



Fraser Basin Council

SAVINGS DOLLARS ON ENERGY COMMUNITY SUCCESS STORIES, HOUSING POLICY & RENOVATIONS

KWADACHA NATION PILOT & LESSONS LEARNED

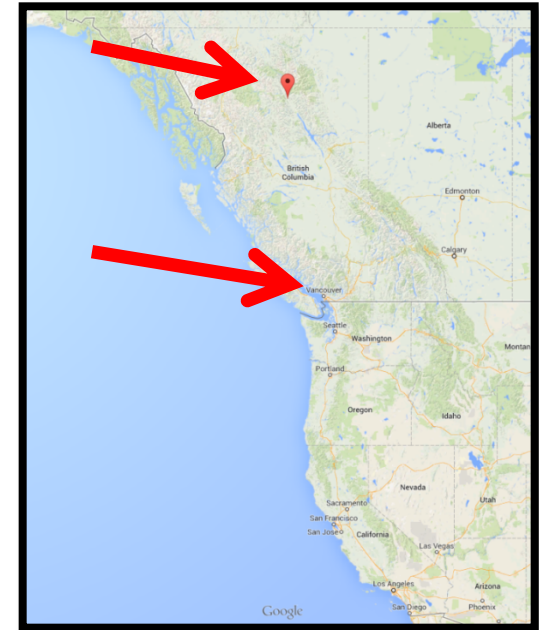
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Dawn Bursey, Executive Director, Kwadacha Nation

THE KWADACHA NATION



- Fort Ware, home of the Kwadacha Nation Tsek'ene
- 450 km from the closest town Mackenzie, BC;
- Accessible by small plane, or since 1992, by logging road (an 8 - 10 hour drive)
- Kwadacha Nation is one of five nations that make up the Kaska Dena, the traditional territory



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KWADACHA



- **Tsek'ene people gradually moved west into BC from the Rocky Mountains beginning 11-12,000 years ago**
- **1793 for next 100 yrs, Tsek'ene people began trading with Hudson Bay Company**
- **1930's first generation of children were sent to Lejac Residential School, over 600 km southwest of the emerging village of Fort Ware.**
- **Social, political, and economic changes that most Canadian First Nations experienced over two to three centuries were compressed into roughly 100 years for Kwadacha Tsek'ene peoples.**
- **The ultimate, irrevocable change occurred in the 1960's and early 70's when Tsek'ene lands, waterways, trails, trap lines, and hunting areas were flooded by the Williston Reservoir caused by the W.A.C. Bennett Dam built across the Peace River on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains.**



PEOPLE OF KWADACHA



- 400 people living in Fort Ware of which 380 are Kwadacha Nation members (also 145 off-reserve members living in nearby communities)
- Employment in Fort Ware consists of Band and Health Administration, Education, Public Works, and Forestry, Mining and Oil & Gas industries.
- 10 to 12% of community members rely on Income Assistance and see on average about \$540 monthly
- Community buildings include the school, Health and Administration Centre, and a general store and restaurant
- Aatse Davie School (K-Grade 12) has 92 students



HOUSING AND ELECTRICITY IN KWADACHA



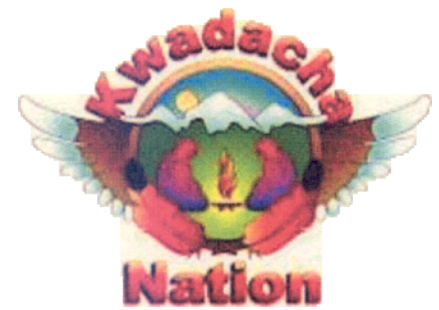
- Most homes on reserve owned by Kwadacha Nation and rented to residents
- Most homes are bank financed with a modest subsidy from the Federal Government
- Wood is predominant heat source

Housing Challenges:

- Balancing housing needs and rent collections
- 5.5 persons per dwelling (Provincial average is 2.75) - demand exceeds capacity by about 20 homes.
- 25 homes in need of major renovation and/or upgrades



KWADACHA AND BC HYDRO



Electricity:

- Electricity came to the community 30 yrs ago through federally funded Diesel Generating Power Station
- 2005 Kwadacha Nation contracted with BC Hydro to operate the plant; residential rates were 5.5 c/ kWh
- Although plant operations partially funded by the federal government, a huge deficit was created.
- 2008 Kwadacha Nation and BC Hydro reached a settlement agreement as a result of the flooding of the territory in the 1960's by BC Hydro's WAC Bennet Dam
- 2012, Kwadacha Nation Green Initiative by Chief Donny Van Somer to become a BC Hydro customer under RCE Program

