

## **SNTC Chiefs' Meeting Updates June 2009**

*The first Wednesday of each month marks the coming together of the chiefs of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) to voice their concerns and ideas, setbacks and successes, their community's needs and wants.*

In preparation for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) quarterly council meeting, the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) chiefs met in Vancouver on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

The first order of business was a discussion surrounding the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act, and the SNTC's stance regarding this matter. SNTC has asserted itself as the official opposition following an abstention to vote on the matter at the March UBCIC quarterly council meeting. The chiefs resolved to propose that the resolution passed by the SNTC council of chiefs in May be presented to the UBCIC.

The risks associated with the development of a pipeline by Enbridge were reported to the council of chiefs. Secwepemc communities could potentially be vastly affected in the event that the pipeline was ever damaged resulting in the contamination of our rivers. The council of chiefs has resolved to write the Crown concerning the consultation process, and is also determined to engage with Enbridge to discuss ways in which to limit hazardous affects on the environment.

The SNTC council of chiefs' portfolios have been distributed and adopted in principle. With the distribution of portfolios complete, the following measure to be taken will be the development of specific portfolio strategies.

As per the approval of a tribal council resolution, the SNTC forestry department will commence work on a Cultural Heritage Values project with the help of the SNTC Forestry Technical Committee, and the Consultation and Accommodation Committee. The project is expected to be complete within a three month time frame.

The communications strategy with the inclusion of amendments suggested from the previous council of chiefs' meeting has been adopted as of June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Assembly of First Nations national chief election is scheduled to take place July 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Candidates for this position are Shawn Atleo of British Columbia, John Beaucage of Ontario, and Perry Bellegarde of Saskatchewan.

The Shuswap Gathering hosted by the Shuswap Indian Band will be taking place July 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. A template strategy for the planning of future gatherings will be developed to assist communities in the successful completion of this daunting task.

Chief Bob Chamberlain of the Kwicksutaineuk/Ah-Kwa-Mish First Nation met with the council of chiefs to discuss his election to the UBCIC executive committee. Chief Chamberlain was appointed by acclamation to the executive committee secretary position June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Donations were approved to both the Round Lake Treatment Centre, and the Walk4Justice. For future donations a policy will be developed and implemented capping donation dollars in order to maximize the budget.

Chiefs in attendance were Chiefs Felix Arnouse, Wayne Christian, Rick Deneault, Shane Gottfriedson, Nelson Leon, Keith Matthew, and Judy Wilson.