



Volume 10, Issue 2

Autumn 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In July the Kaska Dena Council General Assembly (GA) was held in Fort Ware, and as always, the people of Kwadacha were gracious and welcoming. Elections took place for the KDC Executive at the GA (see page 4), and as your newly elected Chair, I am pleased to report out through this newsletter on the good work that KDC is currently engaged in.

The theme of our General Assembly this year was “Reconciliation; a theme which seemed very fitting given the recent federal and provincial announcements in that direction. It is a time not only for reconciliation with the Federal and Provincial Governments, but more importantly, delegates to the Assembly expressed the desire to work at Kaska Dena internal reconciliation as well.

With new policy and legislative plans and consultations being advanced by both the federal and provincial governments confirming their respective approaches to reconciling with Indigenous Peoples, we are hopeful that this will prove to be a very encouraging time for making progress with BC and Canada.

These two public Governments have finally agreed that Treaties will be negotiated based on recognition of Indigenous Rights, meaning that no longer will government expect Indigenous People to negotiate Treaties based on cede and surrender of our Indigenous Rights, as was the case in the old treaties, such as Treaty 8.

It is, I believe, a more hopeful time for our people, and the newly elected KDC Executive is committed to engaging with our communities to address the challenges ahead, seek ways to build more positive relationships among all Kaska and help realize our shared goal of building a better future for all our people.

Mussi Cho,

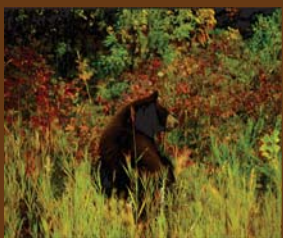
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Case'.

Danny Case, Chair  
Kaska Dena Council



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**FORESTRY UPDATE**

*We believe that working together with Kaska Forestry Task Force on the tenure opportunities for the Kaska will provide long term and sustainable economic future for the Kaska Dena as well as help the delivery of a stabilized economy for Northern British Columbia.*

The Kaska Dena Council is continuing the process of securing three First Nations Woodland Licences on behalf of Kwadacha First Nation, Daylu Dena Council, and Dease River First Nation. The First Nation Woodland Licences would be owned and managed by the three communities providing, jobs and economic development. The Kaska commenced the process of negotiating forest tenures at the Treaty table as a component of the Incremental Treaty Agreement. This was followed by the establishment of a Kaska Forestry Task Force, which is co-Chaired between the Ministry of FLNRORD and the Kaska. The Task Force is mandated with the objective of providing forest tenure for the Kaska in three Forest Districts.

We were successful in achieving a signed Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement (FTOA) for a First Nation Woodland License tenure for the Kwadacha First Nation in the Mackenzie Forest District, and have submitted a Management Plan. We have also begun the process of negotiating an MOU with BC Timber Sales with Kwadacha to provide expertise, and opportunities for training and disposition following the sale of volume in the new tenure area. We will commence work in the tenure area with the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) held by BC Timber Sales to expedite our process while we develop an FSP over the next year.

A Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement is in the process in the Skeena Stikine Forest District with the Dease River First Nation. A Management Plan is being worked on as well as a Forest Stewardship Plan. A business plan has been provided to the District Manager, who has kindly offered to add comments and other opportunities to the Business Plan.

We have provided a draft business Plan for the Fort Nelson Forest District opportunity. We have had meetings with the new



District Manager for Ft. Nelson and discussed the “Analysis on Sustainable Harvest Flow in the Kaska Nation’s North Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan Area DRAFT August 13, 2018”. We are now developing a Management Plan that will be reviewed by the District Manager with the intention of determining the area to be included in the FNWL. We have also asked for a meeting with the Chief Forester to explain our needs and concerns in the Ft. Nelson Forest District.

We are committed to creating jobs and economic development for Kaska people and believe that working together with Kaska Forestry Task Force on the tenure opportunities for the Kaska will provide long term and sustainable economic future for the Kaska Dena as well as to help the delivery of a stabilized economy for northern British Columbia.







## **Kaska Strategic Engagement Agreement – Update**

**T**wo thousand and eighteen marks the sixth year of our Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) and the parties have agreed to extend it for another 2 years. This makes it one of the longest acting SEAs among the Kaska communities as it relates to lands and resources. It is a bridging agreement for two years while negotiations occur to modify the agreement based on the Governments of British Columbia and Canada commitments to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and Indigenous legislative and policy initiatives. Kaska Dena Negotiators are working to include consent-based decision making and stronger joint land and resource management powers in the traditional territory in British Columbia.

While negotiations are underway, other business is still proceeding with work on the regulatory regime over mining in British Columbia – including laws on mineral tenure, land use planning and placer mining. This includes being involved in the permit amendment for the Silvertip Mine. Coeur Holding Ltd., is undergoing a Mines Act and Environmental Management Act Permits review to have the Silvertip Mine operate year round for approximately seven to twelve years and then move to a reclamation and closure stage. Kaska Dena are involved in the regulatory review through the SEA. It is expected the company and the Province will be in the communities this winter to present this permit amendment and seek community concerns.

A provincial forum in November on First Nations concerns with placer mining is occurring in Vancouver and Kaska Dena Council technical representatives are attending to present our concerns and bring information back to the communities.

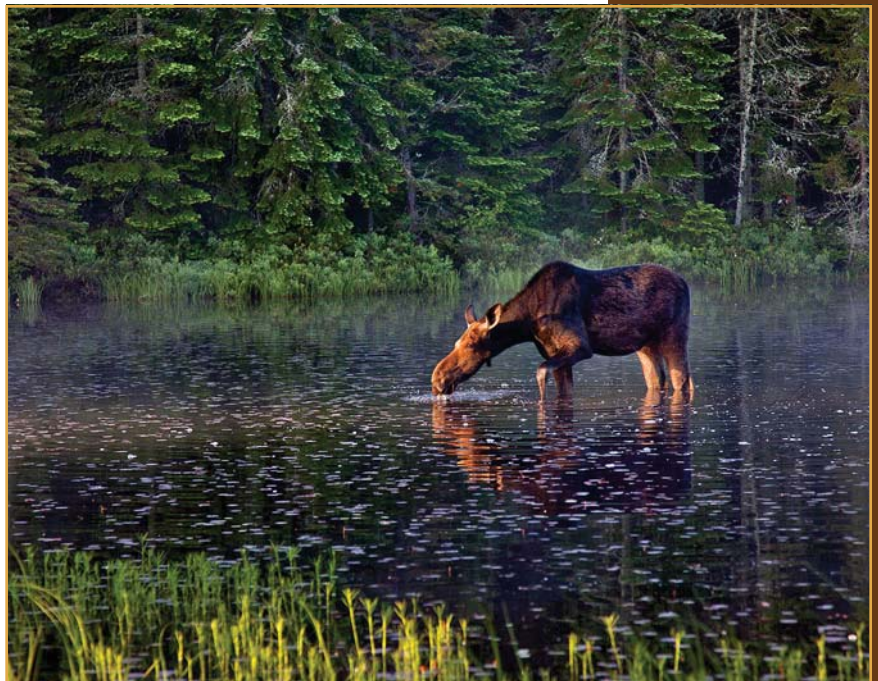
Specific land related concerns such as Skooks Landing and a recreational tenure for a parking lot for hunters and jet boat users have been brought forward by the Province, but at this time they are still internally work-

ing on the application. It is likely that it will be another year before an application comes forward for further engagement.

Other business includes the working groups which focus on Fish and Wildlife; Mineral Resources; Conservancies, Parks, and Protected Areas; as well as Economic Development Opportunities. Several SEA Natural Resources Council (NRC) meetings have occurred in 2018, with one community event planned for Lower Post, but the wildfires, community evacuation, and state of emergency caused the event to be cancelled. The next NRC meeting is scheduled for December 2018.

For more information on NRC related initiatives and records of discussion please contact the following representatives: Tanya Ball – Representative for Daylu Dena Council – [dki.gistech@gmail.com](mailto:dki.gistech@gmail.com), Amy McCook – Representative for Kwadacha First Nation – [amymccook@hotmail.com](mailto:amymccook@hotmail.com), and Roy Carlick – Representative for Dease River First Nation – [kididza2001@gmail.com](mailto:kididza2001@gmail.com). Otherwise contact your SEA Lands and Resource Office for more information on SEA related activities and initiatives.

***Kaska Dena Negotiators are working to include consent-based decision making and stronger joint land and resource management powers in the traditional territory in British Columbia.***







# Kaska Dena News

## KASKA DENA COUNCIL 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*We want to thank Kwadacha for the warm hospitality that we have come to know from that community and for providing such a fabulous venue for the General Assembly.*

This year's General Assembly was hosted by Kwadacha First Nation and, took place in Fort Ware from July 4-5<sup>th</sup>. As in past years, it was a time for KDC to report-out on negotiations and other initiatives that KDC has been engaged in over the past year. As Kaska came from far and wide to attend the General Assembly, it was also a time to reconnect with family and friends. The theme for this year's General Assembly was "Reconciliation".

The commencement of the General Assembly was deferred until July 4<sup>th</sup> out of respect to family for the tragic loss of Taylor Seymour. Our sincere condolences go out to the family.

We want to thank Kwadacha for the warm hospitality that we have come to know from that community and for providing such a fabulous venue for the General Assembly. Special "Shout Out" to the cooks and helpers who did an outstanding job of feeding us all. Meal time was something we all anticipated and rarely was anyone late for meal time!

This was an election year for the KDC Executive, and voting took place for the three executive positions: Chair, Vice Chair of Lands and Resources and Vice



Chair of Finance. Danny Case was voted in as Chair, Ruby Johnny was voted in as Chair of Lands and Resources and Lacey Johnny was re-elected as Vice-Chair of Finance and Administration.

KDC's report-out on the business activities included a presentation by KDC's long-time Chief Negotiator, Dave



Porter, on the initiatives of the Federal and Provincial Government with respect to Reconciliation. His powerful speech addressed the initiatives of the federal and provincial government with respect to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, as well as the importance of Kaska internal reconciliation. Mr. Porter also announced that after over two decades of representing KDC as Chief Negotiator that he would be retiring from that position as of August 31, 2018.

Report-outs were given on other important KDC initiatives such as the meetings Kaska representatives held in Ottawa with respect to Kaska's proposal regarding Indigenous Protected Areas,







along with report-outs of the Strategic Engagement Agreement, Treaty Negotiations and Forestry.

Games and competitions are always a hit at the General Assembly and this year Angela Hockins did an excellent job of planning the activities to ensure there was something for everyone. Hand games, axe throwing, croquet, kid's games, horse

shoes and of course the Greased Pole Contest were all highly entertaining.

An enjoyable element of this year's General Assembly was the activity and laughter of so many young children. Child care was provided during the business section of the Assembly, and when the children joined in for meals, games and activities the air was filled a buzz of happy, joyful energy.

It was a memorable Assembly and we thank everyone for contributing to its success.

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## 3 NATIONS CONTINUE TO LEAD THE WAY

*The 3 Nations have been chosen as one of five pilot projects to partner with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development in a Collaborative Stewardship Framework; an initiative that supports the collaborative design and delivery of natural resource stewardship in the province.*

Our summer got off to a positive start following our commitment from the provincial government for multi-year funding. 3 Nations leaders and delegates met with Premier Horgan and key ministers in Victoria, presenting an overview of their successes, their path forward and renewal of the Government to Government partnership. The Premier's positive response to the work of the 3 Nations demonstrated the provincial government's commitment to implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Significant hope and pride is felt as 3N lead this province and country in a wholistic return to wellbeing. This collaborative approach between Nations and Government resulted in 3 Nations winning the BC Premier's Award for Innovation. The provincial government's video crew toured the Kaska, Tahltan and Tlingit territory, preparing a 3N video for the awards which were held in Victoria on November 1st. (see back cover).

3 Nations and the provincial government have partnered in a 3 Nations-BC Wildlife Guardian Project within 3 Nations Territory. Tahltan, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit each have a Land Guardian Project employing their members as Land Guardians.

The 3 Nations working with BC have made changes to moose regulation near and around communities to reduce hunting pressures, reduce land use conflicts, limit harvest of bull moose, and shorten the season. 3 Nations and BC are exploring ways to monitor the effectiveness of the moose hunting regulations based on all sources of knowledge and joint decision making.

The 3 Nations have been chosen as one of five pilot projects to partner with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development in a Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF); an initiative that supports the collaborative design and delivery of natural resource stewardship in the province. The province has committed three-year funding for the delivery of the Collaborative Stewardship Framework pilot project.

August quickly turned to emergency management as wildfires impacted Telegraph Creek and Lower Post. Across the region support came flowing with donations from each Kaska and Tlingit community and also collectively from the 3 Nations.

3 Nations are looking forward to pursuing new possibilities and will continue to work together to make the necessary changes to ensure that we play a vital role in improving wildlife management, education, and social well-being across our territories.



3 Nations delegates met with Premier Horgan and Cabinet Ministers in February, 2018.





## **KASKA REPS PRESENT BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE IN OTTAWA**

The Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples is due to table a major report early in 2019 regarding what a new relationship between Canada and First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples should look like.

To this end, over the past months, Committee members have travelled widely and invited presentations from First Nations on the history of the relationship between Indigenous people and newcomers; the main principles of a new relationship; and the application of these principles to specific issues affecting Indigenous people in Canada.

On Wednesday evening, October 24, 2018 KDC Chief Negotiator Bill Lux and Lead Negotiator Michelle Miller appeared before the Senate Committee in Ottawa to present a KDC perspective on what a new relationship could and should look like for BC Kaska Dena people and communities.

At the direction of the KDC Board, and conscious of a very limited time for their opening remarks Bill and Michelle decided on a unique approach to their presentation by choosing to talk about a short list of on-the-ground examples that would actually paint a vivid picture for the Senators of what a positive future could look like for the Kaska Dena grounded by the principle of a Nation to Nation.

In the allotted ten minutes Bill and Michelle cited the examples of the Kaska Indigenous Protected Area, our Land Guardians, LNG, Wildfires, the residential school building in Lower Post and the Kaska involvement in the 3Nations successful efforts in Child and Family services.

The Senators were very appreciative of the presentation and engaged in a lively and informative discussion of the various matters raised for an hour. Each Senator expressed their personal thanks to Bill and Michelle for their interesting and fresh approach. As an immediate follow-up the committee asked for more information on the residential



school building situation and committed to helping Daylu turn the page on this outstanding and very sad chapter of our history.

If you would like more information on the KDC presentation to the Senate Standing Committee please visit the KDC website at [www.kaskadenacouncil.com](http://www.kaskadenacouncil.com).

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## Election Results for Dease River First Nation

The Elections for Chief and Council of Dease River First Nation took place in Good Hope Lake on Friday, June 29, 2018.

Congratulations to newly elected Dease River First Nation Chief and Council:

Chief: *Myles Manygreyhorses*

Councillors: *Michael Johnny, Kevin Carlick, James Carlick & Crystal Carlick*

## 3 Nations win Premier's Award

On November 1<sup>st</sup> the 3 Nations representatives were invited to attend the Premier's Awards in Victoria. It was very exciting to have been nominated for an award in recognition of the innovative partnership that has emerged between the 3 Nations and the provincial government. It was even more exciting when the Premier announced the 3 Nations as the winner of the Innovation Category!

3 Nations were represented at the Premier's Awards by leadership of the Tahltan, Kaska and Taku River Tlingit, members of the Stikine Wholistic Working Group, the technical representatives from each of the 3 Nations and support staff.

The Premier's Awards celebrate the best examples of innovation and excellence across the BC Public Service, and it was an honour to have received this recognition for the good work that has been done between the province and the 3 Nations as we strive to better the lives of our children and our communities. To learn more about 3 Nations or the Premier's Award check out the 3 Nations website: <https://3nations.org/>



Kaska were represented at the Premier's Awards by (L to R) Bernice Ball, Deputy Chief Fred Lutz, Tanya Ball, Chief Myles Manygreyhorses, Michelle Miller, Minnie Dennis and Danny Case, Chair KDC

Kaska Dena News is published three times a year by the Kaska Dena Council. For past issues go to:  
[www.kaskadenacouncil.com/newsarchives/newsletter-archive](http://www.kaskadenacouncil.com/newsarchives/newsletter-archive).

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