

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Chief Councillor	Willard Wilson	
Councillors	Rose Russ	
	James Cowpar	Robert Williams
	Tanu Lusignan	Remi Levesque
	Ed Russ in @	at 8:37 p.m.

Absent:

Councillor	Godfrey Williams
------------	------------------

Staff:

Band Manager	Barbara Stevens
Executive Assistant	Marcia Piercey

Public (from sign-in sheet):	Linda Tollas	Robert Gorcak
Vi Husband	K. Mills	Barb Wilson
Tracy Auchter	Crystal Zeller	Steven Wesley
Herman Collinson	Vonnie Hutchingson	Lisa Shoop
Dave Martynuik	Clara Zeller	Marg Parker
Doug Parker	Ken Williams	Phil Gladstone
Wendy Alton	Angela Williams	Violet Cross
Nicole Funk	Billy R. Yovanovich	Katherine Steward
Ron Casey	Tom Greene	Pete Thompson
Walter Pollard	Pat Gellerman	Danny Robertson
Diane Brown	Larry (Dull) Brown	Joanne Collinson
Les Collinson	Sharlain Brown	Kristin Bylholt
Norman Moraes	Irene Bruce	Ashley Bruce
Ruth Gladstone-Davies	Jenny Cross	Carmen Pollard
Aileen Hans	Gladys Hans	Golie Hans
R. Bellis	A. Bellis	Gaahlaay
Fran Pineault	George Wesley	Sheila Williams
Kathy Williams	Harold Wilson	Paula Lawson
Trent Moraes	Denise Olsson	T. Wlls
Jessie Wilson	Jason Alsop	Doll Squires
Tana Hooper	Dorothy Russ	Russ Jones
Wayne Wilson	Patrick Shannon	Harry Williams
J. Shelford	A. O'Brien	Sue Gladstone
Marie Sparrowhawk	Lauren Brown	Shelley Gladstone
Nikkayla Gladstone	Verna Williams	Sandra Williams
Judson Brown	Nadine Wilson	Dan Burton
Roben Jones	Gladys Vandal	Winnifred Casey

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by chairperson, Willard Wilson. Diane Brown did the opening prayer.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Adoption of Agenda: MOTION: 19-01-09(01pmtg) moved by Lisa Shoop to adopt the agenda as presented. Second by Barbara Wilson. Discussion. Question. CARRIED.

Adoption of Jan 13, 2009 Minutes: MOTION: 19-01-09(02pmtg) moved by Diane Brown to adopt the minutes of the public meeting held January 13, 2009. Second Paula Lawson. Question. Two abstentions. CARRIED.

Discussion: Diane Brown wanted a correction: “You’re a horrible example to your children” Diane Brown meant the drug dealers. Willard Wilson wanted to correct the statement “I don’t know how we will do this” to “I do know how were going to get out of this and I am working with these young people, we know how we’re going to get out of the Remedial Management Plan (RMP). Council has been working quite hard over the number of months on the RMP.

Willard Wilson stated while your reading the minutes, I can share a couple of things, I wanted to tell you people of Skidegate that towards the end of the last meeting, talked about Barbara Stevens, over 36 years she has been working for the Band, she was taking training for healing. I’ve represented you, 9th time that I’ve been elected, and worked for you over 20 years, I also told you I’m working on a project, hopefully I don’t have to retire in poverty. When I first started working for the Band we weren’t allowed to pay into a pension plan, hopefully for former and existing employees we can work on this. I’m coming to the end of my career for working for SBC. I’m sick all the time, one of our Band members tries to help me with it, brings me Indian medicine, won’t be long I’ll be finished as your Chief Councillor. I did the best I could for our Kaay project, when I became Chief Councillor we didn’t have a lot of money to build the facility. I worked with four different Councils and we raised over \$26 million and we still owe \$1.9m. Before Christmas I cashed in some of my pension, wanted to pay off four of my credit cards, wasn’t able to cash in what I wanted, was told I would get \$25,000, I didn’t get that, when all the figuring was done.

We have to make Kaay work, we need the whole community to back us, we have to make it so it is close to paying for itself, we had hoped that it would get to zero balance. When the Observer phoned me before Christmas, I had to tell them where we’re at, because they’d find out anyway, they said they would phone the regional office. The \$1.9 m that we’re in debt, hopefully won’t be long before we’re out of debt. Couple amounts money we hope to get: \$4m from INAC and I have a friend in the provincial government, Colin Hansen, told him we’re coming to them again, for the \$3m so we can make Kaay work the way we want it to. We have \$6m in our bank account, another source of money \$1m from the ABC program, so we hope because the provincial government is going to have an election. We hope the provincial government will help us with that \$2m. When Jim Prentice came to see us, was impressed with what we’re doing at Second Beach, then the Prime Minister did a shuffle in the cabinet. We hope Kaay will be operating and we’ll have a zero balance. The four Councils I worked with that was their dream also. It’s up to us to make it work. We hope to go into the second season with all the revenue generating areas working.

Gary Russ stated on page 6 on top, regarding the question about the debt, that was Sue Wood’s job, and on the bottom, regarding friends being thrown out on sidewalk, our social housing is a business and should be conducted as such, can’t understand why you would allow a \$250,000

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

deficit. I'm a little bit apprehensive of SBC going into economic development. We started with Taaw Naay, profits this was supposed to be put in our youth, don't know where this is going, now we have SBC having fundraising events to support our youth. James Cowpar replied in the economic development part of the agenda we'll touch base with your questions. Willard Wilson replied with the rental arrears, don't know how many Councils, no Council that I work with was willing to do that. Gary Russ was wondering how to deal with this deficit, no idea who it might be. James Cowpar replied there's been no continuity with housing, there's been lack of reporting, no invoices been sent to renters, finance and housing records are different. Important we follow policy. Gary Russ added sounds to me that the \$250,000 deficit will be written off, since then are many renters paying rent? James Cowpar replied yes, we've set up repayment plans, we'll ask that they contribute within their budgets.

Wayne Wilson stated there are many different areas, where there are things wrong, why don't we work on one area at a time, we're jumping all over then nothing gets done, there are many other things that should be made right, rules are made for everyone, we should be looking at each and every area. For the RMP it would be nice to see stuff in writing, until we get out of this, you should be reporting back to the public once per month, the \$2.7m debt is not easy to get out of. \$4m was supposed to be raised for the endowment fund that was always a part of the plan. Reality is there are a lot of things not right here. Willard Wilson replied what we can do is tackle the deficits that our membership owes to our Council that will help, \$3.3 m in debt, we negotiated a deal with the Royal Bank for \$1.9m and for the \$1.4m we saved and sold assets and used money of \$1.7m that's not too hard to work out, were in CFNFA. The money that was raised to build our center, was really difficult, raised over \$26m, we had to get over the \$26m to build it. We have to keep the money from our CFNFA agreement and the money we raised, we'll be ok.

Willard Wilson stated Council asked our Health Director to explain that memo that came from the Health Center. Tanu Lusignan added Lauren Brown has been working hard, the Health Center is essential services, want to thank Lauren Brown, we wanted to acknowledge the cut back to four days/week and the staff continuing to do the work. We want to see this through, for the long and short term, we wanted to address the patient travel policy.

Lauren Brown was glad to have this opportunity to give some background to the notice we sent out last Oct. In 2003 I came in, I reviewed our travel budget, it was \$350-400,000 per year, it has increased since 2003, for a number of reasons, e.g. our population has aged and diabetes. In looking at our policy, we haven't been following policy, when SBC made us aware of our financial situation, started to worry about an audit. We haven't had Health Canada audit our travel budget, if we got audited, we haven't been following policy the way Health Canada says. Every year Council signs an agreement that states we will follow policy. Our policy has loopholes, which puts us in a shaky position with Health Canada. In Sept we started talking, we said we would say no, we wanted to put notices out to the community. These policies are already what we should have been following with Health Canada, they are changes to you, the public because we have been quite lenient, they are policies we should have been following but we haven't. It's difficult to say to our Elders and those that are sick you can't take an escort, it's difficult to say this to our people, it's difficult to enforce policy when it goes against who we are as our people.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

We got the \$550,000 but there was fear they won't fund us for that amount of money, I fear what happened before when we had to close down the Health Center. I hope you take this opportunity to ask me questions. Apologize for the wording in the newsletter, it wasn't the greatest. We will abide by the First Nations Inuit Health Authority, there's loopholes, e.g. when there's a medivac, we automatically send an escort, really the policy does not allow that. The purpose of an escort is to take care of the client, if the client is in the hospital, there's no need for escort. How we're going to deal with that is we won't send an escort, but if family chooses to send family member we'll pay for the flight, but we won't cover hotel, until family member is released from the hospital e.g. we used to send fathers with pregnant mothers, policy says we won't pay for fathers until day before, we won't cover hotel/meals but will send fathers. We have been meeting with the physicians, they developed a form regarding escorts, to make sure everyone is accountable. "All clients must stay at the cheapest place possible", that was a mistake, we changed it to "most affordable". We get a medical rate, e.g. best rate at Prince Rupert is the Crest. Our travel clerk is keeping an updated list of the most affordable rates, another example is the Hampton. We've had examples where clients wanted to stay at their own hotel, we say you can, we'll cover with the affordable rate and issue a cheque in that amount. There's a couple of changes with escorts, we've been working with physicians at QC, Elders don't automatically get an escort, they must fall in the criteria, pregnant mothers don't automatically get escort, we will fund when baby is born. The doctors developed a form that ticks off the reason you need an escort. The doctors know our situation. If a specialist coming to Queen Charlotte, we can't fund, Health Canada won't cover a trip if specialist is coming within a certain amount of km of our living area. The reason we need the doctors' forms signed is the forms come back to us and then go to Health Canada, we're supposed to be attaching receipts for patient travel, e.g. taxis, buses, airline tickets. Our travel clerk will not accept calls at home, if emergency we encourage it but, if not, she will ask you to call the next day. I have copies of the policies if anyone wants it. Our policy will be available for anyone if you want to review, which we are now following, we have information packages, with information on the appeals process, our non-insured health benefits, and if you have any questions, concerns, we have these at the Health Center.

Wayne Wilson had a question for Council, have we signed off anything with Health Canada, for the transfer of services, the whole Health Center was non-insured health benefits. Lauren Brown replied we just did our 10 year evaluation. Wayne Wilson replied there's an agreement for non-insured, if signed we're wrecked because this is what we will get from now on, if no one's negotiated and no one paid attention this is what we'll get forever and ever. Willard Wilson added we signed year two, we haven't signed anything in regards to non-insured health. Wayne Wilson added we will get only what we negotiate, would like to see someone go after it, things we will require over the next while, people with chronic diseases, getting worse, travel is going to be very important, if no agreement signed, suggest we don't policy our people down to nothing, if we negotiate high, then put out our own policy, we should be really going after that, if we haven't signed anything we should be going after this. Willard Wilson replied we won't sign, because we won't have control over it, it took us six months to get our money from Health Canada. Wayne Wilson suggested that we don't adopt this health policy, if we do everyone that goes down will get \$31/day, that's all were going to get, they have an obligation as long as we don't sign. Lauren Brown added the tripartite agreement says we need to have more control, more control over our businesses.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Gary Russ stated that was the main reason he brought it up, the first agreement signed was one of the best in BC, what happened where we have to stay in the cheapest hotels and get \$31/day. If we have to stay in the cheapest hotels, our Councillors should be doing the same, if we get \$31/day, Council should be getting the same, why are we being treated differently.

Tracy Auchter stated what Wayne Wilson is saying is really valid what you need to remember is our population is aging, had a family member in hospital, and another family member went in to look after, for our health care system, it's really important that there's funding available.

Willard Wilson added years ago we went to Vancouver for that health committee meeting and John Kelly said you're all fired, Willard Wilson and Lauren Brown went to a meeting to organize health for First Nations, you know who was there, he picked on Lauren Brown at that meeting, Willard Wilson told him you're organizing our whole Northern area. A few months before this meeting in Terrace, I said no one helped us, we were all on our own, this tripartite agreement didn't mean anything, no one made a bid for our hospital. It's still our position that we look after our people.

Wayne Wilson had a suggestion for Council when you go to the Summit, and when health comes on the agenda, very little happens with health, Health Canada knows how to run things so people don't pay attention to things, and no one comes together, there should be a huge message from Skidegate, things happen, non-insured health benefits, don't allow policy to negotiate right out of agreements, we should be pushing harder so they don't do that to us.

Lauren Brown added the National Homecare meeting brought up non-insurance health benefits, you're right, Skidegate has always taken action, told her we were fed up with \$31/day, was told do up a petition. Have spoken to our travel clerk and I think we'll start on this petition, if we can get everyone to sign the petition. When we send Council to Summit, we can get Council to bring to Summit and get the petition to Ottawa, hopeful with the tripartite agreement we'll have more control with our health. A lot of staff that come to the health center want to do so much, we have to find balance, when government says this is how you have to deliver services to Skidegate, it's frustrating for our staff. We have a slogan "what are you doing for you health and what can we do to help you".

Lauren Brown added there was a concern about numbers, it doesn't matter with health, it doesn't take away from health if from another community, if I'm Haida and in Saskatchewan, if I go to a health center there they will look after me, we're also population funded. Bella Bella gets same amount of funding as we do. I've been looking to Bella Bella, they've become quite autonomous in working with their Council, I recognized how vulnerable we are, we stayed within the budget, we're capable of running our budgets, this is something we will be pursuing, right now Lisa Kendall and I are working on a plan to present to the Council, to become a separate society. We run our own budgets and run our own health, we will be presenting this to Council, so that we have more control of our health.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Ruth Gladstone wanted to clarify when the health budget was negotiated it was one of the best agreements, medical travel wasn't included, when following policy, what your saying is you need to stay within the reimbursement policy.

Education Portfolio Update: Robert Williams wanted to address the current state of the education department as you are aware, the Council education portfolio holders, Robert Williams, James Cowpar and Tanu Lusignan all take an active role in the absence of the education coordinator, who has since resigned. Our original intent was in the spirit of the RMP, and to save a few dollars, but the job of education coordinator is a job and a half. We decided to divide the job in sections, Robert Williams would take care of post secondary education, being as he was in the system for several years and sponsored by the Band. James Cowpar took on the Daycare and Headstart, and Tanu Lusignan took on financial spreadsheets and finances to ensure we stay reasonably in budget, but we realized we will have to post the position very soon. Currently we are looking at revising the education coordinator job description.

There have been a number of questions with respect to post secondary, best to address in this public forum. #1 students should be entitled to a little bit more living allowance and book money, to ensure they are less stressed to pursue their post secondary education secondly in relation to Council and dictatorship, certain students have received extra funds, and having someone in the office that you can contact on a regular basis. With respect we will stay within policy, the amounts given to students are meant to assist students, this generally is not enough to live comfortably. SBC is bound by INAC regulations we attempt to fund as many students as we can. Book money is generally frozen at \$400, it generally is not enough, usually well over \$1000, a lot of our students are privileged to attend post secondary, they get free education, the incentive is there. Those students that do not get funded (non aboriginal) generally have a significantly tougher time to complete their studies, a Bachelor of Arts takes 4 years, some take 10 years, but Council has made a constant effort to stick with the policy, we are a transparent Council. #3 contact students, we will try to solve this with a new education coordinator in collaboration with education committee, we'll get the best person for the job.

Questions: Russ Jones stated having been a student myself, something I had to do myself, this is one of the most important things the Band does, is getting student's educations, both my son and daughter received some support from Council, this is something that is quite valuable. My son was supported, my thanks to Council for continuing to do this, this is a good program.

Shelly Williams stated the Council is the ones that ratified everything at the end of the day, publically give appreciation to committee members, they put in long hours mostly volunteer it's good work that they are doing. Willard Wilson replied we appreciate what they do, housing and education committee, we thank them for it.

Joanne Collinson asked about the special treatment. Robert Williams replied the oweness rests with the Council, Council has the final say, Council can override the education committee's recommendations. Council is trying to distance from the boards and committees, but the responsibility rides with this table. Willard Wilson added when we look at what Shelly Williams brought up, can't recall overriding any decision that was made by the education committee or give special treatment, would like to review this myself.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Lisa Shoop stated she's been on education committee for 11 years, thanked current Council, this is the most support from Council since she's been on this committee. It's very difficult, used to be easy when there was way more money, the committee spends a lot of hours discussing, we realize how this affects our people's lives. Since she has been on the education committee can recall when our recommendations were overturned by Council, e.g. a cooking school costing \$20,000 when the student could have went to NWCC. Willard Wilson replied we have to look at what has been done, what we will do now, we want to make sure everyone is treated the same.

Jenny Cross had suggestions to Council and the education committee, an idea would be to find out the cost of each of the programs the students are attending so you have a full description of the costs and what each student has to pay out of their own pocket, that would help in the future, for our children and our families, who want their children educated. It is the educated that will run our community and maybe do a poll of other communities ask them how much they give their students. I've been hearing, we're pretty low on the graph of what is given to students for living allowance.

Barb Wilson stated money is always an issue when it comes to funding our young people, my grandchildren looking for funding, if we have a good policy that can't be changed, our students would be better tempted. We should do a review of other First Nations see how they are able to pay more than we pay, I see our kids get quite a bit less than other places. Yes, its right our kids have to learn how to manage money, but they shouldn't have to worry about what will happen if they don't have money. Barbara Wilson's son Craig attended university, had to pay money back to SBC which he did, ended up owing \$20,000 in other loans, and had to drop out, we should be more on board to help the students.

Vonnie Hutchinson stated she's been on the education committee would like to thank Council, these four young men who have stepped forward and working on policy and try to do the right thing. The fact is money is the money, if give kids more money, will have to fund less students, we try to go to the middle ground so we can sponsor as many children as we can, the money is always meant to be a supplement. There are varying reasons for the difference in the amounts of money students from other Bands receive, we don't have businesses, we are doing the best we can, can give you surety that we've done the right thing and the honest thing. Also know in the past, we might make recommendation and those have been overturned. E.g. if someone was a good basketball player, and could bring back fame, let's give them more funding. Willard Wilson stated I stand corrected, sorry not my intention as Chief Councillor to make things worse for any of our youngsters, gets sad when goes home and we can't help people out, want to thank all of you that spend so much time when doing that, sorry if we've done that under my leadership, not my intention to deny any youngster an education.

Diane Brown spent quite a few years on education committee we did do a survey, the NuuChalnulth people did a transfer with health, what they decided to do with their extra monies, gave extra money to their students. But the students had to sign an agreement when they graduate, that they put in two years of work back home, once put in the two years their debt was paid off and they could go work where they want. Some Bands that have regular money coming in they could afford to beef up what students get. Wanted to say that two of our kids went

Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009

through the system we understood it was a subsidy and we helped out, you have to. Difference in the rent is almost \$1000, you don't want your kids to stay in places that are not safe. Proud of our children both got degrees and came back home to work. Wanted to acknowledge the Council. We sure miss Janna Wilson, and hope you fill that position as soon as you can, she shared with me she got too many calls at home from off island students, someone has to be there sometimes, it's not always about money, they just need that extra support that Janna Wilson was giving.

Willard Wilson wanted to correct something in the minutes. Barbara Stevens was in Hawaii on one of her own courses, want this corrected. All I had on my mind today was the public forum, sometimes it isn't easy, we are accountable to you. You put us in this office and we are accountable to you.

Gary Russ asked if Council has authority to overturn committee recommendations, if you overturn, please explain why you did that.

Danny Burton just recently joined education committee, doing a good job working with what we have, allocations and what students will get, we're on par. Appreciate comments from everyone, went through system myself. Wanted to clarify what Robert Williams was talking about our children having a privilege to do that, you cannot compare non-aboriginal students because we come from a different system. It's hurtful to hear non-aboriginal students say you get funding, it's not a privilege, it's our right.

Economic Development: James Cowpar stated the next step for Skidegate is economic development, why is Skidegate involved in economic development in light of what's coming. It's very important that we play a major role in this, we've identified our wrong doings and what's needed to correct the system, we've identified the problem with our corporation. Basically separate politics from business. With CHN there's opportunities, from political aspects have that representation, for shellfish, we have an affiliation with CHN and the OMVC. We just had a discussion recently, how will we make this work, we're working this out. From the board level of the corporation, control has now been put in the hands of the board, Council has identified it wasn't working. We will allow it to be a corporation.

We have a website up www.skidegate.ca, in coming weeks we'll have more information on it, everyone can read up on. Been some monies become available for Kaay, through strategizing, we're confident we'll move ahead, generate jobs, we need jobs, at same time we have to make sure the government structures are there, for management we've raised the bar, it's in the best interest for this community. Regarding education, why is our budget smaller, your running a \$700,000 Council, it pays Council, through reimbursable travel, cutbacks, hopefully with those cutbacks we can free up more money for students, go from \$875 to \$1100. We understand that, we support our volunteers in making those tough decisions. Hopefully we can identify areas where we can make funds available. Hope's good as long as we believe we can make it happen. We post jobs, in a fair process. We thank Russ Jones and Paula Lawson.

Aboriginal Justice: Last Wednesday we had a commitment from Arnie Bellis regarding the committees, this is a sensitive issue, we're all aware of assault that took place at the last dance.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Break at 9:00 p.m.-9:21 p.m.

Finances: Tanu Lusignan reported the public wanted an update on our finances, compare analysis from last year and this year, Tanu Lusignan went over the finances, stating these figures are consolidated as of Dec 31 2008. These figures we'll present to INAC, these targets are very defensive, we've excluded the \$300,000 that CHN owes on bowling alley. The \$335,000 we saved by working on our policies and procedures, we cut down costs in our administration, so we have a closing balance of -2.4 million. This is a two year plan, our goal is in March 2010 to have a zero deficit. We're raising more revenue this year, we're targeting \$2m and to decrease deficit by \$2m. However, against our RMP, we're looking to miss our target by \$1m, this is conservative, \$650,000 is our deficit but it is really around \$400,000. We have this information in our office.

Open Floor Questions: On any SBC business you want to address. Remi Levesque wanted to apologize to for not being here, at the last public meeting, but was very sick and announced "portfolio 39, has now been filled."

Barb Wilson had a number of issues. Her feeling was that the money that has been spent is money that belongs to all of us, everybody, would like to know what or to whom the Ayr Corporation belongs to, what is it set up to do, who's running this corporation, what our obligations as a community are to this corporation. What financial obligation is, if Council has set this up through our economic development, if money has been paid to this corporation, what has it been paid for, if it isn't a legal corporation, in providing us with services, what options do we have as redress. Contracts that this village is responsible for paying for, I'm prepared to wait for some other time so that SBC can put together a list, what the contracts are for, realize a lot of them maybe in connection with Kaay, who arranged these contracts, how many are still working operating/outstanding, how much each contract is for, do these contract provide services that no one else can provide, and who ok'd these contracts. What is still outstanding with David Nairne & Associates (DN&A), my understanding was we were not going to use him anymore, what are our obligations to DN&A.

Willard Wilson stated starting with the Ayr Corporation we looked at Ayr and those representatives, was going to be looking after 61 months of funding, broken down in two sections one was \$20 million of property, the individuals we're Mexican, a rich Mexican family. They were going to put up \$20million of their property we were going to get the interest, the family would get a tax receipt. The second part to that, they would bring a \$100-150m to Skidegate for economic development and those all fell by the wayside. Approximately a little over a year ago, our Council was informed we were a short ways away to get this done, we actually put out a newsflash, we were two weeks from getting this done, it all went by the wayside. Our Council wanted to shut it down, so they can go after the money that was paid out, three of our workers and two lawyers, they were working in South Africa, asked them to give me a little more time so I can talk with the Colonel and Bob Halderson, spoke with Colonel he told me that they were finishing off in South Africa. They were ready to come to Skidegate in the new year, the first part our Council agreed, our share would be \$1.5-2m for five years and one month. That would have given us time for adjusting for Kaay, and with the second part for

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

\$100-150m for economic development, the Ayr Corporation was prepared to come to Skidegate to work with people who wanted to get in economic development, anybody that wanted to get into economic development including Council. Bob Halderson came back from the United Kingdom with the Colonel I asked him what is happening, he told me that the Ayr Corporation is finishing up where they are at. The three individuals that were working on it were Robert DuDoward, Bob Halderson and the Colonel, Greg Jones. I cannot delay our Council anymore, they will do what they will do, it would be like a miracle if they showed up with that money, \$20m they were going to invest in Hong Kong Bank of Canada and the money they were going to invest in economic development. The Ayr Corporation hopefully they were prepared to come to Skidegate to work on economic development. We talked to them about what our wish list was for our hospital and other things, they said as long as it made economic development, they would work with Skidegate or individuals of Skidegate. Right now it's not in my hands anymore, talked to them and told them we're tired of waiting, we wanted a report, we wanted all those papers and the correspondence between Ayr and Bob Halderson, we still don't have them.

James Cowpar added in our investigations, when we were first in session in Council, the Colonel and Bob Halderson are aliases, we looked into this the best we can. When we first learned of this, that we would received \$5m, at the meeting with Bob Halderson, we started asking questions, where's the \$250,000 of this community's money, we done our due diligence, we paid those companies in South Africa, we've asked where's the evidence. Was glad this was brought up tonight, we have to deal with this situation, \$100m sounds great, but to go from \$5m to \$100m in a week, we asked very specific questions, he sounded like a shady car salesman. What dealings does the Ayr Corporation have, they deal in arms, what are arms, weapons, at this point in the game we can't go on with the facade, we move ahead. Are we providing our members with the information, it's everyone's money. We know our needs are out there, we'll do our best, we did our own research, they were on the website, then not on the website, we've yet to see this. Since day one, I haven't been in support of this. Plain in simple fact, people get duped every day, we learn from our mistakes, where we go from this point on, questions from our community. His invoices are public knowledge, can't stress this enough, it really bothers me as an individual. Willard Wilson added he's been around 36 years, if they done that to us, I had no idea, we really looked forward to a cushion that's why our Council agreed to the Ayr Corporation, if they took us hook line and sinker, I didn't know how we're going to take care of the Kaay Center for the first few years, if they done this.

Phil Gladstone stated he's never heard of Ayr Corp. Another person tried to do this to Council years ago, last year this guy was arrested in US for drug trafficking. Service Fees that we don't pay, community can be helping out, Skidegate Days, what did they make on Skidegate Days? Willard Wilson answered \$12,000. Some people are paying the fees. Why aren't we getting the bills? Band is in bad need of salt/sand shed, sand was all frozen, trying for number of years to get a shed. Sand was frozen, we didn't have a screen, wrecked the machine, there's a shed at the water treatment plant. Snow clearing for sidewalks, there's a lot of youth around whoever could help do those sidewalks, there's all these basketball players that receive money from the Band, they could shovel the snow for the Elders. Cemetery should get a whole bunch of people in there, burn off the grass, fire department, no one on a portfolio for fire department, nothing in the financial statement about the vehicles or boats, where did funding come from to buy those boats, a guy repairs machinery, he got laid off, saved the Band money. Rock quarry that's part

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

of economic development where does the funds go. The Band doesn't charge businesses for their services, do they? We have a water main exposed, nothing been done about it, taking a chance of something happening there. There's a lot of litter after the snow goes, can get that picked up. Couple of culverts flooded in Skidegate Properties, those are all things that can be done.

James Cowpar explained the boats/trucks when we first came into Council we asked those questions, the development in heights, we developed an "x" amount of lots we received money from INAC to compensate those developments. The million dollars we received was spent in a slush fund activities, it was a management call, just pointed out what information I've been told. Money was available to purchase what so many of us desire.

Philip Gladstone added the water treatment plant is our main stay of the village, how do these budgets get so bad, \$650,000 in the hole. Inside the tank getting all pitted, there are ways to fix this but it hasn't been forwarded to you. There's some upgrades that have to be done to the water treatment plant, they have problems up there in trying to get our water back, water mains too. Willard Wilson replied regarding the sand on the roads because we have elementary school, that's the road we must keep open. When we look at those budgets, for three years now, we were told by our Funding Services Officer, David Seymour, if we left our budgets in the deficit, O&M budgets, told us to leave the deficits there, he'd help us with it. We're in the third year of doing that, our deficit is over \$700,000 this year we're lobbying hard to get that money. INAC helps us for one year, the other two years they will help us, which will bring us to \$320,000. What we want to do, is highways has abandoned one of their sheds, we want to negotiate for that. Phil Gladstone suggested Council should look at it first. Phil Gladstone asked why don't you get into an agreement with O'Brien, they were offering me salt, I didn't want to build a shed. We tried to get them to maintain the roads, they said no, just the front, they said the rest is up to us. We told them we'll put up a toll booth, to try to get a little more cooperation from them. Maybe that's what we have to do. For the sidewalks where we use the money for that was Work Opportunities Program (WOP), what happened, because we're CFNFA, as our basic went up, our WOP went down, that's where we paid a lot of the workers to do that, this year we had \$50,000 it's all gone. Cemetery grass, that's another one we used to use WOP to take care of. What they used to do in the old days, if you owed the Band money, they had a winter works program, could work off the debt. Fire dept volunteers, we tried to encourage people to join, even thought our admin office could be a part. Phil Gladstone meant there was no portfolio for fire department. Willard Wilson replied we'll take care of this. Phil Gladstone added but we still need volunteers. Willard Wilson explained in '95 buying boats and vehicles, we got paid back a million dollars from INAC, what they didn't pay us. Council paid a million dollars in housing, we got paid back, that's how we bought the vehicles and boats. They are gone, we still have a crew cab and the Haida Gwaii Watchmen truck, but we don't need it. Laying off our maintenance crew, we tried to figure out a way, our O&M was over \$700,000 in debt, that's what happened, our FSO told us not to zero it out. To maintain our water, roads, sewer, that's the one we're lobbying for, we were told today, INAC contemplating sending back 30-40 to us. Rock quarry used for food fish for last four years. Litter in village, I hope we can make a deal with some of those that come to us for funding, make a deal with one of them for the litter in the village. Two culverts going to need a little bit of work, for the water treatment plant and inside

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

the tanks, getting pitted, we're going to have to negotiate to get money to repair it, I didn't know about it.

Joanne Collinson stated regarding the credit card, three credit cards, Jason at Kaay, Lauren Brown at the Health Center, (couldn't hear). Regarding the Colonel this is a lesson not to make desperate decisions. Ed Russ replied regarding the credit card, it was handed back and has been there for the last year and a half. Abuse of credit card, hasn't been abuse under this current Chief. Willard Wilson wanted to correct, our Kaay Center doesn't have a credit card, we wanted them to get their own, the only other one is for our Health Center. There's about half a dozen individuals I gave advances to, including myself, for myself I paid it back right away, I paid back with money orders so there is a paper trail and I had it deducted weekly, and the third way it was taken off my honorarium so there would be a paper trail. 16 months ago I turned in the credit card, informed the Council I didn't want it anymore, gave them 16 months for them to put it in someone else's name. With those six individuals that received an advance, they were all working for us, we had 100% control of their money, I told them if you don't pay it, I have to pay. It was deducted off their pay, couple were contractors and the others were staff members.

Lauren Brown explained the Health Center has one it's quite necessary if there's an emergency medical travel or hotels, the credit limit is \$30,000, was meaning to change that. Four years ago all our travel was put on credit card realized later card in my name, meaning to lower it. Credit card is used for travel, staff to order supplies, e.g. City Center, its faster every month, programs use to put their food on the credit card, it goes through a process. Once travel agency made a personal charge on the credit card, it was their mistake, was deducted. Tanu Lusignan explained the reason why we mentioned the credit card internal control, the 2007 audit letter alluded to it, and the 2008 audit letter. There were no internal controls, when auditor passes judgement, and why it was flagged, it was non-documentation and was close to \$20,000 and cash advances. We don't want this continually flagged by our auditor, we are working on it. Tanu Lusignan also stated he was not in support in continuing our relationship with Ayr. All meetings alluded to try to get clarity, it's clear in my mind to support not to continue with Ayr, if motion on table, I'll second it. Willard Wilson added the time I asked Council for is over for the Colonel and his team I can't do anything now. Council gave me a few more days. Rose Russ stated she didn't like it, was reluctant to kill it, we're not putting out any more money, wasn't sure we had a recourse once we did that, wasn't sure if we would be able to go back and get our money. We could have gotten them in a room and claw our money back, part of me didn't want to be the one who killed the golden goose, you give direction on this, whatever direction you give, I'll be happy with. I do have portfolios, Bill Reid, Gwaii Trust, Youth, work with QC, Social Services, if you ever want to talk about those I'm open, as well as housing, I work like heck.

Tommy Greene stated for the Second Beach site, our recommendation to go back 100m from where the human remains were discovered, wasn't listened to, work long enough to know top scientists. One Council member stabbed me in the chest, asked me do I want to stop the \$19m work. How much to run that, \$70,000/mo, who will pay for that. Willard Wilson replied we hope the Center will pay for itself, there's four revenue generating areas there. Tommy Greene added we don't see any artists benefitting there, I envisioned every artist in Skidegate having a spot in there, just don't see how it will work. Willard Wilson replied when I first became Chief, it was already laid down, the size of it, square footage, how it was going to look we tried to

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

downsize it, we were told we were renegeing on our agreement. We realized now the plan that was done for Kaay, was way off whack, during peak season, costs us \$70,000 to run per month, during the off season cost us \$30,000. That's what it cost us, when we look at the four generating areas, the restaurant hasn't operated and we're going into year two, we have two classrooms, Bill Reid teaching center, and the gift shop those were to help pay for the operations of Kaay, hopefully we can come to a zero balance. Tom Greene asked if it doesn't work who will be paying the \$70,000/month. Ed Russ explained there are other operations to work towards, the accommodation units, inbound tour operators, it's a proposal called Destination Haida Gwaii, when we opened that center we invited the world, we have to work on this, its also the attractions around Kaay, get more people here. Rose Russ stated our only option is to make it happen, make it work and benefit from it, I envision Kaay as three quarters full, it sounds tough, but what else are we going to do. As long as we keep trying we'll pull it off, I'm not going to stop trying.

Ed Russ added this year the Council entered their "J" license in the lottery, our name was the first name pulled, we have a full license of herring roe on kelp to fulfill this year. We're currently looking at applications from a few skippers looking at which way we can go, hopefully in next few days put a call out for some deckhands. Council manages the dock at Skidegate Landing, Omega Packing has wanted to use the dock, for offloads of dog fish, there's opportunity there for deckhands to work for Omega. Anyone needs a job go ask them.

MOTION: 19-01-09(03pmtg) Moved by Shelly Williams that the Skidegate Band Council stop all dealings with the Ayr Corporation. Second by James Cowpar. Discussion. Question. Carried.

Shelly Williams stated we really have to work hard if we're going to make opportunities for our people, there's been break-ins again, we have to go out there and look for the opportunities. There's a lot of people on island that have approached Council, we hum and haa and miss out, there's people that are willing to put up money to do good things for Skidegate. Regarding the drugs, Elders complain the streets really busy at night, my parent's street been pretty busy, we're reluctant to deal with this, we could pass some kind of noise by-law. For Kaay and inviting the world, where are we with our marketing strategy are we including other people from the islands to be a part of our strategy? Willard Wilson replied with our RMP, we wanted to leave our night watchmen, this does curtail some of the break-ins, neighbourhood watch program, some of them are my relatives that got broken in, some of them are quite old. Happened to me, RCMP more worried about if I beat him up, where's the justice, in terms of someone peeking in my daughter's window, the RCMP was more concerned whether I beat him up. Joint ventures in Skidegate, I hope to hear of anyone that wants to do joint ventures, we always listen to people that want to do joint ventures, steer them our way. Drugs-we're open to any kind of suggestions in dealing with drugs, a number of people feel it has to be the whole community that gets involved in that scenario.

Barb Wilson asked regarding DN&A are there other planning architectural companies that we can be involved with, I've heard comments about DN&A, not very good. Wanted to ask about

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

the contract that lead to David Nairne for Kaay, many parts of that contract was blacked out, who authorized the black outs in the contracts, how much was the original contract for, because of those blackouts I want to know what our costs have been as a result of those blackouts. What has to be rectified at Kaay, roof still leaks, big doors still allows water into the floor of the area, for a building that supposed to be controlled, not very good for the pieces that we have in there, who's responsible for fixing all these that are not corrected yet. The heating in Parks office is terrible, last snowfall our management bought heaters for all the offices, so all staff could stay at work, what could be done to rectify the dollars spent on this contract. Housing-heard comments about various grants that different people have been privy to, make a list for the last seven years, like to have a list published that shows who got what kind of grants and for how much. Mortgages-I think that mortgages if people have shown they can pay their mortgages in a timely manner, if they want to do more renovations to their houses, they should be given that opportunity. Paying for our services, if people were able to use their property, as part of their collateral, might be incentive for us all to pay for our services, right now the land is just there, was told land was worth nothing. Drugs and disrespect for people's belongings-we need to look at how things were looked at in the old days, my father told me there's a word that goes with yahgudang it refers to how you take responsibility, if you hurt someone or steal from them you have to make it right, you have to publically apologize, give them money or promise not to do it again, then everyone sit down together as a way of sealing the contract we have to look at our old ways and revitalize some of those, show our young people we are serious. The fight that happened at community hall we should make those young men, have a dinner for the man that was hurt and publically apologize to that man, and have him and his family pay for a dinner here, it's a way to start, we should be looking more at some of the old ways. I would like some answers. Thank you for the work you've been doing, we ask for lots, we have faith in you that you're doing the right things.

Ed Russ replied with David Nairne this Council and previous hasn't used David Nairne in last couple of years, with DN&A we've had history, look around our village, we are up there in the top five for Canada, we've done all right with them, understand concerns with contracts. Architectural firms are quite big, there was a contract with David Nairne in regards to Kaay, don't understand any contract that had things blacked out, don't know of any kind of contract like that being signed by Council. There is a deficiency list, we are trying to deal with that through warranties. The heating system needs to be fixed.

Jason Alsop reported for the roof, we done the proper reporting, its under warranty, we continually report it, oweness is under warranty, it's on the record and it's been declared. A lot of issues are to deal with the location, weather conditions, based on the location and the rainfall. A lot of design safeguards are in place as a result of aesthetics. The heating in Parks, we do have a sophisticated system, controls humidity, that's specific to the museum area, the Parks and heaters wasn't officially reported to me. There is a question about the design, relating to the cold air intake, we've had a good track record, still learning how to manage that. Marketing strategy, we've used a consulting firm from Vancouver, specialize in hospitality tours, we've scaled back since Oct. We will focus on more of just getting out there, media, internet, targeting people with disposable income who travel. We're working with a new group called Community Tourism Foundation, to leverage the dollars used for marketing. We're fragmented with all communities on island, we're going through the planning process now, it's been going relatively well. Kaay is

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

the cornerstone in the Northwest, we've invested a lot of dollars, hopefully go to the region and leverage some of that. Although were in financial situation, we're basically three quarters full we do supplement a lot of our costs, through small grants.

Ed Russ stated regarding mortgages and housing the Council co-signed a number of mortgages, we are just about maxed out. We do have difficulties with some, some keep it all up to date, we're dealing with those that have problems, everyone been pretty good about keeping up. For housing we have in the past done mold and renovation grants recently INAC has put fixed caps on them, \$40,000 for mold and \$20,000 for regular renovations. Generally you get your certificate of possession (COP) after five years you can apply for any of those grants. COP-never heard properties used as collateral, these properties belong to the Queen. James Cowpar added when we got in, past Council had several contracts with Fred Dabiri, since our inception we've really questioned, what his dealings in Skidegate, experts take money from INAC, build things, leave deficiencies. As far as we know, there is a deficiency list, we keep bringing back to table and ask who's responsible. As for any legal justification, it's bad business on his behalf, it was signed off by past Council, he would be construction manager, we're liable, wording in contract, had lots of black outs on it. DN&A knows how to take money out of INAC, we will task him, we will demand more, we will revisit other engineering firms, we're in the business of exercising all options. Housing, Trent Moraes looked into grants available, and is working hard, balancing books, we're at 101 units with deficiencies, this year we could get off the freeze list. Any available monies INAC will hold until we could demonstrate we could do the job. When we first got in we said we'd review all contracts, read between the lines. Mortgages we're at \$1.4m to date, we're at \$3m cap. We are doing our best to keep our young people here, at this point we put things on hold, RBC papers very taxing on our housing, we've asked our community members take the lead with the RBC. Drugs-we look forward to meet with CHN, an action plan worked on, come up with a workable solution, it's ineffective to kick doors in, more affective to treat addicts, and set an example for our youth. Alarm bells are ringing at same time community direction, we can move forward, follow through, i.e. continued housing inspections, we're one community. We will look for options on this issue, we recognize the dealers as the problems, we recognize our people that are in need that are addicted.

Pat Gellerman asks that you speak directly into the mike, so Marcia Piercey can hear, it's important for her to hear every word.

Jenny Cross stated the minutes from last public meeting had action items, first one was drugs, was waiting for it to come up, a lot of people went home. For next public meeting, can see a lot of community members that do want to say something, maybe we can have a suggestion box that can be placed in the Band Office, and then transferred under each heading. At next meeting we can address these concerns that the public has, it's our right to ask questions, we shouldn't feel bad to ask. We are voice of our children in regards of education, it's for all the children, the post secondary students. What I have here is the list of drug dealers in our village, should have addressed this right away, on the back says drugs kill brain cells. Jenny Cross would like this posted, and would like people to come forward to list their families. Names I'm going to write are my cousins, the Pearson boys, I'm not doing this to be mean. Why are they doing this in the first place, they don't have a job. I'm posting this because I don't want our children to be under the influence of drugs, last meeting spoke about my nephew, I said it because I love him. I don't

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

judge him, I assured him that we love him, it's up to us because he doesn't have a mother, it's up to us to help him any way we can. He calls me collect, I want him to call me, I want to know he's OK. Was writing her cousin's names on poster, not doing it to be mean. I heard there are sixteen drug dealers in the village, it's up to us to start taking control, where else do we start. Tommy Greene had a question on the remains at Kaay. I wanted to say something regarding the Colonel, if it sounds too good to be true, it is. We have to look after our community. Will hang up this poster, if anyone willing to come forward to add names, it's not out of spite it's to save the children of our community.

Tommy Greene wanted clarity was involved in the first phase of the graveyard at Kaay, to go back 100 meters, why hire archaeologists and not go with the recommendations, we did one date 2500 years old. We talked about using that as a learning site for universities, a drawing guide for tourists, why wasn't the recommendation followed? Ed Russ replied in regards to the recommendations for the archy work, this is something we need to look at. At that time we had different entities running the project, the buck passed there, who's got the final say, ultimately it comes back to Council.

Russ Jones stated the economic development, I'm a community member on Gwaalagaa Naay board, involves 6-10 days /year, as a community board member, don't know anything about Ayr, never heard about this before today. The other thing is James Cowpar is on the board, we develop a strategic plan, Skidegate has a lot of advantages, has a lot of hard working people here in the community lot of things we can do to create opportunities. The strategic planning was to try to get a plan in place. Some examples expanding convenience store at gas station, co-op interested in an expansion also looking at, over next couple of years, prepare for that expansion, co-op good tenant for the village, Destination Haida Gwaii we spent a year working on. It's a good opportunity for Skidegate, for tourism to grow. Skidegate has potential to be a center on the islands. Shellfish aquaculture is a new project, does have potential for jobs and training for young people, good potential for expansion. Also something that will take quite a bit of capital investment, not something an individual can go into, really need the development corporation so it's successful, eventually will belong to us in Skidegate. One thing that came out of that meeting, clarifying relationships between GNC board and Council, lays out what corporation is going to do, separate business and politics, we have a good basis to work together. Kaay Center is a challenge, it's an opportunity and a building block for tourism on Haida Gwaii, we need to look at what we can do to make it work.

Nicole Crosby has to share her story, everyone has questions about the drug dealers, my relationship with Mr. Pearson, I was arrested because I broke his window and kicked him. Why this happened is because he has a (couldn't hear). I realized I didn't want live that way and be a part of the drug world. I had people coming up to me, was getting harassing phone calls, it took me removing from the island, getting counselling. Give them an option, tell them quit selling drugs or tell them to leave, spoke with RCMP they say it has to go to Council. I had to leave, it was most painful thing I had to do, I care about Darren Pearson, I love him but can't be with him because of what he does, give him an option.

Cindy Williams stated I'm going to put names on that paper, everyone knows who the drug dealers are, I'm sick of it, tired of seeing all these young kids stoned out of their minds.

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Phil Gladstone added the thanks should go to Mooney Pearson and Marlon Williams for keeping the roads clean. Ed Russ wanted to publically thank Marlon Williams and Mooney Pearson for keeping the roads clear, not easy getting up at 4 in the morning to keep our roads safe.

Ruth Gladstone asks that you include public forum on the internet site, and remember alcohol is a drug too, if someone is bootlegging put that name on and selling prescription drugs.

Tommy Greene thank all you, you're doing your job honestly, fairly, hope you set an example.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. by Ed Russ.

Action Items:

DESCRIPTION	ASSIGNED TO	DONE ON
RMP-good to see the info in writing and SBC should update public once per month		
H/C medical policy available at the Health Center		
Suggestion: don't policy our people down to nothing, negotiate high and put out our own policy		
If public has to stay at cheapest hotel and get \$31/day, SBC should be doing the same		
Suggestion: when SBC goes to Summit-should be a huge message regarding non-insured health benefits		
H/C working on a petition regarding \$31/day-everyone sign when it comes out		
H/C working on a plan to become a separate society to present to SBC		
Education Coordinator-will have to post this position very soon		
Education Coordinator-revising the job description		

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Cooking school costing \$20,000, have to look into this		
Find out the cost of each of the programs the students are attending so have a full description of costs and what ea. Student has to pay out their own pocket		
Do a poll of other 1 st Nations see how they are able to pay more to students		
SBC website will have more information on it		
Finances-this information is available at the Band Office		
Ayr-can SBC put together a list of answers to Barb Wilson's questions		
DN&A-list of answers to Barb Wilson's questions		
No portfolio for SVFD		
SBC is in need of shed to store salt/sand for road maintenance		
basketball players to shovel snow and pick up litter		
Service Fees-why aren't invoices been sent out		
Why doesn't SBC get into an agreement with O'Brien re: salt and road maintenance		
HROK-call out for deckhand for this season		
Omega-looking for deckhands at the Skidegate Landing dock		
Drugs-Suggestion to pass a noise by-law		

**Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting
Held January 19, 2009**

Drugs-whole community needs to get involved		
Issues to be rectified at Kaay		
Suggestion to have the young men that were in that fight, hold a dinner for the man that was hurt		
Have a suggestion box at the Band Office to deal with suggestions at next public meeting		
List of drug dealers-to be posted		