Clean Energy BC

POWERING GENERATIONS 2019

LEGACY TO THE FUTURE

Trail, BC
June 4th - 6th

www.cleanenergybc.org
ʔaʔam Community- Solar Installation Projects Driven by Vision, Strategy and Engagement
We are the Kiunaxa people of ?aqam, the People of the Dense Forest. Our Creation Story documents that as Kiunaxa, we are the keepers of ka ?amaknata wka wu?una? — our land and waters.

We have times for hunting and times for eating and times for praying and times for going without. We have times for telling stories.

We have times for being born and times for dying. We have times for grieving, but our greatest times are times for laughter. We laugh when we celebrate, and we celebrate each other. We celebrate all that we have: our language, our people, our story, our thinking.

There have been changes for the ?aqamnik. Today there are other languages and other peoples living among us but you will continue to sense our spirit and our power. You will hear us and our language and know we are like no other, that we have always been here, that we will always be here.

Our spirit is strong within us, but sometimes it has been distant. This plan is our voices growing stronger together. This is all our thinking and stories moving as one. This is for our future.

This is our people together with one heart. This is our time. This is our story. This is ‘Our Thinking’.

COMMUNITY FACTS*

?aqam, formerly known as the St Mary’s Indian Band, is one of four reserve communities that make up the Kiunaxa Nation Council in Canada. It is located 8 km north of the City of Cranbrook, BC.

# of St Mary’s Indian Band members: 391
190 Male (26% males are under the age of 18 )
201 Female ( 19% females are under the age of 18 )

# of homes in the community: 59

# of hectares of Reserve land: 7863.5
Bummers Flat: 77.9 hectares
Isadore’s Ranch: 277 hectares
Cassimayook: 62.6 hectares
St Mary’s Indian Reserve #1: 61.9 hectares
Kootenay Indian Reserve #1: 7,446 hectares

* As of July 2017, the number of Band members does not include the 14 people who are considered as “community members” because they marry in or otherwise reside in the ?aqam community.
Community Strategic Plan - Ka Kniłwi-tiwa-la –Our Thinking

The ?aʔam strategic planning process was initiated by the Chief and Council in 2009 in order to create a long range, high-level outline of who we are, where we want to go and how we will get there.

The initiative was driven by our desire to become a more pro-active community – better equipped to honour our past while engaging enthusiastically with our present and future, within our Band and beyond. A strategic plan empowers our community to express and reinforce our values, enhance the efficiency of our government and administration, improve our communications with external stakeholders and much more.

The process was truly community-driven, led by a young Community Member and carried out with team-based support through a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of a cross section of Community Members, government leaders and Band employees. Through Community Champions, group discussions and interviews, we gathered the hopes, desires and fears of our Community.

Early into the 2011-2012 fiscal year, our Community finalized, ratified, and celebrated our Strategic Plan, called Ka Kniłwitiwa-la - Our Thinking. We are on our third publication of our plan.
Each of the Tipi Poles Represents an area of focus with the community;

Each area of focus has 1-5 goals and objectives;

Each Tipi Pole has an associated detailed Tipi Pole Plan with short and long term goals, with roles for both staff and community;

Each pole is held up by a community champion;
Ki\textit{itik ka•kin}

Each tipi pole is “held” by a Champion who holds and guides the processes of community engagement to ensure the plan is community based and participatory. They are called Ki\textit{itik ka•kin}. As a group they meet quarterly. Bi-annually, Ki\textit{itik ka•kin} host their tipi pole meeting at which staff and Ki\textit{itik ka•kin} share knowledge and information about how they have been meeting the objectives, as well as have the opportunity to ask for feedback and ideas for future work from community. Through this process of community engagement, S\textit{a\textipa{m}n\textipa{tik}} review, renew, and update the plan and then accept it as S\textit{a\textipa{m}}—the band and the community.

A community celebration is held every May at which staff, community and Ki\textit{itik ka•kin} share the accomplishments of the past year as well as plans for the upcoming year.

At the May Community Celebration Ki\textit{itik ka•kin} have opportunity to pass poles on, as well as to name and recognize their mentors. In addition, community and band members are acknowledged and celebrated for their accomplishments in relation to the plan goals and objectives.

There is a lot of work we need to do. However, there is immense power and potential within our community.

This plan will help us to:

- Step into our responsibilities for self-development and self-determination efforts;
- Hold ourselves and each other accountable;
- Rediscover who we are, our strength, and belief in ourselves and each other;
- Live our values more consciously;
- Be more proactive; and create opportunities for others to do the same;
- Connect our vision, values, and goals with detailed plans that guide staff activities;
- Empower our selves to become self-governing again.

Our Comprehensive Community Plan is intended to inspire us for years to come. It is a living document and will evolve and transform over time. It helps us realize a better future is possible for our people. We are very proud of ka
\textit{k\textipa{ni}wi•t\textipa{iyala}}.

\textit{We are strong when we work together.}
Health and Wellness Facility

5000 Sq ft.

Capital budget $3,200,000

Estimated Completion Date: December 2019

Conceptually/design-wise, we incorporated best-practice methods to maximise daylighting, prevent glare, provide good thermal comfort. We also made provisions to connect into the existing District Heating System and incorporate Solar.
Solar Installation

Project Details:

- Design Build Project.
- Working with KD Electric and Silverado Industries (General Contractor); past history of success with local contractors.
- We partnered with the Columbia Basin Trust on the Solar project funding.
- This project will be a scalable solution with the initial installation of a 22.5kw PV solar panel system on the roof and associated other electrical and building modifications and components so that we can increase to an 88kw PV solar panel system in the future without having to make any electrical or structural modifications.
Other Community Lead Energy Projects

**Housing:**
Thermal Imaging, Energy Efficiency and Condition Assessments, resulting in home retrofits.

Working towards meeting/exceeding Housing Construction Standards for new home construction. Step Code on energy level.

**Lands and Operations:**
Climate Adaptation Project: Flood and Wildfire Mitigation Study; commencement Spring 2019

**Ecosystem Enhancement work-Resiliency projects.**
Prescribe burn in 2018 and presently working on ecosystem restoration work and a prescribe burn in 2020.

**ʔałq̓am District Heating Building**
ʔałq̓am’s District Heating Building uses wood chips to produce its heat source which heats hot water that provides heat to the community’s 22,000 sq. ft. School/Community Gymnasium and soon the new Health and Wellness Facility.

**ʔałq̓am Community Enterprises**
The community is pursuing solar generation projects.
Strategic Planning Learning Opportunities

We were cautioned early on that we were setting too many goals and being overly ambitious.

It can sometimes feel overwhelming in the details of the plans.

Reminding ourselves to focus—just because a project or opportunity becomes available that doesn’t mean we can or should take advantage of it. Switching our mentality was a learning curve.

Not an overnight plan. Took 2 years of continuous engagement to complete. Including many long meetings. Community felt burnt out at some points.

“In the Spring of 2011, ?aʔamnił came together to take ownership of our collective future. We documented the foundation of what our Community and future would look like. The result of this gathering was our strategic plan, ka kniʔwi-tiyał—a—Our Thinking. As with ?a·kiʔkakukut this plan naturally changes over the years: some of our objectives have been completed while others have adapted. From those changes, I am pleased to present you with this, the third publication of ka kniʔwi-tiyał."
Our Plan in Action


“Decision making, accountability and transparency drives the community Government to strengthen its financial management and receive accreditation.

Instilling a cohesive and prudent financial ethos has enabled ?aʔqam to complete a number of economic development projects including business acquisition and building and running a gas station and convenience store. Being situated in a rural area the obvious high through traffic of a normal urban area is something we did not have the benefit of. So strict criteria and cost controls were essential in financially managing the construction and management of fledgling enterprise to ensure that the return, both fiscally and through employment, is managed diligently to enable returns to the Band for future enterprises.” Ivan Winter, Director of Finance
Our Plan in Action

Infrastructure, Housing, Energy
Success: Infrastructure Development and Asset Management

“In the last 7 years we have completed a number of projects that have supported the goals under infrastructure, housing, education, safety and security, energy.

Some highlights have included:
• Construction of ḥaʔamnik Education Centre 2012
• St. Eugene Church Restoration 3 phases-2013, 2016, 2017
• Potable Water Reservoir Replacement 2014
• District Heating Facility 2016
• Dan Joe Memorial Gymnasium 2018
• ḥaʔam Trading Gas and Convenience Store- 2018
• Energy and Condition Assessment of Homes and implementation of asset management software and practices- 2018/2019
• Health and Wellness Facility 2019
• Housing Renovations and Replacements.

I think the greatest demonstration of success is that even when our political leaders or staff change our work continues, and everyone knows where we are going,”
Michelle Shortridge, Director of Operations and Community Services
Our Plan in Action

Lands/Land Code
Success: ratification and implementation of Land Code

“ʔaq̓am operates under Land Code, meaning it has sectoral self-government of land and natural resources. Instead of the federal government administering environmental review and issuing land instruments (lease/licence) Chief and Council have decision making authority.

ʔaq̓am Chief and Council have decision making power for environmental reviews and assessment determinations. Under this management regime environmental decisions (e.g. monitoring programs), and land instruments (e.g. lease provisions) uphold the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan. The Lands Department utilizes the Strategic Plan when assessing proposed projects to ensure planning and development decisions align with broader community driven goals.” Courtney Fidler, Land Code Implementation Manager
Our Plan in Action

Success: Purchase of D&B Flagging and Construction of new Gas Station

“ʔaq̓əm Community Enterprises purchased D&B Flagging in a 50/50 partnership with Nupqu Development Corporation. Our most recent business acquisition follows very clearly objectives 1, 3, and 5 of our communities strategic plan. Currently approximately a third of our employees are Ktunaxa citizens and over time our intention will be to grow this percentage. So not only does our newest business provide direct employment and training opportunities for our citizens but it also sustains a direct revenue base for our community government.” Chris McCurry, CEO ʔaq̓əm Community Enterprises
Our Plan in Action

**Success: Creation of the Language and Culture Centre**

“Language & Culture is one of the foundation poles within Ka kniʼwi·tiyâła. This past year we were successful in upgrading our Bandhall to the new ?aqlam Language & Culture Centre! Another big accomplishment for the department was translating the ?aqlam vision statement into Ktunaxa, which is now visible in our large boardroom and soon to be in the lobby of the main Administration building”-

*Sonya Morigeau, Governance Manager*
Our Plan in Action

Success: ?aʔamnik Education Centre and Daycare. Operational success for almost 30 years.

“We are able to tie in topics directly to the objectives in the safety and security, education, recreation and health sections of the strategic plan. Our school growth plan goals all align and tie into the strategic plan” Eryn Geddes, ?aʔamnik School Principal

“We strive to incorporate Ktunaxa methods in all aspects of our day. We start the day with Morning Song, then use the language throughout the day, and always say the verse before meal times. We teach the children the Ktunaxa calendar, colours, and words for animals, greetings/parting and other staple words, such as sun, stop, thank you.” Ashley Sanche, Daycare Manager
Hu sukitq’ukni