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Political Update – Chief Maureen Chapman

I now hold the Fisheries Portfolio for Stó:lō Nation – an interesting stretch for me as I would normally glaze over when fishing came up on our meeting agendas! I will remain in the position of Acting Vice President (Stó:lō Si:yam) until the election on December 14th, 2002. I may seek re-election for this position in hopes to continue my work with the Nation's Children and Families.

At the provincial level, I have been appointed to lead the development of an Aboriginal Authority that will govern the delivery of Children and Family Services. An Aboriginal Authority will allow us to determine how and where our children will receive the best care and services. All provincial Aboriginal leaders came together to sign the historic **Tsawwassen Accord** last June 11, 2002.

Community Development – A Consultative Process

The small progresses made by our community during the past years, have allowed us to see, more clearly, that there is much more work to be done.

Skawahlook First Nation faces numerous decisions that will affect us for generations to come.

Your participation in planning and con-

sultation meetings will assist you and other community members in the process of making the best possible decisions.

So, participate, make your views known and shape the future of our Nation. Please plan to attend the upcoming General Band Meeting.

About this Update Newsletter

This Update Newsletter was completed by *Juan C. Cereño and Associates* as part of the management support services offered to the Skawahlook First Nation under a contractual service agreement.

Please submit comments, questions and/or suggestions to the Skawahlook

First Nation, attention of Debra Schneider, Band Administrator.

We offer our sincere apologies for any potential errors and/or omissions.

Respectfully,

Juan C. Cereño, Social Planner



Juan Cereño and Associates
Health and Social Planning Services

SKAWAHLOOK FIRST NATION

UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Special Update Report to the Skawahlook Membership

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News from the Chief

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer – It was beautiful here in B.C. and the fall has been just as wonderful.

The **Council** has been busy with the day to day operations of the Band as well as very involved in acquiring new project funding to build capacity within our First Nation. We are diligent about reviewing and updating the 5-year plan developed and we continue to build on existing initiatives.

Debra is the new Lands Manager for Skawahlook and is currently in training to assist in her skill development with regard to all issues

relating to lands and lands issues – current and future.

Angie has been assigned the daunting task of housing in neighbouring Seabird Island Band so she is kept quite busy. Angie continues her work in education on behalf of our Band.

Mary Barry and Pauline Chapman are organizing a family reunion – we are anxiously awaiting an update to this huge undertaking.

Stephanie and Thomas were married August 31, 2002 – congratulations newlyweds!

Upcoming wedding of **Leah and Simon** will be December 28, 2002 in Hope; no one will have any money left over after Christmas – I hope homemade presents are acceptable!

Cheyenne and Jared have a beautiful addition to their family – his name is **Jordan Mathew Ammerman**.



News From the Chief (cont)

Breanne and Carlo have purchased their first home in Longview – what a plan! What a focus! (What’s wrong with this picture?!).

Brother Gerry has been doing his ministry work in various areas of B.C. and the U.S. – we are so thankful and so pleas-

antly surprised by how well he eventually turned out!!! He will become a Reverend some time this December, stay tuned.

Congratulations to Darlene Chapman – she won \$ 40K at bingo! (and Bill spent it!)

Forrest and Isiah are both in hockey – it’s fun

to watch and they are thoroughly enjoying themselves. I was able to surprise them this past Halloween by showing up unannounced – what fun!

Remember, reports and pictures are always welcome. Please submit these at any time.



Chief Maureen Chapman

“ All our best to Leah, Sharron, Breanne, Carlo and TA. We pray for everyone and commit to support you in every way possible”

Salute to our Students

Skawahlook First Nation had hoped to host a celebration for all our students who did so well in their studies last year. Unfortunately, we run out of time and the coordinating of calendars proved next to impossi-

ble. Nevertheless, we want to wish our very best to Leah, Sharron, Breanne, Carlo and TA. As always, we pray for everyone of you and commit to support you in every way possible.

Please provide us with your ideas regarding a celebration get-together.

Our special congratulations to Breanne for graduating from the University of Washington last June 13th.

Skawahlook First Nation – Leaders in Education

Last June Councillors Angie Chapman and Debra Schneider participated in the signature to one of 13 Local Education Agreements drafted between the Fraser-

Cascade School Board and the region’s First Nations. The agreement, signed at Seabird island Band marks an important point in the relationship between First Na-

tions and public schools.

Among others, the agreement provides a stronger voice to First Nation people in how we are educated and how our funding is used.



Councillors Angie Chapman and Debra Schneider sign Education Agreement. Ken Campbell signs on behalf of Fraser-Cascade School

Update Report on Housing Project – Debra Schneider

Greetings everyone!

I hope this report finds everyone in good health and good spirits. This has been a very busy year for us, particularly in regards to the housing project which began in January 2002 and ended August 2002.

There was a significant amount of renovation work completed in three of our Band homes and still even more work to be done in the last three remaining homes scheduled for renovations.

I know how much some of you want a home

within the community, but there is an ongoing dispute regarding land ownership in our community. Unfortunately, until the land issue is resolved, we are prevented from applying for and receiving funds to build new homes.



Department of Lands and Natural Resources – Debra Schneider

Last summer, I applied for and was selected to fill the position of Manager of Lands and Natural Resources. I started my new job on September 29th, 2002. I am finding this position very interesting and challeng-

ing. I have attended several training courses offered by the Department of Indian Affairs.

I also attend meetings at Stó:lō Nation Wide Caucus regarding treaty issues. Stó:lō Nation Abo-

original Rights & Title Department will hold community forums in each region to answer any questions or concerns from Band members.



Councillor Debra Schneider

Other Updates

Juan Cereño continues his excellent work on creating the proposals that are funded and has been a tremendous help in guiding the Council in staying abreast of what is needed next and how

to proceed.

Skawahlook First Nation have initiated discussions, meetings and preliminary negotiations with B.C. Gas, Leader Mining, the Canadian Pacific Railway, High-

ways and B.C. Hydro. Our intention is to protect the pristine natural environment that surrounds our community and to hold accountable those who require a right of way to our lands.

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