



SDNA

Southern Dakeh Nation Alliance

Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation

Lhtako Dené Nation

Newsletter

March 2023

BIOMASS WORKSHOP SPARKS IDEAS

Over the course of two days on March 1 & 2, First Nations, government and experts met in Quesnel to discuss potential opportunities related to biomass. The Biomass Opportunities and Utilization Community Workshop was organized by FP Innovations, and facilitated by SDNA's Economic Development Strategies advisor David Hill. The workshop was funded through a grant from BC's Indigenous Bioeconomy Fund, with support from Foresight Canada.

More than 20 representatives of local First Nations, government and experts in the field of biomass and clean energy explored and discussed the importance of biomass, its potential uses for economic and other purposes, innovation and risks.

Biomass – wood or other organic material – is commonly used to make building products, heating fuel, chemicals, and even every-day products like paper cups. Often, biomass is the result of “waste” from conventional forestry operations, and sometimes left in place or even burned; however, it has the potential to play a significant role in the future economy of the Dakeh region.

Although the material is all around us – some estimates suggest there is up to 8 million cubic meters of under-cut wood fiber in the



Photo by: Candian Biomass Magazine

Quesnel Timber Supply Area alone – many of us don't fully understand what it is, how it's used today, and how it might be used in the future. There are also a lot of unanswered questions that need to be explored.

Participants heard from experts about what biomass is, how it is used, and what innovations could be made to help get more out of it through clean power, heating homes, environmentally sustainable products, and even making clean fuels for vehicles and export.

The workshop featured presentations on the 2021 Biomass Utilization Study prepared by Clean Energy Consulting for Nazko and Lhtako First Nations, and the City of Quesnel. The writers provided an overview on different types of projects and products that might be considered for the Nations and others in the region, as well as potential costs and risks associated with the different projects. Experts in biomass from FP Innovation explained what biomass is, and led discussions around the importance and values of different types of biomass, its characteristics – size, weight, moisture content, etc. – and the ways in which it can be used to make different products.

The workshop also featured presentations from guest speakers with direct experience in different biomass related projects. These included:

Gord Chipman, Esk'etmc Biomass Projects - Community heating and firewood program.

Reg Ogen & Joe Wong, Yinka Dena Limited Partnerships (Wet'suwet'en First Nation) – Development of biomass projects within the Indigenous framework, and the development of a biomass-based foam packaging.



NEWS FROM THE SDNA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ribbon Skirt Workshop



SDNA hosted a Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Workshop with the help of Corina and Valerie on February 1 – 3, 2023 at the Elks Hall in Quesnel. The snow started to fall prior to the event, so it was quite a challenge for our participants to come join due to our extreme weather. We had a good turnout for this event and had members who sewed their first ribbon skirt to others who have sewed skirts before. Quesnel's Mobile Support Team and community members stopped in to visit with the participants and we were introduced to their new Mental Health Clinician.

Thank you to Joanne Hare Twan our fabulous facilitator, Edith Alec our awesome cook from Trout Lake, BC and thank you to all our participants. Corina and Valerie are hoping to host this type of workshop at least every other month for the communities.

Child & Family Meeting at Billy Barker Showroom

SDNA held a meeting at the Billy Barker Showroom to update on the project on Child & Family on February 8, 2023. We had breakfast and visited one another before Annette Loe - Project Lead did a presentation on Bill C92. With the Quesnel Mobile Support Team assistance, we were able to share our food with clients in their home visits. This was then followed by Loretta Williams presentation on what the SDNA Health Team have done to date on the Child & Family project. Lunch was provided and we were able to share with clients at Season's House. We asked the participants for feedback, and we also handed our door prizes throughout the day.



Naming Ceremony for GR Baker Hospital

Corina and Valerie from SDNA joined our Dakelh community members for the Naming Ceremony on the new Emergency Room at GR Baker Hospital. The sign was written in Dakelh and Tsilhqot'in for "The People are Healing". This event was well attended by Lhtako Dené Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, Nazko First Nation, and ?Esdilagh First Nation community members. This was a beautiful ceremony that took about a year to happen with the Mobile Support Team with Elders from each community. Thank you Ellie Peters for our land acknowledgment, Bryant Paul for the prayer and speech, Chief Leah for the smudging/medicine teaching, and Eldzi drum group for their drumming.

Engagement with 3 Nations for Naming Ceremony in Williams Lake, BC

Three health team members from SDNA (Loretta, Valerie, and Corina) were invited to the First Nation Wellness Centre in Williams Lake. The First Nation Wellness Center invited the three Nations (Dakelh/Tsilhqot'in/Secwepemc) on March 16, 2023 to the Gibraltar Room. All logos were put on a flipchart and the facilitator asked all to vote on the saying. The one with the most votes was chosen and was brought back to the Elders to translate into their own language. This gave the three nations the opportunity to engage and visit with one another as they all knew one another from the days spent at the residential school. Thank you, to TRU Catering for the morning snacks and awesome stew for lunch.



SDNA STAFF CORNER

This month we would like to introduce to you Corina Clement.

Dahooja. My name is Corina Clement I'm from Nazko First Nation I am a daughter, sister, aunt, mother, and friend. I work in Quesnel as the Traditional Wellness Coordinator for Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (SDNA) since January 06, 2020.

I work with Elders in traditional healing, health, and wellness practices. I help people wherever they are at in their wellness journey in a non-judgmental way, with compassion, inclusion, and love. Healing happens in nature by connecting. I work great with others and help bring people together on the land, camping, berry, and medicine picking and with medicine making, ribbon skirt, etc. workshops. You may also see me around town handing out food and water to those who need it and meeting them where they are at. I'm also a part of the Nazko drum group Eldzi singers. We have drummed in many different events in Quesnel including the Quesnel rodeo, Covid-19 vaccine clinic opening, Overdose Awareness Day, and Indigenous People's Day, and many other events.

Work and family balance is very important to me; being a mom to my son, raising my sister and my nieces alongside my mom and mother-in-law is one of the most important things I've been proud of. I strive to be a positive role model for my family and people I meet along my journey and the communities I work with. *You can reach Corina at traditional.wellness@dakelh.ca or (250)-983-0274.*



Photo: Corina Clement

ELDER'S CORNER



Photo: Ellie Peters

I will tell you about my two homes. We had a summer home at Trout Lake, where we stayed in the summer time and did the hay for the horses for winterfeed. We did a lot of summer activities like berry picking, fencing, fixing fences, and fishing. We all got together and drove up to Euchiniko, or my dad would drop us off there. My brother used to flyfish and I was just casting. My mom made me a pole with fishing line at the end and if I catch a fish, I just threw it on the riverbank, I did not had to reel it in. The pole was made of willow. If you find a really straight small spruce, you can use that for a fish pole. If you cut the fresh spruce you lean it somewhere and all the sap would go down to the bottom. The next day you would peel it and let it dry out and make a fish pole out of it.

Our winter house was a trapping cabin, that was almost connected to the Grease Trail. It was very isolated. It had a crossing at the bottom of Euchiniko, that is where my dad's cabin was and the trapline goes to Pelican Lake and all the way to Hjorth Ranch. The cabin was a one room cabin. We all slept in different corners of the cabin. We had a cook stove and a heater. We had windows to the west and east. The door had a window too. We were next to a lake, but I never really knew the name of the lake. Everyone had their own trapline, my dad had his own line and I had my own line. Every morning we would have breakfast. You don't take lunch into the bush, because it attracts animals. We were taught how to shoot a rifle at a very young age. My dad showed me how to be steady with the rifle when I am shooting. For learning how to shoot, they gave us a 22. Me and my brother use to compete every day to get better at target shooting.

We used to start trapping in September for beaver, squirrel and muskrat. Then we would start trapping lynx and later mink, otter, weasel, fisher, and marten. In April we stop. You never trap wolves. The wolf has a powerful spirit. But this will be a story for next time. So stay tuned. Story by Ellie Peters