Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) complex care house opens in Cranbrook

An innovative complex care housing facility in Cranbrook began operation in mid-January of 2023. It’s located in the former Mary Basil Detox Centre, which was closed in 2020. The new facility is not a detox centre, it’s not a homeless shelter, and it’s not open to the general public.

**Complex Care: What is it?**
The facility is complex-care housing, part of a new, coordinated approach to caring for the most vulnerable and at-risk Ktunaxa, Indigenous and Métis clients in a culturally safe and relevant way.

“We’ve been working steadily with our partners since 2021, when the Ktunaxa Nation declared a Mental Health State of Emergency,” said Debbie Whitehead, who is Director of the Social Investment Sector at Ktunaxa Nation Council. Complex care housing is one component of a unique approach the Nation is taking to extend complex care services to at-risk and vulnerable clients.

“Those who struggle with complex disorders—mental health, addictions, psychosis—and who have been essentially banned from other facilities, still need a warm, safe place to be, where they can access support,” Whitehead said. “They need low to no barriers to warmth and wellness supports. In many instances, these folks also have added challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and criminal justice involvement.”

The Social Investment Sector of KNC put together a Complex Care Outreach Team last summer, then reopened Scotty’s House for clients who are close to finding stable housing. The opening of the facility in January adds one more option, and provides nightly shelter for the most at-risk clients.

For clients who access it, the new facility is a nightly spot to rest, wash clothes, have snacks and be safe. Clients typically go to Operation Street Angel during the day. (Operation Street Angel is in Cranbrook, and offers supports, meals and culturally safe community camaraderie during the day.)

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Complex care

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“We’re still looking for staff so we can support people here 24/7,” Whitehead said. “We’re seeking Human Service and Life Skills workers to increase our safety and wellness team in the house.”

Background:
State of Emergency Declaration
The four governments of the Ktunaxa Nation declared a State of Emergency regarding the mental health crisis within ʔamakⱬis Ktunaxa in October of 2021. The declaration addressed the current circumstances facing vulnerable Ktunaxa citizens within Ktunaxa homelands.

It noted that current service-delivery models were “unable to provide holistic stabilization for certain Ktunaxa citizens (those who have been) victims of crime, abuse and violence, and who have experienced inter-generational trauma from colonization.”

The governments called on local, provincial and Federal government partners to continue work with the Nation.

“A commitment to government-to-government planning, and to making investments in immediate interventions that are culturally appropriate, sustainable and effective… is vital to assure the safety of these vulnerable Ktunaxa citizens,” said Nasuʔkin Jason Louie, of Yaqan Nukiy, in the statement.

Since that time, KNC Social Sector has worked closely with B.C. Housing and B.C. Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to plan and realize the new facility. Both provincial ministries have come on board with funding and in a spirit of collaboration to provide supports as the Nation develops its holistic complex-care approach.

“We’re always trying for more effective service delivery to our at-risk Ktunaxa, and, by extension, their families and communities,” she said. “The complex care outreach team, the complex care house, Street Angel, and Scotty’s House are all woven together so we can reach and support the most vulnerable of our people.

“Thank you to our four governments—ʔakisnuq̓ First Nation, Yaqit ʔa·knuq̓ it, ʔaq̓am and Yaqan Nukiy—who direct us via our Social Investment Sector Council, and to our partners—B.C. Housing, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Interior Health, Ankors and the Primary Care Network—who are helping us as we improve services to our most vulnerable.”

Nasal Naloxone (Narcan®)
Now Available at no cost to BC First Nations

Nasal Naloxone is available to First Nations Health Authority clients.

Adding Nasal Naloxone as a drug benefit is intended to save lives. We encourage those at risk of an opioid overdose and people close to them to have naloxone and the training to use it.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT ACCESSING NASAL NALOXONE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES:

What is Nasal Naloxone (Narcan®)? How do I use it?

• Nasal Naloxone is the same chemical as injection Naloxone; the only difference is the delivery method.
• Nasal Naloxone is easy to administer.
• Learn how to use Nasal Naloxone from your pharmacist.

At the Pharmacy Counter:

• To access Nasal Naloxone, First Nations in BC may request it directly from the pharmacy. It does not require a prescription from a doctor or nurse practitioner. You will need your Status number and Personal Health Number.
• Pharmacy claims for Nasal Naloxone will be processed through Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) and not Plan W (Pharmacare).
• If there is any concern with the claim, you or your pharmacist can call Health Benefits at 1-855-550-5454
• You can pick up Nasal Naloxone for yourself, a friend or a loved one. The client requesting Nasal Naloxone does not have to specify who it is for. However, it will be billed to PBC under the name of the client requesting it.

PLEASE NOTE:
Some pharmacies may not keep inventory of Nasal Naloxone and we encourage our clients to contact their health centre or call ahead to their pharmacy to ensure it is available.

For more information and resources, visit us online www.fnha.ca/overdose

Want to learn more?

JOBS
If you are a Life Skills Worker and want to be part of our Complex Care Team, please visit www.ktunaxa.org/careers/current-postings for job listings.

CLINIC
The Ktunaxa Nation Council Health Clinic in Cranbrook is at 220, Cranbrook Street North. (Access is through doors on the north side of the building.) The clinic serves Ktunaxa, Indigenous and Métis clients. Clinic Phone: (250) 420-2700

OUTREACH
For information on complex-care access, contact Diane Whitehead, intake coordinator, at DWhitehead@ktunaxa.org.

STREET ANGEL
Find Operation Street Angel in Cranbrook at #46 – 17th Avenue South (by the wooden stairs and Balment Park.)

www.facebook.com/operationstreetangel/about_details

Narcan nasal spray is now free in B.C. for First Nations.

Find it at pharmacies, contact your community health team, or the KNC Health Clinic, 250 420 2700
ʔaq̓am Community Enterprises LP (ACELP) is the development corporation for the community of ʔaq̓am. The corporation strives to uphold the ʔaq̓am Visions of Ka Kn̓n̓wit̓iyah (Our Thinking), the ʔaq̓am Community Strategic Plan and the ACELP Mandate and Mission Statement.

ACELP was founded in 2015 as a generating engine, with hopes of establishing meaningful partnerships with businesses who have like-minded goals, and of creating a sustainable economy for the community of ʔaq̓am by way of employment, revenue, and a (recently-developed) Allies Agreement. It is working to create a self-sustaining economy for the people of ʔaq̓am, as well as for the surrounding areas, through the development of a few key business strategies.

ACELP also continues to honour and support the entrepreneurial spirit within community by offering an annual business development grant.

MONTHLY OPEN HOUSE!
First Wednesday of each month • 9:30 - 10:30 am
If you are interested in any of these projects or have your own ideas, thoughts or concerns, please stop by for coffee, a snack and chat with the team. Find us at The Log Building, AKA 7470 Mission Road, beside the Language and Culture Centre. All are welcome. Visit -> www.investaqam.com

ʔAQ̓AM TRADING
Retail store and fuel station, serving the community of ʔaq̓am.
Also serves the KOA RV park as well as St. Eugene Resort patrons.
Opportunity for businesses to acquire credit accounts
First Nations’ artisan artwork
Traditional gifts, such as Smudge Kits

LESLEY JOSEPH • MANAGER
250-421-2045

ʔAQ̓AM RESOURCES
Diverse development projects
Opportunities for businesses to collaborate
New high-quality gravel mine
Commercial solar utility
Airport lots for industrial use
Letters of support, ally agreements and memorandums of understanding
Support entrepreneurial spirit in community by donating to our annual business development grant

CRAIG CAMPBELL
GENERAL MANAGER
250-464-9704

ʔAQ̓AM FLAGGING & SAFETY
Flagging and traffic-control business
Formerly D&B Traffic Control
Serves the entire East Kootenay region with traffic control
Flagging services for construction
Pilot-vehicle service
Road-safety equipment rentals
Safety and security services

AMY DIXON • DISPATCH
250-417-6862
Sacred Defenders of the Universe

By Earl Benallie (Special to Ktuq̓aqykam)

Origin Story...

A while back, I met up with a guy by the name of Justin Jack Bear. I reached out to him to learn about entrepreneurship, about what it takes to lead a successful business. Little did I know where our conversation would take us...

If you know me, you know I love water—especially rainwater. I’ve been talking to people across Turtle Island for years about how important it is to our survival to know how to catch and store it for later.

However, ‘voices are only heard in quiet rooms,’ and everywhere I went was loud—or the people there had other issues on their minds.

The Creator must have heard me and my battle against deaf ears. He had something else in store for me, for the knowledge I held, and the way it could be delivered to the world.

I had been researching water for nearly a decade, creating a name for my company, Rain Cycle: Irrigation Solutions and Systems. I had no idea if Justin would listen and I was ready to move on, as with most conversations about rainwater. But this one went in a totally different way.

Justin asked “What if a regular guy who digs trenches and speaks about water for a living could become a First Nation Super Hero?”

I chuckled. Boy, I tell ya, if you ever want to know what self-doubt looks like, that moment was it!

Justin continued about what he had planned for a future First Nation comic book series he wanted to create. I understood the need for something like this in the mainstream media. I believed in his idea.

As our conversation moved over to water, that is where the character idea came from. (Aqueous, see above.)

The Creator knew my intentions and still does, knows how much time and conscious effort I will make to send my knowledge to the world. He brought forth someone who not only heard me, but found a way to share that knowledge to others around the world.

A whole new way to share stories

The first year, we developed a set of characters originally intended to be in comics; a way to reach younger audiences who may not be deaf to the messages we want to share.

Sacred Defenders of the Universe is an original story, based on our four main characters.

After a series of Creator-led coincidences, we found ourselves agreeing to work with an entire digital media team at the Telus Spark Science Centre in Calgary to develop our characters and storyline into a “digital immersion experience,” a 10-minute walk through of the space where the viewer is surrounded by moving sights and sounds that introduce our characters and start to tell their stories.

After one more year of intensive efforts, we are ready to launch the digital immersion exhibit on March 23.

I have faith this will happen in fine style!

Sacred Defenders of the Universe is a whole new way to share the knowledge we were taught by our elders and our ancestors.

The experience brings viewers into a unique world and shares a perspective that will come alive in a safe environment.

Since we started, our characters looks have changed; it’s almost night and day.

But because we had done a lot of development prior to our contact with the Spark, we had more time to think of the story we were going to represent there. We could go to these locations and give our thanks. We could visit with the people there and ask their blessing.

In many ways, I’m learning how to connect with the Creator again and feel the gifts It gives back, and where the power correlates.

It was really important that we speak with certain elders to see if it was okay for us to create a story on their land. The Blackfoot Confederation is a fairly large area, and it was understood we would ask them if there was any special location we could use. There was, and since then the story we presented with Spark was accepted, went into production mode, and is ready to launch.

Spark’s involvement in the First Nations communities is one of the most comprehensive programs I have seen. With multiple First-Nation-themed events and high-profile elders, Spark is allowing communities to shine on their own.

From humble beginnings...

In the early days, we were crowdfunding. I spoke to many people, getting their ideas on their own superheroes.
Character: Aireus

Element: Wind  •  Direction: North  •  Symbol: Golden Feather

Strengths: Respected Community Elder. Understands balance, passes on ancestral wisdom and language.

Gifts: Communicates with air energies through wind motion, chinooks, and tornadoes. Breathes life into all living things.

Special Ability: Keeper of Star and Cosmic Knowledge.

Creation Story: Born from the Thunderbird’s breath and wings.

Science Connection: The rotation of the earth creates motion of air and water, and results in winds that make us “feel alive.”

Aireus connects the winds from all directions.

About Earl Benallie

Earl Benallie was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is part of the Ktunax and Navajo nations. Earl lived on the lands where the Kootenay and the St. Mary’s River merge, now calledʔaq̓am, for many years.

For more than three decades, Earl has been writing in personal journals, creating poems and stories. To keep his mind clear, he turns to writing as a cathartic way of passing on the emotions he deals with to be alive on paper. Today we get to see some of these stories explaining what is happening around him using some of the elements.

In the coming years, he will help others by challenging themselves to channel their creativity to new heights and meet greater expectations. Earl was featured in the media, sharing his rainwater harvesting plans on APTN in 2012, and many news outlets have been talking about Sacred Defenders of the Universe. Earl successfully launched his own company, Rain Cycle: Irrigation Systems and Solutions, to promote rainwater harvesting and its benefits.

Aireus, creation from concept, with elemental gifts of air and wind. superheros, known as The Four Sacred Elements: Water (Aqueous), Fire (Embers), Earth (Terra) and Wind (Aireus).

These sacred defenders rediscover their universal gifts of elemental energy which are found inside all human beings – gifts passed down through the ancient ancestral teachings.

Will humanity learn to restore balance between humility and ego before the consequences of indifference on Earth are irreversible?

This story is a reminder to look deep within ourselves to rediscover our own unique gifts because there is a hero inside of us all.

Story Overview: Sacred Defenders

Living in harmony with Earth remains humanity’s greatest challenge.

Before colonization, all living beings lived in balance by showing respect and honour for each other’s existence through ceremony and traditions.

Today, that balance has been altered due to the internal struggle of all human beings; the conflict of humility and ego.

This is known to some Indigenous communities as “The Great Conflict of the Thunderbird and Horned Serpent.”

Sacred Defenders of the Universe tells the story of how The Great Conflict gave birth to four elements, igniting their senses with sparks and fire, and growing plants and mycelium.

Visitors will become immersed in the story - interacting with each of the digital elements, creating waves and wind with their movements, igniting their senses with sparks and fire, and growing plants and mycelium.

Through the story, visitors will discover Indigenous science through the Circle of Life, the four elements and directions, and key words in local Indigenous languages.

Sacred Defenders of the Universe was built by TELUS Spark Science Centre. This Indigenous-led story was created by Justin Jack Bear and Earl Benallie, animated by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, and produced in partnership with Supply and Demand.

Aligning with Spark’s commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, the creative and production teams consulted closely with local and national Indigenous community members and the Spark Indigenous Advisory Circle to connect the story with local Treaty 7 stories and the lands across Turtle Island.

To digital immersion

When people walk into this immersion gallery they will be met first with information panels giving a brief to what they are about to watch. From there they will walk into a 10-minute story of all four characters.

At this point, you’ll have a mixture of graphic-novel-style panels floating on screen and at the same time feel like you are in a theatre about to watch a movie.

It is an art medium truly special to its own.

It’s unique and only can be experienced and not watched. Not many times in life will you get the opportunity to walk beside your hero. There will be a 2-minute monologue and special story to each character/element.

While that is playing, the four elements will have playful imagery on the floors that participants can interact with.

Once the story is completed, folks will exit and be submerged into the multiverse, where you can actually be some of our superheroes.

Sacred Defenders: March to Oct., 2023

> www.sparkscience.ca/
> sacred-defenders-of-the-universe
Making sure ?akisíq̓nuk is getting enough fibre...

By Shane Stewart, KNC Business Development Officer

The fibre optics project has been ‘on the go’ since ground was broken in 2021. The project has been broken up into phases over the two years to suit the incremental funding received.

In December, 2022, we had approval for our Federal grant application – Universal Broadband Fund. These funds will be used to complete the remaining fibre work in 2023.

By end of 2023, every home within the ?akisíq̓nuk reserve will have fibre optics connected and available.

Lite Access (shown above) have been working on the individual house connections on Kootenay Rd #3, and are resuming the plowing and burial of the fibre conduit this spring.

Once Lite Access complete directional drilling under Highway 95, they will connect all the reserve homes along the main highway. Plowing, burial and connections will be complete during the summer.

Meanwhile, if you’re a resident of ?akisíq̓nuk First Nation, Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓ⱡiʾit, ʔaq ̓nuk reserve and you reside within the bounds of the community reserve lands, you’re eligible for this initiative, including free Internet or a monthly subsidy to go towards your current Internet charges. See the story below for more information and how to apply.

Installing these fibre optics at ?akisíq̓nuk First Nation is part of the overall Ktunaxa Nation Council’s 20-year vision of improving community Internet.

Ktunaxa Community Connectivity: Q & A

Q What is Community Connectivity?
It’s about ensuring that Ktunaxa community residents have access to reliable, low-or no Internet services in their homes.

The Economic & Investment Sector Council of Ktunaxa Nation Council endorses an initiative to achieve this, which involves new Internet hook-ups to households, or subsidies to those with existing hook-ups who want to keep them.

There are two options:  
1) FREE FlexiNet Internet, OR  
2) Subsidy of $55 per month (to households in a current contract or who opt to stay with current Internet provider).

Q When will these options be available?  
Applications are open now. (One application per household.) In April, 2023, we will start to ‘roll out’ the free and subsidized Internet.

Q If our household chooses free Internet, will it be reliable and fast?  
Yes, as long as the house has fibre optics connected, FlexiNet is able to provide 50mbps (download) and 10mbps (upload). These speeds will be fast enough for the majority of households with two to six people on the Internet at once.

Q What if we want faster speeds than 50mbps download?  
An affordable option will be offered for increased speeds, should you have multiple gamers in the house. This can be an addition to the FlexiNet package.

Q What if I already have a contract with an Internet service provider, but still want free Internet?  
You can choose the subsidized option ($55 per month), which will help towards your current provider costs. Once your contract expires, you can explore either free FlexiNet Internet or you can stay with the subsidized payments.

Q Yes I want this! What do I need do now?  
Visit: ktunaxahakqyit.org
Find the project: ktunaxa-community-connectivity
Register to the site (unless you already did.)
You need to register to access the Ktunaxa-only project and online application form. Issues registering? Email engage@ktunaxa.org.

We’re also sharing the forms with community offices. When you receive one, just complete it and email it to the email address on the form. If you do not have access to email, you can ask your community Band Office to email it in on your behalf.

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Loan or Grant?  
Apples or Oranges?

Let’s compare!  

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<th>MicroLoan</th>
<th>Business Development Grant</th>
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<tr>
<td>Max Amount</td>
<td>$10,000 (one time)</td>
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<td>$25,000 (lifetime)</td>
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<td>Payback Terms?</td>
<td>36 to 48 Months</td>
<td>No payback, but you must provide receipts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Print?</td>
<td>You pay 7% Interest.</td>
<td>Use $ to purchase tangible things. (eg. Equipment)</td>
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<td>20% forgivable if you are successful in paying 80% of your original loan</td>
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<td>Who can apply?</td>
<td>Ktunaxa (by Ancestry)</td>
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<td>And?</td>
<td>Own at least 51% of your business</td>
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<td>Who am I gonna call?</td>
<td>Business Development Office: 250 489 2464</td>
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<td>What if I hate calling people?</td>
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<td>What if I want other business support?</td>
<td>Contact Ktunaxa Nation Council Economic Investment Sector today! 250 489 2464</td>
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**CISCO LUKE-JIMMY**

Field Technician /ʔa·knusti Guardian  
Home Community: Yaqan Nuʔkiy  
Sector: Lands & Resources

I hike a lot to find AOP (Areas of Potential). If we like the area we will begin doing an AIA (Archeology Impact Assessment) which means we dig shovel tests. To find flakes/debitage, sometimes we will do an Evaluative Unit to get a better understanding of the stratigraphy in the area by peeling layer by layer of the earth with a shovel or trowel.

When I am working with a field director, I will watch how they takes notes; they will write as much as possible to make sure no history is lost.

I am all over the Kootenays in the summer time, but this summer I was mostly in Trail helping Golden, Nupqu and the other field technicians do an Archeology Assessment for BC Hydro. This is where I found my very first Projectile Point.

*I will never forget that day, that day I saw how intelligent, patient and strong our ancestors had to be in order to survive.*

When Mother Nature is taking a well-deserved nap, I am in the Ktunaxa Nation building, learning how strong and determined my co-workers are to makeʔamakʔis Ktunaxa strong again after the colonization it went through.

No matter what sector I walk into, I see everyone using their voices to fight for our rights to our land.

My favourite aspect of my job is finding out how incredible our ancestors were to be able to leave such a small carbon footprint, yes that might make my job a little more difficult but it makes it that more meaningful when we do find artifacts and signs that we were traveling far and near.

Last summer I was part of the salmon warrior camp that was held inʔakisq̓anuŋ with the other nations. I learned how important it is to use all of our voices as one, to stand up and protect the salmon, we need to sing our songs and pray for our swaq, ntyyi, sq̓eltən, to come back home.

To me, being anʔa·knusti means that I am here to use my voice to protect the land that Naⱡmuqɬ gave us, and to make sure that the archaeologists understand the rich history that lays beneath them. It also means I am here to bring back our songs and our dances that were stolen and lost from colonization.

My favourite Ktunaxa phrase is “Kanuhus sitnana.” That is my given name from Bobby Jacobs in Ktunaxa. When I was growing up, I only knew how to say it in English as “Little Red Blanket.” That made me feel disconnected to it; I did not deserve that name, I felt like a fraud to my community and Nation. I felt guilty for even having a given name. How was I supposed to live up to that name if I did not know how to say it in my own language? I knew a few people who spoke Ktunaxa but I felt uncomfortable asking them. Until I built this connection with Vickie (Thomas), then one day I asked her about my given name and without skipping a beat, she shared her knowledge with me about Kanuhus sitnana, since that day I will always have this gratitude towards her, she helped me find the missing piece to my identity.

**LANCE THOMAS**

ʔa·knusti Guardian  
Home Community:ʔaq̓am /Shuswap  
Sector: Lands & Resources

In the summer I am mostly in the West Kootenay and on Kootenay Lake, and as the field season slows down in the winter months I use the overtime I have banked and do various tasks in the office. Or on the slopes.

I am learning a lot off the land and from my colleagues and my favourite aspect of this would be being on the water; it is so calming and relaxing. Especially on a hot summer day.

Being in the office and attending meetings would be my least favourite part of the job, but I love my job so it’s still good.

Being a guardian of the land is very important to me as a role model and as a man, which is why the goal is to become a fisheries guardian to continue to protect what we have left.

I am grateful to be alive and healthy, along with my loved ones.

My favorite Ktunaxa words are: niⱡku (money) and ʔuʔu (milk).
Sonya Morigeau is a 32-year old Ktunaxa woman fromʔaq̓am. She was on hand to rep her business—SMOR Productions—during the November, 2022, Ktunaxa Business Showcase.

“SMOR Productions strives to provide an eagle-eye perspective for clients and their projects, specializing in aerial footage, videography, editing, mapping and more.”

How long have you been interested in videography?
I have been interested in videography since I was a teenager. I started going to festivals and seeing the ‘after’ movies that were created always inspired me to want to learn the art.

Can you tell us about your journey into aerial videography?
After bringing the Indigenous Filmmaker Masterclass toʔaq̓am, I got to see firsthand the footage that could be captured using a drone.

I worked on the Mice Sister’s Legend with my partner in the course and it turned out better than expected. I knew from then on that I wanted to get certified so I could collect my own aerial footage for my projects. I took the Drone Operator Course through the College of the Rockies, which has also helped me fulfill my business goals.

What made you realize this was something you wanted to go ‘all in’ on?
After working tirelessly at an office job for seven years, I realized that was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. You should want to go to work and do something you love, so I quit and decided to pursue my career as an Aerial Technician.

What do you love about videography?
I love the different views you normally would never get to see, even in an airplane. I like to say it’s an eagle eye perspective!

Do you have children?
I have been caring for my niece since she was two-months old, so everything I do, I do to give her the best life possible. I am trying to break the cycle and provide her things I never got to experience.

What is awesome about being a Ktunaxa woman, capturing images and footage inʔamakʔis Ktunaxa?
The best aspect is that I am in a field of work that one could say is more of a male-dominated career. I was the only woman in the drone-operator course I participated in, but, being a strong Ktunaxa woman, I know I bring a lot to the table and only aim for success.

Do you participate in any traditional Ktunaxa activities?
I participate in traditional activities like hide tanning, berry picking, making moc-casins and sewing traditional wear, bead- ing. Camping and being on the land are my favorite activities.

What is your biggest lesson so far when it comes to starting a business?
My biggest lessons have been to stay motivated and remind myself why I am doing this.

Starting a business isn’t easy and you will have to spend your own money if you want to make it. Things don’t happen overnight, and it’s a lot of putting yourself out there, especially when networking.

Have you sought support from KNC Economic Sector and other business development organizations?
I have received assistance from Shane Stewart at KNC Economic Sector. He has been a great help with everything for my business, like logo design, business supplies (posters, business cards, etc), website building, applying for and registering my business. I wouldn’t know where to start, so it has been great working with him.

What would you say to a Ktunaxa entrepreneur about accessing support?
Don’t wait and just do it.

PHOTOS COURTESY SONYA MORIGEAU

A stop ‘n’ chat with Sonya Morigeau, Ktunaxa entrepreneur, videographer, Aerial Technician, and auntie.

‘SMOR’ than a thousand words
Asking for help is hard sometimes, but when you have an idea you want to pursue, go for it—they are there to help.

How do you see SMOR in five years’ time?

I see it being successful, with ongoing contracts and a handful of staff. I’ll be super busy and flying the newest DJI Inspire!

My main clients will be commercial companies, event producers and artists like choreographers/dancers.

What type of projects mean the most to you?

When I got to work with the late Herman Alpine on the Mice Sister’s Legend, it was very meaningful to me because that is something I can still watch to this day and hear his voice. I love doing documentary style projects, but projects that allow me to direct, produce and edit are always so meaningful because I get to complete the project from start to finish.

What was the most fun aspect of creating your business brand?

The most fun aspect was thinking of a design and seeing it come to fruition.

How’s business so far?

Business is great so far. I had a few contracts that kept me busy throughout the summer. Things have slowed down during the winter, which I expected, but I’ve been studying for my Small Advance RPAS License and will be taking the test soon.

What is the most fun aspect of creating your business brand?

The most fun aspect was thinking of a design and seeing it come to fruition.

How’s business so far?

Business is great so far. I had a few contracts that kept me busy throughout the summer.

Things have slowed down during the winter, which I expected, but I’ve been studying for my Small Advance RPAS License and will be taking the test soon.

I am excited to see where 2023 brings SMOR Productions, we are just getting started and are looking forward to working with different organizations.

Website
smorproductions.com

Email
sonya@smorproductions.com

PHOTO OF SONYA BY MAKAYLA TAYLOR

Restoring balance in Kootenay Lake

ʔa·knusti on the water

By Ben Meunier, Fisheries Biologist

The Ktunaxa Nation Council is currently leading Kokanee recovery efforts as part of the Kootenay Lake Action Plan, in collaboration with the Province of B.C.

In April and May 2022, a KNC fisheries team spent six weeks capturing Gerrard Rainbow Trout at the mouth of the Duncan River in an effort to reduce predator pressure on juvenile Kokanee and promote population recovery.

The team was composed of fishing experts from the Flatbow Culture Preservation Group led by Robin Louie from Yaqan Nuʔkiy.

They were joined by ʔa·knusti Lance Thomas and Jaydon Francis, and Nupqu fisheries technician Domineque Nicholas.

Despite working at night in challenging conditions, the crew was quickly able to understand the patterns of fish movement at the mouth of the river and started catching fish consistently night after night.

After measuring and weighing captured fish for scientific purposes, the crew would often continue to work late into the night to clean, fillet, and freeze fish for distribution to Ktunaxa communities.

By leading this important project, Ktunaxa experts were able to ensure that the work was conducted in an ethical manner, following the Ktunaxaʔa·kxamis qapi qapsin principle.

Only the targeted fish were harvested, and mitigation measures were successfully employed to minimize by-catch of non-targeted species.

This project also enabled community members to spend time and reconnect with a culturally significant part of ḥamakʔis Ktunaxa.

Amongst all the memories and stories shared during the course of this project, the crew members will certainly remember their encounter in the middle of the night with a six-foot long sturgeon that accidentally swam into their net and stared at them for a few moments before swimming away, unperturbed.

BACKGROUND: The Challenge

Kokanee are an iconic fish species in Kootenay Lake. Historically very abundant, this population of land-locked salmon collapsed in 2013 as a result of human impacts to the lake’s ecosystem, combined with natural causes.

While numbers of spawning Kokanee observed in streams at the north end of the lake regularly exceeded one million fish prior to the collapse, numbers have remained below 100,000 for the past seven years.

GOAL: Help restore predator-prey balance

After 45 days of hard work, the team successfully met the targets set by the scientific advisory team.

STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 150 Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>149 Rainbow Trout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 100 Bull Trout</td>
<td>62 Bull Trout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

kanusq̓upak Red Salmon
tuhuʔ Bull Trout
qustit Trout
kyaxku Fish
Water news in Qukin ?amakʔis

KNC recognizes Province for enforcing regulations intended to address water-quality pollution

The Ktunaxa Nation Council recognizes B.C.’s Ministry of the Environment for acknowledging Ktunaxa rights and title, and KNC technical submissions, in its recent decision to issue penalties to industry for not meeting water quality treatment and mitigation requirements in the Elk Valley.

In three determinations released on January 31, 2023, the Ministry’s Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch issued ‘administrative penalties’ in excess of $16 Million CAD to Teck Coal Ltd., for impacts to water quality in Qukin ?amakʔis (the Elk Valley).

“The KNC highlights the acknowledgment made in these determinations that the mining activities and associated impacts are within Ktunaxa territory, and that KNC will continue to be consulted on the issues that impact our rights and title and these waterways,” said Kathryn Teneese, KNC Chair.

“We have been resolute and consistent in our desire to see improvements in the mine-impacted waters in the Elk Valley, and are glad to see our contributions to this review process were well-considered in the determinations.”

“During the time-frames outlined in the penalty determinations, hundreds of thousands of kilograms of untreated contaminants—which were required to be treated—instead entered the Elk and Kootenay rivers,” Teneese said.

Multiple years of non-compliance with legal regulatory requirements for water quality have had a high impact on the environment and Ktunaxa harvesting rights and cultural practices.

It is Teck’s responsibility, as the permit holder for mine operations in the Elk Valley, to design, construct, and operate water treatment mitigation to reduce the water quality contamination from coal mining operations. The failure to meet water quality limits and treatment timelines signals a serious deviation from the “valley-wide” permit. This is recognized to undermine the integrity of the regulatory regime, interfering with the Ministry’s capacity to protect and conserve the environment. It also contributes to a significant cross-boundary contamination issue.

The Administrative Penalties issued to Teck were determined under the Province’s Environmental Management Act (EMA). The Compliance and Environmental Enforcement Branch reviewed information submitted by Teck and by KNC in reaching its determinations.

“The purpose of the EMA is to protect the environment, and waste discharge standards are one way this purpose can be realized,” Teneese said. “But the standards are only as meaningful as the compliance that backs them up.

“It’s good to see the enforcement branch taking action, and we hope these actions will result in improved performance.”

KNC views the determinations as a meaningful step toward reconciliation from the Ministry of the Environment. The determinations show that B.C. recognizes the role of Ktunaxa as the stewards of ?amakʔis Ktunaxa, and state that Ktunaxa perspective will continue to inform the process and decision-making around water quality mitigation in the Elk Valley.

Youth Salmon Warriors Camp 2022

Naya Duteau writes about her experience

Kiʔsuʔk kuyk̓it!

Hu qaći? Naya Duteau. I am from ʔakisq̓ux̱, which is part of the Ktunaxa Nation. I live in ʔa·kisk̓aqǂiʔit (Cranbrook, B.C.).

My experience of the camp was that I needed to learn more about what salmon meant to the Ktunaxa people. I need to find out the salmon song and their associated ceremonies.

What I do know is ʔakxamis q̓api q̓apsin (All Living Things).

As Ktunaxa, we respect all living things.

There’s a balance that connects land, water, animals, and ʔaqǂsmaknik (people).

It’s a philosophy of everyday life.

We help the salmon, and the salmon will help us. They need clean water and a complete water system to survive. It is our job to help provide that to them.

Unfortunately, human impacts have spiraled climate change and, in return, have made life difficult for our salmon and biodiversity. As salmon warriors or water guardians, we need to pay attention to our Elders, teachings, and the changing world around us.

I’m thankful for the camp because we talked and did things I had never thought of before.

I noticed the youth from other Nations knew more about their traditional stories of salmon than I did. Also, we canned salmon, which was an activity I had never done before.

Because of the camp, I’ve reached out to my Elders to learn more about salmon and what it means to the Ktunaxa people. I am still learning and will continue to do so.

Hu sukiʔq̓uk, Taxa

Spring, 2023
I'm excited to provide this first edition of qaǂa kiʔin na?, which is a short column to talk about old-time stories, history, technology, and more from our Ktunaxa ancestral past.

The year was 1792 when a man named Peter Fidler was heading south from a Hudson Bay Company trading post east of what is now Edmonton. On his way towards the Crowsnest Pass area, he noticed in November and December that there were large swaths of burnt grass and, in places, fires were still burning.

His Indigenous guides told him the fires in the winter were made by the Ktunaxa people. It must have been New Year's Day on 1793, some 230 years ago, when Fidler met a Ktunaxa Nasuʔkin (Chief) at a very special place to the Ktunaxa on the Oldman River.

The Nasuʔkin greeted Fidler with a kiss. Maybe he learned that from Spaniards years before, but little is known on that story—should I save that for another edition?

The meeting place was at “The Gap”—it is where Ktunaxa played a gambling game by rolling a hoop and shooting arrows through it.

It’s also known as the “Old Man’s Playing Grounds.” That game is still played by Ktunaxa. The Playing Grounds area was investigated to see what archaeological stories it held, and there were items such as fishnet sinkers and chert from Top of the World in the Rocky Mountains. Top of the World Chert was also present at the Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump.

Fidler saw Ktunaxa using waterproof, woven vessels to boil food in, and he also saw utensils made of an inner bark of some kind of tree.

The Ktunaxa make things like ʔa¢u (bowl) and pi¢ak (spoon) from the gum of trees such as cedar or spruce, and the roots are split and woven into baskets as well.

This technology is similar with other Plateau First Nations downstream on the Columbia River. These items, and the technology used, indicate that Ktunaxa were traveling back and forth between places like Kettle Falls and Nakusp and then back again to the buffalo hunting grounds to gamble again.

They are connected with the pikakmanam (old trails) that go over to Waterton Lakes, the Crowsnest, Round Prairie, Top of the World, and beyond to the various Ktunaxa communities in the Rocky Mountain Trench.

 qaǂa kiʔin na ?

This “qaǂa kiʔin na ?” comes from the photos of Malyan Michel, courtesy of Sophie Pierre, Malyan’s daughter. The central figure, standing in headress... is he Ktunaxa Chief David? If so, that could put the likely date of the photo between the late 1800s and early 1900s. Maybe you can tell what is happening? A pipe is shared; some onlookers wear knitted toques, while others are in Ktunaxa regalia, and a few are in the ‘street clothes’ of the settlers.

If you know more about any aspect of the photo, please send your info to news@ktunaxa.org to pass along to Sophie. She would be grateful.

The QR code leads to new Ktunaxa Language Resources (audio and video) of words... check out ʔa¢u and pi¢ak!
K'isuʔ kłuyntlíʔ q̓apínikil.
Hu qıkłik Aiyana Twigg.
Hu n̓ini Ktunaxa & Blackfoot.
Hu qaʔiqaxi yaqʔaʔ q̓aʔniʔit.
Good day everyone, my name is Aiyana Twigg.

I am Ktunaxa on my mother’s side and Blackfoot on my father’s. I was born and raised in Tobacco Plains. My mother is Leanna Gravelle, my grandmother is Roberta Gravelle, and my grandfather is Pat Gravelle. I am 22 years old, and I recently graduated from UBC in May.

I have recently accepted a position with the newly developed ḥkamnin̓ tik Children’s Truth and Reconciliation Society (TCTRS).

What is TCTRS?
To provide you with some context, the TCTRS is a registered society under the B.C. Society Act. It promotes truth and reconciliation through cultural and educational programming, driven by Ktunaxa Nation citizens and Shuswap Indian Band members who are residential school and intergenerational survivors.

The society is headquartered at the St. Eugene Resort inʔaq̓am, which will work closely with the society on initiatives of mutual benefits.

The founding board members include: Alfred Joseph, President; Anne Jimmie, Vice President; Roberta Gravelle, Treasurer/Secretary; Robert Williams, Director; Lavenna Stevens, Director; and Chris Luke Sr., Director.

Guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Society:

a) Encourages understanding and education of the history and cultures of the Ktunaxa Nation and Shuswap Indian Band people;

b) Supports the ability of survivors and intergenerational Kootenay Indian Residential School students to share their truths and create a better future for their children;

c) Advances truth and reconciliation of Canada with First Nations and our people;

d) Promotes the cultures and languages of the Ktunaxa Nation and Shuswap Indian Band family;

e) Engages or supports other undertakings that facilitate activities that the society feels deemed to fulfill its purpose.

My position within the society includes providing administrative support to complete and manage the registration process for members within the society.

My role directly consists of supporting anyone with the registration process those who would like to become a member with the society, and to create an easy, and established online registration process for the society in order to advance implementation of the business plan and other society activities.

This letter is to inform you about the ḥkamnin̓ tik Children’s Truth and Reconciliation Society, and that registration is officially open to residential school and intergenerational survivors who would like to be a member of the society.

If you are interested in registering, please contact me directly so I can register you for the society, or fill out the registration form and send a copy of the completed application to the email provided below.

It should also be noted that the Society is planning a member’s gathering in March for all those who have registered.

This gathering will discuss this year’s workplan within the society. More information about the gathering will be provided soon.

If you have any further questions about the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

To reach out and register...

Email: members@tkamnintik.com
Phone: 250-421-4911

Hu sukiʔukni.
I look forward to meeting and supporting you as you register for the society.

Aiyana Twigg

For more information about the society, visit www.tkamnintik.com

www.akisqnuk.org • www.tobaccoplains.org • www.aqam.net • www.lowerkootenay.com
ktunaxa.org • ktunaxahakqyit.org
Ya·kiǂ ʔawumuʔtiǂamnamki
Cranbrook Urgent and Primary Care Centre celebrates one year open

Ya·kiǂ ʔawumuʔtiǂamnamki (the Urgent and Primary Care Centre) has been open in Cranbrook for just over a year, and it’s already helping about 100 patients a day.

The care centre provides services to people who require same-day attention for non-emergency health concerns. It is located in the ‘old Cranbrook Mall’ (Baker Street Professional Centre).

On December 8, 2022, people celebrated the one-year anniversary with a small gathering in the mall-space just outside the centre. Gifts and words of gratitude were exchanged.

“In it’s vital to our people to have access to these services, and to culturally safe care,” Basil said during his address to those in attendance.

“We’re establishing that here, including bringing in Ktunaxa language and respecting our cultural values.”

Eagle Bear Spirit were on hand to set the tone with singing and drumming. Others in attendance included Alfred Joseph, Sophie Pierre and Diane Whitehead, who is Intake Coordinator in KNC Social Sector.

Basil added: “Everything we (Ktunaxa) do is generational in thought. We (have) a cradle-to-grave mindset.” He thanked the UPCC team and the health care partners for demonstrating a willingness to “help us exemplify who we are as a people” via the care centre.

“We celebrate and build on success,” he said. “We’re here to honour this partnership, and to remember why we’re doing the work.”

The health-care team are learning about Ktunaxa cultural values as part of their practice.

Basil presented them with a Ktunaxa paddle to signify the shared journey. He, in turn, was presented with a gift basket from Interior Health for his contributions.

So, what is the UPCC?

A UPCC provides team-based care for non-emergency health concerns to people who require same-day attention.

Care is available for concerns such as:
• Minor injuries
• Sprains and strains
• Infections
• Less serious child illness and injury
• High fever
• Cuts, wounds or skin conditions

Think of the UPCC when you have a non-life threatening condition and need to see a health-care provider within 12 to 24 hours, but do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, cannot access a walk-in clinic, or are unable to get an appointment with your regular primary care provider that day.

Try to see your family doctor or nurse practitioner first, if you have one.

A UPCC is not an emergency department – it cannot treat people with serious illnesses or life-threatening conditions.

If people have a health emergency that requires immediate care, they should call 9-1-1 or go to the closest hospital emergency department right away.

The care centre is also home to Encompass Pregnancy Care Clinic, which provides care to expectant mothers and parents.

The UPCC is a collaboration between Interior Health, the B.C. Ministry of Health, the Kootenay East Regional Hospital District, the East Kootenay Division of Family Practice and the Ktunaxa Nation.

Together, these partners offer comprehensive, person-centered health care that is equitable and culturally safe.

The goal is to improve patient access to primary health care, patient attachment to primary care providers (like doctors and nurse practitioners), team-based services (to provide what’s known as ‘wrap-around’ support), and culturally safe care.

Interior Health and the EK PCN are continuing recruitment efforts so that the centre will be fully staffed in the near future.

Ya·kiǂ ʔawumuʔtiǂamnamki
~~~(THE PLACE WHERE TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP)~~~

LOCATION: Cranbrook Urgent and Primary Care Centre
Baker Street Professional Centre
1311 2nd St. N., Cranbrook
(The “Old Mall” Downtown)

Open
Monday - Friday
9 am - 7 pm
Stat Holidays
10 am - 7 pm

Care centre team:
• 3 family physicians
• 3 nurse practitioners
• 6 registered nurses
• 1 occupational therapist
• 2 physiotherapists
• 1 social worker
• 7 medical office assistants
Columbia River Treaty (Re)Negotiations

By Jaime Vienneau, Operational Director

The Columbia River Treaty is an agreement between the United States and Canada, signed in 1961, and implemented in 1964. It governs the management of the Columbia River, the largest river in the Pacific Northwest of North America.

The Columbia River Treaty (CRT) was designed to provide flood control and hydroelectric power generation on the Columbia River. As part of the treaty, Canada agreed to construct three dams on the river – Hugh L. Keenleyside, Duncan and Mica. Canada also agreed to the United States building a fourth dam, the Libby Dam, that flooded into Canada, making the Koocanusa reservoir.

Impacts to our way of life

The dams were built with no consultation with Ktunaxa, yet they had significant negative impacts on our way of life.

The dams flooded large areas of land, including many of our traditional fishing, hunting, and gathering areas such as in Koocanusa, Arrow Reservoir and the Duncan River valley.

1) Loss of traditional fishing grounds.

Before the construction of the dams, we relied heavily on the Columbia River and its tributaries for fish to eat and trade.

The dams disrupted the natural migration patterns of many fish species, like white sturgeon, yellow-fin rainbow trout, burbot (ling) and bull trout, severely curtailing our ability to continue traditional fishing practices. Earlier dams downstream in the U.S. terminated our salmon runs, and the CRT dams have made their restoration much more difficult.

2) Loss of hunting and gathering areas.

Massive flooding of once-prime traditional hunting and gathering areas made it difficult to access the plants and animals we relied on for food and other resources.

3) Customs and culture interrupted.

Our cultural traditions and customs, our traditional way of life, have been interrupted and disrupted by these impacts for nearly 60 years.

Who remembers what it was like to eat salmon from the Columbia? Or where and when to fish for it? This gap has made it difficult for us to continue practicing our culture in ʔamak̓is Ktunaxa.

What now, then?

Since the 1960s, we have continued to fight for our rights and for recognition of the impacts of the Columbia River Treaty on our communities. Our work has included the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative, going strong since 2019, and its ‘Bringing the Salmon Home” events.

We’re at the table with the governments of the United States and Canada to address the impacts of the treaty and to ensure Ktunaxa rights and title are accounted for in the CRT renegotiation.

There are positive developments, including the recognition of our traditional knowledge and perspectives in the decision-making process around the management of the Columbia River.

But there is still much to do to fully address the impacts of the Columbia River Treaty on Ktunaxa, and to ensure our rights and interests are protected.

We’ve been reaching out to Ktunaxa during this process and will keep doing so with updates and opportunities to share your views. As the negotiations proceed, there are ample places for Ktunaxa to help guide the Ktunaxa negotiation team.

So please keep an eye out for more news and engagements posted on ktunaxa.org.

(Re)Negotiation Timeline

2011

B.C. government begins CRT review process, including engagement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

2014

KNC and B.C. reach agreement on how they will work to address Ktunaxa Nation priorities. Canada and the U.S. confirm their interest in renewing the Columbia River Treaty.

2018

Start of the CRT renewal negotiations between Canada / B.C. and the U.S.A.

This agreement was a landmark for Indigenous Nations participation in international treaty negotiations and is based on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2019


Inception of the five-government Negotiations Advisory Team (NAT) and the Indigenous Nations’ Columbia River Treaty Working Group.

U.S. presents first comprehensive U.S. CRT renewal proposal to Canada

2020


2021

After an 18-month stall awaiting the U.S., renewal negotiations re-started in December.

2022

Canada and the U.S. exchange and review further comprehensive proposals.

Indigenous Nations deeply involved in preparing Canadian response to the U.S. proposals.

Two views that tell a story of periodic flooding.

Top shows the reservoir near Donald, B.C., at full water volume above the Mica Dam. Bottom image shows the same area at low water. This area experiences full- and low-water volume cycles once per year. The area was habitat for plants and animals year-round before the dam was built in 1973.
Foundry gaining ground

The Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society (KKCFSS) is pleased to announce that the long-awaited Foundry East Kootenay started its construction in January, 2023.

By the end of February, the foundation was built, the main floor was framed, and the floor sheathing was complete. During the construction phase, KKCFSS will implement Foundry EK model services to begin in April, 2023, in a temporary location.

KKCFSS is the lead agency for Foundry East Kootenay.

Foundry EK is a walk-in wellness centre for youth ages 12-24 where culturally based services are brought together, including primary care, counselling, substance use, and peer support. Foundry EK will provide a free, confidential, respectful environment grounded in Indigenous values to support East Kootenay youth in getting the help they need when they need it.

The design plans for Foundry East Kootenay were finalized last summer by the Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth on our Youth and Family Engagement Committees. Leading the Land Blessing Ceremony on October 12 of 2022, Nasuʔkin Jason Louie of Yaqan Nuʔkiy said, “(There are) many things to accomplish, but we are happy and excited to see Foundry EK being built.”

KKCFSS Working Toward Child Welfare Legislation

By Julie Birdstone

In June 2019, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-92, known as An Act Representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families, which came into effect in January 2020. The Act opened the door for nations across Canada to pursue jurisdiction over their children, through writing their own laws pertaining to child welfare.

The Ktunaxa Nation has decided to begin working toward full jurisdiction for the children of the Nation. Once the Ktunaxa Nation has written these laws, we will no longer be under the jurisdiction of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (Indian Affairs) Canada or the Government of British Columbia.

In September of this year, I moved into the role of Governance Transition Manager/Cultural Advisor. In this role, I will be working with the nation on our Ktunaxa Child Welfare Laws.

I have worked with KKCFSS since 1998, starting as a Family Support Worker, then in almost all aspects of delegation, from Social Worker to Team Lead in the different areas of delegation.

I have also experienced the different stages of our existence as an organization. We have gone from only providing family support services to our children and families working with the Ministry of Children and Families to being fully delegated to providing services to our nation’s children and families and eventually to all Indigenous families within our service area, both on and off reserve.

Over these years, I have always tried to ensure that culture is embedded in the delegated services and throughout the organization.

With this experience and knowledge, I have a good understanding of what needs to be changed within the current legislation.

Working on our own jurisdiction and developing our own child protection laws is the last step in realizing our Grandmother’s dream of having full authority over our children.

This is a big task and will need input from so many people.

As part of this work, I will be reaching out to our Elders, Knowledge Holders and any interested Nation Members who would like to have input on what our legislation will look like.

In the next few months I will be setting up both in-person and virtual community engagement to get your views on what needs to be in our legislation, what cultural knowledge should be in our legislation and what shouldn’t be in it.

We know that how we are currently doing things within the realm of child protection does not always match with our cultural values, and as an Indigenous and a Ktunaxa organization, we want to make sure that our cultural ways of working with children and families is reflected in our legislation.

If you would like to be included in these Focus Groups and Community Engagement please feel free to reach out to me by email at jbirdstone@ktunaxa.org.

Please visit kkcffss.org on the web to learn more about the organization, its people, its work, and this opportunity to have your say.

Elders Gathering, 2023

By Rachelle Sebastian

The Elders Gathering is back this year after a three-year pandemic gap! August 15 and 16 in Vancouver. Ktunaxa Nation Council is working on logistics such as chartering a bus (56-passenger) and booking 25 rooms in Vancouver for participating elders. This is to make space for Ktunaxa elders from each community to travel together.

I’m working with each Band on the logistics, and am also seeking outside sponsorships to help cover the costs, which have gone up substantially.

IMPORTANT: It’s each Band’s choice and responsibility to provide a list of the community elders who will attend as part of this group.

If you’re interested in attending with the group, please contact your Band Office to say so. It’s set to be a fantastic gathering and it will be great to see familiar faces again. You can reach out to me at RachelleF.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org for info.

Save the darn date!

Details will be posted on ktunaxa.org as available.

MAY

KNC Building Purchase Celebration
May 12, 2023

JUNE

Kootenai Falls June 9, 2023
Chief Isadore Pancake Breakfast
June 16, 2023
National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, 2023
KNC TKL Annual Golf Tournament
June 22, 2023

JULY

AGA:
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Society
July 16, 2023
AGA:
Ktunaxa Nation Council
July 19 & 20, 2023

AUGUST

Elders Gathering
August 15-16, 2023
(Vancouver, B.C.)
www.bcelders.com/elders-gathering.php

(Please see the story on this page for more details.)

Reach Ktuq̓eqakyam readers

Stories, photos and events...
Please email news@ktunaxa.org or visit ktunaxahakqyit.org/ktunaxanews for the “Who...What...And How!”

Next Issue: Summer, 2023

Contributions until May 15, 2023
Email your events and stories to news@ktunaxa.org!