

**CITXW NLAKA'PAMUX ASSEMBLY**

# **A LEGACY *of* LEADERSHIP**

*A short history of the work to protect and advance  
Nlaka'pamux Rights, Title, Values and Interests*

**JUNE 2013 - JUNE 2023**





Ashcroft  
Indian Band



Boston Bar  
First Nation



Coldwater  
Indian Band



Cook's Ferry  
Indian Band



Nicomen  
Indian Band



Nooaitch  
Indian Band



Shackan  
Indian Band



Siska  
Indian Band

## CITXW NLAKA'PAMUX ASSEMBLY

# A LEGACY *of* LEADERSHIP

*June 2023* – The Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly was created 10 years ago but its work is rooted in hundreds of years of history and a legacy of protecting the n̓eʔk̓épmx people and our culture, values and territory.

The goal of the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA) is to “mitigate ongoing impacts and to share benefits from the [Teck Highland Valley Copper] mine so our community members may continue their way of life and participate in the modern economy.”

**CNA Vice-Chair Fred Sampson, Chief of Siska Indian Band.**

This work to protect and advance n̓eʔk̓épmx interests, rights, and title is a modern iteration of efforts that stretch back to the 1800s, when the aggressive incursion of thousands of gold miners resulted in the n̓eʔk̓épmx Canyon War (Fraser Canyon War) in 1858. At that time, strong n̓eʔk̓épmx leaders such as Chiefs Spintlum (Cexpe'ntlEm) and Kowpelst (C'aupəlstən) played crucial roles in navigating the conflict and avoiding a full-scale war.

Although the violence subsided, the n̓eʔk̓épmx Canyon War marked the beginning of a long struggle for recognition and protection of our rights to our land and resources. In this century, the Teck HVC mine operated (in various iterations) for about 50 years before n̓eʔk̓épmx leaders such as David Walkem and Fred Sampson negotiated agreements with the mining company and the province in 2013. The Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly was founded to enact these agreements, which go beyond revenue-sharing to incorporate the cultural and community needs of the eight Participating Bands.



### **Current CNA Board Members**

*Ashcroft Indian Band*

Chief Greg Blain

*Boston Bar First Nation*

Chief Pamela Robertson (Secretary)

*Coldwater Indian Band*

Chief Lee Spahan

*Cook's Ferry Indian Band*

Chief Christine Walkem (Chair)

*Nicomen Indian Band*

Chief Norman Drynock

*Nooaitch Indian Band*

Chief Marcel Shackelly

*Shackan Indian Band*

Councillor Lindsay Tighe (Treasurer)

*Siska Indian Band*

Chief Fred Sampson (Vice Chair)

### **Former CNA Board Members**

*Boston Bar First Nation*

Dolores O'Donaghey

*Cook's Ferry Indian Band*

David Walkem

*Nicomen Indian Band*

Donna Aljam

Ursula Drynock

*Shackan Indian Band*

Jordan Joe

Percy Joe

"We have developed the capacity for our members and communities to better participate in the benefits of the mine operation and – perhaps more importantly – to participate in the decision-making around the operation and future of the mine itself – all within the context of incorporating our cultural values for the first time in history with an operating mine in our homelands."

**David Walkem, past Chair, CNA (2013 - 2022), former Councillor and Chief of Cook's Ferry Band.**

As the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly marks the first decade of operations, we plan to build on the legacy of our past leaders and community members to ensure a healthy, culturally-grounded future for our people. We have a clear vision to provide positive opportunities that will enhance the economic and social well-being of our communities and members. This vision will be achieved through the effective and efficient management of the HVC agreements, as well as the development of the Nlaka'pamux Legacy Trust nation-fund programs.

Our work is part of a collective effort in the nle?képmx Nation to sustainably manage natural resources and economic development in our traditional territories. For it is tmíx<sup>w</sup> (our land and all it encompasses) that form the essence of our nle?képmx culture, identity, and values.

Together we will determine how to care for our lands, protect our culture, and uphold our rights and title over our territory. In this way we collectively honour and carry on a legacy of leadership.

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**MARCH 2013****Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) signed**

Eight n̄eʔk̄épmx Bands (the Participating Bands) sign an Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) with the Province of B.C. to share mineral tax revenues paid to the Province by Teck Highland Valley Copper on the HVC mine. The open-pit copper and molybdenum mine operates within the unceded territory of the n̄eʔk̄épmx Nation. It is one of the largest copper mines in North America and employs approximately 1,000 people.

Revenues shared as a result of the ECDA support the cultural and economic priorities of the Participating Bands: Ashcroft Indian Band, Boston Bar First Nation, Coldwater Indian Band, Cook's Ferry Indian Band, Nicomen Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band, and Siska Indian Band.

**JUNE 2013****Teck Highland Valley Copper (HVC) Participation Agreement signed**

The Participation Agreement signed June 30, 2013 between the eight Participating Bands and Teck Highland Valley Copper is a long-term commitment between both parties to share profits and other benefits such as training, employment, and contract work at Teck HVC for businesses owned by the Participating Bands and their members. It is also a commitment to work collaboratively on topics such as environmental stewardship, mining activities, and community outreach. The agreement evolves from a protocol agreement in 2009 and interim agreements in 2010 and 2011.

**JULY 2013****Nlaka'pamux Legacy Trust established and Implementation Agreement signed**

The Nlaka'pamux Legacy Trust Indenture (NLX Trust) is a professionally managed investment fund created to receive, manage and distribute funds generated from the Highland Valley copper mine as agreed to in the ECDA and the Teck HVC Participation Agreement. The beneficiaries of the Trust are the eight communities represented by the Participating Bands and a not-for-profit organization: the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA). The Trust Deed (the Indenture) is a contract that sets out how the Trust is to be managed and how money is to be shared among the communities and the CNA for the long-term socio-economic well-being of the beneficiaries. An implementation agreement describes how the communities will work together.



*Pictured Celebration of CNA's founding, Inaugural CNA Chair, Chief David Walkem*



**APRIL 2014**

### Employment and Training Department Established

This department offers a wide range of activities with employees and employers in order to achieve equitable representation of Indigenous persons in the workplace. Services for employees – and potential employees – include career counselling and coaching for job searches, interview preparations, and applications for jobs at Teck HVC. The department also provides tutoring support, driver's licence support, and runs the CNA bursary program.

Work with employers includes supporting cross-cultural awareness and/or cultural sensitivity training as well as training and support for existing or prospective Indigenous employees. The collaboration with Teck HVC included creating a new hiring process, mine site training, and co-op, internship, and apprenticeship opportunities.

*Pictured: Morning-Star Meldrum from Nooaitch qualifies as a new driver*

**APRIL 2014**

### Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly begins operations

The Citxw (house) Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA) represents eight Nlaka'pamux communities in the southern Interior region of B.C. The not-for-profit corporation is governed by directors appointed from the Councils of the Participating Bands. It manages commitments made in the ECDA and Teck HVC agreements. Its responsibilities include appointing Trustees for the NLX Trust and managing programs funded through the Trust that enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the Participating Band communities and their members.

The CNA's primary goal is to protect, preserve and advance neʔképmx interest, rights and title as it relates to the HVC mine. It does so by focusing on a range of issues, including natural resources, economic development, and community engagement. The organization is committed to fostering sustainable and responsible resource development while preserving the environment and respecting the cultural values of the neʔképmx people.

*Pictured: Celebration of CNA's founding,*

*Top (L-R) Krisalena Antoine, Maurice Michell, Marlena Anderson, Sharon Antoine*

*Lower (čəlmancut) Jimmy Toodlican*



2014

**MARCH 2015**

**n̄e?képmx Programs funding approved for development and delivery of:**

**Youth Leadership Program**

Helps youth to be tomorrow's leaders by working with a variety of industry professionals, community leaders and educators as well as n̄e?képmx Elders.



**Youth and Elders Roundtables**

The CNA directors identified Elders and Youth goals as a social development priority. A series of roundtable discussions was held to gather input on program priorities and principles. The consultation was expanded to include a survey, interviews, and other research. The findings informed the resulting Elder and Youth Strategy and provide direction for program development.



**Bursary Program**

The CNA "We Did It" program is a one-time cash award for CNA members who receive a high school diploma (or equivalent). Since its launch in 2015, the program has expanded to offer bursaries for the completion of post-secondary diplomas or degrees and Red Seal trades certification.

*Pictured: CNA Chair Chief David Walkem and General Manager Wayne Kaboni hold a bursary cheque*



**OCTOBER 2015**

**Territorial Stewardship Department (TSD) established**

The Territorial Stewardship Department (TSD) acts as technical support to the CNA Participating Bands on topics including:

- Environment
- Tailings Management Facilities
- Mine Closure & End Land Use
- Regulatory Engagement
- Cultural Heritage
- Community Outreach



**2016**  
**TSD begins discussions about HVC 2040**

A proposal to extend the life of the HVC mine by 13 years to 2040 or beyond by mining approximately 800 million tonnes of additional ore from an extension of the mine site’s existing pit infrastructure. The CNA Territorial Stewardship Department supports the eight Participating Bands in reviewing the project to identify and mitigate potential impacts to nłe?kėpmx rights, title, values, and interests.

**2016**  
**At the request of the CNA, HVC Environmental Policy updated to include recognition of nłe?kėpmx lands – one of the first mining policies to do so in Canada**



◀ **JANUARY 2016**  
**nłe?kėpmxcín Language Program established**

The language program is a high priority because language is integral to our culture and identity as nłe?kėpmx people. In addition to words and phrases, the curriculum also includes stories, songs, and other cultural teachings. Fluent speakers work to revive forgotten words and “invent” new ones to expand the vocabulary. The language team supports traditional and land-based learning activities and seeks other ways to improve language learning and retention while encouraging community members to join in this exciting new journey to revitalize nłe?kėpmxcín.



**MARCH 2016** ▶  
**CAN-8 licenses purchased**

Proprietary software to develop cloud-based language learning tools for recording the spoken language

**2016**  
 ▼ **Thirteen Youth and Elder Roundtables Held**





**MARCH 2017** ▶  
**Computers purchased for CAN-8 language revitalization programs**



◀ **MAY 2017**  
**CNA hosts Nationhood Panel**

A presentation of legal opinions on a collective approach for the eight Participating Bands to advance our nle?képmx title, rights and jurisdiction.



◀ **JUNE 2017**  
**CNA submits review of federal Fisheries Act**

The CNA submission included recommendations for the federal government, such as:

- better define Aboriginal fisheries to recognize the importance of fisheries resources for Indigenous peoples
- establish a co-management approach with the Indigenous peoples in Canada
- incorporate the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* into the Act

▼ **NOVEMBER 2017**  
**“Because I’ve Been There” wins Achievement in Student Filmmaking award at the LA Skins Fest, a Native American Film Festival**

Created by CNA youth, the film looks at bullying and teen suicide through the eyes of two young Indigenous girls.



▲ **NOVEMBER 2017**  
**1st Annual móq'ix (“gathering”) language conference**

**JANUARY 2018** ▶  
**Cultural Programs established**

From making ribbon skirts, drums, cedar baskets or traditional dip nets – from painting rock art to participating in sweat lodges or fishing and hunting camps – the cultural program offers many opportunities for community members to strengthen their ties to traditional skills and activities and to each other.



**APRIL 2018**  
**Sports and Recreation Program launched with focus on youth initiatives**

**JUNE 2018**  
**Language classes offered to off-reserve members in Vancouver, Kamloops and Chilliwack**

**JUNE 2018**  
**CNA submits review of Canadian Environmental Assessment Act**

**JULY 2018**  
**CNA submits review of the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act**

In June and July 2018, the CNA – through its Territorial Stewardship Department – made recommendations to the federal and B.C. governments on their respective reviews of the Canadian and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Acts. The CNA called for more consideration of Indigenous knowledge and more First Nations involvement in the review process. Many of our recommendations were adopted.



▲ **OCTOBER 2018**  
**n̓eʔképmx Guardians Program developed**

The guardians promote awareness of n̓eʔképmx land stewardship protocols and the respectful use of n̓eʔképmx lands. They provide data to decision makers and work to help n̓eʔképmx people re-connect with the land.

▼ **NOVEMBER 2018**  
**2nd Annual móqʷix Language and Culture Conference**



◀ **OCTOBER 2018**  
**Spartan Race**



2018

**MARCH 2019**

Coordination of 15 n̄eʔk̄épmx Bands in reaffirming exclusive n̄eʔk̄épmx title in the Highland Valley in response to a territorial infringement by another Nation

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

Environmental Assessment Office issues Section 10 order, meaning the HVC 2040 Project formally begins the EA process. CNA will assess the project by applying our own Nlakaʔpamux Impact Assessment Framework



◀ **2019**  
K'en T'em established to develop business opportunities and economic development for the eight Participating Bands

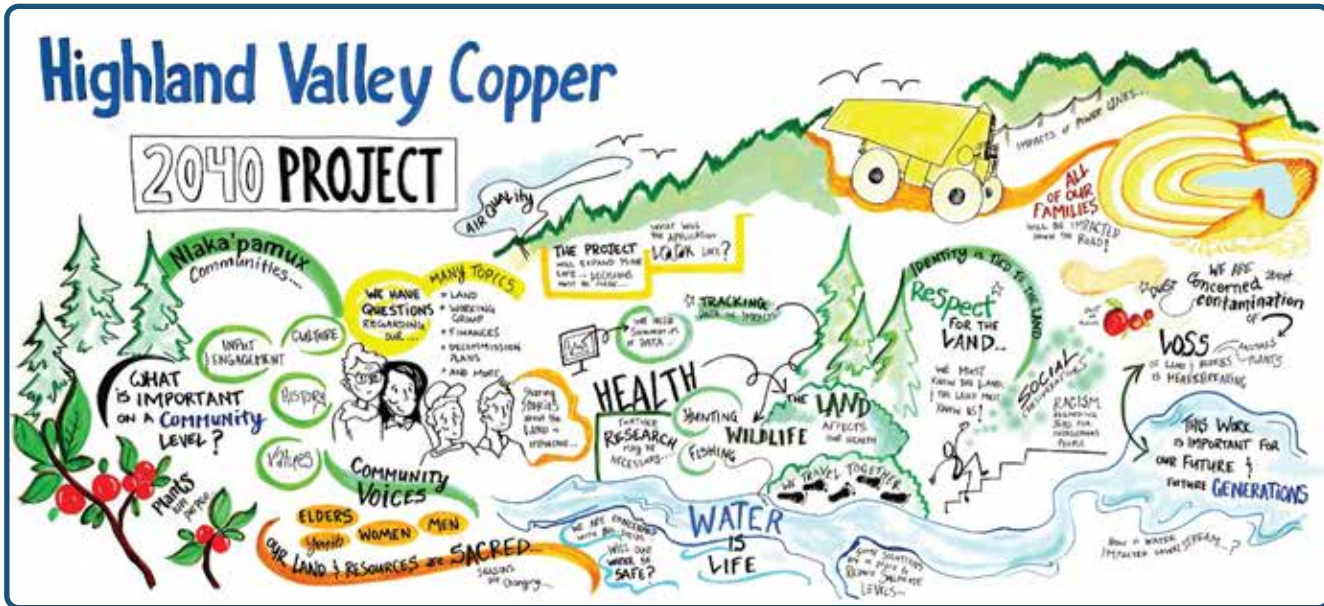


▲ **NOVEMBER 2019**  
3rd Annual móqʷix Language and Culture Conference

2019

# 2020

2020  
TSD technical work on HVC 2040 ongoing



**JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021** ▶  
On The Land, series of outdoor food gathering workshops



◀ **NOVEMBER 2021**  
Frozen, vacuum-sealed fillets of sockeye salmon are distributed to all members of the Participating Bands

*Pictured (L - R): Virginia Aspinall, Martha Aspinall, Beverly Bob, Shawn Bob*

# 2021

**APRIL 2022** ▶

### Launch of nłe?kėpmx Legacy Project

(nkwenmetn – looking at the past into the present, foreseeing the future) to develop an nłe?kėpmx socio-economic and land use baseline to better understand the impacts of the proposed HVC mine extension.

“How we view the land, we are the land and the people, we don’t just live on the land. Land is identity and livelihood”  
– Anonymous CNA Elder



▲ **FALL 2022**  
**Fishing project**

CNA staff members, summer students and volunteers spent the week fishing the qʷuʷúy (Fraser River) to provide for the Elders of the Participating Bands. For some, it was their first experience fishing.



▲ **FALL 2022**  
**Through the Community Lens**

TSD, NLX Guardians and Programs teams gather community priorities for land stewardship.

**OCTOBER 2022**  
**Five-year strategic plan released**

Giving direction on the five key priority areas of: community engagement and communications; governance and operations; oversight and management of the agreements; delivery of nation-based programming. It will be renewed annually, incorporating community feedback.



◀ **JANUARY 2023**  
**New General Manager appointed**

Tamlyn Botel is a nłe?kėpmx woman from Nooaitch Indian Band. She had previously been the CNA’s Territorial Stewardship Manager. Tamlyn replaces Wayne Kaboni, who served as CNA’s inaugural GM since 2014.

**APRIL 2023** ▶  
**New Chair appointed**

Chief Christine Walkem of Cook’s Ferry Indian Band has been an active member of the community and brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and expertise to this position as Chair of CNA.

