



Negotiator's Summary



Simgiigyet, Sigimdimhanak, & Guubawilxsw

It has been a very difficult year for me, with the loss of Hanamuuxw and now Alaist. Their strength and love has been something that has given me determination in my public life and while I have their support from the spirit world, I especially miss my mother and her daily physical encouragement and support. The sadness is tremendous but I realize that it is part of the cycle of life and I must move forward, I am ever grateful for the love and support of friends and extended family who give me prayers and support daily.

This year marks a year of change and we would know life no other way. We have had two new analysts -- one for the Federal side, Ruby Porter, and one for the Provincial side, Carolyn Morris. We still have Roger Graham as Senior Negotiator and Katie Scott as Negotiator for BC and Brian Martin as Senior Federal Representative, and Jim Morgan as Negotiator for Canada.

This year we have added some new chapters and have a total of 23 that are on the table. What continues to be problematic are governance and what the Crown deems as law making authority. To that end we had a couple of Chief Negotiator meetings on the topic and trilaterally agreed to hold some in depth discussions over the last few months and until the end of 2007 to deal with substantive issues in reconciling the Gitksan Social System with Western European social systems. We have retired Chief Justice Bryan Williams facilitating these sessions and two were held in July and a final session in January 2008 will see where we go as a tripartite table. Mr Williams was counsel for the Province in Delgamuukw I and has a very good understanding of who we are and we have shown that we are willing to reconcile but it must satisfy the comfort of our decision makers, you the Simgiigyet of the Huwilp. It is very clear that Canada and B.C. must protect their interests and likewise for us – ultimately it is protection of being Gitksan.

We have delegated our authority on some of our projects but are still searching for a good fit between the matrilineal lineage of the Gitksan Simgiigyet and the Western society model and this means that accountability must always side in favor of being Gitksan. I trust that over the next few months we need focus on the 20 plus Gitksan organizations that have been founded to interface with the Crown to create a structure that leaves true decision making with the Simgiigyet and Huwilp membership....Dim Lipgyathl Huwilp Gitksan.

It is my honor to serve the Simgiigyet of the Gitksan and I remain true to my teachings and trainings passed on from my ancestors!

Gabithl Hee
Gwaans

