

GWA’SALA-NAKWAXDA’XW TRUST GRANT PROPOSAL

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Proposal Name: Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw School Education
Name of Trustee Applicant: Reed Allen-Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw School
Associated Band Department: Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw School
Associated Band Department Contact Information: Box 1799, (250) 949-7743
Amount Requested for 2025: \$55, 000
Estimated number of Band members to benefit: 125 students

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Summary: Briefly describe the project (3 or 4 sentences), including a high-level description of what will be done.

This funding would help ensure that we continue with a number of school programs and projects continue for the 2025-2026 school year.

Regalia Making - \$15, 000

Each year we are teaching our Grade 6 and Grade 7 students how to make regalia which shows who we are and what we use in our ceremonies (potlatches, Yayumas, feasts, cultural celebrations). The students are learning about their family history and lineage. This is an important component to our culture program. It is our hope that every student who attends our school will leave with their own regalia made by themselves. They will also gain an understanding of the responsibility of taking care of such a valuable piece. The goal is for our Grade 6 students to make aprons and for our Grade 7 students to make button blankets.

It’s been such a wonderful event having our Grade 7 grads walk with their own regalia.

Trips to Traditional Territories - \$15, 000

Part of cultural understanding is having our students connect with a sense of place. With the relocation this is obviously very challenging because the Gwa’sala and ‘Nakwaxda’xw peoples are not originally from the Port Hardy area. We never want our students to forget where they traditionally come from. We want them to remember they come from their homelands of Takush and Ba’as, as well as the many other locations that are so sacred. We hope that by the time the weather improves we can get all our students to the homelands.

Field Trips - \$20, 000

Each year our students travel to many places are part of taking their learning outside the classroom. A field trip is one of the best tools that we can use to provide every student with real-world experiences, allows students are able to access tools and environments that are not available at school and students are able to engage with content in a variety of ways. Many of our field trips are very costly and teachers spend a great deal of time fundraising.

Swimming Classes - \$5, 000

The purpose of providing swimming lessons to all of our students has many benefits. First of all it's an important life skill to ensure the safety of our children around water. The community is situated near water and students come into contact with water and unless they learn to swim they will be in danger in these situations. Swimming classes give students opportunities to learn valuable social skills, strengthen their whole bodies and give them an activity they can do at any age. An added benefit is that swimming has been proven to increase the academic performance of students.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Background: Outline the context for the project. Provide necessary background to understand why the project is being undertaken.

The school has always been looking at providing a well rounded educational experience for our students. This trust proposal has allowed the school to provide this. All of these projects have been very successful over the years. It connects our students even more to their culture and increases their mental and physical health.

PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Explain the purpose of the project by describing what this project is aiming to achieve. What is its vision? What need or opportunity will it address?

It is the goal of the Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw School to provide our students with optimum learning in a culturally responsive and rich environment characterized by respect and care. Our aim is to provide learning that focuses on the cultural experiences of the children and encompasses their emotional, social, academic, and physical needs. Our school is a place that strives to equip students with a wide range of experience, knowledge and skills. In order to achieve this goal we attempt to provide our students with various experience available locally and in traditional territories.

3. Budget

Project Costs: Identify applicable cost categories such as: wages, consulting costs, materials, project management, equipment costs, etc.

Expenditures Total

\$55,000

Funding Timeline: In what month(s) will you require the Trust funds requested in your proposal.

2025-2026 School Year (September to end of June)

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management Team: Identify the individuals who will be responsible for managing the project and provide their contact information.

This project will be managed by the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Principal, Reed Allen.
(250) 949-7743 or rallen@gwanak.bc.ca

REPORTING STRUCTURE

Identify the reporting structure for the proposal

Reports can be made available to the trust committee or community when required. Unsure of what will be expected but in the past I have submitted final reports for all trust proposals.

5. OTHER

Are there any potential risks that might threaten the successful completion of the project? Indicate how these risks will be mitigated.

If the funding isn't approved it would put these programs at the school in jeopardy.

Is there any other information relating to the proposal that the Trust Committee should be aware of?

For the school it is important and very helpful that trust proposals be accepted, reviewed and voted on annually at the same time. It has been difficult undertaking some projects not knowing when funding is approved or available.

Where the proposal requires the purchase of supplies, equipment or services, indicate how best values for money will be ensured. Indicate where the Applicant has a procurement policy in place.

For Regalia we purchase material in bulk to ensure the best prices. We also use individuals from community to create blanks/templates which saves on some cost instead of outsourcing that work. We also have worked extensively with GNN Marine Services when we are booking trips to the traditional territories.

6. TRUSTEE APPLICANT

How have project costs been reviewed /verified for accuracy, completeness and reasonableness? Explain.

I believe these figures are fairly accurate as we have applied for this funding for a number of years and have relatively decent idea of the costs associated with these projects.

In addition to the funding sources identified above, has the Applicant approached/applied to any other funding programs? If yes, indicate organization and the status of those applications. If no, please explain.

We are always looking for grant opportunities to off set the costs of existing programs, new programs or for capital projects. We apply to FNESC for language and culture funding, First People's Cultural Council, iSPARC, New Relationship Trust.

Submitted by:

Trustee Applicant: Reed Allen, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School Principal

Associated Band Department Representative: Education