



Newsletter

January – March 2024



Update from CAO, Edith Moore

The final quarter of 2024 has been marked by significant achievements and developments for the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council (NMTC) and we are thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of a remarkable fiscal year. This achievement is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire team. Each member has played a crucial role in surpassing our goals and delivering exceptional results. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering teamwork, we have navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and achieved significant milestones. The collective effort and shared vision of our team have been instrumental in ensuring a prosperous fiscal year end. I extend our heartfelt gratitude to each team member for their outstanding contributions and commitment to excellence.

Highlights for this reporting period:

- Ensuring all core service and project deliverables have been met as per our funding requirements
- Review year end reporting with the finance team detailing the financial performance, expenditures, and achievements throughout the year. These reports provide valuable insights into our operational efficiency and financial stewardship, which will inform strategic decision-making in the upcoming year.
- Working with the Executive team on the HR Handbook, Onboarding Processes, Financial Policy, Performance Management policy and other foundational internal policies and procedures.

Highlights for this reporting period:

- Regular reporting to the Board of Directors to enable informed decision-making and ensure alignment between organizational objectives and board priorities
- Finalizing the updated constitution and bylaws.
- Meetings with Government Departments and strategic partners to foster relationships, strengthening NmTC's influence and capacity to effect positive change.
- Successful securing of new funding for the upcoming fiscal year to enable NMTC to expand its service offerings and support initiatives that empower member nations while enhancing the sustainability and impact of our programs and initiatives.

Staff Announcements

New Hires!



Meet Megan Curran, Food Sovereignty

I spent my childhood on Shawnee, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Osage lands (now called Kentucky) and am of Irish and Swedish ancestry. My mother's family were farmers who immigrated from Sweden to what's now called Minnesota and my late father was Irish and always longed to return home. With gratitude and responsibility, I presently live in the heart of səlilwətał territory. I have worked in system design and policy for non-profits, government, and business; most recently working with the Coast Salish Plant Nursery and Tsleil-Waututh Nation on food sovereignty initiatives. I'm a lifelong learner with a passion for ethnobotany, native plants, and regenerative land care practices. I believe Indigenous sovereignty is a moral and ecological imperative and I work in solidarity to heal and liberate the land from extractive colonial systems. My heart is full when my hands are in the soil!

Staff Announcements

New Hires!



Meet Prateek Gupta, Indigenous Marketing Solutions

I'm excited to introduce myself as one of the newest members of Indigenous Marketing Solutions – Prateek Gupta, your Print & Promo Manager, reporting directly to Sean Wilman. I bring over four years of experience in Print & Promo from my time at Staples, with an extensive experience in eCommerce gained during my tenure at Amazon. In my personal time, I love playing chess and listening to business podcasts, and I try to hit the badminton court every weekend. It's a pleasure to join such an incredible organization, and I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you on this exciting journey together.



Tye Shetty – Web Developer, Indigenous Marketing Solutions, NRG

As our new Web Developer in the Creative department, Tye brings previous web development experience from MOWABE and spearheads our expansion into Web Development.

Staff Announcements

New Hires!



Sol Sazatornil, Events Coordinator, Naut'sa mawt Event Management, NRG

Sol joins NEM from the unceded and surrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples, colonially known as New Westminster. As an Event Coordinator, she is committed to develop events in a more sustainable, inclusive, and conscious way. With a keen eye for detail, and over 10 years of experience in Event and Project Management, Logistics, and Travel Coordination, Sol brings her collaborative spirit and knowledge to continue creating memorable and impactful experiences. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor photography, hiking with her dog, skiing, and reading.

Shayne LeGear - Print & Promo Specialist, Indigenous Marketing Solutions, NRG

Stepping into the role of Print & Promo Specialist in December, Shayne brings a diverse background in sales and service, enriched by his recent stint at Sysco Canada and previous industry involvement with Staples Canada.

Mary-Margret Degraaf – Graphic Designer, Indigenous Marketing Solutions, NRG

Based in Lake Cowichan, Mary-Margret holds a Bachelor of Design in Graphic Design with distinction from the University of Vancouver Island. Immersing herself in the study of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies for over five years at Camosun College and Vancouver Community College, she brings a unique perspective to her design work. Mary-Margret finds joy in collaborative creativity, relishing in bringing clients' visions to life and exploring vintage consignment shops and swing dancing with her husband in her leisure time.

Staff Announcements

New Hires!

Meet Tim Byron, Building Inspection Advisor

Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council is pleased to announce that Tim Byron has joined the NmTC Technical Services Unit (TSU) as our Building Inspection Advisor. Tim is a Registered Building Official (RBO) with the Building Officials' Association of BC (BOABC) and a Red Seal Carpenter.

With over 18 years of combined experience in home construction and building code inspections, Tim brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to his new role. He is the former Chief Building Official for the Municipality of North Cowichan and is a proud member of the Tl'etinqox First Nation in Alexis Creek, with close family ties to Cowichan Tribes. When he is not working, Tim enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time in the outdoors with his wife and two children.

This position is part of the NmTC Technical Services Unit (TSU) and adds to our existing team of Eric Blueschke, RPP and Darryl Tunnicliffe, P.Eng.

Employment Opportunities

Event Coordinator

Naut'sa mawt Event Management is seeking a permanent full-time Event Coordinator. The Event Coordinator is responsible for coordinating these events from initial client introduction to onsite event implementation in an effective and timely manner in order to meet Naut'sa mawt Event Management standards of customer service.

Employment Opportunities

Facilitation and Reporting Assistant

Naut'sa mawt Event Management is seeking a permanent full-time Facilitation and Reporting Assistant. Reporting to the Facilitation and Reporting Manager, the Reporting Assistant is responsible for helping maintain the smooth delivery of Naut'sa mawt's facilitation and reporting services for the Events Department at Naut'sa mawt Resources Group. This role will require collaboration with a variety of internal team members, contractors, clients, and other stakeholders.

Notetakers

Naut'sa mawt Event Management is seeking part time contractors for notetaking. You will be responsible for attending events, taking accurate and detailed notes of their proceedings, and compiling and delivering your notes as well-edited and succinct summaries. This role requires proficiency in typing, strong critical thinking skills, as well as excellent grammar, editing, and spelling skills. The ability to complete tasks in a timely fashion and meet quick turnaround times is a must.

Visit our website for further details and how to apply:

<https://www.nautsamawt.org/employment-opportunities>



Member Services Highlights

Member Services has had a busy start to the year. Melanie, the interim Member Services Director has been getting to know her team, introduce herself to the Member Nations, and has also begun working with the Clear Seas initiative and hearing their ideas on the Coastal Impact Assessments. She has been collaborating with Royal Roads on a joint program delivery proposal as well as a reimagining of the CAO and Band Administrator Network Meetings. Members Services is excited to be working alongside some fantastic post secondary programs dedicated to Leadership and Governance training. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, requests or are interested in learning more about our Member Services, please do not hesitate to reach out to Melanie MacLeod at melaniem@nautsamawt.com

NmTC Technical Services

On January 31st the NmTC Technical Services Unit (TSU) hosted a workshop with the First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council (FHNIC) and NmTC member Nation representatives to explore a new and exciting opportunity for housing renovations and asset management.

NmTC TSU proposed a pilot project to conduct housing condition assessments to assess immediate and long-term housing needs. NmTC participants had an engaging exchange of ideas and directed the TSU to draft a proposal for consideration. The TSU will be hosting a follow-up webinar for NmTC member Nations to review and provide further direction on the draft proposal.

For more information, please contact ericb@nautsamawt.com



Member Services Highlights

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Management Gathering

Discussions with a Vancouver Island based company about potentially collaborating to host an Emergency Management gathering with our 10 member nations of NmTC this coming fiscal year. The event would see us invite suppliers, vendors, and guest speakers to present on their areas of expertise and offer guidance and discuss any new products or developments. We will be reaching out to our member nations soon to see if they have any recommendations on presenters or areas of interest that they would like us to concentrate on.

If you have any questions or requests, please contact clintw@nautsamawt.com

BC Flood Strategy

Our Emergency Preparedness team has been part of a working group that is collaborating with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship discussing a new Flood Strategy for B.C. A strategy has been developed over the past one and half years (approx.) and is now ready for engagements with First Nations across B.C. The Strategy is requiring partnership, support and involvement from First Nations across B.C. and will soon be shown in various upcoming events.

Circle of Practice

First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Emergency Program Coordinators (EPC'S) from around the province have been successfully conducting regular online meetings each month for more than a year. These meetings are held with an open agenda and allow for the EPCs to share updates on; current incidents/events, funding opportunities, project development and implementation. The success of this group is valuable as it assists remote communities with information that they otherwise may not be aware of. If you would like to receive more information on this group, please feel free to reach out to myself and I would be happy to connect you to the group.

Member Services Highlights

CCP Meeting

After organizing the successful October 2023 CCP Workshop at Spirit Ridge Resort in Osoyoos, NmTC has been hard at work on two ISC-funded CCP-related initiatives:

CCP Mentorship

NmTC has begun pairing the seven CCP mentors from across the province with community planners looking for additional support. To date, ten applications for mentorship have been received and six First Nations are actively working with mentors, both virtually and in person.

For more information on CCP Mentorship or to request a mentor, visit <http://www.comprehensive-communityplanning.org/ccp-mentorship.html>

CCP Handbook Refresh

The well-loved CCP Handbook was last updated in 2018. NmTC has been asked to project manage the revision of the handbook in collaboration with the CCP mentors. The mentors would like to decolonize the existing handbook and make it shorter, more visually appealing, and more appropriate to the audiences it serves.

The existing handbook is available at <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1377629855838/1613741744194>

Mentors Gathering

The CCP Mentors met March 4-7, 2024, on Haida Gwaii, the home territory of mentor Dana Moraes. Intense handbook editing work sessions were paired with site visits around Haida Gwaii, looking at locations for a potential future CCP Workshop.



Photo: CCP Mentors work away in the boardroom at Haida House during the CCP Handbook gathering.



Photo: Bronwen Geddes, Melanie MacLeod and some of our CCP Mentors- Sandra, Shirley-Pat, Andrew, Cece and Dana-Gather to finalize the CCP handbook project-Haida Gwaii



Member Services Highlights

Hawk Communications

The Hawk Communications App is a mobile app that allows communities and organizations to send out alerts, updates, events, resources, polls, and surveys directly to their members through their phones and mobile devices. It also allows First Nations to communicate with members during a declared emergency.

NmTC has funding through the ISC to expand use of the Hawk Communications App to up to 110 First Nations and Indigenous support organizations across Canada through to March 2026. Currently, 50 First Nations and 2 support organizations across BC, Saskatchewan, and Ontario have signed up to use the App. New features are continually being added to the App, including push notifications.

The Hawk Communications App is and will continue to be free for all NmTC member nations through NmTC's partnership with Hawk Solutions.

To learn more, please visit www.hawksolutions.net or contact info@hawksolutions.net

Member Services Highlights

Food Sovereignty & Community Food Network

There are lots of learning and sharing opportunities on the horizon as we gear up for the busy growing session. We know that climate change is a top concern for food security and food sovereignty and will be discussing climate resilience at April's CFN meeting.

On April 6, the CFN is hosting a special in-person event on Malahat territory to bring together Elders and Youth for a Food Sovereignty Sharing Circle (details below). We held an orchard pruning session with Malahat on February 22 and will be holding another pruning event with Homalco on March 18th. Tsleil-Waututh and Tsawwassen Nations are sharing knowledge on growing microgreens and we'll soon be sharing a microgreen film, toolkit, and growing supplies with interested NmTC member nations. Please get in touch if your community would like to learn to grow microgreens!

As always, please feel free to reach out anytime for any food security or food sovereignty related projects, programs, or requests. Call/text 604-726-5139 or email meganc@nautsawmawt.com



Photo: Orchard Pruning workshop at Malahat First Nation- Hosted by the Community Food Network and NmTC

Member Services Highlights

Naut'sa mawt attends Cultural Centre ribbon cutting in Klahoose First Nation

Naut'sa mawt was honoured to be invited into Klahoose First Nation to support the ribbon cutting for their new Cultural Centre. It was a beautiful celebration, which included the unveiling of the new building plans, a tour and fire offering at the building site, a feast, drumming and singing, and a photo booth. Community members shared ideas for naming the building and why the new Cultural Centre was important to them. Bailey, Edith, and Kelly brought over some of Naut'sa mawt's décor items, and spent a wonderful day working and celebrating alongside the community.



Photo: Chief Steven Brown and Elder Helen Louie cutting the ribbon



Photo: Elder Helen Louie



Photo: Edith Moore, CAO making an offering in the fire ceremony



Photo: Klahoose Drumming group



Photo: Klahoose Cultural Building Renderings

Calendar of Events

Community Food Network

Next meeting: **April 4, 2024 - virtual**

Contact: **meganc@nautsamawt.com**

Elders Council Meeting

Next meeting: **December 15, 2023;**
January 25, 2024 - Virtual

Contact: **debbiem@nautsamawt.com**

CAO Network

Resource and information sharing
between CAO and Band Administrators

Next meeting: **March 18 @1:30 - Virtual**

Contact: **melaniem@nautsamawt.com**

Youth Council Meeting

Next meeting: **January 19, 2024**

Contact: **debbiem@nautsamawt.com**

CFN Events & Updates

Indigenous Food Sovereignty Workshops

Date: Ongoing

Location: Zoom

Kalista Pruden of Avalily Permaculture and The Earth Skills Institute's Indigenous Food Sovereignty workshops are in full swing. Please get in touch if you've missed any courses and would like access to the recording. The Food Forest Foundations workshop was the most in demand (recording available). All feedback on the content and administration of these courses is welcome and appreciated.

Upcoming courses:

- Diversifying Economic Supports (Tuesday, April 2 from 9-10:30AM PST)
- Composting 101 (Thursday, April 11 from 9-10:30AM PST)
- Next Level Composting (Tuesday, April 16 from 9-12PM PST)
- Gardening for Beginners (Monday, April 29 from 9-10:30AM PST)
- Gardenless Growing (Wednesday, May 1 from 9-10:30AM PST)
- Seed Saving (Tuesday, May 7 from 9-10:30AM PST)
- Intro to Indigenous Permaculture (Wednesday, June 5 from 9-10:30AM PST)

To sign-up for upcoming courses, please email megan@nautsawmawt.com or click [here](#).

NmTC CFN: Learning from our Elders Food Sovereignty Sharing Circle

Date: Saturday, April 6 from 1:00PM – 3:15 PM

Location: Malahat Nation

Join us for a Food Sovereignty Sharing Circle with Elders, Youth, and community workers on Malahat territory. Food and refreshments will be provided. Travel/accommodation provided for 1 NmTC CFN member. Please join us for this special day! Contact meganc@nautsamawt.com for more information.

Note: there is a NmTC Elder and Youth Council meeting from 8:00AM until 12:45PM on the same day. This is an in-person event, however, zoom access will be available for those who are unable to travel to Malahat.

CFN Events & Updates

Island Indigenous Food Gathering 2024

Date: March 21-22, 2024

Location: Ahousaht

Ahousaht, in partnership with Tseshaht First Nation, are inviting Indigenous people of Vancouver Island to a traditional food gathering at Maht Mahs on March 21, 2024 @ 9:00 am to March 22, 2024 @ 4:00 pm. The event will bring people together to share thoughts and traditions related to traditional food gathering and preparation. According to organizers, the event will bring together up to 200 participants from Vancouver Island.

For more information email: nuuchahnulthfoodsgathering@gmail.com or click [here](#).

Hosted by Ahousaht, open to all.

Living Breath of wəłəbʔaltxʷ Indigenous Foods Symposium

Date: May 3-4, 2024

Location: Seattle, WA

I am seeking interest from CFN members in attending the 12th annual [Living Breath of wəłəbʔaltxʷ Indigenous Foods Symposium](#) on May 3-4, 2024 in Seattle, WA (hosted by the UW Department of American Indian Studies Department and the Na'ah Illahee Fund).

If you have attended this event previously, I'd love to learn about your experience. Please get in touch if you are interested in attending this event.



CFN Events & Updates

Food Sovereignty in the face of Climate Crisis

Wildfires are still burning in BC from last year and snowpack levels are well below “normal” for this time of year. The result is likely to be severe drought and extreme wildfires ahead. Climate change will continue to disrupt global food supply making local resilience and local food systems even more critical.

In 2023, the province released a report called [Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Food Security in a Changing Climate](#). How is your community preparing for food security and food sovereignty with drought and wildfires? We will share information and learn how we can support each other during our April CFN meeting.

Decoding Drought Workshops (March-April 2024):

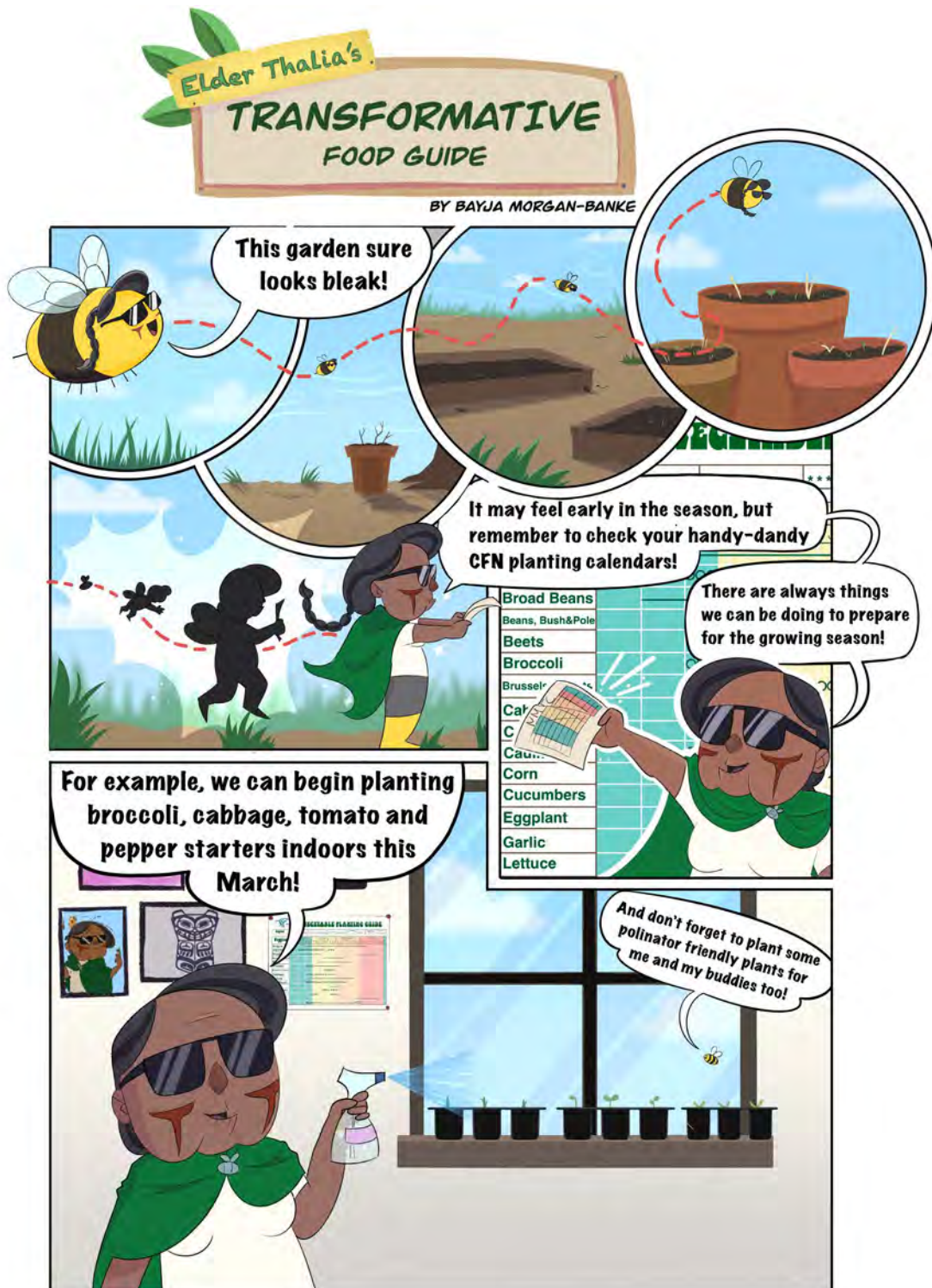
These sessions aim to improve awareness of the supports available to producers to prepare for and reduce the impacts of drought and build understanding within the agriculture sector about B.C.’s legislative framework for water management including regulatory tools and decision-making under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA). Workshops will be co-delivered by staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

More info [here](#).

Elder Thalia's Transformative Food Guide Vol. 7

Elder Thalia (created by the amazing Bayja Morgan-Banke) is reminding us to get those seedling starts going...and to remember to plant for the pollinators too!

Check out the [Spring/Summer](#) planting calendar for quick reference of what to start/when.



Funding & Training Opportunities

Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund:

Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund offers support to Indigenous-led organizations leading projects at the community level

Deadline:

Intake 32 opened Friday, March 1 and closes Friday, March 22.

Intake 33 opens on Friday, May 1 and closes on Friday, June 21.

<https://www.iprfund.ca/>

Telus Indigenous Communities Fund:

The TELUS Indigenous Communities Fund offers grants up to \$50,000 for Indigenous-led social, health and community programs.

Deadline: March 29, 2024 (Spring Intake)

www.telus.com/en/social-impact/giving-back/community-grants/indigenous-communities-fund

New Relationship Trust:

The second of three intakes for the Indigenous Food Security and Sovereignty (IFS) Grant administered through New Relationship Trust opens on May 1, 2024! The first funding intake filled up quickly, so while the application window for the second intake technically runs from May 1, 2024 through December 1, 2024, we encourage NmTC member Nations to get applications in early for the best chance of success.

There are two funding streams for the IFS Grant:

- Stream 1 (funding cap: \$150,000): provides funding for activities and costs associated with the planning and design phase of a food security project.
- Stream 2 (funding cap: \$250,000): provides funding for activities and costs associated with the implementation of a food security project.
- Please reach out if you need support putting together an application for any of these grants.

Deadline: December 1, 2024 - Fills up quickly

newrelationshiptrust.ca/apply-for-funding/sustainability-development-goals-sdg-initiatives/food-security-grants/

Tools & Resources

Housing Financial Viability Guide and the Section 95 Operating Agreement Expiry Guide:

<https://www.nautsamawt.org/housing-sustainability-project>

Infrastructure Maintenance Management Toolkit:

<https://www.nautsamawt.org/infrastructure-maintenance-management-toolkit>

Communications App

The Communications App is a mobile app that allows communities to send out urgent alerts, updates, events, resources, polls, and surveys directly to their members through their phones and mobile devices. Emergency communications features will be launched in the App this March. The Communications App is and will continue to be free for all NmTC member nations through NmTC's partnership with Hawk Solutions.

To learn more, please visit www.hawksolutions.net

Contact: info@hawksolutions.net

Naut'sa mawt Resource Group CEO Update, Kelly Landry

In the final quarter of this fiscal year, we have maintained a steady trajectory towards our strategic goals. Our revenue growth has exceeded expectations, we have successfully expanded our team to meet the growing demands of our business, and we have established new policies and procedures to ensure clarity and consistency across our organization for both employees and management.

Looking ahead, we are poised for further growth and expansion. As we enter the new fiscal year, we remain focused on exploring new opportunities to diversify our revenue streams and expand our market presence. With a strong foundation in place and a dedicated team we are confident in our ability to navigate challenges, develop strategic partnerships, and capitalize on opportunities to generate ethical and sustainable revenue to support the Tribal Council and our Member Nations.

Highlights for this reporting period:

- Completing the Employee onboarding process, and performance management process with the Executive team
- Budgeting and Business plans for 2024/25
- Retaining an HR company to support recruiting and hiring
- Attending industry conferences, tradeshow, and events
- NRG Governance audit with Legal
- Board of Directors reporting
- Year end funding/reporting requirements for projects and programs
- Meetings to secure new opportunities with Walmart Canada, Wits Foundation, and other partners.

Successful Pink Shirt Day Program

Indigenous Marketing's annual Pink Shirt Program was a success! We sold 18,000 Pink Shirts across Canada featuring the Sacred Feather design by 15 year old Brooke Gillam. We invited Brook and her parents to Victoria to take part in the Wits Foundation Pink Shirt Broadcast, and while she was here she had the opportunity to reconnect with her family and meet her Grandfather for the first time.

Artist Statement:



"I am a part of the Oromocto First Nation Community in New Brunswick on the east coast of Turtle Island and recently reunited with the other side of my family who originates from Victoria, British Columbia on the west coast. I chose the feather design after getting to know my Grandfather from the Shell Beach community of Stz'uminus First Nation.

I chose a sacred feather because it symbolizes and represents a high honour, wisdom, power, and freedom. The three hearts inside represent kindness, friendship and love. When I tied the two together it felt right because my heart told me it felt like it was meant to be."

- Brooke Gillam



Photo: Pink Shirt Day at Chief T'Selehye School in the Northwest Territories

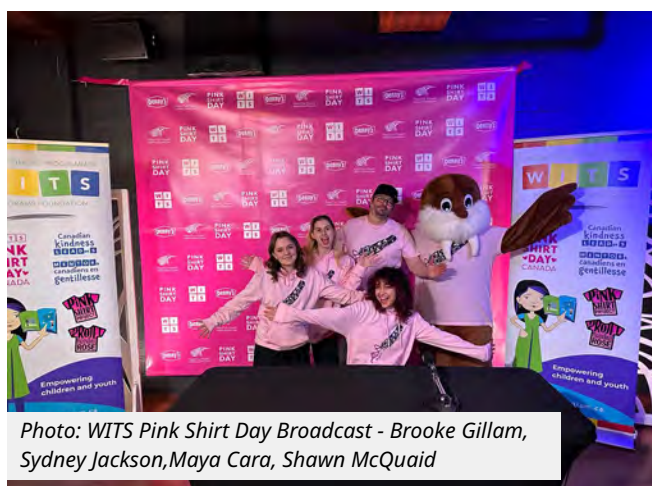


Photo: WITS Pink Shirt Day Broadcast - Brooke Gillam, Sydney Jackson, Maya Cara, Shawn McQuaid

Naut'sa mawt Event Management works across Canada

Naut'sa mawt Event Management has been working on 3 Nation-wide engagement series; Indigenous Border Mobility UNDA Action Plan Measure SP52; NRCAN's National Benefit Sharing Framework; and CIRNAC's 'Duty to Consult' engagements. Each of these engagement series calls for regionally-focused discussions with Indigenous communities, therefore for each contract, our team plans anywhere from 6-20+ events in cities across Canada including Vancouver, Ottawa, Quebec, Halifax, Yellowknife, Whitehorse and more. In addition to these engagement series, NEM continues its work on a variety of other events including but not limited to; Transports Canada's 'Indigenous Railway Engagement', Environment and Climate Change Canada's 'Engagement on Cumulative Effects on the Salish Sea', UVic's 'Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium', ECCC/ CIRNAC's 'First Nations Climate Leadership Conference' and more.

Klahoose First Nation launches new visual identity and branding with support from Indigenous Marketing Solutions.

Klahoose launched a new visual identity featuring a new nature-inspired colour palette, logo styles, typography, a pattern inspired by traditional Coast Salish blankets and canoes, and a style guide. Indigenous Marketing also worked with Klahoose to design communication templates, business cards, social media templates and other communication materials that can be utilized across departments.



Sneak peek at 2024 Orange Shirt Day art

Indigenous Proud

Available at Walmart Canada September 2024

Artist Statement:



Msit No'kmaq "All My Relations."

"With this design, I have created a symbol of a warrior and the ability to stand proud for who you are, wherever you are. Descending from relatives who faced the challenges of residential schools, I draw strength from their endurance. Conversations with elders, sharing reflections of a painful past, highlight the urgency of addressing intergenerational trauma.

My design incorporates a wolf, a sacred symbol in my Indigenous heritage, embodying humility—one of the seven sacred teachings of Mi'kmaki. This creature, one of the most beautiful animals to ever walk this earth, represents the profound connection between a child and their surroundings, echoing the continuum of past, present, and future. It serves as a timeless reminder that, regardless of the era, the significance of our children remains unwavering."

- Natasha Root, Listugui First Nation, QC

Sneak peek at 2024 Orange Shirt Day art

Naut'sa mawt Resources Group

Available at IM website

Artist Statement:



Mother - Caretake and Child

“With this design, I have created a symbol of a warrior and the ability to stand proud for who you are, wherever you are. Descending from relatives who faced the challenges of residential schools, I draw strength from their endurance. Conversations with elders, sharing reflections of a painful past, highlight the urgency of addressing intergenerational trauma.

My design incorporates a wolf, a sacred symbol in my Indigenous heritage, embodying humility—one of the seven sacred teachings of Mi'kmaki. This creature, one of the most beautiful animals to ever walk this earth, represents the profound connection between a child and their surroundings, echoing the continuum of past, present, and future. It serves as a timeless reminder that, regardless of the era, the significance of our children remains unwavering.”

- Clayton Gauthier, Nak'azdli Whut'en