

October 6, 2025

Information Release
The Four Pillars Society Settlement – Community Plan Introduction

The Gitsegukla First Nation is inviting our members to attend community engagement sessions over the months of October and November 2025 regarding the Four Pillars Society Settlement and the exciting opportunity this presents for the Band and our members.

The Four Pillars Society Settlement is the result of a \$2.8 billion settlement from the Government of Canada to the 325 Band Class Members involved in a class action lawsuit.

As a Band Class Member, Gitsegukla First Nation is receiving a portion of the settlement funds, to support the development of a 5-10-year community plan that will focus on implementing programs, resources, and services for its members, anchored in **four foundational pillars**: heritage, culture, wellness, and language.

The Four Pillars Society Settlement is not connected to any individual settlement distribution. The settlement process has already concluded, with Gitsegukla First Nation being one of 325 Band Class Members that received funding through the settlement.

Four Pillars Program and Service Planning

The Band is in the process of developing its plans for each of the four pillars. All Gitsegukla First Nation members, both on and off-reserve, are invited to participate in discussions centered on programs, services, and projects that align with these pillars.

These engagement sessions are part of a long-term community plan spanning 5 to 10 years, specifically focused on four key pillars: heritage, culture, wellness, and language. Engagement session dates and details will be shared with members throughout the process.

Introduction and 1st Engagement Session – October 14, 2025 Gitsegukla

To introduce the Four Pillars process and begin the engagement sessions, members are invited on October 14 in Gitsegukla to learn more about the community planning initiative and meet the team facilitating the engagement sessions. The open house is an opportunity to ask questions, share insights, and build the foundation of the future of the community plan.

All Gitsegukla members are invited to the Introduction and 1st Engagement Session. A schedule of further engagement sessions will be introduced in the coming weeks.

When: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Community School Hall – Gitsegukla

Planning Support and Guidance

The Gitsegukla First Nation is developing its 5-10 year strategic plan, with the support and assistance of an experience community helper, Mandy Cormier.

Mandy Cormier was born and raised on Tse'Khene Territory in Mackenzie, British Columbia, where her upbringing on the land instilled a deep respect for culture, language, and traditional knowledge. For the past nine years, she has worked with Indigenous communities across British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and New Zealand, focusing on mental wellness, addiction recovery, community development, and cultural revitalization.

Mandy has worked in leadership roles such as a Director of Community and Social Development, Health Director, and Advisor of Health and Social Development, Mandy has led engagement processes that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and respect for traditional protocols.

Her work centers on prevention and early intervention programs that integrate language revitalization, cultural teachings, and land-based activities to strengthen identity, resilience, and overall wellness. Projects such as community wellness planning, hunting and food security initiatives, and physical health activities reflect her commitment to community-driven solutions. Guided by humility as a non-Indigenous helper, Mandy designs programs that are responsive, sustainable, and rooted in the knowledge and direction of the communities she serves.

For more information regarding this information release, or questions about The Four Pillars Society Settlement, please contact the following individuals:

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