

Peters First Nation

Community Newsletter

Fall-Winter 2023 Edition



Read About

PFN's NEW Referral Tracker



Learn About

Our Strategic Economic Growth



Hear About

Cultural Monitoring in PFN Territory

Introduction

Welcome to our special edition of the Peters First Nation Community Newsletter!

This edition is both a compilation of some of our community's accomplishments over the last two years as well as a testament to our collective efforts, resiliency, and unwavering commitment to our community's well-being and prosperity.

Insights from Chief and Council

You'll hear directly from Chief and Council. They'll share perspectives on the milestones that we've achieved and the vision that continues to guide our path forward.

Building a Sustainable Future

You'll read about the initiatives that PFN and PFN 3 Feathers have been undertaking to drive economic growth and sustainability. These projects are a reflection of our dedication to creating opportunities that align with our values and traditions.

Guardians of the Land

Our Lands Team will share the innovative strategies they've come up with to help protect our Territory.



Environmental Stewardship:

We remain steadfast in our role as caretakers of the land. In this newsletter, you'll hear about our initiatives to promote environmental stewardship, emphasizing the balance between development and preservation of our heritage.

As you read through this newsletter, we hope you feel a sense of connection to our community and pride in what we've accomplished together.

Together, we are building a legacy.

Chief Norma Webb

Strengthening Our Nation through Strategic Referrals

In 2022, Peters established a new Referrals System to manage incoming land-use referrals for projects proposed in our Territory.

Our new referrals system involves tracking and evaluating each referral on their potential impacts to the interests and priorities of Peters. Weekly review sessions between the leadership team and technical team occur to discuss how Peters should respond to each incoming referral to best support our community's values.

Looking forward, our referrals team is aiming to integrate cultural use and cumulative effects data into the Referrals System, as well as develop a Cumulative Effects Review System - tracking how the effects of each potential project within the Territory will cumulatively affect the Rights and Title of our Nation.

Ultimately, the Referrals System is designed to help Peters assert control over the industrial activities within our Traditional Territory. This will allow us to be better positioned to mitigate and prevent potential harm to our environment, cultural and archaeological sites, and other areas of cultural significance. We want to be proactive in protecting the integrity and prosperity of Peters for generations to come.



What are Referrals?

The Province is legally obligated to consult with First Nations on land and resource decisions that could impact their Aboriginal interests.

When activities or decisions happen within Peters' Territory, the Lands Department receives a formal Request for Consultation from the Province. This is an opportunity for Peters' comments and concerns to be presented. Responding to these Requests for Consultation contributes to the protection of Peters' Rights and Title.

Environmental and Cultural Monitoring

This spring and summer, Peters First Nation, in collaboration with Landmark Resource Management Ltd., began an environmental and cultural monitoring initiative.

Ten monitoring trips, at seven separate sites across Peters Territory, were carried out.

This initiative underscores our commitment to ensuring that all development not only complies with environmental and regulatory standards but also aligns with the values and expectations of the community.

These efforts protect our land and heritage, as well as ensure that development within the Territory is responsible and respectful.

Dewdney Bridge (Lougheed Highway):

Our monitors were at the Dewdney Bridge site to ensure that the construction activities didn't damage local utilities and that the nearby Nicomen Slough, which connects to the Fraser River, was not contaminated.

Silver Skagit Road:

At Silver Skagit Road, new culverts are being installed, road repairs are occurring, and road rerouting is being considered. Monitoring is ongoing in this area to ensure there is minimal environmental impact.

New Limited Partnership

PFN 3 Feathers, in collaboration with Landmark Resource Management Ltd., has initiated a new Limited Partnership for enhanced environmental and cultural monitoring services. This partnership focuses on employing PFN members as monitors to oversee construction projects, ensuring adherence to environmental, cultural, and archaeological standards within the PFN territory.



Advancing Economic Development in Peters First Nation

Over the past five years, Peters First Nation has embarked on an ambitious journey to harness economic development opportunities within our Traditional Territory. This strategic endeavor is about creating meaningful employment for our community members, enhancing the capabilities of PFN 3 Feathers, and establishing a sustainable revenue stream.

Key Economic Development Milestones:

Major Project Referral System:

We developed a comprehensive referrals system tailored to identify and capitalize on economic opportunities beneficial to PFN 3 Feathers.

Strategic Partnerships:

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, we crafted a strategy to partner with reliable and reputable companies. These partners enable us to engage effectively in projects within Peters' Territory.

Waste Wood Recycling Initiative:

In line with our commitment to environmental stewardship, we identified a potential business opportunity in wood waste recycling.

Mining Sector Engagement:

Several operational mines within Peters' Territory have been identified. We have proactively inquired about their current and future mining plans, positioning ourselves as a key stakeholder in these developments.



PFN 3 Feathers is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for PFN members by fostering sustainable economic and employment opportunities. Our approach is grounded in making environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable decisions informed by sound science and local knowledge. We aim to build business and employment capacity through sustainable joint ventures and community-focused initiatives. Enhancing employment for PFN members is a priority, supported by comprehensive training and education programs.

With the guidance of Chief and Council PFN 3 Feathers developed a 5-year strategic plan through extensive community engagement between 2019-2021. The plan outlines a comprehensive vision for the community's future. The plan is structured around four key Planning Areas:



Planet



People



Process



Prosperity

Strength

PFN is located along a major land-based transportation corridor that links the rest of Canada by both rail and highway.

Weakness

The community lacks people capacity to draw upon for economic development purposes.

Opportunities

- Referral System
- Partnerships
- Procurement
- Wood Waste
- Mining
- Quarry
- Forestry
- Tourism
- Hydroelectric
- Real Estate

Threats

Due to the location, the community is prone to flooding and rail line derailment.

Project Highlight

In 2018, a flood hazard assessment for PFN revealed risks from high Fraser River levels and potential island loss. Mitigation efforts included island armouring in 2019 and berm construction in 2022 to prevent overtopping.

Ongoing projects include raising homes and further berm strengthening to protect the community from flooding and river avulsion.



Looking Ahead

Land Purchase Plan

With skyrocketing costs for residential, commercial, and industrial development in the greater Vancouver area, more and more individuals and companies are turning to the Fraser Valley to locate or relocate. PFN 3 Feathers will prepare a plan to acquire suitable land both on and off reserve for development purposes.

Peters First Nation and PFN 3 Feathers acknowledge that their existing reserve lands are too small for any significant development. Therefore, PFN 3 Feathers will prepare a plan to identify both Federal and Provincial Crown land within their Territory that is suitable for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. PFN 3 Feathers, on behalf of Peters First Nation, will initiate discussions and enter into negotiations with both levels of government to acquire those lands for future development.

PFN 3 Feathers will develop plans to transform the 10-acre parcel of land located on Peters First Nation reserve, currently set aside for the wood waste recycling business, into an industrial park.

PFN 3 Feathers has also identified several parcels of privately held fee simple lands within the Territory which they will endeavour to acquire for development purposes.



THANK YOU

Looking Ahead

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated employees, valued partners, and esteemed community for your unwavering support and collaboration. Your commitment and contributions are fundamental to our success as Chief and Council and drive us towards a brighter, more inclusive future. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Norma Webb
Chief

Victoria Peters
Councillor

David Peters
Councillor

