

ALEXIS CREEK FIRST NATION COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN 2015

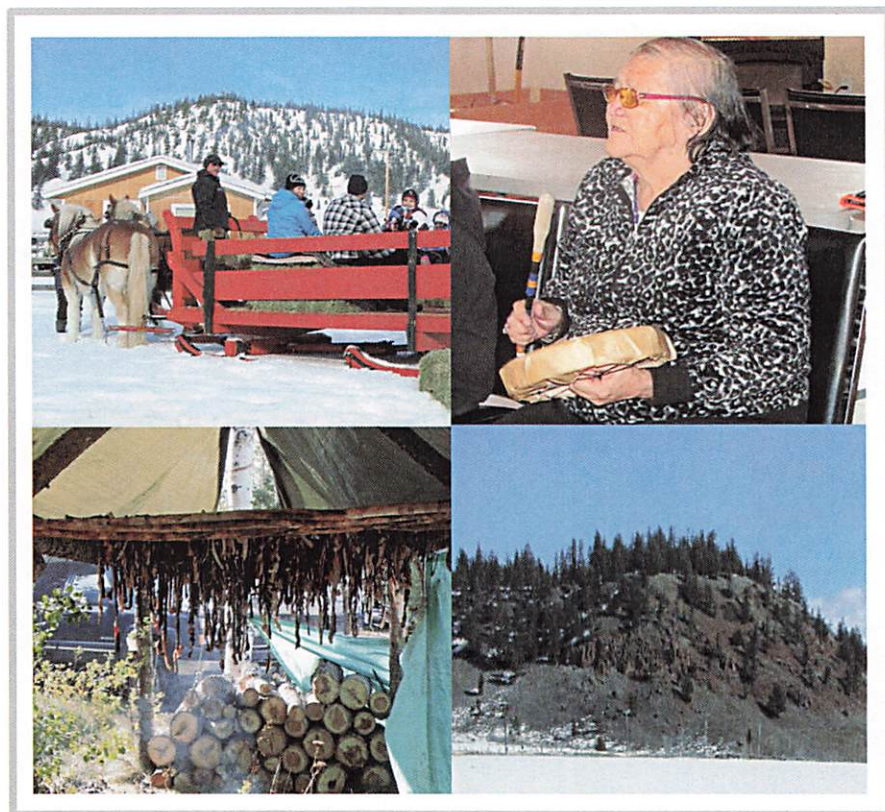


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Chief and Councillors – Chief Percy Guichon; Councillors Clayton John Charleyboy, Rocky Guichon, Otis Guichon, Terry Char, Herman Billy, Harold Corn.

Leaders and Staff – Lenore Case, Alice Johnny, Michelle Luggi, Bill Gilroy, Martina, Raena and Corbett.

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The planning team consisted of Band Manager Dan Hardy, Community Champion and Cultural Liaison Nicole Setah, and Katrina Elliot and Louise Verrall of Four Corners Management Consulting.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

What's In A Name?

'Alexis Creek First Nation' is the name used to refer to the Band and all community members, both on and off-reserve. This is the term that will be used most often in this document.

The **'Alexis Creek Indian Band'** is the name officially recognized for the Band for legal and financial purposes.

'Tsilhqot'in', pronounced **"tseeth-kot-eeen"** is the indigenous term for the people and language of the Tsilhqot'in region, and known in English as 'Chilcotin'.

'Tsi Deldel' or **'Tsi'deldel'**, pronounced **"tsī ' -deldel"** is the name of the most populated main reserve community. It is also known as **Redstone** reserve.

Guiding Framework

The guiding framework for this Comprehensive Community Plan is made up of the established vision, mission, and community values held by Alexis Creek First Nation as stated here:

VISION

We are proud Tsilhqot'in (People of the River) from Tsi Deldel who are confident and strong, independent and healthy, rooted in our Tsilhqot'in culture, language, and traditions.

MISSION

Guided by our traditional values, our mission is to work collaboratively as a leadership team to model the vision that guides all members. We practice healthy communications to engage and unify while supporting ongoing professional, educational, personal development to enhance our leadership and personal effectiveness.

VALUES

- Integrity ▪ Respect ▪ Strength ▪
- Traditions & Cultural Knowledge ▪
- Strategic ▪ Healthy Lifestyle ▪ Empowering ▪



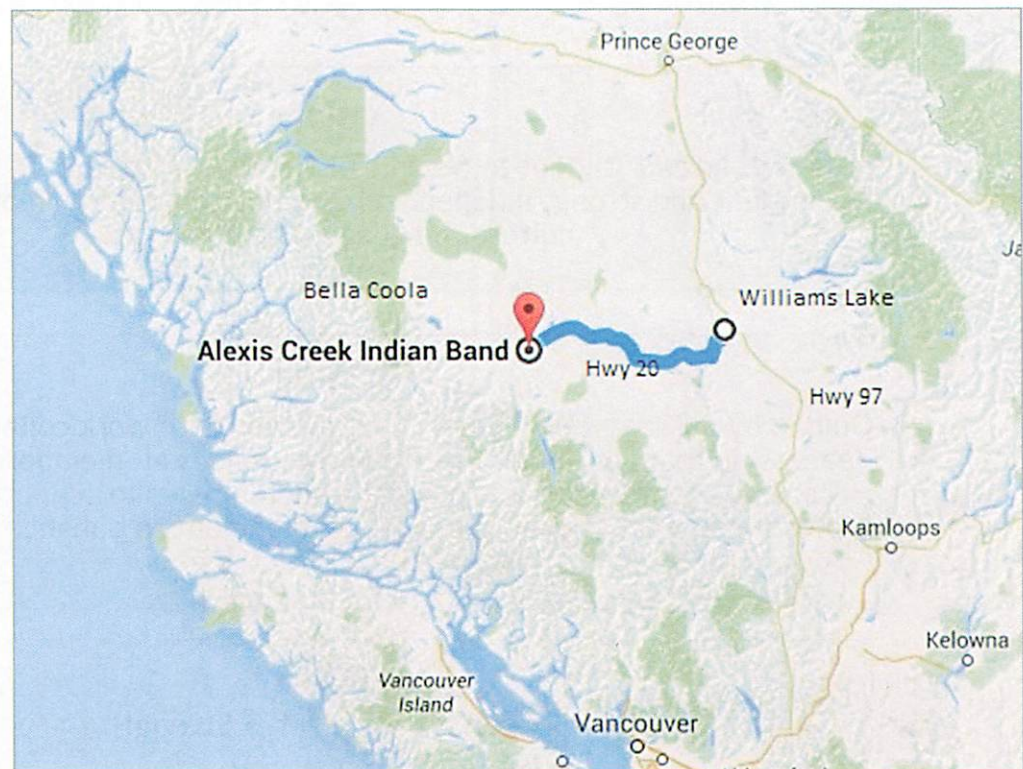
Our CCP – Introduction & Purpose

This document is the first of its kind for Alexis Creek First Nation (ACFN), and it is hoped that community members, residents, Band leaders and elders, and those with a genuine interest in the wellbeing of the Alexis Creek First Nation will benefit by what is contained in these pages. This is the collective voice of the Alexis Creek Band members who reside both in and outside the community of Tsi'deldel and are devoted to the enhancement of quality of life for this and future generations; and the resulting work is intended to provide an overarching vision and path for the Band for years to come.

What is a Comprehensive Community Plan / CCP?

CCP's are an effective tool for building healthy and sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for their members. It is a holistic process that enables a community to build a roadmap to self-sufficiency, sustainability, and improved governanceⁱ. It also provides a link between previous plans and projects, businesses, and community initiatives, and connects them to future plans. It takes into consideration all aspects of a community, including its unique history, economy, social and cultural practices, governance, and use of the land.

This Comprehensive Community Plan encompasses the 38 reserves and 682 members of the Alexis Creek Indian Bandⁱⁱ, located along or accessible by Highway 20, approximately 175 kilometers west of Williams Lake in the Chilcotin region of the central interior of British Columbia.



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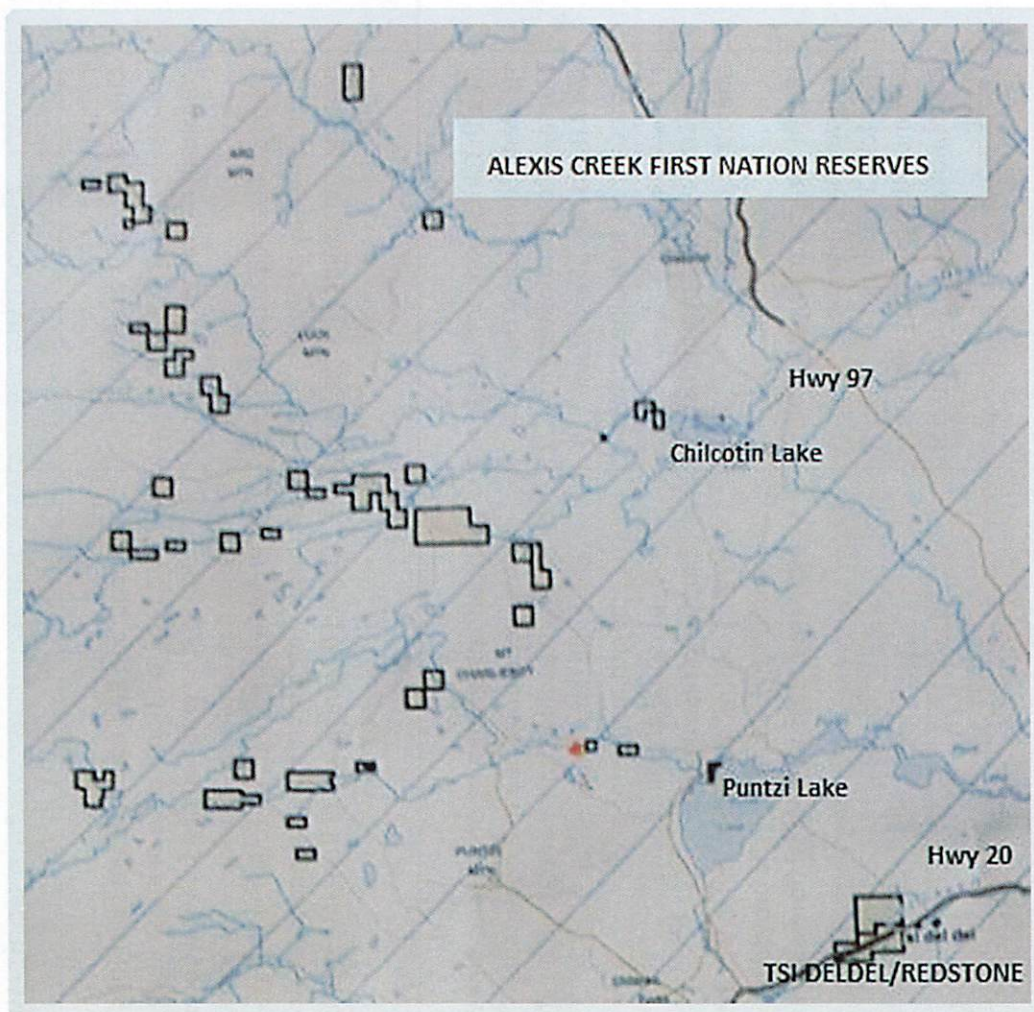
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY GOALS FOR ALEXIS CREEK FIRST NATION

Topic		Overview	Main Goals/Projects
C O M M U N I T Y	▪ Culture	<p>Cultural practices are strong amongst older generation; weaker in middle generation.</p> <p>Many still participate in the traditional way of life by hunting and fishing, crafting and camping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and advocate the teachings of the Tsilhqot'in language, values and the traditional ways of life to keep the Tsilhqot'in culture alive through the creation of a Cultural Committee ▪ Have more cultural activities and events ▪ Provide workshops on topics such as language, traditional cooking, harvesting and hunting; teaching of stories ▪ Embed language and culture into school curriculum
	▪ Health	<p>Health Clinic Team consists of a resident Community Health Nurse, who coordinates First Aid Attendants plus outside professionals including a Nurse Practitioner, Doctors, Physiotherapist, Optometrist and others.</p> <p>Health Clinic team working well- is developing integrated care plan for all 6 Tsilhqot'in communities together with new FN Health Authority and Interior Health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand programming on chronic illnesses, addictions, domestic violence, mental health assessments ▪ Provide teaching and mentorship on life issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ addictions and mental ○ health, parenting skills, ○ personal accountability ▪ Expand Infrastructure: Health Centre, staffed ambulance, Elder care home and services, community kitchen, holistic programs, restorative justice ▪ Increase access to physical fitness & recreation



Summary

A quick snapshot of Alexis Creek First Nation reveals a community that has strong ties to the land, and at the same time has a desire to learn more about its cultural roots, harvesting practices, language, and ways of doing things. Strides are being made in the realm of business and economic development, as well as the important arena of educating the next generation. Needs in the arena of health care have emerged, as well as barriers to employment in the adult population. As these strengths and challenges have been revealed, so has the resolve of the Alexis Creek people to move forward and take part in their own growth as a community.



Following is an overview of the main needs and goals for each area of ACFN life: **Community, Land, Economy, and Governance**. The sections following will expand in greater detail the history and various aspects that make up the community of Alexis Creek, and give a fuller description of the vision the ACFN people have for themselves; however this chart can serve as an initial summary or focal point.

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L A N D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land Use 	<p>The planning, management and stewardship of natural resources and habitat for human, animal and plant life, and the link to ecological diversity, is of utmost concern for Alexis Creek and it is recognized that time and effort will be required to develop policies and projects to protect and nurture the land, within the spirit of the community's discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work towards developing supporting policies, laws, guidelines, regulations and principles and correlate them with ACFN's customary practices. Establish water, land and resource Policy statements that assist with protecting Rights and Title. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a mechanism for dispute resolution ○ Protect culturally important resources ○ Work with existing organizations, provincial and federal government to improve resource uses in the traditional territory and foster cooperative co-stewardship ▪ Develop and extend ACFN's stewardship and management planning or codes of practice to include effective ecosystem-based planning models that will determine cumulative effects on the resources and that are environmentally, culturally and socially sound. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resolve gaps in research and data, then build on those resolved gaps by planning for areas of resource harvest allocation, monitoring, protection and enforcement ▪ Select and move forward with opportunities for revenue generation that will provide long-term, macro-economic benefits to ACFN. ▪ Address access issues as they relate to each of the above categories.
		Community Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desire to use land for more agriculture such as field crops and ranching ▪ More teaching on hunting and fishing; how to harvest and process meat, crops ▪ Learning needed on history of the land, and how to use it <p>Education wanted on how to live more sustainably, having respect for the land and animals</p>



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C O M M U N I T Y	▪ Families, Elders & Youth	Family Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are looking for strong leadership and good role models for life skills and parenting ▪ Would like more connection with Elders for cultural training ▪ Education is needed for social issues and addictions
		Elder Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elders would like more connection with community to pass on traditional knowledge and language ▪ Need better access to in-home health care; dental and vision care
		Youth Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth would like to see less-fortunate helped in community ▪ More access to recreation, family, and community activities ▪ Improved housing, infrastructure; cell phone service ▪ Healthy lifestyle teaching; enhanced school curriculum
	▪ Education	Tsi'deldel school educates K-Grade 9 levels. Main concerns include literacy and attendance rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tsi'deldel school goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing supports to special needs students ○ Continuing to increase literacy rates among students ○ Increasing student attendance rates and parental involvement ▪ Ensure success of students in adult education by providing secondary supports, and by delivering courses on reserve where possible ▪ Community based classes on healthy living, parenting, anger management; also drug and alcohol, gang awareness for teens ▪ Provide mentorship to male youth in particular
		Adult education and literacy levels are generally low. Members would like increased access and supports to education.	

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G O V E R N A N C E		Crazy Horse Energy Drink has had a first production run-future looks promising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise sufficient capital to enter into next phase of expanded marketing plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership ▪ Community Perspective 	<p>Leadership desires to move to traditional governance models such as a custom election code and Chief and Council governance policy.</p> <p>Land claims are not being pursued at this time.</p> <p>The community appreciates when leadership and staff is invested and involved in the various programs and events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foster deeper sense of purpose for all ACFN members ▪ Have strong leadership and role modeling that will result in a vibrant, healthy community ▪ Move to using a Custom Election Code ▪ Increase leadership and responsibility in each department in order to reach goals ▪ Create a Chief and Council Governance Policy ▪ Increase oversight and accountability of leadership ▪ Ensure housing applications are fair and transparent ▪ Increase leadership engagement ▪ Negotiate compensation from government to benefit development of members and economic development ▪ Communication on how Title ownership will affect members ▪ Work together with other communities to build relationships and share knowledge (i.e. the Denisiqi) ▪ Create a welcoming environment where members have a sense community and belonging ▪ Diversify administration by having a Band office in Williams Lake



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L A N D	▪ Infrastructure	<p>Band is upgrading water supply as first priority.</p> <p>Social needs include new health clinic, elders home, and youth/cultural space.</p> <p>Lobbying Hydro and internet providers to expand services.</p> <p>More retail and recreational infrastructure needed as well.</p>	<p><u>Short & Mid-Term Infrastructure Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To have clean potable water for the whole community ▪ To be able to renovate all homes and bring up to code for the members of ACFN ▪ New Health Clinic (or clinic/Band office combination) ▪ Upgrade and renovate the old part of ACFN Band office ▪ Community School - more storage space <p><u>Long-Term Infrastructure Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Headstart/Daycare Centre ▪ Dedicated ambulance and medical transfer vehicle ▪ Upgrade or build new Fire hall to accommodate a new and larger Fire Truck and trained volunteers ▪ Expand Cultural Center and include commercial kitchen
	▪ Community Economy ▪ Tsi'deldel Development Corporation (TDC)	<p>Members are looking for increased opportunities for training and new jobs to become available locally.</p> <p>TDC's businesses as a whole have historically operated at mostly break-even or loss levels; however, individual businesses such as logging and the gas bar have been returning profits back to the Band.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in developing human resource training and skills at all levels ▪ Create employment for members through economic infrastructure development and entrepreneurship development ▪ Expand community facilities and retail industry on reserve ▪ Increasing the health of members will result in a strong workforce. ▪ Harvest and transport timber profitably ▪ Generate employment for members of the Alexis Creek First Nation and local residents ▪ Add commercial key lock system ▪ Employee training to ensure gold service is provided by staff and contractors



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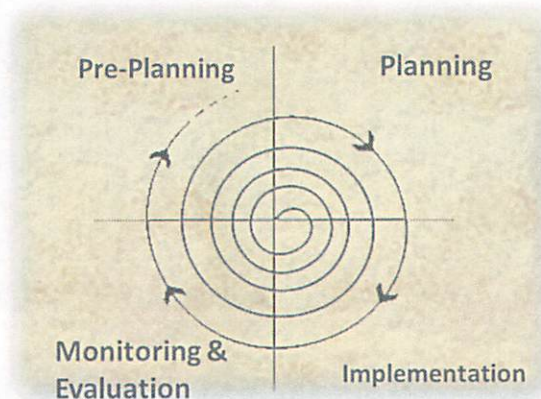
Planning Process

Undertaking a Comprehensive Community Plan can be a daunting task, but success is made possible by good planning, having a team that diligently carries out the plan, and by having a membership that is eager to contribute and see it come together.

This document is the second phase of a four-phase process. The four phases include:

1. **Pre-Planning** – Includes the gathering of research documents, formation of the CCP Team, the hiring of a 'Community Champion', and creation of a Project Charter and budget.
2. **Planning** – Is the research and document writing phase. Community meetings are held for people to give input, leaders are interviewed, surveys are sent to both on and off-reserve members.
3. **Implementation** – Sees the goals of the CCP examined, approved, and put into reasonable time-frames.
4. **Monitoring** – Is the ongoing process of evaluating how the work is being carried out, and making course corrections as necessary.

Four Phases of Creating a Comprehensive Community Plan



Graphic: AANDC

A chart of the overview of the planning process for this particular CCP can be found on the next page. The main tasks carried out in order to build the plan are as follows:

- ✓ A team was formed consisting of the Alexis Creek Band Manager, a Community Liaison/Champion, and consultants from Four Corners Management Consulting.
- ✓ A Band Council Resolution was made to initiate the CCP process.

CCP Structure

This Comprehensive Community Plan is structured in such a way so that readers can ‘take a walk’ through the Alexis Creek community, to see how its people live, work and play – and to learn what Members’ aspirations are for the future. The people of Alexis Creek First Nation are people of the land and of the river, and their story will be told in the pages to follow.

Each section will describe part of the circle of life in Alexis Creek, and will touch on some of the many strengths of the community and opportunities available for growth, as well as some of the challenges. Also included in each topic is a **Statement of Goals** that will help shine the way for next steps in the Band’s progress.

The four main chapters are based on four symbols that are important to the Alexis Creek people, and will also help tell its story:



Our Community: Salmon

The Community, like the Salmon, grows through different stages in life in order to endure long journeys. The Community of Alexis Creek has come a long way and still strives for improvement of overall quality of life.



Our Land: Tree

The Tree is a major part of the Land that provides economic opportunity, sustaining life through jobs, clean air, and shelter. Although it is so versatile and vital to everyone, the Tree and Land are also as vulnerable as other resources and reminds us all to do things in a sustainable manner.



Our Economy: Saskatoon Berry

The Saskatoon represents wealth and opportunity that are a result of determination, hard work and building teamwork capacity.



Our Government: Mountain

The Chief and Council provide a strong base for the Community of ACFN to thrive and work to achieve goals for a higher quality of living.

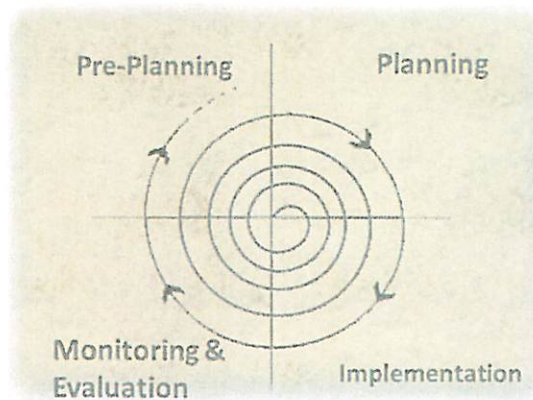
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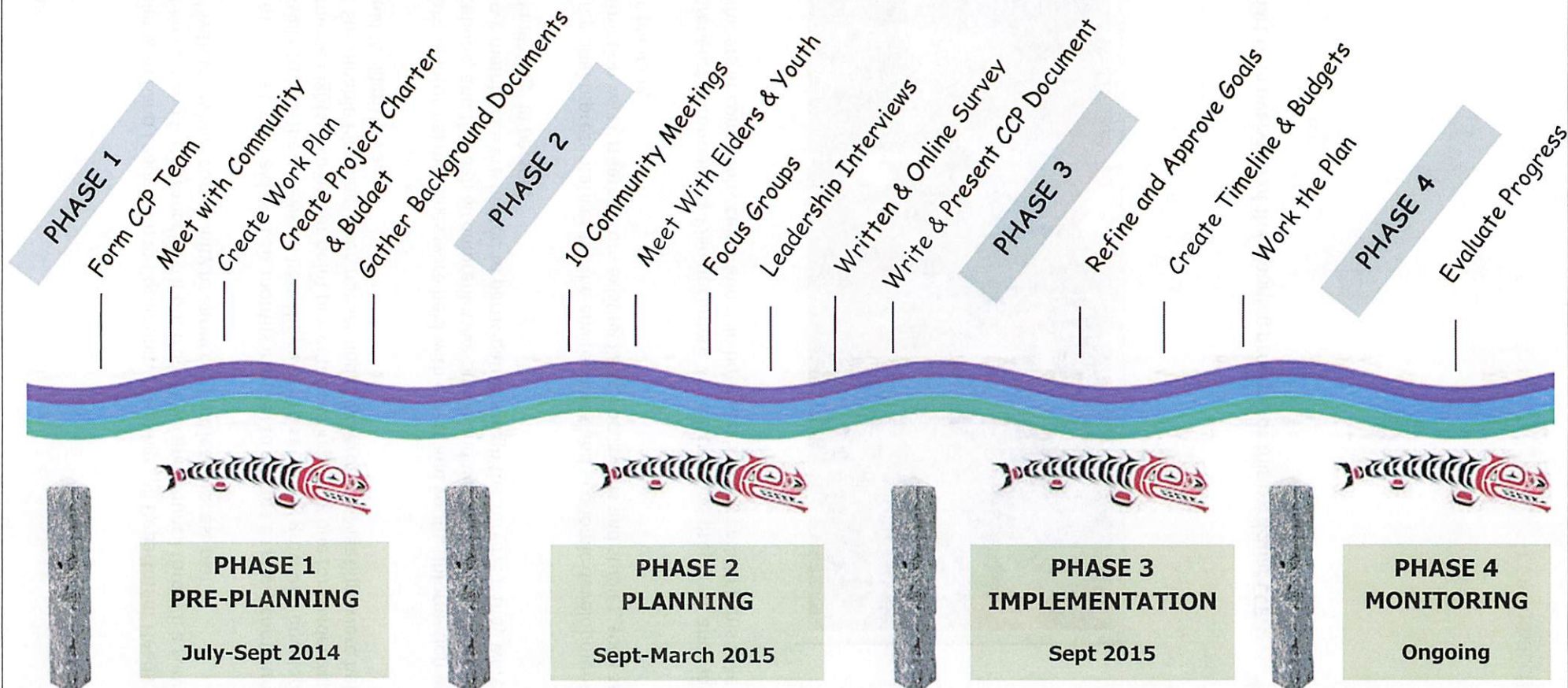


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COMMUNITY PLAN TIMELINE

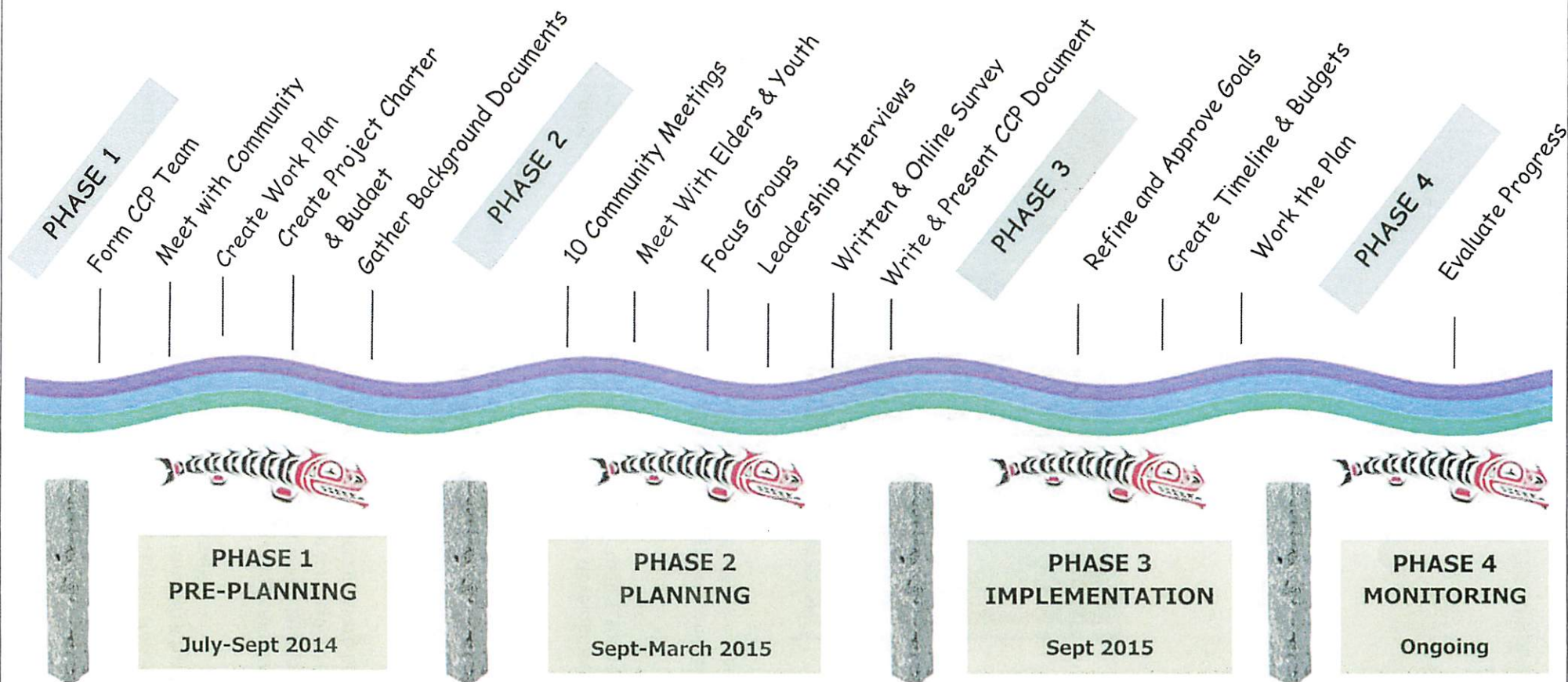


- ✓ The CCP Team met with Band Leadership at Community Meetings; all Department Heads with the exception of health; and further received input from Chief and Council through a survey on governance; and with the whole community to agree on a project process plan.
- ✓ Ten community meetings were held over six months in order to engage as many community members as possible to give their views on how they want to see ACFN grow and develop. These included theme nights; two power point presentations including one for Leadership on Governance and Sustainable Planning; open houses and focus groups. Meetings were held at both Tsi'deldel and Williams Lake.
- ✓ Additional formal and informal meetings were held with elders and youth. Information was also gathered via Facebook, and through a comprehensive online and written survey. Off reserve and distant reserve members were invited to participate through the surveys if they were unable to attend meetings in person.
- ✓ Interviews with regional representatives for the environment and economic development were conducted. Information was gathered from existing Band documents and studies, such as land use and strategic planning.
- ✓ Lastly, the Comprehensive Community Plan document was written and prepared, and was presented to members at community celebrations in both Alexis Creek and Williams Lake.



The following chart is an overview of the planning process for this particular CCP.

COMMUNITY PLAN TIMELINE





CHAPTER 2

OUR COMMUNITY

The presence of Tsilhqot'in culture is still very apparent in and away from the community of Tsi'deldel. Many speak Tsilhqot'in and practice their traditional values as passed down from their ancestors. There are many historic aspects of culture and tradition that are integrated in current day-to-day life. Cultural activities range from fishing and hunting to tanning hide, and crafting. The Tsilhqot'in people participate in singing and drumming, sweats and smudging as forms of spiritual practices.

Our Past

Pre-Sovereignty

Before the contact of the European settlers was the time of the Ancestors. The Tsilhqot'in group known as the Redbrush Chezacut people (now the Alexis Creek First Nation) were an established group of people with laws and structure. With hard work and strong networks they persevered throughout their lifetimes. They built seasonal homes or camped at Chezacut, Redbrush, Gwedzin, (Potato) and Huckleberry Mountain, where the food and resources were in abundance.

European Colonization

As European settlers arrived in great numbers, they proceeded to develop industry on the land; the Tsilhqot'in did take up the trade opportunities for various goods. Yet after Colonization was established, their land was considered to be open to all new comers with no effort to consult with Tsilhqot'in people. Many were forced out of their lands and suffered many other hardships in this period of transition.

Epidemics

Smallpox was an epidemic that wiped out 80% of the Tsilhqot'in Nation including 500 members of the Redbrush Chezacut First Nation near the Puntzi Lake Area. There are indications of European settlers who intentionally spread the disease to make the lands more accessible for settlers to claim the land, as supported by a number of books written about this time. There have also been accounts from the elderly of Tsilhqot'in dying from the Spanish Flu during the times of reported outbreaks.

The Chilcotin War

The Chilcotin War of 1864 is an event when six Tsilhqot'in Chiefs and some warriors went to battle with a road development company in order to protect their people and their land. Over a dozen road workers and several Chilcotin warriors had died as result of this war. Afterwards, the six Chiefs were deceived with a promise of peace and leadership within the European Militia Ranks, but instead were captured and brought to Quesnel, BC. In Quesnel, five were sentenced to death as criminals and were hung on Oct 26, 1864; the sixth Chief was hung in 1865.

After the War, things remained un-peaceful between the Tsilhqot'in and European settlers as the land continued to be claimed by the settlers and First Nations were put into reservations. In most cases the

Culture and History

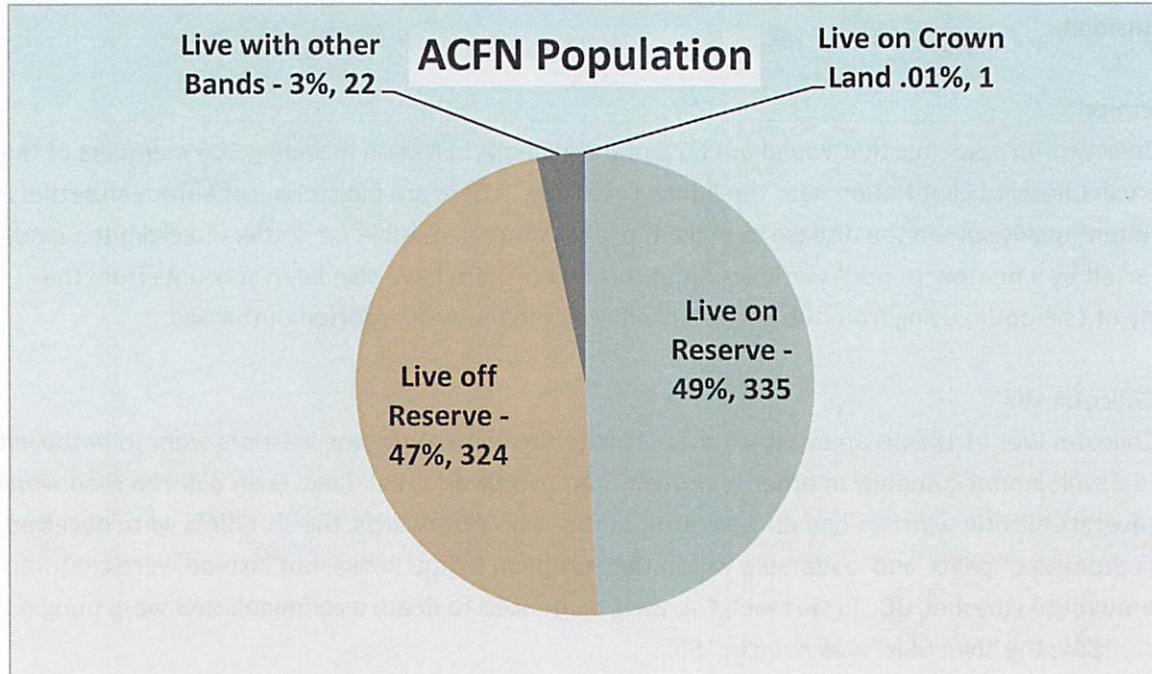
We as Proud Tsilhqot'in

Introduction

The Tsilhqot'in People of the Alexis Creek First Nation originated in the Cariboo Chilcotin Region of British Columbia Canada. It is said that the members of the Alexis Creek First Nation were moved to several locations before settling 177km west of Williams Lake BC. This place is known as the Reserve Community of Tsi'deldel (Red Stone) because of the large red rock formation visible to the Community. Tsi'deldel is part of a six-Band Nation group. The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) was established in 1989 to meet the needs and represent the Tsilhqot'in communities of Tl'etinqox, ?Esdilagh, Yunesit'in, Tsi'deldel, Tl'esqox and Xeni Gwet'in. Their purpose is to re-establish a strong political government structure and to initiate programs that reflect Tsilhqot'in culture and customs in every aspect of governance.

Demographics

Alexis Creek First Nation's 682 person population is divided almost equally in half between members living on and living off reserve. Of this number, 324 are male and 358 are femaleⁱⁱⁱ. About one quarter (23%) are children aged 0-18, which is much lower than the provincial average of 40% for aboriginal



populations. The population on reserve has decreased overall in recent years, mainly due to lack of work opportunities.

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Before the contact of the European settlers was the time of the Ancestors. The Tsilhqot'in group known as the Redbrush Chezacut people (now the Alexis Creek First Nation) were an established group of people with laws and structure. With hard work and strong networks they persevered throughout their lifetimes. They built seasonal homes or camped at Chezacut, Redbrush, Gwedzin, (Potato) and Huckleberry Mountain, where the food and resources were in abundance.

European Colonization

As European settlers arrived in great numbers, they proceeded to develop industry on the land; the Tsilhqot'in did take up the trade opportunities for various goods. Yet after Colonization was established, their land was considered to be open to all new comers with no effort to consult with Tsilhqot'in people. Many were forced out of their lands and suffered many other hardships in this period of transition.

Epidemics

Smallpox was an epidemic that wiped out 80% of the Tsilhqot'in Nation including 500 members of the Redbrush Chezacut First Nation near the Puntzi Lake Area. There are indications of European settlers who intentionally spread the disease to make the lands more accessible for settlers to claim the land, as supported by a number of books written about this time. There have also been accounts from the elderly of Tsilhqot'in dying from the Spanish Flu during the times of reported outbreaks.

The Chilcotin War

The Chilcotin War of 1864 is an event when six Tsilhqot'in Chiefs and some warriors went to battle with a road development company in order to protect their people and their land. Over a dozen road workers and several Chilcotin warriors had died as result of this war. Afterwards, the six Chiefs were deceived with a promise of peace and leadership within the European Militia Ranks, but instead were captured and brought to Quesnel, BC. In Quesnel, five were sentenced to death as criminals and were hung on Oct 26, 1864; the sixth Chief was hung in 1865.

After the War, things remained un-peaceful between the Tsilhqot'in and European settlers as the land continued to be claimed by the settlers and First Nations were put into reservations. In most cases the

and stories told orally have yet to be written down or shared in some way to carry on to future generations.

Our Cultural Symbols

- Chilcotin River ▪ Salmon/Fish ▪ Wild Horses ▪
- Eagle ▪ Sun ▪ Horse & Feather ▪
- Siwash Bridge ▪ Huckleberry & Potato Mountains ▪ Rock Paintings▪
- The Lakes ▪ Burial Sites ▪ Kilsuly Holes ▪
- The Meadows ▪ Henry's Crossing ▪

Our Cultural Stories

- The Lady Who Turned to Stone ▪
- The Three Dogs ▪
- The Salmon Boy ▪

Past Relations with Outside Tribes

The Nuxalk Nation was an ally to the Tsilhqot'in because often they would trade with one another and the Tsilhqot'in would fight battles for them as a form of trade or show of loyalty. There were also alliances with certain Shuswap and Carrier Tribes in which they also traded goods with. Often times several families from a different nation would join the Tsilhqot'in in activities such as camping and gathering food for the winter months.

The Tsilhqot'in, having many alliances also had rivals such as the Bute Inlet First Nation. Often they fought over territory, resources or retaliation for crimes against one another.

Our Present

Who we are now as Tsilhqot'in

What is life like now for the Tsilhqot'in of the ACFN? For life now as Tsilhqot'in, most have made careers in logging or moved away to attend school. Many still participate in the traditional way of life by hunting and fishing, crafting and camping. Due to account of lack of opportunity on reserve, many have moved to different areas to support their families and have careers. The ones who still reside on the reserve seek work in the area, often finding employment when the Band identifies local job opportunities or when outside contractors offer work locally.



Tsilhqot'in considered the lands they were put in unfit to live in. The ability of community members to follow resources during the seasonal cycles was severely impacted by the inability to leave specific locations.

Assimilation to European Culture

A residential school was a boarding school for First Nations children who were forced to unlearn their previous way of life and learn the ways of European ideals and, from the federal

government's perception, a proper education. There are accounts from survivors from the Redbrush Chezacut people of experiencing neglect and abuse by the supervisors and facilitators. In turn, the post-traumatic stress has had lasting effects and created barriers for First Nation people and their families which are still apparent today.



"The ACFN logo represents the Tsilhqot'in Warrior on his horse, and the Feather of Peace. It was created as a remembrance of the Chilcotin War of 1865."

Land Title Court Case

On June 26, 2014 The Supreme Court of Canada ruled 8-0 in favor of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and against the Province of British Columbia. The result awarded the Tsilhqot'in Nation Land Title Ownership of 1,700 square kilometres within the Xeni Gwet'in Care Taker Area. The decision was unprecedented world-wide and is said to pave the way for other First Nations to successfully claim land title and rights within their respective areas. More detail on this historic event can be found in the 'Governance' chapter.

Past Practices Traditions and Values

For decades, the people of the Tsilhqot'in Nation including those from Tsi'deldel lived simple lives raising cattle, working as ranch hands, camping, and food gathering during the warmer seasons. There is a long history of horse ranching both domestic horses and the wild mustangs that roam the Chilcotin Region that continues today.

The challenges back then were over land use and resources as the European government forced First Nations onto reserve lands. Poverty was a norm and many made do with what they had and what the lands had to offer. Many worked hard to make ends meet for their families. Alcoholism was another hardship many Tsilhqot'in had to and still deal with today. According to the elderly, respect for others and the land goes way back, and hard work was considered a valuable trait.

Myths, Legends and Stories

The Lady Who Turned to Stone, The Three Dogs and the Salmon Boy are a few of the many legends passed down from generation to generation amongst the Tsilhqot'in People. Stories often were told around a fire at night as they did not believe in sedentary activity during the day. All stories consisted of the telling of creation, morals, how things came to be and where they are from. Many of the legends

and stories told orally have yet to be written down or shared in some way to carry on to future generations.

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be responsible to advocate for Tsilhqot'in language education, conduct and teach ceremonies, data collect, and to store and pass on Tsilhqot'in traditional knowledge.

Community Speaks



During Community Meetings, ACFN members exhibited knowledge in the following Culture and History related items:

- The Chilcotin War was a significant event to the development of the Community, Band and culture
- Fishing, hunting and gathering (group activities) are current practices the Tsilhqot'in participate in just like their ancestors
- The Chilko River and its salmon runs are considered cultural symbols of the Tsilhqot'in
- The Tsilhqot'in language is indigenous knowledge from long ago and still used today. Many can either speak or understand the Tsilhqot'in Language well but are not as proficient in writing it. Younger members would like to learn the language.
- Members want to see traditional knowledge passed to the next generation
- Agriculture was and still is a practice Tsilhqot'in participate in
- The Nuxalk Nation and Shuswap were traditionally allies, while the Bute Inlet First Nation was a rival.
- The hunting, fishing areas and rivers are to be protected

ACFN Tsilhqot'in History and Culture Goal Statements

1. Create a Cultural Committee to encourage and advocate the teachings of the Tsilhqot'in language, values and the traditional ways of life to keep the Tsilhqot'in culture alive.
2. Protect the land, water and animals for future generations.
3. Plan more cultural activities in and around the community that are accessible to all members near or far.
4. Remember the past experiences, previous knowledge learned and use all as tools to help shape a bright future to the up and coming generations.
5. Strive for or continue on a path for the better as the Ancestors have done hundreds of years ago.

The Elderly are very knowledgeable about their roots and language. They continue to tell their stories and facts of life to younger generations. There are many gatherings and camping trips held with the elders present which gives the opportunity for the youth to learn about the Tsilhqot'in way of life.

Current Practices, Traditions and Values

Some current practices continued from the old days are fishing and hunting. Fishing mainly takes place at Siwash Bridge and at Chezacut. For some it is viewed as a fun thing to do, as for others it is for sustenance and way of life. Hunting is also very popular and game hunted includes deer, moose, beaver and other wildlife on the Chilcotin Plateau.

After all the fish and game are collected, many use different methods of preparing and preserving, such as drying, canning, and freezing. If one family has too much they will give the food away to the other families and the



Elderly without expecting anything in return. Current spiritual practices include praying to the Creator, smudging, and the use of sweat lodges. As well, many ACFN members belong to the Catholic and protestant faiths.

Our Future

Where We Want to Be Culturally

The main cultural concern the community has voiced is the need to keep the Tsilhqot'in language alive through education. Many see that the language is slowly fading. Much of the language is spoken by people in their late 30's and 40's years of age. The Tsilhqot'in language knowledge and speaking is minimal for the younger generations. This could be due to a number of different factors such as underdeveloped teaching models for the language in schools, no classes available to students of all ages, and the residential schools' banning of the use of language by students. In addition, speakers interpret and translate the same word or event differently, making the passing on of language even more difficult. Many feel it is up to the community to work collaboratively to diminish or eliminate this problem.

Many community members acknowledge the need to do more outdoor activities like camping, and participating in traditional activities as a way of keeping healthy and sustaining Tsilhqot'in cultural customs.

How to Get There

During the preparation of this CCP, several people were identified as key knowledge holders of Tsilhqot'in language, culture and tradition. The Tsi'deldel community is in support of a Cultural Committee to assist with reviving the cultural ways of the Tsilhqot'in Ancestors. The committee would

be responsible to advocate for Tsilhqot'in language education, conduct and teach ceremonies, data collect, and to store and pass on Tsilhqot'in traditional knowledge.

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	Health
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Several members have identified a need for enhanced alcohol and drug programs and services, and for teaching that targets youth, who are most vulnerable. Some have suggested becoming a dry community. Similarly is a desire for more understanding of mental health issues.

Another need high on the scale is for greater access to recreational facilities and programs, and teaching that will encourage members of all ages to become healthy through physical activity. Many residents struggle with diabetes and other chronic health issues, and would like to see a prevention and management program put in place that all can access.

New this year is the provincial First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). This is a medical system that is being introduced throughout BC to enhance the standard provincial health care program for First Nation communities. Health delivery that was previously administered through Health Canada is being transferred to the provinces.



It is unknown at this time how this change will affect Alexis Creek; however, the move to First Nation-specific health care is at the outset a positive one. The aim of the FNHA is to “support the incorporation of traditional medicines and practices into health policies, programs and practices and to do this in a way that is safe and relevant for First Nations communities.” It will help all aboriginal communities in BC to strengthen their cultural health practices, as it has been found that traditional health care increases access to timely health

care, helps prevent chronic conditions, and has the potential to improve overall health and wellness.^{iv} It will also allow Alexis Creek to coordinate with the other six Tsilhqot’in communities for culturally relevant health care delivery, which will create better use of resources for everyone. It is also hoped that a traditional healer will be able to be hired as an integral part of the health plan for Alexis Creek and the Tsilhqot’in communities.

Connectedness and Spirituality

Equally mentioned amongst residents is the deep desire for more cultural and spiritual teaching and mentorship, in order to bring balance into people’s lives and to restore healthy traditional ways. There is a keen awareness that as the four realms of Spiritual, Emotional, Mental and Physical are addressed and integrated into the community, that sound health and wellness will follow.

Alexis Creek is characterized as the kind of community that pulls together when needed, is peaceful and caring, and is well respected by other Bands. The majority of on-reserve residents feel connected, but at the same time there is also an expressed need by some for a greater sense of belonging. On a deeper

Health, Wellness and Community Services

For Alexis Creek First Nation, the subject of health and wellness is really an all-encompassing one. Sound health in both individual and community is something that is accomplished by many actions that are complex and interconnected. For example, having a job is often directly related to family health.

Being healthy requires both a personal commitment to wellness, and access to programs and services that promote healthy lifestyles. Many ACFN members take advantage of the opportunities to keep active and live in a way that will bring them and their families' long lives. Community events such as the annual Redstone Rodeo and winter carnival highlight the residents' love of horsemanship, hockey, and outdoor games. Many enjoy fishing, hunting and camping as well.

ACFN residents have varying opinions on the state of the community's overall wellbeing. These will be looked at in terms of:

- Programs and Services
- Connectedness and Spirituality
- Health Infrastructure
- Community Safety

Programs and Services

ACFN provides many health, wellness and community services to its members. Some of these include the following:

Community Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Health Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nurse Practitioner ○ Health Nurse ○ Visits by Doctor/Physio/Optometrlist ✓ Health Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Wellness ○ Patient Travel ○ Diabetes Consulting ○ Pre-Natal Care ○ Mental Health Counselling ○ Alcohol & Drug Prevention & Intervention/AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elders' Program ○ Culture Night ○ Adult Drop-In ○ Youth Group ✓ Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety Advisory Committee ○ Elder & domestic violence ✓ Recreation/Fitness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk/Run program ○ Community Events ✓ Health HUB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinated services with TNG & Interior

	Health
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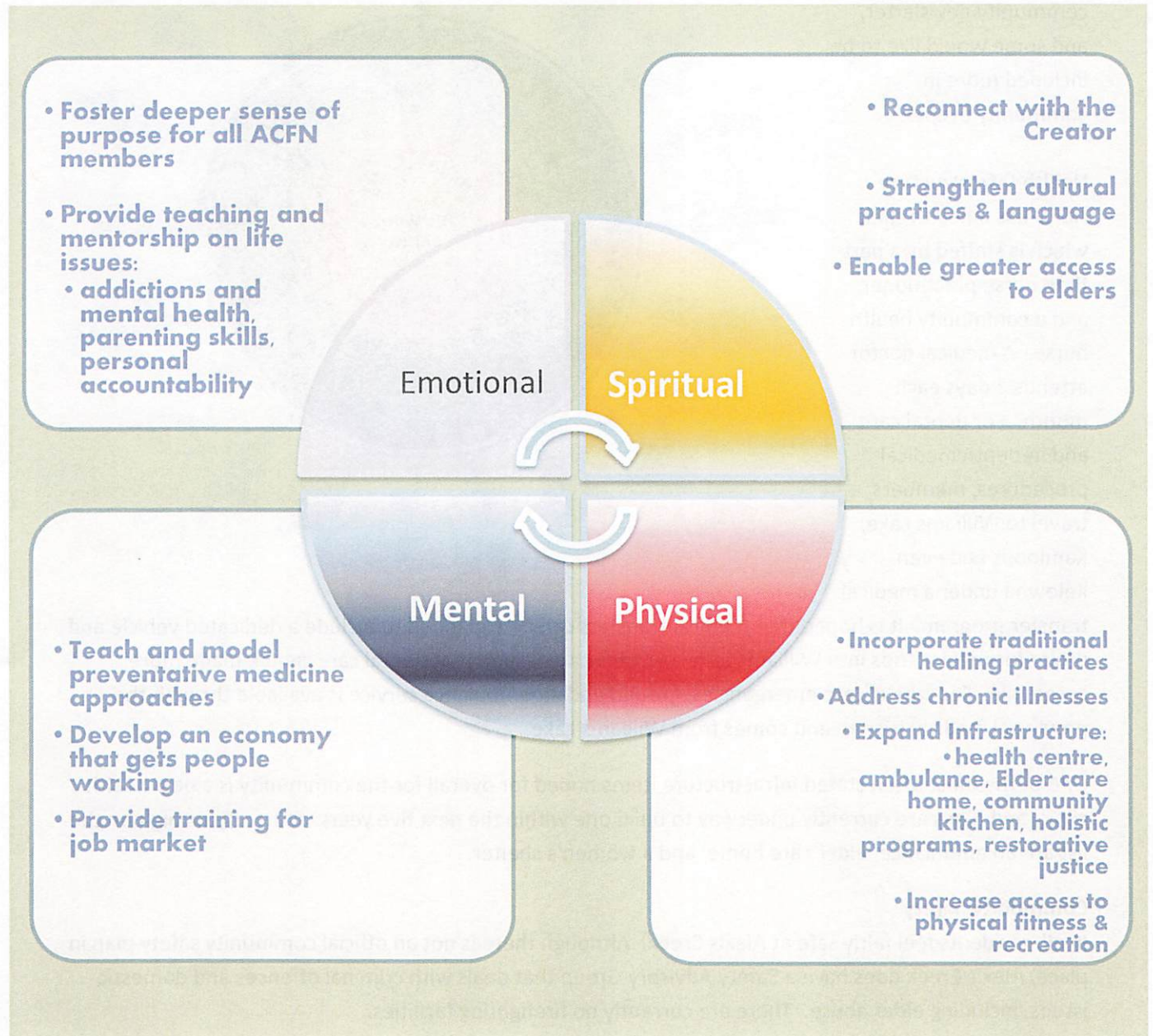
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Two concerning aspects are that of gangs, and domestic violence. Many members have expressed alarm about the number of youth that are attracted into gangs, and want to see youth mentored into a better alternative. As to domestic violence, more services are needed to help both genders. The hope is that as underlying issues of drug and alcohol abuse and other factors that contribute to family violence are addressed, that rates will decrease over time.

Health and Wellness Community Goals and Projects



level is what some describe as a desire for a sense of purpose. Many feel that gaining better access to the wisdom of the elders is an important part of establishing strong roots of connection and wellness.

Students who must live off-reserve for schooling express how difficult it is to be separated from their families and community, and appreciate anything that helps them get back to visit and to keep up bonds through this important time of their lives. Off-reserve members stay connected through the community newsletter, and some would like to be included more in community events.

Health Infrastructure

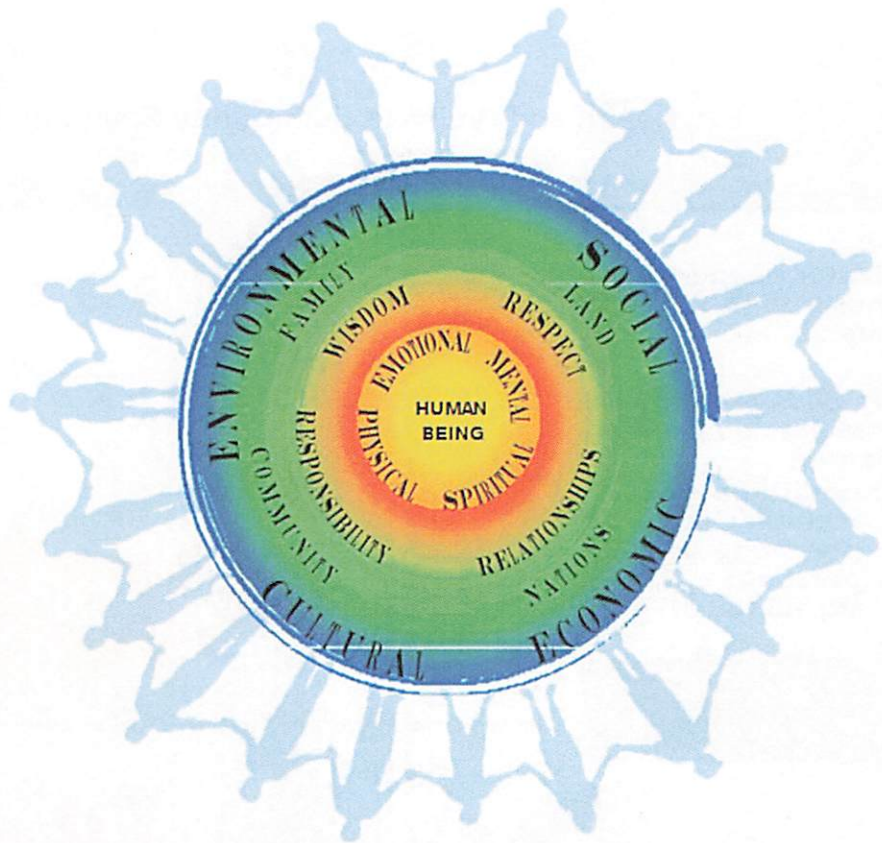
ACFN has a health clinic which is staffed by a part time nurse practitioner and a community health nurse. A medical doctor attends 2 days each month. For dental care and in-depth medical procedures, members travel to Williams Lake, Kamloops and even Kelowna under a medical

transfer program. It is hoped that medical transfers can be expanded to include a dedicated vehicle and driver for regular trips into Williams Lake and other areas, and that dental care can be made more accessible. For critical care emergencies, ground and air ambulance service is available through the provincial medical system and comes from Williams Lake.

One of the most often stated infrastructure items hoped for overall for the community is a new health clinic, and plans are currently underway to build one within the next five years. Other items high on the list are an ambulance, elder care home, and a women's shelter.

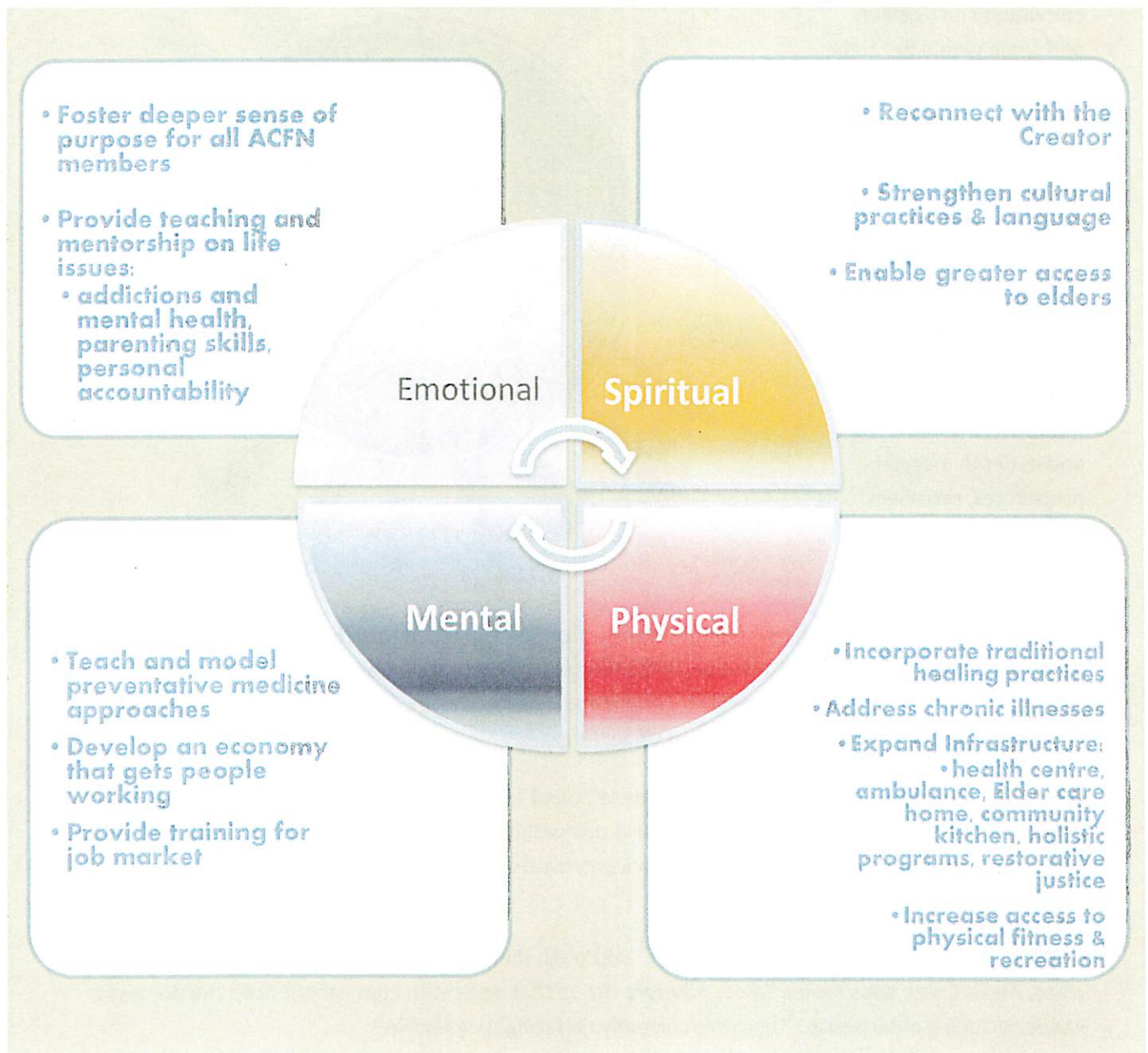
Community Safety

In all, residents feel fairly safe at Alexis Creek. Although there is not an official community safety plan in place, Alexis Creek does have a Safety Advisory Group that deals with criminal offences and domestic issues, including elder abuse. There are currently no firefighting facilities.



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Health and Wellness Community Goals and Projects



comparison to other First Nation run schools. Having said that, there are ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining educators due to culture shock and the Band's remote location. There are few qualified teachers of First Nations heritage available in the region, so this leaves the bulk of the cultural teaching to the families and community to provide.



Teachers and principal are supported by two provincial bodies – the First Nation Education Steering Community (FNESEC) and the First Nation Schools Association (FNSA). These organizations provide First Nation-specific assistance to educators on things like improving curriculum, addressing learning behaviors, and accessing funding for needs such as computers and special needs students. They have also created standards for principals and teachers that are uniquely First Nation, and each school undergoes a full review every five years.

While BC has the highest level of support to First Nation run schools in Canada, the BC First Nation graduation rate is the lowest, and unfortunately Alexis Creek is on the low end of the provincial scale. School staff and administration have goals in place to assess and address some of the factors that contribute to this situation; however it appears to also be an issue at the community level. For instance, there is extra programming provided to bolster literacy rates for all students, but this is hampered by a serious problem of lack of student attendance. Nevertheless, literacy levels are slowly improving, and school staff is continuing to build bridges for education into the community.

There is currently an afterschool program for children in grades K-9. It runs a variety of fun activities including outdoor play, baking, and crafts. There is also a teen group that meets weekly.

Students above the grade nine level transfer to Williams Lake for high school. This is often a difficult transition despite support from the Alexis Creek end, as students are required to live off-reserve during the week. Many choose to end their formal education at this point. It is thought that having a First Nations Liaison Worker in the high school would help tremendously in helping students navigate the difficulties of being away from their community and families, and in helping to create a sense of belonging.

Adult Basic and Post-Secondary Education

A number of ACFN members have made efforts to complete their high school diploma as adults. Some who do accomplish this and want to go on to college or university level still need help in navigating the 'real' academic level and life skills needed to make the transition successfully. Extra supports are vital to this, as well as the community's moral backing. Other members have completed trades and entry level

Education



The overarching theme for education in ACFN is a call for cultural renewal and the grounding of education in sound traditional and modern methods. Community members are concerned about the passing on of language and culture as mentioned previously. They desire programs and structures that will facilitate teaching younger generations the Tsilhqot'in language, cultural practices such as food harvesting, and spiritual observances. At the same time, there is a desire to learn academic and workplace skills that will help members get and keep jobs; and a need for social programs to help families learn the parenting and health concepts that will bring wholeness to them.

Overall, the community's formal education level is low, in that most do not have a high school diploma, and many do not have literacy levels sufficient to obtain or hold a job. The lowest rate of literacy is said to be among mid-twenty to mid-forty year old males. Although statistics are not kept on the subject, it is estimated that ACFN's education rates are as follows:

ACFN Education Rates	% of Total ACFN Population
Current Rate of Graduation Grade 12	Less than 5%
Post-Secondary Certificates	More than 10%
Undergraduate Degree	Less than 5%
Master's Degree	Less than 5%
Education Success... <i>A recent Adult Basic Education program held at Alexis Creek saw an 81% completion rate for 22 ACFN Members!</i>	

Tsi'deldel School

In terms of formal education for children, Tsi'deldel school is one of 130 Band operated schools in BC. The school provides programming at the preschool and kindergarten to the grade nine levels on the main Redstone reserve. There are 43 children in all, and the school is staffed with four teachers, one Head Start coordinator, three education assistants and a language and culture teacher, in addition to a school principal. There is also a librarian/teachers' assistant that runs a well-stocked library, and the school is connected to the internet for computer based learning. There is good access to learning materials, however, extra funding for special needs students is lacking, as well as for the 20 students who are on Individual Education Plans (IEP's).

The teachers at Tsi'deldel school all come from off reserve, and turnover rate is relatively low in

comparison to other First Nation run schools. Having said that, there are ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining educators due to culture shock and the Band's remote location. There are few qualified teachers of First Nations heritage available in the region, so this leaves the bulk of the cultural teaching to the families and community to provide.



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Families, Elders & Youth

Families

Family life for the Alexis Creek First Nation Band members is unique and authentic. One seldom sees a conventional family dwelling consisting of only four people residing in a residence namely the father, mother, son and daughter. Usually, there would also either be a grown child, an aunt, uncle, grandparents/grandchildren, etc. living in the same dwelling as well. This is usually the result of lack of housing on reserve, social or societal problems. A family would rather care for an elder parent themselves than put them in a home.

We also have our ACFN students preferring to board with a known family or band members than with strangers in places like Williams Lake. Regardless of the circumstances, everyone knows of all the people residing in or around the community, and this knowing creates a small town with a close knit atmosphere.

Many families do their best to raise their children to be well rooted in Tsilhqot'in Culture. The Elderly and parents do have a sense of tradition, and practice and instill values like hard work and honesty. There are many who struggle with addiction and the effects of residential school, and for some others it's just hardship in general. The Leadership, Staff and Community strive to overcome and assist to create a more sustainable and resilient community by promoting healing and growth to all Members.



Elders

Elders are a diverse and prominent group within our Tsi'dedel Community. Most reside within the Community. Many are knowledgeable in traditional living which includes hunting, trapping and fishing and some still do much of that today. Overall, the health of the elderly is improving; many of our Elderly are living longer and healthier.

Elderly on reserve have pointed out needs within the community. One is to broaden the capabilities for in-home Elderly care. Most Elders are no longer physically fit to do the things they used to. Another idea is to improve the accessibility of minor healthcare such as dental and vision care.

workplace certificates. Aside from social factors, one of the largest barriers to employment is the paying of drivers' licensing fees.

As to post-secondary diplomas and degrees, and college level courses such as training for entrepreneurs, this remains a difficult road for most of the Alexis Creek population due to the low literacy rates. It is hoped that by the continued effort to raise literacy at the elementary and middle school level that this will not be such a barrier for the upcoming generation.

Community Speaks



During our Community Meetings, ACFN members expressed interest in the following Education related items:

- Address social problems that hinder student learning and attendance.
- Create an education committee including parent and Band leadership representatives that will connect with school administration
- Community based teaching of cultural practices through elder involvement; workshops on topics such as language, traditional cooking, harvesting and hunting; teaching of stories
- Community based classes on healthy living, parenting, anger management, mental health, drug and alcohol, gang awareness for teens
- Provide mentorship to male youth in particular
- Fund more extracurricular activities such as gym, pool, for students

ACFN Members are interested in taking courses in:

✓ Arts ✓ Trades ✓ Entrepreneur Training ✓ Culinary Arts
✓ Workplace Certificates ✓ Office Administration ✓ Grade 12 Diploma

Education Goal Statements

1. Embed Tsilhqot'in language and culture into Tsi'deldel school and encourage it throughout the community.
2. Provide well-trained staff and funded programming for special needs students.
3. Continue to increase literacy rates among students.
4. Increase student attendance rates in Tsi'deldel school and parental involvement.
5. Increase sense of belonging for high school students through support of First Nation Liaison Workers and creating a gathering space.
6. Increase awareness of what students need in terms of academic prerequisites and functional skills (like budgeting and time management) before entering post-secondary education.
7. Ensure success of students in adult education by providing secondary supports, and by delivering courses on reserve where possible.

Families, Elders & Youth

Families

Family life for the Alexis Creek First Nation Band members is unique and authentic. One seldom sees a conventional family dwelling consisting of only four people residing in a residence namely the father, mother, son and daughter. Usually, there would also either be a grown child, an aunt, uncle, grandparents/grandchildren, etc. living in the same dwelling as well. This is usually the result of lack of housing on reserve, social or societal problems. A family would rather care for an elder parent themselves than put them in a home.

We also have our ACFN students preferring to board with a known family or band members than with strangers in places like Williams Lake. Regardless of the circumstances, everyone knows of all the people residing in or around the community, and this knowing creates a small town with a close knit atmosphere.

Many families do their best to raise their children to be well rooted in Tsihlot'in Culture. The Elderly and parents do have a sense of tradition, and practice and instill values like hard work and honesty. There are many who struggle with addiction and the effects of residential school, and for some others it's just hardship in general. The Leadership, Staff and Community strive to overcome and assist to create a more sustainable and resilient community by promoting healing and growth to all Members.



Elders

Elders are a diverse and prominent group within our Tsi'deldel Community. Most reside within the Community. Many are knowledgeable in traditional living which includes hunting, trapping and fishing and some still do much of that today. Overall, the health of the elderly is improving; many of our Elderly are living longer and healthier.

Elderly on reserve have pointed out needs within the community. One is to broaden the capabilities for in-home Elderly care. Most Elders are no longer physically fit to do the things they used to. Another idea is to improve the accessibility of minor healthcare such as dental and vision care.

Arts and Recreation

Arts

Many of our members are creatively artistic. We always have access to materials necessary for those that are inspired to pick up a traditional art skill. There are some who take it to the next level by creating extraordinary pieces, and are working at making a living off of their art.

Art is sometimes the result of recreation. For example, hides from hunted game can be used to make a traditional pair of moccasins, a key chain, or gloves. Hides are a hot commodity for local traditional art enthusiasts. Many artists resort to hunting moose or deer, or salvaging game hides gathered by family members. The art resulting from the hides is in public demand.

Other forms of art are free-hand or loom beaded jewelry, sewed quilts, and baby baskets. Just about every person, at any age, makes or participates in crafting traditional arts, such as a dream-catcher or a beaded pen. Art is often a favorite pass time at home or during the weekly Culture or Wellness Nights.

Recreation

Recreation is interpreted in a variety of ways to those from the ACFN Community; one of which is sports, mostly hockey or soccer. Hockey is the most popular with the youth and young adults; whether on the ice or tarmac. Often it is played during gym class or large ball hockey tournaments are held and open to the Nation to come out and play. Being involved in sports is something the ACFN parents feel strongly about, believing sports increases the chances of success for the youth. Often times, youth and adult sports teams are supported by the community through funding and opportunities.

Recreation for ACFN also means outdoor work; like hunting and fishing, tanning hides, camping, canning, and drying or smoking fish. Much of this is accessible to the Members residing at Tsi'deldel, as the wilderness surrounds the community and a lake is a 15 minute drive to access.

One particularly significant event hosted by the community is the Redstone Rodeo. Every year at the end of August the rodeo is held, and is open to people near and far at the rodeo grounds, 1 km from the main reserve. A Committee of devoted volunteers group together and fundraise for this event and often times staff members volunteer some of their time to ensure success of and smooth operation of the Redstone Rodeo. A popular fundraiser is the raffle for a quad wheel all-terrain vehicle prize which is drawn during the rodeo festivities.

Some of the cash prize events held as part of the rodeo are barrel racing, bull riding and the mountain race. People of all ages come out to spectate, brave the hot weather and enjoy good food. A live band



The Elders of Tsi'deldel also have a wise message for the adults and younger generation. It is to work together to teach values to Youth. Like working hard, an example would be to take them out on the land, teach them traditional skills. Another message, Youth need to stay in school and away from drugs and alcohol. Lastly, they say to encourage the Youth to exceed expectations; an example is to write a book, become a doctor, a lawyer or professional.

Youth

The age range of Youth is spread out over various school grade levels. Some grades consist of only 1 or 2 students. The Tsi'deldel School offers education to students who are K3 to grade 9. The Grade 10 Students are sent to high school in a different location like Williams Lake. Many enjoy gym class and a few have joined competitive sports outside the community.

The Youth of Tsi'deldel have a wide range of suggestions for what they would like to see for the community. The following is worded through careful consideration, coordination and grouping of similar items that they identified:

Youth Speak

- More family based and nature inspired activities – green grass, outside fun; and all-community invited events like camping and seasonal activities
- Improved access and delivery of sports and recreational activities
- Improved facilities that benefit Youth like a bigger center and recreational items like hiking and biking trails and zip line
- Accessibility to necessities - more variety sold at the store so no travelling to town
- Improved housing, roads and infrastructure including cell phone service
- More experiences like trips abroad
- Expand school curriculums to mirror the best elementary/ high schools including different language classes and different electives
- Animal Welfare
- Increase teaching of a healthy lifestyle like healthy eating
- Increased safety i.e. no racing around, burning grass, unsafe water, address bullying
- Protection of wildlife
- Helping less fortunate in and around the community
- Economic growth to provide jobs

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Recreation

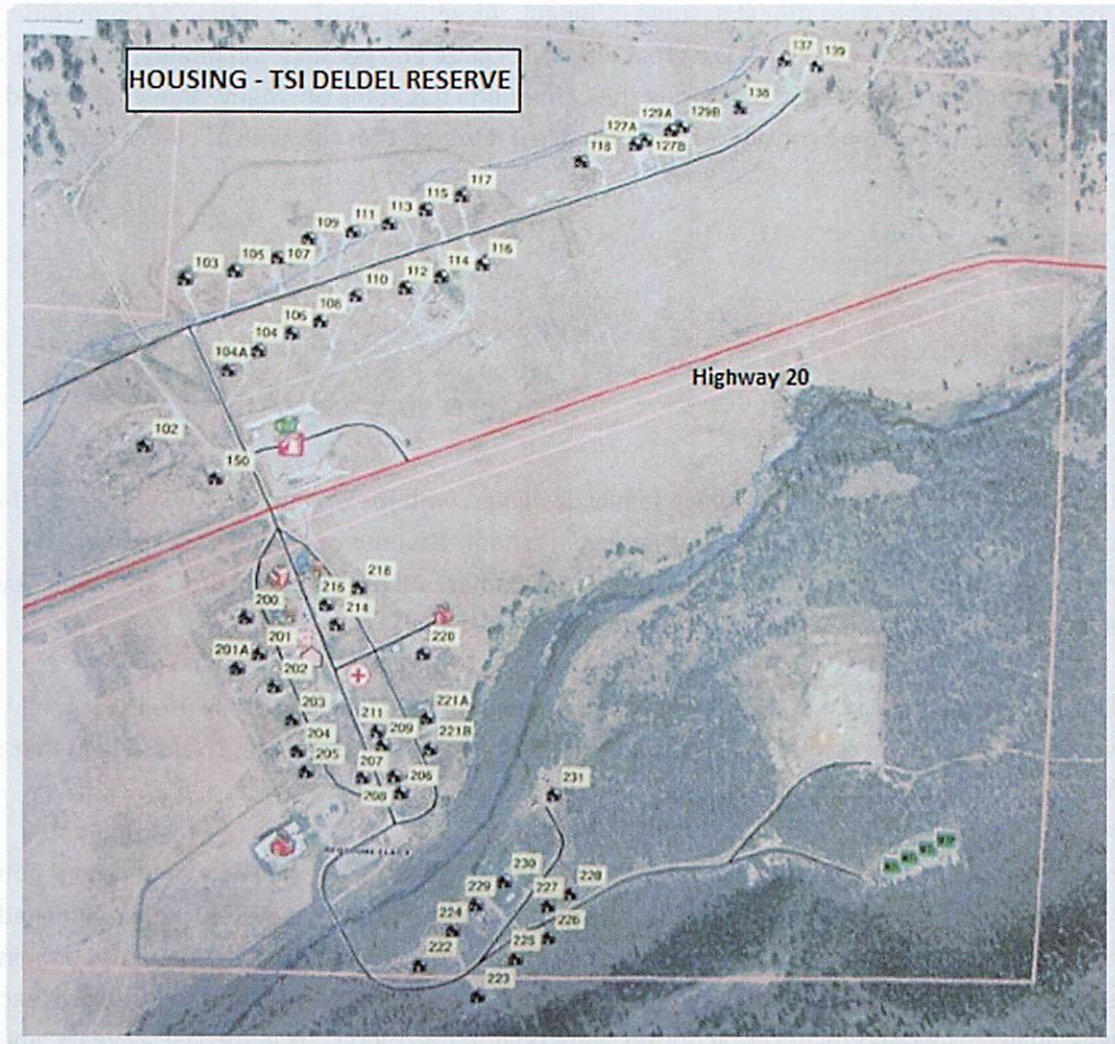
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per year. It is hoped to get funding outside of the federal allotment for repairs in order to renovate ten per year. The most prevalent issues for repair are structural mold, freezing water pipes in winter, and septic field backups. There is a full time maintenance person employed at Tsi'dedel, and efforts are made to do repairs in a timely way. Plans are underway to institute a monthly maintenance fee for housing, which residents can choose to opt in or out of. This will provide a better overall standard of housing maintenance.



Home ownership is something that is very much at the forefront for many members of ACFN. The Band's administration is looking at making it possible for members to own their homes by providing a 'rent-to-own' type of model, where members who have good credit and have rented their home for a minimum of 5 years can enter into a mortgage agreement and become owners.

usually plays during the Saturday night of rodeo weekend. The Redstone Rodeo has been celebrated every year since 1998.

Annual hunting camps are also established to attract tourists. In addition is our annual Community Camp, and also a larger Gathering of the Nation Camp. These camps are held each year to gather to work, harvest, and feast and celebrate the land and its offerings. Many people take these opportunities to sing a drum song they've written, play Lehal, smudge, pray and teach sacred ways to all ages.

Lastly, one other popular recreational pastime is 'Bingo'. As with most of our Nation's Communities, Bingo is held once or twice weekly. It is a great way to socialize and possibly win money, but more importantly, it supports whatever fundraising the community has going on. Many large goals would not have materialized or would be considered unreachable if it weren't for this type of event.

Housing

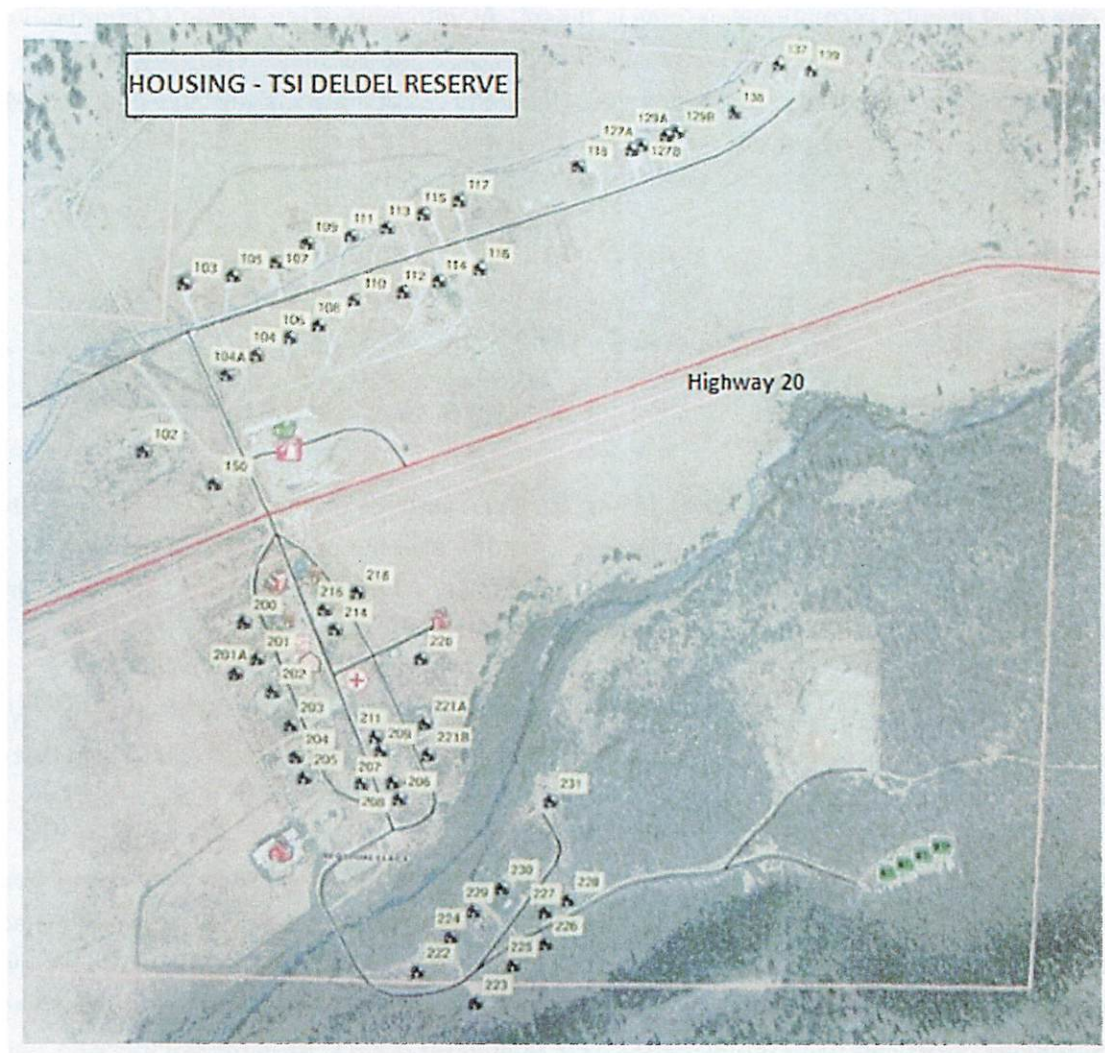
All housing in Alexis Creek consists of single family dwellings, with the exception of two duplexes that function as a 'teacherage' for employees of Tsi'deldel school. Seventy-one homes are regular construction and another approximately 12 are mobile homes. All of these structures are owned by the Band and rented to members under rental agreements.

In addition, there are approximately 30 homes or cottages, some of which are only used seasonally, that are owned by Band members in the hilly meadow area of the Redbrush reserve. This is IR land that is used for trap lines and curing meat and fish.

Many extended family members live together out of necessity in what are mainly two bedroom houses, and this has caused issues with overcrowding. When family members are unemployed, or young adults lack the resources to live on their own, several generations end up living together. There are ongoing problems with rental arrears for some, but adequate measures are being put in place to resolve each case individually. The majority of rental houses were built in the 1960's; six in the last 29 years, and seven new houses in the past two years. One remote home has solar paneling and a generator to provide its power needs. Although initially costly, it is being assessed over time to see if solar power is a viable alternative for future housing. In addition, the Band is looking to build ten new single family homes in the next year which will have water and sewer lines to each lot. An application process will identify members with greatest need to move into these units.

Overall the state of repair of the older homes is fair. At this point houses that qualify will receive major renovations through a federally funded program every 10 years, with goals for five houses being refitted

per year. It is hoped to get funding outside of the federal allotment for repairs in order to renovate ten per year. The most prevalent issues for repair are structural mold, freezing water pipes in winter, and septic field backups. There is a full time maintenance person employed at Tsi'dedel, and efforts are made to do repairs in a timely way. Plans are underway to institute a monthly maintenance fee for housing, which residents can choose to opt in or out of. This will provide a better overall standard of housing maintenance.



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As an infrastructure issue that affects housing, electricity and water are less than adequate for growing community needs. Cable for phone, TV, and internet is delivered via satellite or a local provider, and electricity via BC Hydro. Service is frequently interrupted due to weather conditions or accidents on highway 20 that affect the power poles. Internet is shared with eight other reserves outside of Alexis Creek, and this also affects the ability for residents to have continuous access on computer. Currently there are no plans to introduce cellphone service to the community.

Community Speaks

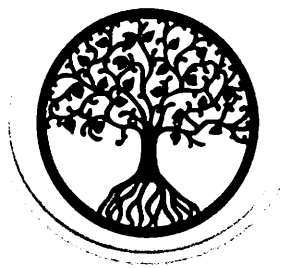


During our Community Meetings, ACFN members expressed interest in the following Housing related items:

- Better maintained houses
- Opportunities for Band members to purchase own house
- More housing to reduce overcrowding
- Consistent rent collection
- Fairness and transparency in housing application process

Housing Goal Statements

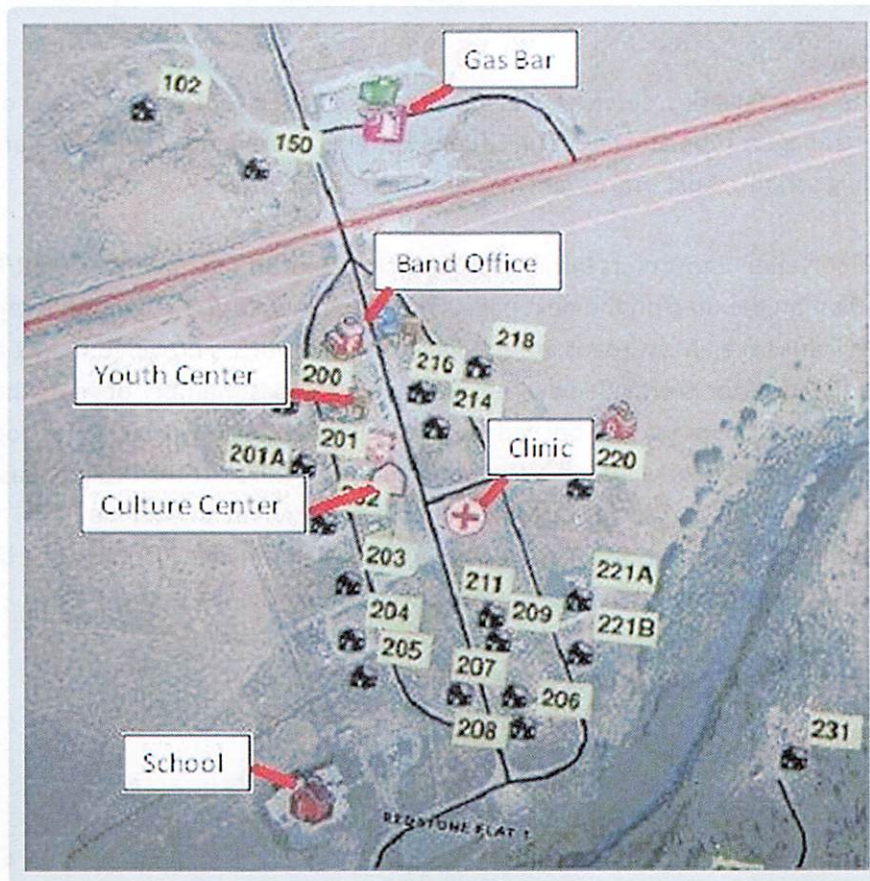
1. Invest in a renovation fund that will increase the overall upkeep of Band housing.
2. Enable home ownership by ACFN members through creating a financial process that allows rent to ownership mortgages.
3. Improve living conditions by building new housing and introducing maintenance fees.
4. Consider ways to address internet access for residents.
5. Address social problems that lead to overcrowding.
6. Explore the further use of solar power for future housing.



CHAPTER 3

OUR LAND

Main Buildings of Tsi'deldel



Infrastructure Goals

Short-Mid Term Infrastructure Projects

1. Have clean potable water for the whole community
2. Have ability to renovate all homes and bring up to code for the members of ACFN
3. New Health Clinic (or clinic/Band office combination)
4. Upgrade and renovate the old part of ACFN Band office to eliminate the molds; add more office space and storage
5. Community School - more storage space

Infrastructure

What is Infrastructure?

Infrastructure is the basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as transportation and communications systems, water and power lines, and public institutions including schools, post offices, and administrative buildings.

For Alexis Creek First Nation, most of its infrastructure is clustered on the main Tsi'deldel/Redstone IR Flat No. 1, as is shown on the map on the next page. The main Band office is located here, with a second staffed office in Williams Lake. Most roads are not paved. Basic hydro is provided to IR 1 and along the Puntzi Airport Road; and water is provided via reservoirs. For the past number of years the water has been reduced in quality to the point that bottled water has needed to be trucked in for cooking and personal use. Plans are in the works for a new water facility, and will start the design phase next. Beginning April of 2015, water and sewer systems will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Plans are also underway to expand hydro electrical services. A new 'Village Maintenance Plan' has just been completed, which includes an annual public works maintenance schedule.

A list of infrastructure buildings and services is as follows:

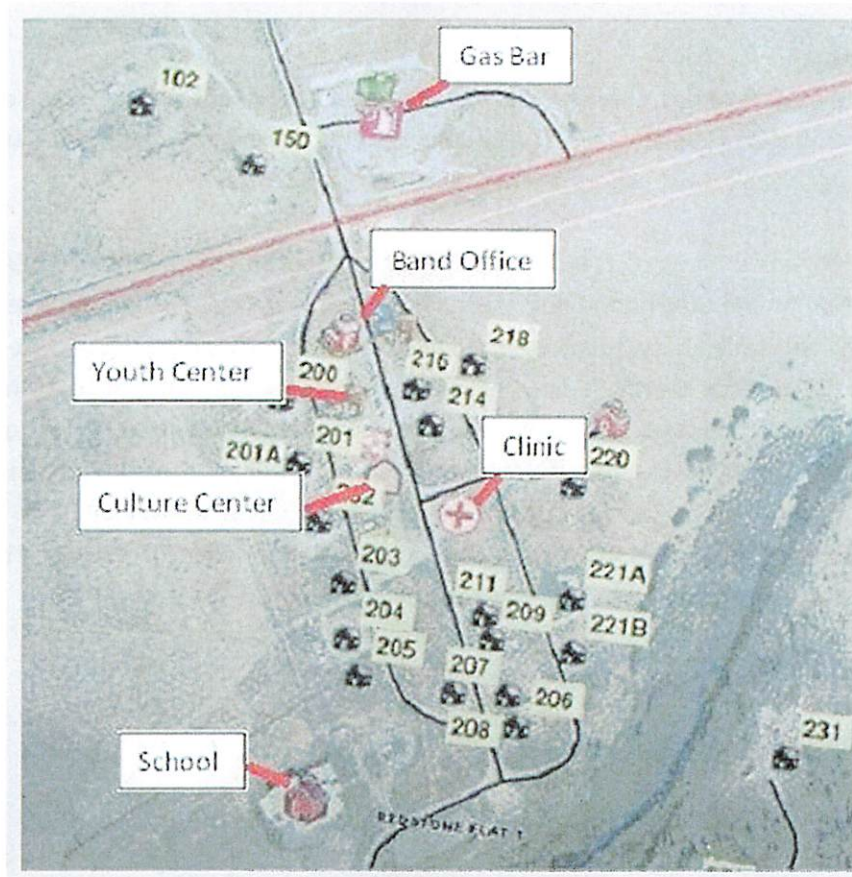
BUILDINGS - Redstone

- Band Office with a small hall, board room, and offices
- Fire Hall with an F350 Ford diesel with a 200 gal. tank and pump on deck for a fire truck
- Youth Centre; outdoor recreational rink
- Health Clinic
- Cultural Center with Kitchen
- Band School Building with small storage shed

SERVICES - Redstone

- Retail Gas and Grocery Store - with gas tanks and pumps, laundromat and separate storage building
- Water pump house and booster station with two reservoirs
- Sewer system with two lift stations to feed 4 pit rapid infiltration lagoon
- Hydro Electricity to main reserves; solar to one home
- Satellite and Internet service

Main Buildings of Tsi'deldel

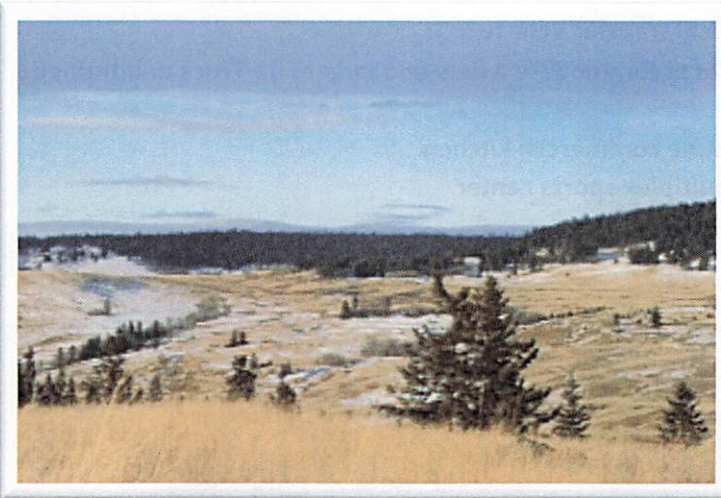


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Land Use



Introduction

The traditional territory of Alexis Creek First Nation encompasses more than 1,545,000 hectares of land within B.C.'s Central Region. ACFN's traditional territory overlaps with Xenigwet'in, Ulkatcho and Nazko First Nations' traditional territories. Approximately 4,000 hectares within this traditional area are Federal land reserves for the ACFN.

These territories include a vast array of ecological areas ranging from grasslands to alpine meadows with substantial tracts of working forests and rangelands, all with unique biodiversity. ACFN has always participated in the protection, management and stewardship of their cultural heritage, within the principles of protecting and managing resources in such a way that they will be sustainable for the foreseeable future. Within the community, there is increasing concern over continued water, land and resource development within ACFN's traditional territories and the impacts this has had, and continues to have, on cultural and heritage resources, archeological remains, burial sites and traditional hunting and gathering areas. ACFN also works with Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) to implement and protect resource values of cultural importance to the community.

Principles

ACFN's perception of resource use links to culture and heritage sites, as First Nations' cultural and spiritual traditions are connected with the regional landscape. As a result, within the community's territory one will find places of legend, former villages, camps, trails, hunting and gathering areas, burial grounds, spiritual training grounds, paintings, rock carvings, quarry sites, spirit places and ceremonial grounds. These areas are not cultural artifacts but rather are integral to ACFN's evolving cultural identity. These places are part of being from the community and are archeological and spiritual icons that give guidance on the trail of the ancestors. Consequently, their value and significance is often spiritual rather than scientific, whether archeological artifacts exist or not.

Based on community dialogue, the following principles guide ACFN in all initiatives in the water, land and resource sectors:

Long Term Infrastructure Projects

1. New Head Start/Daycare Centre
2. Dedicated ambulance and medical transfer vehicle
3. Upgrade or build new Fire hall to accommodate a new and larger Fire Truck and trained volunteers
4. Expand Cultural Center and include commercial kitchen
5. New larger youth center or a multiplex sports center
6. New elders home or complex
7. Public Works building/office

Community Speaks



During our Community Meetings and in our CCP Survey, ACFN members expressed interest in these additional Infrastructure related items:

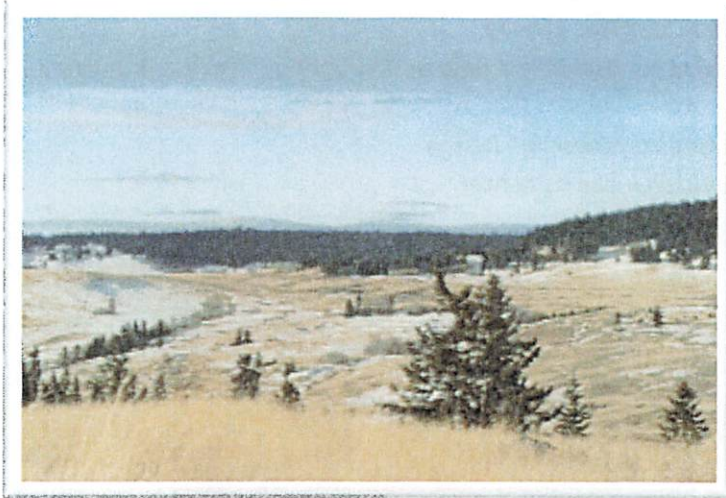
- New playground
- New Church
- Improve roads

Residents listed clean water as the #1 priority for infrastructure improvement (79%), followed by a new Health Clinic, expanded grocery store, and recreation centre.

69% listed an elders care home as the most important housing related need.

Almost ½ say they need larger homes to meet family needs.

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techniques, as members point out, are practiced currently and are steeped in rich cultural tradition and heritage. Resource harvesting at ACFN embraces a holistic view, i.e. all things are interconnected. To survive and thrive, ACFN members understand the how, what, where and when of their entire land-base, as their survival depends upon that knowledge.

To benefit non-timber forest resource growth, community members traditionally practiced controlled burning to enhance the natural products' yield and ensure abundance of their plant resources. Other benefits community members discussed include better foliage for deer and other game, and a diverse environment. Berry bushes were pruned to make them more productive and plants were selectively gathered to maintain their population. Root vegetable patches were tilled, weeded and monitored. When it came time to harvest root vegetables, ACFN members tell of re-planting smaller roots or portions of roots so they would continue growing. These practices indicate that ACFN's traditional ecological knowledge is always linked with spiritual and cultural foundations and a deep respect for nature.

Moving forward, a new area of interest in plant foods is the potential importance of Non-Timber Forest Resources to enhance the economic value of the standing forests in ACFN's traditional territory. While ACFN has developed its energy drink "Crazy Horse", with its base ingredients are Saskatoons and Rosehips, other natural products may be explored in the future for additional revenue generation.

In what ways do ACFN Members use the land?

Recreation	55%
Hunting	76%
Fishing	90%
Food Gathering	76%
Farming	34%
Ceremonial	38%
Other	7%

Mining

Mining, and mining impacts, are steadily increasing in ACFN's Traditional Territory. While TNG has a draft Mining Policy, ACFN does not have one of its own; but at this time, what emerged from community dialogue is the importance of focussing on revenue sharing, partnership building, community-based stewardship roles, protection of culturally important areas and maintaining and protecting water values.



Guiding Principles Of Land Use

- The Creator has made us part of and spiritually inseparable from the environment.
- We share a cultural legacy of natural conservation and protection stemming from our obligation to protect the water, land and natural resources, within our traditional territories.
- We have permanent control of, and enjoyment of our territories, water and resources.
- We have the sole right to control our culture including archeological, historical and sacred sites, artifacts, designs, knowledge and works of art.
- We respect that forests, range lands and waterways are complex systems about which we have to learn and teach.

We Will...

We will ensure that our water, land and resource stewardship and management strategies are socially acceptable, biologically possible and economically feasible.

We will employ a number of techniques to re-establish healthy forests and protect waterways.

We will strive to develop a value-added culture within the resource sector.

We will factor climate change into resource management decisions.

We will develop and select appropriate, meaningful indicators to measure and report on our progress and identify specific timelines where possible.

We will nurture traditional ways of life co-existing with contemporary structures such as resource management departments, business corporate structures and the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Traditional and Present Land Use

Non-Timber Natural Resources

ACFN has, since time immemorial, harvested a very wide abundance of available resources for food, technology, spiritual and medicinal uses. Not only are ACFN's people dedicated stewards and managers of the shared resources but they understand ancient and wise harvesting techniques that enable them to ensure there will be resources for the following season and the ones beyond that. For instance, practices such as maximum harvest (seldom more than 75%), and pruning while harvesting (soapberry, huckleberry and Saskatoon shrubs) are not only beneficial for future yields but demonstrates a traditional ecological knowledge beyond the scope of simple harvesting. These sustainable use



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It was emphasized in discussions that current and future generations of ACFN have secure access to any and all benefits arising from the development of forest resources; and that measures need to be taken to guarantee their efficient use and conservation.

Alexis Creek's First Nation people are the forest managers and protectors of the resources. As such, they are committed to manage the forests in a sustainable manner to ensure that the overall quality of life and culture of the ACFN are maintained. By developing contemporary resource management structures, being guided by laws and policies, and strategically managing the land with traditional regimes and cultural codes of law, ACFN will create an innovative alternative to management plans and structures proposed by the Government of Canada and the Province of B.C.

Community members recognize that forests generate social, economic and cultural opportunities. Equally as important are the rights to commercially harvest timber and non-timber forest resources. These practices will require policies to support the development of regulations aimed at maintaining sustainable harvest levels for future generations.

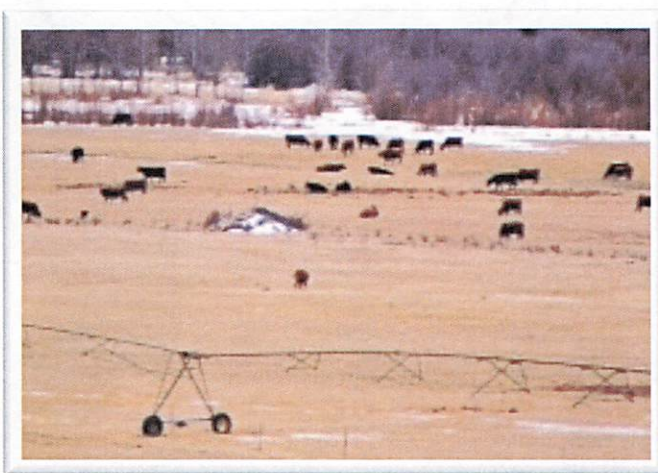
Water

There are multiple pressures on water and a main priority for ACFN is to develop a water policy. Good practices in water use and maintenance is a key factor for human, animal and plant life, for keeping ecological balance and pursuing economic activities.

Agriculture and Range

While agriculture and range initiatives have been identified as economic activities to be explored, ACFN members have identified that these enterprises need to be managed carefully as this sector can impact on the following:

- Indigenous plants and water quality can be compromised due to the loss or change to plant species through range practices and over-grazing;
- Contamination of surface bodies of water such as streams, rivers and waterways can result from commercial operations inappropriately disposing of livestock and poultry produce waste;
- Extensive demands of irrigation which can affect other water requirements.

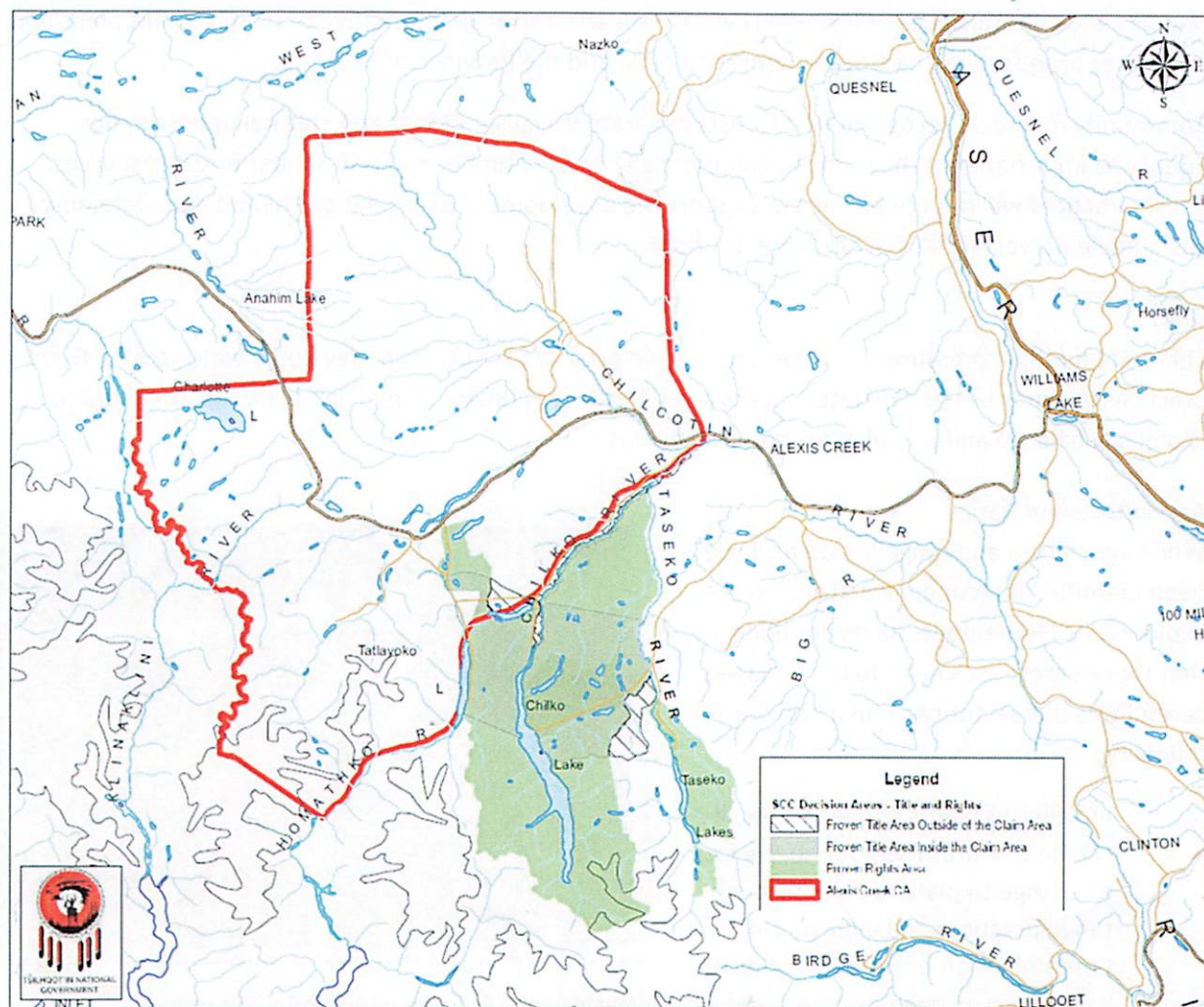


Tourism and Recreation

ACFN's traditional territory is used by people for camping, fishing and hunting, with many visitors engaged in activities around and in the water. It will be important to monitor the use of trails,

Water use during mining and mineral extraction processes can lead to contamination of water with trace heavy metals and other chemical pollutants used in the extraction process. It became evident in community discussions that policies regarding the use of water in mining processes, as well as the safe disposal or remediation of any pollution by-products, needs to meet or exceed provincial and federal standards in any future mining policies developed by ACFN. Other policies that would need to be developed include: construction of impermeable holding ponds for tailings, safe practices for injection wells, and guiding principles regarding the distance any mine project needs to be located away from sensitive watersheds.

Overview Map of Alexis Creek's Traditional Territory



Forestry

ACFN members identified forest resources as holding social, cultural, economic, aesthetic and ecological value. Of importance, any environmental and socio-cultural impacts from forestry activities must be integrated into all policies and programs. It was noted that all community forest policies must promote a

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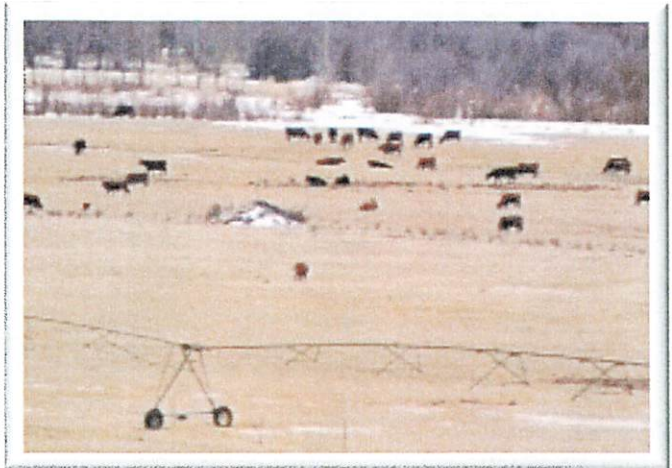
Water

There are multiple pressures on water and a main priority for ACFN is to develop a water policy. Good practices in water use and maintenance is a key factor for human, animal and plant life, for keeping ecological balance and pursuing economic activities.

Agriculture and Range

While agriculture and range initiatives have been identified as economic activities to be explored, ACFN members have identified that these enterprises need to be managed carefully as this sector can impact on the following:

- Indigenous plants and water quality can be compromised due to the loss or change to plant species through range practices and over-grazing;
- Contamination of surface bodies of water such as streams, rivers and waterways can result from commercial operations inappropriately disposing of livestock and poultry produce waste;
- Extensive demands of irrigation which can affect other water requirements.



Tourism and Recreation

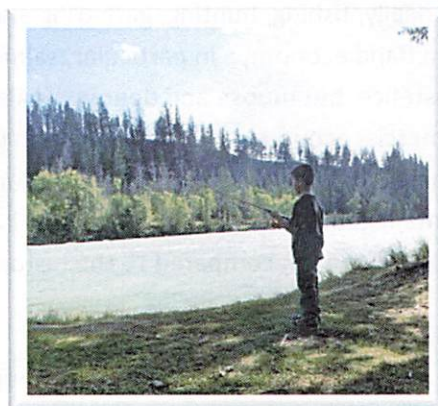
ACFN's traditional territory is used by people for camping, fishing and hunting, with many visitors engaged in activities around and in the water. It will be important to monitor the use of trails,

Animals Hunted and Trapped

Coyote	River Otter	Mink	White-tailed Deer
Wolf	Marten	Black Bear	Duck
Cougar	Fisher	Grizzly Bear	Ruffed Grouse
Lynx	Striped Skunk	Mountain Goat	Spruce Grouse
Wolverine	Squirrel	Moose	Blue Grouse
Beaver	Muskrat	Mule Deer	Sharp-tailed Grouse
Eagle	Prairie Chicken	Elk	Canada Goose
Weasel	Rabbit	Fox	Trumpeter Swan
			Tundra Swan

Fishing

Alexis Creek First Nation people have also historically engaged in fishing throughout their territory. According to the earliest written historical records of the Alexis Creek people, fishing has been recognized as important to the community. Fishing continues to be a main source of food and is used for traditional and economic purposes within the community.



Historically, summer fisheries have been particularly important to ACFN. It was during these fisheries that large family gatherings took place at campsites near the fishing grounds. In fact, campsites were often chosen based on their proximity to good fishing sites. These gatherings brought people back together after a winter of living in smaller groups at hunting camps. Important social, political and spiritual events took place during summer gatherings, as they still do today. The table below depicts fish species found in the traditional territory.

Fishing Species of Interest

Lake Whitefish	Coho Salmon	Dolly Varden	Burbot
Chinook Salmon	Pink Salmon	Bull Trout	Sucker
Sockeye Salmon	Lake Trout	Rainbow Trout	Sculpin
Kokanee Salmon	Brook Trout	Arctic Grayling	

waterways, roads and highways as part of an overall strategy to be sure those activities meet ACFN's land use principles. Potential projects discussed include education campaigns for tourists or other recreational users. Some possible strategies include signage at trailheads, campsites, lakes and boat launches; or a series of pamphlets distributed through tourism information offices, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets that tourists and recreational users would frequent. Of particular importance is to ensure appropriate access to protect sensitive periods of the land, contamination of surface or ground water sources, prevention of erosion and sedimentation, and protection of sensitive fish habitat and stocks.

Wildlife

Wildlife and wildlife values are intricately woven into ACFN's way of life. Wildlife provides food, clothing and materials for shelter, ceremonies, medicines, social events and spirituality. Of primary importance to members is to lobby the Ministry of Environment who manages the game species to incorporate ACFN's input as to ways to ensure species are harvested sustainably and habitat conditions are maintained to favour a wide diversity of species needs.

Hunting and Gathering

Historically, fishing, hunting, gathering and trapping were the mainstays of the historical Alexis Creek Indian Band economy. In particular, salmon and local fish were the most significant species for subsistence, but moose and deer were also used in abundance for local subsistence, trading and commercial economies. Deer, mountain goat, elk and a number of other species also played a prominent role in Alexis Creek First Nation hunting and trapping economies. Recent declines in mountain goat and caribou populations have led to a diminished role for these species in the current hunting economy, compared to the historic period.

Hunting

Each Alexis Creek First Nation family group had designated historical fishing and hunting grounds and trap lines where they would return season after season, carefully rotating their use so as not to deplete the resources. They would often use deadfalls, traps, snares, brush fences – and later, guns – to harvest game.

The provincial government introduced a system of registered trap lines around the year 1912. In the mid-1900's, ACFN members began to register trap lines; however, to this date the provincial regulations continue to impact the community's title and rights in relation to using historic trapping practices. In some circumstances Alexis Creek First Nation members have retained and continue to exercise their rights to trap throughout the traditional territory.

The table below lists some of the animals historically hunted and trapped by Alexis Creek First Nation people, as recorded in the literature review and interviews. Other species have cultural and ecological significance to Alexis Creek First Nation people.



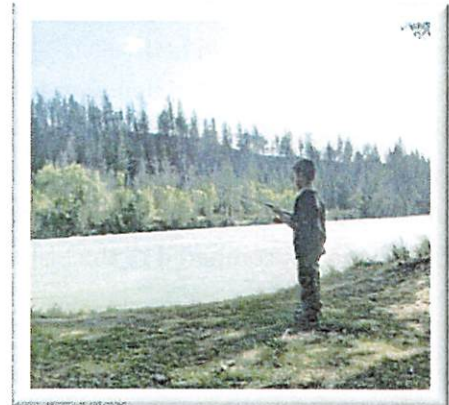
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Community Speaks



During Community Meetings, ACFN members expressed interest in the following Land Use related items:

- Desire to use land for more agriculture such as field crops and ranching
- More teaching on hunting and fishing; how to harvest and process meat, crops
- Learning needed on history of the land, and how to use it
- Education wanted on how to live more sustainably, having respect for the land and animals

Land Use Goal Statements

1. Work towards developing supporting policies, laws, guidelines, regulations and principles and correlate them with ACFN's customary practices. Establish water, land and resource Policy statements that assist with protecting Rights and Title.
 - Establish a mechanism for dispute resolution
 - Protect culturally important resources
 - Work with existing organizations, provincial and federal government to improve resource uses in the traditional territory and foster cooperative co-stewardship
2. Develop and extend ACFN's stewardship and management planning or codes of practice to include effective ecosystem-based planning models that will determine cumulative effects on the resources and that are environmentally, culturally and socially sound.
 - Resolve gaps in research and data, then build on those resolved gaps by planning for areas of resource harvest allocation, monitoring, protection and enforcement
3. Select and move forward with opportunities for revenue generation that will provide long-term, macro-economic benefits to ACFN.
4. Address access issues as they relate to each of the above categories.



Gathering

Gathering berries, roots and other plants has historically been an important part of the Alexis Creek First Nation seasonal round. Gathering has primarily taken place in the spring, summer and fall season. Berries were the main type of plant gathered from mid-July through September. Willow, Labrador tea and other medicinal plants were also gathered for medical care and spiritual purposes. A fire regime was used to control and manage plant resources.^v In addition to providing food and medicine to the people, gathering was also “an opportunity for people to spend time together on the land”.

The table below depicts some of the most important plants gathered by Alexis Creek First Nation people.

Some Plants Historically Gathered			
Soapberry	Raspberries	Choke Cherries	Labrador Tea
Saskatoon	Gooseberries	Juniper Berries	Bulrush
Huckleberries,	Crowberries	Cranberries	Lily Bulbs
Blueberries	Currants	Willow	Hay
Wild Potato	Cedar	Wild Onion	Trees/Lumber
Cow Parsnip	Fungus		

The gendered division of labour in Alexis Creek First Nation society dictated that gathering was the primary responsibility of women and children, and as such, less ethnographic and historical attention has been paid to the role of gathering in Alexis Creek First Nation society (and indeed aboriginal societies more generally.)^{vi} Nevertheless, berry-picking and other forms of gathering continue to feature prominently during Alexis Creek First Nation gatherings, which are held every summer on the territory. During these gatherings, Elders teach younger Alexis Creek First Nation members how to identify, gather and render plants for food and medicinal use.

Conclusion

The planning, management and stewardship of natural resources and habitat for human, animal and plant life, and the link to ecological diversity, is of utmost concern for Alexis Creek and it is recognized that time and effort will be required to develop policies and projects to protect and nurture the land, within the spirit of the community’s discussion.



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CHAPTER 4

OUR ECONOMY

Business	Description
<p>Tsi'deldel Development Corporation (TDC)</p> 	<p>Tsi'deldel Development Corporation (TDC) oversees and manages all of the business entities associated with the Alexis Creek First Nation. (see below)</p> <p>TDC's businesses as a whole have historically operated at mostly break-even or loss levels; however, individual businesses such as logging and the gas bar have done reasonably well – and with new management, the past two years have seen good profit for TDC, with funds going back into the Band. The forecast for the new Crazy Horse energy drink is also promising.</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TDC will strive to become selected as the "Best New First Nations business entity in the area" based on economic returns and culturally appropriate partnership developments. ▪ TDC will work towards increased annual profits from the Gas Bar. ▪ TDC will continue to expand forestry operations while maximizing retained profits for the fiscal and following years. ▪ Aim to create and implement marketing strategies that attract and retain loyal customers <p>(From TDC CEO Report to BOD Nov 2014)</p>
<p>Tsi'deldel Timber Developments (Tsi'deldel Limited Partnership)</p> <p>Has 4 subsidiary businesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDD Enterprise Logging 2. TDD Timber Developments 3. Eniyud Community Forests 4. River West Sawmill 	<p>Tsi'deldel Timber Developments in conjunction with Tsi'deldel Enterprises Ltd is an award-winning leader in providing culturally appropriate, skilled forest harvesting and forest management practices and works with the community to ensure resource extraction is conducted in a culturally appropriate and sustainable manner.</p> <p>It has a 50% partnership with Tolko Industries.</p> <p>TTD has 22 direct employees, mostly from ACFN, and has a training program in place for new employees. Additional independent contractors are hired from ACFN and the area.</p> <p>Possessing a provincially issued Non-Renewable Forest License, TTD is a 'Stump-to-Dump' Timber Harvesting Contractor, which harvests and hauls raw logs for market sales.</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate profit for the shareholders ▪ Harvest and transport timber profitably for our clients

Our Economy

ACFN has historically, and to some extent currently had an economy that was tied to the land. People would hunt, trap, fish, and gather, and trade occurred with other communities – most significantly with the people of Bella Coola to the West in exchange for fish and fish oil. Alexis Creek managed to hold onto many of the traditional practices even throughout the difficult last century partly due to its relatively isolated location; however many of the skills that have traditionally brought economic wealth have been lost to the present generation due to lack of market and education.

What is “Economic Development”? Simply put, economic development refers to the actions taken to bring wealth into a community. It can reach into many areas such as employment creation, improvements in health, education, and increased infrastructure – and very importantly, tapping into outside sources of income. As these areas strengthen, so does the economy.





In recent decades, ACFN has struggled with its economic development as it has attempted to deal with the common issues of segregation and the reserve system. On the positive side, ACFN has entered into a number of business ventures which, though having varying degrees of success, has shown a resolve to move forward in terms of economic growth. The people of the community have also clearly indicated that they want to learn what has been lost in terms of cultural practices, so that more members can be involved in supporting themselves and their families from the land. Next is an examination of each of the factors that affect Alexis Creek in terms of economic development, and a look ahead at where it's going in the next ten years.

Community Economic Development

ACFN has initiated a number of Band-owned businesses in the past 23 years. Each business is a separate entity, and is managed by one overarching company called Tsi'deldel Development Corporation (TDC). This legally keeps the businesses separate from the Band itself which assists with each one's tax position, and insulates the Band against potential liabilities such as lawsuits and financial losses. TDC strives to keep to its mandate of using environmentally sound practices, and in its efforts to expand into new business arenas, sticks to its slogan of being “Open for Business”.

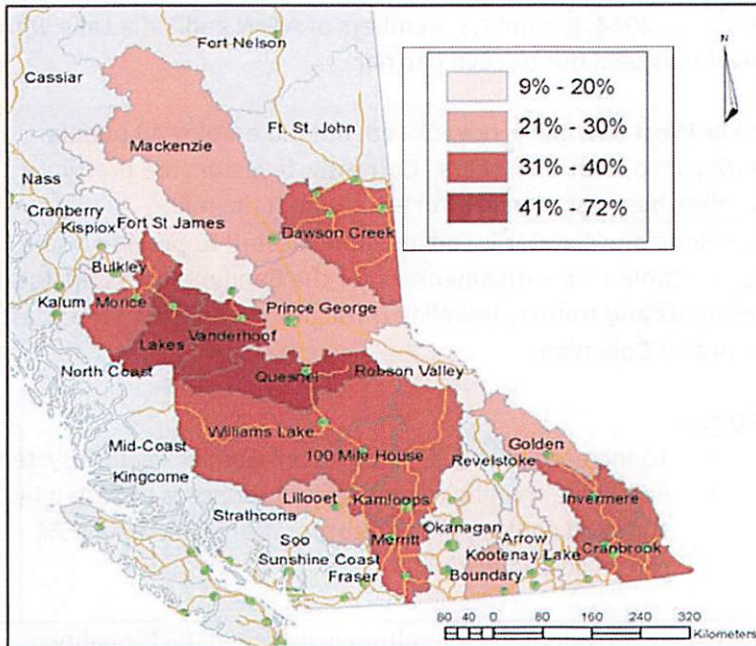
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Regional Economic Development

The regional economy of the Cariboo Chilcotin greatly influences the economy of Alexis Creek, so it is important to know what factors are affecting its ability to be successful in its business ventures and in providing employment for the people.



Potential Timber Supply Reductions—Pine Beetle



Overall, the region is in a state of slow recovery from two significant events: the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and the global financial crisis of 2008. The Cariboo Chilcotin area was among the worst hit areas for the epidemic, which peaked in 2005. Consequently, it has suffered the most economic damage in the entire province with a projected net loss of 11,250 direct forestry jobs, the estimated closing of 15 sawmills, plus an additional loss of 9,500 indirect jobs in the BC Interior through to 2028.^{iiiv} The effect on ACFN was significant, and as a result of the epidemic plus other internal

factors, it had to shut its sawmill down in 2011. TDC hopes to see the reopening of the sawmill, and investors are undertaking a feasibility study to determine a new business plan.

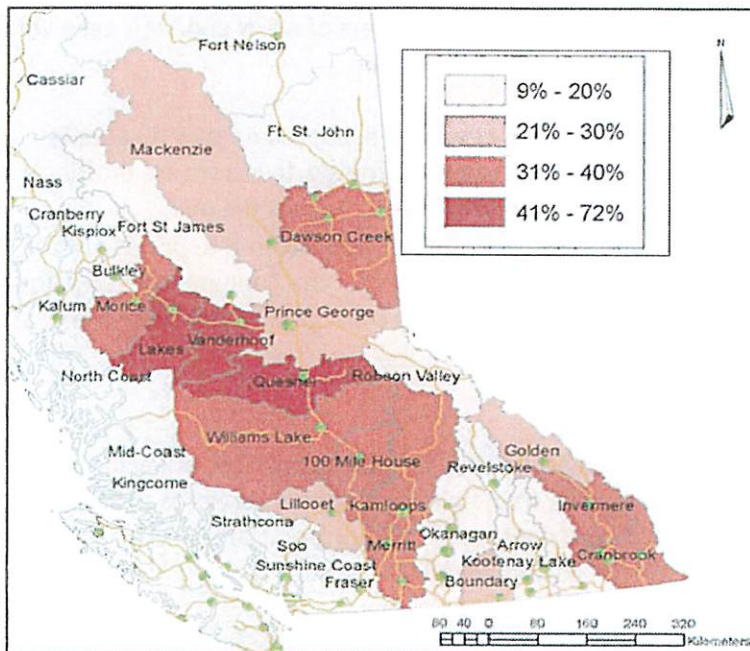
In terms of other regional development, over \$1 billion in projects came on board last year, the largest being Spanish Mountain Gold Limited's proposed open pit mine near Williams Lake; and another being the \$40 million Hills Health Ranch expansion in 108 Mile. Overall, business and employment opportunities are on the increase in the Cariboo Chilcotin – particularly in tourism, wood manufacturing, and mining related ventures. Tourism alone expects 3,300 new jobs by 2020^{iiiv} and is already experiencing labor shortages. This means more job and business prospects will be open for ACFN members in the coming years, however there is mixed opinion amongst local First Nation Bands on which sectors and projects are ethical for them to participate in. Some feel that no logging or mining should ever take place – others feel that it is ok if done in a way that is environmentally sustainable and with thorough consultation by the companies with surrounding First Nations. There has been a successful unified effort by neighboring Bands to contest some of the local mining projects such as Taseko's New Prosperity Mine and its plans to flood the culturally significant Textan Biny (Fish Lake). In its place, the Dasiqox Tribal Park was created, and will give local Bands the ability to control any future development. ACFN intends on assessing each potential project individually, and making considered opinions on which ones to participate in.

Business	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate employment for members of the Alexis Creek First Nation and local residents <p>Eniyud Community Forests is a limited partnership between Alexis Creek and nearby Tatla Lake Community for logging. Begun in 2014, it employs members of ACFN and Tatla Lake with dividends paid out to each partner.</p> <p>River West Sawmill is now closed, but did employ 40 people during its operational years. Currently, investors are drafting a feasible business plan in efforts to reopen the mill.</p>
<p>Redstone Gas Bar and Convenience Store</p> 	<p>The Redstone Gas Bar is conveniently located to provide a safe, comfortable stop with amenities for the Band membership, local residents and tourists traveling through the Cariboo to the coast of British Columbia.</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase profits by adding commercial key lock system Employee training to ensure gold service is provided by staff and contractors and corporation achieves a 95% return customer ratio
<p>Crazy Horse (Limited Partnership is under development)</p> 	<p>With a growing demand for culturally designed, high-quality natural energy drinks, Crazy Horse is well positioned to become a global leader in a truly innovative approach to energy drinks. The drink was partly developed by Alexis Creek members, with the main ingredients – saskatoons and rosehips – giving its unique flavor and market niche. The product has been in development for the past 8 years, and plans are to market its recent first run is being marketed to local First Nation businesses and to regional events such as rodeos, before expanding to the mainstream market.</p> <p>Crazy Horse will employ up to 14 ACFN members, plus additional expertise as needed to run the business, and looks to being in a profit position in the next 2 -3 years if it remains on track.</p> <p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise sufficient capital to enter into next phase of expanded marketing plan To diversify the economy of the Cariboo Chilcotin region To stimulate the local production and harvesting of saskatoons and rosehips

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Additionally, the idea of engaging in Clean Energy projects is something that ACFN can explore. Some examples of clean or “green” energy include wind turbines that use large windmills to convert the wind into electricity; and solar panels that convert sunshine into electricity that can be used in homes and businesses.



Clean Energy

- Wind Turbine
- Solar Power
- Hydro Electricity



Roads, Mining & Construction

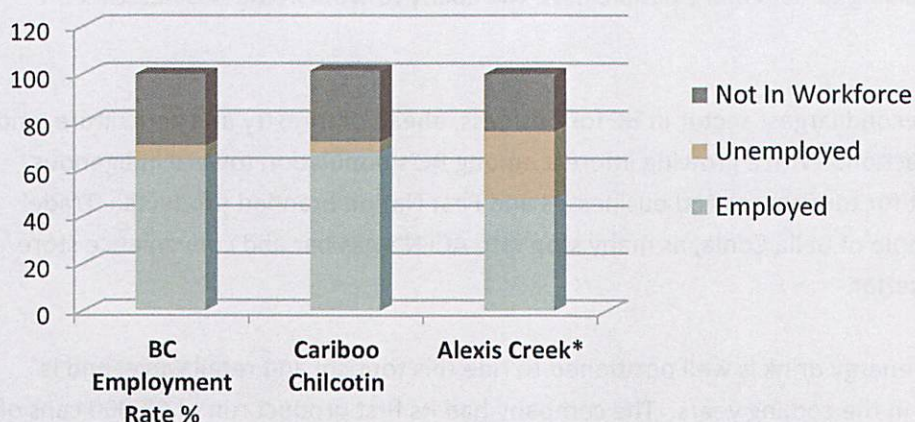
- Trucking
- Road Building and Maintenance
- Camps and Construction

Alexis Creek has a significant barrier in terms of electrical use, but fortunately there are plans to lobby to improve the current Hydro line along the Highway 20 corridor to accommodate development. There is also a feasibility study underway to look at the possible use of solar power which would help revive the River West Sawmill.

Off reserve, opportunities for business development include mining and the businesses that support it, such as trucking, surveying, road building and camp work. In all, ACFN has many prospects to choose from in terms of future business activities.

The recent legal decision confirming title rights in the Tsilhqot’in and a duty by the government to give compensation to First Nations for use of Band land creates additional openings for ACFN to tap into significant funding streams. Currently there is income flowing to ACFN from the provincial government for the use of Alexis Creek land for forestry. Future possibilities could include Hydro and solar projects.

Employment Rates



Employment

Regionally, the unemployment rate is currently 4.6%, compared to the BC rate of 6.1%. This is generally considered nearly full employment. Although approximately 30 ACFN members are employed in the Band’s logging and other companies, and a few

*Estimated based on On-Reserve Band membership only.



Business Opportunities for ACFN

Despite any obstacles within the regional economy, there are a number of good opportunities for ACFN to capitalize on in the next ten years and beyond. There still remains a demand for BC lumber both locally and internationally, and ACFN's Tsi'deldel Timber and Logging companies have the potential to do well in this market.

Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) and Native Plant Nurseries are another area that have potential to bring economic wealth to Alexis Creek, and both go along with Alexis Creek's values of being good to the earth.



Forestry

- TDD Logging
- TDD Timber Development
- Non-Timber Forest Products



Tourism/Retail

- Crazy Horse Energy Drink
- Cultural Traditions/Nature Walk
- Gas Bar expansion to Key Lock System



Agriculture

- Native Plant Nursery - Reclamation
- Crops
- Cattle and Horse Ranching

What are 'Non Timber Forest Products'? NTFP's are native plants that are gathered from the land in an environmentally safe way and sold for use as medicine, floral greenery, and foods such as mushrooms and herbs. Native Plant Nurseries are plants which are intentionally grown and sold to be used to replant areas that have been cleared for projects such as logging, mining, or hydro

development. There is a large need for this type of business.

Alexis Creek could also make use of the land for producing crops, and for cattle and horse ranching, if there are people hired who can do this type of work. In general ACFN will need to continue to invest in social development and training to help more people have the ability to work in the businesses it develops.

Tourism has become the second largest sector in BC for business, ahead of forestry and agriculture, and behind mining-oil-gas extraction. With a growing interest among BC's population toward indigenous culture, opportunities exist for tourism related businesses and First Nation branded products. 'Trade' still continues with the people of Bella Coola, as many stop into ACFN's gas bar and convenience store on their travels into the Interior.

Alexis Creek's Crazy Horse energy drink is well positioned to ride this tourism and retail wave, and is forecasting healthy profits in the coming years. The company had its first product run of 95,000 cans of the saskatoon berry drink in 2014, and is the only First Nation in this industry, giving it a good foothold in the market.

Additionally, the idea of engaging in Clean Energy projects is something that ACFN can explore. Some examples of clean or “green” energy include wind turbines that use large windmills to convert the wind into electricity; and solar panels that convert sunshine into electricity that can be used in homes and businesses.



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Roads, Mining & Construction

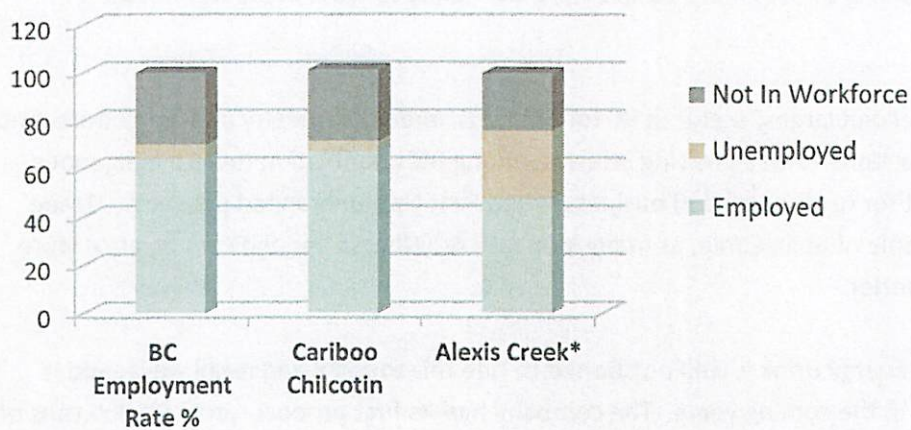
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Economic Development Goal Statements

1. Invest in developing human resource training and skills at all levels with the result that in 10 years a skilled First Nation work force will be developed that can fully participate in the regional economy.
2. Create employment for members through economic infrastructure development and entrepreneurship development.
3. Focus development on retail and cultural industry and their structures and business activities on reserve.
4. Look for new funding for financial backing for economic development.
5. Increasing the health of members will result in a strong workforce.



are self-employed in logging related businesses, and others work off reserve, unemployment remains high in Alexis Creek due to several factors. The combination of low literacy rates, lack of basic and skilled education, and high rates of alcohol and drug dependency, make it difficult for many members to obtain and keep jobs. ACFN will look to improving these social conditions in order to see more Band members employed and supporting their families.

Rank of Community Interest for Economic Development Projects	
1	Community Infrastructure Projects
2	Traditional Use for Profit
3	Agriculture
4	Clean Energy
5	Tourism
6	Government Contracts
7	Forestry
8	Road Construction/Maintenance
9	Mining
10	Casino/Gaming
11	Other

Community Speaks



During our Community Meetings, ACFN members expressed interest in the following Economic Development related items:

- More training for trades and entry level work skills
- Teach job search skills and how to make career plans
- Teach small business skills
- Involve youth in community development
- Address members' health and driver licensing issues
- Expand community facilities and retail industry on reserve
- Develop cultural and tourist-oriented businesses
- Teach members how to use the land for profit

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4. Look for new funding for financial backing for economic development.
5. Increasing the health of members will result in a strong workforce.

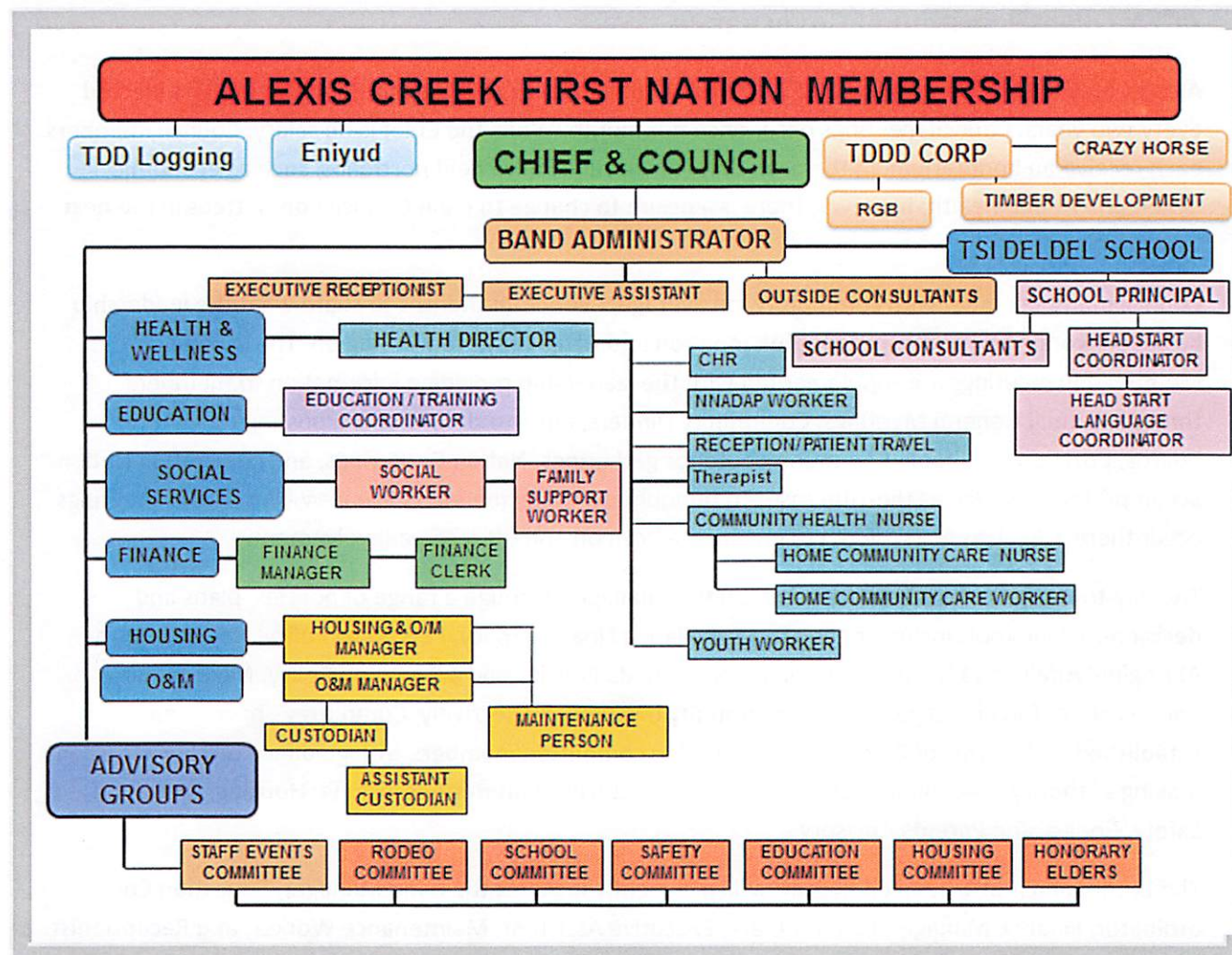




CHAPTER 5

OUR GOVERNANCE

Alexis Creek Indian Band actively participates in TNG (Tsilhqot'in National Government), and has access to other TNG Committees such as the Language Group, Finance Committee and Health Committee.



*Committees are now referred to as Advisory Groups.

Important Legal Decisions on Land Title and Rights

Several Supreme Court of Canada decisions have been made over the past decades concerning land use and ownership by First Nations. The most recent one was initiated by the Tsilhqot'in nation and is called the **Tsilhqot'in Decision**. This historic decision will have important implications for governance in all First Nations in Canada, and is described here, along with other significant cases:

(1973): Calder Decision – The Supreme Court of Canada finds that Aboriginal Title does exist to lands prior to colonization. This opens the door to the possibility of obtaining Title.



Our Governance

ACFN Overall System of Governance

Alexis Creek First Nation governs itself according to the *Indian Act*, with six Council members elected every two years. Council meetings occur once per month. While the Chief is on salary, Council members each receive an honorarium. In the past, Chief and Council have held portfolios, such as economic development and health; however, there is a desire to change to main Council Committees in the next while.

Council members meet with community, on average, every four months to share what the leadership has been working on and to obtain their input on initiatives they are working on. These Band Membership meetings are supplemented with the leadership providing information to members through Annual General Meetings, Community Dinners, door-to-door memos, posting on bulletin boards, posts on Facebook, Community outdoor gatherings, Nation Gatherings, and celebrating Nation accomplishments such as the Title case. To honour how many members live in Williams Lake, meetings occur there as well as at Tsi'deldel to encourage both on and off reserve involvement.

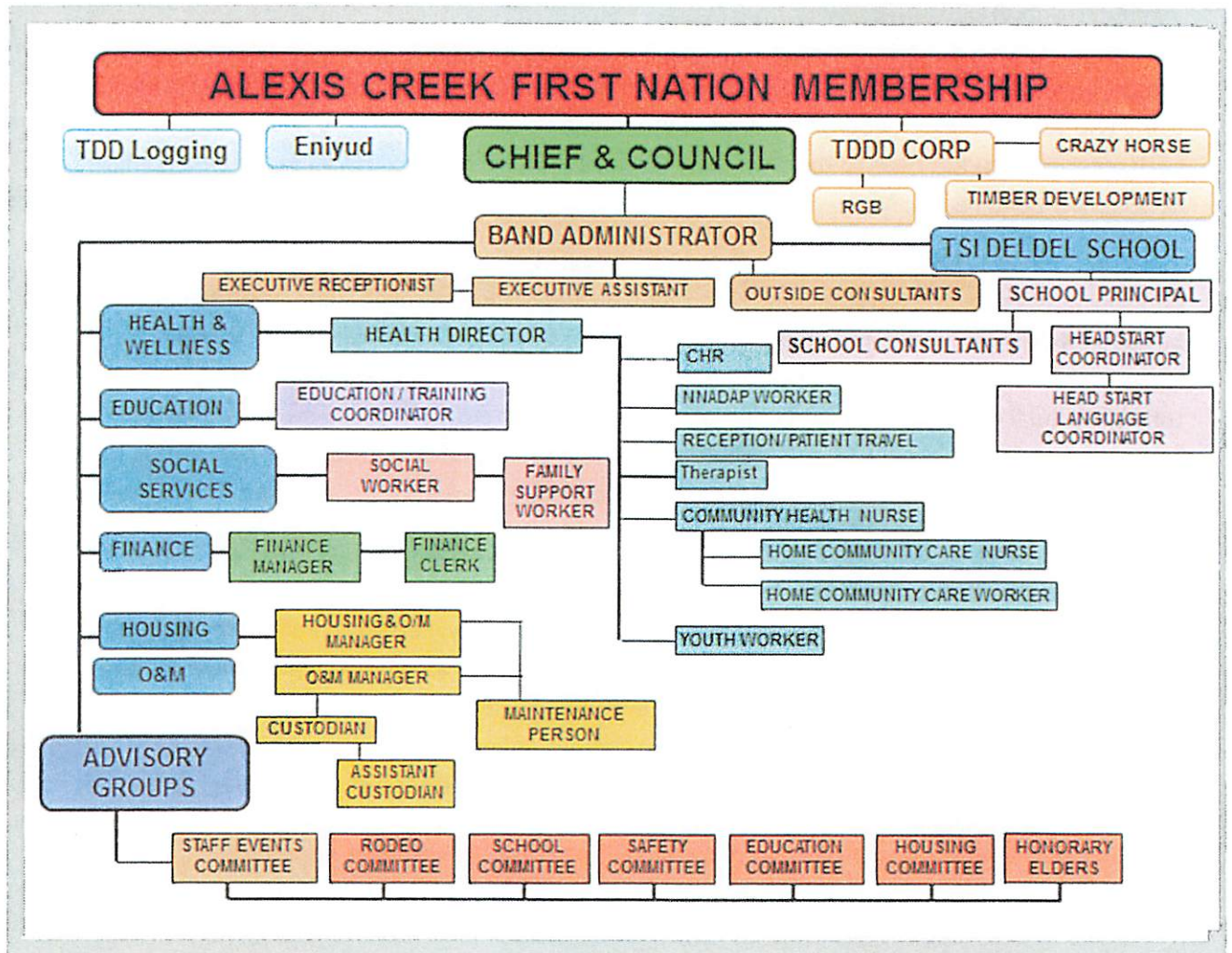
The day-to-day governance of the community is managed through a range of policies, plans and decision-making tools including the Strategic Plan, a Finance Policy, Personnel Policy, Housing Policy, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Policies and a Donation Policy. Most of these Policies are enforced. To govern the community even more effectively, Committees have been established with Terms of Reference that provide committee members with guidance on their decision-making authority, their budget and their activities. Current Committees include: Housing, Education, Safety, Rodeo, and Parents Advisory.

The Leadership is also assisted by staff which currently includes the Band Manager, Education Co-ordinator, Finance Manager, Finance Clerk, Executive Assistant, Maintenance Worker, and Receptionist.



Left to right: Chief Percy Guichon, Councillors Herman Billy, Harold Corn, Clayton John Charleyboy, Rocky Guichon, Otis Guichon, Terry Char

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Tsilhqot'in Letter of Understanding

1. Address the wrongful hanging of the 6 Tsilhqot'in Chiefs during the Chilcotin War of 1864/65 by admitting to the injustice that occurred.
2. Put together a group of Provincial Leaders to meet with the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs to discuss goals, progress, and direction of Title implementation.
3. The interests and goals of the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs will be addressed and are as follows:
 - a. Transition from Provincial laws to Tsilhqot'in full management of Title land
 - b. Address the damages done through violation of the Province around logging practices
 - c. Benefit-sharing and financial benefits
 - d. Economic opportunities
 - e. Address health, education and well-being of the Tsilhqot'in people
4. Put together a Protocol Agreement that will work to reconcile the rights, interests and goals of the Tsilhqot'in people within the Tsilhqot'in territory with resources to support the reconciliation efforts.
5. Funding will be provided to Tsilhqot'in communities and the Nation to ensure that addressing the rights, interest and goals of the Tsilhqot'in people is successful.

Moving Forward

Alexis Creek Indian Band has a desire to incorporate traditional governance models in the near future. Top priorities to support this goal include developing a 'custom election code' and establishing a Chief and Council Governance Policy. A custom election code policy is essentially a tool for a community to make their own customized election rules outside of the existing federal ones. This allows Bands to govern Council elections by their own rules, including how new members can transfer in, and how members transfer out, how many council members they can have, etc.

Other key priorities for ACFN Leadership is to explore other aspects of Traditional Laws; to continue to strengthen respect towards fellow members; and for leaders to continue to act as role models in the community. There are no plans at this time to work towards the *First Nations Land Management Act* to govern the community's lands.

What is the Land Management Act? Bands that want to vigorously pursue self-determination and economic development move through a series of steps to pass a referendum for the community's lands to be governed through the Act. Currently if a Band wants to develop a joint venture, or build an expanded gas station for example, there is a significant amount work required by the federal government to approve the project. This often results often in the First Nation losing the business opportunity. Through the Act, Bands can make their own decisions regarding these things; and although



(1990): Sparrow Decision – The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed that Aboriginal Rights are protected by the Constitution Act of 1982. This means that the government must show that it is not infringing on Aboriginal Rights – because they were found to exist prior to and after 1982.

(1997): Delgamuukw Decision – The Supreme Court of Canada found that Title does exist in the form of ‘the right to the land’ – Title is not just hunting, fishing and gathering. Gitksan and Wet’sé’wet’en started this claim in 1984. Oral histories and stories were recognized in this case as important. It was here that the Province began to recognize the need for balancing First Nation interest with its own and was encouraged to negotiate rather than have ongoing court battles. Today, the Tsilhqot’in Decision places further pressure on the Province to negotiate rather than go through years of litigation. Due to oral histories being recognized in this case, the Tsilhqot’in had a stronger chance of winning their case, which had very strong oral evidence.

(June 26, 2014): Tsilhqot’in Aboriginal Title Decision – The Supreme Court of Canada found that Aboriginal Title exists on the ground, handing full control of territorial resources over to the Tsilhqot’in Nation. This is the **first time in Canadian history** that a court has declared Aboriginal title to lands outside of a reserve. The land may be used in any way so long as it does not restrict use by future generations.

The Court declared Aboriginal title to approximately 1700 km² of the Claim Area, including Xeni (Nemiah Valley) and much of the surrounding area, stretching north into Tachelach’ed (Brittany Triangle) and along the Tsilhqox (Chilko River). Aboriginal title extends to all the territory that a First Nation *regularly* and *exclusively* used when the Crown asserted sovereignty. This means ownership is of areas that were used regularly and only by the Tsilhqot’in at the time the Canadian government staked its claim.

Tsilhqot’in Letter of Understanding

Out of this decision, a Letter of Understanding (LOU) was created that committed both parties to start engaging to develop a longer term agreement – a Reconciliation Protocol. It outlines the requests agreed upon and makes a commitment to begin working together in a meaningful way – a true government-to-government relationship. The Letter is a general outline of what the Tsilhqot’in Chiefs expect from the Province while the Tsilhqot’in begin putting the Title decision into action. A summary of the points are as follows:



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End Notes:

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- ii ACFN 2014/15 Strategic Plan. Some reserves are either undeveloped land or not occupied; some have been dissolved.

Chapter 2 Our Community

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- vi Peers 1994

Chapter 4 Our Economy

- Page 4: iiv SIBAC Presentation to Minister Flaherty, Jan 2011, including graphic.
- iiiv GO2hr website, BC Tourism Labour Market Strategy; and Tourism Industry Association of BC <http://www.tiabc.ca/tourism-facts-industry-stats>

List of Alexis Creek First Nation's Reserves:

- | | |
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| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 17 | ▪ Charley Boy's Meadow Indian Reserve 3 |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 18 | ▪ Chezacut Cemetery Indian Reserve 5 |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 20 | ▪ Freddie Charley Boy Indian Reserve 7 |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 21 | ▪ Michel Gardens Indian Reserve 36 |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 22 | ▪ Puntzi Lake Indian Reserve 2 |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 23 | ▪ Redstone Cemetery Indian Reserve No. 1B |
| ▪ Alexis Creek Indian Reserve 24 | ▪ Redstone Flat Indian Reserve 1 |
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it requires a large amount of work to set up initially, it is a good mechanism for self-governance and economic development.

Community Speaks



During our Community Meetings, ACFN members expressed interest in the following Governance related items:

- Increase oversight and accountability of leadership
- Ensure housing applications are fair and transparent
- Increase leadership engagement
- Negotiate compensation from government to benefit development of members and economic development
- Communication on how Title ownership will affect members
- Work together with other communities to build relationships and share knowledge (i.e. the Denisiqi)
- Create a welcoming environment where members have a sense community and belonging
- Diversify administration by having a Band office in Williams Lake

Governance Goal Statements

1. Have strong leadership and role modeling that will result in a vibrant, healthy community.
2. Assist with Crime Reduction, and the establishment of a safer community that is an attractive place to raise families.
3. Move to using a Custom Election Code.
4. Increase leadership and responsibility in each department in order to reach goals.
5. Create a Chief and Council Governance Policy.
6. Build an effective relationship between business and politics in relation to Tsi'deldel Development Corporation.
7. Effective Financial Management, Capacity Development and Growth by creating a 10 year financial strategy.

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