



Lheidli T'enneh

LHEIDLI T'ENNEH HISTORICAL TIMELINE

5487 BC

Lithic evidence supports the conclusion that indigenous peoples occupied the area between 7500 and 9000 years ago. There were two digs in the last forty years that uncovered artifacts that have been scientifically dated.

The governance system in the past was originally conducted by extended family heads, but by the time of European contact was through the Bahtlats. This community involved process provided for participatory decision making. It was also utilized for specific purposes such as coming of age, marriage, death, sharing of wealth and food. There are several clan and sub-clans and each had a male (dene zah) and a female (tseke zah) head person. The Lheidli T'enneh clans were frog (lasilyoo), grouse ('utsut), beaver (tsa) and bear (Sus). There was also a medicine person who was held in high standing within the community. This person dealt with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the community members.

The roles in the community centered on the gathering, preparation and storage of caribou, salmon, berries, plants and medicines. Each member had a role and a responsibility; the lives of all the community members depended on it.

Oral history was the means of transferring knowledge. The use of legends was very important to express past occurrences and to pass on information.

- 1763** Royal Proclamation of King George III. The document provides for commitments to the Indians of Canada. One of the commitments was to enter into Treaties.
- 1793** Alexander Mackenzie travels through Lheidli territory and follows ancient Grease trail to Nuxalk territory. First contact with Lheidli T'enneh was probably at Fort George canyon on June 19.
- 1807** Simon Fraser establishes an advanced camp at Lheidli to explore Fraser River to the ocean.
- 1808** For the next 50 years the fur trade would be dependent on the Indians to supply labor for building and hauling but more importantly for dried salmon for food. This compromised the fur trader's ability to only exchange trade goods for furs, forcing them to supply credit and at times cash purchases.
- 1820** Hudson Bay Company (HBC) establishes temporary trading post at confluence of Chilako and Nechako rivers.
- 1821** HBC and Northwest Trading Company amalgamate.
- 1823** HBC establishes trading post at Lheidli.
- 1824** HBC closes trading post at Lheidli.
- 1829** HBC re-opens trading post at Lheidli till 1915.
- 1836** Small Pox epidemic in northern British Columbia.

- 1839** First census of Lheidli village: 75 men, 50 women and 62 children for a total of 187.
- 1850** Measles epidemic.
- 1861** *Country Land Act* set the value of unsurveyed and auctioned land in the colony of British Columbia at “four shillings and two pence” per acre.
- 1861** *Pre-emption Purchase Act* and *Pre-emption Consolidation Act* refined the system of granting land to settlers, even though most of the land had not yet been subject to treaty negotiations
- 1861** Colonial policy for the establishment of Reserve lands.
- 1862** Peak of the Cariboo gold rush
- 1867** Canada confederates as a nation under the *British North American Act* (BNA) which serves as the base document for the Canadian constitution. The BNA set out the rules for the government of the new federal nation. It established a British style parliament with a House of Commons and Senate and set out the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments.s.91 (24) gives the Federal Government of Canada exclusive legislative responsibility for “Indians and lands reserved for the Indians”.
- 1867** St. Joseph’s mission established at Williams Lake.
- 1867** HBC establishes Barkerville fur trading post.
- 1870** Economic depression in B.C.
- 1871** Indians not allowed to fish commercially.
- 1871** British Columbia enters confederation. Article 13 of the Terms of Union transfers to Canada jurisdiction over Indians and all Indian Reserves (surveyed) in the Province of B.C.
- 1872** Small pox epidemic in B.C.
- 1872** The right to vote in BC elections withdrawn from Indians.
- 1875** Revised *BC Land Act* provides for Indian reserves (s. 60).
- 1875** Land available to settlers free of charge.
- 1876** First Federal *Indian Act* passed, consolidates all previous legislation concerning Indians.
- 1876** Order in Council proclaims that the *Fisheries Act* of Canada extends to B.C.
- 1876** Indian people excluded from voting in Municipal elections.
- 1876** September 26, J.M.J Lejaigo O.M.I Letter to Mr. Lenihan Indian Commissioner New Westminster quoted unofficial population count 374 total Lheidli, 85 couples, 96 boys and 92 girls
- 1877** Federal *Fisheries Act* takes effect.
- 1877** Federal Minister of Public Works presents order in council 486 to utilize Fort George as a route for proposed Pacific Railway line.
- 1880** *Indian Act* amendment prohibits Indians from assembling. In effect to 1927.
- 1885** *Indian Act* amendment prohibits Indians from holding Potlatch’s. In effect to 1951.
- 1885** Father Morice active in Northern B.C. He handed out titles to Indians as “church chiefs” and watchman, while the trading posts had “fur trade chief” and Indian agents had native police, all claiming to be leader. This led to factionalism within the bands and to the demise of the traditional hereditary and community chief system.
- 1886** HBC establishes trading post at Stoney Creek.
- 1888** Federal policy creates Indian food fishery; Indians not allowed to fish commercially.
- 1888** Small pox epidemic.
- 1890** Indian Reserve Commissioner O’Reilly directed to not allot fishing privileges.
- 1891** Federal government grants BC railways 100 foot rights of way through crown lands.
- 1892** O’Reilly surveys Fort George Indian reserves.

- 1893** Economic Depression.
- 1893** On April 14th Fort George reserves approved.
- 1895** *Indian Act* amended to create current Chief and Council election system.
- 1897** Indian fishing devices destroyed by federal officials.
- 1901** Largest sock eye run on the Fraser River recorded to date.
- 1903** Incorporation of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.
- 1906** Delegation of BC Chiefs meets with King Edward to discuss the Indian Land Question.
- 1906** *Railway Belt Act* approved.
- 1906** Barricade (fishing) Agreements signed with Lake Babine.
- 1907** Economic recession.
- 1907** Negotiations begin for the sale of Ft. George I.R. #1.
- 1908** Lheidli members reject offer for sale of I.R. #1.
- 1909** Lheidli members reject second offer for the sale of I.R. #1.
- 1911** Barricade (fishing) Agreements signed with Fort Fraser and Fort St James Bands.
- 1911** Controversial sale of IR #1 on November 18. This sale is currently a specific claim in the federal specific claims resolution process. The Band was not paid the market value of the land. There are questions in regards to why two other offers were rejected by the federal government. There is the issue of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway only requiring eighteen acres of land to build their rail lines and station. The remainder of the 1466 acres were sold the next year for over one million dollars.
- 1912** Economic depression.
- 1912** Pacific Great Eastern Railway is incorporated.
- 1913** On September 7th remaining members of Lheidli were forced off the village site against their will, removed from homes and village was burnt to the ground.
- 1913** As part of the sale of Lheidli village, contractors constructed approximately 20 new houses and St. Pius X church at Khas T'an Lhe Ghulgh, Reserve No.2, (Bundle of Fireweed), and 4 houses at Hlez Ba Nee Chek, Reserve No.3, (Lake Behind the Dirt). While the new homes looked nice, they were constructed from poorly seasoned lumber that continued to shrink, making the houses drafty, cold and unsuitable for the winters in this area.
- 1914** Grand Trunk Pacific Railway completes construction in Northern B.C.
- 1917** Federal Government imposes further fishing restriction.
- 1917** Mission residential school established in fort St. James, for Indian children from north central BC. It was decided that the Nakazlie reserve was too close and that the parents were interfering with the re-education of their children.
- 1918** First World War ends.
- 1918** Spanish Flu kills many Indians in B.C.
- 1920** B.C. Indian population reaches lowest point on record.
- 1922** A site considered removed enough from Indian reserves and villages was chosen for the new Lejac Residential School on the South shore of Fraser Lake. Many natives helped with the construction in hopes that conditions would be much better for their children, but it soon became clear that little had changed. (Closed in 1976)
- 1922** Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and Canadian Northern Railway merge to form Canadian National Railway.
- 1922** Lejac residential school was established at Fraser Lake. (Closed in 1976)
- 1927** *Indian Act* amended to make it illegal to obtain funds or legal counsel to pursue land claims.

- 1939** Second World War begins, four Lheidli T'enneh men join: Alec Paul, Jack Alexander, Charlie Brasie and Max Pius.
- 1945** Lheidli T'enneh Hereditary Chief George Jael dies and is buried at IR#2.
- 1949** Right to vote in provincial elections restored to Indians in British Columbia.
- 1949** West Coast Transmission Co. incorporated.
- 1951** *Indian Act* revised repealing prohibition for First Nations to pursue land claims and the potlatch.
- 1953** Pacific Great Eastern Railway extended to Prince George.
- 1960** Indian people were given the right to vote in the Federal Elections.
- 1964** BC Hydro erects high voltage power transmission lines through Fort George IR #2.
- 1968** Indian Homemakers Association formed. Mary Pius involved.
- 1969** Federal government introduces the "White Paper "(Statement of Government of Canada on Indian Policy), which seeks to eliminate certain "privileges" of Aboriginal people, by abolishing the *Indian Act* and the federal obligation to Aboriginal people. First Nations respond with a "Red Paper" that effectively ends the federal initiative.
- 1969** Chief Ronald Seymour represents Lheidli T'enneh in the establishment of Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
- 1973** Punchaw Lake archeology site dig conducted by Dr. Landmark of Simon Fraser University. Findings identified 43 house platforms and 57 cache pits. Evidence indicates that there was 4000 years of habitation and the site has been utilized for 8000 to 9000 years. The 5,400 square meter site has an ancient east-west trail running across it. When Alexander Mackenzie passed through the area in 1793, he mentions in his journal that the natives already had European trade goods from ships on the coast. The ancient trail is now referred to as the Nuxalk-Carrier grease trail.
- 1982** Canadian Constitution amended and repatriated from England, and re-named as *Constitution Acts*. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* "recognizes and affirms" the aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada, who are defined as "the Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada".
- 1985** Bill C-31 legislation approved. This amendment to the *Indian Act* restored the status to Aboriginal women who lost their status due to marrying non-Aboriginal men or other reasons. Also, the first generation of children received their status.
- 1992** Band administers property taxes on reserve through section 83 of *the Indian Act*.
- 2000** Members approve Bill C-49 Land Code; this provides the Band the jurisdiction to manage reserve lands.
- 1993** Lheidli T'enneh enters the BC Treaty Negotiation Process with Canada and Province of BC:
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| Stage 1 | Statement of Intent accepted by the BC Treaty Commission on December 12, 1993 |
| Stage 2 | Readiness declared for the three parties on November 02, 1995 |
| Stage 3 | Framework Agreement signed by three parties on August 26, 1996 |
| Stage 4 | Agreement in Principle signed by three parties on August 01, 2003 |
| Stage 5 | Final Agreement completed on November 29, 2006 |
| | Community vote held in March 2007. The Lheidli T'enneh Constitution was successfully passed, the Treaty final agreement was rejected. |

- 1996** Became a partner in the McGregor Model Forest Association. Developed working relationships with the Indigenous peoples from the Cree from Montreal Lake and the Nania from the far east Russia.
- 1997** Established LTN Contracting Ltd. This company is a partnership that specializes in timber harvesting.
- 1999** Protocols signed for information sharing and economic exchange with the Nisga'a Tribal Council and the Snuneymuxw First Nation.
- 2002** Memorandums of Understanding on Cooperation and Communication signed with the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.
- 2010** Fraser River Bridge Archeology dig finds an extensive collection of lithic items covering many thousand years of occupation and some of the lithic items were dated to 7500 +/- 40 years ago.
- 2012** Band accepted into Fiscal Management Authority (FMA). The self-government initiative provides the jurisdiction to manage the property tax system.
- 2012** Federal Government approves Bill C-3; this amendment to the *Indian Act* adds a third generation of disenfranchised members to the membership list.
- 2013** Band becomes a co-host for the 2015 Canada Winter games.
- 2013** Band is the host of the 37th annual Elder's Gathering.

