



Office of the Wet'suwet'en Chief Meeting

DATE: September 25, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: OW

Chair: Madeek

Recorder: Judy Walton

Chief's Present

Smogelgem – Warner Naziel
Knedebear – Warner William
Na'Moks – John Ridsdale
Woos – Frank Alec
Madeek – Jeff Brown
T'sek'ot – Ron Austin
Lay'oh – James Namox
Gisday'wa – Fred Tom

Absent Chiefs/Delegates

Kloum Khun – Alphonse Gagnon
Hagwilnegh – Ron Mitchell
Kweese – Andrew Tom
Neekupdeh – Daren George

Delegates

Wila'at – Sue Alfred
Simke-yaks – Barb Wilson

Staff

Debbie Pierre

Elected Officials

Maureen Luggi – WFN Chief (Gitdumden)
Patricia Prince – Nee tai Buhn

Members

Charlotte Euvermann
Vi Gellenbeck

Guests:

Jacque Bowes
Meghan Olsen – Managing Lawyer – Legal
Services Society

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of September 25, 2019 Agenda
3. Governance Report
4. Photo-Op for Chiefs for Smithers Airport
5. Legal Services Society: Invite to Grand Opening
6. Finance Report
7. Update on Wildlife Regulations Meeting
8. Rupert Jeffery

Opening Prayer: Maureen

Discussion Item:	Approve September 25, 2019 Agenda
Discussion:	•
Approval:	The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the September 25, 2019 Agenda as presented. Approved by consensus: 2019-086 September 25, 2019

Discussion Item:	Welcome and introductions
Discussion:	• Welcomed Patricia Prince from Nee tai Buhn and Maureen Luggi from WFN.

Discussion Item:	Governance Report – Debbie Pierre
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wet'suwet'en have an oral history and for many years our chiefs have sought ways to pass down their information. It was felt to codify the laws, develop the constitutions. It was tried in early 1980/90's and is a complex process. The laws are not static, not the same for everyone. Fear of writing the laws could change who we are and how we governed ourselves. • A lot of work was done by many people and many years. • We looked at other constitutions around the world for traditional forms of government. Gained comfort this constitution will be drafted by our house group members. Whatever is written reflects knowledge of people and based on our laws. • Other nations drafted constitution but we want every house group involved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Canadian constitution, any walk of life does not see themselves in it. Does not reflect individuals in Canada. • This work is guided by WGAC, WHC, knowledge holders and provide oversight, guidance and approvals. At the end of the day once completed, vision of chiefs to be ratified by Wet'suwet'en in our bahlats. • Tool for future generations to keep Wet'suwet'en shape and form. Educational tool for external bodies who we are and how we make decisions. • This work has been underway for 5 years. Close to 70% complete. Sections need to be reviewed with the nation. This can be shared with the leadership here today • Flowing out of a constitution, inherently our responsibility for 22,000 sq. km. territory and connected to that are the people, house group members. Regardless of work the nation does, it connects back to the constitution. It also connects to title discussion around land and wellness of our people. • The constitution is a huge undertaking. • We have had 2 writers Allen Cummings. Molly Wickham as Governance Director Judy Walton and Lindsey Green as supports. Lindsey is being mentored by Judy • Title implementation, talking about decision making on the territory clear to government who the decision makers are. Lots of discussion about what is happening on traditional territory and ensure everyone is aware. Issues and concerns by house groups and how it is brought to the nation as a whole. • Important we have a decision-making process. We hear at all tables, the Wet'suwet'en have the most democratic process but govt does not recognize that. • Dispute resolution is important when you do not have consensus. When decisions are made internally or externally or globally, how does a nation ensure we have enforcement to uphold our Inuk Nu'at'en. • Some work Governance Director focuses on supporting decisions at the Title table and ensure sections are ready for use and implementation. • I encourage at all levels, our laws, our ways of being is already happening today Constitution is for 2019 but chiefs already uphold Inuk Nu'at'en. Just because it is not complete does not mean it is not happening. • We tell govt and industry this message. We go in our bahlats almost on a weekly basis. Decisions are enacted in our bahlats. • Notion governance system is not there until it is written is not correct. • Engaging, not just offering information but hearing back from you and reflecting what your feelings are around that. • CIRNAC funding for governance work has been received. • Ground truthing work that has to be done to date. • Contracted 2 researchers to assist in the constitution work. • Clan engagement, collaboration between programs at OW
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing debate on the spelling format will be used. We have a list searched for from D/G for spelling and efforts of language authority utilizing Sharon Hargus. Integrate that in a way that respects both spellings. We have conflicting decisions around the spelling. • Directive has been we utilize and maintain spelling from D/G. Purposes of education approved to use Sharon Hargus spelling. Seeing cross over in work that is happening. Need clear guidance. • Madeek: Cheslatta has a dictionary Chilcotin and Bella Coola have the same language. • Vi: We do have a copy of the Cheslatta dictionary Some similarities but not specifically written in Hargus. • Debbie: That will be for discussion at the October 1st WGAC meeting so there is consistency • Wila'at: Will it be okay if Language authority attend this meeting? • Na'Moks: As long as it does not turn into a Language authority meeting. • Debbie: We have a mandate at this office to utilize D/G and seeing a cross over for Hargus. I support ways to move forward with using both spellings. We can invite them in for that discussion. • Related Governance work. Prioritize laws for constitution around child and family wellness. This work is important. The amount of work already on people's plate, we are sourcing out other groups with codified laws around child welfare. • Sept. 9th phone conference, we were notified that Canada stepping CIRNAC during term of elections. Canada committed to proceed with work they are behind on. • September 18th – tripartite, Deputy Minister from MCFD and senior officials. Deputies from Canada and our chiefs. To support leaders, we have a technical group who does work around child wellness governance and child welfare services. Unique about this process, the Wet'suwet'en have the ability to reformat existing services you see today Our services do not mirror MCFD services. It is about our Inuk Nu'at'en. Ground breaking in province and Canada. • MCFD and Canada recognize your inherent responsibility to take care of your membership regardless of where they reside. • Technical group. G. Woodman, D. Frazer M. Wickham, J. Walton, D. Pierre • Traditional Communications Strategy· Woos (Frank Alec) will be contracted for this work. • Youth and Matriarch Teas: We see such successes in having our elders and cultural knowledge holders come together with our youth. We see a lot of growth by elders and youth. Foster that relationship. Initiatives in your own communities that support elders/youth collaboration. Witset have an elders/youth advisory committee. If Maureen and Patricia have these, Molly would be happy to be part of those as well by invitation. • Clan Runners: Working more closely with TAC and support effective communications. Met September 17th Require a Think Tank to deliver effective communications across departments/projects.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking your clan how they can support chiefs and work clan runners are responsible for Invitations go out but we only have one or two people showing up. We need a family communal approach. • Wet'suwet'en are in a unique situation right now your voice born into a clan and voices from leadership was silenced. We have an opportunity now for your voices to be heard on how we govern ourselves and engage with government. • Many changes the Wet'suwet'en are leading the way for child welfare, affirmation of title and jurisdiction and authority We have not been in this place in my 18 years now • Clan readiness and nation readiness to support all of this work. We can implement many things but are we ready? Move forward that is meaningful for every clan member • Na'Moks: HR Personnel. A burden for all departments. Everyone is wearing separate hats. We look at 22,000 sq. km. employment is for everyone and how do we do that without a HR person. Our staff cannot take on any more responsibility Should be part of our contractors. • Knedebeas: Governance – 70% complete. When it first started every clan had different opinions. • Child Welfare (CW) is important. Who is negotiator for CW? We should see a report on what is being discussed. We don't see follow up to out of town meetings. We do not know who our negotiator is. • Debbie: For constitution. Sections talked about at clan meetings and went through a series of reviews and updates. Some areas it conflicted and Allen came to another clan and explained what another clan said. I'm not saying they are finalized. WGAC approved sections if all clan's language agreed on language it is good. • Negotiator for child welfare. No negotiator but there is the technical teams as mandated by the leadership. • We can do a report around jurisdiction. Thanks Warner • Wila'at: Confusing for me. When TC have clan reps and we have regular governance clan reps. Are they working together? • Debbie: TAC – have reps and asst reps. Specific to TAC committee doing work with house groups and getting information from house groups and transmitted to NC. • Clan Runners work through governance. Responsible for engaging with house groups around constitution work. Also participate at chiefs meeting to bring information back to house groups. • Wila'at: Confusing for the youth. Do more explaining to them. For myself I could not keep up anymore. I had to ask my grandson what he is doing. He is confused as well difference between clan reps and runners. Just a recommendation. • Maureen: Are you attending upcoming child welfare meetings in October • Vi: For clarification, you said child welfare has no negotiator • Debbie: Technical Team does the negotiating. Oversight by WWWWG. • Madeek: Communication between bands. • Debbie: OW happy to come to communities. Asked to be on Witset agenda on a monthly basis. Also, with Hagwilget. Maureen and I
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	<p>spoke about building a relationship and trust and need for collaboration. We are committed to that and will take some time. Healing needs to happen. How do we overcome those barriers some which are very historical beyond my time? How do we do that in a healthy and respectful way? There will be hard discussions and we can do that without causing any more hurt. As ED I can come out to discuss this with respective council members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellness of a child is the forefront. • An orientation with leadership with respective communities is very important. • Patricia. Since I was elected in 2018 our been has been under arbitration. We went in arbitration August 10th and told it would be complete in 10 days. No word back from arbitrator He is from Haisla. Ex-chief Ray Morris appealed the election. I still have not set foot in the band office; I work in my own basement. Another counsellor was legally sworn it. The other 2 counsellors will not let us in the band office. • For past 12 years we have had community wellness team for child wellness. We have a team and an elder and youth. Any time one of our children go into care, our team steps in to assist the family to prevent them from going into care. Been doing that for 12 years. So far only 2 in the foster system. • My seat is not in question. It is about a counsellor that does not live in our territory is being questioned. • I have received no honoraria to attend certain meetings. I go to meetings with my own money • Debbie: I am pleased and honored you are here with us today We have Tanya Brown who works in Burns Lake. Maybe Wet'suwet'en can link with your CW team you have. • Na'Moks: Carrier Sekani is not an obstacle to us. It is about the child. That is what we are about. • Madeek: Our chief meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of the month. Put them in your calendar • Maureen: I appreciate the invitation to attend these meetings. I need to express our schedules are full and booked up until December I need to plan what I need to let go out. • My priority is to get finances up to date and our housing. Very behind. I have been bringing things up to date and it is a large task for me and council. We will mark it on our calendars. • End of October we are having an AGM. Not part of any reconciliation agreements. OW entered into discussions around that. Carrier Sekani chiefs also been down that path for several years. • I mentioned to Debbie, easy things they can do for this table. Provide full access to Lake Kathlyn. For Carrier Sekani chiefs, easy things they received money towards language, training and education. These monies passed through each community They set up elders committee, published language books and brought them into the schools. This money was committed by govt for 3-5 years. I have not worked there since 2015. Your chiefs should meet elected chiefs of Carrier Sekani and learn about their negotiations.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I find that staying in the community is my priority • I left 12 years ago. FN Health did not exist and are now meeting monthly FNLC. • I accepted this invitation despite issues of LNG we are all facing. I feel I need to be a leader We need to build a relationship. Our ancestors worked together My grandfather Pat Isaac is Unistoten. Aunt Rita and mom taught me history of the name and territories. I encourage our relationship and reconciliation, forgiveness and walk together as Wet'suwet'en people. • Do something for the future generations. I don't want us living under the Indian Act. Our small community has made efforts to bring ourselves out of that oppression. We were born into this. Reference to an elected chief is what we are born into. I can only take responsibility to take care of my community It is a lot of work. • I hear you are spread thin. Same thing as us. • I will discuss this with Karen Ogen October 7th is our next meeting. I want to bring forth a report. • I have been treated kindly and welcomed here. We now have a hall and pit house boardroom. If you wanted to have a meeting, you can host a meeting there. We should make efforts to speak with each other on a regular basis. Not allow issues on social media affect our relationship. Nothing better than being in person and showing our respect. Our youth and children accept that from me as a leader. My grandson is 13 tomorrow. Legacy I leave he does not live under Indian act. Want him educated, travel the world and give back to our wet communities. • We are still paving that way • Elders have gone through a rough time for us to sit at this table. • My mother ensured I was educated and we are carrying that on for our generation. • I have much respect for WHC and know some are not here. Ron Mitchell has been in our community teaching the language for years. Barb Skaling supported our community We have 3 fluent speakers now Bring Trish Wright to our community, we can do cultural camps and women's' camps. • My term is over in 3 years. I believe I was put in this position to make a difference. • I spoke with Ruby and told her I was very welcomed here. I want to build a bridge with everyone around us. • Na'Moks: Going to other communities. In the past it did not work out. Being in their communities is building relationships. We talked about it for years. We made a couple of attempts.
	<p>The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the Governance Report as presented. Approved by consensus: 2019-087 September 25, 2019</p>

Lunch
Prayer:

Discussion Item:	Legal Services Society – Invite to Grand Opening
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting chiefs to: • October 1st, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. Grand Opening of legal Services Society • 1242 Main Street, Smithers, B.C. • Jacquie: I was advocating for Wet’suwet’en families at the OW I am now a Community Aboriginal Worker at Legal Services Society Surrounding areas are in need for advocacy. Happy to advocate for the communities. Collaborate with services in community to help families with wellness. I refer families to designated bands, Drug & Alcohol and mental health counsellors. • Meghan: We are helping parents through the legal system. Jacquie is able to assist them with counselling and housing. We help parents in the legal system. • Na’Moks: Jacquie mentioned difficulties with local MCFD staff Not so much anymore. How will you address this? • Meghan: There have been so many challenges and is why we are in the community Our goal is to change that and make the system better for parents. Jacquie educates social workers and works with them collaboratively • Na’Moks: They have a big turn over there due to burn out. They are dealing with humans and not numbers. It has to begin with their training. We deal with the Province itself You are there for the parents and children. Outreach is the way to move forward. I have no faith in this local office. • Meghan: That is one of the things we will work on relentlessly. • Jacquie: We have approached ANABIP to work together how we can collaborate ideas for Wet’suwet’en and Gitxsan and Lake Babine. • Vi: Good to see this office open for our people in Smithers. With Child Welfare here, have another organization to support the families. Meghan Cassidy Olsen. Daughter of late Frank Cassidy who was consultant for work started for D/G. Good to see Meghan is carrying on work of her father’s. • Debbie: Reminder prior to their office being opened they did a presentation of services they are offering to the Chiefs. It is a much needed service. Support to parents. Meghan and team, we have chiefs Maureen Luggi, WFN and Patricia Prince, NTB.

Discussion Item:	Finance Report – Lucy Glaim
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smogelgem: Fundraising: We are looking to have Woodward & co. represent us. • Lucy: An application has been submitted to Raven Trust. It will be cost shared. At that point it will be determined what comes out of fundraising.

Approval:	<p>The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the Finance report as presented. Approved by consensus: 2019-088 September 25, 2019</p>
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Discussion Item:	<p>Fisheries Report – Walter Joseph Update from FN-BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum</p>
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter: This fits well with our title discussions. Last meeting, I attended an item was raised they wanted to ensure wildlife regulations included the local communities to affect the hunting regulations. The province was looking at just band councils and other legal entities such as Societies. I and other raised there are traditional governance structures that should also be included in this work with FN. • Those type of issues be a good place to ensure what we are doing at title is being covered by any amendments of the wildlife. • TOR (Terms of Reference go through background and usual disclaimers such as it not be consultation. • More consultation going on with the communities, this is just the start of it. • Na'Moks: Without true data they cannot put out reports. Require information from CN and highways on mortality Data we are dealing with is 20 years ago and they interviewed 24 Wet'suwet'en people. Will it be brought up at this type of forum? • Walter: How do they come up with data? Where does Gitanyow include their results and how does it impact each year's regulations? • T'sek'ot: Gitanyow just collected their own data and moved forward with hunting survey and Province bought into that. • Walter: We were considering Gitanyow approach for past few years. Push back came when we wanted to use permits. Something for the chief table to consider • Smogelgem: We had a talk with Peter yesterday One thing moving forward with today is pushing the issue to provincial govt around moose harvesting and protection. Negotiation Committee is pushing to day to get province moving. One thing we begin with 5 rangers to monitor territories. We wanted 10 but Peter did not feel we had admin to do that work. Fisheries have seasonal workers and he went with the number 10. 2 per clan during this hunting season. Heads up if you have not heard. • Walter: Staff looked at budget for all that work. Province meeting on regulations regularly • Madeek: Who are they meeting with? • Walter: People from all over province. I don't know a lot of other nations they meet with but they had similar concerns we have. If

	<p>province consults properly should work well for us. Hunting season is open now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once CO charge people things will change. That is what is happening with Gitanyow • Smogelgem: Hard to put faith in CO. I was pulled over gave me a rough time. White couple with me and blown away how I was treated. Detained me longer than another group of white people. • Walter: Experience rangers have had in the past. Racism involved. To get past that is to start working with them. Maybe title discussion should include, have a better working relationship with CO. • Debbie: A bit of shift in responsibilities Walter is taking on. He is part of Moose sub-committee providing advice to NC. If Wet'suwet'en are doing closures on territory, how do we enforce it? Part of those discussions is not about locations but how director of wildlife will enforce closures. Ensure clans are supported to have monitors on the territory • Logistical work for subcommittee provides implementation of that. • Unistoten had 2 years of having moose closures and monitor who are coming and going. They enforced that themselves. Why we talk about moose closures for clans to identify • Working through beurocracy in govt, who is responsible for moose habitat, health, birthing areas etc. • Many levels of govt we need to talk to when discussing moose closures. Ranger branch offices, Director of Wildlife, questionnaire. LEH is now on. • Na'Moks: Never said how often they meet. No meeting schedules. How are decisions put forward? • Walter: Meetings were cancelled for today Meeting every month for past little while. Gary is the ranger that makes his rounds but do not have enforcement power • Vi: Request for 10 rangers, will they enforcement powers. TOR developed? • Debbie: Conceptual stage. Depends on determination of chiefs. Intent of rangers was to have enforcement powers and falls under DFO and chiefs did not approve our people charge our own people. Protected rights already Discussion needs to happen with nation as a whole. Creation of Wet'suwet'en laws in place of Wildlife Act. • Smogelgem: Beef up constitution on that sections. • T'sek'ot: If rangers get full powers they have to develop policing. • Na'Moks: Ron's training was similar to RCMP • Smogelgem: Get process started of enforcement from the very beginning. Opportunity right now with Peter to push for this. Literally have province by the balls right now. Get what we need and want. Get Peter to start that. • Walter: Fisheries looking at enforcing powers now too. • Madeek: Is there training? • Debbie: Yes, to build capacity for first 10 then capacity dollars to get the training required.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte: Why do people drop out? • Na'Moks: Cannot keep them employed long term. A percentage will drop out. • Vi: UNDRIP is spattered over this document. How serious is this group developing mandate which includes FN in their TOR and UNDRIP? • Walter: Making a lot of promises and remains to be seen. Good chance we can get what we want from this. • Vi: What is term on this? How long to finish? • Walter: First report due mid-October • Knedebeas: Game warden federal or provincial. • Walter: Provincial • Vi: Observing CO regarding bears. Say they do not have enough cages and human resources to deal with bears in Witset. We had a Grizzly bear and 2 cubs in middle of village and they did not come out. Say no resources dealing with a seasonable problem. Even today it is still happening. • Debbie: UNDRIP – Our experiences is that the federal and provincial governments are having difficulty in implementation of TRC and UNDRIP Have mandate from minister, but no tools to implement. Looking for indigenous people on how it can be implemented. Only way to success is to build with us, not for us. • Na'Moks: Lawyers do not know how they will uphold UNDRIP in court. • Knedebeas: UNDRIP Federal govt hired a consultation from states. 19-page document. Jody Wilson supported report even though it will cripple industry • Na'Moks: If you get that report, please forward to the chiefs. • Debbie: Vi, you had inquired on impacts to fish from japan. Glen is part of group. From what I heard limited impacts to salmon. Walter is getting report from scientists. • Walter: Meltdown is still occurring and they use water to keep temperature down. They have millions of tons of water and running out of storage space and may dump in the ocean. • Vi: Are you on this committee? • Walter: I have attended meetings.
<p>Approval:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs approve the BC Wildlife & Habitat Conservation report as presented. Approved by consensus: 2019-089 September 25, 2019</p>

<p>Discussion Item:</p>	<p>Rupert Jeffrey – Madeek</p>
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Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madeek: Rupert Jeffery's working with university and museum. Artifacts belonging to the chiefs are in the museum. Madeek regalia and a number of other chiefs' regalia he could not recognize from here to Switzerland. • Money available for university to check them out. A totem pole was removed in Vancouver and he wants to bring it back to the territory. Wants to come to table to do a presentation. • Wants to do a presentation to chiefs. Information he has is across Canada museums have regalia and artifacts. • Monies available for expedition to check this out. Has many pictures as well. • Has ties with a family in this area. Related to some of us here. • I can get information to Judy to set up a date. • Debbie: OW have engaged numerous times of repatriation of artifacts. Chiefs went to museums across Canada and US. biggest issue bring back artifacts is having proper climate control areas to preserve artifacts. Multiplex could not due to cost. Airport, proposed museum we have been enquiring. I would be happy to hear from Rupert and Nation readiness for groups to accept this precious history back in the territories. Very successful in some nations bringing back totem poles and tools and jewelry • Vi: Late 1900s had Theresa LaPalme do a project for us and brought info but lost it in the fire. Binders in the library For our house track down Round Lake Tommy's regalia. • Maureen: I sent invitation to Debbie and Judy to send to chiefs, NATLEY WEA ceremony October 4th 12:00 noon. Commemoration of bear clan regalia. Thomas Cho from Ft. Frazer (written by Diamond Genesse). 1924 Genesse came to Nahtley Blanket and drum coming back full circle. • Smogelgem: I was part of museums. Sales receipts. If repatriating regalia sold in past 60-70, should be returned to rightful owners. Be kept alive and worn. Don't worry about climate-controlled rooms. • Gisday'wa: When I got my name, Mali said I would get blanket from Gitxsan then changed his mind. He said it needed proper climate control. Approached by a couple of Gitxsan chiefs. Your regalia is sacred and never rots. You have every right to take that back. Elders say it never rots. They should be returned to their rightful owners as Smogelgem said. • Totem poles: Haida got the first one back from Europe. Took Gitdumskaneese pole and sent it to Europe. • Debbie: If I have been told fine.
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Action Items and Recommendations – September 25, 2019

Subject	Action	Resp.
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