

# “Building the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network”

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(Faith Oro, CGW Network)

## Vision for GW Programs (2005)



- Integrate cultural values
- Function year round
- Adequate staff & resources
- Comprehensive training
- Outreach & education
- Monitor multiple resources
- Enforcement authority

## Mission and Goals

- We are a network of Coastal Guardians and Watchmen from the central and north coast working together to protect and restore our natural and cultural resources by:
  - Sharing information
  - Collaborating on programs and activities
  - Supporting and learning from each other, and
  - Promoting and encouraging the development and expansion of coastal Guardian/Watchmen programs

## Coastal GW Network Activities

- Informal communications
  - people from Port Hardy workshop are staying connected on both a professional and personal basis
- Website
  - website needs assessment survey was developed and sent out to member communities for feedback to ensure usefulness of website
  - logo contest
  - raising awareness, networking and sharing information
- Conference
  - creating a time and space for bringing communities together

## A visit to the CGW Network Website...

[www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca](http://www.coastalguardianwatchmen.ca)

### What's next for the Network?

1. Why work together?
2. In which direction should we move towards?
3. How do we move forward together? (Day 3)

## Working together

“When we work together, we can get more done.” – Bruce

“The more we speak with one voice, the stronger we will be.” – Verne

## Which way?



### ■ Here's what we're hearing so far:

#### A Network can...

- Provide regular networking forum to bring together coastal communities to discuss, share ideas and jointly take action on community-based monitoring and stewardship issues
- Facilitate coordinated efforts for community-based GW programs to access adequate and long-term funding
- Facilitate coordinated efforts that support locally-delivered and appropriate training

## Which way? (cont'd)



### A Network can...

- Enable representation of the values and interests of community-based monitoring and stewardship programs in government, industry and other broad-based discussions (including funding support and greater authority) and to embed these into formal agreements
- Enable efficient region-wide coordination in developing consistent indicators and monitoring of these indicators
- Raise awareness and promote the work of GWs and GW programs, within communities and outside of communities

## Which way? (cont'd)



### A Network can...

- Provide GWs and resource practitioners with useful communications tools to:
  - exchange up-to-date and relevant information,
  - stay connected with and support each other and their work, and
  - learn from each other.
- Enable exchange of information and data at a broader regional scale to effectively monitor for ecological and cultural values
- Others?

## How? – to be continued...

- Looking for recruits to hash out ideas for “the how to” tonight, to prepare for action planning tomorrow
  - What structure should the Network take on?
  - How can the Network make decisions, make a plan and deliver it, without being cumbersome?
  - What immediate next steps do we take?