

Community Engagement Coordinator – Sub-Regional Caucus Report

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Engagement Area: Haida Gwaii

Communities Served: Haida Nation, Old Massett, Skidegate

Sub-Region: Northwest



Since February both of our communities have been very busy with training, programming and community engagements. A lot of the training is delivered as joint ventures between Skidegate and Old Massett.



Gaaw installs 720 Kw biomass boiler that can heat all of Old Massett's community buildings including the Band Office, Community Hall, Health Center and School. The new system burns wood fibre from the Haida Gwaii Forest Products sawmill, of which Old Massett is half owner.

Gaaw (Old Massett)

INAC's figures for the changing registered population is 3070, on reserve Haida population is 700 people with 260 homes.

Our last Community Engagement Dinner/Meeting held in Gaaw was in March. It was called Tlaats'geelgand (*to become stronger-mind strength*) and was attended by 140 people including staff. The five main priorities the community would like to see focused on in mental health are: suicide prevention, harvesting traditional foods and medicines, spirituality, trauma training and support and Haida Language.

Mental Health and Wellness and Substance Use

New Mental Health Team: along with the Drug and Alcohol Counsellor, two new counsellors were hired, to bring the Mental Health Team to three workers. The team has



been busy with office appointments, training and setting up new programs. Some of the new programs include: *The Wellness and Harvest Women's Group* – harvesting Sea Asparagus and cedar; on-the-land programs such as gathering cedar and medicine; workshops on grief and loss; one-on-one sessions with The Way Clinic delivering consciousness medicine and teaching how your body speaks, Self-Regulation Therapy Trauma Training, ASIST Training for suicide first aid and prevention. The two Mental Health Counsellors attended the Train the Trainer safeTALK training and are accredited to train others. In September they will begin weekly wellness workshops/info sessions for 6–8 weeks on topics suggested by community.



ASIST Training in Tlell in May 2017

Staff participated from the Health Centres, Youth Programs, Band Council staff and Leadership, and Mental Health Teams from the communities of Old Massett and Skidegate. We were happy to have Northern Health staff join as well.

Adult Day Program – Greenhouse Project – Gaaw



*Visiting Hiellen where a 52' Totem Pole
was raised on Aboriginal Day*

Both Gaaw and Hlgaagilda completed talks with FNHA to secure Contribution Agreements (CA) for their Dental Programs and Specialty Services. FNHA will be sending the CA for signing sometime in September.

The Mobile Support Team (MST) held its first meeting on June 14, 2017 and will begin moving forward on Haida Gwaii this fall. Both Gaaw and Hlgaagilda are requesting a Nurse Practitioner, with training in mental health, as part of the MST Team.

The Midwifery Programs in each community have had a busy year delivering babies at the Queen Charlotte Hospital, some home births and some medi-vacs to Prince Rupert, Terrace or BC Children's Hospital. Families are really appreciative to be able to give birth on Haida Gwaii when all the conditions make it possible.

Hlgaagilda (Skidegate)

INAC's figures for the changing registered population is 1663, on reserve Haida population is 900 with 365 homes.

The Skidegate Health Center became independent of the Skidegate Band Council last year taking possession of the Contribution Agreement funds and is in the final stages of forming their new governance. The new society is called the Xaayda Ga Dlaang Society and is now ready to fully function.

Community Engagement held in May focused on set-up of the Xaayda Ga Dlaang Society. Engagement around Elders services and assisted living and longterm care was completed in June. The main priorities were: unanimous support for an Elders' complex, increasing the number of meals delivered during the week with *Meals on Wheels*, transportation to and from appointments as well as transporting Elders for shopping, banking, exercise program, swimming pool, exercise pool and jacuzzi.

The Mental Health and Wellness Team has been busy with the Self Regulation Therapy Training that they completed last year and are awaiting the second group of staff to complete Foundations level so they can all complete the Advanced Level Training this fall and winter. They planned and assisted with the delivery of the ASIST training in Tlell in May and helped to arrange the safeTALK training at the Skidegate Youth Center. They are kept very busy with their one-on-one appointments and the Mental Wellness Counsellor oversees the fires for staff and community members when the need arises.

A new Wellness Centre is in the planning stages for Hlgaagilda.

Skidegate just completed the largest community First Nations Solar Power Project in BC with the installation of 100 kW solar panels at the Haida Heritage Centre.

