Lands and Resources Strategy Session

On January 27-29, 2016 the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources staff held our annual staff retreat at the St. Eugene Mission. This year’s staff retreat consisted of team building and working on the Lands and Resources 2016-2017 Work Plan.

The team building component involved everyone completing a Myers Briggs personality test that highlighted our different work styles and personalities which will inform us on how to work better together. It was a fun and enlightening exercise! The Work Plan identifies initiatives, goals and objectives that will guide our work throughout the year and will help keep us focused on the important issues of stewarding and protecting Ktunaxa ‘amak’is.

The retreat was a great opportunity to both have fun as well as work together as a team to achieve the ultimate Vision of the Ktunaxa Nation.

?akisq’qnuk Madias-Tatley Celebration

On March 12th, 2016 ?akisq’qnuk First Nation will be celebrating their Specific Claims win at the ?akisq’qnuk band hall starting at 10:00 am. This is a private celebration for the Ktunaxa community to heal, celebrate and honour the years leading up to this ruling. ?akisq’qnuk members are asked to complete and send in a registration form if attending, there will be a travel allowance for members who travel 200+ km. Forms can be found at www.akisq’qnuk.org
Lands and Resources Welcomes
Melanie Manuel - Archaeology Guardian

Kiʔsʔuk Kyukyiʔ qąpi niskít. Hu qątkíł Nukíŋka miskan ni kamnuqulu ?aqłísmaknìq' hu qątkíł Melanie Manuel. Hunʔ iniʔ Aqą̓mniʔ. Hello everyone! Most people know me as Nukíŋka but I am also known as Melanie. I am the new Archaeology Guardian for the lands and resource sector.

I grew up in Vancouver, BC but I spent a lot of time travelling back and forth to Ktunaxaʔ Amakʔis. I just moved back in the spring after receiving my B.A. in Tribal Historic Preservation from Salish Kootenai College.

Sukinikitnalapni to be back in ?Aqą̓m. I am happy to be working in Ktunaxaʔ Amakʔis. As the Archaeology Guardian I understand the importance of protecting and preserving what we hold sacred and all that encompasses.

If you would like to talk more please feel free to contact me at: MManuel@ktunaxa.org or in the office at 250-489-2464 ext. 4027

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Teck’s Baldy Ridge Extension Project - update

Teck Coal Ltd. has now submitted its Application to the BC Environmental Assessment Office for the Baldy Ridge Extension (BRE) Project. Baldy Ridge is located on the operating Elkview mine (EVO) in Sparwood, and is currently being partially mined under existing permits. The proposed BRE project would include continued mining on Baldy Ridge, extensions of existing pits at EVO, placement of waste rock, expansion of tailings facilities and waste rock piles, relocation of mine infrastructure. Water treatment facilities would also be developed at a later date.

The Ktunaxa Nation Council will be reviewing the project in detail during the 180 day Application Review period, which will end in mid-August. Citizens and the KNC have been looking at this project for the past couple of years, including multiple site tours with community members and Elders, interviews, technical reviews of baseline and assessment work, as well as drafting the Section of the Application on Ktunaxa Rights and Interests. Involvement in a project does not imply approval or support for a project. Project concerns will be brought forward and discussed during the Application Review period, and a large focus will be on water, and water quality. If you are interested in this project and would like to learn more, or would like to discuss any concerns, please feel free to call, email, or drop by the office!

Ali Burton
Aberfeldie Dam Community Sessions

BC Hydro has begun to look at different compensation options for the impacts of the Aberfeldie Dam, including habitat restoration in order to combat the entrainment of fish through the dam. Entrainment occurs when fish above the dam get caught in the penstock or other parts of the dam and do not survive. The idea of habitat restoration is to provide for a better environment for the fish to increase their population and therefore offset the mortality caused by the dam. The KNC wanted to hear from citizens, especially people who fish in the Bull River, about their experiences fishing in the Bull River and their thoughts and ideas on compensation. On January 26th and January 27th, Lands and Resources held community sessions in ?aqam and ?akinkumtasnuq?it to discuss Ktunaxa interests pertaining to fishing and other uses in the upper Bull River (above the Aberfeldie Dam).

Why is the Bull River a good place to fish?

People responded to this in many ways, talking about the river being a part of the larger picture of the area. That valley is a travel corridor, there are stories there and there are other resources up there (huckleberry, stone tool material). The size of the river and its connection to the Kootenay River made it an easy place to get to, and it was also an area where families always fished, so that knowledge of where to go was passed down through generations. People used to be able to catch great amounts of fish in that river, and also collected fresh water mussels there.

There is a general sense that Ktunaxa are not using the Bull River as much as they used to. Many people feel that this is because of the number of other people in the area. With the amount of development occurring (forestry, mining, the dam itself), more and more people are able to access the river and this causes the enforcement of catch limits to be more difficult. Over-fishing within the Bull River could be occurring. There is also a concern that there aren’t as many fish in the system as there were many decades ago. People feel this could be caused by the cumulative impacts of the work on the Bull River system (i.e. logging, roads, fishing, dam, etc.). People feel that other affects such as global warming, impacts to biodiversity, and the stress to fish from catch and release could be contributing to the loss of fish.

Participants thought about finding ways to minimize the mortality rate due to entrainment such as:

- Netting within the head pond.
- Catch spawners and re-stock; use the hatchery at the mouth of the Bull river to help with re-stocking.
- Air bubbles and sound could stop fish from going towards the penstock intake.

There were other ideas provided for mitigation/compensation such as:

- Better riparian management zones: roads seem to be too close to river.
- Logging leads to access of places you couldn’t get to before: need better access management.
- The amount of people and the noise created forces the spirits out of an area.
Aberfeldie Dam Community Sessions Continued from page 3...

(which could manifest in forcing the animals out)
- Do a recreation/use survey to get a better idea of the number of people/cars going in and out of the Bull area.
- Many participants were interested in knowing what types of employment opportunities there would be for Ktunaxa.
- Would there be any debris management employment opportunities?
- There is a very big concern that the bull is being overfished; a potential mitigation would be funding for the Guardian Program

Ideas on Habitat Compensation that we heard:

- Turning culverts back into bridges; opening the water ways
  • Want to make sure that if there are areas where restoration will happen that archaeological work happens first.
  This is an area with very high archaeological potential

- All of this information will be used by the KNC in order to help guide compensation work that BC Hydro will conduct in the Bull River. Once we have gone through our discussions, there will be an opportunity to visit the habitat compensation areas. We will be updating the community again in the spring with the results of the field visit. If you are interested in doing a field visit, please contact Nicole Kapell (1-250-489-2464 ext. 3123; nikapell@ktunaxa.org) before the end of March, 2016. We want to thank everyone who took time to participate in our meetings!

Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question

This tall plant grows in dense stands in wetlands, and is known to purify the water. You can eat the starchy roots, and make pillows and sleeping mats from its tops.

To submit your answer: Go to our Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Facebook page and private message us your answer or submit your answer by emailing nnicholas@ktunaxa.org. A randomly selected winner will be awarded a $25.00 gift card. The deadline for submission is March 29th, 2016.

Congratulations to Richard Williams for winning last months Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question. His correct answer Silverberry, won him a $25.00 gas card.

Did You Know?

Did you know - according to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (also known as UNDRIP):

“Indigenous Peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.”

If you would like a copy of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) Booklet please contact our Executive Assistant, Denise Walker (contact information on page 8).
Ktunaxa Word Search Contest

Complete this Word Search correctly and submit it to win a $25.00 gift card. There are many locations you can submit them to: Denise Walker - Ktunaxa Nation Government Building, Bonnie Harvey - Aqm Band Office, Chad Luke - Lower Kootenay Band Office, Nevada Nicholas - Akisqnuk Band Office or Dan Gravelle - Tobacco Plains Band Office. A winner will be randomly selected by a draw of name. Deadline for submission is March 29th, 2016. Good luck!
On February 15th and 16th Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Sector sponsored a two day workshop on Ktunaxa Title and Rights with KNC legal counsellors Nancy Morgan and Tim Howard. This workshop is timely given the recent unanimous Supreme Court ruling (Tsilhqot’in Nation v. British Columbia) which recognized for the first time in Canada, Aboriginal title to a specific tract of land versus a small activity specific area, such as a fishing hole.

Turnout was exceptional for both days with approximately 60 people in attendance from Ktunaxa Nation Council, KNC staff from various departments, Ktunaxa Community Staff and Ktunaxa citizens.

Day one started with an overview of Ktunaxa Title and Rights, followed by discussion of current case law, evidence needed to demonstrate title and rights, delegation of duty to consult, and title and rights as they relate to land and resource decisions on public and private land.

Day two primarily focused on Ktunaxa Nation’s strategies to align its efforts with what the courts have said. Written questions were submitted to our legal counsel along with an open-forum format that allowed the participants to raise topics that were of special concern to them on either a personal level or on a nation level.

Prior to lunch on day two of the workshop, children from ?aqⱡ̓əmn̓̑̌k̓ elementary school came and presented a video that their teachers put together on what Aboriginal Rights and Title means to them. The children then sang the Ktunaxa Meal Song for the audience.
What people had to say about the Ktunaxa Title and Rights Workshop...

“Recognizing our Ktunaxaness. We need to live our Ktunaxa Title because it is nothing without it. Big group hug to you all for the hard work that you all do. We are doing great work. It’s great to be home.”

- Sophie Pierre.

“This was hands-down the best workshop I have attended since I began working for Ktunaxa Nation Council Lands Sector 6 months ago. Nancy and Tim were exceptional – they are extremely knowledgeable in First Nations Law and they have this innate ability to breakdown large complex issues into easily digestible packages of information.”

- Danielle Gravelle (KNC Lands Stewardship Guardian)

"This was an important workshop as it provided a good foundation to help us develop and refine our Title and Rights Strategy." - Craig Paskin (KNC Manager Policy and Planning)

“The Aboriginal Title and Rights workshop presented by Tim and Nancy was a great way to start my position for KNC Lands Sector as Archaeology Guardian. Tim and Nancy did an excellent job of explaining Aboriginal title and rights in B.C. in a way that was concise and easy to understand. I feel like I gained a lot from the presentations and from the Q&A sessions and I hope to participate in more workshops like this one in the future.”

- Nukinka Manuel (KNC Archaeology Guardian)

“The information that was presented, and the question/answer periods were very comprehensive. This also leads to larger questions and issues that have the ability to be resolved such as what does multi-Nation rights and title look like within shared territory. And it illustrated that we could mold this process.”

- Jim Clarricoates (Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission - Stewardship and Protection Unit)
The Mandate of the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency is to ensure that the lands and resources within the Ktunaxa Territory are effectively managed and protected for the benefits of the citizens, communities and government of the Ktunaxa Nation.

- Lands Sector Mandate

For the latest news and events please visit us at:

www.ktunaxa.org

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Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources