

# XCEDP PROJECT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

VOUME 1 ISSUE 7

*Pauline Michell, Project Manager*



**ALICE ADOLPH KNITS, PREPARES TRADITIONAL FOOD & MAKES QUILTS**

Hello Everyone:

The XCEDP project will continue to the end of April 2011 with the team working with Consultants to do the writing of the Xaxli'p 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan document.

This document will be submitted to Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), to Administration and Chief & Council. This document will also be available for community members.

Xaxli'p in the last two years worked on community planning and economic development planning.

The surveys done on both projects indicated the interest of community members, the many ideas for community and individual business development and the need to have a definite strategic plan to follow.

In the community meetings, people said Xaxli'p has the potential and opportunity. Community members want job/career opportunities at Xaxli'p and want to create a community of independence and self-sufficiency (not relying on INAC).

As for results of the survey and community meetings, key components identified were that economic development is a "very important issue," and that Eco-Cultural Tourism, Store and Agricultural Development/Ranch are areas to consider doing feasibility studies on.

The lack of Xaxli'p land for economic development was identified as a major issue. Commu-

nity members identified land along Highway 99 as prime locations for economic development.

In the last three months, during the Drop-ins, we put out maps of reserve lands, traditional territory and lands purchased. We asked community members to identify where their lands were and to discuss if they had any plans (development or housing). We also wanted to know if landowners would consider an agreement with Xaxli'p to develop on their land.

To begin development, we would need to meet with landowners (either individually or an open meeting), to determine options for land use.

In the last few months, the XCEDP team attempted to reach community members (on and off reserve), to gain your input into the strategic plan.

At the beginning of the project, the XCEDP team identified "communication" with community members as very important.

Through the survey, the community meetings we held twice a month (Tuesdays) and the Drop-ins we held twice a month (Fridays), we gained a lot of ideas and had good discussions with people.

To keep people informed, it was important for the



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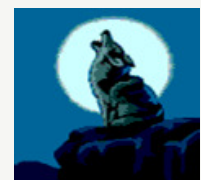
- *Jack Narcisse*

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*Pauline Michell, Project Manager cont'd...*

team to do monthly reports in the newsletter.

In the last few months, we had 232 people (187 community members & 45 non-community members) participate by attending community meetings, Drop-in sessions, other activities and complete the survey.

Most of these people attended the 10 community meetings, 9 Drop-in sessions, other activities and completed the survey.

We have been asked by some community members, ***“Is Xaxli’p open for business?”*** This is a question for community members, leadership and Administration to consider.

Most of the government program funding allocated to Xaxli’p is being spent in the town of Lillooet. We currently support Lillooet’s economy. With a good plan and implementation plan, we can support our own economy.

Xaxli’p’s population continues to increase and we do have people who want to move home.

To build a self-sufficient, independent and financially stable community, we need to find the balance and work together in carrying out plans that is beneficially to Xaxli’p people and community.

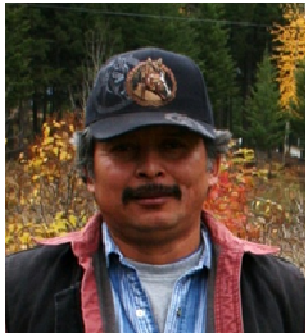
There may be times we have to compromise some-

thing (at times we do this in our daily lives, we want (or need) something and to have it, we have to do without something else).

In closing, it is always an honor to work for Xaxli’p people and community.

Working on this project has been a great learning experience and increased my knowledge, skills and communication regarding economic development.

The people who participated have a vision of what they want and talked about the many opportunities that we can consider to begin to develop, change and grow as an independent, self-sufficient community.



**NELSON ADOLPH IS A NET MAKER & DOES LEATHER WORK**

‘WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ***“IS XAXLI’P OPEN FOR BUSINESS?”***

*Jack Narcisse, Assistant*

Hello Everyone

Another month has come and gone. A lot has been accomplished since. The project is coming to an end. I wish there was more time. A lot more has to be done.

We have accomplished what we were supposed to do and the deadline will be met. But like I said, more work has yet to be accomplished. I hope the Administration and Chief & Council will see

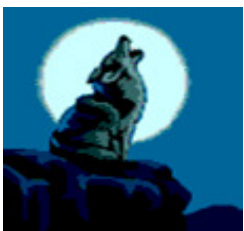
that the Xaxli’p 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan gets carried out.

Through out the last month, community meetings and Drop-ins were held and well attended. A lot of information was handed out. I believe delivering notices before the events help to make them a success. A good reminder.

The Drop-in sessions were especially rewarding, not

just the goodies, the people were very informative. The map project worked out better than expected. A lot of our members now know there are more than 2 reserves in Xaxli’p. Myself for one, I live on Indian Reserve (IR) #1B which was established in 1881 (holey hey!!).

One of the good ideas that came out of this project, was to have more get to-gathers because we have



### *Jack Narcisse, Assistant, cont'd...*

people coming together and coming up with good ideas. How true!!!

For the past month, I've been researching on ideas that could happen here. Even with the survey showing what community members think is the most feasible, there are others that have been discussed for a long time. For example; the Fountain lake area could have year round activities, and the concession could operate year round. We also received comments about

our garbage system. Hopefully these can be addressed.

I missed two weeks in March, trying to get my health back up to par. Hopefully the surgery I had will fix the problem.

During my absence I missed the meeting in Kamloops with our member and I also missed one XCEDP community meeting. I will be back in the office on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

I hope your month went

well, and all your family and relatives are in good health. My condolences to the Peters family on the passing of a good friend Harold. I will miss our visits.

Thank You, to all of you for your input during this project. All of it was positively received.

Thank you to my teachers Pauline, Colleen and Emerson, you taught me well. Until next time... Ahoo all my relations

### *Emerson Adolph, Assistant*

Hello everyone,

I would like to start by saying, I applied for this position because I wanted to contribute to helping our community in its economic predicament.

It is evident there is a need for economic recovery in our community as well as neighbouring communities. Lillooet primarily relied on the two forestry companies and CN Rail (formerly BC Rail) for its economy.

When the two lumber companies shut down and CN Rail began to downsize on employees, we all felt the impact.

We are now faced with the opportunity to broaden our economic income to alleviate the economic hardship we are experiencing.

Time has gone by fast since we began working on the Xaxlip Community Economic Development Plan. We began the journey by looking at the objectives and brainstormed how to meet the objectives.

Community involvement and/or input was the number one priority. We developed a survey focusing specifically on economic development. We set dates to have meetings with members for further input.

There were over one hundred surveys returned from membership. All information gathered through the survey and meetings were forwarded onto the consultant of the project-Colleen Jacob.

Colleen also worked on the development of the recent Xaxlip Comprehensive Community Plan document.

In the last six months we met with members and non-members on a continual basis. Attendance at the bi-weekly meetings and Drop-in sessions was fairly consistent.

The meetings on Tuesdays were more formal and the

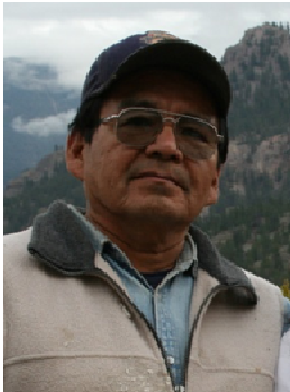


**KATHY DOSS IS AN EVENTS COORDINATOR, DOES FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, BEADWORK, CROCHETS, DECORATED BOXES, APPLIQUE, WRITES SHORT STORIES & POEMS**

“THANK YOU, TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR INPUT DURING THIS PROJECT.”



*Emerson Adolph, Assistant, cont'd...*



**LEONARD MITCHELL DOES BEADWORK, CARVINGS & SKETCHING**

“ONE OBJECTIVE  
 OF THE XCEDP  
 WAS TO IDENTIFY  
 TWO MAIN AREAS  
 (CHOSEN BY  
 COMMUNITY  
 MEMBERS) FOR PRE-  
 FEASIBILITY  
 STUDY.”



**CECILINA ALECK DOES BEADWORK, CARVINGS & SKETCHING**

Drop-in sessions on Fridays were designed to be casual. Both methods were effective for meeting people.

We also had the opportunity to attend two conferences: Building Sustainable Communities in Kelowna, and Alternative Energy in Vancouver.

One benefit in attending conferences is the networking with other people, and becoming aware of an industry that is on the verge of becoming more “main stream.” We also become aware of various agencies and companies that would be of assistance if we choose to look into these various sectors for possible development.

As for meeting members: It was nice to meet with members who expressed their interest. It was surprising how many non-members expressed interest in filling out the survey and to attend the XCEDP meetings.

We had people questioning us about doing “another survey.” It was expected and we understood where people were coming from. It was important to ask these questions as the information gathered is the building block/foundation of the

whole process.

Some comments made were, “we have no land base,” or “land is an issue.” Yes, we have certain challenges. Challenges are opportunities in disguise to make us work harder.

One way to work with the “no land base” issue is to think we can do this *sustainability* within our *survival territory*, not just reserve lands set aside for us by the Canadian government.

Xaxli’p has assets we can draw from to begin our path to economic prosperity. Some of the assets or options available have liabilities. But liabilities can be managed with a proper risk assessment and risk management plan to ensure a safe operation.

The results from the survey indicate community members are interested in Eco-Cultural Tourism, Forestry Initiatives, development of a store, and Agricultural development and possibility combining with the Ranch operation.

One objective of the XCEDP was to identify two main areas (chosen by community members) for pre-feasibility study. In 2005-

2006, Xaxlip compiled an Eco-Tourism Feasibility Study along with an Eco-Tourism Master Plan in collaboration with Urban Systems. These tools/resources would be of great assistance to draw from.

Another asset is the Xaxlip Community Forestry Corporation. The XCFC is lead by a strong group of leaders that share the same idea of operating in a sustainable manner. It is important to use the resources/tools that Xaxlip commissioned. Such as the Eco-System Land Base Plan (because it focuses on sustainability) and the Traditional Use Study.

I agree with membership that Forestry Initiatives be one of the priorities as we have a valley filled with resources.

It’s been a pleasure serving Xaxlip people and community. I have learned the value of teamwork, communication, dedication and the importance of having a positive work environment.

I will take with me the knowledge of being part of the XCCP and XCEDP. I trust we will advance forward with the work completed and I anticipate a positive change in our economic future.

### Ideas for Opportunities

The following are ideas brought up by community members, over the last six months:

#### Eco-cultural Tourism

- Tourism friendly attractions; Activities—language, harvesting, canning, pit-house, arbor; Youth culture camp; Crafts people selling products; Small business development at 6 Mile—tours & restaurant on top of hill; Year round activities at Fountain Lake; Guest Ranch—guides & trail rides; Teepee motel or

s7istkken village

#### Fountain Ranch

- On its own & become sustainable; Make money; Provide employment; Reestablish cattle; Wrap & sell beef—meat cutting & wrapping training

#### Fountain Flats

- Agricultural development—garden & orchard); Sell to public; Have fruit stands; Have root cellars; Agricultural assistance with gardens

#### Gas Station

- Have a small restaurant;

Have a store—general store with lottery & groceries; Crafts & Artists to sell their work; Hardware store; Small shopping mall

#### Forestry

- Already established with Xaxli'p Community Forest Corporation; Have more forestry jobs; Have a portable sawmill

Something to think about—for the implementation of the Xaxli'p 5-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan.



LIA WILSON DID VARIOUS TYPES OF ARTWORK, AND NOW DOES LEATHERWORK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

SUSTAINABILITY

ECO-FRIENDLY

OUR WAY LIFE

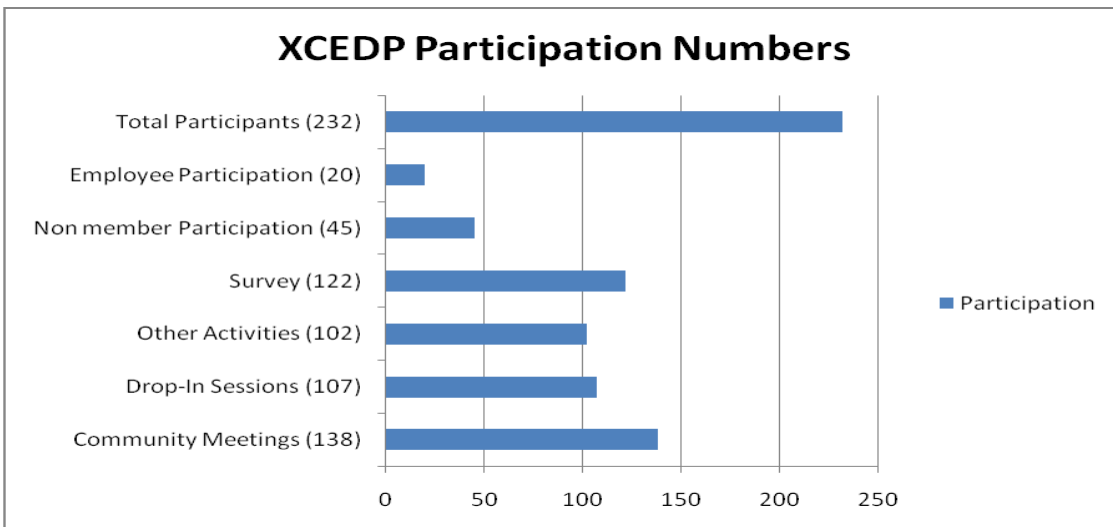
### XCEDP Participation Numbers

The XCEDP in the last six months held the following:

- 10 community meetings
- 9 Drop-in sessions
- 1 meeting with Xaxli'p students at Lillooet Secondary School
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- Additions program's Picture Night Social (covered cost of meal)
- Meeting with off reserve members in Kamloops & Vancouver
- Carried out a survey
- Did presentation to Chief & Council and

met with the XCFC Board

The following chart shows the categories and numbers of people who attended XCEDP meetings and activities.



**XAXLIP COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT**

Primary Business Address  
Xaxli'p  
P/O Box 1330  
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Email: [ecdev@xaxlip.ca](mailto:ecdev@xaxlip.ca)

**WE'RE ON  
THE WEB:  
XAXLIP.CA**

The XCEDP project followed the work started by the XCCP project (both funded by INAC). Community members indicated economic development was a high priority. With that information we realized we needed more input as to their priorities economic development. Through different methods (meetings/drop-in sessions/surveys/door to door visits), we acquired the necessary information to move forward to develop a path that outlines how to reach our economic goals.

The six months designated to draft a 5-year Xaxli'p Economic Development Strategic plan was going to be a challenge. Challenge is good, because if it was not a challenge, the reward at the end would not be the same. The reward being: a quality document that outlines our path to economic prosperity. This document would be submitted to INAC (Indian & Northern Affairs Canada), the Administrator and Chief & Council. It will be up to the Administrator and Chief & Council as to the next steps for continuing the work that has started.

PLANNING FOR THE  
FUTURE

