

2024



LAND FACING THE SEA

ʔəy̓ sweyal. This edition of *Land Facing the Sea* is a summary of actions taken by the Tsawwassen government from January to March 2024.



scəwáθən məsteyəx^w
TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

nə́caʔmat –
for current and future generations

Events from Spring 2024
Published April 2024

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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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 January to March 2024.

With the start of 2024, EC was delighted to head straight back into work following the holiday season. In late January, EC held a two-day Strategic Planning session to check in on what we've accomplished so far and align our priorities for the coming year. One of the outcomes of that session was to plan our engagement calendar for 2024-2025 so that we have regular opportunities to hear from you. This will include virtual and off-Lands sessions in April and December, casual events with EC in May and November, and the Members Gathering in October. We also expect that staff will host another round of family meetings this year, and want to express our gratitude to everyone who participated in the family meetings over December 2023 and January 2024.

In February, members of EC went on a cultural exchange trip to Thailand hosted by Central Walk. The purpose of this trip was to view mixed-use developments that could potentially inform the future development of TFN's commercial Lands and to engage in relationship building with Central Walk. Members of EC also attended the Anti-Bullying Day event at the TFN Youth Centre. We raise our hands to everyone who helped make that event possible.

In late February, Councillor Baker attended the Land Claims Agreement Coalition annual leadership meeting in Ottawa. This event provided an opportunity for self-governing Indigenous government leaders from across Canada to come together to discuss priorities and strategies for

working with the federal government. During this trip, Councillor Baker met with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Gary Anandasangaree and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Arif Virani to advocate for additional federal support on a variety of outstanding issues for TFN.

February marked the beginning of the Spring 2024 Session of the Tsawwassen Legislature, where Legislators reviewed and debated two Bills, one for the 2024 Land Act Amendment and one for the 2024-2025 Appropriations Act. The 2024 Land Act Amendment includes changes that provide Members with additional options to secure financing for building or renovating their homes, as well as changes to support the management of family-owned Lands. Highlights from the 2024-2025 Appropriations Act include increased funding for post-secondary education supports, the development of and opening of the Cultural HUB, and upgrades to the Longhouse. EC remains excited to see these initiatives move ahead!

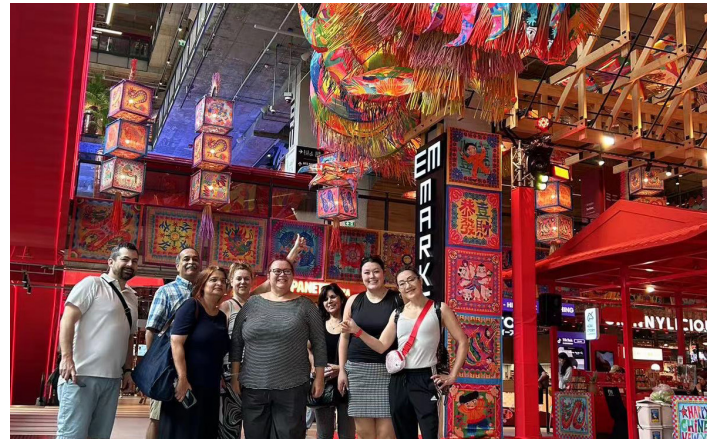
Over the course of two workshops and nine Legislative Assembly meetings, the Legislators carefully considered and debated both bills. Both bills were enacted on March 14, 2024. We raise our hands to the Legislators for all of their hard work this session. Hay čx^w qə to the Advisory Council for their important contemplation and comments on both bills, and to the Leasehold Residents Advisory Committee for their report to the Legislature on the *Appropriations Act Bill*.

As we move into spring, we hope that everyone continues to take care and enjoys the season ahead! *ciθamə cən. Take care, and always feel free to reach out.*

Executive Council Cultural Exchange Trip to Thailand

Members of Executive Council as well key staff from Lands and Economic Development Departments participated recently in a short cultural exchange trip to Thailand.

The trip was organized by Central Walk, our Commercial Leaseholders of Tsawwassen Mills to visit award-winning Mixed-Use developments in Bangkok and meet with management teams of these projects. It was undertaken on a cost-sharing basis by TFN and Central Walk to avoid any conflicts in future decision making. The timing of this trip was planned to ensure minimal impacts to government operations.



This was an important learning opportunity for TFN due to a variety of reasons.

Malls the world over are experiencing decline due to changes in retail landscape, outdated mall models, a rise in online shopping, high maintenance costs, fast changing fashion trends and an overall decrease in foot traffic post-pandemic.

Our region is no exception to this phenomenon. Regional Malls like Oakridge Centre are being redeveloped to overcome these issues with the main emphasis being on added residential density but there are many innovative approaches that are successful globally, other than residential additions. Studying these approaches would enable us to then adapt them to align with Tsawwassen needs, culture and local conditions.

Ensuring the continued financial success of our mall is a key part of the overall long term financial sustainability of our nation's economy. As part of our current Land Use Plan update that was kick started at the Members Gathering, Executive Council had already reviewed a presentation on precedents of Mixed-Use Development in other Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Canada.

Thailand is a world leader in successful mall development and this timely opportunity provided Executive Council the opportunity to visit 11 shopping malls in 7 days! We learnt many development trends that make a successful mall, such as:

- providing an immersive experience, rather than just being places to buy things, by adding more entertainment or food options, or by becoming more family-friendly,
- focus on niche markets, like retailing arts and crafts work from local cultural artisans or bringing in cultural tourism,
- become more community-focused by hosting regular events, or offering services that cater to the needs of the local area, and
- appeal to younger generations by incorporating more technology and event spaces.

The trip allowed Executive Council to build a positive relationship with our Commercial Leasehold Development partners, Central Walk to ensure any future development on Tsawwassen Lands has Tsawwassen input from the beginning and that it aligns with our vision and values.

CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

January 2024

- 17 Finance and Audit Committee (“FAC”) Budget meeting
- 24 FAC Budget meeting
- 25 Admin/Legislature Building Retreat
- 26 Metro Vancouver Board meeting
- 28-30 EC/Directors Strategic Planning Retreat

February 2024

- 22 Metro Vancouver Board meeting
- 23 15 Year Treaty Steering Committee meeting

March 2024

- 24 Metro Vancouver Mayors Committee
- 18 Standing Committee on Language and Culture
- 20 Delta Police Board Meeting
- 22 Metro Vancouver Board Meeting

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CALENDAR OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

COUNCILLOR AHLM

January 2024

- 10 FAC Budget meeting
- 17 FAC Budget meeting
- 24 FAC Budget meeting
- 25 Admin/Legislative Building Steering Committee meeting
- 29-30 Executive Council and Directors Strategic Planning Session

February 2024

- 1-10 Cultural Exchange Trip to Thailand
- 12 Legislature Budget Workshop
- 13 Legislators Budget Workshop #2
- 21 Naut’sa mawt Tribal Council meeting
- 28 Anti-Bullying Day event at the TFN Youth Centre

March 2024

- 13 TFN Administration Building Steering Committee

COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS

January 2024

- 10 FAC Budget meeting
- 17 FAC Budget meeting
- 18 Emergency meeting of the TransLink Mayors’ Council
- 24 FAC Budget meeting
- 29-30 Executive Council and Directors Strategic Planning Session
- 31 Joint meeting of the Housing Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Committee

February 2024

- 1 Mayors’ Council meeting with Minister Fleming
- 1 Hybrid Mayors’ Council meeting.
- 16 Emergency meeting of the TransLink Mayors’ Council
- 29 Hybrid Mayors’ Council meeting

March 2024

- 7 TransLink Mayors’ Council meeting
- 8 TransLink Indigenous Relations Joint Working Group Committee meeting

COUNCILLOR BAKER

January 2024

- 10 FAC Budget meeting
- 10 Filmed video with TFN Youth at Youth Centre for upcoming Treaty Day Celebration
- 17 FAC Budget meeting
- 24 FAC Budget meeting
- 25 Fundamentals of Impact Assessments Workshop
- 26 Salmon Habitat Mapping workshop
- 29-30 Executive Council and Directors Strategic Planning Session
- 31 Joint meeting of the Housing Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Committee

February 2024

- 1-10 Cultural Exchange Trip to Thailand
- 12 Legislature Budget Workshop
- 13 Legislators Budget Workshop #2
- 21 Mortgage workshop put on BMO for TFN Youth put on by BMO and Vancity

Feb 25 – Mar 1:

Ottawa for the week of February 25th with Policy staff to attend the Lands Claim Agreement Coalition Annual Meeting as well as meetings with Crown Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree and Justice Minister Arif Virani

March 2024

- 21 Tsawwassen Rotary Club Meeting at TFN Youth Centre
- 21 TFN Natural Resources Committee Meeting
- 25 TFN Housing Advisory Committee Meeting

COUNCILLOR CROSS

January 2024

- 27 Gave a presentation at the K'ómoks First Nation Annual General meeting
- 29-30 Executive Council and Directors Strategic Planning Session

February 2024

- 1-10 Cultural Exchange Trip to Thailand
- 13 Legislators Budget Workshop #2
- 16 Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations Leadership Meeting
- 21 Relationship building meeting with Treaty Rights & Title staff with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on behalf of Chief Cassidy
- 21 DFO/Deputy Minister and RDG meeting
- 28 Emceed the Anti-Bullying Day event at the TFN Youth Centre

March 2024

- 10 TFN International Women's Day event
- 11 TFN Enrollment Committee meeting

EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

In 2024 our high school at the youth center continues to shape young minds on a daily basis. Some of our students are here full time, while others are part of a hybrid program that involves our school, as well as the local high schools of Tsawwassen and Ladner.

In January our students focused on finishing academic work before the start of the new semester. Students were introduced to indigenous graphic novels, which sparked curiosity and interest in reading more indigenous original literature.

February was dedicated to writing and creating an original song. Students showed great interest in writing original lyrics.

Students also took part in a field trip to KPU to experience the vibe and atmosphere of a university.

March was Math month. Students learned numbers and measurement by designing geodesic dome designs.

MUSIC PROGRAM

In January, we hired a Music Programmer to help us create our new music program at the Youth Centre. We started a new group the “Tsawwassen Song Birds”, focusing on ages K-12 on Friday evenings. Kids are learning that through music one can express their emotions. We have included singing, songwriting, dancing, and poetry. The kids are enjoying and experimenting on our new microphones. It has been a success so far. We are hoping to perform for the community, one day.

TEENS

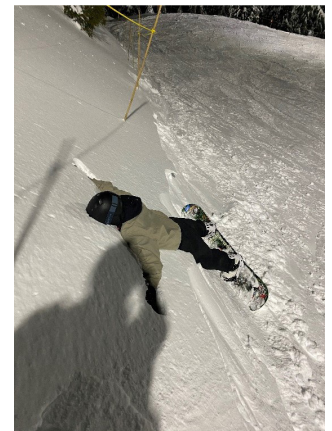
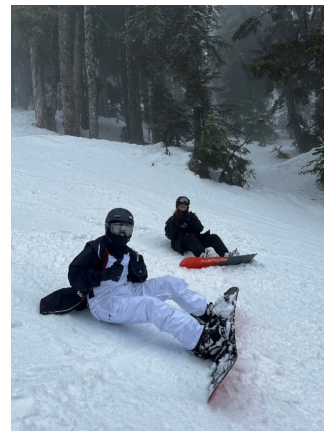
The youth team has had a very successful few month in 2024 already! Below are examples of the activities they did so far.

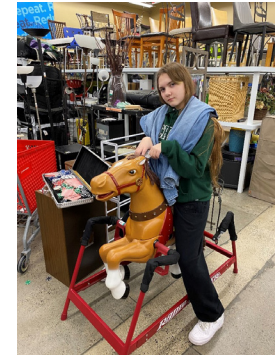
Snowboard Program

Although the snow was shy this year, we were eventually gifted with a huge amount on the mountain blessing us with premium conditions to end off the season. All our beginner riders are now confident enough to ride on their own, seasoned becoming veteran, we are very proud of the athletic improvements made this season.

Cypress Tubing

The youth and childcare group spent their pro D Day snow tubing at Cypress Mountain, offering kids an exciting outdoor adventure. Bundled up in layers of warmth, they eagerly anticipate their next snowy escapade, creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime.





Science World

The youth and afterschool care group had a fun trip to science worlds featured exhibit Dream Tomorrow Today, which teaches the kids sustainability through sustainable designs and the importance of climate action. The kids had a blast!

Pacheedaht Camping

The youth experienced camping on the beaches of Vancouver Island at Pacheedaht Campground. Days were spent hiking through rugged trails, roasting marshmallows by the crackling campfire, and sharing stories under the starlit sky. With each challenge conquered and every friendship forged, the trip became a cherished chapter in their journey of self-discovery and outdoor exploration.

Spring Break

Spring break at the youth center has been absolutely nonstop fun. Our youth center has been working with the UBC Geering up INSTEM program for a while now and this spring break they have come out and build bird feeders with our youth and thus provided us with a chance to connect with the land around us. The two weeks are filled with fun outings to the spaghetti factory, bowling alley, music pop up parties, a visit to the Aquarium and much more.

Tsawwassen Songbirds

The youth center recently introduced a new music program, aiming to engage young people in musical activities. Led by skilled instructors, the program covers various aspects of music, including instrument lessons, songwriting, and production. Equipped with modern gear, participants can explore their musical interests in a supportive environment, fostering creativity and skill development among the youth community.

Thrifting

The youth thrift shopping program offers a unique opportunity to explore sustainable fashion and develop budget-friendly shopping skills. Youth learn the art of thrift store navigation, discovering hidden gems and trendy finds at affordable prices. Youth not only enhance their personal style but also contribute to reducing textile waste and promoting eco-conscious consumer habits. As they unearth treasures and embrace individuality, the program empowers teens to make socially and environmentally responsible fashion choices while having fun along the way.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Boxing – Our boxing program, in collaboration with 37 Boxing Club, offers 2 weekly classes for TFN Youth aged 13-25. Both classes have been well attended every week and are very popular amongst the TFN Youth. This program has been successful in providing a safe space where youth can learn boxing skills alongside valuable life lessons.

Drop-in Sports – Our Drop-In Sports Program at the Youth Centre has been successful in creating a welcoming space for TFN Youth to come and engage in healthy exercise. TFN Youth are free to join games as they please, whether it is a pickup basketball game, a friendly pickleball match, or a game of volleyball, amongst other sports!

Youth Centre Weight Room – The Youth Centre Weight Room has been heavily utilized! Our Weight Room Drop-In Program is designed to be an inclusive space for TFN Youth aged 13-25 to explore the world of strength training and cardiovascular exercise. Participants can come and learn proper techniques, safety protocols and the importance of a balanced approach to fitness. This program operates on a drop-in basis, allowing youth to come in at their convenience during designated hours. Whether participants are beginners or seasoned lifters, all are encouraged to join and progress at their own pace!

GORDON FOUNDATION TREATY SIMULATION

In a significant step towards amplifying indigenous voices in international diplomacy, TFN youth Quinton Baird recently participated in a treaty simulation hosted by the Gordon Foundation held in Ottawa.



During the simulation, Quin played an active role in advocating for the recognition of indigenous rights, environmental stewardship, and cultural preservation within the treaty framework. Drawing from personal experiences, he highlighted the importance of indigenous knowledge and perspectives in shaping simulated policy decisions. Despite facing challenges inherent in such negotiations, Quin's commitment and passion left a lasting impression on fellow participants.

As the simulation concluded, Quin left with a sense of empowerment and determination to continue advocating for indigenous rights and sovereignty in his community and beyond. His participation in the Gordon Foundation's Ottawa treaty simulation serves as a beacon of hope for indigenous youth everywhere, inspiring them to actively engage in shaping a more inclusive and equitable future.

RECREATION & EVENTS

Recreation

This quarter, we embarked on an exciting journey with the launch of our innovative Recreation Reimbursement Policy. The initiative was met with overwhelming enthusiasm, demonstrating the wide range of recreation desires within our community. We witnessed an impressive array of activities being embraced, from group and personal fitness classes to yoga and Pilates, not to mention gym memberships that got our community moving. The spectrum of interest didn't stop there; the reimbursement program covered a diverse range of equipment, enabling our members to enjoy soccer, hockey, running, paddle boarding, and golf. The broad participation underscored a shared commitment to health and wellness, and we're thrilled to be a part of this program. As we enhance our programming within TFN, we remain committed to supporting our members in pursuing their unique recreational interests, further knitting our community together through shared experiences and aspirations.

Elders Outings

Our new monthly Elders' outing group faced an unexpected pause due to a snowstorm in January, in February, we had a wonderful visit to the lush Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park, coupled with a delightful lunch. This reinvigorating excursion was followed up by an exploratory outing to the Vancouver Aquarium, where beautiful early spring weather added to the enjoyment of the day. These gatherings are more than just outings; they're a testament to the joy, connection, and lifelong learning our Elders cherish. Looking ahead, we're excited to dive deeper into the rich cultural, recreational, and natural offerings of our region as we transition into the vibrant days of spring and summer.

Lively Connections

Our newly launched social leisure group program, "Lively Connections," has taken off with great success. Aimed at fostering social outings, the program has already orchestrated memorable trips to the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and the Vancouver Aquarium. These excursions provided perfect settings for our community members to connect with nature, wildlife, and each other, enhancing social bonds and enriching our collective experience. The positive feedback from these outings has been heartwarming, and we are eager to continue this journey, exploring new destinations and creating more lively connections.

Group Activities and Fitness

In our ongoing quest to foster a sense of community and well-being, we've made significant strides in expanding our Elders' walking program to two days a week. This initiative has been met with such positivity that we're introducing a Friday morning group fitness class, with plans to extend to Tuesday mornings based on community interest. The Crafting and Beading programs continue to be a cornerstone of our community's creative expression, with new projects introduced monthly to inspire and engage our members. These programs not only promote physical health but also mental well-being, offering a nurturing environment for creativity, social interaction, and personal growth.

As we move forward, our department remains dedicated to enriching the lives of our community members through a diverse array of programs and initiatives. Whether it's through physical activity, creative expression, or connecting with nature and culture, our goal is to foster a vibrant, healthy, and interconnected community. Here's to more shared experiences, learning, and growth in the quarters to come.



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Substance Use Support

Substance Use Support has been helping more members than ever on their healing journeys. Many are now seeking long-term recovery plans, including second-stage treatment. We've also been connecting members to cultural ceremonies like sweats. Working with the Language and Culture department, we're delivering TFN specific practices to the Youth Support House. We're also linking members who've returned from treatment to local support networks. Collaborating with the Delta Community Action Team, we're fighting stigma and bringing more harm reduction resources to the region. Plus, we're offering workshops on harm reduction and Naloxone training.

Community Health

We're helping members with surgeries, from prep to aftercare. We're also supporting families dealing with health issues and assisting with diagnostic procedures and understanding new diagnoses. We connect members with local health programs to empower them and continue daily tasks like medication administration and dressing changes. Plus, we ensure members get to walk-in clinics or the emergency room if needed and follow up to make sure everything's going well.

We help clients and elders by assisting them in sorting through their options and developing action plans, all while providing the necessary support and assistance. This includes helping with grooming and bathing, documenting important assessment data in client charts, and aiding with medication and daily activities. Under the direction of the care leader, we work to stabilize and rehabilitate clients, providing personal care, teaching basic social skills, and arranging medical transportation as needed. Additionally, we ensure clients receive proper nourishment and meals, and we're proactive in referring them to other social services and helping them access community support and resources, including medical and financial assistance.

Health Empowerment

The Health and Family Services department at TFN is working hard to improve the well-being of its members. They've started a friendly 'Craft and Chat' women's group and partnered with the education department and UBC dentistry to help TFN youth with oral hygiene. Regular medical clinics offer services like mammography and dental care on TFN lands, making healthcare accessible to everyone. BC Cancer's mobile van provided cancer screenings, and there were informative sessions on other cancers. TFN members also received hearing tests, dental cleanings, and harm reduction workshops. Dr. Shelly Jetzer now sees TFN members in Ladner and plans to move her practice part-time to TFN land. Collaboration with the Delta Division of Family Practice aims to improve healthcare coordination. These efforts show a strong commitment to TFN members' health and wellness.

Social Services

We provide preventative and intervention support to families and individuals. Whether it is supporting them to find employment, learn new life skills, or accessing services to assist them with healing. Trauma informed and anti-oppressive approaches to encompass each person as a whole and to support their overall wellbeing physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We are here to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment where every individual is met with respect, care and dignity.

Homelessness Prevention Program

Homelessness Prevention Program provides temporary and emergency housing support, that includes wrap-around supports services for basic household needs, such as beds. This program provides prevention services to avert eviction with supports that may include rent and utility arrears.

Children's Respite Home

We currently run a Children's Support Home, "The Den" that provides wrap around support and respite for families. Staff work closely with each family, to set goals and to provide the best care for each child individually.

Social Assistance Program

Tsawwassen First Nation's Social Assistance program is available to members who may be facing financial need and possess limited and/or no financial resources.

Along with providing monetary supports, the TFN Social Assistance program was set up to assist recipients build upon their immediate skill set/ education level, with the goal of transitioning to gainful employment and financial independence.

The Social Assistance program also provides members who may be seeking support to apply for their CPP, OAS and GIS pension income as well as apply for GST credit, Canada Child Tax credit as well as filing their income tax.

Counseling

Full-time counselor and art therapy services that meets the needs of members of all ages within the community. Provides group therapy with topics such as grief and loss, empowerment, creating safety, and promoting wellbeing.

Outreach



One of the initiatives I've been deeply involved in is **Lively Connections**. It is a social recreational group designed to bring together members of all abilities within the community who are eager to explore, connect, and build relationships. Lively Connections aims to incentivize relationships among members and promote activities that facilitate connections between community members and external resources. I'm thrilled to see the positive impact this group is already having on fostering a sense of community and support.

I've been actively engaged in providing support to community members in various aspects of their lives. This includes accompanying clients to the Courthouse and First Nation Court, where I connect with Native Court workers and help members navigate the legal process.

I also facilitate transportation and provide support to ensure individuals can access essential services such as obtaining ID, Status Cards, and attending medical appointments.

Furthermore, I am committed to ensuring that youth and families are connected to programming and support services offered through Health and Social Services (HSS) and external agencies. I assist individuals in identifying personalized plans and client-centered goals across a range of areas, including life skills, education, housing, and health practices.

Confidentiality and respect are paramount in my interactions, and I strive to assure youth and families of their privacy both within the community and with other service professionals. Additionally, I maintain close communication with healthcare providers, including nurses, to coordinate care plans and ensure that members receive the support they need.

Maura Gowans
Manager of Family Services

POLICY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

2024 Land Claims Agreement Coalition Annual Leadership Meeting

The LCAC is a Canada-wide political coalition of modern treaty Indigenous governments and organizations (“MTNs”) that work together at the federal level and on a national scope to advocate for and advance shared interests relating to the implementation of modern treaties in Canada. Its mandate is to ensure that modern treaties in Canada are respected, honoured, and fully implemented in an effective and timely way.

Staff from PIGA along with Executive Councillor Taylor Baker attended the 2024 LCAC Annual Leadership Meeting (“ALM”) Week held in Anishinaabe Algonquin Territory, Ottawa, Feb. 26 – 29. Each year the LCAC leadership and technical staff gather for discussion, direction, and decision-making.

At the ALM, two key political priorities and activities set by the LCAC Leadership as part of the 2024 LCAC agenda included:

- Bill S-13 (An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act). A Long-standing priority of the LCAC, once the Bill is enacted, the amended Interpretation Act will clearly state that all federal laws are to be interpreted to uphold the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, and not to abrogate or derogate from them; and
- Ongoing work on the Modern Treaty Implementation. This includes:
 - co-development of policy related to improving Dispute Resolution and addressing barriers to exercising jurisdiction;
 - updating the instructions to federal public servants that require them to assess the implication of federal legislative and policy decisions on Modern Treaties, including a process for appropriate, early engagement);
 - establishing ways to measure federal performance in relation to implementing the objectives of Modern Treaties); and
 - developing a Commissioner of Modern Treaty Implementation, which will be an independent oversight mechanism in the federal system.

The leadership meetings also included two political meetings with LCAC Leadership and the federal Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Gary Anandasangaree, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Arif Virani. At these meetings, Leadership Representatives secured commitments from both ministers to advance the collaborative work on treaty implementation. The leaders also emphasized the need to take urgent action on the toxic drug crisis, which is impacting all of the LCAC Members.



Executive Councillor Taylor Baker with federal Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Gary Anandasangaree



2024 LCAC Youth Treaty Simulation event cohort | Photo Credit: the Gordon Foundation

2024 LCAC Youth Treaty Simulation Event

The sixth annual Land Claims Agreement Coalition (“LCAC”) Youth Treaty Simulation event was held in Anishinaabe Algonquin territory, downtown Ottawa, February 24 -25, in advance of the 2024 LCAC’s Annual Leadership Meeting Week. Representing TFN at this year’s event was emerging youth leader, Quin Baird.

Guided by Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous Leaders, and technical experts of the LCAC, the event sees Youth participate in a mock treaty simulation process of negotiating and/or implementing a portion of a Chapter of a modern treaty agreement. Through participation in the event, Youth experience the realities of negotiating and implementing a modern treaty and the everyday ground-level work that LCAC Members do within their government organizations to implement their treaties, gaining foundational knowledge in modern treaties, building life and leadership skills, and developing inter-generational connections.

Over two intense days, Quin, alongside other emerging Indigenous Youth leaders of the LCAC membership, participated in a mock treaty simulation process of negotiating a Wildlife Management Plan, which included preparing their positions, before entering negotiations and reaching an agreement.

PIGA IS GROWING!

With new Declaration Act Engagement Fund capacity funding from the Provincial Government, PIGA was able to hire two new positions to manage the growing area of policy and legislative engagements with the Provincial Government. Creating these positions increases our ability to ensure TFN’s rights and interests are considered in Provincial initiatives. These include a wide variety of policy areas, and some of the things we engaged on in this quarter include the BC biodiversity framework, treatment of cultural property under the BC Family Law Act, and amendments to the BC Land Act that will enable shared decision-making and consent agreements with First Nations.

Please join us in welcoming Shawna Clemence, Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst, and Shannon Sterling, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator. PIGA is also happy to share that new funding allowed for hiring of a new part time Policy Analyst: welcome to Sophie Thomas!



POLICY

15 Year Treaty Review

April 3rd, 2024 marks the 15th year anniversary of the Effective Date of the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement (the “Treaty”). This milestone provides an opportunity for the Tsawwassen Government to initiate the Periodic Review to identify and discuss any changes to the Treaty with TFN’s Treaty partners. PIGA has been engaging with Members and Tsawwassen Government staff to develop a wish list of potential issues for negotiation during the Periodic Review.

Staff engaged with Members through an on-line survey, family meetings, off-lands sessions in the Okanagan Valley and the United States, with TFN Committees, the Advisory Council and Legislators, and with Executive Council. Staff thank everyone who provided feedback, comments, and stories. The feedback received from these engagements will help support formation of the wish list. A What We Heard document was released at the end of March. The Periodic Review will launch on April 8th, 2024.

wəneč sʔiwəsənəq (Executive Council) Code of Conduct

PIGA worked with Executive Council to complete the development of the wəneč sʔiwəsənəq (Executive Council) Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is intended to provide both internal guidance and an external statement of values, guided by Tsawwassen culture and the incorporation of hənqəmihəm to support Executive Council’s operation. The wəneč sʔiwəsənəq Code of Conduct is the final Code of Conduct to be developed, following the adoption of the Legislature and Advisory Council Codes of Conduct.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

scəwəθən tθelə - Tsawwassen Heart Drum Group

Drum Group is held every Wednesday evening at the Youth Centre with dinner provided from 5:00-7:00pm. TFN members are encouraged to come out to practice and learn new songs. Watch for sign-up details for a drum making workshop coming soon!

Anti-bullying Day

Language and Culture held an Anti-bullying evening for our community on February 28th. We shared a meal and had Bryant Doradea, aka Higher Knowledge, come out to speak to our community. He used Hip Hop and poetry as well as his own experiences to talk on Anti-bullying and mental health awareness. We also had Tsatsu Stalqayu, Coastal Wolf Pack dance group, perform for us to end the evening.

Women’s chat & craft

Cultural craft night is held every Monday. TFN Members are invited to work on or finish a craft. Craft supplies and dinner is provided.



TREATY RIGHTS & TITLE

TFN Impact Assessment Framework

On February 1, a community kick-off meeting was held to introduce the fundamentals of impact assessments. This is a collaborative project led by a core team of researchers from Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) and the Centre for Environmental Assessment Research at the University of British Columbia. The goal is to develop a TFN Impact Assessment Framework, which will establish the process for evaluating projects affecting TFN territory, including criteria for making decisions about projects.

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

On February 21, a bilateral meeting occurred with Councillor Cross and the Deputy Minister and Regional Director General, attended by Treaty Rights and Title 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 DM support to elevate these key TFN matters within DFO.

LOWER FRASER

ŠX^wK^wECXƏNƏM PARTNERSHIP

Milestone reached in development of the Lower Fraser šx^wk^wecxənəm Partnership: a multi-government, Nation-led initiative to address cumulative effects in the Lower Fraser.

On November 22, 2023, Chief sx^wamisaat (Chief Laura Cassidy) and Chief yəχ^wyaχ^wələq (Chief Wayne Sparrow) of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) Nation, achieved a significant milestone by jointly signing a letter to move forward with the creation of a Lower Fraser šx^wk^wecxənəm Partnership, a groundbreaking initiative with the potential to shape the future of our Traditional Territory.

What is the Lower Fraser šx^wk^wecxənəm Partnership?

In response to these challenges, Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band, as sister nations and rights holders in the region, are proposing to co-lead a partnership approach to stewardship and decision-making, comprised initially of Tsawwassen First Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, the Province of BC, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Metro Vancouver, and Canada. Chief sx^wamisaat and Chief yəχ^wyaχ^wələq have taken the first step towards establishing the Lower Fraser šx^wk^wecxənəm Partnership by sending a joint letter to leadership at the Province, the Port, Metro Vancouver, and Canada, asking them to seek formal mandates to move forward with the next steps to co-develop this Partnership.

On February 13, a bilateral meeting occurred with Treaty Rights and Title Department staff and the Associate DM of Environment and Climate Change Canada. TFN advocated for the importance of Canada’s participation in this partnership as it necessitates our governments to unite in supporting the stewardship of the land and water. This collaborative effort aims to address cumulative effects, enhance decision-making processes, and improve outcomes in the Lower Fraser River region.



GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Tsawwassen Legislature

The Tsawwassen Legislature was called into session for Spring 2024 to debate two bills:

- Bill 001-2024, the 2024-2025 Appropriations Act, which sets the budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year
- Bill 002-2024, the 2024 Land Amendment Act, which amends the Land Act to allow the creation of land trusts for any Members, and to permit A-to-A leasing

The session began with two budget workshops for Legislators on February 12th and 13th; public meetings of the Legislative Assembly were held from February 15th to March 14th 2024. Despite the challenges with one meeting cancelled due to a power outage and another cancelled due to a lack of quorum, Legislators successfully completed debate and approval of both bills. There were also four Legislator resolutions approved:

- R.001-2024 - Resolution to Consider Amendments to the Tsawwassen First Nation Procurement Policy
- R.002-2024 - Resolution to Contract Members to Share Harvesting Knowledge
- R.003-2024 - Resolution to Develop a Tsawwassen First Nation Book
- R.004-2024 - Resolution to Establish an Off-Leash Dog Area

The Legislature also received a number of other reports during the session, including: an update report on the 15-Year Treaty Review Project; an update on Major Projects in Tsawwassen Territory; the Report on Previous Resolutions; and reports from the Advisory Council on Bill 001-2024 and Bill 002-2024. The session also included an Employee Affirmation Ceremony for 7 staff members.

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 first quarter of 2024 there were five Advisory Council meetings, with an average of seven attendees per meeting. There were two meetings dedicated to review and feedback on Bill 001-2024, the 2024-2025 Appropriations Act; another two meetings were used to review and discuss the proposed changes to the Land Act under Bill 002-2024, the 2024 Land Amendment Act. Reports on both bills were subsequently presented to the Legislature for their consideration during debate. Other items reviewed by the Advisory Council include:

- Review of proposed amendments to the Community Area Plan to include Lots 6 and 7
- Consultation on Precinct B1 development proposal
- Review and Update on 15-Year Treaty Review Project



Leasehold Residents Advisory Committee

On February 28th staff met with the members of the Leasehold Residents Advisory Committee (LRAC). The LRAC includes representatives from the various leasehold residential areas on Tsawwassen Lands. The meeting was an opportunity for the committee members to provide their input and feedback on the local government schedules of Bill 001-2024, the 2024-2025 Appropriations Act. A report from this committee was subsequently presented to the Legislature. The next LRAC meeting is planned in April to review property tax rates for leasehold areas.

Communications and Outreach

On March 12th, Executive Council met with staff and representatives from the Castlemain Group to review the proposed Communications Strategy. We would like to thank Members for participating in this project and providing invaluable feedback that will be used to further develop and expand our communications activities over the next year. As the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year includes a new Manager of Communications position, we anticipate that this position will take on the implementation of the Communications Strategy and improving our communication channels with Members and the public.

The past three months have been a busy time for Tsawwassen Government with efforts focused mainly on the Legislative Assembly session. However, Executive Council and staff have been planning for upcoming consultation sessions with Members later in spring and are looking forward to resuming more outreach activities in the coming months.



FINANCE

TFN Online Payments Portal

The Finance Department is excited to announce that it is now accepting online payments for Property Taxes, Utilities, Dog Licenses, Business Licenses, and Violation Tickets. This new online payment system provides TFN residents with a convenient way to make payments that is both fast and secure. The implementation of this system is an important step in our journey toward creating a paper-free work environment, and we look forward to continuing to explore new ways to provide residents with a higher level of service.

For more information or to make a payment online, please visit the Tsawwassen First Nation Payment Portal at <https://tsawwassenfirstnation.com/payments/>

NATURAL RESOURCES

TFN Natural Resources and University of Victoria Community Drone Mapping Workshop

On Jan 26th, 2024, TFN members joined the Natural Resources Department at the Rec Center for a Workshop sponsored by the University of Victoria and the First Nations Fisheries Legacy Fund.

Members contributed knowledge, stories, information, questions, and concerns related to salmon habitat within Tsawwassen Territory.

The purpose of the workshop was to assist with determining Tsawwassen Members' priorities regarding potential locations for habitat restoration which could be mapped via the utilization of drones. While the drones will be working to collect data related to temperature, elevation, and imagery, the created high-resolution maps produced will be TFN property and will assist in guiding subsequent work.

TFN Hunters Exercise Indigenous Right to Hunt Brant Goose on the TFN Dike

From March 1st- to 10th TFN Hunters hunted for Brant Goose on the Dike. In previous years the ability to be undisturbed while hunting was not assured which led to great frustration for TFN hunters. This year the Natural Resources, Lands (Bylaw), Facilities and Member Services Departments were able to collaborate in facilitating a partial closure of the dike to ensure members could hunt without interruption. While the hunt itself was not particularly successful, the development of the process between departments will serve invaluable to assisting our members in harvesting in future seasons.

NRC Meeting March

On March 21st, TFN members, Natural Resources Committee Members, Natural Resources, and Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs Dept staff met to discuss the NRC's input on the upcoming 15-year Treaty review. The PIGA team shared a presentation with those in attendance and heard concerns and questions from attendees. In addition to the PIGA presentation NRC received a presentation from Treaty Rights and Title on an upcoming project and received an update from the Fisheries Negotiator on the upcoming season potential.

Brunswick Point Drone Footage



LANDS, ENGINEERING, & PLANNING SERVICES

Lot A & B Duplex Units Development

Under EC's support, construction on the 12 turn-key duplex units on Lot A and B is progressing well. Staff anticipate completion by Summer 2024. Interested in learning more about these 3-bedroom units, future turn-key projects, or joining the waitlist? Contact Rajan Sandhu, Housing Planner, at rsandhu@tsawwassenfirstnation.com or 604-329-1552.

Elder Renovation – Tsawwassen Drive

The Housing Team, with the support of the Executive Council and in collaboration with Health and Social Services, successfully completed a year-long health and safety renovation for a TFN Elder. The Elder was temporarily relocated off TFN Community Lands during the project. This creative solution was made possible by Scott Reid Plumbing and Heating's flexible approach, which allowed us to utilize a combination of funding sources: TFN renovation grants, TFN Emergency Housing funding, CMHC Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence Program funding, and a contribution from the Elder themselves.

Thanks to this successful project, the Elder is back home in a safe environment. TFN Housing is looking forward to supporting other Elders in the future. For any inquiries regarding renovation grant opportunities on Lands, please contact Rajan Sandhu, Housing Planner, at rsandhu@tsawwassenfirstnation.com or 604-329-1552.

TFN Mortgage Workshop

The Housing Team recently hosted a successful mortgage workshop with over 35 participants, both online and in-person, as part of EC's implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy. This informative session focused on empowering TFN Members, primarily youth, to achieve their home ownership goals. We are grateful to our financial partners, Vancity and BMO, for providing valuable information and helping participants gain a deeper understanding of mortgages specific to TFN needs.

Rapid Housing Initiative - Supportive Housing Project

Endorsed by EC, Housing staff secured \$1.28 million in Rapid Housing Initiative funding from CMHC to develop supportive housing for TFN members. TFN has contracted Converge Construction to build a 7-bedroom, 7-bathroom supportive housing unit on a parcel near the TFN Community Farm. This project will provide much-needed support for TFN members and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Light Blue House (2440 Falcon Way)

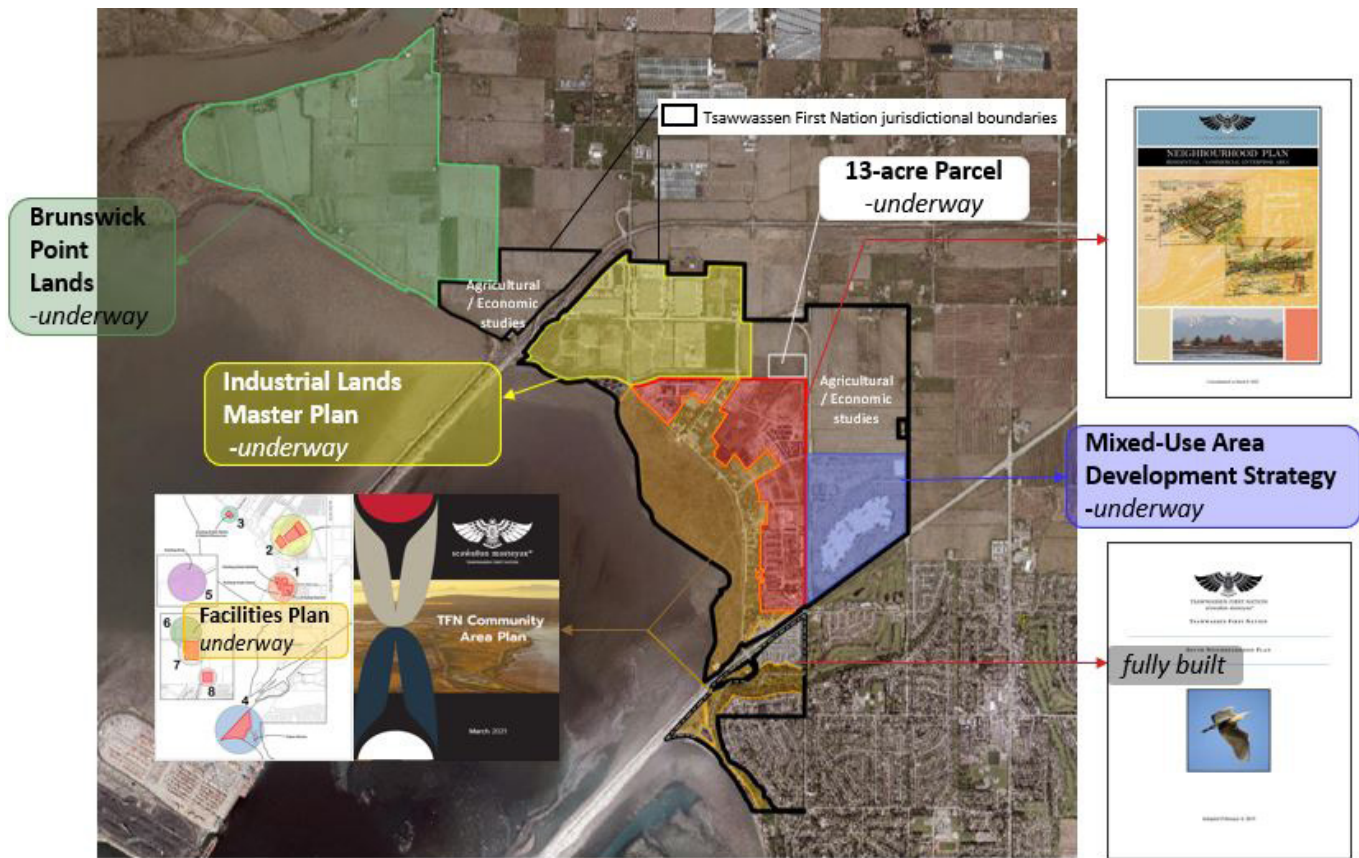
The house at 2440 Falcon Way has now received final completion with the help of Jason Mitchell from Wesgrove Construction. Staff are now connecting with the Member family to facilitate the transfer of ownership.

Land Act Amendment Approval

After extensive membership consultation from Fall 2023 to Winter 2024 including on-land and off-land Community Meetings, Advisory Council meetings, and Family Meetings, Legislature approved Bill 002-2024, the 2024 Land Amendment Act, on March 14, 2024. The amended Land Act includes two changes:

- Permit Trustees to hold TFSI interests on behalf of ALL members, not just minors and those incapable of managing their affairs.
- Permit Members to lease land to themselves ("A to A leasing").





Land Use Plan Update

The TFN Land Use Plan Update project is well underway. After the Member workshop at 2023 Member Gathering and the first two Executive Council workshops in November and December 2023, Lands staff held a third workshop with Executive Council in January on the Brunswick Point Lands (referred to as Canoe Pass Lands at the Member workshop). Two more Executive Council workshops are planned in the next few months. Staff will conduct further consultation with Members potentially including community meetings, and a project update at 2024 Member Gathering. A preliminary Land Use Plan report is anticipated in later 2024/early 2025.

TFN Admin Building - Legislature Project

The TFN Admin Building – Legislature project has proceeded to the later stage of Phase 1A (Schematic Design). Lands staff and project architect Urban Art Architecture (UAA) presented two design concepts to TFN legislators on February 20, 2024, and to Members on March 13, 2024. UAA will continue working with and receiving direction and input from the Project Steering Committee and Members. Phase 1A will be concluded with EC endorsement of a preferred concept, and Phase 1B will follow to provide Class C cost estimate. Phase 1 completion is anticipated in June or July 2024. Following Phase 1 the project will move forward to Phase 2 for detailed design, including necessary development permits and building permit processes.

Tsawwassen Drive Streetscape Design

Following the Executive Council approved workplan, staff expects initial community engagement in May 2024. The \$50,000 grant from the BC Active Transportation Program will fund the initial technical work and community engagement.

Grant for Speed Reader Boards for TFN Lands

Lands staff have secured \$20,000 grant from the Vision Zero program. This grant will be utilized to purchase and install two speed readers, enhancing safety measures for our residents. The acquisition of these speed readers is scheduled to occur in the upcoming months and is warmly welcomed as an addition to our community.

TFN Cultural Hub

The TFN Cultural Hub Project aims to create a 4,452 sq. ft. space in Tsawwassen Commons at Unit #1004, #1006 and #1008, 4949 Canoe Pass Way to accommodate TFN Cultural Team offices, a registered artifact repository and various cultural functions, such as artwork display, artifact storage, and language and culture classroom.

The Project has proceeded to the RFQ stage to select a General Contractor. After the RFQ submission deadline in late March, staff will review submissions and bring forward a report for Executive Council to consider and award the construction contract in April 2024. Construction is anticipated to complete in three months after commencement.

xʷəliwənstəxʷ ct kʷə syaləxʷec (Honouring Our Ancestors) - Sustainability Charter - Phase 2

Phase 2 work was initiated in October 2023 and is fully funded by a \$100,000 grant from the First Nation Adaptation Program. Lands staff presented the proposed themes from Phase 1 work (which involved background research and member engagement) to the Executive Council on February 20, 2024. The Draft Charter incorporating all feedback received will be concluded in Phase 2. Phase 3, finalization of the Charter, is tentatively expected by summer 2024.

CƏLISƏLƏM (TFN Community Farm) Pilot Project

Lands staff are collaborating with farm staff to plan for this year's growing season and educational opportunities to promote sustainable farming and capacity building for Members. A community education event was held at the Rec Centre on March 18, 2024, led by Kalista Pruden from Avalily Permaculture and the Earth Skills Institute.

Staff are also working with the site planning consultant (MOTIV Architecture Inc.) on farm precinct development options. Construction of a new 40 x 90-foot greenhouse was completed in February 2024. Scoping of the electrical and gas connection needs for year-round crop growing capacity is underway.



Place Making Projects

• Cenotaph at New Elders Centre Site

Collaborating with the Language and Culture staff, Lands staff are working with the project architect and landscape architect for the new Elders Centre to discuss location and high-level concepts for the Cenotaph on the site.

• Shared Pathway Signage on TFN Lands

Plans are underway to install 29 shared pathway signs at various locations on TFN lands to promote the shared use of multi-use pathways by pedestrians and cyclists. Installation of the signage is expected in April/May 2024.

36-Unit Townhome Development

All 36 units have now been filled, with over 95% occupied by TFN Members. We expect full occupancy by the end of March, 2024, as we are holding only two units as contingency emergency rentals. If you have questions about joining the TFN Rental Waitlist, please contact Iris Vega, Property Management Supervisor, at ivega@tsawwassenfirstnation.com.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As we close another quarter, we reflect on the progress made and the foundations laid for enduring prosperity. These initiatives represent our commitment to the well-being and economic empowerment of the Tsawwassen First Nation community. We move forward with purpose, guided by the principles that have sustained us for generations.

1. Strategic Vision: TFN Employment and Industrial Lands Strategy

We have nearly completed a comprehensive strategy for the second phase of TFN's industrial lands development. As we work on the remaining 180 acres south of Salish Sea Way, our cross-departmental efforts aim to craft an actionable master plan that upholds our cultural values and generates prosperity for the next Seven Generations of Tsawwassen Members. The forthcoming year will see us continue to refine this plan and apply best practices in real estate management.

2. Nurturing Growth: Short-Term Leasing Opportunities

Our Economic Development team is actively exploring short-term leasing opportunities on Tsawwassen Industrial Lands. This initiative is not only a means to generate immediate revenue for TFN but also a step towards thoughtful, long-term development planning. We are committed to ensuring that these short-term engagements are consistent with the values of TFN, providing appropriate rent structures while safeguarding our lands and environment.

3. Addressing Community Needs: TFN Member Temporary Parking and Storage

Responding to our community's feedback, we have launched a new temporary storage and parking initiative. This program addresses the growing need for storage as our Members return to live on Tsawwassen Lands. The provision of temporary business storage and vehicle parking on TFN's Industrial Lands is a testament to our dedication to serving Member needs and is the precursor to a permanent storage solution.

4. Team Expansion: Strengthening Our Capabilities

The Economic Development Department has grown, with the addition of expert consultants specializing in real estate, brokerage, indigenous small business development, and indigenous/corporate relationship development. This strategic expansion enhances our capacity to support and develop established Tsawwassen businesses to capitalize on the business opportunities resulting from major project and capital investments within TFN's territory.

ORDERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- O.001-2024 Order to approve TCEI Funding Agreement with DFO
- O.002-2024 Order to approve sole-source contract for advisory services re: TFN Industrial Lands and Employment Lands to Stag Property Consultants Ltd.
- O.003-2024 Order to amend Schedule 11 Natural Resources of the 2023-2024 Appropriations Act
- O.004-2024 Order to approve Housing Accelerator Fund Contribution Agreement and Action Plan
- O.005-2024 Order to award Falcon Way Streetscape consultation contract to Aplin Martin Consultants Ltd.
- O.008-2024 Order to approve contract for exterior building and landscape upgrades at 2375 Raven Lane
- O.009-2024 Order to award fill contract for 13-Acre and 6.42 acre sites to TFN Construction/Matcon Civil JV
- O.010-2024 Order to award contract for Commercial/Industrial Landscape Maintenance Works to Seaside Maintenance Inc
- O.011-2024 Order to approve execution of Annual Consent Resolutions (2024)
- O.012-2024 Order to approve contract for development of TFN Housing Authority Implementation Plan
- O.013-2024 Order to approve purchase of tractor from Avenue Machinery
- O.014-2024 Order to adopt the wəneç s?iwəsənəq (Executive Council) Code of Conduct
- O.015-2024 Order to approve the Fifth Amendment to the Fiscal Financing Agreement
- O.016-2024 Order to appoint Joven Narwal as Chair of the TFN Judicial Council
- O.017-2024 Order to appoint Krista Simons and Robert Botterell to the TFN Judicial Council
- O.018-2024 Order to approve Funding Agreement re: Reaching Home Funding

A GROWING GOVERNMENT

Carmen McLachlan – Manager of Health (Health)

**Will Tait – Facilities Maintenance Worker
(Municipal Infrastructure – Facilities)**

Ghazaleh Akbarnejad – Planner 1 – Housing (Lands)

Maura Gowans – Manager of Family Services (Family Services)

Shawna Clemence – Intergovernmental Analyst (PIGA)

Sophie Thomas – Policy Analyst (PIGA)

Shannon Sterling - Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator (PIGA)

Angelita De Leon – Assistant Controller (Finance)

Jenna Marand – Member Services Coordinator (Member Services) *TFN Member*



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