

TALKING STICK

A GREAT BEAR
RAINFOREST
PUBLICATION



Kitasoo / Xai'xais Powering Klemtu with Renewable Hydro
Coast Funds Thanks Outgoing CEO,
Welcomes New Team Members

SUMMER 2022

Updates from Coast Funds

Welcome to the summer 2022 edition of Talking Stick, a

magazine showcasing stewardship and sustainable development initiatives led by First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.

This issue features the **Klemtu hydropower expansion**, an exciting project led by the Kitasoo / Xai'xais Nation that's doubled the community's generating power. With the new capacity, the community can power new homes for community members and is installing electric heat pumps, to reduce heating costs and improve air quality.

This spring, Coast Funds bid a fond farewell to long-time Chief Executive Officer, **Brodie Guy**. The board of directors has begun the search for a new CEO and, during this transition, has appointed me to the role of Acting CEO.

We've also welcomed a new director to the board, **Laanas Tamara Davidson**, and two new staff members, whose energy and talents will help Coast Funds continue to deliver effective support to First Nations along the coast.

In our **annual report**, released at the end of April, we've included details on recent project investments, highlighting examples of First Nations' leadership in ecotourism, renewable energy, and Guardian programs. Through measurement of outcomes and the telling of stories, First Nations are demonstrating how investments in stewardship and local economies are contributing to greater community well-being.

As the summer season begins, we are eager to resume carefully-planned visits to communities to meet with community leaders, celebrate First Nations' achievements, and explore new ways to support communities' visions for stewardship and economic development.

We are honoured to help present the stories First Nations are sharing in Talking Stick. If you have a story you'd like to share and publish, please reach out to our editor at talkingstick@coastfunds.ca.

Eddy Adra
Acting CEO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Updates from
Coast Funds
02

Powering Klemtu
Kitasoo / Xai'xais Boost
Hydropower Capacity
03

Recognizing Brodie Guy
Leadership Changes
05

Coast Funds
Welcomes New Faces
06

SUMMER 2022

Editor **Stephanie Butler**

Coast Funds
750 — 475 Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 4M9
604 684 0223
talkingstick@coastfunds.ca

COVER

With the upgrades, the Kitasoo / Xai'xais' hydro facility can generate up to 1.7 megawatts of electricity.

PHOTO BY

Ben Whyte, Barkley Project Group

OPPOSITE PAGE

Workers install penstock, which carries water from a mountain lake down to a turbine..

PHOTO BY

Taylor Stubbins, Barkley Project Group

Powering Klemtu

Kitasoo / Xai'xais Nation upgrades
its hydropower system, increasing
Klemtu's electrical capacity and
reducing future emissions.





LEFT

Isaiah Robinson (L) and former Chief Councillor Roxanne Robinson (R) at the Klemtu powerhouse.

PHOTO COURTESY
Roxanne Robinson

IN THE VILLAGE OF KLEMTU, at the heart of Kitasoo / Xai'xais territory, an upgraded hydropower system is powering the community's vision for sustainable development, affordable energy, and a good life for current and future generations.

Klemtu, like many coastal communities, is "off grid" and generates its electricity locally. In the 1970s, the Kitasoo / Xai'xais built a hydroelectric facility at Baron Lake, using water and gravity to generate 600 kilowatts of power, reducing the community's reliance on diesel generators. For decades, the facility created enough

“We can move to zero emissions, that's our goal, and we're well on our way to doing that.”

electricity to meet most of the community's needs, powering the band office, homes, and businesses, and helping the Nation to progress towards energy sovereignty.

However, as the community grew, so too did the need for electricity. When the aging hydro facility couldn't keep up with the demand, or if the supply of water was disrupted, residents experienced power outages. If the system had failed outright, the community would have needed to purchase, import, and burn 103,000 litres of diesel fuel each year for power.

"Maxing out our system put so many limitations on our community," says Chief Councillor Doug Neasloss. "We couldn't look at building new houses without first expanding our power."

The Kitasoo / Xai'xais began exploring options for increasing Klemtu's electrical capacity. After considering several different technologies, the community chose to expand its hydro facility.

Through the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program, delivered by Coast Funds, the Kitasoo / Xai'xais invested \$4.6 million in their hydro system.

To upgrade, the Kitasoo / Xai'xais built a wider penstock to increase the flow of water to the turbines, boosting the powerhouse's generating capacity from 600 to 1,700 kilowatts. They also lowered the intake pipe, making the system more resilient to changes in rainfall and water levels.

With construction now complete, the community has the electricity it needs to build new homes, giving remote members an opportunity to return home to Klemtu. The Kitasoo / Xai'xais are now upgrading their distribution system and installing electric heat pumps, saving members thousands of dollars a year on heating costs.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
[COASTFUNDS.CA](https://coastfunds.ca) AND
[SEARCH KLEMTU.](#)



Recognizing Brodie Guy

AFTER NINE YEARS WITH COAST

Funds, including six years as Chief Executive Officer, Brodie Guy departed the organization on April 15 to take on a new leadership role with Island Coastal Economic Trust.

At a farewell gathering in April, the board of directors thanked Brodie for his leadership and impact during his time with Coast Funds.

“Brodie has played a significant role in transforming Coast Funds since 2013, deepening our trust-based relationships along the coast, and achieving exceptional results in terms of the significant funding we’ve disbursed to First Nations and our strong investment performance,” says Dallas Smith, Chair. “The board wishes him nothing but the best in this next chapter.”

“It has been an honor to serve First Nations as CEO of Coast Funds during this period of transformation and growth,” says Brodie Guy. “I also want to thank all coastal First Nations, funders, and the board of directors for their support.”

Following Brodie’s departure, the board of directors began the recruitment process for a new CEO. To ensure a smooth transition with no disruptions to funding or services, the board has appointed **Eddy Adra**, Coast Funds’ Chief Financial Officer, to fill the role of Acting CEO until a permanent leader is chosen.

“I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to work with our talented team and with First Nations along the coast who we work in service of,” says Eddy

Adra. “These community leaders inspire us to advance Coast Funds’ strategies to build sustainable, self-determined financing for Indigenous-led stewardship.”

During this transition, Eddy will be reaching out to First Nations, partners, and funders about the ways in which Coast Funds can continue to grow in its support for First Nations’ stewardship and sustainable development visions.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [COASTFUNDS.CA](https://coastfunds.ca) AND [SEARCH CEO TRANSITION](#).

ABOVE

Brodie Guy (L) and former Coast Funds chair Huux Percy Crosby (R) at a blanketing ceremony in the Hailzaqv Big House.

PHOTO COURTESY
Tavish Campbell

Coast Funds Welcomes New Faces to the Team

Coast Funds has welcomed a new director to our board, Laanas *Tamara Davidson*, appointed by the Haida Nation.

Tamara is a member of the Haida Nation and proudly serves as a Vancouver Regional Representative for the Council of the Haida Nation. She has worked in the federal public service for more than 25 years in the areas of land stewardship, strategic planning, community planning, visitor experience, and policy development, and has served on several boards and committees.

Through her work in planning and policy development, Tamara has developed strong facilitation skills and a collaborative approach to conflict resolution. Currently, she serves as Secretary of the Board for the Rediscovery Haida Gwaii Society, which hosts cultural immersion camps for Haida youth and adults.

Tamara was appointed for a two-year term, commencing in April 2022.



Laanas Tamara Davidson
Haida Representative

Coast Funds also welcomed two new staff members in recent months:



Melissa Sevigny
Executive
Assistant

Melissa comes to us from the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society and brings more than 12 years of experience in administration. In her new role, she works closely with the Acting CEO and is a key resource supporting First Nations, as well as Coast Funds' board of directors, Members, and staff team. Melissa leads our overall administration, providing support for governance, communications, and operations.

Melissa is from Canoe Lake Cree Nation on her mother's side and carries French and English ancestry on her father's side.



Stephanie Butler
Communications
Manager

Stephanie brings more than 10 years of experience in communications and community engagement, and has worked in the philanthropic, housing, and higher education sectors.

In her role at Coast Funds, she works with First Nations and their partners to share uplifting stories and support fundraising communications that help First Nations achieve their visions for stewardship and economic development. She leads our storytelling, digital communications, and media relations.

TO MEET THE TEAM, VISIT
[COASTFUNDS.CA](https://coastfunds.ca) AND
[SEARCH BOARD AND STAFF](#).



First Nations' Leadership, Investments Highlighted in Annual Report

From Guardian programs to renewable energy projects to business acquisitions, First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii are building strong, sustainable local economies and stewarding their traditional territories.

Last year, First Nations worked with Coast Funds to invest \$3.5 million - including \$1.9 million for 12 stewardship projects and \$1.6 million for eight economic development initiatives.

In our 2021 annual report, Coast Funds shares details on these investments, as well as stories and numbers that demonstrate the impact First Nations are making.



TO READ
MORE, VISIT
[COASTFUNDS.CA](https://coastfunds.ca)
AND SEARCH
**2021 ANNUAL
REPORT.**

WATCH
THE 2021
HIGHLIGHTS
VIDEO.



ABOVE

Council of the Haida Nation field workers patrol the Nation's territory, conducting research on the Stads K'un *Northern Goshawk*.

PHOTO

Talon Gillis

BACK COVER

Ocean views from Tlell, Haida Gwaii.

PHOTO

Raine Playfair



COAST FUNDS

750 - 475 West Georgia Street Vancouver, BC V6B 4M9
604 684 0223 info@coastfunds.ca

FIND OUT MORE AT:

coastfunds.ca



Coast Funds



@CoastFunds



Coast Funds