



Chiefs and Council Notes

For April 29, 2025

The following notes summarize the Chiefs and Council Regular Meeting held in the **Child & Family Services Building Boardroom** on April 29, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:41 a.m.

Directors' FY2026 Budget & FY2025 Q4 Presentations

Finance & IT

Fully Staffed and Increasing Training

Finance Director Karen Mallon reported that the department is now fully staffed. Key objectives for FY2026 include increasing inter-departmental collaboration and expanding training opportunities.

Mallon noted that all departmental budgets for FY2026 were submitted on time and in accordance with the Nation's Financial Administration Law.

Infrastructure

Banner Year for Housing Anticipated

The Infrastructure Department, which includes Housing, anticipates an unprecedented year of homeowner-initiated construction in FY2026. As outlined in the *Lilwat 2030 Strategic Plan*, the department aims to support the construction of 12 new housing units annually. Funding applications for new units are underway.

Rental housing rates were discussed and may be increased, as current rates are about one-quarter of market value.

The department has also initiated discussions concerning succession planning.

Ts'zil, Language & Culture

LEAT Outlines Job Opportunities

Lilwat Employment and Training (LEAT) Manager Melanie Williams spoke on behalf of Ts'zil, Language

& Culture Director Nadine Pascal. She noted that LEAT has 29 positions available and that Recreation has an additional eight summer positions.

There was discussion around offering advanced training beyond the Carpentry Red Seal Certification. LEAT will explore whether this fits within its funding criteria. The LEAT Manager and *Nimtsvq* Councillor James Williams committed to having further conversations about this matter.

Succession planning was also raised. Williams noted that current LEAT funding does not include support for succession training.

Xetólacw Community School

Programs Needed to Support Graduates with Special Needs

Education Director Verna Stager expressed concern that there were no programs in place to support students with special needs once they graduate from Xetólacw Community School (XCS). *Xzúmalus* Councillor Roxanne Joe suggested that a collaboration between XCS, Ts'zil and Community Advocacy could help address this gap.

The department is currently working to establish and implement a Safety Protocol (school lockdown drill).

Another issue that arose from Stager's presentation was the need for greater access to transportation for field trips and other school outings. It was suggested that CAO Rolf deBruin compile a list of all Lilwat Nation fleet vehicles to ensure that vehicle usage is maximized. For example, last year, XCS used a Youth Justice truck to support a mountain biking program.

Title & Rights

Land Use Plan Update Underway

On Reserve Lands Manager Amie Waelchli presented on behalf of Title & Rights Director Casey Gonzales.

The *kwéwúsmiñ* Title & Rights' (formerly Lands & Resources) presentation focused on significant changes to program and service delivery. Food sovereignty programming, which was restricted to four specific sites, has now been expanded to include all Lílwat Territory. The department has also developed a multiyear plan to update the Lílwat Land Use Plan (LLUP) by the end of FY2027. It was noted that the department had received a \$15,000 grant for grizzly bear education in April 2024 from SARA (Species at Risk Act).

Based on sighting two adult grizzlies, and perhaps a cub, *Nteqwk* Councillor Troy Bikadi asked that a meeting be held that includes Sonya Nichols from the Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative. Waelchli will ensure to include Nichols.

Sawt Councillor Martina Pierre expressed her concern that distractions are keeping Nation members from learning about their land.

Lílwat Health & Healing

A Focus on Program Implementation

Health Director Jessica Frank presented Lílwat Health & Healing's (LHH) FY2026 budget and FY2025 Q4 report. Over the next fiscal year, the department will operationalize and/or implement a variety of programs: the Lílwat Way of Healing From Trauma, an Outreach Van and Spirit LEGO Project, which will see a new outdoor play space developed for the Maternal & Child Health program.

Program evaluations and accreditations, such as the licensing of Pqusnalhcw ASHOR (Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve), and a review of LHH's policy and procedures will also be a key part of the LHH activities for FY2026.

Frank spoke of her desire for x-ray and lab capabilities and pharmacy services in the community. She shared that she has received at least five complaints about the pharmacy in Pemberton that she has forwarded to FNHA (First Nations Health Authority). She is currently in talks

with UBC's Jasons Min about establishing a pharmacy in Lílwat. He has resources and students to make this happen if there is space.

Lhpatq Councillor Maxine Bruce expressed exhaustion over the lack of reconciliation. She asked that an education plan be developed that would support creating a pharmacy in the community.

Frank noted that Victoria Barley, a Vancouver Coast Health employee, had been appointed as the Indigenous Patient Navigator at the Pemberton Medical Clinic.

An ongoing issue is the fact that if LHH brings a specialist into the community, Nation members cannot receive patient travel to access these services out of town.

Child & Family Services

Tracking Program Results

Among the Child & Family Services (CFS) department's changes in FY2025 was the relocation to its new permanent building in Xetólacw.

CFS Director Debbie Alendel spoke to the need of implementing new programs and tracking the results. Among the new programs, is Sage, a supportive program for youth up to 27, who are in care. Administration for Sage is currently being provided by Community Advocacy.

Alendel expressed her wish to see all Lílwat Nation departments to sit down and take a holistic approach to develop a plan for cultural programming. She would also like to see a cost-sharing mechanism for delivering programs that address trauma and other issues Lílwat youth face.

Xzúmalus Councillor Roxanne Joe shared that through her work with Title & Rights, she was developing an after school and weekend program for youth. She will follow up with a cross-departmental email.

It was also noted that self-care is essential while engaged in trauma work.

Community Development

Programs Grounded in Lílwat Ways

Community Development Director Jolene Andrews presented on the four divisions that operate under this department: Community Development, Social Development, Lílwat Justice (Youth Justice, Community Justice), and Lílwat Agriculture

Community Development received \$33,000 in new funding for Farm Team training, \$120,00 from the Affiliate Agreement and Sleight Funds, and \$155,000 for Community Justice.

The department has also hired new staff and is recruiting for additional positions.

New programs, such as implementing an Emergency Shelter service and Food Sovereignty Training, were also introduced in FY2025.

Poverty reduction, increased food sovereignty, greater community inclusion and centering justice in

Nxékmen (Our Laws) by using *Ntákmen* (The Ways of Our Ancestors), are the department's FY2026 goals.

Governance

Lílwat Nation Constitution Needed

Lhpatq Councillor Maxine Bruce spoke to the need for a Lílwat Nation Constitution. CAO Rolf deBruin noted that while there was currently no roadmap on how to get there, he hoped a new coordinator could move this process forward. The proposal for this new coordinator position will go to Chiefs and Council for further discussion and approval.

It was noted that there is a sense that the community is represented by Chiefs and Council and *skel7áqsten* (Lílwat Nation's Governance Transition Team) and that they share an end goal: getting rid of the Indian Act and managing on our own terms. The objective is to find common ground.

The April 29, 2025, Chiefs & Council Regular Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.