

# First Nations Active at CWMA and SWANA

## Coast Waste Management Association

By Leo Lawson, CWMA Board Member



I am the Capital Manager at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw in Tsulquate BC (near Port Hardy). I have had the privilege over the past several months to sit on the Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA) Board of Directors. CWMA is a membership association serving the solid waste industry in coastal British Columbia.

CWMA helped to foster inclusion of First Nations in product stewardship programs through roundtable meetings at the annual conference. I continue to witness the support for and willingness to build relationships with First Nations at the Board. It is an eye-opener for me to learn about recycling and new technologies from other Board members. CWMA is a valuable resource of knowledge and information for First Nations waste management operations.

To contact me, please email [lhanslawson@msn.com](mailto:lhanslawson@msn.com)  
To find out more about CWMA, visit [www.cwma.bc.ca](http://www.cwma.bc.ca)



CWMA runs regular email bulletins, newsletters, business luncheons and an annual conference.

## Solid Waste Association of North America

By Calvin Jameson, SWANA Pacific Chapter Board Member



I am the Public Works Superintendent at Lil'wat Nation in Mount Currie, BC. I am also a Board member of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA, Pacific Chapter). I am keenly aware that the entire Board is willing to help First Nations in any way they can. They are glad to see that First Nation communities are trying to catch

up with the best practices toward zero waste management, and to comply with industry standards. In that regard, SWANA has pioneered zero waste certification training courses (Levels 1 and 2) for operators. To-date, over 80 First Nations operators have been trained and certified by SWANA. I am currently in the process of becoming a Level 1 SWANA training instructor myself.

To contact me, please email [Calvin.Jameson@lilwat.ca](mailto:Calvin.Jameson@lilwat.ca)  
To find out more about SWANA, visit [www.swanabc.org](http://www.swanabc.org)



SWANA provides expertise and professional development to practitioners through training, certification and networking.

## 2017 Program Sponsors - Thanks!

List as of October 6, 2017

- ABC Recycling (Appliance Freon Removal Training, Burnaby)
- Alpine Group (Hands-on Training, Langford)
- Canadian Plastics Industry Association (Training Manual)
- Carney's Waste Systems (On-site Training at Callaghan Transfer Station)
- GHD (SWANA Level 2 Training Course Venue and Meals, Victoria)
- Lower Stl'at'imx Tribal Council (SWANA Level 1 Classroom Training Venue)
- Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (Appliance Freon Removal Training and Equipment, Dease Lake)
- Regional Municipality of Whistler (On-site Training at Nester's Depot)

Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada began the B.C. First Nations Solid Waste Program in 2008 after an assessment showed that the communities have similar needs and challenges. A common theme is the desire for recycling, composting and waste reduction activities. Solutions are developed locally and in cooperation with many different Regional Districts, product stewards and service providers.

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330-6165 Highway 17A  
Delta, BC V4K 5B8 Canada

Tel: (604) 943-6712  
Web: [nautsamawt.org](http://nautsamawt.org)

Edited by Emily Chu and Robyn Weisner  
Merganser duck artwork by Alex Jamieson

# THE Merganser

Reports on First Nations Waste Management Programs in British Columbia, Canada

Fall 2017

The Merganser is a diving duck found in coastal waters and lakes all over BC.

## Waste Watchers in Campbell River

By Stephanie Slater, Communications Coordinator, Wei Wai Kum First Nation

The Wei Wai Kum First Nation in Campbell River used its LEDSP\* grant to launch a Waste Watchers program to reduce garbage and increase recycling and composting on reserve.

Blue bins with lids were provided to each household on reserve to help prevent recycling from being blown around by wind or damaged by rain. A laminated tips sheet was taped to the inside of each lid.

The band created a website page (<https://www.weiwaikum.ca/members/lands-and-housing/waste-watchers/>) and referred members to it through regular newsletter articles that covered topics such as yard waste, composting, and where to divert garbage to recycling collection sites (for materials not collected curbside).

A Waste Watchers resource booklet was also delivered with the newsletter to each household on reserve. To save money, this booklet was created in-house using a free Word template.

The Band's young people took part through a community clean-up and compost presentation that were incorporated into regular youth programs. Some youth received training in video production techniques so they could document the program.

\*Lands and Economic Development Services Program – see page 3 for grant details.



Kwanwatsi Pre-School students did a clean-up of their grounds.



Cailin and Colton, members of the youth media team, recorded the community clean-up.



Jesse Shade preparing recycling bins for distribution.



Youth compost workshop with Gayle Bates.



Community Updates Inside...  
**Earth Day Grant Project**

## Community Updates



Welcome to our new program communities Gitwangak, Kispiox, Kitselas, McLeod Lake and Nazko.

## Fort Nelson Recycles!

By Bernadette Makowski, Capital Works Manager, Fort Nelson First Nation



Kitty Michel, Fort Nelson First Nation's Zero Waste Champion.

Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) is a small northern community of 450 people that is located 450 km from Fort St John, BC. We do not have a lot of amenities in our community, but we have recently started a recycling program.

Our community tried many times to kick start a recycling service but realized we need to educate our community before we could implement a recycling program. This past year, we

have educated the community at the local Chalo school AGM and in the classrooms and we did a presentation at the FNFN

AGM. We handed out surveys, bag buddies and a Recycling Guide to each household.

Moving forward, we need to continue raising awareness and engage one on one at each home, and possibly add a recycling facility to improve service. Our next focus is composting awareness.

Kitty Michel is our Zero Waste champion. Kitty is passionate about raising awareness of how much waste is accumulated in our community; she has been in the solid waste industry for the past 15 years. She participated in the conference and training last year and she is our passionate go-getter to raise our community's recycling awareness to help our Mother Earth. Kitty's enthusiasm is contagious. You can contact Kitty anytime and she will be happy to assist you.

## Earth Day at T'it'q'et Daycare and Preschool

By Connie Konkin, Manager, T'it'q'et Daycare and Preschool



T'it'q'et Daycare and Preschool in Lillooet B.C. held a community clean-up on April 20, 2017. Earth Day t-shirts and gloves were purchased with funds from the Earth Day grant program. Everyone came together and picked up SIX huge black bags full of garbage and TWO recycling bags filled and delivered to the recycling centre.

Bags were donated by the Daycare and Preschool Society and a community member donated 2 Earth Day cakes for the celebration afterward.

Garbage was put in its place, and recyclables taken to the recycling centre for money for our centre. Yippee! Win-win for Mother Earth and our children!



Scenes from T'it'q'et's Earth Day community clean-up led by the Daycare and Preschool.



### 2016/2017 First Nations Grant Recipients

- Ahousaht (school)
- Canim Lake (school)
- Coldwater
- Cowichan (school)
- Dzawada'enuxw (school)
- Fort Nelson
- Gitsegukla
- Heiltsuk (community & school)
- Kitselas
- Lower Kootenay (school)
- Nak'azdli (school)
- 'Namgis (school)
- Penelakut (school)
- Quatsino (school)
- Snuneymuxw (school)
- Splatsin (school)
- Squiala (school)
- Stswecem'c Xgat'tem
- T'it'q'et (community & day care)
- T'Sou-ke
- Tahltan
- Tl'etinqox (school)
- Tsartlip
- Tsay Keh Dene (school)
- Tsleil-Waututh
- Wei Wai Kum

## Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP) Grant Funding Opportunity

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (Pacific Region) offers two annual grant funding opportunities from the Lands and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP) fund.

### 1. Waste Management Grant

– for projects that will enhance or improve a community's waste management awareness and practices, e.g. organizing a community information program on how to reduce waste, "How to" workshops on composting or recycling.

### 2. Earth Day Grant

– for school projects that focus on environmental awareness and activities around taking care of the earth, e.g. beach clean-up, how to save energy.

First Nations and First Nations schools in British Columbia are eligible to apply for grants up to \$5,000 and may partner with any other organization(s) to carry out the eligible activities.

For more information, please contact Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council, who administer the program. See back page for contact details.

