k'upaqt'aqpiʔk (2016)  
ʔat ʔinakiʔ ʔupi ʔni ʔunaxuni ʔaqtauqpiʔk  
October, leaves begin to fade (change color) and fall.

ʔa·knusti (Ktunaxa) *noun*, meaning watchman or security guard.

Having obtained initial funding from the Columbia Basin Trust and the Provincial Government, the Lands Sector is beginning an exciting new stage in land stewardship within Ktunaxa ?amak?is by Ktunaxa citizens. Referred to as “Guardian Watchmen” programs, the Ktunaxa Lands Sector have begun development of its own version of this - with a Ktunaxa working name *ʔa·knusti*. The goal is to have trained Ktunaxa citizens out on the land and functioning as environmental monitors in areas such as forestry, on range tenures, or even during construction or other industrial development.

As of today, a number of partners serve the same function for fish and water quality issues in Ktunaxa ?amak?is. One of those partners is the Canadian Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission (CCRIFC), who works with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provincial Natural Resource Officers, and other agencies to monitor and patrol fish-bearing waters in Ktunaxa ?amak?is.

For years KNC leadership and elders have discussed having a similar group of people doing the same kind of thing, but based on the land and focusing on activities such as mining, housing, road-building, forestry, recreation, and other.

With funding for part of 2016 and 2017, KNC Lands will seek input on this important initiative. In addition to a three week Essential Field Skills Course and other training or education opportunities, KNC Land will also host community meetings in the near future. Please take the time to tell us what you think, and to provide input into this important step towards Ktunaxa lands stewardship throughout the territory through the guardian watchmen program.
Over the weekend of September 23-25, Ktunaxa citizens were invited to a culture camp in the Pollack Creek area of the Flathead. Participants learned how to process hemp dogbane bark into twine, practiced techniques used to create stone points, learned about the processes used in traditional hide tanning, made a variety of crafts and tools, shared stories, and experienced life in a part of Ktunaxa that is remote and stunning for its beauty.

Hosted by KNC Lands in partnership with Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector and Teck Coal, representatives from all three organizations took the opportunity to discuss Teck conservation lands, located near the Pollack Creek Forest Service Recreation Site where the camp was based. Three parcels of land have been purchased by Teck with one located at Grave Prairie, one at Alexander Creek and one at Flathead Townsite, very near where we held this year’s culture camp. The parcels were purchased by Teck for the purposes of ‘biodiversity offsets’ - meaning that these lands will be managed in the future for conservation purposes including cultural, wildlife and overall ecosystem values. In addition to opportunities for spending time on the land and with each other, this camp was also an opportunity to start thinking about how Ktunaxa would like to see these lands managed in the future. Teck and Ktunaxa are currently in discussions about how co-management of the conservation lands might take place.

This visit was a great opportunity for Ktunaxa youth to get out on the land to hunt, fish, and learn from others. One of the highlights for the youth was making their own slingshots. Dan Gravelle of Tobacco Plains demonstrated hand-crafting slingshots using a combination of natural and man-made materials. “I loved learning all the different things, of how to make crafts, and how to use a slingshot” said one young participant. The weekend also featured a conversation with former chief Sophie Pierre, who shared some of her life journey and reflected on personal and professional achievements, and what her hopes were for Ktunaxa youth.

“I really loved watching the hide getting smoked” said another 12-year old participant. Much of the weekend was spent processing two hides – one hide needed the hair removed; most of the camp participants spent at least a few minutes trying the technique demonstrated by Roberta Gravelle and Hilly Ignatius. Participants managed to mostly clean the hide, and were surprised at the amount of work required to completely scrape the deer hide free of hair. Assisted by her son, Jason Gravelle, Roberta and Hilly then took a partly processed rawhide and completed the scraping to prepare it for smoking. Smoking buckskin to ‘tan’ is the easiest part; it takes about 20 minutes per side, depending on the wood used for the smoke. Constantly checking for color, Roberta and Hilly carefully monitored the smoking process. When it was ‘done’ the hide had changed from nearly white to beautiful light amber. The drive out of the remote campsite treated participants with spectacular views of the towering mountains including Mounts Doupe and Broadwood. Although a long drive, it is worth the effort to travel to this part of Ktunaxa that is.
Post-mining Landscape Workshop

The Post-mining Landscape Workshop was held on September 13th here in Cranbrook, to discuss the Ktunaxa vision for the landscapes in Qukin ?amak?is after mining has occurred. There was a lot of in-depth discussion amongst the 24 participants, and we discussed questions like “what do you want to see, and what don’t you want to see”. Topics ranged from environmental, cultural, and economic interests and issues.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all who participated in September. We will have a wrap-up of the workshop available in Band offices at the end of October for anyone interested. This is just the first of many conversations, and we will ensure the wrap-up from this workshop is brought forward to the next conversation.

Early next summer, I would like to continue this conversation on one of the mine sites in Qukin ?amak?is. We will also schedule additional workshops to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to participate at some point, including youth.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please let me know! Looking forward to continuing our discussions, which support work to exercise Ktunaxa jurisdiction in Qukin ?amak?is, and help protect Ktunaxa rights, title, and interests. (You can find Ali’s contact information on page 8).

Wild Food Sampling Program

We are kicking off a wild foods sampling program! This will be a multi-year effort, and we’re excited to start sampling work to help address concerns about the safety of wild food in Ktunaxa ?amak?is, and the health of the plants and animals. Sample results will be available for incorporation into various projects, including the Wild Foods Program that will be developed under the Teck IMBA.

As it’s hunting season we’re going to start with wild game (including grouse/ducks)! We will be shifting to focus on fish this winter, and then plants next spring and summer.

Please see the attached poster for instructions for taking and submitting a sample for game, and feel free to circulate the poster far and wide! Contact myself or Bert once you have a sample you’d like to submit, and I will arrange for pick up! If you’d like to share a photo as well, that’d be great.

1 sample = 1 prize draw entry!

Lastly - if you see anything unusual (odd cysts, etc.) in an animal that has been harvested, you can submit a sample and we’ll be sure to have that tested as well (photos really help too).

It’s likely that in the future we’ll develop specific studies to investigate results or develop focused work to address specific concerns that we identify (focal region, specific animal or plant, specific contaminant or abnormality, etc.). At this time, this is a broad call for samples throughout the Ktunaxa ?amak?is to help us gain an understanding of our starting place. We will be reporting out to communities on this work every year.

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please let me know!

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Youth Hunter’s Camp

Francis Lake, ᓂaʔqam September 16/17th, 2016


We set up camp and Kristen made “Taco-In-A-Bag” for dinner. Thanks Kristen; it was so good. Then Randy Harvey distributed “Gun Safety” brochures and shared valuable knowledge with our engaged young hunters. We were pleasantly surprised with a visit from Alfred Joseph. Alfred is glad that we are providing great programming for our youth. Elder Alfred invited us to go Duck Hunting next year; we are super stoked and will take him up on his generous offer.

Bernadette Morigeau and Trevor Joseph volunteered their time and helped us de-bone the ḥupqa that Jim and Jaydon Francis harvested for us. Bernie said “This reminds me of when we used to cut up meat at Peter John’s.” I agreed and was happy that Bernie and I continue to make good memories while practicing our culture and traditions. Trevor started our fire and showed our youth which wood to use when making waʔkna. Nevada Nicholas helped us cut up two hindquarters and she got to see the beautiful harvest moon with our lil campers. Our youth wanted to eat the waʔkna but we reminded them that we needed the proper wood, so they gathered poplar in the dark, thanks guys! We were happy that Juanita Eugene and Robert Williams showed up to support our camp, we’re sorry that we didn’t have any coffee 😊

Nasuʔkin Jim showed up at 5 am as promised and he brought four (4) youth around Northstar and then towards Cherry Creek. Randy Harvey brought a couple youth to China Pasture and then they headed toward the airport. Tenadore Morigeau and Jeff Williams brought their three (3) youth up in behind Bernie’s.

Kyle Shottanana shot a buck and showed us how to skin and gut it. He shared some cultural teachings with us as well. He passed the kidney around and most of us took a bite but Isaiah.S ate the most out of all of us, way to go Izzy! We will distribute the deer meat amongst our youth hunters and our camp visitors. Thanks Kyle, we always love learning from you.

We are looking forward to planning our next event. Stay tuned. For more information please contact Kristen Whitehead (kwhitehead@ktunaxa.org) or Bonnie Harvey (contact information on page 8).

Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question

What is the Ktunaxa name that is used to describe the 49th parallel (U.S./Canada Border)?

To submit your answer: go to our Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Facebook Page and private message us your answer or email your answer to nnicholas@ktunaxa.org The deadline to submit your answer is: October 28th 2016.

Congratulations to Yvonne Armstrong for winning last month's Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question. Her correct answer, common burdock, won her a $25.00 gift card.
Did You Know?

- All the blinking in one day equates to having your eyes closed for 30 minutes
- On your birthday you share it with 9 million others
- A duck can’t walk without bobbing its head
- Your foot and forearm are the same length
- Apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning then coffee
- The word racecar can be spelt the same backwards
- Not all your taste buds are in your tongue (10% are on the insides of your cheeks)
- A cheetah’s top speed is 114kph (70mph)

Seeking Skilled Trade Workers

?akisqnuk First Nation is seeking skilled trade workers with experience in electrical, carpentry, and plumbing to facilitate a series of 6 workshops in basic home maintenance.

Qualifications:

- Experience working as a carpenter, electrician, or plumber.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to facilitate workshops.
- Flexible schedule and ability to work evenings and weekends.

Interested candidates please submit a letter of interest and resume to Stella, Housing Manager, via email at slsam@akisqnuk.org by October 31st, 2016.

Ktunaxa Nation preference will be given to ?akisqnuknik.

Reminder

When hunting on ?akisqnuk First Nation Reserve, please be aware of culturally significant areas and areas with people and high traffic.

Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent Tribal Roundtable Meeting - A gathering for Natural Resource Managers from Tribes and First Nations in the Crown of the Continent on October 12, 2016, Fernie BC.

Thank-You

The ?aqam Community had Wood Day on Saturday, October 1st, 2016. 43 truckloads of wood were delivered to ?aqam community members. Combined with the mini Wood Day with income assistance clients there were 49 truckloads delivered in total. ?aqam appreciates the donation from Canfor and the muscles of the volunteers.
Wild Food Sampling Program

Fall/Winter 2016

1. You will need:
   - Marker
   - Freezer bags
   - 1 Bag/tissue type

2. Fill and Seal:
   Approximately 1/2 cup Organ (kidney, liver, heart) or muscle tissue.
   These can be from a single animal. But please bag each sample item (organ/muscle) separately.

3. Label Clearly:
   A. Hunter
   October 17, 2016
   Hommer Ridge
   Whitetail
   Muscle (leg)
   1 tissue type per bag

4. Freeze Sample:
   Freeze sample(s), Contact Ali or Bertha (info below) to arrange for sample pick up. You can submit photos too

INFO REQUIRED:
- Your name
- Date
- Species info
- Tissue info
- Harvest location

Help monitor wild food in Ktunaxa ᐄamakʔis
One sample = one prize draw entry!

TO SUBMIT SAMPLES CONTACT:
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Ktunaxa Word Search

Bacon- kínúqsaʔa  Hot Dog- ?aʔquqṭi
Bologna- kaʔmaquqτi  Dried Meat- waʔkna
Duck- kyaqtau  Fish- kyakxu
Rice- ?aʔquqτt  Potatoes- waʔta
Carrots- niʔcna  Corn- kaʔtaʔmakʔ

(words can be found forward, backwards and diagonally)
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