



Tla'amin Sisters Trains, Planes and Automobiles Road Trip

Fundraising for a much needed travel wheelchair is a priority this summer

By Steve Gallagher

Over a span of three weeks twin sisters Shaniah and Mariah Hillis will dip their toes in the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, travel through Canada by train, learn a couple of words at the Sioux Lookout, absorb the beauty of Niagara Falls, and eat all the surf and turf on a Pirate Shop, and go total Caillou by exploring all kinds of parks and trails.

The air distance calculator suggests that the shortest distance between Vancouver and Halifax is 4,444 kilometers. When you factor in the train, vehicles and buses the sisters will have racked up some serious mileage by the time they return to Vancouver on September 3rd.

When I asked how she felt about traveling by plane Mariah explained, "I prefer to travel on the ground." The trip concludes with a 5-hour plane ride before the twins put their feet back on the ground in Vancouver. "This will be our Chi Chuys, trains, and planes road trip," explained Shaniah.

When the sisters arrive in Vancouver preparing to head across Canada, they will meet up with Shaniah's mother-in-law, Karin, Aunt Janice and her five children who they haven't seen for over a year. There is always a barrel of laughs waiting for them at every turn.

Behind the scenes, Shaniah's husband Forrest will be enroute to Ontario where the family will reunite and explore Parliament Hill and the many museums in the area, before continuing on to the East Coast.



Twin Sisters Mariah (front) and Shaniah Hillas are fulfilling their dream of travelling across Canada. The sisters will be busy during the summer fundraising by preparing meals for community members. The funds are for a proper travelling wheelchair.

Family Fundraisers to be held leading up to the trip

The biggest challenge for this adventure is the limitations of Mariah's current wheelchair. It does not fold and is quite heavy making it hard to travel. A proper travel wheelchair could cost up to \$5,000 but would make a huge difference for everyone on the trip. The family is still weighing their options.

Shaniah and family will be holding community meals that families can attend to support their dream of traveling across Canada. "Stay tuned to our Facebook pages to find out when the next fundraiser will be," said Shaniah.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to help out in any way, please contact Shaniah at 778-919-3592.

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Tla'amin Governance House Updates

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Phone: (604) 483-9646
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2025 Spring General Assembly June 20 & 21st, 2025

ʔəms ʔayε (Our House)
Cultural Centre opening
June 21st

Message from hegus



John Hackett

ʔajεčxʷut

June will be an amazing month with so many important community events just around the corner.

I want to begin by congratulating the Tla'amin Class of 2025 and all of our post-secondary grads; you are all leading by example by demonstrating your commitment and dedication to your education.

We truly hope everyone makes it home for Indigenous Peoples Day and the grand opening of ʔəms ʔayε (Our House) Cultural Centre during the 2025 Spring General Assembly, June 20-21, 2025. Registration is required and closes on June 10th.

This historic event will celebrate the first Cultural Centre to be erected in Tla'amin territory in over 100 years. ʔəms ʔayε will serve as Tla'amin's cultural hub, housing a feast hall, language lab, museum, and traditional food's processing facility. It is a space designed to honour and revitalize Tla'amin cul-

ture, ensuring the transmission of ʔayʔajuθəm and ʔəms taʔow to future generations. The Cultural Centre will also include gardens, a smokehouse, and a carving shed.

June 20th is set for Tla'amin citizens to review 2026 budget followed by lunch and tradeshow. The afternoon there will be activities traditional Sweat at the sweat lodge Canoe pulling, BBQ salmon, Cedar bowl making, Language class and recording for first voices, tisk-wat tour, Forestry tour, Boat tours.

June 21 will be the official grand opening of ʔəms ʔayε. At the welcoming ceremony we will acknowledge carvers and explain poles. We will also be hosting a repatriation ceremony for two mortuary poles and a large basket collection. Welcoming these sacred items back home to Tla'amin will be very powerful.

On May 13th, Tla'amin was invited to attend the BC Legislature session at the Parliament Building in Victoria to witness 3 amendments to Tla'amin's treaty with Canada and the Province of BC.

The first Amendment was to re-name our Treaty to ʔaʔjinxʷegəs [ah-jin-hway-gus] means a good relationship with someone and it's the new name for Tla'amin's 9-year-old modern Treaty with BC and Canada

The Second Amendment In-tegration of ʔayʔajuθəm [aya-jooth-em], into the text of the Treaty,

The third amendment is to add new language on adoption, guardianship and child and family services that enables Tla'amin to exercise our rights in the same way as other Indigenous Governing Bodies under recent federal and provincial legislation.

I want to acknowledge Elder Eugene Louie for speaking from the legislative assembly floor on behalf of our Nation, our hands are raised in respect to our past and present Elders and leadership, neighboring governments and residents of our territory – the treaty belongs to all of us.

June 6th,7th, and 8th Thichum will be hosting the 4th annual Thichum Cup Hockey tournament. The event Theme will be Qathet "Working Together. For our Chi Chuy players reminder to the parents please register your Chuy as there will be free hamburger/hotdog and drink. Any venders register as well by contacting kaycee.mitchell@tmslp.ca



Welcome Home Ceremony

JUNE 6TH 2025
7:00PM

JOIN US @ TISKʷƏT (THE OLD HOSPITAL SITE) FOR A WELCOME HOME CEREMONY

EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND



The graduates of CDRC are on their way to kindergarden this fall

A quick visit with Urban Jeh Jeh

On May 25/26 Tla'amin staff visited with urban Jeh jeh in Vancouver for status card renewals, citizenship cards and enrollments and to complete taqatštəm – The Tla'amin Census.

Over two half day sessions at the Skwachàys Lodge Indigenous Hotel staff were able to sit with 30 jehjeh to provide the following services:

- 28 census completions
- 23 citizenship cards
- 7 new citizen enrollments
- 17 status cards



Tiffany Thomas, Jake Harry, Christiano Harry and Spencer Harry



Urban Jehjeh, left to right - Lee Slaney, Cole Lahue, Daniel Lahue and Marnie Hanson.

ʔaʔjinx^wegəs [ah-jin-hway-gus] means a good relationship with someone and it's the new name for Tla'amin's 9-year-old modern Treaty with BC and Canada.



čəčəhaθeč Elder Eugene Louie for speaking from the floor on behalf of our Nation, our hands are raised in respect to our past and present Elders and leadership, community, staff, and neighboring governments and residents of our territory – the treaty belongs to all of us.

On May 13th, 2025, Tla'amin celebrated the passage of a set of important amendments that hit the floor at the BC legislature. Highlights include:

- New language on adoption, guardianship and child and family services that enables Tla'amin to exercise our rights in the same way as other Indigenous Governing Bodies under recent federal and provincial legislation,
- Adding language that recognizes the treaty is a living agreement, and provides a foundation for evolution and an ongoing relationship amongst the Parties, and
- Integration of ʔayʔajuθəm [aya-jooth-em], into the text of the Treaty, including the following words:

GLOSSARY OF ʔayʔajuθəm WORDS

ORTHOGRAPHY	MEANING	PRONUNCIATION
ʔaʔjinx ^w egəs	a good relationship with someone	Ah-jin-hway-gus
ʔayʔajuθəm	Tla'amin language	ay-a-joo-thum
taʔow	teachings	ta-ow
payeštət yixmetšt k ^w oms taʔow	we take care of our teachings	payesht-oat yeeh-metsht kooms ta-ow
hega	and	hega
q ^w ətəms tišosəm	Sliammon River	Kwuh-tums t-eh-shoh-sum
q ^w ətəms qəqeyqay	River at Grace Harbour	Kwuh-tums k-ahk-ehk-aye
ʔaʔgayqsən	Harwood Island	ah-gyk-sun
ṭaxəmay	Cedar	tah-huh-my
ti:x ^w ay	Cypress (yellow cedar)	Teeh-why
θəqay	Sockeye salmon	thuk-aye
q ^w ətəčln	Pink salmon	kwuh-teh-cheen
λox ^w ay	Chum salmon	kloh-why
χeyt ^o eq ^w	Coho salmon	hai-theh-kwh
ṭ ^o oxo	Lingcod	thoh-hoh
χexyεq	Crab	heh-he-yek
kikeʔəqəṭ	Prawn	ki-ki-uh-kulth
ṭagət	Herring	lha-gut
ʔaləs	Sea Cucumber	ah-luss

Assumption Students Learn, Serve, and Connect at toḡnač

By Lisa Berg, Principal

On May 9, the students of Grades 1/2 and 6/7 from Assumption School set out on a unique and meaningful field trip to toḡnač (Okeover Arm Provincial Park). Caitlynn Smith, čepθ at Assumption, organized the trip to harvest λoχλoχ (oysters) and χəʔa (clams) for the ʔaʔamin Community Food Freezer and to participate in a hands-on learning experience about the land, its history, and the ʔaʔamin people who have cared for it for generations.

Accompanied by Bryce McKenzie and Paul Stonehouse, land guardians from the ʔaʔamin Nation, the students worked together along the shoreline, carefully gathering clams and oysters that would help nourish local families. With every bucket filled, the children not only contributed to a vital food-sharing initiative, but also practiced the Catholic value of service to others—giving their time and effort to benefit the broader community.

For many students, this was their first time harvesting shellfish, and the excitement was matched by a sense of purpose. The

older students naturally stepped into leadership roles, guiding the younger ones and ensuring that everyone worked safely and respectfully. Together, they experienced the value of community—working across age groups, learning from one another, and contributing to something greater than themselves.

Beyond the physical work of harvesting, the land guardians shared stories, the traditional uses of λoχλoχ and χəʔa, and the deep relationship the ʔaʔamin people have with the land and sea. One of the Grade 1 students explained, “I learned that it’s good to leave some [clams and oysters] for the future generations”. Students listened with curiosity and respect, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on what it means to care for the earth in a sustainable way.

The morning was a beautiful blend of faith, education, and reconciliation. “We want our students to be people of service and compassion,” said Lisa Berg, Principal. “This is the second year we have done this trip with



Students Sofia Delos Santos, Joey Kouwenhoven, Levi Wilkes are truly having their day at the beach

our students. It allows them to engage in hands-on service in an authentic way. They gave back to the community, learned from Indigenous knowledge keepers, and connected with the land.”

The time at toḡnač offered a reminder of the value in slowing down, listening, and working together—practices essential to a more thoughtful and connected future. Through shared work, storytelling, and reflection, the students honored the ʔaʔamin land, culture, and people, while gaining a clearer understanding of community.

BEFORE YOU DIG

Under Tla’amin Culture and Heritage Law, your cultural rights and responsibilities include protecting archaeological sites.

This is the season we all want to work on our gardens, clear brush, or build fences. Before you do anything that disturbs the ground, contact us at nune gųje (referrals@tn-bc.ca) for an assessment or for monitoring of work at **no cost** to Nation members.

This includes things like:

- digging any holes, even for gardening or planting
- fence posts
- blackberry brush removal
- putting in a new garden spot
- brush or tree removal
- if you don’t know, contact us to find out



When the Harvest App Speaks: People Listen for Valuable Information

New Series Coming Soon

The Tla’amin Harvest App is an important tool that helps Lands and Fisheries staff understand Tla’amin citizens level of access to traditional foods by recording harvests of fish, shellfish, game, and plants. It helps identify trends in key species, supports increased protections for species in decline, supports access to traditional foods for all Tla’amin citizens, and helps with the reporting of catch numbers as a requirement of having a harvest card.

Tla’amin Nation controls all the data reported using the Harvest App. Under treaty, Tla’amin fisheries staff are required to share some harvest data with DFO, this includes anonymous information about the number of salmon, groundfish, crab, prawn and shellfish harvested by Tla’amin citizens. The use of the Harvest App is also an effort of data sovereignty – Tla’amin data, stays with Tla’amin.

The Harvest App can be accessed through the Tla’amin website at www.tla’aminnation.com and click ‘Harvest App’ in the menu bar. Then it will ask you a series of questions about what you have harvested. The other option is creating as a shortcut to websites as an “app” on your smartphone or tablet. If you need help downloading as an app, please contact Leonard Harry at leonard.harry@tn-bc.ca

When you report your data, your name will be entered into the draw for weekly prizes!

We are starting a new series – Stories from Tla’amin Harvest App – that highlights Tla’amin harvesters and their traditional food knowledge, unique experiences, observations of change, and much more. Stay tuned and look for the first story in the next edition of the Neh Motl!



ʔaʔamin
TLA’AMIN NATION

nune gųje
LANDS &
RESOURCES

What's up with the Tla'amin Harvest App.?

About the Tla'amin Harvest App

The Harvest App is a website to help lands and fisheries staff understand Tla'amin citizens' level of access to traditional foods by recording harvests of fish, shellfish, game, and plants. It allows you to easily report your harvest data using a phone, computer, or tablet. The Harvest App:

- Helps identify trends in key species.
- Helps identify 'hotspots' or areas of concern.
- Supports increased protections for species in decline.
- Supports access to traditional foods for all Tla'amin citizens.
- Helps with reporting catch numbers as a requirement of having a harvest card.

How does the Harvest App work?

1. Visit www.tlaaminnation.com and click 'Harvest App' in the menu bar. Instructions for bookmarking the Harvest App on your mobile device are on the reverse of this handout.
2. Enter your name, your citizenship or harvest card number, and who you were harvesting for (self and family, Elders, or community).
3. Select the activity (Fishing, Hunting, or Harvesting food plants, medicines, or materials) and your method of travel.
4. Select the date and the region you were harvesting in.
5. Enter the number of each species caught or harvested.
6. Click 'Submit' to send your data to lands and fisheries staff.

How to bookmark the Harvest App on your smartphone or tablet

The home screen on your smartphone or tablet isn't just a place where your apps live. You can also add shortcuts to websites. Here's how to create an "app" for any website on your device, allowing you to access shortcuts directly from your home screen.

REPORT YOUR CATCH & HARVEST WITH THE TLA'AMIN HARVEST APP!

Help us protect our culturally important species!



What is the Harvest App?

The Harvest App is a website to help lands and fisheries staff understand Tla'amin citizens' level of access to traditional foods by recording harvests of fish, shellfish, hunted game, and foraged plants. It allows you to easily report your harvest data using a phone, computer, or tablet. It also helps you keep track of what you have harvested, where you were successful, and areas of importance!

Why use Harvest App?

- Helps identify trends in culturally important species
- identifies culturally important harvesting areas for protection
- helps identify which species are of concern or in decline
- supports increased protections for species in decline
- supports access to traditional foods for Tla'amin citizens
- helps with recording the catch and harvests that is a requirement of having a harvest card



Where does your data go?

Tla'amin Nation controls all of the data reporting using the Harvest App. Under the treaty, Tla'amin fishery staff are required to share some harvest data with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This information shared is all anonymous information regarding salmon, groundfish, crab, prawns, and shellfish harvested by Tla'amin citizens. In addition to treaty obligations, by reporting your catch data, Fisheries staff can identify and advocate on your behalf where we are not able to get what we need for our tables.



Get Skunked?
Please report your effort! We want to know!



Requesting more information?

Please contact: leonard.harry@tn-bc.ca
Need a Harvest Card?

You must obtain your free 5-year Harvest Card at Governance House to ensure you have authorization to gather plants and resources in Tla'amin territory. Please contact: kylie.paul@tn-bc.ca

MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW FOR ALL REPORTING!

Phone or iPad

1. Open Safari. Other browsers, such as Chrome, won't work for this.
2. Visit www.tlaaminnation.com and click 'Harvest App' in the menu bar to open the Harvest App web page.
3. Tap the Share button on the bottom of the page. It looks like a square with an arrow pointing out of the top.
4. In the list of options that appear, scroll down until you see Add to Home Screen. Tap this. The Add to Home Screen dialog box will appear.
5. Choose a name for the website shortcut on your home screen. You'll see the link so you can confirm it, as well as the site's favicon that will appear as the "app" icon on your home screen. Click Add when you're done. Safari will close automatically and you will be taken to where the icon is located on your iPhone's or iPad's home screen.
6. Now just tap the new "app" or shortcut on your home screen, and it will open the website in its own navigation window, independent of what you have open in Safari.

Note: If you ever decide you want to remove the website shortcut, you can delete it just like you would any other app on your phone.

Android

1. Open Chrome.
2. Visit www.tlaaminnation.com and click 'Harvest App' in the menu bar to open the Harvest App web page.
3. Tap the menu icon (3 dots in upper right-hand corner) and tap Add to homescreen.
4. Choose a name for the website shortcut, then Chrome will add it to your home screen.



čəpθ Caitlynn Smith with student Emily Culleton in Okeover

Mural Unveiling and Exhibit Opening Honoring Indigenous History on Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Island, May 3, 2025

By Dana Lepofsky

On May 3, people from Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Island, Qualicum Nation, Tla'amin, Powell River, the Islands Trust, and more gathered to witness the unveiling of a spectacular public art installation honoring Indigenous heritage on Xwe'etay. The installation includes a stunning mural depicting the many 1000s of years of settlement on Xwe'etay and the ancestral connections among all beings. The mural was painted by local artists Julia Woldmo and Sophia Rosenberg, and the central sun and side panels depicting kelp and eyes, were carved by Qualicum artist Jesse Recalma. Check out the time lapse of the mural creation: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfqshcYOE_s)

The mural is accompanied by a yellow cedar plaque with a representation of Xwe'etay creation story created by Jesse and Ocean Hyland (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). It features the yew tree and the mythical deer and rodent. Alongside the plaque is an audio system where you can press a button and hear Elsie Paul saying the island's Indigenous name.

The mural installation is on the freight shed on the Xwe'etay dock. It is vividly visible from the water and can be seen by all approaching the island. It is a strong and joyful statement about Indigenous presence – in the past, present, and future.



View from the ocean where many people gathered by the mural that can be seen for miles.

In addition to the mural, May 3 marked the opening of the travelling exhibit on the Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project (XLAP; <https://www.sfu.ca/rem/lasqueti.html>). The exhibit panels depict the community-centered archaeology project and honors the ancestral and current connections to Xwe'etay by Indigenous Peoples. It includes spectacular photos of community members including Drew Blaney and Betty Wilson! The exhibit has been up at the Ingenium Museum in Ottawa for over a year (<https://ingenium.ca/en/travelling-exhibitions/the-island-in-the-middle-of-everywhere/>) and the museum graciously created a travelling version so that it can easily be viewed by people in small communities up and down the coast. It will be coming to the Powell River Museum this Fall!.

The May 3rd gathering was truly a celebration! Almost 200 people from diverse communities (Islands Trust, Powell River council, students of XLAP, friends, and family) came to witness the event. Kim Recalma-Clutesi of Qualicum Nation blessed us and the mural and plaque with eagle down. Our Tla'amin guests drummed and sang for us. We feasted on beautiful food put together by the island community. At a time in the world when things sometimes feel so oppressively hard, the May 3 event reminded us of what can happen when people come together to honor and respect each other.



Betty Wilson addresses honoring indigenous knowledge at the gathering



Tla'amin drummers and singers take the stage on May 3rd in Lasqueti



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TLA'AMIN NATION

*You're
Invited!*

**TLA'AMIN
CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS
2025**

Special honours for Grade 12 graduates,
Post-secondary graduates, Chi Chuy Preschool
graduates, as well as students entering
Brooks High School in the fall

Bring you
camping
chairs and
picnic
blankets.



The event
will be at
the Salish
Centre if it
rains.

Family BBQ & Awards Ceremony
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
5pm - 7pm
Willingdon Beach Pavillon

hegus addresses the grads and students

Graduation in June is such an exciting time for Tla'amin families. Our Education Department receives top marks for the challenging work they do providing support to our students in different age groups. We have all heard that it takes a community to raise a family, and this time of year is a notable example.

On June 25th, a Celebration of Successes at Willingdon Beach has been booked at the main stage from 5-7 pm. A family BBQ and entertainment will open the event.

Tla'amin will hold special honors for our Grade 12 graduates, Post Secondary graduates, and all the students transitioning from Chi Chuy Preschool to Kindergarten, and Grade 7 to Brooks this fall. Bring a lawn chair and your picnic blanket to stay comfortable.

If there is a chance of rain, the Salish Centre will be Plan B.

Graduating is a major accomplishment and honorable milestone to achieve. Your parents, family, and your Tla'amin community are immensely proud of you all. ʔəmot !!!

You are all leading by example, demonstrating your commitment and dedication to your education. This is one of many chapters to complete on your life's journey, Each of you will have the decision to set your sights on a new beginning of your next chapter.

The advice I have to offer to all the grads

is to find balance and set the cross hairs on your career. Carve out your career path to hit your target and achieve your goals. But at the same time, take in the moments and breathe along the way.

It is this journey on which you will reflect. These are the memories that will stay with you for a lifetime.

"Keep your spirit healthy and strong to guide you to make the right decisions based on our taʔaw." hegus John Hackett

Take time and learn our Tla'amin history, cultural practices, and our ʔayʔajuθəm language. At the same time explore this beautiful earth while taking in the diversity of world culture. You will all discover how amazing each culture can be.

On June 25th, surround yourselves with loved ones and positive people. Keep your spirit healthy and strong to guide you to make the right decisions based on our taʔaw.

Congratulations to the Graduates of 2025 and all Tla'amin hard working students. Each and every one of you has earned this day to shine."

These CDRC Graduates may register in the qaymıxʷqenəmšt program that has become available for kindergarden and Grade 1's.

qaymıxʷqenəmšt is an immersion program which means we will speak our indigenous language. (page 10)



Abigail Bastock



Ares Rodgers



Arthur Gordon



Bentley Anderson



Danny Freeman



Estelle Williams



Hudson Plowright



Jaxon Keller



Justiz Dalziel



Levi Harry



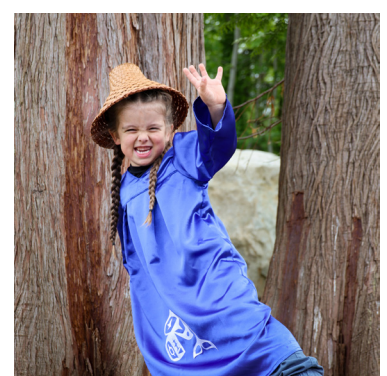
Mason Kinch



Olivia Miller



Shane Louie



Tao Galligos



LANDON DINGWALL
Brooks Secondary



TARYN THIELE
Brooks Secondary



ISABELLE AUGUST
Centennial Secondary



HUNTER GALLIGOS
Brooks Secondary



TIA FRANCIS
Brooks Secondary



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TLA'AMIN NATION

Congratulations

GRAD 2025

Missing: Kyle Mitchell



TYREL DUHAMEL
Brooks Secondary



DYLAN SPAHAN
Carson Graham



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
Brooks Secondary



NEVAEH HARRY
Walnut Grove



EMMA VIVIER
Idaho Virtual Academy



KALEB MORRISSEY
Brooks Secondary



KOA WILSON-COOPER
Brooks Secondary

Attending Brooks FAI 2025

- Desiree Harry
- Madison Harry
- Kila Hobenshielc
- Brooklyn Irwin
- Adam Louie
- Kieran Mason
- Jasper Street

- Alexander Sutcliffe
- Jenelle Sullivan
- Linden Taylor
- Adrian Tom
- Emmaleah Treakle
- Cecil Hackett (Williams)



Every School Day Counts with Shaya and Mike Williams

Interview by Steve Gallagher,

The Neh Motl sat down with Tla'amin parents Mike and Shaya Williams to learn about their school routines and what they do to provide structure they need to thrive in school.

Our oldest and only son Rylan is currently in grade 11, Priya, our oldest daughter, transitioned into grade 8, asserting her first official year of high school. Meanwhile, 7-year Charleigh is cruising through grade 2 and little Miss Georgia is not old enough for school just yet. It's a handful to keep up with their busy schedules and events.

We must first give the grandparents a huge shoutout as Papa Chucky, Nanny Esther and Papa Wayne contribute a huge role to the success of their education journey. čēčhatanapēšt ninije taθ p'ap'em. We thank you and honor you for your dedication and hard work.

As parents, we must remind ourselves and our children how important their education is and we give them incentives to put in good effort to thrive academically. It is not uncommon to get caught up remembering their happy mistakes and overlook the positive behavior made at school. We all learn from our mistakes. That's all part of growing up and being children.

“Recognition and a hug travel a long way to provide the support our children seek to feel confident about themselves.”

Getting the kids off to school starts the night before with a good bedtime routine. To ensure everyone gets sufficient sleep to get everyone moving in the morning starts with what we term as the three B's: bath, brush, and book. Kids thrive on knowing what to expect before bedtime.

Understanding their “before bedtime” preparation gives them an opportunity to reset for the next day. Their school clothes are organized and lunches

are packed to allow time for everyone to sit down and enjoy a good breakfast in the morning. Our school days begin at 6:45 am. This eliminates the mad rush of racing to the bus stop and forgetting something important.

We believe that it's important for our children to attend school regularly to graduate into successful adults. Learning how to be punctual and pick up the educational tools along the way will lead to successful careers in a field of choice. It's important to build socialization skills through friendships while enjoying being a kid and having healthy fun.

For academic achievement to flourish, parents must be involved when they ask for help. Stay connected with their schoolteachers by attending parent/teacher conferences to ensure they are understanding their classes. It only takes an hour of our time, but for our



Priya, Charleigh and Rylan are well organized on a school night to ease into the next morning

children, this is their full-time studies, and parents should be their biggest fans and stand up for them as well.

Cell phones can be a total distraction for children if there are no restrictions or rules in place to keep their minutes at a minimum. Although it can be addictive, we control the WIFI in the household during certain times of the day. Fortunately, our two older children know the consequences of using them at night and are mature enough to know that sleep is an important part of being able to function properly through their school years.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025.



qaymıxʷqenəmšt means we will speak our indigenous language

Koosen Pielle

The qaymıxʷqenəmšt program is one of many changes our community has implemented in response to language and cultural revitalization. This program was implemented in the 2023-2024 school year, and is closing its second school year of running (2024-2025).

The qaymıxʷqenəmšt program is a kindergarten and grade 1 program that focuses on teaching our ʔayʔajuθem language, and prioritizing our traditional knowledge in everyday school learning. Our class is made of 18 kindergarten and grade

1 students. Classes are facilitated on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the CDRC. This has allowed students the opportunity to spend more time learning in our language, and to build confidence in learning about our culture. The students have had the opportunity to work with over 15 elders and young speakers in our community throughout the school year.

We are so proud of all of the students in our community and would like to congratulate all of the graduating class of 2025! Keep up the amazing work!

Graduates of Tla'amin Nation Post Secondary for 2024-2025

- Richard Peers Heavy Equipment Operator-Rock Truck/Loader
Vancouver Island University on June 7th, 2024
- Cassa Courtney, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
University of Alberta October 2024
- Mariah Gaebel, Practical Nursing
Vancouver Island University on October 27th 2024
- Katie Howe, Bachelor of Arts
Vancouver Island University December 2024
- Lisa Point, Family and Community Counselling Certificate
Native Education College on December 12th 2024
- Jordan Green, Level 4 Automotive Technician Program
Vancouver Island University February 21st 2025
- Roberta Wilson, Masters of Intercultural and International Communications
Royal Roads University March 1st 2025
- Benjamine Miege, Level 4 Welding Program
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology on March 10th, 2025
- Loretta Hanson, Infant Tot and Special Needs Program
Vancouver Island University April 1st, 2025
- Tyler Chong, Digital Marketing Diploma Program
Cumberland College April 4th, 2025
- Matthew Louie, Level One Carpentry
Vancouver Island University on April 10th, 2025
- Alexa Washington, Indigenous Diploma Program
Camosun College on June 30th, 2025

Cultural Retreat at the Outdoor Learning Centre Builds Relationships and Traditional Skills

By Jessica Johnson



These two young students are making cedar hats as part of the skills building

Grade 8 and 9 Indigenous students from qat'et (qathet) School District were invited to participate in a three day cultural retreat at the Outdoor Learning Center at tisk'wat 0ayet (Powell Lake). Participating students represented 11 different Indigenous Nations, and students were exposed to a variety of ta'ow (teachings) from district and Nation 0ep0ten (aunties/uncles) and elders. Some highlights included three students composing traditional songs, students learning about the sweatlodge with yax'wum (John Louie), participating in a soho0ot (spiritual bath), cedar weaving with Sosan, language learning with Gail and Elsie, and tipi teachings from Métis, Cree, Anishinaabe, and Choctaw/Chickasaw staff. The relationships, cultural and identity work, and memories will last these students a lifetime.

New Employment and Training Program Launches New Opportunities

ʔεʔaʔjεma0ot ~ To heal oneself or change your life.

By Sophie Call
Director of Education

On Tuesday, May 20th, thirteen Tla'amin community members gathered at Ahms Tah Ow for the first day of a new 8-week Employment Training Program named ʔεʔaʔjεma0ot ~ To heal oneself or change your life. All participants admitted into the program were present that first morning, keen to get started, and enjoying the built-in soft start where folks trickle in, get a coffee and light breakfast, chat with others present, and settle in before programming begins.

Their first day started with a circle led by elder Lynn Galligos who will be a consistent part of the program, sharing teachings and words of encouragement throughout. Participants then heard from Jessie Peters about the intentions of the program around providing skills training, important certifications, mental wellness supports and strategies, and even some work experience.

When asked what their goals were in the program, group members spoke of their hopes for future employment, entrepreneurial dreams, and of wanting to give back to the community. Many expressed their excitement for the cultural elements of the program which will include sweat lodges, early morning sosoho0ot (cold water cleansing), sharing of ta'ow, and even traditional gift making for Tribal Journey or the upcoming General Assembly.



Carissa Tom shows off her culinary skills during a fry bread making class led by Lynn Galligos. Classmates Rebecca Harry, Adeline August, Memphis Dominic and Jennifer Tom are mixing their dry ingredients.

In addition, most of the group members have selected to do both chainsaw and trail building training while some will focus on maintaining and improving the community garden and gift making. All will learn to become more confident with Microsoft applications and Internet

navigation, will take the Bear Aware course, and will get their First Aid certification. Some members of the group have even requested cashier training which wasn't planned but is now being pursued to meet their expressed interest.

ʔεmax'wi gə

I'm writing to let you know that I left my position as the Early Childhood Education Manager at CDRC & CH on Friday, May 23, 2025. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to have worked with your children and for your support during my time here. It's been a truly rewarding experience to watch your kids grow and learn. I am so thankful for the chance I had to get to know your children and families.



I have accepted a new role as Cultural Campus Manager for ʔεms ʔaye Our House: Cultural Centre & Traditional Food Facility which I am very excited about. I know that the CDRC&CH will continue to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for your children. The team here is dedicated and passionate about what they do.

Leslie Louie



CONGRATULATIONS

Assumption School congratulates Alex, Adam, Adrian, and Cecil on their completion of elementary school! We wish them all the best in their next chapter of education.

By the end of the very first day, a lovely growing connection between the participants could be felt, as could a sense of belonging and of shared motivation. Stay tuned for more on this exciting new program and watch for the members (wearing their group hats or hoodies) proudly working in the community garden, serving at the General Assembly, helping with the Good Food Box, or maintaining our community trails.

ʔεʔaʔjεma0ot is supported by a grant from the North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society (NVIATS) who will also be providing some of the training within the program like WHMIS and Food Safe, Budgeting, Resume/Cover Letter Writing and Interviewing Skills, and even driver training for those who want it.

2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 20 2025

Registration
is required

JUNE 21 2025

Morning

Budget and business presentations

Afternoon

- toq^wanən boat tour **FULL**
- Hike and plant identification
- paʔajε shellfish tour- toχnəč **4 SEATS LEFT**
- Thichum forestry tour
- Community tour of tišosəm
- BBQ Fish
- Canoe Pulling
- ʔagayqsən boat tour **6 SEATS LEFT**
- Language class- intro to orthography
- Basket Making
- ʔayʔajuθəm Bingo

Evening

Child and Youth Soccer Tournament - ayištən ʔaye (cousins house)

- Music, Food Vendors, Bouncy castle

7:00 PM Screening of NameSake documentary - Patricia Theatre

Register today

<https://www.tlaaminnation.com/spring2025/>

If you need help registering please call
Kaylei Blaney at 604.483.9646 ext. 102

Morning

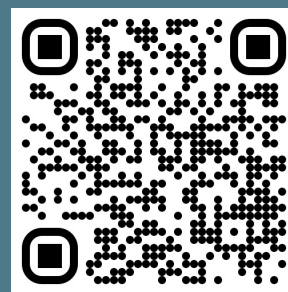
Opening of ʔəms ʔaye
Welcome ceremony and
Tla'amin repatriation
ceremony

Afternoon

BBQ lunch
Friendly soccer match
Coast Drum Jam

Evening

Feast
Tla'amin Protocol
Give aways, songs



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TLA'AMIN NATION

Tla'amin Recreation

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

Facebook Page and staying up to date

As our programs begin, please be aware that changes can happen unexpectedly. While we do send emails to participants, we encourage you to follow our **Tla'amin Community Recreation** Facebook Page for the latest updates. We regularly post reminders and important information about program changes to keep everyone informed.

NEW Summer Community Program Guide July - August

Exciting News!

Our *Recreation Community Program Guide* is now available online on **Monday, May 26th** and registration for Summer programming opens the same day!

You can register online at tlaamin.perfectmind.com. Should you require any assistance, please email rec@tn-bc.ca, call 1-877-505-5139 or stop by Cousin's House between 10:00am–2:30pm Monday to Friday.

Tla'amin X Indigenous Athletics Academy (IAA) Soccer Camp

Join Indigenous Athletics Academy for a fun and inspiring two-day soccer camp designed to motivate and empower youth who want to develop all aspects of their game. Our camp is open to players of all skill levels, in a supportive, high-energy environment. We work on technical drills to improve ball control, dribbling, passing, and shooting. Game based drills to sharpen decision making and positioning, and scrimmages to put the skills into action.

JR – 5–10 YEARS Sun–Mon
10:00am–12:00pm Jul 27–Jul 28
FREE 2 Sessions
Location: tišosem Sports Field

SR – 11–19 YEARS Sun–Mon
1:00am–3:00pm Jul 27–Jul 28 FREE
2 Sessions
Location: tišosem Sports Field

ADVANCED SKILLS SESSION WITH COACH MATEO
Sun–Mon 3:30am–4:30pm Jul 27,
FREE 1 Session
Location: tišosem Sports Field



Weekly Summer Camp Ages 5–12 years (must have participated in Kindergarten)

Get ready for a summer full of adventure, creativity, and fun! Our Weekly Summer Day Camps offer children a chance to explore new interests, build friendships, and stay active through themed weeks packed with games, crafts, outdoor play, and exciting activities. Each week brings a fresh opportunity for discovery and connection in a safe and supportive environment.

Special Summer Learning Fun!

During the first three weeks of Summer Camp, we're excited to partner with the qathet School District to offer playful exploration of literacy and numeracy through fun games and hands-on activities — specially designed for children entering Grades 1 to 3.

Important Registration Information:

As space is limited in camp programs, Weekly Summer Camps are intended for those requiring care on a weekly basis. If you do not need care each day during the week and are looking to drop in from time to time, please register under the Daily Drop-in Summer Camp Program. You may register for up to a maximum of 4 days per week under the daily drop-in option.

Join us for a summer to remember — whether you're with us for a full week or just a few days at a time!

WEEK 1 – TEACHINGS OF THE TA?OW

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Jul 07–Jul 11 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 2 – SPIRIT & STRENGTH: HONOUR THROUGH PLAY

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Jul 14–Jul 18 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 3 – WALKING WITH THE LAND: WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Jul 21–Jul 25 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 4 – STORYTELLERS & ART OF THE TLA'AMIN NATION

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Jul 28–Aug 1 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 5 – FROM LAKE TO OCEAN:

SPLASH AND SHORE
Tues–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Aug 05–Aug 08 FREE 4 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 6 – LITTLE FEET: WISE HEARTS

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Aug 11–Aug 15 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

WEEK 7 – COASTAL QUEST: LEARNING FROM THE LAND & SEA

Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm Aug 18–Aug 22 FREE 5 Days
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House

NEW Elders Strengthening Program

This program is specific to Tla'amin First Nation Elders wishing to improve their fitness & mobility. Led by a Physiotherapist & Kinesiologist from On Track Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation participants will build strength, improve balance, and move

with confidence! This low-impact class is designed for older adults and guided by rehab professionals to support safe, functional movement. All fitness levels welcome.

Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30 am
Jun 18 – July 30 FREE classes
Location: Salish Centre
Youth Nights
Ages 13–18 years Youth Nights – A Space for Indigenous Youth to Connect, Create & Celebrate.

Calling all Indigenous youth (ages 13–18) and your invited friends! Whether you're into painting, gaming, shooting hoops, nature, or just hanging out, Youth Nights are your space to be yourself, explore your passions, and build community. Every week, we offer activities that nourish the mind, body, and spirit—from expressive art projects and interactive games to cultural teachings with Knowledge Keepers.

Bring your own projects or jump into something new—we've got space, supplies, and support. Enjoy snacks and refreshments (and yes, you can help choose what we stock!), meet new friends, go on awesome field trips, and share your ideas to help shape the program. This is your time, your place—come chill, create, and connect.

Check our Facebook page for updated program schedules posted bi-weekly.

Instructor: Adriana Zastre
Thu 5:00pm–9:00pm
Fri 1:00pm–9:00pm
Jul 10–Aug 28 FREE | Excluding: Aug 14 & 15
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House qayk (Eagle) Room

Youth Council Ages 15–30 years

Calling all Tla'amin Youth The Tla'amin Nation Youth Council is here! If you're 15-30 years old and want to get involved, raise awareness, learn new skills, and make a real impact—this is your space. The Youth Council will be a safe place to share ideas, give feedback, and help shape programs that support our community's youth social and cultural needs. Together, we'll empower change through education, training, and leadership, all while embracing Tla'amin culture, history, and traditions.

3rd Wednesday of the Month
Jul 16 6:00pm–8:00pm
Aug 20 6:00pm–8:00pm
Location: ?aylštən ?aye – Cousin's House qayk (Eagle) Room or online

WEDNESDAYS
5:45PM @ SALISH CENTRE
CULTURE NIGHT

DINNER PROVIDED



OPEN TO TLA'AMIN NATION MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF TLA'AMIN CANOE FAMILIES

COME OUT AND LEARN THE SONGS AND DANCES OF OUR PEOPLE

STARTING ON FEBRUARY 12TH 2025

5:45PM

TLA'AMIN SALISH CENTRE



- ROOTED IN FAITH
 - GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE
 - HONOURING CULTURE
- ENROL NOW IN A SCHOOL THAT WALKS WITH YOU.

www.assumptionpr.ca
(604) 485 - 9894

K-12 TUTORING

Tutoring for all subjects!

Does your child need supports with their homework or catching up in school?

Tutoring is available at no cost, for Tla'amin Citizens living in the qathet region. Contact Tarra Tipton at tarra.tipton@tn-bc.ca to book or call the TN Education Office at 604-413-7100



New! 'Our Lives' section in qathet Living magazine

Free / Affordable Family Announcements

Bigger sizes and other announcements:

- 150 words & photo: \$150
- 300 words & photo: \$300
- 600 words & photo: \$500
- 750 words & photos: \$750

Ideas: retirements, anniversaries, big birthdays, memorials, graduations, christenings, moves here and away, congratulations & more.

A small birth / wedding / obituary is free if:

- The person lives in the region
- The event happened in the last three months
- We get info by about the 15th of the month

Note: these are 30 words & a photo

Send your info to ourlives@qathetliving.ca, call 604-485-0003, or drop in to 7053E Glacier Street by about the 15th of the month.

?əms nəm Seal Hide Tanning

This program teaches the traditional process of seal hide tanning, guided by experienced Indigenous knowledge holders. Through step-by-step instruction, participants gain practical skills while deepening their understanding of the cultural significance of hide preparation.



?əms nəm app
June 9, 2025

June's prize
View all of this month's teachings by June 30th for a chance to win a prize valued at \$250! More details will be shared soon.

Learn more



Download the app



Wellbriety Talking Circle



Mondays
3:00- 4:15 PM
Tla'amin Health

Wellbriety is a movement that embraces sobriety and wellness through Indigenous teachings, culture, and community. Rooted in the belief that healing happens in mind, body, and spirit, Wellbriety provides a path to recovery and personal growth through connection, traditional wisdom, and support. Join us in a safe, welcoming space to walk the Red Road together.



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TLA'AMIN NATION



604-483-3009



Brittany.Vivier@tn-bc.ca

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Now available on our membership
Facebook site

Temporary Summer Students Employment Postings

July 2nd to August 26th
Monday to Friday from 8:30-4:30
Youth aged 15-30 years



EPIC!

Help your chuy go from being a reluctant reader to a total bookworm!

Any chuy can fall in love with reading with the right tools!

Epic offers hundreds of audiobooks and eBooks, including graphic novels, video books, animated books, chapter books, picture books, etc... for K-7 students.

epic!



Contact the TN Department of Education for a **FREE** 6-month Epic Membership!
Email: Noreen Paul at noreen.paul@tn-bc.ca



SUMMARY OF RCMP CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR April/May 2025

This summary of police calls for service is intended to advise community members of what is occurring in the community and to encourage community members to report all suspicious activities.



Powell River RCMP Non-Emergency (604)485-6255

In Case of Emergency Call 911



APR 26	WATERFRONT RD	Police received a report of underage drinking at a party. Police attended and located several underage youth at the house. They were given a ride back to their residences.
APR 26	HARWOOD DR	Police responded to a check wellbeing request. Police attended and determined there was no cause for concern.
MAY 04	BEACH RD	Police responded to a report of a residential alarm. Police attended and determined all doors and windows were secure and that the alarm was false.
MAY 04	BEACH RD	Police responded to a report of a residential alarm. Police attended and determined all doors and windows were secure and that the alarm was false.
MAY 08	HARWOOD DR	Police responded to a mischief complaint at a residence. This matter is still under investigation and a suspect has been arrested.
MAY 13	WATERFRONT RD	Police received a report of a missing person. Police made numerous attempts to locate them, however they returned to their house the next day. Police spoke to the person after they returned, and there were no concerns for their health or safety.
MAY 17	WATERFRONT RD	Police received a report of a noisy party. Police attended, but the house was quiet.
MAY 18	HARWOOD DR	Police received a report of a suspicious vehicle. Police attended, but the vehicle was gone on arrival. Patrols were made, but it was not located.
MAY 19	HARWOOD DR	Police received a report of an erratic driver. Patrols were made, but the vehicle could not be located.

Fourth Annual Thichum Cup

June 6-8, 2025

This years theme is
"qathet – working together"

Thichum Forest Products is proud to host this community event! We welcome adults and youth from Tla'amin, qathet and surrounding communities to join us in this exciting celebration of sport, culture and community spirit! See you at the court.

Adult Tournament June 6-7

Youth Tournament June 8 - 5-14 years

BEAR AWARE

- Please do not keep garbage or recycle bins outside your home
- Ensure your BBQ is clean and properly stored.
- Keep your vehicle free from food and wrappers

Dry Conditions on Savary Island Instigates Burn Pile Prohibition

SAVARY ISLAND, BC — In accordance with qathet Regional District (qRD)'s Savary Island Outdoor Fire Control By-law No. 549, the Fire Chief of the Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department (SIVFD) implemented island-wide fire restrictions on open burning activities on Monday, May 19, 2025. The current restriction includes a ban on any burn piles anywhere on the island. The Fire Chief is authorized by the by-law, to set prohibitions at any time of year based on weather conditions.



SIVFD Fire Chief Chris Philpott stated: "The dry spring increases the risk for an earlier wildfire season. Island fire response resources are limited and therefore we are taking this proactive and precautionary measure to protect Savary Island."

The prohibition on burn piles will remain in place until further notice. Currently campfires are permitted until June 30, but any campfire must be no larger than 0.5m high x 0.5m diameter and minimum 3m (10ft) from combustible materials. Savary residents and visitors are encouraged to read qRD Bylaw 549 for further details on open fires and understand that further fire restrictions may be implemented in accordance with the bylaw should conditions warrant it: <https://www.qathet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/BL549-Control-Outdoor-Fires-on-Savary-Island.pdf>

The public is reminded that there is a maximum penalty of \$2,000 for contraventions of the fire ban. The Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department (SIVRD) is authorized to enforce the bylaw and receives regular support from the RCMP. Please dial 9-1-1 to report a fire on Savary Island.



Happy Birthday Stanley and Lincoln Peters on June 3rd

Happy 4th Birthday to my amazing grandsons Stanley & Lincoln. Wishing the boys a fantastic day and another year filled with lots of laughter, happiness and much love always.

Stanley & Lincoln also played in their first native soccer tournament in the under 5 bracket in Duncan, BC. "Mothers Day Weekend".

Its was a day full of joy to watch my grandsons participate. They were both so happy.

