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# Meeting Summary

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**Prepared for: Presenters, Co-Hosts and Simgigyet of the June 4-5 2015  
Meeting of the Gitksan, Gitanyow and Wet'suwet'en on  
Stewardship Guardian Program and Sustainability Authority**

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## Table of Contents

<b>BACKGROUND ON PURPOSE OF MEETING</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SKEENA &amp; MID-NASS STEWARDSHIP GUARDIAN PROGRAM PROPOSAL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A SUSTAINABILITY AUTHORITY FOR THE SKEENA &amp; MID-NASS REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MEETING INVITEES &amp; PRESENTERS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>DAY ONE – JUNE 4, 2015 – STEWARDSHIP GUARDIAN NETWORK</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>CO-HOSTS OPENING REMARKS &amp; CHIEFS OPENINGS REMARKS</i>	7
<i>COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK PRESENTATION</i>	9
<i>FORMER GITKSAN WATERSHED AUTHORITIES RANGER – PANEL</i>	9
<i>OFFICE OF THE WET’SUWET’EN</i>	10
<i>RED WOLF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING</i>	11
<i>GITWANGAK HEREDITARY CHIEFS</i>	12
<i>GITANYOW MOOSE MONITORING PROGRAM</i>	13
<i>WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW – LEGAL PRINCIPLES TO SUPPORT A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING &amp; ENFORCEMENT</i>	13
<b>DAY TWO – JUNE 5, 2015 – REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AUTHORITY</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>GITANYOW WILP SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT</i>	14
<i>WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW - BUILDING A SUSTAINABILITY AUTHORITY FOR THE SKEENA &amp; MID-NASS REGIONS</i>	14
<i>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION</i>	14
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>WORKING GROUP VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>20</b>

# DRAFT Meeting Summary

## Stewardship Guardian & Sustainability Authority

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*Gitanyow, Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en*

*June 4-5, 2015 – Gitanmaax*

*Meeting Co-Hosted by Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs & Gitksan Watershed Authorities*

### Background on Purpose of Meeting

#### Skeena & Mid-Nass Stewardship Guardian Program Proposal

The purpose of the meeting was to explore the potential interest among the 3 nations in a long-term program on environmental monitoring and enforcement that includes:

- a. Respect for and recognition of individual Wilp (House) and Clan autonomy and authority over respective territories.
- b. Recognition of the collective responsibility to steward the Lax'yip/Yintah and the fish and wildlife whose habitat spans multiple Wilp/Clan and nation boundaries.
- c. Recognition of the common challenges in current environmental assessment and monitoring carried out by the provincial and federal governments, and the need for a monitoring framework that supports decisions made in accordance with the Ayookxw and Wet'suwet'en laws and drawing on sound scientific data.

- d. Builds on the strong legal backing of the Gitksan, Gitanyow, and Wet'suwet'en evidence of exclusive and continued ownership of the Lax'yip/Yintah, and upholds the legal principles established by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Tsilhqot'in* and *Delgamuukw* decisions.
- e. Provides meaningful training and employment opportunities for the younger generation of Wilp members to be the eyes and ears for the Huwilp/Clans and Simgigyet'm/Dini'ze on the Lax'yip/Yintah.
- f. Provides a framework for stewardship monitoring, reporting, and enforcement in accordance with the Ayookxw and any government-to-government agreements (i.e. fisheries, land use plans, environmental monitoring, hunting permitting) that the Gitanyow, Gitksan, and Wet'suwet'en may be party to.
- g. Provides a collective network of stewardship guardians that are accountable to individual Wilp and Clan and other governance institutions, and provide transparent and reliable information regarding activity on the Lax'yip/Yintah.

The above were proposed principles put forward by the meeting co-hosts. The purpose of this meeting was to see if there is common interest among the 3 nations in collaborating on such a proposed program.

In exploring this proposal, the 3 nations were invited to examine the Coastal Guardian Watchmen & Coastal Stewardship Network as a potential model that could be modified and adapted to our own cultures, region, and traditional governance structures. See their website at: <http://coastalguardianwatchmen.ca/guardian-watchmen-programs>

The Coastal Guardian Watchmen & Coastal Stewardship Network has been in existence for close to ten years, and provides support to Guardian Watchmen Programs from the following member First Nation communities: Gitga'at, Haida, Heiltsuk, Kitsoo, Metlakatla, Nuxalk, and Wuikinuxw. Guardian Watchman programs are managed by each Nation's stewardship office with priorities and work activities determined by their stewardship office staff.

The Guardian Watchmen "are all the people who monitor and protect the lands and waters on their territory to ensure a vibrant future for generations to come...[and] may have titles such as resource technicians, fisheries guardians, park rangers and community watchmen."

Further, "as the original stewards of their territories, First Nations are responsible for governing and managing their lands and waters. First Nations have the authority and

responsibility under traditional laws to protect important wildlife species, food sources, and significant cultural resources. With government cut-backs and increasing pressures on coastal resources, there has never been a more important time to strengthen Guardian Watchmen programs. We count on Guardian Watchmen to make sure the Coast is managed responsibly.”

- Training: The Coastal Stewardship Network organizes training and professional development courses based on the priorities and needs identified by the Stewardship Directors' Committee. Resource Stewardship Office directors and managers have improved their skills and knowledge in areas such as Leadership Skills, Strategic Communications and Negotiations, Project Budgeting and Financial Management, and Project Management. In 2013, a one year pilot Stewardship Technician training program was initiated in partnership with Vancouver Island University. Sixteen participants from seven First Nations on the coast completed a series of modules specifically selected or designed to support the roles and responsibilities of Guardian Watchmen and other resource stewardship field staff. Courses offered were: Monitoring for Environmental Compliance, Note-Taking and Evidence Gathering, Archaeology and CMT Inventory Training, Parks and Protected Areas, Environmental Monitoring, Resource Seminar Series and Marine Motor Servicing. Students who fully complete the CFN Stewardship Technician training program received up to 8 credits toward VIU's Resource Management Officer Technology (RMOT) Diploma, in addition to other relevant industry certificates such as the Archaeology Branch Resource Information Standards Committee (RISC) Certificate and the BCIT Parks Administration exam, a requirement for employment within BC Parks. A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training: Employment Services and Supports (ESS) Program to build on the pilot training and deliver a two level Stewardship Technicians Training program with Vancouver Island University starting in the fall of 2015.
- Network: The main functions of the Coastal Stewardship Network are to: provide support to increase capacity of individual Watchmen programs and Stewardship offices; facilitate communication and networking; support the ongoing development of a regional monitoring system; develop outreach materials to raise awareness about Guardian Watchmen and Resource Stewardship activities.
- Funding: The Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network is a project of the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative and is currently supported by funding from TNC Canada, Moore Foundation, and Wilburforce Foundation. In the past, the Network has received funding from other sources including Coast Opportunity Funds, Mountain Equipment Coop and the Vancouver Foundation.

## **A Sustainability Authority for the Skeena & Mid-Nass Region**

Our second day of discussions explored the potential interest in establishing a Sustainability Authority for the region encompassed by our 3 nations traditional territories (Lax'yip and Yintah). Our nations have, at various times and during environmental assessment of numerous projects, stated serious concerns with the current environmental assessment process carried out by both the provincial and federal governments.

Common concerns cited have included, but not limited to: lack of recognition of aboriginal rights and title; failure of cumulative impacts assessment on a regional scale; "rubber stamp" process only deals with mitigation of impacts and rarely rejects projects; is heavily influenced by political and economic agendas and does not utilize best available science; does not uphold recent *Tsilhqot'in* decision and focus on sustainability of land and need for First Nations consent – not just consultation.

Our second day of discussions explored our current challenges in the environmental assessment process, some legal principles that could support establishing our own independent Sustainability Authority that upholds the principles outlined in the above section, and other ideas and concepts that could form the foundation of such an Authority.

It was communicated by the co-hosts that if an interest was expressed amongst the 3 nations, further work would be undertaken to secure additional funds and retain appropriate expertise to develop the concept and proposal further.

## **Meeting Invitees & Presenters**

Representatives from organizations working for the 3 nations in the areas of lands and resources and fisheries were invited and asked to ensure Hereditary Chiefs and other appropriate individuals were invited to participate and present.

The intention of the co-hosts was to ensure that a good representation from each nation, within the funding and capacity constraints of the project. The main focus was to include those people who direct experience in some form of monitoring, compliance and enforcement activity on the territory. Secondly, those people who at a leadership level would be interested in improving environmental assessment in the region and seeking to establish a Sustainability Authority amongst the 3 nations.

With a successful initial meeting now complete with a smaller group, there is certainly an interest in broadening the discussion and project development to include more interested representatives from the 3 nations.

A complete list of participants is available upon request. Representatives from the following organizations participated: Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Gitanyow Fisheries Authority, Gitksan Watershed Authorities, Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Gitksan Treaty Society, Skeena Fisheries Commission. Guests invited to present and participate came from the Coastal Guardian Stewardship Network and West Coast Environmental Law. The meeting was opened and closed by Wilp Nikateen (Frances Sampson) and was chaired by Ardythe Wilson/Dimdiigibuu (Gitksan).

Similar to the invitees, the presenters were invited based on direct experience in some type of monitoring, compliance or enforcement initiative within the territories of one of the 3 nations. Additionally, the Coastal Stewardship Guardian Network was invited to share their experience in establishing the program and lessons learned which could assist in establishing a similar network within the Skeena and Mid-Nass region.

## Summary of Deliberations

### Day One – June 4, 2015 – Stewardship Guardian Network

#### *Co-Hosts Opening Remarks & Chiefs Openings Remarks*

Gitanyow, Malii/Chief Negotiator & President Glen Williams

- Recognition of Wilp on whose territory we meet.
- Purpose of meeting to look at examples of people who have been taking control and doing things on the territory.
- Need to preserve our land, fish and wildlife for now and next generation.
- Need to respect traditional law.
- More development in the next few years: pipelines, mining, forestry.
- Consultants working for industry making decisions on our territory, do not know the land and do not have the correct data or science.
- Common laws and history presented in *Delgamuukw* court case – Gitanyow, Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en.
- Opportunity with LNG and the Environmental Stewardship Initiative, \$30 million dollars.
- Need to drive that process and work together.

- Establish monitoring and enforcement, a sustainability authority that uses good science and data to protect the land.

Trevor Morrison, Gitksan Watershed Authorities (GWA):

- Recognition of Wilp on whose territory we meet. GWA is excited to be a part of the process with Gitanyow.
- Need to look at the Ranger program and what happened, why it didn't continue. They were at a point where they would be armed, and that caused concern with government.
- Each year we have to deal with and remove non-native hunters from our territory, do this as Wilp members, but no monitoring or enforcement program in place for Gitksan.
- Need better communication on which companies are active in territory and monitoring and reporting to the Wilps.
- On-going issues between sport fishermen and Skeena Fisheries Commission.

Mike Ridsdale, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Office of the Wet'suwet'en

- Companies and government need to ask us how to use the land, not tell us what their plans are for it.
- Enforcement is about knowing who is using the land and having a say in how they use it.
- Our information and data about the land is more current, accurate and without this you cannot make an informed decision.

Gwaas Hla'am/George Phillip Daniels, Gitanyow

- (Remarks in Gitksan)

Siidok/Deborah Good, Gitanyow

- Recognition of Wilp on whose territory we meet. Thank all for coming to meeting.
- We invest a lot of money to train our own people, in environmental monitoring and other jobs on the territory.
- But there is no trust put in our people to do their job and the authority to enforce our laws. We train them, but still hire outsiders to the work in protecting our territory.
- Need to put more trust in our people.

Gwaans/Beverley Clifton Percival, Negotiator, Gitksan Treaty Office

- Recognition of Wilp on whose territory we meet. Thankful for Malii and GWA hosting this important meeting and taking the next step to work together.
- Our discussions on working together as 3 nations have been on-going, and good to see the next step now happening.
- In 2003 we developed our own policies based on our Ayookxw for oil and gas and mining.



- In all the reviews of projects in our territories, government is using outdated data, in many cases data has not been collected since the mid-80s.
- Government will always conclude there are no adverse effects from projects, its our job to ensure there are none. We know there are adverse effects, and on our rights and title.
- There is a lot of value in working together and moving forward.
- Need our own training program for monitoring and enforcement, and need it to be accredited.
- Need to put the authority in our own people to enforce our laws and support them when they do.

Bryan Williams, Wilp Malii, Gitanyow

- Thank you for being included in meeting, from Gitanyow but work for BC Parks with background in fisheries and trained as a fisheries biologist.
- For our culture to survive we need healthy people and healthy land.
- Between our laws and the white mans laws, who has the final authority. That is why reconciliation is needed, reconciling two laws.
- Very powerful for 3 nations to be coming together and getting this done.

Denimgyet/Art Matthews, Gitwangak

- Need to put together a plan for how to work together as 3 nations of how we want people to respect the territories, and be strong together.
- We did a trial last year evicting some people who were not respecting our laws and land.
- Be aware of who is on the territory, they need permission to be there.

### *Coastal Guardian Network Presentation*

See Appendices for powerpoint slides.

Also available: Brochures, field cards, DVD and other promotional material from the Network.

### *Former Gitksan Watershed Authorities Ranger – Panel*

Edward Green/Wagalwil – Gitksan

- GWA Ranger program overview, was very similar to the Coastal Guardian Network in types of activities and monitoring topics.
- Training with DFO was not adequate to do actual enforcement, and Rangers did not have equivalent powers of enforcement and authority.
- DFO was threatened by our role, didn't want to lose their jobs.

- Laws we were helping to enforce were DFO's and BC's, not our own Gitksan laws. Chiefs had different expectations of what we would enforce (i.e. blockades)
- We had trucks and uniforms, but no authority. We were preparing to begin carrying guns, when they shut us down.
- Worked with Conservation Officers as well, but again no recognition of authority.
- At the time the program was running, times were different. Before the big court cases and all of the activity on the land. Was mostly monitoring our own people.
- Challenges around having Hereditary Chiefs respecting Rangers in their territories.
- Racist attitudes of DFO, and the training that was not up to same standard as DFO.
- Timing now is good to get our own program going, enforcing our own laws and working together with our neighbours.

Valbert Williams – Gitanyow, and Jose Johnson – Gitksan

- Concern over liability, dangerous work and especially if Rangers are armed.
- Challenge that is was only seasonal work. Difficult to be in the community during the off-season, people don't see you as an authority when you don't have uniform on.
- Challenge to keep good people employed when its only seasonal.
- All training was DFO related, and did not look at other activities like hunting or development on land.
- Program was a good start, but it eventually got divided up to all the communities – started with all being central to GWA.
- Now only one Ranger working for GWA, for whole Gitksan territory – looking at fisheries only.

### *Office of the Wet'suwet'en*

Walter Joseph, Fisheries Manager

- Challenges within fishery program, authority of House Chiefs and provincial and federal laws and enforcement.
- If something goes against the wishes of House Chief and what the community wants, charges should be laid.
- Good success in the tagging program.
- Need to have community on-side if you are going to do any enforcement.
- Moose population is low, and many non-Wet'suwet'en come to our territory to hunt. Need more monitoring and enforcement on that.

Mike Ridsdale, Environmental Assessment Coordinator

- For our own monitoring and enforcement program to be successful, need to ensure high standards for data collection and management.
- When data is gathered from our land, that is ours and our ownership needs to be respected. Companies do not get access to the land if they don't provide or share their data.
- Government always concludes "no adverse effect" in environmental assessment, but this is not assessed per individual House territory.
- Our assessment report looks at thresholds and impacts by House territory.
- Need best available data to make informed decisions. We have the right to decide what is happening on our lands.
- If we bring a court case forward of infringement, need the data to back it up. Can be an infringement of title – the right to choose to what uses the land can be put.
- Currently looking at water quality and fish habitat on our territories with the Morice Monitoring Trust. Need to ensure we have a trust in place for any data that is gathered on our territories.
- Dealing with pipelines currently, and lack of recognition of House territories.
- Any decision made on pipelines or other activity on the territory, we ensure we have the right data, we engage the community, we have our cultural information included.
- Current initiatives also bringing youth out into the territory and teaching them about the ecology of the area, the cultural significance, understanding the values of the territory so they have a connection to it and knowledge about it.

### *Red Wolf Environmental Monitoring*

Jarvis Williams, Wilp Malii, Gitanyow

- Recognition of host Wilp and condolences to Simogyet who lost their family member today. Honour to be invited to present and participate in important meeting.
- Bring business perspective to this topic. Am a business owner in environmental monitoring. Also a Wilp member from Gitanyow.
- Specialize in construction projects, power transmission lines.
- Have to balance our own culture, with culture of industry. They have Chiefs too – they are called Construction Managers and Chief Inspectors. Those are their decision makers.
- Have to a wide array of skills – fisheries, wildlife, and archaeology.
- Daily reports on all activities, including standard format, including site numbers, general activity, notes, UTM coordinate, and compliance or non-compliance. Compliance is with

Construction and Environmental Management Plans – that’s how you hold them accountable.

- Ensure companies are following mitigation measures in the environmental assessment certificates. Being held accountable, that is what environmental monitoring is all about.
- Work for companies, but never compromise who I am and values in our culture. First Nations should not compromise who we are and our land. Contracts with companies say that production must carry on, but I will not compromise my standards as a professional.
- First Nations working for companies in environmental monitoring often get paid less than industry standards - \$10/hr less – because they say we don’t pay taxes.
- Started our own company because don’t want to wait for someone to do something for us.
- Professional standards, such as biologists - they can be stripped of their credentials if not doing job properly.
- Do this work for our kids and next generation. Would not be here talking about monitoring if it weren’t for the Rangers, need to remember this.
- When we are monitoring, have to follow highest standards of data collection – facts and data never lie.

### *Gitwangak Hereditary Chiefs*

Fred Johnson/Luu Dax Hitxw, Chief Councillor

- Recognition of host Wilp and condolences to Simogyet who lost their family member today.
- Happy to be here today and talk about the actions we took last year to protect our territory.
- We have had a lot of sports fishermen in the territory, a lot of disrespect of our land, our people, our animals. People in our community wanted something to be done.
- People were having their vehicles damaged, there was a mess being left of garbage at the fishing sites.
- We wrote up a letter of eviction, and went and read it out and asked them to leave.
- Once you start evicting people, you have to be ready for what will happen. Need to have designated authority in the village to grant permission, otherwise outsiders will ask anyone.
- They will keep trying to come back, or they will mess with your vehicle.
- But it worked, and we were respectful and peaceful. No violence.
- Also had to enforce our laws on territory because of overlap with neighbouring nation, so we did and that is working.

- For any monitoring or enforcement, its going to be different in each community. But have to follow our laws, need permission to be on territory from each Chief.
- Have to work together if its going to work.

### *Gitanyow Moose Monitoring Program*

Kevin Koch, Wildlife Biologist, Gitanyow Fisheries Authority & Les McLean, Monitor  
See Appendices for powerpoint slides.

Les McLean & Kevin Koch

- Enforcement of Gitanyow Ayookxw and the permitting system – education and awareness are pillars of the Gitanyow moose monitoring and permitting program.
- Small percentage of hunters not following the laws can have a negative impact. Those people who don't respond to rules and education.
- Awareness of program through door-to-door visits to hunters, Facebook page and updates, community meeting.
- Enforcement in a large territory is difficult, can't be everywhere at all times. But have to have strong field presence. Timing is everything, if there is a violation or roadkill, need to be first there to respond.
- Can report on other activities in the territories – spill response for example.
- Chiefs Resolution sets the rules for the hunting season every year. Enforced by Conservation Officers, and Gitanyow monitors for reporting violations.
- Data gathered on hunting, road kills, other wildlife sitings.

### *West Coast Environmental Law – Legal Principles to Support a Common Framework for Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement*

See Appendices for powerpoint slides.

Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Lead Counsel

- Legal foundation for environmental monitoring and enforcement – grounded in the Ayookxw and traditional laws of the Wet'suwet'en.
- Raises the question – how is the Ayookxw communicated? In the form of a common framework and the decisions on how the land is used.
- Not only individual project decisions on the land (i.e. pipelines), but strategic level decisions and need for regional cumulative effects assessment for three nations territories.

- Establish strategic level direction, monitor effects and undertake adaptive management.
- Communicating and enforcing your own legal principles. For example Gwelx ye'enst.
- Supported by the *Tsilhqot'in* Supreme Court decision.
- Aboriginal title includes the right to; exclusive use and occupation, decide how the land will be used.
- First Nations consent must be obtained, or safeguarding the land for future generations. Decisions today cannot prevent future generations from exercising aboriginal rights and title.
- The courts say now that the Crown is expected to use its legislative authority to uphold duty to First Nations – strategic level.
- Acting on your own indigenous authority – seen examples with the Gitwagak evictions of the 'just do it' strategy.
- Changing the lens – what does it mean to engage with Canadian law from the basis of Indigenous law and authority?

## **Day Two – June 5, 2015 – Regional Sustainability Authority**

### *Gitanyow Wilp Sustainability Assessment*

Tara Marsden/Naxginkw, Gitanyow, Recognition & Reconciliation Implementation Coordinator

See Appendices for powerpoint slides.

### *West Coast Environmental Law - Building a Sustainability Authority for the Skeena & Mid-Nass Regions*

Jessica Clogg, Executive Director and Lead Counsel

See Appendices for powerpoint slides.

### *Roundtable Discussion*

Malii/ Glen Williams – Gitanyow

- Thank all who have presented and participated, and for our staff for organizing the meeting with the GWA.

- Been a struggle over the years to protect the land, wildlife, soil, integrity of the land.
- Government has their own assessment processes, provincial and federal. But no matter what the project, or what the impacts are, cumulative impacts as well – they only no three words: “no significant effect.”
- The process is designed to approve projects, and they do not respect the science or the laws of the land in their approvals.
- We have the authority to make our own decisions, and if we work together it is a good opportunity to work together and use the best data and science to uphold what our grandparents taught us.
- Asking you Chiefs today – is there a consensus to move forward together on this? Is there an interest in putting together a small working group to flesh out some of the ideas discussed here and just do it? Not wait for government or industry to tell us what is going to happen on our territory.

Bryan Williams, Wilp Malii, Gitanyow

- As a Wilp member who also works for government, all our discussions over past 2 days come down to having healthy people and healthy land, to support a healthy culture.
- There are a lot of common principles that unite us as 3 nations.
- Makes sense that we would work together on this.

Jarvis Williams, Wilp Malii, Gitanyow

- From business perspective on the ground, we see what works and what doesn't. For environmental assessment and for monitoring.
- Interested in collaborating among the 3 nations and providing the service, data and information to make recommendations to the Chiefs on what goes on in the territory.
- Disputes over territory boundaries must be put aside to work together, and up to the Chiefs to decide how best to work together.

Fred Philpot, Consulting Forester (Land Use Plans) for Gitanyow and Gitwangak

- Have worked with Gitanyow and Gitwangak for the past 10-15 years on 2 Land Use Plans.
- Do not see an alternative to collaborating and working together.
- For all reasons outlined by presenters, to protect the territories.
- Have to collaborate on a long-term basis and be consistent – not off and on.

Don Russell/Luux Hon – Gitanyow

- History shows us that to protect our boundaries we need to work together.
- Need to get a working group together to move this forward.

Deborah Good/Siidok – Gitanyow

- Some of main challenges in environmental assessments are the way data and research is collected. Consultants from Calgary or Vancouver conduct desk-top exercises and never set foot on our territory.
- Even with the Land Use Plan, companies and government want to find loop holes or get exemptions when money is at risk in construction schedules.
- Need a policy in place to uphold our Land Use Plans.
- Monitors need backing of our Chiefs, need to be able to stop work on a project (i.e. pipeline or transmission line) if company is damaging an area or not living up to their promises.
- Difficult to protect the land with overlaps. Nisga'a for example. What happens if there is a conflict between two nations?
- How can we come together as Gitksan to collaborate and enforce our laws?

Jim Robinson/Milulak – Gitksan

- Conversation has been informative and eye-opening. Good to see no fighting.
- That is what is needed to get things done.

No Speaker Name Recorded:

- Need more of our young people involved, especially in forestry and monitoring that on the land.
- Need more training that it is accredited, but for our own needs and customized.
- Need to be careful of mixing monitoring and enforcement, if the focus is on enforcement you won't get the good data.
- Bringing Rangers back together and putting them to work is a good idea. To do the job they were trained to do.
- What has been said over past 2 days is encouraging. Working together is key for our future leaders.
- For environmental assessment, need at least 3 years of baseline data (3 field seasons) to make an informed decision. Now its done to only one.
- Studies for environmental assessment on our land need to be done by our people.



Robert Austin

- Good to see young entrepreneurs and leaders. Learning stewardship – need more of this throughout the nation.
- Experience in working in the Suskwa Watershed, working with industry is more beneficial than government. Government lays out their plans ahead of time, then approaches aboriginals later.
- Hard to change any plans in consultation, because so much money is invested already.
- Mitigation is an avoidance of litigation, need to ensure we have a say in mitigation and monitoring it.

Abel Sampson, Gitksan

- Baseline studies in environmental studies only look at right of way, not the broader area. There are a lot of wildlife trails throughout. How do you compensate for impacts to wildlife? Very hard to do that.
- Moose and wildlife is just as important as fish.
- Very interested in collaboration with the nations, will make us stronger against government.
- Recommend that we work together, keep each other informed on website, get access to studies, no bias participation.

Trevor Morrison, Gitksan Watershed Authorities

- Need to leave this meeting with a working group to continue this work.
- Follow Gitanyow's lead, in the hunting permitting and land use plans.
- Involve and update more Chiefs for follow up meetings.
- Would like to endorse Ardythe Wilson (Chairperson) to continue working on this.

Charlie Muldoe, Gitksan Watershed Authorities

- Main challenges in environmental assessment – province has their own standards, what do we need to know as FNs to make an informed decision on the proposed project?
- For enforcement, need to ask – who are we enforcing? Just us or everyone?
- How do we overcome the challenges the Rangers faced previously?
- Our guiding principles need to be the *Delgamuukw* court case. Our forefathers and grandparents, have to keep that in our minds.
- In addition to environment, fish and wildlife also can't forget social, health and economic impacts and benefits. Need to have that information also.

Rodney Harris, Gitksan Watershed Authorities

- Agree with other speaker, need to separate monitoring from enforcement.
- Need to hire our young people who are educated, get them ready for field work.
- Inform Chiefs what is happening on the territories.

Peter Turley, Gitwangak

- Appreciate all work being done here and support what is happening.

Mike Ridsdale, Office of the Wet'suwet'en

- Recall original proposal put forward by Glen Williams at the LNG Environmental Stewardship meeting with the province. It was good to have that brought forward and now we are having this meeting.
- Need to bring back the information from this meeting to our Board and Hereditary Chiefs to seek mandate to work together.
- To move this initiative forward, need secured funding to put into a trust, to keep people employed. Fees can be collected from proponents to put into the trust to support this work.

Erling Magnusson, Wing Chief for Gitwangak Lax Skiik

- This meeting has been a long time coming, and it is good to see what has happened past two days.
- Develop a process for our own consent for the territories.
- Getting organized as 3 nations will only make us stronger.
- Information provided is very good, and will bring back to the Chiefs and select members for monitoring and have another meeting to start this and get it moving.
- Do not want to see the destruction here that I have seen in Northern Alberta. Need to protect the land.

Beverley Percival-Clifton/Gwaans

- Thank Malii and GWA for leadership.
- Work must be done collectively. Cannot lose sight of the collective and the greater good.
- What we achieved in Delgamuukw was all done by consensus. We are still here because we are matrilineal, who we are as a people – that's what is in Delgamuukw.

- We have nowhere else to go, we belong here. So we have to create an economy that is sustainable.
- Chiefs need to give Ranger or Guardians authority and not back down.
- Need a working group to identify all current programs and projects, can access some funds. Develop a framework based on our Ayookxw. Framework should include and push on the Aboriginal perspective, Crown has to include that and respect it.

Frances Sampson/Nikateen, Gitksan

- Get more of our young people to work, and learn from some of the young leaders here today.
- This initiative must use the Delgamuukw case to move forward.

Ed Green, Gitksan

- Interest from other nations to potentially work together, from Haida to Babine.
- Need to draw on our retirees to train our young people, get people trained quickly and move on this very soon.

Ardythe Wilson (Chair)

- Our Wilp affected by Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline. Found out by accident they were in the territory, conducting fish surveys with no consultation.
- We have not deferred our dax gyet to Gitksan Treaty Society or Gitksan Development Corporation.
- We believe in sustainability and economic viability. We have the right to have a good life, but has to be balanced with responsibility. So our grandchildren can have a good life. Our Gwelx ye'enst.
- In Delgamuukw we were alone on the world stage, we had no one backing us. We started with our own history and laws, and then went and found the best scientists.
- We can do this! Blanket the whole northwest, once people in other territories see what we are doing, proper environmental control from the people that own the land.
- Who will define reconciliation for us? Who will define the ecological stewardship for us? If we don't move, it will be the minister of the day.

Glen Williams/Malii – Gitanyow

- Thank all for participation and support.

- Have consensus to move forward and establish the working group. Wet'suwet'en will get back to us on participation.

## Next Steps

1. Distribution of Meeting Summary Report to participants and funding source/s.
2. Finalization of Working Group (see below).
3. Initial meeting of Working Group and designate host organization.
4. Drafting of Proposal and Concept Paper
5. Potential Visit of Working Group members to Coastal Guardian Network.
6. Fundraising Workplan
7. Other Steps to Develop Stewardship Guardian Program and Sustainability Authority as Identified by Working Group

## Working Group Volunteers

The following individuals stepped forward as volunteers for the Working Group to advance the proposed Stewardship Guardian and Sustainability Authority initiatives:

- Ardythe Wilson/ Dimdiigibuu - Gitksan
- Beverley Clifton Percival/Gwaans – Gitksan
- Edward Greene/Wagalwil - Gitksan
- Tara Marsden/Naxginkw – Gitanyow
- Phyllis Haizimsque/Gwinuu – Gitanyow
- Jessica Clogg – West Coast Environmental Law
- Gitwangak – To be Determined
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en – To be Determined

### **Appendices:**

#### *Powerpoint Presentations*