



Yó! Gilakas'la!

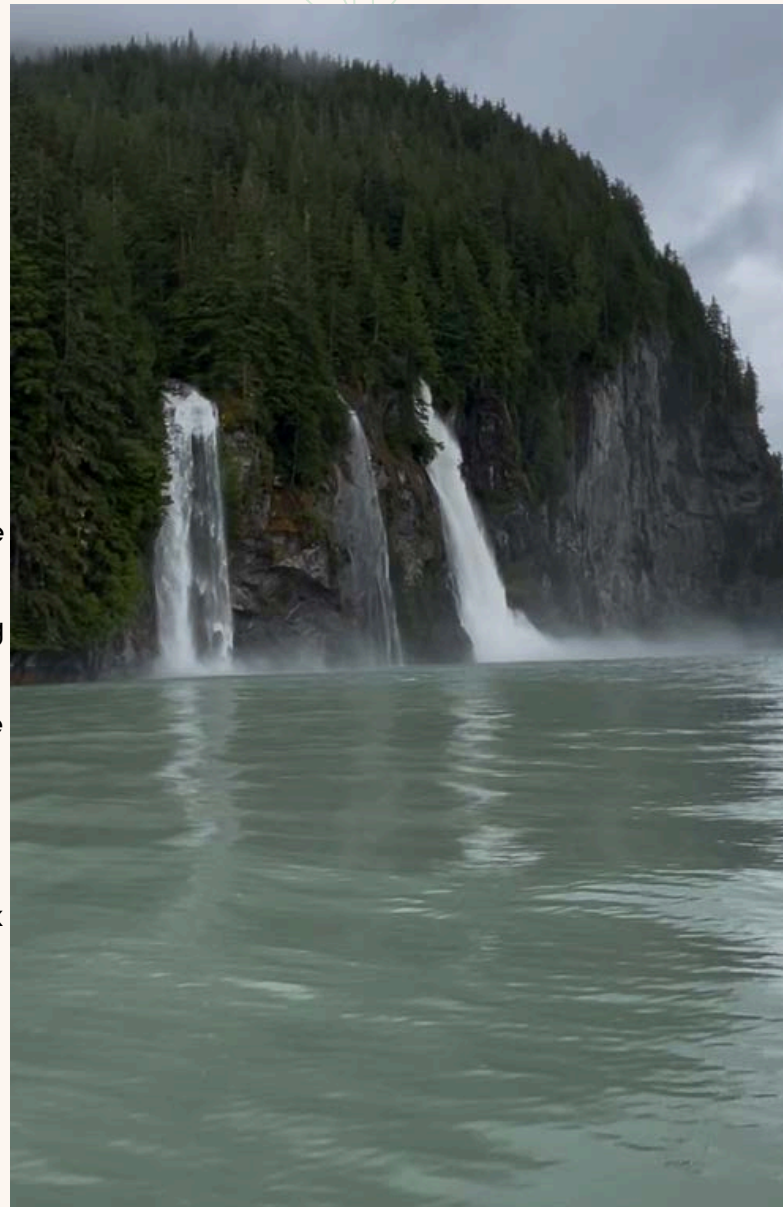
Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Dá'naxda'xw Tsákalám. A newsletter for us all to connect, keep up with council endeavors, and share updates!

Council Updates:

As discussed at the Annual General Meeting, Council has revised the DFN Strategic Plan to activate on all areas of interest to the Members, including governance, greater sovereignty of our traditional territory, economic development and member well-being. The Strategic Plan was presented and reviewed by the Members at the AGM in November 2024 and recently re-circulated for comment.

Councillor Nicole Hajash has been working to advance the opportunity for the Nation to acquire full ownership of Knight Inlet Lodge, and has been working with Nanwakolas to negotiate the purchase and we are currently awaiting a valuation of the Lodge before next steps, which we will review at the next AGM.

Also, Nicole has been focused on reconciliation opportunities with the Province of BC, the implementation of the Marine Protected Area Network and advocating for our sovereignty over our traditional territory. Additionally, exploring economic development opportunities for our Nation, including the opportunity to acquire TFL with a focus on protecting the environment.



Cascade Falls

Spring / Summer 2025
Dá'naxda'xw tsákalám
Photo credit: Josh Duncan

Council Updates:

Council member Ruby Mannila is a Director on the board for Sasamans Society and the Knight Inlet Lodge. She is the Dā'naxda'xw consultant for the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and is assisting our ISC administrator to conduct a language assessment for Dā'naxda'xw First Nation. Ruby has also been attending meetings with Coast Funds and working on securing marine protected areas. She is actively involved with the Indigenous Coastal Climate Coalition working on their strategic planning process.



Klinaklina Flats

Spring / Summer 2025
Dā'naxda'xw tsakalam
Photo credit: Josh Duncan

Council Updates:



Tsatsisnukwomi

Council member Stan Beans has been asked to join the board for Kwakiutl District Council. He has been participating in meetings and working with KDC exploring additional funding options and growing their Strategic Plan. Stan has also joined the team at Knight Inlet Lodge this season as a Nature Tour Guide and he brings visitors at the lodge on tours informing them about the rich history of our territory!

Spring / Summer 2025

Dá'naxda'xw tsakalam

Photo Credit: Stan Beans

Council Updates:



Northern Lights at Tsatsisnukwomi

In addition to working with the Indigenous Coastal Climate Coalition on their strategic plan development, Angela attended the First Nations Climate Gathering in Vancouver earlier this spring. This Climate Gathering presented a heavy focus on glaciers and the affects of 21st century forest fires. Angela is also participating in the Building Climate Resilience from Indigenous Perspectives program. The BCRIP program is a knowledge exchange with an ancestral community from Central America. More details will be shared once we hear if the proposal is approved in early September.

Spring / Summer 2025
Dá'naxda'xw tsakalam
Photo Credit: Angela Davidson



Fisheries Update:

Currently occurring in the fishery and guardian watchman program, arrangements are being made to secure seats in the Marine Dive Training facilities locally, for members to receive proper training to receive various levels of certified dive / underwater certificates to work in several marine industries. These industries range from Marine Park Rangers/Guardians to Commercial Diver/Harvester/Operator, underwater gear and Vessel recovery projects, underwater welder are to name just a few careers for community members to engage in.

We are looking for community members to come forward and participate in the marine and land stewardship program with our staff and assist us to expand our old guardian program into a newly formed stewardship management process and direction of the Nation and the community members taking on land stewardship programs focused on our land animals and fresh water regions in our territories, including forest fire prevention and observations in our lands.



Sockeye in Klinaklina Tributary

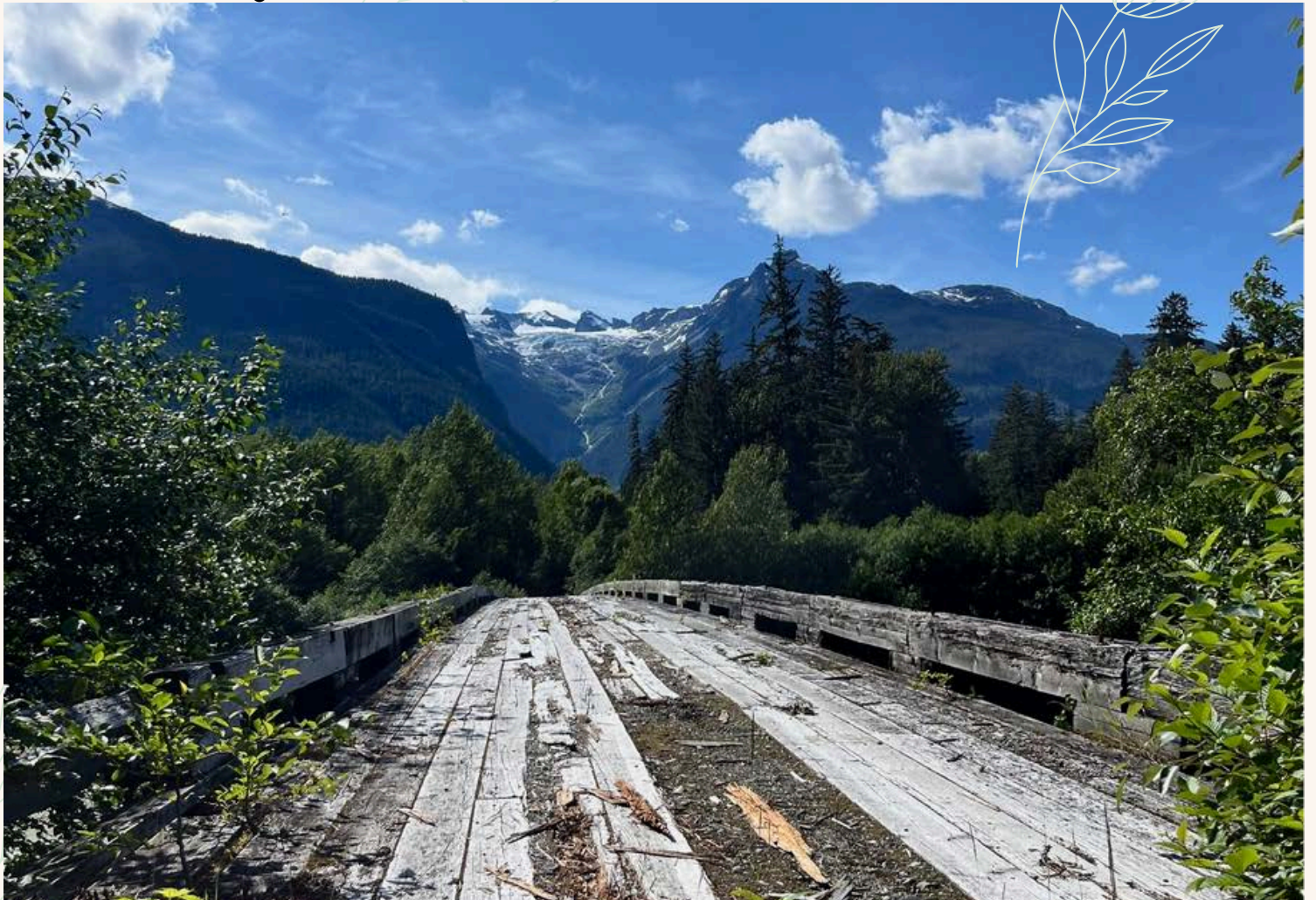


Spring / Summer 2025
Da'naxda'xw tsakalam
Photo credit: Josh Duncan



Post-Secondary Update:

Million Dollar Bridge



For the 2024/2025 school year we had 8 members attending various post secondary programs and for the 2025/2026, we will have 11 members, 6 continuing and 5 new, attending a variety of programs. This summer we have 3 students working, one in Tsatsisnukwomi, and two in Alert Bay.

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Da'naxda'xw tsakalam
Photo credit: Josh Duncan



Dā'naxda'xw First Nation Policy Development Project

Gilakas'la - I am grateful for the opportunity to support the Danaxda'xw Nation with policy development in the following areas:

1. Housing
2. Human Resources
3. Traditional Governance

Policy work can be daunting, but one of the priorities of the project is to create Danaxda'xw inspired policy's that lean into the traditional practices, teachings and ways of the Nation. Uplifting our values, focusing on relationship with each other, the land, water, animals, and community and incorporating those teachings into how we carry out administrative procedures within the governance structure of the Nation.

Relying on and incorporating our own wisdom for addressing contemporary challenges is essential to ensure that policy reflects Danaxda'xw's knowledge systems and governance practices. Moving away from "Corporate Policy" that doesn't always meet the unique needs of the Nation, members or staff.

Priority 1 - Housing Policy Development

Throughout August and September, the project will focus on the Housing Policy, which was drafted in April 2021 - but not ratified by the administration or community. Input from the members affected by the policy is key. This project will provide many opportunities to connect with each other and work towards implementing a Housing Policy that works for both on and off Nation members.

Communications - the team will provide project updates through various social media channels, email and the newsletter. I hope to receive as much member feedback as possible to ensure the voice of the community is captured and incorporated into the policy work. Please be sure to connect with Maryann to update your email and preferred communication method.

Engagement - due to logistics and the location of the members, it is proposed to host online meetings with focus groups - administration staff, Council, Chiefs and Matriarchs, elders, family groups or open forum. The meetings are open to all members of the Danaxda'xw Nation. A safe place to share concerns, make recommendations and provide valuable feedback.

Housing Survey - a series of online surveys will be published, and the bonus is - the more you participate in meetings and surveys the greater chance to win some awesome prizes drawn at the end of the project. Short surveys rather than lengthy surveys will be the format, with results published to ensure the community is updated on key findings of the project.

Connecting with the team, if you have immediate priorities or concerns, my schedule is very flexible, we can schedule a meeting at anytime (except Tuesdays) for one-on-one meetings. Meeting requests can be scheduled by emailing communications@danaxdaxw.com

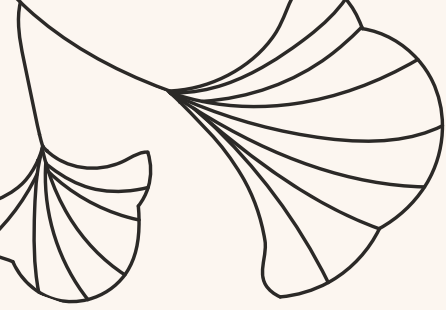
Copies of the existing Housing Policy can be requested by emailing communications. The Housing Policy will be uploaded to the "Hawk" app. Keep in mind that this policy is a "draft" and will be edited to incorporate and include the findings of this policy project.

As the project moves forward, I look forward to connecting with the community throughout the project and Gilakas'la for the opportunity to support the Nation on this project.

Tilinu kw - Leslie Dickie

Spring / Summer 2025
Dā'naxda'xw tSakalam





Member Updates:

Dā'naxda'xw member Melissa Perron has completed her boot camp and is now a Sub-Lieutenant Officer in the Canadian Army. Melissa's hard work and dedication to her training was recognized by her being awarded with top fitness. We congratulate Melissa and thank her for her service.

Fellow Dā'naxda'xw member Sasha Perron, who is a linesman with Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League, has been selected to participate in a special event with the National Hockey League this August in Buffalo, New York! This opportunity is the NHL's Officiating Exposure Combine, where he will gain exposure to NHL and increase development opportunities. Sasha is one of 12 officials selected from across BCHL. We congratulate Sacha on this fantastic event and look forward to seeing what comes next! Please feel free to read further details here: [VIJHL Officials Invited To NHL Combine | VIJHL - Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League](#)



Spring / Summer 2025
 Dā'naxda'xw tsakalam
 Photo Credit: Sandra Glendale




2025 West Coast Elder's Conference



On May 27 - 29 a group of our elders attended the inaugural 2025 West Coast Indigenous Elders Conference. It was organized by the Queneesh Indigenous Community Society and held at Crown Isle Resort in Courtenay. The conference theme was 'Teaching from the Past, Shaping Our Future' with various workshops and speakers where our elders had an opportunity to enrich their knowledge. Feedback has unanimously been positive for the experience!



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Da'naxda'xw tsa'kalam
Photo Credit: Angela Davidson




Lots of gratitude to Josh and team for all their hard work
distributing the food fish!

Please ensure you are keeping your contact information up to date:
email, phone number, and mailing address.

Please submit any updates, stories, recipes to:
communications@danaxdaxw.com

gilakas'la



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