



Tla'amin Celebrates Reacquisition of Forest Tenure Lands

By Davis McKenzie

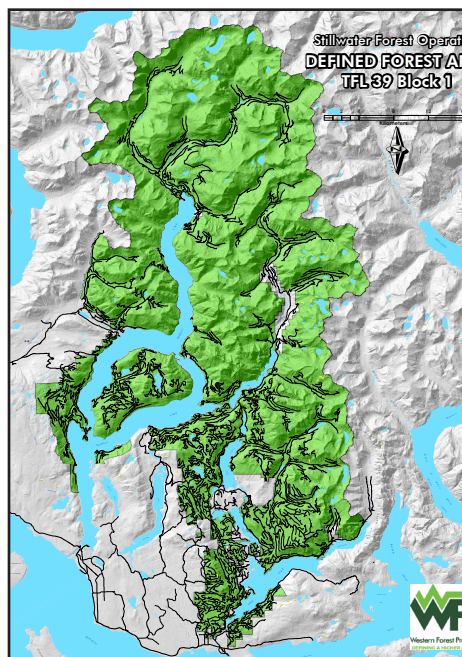
With a crackling fire burning in the great hall of ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ and under the watchful eyes of witnesses, Tla'amin and Western Forest Products (WFP) signed the Purchase & Sale Agreement for Tree Farm License (TFL) 39 Block 1 on February 19th, 2026.

"Block 1 is huge covering 154,000 hectares or 215,600 soccer fields and almost all of it is in Tla'amin territory," said hegus John Hackett "This tenure comprises 43% of Tla'amin Traditional Territory including critical watersheds like the sacred headwaters at the Eldred Valley and the Powell Daniels system. The main message here is that this puts us back in the driver's seat."

In all, the Nation reacquires responsibility for 154,000 hectares of land which in the north runs from the upper toᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ valley and head of Powell Lake (the Daniels) in the north, east past Saltery Bay



WFP CEO Steven Hofer and hegus John Hackett sign the Purchase Sale Agreement for TFL 39 Block 1 on February 19th at ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ. Back Row L-R: Erik Blaney, Brandon Louie, Brandon Peters, Gloria Francis, Dillon Johnson, Losa Luaifoa and Callum Galligos.



towards Hotham Sound and to south of Lois Lake, bordering on the city of Powell River to the west. There is an overlap area to the east.

"About 20% of the tenure on the eastern portion in overlap territory with shishálh Nation," hegus Hackett explains "shishálh has already written a letter of non-opposition for the deal."

Through the Purchase & Sale Agreement, a Tla'amin owned company operating under Thichum

called Qwoqwnes Forestry Holdings Limited acquires exclusive rights to TFL 39 Block 1, a bundle of logging equipment and forestry assets and private lands (which are currently being used by QSS).

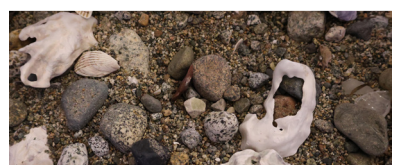
In addition, Tla'amin will receive close to 1 million dollars in structural lumber from WFP – enough framing material to build 50 two-bedroom homes over the next 2 years. WFP will also source, harvest and deliver a canoe log to the Nation or provide another \$180,000

of structural lumber.

The agreed price is \$80 million and now that the PSA is signed, Thichum and Western Forest Products (WFP) enter a transition period. Central to this period is an application to B.C. Minister of Forests for statutory approval. Thichum's application will include such details as the corporate structure, proof of financial and operational capacity, maps and plans and related fibre supply agreements.

TFL 39 BLOCK 1 (Continued on page 4)

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Tla'amin Governance House Updates

4779 Klahanie Road,
qathet, BC
V8A 0C4

Phone: (604) 483-9646

Toll Free: 877-483-9646

Spring Break

**Monday, March 16 to
Friday, March 27**

Message from hegus



John Hackett

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TFL 39 Block 1

February 19 was a proud day for Tla'amin. Thichum Forest Products, with the support of the Tla'amin Management Services Holdings Board and our elected leadership, signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire Tree Farm Licence 39 Block 1.

This move aligns with Goals 15 and 18 of our Comprehensive Nation Plan: strengthening our stewardship in our ᑭᐱᑭᑦ ᑭᐱᑭᑦ and increasing Tla'amin land and resource holdings. Three years of careful due diligence went into this deal. I want to recognize Adam Culos for leading negotiations, and Dillon Johnson for structuring financing that aligns with our finance laws and protects core community programs. We also acknowledge Western Forest Products for working with us to land an agreement that works for both sides.

Land Claims Agreements Coalition Meeting

Earlier this month, Councillor Callum Galligos, Legislator Tanner Timothy, CAO Russell Brewer and I attended the Land Claims Agreements Coalition conference in Ottawa. Nations discussed implementation challenges and how modern treaty nations can help advance Canada's economic and sovereignty priorities. We are preparing to engage the Prime Minister to ensure our treaties are respected and fully implemented.

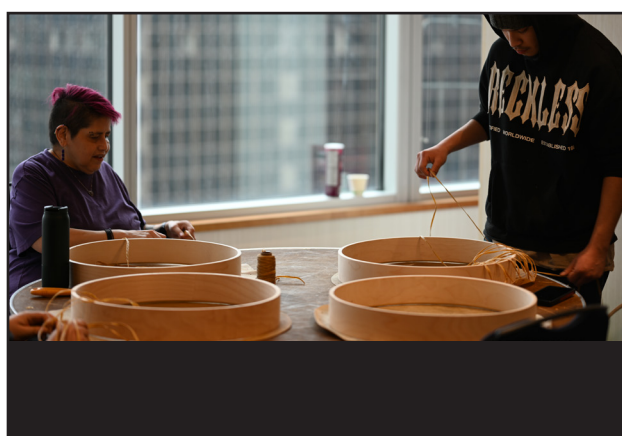
Brookfields Power Grab

On January 26, we shared a video opposing Brookfield's 30-year application to export electricity generated from our waters. Earlier this year, more than 2,600 residents wrote to Ottawa and your voices made an impact. The Canada Energy Regulator did not approve the permit and instead recommended a full licensing process.

But this fight is not over. The federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources will now decide whether this proposal moves to a full public review or proceeds without that level of scrutiny. We need to stay engaged. Please visit keepourpowerlocal.ca to send another letter and help ensure our waters and power remain in local hands.

Tla'amin Management Services year end

At the February 18 TMS Operations Board meeting, we reviewed year-end results. Pa'ja Shellfish saw increased profits following restructuring, and the Lund Hotel had a strong full season. TMS is also advancing plans for the tiskwat site as it seeks an anchor tenant. It is encouraging to see this momentum in our economic development.



I also had the chance to participate in Urban Culture Days in Vancouver on February 21 and 22. This annual event brings members together to practice our culture, reconnect and share a meal. It was the mostly highly attended event we have had to date!

2026 marks 10 years of self-government. We have been steadily building our assets and capacity, and the growth is visible across our community. Our next General Assembly will be held in May. Please watch for details in Neh Motl and on Facebook so that we can celebrate this milestone together.



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TLA'AMIN NATION

Executive Council Meeting

A. Agenda for February 18th 2026, was approved.

B. Minutes from December 10th 2025, were approved.

C. 1. Fire Truck Purchase – Approval

Approved motion: THAT the Executive Council approves an expense of \$869,241.00 from unrestricted reserve funding for the purchase of a Fort Garry Fire Truck Terminator 4X4 Engine Apparatus as described in the quotation attached to the Fire Truck Purchase report on the February 18, 2026 Executive Council Agenda.

C. 2. Education North Island Aboriginal Training Society (NVIATS)

Approved Motion: THAT the Executive Council authorizes a North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society CRF Funding Application be made for an employment training skill-building program for citizens experiencing significant barriers to employment in the Nation.

C. 3. FNHA Funding Agreement Approval

Approved Motion: THAT the Executive Council approve the FNHA funding agreement renewals for 2026-2027.

C. 4. U13 Hockey Sponsorship

Approved Motion: THAT the Executive Council approve a Level 1 \$5,000 Powell River Minor Hockey Association sponsorship for the U13 BC Hockey Provincial Championship 2026.

C. 5. Q3 Update

Staff presented the Q3 update for the 2025/2026 Annual Operational Plan.

Land and Resources Open House

A day at the office has changed enormously for protecting our valuable resources

By Steve Gallagher

On February 19th the Neh Motl attended the Lands and Resources Department annual open house at the Governance House. The purpose of the open house was to create an opportunity for community members to get an update and ask questions regarding daily operations and ongoing planning activities in the Lands Department. Some of the topics included a presentation on the findings of the Desolation Sound Marine Park Arch Project, a Land Use Plan update, Territorial Stewardship MOU update, as well as breakout tables with updates on fisheries, kelp restoration project, forestry, and GIS activities and more.

Tla'amin is working with BC to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to guide our relationship in several key areas – Parks co-management, updating the Foreshore Delegation Agreement, a renewed Reasonable Opportunity Agreement, Groundwater and a Shared Decision-Making Agreement for Tokwonon.

Lands Director Denise Smith recalled trying to keep up with the workload when she first started working. “Not too long ago when I first started working with our nation, we only had five people in our small office trying to respond to referrals within a short period of time. We would struggle to assess the information coming in so that we could qualify the impacts on archaeological sites or our lands and resources.”

“With those not-too-distant dark days behind us we now have twenty-eight qualified staff in our Lands and Resources Department alone including support from various archaeologists, consultants and lawyers. It’s nice to have eyes and ears out in our territory to protect and secure our sacred sites with all the recreational activity out there during the summer” concluded Denise.

Through studies and data collection Tla'amin is identifying where and why we fall short on access to shellfish on beaches and waters fronting our community that used to be in good supply to provide the abundance of fresh seafood families rely on to give them a taste of the harvest season.



Director of Lands and Resources Denise Smith provides an introduction for the evening presentations that kept her department focused on the goals in the Comprehensive Nation Plan over the past year.

For example, in the February edition of the Neh Motl, it was featured that Tla'amin has been working with the UBC O'Connor Lab to research eelgrass distribution, health and impacts within our territory. Eelgrass as we know is habitat for spawning herring.

In the heart of Desolation Sound their research helps to protect and restore eelgrass meadows and improve fish habitat and mitigate localized climate change impacts. One of the most valuable pieces of information collected was recreational boating is partly responsible through the release of pollutants, shading the plants, or physically uprooting the plants while anchored

As a result, a “no anchor” buoys have been installed throughout the park to protect and encourage the recovery of eelgrass meadows.

Alongside this important work Tla'amin Guardians have been monitoring water quality in the anchorages every two weeks to get a better understanding of any additional pressures these areas of concern may pose to the ecosystem.

In addition, our watchman was able to assess biomass and density of the eelgrass, playing a huge role in providing sustainability in the underwater garden that provides habitat for our fish.

Other projects that are important for members regardless of their address is food security, food sovereignty and the annual food distribution in the community and off-lands.

Executive Council Callum Galligos is responsible for the Lands and Resources house post and has seen some positive changes with finding solutions to create fair and equal opportunities when it comes to harvesting.

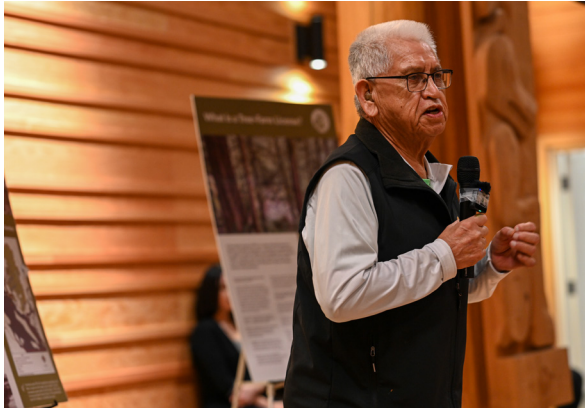
“With our increasing staff capacity in both the Lands Department and our new Traditional Food House, we plan to increase our urban and local distributions, ensuring our members have increased access to traditional foods from our territory. Throughout the coming year, with help from the Training Department and TFH staff, there will be training opportunities aimed at increasing our community’s knowledge around sustainable gathering and harvesting in our territory. These training opportunities range in activity from PAL course, meat cutting workshops, food preservation, fish cutting, plant gathering, and more, so keep your eyes on the TN socials and Nehmotl for updates”



One of several displays was this aquarium demonstrating how kelp is raised in Okeover to enhance the kelp population.



Billy Peters stands as witness as speaker Erik Blaney looks on



Elder and Witness Eugene Louie speaks words of witness

TFL 39 BLOCK 1 (Continued from page 1)

Financing a deal of this magnitude

Tla'amin Executive Council has been reviewing and re-reviewing the details of the purchase for over a year and passed a motion in July 2025 that approved the purchase subject to financing being in place.

\$80 million of capital for the purchase has been raised by Tla'amin Management Services through Thichum forestry operations, lease revenues, the Tla'amin Settlement Trust and a bank loan from CIBC. The Nation will borrow \$64 million amortized over 25 years to complete the transfer. This loan will be paid back from our forestry operations and is not taking away from any other areas.

"We are reinvesting in ourselves today to achieve two goals: the long-term prosperity of our people, and to gain back control of ʔəms gijε (our territory)..” said Tla'amin Management Services Chief Financial Officer Dillon Johnson. "It's not easy to convince a bank

to loan \$64 million to purchase a forestry license, but we were able to do this by showing our success in forestry in recent years and negotiating a bankable deal.

The opportunity ahead

In 2021, WFP and the Tla'amin Nation signed a forestry contract to collaborate on operations within TFL 39 Block 1. This agreement was to support economic development and incorporate Indigenous perspectives into forest stewardship. TFL 39 Block 1 continues to be an important component of British Columbia's forestry sector.

Thichum Forest Products has big plans for TFL 39. Thichum General Manager, Adam Culos, has a history working in TFL 39, Block 1 as he started there as a summer student in 1995 and left as the Contract Manager in 2021.

Culos joined Thichum in 2021, he's a local and holds a Masters of Business Administration. Adam has worked in the forestry sector for over 30 years and enjoys the passions of the outdoors includ-

ing guiding and participating in the Nations elk harvest! .

Culos brings a management philosophy to Thichum of the quadruple bottom line, or managing for cultural, social, environmental, and economic values. This approach has resulted in 17 full time good paying jobs for Tla'amin citizens, many of whom have skilled up through the company. The establishment of a firewood business has put wood in the stoves of Tla'amin Elders and reduced waste left on the cut blocks.

"The acquisition of this tenure positions the Nation to create stable, meaningful jobs for generations to come. It empowers our Nation to manage the forests through our own values, build on the strengths of our Thichum forestry assets and create an opportunity for value-added manufacturing in the community. These benefits will be realized by not only Tla'amin citizens, but also the local community and will provide a stronger future for the whole region.", stated Culos.

A little bit of history

In the late 1800's and early 1900's the provincial government issued timber leases and licences to companies and individuals. These tenures granted rights to cut timber but involved minimal requirements for reforestation or long-term stewardship.

These licences allowed for cut-and-run practices. Logging without obligations to replant or maintain forest health. With the establishment of the Powell River Company mill in 1912 there was an explosive demand for timber from surrounding forests and logging in the qathet region was done primarily to feed the mill, and harvesting expanded rapidly into the interior as technology (railroads, trucks) improved.

Logging camps were established throughout the qathet region, and whole watersheds were clearcut without modern environmental planning. Before the late 1940s, reforestation was not legally required, and many logged areas were left to regenerate naturally, if at all.

In response to concerns about timber shortages and destructive practices, BC introduced the Sustained Yield Forest Policy in the late 1940s. The province also began to encourage long-term management by allocating larger forest tenures with expectations for replanting and sustained yield. The idea was that by giving companies secure access to timber, they would have an incentive to invest in local mills, roads, and sustainable forest practices.

This shift laid the groundwork for the creation of Tree Farm Licences (TFLs), including TFL 39 in 1961.

Establishment of TFL 39 Block 1

TFL 39 Block 1 was established 65 years ago in 1961. Across B.C. TFL's were put in place in an effort to bring the industry under greater regulation. Close to home TFL 39 was only established after 80 years of continuous and pretty much unregulated logging across Tla'amin territory.

Initially, TFL 39 was held by MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. In 1999, the licence was transferred to Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. Subsequently, Western Forest Products Inc. (WFP) acquired the licence and is the current holder. WFP manages TFL 39, including Block 1, under the stipulations set forth by the provincial government.

The B.C. Forest Act empowers the Chief Forester to determine the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for timber supply areas and TFLs, ensuring sustainable forest management. Over the years, the licence has undergone several replacements, with the most recent being Licence 6, issued on March 1, 2010 to Western Forest Products

What are the Characteristics of a Tree Farm License?

- **Exclusive Rights:** A TFL gives the holder exclusive rights to harvest timber in the area defined by the licence.
- **Management Responsibilities:** In return, the holder must manage the land sustainably, including replanting trees, protecting water quality, maintaining wildlife habitat, and preparing management plans.
- **Long-Term Tenure:** TFLs are typically issued for 25-year renewable terms, providing stability for planning and investment.
- **Private and Crown Land:** A TFL may include both Crown (public) land and privately owned land.
- **Annual Allowable Cut (AAC):** Each TFL has an AAC, which is the maximum volume of wood that can be harvested each year, determined by the Chief Forester to ensure sustainability.

An Interview with Director of Education Sophie Call

Seeking Parent & Caregivers of K-12 Students

By Steve Gallagher

The Neh Motl reached out to our Education Department to find out what this program is about. Here is the scoop for this new .

Why is it important for parents to get involved in this committee when we have an education department to look out for our students?

This parent/caregiver committee is a chance for families to share their concerns with department of education staff as well as their hopes for how the school experience could be improved for their children. It is also a space for parents/caregivers to talk to each other about parenting and school challenges, and give each other advice, tips and tricks that have worked for them in the past

How did this committee take shape and was this available last year?

The committee was launched this school year following an Education focused session at a recent General Assembly. A parent indicated that they didn't wish to be part of the parent committees of their child's school but would participate if there were one in community for Tla'amin families specifically. In addition, the First Nations Education Steering Committee started providing a small grant to support such committees, so we can have dinner catered, pay for childcare for any participant who needs it, and provide participants an honorarium.

Who leads or facilitates the session from Education Department?

A few different staff from the Tla'amin Nation department of education whose scope focused on K-12 attend the sessions and any one of them can facilitate the conversation. Dept. staff are keen to join these meetings because hearing directly from the families they serve is so important. It can be an opportunity for them to ask participants questions related to topics that seem to be coming up for the department, like attendance, bussing, child & youth mental health, etc.

Can you share a couple examples of concerns brought forward by parents?

At the first meeting of the committee the participants requested a list of all supports and services available to Tla'amin Nation families with school-age children provided by the various nation Government departments. (That list is now available to anyone who visits the Education Office; it sits in a wall-mounted holder in the entrance.) At another meeting, parents requested a place where timely information related to school could be shared with them and where they could share with each other; the department is now working on it. Subsequent meetings have focused significantly on the challenges families are having with getting their children to go to school; most present had similar experiences to share. This is leading to some upcoming parent/caregiver workshops being planned for the spring. Stay tuned!

Will this continue into the fall school year after a summer break?

Yes, the committee will continue next school year, after the summer break. Participants will choose the direction this committee takes; it is FOR parents, facilitated by TN Education staff.

Can off lands members get involved, if so, how do they engage?

We haven't had any requests for off Lands members to attend, but we could consider that if there were an interest. The challenge would be that the Tla'amin Nation Dept. of Education does not have the same influence and working relationships with schools in all the various communities members live in, but off Lands members could still be part of holding space for each other and sharing ideas.

The TN Parent/Caregiver Committee meets in the culture portable (across from the TN Education Of-



SEEKING PARENTS & CAREGIVERS OF K-12 STUDENTS

TLA'AMIN PARENTS COMMITTEE

Let's meet to talk about our čičuy and what they need to thrive in school. Dinner and honorarium provided.

rice) every third Thursday of the month, 5-7 pm.

All parents, grandparents, and caregivers of school age kids are welcome! We won't have a meeting in March due to Spring Break, but we'll meet up again on Thursday, April 16th.

For more information, please contact the Manager of K-12 Education at tarra.tipton@tn-bc.ca

New Support at Ahms Tah Ow

Welcoming Vincent Deslauriers who will help students of all ages throughout the school/work week

For the past 20 years, Vincent has had the privilege of learning and teaching in many settings – elementary and secondary schools, community programs, and within cultural initiatives. As a generalist educator, he enjoys supporting students across many areas – literacy, humanities, creative expression, sciences and math, social-emotional development, and project-based learning – meeting each learner where they are and adapting to their needs, age, and context.



He believes that learning happens in relationship – with each other, with the land, and within communities – and he brings that understanding into everything he does.

Land-based and outdoor learning are also central to his practice as he believes the land is our greatest teacher. Spending time on the land fosters curiosity, resilience, deep observation, and a meaningful sense of belonging and connection to place. Whenever possible, he brings learning outside – weaving together experiential, reflective, and hands-on activities that support both academic growth and personal wellbeing.

He lives in Powell River with his partner, Julie, an art therapist, and their three children.

Vincent is grateful and humbled to be joining the TN Education team, and he looks forward to walking alongside students, families, and colleagues. In addition to Marissa (PIE teacher), Kayla (Brooks teacher), and of course our very own Louise, Vincent will ensure there is daily support at ATO. (His precise schedule is being figured out and will be shared soon.)

To connect with him, come by ATO or reach him at vincent.deslauriers@tn-bc.ca

One Opinion Certainly Matters

Steve Gallagher

Earlier this month Executive Council members Dillon Johnson and Losa Luaifofo noticed a post by Todd Caldecott on the local message board in town, expressing his views on the name change. It was only posted for a day and was taken down by the town administrator.

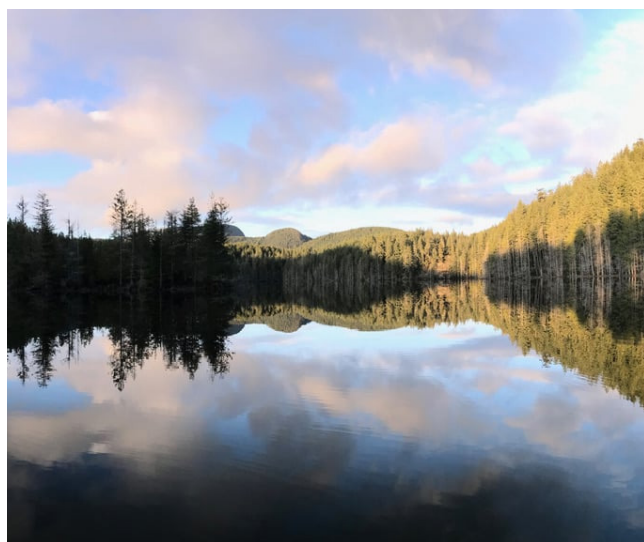
The Neh Motl was able to catch up with him in Brazil and Todd expressed his willingness to share his comments with our readership.

Change is Inevitable - Welcome to the World

Photos of Little Sliammon Lake and Waterfront Totem Pole and Storyline by qathet resident Todd Caldecott

When I first moved to the region in 2018, I was hiking up around Little Sliammon Lake, enjoying the beautiful surroundings. I met a father with his three sons, fishing and swimming, and we got to chatting. I asked him where he lived and he intimated that he lived in tišosəm, which I was just learning was the local Tla'amin village.

My immediate reaction, before I caught myself, was to say, "you must come up here often." It only dawned on me a moment later that he and his children were part of a continuous lineage that had been coming to the lake for thousands of years. That realization gave me a moment to pause, shifting how I understood place and belonging.



A year or so later, I set my stand-up paddle board down at Gibson's Beach, and gently paddled up towards the village. At one point as I was lazily floating with the tide, staring up at the sky and clouds, when the totem poles along the shoreline came into view. For a moment I had the sensation of being somewhere far from home, as if I were travelling in another country or another era. But it struck me that I was not: I was simply becoming more aware of where I actually was: on territory with a deep cultural continuity that long predated me, the townsite and the mill.

Those experiences, together with what I later



"If reconciliation is to mean anything, it requires engagement with our past and a willingness to evolve"

Paul Caldecott

learned of local history, clarified something for me. The relationship between this town and the Tla'amin Nation is not abstract or symbolic; it is layered with the stories and experiences of a real people, with a real history. What motivated me to write the piece wasn't ideology or partisanship.

It was a sense that public conversations about the name change often overlook lived history. I believe we can hold complexity — pride in community, economic concerns, attachment to familiar names — while also acknowledging harm and responding to it in concrete ways. If reconciliation is to mean anything, it requires engagement with our past and a willingness to evolve. As a parent, I have had to accept that my adult children will sometimes make choices different from what I might have chosen. I see a parallel with what is happening in our community, and what it really means to be family. Because that is what we all are, despite apparent differences in culture, history, and skin colour: we are all family. We are all related.

Todd's original post below was deleted on a local Message Board after receiving hundreds of likes

If you have children, and if you've ever had the experience that one of them changed their name, it can feel very difficult. Parents typically agonize over their choice of name, and in most cases, the name they choose is meaningful and significant. So it is particularly difficult if at some later date, when they are adults, they decide to change their name. I get how it can feel undermining and disrespectful, but if parents take it the wrong way, they will end up damaging their relationship with their child. Same goes for any significant change an adult child might make, be it a career path, choice of place, sexual orientation, etc. I get it, change is very hard — maybe the hardest thing for humans to deal with. But it is also inevitable. Welcome to the world.

The Tla'amin are our brothers and sisters in community. We have a unique relationship, unlike so many other communities where huge problems remain, where land claims remain unsettled, and communities exist in turmoil. But that does not mean the past was benign. Within living memory, the Tla'amin were displaced from their ancient village and segregated from the white community, with access to employment, housing, and public spaces restricted. For example, for many years, seating at our beloved Patricia Theatre was discriminatory, where Tla'amin patrons were forced to sit in the balcony or were denied entry altogether. I can imagine what it must feel like for any Tla'amin community member to visit that place now - it would take some guts to feel ok just being there.

The Tla'amin have migrated through this painful period to become a proud and capable people, integrated into our community, and now the largest single employer in the region. The fact that the Tla'amin suffered greatly at the hands of former colonial and corporate powers is undeniable, and for them, the name of Powell River remains an ongoing source of injury, a painful reminder of what was. As part of the process of reconciliation, City Council accepted the notion of a name change, and each successive elected council since reconciliation has upheld it, despite the opposition of a vocal minority. I doubt this vocal minority will ever change: they behave like an abusive parent that instead of acknowledging the painful and difficult choices of their child, would rather cut themselves off, choosing instead to be estranged. This is not an isolated phenomena, and definitely mirrors a social dynamic seen today tearing families apart.

To me, the name change is a no-brainer. Our economy is in large part tourism based, and the uninspired name of "Powell River" recalls a time when sulfur dioxide polluted local skies, and the Mill dumped industrial waste throughout the region (much of which still remains undisclosed) — a legacy that future generations will have to pay for. Being a tourism economy, we need a brand change, something that evokes the unique place and culture of where we live, and the 10,000+ year history of the Tla'amin people. For me, the name "Powell River" does not speak to that. I get it, change is hard — it is understandable; but for all the reasons I mention, it is time. Together, we can all work to refashion this community into one that is both respectful and thriving. The name change alone won't accomplish that, but it is highly symbolic, and rooted in loving-kindness and respect. This is the opportunity before us.

Sehmo Emerson Adams Shares Hunting Skills Passed Down By His Late K^wuk^wpa Tlesla Leslie Adams

Elk hunting, like any form of hunting, will test you mentally, physically, and spiritually. No two hunts are ever the same. Different areas, weather conditions, and times of the season each present their own challenges. The preparation and planning required to harvest these big, beautiful, and tasty animals is no small task. Some hunting areas are extremely remote, accessible only by boat or a small 4x4 vehicle.

Preparing for these hunts requires extensive planning, gathering resources, and ensuring safe travel to and from these remote locations. Experience—or at least a solid knowledge base in safety and survival—is essential when hunting Roosevelt elk. All of this preparation lays the groundwork, and the hunt hasn't even begun yet.

Once you arrive at your chosen camp, you're tasked with setting it up, knowing you may be there for a couple days or even a week. Gathering water for drinking and other uses is a priority, along with establishing a dry and safe place to sleep. Once camp is set, the real work of hunting begins.

Depending on the time of season, hunters may face temperatures ranging from the high 20s in September to below zero in January. Having appropriate gear for these conditions is crucial. Weather also dictates where you're likely to find elk. Early in the season, when it's warmer, elk tend to stay in shaded areas close to water. Don't be fooled, though—these animals are smart and often hide in places you don't want to go. Later in the season, they can be found almost anywhere within their herd's range. A single hunting area may contain multiple herds, along with solo bulls known as satellite bulls. The rut, or mating season, typically occurs from early to mid-September and can extend into early October.

Roosevelt elk are massive animals. Bull elk can range from 700 to 1,100 pounds, while cows generally weigh between 575 and 625 pounds. Everyone hopes to draw a bull tag, as a mature bull yields significantly more meat than a cow. Regardless of the tag, a successful hunt—bull

or cow—means bringing home a substantial amount of meat.

When it comes to actually hunting these animals, tracking skills and knowing what signs to look for will give you a major advantage. Hunting in pairs is recommended, both for safety and to help manage the sheer size of these animals. Paying attention to wind direction and sunrise and sunset times helps with planning your day. In remote areas, walking 10 kilometers a day is almost guaranteed, though sometimes you may come across a lone elk or an entire herd right from the road—you never know when opportunity might present itself.

As a new hunter, it is always helpful to have an experienced hunter accompany you. They can teach you hunting safety, techniques, and general skills. However, not having access to someone with that experience does not prevent you from becoming a successful hunter. Many hunters are self-taught, and with the abundance of information available today, it is possible to build a strong foundation of knowledge and be successful in the field.

During the rut, hunters can call bulls using either a bull bugle or a cow call. Skill level matters here; good calling can draw a bull in, while poor calling can scare one away. No matter how you hunt them, you'll be amazed at how quietly such a large animal can move through dense forest.

There are many dangers present on these hunts, ranging from falls and injuries to encounters with massive grizzly bears that frequent these areas. After making six or seven trips carrying 80 to 130 pounds of elk meat on your back, there is always the risk of returning to find that a grizzly has claimed your kill. Even during routine travel, hunters may come into contact with these powerful animals. In addition, cougars and wolves inhabit our territory and also pose a threat. Hunting in a group of two to six people significantly increases safety. Just remember the more hunters the more noise created.

I want to share a few stories from community hunters who volunteer

"Our culture has been passed down through many generations. We are taught to maintain a deep connection with Mother Nature and the Creator".

Emerson Adams



IN 2022, Sehmo used his bow and arrow to harvest this 7x7 bull in the Haslam area for Tesla who had a community tag.

to hunt in the Daniel and Powell Valleys. These valleys are located at the head of Powell Lake and are extremely remote, accessible only by boat. One story tells of hunters calling in a bull to within 20 yards using a cow call. As one bull approached through thick brush, another took off—likely the smarter of the two. The remaining bull was successfully harvested and brought home to the community. In another instance, two hunters were resting in thick brush when one walked around a bush and nearly stumbled upon a massive bull bedded down less than 40 yards away. It just goes to show—you never know what might happen out there.

Our culture has been passed down through many generations. We are taught to maintain a deep connection with Mother Nature and the Creator. Harvesting an animal is approached with humility and respect for both the process and the animal's life. Some people offer

thanks through prayer, while others give offerings, such as tobacco. Everyone has their own way of showing respect for the life that has been taken to give life to others.

Of course, there are many days and trips that end without success. Crossing rivers and pushing through the thickest bush imaginable, only to return to camp feeling defeated. Nonetheless, the love and drive to feed our families and community keeps hunters going back, facing Mother Nature every time they head out.

In the end, these hunts are a privilege to be a part of. They provide a deep connection to nature and instill respect, patience, and gratitude unlike anything else. Let's hope these hunts continue and that the teachings are passed on to the next generation, allowing young hunters to carry on the tradition of living off the land. Best of luck to all who endure these hunts in the future.



Urban Cultural Days and Traditional Food Distribution

By Davis McKenzie

On February 21 and 22, Tla'amin hosted Vancouver Urban Cultural Days. Čéčhatənapəšt we thank and honour all of our jəjə who showed up.

It was a busy couple of days in the city with many Tla'amin jəjə reconnecting and participating in culture and language activities. Tla'amin leadership was in attendance having the chance to connect one to one with many off-lands citizens.

- 50 families received traditional food bundles.
- 20 drums were made.
- 11 cedar headbands were weaved.
- 8 vest and button blanket projects were started.
- 35 new words and phrases to First Voices.
- 13 citizens received support with status and citizenship applications
- 70 came out for Saturday night feasting and songs

A language class was offered focused on how to introduce yourself and three games of ʔayʔajuθəm bingo were played. On Saturday night seventy people came together for feasting and songs.

At the closing circle on Sunday, participants shared how much they appreciated the instructors and the space we created for one another.

A big thank you to Cultural and Community Services teams Gail Blaney, Joan Williams, Sosan Blaney, Alisha Point, Dion Marriot, Leslie Louie, Drew Blaney and Losa Luaifoa for making this happen.

Thanking and honouring urban jəjə for coming out to the biggest urban cultural days yet!



What's old is new again!

Jordan Mitchell
Health and Safety Coordinator, Tla'amin Nation

Tla'amin Nation has installed new staff accountability boards at Governance House as a simple, practical way to support worker safety during emergency events. It is our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to protect our employees in case of emergency.

The purpose is straightforward: in a fast-moving incident like a fire alarm, earthquake, medical emergency, or other evacuation, leadership needs a reliable way to account for our workers' whereabouts. Recent emergency planning and safety discussions identified a clear gap: without a consistent accountability system, it can be difficult to quickly confirm who may still be inside Gov House during an evacuation.

"These boards are about looking out for one another," said the kw̓on̓tag̓išt Occupational Health and Safety Committee. "They help us take care of each other and support first responders with the best information possible, when every minute matters."

During an evacuation, designated Emergency Workplace Leads will bring the accountability boards to the muster point to help confirm who is or is not accounted for. Being mindful of our department co-workers and their whereabouts will strengthen this system and expedite the head count process.

That clarity supports safer decision-making for everyone involved, especially first responders. If a quick sweep of the building is needed, accountability information helps responders focus their efforts where it matters most, rather than losing valuable time searching without clear direction.

A safety tool, not a monitoring tool

- We want to emphasize that the boards are not intended for attendance tracking or time checking. They are a "low-tech, organization-wide safety measure" designed to strengthen evacuation accountability and reduce risk during emergencies.
- The approach is intentionally simple: no apps, no connectivity requirements, and no reliance on power or devices. These are important considerations during outages or large-scale incidents.
- At its core, this initiative reflects a culture of care: being good office neighbors, building strong habits, and taking reasonable steps to keep one another safe.

SAVE THE DATE – YOU ARE INVITED



Walking Forward Together: From Healing to Justice to Community Strength

March 9, 2026 | 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Salish Centre and tišosəm

Tla'amin citizens are invited to a full day community forum focused on learning, reflection, and collective commitment. This gathering is about moving from healing, to justice, to community strength. It is a space to speak honestly, listen to one another, and take responsibility together for the safety and well-being of our čičuy and future generations.

The morning will focus on healing within our community. The afternoon turns toward justice, restorative accountability, youth safety, and the role each of us plays in building a stronger, safer Nation. The day will close with a Community Peace Walk to honour loved ones we have lost to addiction and to visibly stand together for peace in our community.


We are honoured to welcome home Chastity Davis-Alphonse, proud Tla'amin member and national leader in Indigenous Gender-Based Analysis. Through her work with more than 125 First Nation communities and governments across Canada, she brings an Indigenous woman's lens to reconciliation, systems change, and community transformation. Her voice will help guide us as we look inward and forward together.

Lunch and dinner will be provided. Door prizes include a computer, restaurant gift cards for families, a generator, ferry passes with gas cards, a first aid kit, and more. You must be present to win.

All Tla'amin citizens are encouraged to take part. This day is about us and the future we are building together.


**Please reach out to Losa Luaifoa for more information:
778-762-3716**


Photo credit: Ashley Drody Photography




SUMMARY OF RCMP CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

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

Date	Location	Description
JAN 23	TLA'AMIN RD	Police responded to an anonymous call reporting a group of youth near the church. The caller advised that the youth were drinking and stealing firewood. Police attended, but all youth were gone on arrival. Patrols were made, but they could not be located.
JAN 24	HWY 101	Police responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle on the side of Hwy 101. Police spoke to the owner who confirmed the vehicle had mechanical issues and was going to be towed.
JAN 25	HWY 101	Police responded to a disturbance at a residence. Everyone at the house was spoken to and it was determined that no assault had taken place. After everything had calmed down, police left the residence.
JAN 26	HWY 101	Police responded to a report of an assault. Police spoke to witnesses but determined there was not enough evidence to proceed further.
JAN 27	TLA'AMIN CRT	Police responded to a report of a suspicious occurrence. Some furniture had been moved on the back patio of a residence. Police checked the area but were unable to locate anyone.



First Nations Child and Family Services
and Jordan's Principle Settlement



The Claims Period for the Removed Child Class and Removed Child Family Class opened on **March 10, 2025.**

Eligibility



The Removed Child Class

- First Nations individuals who, while under the Age of Majority, were removed from their homes between April 1, 1991, and March 31, 2022, by Child Welfare Authorities
- The removal from home happened while the Child or their Caregiving Parents or Caregiving Grandparents were Ordinarily Resident on Reserve or living in the Yukon
- The placement was funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)



The Removed Child Family Class

Caregiving Parents and Caregiving Grandparents of a Removed Child who:

- Are the biological or adoptive parents, biological or adoptive grandparents, or Stepparents who are First Nations
- Lived with, assumed and exercised parental responsibilities over the Removed Child at the time the Child was removed
- Were the ones the Removed Child was first removed from

How to submit a Claim

Submit your Claim Form, copy of your valid government-issued identification and any required documents to the Administrator at [Portal.FNChildClaims.ca](https://portal.fnchildclaims.ca) or by email, fax or mail.

The Administrator cannot accept Claims submitted on behalf of another person unless:

- The Claim is submitted by a legally appointed Personal Representative on behalf of a Person Under Disability
- The Claim is submitted on behalf of a deceased person by the executor of their estate or an eligible heir

If you believe you are eligible under more than one Class, submit a separate Claim Form for each Class.

YOUTH MURAL

Location of Mural:
Salish Center Workout Room

Location of Weekly Meetings:
ᑭayıştən ᑭayε

NO MURAL EXPERIENCE NEEDED. JUST PASSION

What to Expect:
Come create, and learn with jεᑭajε Kobe Galligos, and Rhys Galligos, to build towards the shared goal of a finished mural for our communities workout room. This project will have weekly sessions covering a wide range of topics, from digitizing art to Salish shapes. Intended to give you useful tools moving forward from this project.

Weekly sessions:
2 hours each, for 26 weeks (March-August 2026)
Paid opportunity to allow artistic growth for those wanting dedicated space: \$27/hour
Minimum. 88 hours of time committed
Spots Available: 4 paid youth (13-30) spots

First Session:
Salish Center Workout Room
March 4 2026
5:30 PM

Want to know more before our opening session starts? reach out to: adriana.zastre@tn-bc.ca

Learn more at tosumstrong.com
Strength is Medicine

The most searched fitness question in the world is simple:

“How do I lose weight?”

But here’s the truth: weight loss is rarely the real goal. Most people want:

- More energy
- More confidence
- Less stress
- Better health markers
- Clothes to fit comfortably
- To feel ᑭasəm (strong) again

Weight loss is often just the visible outcome.

If you want sustainable results, focus on these three foundations instead:

1. Lift weights consistently. Strength training builds muscle, protects metabolism, and shapes your body long-term.
2. Eat enough protein. Protein supports muscle repair, reduces cravings, and stabilizes blood sugar.
3. Walk more than you think you need to. Daily movement regulates stress and supports fat loss without burning you out. A great way to begin is to aim for 8,000-12,000 steps a day.

Quick fixes fail because they focus on restriction. Real progress happens when you build habits. Remember to take it one day at a time.

At Tosum Ltd., we don’t chase rapid drops on the scale. We build strength and a ᑭasəmews (strong body) that lasts years. If you need help getting started, I do offer online training. I do hope to make it out there this fall! Stay tuned :) Because when you feel strong, the rest follows.

Strength Is Medicine. Effort Is Yours. čččhatanapč qwaləp tin tᑭokw.
(I thank you and honour you all) Charlene Muskego, Tosum Ltd.

Spring Intake for the qames ᑭəms tala Settlement Trust is approaching

Tla’amin Citizens who are interesting in starting or expanding their business(es) are encouraged to apply for the Economic Development Spring intake

Opening Date: April 2, 2026

Closing Date: April 24, 2026



New versions of the Handbook, Business Application and Verification Letter of Good Standing for April 2026 will be posted at www.tlaamintrust.com/grants

Note: Ensure you are using the updated 2026 handbook for a successful application

New Hire

Carlyn Fabbro has joined our team in a temporary capacity as Early Childhood Development Outreach Support Worker.

My name is Carlyn, and I am thrilled to have been given this chance to serve and be a part of this wonderful community.

I recently moved to qathet from the North Delta / Surrey area, where I worked as an Integration Support Teacher in the Surrey School District. In this position, I collaborated with parents, administration, teachers, and youth to ensure that all students at my school were engaged with their learning in a meaningful and involved manner.

I hope to bring my experience working with children, relations, and colleagues to ensure that či čuy are given the best possible support and opportunity to thrive.

I look forward to meeting, listening, and cooperating with all of you.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARCH 14, 2026

The Pielle/Mitchell Family

Invite You to...

A Memorial for

Thapwuut (Sue Pielle),
Xwa Xwe (Wayne Pielle),
Ojaymixw (Vern Pielle),
& Makara Gallagher

& afterwards

A Naming Ceremony for
21 Descendants of Thapwuut

Doors open at 9:30 AM

Location: Salish Centre, 4885 Highway 101, Tla'amin

contact info:

piellememorialfund@gmail.com



ᕆᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ,

Our family is excited to invite you all to join us for the Memorial of θᕈᕈᕈᕈᕈ (Sue Pielle), swixway (Wayne Pielle), ᕆᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (Vern Pielle), and Makara Gallagher. Following our teachings to keep everyone safe and healthy, we ask that children are kept home during this ceremony.

Everyone, including children, is welcome to join the Naming Ceremony after lunch.

Happy 17th Birthday Makaela Dayne
March 5th



To Our Pretty

Reach for the stars, don't settle for less
Because you deserve true happiness.
You were born to be special, one of a kind
With a beautiful soul and a beautiful mind.

Making your way with your own ideas
You've kept your spirit throughout the years.
You're kind and loving, funny and true
Which is why Pretty, nobody's quite like you.

All our loves and hugs
Mom, Dad, Mattias & Family



Happy Birthday