

# Mahla'asgum

# Saw'insk

# Luut'aa



GITLAXT'AAMIKS  
GITMIDIJK:PEOPLE OF THE GRIZZLY

DECEMBER  
2024 EDITION



## Nisga'a Treaty Champion Remembered

Jim Aldridge was called home Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Jim was a key figure in the negotiation of the Nisga'a Treaty, serving as the Nisga'a Nation's legal counsel for two decades. His deep understanding of law and dedication to Indigenous rights were instrumental in achieving the Nisga'a Final Agreement, a landmark agreement that set a precedent for modern treaties in Canada. Aldridge's skillful negotiation secured the recognition of Nisga'a land, culture, and self-governance, marking a historic shift in relations between Indigenous Nations and Canada. His work ensured the protection of Nisga'a heritage and resources, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire Indigenous communities nationwide.

## New Relationship Trust Grant Awardees

On December 19, 2024, Sherry Wright, Director of Community Relations, awarded laptops and 1-year Microsoft licenses to three outstanding NESS high school seniors: Nishaya Mercer (92% GPA), Lily Azak (88%), and Brooke Munroe (84%). Funded by an \$8,000 New Relationship Trust K-12 Grant, the initiative recognizes academic excellence and supports students in their journey to graduation and post-secondary goals. These awards highlight the importance of education while providing tools for success. Tutoring support remains available through the Education Administrator upon request.



## FOOD SHARE NEW WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Hours:  
Monday: 4 - 6 PM  
Tuesday: 10 AM - Noon  
Thursday: 1 - 3 PM

(Closed on holidays)



## Nisga'a Food Share Now a Food Bank

The Nisga'a Food Share achieved key milestones with support from the Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government, whose donation helped complete the Food Share Extension, boosting efforts to address food insecurity on Nisga'a Lands. Amy Whelan is now the Food Share Coordinator, recognized for her essential role in managing inventory and operations. The program was designated as a Food Bank in November, gaining access to resources via Food Banks BC and the Northern BC Hub. A new distribution model ensures fair food allocation based on household size. GVG would like to thank Damian Azak and his team for leading this initiative.

## Gazebo Light Up Event Well Received

On December 18, 2024 – the GVG Economic Development Department and Operations and Maintenance Department hosted the Annual Gazebo and Farmers Market Venue Light Up. The indoor portion of the event was hosted at the Gitmidiik Auditorium that started off with a performance by the NESS Band Class. Followed by refreshments and hot chocolate. Then Christmas performances by Garrett Davis, John Moore and Don Leeson, Sr. Closing remarks were made by Chief Councillor Calvin Morven. The seating at Gitmidiik Auditorium was at capacity which indicated the event was well-received by the Community of Gitlaxt'aamiks. T'ooyaksim' nisim wil bakwsim'!







### GVG Staff visit Terraceview Lodge

For over 10 years, GVG staff have visited Nisga'a residents at Terraceview Lodge. The visit on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, was led by Teresa Spalding who has been a Health Care Assistant for 21 years at Terraceview Lodge and employed by Northern Health. Teresa is from the community of Gitlaxt'aamiks but lives in Kitsum Kalum. GVG Staff from the Programs and Services Department and the Community Relations Department delivered Christmas gift bags and Nisga'a preserves (k'ayukws/sak'olkw'a'a) prepared by the Smoke House Crew to 12 residents. GVG Staff also sang carols to the residents. GVG recognized the dedication of the 6 Nisga'a HCAs/Aides at Terraceview. T'ooyaksiy hiin!

### Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government's annual Community Christmas Dinner (Dec. 11, 2024) hosted over 600 guests with a turkey dinner prepared by 12 kitchen staff. Deputy Chief Councillor Guno and other council members extended greetings; some were absent due to family/training. 84 tables seated 672. The event included caroling by local groups. GVG staff raised \$3,630 for the YTC through raffles. The \$50,000 budget for the dinner came from administration interest. The Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government Administration, Chief and Council would like to thank the Community of Gitlaxt'aamiks for honoring our invitation to make this event a huge success! T'ooyaksiy hiin!.



## Upcoming Events

# JAN 2025



**WSN ORIENTATION**  
**JAN 7th-9th**



**NLG EXECUTIVE**  
**JAN 15th-17th**



**COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE**  
**JAN 20th-21st**



**REGULAR COUNCIL**  
**JAN 23rd**

## TREATY TRIVIA

**ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD**

Under Chapter 7 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, which section (from sections 1-74) refers to the extension of the Nisga'a Highway from Nass Camp to Highway 37?

To submit your answer, please call (250) 633-3100 and ask for Stirling or you can e-mail it to [stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com](mailto:stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com)



## Call for Submissions

If you would like to submit a story please call (250)633-3100 or e-mail: [Marianne.Guno@peopleofthegrizzly.com](mailto:Marianne.Guno@peopleofthegrizzly.com) or [Stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com](mailto:Stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com)