



TSAIN-KO
GROUP OF COMPANIES

The Nation Builder

A tsain-ko Group Publication - May 2025



Councillor Keith Julius Shares Promising Updates on Housing

Following our recent meeting with Councillor Keith Julius, we received a hopeful and forward-looking update on one of the Nation's top priorities—housing.

Councillor Julius emphasized that during every engagement session held with shíshálh Nation members, **housing continues to emerge as the number one priority**. He was proud to share that real progress is being made.

One of the key developments is the **near completion of three new homes at the Selma Park project site**. These homes are designed with a top-and-bottom suite layout, allowing for **six individual tenants**—a strategic approach that directly increases housing capacity and helps meet community demand.

Even more, with these homes becoming available, space is being freed up within the Kwatamus Avenue townhomes, offering additional housing options.

Councillor Julius addressed potential concerns about the condition of the **Kwatamus townhomes** by assuring Nation members that **thorough inspections will be conducted** before any move-ins. The Nation has hired a **dedicated housing inspector**, carefully selected from a pool of applicants, who brings a strong sense of care and commitment to tenant safety.

Looking ahead, the housing team is already planning for the next three homes, which will be larger in size and designed for **single-family occupancy**. Additionally, there are plans to bring in more **Click Homes**—an ideal solution for single members or couples.

"We're making steady progress," said Councillor Julius. "It's exciting to see these projects come together, and we're committed to continuing this momentum to serve our community's needs."

Councillor Keith Julius

Supporting Nation Entrepreneurs: Tsain-Ko & TACC

The Tsain-Ko team recently participated in a workshop with Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation (TACC) to explore financing and funding opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs.

About TACC

Founded in 1992, TACC has helped launch and grow over 1,000 Indigenous businesses by providing flexible loans and funding programs tailored to entrepreneurs in Coast Salish Territory.

Loan Options

First Citizens Fund (FCF) Loan – Up to \$75,000, with 40% loan forgiveness, fixed 12% interest, and a 15% personal investment required.

Conventional Loan – Up to \$3,000,000, with interest starting at 8% (based on credit). No forgiveness, but more funding flexibility.

Non-Repayable Funding for Entrepreneurs

TACC also provides funding programs to support Indigenous entrepreneurs in starting, expanding, or acquiring businesses.

◆ Business Equity Program (BEP)

Offers non-repayable contributions for capital costs, business expansion, and support services like business plans & marketing.

- Up to \$99,999 for individuals & incorporated businesses
- Up to \$250,000 for community-owned businesses
- Requires a viable business plan & other financing in place

◆ NRT Equity Match Grant

Available for BC First Nation entrepreneurs & community-owned businesses, but must be paired with a TACC loan.

By reducing financial barriers, TACC helps Indigenous entrepreneurs turn their ideas into reality. Contact TACC today to explore your options!



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SERVE YOUR
SWIYA

Launch Event a Powerful Success!

The launch of the Serve Your Swiya program was a powerful and inspiring evening, drawing an almost sold-out crowd at the Raven's Cry Theatre. Community members from across the Sunshine Coast came together to learn, connect, and take action toward protecting our land and homes from the increasing threat of wildfires.



ReconciliAction #1:

Free Film Screening: Incandescence

Location: Raven's Cry Theatre

Keynote by FireSmart Leader David McIlwraith;
Q & A session with the Filmmakers



The afternoon began with 15 minutes of warm conversation and networking in the theatre lobby, setting the tone for a night rooted in community and connection. Following the gathering, shishálh Nation Councillor Raquel Joe offered a heartfelt welcome and opening remarks, grounding the event in the spirit of stewardship and reconciliation.

Our keynote speaker, David McIlwraith, shared practical knowledge and insight into what residents can do to fire-smart their properties — reminding everyone that real change starts at home. His message was clear: we all have a role to play in protecting our swiya.

The night continued with a special screening of Incandescence, a powerful and visually stunning documentary created by local filmmakers Nova Ami and Velcrow Ripper — who were also in attendance. The film captured the raw impact of the wildfires that hit so close to home, leaving many in the audience moved and motivated.

After the screening, Nova and Velcrow joined us on stage for a brief Q&A session, offering personal insights into the making of the film and the urgent call to action that inspired it.

The Serve Your Swiya launch was more than an event — it was a moment of shared understanding, inspiration, and momentum. We are grateful to everyone who attended and helped bring this initiative to life. Together, we are building something meaningful, rooted in action, unity, and care for our shared home.



ReconciliAction #2:



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart Clean up

Location: Shishálh Nation Longhouse

-Volunteer to clear hazardous debris & protect
our community for wildfire

-Volunteers welcome to support Community BBQ
at Ted Dixon Park after the cleanup.



Firesmart Longhouse Cleanup: A Powerful Start!

On May 3, Serve Your Swiya launched with an incredible show of community spirit! In just three hours, 33 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and transformed the longhouse grounds—filling **two 40-yard bins** with green waste during our first FireSmart cleanup.

A huge thank you to all the Tsain-Ko staff who came out—your energy, teamwork, and commitment made this day a success. Your efforts are the foundation of this growing initiative, and we see you!

Special thanks to our event partners, Salish Soils and Coastal Bins—Their support helped make this day possible!



Welcome Michael Locker to Tsain-Ko Forestry LP!

We're excited to welcome **Michael Locker** back to the team—this time in a full-time, permanent role as **Logging Engineer** with Tsain-Ko Forestry LP.

Originally from Campbell River and now based on the Sunshine Coast, Michael brings a strong background in resource management and forest engineering. A graduate of Vancouver Island University's Forest Resources Technology program, he is currently pursuing his BA in Geography with the goal of becoming a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).

Michael previously worked with us as a Forestry Engineer (Summer Student), where he impressed us with his dedication and skill. In his new role, he'll help lead sustainable logging operations that align with provincial regulations and our stewardship values.

Welcome back, Michael—we're lucky to have you!



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