

N?e?iyk Spiləm



Lower Nicola Indian Band January 2026 Newsletter

Want to put in a submission?

Birthday wishes or Anniversary wishes or local gathering you want to advertise.

Newsletter Deadline:

January 23, 2026

Email Submissions to:
communications@lnib.net
or call (250) 378-5157



As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past month and share a few thoughts about where we are as a community and where we are headed together.

The last month has been filled with relationship building. Council has met with representatives from Highland Valley Copper to learn more about our agreement, and with Enbridge, who are working toward expanding their capacity to move additional natural gas through our territory. We have also been engaging in broader Nation-level discussions. The Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition now includes 10 of the 15 Nlaka'pamux Bands who are working toward creating a stronger collective voice.

At this time, LNIB has not signed on. We are waiting for legal review and, most importantly, to hear from our membership. I would genuinely like to hear your thoughts on Nation-building initiatives. LNIB has a strong history of working independently, and we have done very well. At the same time, it is worth asking what we might be able to accomplish if we strengthened

collaboration with our neighbouring Bands within our Nation.

These relationships matter. They influence how effectively we advocate for our community and how well our interests are respected over the long term. Building trust, both within Lower Nicola and beyond it, is ongoing work, and it is something I remain committed to.

Over the past month, I have heard from many members. Some messages have been supportive, others have raised difficult concerns, and all of them are important. Our community is not strengthened by silence. It is strengthened when people care enough to speak up, even when conversations are uncomfortable. While there are not always quick or simple answers, your voices help shape the direction of the work ahead. My commitment is to continue listening, communicating clearly, and approaching decisions with care, accountability, and respect for the long-term well-being of LNIB.

As we move into January, I also want to reflect on the idea of village and what makes a community truly strong. The greatest benefits of a village do not come from buildings, policies, or leadership alone. They come from the villagers themselves. Each of us shapes our community every day through our actions, our words, and how we treat one another.

A village is strengthened when we check in on Elders, support families, share food, offer help, or take the time to listen. It is strengthened when we teach our children kindness, responsibility, and pride in who they are. Even small acts of care and respect create ripples that reach further than we often realize. These everyday contributions are what hold a community together.

A healthy village is not one without conflict or challenge. It is one where people are willing to carry responsibility for one another, even during difficult moments. It is built when we choose to resolve disagreements with care, to speak truth without tearing each other down, and to remember that how we move through challenges matters just as much as the outcomes we seek.

As we welcome the New Year, I want to wish each of you and your families health, patience, and moments of joy. May this year bring strength where it is needed, kindness in our interactions, and time to reconnect with what matters most. I hope it is a year filled with good food, shared laughter, time on the land, and a renewed sense of connection to one another.

Thank you for your continued care for our community and for one another. I look forward to the work ahead and to walking into this new year together, in a good way.

Happy New Year, Chief Nick

Band General Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2025

5:00 pm

Shulus Hall



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

Resolution #12-02-2025-01 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the December 2, 2025, Chief and Council meeting agenda.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-02 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the November 19, 2025, Chief and Council meeting minutes with noted changes or as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-03 Reads:

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

- Support, in principle, Ausenco's request to publish a case study based on the Indigenous led impact assessment; and
- Further authorizes the Executive Director, for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-04 Reads:

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby supports and authorizes the Executive Director and/or Director of Finance to sign the Lower Nicola Indian Band Cheque Requisition ED10739 for Miller Titerle + Company's invoice #57351 in the amount of \$86,016.76.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-05 Reads:

RE: Approval of Internal Operating Financial Statements – September 30, 2025

That Chief and Council approve the internal Operating Financial Statements as at September 30, 2025 (six-month period), as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-06 Reads:

Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to accept the Indigenous Services Canada Amending Agreement No. 1920-BC-000012 Amendment #0082 to the funding agreement in effect as of April 16, 2019, to provide funding for:

1. New Fiscal Relationship-ELEM/SEC EDUCATION - 2025/26 - School Food Enhancement in the amount of \$29,479.00.
2. RECOVERY - 2025/26 Emergency Management Assistance Program - TSK-1321 - Hamilton Bridge Design in the amount of \$35,290.40.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-07 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby remove former kwúk'wpi? Stuart Jackson as the Director, and appoint Chief Nicholas Peterson to be our Director on the Naik Development Corporation Board of Directors and Authorized Representative at all Naik



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

Development Corporation general meeting and to report back to Chief and Council on all relevant matters;

2. Chief Nicholas Peterson will remain on the Naik Development Corporation Board until he or Council provides written notice to the Board that Lower Nicola Indian Band has replaced the Director; and
3. Authorizes the interim Executive Director, or their chosen delegate, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to give effect to this resolution, which includes but is not limited to, providing notice of the change to the Board of Directors and updating all relevant legal documentation.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-08 Reads:

RE: Christmas Distribution – Recommendation from Finance & Audit Committee

WHEREAS the Finance and Audit Committee has reviewed the current financial position of the Lower Nicola Indian Band, including available surplus and year-end financial projections;

AND WHEREAS the Finance and Audit Committee recognizes the ongoing financial pressures and increased cost of living experienced by LNIB members;

AND WHEREAS providing a Christmas distribution aligns with community values of care, support, and collective well-being;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council approve a **one-time-only** Christmas distribution in the amount of **\$500.00 per LNIB Band member 18 years of age and older, on- and off-reserve**, to be distributed prior to Christmas 2025;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this distribution be funded from **GL Department 368, up to a maximum total allocation of \$700,000.00**;

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LNIB Finance Department coordinate the disbursement and prepare all necessary documentation to ensure timely distribution.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-09 Reads:

SUBJECT: Amendment of the Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy (Section 8.2 of LNIB Personnel Policy)

WHEREAS the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB) is a band within the meaning of the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5;



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

AND WHEREAS the LNIB Chief and Council have the authority to establish and amend policies under Section 8.1 of the **LNIB Financial Administration Law (2020)**, which governs the creation, amendment, and repeal of Council policies and procedures;

AND WHEREAS the current Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy (**Section 8.2 of the LNIB Personnel Policy**) is outdated and no longer reflects the current operational needs, objectives, and best practices of the LNIB Administration;

AND WHEREAS a revised Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy has been developed through consultation with relevant departments and reflects a modern and transparent approach to employee education and training opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy (**Section 8.2**) of the **LNIB Personnel Policy** is hereby **amended**; and
2. The attached **revised** Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy is **approved** and adopted as the official policy of the Lower Nicola Indian Band; and
3. All references to Section 8.2 of the LNIB Personnel Policy shall be updated to reflect this change in all related documents and practices.
4. Section 8.2.1 shall now read: The LNIB Office's shall be closed for the Christmas holiday season as of noon on the last business day prior to December 25th and remain closed until 8:30 am on the next business day following New Year's Day. These will be PAID days over and above LNIB staff vacation days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The LNIB Chief and Council direct the Executive Director to take all necessary steps to implement the revised Annual Office Christmas Holiday Closure Policy and ensure it is communicated to all staff.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-10 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Chief Nicholas Peterson to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-11 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Councillor Robin Humphrey to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-12 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:



**Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—**

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Councillor Leona Antoine to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-13 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Councillor Bill Bose to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-14 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Councillor Lesley Manuel to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-15 Reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approve travel and accommodation expenses for Councillor Lucinda Seward to attend LNIB's off-reserve Members' Christmas dinner in Vancouver, BC, on December 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1500.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-16 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to go IN Camera at 7:09 pm, with the meeting being closed to the public to consider sensitive matters that may be in a preliminary stage, or deal with subject matter that is privileged in nature and that, in the view of the council, its disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the public.

Privileged Materials

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-02-2025-17 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adjourn the December 2, 2025, meeting at 9:59pm.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-01 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the December 16, 2025, Chief and Council meeting agenda with additions of items 6.a and 6.b.

Motion Carried.

Resolution #12-16-2025-02 Reads:



**Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—**

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the November 20, 2025, Emergency Chief and Council meeting minutes with noted changes or as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-03 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adopt the December 2, 2025, Chief and Council meeting minutes with noted changes or as presented.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-05 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council authorize the following:

1. the Lands Manager to engage a qualified surveyor to complete a survey of waterline right-of-way (the "Right-of-Way Survey Plan") through both Lot 92 and Lot 93, Nicola Mameet IR No. 1;
2. the Lands Manager to approve the final Right-of-Way Survey Plan prepared by the qualified surveyor with any modifications, amendments or changes thereto that may be approved by the Lands Manager in his/her discretion, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by his/her approval thereof; and
3. the Lands Manager, for and on behalf of the Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to these resolutions, or in connection with the performance by LNIB of its obligations pursuant to these resolutions.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-04 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council approves the registration of the Lots 410 and 411 and Right of Way over Lots 410 and 411 Nicola Mameet Indian Reserve No. 1. (formerly Lot 92 and 93, CLSR Plan No. 58927) which was executed on October 7th, 2025 and digitally signed on November 21, 2025 by Scott Rhodes, CLS with True Land Surveying in the Canada Lands Survey Records.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-06 Reads:

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Authorizes the Director of Finance, Interim Executive Director to sign the attached "HVC - LNIB Funding Agreement 2025-2026" between LNIB and Teck that commits Teck pay to LNIB \$1,960,000 Canadian dollars to plant 1,040,000 trees, shrubs, berries and medicinal plants, pursuant to the Project in accordance with the terms of the Agreement in the calendar year 2026;
2. Authorizes the Director of Finance, Interim Executive Director to sign the attached Planting Agreement between LNIB and Cariboo Carbon Solutions Ltd. (CCS) that commits LNIB to pay CCS \$1,960,000;
3. Authorizes the Acting Director of Economic Development to invoice CCS for the administrations fee totaling \$196,000; and
4. Further authorizes the Director of Finance, Interim Executive Director for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion, or in connection with the performance by the Lower Nicola Indian Band of its obligations to this motion.

Motion Carried



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

Resolution #12-16-2025-07 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council hereby:

1. Supports the Amending Agreement #4 to the SA10077 with Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership, Commencement Date of January 1, 2026, and Completion Date of December 31, 2028; and
2. Authorizes the Director of Finance, interim Executive Director, to sign the Amending Agreement #4 to the SA 10077 with Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership, with a Commencement Date of January 1, 2026, and Completion Date of December 31, 2028.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-00 Reads:

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band hereby:

1. Approves the amended Lower Nicola Indian Band Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area Steering Committee Terms of Reference; and
2. Further authorizes the Executive Director, for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion, or in connection with the performance by the Lower Nicola Indian Band of its obligations to this motion.

Motion Withdrawn

Resolution #12-16-2025-08 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council move to:

1. Accept the Terms of Reference for a Special Committee as required under the *Financial Governance Policy and Procedures*, Section 5 – Committee Establishment and Dissolution;
2. Review and select the executive recruitment firm that will support Council's search for an Executive Director;
3. Further appoint Chief Nicholas Peterson as the Chair of the committee and shall be comprised of Councillors: Robin Humphrey, Sue Sterling-Bur, and Leona Antoine.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-09 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council hereby appoint Councillor Leona Antoine as the Chairperson of the Lands Management Advisory Committee with a term commencing December 16, 2025, and ending at midnight on the 6th day of October 2029.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-00 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council hereby approve the honorarium payments for the governance support provided by former kʷúkwpi? Stuart Jackson, who has agreed to assist Chief Nicholas Peterson and full-time Councillor Robin Humphrey to ensure a smooth transition for the newly elected Council.

Motion Withdrawn



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

Resolution #12-16-2025-10 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief and Council approve the acquisition of support for a legal review of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition Statement and any related documents for consideration. The legal review and recommendations will help guide Chief and Council's decision on whether to support the signing of the statement.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-11 Reads:

Authorize the Chief to sign the "Letter of Support" on behalf Lower Nicola Indian Band to support the Salish Fire Keeper Society for the grant submission of First Peoples Cultural Council.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-12 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to go IN Camera at 8:01pm, with the meeting being closed to the public to consider sensitive matters that may be in a preliminary stage, or deal with subject matter that is privileged in nature and that, in the view of the council, its disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the public.

- a. Privileged Materials

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-13 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to bring the IN-Camera segment to a close at ____ pm to reconvene the regular meeting.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-14 Reads:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief and Council:

1. approves the use of option number one to remediate contamination present on Lot 300, Nicola Mameet IR No. 1 ("Property"), as a result of unauthorized waste and illegal activities on that Property; and
2. authorizes its Lands Department to pursue timely remediation of this Property, paid for by the polluter.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-15 Reads:

The Chief and Council of the Lower Nicola Indian Band ("LNIB Chief and Council") hereby:

1. Supports the Nicola Watershed Governance Partnership Strategic Engagement Agreement ("Strategic Engagement Agreement");
2. Authorizes Chief Nicholas Peterson to sign the Strategic Engagement Agreement with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, along with Upper Nicola Band, Coldwater Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band and Shakan Indian Band; and
3. Further authorizes the interim Executive Director or their delegate, for and on behalf of Council, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this motion.

Motion Carried



Chief & Council Regular Council Meeting
December 2025
—Resolutions—

Resolution #12-16-2025-16 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to go back IN Camera at 10:26 pm.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-17 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to bring the IN-Camera segment to a close at 10:38 pm to reconvene the regular meeting.

Motion Carried

Resolution #12-16-2025-18 Reads:

The Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief and Council move to adjourn the December 16, 2025, meeting at 10:38pm.

Motion Carried

HR Corner

December 2025

Inside this Edition

Latest news

Gratitude, Growth, and Looking Ahead

As we come to the close of 2025, the Human Resources team would like to take a moment to pause, reflect, and extend a heartfelt thank you to all LNIB staff. This year has been one of growth, change, learning, and resilience — and none of that happens without the people who show up every day to support LNIB Members, programs, and one another.

December is always a time of reflection, and it gives us the opportunity to recognize the collective effort that keeps LNIB moving forward. Whether your work is seen directly by the community or happens behind the scenes, every role plays a part in strengthening the organization as a whole. Your dedication, professionalism, and care do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for the commitment staff continue to bring into the workplace.



Service Milestones

December 2025

We sincerely thank all staff reaching service milestones in December 2025.

Your dedication and commitment significantly support LNIB's programs and community. Each milestone reflects your time and effort, contributing to the organization's knowledge and stability.

We appreciate your valuable contributions and the positive impact you make as part of the LNIB team.

Thank you for your service!

Aly Ledene

Stephen Jimmie

Ryan McDougall

Arnold Meyer

Jesse Haldorson

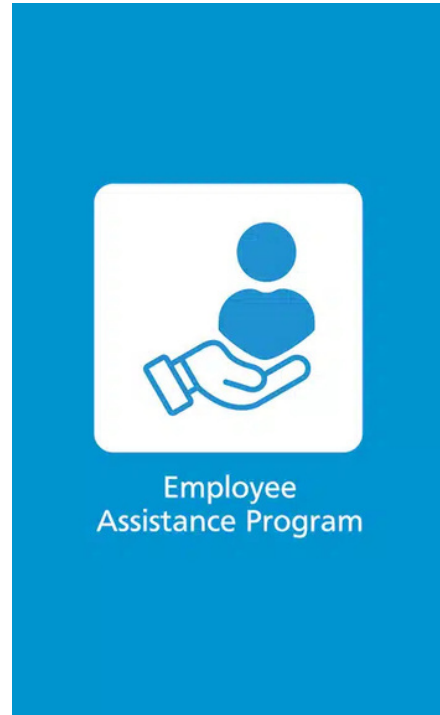
Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

As we move through a busy season, we'd like to remind staff about the Employee Assistance Program. This confidential program is available to support employees with a wide range of personal, emotional, and practical concerns.

EAP services may include support for:

- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Stress, anxiety, or work-life balance
- Family, relationship, or parenting concerns
- Financial or legal guidance
- Wellness and personal development resources

Support is available 24/7, and accessing EAP is completely confidential. We encourage staff to take advantage of this resource whenever support is needed - not just during challenging moments, but also as a proactive step toward well-being.



**YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY STARTS HERE.
SCAN THE QR CODE TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES!**



Career Opportunities

December 2025

Executive Director	Director of Economic Development	Director of Infrastructure
Director of Human Services	Cumulative Effects & Guardian Manager	Managing Aquatics Biologist
IPCA Coordinator	Counsellor (Male Clients)	Geographic Information Systems Analyst (GIS)
School Counsellor	Building/Facility Maintenance	Managing Aquatics Biologist
Aquatic and Terrestrial Monitors	Public Works Administrative Assistant	Elders Program Coordinator
Early Childhood Educator	Receptionist	

On behalf of the Infrastructure Team, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

Over the past few months, our team has maintained a steady and consistent pace. I am proud to report that our boots have truly been on the ground — projects are being completed, and membership requests continue to be fulfilled efficiently.

I am especially pleased to announce that the school boiler system upgrade is now officially complete. I know the late Fran Piper would be beaming with pride. A heartfelt thank you to Chris for your hard work and dedication — Fran would be proud.

We also want to recognize several team achievements:

- *Cody has successfully passed his Maintenance Water Course — knowledge truly is power!*
- *Josh and Skyler have completed the installation of another septic system and are moving closer to achieving their ROWP goal.*
- *Jason continues to take great care of our communities by maintaining roads, managing snow removal, and ensuring the safety of everyone.*

A special thank you as well to LNIBFD for their assistance with snow removal on Christmas Eve. Your support was greatly appreciated.

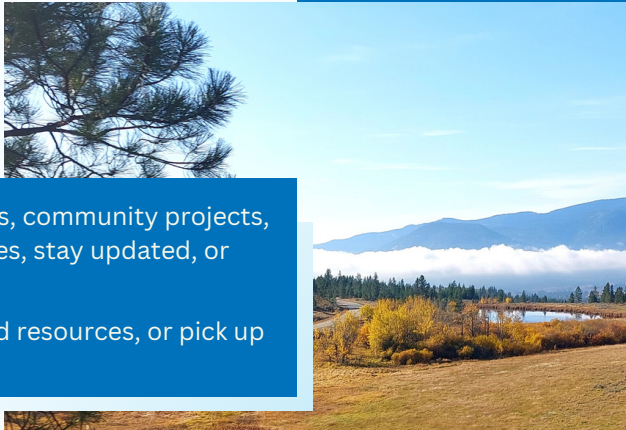
I would also like to sincerely thank everyone for the support shown regarding my recent promotion. I promise to always do my very best to support both my team and our communities.

Lastly, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Tracy Rockwell for her dedication and leadership as Director of Infrastructure. Her knowledge and experience helped shape our team into what it is today. Her commitment has been a true blessing, and the encouragement she instilled in all of us has left a lasting impact. We wish her every success in her new venture.

Thank you all for your continued hard work, collaboration, and commitment.

Warm regards,
The Infrastructure Team

LANDS DEPARTMENT



We're here to help with land activities, community projects, and LMAC inquiries. Share your stories, stay updated, or learn about current initiatives.

Visit LNIBLANDS.NET for updates and resources, or pick up printed copies at the Lands Office.

STEPHEN JIMMIE
DIRECTOR OF LANDS & HOUSING
stephen.jimmie@lnib.net

Reach out to Stephen for questions regarding Land Code, Individual Agreements, Law and Policy Development, Special Land Projects, and Land Use Planning.

KRIS POR
LANDS RESEARCHER
kristopher.por@lnib.net

Please contact Kris for help with Family and Traditional Research, Allotment Applications, Will Development coordination, and Estate Administration support.

ALEX BUKKOS
SURVEY COORDINATOR
alex.bukkos@lnib.net

For inquiries regarding ongoing and historical land projects, including surveys and mapping efforts, please contact Alex.

VACANT
SURVEY ASSISTANT

DELTA LONG
LANDS MANAGER
delta.long@lnib.net

Connect with Delta for discussions on general inquiries, land allotments, transfers, and CPs, as well as matters of law and policy enforcement.

SAYGE FISHER
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COORDINATOR
sayge.fisher@lnib.net

Reach out to Sayge for information on Environmental Management and Protection, Invasive Weed Management, Illegal Dumping, and Special Environmental Projects.

JUSTICE CISCO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
justice.cisco@lnib.net

Reach out to Justice for general inquiries, questions related to LMAC meetings, and information about community events.

VACANT
LANDS ADMINISTRATOR

SAFETY & SECURITY ON LNIB LANDS

The Lands Department supports efforts to protect and care for LNIB reserve lands. To address issues like land misuse and illegal dumping, measures have been implemented to help keep these areas safe and sustainable for the community.



SNUKWE? SECURITY

250-936-8722

Snukwe? Security is on duty 40 hours each week and responds to calls and messages while on shift.

Snukwe? Security is here to assist as needed and monitor any issues reported by residents, such as noise, nuisances, illegal dumping and general safety concerns.

If you or anyone else is in Immediate danger or emergency situation, please CALL 911 FIRST.

CAMERAS & GATES

Gates have been installed on Nicola Mameet IR1 to help prevent unauthorized activity while maintaining controlled access for permitted users. Two gates are located on Mamit Lake Branch Road near the speedway, one at the top of Mamit Lake Branch Road, and one at the 4 Mile Corrals. Additional gates have also been installed on the Quilchena and Lundbom access routes onto Hamilton.

Some areas may require a gate code. Trail and security cameras are in place to monitor gate use and deter illegal dumping. These cameras are positioned to avoid impacting the privacy of nearby homes or businesses.

Members' access to reserve lands is not restricted by the gates, though some areas may require a code. For access outside regular office hours, call 250-280-7270

LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UPCOMING MEETING

January 15, 2025

Meeting ID: 581070687

Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) meetings are open to all LNIB Members to attend virtually starting at 4:30 PM. Listen in to learn about Lands activities and developments. Check the Members Only portal for LMAC meeting links or contact Stephen, Lands Director, for more details.

NOTICE ABOUT RECREATIONAL VEICHLES

The Lower Nicola Indian Band prohibits RV's to be utilized as long-term primary dwellings, residences, or cabins on LNIB Lands including CP Lands and Custom Family Lands (also known as Family Lands) unless they receive prior written authorization from the Lands Manager.

SELLER'S NOTICE BOARD

Are you a landowner looking to sell?

Contact the Lands Department to have your property featured in the monthly LNIB newsletter.

Available Opportunities for Purchase:

- Potential Business Highway Frontage
• CP Residential Lots for Sale

For more information, please contact Donelda Haller at 250-315-5315.

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON WILDLIFE SAFETY

Please refrain from leaving hunting remains, animals' entrails or trimmings up Mamit Lake Branch Road or anywhere near the community / residential areas.

Leaving animal remains from hunting trips too close to the community attracts predators such as coyotes, bears, and wolves. When predators find easy food sources, they become habituated and will continue returning, increasing the risk to children, pets, and all community members. To help keep the community safe, please dispose of hunting remains or animal innards far from homes and industrial areas. A recommended alternative location is up Highway 97C, past the industrial park, rather than along Mamit Lake Branch Road.

BUYER'S NOTICE BOARD

If you're interested in buying land from a landowner, the Lands Department can help! Submit your contact information to be included in the monthly LNIB Newsletter.

Interested Buyer's:

Jennie Blankenship
CONTACT | 604-928-2985 | scwexmx@gmail.com

Mindy Garcia
CONTACT | 250-280-5684

Lorne Dunn
CONTACT | 250-315-7501 | lorne.dunn@yahoo.com

Lands Management Advisory Committee (LMAC)

Term: TBD

Department: Lands

Hours: Evening hours required

Summary of responsibilities

We are looking for two dedicated and engaged LMAC Committee members who can bring different skill sets to the new land management regime at Lower Nicola Indian Band, such as interpreting and understanding survey work; dispute resolution; land use planning; environmental protection; policy and law development; financial literacy; research and writing; and/or community engagement.

Qualifications:

- Any LNIB Member, whether resident on or off LNIB Land, 18 years or older;
- Cannot be convicted of an offence that was prosecuted by way of indictment except for a conviction for an offense where the person was involved in the support or defense of an aboriginal right or title;
- Cannot have any undischarged bankrupt or owe money to LNIB;
- Cannot be convicted of a corrupt practice in connection with an election, including but not limited to, accepting a bribe, dishonesty, or wrongful conduct; and
- Must be able to pass a Criminal Record Check;

Apply To:**Deadline to apply:** Open until filled

Lower Nicola Indian Band
181 Nawishaskin Lane
Merritt, BC V1K 0A7
E-mail: hr@lnib.net

Interested members, please submit a criminal record check, resume and cover letter that highlight your relevant lands knowledge and experience including three references.

To obtain a criminal record check:

- Go to the RCMP Station, Tuesday-Thursday between 9:30am-3:30pm.
- You will need 2 pieces of government issued ID.
- Costs \$65 (must pay in cash).
- Takes minimum 2 weeks to come in.

As per section 33.4 of the LNIB Land Code, members of the Lands Management Advisory Committee shall be appointed by Council to ensure a broad representation of the LNIB membership.

Thanks to all who apply.

ATTENTION!

NOTICE OF GATE & SIGN INSTALLATION HAMILTON IR NO. 7

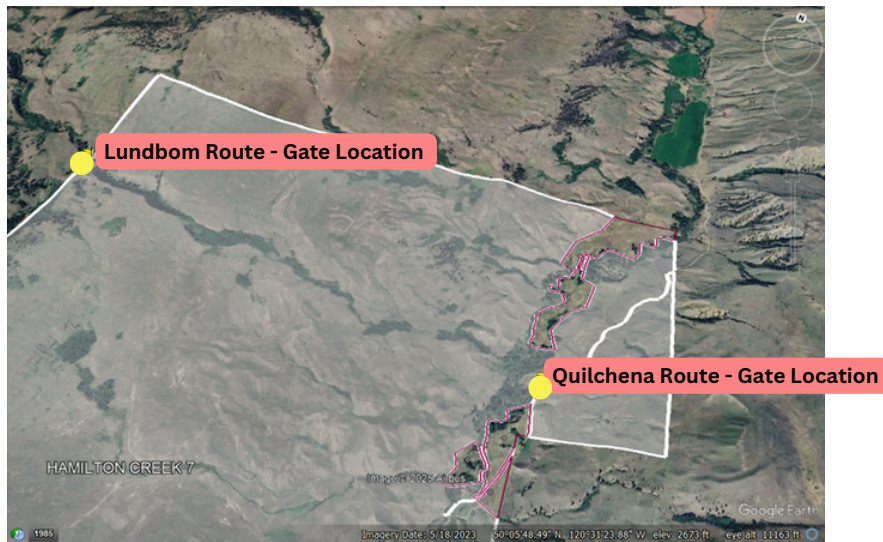
This notice is to inform LNIB Members that two gates, along with supporting signage, have now been installed at the two main access roads into Hamilton IR No. 7 as of December.

The Quilchena and Lundbom access routes onto Hamilton are affected.

The purpose of the gates and signage is to restrict access to Hamilton IR No. 7 from trespassing, poaching, and the unauthorized removal of resources from reserve land. These gates are part of a mitigation strategy to protect LNIB's natural resources and exclusive rights to the land.

LNIB Members wishing to obtain access codes may contact the Lands Department or the Environmental Protection Coordinator, Sayge Fisher at (250) 378-5157, directly for gate codes.

Please see the gate locations below.



MONTHLY INVASIVE WEED SPOTLIGHT

Western GoatsBeard/YellowSalsify

Origin:

This invasive weed originates from Europe and South Africa, brought to the US and Canada during the 1900's as an ornamental flower.



Description:

This large yellow flower grows from a single stem emerging from a taproot. The plant has a milky white sap when broken and the leaves have a grass like appearance, long thin and green. The weed has a single flower head per plant, growing up to 7cm tall with bright yellow flowers. They bloom during mid spring; the seed head resembles a very large dandelion puff also known as a 'pappus'. This invasive weed spreads via seed distribution, each flower can produce up to 1000 seeds, the plant dies off after seed production, so prevention of seed formation is key!

Mechanical Control:

- Hand Pull the rosettes; if the taproot is left the plant will regrow.
- Till in Spring to remove plants & taproots, Mowing will only encourage more growth.

Chemical Control:

- Herbicide Application of Dicamba, metsulfuron methyl + aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron + metsulfuron methyl, 2,4-D + dicamba or metsulfuron methyl alone are all viable options for chemical treatment.



Sources:

- [SSISC - Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council](#)
- [E-FLORA BC: ELECTRONIC ATLAS OF THE FLORA OF BRITISH COLUMBIA](#)

***Disclaimer* - ANY & ALL herbicide applications must be applied as spot spraying; broadcast spraying may negatively impact other vegetation in the area & harm sensitive ecosystems.**

Herbicide application within 5m of any body of water (seasonal or not) is prohibited.

LNIB is requesting that the application of herbicide to treat half an acre or more, is carried out by a person holding a valid BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate. Before selecting and applying herbicides, you must review and follow herbicide labels and application rates; municipal, regional, provincial, and federal laws and regulations; species-specific treatment recommendations, and site-specific goals and objectives.



NOTICE: APPROVAL REQUIRED PRIOR TO FENCE CONSTRUCTION

When planning to build a fence, all plans must be reviewed and approved by Lands, Housing and Infrastructure.

Unauthorized fence construction may result in removal at the member's expense if it is found to impede access, affect infrastructure or encroach on neighboring properties.

This review is required to ensure that:

- You are within your lot boundaries and not encroaching on other properties.
- Fence posts are positioned a safe distance from survey monuments to prevent damage or disturbance. *(When a property has been surveyed, monuments have been placed. It is important NOT to move, remove or tamper with them. Doing so is illegal and protected under Sections 442 and 443 of the Criminal Code of Canada.)*
- There is no interference with existing water lines or septic system locations.
- There is adequate access for septic pump trucks and other maintenance services when needed.
- LNIB Policy requirements must be followed at all times.

For assistance or approval:

- CP Holders and those on Traditional Family Lands should contact Justice Cisco in the Lands Department at (250) 378-5157.
- LNIB Rentals or an LNIB Rent-to-Own Unit should contact Ashley DeGray in the Housing Department (250) 378-5157.



LNIB HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The housing department is responsible for managing the housing program, including property management functions, planning and construction of New Houses, Maintenance and upkeep of the housing stock, the relationship with Canada Mortgage Housing Fund, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Team Members

Jordana McIvor - Grismer

Housing Administrator

jordana.mcg@lnib.net

Regarding renovations, or external funding options, or building your own home

Ashley DeGray

Tenant Relations Coordinator

ashley.degray@lnib.net

Regarding rentals, maintenance, rental applications, or general housing questions

Sara Frazier

Housing Admin Assistant

sara.fraziershuter@lnib.net

Regarding the emergency fund applications



Ashley DeGray



Sara Frazier

Maintenance Crew

Mel Blankinship

Housing Maintenance

Luke Flower

Housing Carpenter

Lincoln Sterling

Maintenance Assistant

Alex Forsythe

Maintenance Assistant



Housing Announcements

Septic System Maintenance

DO NOT USE KIRKLAND BRAND TOILET PAPER, as it does not break down and clogs the toilets

Your septic system is a living ecosystem, and you need to do your part to ensure it is healthy and working as it should.

Never put anything down the drain or toilet that will not biodegrade, including but not limited to, wipes, clothes, bottles, feminism products, paper towel, plastic, etc.

Don't use chemicals like bleach as it kills the good bacteria the breakdown the solid waste.

Space out your water consumption so the tank and drain field are not overwhelmed. By this we mean don't do excessive loads of laundry in a day, have extended showers, leave your tap running unnecessarily, etc.

The drain field is the area on your property where wastewater from the septic system is dispersed into the soil. To avoid damaging the drain field and overall functioning of the septic system; NEVER park a vehicle, build a structure, have large livestock animals, fires, or plant trees or a garden over the drain field. You should also prevent excess water from flowing over your drain field by making sure your downspouts are pointing away from it because a saturated field cannot drain and process wastewater.

These are some of the steps that can save time, money and extend the life of your septic system.

Vacant Units

We currently have 12 vacant units we are just wrapping up with some much-needed renovations,

We have been working on updates and structural changes to 6 of the units.

Decisions are being made about next steps for when units are completed.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get these units ready for the next family that will call it home.

Housing Announcements

The housing department has a list on file of ALL of our houses on reserve (which include Band Rentals, Rent-to-owns, CP's and Traditional Land Homes) and how many occupants reside in each unit. We do our best to keep the list updated at all times and would appreciate your assistance in keeping this list as accurate as possible for safety and emergency purposes only.

We do not need to know names of each occupant in the unit but would appreciate updates on how many individuals are living in each home which includes babies, children, teenagers, adults and elders.

If at any time your family size changes, for any reason, please e-mail the information to Ashley DeGray at ashley.degray@lnib.net or call 250-378-5157

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you!

Water Usage Assessment

At the beginning of December 2025, the LNIB Public Works Department completed a water usage assessment to determine if there were any active leaks within our water systems. When they went to review the data, they noted that there was an excessive amount of water being used within Nicola Mammeet.. The Housing Department would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that community members are being as environmentally friendly as possible and as a result, are asking the community if there have been any unreported water leaks, hose bibs leaking and/or toilets leaking or running water consistently within your homes. If there is issues in your home where water is running constantly where it shouldn't be, please reach out to Ashley DeGray at 250-378-5157 or ashley.degray@lnib.net

Lower Nicola Indian Band

January 2026

LNIB EDUCATION SECTOR

LNIB School/Language&Culture/K-12/PSE/Head-Start

Shane’s Submission

As we approach the winter season our LNIB Education Sector would like to extend warm greetings to members, families, learners, and partners—wherever you may be living and learning :) We hope this time of year brings opportunities for rest, reflection, and meaningful connection with family and friends...we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter holiday!

This submission reflects a shortened reporting window of approximately two weeks due to the winter break. Rather than focusing on this limited period alone I thought it was important to share a broader reflection on the progress we have made to date this fiscal year, along with what members can expect over the final three months of the fiscal year. Across all programs, our collective focus remains on supporting learners at every stage, strengthening culturally grounded education, and continuing to build responsive, accountable, and community-centred services.

HEAD-START

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Head-Start program continues to experience positive growth and momentum. Children and families have benefited from increased field trips, expanded outreach initiatives for parents and infants, and a noticeable increase in staff participation in professional development to build capacity and better serve members.

A significant milestone this year is the planning and development of a new building dedicated to infants aged 0–3 and their parents. Facility improvements for the current classroom are also underway, with kitchen, cupboard, and shelving renovations taking place over the winter break, and additional upgrades to the room planned prior to summer.

Sector Leadership

Director of Education
Shane Coutlee

LNIB School Principal
Leroy Slanzi

Education Manager
Sharon Parsons

Language & Culture Manager
William Sandy

Head-Start Coordinator
Hinal Thacker



LNIB Education 2025-2026

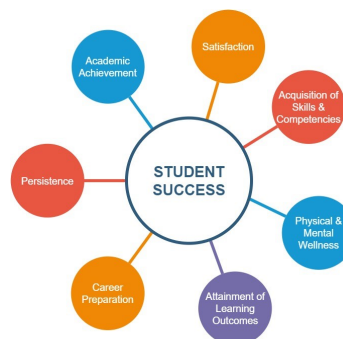
Lower Nicola Indian Band

January 2026

LNIB BAND SCHOOL

The LNIB Band School continues to demonstrate strong progress and positive change for students. Improvements include administration and staffing stability, the addition of school sports and athletics, a structured literacy program, increased land-based instruction, mandatory classroom teacher participation in culture and language learning, and enhanced student support services with SLP's and LART.

This year has also seen the launch of an after-school program, early implementation of a structured numeracy program, planning for future secondary grade addition to the school with focus on future language immersion too.



Modified from York, Gibson, & Ranin (2015). Operationalized Model of Academic Success

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Under new leadership, the Culture and Language Program has made strong progress in planning and implementation over the past few months. Work has focused on building capacity for language immersion for both community and school, increasing accountability and transparency, and strengthening communication with members, community, external partnerships.



Several external grant applications have been submitted over the past few months, with one already approved just prior to the winter break. Additional initiatives include building lists identifying resources/experts, increasing Elder and Knowledge-Keeper involvement, and collaborating with agencies within the territory to diversify services.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Post-Secondary Education Program continues to support a strong number of LNIB members enrolled in programs across many disciplines. Last year we supported approximately 70 members and numbers are looking comparable this year.



The focus for the remainder of the fiscal year includes increased involvement in training and co-op initiatives, including summer opportunities for high-school students.

LNIB Education 2025-2026

Lower Nicola Indian Band

January 2026

K-12 PROGRAM AND SERVICES

K-12 Program and Services continues to support students and families both within and outside the Nicola Valley. This year we once again provided members, both on and off reserve, the opportunity to access winter activity offerings including movie passes, tubing opportunities, and WHL game tickets.

Partnerships with the local School District have supported land-based learning through new resources, and continued support is provided to students living outside Merritt attending other school districts where we help with scheduling assistance, assessments, meetings with principals and teachers, and funding support for various activities/events.

As we move into the final three months of the fiscal year, we remain grateful for the dedication of staff, families, and learners. We wish all LNIB members a restful and meaningful winter holiday season.



Please reach out to discuss anything you want us to initiate or support. I can be reached directly by phone/text 236.575.2135 or Shane.Coutlee@lnib.net

LNIB Education 2025-2026

HELP LNIB EDUCATION LOCATE MEMBERS LIVING OUTSIDE NICOLA VALLEY!

Seeking LNIB Families
Not Already On Our K-12 File List...
DO YOU KNOW THEIR WHEREABOUTS?



REFER A FAMILY & THEY GET:

- \$100 Save-On-Foods Gift Certificate
- \$100 Petro-Canada Gas Certificate
- + **MOVIE NIGHT PACKAGE** for 2

YOU ALSO GET THE SAME GREAT GIFTS!

HOW IT WORKS: The family you refer must contact **Sharon Parsons** at Sharon.Parsons@lnib.net and let her know you referred them.

After confirmation of **new addition**, both you and the new family will receive the gift package.

This referral incentive will end **February 27, 2026**.

If there are any questions, please contact **LNIB Education**.



The Language and Culture Department celebrates the strength and enduring resilience inherent in our *n̓eʔkepmxcin* culture. Our revitalization efforts are an active process of cultural affirmation and self-determination, ensuring that the wisdom of our ancestors, rooted in *n̓eʔkepmxcin*, is carried forward to the next generation.

Teaching, Learning, and Growing Together

The 12 Days of *N̓eʔkepmxcin* Revitalization initiative was designed as a community-wide engagement project to normalize the use of *N̓eʔkepmxcin* and foster deep reflection on the cultural reclamation journey. Rooted in a trauma-informed framework, the project prioritized safety, courage, and non-judgment, resulting in significant participation across various digital and physical platforms. Recognizing the history of language suppression and the grief associated with language loss, this initiative was built on the principle of "Courage Over Perfection," providing multiple submission streams including social media, email, and voicemail to ensure that no member was excluded due to technology barriers or personal preferences.

The first phase of the initiative focused on language practice, where members were challenged to submit videos of themselves speaking the language through counting, kinship terms, and naming elements of the land. The objective was to create a digital community square where *N̓eʔkepmxcin* is spoken, heard, and celebrated in everyday spaces. This phase successfully lowered the threshold for engagement by encouraging members to hear their own voices—and those of their children—speaking the language. In doing so, we began to reclaim the auditory space of our community, facilitating a critical shift from viewing language as an academic subject to experiencing it as a living breath.

The second phase transitioned into thematic reflection, asking members to respond to prompts regarding the future and meaning of our language through written or voicemail submissions. This was designed to facilitate a shared journey of healing and to articulate both individual and collective responsibilities toward revitalization. Participants shared powerful visions for the future, ranging from hopes for fluent children to the necessity of safe, non-judgmental learning environments. These reflections served as a vital reminder that while the journey of reclamation is deeply personal, the responsibility to carry the language forward is a collective one. By utilizing diverse submission methods, we captured the heartbeat of the community's vision for sovereignty and wholeness.

Throughout the initiative, we explicitly addressed the shame often associated with language learning, replacing it with a celebratory atmosphere that honoured every attempt regardless of fluency. By offering phone-in and email options, we respected the boundaries of those who do not use Facebook, ensuring the initiative was inclusive of the whole Band. The cultural and spiritual significance of the work remained the primary focus through the consistent inclusion of the initiative's purpose in every communication. The 12 Days of Nt̓eʔkepmxcin Revitalization proved that when we lead with heart and heritage, the community responds with courage, providing a clear roadmap for 2026 and a strengthened commitment to keeping our language alive.

Strategic Partnerships for a Holistic Future

The Language and Culture Manager attended two pivotal sessions hosted by the FPCC. These sessions centered on Food Sovereignty and Artistic Voice, providing insights into how land, language, and creative expression are inextricably linked.

For the Lower Nicola Indian Band School, these learnings reinforce our current journey: language revitalization is not just about words; it is about reclaiming the systems—food, art, and land—that those words were designed to describe.

Food Sovereignty as Cultural Reclamation

Panelists: Jacob Julian & Julian Napoleon

This session explored how rebuilding Indigenous food systems is a direct act of resistance against colonialism and a catalyst for community healing.

- **Language as an Ecological Map:** The panelists highlighted that Indigenous languages contain deep scientific knowledge. For example, describing soil as "living" or "alive" aligns with modern ecology but has been embedded in our languages since time immemorial.
- **Challenging Colonial Narratives:** Historical records often minimized Indigenous agriculture (calling 80-acre farms "patches"). Reclaiming our language allows us to accurately rename our history of sophisticated land management.

- The "Living Classroom": The success of Tea Creek and Mesk farms—distributing 40,000 lbs of produce—shows that food security creates a "safe space" for cultural learning. When the belly is full, the mind is ready for the language.

Connection to LNIB School: Our efforts to integrate Nt̓eʔkepmxcin into daily life can be strengthened by "land-based" learning. Just as the panelists used farms to revitalize traditions, our school can use local harvesting and traditional food preparation as a primary site for language immersion.

Finding Voice Through Formline & Art

Presenter: Shoshannah Green (Haida Artist)

Shoshannah shared her journey of mastering classical Haida formline while developing a contemporary voice that speaks to modern Indigenous identity.

- Art as a Visual Language: Shoshannah described formline as a dialogue with ancestors. Visual art serves as an accessible "entry point" for those who may feel intimidated by language learning.
- Safe Spaces for Growth: She emphasized the importance of mentorship and "safe spaces" to make mistakes. Cultural revitalization is a process of "rebuilding," and mistakes are a natural part of that architecture.
- Emotional Resilience: Art provides a way to process community grief and trauma, turning heavy emotions into stories of resilience (e.g., her Nurse Log project).

Connection to LNIB School: This reinforces our commitment to providing our students with various "voices"—whether through song, Nt̓eʔkepmx art, or speech. Shoshannah’s focus on using "affordable materials" to encourage risk-taking reminds us that our cultural programs should be accessible to every student, regardless of their starting point.

We look forward to sharing our next steps as we continue this vital journey of cultural and language revitalization together.

Language and Culture Manager	mex̓əxiʔk̓h (William Sandy)
Language and Culture Teacher	Chichums (James Shuter)
Language and Culture Teacher	Kaxpítsa (Annie Major)



Artisan Callout: Sharing Our Gifts with Care

The LNIB Education Sector Language and Culture Department is respectfully reaching out to all artisans within our community.

We recognize the deep connection between our arts, crafts, and cultural practices, and the wellbeing of our people. Creating and sharing our traditional and contemporary works is a powerful way to promote healing, resilience, and cultural continuity.

In this spirit, we invite artisans who are interested in showcasing, sharing, or teaching their skills and pieces—whether traditional or contemporary—to connect with us. We approach this work with a Trauma-Informed perspective, understanding that our culture is a source of strength, healing, and pride.

We welcome all types of artistic expression, which may include:

- Basketry and weaving
- Beadwork and regalia
- Carving and woodworking
- Painting, drawing, and graphic arts
- Traditional crafts and items
- Contemporary art with cultural themes

How to Express Interest: If you're an artisan who is interested in getting involved, collaborating, or simply letting us know about your work, please reach out!

Contact: William Sandy
Email: william.sandy@lnib.net

LNIB Education Department – Gail La Rochelle – PSE/Trades/Training Coordinator



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday. I sure hope Santa was especially good to you. Were you able to enjoy all the festivities, go visiting, and spend fun filled quality time with family and friends?

Bundling up good and warm when you plan on an outdoor adventure.

I hope the coming year for the Education Department is as successful as last year.

PSE students had a nice break from their studies. All students should be settling into the winter/spring semester and registered into the courses needed for their program. Be sure to speak with your academic advisor to make sure you are on the right track. For PSE students who have yet to send to the Education Department your unofficial transcripts for the fall semester, please send them as soon as possible.

All students: remember to keep in contact with the Education Office. We are always here to support you the best way we can.

Grade 11 and 12 students, now is the time to start thinking about what University you would like to attend. You can apply to a few schools to see which programs are best suited for you. Talk to your high school counsellor to be sure you have everything lined up and make appointments to speak with the academic advisors at the universities. You are welcome to come to the Education Office and talk with us as well.

Scholarships and Bursaries:

[Scholarships for Indigenous Students | Aboriginal Scholarships BC | BC Scholarship Society](#)

<https://studentlifework.55rush.com/cls2024?ref=scholarshipscanada>

<https://bcaafc.com/education/first-citizen-funds/> check the deadlines to apply.

To all Membership in the Nicola Valley and away from the area, you can sign up for courses or programs throughout the year. If you find a program or course you are interested in taking, such as first aid, a post-secondary course, skills training for employment, or an online course, we are here to assist you with the process. We can also help create or update your resume. Contact our office to find out how we can support you.

Please call or email our office to ensure we have your current up-to-date contact information.

Until next month, stay safe, and be good to one another.

Gail La Rochelle

Phone: 250-378-5157

Email: gail.larochelle@lnib.net

LNIB Education



ADDRESS

183 Nawishaskin Lane

PHONE

LNIB:

250-378-5157

Direct:

236-575-2100

EMAIL

Reception.education@lnib.net

WEBSITE

www.lnib.net

Lenessa Seward

**LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

JANUARY 2026

HELLO EVERYONE

Merry Christmas! And Happy Holidays to everyone!

Hope everyone enjoyed their time off, I know I did!

The Education Department had a blast this holiday season competing in the 12 Days of Christmas Competition run by Nicolas Thomson-Muir!

No word on the winner yet but we have high hopes!

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SCHOOL SUPPORTS

LNIB members can now apply for the following supports

- School Start Up
- Extra-Curricular
- Tutoring

If you haven't yet applied for school supports above reach out to the education department

We can email fillable forms, or we have printed copies in the office

LAPTOP LENDER

We have laptops available to lend to LNIB members that need one for school/training purposes

Contact the education department for accessibility

Reminder that we have moved office buildings

New Address: 183 Nawishaskin Lane

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

LNIB EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

ANGIE NIKKEL, EDUCATION ASSISTANT
HELLO, AND HAPPY 2026 TO EVERYONE!



angie.nikkel@lnib.net



(250) 315 – 7927

183 NAWISHASKIN LANE

**WISHING YOU A
YEAR FILLED
WITH NEW
HOPES, NEW
JOYS, AND NEW
BEGINNINGS.
HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**



Upcoming Events:

-Monday, January 5: School reopens after the break

I would like to welcome back all students, families, and staff, and wish everyone a healthy, successful, and positive New Year. January is a time for fresh starts, renewed motivation, and setting goals for the months ahead. I hope that everyone had a restful winter break and is feeling ready to jump back into learning.

As students return to school after the holidays, I would like to remind families how important regular attendance is for student success. Being at school consistently helps students stay on track academically, socially, and emotionally.

If you have noticed that your child (or children) is struggling in one or more areas, a tutor is available for those of you with a student or students in need of one-on-one tutoring or would benefit from extra help with their schoolwork. Please reach out to myself at angie.nikkel@lnib.net (250-315-7927) or Sharon Parsons at sharon.parsons@lnib.net (250-378-5157) to fill out an application and get onto the schedule. We have computers available if needed.

LNIB Education Department – Haidyn Clark, Education Student Assistant



Hello, my name is Haidyn Clark

I am Lower Nicola Indian Band member. I am the daughter of Marilynne Munro and Darcy Clark, and the granddaughter of Karen Jackson and Johnny Munro. I am currently working as a temporary Education Student Assistant with LNIB Education Department until next fall.

In this position, I assist students at both the LNIB school and Nicola Canford Elementary. I work with different students in all different subjects and assist where needed.

I am excited about the opportunities this role will bring. I look forward to learning, growing, and seeing where this position will take me in the future.

My goal is to contribute positively to my community while gaining experience that will support me in the years ahead.

As of December 19th, I continue to work at the Nicola Canford Elementary School and the Lower Nicola Indian Band School, where I am observing and learning about how the Education Assistants support students in the classroom. My mentors are Angie Nikkel and Reese Paterson.

I have met new people such as school staff and building relationships with the students. I am hoping to build positive connections in their learning environment.

When I'm not at one of those schools I help at other LNIB departments. This provides me with the opportunity to gain experience and learn about the tasks and responsibilities of each staff member.

At the Community Services Health Centre I assist staff and community members in whatever way I can. I have helped with filing and organizing workspaces, set up community events, decorated the Community Services Christmas Parade float, and jumped in to assist Recreation Assistant, Marcello Bose.

After the winter break, I will continue at the schools and LNIB departments and may be able to expand to more departments to gain more experience.

Take care everyone,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year





HEAD START NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



TEACHER NOTES

In January we will be talking about Winter and Polar Animals. Our color is white and our number is 6. We will be focusing on the letters M,N and our new shape for the month is Rectangle.

Please remember to make sure your child has all the proper clothing for this time of year. Boots, snow pants, winter jackets, mittens and toques, are all required to ensure your child stays "toasty" warm playing outside.

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5th - First Day Back
 January 9th - Library Day
 January 12th - PJ Day
 January 14th - YMCA Drop In
 January 20th - Bring your fav stuffy
 January 23rd - Library Day
 January 26th - Fire Drill
 January 28th - YMCA Drop In

REMINDERS

We hope everyone had a great break with lots of time to relax and enjoy the season. Spending time with family and friends is what Christmas is all about! We look forward to having the kiddos back in the classroom. Please ensure you pack your children warm clothes for outside.

Contact Info

Hinal Thaker
 Head Start Coordinator
 #587-888-2454
 hinal.thaker@lnib.net
 Justice Forman
 604-860-3028
 justice.forman@lnib.net

Lunch Menu

JANUARY 2026

5 SMOOTHIE BOWLS + GRANOLA BARS	6 SCRAMBLED EGGS BACON & TOAST	7 KRAFT DINNER. + HOTDOGS	8 ENGLISH MUFFINS AND YOGURT	9 MEAT/ CHEESE AND CRACKERS
12 PANCAKES + FRUIT	13 GRILLED CHEESE AND VEGE	14 CHICKEN NUGGETS AND FRIES	15 OATMEAL AND FRUITS	16 SNACK PLATTER AND VEG
19 FRENCH TOAST + FRUIT	20 NACHOS + VEG	21 CHICKEN NUGGETS + FRIES	22 QUESADILLA + VEG	23 YOGURT/ FRUIT + MUFFINS
26 CHICKEN BURGER + FRIES	27 HAM AND CHEESE PINWHEELS	28 CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP + CRACKERS	29 WAFFLES + FRUIT	30 MINI PIZZA / VEG

JANUARY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5 OPEN DAY FOR OUTREACH	6	7	8 OPEN DAY FOR OUTREACH	9 MERRITT LIBRARY 10:00 TO 11:50
12	13 MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM	14 YMCA DROP IN PROGRAM 10:00 TO 11:30	15 OPEN DAY FOR OUTREACH	16
19	20 MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM	21	22	23 MERRITT LIBRARY 10:00 TO 11:30
26	27 MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM	28 YMCA DROP IN PROGRAM	29 OPEN DAY FOR OUTREACH PROGRAM	30

HEAD START 0-2YEARS PROGRAM

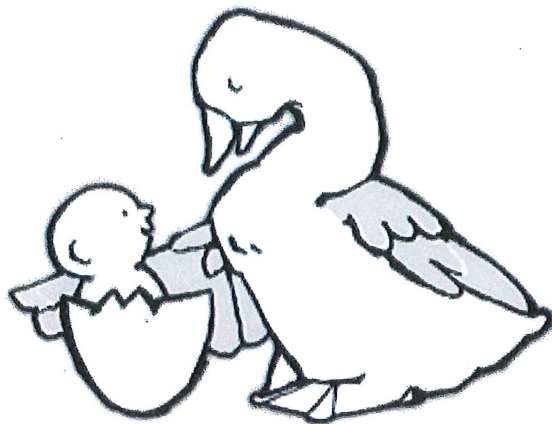
CONTACT INFO:
 HINAL THAKER
 HINAL.THAKER@LNIB.NET
 #587-888-2454

SYDNEY JOE
 SYDNEY.JOE@LNIB.NET
 #250-378-7120

NOTE :
 THIS PROGRAM FOR HEAD START REGISTERED MEMBERS ONLY







The **MOTHER GOOSE®** program is a **FREE** group experience for parents and their children, age 0-4, which focuses on the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs and stories together.

This pre-literacy program promotes parent-child interaction and socialization.



- Welcome basket
- Refreshments
- Snacks
- Door prizes
- Completion Package & certificate

Dates:

January 13, 20, 27
February 3, 10, 17, 24
March 3

Time:

9:30am-11:00am

Location:

2990 Voght Street
Merritt BC
CCRR entrance (East Side)

**To Register Call
587-888-2454
LNIB MEMBERS ONLY**

Facilitators:
Hinal Thaker
Melissa Cummings



Mé Sqyéytn Festival

Honoring Nlaka'pamux Traditional Food

CALLING ALL VENDORS & CULTURAL CREATORS!

- Singers
- Knowledge Keepers
- Cultural Demonstrators
- Fashion
- Info Booths
- Food
- Drummers/Dancers
- Key Note Speakers
- Arts/Crafts

September 19th-20th, 2026
Shulus Arbor, Merritt, Bc
10Am - 5pm
Community Dinner @ 5pm

Contact the LNIB Land Guardians to sign up
katolina.peterson@lnib.net
colton.sterling-moses@lnib.net

Please sign up before Sept 1st, 2026



LOWER NICOLA
INDIAN BAND

HÉ SQYÉYTN FESTIVAL

HONORING NLAKA'PAMUX TRADITIONAL FOODS

2ND ANNAUL
EVENT

VENDORS - FOOD
ARTS - CRAFTS
GAMES - DOOR PRIZES

MERRITT, BC
SHULUS ARBOR
10AM-5PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!



SEPTEMBER 19TH-20TH
2026

For additional information contact:
katolina.peterson@lnib.net/colton.sterling-moses@lnib.net





LOWER NICOLA
INDIAN BAND

“Let’s build your employment pathway together.”

LOWER NICOLA INDIAN BAND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

what I can help you with:

CAREER + JOB SEARCH SUPPORT

- Resume & cover letter support
- Job search assistance
- Interview preparation support
- Employment planning & career pathways

TRAINING + SKILL BUILDING

- Funding applications for training
- Work experience & skills development opportunities
- Community employment workshops
- Referral connections to training providers & employers

DOCUMENTS + APPLICATION SUPPORT

- Support with applications, forms & employment documents

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS

- Driving licensing support
- HVC support person

Contact Information:

Darcie DeBruyne
BISW Employment Coordinator
Economic Development • LNIB Education Building
Monday - Friday • 8:30 am - 4:30 PM
Phone: 236-575-2119 ext. 157
Email: darcie.debruyne@lnib.net



First Aid Intermediate (Formerly OFA Level 2)

January 29 & 30th

8:30 am - 4:30 pm each day

**Please forward your name and contact information ASAP to
register; seats are limited.**



Contact: Darcie DeBruyne

236-575-2119

Darcie.debruyne@lnib.net



**LOWER NICOLA
INDIAN BAND**

**ADVANCED FIRST AID (OFA LEVEL 3)
FEBRUARY 2-13, 2026**

Shulus Hall

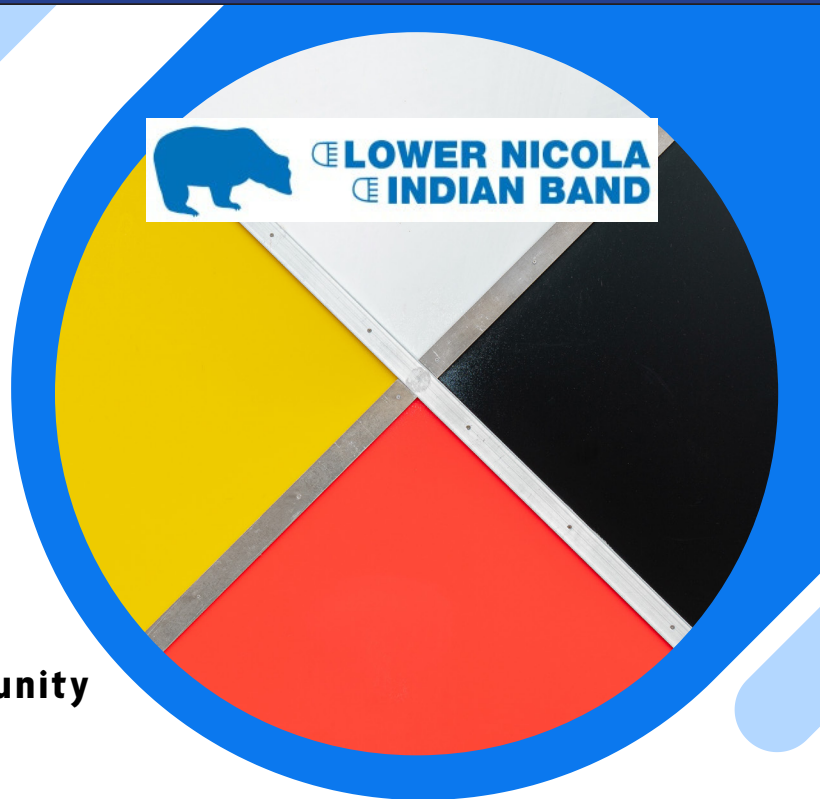
Seats are limited, sign up today!



Contact
Darcie DeBruyne
236-575-2119
Darcie.debruyne@lnib.net



Medicine Wheel Teachings



**Open to the Community
& LNIB Staff**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 pm
LNIB Culture Centre**

**“The medicine wheel teaches us the
importance of balance in our lives.”**

**Any questions call Richard Jackson
250-378-5157**



LOWER NICOLA
INDIAN BAND

Welcoming the Babies

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Shulus Hall - #85 Hwy 8

Agenda:

5:00 pm - Welcoming prayers and dinner

5:45 pm - Ceremony starts

Drumming and Acknowledgment for the babies

Babies born from December 1st 2024 - December 1st 2025

Hand Drummers Welcome

Deadline to register: January 20th

For more information contact Marilynne Munro
(250) 378-5157





FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

JANUARY 27 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM ☒

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM ☒

ROCKY PINES COMMUNITY CENTRE ☒

IF YOUR CHILD WANTS TO PARTICIPATE A PARENT
NEEDS TO BE IN ATTENDANCE ☒

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT ☒
MARILYNNE MUNRO 250-378-5157 ☒



ATTENTION: LNIB MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in attending the Celebrating Salish Conference, Spokane Washington, USA March 11 - 13, 2026.

Limited seats available - Deadline to sign up is Monday, February 2nd at 3:30 pm

10 Elders & 10 Adults - LNIB Membership Only

Please submit a letter of interest stating why you would like to attend the conference and please include your 695 registry number. If selected you will be contacted Wednesday, February 4th.

Any questions and to register please call
Carole Basil 250-378-5157



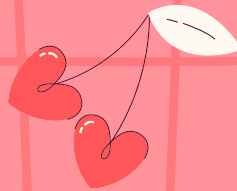
You Had Me at "Handmade."

CRAFT MARKET & BAKE SALE

SHULUS HALL
FEB 7, 10AM-5PM

RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES
LOCAL ARTISANS
HANDMADE PRODUCTS
CONCESSION
>HOTDOGS
>BEVERAGES
>COFFEE

VENDORS WANTED EMAIL
COYOTECANDYCLOUDS378@GMAIL.COM



Merritt Minor Hockey U7 Team thanks the following for their generous donation toward their 2026 Jamboree Tournament raffle on January 10th.

- Stuwix Resources Joint Venture
- LNIB Development Corporation

Your support for youth sports and the local hockey players is greatly appreciated!



CONTINUING STUDIES COURSES

January - June 2026

Basic First Aid

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM | Merritt Campus

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
 Wednesday, February 18, 2026
 Friday, March 20, 2026
 Wednesday, April 15, 2026
 Friday, May 15, 2026
 Friday, June 19, 2026

FOODSAFE Level 1

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Merritt Campus

Thursday, March 26, 2026

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

nvit.ca/continuingstudies

Red Cross Emergency First Aid with CPR 'C'

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Merritt Campus

Friday, February 6, 2026

Advanced First Aid

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM | Merritt Campus

March 2 - March 13, 2026
 (2 weeks, Monday - Friday)

Registration Deadline:

February 17, 2026



Download the registration form now!

ALL COURSES WILL BE DELIVERED IN-PERSON AT THE NVIT MERRITT CAMPUS.



**NICOLA VALLEY
 INSTITUTE OF
 TECHNOLOGY**

Website: nvit.ca
 Email: info@nvit.ca
 Toll free: 1.877.682.3300

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**Mount Mabel Wind Inc.**

155 Wellington Street West
Suite 2930
Toronto, ON M5V 3H1
Canada

Telephone (416) 649-1300
Facsimile (416) 649-1335

www.capstoneinfrastructure.com

Community Voices Shape the Future of LNIB's partnership in the Mount Mabel Wind Project

This article marks the beginning of a series of regular updates for the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB) community about the ongoing partnership in the Mount Mabel Wind Project. Our goal is to keep all community members informed and engaged by sharing important developments, opportunities for involvement, and answers to your questions as the project progresses.

We are committed to transparency and open communication, ensuring that everyone has a voice in shaping the future of this renewable energy project.

Community engagement

The Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB) hosted two well-attended community info sessions to discuss the Mount Mabel Wind Project on May 8th and September 24th. These sessions brought LNIB leadership, Capstone Infrastructure Corporation (Capstone), ERM environmental consultants, and community members together for open dialogue and collaborative planning.

Both sessions featured presentations, Q&A, and opportunities for direct conversations with the project developer, Capstone Infrastructure. The Capstone team appreciated the welcoming atmosphere and valued the opportunity to answer questions and hear community member's perspectives on the wind power project. Community members expressed a desire for site tours and more details on the project's technical and financial aspects, underscoring the importance of transparency throughout the project's development.

Logo and Project Naming Contest

The Mount Mabel Wind project team is excited to announce a logo and project naming contest, inviting all community members to consider their ideas and participate. This is a unique opportunity for LNIB members to help shape the identity of the renewable energy project by submitting creative ideas for both the project's name and its logo.

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Capstone members and LNIB leadership. The winning entry will be featured in project communications and materials. Your creativity and input are valued as we work together to build a project that reflects the spirit and vision of the LNIB community.

Contest Details:

Create a unique name and logo for the Mount Mabel Wind project that reflects Lower Nicola Indian Band values, identity and vision for the future.

- Simple – easy to remember and recognize
- Meaningful – represents who LNIB is and what you stand for
- Original – distinctive and authentic

Deadline for submissions: Friday March 6, 2026

How to enter: Submit your ideas to MountMabel@capstoneinfra.com

Prize: \$2,500 for the winner or split between two winners

Addressing Technical and Environmental Concerns

Community members raised important questions about wind feasibility, land requirements, and the protection of water and lands around the Mount Mable Wind project. Concerns about forestry losses, potential for wildlife impacts, and cumulative effects on Surrey Lake were discussed, with suggestions to engage more on these topics in future sessions. The project team responded to inquiries about environmental studies, species at risk, and typical mitigation measures for wind power projects.

Socio-Economic Opportunities and Challenges

The sessions highlighted the project's unique equity ownership, Indigenous employment, and opportunities for local contractors. LNIB leadership stated the potential of participating in the project through employment or contracting may require training, and long-term benefits such as scholarships and bursaries. Housing impacts and the need for the project to consider how it might impact community services in Merritt and Kamloops were also top of mind.

Regulatory and Financial Transparency

Community members asked about the project's ownership structure, lease rights, and return on investment, which is forecast to be >\$85million to LNIB over the life of the project. Questions about regulatory approvals, the BC Hydro contract duration, energy pricing and infrastructure upgrades were addressed.

Focusing on Safety and Legacy

Safety protocols for workers, decommissioning costs, and long-term impacts on animals and habitat were key topics. The community expressed interest in what legacy the project will leave, emphasizing economic and environmental stewardship for future generations.

Next Steps

The Mount Mabel Wind project team and LNIB leadership are committed to addressing any outstanding questions and continuing community engagement through site tours, assessing training opportunities, and continuing transparent communication. A process for monitoring and reporting on environmental and socio-economic impacts will remain a priority as the project progresses.

For more information, please check out www.mountmabelwind.com. Your voice matters as we shape the future of clean energy in British Columbia.

Celebrating Family Literacy

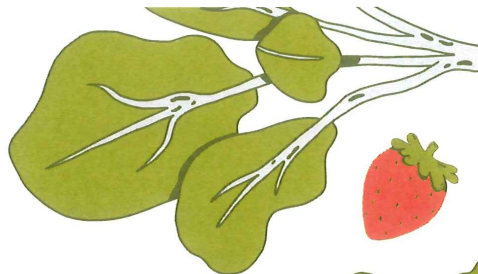
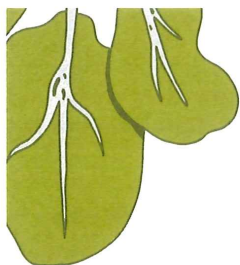
Join us for a **special** drop in event for
Literacy Week

- Physical Literacy Activities
- Arts and Crafts
- Story Telling
- Light Refreshments



January 24
9:00am-12:00pm
2990 Voght Street
East Entrance





FAMILY DINNER AND RECIPE EXCHANGE

Celebrate Family Literacy Week - January 27, 2026

Theme: Make mealtime family learning time
Cook together, make shopping lists, and share family stories ❤️

Share a Recipe & Win!

Email or bring your family’s favourite mealtime recipe for our community cookbook.
✉️ Submit a recipe to be entered into a grocery gift card draw!

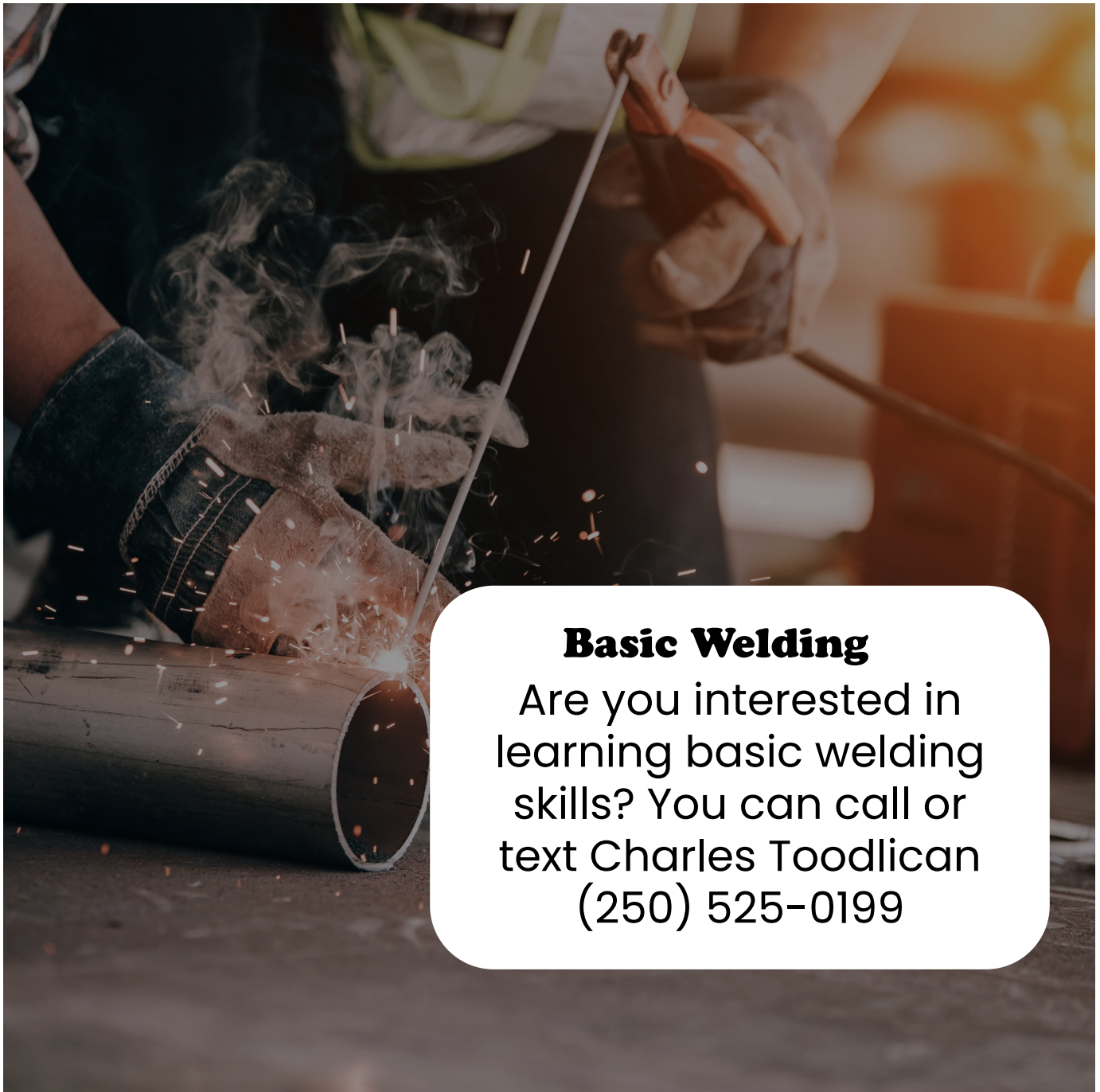
Family Dinner

- 📅 Tuesday, January 27, 2026
- 🕒 4:00–6:00 PM
- 📍 2990 Voght St.

RSVP & Recipes:

Please email your recipe and RSVP to:
melissa.cummings@bc.ymca.ca





Basic Welding

Are you interested in learning basic welding skills? You can call or text Charles Toodlican (250) 525-0199