



Winter Nohom Witnessed by Nearly 200 People

By Drew Blaney
Tla'amin Nation Culture & Heritage Manager

The winter nohom which we celebrated on Wednesday January 21st, was community celebration hosted by our community services and cultural team.

Historically during the winter months, our people would gather to share songs, dances and stories and share in the bounty of food that was harvested during warmer months.

Nohom, in our language, means 'feast' and the heads of each household historically called the people together to host a nohom.

Attendance for this event saw close to 200 Tla'amin citizens come together to share a wonderful meal which was catered by Tla'amin's own Lund Hotel.

Afterwards, Tla'amin youth danced to many of our nations songs and the night ended with our youth participating on an 'iron man dance' which lasted over 35 minutes. It was great to see our community come together for this winter nohom, which we hope to make an annual event.



Carmen Galligos and Elisha Dominic perform the story of łal: The Wild Man of the Woods

After Months of Care, Tegan Begins His Next Chapter at Home

By Davis McKenzie

After four months in hospital, nine-year-old Tegan Dominick returned home to Tla'amin on January 18, marking an important milestone in his recovery and a moment his family had been working toward since last fall.

Tegan became seriously ill in September 2025 after developing a fever and headache. When he began experiencing seizures, his parents, Gina Francis and Trevor Dominick, brought him to qathet General Hospital. Medical staff determined that he required specialized care and arranged for a medivac to Lions Gate Hospital, followed by a transfer to BC Children's Hospital.

Tegan was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive

Care Unit, where his condition stabilized under the care of a large medical team. For his parents, siblings, and extended family, the weeks that followed were intense and uncertain.

Doctors later diagnosed Tegan with encephalitis, a condition that caused swelling in his brain. To relieve pressure and allow his brain to heal, surgeons performed a craniectomy, temporarily removing part of his skull. Until a future surgery can replace the bone flap, protecting Tegan's head remains a critical part of his care.

As his condition improved, Tegan moved out of intensive care and into rehabilitation. At Sunny Hill Health Centre, he worked with physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and other specialists

to relearn skills such as walking, playing, and communicating.

"He's still the same kid," said his mom, Gina Francis. "He has the same interests. He loves his sports, soccer and hockey. We just need to remember he's still healing, so we just have to adjust how we do things, even something as simple as playing pass."

The brain injury caused by encephalitis has affected Tegan's movement, communication, and impulse control. On his return to łišosəm, he requires one-on-one supervision at all times for his safety, particularly in busy environments. His family says community awareness is important

Tegan (Continued on page 5)

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Tla'amin Governance House Updates

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Message from hegus



ʔajεčxʷut

Fiscal 2027 Budget: First Review Ahead

I want to wish our members a happy and safe new year. To start the new year the Tla'amin Legislative Assembly had the first look at the Fiscal 2027 budget on January 21. This first review gave the Assembly members the opportunity to ask questions, share feedback, and help shape the direction of the budget.

The budget will return to the Legislative Assembly for a second review and final approval on March 25. This is a collaborative process between the Finance team and the Legislature, and early input is an important part of getting it right.

I want to acknowledge the significant work that has gone into developing this draft budget by the Finance team and Tla'amin department directors. Budgeting requires each department to carefully plan their work, anticipate community needs, and estimate the real costs of delivering services. This is detailed, thoughtful work, and I am grateful for the effort that went into it.

Acknowledging Stefan Virtue

On January 16, staff gathered for a blanket ceremony and lunch to honour Stefan Virtue, who has moved on from his role as Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Tla'amin Nation.

Stefan played a key role in building and strengthening our Intergovernmental Relations (IGR)

team. This team is essential to the Nation's work, serving as the link between Tla'amin leadership and all levels of government. They help prepare leadership with briefing notes and key messages, ensuring that when time with government officials is limited, our communications are clear, effective, and focused on securing real commitments.

Many of the accomplishments our Nation has achieved over the past five years are tied to Stefan's dedication and leadership. It was an honour to work alongside him, and he will be dearly missed.

Legacy Homes Policy: Bringing Clarity and Fairness

For many Tla'amin families, the story of their home began long before treaty. Over decades, homes were built and assigned in different ways. Some through formal agreements, others through unwritten understandings and long-standing family arrangements.

When treaty came into effect in 2016, Tla'amin Nation gained the legal authority to grant title to homes. While some homes were transferred individually, many questions remained about pre-treaty commitments and informal arrangements.

To bring clarity and fairness to this work, Executive Council approved the Legacy Homes Policy on October 15, 2025. This policy is a one-time opportunity to honour pre-treaty commitments and resolve outstanding questions in a consistent and transparent way.

Approximately 78 homes are eligible under this policy. All households connected to these homes have now been contacted and invited to engage and participate in the process.

Community Update – Keep Our Power Local

Our community and regional partners have made an impact. After more than 2,600 letters from residents, the Canada Energy Regulator has recommended that Brookfield's proposed 30-year export of power from our waters go through a full licensing process. This would mean a closer review and the possibility of hearings. The decision is not final. We are asking community members to speak up again and help keep our power local. Visit keepourpowerlocal.ca to catch up and submit a second form letter.

Intergovernmental Update

Four Sets of Amendments Include ʔayʔajuθəm Throughout the Treaty

Provided By Wren Shaman

Amending Agreement #4, which renames the Tla'amin Treaty to ʔaʔjinxʷegəs, is now in effect. In March 2025 Tla'amin, British Columbia, and Canada, reached agreement on a fourth amending agreement to the Tla'amin Treaty. After being approved by the Tla'amin legislative assembly, this agreement was then translated into French and approved by both British Columbia and Canada.

Four sets of amendments were approved in this amending agreement. The key amendments include: the inclusion of a new provision to confirm the treaty as an evolving living agreement, the inclusion of ʔayʔajuθəm throughout the treaty to refer to animals or species, place names, and teachings, the renaming of the treaty to ʔaʔjinxʷegəs [a good relationship with someone], and updates to the Child and Family Services chapter that expand Tla'amin Nation's jurisdiction over child and family services, and increased flexibility in respect of its jurisdiction over adoption.

Each of these amendments further tailors the Treaty to Tla'amin priorities and interests, while more accurately reflecting Tla'amin people, culture, and knowledge systems. Collectively, they demonstrate our capacity to implement the Treaty as a living agreement and represent a meaningful advancement in strengthening government-to-government relationships with Canada and British Columbia. Treaty amendment is an ongoing, iterative process, and we remain committed to pursuing future changes to ensure the Treaty continues to respond to the evolving needs of the Tla'amin Nation and Tla'amin Government.

Tla'amin Nation Nears Completion of 6 New Transitional Housing Units

By: Davis McKenzie

Tla'amin Nation is nearing an important milestone in its work to support citizens experiencing homelessness, with construction of the new Transitional Housing Units now in the closeout phase and preparing for tenants on February 1, 2026.

Carmen Galligos, Director of Public Works says that the project builds on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. "In 2022 Tla'amin rapidly established six emergency housing trailers at the same site to keep vulnerable citizens safe," Galligos continued "What began as a crisis response has evolved into a permanent, self-funded investment in community well-being."

The new development includes three rancher-style duplexes, providing six self-contained 600 sq. ft. units. Each unit comes fully furnished with appliances, dishes, bedding, and essentials so residents can settle in quickly and safely. Designed as transitional housing, tenants will be reviewed every three months and may stay for up to one year while they work toward stable, long-term housing.

Housing and Public Works Housepost Dillon Johnson acknowledged the significance of the project and the community's direction through the budgeting exercise. "Each year, our citizens tell us clearly that housing is their number one priority," Johnson said. "This project honours that direction and invests in the safety for our members facing homelessness."

Construction began on July 14, 2025, following a competitive bidding process that awarded the contract to Initio Contracting. Despite a tight schedule, the crew delivered high-quality, traditional stick-frame construction in under five months, reaching substantial completion on time and within budget. The project finished at a total cost of \$992,000.



Tla'amin Nation project manager Tawhid Aziz pictured left kept the project on time and on budget, Emerson Adams, Construction supervisor oversaw the project Tla'amin staff who supported finishing, and Ian Berg, owner Initio Contracting won the bid and constructed the 6 units. Berg said it was the project of a lifetime and that he feels proud of the team and the final product.

Self-funded entirely through Tla'amin's Own-Source Revenue, the Transitional Housing Units reflect a shift from temporary solutions to long-term, Nation-led action. Once open, they will provide a safe and supported pathway toward housing stability for citizens who need it most.

Housing manager Sharon McKay explained that Transitional housing is just one part of a much larger housing strategy now moving forward. "This year Tla'amin opens a new subdivision to support Tla'amin home ownership, begins construction on 30 new two- and three-bedroom homes at tiskwat and adds four additional rental units to our housing stock."

Johnson congratulates the staff who pulled this together. "Our hands are raised in thanks to Carmen, Tawhid and the Initio crew. This project shows what we can accomplish when we plan carefully, work efficiently, and stay focused on the needs and priorities of citizens.

Citizens facing homelessness are encouraged to speak with housing staff and apply for Transitional Housing. Paperwork is minimal and the housing department can support. Contact Courtney Harrop at (778) 762-4298, Ext. 146 or courtney.harrop@tn-bc.ca.

Cultural Facilities Now Open For Community Bookings

After several months of preparation, staff training, and careful setup, ʔəms ʔayɛ (Our House) Cultural Centre and ʔəʔtanmot ʔayɛ (the Traditional Food House) are ready to welcome community use.

ʔəms ʔayɛ is a cultural gathering place designed for ceremonies, cultural events, meetings, and learning activities. It includes the main feast hall, museum, language lab, and offices for the Culture, Heritage, and Language teams.

ʔəʔtanmot ʔayɛ is a purpose-built Traditional Food House where community members can learn, teach, and practice the procuring, processing, and preservation of traditional foods.

Cultural Campus Manager Leslie Louie emphasized the care that went

into preparing the buildings for long-term community use. "This was about doing things properly," said Louie. "We wanted to make sure the spaces are safe, functional, and ready to be used in good ways for many years to come. These buildings were built for the community, and now they're ready for community use."

Family bookings are available to ʔaʔamin qayɛmɪxʷ (Tla'amin citizens) who are adults and in good standing. Citizens are required to complete an orientation, hold a current Food Safe Level 1 certification, and agree to respectful use guidelines before their first booking.

To help introduce the space, the Traditional Food House team (Leslie Louie, Avi Sternberg and Lawrence

Dingwall) will host an Open House. Community members are invited to come by, see the facility, learn about available equipment, and ask questions about food processing, workshops, and future programming. More details will be shared closer to the date.

All bookings are managed through Xplor (PerfectMind). Community members can create an account and request a space at: <https://tlaamin.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn>

Once a booking request is approved, users will receive a booking agreement, provide a refundable damage deposit, and complete any required orientations or certifications.

Thank you to the community for your patience as we crossed our t's and dotted our i's. Together, these spaces are intended to support cultural practices, ceremonies, community gatherings, education, and food security for Tla'amin citizens. We look forward to seeing the Cultural Campus become an active, well-used hub for gathering, learning, and sharing.

Contacts

For bookings and facility coordination: Leslie Louie, Cultural Campus Manager leslie.louie@tn-bc.ca | 604-414-2816

For Traditional Food House questions and workshops:

Avi Sternberg – avi.sternberg@tn-bc.ca
Lawrence Dingwall – lawrence.dingwall@tn-bc.ca

ʔayʔajuθəm Teachers Gather to Explore Learning Modules and Resource Development

Learning a few phrases a day will elevate your vocabulary

By Steve Gallagher

kʷanačim həgəm ga kʷ tihayə. Anyone fluent in reading ayajuthem can easily explain how to pronounce the tiny w's and explain why letters appear flipped around and upside down. Then you got to learn the tongue tricks to make the sounds that seems impossible to make at first. Once you manage to get the technique down then you can ask your jeh jeh to "Sit down and have some tea" in ʔayʔajuθəm.

Within our population we have different variations of skill sets when it comes to ayajuthem. We have members who can speak and hear the language fluently but can't write the orthography. Another group that understands ʔayʔajuθəm through listening but can't speak it. This group is referred to as silent speakers. People who spent most of their lives listening to their parents or relatives speak ʔayʔajuθəm without participating in the conversation.

On January 14th, a ʔayʔajuθəm Teachers Gathering was held at ʔəms ʔayə with our sister nations Klahoose and Homalco.



Klahoose language team elder Jessie Louie and Jacqueline Mathieu exhibit their most recent visuals created with students on plant names.



2025 grade 1 and kindergarten qaymixwqenumsht class.

The purpose of this session was to introduce and share resources being developed for a range of ayajuthem learners and enthusiasts at heart.

"We finally have ʔayʔajuθəm teachers and educators in one room who teach all different age groups in unique environments", said Koosen Pielle. "Our Sister Nations represents a cross section of Early Childhood Educators, immersion programs, School Districts, and language team members. Now we are gathering strength by sharing educational resources with each other, which is something we've only just started.

The day before the gathering, all participants were invited to spend some time at the CDRC hanging out with the Tla'amin Immersion program called qaymixwqenumsht [qay-mixw qeh-numsht]. This means we will all speak our language, and witness our children unleash their tongues speaking ʔayʔajuθəm.

ʔayʔajuθəm (Continued on page 5)

Tla'amin Legislature Gets First Look at Budget 2027

By Davis McKenzie

On January 21, members of the Tla'amin Legislative Assembly gathered for the first sitting of the new year. The main focus of the day was a first look at Budget 2027, giving legislators an early opportunity to understand the financial picture ahead and ask hard questions before decisions are finalized.

The meeting was livestreamed on the Tla'amin Facebook page, allowing Tla'amin citizens to also tune in for this early look.

Chief Financial Officer Scott Taylor and Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Nikita Gorban walked legislators through the draft budget, which was built by working closely with all departments across Tla'amin government. Taylor said that this high-level review was intended to “plant seeds and get early input” as planning for the 2027 fiscal year continues.

Tla'amin Nation currently delivers programs and services through eight departments and 41 work units, spanning federal, provincial, and municipal-type responsibilities at the same time. In peak summer season, the Nation employs close to 300 people to support this work.

This year's budget discussion comes at an important moment. Tla'amin is approaching the 10-year anniversary of the Final Agreement, while also facing tougher economic conditions. Funding is harder to secure, governments are tightening their own budgets, and funders are holding Nations to higher levels of accountability for every dollar received.

A Clear Look at the Numbers

For FY27, total spending is projected to reach \$70.5 million, while expected revenue is \$60.2 million. That creates a gap of \$10.3 million. Based on past experience, finance staff expect that about \$5 million of that gap will be offset through likely but not yet confirmed funding, cost savings, and deferred spending. That leaves a planned deficit of \$5.3 million.

When asked directly where the deficit is coming from, Taylor was clear: “It's coming from all departments.” Over the past five years, Tla'amin's annual spending has nearly tripled, growing from \$24 million in FY21 to a proposed \$70.5 million in FY27.

In the 2027 budget, about one-third of Tla'amin's total costs are people costs. Overall, 56% of the budget is restricted funding tied to specific agreements, while 44% is flexible. The Nation manages roughly 200 separate funding agreements, including \$17 million in treaty block funding. Own-source revenue, including contributions from Tla'amin Management Services (TMS), remains critical to financial stability.

Nearly one-quarter of the FY27 budget is tied to new housing starts, including the new task at apartment development and four new social housing units. These grant funded projects reflect the communities #1 budget priority- Housing.

Economic Pressures and Long-Term Planning

The discussion also acknowledged broader economic realities. Indigenous Services Canada has reduced some funding, and both federal and provincial governments are facing fiscal pressures of their own. TMS, while still providing dividends, must also reinvest profits to grow businesses and generate stronger returns over time.

Legislators asked important questions about dividends, reserves, and long-term sustainability. There was reassurance that community dividends will continue, and confidence expressed that the deficit can be managed.

Tla'amin Nation currently holds approximately \$30 million in unrestricted reserves, built up through past surpluses. These reserves provide one option for addressing the FY27 deficit if needed. Additional options discussed included \$25 million held in Community Improvement Fund (CIF) reserves, largely tied to the Klahanie Specific Claim and subject to community engagement requirements, and potential support from the Tla'amin Trust. There are also approximately \$5 million in restricted treaty reserves available for specific purposes.

Maximizing the role of the Tla'amin Trust in strengthening the Tla'amin economy was also discussed. Some legislators commenting that the process could be streamlined to make it easier for citizens.

Investing Despite the Cost

Several legislators emphasized the broader context behind the numbers. Looking back over the past 5 years much of Tla'amin's growth was spurred by long overdue investment in First Nations community infrastructure by the federal government and in programming from the provincial government.

Despite current challenges, there was strong confidence around economic development and own-source revenue. With systems now in place, leadership expressed optimism that Tla'amin can climb out of deficit while maintaining essential services and protecting long-term stability. Maintaining a strong “rainy day fund” was seen as an important part of responsible governance.

Budget 2027 is still in its early stages. The January 21 sitting was about transparency, shared understanding, and setting the stage for informed decision-making. More discussion will follow before the budget is finalized. Legislators and Tla'amin Department directors gathered January 22 to consider options for reducing or servicing the planned deficit.

The second sitting of the Tla'amin legislative assembly in 2026 is scheduled for March 25th. At this meeting the budget will be finalized.

Tla'amin Nation Delivers Services Across Three Levels of Government

Tla'amin Nation delivers programs and services across federal, provincial, and local (municipal type) systems at the same time. Because responsibilities and funding span multiple levels of government, population-based budget comparisons with other governments are often inaccurate and misleading.

Federal-level services

Tla'amin delivers or administers some services funded through federal systems, including community health programming, citizenship services, income assistance, on-lands housing programs, and certain education supports.

Provincial-level services

Tla'amin delivers many services typically administered by the Province of British Columbia, often through agreements or delegated authority. These include primary health care, mental health and addictions services, child and family services, public health programs, lands and resource management and planning, workforce training, and K-12 education supports.

Local (municipal type) services

Tla'amin Nation also delivers services comparable to those provided by municipalities, tailored to the needs of the Tla'amin community and lands. Examples include parks and recreation, water and wastewater systems, solid waste and recycling, roads and street lighting, fire protection, community safety, and local bylaws.

Housing Gathering Provides Open Dialogue for Community Members



Shaya Harry and Housing Tenants Relations Coordinator Laura Brandsma share their point of view alongside Tracy Timothy, Gloria Francis, Doreen Galligos and Janet Morgan

By Steve Gallagher

On January 15th, approximately 80 members enjoyed a hot meal of elk stew, mashed potatoes and bannock provided by Gail Blaney before Stuart Clark opened the meeting and after the opening prayer by Phil George.

Opening the information meet and greet was Housing Director Stuart Clark who gave a quick introduction for each staff member describing their roles and responsibilities.

Stuart announced that there were close to 50 Expressions of Interests received for the Legacy Homes to date before the January 31st, 2026, deadline. *At the time of publication the Nation has made contact with all 78 eligible for the process.*

The main purpose of this gathering was to meet the Housing team in-

person, learn more about what the team is currently working on, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Each housing staff member held individual roundtable discussions where notes were taken while questions were asked. Responses will be provided at a future meeting to be announced.

Legislator Gloria Francis acknowledged the housing staff for having this open session to address community concerns on housing matters where the people need to be heard.

After a good information exchange at each table, it was announced that questions that couldn't be answered will be addressed at a future housing meeting in May.



A look inside the newly built Transitional Housing units (next to Gov House), created to support Tla'amin citizens experiencing housing insecurity by offering safety, stability, and a fresh start.

Housing Portfolio

- Legacy Homes: very exciting times for the Nation.
- Elders Unit: 24 units built 2023.
- CCH units: 4 units built in 2025 filled
- 3-bedroom single home dwelling completed fall of 2025 occupied with a family.
- 4-bedroom single home dwelling started fall of 2025
- 6 Transitional homes completed January 2026. Occupancy will be Spring of 2026
- Tiskwat Housing 30 unit started fall of 2026 2 bedroom and 3 bedrooms. We have a need for these units as we have a waiting list.
- Reno's Health and Safety 2024/2026 approximately 45 completed 8 still needing to be completed.
- 2026/2027 we have 10 to 15 health and Safety reno's scheduled.
- Subdivision: for Citizens applying for a lot they can contact denise.smith@tn-bc.ca or april.treakle@tn-bc.ca for Lands Department to walk them through initial application process.
- New Building Permitting process for new builds will apply to their projects.
- Other projects we're doing feasibility work for:
 - o Supportive Housing (30 units)
 - o Transitional Housing (15 units)



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TLA'AMIN NATION

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LANDS & RESOURCES

Get involved!

Join the Lands & Resources Advisory Group

Get paid \$100 to attend a monthly 2h meeting and make a difference by sharing your input and directly shaping the future of Tla'amin lands!

We are looking for:

- Youth Representatives (Ages 16-30)
- Elder Representatives
- On-Lands Representatives
- Off-Lands Representatives

Apply Before February 27, 2026!

Send an expression of interest email to Lands Manager, April Treakle at: april.treakle@tn-bc.ca

Update from Child and Family Services Manager

By Ryan Pielle (he/him) | Child & Family Services Manager

TCFS in 2026

In the December issue of *neh motl*, we introduced Tla'amin Child & Family Services (TCFS), including a brief overview of our services and supports. We would like to continue these updates so our community knows what TCFS is doing and how we are doing it.

The last few years have been spent building up our team and a strong foundation. Now, we are able to focus efforts on developing the structure around our work. This includes clarifying our procedures and a TCFS policy, which are both currently under development. This will ensure equity, fairness, and openness for our team and Tla'amin families. Moving forward, we will also be further defining our Wellness programming and related procedures, with input from the community and support from our technical team.

As of February 2026, we have finalized and implemented the following procedures:

- Child Safety
- Family Mediation

During this year, we will also finalize and implement the following:

- Procedures:
- čepθtən House
- Youth Support Services
- Family Support Services
- Administration
- Emergency
- CFS Policy

Our team

The Staff Directory (attached) includes the TCFS team who works directly with community. Our work is supported by a team of people behind the scenes, who advance the overall CFS reform process and development. Our technical team includes:

- Harmony Johnson - a Tla'amin citizen, who supports our team and the Tla'amin Nation as a whole to develop and implement strategic plans, including in an intergovernmental context.
- Janet Newbury - who has a background in Child & Family Services and a Doctorate in Child & Youth Care. She has been working closely with us throughout our CFS reform process.
- Ana Novakovic - who is a policy specialist and supports TCFS's policy and procedure development.

čičye Circle

The čičye Circle is made up of grandparents from Tla'amin or its ḡayaḡuθəm-speaking sister Nations, and/or grandparents to children of Tla'amin or its ḡayaḡuθəm-speaking sister Nations. The Circle helps ensure TCFS programs and services are centered in Tla'amin knowledge of raising Tla'amin children. The Circle meets once per month to receive updates on TCFS and provide feedback.

This year, space may become available for new members. If you are interested in joining the čičye Circle or would like more information on the responsibilities of being a čičye Circle member, please reach out to familyservices@tn-bc.ca



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

CONTACT US AT FAMILYSERVICES@TN-BC.CA OR (604) 413-7053
WE WILL CONNECT YOU WITH THE APPROPRIATE TEAM MEMBER FOR SUPPORT

WHO WE ARE	WHAT WE DO
Ryan Pielle CFS Manager	Oversees CFS services and staff. Is the Nation representative for child protection and Family Law matters.
Lisa Williams CFS Team Assistant	The primary contact for general inquiries related to Tla'amin CFS. Provides administrative and other supports to all team members.
Jasmin Menendez, Tyler Peters, & Katarina Ducaiova Youth & Family Development Worker	One-on-one support and advocacy for youth and/or caregivers. Can work on life skills development, basic needs, referrals, system navigation and more.
Trista Tom čepθtən House Coordinator	Coordinates the Respite Care program and related services at čepθtən House, including supports and programs that promote family wellness.
Alexandrea Souch Family Civil Mediator	Facilitates meetings for families and agencies to ensure decision making and planning is fair to all parties involved, especially the children.
Cheyene Dyer Youth & Family Mental Health Practitioner	Provides counselling and mental health supports for caregivers, youth, and children in community. Assists in the development of hoθošt ḡakwi ḡi services.
čičye Circle	Provides guidance about the structure of services, and direction on long-term reform of services. Is not involved with case-related work.

IF YOU NEED TO REACH THE MANAGER DIRECTLY, PLEASE CONTACT
RYAN.PIELLE@TN-BC.CA OR 604-414-3232



New Year, New Opportunities

Looking for a supportive, values-based school?

Assumption welcomes new families mid-year.

Space available K-5.

Registration opens in February for the 2026-2027 school year.

Catholic K-7 | www.assumptionpr.ca



Eelgrass Meadows Support Habitat Restoration

By Sydni Long,

Fisheries Engagement Coordinator

In December 2025, Tla'amin Lands and Resources staff participated in a workshop with the UBC O'Connor Lab to explore the results of an Eelgrass study that has been taking place since 2022. This workshop not only explored the results of the research that was in collaboration with Tla'amin, but explored next steps, and priorities moving forward.

Tla'amin Nation has been working with the UBC O'Connor Lab to research eelgrass distribution, health and impacts in the territory. Their research has helped protect and restore eelgrass meadows and improve fish habitat, biodiversity and mitigate localized climate change impacts. The research has primarily taken place in Desolation Sound Marine Park, an area of high archaeological and cultural value with village sites, fish traps, pictographs, beach middens and burial sites. Desolation Sound is also a busy and popular destination for recreational boaters since the early 1920s, for boaters, kayaking and camping. This increase in pressure has led to concern and degradation about the health of the nearshore ecosystems within the park, including eelgrass meadows.


Eelgrass meadows are highly productive ecosystems that are sensitive to development activities and difficult to restore once disrupted. Eelgrass meadows provide important habitat for juvenile fish and invertebrates, improve ecosystem services, like carbon uptake, and they filtrate the sediment. Boating can change these growing conditions through the release of pollutants, shading the plants, or physically uprooting the plants while anchored.


To determine if recreational boating is having an impact on the health of the eelgrass meadows in Desolation Sound, UBC assessed the condition of eelgrass meadows through 2023, 2024, and 2025. Funding has been provided by BC Parks and Natural Sciences and Research Engineering Council of Canada Grants (NSERC). With the help of Tla'amin Guardians they were able to assess biomass and density of the eelgrass, along with associate biodiversity metrics, like algae, invertebrates, and fish diversity. Together these measurements were used to assess the current condition and overall health of the eelgrass beds and lend insight to the current factors that may be affecting eelgrass bed health in ʔəms giʔ.

As a result of the research findings, “noanchor” buoys have been installed throughout the Park to help protect and encourage the recovery of eelgrass meadows. Additional management actions, such as eelgrass planting or expanding noanchor zones are also being explored to further support habitat restoration. Alongside this work, Tla'amin Guardians have been monitoring water quality in the anchorages every few weeks in the summer months to better understand any additional pressures these areas may pose to the ecosystem. If you would like more information please contact Jen McGuiness (jen.mcguiness@tn-bc.ca) or Sydni Long (sydni.long@tn-bc.ca)



Crab and Small fish seek refuge in eelgrass
(Credit: O'Connor Lab, UBC)






Join our Team!

CALL FOR TRUSTEE!

Are you over the age of 19 and interested in getting involved?

Join the ʔəms tala Settlement Trust!

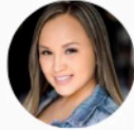
- Participate in quarterly meetings and monthly teleconferences.
- Receive an honorarium for your time and commitment.
- Business experience with valuable skills in finance, operations, leadership, strategic planning and risk management
- Previous board experience an asset



Cyndi Egan,
Guardian of the Trust




Marina Gallagher,
Treasurer



Kayla Peters,
Secretary



April Treakle,
Economic Development Admin



Jasmin Menendez,
Trust Operations Support



Hannah Harry,
Youth Trustee

How to Apply:

- Send an expression of interest to the Guardian at guardian@tlaamintrust.com

www.tlaamintrust.com

Closing Date

March 13

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Vancouver Urban Cultural Days

February 20-22, 2026

Hyatt Regency
655 Burrard Street

RSVP: dion.harry@tn-bc.ca

Culture Night

Wednesdays / ʔəms ʔays

4:30 pm

DINNER PROVIDED

Open to Tla'amin Nation Members, Canoe Families and Sister Nations
Come out and learn the songs and dances of our people

New Hire in Education



Shelley Chaney
Child and Youth Counsellor

Hello, I'm Shelley Chaney, a registered clinical counsellor who recently joined the Education Department of Tla'amin Nation as the new child & youth counsellor. My partner Chris and I just returned to the qathet region after a short stint in Port Alberni. I find it very interesting how qathet calls people home when it wants to, and I am glad that it did. My diverse background includes working as a social worker with MCFD, a

specialty clinician with CYMH, as well as in several different school settings. I am passionate about trauma-informed care and approach my work from a Polyvagal perspective to support students, families, and communities.

On a personal note, I am a mother of three grown children with two precious grandbabies. My second oldest is getting married this May...meaning that I might be gifted with even more grandbabies! My 100-lb bulldog cross, George, is a beloved part of my life as well and keeps me grounded in everyday moments. I am so excited to have been welcomed to the education team, and I'm looking forward to contributing to this team and helping everyone I get to work with achieve their goals.

Dental Clinics

Tuesday	February 10	Dr. Gosnell
Wednesday	February 11	Dr. Gosnell
Friday	February 13	Dr. Machin
Tuesday	February 24	Dr. Gosnell
Wednesday	February 25	Dr. Gosnell
Friday	February 20	Dr. Machin
Thursday	February 26	Dr. Machin

YOUTH TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

WHAT?

THE 13TH ANNUAL TRUST AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE HELD BY NATOA.

What is NATOA?

NATOA is a charity organization, and is committed to providing Indigenous Peoples of Canada with the resources and information that will help them efficiently create, manage, and operate trusts.

WHEN?

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1 2026

About the NATOA Conference

The NATOA Conference is a learning and networking event where youth and leaders come together to explore digital media, technology, policy, and leadership, while building connections and career pathways in the communications world.

WHERE?

OTTAWA, CANADA

About ACM (Sponsor)

ACM Advisors is a Canadian Alternative Asset Manager that specializes in the creation, structuring and management of pooled Canadian commercial mortgage funds. The Tla'amin Trust uses ACM as one of the financial managers for the Trust. Through this sponsorship, they want to support an Indigenous Student that may be interested in this field.

WHO?

FOR AGES 19-25

PLEASE SEND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO
guardian@taamintrust.com
by February 15

WHAT'S COVERED?

- TRANSPORTATION
- HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
- CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
- A PER DIEM FOR MEALS

Presented by:



WHY TAKE

University English AT BROOKS



Students can take English 12 and English 115 with a Brooks Teacher and VIU Instructor.

Build Skills and Confidence

Indigenous Specific Supports

Earn Graduation Credits

Earn University Credits

Get a Head Start

Develop Advanced skills



MORE INFORMATION



pam.ellis@sd47.bc.ca



Dispersed Teacher Education Program (DTEP)
Now accepting applications for an August 2026 start



Beginning in August 2026, the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University (VIU) is proud to offer an additional Bachelor of Education degree pathway called the Dispersed Teacher Education Program (DTEP). DTEP graduates are eligible to apply for a Certification of Qualification (COQ), as issued by the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) at the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. COQ is BC K-12 teacher certification.

DTEP is designed for individuals who work in K-12 schools and would like to study to become an elementary teacher while maintaining their employment. DTEP's hybrid model is also ideal for individuals living in remote areas who would like to study part-time to become a K-7 teacher and aspire to teach in their local community.

DTEP is now accepting applications for its inaugural cohort of students to start the program in August 2026!

For more information about the DTEP program, including how to apply, please use the QR code below.



2026 DTEP live webinars are scheduled on the following dates:

- Tuesday, February 3 from 4:00-4:30pm
- Tuesday, February 17 from 4:00-4:30pm
- Tuesday, March 3 from 4:00-4:30pm
- Tuesday, March 17 from 4:00-4:30pm
- Tuesday, March 31 from 4:00-4:30pm

To register to attend one of these sessions, visit the VIU Events page at: <https://events.viu.ca/> and type DTEP in the search bar.

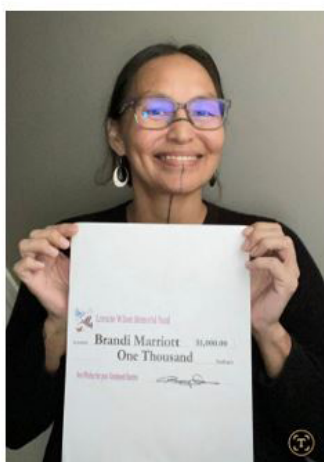
The deadline to submit a completed application is **April 10, 2026**

<https://education.viu.ca/dispersed-teacher-education-program>



Lorraine Wilson Memorial Fund

I am thrilled to announce that this year's recipient of the Lorraine Wilson Memorial Fund, valued at \$1,000.00, is Brandi Marriott. Congratulations! I am so pleased and excited that she has been accepted into VIU's Bachelor of Education Program. Thank you for the submissions received. I wish you nothing but continued success in your future endeavours.



"I deeply appreciate this scholarship and the generosity behind it. Thank you for supporting my education and helping me continue working towards my educational goals."

Brandi Marriott

Keeping Our Homes Safe This Winter Heating & Power Bar Safety

Did you know?

Home fires happen more often during the winter months. Many are caused by heating equipment and overloaded power bars. A few simple steps can help keep our families, Elders, and homes safe.

Heating Safety Tips

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from heat sources such as space heaters, wood stoves, radiators, fireplaces, and candles
- Never use an oven or stove to heat your home
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected each year by a professional

Power Bar Safety

Power bars are helpful, but using them incorrectly can cause overheating and fires, especially in Elders' housing and care settings.

Safe Use

- Use power bars with surge protection for TVs, computers, and electronics
- Plug only one power bar into a wall outlet
- Plug in fewer items than the maximum number of outlets
- Turn the power bar off or unplug it when away for long periods

Do NOT

- Plug space heaters, cooking devices, or large appliances into power bars
- Plug one power bar into another ("daisy chaining")
- Run cords under rugs, flooring, or furniture
- Staple, nail, pinch, or tightly bend cords

Community Reminder

If you notice unsafe heating or electrical setups, especially in Elders' homes, please check in, and offer support.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility

POWER BAR SAFETY

Did You know ?

Power bars are helpful, but plugging in too many items can cause overheating and fires. This is especially important in Elders housing and care settings.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO HELP PREVENT FIRES AND TO STAY SAFE:



✓ SAFE POWER BAR USE

- Use power bars with surge protection to help protect TVs, computers, and electronics
- Plug only one power bar into a wall outlet
- Plug in fewer items than the maximum number of outlets on the power bar
- Turn off the power bar (using the switch) or unplug it when away for long periods



✗ DO NOT - UNSAFE

- Plug space heaters or cooking devices into power bars
- Plug one power bar into another (this is called "daisy chaining" and is a major fire risk)
- Run cords under rugs, flooring, or furniture
- Staple, nail, or pinch cords in place
- Plug large appliances into power bar

Questions ?

887-483-9646 x153

firehall@tlaaminfire.ca



tla'amin
TLA'AMIN NATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Fundraiser

This ʔaʔumš button blanket was designed by the talented Joanne Williams with the assistance of her granddaughter Makaela Gallagher.

This gift of love was crafted to support a fundraiser for Makaela and Mattias. They will be participating in a special cultural event in March.

Tickets are \$10.00 each

etransfers can be sent to williamsjoanne2017@gmail.com

If you have any questions or would prefer to pay cash directly to Joanne you can reach her at 604-414-7004

čëčëhaθëč for your support!



Firewood Permits

Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) Post-Harvest Firewood
TSL007, TSL008 & TSL009 (Theodosia FSR Br 02 / Southview Rd)

*Please note that there is active hauling occurring on Theodosia FSR Br 02 / Southview Rd - (Monday - Friday)
 Carry a radio with the appropriate road channels (RR- 25)*
 Gates will be monitored & open from 9am - 4 pm

ʔaʔamun members, Leaseholders & Non-citizen staff
 Personal Use Firewood Permits will be available

January 23rd – February 23rd

@ The ʔaʔamun Governance House (4779 Klahanie Rd)

Contact - Matthew Zastre
 Forestry Coordinator
 604. 344. 0114



Welcome Maxwell Theo Mcgee

Congratulations Ashley & Kyle



MIA'S Income Tax Preparation

4950 Waterfront Road
 Phone 604-483-4437
 Cell: 604-483-1795

Want a Faster Refund?

EFILE SERVICE

Basic Tax Preparation \$60.00
 Senior \$55.00
 T4, T4A, T5007

Available for pickup



Introducing Luaifoa Twins

Welcome to the family, sweet boys. Our hearts just grew twice as full. We are so excited to watch you grow, laugh, and discover the world together. You are so loved already! Double the chaos and double the fun.

Love Chichi, Papa, Aunty Losa, Uncle Ilaitia, Seni & all our family

Happy 46th Birthday Troy Williams

**Always remember
 YOU ARE BRAVER
 than you believe
 STRONGER
 than you seem
 SMARTER
 than you think
 AND LOVED
 more than you know!**