



WET'SUWET'EN TREATY OFFICE SOCIETY
2023/2024

AGM Annual Report

3/21/2024





Table of Contents

About the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society	4
Board of Directors	4
A Message from the President	5
Executive Director Report	6
Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society Structure	8
Agenda	9
Program Report	10
Audited Financial Statements	20

About the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society

The Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society was created as a central office for the Wet'suwet'en Nation. The Office offers many services throughout the Nation focusing on the main areas of Human and Social Services, Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Title Implementation. The Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society main office is in Smithers, BC, 4 other offices are spread between Witsset and Prince George.

Our office has been in operation since 1994, prior to this we were affiliated with the Gitksan Nation for many years. Our office is not a tribal council however we fulfill similar administrative functions. The most significant difference is the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society does not receive core funding (continuous funding from one year to the next) from any form of government. Each year agreements with both the federal and provincial governments must be in place to secure funding for the upcoming year. This situation creates added responsibility for management to ensure that programs meet goals to illustrate successes and generate support for continued funding. Accessing new monies requires proactive and persistent leadership while ensuring program goals are being met and growth is effective. Our office is governed by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs residing throughout the traditional territories. The Chiefs meet at least monthly and often weekly to provide management direction. Meetings are held throughout the territories in various locations.

Wet'suwet'en Vision and Purpose

We are proud, progressive Wet'suwet'en dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, traditions and territories; working as one for the betterment of all.

Strategic Goals

- To ensure a self-reliant nation
- To ensure an effective, responsive, and accountable infrastructure
- To ensure continual and effective communications
- To ensure responsible jurisdiction of the resources for equitable and sustainable use
- To ensure effective financial management
- To ensure a government model based upon the solid foundation of our hereditary system

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs

Our office is governed by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs residing throughout the traditional territories. The Chiefs meet at least monthly and often weekly to address specific issues that management needs direction for.

Board of Directors

Ts'aske'ze Wila'at – Sue Alfred

Dini ze Dzi Ggot – Ron Austin

Dini ze Woos – Frank Alec

Dini ze Kloum Khun- Alphonse Gagnon

Dini ze Neekupdeh – Deron George

Dini ze Hagwilnegh – Ron Mitchell

Dini ze Smogelgem – Warner Naziel

Dini ze Na'Moks – John Ridsdale

Dini ze Gisday'wa – Fred Tom

Dini ze Knedebeas – Warner William

Ts'aske'ze Madeek – Sheri Green

Dini ze Wha Dha T'se - Andrew Tom

A Message from the President; Dini ze Dzi Ggot, Ron Austin

The work taken on by thirteen (13) House Chiefs of our five (05) Clans has continued based on our existence on the land. The Chiefs have directed the staff on natural resources, fisheries, and human & social services programs and services. Overall governance continues to be a primary role of the Chiefs.

Our membership looks to the Chiefs for leadership with the all levels of impacts to the traditional territories of the Wet'suwet'en. From municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments this office carries out a large workload to address any concerns affecting our existence and rights to the territories. The goals in mind continue to hold our human and social, political and economic interests for Wet'suwet'en territories and our members.

As Wet'suwet'en people we have stood our ground on land management and protection and most importantly we continue to address land decision matters. This is challenging and with the support of our members this work will continue.

Fisheries programs is another right we need to maintain and with the assistance of the Canyon Committee's, staff and our members we have enjoyed another fish run. Fish supply is always depended on abundance, we have been able to share with many families within our communities.

We have been able to continue with services in the human and social services areas and specifically we have been able to extend a working relationship for the development of a Wet'suwet'en program named the Anuk Nu' At'en Ba'g'gh"iyi z'ilhdic (ANABIP). This is one area that we struggle with and it is an important to use our family lineage to strengthen this area within our laws and traditions for a strong family.

We strive for commitment and betterment of all, through our vision statement we hope all our members will support their chiefs and delegates working on committee's or attending meetings for their families.

In this next year, I encourage all the workers, the Chiefs and Clans to work with one another to improve our systems through all means possible. Members of our communities extend out to François Lake to Witset and our lineage is connected and if we are going as a people we need to formalize our relationship through our governance structures. Our future generations depend on us!

In closing I wish to extend my appreciation for all the Chiefs, Staff and Members of the Wet'suwet'en.

Ron Austin

Dini ze Dzi Ggot –President

Executive Director Report – 2023/2024



Acting Executive Director – David de Wit

Our Chiefs, Management and Staff are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, traditions and territory working as one for the betterment of all.

Our goals are to ensure:

- a self-reliant Nation
- an effective, responsible and accountable infrastructure
- responsible jurisdiction of the resources for equitable and sustainable use
- effective financial management
- a government model based upon a solid foundation of our hereditary system

On behalf of the Staff of the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society, commonly known as the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, we are proud to present to you the 2023– 2024 Annual Report. This report presents the accomplishment of each department and their priority activities. Our organization has made it a priority to continually improve communications with members through all Clans meetings, Clan/House meetings, land-based and virtual gatherings, and social media. We welcome feedback on how best to engage.

2023 marked the 26th Anniversary of the Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa Court Case Ruling. It was felt that all gatherings hosted within and outside of the territories not only honoured our ancestors dedication and sacrifice to affirm our governance and jurisdiction, it awakens our spirit and revives our traditional responsibilities. The affirmation of our traditional decision-making process over Children and Families and Yintah are our inherent right and responsibility. The health and wellbeing of the people are a reflection of the health and wellbeing of the Yintah (land). With unity comes strength and from this strength we can carry out our responsibilities to sustain health and wealth of our communities and Yintah.

All departments under the auspices of the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society, give expression to Wet'suwet'en Title, Wet'suwet'en Rights and Wet'suwet'en Jurisdiction and demonstrate this by realigning government and industry processes to acknowledge and recognize our Title holders and traditional decision makers; the House groups and their voice play a role in the process. We need to continue to working together and celebrate our successes.

New to the Office, I am pleased to introduce you to Karen Hilchey; Executive Secretary and MNP's expert financial advisors; Lorna Wendling and Carina Henry, both provide financial management and day to day financial supports to the Office and works with our finance clerk Sonya Michell and Reception James Gallant. The work that takes place behind the scenes makes this organization function, TABI MISSIYH.

“MNP is a leading national accounting, tax and consulting firm for Indigenous Nations in Canada. For the past 40 years, we have invested significant time and resources developing and delivering practical services to meet the unique needs of our First Nations, Métis and Inuit clients. Serving Indigenous nations, businesses and individuals across Canada, our team consists of 300 professionals who have a diverse set of experiences and services designed to position you for success.”

The goal of MNP is mentorship and succession planning – working themselves out of this contract. Their goal is to strengthen financial responsibilities and accountabilities of the organization and working with the board of directors and staff of our organization. This goal align with our goal to ensure effective, responsive and accountable infrastructure and financial management. We are creating a strong foundation to evolve a Society into a National Governance structure.



The Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society addresses Wet'suwet'en concerns and interests at many levels of government and industry both concerning lands, its resources, and its people. Just prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of British Columbia and Canada. This MOU affirms Wet'suwet'en Title, Rights and Jurisdiction at a political level not a legal level, there is much work to be done. Government and Industry capitalize on a fragmented nation. Together we can achieve a better future, a unified Wet'suwet'en is a strong Wet'suwet'en.

Blazing new trail is a daunting task and never easy, the mission can be met with vigor or hesitancy. We learn from our experiences and continue to improve our path. To bring a little pep to our step we want to share the BC Treaty Commission Loan to the Wet'suwet'en has been forgiven by the government of Canada and BC in March 2020, WE ARE ON A NEW JOURNEY.

MOU on Title and Rights: Negotiations commenced with BC, Canada in 2020 based on the political affirmation of Wet'suwet'en Title and Rights over the 22,000 km² and the implementation of these rights by advancing Wet'suwet'en Indigenous Governing Body status, recognizing Jurisdiction on Child Wellness and Water. The legal teams tried drafting an "indigenous governing body" agreement; however, on December 13, 2021 the negotiation team received directives to cease negotiations with BC and Canada and cease communications. Work on Child and Water Jurisdiction continues. The Chiefs are preparing to re-engage in a Nation building process and re-set the direction to improve relationships.

Wet'suwet'en Ventures LP: December 12, 2005, the Wet'suwet'en formed an economic structure to provide day to day economic opportunities and achieved public body status for the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs. This company has been dormant for several years; however, through a mandate to explore forestry opportunities, the economic arm is restored. Supported by the Acting Executive Director, Mandell Pinder: Stephen Mussel, and MNP: Lorna Wendling. Early stages of exploratory discussions with Witset's economic development company - Kyah Development Corporation (KDC) and Wet'suwet'en First Nation's economic development company Yinka Dene Economic Development LP (WLP) on forestry opportunities are underway.

All programs and services offered through the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society are the mandates of the Hereditary Chiefs who sit as a board of directors. We look forward to another proud and progressive year.

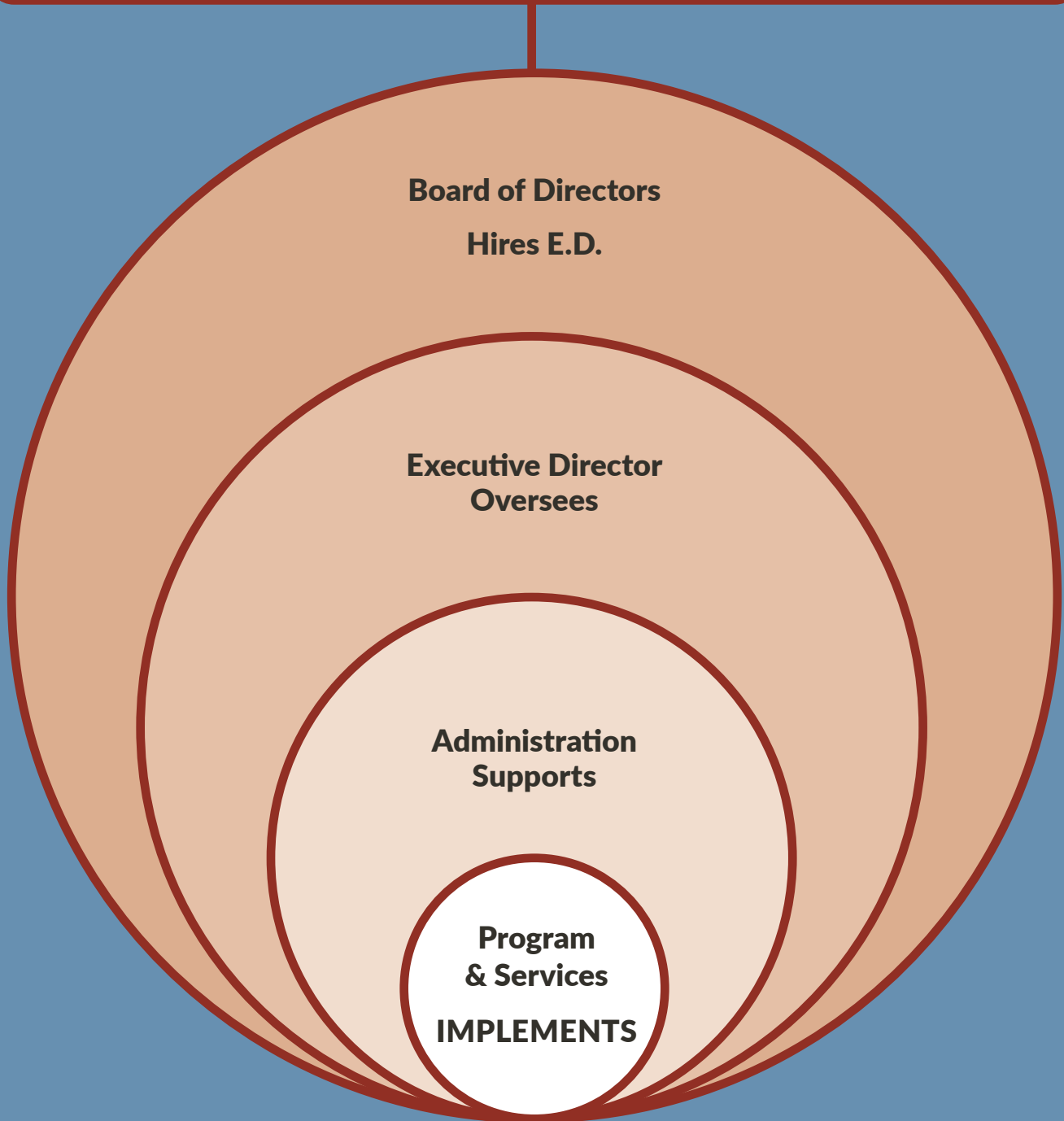
Sne kalyëgh,

David de Wit

David de Wit, Acting Executive Director

Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society

STRUCTURE





Annual General Meeting Agenda

MARCH 21, 2024

Estimate

4:00 pm	Welcome and Registration
5:00 pm	Prayer and Dinner AGM Facilitator - <i>Sandra Martin Harris</i>
6:00 pm	Society Reports and Department Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSS• Fisheries and Wildlife• Jurisdiction• Finance
6:30 pm	Financial Update - <i>Lorna</i>
7:00 pm	Director Appointment
7:30 pm	Drawing of Prizes - <i>Sandra Martin Harris</i>
8:00 pm	Closing

Program/Department Reports

HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

HSS Manager: Sherry McKinnon

The Human and Social Services Department, a vital source of holistic care and support within our Wet'suwet'en communities. Comprising of the Early Childhood Development Program, Anuk Nu'At'en Ba'glh'iyi z'ilhdic (ANABIP) Family Services and Prevention Program, and the Gitxsan & Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice (GWUAJ), our department is committed to improving the quality of life for all we serve.

In our pursuit of comprehensive well-being, we extend a range of services covering family support, parent education and learning, as well as youth and elder support. Each program is intricately woven with the rich heritage of Wet'suwet'en culture, ensuring a deep and meaningful connection to our roots.

Our dedicated staff brings a genuine commitment to every aspect of our services, fostering an environment of care, understanding, and empowerment. Join us in this collaborative journey towards building stronger, more resilient communities, where the spirit of Wet'suwet'en culture is celebrated, and the quality of life for all is elevated.

- ANABIP Program
- Urban ANABIP Prevention Program
- Gitxsan & Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice
- Early Childhood Development



Anuk Nu'At'en Ba'glh'iyi z'ilhdic (ANABIP) Family Services and Prevention

Program Coordinator: Diana Vantunen

Cultural/Clinical Lead: Russell Lewis Jr.

Administrative Assistant: Delores Vantunen

Frontline Workers: Julie Vantunen,
Jeremy Dumont, Ramona Naziel, Betty Tom

Number of Staff: 7

Annual Budget: To be completed

Program Funded By: MCFD

Program Description: Our program is rooted in Wet'suwet'en governance, customs, values, and laws, forming the foundation of our decision-making process to nurture and support our children and families.

Dedicated to providing culturally relevant services to the communities of Smithers, Witset, and Hagwilget. It's important to note that ANABIP is NOT a Wet'suwet'en Delegated Agency; however, ongoing negotiations are in place to reclaim child welfare jurisdiction. Despite this, child protection roles and responsibilities will continue to reside with MCFD.

In instances where we collaborate with MCFD, ANABIP strikes a balance between community education and direct family work. Our focus remains on a select number of families, allowing us to refine our processes in tandem with cultural experts, ensuring that ANABIP maintains a strong cultural focus. Simultaneously, we are committed to providing community-wide cultural education opportunities, such as workshops and mock ANABIP processes, contributing to the broader cultural enrichment of our communities.

URBAN Anuk Nu'At'en Ba'glh'iyi z'ilhdic (ANABIP) Family Services and Prevention

Program Coordinator: Trish Naziel

Cultural Planner: Alicia Michell

Vancouver Frontline Workers:

Vanessa Euverman, Dylan Michell

Prince George Frontline Workers:

Ada Madam, Bonita Howard-Gibbons,

Leona Perry

Burns Lake Frontline Workers:

Heather Holland

Number of Staff: 8

Annual Budget: To be completed

Program Funded By: MCFD

Program Description: The Urban ANABIP Program mirrors the core principles of ANABIP, extending its reach to encompass areas in the interior and southern part of British Columbia. This program remains dedicated to providing culturally relevant services, relying on traditional decision-making processes rooted in Wet'suwet'en governance, customs, values, and laws.

The Urban ANABIP Program aims to support families in urban settings with the same commitment to cultural relevance found in the original ANABIP. While not a Wet'suwet'en Delegated Agency, ongoing efforts are directed towards negotiations to reclaim child welfare jurisdiction. It's important to note that child protection roles and responsibilities will continue to be within the purview of MCFD.

In alignment with ANABIP, the Urban ANABIP Program emphasizes collaboration with cultural experts to maintain a strong cultural focus. The program also strives to provide community-wide cultural education opportunities, ensuring that families in urban areas can access and benefit from the cultural enrichment that ANABIP provides.

GITXSAN & WET'SUWET'EN UNLOCKING ABORIGINAL JUSTICE (program of HSS)

Program Coordinator: Lisa Mowatt

Aboriginal Justice Worker: Marilyn Wright

Youth & Victim Justice Workers:

Ross McRae & Ashley Vantunen

Number of Staff: 4

Annual Budget: To be completed

Program Funded By: Department of Justice, MCFD, and Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Program Description: The Gitxsan & Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice program provides a holistic and restorative approach to justice for our Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en members, deeply rooted in our cultural traditions. Our program embodies restorative justice principles, focusing on prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, and support.

In alignment with restorative justice values, we emphasize repairing harm, promoting healing, and fostering meaningful connections within our community. By integrating Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en culture and traditions, our program seeks to address the root causes of conflicts, working towards restoring balance and harmony.

Through our restorative justice initiatives, we aim to transform the Western justice system narrative by providing a culturally sensitive alternative that prioritizes community well-being. The Gitxsan & Wet'suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice program is committed to creating a space where individuals can find healing, understanding, and resolution while upholding the values of our unique cultural identity.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Coordinator: Tara McKinnon

Family Support Worker: Charlene Hunt

Infant Toddler Teacher: Dianna Johansen

Preschool/Infant Toddler Assistant:
Jolicia Naziel

Pre-School Assistant: Louise Alfred

**Administrative Assistant/Transportation
for children:** Natasha Davis

Number of Staff: 6

Program Funded By: MCFD and Aboriginal
Service Innovations- Early Years (ASI)

Program Description: The Early Childhood Development Program works in partnership with our families, promoting the healthy growth and development of all urban aboriginal children from preconception to six years. We encourage the entire family to work with the children to build better communication skills thus providing them higher literacy and better social skills giving them positive relationships with their peers and allowing children to mature into high self-esteem, achieving adults.

Licensed Infant Toddler Program:

Operates 4 days a week, Monday-Thursday- 9am-4pm

There is 4 infants as per licencing

Licensed Preschool Program:

Also operates 4 days a week,
Monday to Thursday- 9am-4pm

There are 16 children in the preschool program as per licensing.

We have 4 of our children that participate at Walnut Park a few hours a day to get our Pre-k's ready for the Kindergarten transition. Our students do tours of the public schools and meet the principle and kindergarten teachers and do gym time to get the feeling of the bigger schools.



Thomas Robinson Consulting:

We have a worker that helps 2 of our children that need extra support in our Preschool. Peter helps is here helping 4 days a week.

Child Development Centre:

We have Ellen Anderson doing monthly visits with our infant toddler program as we have 1 toddler that needs the extra support with development.

Elders:

We have 3 elders that participate in our Preschool Program and Infant Toddler program 4 days a week to teach our children Wet'suwet'en language.

Fridays we have Parent-tot Kitchen:

Our program provides the ingredients and our families cook a meal to enjoy together.

Parent groups:

We offer parent groups three days a week. Our parents do crafts, learn different parenting styles, learning to deal with difficult behaviour, nutrition, traditional parenting with elders, self-care, harvesting food in the summer months- fish, berries, medicine harvesting. Etc.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Acting/NR Manager: Leanne Helkenberg
(Base: David de Wit)

Administrative Assistant: Barb Seredocka,
Mat. Leave (Base: Bronwen Pollock)

Project Assessment Coordinator:
Julia Onderwater

Project Coordinator: Brett Tripp

Referral Coordinator: Leanne Helkenberg

Environmental Technician: Tieasha Pierre

Environmental Technician: Vernon Joseph

Number of Staff: 6 FTE

Department Purpose: To protect all lands and resources of Wet'suwet'en territory for the benefits of the Wet'suwet'en, develop capacity for economic development of our communities and to preserve these resources for our children and generations to come.

The Natural Resources Department is responsible for establishing an information base of the Wet'suwet'en territory, to provide updates to membership, seek direction from the Hereditary Chiefs and liaise with the appropriate ministries and organizations in regards to land use activities.

Key Accomplishments

Wetzin'kwa Water Sustainability Project

The Wet'suwet'en are working toward achieving commitments that were made in the May 14th, 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). As a first step, in relation to T'oh or Water, the NR department has been working with the province of BC on developing and implementing the Wetzin'kwa Water Sustainability Project (WWSP), where the end goal is the development of Wet'suwet'en legal objectives, under the Water Sustainability Act and our own Anuk'nu'at'en

Lakes Resiliency Plan- Forest Landscape Plan, Lakes Timber Supply Area

The goal of the Lakes Resiliency Plan (LRP) is to develop a Forest License Plan and land use objectives that, when implemented, will establish a resilient forested land base, conserve and facilitate cultural and ecological values, address wildfire risk, and ultimately contribute to community stability. This also includes the creation of legal objectives that will better protect Wet'suwet'en (First Nation) Values.

Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI):

ESI is moving into our ninth year, the goal is to integrate First Nations values and create space for sharing trusted information and data that encompasses Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, and Western science.

Major Project- Tenas Project, Bathurst Resources, Telkwa Mining Ltd.

The NR department, through our Project Assessment Coordinator has been working with Bathurst on the development of a Project Assessment Agreement (PAA), where the proponent is agreeing to the development and implementation of the Wet'suwet'en Assessment Process and honour the Wet'suwet'en Anuk'nu'at'en by upholding the Wet'suwet'en Decision through the Traditional Decision-making Process.

Clan Engagement/Decision Making Support

NR has tried to support Clans and Houses through traditional decision-making by hosting engagement sessions, at the Clan and House level, that present activities happening within the territories. These sessions are meant to engage the membership and practice the consensus-based decision model, as was done traditionally. For consensus-based decision making to work members need to be present and engaged, including and most importantly House Chiefs. Members need to see their leaders supporting the process and supporting their house. This will be especially important, when working through decisions with larger implications.



Key Priorities

- **Wetzin’kwa Water Sustainability Project (WWSP)**
- **Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI)**
 - Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF)
- **Forest Landscape Plans (FLP)**
 - Lakes Resiliency Plan (LRP)- Lakes Timber Supply Area
 - Bulkley Morice FLP- Bulkley and Morice Timber Supply Area
- **Major Projects**
 - Tenas Project, Bathurst Resources, Telkwa Mining Ltd.
 - North Coast BC Electrification Project, BC Hydro
- **Other Projects**
 - Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fish and Fish Passage Restoration
- **Supporting Clan and House Decision Making Processes**
 - Improving outward communication to Wet’suwet’en members
 - Building Capacity and Skills
- **Referral Prioritization with Clans and House Groups**
 - Mineral Exploration Activities
 - Forestry Activities
 - Land Use

Action Plan 2024-2025

In 2024/25, the NR department will be taking some time to re-group, re-focus and prioritize. This will require engagement and support from all members of the Wet’suwet’en. Some key priorities that have been noted are listed below:

Clan Engagement/Decision Making Support:

The Wet’suwet’en Hereditary Chiefs and their associated House Groups hold the Aboriginal rights and responsibilities to ensure that the lands and waters within their territory will always support the needs of their Clans, Houses, and over all, Nation. The role of the OW is to support the decision-making of the houses, by providing operational and technical assistance in engagement processes where directed. The OW will facilitate meetings with each of the Clans to bring the information forward, answer questions and work through the decision process.

Wetzin’kwa Water Sustainability Project:

The goal of this project is to integrate Wet’suwet’en values and laws into provincial resource management decision making within the traditional territories of the Wet’suwet’en Nation.

Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI):

ESI is moving into our eighth year, the goal is to integrate First Nations values and create space for sharing trusted information and data that encompasses Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, and Western science.

Forest Landscape Plans/Timber Supply Reviews

- Lakes Resiliency Project, Lakes Timber Supply Area
- Bulkley-Morice FLP, Bulkley Morice Timber Supply Areas

Major Projects

- Tenas Project, Bathurst Resources, Telkwa Mining Ltd.
- North Coast BC Electrification Project, BC Hydro

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance Controller: Vacant

External Finance Advisor: Lorna Wendling

Finance Clerk: Sonya Michell

Receptionist: James Gallant

Department Purpose:

As part of the Finance Team, ensuring as mandated, effective financial management, efficient financial procedures and employee policies; working together with management to provide strategic direction toward the goal of becoming a self-reliant nation.

Key Accomplishments:

Emerging from the Covid pandemic posed a number of challenges to the finance department, primarily around human resources. It is difficult to fill positions in the finance area across Northern BC. Positions for Finance Controller and Receptionist were vacant for part of this year, with Sonya covering the role of accounts payable clerk and receptionist until James Gallant joined as the receptionist in October 2022.

In July 22, Debbie Pierre contacted MNP to help support the finance department and to help the organization improve systems and processes, and build capacity within the organization.

Myself (Lorna) and my colleague Carina Henry have been working with management and staff since that time to help the organization.

Some of the accomplishments in the past 182 months include the following:

- Brought all financial records up to date from November 2021. All records are now current and financial reports issued monthly to management.
- Completed and issued the 2021, 2022 and 2023 audits.
- Introduced new processes for accounts payable to increase turn-around time
- Implemented new cloud-based payroll system – Payworks

- Obtained funding to implement new account software – Sage Intacct – beginning implementation in Mar 2024 with go live date expected in Sep 2024.
- Provided training and support to the finance department, management and other staff.
- Successfully applied for \$98K of funding to update Human Resource policies and processes. Project is commencing Feb 2024 to be completed by June 2024
- Implemented new travel expense process.
- Coordinated benefits training for all staff.
- Streamlined financial reporting so that all reporting is generated directly from the accounting software, and provide monthly financial reports to managers.
- Implemented new consolidated budgeting process, and budget data is now recorded directly into the finance software.

Our focus for the next few months will include the following:

- Establishment of a finance and audit committee
- Development and documentation of comprehensive set of financial policies and processes.
- Implementation of new accounting software.
- Implementation of the Human resources project noted above.
- Bringing all reporting to funders up to date.
- Introducing new visa platform and processes.
- Continuing to support development of capacity in the finance department.

We wish to thank Sonya and James for their dedication to their roles, very helpful suggestions, and willingness to embrace change and learn. We also wish to thank Debbie for her support, and all staff for their patience as we work together to improve.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

Fisheries and Wildlife Manager

Walter Joseph

Ranger: Brian Michell

Ranger: Samantha Vincent

Technician: Gary Michell

Number of Staff: 3

Program Funded By: Department of Fisheries & Ocean

Program Description: The Fisheries and Wildlife manager’s duties included developing food fishing plans, commercial sales plans, catch monitoring, tagging, and tag recovery plans. The plans were approved by the Chiefs and the Wet’suwet’en communities. After the plans had been approved, the Fisheries and Wildlife Manager developed the administrative requirements to implement the plans, including developing job descriptions, posting positions and hiring the personnel needed to carry out the plans. At the conclusion of the season, the Fisheries and Wildlife Manager prepares the reports needed to fulfill the contribution agreement reporting requirements.

Key Priorities

Food Fish Caught in the Canyon

2022-2024

Year	2022	2023
Chinook	263	642
Coho	101	1557
Sockeye	618	2219

Note that we received approximately 4000 sockeye from commercial fishery in Prince Rupert in 2023.

Tag program

Estimated past Witset based on Tag program		
	2022	2023
Coho	41,000	90,000
Sockeye	18,800	17,800
Steelhead	na	na

Note that due to changes in the seine site and low water, beach seine has not applied enough tags on steelhead to generate an accurate estimate. We will test other sites to increase number of tags applied.

Tag Program

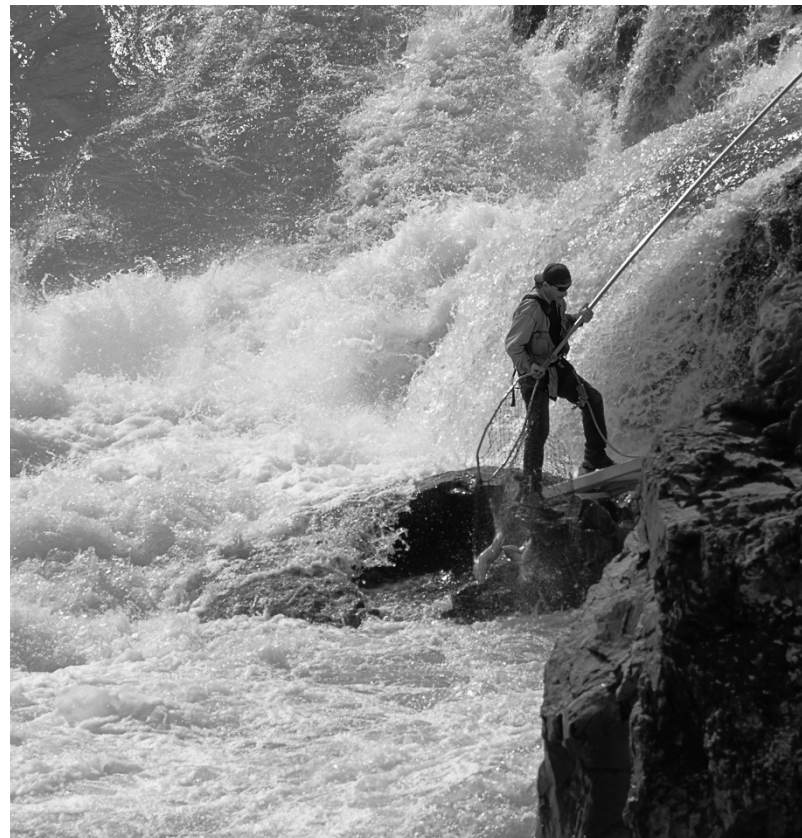
Note that due to changes in the seine site and low water, beach seine has not applied enough tags on steelhead to generate a accurate estimate. We will test other sites to increase number of tags applied.

Smolt program

1200 sockeye smolts were caught in 2022, and 2400 in 2023. The age class proportions seems to have shifted from 50% 1 year olds and 50% 2 year olds in the 1960’s to 80% 1 year olds and 20% 2 year olds now. This may mean the Wedzin Bin is getting more productive due to global warming, so smolts get big enough to leave after 1 year. Mike price can’t say for certain though, as he’d like to run the project longer. The funding runs out this year.

Pink Sales

2022 had record sales, even though the run was relatively small, it went late in the fall. We also sold candied Chinook from Riverselect which was very popular. This year we will sell candied pink from last year, so we can start sales early and run late. A number of employees have already applied for sales as they enjoy the work.



Jurisdiction Report

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs are committed to the health and wellness of all Wet'suwet'en families and their families, wherever they reside. As part of our ongoing effort to exercise our rights and inherent jurisdiction to care for all of our citizens, the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs are implementing our processes to build our capacities to design and deliver care and wellness supports for the benefit of our children, youth and families. Our focus is to implement supports and conditions for healthy, connected Wet'suwet'en families that thrive in their Wet'suwet'en identity, act on their birth rights and responsibilities and exemplify wellness, in accordance to Wet'suwet'en Anuk Nuat'en (Laws).

Wet'suwet'en Matriarch's

In order to empower our Wet'suwet'en Clans in Child & Family decision-making, each House group is in the process of designating a Clan Matriarch and a Matriarch-in-Training. The Matriarch's and Matriarch's in training will represent each Clan, including cultural planning, safety planning and advocacy. Our Matriarch Designate Child and Family Wellness Advisory Group will effectively work together with our House groups, ANABIP & Prevention teams and Wet'suwet'en Wellness Working Group to advise on child and family wellness matters, as it pertains to the traditional laws and practices of the Wet'suwet'en, specifically in regard to House and Clan group responsibilities in caring for Wet'suwet'en children. The Matriarch advisory group will provide advice and guidance to the Ministry of Child and Family Development relating to the planning and care of Wet'suwet'en citizens, wherever they reside.

Clan meetings are underway for the clan-based matriarch designation process.

WET'SUWET'EN MATRIARCHS

The significance of Wet'suwet'en Matriarchs for Wet'suwet'en Child & Family Wellness

Among the Wet'suwet'en, since time immemorial, the role of matriarchs has been central to the social governance structures. The matriarch's guidance & advice were adhered to in order to preserve the clan and house groups well being, balance and growth.

Decision-Making

- House Group Guidance**
Provide guidance to house group and clan according to Anuk Nuaten
- Advisors to Chiefs**
Advise Chiefs on major clan and house group decisions

Holders of our History

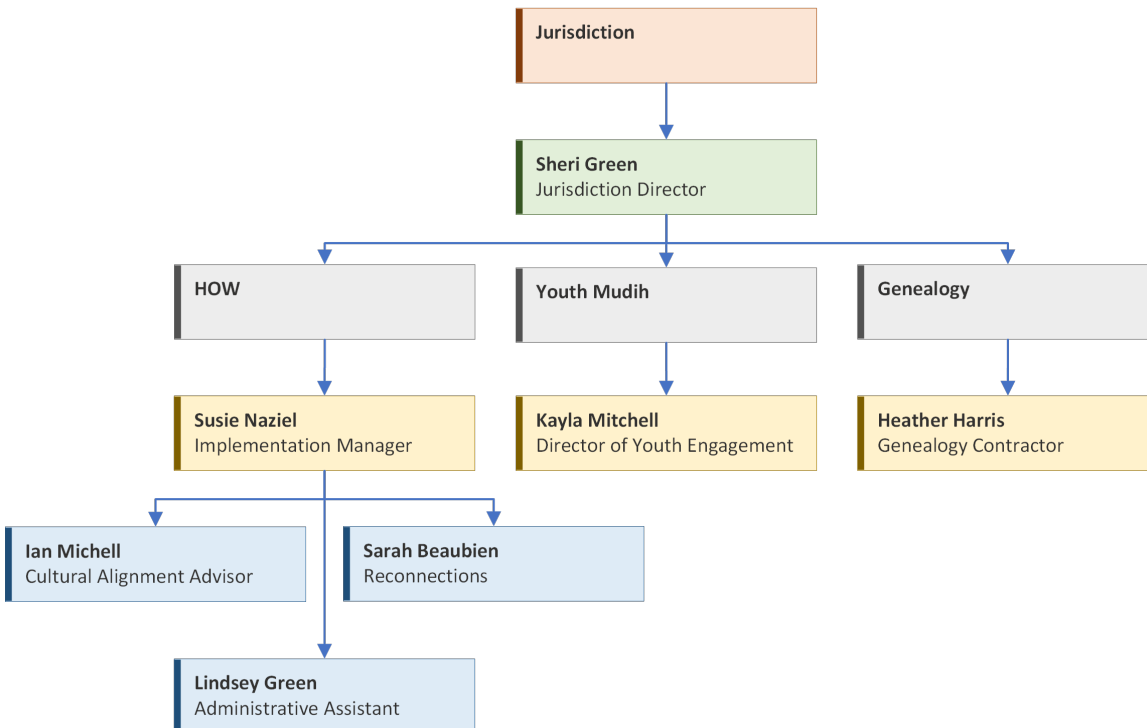
- Mentorship**
Training young women to become future matriarchs
- Sharing Knowledge**
through demonstration and story-telling, passed down knowledge to our Sky'ze

Ceremony and Clan Growth

- Cultural Practices**
Guide Sky'ze through coming-of-age ceremonies and rituals.
- Women are life-givers**
Prioritized matrilineal society and promoted growth among clans to sustain Wet'suwet'en values & clan strength

Wet'suwet'en matriarchs are instrumental in child rearing practices and teaching. Their job is to guide clan members in family matters and ensure children are connected to our laws, values and culture.

www.wetsuweten.com



Wet'suwet'en Peace Tea Circles

Wet'suwet'en Traditional Peace Tea Circles, historically, has been a critical component in our Wet'suwet'en governing system for dispute resolution. The Honouring Our Ways team have taken formal training through Four Circles Justice Society to revitalize the ancient dispute resolution model. We have further developed the practices and principles of the training to ensure that our Peace Tea Circle process is in alignment with Wet'suwet'en Anuk Nuat'en, specifically pertaining to Child and Family matters and nation-based reconciliation. An internal training video was developed to support the Human Social Service Team (ANABIP & Prevention) in the work with our nation.



Wet'suwet'en Traditional Parenting Handbook

Through the Honouring Our Ways Program, Helen Harris has developed a Traditional Parenting Handbook. The development process for this handbook included extensive interviews with Wet'suwet'en matriarchs. The handbook is designed for educational purposes to support Wet'suwet'en mothers and families in traditional parenting practice and ceremony for our Sky'ze. The handbook will be available once final edits and publication is complete.

Wet'suwet'en Prevention Research Circle

Over the span of 18 months, UBC researcher, Sarah Panofski has been conducting a research circle to support the work of Child and Family Jurisdiction. This research project is nearing its conclusion and a formal written and video report will be made publicly available. We would like to thank our Dini'ze, Tsake'ze and Sky'ze who committed their time, experiences and expertise into this research process. We would like to also pay tribute to the late Dini'ze Madeek and the late Tsake'ze Kiliset, whose passionate contributions of historical and cultural knowledge helped guide and formulate this very important work.

Genealogy

Heather Harris has been updating our Genealogy System and developing our House and Clan membership lists. We are currently exploring the development of a matrilineal genealogy program to support our unique Wet'suwet'en needs. Currently, all existing genealogy systems are patrilineal, so it presents challenges in accurately representing our matrilineal lineage. A report has been developed to outline the current barriers and needs to continue this valuable work. Please attend your next Clan and House group meetings so your house membership and genealogy charts include niwh skak.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021/2023

The MNP logo is displayed in a bold, green, sans-serif font in the top right corner of the slide.

Wet'sewet'en Treaty Office Society

Finance Report

March 22 2024

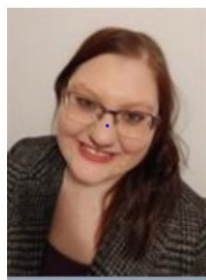


Wherever business takes you

[MNP.ca](https://www.mnp.ca)

The PRAXITY logo, which includes a circular icon with a stylized 'P' and the word 'PRAXITY' in a bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline 'Empowering Business Success' in smaller text below it.

Introductions



**Lorna
Wendling**

**Partner, Indigenous
Services**

Overall Responsibility for
Engagement Management,
Reporting to Managers and
Executive Director, and Board
of Directors.

**Carina
Henry**

Articling Accountant

Carina is responsible for on
the ground accounting
support and training with the
Finance Clerk

Who are we?



- Carina and myself are part of MNP External Financial Advisor service line for indigenous organizations.
- We work to support organizations in building stronger financial departments and to provide need advice and support along the way.
- Our goal is to build capacity in the organizations and help strengthen their existing staff.

Financial Report

- Audited financial statements were completed in the past 18 months were as follows:
 - Wetsuweten Treaty Office Society years ended March 31 2021, 2022, 2023
 - Office of Wet'suwet'en Society years ended March 31 2021, 2022, 2023
 - Wet'suwet'en Ventures LLP years ended March 31 2021, 2022, 2023
- Full copies of the audited financial statements are available on the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society website for your review.
- We are presenting a summary for you today

Terminology

Financial statement terms that you may hear today include the following

Balance sheet

– shows the financial position of the organization at a point in time – measured on the Society’s year end of March 31st

- Assets – assets are items that are owned by the Society
- Current assets are items that are cash based or will be converted a cash within a year’s time
- Capital Assets are items like buildings, equipment, land, vehicles that have a Capital useful life of more than one year
- Liabilities are obligations of the Societies like money owed to vendors, the government or the bank
- Current liabilities are amounts owned within one year
- Long-term liabilities are amounts owned after one year
- Deferred revenue is revenue that the Society has received but has not yet expended on the required project
- Net assets are the assets less the liabilities of the Society – may also be called equity or surplus

Terminology

- Statement of Operations – this is also sometimes called the Statement of Earnings or the Income Statement
- It shows the revenues received less the expenses incurred over a period of time the fiscal year of April 1 to March 31

Auditor's Report

- The financial statements are audited each year by Edmison Mehr, who are independent of the organization.
- MNP is not the auditor, our job is to manage the financial record keeping, not to audit the financial statements
- Edmison Mehr has issued a “clean” audit opinion for each set of statements.
- This means that in their opinion the statements are presented fairly and Edmiston are free of material misstatements.

Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society

Financial Summary 2021-2023

Balance sheet - Assets

	2023	2022	2021
Assets			
Current			
Cash	\$12,606,266	\$14,168,202	\$4,791,344
Accounts Receivable	1,420,022	1,100,708	7,620,284
Prepaid Expenses	223,605	76,026	55,318
Due from Related Party "OWS"	75,966	64,801	14,803
	14,325,859	15,409,737	12,481,749
Tangible Capital Assets	975,062	650,207	683,246
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,300,921	\$16,059,944	\$13,164,995

Balance sheet – Liabilities and Net Assets

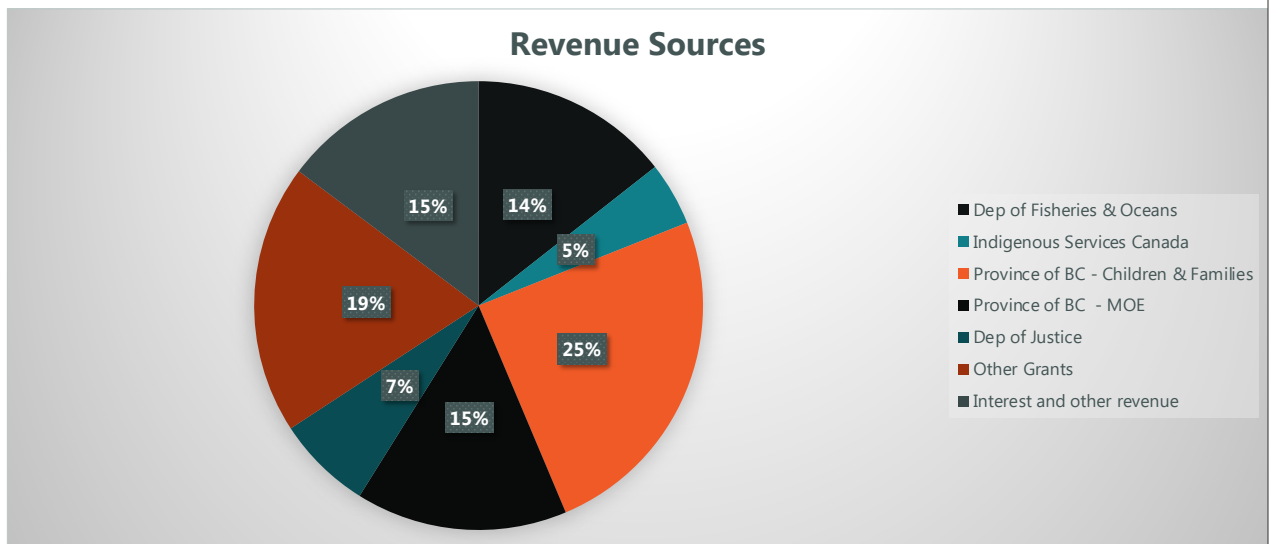
	2023	2022	2021
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$759,445	\$668,699	\$475,932
Deferred revenue	5,453,496	6,578,338	7,220,000
Current portion of long term debt	7,804	7,804	7,804
	6,220,945	7,254,841	7,703,736
Long Term Debt	31,217	31,217	78,041
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$6,252,162	\$7,286,058	\$7,781,777
NET ASSETS			
Invested in tangible capital assets	975,062	650,206	683,246
Operating net assets	8,073,697	8,123,666	4,699,972
	9,048,759	8,773,862	5,383,218

10

Statement of Operations

7,522,	2023	2022	2021
Revenue	\$6,560,498	\$8,741,428	\$7,522,035
Expenses			
Wages and Benefits	3,067,801	2,461,453	2,483,960
Amortization	163,699	124,129	142,032
Other operating expenses	3,054,115	2,765,190	3,885,203
	\$6,285,615	\$5,350,772	\$6,510,925
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$274,883	\$3,390,656	\$1,011,110

2023 Fiscal Year – Revenue by Source



Results by Department 2023

Department	Revenues	Expenses (including transfers)	Current period surplus (deficit)	Opening Surplus (Deficit)	Closing Surplus (Deficit)
Administration/Governance	\$1,326,064	\$1,747,629	(\$421,565)	\$4,162,053	\$3,740,488
Jurisdiction	\$nil	\$376,202	(\$376,202)	\$1,111,191	\$734,989
Human and Social Services	\$3,090,080	\$2,429,588	\$668,492	\$554,196	\$1,222,688
Natural Resources	\$1,420,520	\$885,883	\$534,637	\$2,191,727	\$2,726,364
Fisheries	\$1,095,134	\$1,225,612	\$(130,478)	\$754,708	\$624,230
TOTAL	\$6,939,798	\$6,664,914	\$274,884	\$8,773,875	\$9,048,759

Office of Wet'suwet'en Society

Financial Summary 2021-2023

Balance sheet - Assets

	2023	2022	2021
Assets			
Current			
Cash	\$73,012	\$117,347	\$67,307
Prepaid Expenses	9,118	7,211	1,350
	82,130	124,558	68,657
Tangible Capital Assets	1,078,891	1,118,871	1,158,851
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,161,021	\$1,243,429	\$1,227,508

Balance sheet – Liabilities and Net Assets

	2023	2022	2021
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$12,773	\$24,023	\$3,002
Deferred revenue	920,354	961,719	1,003,082
Due to related party (WTOS)	66,751	64,801	22,182
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$999,878	\$1,050,542	\$1,028,266
NET ASSETS			
Operating net assets	161,143	192,887	199,242
	1,161,021	1,243,429	\$1,227,508

Statement of Operations

	2023	2022	2021
Revenue	\$74,892	\$89,364	\$254,918
Expenses			
Amortization	39,980	39,980	29,985
Other operating expenses	66,656	55,740	25,691
	\$106,636	\$95,720	\$55,676
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	(\$31,744)	(\$6,356)	\$199,242

Wet'suwet'en Ventures Limited Partnership

Financial Summary 2021-2023

Balance sheet - Assets

	2023	2022	2021
Assets			
Current			
Cash	\$79,234	\$79,348	\$79,474
Security Deposit	15,000	15,000	15,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$94,234	\$94,438	\$94,474

Balance sheet – Liabilities and Net Assets

	2023	2022	2021
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$25,410	\$16,260	\$13,109
Due to related party [WTOS]	9,215	6,000	6,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$34,625	\$22,260	\$19,109
NET ASSETS			
Operating net assets	59,609	72,088	75,365
	\$94,234	\$94,348	\$94,474

Statement of Operations

	2023	2022	2021
Revenue	\$NIL	\$NIL	\$10,000
Expenses			
Operating expenses	12,479	3,276	3,277
Excess [Deficiency] of Revenue Over Expenses	[\$12,479]	[\$3,276]	\$6,723



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