

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Annual General Assembly Report 2018

Lake Babine Nation

Bessie West, Portfolio Holder

Pauline Goertzen, Economic Development Director

MESSAGE FROM BESSIE WEST, Portfolio Holder

The Economic Development Department continues to move forward this year with cash investments and changes that will work to bring the economic strength and recognition to Lake Babine Nation that we all know is possible! I have spent the last term on these projects, and now again as the re-elected councillor for Fort Babine and re-appointed Portfolio Holder for Economic Development. Taking part in negotiations with the Provincial and Federal Governments have assisted with funds for research and development as well as purchases of lands this year for business and equity. Further to this, I am actively participating in forestry for the entire Nation as well as for opportunities that specifically impact Fort Babine and Tzah Tez Tlee Development Corporation, as we also purchase a new sawmill and access new markets. Creating jobs and new revenues in the communities is what we focus on daily!

Highlights of this year's report include investment this year is committed to \$3.9 million into the new gas bars and \$2.4 million (projected) into the tourism renovation work; for 2019 into the newly purchased Ookpik Lodge and Fort Babine Lodge. Restructuring the corporate side of Lake Babine Nation has also been made a priority by the previous and current Chief and Council and we will continue to work on getting this done quickly to ensure the new businesses are designed to profit and perform for membership to see.

We look forward to continued work in each community and with the Nation at large to strategize and invest in the ideas and future of Lake Babine Nation. A BIG thank you to all the community members who have participated in the MANY engagement sessions this year for economic development, land use and multi-plex planning work. We appreciate your involvement and direction so much!

Messi, *Bessie West*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – *Changes for this term*

The Economic Development Department would like to thank the former committee members for their time in the past year. As the work progresses, Chief and Council will be working more closely with the department to move projects in a timely way at monthly meetings.

Thank you to the following committee members for your time, insights and commitment to the work advising on economic development this past 3 years!

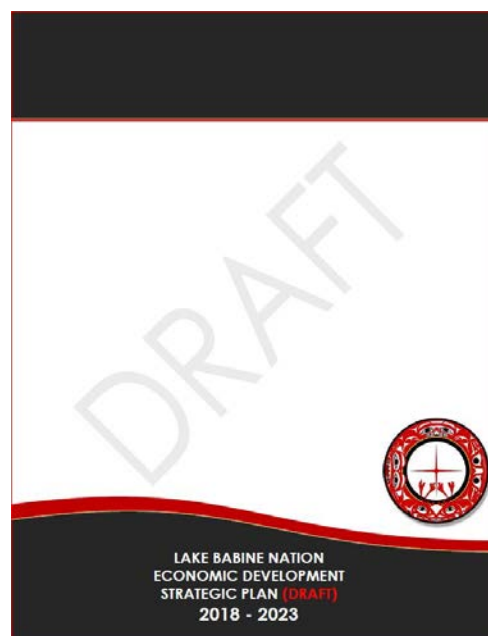
- **Ronnie Alec – Pinkut Lake / Donald's Landing**
- **Fred William - Fort Babine**
- **Carmen Charlie – Old Fort**
- **Ron West – Woyenne**
- **Paul Joseph – Tachet**



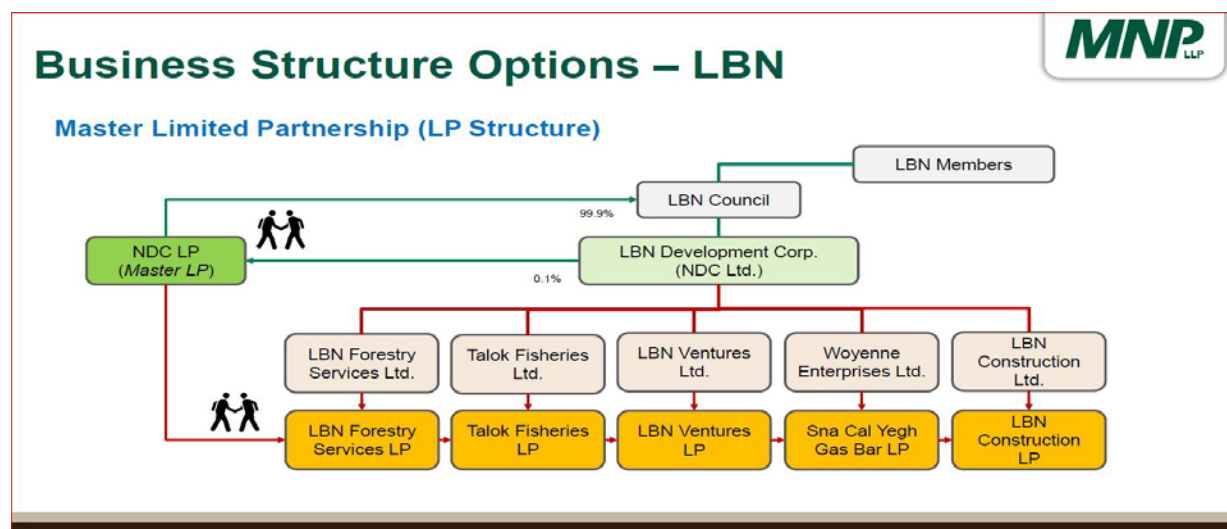
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATE STRUCTURE & PLANNING

Corporate re-structuring is now underway of how business is done at Lake Babine Nation. Chief and Council met in March to discuss and decide on a model that would suite the communities as well as existing and new businesses to come. This work in the coming year will separate business and investment from the regular administration. Currently, the Nadutèen Development Corporation is being used for the new gas bar entities as well as the tourism work ahead.

Strategic Planning has also been done with the communities of Fort Babine, Tachet, Old Fort and Woyenne (Pinkut Lake and Donald's Landing have not yet confirmed their engagement date). A draft plan is under review and will help with the direction and focus for the next 5 years in each community!



New proposed business structures example below (not finalized and for concept review only):



LBN BUSINESSES - (Ec-Dev Supervised)

Gas Bars – the communities of Fort Babine and Tachet will have new gas bars this year! They are currently under construction now. Woyenne's Sna Cal Yegh will have a restaurant addition. (Thanks to the input from the Lake Babine Economic Development Society Directors; Melvin Joseph, Ron West, Priscilla Crouse and Ronnie Alec.)

As you can see from the machine work in all 3 communities, land work has commenced with spring projected as an opening date for all three. Look for opportunities in jobs and training to come for these operations. Thank you to all the community council and membership for their

consultation and firm direction for all these projects. Also to Vision Quest Advisors for their project management to date. More details will be provided at the AGA. so please do not hesitate to ask for more information or how you can take part.

Sne C'al Yegh Addition – Restaurant and Inventory Room



*Fort Babine Site Clearing –
Ivan West Operator!*



Tachet's New Trapper's Gas Site Clearing and Prep

Bingo - Operating smoothly this year with some scheduling changes due to summer and renovations.

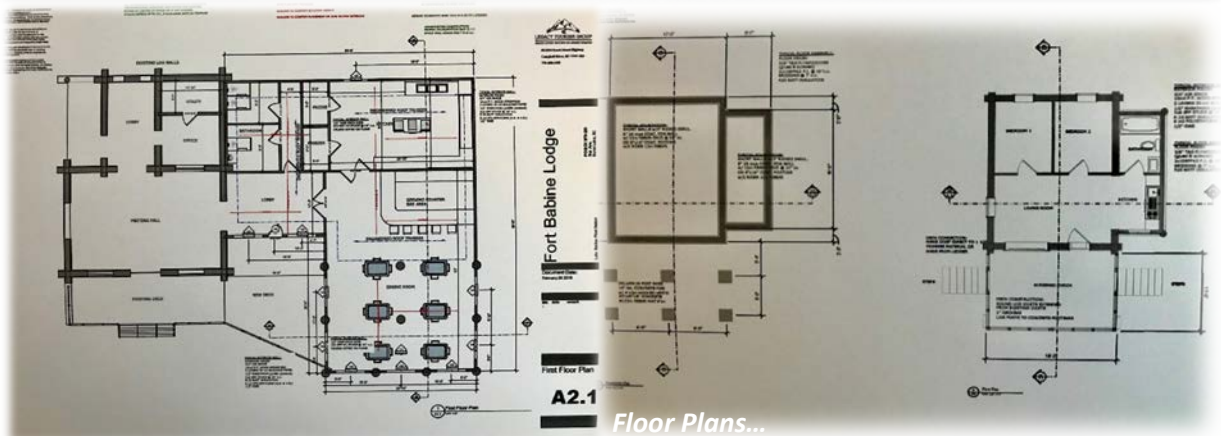
Margaret Patrick Memorial Hall – Under renovation this year with completed washrooms and now kitchen to come this year. Also the policy for use has changed to welcome private group gatherings and weddings, dances etc. Please ask Cherill Vienneau, Hall Manager for the details on all of this.

Tachet Campground – Has been included into the gas bar project for Tachet. We will be plumbing the shower house and office across the street from the gas bar and re-engineering the work for 2019 to assist with costs and doing the development work better than anticipated.

Fort Babine Lodge – The lease is still not fully transferred to Lake Babine Nation, however there is a *License of Occupation* for the facility. As the needed 2.1 million dollars in capital and equity funds are not available at this time, the department will be looking for investment and financing this fall to move the renovation plan ahead for this spring of 2019. We will look at housing the gas bar contractors in 3 cabins throughout the winter to keep the project costs for travel and accommodations lower providing more funds for the project itself.



Fort Babine Lodge Renovation Concept Drawing with Restaurant and Meeting Space Addition



Floor Plans...



Ookpik Lodge— Purchased in June this year, this business will be designed, as a non-profit entity for Lake Babine health, wellness and cultural programs for Nation members, and other First Nations entities to rent for camp and outdoor experiences.

Currently, the lodge is under review for operations and renovations to accommodate up to 30 participants and staff. We hope to secure funds by spring of 2019 to commence construction work and look forward to running some pilot camps in August of next year. The goal is to have the lodge run year round.



Dorothy Patrick resting on the deck of the main lodge



Carmen Charlie and Rhonda George Catering on site for planning session!



Cabin 3



Lodge Lagoon & Marina



Cabin 3 - Inside

Land Acquisitions

Lake Babine Nation has been provided grant funds to purchase lands for equity and asset development purposes. A commercial building in Burns Lake to house the Economic Development Department has been purchased (across from the Royal Bank) for administration purposes, Ookpik Lodge has been purchased to renovate and operate for wellness and cultural purposes for Lake Babine Nation membership, and also purchase the Hudson Bay property in Fort Babine (pending legal work).



Sheena J.

ADMIN & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Pauline continues to work with Alex Joseph in Tachet, Rick Braam in Fort Babine, and Dorothy Patrick in Old Fort, to establish, organize and operate the new administration facilities and projects specific to their communities needs and wishes.

All of the communities are looking for ways to generate more revenues for operations and for jobs for members for projects and related businesses, like Tzah Tez Tlee in Fort Babine.



Fort Babine Community Meeting - Project Updates

The communities of Woyenne and Pinkut Lake and Donald's Landing currently do not have community project coordinators, however Priscilla Crouse did work for 2 months over the summer to assist with administration on basic operations of summer work.)



Repairs of Historic Shed - Old Fort



Old Fort Land Upkeep



Moon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail, Tachet

Projects Include:

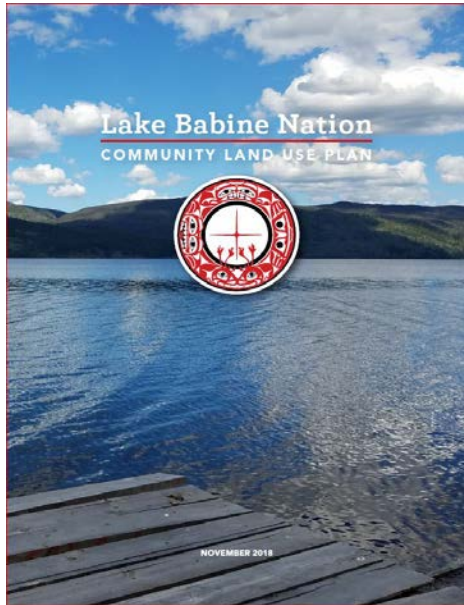
- **Old Fort** – Old Fort Days, new outhouses, lawn mowing, cemetery clean up and general upkeep and community care. A mini barge was purchased to transport large items.
- **Pinkut Lake & Donald's Landing** – shower house, lawn mowing and shed building, solar project, picnic tables, brushing, dock work.

- **Fort Babine** – wildfire response, community clean up and safety, baseball field, new docks completed and looking for installation area, administration building operations. Purchase of sawmill that will employ members of the community full-time. Members have also been engaged in fire prevention; Five members were recently engaged as a unit crew and have spent numerous days battling the fire. The community is also interested in providing staff quarters for more capacity building with trainers and construction workers in the years to come, this is in feasibility stage now. Also, Fort Babine has a training pilot in partnership with Witset for an excavator operator and have been working hard at getting members drivers licenses and succeeding!
- **Tachet** – Community clean up and safety, completion of Moon Ridge mountain bike trail with its newly trained trail building team! The youth working in the community towards a better tomorrow with 4 summer students this past summer performing brushing and work. Alex and his team also support all ec-dev projects and other programs where possible.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL DRIVEN PROGRAMS

Tourism Business and Employment Readiness Project – funded through BC Rural Dividend

This funding was obtained to assist with operational planning and training readiness assessments for the tourism industry. A Cultural Interpretation workshop was completed in April of 2018 in Burns Lake, as well as assessment work at both Fort Babine Lodge and Oopik Lodge for further funding development.



Land Use Planning – Funded through Indigenous Services Canada

This project has been worked on with all the communities regarding the current and desired uses of on reserve land for future development and uses. ECOPLAN from Vancouver, has done consultation with all 5 communities to prepare a draft from what they heard and researched. Mapping and historical land use plans have been analyzed and incorporated into the draft plan, to still be reviewed by the new Chief and Council. Take time at the AGA to check out the draft plan for your feedback and ideas.

Multi-Plex Concept Review and Feasibility Project – Funded by Foundation Pathway

Urban Arts Architecture completed the engagement work in Tachet, Fort Babine and Woyenne on 3 designs and feasibility work for new multi-plexes. These plans have now passed to the Foundation Table for Chief and Council to discuss and negotiate for the future construction and operations.

Communication Strategy Project – Funded through ISC, Professional and Institutional Development Projects Program

Castlemain Communications Group at the end of this communications contract with Lake Babine Nation for a new website, social media platform and policy for use. Lake Babine Nation will be looking to train a Communications Officer in the future to assist with providing the membership and staff with the best and most up to date information on all things Lake Babine Nation. Stay tuned for more information and postings in the near future.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The employment and training department is managed by the Economic Development Department and continues to assist the community with their training needs and vision.

John Patrick has been hired as Workforce Development Coordinator to work in the communities and alongside the economic development projects to train membership into the new positions. Tachet and Fort Babine have been preparing their community facilities to see the employment and training staff in the communities regularly for resume writing, job search, training applications and also on-site training. You will see the computer labs are now located in all the communities for access to job search, resume development and for enhancing skills.



***Kiera West, TWS Trainee
with Sheena Joseph for
Mentorship at BL office***



Linda has also been busy assisting many clients this year with their training desires and also has been preparing for the Lake Babine Nation Job Fair this November 19 at MPMC.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

LBN Ec-dev has offered 2 small business training programs this year in Woyenne and in Tachet with Tenley Dahlie, Small Business Advisor. We have also provided help with those pursuing further who are looking into finding financing and funding, where possible.

LBN will be providing small business support also in partnership with Aboriginal Business Service Centre in Prince George with a visit from their financial literacy and small business coach to the new office once a month!

GENERAL OPERATIONS

The Economic Development department attends all communities meetings we are aware of hosted by council. Also, works to supervise the managers and staff members in the department with regular administration and performance reviews and also site visits out to all communities. Budgets and financial statements are reviewed on a quarterly basis and operational planning occurs on an annual

A BIG THANK YOU to Sheena Tom who assists all who work in Economic Development keeping our administration streamlined and efficient. She was a wonderful addition to the team this year!

OPEN HOUSE

For the new **Economic Development Building**

October 24th located at

339 Highway 16!

Come visit anytime and check out the Small Business Services, computer lab, or just look at the project room for details on what is happening all around Lake Babine Nation!

Check us out on

Facebook @ LBN Economic Development

Phone: 250.692.4774

