

BFN CHIEF AND COUNCIL 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



OUR GOALS

- IMPROVE BFN GOVERNANCE
- INCREASE BFN TITLE AND RIGHTS
- DRIVE BFN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ENHANCE BFN COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND HEALTH

OUR MISSION

Based on accountable and transparent governance, we nurture culturally safe opportunities, programs, and service for a healthy Stuctwesmemc.

OUR VALUES

Tsetsetenwéís

Knucwentwéc

Xyemstés

Yúcwementwecw

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL

AS WE APPROACH OUR FINAL SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE, WE WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF.

In 2022 Chief and Council were able to finalize the BFN Governance manual, initiate and complete a Financial Management Plan and sign off on a custom BFN Financial Administration Law with the First Nation Financial Management Board.

C&C have been involved at SNTC and BC and Canadian Chiefs meetings to ensure BFN's voice is heard.

The BFN Custom Election Code is in its fourth reading and should be finalized in early 2023.

Through forward thinking, inclusive and transparent governance Chief and Council have been able to initiate and complete critical policy changes that will assist BFN in the years ahead.

As a result of hard work and a business-like mindset BFN has up to date Financial Audits, is fiscally responsible and has managed to end the fiscal year 2021-2022 with a positive bank balance for the first time in decades.

During the past year, we have continued to improve services while maintaining fiscal responsibility in our administration departments. Many of you may not realize that BFN receives only \$293,000 to administer and manage the entire Nations finances and a large majority of the departments which include housing, finance, lands, and management including the two paid Chief and councilor positions. Operations and maintenance only receive \$93,000 to operate the 2 water treatment plants (with 2 more coming online), collect the garbage, plow snow, and look after 83 homes.

Obviously, these provided ISC funding amounts are severely lacking and insufficient. In the past, this lack of funding has caused consecutive annual deficit situations over decade long periods resulting in past leadership having to make decisions to transfer large amounts from the West Kelowna account to cover debt.

This current Chief and Council has been committed to grow and develop BFN financial independence. Over the past year and a half, Chief and Council have continued to support the administration team to pursue outside economic opportunities. These opportunities provide BFN with a means of becoming financially independent and not reliant on ISC funding to operate our Nation.

The investments we have made in assets and infrastructure as well as the management policies that we have implemented are beginning to reward the Nation with surplus budgets and increased employment opportunities in all our departments.

As a result, BFN finished last fiscal in surplus situation and is also operating in a surplus budget again for this current fiscal year.

Looking forward, we will continue to focus on improving BFN Governance and policies in the latter half of our term, by leading the Nation with a high level of professionalism and proactive leadership.



TITLE AND RIGHTS

BFN has two specific claims that have been accepted by the GOC, Chief and Council recently submitted the IR5 specific claim and is preparing the next specific claim submission for 2023. Title and Rights is a high priority for BFN C&C. We have pushed for and been involved in all levels of BFN Title and Rights management, with our own administration and the BC and Federal Governments. We will continue to stay involved and push for BFN governance and sovereignty over our traditional territory.

C&C and BFN Youth representative Melanie Minnabarriet recently attended the First Nations Leaders Gathering in Vancouver, where over 900 Indigenous leaders and BC Government officials met to discuss the implementation of UNDRIP. BFN C&C met directly with the Ministers of Transportation, Forestry, Lands, Tourism, Mines and Environment. Chief and Council continues to follow up with Ministers and Deputy Ministers they met with to ensure there is ongoing dialogue about a number of items that were highlighted at these initial meetings.

One of the T&R initiatives that BFN Chief and Council are currently involved with is the negotiation of a capacity funding agreement with Highland Valley Copper Mine for the HVC 2040 expansion project. BFN received the referral from the BC Mines Branch and has been provided a time frame in which to respond with BFN concerns regarding the expansion project which is basically a doubling of the current operation. It is critical for BFN to be involved in this review to ensure that the affects from this project does not negatively impact the Nation and the Nations interests: such as hunting and fishing opportunities, water contamination etc.

Capacity funding is funding provided by proponents like HVC working in the Traditional Territory of the Nation to cover expenses associated with the project review. Chief and Council, BFN staff and BFN experts time and expenses associated with the review of the proponent's project will be covered by the proponent. Expenses may include studies to determine project impacts, and expert analysis and review, etc.

Capacity funding has not been pursued or received in the past for project review by BFN and as a result all those costs associated with reviewing projects has come from BFN's own pocket.

Chief and Council are dedicated to stopping the continuation of projects in BFN traditional territory without proper consultation and accommodation. Capacity funding is a key part of BFN's ability to self-regulate and manage industry developments, in the territory. The BC Government needs to be held accountable for development and accommodate and/or offset negative impacts that may occur from development on BFN land.

Over the next year we will continue to provide a strong voice and presence to advance BFN's Title & Rights by continuing to improve on our relationships with Government, Industry and neighboring Secwepemc Communities. It is our intent to ensure that BFN is included in and apart of appropriate levels of consultation and accommodation with any developments that may impact or are found within our territory.



FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP GATHERING 2022 WITH TOURISM MINISTER LISA BEARD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our priority and goals were to become independent from ISC, to create opportunities for the Nation and our members. To be able to provide good, secure jobs and create a sense of pride to work at home for BFN.

This summer we had 85 employees working and getting paid from non OSR revenue. BFN employees generating sources of income on their own, through BFN led economic development opportunities.

Our contracts with companies like Matcon in Lytton, Highways in Spences Bridge, the Fortis Gas Crossing and MOF Forestry road deactivation and many others is allowing BFN members to realize we can initiate and maintain a sustainable economic development plan that benefits the Nation and our members.

We have built a solid economic foundation developed with sound financial planning and management. Next steps include tourism opportunities this spring at the McAbee Fossil area and the Historic Hat Creek Ranch and a continuation of our Natural Resources and Operational contracts to provide good paying jobs for BFN members.

Chief and Council is excited to see BFN businesses such as Daniel and Arlene Gaspard's business succeed and prosper in the community and provide community support in the form of a First Nation Tax. FNT's are collected from non-Indigenous customers as a tax and passed along to the Nation to provide community support.



A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Chief and Council's initial goals for a healthy BFN community included: preserving and protecting our language, developing a cultural enrichment program, revamping elder and youth groups, improvements to our water system, improvements to the delivery of health services, the revival of BFN ball fields and hockey rink, renewed IR fencing, an O&M building, improvements to our housing management and housing opportunities and the creation of an educational facility.

We wanted to create an open and safe environment that allows inclusive input from both on and off reserve members.

The past year and a half we are very proud of the achievements and progressive movement within the community.

A total of 10 new band members have either moved back home or are in the process of planning a move back home over the past year and half. BFN is also moving toward rapid housing applications for multiplex and single family homes that we are hopeful will be built in the coming year.

Improvements at Loon Lake and Hihium Lake are being enjoyed by everyone on a year-round basis.



The Renovation of the Quonset Hut was an amazing community effort that will provide a BFN sports and community facility for years to come.



Chief and council will continue over the remainder of our term to assist the community, BFN Elders and our youth through continued community service and health improvements.

Moving forward, BFN is starting a new 10-year health plan which will enable flexibility and longer-term planning within the Health Center. We have added nurses, social workers, and support workers to our health team in the past year to improve service opportunities and delivery.



In closing Chief and Council would like to thank the members and staff for their support and cooperation over the past year and a half. The change in the community is amazing but there is still much work to accomplish in the next few years to ensure continued success.