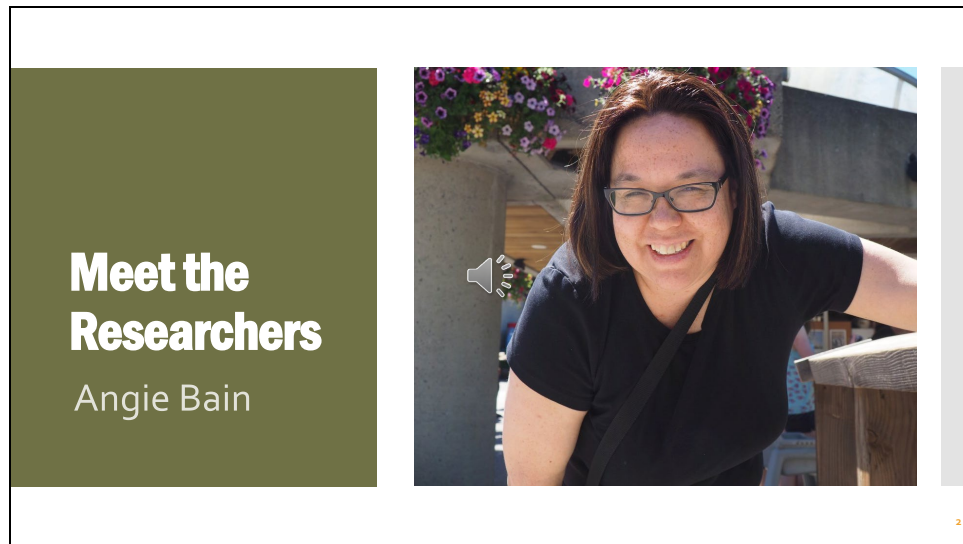


Slide 1





Hello family and friends! My name is Angie Bain. I am the daughter of Larry and Ann Shuter of Zoht.

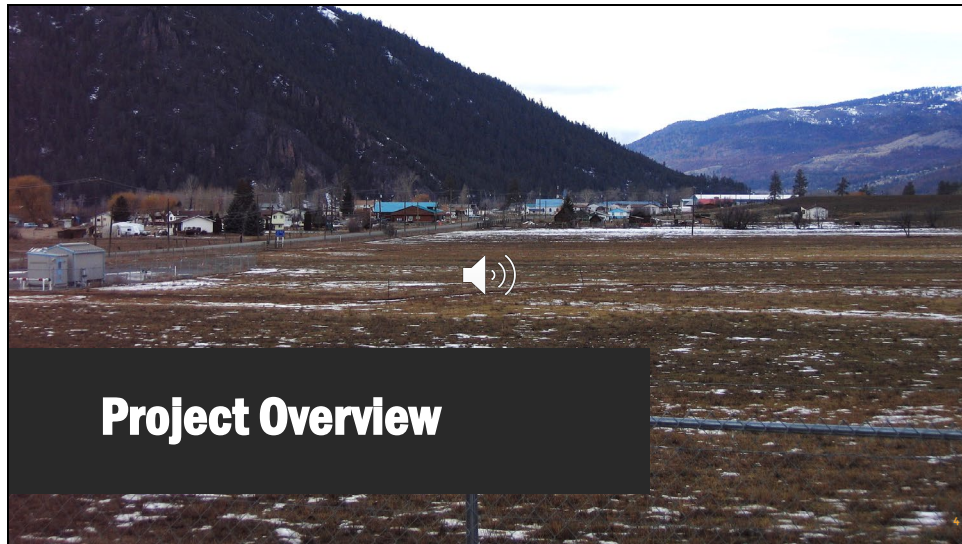
While Gretchen and I can't join you in person today, we wanted to give you a brief update on the Traditional Holdings Project. Some of you may recall our first community meeting. At that time, we made a commitment to LNIB and to you. While we haven't been able to visit, we are happy to say the work is going well. Before we share more details, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for giving so freely of your time, knowledge and support. From you, and from all of the work LNIB has done in the past, we learned the importance of the tmíx^w, the strength of families and the resilience of community values and principles. It has been our privilege and honour to work on this project with the LNIB Lands team.



The slide features a dark green rectangular area on the left with the text "Meet the Researchers" in a large, bold, white font, and "Gretchen Fox" in a smaller white font below it. To the right of this text is a photograph of a woman, Gretchen Fox, wearing a yellow beanie and a blue jacket, smiling. Next to her is a white dog, Angie, wearing a green collar with a yellow tag. The background of the photo is a snowy, wooded area. A small white speaker icon is overlaid on the photo. A small number "3" is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide frame.

Hello everyone. My name is Gretchen Fox, and for those who don't know me, I'm a non-Indigenous anthropologist, and I live in Kamloops. For the past 12 years, I've been lucky to work with Angie and the LNIB community, on community-led, land-based projects in the Nicola Valley, on LNIB traditional territory. Some of these projects include the Traditional Land Use study, the Comprehensive Community Plan, and now the Traditional Holdings Project. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with you and to support the community in using cultural knowledge and experiences to protect and manage your land.

This brief presentation gives an overview of the Traditional Holdings project, and an update on how the project is going.



When LNIB entered into Land Code in 2016, it meant that control over community lands – reserve lands – was now in the hands of the community. The Indian Act would no longer govern LNIB lands.

Under the Land Code, LNIB can make laws about what can happen on reserve lands, and how they can be protected for the next generations of LNIB families.

Some of the lands on LNIB reserves are held by members as legal allotments. Those lands recognized as allotments under the Indian Act are also recognized under LNIB's Land Code. However, there are also traditional ways that members have possessed their lands and passed them down through their families in ways that are recognized by the community. These family lands – or traditional holdings – are not yet formally recognized or protected under the Land Code.

The goal of this project is to learn from the community about cultural protocols around family lands – how families are connected to their lands, how they maintain and show those connections, the challenges they face, and how they would like the Band to approach a new process to recognize family lands as legal allotments.

We want you to know that we're listening closely to community members when you tell us that the land is at the heart of Nle?kepmx and LNIB culture and identity, and that the stakes for this project are high. We thank you for teaching us the right ways to work with the community, and for trusting us to work together with you on this project.



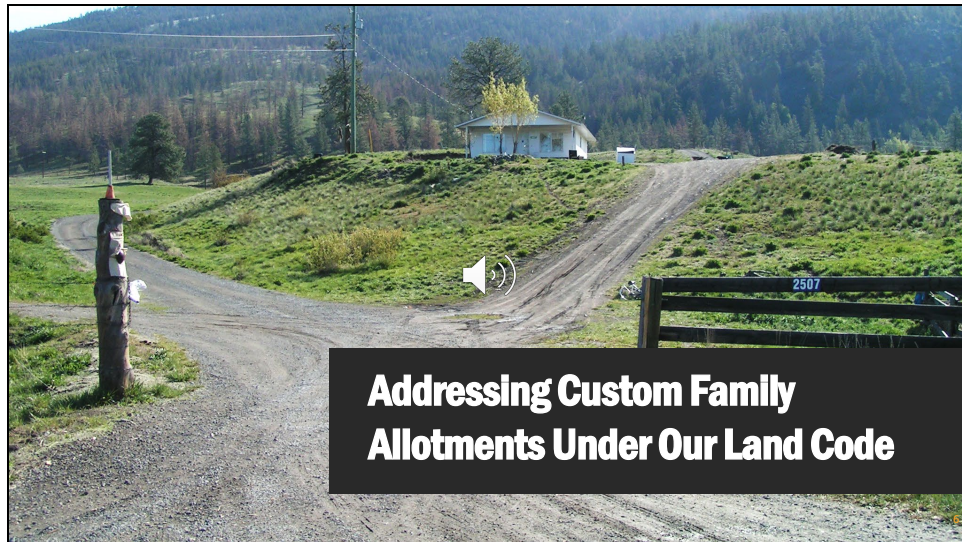
Phase 1 of the Traditional Holdings Project was completed in March 2020 after a year of meetings with LNIB families, a review of historical documents related to LNIB lands, and research about Nle?kepmx/LNIB principles and protocols guiding how decisions were made in the community in the past.

The Lands Management Advisory Committee – LMAC – provided thoughtful guidance and advice to the Project Team throughout this process and we are very thankful to all the LMAC members.

Some of the important themes and findings from this first phase of the project include:

- Land ownership is an important part of Nle?kepmx/LNIB culture and has been for many generations
- There are different ways to demonstrate land ownership, including both oral and written documentation
- Decision-making protocols and practices call for open minds and hearts, and a willingness to listen to each other, even when there are disagreements
- While recognition of some family lands is straightforward, for others it is complicated and resolving these issues through new laws and policies will be challenging

More findings from Phase 1, and recommendations for moving forward, are described in the Phase 1 report, which is available through the Lands Department.



Phase 2 of the project began this spring (2020) and is ongoing. This phase involves taking what we learned from the community and through the research in Phase 1 to draft some processes so that members who choose, can apply to have their family lands legally recognized as allotments. The Lands Department is developing an Allotment Law under the Land Code to guide this process.

This would mean that members could submit evidence demonstrating their connections to their family lands, and have that evidence reviewed by a special committee guided by customary LNIB decision-making protocols. Recommendations to grant custom family land allotments would follow from this decision-making process.

Principles of transparency, open communication, fairness, and balancing community priorities are at the top of our minds as we continue to work on drafting a process that can be supported by the community.

As a project that is centered on community engagement and guidance, COVID-19 has presented considerable challenges, and right now the priority must be on keeping everyone safe.

Although we are sorry that we can't be there with you in person today, we appreciate opportunities like this to continue share information about the project, and hope the we'll be seeing each other again in the not-too-distant future.

Slide 7



If you have questions, comments or want to learn more about this project, please contact Stephen or Brandi at the Lands Department, or you can contact Angie and Gretchen directly.

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