

KEDC NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition



"... to share a glimpse of our journey with you—the progress we've made together, the incredible people driving our efforts, and the exciting path we're paving for the future."

Cyrus Singh, CEO, KEDC



K'AWAT'SI ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Q1 BUSINESS
SPOTLIGHT

ha'me'
(food)

PAGE 8-10

OUR STORY

In 2014 the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation (GNN) established the K'awat'si Economic Development LP (KEDC) to harness and grow the Nation's resources towards sustainable prosperity.

Our Approach

- A diversified portfolio of subsidiary companies.
- Providing centralized support services.
- Driving sustainable business growth through respecting cultural values and environmental responsibilities.

KEDC Business Operations:



Marine Services



kedc.ca



K'awat'si Tours



kawatsitours.ca



K'awat'si Construction



kawatsiconstruction.ca



K'awat'si Shellfish



kawatsishellfish.ca



K'awat'si Consulting &
Management Services LP
kedc.ca



Gwa'Nak Resources



gwanakresources.ca



Nax'id' Pub



kwalilashotel.ca



Kwa'ililash Hotel



kwalilashotel.ca



Ha'me' Restaurant



kwalilashotel.ca

We honour that we are working and living on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl peoples.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM BOARD & CEO.....	3
DID YOU KNOW?.....	4
BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS.....	5
SPOTLIGHT: HA'ME'.....	8
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.....	11



Our 4 House Posts:
A visual reminder
of our cultural
roots

Maya'xala

-Respect One Another

Hutłilala

-Listen to one another

Galgapolatla

-Lift each other up, link arms

Ga'walapa

- Helping Each Other

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

Since its founding in 2014, KEDC has grown from a seed of an idea into a thriving force for Nation-led development. What began as a vision for self-sufficiency is now a diversified organization creating jobs, opportunities, and momentum for the GNN.

We will continue to hold steady to that vision—guiding growth with integrity, ensuring accountability, and keeping our focus on long-term impact over short-term gains. We strive to ensure that our efforts continue to align with the values of respect for our neighbours as we operate on Kwakiutl traditional lands

The work ahead is big. But so is our commitment—to our values, our community, and the generations to come.

Gilakas'la,
Norman Galis
Chair, Board of Directors

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

We're proud to be part of GNN's journey toward economic self-determination.

It's been an incredible path so far, marked by growth, learning, and meaningful steps forward. Every project we take on—whether hospitality, training, tourism, or innovation—is rooted in honouring our culture and serving our community with purpose. Stay tuned for more in the next edition!

This newsletter is a space to share that journey with you—highlighting our progress, the people behind it, and the exciting path ahead.

Thank you for walking with us.
We're just getting started...

Gilakas'la,
Cyrus Singh
Chief Executive Officer



2022-2032

International Decade of Indigenous Languages

K'awat'si - A traditional Kwak'wala name gifted by Elders, meaning the traditional painted bentwood box, an enduring symbol of our community's treasured heritage.

Also found in our KEDC Logo is the **Sisutle**, a powerful crest in Kwakwaka'wakw mythology, embodying protection and strength. This logo is not just an emblem; it is a narrative of our history, values and the unyielding spirit of the Gwa'sala - 'Nakwaxda'wx Nations.

Kwak'wala

In the heart of Port Hardy and surrounding communities, the Kwakwaka'wakw peoples are bringing back an ancient voice—Kwak'wala, one of the most endangered yet richly expressive Indigenous languages in British Columbia.

First Peoples' Cultural Council

One of the most successful tools for learning Kwak'wala is the Mentor - Apprentice Program, supported by the First Peoples' Cultural Council, which connects fluent speakers with learners in immersive, day-to-day environments. Children are also engaging through language camps, digital apps, and signage projects that bring Indigenous words and names back into public spaces.

KEDC Kwa'wala Names

- Our hotel named **Kwa'lilas** is a Kwak'wala word used by Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw people meaning 'a place to sleep.'
- Our pub named **Nax'id'** translates into 'to drink' in Kwak'wala.
- And our fine dining restaurant named **Ha'me'** means 'to eat' or simply 'food.'

FirstVoices

Want to Learn More about the Kwak'wala Language? Try Out the FirstVoices App!





Building Communities with Care and Commitment

As a proud subsidiary of KEDC, KCC embodies our shared commitment to sustainable growth, community prosperity, and responsible stewardship of the lands we work on.

We ensure that every project reflects our deep respect for both the environment and the communities we serve, shaping spaces that honor the land, empower people, and foster thriving communities.



COLUMBIA COURT: A MAJOR 2025 PROJECT

Pre-Construction Collaboration:

KCC has partnered with Island Health to tackle the critical housing shortage for healthcare workers, reinforcing our shared commitment to community well-being. This project will feature thoughtfully designed housing units, providing much-needed homes for local professionals and families while keeping healthcare accessibility at the forefront.

Community Investment:

Beyond housing, Columbia Court will create new jobs, enhance local infrastructure, and drive economic growth. We're honored to contribute to a development that will serve as a cornerstone for a stronger, more vibrant community.



MOVING FORWARD...

Spring 2025 - Celebrating KCC's Spotlight in VICA!

We're thrilled to announce that KCC has been featured in the Vancouver Island Construction Association (VICA) April edition! This recognition highlights our dedication to excellence in construction and community impact. Be sure to check out the publication to learn more about our journey.

Fall 2025 - Expanding Our Reach in Nanaimo

Marking an exciting milestone, KCC has secured its first major project in Nanaimo, BC—a \$6M venture! To support this growth, we'll be opening a new Nanaimo office in Q4 2025, reinforcing KEDC's strategy to broaden our impact across Vancouver Island while creating local jobs and partnerships.

Watch for more KCC news in our next issue!





K'awat'si Consulting & Management Services offers expert guidance across marketing, project management, financial, HR, and IT landscapes.

We leverage traditional knowledge and modern expertise to provide solutions that empower businesses and contribute to the sustainable growth of our community.

CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

The Certified professionals at KCMS Capital Projects specialize in Project Management, Construction Management and a successful project handovers after a thorough evaluation.



WAKAS HALL RENOVATIONS OPENING ITS DOORS JUNE 2025

Get ready to see the new and improved gather centre! Wakas Hall Renovations are going smoothly under the supervision of KCMS Capital Projects Department and we're anticipating to open its doors in June 2025.

What to look forward to:

- An amazing sound system
- A new stage
- An HVAC system
- A scoreboard

Read about the opening in our next issue!



BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS: TREADWELL BAY OYSTER FARM



K'awat'si Shellfish drives GNN's participation in the blue economy. Nestled along the remote central Pacific coast, in the heart of the pristine waters and ancestral territory of GNN, emerges a tale of time-honoured heritage and sustainable seafood innovation. We continue to expand our presence in Treadwell Bay, focusing on sustainable shellfish production that respects and benefits our coastal environment.



FARM TOURS

Join us for an upcoming community tour to experience firsthand how our oyster farm operates and learn more about expansion plans.



Photo: Albert Blackford & Tim van den Boog at the 2025 Annual CFE Gathering at Tigh-Na-Mara Resort in Parksville, BC
Photo credit: Tim van den Boog, Skeena Fisheries Commission



AWARD

In February 2025, our GwiGwi Oysters were voted as Second Best Indigenous Seafood this year! This is a testament to the efforts by the, and cheers to the Fisheries team led by Albert Blackford. The event featured networking, seafood displays, and engaging panels on various topics, providing a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge about sustainable Indigenous fisheries. Rooting for you guys to take first place in the next year!





ha'me'

(food)

THE MENU

This is an exciting time for both our company and the greater Port Hardy district, as we are thrilled to re-open our fine dining restaurant. Our talented chefs have poured their creativity into countless tastings, trials, and new creations to craft a truly unique dining experience. A celebration of Island cuisine, blending local traditional flavors with global influences, from Japanese culinary techniques to inventive twists on familiar dishes. From smoked sablefish and seared beef tenderloin to crispy pork belly, venison carpaccio,



ha'me'

starters

Spruce Rubbed Venison Carpaccio	28
fire roasted tomato jam, pickled shimeji mushrooms.	
Char Grilled Octopus	22
sorrel, garlic honey sauce.	
Smoked Sablefish Salad	22
roasted squash, goat cheese, blackberries, wild rice puff.	
Crispy Braised Pork Belly	25
seared scallops, quick pickle slaw.	
Hot & Cold Seashore Trio	35
salmon cures, shrimp ceviche, scallop gratin, grilled house bread.	

main

K'awar'si Shepherd's Pie	46
ground venison, sweet potato mash, peas, corn, puff pastry crumble.	
Seared Beef Tenderloin	48
duck confit fingerlings, rosemary/blackberry demi.	
Smoked Chicken Supreme	38
pomme lyonnaise, blueberry sausage stuffing, apricot brown butter sauce.	
Miso-Glazed Grilled Salmon	42
crispy polenta fries, burnt orange maitaise.	
Butternut Squash Ravioli	30
sage brown butter sauce, toasted pumpkin seeds.	

miso-glazed salmon, butternut squash ravioli, and banana bannock donut We are particularly proud to source as much as possible from our vibrant local seafood industries, supporting the community and showcasing the region's bounty.





hame
(food)

MEET OUR CHEFS!

Marc Rollier

Meet Marc our talented Executive Sous Chef! With over 14 years of experience in the culinary arts, Originally from Ontario, Marc is no stranger to the West Coast. He spent several years working in British Columbia, where he developed a strong appreciation and understanding of West Coast cuisine. His blend of diverse regional experience and dedication to quality makes him a fantastic addition to our team.



Jasper Lightfoot

Say hello to Jasper, our Sous Chef and a proud local of Vancouver Island. Originally from Campbell River, Jasper brings not only culinary skill but also a deep-rooted connection to the Northern Island communities and traditions that shape our regional food culture. We're proud to have Jasper on our team—and even prouder to see a local talent continue to grow and lead within our culinary family.





Artwork made by Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw artist John Henderson Sr.

ha'me'

THE VENUE

Ha'me' isn't just about exceptional flavors—it's an experience. Surrounded by stunning Indigenous artwork and traditional masks, each visit immerses you in culture, history, and a deep connection to the land. This space goes beyond dining; it's a celebration of the area's rich cultural heritage.

There is a rich presence of Indigenous art throughout the space, some pieces owned by the hotel and some on loan, to pay homage to the central location of Ha'me' in both the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw territory but also the Kwagu'l territory.

Additionally, Ha'me' will be opening its lounge area to the public not just on the weekends, but also during the week. This change will begin in the upcoming spring season, marking the start of the tourist season..

You can admire the art and relax in the lounge area of the restaurant, even when the kitchen is closed during the week.

Gilaga— Come in!

**Open Friday to Sunday from
4pm - 9pm**

Located in Kwa'ilas Hotel



Artwork made by Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw artist Wayne Walkus



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Lucy Scow



We are proud to announce Lucy Scow, a member of GNN and a champion for the community, will be stepping into the role of Cultural Coordinator at the Kwa'lilas Hotel. Lucy will support our operations team with language and art programs and support the procurement process for the new Tag'was Art Gallery



Rory Hiezrer



We are excited to have Rory Hiezrer join us at KEDC as our Communications & Engagement Lead. You may have spotted her around the community these past few months - if you do, stop and say hello! Rory will be supporting us in planning future events like our next AGM in July!

KEDC COMMUNITY BBQ MAY 9, 2025

Our first community BBQ of the year is happening this spring. We will be sharing more details closer to the date on our Facebook Page. We will be partnering with **Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre** to bring non-perishable items to their Gyatsi Cupboard as well as **Harm Reduction** to bring necessity items to community.

KEDC CAREER FAIR



Our KEDC Career Fair took place on May 2nd, at the Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw School, and was a great success. It included things like:

- A Catered Lunch by Kwa'lilas Hotel
- Door Prizes such as a Tablet & Headphones
- A chance to Meet our Managers from business lines in Forestry, Tourism, Marine Services, Consulting and Construction



If you missed it feel free to check out our Indeed Page for our current job opportunities!





KEDC

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

As part of our commitment to Indigenization, we are rolling out a mentorship program that pairs experienced professionals with new and emerging talent.

Our Vision:

- Provide hands-on training and guidance
- Foster a sense of cultural pride and community responsibility
- Develop leadership pathways for future generations

We will share more details about the program's structure and enrollment soon. Stay tuned for information on how to get involved—whether as a mentor, mentee, or supporter.

Interested in joining a dynamic team that values community, growth, and sustainability? We're looking for motivated individuals to fill a variety of roles within our organization.

JUNIOR MARINER PROGRAM

K'awat'si Marine Services is seeking motivated and dedicated individuals from the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation to participate in our Junior Mariner Program. This Program will provide training, education and employment opportunities to all successful candidates.

The Junior Mariner Program is a 4-month program designed to provide hands-on training and experience in the marine transportation industry. Successful candidates will receive training in the following areas:

- Navigation
- Vessel Operations
- Safety Procedures
- Maintenance & Repair
- Customer Service



JOIN US TODAY!

We Offer:

- » Competitive wages and comprehensive benefits
- » Ongoing professional development and training
- » A clear path for career advancement within KEDC
- » Opportunities to contribute to the economic and cultural well-being of our community

For more information on current job postings, visit:
kedc.ca/careers





Catch us in the next KEDC Newsletter: Summer Edition! In the meantime stay updated by following us on Facebook, LinkedIn and our website.



K'awat'si Economic
Development Corporation



kedc.ca



K'awat'si Economic
Development Corporation

CONTACT US

Mailing Address:
PIER SIDE LANDING
8600 GRANVILLE STREET
PORT HARDY
BC, V0N 2P0

(250) 230-2738 | communications@kedc.ca



**K'AWAT'SI ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**