



**KTUNAXA
NATION**

Lands & Resources
NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES

k̓aʔuʔk ɕupqa 2018 November 2018 Deer Rutting

Welcome Erin Robertson

Erin Robertson started working at KNC as the Land's Project Officer, Qukin ʔamakʔis (Elk Valley), on July 26, 2018. Erin was born in Ottawa but raised in Saskatoon and completed a B.Sc. in Land Use and Environmental Studies in 2003 and defended her M.Sc. in Toxicology in 2006 at the University of Saskatchewan. She started her career at a uranium mining company as an Environmental Professional with a focus on Management Systems, Environmental Assessments and ecological and human health risk assessments. Six years later, Erin took a job with a potash producer to manage the environmental portfolio of the construction of the first green field potash mine in Saskatchewan over 40 years. After 12 years in the mining industry, Erin was ready for a change and a job that was more aligned with her core values. She found and applied for the job with the Ktunaxa Nation Council and the rest is history! As the Lands Project Officer, Erin leads the review minor and major Teck Coal applications and supports related stewardship initiatives in Qukin ʔamakʔis. Erin enjoys camping, hiking/walking and traveling to places near and far. Erin will be joined by her spouse Dennis later this year and they both look forward to exploring Ktunaxa ʔamakʔis and enjoying all the world-class activities and beautiful scenery it has to offer.

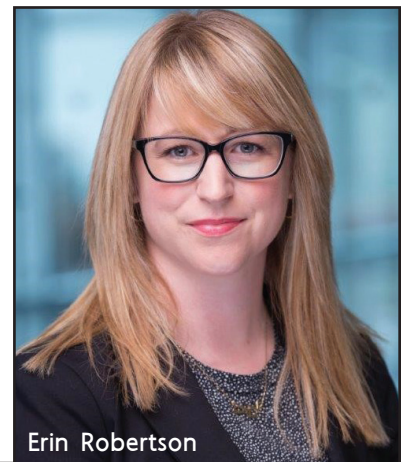
Lands and Resources Sector Council:

Sandra Luke (Chair)
Lower Kootenay

Dan Gravelle
Tobacco Plains

Joe Pierre
ʔaqam

Alfred Joseph
ʔakisq̓nuk



Erin Robertson

ʔa·knusti Program Development Progress

Over the past 2 years, Lands, Education and Employment and TKL have been working together to begin developing the Ktunaxa ʔa·knusti (Guardian) Program. We have spent time working with citizens through workshops, focus groups and also with the TKL Elders Advisory Committee, to continue the development of the Program. We have heard excitement and enthusiasm about the program and many great ideas and suggestions on how to develop it and to ensure it is a truly Ktunaxa driven program that is reflective of the Ktunaxa worldview and knowledge. Through this work, the following guiding principles have been developed:

ʔa·knusti should:

- Exercise authority within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa;
- Ensure Ktunaxa language and culture is the heart of ʔa·knusti;
- Include Ktunaxa knowledge-based monitoring and western science and;
- Promote knowledge sharing from Elders to their community and between communities;
- Enhance Ktunaxa Culture;
- Enhance Ktunaxa connection to the land; and
- Ensure compliance and enforcement with Ktunaxa stewardship values and laws.

The Program will have a formal and informal component to it which need to be further developed however will contain key components including:

Ktunaxa ʔa.knusti Program

ʔa.knusti

The term has different but related meanings when referring to men or to women. In a male context, ʔa.knusti loosely means sentry, or watchman. ʔa.knusti is also used for women, but the definition relates to childbirth – so the phrase has a connotation of a mid-wife delivering the child – ensuring all is done properly for the mother and her newborn. For both males and females, ʔa.knusti implies guarding over, watching out for, or caring for.

Core Structure of ʔa.knusti Program



Formal Training Program

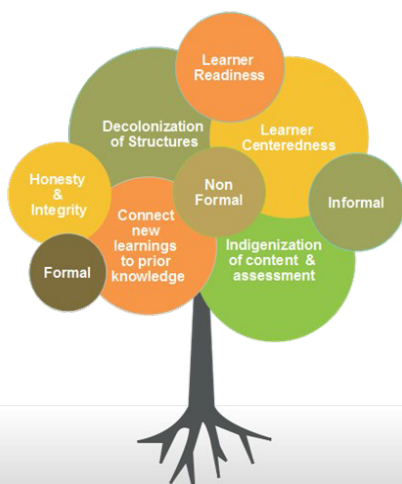
Target Audience: Ktunaxa who are committed to be formally trained as ʔa.knusti

- Ktunaxa Worldview, Culture and Language is the foundation
- Two Year Program
- On the Land Learning
- Training and learning occurs throughout space and time in Ktunaxa –amak–is
- 1-2 week modules followed by real life practice
- Modules based on both Ktunaxa Knowledge and Science
- Program will bridge to other academic institutions
 - Interested Ktunaxa will apply to take the program

Citizen Training Program: Formal and Non-Formal

Target Audience: Youth, on the land harvesters, Elders

- Shorter training opportunities and workshops to build community members own capacity to be the 'eyes and ears' on the land
- Training Opportunities *could* include:
 - Traditional Names of Plants (Ethnobotany training)
 - Hunter Safety
 - Ktunaxa Title and Rights
 - Ktunaxa Placenames and Stories
 - Species at Risk Training



Program Design and Delivery Approach

Ktunaxa Seasons

Beginning with Mid-Winter and moving clockwise

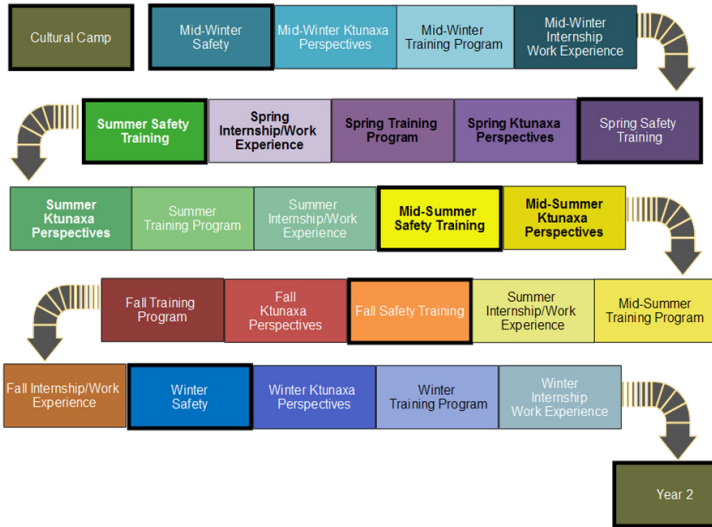


“Who better to protect ʔakxamis qapi qapsin than Ktunaxa. Government will come and go, as will industry. Ktunaxa will be here forever”.

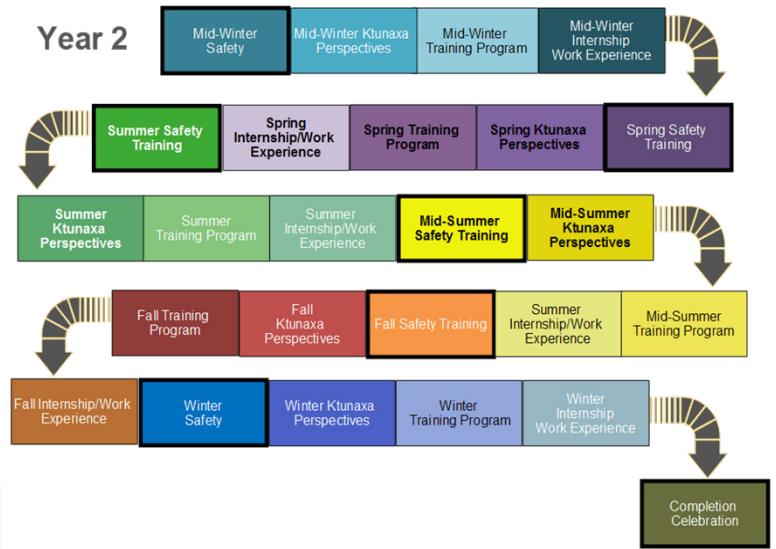
Ktunaxa Citizen

Proposed Approach for 2 Year Formal Training Program

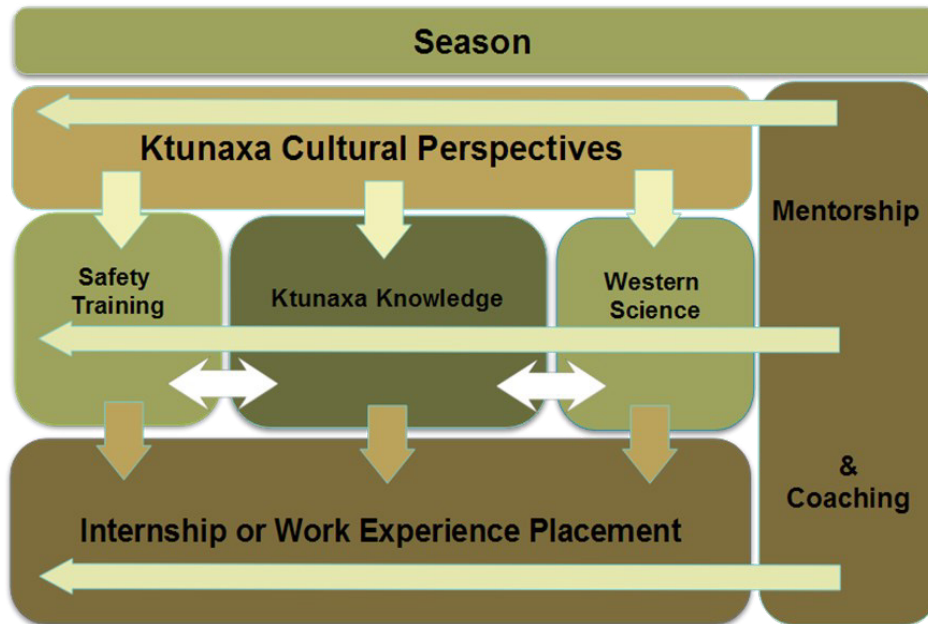
Year 1



Year 2



ʔa-knusti Program Module Design



The Heart of ʔa-knusti - Guiding Principles

ʔa-knusti should:

- Exercise authority within ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa;
- Ensure Ktunaxa language and culture is the heart of ʔa-knusti;
- Include western science and Ktunaxa knowledge-based monitoring;
- Promote knowledge sharing from Elders to their community and between communities;
- Enhance Ktunaxa Culture;
- Enhance Ktunaxa connection to the land; and
- Ensure compliance and enforcement with Ktunaxa stewardship values and laws.

We are all ʔa-knusti and this program should be the foundation for a lifelong learning process of Ktunaxa teaching Ktunaxa. It is our intergenerational responsibility to leave a great legacy for the upcoming generations. We are a voice for ʔa-kxamis' qapi qapsin, which connects back to the covenant that the Ktunaxa have with the creator.

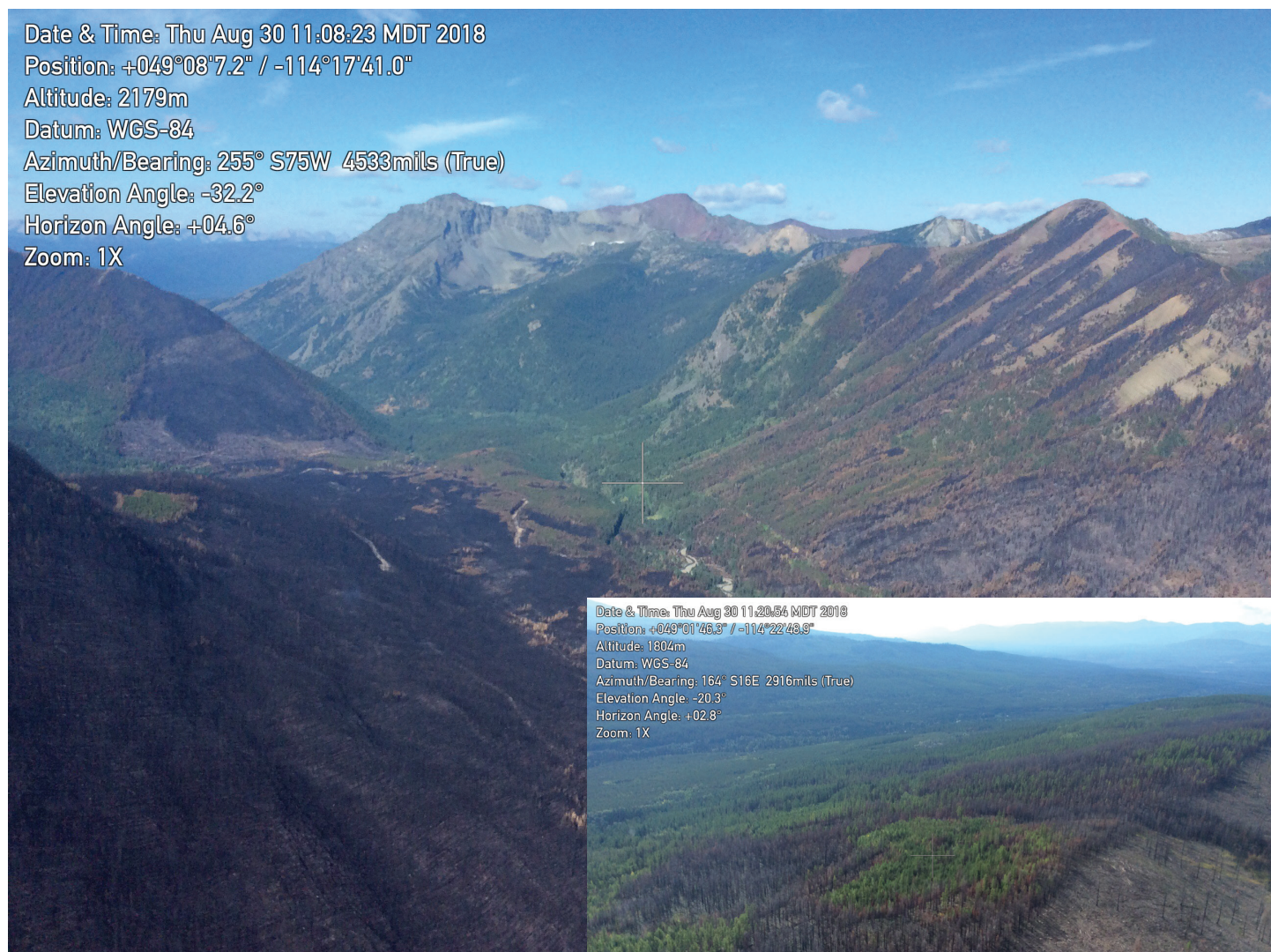


Extensive Community Engagement through Workshops, Community Meetings, Focus Groups and Elders Advisory Committee

Fire Season Report

Following 2017 fires (and now 2018 fires), the KNC has been engaged with the Province and industry to review and assess fire salvage and fire rehabilitation activities in Ktunaxa ʔamaʔkis. Concerns about rehabilitation activities, water quality, soil erosion, fish habitat, impacts to wildlife species, and access in burns have been topics of in-depth discussions with both Provincial and forest industry staff. During flights to review the past year's fire salvage and the rehabilitation of fire guards, temporary roads, and other disturbances from 2017 firefighting activities, KNC staff saw that most fire guards had already been rehabilitated and were not accessible by motorized vehicles. In the future, fire guards may require planting of trees, or control of noxious weeds. The KNC has expressed concerns about how the Province will monitor this, and discussions are ongoing.

As a result of the recent large scale fires in Ktunaxa ʔamaʔkis, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Kootenay-Boundary Region, has formed a Wildfire Recovery Working Group (WRWG). This working group consists of representatives from First Nations (the KNC and Shuswap) and Provincial staff. The working group's main goal is to identify resource and cultural values that should be included as part of Wildfire Recovery Plans. For example, if a wildlife value such as goat escape terrain is now threatened because of a previous wildfire and human disturbance or access, then actions can be recommended to protect the value of the escape terrain. These actions are identified and included in the Recovery Plan for that fire. Engaging the KNC very early on in the wildfire season has been identified as an issue, so that citizens, communities, and Lands Staff can provide input so impacts from fire guards or other infrastructure is minimized to the extent possible. For more information or to discuss further, please contact Cathy Conroy in KNC Lands at 250-489-2464 ext. 4033.



Top: Kenow Elder fire, Aug 30 2018
Right: Sage Creek Fire, Aug 30 2018



Cultural and Conservation Value Forest (CCVF) Monitoring Program

Over the summer of 2017 and 2018, KNC has been working with Canfor and BCTS to develop and implement a training program to monitor the results of Cultural Conservation Value Forest (CCVF) management strategies that were developed 6-8 years ago with Tembec (now Canfor) and BC Timber Sales. The intent of the monitoring program is to assess how successful these management strategies have been in protecting Ktunaxa values on the landscape. Monitoring was mostly done near Yaqaan Nukiy and some was also completed in the East Kootenay's. Once the monitoring season is complete and data is collected, we will look at the results and assess how well these strategies have protected Ktunaxa values following forestry operations. We will work with the monitors and Ktunaxa Elders and citizens to improve and update the management strategies, working to further protect and Ktunaxa values on the landscape. We hope to expand these management strategies across 7ama7kis Ktunaxa in the coming year. Results will be shared with community and leadership, asking for feedback and advice. If you have any questions about the project, are interested in learning more, or would like to visit the location yourself, please contact Kerri Garner.

Op-Ed - submitted by Jim Clarricoates

I have seen many things in my travels along the streams and rivers that provided sustenance to us... The Upper Columbia First Nation's, and our neighbours, the residents of our region. Region... A word not discussed specifically in mainstream conversations, but the Region is something that is at the heart of any livelihood. If the interior is to survive, we need to utilize the natural resources... Forestry for ecological restoration, Ecotourism, etc... BUT... will the Provincial politicians see that we don't have to compromise Economics for Science/Traditional Knowledge... and Religion for that matter?

In our society governments have separated State and Religion, and placed dependency on science. Well, science has been telling the leadership of our country that we need to make a change to ensure our future... Even the Pope emphasized this so please, heed what the Pope is stating about Global Climate change! Employ Ecological policy, and strengthen Regional Economics. Stop flooding the news with Global Issues and concentrate your efforts at home. In order to be globally responsible, we must show strength in our own back yard. Sustainability is based on diversity. Diversity can only be attained by organisms that work together, that enhances conditions in their ecosystems, or directly benefit from interaction with other organisms... Can anyone tell me how global economy fulfills these conditions?



Yoho Environmental Assessment

The KNC are engaging on an Environmental Assessment process for the proposed twinning of the TransCanada highway through Yoho National Park. We are working with Parks Canada to identify potential impacts of the project on fish and other aquatic species, water quality, wildlife, vegetation, archaeology, and other cultural values such as trails, special places, and the ability for Ktunaxa to use this area in the future for cultural purposes. On August 15th and 16th KNC staff and Ktunaxa citizens visited the project area with representatives from Parks Canada. Although it was smoky, we were still able to get a sense of the project, identifying areas for wildlife crossing, where tree harvesting would occur and areas of high archaeological potential that are going to be assessed. Our first stop on Saturday morning was Emerald Lake, where we identified (and munched on!) several species of berry including saskatoon, huckleberry, strawberry, thimbleberry and more!

The assessment process is anticipated to be complete by the spring of 2019, at which time KNC staff will present results to community and leadership, asking for feedback and advice. If you have any questions about the project, are interested in learning more, or would like to visit the location yourself, please contact Nicole Kapell.



Word Search

(Will return in next months newsletter.)

KNC Lands and Resources Staff Directory

Name	Extension	Job Title
Aleitha Harvey	3120	Administrative Assistant
Alison Burton	3190	Qukin ʔamakʔis Stewardship Coordinator
Bill Green	3131	Special Initiatives Advisor
Cathy Conroy	4033	Terrestrial Biologist
Chad Luke		Lands Stewardship Assistant
Craig Paskin	3124	Manager, Policy and Planning
Dominique Nicholas	4057	Fisheries Technician
Erin Robertson	3137	Lands Project Officer - Qukin ʔamakʔis
Heather McMahon	3172	Project Biologist
Jaime Vienneau	3130	Business Coordinator
Jim Clarricoates		Senior Fisheries Technician
Jose Galdamez	3122	GIS Analyst
Katrina Caley	4062	Project Biologist
Kenton Andreashuk	3133	Fisheries Stewardship & Protection
Kerri Garner	3115	Lands Stewardship Manager
Michelle Dunn	4308	Referrals Coordinator
Misun Kang	3106	Aquatic Ecologist
Nathalie Allard	4309	Archaeology Technician
Nicole Kapell	3123	Land Use Research Program Coordinator
Ray Warden	3121	Lands Sector Director
Sancira Williams-Jimmy	4026	Administrative Assistant IMBA
Vickie Thomas	4034	Agreements Coordinator
Will Warnock	3134	Senior Aquatic Biologist

k'ta'k'upqa November 2018

kukig'inmiyit SUNDAY	k'ta'ukinmiyit MONDAY	k'ta'aymiyit TUESDAY	k'taqa'sanmiyit WEDNESDAY	k'taxa'anmiyit THURSDAY	k'tayi-kunmiyit FRIDAY	k'ta'inmisanmiyit SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 ?aqam C&C meeting Lands Council Strategic Planning Session	2	3
4	5	6 Tobacco Plains C&C meeting	7 Akisqnuk C&C meeting	8 Economic Sector Council Meeting	9 Lands and Resources Sector Council Meeting Nupqu Annual Stakeholders Meeting	10
11	12 KNC office closed – stat holiday	13 An Evening with Theo Fleury – Invermere	14	15 Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council Meeting	16	17
18	19 ?aqam Band Meeting	20 ?aqam C&C meeting Tobacco Plains C&C Meeting Akisqnuk C&C Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	28	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8