for building an appreciation of traditional Lilwat7úl values that are tied to the land. For the youth, camp provides a time to reflect on who they are and who they want to be. Their week at Skálúla also teaches them to be grateful for what they have at home, basics like heat and water that’s only the twist of a tap away.

While there are plans to open the camp to all Sea to Sky residents under guidance, the intent of the camp remains to awaken the positive qualities in the community’s youth. The chief would like to see more of Lilwat7úl involved in the camp and helping youth to reconnect with the land.

“Imagine a cabin placed back in the woods, a wharf by the lake a bridge over the creek that completes the lake



Skalumecw Chief Dean Nelson on the land he loves offers a cedar branch to *Nca7oag* Silas Pierre, one of the many youth who have enjoyed Skálúla Rediscovery Camp.

loop trail or a sweat lodge over by the creek,” says *Skalumecw*. “If you can imagine these things then you can also imagine our youth coming back from this place with a new sense of energy and direction then you share a vision of promise for the future, and you may ask yourself, ‘What can I do?’”

Department Reports



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leveraging The Nation's Competitive Advantages

The Economic Development Department and the Lílwat Nation Business Corporations works to generate revenue, create employment and build capacity for the Lílwat Nation. The department explores new economic opportunities for the community, manages partnerships and oversees the nation's corporations.

Moving towards self-determination means exploring opportunities in lands and resource management, establishing strong partnerships and growing the nation's businesses. New economic opportunities for the Lílwat Nation are being realized in forestry and construction, through partnering with companies that recognize the benefits of working with the nation.

The Lílwat Nation Business Corporations work to ensure that the nation is generating revenues for reinvestment in the community while creating employment opportunities and building capacity. Lílwat Retail Operations oversees all of the retail businesses of the nation: Lílwat Gas Station (LGS) and Post Office, the Tsípun Supermarket at Xeíólacw and Lílwat Broadband Services. Plans for future growth include examining the feasibility of a "card lock" at LGS, offering cable TV to Xeíólacw and developing a new service station at Churchlands Corner.

Lílwat Forestry Ventures manages an Annual Allowable Cut (ACC) of 70,000 cubic metres of timber, approximately one-third of the AAC in Lílwat Territory. The corporation divides its forestry operations into two key areas: contracting and harvesting.

Lílwat Construction Enterprises, in partnership with Lizzie Bay Logging Co., oversees Múmleqs Construction LP. Múmleqs' projects have included clearing a 72 km transmission line for the Upper Lillooet Hydro Project, road construction at the Wedgemount Creek IPP, and substantial land clearing on IR#2 for the Pemberton Music Festival.

The Economic Development Department also helps community members develop their businesses, from assisting with business plans to sharing funding resources.

Achievements for 2014/2015

CORPORATIONS PROFITABLE FOR THIRD YEAR

The Corporations have continued to meet and exceed our mandate of operating profitable businesses. Forestry, Retail and Construction have all contributed to a healthy bottom line and return of money owing to the Lílwat Nation.

FORESTRY CONTRACTING INCREASED

A key focus of the forestry contracting division has been the expansion of sub-contracting work. In 2011, BC Hydro was the dominant client, while in 2015 the division worked with more than 15 companies resulting in diverse employment for Lílwat Nation crews.

IPP EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED

The Upper Lillooet Hydro Project continues to provide employment for community members as the result of an Impact Benefit Agreement negotiated by Lands and Resources and approved by Chief and Council.

SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Working in a formal partnership with Lizzie Bay Logging (Múmleqs Construction LP) has increased the company's ability to take on larger contracts, such as the clearing for the Upper Lillooet Hydro Project transmission line. As well, a new agreement with Murphy Construction has seen them take on some construction projects on reserve while employment community members on and off reserve.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

Work began on an updated Economic Development Strategy for the Nation, which will be completed in 2016.

*I wa7 száýtenminem.
Our work.*

Plans and Projects for 2016

DEBT-FREE CORPORATIONS

For many years, Corporations relied on the Lilwat Nation for financial assistance. Over the last three years, we have managed to pay back a significant portion of that debt and hope to pay off the last of our debt in FY2016!

PLANNING FOR MOVING FORWARD

The department plans to complete an updated Economic Development Strategy and Corporations Five-Year Plan.

WEDGE CREEK INDEPENDENT POWER PLANT

The Lilwat Nation will move towards owning its own IPP at Wedge Creek with potential construction in 2017 or 2018.

NEW GAS STATION

Corporations plan to break grounding on a new gas station at Churchlands Corner.

INCREASED COLLABORATION

The department will work towards increased employment and labour force participation through innovative partnerships.

N7á7teñwas Nkýap | The Two Coyotes

This year's annual report celebrates Lilwat culture, the cornerstone of which is the Ucwalmícwts language. It is with great pride that the story of **The Two Coyotes** is offered on the following pages.

Told by Bill Edwards, the written version of this traditional story was developed in 1981 for the Mount Currie Curriculum Project. The story, originally translated by Jan Van Eijk and Lorna Williams, was revised in 2013 by *Kakúsa* MaryElaine James as part of her work at the Lilwat7úl Culture Centre.



Lhkwálus | Basket

This 1960s' shopping basket, with its dual handle and lid, was crafted as a trade item. The carefully woven designs, featuring canary grass, cedar bark, and cedar root reflect the natural surroundings of the Lilwat Nation: its animals, rivers, mountains and valleys. This basket was returned to the community from an owner residing in the Fraser Valley.

Úlús Childcare Centre: Building Friendships And A Love Of Learning

Úlús Childcare Centre provides a variety of programs to serve the needs of the community today and into the future. Traditional values, arts and crafts and Ucwalmícwts language training are vital parts of a curriculum that emphasizes respecting and nurturing each child's uniqueness.

The goal of the Child Care Department is to help all children reach their potential in all areas of development. With a capacity for 31 children, more than 100 families use Úlús Childcare Centre services annually. The centre's certified, caring and expert 11-member staff, including a child care, youth and recreation manager and two consultants, deliver programming that applies the concept of Nítákmén (Our way) to early childhood education. Families can be confident that their child is receiving quality care and early education that will build self-esteem, teach skills and help determine positive outcomes in elementary school.

The centre offers two pre-school programs, Tsuqum (Chickadee) for toddlers up to three years old and Tsvkatsvka (Blue jay) for three- to five-year-olds. Additionally, afterschool care is offered for children aged six to 12 years old. No matter what the child's age, the Child Care Department's staff is dedicated to creating an environment that supports learning and creative play while celebrating the culture of the Lilwat Nation. An array of child development services is available through Úlús Childcare Centre, as is administrative support for parents.

Achievements for 2014/2015

EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR PLAYGROUND SECURED

A grant of \$30,000 was received from the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation to enhance the Úlús Childcare Centre playground. A second grant of \$300 for this project was received from the Pemberton Area Endowment Fund Grant.

BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED

New policies and procedures were put in place to ensure better financial management of the Úlús Childcare Centre.

STAFF TRAINING INCREASE

A program was put into place this year to allow for quarterly staff training. This professional development offering has been greeted with enthusiasm.

FORECAST MANAGEMENT IMPROVED

Due to structural changes, the childcare department was able to forecast management on the Úlús Childcare Centre. This change allowed for better controls over expenses and revenues.

Plans and Projects for 2016

NEW ÚLÚS PLAYGROUND PLANNING

The Child Care Department will work with capital projects to plan for the enhancement of the playground attached to the Úlús Childcare Centre.

PQÚSNALHCW DAYCARE CENTRE CLOSURE

Closing the Pqúsnalhew Daycare Centre at Lilwat Health and Healing will allow for the creation of one fully utilized childcare centre at Úlús. This will allow for better controls and for measures to be put in place that are within budgets.

MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION AND YOUTH PLANNING

This structural change will assist in creating a more child and youth friendly space in Lilwat. Three new parks, a water park, a bike park and trails are among the planned amenities.

*Xwesxwíxwślec ti skúkwmita.
The child is smiling.*

NEW PROGRAMMING AT LÍŁWAT HEALTH AND HEALING

The Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Program (ASCDP) offerings will be available at Lílwat Health & Healing. Specific programs include Mother Goose, Talk, Learn & Grow and playgroups that encourage family participation.

MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To further professional development for Úlílus Childcare Centre staff, retreats are planned for 2016, as is participation in the BC Aboriginal Child Care (BCACC) Conference.



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Two coyotes were going along. Then one of them said:

“I am a coyote, everybody knows that I am a coyote.

But you are not a coyote, you are ‘another one.’”

Tsepalin | Baby Basket

Lílwat7ul people have used Tsepalin from time immemorial to keep babies warm and cozy. Swaddled and placed in the hand woven basket, babies feel as safe and comfortable as they did in the womb. This tsepalin was made by Lílwat7úl weaver *Lusipólayá* Lucy Jim; Hazel Joseph is the keeper. Durable and beautiful, these baskets are handed down through the generations.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND IMMERSION

Delivering Education That Builds Pride In Lílwat7úl Children And Youth

Traditional values, such as Ntákmén (Our Way), inform how Xeíólacw Community School delivers education to the Lílwat Nation. The school provides a positive and empowering learning environment where Lílwat culture and traditional values are taught and celebrated.

Lílwat Nation students can receive quality pre-school, elementary, high school and post-secondary education without leaving the community. Xeíólacw Community School prepares students to meet today's challenges by delivering quality education grounded in Lílwat traditional ways. The school's educational model is built on Ntákmén incorporating Lílwat cultural learning, traditional values and language into a strong standardized academic curriculum.

Keeping Lílwat language and traditions vital is an educational priority. From pre-school to Grade 12, students take part in Ucwalmícwts language classes and culture courses, learning to embrace and celebrate what it means to be Lílwat7úl.

More than 200 children attend Xeíólacw Community School to take advantage of programs that include Ucwalmícwts Immersion for primary school-aged students and intensive cultural Super Courses for high school students. Support services – such as special education, speech and language support and counselling – help to ensure positive educational outcomes. To further educate the whole child, the school also offers a variety of electives, special interest clubs and team sports opportunities.

Achievements for 2014/2015

READING ACHIEVEMENT IMPROVED

In 2014/15 results from Dibels scores and Canadian Achievement Tests showed an overall student reading achievement improvement of 6% at Xeíólacw Community School, an achievement commended by the First Nations School Association. The school also experienced instructional and student improvements in the Reading Mastery Program, and a record number of students had success on the English 12 First Peoples provincial exam.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT INCREASED

Student enrolment in all programs offered at Xeíólacw Community School increased during 2014/15.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANTS TRAINED

Eight of the school's education assistants completed a two-year program to be certified as Special Education Assistants. A focus on essential skills intervention has also been added to their role in the school.

HIRING FROM WITHIN

A Lílwat7úl teacher with a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership was promoted to the role of Xeíólacw Community School Principal.

CULTURAL EDUCATION IMPROVED

Essential learning skills for the language program and the First Nations social studies curriculum were revised and standardized in 2014/2015.

Takem tú swat wa steqstáli ti ntákménlhkálha.

Everyone is responsible to carry out our traditional way of life.

Plans and Projects for 2016

INCREASING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSES

Xeíólaaw Community School will continue the planning and development of Ucwalmícwts and cultural courses. A goal of the school is increased use of the language for interactions between students and adults on a daily basis.

IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Xeíólaaw Community School believes that success is the only option! To ensure successful outcomes for all students, the school continues to improve classroom instruction, student attendance and early intervention by developing and implementing comprehensive plans in each of these areas.

SCHOOL EVALUATION

An assessment/school evaluation under the First Nations School Association will be completed in 2015/2016. Further to this, a plan outlining Xeíólaaw Community School's future goals will be developed.

IMMERSION PROGRAM

The school will continue implementing improvements to the Ucwalmícwts Immersion Program.

INCREASING STUDENT SKILLS

To increase student achievement, the school will continue to overtly teach study and productivity skills.

“Cw7aoz káti7, nkýáplhkan tu7 tit,” tsut ku7.

“Cw7aoz káti7, pepla7lhkácw”

“No way, I am also a coyote,” the other one said.

“Not at all, you are ‘another one.’”



Míxalhcin tsútsxel | Short snowshoe

These wide, but short snowshoes allowed Lilwat7úl hunters and gatherers to access the land during the snowy season. Made by the late Alex Peters in the 1960s, these short, wooden snowshoes are also known as "bear paws." Alex Peters continued to make this ultimate winter footwear until the mid-1970s.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Sound Financial Management For Today And Tomorrow

Lilwat Nation's goal is to remain a financially healthy organization, acting in a transparent and accountable manner and supported by an effective financial administration.

The Finance and Administration Department strives to achieve this by providing financial information and administrative support that enables best practice decision-making in a seamless and friendly way to all of our internal customers and external community members. Finance and Administration is composed of three sub-departments: Finance, Information Technology (IT), and Office Administrative Support.

Each of the departments that fall within Finance and Administration serve specific functions. The Finance Department provides financial services and financial planning support for the Lilwat Nation's programs and services. The Information Technology (IT) Department develops and maintains the information technology infrastructure for all Lilwat Nation programs, services, and facilities. More than 190 staff members rely on IT for tech support. And the Office Administrative Support Department ensures the smooth operation of the Úilus Community Complex.

Other services Finance and Administration provide include income tax preparation, financial counselling and account payment processing.

Achievements for 2014/2015

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZED

The Finance Department was reorganized during the year to provide better support to our Program Managers. The reorganization included the addition of Finance Manager to support staff development and provide more assistance on a day-to-day basis and the creation of Program Accountant roles to supply dedicated full-cycle financial support to each of our Program Managers in the areas of annual planning, budgeting and monthly financial reporting.

PAYROLL SYSTEM UPGRADED

The second phase of a new payroll system was completed allowing managers to use electronic timesheets. The result has been a more efficient payroll process that reduces opportunity for error and provides better management reporting.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATED

An IT Systems Administrator was hired to act as Lilwat Nation's internal IT Help Desk. This has resulted in more timely support for all users. Aging computer equipment and operating systems have been replaced and IT infrastructure has been upgraded at Xelólacw Community School and Lilwat Health and Healing.

TAX PREPARATION HELP

Finance and Administration continued to help community members prepare and file their annual tax returns.

Plans and Projects for 2016

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (FMS) CERTIFICATION

Lilwat Nation will be entering the final phase of the Financial Management Systems (FMS) Certification process through the First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB) over the next year. FMS certification validates Lilwat Nation's financial management practices and stewardship, proving that the nation is financially stable. FMS certification will also give ongoing access to cheaper long-term debt as borrowing member of the First Nations Financial Authority (FNFA).

The Financial Management System Standards (FMSS) are comprised of the essential processes and procedures that facilitate compliance with the Lilwat Nation Financial Administration Law (FAL). The FMSS provides the design and implementation requirements of sound financial practices for the operation, management, reporting and monitoring of the financial management system of a First Nations government.

DEVELOPING GOVERNANCE AND INFORMATION POLICIES

Over the next year staff initiatives include the development of additional governance and information management policies to support the FAL and updating the Finance and Audit Committee.

PROPERTY TAX PROGRAM

A new Tax Administrator will be trained to facilitate the transfer of the Property Tax program to our Finance department.

CREATING GREATER FINANCIAL LITERACY

Finance and Administration plans on continuing to develop and deliver financial literacy training courses for Chiefs and Council and senior staff. A finance course for students at Xeíólaaw Community School is also in the planning phase.

*Wa7 'tu7 xzumstúm i skwezusemlhkálha.
We hold our duties up high.*

“Cuymalhzám, húylhkacw zwáten lhkúnsa.

Húylhkan taq lts7áwna lti nlepcáitna, kałañminlhkácw tu7 i ucwalmícwa.”

“O.K., you will know it right now. I am going to cross this garden, you listen to the people.”



Nzaožq | Basket bottom

This detail of a baby basket bottom demonstrates an important technique in Lilwat7ul weaving. A stabilizing bar is tied in the middle of the section to be woven, making the weaving process much easier. This support ensures strong construction and the integrity of the design.

HEALTH AND HEALING

A Healing Environment That Supports The Whole Person

Lílwat Health and Healing delivers a wide variety of excellent holistic community health services. The department meets its goal of community wellness through programs delivered by four separate sub-departments: Community Health, Home and Community Care, Maternal and Child Health, and Traditional Healing.

From health fairs that emphasize the management of chronic conditions to counselling and addiction services, Lílwat Health and Healing addresses community members' needs throughout all stages of life, from infancy to the elder years. Guided by the principals and values of Níákmen (Our Way), the department integrates traditional ways into all of its practices.

Lílwat Health and Healing's programs help community members achieve physical health and social wellness through exercise, social support, and interactive learning. The health centre works to empower the individual by providing services such as health check screening days, chronic disease self-management support and skills development sessions. Lílwat Health and Healing continues to work towards the goal of ensuring First Nations health is guided by First Nations.

In addition to addressing physical and psychology health needs, the department also supports the spiritual health of the people of the Lílwat Nation. For example, Cedar Circle Counselling may use nqélza7ten (sweatlodge) sessions, smudging and brushing to treat addictions. Health services are delivered by a combination of health centre staff and contracted healthcare practitioners.

Achievements for 2014/2015

PALLIATIVE SUPPORT IMPLEMENTED

Lílwat Health and Healing introduced palliative support services to assist terminally ill clients by providing symptom management and pain relief.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVED

Mental health information has been made more accessible through increased access to clinicians including an onsite intake worker. The result has been an increase in referrals to psychiatric services.

NATIONAL NATIVE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM (NNDAP) SUCCESS

Cedar Circle Counselling delivered NNDAP counselling to 144 clients in 2014/15. Ten of those clients, eight men and two women partook and completed residential treatment centre programs.

NEW PROGRAMS INTRODUCED

The elder-support program, *Better at Home*, began this year, as did Caregiver Education, skills-based training to help caregivers take care of themselves while caring for others.

DOULA SERVICE INTRODUCED

As part of maternal health, a doula service has been introduced. Doulas are women trained to assist other women in their birthing process. In 2014/2015, nine Lílwat Health and Healing clients took advantage of this service.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM EXPANDED

In 2015, more than 170 Christmas hampers were delivered to Lílwat7úl elders and families in need.

HEALTH AWARESS PROMOTION

This year's Lílwat Health and Healing's Health Fair was attended by more than 200 people. The fair had an emphasis on preventative health measures and self-management of illnesses while promoting all of the centre's services. Lílwat Addictions Awareness Week was also successful.

*Wa7 szuhmíntúm I swá7sa I ucwalmícwkalha.
We protect the health of our people.*

Plans and Projects for 2016

INCREASED GRIEF SUPPORT

Lilwat Health and Healing plans to introduce increased grief support for the community through greater collaboration and multi-stage efforts.

DEBRIEFING CIRCLES

Debriefing circles for individuals, social groups and families to reconcile critical incidents and issues will be introduced in 2016.

CEREMONIAL SUPPORT

Lilwat Health and Healing will offer education about, and support for, traditional ceremonies for all stages of life.

LILWAT ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Lilwat Health and Healing will help to address the issue of addictions in the community with an Addictions Awareness Week in 2016.

RECLAIMING OUR SPIRIT WORKSHOP

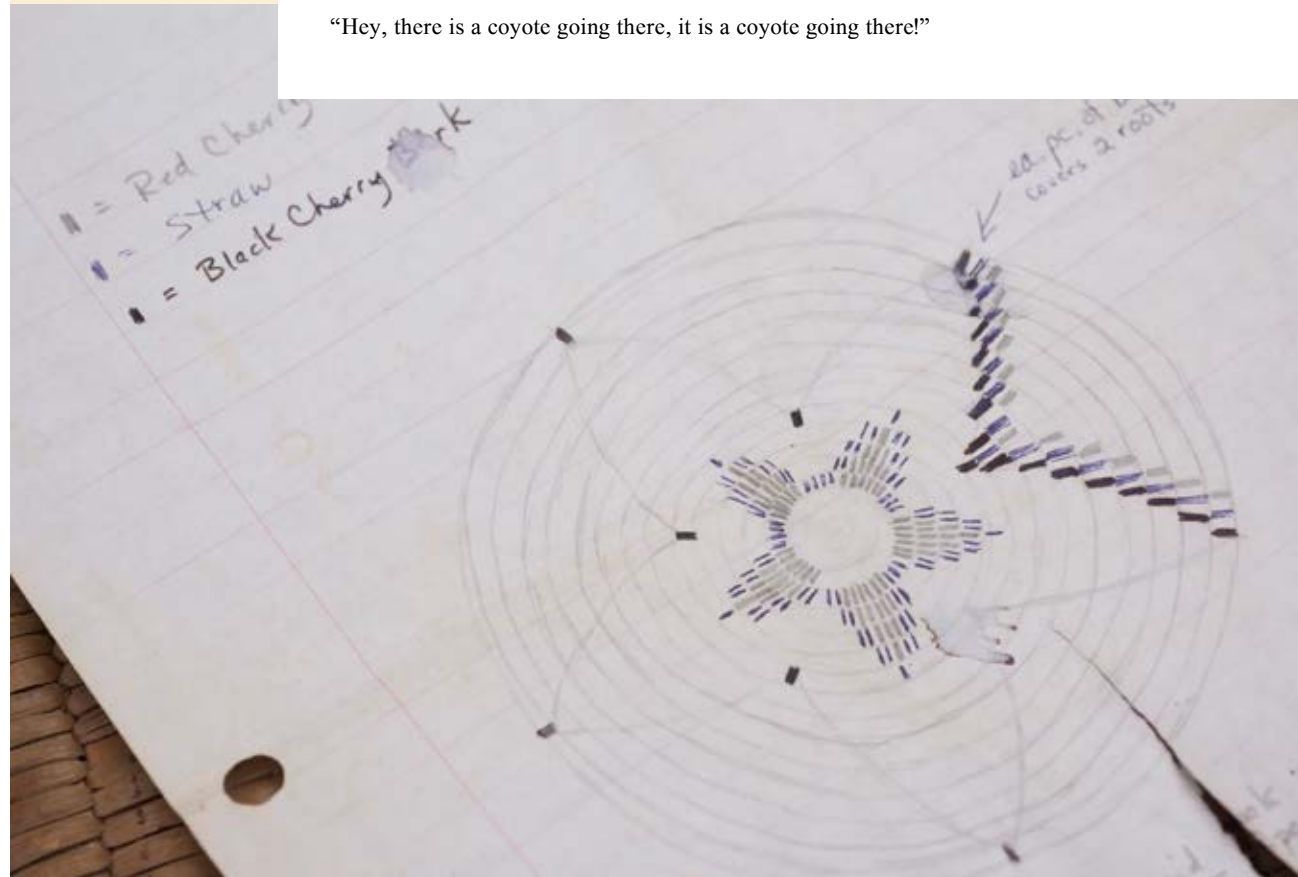
Psychology of Vision facilitator, Susan How, will lead a *Reclaiming Our Spirit* workshop as part of the health centre's commitment to community healing.

ᑕᑕᑕ ku7 aylh, ᑕᑕᑕ ku7 áti7, atšxném ku7 ekí ucwalmícwa.

“Tay, ᑕᑕᑕ kent7ú ti nkýápa, nkýap káti7 ti ᑕᑕᑕ.”

Well, he went across and while he crossed he was seen by the people.

“Hey, there is a coyote going there, it is a coyote going there!”



Tsétsu7ten | Design on a basket

The preservation of Lilwat7úl traditional ways extends to the crafting of cultural objects, from the basketry of master weaver Vera Edmonds to the regalia used by the Iswalh Dancers. To ensure that these skills are handed down to future generations, artisans have been making patterns such as the one above for a basket design.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensuring A Safe And Healthy Community Built On A Foundation Of Strong Infrastructure

A strong community is built on solid infrastructure. The Lílwat Nation achieves this goal through the efforts of the Public Works and Capital Projects departments. The two departments work cooperatively and collaboratively to maintain and develop the community's infrastructure, from safeguarding the nation's water supply to building new housing.

Public Works and Capital Projects work closely together to create a healthy community with public infrastructure and housing that meets national standards for safety and quality.

Public Works ensures the smooth operation of Lílwat Nation's water and wastewater facilities, delivers safe solid waste disposal and maintains and repairs roads, bridges and community buildings. Additionally, the department provides fire and flood protection to the community and manages AANDC programs, funding applications and reporting.

Capital Projects oversees all major projects such as the construction of new housing and playing fields. The department works on projects from the initial design phase to completion. Committed to building capacity within the community, Capital Projects provides Lílwat Nation members with opportunities in the building trades. The department manages partnerships Lílwat Nation enjoys with companies such as Pemberton-based Murphy Construction.

Achievements for 2014/2015

HOUSING IMPROVED

Capital Projects rebuilt two fire-damaged home and undertook the building of three new duplexes. The department also completed the design phase of a proposed multi-family housing project. As well, Capital Projects continued to enhance its partnership with Murphy Construction.

COMMUNITY BUILDING SAFETY INCREASED

Improvements to community buildings have made them compliant with federal and safety and fire safety standards. These changes included the installation hood fans, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems and emergency lighting.

NEW SNOW CLEARING PLANS

To effectively address the snow clearing needs of both roadways and elders homes, Public Works is developing two separate plans.

SEWAGE SYSTEM REVIEW

A consultant has been hired to review the sewage system needs for IR6, including an assessment of steps needed to revitalize the tile field, holding tanks and distribution system. Recommended work will be executed by Public Works.

WATER SYSTEM REVIEW

The community's water system, including distribution systems and pump house capacities, are being reviewed. This project is currently at the feasibility study stage.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Lílwat Nation is in discussions with the Village of Pemberton regarding cost sharing and enhancement of both communities' sewer and water systems.

*Wa7 nilhmeínem kwes tu7 wa7 ámaswa7s I Lílwatéca.
We make sure our Lílwat people are living a good life.*

Plans and Projects for 2016

INCREASING HOUSING STOCK

Capital Projects is planning for the construction of a new multi-family housing project in 2016, as well as rebuilding a fire-damaged house. The department will also continue to work with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to secure funding.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY BUILDINGS' ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Public Works will undertake energy audits of community buildings to explore how to reduce operating costs, such as upgrading heating and lighting systems.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Explore opportunities for developing training for community members to learn heating and cooling system maintenance skills.

ELDERS' GATHERING PLACE DESIGN

Capital Works plans to enter the design phase for an elders' gathering place.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Public Works will develop methods to repair and revitalize the asphalt pavement with a renewable use of the old roadbed. It is hoped that sewer and water agreements with the Village of Pemberton will be achieved. As well, the department is undertaking a review and subsequently developing a plan for the long-term renewal and replacement of Lil'wat Nation's aging infrastructure.

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL FOR ON-RESERVE LAND

Capital Project will continue to explore possible uses for the parcel of land known as the Church Lands. Current considerations include a new gas station and campground.

ᑕᐱᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ, ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ. ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ, ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅ.

He went and he went out of sight. Then the other one started out, he suddenly appeared, and they noticed him.



Méxtsten | Arrowhead

Hunting has always been an important part of Lil'wat7úl life. Rick Nelson found this basalt arrowhead while he was out looking for cedar roots. He discovered the arrowhead on a stump above the bridge crosses Birkenhead River at Lillooet Lake. This type of arrowhead separates from the shaft of the arrow when a target is hit.

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Protecting Lílwat Nation Interests In Lílwat Nation Lands And Resources

The land is central to Lílwat culture and identity as expressed in the Ucwalmicwts phrase “pal7míntwal i ucwalmícwa múta7 ti tmícwa” — the land and people are together as one. This core belief is the cornerstone of the Lands and Resources Department work, its goal being to maximize Lílwat Nation’s control over its lands and resources in keeping with Lílwat’s responsibilities as steward of its traditional territory.

The Lílwat Nation’s Strategic Plan and Land Use Plan guide the Land and Resources Department in its work to protect and exercise Lílwat Nation’s unique cultural, heritage, social and economic interests its land and resources. As well as the stewardship of traditional territory, Lands and Resources also focuses on the management of on-reserve lands and fisheries with activities ranging from community land use planning to annual salmon stock assessments.

The Traditional Territory Stewardship function of the Lands and Resources strives to ensure the appropriate use of the 781,131 ha of Lílwat Traditional Territory. Using a framework that considers the Lílwat Land Use Plan and archaeological, environmental and cultural impact assessments, the Lands and Resources Department examines all proposed new land use within the Traditional Territory. On-Reserve Lands manages all on-reserve land issues, most significantly in the area of land registration. And Fisheries works to protect one of the Lílwat Nation’s most valuable resources: its fish stocks.

*Pal7míntwal i ucwalmícwa múta7 ti tmícwa.
The land and people are together as one.*

Achievements for 2014/2015

COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN UPDATED

The updated Community Land Use Plan was completed and community priorities were identified through the work of committees, working groups, open house sessions and staff. Key priorities include preserving and enhancing Lílwat culture; protecting the environment; monitoring and enhancing fisheries; implementing sustainable forestry, agriculture, and economic development; increasing housing and recreation; and implementing good management practices for solid waste.

FISHERIES PROGRAM EXPANDED

Lands and Resources secured a two-year contract with Department of Fisheries and Oceans to continue fish assessment duties within Lílwat Territory and to expand this work to include Douglas First Nation Territory. We are working cooperatively with Douglas First Nation to implement this work.

BOTANICAL RESOURCES STRATEGY COMPLETED

In cooperation with a Masters student from UBC and Lílwat community members, a strategy to protect culturally important plants throughout the Lílwat

Territory has been completed. The report includes strategies for working with companies to address potential impacts from logging and other industrial activity.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OF LIŁWAT7UL FIELD TECHNICIANS

Fifteen trained Lílwat Environmental and Fisheries Technicians were employed on an on-call basis last year to carry out fisheries assessments, environmental assessments, environmental monitoring, and cultural heritage assessments throughout Lílwat Traditional Territory. Lands and Resources is very proud of supporting Lílwat people’s presence on the land, and the contribution Liłwat7ul technicians are making to protect Lílwat interests.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS INCREASED

In March, Lands and Resources hosted its first open house. This was followed up with the launch of “Tea and Talk” sessions in September. The department is committed to sharing information about its work with the community and providing opportunities for people to learn more about Lílwat land and resources.

IMPLEMENTING NEW WEB-BASED MANAGEMENT TOOL

COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

FINALIZE ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT FOR THE IN-SHUCK-CH TREATY

FINALIZE ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT FOR WHISTLER BLACKCOMB LEASE RENEWAL

CONTINUED CULTURAL TRAINING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND FISHERIES TECHNICIANS

“Tak múta7 káti7 ti pépel7a, pépla7 káti7 ti táka múta7!”

"There goes another one, it's another one that is going there!"

A close-up photograph of a single, light-brown wooden stick lying diagonally across a dense field of smooth, grey river stones. The stones are rounded and have a mottled texture. The wooden stick is relatively straight with a slightly tapered end and a small notch or hole near the bottom left. The lighting is even, highlighting the textures of both the wood and the stones.

This homemade, wooden fish float, fashioned from cedar in the 1970s, was discovered at the Lillooet Lake fish camp. Fish floats of a similar design were used to support fishing lines and nets used by Lilwat7úl to harvest salmon. Today, commercial floats are used.

Promoting Wellness In All Aspects Of Life For Children And Families

The Lílwat Social Services Department is committed to building on the strengths of Lílwat7úl families. The department's programs and services are designed to encourage and support spiritual, mental, emotional and physical growth.

The Lílwat Social Services Department is an association of four separate departments that work together to make wellness — emotional, spiritual, mental and physical — a shared priority. These departments are Lílwat Wellness, Social Development, Band Membership and The Lílwat7úl Culture Centre.

Lílwat Wellness provides child protection advocacy for children and families in community, advocacy for children and families both on and off reserve, provides capacity building initiatives for families through family preservation programs, family support programs and FASD key worker programs. Advocacy by facilitating and promoting the interests of Lílwat families with Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD) is of utmost importance for this department.

Social Development provides financial assistance for Lílwat community members and delivers inter-departmental advocacy for families.

*Wa7 'tu7 wa7 nilhmínem l tsuwa7lhkálha.
We take care of our own.*

Band Membership issues the paper laminate status cards, maintains the band membership list, submits registrations to Indian Registry at Aboriginal Affairs (AANDC) for births, deaths, marriages, and band transfers into the Lílwat Nation. Reports of death are also sent to the estates unit at AANDC. Other services offered by this department include the provision of tax exemption letters, a commissioner for taking affidavits for British Columbia and a marriage commissioner. Additionally, Band Membership

The Lílwat7úl Culture Centre is integral to the development, promotion and understanding of traditional and modern Lílwat7ul values. The centre works in the area of Ucwalmícwts language preservation and community cultural education, delivering workshops and classes.

Most importantly, the Lílwat Social Services Department strives to improve the quality of life for every community member of the Lílwat Nation by delivering programs that are designed to help individuals achieve success, whatever their circumstances.

Achievements for 2014/2015

UCWALMÍCWTS DICTIONARY

The Lílwat7úl Culture Centre completed the Ucwalmícwts Dictionary. The dictionary was presented to the Lílwat Nation in a ceremony recognizing all community members who made this achievement possible.

EDLERS' RECOGNITION

The Lílwat7úl Culture Centre hosted a dinner honouring elders and their traditional names.

CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY

Lílwat Wellness continued to advocate for children and families in the community, providing referrals to services within the Lílwat Nation, assisting foster parents and providing support for families facing challenges. The goal of this work is to increase the health and well-being of all.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Lílwat Social Services worked to ensure that frontline workers received the training they needed to better assist clients in developing long-term goals for their future. On-going training is essential so that all departments can meet the demands of policy and procedures that change from fiscal year to fiscal year.

Plans and Projects for 2016

UCWALMÍCWTS RECLAMATION

The Lilwat7úl Culture Centre will continue its efforts to reclaim and preserve the Ucwalmícwts language. With the assistance of Lilwat elders, the centre will help assist departments to use Ucwalmícwts to maintain traditional names of plants, animals and places.

CULTURAL TEACHING FOR STAFF

The Lilwat7úl Culture Centre will orient all Lilwat Nation staff to the culture, language and traditions of the nation.

CULTURAL CLASSES

Drum making and regalia making classes that emphasize how to honour and care for traditional attire and drums will continue to be offered through The Lilwat7úl Culture Centre.

ADVOCACY

Lilwat Wellness and Social Development departments will continue to work towards creating better lives for of all Lilwat Nation citizens. Whether working with children and families to overcome challenges or addressing the financial needs of community members, these two departments will work in partnership for the betterment of the Lilwat Nation.

PARTNERING WITH TŚZIL FOR TRAINING

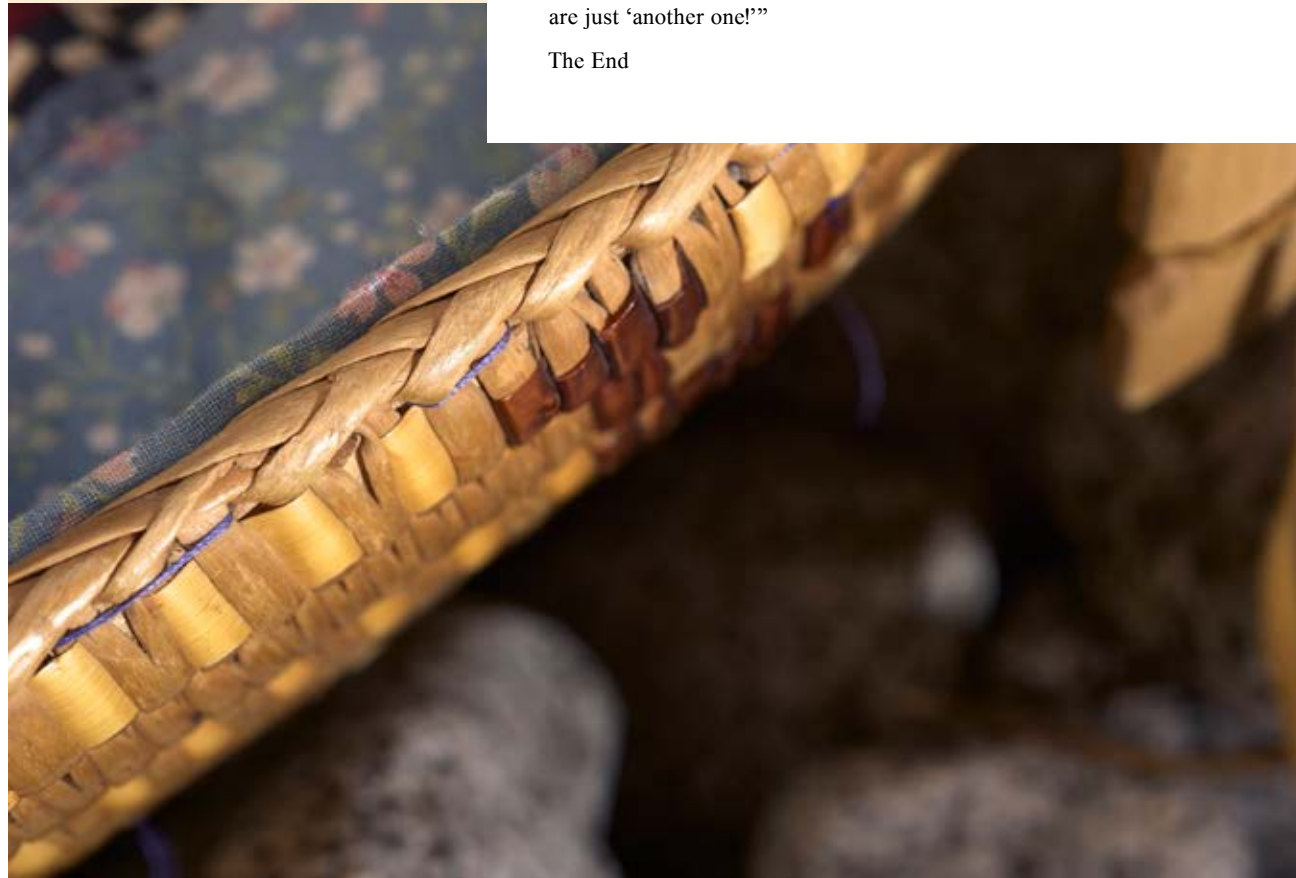
Social Development will partner with Tśzil Learning Centre and Stó:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment training (SASET) to build skills and achieve job readiness for Lilwat Nation members. These job readiness programs assist community members to build the skills they need to find employment that's right for them.

“Á7hantsu,” tsúnem ku7, “á7hantsu, qañimenswíthkacw ha? Nkyáplhkan, npepla7lhkácw snúwa!”

Snilh Stserhps

“See,” he was told, “see, did you hear them? I am a coyote, but you, you are just ‘another one!’”

The End



Tsátawaož - Pústeñ - Ákwalmícw Red cedar, canary grass, and cedar root

This basket detail shows roles cedar bark, canary grass and cedar root play in Lilwat7úl weaving. The deep black of the cedar root is achieved by burying the root in a slough area for up to a year before use. Lilwat designs are inspired by nature and are renowned for their complexity and beauty. Sustainable harvesting ensures that there will be cedar and canary grass for future generations of weavers.

Delivering Excellent Training And Post-Secondary Education Opportunities

The T̓sil Learning Centre provides excellent learning opportunities for Lílwat Nation citizens and neighbouring communities. T̓sil offers a variety of academic and vocational training programs designed to expand employment, education and career choices.

With a learning philosophy based in Lílwat cultural renewal, holistic learning, and personal growth, T̓sil Learning Centre provides an environment where all students can feel comfortable, safe and supported.

The learning centre offers Adult Basic Education (ABE) and University College Entrance Program (UCEP) for students to obtain the necessary academic upgrading for post-secondary success.

In the past, T̓sil Learning Centre has offered both career and academic certificate courses including a one-year university credit certificate programs such as Lílwat Nation Language and Culture, Business Administration, Early Childhood Education and Special Education Assistant. Courses like these are contingent on funding and T̓sil offers them whenever possible.

To get young people workforce BladeRunners offers academic upgrading, industry certification and job placement for youth up to age 30. In fall 2015, the Lílwat Nation introduced the Stó:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (SASET) program.

I wa tsunámc̓al.

The ones who are teaching.

SASET: Preparing People For The Workplace

In the fall of 2016, the Lílwat Nation joined with Stó:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (SASET) to receive federal funding to create and execute training programs for community members. Located in the Spirit Circle building on Hwy 99, SASET is staffed with Certified Development Practitioners (CDPs) who assist clients in developing training and career goals through a variety of assessment tools and strategies. Participants in the program learn resume and cover letter writing, interview skills and job search strategies. SASET, which is supported by Work BC, also provides trades training information, youth services and referrals to other services that may be necessary to help clients become job ready.

At the Spirit Circle, clients can access a posting board, resource library, educational funding information as well as short-term skills development workshops. The Lílwat Nation arm of SASET has already been in touch with key players in Whistler to discuss how the program can help address the resort's labour shortages. All SASET resources and workshops are open to all community members 15 years of age and older.

SASET acts as a bridge between federal government funding programs and has partnered with 35 First Nations in BC.

Achievements for 2014/2015

MORE THAN 70 STUDENTS ENROLLED

In 2014/2015, 73 students enrolled for programs offered at T̓sil Learning Centre. The centre's graduates included two UCEP students who moved into post-secondary programs; three Lílwat Nation Language and Culture Certificate Program participants; five students who earned Education Assistant certificates and one who achieved a Bachelors of Business Administration.

FUNDING SUSTAINED

T̓sil Learning Centre sustained both Capilano University and C3 funding despite province-wide cuts.

NEW TRADES TRAINING

The learning centre was awarded funding for two three-year training programs that will bring both trades training and jobs to Lílwat Nation.

STUDYING OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY INCREASED

During the past fiscal year, T̓sil sponsored 25 students attending post-secondary institutions outside the community. This is the largest number of students to be sponsored at one time to date.

FIRST LÍŁWAT NATION LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM COMPLETED

The first two-year Lílwat Nation Language and Culture Certificate Program was completed with six students graduating. A second cohort has begun.

EDUCATION TRANSITION PLAN DEVELOPED

Students, parents and teachers were involved in T̓szil developing an education transition plan for secondary school students.

Plans and Projects for 2016

NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS

T̓szil Learning Centre will be starting the Intro to Trades/Carpentry training program in November, 2015 and the Industry Trades Training program in January 2016, which will allow community members to receive trades training, industry certificates and supported work experience.

CULTURE PROGRAM

T̓szil Learning Centre will continue to offer the Lílwat Nation Language and Culture certificate program.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

The learning centre will continue communicate with parents and students in regards to educational opportunities, post-secondary funding and grant applications. The staff at T̓szil strives to serve the community and is open to addressing everyone's educational and training needs.

ABE AND UCEP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

T̓szil Learning Centre will continue to expand and indigenize the ABE and UCEP programs.

HOLISTIC EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

The learning centre will continue to assist students in developing a holistic education that involves community and culture as well as academics.

The Two Coyotes is just one of the many important legends and stories that have been reclaimed by the efforts of the Lílwat7úl Culture Centre, community elders and language researchers. These stories are featured in Ucwalmicwts language curriculum at Xeíólacw Community School and T̓szil Learning Centre, which offers language courses for adults. Additional stories can also be read at the Lílwat7úl Culture Centre.



Silhtsa7úl | Moccasin

Made as trade item in the 1960s, this ornately beaded, deerskin moccasin was recently returned to the Lílwat Nation. These ornately beaded moccasins are crafted for comfort, featuring a multi-layer sole and a gathered toe to ensure a good fit.



A Test of Skill and Strength

Every year, firefighters across the country are tested to ensure they can meet the requirements of the job. In March, 30 members of the Lilwat Nation's Volunteer Fire Department took part in the gruelling 14-minute test that simulate the work and physical output firefighters undertake in the field.



A close-up photograph of a woven basket, likely made of natural fibers. The focus is on a specific knot or join where several strands of the material are intertwined. The texture of the fibers is visible, showing some fraying and the natural color variations of the material. The background is blurred, showing more of the basket's structure.

Financial Reports

Financial Highlights

A Look At The Lílwat Nation's Financial Picture 2014/2015

The Lílwat Nation's Senior Management Team presents regular financial updates to Chief and Council, grouping financial information across four major, and distinct areas:

1. Band Operations
2. Lílwat Business Corporations
3. Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre
4. Debt servicing and capital costs

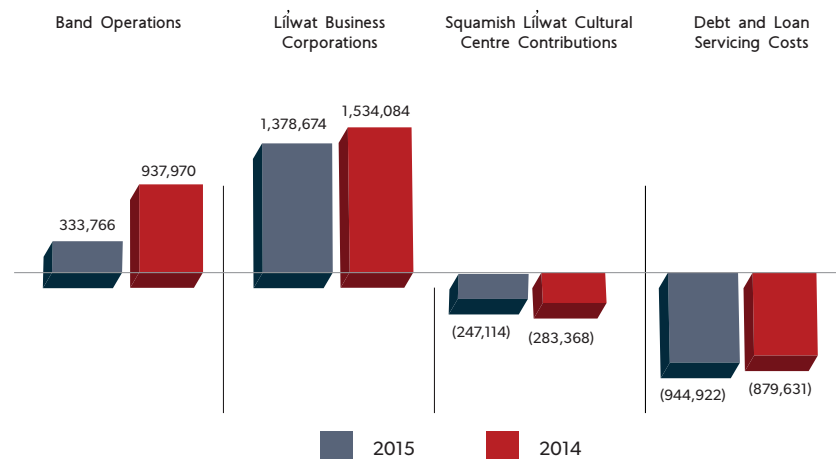
The following information is a snapshot of how these activities have affected the Lílwat Nation's financial situation as it launches into fiscal year 2015/2016.

Members can obtain a copy of the complete audited financial statements and special purpose reports upon request at the Band Administration office during regular business hour.

Overall Summary

At March 31st, 2015, the Lílwat Nation remains in a strong financial position, reporting an overall consolidated Annual Surplus of **\$707,000** for 2014/2015. Net Financial Assets, which indicates the organizations overall ability to pay for all past spending, increased to **\$3.14 million** at the end of 2014/2015 from **\$2.3 million** at the end of the prior year. Cash balances increased slightly to **\$9.7 million** at the end of 2014/2015 from **\$9.57 million** at the end of 2013/2014. Restricted cash reserves increased slightly as planned capital housing projects were delayed until 2015/2016, and earned interest was not transferred during the year. **\$9.61 million** continues to be internally restricted for future investment.

Lílwat Business Corporations had another successful year reporting a combined Operating Profit of **\$1.38 million** in 2014/2015, a small decrease compared to the prior year. Lílwat Government programs had an overall Annual Surplus of Funding, net of other items, of **\$334,000** for 2014/2015, compared to a surplus of **\$938,000** in the prior year. The year-over-year decrease is primarily due to the timing of unexpended funding. **\$90,000** in unexpended funding in the Tšzil Advanced Education program at the end of 2013/2014 was spent in 2014/2015 as required by our funding agreement. In addition, **\$217,000** remained unexpended in the Xet'ólacw Community School Program at the end of 2014/2015. Another significant reason for the decrease was that **\$322,000** was transferred from the Ottawa Trust Funds in 2013/2014 to help fund operations, but no amounts were required to be withdrawn in 2014/2015. Lílwat's contribution to the Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre operations decreased to **\$247,000** in 2014/2015 from **\$283,000** in the prior year. It should be noted that while the final result for 2014/2015 was an accounting profit of **\$707,000**, the result does not include the **\$1.13 million** that was invested in capital assets during 2014/2015, due to accounting standards. The accounting profit does include non-cash items such as **\$1.3 million** amortization expense.



Where We Are Now

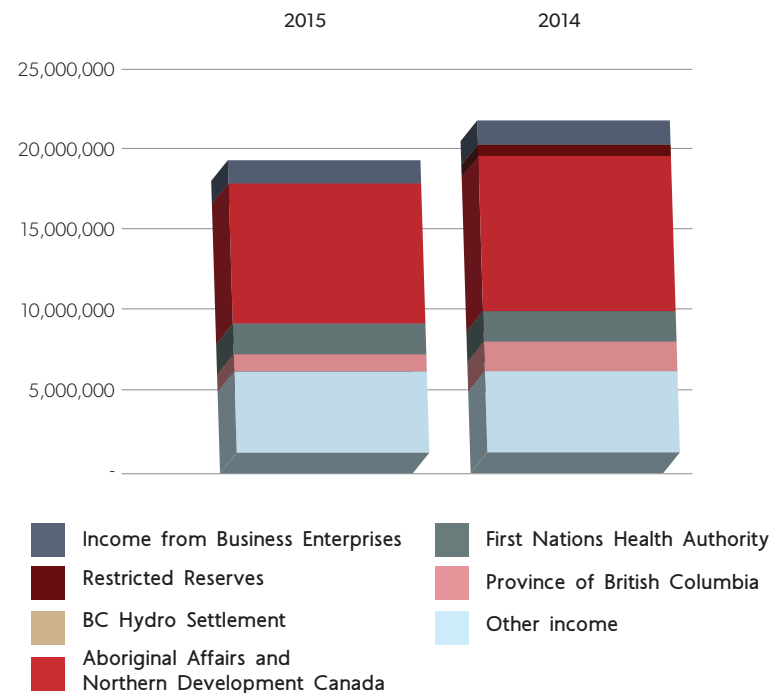
The following are some of the financial highlights for the year-ending March 31st, 2015.

1. Band Operations

Band Operations programs and services include Rental Housing, Governance, Finance and Administration, Public Works and Capital Programs, Social Development, Community Health, Advanced Education, Economic Development, Land and Resources, Housing, and Education.

REVENUES AND SOURCES OF FUNDS

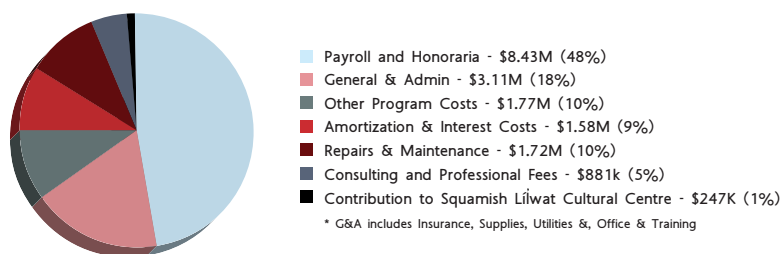
Total Revenue and Sources of Funds for 2014/2015 results equaled **\$18.45 million**, a decrease of **\$2.27 million**, or **11%**, compared to **\$20.72 million** in 2013/2014. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) funding decreased by **\$871,000** to **\$8.89 million** compared to 2013/2014 primarily due to receiving additional capital funding in 2013/2014 for flood remediation and house construction. First Nations Health Authority results were consistent with prior year at **\$2.05 million**. **\$1.35 million** in Province of BC funding was a decrease of **20%** or **\$332,000** compared to the prior year. The decrease was primarily due to a reduction of Daycare operational funding resulting from lower enrollment in the program. Additionally, due to the transition to an activity based funding model, funding received from the Province of BC Forestry & Range Consultation and Revenue Sharing agreement (FCRSA) decreased by **\$78,000**. Other Income results showed a decrease of **\$297,000**. The decrease in Other Income was primarily a result of finalizing the Lilwat Business Corporations restructure. In 2014/2015, the restructure resulted in an **\$89,000** loss associated with the dissolution of 0542131 BC Ltd, which previously held land assets. In addition, 2013/2014 results included a **\$725,000** non- cash accounting entry in Other Income. Income from Business Enterprises results were **\$1.31 million**, which reflects a combined Operating Profit of **\$1.38 Million**. The overall decrease of **\$155,000** is primarily due to a woodlot license that provided **\$553,000** in revenue in 2013/2014, but had no allowable cut in 2014/2015. No funds were transferred from restricted cash reserves during 2014/2015 compared to **\$740,000** in the prior year.



EXPENSES

Expenses totaled **\$17.74 million** in 2014/2015, which was an overall decrease of **\$1.38 million** or **7%** compared

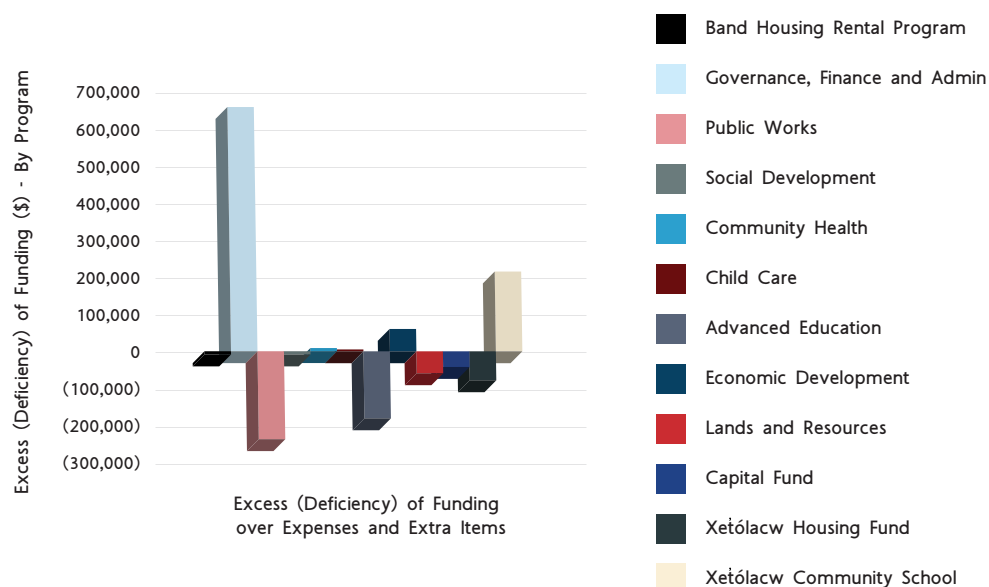
to 2013/2014. The year-over-year decrease is primarily related to a **\$1.07 million** decrease in Bad Debt expense. In 2013/2014, the **\$1.08 million** bad debt expense included a one-time accounting entry related to the completion of the Lilwat Business Corporation restructure. The organization made some progress in the collection of past arrears relating to rent and user fees, but had to classify an additional **\$50,000** as uncollectable due to non-payment of home insurance in 2014/2015. Other significant differences in expenses included a **\$675,000** consulting expense, a decrease of **\$373,000** compared to the prior year. The year-over-year decrease in consulting was primarily a result of receiving **\$321,000** less funding for the AANDC funded Wedge Creek Hydro project development compared to 2013/2014. Insurance expenses were **\$352,000**, an increase of **\$39,000**, due to additional property insurance claims relating to house fires. Contract services expense decreased by **\$448,000** to **\$1.3 million** primarily due to the completion of additional home construction and flood remediation projects in 2013/2014. Significant Lilwat Government expenses in 2014/2015 included:



PROGRAM SURPLUS / DEFICIENCY

The following presents the Excess or Deficiency of Funding for each of the major areas of program services. The following results presented are a reflection of the operations of the individual programs as the results are shown net of any extraordinary items.

SIGNIFICANT LILWAT GOVERNMENT EXPENSES



2. Lilwat Business Corporations

The Lilwat Business Corporations results remained strong in 2014/2015, reporting a combined Operating Profit of **\$1.38 million**, and combined Net Income of **\$1.31 million**. The **\$155,000** year-over-year decrease in combined Operating Profit was the result of a number of factors. Lilwat Construction LP had an Operating Profit of **\$918,000**, an increase of **\$679,000** over the prior year. Mumleqs, Lilwat Nation's partnership with Lizzie Bay Construction, continues to show strong results. Lilwat Capital Assets LP Operating Profit was **\$486,000** lower than the prior year as a result of its woodlot license not having any allowable cut in 2014/2015. Profits from harvesting under the license will be available in future years. Lilwat Forestry Ventures LP had an Operating Profit of **\$474,000**. The **\$328,000** year-over-year decrease in Operating Profit was a result of a longer seasonal shut down for logging due to fire risk, and a reduction in contracting income. The decrease in logging income was partially offset by firefighting which resulted in the ability to maintain consistent staffing levels and training for employees. Lilwat Retail Operations LP had a total combined loss of **\$36,000** in 2014/2015. Revenues levels and Profit Margins were maintained year-over-year, but a small increase in overhead expenses resulted in the **\$21,000** decline. Management continues to focus on increasing profitability by maintaining profit margins, increasing inventory controls, and expanding product lines. Operating Profit in the Broadband and Post Office divisions remained consistent. Lilwat Retail Operations LP continues to provide a valuable services and

employment to the community. Net Profits of **\$2.9 million** have been generated by the Lilwat Business Corporations during the past two fiscal years resulting in the ability to settle outstanding debts with Band Operations, as well as the ability to invest in capital assets needed to maintain a strong cash flow in future.

3. Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre (SLCC) contributions

As an equal partner in the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre (SLCC) in Whistler, the Lilwat Nation is responsible for providing an annual contribution to fund one-half of any shortfall in the SLCC's operations budget. The **\$247,000** required contribution for 2014/2015 was a decrease compared to the **\$283,000** paid in 2013/2014. The Lilwat Nation does not receive any funding to offset this annual contribution. All SLCC contributions are funded through a reduction of government services, corporation profits, repurposing formerly restricted funds, or increased debt. SLCC staff has been successful in finding operational efficiencies resulting in a reduction in required annual contribution by **54% (\$289,000)** versus the 2011-2012 contribution of **\$536,000**.

4. Debt servicing and capital costs

At the end of 2014/2015, the Lilwat Nation had a total of **\$8.07 million** in outstanding debt from loans, mortgages and capital leases. The total cost to service the debt during the year (including principle and interest payments) was **\$945,000**. Bank Indebtedness, which represents the amount owing on the organizations line of credit, totaled **\$1.16 million**. The Lilwat Nation does not receive any funding to offset the annual cost of servicing the debt. A total of **\$1.13 million** was invested in capital assets during 2014/2015. Investment included **\$156,000** for the completion of the Peq Creek flood mitigation project, **\$891,000** for the construction of two Duplexes as a part of the CMHC program, and **\$34,000** in equipment to support program operations. 2014/2015 capital investments were funded through contributions from AANDC, and CMHC debt financing. At the end of 2014/2015, the Lilwat Government held capital assets worth a total of **\$43.85 million**. The amortization expense for 2014/2015 associated with these capital assets was **\$1.32 million**. The Chiefs and Council appointed the accounting firm of BDO Canada LLP to conduct our Fiscal Year 2014/2015 financial statement audit. As a result of the audit, BDO expressed an unqualified or "clean" audit opinion which means BDO believes the consolidated financial statements fairly present the financial position of the Lilwat Government at March 31st, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows. This information is presented in the pages that follow.

Report Of The Independent Auditor On The Summary Financial Statements



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To the Members of the Lil'wat Nation

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, and the summary statement of financial activity for the year then ended, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of the Lil'wat Nation for the year ended March 31, 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those consolidated financial statements in our report dated July 21, 2015. Those consolidated financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those audited financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian public sector accounting standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements of the Lil'wat Nation.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited consolidated financial statements in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of the Lil'wat Nation for the year ended March 31, 2015 are a fair summary of those consolidated financial statements, in accordance with the basis described in Note 1.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Accountants

July 30, 2015

Kelowna, British Columbia

BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

Members can obtain a copy of the complete audited financial statements and special purpose reports upon request at the Band Administration office during regular business hours.

Lil'wat Nation

Summary Statement of Financial Position



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March 31	2015	2014
Financial Assets		
Cash	\$ 88,231	\$ 66,143
Restricted cash	2,846,511	3,355,958
Restricted temporary investments	6,763,288	6,152,212
Accounts receivable	1,117,526	1,478,512
Due from related entities	535,688	1,100,898
Investment in business enterprises and partnerships	6,554,203	5,246,450
Ottawa Trust Funds	263,286	253,442
	18,168,733	17,653,615
Financial Liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	1,163,100	960,858
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,462,835	1,815,057
Deferred revenue	3,753,862	3,615,232
Due to related entities	577,250	593,414
Obligation under capital lease	84,116	107,695
Long term debt	7,984,174	8,257,023
	15,025,337	15,349,279
Net Financial Assets	3,143,396	2,304,336
Non - Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets	43,846,123	44,035,125
Prepaid expenses	234,475	177,159
	44,080,598	44,212,284
Accumulated Surplus	\$47,223,994	46,516,620

Lil'wat Nation

Summary Statement of Financial Position



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For the year ended March 31	2015	2014
Revenue		
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	\$ 8,889,974	\$ 9,761,320
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	162,514	162,387
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	244,349	218,550
First Nations Education Steering Committee Funding	387,388	523,216
First Nations Employment Society Funding	292,533	262,530
First Nations Health Authority	2,050,938	2,039,403
Province of British Columbia	1,347,934	1,680,326
Rental income	848,687	858,649
Other income	2,907,080	3,109,769
Income from business enterprises	1,307,753	1,351,985
Interest income	4,789	9,467
BC special grant	5,055	5,097
	18,448,994	19,982,699
Expenses		
Band Housing Rentals	\$ 559,866	\$ 573,023
Governance, Finance and Administration	2,320,080	3,137,353
Public Works	2,249,735	2,400,266
Social Development	2,480,180	2,495,648
Community Health and Daycare	3,306,429	3,366,420
Advanced Education	1,259,464	985,883
Economic Development	605,685	1,133,841
Lil'wat Lands and Resources	1,121,057	970,815
Capital Fund	24,117	393,612
Xelólacw Housing Operations Fund	479,152	462,932
Xelólacw Community School Fund	3,339,166	3,365,132
Funding agency repayments	(13,811)	(181,615)
CMHC approved expenditures	10,500	16,562
	17,741,620	19,119,872
Annual surplus (deficit)	707,374	862,827
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	46,516,620	45,653,793
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 47,223,994	\$ 46,516,620

Lil'wat Nation

Note to Summary Financial Statements

March 31, 2015

1. Summary Financial Statements



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The summary financial statements are derived from the complete audited consolidated financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards as at March 31, 2015.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected so that they are consistent in all material respects with, or represent a fair summary of, the audited consolidated financial statements.

Management prepared these summary financial statements using the following criteria:

- (a) the summary financial statements include the statement of financial position and statement of financial activity;
- (b) management determined that the statements of changes in net financial assets and cash flows do not provide additional useful information and as such, have not included them as part of the summary financial statements;
- (c) information in the summary financial statements agrees with the related information in the complete audited consolidated financial statements including comparative information and all major subtotals and totals; and
- (d) in all material respects, the summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete audited consolidated financial statements, including significant accounting policies and the notes thereto.

The complete audited consolidated financial statements of the Lil'wat Nation are available upon request by contacting the management of the Lil'wat Nation.



The journey

As the fire burns
Knowledge dwindles as I grow
Because of righteous bombardment
Knowledge will not be passed at this time
It is better than it isn't
Better for you to learn as they
For the old ways cannot sustain
Glimpses I catch as I question the past
For how did they survive?
Alone and Together I am sure
Together they shared and alone they learned
What was the best way
Respect, honour, and humbleness
Respect the earth for all its gifts
Honour the gifts by taking only what you need
Be humbled in the presence of her beauty
For there is no substitute
As yesterday us today
Bits and pieces come together
Through the oral and the literary
Damn the literary at the moment
Bit it is to them tat I am in debt
As I read Teit, Bouchard, Kennedy and Muckle too
But the oral transcriptions are the real treasure
As the fire continues to burn
One question reveals chapters that were unwritten
But stored none-the-less
For a time such as this
Despite TVs and stereoes
I still long to understand
What it took to be one with her
As I contemplate her mysteries —

— and am minute in her vastness
privileged to walk with our ancestors
As we harvest inner cedar roots
Who knew what I could be gifted beyond a textbook?
To work with the raw materials so
To make a cedar bracelet or cook a meal in the earth
For now I can related the tediousness
And the time that it takes
To learn, understand and accept
That time goes on forever
And you are only a part
A part of a holistic picture
That is climaxed at the journey
For it is the journey that we identify
That it is not the end result that matters
But the journey that go you there
Whether it took four days, hours or minutes
The sharing was always the same
The knowledge, as well as the humour
As we come full circle
It is time for us to pass on
What we have gathered on our journey
To share knowledge and humour
As the fire burns

— *Skalumecw* Chief Dean Nelson

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Lílwat Culture Heritage Language Authority

Special thanks to *Mámayaʔ* Lois Joseph, *Kakúsaʔ* MaryElaine James, Sylvia Dan, Lee-Anne Kauffman, and all the Lílwat Nation staff who contributed to the annual report.





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