

MAY
2026

DIM LA'SAA'XM LAX YIP

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE LAND



NEWSLETTER

In a time when many are focused on division, we are focused on unity and belonging. Gitanyow has always been a welcoming place, built on our Ayookw, our history, and traditions. It is home for all our people, whether they live in Gitanyow, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak and throughout BC

Our poles tell our oldest histories. They speak our laws. They remind us where our boundaries are and who the land's caretakers are. They connect the past to the present and in their figures and faces, we see the faces of Gitanyow today, and the far reaching branches of our Wilp.

Our biggest strength is our wilp and community members who always step forward first when it matters most. It is all of the people working in our schools, sports and service programs to help make Gitanyow a thriving place where youth and elders feel cared for and supported.

Everyone is welcome.
Gitanyow is all our home.

Joel Starlund
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

**HUWILP
ASSEMBLY
WRAP UP**

**XSI'GINTAIYIN
HOUSING**

GETI UPDATES

**NEWS FROM
DAXGYET AND
FISHERIES**

**GITANYOW
TOURISM**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES**

HUWLIP ASSEMBLY ROUND UP

The Huwilp Assembly in March was a resounding success. Over three engaging days of programming, we heard from our leadership, our departments, and most important of all, you!

Team Lead presentations and information booths provided people with detailed information on what GHC departments have been up to in their work to protect the Lax yip, advance science and traditional knowledge, and the wellbeing of Wilp members in Gitanyow and beyond.

What we heard from you at the Speaker's Corner with host Trista Douse:

"It's nice to get to learn more traditions, stories and keep up with everything."
-Julia Daniels (Wilp 'Wii litxw)



"It just means so much to me to see everybody here and learning about what you guys have to be teaching here to us all today." - Raven Good (Wilp Guksen, Gitsegukla)

"I see them standing up. I hear them explaining the court cases and the winnings. I see they never, ever lost. They never lose." - Simi Diiks Calvin Hyzims



Powerful

Culture

Unity

Informative

Peaceful

Welcoming

Enjoyable

Comfortable





"I am learning about the Wilp and Daxgyet. I want to know more about our geneology" - Tammy Daniels (Wilp 'Wii litsxw)

"It brought things into the community we never knew. We've seen the accomplishments of the things they've done for our community. I am so appreciative of all that has happened for this community." - Donelda Turley (Wilp Guksen)

"I am interested in all of this, all of it, all the things that have been said so far. I accept it as a good learning thing from everybody. I like that. I am ready to be like my grandfather who taught me to stand up and say something." - Gary Williams (Wilp Malii)

"Those who are Wilp members and community and band members need to come together as one rather than be all separate entities. I like that you all talked to everybody I felt comfortable here. I learned from the booths about what's going on. Everything was good. The only think I would change is the coffee." - Eva Rush (Wilp N'iisyyuus, Lax Galtsap)



Department Updates



Xsi'gintaiyin Housing Society

The Xsi'gintaiyin Society has been working in partnership with BC Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing, the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs Office, Architects David Nairne and Associates, and the Gitanyow Band Council. They'd like to give special acknowledgment for the working team that navigated the needs assessment, survey and planning stages of the project, and the Chief's vision to bring the project forward.

For those members that did not complete the housing survey at the Assembly, it will be online this week for Wilp members to fill out.

Next Steps:

- Review of the Elders Housing Operating Budget
- Review of the Operating Agreement for Elders Housing Project
- Review of tenant policies for Elders Housing Project

The Xsi'gintaiyin Society is applying to the Canada Mortgage and Housing for an Aboriginal Youth Intern who will learn to help manage the Elder Housing policies and processes.

We will continue to provide important updates as they arise. Please watch for our announcement of Elders Housing applications and the Grand Opening in September.



GITANYOW EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Since 2017, GETI programs have contributed to the success stories of community by supporting education in Gitanyow through upgrading secondary school graduation, tutoring, learner and study support, as well as distance learning classes.

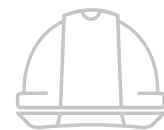
GETI has secured funding to deliver a range of practical and empowering community-based trainings which include:

BruceJack - Gitanyow Driver's License Program



One of the biggest barriers to employment is a lack of driver's licence and reliable transportation. One of the ways in which addressing this barrier is by offering driver training programs.

1st Annual Gitanyow Newmont Trades Bursary.



The GHC GETI-BruceJack Gitanyow Trades Bursary Program will help build trade skills for strong, community-based development with focus on workforce development, barrier-removing financial support, reducing skills gaps and aligning Gitanyow with CPP and Skills Inventory. (See additional application details on pg 10)

GITANYOW EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Career Fair

As host to the 12th annual career fair, GETI will showcase education, training and employment opportunities to Gitanyow membership. Potential employers, service providers, and post-secondary institutes gather and share information at this event so it's important for youth to join in.

Partnerships

GETI's corporate partner, Newmont committed \$1M to the construction of the Robert G. Good House of Learning within the GHCO n that space, Vision Quest is overseeing the construction a gathering.



BruceJack Hosted Minerals Ed Geologist workshops at Gitanyow Independent School in partnership with Newmont (Brucejack) Mine and MineralsEd.

Daxgyet



Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs have written laws that are now followed by third parties on the *lax yip*. These can be found on the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs website under Wilp Sustainability, along with our Constitution Working Draft 15.

Writing our *ayookxw* continues as we draft our Wilp Charter and Membership Code. We are planning Wilp meetings and sessions to engage to hear from you and gather input.

Daxgyet will be hosting information Zoom meetings for Wilp members and contacting Wilp Sim'oogyet to work with a Sigidim Haa'nak' or Simgigyet or Wilp members to set them up. Please follow our Facebook page for more announcements on this in May 2026

Gitanyow Wilp members, please scan the QR code provided here to fill out our survey in order to be contacted.



Fisheries

Gitanyow is keeping Kitwanga sockeye alive and thriving! The Gitanyow Fisheries Authority has secured an agreement with DFO to construct and operate a conservation hatchery to help Kitwanga sockeye recover. Construction will begin in 2-3 weeks with an anticipated completion date of Spring 2028.

GFA secured funding for a cultural monitor to be on site and will look to fund an archeology consultant from Kleanze Archeology Consulting in the chance of a find on site.





Wildlife & Guardians

The Gitanyow Wildlife Department carried out a monitored cultural burn in April in partnership with BC Forest Service. The project was a success.

These burns help to restore and create healthier ecosystems on the Lax̓ yip by improving wildlife habitat and better conditions for traditional foods and medicines to grow. While GHCO received feedback that some were concerned with the smoke from the burn, we let them know it was normal to see smoke and smouldering areas for some days afterward.



While we are no longer in drought conditions, the Guardians warn the region is currently experiencing what firefighters call the “spring dip” — a period where grasses, brush, and deadfall remain highly flammable until more rain arrives.

The good news is that water levels are rising and warmer weather this weekend is expected to bring further increases in river flows. Thank you to the Guardians and Wildlife crews working tirelessly to help protect the Lax̓ yip and prepare for us all for a safer wildfire season.

We invite you to visit the [FireSmartBC.ca](https://www.fire-smartbc.ca) to learn more about how to keep your home safe during wildfire season.

Tourism

Tourism has had great engagement with The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport around showcasing Gitanyow Tourism Projects to the private investment community. Their focus is to create meaningful opportunities for Wilps to explore partnerships with external investors while maintaining majority ownership and control. Using an Indigenous led tourism model, Kelly Bedford and his team Number Creative have officially launched the Gitanyow Tourism website and mobile app.



Gitanyow Tourism Website



The Province is working to improve and streamline how tourism permits and tenures are issued. This creates opportunities for Gitanyow to strengthen our role in tourism development in our territory.

Some of the Phase I projects they are working on include:

- Meziadin Tourism Hub Expansion
- Hanna Creek Bear Viewing & Research Center (Wilp Wii litsxw)
- Raven's Nest Ranch & Glamping Development (Wilp Gamlakyeltxw)
- Lawrie Lake Indigenous Healing Center (Wilp Watakhayetsxw) that will be home to cultural, wellness, and land-based experiences
- Grease Trail Cultural Revitalization Project will involve surveying, mapping and documenting ancestral trails and bringing people back to the land.

Upcoming Events, Programs and Activities

GFA Hatchery construction begins in Mid-May. GFA is currently doing their hiring for seasonal positions. To apply please contact mcleveland@gitanyowchiefs.ca

The **Grand Opening** for the Sindhil (Robert W. Good) House of Learning and GHC office is **July 15th, 2026**.



Xsi'Gintaiyin Housing Society will hold the Gitanyow Elder's Housing grand opening at the end of September. Stay tuned to the GHC FaceBook page for details.

GETI-BruceJack Trades Bursary Applications are due **May 29th, 2026**. The program aims to fill technical skills gaps for community-based development.

Apply in person at the GETI or Fisheries office or contact beverley@gitanyowchiefs.ca



Did you know?

3

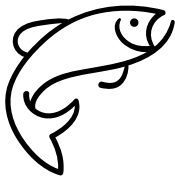
Kitwanga sockeye smolts are **three times bigger** than other Skeena sockeye smolts, leaving the system at a whopping 12 grams because Gitanyow (Kitwancool) Lake is so productive.

23

Twenty three people working at BruceJack Mine identify as Gitanyow.



Sockeye salmon juveniles nurse in lakes, while other salmon juveniles spend their time in creeks and rivers. Shortly after the ice comes off their nursery lake, they migrate to the ocean as smolts, something biologist call the “**salt-water challenge.**”



The Gitksen word for salmon is **Mi'so**

22%

Asked at the Gitanyow Community BBQ, what the most important way BruceJack could support the community, **twenty-two percent** of people said in work-force development

1915

When asked by Commissioner McDowell who lived at the lowest point marked on Sam Dowe's map on the Nass River and how long they'd lived there, Albert Williams answered “The family of Chief Alexander lives there.” When asked how long they'd been there, he said “No one knows, but since the world was made.”