



Wuikinuxv Nation

Oweekeno Village, Rivers Inlet, c/o Bag 3500
Port Hardy, BC, V0N 2P0
Administration Office Phone: (250) 949-8625
Administration Fax: (250) 949-7105

Wuikinuxv Health report 2021/21

Hello everyone, I am happy to say we are near the end of this pandemic. We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. This has put a hold on a lot of the programs due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Prenatal Program

- **Buying groceries for new mothers**
- **Helping with nutrition when staying out near hospital**
- **Nurses available to help with check ups.**

Environmental Program

- **Water testing**
- **reporting**

Nurses program

- **Needs 2 RN'S.**
- **2-week shift work back in place.**
- **Homecare nursing for weak and fragile**
- **Vaccines**
- **Dr Day**
- **Patient Files**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Priorities are elderly, youth and persons living with disability.**

Mental Health program:

We are looking for an addictions support worker to come in and compliment the work of our clinician Lisa K and further support the Community.

Opiate and overdose program:

We have Lisa K who comes into the Community every month. This program is very well accepted.

Joint Project Board Program:

This program is very well received and supports the Chiropractor, Occupational therapist, Dietician and Physiotherapy. The program pays for their services and travel.

Personal Support worker:

This program supports our Elderly with escorts and personal care

Community Health representative:

The CHR is in desperate need of 2 CHR's doing shift work. They oversee and assist the community with all health-related problems. They are your liaison to health care and will provide you with direction to health professionals. Assist Elders with Patient travel. They are also in charge of the Emergency response.

Isolation Trailer:

Clifford will update the Community. Health advocated for this to be available so that anyone getting COVID was able to be isolated and therefor we could contain it. It is looking close to completion.

Brighter Futures:

- Traditional meds
- School snacks
- Gas money for Traditional Foods
- Community members struggling with nutritional needs.
- Culture for our youth
- Graduation bonus for Students.
- Aboriginal day coordinator

Maintenance Program

- Supplies and maintenance for the health centre
- Oxygen
- Vehicle maintenance
- Electricity
- Phones
- internet
- yard work
- helipad

- **freight for medications**
- **New container for safe storage of Health supplies**

Home and Community care:

This program activities this year were Elder's food program, Home care, outdoor eldercare, and escorts out for the elders with a permanent escort request. This program is now reaching out for permanent workers, so it is fully functional. We are now budgeting for travel and \$30/day for private accommodations. Our priority is to have this program up and running ASAP.

Day care:

We expect for this program to be running in July 1, 2021. We have hired a Champion Mom and an ECE.

Back to the lands program:

This program just had the first camping trip in February. We will be doing 2 Camping trips this summer. Filled with adventures and reconnecting with mother earth and self. One is for the youth and the other is for the adults.

Nursing program: We have decided we need 2 RNs now and are now looking to get this program functional and accustomed to the Community's needs. This has been an ongoing project. Paul W has taken over this program.

Student program: Starting this summer July 7th – August 17, 2021. We put in for a summer student program for our youth to do culture, Traditional foods and traditional medications. This is equipped for 16 students to attend. They will need to mentor with their relatives. We have a food program set up for where they are staying. It is filled with songs and dances with WA. Camping and hiking and a lot of other exciting stuff. We are looking for a team leader position to be filled. This is a 6-week job posting.

Mental Health Coordinator Position

This position is also available to be filled. We have funding for 1 year. They will coordinate all the programs and make sure they happen regularly.

Trauma Program.

We received \$258, 000 for Trauma. This is a 4-part program available to on/people come in from Off reserve. It is an amazing program that deals with intense trauma. We have top notch counselors coming into Wuikinuxv to do workshops. This is where the funding comes out for the mental health coordinator.

This is about all I can think of right now. I am happy to answer any questions. If I have forgotten anything, please forgive me.

Wuikinuxv Stewardship Office – Update

-May 2021-

Capacity

- Over the past year we have hired: a Lands Manager, a Fisheries Manager; and have worked to keep Fisheries Technician and Guardian positions fully staffed
- We have fixed equipment including boats that needed repair, and obtained funding to add to our equipment in the fisheries program
- In the coming year we are planning to increase our capacity by hiring additional capacity in our Marine and Fisheries programs.

Wuikinuxv Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee continues to meet every second Thursday on Zoom. In the coming month we will be working to set up a meeting space in the Band Office for those who would like to participate in person. Regular Stewardship Committee meetings continue to be a good way to keep interested community members up to date on what is happening with Stewardship work in the territory.

We have a draft Terms of Reference started for the committee and are hoping to finish it in the next month.

Guardian Watchman Program

- The 2021 Wuikinuxv Guardian Watchman program started the first week of April
- We have 3 Guardians, and are working on hiring a fourth. We are hoping to announce the 4th Guardian this week.
- While on their patrols the Guardians have helped:
 - enforce the closures of Conservancies and Parks
 - reported crab poaching in a closed area (traps were seized by DFO)
- Science and Research:
 - complete first round of crab surveys
 - set up data loggers for geoduck project near Penrose
 - set up bear project survey stations
- Safety Plan – A major goal for this year is to update and improve the Guardian Watchman safety plan. We have started by updating our check in procedures and will have a new written safety document by the end of the year. This plan will also be applied and adapted to other field based work.

Fisheries Program

Crab

- Our Indigenous crab closures for commercial and recreational fishing of crab were officially recognized by DFO. Permanent closures are in effect for Johnston Bay and the Head of Rivers Inlet. As mentioned above we have found one incident of poaching in Johnston Bay. These areas are open for community members to fish for crab.

Eulachon

- Eulachon Monitoring Project – The fisheries program just wrapped up their surveying efforts for eulachon. This year we had a really low return. We will crunch the numbers over the next few weeks to better understand the return and how it compares with previous years. When we have more information, we will look in to why this may be and what we might do to improve conditions for eulachon.

Salmon

- Salmon - Working with Fisheries Reconciliation and Resource Agreement (FRRA) signatory Nations on establishing an in-season management table with DFO. This will allow us to participate meaningfully in commercial and sports fishery management for salmon as the fishing season progresses. Objective for this year is to review current practice and begin to develop a process.
- Food Fish Policy – Our fisheries department will be hosting regular working group meetings over the coming weeks with community members to discuss and build a policy/set of recommendations for sockeye food fishing in Wuikinuxv Territory.
 - Plan to reduce meeting frequency but continue to engage on fisheries topics throughout the year.
- Wanukv Sockeye Monitoring (Didson-Aris) - Jason will assist with setup of the Didson-Aris this year, likely we will install early at the end of June or very early July.
- Lake productivity work – British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) funding approved for a lake productivity study managed by LGL. Wuikinuxv fisheries will be assisting in deployment and maintenance of the sampling equipment in the lake this summer and fall, starting in mid-June.

Commercial Fishery

- Western Bounty - Currently undergoing steamship inspection. Need to do a bit of work to fix up the topside of the boat. Licenses leased out (those that we are

not fishing ourselves). Working on getting ticketed crew in time for halibut season - if not we will hire a ticketed skipper or Jason will go out as a crew member so there is a ticketed captain on board and our insurance is valid.

Other Updates

- Infrastructure purchases - New fisheries truck and repaired and modified landing craft should be incoming to the village in early June. Shipping container with tools will be arriving in the coming week.
- Jason plans to re-enter Kitit for a few weeks starting June 7th or so.
- Trip to Koeye - Wuikinuxv fisheries staff have been invited to go and see the salmon weir in operation at Koeye at the end of June - this is a traditional technology that is getting new attention on the west coast and can be an effective way to monitor salmon runs as well as harvest salmon for food and commercial purposes.

Working with Hatchery

- The Stewardship Director and Fisheries Manager have been working with the Hatchery Manager on collaborating with technical staff and training with an end goal to have well trained, full-time technical staff to support all fisheries related programs.

Lands Program

- Landfill Fence- Contractor came in to the community in late March-early April to upgrade the fence. Calen (Lands Manager) also came in to complete upgrades to the fence. Maintenance has since taken over the project
- Great Bear Rainforest Order Review- We are nearing the end of the review process. There should be a draft of changes to the Order circulated soon. The changes have focused on clarifying and strengthening the management objectives to ensure that forestry companies are doing a better job of protecting cultural features, water, and old growth cedar. We will present these to the Wuikinuxv Stewardship Committee for review prior to finalizing the changes.
- COVID. Conservancies remain closed and we are working with BC Parks to put up closure signs at Clam Beach. We will be sending out a letter to lodge operators this week outlining the nation's expectations for this season.
- Forestry- Logging is ongoing in Hardy (mostly heli and roadbuilding at this point). Roadbuilding is taking place in the Sandell River area.

- Bear Research- Our researcher partners got approval to access the territory this year (after missing last year due to COVID). With support from the Guardians, they are conducting their first round of sampling now and will continue until mid-June.
- Landscape Reserve Designs (LRDs)- We have early drafts of Landscape Reserve Designs for two Landscape units (Johnston MC and Fish Egg). We will be circulating this amongst elders and other folks familiar with the areas before presenting them to the Wuikinuxv Stewardship Committee.
- Rivers Inlet Sportsman's Centre (RISC) - We are continuing to work with RISC and the Province on this referral/violation. We are developing a protocol agreement (our first for a tourism operator) and the Province is aware that the signing of such an agreement is a necessary step resolving the violation by this lodge.

Marine Program

Marine Shipping and Spill Response

Lena Collins is busy working on a Wuikinuxv Spill Response Plan. This plan will support nation-level response to a spill. As part of this work the Guardians will work with Lena on completing field-based strategies for how to protect sensitive areas within Wuikinuxv territory.

Training – over the past couple of months many staff and community members participated in training for how to respond to an oil spill.

Marine Protected Areas

This winter and spring were busy times for moving forward the draft plan to protect key marine areas that have been identified by the Nation in our marine use plan. First, we met with the federal and provincial governments to present our plan and hear their feedback. Then we presented the plan to stakeholders, including commercial and recreational fishers. Over the summer we will be working with the federal and provincial governments to prepare for bringing this to public engagement.

We are working with Parks Canada to start a feasibility study for designated these marine protected areas under the Parks Act. More information about this will be provided at an upcoming Stewardship Committee Meeting.

NEW – Climate Action Program

Last week Blaise Chartrand started work as our Climate Action Coordinator. This is a brand-new position. Over the next few weeks Blaise will be working with other departments and the community to identify priorities and projects to work on in the coming year.

We are excited to welcome Blaise to the Stewardship Team.