



Lake Babine Nation

NEDUT'EN DISTL'IS

SUMMER 2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Monty Palmantier, *Executive Director*

I'd like to send my sincere condolences to those families that have lost loved ones recently. Since my commencement as Interim Executive Director on May 4, 2020 it has been very busy couple of months.

COVID-19 has been extended to August; therefore, the offices of Lake Babine Nation are closed until further notice. If you wish to make an appointment, please call the receptionist to contact assistants of each departments to make appointments with Director.

STAFF RESTRUCTURE

We are in the midst of restructuring the office and the following changes have been made:

BROWN, Deanna - Job Title Change from Student Support Worker to ISTD Program Coordinator, Effective July 1, 2020

CROUSE, Priscilla - Job Title Change from ISTD Program Coordinator to Grant Writing Director, Effective July 1, 2020

ALEC, Shauna - Job Title Change from ASI-EY Director to Early Childhood Director, Effective July 1, 2020

LACERTE, Louise - Job Title Change from Interim Education Director to Language & Culture Director, Effective July 1, 2020

MICHELL, Beatrice - Job Title Change from Teacher to Education Director, Effective July 1, 2020

HOUSING DIRECTOR

After years of searching, we finally hired a Housing Director, Mr. Stefan Willner, whom commenced work on Monday, July 20, 2020. Thank you, Bernard, for taking on this role for many years.

AUDIT

We have been working very hard on completing the audit. Once Directors went through their budgeted items, it was presented to Chief and Council for the final approval. It will be complete once it is sent to Indian Services Canada (ISC) and Marilyn will have further details on the audit in her report.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Marilyn Joseph-Williams, *Interim Finance Director*

Hi everyone, how are you all? The Year 2020 doesn't seem to be the start of a good year for us all. But we all managed. Covid-19 made me realize how my time and my health is important, therefore, I am going to slow down. In finance, when the office closed due to COVID-19, some of us in finance remained in the office as some programs still remained operational. During COVID-19, I was able to catch up with the accounting records and started preparing for the fiscal audit 2019-2020, drafted New Fiscal Year budgets for 2020-2021 and catch up the LBN Financials to the end of June 2020 for the programs.

FISCAL AUDIT 2019-2020

The auditors were here from June 8 to June 19, 2020. LBN and the auditors received an audit package from our funders, which contained the criteria and guidelines the auditors must follow. The auditors also check to see if the nation follows the funders programs criteria and guidelines by reviewing program invoices, employee's payroll, funding agreements, travel for staff and chief and council, program cheque requisitions, etc.

Finance ensures all programs follow the LBN finance policy and procedures and LBN's Financial Administration Law. The draft of the audit goes to the program directors to review, and make changes. The completed draft is then presented for approval to the Chief and Council with recommendations of any to/from transfers from program to program, just as long as it meets the funder's criteria and guidelines. As soon as the transfers or changes are made, the audit is then ready for signing by the Chief and the

Finance and Administration Portfolio. LBN made the deadline date to the Indigenous Service Canada by July 29 and to the other funders such as the First Nation Health Authority (July 29), and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

FORGIVENESS OF DEBT

One exciting news that all First Nation's in Canada received and in writing from the Government of Canada, is the forgiveness of debt for the BCTC negotiation loan in the amount of \$12,241,495. The auditors using this letter, wrote off the loan from the LBN financials.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION LAW

The Lake Babine Nation Chief and Council approved of and signed off on the Lake Babine Nation Financial Administration Law (FAL) on September of 2019. The nation will need to adhere to the FAL. With this FAL the nation will need to update its Financial Policy and Procedures, so it can be comparable. These are the two documents that make LBN's Chief and Council, the Sr. Managers and staff accountable. LBN will be accessed by the First Nation Financial Management Board (FMB), to see if we are in compliance with the FAL.

LBN PROGRAM BUDGETS

On April 9, 2020, the program directors presented their program budgets as long as it met the funder's criteria and guidelines for approval to the Chief and Council at the hall. The programs and workplans are important for all to be measured at year-end, to see if all priorities planned have been met. This is being accountable and transparent.

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA (COVID-19)

LBN received the following emergency funds from Indigenous Service Canada for COVID-19.

Emergency Management-COVID-19 (2019-2020): With the ISC funds, the \$151,927 is for EOC Personnel Costs; Equipment Rental, Food Security (community garden, fishing, hunting) and Social and cultural supports (some communities are buying food, prepping the food, and then deliver to elders and people with compromised immune system who are unable to meet their needs)

Part of this fund (\$151,927), LBN purchased from priestly meat packages and a hamper box for the

elders and those with compromised immune system for the three communities.

Special Needs-COVID (2019-2020): With this emergency supplement \$75,708. The Social Development department will provide an update. It states to abide by the BSDW Policy.

Emergency Management Assistance Program (2020-2021): With this fund, \$260,753.64, it can be used for support for elders, food insecurity, educational and other support for children, financial assistance for those without work, and mental health assistance and emergency response services.

COVID-19: Crisis Supplement Funding and Emergency (2020-2021): The Management Assistance Advances, \$188,100 was received for the on-reserve income assistance or disability assistance. An extra \$300 was provided to social assistance clients for the months of May to July 2020.

Please note: The funds for the fiscal year 2019-2020 was received in April 2020, therefore, LBN could not spend it in March 2020, it was rolled over into this fiscal year 2020-2021. The funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 was received in May 2020. LBN did not spend all of these funds. The COVID-19 second wave is predicted to come in the fall, which is when the remaining ISC funds will be used.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the finance staff, program directors, and the Chief and Council for doing a good job in getting the fiscal audit 2019-2020 completed and emailed to the funders by the deadline date (July 29). Hats off to the program directors in presenting their 2020-2021 fiscal program budgets and was approved by the Chief and Council. Good news for LBN, is the forgiveness of the BCTC loan, as it felt like the time, we celebrated the paying off of the CMHC mortgages. It is a big relief off of LBN's financial records. I pray our community will all be safe and protected from COVID-19. Thank you to the LBN EOC team for a doing a good job in protecting the communities of LBN. Have a good summer/fall? We are finally getting our sun!

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Shauna Alec, Early Childhood Director

Hadeeh Lake Babine Nation members! As of July 1, 2020, I have accepted the position as the Early Childhood Director for Lake Babine Nation and I am very honored to be representing all children and

families age 0-6 years old. This position gives me an opportunity to work collaboratively with all organizations to increase quality care, affordable services and making sure all programs are accessible to all Lake Babine Nation members. I would like to give you an insight of all the services we provide under the Lake Babine Nation- Early Years Umbrella.

WOYENNE DAYCARE

Located at the Lake Babine Nation Main office. The Woyenne Daycare (Skakhatsin Lee Bay Yigh) is a licensed Infant/Toddler (0-3) to Preschool (3-5) facility that is dedicated to enhancing the lives of children, families and the community by providing quality care, supportive and vital early years program. Each day is fully structured to support all areas including physically, language development, social and emotional development, cooperative play, literacy and numeracy, kindergarten readiness skills, and have access to any Early Intervention service needed.

We have vacant spots available for September 2020. If you are interested in registering your child into the program, we have registration forms that are readily available for pick up at the Woyenne Daycare or you can contact Cecilia Godfrey at Phone: (250) 692-4763 or by email: mary.williams@lakebabine.com.

Staff: Mary Williams, *Program Manager*
Cecilia Godfrey, *Preschool Supervisor*
Fiona West, *Infant/ Toddler Supervisor*
Nancy Piette, *ECE*



ABORIGINAL SERVICE INNOVATIONS - EARLY YEARS OUTREACH SERVICES

Welcome Wagon Program - We provide a diaper bag full of main essential to the newest Lake Babine Nation Members along with pamphlets of other services in and around the Lakes District that members can access for free! If you know of an expectant mother and is a Lake Babine Nation member please feel free to call or email us and we will be happy to provide them with a welcome bag!

Fort Babine Fun Club - This program is for all Lake Babine Nation members residing in the Wit'at territory which is running throughout the year for ages 0-6 years old. We have licensed Early Childhood Educators that facilitate the program once per week and program and fun-filled emergent curriculum where the children learn through play! learn traditional songs, stories and language through an elder in the community that comes into the center and speaks carrier fluently.

Tachet Child Care Centre - We're run 2 programs throughout the summer called Tiny Tots Tuesday's (0-3 years old) and Fun Club Thursday (4-6 years old). We facilitate 2 programs in Tachet due to the high number of participants for each age so we created 2 developmentally appropriate programs. They are also Emergent Curriculum based where they learn through play.

Woyenne Tiny Tots Program - This program will be running every Monday starting in September for expectant and new mothers in the community of Woyenne ages 0-2 years old. We collaborate with the Lake Babine Nation Health Department once per month for the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program where they are able to interact with new parents and families at the Muriel Mould Neighborhood Learning Centre where our Early Years office is located.

COVID-19 -Throughout the Covid19 Pandemic we closed all operations down but we were able to continue servicing the children and families by providing fun-filled "BUSY BOXES". A total of 160 Boxes were distributed to door throughout the 3 communities of Fort Babine, Tachet and Burns Lake area and also mailed out Busy Boxes to our member that lived out of town, Thank you to the Aboriginal service Innovations- Early Years program for continuing on the exceptional service throughout our great nation!

Also, throughout the pandemic we had Katie Blackwell who joined our team from the Carrier Sekani Family Services- Best Beginnings Outreach Program. She collaborated with the Lakes Food Bank service and started delivering food out the community of Fort Babine. servicing 22 households and the elder's community luncheon program benefited from this service. Now that we are up and running our programs and services, we are currently looking for a partner to team up with that can continue this service which is a high need.

The Woyenne Daycare is abiding by all Safety and Health Guidelines throughout the pandemic, the summer is open for all working parents until August 7, 2020 and will be closed for the holidays until August 24, 2020.

Staff: Shauna M. Alec, *Early Childhood Director*
Lana MacDonald, *ECE Outreach*
Rita Thompson, *ECE Outreach*
Katherine Blackwell, *Best Beginnings Outreach Worker for Carrier Sekani Family Services.*

April Tom, *ECE Outreach assistant*

Summer Students:

Hope Abraham, *Super Hero In Disguise*
Kiara Alec, *Creative Cat*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Beatrice Michell, *Education Director*

Siy Beatrice Michell sadnee. Gil Lan Tin habilhdeezilh. Balhats 'uzee' Yilh Deiylh sadnee. Sne' Beverly Michell hayilhneeh, 'een Ts'ee K'ot hayilhnee. Sbeb 'een Leonard Michell hayilhnee. 'Een welewh salee'. Bac'in 'iyhdeenee'. Tebee honist'iyh Education habe'ist'ah. Skak nis wideezeelh habe yeklhdi. Hi my name is Beatrice Michell. I sit with Gil Lan Ten (Caribou Clan) and my Hereditary Chief name is Yilhdeyh. My mom's name is Beverly Michell and her Hereditary Chief name is Tsegot. My dad's name is Leonard Michell and he passed away Jan 2019. He had the Hereditary Chief name Ba' Cin.

I am pleased to be working as the Education Director and look forward to working with the Education teams at LBN schools and School District 91/School District 54, and Post Secondary Institutions.

Education has always been my passion and working with students to ensure they receive good quality education. Also looking forward to working with First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), First Nation Schools Association (FNSEA), and Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA).

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all students for completing another school year, especially during this challenging time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Congrats to all the graduates of kindergarten, Grade 7, Grade 12 and Post-Secondary Institutions. You are entering another journey in your educational travels and I wish you all the best in your studies and future endeavors. I would like to take this time to address the educational needs of LBN and look forward to doing my best to accommodate the education vision for LBN citizens. I look forward to working with LBN Council Education Portfolio Holders: Woyenne Councillor Mr. Murphy Abraham and Tachet Councillor Mr. Shane Modine.

LAKE BABINE NATION SCHOOLS - All Elementary schools ended this school year with no students in the class, following COVID19 protocols. MWE, WSS and FBCS will all complete the FNSEA Schools Assessment and certification process next year during the 2020-2021 school year, which is required every 5 years.

MORRIS WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR-END - Students received 2 sets of home learning resources, programming updates, and Carrier resources in the last 2 weeks of school. All students were invited to access live classrooms via closed Zoom on a schedule posted on Facebook. Approximately 20-25% of student participated. All students received their year end report accords as well as year end gift cards in lieu of regular achievement and awards gifts. A live Facebook broadcast of the year end awards with teaching staff in attendance via Zoom was held on June 25. Another Kindergarten live Facebook wards presentation was complete on July 2. All report cards, awards and year end materials were delivered door to door by school security. Staff held multiple extended Zoom meetings during the last 2 weeks of school for detailed COVID19 policy training and planning for summer maintenance of all classrooms and preparation for the next school year.

TWMLC/WOYENNE SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR-END - MWE will complete the FNSEA Schools Assessment and certification process next year during the 2020-2021 school year, which is required every 5 years. The end of year continued from spring break to June 26 with full in class instruction for two (2) students completing graduation grade 12 courses. Both students completed all coursework with social distancing protocols in place, and graduated with Grade 12!

FORT BABINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL YEAR-END - Students received 2 sets of home learning resources, programming updates, and Carrier resources in the last 2 weeks of school. All students were provided bins of home learning support materials including iPads. All students received their year end report accords as well as year end gift cards in lieu of regular achievement in the second week of July. A live Facebook broadcast of the year end awards with teaching staff in attendance via Zoom was held on June 25. Staff held multiple extended Zoom meetings during the last 2 weeks of school for detailed COVID-19 policy training and planning for summer maintenance of all classrooms and preparation for the next year.

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS (NECHAKO LAKES SD #91 / BUCKLEY VALLEY SD #54)
Gina Patrick-Louis, Elementary/Secondary Coordinator

This year the Annual Awards for Lake Babine Nation students attending the William Konkin Elementary (WKE), Decker Lake Elementary (DLE), Lakes District Secondary School (LDSS), and Babine Elementary Secondary School (BESS), were held online, as a virtual celebration; due to the covid-19 pandemic and not being able to hold a gathering. Due to costs this year, not including a dinner, hall rental, etc., we put most funds into providing a gift card for the students attending the local public schools. Each student received a \$50 gift certificate from the Red Apple and/or the LDFC Stationery Store. Again, due to Covid-19 we provided a gift card with local stores. The gift cards are only for this year, next year we may go back to other awards not monetary awards.

We receive our information of students and the areas they are given recognition by the schools they attend. The LBN Education does not choose the students we are given the information by the schools.

(Virtual Awards video, the honouring former Education Director Monty Palmantier, and list of awards can be found on the LBN Website:

<https://www.lakebabine.com/2020-lake-babine-nation-public-school-babine-elementary-secondary-school-awards-honouring-monty-palmantier/>

We will know more of this coming school year, September, 2020 and what the restart will look like for students. In August, 2020 we will meet with the School District No. 91 and will be releasing more information on the restart of September, 2020 school year then. We will begin working on school supplies. This year as we have in previous years, we will be purchasing supplies from the LDFC, and possibly along with backpacks again, our budget permitting. As always, unfortunately, only those students on our Nominal Roll (students residing on our reserve lands) will be eligible for school supplies, fees, high school allowances, and tuition from the Lake Babine Nation.

Special thanks Katrina Woodgate, Education Assistant; and Brenda Michell, Post-Secondary Coordinator for assisting with the awards preparations, and being present and ensuring things went well on the day of awards. Also thank you to Julian Brown, First Voices: Language Preservation Technician, for doing the slideshow presentation to our former Education Director. Thank you to Kerry Alec, LBN Communication Coordinator, for your technological support and also helping us coordinate and hand out the awards to parents and students.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our former Education Director, who continued to there when we needed direction on how to carry out the awards, during the pandemic and ensuring the funding is available for our students' acknowledgment.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Louise Lacerte, Language & Culture Director

LANGUAGE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & PROGRAMMING

Aside from the ongoing work of the Language Team, we have two projects that we are currently running with funding provided by the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

First Voices is funded by First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is a provincial Crown Corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The First Peoples' Cultural Council is supported by legislation: First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act. Lake Babine Nation (LBN) will be a part of the First Voices Indigenous Language Archive, and have Nedut'en online for LBN to access and learn Nedut'en. First Voices provides state-of-the-art technologies, training and technical support to support putting Nedut'en on-line. We are conducting interviews with elders and knowledge holders following safety measures with Covid-19 by approval from the Emergency Operations Center and First People Cultural Council. We hope to include words, phrases, songs, legends and any other means of sharing our language. We will soon make this webpage available for membership. Stay tuned!

Digitization is also funded by FPCC. LBN Education department will be converting Nedut'en related audio, video and print materials to digital format with the assistance of the Digitizing training from FPCC. All material will be shared on the First Voices website and shared with the LBN departments when project is completed.

For these projects we are following strict COVID-19 guidelines by FPCC, LBN and EOC.

Mesiy, I wish everyone a great and safe summer. Please remember to practice social distancing and always wash your hands to ensure Covid-19 safety for you and your families.

It is hard to believe that the salmon/field season is upon us already! These have been very uncertain and trying times for each and every one of us due to COVID 19. Lake Babine Fisheries takes the safety of our employees and LBN citizens very seriously and we are asking that each and every one of you help us create a safe environment.

Have a great summer parents and students, and job well done. In particular those students and parents that continued to do school work and returned to school during the pandemic. Not all students could go back during the time, but those that did. Great job to you all!

GRANT WRITING

Priscilla Crouse, *Grant Writing Director*

I am pleased to announce my new position with Lake Babine Nation as the Grant Writing Director. I have been the Program Coordinator working within the LBN Indigenous Skills Training Program since August 2017, I am now working with Deanna Nolan to take on the role as Program Coordinator. I will definitely miss working with the students and I am confident that the program will continue to be successful. I am thankful that my skills to write proposals and grants can be utilized for the benefit of LBN, this includes submissions for training initiatives under the Foundation Pathway Agreement, as well I have been successful at obtaining funding for other LBN departments during the past few years. I am quite excited in my new position as it will be focused on assisting all LBN Departments with proposal/grant submissions. I look forward to reporting in the coming year on the new funding opportunities that LBN will administer. Have a great summer and stay safe.



INDIGENOUS HUMAN SERVICES CERTIFICATE 2019/2020

Deanna Brown, *ISTD Program Coordinator* - Our program has come to an end for the first year of the Human Services Certificate, in partnership with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) out of Merritt, BC. Like many of us during the covid-19 lockdown, our students left on March 16 for their last day in class. They went on to complete their last Psychology course via Zoom online with their NVIT university instructor. It was a good learning experience to prepare them for what this upcoming school year may look like with the many policy changes under this pandemic.

We had twenty students who enrolled in the 2019/2020 school year and have obtained credits towards their Human Services Certificate and we are

preparing them to return to the work force or continue on to further studies in the Social Work field. Felicia Erickson received a letter that she was chosen to be on the Dean's List for Excellent Academic performance, which is awarded to students who have a 3.67 grade point average or higher. We are very proud of Felicia and all her hard work and commitment during this past school year, please congratulate her with us.

Many of our students have entered or returned to the workforce. Some have started other training opportunities and we have a couple students who will complete summer sessions to meet the pre-requisites for the upcoming semester. Some will return to work in their LBN communities with their new skills and we are just as excited for all our students. The school year was not an easy one with heavy curriculum content, the students went through a lot of personal and professional growth and endured many long days and nights to complete what each of them have.

Congratulations to Alana Crouse, Caitlynn Disher, Debbie George, Cherith Lacerte, Keith MacDonald, Rita Makowski, Samantha Michell, Michelle Tom, Travis Tom and Roy West who have returned to the workforce. Also shout out to Sara Erickson, Laurean Michell and Travis Tom who may have already or will be taking in further schooling to meet pre-requisites during NVIT summer sessions, and to Joe Charlie Jr. and Heather Joseph who have also taken in additional training within LBN. Acknowledgements to all the other students who are taking a well-deserved break to focus on their healing, families, and replenishing their minds and spirit before their next step, please enjoy your summer. We share joy in seeing each of you make amazing choices to help guide the next step in your lives.

We are preparing for the second year of the Human Services Program this next fall semester which will help our students to obtain their Indigenous Human Service Diploma! We will have a smaller group of students returning for the upcoming academic year in part due to the covid-19 restrictions, as well as students who will continue with full time employment.

Returning students will be taking some in-class instruction courses and some online instruction courses when necessary. There will be many changes, but we are up for the challenge! We look forward to seeing those students who have

successfully completed all their courses and have chosen to return to complete the Diploma Program come back to start school on September 14, 2020.

Priscilla Crouse who has done a wonderful job coordinating the last three years will be moving up into a new position of Grant Writing Director. I have also been promoted up to Project Coordinator for the LBN Skills Training Development Program. She and I will be working together to ensure that there is a smooth transition, and that in her new capacity Priscilla will continue to work with all the other departments to secure funding for future programming, and that falls in line with the future we see for all our students who come through the doors here at LBN Skills Development Training Program.

Thank you to all within the community who helped us this school year to share their indigenous knowledge, teachings and history of our Nadut'en people. We could not have had such a wonderful year without you, and we look forward to the upcoming year full of cultural pride, community support and building up our members through post secondary education! Messiy Co, Awitzeh.

HOUSING & CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Bernard Patrick, *Capital Infrastructure Director*

Hadeeh Lake Babine Nation! I hope everyone is staying safe and supporting one another during this unusual and difficult time with the global COVID-19 pandemic which has changed the way our lives use to be and it may be like this for quite some time.

CAPITAL

Tachet Reservoir – the project began on May 13th which is still on schedule despite the shutdown due to COVID-19 back in March. The reservoir is being constructed as of this writing and will still be completed in October as planned and the community of Tachet will be notified of disruptions to their water use once the transfer is going to be done from the old system to the new reservoir.

Woyenne Drainage – this project is still being worked on for approval by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for construction to begin next Spring of 2021 which at this time is looking like it will go

through. At this time, it would not be feasible to move forward with the project due to the fact that it takes time to organize a Capital project.

Tachet Wastewater System – at this time, we are working with the engineers and ISC to get this project approved due to the fact that a lot of the individual septic tanks in Tachet are failing or are at their life expectancy. The community collection system will be a major project for Tachet and one that will be very beneficial and we are hoping it will be approved for funding for next year's construction.

Burns Lake Water Treatment Plan – this project has been ongoing since last fall and is moving along very well as the project is 60% complete and still scheduled for completion in late Fall. The project is a joint venture with the Village of Burns Lake and Burns Lake Band to have a new water treatment plant in to service the entire community.

7th Avenue Lift Station – this project is another joint project with the Village of Burns Lake where ISC is funding an upgrade on sewerage lift station on 7th and Centre Street which services areas around the hospital and the Woyenne community which will be completed this summer.

Fort Babine Biomass Project – the delay in this project is currently being dealt with and hopefully the project will continue. The biomass system when completed will be heating the clinic, school and water treatment plant in that community and upon the success of that it may start moving to heating homes in the next few years after it start operations.

Burns Lake Sidewalk Project – LBN is once again joining together with the Village of Burns Lake to construct sidewalks within areas in our community which will begin on the corner of 10th and Centre near the wellness centre going up to the bottom of Sus Avenue then continue on Sus up to the Admin Office. The project is to encourage physical activity and promote good health for people and it will begin on the end of July through to beginning of August for completion.

HOUSING

I want to announce Lake Babine Nation's new Housing Director, Stefan Willner, who started on July 20th. Welcome to Lake Babine Nation Stefan, also a big thank you to former Housing Manager, Rhonda Brown who has moved on with her career

with another First Nation. These are two major changes for the Housing program and hopefully it will be a smooth transition for the new Director to move Housing forward with the Housing Policy and its day-to-day operations.

EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE (EOC)

Our Emergency Operation Centre activated on March 18th and still continuing to this day as we are monitoring the situation with the coronavirus situation throughout the world which is very new to everyone as the last time a global pandemic hit was 1918 with the Spanish flu. According to an elder that spoke with us recently in a meeting with the hereditary chiefs and EOC, the 1918 flu pandemic took a lot of our members as he recalls that people were dying one after another in the communities which is very concerning especially since the coronavirus is affecting us the same way.

Unfortunately, it seems people everywhere and not just in our communities not take this pandemic seriously as frustrated people that were forced to stay at home for three months wanted to get back to normal life and as a result we have people not listening to the guidelines put forth by the provincial health officer and the provincial government. It is very understandable that these rules and guidelines are frustrating as hell but they are done to help keep everyone protected from this virus which can easily be contracted much like the common cold but more deadly.

There is not much more to say about the virus as everyone I am sure are tired of hearing about it and its affect to people and the economy but I must continue to encourage people to please follow the rules of social distancing; staying home if are experiencing the symptoms of coronavirus; limit your travel to avoid high risk areas such as Vancouver, Kelowna and out of province areas such as Alberta; wear a mask if possible when going into high risk areas; and sanitize or wash your hands while avoiding touching your face.

LBN has been hit pretty hard with deaths since the coronavirus situation got worse and when deaths occur it gets harder for everyone because we cannot honor our traditional practices of funeral mass and potlatches due to the pandemic and it has already been difficult for the families of the deceased and with the EOC as the EOC is not there to put hardship

on already grieving members but to follow the rules and keeping our members safe. Our EOC and security staff have taken a lot of criticism but we will still continue with what we are mandated to do until such time we cannot or don't need to.

There will also be a lot of changes to how our offices will service the members which will be by appointments only and there will be screening questions asked to all so be patient with us as this is a new way of operations going forward. Also, you will notice signs, stickers and sneeze guards in the office to protect you and staff. Please be safe, support one another and protect yourselves with all the safety measures. Mesiy

INDIAN REGISTRY

Kerry Alec, Indian Registration Administrator

Hadeeh Lake Babine Nation! I've started in the Indian Registry position in November 2019. I look forward to assisting members with their status cards and recording any life events once Lake Babine Nation admin offices are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, Administration Offices are still CLOSED to the public. At this time there will be no SCIS applications or CIS issued until further notice.

Indian Registration Administrator (IRA) is available by email or phone during regular business hours for Confirmation of Registration letters or assistance over the phone with completing required forms for SCIS applications (Forms are available on the website).

IRA does not accept Third Party requests. Members must contact IRA themselves. IRA cannot discuss any registration information of another member with anyone as it is their confidential information and I do not have written permission, no exceptions.

SCIS Status Cards - Any Secured Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card applications from before and during March 2020 Prince George and Fort Babine dates have been submitted to the National SCIS Processing Unit office in Gatineau, Quebec within a week of application. Processing dates will be delayed due to COVID-19. If you would like to check the progress of your application or if your information has changed since applying, you can call toll free 1 (866) 567-9604 or email InfoPubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Birth Registrations - Any Birth Registrations from before or after March 2020, will also be delayed due to COVID-19. Birth Registration application processing time is normally 6 months to 2 years (depending on complexity of the file) will also be delayed due to COVID-19. If you would like to know the status of your birth registration application, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/indian-status> for the list of regional offices or call 1(866) 567-9604

Required documents to record **Life Events** (*Birth Registration, Marriage, Divorce, Death, and for Band Transfer*) can be found on our website. If you have a life event that needs to be recorded, contact Lake Babine Nation IRA. Mesiy

Lake Babine Nation Website Link:

<https://www.lakebabine.com/programs-services/indian-registry/>

Indigenous Services Canada Link:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032374/1572457769548>



For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Information for Indigenous communities:
Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-Indigenous

COVID-19 UPDATE

Best Practices Surrounding Status Cards During COVID-19

In response to questions received from First Nations members, citizens, and stakeholders, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is proactively sharing information to ensure that registered persons with a status card can access programs, services, rights and benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All ISC offices for Indian status and secure status card applications are closed until further notice. Processing times, including return of original documents, are delayed.

In light of these circumstances, ISC is recommending to service providers that they should accept status cards or [Temporary Confirmation of Registration Documents \(TCRDs\)](#) past the renewal date with a second piece of identification. ISC will be reaffirming to businesses and service providers that Indian status does not expire, and that the registration number provided on these documents remains the same and is what is required to confirm eligibility for programs and services.

It is recommended to share this notice with your members, so that they have a copy accessible to them to show services providers in the event there are difficulties.

For more information, please visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and [Indigenous communities](#) or email the [Public Enquiries Contact Centre](#).



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones
Canada

Canada

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY / PACIFIC BLUE CROSS

Questions about your status benefits or for

Prescriptions? Visit fnha.ca

Call Toll Free: 1 (888) 550-5454



FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Donna McIntyre, Fisheries Director

IN SEASON SALMON FORECAST

Based on results from the Tye test fishery up to July 13, the current run size estimates of Skeena Sockeye range from 244,000 – 663,000 (80% certainty), with a mean (point) estimate of 376,521. These estimates are based on average run timing. The sockeye runs can be early or late. If the run timing is average the model estimates that approximately 130,000 sockeyes are estimated to have passed the Tye on their way up the Skeena (most of these sockeyes originate from Babine).

At this point it is too early to obtain a good estimate. Once we compare data from the Tye to the fence, we will have a better idea of the number of sockeyes returning to Babine.

FOOD FISH

When the estimate of returning sockeye is at/below 400,000 DFO does not allow any food fishing for all First Nations in the Skeena.

As stated previously it is too early to get a good estimate of the returning numbers of sockeye. Many people are asking if the fence will be open for LBN citizens to pick up food fish. At this time, we do not know; however, we are looking at different options and scenarios to ensure LBN citizens have access to food fish. If the fence was to open for food fish it would be different than past years due to COVID 19. We cannot have the fence open like it was in the past where people drop in anytime to pick up fish.

CEDP

Due to COVID-19 and the lack of applicants we have been focusing on possibly upgrading the mobile kiosk, stationary kiosk, online learning and virtual reality program (3D video with google disposable glasses).

SMOLT ENUMERATION PROGRAM

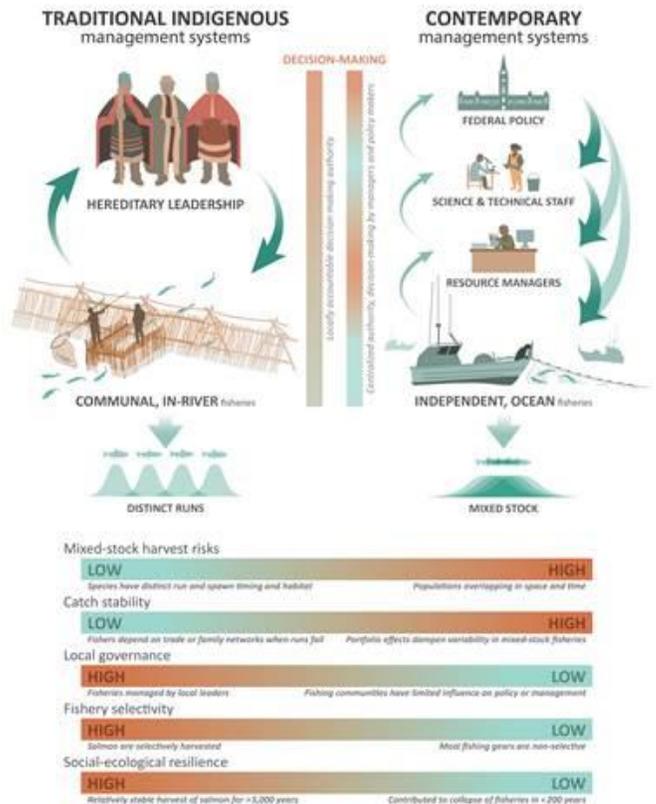
Due to COVID 19 the program was cancelled. We hope to secure funding for 2021.

INVISIBLE MIGRATION EVENT

Due to COVID 19 the 6th annual event was cancelled. Celebrating the sockeye smolts and wishing them well on their journey to the ocean at this event has grown exponentially and we hope to have the event is 2021.

BABINE FENCE

The Babine fence was initially going to be put in place on July 13th but water levels were too high and unsafe. The Babine Fence was put in on July 15 and 16th. The fence was fish tight and operations; as of 3:00 pm July 16th when crews began counting. As of July 19th, we have counted 4 sockeyes through the fence.



EMILY MASON'S STUDY OUTLINE / OBJECTIVES AT THE BABINE FENCE

As climate warming leads to rising water temperatures throughout the Skeena Region, it is important that we understand the effects of water temperature on sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). Cold-blooded species like salmon can select specific temperatures in their thermal environment to regulate their body temperature, this is called behavioral thermoregulation. We hope to enhance the understanding of how sockeye salmon use their thermal environment and what physiological factors (e.g. energy levels, pathogen development, and maturity hormones) influence or are influenced by the temperatures they inhabit. In this project, sockeye will be captured at the Babine River Counting Fence and will either be placed into an experimental system to determine their range of preferred temperatures or tagged with a radio transmitter and temperature logger then recovered following spawning to provide insight into the thermal environment that they experience during their final stage of migration. This information, along with lake temperature and bio sampling data (e.g. non-lethal blood and gill samples) will help us investigate if sockeye are behaviorally thermoregulating, if this behavior is affected by pathogen load, energy reserves, or level of maturation hormone, and whether effective behavioral thermoregulation leads to higher spawning success. Sampling efforts will be focused on the enhanced runs (Fulton and Pinkut) and will be non-lethal. We hope this research will provide valuable insight into temperature requirements of sockeye and their future as the climate continues to warm.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Emma Palmantier, *Health Director*

Thank you to our members for the support and patience while we continue to follow the COVID policy as the pandemic has reached our country and province. This is very serious; we need to think the safety and protection of everyone.

The following are the major projects I am leading:



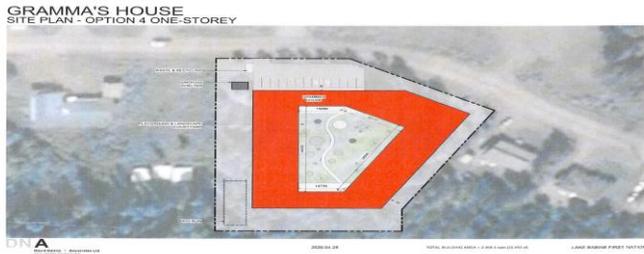
GRAMMAS HOUSE

We have approval from BC Housing to start building Gramma's House, construction to start spring of 2021 in Woyenne. The proposed facility is a 30-bedroom unit will be 20 bedrooms of two beds and 10 bedrooms with one bed. Gramma's House will be a safe and healing housing project that will provide Lake Babine members with safe housing with supports to build healthy individuals and families. The project will meet a range of community needs including those young mothers and their children and youth who are transitioning out of government care. A central goal of this project is to break the cycle of Lake Babine children and youth being removed from their families and taken out of the community. If the children and youth can be housed in the community, they can be close to their families and their culture which is important to address past trauma.

Programs and services provided in Gramma's House include life skills, employment and training, counselling, health and meals.

A self-contained unit is required for the support staff to be in the facility 24/7. We anticipate the need for two full time staff during the day and one to be on site overnight. An administration office is required for these staff to meet with residents and keep records.

These will be built in phases, Tachet and Fort Babine are in planning for Gramma's House as there will be a Gramma's House in all our communities to keep our children and families safe.



GRAMMA'S HOUSE SOCIETY LOGO CONTEST

Are you creative? Calling all artists!

Lake Babine Nation is hosting a contest to find a logo for the Gramma's House Society. The Gramma's House Society is a non-profit Society that is working to provide safe and affordable housing for Lake Babine Nation members, and people living in and around Burns Lake.

We would like the logo to reflect the culture of our Nadut'en people and include the wording 'Gramma's House Society.' The logo will be used on all of our communications moving forward.

We are offering a \$500 prize to the artist who creates the logo that is selected. The winning logo will be chosen by the Gramma's House Society Board of Directors.

Submit your logos to
emma.palmantier@lakebabine.com by
Friday August 28th!

Please contact Emma Palmantier if you have any questions.

SHELTER FOR HOMELESS

We have approval from BC Housing for a facility for the homeless which will be announced for Burns Lake which is in partnership with the five neighboring Nation and the Village of Burns Lake. We are waiting for an official announcement as we have been advocating for members that are homeless.

HEALTH PROGRAMS

Traditional Land Based Treatment and Healing - Since April 2019 our Nation received approval from First Nations Health Authority to hire and recruit a Traditional Wellness Coordinator. We have worked hard to incorporate Traditional Activities into our programs and services and most staff do this off the sides of their desks. The communities have set goals and priorities for numerous cultural and traditional activities to run as a part of regular ongoing health and wellness programs.

The job was advertised and the successful candidate, Crystal Hardwood, with her background in previous experience in working with health, writing and communication skills, budgeting, and knowledge of the members and communities. Crystal's job has been working with Health programs and staff to incorporate Traditional and Cultural Activities into the programs and services delivered to our members. Crystal has been working with all the communities in Fort Babine, Tachet, and Woyenne to develop a work plan to be woven into the current community work plans that will see the knowledge holders providing traditional wellness methods of delivering services such as drum making, traditional songs and dance teachings, hunting and fishing, gardening, traditional medicine for youth programs, child and family service, and the wellness center. Crystal and I had focus group meetings with all the elders, knowledge holders, and Hereditary Chiefs in Fort Babine, Tachet, and Woyenne.

In December we hosted a gathering of all the knowledge holders, elders, and Hereditary Chiefs provide recommendations to improve existing programs and traditional activities that will incorporate the land-based healing concept.

As a result of the gathering, Crystal developed a work plan and budget, recruited cultural workers for all the communities to work with knowledge holders, elders, and Hereditary Chiefs to share their stories on line for all members. These have been recorded and the plan is to contract professional and experienced video producer to provide cultural videos for our Children in care to gain knowledge of their culture, tradition, and where they originate from.

NURSES, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLORS, & PATIENT TRAVEL

It has been difficult since March when our office had been shut down due to COVID-19; all staff were required to work from home. We eventually returned as essential services were required, so a few staff were allowed to work in the office and continue to provide service by phone, zoom meetings with government, and via email. The nurses still did their best to provide the services but were told be careful and follow COVID-19 policies. Our office is still closed to the public, however, the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) team review and follow the direction of Dr. Henry and Minister of Health of the safety measure with signage and green light, we will be notified.

I would like to welcome new employees: Debbie West, Child and Family Coordinator; Dana MacKay, Mental Health Counsellors; and the new Community Preparedness Program: Phil Lacerte, Community Preparedness Coordinator and team, Eli Patrick, and Caitlynn Disher, who are responsible for patrolling in the evenings and weekends to ensure the youth are safe and coordinate workshops for the youth in partnership with other programs. We send our sincere condolences to Mary, Herbert, and Darrell Williams, also Kim, Irene, and Daniel Peters as we lost one of our team members Kristen Peters who was our Child and Family Coordinator. Also, to the family and friends of Howard Vincent, Drug and Alcohol Counsellor for Lake Babine Nation.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

We are providing as much service in Child and Family services with limited staff as Sara Jack our Child and Family Worker and Patricia Abraham, Child and Family prevention worker are the only staff that our Nation employs. Since COVID-19, they have increased case load and are working closely with MCFD to avoid children from being apprehended or those that are at risk. We have seen an increase of children and youth on the streets late at night into the early hours of the morning. These are children are from ages 8 years and older as there are limited activities and events that our Nation is allowed to provide due to COVID-19.

Staff have to submit their plans of events to the EOC team before they can proceed with programs, they have the safety measures in place such as social

distancing, wash their hands, and restricted to smaller groups and age. It is difficult as we are concerned for the children and youth as drugs and alcohol have increased. The Youth Centre has set out plans for summer camps and registration are available for any children and youth that would like to participate.

In closing we are waiting for the final approval for funding to recruit and hire additional staff under Child and Family as ISC (Indigenous Service Canada) approve the funds and will flow through our host agency. We pray that all the members continue to pray for vaccine to be invented to stop the pandemic of COVID-19 from spreading further. Have a wonderful summer.

FOUNDATION PATHWAY AGREEMENT

Betty Patrick, FPA Manager

Spring/Summer 2020 - Greetings to Lake Babine members, praying that this newsletter finds you well as we go through unprecedented times, the pandemic that has plagued the entire world is not going anywhere so let's continue to be vigilant in following COVID-19 protocols.

The activities and developments with the Foundation is still moving along, slow, but progressing, there was a membership update that went out to membership in July 2020, Roxane has been trying to reach out to members to send directly to them upon their preference, should you want your name on our mailout list please contact Roxane Williams or Dorothy Patrick

As most of you know, the final draft of the Foundation Agreement was reached in November 2019, which was shared with communities during the week of December 2 – 7, 2019; the team visited each community and explained summaries of what is in the Foundation Agreement

- **Advisory Teams:**

- Child and Family Advisory Team has been active since early 2019 continues to meet virtually and social distanced meetings, the new

Coordinator Debbie West has been on board now for a few months.

- Governance Advisory Team was appointed and became active just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, and have reactivated meeting virtually and where possible convene physical distanced sessions;
 - There will be a Governance survey convened soon,
- There has been a call out for a Fisheries Advisory Team, please get your letter of interest into Dorothy Patrick to participate in the Advisory.
- There will be a call out for a Justice Advisory Team, please keep an eye out for this in the next few weeks.
- **Training** – the Human Services Certification training will continue this fall; students will be working towards their Diploma program; this program has been delivered by Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT). The changes in the program is that Deanna Nolan will be taking on the Program Coordinator role as Priscilla moves into her new position; Priscilla will make herself available for any required assistance. We thank and honor Priscilla for her commitment and dedication to the program and most of the all the students, thank you for all your work on the programming.
- **Labour Market Partnership initiative** – as part of the Foundation Agreement, LBN has been collaborating with the Work BC Community and Employer Partnership to:
 - Conduct an assessment and create a report to identify labour and skills gaps to provide a snap shot of LBN labour and employment baselines and trends (as is baseline study of LBN to be used evaluate how the Foundation is doing).
 - Clarify LBN’s Human Resource and capacity building priorities and create a plan to clearly communicate LBN labour and employment objectives (a Human Resource strategy) This

should include but not limited to a long-term strategy to implementing the Foundation Agreement.

- The project will take a 4-phase approach to understand and create a report to identify where LBN is today, what the community would like to achieve, and how LBN can realize identified labour and capacity development objectives vis-à-vis the Foundation Agreement over the next 20 years to positively affect the rural and urban members of Lake Babine Nation.
- **Community Preparedness and community wellness**
 - Just prior to the pandemic, LBN sought funds to address the communal and social impacts of the 7-mile camp that is situated in close proximity to the community of Woyenne; this camp is in connection to the Coastal Gas Link (CGL) project; at the onset of the project LBN decided that this pipeline did not run through its territory so it opted not to participate in the Environment Assessment process, but did not consider the cumulative effects (social/communal impacts). LBN accessed funds to:
 - Convene and lead the Interagency Meetings – all First Nations and service providing agencies are represented at these bi-monthly meetings
 - A team of 3 that monitor and patrol the community
 - The objective is to create a net of safety to those vulnerable (mostly women and children).

This is a summarized version of an update that went door to door in July, should you require any further information or would like to participate in any of the Advisory Team or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Dorothy Patrick.

GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

The LBN Governance project is forging ahead. As many of you may have heard, last year the Nation launched a research project into different models for LBN self-government. The purpose of the project is to advance LBN's inherent right of self-determination. The research being performed uncovers information that will help the membership decide what a truly LBN government should look like. Developing this vision is the first step toward replacing the *Indian Act* Chief and Council with a government developed *by* LBN, *for* LBN.

Since our last reporting during the AGA in October 2019, the research project has seen the formation of the Governance Advisory Team (GAT) to guide and direct the research. The GAT has been meeting regularly since last fall despite the challenges everyone is facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In February of this year, the research team also welcomed seasoned LBN researcher Darcy Dennis to the team. Darcy has strengthened the team with his insight, knowledge and leadership, which complements the skills and abilities of researchers Barbara Adam-Williams and Marvin Williams, and research advisor Alan Hanna from the University of Victoria.

The researchers have continued to conduct research into models of "two-tiered governments", which is to say, community level governments plus a Nation-level government to inform a long-standing goal of LBN people to serve all its communities – rural and urban.

The research team is currently working on a governance Survey that we hope to send to all community members before the end of August. This initial outreach to the membership is a step in the governance research process that will help researchers better understand the knowledge and insights of LBN members. The responses will then be used to develop more specific questions that are important to community members regarding governance.

Following the governance Survey, under the direction of the GAT, the researchers will be planning interviews with any members who wish to participate beyond the Survey, and who are willing to share thoughts, dreams and ideas about LBN's

governance for the people. Given the health and safety concerns regarding Covid-19, the team is discussing alternate ways of engaging with communities that does not put people at risk. The interviews to be conducted will include the five communities and also urban centres where members live such as Smithers, Prince George, Vancouver, and possibly Kamloops and Prince Rupert.

The work will result in a report submitted with recommendations on a model of governance that may work for the Nation. The research team will share the research with leadership and the membership to review the findings, and LBN will then decide on next steps toward developing its governance model.

Continue to be vigilant in your safety protocols as you go about your harvesting season, together we can get through this, prayers to all those that may be sick, to those that have heavy hearts and to those that travel, WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY, USE HAND SANITIZER, SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW, STAY 6 FEET (2 M) APART AND NO EXCEPTIONS – IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL STAY HOME. Be blessed and be safe.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Beatrice MacDonald, *Human Resources Manager*

Current Employment Opportunities:

✓ FINANCE DIRECTOR

Application Deadline: August 28, 2020 at 4:30pm

To apply for any current or future positions, submit applications, resume and cover letter to:

Philine West, *Human Resource Assistant in person*, via *mail*: PO Box 879 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0, *email*: Philine.west@lakebabine.com, or *Phone*: 250-692-4700 | 1-888-692-3214

Website Link:

<https://www.lakebabine.com/employment/>

HIRING PROCESS FOR LAKE BABINE NATION ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH, HOUSING, FISHERIES, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

Selection committee consists of: Councilor Portfolio, Executive Director, and Human Resources

SUPPORT STAFF (FIELD WORKERS /LABOURERS)

Selection committee consists of: Human Resources, Program Manager and/or Immediate Supervisor

ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS

Selection committee consists of: Human Resources and Immediate Supervisor

When there is a **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (Example: Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, In-laws, Step parent, Immediate Household and in some cases, best friend) the employee **CANNOT** be a part of the selection process.

There are set questions designed for the positions and in accordance to Human Rights

NEDUT'EN HINIK HITEENAN

Q T K K X Y I S E J I C H M E
F H U K X E P V T S P G Q T H
Y O O H K Z S Q C Y U U W Z Y
P H E E M I T N I Y T S K Q O
L G R L R G C M H J J K K G D
M E S I Y B Z L G H W F X T J
Z K Z Y S T V F E X N Y W Z S
B E E T S O F G B J Z K A S F
K G N I R Y O D L B O Z S C E
T D Y X P B T G S L C I Z U D
D I N N I J L T A E C L G I I
C J W I H X D T C W Q V S Z N
Z E H T K O H P S M R L Z U W
H E G I M A B N V K H I D A L
I U N Y A H G Q I F C W Y M T

Lhok (Fish)

Talok (Salmon)

Ts'iy (Boat)

Beet (Char)

Nit'iy (Berries)

(Moose)

Dijee (Huckleberries)

Yintimee' (Blueberries)

C'izu' (Good)

Wagoos (Respect)

Mesiy (Thank you)

Ma' (Yes)

Hohgek (No)

Khida

Sus (Black Bear)

Cas (Grizzly Bear)

CARRIER PHRASES

Nlay tah neen gus (*wash your hands*)

Kiy dzeen mbe' hunzu holee (*Hope you have a good day today*)

Sts'oh _____ **hayilhnee.**

(*My grandmother's name is _____.*) (*maternal*).

Sts'anee' _____ **hayilhnee.**

(*My grandmother's name is _____.*) (*paternal*).

Steets _____ **hayilhnee.** (*maternal & paternal*).

Nlay – hands

Sts'oh – grandmother (maternal)

Sts'anee' – grandmother (paternal)

Steets -grandfather

Tah neen gus – wash

Hunzu – good

Dzeen – day

SEASONS

Cen – Summer

T'ak'et – Fall

Kheet – Winter

C'olilh – Spring