

Lake Babine Nation Newsletter

May 2011

Chief Wilf Adam

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful spring and upcoming summer season. It has been a very interesting two years since we got elected. We have made a lot of progress in moving the Nation forward. I always think of the members who we are serving, for if it wasn't for the members we wouldn't have a job. We got our Nation back in good order and must take steps that we stay on the right path. We have paid for most of the past outstanding bills and created a system that when things are done it is done with the full knowledge of the Council. There is be no behind-the -scene or a select few making decisions. It's best to work as a team and work together to make it all work better for the members.

Since our last newsletter I would like to send my condolences to my uncle Layno on his loss of his wife McCrae. I was hard as it was sudden and felt for my uncle on his great loss. Please keep him in your prayers.

Also in my last report I talked about the past emergency funds that we had to write off. I have

been asked if the people who owe money don't have to pay, NO you still have to pay what the band loaned you. What was loaned to you was from other essential programs like Education and Health. The band loaned a lot of money in the past when it should've happened in the first place. So if you owe the band please pay up as you are taking away from the kids and safety of the other members. I also said that the emergency funds was put in the Hall account and that should never have happened that way. I wish they listened to the councilor Gordon Alec at that time objecting to that move. He was right that it should not be moved there as it created a mess and cut potential services to the youth and other services that the Hall could have generated. We have been asked for a lot of donations by teams or individual players for travel and expenses. This is where the bingo funds should help out and we are taking steps to make it happen. I know we get request from other organizations like powwow groups and sports groups for donations. We have to create a



Special points of interest:

- Chief Wilf Report
- Frank Michell Report
- John Bertacco Report
- Louise Lacerte Report
- Grace George & Millie Alec George Report
- Anna Bertacco Report
- Vivian Pylatuik— Financial Controller Introduction

Chief Wilf Adam

better way and must include these organizations when and how to distribute these scarce resources. I know when people help one another and assist in generating the funds it is better as all take ownership opposed to just get a handout.

Since I left the BC Treaty Commission in 2007 and came back to the Nation I have been talking about the potential threat and impact of the Yekooche Treaty. It is now happening as it is greatly impacting the way the Government does business with us and our relationship with other nations. What is happening is, Yekooche will be getting benefits of our land and that should never ever happen. Lately we have made presentations to Governments about this however it seems like we will be forced to take legal action on this. We have sought legal expertise on this and will move forward if it does not change. We cannot let this outrageous event happen and must protect our land by all means necessary. Please keep in touch with this matter and I know that each clan will be talking about this to take the next steps. We all have to be on the same page and walk together on this as it is our future and honor we will be defending. I have to keep our differences aside and work to keep our Nation strong as far too long our nation has been silent. I have always up to the challenge in defending our right and ready to fight with governments on this one as we are in the right. We cannot in good conscience allow the governments to give away our rights and lands rights to another First Nation within our territory, it so wrong and never allow it to happen!

One other issue that we must deal with is the shareholders agreement of Burns Lake Native Development Corporation (BLNDC). Recently we received notice of a redistribution of the shares of BLNDC to be given out equally to all the member bands. I found this

outrageous and very unfair to LBN. The reason the shares were given out proportioned to the size of the band at the time of creation of this organization was to be in recognition and fairness to the First Nation in the area. This means LBN owns 68% of the shares and now the member bands want equal shares, which means we will lose a lot. There has not been a shareholder or trustee meeting about this and I think it's illegal to do this. If the other member First Nations want this then they just buy us out and we will no longer be part of this organization.

I was at an event in Prince George awhile back about the missing women enquiry that was held at the Civic Center. I made a verbal presentation about the highway of tears and our missing women. I invited Wally Opal to come to our community and see our culture and what we have to face, for himself. I thought it would be the end of this as they were just going to concentrate on the lower mainland. At the end of this event Wally Opal's lawyer came up to me and asked to

“This means we will host an event in the week of June 13th to hold the Highway of Tears event at our hall”

make the same speech in Vancouver when the hearings start. I agreed to this and asked Lucy Fortin to accompany me when it happens. I just got a call from the lawyer and he said Wally agreed to come to Burns Lake and take me up on my offer. This means we will host an event in the week of June 13th to hold the Highway of Tears event at our hall.

I have some good news and it is that we have been successful in getting accreditation for our band owned schools recently and congratulations are in order to our Education department for pulling this off. We always say that education is the key to success and the

Chief Wilf Adam

betterment of the future generation and I think we are on the right road. Congratulations to Monty and his group on this very important issue and successes in the future endeavors. On the same thought would like wish great success to our own Louise Lacerte in going for her Doctorate degree in education in June. We will have a Doctor in the house then...lol. Also, I would like to thank Matilda Williams for her 33 years of service as teachers aid in Fort Babine and a job well done.

Our revamped website is up and running and

it looks very good. I would like to thank Cindy Macdonald for taking on this task and making it happen. Job well done Cindy. If you have any questions or suggestions on our site please contact Cindy about it.

Well this is my report for this newsletter and please keep in touch.

Awit'eh

Chief Oputt



Frank Michell—Deputy Chief

How is everyone doing in this new year? Fine I hope. We have been busy with meetings for quite some time.

In February 15 and 16 we were in Prince George for One Mind, One Body Conference. It had to do with Health Issues. We have to look after ourselves. Dr. John Pavlovich session was informative. Our safe sodium (salt) intake is 2500 milligrams a day, check the tomato juice label, on it you would see that it is around 600 milligrams which is around a quarter of our daily intake.

The other speaker I was impressed with was Sheldon Kennedy. He was a professional hockey player who played for a few NHL teams. His career was cut short because of issues he had to deal with. He was abused by his coach when he was in junior hockey. His speech was powerful because he told of what he went through and how he had to deal with it. We hope to have him come here whenever our Health Department puts on a workshop.

February 17 and 18 was involved in an eco-energy conference. It all had to do with alternative energy. Bio-mass energy to heat homes and solar panels on roofs to cut down on electrical costs. One band made a dam across a river close to their community to generate their own electricity.

February 24 and 25 went to funding agreement management committee in Vancouver at the DIA Office. There are new rules coming down from treasury board in Ottawa that bands have to abide by. Program delivery and financial management are big issues that we have to look at. There is a point system that is being used to assess First Nations. If a First Nations is high risk, they can only be offered a yearly agreement. Medium risk – 3 to 5 year agreement. Low Risk will be offered a five year agreement. There is talk of offering some First Nations who have been at low risk for some years a ten year agreement. At present LBN is at low – medium risk. We have a three year agreement. We had to put in financial control, however we still need more policies in place. We have to in order to qualify for funding. All First

Frank Michell—Deputy Chief

Nations have to abide by these new guidelines being imposed on us. By treasury board all government funded programs have to abide by these new guidelines. Talking to Nancy James, our member sitting on the PGNAETA board told me that they are aware of strict reporting being put on PGNAETA funds with the conservatives getting a majority in federal government, it will get tougher. Also mentioned last week by some DIA officials in the past when the liberals were in power, they were working on giving First Nations across Canada.

With our funding arrangement we can spend unspent surplus within that program that it was meant for in the past we can move surplus to other programs that have a deficit but under new guidelines we can't do it anymore. Under new arrangement DIA has to agree how we spend our surplus. There will also be changes in how capital will be managed.

On March 4, Chief and council met with new Regional Director of INAC, BC Region Erick Magnusson and Terry Ashenbrunner, financial services officer assigned to us. At that meeting we were told that national capital was back in place for LBN worth around \$800,000.

On March 7, I had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Stephen Cornell. What a motivational speaker. He talked about some tribes in the US who changed things around for their members. One Nation had \$550 in the bank in 1971 and office was a trailer. In 2007, they have a modern office and \$500 million in their bank account. These nations who are succeeding have a strong financial management plan.

On March 15, attended meeting regarding our local hospital. Mike McMillan, CEO of Northern Health stated that the new hospital doesn't need an operation room. Dr. Hill stated later that the new hospital does need an operating room.

April 11, attended BLNDC board meeting. BLNDC never got dividend pay from Babine Forest Products for 4 ½ years. BLNDC had a Vancouver account some years back of over 9 million dollars. But since no dividend payment and KDI's costs overrun last year's, BLNDC Vancouver account had only \$400,000. One positive is that Native Logging is making money.

This past year we didn't have to borrow any funds from BLNDC to keep band office going. WE didn't have to go to bank for overdraft either. We get funding on monthly basis instead of quarterly.

When we came into debt, the ratio was 8.57 and now we are at 4.26. In the beginning, LBN was close to third party management.

We have small projects happening in Forestry. Rich Voissen from Babine Forest Products told us in the 18 years that he was with BFP the last 18 months he has seen more being done between LBN and BFP.

Future looks good, however we still have alot of work to do. INAC is coming down with readiness assessment. W still need more policies like what we are going to do with surplus, Human Resources Policy Etc.

This concludes my report. It is close to summer, be careful there will be more traffic on the road. No matter how good driver you are, be wary of the other driver. Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Musi Cho'



John Bertacco—Woyenne Councillor

Recreation

First of all I would like to congratulate the KEWE group and Ellen Huse for successfully getting the funding. The funding of \$25,510 which these girls worked very hard to help complete the ball field. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, for example we need a contractor. The rest of the plans are completing the concession, announcer booth and last but not least is the public washrooms. We will take one step



at a time. We would like to eventually work on the field and landscaping of the surrounding areas.

I am so happy for Mary Lynn Crouse to be the champion for the drive of the funding, job well done. LBN is proud of you!!! We need a champion in each of the communities, that's where it starts. Remember these are very important tools for success, well being and education of our children's growth.

Wow, what about them CANUCKS!! I gotta admit that they did stress me out, those close and overtime games had me on the edge. It makes you even prouder to be the people of BC and a Canuck fan. I would like to congratulate my nephew Tristan Bertacco and wife

Virginia on the new addition to their family, a baby girl, 7lbs 11oz, born the day after Canuck beat Blackhawks. Would you believe this, that 20 hours later Alex Burrows and wife had a baby girl too! All the best for the baby girls. So Canucks bring home the Stanley Cup!!!

Housing

Let's not fool each other on this subject. We know that housing will be an issue for LBN for awhile. This is our community and it's up to us where we want to go with this. It's very important to have housekeeping in and outside of your homes. This is so important to healthier lives and healthier families.

"It's important to have housekeeping in and outside of your homes"

We are working very hard in order to follow up the needs of LBN on all housing issues. The funding just doesn't come to us, first we have to complete the renovations, then have inspected with a complete report. This is the process we have to follow in order to seek the funding. There are funds out there in other areas that we could seek, which we are working on, also need more qualifications and structure our housing staff, that includes me as

well. Hats off Bernard, God Bless You for not giving up and all the hard work that you have done. I know this is not an easy position to be in. This is where again that I will say patients and working together is so important.

INAC is getting tougher with their policies now that we have to work on a 5 year plan on housing and work through stages in order to obtain the funds. I think all of the housing staff including, committee manager, housing staff and the leaders have to be involved with the five year plan.

I would like to congratulate Doug Waters and the crew for the speedy time frame that they finished five houses. This is what we are looking for and this has not been accomplished since me and the public works crew that was held between 1999 – 2003, which to this day, I'm still very proud of. It was so sad that we were let go for no good reason. So let's put this back together those that are working there and be proud of your success. Once again,

thank you to Doug and the crew to having those five



John Bertacco—Woyenne Councillor

houses done within two months time frame. The owners must be very proud of their houses and for finally moving back into their homes after a long delay.

So with this I would like to say that all reports needed to be followed up in order to seek the funding and with that I would like to say that patience and working together as LBN in order to build new houses for the sake of our future and our children.



Church

We just sat down on how to go about on completing the church renovations this year. First of all, we are still looking at avenues of funding and fund raising in order to successfully have the completion of the St James Church this year. Oh what a day that will be!!! So let's all get together as Lake Babine Nation and make it happen. I leave it at that and not to worry, it will be accomplished and may God be with us. We apologize about the raffle that was to be drawn in December, sorry about the delay. It will be drawn on May 19th, 2011 so buy your tickets if you

haven't yet. You can contact John Bertacco, Lena Wingo or Sister Elaine on buying your tickets. The prizes still remain the same

1st prize \$1500.00

2nd prize \$1000.00

3rd prize \$500.00

Good luck to all!!!

I would like to thank all who has helped out with their kind donations and with any help that they have done to the church renovations. Everybody, thank you all from the bottom of their heart.

I would like to leave finance report to Frank Michell, he has a better overview as I am still learning more about the process that he is guiding me to better understanding of finance and how important each of the departments has a role on their budgets and reporting that is very important.

We have come a long way as leaders and I am very happy with the team we have to make the changes that were very important to make. We as a team have worked very hard in order to keep us out of third party, let's not forget to this success that Justa Monk played a big part of, I am so proud of all of you!!! I would like to express to the Lake Babine Nation members, let's not let this happen again. There's two ways of looking at this, there's right way and there's a wrong

way. The wrong way is when things happen, like how it affects us as LBN in all areas, such as social, education and housing. We are in this important position because the members put us there to lead them. The right way is no favouritism and treating everyone equal and respecting their rights. People know what I mean when I say things happen! Let's start being proud of who we are!

When things happen people turn to addictions, suicides because of the stress level that is put upon them for no good reason. Let's be proud, love and help one another, lets pave the way for our future and our kids.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the hard working staff and managers. We know that some of you are overwhelmed of work, this is where it is very important to put and hire the people that are qualified to help you in your area's that are critical. We are seeking funding for capacity building and that means adding an addition to our band office. As we all know that we need more offices. Don't take this statement the wrong way; nobody is going to get fired. It's just funding and policies are tighten up and it means more work that needs to be addressed so the education level is higher to the under-

John Bertacco—Woyenne Councillor

standing the field work. Remember too that we are rapidly growing in population and this where health care that is a big concern, as we all know the shortage on doctors. This has been brought to our attention and the future development of a new hospital. This is still in discussion with us and the village. At this time I would like to welcome the new staff in the health department, Judy Sheldrick, Maha Elias, Gary Wiebe, Jeanette Williams, Barb Erickson Tom, Arnold Jackson and Louis Johnson to Woyenne - Lake Babine Nation.

Employment
There's a lot of opportunities for us as Lake Babine Nation, but it is us as individual's to take the advantage of it when it's there. There is a lot of work for the field of the fisheries, forestry and housing construction. We need a true champion or two in each of these positions. If this level could be accomplished, it would mean that there will be work for you all the time and to have a comfortable life to live in your own back yard, isn't that something, then working in camps and away from home. So let's get ready because

summer is here and get to the college and get your tickets updated or that are needed for you to obtain employment.

With that I would like to wish everyone a safe summer and play it safe.

God Bless You All!



Louise Lacerte—Woyenne Councillor

Good day members!

I would like to briefly report on Education. First of all, I would like to proudly announce that we have three credited schools within our Nation: Morris Williams Pre-school, Kay'skak and the Fort Babine School. Congratulations to all staff of those schools! I sincerely appreciate the hard work of all the education staff. They make us look so good!

I recently attended the language conference in Kamloops and got another breathe of hope in retaining our language. We are losing our language at a rapid pace and that really concerns me. Our dearest Elders are getting tired and need the well deserved rest so it is up to us to start this work. If we can just start a time for talking, singing, dancing without needing money; we could start those important teachings to the children and youth in an informal environment. Call me if you are interested in doing this.

In the political field of Education, like all other programs we are facing cut backs. The Government is imposing tactics such as "own self revenue" and that means that we must come up with our future downfalls on our own by using any resource revenue. I have a problem with this because at this stage we do not benefit from any of our resources.

I have heard the concerns of many members and I try my best to resolve them. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any problems and I will try my best to help you.



Grace George and Millie Alec George—Tachet Councillors

Lake District Hospital

The Lakes District Hospital Planning continues. The Liaison committee consists of representatives from the Stuart Nechako Regional Hospital District, Local First Nations and Northern Health which both Millie Alec George and Grace Duncan sit on this committee to represent Lake Babine Nation. The committee's goal is to get approval for the Fifty Million dollar project for a new hospital and also to assist with recruitment and retention of more hospital staff. The current plans for the hospital would provide new improved and expanded patient care services for the region, including inpatient beds with single and double occupancy; complex procedure space which will allow for testing and screening for cancer; a modern emergency room and remote cardiac monitoring systems. The new hospital will also include accommodation for teaching and training and have space for primary care.

Tachet Project

The Tachet community project will include a camp ground gate and booth at Mill Bay, youth camp, a community smokehouse, and spirit square. The total cost of the project is \$99,585.00 to cover costs such as labour, materials, vehicle and equipment rental. The youth camp and community smokehouse and spirit square are long term positive focus on cultural heritage and tourism development in conjunction with the Babine Lake Community Forest. The project will employ a manager and a crew of two or three from May 16, 2011 to September 30, 2011

The proposed project will reflect culture, traditions and language. The Tachet members would like to initiate a project that will only offer tourism that is rich in culture and history and a project that enhances the standard of living and encourages communities to implement economic development. The goal is to attract European tourism in the summer months. During the summer months the height of attraction will be geared towards salmon harvest. The tourists will have the opportunity to witness our members passing these skills on to the youth through song and dance and skills training to prepare Salmon in many different traditional ways. We could also expand our tourism idea to include boat rides to historic Old Fort, a remote and unique community.

Elders have asked for a Community Smoke House to be built in Tachet. Elders have also expressed their desire to preserve our culture, traditions and language. Therefore the preschool will add Carrier Curriculum to classroom. This will enable the children to grasp learning the Lake Babine Nation culture, language and traditions at an early age.

At Mill Bay, we are planning to make the campsite. A camp ground gate and sign will be established to manage and regulate camping on our reserve land. It has been stated at our community meeting that

tourist have been parking on our reserve site.

At the last community meeting we were asked to write a letter to forestry to put a stop sign at the north road because of high traffic and speeding i.e.: Logging trucks. These letters have been sent out.

Housing

Justa Monk, Executive Director is trying to deal with housing renovations that have been happening in Tachet. Justa and Bernard will deal with these concerns. Any concerns should be put in writing and sent or faxed to Justa Monk and Bernard Patrick or Vanessa Bull-Patrick and they will address it



Grace George and Millie Alec George—Tachet Councillors

Health

Lake Babine Nation Health has brought a lot of services to our community of Tachet. Some of the of the services include Addictions Recovery, Individual and Family Counseling Family Violence, Greif and Loss Recovery, Stress Management and Anger Management. For any of the services stated you may contact Marylynn Crouse, Clinical Intake Receptionist at (250)692-4757.

Also the Tachet Womens Group has been going strong and they have started fundraising. Thank you so much to the Health Department from the community of Tachet, Keep up the great work.

Fisheries

According to Donna Macintyre, Fisheries Director she will be hiring three screen crews, three surveyors, one food fish monitor, and two others to help out. Donna states that she will be hiring people for the fisheries. We would like to see the community of Tachet do food gathering for the winter. We wish you the best of luck.

PGNAETA

Nancy James, Verna Power, Millie Alec-George, and Grace Duncan have been working on the PGNAETA program initiatives for Mining Training Programs. This Initiative will lead to training and employment in the mining sector.

Anna Bertacco—Aboriginal Court Worker

To all community members and Lake Babine Nation Members, I have been busy for the past few months. I was hoping to have an outline given to me by the RCMP on Internet Safety in February Newsletter but this didn't happen. As of today, an Internet Safety date has been set for June 6 for Tachet. The main service providers would be the RCMP. The session would take approximately 1 - 1 ½ hours. There will be refreshments available. The session is for teens and adults. I would also like to add program topics such as assertiveness, communication, self-esteem, relationships, nutrition and personal safety. These are some general ideas. The sessions will begin with a PowerPoint presentation, a discussion and any follow ups from previous session. Sessions will be held on Monday's once a month and after school.

The earlier ideas I had from previous newsletter are put on hold until things come to a more stable condition concerning the social structure of the communities. It seems to me that there was no help offered to the remote communities, which caused a breakdown leaving a few families to fend for themselves. Support programs or sessions are being organized now too. These will be posted.





Introduction of LBN's Finance Controller



Vivian L. Pylatuik,
Public Admin., C.A

Vivian holds a diploma in Public Sector Management, majoring in economics and minor-ing in statistics. University training was taken at the University of Victoria, UBC and McGill University in Montreal. She is a member of the Chartered Accountants of British Columbia and Canada.

Vivian has been an active partner which provided workshops on effective governance primarily in the Public Sector for Councils, Boards of Directors and staff.

Experience consists of the following:

- Over 35 years of public and private accounting and training experience.
- Specialized in the non-profit organization sector, auditing, accounting and consulting
- Auditing in the public and private sector, which includes presentations, and training for Boards of Directors and staff.
- President of the Board of Directors of the Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Housing Society.
- Financial advisory officer with Indian and Northern Affairs in Fort St. John and Prince George. She worked closely with individual First Nation Organizations extensively in finance and governance.

- Public practice accounting, income tax, and financial statement presentation therefore maintained management skills in a variety of industries.
- Clerk Treasurer (CEO) for the village of Taylor, BC, responsible for all by-law preparation and fiscal reporting.
- Alderman and Mayor for the Village of Taylor, thereby experiencing the administration and management of a local government dealing with a multitude of issues and problems that occur in an organization governed by a Board of Directors or Council.
- Head of accounting for a construction company, which provided experience in the management of a mid-size private corporation.

For her leisure time activities she enjoys photography, painting, sports, furniture re-finishing, house renovations, camping and spending time with her family. She is married with two daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.

Vivian was raised on a farm in northern Saskatchewan in a family of 10 children and moved to British Columbia at age 18.

Vivian started working with the Lake Babine Nation in the beginning of March 2011 and is working on getting the Nation ready for the fiscal year-end audit 2010-2011. We are happy to have Vivian and Good Luck with this position.

