



Our Land. Our Future. Our Success. Forward Focused Nation Building.

March 2016

Mark Your Calendars

-Spring Break for students
March 19th- April 6th

-Pancake Breakfast
Thursday March 24, 9:30 am
Health Building

-Good Friday
Friday March 25th
Band Office Closed

-Easter Monday
Monday March 28th
Band Office Closed

-Drumming
Tuesday March 29th 6pm
Snacks provide

-Band Meeting
April 2nd 11 am

--Bylaw and Policy Workshop
Tuesday April 5, 12pm
Potluck lunch

-Council Election and
Referendum
Monday April 11th 9am- 8pm

-Most Beautiful Yard Contest
Kick off Potluck Luncheon
Tuesday April 19, 12 pm

By-law/Housing Policy Workshop and Potluck

Housing would like to invite all community and band members to the Bylaw/Housing Policy Workshop and Potluck on

April 5th at 12 pm at Medical Building

We will start with lunch and then get down to business. Members who attended the last band meeting will be familiar with the 2 new draft By-laws to be discussed.

- Prevention of Disorderly Conduct and Nuisances
- Community Safety Bylaw
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This workshop is for everyone to provide feedback, ask questions and help review by-laws and policies for our community.

As with any Potluck, please bring something to share with everyone!

If you can not attend but would still like to go over the bylaws and housing policies, ask questions and provide feedback please contact the Housing department.

For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way -
Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.

~Author Unknown



Highlight of the Month

In February, a group of our Youth joined the Boston Bar Youth at Canyon Lanes Bowling Alley for a night of bowling, billiards and food. Keep an eye out for more fun youth activities coming up soon!

SPRING CONTEST

Spuzzum First Nation will be launching a “Most Beautiful Yard” contest on April, 19th, with a potluck luncheon, prizes will include gift cards for Home and Garden stores, such as Home Depot and Hope Garden Centre. Watch for flyers outlining details of the contest. Good Luck Green Thumbs!

Fraser Cascade School District Grade Configuration

The Board of Education voted as follows:

- Coquihalla Elementary will remain a K to 6 school
- Silver Creek Elementary will remain a K to 7 school (one grade 7 class)
- Hope Secondary School will be 7- 12 (two grade 7 classes)

This set up gives parents the choice of where they would like their young children to go, helps fill up the Hope Secondary school and silver creek Elementary which are low in numbers and ensure that Coquihalla Elementary is not over crowded.

COUNCIL ELECTION and REFERENDUM

Monday April 11th 9am-8pm

Candidates for Chief: Harold Bobb and James Hobart

Candidates for Councilor: (2 to be elected)

Jane Atkinson
Patricia Eidem

Freida Bobb
Jessica Poirier

Chad Edwards
Diana Stromquist

The Referendum is to adopt the new Custom Election Code. If you can't vote in person on Election day, please call Jackie at the Band office for a Mail-In Ballot Package. We try to send ballots to all members living off-reserve, but we don't have addresses for everyone. If you know family or friends who did not get the ballot please contact Jackie at the band office.

Questions? Please contact: Bruce Mac, Electoral Officer: 250-392-6867 or brucemack68@gmail.com

Jackie Johnson, Deputy Electoral Officer: 604-863-2395

Ongoing Events

Drumming--Every other Tuesday night at 6pm community members gather in the Health building to learn traditional drumming. Please have dinner before you come as only snacks will be provided.

Walking Club--Every Wednesday the walking club meets at the Health building at 3:40 pm. Denise will be there to monitor blood pressure. You have the choice of getting outside to walk or an indoor walking program. Everyone is welcome! Come out, get fit and maybe win a PRIZE!



Message from Chief and Council

Members,

We've been honored to serve as your leaders, building on past successes to raise the bar for how we are respected and valued by all service providers, neighbouring nations and at all levels of government. Complacency is not an option, if we're not constantly pushing our community's agenda and interests forward, they are inevitably slipping back. We became a formidable force by casting aside our own fears and differences to speak out with a concise united voice against any attempts to minimize our interests or the power of the Spuzzum First Nation including our own Tribal Council and any organization that fails to respect our individuality.

The health of a nation isn't measured by its weakest nor its strongest member, but the distance in between, we all know what it's like to feel prejudged and discriminated against, as leaders our passion to strive for the best is minimized if even one of our cherished Elders is feeling hurt or distanced by others.

Our innate pride, resilience, strength and at times stubbornness is undeniable, let's promise to use our strengths in a good way, to put aside differences, go out of your way to acknowledge all Elders and lead by example to create harmony. Let's honor our ancestors by creating an environment where Elders feel loved, safe and valued as the rare gems they are. The Nlaka'pamux word for this month is Qelmin - Elder .

Thank you, Chief and Council



First Policy Appeal Deemed a Success

Chief and Council had an opportunity last week to engage in the first Policy Appeal since the new Housing Policies were introduced in October. This appeal was filed to dispute a policy which called for a 24-hr notice to remove an animal, concerning an incident involving a tenant's dog and a band member's child.

The appeal process provided a forum where all parties concerned in the dispute were able to provide further information to Chief and Council regarding the circumstances around the incident. After asking questions to clarify what happened, how it happened and what factors were involved, Chief and Council decided to place the tenant on a 30-day review under certain conditions including the use of a leash and muzzle when walking the animal in the residential area of Spuzzum reserve. All parties reported that they felt satisfied with the outcome of the meeting and expressed thanks that this opportunity was available through the appeal process to talk it through and gain a logical workable solution.

Policies are in place to ensure that we have a prescribed process for dealing with common issues and complaints in a fair manner. But we realize that when policies are violated, no two people or situations are exactly alike. The right to file an appeal will allow for every situation to be dealt with on its own merit; taking into consideration any factors around the dispute that the tenants may want to share. We believe that band members will find this process to be extremely fair and will allow for transparent decision-making within the administration of tenancies and housing.

2 New By-laws Available for Members to Review

Spuzzum Community Safety By-law

Spuzzum First Nation felt it was advisable to enact a By-law to provide for the protection of the community, children and the vulnerable on Spuzzum Reserves from violent crime, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual exploitation and abuse.

First and foremost, recognizing that the rights and well-being of the community take priority over the rights of the individual and taking into consideration that the Spuzzum people have historically used banishment to help keep the community safe from threats of violent or dangerous members, the Spuzzum First Nation supports a By-law which would allow Council to initiate the legal process of a restraining order to prevent from entering onto certain areas of Spuzzum Reserves persons who pose a threat to their community, their children and the vulnerable.

Spuzzum Reserve Disorderly Conduct and Nuisances By-law

The Council of the Spuzzum First Nation Band has drafted a By-law governing the prevention of disorderly conduct and nuisances, entitled the "Spuzzum Reserve Disorderly Conduct and Nuisances By-law". This by-law is to address incidents where someone commits an act of disorderly conduct on Spuzzum reserve, and introduces enforcement measures and penalties for violating this by-law.

"Disorderly conduct" means any act or behaviour, including Fighting; Making or causing unreasonable noise; Using abusive language; Using offensive or indecent gestures or displays; Being drunk; Loitering; Exposing, firing or discharging any gun, pistol or other firearm, or using or threatening to use any other article as a weapon; or Interfering in any manner with the orderly conduct of commercial, administrative, educational, recreational, health care, religious or ceremonial activities on the Reserve, and behavior that disrupts public order on the Reserve, scandalizes the community, or causes public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm. "Nuisance" means any act, activity, or condition, including the abandonment of cars, household appliances or furniture, or parts of cars, household appliances or furniture; the storage of abandoned cars, household appliances or furniture, or parts of cars, household appliances or furniture; the dumping or storage of tires, garbage or other refuse; the burning of tires, grass, garbage, leaves or other refuse; Noise.

Enforcement measures include fines, criminal charges and other possible consequences as outlined in the draft by-law.

A copy of both draft By-Laws is available at the Housing office, please direct questions or comments to Crystal Sedore or Crystal Hatzidimitriou

HEALTH

Starting up the Community Garden!
Volunteers needed.

NkshAtkn- Monthly on the 4th, info at Band office.

Do you or a loved one need to see a doctor or a dentist? Did you know Anderson Creek offers services to the Spuzzum area? Anderson Creek Health Center: Doctor/Nurse Practitioner every Wednesday, to make an appointment call 604-860-7630

North Raven Dental, Anderson Creek: May 24 & 25, 2016, to make appointment call 607-867-8844

COMING SOON! GIRL POWER and BOYS 2 BOYS

-These 2 programs will build on self-esteem, hygiene and relationship building for the youth. Please contact the office if you would like more info.

HOUSING

With the approach of the end of the fiscal year on March 31st, the Housing department has been wrapping up some of the smaller home maintenance tasks and planning for the new funding year.

Over the winter we had an opportunity to complete most home inspections and develop 3-month Action Plans for each home. The Action Plans identified priorities for each residence and outlined responsibilities for both Tenant and Landlord. Housing has completed almost all of our identified tasks, such as electrical check-ups, furnace repairs, small leaks, winterizing, door repairs, chimney cleaning, gutter care and heat vent cleaning. We have also installed smoke/CO2 detectors in almost all homes.

We want to thank all Tenants for the efforts being made in completing your own home maintenance, such as cleaning yards, repairing broken windows, getting rid of clutter and clearing brush around your house. We would like to ask tenants to continue to work on your home maintenance tasks, particularly in the yards. The warm weather is coming and it will be very nice to see clean pretty yards when we drive around the community.

We are currently working on applications for RRAP grants and AANDC Mould funding. Even people who have CP of their home can apply for the RRAP grant, up to \$16,000 is available for vital repairs and renovations. If your home needs critical repairs please contact Housing before April 5th to be included in the application for the funding, only 6 homes per year will be funded for each band.

Education

Bold Eagle Program- is a unique summer employment program that combines Aboriginal culture and teachings with military training. Bold Eagle is a challenging yet rewarding opportunity that helps to develop valuable skills such as self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, time management, respect and fitness to list but a few. The six-week program is conducted from early July to late August each year. Are you up to the Bold Eagle challenge? To apply please visit <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/jobs-caf-aboriginal/bold-eagle-index.page>

NITEP- UBC's Indigenous Teacher Education Program- The University of British Columbia's Indigenous Teacher Education Program is excited to announce Seabird Island as the new hosts of the NITEP rotating field center. The center will open in Seabird Island in 2016. Seabird and the UBC Faculty of Education's NITEP will partner to offer arts/science and education courses for the next four years (2016-2020), allowing students to remain in their home communities for years 1-3. The students will transition to the UBC Vancouver campus for their final year in order to complete their Bachelor of Education Degree.

For more info regarding the above programs please contact Diana Stromquist at 604-860-3240 or dstromquist@spuzzumnation.com



Contact Us

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CALL TO SUBSCRIBE FOR AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER