LHEIDLI T’ENNEH HISTORICAL TIMELINE

5487 BC
Lithic evidence supports the conclusion that indigenous peoples occupied the area between 7500 and 9000 years ago. There were two digs in the last forty years that uncovered artifacts that have been scientifically dated.

The governance system in the past was originally conducted by extended family heads, but by the time of European contact was through the Bahtlats. This community involved process provided for participatory decision making. It was also utilized for specific purposes such as coming of age, marriage, death, sharing of wealth and food. There are several clan and sub-clans and each had a male (dene zah) and a female (tseke zah) head person. The Lheidli T’enneh clans were frog (lasilyoo), grouse (’utsut), beaver (tsa) and bear (Sus). There was also a medicine person who was held in high standing within the community. This person dealt with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the community members.

The roles in the community centered on the gathering, preparation and storage of caribou, salmon, berries, plants and medicines. Each member had a role and a responsibility; the lives of all the community members depended on it.

Oral history was the means of transferring knowledge. The use of legends was very important to express past occurrences and to pass on information.

1763 Royal Proclamation of King George III. The document provides for commitments to the Indians of Canada. One of the commitments was to enter into Treaties.

1793 Alexander Mackenzie travels through Lheidli territory and follows ancient Grease trail to Nuxalk territory. First contact with Lheidli T’enneh was probably at Fort George canyon on June 19.

1807 Simon Fraser establishes an advanced camp at Lheidli to explore Fraser River to the ocean.

1808 For the next 50 years the fur trade would be dependent on the Indians to supply labor for building and hauling but more importantly for dried salmon for food. This compromised the fur trader’s ability to only exchange trade goods for furs, forcing them to supply credit and at times cash purchases.

1820 Hudson Bay Company (HBC) establishes temporary trading post at confluence of Chilako and Nechako rivers.

1821 HBC and Northwest Trading Company amalgamate.

1823 HBC establishes trading post at Lheidli.

1824 HBC closes trading post at Lheidli.

1829 HBC re-opens trading post at Lheidli till 1915.

1836 Small Pox epidemic in northern British Columbia.
1839 First census of Lheidli village: 75 men, 50 women and 62 children for a total of 187.
1850 Measles epidemic.
1861 Country Land Act set the value of unsurveyed and auctioned land in the colony of British Columbia at “four shillings and two pence” per acre.
1861 Pre-emption Purchase Act and Pre-emption Consolidation Act refined the system of granting land to settlers, even though most of the land had not yet been subject to treaty negotiations.
1861 Colonial policy for the establishment of Reserve lands.
1862 Peak of the Cariboo gold rush.
1867 Canada confederates as a nation under the British North American Act (BNA) which serves as the base document for the Canadian constitution. The BNA set out the rules for the government of the new federal nation. It established a British style parliament with a House of Commons and Senate and set out the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments. s.91 (24) gives the Federal Government of Canada exclusive legislative responsibility for “Indians and lands reserved for the Indians”.
1867 St. Joseph’s mission established at Williams Lake.
1867 HBC establishes Barkerville fur trading post.
1870 Economic depression in B.C.
1871 Indians not allowed to fish commercially.
1871 British Columbia enters confederation. Article 13 of the Terms of Union transfers to Canada jurisdiction over Indians and all Indian Reserves (surveyed) in the Province of B.C.
1872 Small pox epidemic in B.C.
1872 The right to vote in B.C elections withdrawn from Indians.
1875 Revised BC Land Act provides for Indian reserves (s. 60).
1875 Land available to settlers free of charge.
1876 First Federal Indian Act passed, consolidates all previous legislation concerning Indians.
1876 Order in Council proclaims that the Fisheries Act of Canada extends to B.C.
1876 Indian people excluded from voting in Municipal elections.
1876 September 26, J.M.J Lejaigo O.M.I Letter to Mr. Lenihan Indian Commissioner New Westminster quoted unofficial population count 374 total Lheidli, 85 couples, 96 boys and 92 girls.
1877 Federal Fisheries Act takes effect.
1877 Federal Minister of Public Works presents order in council 486 to utilize Fort George as a route for proposed Pacific Railway line.
1880 Indian Act amendment prohibits Indians from assembling. In effect to 1927.
1885 Indian Act amendment prohibits Indians from holding Potlatch’s. In effect to 1951.
1885 Father Morice active in Northern B.C. He handed out titles to Indians as “church chiefs” and watchman, while the trading posts had “fur trade chief” and Indian agents had native police, all claiming to be leader. This led to factionalism within the bands and to the demise of the traditional hereditary and community chief system.
1886 HBC establishes trading post at Stoney Creek.
1888 Federal policy creates Indian food fishery; Indians not allowed to fish commercially.
1888 Small pox epidemic.
1890 Indian Reserve Commissioner O'Reilly directed to not allot fishing privileges.
1891 Federal government grants BC railways 100 foot rights of way through crown lands.
1892 O'Reilly surveys Fort George Indian reserves.
1893  Economic Depression.
1893  On April 14th Fort George reserves approved.
1895  *Indian Act* amended to create current Chief and Council election system.
1897  Indian fishing devices destroyed by federal officials.
1901  Largest sock eye run on the Fraser River recorded to date.
1903  Incorporation of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.
1906  Delegation of BC Chiefs meets with King Edward to discuss the Indian Land Question.
1906  *Railway Belt Act* approved.
1906  Barricade (fishing) Agreements signed with Lake Babine.
1907  Economic recession.
1907  Negotiations begin for the sale of Ft. George I.R. #1.
1908  Lheidli members reject offer for sale of I.R. #1.
1909  Lheidli members reject second offer for the sale of I.R. #1.
1911  Barricade (fishing) Agreements signed with Fort Fraser and Fort St James Bands.
1911  Controversial sale of IR #1 on November 18. This sale is currently a specific claim in the federal specific claims resolution process. The Band was not paid the market value of the land. There are questions in regards to why two other offers were rejected by the federal government. There is the issue of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway only requiring eighteen acres of land to build their rail lines and station. The remainder of the 1466 acres were sold the next year for over one million dollars.
1912  Economic depression.
1912  Pacific Great Eastern Railway is incorporated.
1913  On September 7th remaining members of Lheidli were forced off the village site against their will, removed from homes and village was burnt to the ground.
1913  As part of the sale of Lheidli village, contractors constructed approximately 20 new houses and St. Pius X church at Khas T’an Lhe Ghulgh, Reserve No.2, (Bundle of Fireweed), and 4 houses at Hlel Ba Nee Chek, Reserve No.3, (Lake Behind the Dirt). While the new homes looked nice, they were constructed from poorly seasoned lumber that continued to shrink, making the houses drafty, cold and unsuitable for the winters in this area.
1914  Grand Trunk Pacific Railway completes construction in Northern B.C.
1917  Federal Government imposes further fishing restriction.
1917  Mission residential school established in fort St. James, for Indian children from north central BC. It was decided that the Nakaztie reserve was too close and that the parents were interfering with the re-education of their children.
1918  First World War ends.
1918  Spanish Flu kills many Indians in B.C.
1920  B.C. Indian population reaches lowest point on record.
1922  A site considered removed enough from Indian reserves and villages was chosen for the new Lejac Residential School on the South shore of Fraser Lake. Many natives helped with the construction in hopes that conditions would be much better for their children, but it soon became clear that little had changed. (Closed in 1976)
1922  Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and Canadian Northern Railway merge to form Canadian National Railway.
1922  Lejac residential school was established at Fraser Lake. (Closed in 1976)
1927  *Indian Act* amended to make it illegal to obtain funds or legal counsel to pursue land claims.
1945  Lheidli T'enneh Hereditary Chief George Jael dies and is buried at IR#2.
1949  Right to vote in provincial elections restored to Indians in British Columbia.
1949  West Coast Transmission Co. incorporated.
1951  *Indian Act* revised repealing prohibition for First Nations to pursue land claims and the potlatch.
1953  Pacific Great Eastern Railway extended to Prince George.
1960  Indian people were given the right to vote in the Federal Elections.
1964  BC Hydro erects high voltage power transmission lines through Fort George IR #2.
1968  Indian Homemakers Association formed. Mary Pius involved.
1969  Federal government introduces the “White Paper” (*Statement of Government of Canada on Indian Policy*), which seeks to eliminate certain “privileges” of Aboriginal people, by abolishing the *Indian Act* and the federal obligation to Aboriginal people. First Nations respond with a “Red Paper” that effectively ends the federal initiative.
1969  Chief Ronald Seymour represents Lheidli T'enneh in the establishment of Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
1973  Punchaw Lake archeology site dig conducted by Dr. Landmark of Simon Fraser University. Findings identified 43 house platforms and 57 cache pits. Evidence indicates that there was 4000 years of habitation and the site has been utilized for 8000 to 9000 years. The 5,400 square meter site has an ancient east-west trail running across it. When Alexander Mackenzie passed through the area in 1793, he mentions in his journal that the natives already had European trade goods from ships on the coast. The ancient trail is now referred to as the Nuxalk-Carrier grease trail.
1982  Canadian Constitution amended and repatriated from England, and re-named as *Constitution Acts*. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* “recognizes and affirms” the aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada, who are defined as “the Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada”.
1985  Bill C-31 legislation approved. This amendment to the *Indian Act* restored the status to Aboriginal women who lost their status due to marrying non-Aboriginal men or other reasons. Also, the first generation of children received their status.
1992  Band administers property taxes on reserve through section 83 of the *Indian Act*.
2000  Members approve Bill C-49 Land Code; this provides the Band the jurisdiction to manage reserve lands.
1993  Lheidli T'enneh enters the BC Treaty Negotiation Process with Canada and Province of BC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Statement of Intent accepted by the BC Treaty Commission on December 12, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Readiness declared for the three parties on November 02, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Framework Agreement signed by three parties on August 26, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agreement in Principle signed by three parties on August 01, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Final Agreement completed on November 29, 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community vote held in March 2007. The Lheidli T’enneh Constitution was successfully passed, the Treaty final agreement was rejected.
1996  Became a partner in the McGregor Model Forest Association. Developed working relationships with the Indigenous peoples from the Cree from Montreal Lake and the Nania from the far east Russia.

1997  Established LTN Contracting Ltd. This company is a partnership that specializes in timber harvesting.

1999  Protocols signed for information sharing and economic exchange with the Nisga’a Tribal Council and the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

2002  Memorandums of Understanding on Cooperation and Communication signed with the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

2010  Fraser River Bridge Archeology dig finds an extensive collection of lithic items covering many thousand years of occupation and some of the lithic items were dated to 7500 +/- 40 years ago.

2012  Band accepted into Fiscal Management Authority (FMA). The self-government initiative provides the jurisdiction to manage the property tax system.

2012  Federal Government approves Bill C-3; this amendment to the Indian Act adds a third generation of disenfranchised members to the membership list.

2013  Band becomes a co-host for the 2015 Canada Winter games.

2013  Band is the host of the 37th annual Elder’s Gathering.