



VILLAGE VOICE

The Conversation So Far...

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Hello Queen Charlotte, as many of you have heard your municipal council has been asked to look at returning our communities name to the original Haida name. On April 30, 2019 the Village Office received a request from the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program elders, staff and participants at the Xaayda Kil Gathering requesting that the Village of Queen Charlotte begin discussions with the Hereditary Chiefs of Xaayda Gwaay and the Council of the Haida Nation Representatives to respectfully give back the name “Village of Queen Charlotte” to the Provincial Government and restore it with the ancestral Haida name of “Daajing Giids Ilnagaay”.

This request was placed on the May 22, 2019 regularly scheduled council agenda. At that meeting council added the issue to our June 10, 2019 Committee of the Whole (COW) Agenda so we could meaningfully look at the question being asked. The COW is a less formal meeting where council can have an open discussion and make recommendations to be followed up at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Council then received a resolution from the CHN House of Assembly explaining the rationale for giving back names, which was included on the June 3, 2019 agenda.

Before the COW meeting the CHN invited council and staff to meet with them on June 6, 2019 and the Provincial Government’s Toponymist Carla Jack, as they are carrying on with the process of replacing names on Haida Gwaii with ancestral names. Councillor Lisa Pineault, Acting Chief Financial Officer Kim Mushynsky and I attended that meeting. All parties had a very good and respectful conversation at that meeting, and it was understood that both communities need to be included and involved. It was also understood that no decision has been made and that we were to take things slowly as there are so many unknowns. It is important for residents of Queen Charlotte to know that things are not happening behind closed doors.

On June 10, 2019 Council had the COW meeting and made recommendations to have that staff look into the cost of adding another flag pole to fly the CHN flag beside the Canadian flag at the Village office, the cost to include both



English and Haida names to our street signs, to set up a meeting with the Hereditary Chiefs Council of the CHN, to invite Tom Swanky the author of The True Story of Canada's "War" of Extermination on the Pacific and the SHIP elders to gather with our community at future dates for information sessions, and to set up a meeting with Premier John Horgan at UBCM in September to discuss having the Province pay for all cost associated with such an issue. These recommendation were brought forward at the next council meeting on June 17, 2019 where they were ratified.

On June 14, 2019 the CHN invited council and staff to hear author and lawyer Tom Swanky talk at the CHN chambers in Skidegate as he was working with the SHIP elders. The Ship elders are writing the forward to his new book based on the deliberate dissemination of smallpox on Haida Gwaii. At this meeting Tom Swanky explained through historical evidence how small pox was imported to BC and disseminated deliberately to First Nations on the Pacific Northwest Coast including the Haida. This act is recognized in the Premier of BC's apology to the Tsilhqot'in Nation on October 23, 2014 for the wrongful hanging of their chiefs who were defending their unceded territory.

There is an historical truth on Haida Gwaii that needs to be understood and shared with our community. Your council is respectfully seeking out all information in regards to this issue. Council has to keep an open mind on all issues brought forward whether they be easy or hard before a decision is made. I felt it was important that everyone is aware of the conversation so far and we will ensure that you, our community members, are informed and involved. This issue is not intended to divide our community but to bring us closer together as we learn the truth and increase our understanding of why the request has been made. We have to learn the truth before we can start on the journey toward reconciliation.

Your Council has also been working hard on other topics over the past eight months. Our strategic plan is complete and available on-line and at the Village office. You will hear more about our strategic plan in the upcoming editions of the Village Voice. We have received 31 proposals for our community renewable energy plan. Staff is also implementing a communications plan to explore with our businesses how we can reduce the use of single-use plastics (like bags and straws) and take out containers in the municipality. At an Island level a letter has been sent out to the CHN Old Masset and Skidegate Bands, municipalities and Regional Area Director to request that Gwaii Trust to create a special program to support the ongoing funding of the Protocol Table. On June 21st the North Coast Regional District changed its procedural by-law to have the territory of the First Nation where the meeting is being held recognized at the start of the meeting. So much is happening and I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to represent your community.

Haawa, Thank you and Merci.

Kris Olsen

FEATURED VOLUNTEER GROUP: Feed the People Food Bank

Many members of our community need a little help to make ends meet. Monthly, the Feed the People Food Bank supports between 100-200 elders, families and anyone else in need from Sandspit to Tlell. They do this by providing redeemable grocery cards (ranging from \$35 to \$75 per month depending on family size) as well as manage emergency pantry supplies.

Recently the Food Bank volunteers have run into some challenges and they need our help.



If you feel you can ride to their aid there are many ways that you can help. From volunteering to become a member of the board, to setting up a direct deposit, to planning a fundraiser, or just providing a day off for some of the dedicated volunteers involved in keeping this valuable service running.

You can make a difference!! Your friends and neighbours, some of whom may be struggling silently in ways you never see, will thank you for it.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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Councillor Jesse Embree
Councillor Lisa Pineault
Councillor Devin Rachar

Chief Administrative Officer-
Lori Wiedeman
Chief Financial Officer-
Allison Sinkins
Superintendent of Public Works-
Ben Greenough



The Request

We the S.H.I.P program elders and staff and the Xaayda Kil Gathering participants formally request that the Village of Queen Charlotte begin discussions with the Hereditary Chiefs of Xaayda Gwaay and Council of Haida Nation Representatives to respectfully give back the name "Village of Queen Charlotte" to the Provincial Government of British Columbia, and restore the ancestral ancient Haida name of "Daajing Giids Linagaay" where the current Village of Queen Charlotte is located.

We believe ALL Haida ancestral place names should be restored. Solomon Wilson so beautifully quoted many years ago: "Yan.ah, gwaay.yaay tllgaay ad gandlaay'waadluxan kiiga daaga gan" "of course, all places and waters on the islands had names"

We believe that our precious Haida Language will continue to flourish when the restoration and reclamation our Haida Language Place Names is gently and respectfully given back to the land and sea.



Caden Ives
receives
Village of
Queen
Charlotte
Bursary

KAGAN BAY REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Land for Lease—South Facing—
Oceanfront—Unserviced 1 hectare lot.

Proposals accepted until July 31, 2019 at
noon.



The Village of Queen Charlotte is seeking expressions of interest from local companies/individuals who would be interested in leasing the Kagan Bay property located at the West end of the Municipality. Lease fee would be negotiable—market value lease fee is \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. Please contact Lori Wiedeman, CAO for an information package.

cao@queencharlotte.ca
250-559-4765 extention 3

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HIRING!**

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