



# Coastal Stewardship Network



## CSNAG 2017 – Conference Summary

April 24 -28, Hakai Institute



*Report prepared by Dana Holtby*

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### **Conference Goals:**

The Coastal Stewardship Network Annual Gathering brings together stewardship staff from First Nations on the North Coast, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii to share information, discuss, and strategize about important issues related to governing our territories, including monitoring, managing, and protecting our resources. This is a unique opportunity to build collaborations, unity, and action in support of First Nations’ stewardship on the coast.

The goals of this year’s gathering were to:

- Share stories about the work the various stewardship offices;
- Honour and recognize the knowledge and perspectives of Elders on stewardship;
- Learn from the Heiltsuk experience of the Nathan E. Stewart grounding and spill;
- Hear about plans for the National Indigenous Guardians Network;
- Participate in discussions and work planning;
- Receive training in risk management and safety procedures;
- Contribute to the redesign of the Regional Monitoring System, including the new web portal and CoastTracker app;
- Participate in small group discussions and develop action; and
- Spend time collaborating with stewardship staff from different Nations, as well as connecting with your Nation’s stewardship team.

*The conference is organized by Coastal Stewardship Network, a program of Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative. We are grateful to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Tides Canada, and Tula Foundation for their generous financial support of the Coastal Stewardship Network.*

Monday April 24, 2017

Welcome to Hakai:

Conference participants were welcomed to the conference by Elodie Button and Lara Hoshizaki of the Coastal Stewardship Network, and to Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv territories by Elders Elizabeth Brown and Clarence Nelson. Participants then introduced themselves and their roles within the Coastal Stewardship Network.

Tuesday April 25, 2017

Community Presentations:

Representative from each nation gave a short presentation highlighting their initiatives and achievements over the last year, as well as sharing their projects for the upcoming year.

Council of the Haida Nation:

*Presentation by Haida Stewardship Director, Colin Richardson, Solutions Table Co-Chair, Sean Brennan, and Fisheries Guardian Mark Grinder.*

They presented on the achievements of the Haida Nation over the last year, and highlighted the following:

- In 2011 a **protected area** was established on Haida Gwaii (including Gwaii Haanas, cedar stewardship areas, forest reserves etc.). This means that 73% of their land base is protected, and there are also constraints in place to manage logging ventures.
- Work has been done to compile a **cultural feature inventory** to facilitate stewardship of sites of importance and to contribute evidence of continued occupation to the Haida title case
- **Cultural Sites Monitoring**: those who monitor these sites are certified to look for culturally significant sites and do so with a high degree of quality
  - Each surveyor has 20% of their block audited, and there are also targeted audits completed for controversial sites.
  - **Post-harvest incident tracking** is employed to examine how culturally important sites have been impacted by logging, road construction, blow-downs etc.
  - This is tracked through an easy-to-use program developed the Natural Resources Department.
- **Ecosystem Based management monitoring** has been kept up to date, including an analysis of how sites have been impacted by industrial logging.
- They are currently in the process of developing a **new Google Earth Tour**.
- **Fisheries** is now running a new Guardians training. Guardians are involved in **enforcement**. It was noted that they currently have a stronger presence in the North than South. The Guardians have also worked on **monitoring sockeye** with a fence to obtain an accurate count of sockeye in the stream.
- **Heritage and Natural Resources Committee and Department:**

- The Cedar Stewardship Area Management program is working on training to improve the planning processes.
- The Sacred Head Waters land use protections are working to establish mechanisms to manage these areas in an appropriate manner.
- Haida has also been tackling invasive plants, most particularly, Japanese Knotweed. They have decided that pesticides use is best way to combat these plants in the short term.
- Haida have hired new Protected Areas Managers to manage the 11 newly defined areas. A management plan was developed in 2011 and they are now working on updating that.
- Other projects include **drafting a heritage policy** and **tracking heritage cultural features**.

For many years Haida has focussed on protecting the land. They have now shifted their focus to **good governance**.



*“We aren’t asking any more.  
We’re just doing it, and  
asserting our authority.”*  
– Colin Richardson,  
Stewardship Director, Council  
of the Haida Nation.

Heiltsuk Nation:

*Presentation by Stewardship Director Kelly Brown, and Aquatics Manager Mike Reid.*

The Heiltsuk Nation presented on the various initiatives they have pursued over the last year. They highlighted the following:

- **HIRMD Stewardship:**
  - Kaxlaya Gwai’ilas – The ones Who Uphold the Laws of Our Ancestors
  - Streamlining is a territorial management plan of over 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land and sea
  - Heiltsuk Tribal Council leadership have a Memorandum of Understanding that has transferred stewardship responsibilities of these territories to the HIRMD.
- **Forestry:**
  - From 2014 on, the Heiltsuk have been working with logging companies to **develop a detailed plans and work with the HIRMD to develop permits**, before putting in their applications to the Province. Once an agreement has been made and conditions are met, the logging company can then apply to BC.

- The Heiltsuk have worked to use **Traditional Use Studies** and other information **to inform decision-making** around where logging can and can't happen
- Right now, Heiltsuk is putting together a **timber supply analysis**, working directly with industry. Heiltsuk have asked all logging companies to take a step back, and are therefore not accepting any new plans. They hopping to **re-chart their forest plan** in the next 2 years.
  - Because of the collaboration with industry, the crown government is now acting solely to rubber stamp agreements.
- The Heiltsuk are working with Central, North, Haida Nations to implement **new land use orders**.
- **Aquatics Department:**
  - They have been participating in **Seaweed** research at Hakai, in collaboration with Simon Fraser University.
    - They have found that seaweed biomass is coming back, and they are working to understand how and why this is occurring.
  - **Crab research** is being completed with CCIRA, as is research on **Herring DNA**.
  - They have also worked on a **Sockeye enhancement project**, that was restored Sockeye from near extinction levels to their historic levels.
- The Heiltsuk have participated in the **SEAS project** to support the development of young stewards. The program is offered through CCIRA.
- **Oil Spill Response** has made up the bulk of this year's work in Heiltsuk because of the Nathan E. Stewart shipwreck. The lessons learned from this work are outlined on page 11.
- Heiltsuk has also worked to **assess radiation levels** on the coast in relation to the Fukushima earthquake. Hakai has also contributed to this research and found that radiation is at very low levels that will not have a significant impact to local ecosystem health.

Kelly and Mike emphasized that Heiltsuk have focussed their efforts this year **on taking responsibility, making their own decisions**, and that the nation has had a lot of success by **working directly with industry**.



**“When we need to make decisions on our own and we’re going to – whether or not government or industry agrees with us”**  
 – Kelly Brown, Stewardship Director,  
 Heiltsuk Nation

*Presentation by Stewardship Director, Doug Neasloss, and Guardian Chantal Pronteau.*

Kitasoo Xai'Xais has been busy working on a number of projects over the last year, and highlighted the following initiatives:

- The coastal **Guardians** have **worked alongside** many of the **researchers** that have come to Klemtu. This has included research in **Mussel Inlet**. Mussel inlet is a high use area in territory that Elders have said needs a high Guardian presence. It is the only place in the territory with a **site-specific management plan** – there is a 2% allocation for Spirit Bay Lodge that gives them priority viewing. Others need to sign up and pay a visitation fee that helps pay for Guardians.
  - The Guardians have also worked to **monitor commercial and recreational boats** – educating them about what the Guardians are doing.
  - Last year, work focussed on the **Crab fishery**. Guardians tagged crab traps to enforce fishing laws and worked along researchers monitoring rockfish and crab.
- Kitasoo Xas'Xais has worked on **implementing MaPP** – a new initiative through the province and CFN.
- They have also worked on a number of **Science oriented programs**:
  - **Bear research** – this work is ongoing in many CCIRA nations, and is focussed on convincing the government to expand protection areas for bears. Decision-making around this has been informed by research undertaken by Kitasoo/Xai'Xais.
    - The Province had very little data, but had responsibility to protect area 1 and 2 bears. With Kitasoo data in hand, the Province has now committed to setting aside new protected areas.
  - **Crab research** – There are 3 crab fisheries closures that will be recognized by DFO this year. Again this was informed by research performed by Kitasoo Xai'Xais as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had no data on the area.
- **Bear hunting** has been a big issue in their territory. There are two organizations that get allocations: the BC Wildlife Federation (that claim to hunt for sustenance) get 60% of the allocations, and GOABC (a trophy hunting organization that serves predominantly American hunters) receives 40% of the allocations.
  - Kitasoo/Xai'Xais has focussed their efforts on halting GOABC. GOABC have asked for a large premium to be bought out. The province may consider doing this, or may let their allocations expire without renewal. Kitasoo Xai'Xais are now sitting on a table with BCWF and may also to try to buy out that organization. Kitasoo Xai'Xais have negotiated a deal with the Liberals and NDP in the hopes that a ban will be implemented after the upcoming election. The Liberals have promised to end the resident hunt and to then look at trophy hunting.

Kitasoo Xai'Xais have a number of projects they will be focussing on over this upcoming year. Their priorities include:

- They will be hosting a **whale disentanglement course** for guardians this June. Last year a whale became entangled in a fishing net and the response from DFO was insufficient. DFO took 9 hours to arrive on scene and not able to do much. There is only one person in BC currently trained to do this work.
- **Forestry Agreement**
- Developing **Indigenous Laws**
- **Joint Governance Table** with the Province
- Focus on **EBM work**
- **Marine title Case**
- Ending the **trophy hunt**.

#### Wuikinuxv Nation

*Presentation by Stewardship Director, Danielle Shaw.*

Wuikinuxv is currently in a transition period, as Dani took over management of the Stewardship Department in November of 2016. Wuikinuxv has worked on several projects over the last year:

- In August 2016, the **Percy Walkus Salmon Enhancement Facility**. Until this spring Wannock Chinook were incubated in Bela Coola, this will now happen at the new facility. They will start with Wannock Chinook, but are hoping to branch out to other species.
- The Stewardship Department is currently focused on **program development** and have made several new hires:
  - New Marine Use Planning Coordinator (Stephanie)
  - New Guardian – Lil' Willy
  - They are hiring a Lands Manager
  - SEAS coordinator
  - Executive Assistant
- They have also participated in a number of studies – there is an ongoing **Crab study**, and a **Bear study** that will commence on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. They are also working on their **Marine protected areas**.
- Wuikinuxv has also participated in the **SEAS Program**. This **youth engagement program** that will run year-round, on Friday afternoons. It will focus on culture and wildlife sessions, fishing trips, whale watching etc. There will also be monthly elder visits, and four field trips throughout the territory; to Wuikinuxv Lake (Shumhalt), Koeve, Hakai, Clam Beach.

For the upcoming year **capacity building** will be Wuikinuxv's main objective.

#### Nuxalk Nation:

*Presentation by Guardian Watchmen Coordinator Ernie Tallio, and Guardians John Sampson, Charles Saunders, and Roger Harris.*

Nuxalk has focussed their work this year on **monitoring and assessments** in many areas:

- They performed **cultural sites monitoring** to learn more about their own territory and share that information with others.
- They also performed a **Crab study**.
- **Monitoring and joint patrols** were also completed **with BC Parks**.
- **Logging site assessments** were done as were
- **Wildlife monitoring** of whales, bears, and other species of importance.
- This year the Guardians **interacted with many sport fishers**, communicating with them about monitoring and compliance.
- **The Guardians were a greater presence** in the territory than DFO or Parks Canada

In the upcoming year, they are looking forward to work with the **SEAS program**. It has already helped them find new Guardians. They emphasized that the program will help to build interest among young people around resource management, biology, and reinforce those programs with scientific knowledge.

#### Metlakatla Stewardship Society:

*Presentation by Stewardship Director Ross Wilson, and Fisheries Manager William Beynon.*

Metlakatla is currently working on a number of projects within their **fisheries** department:

- They are currently working on a new Aboriginal Fishing Strategy agreement with the DFO.
- They are also working on a new database. It currently has approximately 5 years of data in the program. There are 6-7 years more data to add to the program.
- They are looking at protecting the interest of Food, Social, and Ceremonial harvesters, fisherman, and to act as a **liaison between fisherman and the department** around communal harvest allocations.
- There has been an **explosion in recreational activity**. Metlakatla has been trying to **negotiate closures with DFO** for several years without much progress. They are now focussing on **collecting data that will support closures** (There are 10 sites that are visited once a month).
- The Guardian also assisted in a **clam garden project**.
- **Drones** have been used to collect **migration and predation data**. There were however, a lot of weather issues that inhibited this work.
- Metlakatla is currently working on creating **abalone development plan** that would complement dive surveys that have already been happening.
- They have started using the **CoastTracker app** and will at some point merge their data into that system.
- **Seaweed monitoring** has continued to examine concerns around water quality

- **Herring monitoring** is also occurring and they are hopeful that they will get DNA samples this year.
- The **stewardship program has grown substantially** and they are therefore running several **Training and Capacity** courses:
  - GIS Capacity
  - Networking Capacity and opportunities
  - Negotiation skills and training
  - HR training and Capacity
  - Good governance and training capacity
  - Vehicles- Marine/land
  - Office infrastructure
- This year there has been a big focus on **LNG**. Metlakatla has played a big role in reviewing the work of the 3 major industry players. They sit on a review table with the province and have been strategizing around mitigation measures.
  - The Federal and Provincial governments can approve projects without Metlakatla authority, but they can't go ahead without engaging with the mitigation table.
  - The First Nations Major Projects Organization was formed to look at the economic opportunities across the corridor, but the Nations involved are concerned with stewardship responsibilities. A table was created to look at those issues.
- Much work has been **done supporting the treaty team** to make sure that needs are met and capacity is built before a treaty is signed.
- They have considered a **Goeyduck management plan**, as there are big gaps in the current framework. They emphasized that this is something all the communities should pay attention to.
- Metlakatla is putting together an argument around **ownership of inter-tidal** areas.
- The Skeena is having problems with **access to Sockeye**. The Chiefs have come together to create **Skeena river secretariat**, to assist the work of technicians.
- Metlakatla have worked to create a **Guardian Watchmen business case**.
- The **Port Authority** is meeting with communities and trying to check-off the consultation and accommodation box. Metlakatla warns that Nations need to pay attention to what the Port Authority is doing in communities.
- A **3-day community forum on cultural heritage** will be held. They are currently taking guidance from community to shape the program. One of the concentrations will be on authority.
- **Sharing between nations** – the network has allowed them to share information like job descriptions, and to reduce redundancies. They'd like to continue doing that.

Gitga'at Nation:

*Presentation by Guardian Watchmen Coordinator, Mary Reece*

Gitga'at is currently focussed on the following projects:

- An **Oceanography survey**;
- the Gitga'at **environmental knowledge project**; and
- the **Old Town project** to monitor the salmon bearing streams, and petroglyph sites.

Mary highlighted the successes Gitga'at has had over the last year:

- The **Guardians** received **training** in Advanced Marine Fire Fighting in Nova Scotia (for four Guardian Watchmen), this included First Responder and Fire training and Marine Advanced Fire Fighting.
- The Guardians have also worked on **ongoing monitoring**, completing a whale survey and contributing to their RMS.
  - This included seasonal monitoring work of the Rennison cabin, as well as a bird survey, crab survey, clam survey, intertidal survey, and seaweed, abalone, beach seine monitoring.
  - Harvest foods were also collected and tested for bio toxins and radiation.

This year the Guardians will receive more training, that will occur until the end of July. Going forward Gitga'at will be prioritizing:

- Future Priorities:
  - Ongoing Guardian training for guardians
    - Emergency response training
    - RCM SR training
    - Office training for Mary

Gitga'at will continue to build the knowledge and uphold the traditional rights of their nation.



## Honouring our Elders: Coastal Stewardship and Traditional Knowledge

Presentations were given from elders Elizabeth Brown of the Heiltsuk Nation, Clarence Nelson of the Metlakatla Nation, and Captain Gold of the Haida Nation. Each shared their thoughts on the importance of working together across generations and across Nations to work towards strong stewardship of traditional territories.



## Heiltsuk Lessons Learned from the Grounding of the Nathan E. Stewart

*Presentation by Stewardship Director, Kelly Brown*

What happened:

When the Nathan E. Stewart sank, and began to spill diesel oil, it quickly became clear that Kirby's (the company that owned the vessel) pre-existing response plans were ill-suited to the geography/area of the spill. None of the organizations had check-lists, or established chain of command. Some organizations called in to respond to the spill were in fact so ineffective they were asked to leave. For the Heiltsuk every day was a challenge. To have the boat removed it was determined that it would need to be dragged along the seabed to a more stable area. The Heiltsuk had to fight to ensure that the seabed would be checked to ensure no ecological damage would be sustained. Negotiations to create the salvage plan were lengthy - it took approximately 3 weeks to get an agreement in place, and even with the agreement challenges persisted. There is little available science regarding the impacts and best practices for dealing with a diesel spill. Nor does there exist much data on the long-term impacts.

The Heiltsuk did their best to support community members, and partnered with the First Nations Health Authority to provide counselling and an open forum session. Furthermore, they have contacted federal agencies and there is now a commitment from INAC, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Transport Canada, and DFO to set up a steering committee of regional directors. The federal government is supportive of different systems to plan for recovering losses (e.g. loss of commercial opportunity, sustenance harvest, etc.). A table has also been set up to deal with income replacement and training (e.g. 2 courses of level 3 first aid have already been offered, as well as two level-1 first aid course, they will also have additional training in carpentry).



Moving Forward:

There will be an **Environmental Impact Assessment**, but progress has been slow. The assessment will have two components: ecological and human health risk assessment. The later will be related to toxicology. They are pushing for a full health impact assessment that would include the impacts of the stress and trauma experienced by the community. They have partnered with the First Nations Health Authority to do this work. There has also been much discussion regarding **risk analysis**. There is currently no response centre on the central coast and the need for a **regional response centre in Bella Bella** was highlighted. In discussion with the Coast Guard and federal government, the Heiltsuk are now moving forward to determine their own way to respond. Coordination between nations will be very important, and will require a commitment from CFN to do this work. Heiltsuk is currently putting together a **business case/plan for emergency response**. Heiltsuk is hosting a **symposium with the federal government** on May 23-26<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to develop a set of recommendations on how to move forward for our communities, outline the role of the federal government, the province, etc.

Key Lessons:

- The active involvement of the Heiltsuk was essential
- Nations need to take the lead on developing an Incident Command System
- Heiltsuk has gone through this experience and wants to share their lessons, and work with other nations to come up with a good plan.

*"It's our time to move forward and to apply ourselves. It's time to take that responsibility"*  
– Kelly Brown,  
Stewardship Director,  
Heiltsuk Nation

Presentation on the National Indigenous Guardians Network  
*Presentation by Indigenous Leadership Initiative Director, Val Courtois.*



## INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Indigenous Leadership Initiative started three years ago, out of The Indigenous Guardians Gathering. Their **goal** is to create national-level partnerships between Indigenous partners and the Government of Canada where there are on-the-ground teams of well-trained, and enabled, community members who actively manage, monitor, and care for Indigenous lands. They have just begun **training**: ILI funded a pilot project with Dechinta Bush University to do guardian work in the territories. Importantly, this spring they received **federal support** through a commitment for \$25 million over 5 years for the development of a pilot proposal.

What now?

The **details of the pilot remained to be negotiated**. Although there are proven results and techniques from existing programs, the federal government insists on a pilot. ILI is planning to put together **the proposal** in the next 6 months, **a pilot for 2 years, and then go back to the budget process**. Minister McKenna has promised to **pull on discretionary funding** from other ministers. They are also looking to **work with provincial and territorial governments** and received interest from several different parties. They have also applied for the **foundational funding** to do the work to get communities ready for guardian programs.

The CSN is the only network in Canada of guardians – CSN has a lot of lessons to teach the national network. Val expressed interest in learning how CSN sees the national network serving the local network, and assessing the role that CSN would like to play (if any) in the national network.

This summer they will do a tour across Canada for a **formal opportunity for consultation** on these questions this summer.

Why does this matter?

Over 1 million km<sup>2</sup> of land have been conserved by Indigenous people. This means that **Indigenous people are the leaders in conservation**. ILI has taken inspiration from the program in Australia. They found that for every dollar invested there's a \$3.5 dollar return and that return has been growing. A report about the initiatives of the Dehcho First Nation in Lustel'Ke, NWT indicated that they had a 2.5 to 1 return, but with federal funding the return would jump to 3.7 to 1.

Comments can be sent to Val at: [vcourtois@borealcanada.ca](mailto:vcourtois@borealcanada.ca)

Wednesday April 26, 2017

Marine Risk Management and Safety Training

Presentation by Captain Chris Rasmussen



Captain Chris Rasmussen hosted a training session for Guardians and Guardian managers on risk management and safety. He reviewed the required certifications for boat operators and the legal responsibilities of boat owners, the boat master and crew. Guardians also viewed a film detailing the risks of cold water and staying vs. swimming.

*Key points to remember:*

- WEAR YOUR PFD!
- Annual gear-check is needed
- You must always have your certifications on hand
- Managers: you should have a plan in place – know when it is too risky for guardians to go out.
  - Set an upper level for wind strength (as management) and don't let guardians go out above that

Available courses:

- Simulated electronic navigation
- Coast Guard simulator course (in Sooke)
- [Small Vessel Compliance Program](#) (voluntary online self-assessment of boat compliance that provides a decal)
  - Informs owners and operators of requirements
  - Inspects vessel to verify compliance prior to operation

Thursday April 27, 2017

Regional Monitoring System Training

*Presentation by Coastal Stewardship Network RMS Coordinator, Lara Hoshizaki, and IT and Data Analyst, Anton Pitts.*

Their presentation focussed on the redevelopment of the Regional Monitoring System; the updates to the CoastTracker app; the new mobile app for CoastTracker 3; and the new website. They note that the regional monitoring patrols, wildlife sighting and trap sightings, are **all increasing**, with more than 5000 patrol hours logged last year.

In the upcoming year, they would like to put a great emphasis on:

- Recreational harvesting
- Invasive species
- Seaweed, eulachon, herring
- Climate monitoring (indicators) – there may be an opportunity to partner with Hakai?
- Suspicious activities on water

Some suggestions were made to further enhance the system, such as making the keyboard bigger; including information about tides, weather, wind speed and direction, and plastic debris; display the latitude and longitude on the monitor during entire patrol. It was also noted that on CoastTracker, camera is an issue – i.e. not being able to go back.

Guardians also noted features or additional technology they would like to have in future:

- Identifying cultural sites and archaeology
- Drones – but data would be kept by the Nations
- More about First Nations harvesting, like seaweed, crab, cod, clams etc.
- Possibly a First Nations page, specific for sites above, showing size of area and specific location
- Possibly a First Aid app



## Hakai Technology and Data

*Presentation by the Hakai Research Institute.*

This presentation highlighted some of the current projects and technology being employed by the Hakai Research Institute. Hakai has a **3-day ecosystem mapping course** that they are open to hosting at the lodge. The course would include instruction on how to use drones and how to process the data and images that are collected. The course is currently geared to use coastal erosion as a case study. All costs are covered except for participant travel to Hakai.



## Open Spaces

*Conference participants were asked to brainstorm topic areas and discuss those topics in small groups. The following is a summary of the key points that came out of those discussions.*

Group 1: Safety management, access to helipads and whale disentanglement

- Safety management:
  - Requires keeping up with safety training to practice skills, but also the proper policies and procedures in place
  - Must have proper equipment
  - It is important to do gear checks (pre, post, and weekly checks of gear). This includes checks of the first aid kit, dangerous chemicals in the boat, flare guns etc.
  - Wuikinuv just starting to develop safety policies, Nuxalk have started to develop safety policies that could be shared.
- Whale disentanglement
  - This training is being offered in Kistasoo in June. It could perhaps be done on a regional level. The training teaches one how to attach a beacon onto the whale's gear, so that the whale disentanglement professional can find the whale. There is only one certified whale disentangler on the coast, in part because the training is very expensive and the task very dangerous.
- Action items:
  - Guardians should create a comprehensive list of helipads that exist with coordinates to be prepared in emergency situations
  - Stewardship offices could speak to JRCC about existing helipads, and establish MOUs with helipad owners to have access in emergency situations.
  - Make a wish list of safety gear for managers (this could include Radio repeaters – to facilitate further radio communications and/or EPIRB (emergency position-indicating radio beacon), PLBs (personal location beacons)
  - There is a need for a command chain/radio protocol for radio checks (need to check-in, have someone who will respond to check-ins)



### Group 2: “Communicating GW Stories”

- Communication within and outside the GW communities could be increased.
- The CGW could be improved, including: the slogan; mission statement; website; brochures and pamphlets; signs on the docks
- Communications could include more profiles of GW stewardship workers and their stories.
- **Story ideas:**
  1. History of Guardian Watchmen – Captain Gold
  2. Effects of sports fishing – Randy/Jordan
  3. Profiles of individual Guardian Watchmen – Randy, Josh, Chantal...
  4. Business Case at regional/national levels (separate stories for each)



### Group 3: Youth Engagement

- There is a need for greater engagement with the youth in communities. It was noted that kids in the community don't have the same access they once did to traditional knowledge
- There was disagreement in the group around whether or not young people should have to have a criminal record check to participate in the Guardians program
- The SEAS program would be one way to engage more young people
- On the land/in the boat experience can be a big motivator for young people to pursue schooling and training
- Rediscovery camps, or the Koeye camps can also be a great way to get more kids involved.
  - The Koeye camp happens for 6 weeks in the summer, with as many as 20 kids attending each week. Every week there is a different theme, and researchers come to present their expertise. The kids also learn dances and songs and at the end of the week the community comes and has a celebration and watch the dance and songs.
- It was suggested that perhaps the CGW could establish an independent study program with the schools that students could receive credit for, or do presentations in classes to recruit young people into the program.
- In Nuxalk they have hosted open houses at the community hall to promote the program, and this has been useful for recruitment.
- Charles noted that young people have the ability to participate, but lack confidence.



*"It's worth it to have kids working with the guardians – it has changed my life. This program gave me purpose and I enjoy it."*  
– Charles Saunders, Nuxalk Guardian

#### Group 4: National Guardians Network

- The national network could present an opportunity to share across nations
- An elder's council was suggested to help inform the network, as was a youth committee
- There was discussion about the involvement and dependence upon the Federal government for funding.
  - It was felt that provincial and industry funding should go directly to nations rather than to a national network
- Participants expressed that there are certain situations in which information should not be shared across a national network (e.g. special sites, archaeology etc.)
- The standards of training were also discussed. Participants stated that it would be difficult to have national standards as the needs are different in different areas. However, certain resources could be shared across common interest areas.
- Greater funding could be used to help with recruitment (e.g. having younger people shadow current guardians).
- The control of funding was also discussed. It was agreed that band councils should not hold the funds, and that there should be rules and reporting around how funds are used.



## Elder's Reflections

Each of the elders shared their reflection on the conference and the learnings that occurred over the week.



**"I encourage all of you to stay united, because that is the only way you will succeed."**

**– Elizabeth Brown,  
Heiltsuk elder**



**"We need to do things from one heart and that's what we have done here."**

**– Clarence Nelson Sr.,  
Metlakatla elder**



**"Every generation has a responsibility to build a bridge to the past and the teachings of their ancestors."**

**– Captain Gold, Haida  
elder**

## Closing

Conference participants shared their learnings from the last three days, and shared thanks for the gathering.

