

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2015

Capital of Nisga'a Nation Joins Local Government Coalition

The Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government is the newest First Nation to become a member of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA). As the second Nisga'a village to join the ranks of the local government coalition, NCLGA's President hopes it won't be the last.

"It's what we set out to do in our Four-Year Strategic Plan," says Brian Frenkel. "We recognize that local governments, whether they be regional districts or councils, don't always encompass all voices needed at the table. By reaching out to our First Nations communities, we're looking to represent a more complete view of what *all* North Central British Columbians want."

As the governmental advocacy body for every community north of 100 Mile House, the NCLGA is key in advocating for Northern issues at the provincial and federal levels, as well as connecting organizations and spearheading initiatives to benefit all those who call Northern BC home.

Eight First Nations have been identified as Nations who qualify for membership, and two have already come on board: the Nisga'a villages of Gitwinksihlkw and Gitlaxt'aamiks. "Our offer of membership has received some great uptake from surrounding First Nations," says Oliver Ray, NCLGA's Executive Director.

"Now, we need to work on keeping communication open and building those relationships. Quite frankly, we need all of Northern BC to be on the same page – whether that's industry, local government, or First Nations. When we talk with the Province or the Federal Government, we need that united voice. With only 7% of the province's population, how else will we get our perspectives & priorities across? The NCLGA, as the elected voice of North Central BC, is ready to step forward & take on that role."

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association is a coalition of local governments that advocate for a prosperous and sustainable North Central British Columbia. Our jurisdiction covers 70% of BC's landmass and includes nearly 60% of the Province's Aboriginal population.

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