



# WEI WAI KUM ĆĀĶĀĻALI (NEWS)

[weiwaikum.ca](http://weiwaikum.ca) | 250-286-6949

**Welcome  
James Moller**



**March 27 - April 2, 2025**

## **My Journey with the Wei Wai Kum Nation**

I am truly honored to join the Wei Wai Kum Nation and be part of a community that values collaboration, empowerment, and shared growth. From the moment I stepped into this role, I recognized the deep commitment each individual brings—dedication, talent, and a passion for making a difference. It is this collective spirit that strengthens your Nation, and I am grateful to be part of this important journey.

At the core of my approach is a belief in the power of listening. I have always believed that when we take the time to truly hear one another, we uncover ideas and solutions that might otherwise go unnoticed. But listening alone is not enough—action is what turns vision into reality. By supporting and empowering those around me to do their best work, I aim to foster an environment where creativity, innovation, and excellence can flourish.

As we move forward, I recognize that the Nation's journey to self-governance is essential to its future. True self-determination means shaping your own policies, making decisions that reflect your values, and ensuring that your community has the autonomy to thrive and flourish under its own leadership.

I view every department and individual in your community as part of an interconnected system, each playing a vital role in the success of the Wei Wai Kum Nation. When we work together, uplift one another, and embrace the synergy of our collective efforts, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

Moving forward, I am committed to carrying this mindset of unity and collaboration with me. I see myself not just as a member of this organization, but as a contributor to a larger mission—one that strengthens your community, respects your values, and supports healing for future generations.

The Wei Wai Kum Nation has a powerful vision: to be a healthy, vibrant community that enriches the lives of its people economically, intellectually, physically, socially, and spiritually. I am deeply inspired by this vision and by the Nation's commitment to fostering an engaged and accountable government that operates with integrity and respect.

I am inspired by the path ahead and the Nation's dedication to reclaiming and strengthening its authority. I look forward to walking this journey alongside so many incredible people, knowing that together, we will build a future where the Wei Wai Kum Nation thrives under its own governance for generations to come.

Gilakas'la,  
James Moller, Director of Operations

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**GILAKAS'LA**

## ADMINISTRATION

**Chris Roberts, Elected Chief Councillor**  
chrisroberts@weiwaikum.ca

**James Moller, Director of Operations**  
jamesmoller@weiwaikum.ca

**Rikki Brown, Administrative Assistant**  
rikkibrown@weiwaikum.ca

**Christine Smith, Councillor, Facilities Manager/IRA/Membership Clerk**  
christinesmith@weiwaikum.ca

**Jessica Dean, Receptionist**  
reception@weiwaikum.ca

**Tasia Dick, Administrative Assistant**  
tasiadick@weiwaikum.ca

**Erica Haunch, Lands Manager**  
ericahaunch@weiwaikum.ca

**Patricia Romanciwicz, Housing Manager**  
patriciaromanciwicz@weiwaikum.ca

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education@weiwaikum.ca

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Christine Roberts, Cultural Heritage Coordinator**  
archaeology@weiwaikum.ca

**Erin Latham, Natural Resource Manager**  
erinlatham@weiwaikum.ca

**Danny Hurry, Guardian Watchman Coordinator**  
danielhurry@weiwaikum.ca

## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

**Mark Haunch, Public Works Manager**  
markhaunch@weiwaikum.ca

**Jim Henderson, Netloft Manager**  
jimhenderson@weiwaikum.ca

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Deanna Sheers, Community Services Manager**  
deannasheers@weiwaikum.ca

**Jazmine McCrimmon-Cook, Community Support Worker**  
jazminemc@weiwaikum.ca

**Tayte Latimer, Recreation Worker**  
recreation@weiwaikum.ca

**Colleen Dick, Elders Worker**  
colleendick@weiwaikum.ca

**Nicole Dumont, Social Development Administrator**  
nicoledumont@weiwaikum.ca

**Riley Faul, Community Services Assistant**  
rileyfaul@weiwaikum.ca

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Cam Salisbury, Economic Development Officer**  
camsalisbury@weiwaikum.ca

## FINANCE

**Moe Imran, Chief Financial Officer**  
moeimran@weiwaikum.ca

**Priscilla Bruce, Bookkeeper/Accounts Payable**  
priscillabruce@weiwaikum.ca

**Muhammad (Haris), Accounts Receivable/Payroll Clerk**  
haris@weiwaikum.ca

## KWANWATSI CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL

**Kaitlyn Lagos, Interim Kwanwatsi Manager**  
kaitlynlagos@weiwaikum.ca

## TREATY

**Courtney Fidler, Treaty Administrative Officer**  
courtneyfidler@weiwaikum.ca

# Wei Wai Kum Elders Calendar

# APRIL 2025

| Sunday              | Monday                         | Tuesday                  | Wednesday                | Thursday   | Friday        | Saturday |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|----------|
|                     |                                | April Fools 1            | 2                        | 3  | 4             | 5        |
|                     |                                | Garden Day               | *Grocery & Dr. Appt. Day | Elders Lunch at the Nest   | Home Visits   |          |
| 6                   | 7                              | 8                        | 9                        | 10   | 11            | 12       |
| Office Day          | Office Day                     | Garden Day               | *Grocery & Dr. Appt. Day | Elders Lunch at the Nest   | Home Visits   |          |
| 13                  | 14                             | 15                       | 16                       | 17   | 18            | 19       |
|                     | Office Day                     | Garden Day               | *Grocery & Dr. Appt. Day | Elders Lunch at the Nest   | Office Closed |          |
| 20                  | 21                             | 22                       | 23                       | 24   | 25            | 26       |
| <b>HAPPY EASTER</b> | Easter Monday<br>Office Closed | Garden Day               | *Grocery & Dr. Appt. Day | Elders Lunch at the Nest   | Home Visits   |          |
| 27                  | 28                             | 29                       | 30                       | <p>Need transportation to activities?<br/>Call, text or email Colleen Dick (250)202-0115<br/>colleendick@weiwaiikum.ca</p> |               |          |
| Office Day          | Garden Day                     | *Grocery & Dr. Appt. Day |                          |  |               |          |

- Elders Birthdays
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Ritchie Quocksisister  
 Fran Roberts  
 Pat Roberts  
 Lenard Sheers  
 Carolyn Wallace  
 Lorna White  
 Maria White  
 Edith Wilcox  
 Marian Atkinson  
 Janice Cliffe  
 Rick Drake  
 Brenda Graydon  
 Cindy Haring  
 Terry Neave  
 Campbell Quatell  
 Lorna Quatell  
 Sandy Quatell



# 2025 April

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Office Day<br>No Activities<br>Planned 28  | Games<br>@ Portables<br>2:30-5pm 1  | Hall Day @ Thunderbird<br>2:30-5pm<br>Volleyball @ Thunderbird<br>(12+)<br>6-8pm 2  | Bowling (10+)<br>2:30-5:30pm'<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required*3                      | Swimming (7+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required* 4     |
| Office Day<br>No Activities<br>Planned 7   | Arts & Crafts<br>@ Portables<br>2:30-5pm 8  | Hall Day @ Thunderbird<br>2:30-5pm<br>Volleyball @ Thunderbird<br>(12+)<br>6-8pm 9  | The Reef (7+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required*10                      | Ice Skating (7+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required* 11 |
| Teen Group<br>Escape Room (12+)<br>3pm-8pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required* 14 | Games<br>@ Portables<br>2:30-5pm 15   | Hall Day @ Thunderbird<br>2:30-5pm<br>Volleyball @ Thunderbird<br>(12+)<br>6-8pm 16 | Rock Climbing (7+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required* 17                | Good Friday<br>Office Closed<br>18  |
| Easter Monday<br>Office Closed<br>21   | Arts & Crafts<br>@ Portables<br>2:30-5pm 22   | Games<br>@ Portables<br>2:30-5pm 23   | Maritime Heritage Centre<br>& Discovery Pier<br>(10+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>*Signup Required* 24 | Training Day<br>No Activities<br>Planned 25                                 |
| Office Day<br>No Activities<br>Planned 28  | Visit the Museum<br>(7+)<br>2:30-5:30pm<br>Meet @ Portables<br>*Signup Required* 29 | Hall Day @ Thunderbird<br>2:30-5pm<br>Volleyball @ Thunderbird<br>(12+)<br>6-8pm 30 |  |   |

# BOWLING

APRIL 3RD, 2025

2:30PM-5:30PM

(10+)

MEET @ PORTABLES

\*SIGNUP REQUIRED\*



RECREATION@WEIWAIKUM.CA  
250-202-1115

## Join Us GAMES @ PORTABLES

APRIL 1ST, 15TH &  
23RD, 2025

2:30pm-5pm

recreation@weiwaikum.ca  
25-202-1115



# SWIMMING

APRIL 4TH, 2025

2:30PM-5:30PM

(7+)

Meet @ Portables

\*Signup Required\*

recreation@weiwaikum.ca  
250-202-1115





**COME JOIN US**

**@ THUNDERBIRD HALL**

# **VOLLEYBALL NIGHTS**

**April 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th, 2025**

**6PM-8PM  
(12+)**

**RECREATION@WEIWAIKUM.CA  
250-202-1115**

WEI WAI KUM & WE WAI KAI ARE HOSTING

# Lahal night!

ČILAGA ʔƏMŁA ALAXWA! (COME PLAY LAHAL!)

EVERYONE WELCOME! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED,  
WE WILL BEGIN WITH PRACTICE ROUNDS. PLEASE  
JUST BRING YOURSELF, FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
AND BE PREPARED FOR SOME FUN!

**WHEN: APRIL 1, 2025**

**TIME: 6-7PM**

**WHERE: THUNDERBIRD  
HALL**

**WHEN: APRIL 9, 2025**

**TIME: 6-7PM**

**WHERE: QUINSAM  
HALL**

**"DƏDƏNĶʔALA" - SING ALONG**

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL: [JAZMINEMC@WEIWAIKUM.CA](mailto:JAZMINEMC@WEIWAIKUM.CA)  
OR [BRANDI.VARGA@WEWAIKAI.COM](mailto:BRANDI.VARGA@WEWAIKAI.COM)

# CALL FOR: RECREATION PROGRAM SUPPORT

We are looking to create a list of community volunteers that would like to help out in various programs, specifically our recreation programs.

What we are looking for:

- Energetic, sports and recreation enthusiasts
- Individuals interested in working with children and youth, or who enjoy helping out in community
- A clear criminal record check including vulnerable sector check
- On call availability

What we can offer:

- Reimbursement for criminal record check cost
- Honoraria/hourly wage
- Flexible work hours

If this opportunity is of interest to you, please reach out to Deanna at the band office.

Gilakas'la



CONTACT: DEANNA SHEERS  
DEANNASHEERS@WEIWAIKUM.CA  
CELL: 250-203-5654





**SHORELINE**  
BUILDING PERFORMANCE

# Wei Wai Kum First Nation CleanBC Energy Saving Program

## Possible **FREE** Upgrades

 Insulation

**01**  **Sign-Up Event**  
Our advisors will be in the community helping homeowners with the sign-up process.

**02**  **Insulation Completion**  
Our experienced team will complete your insulation.



Insulation



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**Wei Wai Kum  
First Nation  
Community  
Operations**  
**250.286.6949**

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**Book Your Consultation**



**778.907.9119**

Email: [Office@shorelinebp.ca](mailto:Office@shorelinebp.ca) [Shorelinebp.ca](http://Shorelinebp.ca)



# Wei Wai Kum FIRST NATION

## Training Opportunities with Indigenous Tourism BC

**Indigenous Tourism BC** invites you to participate in free tourism training opportunities and submit funding applications for custom tourism training.

We support First Nations communities, Indigenous-owned tourism businesses, entrepreneurs, professionals and youth in BC to gain the skills to succeed in the Indigenous tourism industry.

Discover the right course for you and register for fully funded workshops available through our website, or request training tailored to your needs.

Together, we can create an authentic, sustainable industry that honours our ancestors' teachings and drives economic success.

Learn more at: [www.indigenoustbc.com/training](http://www.indigenoustbc.com/training) or email our team at [training@indigenoustbc.com](mailto:training@indigenoustbc.com).

### WHAT IS TOURISM TRAINING?

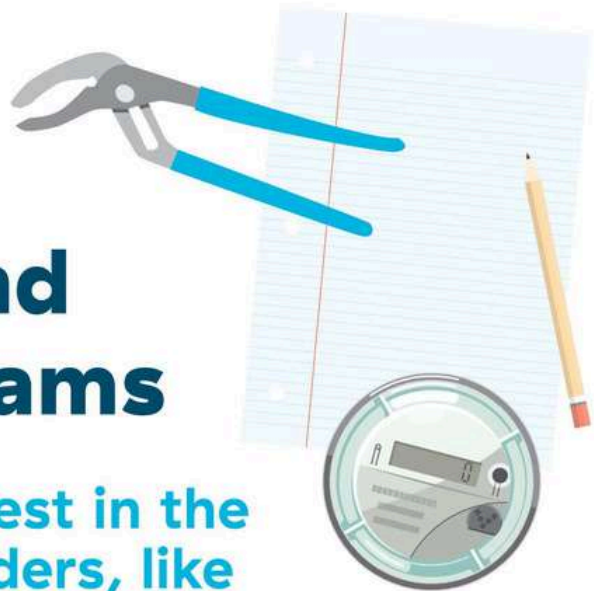


AND MORE.



Indigenous Tourism BC is a non-profit, stakeholder-based organization committed to growing a sustainable, culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry.

# BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarship and Bursary Programs



BC Hydro wants to invest in the next generation of leaders, like you, to build a strong and healthy workforce across the province.

Our scholarships and bursaries are available to Indigenous students from BC First Nations or are an Indigenous permanent resident of BC studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution in a program that closely matches to careers at BC Hydro.

Application period: March 10, 2025 - May 31, 2025

**Scholarships** in the amount of \$5000 are available to full-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs connected to BC Hydro careers.

Scholarships in the amount of \$2000 are available to part-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs connected to BC Hydro careers.

The Randy Brant Memorial Award in the amount of \$8000 and will be awarded to the top overall applicant from all bursary and scholarship submissions.

For more information including program eligibility and application forms go to [bchydro.com/scholarships](https://bchydro.com/scholarships) or email [indigenous.awards@bchydro.com](mailto:indigenous.awards@bchydro.com).



The Wolf gifted  
to BC Hydro by  
Art Thompson  
from the Dłidaht  
First Nation.



CS-1908

# 2025–2026 Indigenous Scholarship Application

## What is the Indigenous Scholarship?

For office use only.

\$2,000 scholarships are available for Indigenous students in part-time degree, diploma, certificate or technical/trades program related to BC Hydro careers.

\$5,000 scholarships are available for Indigenous students in full-time degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs connecting to BC Hydro careers.

Visit [bchydro.com/community/indigenous-relations/opportunities/individuals/donations\\_sponsorships.html](https://bchydro.com/community/indigenous-relations/opportunities/individuals/donations_sponsorships.html) for eligible programs.

The \$8,000 Randy Brant Memorial Award is presented to the top overall applicant of the Indigenous Scholarship Program.

## Who is eligible to apply?

### ELIGIBILITY

BC Hydro invites applications from Indigenous students who are:

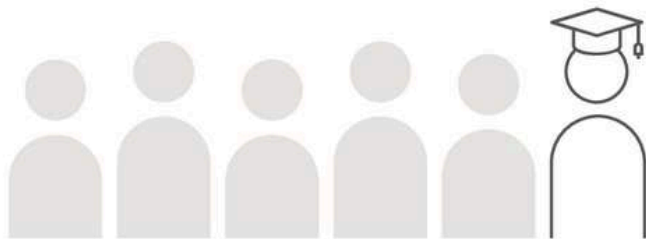
- from a BC First Nation (Status or Non-Status), Inuit or Métis;
- a resident of British Columbia,
- registered in a course of study that matches a career at BC Hydro either full-time or part-time
- in a program that will commence sometime between the dates of September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026.

### Important dates

**Application period:** Scholarship applications are accepted by email from **March 10 to May 31, 2025**.

**Application deadline:** Application packages must be received by **May 31, 2025**.

**Email to:** [Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com](mailto:Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com)



# 2025–2026 Indigenous Scholarship Application

## Application package requirements:

- Students must ensure all application requirements are met before submitting an application.
- Students must take responsibility to ensure that all information is up-to-date and included in the submission package.
- Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Include all attachments in one email. We will send you an email notification when your application has been received.

### The following documents are required to complete your application package:

- 1. Completed application form
- 2. Personal narrative in a written or video format
- 3. Copy of your post-secondary registration letter
- 4. An unofficial transcript from your most recent studies
- 5. Copy of your Status/Métis card or a letter from your band or Métis office
- 6. A letter of reference that speaks to why you would be an outstanding recipient of a BC Hydro Scholarship. The letter should be from a community leader, coach, employer, teacher, faculty member, etc.

### Email to:

[Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com](mailto:Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com)

### How are selections made?

The applications received by the deadline will proceed to the next evaluation step.

Applications will then be evaluated based on the following:

- Career goals that are aligned with BC Hydro's business and career paths
- Noteworthy achievements and participation in school or community activities
- Presentation skills as demonstrated in application package

All communication is directed to each student who is notified by a formal letter emailed by mid September 2024. This letter will advise whether the applicant will receive an award or not. Recipient award letters include further required details in order to process the scholarship funds.

### Scholarship funding guidelines

- Scholarships to be used for programs of study from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 and cannot be deferred to the next school year.
- Indigenous Scholarship payments are administered directly from BC Hydro to the award recipient to offset school fees, books and supplies, living expenses, or any other expenses at the discretion of the recipient.
- Due to the administration process, this scholarship may not be released in time for tuition fee deadlines. Please plan accordingly.

### For further information

Contact [Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com](mailto:Indigenous.Awards@bchydro.com)



# 2025–2026 Indigenous Scholarship Application

The information provided in this application will be kept confidential. Personal information collected as part of your BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarship application will be used for the purposes of administering, awarding, and promoting the Indigenous Scholarships Program. You may be contacted about future employment, training, or financial support opportunities.

|                                  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Name                             |   |   |   |
| Email:                           |   | Phone:                                    |   |
| Mailing address:                 |   |   |   |
| City:                            |   | Postal code:                              |   |
| Indigenous affiliation:          | <input type="checkbox"/> First Nation Status <input type="checkbox"/> First Nation Non-Status <input type="checkbox"/> Métis <input type="checkbox"/> Inuit |   |   |
| Community or Nation affiliation: |   |   |   |
| Post-Secondary Institution:      |   | Program:                                  |   |
| Full or Part-time Student:       | <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time   | Does your program have a Co-op component? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Program of study:                | <input type="checkbox"/> Year one <input type="checkbox"/> Year two <input type="checkbox"/> Year three <input type="checkbox"/> Year four                  |   |   |
| Master's program                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |
| PhD program                      | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |

## Checklist

- Completed application form
- Personal narrative in a written or video format
- Copy of your post-secondary registration letter
- Unofficial transcript from your most recent studies
- Copy of your Status/Métis card or a letter from your band or Métis office
- Letter of reference
- I declare that the information provided in this application is complete and correct.

This information is collected in accordance with BC Hydro's mandate under the Hydro and Power Authority Act. If you have questions about how your personal information is handled, please contact Indigenous Awards at [indigenous.awards@bchydro.com](mailto:indigenous.awards@bchydro.com).

By signing, I agree to BC Hydro collecting, processing, and disclosing my information and contacting me with opportunities related to employment, training, scholarships, and bursaries. I agree to BC Hydro using my name and photo in external and internal communications including websites and social media.

|                    |  |       |  |
|--------------------|--|-------|--|
| Student signature: |  | Date: |  |
|--------------------|--|-------|--|

Consent of parent or guardian for applicants under the age of 18: I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (print name) (address)

the parent or guardian of the person named above, consent to the above-named student applying for a BC Hydro award and to the disclosure of personal information for use during this application process.

|                               |  |       |  |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Parent or Guardian signature: |  | Date: |  |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|--|



# 2025–2026 Indigenous Scholarship Application

Your responses to the statements below will inform the Scholarship selection committee about your goals, your personality, your accomplishments and presentation skills. The committee wants to know what makes you stand out, how your program of study aligns to a career at BC Hydro and a clear vision of your goals and interests.

We invite you to share your personal narrative responding to the statements below in the space provided or by video. Written submission can be up to 500 words, and Video submission should be 5 minutes or less.

1. Introduce yourself, where you are from, and what your education & career goals are.
2. Share what inspires you to follow this education and career pathway.
3. Describe how your education & career goals connect to opportunities at BC Hydro.
4. Describe the personal traits and qualities that will help you to be a successful student.
5. Tell us about times in your life when your skills in leadership, problem solving, creativity, organization or communication made a difference in the lives of others.
6. Describe what is important to you as you look to the future and what you are passionate about.

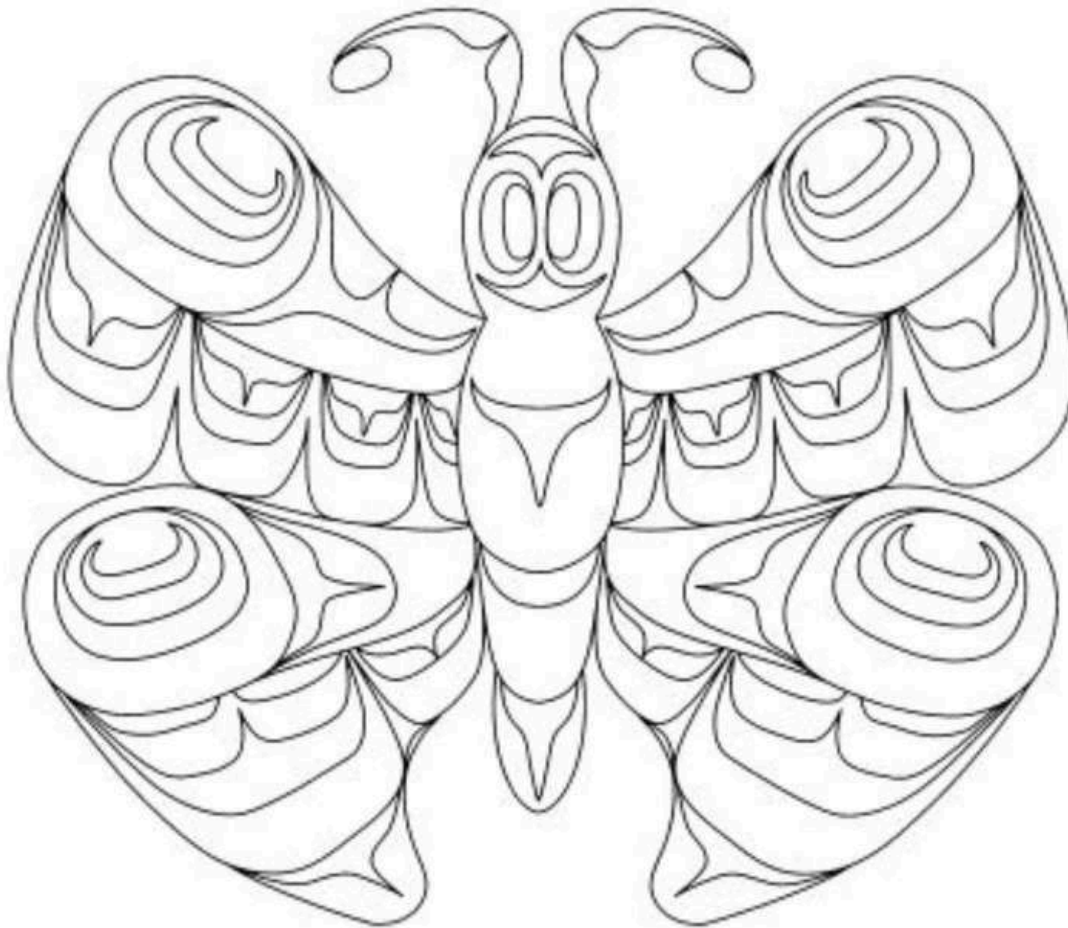


CS-4535

 **BC Hydro**  
Power smart

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# Butterfly



**Butterfly** - hamumuw

**Pronounced ha-moo-moo**

Butterfly - Hamumuw: The butterfly has the ability to accept change and is also a messenger to our people. The butterfly symbolizes metamorphosis, balance, and grace. The butterfly is a multicultural symbol of the beauty of nature, appearing in numerous examples of nature scenes in many artistic styles. Butterflies are included as elements of these scenes because they most effectively represent all positive characteristics of nature. Caterpillars grow and, when ready, develop a cocoon. When metamorphosis is complete, the cocoon skin splits, the adult insect climbs out, and after its wings have expanded and dried, it flies off.

Artwork and description by: Mulidzas - Curtis Wilson





# GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Garbage day is **every Tuesday** for curbside pickup and recycling is **every other week**.

The garbage bins at Thunderbird Hall are being monitored by surveillance and the bins are only to be used if you have missed garbage day and you have unwanted garbage that needs to be disposed of.

**Please have your garbage out by 7am to insure pickup.**

**THE NEXT RECYCLING DAYS ARE AS FOLLOWED:**

**March 18**

**April 1**

**April 15**

**April 29**



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# BREWSTER WIND PROJECT – YƏYUS ENERGY

We are excited to share an update on the Brewster Wind Project, known as Yəyus Energy, a renewable energy initiative that reflects our Nation's commitment to sustainability and economic growth. This project is a partnership between Wei Wai Kum and Capstone Infrastructure Corporation, with our Nation holding a 51% ownership stake. Through BC Hydro's 2024 Call for Power, Yəyus Energy has secured a 30-year Electricity Purchase Agreement, ensuring long-term benefits for our community.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Yəyus Energy project will be located approximately 40 kilometers northwest of Campbell River within our Ligwɨldaxw territory. It is expected to generate up to 197 megawatts (MW) of clean energy—enough to power thousands of homes.

### THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE

UP TO 30 WIND TURBINES

ACCESS ROADS

A POWER  
COLLECTION SYSTEM

CONNECTION TO BC HYDRO'S  
ELECTRICITY GRID





## BENEFITS FOR OUR NATION

This project aligns with our Nation's strategic goals, bringing both economic and environmental benefits, including:

### Sustainable Energy

Providing emission-free electricity to meet BC's growing energy needs.

### Community Growth

Generating economic opportunities and revenue to support local priorities.

### Job Creation

Employment opportunities during construction and long-term operations.



## NEXT STEPS

The project is currently undergoing feasibility studies, regulatory engagement, and environmental studies and reviews to inform permitting. Key upcoming activities include:

### 2025 Field Survey Program

Collecting important site data.

### Logo Creation

Call out to the community to create a project logo (Stay Tuned!)

### Technical Studies

Evaluating wind conditions, turbine selection, and site logistics.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

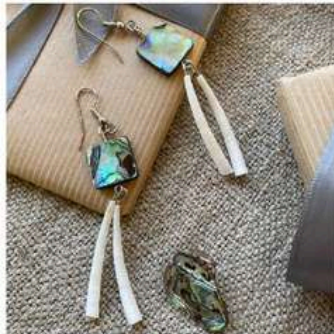
Wei Wai Kum and Capstone are committed to keeping the community informed and involved. We look forward to sharing more details and engaging with members as we move forward with this exciting clean energy initiative in our Ligwíłdaxw territory.

**Stay tuned for updates and ways to get involved!**



LIĆWILDAŪ RESEARCH CENTRE

We are continuing regular newsletter updates to share exciting history from the Archives with the communities. Some of you know all about these beads but others do not, so it is a pleasure to introduce Vol. 2, Edition two of; **Tales from the Vault**.



### The Story of Trade Beads

Long before Europeans arrived, we thrived in a vast trade network rich in culture and craftsmanship. Beads were always part of our lives, carved from shell, pearl, bone, stone, and fossil. Among the most prized were dentalium shells, small ivory-colored mollusks resembling tiny tusks, symbolizing wealth and status long before glass beads appeared.

#### Dentalium: The Original Trade Beads

Harvested from the deep, cold waters off Vancouver Island, dentalium was both beautiful and valuable. Coastal Nations braved the open ocean in dugout canoes, using specialized tools to scoop the shells from the seafloor. Worn in regalia and exchanged in trade, dentalium reached as far as the Great Plains.

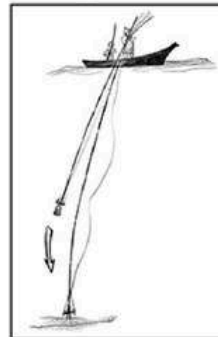


Figure 11.9

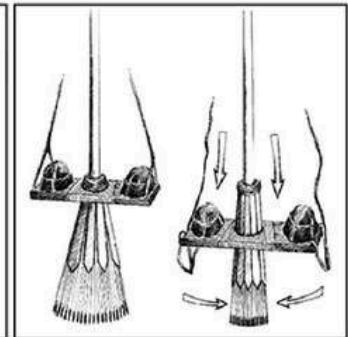


Figure 11.10



#### The Arrival of Glass Beads

European traders introduced glass beads from Venice and Czechoslovakia, recognizing their value in our trade networks. Vibrant, easily strung, and abundant, these beads quickly became part of our traditions. Some, like the Hudson Bay "White Hearts" and "Russian Blue" beads, were especially prized. We embraced their beauty but never abandoned our own traditions, adapting them into our regalia while maintaining our cultural identity.

#### Russian Blue Beads

These deep blue, faceted beads - despite their name - originated in Venice. Russian traders acquired them from American and English merchants in exchange for furs. Crafted with remarkable precision, they were shaped, drawn, cut, and polished to enhance their brilliance. Some of these beads contain lead, likely to enhance their shine. In some cases, lead levels exceed safe standards. It's best to keep them off the skin, wash hands after handling, and keep them away from children.





LIĆWILDAŪ RESEARCH CENTRE

### The Art of Glass Bead Making

Venetians revolutionized bead-making in the late 1400s, drawing molten glass into long tubes that were cut, polished, and smoothed in rotating drums. By the 1500s, demand was so high that unfinished glass tubes were sent to Czechoslovakia for finishing before being shipped worldwide.



### Padre Beads and Chevron Beads

Among the most sought-after glass beads were the deep blue "Padre Beads," essential in trade by the late 1700s. Chevron beads, with their star-like layered designs, were rare and provide insight into early trade routes. Though less common during the fur trade era, they are found in sites dating to before 1600.

### Button Blankets

When the Hudson's Bay Company began trading wool blankets to our people, we transformed them into new forms of regalia. Traditionally, we used abalone or other shells for decoration, but glass beads and pearl buttons added new dimensions. Worn during potlatches and ceremonies, these "Robes of Power" displayed lineage, wealth, and artistic mastery. Their red inner borders, originally dyed with salmon eggs, symbolize the strength and vitality of cedar.



### The Enduring Legacy of Trade Beads



Though trade routes shifted, some beads faded while others, like dentalium, remained cultural symbols. Beads still enrich our regalia, dances, and ceremonies, connecting us to our ancestors.

Seeing these beads always takes me back to summers on Quadra, where family members would find them buried in their front yard gardens. As a child, I didn't grasp their significance, but now I do. They are more than just trade beads; they are tangible links to history, and to our ancestors.

Trade beads help to tell a piece of our story. Though glass beads were incorporated into our trade systems, they never replaced our ways. Our relationship with beads - whether from the ocean, the earth, or another continent - remains a testament to the vast networks our ancestors built, the adaptability and resilience of our culture, and the ways we continue that legacy today.

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