

LAND FACING THE SEA 2023

ʔəy' sweyal. This edition of *Land Facing the Sea* is a summary of actions taken by the Tsawwassen government from April to June 2023.

**Building a strong future.
Building a strong community.**

Events from Summer 2023
Published August 2023



scəw'athən məsteyəx^w

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION



“ *Naut’sa mawt – for current and future generations* ”

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dear Members,

The Land Facing the Sea publication is an opportunity for Executive Council (EC) to report back to Members on the work we are doing across the government from the previous quarter. This edition will cover April to June 2023.

During the second quarter of 2023, EC partook in a variety of networking and capacity building events, representing and advocating for TFN in a variety of engagements. At the beginning of the quarter the community came together for our annual Treaty Day celebration on April 3rd. This year we enjoyed a dinner at the Longhouse, with some cultural activities and displays beforehand. We were honoured to have BC’s Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Hon. Murray Rankin join us to commemorate this special day for our community. Councillor Valerie Cross took on the role of speaker for the evening alongside Chief Laura Cassidy, and Minister Rankin was gifted with a cedar feather carved by TFN artist wopee’oh (Frank Campbell). It was a wonderful start to the spring season.

The community also came together to raise awareness and to walk in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. In June, EC and Members gathered to enjoy an Earth Day Event at ɔ̀ləisələm (TFN Community Farm), participate at the house post unveiling at the TFN Administration Building, and to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Executive Council would like to raise their hands to all attendees who came out to support these events. Hay ɔ̀xˈw ɔ̀!

In April, EC members participated in the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations – Premier Forum, where representatives from each Modern Treaty Nation and British Columbia came together to advance and discuss the priorities of the Alliance.

In May, Chief Cassidy and Councillor Baker attended the Land Claims Agreement Coalition Prime Minister’s Forum in Ottawa, where self-governing Indigenous groups had the opportunity to speak with Prime Minister Trudeau as well as various federal ministers to advocate for First Nations interests. In June, members of EC participated in the 2023 Regional Gathering of Metro Vancouver District Board and First Nations Elected Leaders at the TFN Longhouse. EC’s engagement in these events supports the greater work of the Tsawwassen Government

to strengthen TFN's Government-to-Government relationships with its treaty partners, other Nations, and municipal governments.

EC would like to extend congratulations to all our graduates this year! This year's grade 12 class was our largest yet, and we are proud of the accomplishments and hard work of all our graduates. It was wonderful to attend the Graduation Ceremony and celebrate all your successes. EC also enjoyed a presentation by the Delta Fire Department (DFD) on their new TFN shoulder flashers designed by TFN artist, Karl Morgan. The DFD gave each EC member a blanket embroidered with the new TFN shoulder flasher. The DFD is keen to build a relationship with TFN and our Members and EC will continue to provide ways for DFD to engage with the community.

EC also had the pleasure of attending a variety of Tsawwassen Government events, including a tour of Tsawwassen Lands and a presentation from the BC Treaty Commission, the TFN Trust Society Annual General Meeting, and a community meeting held by the Treaty Rights and Title Department on Roberts Bank Terminal 2. A key priority for EC is to ensure that Members are informed, and that their feedback and voices are heard. To support this priority and the Communication Strategy approved during the Spring 2023 Legislative Session, TFN has hired Castlemain Group to carry out this important work.

We have completed a lot of important work this year, and important work continues to lie ahead of us. The completion and success of this work would not be possible without the continued support and collaboration from Members and staff.

We hope that everyone is enjoying the sunshine and warm weather and is looking forward to the months ahead! ciḡamə cən. Take care, and always feel free to reach out.



Chief Cassidy meets Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the 2023 PM Forum



Chief Cassidy and Executive Councillor Baker meet with DFO Minister Joyce Murray at her Ottawa office



Indigenous Leaders from Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Nations across Canada at the PM Forum

CHIEF CASSIDY

CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

April 2023

- 3 Treaty Day Celebration
- 5 Metro Vancouver Mayors Committee
- 6 Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Committee
- 12 Metro Vancouver Water Committee TFN Trust Directors meeting
- 13 Premier's Forum – Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nation leadership
- 19 Metro Vancouver Special Joint Board meeting

May 2023

- 4 Musqueam and Tsawwassen Council to Council meeting
- 9 Meet with Minister Marc Miller and Joyce Murray in Ottawa

June 2023

- 1 Mayors Council meeting
- 7 Metro Vancouver Mayors Committee
- 8 Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations
- 10 Metro Vancouver Council of Council meeting
- 12 TFN Grad Ceremony
- 13 TFN Trust Society AGM
- 16 Regional Gathering of Metro Vancouver District Board and First Nations Elected Leaders cohosted at TFN Longhouse
- 21 Indigenous Day at TFN
- 22 Delta Police Board meeting
- 26 Standing Committee on Language and Culture (TFN)
- 28 Canoe Blessing (TFN)
- 29 Metro Vancouver Mayors Council
- 30 Metro Vancouver Board meeting

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

April 2023

- 6 Special Meeting of Mayors Council
- 12 Metro Vancouver Water Committee TFN Trust Directors meeting
- 13 Mayors Council Planning and Priorities Committee
- 21 Port Forward Workshop

COUNCILLOR CROSS

April 2023

- 3 Treaty Day Celebration
- 13 Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations – Premiers Forum

May 2023

- 4 Council to Council Meeting with Musqueam Regarding Proposed Lower Fraser sx^wk^wecx^on^om Partnership
- 15 2023 Property Taxation Authority Meeting

June 2023

- 6 MCed TFN Earth Day Event
- 8 Leaders International and ABMTN ED Kick Off
- 12 TFN Graduation Ceremony
- 14 TFN Trust Society Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 15 Century Group Delta Health Classic Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- 16 Spoke on TFN's law making process at a conference on Indigenous Legal Orders, presented by the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC
- 16 2023 Regional Gathering of Metro Vancouver District Board and First Nations Elected Leaders at TFN Longhouse
- 27 RBT2 Community Meeting

COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS *cont.*

May 2023

- 4 Council to Council Meeting with Musqueam Regarding Proposed Lower Fraser *sx^wk^wecxənəm* Partnership
- 31 Indigenous Relations (Translink)

June 2023

- 3 REACH for the Stars Gala
- 15 Mayors Council Planning and Priorities
- 21 TFN House Post Unveiling
- 21 TFN National Indigenous Peoples Day Event
- 27 RBT2 Community Meeting
- 29 Mayors Council Meeting of the Mayors Council Small Communities caucus

COUNCILLOR AHLM

April 2023

- 3 Treaty Day Celebration
- 12 TFN Trust Society Meeting
- 18 Delta Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting (AGM)

May 2023

- 4 Council to Council Meeting with Musqueam Regarding Proposed Lower Fraser *sx^wk^wecxənəm* Partnership
- 15 2023 Property Taxation Authority Meeting

June 2023

- 6 TFN Earth Day Event
- 10 Metro Vancouver Council of Councils Meeting in Langley
- 12 TFN Graduation Ceremony
- 13 TFN Trust Society Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 16 2023 Regional Gathering of Metro Vancouver District Board and First Nations Elected Leaders at TFN Longhouse
- 16 TFN Health Fair
- 21 TFN House Post Unveiling
- 21 TFN National Indigenous Peoples Day Event
- 26 Events Planning Committee Meeting
- 27 RBT2 Community Meeting

COUNCILLOR BAKER

April 2023

- 3 Treaty Day Celebration
- 12 TFN Trust Society Meeting
- 13 Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations – Premiers Forum
- 17 Housing Advisory Committee Meeting
- 18 Delta Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 21 Port Forward Workshop
- 23 First Nations Major Projects Coalition Conference

May 2023

- 4 Council to Council Meeting with Musqueam Regarding Proposed Lower Fraser *sx^wk^wecxənəm* Partnership
- 5 MCed the TFN Walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- 7–9 LCAC Prime Minister Forum in
- 9 Meetings with Minister Marc Miller & Minister Joyce Murray in Ottawa
- 31 BC Treaty Commission Presentation and Tour at TFN

June 2023

- 1 TFN Trust Society Meeting Directors Meeting
- 3 REACH for the Stars Gala
- 8 Delta Hospital Funding Media Announcement
- 10 Metro Vancouver Council or Councils Meeting in Langley
- 12 MCed TFN Graduation Ceremony
- 14 TFN Trust Society Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- 15 Century Group Delta Health Classic Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- 16 2023 Regional Gathering of Metro Vancouver District Board and First Nations Elected Leaders at TFN Longhouse
- 21 MCed TFN House Post Unveiling Ceremony
- 21 MCed TFN National Indigenous Peoples Day Event
- 26 Events Planning Committee Meeting
- 27 RBT2 Community Meeting
- 28 MCed TFN Canoe Blessing



2023 REGIONAL GATHERING

On Friday, June 16, 2023 Metro Vancouver and Tsawwassen First Nation co-hosted a first-ever Regional Gathering involving members of the Metro Vancouver Board and Indigenous Relations Committee meeting with the leadership of the local area First Nations.

The Regional Gathering took place at the Tsawwassen First Nation Longhouse and featured cultural performances, a buffet breakfast and lunch, a facilitated discussion among small groups of representatives and lots of networking opportunities.

The event was emceed by Squamish Nation Hereditary Chief Ian Campbell and facilitated by Chris Corrigan, principal of Harvest Moon Consultants (Bowen Island).

This event was originally to have taken place in 2020 at Tsawwassen, and planned for in both 2021 and 2022, but it was not possible to do so in person during the pandemic.

Over 100 people participated in this historic event, and with representatives from 7 of the 10 First Nations within the Metro Vancouver region, including both hereditary and elected chiefs and councillors.

The purpose of this event was for the participants to get to know one another as part of a half-day relationship-building exercise.

The Regional Gathering was organized by Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff and the Executive Assistant to the Chief, Andrea Jacobs, as well as other staff from Tsawwassen First Nation.

EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Education & Skills Development Department started April off with a 4-day trip to Strathcona Park lodge that had all the teens testing their limits, team building and having a ton of fun. We finished off April with a 5-day sailing trip around the gulf islands where the youth had the opportunity to learn from the Raincoast Conservation Crew about life at sea as well protecting the land, water, and animals. The Annual Easter Egg hunt and Elder's lunch also took place early April. Despite the terrible weather the youth had a blast searching all around the Youth Center for all sorts of Easter treats and the Elders had an amazing time connecting with the children.

In May, we went to one of our favourite Parks "Terra Nova". Afterwards, we had the opportunity to check out the spectacular Great Canadian Circus while they were set up in Richmond.

June was a very fast paced month as everyone was getting ready for summer. The Education and Skills Department held our Annual Graduation Celebration on June 12 at Tsawwassen Springs. We celebrated 38 students this year, exceeding the last three years. We are so proud of all our graduates! We also made some touching Father's Day cards and celebrated another jam packed National Indigenous Peoples Day. To celebrate the end of the school year, we hosted a barbeque where the TFN students had an opportunity to showcase a few of the traditional songs they had been practicing throughout the school year and it was nothing short of inspirational.



**WE ARE SO
PROUD OF ALL OUR
GRADUATES!**

We finished the month of June with another amazing horseback riding trip in Pemberton, continuing to strengthen the relationship our teens have with horses, the mountains and giving them an opportunity to overcome challenges, bond with one another and unplug for 4 days.

Among all these special events we continued mastering our skills in taekwondo, soaked up the sun at local parks and practiced our physical education playing in the gym. Regarding our outdoor recreation therapy, the teens had many opportunities to get out and enjoy nature, connect with each other, and spend some time learning and participating in cultural activities.

We continue to support all TFN members who are pursuing their Post-Secondary Education. We are currently working on Post-Secondary applications for five new members, with seven students continuing in the Fall. We are planning a second Post-Secondary workshop this summer with various PSE institutions and Trade schools participating. We hope to encourage all community members pursue their education journeys.

In collaboration with various organizations, we are able to offer scholarships and bursaries to Post-Secondary students for the Fall. We continue to fund Youth and Education Support Services grants to TFN students in Grades K-12 which will be available this July for the Fall.

It has been another successful 3 months at the youth center!



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

Craft Night

Cultural Craft Night is held every Wednesday. TFN members are invited to work on or finish a craft. Craft supplies, dinner and babysitting are provided.

Scəwəθən íθelə

Tsawwassen Heart drumming group

Language and Culture and Youth Centre holds a Drum Group every Friday's from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the fire pit or Youth Centre. Learn Tsawwassen Songs & the heartbeat of the drum.

Coast Salish Art & Design

Language and Culture and Youth Centre holds a Coast Salish Art & Design at Karl's carving shed every Thursday's from 6:00pm to 8:00pm to learn the importance of Coast Salish Art & design elements within the contemporary Salish art.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls March/Walk

Language and Culture and TFN Health and Social Services participated and hosted a 5K walk to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on May 5th. We start off with a Welcome song and a prayer. At the corner of Hwy 17 & 52nd St we shared a song to send prayers & strength for those who have lost a loved one. This walk was open to all community members and the public.



Jades Unveiling Bench Ceremony

Language and Culture and TFN Health and Social Services held an Unveiling Bench Ceremony in honor of Jade Joe on June 5th, 2023. x^wəstenəxən (Karl Morgan) designed a beautiful memorial bench with 2 lady bugs and a flower. Located at the Dyke by the blue bridge where loved ones can sit and reflect and remember the person, giving you the space to share the joy of the person's life with others.

Treaty Day

April 3rd, 2023, L&C assisted Recreation & Events Coordinator with hiring Drummers & prayer for the opening & table song. L&C had a craft table for members and public to make a devils club necklace.



National Indigenous Peoples Day

Language & Culture assisted with the hiring of drummers/singers & prayer in hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ to provide for the start of the event to start us in a good way. We set up multiple booths with Language and culture items, we also held a Devils Club beading necklace table, and we had a quick game of hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ language bingo.

leḡənt tə snexʷəl̓ ʔ scewáθən məsteyexʷ Canoe Blessing Ceremony

On June 28th, 2023, TFN Members & families were invited to come out and witness the canoe blessing at the Beach Front Park. The Language & Culture team assisted by hiring our Drummers/Singers: Wopeeoh (Frank Campbell), Angeline Splockton, sləqsit (Steven Stark), Nicol Watson for the prayer, Taylor Baker as our speaker, and the four ladies Maddie Jacobs-Mayall, Makayla Morgan, Kal anumu tia (Tia McGarvie) & Violet Splockton who brushed off our canoe yəxʷələʔ šxʷəli. We are happy to finally wake up the canoe after many years and are excited to finally see it back out in the water.



ADMINISTRATION HOUSE POST BLESSING CEREMONY

The morning of National Indigenous Peoples Day the Language & Culture team assisted in the House post unveiling blessing ceremony by hiring Taylor Baker as our speaker to speak on our behalf, and TFN member Desiree Gurniak to do a prayer to start us off in a good way before we start the ceremony. Drummers/singers: Wopeeoh (Frank Campbell), Angeline Splockton to share their medicine and strength while the ladies brush off both houseposts. The four ladies brushing off both house posts to remove both carvers from the house posts: KIU MU (Bertha Williams), Ah.sul.ten.aht (Loretta Williams), qʷiya qʷiye (Andrea Jacobs), & Maddie Jacobs-Mayall. Teawheelam (Bryce Williams) carved the house post on the left called “The Salmon Queen”. The house post on the right was carved by xʷəstenəxən (Karl Morgan) called “The Dancing Fisher Boy”.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

In April, Health and Social Services (HSS) ran a successful diabetic clinic and lunch and learn presented by Seabirds Mobile Diabetic Testing. Our social assistance worker implemented a collaborative tax clinic with delta assist in the month of April.

HSS ran a well attended grief and loss workshop in May (which may also run ongoing come fall). Also in this month, our Supportive Housing Coordinator represented TFN in Toronto at the National First Nations Housing and Homelessness Forum.



After a 3 year hiatus HSS hosted a health fair in June with a variety of health, social, mental health and addictions organizations. The fair also included traditional healing, a hearing clinic, and onsite optometry. There was also involvement from the TFN community safety strategy collation with their own table and public engagement. Finally in the month of June , HSS hired on three new staff members in the roles of, outreach, care aide and substance use support coordinator.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Natural Resources Committee hosted three special meetings during the month of June.

On June 1st, 2023, the Natural Resource Department held its first Plant Working Group Meeting. This working group was established thanks to members' initiative to gather and discuss plants on Tsawwassen First Nation lands. During our initial meeting members highlighted key topics and action points including soil and plant quality, trespassing & illegal harvesting by non-members, potential fire risk & access to Cedar Trees & plants, plant species in the Community Gardens and the potential creation of a Plant ID App with additional book component for Elders.

On June 8th the Natural Resources Committee and TFN members gathered to hear an update from TFN and their partners Ducks Unlimited, and Raincoast regarding a BC Salmon and Restoration Innovation Funded Restoration project currently under way in the lower Fraser that will generate new habitat for Salmon. The meeting was incredibly positive and offered significant opportunities in the future for further collaboration.

On June 15th the Natural Resources Committee and TFN members gathered to hear an update

from TFN and project partner LGL Consultants regarding their BC Salmon and Restoration funded Fish Trap project. This information included an update regarding future fieldwork and member work on the trap as well as opportunities to incorporate traditional Indigenous knowledge.

New Natural Resources Enforcement Officer

The Natural Resources Department is pleased to welcome as their new Enforcement Officer Jisman Singh. Starting in his position as of June 22nd, Jisman joins us with extensive experience with the Red Cross as well as a background in Indigenous Community Justice. Jisman has a profound appreciation for the outdoors and is looking forward to meeting all TFN member harvesters during his work.

TFN Eulachon Fishery

This was a poor year for the Eulachon Fishery which resulted in no allocation of Eulachon being caught by TFN member fishers.

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WITH EC

This quarter, staff supported Executive Council with two major annual meetings with the leaders of TFN’s treaty partners, and several other meetings with Provincial and Federal ministers.

Annual Premier’s Forum

The Premier’s Forum is an annual meeting between the Premier of BC and leaders of the Members of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations. This year, Executive Council hosted the Premier’s Forum at the TFN on April 13, 2023. The event included a meeting with Premier David Eby and several of his cabinet ministers to discuss the priorities for improving treaty implementation and government-to-government relationships, a shared meal, and a tour of Tsawwassen Lands.

Shared priorities with the BC government include establishing an education program for BC politicians and employees to learn about treaties, establishing mechanisms to ensure TFN’s meaningful participation in policy and legislative initiatives, and negotiating fiscal policy and transfers.



Annual Prime Minister’s Forum

The Prime Minister’s Forum is an annual meeting between the Prime Minister of Canada and the leaders of self-governing and modern treaty nations across Canada. This year, the meeting was held on May 8 in Ottawa and was attended by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, five of his cabinet ministers, and leaders and staff from 29 Indigenous Nations.

In the meeting, Indigenous leaders celebrated some of the good work we have done together, including the approval of a new Modern Treaty Implementation Policy, and advances in funding negotiations. Leaders also advocated for an independent oversight mechanism to improve accountability for treaty implementation, a separate chapter for modern treaty interests in the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan, funding for language revitalization and infrastructure, and greater support to improve mental and physical wellness in the face of the toxic drug crisis.




Meeting with Minister Marc Miller, Federal Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA)

Chief Cassidy, Executive Councilor Taylor Baker, and the Manager of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs met with the Minister of CIRNA on May 9, 2023. The 15 Year Treaty Review, funding for language revitalization, and concerns with major projects were discussed.



Meeting with Minister Joyce Murray, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Chief Cassidy, Executive Councilor Taylor Baker, along with PIGA, legal, and Natural Resources staff, met with the Minister of DFO on May 9, 2023. Topics of discussion included concerns with fish and crab allocations, other pressures on fish stocks and habitats, and concerns with major projects.



Meeting with Minister Rob Fleming, Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

Chief Cassidy, the Director of Lands, and the Manager of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs met with the Minister of MOTI on June 1, 2023, to discuss ongoing challenges with the TransLink Development Cost Charge, and to explore solutions that meet all parties needs.

OTHER POLICY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WORK

Community Safety Strategy

The Community Safety Strategy is a high priority for Executive Council. The strategy will provide recommendations to help Tsawwassen Members on their healing journeys, addressing topics such as substance use, mental health, violence, poverty, housing, facilities, and programs - all with the aim of making Tsawwassen Lands a safe and healthy community.

A panel of experts is developing the strategy. In late March, the Panel held a community workshop where Tsawwassen Members were asked for their input on what things would make TFN a safer place for everyone. Approximately 40 people attended and gave 125 responses, over three responses per person! This information was presented back to the community at the TFN Health Fair on June 16 where Members had the opportunity to give additional input and receive an update on the strategy work.

The Panel is currently planning workshops over the summer months and will be attending the annual Members Gathering in September. Thoughts, questions, and comments can be directed to communitysafety@tsawwassenfirstnation.com.

Funding Proposals

This quarter, staff completed several funding proposals to seek additional resources to support TFN Youth.

PIGA worked with Health and Social Services Department, to apply to two funding streams provided by Indigenous Services Canada related to supporting post-majority youth who have aged out of care. If approved, the funding received from these applications will help provide eligible Tsawwassen youth with supports related to housing, health, wellness, education and employment, and will support the construction of the Youth Respite Home.

PIGA worked with the Education and Skills Department to apply for the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care – Quality Improvement Projects through Employment and Social Development Canada. If the application is successful, this funding will be used to develop a hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ immersion curriculum to be provided through the Smuyuq’wa’ Lelum ECD.

Amendment to the Health and Social Services Program Policy

The Health and Social Services Program Policy includes several programs available to Tsawwassen Members. In this quarter, staff completed an amendment to add the Emergency Assistance Program. Members with financial need can access the program for financial support in emergency situations.

Emergency Assistance Program

Summary

The Emergency Assistance Program provides funds to Members who are in emergency circumstances and require urgent assistance. This program is to be considered if emergent Member needs are unable to be addressed through other programs or family resources.

Objectives

Support Members who require emergency assistance to prevent harm to their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Supported costs include, but are not limited to:

- i. transportation;
- ii. accommodation; or
- iii. professional services.

Indicators of Success

Members are supported during emergency events when family resources and other TFN Programs are not sufficient to prevent harm.

Eligibility

All Members residing on and off Lands with demonstrated financial need. The Manager of Health and Social Services and the Director of Member Services determine eligibility in keeping with the purpose of the program.

Release of the Federal United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) Action Plan

In June, 2023, the federal government released its UNDA Action Plan, which lays out the road map including 101 actions for implementing UNDRIP in Canada. TFN, alongside other self-governing and modern treaty Indigenous Nations across the country, successfully advocated for a separate chapter in the Action Plan to address our interests. Check out the Action Plan here: [2023-06-20_UNDA_Action_Plan_EN.pdf](https://www.justice.gc.ca/2023-06-20_UNDA_Action_Plan_EN.pdf) (justice.gc.ca)

Visit with the BC Treaty Commission

On May 31, 2023, Commissioners and staff from the BC Treaty Commission visited Tsawwassen Lands to learn about TFN and tour the lands. It was a great opportunity to share about the successes and lessons learned of being a modern treaty nation, and to show off some of the great work happening on Tsawwassen Lands, including the work done by TFN youth to build a fire pit in the Members Only Park!



GOVERNMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide feedback from Members to the Executive Council and Legislature on policy and legislative initiatives. These meetings are now “hybrid” format, with some Members attending in person and others joining online via Zoom. During the second quarter of 2023 there were five Advisory Council meetings, with an average of seven attendees per meeting. Some of the items reviewed by the Advisory Council include:

- Review of proposed amendments to the Community Area Plan
- Update on Sustainability Charter project
- Review of draft regulation (Applicability of REDMA on Tsawwassen Lands Regulation)
- Advisory Council Code of Conduct
- Review of proposed policy/regulation amendments (Policy for Payment of Servicing and Pre-Construction Costs, Good Neighbour Regulation)
- Presentation from TFN Compliance and Enforcement and Delta PD

Tsawwassen Legislature

This time of year is typically a quiet time for the Tsawwassen Legislature. There were no formal sittings of the Legislative Assembly during this period, however Legislators did participate in the TFN Trust Society Annual General Meeting on June 14th 2023. This year’s AGM included a review of the Trust Society 2022 Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report, the appointment of the Trust Society Auditor for 2023, and the Directors Report and Report on Investment Performance. All Legislators are members of the Trust Society, and the AGM is open to all Members to observe.

Communications

In June 2023 staff engaged Castlemain Group as consultants for a project to develop a Communications Strategy for Tsawwassen Government. More information will be available over the summer including opportunities for Members to provide their feedback on communications tools and processes. Stay tuned for further updates!

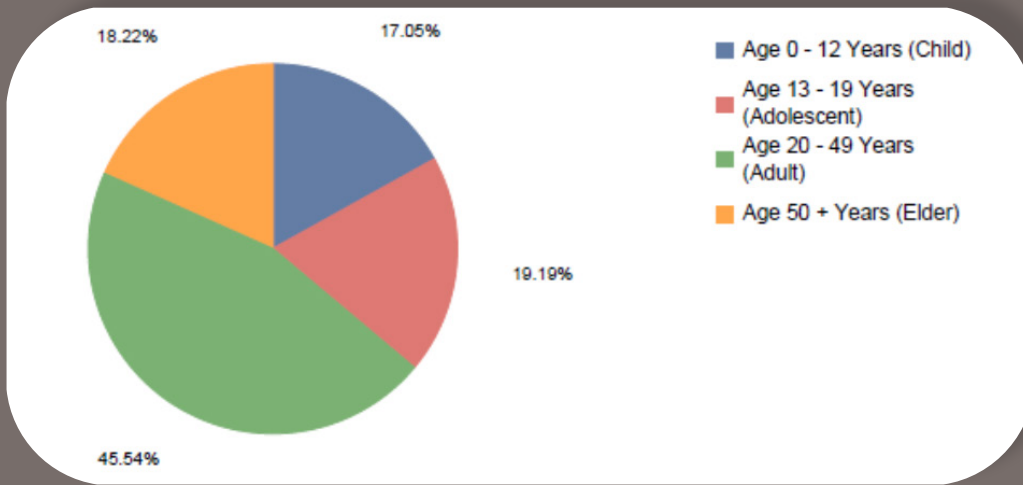
Treaty Day 2023

The 14th anniversary of Treaty Day was celebrated on Monday April 3rd with an evening event at the Longhouse. Members and invited guests enjoyed some activities and cultural displays in the tent including an archaeology “dig”, a delicious dinner prepared by Mamma J’s Catering, and a performance from Squamish Dancers. BC’s Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Hon. Murray Rankin, was also in attendance and delivered a keynote address. Hands raised to everyone who shared their words, their songs, and their hard work to make the event a success!

National Indigenous Peoples Day 2023

Check out the Language and Culture Section for updates on this event (page 9)!





ENROLMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

As of June 30 2023, the total population of Tsawwassen First Nation is 516 Members. Adults aged 20-49 make up nearly half of Membership, at just over 45 percent.

LANDS, ENGINEERING, AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MI CE:P
KʷETXʷILƏM
Welcome

*New Lands Staff
(Development Planning Team)*



TFN Lands Dept welcomed **Jenney Lin** in June as a new Lands Assistant. Jenney has joined us as a Lands Assistant and will assist with Lands front counter duties. Welcome Jenney!

Zera Zhou joined us in April as our new Lands Records Coordinator and assists in maintaining the Tempest Lands Records system and works closely with our Finance Department. Zera has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture Studies from the University of Toronto and brings with her experience in data analysis.

Alvin Chandy joined us in June as our new Planning Technician and assists in development related tasks and projects such as application intake & reviews, research, report preparation and record management. Alvin has a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and Master's degree in Planning. Prior to joining TFN, she worked for the Regional District of Kitimat & Stikine and GRD Construction Ltd. and brings with her a wealth of land development experience from these past jobs.

TFN Recognized at the Provincial Level Annual Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) Conference in Sun Peaks

The Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) held their annual conference in Sun Peaks. Five TFN Members (four staff) and five Lands staff attended. Two proposals submitted were selected to be presented in concurrent sessions. One session (CS-10) on agricultural business planning, food security and the TFN Community Farm pilot project, scheduled on May 31, was titled “Connecting to Our Roots Through *ɕəlisələm*”. This session had 3 members (Nicol, Nikki and Chrystalynn) and two staff (Kris and Rasika) as co-presenters. The second session (CS-19) on meaningful member engagement on various community projects, scheduled on June 01, was titled “A Framework for an Empowering, Participatory and Culturally Centered Planning Practice”. This session had 2 members (Elder Ruth and Jesseca Adams) and two staff (Priyanka and Komal) as co-presenters. Both presentations were Member led.

TFN received an “Honourable Mention” (first time!) for Excellence in Planning Practice in Small Towns and Rural Areas for the *ɕəlisələm* (TFN Community Farm pilot) project. Staff are grateful for the leadership and support of Executive Council, Administration, and the Agriculture Advisory Committee.



Lands Staff Professional Development Session

On May 17th, 2023, the Lands staff participated in a professional development session conducted by Thinking Partners Inc. at Tsawwassen Springs. The primary purpose of the session was on enhancing team dynamics, fostering interpersonal relationships, developing leadership skills, and recognizing organizational culture and values.

TFN Peace Officer Update

The Bylaw team provided presentations to the Elders, Housing Advisory Committee and Advisory Council. They also conducted community outreach by knocking on doors and providing magnets with their contact information to Members.



MEMBER HOUSING UPDATES

Lot A and B Duplex Development

- Subdivision registration May 3, 2023, for 12 residential parcels, each accommodate a duplex unit, and one hooked utility parcel.
- Site servicing construction underway
- Building Permits issued June 1, 2023
- The construction of the units is projected to commence in July 2023, with anticipated completion by the end of summer 2024.



36 Unit Townhome Development

- Construction on the 36-unit townhome development is underway.
- Building blocks A & B are estimated to be completed by late Summer 2023.
- Blocks C & D are projected to be complete in early Fall
- Blocks E, F, G & H are projected complete by October 2023.



Falcon Way Lots

Lot 6, 14 and 30 are in the process of being transferred to Members to build their new homes. Staff are exploring options to provide Members with new lot options given the limited availability of remaining lots. Please contact Rajan Sandhu, the Housing Planner, if you have any questions regarding the acquisition of one of the remaining serviced lots.

National Housing Co-Investment Fund Contribution (CMHC)

Housing staff have secured a National Housing Co-Investment Fund Contribution from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to renovate existing affordable housing units at TFN. Staff are devising an action plan to best allocate funds, ensuring that requirements of the agreement are being met throughout the process.

PROJECT UPDATES

CƏLISƏLƏM (TFN Community Farm) Pilot Project

Under the guidance of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and EC, phase 1 of the project was successfully implemented last year, and phase 2 is being added this year. This pilot project aligns well with the key initiatives identified in TFN’s Agricultural Business Plan.

Earth Day 2023

TFN celebrated Earth Day at cəlisələm (TFN Community Farm) on June 6, 2023, with 50 attendees. The event, which had been canceled twice due to unforeseen circumstances, was a resounding success. EC Member Valerie Cross delivered an opening speech, followed by a cultural protocol that included a prayer by Nicol Watson, TFN Farm Coordinator. TFN’s Cultural Team performed a song to bless the land, and Valerie Cross spoke about the farm’s vision and progress. Steven Stark, Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, shared observations and offered words of encouragement. Attendees later enjoyed food from Mama’s food truck, participated in door prize activities, and provided valuable feedback on desired crops and trees for the farm. TFN expresses its gratitude to Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) and Naut’sa mawt Tribal Council, the grant administrator, for funding this event!

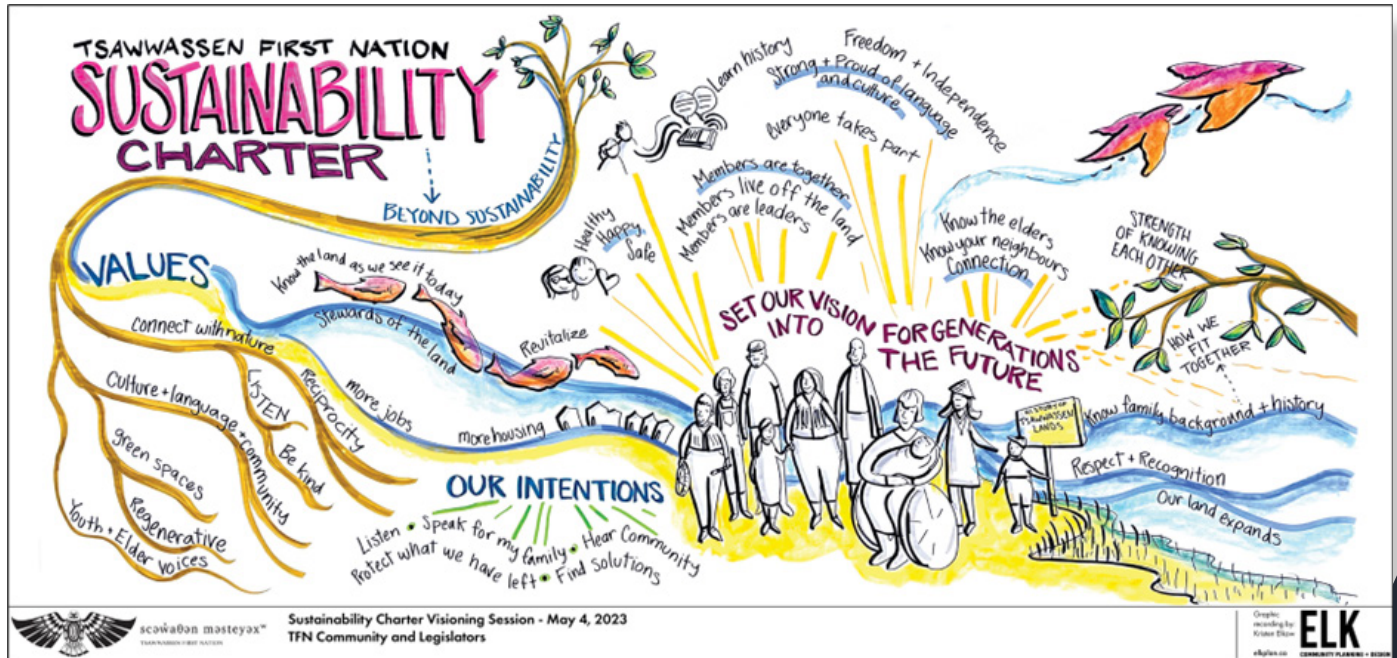
Cold Storage Structure for Farm Operations

A cold storage structure, consisting of two 20ft sea cans with a metal roof, was constructed at the farm site between May and June. One of the sea cans has been insulated and will be utilized for crop storage, while the other remains unmodified and will be used to store farm equipment. This cold storage structure will function as the central hub for farm staff, providing them with a designated “home base.” Beneath the roof, there will be a washing station where staff can clean and prepare farm produce. The harvested produce will then be distributed to various TFN programs, including the Youth Centre, Elders Centre, Daycare, the food bank, and members in need throughout the growing season.



TFN Sustainability Charter Initiative - Community Visioning Session

On May 4th, a Community Visioning session was held at the TFN Rec Centre for the TFN Sustainability Charter initiative. The session was attended by Chief Cassidy, Legislators, and community members. Pinna Sustainability Inc., project consultant, facilitated the session, and a graphic illustrator from Elk Community Planning recorded the ideas, thoughts, suggestions, and concerns expressed at the meeting visually. The session sparked productive conversations, and valuable feedback was received from Members about what sustainability means to the community and which important TFN values should be incorporated into this guiding document with a 50-year vision. Below are some photos from the session.



Falcon Way Streetscape Design Project

Following engagement sessions with residents of Falcon Way in November 2022, EC considered a revised conceptual plan on January 31, 2023 (shown above, subject to revisions). This plan was subsequently discussed at an all-resident meeting on June 14th (event photo below). Later, on June 27th, EC conducted a walkthrough of Falcon Way with staff and project consultants to assess the proposed streetscape design and its impacts.



FINANCE

New Elder's Benefit Program Payments Begin

Executive Council is happy to share that the new Elder's Benefit Program is now in effect and that the first payments under the new program have been made. Elders will now receive \$20,000 on their 55th birthday, \$10,000 on their 60th birthday, and monthly \$500 benefit beginning on their 65th birthday. We appreciate your patience with the inconsistent payment schedule during the initial rollout of this program. Now that the transition to the new program has been completed, Elders receiving their benefits by direct deposit can expect to receive their Age 55 and Age 60 benefits within 5 business days of their birthday, and their Age 65 benefits on the first Wednesday of every month.

To our Elders,

We thank you for the knowledge and wisdom you have provided Tsawwassen. Your role as knowledge keepers in our community is invaluable and we will continue looking to you for guidance and support in the future. These benefits are well deserved, and we hope that you enjoy them.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TFN Economic Development Department Construction Projects

In April of 2023, TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture successfully competed the Outdoor Boat Display works located outside of Bass Pro at Tsawwassen Mills.

On June 15, 2023, TFN's Economic Development Department released the tender for the Boat Yard Relocation project on BC Bid after many months of planning, design, and engineering work. Staff emailed respective Member and JV partner civil works companies to notify them of the project. The scope of work comprises the supply and installation of a new boat yard, access road and underground infrastructure. The works are expected to be completed by the Fall of 2023.

CBA Workshop

May 15th we hosted staff from British Columbia Infrastructure Benefits (BCIB) to provide a workshop for our Member contractors and business partners. BCIB's Greg Johnson, Executive Director for Stakeholder Relations, and Brenda Ireland, Executive Director for Indigenous Relations & Respectful Onsite Initiative, presented in person.

BCIB staff provided key information on labour supply and sourcing, management responsibilities, training and education, payroll and grievances, living out allowance, and permitting. Importantly they responded to concerns and questions from our Members and partners.

Needs Assessment Survey - Boat and Member Business Equipment Storage

Lands Planning and Economic Development Staff promoted a needs assessment survey within TFN's community, which took place during the Spring of 2023. The intent was to understand Members interest and requirements for storage for their boats and businesses. Feedback so far indicates there is a significant amount of interest for the initiative within the community.

A GROWING GOVERNMENT

NEW REGULAR FULL-TIME ADDITIONS TO
TSAWWASSEN'S GOVERNMENT STAFF

Between April 1 to June 30 2023

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Aneet Toor – Youth Worker

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jisman Sing – Natural Resources Enforcement Officer

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Andrew Lawrence - Substance Use Support Coordinator

Kelly Scott - Biologist

Natascha Vijae - Health Care Assistant

Vicky Rojas - Outreach Worker

ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Cliff Gurniak – Public Works Landscaper

Kim Garma – Development Technician

Zera Zhou – Lands Records Coordinator

LANDS

Alvin Chandy – Planning Technician

Jenney Lin – Lands Assistant

MEMBER SERVICES

Mac Brown – Lead Farm Worker



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WELCOME

ORDERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE FOLLOWING ORDERS WERE PASSED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DURING APRIL TO JUNE 2023 PERIOD:

- O.028-2023 Order to approve sole source to Raven Excavations for archeological material screening
- O.029-2023 Order to approve sole source contract to Urban Systems Ltd for design and construction administration of Sanitary Pump Station
- O.030-2023 Order to amend the Health and Social Services Program Policy
- O.032-2023 Order to approve grant funding application to First People's Cultural Council for Heritage Infrastructure Program 2023 grant
- O.033-2023 Order to enact the Annual Utility Charge Regulation (2023)
- O.034-2023 Order to approve sole-source contract to PGL Environmental Consultants Ltd for invasive plant and tree management consulting services
- O.035-2023 Order to award sole-source contract for revegetation of English Bluff Slope to Blue Pine Enterprises Ltd.
- O.036-2023 Order to amend the Procurement Policy (2022)
- O.037-2023 Order to approve application to ISC Asset Management Program for funding
- O.038-2023 Order to seek grant funding from First Nations Wellbeing Program 2023
- O.039-2023 Order to enact the Annual Rates Regulation (2023)
- O.040-2023 Order to set committee honoraria
- O.041-2023 Order to award design and contract administration of Tsawwassen Drive South Closure to WSP Canada Inc
- O.042-2023 Order to approve grant application to the UBCM Complete Communities 2023-2024 Program
- O.043-2023 Order to approve transfer of TFSI Lot 8 in Falcon Way subdivision to C. Adams
- O.044-2023 Order to approve Aquilini Development Corp. License Agreement

TFN Treaty Day | April 2023





TFN MMIWG Walk | May 2023







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