

-Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Trust

Grant Proposal Request

2025-2026

General Information

Proposal name: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders Program

Name of Trustee Applicant: Gary Walkus

Associated Band Department: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw HFS/Elders Centre

Associated Band Department Contact: Cassidy Walkus – Elders Coordinator

Elders Centre phone: 250 949 7406

Elders Coordinator work cell: 250 230 1496

Email: elderscoordinator@gwanaknations.ca

Amount requested for 2025-2026 : \$431,000.00

Project Description

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders Program is a vibrant and essential initiative that supports our elders through weekly gatherings and meaningful activities. The program includes a Tuesday morning in-house breakfast, a Wednesday elders' lunch, and a Thursday activity. These gatherings provide our elders with nutritious meals and the opportunity for regular social interaction, which plays a vital role in their overall well-being.

Each year, the program offers a Christmas bonus of \$300.00 to each elder. This gesture recognizes the generosity of our grandparents, who often go above and beyond to support their families during the holiday season. Following the Christmas disbursement, the Elders Program, in coordination with the Nation, arranges a special day trip for Christmas shopping. A coach bus is booked to bring the elders into town, allowing them to shop, enjoy the festive season, and spend time together in a joyful setting.

Another highlight of the year is the annual summer elders' trip, which the community eagerly anticipates. Funding from the program is allocated toward transportation (coach bus), accommodations, and meals. This excursion provides a well-deserved opportunity for rest, recreation, and connection among our elders.

Our goal is to continue offering these enriching experiences that honor and support our elders for their wisdom, contributions, and cherished role in our community.

Project Background

Since 1964, the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders have been displaced from their traditional homelands following a forced relocation to Port Hardy, now home to the Tsulquate Reserve. This relocation has led to decades of challenges for the Elders and their families, impacting cultural continuity, community connection, and well-being. In response, the Elders Program has grown over the years to address these evolving needs—offering personalized care, support, and culturally grounded comfort to everyone.

Project Purpose

The Elders Program has been expanded to better meet the growing needs of our Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders. The Elders' Centre serves as a welcoming space where they can relax and access services that support their spiritual, traditional, nutritional, and holistic well-being. As of 2024, there is over 85 band member Elders living on reserve, off reserve, and outside of the regional district. A list of Elders can be provided upon request.

Budget – Proposal cost category

Elder's lunches - \$45,000.00

Day programming and snacks - \$35,000.00

Christmas bonus and lunch - \$30,000.00

Annual elder's trip - \$90,000.00

Elder's program vehicle - \$60,000.00

Utilities - \$8,000.00

Elders Centre insurance - \$3,000.00

Program coordinator - \$60,000.00

Elders Coordinator assistant - \$30,000.00

Summer equipment - \$5,000.00

Program furniture - \$10,000.00

Janitor services - \$25,000.00

Janitor supplies - \$5,000.00

Miscellaneous - \$10,000.00

Cedar weaving - \$15,000.00

Elders attire - \$15,000.00

Total grant proposal: \$431,000.00

Project Management

Cassidy Walkus

Work: 250 949 7406 – 250 949 8131

Cell: 250 230 1496

Email: elderscoordinator@gwanaknations.ca

150 Tsulquate Reserve

Reporting Structure

The financial management of Elders' funds will be administered by the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). All expenditures must be supported by detailed source documentation. Cheques will be issued only with the signatures of the authorized signatories of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations.

Other Revenues

Office and meeting room rentals, catering, and fundraising activities.

Trustee Applicant

Elders' proposal was looked over by Cassidy Walkus and Office manager Vonita Hill, with regards to expanded services for the elder's program.

Submitted by:

Trustee Applicant

Cassidy Walkus

Associated Band Department Representative