

# Lake Babine Nation Newsletter

MAY 2010

## Chief Wilf Adam

### Special points of interest:

- *Chief's Report*
- *Justa Monk—  
Executive Director*
- *Frank Michell—  
Deputy Chief*
- *Louise Lacerte—  
Woyenne Councillor*
- *John Bertacco—  
Woyenne Councillor*
- *Evelyn Netmaker—  
Financial Controller*
- *Bernard Patrick—  
Housing Director*
- *Forestry Update*
- *Letters from Community/  
Announcements*
- *Marilyn Joseph—Ec.  
Dev. Director*
- *Social Development—  
Dates to Remember*

Where has the time gone as its May already and the birds are singing and Boom Boom is out of hibernation...just joking Boom. What is the world coming to as Nuisance turned 50 at the end of April.

I would like to say my condolences to the families that lost their loved ones and we must pray for the families and support one another. I would also like to say, pray for all our members who are hurting physically and mentally.

There are many fighting cancer and other serious sickness and need our prayers and support.

I wish and hope that we can all work together and help one another in the time of need. I remember at Pendleton Bay we did this without hesitation or depending on someone else.

In the recent past the band office used to help with emergency travel but the problem with this was there was no budget for this. The band office was spending money we didn't have and that's one of the reasons we are in the difficult financial situation we are in. All funding for the Nation are targeted dollars, which means that the government gives us funds and must spend

those funds where it is suppose to be spent. We need to find other ways of getting money for the members who are in great need of financial assistance. We get all kinds of request for donation from sports teams or other

groups. As there is no money for this type of expense we have to let them know that we can't help at this time. We are slowly getting the books back in good order as we had bills that were outstanding for over 9 months at one time. We have plugged most of the loopholes and cleared up most of the outstanding debt. We are not out of the woods yet but

maybe by next year we will get the books back in good order.

I have been getting request on administration issues and I pass on those requests to Justa Monk as he is charged with the administration. I would like to keep the administration issue separate from the political issues. So on administrative matters talk with Justa first. It's important to keep administration and the political issue apart, if it's mixed up we will fall back and head back into poor planning and deficit.

I would like to thank all the people who made positive comments about what we have achieved since coming in July of last year. It just tells me that we are doing the right things and on



## Chief Wilf Adam

the right course. It was hard at first and by explaining what we are doing really helps with the understanding. In the future we will include the Nation budget information on our website and through the newsletter. We are dealing with your funds and should be entitled of how these funds are administered.

We will also be dealing with the Hereditary Chiefs' jurisdiction and will have a meeting with all the Chiefs in early May. The public governments look at the Chief and Council as the official governing body in all aspects of all the government programs. In our system the land and resources are the jurisdiction of the He-

reditary Chiefs and I have always felt uncomfortable in dealing with the land without the HC's. The problem is that not all the hereditary chiefs are on the same page on this one. We are getting conflicting comments from different Chiefs and don't seem to work together.

Once we have a general understanding of how the Hereditary Chiefs are going to work together, it will be a smooth transition. Hopefully at our meeting with the Hereditary Chiefs, all can come out with the same goals and aspirations. I just don't want to see what is happening with our neighboring Nations where they are fighting in public and getting the police after each other. There has to be a better way in dealing with each other. Hopefully we can find solutions for all concerned. There is just too many things that need attention at the band level and would like the Hereditary Chiefs take over what they are duly entrusted to do for their clans.

As Council we work as a team and we said that we will keep communication open amongst us and will understand each other. In large part we are doing this even though we may not see

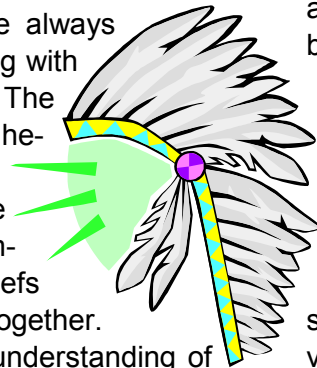
things eye to eye but come up with solutions. We don't brainwash each other as we respect each other's opinions and that counts for a lot. We work for all the people not the select few as we must respect the members and in that we will be respected too. There are some people who wish us to fight each other and not work with each other but we know better. It is a challenge at times but we recognize that we are doing this for the whole membership. I just wish that some people will get away from the election as it is over and move on. Once we are on the same page and work for the common good of the people we can move mountains together and leave the petty politics in the gutter where it belongs.

There are many issues that we have to deal with and I know we have good people who have their hearts in the right place and the desire to help out. We need more of these people who can make positive changes for the membership. I am really happy to hear that some members are willing to help out this is very good news and let's make it work. I also would like to ask members to pray for all the people who are need and need spiritual guidance. I know if we pray for the common good it will go a long way.

This is my May newsletter report at this point and as always keep in touch with each other.

Awit'zeh

Chief Oputt



## Justa Monk—Executive Director

On March 22 – 26, we had to close the office because we had to change the computer system to a new system, which is now up and running. We also had the office close for Easter long weekend which I presume you all know.

I am certain the Deputy Chief had this in his report before, that this is the first year the Nation didn't have to borrow money from BLNDC to go March 31, for administration needs. The reason consists a few:

- INAC owes money to the Nation back five years, which was for \$980,000.00 and because of Bernard Patrick and Evelyn Netmaker, their hard work to find for me all documents and reports that we were successful in gathering back, 1 million from INAC.
- We also got back from D.F.O. some funding that they owe the Nation and didn't want to give back because they were saying that there were no reports. Donna MacIntyre got all reports done. Therefore, we were successful to get funds back.
- Plus, we had proposals sent in to different areas for additional funding. Some were approved and there is some we had no reply as of to date.

April 6 we had a meeting in Prince George with Dean Mason regarding a contract for Social Housing, plans which I thought he was charging too much. So we came to a decision to an agreement I thought would be fair and save some money for the Nation.

April 7, 8, 9, 2010 – I attended a meeting in Prince George for Northern Leadership Forum. There are 65 First Nations in the Northern part of BC just about half of the province. We had a meeting about Health Canada, wants to transfer all of Health Programs to what the South First Nations calling First Nation Health Council. This means that F.N.H.C. will be in charge and allocating funding to 203 bands in BC. Some are very small

and some are large bands. With no plans, how will this take place? Legal aspects of this transfer have not been told to Chiefs from the North. This and some other reason the Northern Chiefs really are getting concerns about the transfer.

In the Nation, here we are trying hard to deal with the deficit. I told you about this earlier when we started this newsletter. Social Housing is the real problem. The plan that is being developed is not finalized; hopefully we will have something in place in the very near future.

Remedial Management Plan (RMP) is being revised and will have to be completed by the time the audit starts. INAC is telling the Nation, they want to see a revision. Because of the RMP we are not allowed to hire any unfunded positions or spend funds where there is no funding. Capital funding is the worse one that we really have to be within the budget. The Nation cannot afford to renovate housing or purchase anything for the house. So if staff says no to your request, I hope you will understand why.

Budget is included in this month's Newsletter. The Financial Controller will explain the budget and deficit.

Enbridge Northern Gateway Project gave the Nation funding to do Traditional Knowledge Study along the right way, where they will put the pipeline. Some territory owners will be impacted by this pipeline so we done a proposal to ask members about what the impact will be. Coordinator was hired, Marilyn Alec. We posted the position, only a few applications, done the interview and she was the successful applicant.

Again, I like to remind members if you have a complaint about a staff, please put in writing and sign, then I will sit down with the staff member.

**"BECAUSE OF  
THE RMP WE  
ARE NOT  
ALLOWED TO  
HIRE ANY  
UNFUNDED  
POSITIONS..."**

## Frank Michell—LBN Deputy Chief

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It has been a little hectic for the past few months since our last newsletter which went out at the beginning of March 2010.



On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we had our finance committee meeting, it came to our attention that some of students are applying for training a week before their courses start. Students have to realize that having seats for them at some education institutions are not automatic, they have to have paper work in place early, I know some Universities, where some courses are popular, there has to be paper work done before April at times, on this note we have a band member graduating from one of the Prestigious University in United States, he is graduating from Cornell University, he is the son of Rita Hanson, and had asked LBN for funding, but no response and had applied at the American Indian outfit whom sponsored him. The reason he wasn't funded by LBN is most of funds for programs are taken by banks because of mortgages not paid by working people, so don't put other members who are in need of assistance by not pay mortgages.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with senior staff, we needed to know what staff are going to be doing each week and, their job descriptions; and, on March 12<sup>th</sup> we met with Karen Hunt and some staff with PGNAETA, and need to do a labor market study, and to see what courses our students need in order to meet their goals in different types of careers in our territory.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the education round table with education staff and native staff who worked with school district #91. A lot of concerns were raised as to how our education students are being educated and treated and also concerns about targeted dollars that are going towards the schools of our students.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> along with Bernard Patrick and Terry Aschenbrenner. We met regarding our Capital in Vancouver on March 23 & 24 we took part in a workshop in finances, and planning with other bands in B.C.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> I took part in day 2 of the summit meeting, First Nations Health council Doug Kelly, stated that the North will have its own authority.

Jody Wilson Raybould, vice Chief of B.C. & Region did our report, of note that she stated that section 67 of the Indian Act should be addressed which will affect our communities. There was a report of the Aboriginal Pavilion at the 2010 Olympics, they had over three thousand visitors, and they had Aboriginal reps from across Canada, United States, Norway, Finland, and Australia.

Three hundred and fifty youth took part in the dance ceremony at the Olympics. March 25<sup>th</sup> the forestry report, of note that this BC government has no revenue to share. March 31<sup>st</sup> a meeting with Chief and Council at the education staff met with super intendant Ray LeMoigne, and board members of school district #91; I made it known to school district #91 that I look at the rankings of school district of B.C. put out by Fraser Institute every year, and that our local school is always rated below two hundred of schools in B.C.

I also raised a concern that they had a surplus of over two thousand for targeted dollars

## Frank Michell—LBN Deputy Chief

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that should remain with the Native education within our schools. They also should be sensitive to our needs, they had a course selection day for our students which fell on Ash Wednesday, and most of our students were in church that night, they said they will look into it.

Our council was in PG for the CSFS meeting (Northern Chief and leadership forum) April 6, 7, & 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. We let a lawyer give us an update on cases won by Natives which are related to child welfare on April 9<sup>th</sup> note that Cindy Blackstock report from the First Nation child care and society of Canada, they are taking Canada on a case where Canada is providing less government funding for child welfare services to First Nation children on reserves, then providing to non First Nations children. A lawyer is representing this society and in need of some funds for this case, the council of LBN got together and passed a motion to donate two thousand dollars to this important court case. For the sake of our First Nation children across Canada; we can't afford to lose this case.



On April 3<sup>rd</sup> I attended at meeting at BLNDC and there is no decision on community development funds, as a Vancouver fund is getting depleted because no debenture funds have been coming in from Babine Forest because of the slow lumbering market, because of the Canada Revenue agency, they made a ruling that the Native loggers who were doing their work off reserve, their income is taxable, and some workers was billed quit high, and BLNDC was helping them out.

On April 13<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with Granisle Mayor for a community forest license. April 15, 16<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, INAC office are preparing for a new general assessment that every funded Federal agency has to go through. About eight bands were involved in Canada's First Nations contribution funding arrangement, it expires took part in this process, there were funding service officers in BC that also took part. A lot of FSO only had seen this for their first time. Another concern to me, is lack of polices in some areas of our band. They need to see policies to make sure of proper program delivery and protection of the bands, and concerns if our staff are educated enough to deliver services. Our FSO and I did an exercise assessment of our band.

Our band result came to low to medium risk. I can see where our band can be at a high risk; in my discussion with Terry he was anxious to see last year's budget. I told him that our spending will show high in some areas as I stated previously that our band has been paying off hotel, lawyer bills that should have been paid two to three years ago. They have said that they will do a regional session with all of our senior staff and Chief and Council sometime in the summer or fall.

April 20<sup>th</sup> Chief and Council meeting with all staff, and concerns about staff showing up late and the attitude of some staff, note I said "some staff", not all staff. Also, know some of our staff will take it out of context. I would like to thank staff who work extra hours to keep our band functioning, I would like to thank Monty for his extra work, and as an edu-

## Louise Lacerte—Woyenne Councillor

Greetings fellow LBN members, I hope everyone is having a nice day. I submitted a lengthy report in the last newsletter so this one will be short and sweet. In the political ring of Education, issues



are very intense due to the funding cut backs that the Government has imposed on all existing programs. Our programs are being under funded as is but are now in a situation where more cuts have to be done. I strongly believe that we, as First Nations people must go back and practice the self sustaining ways of living; that our ancestors role modeled for us.

Since the last report, the nation's health department hosted a health forum, which was greatly appreciated by all who attended. Hats off to the health team! The forum provided a lot information on many health conditions that affect our members. Some comments received by members were very inspiring to continue work of improvement to the health department and to voice the needs of those members who are in desperate situations. Along with the valuable information

there was some very good entertainment, for instance, our LBN drum group, Don Burnstick, whom was a favorite to all, Dr. Evan Adams also made an appearance and did a workshop; its nice to see role models like Dr. Adams to encourage our younger students to go into the medical field.

There are many changes being made and sometimes change is not received too well but they need to be done. We must give change some time to see the results and have a chance to assess the current situations. But on the other hand, change should not be forced upon people. We are on this earth under the wish of one person and that is our Creator/God and only that spiritual power should have the authority to change the personal being of each one of us. A couple of weeks ago, I was in church and it was announced that our church is in financial need too. One scenario, was that



our church would be closed, that really made me think and ask what will happen if our church closed? How would our burials be con-

ducted? The future weddings and baptisms? I strongly encourage you all to give that a serious thought and help our local church.

There are other facilities being considered to be closed and all of this is due to funding cut backs.

Considering, all the cut backs of funds and services; there are many other money options being offered such as mining, oil. I caution considerations of those other money options due to the fact that we must preserve lands and resources for the younger generation. I often think of my grandchildren. What will be left for them? Especially the land resources, once that is gone and disturbed it will not be the same anymore. I encourage all of you to ask the question and make sure your concerns are heard. After all, it is our duty to listen to you as members and take direction from you as a collective body. Meaning that you have to come together and make your stand in one voice.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have concerns or would like me to voice your concerns. Awet'za

## Frank Michell—LBN Deputy Chief

cated person, he knows that the band are under RMP from DIA, and one of our staff who deserves a increment, but he knows of our situation, but does not ask for an increment. I would also like to thank Bernard Patrick, and Donna MacIntrye for digging into paper work and getting money reimbursed to the band. I know our counselors, youth workers have to be on call after hours, and they should be recognized for their efforts.

April 20<sup>th</sup> met with Enbridge doing a presentation to our Hereditary Chief's about the proposed pipeline, my concern is how wide they are going to clear for the pipeline. I remember in the past meeting with Ministry of Environment, they stated that clearing for roads, pipelines, etc. and also that moose tend to leave the area. I worked in Houston in the early 70's and we use to drive back in forth every day, and some days we seen over 30 moose, but, now since a lot of new farm fields and roads, you'll be lucky to see one.

**THANK YOU**

My other concern with Enbridge is oil tankers of the West coast, if an oil spill happens it will effect a lot of our salmon, I asked if they had a good insurance policy if an oil spill happens, and they will have to compensate a lot of Natives that depend on salmon. They will be coming back to do another presentation on May 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> of 2010.

I am sorry that I did not take part of our Health forum, I got sick in Vancouver and got worse at the Enbridge meeting. Whites mans medicine did not help, but Minnie Thomas made some medicine that made a big difference.

April 27<sup>th</sup> Chief and Council met with the Mayor of Burns Lake and council and Sergeant Mike Kjisters. An update on the Burns Lake new proposed hospital was discussed, and what should be done, we strongly stated that we need more input into the design and staffing. Chief Corrina Leween and Chief Ruby Williams were also present. Mike Kjisters updated us about all the vandalisms around Burns Lake and what should be done. This concludes my report and we are working in a process of getting our band back to where it should be!

DIA are recognizing our progress, and it boils down to strong leadership!

I forgot to mention that the Chief and Council were invited to have dinner with the premier Gordan Campbell on March 17, 2010 in PG at the civic centre and there was full of industry, village, and native reps!

I would also like to add that some businesses have noticed the change in LBN and would like to do business with us!

Until our next newsletter, everyone have a safe time and be well!



*Go Canucks Go!*

*I BELIEVE*



## John Bertacco—Woyenne Councillor

### Hadi to All Lake Babine Nation Members!

I would like to start with my prayers and condolences to each, and everyone that has lost a loved one, and that are ill.

I would also like to thank all the members that participated in organizing the LBN Health forum. My God, that was a blessing, and it was just the tools we needed to gain in order to heal our nation. This Health forum was an awesome step towards leading us in the right direction. I was so happy to see so many people attend the LBN Health forum, especially the school students.

Let's not forget the important tools that we all could live by, and the four samples which are: PRAY SHARE, CRY, and LAUGH!

The workshop was so awesome, I am proud to add that I

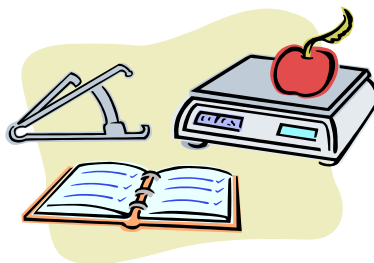


have since changed my living style, by changing my diet, and making healthier choices. I have also started walking more, and participating in more activities, everyone knows I love running.

Let's not forget that eating right plays a big role, remem-

ber you must take care of your body, soul, and mind; your body is just like a temple, so let's nurture it because nobody else is going to do it but yourself!

So, once again I will say that there were a lot of tools of-



fered to everyone, and the people who could not attend can ask information of those who are willing to share their positive experiences from this forum. All this good information can better ourselves, and let's not forget our community as a nation.

### Recreation

For the recreation are we had two team that went to the Prince George all native hockey tournament, that is we had the old timers team which went 0-2, the younger team in the c division won one game, and lost two. I was happy that we participated, and still had fun. We have to remember that we hardly played in the last couple years, so let us build on what we have gained from this past winter.

I will be attending the Arena public meeting on April 28, 2010 to see their presentation in the operations, and see if we could gain more ice time, and request it be suitable for everyone. I will keep an update to all hockey players.

Next, I would like to thank Tanya Williams for the hard work that she has done. God Bless you and the participation of the RCMP in getting involved with our youth. Tanya has sent out a schedule to the community for all the events that are happening for the youth. They are boxing every Monday evenings starting at 6pm at the Margaret Patrick Memorial Centre, and don't be scared girls, you are all welcome! So, let's see more people out there, it is open to all ages!

I would like to address to our nation that Tanya is always looking for volunteers, and ideas, so don't be scared, just drop by or give her a phone call, and we can set some things up.

Let us not forget that it is up to us to set the youth in the right directions, so they need your knowledge.

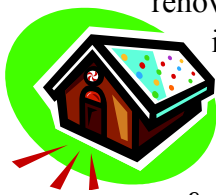


**Volunteer  
Services**

## John Bertacco—Woyenne Councillor

### Housing

We are waiting for the monies to come in from INAC so we can start gaining, and start maintaining our house's, and community. There will be



renovations happening within the three communities, Woyenne, Tachet & Fort Babine.

There will be work for the individuals from each of the communities. I will remind everyone that there will be zero tolerance of Drugs and Alcohol, so let's love one another, and work together, and play it safe!

We still do have a lot of work to do as a housing team, in our surrounding nations with housing. We are still looking, and trying to find ways to build new houses, but, at this point we are put to a stop from us doing that, due to the deficit that is still owing. The reason I bring this up is in case of the monies that we get goes directly to renovations, which is an ongoing battle that keeps us at still mate, and this is so sad. We must change by working together to move ahead. There have been a lot of changes in order for us to improve in this area, which are procedures and policies that are to follow. This

will help gain grounds in order for us to move in to the future. Here is a simple message, you break it, and you fix it! There was an investigation done to some of the house's that thought to be mold, but it turns out to be in some cases that it was not mold. A few pointers on preventing mold is tidiness, and storage that plays a big role. So come on everybody, its spring time, so that means spring clean-up, and be proud of our homes. Remember that a clean home plays a big part of our health.

To end my report I would like to wish a happy birthday to my two grandsons, Peter and Brodie, and my friend Wayne Tom, and also to Wilfred/Oputt Adam, Happy Birthday to my sister Marie on May 25<sup>th</sup> and to all upcoming birthdays.

Last but not least, I would like to encourage to all members to invest their time in getting an education, start living your dreams, and go in the right direction. Be proud to be First Nation. We need more educated people in all areas of Lake Babine Nation, we need Doctors, Nurses, Forestry environmentalists, Fisheries,

Tourism, Actors, there is lots of choices, so let's go for it everybody. When you think about how long 3 or 4 years of hard work of schooling is a big sacrifice. But, than you live your dream and you will have work for the rest of your life. Remember one thing, don't ever abuse of what you learn, and everything that you have learned. Build your resume, that's very important!

Mussi Cho

John Bertacco, Woyenne Councillor



*If you have any comments or concerns regarding the Lake Babine Nation Newsletter, please feel free to send in to:*

*[marylynn.crouse@lakebabine.com](mailto:marylynn.crouse@lakebabine.com)*

*Thank you and have a great day!*

## Finance Report to the Chief & Council, LBN Membership Prepared and submitted by Evelyn Netmaker—Financial Controller

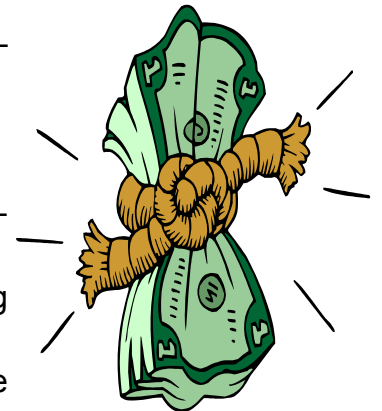
I have been with the LBN Finance Department since May 6 2009 as the Finance Controller. I was hired by LBN as one of the conditions of the Remedial Management Plan. There have been a lot of changes within the administration in the last few months.

### Developments within the Finance Department and Policy Changes:

The election of July 2009 brought in a change of leadership - which included the return of the portfolio system. The finance committee consists of: the Executive Director, the Finance Controller, and two council members (Deputy Chief Frank Michell and Melvin Joseph). The terms of reference of the committee has been established following the guidelines of the FN Financial Management Board. The committee has been meeting regularly - at least once a month.

It has been a very busy last couple of months working on the conversion of the accounting system from ACCPAC to Xyntax. The ACCPAC system was not properly set up and in order to fully realize its benefits, it would have cost the nation more time and money into re-vamping and resetting the system and buying additional software for PO's. The key features of the Xyntax accounting system:

- limit of 12 users concurrently on the system - no waiting for postings from other departments
- electronic purchase orders - provisionally posted to the general ledger
- more timely financial reports
- tracking of committed costs to the budgets
- decrease down time in processing of transactions and payments to members and vendors
- reduce audit costs by the reduction of auditor's fees in doing the account reconciliation
- reduce down time in training accounting staff in utilizing the software due to it being user-friendly



There have been also policy revisions and implementations that have occurred in the last five months. The Nation's auditor, Dean Mason & Company, have issued the 2008-09 Auditor's Management Letter that reflects what is needed for improvement in the Nation's finances. This is basically the same letter that is written year after year since 2002 to 2009. There are policies that are in writing but not in practice, are not being followed or are very outdated and no longer apply. There are organizational charts for some departments which are outdated. The lines of authority and communication no longer apply due to various reasons because staff/positions are not in place, funding / cutbacks or senior managers taking on multiple programs /departments with no clear reporting mechanisms.

## Finance Report to the Chief & Council, LBN Membership Prepared and submitted by Evelyn Netmaker—Financial Controller

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One of my goals since the beginning of the year was to tackle these issues in the letter. I was glad/ecstatic that the new leadership was aware of what was needed to bring the change and were willing to adopt and implement the policies and procedures that are required to be on the road to financial stability and out of the INAC intervention.

The first policy that was developed, adopted, and implemented was the Computer Usage Policy. There were no guidelines established for proper usage of the Nation's computer equipment and internet use. This one policy area affects employee productivity due to un-monitored usage of the internet. There have been reports that staff are spending a lot of time on social networking sites. There are also

*“The first policy that was developed, adopted and implemented was the Computer Usage Policy”*

a number of computer systems that had peer to peer/file sharing software. This policy was reviewed by legal counsel and was deemed lenient in terms of use restrictions and disciplinary measures. One important note is that if an employee refuses to sign the policy, it is still enforceable. The goal of this policy is to safeguard the Nation's assets from misuse (and liability) as well as protect from viruses which could not only affect the Nation financially for repairs to the network but also employee downtime for not being able to do their work due to the network being disabled due to misuse of the computers and internet.

The second policy development is the APM or the HR Policy. This document was last updated in 1998. There are sections that are there but not being followed, or there are procedures that were followed that staff have said were in the APM but in fact were not included. The HR Manual has been approved in principle and senior managers will be reviewing the policy and will relay the changes to their respective staff members.

Matt Vickers, who was retained last summer (July/August) to perform a Management Review of the Lake Babine Nation, confirmed the comments made in auditor's letter. His findings were as follows: no organizational chart, not enough communication, not enough staff meetings, ineffective performance mechanisms and outdated job descriptions. His worked totalled approximately \$12,000 to tell us basically the same thing and that his recommendations were also the same as what was recommended by the auditors.

On behalf of the Nation, I submitted a proposal for P &ID dollars from INAC and was approved in the amount of \$30,000. The expenditures were to develop an Operations Manual for LBN, legal review of policies, costs towards a server/archival/offsite back-up, and policy development in the "new" Tangible Capital Assets.

The next policy that requires revision is the LBN Financial By-Law. Even though this policy has been passed by Chief and Council, it is not enforceable in the court of law. For example, it has been past practice to appoint senior staff as acting GM's and those A/GM's have signed off on contracts or agreements that have cost the Nation of up to \$275K. The

## Finance Report to the Chief & Council, LBN Membership Prepared and submitted by Evelyn Netmaker—Financial Controller

policy development will be done in conjunction with the First Nations Financial Management Board and will be using the guidelines set by the FNFMB. Lake Babine has received \$10K towards this development.

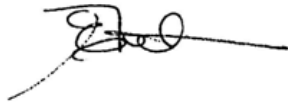
### Financial Report for 2009/2010:

Quarterly reports have been sent in to INAC and the three quarterly reports in summary are attached to this report. The final quarter report will not be available until after the audit has been completed. One of the factors that will impact the statements from the year before will be the implementation of the Tangible Capital Assets beginning this fiscal year end of March 31, 2010.

The RMP update and budgets are in process of being updated with each of the senior managers input for submission to Chief and Council at their next meeting and will then be forwarded to INAC.

Thank you for taking the time to read report. If you have any questions, to any part of my report including the financials, please do not hesitate to ask me or Justa Monk, Executive Director.

Respectfully,



## Bernard Patrick—Housing & Infrastructure Director

I thought I would take this time to talk about a situation that seems to negatively affect Lake Babine Nation as a whole financially and physically as it relates to Housing for the communities of Fort Babine, Tachet and Woyenne. There is a growing concern that a lot of tenants are frustrated for not getting renovations done to their homes and/or there are members who have been trying to get a house for years but having no success. These are concerns that have been considered by Chief, Council &

Administration to be very important and valid as the situation worsens as each day goes by. I will try to explain some of the things that seem to get in the way of Lake Babine moving forward with the Housing program.

The biggest issue that Lake Babine has been discussing endlessly is that we need to have rent collected and shelter agreements signed annually so that we can



prove to financial institutes and government agencies that we can look after our own programs thus giving us the means to do it, which is the much needed funding. As of this date, it seems that when Lake Babine is asking for tenants to pay rent it is looked at as a negative thing and that LBN is wrong in doing this as the common opinion is that we as native people shouldn't have to pay rent. How will Lake Babine be expected to renovate/build and maintain these units with the limited funds we

## Finance Report to the Chief & Council, LBN Membership Prepared and submitted by Evelyn Netmaker—Financial Controller

### Lake Babine Nation

#### Summary of Financial Statements by Program

For The 3 Reporting Periods Ending December 31, 2009

<u>PROGRAM:</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
Administration	158,087.06	-43,943.57	110,718.43
Education	533,364.94	142,109.10	-46,797.56
Social Development	451,049.62	-21,045.26	71,755.88
Economic Development	280,605.37	222,010.48	267,471.23
Operations & Management	-43,261.09	-5,537.91	12,427.01
Capital Notional/ Projects	-20,116.52	141,700.20	165,702.68
Social Housing	138,865.12	-66,793.54	-22,685.48
Health Canada	-76,742.11	25,333.75	-20,623.03
Treaty	173,879.31	102,185.90	82,792.09
Fisheries (DFO & Harvest)	74,866.09	-149,854.69	74,943.62
Water Treatment Plant	-39,390.34	-30,112.29	-89,034.19
Employment & Training	37,015.67	-27,194.38	27,413.36
Justice	5,870.97	5,892.92	6,337.97
MPMC/Trappers	-8,491.17	72,445.37	-15,172.06
Barricade Treaty	-20,160.00	-26,258.38	0.00
MCFD	-	-	-
Specific Claims	-	-	-
Land Use	-	-	-
<b>SUMMARY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,645,442.92</b>	<b>\$ 340,937.70</b>	<b>\$ 625,249.95</b>

  
Prepared by: Evelyn Netmaker, Financial Controller

## Bernard Patrick—Housing & Infrastructure Director

receive and not expect any funding shortfalls? It is a situation that needs to be looked at by everyone and not just Council and Administration. I hear people always talking about being self-sufficient and not needing the government. What better way to prove that than by making sure everyone supports the housing process and keep up with rent collection and sign the shelter agreements.

Our current financial situation makes it difficult for Lake Babine to accommodate everyone in their demands and requests for renovations. As of now, Housing is limited to only deal with situations that are considered emergencies such as failing furnaces/hot water tanks, electrical hazards, flooding, etc. Despite popular opinion that the maintenance staff aren't doing their jobs properly, the staff have been over worked and under paid for quite some time. And they do receive a lot of verbal abuse but they maintain their professional attitude and continue on with their jobs. When tenants do not comply with the terms of agreement it forces the Housing department to cease any kind of work orders other

than emergency situations, which does not sit well with tenants but it is something we need to stand firm with or we will be in worse financial shape than we are in now.

There are two different kind of housing that Lake Babine deals with, which are Social Housing units that we receive limited CMHC subsidy and band owned units that receive no funding for repairs and maintenance so the only other funding we would need to properly operate the program is through rent collection. And the housing still has to be regulated by the Housing Policy, which works hand in hand with shelter agreements. Without this arrangement, it would make it difficult for all of Lake Babine as there would be no structure in place to ensure that houses are looked after properly or the tenants living in a safe and secure home. We need tenants living in housing units on the three reserves to know and understand this so that Lake Babine will be in a



better position to help you as members/tenants to secure funding anywhere. So please help to support the Housing program operate a better system so that we can have houses that are better than average for you as members and the future generations.

The other issue that seems to come up is whether or not the tenant will own the housing unit which causes the reluctance with the tenant to pay rent and/or sign their shelter agreement. That is an issue that needs attention by Chief and Council because it would mean the tenant would have to consider all the expenses attached to owning a housing unit. Expenses such as house insurance, property taxes and the repairs & maintenance would have to be taken care of by the tenant. Until LBN can find a way to deal with that situation and not put the tenant in a financial difficulty, the tenant would & should still continue with the shelter agreement and rental payments until a solution has been brought forward. Not all tenants can afford to pay for these services, which makes it difficult for Lake Babine Nation as a whole.

## Bernard Patrick—Housing & Infrastructure Director

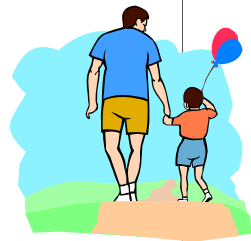
On a positive note, I would like to say thank you to all those who are faithful with their rental payments and shelter agreements. And there are quite a few of them that do contribute to the small bit of success that Housing Depart-

ment is enjoying. Although, having 100% in compliance will be a quite an accomplishment for all of Lake Babine as it will promote unity and support for one another and provide a better Housing program. I am hoping that this write up

will assist the members with answers to their concerns and frustrations as I too am a band member & tenant and I would certainly want to know the current state of our Housing program. I thank you for your time and understanding. Mesi'



# Community Volunteers



## TIME FOR CHANGE

*Calling all parents & concerned members,  
who wish to deal with the drug & alcohol  
problem within our community.*

*Let's make our community a clean and  
safe place to live for our children!*

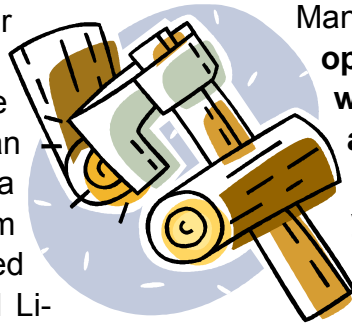
*Come join forces with me, Howard Vincent  
to create a healthier community!*

For more information, call Howard Vincent @ 250-692-4749 or

Mary Lynn Crouse @ 250-692-4757

## Forestry Update—Gary Page

1. **INVOLVEMENT IN FORESTRY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**—Chief and Council are committed to improving involvement in natural resources management and employment in the resource industries. The all clans workshop has been rescheduled to May 4th and 5th at the community center. The major objective of the workshop is establishing a resource management protocol driven by the hereditary governance.
2. **NEW FIRST NATION WOODLAND LICENSE**—Currently LBN has a short term forest license to harvest beetle impacted timber from LBN lands. When this short term license expires, LBN will have an opportunity to manage a longer term (replaceable) area based First Nations Woodland License (volume to be determined). As we are just getting started in forest management activities with our short term forest licenses, the timing should work well with the new First Nations Woodland License under development. The First Nations Woodland License will be a long term area based tenure and will offer greater flexibility with more forest management opportunities. As well, we will be in a greater position to work with and support local industry and create and maintain local jobs.
3. **LBN FORESTY PROGRAM**—We have an agreement with Babine Forest Products to sell logs from our short term forest license. This agreement includes contracts for LBN to complete forestry work on our license and on Babine's Forest license. This work with Babine Forest Products is scheduled to start on Tuesday, May 11. LBN crews will receive on the job training as they complete timber cruising and forestry layout and traversing. We will start the program this spring and summer with 4 to 6 people and as we build expertise we can develop year around employment opportunities in Forest Management. **There are still job openings for 1 or 2 more people to work in the field and potentially an office contract management position. Please contact me, if you are interested.**
4. **TIMBER SUPPLY REVIEW**—On April 22, 2010 I attended the first Burns Lake timber supply review meeting. This meeting was attended by First Nations, local industry representatives, community leaders, a regional district area B representative, Babine Forest Products management and Hampton management. This is a local group with a focus to maintain a log supply for the local Mill (Babine Forest Products) and community stability for the greater Burns Lake Community. Lake Babine Nation is recognized by the group as a major player in this local group having a large contribution to community stability.



## Forestry Update—Gary Page

5. **COMMUNITY FOREST LICENSE**—LBN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Granisle to jointly hold and manage a community forest license. There are many possibilities associated with this arrangement, including the supply of logs and cabinets for future housing projects. As well as developing and marketing value added forest products. Also, I would like to include management of the woodlot licenses at Fort Babine and Tachet with the Community Forest License.
6. **HEAT AND ELECTRICITY**—Council has been talking to a local company in Smithers (CJL) that is interested in a joint venture with LBN, to build and operate small scale heating and power plants in LBN communities. The heat and electrical cost savings benefits are obvious and the excess power could be sold to BC Hydro. The Fort Babine Councilors are spearheading this initiative. Plans also include construc-



tion of a pellet plant close (within 10–15 km) to Fort Babine, employing 8–10 people from Fort Babine. This initiative will start at Fort Babine and if successful could expand to include all LBN communities.

7. **LBN FOREST MANAGEMENT**—Babine Forest Products is very interested in working with LBN to build forest management expertise. BFP has a very large volume of yearly forest management work to complete and they are very willing to extend forestry contract opportunities to an LBN forestry company.
8. **GREATER ACCESS TO TIMBER and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**—With greater access to timber through long term licenses there will be options to supply logs and lumber and cabinets etc. for growing LBN HOUSING needs.

If you would like to know more about these projects, please feel free to call or visit me at the LBN Office.

### What a Furnace Filter can do for you?

Traditionally, furnace filters were designed to protect the furnace and fans. With increased air quality awareness, some filters are now being installed to reduce exposure to particles which can affect your health.

Also cuts down on the heating bill.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTERS!**

## Letters from the Community



From Valerie Johnson of Tachet

I would like to offer my compliments to LBN Woyenne Councillor Frank Michell for giving us the honesty we need. As a member I am more understanding by reading his report that gave me some insight on the situation chief and council are in. No matter what, clean up always take time especially the ones that leaves stains. That's exactly what happens when there is poor/ mismanagement. Whether we like it or not it affects us all. So musci cho Frank, I am know able to see the turmoil that chief and council must work through.

Last comment has any one seen Tachet councillors? we don't, we do not have phone numbers. If you do see them send them to Tachet the community would like to voice their concerns and voice the many need we have.

Goals in life,

To start a logging show, I am experienced and trained in logging to do proper work, safely, be productive. To create training for my people, and create jobs. Our people really need jobs. I have plans that will work. Since we have our F.R.O., cutting license, it is a opportunity to start developing and being independent. Lots of our neighboring First Nations have their own logging show, and benefiting from it. My questions are: How come were not doing this to? Can you give me some of the license cutting permit to start a logging show?

We've lost about 4 years of logging, because nobody did anything about it. Some of you say you are a doer and a proven leader, what field are you talking about?

Leader after leader, seem like we're getting anywhere. No improvements on training, job creation. I care about my people. How many times have you heard a leader say "I care about you!"

I have a vision to uplift my people. To do good things: work as a team, to do progress, and able to succeed. I have the enthusiasm, meaning eager of interest. My heart goes out to all of you that feel down and out. I was there before, but have gotten back on my two feet, lots of struggling along the way, and when I fell down, I got right back up again. I started to take my life serious. To be a good strong warrior you have to use your head now a days, and common sense. "Use self control wisely". If I use drugs, sooner or later it will bring me down. If I don't do drugs it will make progress in life. Do I want to suffer, or do I want prosperity, and success?

You chose your path, make right choices. I wish you understand what the elders; our parents use to talk to us in our own language. To those that don't understand our language. It is never too late to learn, speaking our language brought me a long way in life. Listen, learn, and understand when we talk good to you!

In my time, I've trained people right from being a rookie to a well experienced operator. "They call me trainers of trainers". I don't get my name "Silver Bullet" and "Killer B" for nothing J

I worked up to it, and a lot of Natives and non Natives respect me from all different towns and cities. It is a nice feeling when people respect you; you have to respect to be respected. I am a doer and I say that we've been sitting on the side for far too long, while non Natives prosper off our own territory. When are we going to be doers? Like some of our leaders say, well prove it to us!

Is this meeting going to be another wasteful meeting, lots of meetings and no action? Big talk and no action! We are tired of being lied to, and some leader s come and go! They start a group, and they fall apart, then cry, and point at each other. I quit that, that is not being a leader. When we have differences, we solve our differences, and continue on working towards our goals for us, our children, and our people.

The world is not going to wait for us while we are fighting, and arguing. Let us put all that away, and grow up! I know for a fact that when I was a child, a lot of parents, grandparents had lots of love and respect for each other. Let's share our wisdom, love, and thoughts to our younger generation. Let us all unite as one band and work happily together, and respect each other.

Continued on Page 13

## Letters from the Community

Our young people, you are important, keep on going with your education, in the next few years down the road you will be our future leaders. Those young adults that are out of school, let us all pick up the pieces, and put our ideas together. We will still make it on our journey on earth. It is not over until we leave the earth again.

This is going to be my presentation at the All Clan Gathering on May 4, 5<sup>th</sup> with the Chief & Council, and Hereditary Chiefs meeting.

I hope I uplifted some of our band members. A lot of our own band members have skills, good nature, and good communication skills with talking, and writing. Until next time, God Bless you all!

## Announcements

Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday to our daughter Marianne Macdonald on May 4th,  
Love from Dad & mom, Brian & Rosalie MacDonald & Family!

Happy Birthday to Bernie Lacerte, from family

Happy Birthday to Carmen Alec, from Family!

Happy 31<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Philip & Louise Lacerte on June  
2<sup>nd</sup> love from family!



Happy 35th Birthday to Craig Patrick Sr. on April 29th

Happy 18th Birthday to Joslin Patrick on April 30th

Happy 15th Birthday to Candyda (CJ) Patrick on May 2nd

Happy 25th Anniversary to Mary & William Lawley on April 27th

**Happy Birthday to Rhoda Hallgren, May 7**

**Happy Birthday to Vickie West, May 10**

**Happy Birthday to Louis Erickson, May 10**

**Happy Birthday to Richard Erickson, May 17**

**Wishing Everybody a Very Happy Birthday, from the  
West/Erickson Family!!**



*Happy Birthday  
Elizabeth Rose  
West*

*~May 9th~*

*Love your family!*

*"These boots were  
made for walking"*

# Happy Birthday

## Marilyn Joseph—Economic Development

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The Lake Babine Economic Development Society Board of Directors successfully completed the Board training on the Roles and Responsibilities of a non-profit/profit organization. They are anxious to start the process of the development corporation that will be the profit entity for the businesses that will be set up for the Lake Babine Nation.

The board members were presented with two business legal structures, the Limited Partnership Model and the Limited Liability Partnerships, "One Company" Structure. The LBEDS Board of Directors and the professionals that will be involved in this process are currently waiting to meet with the Chief and Councillors to decide on which structure will benefit the Lake Babine Nation.

On December 7, 2009, the proposal submitted to INAC on July of 2009 was finally approved, under the Community Economic Opportunities Program funding of \$87,000. The work plan submitted with that required LBN to initiate the following for the Lake Babine Economic Development Society:

1. Training on the Roles and Responsibilities of a Board of Director
2. Organizational Structure of the Society
3. Policy Development
4. Gas and Convenience Store Operational Review
5. Business Planning workshop for membership
6. Researching a business legal structure for a development corporation



Out of the six (6) initiatives, Policy Development was not completed as time was not in our favor. It does take time on each other parts to find suitable professionals to be involved in getting the tasks done on the work plan. We have research possible business structure for our development corporation, but have not decided on a choice. I am hoping INAC will understand and allow LBN to bring forward the surplus to allow us to complete the remaining tasks undone.

On March 29 to March 31, 2010, we held a business planning workshop for the members in the council chambers, the facilitator was Rolf Wilhelm Kungl, Aboriginal Entrepreneur. He goes through how to develop a business plan, marketing, operational plans, financial plan including sources of funding and financial statements, the ending expected results was to have a clear understanding of the business plan process and purpose.

The workshop was a success even though our expected participant goal is 20 members and we had eight members that participated during the days and three members that participated in the Tuesday evening session. All of the members that participated had good potential business ideas. In the end, Rolf was helping them with letters for funding. It would be nice to hear from the members that participated to see where they are at, as Rolf will coach them along the way.

Thank you and we shall keep you informed of what other initiatives that may be of interest to you. Mussi!

## LBN Students in Local School Play

### STUDENTS PERFORM IN A COMMUNITY PLAY CO-WRITTEN BY LDSS' DRAMA TEACHER

"A Walk on Moss" is a community performance that features several LDSS students as well as other community members.

This play has been written by Robert and Rayanne Charlie. The play broaches topics that are crucial to First Nations at this time such as intergenerational effects of residential school, loss of language and ceremonies, neglect and abuse. The story is about seven young teens that are mysteriously brought together over a tragedy of a man named Buck-shot and his family. The trickster "Raven" figure plays a key role in the way the play unfolds. Please check out their website at

[www.awalkonmoss.com](http://www.awalkonmoss.com)

Tickets, \$10 students and \$15 adults, are available in the Cultural Centre, Lakes Economic Development Association and Process 4. T-Shirts can also be purchased in the Cultural Centre. Upcoming performances are as follows:

Prince George Playhouse on Saturday, April 24th at 6 pm.

Fort St James Secondary on Saturday, May 1st at 6 pm.

**LDSS on Thursday, May 13th and Friday, May 14th at 6 pm.**

Della Herman Theatre in Smithers on Saturday, May 29th at 6 pm.



Photos courtesy of Nellie Davis Photography. Left photo – Scott Stoecker, Theresa Patrick and Darien Petit. Right photo – Cori Johnson, Darien Petit and Sonya Patrick, seated Theresa Patrick and Destiney Michelle

## Lake Babine Nation

P.O. Box 879  
Burns Lake, BC  
V0J 1E0  
Phone: 250-692-4700  
Fax: 250-692-4790  
Website: www.lakebabine.com



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.LAKEBABINE.COM

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**APRIL 1st, 2010**

**DON'T FORGET!**

**Shelter Agreements are due.**  
**Until these are signed, NO work orders will be issued!**

**- AND -**

**Furnace filters are due to be changed. Please call the Housing Department with color or size of filter and we will drop off.**

**Joyce Shram—250-692-0599**

**Jerry Tom—250-692-0551**

**Rhonda/Vanessa—250-692-4772**

## Social Development—Dates to Remember

Purchase Order Issue dates:

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010; September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010; December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Cheque issue date:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010; June 1, 2010; July 2, 2010; August 3, 2010; September 1, 2010; October 1, 2010; November 1, 2010; December 1, 2010; January 3, 2011.**

**Please note that all new applicants, there is a five (5) day waiting period. And all new applicants should also fill out housing forms with Rhonda Brown.**

For the Hot Lunch box delivery dates:

**May 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010; June 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010,**

**Please note that June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 will be the last day for lunch box delivery as school will be out on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Hope you all enjoy your summer.**

