



# LAND FACING THE SEA 2023

ʔəy̓ sweyal. This edition of *Land Facing the Sea* is a summary of actions taken by the Tsawwassen government from October to December 2023.

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

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Events from Winter 2023  
Published February 2024



scəwəθən məsteyəx<sup>w</sup>  
TSAWWSSEN FIRST NATION



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

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Dear Members,*

Land Facing the Sea 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 October – December 2023.

This fall, EC was overjoyed to attend many positive community events and spend time with Members. This included the Šx'kw'ecxənəm x'kw'ecxənəm scełtən Gathering, where we shared a meal and welcomed the distribution of canned salmon in celebration of the Fall Equinox. EC also had the opportunity to meet with Members at engagement events in Delta, Bellingham, and Vernon. We appreciate everyone who took the time to attend these events and provide EC with feedback and comments. It fills our hearts to connect with so many Members living away from Tsawwassen Lands and we are grateful for the opportunity to come together despite the distance. As the year came to a close, we were delighted to see many of you at the Community Christmas Dinner and to share a meal in the spirit of the holidays.

In November, the Tsawwassen Legislature convened to provide input on several important initiatives being led by the Tsawwassen Government.

This session included discussions of proposed amendments to the Land Act and the Election Act, updates on the Tilbury Marine Jetty project, an introduction to the 15-Year Treaty Review Project, and information on the organizational changes and compensation review conducted this year. Hay čx' qə to all the Legislators for their good work during this session and we look forward to engaging with Members about these topics over the coming year.

Executive Council was also delighted to welcome Premier David Eby to Tsawwassen Lands to celebrate the opening of the čitməx'ʔelə (Owl's Nest) 36-unit rental housing complex and provide a tour of the qəʔis məstiməx'əwtx' (Youth Centre). Premier Eby was blanketed to show TFN's gratitude for the provincial government's contributions to both projects. We thank all the Members and staff who helped make this celebration happen.

Finally, Executive Council would like to express our gratitude to all Members for their role in making 2023 an amazing year for our Nation. We are incredibly proud of everything our Nation achieved this year and we look forward to seeing everything we will accomplish together next year. We raise our hands to every single one of you!

*As we begin 2024, we hope that everyone continues to take care, and as always, feel free to reach out. ciθamə cən.*

# CHIEF CASSIDY

## CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

### *October 2023*

- 5 Spoke at Delta Police Department House Post Raising
- 5 Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Committee meeting
- 11/12 Naut'samawt Tribal Council Banquet and Annual General Meeting
- 16 Standing Committee on Language and Culture meeting
- 17 Elders Harvest lunch
- 19 Delta Police Board meeting
- 20 Metro Vancouver Special Board meeting
- 21 Metro Vancouver Council of Council meeting
- 23 Full day tour of 3 Administration Buildings in the Metro Vancouver area for our Administration Building Planning
- 24 Spoke for the Te'mexw Delegation at the TFN Longhouse
- 26 RBT2 Habitat Offsetting Community meeting
- 27 Metro Vancouver Board meeting
- 27 15 Year Treaty Review meeting
- 28 Appy hour with EC and members
- 31 Chapter 9 Treaty Negotiations Workshop
- 31 Employee Halloween lunch
- 31 Youth center Halloween party

### *November 2023*

- 1-3 First Nations Leadership Gathering in Vancouver  
Meetings with Premier Eby, Minister Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance, and Leanne Enoch, Minister of Treaty, Minister of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for communities, Minister for the Arts of the Queensland Government of Australia
- 1-3 Meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission and the Minister of Agriculture
- 2 Information workshop for Legislators
- 4 Delta Hospital Gala
- 6 Admin Building Visioning session led by Urban Arts Architecture

- 7 Met with and Australian representative to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues
- 8 Aboriginal Veterans Day at the Youth center
- 9 TFN Fall Legislature
- 10 Metro Vancouver Flood Resiliency Committee
- 13 Met with Minister Ananaasangaree
- 14 TFN Fall Legislature
- 15 Delta Police Department Board meeting
- 15 Budget priorities workshop
- 16 Local Leaders Engagement
- 17 Tour of 3 Admin Buildings in the Fraser Valley
- 22 Met with Chief Sparrow, Musqueam
- 23 Spirit of the Westcoast Fashion show in Vancouver
- 24 Metro Vancouver Board meeting
- 27 Met with Delta Mayor George Harvie
- 27 Duplex tour with Lands staff members and members of the Housing Advisory Committee  
Housing Advisory Council meeting
- 29 Member Engagement Session in Bellingham  
Tour of 2 Administration and Housing buildings in Lummi

### *December 2023*

- 1 Opening of čitməxʷ?elə (Owl Nest) 36-Unit & Blanketing Ceremony to honour Premier Eby
- 4 Met with Susan Chamber, Regional Director General of Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- 5 Admin/Legislature Building Steering Committee
- 6 Spoke at TFN Community Christmas dinner
- 7/8 Member Engagement and Holiday dinner in Vernon
- 11 Meeting with Chief Sparrow, Musqueam and staff
- 13 Delta Police Board meeting
- 15 15 year Treaty review meeting
- 15 Meeting between EC and the Economic Development Advisory Committee
- 15 Metro Vancouver Special Mayor's Committee
- 18 Standing Committee on Language and Culture
- 19 Elders Christmas lunch  
Holiday dinner with Urban Systems
- 21 Youth Center concert
- 22 TFN staff Christmas lunch

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

## CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

### COUNCILLOR AHLM

#### October 2023

- 11 Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council Banquet in Victoria
- 12 Rattle ceremony for the 40th Anniversary of Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council
- 13 Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council Annual General Meeting
- 23 Full-day tour of 3 Administrative Buildings in the Metro Vancouver Area for our Administration Building Planning
- 24 Te'mexw Delegation at the Longhouse
- 28 Appy Hour with EC
- 31 Chapter 9 Treaty Negotiations Workshop

#### November 2023

- 6 Admin Building Visioning Session lead by Urban Arts Architecture
- 7 Met with an Australian Representative to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- 8 Aboriginal Veterans Day event at the TFN Youth Centre
- 13 Met with the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 17 Admin/Legislature Building Steering Committee tour of Administration buildings in the Fraser Valley
- 27 Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council Board of Directors meeting
- 30 RBT2 habitat offsetting community session

#### December 2023

- 1 Opening of čitməx<sup>w</sup>?elə (Owl Nest) 36-Unit & Blanketing Ceremony to honour Premier Eby
- 5 Admin/Legislature Building Steering Committee meeting.
- 7-8 Member Engagement Session and Holiday Dinner
- 13 Meeting between Executive Council and the Economic Development Advisory Committee

### COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

#### October 2023

- 24 Te'mexw Delegation at the Longhouse
- 25 TransLink Mayor's Council Meeting
- 25 Agricultural Advisory Meeting
- 31 Chapter 9 Treaty Negotiations Workshop

#### November 2023

- 1 Provided opening remarks for the Cultural Hub Community Engagement
- 1 Indigenous Business Awards in Vancouver
- 4 Delta Hospital Moonlight Gala
- 8 Aboriginal Veterans Day event at the TFN Youth Centre
- 8 TransLink Joint Planning Committee meeting
- 14 Jack Webster Awards
- 17 Joint Planning Committee meeting with the TransLink Board
- 17 Business Excellence Awards Gala
- 22 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
- 23 TransLink Mayors' Council meeting
- 24 Joint Finance Committee and TransLink Mayors; Council meeting
- 27 Duplex tour with Lands staff, Members, and members of the Housing Advisory Committee

#### December 2023

- 1 Opening of čitməx<sup>w</sup>?elə (Owl Nest) 36-Unit & Blanketing Ceremony to honour Premier Eby
- 12 Per Diem Policy Workshop
- 14 TransLink Mayors' Council meeting

## COUNCILLOR CROSS

### October 2023

- 23 Full-day tour of 3 Administrative Buildings in the Metro Vancouver Area for our Administration Building Planning
- 28 Appy Hour with EC

### November 2023

- 2-3 First Nation Leadership Gathering in Vancouver
- 3 ABCMTN meeting with Premier Eby

- 3 Meeting the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission and the Minister of Agriculture
- 4 Delta Hospital Moonlight Gala
- 6 Admin Building Visioning Session lead by Urban Arts Architecture

### December 2023

- 1 Opening of čitməxʷ?elə (Owl Nest) 36-Unit & Blanketing Ceremony to honour Premier Eby
- 7-8 Member Engagement Session and Holiday Dinner

## COUNCILLOR BAKER

### October 2023

- 15-16 Met with the Speaker of the BC Legislature regarding reconciliation initiatives in Victoria, BC
- 23 Full-day tour of 3 Administrative Buildings in the Metro Vancouver Area for our Administration Building Planning
- 24 Te'mexw Delegation at the Longhouse
- 26 Delivered presentation on TFN at Tsawwassen Rotary Club
- 28 Appy Hour with EC
- 31 Chapter 9 Treaty Negotiations Workshop

### November 2023

- 1 Indigenous Business Awards in Vancouver
- 2 Meeting with the Chief, Interim CAO, and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations ("ABCMTN") with the Honourable Leanne Enoch, Minister of Treaty, Minister of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for communities and Minister for the Arts of the Queensland Government in Australia
- 2-3 First Nation Leadership Gathering in Vancouver
- 3 ABCMTN meeting with Premier Eby
- 3 Provincial Agricultural Land Commission and the Minister of Agriculture Meeting

- 4 Delta Hospital Moonlight Gala
- 6 Admin Building Visioning Session lead by Urban Arts Architecture
- 7 Met with an Australian Representative to UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- 8 Aboriginal Veterans Day event at the TFN Youth Centre
- 27 Duplex tour with Lands staff members, and members of the Housing Advisory Committee
- 27 Housing Advisory Council meeting.
- 29 Member Engagement Session in Bellingham
- 30 RBT2 habitat offsetting community session

### December 2023

- 1 Opening of čitməxʷ?elə (Owl Nest) 36-Unit & Blanketing Ceremony to honour Premier Eby
- 5 Admin/Legislature Building Steering Committee meeting
- 7-8 Member Engagement Session and Holiday Dinner in Vernon
- 13 Meeting between Executive Council and the Economic Development Advisory Committee



# EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

## *Halloween*

When it comes to Halloween, we don't mess around. The Youth Program began the month by decorating as much of the Youth Center as possible. Next, we visited local thrift stores for costumes and decorations. Finally, we teamed up to put on an epic haunted house, theme: Carn-evil. The night was a blast with beasts, performances, and fortunes. To seal off the night we ended a bang, a beautiful fireworks show in the park to seal the end of October.

## *Teen Program*

Our youth programming had some interesting adventures this season, all in good fun. We have discovered a new knack for thrift shopping which always piques our interest, scouring the racks for the best find. We are very excited about the re-ignition of Breaking Bannock nights, where we invite a guest speaker to share a meal with us and hear the trials and tribulations of their life. Not all the fun was had at the Youth Center, we ventured out to Exit Langley to try to solve the puzzle of the escape room, screamed our socks off at Potters Haunted house, and witnessed the beautiful glow of marvelous holiday lights at Van Dusen Gardens Light Show. A beautiful end to a great season, we look forward to what 2024 has to offer.

## *Winter Concert*

After months of preparation, our High Schoolers and Afterschool Care put together an amazing Winter Concert performance. All eyes were on them for their performance of the Welcome song, Co-ed Song, Riptide, and Jingle Bells. The band featured a drum set, ukelele, base guitar, and traditional drums and rattles. Definitely a performance to remember!

## *After School Care*

It has been another busy couple months for our afterschool program. Our youth have showed major improvement in social, physical, and spiritual growth through free play in our imagination stations, practicing their taekwondo with sensei Josh and learning Coast Salish songs, language, and traditions with Connie. We participated in many community events including the Harvest Lunch, helping to decorate and host for our Halloween party and Christmas craft fair. The attendance of youth ages 5 to 12 for the afterschool care program has been outstanding and the year ahead holds nothing but learning experiences, connection and doing all that we can to give back to our beautiful community.

## *Camping trip to Vedder River Campground*

From October 20th-22nd we took a group of brave youth on a cold fall camping trip to the Vedder River! Activities included drumming, singing, wood chopping, fire building, cooking, and telling stories around the fire! The group learned a lot of new outdoor adventure skills on this trip!

### *Harvest Dinner*

On October 12th at 4pm we held our first annual Harvest Dinner here at the youth center. Community members of all ages came to enjoy a gorgeous meal together. Our chef Gurdeep took no short cuts when preparing a feast fit for royalty. Our respected elder Terri Splockton started the night off in a good way with a prayer song and our older youth honored him with a blanket. Our littles got a taste of long house protocol by serving our elders and ensuring that our guests had everything they need. The evening was an amazing success thanks to the youth center team and all our incredible youth.

### *Recreation Programs –*

#### *Weight Room, Drop-in Sports, Boxing*

From October 1st – December 31st our Youth Centre was very lively with active youth participating in our Recreation Programs! From working out and exercising in our weight room, to playing various sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey, and lacrosse in our gymnasium! We also have Youth Boxing classes twice a week and they were a major success with the majority of the classes being at full capacity!

### *Pro D Days*

For our Pro-D day in October, we decided to stick with tradition and had a blast with our friends at the Chilliwack corn maze. We had a blast finding our way through the maze, cooking hot dogs on the fire and trading traditional songs with another group of indigenous youth from the Squamish nation. On top of all that we got to pet goats and play in the one and only dried corn pit. Our pro d day in November was just as exciting if not more. The youth center team took the children to Vancouver where we got to take the gondola all the way up to the top of grouse mountain. At the top of the mountain, we had the remarkable opportunity to listen to songs and legends from respected elder William Nehayne from the Squamish Nation. We enjoyed our packed lunches while learning about all our animal friends that call grouse mountain home. Last but not least we got to meet the real-life Santa and two of his reindeer! It was a truly whimsical experience for all ages.

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

### *Craft Night*

Cultural craft night is held every Monday. Language and Culture has teamed up with Health and Social Services for craft night. TFN Members are invited to work on or finish a craft. Craft supplies, dinner and babysitting are provided.

### *Drum Group*

Drum Group is held every Wednesday evening at the Youth Centre. TFN members are encouraged to come out to practice and learn new songs. On October 25th we held a drum making workshop open to members to come out and make a drum, the drum would be donated back into the drum group for future use.

### *Every Child Matters brushing and unveiling event*

On September 29th, Language and Culture provided cultural support for a brushing and unveiling of an Every Child Matters crosswalk design at Tsawwassen Mills Mall by Coast Salish Artist, Ovila Mailhot.

### *DPD Housepost Unveiling*

On October 5th, Language and Culture provided cultural support to the Delta Police Department for an unveiling of a housepost outside of the Delta Police Headquarters in Ladner BC.

### *Phyllis Webstad*

On October 5th, Language and Culture met with Phyllis Webstad at Tsawwassen Mills Mall to show her the crosswalk that was installed inside the mall. Phyllis Jack Webstad is a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) author from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, and the creator of Orange Shirt Day, a day of remembrance marked in Canada later instated as the public holiday of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She is a First Nations residential school survivor. She has written multiple books, including a picture book depicting her experience with the Indian residential school system. Tsawwassen Youth provided Phyllis with a gift and shared stories.

### *Cultural Safety Training*

On October 13th, Language and Culture organized a workshop for the TFN Archeology team on Cultural Safety within their worksites. We had Elders and members of the Longhouse Committee come out and share cultural stories and protocols. L&C also provided the Archeology team with a cultural basket that included items to help protect them while on site and working with Ancestors.

### *Tem'mexw Delegation*

On October 24th, Language and Culture provided cultural support for visitors from the 5 Nations of the Te'mexw Treaty Association – SC'IA/NEW (Beecher Bay), Malahat, Snaw-Naw-As, Songhees, and T'Sou-ke. TFN hosted the 5 Nations in our Longhouse, provided a presentation from TFN staff followed by Q&A, and held a tour of TFN Lands.

### *Cultural Hub Member Engagement*

November 1st, Language and Culture teamed up with the Lands Department and held a Member Engagement session in the future Cultural Hub space.

The TFN Culture Hub Project aims to design and execute 4, 452 sq. ft. space in the TFN Commons to create a Cultural Hub. This space is intended to serve multiple purposes like hosting artwork and cultural displays, functioning as an interpretive centre, providing education, office, storage of artifacts, mentoring for TFN youth/classroom for language and culture revitalization, networking for Indigenous artists, share about TFN Values and Culture, and promoting learning traditional crafts.

### *Indigenous Veterans Day*

November 8th, National Indigenous Veterans Day, is a day of remembrance and commemoration for Indigenous Veterans. We honoured our TFN Veterans and families. TFN staff were able to share photos of our TFN Veterans. TFN Veteran families shared stories. Members were asked to place roses on wreaths that were made by the Language and Culture Department as well as light candles to commemorate TFN Veterans. We also had a member of the Delta Pipe Band come out and play some songs for TFN members and TFN Veterans families.

The following day the wreaths were laid out by Elders and the Language and Culture team at the Totem Pole in front of the nurses trailer.

### *Opening of the Longhouse*

November 10th was the opening of the Longhouse. TFN staff supported the Longhouse Committee with the opening for the upcoming season.

### *Blanketing Ceremony for Premier Eby*

On December 1st, 2023 Language and Culture provided cultural support for a Blanketing Ceremony with Premier Eby that ended with a tour of the new 36-unit and Youth Centre.





# HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

## *Local Leaders Dinner*

The department is seeing a steady stream of community engagement in accessing mental health and substance use support services including high numbers of members accessing long term treatment and recovery plans. TFN participated in the Local Leaders Dinner with other local stakeholders, community partners, and politicians, to bring awareness and more substance use support resources to the region. TFN will be meeting with the City of Delta in the new year to discuss the next steps in this process.

## *Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT)*

TFN has partnered with Delta Police Department, Options Community Services, and the Canadian Mental Health Association to establish a Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) for the city of Delta. This project will help reduce the number of mental health and substance use related calls that the DPD respond to by sending a mental health team (comprised of people with lived experience) to help individuals in crisis and reduce unnecessary interactions with the criminal justice system.

## *Mobile and Vaccine Clinics*

Rounding out this year, the Health team was involved in multiple mobile clinics, including hearing, dental optometry and vaccine clinics. In addition, the health team hosted numerous well-attended workshops on self-care, grief, women's wellness, and harm reduction.

## *The Substance Use Support Program*

The Substance Use Support Program added three new staff to its program:

**Dalton**, our new Substance Use Support Coordinator, and  
**Gwen and Sue**, Youth Home Support Workers.

## *Family Support Program*

Monthly workshops on overdose response/naloxone training have been implemented throughout the year. From the Family Support Program, the Family Support Coordinator and members of the TFN policy team were invited to Ottawa to participate in a full day discussion regarding funding gaps and challenges for child and family services. Leaders and representatives of Indigenous communities were present from across Canada. In addition, supplemental supports were provided to the community over the holidays, including Christmas hampers and the toy drive. Finally, the Family Support Program also has added a new staff member to the team. **Faeza** has joined the team as the Health and Family Service Admin Support, overseeing administrative duties for the department.

## *Ongoing Projects*

The supervisor of health has been working in collaboration with the Delta Division of Family Practice, First Nations Health Authority, and the TFN policy team toward the long term goal of obtaining a physician on lands and a fully functioning primary care center. Other external stakeholder partnerships also included TFN's engagement with the Fraser Salish Health Caucus as a means to build better working relationships and decolonizing health care with Fraser Health. Finally, all three departments have been working with TFN government services to implement AIS case management systems with the hopes of transitioning to a streamlined electronic database and referral system for HSS staff and clients.



# NATURAL RESOURCES

## *NRC Meetings*

The Natural Resources Department had an NRC meeting on December 7th, 2023. At this meeting a potential collaboration between the First Nations Fisheries Legacy Fund, TFN and UVIC was discussed that would allow members to assist and guide mapping of important local salmon habitat. In addition, an end of the fishing season report was given by the Fisheries Negotiator to attendees. The department also gave an update on their Native plant propagation work as well as new and emerging considerations related to seeking new locations for members to harvest and hunt.

## *2024 Calendar*

In December the department reached to members requesting photos they had taken while out harvesting, that were compiled into a monthly calendar with the assistance of the Language and Culture department. The calendar incorporated traditional language terms, was wire bound and listed important dates within each month for natural resources related considerations. A preliminary run was printed and distributed to members during the community Christmas dinner. The department plans on printing more in the new year. If you did not receive a calendar and would like to be on the list to receive one, please contact Lola Pavlovic 604-861-0772 or Krystal Lockert 604-838-9794.

## *Fish Allocation*

There were 650 chinook that were caught during the summer 2023 FSC (Food, Social and Ceremonial) gillnet season out of an allocation of seven hundred (TFN fishers harvested 92% of the allocation). TFN Natural Resources staff validated 91% of the chinook caught.

There were 425 chum salmon caught during the fall gillnet season out of an allocation of 1,754 (TFN fishers harvested only 24% of the allocation). The season proved difficult due to poor weather and the main pulse of the chum run arriving prior to the DFO window closure being lifted for TFN Fishers. TFN Natural Resources staff were able to validate 100% of all harvested FSC chum salmon.

## *Patrols and Validations*

From October to December there has been a total of 120 vehicle-based patrols for FSC Crab and fifty vehicle based migratory bird and dike patrols. During this time TFN Staff were able to validate 5-member crab harvests of FSC crab.



# POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

### *First Nations Leadership Gathering 2023*

Chief Cassidy, Members of Executive Council, and staff attended the 2023 First Nations Leadership Gathering from November 1-3, 2023. The Gathering was attended by more than 1000 delegates making it an effective networking event with leaders from other Nations as well as BC elected officials and staff. As a Member of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, TFN met with the Premier of BC and the Minister of Finance to advocate for issues related to treaty implementation and funding. TFN also met with the Minister of Agriculture and senior Agricultural Land Commission officials to advance work on the new cemetery.



### *Meeting with Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations*

On November 11, 2023, Chief Cassidy, Members of Executive Council, and staff met with the new federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Gary Anandasangaree. This was an introductory meeting to build relationship and share some of TFN's priorities with the federal government.





### *Blanketing Ceremony with Premier David Eby*

On December 1, 2023, TFN held a blanketing ceremony with Premier David Eby to celebrate the completion of the 36 unit rental complex and thank the Provincial government for their financial contributions to the project. Gratitude was also highlighted for the previous Chief and Executive Councils, and staff who worked on the project to ensure its success.



### *TFN Intergovernmental Meetings on Fisheries with RDG of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (“DFO”)*

In December 2023, TFN participated in two introductory meetings on fisheries with the recently appointed Regional Director General (“RDG”) - Pacific Region of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (“DFO”), Susan Chambers.

- **On December 4, a bilateral meeting occurred with Chief Cassidy and the RDG**, attended by the CAO, and members of TFN’s Natural Resources Department, Treaty Rights and Title Department, and PIGA Department. At this meeting TFN advocated for the importance of fisheries to the Tsawwassen People and TFN culture, raised key fisheries issues pertaining to TFN’s allocations for Crab and Salmon, and advocated for a causeway breach as part of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project, asking for RDG support to elevate these key TFN matters within DFO.
- **On December 7th, TFN participated in a collective introductory meeting with the RDG, as a Member of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty First Nations.** At this meeting, the Alliance introduced key shared fisheries issues common among the Member-Nations, including: the Treaty Relationship with DFO, co-management and decision making on matters impacting our fisheries rights and interests; domestic and economic treaty allocations; and other initiatives the Alliance member Nations are working on with DFO. TFN also reiterated the fisheries issues unique to TFN. This was a good example of how working with the Alliance can help to amplify TFN’s concerns and relationships.

## POLICY

### *15 Year Treaty Review*

During this quarter, staff began community engagement on the 15 year treaty review, including at sessions in Bellingham and Vernon, at Legislature and Advisory Council, and through family meetings. Thank you to everyone who has shared their experiences and opinions for this important project!

### *Recreation Reimbursement Policy*

PIGA worked with the Recreation and Events Department to introduce a Recreation Reimbursement Policy to replace the current Recreation Pass Program Policy, to broaden the recreation options available to Members by providing flexibility to choose the recreation activity where they live. Members can now access up to \$600 per year for recreation activities!

### *Post-Secondary Education and Employment and Training Policies*

PIGA worked with the Education and Skills Development Department to make amendments to the Post-Secondary Education and the Employment and Training Policies. Amendments included increases to the living allowances in both policies and clarification on what is covered under the funding amounts through the Post-Secondary Education Policy.

### *Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare – Quality Improvement Projects (IELCC-QIP) Funding*

TFN was recommended for funding by Employment and Social Development Canada for the IELCC-QIP funding up to \$1,182,000 for the development of immersion programming in the Smuyuq'wa' Lelum Daycare. PIGA has been working with the Education and Skills Development Department to negotiate this funding to begin in 2024.

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### *Tsawwassen Legislature*

The Tsawwassen Legislature was called into session for Fall 2023 from November 7th – 14th 2023. Although there were no bills for this session, Legislators debated and passed two resolutions:

- R.006-2023 - Resolution to approve in principle the proposed amendments to the Land Act, subject to review at a community meeting of Tsawwassen Members
- R.007-2023 - Resolution to request that Executive Council examine options to develop a TFN Members website or app

The Legislature also engaged in discussions on potential amendments to the Election Act and the on-going 15-Year Treaty Review initiative, reviewed updated reports on the Tilbury Marine Jetty Project and the Organizational Changes and Compensation Review project, and witnessed the Employee Affirmation Ceremony for 17 staff members.

In addition to the Legislative Assembly meetings, Legislators also participated in two workshops. The first workshop on November 2nd provided Legislators with a more informal overview of the proposed amendments to the Land Act and the potential amendments to the Election Act. The second workshop on November 15th included Legislators and elected members of Advisory Council, as well as TFN's Interim CAO, Directors and Managers. This workshop was a discussion around budget priorities and planning for the coming 2024-2025 fiscal year.



## *Visiting Delegations*

On Tuesday October 24th at the TFN Longhouse, Executive Council and staff were very pleased to welcome a visiting delegation of Elders and staff from the five member Nations of the Te'mexw Treaty Association - Beecher Bay (SC'IA/NEW), Malahat, Snaw-Naw-As, Songhees and T'Sou-ke. Councillor t̄ax̄w̄il̄əm/Yaahl Iiwaans (Bryce Williams) served as Longhouse Speaker, and the event opened with a Welcome Song from W'opeeoh (Frank Campbell) and Qw̄e-keem-o-sot (Angeline Splockton) followed by an opening prayer from Nicol Watson. Everyone then enjoyed lunch prepared by Yums Catering. After lunch Councillor Chemkwaat (Valerie Cross) led a presentation on Tsawwassen's Treaty experience and a Q&A session. After exchanging gifts, the Te'mexw visitors were taken on a tour of Tsawwassen Lands led by staff. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and we received some wonderful feedback from our visitors about their experience here at TFN!



## *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 Teams. During the last quarter of 2023 there were five Advisory Council meetings, with an average of six attendees per meeting. Some of the items reviewed by the Advisory Council include:

- Review of draft Recreation Reimbursement Policy
- Consultation on various initiatives such as short-term rental restrictions, potential Election Act amendments, 15-Year Treaty Review project
- Review of proposed policy/regulation amendments – Consolidated Public Land Availability Regulation, Post-Secondary Education Policy, Employment and Training Policy, Consolidated Planning and Development Application Fees Regulation
- Workshop with Legislators and staff on Budget Priorities for 2024-2025

## *Leasehold Residents Advisory Committee*

On October 18th staff met with the members of the recently expanded Leasehold Residents Advisory Committee (LRAC). The LRAC includes members of the previous Leaseholders Committee as well as new members from newer leasehold residential areas that were not previously represented on the committee. The meeting was an opportunity for staff and committee members to meet and get to know each other, and to provide the committee members with an overview of Tsawwassen First Nation and Tsawwassen Government. Staff are looking forward to engaging with the LRAC to answer questions and hear input from leasehold residents at future meetings.

## *Communications and Outreach*

On November 29th, Chief sx̄w̄amisaat (Laura Cassidy), Executive Council and staff travelled to Bellingham WA for an engagement session with TFN Members in the area. The evening included consultation on the proposed amendments to the Land Act, updates on the x̄w̄əliw̄ənstəx̄w̄ ct k̄w̄ə syaləx̄w̄ect (Honouring Our Ancestors) Charter and other initiatives, and presentations on the 15-year Treaty Review and Strategic Plan projects. A second engagement session with the same agenda was held on December 7th in Vernon, giving Chief and Executive Council and staff the opportunity to visit with Members living in the Okanagan area. For both sessions, everyone enjoyed a holiday dinner and getting the opportunity to connect with Members who live away from Tsawwassen Lands!



## RECREATION AND EVENTS

### *TFN community Christmas dinner*

The Tsawwassen First Nation Community Christmas Dinner held on December 6th, 2023, was a resounding success, bringing together community members to celebrate the holiday season in a festive and inclusive atmosphere.

The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with Members of all ages coming together to celebrate the festive occasion. The gathering had a positive impact on community spirit, fostering a sense of togetherness and belonging. The event provided an opportunity for Members to connect, share time together, and create lasting memories.

#### *A few highlights:*

- Photos With Santa, Rudolph, Olaf and our festive Elf
- A fantastic feast provided by Tsawwassen Springs
- A array of great door prizes and gifts for the children
- The Natural Resources calendar
- Other Swag including Cold Smoked Spring Salmon

We want to express our gratitude to all attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who played a crucial role in making the Tsawwassen First Nation Community Christmas Dinner a memorable and successful event.

### *Elders Christmas Lunch*

The Elders Christmas Lunch on December 19th was a fantastic afternoon. We had over 60 in attendance for this festive gathering. This year we teamed up with DPD to serve a succulent prime rib lunch. There was music, Prizes, and great times had by all.

### *Elders Harvest Lunch*

It was wonderful to celebrate the harvest season with an Oktober-fest style Harvest Lunch. We highlight the beautiful produce provided by the TFN farm for this lunch along with some traditional schnitzel. We were luck to again work with DPD on this great event. Jeff Miller even shared a bit of his heritage and led the crowd in a good old fashioned “Chicken Dance”.

### *Christmas Tree lighting*

On December 5th, we had our first annual Christmas tree lighting. We were blessed with a beautiful evening and a good turnout. We had a fire, s’mores, hot coco and cider & music. It was a fun event that we will look to build off for next year.

### *Appy-Hour with EC*

The first of a series of EC engagement events took place on October 28th. Our first was held at Cascades Casino. It was a fun casual event that saw a very diverse age range of members in attendance. We are looking forward to the next in this series of engagements.



### *Weekly Elders Programming*

- Aerobics
- Zumba Gold (all ages welcome)
- Walking Group
- Beading Club
- Drop in Craft Class

### *Elders Outings*

We plan to kick the 2024 year off with monthly Elder outings. We will be visiting Scenic, Cultural, and natural attractions in the region.

# LANDS, ENGINEERING, AND PLANNING SERVICES

## *xʷəliwənstəxʷ ct kʷə syaləxʷectʷ (Honouring our ancestors) OR TFN Sustainability Charter*

**Phase 1** (background research and member engagement) is now complete. Phase 1 work was funded by external grants totaling \$100,000 (\$50,000 from Real Estate Foundation BC and \$50,000 from New Relationship Trust) and led to development of several charter themes:

### **Proposed Themes from Phase 1**

- Education and Livelihood
- Health, Wellness, and Safety
- Economic Prosperity and Food Security
- Ecosystem and Stewardship
- Complete Communities and Infrastructure
- Governance

**Phase 2** consists of additional engagement with TFN staff to see how these draft themes align with their work and with off-land and on-lands membership. The Phase 2 engagement will lead to the development of Draft Charter, which will be reviewed by EC. Phase 2 began in October 2023 and is fully funded by a \$100,000 grant from the First Nation Adaptation Program. After Phase 2 work is complete, Phase 3 will entail the review and finalization of the Charter (pending EC approval), by summer 2024.

### *New TFN Administration and Legislature Facility*

Executive Council has prioritized the construction of a new building to house TFN’s administration offices and Legislative Assembly that will be located along Fisherman Way, near Tsawwassen Drive.

A **Project Steering Committee** was appointed by the Chief to provide strategic oversight of the project and has already met several times, including conducting a site visit and two tours (along with Legislators and staff) of similar indigenous and non-indigenous buildings in the Metro Vancouver/Fraser Valley. The programming for the facility was completed by Resource Planning Group (RPG) and the project architect from Urban Arts Architecture Inc. has high-level concepts which will be revised based on Steering Committee feedback prior to community engagement planned in February 2024. This Phase 1 (Schematic Design) work will continue until March 2024. The building is likely to be approximately 40,000 sq.ft. in size including the Legislature and supporting amenities.



### *TFN Cultural Hub*

The TFN Cultural Hub Project aims to design and develop a 4,452 sq. ft. space in the Tsawwassen Commons to create a Cultural Hub, intended to serve multiple purposes, including hosting artwork and cultural displays, functioning as an interpretive center, providing education, office, storage of artifacts, mentoring for TFN youth, classroom for language and culture revitalization, providing a networking space for Indigenous artists, and offering a place to learn traditional crafts like carving, weaving, beading, and language lessons. Community Planning staff successfully secured a \$250,000 grant from the First Peoples’ Cultural Council’s Heritage Infrastructure Program and an additional \$60,000 grant from the New Relationship Trust to support the design and implementation of the project. EC has endorsed, in principle, the schematic design. Currently, the project architect is completing the detailed design based on feedback received at a community engagement event on November 1st and insights provided by the Language and Culture staff. The final design will undergo EC approval for construction award, with implementation anticipated within the next 3-4 months.



### *TFN Placemaking Project*

The TFN Placemaking initiative represents a lasting project aimed at establishing a distinctive identity for TFN lands. Facade signs, collaboratively designed by a TFN member in conjunction with our Language and Culture staff, have been successfully installed on the top face of Units 1 and 2, facing Falcon Way, as depicted below:



### *Tsawwassen Drive Streetscape Design*

The preliminary technical work for the Tsawwassen Drive Right-of-Way has been successfully concluded, encompassing of surveys, constraint identification and inventory analysis. Important synergies and dependencies with concurrent TFN projects on Tsawwassen Drive have also been reviewed. EC granted approval for a workplan, and a consultant has been engaged to formulate high-level concepts for community engagement in spring 2024. A \$50,000 grant was secured by Community Planning staff from the BC Active Transportation Program, which will contribute to funding this initial phase of the project.



### ***TFN Land Act Review***

In accordance with the Tsawwassen Constitution Act, the Land Act should be reviewed 10 years from the Treaty Effective Date. Staff identified two high level priorities for consultation with Tsawwassen Legislature and Tsawwassen Members. Significant on and off lands member engagement was completed through Family Meetings in Nov – Dec 2023 and the remaining will be completed in January 2024.

Once all the member engagement is completed, staff will bring back the feedback and final revisions to EC in January for EC approval. This will be followed by the Legislative Approval through readings of the Bill at the Spring session of the Legislature in Feb-March 2024.

### ***Housing Accelerator Fund - \$2,480,000.00 Grant Secured***

TFN Housing Staff submitted a Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) application, Small/Rural/North/Indigenous stream, in September of 2023. HAF is intended to drive transformational change within the sphere of control of the local government regarding land use planning and development approvals with the overall objective to “accelerate supply” of housing. The fund is administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Based on TFN’s Housing Needs Assessment and in-stream projects, we applied for \$2,480,000.00 to support 60 units over the aggressive timeline of 3 years. While many larger jurisdictions are having trouble securing this grant funding, based on its impressive application for a tiny nation, TFN has been successful in receiving our full ask. This will allow for \$59,047.62 per unit for community housing!



HOUSING  
ACCELERATOR  
FUND

### ***Lot A & B Duplex Units Development***

EC is happy to share that work on Lot A and B is progressing well. Work is currently underway with anticipated projection completion by the end of Summer 2024. Should you be interested in obtaining more information about the duplexes or on the waitlist for one of the 3-bedroom units, please contact Rajan Sandhu, Housing Planner, at [rsandhu@tsawwassenfirstnation.com](mailto:rsandhu@tsawwassenfirstnation.com) or at 604-329-1552.



### ***36 Unit Townhome Development***

Occupancy of all 36 units have now been received, with over 70% of the units already being occupied by TFN Members. Full occupancy of the complex should be accomplished by the end of March, 2024. Premier Eby visted the complex back in December of 2023 and thanked staff for all of their hard work on the project.

### ***Light Blue House (2440 Falcon Way)***

Work on the house at 2440 Falcon Way is moving forward with the help of Jason Mitchell from Wesgrove Construction. Jason with his team have to date completed all interior renovation construction works. Minor deficiencies are pending revisions, and the estimated completion date is slated for the end of January. Due to weather conditions, lingering civil and soil works may extend into February. Tenants are expected to occupy the unit in late Spring.

## *TFN Agricultural Business Planning and c̓alis̓l̓m (TFN Community Farm)*

Under EC's guidance, this pilot project, supported by the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), aligns with the key initiatives outlined in the TFN's Agricultural Business Plan. Following a successful 2023 growing season and the expansion of the Phase 2 area, the project team and AAC convened regularly to strategize the Phase 3 farm expansion scheduled for 2024. To enhance the project's development, Motiv Architecture has been retained as a consultant to draft a master plan for the farm precinct in 2024. This master plan aims to serve as a model for leveraging other TFN-owned agricultural lands and will incorporate detailed 28 Ave barn space planning.

In late 2023, significant progress was made, including the completion of berm widening, procurement of compost from the City of Vancouver. Preparations are underway for the planting of perennial plants and shrubs on the berm during the upcoming 2024 growing season. Community Planning staff successfully secured several grants (total amount of \$890,492) to implement Phase 1-3 of this pilot. The second educational Farm tour was held on October 30, 2023 (first was on April 27, 2023), with AAC and Youth, to align with capacity-building initiatives outlined in the TFN Agricultural Business Plan.

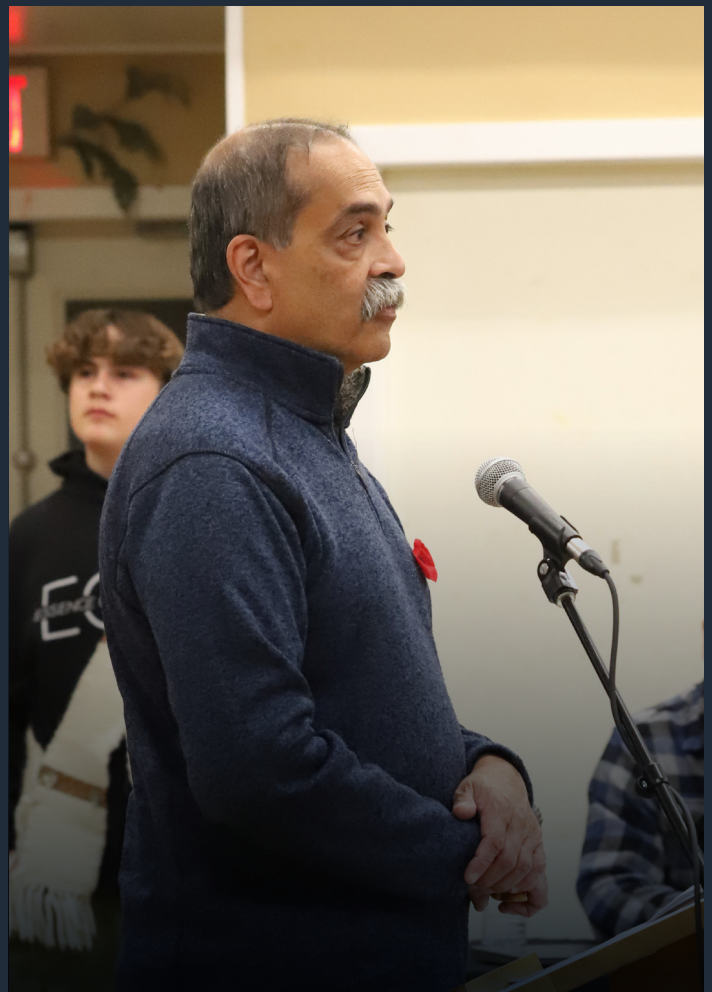
An exciting development is the ongoing construction of a 40 x 90-foot greenhouse (fully funded by two grants secured by Community Planning staff), slated for completion in early 2024, contributing to the overall success and sustainability of the project by providing TFN will year-round crop growing capability.

# FINANCE

## *Investment Policies*

The Finance Department is happy to announce the adoption of new investment policies by the TFN Government and TFN Trust Society. These new policies will simplify the TFN's investment structure while maintaining the safe and successful approach to investing that has been used to date. The TFN Government Investment Policy provides the rules and guidelines for the investment of TFN's Cultural Purposes Fund, Commercial Crab and Fish Funds, and Capital Asset Maintenance and Replacement Funds. The Investment Policy of the Trust Society outlines how the Fisheries Stewardship Trust, Treaty Settlement Trust, Member Legacy Trust, and Minor's Trust may be invested.

These new policies will enable TFN to continue building sustainable wealth for Members and ensure that all current and future Members can benefit from the Lands occupied by the Tsawwassen people since time immemorial.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## *Aquilini Trades Parking and Member Storage Developments*

We are pleased to report substantial progress on the Aquilini Trades Parking and Member Storage site. In preparation for the completion of the works, we will soon introduce a leasing opportunity for Members directly from Aquilini, with oversight by our Economic Development team to ensure alignment with Member interests.

## *International Relations: Boskalis Visit and Understanding*

The TFN Economic Development department strengthened international ties through a visit to Boskalis in the Netherlands. This visit, which included a firsthand look at environmentally responsible marine operations. It was shared with us that, the Netherlands has reversed the pollution in their rivers to a degree that they are now able to reintroduce sturgeon back to their waters. A Letter of Understanding may herald new, sustainable opportunities for TFN.

## *Tsawwassen Preferential Bidding: Beedie Civil Works*

We observed a competitive bidding process for the Beedie Industrial Development, with Tsawwassen businesses poised to contribute significantly. Our department maintained impartial oversight, ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all Tsawwassen Member and Government business entities.

## *Vision for Growth: Employment and Industrial Lands Strategy*

The Steering Committee made headway with KPMG to refine the Employment and Industrial Lands Development Strategy. A vision workshop yielded a strategic framework that will undergo further validation in the coming year, promising to steer our economic landscape towards a prosperous future.

## *Academic Collaboration: SFU Surrey Campus Engagement*

TFN staff engaged in a dynamic exchange with SFU Surrey, exploring opportunities for collaboration in areas like agricultural innovation, sustainable design, and alternative energy.

## *Infrastructure for Tomorrow: Bass Pro Boat Storage Works*

TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Constructors continued works to construct an access road and paved boat storage yard for use by Bass Pro. The road will service Bass Pro's storage and future local government operations. We are proud the works adhere to TFN's high environmental standards with respect to storm water runoff. Those standards are designed to protect local streams and waters.

# A GROWING GOVERNMENT

## *HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

Faeza Mahmood - Health and Family Service Admin Support

Ibeh Ebuka - Child and Youth Worker

Dalton Jones - Substance Use Support Coordinator

## *LANDS*

Lia Munro - Lands Assistant

## *FINANCE*

Carly Cameron - Accounting Assistant

## *TREATY RIGHTS AND TITLE*

Amelia Kirby - Administrative Assistant

## *NATURAL RESOURCES*

Jisman Sing – Natural Resources Enforcement Officer

## *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

Elizabeth Cullimore - Project Administrator



Blanketing Ceremony with  
Premier David Eby | December 2023



# ORDERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE FOLLOWING ORDERS WERE PASSED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
DURING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023 PERIOD:

- O.081-2023 Order to approve a Budget Amendment for Schedule 9 of the 2023-2024 Appropriations Act
- O.082-2023 Order to approve sole source Water Meter Contract to Neptune Technology Group Co
- O.083-2023 Order to enact the Investment Policy (2023) and repeal two policies
- O.084-2023 Order to appoint Louise Ahlm as Enrolment Registrar
- O.085-2023 Order to award contract for Civil Works at 2440 Falcon Way to Tsawwassen Constructors JV
- O.086-2023 Order to approve grant application to the First Nations Well Being Fund Program for \$100,000
- O.087-2023 Order to award contract for Industrial Lands Master Plan to KPMG LLP
- O.088-2023 Order to Approve TFN membership in the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (ABCMTN) Holding Society
- O.089-2023 Order to enact three Servicing and Pre-Construction policies and repeal the Policy for Payment of Servicing and Pre-Construction Costs
- O.090-2023 Order to amend the Financial Management Policy
- O.091-2023 Order to approve Restated Letter of Agreement with Corporate Card Program increase
- O.092-2023 Order to issue Industrial Form and Character Development Permit DP000103 for Lot 1, Plan EPP120928 to Kebet Holdings Ltd
- O.093-2023 Order to call the Spring 2024 session of the Tsawwassen Legislative Assembly
- O.094-2023 Order to approve the Recreation Reimbursement Program Policy (2023) and repeal the Recreation Pass Program Policy (2019)
- O.095-2023 Order to approve the Post-Secondary Education Policy (2023) and repeal the Post-Secondary Education Policy (2022)
- O.096-2023 Order to amend the Employment and Training Policy (2023)
- O.097-2023 Order to authorize execution of Lease Agreement for the TFN Cultural Hub
- O.098-2023 Order to award Tsawwassen Drive Streetscape Design consulting contract to Perry and Associates Ltd
- O.099-2023 Order to approve sole-source contract to Cobra Electrical Regional Services Ltd
- O.100-2023 Order to amend the Consolidated Planning and Development Application Fees Regulation

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TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION