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A weekly summation of the *Gathering Place* workshops

# The Gathering Gazette

current topics >>>

## A message of appreciation

Da Daghay Development Corporation thanks each and every one of you for spending your evening with us. We are honoured to be a part of this visioning and realization of a crucial part of the future of the Ta'an Kwäch'an Nation.

It goes without saying that this is much more than a building, and more than just a series of planning workshops. The visioning and planning process strives to be also a process of healing, of open dialogue, and reconnection.

We know there were many citizens unable to attend this first workshop. Following each workshop, this newsletter will be circulated to everyone so that your thoughts and feelings about the ultimate building, are honoured and included throughout the process.

To get in touch anytime, contact:

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## The Importance of Home What is this all about....

*"To provide, promote, protect, and sustain a healthy, strong lifestyle for our Citizens and future generations consistent with the traditional values of the Ta'an Kwäch'an."*

Wednesday March 6, saw close to 60 people sitting down to envision the future Administrative / Gathering Place building.

Participants were welcomed by words from Chief Kane, Chief Executive Officer of Da Daghay Development Corporation, Ben Asquith, and introduced to the consultant team including Joe Glynn (Evergreen Homes), Jack Kobayashi and his team (Kobayashi Zedda Architects), and Alexandra de Jong Westman (ElknWillow Environmental Consulting).

After an opening prayer from Elder Julia Broeren, and dinner, participants came together to discuss and share personal thoughts and feelings about all the things that make you, Ta'an Kwäch'an.

There were some themes that arose from the conversations, and the main one was a need for a sense of place...of home. The role of a home and a sense of place in a person's life story can be significant...even for those who have left the land of their ancestors, a smell,

a taste, a sound, can all evoke strong memories.

No matter what place you call home, the word resonates with all of us. A home can be a physical space, a geographic place, an emotional state, a

spiritual plane, or a group of people. It may be safe to say, there was consensus on many fronts. Feedback on the evening was positive, and hope-filled.

We appreciate everyone's generosity of spirit and time, and your rapt attention and participation at this event. We are committed to rectifying the challenges for next week.

*A building to reflect our culture, our heritage, our connection to the land, and the connections of our people.*



setting the stage >>>

# What makes you, you?

*We need to know where we are coming from to know where we are going.*



*Ta'an Kwach'an Dancers  
Photo credit: Ta'an Kwäch'an Council*

*The strength and wisdom of my mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and great great grandmother...*

*A sense of humour.*

*My identity, my culture, where I come from.*

*We honour the land and what it brings for us.*

*Being from this area.*

*I was born here, lived here, and have family here.*



*Spring Camp 2015  
Photo credit: Ta'an Kwäch'an Council*

*Our ancestry... we know this land and the area.*

*We respect the places and the animals.*

*We know our relatives from other places and their history.*



*Photo credit: Ta'an Kwäch'an Council, Lands Branch*

On being... >>>

# What is your purpose?

*Purpose more often than not, guides life decisions, influences behaviors, shapes goals, and offers an individual a sense of direction and meaning. Where do you find purpose?*

*Living in harmony with God and nature.*

*Share, care, and help.*

*Connections with all citizens.*

*Be connected to the land.*

*Positive teachings*

*Respect for all of nature.*

*Share traditional knowledge with others and likeminded First Nations Governments.*

*Establish a home base for the Ta'an Nation.*

*Grow our government.*

*Pulling everything and everyone back together again.*

*Successful implementation of our land claims.*

*Be accessible.*



*Photo credit: Ta'an Kwäch'an Council Lands Branch*

*Share, share, share*

*Build relationships and partnerships.*

*Identify opportunities for growth.*

# Where do you see yourselves in the future?

Knowing where you are going has a lot to do with where you've come from. The question was posed, where you see yourselves, your community, your culture... in 5 years? 10 years? 30 years? See what you had to say...



Photo credit: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

## In 5 years...

Have our own administrative building... maybe downtown, maybe Laberge.

Potlatch house

Thriving in our ways on the land.

Starting a subdivision

Well-established culture camps at Lake Laberge, 30-Mile, and Livingston Creek

Helen's Fish Camp fixed-up with a new kitchen.

## In 10 years ...

All our youth would be very active in all aspects of Ta'an.

Interacting with each other more, and getting back into traditional ways.

Potlatch House

Having more of our people involved and making the best of things.

Opportunities for growth are realized, with government being the opportunity for employment for all citizens.

## In 30-years...

Happy hunting grounds

Everyone getting along.

Having more of our citizens participating

A united people, all getting along.

More people involved, and making the best of things.

## What are the challenges?

No Parking

Losing a lot as a First Nation.

Too many non-TKC members hired

Health Department not doing enough to address fentanyl crisis.

Business held up by personal agendas.

Government keeps growing, but there is no space.

We have no big home to call our own.

Current Admin building is unhealthy... need a short- and long-term plan.

Lack of knowledge of our history as a Nation.

Lack of economic success, communities with full bellies don't fight with each other over resources (like Ireland).

Ta'an needs to be more selective with new citizens who are applying.

More training for citizens needed.

Too few people coming to work, but no room to hire.

Current administrative space does not support confidentiality or privacy.

No capital agreement attached to lands, or agreement to engage with the City of Whitehorse.

# What are you most proud of?

*Maintaining and revitalizing traditional practices, and cultivating the pride of heritage and culture, is proven to strengthen communities.*

*Quitting smoking*

*Being able to speak and understand Southern Tutchone (Lake Laberge dialect)*

*Just happy, love to play pool.*

*Helping people where I live to be respectful with their children.*

*Maintaining sobriety.*

*Working on health and fitness, exercising.*

*Helping the people I love*

*Values, Culture, traditions.*

*Looking to the future and working together.*

*Working at becoming self sufficient.*

*Personal accomplishments*

*Healthy living*

*BE HAPPY!!!*

*Understanding our language*

*Understanding values and traditions.*

*LOVE AND PLAY*

*Land Claims Agreement that encompasses our own Self Governing Agreement*

*That we separated from KDFN and reclaimed our own identity.*

**Next workshop >>>**

**March 13, 2019**

*What does your legacy need to function?*

Come back to the Gold Rush Inn, enjoy more food, and share your thoughts about what services and structures are needed by the Nation to address the challenges, and cultivate the strengths.

*Questions? Comments? Suggestions?*

*Please let us know!*

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