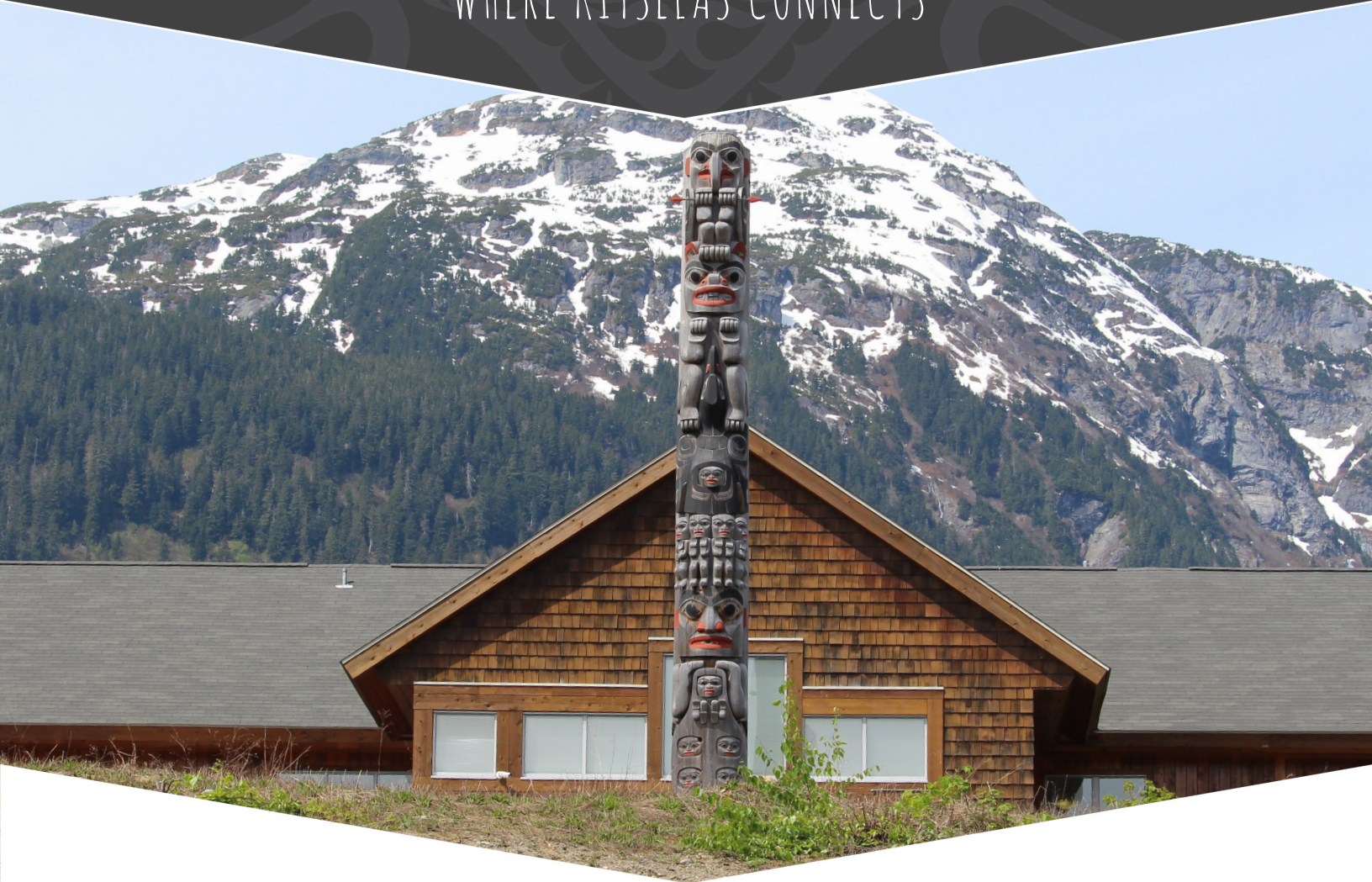


# TSUNYOW

WHERE KITSELAS CONNECTS

FEBRUARY 19, 2021



A Bi-Weekly newsletter from the



Kitselas Band Council & Administration

## IN THIS ISSUE

- |   |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | In This Issue                               | 5 | Kitselas Treaty Office Engagement |
| 2 | Kitselas Directory 2021                     | 6 | Eulachon run                      |
| 3 | Wabsuwilaks'm language presentation call-in | 7 | Cont. from pg 6                   |
| 4 | CCP 2021 Update                             |   |                                   |



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Kitselas Wabsuwilaks'm language  
teacher

# JOIN US ONLINE:

**Tuesday March 2nd  
@7:00pm**

In this meeting, I will be talking about what it is I do for your community, and all the programs available to help revive First nations Languages. This will be a Power point presentation, so it is best to have a laptop or a screen to see the presentation.

Language Teacher  
*Crystal Azak*

Here is the link to the meeting.  
<https://kitselas.webex.com/meet/language.teacher>

## MEETING CALL-IN INFO BELOW.

<https://kitselas.webex.com/meet/language.teacher>

### Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 180 237 2381

Meeting password: 6kgZq3BmBf4

### Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-855-699-3239,,1802372381## CANADA/US TOLL FREE

+1-604-646-8916,,1802372381## VANCOUVER LOCAL

### Join by phone

+1-855-699-3239 CANADA/US TOLL FREE

+1-604-646-8916 VANCOUVER LOCAL

Global call-in numbers | Toll-free calling restrictions

### Join from a video system or application

Dial 1802372381@kitselas.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

### Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial 1802372381.kitselas@lync.webex.com



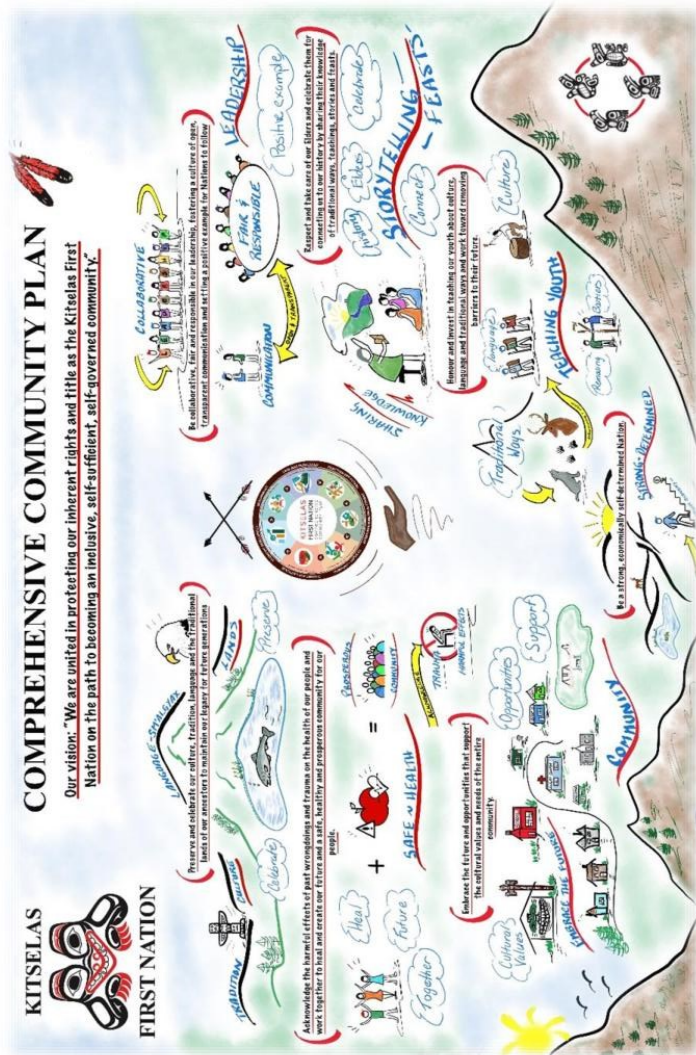
## January 2021 CCP Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the community engagement opportunities since 2018 to build the Nation's first Comprehensive Community Plan. We are pleased to announce that the draft Plan is now complete and it is currently being graphically designed to make it really shine.

We could not have made it this far without the support and participation of members and loved ones, staff and Council.


We look forward to unveiling the CCP in the coming months! Next steps include:

1. Finish designing the CCP
2. Present the CCP to the community for review and comment
3. Consider any final comments and make final edits to the CCP
4. Council adoption of the CCP
5. Celebrate the adoption of the CCP
6. Work with key staff and Members to develop the CCP Implementation Plan



For questions or more information, please contact Geneva Mason, Kitselas Community Engagement Coordinator and CCP Project Manager at:

 [cec@kitselas.com](mailto:cec@kitselas.com)

 250-615-1382

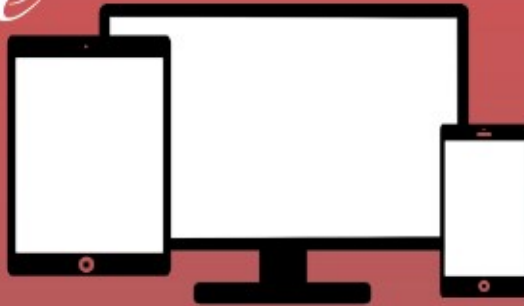
To read up on CCP progress to date visit:

<https://kitselas.com/council/comprehensive-community-planning/>



# *Kitselas Treaty*

## *Office*



Engagement Coordinator: Joan  
Mason Nyce  
treaty.engagement@kitselas.com  
250.631.3713

Guilty. We know. Kitselas Treaty Office has simply not kept you up to date on our ongoing efforts and progress... But we are going to change that, starting right now!

I am Joan Mason Nyce and I have been hired back to the Treaty Department to lead the Treaty Community Engagement efforts. I'll be reaching out to you in various ways to inform you about what is happening with the treaty process and to gather your input into our Constitution and Treaty processes. Expect regular updates, community meetings (Zoom for now), social media posts, website updates, and mailouts. We'll make sure all communications are easily available, no matter where you live - in Kitselas Community(s), locally or further away.

Chief and Council have hired David Try (Sue Bevan's husband) to act as Kitselas Senior Treaty Negotiator and Director Treaty. David understands government - he worked there for many years and has significant negotiation experience. David and Sue live in the Kulspai community.

For Treaty and Constitution, we want to hear what you think will work well for Kitselas, and what worries you too. Your input is needed! Stay tuned to make an informed decision and to keep up to date on the treaty process. We will provide honest, transparent answers to any questions or concerns you raise.

**Watch for details on our next Treaty community Zoom meeting**

**March 3, 2021.**

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# EULACHON RUN

## What you need to know

February marks the beginning of the eulachon run. While the population and timing of the eulachon varies greatly from year to year, we are expecting to welcome this small but mighty fish to our river beginning in the third week of February.

## Traditional importance

The Kitselas Nation has long used the fat of the eulachon fish (w̓ah) to make grease (Smk'awtsii) that is highly nutritional and has medicinal, traditional and ceremonial uses. Historically, particularly in the Nass Valley, the trade of Smk'awtsii/ grease brought the highest levels of traffic along the trade routes connecting coastal First Nations to interior First Nations. These trade routes have existed for thousands of years.

## Ecological importance

The eulachon is an at-risk species. Over the last forty years, the w̓ah/eulachon population has decreased to less than ten percent of what it once was, as a result of overfishing and climate change. Because of this, and other biological factors, the w̓ah/eulachon run is extremely variable and unpredictable from year to year.

W̓ah are prey for fish, mammals and birds, both at sea and in freshwater. They are an important food source for fish like Pacific hake and cod at sea, and white sturgeon when they migrate to rivers. W̓ah are also vital for the food supply of seagulls, bald eagles, seals, porpoises, sea lions and fin whales.

## Eulachon life cycle

W̓ah spend most of their life in the sea. They are spawned in freshwater near rivers' estuaries and along inlets where hatching takes three to four weeks. When w̓ah eggs hatch, they are flushed out to the sea where they stay until spawning age. Then, between the ages of 2 and 4, they migrate to one of the species' spawning rivers and undergo physiological changes that allow them to survive in freshwater.

W̓ah can be found in up to 100 different rivers from the west coast of northern California up to the eastern Bering sea, and in at least 38 rivers in British Columbia alone. But the w̓ah found in the Skeena River are biologically unique to those that inhabit other rivers. In the Skeena River, w̓ah spawn at the age of three, unlike other rivers where they spawn at ages 2 or 4.

W̓ah of the Skeena and Nass Rivers do not migrate to the west coast of Vancouver Island during the marine period of their life, unlike the w̓ah of the Fraser River and surrounding area. Instead, they migrate to Chatham Sound. While the Nass and Skeena Rivers are close in proximity, even between these rivers w̓ah are biologically greatly different. This explains, among other factors, why the Skeena and Nass runs are so different from each other.



W̓ah (Eulachon) fishing in the Skeena River using a Dagaat (Eulachon Net).



## What you need to know for this year's run

Every year, the Kitselas Land and Resource Development (KLRD) works to closely monitor and better understand the Skeena River's eulachon populations so that this cultural and food resource can remain a part of the Kitselas Nation for generations to come.

The size of the eulachon run is unpredictable. Last year's low Skeena run meant limited availability to distribute eulachon to Kitselas citizens. While we can't know the size of this year's run, our best efforts will be put to acquiring fish for as much of the community as possible.

This year, KLRD is partnering with the Kitselas Employment Training program on a community fishing program to bring Kitselas citizens in closer relationship with eulachon. You can learn more about participating by connecting with the team at [fishing@kitselastraining.com](mailto:fishing@kitselastraining.com).

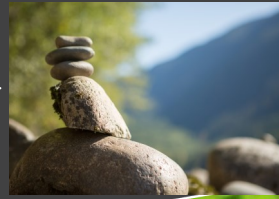
Finally, if you are planning on doing your own eulachon fishing, please:

- Make sure you have your band membership card with you.
- Email or call Cynthia Barwell with your estimated catch at 250-641-7616 or [seniorRSO@kitselas.com](mailto:seniorRSO@kitselas.com)
- Practice extra caution on the river as the conditions are particularly icy this winter!





FEBRUARY 19, 2021



## KITSELAS CONNECTS

Is put together by the Kitselas Communications Department.

Please email [communications@kitselas.com](mailto:communications@kitselas.com) with any info - events, news, fundraisers, photos, etc. - that you would like to share with the community.

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday.

Call 250-635-5084 Ext. 4071 with any questions

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