



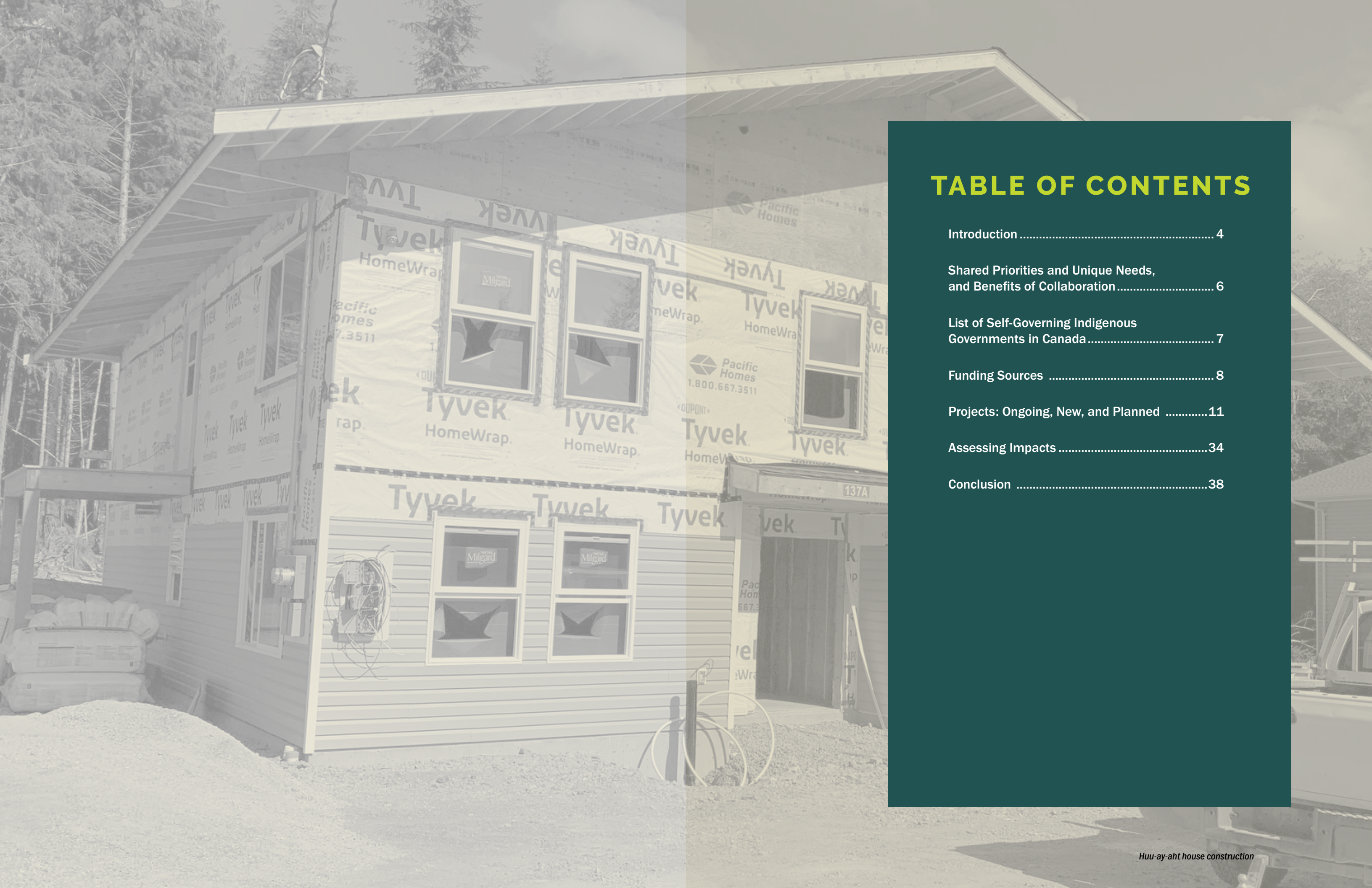
*Tla'amin Child Development  
Resource Centre Construction*

# SELF-GOVERNING INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS

2023



*Tla'amin Child Development Resource Centre, completed March 2023*



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## SGIG CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS

# INTRODUCTION

This “Celebration of Progress” offers key insights into the positive impacts of projects made possible through various sources of funding associated with the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process (CFP).

This document intentionally does not put the numbers first: rather, it focuses on narrative — stories about projects and their impacts on SGIG citizens now and into the future. The structure and content of this document is consistent with the guiding principles of the Indigenous Data Governance Toolkit, which is designed to support SGIG data sovereignty and capacity.

While SGIGs are pleased to share information and celebrate the progress made, they are under no obligation to report specific financial expenditures or line items related to lump-sum funds to the Federal Government. The project narratives in this document demonstrate the success and continued benefits of the funding related to the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process.

This document reflects Indigenous governance structures and the equitable relationships and partnerships that comprise the foundation of Canada’s commitment to reconciliation, informed by the Calls to Action set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Final Report.

In upholding the rights of Indigenous Modern Treaty partners and SGIGs, Canada must acknowledge and receive all categories and levels of material and data available from Indigenous partners in relation to the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process (CFP). Doing so supports transformational change described in Canada’s Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy:

1. The Government of Canada is committed to achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a renewed, nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership as the foundation for transformative change that moves away from colonial systems of administration and governance.

This content represents a distinct shift away from the colonial administration and governance structures that have previously defined political relationships and fiscal transfers from Canada. It is faithful to the principles of reconciliation and the renewed government-to-government and Inuit-Crown relationships that were formed through Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements.

- Project descriptions and the format of this document are consistent with:
  - » The principles of reconciliation and Canada’s commitment to reconciliation
  - » The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA)
  - » Canada’s Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy for Self-Governing Indigenous Governments
  - » Canada’s Collaborative Modern Treaty Implementation Policy

### About the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process

The CFP was launched in May 2016 with the goal of developing an Expenditure Need-based analysis and modelling of all functions and activities related to the implementation of Indigenous Self-Government Agreements. Since that time, the process has generated numerous significant achievements, including:

- The establishment and implementation of the Governance and Administration Expenditure Need annex, which includes both core and variable cost elements
- Approvals of the following annexes:
  - » Land and Resource Interim Approach
  - » Framework for Closing Social Well-being Gaps
  - » Principles to Guide Development of Culture, Language, and Heritage Expenditure Need
  - » The SGIG Data Steering Committee’s launch of the Indigenous Data Governance and Management Toolkit
  - » Completion of the Stage 1 Infrastructure annex

These achievements have been made possible through collaboration with Canada within a relationship based on mutual respect, understanding, and equity.

Technical working groups are at the heart of the CFP. SGIGs participate by first collectively conducting research, drafting, and briefing; then discussing as a caucus; and finally meeting with Government of Canada representatives either in person or via Zoom.

# SHARED PRIORITIES AND UNIQUE NEEDS, AND BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

SGIGs are unique compared to colonial-style governments and compared to each other. Each SGIG reflects a culture grounded in a specific language, land base, heritage, and way of life.

Conversely, SGIGs also have much in common. Governance styles typically include more direct contact with citizens, more consensus-based decision-making, and a greater role for Elders than is common in Western-style governments.

Working collaboratively, rather than exclusively through bilateral tables with Canada, has allowed SGIGs to share knowledge and skills with one another. The result has been a much stronger table, with an ability to develop diverse and dynamic technical working group solutions that advance the process.



# LIST OF SELF-GOVERNING INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA

## Yukon

1. Carcross/Tagish First Nation
2. Champagne Aishihik First Nations
3. First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun
4. Kluane First Nation
5. Kwanlin Dün First Nation
6. Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
7. Selkirk First Nation
8. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
9. Teslin Tlingit Council
10. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
11. Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

## BC

12. Huu-ay-aht First Nations
13. Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
14. Nisga'a Lisims Government
15. shíshálh Nation (Sechelt Nation)
16. Tla'amin Nation
17. Tsawwassen First Nation
18. Toquaht Nation
19. Uchucklesaht Tribe
20. Westbank First Nation
21. Yuułu?it?atḥ Government (Ucluelet First Nation)

## Saskatchewan

22. Whitecap Dakota First Nation

## Manitoba

23. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

## NWT

24. Déjine Got'İne Government
25. Tłıchq Government

## Newfoundland/Labrador

26. Nunatsiavut Government



Exterior of the new CAFN Takhini Hall (Winter 2022-23)

## FUNDING SOURCES

The projects described in this document were financed either in part or in full by the following funding sources:

### Governance Expenditure Need Model

In 2018, SGIGs completed the Governance and Administration annex of the “Green Book,” which sets out Canada’s policy on determining expenditure need for the governance and administration functions of an Indigenous Government, as defined in paragraphs 43 through 50 of the Policy. Governance and administration refers to the functions and responsibilities that are essential to operating an Indigenous Government.

### Lands, Resources, and Treaty Management (LRTM) Interim Approach

Representatives of the Government of Canada and Indigenous Governments have co-developed an interim approach to funding the lands and resources Expenditure Need area. This is intended to meet the immediate funding needs of SGIGs, while the collaborative process develops a fully-costed Expenditure Need methodology for land and resources management.

This includes activities such as community-based land use planning, land transactions/management, natural resources management, compliance, monitoring and enforcement, managing the legal framework, and managing financial and administrative matters.

### Budget 2018: \$189M Social Well-Being Gaps Funding

In Budget 2018, the Federal Government carved out \$189.2 million for SGIGs to begin to address socio-economic gaps. These gap-closing funds were provided to SGIGs over three fiscal years: 2018/2019, 2019/2020, and 2020/2021, although the expenditure of the funds could span a longer time frame if needed. Each SGIG developed a detailed action plan outlining their intended use of the funds; action plans were provided to Canada as a condition of the funding.

Budget 2018 also committed \$2.4M for collective work and \$1.25M direct support to SGIGs to implement various aspects of the collective work.

**“Through Budget 2018, the Government proposes to provide \$189.2 million in 2018-19 to begin the implementation of new fiscal policy reforms that have been co-developed with self-governing Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This funding will support key priorities, including the closing of socio-economic gaps, infrastructure, data collection and governance.”**

**-- Angela Polifroni, Toquaht Nation**

### Budget 2021: \$290M Infrastructure and Housing Funding

In 2018, the SGIG fiscal process technical working group caucus on Socio-Economic Gaps narrowed its immediate focus to two underlying factors: prenatal and early childhood health, and housing. In support of the focus on housing, a review of publicly available data related to housing needs in SGIG communities was completed, and key areas of need were identified.

The study established a base need across First Nation SGIG communities of nearly \$1 billion to bring housing stock up to minimum required levels of adequacy, suitability, and availability. The needs of Inuit SGIG communities were addressed separately through the ICPC permanent bilateral mechanism.

As a result of this work, SGIGs secured roughly \$550 million for housing interventions. This funding also included amounts for the Grand Council of Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the three First Nations with comprehensive land claims that had not yet concluded a recognized self-government agreement (M3). The result was \$300 million to be allocated among the SGIGs and M3 for both housing and infrastructure gaps, again based on the detailed action plans developed by individual Indigenous Governments and organizations.



Déljné modular home transportation: Blackstone Homes

### Budget 2022: \$263M Housing

Investments of \$565 million were announced in Budget 2022 to support housing initiatives led by Self-Government and Modern Treaty First Nations. Further housing stock research was collectively undertaken by SGIGs to provide the housing data used to inform the funding allocations. SGIG communities received \$263 million of this total.

Similar to Budget 2018 and 2021 funding allocations, Canada required that each Self-Government and Modern Treaty First Nation provide a detailed action plan to receive the funds. As the scope of funding for Budget 2022's housing initiative is narrower, Canada aimed for a more streamlined action plan process than in Budget 2021 and provided a template with suggested indicators designed to facilitate this process. Many action plans are in progress or under review for Budget 2022, with the funds to support housing initiatives set to begin flowing in the near future.



Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Elders' Complex



Huu-ay-aht First Nations house construction

## PROJECTS: ONGOING, NEW, AND PLANNED

### Housing

Housing-related funding has come from a variety of sources, each of which has contributed to incredibly positive developments for citizens and members who have been or soon will be housed.

The establishment of new residential buildings as well as renovations and repairs to existing homes have created safer, more stable living situations, enabling the return of citizens/members to their territories, creating local jobs, and allowing for community planning.

SGIGs understand that housing is inextricably linked to the mental and physical well-being of their people. The housing initiatives that have taken place thus far, and those in progress, are generating an immense impact on the lives of SGIG members/citizens.

#### Huu-ay-aht First Nations

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has a subdivision development project in-progress, which is being constructed in phases. This project was made possible by combining multiple funding sources, including BC Housing and CMHC.

### Kluane First Nation

Kluane First Nation (KFN) combined its Budget 2021 and 2022 funding allocations to focus on two areas of need: the construction of new homes, and the completion of major repairs to existing residential infrastructure. Four or five homes will be completed by the end of 2023, with remaining Budget 2021 and 2022 funds earmarked for home construction in 2024.

The homes currently under construction have three bedrooms (with a fourth designated as a services room, as permafrost prevents water systems from being placed under the house) and will be providing housing to four or five families.

Kluane First Nation makes a concerted effort to employ as many citizens as possible during construction to create benefits beyond those being housed. The remote location of KFN makes these projects difficult to complete, but also means that any new housing has a major positive impact on the community.

### Tla'amin Nation

Tla'amin Nation initially received very few tendered submissions for a proposed housing multiplex, but they were all overbudget. In response, an internally managed Construction Services Department was established, which employs 13 Nation members full-time and has a strategic partnership with a local contractor to supply additional labour/trades as needed.

Four of 10 units were completed in 2022, with the remaining units now nearing completion and all units scheduled to be occupied by the end of 2023. However, Tla'amin Nation still suffers from a significant housing deficit, and there is an ongoing process to establish a new subdivision through land clearing and engineering design of serviced lots.

The decrease in funding between Budget 2021 and Budget 2022 contributed to the necessity for six travel-trailers being used to provide housing to those who would otherwise be unhoused.



*Tla'amin Nation housing multiplex under construction in early 2022, and completed homes, March 2023*

### Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN) is using Budget 2022 funds to develop a comprehensive community development plan. The residential component of the plan includes:

- The construction of 20 new homes
- Elder housing
- Housing options for people with varying disabilities
- Repairs on existing homes

The range of housing options covered by the comprehensive community development plan will enable the SVDN to meet the needs of numerous citizens.

### Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) used Budget 2018 funding and additional leveraged funds to construct three duplexes and one family unit, as well as purchase a trailer. These developments housed eight citizens, mostly families with children. However, there are still approximately 50 families waiting for homes—many of whom are in emergency situations.



*Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) completed duplex*



*Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN) Community Centre*

Construction is underway on 13 new homes using combined funding from Budget 2021 and the CMHC's National Housing Co-Investment Fund, to be completed in Fall 2023. This will continue to reduce LSCFN's housing deficit and bring stability to both families and individual citizens.

### Tsawwassen First Nation

Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) used its Budget 2021 allocation to fund its Payment of Servicing and Pre-Construction Costs Program (PSPCP), fulfilling a key goal in the Strategic Plan that "Tsawwassen Members Have Homes."

The PSPCP subsidizes the cost of building new homes on TFN lands, particularly costs related to preparing low-lying lands for construction and connecting to/installing infrastructure for necessary services such as sewage, water, and electricity. Eighteen grants were awarded between 2020 and 2022. Using the Budget 2022 allocation, the PSPCP funding amount is being increased and the program is being expanded to include upgrades to the infrastructure of older homes.



*Toquaht Nation homes in progress*

### **Toquaht Nation**

Toquaht Nation received \$1.6 million from Budget 2021 and allocated the funds to the construction of three single-family homes, which is the housing type most needed to allow families to return to Toquaht lands. The homes are currently under construction and will be ready for occupancy in September 2023.

Budget 2022 funds will likely be used to create a new subdivision to expand Toquaht homelands, as the village no longer has space to build and is in a tsunami inundation zone. A new subdivision will increase Toquaht Nation’s residential capacity in a safer location, helping members return to their homeland.

**“I can’t express enough how beneficial it has been for Toquaht Nation that we do not have to spend time and resources writing proposals.”**

**-- Angela Polifroni, Toquaht Nation**

Funds made available through the 2021 and 2022 Budget allocations have been incredibly beneficial for Toquaht, as they came without an arduous proposal process. “I can’t express enough how beneficial it has been for Toquaht Nation that we do not have to spend time and resources writing proposals,” said Angela Polifroni, Toquaht Director of Operations. “Chasing proposal-based funding is a huge drain on resources and makes good planning very challenging. I want to emphasize the value of not having to do that.”

Proposal writing has long been a significant drain on resources, and successful proposals can take an incredible amount of time to be processed and implemented—which can result in the Nation’s needs changing between the time of submission and receipt of funds.



*Toquaht Nation homes in progress*



*Ucluelet First Nation house in progress*

### **Yuulú?i?at̓ Government (Ucluelet First Nation)**

The Yuulú?i?at̓ Government (UFN) has undertaken construction of a triplex project which is nearing completion, as well as zoning lots for three duplexes, with construction set to begin by Summer 2023 using Budget 2021 funds.

UFN has also conducted an assessment of all existing homes, resulting in repair and maintenance plans; identification of 44 condemned houses, which will be replaced using the Budget 2022 housing fund; and the creation of shovel-ready housing lots.

Disbursement of Budget 2022 funds is expected to take place from March 2023 to September 2026, with an action plan in place to create the maximum number of housing units possible.

### **Champagne and Aishihik First Nations**

Since 2018, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) has constructed 64 new houses, with another 10 currently under construction—nearly doubling the number of homes in CAFN communities and creating opportunities for citizens to come home.

Using Budget 2018 and Budget 2022 funds as a starting point, CAFN leveraged additional funding partnerships to maximize the number of new construction opportunities. New projects include eight homes in Takhini River Subdivision and eight homes in Dakwākāda (Haines Junction).

Other recent innovative CAFN projects included 10 tiny homes, the log homes project, and the “building stability” homes, all of which utilized green construction methods and created training opportunities for local people. CAFN is also using funds to renovate and increase the energy efficiency of existing homes, moving away from heating oil consumption and reducing their carbon footprint.



*CAFN house footings, with the St. Elias Range as backdrop*





*Déłıne John Tetso Building addition in progress*

**Déłıne Got'ıne Government**

The Déłıne Got'ıne Government's (DGG) housing context is characterized by low diversity of housing, poor condition of housing across all housing stock, and a limited availability of homes (with associated long waiting lists). With funding allocated from Budget 2021, Déłıne has begun a long-term project to develop lots and build modular homes in the community to address the housing needs of multiple target groups.

In the 2021 and 2022 construction seasons, six modular homes (two- and three-bedroom) were built following a lot development project. The DGG plans to continue with building modular homes utilizing Housing Investment funds from Budget 2022, while the Housing Action Plan (2023) includes a proposal for an additional six modular homes to be completed as a core component of that plan.

Ten one-bedroom housing units will be made available for occupancy by Fall 2024 through renovation/conversion of the current Wellness Centre into housing, using Budget 2022 funds and a \$1 million allocation from the CMHC Housing Investment Fund. The units will likely be made available to singles, couples, and Elders, and/or serve as transitional housing.

Lastly, Déłıne will be conducting a pilot project constructing tiny homes as a new approach to meet the need for traditional housing in the community, with design and procurement planned for 2023–2024. The range of housing options made possible through the funds described above is having a considerable impact on the lives of Déłıne citizens.

**Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**



*VGFN Elder's Complex*

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) used Budget 2018 funds to contribute towards an Elders facility which includes nine housing units, as well as the planning and construction of four houses to be completed in the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

Budget 2022 funds were used to complete the four houses that were started with Budget 2018 funds, as well as to manufacture and deliver 12 modular homes to Old Crow on the 2022–23 winter road, with completion set for the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

**Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations**

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) has conducted a number of considerable repairs and renovations to homes within its territory. This included the complete renovation of one house, upgrading of plumbing and electrical services in several homes, and roof replacements on seven houses. This work has supported local businesses and contributed to the creation of 11 local jobs.

Also planned are renovations of an additional 14 homes, which will continue to improve KCFN housing stock and the lives of citizens, while creating more local jobs.

**Carcross/Tagish First Nation**

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) has begun constructing a supported living facility in Carcross, which will deliver safe and secure housing to vulnerable families at risk due to unstable housing. The facility will also include a space for a Housing Services office provided by C/TFN's Health & Wellness Department that will further enhance the support and resources available to its citizens.

Providing stable and safe housing is crucial for the well-being of individuals and families, and C/TFN is taking steps to address this issue. It's also important to recognize that unstable housing can have a significant impact on mental and physical health, so having access to support services within the facility can be incredibly beneficial in the long-term.

C/TFN was able to access funding from both Canada's Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) and Budget 2021 to help build 10 new houses and finalize their Housing Plan. The RHI funds were insufficient to construct all 10 units, but C/



*KCFN completed house*

TFN covered the deficit from the Budget 2021 funding to achieve their goal.

Through funding from Budget 2021, C/TFN has also been able to commence work on an Integrated Infrastructure and Housing Plan for communities in Carcross and Tagish that will guide future development and address gaps in housing and community infrastructure.

**Tıchq Government**

The Tıchq Government is currently undergoing several planned phases for housing development throughout 2020–2023. Providing housing options that meet the needs and preferences of professionals can be crucial in attracting and retaining a skilled workforce in a small community. By adding 60 new staff housing units since 2020, the Tıchq Government has made a significant effort to ensure that employees have access to comfortable and appropriate housing options in the four Tıchq communities of Behchokq, Gametı, Wekweetı, and Whatı.



Tłjchq family

With funding allocated from Budget 2021, the Tłjchq government has assisted the Community Government of Behchokq to plan and develop a new residential subdivision that will accommodate additional housing units in 2023–2024.

The Tłjchq Government has provided much needed assistance to citizens who are facing housing issues and emergency repairs. Ensuring that homes are safe and suitable for living is essential for the well-being of individuals and families. Seven houses in Behchokq and three houses in Wekweèti received emergency repairs for homes that were in critical need of upgrades for water systems, home heating systems, plumbing, new walls and flooring. Additionally, the Tłjchq Government commissioned a study on housing gaps in the four Tłjchq communities and is in the process of assessing private homes owned by citizens. The study will help the Tłjchq Government understand the scope of future renovations and repairs needed on Tłjchq citizen-owned housing stock.

### Nisga'a Lisims Government

The Nisga'a Nation made several investments in Housing and Infrastructure through the Budget 2021 funding that included:

- The development of the Nisga'a Nation Asset Management Plan
- Completion of a Water and Wastewater Study to assess growth projection and infrastructure needs. Project underway to develop an Asset Management Policy for these services
- Reviews underway to amend the Official Community Plans and update Zoning Bylaws in the Nisga'a Villages
- Construction of 16 units in the 2022 Construction season in three Nisga'a Villages
- Start of construction of 14 units currently underway for the 2023 Construction Season
- Development of a Universal Housing Policy that would see financial supports to allow new housing starts and renovations of homes in all communities
- Multiple Subdivision Feasibility Assessments have been completed to allow for future development of lands in our communities.

The Nisga'a Lisims Government is planning the construction of a residential multi-unit building to be located in one of the villages. The building would provide a total of 27 units and help to create local jobs, in addition to increasing housing availability.

### Language, Culture, and On-the-Land Programming

Language, culture, and on-the-land programming have profound long-term impacts. While SGIG spending in this area has an immediate effect on the well-being of members/citizens, the greatest benefits will be enjoyed by future generations. In many cases, language and culture are being revitalized by SGIGs after they were systemically dismantled by forces of colonialism.

While much of this revitalization work was already occurring, additional financial resources made available through the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process have considerably increased the speed and impacts of developments related to the inextricably linked areas of language, land, and culture.

#### Kluane First Nation

Kluane First Nation (KFN) has identified Language Revitalization as the priority initiative to improve cultural and community well-being. A five-year, \$6.5 million Language Revitalization Plan has been begun, including the hiring of a Language Director and establishment of a Language Steering Committee.

Planning has included the development of *Dan K'e: Building Our Way into the Vision*; Kluane principles for learning language; in-depth engagement with community; and an environmental scan on the state of the Southern Tutchone language spoken by Kluane people. Despite the incredible progress made and the immense amount of work that has been done as part of the Language Revitalization Plan, the Budget 2018 and gap-closing funding only amounted to \$2.9 million, which has left a \$3.5 million shortfall.

KFN is hopeful that Federal Government support will make up this shortfall. If not, it will be a major blow to Kluane social well-being and stall the incredible work being done to ensure healthy, self-sufficient citizens with a strong cultural identity and sense of community—a community where citizens practise their culture and language, and pass it on to future generations.

#### Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Using Budget 2018 funds, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation conducted research to guide the design and implementation of a full-time adult immersion language program. Recruitment and training of program staff is underway to enable a smooth start-up, while basic language proficiency knowledge is being supported to ensure that more people are ready to engage in full-time immersion.

#### Tsawwassen First Nation

“We Coast Salish people of the hə́nqəmiṇə́m territory are making every effort to revitalize our language for the sake of the younger generations,” says Tsawwassen’s Director of Member Services, Christalynn Gurniak.

**“Colonization and other adversities have diminished the use of language in our communities and households to the present status of having no first-language speakers.”**

**-- Christalynn Gurniak, Tsawwassen First Nation**

Tsawwassen First Nation used governance funding to create its Language and Culture Department in 2021, which is dedicated to the revitalization and promotion of the hə́nqəmiṇə́m language and Tsawwassen culture. The Department is responsible for organizing

activities such as language classes, drumming workshops, beading workshops, and other cultural activities, as well providing cultural advice and working to ensure that Tsawwassen culture and language are infused throughout all TFN government operations.

While the creation of this department has laid the groundwork for addressing future language programs, which will be implemented once funding from the Language annex of Canada's collaborative self-government fiscal policy has been completed, more capacity will be necessary within the Department to administer language programs that support the revitalization of the hə́nqəmíə̀m language within Tsawwassen First Nation.

### **Toquaht Nation**

Toquaht Nation used Budget 2018 funds for the design and construction of a Guest House/Lodge. The Lodge will include 12 self-contained units equipped to house citizens when visiting homelands, which are suitable for Elders and families. The Guest House will provide for medium-term visits as well as on-the-land cultural programming such as youth camps and language nests.

This development is integral to strengthening Toquaht culture, as there is currently no guest accommodation on Toquaht lands, and very few houses. The current lack of access to Toquaht land has also threatened access to Toquaht culture, language, and heritage for many members. Following construction delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mukluq Guest House/Lodge has an expected opening date of Spring 2024.

### **Yuulu?i?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)**

The Yuulu?i?ath Government enhanced its move to increased inter-departmental coordination of connected areas by recognizing that on-the-land programming involves all of lands, culture, heritage, language, health, Elders, and community. This has come in the form of specific steps and considerations applying to on-the-land programming to make programs more accessible and dynamic.

The hiring of language and cultural staff as well as the provision of logistical support helps ensure stability of programs and consistency for citizens. Programming is designed for the participation of Elders, adults, and youth to ensure access and sharing of knowledge and experiences across generations, while dedicated space has been made available for all citizens to prepare for activities.

There has also been a shift to support targeted programs such as those that cater to special needs, activities for troubled youth, as well as on-the-land programming for new parents and parenting programs based in traditional ways. This approach has allowed for a diverse set of program offerings and supports to emerge, with long-term benefits to follow their implementation.

### **Champagne and Aishihik First Nations**

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) created and began delivering a language immersion program, Dän K'e Kwänjē Ghäkenidän (We are learning our language), in 2018 to help revitalize its Southern Tutchone language. The program is open to adult citizens, and the students learn full-time, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CAFN has a lead instructor and two fluent Elder speakers who are the backbone of the program



*2021 graduates and Elder instructors in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations language immersion program*

and pass along their knowledge of the language to the students.

The first nine students graduated in 2021 with certificates and diplomas in language proficiency. Graduates are now teaching in the language nest at CAFN's Shawkwunlee Daycare, the local K-12 school, and with other youth. The second cohort of 10 students is on track to graduate in June 2023.

Due to its language being critically endangered, CAFN has taken a strong stance on language revitalization and has used Budget 2018 gap funding dollars, its own funds, and other funding to create and continue this important language revitalization program.

"Language and culture is our identity and worldview. In our language, we describe things differently and view the world in a different way than the western worldview. Our sense of identity is directly correlated to our mental health and wellness. Losing our language would mean losing an important piece of our identity. Language is the basis of our culture and government. Our traditional laws, clan systems, and ceremonies are in the language."

### **Nisga'a Lisims Government**

Using Budget 2018 funds, the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) will build the Nisga'a Language and Culture Centre (LCC) to support all aspects of the language and culture for the Nisga'a Nation. This initiative will educate members on traditions and historical practices and help re-establish language and culture as vital to Nisga'a well-being, enhancing community vibrancy. This revitalization will have immediate positive impacts on citizens, which will grow with successive generations.



*Rendering of new Nisga'a Elder Centre*

## Governance Funding

Governance funding has made a substantial difference to the day-to-day operations of SGIGs, resulting in greater stability and numerous tangible benefits for members/citizens. With adequate levels of governance funding now in place, many SGIGs have been able to address chronic staff shortages; train staff; conduct organizational reviews or expansions; and undertake long-term planning rather than operating on a reactive basis.

### Nunatsiavut Government

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) used expanded governance funding to meet its day-to-day governance and administration costs, allowing them to redirect other resources to improve programs and services that positively impact people's lives. This includes:

- Language resource development
- Inuktitut master-apprentice program
- Archaeology projects
- Family services
- Food security programs
- Restoration of the church in Hebron
- The Hebron Ambassador program



Tla'amin Child Development Resource Centre construction

### Tsawwassen First Nation

Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) used governance funding to complete regular organizational reviews designed to ensure that its government's departmental structure reflects the priorities of its members. This contributed to:

- The creation of the Language and Culture Department in 2021, which is dedicated to revitalization and promotion of the hənqəmiñəm language and Tsawwassen culture
- The creation of the Treaty Rights and Title Department in 2022, which guides TFN's involvement in projects to ensure Tsawwassen's treaty rights are considered

While the governance funding provided the foundation for the Treaty Rights and Title Department, the funding from the completion of the Lands, Resources, and Treaty Management annex will allow for expansion of this department and enable TFN to be a more active participant in its territory. Ultimately, the governance funding has assisted TFN in both upholding its treaty rights and expanding its Nation's capacity to support revitalization of language and culture.

### Toquaht Nation

Toquaht Nation has seen a dramatic increase in governance funding, and this new financial depth and stability has led to many positive developments.

**“The governance funding alone increased the entire Toquaht fiscal transfer by almost 300%. It has allowed us to further the work of implementing the Treaty and our strategic plans. The benefit this has had on the implementation of the Treaty and Toquaht strategic plans is undeniable.”**

**-- Angela Polifroni, Toquaht Nation**

The increase in Toquaht's governance funding has contributed to the Nation beginning to truly implement the Treaty for the benefit of today's Toquaht citizens and future generations.



Toquaht Gathering House final concept drawing

1-1 Perspective of community building elevation  
1:500

### Yuulu?i?atḥ Government (Ucluelet First Nation)

Governance funds enabled the Yuulu?i?atḥ Government to expand infrastructure, create new departments, and establish new positions. This included the purchase and implementation of much-needed new accounting systems between 2019 and 2022 which have allowed for:

- Improved tracking and control of funds
- The creation of an internal Communications Department in 2020
- Dedication of a staff member to Government-to-Government tables in 2021
- Hiring a Legal and Governance Clerk in 2020

Governance funds have also been used for planning purposes, such as the completion of the Yuulu?i?atḥ Government strategic plan in 2022-2023.

Finally, Yuulu?i?atḥ have increased the capacity of their staff and leadership. Oversight working groups have been formed to report to leadership on project effectiveness, helping to ensure efficiency of operations. In addition, training and capacity-building activities have been occurring on an ongoing basis since 2020 for both leadership and administrative staff. Each of these initiatives demonstrates a commitment to continued progress.

## Tłıchǫ Government

Governance funds enabled the Tłıchǫ Government to create a new Department of Policy and Planning. With this dedicated department in place, the Tłıchǫ Government can now ensure that its governance structures and decision-making processes are aligned with its long-term goals and objectives.

## Nisga'a Lisims Government

The Nisga'a Lisims Government has expanded capacity in a number of ways using the governance funding, with most funds dedicated to data-related projects. Data initiatives include an assessment of census data and a Nisga'a Nation Household Survey. The resulting data analysis has informed current projects and planning.

## Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation used Budget 2018 funds to commission a review of their governance/organization structures and to assess socio-economic gaps in the community of Old Crow.



Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Elders' facility interior



## Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) has continued its Dän Tăn Gà Dijäl initiative (We all walk along the trail our way), which first began in 2015. Through the Dän Tăn Gà Dijäl initiative, CAFN is leading Indigenous revitalization efforts, moving away from the colonial legacy of the Department of Indian Affairs and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, and taking steps to integrate Dän K'e (Our Way) into its unique form of self-government.

Dän Tăn Gà Dijäl focuses on a holistic and comprehensive approach to the delivery of programs and services for CAFN Citizens. Recent projects have included:

- A pilot "Spirit Builder" position
- Creating a new Dän K'e chart of accounts to track spending
- Engaging with a Citizen Committee on wellness
- Focused learning through traditional stories

## Community Infrastructure

Activity related to SGIG infrastructure projects includes assessment, planning, repair and replacement of existing assets, as well as construction of new assets. Infrastructure spending encompasses a wide range of projects and results in a host of positive impacts.

## Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) used Budget 2021 funds to commission designs for a new public works facility that will support maintenance and storage of large fleet equipment, as well as the storage-management of equipment and materials for use in infrastructure and housing repairs. Tendering for bids on the construction of the facility will take place between April and May 2023.

LSCFN is also initiating community planning for drinking and wastewater systems in regard to best locations and mechanisms. This community planning will build on the initial Class D estimates already completed. Each of the developments are using Budget 2021 funds and are contributing to a variety of necessary infrastructure developments that will improve the lives of citizens now and in future generations.



LSCFN house in progress



Nunatsiavut 'Monkey Hill' Microwave Tower

## Nunatsiavut Government

The Nunatsiavut Government (NG) has improved IT infrastructure, such as new phone systems in four buildings and upgrading of its computer system firewall to protect against cybersecurity risks. Microsoft Surface Hubs were purchased during the pandemic to enable virtual meetings. Funds have also been used to improve internet and cell service in Nunatsiavut by upgrading microwave towers.

These improvements in IT infrastructure aided the NG in continuing smooth operations during the pandemic, while looking toward the future and ensuring that it is prepared for an increasingly technologically sophisticated model of governance.

The Nunatsiavut Government has also begun addressing health infrastructure by hiring an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) consultant to revamp its OHS program and enable necessary training to take place. Additional Budget 2018 gap-closing projects that were delayed by the pandemic are going to tender in the near future.



SVDN Community Centre interior

### Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Using Budget 2018 funds, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (SVDN) constructed a new community centre designed to address the significant shortcomings of existing spaces (the old community centre and school gym, undersized boardrooms).

The new community centre has provided a holistic and cultural space for people to gather. Events hosted in 2021 included Chief and Council meetings, post-secondary graduate celebration, Child and Family Services meetings, cultural gatherings, training sessions, finance meetings, and retirement lunches.

Tricia Hayward, SVDN Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Implementation, said, “The SVDN Community Centre offered a functional and proper space to hold training sessions that were delivered to our Program Managers. Having this building in our community meant we did not have to rent hotels/rooms in Brandon to take training; rather, the trainers were able to come to us.”

SVDN also completed the construction of the Oyaté Omnićya Tipi Government Building in December 2021. The building houses staff from Finance, Employment & Training, Social

**“The Intergovernmental and Implementation Department utilized the space to host Elder meetings and community engagements. Thankfully, the space is now designated as a Culture and Language space where our programming for Dakota language revitalization will take place over the next several years. It will be a place for honouring, recognizing, and revitalizing our Dakota history, culture, and ways of knowing.”**

**-- Tricia Hayward, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation**

Development, and Self-Government that were previously in four separate buildings. Chief and Council are on the top floor of the building, with a total of 35 employees in the new office space.

Vacating the other buildings created space for Housing and Public Works, Maintenance, and IT, which were previously in an unsuitable working environment in another building, now used for storage.

In addition to the above, SVDN completed a number of water and wastewater upgrades and performed much-needed maintenance tasks using Budget 2018 funds. This included:

- Replacement of well pumps in May 2020
- A filter audit in June 2020 to determine if the filter system should be refurbished/repared
- A desktop hydrological assessment to identify potential groundwater sources
- Five test holes drilled to determine the best locations for new wells



SVDN Community Centre willow basket weavers

Budget 2018 funds were also used to fund a meeting with Friesen Drillers and Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operators in relation to the construction of a new WTP using Budget 2021 funds that will bring piped water to an additional 92 homes. The Budget 2021 funds were used to establish initial plans for the new WTP with a plan to tender this project in April 2023.

### Toquaht Nation

Toquaht Nation used Budget 2018 funds for the design and construction of the Mukluq Guest House/Lodge. The Lodge will include 12 self-contained units equipped to house citizens when visiting homelands, which are suitable for Elders and families.

“We need infrastructure to support programming,” says Angela Polifroni, Toquaht Director of Operations. “We know one of our biggest gaps is the ability for people to connect with the culture. Culture is land; culture is language. So, we wanted to provide a space for Toquaht people to come back to and to be able to participate in the resurgence of Toquaht culture.”

### Yuulu?i?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)

The Yuulu?i?ath Government has engaged a consultant to complete a feasibility study that will determine the infrastructure required for current and future housing developments.

### Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) used infrastructure funds to carry out major repairs to the Aishihik Road that restored access to the traditional village of Āshéyi (Aishihik), which is 120 km from the highway over rough road.

Seasonal damage due to glaciation and water movement, exacerbated by climate change factors such as melting permafrost, stopped travel on this vital road to access traditional activities in and around Āshéyi. Repairs were carried out by CAFN staff and the CAFN-owned company Castle Rock Enterprises.



CAFN washed-out road at repair site.



*John Tetso Building construction*

### **Déłjñę Got'jñę Government**

The Déłjñę Got'jñę Government (DGG) completed two major infrastructure projects using Budget 2019 and Budget 2021 funds: the John Tetso Building addition and the construction of the Déłjñę Preschool.

The John Tetso Building houses many of the government offices. Thanks to Budget 2019 funds, which enabled the completion of stalled renovations and an addition, the building now accommodates leaders and staff involved in core governance and administration functions of the DGG, including the offices of the ʔekw'ahtjédé (Chief) and senior management (CEO, COO, and CFO). This facility also provides the main meeting space for leadership, including the Déłjñę K'aowədó Kə (Main Council of the DGG) and other key government structures.

The Déłjñę preschool/daycare was completed in 2021 utilizing gap-closing funds allocated from the 2019 housing and infrastructure envelope. Gaps-closing funds were also used to complete construction of a duplex for associated education staff housing.

### **Ka:yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations**

Ka:yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) has completed numerous urgent repairs and installed new infrastructure. This includes repairs to the water and sewer system, and the installation of new generators and solar arrays. There are also plans to renovate the Health Clinic after it suffered weather damage. These infrastructure developments have created 11 new local jobs and supported local businesses.

### **Nisga'a Lisims Government**

Using Budget 2018 funds, the Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) will build the Nisga'a Language and Culture Centre (LCC) to support all aspects of the language and culture revitalization for the Nisga'a Nation. This initiative will educate members on traditions and historical practices and re-establish language and culture as vital to Nisga'a well-being, enhancing community vibrancy. The facility will include administrative offices at the rear as part of the design, providing local government administration space to relieve pressure from insufficient NLG office space.



*Nisga'a Language and Cultural Centre rendering*



*NLG NEST team*

Fusion, the NLG, and project architects held meetings in October 2021 with the community council in each of the four villages (Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx) to share preliminary designs and plans for the centre. Visiting each village separately allowed for in-depth discussions about the facility's design, purpose, and operations and provided the opportunity for input to identify consistent messages from council members across the four communities.

Nisga'a Employment Services and Training (NEST) was involved early in the project planning, providing support to the LCC with site preparation

and some early and local heavy equipment training. NEST partnered with O'Brien Training Limited to train Nisga'a citizens through a two-month apprenticeship program to clear the land and prepare for the LCC's on-site services.

The Nisga'a Lisims Government is also developing the Nisga'a Residential Care Facility parallel to the Language and Cultural Centre, utilizing similar project steps in the initial phases of the project and thus capitalizing on economies of scale.

The facility will be a 'campus of care' providing both assisted living and long-term care to Nisga'a Elders. The initial renderings describe a 54-room facility divided into two wings: one for an assisted living space and the other for long-term care residents. Currently, this project is in the assessment and pre-design phase (phase 1) of the nine-phase project process.

Using Budget 2021 and Budget 2022 funds, the Nisga'a Lisims Government engaged a consultant to complete a Collaborative Water and Wastewater study of the four villages to assess their existing water systems. The consultant also conducted research on flood planning for the communities. The studies will be crucial for planning related to housing in the communities.



*Rendering of Nisga'a Residential Care Facility*

## Early Childhood Education and Care

SGIG support for early childhood education and care continues the trend of concrete, immediate impacts while creating a pathway to exponential progress for future generations. The youngest citizens/members benefit most from the funds that have been put towards this area, with the support they receive building a strong foundation for their lives. CFP funds have already made a meaningful impact on children and families in SGIG communities.



*Tla'amin Child Development Resource Centre construction*

### Tla'amin Nation

Tla'amin Nation used \$1 million from the 2018 gap-closing funds (along with \$3 million from the Government of British Columbia) to expand the Child Development Resource Centre (CDRC). This has resulted in the construction of a second two-story building beside the original Centre with a family drop-in centre and space for 75 more children.

The new building includes a sensory room for assessment and a safe space where interventions into childhood development can take place, which create more opportunities for positive early childhood developmental outcomes.

The CDRC expansion has addressed immediate needs of Tla'amin while benefiting the youngest citizens now and in the future by establishing a strong foundation of learning and development.



*Tla'amin Child Development Resource Centre, completed*

### Yuułu?ii?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)

The Yuułu?ii?ath Government has allocated funding towards staffing of childcare centre early childhood educators and Responsible Adults, with early childhood language and culture programs making up a significant component of the spending. This use of funds helps establish a strong foundation in culture and language for young learners which they can carry with them as they grow, and pass on to subsequent generations.

### Tłıchq Government

The Tłıchq Government directed Budget 2018 funds towards closing identified gaps for Tłıchq Early Learners and strengthening Early Years programming. Tłıchq Government secured a temporary space in Behchokq̓ to deliver family and parent programs while waiting for the new Early Childhood Family Resource Centre to be constructed, as well as establishing partnerships with a variety of community organizations to deliver family-oriented programming.

Further support for Tłıchq Early Learners has come through the establishment of the Department of Early Childhood and partnerships with Aurora College and other Tłıchq Government departments to gather information on Tłıchq parenting and family values to create a vision for future work.

Tłıchq Government has been able to hire its own specialists, such as an Occupational Therapist to work with Daycare staff and children, as well as with families in the community. This has been especially impactful in the smallest communities, where services are very limited. Tłıchq Government is looking to expand to include speech and language services to help close those gaps as well.

Lastly, community members and Daycare staff are now able to participate in online learning courses through the Early Learning and Childcare program at Aurora College. The wide range of actions taken to close gaps and strengthen Early Years programming demonstrates a long-term commitment to early learners that has begun to receive the funding required to be realized.



*Délıne preschool/daycare*

### Délıne Got'ıne Government

The Délıne preschool/daycare, named Tudzə ʔerjhtł'ékq̓ (meaning "Water Heart School," referring to the story of the Water Heart of Great Bear Lake), was completed in 2021 utilizing gap-closing funds allocated from the 2019 housing and infrastructure envelope. The preschool/daycare delivers an early childhood, Dene Kədə immersion education program to children in the new facility, which is modelled on a fish design (significant for the fish from Great Bear Lake).

The preschool is licensed for 16 preschool children (aged 2–4 years), and the daycare space is licensed for eight children (aged 0–24 months). Gap-closing funds were also used to complete construction of a duplex for associated education staff housing.



*Délıne staff housing duplex*



## K-12 Supports

### **Yuulu?i?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)**

The Yuulu?i?ath Government has been very appreciative of the funding they've been able to allocate towards K-12 student supports. Activities include hiring a full-time Education Manager, as well as an Elder working as a part-time support staff member, while also establishing a language immersion program and a transition program from daycare to school. In addition, the increased funding has led to school-specific supports, such as:

- Developing Indigenous programming
- Language support within local schools
- Facilitating student comfort with their culture and language while at school
- Providing space at the Health Care Centre for students to complete homework outside of school hours
- Having an Elder visit students' homes when they are absent from school

Together, these steps have resulted in a significant reduction in absenteeism. The positive changes have been immediate, while the long-term impacts are set to grow exponentially.



*Tl'cho children playing*

## Post-Secondary Education and Employment

### **Yuulu?i?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)**

The Yuulu?i?ath Government (UFN) has used the additional funding made available to make significant strides in employment and training opportunities by holding a three-day tradeshow and sponsoring Out-of-School-Time programs, including:

- First aid training
- Possession and acquisition licensing
- BC Boat License courses

UFN also sponsored 26 post-secondary students, including three doctoral students, a nursing student, and students in business and the humanities. They closely monitor students' progress and engage tutoring services when required. UFN holds programs to keep students connected with their culture and community, such as a community day in Port Alberni, which all post-secondary students are invited to attend.

The pandemic and inflation have caused significant stress and financial challenges for UFN post-secondary students, particularly those requiring housing in Victoria and Vancouver. The cost of housing for students has doubled over 12 months in Victoria, and on one occasion UFN had to send a staff member to assist a student trying to find housing. Budget 2018 funding has enabled Yuulu?i?ath Government to assist students during this difficult time and provide continued support despite these new challenges.

## Health and Well-being

Improving health and well-being is a foundational goal of all good governments. The following projects are linked to this specific goal.

### **Tla'amin Nation**

Tla'amin Nation has selected a location for a Traditional Foods Facility and has received provincial funding to allocate towards the next stages of the project. However, additional funds are required to proceed in defining the precise scope of the facility and to call for tenders on the project.

### **Yuulu?i?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation)**

The Yuulu?i?ath Government's community wellness worker has continued their vital work begun in prior years, overseeing several programs/projects as noted in previous years' reporting. By the end of the current fiscal year, funds will be fully expended.

### **Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations**

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) is developing plans to build a multi-generational family program that provides full support to KCFN families.

Often individuals or families go to treatment but return to the same environment upon completion of programs. This program will provide space for all generations to participate in learning how to deal with traumas, as well as how to live, play, and grow together. Focusing on all generations brings a holistic approach to treatment and promises a greater likelihood of producing long-term positive outcomes.



*Tl'cho babies playing*

## ASSESSING IMPACTS

The initiatives described in this document demonstrate remarkable progress in a short period of time. Since funds related to the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process began to be transferred to SGIGs, major progress in governance, housing, infrastructure, language and culture, and social well-being has occurred.

These developments have resulted in numerous positive impacts on community wellness, through the construction of new housing, new construction and repair of critical infrastructure, educational supports for children and youth, and implementation of language immersion and on-the-land programs.

Tracking this positive progress and developing tangible data has proved difficult due to the diverse nature of SGIGs and the necessity of having broader data governance and management infrastructure in place to conduct data collection and analysis. The Indigenous Data Governance Toolkit has begun addressing the challenges of data management among SGIGs and has made a great deal of progress since its beginnings in 2018.

## Indigenous Data Governance Toolkit

**“Being a part of this project has been very helpful to us in determining where we are as a government when it comes to data and information management.”**

**-- Belinda Webb, Nunatsiavut Government**

The impacts of ongoing colonial practices have created significant social inequities between Indigenous peoples and other Canadians. As part of the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process (CFP), Canada committed to supporting SGIGs to address gaps in socioeconomic outcomes according to their communities' priorities and approaches. Unfortunately, the data on these gaps is incomplete. To inform the work on closing gaps and to support future investments, better, more accurate, and more consistent data is needed. The SGIG Data Project was created using funds from Budget 2018 to support SGIG communities in their efforts to gather and manage that important socioeconomic data.



The objective of this project is to support SGIG data sovereignty and capacity. SGIGs have responsibilities to help support well-being among their citizens. Like all governments, they need reliable data to help them make informed decisions, allocate resources, set priorities, and be accountable to their citizens.

The Data Project began in 2019 with an environmental scan to assess what data SGIGs were already gathering and what processes and systems were being used to collect and store it. The SGIGs quickly realized several things:

- IT is a small piece of the data picture.
- SGIGs are collecting data, but it's often not accessible for analysis and reporting.
- SGIGs have different data needs and priorities.
- Data collection and analysis cannot be performed outside of a larger data governance and management infrastructure that incorporates legislation, privacy protection, security, technical infrastructure, data quality, and data storage.

**“The Data Steering Group ... has provided great benefits to Ucluelet First Nation. We look forward to the resources this group offers; it fills a vital need.”**

**-- John Rankin, Ucluelet First Nation**

Recognizing the need for support across the SGIGs in establishing a strong data governance and management foundation, the project pivoted to developing shared resources and capacity supports in these areas, including:

1. Creation of the Data Governance and Management Toolkit: An online resource designed to support data capacity (<https://indigenousdatatoolkit.ca>)
2. Webinar Series: A webinar series designed to introduce the key topics outlined in the toolkit (<https://indigenousdatatoolkit.ca/webinar-series/>)
3. Community of Practice: An opportunity for SGIG staff members to connect with each other and share their successes, challenges, and suggestions. The community of practice involves 1- to 2-hour virtual sessions in which an SGIG representative (sometimes with support from an external expert) provides a presentation on work they have done within the field of data governance and data management, followed by group discussion. (<https://indigenousdatatoolkit.ca/community-of-practice-videos/>)
4. Expert Advisory Hours: Each SGIG was afforded 35 hours to connect with an expert for one-on-one support. This allows SGIGs to work on their own priority projects according to their own timelines. Several SGIGs have already used all 35 hours, and more have expressed interest in doing so in the next six months.
5. Community Well-being Tools Project: The goal of this project is to bring SGIGs together to build capacity and knowledge in multiple areas of data governance and data management while working on one collaborative project with tangible outcomes.

The project will produce a community well-being framework to support individual SGIG capacity building around well-being data governance and management.

The project is designed to benefit the SGIGs who are directly participating in the project, as well as generate tools and content that will benefit all SGIGs. The project will meet the interests of the SGIGs in understanding and reporting on community well-being through the following deliverables:

- Data governance framework and templates
- A conceptual well-being framework
- A community well-being facilitation tool
- An indicator selection library and development framework
- A data-sourcing strategy; data collection and analysis tools
- Reporting dashboards and templates
- Costing guidance

At this stage, the data governance framework and templates; conceptual well-being framework; a community well-being facilitation tool; and an indicator selection library and development framework are all well underway. The tools are scheduled to be completed by March 2024.

6. 2022 Virtual Workshop on Qualitative Data Collection and Indigenous Knowledge: The objective of this workshop was to discuss how the Toolkit can include meaningful guidance to support SGIGs to draw upon Indigenous Knowledge and qualitative data to guide understandings and approaches to assessing and monitoring social well-being.

7. Data Access: Each SGIG region was allocated funding to support them to access data on their citizens held by external organizations (e.g., territorial/provincial government departments, FNIGC, Statistics Canada).
8. 2023 In-Person Workshop: An opportunity to advance the Community Well-being Tools Project and the online Toolkit, as well as an opportunity for SGIG representatives to come together in person to learn from each other.

Two days focused on the Community Well-Being Tools Project and on initial scoping of the Indigenous Approaches portion of the Toolkit. The remainder of the workshop included two community of practice presentations; a discussion on future planning for addressing SGIG data governance and management needs and sustainment of data project products; and a check-in with the Federal team.

Data Steering Committee project activities and resources have been enthusiastically received by SGIG representatives. “Being a part of this project has been very helpful to us in determining where we are as a government when it comes to data and information management,” said Belinda Webb, Deputy Minister of Language, Culture, and Tourism with the Nunatsiavut Government. “We have been able to determine where we are and what we need to do. We now have work happening on an environmental scan and development of a framework.”

“The Data Steering Group, encompassing access to specialists, regular informative sessions and online resources, has provided great benefits to Ucluelet First Nation,” said John Rankin, Technical Representative for Ucluelet First Nation. “With financial resources offered, we engaged a specialist to access our data management gaps and needs. Building

on this, we hired a co-op student to complete an inventory of all our computer hardware and software to enhance our controls of such, identifying weaknesses in our systems. The co-op student had ongoing access to a data management specialist referred to us by the group. We look forward to the ongoing resources which this group offers; it fills a vital need.”

SGIGs require continued support to implement the tools developed through the Project on the ground, in their communities. Implementation has begun in some SGIGs; however, most are at the beginning stages of what will be a long-term process of building data capacity. There is much work to be done, and the SGIGs have been engaged in initial planning past the end of the Budget 2018 funding.

## CONCLUSION

The Collaborative Fiscal Policy Development Process, with its associated relationships based on equity and mutual respect, is truly an example of reconciliation in action. The funding sources made available through the CFP have contributed to an incredible amount of progress for SGIGs in a variety of key areas, as evidenced by the projects outlined in this document.

While the differences made in SGIG members/citizens' lives are obvious, any progress to date is a mere beginning. Generations of trauma and systemic inequality are being addressed.

The positive impacts realized thus far are simply the first few indicators on a very long timeline. These positive effects will continue to grow with each successive year, until the children who first benefited from these measures become the adults who administer them in healthy, strong, culturally grounded communities.

SELF-GOVERNING INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS

## CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS

SELF-GOVERNING INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS  COLLABORATIVE FISCAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Deline Go'tine Government: The John Testo building is currently being updated/renovated to improve governance and community services.