



GITXSAN LAXYIP MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NEWSLETTER

Issue 0009



SSAF'S ALL NATIONS GATHERING

A summary of a rainy day triumph of the Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum's (SSAF) All Nations Gathering at K'san, hosted by Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office.

GLMO Accomplishments

Welcoming new
Leadership to GLMO

Land Guardians Training



GLMO Staff

Tracey Woods

Co-Executive Director (Administration)
twoods@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Kevin Stevens

Co-Executive Director (Operations)
kstevens@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Jeneen Woods

Communications Manager
jwoods@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Megan Morrison

Office Manager/Finance Assistant
mmorrison@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Dalyce Woods

Receptionist
reception@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Linda Matthews

Upper Nass Watershed Facilitator
lmatthews@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Maxwell Stevens

Upper Skeena Watershed Facilitator
mstevens@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Rob Matthews

Mid Skeena Watershed Facilitator
rmatthews@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Noel Argueta

Babine Watershed Facilitator
nargueta@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Gabriel Hilbach

Kispiox Watershed Facilitator
ghilbach@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Scott Muldon

Land Guardian
guardian2@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Tyson Daniels

Land Guardian
guardian3@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Sheldon Johnson

Land Guardian
guardian4@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Jesse Olson

Land Guardian
guardian5@gitxsanlaxyip.ca

SSAF's All Nations Gathering

What began as a soggy, grey morning transformed into an engaging and inspiring day of learning, connection, and community spirit. Despite early challenges with rain, nerves, and a slow start to setup, the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO)—host Nation for the event—helped turn the day into a shining example of teamwork, adaptability, and collaboration.

As the host, GLMO led the charge in bringing the day together, securing salmon for the BBQ and coordinating with five Gitxsan caterers who prepared delicious salads and fried bread. From the moment staff arrived on site, it was all hands on deck. Tents were quickly assembled, calls were made, and K'san staff arrived to lend their support. The Gitxsan Genesis youth soccer team generously provided two additional tents, while Jimmy showed up just in time with three more. Displays were set up, including an eye-catching booth by the Land Guardians, and the space began to take shape.

The original plan was to use the gazebos at K'san in a "World Café" style setup, encouraging small-group discussions and visits to each booth. But the steady rain forced a shift to Plan B—presentations delivered from the main stage to the full group. The change of format didn't dampen the spirit of the event—instead, it demonstrated the team's ability to adapt and move forward together.

Despite the weather, roughly 100 people came through over the course of the day to learn, connect, and enjoy the meal. The event began with a warm welcome from Gitxsan Simgiyat—Gyet'em Galdo'o, Nikateen, and Sano'os—followed by songs and drumming from K'san Performing Arts. Though the rain kept the performers on the stage to protect their regalia and drums, their presence helped set a respectful and celebratory tone.

Presentations kicked off with Noel, Nikki, and Tieasha offering an insightful overview of the Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF). Kevin and Jesse followed with an engaging talk about the Science & Technical Committee (STC). Throughout the morning, attendees braved the weather to listen, learn, and ask questions, showing a strong interest in the stewardship work taking place across the different participating Nations territories.

The "Value" booths originally planned for the café-style format became cozy "tent talks" focused on Wildlife, Aquatics, and Cumulative Effects (CPE). These smaller, more intimate spaces allowed for meaningful, open discussions and valuable feedback from participants.

Lunch—organized by GLMO and supported by staff from Huckleberry Mine who BBQ'd the salmon—was a major highlight. Over warm food, laughter, and conversation flowed, helping build new relationships and deepen community connections.

In the afternoon, Jimmy led a powerful presentation that brought together Land Guardians from multiple Nations. Each team introduced themselves and shared stories about their work, highlighting the vital role Indigenous stewardship plays in caring for the land and water. The message was clear: this work is ongoing, meaningful, and deeply rooted in culture and responsibility.

As the day came to a close, fun prize draws lifted spirits and brought smiles all around. The flipcharts—once a minor stress—were used so much that the event earned a lighthearted nickname: “FlipChart-Palooza.” Max Stevens wrapped up the day with heartfelt closing words and a few well-earned “I told you so’s,” celebrating a successful event.

While formal feedback was limited—just three wildlife surveys submitted and 50 newsletter sign-ups—the impact of the day was undeniable. The SSAF Communications team will follow up with a thank-you to all who attended and invite additional feedback as planning begins for future events.

This gathering set a new standard. Through rain, resourcefulness, and shared commitment, the day proved that when people come together—with teamwork and strong leadership—good things happen, no matter the weather.



Welcoming New Leadership to GLMO

The Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) is proud to announce the appointment of three new members to our Board of Directors: Erika Hilbach and Ken Johnson as Directors-at-Large, and Laverne Williams as Director of Gitxsan Knowledge. Each brings their own valuable experience and a shared commitment to guiding the future of GLMO.

This appointment follows a strong response to our open call for applications, with 10 qualified individuals putting their names forward. Each applicant was carefully considered and interviewed by a panel made up of current Board of Directors and Advisory Committee members. We were encouraged by the level of interest and the depth of experience shared by all the candidates, reflecting the community's growing engagement in the work of GLMO.

As we welcome this new leadership, we also extend our deepest gratitude to our outgoing Board members: Kirby Muldoe, Sandra Wesley-Olson, and Cheyenne Morgan. Their dedication, service, and commitment to GLMO over the years have helped build a strong foundation for the work we continue today. We look forward to this new chapter with optimism and confidence, guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and the Ayookw.

GLMO Accomplishments



At the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO), we don't always find it easy to "toot our own horn." Much of our energy is poured into the day-to-day responsibilities of ensuring that we follow our mandate, vision and mission while also working with the Simgigyat to make sure they can make informed decisions regarding their respective Lax'yip. It often feels more natural to focus on the work than to talk about it. But as we continue to grow as an organization, we're learning that it's important—and necessary—to share our progress openly. Transparency and accountability are at the heart of what we do, and we'd like to share with everyone, so they know what we're working on and accomplishing.

With that in mind, we want to take a moment to highlight some of the key projects and accomplishments GLMO has been working on over the past year:

Cedar Strategy

We're developing a comprehensive strategy to protect and manage cedar, a culturally significant species for the Gitxsan. This work includes identifying important stands, understanding threats, and proposing guidelines for sustainable access and regeneration—ensuring cedar remains available for future generations. The Land Guardians have taken training provided by Silvicon. They have been ground truthing the Provincial Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) polygons.



State of the Forest Report

The State of the Forest report is a collaborative effort between the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) and Silvicon Services Inc., created to provide clear, accurate, and accessible information on the condition and management of forest resources within the Gitxsan Lax Yip. This report is intended to support informed decision-making by the Simgigyat, Wilp members, and the broader Gitxsan Nation in discussions with the Province, forest licensees, and neighbouring Nations. While the report refers to terms like "Crown land" and "Crown timber" to explain provincial processes, GLMO does not accept or endorse these terms—using them strictly for clarification within the context of provincial legislation. As an apolitical and responsible office, GLMO is committed to presenting facts with respect for Gitxsan laws (Ayookw) and diverse perspectives, ensuring the Nation remains empowered in sustainable forest governance for present and future generations.



Scan the QR Code to view a full .PDF version of the report.

GLMO Accomplishments con't

Land Guardians

The Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) launched its Land Guardians program on August 16, 2023, to provide boot-on-the-ground presence across the Gitxsan Lax'yip. Starting with two Guardians and expanding to four by 2025, the program strengthens GLMO's capacity to monitor, protect, and report on land conditions. Guardians respond to requests from a Simoogit to investigate specific concerns on their Lax'yip and share their findings in a respectful, transparent way. Their work—rooted in both the Ayookw and modern environmental practices—includes data collection and training through initiatives like the Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF), reinforcing Gitxsan leadership in sustainable land stewardship.

BCTS Collaborative Management Agreement

Our work with BC Timber Sales led to a Regional Letter of Commitment—a significant step toward improving forestry governance.

Over the past year, the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) and BC Timber Sales (BCTS) worked together to improve how Gitxsan values are reflected in forestry decision-making, land use planning, and environmental monitoring within the Gitxsan Lax'yip. This collaboration was grounded in the recognition of Gitxsan rights, title, and governance, and marks a significant step toward sustainable forest management rooted in mutual respect. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to guide discussions and included a six-month deferral of timber auctions to create space for meaningful engagement. These discussions led to a proposed Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA), emphasizing early involvement of Gitxsan Wilp in forestry planning and operations.

As a result, BCTS has made several key commitments: adopting Gitxsan consultation protocols through the Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA), recognizing Gitxsan Land Use Plans, supporting the development of Wilp Forest Resource Management Plans, improving transparency in the timber auction process, and providing funding and contracts to support

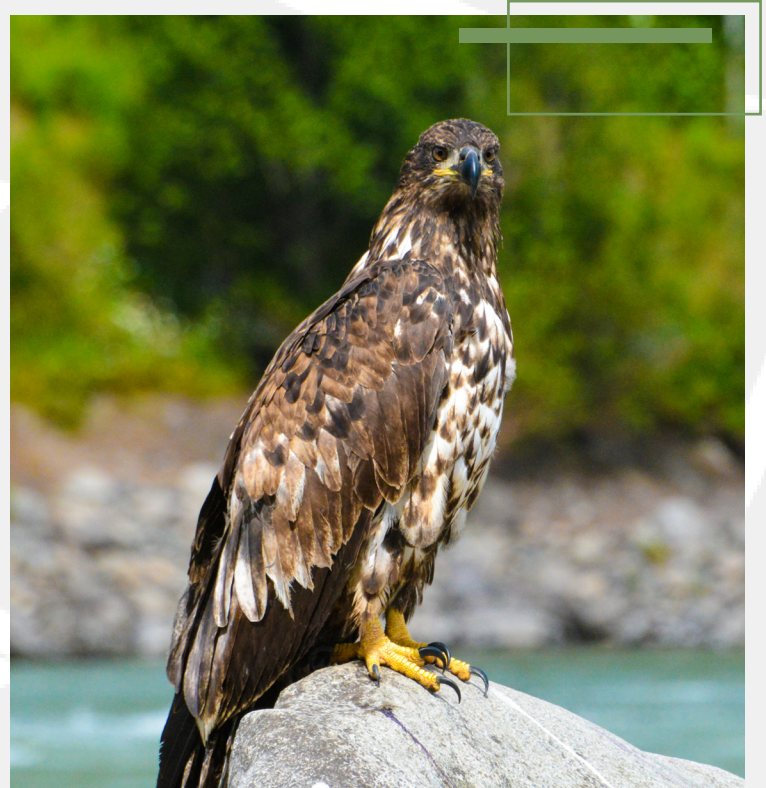
Gitxsan participation and capacity-building. This includes joint fieldwork, cultural heritage assessments, data sharing, training coordination, and ongoing monitoring. With these commitments in place, BCTS will work with GLMO and affected Wilps to resume timber auctions within Gitxsan Lax'yip, ensuring the process respects the Simgigyat and aligns with their values and Ayookw.

Bulkley-Morice Forest Landscape Planning Process

We're actively engaged in this multi-stakeholder process to shape how forest landscapes in the Bulkley-Morice areas will be managed. Our participation ensures that Gitxsan interests and rights are upheld in long-term planning.

Timber Supply Reviews (TSRs)

GLMO has participated in several TSR processes to ensure Gitxsan perspectives are reflected in provincial timber supply forecasts. So far, we've been involved in the Mackenzie and Kispiox TSA reviews, with Bulkley and Nass up next. These reviews are crucial moments to weigh in on forest sustainability, habitat protection, and community values.



GLMO Accomplishments con't

Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA)

24 Simgigyat from 7 different watersheds, including Babine, Upper Skeena, Mid Skeena, Kispiox, Sustut, Suskwa, and Upper Nass, signed the Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) on January 11, 2023. It should be noted that not all Simgigyat who have Laxyip inside these watersheds signed as that choice is up to each individual Wilp.

The SEA has assisted the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) in supplying each Simoogit and Wilp with technical support and information regarding any referrals and consultations that may impact their Lax'yip. GLMO is an inclusive resource for the Gitxsan and is willing to help all Huwilp who require technical support in natural resource matters.

This was an updated Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) is a result of input and recommendations from Watershed Simgigyat. This was the third version of the SEA. It has changed the way resource management decisions have been made in the past from a provincial decision-maker, information sharing, with time-bound constraints to a collaborative management module that is focused on consent-based decision-making by the Gitxsan and the province. This is a step forward in the process of shared decision-making and co-management and towards control and management over the natural resources within the Gitxsan Lax'yip. For the Gitxsan, this is a positive development.

The SEA lays the groundwork for how GLMO engages with provincial ministries. It formalizes our right to be consulted and ensures that government decisions affecting our Lax'yip involve meaningful, respectful, and timely dialogue with the Simgigyat and their Wilp.

Cultural Burn Program

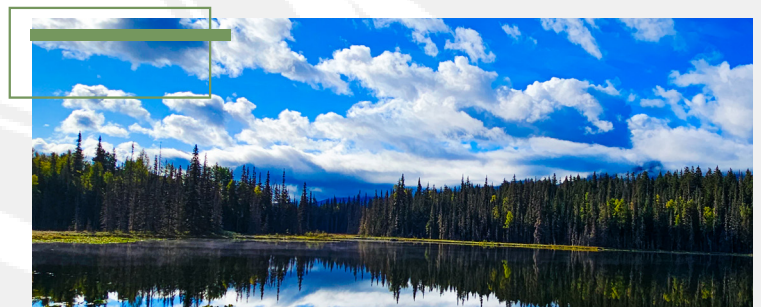
The Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) has begun a collaborative relationship with the BC Wildfire Service to restore and develop cultural burning practices within Gitxsan Lax'yip. A critical first step in this initiative involves identifying suitable locations for controlled burns within Wilp Lax'yip who want to participate in Cultural Burning.

Each Wilp may have unique goals for cultural burning, and as a result, site-specific burn prescriptions are developed for each area. Common objectives for cultural burning include but are not limited to cultural and language preservation, fuel mitigation, food and medicinal plant revitalization, and habitat enhancement.

Once a cultural burn prescription is prepared, an operational burn plan is created. This plan outlines the necessary fire equipment, control lines, personnel, weather conditions, and safety protocols. The burn is led by a certified burn boss and only takes place when conditions are deemed safe—typically in the spring or fall. If safe conditions are not met in a given year, the burn is postponed until the following season. Currently, the BCWS plays a significant role in executing these burns due to their expertise in fire management and the availability of trained fire crews and equipment.

Wildfires are an increasing concern as they continue to impact communities and landscapes in devastating ways, particularly in light of climate change. The rising frequency of extreme weather, including prolonged droughts, is creating conditions where large, uncontrolled wildfires are more likely to occur. Cultural burning is being recognized as an effective tool to help mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires. By consuming forest fuels in a controlled manner, cultural burns can help reduce the intensity of larger wildfires and provide valuable experience for fire crews in managing fire safely.

More information about this project can be found on our website: www.gitxsanlaxyip.ca



GLMO Accomplishments con't

Gitxsan Connect

Gitxsan Connect is a vital platform that allows us to track referrals, consult with the Simoogit whose Lax'yip the referral is for, input the comments, questions and concerns of the Simoogit and their Wilp and monitor any activity across the Lax'yip. It improves our internal coordination and supports evidence-based decision-making rooted in Gitxsan Ayookw and priorities. GLMO provides technical assistance only and does not make decisions or authorizations on behalf of any Wilp.

Gitxsan Connect serves as a crucial platform for initiating engagement between proponents, government bodies, and Simgigyat and their Huwilp through a structured referral and consultation process. Currently, the portal manages over two hundred referrals, addressing a broad spectrum of topics from forestry information exchanges to consultations on Forest Stewardship Plans for licensees.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining a comprehensive record of these interactions, we have identified a need to enhance the tracking of long-term consultations, which often span years and involve multiple referrals. To address this, our team of facilitators is working diligently to standardize the organization and content of referral folders. This initiative aims to ensure a thorough and reliable knowledge base, benefiting both current and future Simgigyat and supporting effective and informed decision-making.

Watershed Meetings

GLMO hosts monthly watershed table meetings during the second week of each month to support collaborative stewardship, information sharing, updates, and decision-making across the Lax'yip. These meetings are organized around six of the watersheds within Gitxsan Lax'yip: Mid Skeena, Kispiox, Babine, Upper Skeena, Sustut, and Upper Nass. Each watershed table includes representation from the Simgigyat whose Lax'yip falls within that watershed, along with GLMO staff who provide technical and administrative support.

These gatherings serve as a space for Simgigyat and staff to exchange updates, raise and address concerns related to land and water use, and guide the review of development proposals and resource activities. GLMO's role in these meetings is strictly technical—we do not make decisions on anyone's Lax'yip. Decision-making rests solely with the Simgigyat and their Huwilp. GLMO facilitates the consultation process, ensuring that the perspectives and direction of the Simgigyat are clearly communicated to proponents and regulatory bodies.

These monthly meetings are a cornerstone of how the Gitxsan fulfill their responsibility to the Lax'yip, grounded in our Ayookw. They ensure that management of the land and waters reflects the values, knowledge, and authority of the Simgigyat, while also creating a structured, consistent forum for addressing ongoing issues and planning for future generations.

All Watersheed Meetings & Open Forums

GLMO is committed to community engagement, transparency, and accountability. As part of this commitment, we host All Watershed Meetings and Open Forums to connect directly with Gitxsan members and keep communities informed.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide clear updates on GLMO's work across the Mid Skeena, Kispiox, Babine, Upper Skeena, Sustut, and Upper Nass watersheds. They are designed to be open, respectful spaces where community members can hear about ongoing initiatives, ask questions, and bring forward comments or concerns directly to GLMO staff and leadership. These gatherings are an important way to build trust, strengthen relationships, and ensure Gitxsan voices help guide the direction of our work. They also allow GLMO to address rumours or misinformation by speaking openly and providing accurate information directly from the source.

We remain committed to transparency and inclusive dialogue. We encourage all Gitxsan members to attend and take part.

GLMO Accomplishments con't

Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF)

Established in May 2014, the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) is an innovative form of collaboration and partnership between the Province and First Nations, designed to produce high-quality, accessible and trusted environmental information. As a result of the formation of the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO), the SSAF ESI program was taken over from the Gitxsan Development Corporation (GDC).

Projects are designed to focus on:

- Ecosystem assessment and monitoring;
- Ecosystem restoration and enhancement;
- Ecosystem research and knowledge exchange;
- and Stewardship education and training.

The ESI is providing a model for collaboration on stewardship that gives meaningful effect to reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). ESI projects are beginning to yield results, providing valuable information to improve resource management in British Columbia.

To date, representatives from approximately 30 First Nations, industry, and the federal and provincial governments have participated in the development of four regional environmental stewardship projects. A governance working group with representatives from all stewardship forums provides governance oversight and guidance for the ESI.

The Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) is a collaborative process involving ten Skeena Nations and multiple Provincial agencies working together on environmental stewardship. The forum creates shared and trusted data through the collaboratively designed and implemented environmental monitoring of five shared values: medicinal plants, grizzly bear, fish and fish habitat, moose, and wetlands.

The Nations involved in SSAF ESI include the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs, Gitwangak Hereditary

Chiefs, Gitxsan Nation (GLMO), Lake Babine Nation, Witset First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Office of the Wet'suwet'en (representing Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs), Hagwilget Village, Skin Tyee Nation, and Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

SSAF ESI is one of four regional forums in the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI), established in 2014. The forum is proud to be incorporating Indigenous perspectives, knowledge and science into their monitoring and assessment protocols, and providing a model for collaboration on stewardship that gives meaningful effect to reconciliation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and British Columbia's (BC's) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act).

Through SSAF, there are 12 committees that GLMO staff attend. Since the Provincial Government has committed to funding the program for another five years, it is imperative that GLMO continues to participate in the meetings to have a voice for the Gitxsan Nation.

Project Team (PT)/Skeena Regional Managers (SRM):

Max Stevens

Wildlife: Rob Matthews, Noel Argueta

Aquatics: Rob Matthews

Science & Technical Committee (STC): Max Stevens, Noel Argueta, Rob Matthews & Gabriel Hilbach

Data Management Group: Jeneen Woods

Communications Sub Committee: Jeneen Woods

Cultural Plants & Ecosystems: Gabriel Hilbach

Bear Coordinator: Rob Matthews

Roads: Kevin Stevens and Max Stevens

Forest Landscape Plan (FLP): Kevin Stevens

"It so important for our people to have our database to store the results from the cultural indicators, to store our traditional knowledge for decision-making and the future generations. Government needs to share their data with us, and we need to share our harvest and cultural data with government. That is the only way for decisions on the land to improve. Climate change affects us all, and its time to work together."

- Valbert Williams, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

GLMO Accomplishments con't

Land Use Plans (LUP)

The Upper Nass Watershed table and the participating Simigiyat on that table, worked with their Facilitator, Linda Matthews, and Sarah Railton to develop a Land Use Plan (LUP) for the Upper Nass. All Gitxsan Upper Nass Simigiyat were invited to participate in the development of the Upper Nass LUP, however, the Upper Nass LUP applies only to the Huwilp and associated Lax'yip that are identified as participating members of the Upper Nass LUP.

Now we're making headway with the implementation of the Upper Nass Land Use Plan (LUP). The Upper Nass LUP is an important milestone in implementing the landmark Delgamuukw/Gisdaywa Supreme Court of Canada decision. In this decision, the Crown was reminded that negotiation is under a moral and legal imperative law, to negotiate in good faith reconciliation with both the Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en. Where the BC Treaty process has failed, detailed land using planning based on the foundation of co-management and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, offers a promising way forward after 25 years since our historic court case.

The Land Use Plan is also an opportunity for all governments to uphold and protect Gitxsan Constitutional Aboriginal Rights, including the right of self-governance and self-determination, now similarly enshrined in the United Nations Declaration.

The Babine and Upper Skeena land use planning processes are now underway. These land use plans are essential for shaping the long-term vision of Gitxsan Lax'yip, balancing protection, use, and cultural values.

You can view the Upper Nass LUP in .pdf format by scanning the QR Code:



"The Chief is responsible for ensuring that all the people in his House respect the spirit in the land and in all living things. When a Chief directs the House properly and the laws are followed, then that original power can be recreated. That is the source of the Chiefs' authority."

- Gisdaywa, Alfred Joseph

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On May 2, 2025, GLMO held its first Annual General Meeting at the Anspayaxw Community Hall. This marked an important milestone in our journey as a Gitxsan-led organization dedicated to being the technical body for the Simigiyat so they can make informed decisions on their Lax'yip.

Holding an AGM is a key part of being transparent, accountable, and open with the people we serve. It provided an opportunity to share our progress, hear directly from Gitxsan members, and ensure that our work reflects the values and priorities of the Nation. GLMO operates as its own independent entity—guided by the Simigiyat and grounded in our responsibilities to the Lax'yip—and is not a subsidiary or branch of any other office.



Looking Ahead

We're proud of the work that's been done, but even more focused on what comes next. Everything we do is grounded in the authority of the Simigiyat and the strength of the Ayookw. Whether it's forestry, water, planning, or policy—we do it with the aim of being the technical body for the Simigiyat so they can make informed decisions on their Lax'yip, supporting our communities, and securing a healthy future for the next seven generations.

We thank everyone who has supported, guided, questioned, and challenged us along the way. Your voices help keep us accountable and grounded. We'll continue working hard—and now, we'll also continue sharing.

Staff Spotlight



Megan Morrison

My name is Megan Morrison, my parents are Jennifer Wilson and John Morrison. My father was born in Gitanmaax, BC to Samuel and Rebecca Morrison and is the youngest of eleven children. My mother was born in Vanderhoof, BC to Louise Wilson and she is the oldest of six children. As we are matrilineal, I originate from the Saik'uz nation as that is where my grandmother on my mom's side was from. Unfortunately, I have never known or had the opportunity to learn more about my carrier background but I am very thankful to be born into the teachings of our Gitxsan culture.

From the age of seven to graduation, I was raised by Judy Morrison and Virgil Edes. I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to work in an office that works so closely with our Hereditary Chiefs and for the past 7 + years I have learned an immense amount of knowledge about the workings of both the traditional laws and the dynamics of the business portion. I am very excited about my new role as Office Manager for the Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office and look forward to expanding my knowledge in the office field as well as building my ongoing business relationship with our Chiefs.



Land Guardians Training

The Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office (GLMO) Land Guardians are more than just field staff — the “boots on the ground”. They play a vital role in protecting the land, waters, and wildlife of the Gitxsan Lax'yip, carrying out daily monitoring, data collection, and environmental stewardship.

Since the program began in 2023, Guardians have been out year-round monitoring the Lax'yip, collecting data, and protecting the health of the Lax'yip. From riverbanks to forested watersheds, they play a key role in community-led stewardship.

Swiftwater Rescue & Fire Training

This summer has been a busy and transformative time for the team. From July 2 to 4, 2025, the Guardians participated in Swiftwater Rescue Training in Kispiox. This intensive, hands-on course equipped them with life-saving skills to safely navigate and respond to emergencies in and around fast-moving water — a critical asset in a territory crisscrossed by rivers and creeks. Whether responding to flooding, accidents, or remote fieldwork risks, this training ensures the Guardians are ready to act in dangerous conditions.

Just days later, from July 7 to 9, the Guardians completed Fire Training, learning both fire prevention and response techniques. As

"We didn't need maps. We have it all in our heads. Our uncles taught us our lands. Then the white man came and imposed their laws on us. But our land is the same as the land of our grandfathers and our laws remain"

- Delgamuukw, Albert Tait

Gitxsanimax Word/phrase of the Month

We understand and would like to acknowledge that there are different dialects and different ways to pronounce words. The word/phrase for this issue is:

Am ji ha'wi'm:
Let's go home.

wildfires become more frequent and intense across the region, this training positions the team to assist in community protection, participate in safe cultural burns, and respond swiftly to any fire threats on the Lax'yip.

Cedar Strategy and Ground Truthing

Another major area of focus for the Guardians has been the Cedar Strategy, which aims to identify, protect, and support the recovery of culturally important cedar stands across the Gitxsan Lax'yip. The Guardians have received training in recognizing cedar habitat, understanding ecological pressures, and documenting the condition of these trees and their surrounding environments.

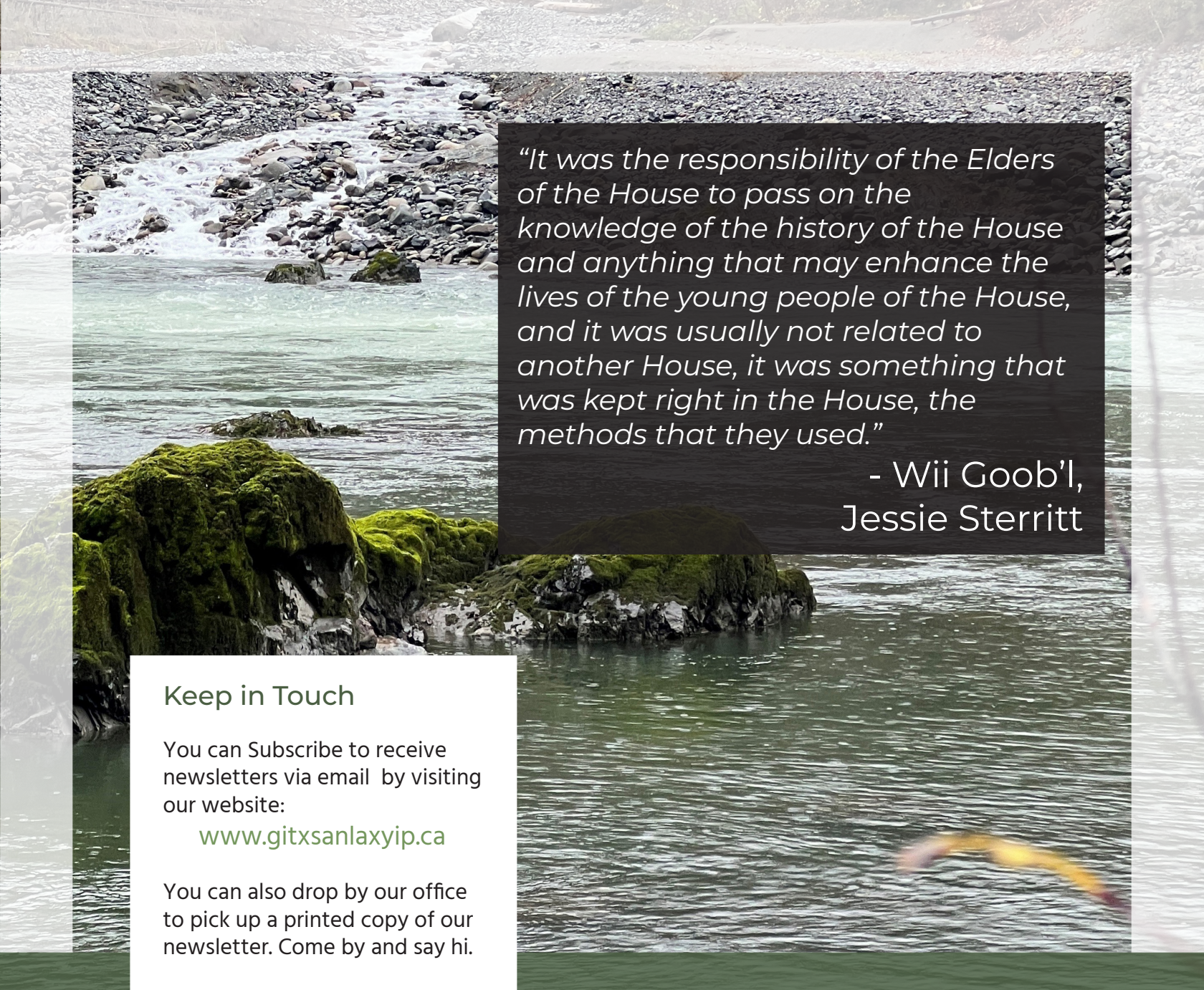
As part of this work, they conduct ground truthing — the process of physically visiting areas identified through satellite imagery or mapping systems to confirm the presence, health, and age of cedar trees. This hands-on validation work ensures that cedar-related data is accurate and tied to real conditions on the land. The information they gather is critical for developing strategies to protect old-growth cedar, support sustainable harvesting, and inform forestry and land use planning that respects Gitxsan values.

Building Local Knowledge and Capacity

The Guardians' skill set continues to expand through additional programs such as SKWERM training, which stands for Skeena Wildlife Ecological Resource Model. This initiative equips the team with knowledge of habitat and wildlife monitoring methods, data collection standards, and how to interpret ecological data to support informed decision-making. It's a powerful step in ensuring Gitxsan values, knowledge, and priorities are reflected in land and wildlife management.

Together, these training efforts reflect a long-term investment in capacity building. GLMO and the Guardian program are laying the groundwork for a stronger future where Gitxsan people are leading the stewardship of their own Lax'yip. Whether they're out in the water, walking the Lax'yip, or engaging with elders and youth, the Land Guardians are proving that meaningful stewardship starts from the ground up.





"It was the responsibility of the Elders of the House to pass on the knowledge of the history of the House and anything that may enhance the lives of the young people of the House, and it was usually not related to another House, it was something that was kept right in the House, the methods that they used."

*- Wii Goob'l,
Jessie Sterritt*

Keep in Touch

You can Subscribe to receive newsletters via email by visiting our website:

www.gitxsanlaxyip.ca

You can also drop by our office to pick up a printed copy of our newsletter. Come by and say hi.

We will be putting out a newsletter to keep the Gitxsan updated on what we are working on.

Gitxsan Laxyip Management Office

Box 321

Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0

250-842-0755

www.gitxsanlaxyip.ca

Office:

4240 Government Street, Hazelton, BC V0J 1Y0

