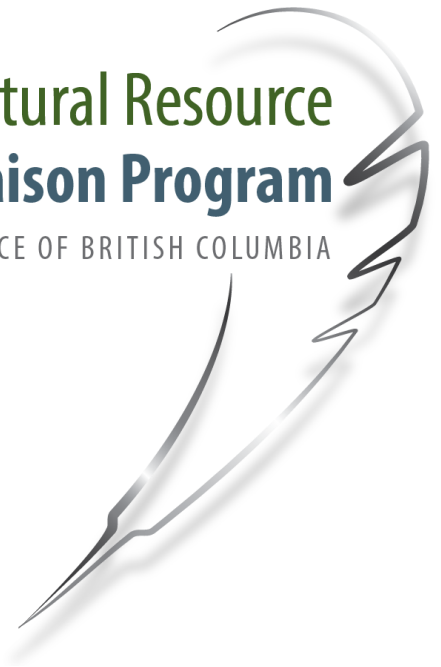


Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Project CC-2016-02 2022-23 Annual Summary Report

September 2023



Background

In 2014, the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) and Doig River First Nation (DRFN) piloted a program to build meaningful relationships, provide involvement in compliance monitoring, and address DRFN concerns related to oil and gas resource development through direct interaction between a DRFN member and Commission staff.

The success of this initiative led to Project #CC-2016-02, the First Nation Environmental Monitor (Liaison) Program (the Program), accepted by the BC Oil and Gas and Innovation Society (OGRIS) and implemented by the Commission and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The Program provided for expansion to other First Nations as well as inclusion of other government natural resource and emergency management agencies.

The Program, in addition to its objectives, promotes collaborative Indigenous participation in natural resource compliance and stewardship monitoring and emergency management within their territory. Government regulatory staff are provided opportunity to learn about First Nations community, culture, and traditional knowledge through direct interaction with Liaisons and their communities.

Current State

The Program has evolved since initiation and is now known provincially as the Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program (ALP), guided by a steering committee consisting of agency and Liaison representatives. In 2022-23 the ALP consisted of ten agreements for 11 Liaison positions representing 16 First Nations and 24 Indigenous Communities. Three additional Liaisons have been self-funded by participating First Nations, bringing the total to 14 (see Table 2). Government agencies participating in the ALP include 13 agencies in six provincial Ministries, as well as involvement from two non-provincial agencies (See Table 1).

Table 1 – List of Participating Government Agencies

Participating Government Agency
BC Ministry of Forests
- Compliance & Enforcement
- BC Wildfire Service
- Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Management
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines
BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
BC Energy Regulator
BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy:
- Conservation Officer Service
- Environmental Assessment Office
- Environmental Protection & Sustainability
Alberta Energy Regulator
Canada Energy Regulator

Table 2 – List of First Nations and ALP Agreements

10 ALP Agreements	Liaison Positions		First Nations	Communities
	Funded	Self-Funded		
Lake Babine Nation	1		Lake Babine Nation	- Fort Babine - Old Fort - Tachet - Donald's Landing - Woyette
Blueberry River First Nations	1	1	Blueberry River First Nations	Blueberry River
Carrier Sekani First Nations (administered by CSTC)	2	1	- Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake Band) - Nadleh Whut'en - Saik'uz First Nation - Stelat'en First Nation - Takla Lake First Nation - Tl'azt'en Nation - Wet'suwet'en First Nation	- Burns Lakes - Nadleh Reserve (Fort Fraser) - Saik'uz Reserve (South of Vanderhoof) - Stelat'en Reserve (Fraser Lake) Takla Lake Reserve (Takla Landing) - Tachie Reserve (Stewart Lake) - Palling Indian Reserve No. 1 - IR #1 (Fort St. James)
Doig River First Nation	1	1	Doig River First Nation	Doig River
Fort Nelson First Nation	1		Fort Nelson First Nation	Fort Nelson
Haisla Nation	1		Haisla Nation	Kitimaat Village
Nisga'a Lisims Government	1		Nisga'a Lisims Government	- Gingolx (Seafood Capital of the Nass) - Gitwinksihlkw (Place of Lizards) - Laxgalts'ap (Where River Meets Sea) - Gitlaxt'aamiks (Capital of Nisga'a Nation)
Prophet River First Nation	1		Prophet River First Nation	Prophet River
Saulteau First Nations	1		Saulteau First Nations	IR #169, East Moberly Lake
West Moberly First Nations	1		West Moberly First Nations	IR #168, West Moberly Lake

Key Accomplishments

From Apr. 1, 2022 to Mar. 31, 2023, Liaisons and agency staff participated in numerous ALP activities, including NR joint field inspections and training activities (see Figure 1). The graph captures activities that the ALP engaged in such as meetings, communications with NR agencies (see Figure 2). Activity levels were impacted by seasonal holidays early in the new year and the lingering of health and safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nisga'a Lisims Government is still compiling data at the time of this report and Prophet River First Nation experienced the departure of their liaison early in the fiscal year; nevertheless, they remained actively engaged in the program and looking to fill the vacancy.

Figure 1 – 2022-23 ALP Activities

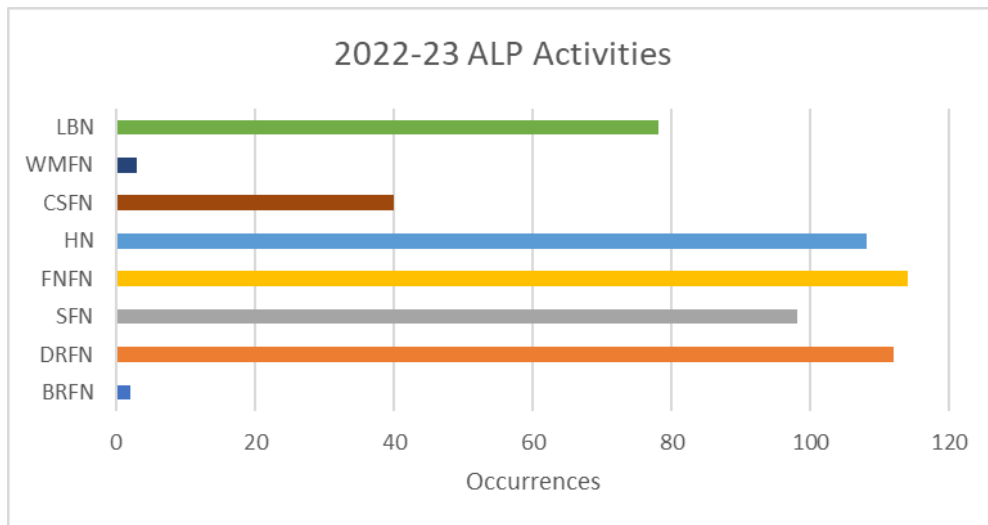
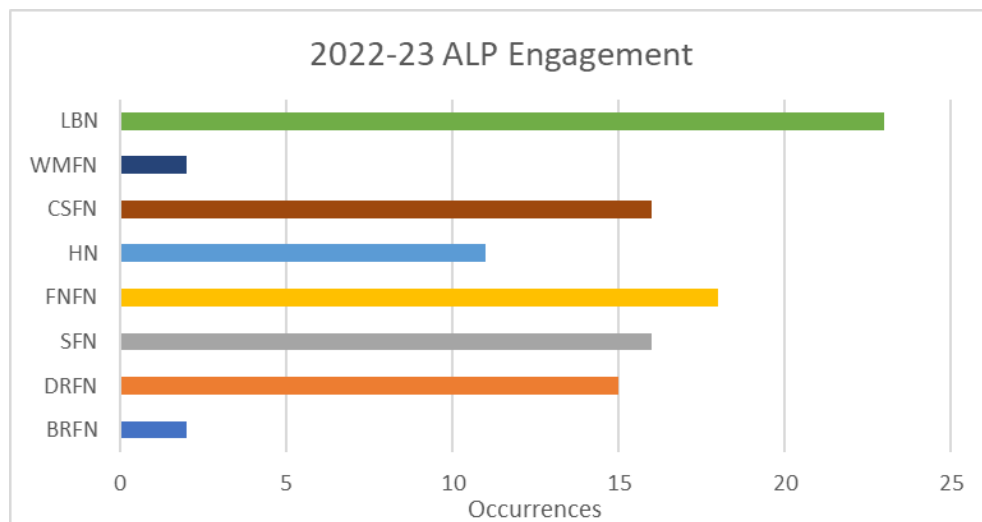


Figure 2 – 2022-23 ALP Engagement



2022-23 Activity Highlights

- Semi-annual Liaison meeting hosted by the BC Energy Regulator in Victoria. Murphy Patrick Sr. (Lake Babine Nation) and Howard Vroon (Haisla Nation) both received five-year service awards.
- Regional emergency exercises coordinated by the BC Energy Regulator and Emergency Management BC in Prince George and Terrace, which saw Liaisons work with local government, industry, and government representatives to address emergency scenarios. The 2023 Wildfire season has been very busy and has taken a lot of capacity in communities and ministry resources.
- The ALP Handbook, developed by the Haisla Liaisons in 2018, underwent revision to expand program guidance to all ALP participants, including roles and responsibilities, code of conduct, safety, and training.
- Work on summary reports for oil and gas related incidents is continuing to be improved and sent to NE First Nations weekly. The Regulator is currently revising internal incident response processes and incorporating input from the ALP.
- EMCR and ALP agreed to provide emergency training to Liaisons and facilitate participation in provincial emergency response.



Progress Towards Objectives

Supporting Liaisons as a trusted resource in their community continues to be a focus for the ALP. At the time of this report, liaisons participated in 40 training activities and received approximately 500 hours of education and training to build knowledge and understanding of compliance, stewardship, and emergency management. Agencies provided and participated in much of this training. ALP participants spent approximately 488 hours engaging with their communities to build understanding of resource development and how water, air, and wildlife values are protected. See Figures 3 and 4 for summaries of education, training, and community engagement.

Results from a First Nations Engagement survey completed by the Commission in 2019 found that the ALP is considered a key aspect of the Commission’s engagement, that it is culturally sensitive, and that continuation and expansion of the ALP is strongly supported within Indigenous communities.

Figure 3 – 2022-23 ALP Education and Training Activities

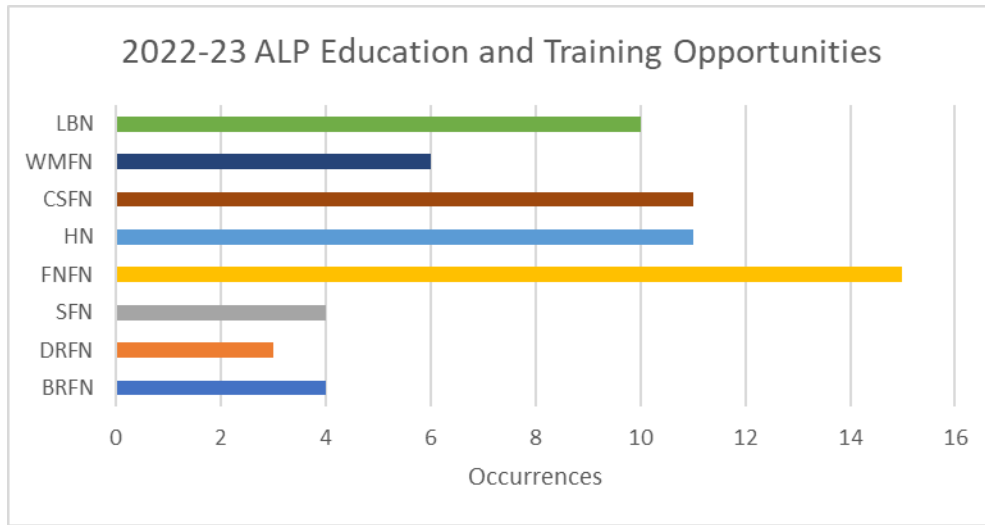
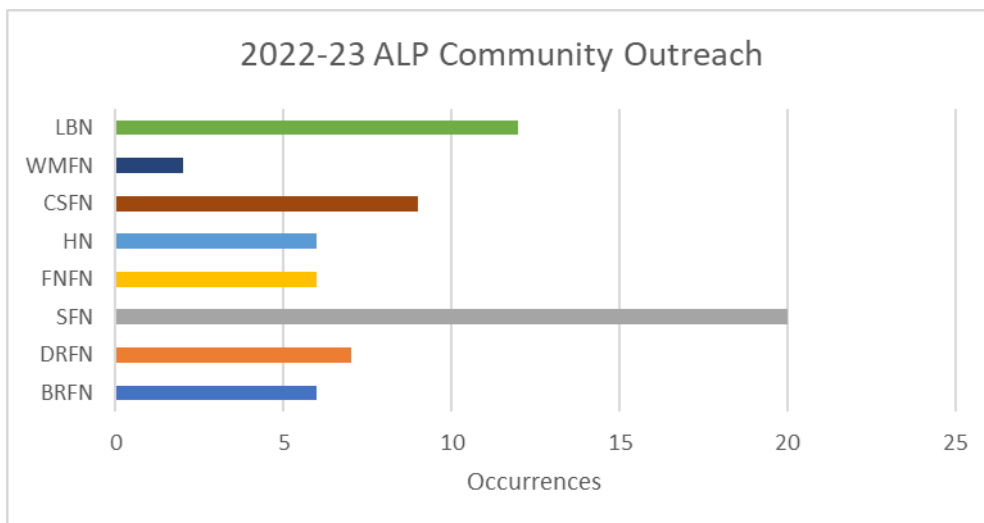


Figure 4 – 2022-23 ALP Community Outreach



Plans for 2023-24

BC Energy Regulator operational adjustments have been made to support engagement between Liaisons and agencies. Further changes will be made as distancing limitations are lifted.

At this time, ALP plans for 2023-24 include:

- Development of the BC Energy Regulator team to better support Liaisons and the program.
- Assisting Indigenous communities with food security. Three liaisons are actively involved in food security and distribution initiatives and continuing to work in these endeavors is very important for them and they are very proud of the work.
- Providing Liaisons with information about available on-line training to enhance knowledge for personal and community interests. Training will include webinars delivered to Liaisons by agency staff. A compendium of courses and web links will be hosted on the ALP SharePoint site, along with any recorded webinars for future Liaison training.
- Supporting Liaisons with involvement in emergency management. Continue working with Emergency Management BC to provide liaisons opportunities in emergency management and to liaise with their community. Training will help Liaisons become a significant resource for their communities, EMCR, and BCWS during seasonal flood and fire or other emergencies.





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