Natural Resource Aboriginal Liaison Program

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Project CC-2016-02 2019-20 Annual Summary Report

June 2020



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 2019-20 the ALP consisted of nine agreements for 10 Liaison positions representing 15 First Nations and 23 Indigenous Communities. Two additional Liaisons have been self-funded by participating First Nations, bringing the total to 12 (see Table 2). Government agencies participating in the ALP include 10 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					
FLNRORD- Compliance & Enforcement-BC Wildfire Service-Fish, Wildlife & Habitat Management					
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines - Compliance, Audits and Enforcement Branch					
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation					
BC Oil and Gas Commission					
Ministry of Public Safety and Public Solicitor - Emergency Management BC (EMBC)					
 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

9 ALP Agreements	Liaison Positions			
	Funded	Self-Funded	First Nations	Communities
Lake Babine Nation	1		Lake Babine Nation	- Fort Babine - Old Fort - Tachet - Donald's Landing - Woyette
Blueberry River First Nations	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 Sauk'uz First Nation Stellat'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) Stellat'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 (Wher 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
			5	

Key Accomplishments

From Apr. 1, 2019 to Mar. 31, 2020, Liaisons and agency staff participated in 323 ALP activities, including 127 joint field inspections and 103 training activities (see Figure 1). Agencies committed 3,543 hours and Liaisons committed 4,147 hours working together on joint inspections, training sessions, and meetings (see Figure 2). Quarter 4 activity levels were impacted by seasonal holidays early in the new year and health and safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ALP continues to support Liaisons and their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

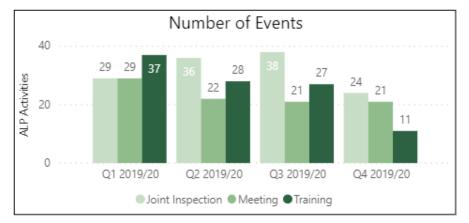
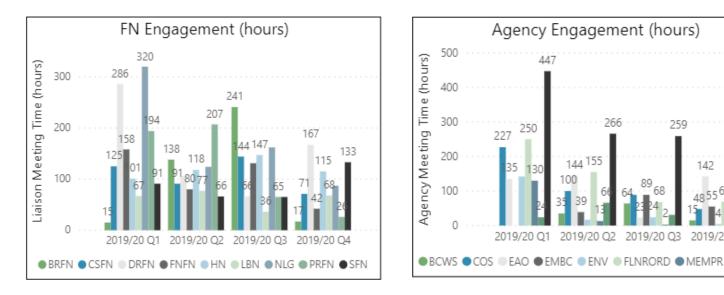


Figure 1 – 2019-20 ALP Activities

Figure 2 – 2019-20 ALP Engagement



312

259

03 20

142

2019-20 Activity Highlights

- Semi-annual Liaison meetings hosted by Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) in Fort Nelson, Haisla Nation (HN) in Kitamaat Village, and by FLNRORD and the Commission in Victoria. Training and tours of natural resource operations were provided in association with these meetings, including visits to the LNG Canada site, the Kitimat LNG site, and a tour of EMBC's provincial emergency operations centre.
- Regional emergency exercises coordinated by the Commission and Emergency Management BC in Prince George and Terrace, which saw Liaisons work with local government, industry, and government representatives to address emergency scenarios.
- Improved reporting of activities on the ALP Sharepoint site, which now includes interactive graphs to show participation for each First Nation and agency, with filters to suit user needs.
- 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.
- Summary reports for oil and gas related incidents were developed and sent to NE First Nations weekly. The Commission is currently revising internal incident response processes and incorporating input from the ALP.
- EMBC 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. Liaisons participated in 103 training activities and received 1,461 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 432 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.

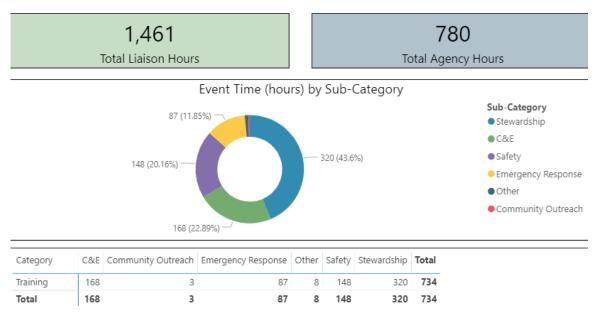
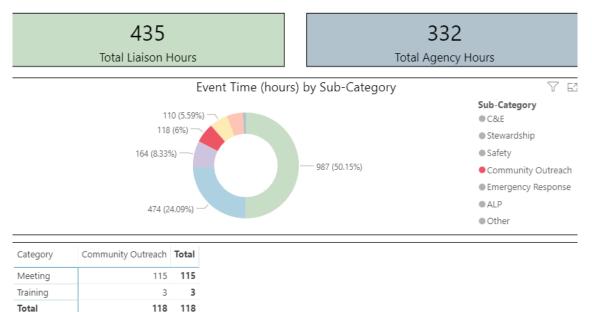


Figure 3 – 2019-20 ALP Education and Training Course Hours

Figure 4 – 2019-20 ALP Community Outreach



Plans for 2020-21

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated physical distancing have caused temporary suspension of ALP faceto-face activities to ensure safety of all participants. 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 2020-21 include:

- Development of communication tools for Liaisons and agency staff use. New pamphlets, information sheets, expanded web presence and other mechanisms for providing ALP information to communities and agencies will be reviewed for development.
- Assisting Indigenous communities with food security. The FLNRORD provincial veterinarian will provide Liaisons with information, support, and testing resources for addressing Indigenous community health concerns regarding disease and contamination of meat from harvested game.
- 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. In 2019-20, five Liaisons signed up for training with Emergency Management BC and three Liaisons had key roles in their community's Emergency Operations Centre. Training will help Liaisons become a significant resource for their communities, EMBC, and BCWS during seasonal flood and fire or other emergencies.





Publish Date: June 2020