

2022/2023



McLeod Lake  
Indian Band

# Annual General Assembly Report

61 Tse'khene Drive,  
McLeod Lake, BC  
VOJ 2G0  
[250-750-4415](tel:250-750-4415)

# About Us

McLeod Lake Indian Band is part of the Tse'khene group of Aboriginal peoples, including bands at Fort Ware (Kwadacha) and Ingenika (Tseh Kay Dene).

The main community of McLeod Lake Band is located on McLeod Lake Indian Band Indian Reserves #1 and #5 near the unincorporated village of McLeod Lake, approximately 150 kilometres north of Prince George on Highway 97.

McLeod Lake membership totals about 515 members (as defined under the Indian Act) with approximately 100 members living in McLeod Lake, 200 members living in Mackenzie, Chetwynd and Prince George, and the rest throughout North America.



Making sure the footprints we leave behind  
are the ones our children will be proud to  
walk in.

*03*

LEADERSHIP

*19*

LANDS & FORESTRY

*07*

CAPITAL PROJECTS

*24*

DUZ CHO

*11*

HUMAN RESOURCES

*31*

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*12*

TSE'KHENE ENERGY  
TRANSITION HUB

*39*

OUR SPONSOR

*15*

LAND MANAGEMENT

# 2023 MLIB General Election

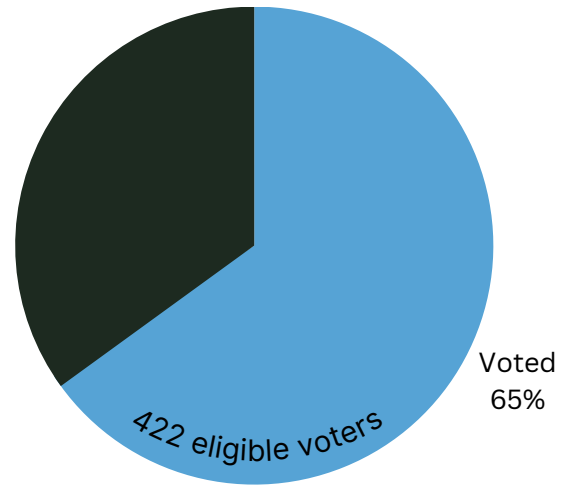
The MLIB General Election was conducted on June 2nd, 2023 by way of mail-in ballots, electronic voting, and in-person voting in Prince George and McLeod Lake. The Electoral Officer was Lawrence Lewis of One Feather. Individual results have been posted on the MLIB website.

**51** Mail-in Ballots

**111** Electronic Ballots

**113** In Person Ballots

Did Not Vote  
35%



## 2023 Chief and Council

**Chief**  
Harley Chingee  
hchingee@yahoo.ca

**On-Reserve Councillor**  
Anita Vallee  
avallee@mlib.ca

**Elder Councillor**  
Jane Inyallie  
jinyallie@mlib.ca

**Off-Reserve Councillor**  
Hugh Tweed  
htweed@mlib.ca

**Youth Councillor**  
Shelby Mitchell  
smitchell@mlib.ca

**Off-Reserve Councillor**  
Jodie Ware  
jware@mlib.ca

**On-Reserve Councillor**  
Sonya Solonas  
ssolonas@mlib.ca

**Assistant to the Chief**  
Jayde Chingee  
assistant@mlib.ca

# 2023 Board of Trustees

**Yasmin Prince**  
Term: 1st

**Alyssa Tylee**  
Term: 1st

**Daphne Nicolson**  
Term: 5th

**Marion Jackson**  
Term: 5th

**Wiona George**  
Term: 1st

**Destiny Bear**  
Term: 2nd



# Land Management Committee

**Cheryl Lynn Ann Chingee**

**Richard Jackson**

**Tina Van Der Ree**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dana'chea,

I am pleased to present the 2022/2023 Annual General Assembly Report on behalf of the council, staff and managers. We have seen a lot of growth over the past year in the areas of public works, health, forestry, clean energy, and many more.

This AGA is not only an opportunity for us to discuss the important matters of our Nation, but also a chance to come together as a community. Thank you to those who have travelled back home to be a part of this event. As we gather in celebration, we also pause to reflect on those who are no longer with us. The new "A Walk to Remember" will serve as a tribute to their memory.

This year's report will highlight the work that has been done to advance our Nation. Thank you to our Council, staff, and members for your commitment to McLeod Lake Indian Band. Your dedication is the foundation of our success.

The construction of the new health center is moving steadily. The center will serve as a cornerstone of our commitment to providing quality, accessible healthcare to our members.

Through responsible forestry practices and an unwavering dedication to protecting our forests, we have found a harmonious balance between economic growth and environmental preservation. We recognize the importance of safeguarding our forests for future generations. This past year we focused on regrowth and care for the planted trees on the Treaty Lands.

Sincerely,

Chief Harley Chingee



**Chief**  
**HARLEY**  
**CHINGEE**

# BAND ADMINISTRATOR

Dear MLIB Chief and Council and Band members,

I want to extend my congratulations to the newly elected Chief and Council, Board of Trustees and Land Management Committee. I wish everyone success in pursuit of fulfilling their mandate and desired achievements.

After an election, MLIB undergoes a transition period from the former council to the new council. During the transition period, there is always an overlap of Chief and Council honoraria payments that MLIB must issue to the outgoing council until June 16, 2023, if they were not employed by MLIB.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the MLIB staff for their hard work. Many of our staff are commuters who live in Prince George and Mackenzie. Even during the snow storms, they still showed up!

The staff spends a bigger part of their day providing services to the community. I am honoured to work alongside such

caring individuals who selflessly dedicate their time and sacrifice moments with their families to serve the McLeod Lake community.

I'm happy to report that MLIB is thriving from the hard work and successful negotiation efforts of Chief Harley Chingee and his team of experts. MLIB is fortunate to have signed contracts with qualified and experienced consultants to help MLIB in forestry, oil and gas ventures, and land referral agreements.

On a more personal note, I extend my deepest condolences to families who have lost loved ones this past year. My heart goes out to the families for their loss and the grief they experience. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Always remember to be kind and to lift one another up.

**Adele Chingee**



**Adele  
Chingee**

# Capital Projects

## WELLNESS CENTER

Gains were made on schedule for the wellness center. Deep and shallow bury services were installed, and the floors have been poured. All of the windows have been installed, the cladding is in progress. The roof and vented roof are complete. The torch on the roofing is nearing completion. Rough in of services has begun. A septic system will be installed when the tanks arrive. The septic installation will require

some extraordinary considerations as the band hall septic system will be tied into the new system and the power supply from the new Wellness Center. The system will be tested and commissioned with a power supply from the band hall in the interim and will be in service by the end of August 2023.





## ASSISTED LIVING 6 PLEX BACKUP POWER

The power wall installation was completed in August 2022. With the addition of a Star Link satellite link, communication will be assured. Powerwall surveillance reports to Public Works in real-time. It monitors energy usage for each power wall. The units run normally at 50% charge in order to extend and maximize their lifespan. The units monitor weather reports and a storm watch feature will bring all units to full charge when a storm is detected.



## DLEZE RD. SUB DIVISION

The construction on the Dleze Rd subdivision is complete. Engineering began in Sept 2021 and was completed in June 2022. Rough in of the water system and the street was completed in September 2022. Unit 28 was tied into the new water main. Ditching, driveways and road capping were completed in Spring 2023.

The water system includes fire hydrants for future use. The original proposal had 3 lots plus #28 to be constructed, but tie-ins for two additional lots were added as the water main was already being installed. During engineering, a hammerhead intersection was included rather than a turnaround. This was done to allow some flexibility for future expansion of streets and to remain in compliance with the Comprehensive Community Development Plan. The hammerhead intersection will also allow our snow removal equipment to turn around.



## BAND HALL FURNACE

As part of our ACRS-identified projects, an air distribution study for the Band Hall was completed by Mirkwood Engineering. The items indicated in the study were the return air grills. These had baffles in them, that since have been removed. The furnace air plenum reverse bend configuration was replaced with a straight-through configuration including double filters to reduce pressure drop caused by a single filter arrangement. The Band hall chimney was condemned in a Wett inspection. A wood chase was installed to contain insulated chimneys, each dedicated to its own wood furnace. The two 1200 scfm units were replaced with two 1600 scfm units to increase the airflow and reliability.



## NRC SLIDING

### BEFORE

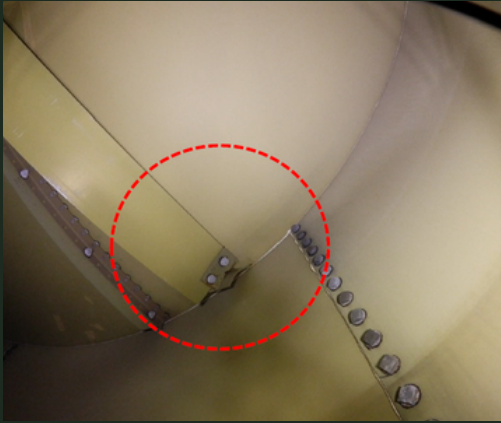


NRC siding was sandblasted and stained. The siding was badly weathered. Our carpenters were able to get the twisted pieces set back down in order for the staining work to be completed. The remaining work is the replacement of the brushed aggregate deck finish which is badly deteriorated. In addition, and the replacement of handrails with grip-able rails.

### AFTER



# COMMUNITY WATER FEASIBILITY

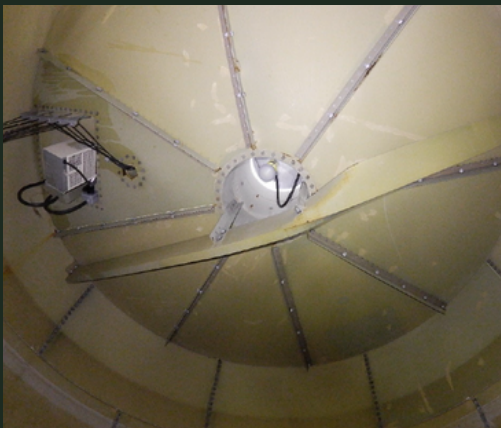


The 2022 water feasibility study wrapped up at the end of May. Included in the study by Radloff, was an extensive examination of the condition of the water tower by Stanton Engineering. A submersible examination revealed corrosion at welded joints where plates are joined and deterioration of the inner coating. The SUV examination did not look at the roof.

The tower was emptied and then Scouten engineers used a drone to examine the condition of the roof girders. Three of the 4 supports for the center girder have failed and the roof is compromised. Public Works employees were warned not to enter the vessel due to the condition of the roof, so tower cleaning had to be cancelled.

In order to replace the tower, a ground-level reservoir with an integrated pressure system has been identified as a suitable replacement. This will provide volume and pressure for firefighting as well as an increase of water pressure to the community. A ground-level reservoir will allow maintenance workers to clean the reservoir without specialized equipment.

The design for the new system is in progress and should be complete by October 2023. We will go to tender in mid-January for construction in 2024.



# CEMETERY

Cemetery construction resumed on June 06, 2023. Grubbing and clearing were completed along with compacting, installing geotextile fabric and capping. The fence installation will be completed by the end of July 2023. Soil covering, walkways and planting location work will continue and be completed by August 2023.



# Human Resources

Over the past year, McLeod Lake Indian Band and our development corporations have experienced exciting changes and have welcomed new faces to the team. The Human Resources department wished Doreen Tiller a very happy retirement and transitioned Peter Grogan from Off Reserve Properties Coordinator to HR Manager. Immediately, the HR department began work on filling vacancies and delivering training.

The HR department recruited an Education Manager, Communications Intern, Referral Officer, Youth and Child Counsellor, Cook and Janitor. Although we continue to have vacancies at MLIB we strive to recruit the most qualified candidates and hold them to the highest standards. We encourage training and promotion from within and work with our current employees to reach their potential.

We are looking forward to the year and assisting our employees to find satisfaction in the important work that they do. It is important that we express gratitude to the Tse'khene people who support the work we do on our Traditional Territories. We are grateful for all the support from our Chief and Council, and the direction and wisdom that guides us in doing our work.



# Tse'khene Energy Transition Hub



## BACKGROUND

In the summer of 2021, the MLIB Council initiated the potential development of an “industrial park” at Kerry Lake East IR#9. The focus would be projects that make existing sources of energy cleaner. The area was named the Tse'khene Energy Transition Hub (“TETH”).

At that time, the MLIB Council wanted to explore the development of a natural gas liquids extraction plant (“the Straddle Plant”) that extracts valuable natural gas liquids from the existing pipeline on IR #1 and IR #9, while also reducing carbon output from the gas inside the pipeline. If approved by the MLIB Council and membership, this could be the first project on the TETH.

Then, In the summer of 2022, Mixt Energy Ltd. and its partner Mitsubishi Power Americas selected the TETH for consideration as its primary site to develop a major hydrogen production facility (“the Hydrogen Plant”), which produces power without GHG emissions. If approved by the MLIB Council and membership, this could be the second project on the TETH.

# MATERIAL BENEFITS TO THE MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND

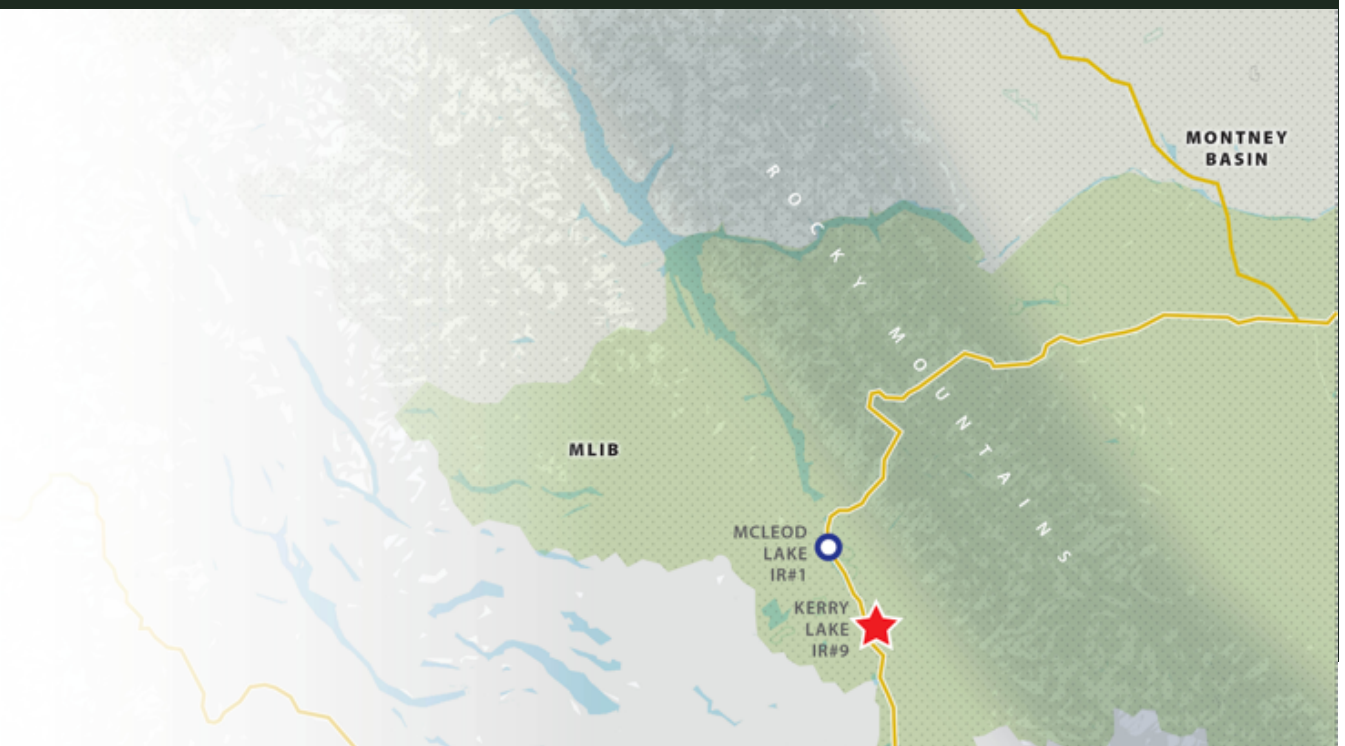
**Majority ownership in Canada's largest energy transition hub:**  
Phase 1 estimated capex between \$ 5-7 billion.

**Material recurring property tax and lease payments:**  
Estimated at \$ \$30 million to \$70 million per annum.

**World-class partners:**  
Currently Mitsubishi Power Americas and AltaGas.

**High-skill job creation:**  
Estimated to be at least 500 full-time equivalent roles and 1,500-2,000 construction-phase positions.

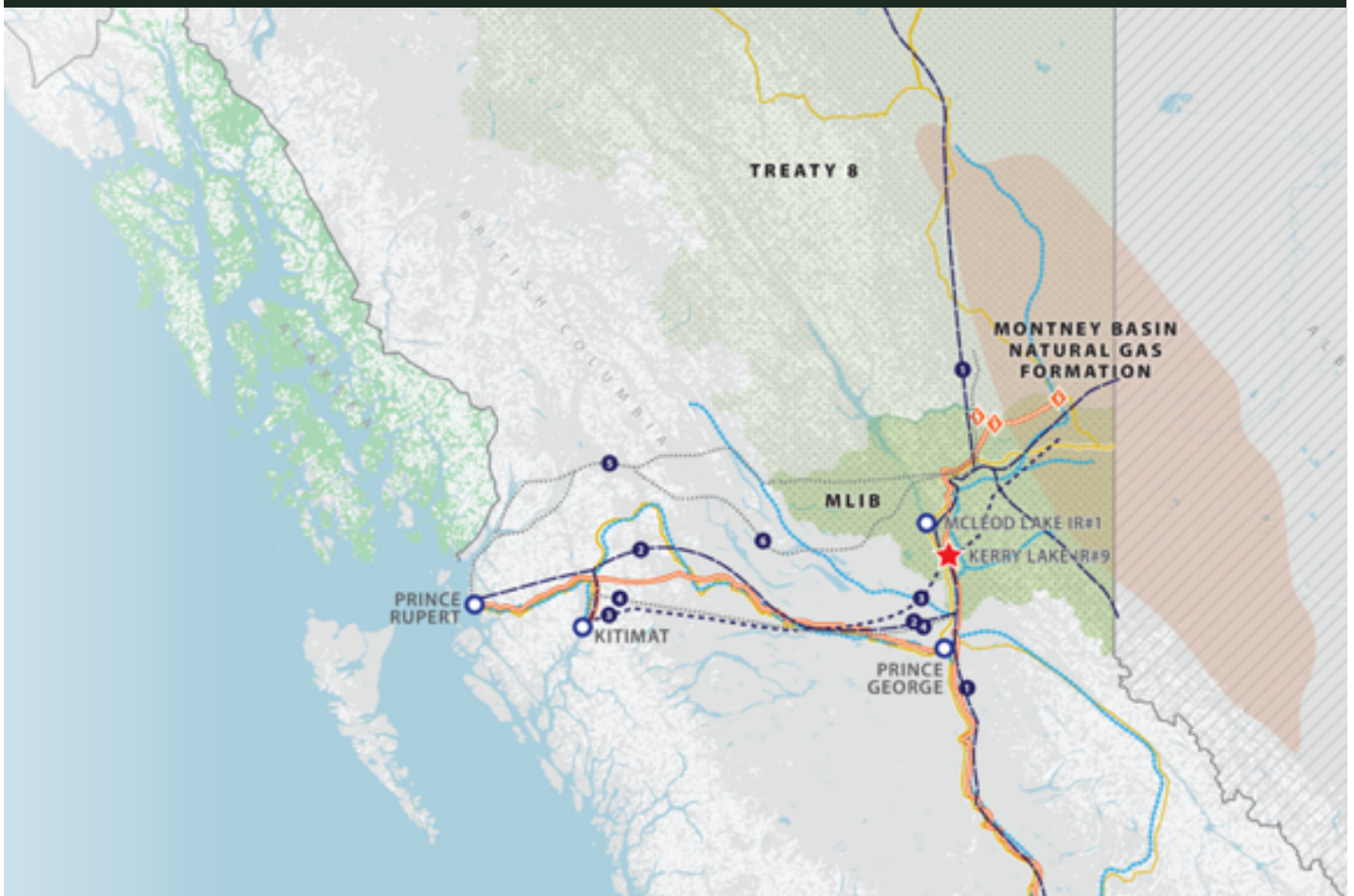
**Future growth potential:**  
This will establish MLIB as the dominant energy transition hub in Canada and an advantaged location for future expansion.



# KERRY LAKE EAST IR#9

**Kerry Lake East IR#9 was chosen as the project site because:**

- The land has not been used since being logged in 2019.
- There are no residences or other buildings.
- There are multiple ideal building sites.
- All required infrastructure is nearby.
- MLIB has exclusive control.
- Benefits include property tax, lease payments, control, and ownership.



# LAND MANAGEMENT

## PURPOSE

- Develop draft land laws, plan meetings and votes with respect to land laws, land policies, and monies payable.
- Advise the Chief and Council on Land matters.
- Oversee land-related matters, the MLIB Land Code, 2022, the MLIB Land Use Plan, 2021, and other Land related policies and laws.
- Hear the recommendations from MLIB membership regarding MLIB Lands, environmental concerns, and priorities concerning MLIB lands.
- Propose a Lands Budget and Workplan, managing and maintaining systems for Land Administration including the Development Permit Application.





## **MLIB Environmental Assessment Law, 2023:**

MLIB Environmental Assessment Law was passed in February 2023. The law will allow MLIB to assess the environmental impact of proposed projects carried out on our land. The Environmental Assessment Law is administered by MLIB's Land Management Office and supported by qualified environmental assessment technicians.

## **Environmental Management Plan (EMP):**

MLIB signed a contract with Triton Environmental Services to complete the MLIB Environmental Management Plan. Once approved by a Band Council Resolution, the plan will provide a road forward to preserve the environment for the coming years.

## **MLIB Law to Deal with CP Lots & Land Expropriation**

Land Management has been working with legal council to bring Certificate of Possession lots back to MLIB jurisdiction. The legacy of Certificate of Possession Lots dates came about prior to signing our land code. Land Management Department is working to obtain funding to cover the cost of this endeavour, so those that have an interest in these lots will be compensated fairly.

## **Parcel Fabric Renewal**

Land Management has been working with Polaris Land Surveying to finalize our Parcel Fabric Renewal project. This project will correct lot boundaries to reflect the actuality of the property. The project has now been forwarded to the Surveyor General for approval.

## **Cemetery**

The land chosen for the new cemetery was blessed on May 10, 2023, and has now been given over to Public Works for completion. We expect it to be ready to serve the community by this fall and for the coming centuries. The development will feature metal gates, black powdered fences, a firepit, woodcrete benches, as well as our traditional plants.

---

## MLIB Spay, Neuter, Vaccination Program

Land Management received a \$10,000 grant from TDLP to implement a Spay, Neuter, and Vaccination Program. IR1 Pet owners can transport their own pets, or Land Management can transport pets to Chetwynd Veterinary Hospital where we have preferred pricing. To date, twelve MLIB on reserve pets have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and some have even been treated for ear mites. We still have funds remaining and will be extending this program into fall, 2023.

## MLIB Earth Day:

Land Management partnered with the public works department to clean up the community. Prizes were offered to both on and off-reserve members. A youth night and community barbecue were held to celebrate the success.

## Upcoming Goals

### Land Lease

Land Management is working to create a Land Lease system that will allow MLIB to lease land for future developments and collect lease payments and tax dollars from outside entities that will benefit our membership for years to come.

### Improve the Development Permit Application Process

Land Management will be working to create and implement a better process to approve development permit applications that will streamline the process for new developments on reserve lands.

### Animal Care & Control Law

MLIB's Dog Bylaw was last updated in 2011. The Land Management team is working to update our Dog Bylaw to an Animal Care & Control Law. This will ensure that all pets have access to a safe and healthy life on our reserve lands; while still being permitted to protect our community from unwelcomed wildlife, such as bears.

### Committee Creation

Land Management will be working to appoint members to two committees that include an Oversight Committee and Tax Assessment Review Board. The Oversight Committee is mandated by the new MLIB Land Code, 2022 and is intended to ensure that the Chief & Council, Band Administration, employees, and membership are complying with MLIB's Land Code, Laws, and Policies. The Assessment Review Board (ARB) is required under the MLIB Property Assessment Law, 2017. The ARB will ensure that entities that are paying taxes under the MLIB Property Tax Law, 2017 have a right to reconsideration and tax appeals.

## SAS CHO KOH

Several years ago BC Hydro Site C began liaising with MLIB Land Referrals Office to discuss permits and the effects the dam has on our Treaty Rights. Through this engagement, the department was able to seek funding to optimize our Treaty 8 Rights in exchange for their project.

With an initial contribution of \$50,000, the team developed the Safe Forage Foods app. This app shows where chemical treatments have been applied in the past 5 years within our Traditional Territory. This allows our Elders, Youth and Band members to see which locations to avoid while harvesting berries, or hunting animals that might be affected by the treatments.

Due to the initial success, the department was awarded an additional \$90,000 through the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund. The funding was used east of the Rocky Mountains for a culture camp. This has helped solidify our Traditional use of lands near Chetwynd.

Partial funding went to placing wildlife cameras in the area to see what types of wildlife are in the Burnt Pine Valley. The area is easily accessible to our Youth and Elders and allows forage for the bear, moose, elk and honeybee moths, birds and more.

This past year, we assembled different teams to go out in the bush and help shape Sas Cho Koh, a cultural area in the wilds where our band members can fish, trap, hunt, harvest, share time, knowledge and build a friendship. This camp aims to create a space where our Elders can teach our history, culture and language.

Over 400 berry bushes were planted. Over the years, we hope to see more band members making this a location they would like to visit, conduct gatherings and enjoy our land.



# LANDS & FORESTRY

## HARVESTING ACTIVITIES:

There was no harvesting that took place on Treaty Lands in the period. Instead, forestry activities have been entirely focused on regrowth and care for the planted trees on the Treaty Lands

As has been seen recently in the news media, the amount of harvesting that has taken place over the years to deal with the spruce beetle attack has created some concern for our band members in terms of the amount of mature forest remaining on the Treaty Lands.



Spruce Bark Beetle Damage c. 2019



Pine Seedling Planted 2022 - Carp South IR00

# SILVICULTURE ACTIVITIES

In the fiscal year 2022, we planted 1.5 million seedlings on Treaty 8 Adhesion Lands. All reforestation and administration were handled by Canadian Forest Products and their contractor. In the current fiscal year, we will have planted approximately 80,000 trees. And with these 80,000 trees, reforestation activities are concluded on the Treaty Lands. All reforestation administration and administration were handled by Canadian Forest Products and their contractor. Since 2019, we have planted 10.3 million seedlings across all harvested areas. This is a major accomplishment and one

that MLIB’s membership should be very proud of. Getting the trees planted quickly gives the seedlings the best chance to thrive and occupy the sites while providing benefits for the members of MLIB for generations to come.

The next steps for the silviculture program is to commence a large-scale survey program to assess seedling performance and to determine the requirement for vegetation management treatments. We plan on surveying approximately 5000 hectares in the current fiscal year.

## How much timber remains in the Treaty Lands?

The table shows the current distribution of age classes within the Treaty 8 Adhesion Lands.

Age Class	Area (ha)	%
0-4 Years	8792	51.3%
5-9 Years	219	1.3%
10-14 Years	1408	8.2%
15-19 Years	2071	12.1%
20-24 Years	1197	7.0%
25-29 Years	219	1.3%
30-40 Years	668	3.9%
Mature	2566	15.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17140</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## TLA LAND FORESTRY

As part of the accommodation for Site C, MLIB leadership has successfully negotiated a tripartite agreement with the Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro Power Authority. Through the process, MLIB leadership has selected some lands adjacent to the Carp South IR007 (for forestry purposes) and is in the process of selecting some lands adjacent to Kerry Lake East (for the purposes of developing the hydrogen project). Both parcels of land will eventually become additions to reserve.

## LET'S PLANT TREE PROGRAM

In 2021, MLIB signed an agreement with an external contractor “Lets Plant Trees”. The purpose of the agreement was to initiate a program to find investors to help pay for planting trees on the Treaty Lands. Interested parties are willing to invest in the planting of the seedlings as a part of their corporate social responsibility commitments as well as their environmental commitments to their shareholders. Planting trees is seen as one of the best ways to demonstrate sustainability. This program was very successful and was able to generate \$2.9 MM in revenue in 2022/23 fiscal year – which assists with the cost of reforesting our lands.

## FOREST LICENSES – MACKENZIE AND PRINCE GEORGE

Forest license holdings in Non-Treaty Provincial Lands present a significant source of recurring revenue for the Nation and our contractor, Duz Cho Logging. MLIB’s leadership has been successful in negotiating the licenses below with the Province and our industry partners.



## **MACKENZIE TIMBER SUPPLY AREA**

MLIB is a forest license holder in the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (FL A96585 which provides 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year into perpetuity, and NRFL A98219 which provides 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> in a 5-year term).

Dunkley Lumber Limited is working with MLIB on these licenses and has purchased the harvesting rights for 750,000 cubic metres of timber. In exchange, Dunkley has agreed to pay MLIB \$18.75 MM (\$25 per cubic metre) for the use of this timber – this amount is payable as the volume is harvested. Through the agreement, Dunkley is responsible for all pre and post-harvest activities on the licenses including silviculture. To date, Dunkley has delivered approximately 500,000 cubic metres on this agreement, with another 250,000 metres to be harvested this coming Fall and Winter.

## **PRINCE GEORGE TIMBER SUPPLY AREA**

MLIB is also the holder of a replaceable forest license within the Prince George Timber Supply Area. Once signed this license will provide 100,000 cubic metres per year, in perpetuity. A band council resolution was enacted to move forward with the license and our leadership continues to negotiate with the Province on the terms of the license.

## **CANFOR TENURE**

Our leadership has been in negotiations with Canadian Forest Products (Canfor) to purchase 50% of the Canfor Replaceable Forest License, with the other 50% being purchased by Tsay Kay Dene.

Following the Timber Supply Review for Mackenzie, it is expected that MLIB's 50% share of the license will result in around 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> annual harvest level in perpetuity for MLIB, which can be harvested anywhere within the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area.

Much work remains to be completed on the purchase and transfer of the license, including a public review and comment period, as well as a stakeholder consultation period with other affected Nations claiming traditional territory within the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area.

The license should be in the hands of MLIB by March 2024 if no further major disruptions.

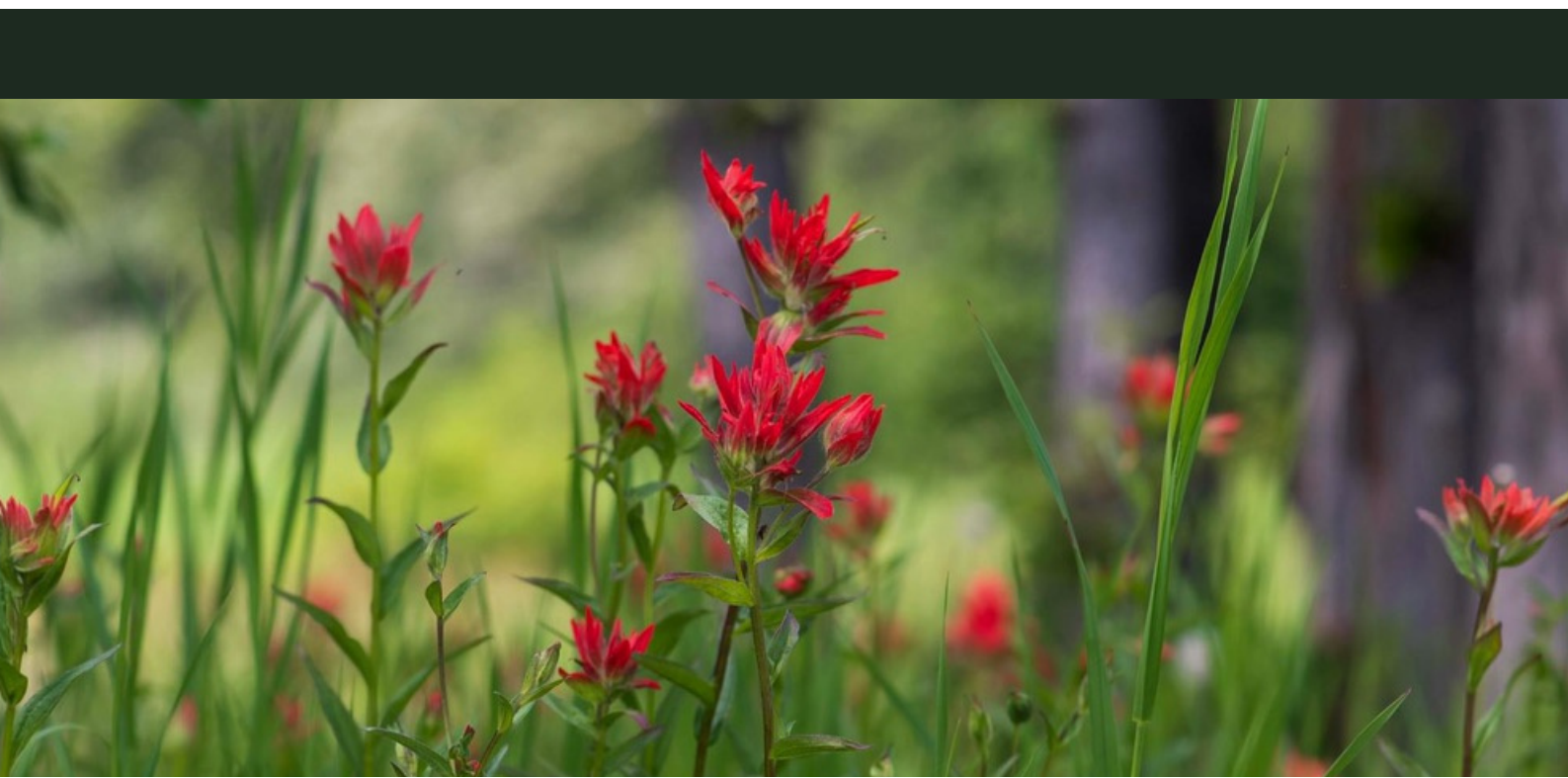
## Forest Management Leadership

Upon conclusion of the Canfor purchase, MLIB is set to become the largest forest license holder in the region. This provides opportunities for increased leadership in forest management decisions for our Nation. In addition to this, it will provide greater opportunities for our citizens, and band owned companies to carry out environmentally sustainable and economically prosperous forestry activities in the region.

## Lands and Stewardship

### Looking Ahead:

TELUS will be hanging new fibre optic lines to bring high-speed internet and TV to the community. By fall 2023, each home and business on IR#1 and IR#5 will have the opportunity to connect to this valuable service. In addition, this will create the opportunity for members to engage in Telehealth virtual healthcare.





# Duz Cho

## GROUP OF COMPANIES

This annual report from the Duz Cho Group of Companies to McLeod Lake Indian Band covers the fiscal year of November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022. This year posed many challenges due to post Covid-19 challenges such as inflation. We are happy to be delivering this report on time this year.

The Duz Cho Group recognizes that it has important accountability to the McLeod Lake Indian Band. The Company intends to demonstrate this accountability by conducting its operations in a manner which respects that resources and mandate have been entrusted to DCGC. It is understood that these resources are to be safeguarded, utilized appropriately, and provide an economic return.

The fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, and had many high points with respect to the final financial results. A summary of the operational and financial highlights for the fiscal year is provided in this report.

The 2023 Strategic Plan for Duz Cho Construction Ltd. was developed by managers and key staff of Duz Cho Construction in September 2022. We are working to grow the business by building on a solid reputation for delivering quality and by leveraging our core competency through partnerships with many First Nations and expanding to new customers and expanding our geographic reach.

Duz Cho will provide strong economic benefits for future generations, through the continuous building of capacity, capability, and diversity of the company,

and supporting the ongoing growth of knowledge and ability of our employees.

The Board of Directors and management are committed to improving the results of the Duz Cho Group of Companies moving forward by being focused on our core competencies and strengths. Through this strategy and planning, a clear path has been set for the companies to progress forward with a financially positive strategy, while maintaining the core principles and values of McLeod Lake Indian Band.

### **The Duz Cho group strives to follow the core values from our Vision Statement:**

**Progressive** We work to continually advance the means by which we deliver our services.

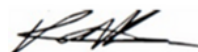
**Integrity** We operate our business with honesty and strong morale principles.

**Teamwork** We respect our people as an integral key to our success.

**Collaborative** We work with our stakeholders to create mutually beneficial relationships.

**Honour** We honour our duty to provide a safe workplace to our employees, our duty to be stewards of the land, and our duty to create opportunities for the MLIB.

Ken Rea, Chair Board of Directors



Jacob Albertson, CEO



# PEACE CANYON NORTH JETTY RIP/RAP PROJECT

Our success with this project has created future projects this coming year that Duz Cho will perform under the Kwadacha banner. This has created the potential to do all PCN contracts maintenance and repair contracts for many years to come. BC Hydro has stated that they are very happy with the work Duz Cho has performed to date and that it is bringing opportunities and benefit to both Kwadacha and MLIB.



# WESTERN RESERVOIR CLEARING BC HYDRO SITE C



This project had multiple unique infrastructures that we had to place to make possible. Our greatest accomplishment was the building of a 56-lock block pier located within a tributary of the Peace River. We cleared 150 hectares with hand fallers and all timber was flown to processing sites via helicopter. 230 hectares were harvested with conservational equipment. The contract value was \$25 Million.



## CONUMA COAL

We have continued to work closely with the Brule mine as per our MSA. Some of our larger projects onsite included rebuilding the BCR 2. We were responsible for all details, from aggregates to pipe fusing. Our team was responsible for pit dewatering, minor road maintenance, and all water treatment facility repairs. We continued to support the Conuma mines with equipment/ operator demands. Conuma continues to utilize our D10s full-time with a contracted commitment of 10,000 hours. We have had a continual increase in revenue from year to year.



## DRY CREEK - BC HYDRO

DCCLP was awarded the Fish Littoral Habitat. This project was successfully completed to meet the environmental commitments from BC Hydro to restore fish habitat after inundation occurs. This project included the construction of 1.5 km for the highway 29 realignment tied into the new bridge. This was the first section of HWY to be open to public transportation. The overall value for both projects was \$6 million.



## SHELL CANADA

DCCLP successfully achieved Mode 3 status with Shell. Prime contractor status gave us the ability to collaborate with other First Nations and assist Shell to achieve their indigenous commitments. DCCLP strives to create and grow through mutually beneficial partnerships. We successfully completed 16 projects consisting of rem/rec, lease builds and road upgrades. Duz Cho's future with Shell looks very strong. Our revenue was \$3.5 million.



## HALFWAY RIVER BOAT LAUNCH

### BC HYDRO

We received this as a direct award from Kwadacha Natural Resources. This project consisted of building a two-lane cast in place concrete boat launch, parking lot and highway intersection. Our GPS controlled equipment was an asset for the success of this project. We completed access, parking lot and boat launch ramp to subgrade. The total value of this contract is \$6.2 million. Due to the complexity of the project and multiple design changes it will be completed in 2023.



## LONE PINE FOREST PRODUCTS

Lone Pine has seen huge success last year and continues just as strong this year. The mat manufacturing teams have laboured hard to meet the demand of mat orders. The mats have been sold as fast as the crews can make them. The lumber market is coming to a more reasonable rate, we have been able to secure a steady supply of fir stock to keep the crews building steadily. The Lone Pine crew also purchased and set up a Dowl-making machine. This machine was to help minimize the cost of our patented 100% wood-doweled mats. This is achieved by taking wood that would otherwise be thrown away as scrap and putting it through the machine to create a round wooden dowel.



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

**Ken Rea**  
Chair of the Board

**Destiny Ketlo**  
Director

**Kandy Stout**  
Director

**Zane Pickering**  
Director

**Laura Chernowski**  
Director

<https://duzcho.com/>



# MOVING FORWARD WITH VISION

## VISION

Duz Cho will provide strong economic benefit for future generations, through the continuous building of capacity, capability, and diversity of the company, and supporting the ongoing growth of knowledge and ability of our employees.

## MISSION

A proud Indigenous-owned company, the Duz Cho Group is known for its focus on consistently delivering industrial expertise to natural resource projects, within our Traditional Territory and beyond. We operate our businesses to provide sustainable employment, support our community, and earn respect from our key stakeholders.

**Duz Cho has set specific goals with the focus to provide for stability of income and profitability of the companies.**

### Initiatives to be undertaken:

- Conduct business analysis of First Nation Bands in B.C. to identify those where there may be opportunities for DCGC to create business opportunities to benefit DCGC and local Bands; build a template that identifies the characteristics that will be collected on each Band.
- Initiate relationship-building with Bands where positive results could be achieved.
- Diversify through oil and gas performing integrity digs and facility maintenance.
- Develop a method for collecting customer feedback Research potential acquisition of businesses which fit our capacity, capability, and location.
- Disciplined business evaluation process utilized when considering material business items (e.g. move of Lone Pine, acquisition of businesses; reference governing policy B2).

# Health and Wellness

The MLIB Health and Social Services Department ensures the traditional ways, cultural and spiritual practices are embraced in the foundation of their services. As Tse'Khene people, the team works together to reignite our connectedness, support our future generations and overcome adversity. The department delivers over 23 programs and services annually.

With a strong record of building relationships and community collaboration, the health team is led by the belief in the unlimited healing potential of the Tse'Khene People. They encourage and celebrate helping one another and supporting each other, as

they grow into a stronger community.

The department manages program funding in the range of \$3.3 million to \$3.5 million each year! The team is very proud to not use any Band funding for its staffing salaries or programs, including the building of the new Health center.

Over the past three years, our team has brought \$9.7 million in capital infrastructure funding for the Triplexes and Community Wellness Centre. \$1.8 million in health and social funding. MLIB Health and Wellness engages in each and every funding opportunity possible.

## Vision

Healthy People, Connected Families, Vibrant Community

## Mission

Strengthening the Health and Independence of our Children and Families through effective intervention, education and support services



## WELCOME HOME DA NU CH'E -A

In 2021, the Government of Canada created a program called Rapid House to address housing insecurity for persons of limited income. Council recognized the need for low-cost smaller housing that catered to singles, single parents, and persons with disabilities that live both in McLeod Lake and for those that wish to return to McLeod Lake from off-reserve. MLIB was successful in having the Welcome Home project approved and received a grant for 80% of the estimated construction costs for a one-bedroom triplex and one two-bedroom triplex, each with one handicapped unit.

The project was tendered to Fortress Construction of Prince George as the contractor. Building during the pandemic interrupted material supply chains and caused a shortage of labourers. The project took a year and a half longer to construct than planned. The one-bedrooms were completed in November 2022, the two-bedrooms were completed in June 2023. Landscaping for both structures is being completed summer of 2023.

Efforts were when designing the units to provide the tenants with good living space and to construct the units with quality materials. There have been good reviews by current tenants.

# COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE (CHR)

The CHR provides up-to-date information and resources to promote healthy lifestyles through education, immunization and clinics. The CHR also monitors the home and community to identify the required resources and interventions.

## **Doctor Clinics**

The CHR and health team work closely with the Mackenzie medical clinic to bring a physician to McLeod Lake on a monthly basis.

## **Physiotherapy**

Azu Health from Mackenzie will be coming out regularly to McLeod Lake to provide physiotherapy services. Band members have the option to attend a virtual clinic to chat with a doctor and obtain services.

## **Vaccinations**

Northern Health vaccination clinics have been held regularly that include Covid 19 vaccines, Influenza vaccines and support to get the Shingles vaccine.

## **Medical Transformation**

For medical transportation, there have been more people using this service. Rides are provided for four community members each Thursday.

## **Air Quality**

Air Conditioners have been provided to several homes in the community. Priority went to Elders and others with respiratory issues and homes with new babies or young children. Air Purifiers have been provided to each home due to the high levels of smoke from forest fires.

# HOME SUPPORT

The home support program works with approximately eight clients in McLeod Lake. Elders that need assistance at home due to injury or illness are able to get support through this program. This past year services ranged from transporting Band members to Mackenzie for a medical run, assisting Band members who have medical appointments, prescription pick-ups and other medical needs. In addition, the program provides cleaning services, wood splitting and cutting kindling services for Elders living on-reserve that require extra support.

# NATIONAL NATIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSIVE PROGRAM

Throughout the year, the NNADAP team brought outside resources from different communities such as Prince George, Mackenzie and Grand Prairie. Due to the many different approaches to harm reduction, expanding resources outside of the community has a positive impact on our clients. There is a cultural aspect to addiction work. In order to promote more holistic care, clients were referred to healers and land-based healing experts.

This past year, workshops were held on Naloxone training, prevention, education workshops and one-to-one counselling. The program received additional funding of \$50,000 for harm-reduction activities for the year. To date, two workshops on Naloxone training were held, and naloxone kits were distributed to Community members. Two other ongoing support groups are Wellbreity and Al-Anon. These groups are to support one another when it comes to being sober and living a lifestyle that makes it possible to stay on the Red Road, the healing and sober road.

MLIB created an MLIB orientation package for new RCMP members, to expand their knowledge of MLIB to create an open and transparent relationship.

## SOCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

MLIB hosted sessions every two weeks for the income assistance clients to participate in applicable workshops and job readiness skills including motivation, stress management, budgeting, healthy eating and nutrition.

Medical travel has been busy over the last three months with three pregnancy confinements. The average cost is about \$4,500.00 for each confinement. All costs are covered through medical travel.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

This past year, MLIB began developing a plan to determine community readiness for traditional healing practices for a Mental Health and Wellness plan. The long-term goal of this work is to develop strategies on how to incorporate traditional healing practices into programs, communities, and health systems. The vision is to support traditional healing practices and make them more accessible to community members. Community engagement for the project included working one on one and in small groups. Group work included beading and facilitating group discussion. Some of the activities included Elders' breakfasts, consultation, collaborating with partners and funders on the MOU, planning the wellness camp, and the Elders and youth camp with the local school district.

## CHILD & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

The focus of this program is counselling children in school, creating routines and support for families with children in their homes, weekly check-ins with other team members, collaborating with other agencies, and creating and following safety plans. The counsellor attends Morfee Elementary, Prince George, and Mackenzie Secondary School weekly, and Prince George. Taming worry dragons program focuses on anxiety and coping skills. It is a therapeutic technique for youth to learn to cope with their feelings. Over spring break, a healthy relationship workshop was hosted to provide youth with a resource to help prevent domestic violence and abuse and to encourage discussion. Other workshops included body confidence, emotional regulation, loss and grief and making good decisions.



# INDIGENOUS THERAPY

Counselling is offered both on and off-reserve to provide support services for physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural wellness and health. This past year, this involved in-person meetings, phone check-ins, home visits, wellness walks, and visits to residential facilities in Prince George. Services offered include massages and reflexology treatments to help with body pain, decrease tension and alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety. Our team supported Elders living at the Golden Eagle Nest facility through check-ins and home visits. The visits included mindfulness activities for memory, problem-solving, concentration, and other engaging activities to promote cognitive function. We coordinated support to access resources or connect with other agencies/organizations such as the Assertive Community Team, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Specialist, Case Managers, Public Guardians and Trustee, food banks and thrift stores, RCMP, and FNHA to access health benefits or determine what is available.

We were pleased to utilize the MLIB Garden for Members to access vegetables regularly. It provided dietary value for individuals and families, a sense of belonging and an opportunity to connect to Mother Earth. We offered therapeutic and cultural approaches to support children, youth, adults, and Elders to heal at their own pace. Activities included walking together, sharing lunches, sharing cultural events, drumming, and sharing oral histories and life stories. All these activities include strategies to integrate cultural values and their respectful connection to/with the land, a memorial table acknowledging the loss of a Band member to honour their memories. Other community involvement activities included the Memorial to honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirits Peoples, Anti-Bullying Day, the National Indigenous Peoples Day, MLIB Sekani Days Celebration, Orange Shirt Day Cultural Event, and the AGA.

## **Dude's Club**

The Dude's Club creates safe spaces for discussion of men's health and creates opportunities to give back to the community. This included movie nights, community breakfasts, medicine walks, physical activities, hiking, canoeing, and cutting wood for Elders. This past year he organized and facilitated the Moosehide Campaign and created a space for men to gather for health workshops.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

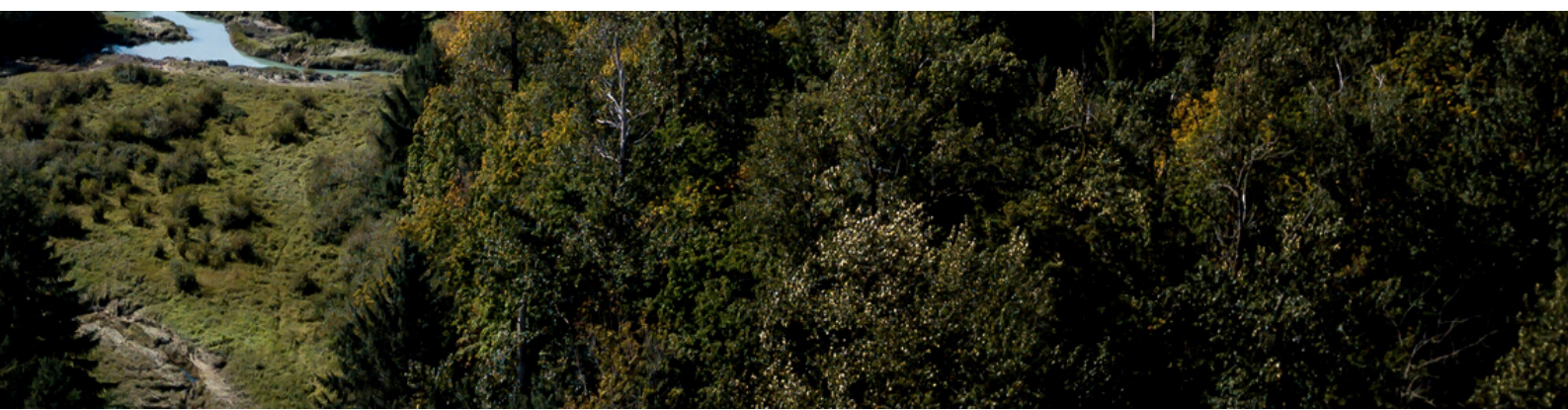
This program provided a variety of services including

- Making applications – Old age pension, birth certificates and housing.
- Helping Members stay connected with internet and cable services.
- Providing rides to medical when appointments are outside of regular medical travel planning.
- Providing rides for groceries to Prince George for more affordable groceries on distribution days.
- Restarting the food bank in the basement of At'soo Koh.
- Hosting Mother's Nurturing Mother's, a monthly mother's gathering event.
- Supporting the community with emergency management should there be a crisis
- Supporting the Elder's group.
- Helping Members take part in opportunities that help them to empower themselves.
- Hosting a wellness fire in McLeod Lake monthly

This past year, this service provided emotional support, relationships and communication advice, advocacy and life skills. This was made possible by:

- Working with families dealing with MCFD and social workers
- Attending family case planning conferences
- Supporting children returning to the care of their parents
- Supporting youth moving into independent living
- Supporting safety plans for children at risk of removal
- Providing prevention and support plans for vulnerable families
- Supporting referrals for services and Jordan's Principle.

Community and family support is provided for members facing struggles with education, housing, mental health, addictions and poverty, substance misuse, self-harm and suicidal ideation, and grief and loss.



# JURISDICTION PROJECT

This project is in its second year, as MLIB journeys through the process of regaining its inherent right to oversee its child and family services for the Band and its People. There are three more years of capacity-building funding to assist MLIB in reaching this goal. This past year, the team hosted membership consultations in McLeod Lake, Prince George, Kamloops, and Vancouver. The valuable feedback from Band members was recorded as it will be part of the process for the framework development for MLIB Child & Family Services. Our team liaised with other government organizations and third-party service providers such as the Ministry of Child and Family Development, RCMP, schools, hospitals, local family service providers, Friendship Centre, consultants and lawyers.

The Whes'ke'ghe/Jurisdiction project supports the planning and facilitation of Whes'keghe consultations in Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince George, McLeod Lake and other locations. In order to understand what the band members' hopes are for the MLIB child and family services, the Whes'ke'ghe/Jurisdiction team is gathering and collating information. This includes co-hosting working group meetings and strategic planning sessions for the planning and implementation of a future child and family services development plan for MLIB.

## JORDANS PRINCIPLE

### **Community Engagement & Education and Relationship Building**

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle to ensure First Nations children get the services they need when they need them. It provides information and education sessions for the communities and families in the program. It builds relationships and collaborates with relevant stakeholders and service providers. It assists in cultivating one-on-one relationships with children, youth, families and caregivers.

**“UNBC is a good choice for any student because of the immense on-campus supports, clubs, ways to meet people, 1-on-1 connections with professors, and the excellent relationships that are prioritized with local Indigenous nations.”**

*Mackenzie*

*Bouchard Hooker*

*BSc Biology &*

*Bachelor of Education*

---

**UNBC** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA





