

GITLAXT' AAMIKS

People of the Grizzly Community Profile



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NEW AIYANSH COMMUNITY PROFILE



HISTORY OF THE FLOODS

IT WAS DIRECTLY DUE TO THE FLOODS IN GITLAXT'AAMIKS AND OLD AIYANSH THAT A NEW COMMUNITY WAS BUILT ON THIS SIDE OF THE NASS RIVER. HENCEFORTH, THE NAME "NEW AIYANSH". THE FIRST FLOOD OCCURRED IN 1917. THE COMMUNITY RALLIED TOGETHER AND THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REBUILT THE VILLAGE. THE SECOND FLOOD OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 12, 1961. OUR MEN REMEMBER THE DAYS AND NIGHTS LEADING UP TO THE FLOOD AS THEY TOOK TURNS WATCHING AND MEASURING THE SPEED AT WHICH THE RIVER WAS RISING. ALL THEY COULD DO WAS WATCH AND WAIT. AT 11:00 P.M. ON OCTOBER 12, 1961, THE BANKS COULD NO LONGER HOLD OFF THE MIGHTY NASS RIVER, IT FLOWED OVER THE BANKS AND COVERED THE ENTIRE LOWER SECTION OF OLD AIYANSH. THE DAMAGE WAS DEVASTATING, MANY FAMILIES LOST THEIR HOMES, ENTIRE BUILDINGS FLOATED AWAY. THE MAIN TRANSPORTATION MODE WAS HORSES, EVERY FAMILY OWNED ONE. ALL THE HORSES DROWNED IN THE FLOOD. THE LOSS WAS TOO GREAT, THE COMMUNITY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REBUILD THE ENTIRE VILLAGE. HERE IN BEGAN THE HISTORICAL BUILDING OF "NEW AIYANSH".

NEW AIYANSH



THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW VILLAGE BEGAN IN 1962, WITH THE CHOOSING OF THE NEW SITE, CLEARING, ROAD BUILDING, WATER SYSTEM, SEWER SYSTEM AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST 12 HOMES. THE NEW STANDARDS OF LIVING WERE NOW A HISTORICAL MILESTONE, FOR NEW AIYANSH HAD ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER IN THE HOMES AND IN-DOOR WASHROOMS. MANY FAMILIES WERE STILL HESITANT TO MAKE THE MOVE TO THE NEW VILLAGE BUT WERE INTRIGUED BY THE ELECTRICITY, WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS PROVIDED IN THE NEW HOMES. SLOWLY BUT SURELY THE NEW VILLAGE WAS BUILT WITH ALL THE MODERN-DAY AMENITIES. SLOWLY BUT VERY HESITANTLY THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS MADE THEIR MOVE TO THE NEW VILLAGE. AS THE NEW HOMES WERE CONSTRUCTED, THERE WAS NO MONEY TO BUILD A CHURCH OR A COMMUNITY HALL. EVERY SUNDAY THE FAMILIES MADE THE TREK ACROSS THE RIVER TO THE OLD VILLAGE TO ATTEND CHURCH. ONCE AGAIN, THE COMMUNITY RALLIED TOGETHER AND THROUGH OUTRIGHT DONATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS CAMPAIGNS, BUILT ST. PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH. THIS WAS DIRECTLY FOLLOWED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIYANSH COMMUNITY HALL. NO ONE WAS PAID, THE MEN VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND THE WOMEN PREPARED LUNCHES EACH DAY.

THE LEADERSHIP:

THE FIRST ELECTED BAND COUNCIL WAS LEAD BY CHIEF COUNCILLOR, JAMES GOSNELL. HE HELD THIS POSITION FOR 16 YEARS. JAMES WAS MONUMENTAL IN THE BUILDING OF NEW AIYANSH.

PRIOR TO THIS ELECTION, THE LEADERSHIP WAS APPOINTED BY THE HEREDITARY CHIEFS OF THE VILLAGE

HIS FIRST BAND ADMINSTRATOR WAS MR. EDMOND WRIGHT. HE WORKED IN THIS CAPACITY FOR 26 YEARS.

BOTH EDMOND AND JAMES WORKED SIDE BY SIDE AND TOGETHER THEY NEGOTIATED AND SECURED THE REQUIRED FUNDS TO BUILD NEW AIYANSH.

IN 1978, JAMES AND EDMOND SPEARHEADED THE NEGOTIATIONS AND FORMATION OF A NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT. IN 1982, THE NISGA'A TRIBAL COUNCIL SIGNED THE OFFICIAL FORMATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #92.

IN THE END, AS THE NEW VILLAGE NEARED COMPLETION BOTH JAMES GOSNELL AND EDMOND WRIGHT WOULD MOVE ON AND LEAD THE NISGA'A NATION TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

THE NISGA'A NATION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT, DR. JOSEPH GOSNELL AND SECRETARY/TREASURER, MR. EDMOND WRIGHT, SIGNED THE FIRST MODERN DAY TREATY WHICH CAME INTO AFFECT ON MAY 11, 2000.

POPULATION:

WE HAVE A POPULATION OF 894 NISGA'A MEMBERS PLUS 150 NON-NISGA'A MEMBERS LIVING IN NEW AIYANSH FOR A TOTAL POPULATION OF 1044. NON NISGA'A MEMBERS MAY INCLUDE RCMP, TEACHERS, MEMBERS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES, EMPLOYEES OF NLG, ETC.

NEW AIYANSH HAS A TOTAL REGISTERED POPULATION OF 1794 MEMBERS OF THIS 900 LIVE IN THE URBAN CENTRES OF TERRACE, PRINCE RUPERT, PRINCE GEORGE, VANCOUVER, ETC. WE ARE THE LARGEST OF THE NISGA'A NATION BANDS.

CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

TODAY NEW AIYANSH OPERATES UNDER A VILLAGE GOVERNMENT FORMAT. THESE ARE ELECTED POSITIONS WHICH HOLD A FOUR-YEAR TERM. CURRENT MEMBERS ARE:

CHIEF COUNCILLOR
DEPUTY CHIEF
COUNCILLORS

CALVIN MORVEN
DENISE ELI
TARON SCOTT
NOAH GUNO
EDMOND WRIGHT
ERIC CLAYTON
MELANIE WOODS
LEONARD GUNO



NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STAFF:

ADMINISTRATION	
FINANCE	
SOCIAL SERVICES	
EDUCATION	
HOUSING	
O & M PUBLIC WORKS	
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	
TOTAL PROGRAM STAFF	

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

PICTURE

THE NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICE WAS COMPLETED IN 2002, WHICH HOUSES ALL PROGRAM STAFF AND VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICE:

- ADMINISTRATION
- FINANCE
- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- OPERATION & MAINTENANCE
- CAPITAL/HOUSING

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT

PICTURE

THE MOST PROMINENT OF ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN NEW AIYANSH IS THE NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT BUILDING. TOURS OF THE BUILDING ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MAIN RECEPTION DESK.

NEW AIYANSH IS HOME TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NISGA'A NATION. THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING HOUSES THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS OF THE NISGA'A NATION, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NISGA'A NATION, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THE NISGA'A NATION, OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NISGA'A NATION AND THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING ALSO HOUSES THE OFFICES OF THE NISGA'A NATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES, FORESTRY, FISHERIES & WILDLIFE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CAPITAL FINANCE COMMISSION AND OTHER SERVICES AS PER THE TREATY PROCESS.

FOR INFORMATION ON OUR NISGA'A NATION TREATY CONTACT 250-633-3000.

CHURCH: ANGLICAN

PICTURE

THE COMMUNITY OF NEW AIYANSH ARE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF CALEDONIA, THEREFORE WE FOLLOW THE ANGLICAN RELIGION. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF CALEDONIA, A NEW CHURCH WAS BUILT IN THE UPPER VILLAGE AND NAMED "THE HOLY TRINITY".

THE OLD CHURCH IS NOW BEEN LEASED BY GITLAXTAAMIKS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

SCHOOL

PICTURE

NEW AIYANSH IS HOME TO SCHOOL DISTRICT #92 AND OPERATES NISGA'A ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL (NESS). THE SCHOOL OFFERS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12. EACH NISGA'A COMMUNITY HAS THEIR OWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM GRADES 8-12 ARE BUSSED IN EACH DAY TO NESS. ALSO AVAILABLE IS A GROUP HOME FOR THOSE STUDENTS FROM OUR URBAN LOCALS AND OR GINGOLX STUDENTS WHO ATTEND OUR SCHOOL.

R.C.M.P. SERVICES

NEW AIYANSH IS HOME TO THE NISGA'A LISIMS ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE DETACHMENT. THE LISIMS RCMP OFFICE IS LOCATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF NEW AIYANSH AND CURRENTLY HAS A FORCE OF 6 OFFICERS WHO SERVICE ALL FOUR NISGA'A NATION COMMUNITIES. FOR EMERGENCIES CONTACT 250-633-2222 or 250-633-2223

PICTURE

HEALTH SERVICES

PICTURE

NEW AIYANSH IS THE FOCAL POINT FOR HEALTH SERVICES AND OPERATES THE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NISGA'A VALLEY HEALTH BOARD. THE CENTRE HAS A FULL-TIME DOCTOR AND NURSE ON STAFF, OFFERS SCHEDULED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

OTHER PROGRAM & SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH NISGA'A VALLEY HEALTH BOARD INCLUDE THE COMMUNITY HEALTH REP PROGRAM, DRUG & ALCOHOL PREVENTATIVE SERVICES, THE BRIGHTER FUTURES PROGRAM AND HOME CARE SERVICES.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

PICTURES

UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT, WE OFFER LANDFILL SERVICES TO THE FOUR NISGA'A COMMUNITIES. THE LANDFILL SITE IS FULLY MANAGED BY NEW AIYANSH PERSONNEL.

THE WATER SYSTEM IS A SAND FILTRATION SYSTEM FULLY MANAGED BY THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OF NEW AIYANSH.

THE SEWER SYSTEM IS A MECHANICAL SYSTEM WITH 3 INTERCONNECTED LAGOONS. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING THE SYSTEM BY INSTALLING AN AERATION SYSTEM. OUR ROADWAYS WERE PAVED IN 2000, ONE OF MANY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE OUR TREATY WAS ENACTED.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PICTURE

NEW AIYANSH OPERATES A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT SERVICES ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

THE FIRE CHIEF IS A PAID POSITION, HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING AND UPGRADING OF FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS. FOR NON-EMERGENCIES CALL 250-633-2263 AND FOR EMERGENCIES CONTACT 250-633-2232.

PUBLIC FACILITIES RECREATION CENTRE

PICTURE

INSIDE RECREATION CENTER ENTERANCE

PICTURE

ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE///REPLACE WITH AUDITORIUM PIC

PICTURE

RESOURCE CENTRE

PICTURE

NEW AIYANSH OPERATES AND OWNS THE RECREATION & CULTURE CENTRE. THE CENTRE IS USED FOR FEASTS, CULTURAL EVENTS, SPORTS & RECREATION AND YOUTH INITIATIVES.

TWO POST TREATY DEVELOPMENTS ARE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GITMIDIK AUDITORIUM AND THE ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE. BOTH BUILDINGS ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY GITLAXTAAMIKS VILLAGE GOVERNMENT. THESE BUILDINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT AS REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS.

TO RENT THE REC CENTRE, OR GITMIDIK AUDITORIUM CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 250-633-3100.

NEW AIYANSH GAS BAR

PICTURE

THE GASBAR IS OWNED BY GITLAXTAAMIKS VILLAGE GOVERNMENT AND IS MANAGED BY SHI T'AX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. THE GAS BAR OFFERS FUEL & OIL SALES.

GONU'S GENERAL STORE

PICTURE

IN THE COMMUNITY OF GITLAXTAAMIKS THERE ARE 4 LOCALLY OWNED SMALL GROCERY/CONFECTIONERY STORES. ALL STORES OFFER THE BASIC NECESSITIES PLUS A VARIETY OF SNACK FOODS. THE FIFTH AND LARGEST STORE IS OWNED BY NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT AND IS CURRENTLY LEASED OUT TO SHI T'AX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO OPERATE THE GASBAR & STORE ON BEHALF OF GITLAXTAAMIKS VILLAGE GOVERNMENT.

POST OFFICE

PICTURE

NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OPERATES A POST OFFICE IN THE SII T'AX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION STORE. THE POST OFFICE OFFERS FULL POSTAL SERVICES SUCH AS EXPRESS POST, STAMPS, SENDING/RECEIVING OF REGISTERED MAIL, ETC. FOR SERVICES OR INFORMATION CONTACT 250-633-2769.

HOMEBASED BUSINESS

NEW AIYANSH IS HOME TO A LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE. NASSCO OFFERS FULL SECRETARIAL SERVICES, PRINTING & COPYING SERVICES, FAXES, FULL COLOR PHOTO-COPYING AND SIGNAGE SERVICES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ESTHER AT 250-633-2942

PICTURES OF OWNERS AND THEIR DETAILS

ACCOMMODATIONS

WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF NEW AIYANSH, WE HAVE TWO LOCALLY OWNED BED & BREAKFAST SERVICES. ALL OFFER FULL ACCOMODATION SERVICES PLUS ADDITIONAL MEAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CLIENTS. **LORENE'S LAVA LODGE** IS LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY OF NEW AIYANSH. FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT 250-633-2522.

ACCOMMODATION?

PICTURE

SMOKE HOUSE PROJECT

PICTURE OF SMOKE HOUSES

Community Smoke Houses



Smoking Oolichans



Smoking Salmon

ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL POST TREATY DEVELOPMENTS WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF 4 SMOKE HOUSES. THERE ARE FOUR TRIBES IN THE NISGA'A NATION, ONE SMOKE HOUSE WAS BUILT FOR EACH TRIBE.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SMOKE HOUSE PROJECT WAS TO MEET THE SUSTAINANCE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. MANY OF OUR FAMILIES DID NOT HAVE SMOKE HOUSES TO PREPARE THEIR FOODS, SOME FAMILIES DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRESERVE THEIR FOODS.

THIS BECAME A COMMUNITY PROGRAM LEAD BY OUR ELDERLY WOMEN, THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF THIS PROJECT ARE SURMONTABLE AS THE OTHER 3 NISGA'A VILLAGES FOLLOWED OUR INITIATIVE AND ALSO CONSTRUCTED SMOKE HOUSES IN THEIR VILLAGES FOR COMMUNITY USE.



Smoke House Crew 2020



INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Ask Fran

[The Centre | Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre](#)

Events

Hobiye

