

AT HOME, “OUR HOME”

GECO IN LACH KLAN – PEOPLE, PLACE, & PROSPERITY —



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **OPPORTUNITIES THRIVE WHERE PEOPLE AND PLACE CONNECT**

Welcome to the Gitxaala Enterprises – Community Economic Development newsletter. We are thrilled to launch the inaugural edition of the newsletter to connect the Community Economic Development Program with Gitxaala. We look forward to introducing new initiatives, sharing our thoughts and ideas, and bringing you updates on various projects and events that are managed under the Community Economic Division of GECO.

We look forward to engaging Gitxaala through various engagement platforms and welcome your feedback. GECO's new Community Economic Development Programs will be lead by Bruce Watkinson.

2. Gitxaala Longhouse

3. Community-Based Commercial Fisheries

4. Lax Klan Hotel

4. Fuel Station Upgrade

5. Gitxaala Forestry Operations

6. Gitxaala Day Fishing Derby

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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ŁA GWELGA LAK (The Fire is on Inside) - Gitxaala Longhouse



Exciting news!! The contract with IDL Projects has been finalized for the construction of the Cultural Centre and the first barge should be arriving in Lach Klan around October 3rd. Initial activities will focus on the Siteworks phase, including the development of the accommodation building lots to be used by the crew, followed by the installation of the Foundations for the Longhouse. It is anticipated that the construction will take approximately 324 days to complete, if there are no unforeseen delays.

There will be employment opportunities for our people throughout the project. As the project moves through the various phases job opportunities will be made public as they become available. GECO's partner IDL Projects will be managing the employment component. If you have experience in the construction industry or any of the associated trades, you can send your resume at anytime to jobs@idlprojects.com with the Subject Line: **Gitxaala Cultural Centre**.

Continuous Learning Centre (CLC) may be able to assist with providing some gear and equipment, especially PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) so keep an eye out for more information as the Gitxaala Cultural Centre – Longhouse project advances.

As construction moves forward, there will be much work to be done by the Management Committee (includes Hereditary, Council, and GECO members) to finalize details for the carving shed, House posts, interior design, sound system, furniture and other furnishings.

2. Community Based Commercial Fisheries

Vessel & Gear Fund

- Purchase new or used vessels
- Upgrade of vessels
- Purchase new gear and equipment

The Community Economic Development Division of GECO will be managing the Nation's commercial fishing licenses and quota as part of the Community-Based Commercial Fisheries Program (CBCFP).

Community Based Fisheries Goals and Objectives:

- Re-establish and invigorate each of the Nation's small boat fleets including vessels owned and operated by the Nation or its citizens;
- Enable Nation fishers access, acquisition, and control of commercial fishing vessels and vessel enterprises, and if desired, graduate to larger vessel sizes and the coast wide fishery;
- Collaboratively support the application and enforcement of applicable laws, including the Nations' Indigenous Laws, and the use of best information, including Indigenous Knowledge

The purchase of licenses and quota is facilitated through the Coastal Nations Fisheries Trust and the Coastal Nations Fishing L.P.

The current CBCFP Strategic Plan will be updated over the fall/winter months and an updated Annual Acquisition Plan will be put forward in early 2026.

In addition to the purchase of new licenses and quota, there is also a Vessel and Gear Fund available to assist fishers, existing and new, with getting into the industry. This program will enable greater benefits to Nations' members who participate in their community based commercial fisheries in a number of ways, including:

- More flexible Loan Security requirements;
- Grant options that support both new entrants and experienced fishers;
- Engaged and versatile lenders and community-based support team with experience and knowledge to support fishers;

interested in current or future commercial fishing opportunities are encouraged to contact **Bruce Watkinson** for more information.

Lach Klan Motel

- **Project Overview**
- **Status**

Through the Community Economic Development Program, GECO is also investigating the potential to build and operate a small motel designed for convenient, short-term stays for incoming members of the workforce, travelers, and our people that need a place to stay while in Lach Klan.

We are starting with a feasibility study to determine its viability, developing a detailed business plan, and looking at funding opportunities. Design considerations will include the exterior aesthetics, floor plan, focusing on guest comfort, room layout, and easy access, while also incorporating different amenities, parking, and service areas. A motel could help alleviate some of the short-term accommodation needs of the village while serving as a platform to advance the training of those interested in the hospitality industry.

Fuel Station Upgrade

We are currently studying the opportunity to upgrade the fuel station in Lach Klan. We are in the early stages of project discovery – gathering information, conducting a needs analysis, examining budget costs and funding opportunities, defining the scope of the project, and identifying the potential challenges and risks.

GECO has retained the original engineering firm, Morrow Engineering, to conduct the initial site visit later this month.

The scope of this preliminary phase is to conduct a site review of the existing Fueling Facility and prepare a report with the findings. Initial focus will be:

- Existing tank system overall condition;
- Existing tank system code compliance; and
- Preliminary recommendations for development / expansion of the facility to include marine dispensing, 'pay at the pump' capability and possible tank replacement and/or storage capacity increase.



Gitxaala Forestry Operations

Gitxaala Forest Products tentatively plans to start the following operations this fall:

Captain Cove

Operations are scheduled to start in late September. Logging operations will be done by helicopter logging, or heli-logging. This form of logging is a specialized forestry practice that uses heavy-lift helicopters to extract logs from difficult-to-access or environmentally sensitive areas. Logs are attached to a cable and skyhook beneath the helicopter, which then transports them to a central landing site. Gitxaala Forest Products is awaiting the final permits for the Cutting Permit (CP) and approval from DFO for the log dump. There will be about 3 weeks to a month of falling before the helicopters show up to start logging and watering wood. The road will be reactivated up to approximately 1.3 km to replace a bridge as well as we will need to clear out an area for the helicopter service landing.

Alpha Bay

Cutting Permits, Road Permits, approval of log dump in this area are expected by the beginning of October. This will be a conventional logging operation with the first phase being the construction of a road, starting at the log dump and working back into the valley. One road/grade crew (1 excavator, one rock truck, cat and a hydraulic hoe drill) will start the log dump and road construction, with another crew being added after the first month. There will be a floating barge located in Captain Cove area to accommodate the various crews.



Our Vision

Gitxaala Enterprises will create multigenerational wealth and economic self-sufficiency through business development in a manner that aligns with the Gitxaala retention of its territory, natural resources, land, and air in a self-governing, self-sustaining way inclusive of all its citizens.

Coming later this month: Community Engagement Session

Suggest a name for our newsletter and you could win a prize. Contact Bruce Watkinson

Gitxaala Day Fishing Derby

The Gitxaala Days Celebration that took place on August 27, 2025 in Lach Klan was a great day. Gitxaala Enterprises was proud to sponsor and host the Fishing Derby. We thank all that participated in our event. Only one fish was weighed in...Congratulations to the winner of the Kids division – Mattias Robinson!! Winners of our door prizes were: Ruby Nelson, Cory Innes, Lawrence Brown, Clarence Innis, Russel Lewis, Darcy Faithful Jr, Kyle McKay Jr, Grace McKay, and Katara McKay.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2026 when we run it back bigger and better next year!

