



Communications Officer's Summary



My name is Art Wilson or 'Wii Muk' wilixw of a Wolf Clan of 'Anspayaxw. I started this job Dec. 28, 2006. Unlike my predecessor Richard Sampson, I am not gifted of technical smarts and a University degree. My strength is mainly my traditional upbringing and the language. This is what the Treaty Office may have been looking for at the time. When I see the different policy papers yet to be ratified, and hear comments of the need to explain them in Gitksanimx, I have no problem doing that.

When I started with the Treaty Office, Gitksan Forest Enterprises just came to be. Our growing pains have mainly been 'how do we deal with our own?'. Now the wait seems to be weather related and ongoing dialogue with certain House groups and the Ministry of Forests.

As events unfolded over the year, such as Gitksan Women's Day, Kemess hearings, Gitksan cultural days etc., I take a record by way of photographs. Another responsibility has been setting up our sound system, Powerpoints and other electronic devices at important events.

Throughout the year I attend Board meetings and Gimlitxwit meetings to keep abreast of what's going on. With that I put out a glimpse of what's going on in the Bulkley Browser -- nothing is ever perfect but I try to do my best!

Over the course of the year I was helping Environment Canada consult with some Chiefs who have mountain goat ranges in their traditional territories. I just received word from them again wanting to consult with Bear Lake area Chiefs on mountain range protection. A problem is Environment Canada talks about protection from logging activities (not relevant as the terrain is too steep anyway) but leave the door open to mining interests and guide-outfitters.

The highlight of the year had to be the Gimlitxwit strategic planning session held in Prince George. It was a time to get organized, set priorities and be on the move as a Gitksan Nation. We are now doing some of the ground work of what was asked and set out at the session. The Gimlitxwit will look at these action items and ratify the finished content in many categories. This will then give the tools to the Watersheds to undertake their work with the Gitksan flavor in tact. One of my tasks now is to devise a communications strategy. A lot of that comes from what others see lacking or what can be done better. I wish you all the best in the coming year. .

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