



?AQ'AM

**2022-23 Fiscal Year
Annual Report**

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Nasu?kin's Welcome

Ki?su?k kyukyt, Qapiniski#

I'm writing in August of 2023, to welcome you to read through the *?aqam Annual Report* for the past fiscal year. This document covers the time between from April 2022 and March 2023.

There were many highlights 'between the seasons' and Council and I are honoured to be able to share them with you in the following pages.

We hope you will find what's included to be valuable, and invite you to talk to us about anything you have questions or thoughts about.

And we hope you are inspired by reading about the good things that happened last year, the successes we've built on, and the new initiatives that will benefit our community.

There are many opportunities for ?aqamnik here at ?aqam. From Language and Culture lessons, meetings and celebrations, to accessible health care, assistance with business development, and more.

There are also many avenues for ?aqamnik to create *new* opportunities.

We know everything can be improved. In fact, we're learning this lesson every day, every time we hear from you and share with you.

So I'd like to devote the rest of this welcome to acknowledge the wildfire emergency that challenged our community. First of all, I thank the Creator for protecting ?aqamnik's lives during the fire.

On July 17 a fire sparked along the Mission Wasa

Low Road and spread incredibly fast. It was relentless, and within a few minutes ?aqamnik were evacuating, and homes were burning to the ground.

To say the community was thrown into collective shock is an understatement.

This shock is still evident in many of us. I feel it in myself, and I recognize it in others. It's a natural result of the danger and the loss the fire brought with it. Some lost nearly everything except the clothes on their backs. Everyone lived with the constant threat and uncertainty for several weeks of evacuation, and, of course, some still are not at home yet as their homes were destroyed.

At that time of the fire, we were freshly grieving some of our beloved community members, and we were meeting to hold very tough conversations about community safety at ?aqam.

So many of us were already nearing, or beyond, our limits, and then the fire.

I won't go into every detail. By now ?aqamnik are top-level experts on fire behaviour, on the difference between an evacuation '*order*' and an '*alert*,' on how to pick through mountains of used clothing, on 'danger trees' and freezer thaws and more.

The shock of the fire isn't a 'once and done' thing.

Everyone is at different stages in processing the trauma we know it created, and the trauma we know it reignited. Like fire behaviour in the wind, how we experience our trauma can shift direction suddenly and without warning.

Today, we are grieving several more of our beloved ʔaqamnik, those who passed away after the fire emergency, including an Elder. We're grieving so many losses. It's a river of grief, and we are still here as it washes over us.

There are no magic words, no quick fixes, no short cuts to recovery. Our hearts are breaking a little bit every day about some new awareness or some memory or loss.

What we're facing now is each other, ourselves, our losses, and our next steps.

I pray for us to find ways to *mend* our hearts in the steps we take to recovery. To accept and allow the grieving, to navigate this river, and share our burdens in a healing way. Let's lift each other up with encouragement and prayer, laughter, and practical help.

The heart lives to express gratitude, so I'd like to express some gratitude on behalf of myself, council and our members to those people *who showed up for us* during the fire and the evacuation.

We are and will remain grateful to:

Cranbrook Fire Department, led by Scott Driver.
Regional District of East Kootenay, Loree Duczek,
Information Officer and the East Kootenay Emergency Management Team.

Kimberley Fire Department

BC Wildfire Service, Incident Commander Daniel Klien

Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue, Stephanie and team of volunteers.

Red Cross Volunteers that supported Emergency Social Service

College of the Rockies, for the use of their dormitories

ʔaqam Emergency Management Team, led by

Michelle Shortridge, Sloane More, Max Andrew and supported by ʔaqam Staff.

Ktunaxa Nation Council, administration and staff, led by Codie Morigeau.

ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation

Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓ti'it

Yaqa Nuʔkiy

RCMP Cst. Monte Webb

Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR)

Indigenous Services Canada

First Nations Health Authority

Local residents and volunteers for their support and kindness

All the contractors and firefighters who responded to our Community from across Canada and the United States

We're grateful to every ʔaqamnik, both those who are with us, and those who have passed on.

We remember our Elders, our youth, our parents and our ancestors. And we remember who we were before we were shocked by the wildfire and our recent losses of family members.

Council and I commit to working together with you to rebuild and recover, while also carrying on the day-to-day and project work we are planning between now and next summer.

It's going to be a wild year. I pray it will be wild the way *huckleberries* are wild, and grizzlies, and streams.

No matter what, let's be proud of our community, and good to each other.

Nasuʔkin Joe Pierre

Administration Welcome

Ki?su?k kyukyit, Qapiniski#

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. I wanted to take a moment to address our Administration and emphasize the importance of our role as professionals in driving the success of kniłwiātiyała (Our Thinking – Strategic plan).

As the Chief Administrative Officer, I am committed to ensuring that our administrative processes are not just efficient, but also aligned with ka kniłwitiyała. Each task we handle, from managing schedules and resources to maintaining a productive work environment, contributes to the overall growth and prosperity of our organization.

In the coming weeks, I will focus on the following key areas:

Collaboration: Let's continue to work collaboratively with our Elders, communicate across departments, sharing best practices and leveraging our collective expertise. By collaborating with the ?aqam community, we foster innovation and helps us find new ways to optimize our administrative workplans.

Efficiency: Efficiency is at the core of what we do. By consistently seeking ways to streamline our administrative tasks, we free up valuable time and resources that can be channeled into ka kniłwiātiyała.

Adaptability: The Indigenous landscape is ever evolving. As administrative professionals serving the community, our ability to adapt to changes and embrace new technologies is crucial. I remain open to learning and integrating new tools that enhance our efficiency.

Communication: Effective communication is the backbone of any successful team. I encourage an open-door policy – if you have suggestions, concerns, or ideas, my door is always open. Additionally, regular public meetings will provide a platform to discuss progress and address any challenges.

Together, we can drive positive change, elevate our administrative processes, and contribute significantly to the overall success for the ?aqam community.

Thank you for your commitment and efforts. Here's to a productive and rewarding journey ahead!

Best regards,

Michael Frank

CAO for ?aqam Community.



Operations and Community Services

Health and Wellness

Services of the Health and Wellness Department include, but are not limited to: Home and Community Care program, clinic visits, immunizations, care aide support, harms reduction, medical patient travel, assistance with medical benefits, transportation to and from medical appointments. We have seen an increase in community members accessing the community shower room, with support from our registered care aide.

Immunization Program

Partners: FNHA, BCCDC, Ktunaxa Health

Through training and support from FNHA and KNC Health, our community health nurse can provide regular scheduled immunizations from ages 4 and up. This is very exciting for the Health and Wellness Centre and is in line with providing optimal health to all ʔaqam community members.

Our community health nurse was able to participate in school immunizations with Yaqaan Nuʔkiy. In January we had our school health checks at ʔaqamnik school. We work collaboratively with Ktunaxa Nation Council Health to ensure the healthcare of all ʔaqamnik is being provided to a level of high standard.

Period Poverty Pilot Project

Partners: United Way, BC Government

We were successful in obtaining funding from United Way and the Government of BC for a period poverty pilot project to ensure ʔaqam community members have free access to menstrual products. The pilot project ends in August 2023 and the final report of findings will be submitted to the United Way and Government of BC for review.

Community Recreation Fund

Partner: ʔaᑭam

ʔaᑭam Council has established an annual recreational fund for the benefit of all ʔaᑭamnik. ʔaᑭamnik members are encouraged to apply for funding each fiscal year.

Weekly Food Bank Delivery

Partners: Cranbrook Food Bank, Cranbrook, and Kimberley Food Hub

To address the need for food security, ʔaᑭam partnered up with the Cranbrook Food Bank and the Cranbrook and Kimberley Food Hub.

Weekly food bank deliveries have been established with the idea of helping the community members reduce food insecurity issues and the stigma of accessing the food bank. This program has been successful in the number of applicants accessing the food bank and the number of clients transitioning to accessing the food bank on their own with continued support from the team.

Harms Reduction

Partners: FNHA, Towards the Heart, Wolf Creek Consulting

We continue to provide harms reduction support. We provide harms reduction supplies and naloxone training. Our community health nurse was able to attend the first ever Not Just Naloxone Summit in March 2023. It was a wonderful experience where valuable knowledge on community engagement was gained and brought back some great takeaways (benefits of share circles, traditional practices etc.)

The team has been working with Wolf Creek Consulting to provide seminars about substance use and to help develop a community directed plan.





Recreation Programs

Partners: Cranbrook Ball Minor, ʔaḡamnik School, ʔaḡam community members/volunteers, RCMP – Cranbrook Detachment, Sport Canada, I-SPARC, Kimberley Youth Action Network, Kootenay East Youth Soccer Association, N’we Jinan, Basin Plays Youth Network, Kootenay Archery, Arq Mountain Center, Diversity Talent

The annual recreation program plan included various activities throughout the year. Some of the most notable ones included: White Water Rafting, Painting Nights, Floor Hockey Nights, Pickleball Drop In, Summer Sports Camp, Field Trips, Going MILES Youth Empowerment Workshop, Wall Climbing, Indoor Soccer, Drop-In Soccer Programs, Baseball Challenger, and other activities that were organized throughout the year.

Fit Nation – Wellness Warriors – Indigenous Youth Recreation Program

Partner: Sport Canada

The “Fit Nation – Wellness Warriors” program was designed as a successor of the “Commit to be Fit” program with direct support to provide more recreation opportunities combined with coaching development.

- Indoor Soccer Sessions at New Dawn Place.
- Summer Sports Camp at New Dawn Place
- Painting Night
- Drop-In Pickleball

Self-Sustainable Funding Model

Partners: Basin Youth Network, ViaSport, Sport Canada, Basin Youth Network, Columbia Basin Trust, I-SPAC, First Nations Health Authority, Toronto Blue Jays Community Program, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program

All of the activities, projects, and overall programming that occurred in the previous year were funded with the use of funds and grants obtained from partnering organizations and agencies.

Youth Cultural Music Video “Culture”

Partner: N’we Jinan

‘*CULTURE*’ was written by a group of youth from the ʔaḡamnik school in the community of ʔaḡam First Nation, BC.

- Song and Music Video Production
- Music Beat Workshop
- Rhythm Workshop

Lyrics written and recorded by: Chene Osbourne, Morningstar Adams, Kage Kains, Elijah Lezard, Alex Joe, and Michael Fischer.

Wellness and Treatment

Partners: Program Blue Lake Resort, Columbia Outdoor School

Individuals continue to strive for wellness. Although treatment support is difficult to achieve, with long wait times and lengthy applications, we continue to see community members reach their goals. The Friday Wellbriety meeting is a prime example of success and those who are working towards their wellness.



Youth Leadership Camp

Partners: KNC Lands and Resources, Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH), Switchback Health and Wellness, Columbia Outdoor School

This leadership camp provided youth with an opportunity to gain further leadership skills and connect with the land. 16 youth attended and took part activities such as, heli-hiking, fishing, leadership activities, swimming, etc. Youth look forward to attending future camps and opportunities. In August, 2023, youth will have an opportunity to again attend a leadership camp at the Galena Lodge.

See link for video taken during camp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42uKe11DkUs>

Blue Lake Winter Camp

Partners: Columbia Outdoor School, Blue Lake Resort

This winter camp allowed for youth to reconnect and further advance leadership skills. Participants included Guardians in Training, as well as younger youth who had an opportunity to connect with their youth mentors. The youth worked together to keep their fires going in the cabins, and provided feedback regarding future activities they would like to see.





Social Development

Inflation Relief Round 1 and 2

Partner: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) recognized the hardships that Income Assistance clients continue to face related to high inflation and the pandemic. In response, ISC provided Inflation Relief Funding distributed in two rounds to all recipients of the program. The first round was issued to clients in a lump sum payment in November and December 2022. The second-round funding was received in March 2023 and will be distributed monthly; each client will receive an 8% increase to their monthly cheques.

Community Wood Day

Partners: Community, ʔaḡam Staff, Canfor, Akinmi Resources, Columbia Basin Trust

Community Wood Day this year was October 14, 2022. Canfor donated and delivered the wood that would be distributed to the ʔaḡam Community. Akinmi Resources was hired for three days prior to the event date to buck and split the logs. The day commenced for volunteers and staff at 9:00 a.m. with the day ending approximately 3:30pm. The ʔaḡamnik School Students participate in Community Wood Day their assistance is always appreciated. This year the students were at resident homes awaiting deliveries where they stacked each home's wood piles.

Community Food Pantry

Partner: ʔaḡam

Having food available for members of the community and members who reside in the local area is a top priority for ʔaḡam. In the administration office we have a non-perishable food pantry and freezers that have protein products available.

Community Spring Break Activities

Partners: Kimberley Alpine Resort, Landmark Cinema, Fairmont Hot Springs, Cranbrook Aquatic Centre, Columbia Basin Trust

Each year ʔaqam offers activities for our ʔaqamnik School Students, Registered Band and Community youth to participate in a variety of family-oriented activities throughout their Spring Break. In previous years ʔaqam offered a day on the slopes of the Kimberley Alpine Resort. This year we offered the Ski Hill plus a few more. Families could also enjoy a movie experience at Landmark Theatre, an outing to the Fairmont Hot Springs plus an opportunity to visit the Cranbrook Aquatic Centre.

Safe Drinking Water Program

Partner: First Nations Health Authority

Performed semi-annual bacteriological water testing on all community wells. Tested “full spectrum” water composition on all water. Weekly testing of water for community small water systems is taken and sent to a third-party laboratory for testing.

Asset Management Project—WSP

Partner: Indigenous Services Canada

WSP is working in conjunction with the Operations team to develop a comprehensive Asset Management document for the purpose of managing maintenance, capital expenditures and end of life/service planning for ʔaqam assets.

Renovation and Retrofits (Phase Two)

Partners: Natural Resources Canada, Columbia Basin Trust, BC Hydro, Silverado Industries, Energy Advise, Indigenous Services Canada, Columbia Basin Trust

Phase 2 renovations have begun in the first house. The remaining 4 homes to be renovated and retrofitted based on the building condition assessments and energy audits completed pre-covid are underway.



Figure 1: New Antenna installed for communicating pump and reservoir levels

Upgraded Water Telemetry System for Reservoir

Partner: Exceed Engineering

Replaced old system that was not working for several years, making the operation of the Pump and well a manual task to be monitored each day. This automatically ensures that the water levels are sufficient for the system and operated automatically and visible remotely through software.

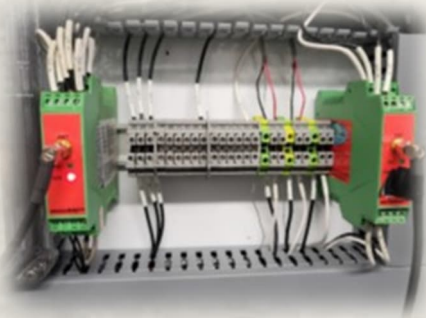


Figure 2: Electronics installed to replace the outdated communication system

Emergency Egress Route and Road Improvement Feasibility Project

Partners: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), WSP

The primary objective of this study was to assess the feasibility of providing emergency access routes to the community that are suitable for all vehicles during all months of the year as well as improve other community roads. The feasibility Study has been completed in May 2023 and sent to ISC for review and comment.

Small Water System Maintenance

Partner: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Circuit Rider Program

Performed various maintenance and repairs on the water system.

Community Initiatives Funding

Partner: Columbia Basin Trust

The Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Programs (CIP/AAP) are intended to be flexible and incorporate community-based funding decisions. The programs support local projects that provide additional value to Basin communities, and that benefit the broad community and public good. A number of programs were funding including Christmas Activities, Spring Break Activities, community gatherings and other projects.

Back Up and Watermain Extension Project

Partners: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), WSP

This phase of the work focused on design phase of this project. Previously the feasibility portion was completed. Study focuses on the option of a piped water supply connection from St Mary's I.R.# 1A to supply potable water to the 22 residences in the southwest cluster. The study also investigates the requirements for a booster station, bridge crossing for the pipeline, and regulatory permitting. The community is also considering providing service to Lot 79 in conjunction with this project. Lot 79 is currently a vacant lot owned by ʔaąam, located to the north of the current project area, and accessed from Mission Wycliffe Road. In view of its proximity to the Canadian Rockies International Airport, the community's intention is to potentially develop the site as light industrial or commercial site in the future.

This project design phase is wrapping up in Summer of 2023 and then a Project Approval request will be submitted to Indigenous Services Canada for approval.

ʔaąamnik Home Security Program

Partner: ʔaąam

In accordance with this goal, ʔaąam has set aside a provision of up to \$500 per ʔaąamnik household to either enable households to be reimbursed for security systems or have security systems purchased by ʔaąam staff on behalf of the household.





Lands

Airport Pasture Ecosystem Enhancement

Partners: ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ, BC Wildfire Service, City of Cranbrook and City of Kimberley Fire Departments

ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ concluded this 5 year ecosystem enhancement project with the final harvesting of a 12 hectare unit and the application of a 1200 hectare prescribed fire, with support from the BC Wildfire Service, City of Cranbrook and City of Kimberley Fire Departments.

The prescribed fire was conducted for ecosystem enhancement purposes- to improve biodiversity while reducing wildfire risk. This project will improve habitat for several species including Elk (ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ), Deer (ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ), Flammulated Owl (ᑭᐱᑭ), Lewis' Woodpecker (ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ) and Little Brown Bat (ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ).

The practice of using fire (ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ) to support ecosystem renewal and health is a management practice that has been implemented by ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ for generations.



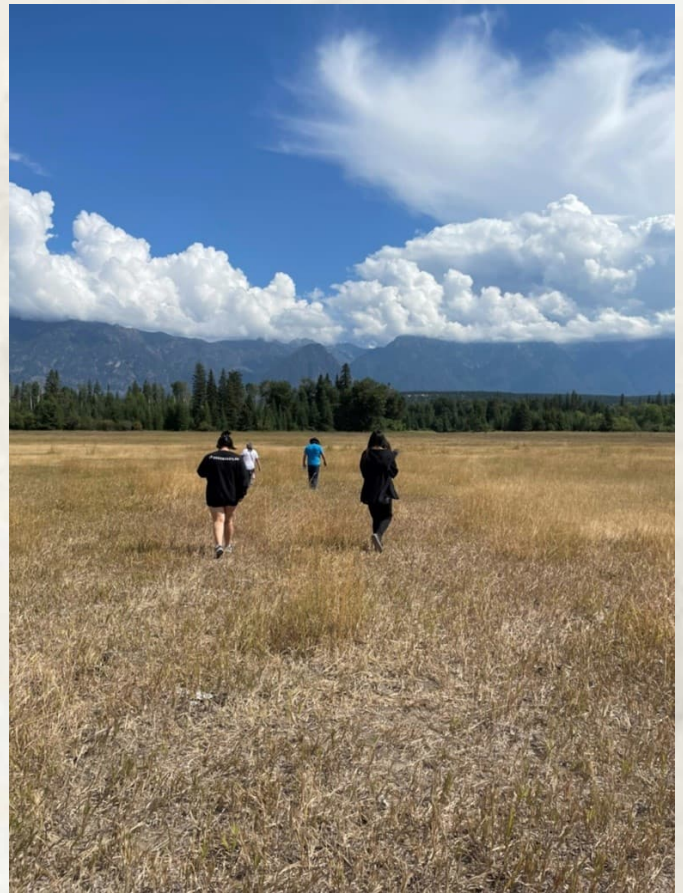
Wetland Restoration / Guardians in Training Interviews

Partner: ʔaḡam, BC Wildlife Federation

Wetlands (ʔakaḡlaʔhaḡ) have been identified as a priority for restoration on ʔaḡam lands in a time of increasing heat, drought and wildfire risk. Surface water has been increasingly lost in ʔakaḡlaʔhaḡ since the 1960s, resulting in the degradation of habitat for species-at-risk and culturally important species, and storage for seasonal water flows. Enhancement and restoration of this critical habitat will benefit all living things.

During the 2022 summer, the Guardians in Training (GIT) organized interviews with ʔaḡamnik elders and knowledge holders about the history and use of wetlands on Kootenay IR No. 1. During these interviews, the GIT were able to learn why these wetlands are important, past use, desired future use, along with different songs and other areas of importance. An archaeological overview assessment, Species at Risk and plant inventories were also conducted to guide the planning and design for restoration efforts. Further, in partnership with the BC Wildlife Federation, ʔaḡam hosted a wetland keepers workshop where GIT and interested community members were able to travel to multiple locations to learn about the different types of wetlands, their uses, and how to take care of them.

Future work will include Community engagement on the restoration design, an environmental review of the restoration design, and then implementation of the design once funding is secured.



Business Licensing Law Implementation

The ʔa·knumuʔtiʔis ʔaḡam khamatmuʔ kituḡtiḡaʔ ʔaḡam Business Licencing Law, 2021, continued to be implemented this past year. Council approved a list of businesses exempted from needing to hold a business licence that they will review annually. Nine annual business licences were issued to businesses in the agricultural, commercial and light industrial sectors, in large part due to Faye O’Neil’s work as the interim designated licencing officer in 2022. The first round of business licence renewals began in early 2023 by the ʔaḡam Lands Department, and we appreciate the cooperation of the businesses that are working with the ʔaḡam Lands Department to complete these licence renewals. Work done to date to implement the ʔaḡam Business Licencing Law revealed several questions and topics that need to be addressed to set the path forward for the ʔaḡam Business Licencing Law, 2021. A joint meeting amongst Lands Committee and Council Members to figure out next steps in implementation of this Law is scheduled for September 2023.

Estates and ʔaḡam Lands Disputes

ʔaḡam received an extension for funding from the Lands Advisory Board Resource Center to continue working on the Legacy Issues Project. The Legacy Issues Project is to help address legacy issues surrounding unresolved estates issues and disputes about allotments on ʔaḡam lands. The funding extension is being used to create a community-oriented manual and information sheets about options to be used by ʔaḡamnik and ʔaḡam Administration to deal with land-related disputes. Vi Birdstone was available during 2022 and will continue to be available throughout 2023 to help research land and estates disputes to support Community and the policy work being done by ʔaḡam Administration.



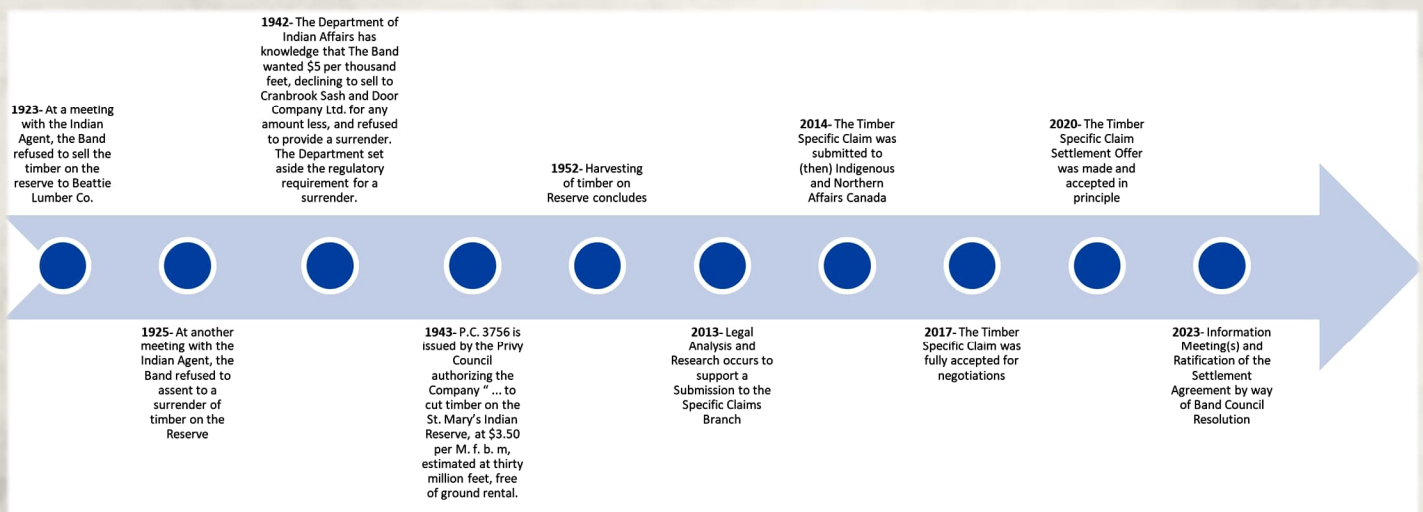
Timber Specific Claim

ᑭᐱᐱ submitted the 1942 Timber Surrender Specific Claim to the Specific Claims Branch, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in 2014 alleging Canada breached its fiduciary and statutory duties to ᑭᐱᐱ in relation to the failure of Canada to properly manage timber on Kootenay Indian Reserve No. 1, resulting in a financial loss to ᑭᐱᐱ.

The Timber Claim is based on the Crown selling timber rights to ᑭᐱᐱ's on-Reserve timber for a price of \$3.50 per thousand board feet (M f.b.m.) despite ᑭᐱᐱ not wanting to sell for anything less than \$5.00 M f.b.m. and refusing to provide a surrender. On December 16, 1942, Canada passed an Order In Council to set aside the regulatory requirement for a surrender of the timber and that the sale be authorized, knowing that a surrender of the timber would not be successful and the Band would oppose a surrender of the timber.

Timber harvesting proceeded on ᑭᐱᐱ lands between 1943-1952 with approximately 30,000,000 board feet (f.b.m.) removed throughout this period.

In June 2017, Canada accepted the Timber Claim for negotiations on the basis that it breached its fiduciary and legal duties to ᑭᐱᐱ. Negotiations commenced thereafter and concluded in October 2020 when Canada provided ᑭᐱᐱ a Settlement offer that was accepted, in principle, by Nasuᑭᐱ and Council. Now, the Settlement Agreement needs to be ratified by ᑭᐱᐱ Nasuᑭᐱ and Council by way of Band Council Resolution before it can be finalized and Settlement funds paid to ᑭᐱᐱ by Canada. A Community Information meetings was held on May 15 and another is scheduled for July 11, 2023



Ktunaxa Nation Council Collaborations

The Lands Department has been working routinely with Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) staff on several initiatives including the Strategic Engagement Agreement Working Group and Apportionment.

The Strategic Engagement Agreement Working Group is preparing recommendations for decision makers on a new Strategic Engagement Agreement with British Columbia; the purpose of this Agreement is to define BC/KNC's government-to-government relationship and outline consultation and accommodation processes with respect to natural resource management. Ktunaxa citizens can expect engagement regarding this project throughout the Summer of 2023.

Collectively, Ktunaxa leadership and Lands staff have been advocating for an apportionment decision in the Cranbrook and Invermere Timber Supply Areas that allocates a minimum interim 20% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) to the Ktunaxa Nation Council. The current 2.7% apportionment received by KNC (and distributed to the communities) does not align with BC's own policy intentions. Increased apportionment will create real opportunities for employment and stewardship in the Forestry sector for Ktunaxa.

Lands Committee – Welcoming new members

The Lands Committee was established as part of implementing Land Code, providing guidance to Lands Department staff and making recommendations to Council about a wide range of land and resource activities that effect ʔaqam lands. Some of the activities that Lands Committee gets involved in includes law and policy preparation under Land Code, hunting permits, environmental reviews, lands instruments (examples include grazing licensing, utility rights of ways), and business licences. Very busy committee, indeed!

In 2022, due to the high-quality candidates that applied to be Lands Committee Members, Council decided to expand the Lands Committee from five members to seven members. Terry White and Chris Joseph filled the two new Members seats. Faye O'Neil, Max Andrew, and Gloria Hunter were reappointed for another term starting in December. Bonnie Harvey and Jason Andrew continue as Members. Together, these seven ʔaqamnik generously share their knowledge and ideas at mostly monthly meetings; their time, commitment, and energy are very appreciated. Hu naqanaqni?ni!





Education

ᑭᓐᓇᓄᓐᓂᓐ Elementary School

School Day Ski Lessons

Partner: Kimberley Alpine Resort

All of the students from the school had the opportunity to participate in four ski or snowboard days this year. Students each received lessons depending on their abilities and showed huge improvements with many heading up the chairlift or the T-bar. We are looking to secure funding with Community partners to ensure the sustainability of this program.



Francis Lake Winter Camp

Winter Camp and Francis Lake excursions continue to allow students an opportunity to connect with the land and exhibit Spirit of Community. This year, with help from KNC's ak-nusti team, students hunted for an elk during the winter camp. In preparation for the spring Community Celebration, students from the 4/5 class got together and delivered the meat in Community with an invitation to come and gather in the Dan Joe Memorial Gym for the celebration.



Nanahuswumlat Kyukit Red Dress Day

Partners: Bonnie Harvey,
Michelle Shortridge

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People. The Grade 6/7 class created handprints that were displayed on the fence of the playground. These handprints represent the many people that have been taken, but it also represents the elimination of silence. Ms. Juanita and the class led the school in song and a walk.



Annual ʔaqam Community Christmas Parade

Partner: Fortis Gas

Gifts and delicious frozen Christmas Dinners for ʔaqamnik students, ʔaqam youth, and ʔaqam Elders were distributed amongst the Community. This event is a culmination of hard work by the Education and Health Departments in conjunction with funding from Fortis Gas.



Ka Knitwi·tiyała Programming Caribou Maternity Conservation Project & Equine Therapy

Partners: Lindsey and Kara Whitehead, RDEK, GIT, ak·nusti, Emily Dumaresq & Tammy Williams (Equine Therapy)

Ka Knitwi·tiyała (Tipi Pole Day) continues to be at the forefront of the students' engagement in the Community's Strategic Plan. Over the year, Tipi Pole groups have taken part in many initiatives and excursions with some highlights being a whole school day

Collecting ʔaḥa (black lichen) for the naxni (caribou) rehabilitation project in Nakusp and each individual group taking part in Equine Therapy over the course of the year.





Jurisdiction, Post Secondary, K-12

Jurisdiction

Partners: ʔaᑭamnik School, First Nations Education Authority

We fully ratified our participation in Jurisdiction over K-12 on-reserve education on July 1, 2022! Aside from signing Jurisdiction agreements with both BC and Canada, we were fully involved with the formation of the First Nations Education Authority (FNEA), and the development of a Co-management Agreement with FNEA. The coming year will include important work in developing our own Education Law.

Post Secondary Student Funding

We fully funded (tuition, books, and living allowance) 2 students undertaking Bachelor Degrees, and 1 student completing a Trades Program.

We also funded 3 part-time students (tuition and books) – one working on a Bachelor Degree, one on a Master's degree, and one working on a Post-Degree Certificate. We worked on aligning our policies with the new ISC national guidelines, and exciting changes will be announced shortly!

K-12, Post Secondary Partnership Engagement

Partners: SD#5, COTR, SD#6, Purcell Collegiate, Metis Association

We participated with School District #5 in the Equity in Action project and the development of a new Enhancement Agreement which will be signed in June. We hosted a very successful engagement session with our partners and stakeholders at SEM in March, that has led to valuable conversations regarding potential new initiatives for our students in the future.



ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ Daycare

Wee Thinkers

Partners: Interior Health , Allied Health, Early Childhood Development , Speech & Language Services Cranbrook Health Unit

The Speech and Language team came into the centre around 4 times last year for the sole purpose of providing us with the story-books and props. The program's goal is to help early learners begin to understand that we all have different thoughts inside of our minds. Students learn how to work together and share thoughts. A wonderful program promoting social emotional awareness



Weaving Health and Wellness into Leadership Development

Partner: FNHA-Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve

What a gift it was to be able to travel as well as represent the ʔaḡamnik Daycare & ʔaḡam in general at this wonderful event held by First Nations Health Authority-AHSOR.

It was a wonderful week of learning & development as well as collaborative discussions about how centers all across the province reach out and assist First Nations communities.

FNHA provided insight into operations, their services, and their expectations.

As a follow up, our HS-Coordinator, Lorrie Pada, came out to visit our Centre in May of 2023. Lorrie toured the grounds, offered more wonderful knowledge of the program and acknowledged our hard work as a community



Wage Enhancement Programs

Partners: Columbia Basin Trust, Province of BC

We are fortunate to continue to be eligible to receive the wage enhancement benefits through the Province of BC and Columbia Basin Trust Foundation.

This program supports staff feeling valued in their roles and financial support for families.



Language and Culture

Reclaiming My Language

Partner: First People's Cultural Council

We hosted a course for silent speakers of our language which is based on a program developed in Norway and Sweden for and by Indigenous Sami people. The goal of the course is to support silent speakers to overcome barriers to using their Indigenous language in their communities. We had 13 people initially sign up and 10 completed the program. The course ran for 10 weeks with participants attending a class once per week with one of 4 Mentors.

Language Speakers and Knowledge Holders (LS&KH)

During this past fiscal year the LS&KH met 7 times discussing such topics as the Terms of Reference, Burial Procedures, the annual Elder's Gathering and cultural activities for the year.

Pathways to Language Vitality program

Partner: First People's Cultural Council

Through this program we are able to have 2 groups learn the Language through Zoom classes on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The Vancouver group developed curriculum and language materials that are available at the Cultural Centre. The highlight for the local group hosted by Alfred is the creation of a book that will be available mid-July 2023



Finance

Chief and Council salaries, honoraria, travel expenses and other remuneration

Name	Position	Months	Salary/ Remuneration	Other Remuneration (Note 1)	Travel (Notes 2)	Total
J Pierre	Nasu?kin	12	28,498	9,125	1,917	39,540
D Cardinal-Clement	Councillor	5	9,937	3,150	1,604	14,691
J Birdstone	Councillor	12	21,530	7,750	658	29,938
J Andrew	Councillor	12	21,530	4,950	267	26,747
S Williams-Jimmy	Councillor	12	21,530	5,775	0	27,305
V Thomas	Councillor	7	11,593	3,300	439	15,332
Total			114,618	34,050	4885	153,553

Senior Management salaries, travel expenses and other remuneration paid

Position	Months	Salary	Other remuneration (Note 1)	Travel (Note 2)	Total
Chief Operating Officer	6	68,804	3,224	-	72,028
Director of Finance	12	121,521	23,705	0	145,226
Total		190,325	26,929	0	168,911

Note 1: Other remuneration includes all other forms of remuneration paid, including (but not limited to) pension contributions, bonuses, health benefits, disability benefits, vehicle allowance, cellular phones, and employer CPP and EI contributions.

Note 2: Travel expenses include reimbursements paid to elected officials for the use of their personal vehicles in addition to travel expenses paid directly by the Band to the individual to carry out his/her duties.

Membership Loan details as of 31st March 2023

Name	Date of Loan	Purpose	Amount(inc interest)	Out- standing	In Arrears
Rod Birdstone	29 Mar 2019	Car Payment	1987.66	1987.66	Yes
Tyrone Gwilliam	11 Apr 2022	Rent	671.02	671.02	Yes
Charlene Birdstone	15 Apr 2022	Tax Payment	1572.05	967.31	Yes
Pauline Arnold	09 May 2022	Tires	1425	0	No

Loans started, outstanding or repaid in 2022-23

Nasu?kin and Council Duties

As required by section 10 of the Finance and Administrative Law, below is a declaration by all Nasu?kin and Council for any business contracts received by nasu?kin and Council or their member of family including Spouse, dependent children, or their spouses.

Furthermore, that nasu?kin and Council declare that any member of their family, as described above, be an employee of the Band.

Business interest

Name	Business Name	Financial Interest		Nature of Interest	Interest %
		Family member	Own		
Julie Birdstone	Bead making	Yes	100%	Owner/contractor	100%
Joe Pierre	Jennifer Pierre	Yes	0%	Artist	49%
Joe Pierre	Sophie Pierre	Yes	0%	Working group	100%
Jason Andrew	Max Andrew	Yes	0%	Garbage collection	100%

Family member employed

Name	Employee Name	Relationship
Julie Birdstone	Denise Birdstone	Sister
Jason Andrew	Michelle Shortridge	Sister
Jason Andrew	Logan Casimer	Brother
Sancira Williams-Jimmy	Chrystal Williams	Mother

Senior Management Declaration

Neither Chief Administrative Officer nor the Director of Finance has any business interests or family members employed by the band (as described above)

AQAM

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

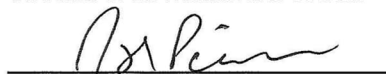
March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,547,565	\$ 2,090,390
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	32,560,464	22,181,487
Accounts receivable (note 3)	1,594,038	1,202,870
Investments (note 4)	1,450,115	500,115
Investment in business enterprises (note 5)	3,411,083	3,512,896
	40,563,265	29,487,758
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	610,442	652,087
Deferred revenue (note 6)	3,756,740	2,918,475
	4,367,182	3,570,562
Net financial assets	36,196,083	25,917,196
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets (note 7)	13,108,085	13,543,179
Prepaid expenses and deposits	251,769	117,470
	13,359,854	13,660,649
Accumulated surplus (note 8)	\$ 49,555,937	\$ 39,577,845

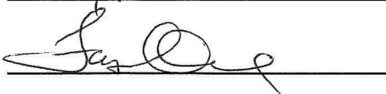
Commitments and contingencies (note 12)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Nasukin and Council:



Nasukin



Chair of Finance and Audit Committee



Director of Finance

AQAM

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023 Budget (note 1(h))	2023	2022
Revenue:			
Transfers from other governments:			
Indigenous Services Canada	\$ 13,568,820	\$ 3,041,163	\$ 4,478,003
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	-	519,596	-
Province of British Columbia	16,145,883	2,101,826	1,180,377
First Nations Health Authority	768,168	903,840	758,693
Ktunaxa Nation Council	52,890	86,445	286,046
First Nations Goods and Service Tax	234,000	237,112	234,664
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership	199,494	468,872	199,494
Grants	1,522,386	1,211,848	1,573,497
Impact Management and Benefit Agreement (IMBA) and Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA)	6,000,000	7,110,812	848,418
Property taxation, net of homeowners' grants	68,000	79,819	70,409
User fees	237,077	226,792	231,434
Rent and lease	123,600	153,760	227,623
Interest	453,000	1,010,856	150,942
Other	1,088,852	883,050	652,805
Equity in earnings (loss) of business enterprises (note 5)	-	(101,813)	297,600
	40,462,170	17,933,978	11,190,005
Expenses (Schedule 1):			
Administration	1,203,127	1,185,882	1,026,427
Education	415,426	472,762	444,442
Elementary School	1,841,412	1,419,867	1,293,890
Social Development	419,561	447,559	384,121
Maintenance of Facilities	2,365,695	1,270,375	1,741,063
aqamnik Daycare	261,390	295,417	248,167
Community Services	808,205	831,786	579,141
Taxation	3,000	3,127	4,272
Lands and Natural Resources	1,118,993	843,089	1,445,279
Housing	-	105,998	11,278
Water System	52,835	78,928	49,691
Language, Culture and Community	1,107,832	448,765	322,112
Capital	678,934	552,331	805,941
	10,276,410	7,955,886	8,355,824
Surplus	\$ 30,185,760	9,978,092	2,834,181
Accumulated surplus, beginning of the year		39,577,845	36,743,664
Accumulated surplus, end of year		\$ 49,555,937	\$ 39,577,845

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

AQAM

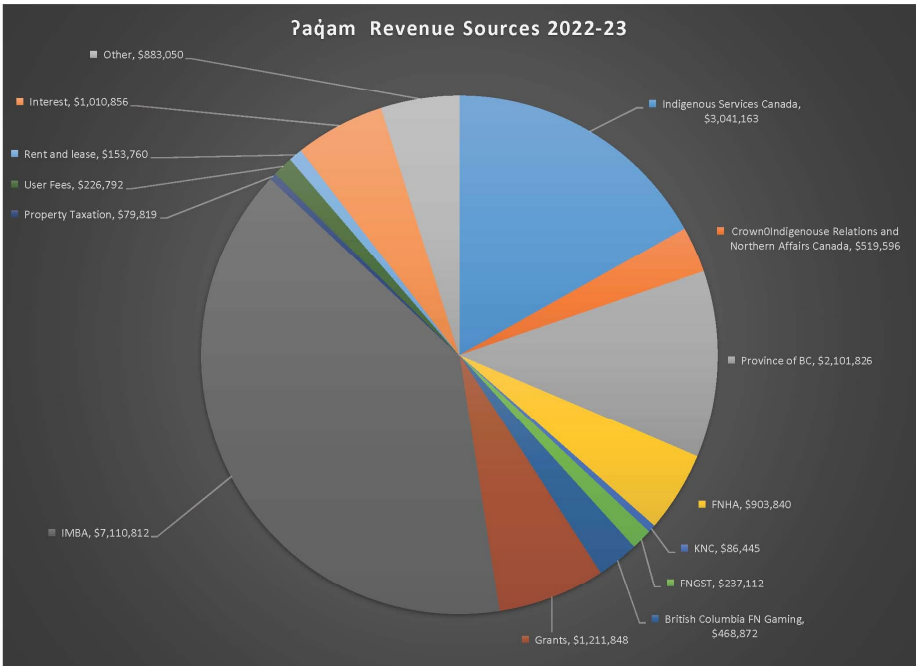
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

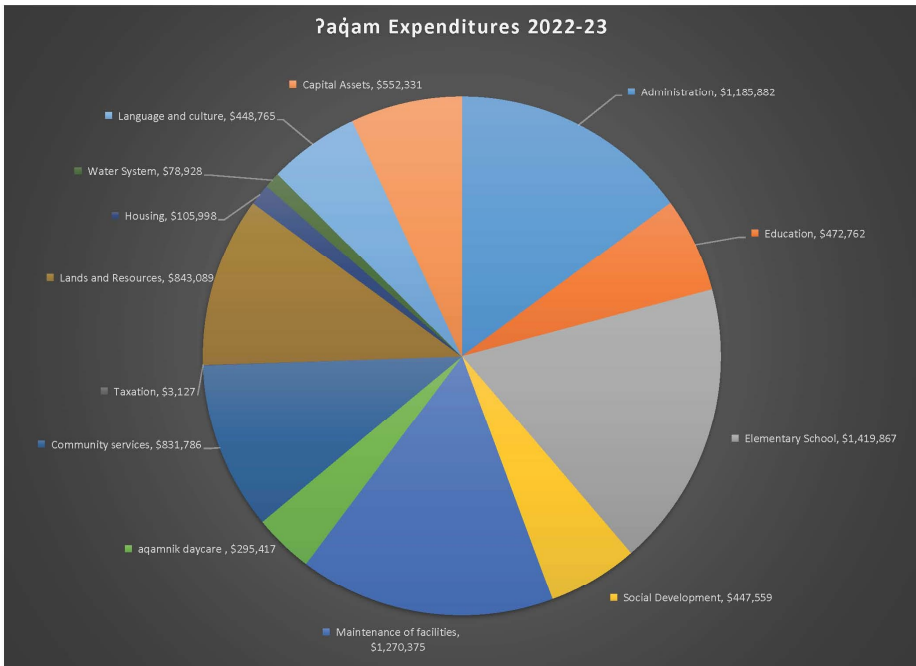
	2023 Budget (note 1(h))	2023	2022
Surplus	\$ 30,185,760	\$ 9,978,092	\$ 2,834,181
Changes to non-financial assets:			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(17,278,144)	(264,210)	(488,962)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	513,545	675,721	625,906
Net book value of tangible capital assets disposed or written down	-	23,583	130,169
	(16,764,599)	435,094	267,113
Acquisition of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	(251,769)	(117,470)
Use of prepaid expenses and deposits	-	117,470	137,781
	-	(134,299)	20,311
Increase in net financial assets	\$ 13,421,161	10,278,887	3,121,605
Net financial assets, beginning of year		25,917,196	22,795,591
Net financial assets, end of year		\$ 36,196,083	\$ 25,917,196

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Revenue / Income



Expenditure by Department Income



Acknowledgements

We would like to offer thanks to all the members of ʔaqam's Committees and Working Groups that provide valuable input and guidance to the ʔaqam Staff and Council.

Lands Committee

Councillor Jason Andrew, Faye O'Neil, Max Andrew, Terry White, Gloria Hunter, Chris Joseph
Bonnie Harvey

Membership Committee

Julie Birdstone, Kay Shottanana, Laura Birdstone, Julia McCrory, Andrew Fletcher

Finance and Audit Committee

Nasuʔkin Joe Pierre, Vickie Thomas, Faye O'Neill

Language Speakers and Knowledge Holders

Sophie Pierre, Kay Shottanana, Deanna White, Bernadette Morigeau, Violet Birdstone, Robert Williams, Juanita Eugene, Laura Birdstone, Dominic Alexander, Gina Clarricoates, Dorothy Alpine, Debbie Patrick, Irene Benallie, Gloria Hunter, Julie Birdstone

Kiʔti ka·kin

Corrie Walkley, Kay Shottanana, Kristen Whitehead, Bonnie Harvey, Vickie Thomas,
Joe Pierre, Marty Williams, Robert Williams, Andrew Fletcher, Leslie Joseph,
Dallas Cardinal, Sancira Williams-Jimmy

Education Committee

Nasuʔkin Joe Pierre, Bonnie Harvey, Sunshine Capilo-Joseph, Faye O'Neil, Councillor Jason Andrew, Gina Clarricoates, Julia McCrory

