Huu-ay-aht
Uyaqhmis
A Rich History, A Bright Future.

September 2014 Issue 32

HFN seeks citizen feedback on LNG

In late spring 2014, Huu-ay-aht First Nations signed an Opportunity Development Agreement with Steelhead LNG that will see us work together to explore the possibility of developing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project on HFN-owned land at Sarita Bay.

The agreement was announced to the public on July 8 following information meetings with citizens in Anacla, Vancouver and Port Alberni (see a video of the announcement at www.huuayaht.org/?page_id=3967). The agreement means that HFN has agreed to look at this project closely, consult citizens and neighbours, and hire our own experts to examine the issues and questions raised about the LNG project. However, the project will only go forward once Huu-ay-aht citizens have the chance to provide input. Citizens can learn about the proposed LNG project and voice ideas, questions and concerns about this and other government matters at monthly Community Engagement Sessions being held at home in Anacla, as well as in urban centres.

At citizen engagement sessions held in August in Port Alberni, Anacla and Vancouver, two Steelhead LNG senior staff, Blaine Mersereau and Ryan Patryluk, made presentations about the basics of LNG. Their presentation focused on addressing questions about where the gas comes from, how it would get to an LNG facility in Sarita Bay, and how it would be shipped to Asian markets. Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook and Executive Councillor John Jack also presented information on the nature of the partnership between Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht and described what an LNG facility could mean for the Nation and its citizens.



Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens gather at a community engagement session in Vancouver on Aug. 13 to learn more about the proposed LNG project.

At the September session, council members and Steelhead LNG executives will discuss potential career and training opportunities that would be available to Huu-ay-aht citizens if the project does proceed. In addition, HFN citizens will report back on their tour of a natural gas facility in Alberta, sharing knowledge gained through the experience. These Community Engagement Sessions are scheduled as follows: ***Port Alberni:*** Tuesday, Sept. 16th, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Best Western Barclay Hotel; ***Anacla:*** Wednesday, Sept. 17th, 3 to 6 p.m. at the Anacla Government Building, ***Vancouver:*** Thursday, Sept. 18th, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Friendship Centre.

Citizens will be receiving phone calls to advise them of further details. If citizens or their family members have not received a call, they should call the office (250-723-0100) and make sure their contact information is up to date. Information about the proposed LNG project is available at www.huuayaht.org, under “News and Events.”

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Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations youth, including 40 Huu-ay-aht First Nations participants, take part in the Games.

Tlu-piich is big hit again

In early August, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council launched the 33rd annual Tlu-piich Games, an annual celebration and gathering of Nuu-chah-nulth Nations that includes athletic games, events and clinics.

This year, thanks to the support and mentorship of parents, families and friends, there was a great turnout of Huu-ay-aht youth at the track and field event, which included relay races, long jump and many other exciting events.

Kristen Peters organized fundraising for the event, and Molly Clappis and Maggie Peters led training sessions with youth in the month leading up to the Games in both Anacla and Port Alberni.

"At our practices, we improvised using water bottles as batons for the relay races. It was so fun to get the kids all lined up in their places and teaching them how to pass – not throw – the baton to the next runner in line. They had a great time," Molly says. "Long jump was a big favourite among the kids."

Last year, Molly's daughter Madison Lucas, who was three at the time, was the youngest participant in the soccer event.

Asked why she gets her kids involved, Molly explained that she appreciates the opportunity for the kids to get together to participate in fun, healthy, confidence-building activities with kids from other neighbouring nations.

"It's a great chance for the kids to get active and strengthen relationships with their friends and family in other Nuu-chah-nulth Nations," she says.

Forty Huu-ay-aht kids and parents took part in the NTC Tlu-piich Track and Field events this year. Everyone took home first, second, third and participation ribbons in soft ball throw, tough mudder, 4x100 metre, 4x25m, 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m.

This year, the Anacla children fundraised more than $1,700 to participate in the games by hosting a loonie toonie auction, 50/50 raffle, bottle drive and fish and chip lunch.

Team Huu-ay-aht would like to thank the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses for sponsoring the Team Huu-ay-aht T-shirts and all the businesses and people that donated and bid on items at the Loonie Toonie Auction. Thanks also to Anacla residents for the bottle drive donations and Rosanne Young for chef'n up the fish and chips lunch.

The children are already talking about how much fun next year's games will be.

For results from this year's Tlu-piich Summer Games, please visit the HFN website at www.huuayaht.org.

Huu-ay-aht
First Nations
A Rich History, A Bright Future

We, the Huu-ay-aht people, envision a proud, self-governing, and sovereign nation. Isaak will guide us as we work together to establish a helathy, prosperous and self-sustaining community where our culture, language, spirituality and economy flourish for the benefit of all Huu-ay-aht.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times per year to foster community engagement among a population of over 700 citizens. Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis promotes the recovery and sharing of the Huu-ay-aht dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language as well as knowledge of Huu-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
3483 3rd ave.
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 4E4

Visit
www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

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Huu-ay-aht Culture Camp Experience





Huu-ay-aht First Nations youth take part in a week-long cultural camp in Bamfield this summer, learning traditions of the land and people.







Search still on for new home for administration staff

The search will continue for a new administrative building for Huu-ay-aht First Nations after the executive council decided the old Canada Post office was not suitable.

A tentative offer was made on this heritage building on the corner of Argyle Street and Fourth Avenue in the month of July.

However, Executive Council members had concerns about the purchase of this building and, at a special council meeting held in early August, voted against its purchase.

Previously home to the Canada Post Office, the 30,500-square-foot building was believed to be a suitable replacement for the current office at Third Avenue and Napier Street.

Although it looked promising, council decided it was too risky. Although structurally sound, council agreed that the unknowns are too great because of the age of the building.

"We would have to do extensive renovations to suit our needs," Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook explains.

"So that left us with a lot of unknowns about what we'd find when we started making changes, especially the windows in the front of the building."

He says the Executive Council is in discussions about another potential building in the city, and they will update citizens as soon as they can.

The existing office is no longer able to meet the needs of the HFN administration, which has grown by 10 staff members since May. For that reason, council is looking for a larger building that is in a central location and, ideally, is situated on a transit route. When a suitable building is found, it could house all HFN administration staff based out of Port Alberni, Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation offices, and possibly a new Pawaats daycare.

Cook says finding a building in Port Alberni is important since approximately 85% of HFN citizens do not live in Anacla, and approximately 40% live in Port Alberni. He says it is hoped that people will start to come home to Anacla, but for now locating administrative staff in Port Alberni is what makes sense.

A move is necessary, not only because the staff has outgrown its current location, but also because the building is for sale. HFN has until February before its lease is up on the building on Third Avenue and Napier Street.

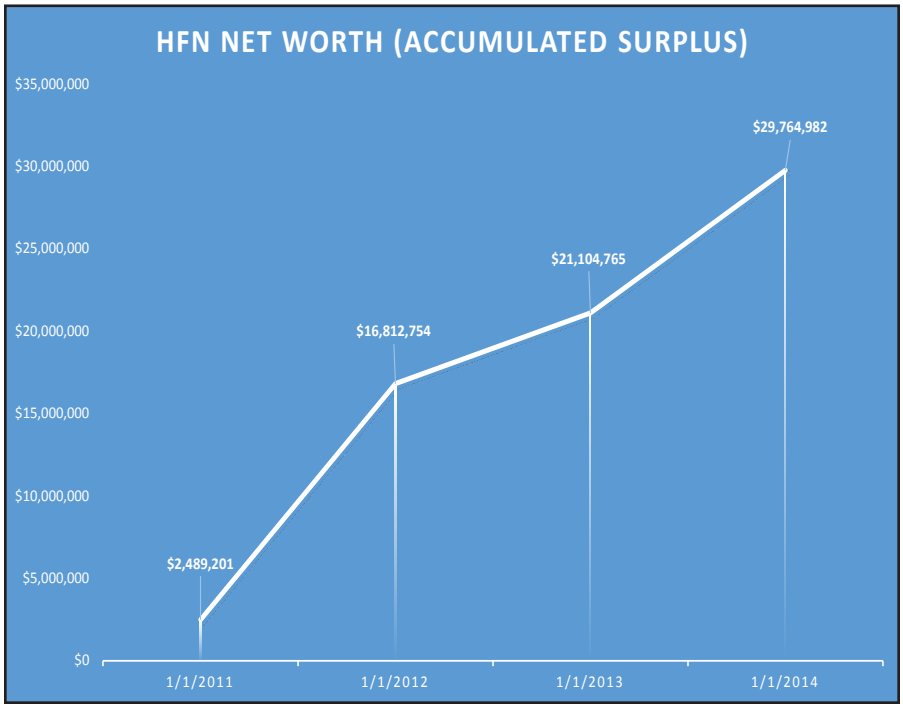
Huu-ay-aht balances budget one year ahead of schedule

Over the 2013-14 fiscal year, Executive Council balanced the operating budget and eliminated the deficit one year ahead of schedule.

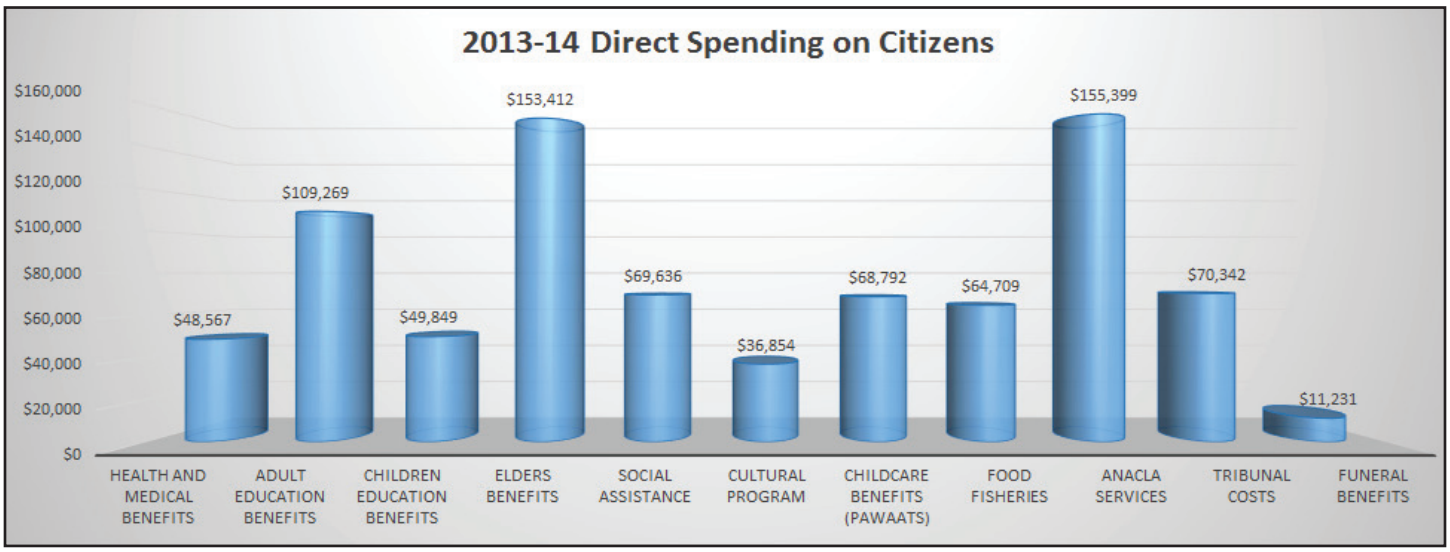
This year of fiscal restraint created challenges in the organization with staff taking on many responsibilities that were previously done by consultants and contractors. A major reorganization of Huu-ay-aht First Nations administration started in spring of 2013 for implementation in the 2014-15 fiscal year. To support the HFN 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, HFN administration restructured to support priorities, including increasing communication and services for citizens to ensure that citizens are aware of, and satisfied with, services provided.

The Finance Department was restructured and a Comptroller was hired to be responsible for the monitoring and reporting of the Nation's financial transactions. Over the last year, the Nation's financial reporting tools have been improved and modern accounting software was assessed and implemented.

A renewed focus was placed on post-secondary education and a number of initiatives were undertaken to improve access to education and training.



Direct spending, not including staff administration, management or government oversight, on Huu-ay-aht Citizens was $1,146 per person.



Audit highlights financial success of Nation

Planning commenced for major capital projects including the Anacla sewer and subdivision. In addition, internal controls for financial management were studied and improved. The zero-based budgeting exercise was successful and, overall, the Nation finished the year with a small operating surplus of approximately of $140,000.

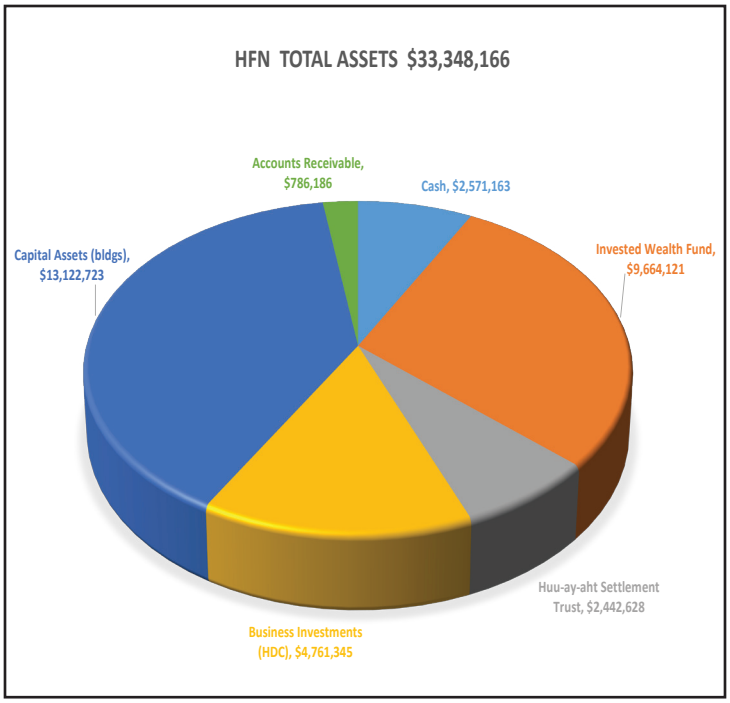
Accounting firm Myers Norris Penny (MNP) conducted an audit and produced an unqualified report that has been posted to www.huuayaht.org.

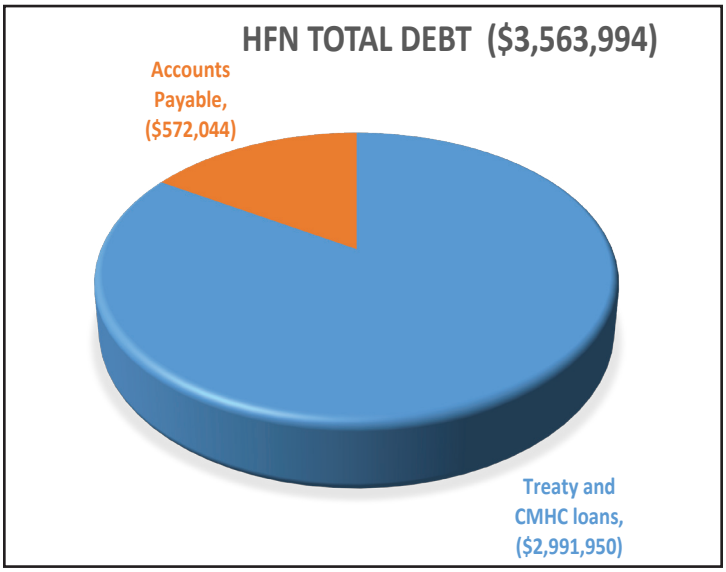
The audit highlights a number of the financial successes that the Nation has had with both its business and other financial investments. The accumulated surplus of the Nation is almost $30-million, roughly split 60-40 between tangible capital assets and financial assets, respectively.

"The Nation continues to show financial leadership through strong controls and a focus on asset generation and balance sheet improvement."

Tom Happynook, Chair of the HFN Finance Committee.

The internal control system was strengthened through a grant received from the New Relationship Trust that brought in external auditors to review our purchase order and contract management tools, our HR and payroll processes and our financial information management system. The results of review and the lessons learned showed ways to improve financial accountability.





2013-14 Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue		*Expenditures*	
AANDC Funding	$9,584,293	Finance and Government Services	$2,730,946
BC Government Funding	$247,428	Human Services	$1,111,573
Investment Income	$296,524	Lands and Natural Resources	$777,590
Business Income	$2,641,891	Public Works and Community Infrastructure	$618,531
NTC Transfers	$162,381		
Other Income	$822,867		
Total	**$13,755,384**		**$5,238,640**
2013-14 Surplus	***$8,516,744***		

Meet the new faces that are joining the staff at Huu-ay-aht First Nations

We would like you to meet the new faces working for Huu-ay-aht First Nations.



Christine Gruman is the Manager of Natural Resources and Trade.

Christine will be leading a great team that works to manage the bounty of natural resources in the Huu-ay-aht First Nations area.

"Our work concerns everything from managing fish and non-timber forest products to working collaboratively with nations across Vancouver Island on natural resources issues that concern us all."

Christine says, at this early stage, she is learning new things about what the Nation does every day.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with the province and the other Maa-nulth Nations on the Reasonable Opportunity Agreement that is just coming into force," she says.

"Through the hard work of the dedicated team who designed it, this agreement provides the nation with an avenue for meaningful input into decision-making about projects with potential impacts on harvesting rights on Crown land adjacent to Maa-nulth Treaty Settlement Lands. The relationship between all parties to this agreement appears to be very positive, and I'm happy to be part of it."

Christine initially moved to Bamfield after completing her Bachelor of Science in 2006 – a long way from her native home of Alberta, but now Bamfield feels like home.

She and her partner Tao remained in Bamfield, until moving away for their masters degrees in resource and environmental management at Simon Fraser University. After graduating, she spent a year working with a marine and Aboriginal relations team for a Vancouver firm.

"Tao and I are excited to be moving back to this community for a brand new adventure," she says. "I am looking forward to working with everyone in this organization and getting more acquainted with the HFN community here and away."



As the Communications Coordinator, ***Annie Merritt*** oversees all communications and outreach from Huu-ay-aht First Nations government to citizens, as well as between HFN to external partners and the general public. This includes managing the website, Uyaqḥmis newsletter, Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as helping co-ordinate the Community Rounds.

"My focus right now is on rolling out our engagement strategy surrounding the LNG project the Nation is considering," she says.

Annie says she is excited that, between now and November, the Nation will be having one session of community rounds per month.

"I'm looking forward to helping to co-ordinate these rounds and using creative ways to facilitate dialogue between HFN people and government who attend," she adds. "I'm also looking at using web programs to allow participation of people who aren't able to attend in person."

Originally from Ontario, Annie moved to B.C. for her Masters in Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia in 2010. It was here that she became familiar with the Nuu-cha-nulth Nations through research work conducted for the T'aaq-wiihak Nations, building on a long-held interest in First Nations governance and co-management.

She now calls Port Alberni home and is enjoying the many hiking, swimming and cycling opportunities here in the Alberni Valley.

Welcome back Uyaqḥmis

This marks the return of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Uyaqḥmis newsletter. If you did not receive a copy and would like to, please call the Port Alberni HFN office to update your information (250-723-0100).



Records Management Clerk ***David Powell*** is responsible for the records management of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government.

"I am currently in the beginning stages of creating a records and information management system (RIMs)," he says about one program that really excites him. "I am looking forward to being able to organize, keep secure and maintain all the important records and documents."

David is proud to be a new member of Huu-ay-aht First Nations, after marrying Pamela Powell (Dennis), the youngest daughter of Norman and Rita Dennis, in May. Together they have two boys, Davin (6) and Ronald (2).

The young family moved to Port Alberni from Vancouver at the end of December, with plans for their children to be more involved with the Huu-ay-aht culture and history. David also planned on becoming a citizen and employed by Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Before becoming a member of Huu-ay-aht administration, David was an Operations Supervisor for Iron Mountain Records Management, where he worked for 14 years.

"My hopes are to be able to bring my past experience to assist me as I move into my new role here with Huu-ay-aht government," he says.

"At this point, I am looking forward to completing a new records and information management system to help insure that the records of the Huu-ay-aht government are kept safe, secure and well managed."



Ian Benoit is the Policy Analyst, responsible for reviewing Huu-ay-aht First Nation's policies and procedures and recommending alternatives to increase the efficiency of the HFN government. When necessary, he will produce newly drafted policies or amend existing ones and help co-ordinate their adoption.

"One current project I am excited about is I am producing a strategy to track core indicators identified by the Maa-nulth Final Agreement," he says. "This is an important project that will help HFN and other signatories of the treaty to evaluate progress being made on treaty implementation."

Ian comes to Port Alberni from Haida Gwaii, where he worked in a similar position with the Council of the Haida Nation.

He just completed a Masters of Public Policy degree from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

"I have focused a lot of research on B.C. First Nations governance, especially as it pertains to natural resource development," he says. "I am really excited to be helping HFN track the implementation of their treaty, because the social and economic data collected through this effort will help HFN government make informed policy decisions."

When he's not working, Ian enjoys trail running, hiking, mountain climbing and kayaking. Since he is new to town, he is always looking for people to go on adventures with.



Stephen Rayner is the Manager of Infrastructure Engineering. He is responsible for managing everything related to infrastructure. This includes water, sewer, storm, roads and buildings owned by the Nation.

Stephen says he is excited to have all the Nation's infrastructure services functioning properly, as well as being an advocate for the Nation when it comes to dealing with contractors and consultants for future construction projects.

"Meaning I will make sure that all projects completed under my supervision will be well constructed and cost effective," he says.

Stephen is Huu-ay-aht and lives in Parksville. He worked in Calgary for a number of years on large-scale construction projects as the coordinator and foreman.

He returned to Vancouver Island for a new opportunity and sat for a year on HFN's Land and Natural Resource Committee, in hopes that it would lead to opportunities with the Nation.

"I came back to be closer to my family and to use my experience and schooling to help our Nation," he says.



Amelia Vos is the Environmental Technician responsible for assessing and monitoring environmental health of Huu-ay-aht First Nations territory. This includes air, soil and water quality testing, environmental impact assessment and monitoring and working with other departments to ensure the Huu-ay-aht vision for sustainability is fulfilled.

One current project Amelia is excited about is beginning pre-assessment of the Sarita River Estuary.

"Along with other staff, I will be performing a full environmental assessment, including water and soil quality testing, species identification, riparian health assessment and marine ecosystem assessment," she says.

"I am so excited to explore the Huu-ay-aht Territory and take the steps necessary to increase its biodiversity, health and sustainability."

Amelia grew up on Sproat Lake, and her family home there is still one of her favourite places on Earth. Don't be surprised if you see her running past you with her new puppy Abeo, as she is an avid runner and likes to compete in cross-country races in the fall, as well as the odd half-marathon.

"I am a surfer at heart as I have always loved being in the ocean, and I look forward to exploring the surf breaks in Bamfield and Anacla," she says. "I also enjoy camping and hiking, and I take pleasure in exploring the natural world around us."

Amelia has an academic background in geography, and that provides her with a perspective on land, people and their interaction. She is a continuous learner and enjoys taking courses and reading books. When she has time, she has been known to spin a hula hoop, create costumes and is still learning to play the harmonica.



Shawn Standley has join HFN as the Senior Project Manager and economic development officer.

"First I want to express how delighted I am to be a part of this team and look forward to learning from you all as I move forward in this new role," he says.

As a critical care nurse and a 12-year military veteran, Shawn says his approach is direct, transparent and compassionate. He hopes this will enable him to get up to speed quickly within this complex organization.

"Personally my greatest achievement is somehow finding the most amazing wife, Rebecca, and holding on to her for 16 years through two deployments to Afghanistan and countless separation from my military service," he says. "I have been blessed with three amazing children - Jonathan (10), Michael (8), Ella (5)."

He says they are an active family who like to camp, fish, play sports and have a passion for the arts. Since arriving in Port Alberni from Edmonton last year, he has found a second home with Portal Players Dramatic Society and have enjoyed the involvement in community theatre.

"You will see Duke, my service dog, with me wherever I go," Shawn says. "He helps me do a number of things and has been a great help to me after my time in the military."

Shawn is also a crazy hockey fan and bleeds blue and white as a member of the Leaf Nation.

"So I am sorry for any Montreal fans within Huu-ay-aht First ," he says. "Go Leafs go."



Jessica Tilley is the most recent addition to Huu-ay-aht First Nations. She joins the administration team as the Early Childhood Education Coordinator for the Paawats program.

She is looking forward to the three-hour program. It will include learning through play, lunch and a language lesson taught by elders.

"I am most excited about the start-up of the program and being part of its evolvement," she says.

Jessica grew up in the Alberni Valley and is proud to call it home. She is newly married, and now lives on a small hobby farm with her husband. She enjoys camping, fishing and hunting. "If it's outside, I am there," she says.