

# Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement

2022 Activity Report



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LAKE BABINE NATION

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*Lake Babine Nation witnesses the passing of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People Act into law.*

*Left to right: Betty Patrick, Foundation Implementation Director, Councillor Verna Power, Premier John Horgan and Chief Councillor Murphy Abraham.*

## Chief Murphy Abraham

Dear Lake Babine members,

This report summarizes Lake Babine Nation's activities over the past year under the Lake Babine Foundation Agreement. The Agreement provides a positive vision for LBN's future and a high-level road map for achieving that vision in collaboration with BC and Canada. It is our path to reclaim our inherent right of self-government, implement our title and other rights, build our economy and generate wealth so that we can care for our people at home and away from home, revitalize our language, make our Communities safe and healthy, care for our yintah, protect our traditional resources and improve our food security.

LBN, BC and Canada signed the Foundation Agreement in September 2020 but the work began many years ago (see timeline pages 5-13) We are starting year 3 under this Agreement, and many components are moving forward:

### Growth of Advisory Teams

We have LBN Advisory Teams in the areas of Children and Families, Governance, Justice, Fisheries, and Wildlife. They include representatives from our five Communities, Urban centres, Hereditary Chiefs, elders, and youths.

These Teams are sharing their ideas about how our Nation should move forward in each topic area in the short term and over the longer term, as we strengthen the exercise of or inherent rights. ("Inherent rights" are the rights that our people have always held, since before European settlers arrived, because of who were as a people and how we lived on our yintah.)

### LBN Governance Report is ready for community review

A draft of LBN's first Governance Report is available to all members to read and discuss. The Governance Research Team is looking for as much feedback from the Lake Babine people as possible about what it says. Your thoughts will help inform revisions and shape the final version of the Governance Report, which should be ready by March 31, 2023.

### Lake Babine Nation is taking back control of Child and Family Services

LBN is preparing to expand its programs and services to support LBN children and families living in LBN Communities and everywhere else in Canada. The Child and Family Advisory Team has also started developing the plans to take back our jurisdiction to care for Lake Babine children and families in a way that is true to our values, practices, and laws.

THE FOUNDATION AGREEMENT IS OUR FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD OUR NATION FROM THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF COLONIALISM AND HEAL AS A PEOPLE. EVERY LAKE BABINE PERSON, FROM OUR CHILDREN TO OUR ELDERS, CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SHAPING THIS FUTURE.



**Governance Advisory Team Members 2022.**

**Top Row:** Deputy Chief Derek Macdonald, Fred William, Victor Tom, Bradley Golar, Ronnie West, Fabian Michell, Melvin Joseph, Darcy Dennis  
**Bottom row:** Vanessa Bull-Patrick, Barbara Adam-Williams, Evelyn George, Barbara Lowley, Beverly Michell, Beatrice Michell, Mackenzie Adam

### Planning for community growth

Feasibility studies for building year-round communities at Old Fort and Donald's Landing are underway, as are plans for the Gathering/Cultural Centres in Fort Babine and Tachet. Technical work to achieve the 20,000 hectares of Initial Land Transfers – including a Land Transfer Agreement and land surveys to map out their boundaries – has advanced. LBN should be receiving the first parcel (known as “Parcel A”) by December.

### More say in our territory, protecting the Yintah

LBN entered into an Environmental Assessment Collaboration Agreement with BC last November. It positions us to be involved, from day one, on major resource development projects that are proposed in or near our Territory and that get reviewed under BC's Environmental Assessment Act. It will support LBN's ability to make informed decisions for or against projects. It also positions us to communicate our information and views to BC throughout the review and inform their decision-making.

## LBN IS CONDUCTING A TRADITIONAL FOODS STUDY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH TRADITIONAL FOOD OUR FAMILIES NEED AND WHAT IS MAKING IT HARDER TO HARVEST WHAT WE NEED.

### Traditional Food security

LBN is conducting a Traditional Foods Study to better understand how much traditional food our families need and what is making it harder to harvest what we need. Contamination testing is also part of this Study, and Lake Babine hunters are invited to contribute moose, bear and smaller wildlife samples harvested in our

Territory for payment (contact the FA Liaison Officers to find out how).

### Forestry and Economic Development

LBN Forestry is a growing, profitable forestry business that is creating meaningful jobs for Lake Babine members.

LBN is developing Best Management Practices for forestry to set high standards for environmental and cultural protection on our yintah. All members will have the chance to see the draft when it is ready next year and provide feedback on it.

### Governance

LBN has started work on developing a new governance model for the Nation and Communities under Governance Milestone 1 of the Foundation Agreement. The Governance Model will replace our current system under the Indian Act. It will re-establish our inherent rights of self-government and self-determination. It will position us to take care of our people and our yintah, and

help all our Communities, families, and people thrive, including our Urban members.

A draft of the first Lake Babine Governance Report is available for everyone in the Nation to review. Mesiy Cho to the Governance Research Team, the LBN Governance Advisory Team, and all who contributed ideas about how we should govern ourselves going forward.

Please take the time to learn about the draft Report and share your views to inform the final version of the Report. You can do this in upcoming community meetings. The schedule will be posted on the LBN website, on Social Media pages, and posters will be distributed door-to-door and displayed in the offices.

The final draft of the Governance Report should be ready by March 31, 2023. It will serve to focus further conversations and research about how we want our governance to work. Once the views of Lake Babine people become clear enough, a Governance Model will be developed based on all that input. The proposed Governance Model will then be put to the Lake Babine people, who will decide whether we should adopt it.

### **Challenge: Canada has not committed to the Foundation Agreement**

Along with the successes, there have been challenges. BC committed significant immediate benefits to LBN for the first 5 years of work under the Foundation Agreement (Initial Land Transfers plus economic development funds, more forestry revenue sharing, and implementation funding). Canada needed more time to commit resources, so under section 2.3 of the Foundation Agreement, it promised to pursue funding to provide LBN with immediate benefits “as soon as possible” after the Foundation Agreement signing. More than two years later, LBN is still waiting for Canada’s initial contribution. The Foundation Agreement team continues to advocate for Canada to provide the outstanding immediate benefits.

### **Our many losses**

We have also faced challenges here at home. The Covid-19 pandemic demanded a lot of our leadership and staff’s time and energy, and it prevented us from meeting in person to advance work. We have lost dozens of members since the pandemic started. This has taken a heavy toll on our spirit, and has also led to many cancelled meetings. LBN remains short staffed and needs a larger team to deliver more programs and services to members and do the long-term planning for our future. As a result of all these challenges, progress in many topic areas of the Foundation Agreement is slow, and some parts of the Agreement are not yet activated.

The Foundation Agreement is our first real opportunity to rebuild our Nation from the devastating impacts of colonialism and heal as a people. Every Lake Babine person, from our children to our elders, can contribute to shaping this future.

Mesiy to the many Lake Babine people and staff who are already sharing their thoughts and participating in the work under this Agreement.

Chief Murphy Abraham

## **We need your input**

To learn more about the Foundation Agreement or find out how to get involved, please contact any of these FA Team members:

- Betty Patrick (FA Implementation Director): [betty.patrick@lakebabine.com](mailto:betty.patrick@lakebabine.com)
- Roxane Alec (FA Implementation Project Assistant): [roxane.alec@lakebabine.com](mailto:roxane.alec@lakebabine.com)
- Blake Julian (FA Program Liaison Officer): [blake.julian@lakebabine.com](mailto:blake.julian@lakebabine.com)
- Whitney Laffin (FA Program Liaison Officer): [whitney.laffin@lakebabine.com](mailto:whitney.laffin@lakebabine.com)
- Rita West (FA Program Liaison Officer): [rita.west@lakebabine.com](mailto:rita.west@lakebabine.com)

To book a one-on-one interviews with a member of the **Governance Research Team**:

- Darcy Dennis: [darcy.dennis@lakebabine.com](mailto:darcy.dennis@lakebabine.com)
- Barbara: [Adam-Williams@lakebabine.com](mailto:Adam-Williams@lakebabine.com)
- Marvin Williams: [marvin.williams@lakebabine.com](mailto:marvin.williams@lakebabine.com)



*Left to right: Chief Councillor Murphy Abraham, Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Chief Negotiator Doug White.*



# A greater say in our Territory Lands and Natural Resources

Accountability reporting: Sections 6,7,8,10 and 11 of the Foundation Agreement

## Verna Power Lands and Resources Portfolio

### Initial Land Transfer (section 6)

Each of the 4 first land parcels coming back to LBN under the Foundation Agreement needs to first have its boundaries surveyed. The survey of Parcel A, the most northern parcel, is underway. It should be transferring to LBN later this year. BC will also be transferring the Fort Babine Lodge parcel to LBN later this year. (BC committed this piece under the 2014 Incremental Treaty Agreement.)

### Third Party Leases on Crown Land (Section 8)

Most of the land in our Territory is currently classified as “Crown” land, and some people, companies and organizations are leasing parcels of it. LBN is reviewing every request to renew existing leases on Crown land in our Territory. LBN is generally insisting on

shorter leases than before, so that they do not interfere with our negotiations for more land returns, and BC has been meeting this expectation. BC has agreed to be clear with lease holders that leases are subject to Aboriginal title and rights and that there is no guarantee of any further renewals. At LBN’s request, BC is now also requiring lease holders to notify LBN right away if they discover any archaeological sites on the land they are leasing.

Forests (section 7): LBN Forestry, LBN’s forestry company, is growing its staff and activities and generating profits to reinvest in the business and distribute to Lake Babine. The company is in discussions with the major licensees to further grow Lake Babine’s share of forestry activities in the Territory. Lake Babine is also developing Best Management Practices

for forestry, to set high environmental and cultural protection standards for forestry in our Territory. Draft Best Management Practices should be ready for the input by all Lake Babine people in Spring 2023. In April 2022, BC announced it will develop a new revenue-sharing policy to share more forestry revenues with Indigenous nations. LBN has already started to provide its views to BC on how to improve the policy.

### Environmental Assessments (section 8)

There are no active environmental assessments (“EAs”) in LBN Territory at this time. However, the EA Collaboration Agreement that LBN and BC signed last November will allow our Nation to hit the ground running when the next big pipeline or mining project

is proposed for our Territory. LBN will be fully involved from the very beginning of the process will share its views, concerns, and final decision about the project with BC. For more information about the EA Collaboration Agreement and Lake Babine's decision-making policies for proposed natural resource development policies, please consult: <https://www.lake-babine.com/foundation/lands-and-resources/environmental-assessment/>.

The next step under the Foundation Agreement for EAs is to negotiate a consent agreement that would require Lake Babine's consent for major development projects to proceed in our Territory.

#### **Smaller Mines (section 8)**

Smaller mines do not go to EA, but they still need BC review and approval to go ahead. This is the case for Gavin Mines Inc.'s application to restart the existing Dome Mountain Mine, near Chapman Lake. Lake Babine is fully involved in reviewing that restart application under Terms of Reference that we developed with BC. The entire review will be consensus seeking, meaning BC and LBN will work to reach agreement about whether the Mine can restart and if so, on what terms. Lake Babine is also exploring the potential for a project agreement with Gavin Mines.

#### **Fisheries (section 11)**

LBN is pursuing an Incremental Fisheries Agreement from Canada to fund the LBN Fisheries Department so that it can do more research and fisheries management. The funding will also allow Lake Babine to develop its longer term vision and plans for resuming its role as the primary steward of talok and other fisheries in LBN's Territory. LBN and DFO developed the Term Sheet for the Incremental Fisheries Agreement; it is now awaiting approval from the federal government and the LBN negotiations team continues to push for that approval.

Water Quality (section 8): LBN and BC co-developed plans for and did water quality testing on Babine Lake (including near the Bell Granisle Mine site) and Morrison Lake. Analysis is underway and a report should be delivered to Lake Babine in the coming months.

#### **Traditional Food Study (section 10)**

LBN is conducting a Traditional Food Study to help understand the amount of traditional foods that Lake Babine members currently need and the challenges to meeting those

harvest needs. The Study will also test fish and meat samples from our Territory to see if there is any contamination. You can contribute samples to this Study and receive payment: bear & moose samples pay \$200, and small animals that look unhealthy, diseased or that was killed on the road will pay \$100. For more information, please contact the FA Liaisons (Blake Julian, Whitney Laffin, Rita West).

#### **Moose Study (section 10)**

LBN and BC have agreed on a workplan to start collaborating on moose management. The first step is a Moose Study. It started in April 2022 and is being led by a wildlife biologist that LBN hired and our Wildlife Advisory Team. The Study will take stock of existing knowledge about moose populations in Lake Babine Territory (western science and Indigenous knowledge). It will also identify the knowledge gaps and help

start to fill those gaps. The Study is currently in the information gathering and analysis phase. We expect to begin implementing some of the Study recommendations in Spring 2023.

#### **Relationship Building with the Conservation Officer Service (section 10)**

LBN has started meeting with the BC Conservation Officer Service to share information about our rights and culture and to hear about how they approach their enforcement work. The immediate goal is to ensure that interactions between our harvesters and Conservation Officers are respectful and do not interfere with our harvesting rights. LBN was scheduled to provide cultural training to the Conservation Officers in Old Fort this summer but we had to postpone the event due to high number of Covid-19 cases.





# Protecting the yintah and holding industry accountable.

Aboriginal Liaison Program provides eyes and ears to help protect Lake Babine Territory

**Murphy Patrick Sr.**

## Aboriginal Liaison Program

First, I send my condolences to family and members who lost loved ones from covid and illness during the past difficult year.

It has been 6 years since I started with the Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP) with Lake Babine Nation. The pilot project was with Oil and Gas and each Liaison has worked hard at ALP to keep it successfully moving forward. .

In the past 6 years, a few good people involved in ALP have retired or moved to different jobs. I thank them very much for their strong dedication and contributions to the ALP.

Since the last report, I am still active with Emergency Operating Center (EOC) as a planner with Bernard Patrick as lead Director and I fill in as Director when Rick Dobbs is on holidays. I was deployed to Prince George Operations as Liaison representatives during the last fire. This year we also trained in Emergency Rapid Assessment as a team.

We have built a good relationship with the Ministry of Forestry through compliance inspections within LBN territory and also assisted in Fire Management prescription at Pinkut Lake and Ethel Wilson Park, working with the Ministry of Forestry and Parks. Our team continues to work with Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) for different training and certificates such as COS Land Guarding Introduction Training.

### What is the Aboriginal Liaison Program?

- The natural resource ALP is partnership between Aboriginal communities and natural resources government agencies.
- It is funded by government and managed in partnership with Aboriginal communities. The NR ALP provides opportunities to build good relationships, understanding of Indigenous people's value and traditional knowledge, and for the Liaison to participate in training and oversight of natural resource development while ensuring their community's voices are heard.

### What do Aboriginal Liaisons do?

- Inspect and report on natural resource development activities in their communities and traditional territory
- Represent their community's concerns and work with natural resource agencies to ensure these concerns are addressed
- Provide updates about their findings and activities back to their communities and the natural resource agencies
- Develop projects tailored to the community's interest and concerns



*Aboriginal Liaisons are part of mine inspection team at Bell Mine*



*Prescribed burning at Pinktut to maintain forest health.*

With BCWS, they have been doing prescribed burning in Burns Lake, Tangle Chain Lakes and Fort Babine area. The objective of the burns is to reduce slash levels and organic matter in 2 to 3 trial blocks, to determine if this will improve the survival and early growth of up to ten different tree species being planted. These tree species will also be planted in 2 to 3 unburned blocks.

With the Ministry of Energy, and with Mike Olson from Low Carbon Innovation assisting, four biologists participated in an inspection at Bell Mine and Granisle Mine.

There were a few concerns at Bell mine due to new regulation changes which are still monitored by a couple of people daily. Inspections



*Water treatment at Bell Mine.*

were good overall. Noranda Mine Reclamation saw good results in replanting green grass. There was even a cow moose with two calves at site. However, there were still old pipes and steel on site.

I also participated in water, soils, and plant sampling with WSP Golder at Coronin Mine in the Smithers area. The Coronin Mine was from 1930 and was turned into provincial park, so we checked soil and, water for contamination. It was a very good experience. We were dropped off in the mountain for 6 days in a row by helicopter and we hiked through the trail and bush-wacked to the sample site.

We assisted American Eagle Gold mine exploration across the North side of Babine Lake. They were going to be doing 6 drill sites mainly on block and on road which was logged out by and built by Canfor. On the tour were a couple councillors, and two biologists. The only concern was that if they find the minerals they are looking for, they would claim a huge area polygon cover of Babine Lake.

We also assisted in the inspection of Gavin Mine known as Dome Mountain in LBN territory. They built a very interesting water treatment plant, with the treated water being released back into Findley Creek. Working closely with referral Officer Georgina West and Forestry Manager Duane Crouse. Even with Covid and holidays, I still try to get as many updates as possible.



*Moose Study Habitat Training*

I also still assist the Environmental Study Initiative moose monitoring. If you get a moose call 250-692-6742 and they will send a technician to take samples for LBN Traditional Food Study and Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI), and you could win \$400. I also did solo inspections of Talok Fisheries harvesting. It looked good except for a concern about the mobile equipment used on site. This year the water was high, but there was a very good run of salmon. One set at Talok Fisheries had a record of 28,500 Sockeye. I didn't do any inspections of food fishing at Babine weir and Babine River this year. The only complaint was that Babine River was shut by a Park Ranger because of a grizzly in area, so it wasn't a good year for me to go to Babine Fence and Babine River. Because of Covid restrictions, the Aboriginal Liaison Program has not had a meeting for a long time, but this November we are finally back to annual meetings hosted by the Liaisons.

We are still monitoring covid daily. For help with a positive Covid case contact Rose Johnny.

Hope everyone had a good summer harvest and is ready for winter.  
-Murphy



# Moose Study entering year two looks at habitat and species decline

A study funded through the Indigenous Stewardship Program is finding out why

**Evelyn George**

## Indigenous Stewardship Program

### Labour Market Analysis and Human Resources Strategy

My name is Evelyn George, daughter of Joseph Alec Sr. and Louise Alec. I am bear clan from Lake Babine Nation and a member of Old Fort Community. My position is the Special Project Manager. My main job is working with the province the Environmental Stewardship Initiative- Indigenous Stewardship Project.

The Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) is a collaboration among First Nations, the Province, and industry to create opportunities for developing new environmental stewardship projects associated with natural resource and infrastructure development. Across northern British Columbia, 35 First Nations are grouped into four aggregate ESI regions: Northeast, Omineca, Skeena, and Northcoast. Each region has developed one or more Demonstration Project(s). This year again, the ISP is a study of our moose within our territory.

We are collaborating with the Lake Babine

Wildlife group on the Moose Study. The study is the same as last year which include the following.

#### **The Moose Health Pilot Project**

The Moose Health Pilot will aim to collect 10 or 15 moose health (tissue and other data) samples and associated data. Samples will be collected through members kill, road and railway kill, and other hunters' kill. This data will contribute to developing an understanding of the current condition of moose health in the region. We are partnering with the LBN food study to collect the samples. We are a little ahead of the game this year. So far, we have four samples in our freezer. We have two from Tachet and two from Burns Lake. These samples are from our territory to study the health of the moose.

#### **The Moose Health Field Program**

The Moose Field Program will support community-based wildlife stewardship and monitoring activities. This will support SSAF-ESI program objectives by providing additional data that can inform lands, wildlife, and natural resources stewardship, and by supporting Skeena First Nation capacity building. It will also work to address moose mortality and health knowledge gaps and to improve our understanding of the moose population (e.g., habitat use and moose distribution). This will

also build LBN capacity through technician participation in SSAF-ESI training opportunities. Improve LBN citizen awareness and participation in the Moose ISP and moose stewardship and Improve collaboration and relations with partners (e.g., the Province SSAF team, Conservation Officers, Road Maintenance Crew) and internal wildlife stewardship teams/projects (e.g., Wildlife Advisory Team projects).

#### **Moose Mortality Monitoring**

Moose Mortality Monitoring is collecting mortality data during ISP fieldwork and coordinating with the conservation officer service and Lake Babine Nation hunters. Specifically, road-kill, predator information, and incidental observation is being collected and systematically reported.

#### **Winter Habitat**

Lastly, for Winter Habitat Validation we will survey approximately 20 winter habitats in our study. This will help with the other two studies. We will find out why the moose is on a decline in our territory. Also, we will look at answers to questions about concerns from the members. This study will be in our traditional territory.

### ESI Forestry Working Group

The SSAF is a collaborative process involving ten Skeena Nations and Provincial agencies working together on environmental stewardship that creates shared and trusted data through the collaborative design and implementation of environmental monitoring of medicinal plants, grizzly bear, fish and fish habitat, moose, and wetlands. They incorporate Indigenous perspectives, knowledge and science; monitor the condition, status, and trends of shared resource values either directly or through indicators in a manner consistent with agreed upon protocols; analyze data to assess the current condition and historic trends of the resource values including the development of targets and thresholds; and, where appropriate, develop management response recommendations. At a meeting with Nathan Cullen on May 21, the Project Team asked the Minister to advocate on behalf of the ESI Forums.

### Kispiox Moose UWR

On the west end of our territory, there is an overlap with the Kispiox Nation. The Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) briefed LBN on the Kispiox Timber Supply Area (TSA) Moose Ungulated Winter Range (UWR) Order. The Ungulated Winter Range (UWR) is defined as an area that contains habitat this is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements of an Ungulate species. Since the Kispiox TSA required is in the overlap area, LBN was notified. We have met with FLNRORD as was directed by council, and we will be sitting as an ear on the work. There was a workshop held in Smithers where Council Verna Power and Jason Charlie attended. It was held in Glenwood Hall in Driftwood from 9:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m. This is a collaborative work on the legal habitat (UWR) mapping. The goal of the workshop was to identify where multiple interests and landbase values can be captured by the proposed moose mapping so that there are benefits that extend beyond moose with this designation. They also went over the Moose CWR and WRMZ meanings. CWR is Core Winter Range for a type of Ungulate and Winter Range designation for moose is where there is no timber harvesting or access allowed. WRMZ means Winter Range Management Zone and is a type of Ungulated Winter Range designation for moose where there is modified timber harvesting and access allowed.

### Lakes Resiliency Project

The Lake Resiliency Project came from community concerns after the 2018 wildfires. Some of these concerns were about forest resiliency and wildfire risk, declining timber supply, and economic risk to mills and local employment. The project set to pilot new collaborative approaches to landscape level forest planning to inform new forest management regime in BC. The goal of the project would be to reduce the wildfire risk to lessen future catastrophic wildfires, maintain cultural values and ecological services, create more resilient forested land base, and contribute to the stability of the timber supply jobs and a viable/competitive forest sector. This meeting is ongoing as SSAF is in a technical group to the Lakes Resiliency Project.

### Labour Market Analysis and Human Resources Strategy Study (LMP)

The Labour Market Analysis and Human Resources Strategy Study with the Firelight group was completed, but we found we need

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THIS STUDY LOOKED AT LAKE BABINE HEALTH STATISTICS, EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING, HOUSING AND OTHER MEASURES. PART TWO WILL LOOK AT CHILD WELFARE AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO FIND OUT WHAT IS NEEDED.

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to do more work on this study. We will need to do another proposal to do more work. This project is a baseline study where everything will be documented: for example, we researched Lake Babine education skills and training to get a picture of our educational system and to see the gaps. The labour situation for of LBN members was also done, and this also shows a gap in our labour force.

This is showing us where we need to educate our people for future jobs that will be coming in our territory. Now, most jobs are taken by non-members as we need to be educated for those jobs.

The second part of this project is to look at child welfare and other Lake Babine departments to find out what we need. All the department heads were interviewed, so we have more information to add to our data. The human resource strategy coming out of this project is going to look at each section of the Foundation Agreement and identify what the human resource strategy is going to look like. For example, how many councillors will there be? How many social workers? How many foster homes? How will Grandma's House play into this?. What is it that we are going to need, in terms of skills sets and credentials, to make it work?

We will look at building our own cultural centers, as those are what Lake Babine is going to be looking for. That is the human resource strategy that is going to show us what we need.. We did a focus group with the youth in the month of July. We had Donalds Landing youth, Woyenne youth, Tachet youth and Old Fort youth. We had Fort Babine lined up for a focus group, but it did not materialize. We hope to keep this going, so we may still be able to do Fort Babine.

Thank you Clara Williams,(Fort Babine), Margie Alec (Old Fort), Millie Alec George (Tachet), Priscilla Crouse (Donalds Landing), and Cheyene Dennis (Woyenne) for being on the Steering Committee. Also thank you to Philine West HR, Beatrice Michell (Education), Victor Tom (Economic Development), Betty Patrick (Foundation Negotiation Implementation Director), Monty Palmantier (Chief Executive Officer) and the Firelight group.

This ends my report for the year.  
Thank you



# Taking Care of our Families Our inherent responsibility

Accountability reporting: Sections 12,13,14,15 and 16 of the Foundation Agreement



## Betty Patrick

### Social Sector Report

#### **Child and Family (section 12)**

LBN is building up its staff in two main areas: prevention and jurisdiction. Programs and services for families in Community and in Urban Centres are about to start increasing to better support Lake Babine families. Many jobs have recently been posted and more opportunities will open up soon. The planning work to take back our inherent jurisdiction over children and family matters has started, with input from the Child and Family Advisory Team.

LBN is building Gramma's House in Woyenne with BC funding. It will provide young parents, youth and children with safe housing and wrap-around services. Gramma's House should be opening in the summer of 2023. Lake Babine is also identifying priorities for additional builds that in all its communities that would support child and family well-being. This is to make use of the federal infrastructure funding that has recently become available to Indigenous nations.

Chief and Council gave notice to Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) that the Nation intends to withdraw from that organization by

March 31, 2023. LBN is preparing to assume responsibility for the services that CSFS has been providing to Lake Babine families. Please see the separate Child and Family AGA Report for more detailed information about the activities in this sector.

#### **Justice (section 14)**

The Justice Advisory Team has begun to meet to share views about challenges with the Canadian justice system and what Lake Babine approach to justice involves. About 80% of the Justice Advisory Team meetings scheduled for this past year ended up being cancelled due to deaths in our Nation. This high cancellation rate significantly limited the progress of work in that Advisory Team.

### **Community Infrastructure and Planning (section 16)**

The Community feasibility studies for Old Fort (New Fort) and Donald's Landing are well underway.

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**SURVEY RESULTS SHOW  
THAT 120 PEOPLE WANT  
TO LIVE IN DONALD'S  
LANDING YEAR-ROUND  
AND THAT 215 PEOPLE  
WANT TO LIVE IN OLD  
FORT YEAR-ROUND.**

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Associated Engineering is leading this work, supported by an LBN Steering Committee. Survey results show that 120 people want to live in Donald's Landing year-round and that 215 people want to live in Old Fort year-round. Associated Engineering has identified suitable lands with virtual and in-person tours and it has identified constraints and opportunities that will need to be considered in building these communities.

The planning of the Cultural/Gathering Centres for Fort Babine and Tachet has also advanced over the past year. Associated Engineering is leading this work, supported by a Steering Committee. They have conducted a geotechnical investigation to find a suitable place to build in each Community. They have prepared draft drawings of the builds, a design report, and initial cost estimates. They have received feedback on the plans so far in community meetings.



### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (section 17 of the Foundation Agreement)**

LBN Forestry is a company that our Nation established a few years ago to support our participation in the forestry sector, the main economic activity in our Territory. It takes general strategic direction from Chief and Council but operates independently from the Nation under the guidance of two Boards of Directors. It has continued to grow successfully over the past year and has begun distributing profits to LBN.

The first Economic Development Planning Team meeting took place in May 2022. This Team includes Lake Babine representatives and external representatives with deep, BC-wide, economic development experience. The Team will develop a big picture plan for growing Lake Babine's economy across various sectors. Meanwhile, the \$15 million development economic development fund that BC provided to LBN remains safely parked with a financial institution.

One sector that LBN is already keen to participate in is tourism. Over the past year, LBN has been investigating the possibility of acquiring a guide outfitter business that operates in our Territory by assessing the potential value of the business, the costs of operating it, and its growth opportunities under LBN ownership.

# Training programs reboot after years of social distancing

Deanna Nolan

## Skills Development Training Program



requirements for the upcoming programs. The Bridging to Trades program that was scheduled for Tachet had low interest, and we, unfortunately, had to cancel the training. We will continue working with those who were genuinely interested in applying to the Woyenne offering in January 2023.

### **Nadut'en Community Leadership Certificate and the LBN Forestry Certificate**

There are two programs planned that Priscilla Crouse, Grant Writing Director, and Deanna Brown Nolan have designed to assist the band programs to develop capacity of current staff and members, but also for the future succession planning within Lake Babine Nation. The Nadut'en Community Leadership Certificate and the LBN Forestry Certificate will have courses that will serve the Forestry, Fisheries and Aboriginal Liaison Program. They will be designed to introduce students to each area of expertise with the intention of moving into degree programs. Education in this area will lead to opportunities in Natural Resource careers within the Nation and will assist with the rapid growth within the Foundation Agreement.

### **Human Services Certificate/Diploma**

The Human Services Certificate/Diploma program completed at the end of January 2022 after many delays and challenges faced by both staff and students during Covid closures. Our program assisted the remaining students to obtain their Practicum Hours to complete the program. We currently have six people who have completed the program, three of which have moved onto further their post-secondary education with the final goal of a Degree in Social Work. Out of the remaining students who obtained their Human Services Certificate, many have moved onto employment within the greater community at BLNDC, Elizabeth Fry Society, Lakes District Secondary School and customer service roles.

funding approval for our upcoming programs, and, in the meantime, we will be working with all our communities to ensure that students who are ready to move forward into post-secondary courses will be able to meet any entry



### **College Readiness and Upgrading**

Our program is currently working on recruiting for our College Readiness and Upgrading programs in Woyenne for 2023. We are awaiting

## Program Challenges

There are many challenges that our program is facing. We are finding that it is more difficult to get community members to attend events and to sign up for programs. We need community members who are unemployed and ready to return to work or school to come meet with us and see where they can begin the schooling process.

We understand that after the pandemic many people may have concerns and fears about being back in social and public settings. Many people are cautious about attending community functions. If that is a concern for you, please give us a call and we can work with you to address those safety concerns. Our program is flexible and will absolutely ensure that you feel safe and heard in our classrooms.

Our greatest challenge to offering training in the community is that we don't have the staff capacity to assist in the communities to host, facilitate and coordinate the classes.

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Deanna is currently working with Brad Bell, Instructor for the College Readiness and Upgrading, and the Ted Williams Memorial Learning Centre to prepare for students interviews and assessments, as well as prepare the classroom for students once again. We have been doing Community Planning Sessions for the future of our program, and we have completed two with Tachet and Woyenne so far. We do have plans to visit other communities and the urban community before the fall. With the assistance of Priscilla Crouse, who has been mentoring throughout, Deanna is working on recruitment packages and marketing information that outlines the program's growth since 2017. In other staffing changes, Jessica Brown has returned from her maternity leave and is back into the Student Support Worker role. She is currently working on our Recruitment Plan and Cultural Workshop series. Stay tuned for upcoming classes in the community!



# Team Gooze offers caring and confidential help for LBN Members

**Bernadette Lacerte**  
Team Gooze Manager

## **Team Gooze is here to support you**

Team Gooze is a Lake Babine Nation program that provides culturally-responsive, coordinated emergency and social response services for our Members. Consisting of a small team of Lake Babine Members, Team Gooze works to support Members who have dealt with sexual harassment and assault, drug and alcohol use, mental health crisis, family crisis, or environmental emergencies.

With a high volume of industrial activity occurring in our territory, we want to ensure our Members feel safe and have a group they can connect with for culturally-responsive supports.

## **What does Team Gooze do?**

- Monitor community safety
- Presence on the ground to allow for immediate response
- Works closely with RCMP and health agencies
- Communicate and deliver community safety information
- Raise awareness of safety threats
- Organizes and hosts educational workshops on human trafficking, healthy relationships, substance use, mental health, etc.
- Refer and liaise with local health and safety agencies
- Provides non-judgemental referral services to community members
- Information management and administrative support
- Works with local agencies to prioritize intervention and prevention efforts

## **Contact us (All inquiries are kept confidential.)**

### **For assistance or to learn more, please contact:**

Bernadette Lacerte  
Team Gooze Manager  
Bernadette.lacerte@lakebabine.com  
250-251-0956

### **For safety planning services, please contact:**

Philippe Lacerte Jr  
Community Preparedness Coordinator  
Philippe.lacerte@lakebabine.com  
250-251-1433

### **For immediate assistance or crisis support, please contact:**

Elvira Patrick  
Community Patrol  
250-692-9380  
Elvira.patrick@lakebabine.com

Denise Williams  
Community Patrol  
250-692-9368  
Denise.williams@lakebabine.com

# We need you!

## Lake Babine Nation is seeking Advisory Team Members

Lake Babine Nation is currently inviting over LBN members to serve our advisory teams which will,

- Drive change in areas like Children and Families, Justice, Fisheries and Governance, and Education.
- Help LBN allocate funds to make improvements today and help us plan to take control in the future through self-government.
- Speak with members and gain advice - both at home and away from home - about how to implement our rights and develop programs and services that meet our needs.

Child and Family, Governance, Justice, Education and Fisheries are seeking members.

Every single member of this Nation can help shape our future by sharing their ideas, concerns and their dreams for how to move forward.

To apply, please send a letter of interest to Dorothy Patrick

[dorothy.patrick@lakebabine.com](mailto:dorothy.patrick@lakebabine.com)

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Our Journey to the Foundation Agreement

The journey to the Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement has included many steps taken through a progressive set of Agreements with B.C. and Canada.

2014

### Lake Babine Nation Incremental Treaty Agreement (March 2014)

The LBN Incremental Treaty agreement is intended to demonstrate some of the benefits of treaty in advance of a final agreement. The ITA transfers four parcels of land to LBN to support opportunities for forestry and eco-tourism; capacity funding was also secured to help develop these opportunities.



*John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Wilf Adam, Chief of Lake Babine Nation after the signing of the Lake Babine Nation Incremental Treaty Agreement.*

### Lake Babine Nation Memorandum of Understanding [MOU 1] (October/2014)

BC and Lake Babine signed this first MOU to launch negotiations of a Strategic Engagement Agreement. That is a standard type of agreement in BC that supports consultation on lands and natural resources decisions and revenue-sharing. As the remainder of the timeline shows, BC and Lake Babine gradually moved on to negotiate the Foundation Agreement.

## Lake Babine Nation Memorandum of Understanding [MOU 2] (May/2015)

BC and Lake Babine signed this second MOU to shift their negotiations from a Strategic Engagement Agreement to a more ambitious Reconciliation Agreement. The eventual agreement was to include forestry tenures, lands and processes for Lake Babine and BC to collaborate on BC's lands and natural resource management decisions in Lake Babine Territory. MOU2 also provided significant training dollars, which Lake Babine Nation used to deliver Cultural and Environmental Monitor Certification and Camp Management Services Certification. These programs were tailored to meet the needs of Lake Babine learners and delivered in Woyenne.

## Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement (May 2015)

The Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project would be a 900-kilometre natural-gas pipeline to deliver natural gas from the Hudson's Hope area to the proposed Pacific NorthWest LNG facility near Prince Rupert. BC had already approved the pipeline when Lake Babine signed this Pipeline Benefits Agreement with BC to secure revenue-sharing. The project has not yet gone ahead. And although Lake Babine signed this Agreement, Lake Babine reserved the right to withdraw its support if a key part of the Pipeline route changes. Lake Babine did this to protect Nilkitkwa.

# Foundation Agreement Questions and Answers

### Is the Foundation Agreement a Treaty?

No, it's not. LBN keeps its title and rights. With a treaty everything is negotiated and finalized before the treaty comes into force.

This Agreement sets out a 20-year road map for the work that Lake Babine, Canada and BC must do to fully implement Lake Babine title and rights, including our inherent right of self-government. It won't happen all at once, LBN receives funding for nation-building and program and service improvement work along the way. It also includes some lands and forestry tenures and an economic development fund to create opportunities today.

### Is 20,000 hectares the full land deal?

No, 20,000 hectares is just a start, and BC and Canada acknowledge this in the Foundation Agreement. One step within the Foundation Agreement is the work of us identifying our Aboriginal title lands and negotiating with BC and Canada

### Does the Agreement set out all the funds we will receive?

No. The 43 million confirmed in the Agreement is BC's contribution for the first five years. Lake Babine is currently discussing with Canada what their contribution will

be. It is slower to come because Canada joined the negotiations partway through and is still catching up. The Agreement recognizes the need for ongoing funding and Lake Babine will negotiate more funds for the next phase of implementation.

### Does this Agreement affect Status or Tax-exemption?

No the agreement does not alter our status or tax exemption in any way. It's not a treaty so does not alter our rights. In July 2022 the federal government announced that future self-government deals will not require First Nations to surrender tax exemption.

### Will there be a vote?

The Foundation Agreement did not require a vote because it simply recognized our rights and title without affecting them. Some of the Milestones under the Foundation Agreement may require a vote. For example, once Lake Babine develops a governance model to replace the Indian Act Chief and Council it will need to be approved by the membership. If members want to put the governance model to a vote, there will be a vote. Our governance model is not developed yet, but it's good to start talking about whether it will need go to a vote. Please share your views on this

with Lake Babine's Governance Advisory Team or Governance Research Team.

### Is the Foundation Agreement leading towards self-government?

Yes, implementing self-government is a goal of the Foundation Agreement. Lake Babine's Governance Advisory Team have started seeking input from all members about how our governance model should look and work. Once a governance model is developed, we will review and discuss it as a Nation, and decide whether to adopt it. Once it is up and running, our government will gradually take back jurisdiction in priority areas, like child and family, language and education, and lands and resource management. Lake Babine Advisory Teams will engage with members across all communities and away from home to develop our plans in all these areas. Every aspect of our self-government will be developed by Lake Babine, for Lake Babine.

### How will this Agreement impact future generations?

It is called the Foundation Agreement because it provides us a starting point, a foundation to build something for our young and coming generations. The Agreement recognizes, but does not alter, LBN rights and title.

2016

## Lake Babine Nation Reconciliation Framework Agreement (March 2016)

This was an agreement between BC and Lake Babine Nation to build on MOU2 and guide and fund the negotiations towards a Reconciliation Agreement. This Agreement also provided Lake Babine with funding to hire a referrals officer to start engaging on land and natural resource referrals from the Crown and companies, and it confirmed some initial land protection measures in Lake Babine Territory.

Instead, the Agreement is for the long term and will require many generations to work with Canada and BC to implement LBN rights and title over the coming years. Right away the Agreement provides us with funding to expand and improve our child and family, education, health, and other programs along with lands and forestry tenures.

### How can the community get involved?

LBN is currently inviting over 150 LBN members to be on our advisory teams. These teams will

- Drive change in areas like Children and Families, Justice, Fisheries and Governance.
- Help LBN allocate funds to make improvements today and help us plan to take control in the future through self-government.
- Speak with members and gain advice - both at home and away from home - about how to implement our rights and develop programs and services that meet our needs.

2017

## Lake Babine Nation Foundation Pathway Agreement (September 2017)

The Lake Babine Nation Foundation Pathways Agreement set out a commitment for BC and Lake Babine to negotiate a Foundation Agreement, a 25-year framework to strengthen the government-to-government relationship, reconcile respective jurisdictions and responsibilities, and provide certainty and benefits.



*A first-of-its-kind 25-year agreement is signed by John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Wilf Adam, Chief of Lake Babine Nation.*

2018

## Tripartite MOU to Guide Rights Implementation and Reconciliation Negotiations. (December 2018)

In this MOU, Canada joined the Foundation Agreement negotiations that Lake Babine and BC had already started. This created the potential to address aspects of Lake Babine rights and title, including Lake Babine's inherent right of self-government.



*Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Gordon Alec, Chief of Lake Babine Nation, and Scott Fraser, B.C.'s Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, along with their respective negotiators and staff.*

# Communications & Engagement Report

Two years ago, Lake Babine Nation, BC and Canada signed the Foundation Agreement. The Agreement represents the beginning of a 20-year journey for Lake Babine Nation to take our rightful place in our territory. For us to be successful, we need this to be done by Lake Babine, for Lake Babine. The participation of all our families living at home and away from home is crucial.

## Advisory Teams

Advisory teams ensure that Lake Babine members are involved in the Foundation Agreement so that it can deliver its full potential. Advisory teams include representation from hereditary and elected leaders and come from our five communities and Prince George, Smithers and even as far away as Vancouver. Over the last 18 months five advisory teams have been established to share their vision, ideas and passion to increase LBN independence and quality of life. Justice, child and family services, wildlife, governance and fisheries are up and running.

To keep our community safe, Advisory Teams have been meeting mostly online. The upside is that this has allowed more urban participation than in the past.

Do you want to make a difference and contribute to the community? Please contact Dorothy Patrick to apply to join an advisory committee.

## The Program Liaison Team is established

A new Program Liaison team was established in early 2021. Team members are Whitney Laffin Likh c' bu (Bear), Rita West Marten Clan on the Frog side, Blake West (Julian) Likh c' bu (Bear).

The program liaison team was hired in the midst of the pandemic and our job is to support members to learn more and get involved with the opportunities coming from the Foundation Agreement. Since we haven't been able to gather like we used to, our focus has been on building communication materials and engaging online.

## Away from home members are asking how they can get involved

Members who live away from the territory have many opportunities to participate in the Foundation Agreement. As the Nation is considering changes to electoral processes, enhancements to child, family and health programs, culture and language and increased access to education we need to hear from ALL members.

Current engagement opportunities that are open include:

- New Fort and Donald's Landing Feasibility Assessment
- Labour and Education survey
- Wildlife Harvesting Rights Survey
- Governance
- Country Foods Interviews

The Foundation Agreement is also designed to strengthen our communities so that more members may move back to the territory should they choose to. Importantly, we give nothing up to achieve these goals. We are encouraging urban members and those living off the territory to get involved by joining an advisory team, filling in surveys and attending our webinars.

## Lhilhyets'olhdc (Let's talk with each other) webinar series for LBN members (2021-2022)

With the presence of Covid we have struggled to find safe ways to connect with LBN members. The Lhilhyets'olhdc (Let's talk with each other) webinar series was designed to allow for safe engagement with LBN members while the Nation remains under Covid restrictions. In the past 18 months 6 Lhilhyets'olhdc sessions were hosted:

- Child and Family Services (January 27), 70 participants
- Wilhaghewh yinkak ts'adeelhts'iyh Governance (February 17),
- Foundation Agreement 101 (April 21) 72 participants
- Keyikh Wit'eenee 'it'en wanee lhabizdilh'eikh Labour Market Development (May 19) 45 participants

- Wilhaghewh yinkak ts'adeelhts'iyh Governance part 2 (January 20)
- Nistah Lhok Bilhdewhdadzeelh Fisheries (106 participants)

Members can listen to these sessions on the LBN website at: <https://www.lakebabine.com/foundation/lhilhyetsolhdc-lets-talk/>

## You've got mail!

The Foundation liaison team went door to door in Tachet, Fort Babine and Woyenne over the month of May 2021 with a special delivery. Each LBN household received an information package about the Foundation Agreement including a copy of the Foundation Agreement, a timeline and FAQ, and the Restoring Balance Comic. The Foundation Liaison team took strong public health precautions to keep LBN families safe and team members underwent daily covid symptom monitoring, sanitized all materials before bagging them, and did not enter any residences. We hope you enjoyed these packages and look forward to hearing your questions and response to what you have read.

## Stay in touch, the off-reserve mailing list.

The Foundation Liaison Team has been collecting addresses of our members who live away from the territory. In June 2021 we held a registration blitz and off-reserve members who sent in their mailing address were entered in a weekly draw to win a \$100 giftcard. We collected over 250 addresses in four weeks and our mailing list now has over 420 LBN addresses. If you wish to be added to the list, please send your mailing address to [rita.west@lakebabine.com](mailto:rita.west@lakebabine.com).

## Website

In 2021 Lake Babine Nation launched [www.lakebabine.com/foundation](http://www.lakebabine.com/foundation) which is the home for information about Foundation Agreement implementation. The site breaks down the components of the agreement into short and digestible information. We encourage members in the communities and urban places to read about the agreement and stay up to date on jobs and engagement opportunities.

### Restoring Balance Animated Video

From the Barricade Treaty to today, the journey to protect Lake Babine rights and title continues. In May 2021 we launched a 5-minute video explaining how LBN got to the Foundation Agreement, the video is available in both [Nedut'en](#) and [English](#). The artwork for the video was drawn by LBN member Whess Harman (Wit'at). Check out the [Lake Babine Youtube Channel](#) to watch the video today. A great big musiy to Whess for their contribution to this important project.

### Pandemic communications

Like most LBN staff, the Foundation Liaison team was pressed into supporting pandemic communications. In the fall of 2021 the team created a series of profiles called #let-shearfrommembers which included personal stories from members and why they chose vaccination for themselves. The team also hosted two webinars with top public health doctors and LBN members on October 20, and November 4.

### Foundation Agreement Mini conferences

In the Spring of 2022 the Foundation Liaison team hit the road for Foundation Agreement mini-conferences for each of the 5 communities. The virtual/inperson conferences included presentations and updates from each of the five advisory teams: Child and Family, Governance, Wildlife, Fisheries, Justice, and also include brief overviews of The Moose Study and Country Foods Study. For Old Fort and Donalds/Pinkut Landing meetings the agendas include the Feasibility Study for each community.

For questions about communications and engagement please contact [Blake.West@lakebabine.com](mailto:Blake.West@lakebabine.com)

2020

## Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement - September 2020

Lake Babine Nation, Canada and BC sign a 20 year agreement including initial land parcels, forestry tenures, and Nation-building funds, valued at about 200 million. The Agreement provides a road map to implement Lake Babine Nation Aboriginal title and rights, including Lake Babine's inherent right of self-government. This work will be led by Lake Babine and done in collaboration with Canada and BC. The Agreement recognizes that Lake Babine will be enacting programs, services and law pursuant to its inherent right to govern itself and in a way that meets LBN political, social and economic needs and aspirations.



Chief, Council, Directors, Hereditary Chiefs at Foundation Agreement signing ceremony. (Photo credit: Beatrice MacDonald) Left to right (back row): Monty Palmantier, Executive Director; Emma Palmantier, Health Director; Betty Patrick, FPA Manager; Cheyenne Dennis, Verna Power, Melvin Joseph, Delores Alec, Murphy Abraham, Deputy Chief Derek MacDonald, Shane Modine Left to right (front row): Frank Alec, Hereditary Chief: Dunen (Bear Clan); Ronnie West, Hereditary Chief: JeDimSkaNes (Caribou Clan); Chief Gordon Alec; Eugene Patrick, Hereditary Chief: Losah (Frog Clan); Herbert William, Hereditary Chief: DewSimTsuk (Beaver Clan)

# NOTES



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# NOTES



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**LAKE BABINE NATION**  
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