

STAFF LETTER - Grant Barley

Our Staff Letter this month is from Strategies North President, Grant Barley



We are very excited to announce two new team members this month, Melissa Bates and Jason Fisher. Our focus continues to look for the talent and experience that will increase the value for our clients. Jason's background that you can read about in his letter will further enhance our government relations work with our clients and also be able to provide governance assistance and training. Melissa will be focused on research and supporting the advisory and proposal groups. Both fit our "why" which is being dedicated to our client's continued success. As we move forward into the next fiscal year, we look forward to working with our clients to help them find and access new funding opportunities and increase our support for their projects and programs.

Grant Barley



From Left: Jason, Tom, and Grant in Kamloops, 2021

Welcome Jason Fisher!

A letter from Jason

Hello everyone!

My name is Jason Fisher. I was born and raised in Prince George, BC on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, although I did not know that for most of my life. It is here I met my wife Daniela, It's where my children, Owen and Emily, were born. And it's here I plan to live out the rest of my life (unless I can live in Hawaii six months a year).

I went to school, trained as a forester and then went to law school. It was there that I first started to understand what we had lost in the colonization of Canada and how hard brave Indigenous people and communities were fighting for all of us to right historical wrongs. But it was only an inkling of an understanding.

After university, I clerked for the BC Court of Appeal, practiced as a lawyer and then segued into an executive role in the forest products industry. Then my midlife crisis started (I'm not sure it's finished yet). I left a secure job with people I loved because I realized I wasn't accomplishing what I meant to accomplish in my life, not that I knew what that was. So I set out to find out.

I went back briefly to the practice of law and then joined the provincial public service where I became Associate Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. There I worked with a lot of bright, dedicated people who undermined my stereotypes of public servants. (The vast majority of them are there because of an intense desire to do the right thing, even if, like the rest of us, it isn't always easy to determine what that is). Equally important, I got to meet with representatives from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across the province. What I learned is that those people had far more important things to do than to talk to me and if I couldn't help address their real issues then the least I could do was figure out how to get government out of the way. I haven't fully figured that out yet, but I've got some ideas.



Now, after a stop in the forest biomass industry, I am here at Strategies North. I am here to listen, to learn, to understand and to help. To really help. I am looking forward to working with Anna and Grant and helping them achieve their “why”. I am looking forward to working with a brilliant group of young professionals who, three weeks in, are already schooling me and inspiring me. Most importantly, I am looking forward to supporting our client's efforts to reclaim their place in history, culture and economy and to build a better Canada, for their children and mine, in the process.

Jason Fisher

We're looking forward to bringing Jason onto the team as Senior Advisor & Corporate Counsel!

Welcome Melissa Bates!

Melissa is from the southern Okanagan and is currently a Vancouver based Community Analyst with Strategies North. She holds a degree from the University of British Columbia with double majors in psychology and anthropology, with a focus on BC First Nations studies. With a background in qualitative research, she has experience working with different communities focusing on creating more inclusive spaces and supporting diverse groups. She has a passion for work that supports community well-being especially related to environmental health outcomes. In her time off, Melissa enjoys painting, traveling, hiking and being outdoors.



We're very much looking forward to bringing your expertise to the Strategies North team!

Celebrate International Women's Day with the Strategies North Team



Strategies North is proud to be a woman-led company and is passionate about celebrating the achievements of women, girls, and gender diverse people. We know this is particularly important in an Indigenous context, and improving the lives of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people is central to the work we do.

Join us on March 8th in celebrating the women, girls, and gender diverse people in your life!

Photo (from left): Anna Barley with Terri Szabo (President of Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council) and Anna Thomas (President of BC Native Women's Association)

Darren's Education Corner

Want Your Students to Succeed?

Numerous studies have shown that there is one factor that consistently presents itself as the most important component of education in determining student success in school.

Teachers spend significant amounts of time planning, reviewing curriculum objectives, lesson planning, presenting information to students and planning for assessment. These are all activities that most of us would associate with "teaching". Although these activities are a useful part of the process, they are not the essential element that *must* be in place if our students are to reach their full potential.

So what is this wonderful element for student achievement? Each child needs to be able to answer the question of whether or not their teacher **cares** about them with a confident "Yes!"

Relationship is the secret that every educator should embrace when attempting to facilitate an environment that is conducive to learning. Children who feel secure and know that the people around them are genuinely interested in their success, feel safe and empowered by the learning process because it is something that they can engage in, not something they have to do. Relationships within the educational support network will allow them to succeed.



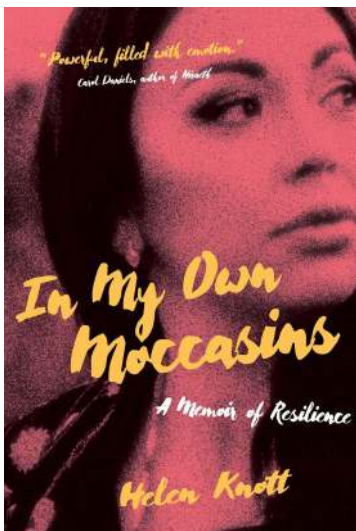
Allaura's Book Review

In My Own Moccasins - Helen Knott

This memoir by Helen Knott is gripping from beginning to end. It chronicles her experiences with intergenerational trauma, sexual violence and addiction. Through these horrific

experiences though she grapples with identity and rediscovers the power of ceremony, culture, sisterhood and family.

As a young woman who grew up in Fort St. John where Helen now lives and where she experienced much of her trauma, Helen's story impacted me deeply. There has always been an unacknowledged understanding that women, particularly Indigenous women in Fort St. John and other industry towns in the North are at risk. The culture of excessive partying and high paying jobs paired with disregard for how their actions impact individuals and the greater community carves deep wounds into our societies. Helen forces us to face realities that are often too painful to acknowledge. I encourage all young people living in resource driven towns to read this memoir.



Avoiding Pandemic Burnout

This March marks one year of adjusting to life in a pandemic. As vaccines are distributed and the return to back to normal is closer in sight, we can begin to imagine what a life without masks and lock downs may look like again. At the same time, after one year of altering your work and home routine, professional and personal lives may have blurred together. Having worked remotely since before the pandemic, the Strategies North team wants to share some of the tips and tricks we use when working from home:

1. Set Physical Boundaries

Continuing to put on your work clothes, creating a designated work space and limiting social media use during work hours will help your brain create the transition from 'home time' to 'work time'.

2. Maintain Boundaries Around Time:

Maintain a set schedule for your work hours and stick to it. Taking long breaks and extending the end of the day may make you feel as if you are working around the clock.

3. Focus on your most important work:

Let go of the need to be continuously busy. Instead, we recommend prioritizing the most important tasks to maximize productivity and give yourself a break!

WAGE FEMINIST RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND

The WAGE Feminist Response and Recovery Fund will accept applicants whose objectives include the promotion of gender equality for Indigenous women in Canadian society, including two-spirited, cisgender and trans individuals.

Project activities must focus on accelerating progress on women's equality and tackle persistent or emerging barriers for women, which have been amplified by COVID-19.

Projects that provide systemic change to reduce barriers for underrepresented women will be given priority.

Funding Amount:

Up to \$700,000 dependent on project scope.

Eligible Applicants:

Not-for-profit Indigenous and Women Organizations and Indigenous Governments

Submission Deadline:

March 25th, 2021

KEY DATES

March 15th: Universal Broadband Fund -
Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Canada

Deadline to Apply

**March 31st: Agricultural Clean Technology
Program -** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Deadline to Apply

**March 31st: Indigenous Early Learning and
Child Care Quality Development -** Employment
and Social Development Canada

Deadline to Apply

**April 3rd: Seed Funding for Pre-development
activities Construction -** CMHC

Deadline to Apply