



# First Nations Tax Administrators Association

c/o Westbank First Nation 101-515 Highway 97 South, Kelowna BC, V1Z 3J2



OCTOBER 2010

NEWSLETTER - ANNUAL REPORT

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## Dr. Robert L. Bish and the First Nations Tax Administrators Association

Dr Bish was recognized for his contribution to the inception of the First Nations Tax Administrators Association at the 17th Annual National Forum on Property Taxation held in Enoch Alberta, September 15-17, 2010.

The FNTAA was begun in 1993 with a grant from the Donner-Canadian Foundation. Dr Bish was responsible for securing the grant and creating the First Nations Tax Administrators Institute. The first five national meetings were run through the University of Victoria School of Public Administration Continuing Studies and Local Government Institute staff. During the first five years First Nation members played an increasingly important role in the Institute and its activities were transferred to Songhees First Nation following the 1997 annual meeting.



The FNTAA was incorporated in 1999 with Deanna Hamilton, Pam Severson, Kevin Blaney, Brian Finlay and Nadine Hetrick as Directors.

Dr Bish continues to support the advancement of the First Nations Tax Administration profession through his involvement with the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics.

## The History of our Logo



Dr Bish also undertook to organize a logo contest for our association.

Beverly Johnson of Williams Lake won \$300 for designing this logo. The logo was originally black red and white.

The image captures the idea of people working together to bring a brighter future to our Communities.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to first humbly thank all the tax administrators for your confidence to retain the board and myself as your president for another term. This board will continue to pursue with the passion that I often use to describe what it takes to do our jobs to the best of our abilities.

First Nation Property Tax Administration is one of the best professions that our young nation members can now choose to pursue. It contains all the ingredients of an exciting profession; excitement, passion, continuous cutting edge change and measurable contributions to our community infrastructure and economic development.

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual FNTAA conference was another resounding success; with the bar being raised in the quality of presenters and the right mixture of new innovative tools from social media to learning more about the new FNTC led First Nation Property Ownership Initiative.

I am looking forward to another exciting year in First Nation Property Taxation.

Way' lim limp'  
Ernest Jack, President

## 2010/11 FNTAA Board of Directors

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# FIRST NATIONS TAX ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

September 15, 2010

Marriott at River Cree, Enoch, Alberta

### In Attendance:

Name	Organization	Title
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Ernest M. Jack	Westbank First Nation	Surveyor of Taxes/FNTAA President
Freda Jules	Tk'emlúps Indian Band	Lands & Tax Admin/FNTAA Vice President
Jim Prodger	Millbrook First Nation	Finance Manager/FNTAA Treasurer
Christina Clarke	Songhees Nation	Tax Administrator/FNTAA Secretary
Latrica Nicholas	Akisiq'nuk First Nation	Director of Finance /FNTAA Director
Dana Henderson	Campbell River Indian Band	Tax Administrator/FNTAA Director
Heather Fader	Lower Nicola Indian Band	Interim Executive Director
Dianne Bastedo	Lower Nicola Indian Band	Finance Manager/Tax Administrator
Lloyd Johnson	Millbrook First Nation	Economic Development Officer
Melinda Nunez-Shuler	Osoyoos Indian Band Dev Corporation	Tax Assistant/ISO Management Rep
Glenda Paul	Penticton Indian Band	Taxation Administrator
Carlene George	Penticton Indian Band	Taxation Clerk
Katherine Stevens	Shuswap Indian Band	Surveyor of Taxes
Lynn Gottfriedson	Tk'emlúps Indian Band	Tax Clerk
Stella Ostrander	T'it'q'et	Tax Clerk
Deanna Honeyman	Tzeachten First Nation	Taxation Administrator
Sylvia Baker	Westbank First Nation	Taxation Officer
<b>Non-Voting</b>		
Dr Robert L. Bish	Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics	Honoured Guest
Cathleen M Arnouse	Adams Lake Band	Tax Administrator
Willis Kootenay	Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	Tax Administrator
Lena Auger	Bigstone Cree Nation	Finance Director/Tax Administrator
Peter John	Chawathil First Nation	Surveyor of Taxes
Larry George	Cowichan Tribes	Land & Governance Manager
Ken Scopick	First Nations Tax Commission	Chief Operating Officer
Trenton Paul	First Nations Tax Commission	Director of Policy and Law Review
Brent Moreau	First Nations Tax Commission	Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Tracey Simon	First Nations Tax Commission	Registrar, FSMA
Lilian Richards	First Nations Tax Commission	By-Law Registrar
Catherine Galligos	Sliammon First Nation	Tax and Land Manager
Ron Sam	Songhees Nation	Councillor
Michelle Sam	Songhees Nation	Tax Administration Assistant
Valerie Sam	Tzeachtin First Nation	Lands Manager
Bruce Standingready	White Bear First Nation	Lands Manager



## President's Report

Ernest Jack

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the First Nations Tax Administrators Association. Jim Prodger our Treasurer will present the Financial Statements for last year.

To be Tax Administrators you have to have a passion to show up every day and deal with people who aren't always nice to you because they pay you tax money. It's a public service. In our office we hired a Westbank First Nation member who is so exuberant and happy which is conveyed to the taxpaying public. People are treated well; the young lady has a great attitude. We have to remember we are in a service industry. Let them feel like they are getting the best service and services for their tax dollars.

We now have education opportunities. We can direct that passion to get certified as first nation property tax administrators. Tulo is helping to increase opportunities to help all of us have a legitimate profession.

We are always involved in community development. While a lot out there complain about taxes, changes in the community we have to have the taxpayer's equitable interests at heart.

This year at one of our Tulo Classes in February, National Chief Shawn Atleo spoke to our class. He was passionate about our new opportunity to learn. He was excited to talk about new education opportunities now being developed for First Nation members.

## Comments from the Board

Freda Jules, Vice President: I'd like to thank you all for coming. We have only 14 voting members here... thank you for showing up. I'd like to thank Christina; she keeps us all in line. We have monthly meetings. The calibre of speakers we have, we've come a long way in 17 years.

Terry Nicholas: Thank everyone for coming. And thanks to the Board. Another promo for Tulo if you have a chance please attend. Also thanks to the FNTC for their ongoing support.

Jim Prodger: I just want to express how good it is to work with everyone.

Dana Henderson: Once again another successful year, thank you Christina, and I have learned so much from the Board

Christina Clarke: I'd like to use this opportunity to point out an error of mine. We are trying to promote professionalism for ourselves and our association and I just realized I do not have minutes from last year's meeting in your binder. We should have reviewed them and formally adopted them. I apologize for that.



Copies of the 17th Annual National Forum presentations can be found on the Resource page of our website, [FNTAA.CA](http://FNTAA.CA)

## Treasurers Report

Jim Prodger

Reviewed Financial Statements for the year ended Dec 31, 2009. Noted the ten thousand dollar operating deficit that we must consider in our next budget process to establish a new operating budget. An effort to increase revenues through membership fees, an increase to conference registration fees and proposal writing. Main expense is running the conference and conference coordination which also includes newsletters and website updates.

Ernest: Call for a motion to accept the statements, Glenda Paul moved to accept the financial statements as presented Lynn Gottfriedson seconded.

Result of Vote, 15 in favour, 0 objections; motion carried.

## Elections

Ernest: Is there anyone interested in joining the board? We have Marion Brass Yellowfly from Alberta; Siksika Nation who would like to join as a member at large.

Sylvia Baker: Motion to re-elect existing Board with addition of Marion Brass Yellowfly.  
Seconded by Lynn Gottfriedson.

Result of the Vote: 14 in favour, 0 objections, motion carried.



## 2011 Conference Venue

Ernest: The next question is a venue for next year's annual forum. We have a suggestion of Quaaout Lodge located outside of Chase, BC. We've held it in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Osoyoos Indian Band's Spirit Ridge Resort, St Eugene's Mission Resort and Casino in Cranbrook, BC.

Question from the floor: Where is Quaaout?

Ernest: North of Kamloops.

Lynn: What about the East coast?

Jim: We've notice when we hold it in Alberta we have a decrease in attendance. As much as we would love to host it in Nova Scotia, the reality is it's just too expensive to travel out.

Ernest: Please let us know if you have any ideas for a venue and we will take it into consideration. This concludes the members meeting. Thank you for attending

Sylvia Baker: Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Glenda Paul. All in favour, motion carried.

## 2010 FNTAA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Indian Lakes Golf Course, Enoch, Alberta September 15, 2010

### Announcing the Winners

The Golfers winning the tournament were Terry Nicholas, Stella Ostrander, Sharon Jack and Ernest "OJ" Jack. The most honest team consisted of Sylvia Baker, Michelle Baker, Deanna Honeyman and Lloyd Johnson. The Long Drive winners were; Ladies: Sharon Jack and Sherri Running Rabbit., Men: Dwayne Healy. The KP winners were; Ladies: Sharon Jack and Sherri Running Rabbit. Men: Ernest "OJ" Jack and Dwayne Healy.



The FNTAA would like to acknowledge generous prize donations from:  
First Nations Tax Commission, Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics, First Nations Financial Management Board, Fiscal Realities Economists, The Royal Bank and Ernest Jack