

# Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office

## Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2012

### Harold Olson, Finance Manager

March has been a trying month for the Tl'etinqox-T'in Government Finance staff. We have been busy preparing for the year-end now upon us. Next week starts a whole new year. I have asked that the audit for this year to start around the end of May. From now and until then Finance is going to be extra busy.

Finance has determined a number of areas that are not functioning up to standards and have been busy making adjustments and informing those that have been affected. All of Tl'etinqox-T'in Government Staff have been affected in one way or another which is unfortunate that it wasn't addressed sooner. Tl'etinqox-T'in Government Chief and Council have been working with the Finance Department to make these changes as stress-free as possible by not dwelling on what has happened and how they would like Finance to proceed forward.

I would like to thank Faye Chelsea for all her determination in assisting our Finance Department; her assistance and knowledge is uniquely suited to the needs of the Finance Department, especially right now when we are great need of the history of the community to help guide us through this time of change. We hope that Faye is able to cope with all her stresses and the demands she has with managing two offices.

Geraldine Solomon has really stepped up to the plate in her new role which would be overwhelming for the faint of heart. Geraldine is always up beat and trying to find solutions to the many issues that she comes across with only minor guidance from myself or Faye. She is a invaluable addition to the team.

Our team try's to meet on a regular basis but have been meeting on an improvised basis more effectively. In taking a line from the TV series *NCIS*, "campfire"; if we have an important issue come up, which is about two or three times a day, we meet in the center of the office and discuss it to solvation and then carry on. In this way we get everyone in the office on the same page before proceeding and this has been working thus far very well. Some days we only meet once, others we meet several times but every day we have a chat to see if anyone is having issues that can be better dealt with by someone else. We try to keep things light because the job is so intense right now that comic relief is an unexpected stress reliever which allows us to take a mind break for a moment.

Well Easter is upon us and we all get a long deserved extra-long weekend, I hope the Easter Bunny hops into your lives and leaves you lots of little presents around your yards for you to find well into the fall. I hope the Bunny finds the goose that lays the golden eggs and delivers them to each and every one of you....Happy Easter Everyone.

### Kimberly Johnny, Receptionist

*Hello,  
I enjoy working here full-time at the Tl'etinqox-Tin Government Office as the Receptionist for my community. I have been here with TGO*

*since May of 2010! Where has the time gone, seems like only yesterday I started here! Time sure does go by fast. I hope everyone enjoys their Easter as it is just*

*around the corner & of course we can't forget Spring has Sprung. So that means spring cleaning, I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the year!! Ext. # 200*

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### Special points of interest:

- Annual Unit Inspection in the month of April
- Status Cards at Denisiqi every 2nd Thursday
- Students last installment of Living Allowance end of March for April 2012
- Upcoming Events / Meetings



## Information from Sister Eva

**Blessing of homes:** Call the convent if you wish to have the priest visit your home for a house blessing.

**Anointing of the sick:** Contact the priest if someone needs this sacrament.

**Confirmation:** To date there are 14 candidates preparing to celebrate confirmation on June 24, 2012. Parents are encouraged to HELP their children get ready for this important step in their life. It is a once in a life time sacrament. Please contact the convent for material as needed.

**First Holy Communion:** Again here parents are responsible for the faith formation of your children. Children, 8 years old and older should be in this time of faith growth as they prepare to receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. What a blessing for your whole family as you spend a few minutes daily (say 10 min.) with your child. The LORD will be with you all!

**Mid-week Mass:** Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm at the convent.

**Religious articles:** Catalogues are available for you to make an order for religious articles: crosses, statues, medals, pictures, rosaries, cards, books, bibles.

**Sunday Mass:** Every Sunday at 9:00 am Confession is possible before Mass. LENT a blessed season for us to return to the LORD.

**Prayer Break:** At the Health Center (15 min.) Mondays at 10:30 am At the Cultural Center (15 min.) Mondays at 11:00 am

**“Kateri Pray for us!”**

## Barry Hink, Forestry Manager

Hello Band Members:

Give our band membership an update on Klatasine, we recently had training with Sean O’Neil which was a huge success. Our training was done through CCATEC so everyone had to fill out participant forms which CCATEC reviews to see if the person is in good standing with them and you have to be there right from the start of the course and on time or you will be dismissed by the instructor as it is getting very strict now. Our next training offered is tentatively set for May 14 -19

with Sean O’Neil. This will be part 2 of the first course we recently finished and priority will be given to the first group as its to finish up the Fire Fighting Training Course but the S100 and S185 is at the end of this part 2 training will be opened up to everyone. I will post actual training dates when CCATEC approves these courses and we do have more training after these 2 courses are done just it’s a busy time at CCATEC right now with every Band wanting lots of training done now, I work With Daana Gilpin

from TNG as she is getting our proposals into CCATEC for us. Silviculture season is just about here and I will be posting out any upcoming contracts or jobs as soon as they come available, this is all I have for now so come in and see me if you have any questions about training dates or need help applying for programs.

Ext. # 232

**To All Community Members, For Those Of You That Play With Guns, Reminder-Guns Are For Hunting Wildlife For Your Family-Not Shooting @ One Another! Please Play Safe Especially With Your Guns Thank You, Susan Rae!**

## Kristy Elkins, Housing Coordinator

Hello Everyone, For those of you who don't know me, I am Kristy Elkins, Housing Coordinator. I grew up in the community of Tl'etinqox-T'in/Anaham, and my parents are Willard Elkins and Ina Johnny. My grandparents are the late Thomas and Annie Elkins and the Late Otto and Mary Johnny. I have started my position here at the Anaham Band as of October 31, 2011 therefore I have been here for approximately 5 months. I thank all of those who have been patient with me as housing is a huge department to cover and I still have a lot to learn.



I am replacing Carolyn Charleyboy who has come in to accompany me with some training in regards to where she left off. I greatly appreciate her perspective and knowledge in regards to housing and occasionally communicate with her in regards to certain questions I may have.

I have been familiarizing myself with CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formally INAC) in regards to the programs available. Although it is a lengthy process I encourage home owners/tenants to continue maintaining their units to the best of their abilities.

Since I have been here I have been communicating with the Chief and Council, maintenance, Chris Hutton Contracting, Building Inspector (CCTC), CMHC and AANDC (formally INAC) in regards to housing issues, funding etc. I have attended a few workshops and meetings to learn and gain more knowledge to share with community members, home owners and tenants. I have also been successful with rent collection from a variety of tenants and I am thankful to those who have been cooperative.

As of April 2, 2012 I am requesting that all CMHC tenants (who's home is still not paid off) and Section 9 & 10 (subdivision) come in and update their Residential Tenancy Agreement because I am the new Housing Coordinator and we are beginning a new fiscal year and these documents are important for audits etc.

All of the above named units will be scheduled to do an **Annual Unit Inspection** in the month of April and will be contacted 5 days before their scheduled Annual Inspection. These inspections will be important to determine the condition of the unit and determine if renovations are required in the future etc.

Everyone whom is in need of maintenance is requested to please come to the office to fill out a Work Order Maintenance Request Form and sign it. The forms are available at the reception desk. Reception will no longer be expected to fill out this document.

Home Owner's and Tenants who experience vandalism to their home are requested to file a police report. This police report will be kept for our records and will assist in any costs to damage etc.

I have submitted a few proposals to hire a few assistants in my department to assist with administration. My proposal has been approved March 8, 2012 and I have posted 2 job descriptions for a Housing Assistant and a Housing Survey Clerk. The job will cover a variety of administrative areas including researching and gathering information on every home in the Anaham Community. Please assist in doing the housing survey which will begin in Mid April to July 2012.

Towards the end of April or beginning of May, I will be holding a Housing Information Session at the Anaham School to give community members an understanding of what I've been doing so far, what is important to our housing issues, what still needs to be done and my vision and goal for our future housing. We will be holding a luncheon, having door prizes, comment boxes, and maintenance information packages etc. So please keep this in mind and bring a friend or neighbour (Dates to be determined and notices will go out).

Once again I thank you for your assistance, cooperation and patience!!!

Ext. # 215



## **Trudi Frost, Indian Registry Administrator**

As we are closed Fridays now I will be working one day in town to see band members who can't make it out to the Band Office. I will be at Denisiqi every second Thursday starting March 15 & 29<sup>th</sup>.

Attended the IRA Association Meeting in Prince George March 21 & 22. Expecting forty IRA's at the meeting only twenty five attended. Here is some information taken from my notes at that meeting.

~ The Regional Office in Vancouver won't get the SCIS card for at least another six months.

After that time each IRA won't get the SCIS until after another five day training is completed, as there is 170 IRA's it could take up to two years from now, not going to happen overnight. There are now two kinds of SCIS an In-Canada card and one with the strip to use to cross the border. After 9/11 Homeland Security requirements make up the ID for members. Because a lot of people with no need to cross the border they changed to two cards.

~ IRA funding is based on population, \$7.07 per capita plus \$15.00 per event (if the member belongs to another band, that band gets half) Funding will be increased with the roll out of the SCIS \$2.00 more per capita. Five Billion was cut from the Federal Budget. Indian Registration & Band Lists (IRBL) Program had ten staff now cut down to six, four Specialists and two IRBL Representatives each workload is equivalent to four or five people. Met with a woman in Vancouver who specializes in streamlining but have lost forty percent of work staff. Inherited all the Treaty 8 workload. Having to put on more training because of the high IRA turnaround. Front counter staff down one. Retention, the Data Entry is kept forever and Status Card Applications are only kept for two years.

~ Sent out new policy document, no longer accepting faxed order forms for new card stock because the Office of the Indian Registrar has clamped down. Need accountability, submit on a monthly basis to data enter into the system. Need to see on individual's registry page when their last card was issued. Cannot start a card unless you can complete it at that time, makes cards not accounted for, leaves spaces in the CIS log. There has been a delay in receiving card stock because the main office thought the SCIS was coming and didn't order blank card stock for the paper laminated cards. If you have a waiting list send that information with your card stock order. Old status card only valid up to six months after expiry. If last one was Lost or stolen a statutory declaration must be filled out. Cannot use Guarantee Forms anymore unless it's a hardship case. Indian Registrar hasn't decided what is or isn't a hardship case and left that up to each Manager at the Regional Offices.

~ Had presentation on the Estates Unit from Crystal, Estates Officer. There was only five IRA's at the meeting that held their Order for the Appointment of a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits, I am one of them. On the Report of Death forms for the Cause of Death it is only important to know if it was a motor vehicle accident, do not need to know if it was a suicide. Will look into changing that question to was it a motor vehicle accident yes/no instead of Cause of Death. Need to know if they lived on or off reserve as there is a letter explaining "no jurisdiction" to send to the family. It is not the responsibility of the IRA to fill in the "Application for Administration" form. In case your unsure of the field "value of estate" put "to be determined" or "unknown at this time" the original must be sent in. Was given a notice to post, entitled Estate Administration On-Reserve.

~ Ottawa improved ways of doing things they wiped out the backlog and established a six month turnaround time for applicants. The goal has since slipped and is now an eight to nine month turnaround.

~ SCIS, for the last three years there have been four teams working on it & every step they are finding new problems they haven't anticipated. Certified Integrity Document Training will be included in the five day training for IRA's to be able to identify false documents. Once IRA's certified we may be able to stop having IRA's submit the original birth certificates for registration. First wave of training can only train primary IRA not the IRA back up, only one individual per band.

~ Registry department has had an increase in applications since the establishment of the new

***Status  
Cards at  
Denisiqi  
April 12 &  
26th***

## Trudi Frost, IRA & Executive Assistant cont.

Newfoundland band & the Bill C-3 changes. Newfoundland didn't join Canada and wasn't included. As a result of a court case they are recognized as one first nation with no reserve land. Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band was created on September 22, 2011 with 11,121 founding members. An amendment was made to add 10,308 individuals to the list of founding members. The total 21,429 new band members were registered within five weeks. It will be a Band without reserve land and the largest First Nation in Canada. On November 1, 2011 the department received an additional list 1,515 from the enrollment committee. The enrolment process closes on November 30, 2012. Indian Act rules now apply to descendants of newly registered members of Qalipu. BC has the largest number of First nations.



~ All Bill C-3 applications go to the new office in Winnipeg with a team of 55 staff who are dedicated solely to process Bill C-3 applications for registration under the Act. The Act came into force on January 31, 2011 amending the Indian Act to ensure that eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men became entitled to registration. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 applications will be received resulting in approximately 45,000 new registrations ten percent ineligible. As of March 5, 2012: 24,049 applications were received, 14,898 have been processed, 11,501 registrations, 1,112 denials, 2,285 files have been closed due to non-response from applicants and 874 files have been reviewed and additional information requested. IRA involvement in Bill C-3 is up to each band, be careful don't get involved too deeply, avoid doing mail outs in case documents go missing.

~ There were 202 Band Name Changes

~ Regional Office will send out a request for IRA's to complete enabling them to compile a list of IRA's with fields of what days they work, fee for service & if they service only their own band or not to make available to all IRA's.

~ Glitch in system can't generate month end reports. Last reports received were for December 2011.

~ Infants don't need status cards IRA can issue a letter on band letterhead to the parents confirming the child is registered and give to parents when returning the original birth certificates.

~ Stopped issuing status numbers as a family grouping, 02, 03, 04. Members turning 18 can apply for their own unique number.

~ Time it takes to verify other band members that IRA's don't hold band records for: the number of incoming calls the Vancouver office has is enough to keep one person busy all day. Only have two workers and on counter days 9am-4pm Monday Wednesday & Friday they are open to the public to do status cards. Most likely will get an answering machine.

~ Band staff asking for band lists. Regional Office will compose an updated memo that details why we can't share that information. Information collected from band members to issue status cards is personal & confidential and is protected under the privacy act.

Ext. # 224

## Sidney Harry, Education Coordinator

No Summer Programs! The Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office has made some decisions by Chief and Council regarding Education students that are being sponsored by Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office and will be implemented for Post-Secondary Students.

The Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office will not be giving out any extensions to students for courses beyond April 30, 2012. Students will receive their last installment of **Living Allowance** at the end of March 2012 for the month of April 2012.

The Tl'etinqox-t'in Government Office will also not be sponsoring students for summer courses and summer semesters. All students are encouraged to find other alternatives for their summer semesters.

Students that are continuing with their education in September 2012 should have an official copy of their final marks into the Education Department by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Chief and Council will review all students and will do a student selection on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 for the fall and winter of 2012/2013.

Questions or concerns should be addressed to the Education Department Ext.#207



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### Upcoming Events / Meetings:

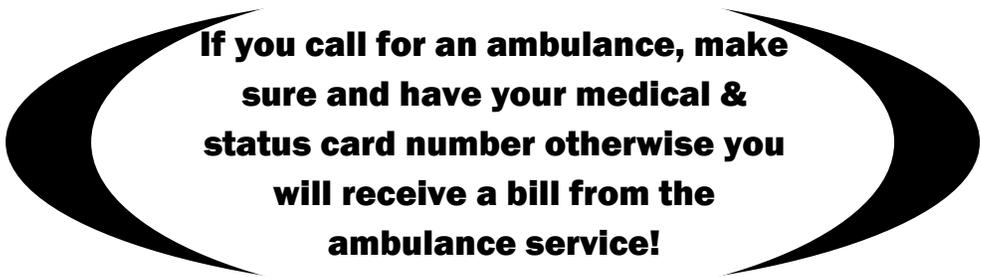
Way of The Cross **April 6, 2012** at 11:00 am starting at the Church, 14 stations For more information, please, contact Sister Eva at 250-394-4388

Easter Family Funday **April 7 & 8, 2012** at 12 noon at Stone Community Hall, Lehal, Gambling, Horseshoe Tournament, Turkey Shoot, Easter Egg Hunt Sunday at 1pm for more info. Contact Darnell Myers 250-394-4443

Chief Bev Sellars Presentation **April 11, 2012** at 1:00pm at Tl'etinqox Health Office

Community Justice Meeting **April 12, 2012** at 1:00pm at the Tl'etinqox School Gym

Rancher's Meeting Friday **May 4, 2012** at 1:00pm at the Tl'etinqox Elder's Center agenda items include: Legal Issues, Hayfield Boundaries, Predator Control, Range and Water Issues.



## Eleanor Cooper, Councilor

On March 27, 2012, Education Co-ordinator Sidney Harry and I went to Prince George for Ashton Cooper's Award Ceremony. She received a yellow rose and \$1,000.00 scholarship from Rio Tinto Alcan who recognized her as Aboriginal Student with high grades. When we were there, we saw that she was the only First Nations student receiving an award and would like to see more of our First Nations receiving awards especially from Tl'etinqox-t'in.



**Ashton recognized as an Aboriginal Student with High Grades.**

We are really looking for local first nations paramedics for Alexis Creek. Must have no criminal record, class 4 drivers license, OFA 3 etc.



**Ashton Cooper received a Yellow Rose & \$1,000.00 Scholarship.**

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Join the British Columbia Ambulance Service today. Contact Toll Free: 1-877-577-2227 or to learn more visit our website at: [www.bcas.ca](http://www.bcas.ca)

BCAS employs Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) on an on-call, part-time basis. EMRs

typically respond to calls by carrying a pager in the community, similar to volunteer fire fighters. EMRs are compensated to carry the pager and then paid an hourly rate for a minimum of 3 to 4 hours when they are required to respond to a call.

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