



TSAIN-KO
GROUP OF COMPANIES

National Indigenous People's Day. June 21st 2024

**EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS**



A Tsain-ko Group Publication - June 2024

The Nation Builder



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National Indigenous People's Day is upon us, and in the continued spirit of reconciliation, our friends and relatives leading the siyaya Movement have done an enormous amount of work planning a rich and inclusive community celebration featuring music, dancing, weaving, feasting and storytelling. siyaya days will run from June 21 through to July 1st, and I encourage all who are able to come out and join with your community to celebrate our freedom, emancipation, and journey to self-determination. Much has been written and said about the resilience of the shishalh people, and all indigenous people's, but the most important chapters of our story remain to be told. As our Elders and ancestors tell us, we have fought through untold trials as a Nation, suffered under great injustice, overcome unspeakable prejudice and mistreatment, and shared the pain of those who were taken from us long before their time. We hold these facts to be true and unassailable, and while we do not forget our past, we also owe it to our future generations to look forward with strength and courage, "with new eyes" as our siyaya Reconciliation Movement friends advise, so that we can prepare a far better path for our children and grandchildren. It is our duty to create a safe, sovereign and successful path for all who follow us. To

reconcile also means to balance; to ensure that the weight of the past cannot drag down our future, or prevent us from lifting our people to the greater future we all deserve. As your Ihe hiwus and Council, and like those who have served before us, we ask you to join us in working for all Nation members. In this year's siyaya days, let's celebrate our combined strength, so that together we have more to give one another.

Ihe hiwus yalxwemult

Photographer: Jordan Louie



Use QR Code to see all events for this years celebrations!

Community Engagement Session

In April of this year, Ihe hiwus and Council, the Tsain-Ko Board of Directors, hosted our management team and the community at the Nation Hall for an engagement session to review some key sections of our strategic plan, and to share questions and feedback with Nation members on where our focus is and should be. While the 3-hour session was somewhat underattended, it consisted of some excellent conversations and discussions on all aspects of our economic development opportunities.

The session was intended as the beginning of a continuing process of community engagement and involvement in Nation economic development and growth. We sincerely hope that everyone who attended the session gained something from the experience: a better understanding of the complexities of operating 14 companies with a small but mighty team; the scale of both the opportunities and challenges facing our business entities; the planning and analysis that is so critical in evaluating opportunities in depth before committing our limited resources to them.

I would like to thank all those who attended, and in particular, those who raised questions and sought answers to the concerns that they and the community have been wrestling with. We improve and grow in the light of community awareness and input.

We would need 25 pages to cover all of the comments, questions and answers that occurred, so we are forced to highlight just a few in these pages. Moving forward, it is our goal to have these sessions much more regularly, so that the transparent and open sharing of plans, goals and accomplishments becomes a constant feature of how we work.

Jason Jenkins,
Chief Executive Officer

We hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles,
to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities,
and to the most special places your heart has ever known.

Always be so proud of who you are and where you come from.



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Community Engagement Session

Key discussion areas, summarized below.

Forestry:

Many of the questions and much of the discussion was regarding our AAC (annual allowable cut), including what we recently purchased from Interfor, who are leaving the coast. A second concern was our partnership status and revenue sharing agreement with A&A, with some suggesting that A&A always keep the best wood, and take most of the profit from marketing the harvest. It was noted by TKO staff that there is a 50/50 agreement with A&A on costs, liabilities and revenues currently in place, and that A&A do the marketing as they have considerable contacts. A question was raised as to whether we might partner with other First Nations, who also have those contacts, and whether that might be more profitable overall. This will be investigated further. Some additional questions were raised about getting to an AAC that would support having our own Mill, and allowing for the creation of value-added wood products by Nation wood workers, artists and entrepreneurs, as another means of increasing our profitability. Finally, some very valuable conversations were started regarding questions of ecological sustainability, carbon sequestering, protection and replanting to ensure the forest resource is available to future generations, and not simply used to pay the bills today. TKO staff explained that measures have been taken to ensure sustainability, that silviculture is a large focus, but carbon sequestering is not in our mandate at present. It was agreed that these are critically important considerations, worthy of further research and debate.

Our strategic plan in forestry is very clear, now that Tsain-Ko is starting to operate our own projects without partners, we want to grow our ability to control the entire process end to end. This means improving our resources and growing our team, making strategic decisions on profitable projects, building our own marketing and sales force, working with the Nation on other areas of interest, enhancing the environmental standards by which we operate, and adding value where possible.



Spatlem:

There were general comments and questions raised with regard to our Heidelberg agreements, and the differences between Tsain-Ko's vendor relationship with Heidelberg and the Nation's relationship agreement with Heidelberg. From a Tsain-Ko perspective, our objectives are to grow the scope of our operations at the mine, prevent our trucks from being parked, increase our production hours, and improve the overall usage and billing rates we achieve. We are in continuing discussions with Heidelberg on how to improve our relationship and contracts, whether that be expanding our fleet, improving our agreements, providing value-added services such as maintenance, outsourcing arrangements, or other opportunities. Our current agreement with Heidelberg is a 7-year contract, and we are coming up on year 5 later this year.

On the flip side, Chief and Council are also working with Heidelberg at a higher level to not only work through Nation concerns and opportunities, but also to assist Tsain-Ko with improving our position and scope. With new contract discussions starting over the next several years, Chief and Council confirmed that the community would have a say in reviewing the proposed contract changes.



tsain-ko Centre:

A general discussion of the new developments at Pad 5 occurred. Tsain-Ko management explained that Sechelt Insurance would be moving over to a new larger space, and a new Mexican Food quick-service restaurant tenant would come in. Of particular interest are two additional spaces where the goal is to open those opportunities to Nation-owned entrepreneurs where possible. Supporting Nation entrepreneurs is a priority, and it was suggested that some of the profit from operating the mall could be used as seed capital for Nation-owned start-ups, which could be applied for as a business grant.

This line of enquiry led to further discussion on cannabis-related companies, as this has been a concern in the community for roughly 10 years. There has been much discussion with other Nations, research into Nation jurisdiction with regard to the sale of cannabis, and it was noted that most of the companies operating in the sale of cannabis are not profitable. It was clarified that the Nation is not planning to invest in any cannabis enterprise, but was simply supporting Nation members who are seeking to operate in this industry. There was discussion as to whether the ship has sailed on cannabis as a viable opportunity, and whether the Nation's focus should be elsewhere. All of that said, Tsain-Ko is continuing to assist the Nation in its efforts to explore cannabis-related opportunities and how to make those opportunities available to Nation members.

Finally, there was discussion around the creation of a hotel property, a marina for Nation Boat owners, and the most effective and beneficial use of ts'ayemay property, which the Nation purchased through the Foundation Agreement. It was noted that the previous owners of ts'ayemay were talking about putting in a couple of golf courses, a hotel, 2000 homes, a shopping center, school and a mall. The questions were raised: Do we want our next subdivision down there? Do we want to start moving band members down there? Or do we want to lease out all that property? We really need to have a lot of community engagement about what they want to see in our corridor and down at ts'ayemay. What about the rest of the swiya? What do we want to see up in Egmont? What do we want to see in Garden Bay? What do we want to see in Roberts Creek? What do we want to see up the inlet?

As all can see, there is much we have to think about, consider, analyze and act on. We look forward to our upcoming AGM this October, and hope that everyone can join us as we look to report on our progress and continue all of these exciting and enlightening discussions.



Summer officially begins on Saturday!
On behalf of everyone at tsain-ko, we wish
you a very warm and happy summer.

HAPPY
Pride month
SUPPORT EVERYONE, OPPRESS NO ONE



**LGBTQ+
2-SPIRIT**

