



TSAIN-KO
GROUP OF COMPANIES

A tsain-ko Group Publication - March 2025

The Nation Builder

Keeping Traditions Alive: A Story from Councillor Phil.



When asked how Nation members could get more involved with their cultures and help revitalize the shishalh way of life, Phil shared a personal story that speaks to the heart of learning and tradition.

"I remember when I wanted to get into hunting, I asked Sid what the first steps were, and he told me to get my firearm license. So that's what I did. After getting my license, I contacted Sid again, asking, 'What do I do next?' To my surprise, he simply said, 'Go hunting.'

I felt I had so much to learn and wasn't ready to go out alone. I told him, 'No way! I don't know what I'm doing yet!' That's when Sid suggested I reach out to one of the Nation's members to see if they could take me out and show me the shishalh way of hunting.

That's how I connected with Jordan. He took me under his wing and taught me not just how to hunt but how to do it respectfully and safely—only shooting when we had a sure shot, being mindful of the land, and following the traditional ways. Through Jordan, I learned more than just hunting; I gained a deeper appreciation for our culture, our values, and the importance of passing this knowledge down.

The moral of the story? The Nation doesn't have the capacity or resources to offer everything all at once—it's a work in progress. But what we do have is each other. I encourage Nation members to reach out to one another, connect with elders, and seek out those who can pass down their knowledge. That's the simplest way we keep our traditions, our language, and our culture alive."

Councillor xwa? Phil Paul



A Full and Thriving Community

As of March 1, 2025, Our House of Clans (OHOC) has officially reached full capacity! This milestone marks an exciting step forward in providing much-needed low-income and affordable housing for Nation members.

Navigating the BC Housing program and working with the Nation's housing waitlist took longer than anticipated, but the effort has paid off. Tenants are settling in, and while some are adjusting to apartment-style living with neighbors above, below, and beside them, overall, residents are happy in their new homes.

For those interested in OHOC, it's important to note that applicants must be on the Housing waitlist and meet the low-income criteria. Rent is geared to 30% of total household income, calculated through BC Housing Connections. This means that all tenants over 19 listed on the tenancy agreement must declare their income and assets, ensuring fair and equitable rent distribution.

To help residents feel at home, welcome gifts were provided for each unit. These efforts reflect our commitment to building a strong, supportive community where everyone has a place to call home.



Strengthening Our Voice in Fisheries Management

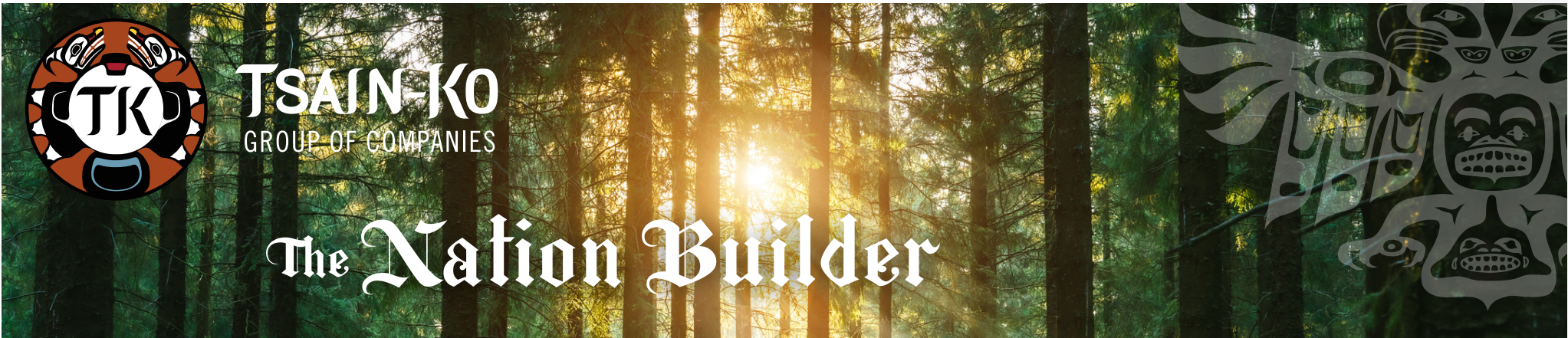
For the first time, the shishalh Nation has a **representative at the table** in discussions between Canada and the U.S. regarding fisheries management. This marks a significant step forward in ensuring our Nation's voice is heard in decisions that impact our waters, resources, and way of life.

Concerns over **declining spawning rates, smaller fish sizes, and overall reduced volumes** have brought renewed attention to the need for conservation. As a result, **efforts to protect fish populations are increasing**, with a focus on sustainable practices and long-term resource management.

Tsain-Ko remains committed to advocating for the interests of the shishalh Nation, ensuring that our rights and traditional knowledge help guide decisions affecting our fisheries.

Stay tuned for further updates as these discussions evolve.





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TSAIN-KO FORESTRY

Progress Across Key Sites



The Nation's forestry operations continue to move forward, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable resource management and economic opportunities for Nation contractors. Across multiple sites, progress is being made to ensure that forestry remains a thriving industry that benefits both the environment and the community. Here's an update on key forestry projects currently underway.

South Perketts: Building the Foundation for a Successful Harvest

At South Perketts, road construction is now 30% complete, setting the stage for harvesting activities scheduled for the third and fourth quarters of this year. Roadwork is a crucial first step in accessing the timber responsibly, ensuring minimal environmental impact while allowing for efficient operations. A Nation contractor is leading both the road-building efforts and the upcoming harvest, reinforcing the Nation's goal of keeping forestry work within the community.

Nine Mile: A Rapidly Advancing Project

Nine Mile has seen swift progress, with road construction already completed and harvesting well underway. With operations running smoothly, the site is expected to be fully harvested by the end of the second quarter. This project has provided steady work for a Nation contractor, who is overseeing both the infrastructure development and harvesting activities. The efficient pace of this project highlights the value of local expertise and careful planning in sustainable forestry management.



Lawlors 1: Preparing for the First Cut

In Lawlors 1, road construction is approximately 30% complete, paving the way for harvesting to begin in March. The upcoming harvest will be carried out by Bill 13 contractors, a program designed to ensure that logging work remains an opportunity for Indigenous forestry professionals. As the roads take shape, crews are preparing for a well-organized and efficient harvest that will bring economic benefits while adhering to responsible forestry practices.

Lawlors 2: Awaiting Final Approval

Lawlors 2 is currently in the final approval stage with the Nation. Once given the green light, harvesting is set to begin in the third or fourth quarter. This project represents another key opportunity to reinforce the Nation's commitment to economic self-sufficiency while maintaining respect for the land. More details, including maps and project updates, will be shared in the coming months as the plan moves forward.

Sustainable Forestry: A Commitment to the Future

Each of these projects is part of a broader strategy to manage forestry resources in a way that balances economic opportunity with environmental stewardship. The Nation remains dedicated to ensuring that all forestry initiatives are carried out responsibly, efficiently, and with the well-being of the community at the forefront. By keeping contracts within the Nation and prioritizing sustainable practices, these efforts continue to strengthen both the land and the people who depend on it.

Check back for further updates as these projects progress, bringing continued growth and opportunities to the Nation's forestry sector.

SWANSON'S CONCRETE

A Strong Start to 2025



Swanson's Concrete has kicked off the year with significant growth and efficiency improvements. In January alone, concrete production reached **430 cubic meters**, a substantial increase from **60 cubic meters** in the same period last year. This growth reflects the company's ongoing efforts to streamline operations and enhance service delivery.

By the end of February, production had climbed to **735 cubic meters**, marking a **32% increase over 2024**. This steady upward trend highlights Swanson's commitment to meeting increasing demand while maintaining high-quality service and operational efficiency.

Operational Improvements & Efficiency Gains

A key development this year has been the establishment of a **new access point for aggregate mining**, allowing for improved efficiency while maintaining the existing pond location. Additionally, Swanson's has introduced **cost-saving measures**, such as adjusting driver schedules to reduce unnecessary labor costs when demand is low.

Investing in Innovation & Sustainability

Swanson's is exploring opportunities to relocate the pond and utilize an adjacent property for a gravity-fed system, reducing reliance on pumps and enhancing efficiency and sustainability. The team is also investigating 3D printing technology for constructing foundations, walls, and highway medians, which could revolutionize building processes in the future.

Challenges & Proactive Solutions

Recent weather conditions have led to a **temporary two-week shutdown** at the mine, highlighting the impact of seasonal challenges. However, Swanson's remains committed to proactive maintenance efforts, such as **oil spill prevention** and equipment upkeep, to ensure smoother operations when work resumes. With a strong start to 2025, Swanson's Concrete continues to focus on growth, efficiency, and innovation in the concrete and aggregate industry..

