

KWIKWASUT'INUXW HAXWA'MIS FIRST NATION



Bighouse Renovation Project

Executive Summary

The Bighouse restoration project coupled with the recent completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the new residential developments in the village are expected to encourage in-migration to the community as new economic opportunities and jobs become available. A large percentage of members interviewed in a recent survey indicated that they would return to live in Gwayasdums if there was employment available.

The Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxw'amis First Nation are one of the few First Nation that are still fortunate enough to live in their traditional village site of Gwayasdums which they have occupied for thousands of years. This site remains a strong draw for many of the band members who live off reserve and who wish to return home to their village. The KHFN government has initiated a "Come Back Home" plan that will provide the necessary housing, education, health, transportation and other basic amenities that will allow for the return of their people to their homeland. The cornerstone of this plan is the creation of a tourism economy that will replace the once vibrant forestry and fisheries industries that employed many of their people.

The KHFN traditional Bighouse is ancient by today's standards and was in need of restoration and repair. The building has stood for over a hundred years with various repairs undertaken over those years. The building has seen funerals and weddings, community celebrations, potlaches and feasts. It symbolizes who the KHFN are as people and is central to all ceremonial and cultural functions. There is nowhere else in BC that can say they have "the oldest standing Bighouse" that is still used for cultural practices in modern day.

Project Objectives

KHFN's traditional territory is largely inhabited with Gwayasdums being the main village site. The nation has experienced many economic challenges like many of the First Nations in BC. These are further exasperated with the Nations population base that has spread into a number of the larger communities on Vancouver Island

including Campbell River, Port McNeil, Port Hardy and Alert Bay, dividing family units and family ties. This is largely due to the lack of employment and education in the village. As mentioned above planning has been underway for the last few years to rebuild Gwayasdums so that Band members can return to their homeland. The “Come Back Home” initiative is driven by the actions that have been undertaken by Chief and Council to make changes in the village so it is conducive for members to return home to jobs, new houses and proper infrastructure. The plans are being implemented with Leadership delivering on their promises to their people.

KHFN are making a number of strategic decisions with regard to developing economic opportunities that will generate for its members; serve to unite families back into their main community of Gwayasdums; generate self sufficient family incomes and provide ongoing revenue for the Nation. Tourism has been identified by Chief and Council as a priority economic opportunity that can lead into many other areas of development for the Nation. Provincial tourism initiatives point toward support for remote communities where tourism opportunities can be expanded to support and grow local economies.

Project Description

The starting point for the Nation tourism strategy is to undertake restorative work on the 100+ year old Bighouse which has repairs done in the 1960's. It is the cornerstone for the development of Tourism in Gwayasdums. The following scope included the following:



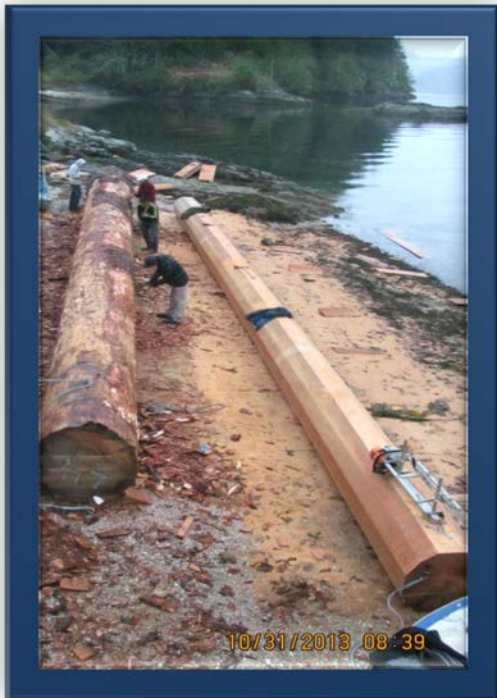
- Tearing down of the old roof
- Reinforce poles throughout the bighouse and remove two beams that were rotten



- Renovate interior of the bighouse to improve the seating area.



- Renovate drywall and refurbish backroom and bathroom areas within the Bighouse



- Replace two structural beams that were rotten



- Complete the siding and roofing work of the bighouse



- Plumbing and electrical work



- Draw and paint traditional design on the front of the Bighouse based on archival photographs so it reinvigorates cultural pride among Band members and becomes a visual attraction to tourists to the area



Acknowledgements

- Band Members
- Chief and Council
- Island Coastal Economic Trust
- Coast Sustainability Trust
- Timberwest
- North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society
- Dawn Nicolson
- Crew: Don Willie, Hikem Willie, Patrick Willie, Sandy Johnson, Charlie Johnson, and Terry Johnson
- Amy Speck, Bookkeeper

Project Manager: Jeneen Hunt
PO Box 10
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0

Financial Summary



Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations

P.O Box 10, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0

Phone: 250-974-3001 Fax 250-974-3036

Bighouse Renovation Project

Period: August 2014 to March 2014

Project Income (Sources of Funding)

Kwikwasut'inuxw	\$ 22,552.49
Coast Sustainability Trust	\$ 120,000.00
Island Coast Economic Trust	\$ 120,000.00
In Kind Donation-Timberwest	\$ 2470.00
NVIATS	\$ 18,655.00

Total Income **\$ 283,677.49**

Project Expenditures:

Master Builder contract	\$ 156,830.33
Project Management	\$ 6000.00
Materials and Supplies	\$ 72,626.04
Plumbing and Electrical	\$ 25,020.04
Equipment	\$ 23,201.08

Total Expenditures **\$ 283,677.49**

Balance \$0

I hereby certify that this statement accurately represents all projects expenditures and all sources of project funding


Chief Councillor