BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM

On January 24-25, 2013 BC First Nations leaders and Chiefs came together at BC Chief’s Meeting with the First Nations Leadership Council, and the AFN Nation Chief, BC Regional Chief and the Regional Chief from New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island to discuss the AFN Consensus Document and the 8 Points for Action.

At the BC Chief’s Meeting, a Declaration supporting the 8 Points for Action was developed and the BC Regional Chief committed to organizing a duly convened BC Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs’ Assembly in the near future.

It was resolved that the Chief’s who were present at the meeting endorse the AFN Consensus Document and support the direction provided through the 8 Points for Action. They also gave their support for the development of an action plan around the 8 Points for Action as well as support the AFN National Chief and the BC Regional Chief and direct them to bring forth the 8 Points for Action to the Prime Minister and Privy Council for action and implementation.

For more information, you can also visit:
http://www.syilx.org/2013/02/building-on-the-momentum/
The Penticton Indian Band and the Okanagan Nation Alliance have been working in collaboration to find potential solutions for providing fish passage at Shingle Dam.

**ISSUE WITH SHINGLE DAM:**
Shingle Dam was built in 1952 for water withdrawal purposes (irrigation and domestic). Today, water withdrawals at the dam are discontinued. The dam currently contains a fish ladder that has not been operational at low flows and even during its operation has been regularly obstructed with debris as well as prevents fish access to 37 km of upstream habitat in Shingle Creek and Shatford Creek.

**PROJECT GOAL:**
To provide fish passage at the Shingle Dam especially for resident Trout and Kokanee, as well as, Steelhead, Sockeye and Chinook (fish passage at the dam in Okanagan Falls is expected by 2015). Potential options include: building a series of backwatering riffles downstream the dam, notch the dam, removing the dam or building a fish way around the dam.

**POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR FISH PASSAGE AT SHINGLE DAM:**
- Fisheries design criteria include: flood protection and stream & bank stability at high flows, as well as, fish passage (water depth, jump height) at low flows.
- Other PIB criteria (such as TEK, cultural protocols, swimming & fishing access, memorial, and beaver management) are to be determined and included.

**OPTION 1 – BUILDING BACKWATERING RIFFLES DOWNSTREAM THE DAM:**
- Involves the building of 2-4 riffles. The riffles create a deep pool below the dam. The dam is backwatered (flooded) and becomes fish passable. The first downstream riffle is as high as the dam crest (high riffle) with the pool/riffle sequences enhancing fish habitat.
  - The riffles are natural-like structures built with compacted angular rocks covered with stream gravels, cobbles and boulders. Riffle materials are stable at various flows. The flood protection of Green Mountain Road is maintained with small adjustments to the existing berms and involves the removal and re-planting of riparian vegetation. Overtime, sediments will accumulate in the pool below the dam until covering completely the dam and pool (long term).
  - Cost effective option

**OPTION 2 – NOTCHING THE DAM AND BUILDING BACKWATERING RIFFLES:**
- Similar to option 1, but involves cutting/notching the dam. The notch lowers the dam crest and reduces the required height of the 1st downstream riffle (smaller riffle than option 1). The width and depth of the notch are under review for potential concentration flow at low flows. Structural integrity issues could arise while cutting the dam. This will involve the removal of the sediments accumulated upstream and increases downstream sediment transport (gravel recruitment), as less sediments are to be accumulated upstream of the dam.
  - Do not require adjustments of the existing flood protection berms. Lower impact on existing riparian vegetation.
OPTION 3 – REMOVING THE DAM AND RE-PROFILING THE CREEK:

- The dam is removed (de-commissioned) and the creek bed is re-profiled to stable slope, with a series of pools/riffles
- Enhances fish habitat. Increases downstream sediment transport (gravel recruitment)
- Involves the removal of the sediments accumulated upstream the dam and the addition of large quantity of rocks and gravels downstream of the dam
- Most expensive option
- Involves complex approval/regulatory process and complete environmental protection during construction works (higher environmental risks and uncertainties during construction works)
- Involves the removal and re-planting of riparian vegetation (larger impact on riparian vegetation)

Option 4 - BUILDING A FISH WAY AROUND THE DAM:

- A fish ladder or a more natural open channel built around the dam on the South side of the creek
- Requires frequent maintenance works (debris removal) after construction (higher long term maintenance)
- Involves the removal and re-planting of riparian vegetation (small impact)

Shuttleworth Creek is a significant tributary of the Okanagan River. When flows are sufficient, the creek provides rearing and spawning areas for trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) as well as diverse habitats and abundant riparian vegetation for other fish and wildlife. Shuttleworth Creek is accessible to anadromous salmon, in particular Steelhead (*O.mykiss*), due to recent (2009) fish passage modifications constructed at McIntyre Dam.

There are 13 water licenses in total on Shuttleworth Creek. The Allendale WUC has 12 of these. The 13th license is a single water user located approximately one kilometer downstream of the Allendale intake. The WUC intake accounts for 79% of creek flows diverted. The research and communication for this project began in November 2011. Stream monitoring and fish studies on Shuttleworth Creek resulted in community and governmental concern for fish flows and stream habitat. It was determined that the WUC water withdrawal was exacerbating these issues. Communication and meetings began with WUC and with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MoFLNRO) to determine how these issues could be resolved. The ONA worked with the WUC and contractors to start with the most simple, effective and inexpensive plan. Many plans were worked through, each one unsuccessful due to unavailable groundwater, topography complications, and conservation land priority. The current plan was developed and all landowners approved in October 2012.

For more information, please contact:
Zoe Masters, Geomorphologists
T: (866) 662-9609
E: geo1@syilx.org
BEST WISHES IN 2013 FROM NATURAL RESOURCE

ABORIGINAL MATERNAL HEALTH TALKING CIRCLES

On February 13th, 2013, Interior Health: Aboriginal Health will be hosting the Talking Circles from 9am to 4pm at the Elders Hall - Westbank First Nation. The Talking Circles will focus on implementing culturally-relevant, holistic and wellness-focused services, incorporating traditional teachings, languages and culture into maternal health, supporting the transfer of Elders’ knowledge and experience, taking ownership of health care delivery and prevention and promotion in child and maternal health.

Everyone interested in Aboriginal health delivery is invited to gather and share their maternal health journey.

Registration is limited with only 50 seats available. Lunch and snacks will be provided with a $25 gift card to all those who attend. A subsidy for travel and accommodation is available for those participants on a need-by-need basis.

Deadline to register is: February 6th, 2013.

For more information or to register, please contact:
Yvette Bolduc
Gathering Coordinator
T: (250) 882-8737
F: (250) 386-4289
E: ybolduc@telus.net

Nadine Gagne
AECID Coordinator
T: (250) 707-0095
E: ngagne@syilx.org

As ‘our Syilx water’ team continues to work with communities, below is a list of confirmed dates for community meetings. If your community is not on the list, check back with us in next month’s E-News, or on Facebook for updates! Please contact us anytime if you would like to share your Syilx perspective on water!

• Joint TEK Committee Meeting: January 24th at the En’owkin Centre (contact Chad Eneas, TEK Coordinator)
• OKIB Elders Meeting: February (date to be confirmed, please check back on our website)

“Water is the driving force of all nature.” Leonardo Da Vinci

All the best in the New Year,
James Pepper, NR Manager
Kathy Holland, Researcher
Jeremy Crow, NR Assistant
Meghan Fisher, Coordinator
POWER OF COMMUNITY: ONA AND ONEMATCH WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

Our communities are not only our neighbours, co-workers and friends; they are also our partners, traditions and the ability to unite when it matters most. The strength of a community is tested during a time of need by what its members do to help one of their own. When it comes to the need of Aboriginal stem cell patients the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network have joined forces to ensure more Aboriginal donors are able to help their communities lead happy and healthy lives.

“Our Nation’s member communities’ health staff has collaborated in our efforts to raise public awareness amongst our First Nations about the work of Canadian Blood Services and OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network,” says Pauline Terbasket ONA Executive Director. It is not only because of the ONA’s mandate to plan, collaborate, and meet their Nations’ health priorities, that Pauline became aware of the work OneMatch is doing for Aboriginal patients – she also has a very personal reason to be involved. Her brother’s need of a stem cell donor, made her acutely aware of how underrepresented Aboriginal people are on Canada’s stem cell Network.

“I would not have known of One Match if my brother was not in need of a stem cell donor,” says Pauline. She adds, “Now, stem cell advocacy is a big priority for the ONA and partnerships between our organizations will naturally benefit both our work and all Aboriginal patients in need.” Finding a match for Aboriginal patients is challenging, as less than 1% of all donors on the OneMatch Network are Aboriginal, and the most successful match is between a patient and donor of the similar ancestry. Our Aboriginal people are unique to North America, so finding that match anywhere else in the world is not an option, which is why more Canadian First Nations people are needed to register as stem cell donors.

Since learning about her brother’s need, and then meeting with OneMatch representatives at the First Nation’s Health Council’s Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey conference, Pauline and the ONA have invited OneMatch to participate in the Wellness Gathering.

There, OneMatch worked side by side with local nurses and ONA Wellness Committee members to raise awareness about stem cell donation, as well as register new potential donors.

The ONA Wellness Gathering also marked a milestone in the partnership between ONA and OneMatch, when Chief Jonathan Kruger swabbed his cheek and became a potential stem cell donor. Chief Kruger is one of the first Chiefs in BC to register as a stem cell donor, showing his support and providing an example for others in his community to register and help all Aboriginal patients in need.

OneMatch is looking forward to continuing to work side by side with First Nations nurses in bringing information on how each community can help save lives of their own through registering as stem cell donors. The leadership and guidance of the ONA and band leaders is instrumental in educating our BC First Nations about their power to help patients in need in ways that respect and honour each Nation’s culture and traditions. “Developing a working relationship with OneMatch has been an educational and rewarding experience. It has created an opportunity to educate, become informed and raise awareness of the importance of becoming a stem cell donor as not only a First Nation citizen of our Tribe, but a human being,” notes Pauline.

Working together on helping Aboriginal stem cell patients reach better health outcomes, begins with understanding. The partnership between ONA and our member Communities with OneMatch will save lives. Other partnerships of such significance in the health field have yet to be founded and grown between mainstream health care and that of First Nation communities and governments. “We are pleased to lead this process in BC by ensuring ONA, our communities and OneMatch work together to help Aboriginal patients get the care they need.” adds Pauline.

For more information, please visit: www.onematch.ca
AFN SEEKS TO REQUEST EXTENSION OF THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (IAP)

AFN would like to hear from any individual or organization that has reports that a former Indian Residential School (IRS) student was unable to apply for the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) by the September 19, 2012 deadline.

The AFN is requesting that individuals send a letter outlining the details or reasons surrounding this matter. In particular, please provide information on the following:

- Name of potential claimant
- Where one had no knowledge of the deadline, provide details on their circumstances and if this lack of information was community wide
- Circumstances where they were physically unable to apply due to hospitalization, sickness, mental illness, incarceration, or being outside of the country
- Where a claimant retained a third party to file the IAP application, and such application was never filed
- Please indicate whether or not they would file an IAP application if they are given the opportunity to do so

This information is compiled and used to seek an appropriate extension to the IAP deadline. AFN’s request to extend the deadline is not guaranteed, as only the Courts can grant this request.

Please send information to:
Charlene Belleau
473 Albert Street, 9th floor
Ottawa, ON
K1R 5B4
E: cbelleau@afn.ca

The AFN is continuing to advocate for former IRS students in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). Such information will assist in this advocacy.

You can also visit: www.afn.ca

IDLE NO MORE

On January 11th close to 90 community members gathered in Westbank in support of First Nations leaders and Chiefs who were meeting in Ottawa with the Prime Minister to voice their concerns over the omnibus Bill C-45.

The Joint Review Panel of the National Energy Board held hearings on the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal on January 28th in downtown Kelowna to which community members rallied together with the Charter of Canadians, Nelson Chapter.

To be informed of upcoming events, please visit: http://idlenomore.ca/
WHAT’S HAPPENING

CEC Meetings
Westbank, BC

February 7, 2013 CRT- Crown Engagement Meeting
February 8, 2013 Health Strategy Session

BC Aboriginal Track & Field Development Camp
Tournament Capitol Centre, Kamloops, BC
February 15, 2013 9am – 3pm

Aboriginal youth (10-18) are invited to improve their skills and learn new ones while experiencing a variety of Track & Field events with top BC coaches/instructors. Lunch will be provided. Free to register.
Register before February 8th, 5pm

To register, please contact:
Anne Keith
T: (250) 828-9801
E: akeith@kib.ca

Syilx Language & Traditional Practices
Westbank First Nation Health Building
1900 Quail Lane

February 18, 2013  5:00 – 7:30 pm
WFN Health Building, Siya Room
Continued Dip net tying with a Needle

February 25, 2013  5:00 – 7:30 pm
WFN Health Building, Siya Room
Identification of Rocks/Minerals used for tools & technology

Each session will include a meal, language instructions and traditional practice activities. Pre-Registration is required.

Please contact:
Pamela or Grouse
T: (250) 768-7051
pbarnes@shaw.ca

Professional Development Day
February 20th, 2013 10 am – 3pm
Elks Hall, Keremeos BC

The ONA Fisheries is having their annual professional development day. All are welcome with lunch provided.

For more information, please contact:
Karilyn Alex
T: (866) 662-9609
E: kalex@syilx.org

National Aboriginal Physical Activity Conference 2013
February 21 – 22, 2013

Please join us to promote physical activity in Aboriginal communities through sports, recreation, fitness & traditional activities.
To view more on this conference, please visit: www.a-pacc.com

Spirit of the Syilx Youth Unity Run
May 31st – June 2nd, 2013

Running from Revelstoke to Westbank, BC

To obtain more information or to get a registration form, please visit:

Emily Carr Summer Institute for Teens
July 2-26th, 2013 from Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm

The Summer Institute for Teens is a pre-university program that helps teens to read themselves for an education at an Art-Design University through an immersive one-month experience that engages teens aged 15 to 18 in intensive studio practice and visual culture.

For more information, please visit: www.teens.ecuad.ca
PHOTO GALLERY

Idle No More in Vancouver, BC

Idle No More in Westbank, BC

Idle No More at Enbridge meeting in Kelowna

Idle No More at Enbridge meeting in Kelowna

NRC Chair Chief Dan Manuel Stepping down

TEK Meeting at En’owkin Centre, Penticton BC