



HEILTSUK
DEVCO

W'ānēmt'a

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Heiltsuk Professional New HEDC COO

After many years of service to HEDC since 2006 as a Board member, and Chair of the Natural Resources Operating board for several years, Saphire Humchitt was appointed as the new HEDC Chief Operating Officer in the fall of 2018.

She is the first Heiltsuk female and designated professional, a Chartered Professional Accountant and a Certified General Accountant, to serve as head of the Heiltsuk's business arm since it was established. She has developed and maintained HEDC policies and procedures including Health and Safety, human resources and finance along with working on the company's strategic and annual plans, budgets and setting goals and objectives.

Saphire received her CGA in 2000 and has worked in Accounting and finance for others and her own business including the Hulquminum Treaty Group, First Nations Business Advisory Services Ltd, Chief Financial Officer for Heiltsuk Band Council and Finance Officer for the Vancouver Native Health Society.

In her first eight months with HEDC she has facilitated with Board support a major transition for the forestry enterprise to a new

business model and made several positive key changes in the fisheries operations for the Heiltsuk community.

As a mother of 5 children and grandmother to 12 and married to her husband, William for 30 years she is proud of her Heiltsuk heritage and challenged to transform HEDC to fully meet its Vision and Mission. "While HEDC successfully operates more than 8 businesses there is much to do to make them all financially viable and meeting the expectations of the Heiltsuk people for employment, good customer service and financial independence" remarked Saphire.



Fish Plant Critical to Bella Bella's Economic Future

Heiltsuk Fisheries Management Ltd. is a key economic feature of the community. "It is one of our most important employers and critical to financial security for many Heiltsuk fishers and plant workers-we are aiming to keep the plant busy up to 8 months a year and take advantage of the awesome fisheries resources in our territory and beyond," said HEDC COO Sapphire Humchitt in a recent interview.

"We are looking at several new products with good market potential – fresh filets from dogfish, sea urchin roe and a ribbon kelp farm possibly in Peter Bay. The Heiltsuk have access to a 1 million pound allocation for dogfish that if harvested would keep our plant busy. We are also investigating an aquaculture plan and feasibility for sea cucumbers. Ribbon kelp is an edible seafood that is dehydrated and used as a base for Miso soup and known as Kombu. Another good market for us is chum roe, also known as Ikura, which is salted and a special machine



separates the product into individual eggs for the Asian market. We are also planning to increase our presence in the fresh salmon market as well."

The fish plant was built more than 30 years ago and needs some additional capital upgrades to its basic systems. In 2017, Tribal Council asked HEDC to manage the plant again and those efforts have been successful with some products and especially the Spawn on Kelp herring roe program which has gone from a manual tracking system to using a new software program in 2019. HEDC is also utilizing funding from various sources for upgrades including the Western Economic Development program and the BC Traceability Fund.

The Management Team for SOK has 5 committed Heiltsuk who worked hard to shepherd the very successful 2019 season without a Plant Manager. The Team includes Lorena White, Dorena Jackson, Wes Vickers, Gary Humchitt and COO Sapphire Humchitt.



Replacement of all the indoor lighting with LED technology to reduce our power consumption has now been completed along with refrigeration repairs. Also, capital is needed to expand the product line with new equipment for processing.



The whole SOK process has several critical stages from roe on kelp harvest to final product. "Everything must be monitored carefully to ensure high quality. Proper temperature, brining and salinity are essential elements that are part of the custom processing and keeping the customer happy" said Sapphire. "We have worked with a

single broker for several decades and have asked them to look at a much different model than simply purchasing the product from us. We want a partner who can help us develop new markets and products to make our fisheries business more sustainable and sustain local employment while meeting our Mission and Vision. Our SOK Fishers have also given

us the mandate to expand and diversify our SOK product, which we started this year by developing the framework for a long-term marketing strategy.” A major challenge for staff and workers has been the Plant Manager vacancy. That job has now been filled by Shawn Baybutt. Saphire commented “this is a key position where a well-experienced manager is needed to help manage and grow the plant business and increase our operating season to 8 months to keep everyone employed. We are thrilled that Shawn has accepted the position. He managed a Haida owned seafood processing plant for many years”.



based in Bella Bella. Archipelago Marine Research is listed with the Canadian General Standards Board and designated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a certified provider of dockside monitoring services “Currently we have to bring in Archipelago staff from outside to validate catches and that can be a big hassle. It would be an asset to have a local who can monitor groundfish harvest for processing in our plant” concluded Saphire.

Another local fisheries job opportunity is to get in place a groundfish validator for halibut and other species



2019 SOK Summary Report

A big thank-you and congratulations to all the SOK Fishers and shore workers for the successful year!

Overall the 2019 SOK season went very well with 11,500 32 pound buckets of high-grade product, the full quota was filled in six days and 75% of the product was Graded as #1's, J's and JJ's, of which we were able to negotiate higher prices than 2018. Total value will be more than \$5 million. We also utilized a new software program for recording in real-time the processing and shipping electronically. “It paid for itself in one week and replaces a very onerous and costly record system,” said Saphire. More attention for next season will include (1) Increase recruitment for shore workers, (2) Documentation and training for all positions, (3) Investment in capital equipment for more efficient process flow.

Fishery	2019 SOK Season
Plant start date	March 4, 2019 (Set up and ordering of supplies needed)
Plant end date	May 27, 2019 (plus the 1 day that all product is put on the barge)
First SOK delivery	March 25, 2019
Last SOK delivery	March 31, 2019
SOK 2019 season closed	April 3, 2019
Total weight validated	303, 994 lbs
Total weight short	6 lbs
Total weight with expansion	368,333 or 21%
Total # of crews delivered	66
Total crews no validations	0
Total # of SOK bucketed	11,495
Total YAGA validated	0
Total # of YAGA bucketed	0
Total # of days it took to process	25 (The crew did approx. 5-6 lots per day depending on the size of the lot and quality of the product)
SOK fishers agreed on prices	June 6, 2019 (Fishers mtg @ the United Church)
All buckets shipped out	June 23, 2019



HEDC Chair's Message

Yau Hailzaqv,

Our Governance and Fiscal Agreement between HTC & HEDC sets out the vision of our company:

Economic Development Vision

- a. Actively promote economic activities that will enhance the quality of life and prosperity of the Heiltsuk Nation
- b. Develop diverse, environmentally sustainable and profitable businesses for our members that respect the history, culture and traditions of our people and environment
- c. Ensure that existing Heiltsuk Businesses have competent management, adequate training and experience to manage
- d. Exercise our inherent right to access natural resources of the land and sea within our traditional territory, with a focus on fisheries, forestry & tourism
- e. Assist in the building of capacity of Heiltsuk Members to be Entrepreneurs

HEDC will be hosting a session to develop a 5-year strategic economic plan. This plan will be foundational to the annual plans for each of our local businesses. The Mission statement, annual plans and goals and objectives from this session will set the path for the next 5 years for current businesses, Fisheries, Forestry and Tourism sectors.

This is an opportunity for relevant stakeholders and community members to partake and provide input to our sustainable, economic development plan. Please stay tuned for date/time and location. Your participation and contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Sustainable Clean Energy Plan

Our Grant Writer – Christopher Lechkobit Carpenter made a successful application to the Indigenous Off Diesel Initiative for the Heiltsuk Nation. This is a 3-year program that enables us to develop a community-led Clean Energy Plan. A series of community engagement will be held, with the support of Impact Canada's economic stimulus of 1.3 million dollars. Stay tuned for upcoming community sessions!

Heiltsuk Coastal Forest Products

The governing bodies of HEDC have restructured the way we do business with our local forestry initiatives for a stronger return on investment. Building local capacity and capitalizing on value-added is integral to a sustainable future for our members. This restructure puts us in the driver's seat for sound decision making and financial management. Your input is critical to the 5-year strategic planning session on forestry.

Heiltsuk Fisheries Management Limited

2019 was a banner year for our SOK fishery. We commend our fishers on a successful fishery, reaching our quota within six days. Our administrative management and shore workers have done an excellent job in ensuring our product was processed with increased efficiency than previous years. The marketing team delivered on diversifying the market, and an MOU has been struck with one of the buyers to expand our business relationship to other market species.

Tourism

Jaimie Harris, Board Chair has been liaising with a consultant to develop a Master Tourism Plan for the

Heiltsuk. Community input and engagement for this plan is imperative as another community-led initiative. Creating jobs, developing sustainable economic opportunities, respecting our land, water and territories are key priorities in the development of our culturally appropriate and authentic tourism plans.

Haiłcistut (Reconciliation)

There are upcoming community engagement sessions that we urge you to attend. There will be updates on the House Posts – Self-governance, Economic Development, Culture & Language, Housing & Infrastructure and Fish & Marine tables. Please make time for these important updates.

Haiłzaqv Pride

HEDC extends their congratulations to the BBCS Grads of 2019 and to those that completed their post-secondary studies. Please know that you have a place in our nation's goal of wealth creation. We want to "grow our own" and populate all positions within our organization with our own people. Shoot for the stars and know that you are valued.

In closing, we respectfully ask that the Haiłzaqv take special care of one another. We have undergone difficult times in the last six months. It is an honour to come from such a strong, loving and caring nation. Everything we do today is for our children's tomorrows. Let us continue to work together, to protect their future.

Giaxsixa,

Leona Humchitt,
HEDC Chair



Kwiaahwah Has Challenging and Successful 2018

Skipper Jeff McConechy took control of the seiner Kwiaahwah in July last year for HEDC and saw some major repair challenges needed to be addressed "the boat was not in a functional shape and needed a complete overhaul and major repairs to make it operate safely and we did a lot of the work during the salmon season. We had to repair the hydraulic leaks, the deck, stern ramp and the main winch. The main winch had to be removed and brought to Sointula to the Tarkenen Shipyard to rebuild" said Jeff. As well, the boat had to be outfitted with a new net, tow and running lines and other equipment including an outboard motor.

Several breakdowns occurred during the season and the boat missed crucial fishing time for 10 days in Johnstone Strait waiting for repairs.

Jeff remarked "In the end, the Kwiaahwah was successful despite its many obstacles. Myself and the entire crew take great pride in being able to be a part of a Heiltsuk owned and operated vessel. We hope to be able to continue in this way ensuring both safety and profit. Many free hours were spent by both Captain and crew to ensure a fully functioning and safe vessel at all times. The entire boat went through a full overhaul with a new net, new

lines, new equipment, and the reward was a very successful fishing season! Our crew included Jeff McConechy, Skipper/ Peter Mason, Conor McConechy, Melissa McConechy, Darryl Wilson, Mel Humchitt and Troy Whitfield."

The 2018 season grossed about \$100,000 for the boat and net shares.

There are still some major repairs and maintenance upgrades needed to ensure ongoing operations including major work on the winch and drum along with new appliances.



Message from Sapphire Humchitt, Chief Operating Officer

Dear Heiltsuk members,

It is with great honour that I accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer with the Heiltsuk Economic Development Corporation last fall.

My primary objective is to help make all of our businesses sustainable by:

- implementing existing business plans
- monitoring annual goals & objectives that are measurable for each business
- ensuring there are annual budgets in place and regular financial reports,
- ensuring regulatory requirements are met for each business and everyone works safely,
- ensuring the Managers have the resources needed to meet their goals and objectives
- building capacity

businesses.

The fish plant has received much attention to make it more sustainable with a goal of 8 months of annual operations. So far, we have:

- completed a number of our deliverables for the Western Economic Development fund, including an annual maintenance plan, freight & logistics study, upgraded the plant lights to LED, identified new salmon processing equipment needed for 2019 and identified a market for fresh salmon
- successfully applied for a grant to install a new production software program to monitor the production of our SOK in 2019, which will also be used for our other seafood products
- obtained sufficient working capital to complete the 2019 SOK processing costs of \$750,000
- working to diversify our SOK market
- working to start pilot projects for a Dog Fish fishery and a sea urchin fishery
- working to coordinate products for processing at our plant from all Heiltsuk controlled licenses
- working to expand our products at the plant, including Ribbon kelp
- working to ensure all of the regulatory requirements are met

The other major project has been the transition of our forest company from the model that has been in place for fourteen years to a new business model that would give us more direct input into how the company is run, including financial and other decision making, hiring of locals, improved cash flow and incorporation of value-added products.

We have also been working to expand the product lines for the Lama Pass Fuel company.



To accomplish these objectives we work closely with the HEDC Boards, HTC, HIRMD, Transport Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ministry of Environment, Revenue Canada, WCB, DFO, RBC, Fishers, suppliers, business partners, funding agencies, employees and most importantly the Community.

It has been eight months I have served as COO and there are a number of initiatives being worked on with our Managers to help grow the



I would like to acknowledge the hard work and safe operations of our Managers, Josh Carpenter, BBA, John McLaughlin, HCFCP, Rod Brown, LPF, Pat Housty, WBS, Victor Jackson, WC, Bill Ready, WF, Garney Reid, WLA, Marilyn Hall, WPO, Ron MacKenzie, Accounting Mgr., Lorena White, Dorena Jackson, Gary Humchitt and Wes Vickers, Fish Plant. A special thanks to Rod Brown who is leaving the Lama Pass Fuel Co. as he has accepted a new position with HTC Housing. We wish him all the best and appreciate the work he did for HEDC. And a special welcome to Shawn Baybutt, our new fish plant manager.

Sapphire Humchitt, *HEDC Chief Operating Officer*

HEDC Welcomes New Fish Plant Manager

HEDC is pleased to announce the appointment of Shawn Baybutt as the new Plant Manager for Heiltsuk Fisheries Management Limited. He arrived in Bella Bella and started his position on June 24th. "I am excited to be living in Bella Bella and addressing the many challenges facing the community and working on keeping the existing plant busy for up to 8 months a year by looking at new opportunities," said Shawn in a recent interview. "There's always a balance to be found in sustaining employment and making money for the business so it can be viable, expand and keep the physical plant in good shape."

Shawn was the first General Manager for the Haida Wild seafood processing facility in Massett having worked as the Assistant Manager for the former SeaPac owners. He spent several years there modernizing and upgrading the Haida owned plant and building capacity with the Haida crew. Shawn left Haida Wild in 2017 after 10 years on Haida Gwaii both as a fishing guide for Langara Adventures and running the fish plant.

He then filled a maternity leave vacancy as Acting Director of

RiverFresh, a Shuswap Nation Tribal Council commercial fishing enterprise focussed on an inland commercial fisheries harvest from the Upper Thompson and Kamloops lake on the Fraser River watershed.

"We harvested and processed 1.3 million pounds of sockeye during the last Adams Lake sockeye run". He continued to do consulting work with Haida Wild and RiverFresh related to new business opportunities, commercial fisheries and CFIA quality assurance programs.

Shawn was born in Nelson and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Education from UBC in 2003. He will be living in Bella Bella full time with his close friend Herman, a Yorkshire terrier. His partner Monica, a medical laboratory technologist with Northern Health in Massett will be joining him half time while continuing to commute to Masset for her rotational shifts. "I love small towns and working with people committed to improving

their community and lives using local natural resources. The Heiltsuk have been fishers for millennia and I look forward to learning from their wealth of traditional knowledge and experience".



Have you visited the Heiltsuk DevCo Website yet?

Our website has some great features including:

- A Business Directory
- Detailed information on HEDC
- A Community Calendar with event announcements
- Job opportunity postings

Check us out at <http://www.heiltsukdevco.com>

We're also on Facebook and Twitter! Like or follow us to get the latest news!



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@HeiltsukDevCo



HEDC's Forestry Operations Are Transitioning to a New Business Model

A major decision was made last fall by HEDC to transition its largest revenue-generating business, Heiltsuk Coastal Forest Products to a new business

HEDC is a corporation that honours Heiltsuk values of respect, sharing, honour and caring for one another and for the natural world. HEDC exists to help create an effective separation between business and politics in support of achieving the Heiltsuk community's economic development goals, which are to:

- Re-establish and evolve a broad-based economy using all the resources of our territory;
- Conserve and enhance those resources for future generations;
- Develop self-sustaining economic development and growth;
- Generate local and regional economic revenues and investments that reduce (eliminate) dependence on outside sources of capital and credit.

model in 2019. Several experienced forestry and business consultants were hired to evaluate the long-time partnership model with A&A trading and assess several options for a new model that better reflects this long-established business and market values for Heiltsuk logs and to align the business with our Vision and Mission Statements.

The existing model had A&A providing capital and financing, management expertise and financing for the operations in return for a series of fees and payments for the financing. Heiltsuk received the residual of the log sales after all other costs and fees were paid.

The new model will involve Heiltsuk managing its forestry tenures using an independent consultant and tendering cutblocks and groups of cutblocks to a series of competent and approved bidders who will undertake the road construction, logging and marketing of the timber in return for a guaranteed fixed price in advance based on bids for the right to harvest Heiltsuk timber. The new system will share any surplus profits and simplify the business model

without incurring significant (multimillion dollar) Heiltsuk expenditures for roads and other infrastructure costs. A condition of future tenders will be the requirement to address Heiltsuk interests in providing employment and other opportunities for local workers and services.

With legal advice, the agreement with A&A was terminated with notice under the existing agreement at the end of 2018 and an orderly transition



is underway for A&A to complete the harvesting of several active cutblocks and sale of logs from those blocks before the fall of 2019.

In anticipation of the new business model, a tender was issued to several experienced forestry consultants that

will ensure all records, silviculture and road funding liabilities and operations are transitioned back to HEDC control rather than A&A. Meridian Forest Services Ltd. from Vancouver Island submitted the successful tender and began working for Heiltsuk on the project this spring reporting to HEDC COO Sapphire Humchitt.



Meridian Forest Services Ltd (Meridian) is a progressive and innovative forest management company that specializes in multiphase forestry engineering providing services to customers that include industry, First Nations, private landowners, and government. Meridian staff are monitoring the transition and looking after this springs tree planting program as well as ensuring an orderly transition of the digital and other

for our forestry operation and sold more than \$100 million worth of Heiltsuk timber. We are grateful for their support and helping us establish a viable forestry business that has provided funds to maintain our other businesses over the years "said COO Sapphire Humchitt.

business which was not the case under the old model.

We also anticipate an improved return on our logs through more market-driven bids on our timber and a much simpler, more competitive business model with lower financial risk to Heiltsuk interests. We will closely monitor these new companies in our territory to ensure they operate to very high forestry, cultural and environmental standards. By ensuring only qualified bidders with a good history of environmental management and safety a lot of the issues we have to deal with now under the A&A model will be simplified. It is also anticipated there will be lower overhead costs and a much simpler financial model for our forestry company".



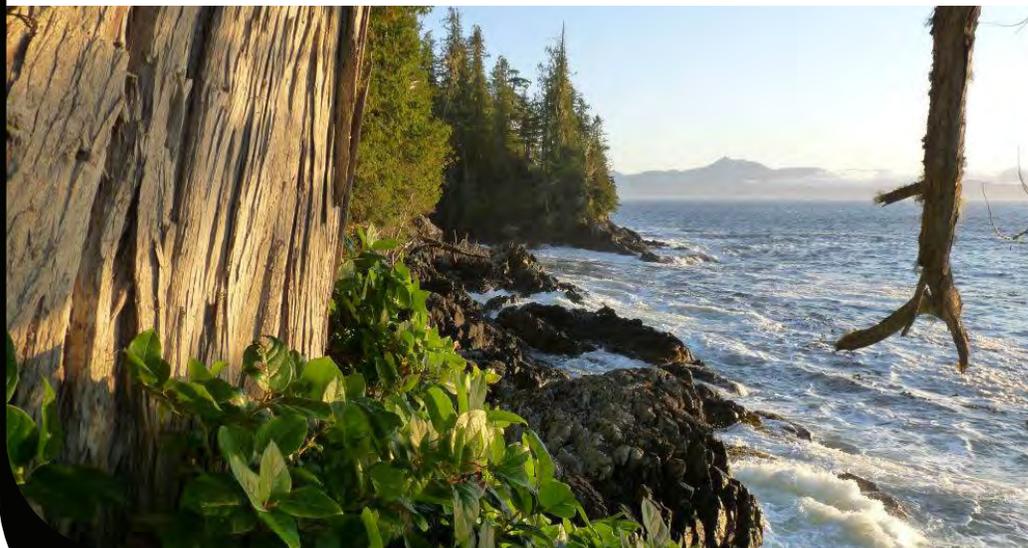
"HEDC is now moving to a new model that many other coastal First Nations and government have adopted successfully so that we are controlling all aspects of our forestry business

forestry records to Heiltsuk including long term planning and sustainability initiatives.

"For 15 years A&A has provided direction, management and financing

and engaging others to undertake the actual logging and marketing of our timber without us having to finance all the activity. The HEDC boards will now be making all the major financial decisions affecting our forestry

Going forward, the forest company is also planning for involvement in value-add timber products to help create employment and build capacity within the community.



We are moving!

HEDC is moving our corporate office to 63 Waglisla Street, upstairs in the temporary Band Store building on July 17-18 and there may be some interruption in service, but we are doing everything to make the move as smooth as possible. The phone number, fax number and emails will remain the same.

Bella Bella Getting Internet and TV Upgrades

Waglisla Cablevision is pleased to announce some much-needed upgrades to TV and Internet services in Bella Bella. Two major changes are going to happen over the next couple of years.

Current TV services are provided by Shaw via satellite receivers in the community and they are upgrading their system to a new faster technology called MPEG 4 which will bring High Definition TV channels and other benefits:

- Up to 14 days of Guide data, including detailed descriptions, episode titles, and an indication of new versus repeat airings.
- Unsubscribed channels are automatically shown in grey, with the option to hide them completely.
- Full search capability, including title, actor, description, and more.
- Enhanced parental control features, including the ability to hide locked program titles.
- A brand new, easy to use remote control.



Shaw)

This change will occur by October this year. Channel numbers will remain the same. Victor Jackson, Manager of Waglisla Cablevision said “we currently have tenders out for the upgrades. Depending on the results we may be able to offer set-top equipment that will dramatically expand our TV service from the current 34 channels to many more. Costs for these upgrades will be more than \$100,000 but will result in major improvements to your TV picture quality and selection”.

Internet in Bella Bella is currently provided by microwave technology through Telus but a huge, significant change is coming by 2021. The project is called Connected Coast funded by the Canada and BC governments at a cost of up to \$50 million. The project will be implemented by the

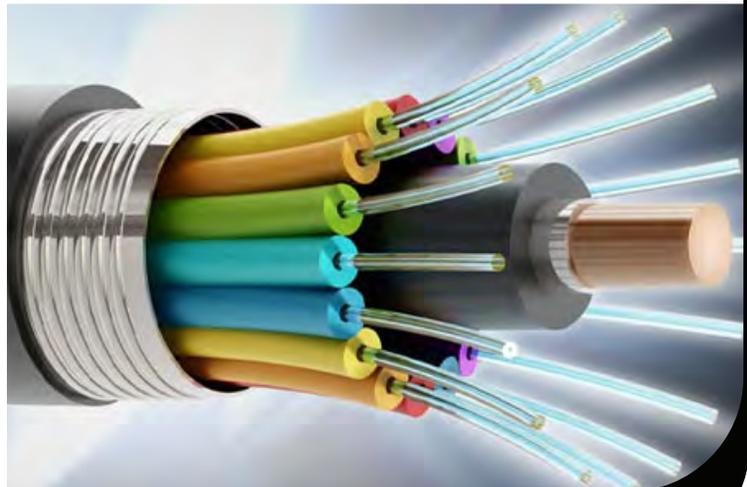
Strathcona Regional District and CityWest based in Prince Rupert.



The project will place over 3,400 kilometres of subsea fibre-optic cable, stretching from Prince Rupert south to Vancouver, then around Vancouver Island. It will bring reliable high-speed internet to 154 rural and remote communities including 56 indigenous settlements representing 44 coastal First Nations. In total, it is estimated that the project has the potential to benefit 175,000 British Columbians, living in 90,000 households.

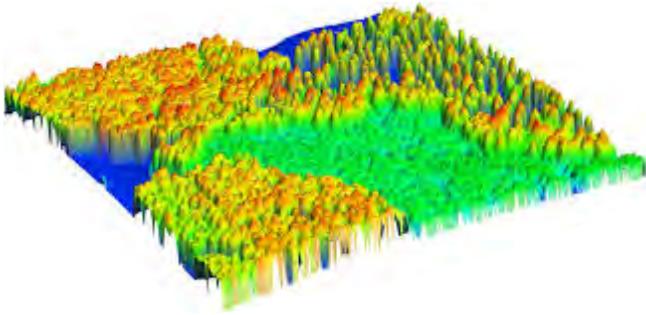
The impact of the project and the opportunities it will provide to these communities including Bella Bella will be enormous. Access to reliable high-speed internet and expanded cell phone service means that residents will be able to access online learning and health services, emergency notifications, news and participate in online discussions and sharing. It will also open new economic development opportunities for residents who will be able to work remotely and participate in e-commerce and online business development.

Victor said “we will be offering various internet packages as we do now but at much higher speeds and reliability. It’s going to make our services compatible with those in large communities and bring other communication services to Bella Bella”



Saving Big Trees in Heiltsuk Territory

British Columbia has world record size trees in its rainforests including the Heiltsuk traditional territory. Our biggest and tallest trees in BC (over 300 feet or 90 metres) include Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and western red cedar. Our oldest trees are likely yellow cedar (2000 years plus).



Until recently foresters and others interested in preserving these BC giants mostly focussed on finding and preserving large diameter trees from the ground. That's because it is very difficult and costly to accurately measure the exact height of a single tree. Early forestry mapping based on aerial photos did identify groups of tall trees. However, the advent of LIDAR (3D) mapping technology meant individual tall trees could be identified easily and mapped precisely.

Western Forest Products has mapped all of its timberlands using LIDAR and has located more than 2000 tall trees (greater than 80 metres) including 9 in Heiltsuk territory that are record trees according to BC's Big Tree Registry. The registry is managed by UBC and overseen by a committee representing various BC groups interested in documenting and protecting these giants.

These giant trees were found on Yeo Island, the Don Peninsula, Matheson Channel, Pooley Island, Sheep Passage and Tolmie Channel.

Of course, First Nations have a great awareness and appreciation for big trees because many indigenous communities like the Heiltsuk relied on them for their housing, culture, energy and transportation needs. These communities



traditionally had specialists who knew the locations of huge trees and had people who could harvest them.

"As a result of this new LIDAR mapping, we have found a number of very tall trees greater than 80 metres in height within the Heiltsuk traditional territory in areas under WFP management. We expect to confirm the specific trees and under our policy, these giants will be protected from logging" said Jonathan Armstrong, General Manager of Timberlands Planning for WFP.



California redwoods are the tallest trees on earth with the record *Hyperion* tree at **115.9 metres (380 feet)** discovered in 2006. The largest known tree and single living organism globally is the General Sherman redwood with a height of **83.8 metres (275 ft.)**, a diameter of 7.7 m (25 ft.), an estimated volume of **1,487 m³** (52,513 cu ft.), and age of 2,300–2,700 years old. There's enough wood in the General Sherman tree to build a subdivision of 23 average Canadian single family homes!

The current champion trees in BC's Big Tree Registry are an **80.8 metre (265 feet)** tall Sitka spruce in the Walbran Valley Provincial Park, a **75 metre (246 feet)** Grand fir along the Chilliwack River in an Ecological Reserve, and a **74 metre (243 feet)** tall Douglas fir at Red Creek near Port Renfrew. BC's tallest and widest known western red cedar is **55.5 metres (182.2 feet)** tall and **18.3 metres (60 feet)** around located in Pacific Rim National park. Western red cedar is also BC's official tree species because of its significance to First Nations culture.

BC's 
GIANTS

Coast Funds Supporting Hundreds of First Nations Projects and Jobs

Ten years ago, First Nations in coastal B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii established a special conservation and financing organization to revitalize their economy.

Since then, the organization, Coast Funds, has helped create more than 1,000 new jobs and attract nearly \$300 million to the region, says a new report released recently by Coast Funds.

Coast Funds' conservation finance has supported ecotourism and cultural revitalization ventures, from guest cabins in Bella Bella, rediscovery camps in Haida Gwaii, seaside cottages in Campbell River, to the Spirit Bear Lodge in Kitasoo/Xai'xais territory.



70 per cent of old growth forests 'off limits' to logging and other extractive practices. At the time, the groups agreed that a sustainable economy is vital to conservation efforts in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.

Since then, according to the organization's 2019 report, Coast Funds' board of directors has approved 353 projects, while investing about \$87 million in infrastructure and about \$41 million in local salaries.

Overall, the report found that 27 First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii have invested in sustainable development and stewardship, creating 1,033 permanent jobs, along with the creation or expansion of 108 businesses, and 14 regional monitoring and guardian watchmen programs.

"First Nations investments in stewardship and sustainable development are having major impacts in communities across the coast," says Coast Funds' board chair Huux Percy Crosby, of the Haida Nation. "They are creating a new conservation economy

that protects this globally significant ecosystem for generations to come — a benefit that stretches far beyond the region."

"We're talking about stewardship programs and jobs dedicated to rebuilding nationhood in today's context, considering colonialism and all the horrific impacts that have come in recent history," said Brodie Guy, executive director of Coast Funds. "In only 10 years, all of these new jobs that support families have been created in communities in nations that are working to fulfil their inherent stewardship responsibilities for their territories."

Some 166 approved projects have been conservation projects, 187 economic development projects, 222 research and restoration initiatives, 71 projects involving access to traditional foods and 50 projects protecting cultural assets.

"Coast Funds is uniquely positioned to support our communities in building a healthy economy," said Káwáził Marilyn Slett, president of Coastal



Cliff and Ramona Starr, members of the Haítzaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation, have established and expanded a successful accommodations business in the remote community of Bella Bella, helping to grow and diversify the local economy.

Coast Funds was created in 2007, after the 2006 Great Bear Rainforest agreements, which included a pledge by conservationists, First Nations, industry, and government to denote

Airport Getting Much Needed Upgrades

First Nations. Slett is the president of Coastal First Nations (a unique alliance of nine coastal nations), elected chief councillor of the Heiltsuk nation and was recently honoured by the Canadian Senate.

“Their work allows our communities to take the lead on decisions that impact us by providing financing that empowers us to set priorities, as well as to plan, develop and implement projects that are creating a sustainable coastal economy. These initiatives have a significant impact on our communities. Not just through employing people but also by creating healthier communities and building our local economies.”

Fisheries technicians from Lax Kw'alaams Fisheries Stewardship program conduct Dungeness biosampling data as part of surveys occurring year-round in Stumaun Bay and Big Bay. First Nations have conducted 222 species research and habitat restoration initiatives with support from Coast Funds.

The jobs created through the support of Coast Funds and from the leadership of the First Nations involved are jobs guided through the knowledge of Indigenous peoples who care about the future wellbeing of their lands, waters, and relatives.

“There’s a lot of transferable skills in ecotourism. It’s not just about viewing bears,” wrote Chief Councillor Douglas Neasloss, Kitasoo/Xai’xais Nation. “You learn communication skills, you learn how to work with wildlife; there’s the science work that we do. It’s a lot broader and this means a lot for the community. We went from a community largely dependent on resource-extractive jobs to a community whose economy was largely based on conservation and non-extractive activities.”

By Emilee Gilpin - Reprinted with thanks from Canada’s National Observer

The Bella Bella airport is a vital transportation link for the community and the region with thousands of residents and visitors depending on the facility. Josh Carpenter is the Airport Manager.

Since Josh became manager a few years ago he has focused on facility safety and dealing with corrective actions required by Transport Canada. These include an aggressive vegetation management program and staying on



“We are currently doing complete renos of the bathroom facilities, painting the interior of the building and working on the external siding. We will be moving the location of the coffee bar later this fall. Fortunately, we secured funding from Coast Opportunity Funds and the Coast Sustainability Trust for these \$25,000 much-needed improvements” said Josh.

“The bigger project is a brand new terminal for Bella Bella that we have applied for \$4.8 million in funding to build through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. I would like to think we have a good chance to get this funding but we won’t know until later this year”.

top of repairs and improvements.

The past few years has seen some declines in airport usage with West Coast Resorts recently moving its lodge back to Haida Gwaii and some air traffic moving to the Shearwater strip. In spite of these minor declines, total traffic is about 4,600 landings and takeoffs each year and catering to approximately 25,000 arriving and departing passengers.





*The Haidzaqu (Heiltsuk) Yim'as & Tribal
Council, on behalf of the Haidzaqu Nation,
Invites You to the Opening of Our liaci
(Bighouse) in Bella Bella B.C.*



Schedule of Events:

October 13th, 2019: Haidzaqu membership only Blessing Ceremony

October 14th, 2019: Unveiling of Haidzaqu/Haida Totem Pole

October 15-17th, 2019: Bighouse Opening- Inviting All Tribes

We are inviting all tribes and guests to attend the opening ceremonies on October 15-17th, 2019. Each tribe will be given 2 hours of floor-time for performances. Please contact Heiltsuk.Bighouse@gmail.com with any questions.

Giaxsixa



Log Markets Softening with Challenges Ahead

The Heiltsuk forestry business depends on the coastal export and domestic log market prices for being able to operate successfully. The recent headlines of mill closures and reductions reflect the ongoing impacts of the Mountain pine beetle on the long term timber supply of BC's interior. The coastal region is affected by both North American and international markets especially those impacted by current trade conflicts between the US and China. As well, high stumpage rates charged by the BC government are impacting the profitability of coastal logging.

Export Markets

Prices in both China and Korea markets have been stable with some advantage in specific ports which relates to low log inventory. While log prices are expected to improve slightly, softening US demand has limited ability to push up values.

The expectation over the coming months is that log markets will remain flat with marginal changes depending on freight and exchange.

Domestic Markets

Domestic markets are in a bit of a state of turmoil. Poor lumber markets have compounded log market situation and prices. With commodity prices softening and lumber markets in Asia softening, hemlock gang and hemlock

merch grades are under downward price pressure. With respect to Cedar, there is some erosion of values, particularly in the tight knot sorts, and lower quality booms. High-grade sorts have also seen some price correction, 5-10%. This change is expected to remain flat.

The market for veneer has also experienced some push back on log values due to challenging market conditions and high product inventories. All these sorts are directed towards the veneer business. Log price erosion expected to be 5-10%.

Cypress/Spruce – With most of the lumber products being directed to Japan, there has been some push back on values due to the softening demand. However, with limited available supply, the expectation is that current log values are expected to remain flat.

Pulp Market

With the recent curtailment announcements in the interior, available chip supply will impact coastal pulp mills. As a result, the expectation is that pulp values will remain flat due to limited supply. This dynamic is counter to the fact that bleached pulp to China has seen a considerable price correction downward. The expectation is that pulp margins will be squeezed considerably in the next period, with likely some downward pressure on incremental supply.



HEDC Directory | Summer 2019

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Heiltsuk Economic Development Committee

Marilyn Slett – *non-voting*
 Carmen Lawson – *HTC Executive Director*
 Leona Humchitt
 Bo Reid
 Jaimie Harris – *non-voting*
 Megan Humchitt
 Earl Newman
 Sapphire Humchitt – *non-voting*

Heiltsuk Holdings – appoints Operating Board Directors

Leona Humchitt, *Chair*
 Bo Reid
 Jacqui Nadrazsky
 Jaimie Harris - *non-voting*
 Marilyn Slett - *ex-officio*
 Earl Newman
 Dirk Brinkman



HEDC

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OPERATING BOARDS

Natural Resources Operating Board – oversees forestry, fish plant, shellfish co.

Bo Reid
 Dirk Brinkman
 Pamela Wilson
 Randy Carpenter
 Matt Wealick

Tourism and Retail Operating Board – oversees Band Store, Post Office, Liquor Agency, Airport, Fuel, Freight, and Cable operations.

Jaimie Harris, *Chair*
 Kathy Sereda
 Evangeline Clifton
 Don Starr
 Carey Windsor

Management Services Operating Board – oversees COO

Bo Reid
 Joanne Green
 Dawn Wilson
 Jackie Nadrazsky

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Cover photo by Kelly Krueger
 of Christian White Haida Master Carver from Old Massett working on the Bella Bella Pole, a gift from the Haida Nation.