



# KTUNAXA NATION

KTUNAXA NATION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019





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The theme of the 2019 Annual General Assembly is “Ɂmakqapmut - Solar Energy” as chosen by the host Ktunaxa Community, ʔaqam.

Every year, Ktunaxa Citizens are invited to design an AGA logo that ties into the AGA theme. The winner’s design is featured on the meal button for each year’s AGA. This year’s winner is Sunshine Joseph.





## Report from the Nation Chair

It is once again time for reporting on activities and highlights of the past year. This report is provided on behalf of the Nation Chair and the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council (KNEC).



The KNEC met as scheduled throughout the year. The May 2019 meeting of the KNEC was held at the Roundhouse situated at Yaqan Nukiy. It is planned to hold the September 2019 meeting in Tobacco Plains. In addition to the regularly scheduled sessions members of the KNEC attended a variety of meetings and events within and

outside of Ktunaxa territory.

Membership at the KNEC table remains unchanged from last year's report.

Some highlights from the past year include:

- The KNEC and Sector Council members were provided with the opportunity for ongoing professional development by way of sessions led by Dan George, Four Directions Management, Dr. Christopher Horsethief and coordinated by Karen Bailey-Romanko.
- On May 25, 2018 the sixth annual celebration of the KNGB acquisition was held. The celebration included the recognition of Chris Luke Sr. for his leadership in the protection of Qat'muk.
- On June 21, 2018, National Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Ktunaxa Nation hosted another successful charity golf tournament at the St. Eugene Golf Resort and Casino. The funds raised from the tournament are used to support the TKL initiatives. This year's event was held on June 20, 2019.

- KNC was represented at the November 2018 meetings between the Premier and Cabinet and FN leadership. This was the second opportunity to meet with the NDP led government. In his comments Premier John Horgan made reference to the recent announcement regarding Gaming Revenue Sharing. He reiterated last year's message about Reconciliation and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

- On the matter of the Gaming Revenue sharing funding was included in BC's 2019 Budget and funds will be flowing to communities upon completion of the necessary processes.

- Throughout the year members of the KNEC and other elected representatives continued to participate in a number of meetings regarding the upcoming Canada/US negotiations of the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). Last year it was reported that we were surprised and extremely disappointed with the announcement by Minister of Global Affairs Chrystia Freeland that the 3 Indigenous Nations from Canada would not be part of the negotiations even though we'd been in discussions on this issue since 2011. The first Canada/US session was held on May 29, 2018. The 3 Indigenous Nations were invited to meet with Minister Freeland in December 2018 for a review of the decision to exclude our participation. Later in December 2018 there was further opportunity to discuss the matter with officials from Canada including the Chief Federal Negotiator. A further meeting was held in April 2019 in Castlegar with Ministers Freeland (Canada) and Conroy (BC). The key outcome of the meeting was that the 3 Nations were invited by Minister Freeland to join Canada's negotiation team as official observers.

- In March 2019 the CAO Darrin Jamieson advised that he was leaving the KNC for another position. Recruiting is in progress to find a suitable replacement who will be responsible for mentoring of a Ktunaxa replacement.



# From the Nation Chair

In closing, I want to acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved in the advancement of our efforts to achieve our Vision. I also want to take the time to remember the contributions of those who came before us and to remind ourselves of our responsibilities to those yet unborn. As I have stated many times, we all have something to contribute toward making our world a better place for ourselves and our neighbours today and into the future.

Taxa,  
Kathryn Teneese, Nation Chair





*Strong, healthy citizens and  
communities speaking our languages and  
celebrating who we are and our history  
in our ancestral homelands, working  
together, managing our lands and  
resources as a self-sufficient  
self-governing Nation.*





# Economic & Investment Sector

## Message from Director

On behalf of all the staff of the Economic & Investment Sector (EIS), I would like to start with expressing our thanks to the Economic & Investment Sector Council for the leadership that have provided over the past twelve months. Navigating the changing environment in which we find ourselves working is challenging and so I would also like to thank my colleagues for the dynamism and positivity that they bring to work each and every day.

The EIS continues to evolve in order to meet the needs of the Nation. A significant portion of that work over the past year has revolved around the operationalization of Ktunaxa Holdings Limited Partnership (KHLP) and its subsidiary operations company Ktunaxa Enterprises Ltd. (KEL). As was noted in last year's report, these entities were created in order to form a Nation-wide corporate environment under which services might be shared to maximize on the collective capacity of the subsidiary businesses. The fact that this project is still ongoing speaks to the level and complexity of work required, as well as the many challenges which have had to be overcome.

While we have been working on the one hand to build and grow capacity, a parallel focus is on ensuring more opportunities and benefits are realized from new and existing agreements with our industry partners. The Teck IMBA continues to set the standard for these types of engagements, and we are very pleased to have seen the ongoing growth in the volume of work being awarded to Ktunaxa businesses as a result of this agreement.

We continue to push for similar successes with other industry players, with varying results. Our primary objectives are to secure transparency into project and work forecasts, so that our businesses can ready themselves, and to ensure that the competencies brought forward by our businesses are recognized. The reality is that different businesses and

industry are at different levels of readiness for meaningful engagement, but it is necessary for us as sector staff, to continue to push for better outcomes. There is value for proponents to include interests of the Nation early and we are striving to capture this benefit and bring our industry parties to a common understanding that sees our Nation thrive and their business be better grounded in their alignment with Ktunaxa values.

Significant efforts have been put towards growing the profile of the Ktunaxa within the tourism industry. Building off the success of flagship Ktunaxa products like St. Eugene Mission Resort & Casino, Ainsworth Hotsprings, and Haqatpaḥninam (Speaking Earth), there is a significant amount of interest in greater Ktunaxa representation in local tourism offerings. Janice Alpine, in collaboration with the Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector, has been the lead on ensuring that entrepreneurs are supported, and that products and services are brought forward in a culturally appropriate way through her work with the Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Agency (KABDA).

The EIS is also pleased with the volume of successful applicants to the sector's Microlending Program, which provides small loans to eligible entrepreneurs, who may not be eligible for conventional financing. This program is in its third year, and there have been steady increases in the number of applicants over the last twelve months in particular. This program, along with business support services offered by KABDA and other partner organizations locally, is helping to grow the number of opportunities for citizens to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

Lastly, we continue to work on building means of collaborating and cooperating with the other KNC sectors, as well as our member communities and businesses, to reduce barriers for individuals and ensure that benefits are reaching citizens. I am grateful to my fellow Directors and other KNC staff for their commitment to this important work also. One great





## Economic & Investment Sector

example of a success in this area has been the creation of “Business Development” type positions at each community and also at Nupqu, which are being financed in equal partnership between Teck (via the IMBA), the EIS, and Chief & Council of the respective community.

I look forward to continuing the work of the EIS on behalf of the Nation, and to bringing forward more successes in the months to come.

With gratitude,

Justin Paterson  
Director – Economic & Investment Sector  
Ktunaxa Nation Council

### Message from Chair:

I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking my colleagues on the Economic & Investment Sector Council for their efforts over this past year. We continue to forge a new path for the Sector, and this would not be possible without their strong vision, dedication, and commitment. I would also like to commend our sector staff for their contributions during the past year. Without them much of what we have accomplished would not be possible.

As the Economic & Investment Sector continues to work towards achieving our sector mandate, and the attainment of the Nation Vision Statement, we have found that new challenges and opportunities present themselves increasingly more frequently. Managing these promising opportunities, while trying to maximize benefits for the Nation as a whole, is becoming increasingly complex, and requires closer working relationships with our colleagues both internally and externally.

While we have experienced many successes these past twelve months, we recognize that we still have a lot of work to do. I am optimistic that over the coming year, we will be

able to connect with more citizens directly, and that greater knowledge of the work undertaken by the sector will be apparent within the Nation.

### Taxas

Bob Luke  
Chair – Economic & Investment Sector  
Ktunaxa Nation Council

### Economic & Investment Sector Council Members:

- Bob Luke (Chair) – ʔa·kinkumŁasnuqŁiʔit
- Donald Sam – ʔakisq̓nuk
- Josie Fullerton – Yaqa·n Nuʔkiy
- Joe Pierre – ʔaq̓am

### Economic & Investment Sector Staff:

- Justin Paterson – Director
- Tanis Shedden – Administrator
- Mirella Trozzo Baillie – Accountant Analysis (Term Position)
- Hennie Tait – Procurement & Business Development Officer (IMBA)
- Janice Alpine – Business Development Officer: Tourism Relations
- Heather Burrows – Project & Administration Coordinator
- Marion Eunson – Industry Engagement Officer
- Jose Galdamez – Strategic Business Support (seconded from Lands & Resources)

Sector Mandate: The mandate of the Ktunaxa Economic & Investment Sector is to create a sustainable and diverse government fiscal environment and opportunities for own-source, self-sufficient revenue for the entire Ktunaxa Nation through strong organizational business capacity.



# Economic & Investment Sector

## Summary of Strategic Goals & Actions:

### 1) Autonomous Revenue Base for Ktunaxa Government

- Developing Nation Investment Policy business and wealth generation through strategic partnerships
  - i. Finalized year 4 PTG work plan
  - ii. Province of BC Indigenous Procurement Session
  - iii. Assessment of KNC private placement investment opportunities
  - iv. Agreement between Education & Employment, EIS, and ATCO.
- Ensuring strong and sustainable fiscal powers
  - i. Technical capacity in supporting Treaty and Finance in reviewing Cost of Governance Framework (Nation Re-building)

### 2) Secure Economic Access

- Benefit from opportunities and values throughout Ktunaxa Homelands
  - i. Collaborate with Lands & Resources on balance of economic opportunities and Lands Stewardship
- Sustain accountable methods of Nation-level economic access
  - i. Development of KNC Investment Strategy
- Improve economic and business development capacity
  - i. Planned and hosted First Nation Taxation session with BDO LLP, March 2019.

### 3) Build Sustainable Economy

- Support and encourage individual Ktunaxa entrepreneurs
  - i. KABDA support services
  - ii. Microlending and options for accessing capital

- Ensure economic-focused collaborative processes and understanding amongst Communities and Nation
  - i. PEOWG Initiative (Business Development capacity growth in Community)
  - ii. EIS staff conducted informal community visits in the fall of 2018

### 4) Expand Economic Activity

- Attract Investment
  - i. Nation Business Directory – Now available online.
- Marketing / Tourism
  - i. Expanded Increase Ktunaxa Presence (Ktunaxa Regional Initiative)
  - ii. Completion of diagnostic phase of Snał łatitł ɕxani (Communication Initiative)
  - iii. Submitted EOI to access Indigenous Tourism BC Regional Specialist

### 5) Equitable Distribution of Opportunities and Resources

- Leverage Economic Data (Improved Decision Making)
  - i. Strategic planning session June 2019
  - ii. Census Data
- Capital investment opportunity in KLHP + KEL
- Multi-year capacity support through PEOWG Initiative.







## Education & Employment Sector

Ki?suk? Kyukyit. Hu qaktik Codie Morigeau. As the Director of the Education and Employment Sector for the Ktunaxa Nation Council I am happy to report on another busy and successful year within our Sector! I would like start by acknowledging the Education and Employment Sector Council for their leadership and commitment. The Education and Employment Sector is comprised of:

Darlene Trach, Chair, Tobacco Plains

Theresa Kains, ?akisq̓nuk

Vickie Thomas, ?aq̓am

Sandra Luke, Jared Basil, Lower Kootenay

KNC leadership, senior management and key staff have dedicated a great deal of time this past year on the development of a comprehensive strategic plan intended to align and integrate initiatives at the KNC towards realization of the KNC Vision Statement. The Education and Employment Sector Council in this process has also initiated their own strategic planning with the facilitator Stan Chung with the intent of defining Sector Council specific goals and leadership outcomes. A sectors success requires clear leadership direction and governance support, and I appreciate our Sector Council's dedication and determination to advance their contribution through this strategic work planning process.

The strategic planning process has also included: inter-sector sessions to identify areas of collaboration; sessions with our Sectors' Council, Management and myself focussed on "dreaming big" to help us set long term goals as well as the steps towards achieving them; and sessions inclusive of our entire staff to also provide ideas into the big picture, as well as developing their own details annual work plan. This work is being facilitated by Stan Chung, and I would like to acknowledge him for his enormous contribution to this work as well as his commitment as an ally and a mentor.

Many parts of our work plan are designed to contribute to the realization of the KNC Vision Statement, including initiatives such as: Promoting and developing Youth Leadership capacity though the Youth Summit, partnering with the Canadian Mountain Hospitality Youth Camp, and sponsorships via the Ktunaxa Training Fund; Hosting bridging activities that: bring together industry and citizens (of all ages) to explore career opportunities, build early interest in our young Ktunaxa to support their education journeys, and providing cross-cultural events that showcase our Knowledge Keepers talents and seek to improve our industry and education partners understanding and respect for the Ktunaxa Nation.

On a personal note, I completed my first year of my Leadership Masters Program through Royal Roads this past year. As the Director of Education and Employment I am sharing this in my desire to promote the value of Life Long Learning. This program has surprised me in many ways. I am grateful to have the opportunity to reflect on my work and life, and to then begin to understand the theories that support the skills I have developed under the numerous mentors I have, and continue to, learn from. The program requires me to critically examine myself, and to take responsibility of areas that can be grown. This is a very humbling process, but also is invigorating and is building a new confidence in my abilities and in my goal setting. I would like to encourage everyone to consider their Life Long Learning, and whether through formal academics or small goal setting, to find the time and the courage to challenge yourself and to enjoy the feeling of accomplishing something new.



# Education & Employment Sector

The Education and Employment Sector provides Indigenous people with employment services through the following contracts:

## **Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)**

The ASETS Contract is an employment and training program designed for First Nation's to enhance their individual skills and gain meaningful employment. The ASETS contract provides funds for work gear needed for immediate employment, industry training, self-created summer student program, wage subsidies as well as post-secondary education and trades training. Under the ASETS contract there is also First Nation's and Inuit Childcare Initiative funds that are provided directly to the daycares at ʔaǰam and ʔakisǰnuk to allow ASETS clients to secure childcare when they are accessing training or have found employment. During the 2018-19 fiscal year all targets related to the contract have been met.

During the 2018-19 fiscal the Education and Employment Sector has worked collaboratively with Employment and Social Development Canada to secure funding and extend the ASETS contract. The Education and Employment Sector was successful in securing a new agreement that will be 10 years in length and is officially called the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET). The ISET Program will provide the same supports as the ASETS contract, however this 10-year agreement will better align with the Sector's strategic plan, and our individual community member's interests and training needs. The Education and Employment Sector are excited to continue to serve Indigenous individuals under this new long term agreement!

## **BladeRunner Contract**

The Education and Employment Sector have been administering the BladeRunner Program since 2012. The BladeRunner Program is focused on providing training to youth at risk and is funded through the Province of British Columbia. The BladeRunner Program provides participants

with 35 hours of certification training as well as 35 hours of employability training. The BladeRunner program is offered in cohort style as well as on an individual basis. The Education and Employment Sector is client focused so we strive to design programs to each person's interests.

We look forward to reaching out to each community in the new fiscal year to understand the training needs and interests and develop community specific training.

## **Employment Support Services Contract (ESS)**

The Employment and Support Services Contract (ESS), which is also funded by the Province of British Columbia is designed to help vulnerable and under represented populations who face barriers to employment. The Education and Employment Sector provide clients with pre-employment assistance, employment, and training supports in order to gain sustainable employment. The ESS contract was renewed in November 2018 until September 2019.

The Education and Employment Sector provide a number of different workshops on weekly basis and have travelled to ʔaǰam, ʔakisǰnuk, Lower Kootenay and Tobacco Plains as requested by the communities.

During the 2018/19 fiscal year the Education and Employment Sector were able to achieve and exceed the targets outlined in contract.

## **Employment Program of British Columbia (Work BC) Contract**

The Education and Employment Sector has been a subcontractor for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) since 2012 to provide the Employment Program of British Columbia (EPBC) to First Nation individuals. The EPBC Program provides services to all unemployed or precariously employed British Columbian

The 2018/19 fiscal year was the final year of the EPBC Program and qualified proponents were asked to submit bids in order to secure the renewal of the contract. Kootenay





## Education & Employment Sector

Employment Services (KES) was the successful proponent and the Education and Employment Sector were able to negotiate a subcontractor agreement to be able to ensure continuity of services for First Nation's Clients. With the new subcontractor agreement the Education and Employment Sector can continue to provide services to Indigenous people and ensure that there is a continuity of services!



# Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector

K'haqałpałni k'hakyaxamik k'haqałqanuxwat k'hawasxu?mik.  
Sił ɣxantawasni ya·qał ʔaqtsmaknikki ɣ ʔaktukaqwumʔis,  
qapi qapsins kinmu wunmanamus

As our ancestors have done for us, we ensure that the traditions, culture, knowledge and language of our people are passed on to those still to come.

## Director's Message

Kiʔsuk kyuʔkyit Qapi niskił. Hupak, hu sukił kuqni kin wakił  
nawsanmiyitki, sił upxnisni qapsins huł ʔitkini na KNC Ʉ TKL.

Greetings ʔaqtsmaknik, secondly, I will tell you in English that I am happy for you all to come out to the KNC AGA to gain understanding of the projects we have been working on at KNC and specifically here in TKL.

My report will provide insight in the functions of TKL that contribute to the revitalization of Ktunaxa culture, Language and traditions in addition to the goals of TKL of finding our voice, confidently and increasing in volume. Our vision calls for q'api Ktunaxa citizens not only to access cultural resource support, but to be empowered and active participants in Language and culture revitalization. This is not something we can do alone, we rely on partnering with other sectors to ensure that Nation governance operates in accordance with one heart connected to our pikaknik values, Culture and Traditions to ensure they are carried forward in all that we do.

We endeavor to honor of our past- our ancestors, our grandparents, our history on our lands, and our language; We endeavor to honor our present-you and I and each, other we find strength in knowledge and healing and each other; and we are doing this for our future, as it is in the youth and those yet unborn to learn from us what they will pass on to their children.

What is culture? Some people say it is like an iceberg- you only see what is above the water line which is only 10% of that ice cube, the other 90% is hidden in our thoughts, in our

mannerisms and in our social fabric. The Elders have indicated that this iceberg is more like a mountain. You see so much on the surface, but there is a lot going on under the surface. At any rate, we can see that cultural revitalization is mostly indirect. Much of the work of TKL is articulating some of these aspects and devising ways of reminding and re-enforcing some of our cultural mannerism, and our gaol is to do much of this strategically within language revitalization.

TKL works under 5 main goals, but ultimately we are working for the revitalization of our language and culture. This has been eloquently stated by Nasuʔkin Sophie Pierre: "...increase the linguistic and cultural competency of our Ktunaxa people".

I am also trying to complete this report while everyone is participating in the TECK conservations lands Culture camp, so please excuse any typos... I am only human.

## Sector Chair's Message

Kiʔsuk kyuʔkyit Qapi niskił

The Ktunaxa language is an endangered language, this past year the Traditional knowledge and language sector took part in sessions to review how this nation was doing as a Ktunaxa speaking language, our findings were very disheartening, we found that we have less than 20 fluent speakers on this side of the 49th parallel.

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to preserve our language, our elders, we need you to speak to us in the language, our young people, we need you to listen and learn the language because without our Ktunaxa language we are no longer a distinct nation.

According to the Maori people, 'it takes three generations to regain your language and one to lose a language.'



# Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector

With every single elder that moves on we lose a piece of the puzzle of our culture and language. Make space in your life for language and culture and commit to keep our language and culture alive.

Taxas

Sulyan  
Julie Birdstone  
TKL Sector Chair

The members of TKL Sector Council that provide political direction and connect KNC with each of the communities:

Chair Julie Birdstone Representative from ʔqam  
Mary Mahseelah Representative from ʔa·kinkumʔasnuqʔit  
Robert Louie Sr. Representative from Ya·qannu·ki  
Theresa Kains Representative from ʔakisq̓nuk

## TKL Advisory Council

The following individuals have been appointed by the communities to advise KNC on the TKL advisory council.

ʔakisq̓nuk	Alfred Joseph, Marie Nicholas
ʔa·kinkumʔasnuqʔit	Mary Mahseelah, Elizabeth Ignatius
ʔaqam	Sophie Pierre, Kay Shottnana
Ya·qannu·ki	Mary Basil, Anne Jimmy

We have regular Advisory Committee meetings monthly were all KNC sectors have time on the agenda to solicit direction, input and feedback for various activities or projects they are working on. They can also provide updates to the Elders. Quarterly our TKL advisory meetings are open to Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders to contribute to the discussion and direction. In addition, various activities or projects require a targeted working group depending on the scope and expertise required. They may meet more regularly and task specific, then report back to the formal TKL advisory.

## TKL team:

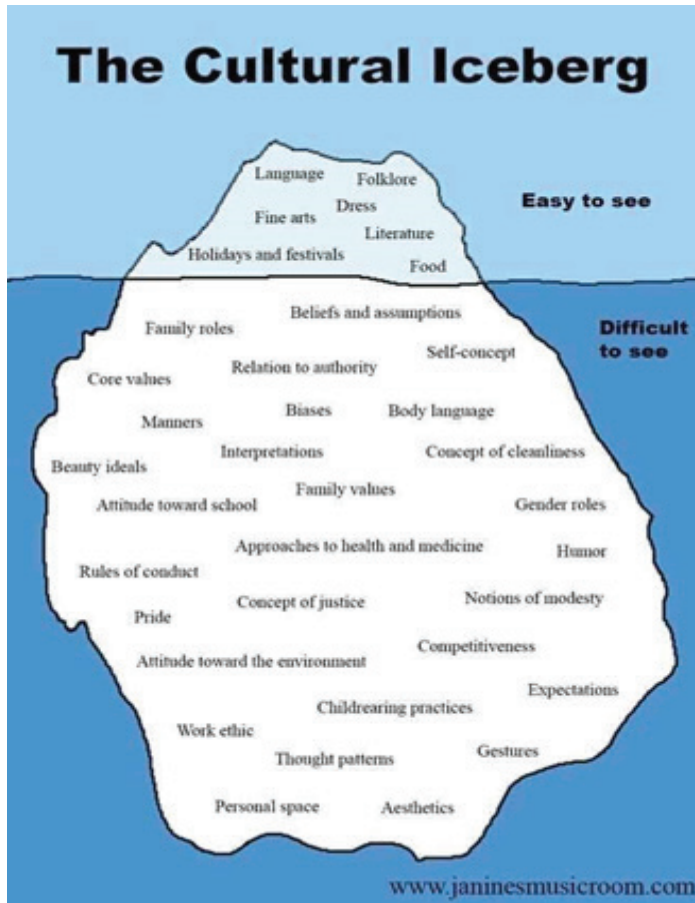
Administrative Assistant- Cecilia Teneese  
Archives - Margaret Teneese  
Business and Product Development Coordinator - Jared Teneese  
Education and Outreach Coordinator - Leanna Gravelle  
Contract - Michelle Barroca  
Cultural Assistant - Brad Alexander  
Cultural Assistant - Frank Alexander  
Cultural Assistant- vacant  
Gift Store Clerk- Bill Henderson  
Gift Store Clerk- Dawn Scout  
Contract- Christopher Horsethief  
Cultural Researcher (TECK IMBA)- vacant  
Director-Donald Sam

We continue being involved in evolving activities like various culture camps, TIPI construction and cultural demonstration activities as well as evolving the Sam Steele Days (Chief Isadore days) and influencing how we are perceived in Ktunaxa 'Amak'is. Our tours of the SEM (which continues our messaging of Past, Present and Future) continue to be a great hit; schools come from all over the East and West Kootenays to learn Indigenous history. These activities with general public help promote Ktunaxa values by propagating knowledge of our history, present and future. We hope to inspire science, researchers, tourists, travelers, and locals to learn about their regional First Nations wherever they may be. The biggest cure for intolerance and racism is education and our secret is promoting deeper informative and factual understandings that don't get taught in mainstream school or society. The Ktunaxa have a beautiful, rich history and culture- a formidable present and a promising future that we promote in unison. We are committed to reducing racism and intolerance by teaching the public about the Ktunaxa –Past, present and future... “we are still here” is strong in our messaging to government, industry and public. TKL continues to facilitate and participate in cultural awareness workshops. We are partnering with Education and Employment sector to develop curriculum around Strategic Cultural Awareness Training Modules. This multi-sector



# Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector

collaboration will facilitate KNC to offer Cultural Awareness offerings to various audiences to be delivered by various people and sectors confidently ensuring that the core messaging is aligned with the Nation aspirations. We recently had facilitator training with 15 individuals in partnership with KAIROS and we are now trained facilitators in the Kairos Blanket Exercise.



## LANGUAGE PRIORITY

Your language is in critical danger.

The province announced 50 million over 5 years to preserve language across the province and the federal government are working on passing federal language legislations. They are not listening to us when we continually denounce their colonial programming and push for our own language sovereignty. Your language is more than a program, it is who we are. We are Ktunaxa and our language revitalization shall

bring the Nation together, not pit us against each other competing for small projects. We can not allow other governments to exert ownership over what connects the Ktunaxa people: our language.

Our language program will engage Nation citizens and empower individuals while providing access to content and development of collaborative curriculum that builds on existing resources in the communities. We are fully supportive of the community teachers and activities currently underway. Our work over the past year and moving forward, is a language program that will secure funding that will see the Ktunaxa Nation come together, utilize our strengths to increase language use; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

I am happy to say that we were able to provide a language summit that saw great attendance of over one hundred people. That is over one hundred people that got to see others who are passionate in language revitalization. At the annual KNC celebration, we recognized 15 individuals that are actively working on language and culture revitalization, again, to recognize the team effort. We all play a role in saving our language. Language revitalization is not a one person endeavor, but rests with everyone.





# Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector

## ARCHIVES AND RECORDS-INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Our Digitization Program has identified a number of physical audio / video resources on a number of various formats including reel-to-reel, Umatic, BetaCam, VHS and produced a physical inventory that allows us to understand and locate information much easier. The plan is secure funding to allow us to continue the process to methodically ingest them into a database with all ancillary metadata. This will be followed and in concurrent of a transcription and translation, and finally into language curriculum development.

With modern technology available that enhances our “access and retrieval system” development, we simultaneously need to build confidence in our archives through sound policies and clear procedures which we are refining.

The Records and Information System is yet another way to use available technology to enhance our own knowledge of ourselves as a Nation. We are looking at a couple information solutions to meet our needs. Murkutu and InMagic are two of the systems that we hope will move us forward with a digital archive that will enhance our collections management and community engagement. We also want to use this tool to support our language program.

Our Digitization Program has identified a number of physical audio / video resources on a number of various formats including reel-to-reel, Umatic, BetaCam, VHS and produced a physical inventory that allows us to understand and locate information much easier. The plan is secure funding to allow us to continue the process to methodically ingest them into a database with all ancillary metadata. This will be followed and in concurrent of a transcription and translation, and finally into language curriculum development.



## INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

We have opened the Gift store at the KNC building and both gift stores have increased TKL revenues, increase Nation citizens opportunities to sell product, and increase the Indigenous Education materials. Not to mention there is some amazing product now available to show your Native Pride including; dvd and cds, stuffed animals, fashion wear, mukluks, jewelry, kits, purses, blankets etc all merchandised properly and the gift stores looks great. Our goal is to increase the number of items made by locals, if you are a jeweler, or entrepreneur and interested in selling your wares, be sure to stop by and visit with Jared. We have named the stores Skinkuꞵ treasures because “yakiꞵ skinkuꞵ aquititik 'akti'it' is” was too hard to put on a poster.

Now that the Nation has acquired ownership of the SEM, the relationship between us is great. The interpretive center presents a great business potential as well as partner with the SEM. We are looking into the possibilities of modernizing the displays around the SEM; again to show Past present and future. We hope to develop a new cultural center / museum sometime soon.



## Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector



**Haqałpałni?nam**

We were able to secure funding from CBT to ensure we could keep the cultural assistants on longer term. We have been able to promote cultural programming much more having these guys on. We were also fortunate to have the cultural assistants and education and outreach participate in a conference in Saskatchewan where they could see other programs similar to ours, and see that ours can be and often times are as comprehensive as others.

The SEM has always had plans for a tipi village that visitors could be exposed to Indigenous culture and history. TKL has developed a program that is mutually beneficial in that it builds our own ?aqismakni? competency in a range of cultural activities, we can present activities that are important to us, and we can guide the informational content provided to guests. We are so excited this program has finally gotten traction.

We have started slow- manufacturing tipis, learning about various tipi styles and purpose, visiting museums to see cultural materials housed there and increasing our knowledge of cultural materials, Ktunaxa Legends and storytelling. This knowledge will provide foundations for engaging with tourists. Our programming will incorporate SEM tours, overnight accommodation in a tipi, storytelling, native games, and demonstrations of hide tanning and drying meat, we may even teach

tipi creeping at some later time. Our focus in this has been in rejuvenation of cultural pride.



Nurture, in our people, a sense of belonging.  
?u?mił, ka papa, ka titi, gramma, grampa, auntie, uncle, neice,  
nephew... Cuzn  
Take time to visit- offer a cup of coffee or a snack.  
Allow yourself confidence to smile







# Social Investment Sector

## Social Investment Sector Council

Codie Morigeau ʔaɗam (Chairperson)  
Jared Basil Yaqaan Nukiy  
Corey Letcher ʔakinkumʔasnuqʔiʔit  
Jason Nicholas ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation

### Social Sector Chair Message, Codie Morigeau:

Kiʔsuk kyuʔkyit.

The Social Sector Council is pleased to provide some of the highlights of the Social Investment Sector over the past year. As the Chair, I am honored to work with my fellow Social Sector Council Members: Corey Letcher (Tobacco Plains Band), Jay Nicholas (akisq̓nuk), and Jared Basil (Lower Kootenay Band). As many know, the Social Sectors' mandated component of the Vision Statement is to create "Strong, healthy Citizens and Communities". With that comes the responsibility to support Citizens and Communities with services, in collaboration with all of the five sectors, to achieve the Vision statement. This past year the Sector Mandates for all five of the Sectors have been ratified by the Ktunaxa Nation Council (all 20 leaders). The Sector Council, with the support of the Director and Managers, sets the strategic direction through strategic and annual planning, policy review, and implementation guidance. We support the Social Sector in their quest to support the needs of Ktunaxa Citizens and Aboriginal people living within Ktunaxa AMAKIS by offering programs and services developed to holistically grow individual and family wellbeing including physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and economic wellness.

The Social Sector mandate is to create and maintain vital health and wellbeing systems that are integrated, culturally grounded, and easily accessed. In enacting the social stewardship in Ktunaxa AMAKIS, the Social Sector provides services that support Ktunaxa, as well as other aboriginal and Metis people that choose to reside in our territory. This broader scope of service delivery ensures that we are the drivers of many health and wellness programs, and that our values are fully infused in the delivery and vision. One example of how the Social Sector is able to achieve this outcome

is through the position of the Traditional Wellness Coordinator held by Samantha Sam. Samantha works across the various programs, providing cultural support and enhancement of programming, connecting programs to our Ktunaxa Knowledge Keepers, and delivering direct citizen engagement within the context of wellness. This position is extremely important in supporting the collaborative, value-based interests and vision of the Nation, thank you Sam for the ongoing work you are achieving!

The Social Sector recognizes the importance of Community Based programming and capacity development, and strives therefore to transfer the resources to Communities to support health planning, community nursing, and social programming. Over the past year programs, services and practice governance efforts have included:

- Community health planning & Community health nursing;
- Mental health services;
- Vulnerable Adults Charter;
- Practice Framework;
- Interior Health Authority Memorandum of Understanding;
- Mary Basil Recovery House & Detox Programming;
- Treatment Center;
- Aboriginal Community based justice & Gladue Reports;
- Jordan's Principle;
- Traditional Wellness Program;
- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)

This year all KNC Sectors have participated in strategic planning intended to feed into the entire Organizational Strategic Planning Framework. The Social Investment Sector Council, Director and Managers and senior staff were encouraged to think big and dream of how to achieve the mandate of the sector and vision of the Nation. Work will continue to further develop the Social Investment Sector's long term Strategic Plan.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of Debbie Whitehead and her team as they continue to lead the province in progressive and holistic health and social program development and delivery.



# Social Investment Sector

## Director's Message, Debbie Whitehead:

Kisuk Kyukiyit! Over this past year we have continued to develop and expand services in communities and within our urban programs to continue to promote the health and wellbeing of our citizens and Aboriginal people residing in the ʔAmakʔis. One of our primary areas of focus has been to develop a continuum of services to support people struggling with addictions and/or mental health. We have also shifted our focus towards identifying and investing in natural 'peer and community champions' and have been offering workshops and trainings in community. The workshops are to provide opportunities for community members to gain knowledge and tools that build on natural and existing strengths within community. Our hope is to have community champions in each community who feel confident and skilled to provide support during times of need - so the communities can achieve healing and wellness from within.

Under the leadership of Social Sector Chair, Codie Morigeau, and her Council the Social Sector has been able to start up a number of new initiatives that are aimed at investing in and improving health outcomes for Ktunaxa people. Our vision of "...strong, healthy, citizens and communities..." continues to guide the work we do. The Social Sector Council has been an integral part of ensuring our programs and services continue to meet the needs of our people and align with the Nation vision moving forward.

Alongside expanding our programs, we have also brought on a number of new staff. Our staff are incredibly dedicated to learning more about culturally safe, trauma informed, person centered practice. They continue to be committed to be compassionate and strengths based and take the view that "every door is the right door". This means whichever person or program a person reaches out to, they will be greeted with wrap-around services and support based on their own individual needs. With deep gratitude that I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Chiefs and Councils, the Nation Executive Council, my fellow Directors, our Managers, and community partners. All of these relationships are paramount to continue to evolve and expand our services with the shared

goal of improved health and wellness outcomes for Aboriginal People living in the Ktunaxa ʔAmakʔis.

The Social Investment Sector continues its work towards a Ktunaxa Integrated Social Service Delivery and Governance model, working closely with Nation level Governance efforts to ensure consistency as Ktunaxa self-governance advances. Currently, we are exploring various Interim Authority opportunities with the provincial government.

Finally, yet equally central to 'strong, healthy citizens', is the esteemed work of Gwen Phillips at the Regional, Provincial and Federal levels. Her dedicated work continues to allow us to push towards self-governance and her ongoing advocacy has helped us address disparities and inequalities in the health status of our people. Our sector is committed to doing things differently and building our programs to meet the needs of our citizens.

## Operations, Programs and Services

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Social Investment Sector Business Management involves oversight of all KNC financial policies, procedures, practices, and standards to ensure compliance by the Social Investment Sector. Additionally it involves overseeing the development and submission of relevant budgets for applications/proposals for funding, monitoring the administration of funding agreements and submission of financial reports to funding organizations. Appropriate business control systems to accommodate unique functions are in place and are both managed and evaluated regularly.

### TRADITIONAL WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Samantha Sam joined our team as the Traditional Wellness Coordinator this past year. Samantha expresses that she feels very fortunate to be able to do this work, and is thankful for her supervisor, co-workers, mentors and her family.

After taking inventory, what do we have that we can build on





## Social Investment Sector

- she reached out to the other sectors to see where we could work together. While this was being done, she would sit and listen to people. What are people wanting, what are they needing? This has helped Sam orientate to her job.

Some of the highlights from this year include:

- 7 Nations Grandmothers Gathering at St Eugene
- Participation in Qapsin ki?in ?aqaxuniyam
- Participation in FNHA Interior Caucus
- Assisting staff with cultural programming
- Attending meetings with TKL Elders Advisory
- Creating a resource library and contact list
- Completed the Blanket Exercise training
- Organized Strengthening Families facilitator training with participants from each of the communities
- Completed the "Addressing Family Violence and Abuse" program
- Will be completing the AFOT (Aboriginal Focusing-Oriented Therapy and Complex Trauma certificate) training through the Justice Institute in September 2019

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

#### Operation Street Angel

Street Angel is a safe place for vulnerable populations providing a multitude of services including but not limited to: Linking vulnerable clients to services and providers, advocating on client's behalf whether it be for social services/assistance, housing, mental health services, primary health care, Mental Health Services, Nurse Practitioner Services, Justice Services and Cultural and Reconnection Services.

Street Angel Staff walk the 'Streets' at nighttime ensuring safety for the homeless population and other vulnerable individuals. Street Angels offers hot meals for two dollars or in exchange for a chore. Snacks are also available for free in the evening. Streets offers free hot showers and laundry services. Every day, clients have computer and phone access, coffee, juice and of course, friendly staff. When available, Staff arrange small jobs for their clients including yard cleanup and shoveling snow.

In addition to a partnership with Interior Health, in an effort to keep Street Angel's doors open, Social Sector Staff regularly submit funding applications, accept donations (monetary and physical items like clothes) and fundraise alongside clients: BBQ's, yard sales, car washes and of course the annual Home Depot Orange Door project.

#### Community Living BC (CLBC) Inclusion Program

The CLBC program provides 1:1 services to Ktunaxa Individuals who have developmental disabilities The Program is housed at Street Angels and funded by CLBC to provide on-going life skill supports and

programs to CLBC eligible individuals with developmental disabilities. The program is designed to provide support in the following areas: employment, supported living, skill development, community based inclusion.

#### Scotty's House (Adult Supported Recovery/Aftercare)

Scotty's House has transitioned over this past year, into an 8 bed Recovery program and will be adding 4 more beds for aftercare. The Adult Supported Recovery Program is for individuals wanting to attend treatment. The Recovery program provides cultural activities, opportunities for volunteering and giving back to the community. There are also life-skill workers that support individuals in filling out treatment applications, accessing a variety of services (i.e. counselling, A.A). As well as create support plans to help individuals connect to people who can support them in areas of housing, employment, education, mental health, medical, dental, cultural/community support or any other area's the individual would like support with.

There are also a few residents who have been grandfathered in from the previous program (which was meant for children aging out of care or elders who required some additional supports).

Over the course of the year Scotty's House has had 11 successful graduates from recovery. Some of these residents were successful in attending school, training through our Employment and Education department, other various training to



## Social Investment Sector

attain certificates. Some have acquired employment. Former residents have transitioned into new housing and/or have moved back to their home communities.

- The recovery program is currently full and there are three people on the waitlist.
- The staff continue to make positive change in the resident's lives with helping them with daily living skills.
- Staff receive relevant training to assist with the day to day operations of Scotty's House

### Mary Basil House – (Adult Detox)

Over the past year, adult recovery went from 4 beds up to 8 beds and the Recovery Program moved to Scotty's House. We also opened a 4 bed medical detox program that is now based out of Mary Basil House. The program is designed to allow individuals to complete the physiological detox as well as gain stability and experience living in wellness. Our goal is to support them in making connections to people and programs that will support them on their journey towards wellness, healing and sobriety. The program is staffed 24/7 and staff our feeling comfortable supporting people in the medical detox. Our goal for the next year is to ensure the program continues to develop into being more holistic, culturally grounded and supportive to individuals.

### Aboriginal Justice

We have completed a Justice Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan as well as initial discussions with other justice stakeholders (RCMP, Crown Counsel), Restorative Justice, Adult Probation). Our goal moving forward is to continue to strengthen our partnerships with our local judges, Crown Counsel, defense lawyers, probation, and RCMP to ensure any Aboriginal or Metis person involved in the justice system receives culturally appropriate support services to work to reduce rates of crime, victimization and incarceration of Aboriginal people within the Ktunaxa ?Amak?is.

We also have an Aboriginal Justice Worker who spends one

day, every other week supporting individuals on probation or bail who self-identify as Aboriginal or Metis. This includes supporting individuals in court, creating and monitoring alternative measures, creating opportunities for work hours to be completed.

We have worked to link people who are involved with the justice system to opportunities like cultural crafting, fishing, hunting, and sweats and are planning to operate land-based justice camps in the upcoming year. These justice camps will include a culturally specific mental health and addictions component. This land-based – return to earth wilderness experience will be safe, yet very challenging and utilize experienced, trained Indigenous leaders with support from mental health and/or addictions counsellors. The wilderness experience will be seasonally dependent and include canoe trips, basic survival skills, hunting and animal processing (meat, hides), plant gathering, etc. Products will be returned to the community – food, wood, hide products (drums, moccasins) to sustain those in need. Standards for our wilderness activities will conform to the manual of Standards and Policies for Outdoor and Wilderness Activities utilizing certified outdoor instructors-hunters. The orientation and operation of the Camp program will focus on addressing and improving life skills:

Culture and Tradition will encircle all activities and programming. Ktunaxa Leaders and Elders will guide and inform all activities.

### Community Health Nursing

The Ktunaxa Nation Community Health Nursing covers Public Health Services, School Health Services/Immunization, Harm Reduction, Tuberculosis screening, and Communicable Disease Control.

The Ktunaxa Nation Health Manager provides support and guidance to each of the 3 Nurses in the communities of ?aqam, ?akisqnuuk First Nation and ?akinkum#asnuq#i?it. Yaqan Nukiy holds a vacant nursing position. Health outreach services include: Nurse Practitioner and Dietician/ Diabetes Educator, and Interior Health Outreach nursing services. The Nurse Manager works closely with nurses and health staff to



## Social Investment Sector

oversee care plans and assessments. Ongoing appointments and clinic days are made available for vaccinations of all ages, in clinic, community and school settings. Client advocacy continues to be a focus of attention, with members requesting support of an advocate when seeking emergency services and at doctor's appointments.

The Nurse Practitioners provide outreach to ʔaąam (community, school and daycare), and Yaąan Nukiy. They also see patients at the Ktunaxa Health Clinic in Cranbrook, Monday to Friday, with scheduled appointments or drop-in services. In addition to mandated services, the nurses/nurse practitioner's provide support to: The Mary Basil House, Street Angel and Scotty's Recovery House and to the KKCFS social workers - making tests available for their clients on short-term notice. Dr. Page continues to provide a community clinic to ʔakisąnuk members once a month.

Ktunaxa Health Services offers instant HIV testing available at the Ktunaxa clinic, we continue to offer harm reduction supplies (Examples: Naloxone kits, needle exchange, clean needles, condoms, Plan B, pregnancy testing). Naloxone training has been completed in all 4 bands, Health staff, as well as many band staff have been trained in the communities. Naloxone kits are available at each community.

"Nutrition Kitchen" is held in each community monthly, where members are invited to come for lunch and learn on different topics around diet, diabetes, blood pressure and healthy lifestyle. The Dietitian provides one-to-one appointments for clients who require enhanced support with chronic disease.

Health Centres in Communities –The Social Sector is working with the First Nations Health Authority to support each community's health centre goals. All communities have participated in feasibility studies and are pending project implementation. ʔakinkum#asnuq#i?it Health Centre opened in August 2018. Construction for the ʔaąam Health Centre has started.

### Treatment Centre

The Seven Nations Soaring Eagles Wellness Centre is developing a program based on Aboriginal philosophy. This is a radical and intentional shift away from the western bio-medical model. The Seven Nations Centre is bringing to life a transformational approach to healing addictions, trauma, and the underlying wound of colonization that has been long awaited and demanded by Indigenous people in BC as they seek to realize and walk the path of wellness. Based on Indigenous worldviews, programming will make the critical shift from focusing on addressing problems, such as addictions, to focusing on connection, empowerment, and the development of purpose, and a meaningful vision through cultural reclamation and revitalization. The foundation will be the ceremonial process—each day, each week, the activities serve as strands that weave together to complete the cultural braid. Each day follows holistic processes and practices. Acting as a catalyst for individuals to walk a lifelong journey of wellness it will offer an orientation to a life of wellness that will ignite a spark of vitality in individuals, build their capacity, and offers the opportunity for transformation. It will support participants to become the Elders they are meant to be and, in the process, to become agents of change in their communities.

2017/2018

### Program Model Development (complete).

The Ktunaxa Nation Wellness Centre Development Team formed to ensure the new Wellness Centre aligned with the vision of FNHA NNADAPP Review, and overall mental wellness transformation for First Nations communities. It brings the wisdom from diverse groups into one document to act as a foundation in the development of Seven Nations Wellness Centre. This included;

- Team visits to numerous leading treatment centres, to see how they operates and to identify promising practices to guide the planning.
- Consultations with experts in the filed—both western credentialed professionals and community Elders to contribute their





## Social Investment Sector

experiences and wisdom.

- Principles; were identified to ensure a culturally rooted and holistic program framework.
- Practice; that demonstrate the programmatic application of these principles in the wellness center context.

2018/2019

### Curriculum Model Development (process underway)

The second phase is the development of the curriculum model that will provide a map for the program model to be operationalized through a weekly and daily schedule of activities, this includes;

- Daily schedule describing the rhythm of each day's process in a way that provides opportunity for preparation, experience, and integration of the teachings.
- Weekly program schedule that is guided by each distinct step in the ceremonial process and aligns with the appropriate traditional laws.
- Program Integration Framework. A Deeper exploration and development of the significance and application of the ceremonial steps and laws and psychological modalities in preparation for curriculum development.
- In the process of curriculum development, the specific daily and weekly activities that will make up the participants' experience.

### Practice Framework

The Social Sector has completed a person centered services practice framework. This framework guides workers in each Social Sector program on "why we do", "what we do" and "how we do it". Rather than prescriptive, it provides guidance for best practices within key practice approaches with the goal of helping staff find ways to best support individuals and think their way in and through complex cases. The framework was

done in consultation with Elders & Knowledge Holder Advisors, Traditional Knowledge and Language Elders Advisory, Ktunaxa Nation Consultants, Chief Treaty Negotiator, Inter Sector Directors, as well as other internal and external staff.

### DIVISIONS OF FAMILY PRACTICE PARTNERSHIP

The Social Sector has been collaborating with the Divisions of Family Practice and the Interior Health Authority through the Collaborative Services Committee. As a result, 5 social workers are now employed by the Nation to support people in accessing services through Jordan's Principle. These positions are to service all individuals accessing Jordan's Principle. With the transfer of Jordan's Principle back to Indigenous Services Canada, there has been glitches and delays which we hope will be resolved as soon as possible.

### PATIENT CARE NETWORK (PCN)

The Ministry of Health Primary is partnering with Health Authorities, Divisions of Family Practice (Doctors), and First Nations to improve primary health care services. Primary Care Networks are being established across British Columbia to provide comprehensive, person-centred, culturally safe, quality primary health care services. In Ktunaxa ?amak?is East Kootenay Division of Family Practice, Ktunaxa Nation Social Investment Sector, and Interior Health Authority have partnered to develop a proposed primary health care service plan. This plan focusses on improved access to primary care providers (doctors and nurse practitioners), increased team-based care services (counselling, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social worker, etc.), and culturally safe care.

Ktunaxa Nation Social Sector representatives and health staff from the Ktunaxa communities, the Shuswap community, and the Metis communities have been approached to provide recommendations to enhance primary health care services. Recommendations raised have included increased support from Aboriginal patient navigators, counsellors, doctors, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, social workers, etc. Additionally, recommendations have been made regarding cultural safety in the delivery of primary health care. The plan to be



submitted to the Ministry of Health must be endorsed by the Divisions of Family Practice, the Interior Health Authority, and the Ktunaxa Nation Social Investment Sector Council. It is anticipated there will be new funding to implement these recommended new positions and to develop curriculum and training for health care providers on how to delivery culturally safe care. As well, it is anticipated new community-based positions hired in partnership with communities and overseen by the Ktunaxa Nation will be an outcome of this initiative.

A Primary Care Network is a network of patient medical homes (clinics and health centres) linked with primary care services delivered or contracted by a health authority, a First Nation, and community-based social and other health service organizations. PCNs are the foundation of an integrated system of team-based primary and community care. In most instances, an individual's primary care needs will be met by their PMH though some aspects of care may be provided within the broader network. PCN services will be designed and maintained to meet the needs of individuals, families and caregivers to improve population health at sustainable per capita costs.

### GOVERNANCE

The Social Investment Sector is working towards a Ktunaxa integrated social investment service delivery and governance model. Currently, we are working with MCFD and MIRR to explore, educate and develop Interim Authority Agreements; the Agreements will give us authority over various vulnerable adult services including CLBC services for vulnerable Ktunaxa and other Aboriginal adults.

We participate on the Historical Grievances Working Group, collectively working towards producing and implementing a Reconciliation MOU with the Province of British Columbia.

We developed a Practice Framework to ensure all Social Investment Sector departments and programs provide culturally sensitive and safe services to Ktunaxa citizens and Aboriginal people. This framework provides guidance to staff and contractors on integrating core beliefs, values, and principles into their practice. This document will provide transparency to build

trust with individuals receiving support and provide expectations on how supports are to be delivered. The Ktunaxa Nation is committed to culturally responsive, person-centred services. This framework is foundational to what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. All policies and procedures must reflect this framework.

In May we completed an extensive review of Social Investment Sector programs and services, operations and governance. We interviewed program/service managers, the Nation's CAO, Chief Negotiator, Director of Finance and HR and IT managers. The purpose of the review was to provide current information about the Ktunaxa context of shared health services that may be contributing towards or detracting from integration and collaboration between the partners in health care delivery to Ktunaxa and other Aboriginal people within Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis. This review was funded by the First Nations Health Authority to support planning for health care services within Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis.

Through the health system transformation process, the seven Nations of the Interior Region established a health and wellness services governance structure to address service transformation (without prejudice), while as Nations, we advance our individual governance interests through various processes, such as treaty. Gwen Phillips sits on the Interior Region Nation Executive table (IRNE) with social governance leads from the other 6 Interior Nations to interface with the Interior Health Authority Board and Senior Executive. This model was developed when the Health Council was being formed (no other Region in BC has a Community-driven, Nation-based structure but they are evolving in this direction) and it has been in operation for about 7 years now and working quite well. Each of the 7 Nations selects someone to sit at the IRNE table and an election is held at the Interior Region Caucus, where the 54 Communities of the Interior Region vote for their 3 Health Council reps, from amongst the 7 Nation reps. Gwen has consistently been re-elected since the beginning of the Health Services Governance transformation. Through this process we are advancing our objectives as per the Health Transformation Agreement, to address the social determinants of health.



The Ktunaxa Nation, through the Social Investment Sector, holds agreements with: Interior Health (LOU), Metis Nation BC (LOU) and Cranbrook Restorative Justice (MOU).

### HEALTH PLAN

2018 to 2022 five-year Health Plans for both Communities and the Nation were a result of working with the 4 Communities including visits to each community to hear about their current Health and Well-being priorities and what's working well and what needs improvement. Past priorities that have been successfully achieved were recognized. The updated lists of priorities inform both the Community and Nation Health Plans. The Social Investment Sector Staff helps communities address their priorities continuously through both advocacy and funding proposals.

### FNHA INTERIOR REGION

The Director and Administrator continue to participate in planning and collaboration at a regional level through the various tables:

- Regional Community Engagement Committee (FNHA)
- Interior Region Technicians' Table (FNHA)
- Interior Region Aboriginal Wellness Committee (IHA and FNHA)
- Interior Region Nation Executive (FNHA)
- Partnership Accord Leadership Table (IHA and FNHA)
- First Nations Health Directors Association (FNHA).

As a result, several new programs and services have been secured for the Ktunaxa Nation over the next two years:

#### Mental Health and Substance Use Demonstration Project

- The creation of a Mental Health and Substance Use Division within the Social Sector providing professional outreach to communities as well as supporting community champions (aunties, uncles, Elders).

#### Land Based Healing Project

- Nation based approach to engagement, development and implementation of Nation services and programming that will take a holistic approach to individual and family healing and would include culturally-based assessment and programming, trauma-specific services, treatment services, with appropriate follow up / referrals, aftercare, and ongoing monitoring. A focus on treatment, healing and cultural supports across the care continuum to be provided to clients within their own traditional territories and communities.

#### Emergency Response Project

- Implementation of a position to work with communities providing emergency and crises support; assisting communities to plan for and respond to crises.





# Lands & Resources Sector

Hu yaqaniᑎnatimaᑎnaᑎa·ki ᑎamak  
“Our relationship with the Land”

## Director’s Message

Ki’su’k Kyukyit, Ktunaxa ᑎaqᑎsmakniᑎ.

I take this moment to convey to you the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead of KNC Lands Sector as we continue to contribute to the portion of the Ktunaxa Nation Vision of “managing our lands and resources” in ᑎamak—is Ktunaxa – our homeland since time immemorial. As Ktunaxa ᑎaqᑎsmakniᑎ, we have never forgotten our responsibility to be the stewards of the land, honoring our past while incrementally laying down a foundation for our current and future generations.

The Kootenay region is the second busiest in the province for land use applications. In 2018, 514 land use referrals from government were considered in the consultation process. Protecting the land and Ktunaxa values represent a significant portion of our work, yet consultation is only one of the means to achieving our ends of healthy lands and resources for future generations. Creating jurisdictional space is another. Co-managing the land is an important objective in the near term.

Highlights of last year include the implementation of the Ktunaxa Title and Rights Strategy, supporting Ktunaxa Nation with respect to our place on the Columbia River Treaty negotiations between Canada and the US, taking the next step toward protecting Qat’muk in the form of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area, continuing to build the Ktunaxa Guardian Initiative, and breathing life into the new Lands Sector operational structure.

I want to thank the Ktunaxa Lands Council for your guidance and support as well as express my appreciation to all staff for the hard work you do. We have a number of recent people joining our team, including a Lands Guardian Team Lead, a Business Coordinator, two Environmental Technicians, one Archaeology Technician, and two Ktunaxa summer students for 2019. Finally, I want to recognize our ongoing partners and

contributors from the provincial and federal government as well as industry in supporting our goals.

Huyas, taxa!

Ray Warden  
Nasuᑎkinᑎis ᑎamak ᑎᑎ ᑎaquxaxniyam  
Director, Lands and Resources  
Ktunaxa Nation Council

## Sector Chair’s Message

Ki’su’k Kyukyit

While history hasn’t been kind in many respects, we must have a sense of optimism about the future. The view for a better future is well stated in the Ktunaxa Nation Vision Statement. The Vision comes closer to reality when the hard work of so many, within the Nation and external to the Nation, draws us closer to a better path forward.

To consider impacts on ᑎamak—is Ktunaxa we must remember our past and consider what future generations will have in terms of protecting and living in our homeland. The importance of Ktunaxa history, and the impact to our children and grand-children in the future, guides our model of government. Governing for healthy lands, we believe, has applicability beyond the Ktunaxa Nation.

There is much to aim for, from other governments truly recognizing our inherent title and rights (which is embedded in the Canadian Constitution), to adequate revenue sharing arrangements, to the readiness to test co-management on a larger scale. Agreements with industry (such as the Impact Management Benefit Agreement with Teck) and intergovernmental agreements are done in a manner that aligns with the Nation Vision Statement. Much work remains to be done, but progress is evident. In closing, I wish to reference Qat’muk, in that we continue to seek solutions to protect this sacred area; more about this is in the annual report.

Taxas,  
Sandra Luke  
Ktunaxa Lands Council Chairperson



The members of your Sector Council and the community they represent.

1. Chairperson Sandra Luke, Yaqan Nukiy
2. Jason Andrew, ʔaḡam
3. Dan Gravelle, ʔakinkumʔasnukʔit
4. Alfred Joseph, ʔakisḡnuk

Your team members/employees along with their job title:

1. Ray Warden, Director of Lands
2. Craig Paskin, Policy and Planning Manager
3. Kerri Garner, Lands Stewardship Manager
4. Nicole Kapell, Land Use Research Program Coordinator
5. Erin Robertson, Mining Oversight Team Lead
6. Bill Green, Strategic Initiatives Advisor
7. Greg Johnson, Guardian Team Lead
8. Misun Kang, Aquatic Ecologist
9. Kamila Baranowska, Aquatic Biologist
10. Heather McMahon, Aquatic Biologist
11. Katrina Caley, Aquatic Biologist
12. Cathy Conroy, Terrestrial Biologist
13. Greg Huculak, Business Coordinator
14. Aleitha Harvey, Administrative Assistant
15. Kenton Andreashuk, Sr. Fishery Guardian
16. Jose Galdamez, GIS Analyst
17. Michelle Dunn, Guardian Administrator
18. Vickie Thomas, IMBA Coordinator
19. Melissa Teneese, IMBA Administrative Support
20. Jim Clarricoates, Cultural Heritage Advisor
21. Chad Luke, Lands and Resources Stewardship Assistant
22. Nathalie Allard, Archeological Technician
23. John Nicholas, Archaeology Technician
24. Marty Williams, Environmental Technician
25. Laine Twigg, Environmental Technician
26. Natasha Burgoyne, Title and Rights Support - Summer Student
27. Dustinaya Duteau, Environmental Technician - Summer Student

## Our Responsibility

The Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources Sector is responsible for stewarding the land for the portion of Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis in British Columbia; covering an area of approximately 70,000 square kilometres. Ktunaxa Lands staff is directed by the Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources Council, which is comprised of an elected member from each of the four Ktunaxa Communities.

## Goals

### Exercising jurisdiction and governance in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa

#### Policy and Planning

Title and Rights – In July 2018, Nicole Kapell was hired as the Land Use Research Program Coordinator, with her main function being to implement the KNC Title and Rights Strategy. An implementation workplan was developed with guidance from the Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector (TKL), TKL Advisory Committee and the Lands and Resources Council. A team of KNC staff and consultants was formed to implement this important work, including Jim Clarricoates, Frankie Alexander, Brad Alexander, Christopher Horsethief, Vi Birdstone and summer student Natasha Burgoyne. The main objectives for year one include: increase cultural knowledge and use on the land; strengthen relationships with neighboring Indigenous Nations; update and refine knowledge management and storage in collaboration with the TKL Sector; and develop community and leadership communication and support strategies.

#### Monitoring and Compliance

Environment Assessment Certificate Monitoring – We monitored a number of projects that were approved by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). Several EA Certificates underwent amendment this year, which was reviewed by KNC staff. Monitoring also included on-site visits with EAO compliance officers and reviewing permits to ensure that conditions are being met on the following: Kootenay West Gypsum Mine, Teck's Elkview, Fording and Line Creek coal mines.



## Lands and Resources Sector

KNC Fishery Guardians – Kenton Andreashuk and Dominique Nicholas patrolled several lakes and streams throughout the year ensuring that people were complying with federal and provincial laws and regulations. Kenton completed his DFO federal guardian training in March 2019 and graduated as a peace officer. In early 2019, Dominique chose to take a job with Nupqu Development Corporation as their senior technologist.

Fire Season - As a result of the recent large scale fires, the B.C. Ministry of Forests formed a regional Wildfire Recovery Working Group with a goal of creating Wildfire Recovery Plans. This working group consists of representatives from Ktunaxa and Provincial staff to address rehabilitation activities, water quality, soil erosion, fish habitat, impacts to wildlife, heritage resource protection and access into burned areas.

### Working Together on Ktunaxa Initiatives

Ktunaxa Constitution – Staff person Craig Paskin provided technical support to the Ktunaxa Constitution Working Group which mainly focused on the ongoing writing and review of several drafts of the Interim Constitution.

Reconciliation – Along with other KNC Sectors, we supported the engagement with the Province of BC on developing a Reconciliation Memorandum of Understanding. More work will continue before a decision is sought. BC Hydro is also a part of this engagement in order to begin addressing historic hydro grievances between Ktunaxa and BC.

Revenue Sharing – Ktunaxa and BC signed an Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) in January 2013. The Ktunaxa-BC Resources Revenue Sharing and Benefits Committee worked on increasing revenue on coal tax and forestry. The joint committee is also at the early stages of adding resorts and hydro revenues to the ECDA.

Sturgeon Harvest and Feast – For the last couple of years, Lands staff worked with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to remove a number of White Sturgeon from the Lower Columbia River to enhance genetic biodiversity amongst its larger population. Once removed, the

sturgeon had to undergo a lab analysis to see if it was safe to eat. Between April and June 2018, staff reached out to communities and the TKL Sector regarding a potential feast. In early 2019, the Elders' Advisory Committee indicated that a sturgeon ceremony was required before proceeding with any community dinners.

### Government to Government Engagement

Columbia River Treaty – Ktunaxa Lands supported our leadership in achieving observer status of the negotiations between Canada and United States. Indigenous observer status representatives comprises of Ktunaxa, Okanagan and Secwepemc Nations.

Qat'muk – We commenced engagement with the federal government with the goal of developing an Indigenous Protected Area surrounding Qat'muk. In November, Alfred Joseph attended the Indigenous Protected Area gathering in Canmore, Alberta, while staff engaged with both Canada and BC to move this forward.

Ktunaxa-BC Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) - This intergovernmental agreement lays out the relationship between Ktunaxa and the province regarding land matters within ʔamak'is Ktunaxa. We engage frequently regarding proposed land development activities, discuss policy issues, and participate in planning projects. This year we renewed the agreement to reflect the current political and legal landscape.

Environmental Legislation Reviews – Three years ago, KNC began direct engagement with the Environmental Assessment Office on the new EA Legislation; which will be implemented in the fall of 2019. The KNC have also made a submission to the Federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, commenting on regulations for the new Impact Assessment Legislation. We also held a number of meetings with the federal Environment Canada and Climate Change Ministry regarding the revision of their mine effluent regulations.

Ktunaxa-BC Collaborative Stewardship Initiative – The province of BC approached us to participate (along with 4 other Indigenous Nations) in developing an enhanced way of





## Lands and Resources Sector

engaging with each other in stewarding the land base in that is in accordance with the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples, in the spirit of advancing Reconciliation and alignment with the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court of Canada Ruling with respect to title lands. For starters, we focused on developing a three charter to guide this collaboration.

**Ktunaxa Cultural Landscape at Columbia Lake** – We met with Village of Canal Flats staff and council to share the Landscape initiative and get feedback. Our mid-term goal is to develop a land stewardship plan and collaborate with BC on how to get permanent protection designation for this area. Working in collaboration with the TKL Sector, signage is being developed explaining the importance of the cultural landscape to Ktunaxa. These signs will be posted in the Columbia Lake Provincial Park.

**Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP)** – We continue to engage on the KLP which comprises of provincial, federal, local governments as well as Lower Kootenay Band and Ktunaxa Nation Council. The Shoreline Guidance Document was updated by the KLP with input from developers, landowners, area users and Ktunaxa Citizens and it includes archaeological and cultural values protection. The KLP will be re-surveying Kootenay Lake foreshore in 2020 to monitor the effectiveness of the Guidance Document and assess development impacts and restoration efforts.

**Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework (CEMF)** – The CEMF was a collaborative effort between the province, KNC, and several industry and stakeholder partners including Teck, North Coal, Canfor, NWP/Jameson, Wildsight, the Elk River Alliance and others. To date, the cumulative effects assessment work has been focused on four 'Valued Components': aquatic ecosystems, bighorn sheep, grizzly bears and old and mature forests. This is now completed and is under internal review for approval. As one first step, the KNC is leading a project to identify high priority roads for deactivation and reclamation.

**Environmental Assessments (EA)** – An environmental assessment is a legislated process to review large projects and assess impacts on the environment, economic, social, health

and heritage values. In 2018-19 Ktunaxa Nation were involved in the following EA's:

- North Coal's proposal to develop a new coal mine in the Michel Creek area;
- NWP Crown Mountain Coal's concept for a new mine in the Alexander Creek area;
- Riverside Resources Grassy Mountain coal mine, 7 km's north of Blairmore, Alta;
- CertianTeed Gypsum Canada's proposal to access a new quarry north of Canal Flats; and
- Parks Canada proposed twinning of the TransCanada Highway through Yoho Park.

**Koocanusa Recreational Management Strategy** – With the huge amount of recreational pressure being exerted upon the foreshore and uplands of the Koocanusa Reservoir, we have been involved with BC and the Regional District of East Kootenay in developing a management plan to protect our ecological and cultural values in the surrounding area. Trail Decommissioning and building of campsites are planned for this summer in the Dorr Grasmere area.

**Archeology** – We sought advice from the Elders Advisory Committee on the Ancestral Remains Policy and also worked with Okanagan and Secwepemc Nations on an Archaeology Guardian Program for BC Hydro's Reservoirs. KNC Archaeology Technician, John Nicholas, spent several weeks patrolling the Reservoirs with the Archaeology Guardian Team, providing education and outreach as well as warnings to the public regarding the stewardship and protection of archaeological values. KNC also participated in many archaeological assessments, including in Yoho Nation Park, around Grave Prairie and Grave Lake, in Cranbrook at Idelwild Park, and several others locations.



# Lands and Resources Sector

## Industry Engagement

Canfor & BC Timber Sales— Several workshops were held with Ktunaxa Citizens over the last number of years in identifying Cultural and Conservation Value Forests (CCVF's) areas. The next step was to develop an on-the-ground monitoring program. The intent of the monitoring program is to assess how successful the management strategies are in protecting Ktunaxa values on the landscape. Four Ktunaxa Citizens were trained to do the monitoring which occurred during the summer of 2018. This activity will occur again during the summer of 2019 and we are looking at expanding to other areas managed by BC Timber Sales.

Ktunaxa-Teck Environmental Working Group (EWG) – The EWG is the venue to identify and resolve environmental concerns from Teck's operations in ʔamak'is Qukin. Areas of focus are: water quality with respect to the high levels of selenium downstream of coal mining activities; integrating Ktunaxa worldview into the Wild Foods Program, and supporting a Ktunaxa youth reclamation tour. In November and December of 2018, we held gathering at each of the communities seeking input on these topic areas.

### **Increase capacity and develop institutional strength of Ktunaxa Lands Sector**

Revitalizing Indigenous Law (RELAW) – RELAW is an initiative that will help us write traditional Ktunaxa Laws into modern legal terms; and in turn will enable us to apply our laws to the land. This project has been moved into the KNC Title and Rights Strategy program area. Knowledge gathering has begun to articulate protocols around hunting and gathering different types of vegetation, fish and wildlife.

ʔa-knusti (Ktunaxa Guardian Program Development) – In collaboration with Traditional Knowledge and Education and Employment Sector, we worked with youth, citizens and elders to guide the development of the ʔa—knusti training program. Based on input from Ktunaxa Citizens we developed a set of guiding principles to steer future development. Our next step

is to look at when a training program is best likely to occur.

Ktunaxa Wildlife Permitting Committee – Lands and Resources Council established a Ktunaxa Wildlife Permitting Committee comprising of a representative from each community. The Committee has the authority to issue permits allowing hunting by other Indigenous Nations. The intent is to ensure that the hunting by other First Nations is respectful of Ktunaxa values and to maintain the sustainability of wildlife populations for Ktunaxa Hunters.

Salmon Reintroduction – Our four-year funding proposal to the federal government for salmon reintroduction research was successful. In addition we helped found the “Dialogue on Salmon Restoration”, which is an initial ad-hoc steering committee comprising of federal, provincial and Indigenous governments, and industry in discussing coordination of upcoming salmon restoration activities. KNC participated in the Collaborative Salmon Dialogue meeting in Sept 2018. Staff also contributed to the drafting of a collaborative agreement which will include Okanagan, Secwepemc, federal and provincial governments.

Lands Sector Re-Org – Lands Sector staff has gone under tremendous growth over the last five years along with an increase in responsibilities. Also, CCRIFC dissolved in October 2017 in which fisheries staff are now within the KNC Lands Sector. The new structure is designed to ensure operations are fully aligned with the Nation's Vision Statement, Lands Sector mandate and Ktunaxa values and principles.

### **Connecting with ʔamak'is Ktunaxa**

In June 2018, Lands staff supported the Water Science Camp at Aq'am which included the delivery of science material, water sampling methodologies and games with youth who were doing water and canoe training during the summer. Also in June, we held a Ktunaxa citizen reclamation tour of Teck's Line Creek mine.

In early July, Citizens were a key part in our visit to Yoho National Park to inform our past connection with this area and also look at how we want to access this area into the future.





## Lands and Resources Sector

However, in later July and throughout August, the fire danger was too high and therefore made the decision to cancel the Qat'muk camp.

Working alongside the TKL Sector, a culture camp was held at Grave Prairie during the month of September 2018. In the fall, we conducted a fur bearer study for the North Coal Michel Creek EA project that included a Knowledge Holders' focus group held in Fernie and three days of fieldwork to track fur bearers and identify appropriate habitat and management strategies.

Please visit the Lands Sector Facebook page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ktunaxanationlandsandresources>  
or visit us on the web at <http://www.ktunaxa.org/four-pillars/lands-resource-agency>





# Finance

## Financial Management & Governance

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mandate – The Finance Committee is a standing committee created by the KNEC on January 22nd, 2009

#### Purpose and Objectives

- Provides review and expertise to the KNEC by making recommendations on the full scope of financial governance and financial management including;
  - o Financial Code, policies and procedures
  - o Revenue allocation models and Investments from the General Revenue Fund
  - o Investment opportunities and strategies
  - o Review financial components of Revenue sharing Agreements
  - o Budget process, Annual Operating and Capital Budgets, Long Term Strategic Financial Planning
  - o Review of the KNC audited consolidated financial statements
  - o Other matters of joint financial interest to the KNC and Communities

#### Current Representation:

#### Voting Members

- o Chief Jason Louie
- o Councilor Vicki Thomas (Acting Chair)
- o Councilor Darlene Trach
- o Councilor Teresa Kains

#### Technical Advisory Staff:

- o Composed of Band Administrators and Finance Staff from KNC and the Communities

## Work Plan 2019/2020

- Completion of the review of the Internal Revenue Sharing Agreement (IRSA) amongst ourselves
- Increase membership of the Finance Committee from 4 voting Ktunaxa elected to total of 8 voting elected and unelected Ktunaxa.
- Increasing Role of Finance Committee in the consultation process of significant financial decisions

### Accomplishments

- Sponsored the development and implementation of the Ktunaxa Citizens Excellence Program and Awards
- Sponsored the development of the Investment Working Group and KNC Investment Policy in collaboration with the Economic Sector Council.
- Provided consultation on the creation of Investment Reserves from General Revenue Fund

## KNC Financial Operations

The KNC Finance Department provides leadership, professional expert advice, direction and support based on strong internal controls, best management practices, risk identification and assessment practices, timely reporting that all contribute to transparency and accountability that promotes quality information for good decision making by the Senior Management, Sector Councils and the Nation.

#### Staff Members:

Lynn Armstrong  
Debbie Wilson  
Dustin Gotaas  
Laurel Anderson  
Sonya Connah

Director of Finance  
Payroll & Benefits Administrator  
Financial Department Manager  
Purchasing & Payables Administrator  
Accountant/ Billings Administrator



# Finance

## External Support Providers

Auditor - MNP  
KNC Nation Banker - CIBC, Cranbrook  
Legal Primary: Morgan & Associates  
Insurance: Western Financial Group  
Health & Benefits: Group Health Benefits

The KNC is the Group Health Benefits Plan Holder and the Administrator of the Group Pension with Great West Life. The Pension is a defined contribution plan matched by the employers.

## KNC Finance Department Annual Work Plan

The annual work plan consists of:

- A. Ongoing education and training for KNC Finance Staff
- B. Increasing Staff's knowledge of Ktunaxa values, principles and principles
- C. Continual review, identification, risk assessment of internal control systems.
- D. Review of the ways and means to provide responsive service delivery based on the needs of our customers; who are Ktunaxa citizens, Staff, Sector Councils, KNC and the Nation.
- E. Ongoing review of standard operating procedures, financial policies and best practices in tune with the organizational diversification and development of KNC.
- F. Routinely performing day to day operational functions of billings, receivables, receipts, purchasing, payables, payroll and benefits, monthly and annual reporting, data collection and financial analysis, budgeting and long term financial planning, audits; including the KNC Consolidated Audited Financial Statements in a timely complete and accurate manner.
- G. Prepare, adjust and plan for ongoing substantive organizational change
  - a. Assessing organizational needs and impacts on the KNC Finance Department

Specific accomplishments this past fiscal year have been:

- Implementation of Budget Maestro as a financial planning and reporting tool
- Draft of Financial Code now in process of internal consultation.
- Inclusion in internal discussions regarding the impacts of recognition of Ktunaxa government, Investment Working Group
- Introduction of Risk Management Program
- User Friendly information in the form of Handbooks and SharePoint

Accomplishments planned for 2019/2020:

- Increasing the amount of electronic transmission of paper and reducing manual administration time by implementing software including DocuSign, converge point and Purely HR time sheeting, Billing software for services rendered. Investigate paperless Accounts Payable module.
- Continuation of Risk Management Program
- Seminars and workshops on Business Law and Law of Contracts; administration and best practices of Contracts
- Complete consultation and ratification of Financial Code with links to Financial Policies and Procedures
- Promoting the completion of the KNC Long Term Strategic Business Plan Software including project, and contract administration to provide efficiency to daily operations.

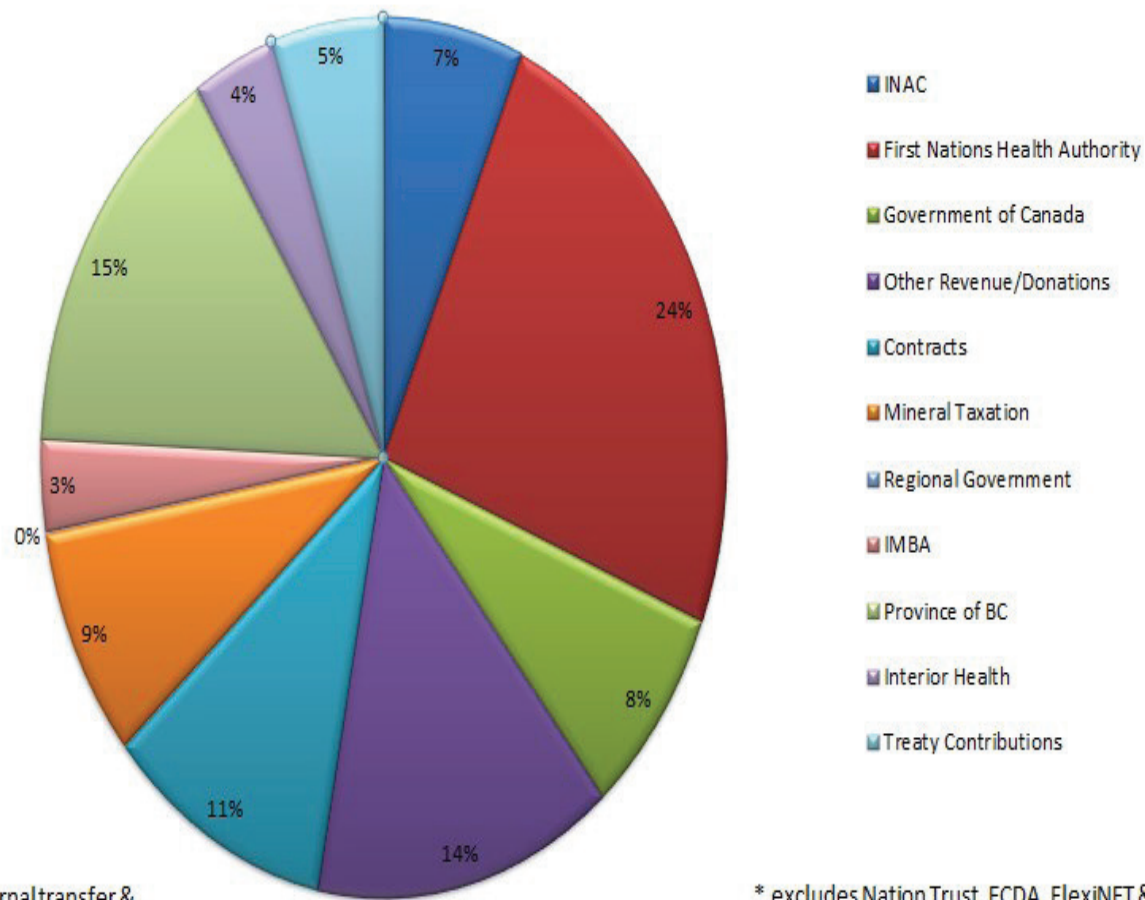
The Ktunaxa Nation Council Society Audited Financial Statements are Consolidated with FlexiNET, Nation Legacy Fund, TKLES, and Revenue Sharing Agreements ; The charts and graphs in the Annual report are based on the Ktunaxa Nation Council Society Exclusively.

Thank you to KNC Finance Staff Debbie, Dustin, Laurel, and Sonya !  
Lynn Armstrong, CPA, CGA, BCom  
Director of Finance



# Finance

## 2019 Revenue Sources as a % of \$15.1 Million



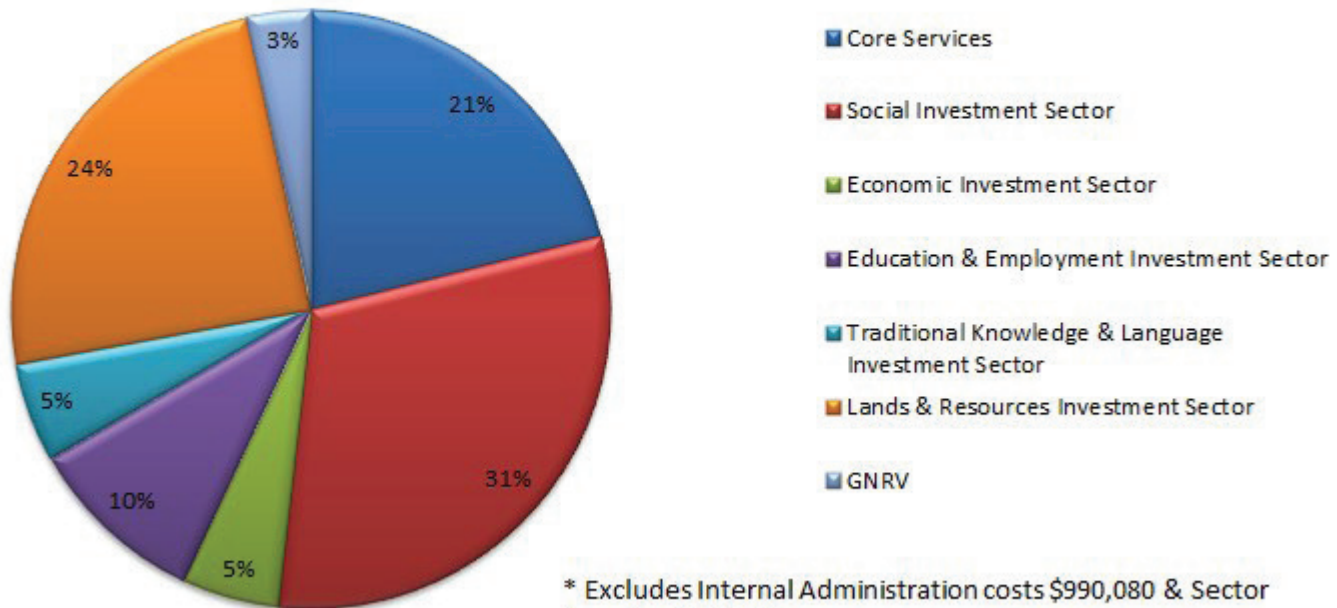
\* excludes internal transfer & overhead \$1.7 Million

\* excludes Nation Trust, ECDA, FlexiNET & TKLES



## Finance

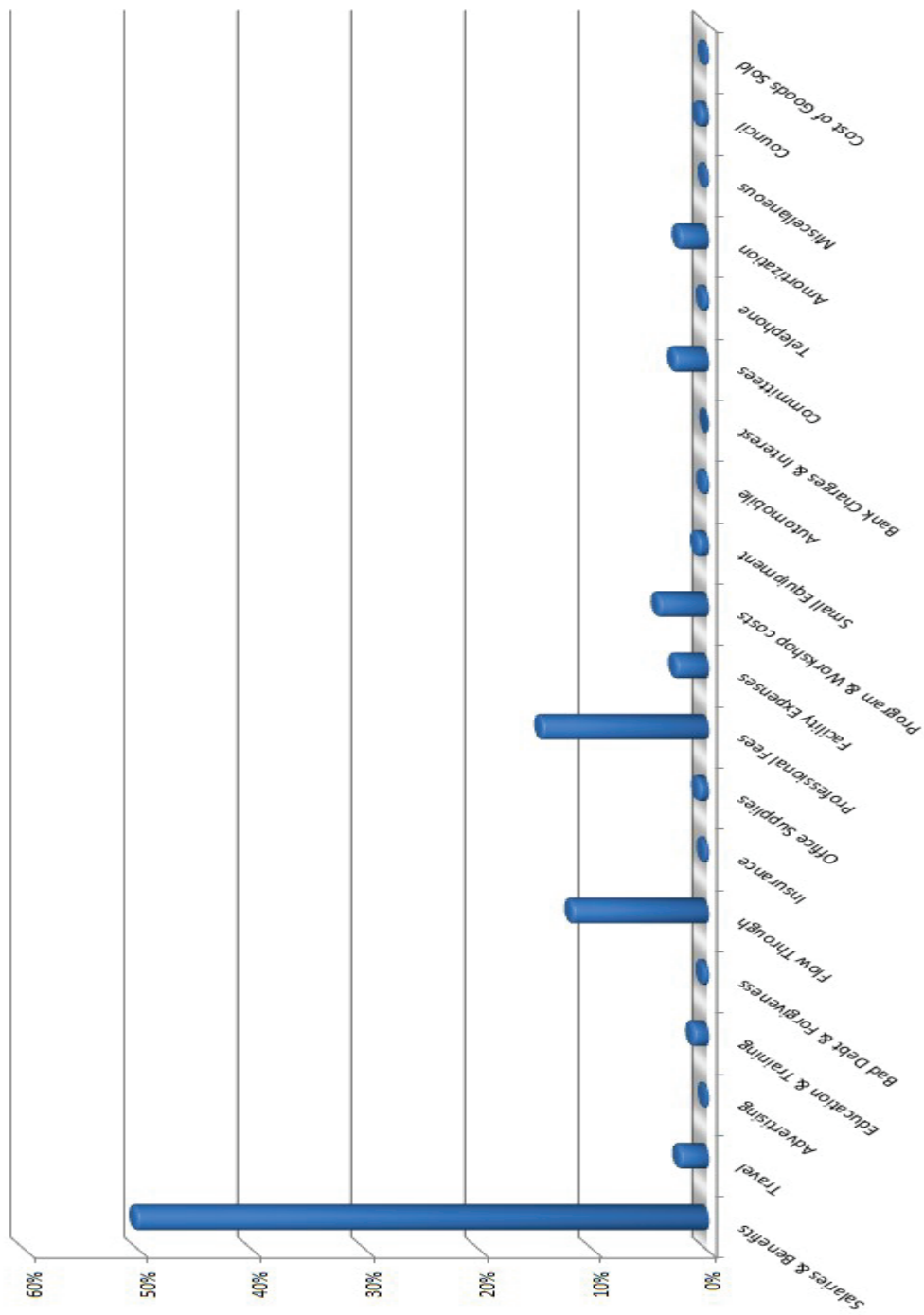
### 2019 Sector Investments (Expenditures) as a % of \$14.3 Million



\* Excludes Internal Administration costs \$990,080 & Sector Transfers \$726,382



Categorized Expenditures as a % of \$14.3 Million

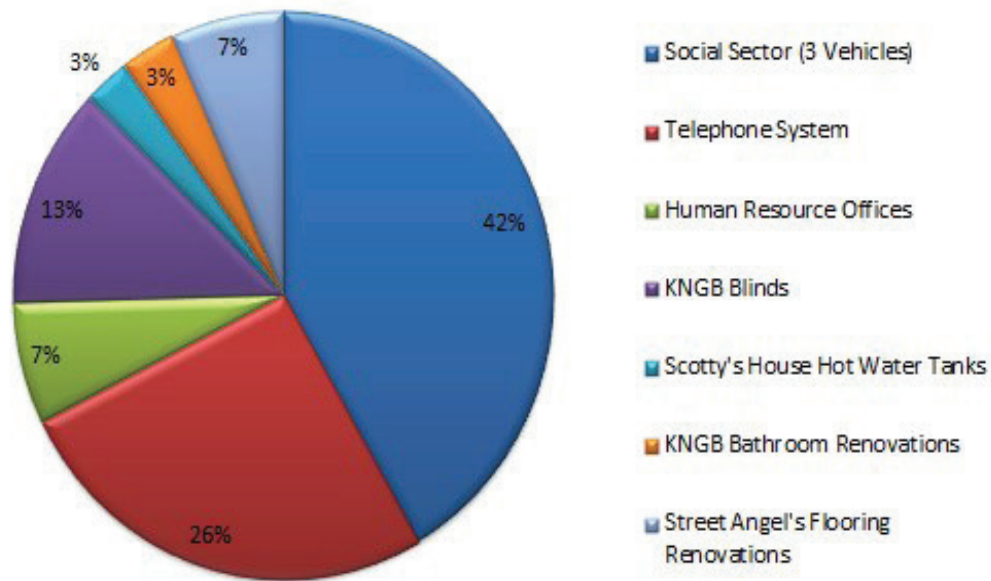


\* Excludes Internal Administration costs \$990,080 & Sector Transfers \$726,382



# Finance

**2019 Capital Additions as a % of \$286,986**





# FlexiNet

FlexiNET strives at being a profitable business contributing towards a thriving Ktunaxa Nation economy. FlexiNET Broadband Inc.'s duty is to operate and maintain the Ktunaxa Nation Council Society network to ensure the network viability, health, expansion, and profitability.

This year has seen continuing cost control measures contributing to FlexiNET's plus side of the ledger. An agreement with Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation to be our wholesale internet provider creates not only a substantial saving, but is a strategic alignment for common projects to build on, for the benefit of FlexiNET, KNC, the various nation communities, and the Columbia Basin region.

Additionally, FlexiNET is working closely with Ktunaxa communities and ANTCO (All Nations Trust Company) to secure equipment upgrade funding for Ktunaxa communities.

FlexiNET has over 40 km of fibre optic lines and 17 communications towers creating the potential reach to over 16,000 homes.

The demand for quality alternative rural Internet options is increasing due to high-cost alternatives. Cellular and Satellite companies widely campaign rural areas with cellular Internet sticks (air-cards) and other dishes. While monthly costs seem low (starting at \$35/month), usage overage costs are unpredictably high for users. Today's Internet content and streaming services quickly push the client over their subscribed usage threshold. Faced with high usage fees, subscribers are found re-entering the market looking for alternatives which include higher GB usage per month or even unlimited usage options.

It is estimated that 28% of the 16,000 households do not have or have limited access to reliable, affordable high speed internet. That equals 4,500+ households that FlexiNET continues to target as potential residential subscribers.

Out of the mentioned 4,500+ households, FlexiNET estimates that currently wireless coverage can reach 53%. It is estimated that out of these, 25% will subscribe to services with this potentially increasing to 45%.

The FlexiNET tiered price plans allows users to choose and possibly lower their price plan to have or retain connectivity when personal budgets are tight. In addition, FlexiNET's contracted customer base is not normally burdened with over usage charges, which is very attractive to budget conscious subscribers, not wanting unpleasantly surprising higher than expected bills due to usage.

In summary, FlexiNET is positioned as a major contributor, in the South East region of BC, for rural high speed internet access. This is due to significant infrastructure owned by KNC and maintained by FlexiNET and strategic alliances with groups such as Columbian Basin Broadband Corporation.

## Board Members

1. Kathryn Teneese – Board Chair
2. Bob Luke
3. Jesse Nicholas

## FlexiNet Staff

David Monson – General Manager  
Adam Wuthrich – Technology  
Marianne Kneller - Finance  
Patricia Monson – Sales and Marketing





## Treaty Negotiations

As in previous years I am writing to provide a brief overview of events from this past year related to the treaty negotiation process. I am reporting in my roles of the Director of Treaty and Chief Negotiator.

Last year I referred to the amended approach to treaty negotiations that has been shared with many of you at Council briefings and Community Information Sessions presented by the Treaty team (Garry Merkel, Rosemary Phillips and Janice Alpine).

The focus of the treaty department continues to be on negotiations and governance transition. The governance transition work is focused on Nation rebuilding. To that end, an important step took place in May 2019 with the approval of the Interim Citizenship Code that sets out who is eligible to be enrolled as a Ktunaxa citizen. Work is also under way on the Ktunaxa Constitution that will be available for review and discussion in the next few months.

Members of the Treaty team and others traveled to Vancouver early in 2019 to meet with representatives from Tsawwassen and Nisga'a Lisims governments to hear firsthand about governance in a post treaty environment.

Governance Transition has continued with Professional Development sessions for the elected leadership and senior staff. The sessions are led by a team consisting of Dan George, Four Directions Management, and Dr. Christopher Horsethief and are coordinated by Karen Bailey-Romanko. In the coming years, this activity will be the responsibility of Core Services.

The Board of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Financing Society (KKTFS) continues to execute its legal responsibility for the Negotiation Support Funding provided by the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC). As a result of years of pressure by BC First Nations who are negotiating treaties Canada has finally agreed to loan forgiveness. This announcement was made late in the last fiscal year and means that negotiation support funding as of April 2018 is full contribution funding. We have not yet received the details about how the loan forgiveness will be recorded and removed from our financial statements.

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

that was signed in November 2018 the parties (Ktunaxa, Canada and BC) have been working toward a Recognition Agreement that will result in legal recognition of the Ktunaxa Nation government. This is part of the amended approach that began in 2017. When the Recognition negotiations have been concluded work will continue on the negotiation of a 'Core Treaty' that will focus on our Constitutional relationship with other governments and will move away from the notion of 'full and final' and extinguishment. This approach is based on Rights Recognition. Operational details will be set out in Side Agreements and annexes.

In last year's report, I referred to the change in the Provincial government. At that time I noted that our path forward remains unchanged regardless of the party in power. At the Provincial level work is continuing to finalize and then implement the 'Commitments Document'. The Provincial government is carrying on with BC FN Leadership and Cabinet meetings.

I continue to attend meetings of the First Nations' Chief Negotiators to share and gather information from the other tables. I also attend meetings of the First Nations Summit on behalf of the Nation.

The Principals' group that has the high level responsibility for the treaty negotiation process consists of the Federal Minister of Indigenous Crown Relations, Provincial Minister of MIRR and the Political Executive of the First Nations Summit. The Principals recently signed an accord in support of their continued commitment to the negotiation process in BC.

In closing I want to once again express appreciation to all citizens for their patience and guidance as we continue with this complex and challenging work of trying to reach an agreement with Canada and BC. I want to remind you that we continue to be guided by the direction provided by Ktunaxa citizens at the outset of the process and further refined at Nation gatherings. We've been very clear to the governments' negotiators that our instructions from the Nation's citizens have not changed. In the upcoming year we will be moving forward with Citizen Engagement sessions on a number of Issues and your participation is of critical importance in shaping our path forward today and for future generations.

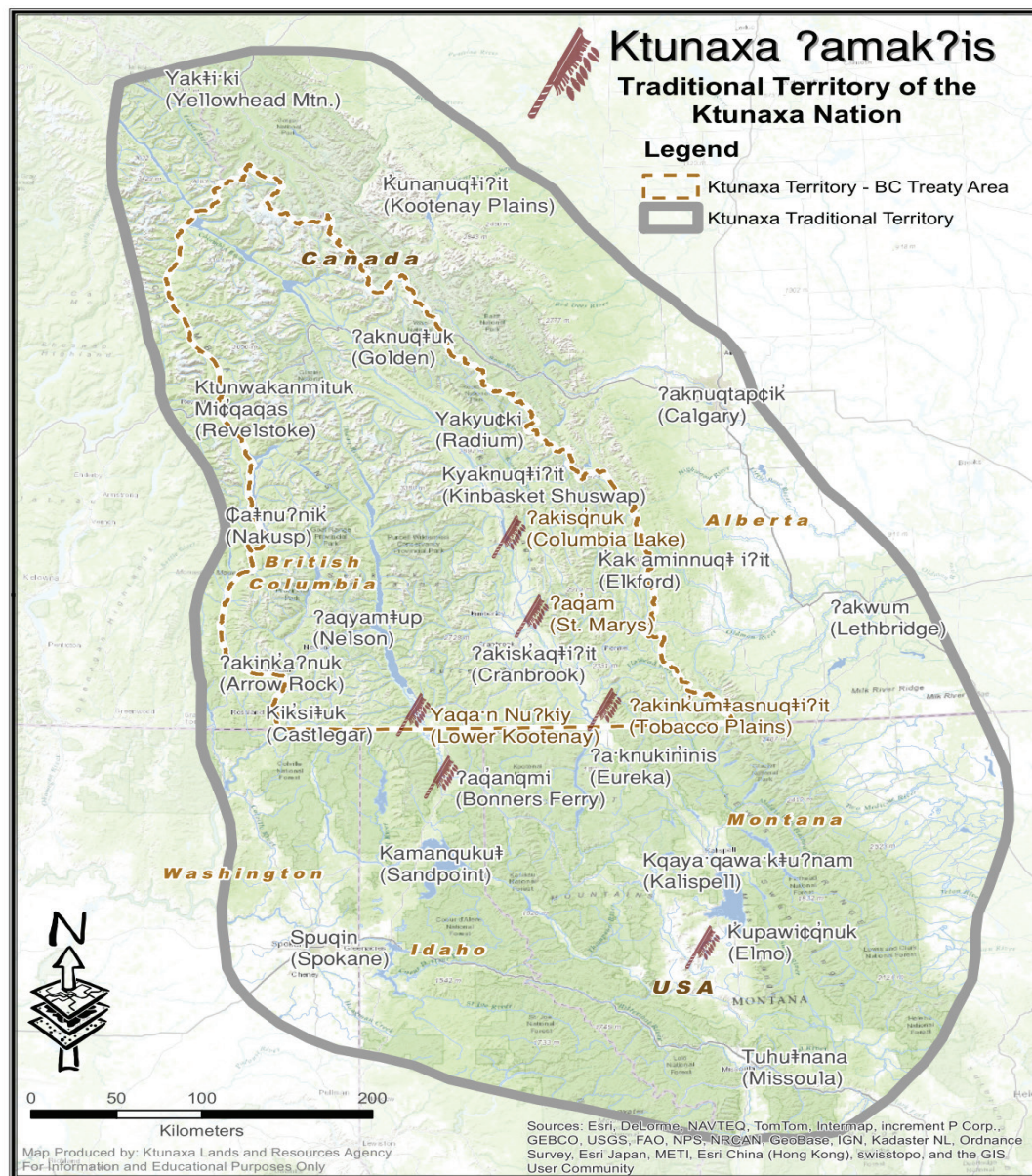


# Treaty Negotiations

I also want to express my thanks to the past and present staff and elected officials of the Ktunaxa Nation who have helped to advance our agenda. As I have stated so many times, “We need to do all the work we’re doing whether we finalize a treaty or not.” There is much good work that is taking place throughout the Nation that is making a difference. There are also challenges that we have to work through together.

We must continue to focus on making our Nation Vision Statement a reality. That is our challenge and our responsibility.

Kathryn Teneese  
Chief Negotiator



Ktunaxa Nation Council  
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Cranbrook, B.C.  
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[www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org)