

# Ktunaxa STRONG



KTUNAXA  
NATION

FEBRUARY 2021  
GOVERNANCE  
NEWSLETTER



SAIGE FRANCIS PHOTO

## Native Nations Institute

Naktaʔsuk 2021

**T**he governance training provided by the **Native Nations Institute** was great foundational work that shook my inner Ktunaxaness. It was inspiring to hear other Indigenous people speak about their progress as nations, which is one example of why I prefer cohort learning. *{Continued on Page 2}*

by Bonnie Harvey

ʔaʔam Governance  
Coordinator

## Nakta?suk, 2021

*{Continued from Page 1}*

Learning about the trials and triumphs of Indigenous peoples on both sides of the 49th Parallel was eye opening and it was comforting to know that our Nation and Communities are not in this process alone. It reminded me that Indigenous nations should not be fighting against one another and it reinforced the fact that we need to resolve our issues so that together we can combat the patriarchal system that we have accepted as our new way of being. Meanwhile, in our homelands we have been governing in our Ktunaxa way of being for the last 15,000 years.

Please consider putting your name forward to get enrolled in next year's governance training at the Native Nations Institute, I assure you that it will be well worth the effort. If you are interested, contact Darlene Trach, Self-Government Readiness Coordinator with KNC.

**by Bonnie Harvey**

**?a?am Governance Coordinator**

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**w) 250.426.5717 ext 3534**

**c) 250.421.9275**

**NATIVE NATIONS  
INSTITUTE:  
WANT MORE INFO?**

**Darlene Trach**

**Self-Government Readiness  
Coordinator**

**darlene.trach@ktunaxa.org**

**w) 250 489 2464 Ext 4056**

## STAFF *profile*



**Ki?suk Kyukyit,**

**Hu?qaktik**

**Anna Morigeau.**

I am a resident of the ?Aqam community, and a Ktunaxa Nation Citizen.

I have two kids, and we have two dogs and a cat. I

have been working with the Nation Council for nearly two years now.

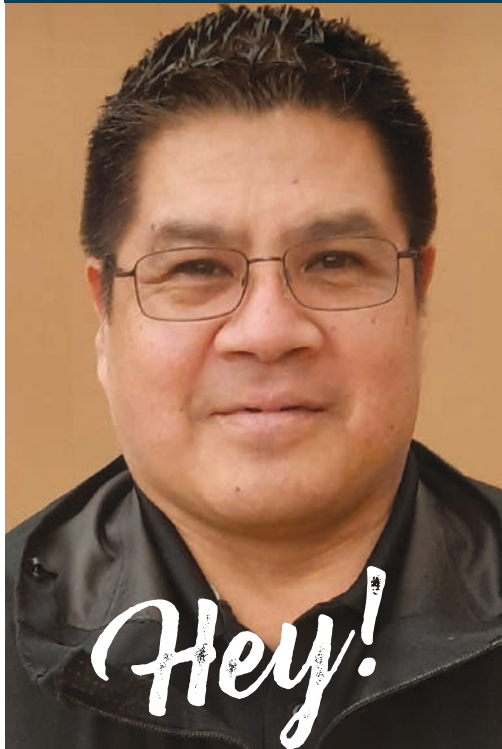
Before coming back to the Nation Council, I was employed with Tobacco Plains and then Teck over a course of six years.

Back in the early 00's I was hired by Treaty as front desk reception, then later continued employment as the youth liaison. I am mentoring in my current position so I can eventually move forward into a stronger role within our department. Since working in my current role as the Negotiation Support I have been involved in the following: Constitution, Citizenship/Enrollment, the Ktunaxa Nation Recognition Agreement (KNRA), community engagement, and negotiations.

I have been taking courses through **Native Nations Institute** during my employment here and plan to take more courses elsewhere in the future to enhance my skills and knowledge. I look forward to working with and for the Nation Council in the years to come.

I will be chatting with Dr. Stephen Cornell on March 9. See the back page of this report for more info. As a former & future student, I have some follow-up questions I'd like to ask. Hope you can join in during this call, but it will be taped for later viewing as well. Taxa.





Citizenship  
Constitution  
Recognition  
Treaty

How do these things fit  
with into the larger context  
of Nation Rebuilding?  
**Tune in to find out!**

## Ki?su?k kyukyit,

I would like to announce that I will be  
hosting a brand new podcast called  
"What's in It for Me?"  
which will be available on Spotify, Apple Podcast  
and wherever you subscribe to your favorite podcast.

The goal of this podcast is to inform, educate  
and answer questions related to Nation Rebuilding.

At the time of the release of this newsletter,  
the trailer has been upload to Spotify and the link is  
<https://open.spotify.com/show/1bCVzeLcpfWwpaCwRzADny>.

The first episode will be released on March 4, 2021, and a new  
episode will be released on a bi-weekly schedule for now.

Your feed back on this podcast is important,  
so please let me know what you think.  
Reach me at [Keith.Clement@ktunaxa.org](mailto:Keith.Clement@ktunaxa.org)  
or you can phone me at 250-421-7680. Taxa.

## CONTESTS!

I would like to that all those who participated in the spelling  
mistake contest in our December issue of *Ktunaxa Strong*  
and would like to congratulate our two winners who were  
randomly picked by a computer. Also, I would like to thank  
those who participated in the online survey questionnaire and  
would like to congratulate the four winners who also were  
randomly picked by a computer!

NEW! Can you answer this?

*"What has been proven to be the number  
one determinant of success of developing  
nations?" (The answer is in this issue  
somewhere...) Email Anna Gravelle at  
[anna.gravelle@ktunaxa.org](mailto:anna.gravelle@ktunaxa.org) with the  
correct answer by March 19 and have  
your name entered into a draw to  
win one of four \$50 prizes!*

# UPDATE *from the* Citizenship Registrar



**Rachelle Sebastian**  
250-489-2464 ext. 4063  
[Rachelle.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org](mailto:Rachelle.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org)

## Did you know?

The Ktunaxa Nation launched its Citizenship Enrollment process back in November 2020?

There are two categories for enrollment for Ktunaxa Citizenship:

- **Ktunaxaḡintik** (Ktunaxa Citizen)
- **ḡakḡak ḡaqḡsmaknik**  
(Other Ktunaxa Citizen).

To learn more about the Interim Citizenship Code, visit [www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org).

You will also see **how to enroll**, and **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information or to **book a one-on-one engagement session**.

**Rachelle Sebastian**  
250-489-2464 ext. 4063  
[Rachelle.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org](mailto:Rachelle.Sebastian@ktunaxa.org)



## Interested in Genealogy? Stay Tuned!

Next issue I will be providing you an update on an initiative I've been working on these past few months!



# Ktunaxa Citizens Meeting



## Treaty

This meeting is open to Ktunaxa Citizens ages 16 and older.

Door prizes will be drawn in each session.

Everyone who participates in at least one session will be entered to win a grand prize of \$1,000.

All sessions will have the same agenda. You are welcome to attend more than one session, but the honoraria can only be claimed once per individual regardless of the number of sessions attended.

Choose between two dates, whichever best suits your availability.

Friday, March 19, 9 am to 12 noon

Monday, March 22, 6 pm to 9 pm

[All times are Mountain Standard.]

To preregister and receive the agenda and Zoom link, please email Anna Gravelle at [anna.gravelle@ktunaxa.org](mailto:anna.gravelle@ktunaxa.org).

Please indicate which session you will be attending, as each session will have a different Zoom link.

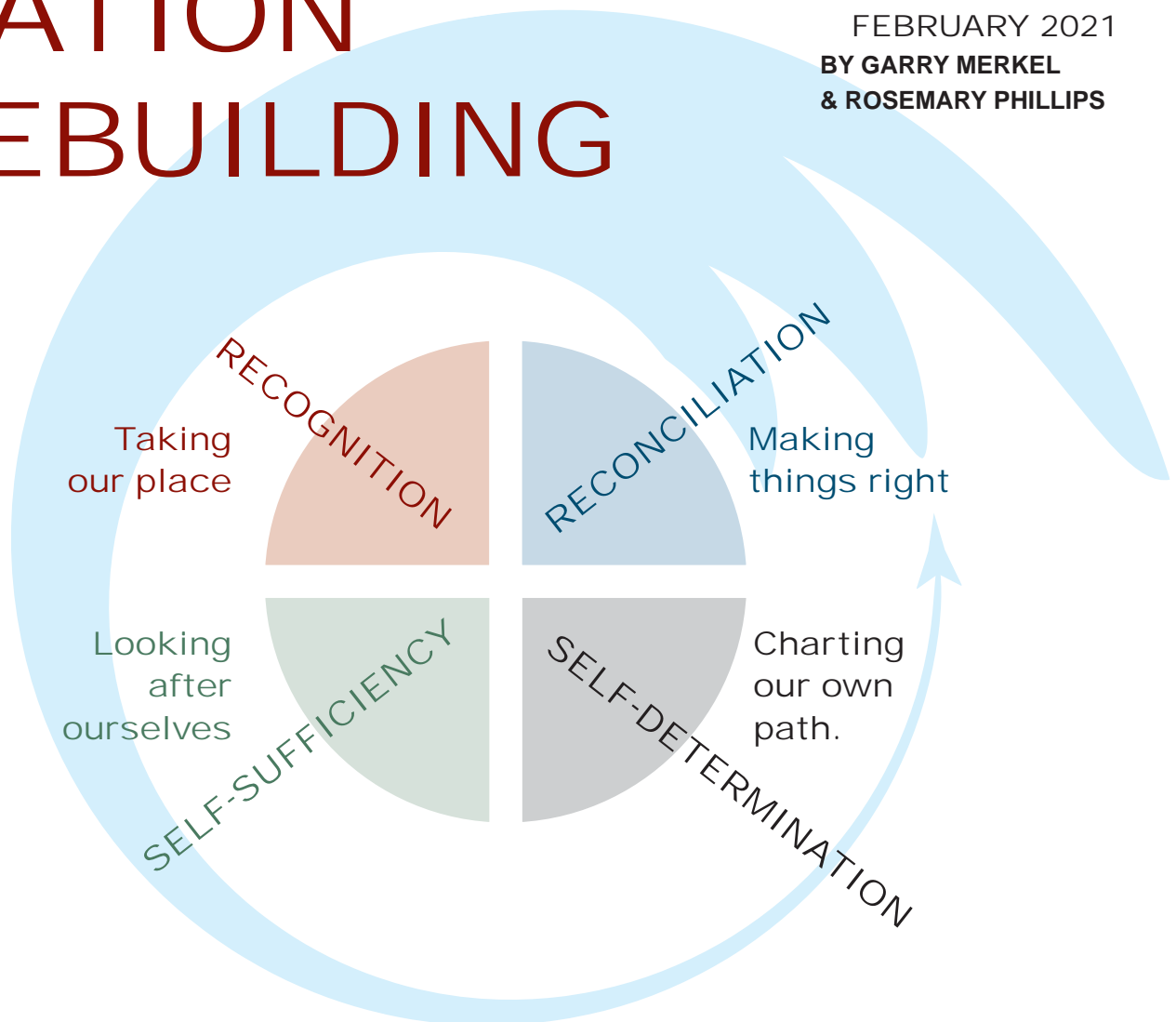


# NATION REBUILDING

THE KTUNAXA EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 2021

BY GARRY MERKEL  
& ROSEMARY PHILLIPS



The Ktunaxa Nation has been rebuilding all areas of the Nation for a few decades now and is at a point where we are starting to move from implementing a lot of great and innovative ideas to taking a well-organized, comprehensive and purposeful approach to this Nation rebuilding process. The central driver for this approach is the Nation's Vision.

This approach will engage all areas of Ktunaxa government from the Nation to the Community levels, where each department, agency, council and other Ktunaxa body will have a role and responsibilities within this Nation rebuilding framework.

Together we each do our part to build an even stronger Ktunaxa Nation.

We have been thinking treaty for a long time, but we have also long said that treaty is one of many tools that we may use along our path.

Regardless of whether we get a treaty or not, we still need to do all of the work for Nation Rebuilding.

The team that has worked on treaty has now assumed two new roles and has morphed into more of a nation rebuilding / governance transition team with treaty being one of many tools to help in this journey.



# A Nation Rebuilding journey

Through the lens of some commonly used terms in the Indigenous world

## RECOGNITION

This is the process of taking our proper place in Canadian society and being formally recognized in that place. It means being recognized as a Nation, recognized as having and holding Ktunaxa Aboriginal rights and being recognized as one of the governments in Canada. Our first step is to become legally recognized through the current Ktunaxa Nation Recognition Agreement (among the first of its kind in Canada) then moving to Constitutional recognition through the treaty.

## SELF-DETERMINATION

This is the process of our entire Nation becoming deeper and deeper grounded into who we are as Ktunaxa. This involves entrenching who we are as a people into all areas of our society (e.g., governments, social framework, culture, economy), clearly describing and setting expectations to others about how we want to be treated as a Nation, grounding ourselves deeper and deeper into our language and culture and rebuilding in ways for our culture and Community to grow and evolve over time. Our Ktunaxa Citizenship Code and Ktunaxa Constitution are two very important pieces in defining who we are as a people and how we want to organize and govern ourselves

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

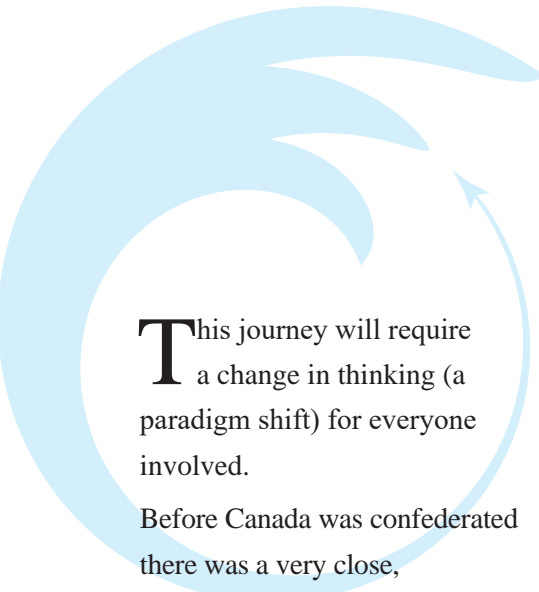
This is the process of re-building all of the things that we need to look after ourselves.

This obviously includes a number of economic pieces like taxation authorities, transfer payments, royalties, revenue sharing, economic development proceeds and others, but it also includes re-attaching ourselves back to ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa and taking more of our sustenance (self-sufficiency) from our lands (economically, spiritually, and socially).

## RECONCILIATION

This is the larger process of making things right – making right all of the problems that have arisen out of not being properly recognized in Canadian society, being marginalized from larger society, having limited in our access to our lands and resources and the many other things that have negatively affected us as a nation since we were colonized. Reconciliation touches on every part of our society but it is also a journey that must be taken with outside society.

Proper reconciliation does not happen when one side works to make things right, but the other side does not do the same.



**T**his journey will require a change in thinking (a paradigm shift) for everyone involved.

Before Canada was confederated there was a very close, interdependent relationship between the settlers and the Indigenous community that fostered a huge fur industry. When Canada confederated something changed and Indigenous people were seen as not being capable of participating in larger society or building and operating sophisticated society. This way of thinking (paradigm) shaped every aspect of Canadian society as it relates to Indigenous people – the paradigm is captured in our laws, public policy and way of being as Canadians. This paradigm was a mistake and we are at a stage in history where pretty much everyone realizes that Canada's relationship with the Indigenous community in Canada needs to change.

As Indigenous peoples we need to work through our victim syndrome that arose from this paradigm and learn to shed the associated mistrust, anger and blame to see ourselves as full, capable and equal members of society.

The outside world will also have to work through its superiority complex and the associated mistrust, guilt and 'smarter than you' thinking to see us in the proper light. The current *us versus them* paradigm (as opposed to just "us") has been with us for so long that it has become like the air that we all breathe, so change will be difficult and take a bit of time – especially for us.

There are obviously many dimensions to Nation Rebuilding as illustrated in the Ktunaxa vision and the previous diagram. However, it is important to understand that governance discipline has been proven to be the number one determinant of success of developing nations. Governance discipline is not just having the tools for governance (laws, policy, procedure, etc.) but it is how well you use those tools. The Ktunaxa have been rebuilding their governance discipline for more than 30 years and are respected as a leader by numerous national and international indigenous groups and leaders who understand this movement.

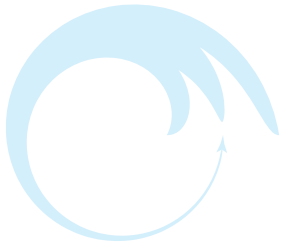
Having strong governance discipline provides the Ktunaxa with the ability to implement its visions using strong relationships with other governments, industries, communities and others to support rebuilding those visions.

By extension this has resulted in Ktunaxa being a leader in many other areas – we do what we say we are going to do because we have the stability to follow through.

Taking our proper place as a Nation and at proper level of disciplined government in Canada, becoming self-sufficient on our own terms, being deeply grounded in all areas of our society in who we are as Ktunaxa, and making all the things that went wrong as a result of the post-confederation paradigm right again, are the pillars to nation rebuilding. Research shows us that countries who take a nation building approach end up in much better situations than countries that do not organize their nation building efforts and generally just try to react to change as it happens. These nation-building oriented countries generally operate under governments of their own design, are able to control development when it comes (as opposed to being taken over by corporations) and have a much healthier and stronger social fabric.



# Vision Statement



Kɛmakqa ksuktuḭa-k  
kuḱqani ɛ kitqakiḭ haqa  
ksiḱḱ ɛxa ḱa-kḱukqaḱis  
ksukiḱḱukaḱmi-ka kiḱin  
Ktunaxa naḱs ḱamakḱis.  
Qus piḱaks ɛ naḱs ɛxaḱ  
yaqanakiḱ haqaḱki.  
ḱitqawiḱmu kakiḱwiḱkiḱ  
ḱamakḱis kisnikḱik  
kɛxaḱ qa kiḱkaxuxami-k  
ḱitqakiḱ haqa ɛ kisḱin  
ḱaknumuḱtiḱḱis.

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,  
within a self-sufficient,  
self-governing Nation.

In closing, we should consider some of the important things that we must keep in mind as we move through this journey.

**1. We are not committing to a final product.**

We are committing to re-building ourselves and our community, working hard and sticking together and supporting each other through what can be a difficult process and soul-searching process at times.

**2. This change is hard, but our current situation is no longer acceptable.**

**3. There is lots of work ahead but most of it is internal – no one else can do it for us.**

**4. The feelings of victim, guilt, blame and being “less than” are holding us back – we need to leave them behind in order to free up all that energy to help us move forward.**

This is an exciting journey and we have proven that we are up to the challenge.

Taxas (for now).

~ Rosemary Phillips

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### SPEAKER SERIES

Keep your eyes open for more information on our Speakers Series. This series will bring high-profile Aboriginal people such as academics and political figures into your living room via technology.

We will assist you in accessing the tech and learning how it works, too.

### FOCUS GROUPS

If you would like to take a more hands-on role in shaping our future as a Nation, how about putting your name forward to participate in one of our focus groups?

**Stay tuned for details**—or contact Keith to express interest: [Keith.Clement@ktunaxa.org](mailto:Keith.Clement@ktunaxa.org)

# Ktunaxa Speaker Series

*Self Governing Nation*

## Stephen Cornell

### Nation Rebuilding

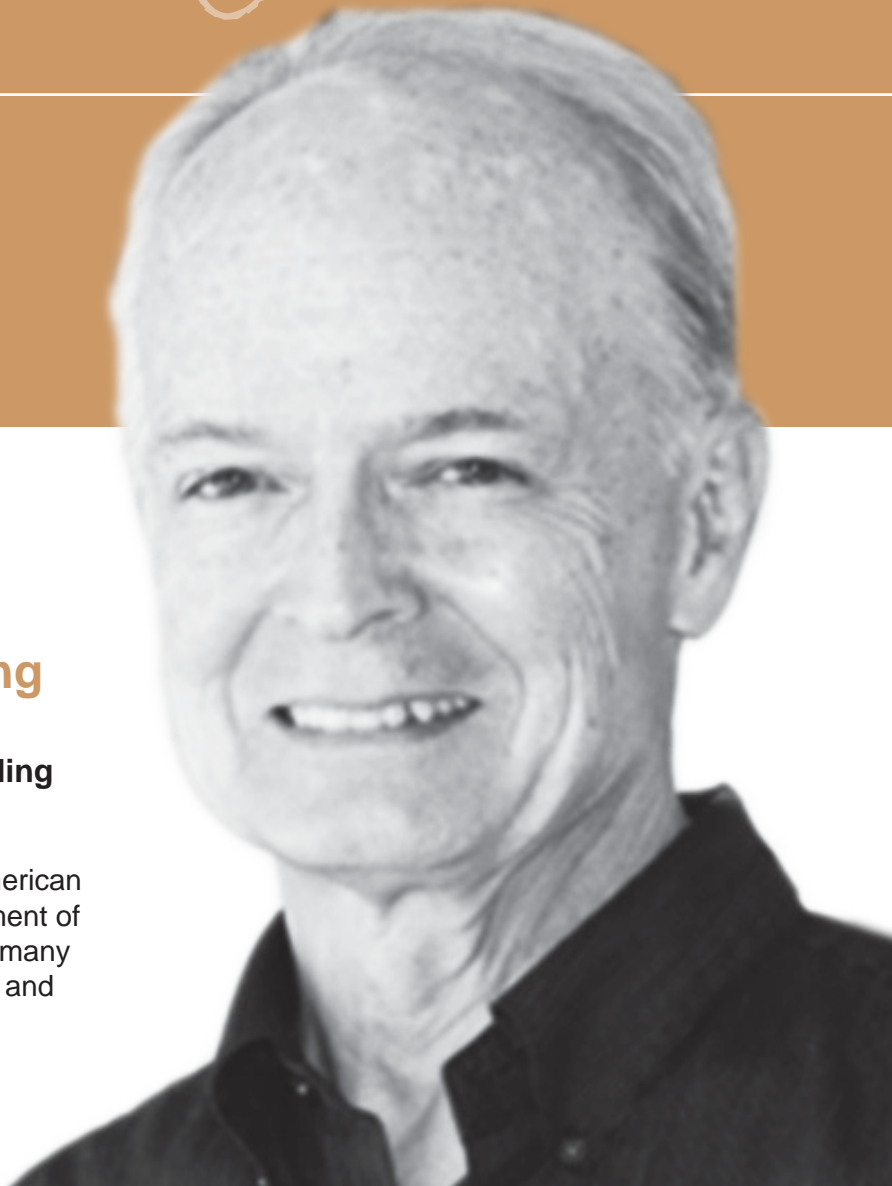
**Tuesday, March 9**

**10am - 12 noon Zoom Meeting**

Join us as we hear the insights and perspectives of Dr. Stephen Cornell regarding Nation Rebuilding, sovereignty and more!

Dr. Cornell co-founded the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, led the establishment of the Native Nations Institute, and has worked with many Indigenous nations on governance, development, and other related issues over his distinguished career.

Register by e-mail:  
[darlene.trach@ktunaxa.org](mailto:darlene.trach@ktunaxa.org)



*Visit us at:*

[www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org)



**KTUNAXA  
NATION**