

Newsletter

Tl'azt'en Nations Council

APRIL 2025

New News Letter:

Mussi, for taking the time to read this new Tl'azt'en Nation Council newsletter. This initiative marks a commitment from Chief and Council to provide monthly written updates directly from our Council table to all members!

We are beginning with a reflection on April 2025, which included our Second band members meeting of the year. We appreciate everyone who participated. While we acknowledge that there are still areas for improvement, we are committed to continuing this momentum and building stronger connections with each of you.

This newsletter is designed to promote transparency and create clear communication lanes between Council and membership. To ensure these updates come directly from leadership, Councillor Christian Harpe will be responsible for producing this newsletter each month for the remainder of this Council term. This effort will not be passed on to administrative staff, as we believe it is the Council's responsibility to connect directly with our members.

We recognize there has been a lack of consistent communication in the past. Through this monthly newsletter, we aim to offer Councillors the opportunity to share their recent work, activities, and updates on projects they are involved in.

We hope you find value in this effort and continue to walk with us on this path of accountability, transparency, and nation-building.

Mussi,

Christian Harpe
Tl'azt'en Nation Councillor

April was a busy and rewarding month as I continued to lead on files related to Economic Development and Major Projects, including the Pathways Forward Agreement (PFA), Tsel'kun, and PRGT, while also supporting the Finance team as needed.

One of the biggest accomplishments was the finalization of PFA3, which was signed by CSFN and the Province of BC by the March 31st deadline. While this work peaked in February and March, its impact carried into April, and I'm incredibly proud of the effort made by our collective. I worked closely with Chief Ed John, advisors Paul Blom and John Leidl, and our Natural Resources staff, particularly Scott Emmons, to bring this over the finish line. This agreement sets the groundwork for long-term Nation-to-Nation negotiations and helps move us toward an Agreement in Principle (AIP).

Work with the Province and Federal Governments – As part of our Economic Development Small Team, we've been actively engaging with Citizen Services – Connectivity Division to secure improved cellular coverage in our territory. We are pursuing the installation of a primary cell tower, with the potential for a second tower in Middle River. In January, a comprehensive proposal—developed by Paul Blom and Scott Emmons—was submitted to the Province of BC and Natural Resources Canada. In addition to connectivity infrastructure, the proposal includes funding support for on-the-land Keyoh Guardians, reinforcing our commitment to land stewardship and sovereignty.

Band Members Budget Presentation and 1st Quarter Band Members Meeting – A proud moment for me is our first presentation of the annual operating budget to the membership. When I joined the council, presenting the budget to the members was a high priority. In late fall, we discussed this at council and worked with the Executive Director and his managers to develop work plans and budgets on a timeline so we could present the annual budget we approved to the members in March. I look forward to improving this process throughout our term, using all the feedback we received to ensure we operate in a non-deficit manner.

New News Letter:

Economic Development Committee – Our small team continues to advance our economic interests. We are getting closer to presenting the best options for an economic development corporation structure, including drafts of articles, board structure, corporate protocol, business charter, business governance structure, key management processes, and an economic measure matrix for decision-making. This package will be submitted to the council and then to the membership for an update and subsequent decision. We anticipate that a corporation will be operational by the end of summer. A crucial aspect of this work is ensuring we establish a sustainable structure in which our community members see themselves participating and are informed about activities. For example, the currently proposed board structure includes an elder selected from the Elders Society or Group, a youth chosen from the Youth Council, two members at large elected by vote, and two professional businesspeople appointed by the council. We will be presenting an update and proposed structure(s) via zoom in the months of May and June leading up to the AGA.

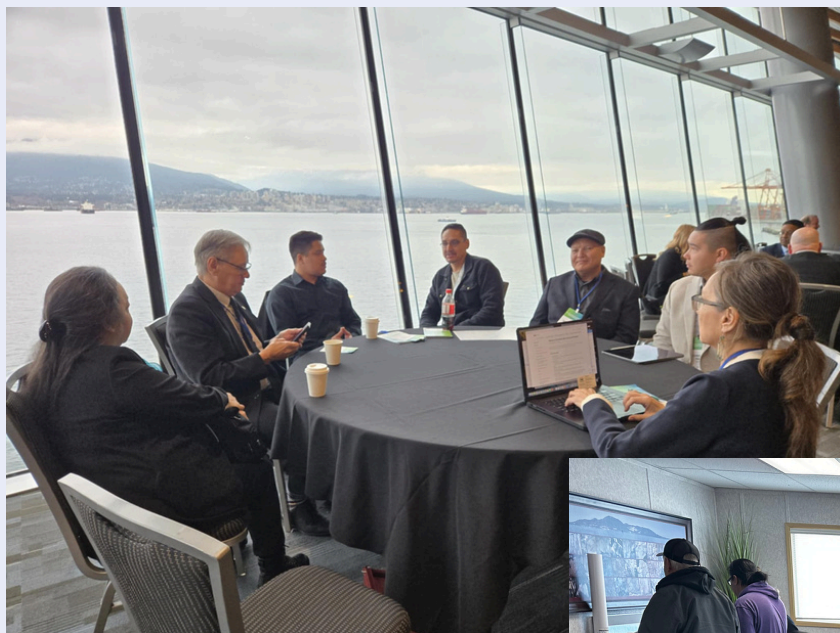
Minister Brar Dinner/Meeting – On March 24th, Minister Brar, the Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals, along with TJ Parhar and Simon Coley from the newly formed Critical Minerals Office, visited Tachie. A significant amount of preparation went into planning this visit, from the initial invitation and coordinating with his staff to setting dates and timelines, as well as creating the actual activities. Minister Brar expressed his gratitude to Tl'azt'en Nation for their hospitality and the tour of our beautiful country. Building relationships with governments, neighbours, and other First Nations is vital for nation building and good governance. We are fortunate to have Chief Ed as our leader; he is exceptionally connected to various levels of government in BC and Canada. With just a phone call, he can secure funding or arrange a meeting with nearly anyone!



Mussi- Councillor Mina Holmes

Councillor Beverly John Social Development Lead

My mandate letter outlines my role in working with the Social Development Team, specifically Renata and Michelle, to assist with child welfare issues and support the Social Development department in delivering programs and services to the community. I have been spending time learning from and collaborating with the SD staff and the Social Development committee on the challenges they face and exploring how we can support them. While there are some clarifications needed regarding my mandate letter, I am mainly focused on a learning journey at this time. I believe that community foster parents and homes are essential for keeping our children within the community and away from the MCFD system. As part of this commitment, I have initiated the process to become a foster parent. I encourage other 'Deadly Aunties' to consider becoming a foster parent and/or home.



April has been busy. Here are some of my activities in April:

April 3: Nezul Be Hunuyeh Strategy Planning session, at Nak'azdli Elders Centre

April 4: Social Development Team with Alyssa Melnyk, Changemakers consultant helping with workplans, budgets, proposals for Child Welfare, Jurisdiction, Prevention planning

April 14: Meeting with Maureen, Resource Worker at Nezul Be Hunuyeh, to start the process to become a foster parent

April 16: Went to help put Easter packages together, but Tiffany and Bethany had it put together by the time I got there but I was able to make two deliveries for them. Good job ladies 😊

April 17: Scheduled C&C meeting

April 22: Meeting with Alyssa Melnyk to follow up on ongoing projects and upcoming activities. Also attended evening dinner and budget meeting with members

April 23: Attended scheduled Band Members Meeting at EJS gym

April 24: Attended MCFD session on policy change feedback and evening dinner with Minister Brar

April 25: Attended JPRF Board of Directors meeting, Tl'azt'en hosted

May 2: Meeting with Nezul Be Hunuyeh, on workplans, budgets and transition on Prevention programs

There are many other things I did not list, such as small meetings, visiting with staff, and spending more time in the community and with family. Looking forward to meetings already scheduled for May.

God bless you ~ Bev



Councillor Vera Mattess Update APRIL 2025

Intro:

Hadi Tl'azt'enne,

My name is Vera Mattess. I am the youngest daughter of Seraphine Mattess and the late Joseph (Willie) Mattess. I am married to Ralph Pierre and we have two beautiful daughters. I have lived in Tl'azt'en all my life and have worked for our Nation for twenty-five years.

In August, I decided to put my name forth for a council position and was surprisingly acclimated with the rest of the Council team. As a council member, I have the lead in Education with a focus on Language Revitalization as well as Records Management for the Nation. These records include items such as meeting minutes, the nations policies, bcr's, etc...

The first few months have been a tremendous learning experience for me. This is my very first time sitting on council and I'm extremely grateful for the guidance and experience shared from Chief and fellow councillors, the knowledge and guidance they have shared is quite invaluable. I do enjoy the work I do for our Nation and I would like to express my gratitude to all the administrative staff and also acknowledge the work they do on your behalf.



Councillor Vera Mattess Update APRIL 2025

Since, I have sat on Council I have attended many community events aside from our scheduled meetings. In the month of April, I attended the MMIW, Financial Members Meeting, Minister Brar's visit and the education advisory committee meeting. I also attended a Youth Visions council meeting and stopped by for a quick visit at their Youth Engagement Meeting. It is quite amazing to see our people in action, especially our youth.

I look forward to what the next couple years will bring. I am optimistic that there are only more great things to come.

Many Blessings to you and your families.

'Awet za

Vera



Councillor Christian Harpe Update APRIL 2025

Hadih,

As a councillor, Chief Ed has mandated me to focus on research concerning the socioeconomic gaps our people face while assisting other councillors in the process of collaboration and research. I will also be taking the lead on connecting our off-reserve members to the nation, as approximately over 1000 live away from home in other remote and urban cities.

April was filled with many important engagements, including our first-ever Finance Committee meeting, a Band Members Meeting, and meetings with the provincial government, including Minister Brar. We were proud to host Minister Brar in our territory, where he had the opportunity to meet with community members and hear directly from them about their thoughts, concerns, and hopes for the future.

Council is also very thankful to Ruby Prince and Guy Prince for reaching out and helping make it possible to support some of our members in the Vancouver area in a drum-making program. This is a small but meaningful step in connecting with our members who live away from home, and we look forward to continuing this work. It's essential that we leverage and utilize the strengths of our own people to create opportunities and foster stronger ties, regardless of where our members reside. A goal of mine, as well as many other councillors, is to see a coordinator for our members away from home, who can service and navigate the needs of our membership living off reserve.

We hope this newsletter will facilitate communication between our membership and the council as we explore this new line of connection.

We look forward to our first AGA, which is being planned for July 2025.

Mussi,

Christian Harpe
