

# NEHIMOTL "US"

December 2024

Community News | Events | Updates for the Tla'amin Nation



## Baby's First Christmas

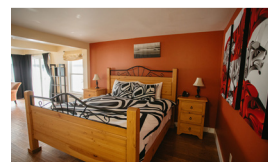
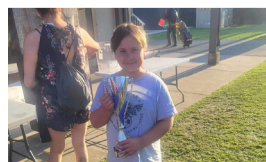
**Otsin Louie**

June 9, 2024

Parents: Kelsey Louie and  
Amanda Vick



INSIDE: TREATY | COMMUNITY | PROGRAMS & SERVICES | SPORTS & RECREATION | ANNOUNCEMENTS





## Tla'amin Governance House Updates

4779 Klahanie Road,  
qathet, BC V8A 0C4

**Phone:** (604) 483-9646

**Toll Free:** 877-483-9646

## Christmas Break

The Governance House will close at noon on December 24th and re-open January 2nd, 2025.

## Meli Kismis



**hegus**  
**John Hackett**

### ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ

I would like to begin by recognizing and sending my deepest condolences to the families of our Language and Culture Coordinator Brianne Louie, Ralph Bob, Barb McGee, and Doreen Frances Galligos. Our hearts go out to you all as the Christmas holidays set in. Legislators wish everyone a safe and warm holiday season.

**Self-Governing Indigenous Government Forum** in Ottawa In early November, I traveled to Ottawa for the Self-Governing Indigenous Government Forum, where 27 Nations gathered to advocate for funding and support from the Federal Government. We delivered a united message to ensure Modern Treaties in Canada are fully implemented and honoured. These treaties have been chronically underfunded, leaving Nations to operate with inadequate resources.

For seven years, our coalition has worked with federal staff to implement a new fiscal relationship supporting self-government, self-determination, and economic and social prosperity. Over the past three years, we developed fiscal approaches for:

1. Language Maintenance: Funding to keep languages alive.
2. Lands and Resources Management: Ensuring land-use certainty and supporting economic development.
3. Infrastructure Management: Keeping communities functioning, safe, and healthy.

I highlighted Tla'amin's challenges, including expanding our ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ immersion program for students, addressing industrial pollution in our territory, and managing aging infrastructure. Support is needed to grow capacity, hold polluters accountable, and maintain essential services.

**Tla'amin Nation Legislative Assembly Strategy Session** On November 7-8, the Legislative Assembly and senior staff reviewed key issues, internal and external factors, and desired outcomes for the next four years. Directors presented program overviews aligned with the Comprehensive Nation Plan, followed by a tabletop exercise to address key challenges. We focused on short-, mid-, and long-term goals, identifying hurdles in areas such as public safety, food security, school attendance, housing, and economic development. The session integrated political and operational priorities so they could be put into next fiscal year's operational plan.

**Tla'amin Lake Contracting Management Meeting** I attended the Tla'amin Lake Contracting management meeting that oversees our Silviculture operation, Brushing, Spacing, Replanting, stock

assessment surveys the team is 100% Tla'amin members. The TLC overview included our Timber Harvesting, Road building, and Log hauling. Tla'amin forestry operations follow a Quadruple Bottom Line which includes planning for Cultural, Social, Environmental, and Economic outcomes. Members can read the

[Tla'amin long term Forest Resources Plan here](https://www.tlaaminnation.com/forest-resource-plan/)

**Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations** I met with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations Leadership to discuss key messages for the newly elected BC Government and plan for the First Nation Leadership Gathering (FNLG) in January. The alliance agreed to host the Premier's Forum in Nisga'a territory, following last May's forum in Tla'amin, which pivoted to virtual due to a windstorm. Planning sessions for the FNLG and Premier's Forum are underway. I aim to collaborate with our Intergovernmental team and propose myself as a speaker at both events.



Centre stage: Drew Blaney, Dillon Johnson and Erik Blaney lead the young men in the competition song at the Fall General Assembly.



## Best wishes for a healthy holiday and a happy New Year 2025 from the hegus and Legislators at Tla'amin Nation

hegus John Hackett ~ Erik Blaney ~ Gloria Francis  
Callum Galligos ~ Dillon Johnson ~ Brandon Louie  
Losa Luaifoa ~ Brandon Peters ~ Tanner Timothy

tlaminnation.com • 604-483-9646 • 4779 Klahanie Road

## Tla'amin Nation Winter Break Closure and Emergency Contact Information

Tla'amin Nation offices, facilities and services will close for winter break at noon on December 24th and will reopen January 2, 2025. This notice contains some important reminders and emergency contact information.

The holiday season can result in additional recycling and garbage, please do your best to reduce waste where possible.

- In-community garbage collection is scheduled for December 20, December 24 and January 3.
- The recycling depot beside the gym will be open as usual except for December 25/26 and January 1.

Public works emergencies (housing, roads, sewer, water) please call 604-578-0447.

Tla'amin health is closing for winter break. Please make sure to renew your prescriptions if needed before December 24. Pharmacies can provide emergency refills during the time of our office closure. For health advice during the holidays call the BC nurses hotline at 811. In the case of a health emergency please call 911.

Christmas can be a hard time, please remember you are not alone, qualified and culturally safe mental health providers are available 24/7 over the break.

### KUU-US Crisis Response Services Line

Adults/Elders (250-723-4050)  
Child/Youth (250-723-2040)  
Toll free (1-800-588-8717)

### Hope for Wellness

Call 1-855-242-3310 or chat online at [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)

In closing, here are a few ʔayʔajuθəm phrases to practice with your family, wishing all a safe holiday season. ʔimot.

ʔimot kisməs  
ʔukw čep qwaʔašqʷis kʷutiš  
ʔimotsem kʷutiš  
ʔiʔsem 2025 kʷutiš

Merry Christmas  
Wishing you happiness this year  
The best in the coming year  
2025 will be a good year

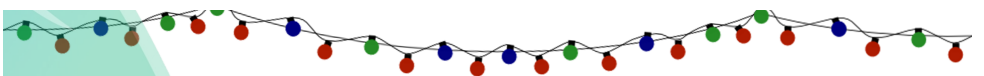


# HOCKEY Skills

This program is designed for čičuy aged 6 to 18 of all skill levels. Guided by skilled and experienced coaches, participants will enhance their skating, stickhandling, passing, and shooting abilities through engaging drills and exciting game scenarios. Make this program a regular part of your weekly hockey routine and see your skills grow!

**SUNDAYS | JAN. 12 - MAR. 9, 2025 | 4 - 5 PM**

Location: Recreation Complex

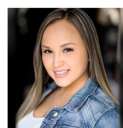


## Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season

### from the Qaməs ʔəms Tala Settlement Trust



Ann Paul  
Trustee, Treasurer



Kayla Peters  
Trustee, Secretary



April Treacle  
Trustee, Economic Development Admin



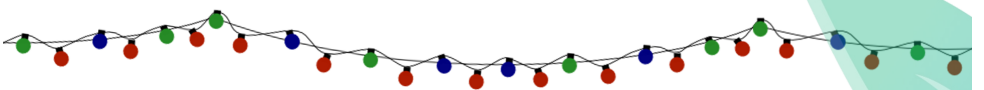
Jasmin Menendez  
Trustee



Marina Gallagher  
Trustee



Cyndi Egan  
Guardian



# 2024 saw the Launch of the Traditional food Systems Revitalization Project

*By Education Department*

With funding from the Investment Agricultural Foundation Tla'amin Nation hosted several traditional food harvest and processing workshops in 2024. The project focus is traditional foods harvest and processing workshops taught by qayumix<sup>w</sup> to qayumix<sup>w</sup>, with and other other experts, Nation staff, and community members participating as space allows.

In April, Sherry Bullock taught λoxλox (oyster) harvesting at tox<sup>w</sup>nač (Okeover Inlet) and showed participants how to shuck oysters and how to steam them open over the fire. Workshop participants took home oyster shuckers for future harvests.

On a sunny day in August, Gerry Galligos and Paul Stonehouse took a group to ʔagayqsən (Harwood Island) for apple, plum, and nettle seed harvesting with instructors Brad Titian and Brandi Marriott. Brad and Brandi spoke about the ancient orchards, the history of the island, the ecosystem there, and protocols for harvesting.

Sherry and Brandi then taught an apple and blackberry preserving workshop using ʔagayqsən apples and blackberries purchased from local pickers. Participants learned to make dried apple granola, apple sauce, and canned whole blackberries.



**Sherry Bullock and Joe Wilson watches over as Jennifer Tom prepares the oysters**

In September, Brad took a group of intrepid harvesters into the rainy forest to learn about chanterelle and lobster mushroom identification. The harvesters took home new mushroom knives, knowledge about how to safely ID and harvest wild mushrooms, and bags of chanterelles and lobsters for their dinner.

### Did you know

Tla'amin citizens must have up-to-date Harvest Cards, and must report their harvest through the Harvest App. (To update your Harvest Card, contact Kylie Paul at Governance House. Non-Tla'amin harvesters must purchase a harvest permit and can do so at the front desk at Governance House, Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm (closed daily 12-1pm).



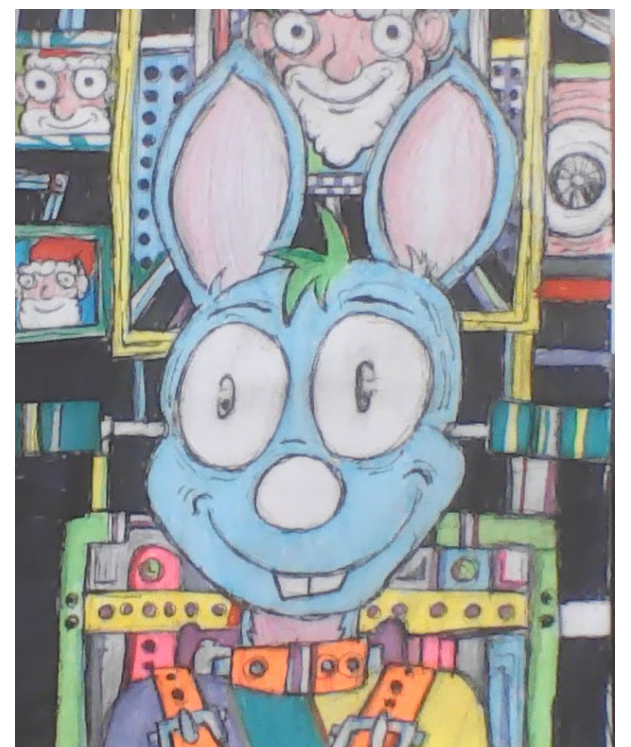
**Brad teaching in the ancient orchard**

## Dustin Sketch of the Month

*My name is Dustin and I am a member of the Tla'amin Nation. I love to sketch and draw. Last month I shared one of my pieces of art in the Nehmotl for the first time. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you in this way.*

This month my drawing includes a bunny character who is looking happy and excited because Christmas is coming. The bunny is imagining that Santa must be peeking in all the windows of our lives because Santa sees us when we are sleeping, when we are awake, and when we are being good or bad, just like the song says. I hope you enjoy the bunny's smile.

**Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas holiday season!**



## Meli Kismis (Merry Christmas) from the nine giḡe (Lands and Resources) Department!

This year has been extremely busy for our department which covers everything from environmental and archaeological monitoring to traditional plant and cedar gathering and everything in between.

The Territorial Stewardship (Referrals) team had 482 new intakes in 2024 with an average of 40 new submissions per month. We responded to these submissions within the desired timeline in 80% of files. The most common types of referrals we received this year were Archaeology (147), Forestry (112), Wild Fisheries (34), Development (33), Aquaculture (31), Utilities and Infrastructure (30), and Mining (6). This only considers the new submissions and not ongoing large projects from previous years.

Working with Thichum Forestry, our team identified several good harvest sites for cedar bark stripping and root gathering as part of our forestry surveys. Any Nation members who are looking for harvest areas can request location and safety info by emailing [referrals@tn-bc.ca](mailto:referrals@tn-bc.ca). Cultural Heritage Technicians (CHTs) doing field work for forestry also locate culturally significant plants and record the locations of good harvest sites when found. Our office staff got hands-on experience root and bark gathering this year as well.

Nine giḡe staff did community outreach at both General Assemblies, on the waterfront for Indigenous People's Day, the Assumption School's Education Day, and at Brooks High School for a teacher's Professional Development Day for SD47. The feedback for all of these was overwhelmingly positive. There's something exciting about archaeology that brings everybody together, connects Nation members to the past, and drives home the long and vibrant history of the ʔaḡəmen on these lands.

Looking after Tla'amin ʔəms giḡe requires the right people to keep things running smoothly. Special thanks to our new Housepost, Callum Galligos; our previous Housepost, Erik Blaney; our Director, Denise Smith; our Lands and Natural Resources Manager, April Treakle; our Territorial Stewardship Manager, Connie Graham; our Referrals Administrator,

Sandra Harry; our Referrals Coordinator, Rachael Sydenham; our two full-time CHTs, Jason Francis and Scott Galligos; our part-time CHT Alexis Rubletz; and our on-call CHT, Brad Titian.

This year we also had one summer student, Makaela Gallagher, who proved to have a natural gift for archaeology and who we hope to have back in the future!

We would like to thank every single one of you who came to see us at the General Assemblies or attended one of our interesting Archaeological presentations.

Thanks as well to everyone who has brought in an artifact that they had in their possession. And extra special thank you to everyone who contacted us to have a CHT monitor any work on their properties; protecting Culture and Heritage begins with us as a community.

To keep up the good work, you can reach out to us in the new year at: [referrals@tn-bc.ca](mailto:referrals@tn-bc.ca) We look forward to hearing about your exciting projects and getting the right people there to monitor what's being done. You never know what's just under our feet and what incredible artifacts could be discovered to be shared with generations to come!

We hope everybody has a great holiday and an even better 2025.

If you don't want coal in your stocking from Santa, call us before you dig!



## Tla'amin Nation Partners with the City of Powell River for Sewage Treatment Services

Starting in 2025, Tla'amin Nation will connect to the City's new sewage treatment plant for liquid waste treatment and disposal, while continuing to manage its community collection system. Tla'amin Nation's participation in the project helped in securing federal and provincial capital funds.

"This partnership is a win-win for both Tla'amin and the City," said Hegus John Hackett. "The City has a modern system with extra capacity, and we were facing the challenge of replacing our aging infrastructure. This agreement showcases what we can achieve by working together, and I'm excited for future collaborations."

The new treatment plant replaced three older facilities (Westview, Townsite, Wildwood) with a consolidated, modern system. The wastewater treatment plant was sized to accommodate regional growth, including the Tla'amin Nation connection.

Tla'amin Nation's participation in the project helped in securing federal and provincial capital funds.

"This agreement, which economically and sustainably supports both of our community's fundamental needs, represents a long-term commitment to working together in a spirit of genuine partnership", said Mayor Woznow.

Public Works and Infrastructure Housepost Losa Luaifoa said "This project is good for the land, the water and the people. Our region replaced four aging systems with one new one, representing a sustainable and forward-thinking approach to shared infrastructure."

The current Tla'amin sewage treatment plant, built in 1973, is nearing the end of its lifespan. After exploring options, the Nation determined that tying into the City's system was the safest and most cost-effective solution.

As part of the transition, Tla'amin will decommission its existing plant, install a new pump house, and retain a small emergency tank. The waterfront site of the old facility will be restored as a community recreational space.

Under a 50-year agreement, Tla'amin will contribute sewer user fees equivalent to the total sewer fees and taxes charged to City residents. The terms of the agreement will be reviewed every five years.

96% of the new sewage plant costs are fixed. Bringing more users online improves the economics for City residents as these fixed costs are further spread out. The Nation will cover the capital costs for pumps and piping needed to connect to the City's system in Wildwood.

Additionally, Tla'amin public works staff will receive on-the-job training at the new facility, building local expertise and strengthening collaboration.

## Tla'amin Nation Seeks Hunters and Food Processors for Historic ʔəms ʔayε Celebration

On June 21, 2025, Tla'amin Nation will open ʔəms ʔayε (our house) Cultural Centre and Traditional Food Facility. The Nation is planning a large multi-day celebration and will call home urban Tla'amin people to witness this event. Honoured guests from Sister Nations and government partners will also be invited.

"As hosts we are beginning to gather traditional foods needed to feed hundreds of people for several days," said Callum Galigos, Lands and Resources Housepost. "We invite those who have the skills to now step forward and help us prepare for our biggest celebration since treaty."

### Deer Harvesting

Denise Smith is the Lands and Resources Director and wants everyone to practise common sense conservation methods when hunting.

"We are still looking to get some deer meat into the community freezer (for community events, services, etc.) while we are still in hunting season." said Denise. "Bucks are preferred (to leave the females to reproduce). Practice safe hunting please – no hunting within or near the community."

Hunters will be asked to provide the location of where the deer was hunted. We will update in the near year when we feel we have enough.

Hunters are asked to gut, skin, quarter and de-bone the meat (to be ready to go to the butcher). We don't need the ribs so feel free to give those away.

If you are interested please leave your name with April or Denise and give the

Lands Department a heads up when you are going. \*Reminder you must be a qualified hunter holding the proper certifications.

### Hunters will be compensated

The Nation will compensate Tla'amin hunters \$250 per animal that is gutted, skinned, and quartered to cover the cost of fuel and ammunition. Each hunter may provide up to three animals maximum. Deer will be ground and frozen and jarred as stew for the ʔəms ʔayε Celebration and community events. If you are interested in providing for the community, please contact Denise Smith at [Denise.Smith@tn-bc.ca](mailto:Denise.Smith@tn-bc.ca) before you harvest.

Nation members with butchering and canning skills are needed to help put the food up and teach other Tla'amin people these skills. If you have the skills and wish to teach a workshop, or if you want to learn to process deer, please contact Emma Morgan-Thorp at [training@tn-bc.ca](mailto:training@tn-bc.ca) or (250) 858-2739.

### Special Clam Harvest

Tla'amin will be hosting special food and ceremonial clam harvesting events at Okeover for commercial clam license holders. The Nation will purchase clams gathered to feed guests at the ʔəms ʔayε (our house) opening. (Dates to be determined)

If you have the skills and wish to teach a workshop, or want to learn how to preserve clams including cleaning, steaming, shucking, and jarring, please contact Emma Morgan-Thorp at [training@tn-bc.ca](mailto:training@tn-bc.ca) or (250) 858-2739.

## Tla'amin Nation Seal Harvest

**Crew:** Erik Blaney, Andrew Timothy, Brandon Breden, Bryce McKenzie, William Adams, Johnson Potter, Alexis Rubletz

### Overview:

From November 25-27, the harbour seal harvest took place. In three days, the crew was able to obtain 12 harbour seals for sampling of contaminants, and 1 sea lion for the hide. The crew butchered and obtained samples from different locations, the first two days were from Vivianne Rocks, while the samples taken on the third day were from Powell Islets, and Keifer Rock. The samples were then transported to the nation for refrigeration until ready for transport.

### Hunters

The general feedback was positive, and a learning experience for all. It was learned that a higher calibre gun is more effective in dispatching the animal more humanely, but too slow if re-load was required. Customized retrieval tools built for heavier animals was also recommended. Shooting from land was preferable and more effective in preventing the animals from sinking. Additionally, focusing on smaller animals if the land location was precarious where landing craft fit into. Finally, for butchery and cleaning, it was more effective on dry land (like at hatchery) versus the boat. This proved to be more effective in safe and stable working platform for samples.

### Next Steps:

The samples were shipped this week to Sidney for analysis and a final report will be shared on what was found. The hides of the animals were then saved and frozen for the hide tanning workshop taking place in April, that will include community members and Tla'amin GIJE students.



We are wishing you a safe, happy and warm holiday season  
During our closure, please call Tla'amin Public Works  
Emergency Phone **604-587-0447** for anything related to  
plumbing, electrical, sewage and heating.  
From your Housing Team Stuart, Ashley and Lisa

## Tla'amin Nation Healthy Living Dividend 2024

Now Available on-line

[www.tlaaminnation.com](http://www.tlaaminnation.com)

# 2024 Fall General Assembly Summary Report

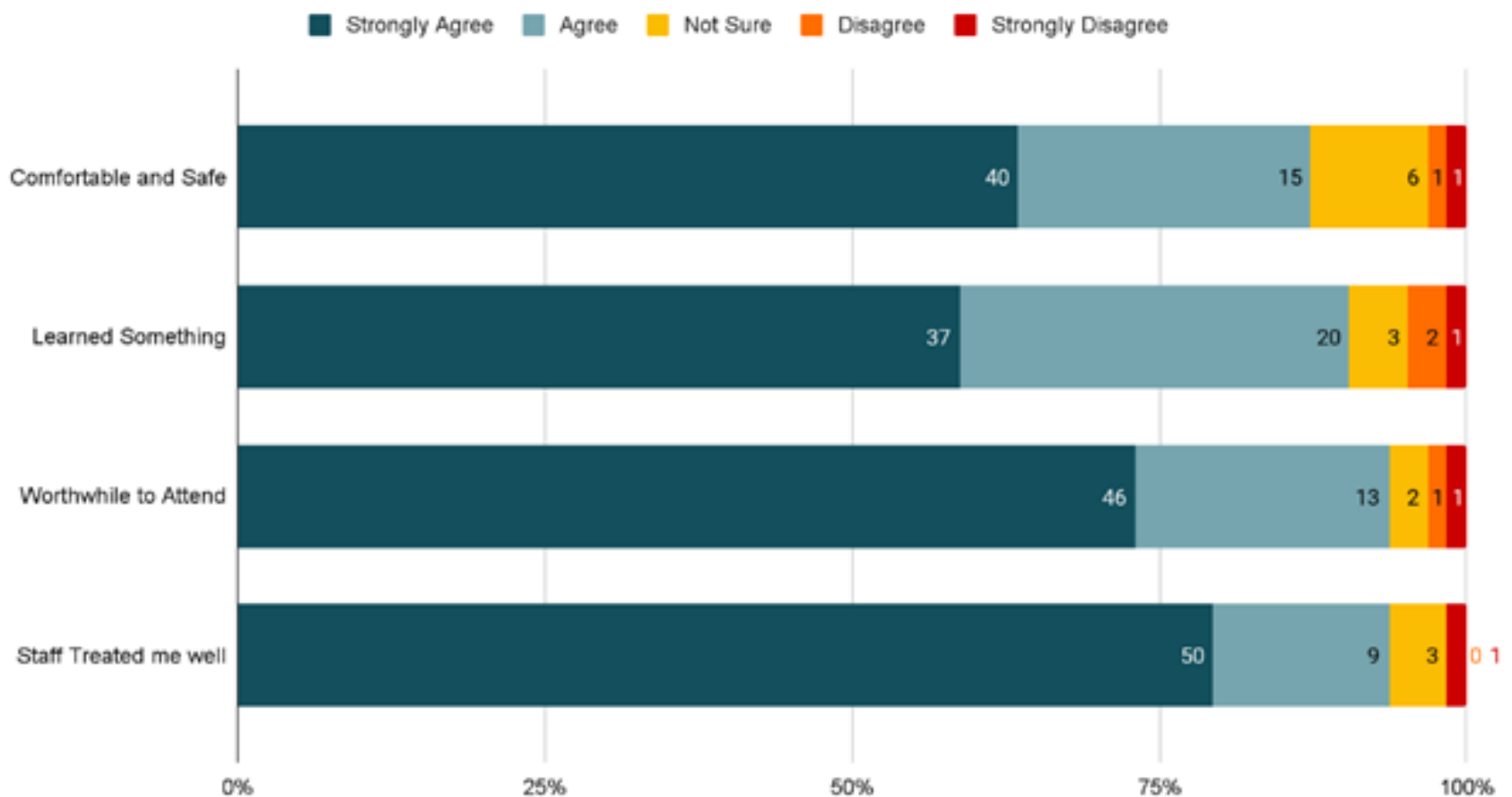
## Fall 2024 Assembly - By the Numbers

On October 18-20, the Tla'amin Nation held its Fall General Assembly. Despite the atmospheric river and high winds cancelling ferries from Vancouver Island and interrupting travel plans, over 200 citizens participated in the weekend activities while many joined by livestream.

- 209 delegates
- 19 workshops
- 40 babies welcomed
- 61 Urban Members returned home
- 21 status cards, 3 baby registrations and 1 new enrolment
- 129 vaccines provided
- 16 community members screened / 11 members with irregular results referred for additional healthcare
- Estimated 300 pounds of organic waste diverted from the landfill
- Event cost \$41,550



## Fall General Assembly Feedback - n=63



87% agree they were comfortable and safe  
94% agree it was worthwhile to attend

90% agree they learned something  
94% agree that staff treated me well

## Question Period with Executive Council

As part of the registration process, citizens had the opportunity to ask a question in advance of leadership. Here are the answers to those questions.

### What do you see as the biggest challenges facing our community, and how do you plan to address them?

Our five-year Comprehensive Nation Plan (CNP) is our nations roadmap as directed by our membership over the next five years and beyond. Housing, infrastructure, food security, public safety, health and education, are areas consistently identified as Nation priorities. The CNP is on the Nation's website <https://www.tlaaminnation.com/comprehensive-nation-plan/>.

### Will there be a vote from community citizens to forgive housing arrears?

The Legislative Assembly will review and approve or reject a policy for debt forgiveness. There is a requirement to provide citizens with public notice.

### When and how will the new building lots on the Harwood subdivision be assigned to those on the waitlist? Will this be done in priority sequence from when the members signed up?

A Lot Allocation Policy was recently approved by Executive Council and is available for viewing on our website <https://www.tlaaminnation.com/home-page/policies/>. Staff will contact those on the waiting list for a serviced lot to determine that what they are planning to build. Citizens wishing to build on a lot will also need to show proof of financing for the project.

### With COVID behind us does Legislators have any plans to start meeting in person again?

Covid introduced the Nation to online meetings. Online meetings ensure that urban legislators' have equal participation, it also keeps the costs down. The zoom format is working well and Elders can tune in from the comfort of home and hear the meeting more clearly.

### Will the new Leadership follow the Comprehensive Nation Plan?

Yes, we plan to host a working session in early November with all Legislators to review and update priorities for the 2025/2026 operational plan.

### What is the plan and timeline for having shovel ready lots available for economic development and Tla'amin businesses? We have the resources (Trust) in place to fund our entrepreneurs, but no land ready and available to support them.

A Land Use Plan will be completed within 2-3 years and should include Land selections for business and industrial purposes for citizens to use. There will be community engagement, and we welcome your input.

### What process is currently in place for Legislators to report back to community? These Legislators hold a lot of authority and should be held accountable to reporting back to their constituents.

There currently is not a practice of Legislators reporting on their activities to the community. Executive Councillors currently report to the public during the house post update section of EC meetings and at General Assemblies. This item will be brought forward for discussion among legislators.



Elsie Paul and Bev Dixon brush hegus John Hackett and Legislators at the Fall General Assembly.



## Fall General Assembly Highlights

*"Proud to see the kids dance, cultural comeback."*

*"Bingo makes the language fun."*

*"Watching the documentary about name change."*

### Room for Improvement

*"Encourage Elders to speak and share wisdom, but also ensure others don't dominate discussions."*

*"There is a way to be heard that aligns with our traditions but also maintains respect."*

### Biggest Learning

*"That the managed alcohol program has had major success with its participants."*

*"The mistake made with the transfer of housing/rental arrears... feels like those of us who were responsible are overlooked."*

### Biggest Challenges

*"The assembly turned heavy and dark. Hostile comments about non-natives working for us were troubling. It didn't feel safe."*

*"People swearing and dominating discussions made it feel unsafe."*

*"Hostile comments during emotional sessions made it uncomfortable for some attendees."*

*"The younger people attending the meeting left with the message 'I'm never running for leadership.'"*

**Can we have all leadership sit collectively at the same table making decisions together?**

In practice leadership sits at one table and all signed an oath to uphold the governance system that they were elected to.

**Is there a plan to abolish the “Good Standing” practise with the Tla’amin First Nation?**

There is a new Good Standing Policy under development which will revise the policy to consider matters such as community safety and wellbeing.

**When will I get home ownership since my mortgage is paid off?**

Each request for Home Ownership is unique and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis once the new Home & Land Transfer policy is approved by Leadership.

**What will the Nation do about the hate crimes committed by the “Concerned citizens” in qathet?**

Hate crimes are serious and can be reported to the BC Hate Crime Hotline which supports the investigation of hate incidents and hate crimes. Contact them at BC\_HATE\_CRIMES@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or call 1-855-462-5733.

**Does leadership get updated on housing waitlist, and how are we supporting/prioritizing off-lands members trying to move home?**

Leadership currently doesn’t receive regular updates on the Housing waiting list, but the data is available whenever requested. The Nation has developed a mixture of apartments and emergency units over the last couple years to remedy the wait list.

**What is the communication plan/current practice in place between Education and HR to ensure we bring our post-secondary graduates back to the nation to build our capacity?**

Human Resources and Education have strategic discussions about our workforce needs and how Education can communicate, encourage, and even perhaps incentivize these opportunities for prospective students and citizens. The Nation is currently developing a long-term education plan and will be seeking inputs from the community.

**When will the new Housing Policy be ready?**

The Housing policy and the Home and Land Transfer policy is currently being drafted and is expected to be completed in 2025 for the next General Assembly.

**Treaty Settlement funds are a drop in the bucket to aid us for the next 1000 years. Is there a master plan for economic development to further sustain the Tla’amin Nation?**

The Nation recently requested Tla’amin Management Services prepare a five-year plan.

**Does a member bring in revenue into the community through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada? If so, how much per person?**

Tla’amin has a Fiscal Financial Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (formerly Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada). The funding for each program on the FFA is tied to different metrics with only three programs tied to population: social development, education, and health.

**If the Nation is having such a problem with arrears, what other solutions have been considered other than building more homes for a growing**



Knowledge keeper of the BBQ fish Joan Williams kitchen was literally on fire for the feast of the opening day

**population. Has there been discussions where commercial/residential ventures (developments) can be considered?**

The Nation is developing a Capital Plan as a key feature of our upcoming Community Housing Services Plan (CHSP), which will help guide future home construction over the next year and is continually working on solutions for the arrears.

**How do you plan to collaborate with other First Nations and organizations to strengthen our community?**

Tla’amin EC and staff participate in the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations. This coalition of modern treaty nations works for our common interests and issues related to governance, fiscal negotiations, and policy change. Recently this group secured additional funding for Lands & Resource management .

Our Nation also collaborates with Sister Nations to support language and culture, education, and revitalization. Our CNP goal over the coming year will be to build stronger relations with our Sister Nations to support more collaboration in other areas of governance.

**Why does the back of our Status cards read we will no longer be tax-exempt as of April 5, 2024?**

This is an holdover from old treaty language that would have made Tla’amin Citizens ineligible for exemptions. In 2022 Tla’amin leadership successfully negotiated for Tla’amin people to keep their tax exemption. This took effect through treaty amendments in 2023. Make an appointment with Kylie Paul, Citizenship Registrar to be issued a new status card without that wording.

**How much time are we giving people to sort out their finances and building plans for the new subdivision (Harwood Lane)?**

3 months (90 days) to get your confirmation from the bank for a mortgage pre-approval, then your application package will go to EC for their approval. Following that lot allocation, you will have 1 year to complete the build. It is possible to receive an extension on that year timeline by contacting Lands Director Denise Smith.

**Does anybody know about the infringement on our shared territory in Campbell River? Our Kwakwaka’wakw neighbours are proposing to rename place names in a shared territory and that is also impacting our Homalco relatives.**

Tla’amin is exploring a “breach of Treaty”. We have a meeting with our neighbours to address the name proposals.

**How do we create transparency from meetings that happen behind closed doors? How do we address the abuse that impacts our elders, woman and our community members? Why are non-native staff in higher positions in our Governance House.**

In-camera matters deal with certain individuals or business, and is not right for the public eye. If it has to do with a business transaction which is confidential then we respect that. Our CAO and Government Secretary make the call to go in-camera and not the Executive Council.

Public safety is at the forefront of our Comprehensive Nation Plan which considers the past and current landscape.

Non-Tla’amin people are working alongside Tla’amin people to run an effective government. Senior staff are mentoring Tla’amin people towards a path that will allow Tla’amin to fill these roles in the future. More and more of our members are going to university to get their degrees for the higher level positions.

**At the last information session I attended on tisk-wat, we needed to sign a non-disclosure agreement to attend. This is a departure from our ways of doing things to share information and gather consensus in favour of protecting those third party and corporate interests, and on and on. Why?**

BC sold the river to these entities. We’ve been negotiating with them to share information about those previous negotiations, so we had to require the NDA. That is to protect the Nation from being sued and losing our assets. We would like to meet with you and other youth you are organized with to hear what you propose as an alternative.

**Land use development was mentioned earlier. Will this also include residential development for sale to the public?**

Our Land Use Plan is being updated and a Lot Allocation Policy is being developed to realize if these opportunities make sense to our nation.

## The xʷεʔέtáy-Lasqueti Archaeology Project (XLAP): Protecting and Honouring Indigenous Heritage on the Island in the Middle of Everywhere

Presenters: Dana Lepofsky (archaeologist) & Sean Markey (policy and planning professor) from Simon Fraser University (SFU)

Archaeology connects people to the places they call home. The goal of xʷεʔέtáy-Lasqueti Archaeology Project (XLAP) is to bring Tla'amin and settler communities together through a shared appreciation of the archaeological heritage. Indigenous Cultural Heritage is said to be lost "at the pace of development" but that speaks to failed policy to protect cultural heritage—provincial and federal policy seeks to facilitate settler colonial development, removing power from local decision makers (First Nations or municipal governments).

The XLAP team invites interested Tla'amin members to the opening

### Did you really find jade?

Technically archaeologists will call it jadeite, but yes! It is a highly valued tool by the elite, and its main sources are found in what is known today as Lillooet and Hope. What was found on xʷεʔέtáy is the higher quality Lillooet material.

### How can people access xʷεʔέtáy for the mural unveiling?

On May 3, 2025 there will be boats available and departing from Tla'amin Nation. There is the regular ferry service between the qathet and Comox. If traveling by ferry we want people to come off the first sailing in the morning. Dana is coordinating with Tla'amin Nation to figure out when boats will be leaving tšosəm and other locations.



Referrals Coordinator Racheal Sydenham shares her knowledge of some of the discoveries in our territory.

### Traditionally, ʔaʔamun qayεmixʷ would not have needed permission to access the land. Is there a process for accessing the land today?

Today, some individual's private lands are not open to Tla'amin peoples, but there many others who would invite Tla'amin people onto their lands to harvest materials.

### Can the Layered Histories website be expanded to cover all Tla'amin archaeological sites for Nation members who want to know our history?

Tla'amin Nation members are entitled to know this information and are welcome to inquire at governance house—it is your history and your ancestors. There are opportunities, through the Lands & Resources department, for cultural tours; and summer students or post-secondary students often work with the department as Culture & Heritage Technicians or shadowing Guardians. Information is also frequently shared in the Nehmotl newsletter.

## Tla'amin Education Plan

Presenters: Sophie Call, Director

The Education department has committed to developing an Education Plan, starting with K-12 as the middle piece from which a plan for pre-school/daycare and post-secondary will be developed. The GIJE (formerly traditional skill-builder program) and qaymixʷqenəmšt (immersion school) are very popular and represent a good foundation for future programs to support Tla'amin students. There is no deadline for the Education Plan as the priority is to get it right which involves hearing from community. Participants imagined the typical school day and suggested elements of a "great day," then suggested challenges and barriers that prevent students from having good experiences in schools. Feedback will be used to help develop the Education Plan.

### Do absences include students who miss part of a day for appointments?

No, absences are defined as missing the full day of school.

### Do the surveys refer to all Indigenous children and parents?

The school district has data about all Indigenous students, but the surveys presented in this session referred specifically to Tla'amin students and their families.

### How do the Tla'amin responses about Parent Safety & Satisfaction compare with the experiences of non-Indigenous, or all students and their families? How do we compare to the district as a whole?

Great question—the survey was directed towards only Tla'amin families, but it would be a good idea to ask other families in the district to understand the bigger picture.

### Is the Safety & Satisfaction survey filled out by students?

There is a separate survey completed by students this year, but data is not available yet. The data from these surveys are expected to be slightly biased towards positive experiences, understanding that children who are not doing well in school may not have the opportunity or desire to participate.

### Will the Education Plan claim responsibility for all Tla'amin children, or will it just cover students in our local school district?

The mandate in Education flows through the Treaty, so the associated funding is connected to the number of students on Tla'amin Lands.

### Does Tla'amin employ a school coordinator or outreach worker who follows up with families whose children are not attending school?

That responsibility falls largely within the Child & Family Services team, but there is not a specific staff member who is responsible for reaching out.

### Does it have to be a school bus to take children to school, or are individuals able to transport our students?

There are no dedicated staff for transporting students, but staff are available to drive children to school if they miss the school bus.

### How many Tla'amin children should be going to school?

Estimated 165 K-12 students enrolled in our local schools.

## Home Transfer Policy Workshop

*Presenters: Stuart Clark, Director of Housing, hegusJohn Hackett and Executive Councilor Dillon Johnson*

The Home Transfer Policy Workshop provided an opportunity for Tla'amin Nation members to learn about and provide feedback on the draft Home Transfer Policy. This policy aims to create a fair, transparent process for home transfers while respecting community values and addressing past concerns. Below are highlights from the presentation and the Q&A session.

**Why is it only single detached housing for home ownership? What about those already waiting for transfer? What about where we are registered with Indigenous Services Canada?**

There are situations where there could be exceptions with block housing. We may need to work through some legacy issues on certain units.

**What is a fee simple restricted title?**

It is a transfer restriction on title meaning that the land may only be sold or transferred to Tla'amin Citizens, Tla'amin Institutions or Tla'amin Entities.

**Could non-members become part of Tla'amin Institution or Entity and then own a home that way?**

Tla'amin institutions are approved via Tla'amin laws. Tla'amin entities are also regulated. Not possible to become an institution of entity without checks and balances.

**Is there an opportunity to sell property back to TN so they could upgrade to a larger home?**

That would be possible and reviewed case-by-case; however, would not be related to this policy. There is traditional land holdings (ancestry) and CP properties. Will ancestry and history be considered? Yes, the connection to the home is in the minimum requirements section outlined in the presentation.

**What happens if there are multiple interests in one home?**

In those cases, we want to offer support to the family so that they can make one application. If there are non-family conflicts, family ties to the home will be highly prioritized. Ultimately it will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, criteria will help to strengthen applications.

**Does s. 95 social housing apply to this? For example, if the mother passed away and children are living in the house, would they need to apply?**

Yes, from the sounds of it we foresee that being a straightforward request.

**Under CMHC agreement you pay for amortization over a period of years, it was in the agreement that they could buy their house for \$1 if there were no rental arrears. They should automatically be transferred ownership. Why are they still being charged rent?**

Request for a 1-1 conversation after the presentation. Generally that scenario sounds like the perfect person to be applying.

**Why can leadership deny the request... It is a voting system. What capacity building, training, etc. do they have to be making this kind of decision? We should be able to make appeals.**

By the time it gets to EC, there has been a lot of review by staff, recommendation by directors, and legal opinion which will be provided as background. Ultimately, only EC can make that decision under Tla'amin law. There is an appeals process for decisions made under Tla'amin law, its call the review and appeals panel.



**What is considered health and safety standards for home transfers? There have been inequities in the past.**

We will be working with our building inspector on staff and will have an inspection process specific to this policy that will be consistent across applications. There will be a transfer agreement as part of the process where the improvements will be laid out to the transferee and clear.

**What does meaningful connection mean and who decides?**

It is really a function of time residing or family residing in the home and financial contribution from the family. We are keeping this broad but have contemplated being specific about this. Are there any thoughts on specific thresholds?

**Could there be a challenge around tenancy and community history?**

None of these are proposed to be hard and fast eligibility, we are willing to work with people with support of the Nation to meet the criteria and perhaps offer supports if needed.

**How is tenancy and community history being reviewed? If we are judging people, how are we also helping them overcome those obstacles? Could people bad mouth applicants?**

This is intended to be a restorative process. Gives us an opportunity to help support that person as part of the transfer agreement. We would be reviewing records only, not gossip.

**What is conditional citizenship?**

When applying for citizenship there is a conditional period and a waiting period to own a home.

**In Good Standing is important but some may not be In Good Standing for personal reasons. It is very important for people to take responsibility for home maintenance. For a pensioner who is alone, how are they going to take responsibility?**

We recognize that home maintenance is a challenge due to costs. We are working on a home maintenance program separately, and with programs specifically for seniors.

If you own a home, can you opt in to pay a monthly maintenance fee for TN to oversee maintenance.

Yes, we are still looking at doing this. Separate from this policy.

**Are all the homes in the community insured?**

Yes, under one policy. All are insured to current replacement home (cost to rebuild it). Homeowners can add additional insurance for their contents at their discretion.

With respect to property review, when I bought my home, I had to do a lot of work on the drainage amounting to \$15K. To set people up for success, basic requirements should be addressed such as drainage.

We want to set up a consistent process and fully review each property. We want to do a good service to

the applicant and ensure there are no hidden surprises. This step is meant to catch everything we already know about and anything we don't know yet.

**Wasn't there a 5-yr renovation agreement with the government? What was the amount for each home? Is there something specific for Elders? We have been waiting for our house to be renovated.**

There have been multiple renovation agreements. The most recent was \$1M for restoration per year and we are prioritizing them based on greatest need. Doing 10-15 a year, there is 60 or so on the list.

**In the past, there were restrictions around how we could renovate homes based on how they were constructed and managed at the time. We did what we could. We have had other people come in and tell us what needs to be done to our homes without listening to us. Doing patchwork renovations instead of fixing the source of the issue and there is a need to do post-inspections to ensure issues like mold are resolved.**

It is fair to hold our contractors to accountability. Outside of the conversation in this policy but those issues can be reported to the Housing Department.

**Please clarify what the public notification process would look like? What is the purpose of the notification other than to let people know? What kind of feedback is being accepted?**

**Does the 30 day notification go off-community lands? For consideration, there are some who are not technologically savvy, Elders, etc. Suggestion would be mailing it out and extending the timeline.**

Currently only proposing to notify via the website and Nehmotl. Will consider other options.

Primary purpose is to prevent a property from being transferred and having a community member find out later if they felt it should have been transferred to them instead. No feedback is being solicited, we want people to make an application if they feel the house should be transferred to them instead and we would review them concurrently.

Once you receive the house, need to register with BC Housing. That costs money. People may not realize that. Once that is done, people need to have a will and understand what probate is. We are not taxable, probate lawyer was taxing me on top of their fees. Had to fight to stop that.

The Nation would cover cost of first transfer. That is good feedback.

It should be mandated to have a will if you accept a home. Not sure if we can mandate writing a will but we will be strongly encouraging it and continuing wills workshops.

**Do you accept when parents handed property over to their children verbally? Is that recognized?** Yes, that would be recognized as a meaningful connection. We want to work with families have clear intentions.

## Housing Arrears Forgiveness

*Presenters: Berry Hykin, Riley Brennan, Janel Silvey, John Hackett, Losa Luaifoa, Dillon Johnson.*

### Opening remarks from leadership

During previous consultation there has been a consensus among citizens to forgive housing arrears (prior to March 31, 2016). Rental debts go back as far as 40 years in some cases. Important to follow our laws and policies and forgive the debt properly.

This is a legacy issue that we are trying to address and move forward. Housing has been a major area of unfair decision making where some benefited and some lost out. Has been dealt with as one-offs in the past and no clear path to address at community-level in a fair way. We think this is in the best interests of the Nation going forward. Do not intend to come back in future with similar ask and taking steps to ensure that. Debt forgiveness requires community information session.

Past administration and leadership has supported this direction of arrears forgiveness but was paused as we needed capacity to do it in the right way in accordance with the Administration and Finance Law.

Berry Hykin and Riley Brennan presented the proposed Rental Arrears Forgiveness Policy, addressing pre-2016 rental debts that cannot be substantiated due to lost records during an accounting system change. The policy directs the forgiveness of these debts, enabling a focus on collecting post-2016 arrears, building new homes, and repairing existing ones. There was acknowledgement that some community members did not pay rent because their housing was not healthy and safe, or were promised renovations that never materialized. The policy emphasizes accountability, respect, fairness, honesty, sharing, and integrity, aiming for a sustainable financial future while fostering trust and community cooperation.

**For those who paid rent, what is going to happen for those who are not paying. What will happen to those who debts are forgiven? Are they going to be In Good Standing?**

### Why did previous accountant not record this?

Arrears were previously recorded on the balance sheet. Allowance was established as likely not recoverable.

We have an accounting system in place now that can address arrears post-2016. Fifty percent of list only have arrears pre-2016.

People had their reasons not to pay their rent during that period of time. It is not fair for everyone. But we need to move forward and realize we are not able to collect it.

The way our In Good Standing Policy works, if you only had pre-2016 housing arrears approving this policy would put them in good standing.

### What was transferred in April 1, 2016?

On that date, no transaction history (per house) was transferred only the total amount of arrears.

### If your arrears are forgiven, would you be able to qualify for home ownership?

If you only had pre-2016 arrears, you would qualify for home ownership if the policy is approved (if being In Good Standing was an issue).

### What is the extent of non-housing debts?

Only housing arrears would be forgiven. Other types of pre-2016 debt would not be forgiven. Types of debt would include not following through with an education program that was paid by TN but they did not complete it, or amounts owing for the housing maintenance program.

Our next steps would be to collect on debts incurred after April 1, 2016. We haven't been able to send out statements because we couldn't explain anything pre-2016. We want to be sending out statements we can defend and start having conversations about debt in 2025. We will work with people to resolve it through repayment plans. Finance and Housing will be working to recover these post-2016 debts.



### What is the validity of the “Good Standing Policy” is it a human rights violation?

In Good Standing just means financially In Good Standing and nothing further than that at this time.

### Are you going to be posting the names of the people who didn't pay their rent? Why are we not entitled to know who did not pay rent?

We can look into what can be shared. The system has names with numbers next to them and they are disputing those amounts; however, we have no records to substantiate the amount of debt owing. It would be a risk to the organization to publish a list of names with or without a dollar value next to it as we have no way to defend that information. I am supporting this policy for the best interest of the Nation, not because I am trying to personally help anyone, it is just the best way forward.

This exercise is not to point fingers or blame; we are trying to just move forward.

We will take steps to collect debt, but we will do that with compassion to find a workable solution. We don't want to make anybody homeless.

### Input from Citizens about Housing Arrears Forgiveness Policy

I can feel the frustration and I hear what you're saying. But when I look at the Panel, and those who are sharing their comments... I have sympathy this is a difficult issue.

- Our ancestors are listening. We all must move forward. I believe in our future, caring and sharing. I want to put my hands out to our young people who are facing these long-standing issues.

- We want to make sure our kids can have houses, own their own cars and be well set up.

- I can't spend my life not forgiving, we are not getting any younger, let's love one another and work together.

There are over 100 tenants not paying rent today. How are we going to change the culture on that, in a good way and in line with our ta'ow and teachings. It is not right, and it is not fair. There is a shortage of housing. We should not be supporting this behaviour.

- I don't want to see anyone's family on the street. I don't care what their circumstances are.

- As an off-lands member, we have had to pay our way all along. We could not get away with not paying our rent. It's a responsibility that people must learn.

# F2024 Financial Presentation

Presenter: Janel Silvey, CFO

The F2024 consolidated audited financial statements are expected in Spring 2025 when the Tla'amin Management Services F2023 audit will be completed. For F2025 and beyond, Tla'amin has appointed Doane Grant Thornton as audit representation replacing KPMG.

In F2024, total expenses were \$45.2m. Operating expenses included a one-time community COVID dividend funded through Indigenous Community Support funds, and expanded educational, health, and recreation services. Included in total expenses was \$7.8m of capital investments to address the historic infrastructure gap and provide safe, clean, and functional housing.

**Explain planned deficit in simpler terms so the community can understand what that is. Is it a debt?**

A planned deficit happens when spending outpaces revenues for a current fiscal year and the government draws from its savings to meet the current year needs.

The accounting rules require organizations to have fiscal years. A fiscal year looks at the tala coming in and out for a specific period. We all know our bank accounts just don't work like that. Our bank accounts can have a cumulation of many years of tala going in and out which can form savings.

Since the treaty was signed, Tla'amin has accumulated \$22.8m unrestricted savings. These unrestricted savings are being used to fund the planned deficit.

Because Tla'amin has savings, no debt is required to fund the planned deficit.

**What is being paid for out of the deficit?**

Operating expenses including wages and program delivery expenses, and capital expenses including infrastructure costs.

**Are we permitted to see all the journal entries that went into this planned deficit?**

This not a planned deficit general ledger account therefore there are no journal entries attributable to the planned deficit.



**How do you plan on recovering the planned deficit?**

Any planned deficit will be funded from savings.

We do not anticipate the F25 planned deficit to be as large as \$8.5m due to new funding agreements and a profit share dividend from Tla'amin Management Services.

**First paper annual report I have seen since 2019. That is great. Few meetings ago there was a request for remuneration statement to be included. Elected officials and senior staff.**

It is posted to the website, under the General Assembly link.

**What is our total staff? I saw in the presentation 70% are TN.**

As of the General Assembly date, there are 261 staff including part-time, full-time and casual. 182 staff (approx. 70%) are Tla'amin.

**Updated organizational structural should be included for understanding of the structure and who to reach out to.**

This will be addressed at a future General Assembly.

**We are getting funding, where is it coming from? How much are we pulling in? What are we doing to generate revenue? We should be heading to self-governance. Not depending on funding from others.**

Funding is coming from Indigenous Services Canada, other Federal ministries, the Province of BC, and other organizations that provide grant funding. There is a lot of work happening within Tla'amin's inter-governmental relations team to advocate and negotiate for more funding on behalf of Tla'amin.

Tla'amin Management Services is also working on various business opportunities to generate more revenue for Tla'amin.

**What do we do to invest our savings while we are not using it?**

Last year, Tla'amin moved away from bonds and securities due to market volatility. The nation is utilizing guaranteed income certificates (GICs) to generate interest income. Finance keeps a close eye on the cash coming in and out to maintain adequate cash reserves to cover operational expenses as well as invest available cash to earn a higher rate of return through GICs.

**Are you able to forecast further years if we will need to continue planned deficits we will quickly be out of money. How are we trying to mitigate that?**

Tla'amin has accumulated \$22.8m unrestricted savings. These savings are being used to fund the planned deficit. Very simply, if planned deficit of \$8.5m was to continue each year, the Nation would run out of unrestricted savings in 2.7 years

and need to tap into restricted savings.

We do not anticipate the F25 planned deficit to be as large as \$8.5m due to new funding agreements and a profit share dividend from Tla'amin Management Services.

Tla'amin Management Services is also working on various business opportunities to generate more revenue for Tla'amin.

**Has the feasibility of sewer system hookup to City of Powell River vs. building a sewage treatment plant been studied? What is the cost of the hookup?**

With respect to capital cost the hookup and on-going maintenance will be funded by the federal government. In approximately one year the sewer system will be connected.

**Comment:**

We should note that we have not jumped into a deficit as soon as Treaty arrived. We have maintained surplus' as governments routinely run deficits for betterment of community. It is tough to do but does make sense at times.

## Workshop Title: Tla'amin Management Services Citizen Update

Presenter: Braden Smith, CEO (TMS)

KPMG Auditors attended to present the consolidated financial statement for 2021-2022. The Balance Sheet lists assets (what we own), liabilities (what we owe), and equity (what is left over). Total assets in 2021 amounted to \$53.1 million, and in 2022 was \$80 million. Total liabilities amounted to \$19.5 million in 2021, and \$20.1 million in 2022. Following the overview presentation, TMS took questions from Citizens.

### Are there additional expenses besides lawyers included in the line item for professional services?

Lawyers and auditors are generally the bulk of those two categories. There is an additional category for subcontractors charged separately.

### Is it possible to access income statements for individual programs?

A compilation engagement on each entity is available through each entity. Those individualized income statements as well as consolidated reports are available by request.

### How many board members are there?

We have two boards (holdings and operations) and there are five members on each including the chairs.

### How are the boards selected?

The appointments to the holdings board are made by Legislative Assembly, and there is a call for Expressions of Interest to fill vacancies. On the operating board, the process is managed by the holdings board—so once the holdings board is fully constituted, the operating board vacancies will be filled in a similar manner, with appointments made by the holdings board.



### Who are the consultants employed by TMS?

Most TMS entities employ consultants to support operations.

### Who is the third-party liability mentioned in the financial report?

A&A Trading manages some of Thichum's contracts, and as a result of that there is a legal partnership established.

### What are the tourism operations managed by TMS?

The Lund Hotel is the primary arm and reopened on June 1 this year.

### When will FY2024 reports be ready?

The 2023 audit process began last week. The 2024 work will begin sometime in 2025, as it normally takes some time after the end of a year.

There were some challenges in completing the audits for 2021-2022, but now that work is complete there will be more timely reporting going forward.

### How will you involve all community members, to provide information that is being requested in today's meeting?

In May, we committed to presenting the 2021-22 financials today, and we have met that. We welcome the community to come to TMS and speak with us directly to request information—all Tla'amin people are shareholders in its work.

### How do you check in with your staff to be sure they are doing well and doing good work?

Most of the time HR and supervisors are checking in with staff, but on occasion issues will be

## Name Change Documentary Video Discussion

Presenters: *hegus John Hackett, Dillon Johnson, Tanner Timothy, Erik Blaney, Callum Galligos, Brandon Louie*

In 2021 the request was made to the City of Powell River to consider a change to its namesake. After the previous council pushed the decision to the next government, progress has stalled. The purpose of this discussion is to hear from community about how this process is impacting our membership, given the interpersonal tensions throughout the region which have resulted from the request.

### How do you approach a hate group and deal with it? That's a difficult question.

We have stories of Europeans who showed up hungry, who then took advantage of kindness shown to



them to murder people and take their lands. Freedom of speech does not exist in Canada the same way it does in the United States. It is important to educate people on the history including evidence from records produced at that time (such as medical records, reports from the institutions). There were no positive intentions in the schools Why else would they have ripped children away from their families and abused them? People in Powell River need to understand that.

Quite often we are preaching to the people who are already on our

side. These people need to hear it, because they are frontline workers in our community. It's important to know that the RCMP who come into our community, wear the same uniforms as the people who took children away from our communities—and it is important for them to know that they look like our abusers, and that triggers some people in our community.

Now we have hit a bump in the road, with these Concerned Citizens making so many accusations; but if we were to take a consensus in the room, there may be support

for a name change, but we need to know what that process looks like.

### Could you share some of the works that needs to be done?

We have shared other cities' reconciliation plans with the City of Powell River, and that we need a plan here as well. We are looking at 45 businesses and institutions which have changed their names away from Powell River.

### I do believe we have done our work developing recommendations and reports. If we are stuck, it is with the city. Is there a mechanism to go above their heads?

We have pushed Municipal Affairs, and even with a pro-reconciliation government they have been unwilling to force the issue. But we will keep pushing.

# Health and Wellness

**EH KWA'A'NUNS KYE'AMIEUX**  
"When the people in our community are well again, all around us will also be well."

**# Itstartswithme**



## Baby's First Christmas

**Logan Katherine Parr**

February 26, 2024

**Parents:**

**Brittany Vivier and Landon Parr**

# Tla'amin Accepts \$10,000 Donation from ILLAHIE Foundation for Name-Sake Documentary Film

The Tla'amin Nation is grateful for a generous \$10,000 donation from the ILLAHIE Foundation to support post-production activities for təm kʷaθ nan (NameSake) documentary film.

təm kʷaθ nan documents the Tla'amin Nation's request that the City of Powell River change its name. The city is named after Israel Wood Powell who served as B.C.'s Superintendent of Indian Affairs for 17 years.

Julia Levy, a cofounder of the ILLAHIE foundation, says, "The NameSake documentary is an essential window into Tla'amin People's deep connection to their lands, as well as the history of dispossession at the hands of colonial agents. We are honoured to support this seminal film."

Dr. Julia Levy is a distinguished Canadian microbiologist, immunologist, educator, entrepreneur, and business leader. She

val imagery, and contemporary perspectives to amplify Tla'amin voices and build community understanding about the request for a name change. In the spirit of reconciliation 45 local organizations, businesses and non-profits have voluntarily changed their name over the last three years.

The Tla'amin Nation invites others who are inspired by this project to contribute to its success. Donations to the NameSake documen-



Tla'amin Namesake documentary film crew, from left: Claudia Medina, Davis McKenzie, Dr. Evan Adams, Peg Campbell, Eileen Francis, and Angela Kendall. Missing Emily White.

Powell was instrumental in the establishment of Indian Residential Schools, the banning of the potlatch and the theft of Lot 450 in Tla'amin territory.

təm kʷaθ nan has been in production since 2022 and hundreds of hours of interviews and footage have already been captured. A trailer is available here.

The ILLAHIE Foundation is a family foundation established by Julia and Ed Levy. The term "Illahie" originates from the Chinook Jargon, meaning "land" or "earth." The ILLAHIE Foundation, draws its name from this term, reflecting a connection to the land and a commitment to environmental and social causes.

is an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition of her roles in discovering and developing the first medical treatment for macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness in the elderly. Dr. Levy resides in qathet territory.

"We extend our heartfelt čečəhaθeč (thank you) to the Levy family and the ILLAHIE Foundation for believing in the importance of this story," said Hegus John Hackett. "These finishing funds will go a long way in making this documentary one that leaves a legacy for our community and beyond."

Scheduled for release in June 2025, təm kʷaθ nan combines oral history, archi-

tary film can help preserve this critical story for future generations. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact [media@tn-bc.ca](mailto:media@tn-bc.ca)

Teaser Trailer:



Tla'amin Nation shares its deep condolences on the passing of Julia Levy and send our love and strength to Ed and the family.



Lorraine Wilson Memorial Fund



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S  
SUCCESSFUL RECIPIENT!  
**JADE HOBENSHIELD**



I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank Laurina Mayenburg, Noreen Paul, Brittany Wilson, April Treakle and Tarra Tipton for their time and consideration in selecting this year's successful recipient.

I would also like to thank all of the other applicants that submitted their wonderful letters and wish you all the best in your studies and nothing but success in your future endeavours.

*Borgford*



**2024 Seasons' Greetings**

**Tla'amin Elders & Doreen Hopkins**  
604-483-3009 ext. 126

**May your holiday season be blessed with peace, good company and sweet memories.**



**Please join us for Tla'amin Elders luncheons at Health**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. (Tuesdays)**  
**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Have a safe & happy holiday season, from Tla'amin Management Services LP, Thichum Forestry, Tla'amin Resorts & Accommodations Inc., Pa'aje Shellfish Services LP & Select Sand and Gravel.

*The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express to you "Seasons Greetings" and good wishes. May Christmas and the coming new year bring happiness and health To you and your family*



**TLA'AMIN EDUCATION IS OFFERING QATHET GRADE 10-12 INDIGENOUS STUDENTS WHO IMPROVE THEIR ATTENDANCE OVER JANUARY & FEBRUARY A CHANCE TO WIN A 4-DAY TRIP TO VANCOUVER IN MARCH**

- Visit UBC & SFU to check out their Science programs and see some awesome science in action
- Visit Science World, the Aquarium and/or the Vancouver Zoo
- Night out at the movies
- All meals and accommodations provided
- \*As an added bonus, the 10 students whose names are drawn will receive \$100 spending money.\*

Each week in Jan. and Feb., the names of students with improved attendance and perfect attendance will be entered into the draw. 10 names will be drawn on March 3rd.

*Vancouver  
Urban  
Cultural  
Days*

**Date: February 7th-9th 2025**

Location: Westin Bayshore  
1601 Bayshore Dr., Vancouver, BC V6G 2V4





**Schedule**

**Friday:** Dinner @ 5pm followed by drumming/singing - **Open to all Tla'amin Nation Members (Please RSVP if possible)**

**Saturday:** Workshops run 9:00am - 4:00pm (lunch provided)

**Sunday:** Workshops run 9:00am - 12:30pm

Workshops Include: Cedar Weaving, Drum Making, Language Class and Drumming and Singing. Weaving and Drum Making are limited to 10 people per workshop and 1 person per household

RSVP with Drew Blaney  
drew.blaney@tn-bc.ca  
(604)-483-9646 ext. 123




# təʔaw

## teachings from TOSUM



### How About a Cup of Holiday Protein?

*Charlene Muskego is a member of the Tla'amin Nation. Her late mother is Elsie Wilson, and her late sister is Kristina Wilson. She owns Tosum Ltd, which empowers individuals through fitness, nutrition, and personal transformation. As a wellness-focused business, Tosum Ltd's mission is to nurture health, body, and spirit, which aligns with good medicine.*

Are you looking to support other indigenous small businesses for Christmas gifts this season? Would you like to try a delicious coffee protein smoothie recipe? Keep reading to learn who Tosum Ltd. recently collaborated with. Building connections with all our relations is at the heart of what we do, which is why we came together kwukwametawšt. Both feel the same way and want to give back to our communities through our services, providing always good medicine. Moccasin Joe is an indigenous owned business from farmer to roaster offering fresh coffee with good medicine. Please feel free to learn more about them on their website and order if you enjoy fresh coffee as much as I do! <https://moccasinjoe.coffee/>

The first recipe is Mocassin Joe Coffee Protein Smoothie, and the second is a local favorite from our coffee roaster Julie's other businesses, a cafe known as Fuel Bar inside Kanehsatake CrossFit, The Beast smoothie—a perfect choice for fuelling intense workouts.

#### Coffee Protein Smoothie Recipe

##### Ingredients:

- 1 cup brewed Moccasin Joe coffee (cooled)
- 1 scoop protein powder (vanilla or chocolate)
- 1 frozen banana
- 1 tbsp almond or peanut butter
- 1/2 cup almond milk (or milk of choice)
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon (optional)

##### Instructions:

1. Brew Moccasin Joe coffee and let it cool.
2. Blend coffee, protein powder, banana, nut butter, milk, and cinnamon until smooth.
3. Pour into a glass and enjoy!



Family workouts is a great way to maintain a healthy connection

#### The Beast

##### Ingredients:

- 260g plant-based milk
- 1 banana
- 15g peanut or almond butter
- 35g oat flour (ground oats)
- 1 shot espresso (or 30g of Moccasin Joe coffee)
- 1 scoop protein powder
- 15g maple syrup (optional)

##### Instructions:

1. Blend all ingredients together until creamy and smooth.
2. Pour into a glass for a powerful pre- or post-workout boost!

Feel free to tag @tosum.strong and @moccasin\_joecoffee to try and share these recipes! Let us know how they taste!

May you enjoy your holidays with your family ʔimot tams qʷal qatʰεw and these two delicious recipes! ʔimot (thank you).

Čεčhatənapεč,

### Tla'amin Recreation Programming

#### A Much-Deserved Christmas Break for All

The way Christmas falls this year and the generous holiday week gifted by the Tla'amin Nation, ʔaytšən ʔaye | Cousin's House will not be offering a Winter Break Camp. This will give our staff a well-deserved opportunity to rest, enjoy the Christmas festivities, and spend quality time with family. We will resume our regular programming on Monday, January 6th, 2025, and we can't wait to hear all about your holiday adventures!

#### Upcoming Programs

Please keep an eye out for the 2025 Winter Community Program Guide, which will highlight a variety of programming from January to March 2025.

Register for all your favorite programs at [tla'amin.perfectmind.com](http://tla'amin.perfectmind.com)

For the latest updates and posts about our programs, be sure to visit our Facebook page, "Tla'amin Community Recreation."

#### Featured Programs

##### Slime Workshop

Ages 6 - 12 years

Join us at Cousin's House to create four different types of ooey-goey slime! This hands-on experience is designed for fun and creativity. Don't miss out on the gooey excitement!

**Pre-registration is required for this program.**

Session 1: Tue. Jan. 14 - Feb. 4 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Session 2: Tue. Feb. 11 - Mar. 4 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Location: ʔaytšən ʔaye | Cousin's House

##### Whisk It Up

Ages 10 - 18 years

Join us for this exciting 5-session kids baking program, where young bakers can learn how to whip up a variety of delicious goodies! Each session will teach the chuy's essential kitchen skills while they create yummy sweet treats. It's a fun and hands-on way for them to explore their creativity and develop a love for baking. Don't miss out on the chance to make new friends and enjoy some tasty creations!

**Pre-registration is required for this program.**

Session 1: Wed. Jan. 15 - Feb. 5 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Session 2: Wed. Feb. 12 - Mar. 5 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Location: ʔaytšən ʔaye | Cousin's House

##### Swim Lessons

Ages 5 – 12 years

Swimmer 1 & 2: These beginners will become comfortable jumping into the water with and without a PFD. They'll learn how to open their eyes and exhale their breath underwater. Floats, glides, kicking and front stroke skills are introduced. Transportation provided from school with parent pick-up after the lessons at Cousin's House.

**Pre-registration is required for this program.**

##### Session 1:

(5 - 6 yrs.) Fri. Jan. 10 - Feb. 7 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

(7 - 12 yrs.) Fri. Jan. 10 - Feb. 7 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

##### Session 2:

(5 - 6 yrs.) Fri. Feb. 14 - Mar. 14 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

(7 - 12 yrs.) Fri. Feb. 14 - Mar. 14 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Complex Aquatic Centre

##### Pro-D Day

Ages: 5-12 years

A full day camp that will have kids exploring on various field-trips, and learning different arts & crafts, sports, and games.

Pre-registration is required for each date.

Fri. Jan. 27 8:30 am - 4:30 pm - Assumption

Thu. Feb. 13 8:30 am - 4:30 pm - Assumption

Fri. Feb. 14 **NO PROGRAMMING DUE TO STAFF TRAINING**

Location: ʔaytšən ʔaye | Cousin's House

# Policy Update on Aboriginal Commercial Licences (ACLs)

By Denise Smith, Director of Lands and Resources



## BACKGROUND:

Tla'amin Nation owns 46 of 568 commercial licences (ACLs) for harvesting clams in Areas B, C, and D. These are different from general commercial licences, as they are specially designated "category Z2ACL" aboriginal communal licences. Citizens may hold either the general or a category Z2ACL licence, however the Tla'amin Nation government only covers associated fees for the Z2ACL licences which are owned by Tla'amin Nation. Individuals who own a general commercial clam licence are responsible for their own fees and management.



Lands & Resources provides DFO with the names of Diggers who may use each ACL, on an annual basis, for commercial clam harvesting. Tla'amin Nation is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal rules and regulations established by Canada. To ensure licences are managed fairly and with transparency, the draft ACL Management Policy proposes a consistent decision-making process for staff to follow when allocating licences. The draft will be presented to Executive Council for approval in the new year, with the intention to implement the policy before licences are renewed on March 1.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Only Tla'amin Nation Citizens are eligible to hold an ACL. Citizens must be considered "in good standing" in accordance with the In Good Standing Policy. Both citizenship and in good standing checks will be completed by Lands & Resources staff before the ACL Draw to allocate licences.

To comply with federal regulations and use the online portal managed by DFO, applicants must have photo identification and they must have a digital GCKey which allows access to websites managed by Canada. Photo ID will be confirmed when a person signs up for the ACL Draw, and they must verbally confirm they have a GCKey or will be able to set one up if they win the draw.

Other requirements are set out in the Conditions of Licence agreement that licence holders will sign with DFO each year. This includes harvesting equipment, high-visibility clothing, and recordkeeping materials for marking containers and fish slips. Applicants must also confirm they have these materials or are able to purchase them prior to harvesting clams.

## RENEWAL PROCESS:

In December of each year, Lands & Resources will request data from DFO including fish slips associated with Tla'amin Nation ACLs. Staff will prepare a report outlining the total poundage harvested by each licence holder and the report will be used to ensure regulatory compliance. A review of the harvest data will also include any reports or observations of violations by Diggers throughout the season. Data will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the following:

- Licences are used only by the person designated to DFO as the licence holder.
- Licences are being actively used throughout the season.
- Licence holders are harvesting clams within the area designated on their licence.

Licence holders will be able to renew each year if no concerns are raised through the review. If no poundage is recorded over the previous year, staff will contact Diggers to discuss if they intend to continue using the licence or if it will be relinquished and made available by lottery.

**Happy 2nd birthday  
Theo James!  
December 18th  
Love Chi Chi & Papa**



**Happy birthday  
to my daughter**

**Zoe Mae!  
Love you!**

**Happy  
Birthday**



meli.kismts



THE TLA'AMIN CULTURE & LANGUAGE TEAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

# Baby's First Christmas

Georgia Esther Williams  
Parents: Mike and Shaya

*Santa's little helper is here this year,  
Bringing extra joy and holiday cheer!  
Our 1st Christmas with this bundle of light,  
Making every moment Merry & Bright.*

***Merry Christmas!***

*Love,  
The Williams Family*