Uyaqḥmis

December 2020 Issue 59



Giving back to the community

The Cook Family has raised $7,134.05 this holiday season. $2,400 of that went towards toys and essentials that were donated to the Port Alberni Salvation Army. The rest has been donated to the Toy Run ($1,500), Athletic Hall ($500), Prest Family ($300), White Family($300), and the rest will make hampers for families in need, near and far.

PM41913515

Executive Council are assigned new portfolios

Following the swearing in of Huu-ay-aht's new Executive Council member Duane Nookemis, new portfolios were handed out to each member of the Executive Council by Chief Councillor Robert Dennis.

The portfolios are as follows:

Finance, Climate Change, and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – John Jack

Economic Development, External Relations, and Cooperative Management Board – Trevor Cootes

Infrastructure and Housing and Law and Policy – Charlie Clappis

Citizenship and Citizen Development, Education, Language, and Culture, and Health – Edward R. Johnson

Treaty Implementation and Lands – Duane Nookemis

Tayii Ḥaẃił ƛiišin (Derek Peters) will continue to oversee the same three areas of ḥaẃiiḥ, ḥahuuł, musčim (the people), and ḥaẃiłpaadu (carrying out the duties/responsibilities of tayii ḥaẃił). Through these duties he will continue to ensure the ḥaẃił houses are in order and chair ḥaẃiiḥ council meetings, while representing his nation in political affairs. On his ḥahuuł, ƛiišin will make sure the development, implementation, and oversight of the Integrated Resource Management Plan, and ensure review, development, and oversight of Huu-ay-aht Guiding Principles of Sustainability and Core Values and Principles.



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma c̓awak, and ʔuuʔałuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. 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
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

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

Keep up to date with Uyaqḥmis on social media:
@HuuayahtFN

FOLLOW US ON twitter

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Facebook page

Like us on Facebook

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Huu-ay-aht and Bamfield Marine Science Centre partner on new project

On October 6, 2020, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Huu-ay-aht), Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC), McElhanney, and Industra representatives, gathered for a ground breaking ceremony on the BMSC site of where the new Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is going to be built.



(Left to right) Huu-ay-aht Executive Council Members Robert J. Dennis Sr., Charlie Clappis, Duane Nookemis, BMSC Manager of Operations Chuck Spoon, McElhanney Project Engineer Nathan Slater, Industra President/CEO/Owner Scott Brudon, and Industra Owner Rob Brydon stand on the site of the new WWTP on October 6, 2020 for a ground breaking cermoney. (Photo by Rachel Young)

The project began in 2010 when Huu-ay-aht conducted feasibility studies that identified multiple options on where the project would be constructed. BMSC was also looking at options to replace their sewage system. As a result, BMSC and Huu-ay-aht agreed to partner up and build the facility on BMSC lands.

On April 26, 2018, Huu-ay-aht and BMSC signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to build the new WWTP. The total project budget is $8 million, with Indigenous Services Canada committing to $3.6 million. After seeking assistance from different levels of government and having no success funding the remaining investment, Huu-ay-aht decided this project was important enough to invest the final $4.4 million needed to complete the project.

“With this upgrade, Upper Anacla residents and Huu-ay-aht operations are able to do away with septic fields and our businesses in Bamfield will also benefit,” said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis. “By partnering with Bamfield Marine Science Centre we are better able to balance residential development and economic drivers, paving the way to joint development and a healthier community.”

Worked into the agreement is a construction advisory board to oversee the construction of the project. The four members who sit on the board are Huu-ay-aht staff Stephen Rayner and Torrance Gilmour, and BMSC members Lee Weber and Chuck Spooner.

The project design and construction are being managed by McElhanney and Huu-ay-aht staff Torrance Gilmour.

Although building the facility in Anacla was an option, Huu-ay-aht decided it should be located on a site that would benefit both parties – connecting BMSC, the Bamfield Community School, and Upper Anacla to the system.

“Huu-ay-aht First Nations and BMSC have worked closely together on the collaborative development of this modern wastewater treatment system,” said Sean Rogers, Director of BMSC. “In addition to providing BMSC with a means to manage our wastewater safely, the project supports the vision of promoting the health and economic development of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations while also promoting the environmental health and stewardship of the local marine environment. It is an exciting project, and we are so pleased to see it underway”.

The design of the new plant is a Moving Bed Biological Reactor that will allow 400 to 1,100 people. Using this type of system also allows for expansion beyond 1,100.

The system is a newer sewage treatment process that uses a screen plant, high surface area media in a series of aerobic reactor tanks, solid separation, and UV disinfection. Solids from the screen plant and concentrated sludge will periodically be trucked to Port Alberni for disposal.

The plant is also equipped with an odour abatement system. The resulting effluent from this type of system is extremely clean. To ensure the design parameters are met, there is a first discharge testing program, as well as a two-year outflow monitoring program.

The 150 m outflow from BMSC's existing plant will be extended by 350m to service the new plant. This will effectively get the clean effluent discharged out into Trevor's Channel rather than the mouth of Bamfield Inlet.

All noticeable infrastructure will be contained within the planned fenced off plant area on BMSC land. Construction is estimated to take 15 months and be completed by end of 2021.

Citizens gathered virtually on December 5, 2020

On December 5, 2020, Huu-ay-aht hosted its first virtual Annual People's Assembly through Zoom.

Although COVID-19 made it so that citizens could not gather in person, they were still able to conduct regular business through technology. Approximately 140 citizens were in attendance, and quorum was reached shortly after 10 a.m.

Once the agenda was adopted and the oaths were conducted, Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. reviewed the citizen motions from last year's assembly. The information presented is below:

Citizen Motions:	Executive Council Discussion	Status of Motion
Motion: The People's Assembly hereby recommends that Executive Council direct that an independent auditor conduct a full review of all honoraria paid to Executive Council in relation to all meetings of government and all travel expenses for members of Executive Council paid by the Huu-ay-aht over the past four years and prepare a report; including recommendations and findings, to be made available to all Huu-ay-aht citizens.	Executive Council has agreed to be transparent	This has been incorporated into the audit.
Motion: The People's Assembly hereby recommends that Executive Council suggest that the HGB administrative office be located on Huu-ay-aht treaty lands or, at minimum, require that key HGB management and human resources personnel work on Huu-ay-aht lands.		HGB's understanding was this was directed towards Executive Council and EC was investigating their authority to direct HGB under current legislation. That said, It remains a subject under the mandate letter of the Chair of Economic Development Councillor Trevor Cootes.
Motion: The People's Assembly hereby approves the amendments to the Government Act set out in the Government Act Amendment Act, 2019		This motion is complete and has been enacted
Motion: The People's Assembly hereby recommends that Executive Council require that $5 per cubic metre of any timber harvest from Huu-ay-aht First Nations traditional territory be contributed to a watershed restoration fund.		HFN has entered into an agreement with HFN Forestry LP. to harvest TSL timber. Under the terms of the agreement, all proceeds are provided directly to HFN for allocation for its determined purposes which may include watershed renewal or any such matter at their discretion.

The Tribunal Report was accepted, and Andrea Pettigrew was appointed as a member of the Huu-ay-aht Tribunal.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses presented the annual reports, which are available on Huu-ay-aht's website, under the People's Assembly materials.

Two citizen motions were up for discussion and decision this year. One recommended an amendment to the Government Act to reduce the quorum requirements for the People's Assembly to 100 eligible voters. The second was that Executive Council consider enacting an animal control regulation governing domestic animals on treaty lands.

The first citizen motions created a lot of conversation, both in support of and in opposition. In the end, this motion was defeated. A new motion was brought to the floor: "Be it resolved that the People's Assembly hereby recommends to Executive Council to review the requirements for quorum and maintenance of quorum during the People's Assembly." This motion passed.

Continued on page 5



While out on the field, the Natural Resource Team takes photos and footage of the fish returning using a GoPro. (Photo provided by Amelia Vos)

2020 salmon returns to the ḥahuułi

By Amelia Vos

Every fall the Huu-ay-aht Natural Resources Team take to the rivers and streams of the Huu-ay-aht ḥahuułi (traditional lands) to observe and count the returning salmon.

There are nine salmon bearing streams on Huu-ay-aht Territory: Saria River, Susgsaw Creek, Pachena River, Sabrina Creek, Frederick Creek, Ritherdon Creek, Consinka Creek, Holford Creek, Carnation Creek.

This year with the help of the Watershed Renewal Program Technicians, Huu-ay-aht was able to complete regular escapement (returning salmon) surveys on almost all the salmon streams in our territory.

Weather cooperated enough for the technicians to collect good data on returning Chum, Coho, Chinook, and sometimes Sockeye (rare in our systems). Sarita River showed decent return of Chinook (1,500) and Chum (6,000) this year with great visibility of redds (gravel nests where eggs are laid). Pachena River system showed a strong return of Coho (350) with three distinct runs. Sugsaw Creek had enough Chum (560) to satisfy the hatchery collection goal and to feed the many bears who resident that creek canyon.

Huu-ay-aht is still completing some frosty streams walks and frigid snorkel surveys as the Coho begin to spawn.

Stream surveys are important to Huu-ay-aht as they provide information on how well the salmon stocks are doing and how healthy our rivers and streams are.

In addition, the salmon surveys help Huu-ay-aht identify if our hatchery enhancement programs are proving successful. At the Sugsaw Creek Hatchery we mark our hatchery fish to be able to identify them from wild salmon when they return to the streams. Huu-ay-aht was excited to see a mix of wild and hatchery fish returning to the streams we enhance: Sugsaw Creek (Chum), Pachena River (Coho), Sarita River (Chinook).

Head to our website (www.huuayaht.org) to check some videos of the snorkel swims in Sarita River.

Further discussion to be brought to Community Engagements in the new year

Continued from page 4

The second motion was discussed at length, and it was decided more discussion and information was needed before a decision could be made. This subject will be brought to citizens for further discussion at Community Engagements in the new year. Keep your eyes on our website and social media for more information on these meetings.

The meeting concluded with prizes and people joined a culture night hosted by Cory Howard Sr. and Wišqii. The Nation still must host a Special People's Assembly in the new year, and that date will be announced once it is set.



Huu-ay-aht citizen loses life from virus

By Heather Thomson

Marcia Thomas was on a good path this year. She was almost three years sober and was making amends with her family after years of struggles.

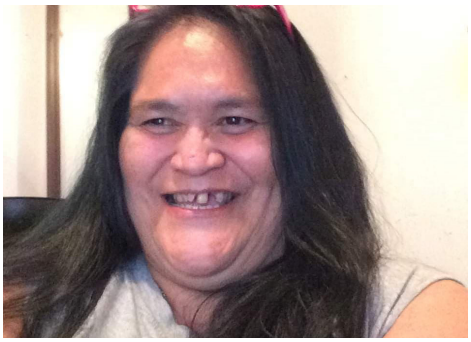
Then one night in late September she made a mistake in judgement that she would pay for with her life. Marcia decided to go visit some old friends who were not in her COVID bubble. She thought it was safe because they were her friends and none of them had the virus. Within a few days she was in hospital, and shortly after on life support. Marcia lost her battle with COVID-19 on November 25, and her family wants to share her story in hope that it will save lives.

"I just keep expecting her to come to the window next door to say good morning," explains Marcia's brother Jackson Dennis. "It's hard to believe she's gone."

Jackson said losing his sister to COVID-19 has been hard on the whole family. Not only did it happen very fast, but they were not given an opportunity to say goodbye. Like so many fatal COVID cases once Marcia was hospitalized family could no longer visit her.

Jackson said his sister was careful when it came to COVID restrictions, but she did let her guard down. She decided to go over to the apartment building where she used to live to visit old friends. The building where they lived did not have any COVID restrictions in place.

Jackson blames a lack of protocol at the building for his sister's exposure. He said more needs to be done to keep people safe. He also admits that everyone must be responsible for their own actions as well. He said the province is locking things down for a reason, and it's time people started listening.



Marcia Thomas

"It's not in our power to change or bend the rules," Jackson said. "We all have to do our part. This is serious."

Even though none of Marcia's friends from that night had COVID symptoms, they still passed the virus on to her. Marcia's daughter Linnea Bowes said part of what makes this virus challenging is that you sometimes do not see it coming.

"My mum worked hard to stay safe, but here we are, mourning a huge loss," she said.

Linnea said her mother had underlying health issues that meant she was not strong enough to fight the virus. She said for that reason once she contracted the disease everything happened fast.

Jackson said if he could give people one piece of advice it would be to not take chances.

"Nothing is worth the risk you are taking if you don't follow the recommendations," he said. "My sister just wanted to go see her friends, but it just wasn't worth it."

He wants people to see what his family is going through and learn from their loss. He wants people to stay home, only socialize with people in their own household, and wear a mask.

"This virus isn't a joke, and we have to take it seriously," he said.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has had several citizens contract the disease. Fortunately, the Nation has lost only one person to COVID, but Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. said that is one too many.

"We need our citizens to take this seriously," he said. "My family has lost someone due to this virus, and I don't want another family to suffer the same loss."

He asks people to follow the restrictions. He also said it is especially important that people stay home and follow the non-essential travel ban.

British Columbia currently has the following restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- No social gatherings at your residence beyond your household
- No social gatherings of any size in public places
- Your core bubble should consist of only the people in your household. If you live alone, you must keep your bubble to one or two people
- Masks are mandatory in all public spaces
- No adult indoor or outdoor sports permitted, youth sports must follow restrictions in place, including no travel
- All non-essential travel is to be avoided – essential travel includes regular travel for work within your region and travel for things like medical appointments
- People should also clean your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, and keep a safe distance from others

Elders gather for Nananiiqsu Social

One of the key componants that keeps us connected to our culture, traditions, and stories is our Nananiiqsu.

During these challenging times of COVID-19, our nananiiqsu, like most of us, have had to adapt to the changes of how we keep connected, and that is through technology.

On Tuesdays, December 8, 2020 Huu-ay-aht Elder's gathered for a Nananiiqsu Social on Zoom.

Elected Council member Edward. R. Johnson had the pleasure to gather with them and hear many amazing stories. Stories that are shared by elders of their time that have been passed down from generation to generation.

"It is a true honour to be able to witness the laughter, but most importantly the stories" says Edward R. Johnson.

It has been a while since the Nananiiqsu have gathered and although it was great to see one another, laugh and tell stories, it was also an opportunity for elder's to discuss health and safety of the community.

Message from the Nananiiqsu:

The news received December 7 was not the news we wanted to hear. We see the cases rising in the news and we all need to do our part. We need to listen, respect one another, and be safe.

We all miss our family, our grandchildren, we are hurting, but we need to do our part, so be patient. Practice your patience and keep yourself busy. Reach out to your elders, they are a phone call away. Utilize the modern tools (call, text, facetime or video chat on Facebook or Zoom) we have today, to connect.

Make sure to exercise, go for walks or hikes, doing so safely. Stay in your bubble (members in your household) and social distance from others.

It will be great to see everyone and celebrate together when this is all over, but in the meantime, please do your part. Stay home and stay safe.

_____

The elder's also asked that the names of those who have passed away, that were said at the Annual People's Assembly be in this newsletter.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE HAVE LOST

Hilda Mary Nookemis	January 19, 1946 – February 01, 2019
Martin Ginger	November 21, 1940 – April 07, 2019
Roxsanna Sarah Nookemus	February 05, 1956 – September 08, 2019
Shirley Werner	April 02, 1936 – September 28, 2019
Nellie Mary Dennis	January 02, 1930 – November 02, 2019
Jason Patrick Adam Johnson	May 01, 1978 – December 31, 2019
Victor Daniel Paul Williams	January 18, 1975 – December 25, 2019
Norman Dennis	May 14, 1942 – February 09, 2020
Henry David Williams	May 25, 1951 – March 01, 2020
William Frank	September 03, 1942 – March 06, 2020
William Charles Ginger	July 27, 1938 – March 22, 2020
Harry Thomas Williams	July 10, 1960 – April 01, 2020
Dennis Sumida	April 01, 1959 – 2020
Jacqueline Mae Escobar-Sandoval	May 11, 1969 – May 14, 2020
David William Dennis	February 07, 1975 – May 29, 2020
Maureen Betty Haipee	August 28, 1951 – June 30, 2020
Oscar Nookemus	March 28, 1938 – October 10, 2020
Marcia Camilla Thomas	February 24, 1964 – November 25, 2020
Eileen Georgina Sport	August 19, 1959 - _____*
Irvin Johnson Sport	March 06, 1959 - _____*
Lee Ryan Frank	February 13, 1992 - _____*

*Waiting on certificate of death

Queen's Research Team wants to hear from you

Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives on Modern Treaty Implementation

Research Project

The research team has been busy! We have been meeting our Research Advisory Committee on a monthly basis as we continue our research from a safe distance. Research Associates Honey Johnson and Nicole Malcomson completed their Courses in Research Ethics in the fall. Since then, they have been reaching out over the phone to as many Huu-ay-aht citizens as possible (ages 18 and older) to hear how life has changed for you since the Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect in 2011. At the guidance of the Research Advisory Committee, we are now focussing on connecting with elders first. Honey and Nicole have made over 80 calls and completed interviews with over 15 citizens to date, and this number is changing daily! ʔuusy̓aksiƛeʔic, thank you, to every Huu-ay-aht citizen who has taken the time to speak with Honey or Nicole. Your input is truly invaluable to our research as we learn how treaty impacts you personally. We will continue our calls into the new year but we will be taking a break for the holidays. If you missed a call from us and want to take part in our 10 to 15-minute phone survey, give Honey a call at: 250-206-0107. Be sure to keep an eye on Huu-ay-aht's Facebook page where we announce the weekly prize draw winner for those who complete the phone survey!

Below, we hear from Honey as she shares who she is and why she decided to get involved with the "Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story)" Research project.



Honey Johnson

ʔačaqḥak (Who are you)?

ʔukłaamaḥ ƛ̓iiḥƛ̓iiḥaqsup (Lightening Face Woman). My English name is Honey Johnson. My grandparents are the late Kenny and Joan Johnson, and the late Gordon and Virginia Cook. My father is Larry Johnson and my mother is Darlene Leonew. I am Huu-ay-aht on my father's side, and Ojibway on my mother's. I come from the house of čačaaciʔas. I'm working as a Research Associate to help with the research project, "Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story)". Back in 2009, I had the opportunity of working as the receptionist for Huu-ay-aht First Nations where I had the honour of meeting, working, and building a rapport with Huu-ay-aht citizens. At that time I also had the honour of witnessing the signing of our traty.

What made you want to get involved in the "Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story)" Research project?

I was interested in this role as a Research Associate because it has given me a chance not only to reconnect but to see how far we have come since signing the Treaty 10 years ago. It truly has been an honour to do this work, especially since I can remember working for Huu-ay-aht First Nations the day we celebrated the signing of the Treaty in 2011!

Logo competition

Last but not least, we have a logo competition going on! This is our first step to engage Huu-ay-aht youth as we continue our research on the Maa-nulth Treaty. Thank you to those who have reminded us how important it is to hear from Huu-ay-aht's future leaders (see page 9 for details).

As always, reach out to the research co-leads with any questions or comments: Heather (902-489-2412 or heather.castleden@queensu.ca) and Vanessa (250-508-3410 or vanessa.sloan.morgan@unbc.ca). The Huu-ay-aht Research Advisory Committee is also available for questions or comments: Stella Peters, Jane Peters, Simon Dennis, hupinyuk (Tom Happynook), hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), Mercedes Williams, and Heather Johnson. ʔuʔaałukḥʔiʔaała. Take care. And happy holidays from us all!

Huu-ay-aht Government and Child and Family Wellness Offices are closed for the holidays.

December 21 - January 1, 2021

For emergencies, here are contacts:

Community Services
Coral Johnson
250-735-3755

Child and Family Wellness
Shannon Zimmerman
250-720-5797 (other matters not child protection related)

Child Protection Emergencies
250-731-6999

Issues in regards to Infrastructure
Stephen Rayner
250-735-4333

Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives on Modern Treaty Implementation needs a logo



CALLING ALL HUU-AY-AHT YOUTH ARTISTS 30 AND UNDER

SUBMIT YOUR ART FOR OUR LOGO CONTEST BY DECEMBER 31ST!

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A $500 ARTIST FEE
ONE SUBMISSION ACCEPTED PER PERSON

The Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives on Modern Treaty Implementation Research Team needs a logo! The Research Advisory Committee will choose which art piece best represents our research on Huu-ay-aht's journey with the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Email submissions to hinatinyis at: hinatinyis@gmail.com

Research Advisory Committee: hapinyuk (Tom Happynook), Simon Dennis, Mercedes Williams, Jane Peters, Stella Peters, hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), & Heather Johnson.

Research Team: Honey Johnson, Nicole Malcomson, Heather Castleden, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, & Marc Calabretta.

Conducted in partnership with: huu-ay-aht ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND; Queen's University; UNBC University of Northern British Columbia

Research Funded by: SSHRC CRSH

Tommy Happynook Jr. reconnecting with traditions

Good day,

My name is hii-ni-nah-sim, Tommy Happynook Jr. I come from the House of Caa-caa-tsii-as. I am an anthropology doctoral student at the University of Victoria. I am writing today to share some information about my doctoral research, tentatively titled: "Waatla-sheeutlin uuaathluk Caa-caa-tsii-as" - Picking up my responsibilities: a project of (re)connecting with traditional lands, waters, knowledge, and identity.

The last time anyone in my family lived in Caa-caa-tsii-as was about 1860. My family, like many others, were swept up and aside in the widespread and systemic colonial project of assimilation. In 1970, Caa-caa-tsii-as, known by then as Carnation Creek, was the subject of an experiment conducted, in partnership, by the Federal government, forest industry, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. (DFO). The experiment saw the complete clearcutting of one third of the watershed. The second third was cleared of underbrush and the last third left as is. This experiment was formed with the intent of understanding what would happen if a watershed was completely clear-cut.



Tommy Happynook Jr. (photo by Amanda Laliberte Photography

The experiment became a long-term and influential study of the effects of logging practices on watershed processes and continues today.

The objective of my research is to document my own (re)connection to the lands, waters, and resources in Caa-caa-tsii-as. I will conduct this research by focusing on my own experience of reconnecting, revitalizing, and restoring my family's knowledge, presence, and traditional responsibilities in and to Caa-caa-tsii-as. Specifically, I will be reintroducing family practices and ceremonies during my time in Caa-caa-tsii-as. I will also be walking/swimming on the land, river, and bay as a way of refamiliarizing myself with Caa-caa-tsii-as.

My research is important because it will ensure that my son grows up connected to Caa-caa-tsii-as, its knowledge and teachings, and understand where those teachings come from through the experience of having a deep land-based connection to Caa-caa-tsii-as.

I believe that my work will benefit Huu-ay-aht citizens and other Indigenous people/nations looking to develop processes and understandings of territorial revitalization/reconnection and inspire reconnection with traditional territories outside of a colonial context.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions please contact me. I am happy to discuss my research further. And, if COVID-19 restrictions ease, maybe I will see you when I am out in the territory.

Hii-ni-nah-sim, Tommy Happynook

tommyh@uvic.ca

Huu-ay-aht welcomes a new CFO to the team

Stephanie Long joins us from Victoria as the new CFO. She has 20 years of experience in increasingly responsible roles within accounting. Her experience is enhanced by a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation.

As CFO, Stephanie is the Government's primary accountant and is responsible for the management of the finance department and all financial aspects of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government. The CFO reports to the Executive Director and must work closely with and support the Executive Council and the Legislature, which includes providing financial advice. The CFO



Stephanie Long

is responsible for providing and overseeing a broad range of financial management services, advice and expertise.

Stephanie is looking forward to the many challenges the CFO role offers and its large scope of responsibilities with the organization (and support for the Government's entities). She is committed and excited to be supporting Huu-ay-aht First Nations as it work towards achieving their mission and vision.

Drawn to the Alberni Valley with the lakes, the inlet, and mountains that are all around, Stephanie, her husband, and their four children between them, look forward to the endless outdoor activities the area offers. With great childhood memories of fishing in Barkley Sound and family roots in Port Alberni, Stephanie and her family look forward to becoming part of the community, settling in and making the valley their permanent home.

Christmas is going to look a little different this year

From the Child and Family Wellness Team

As the Christmas Season approaches, we are keenly aware that this year may be significantly different than in the past and these changes may contribute to a range of emotions such as sadness, loneliness, isolation, and disappointment as we anticipate that things may not be the same this year. For others, there may be a sense of anticipation and excitement about doing things differently.

It is important that we acknowledge the things in our lives that are different and honour our experiences and feelings.

This year, we are given an opportunity to look at things differently and by acknowledging feelings and planning ahead, we can be better prepared, have support and find enjoyment in the season. Here are some ideas:

- Set time aside each day to spend time with the Creator – practice gratitude and ask for guidance and wisdom
- Spend time in nature
- Brushings
- Bathing in river
- Listen to traditional songs
- Enjoy healthy foods, get enough rest and exercise
- Have realistic expectations of yourself and others
- Connect with family and friends virtually or on the phone – laugh together
- Create a new tradition
- Plan ahead for potentially stressful situations

Beating the "I'm Bored!" Blues

With your child, create a list of indoor and outdoor games and activities they like to do (with you and on their own or with siblings). Planning ahead will help family members share the things they would like to do during the holiday season, and everyone will be happier.

Get creative, make a special list for the fridge – use markers, stickers, and drawings to decorate. Write ideas on slips of paper and put into a decorated box/tin or container and before you hear "I'm bored!" (or when you hear it!) have your child pick something to do.

Braintstorming Ideas

Indoor games and activities	Outdoor games and activies

HFN Group of Businesses



Highlights from Annual Report 2019-2020





Stay home, stay safe and wear a mask

- Please follow the restrictions that are in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our province.
- Mask are mandatory in public
- Limit core bubble to household members only
- Non-essential travel should be avoided



778-421-2663 | info@hfngroup.ca | hfngroup.ca