Uyaqḥmis

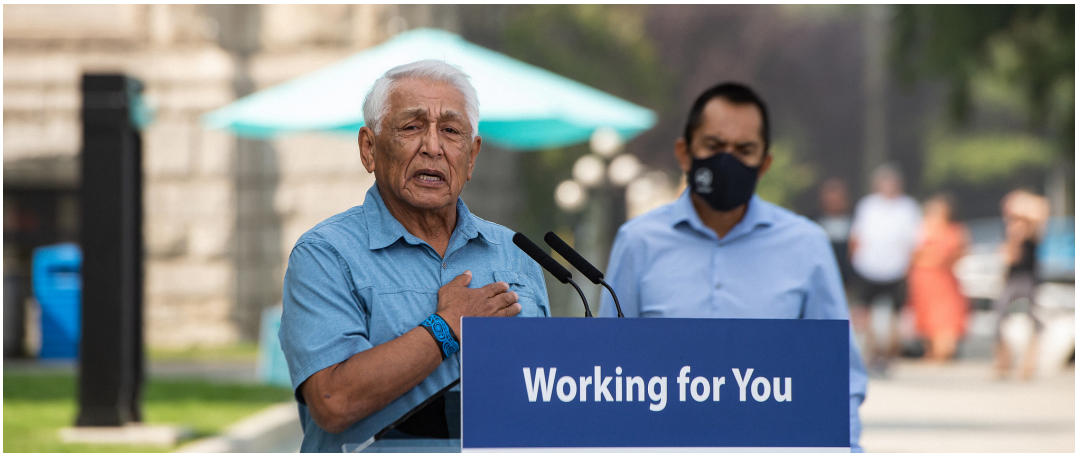
September 2020 Issue 57



The Bamfield Road is getting an upgrade

PM41913515

Huu-ay-aht and Province agree to upgrade the Bamfield Road



Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin Derek Peters stands with Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. speaking at the announcement in Victoria. (Photo courtesy of the B.C. Province)

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is pleased to announce a project with the Province of B.C. that will bring significant safety upgrades to Bamfield Road.

The announcement made on September 11 in Victoria is welcome news to the Nation as it has been working diligently for decades to upgrade Bamfield Road. This is the Nation's top priority as Bamfield Road provides a vital link for citizens living in the Huu-ay-aht village of Anacla, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Without upgrades, the 76-kilometre logging road is a safety concern to all who travel it. This is a very positive end to the first part of this journey, and the Nation looks forward to working with the Province over the next three years to complete the next phase of their vision.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. would like to acknowledge the commitment made by Premier John Horgan and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser. They took time out of their busy schedules to prioritize the Nation's concerns, even travelling the road in November 2019 to see firsthand the challenges the road poses for travellers.

"By working in a respectful way with Huu-ay-aht to make upgrades to Bamfield Road a reality, we see that the Province is ready to work on true reconciliation with First Nations and is honouring the importance of the safety of our community," said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "The upgrades they announced today will make Bamfield and Anacla safer places to live, and it will open up economic opportunities for our communities to prosper together in the future."

The bus crash in 2019 that claimed the lives of two young University of Victoria students highlighted the need for these upgrades, but their families are not the only ones to lose loved ones along this dangerous stretch of logging road. Through the years, Huu-ay-aht has lost a number of citizens in accidents on Bamfield Road. This project is a legacy to all of the lives lost.

"The Province is honouring our elders and the Nation's sacred principles of ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care of....), and Hišuk ma c̓awak (Everything is One) with today's announcement," explained Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin (Hereditary Chief Derek Peters).

Continued on page 3

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

© Huu-ay-aht First Nations 2014

Bamfield Road work expected to start soon

Continued from page 2

"Our Nation was forever changed when Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ Art Peters, my grandfather, was killed on Bamfield Road. It is tragic that it took the loss of so many to highlight the need for chipsealing the road, but we honour the ones we have lost by doing everything we can to prevent the loss of life along this vital link in the future."

The project is expected to cost approximately $30.7 million. Huu-ay-aht will contribute $5 million, and the Province will contribute $25.7 million from its COVID-19 Re-start and Recovery program. The Nation will manage the project with technical support from Urban Systems, as well as contributing gravel from its pit on treaty lands.

The project is expected to start soon, beginning with geotechnical and design work, and will likely take approximately three years to complete. The Province and Huu-ay-aht will ensure measures are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to complete this major construction project in a way that protects the safety and health of the people in Bamfield and Anacla.

Upon completion, the road will have a seal-coat surface that will offer a safer, smoother drive for travellers. The upgrades will decrease many of the risks travellers currently face on the logging road such as dust, uneven surfaces, loose gravel, flooding and washouts, and dangerous corners and road edges.

Although the main reason for upgrades is to improve safety on the road, construction is expected to also offer a significant economic boost to the area.



Premeire Horgan visits Bamfield in November 2019 with MLA Scott Fraser, Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions, ACRD member Bob Beckett, and Huu-ay-aht representatives. Along the way, they stopped at the crash site to pay their respects to the two students who lost their lives travelling for a UVIC school trip back in September 2019. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Bamfield was at one time a booming fishing village, but in the past two decades that has changed and the community has struggled economically. The construction of the road will bring its own economic opportunities to Bamfield and the surrounding communities, and when the road is complete it will improve the economic outlook for the whole community.

Roads are a crucial contributor to economic success for a community. With a reliable link to its neighbouring communities, the Bamfield region could see many opportunities come its way. In 2016, Huu-ay-aht First Nations invested in Bamfield through the purchase of 11 properties, including a number of turnkey operations. That investment has already proven to be beneficial to the business community in Bamfield, and the Nation believes it is only the beginning. When a community flourishes economically, it has a significant impact on social development and community health. With this announcement that the Bamfield Road will be chipsealed, the Nation believes the whole community will benefit on many levels.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like to acknowledge that the success of this project was built on the framework of working together. Today's announcement is possible because all the parties worked together to solve this challenge, including the Province, the City of Port Alberni, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Western Forest Products, Mosaic Forest Management, Urban Systems, University of Victoria, the Bamfield Marine Science Centre, and the many residents and business owners who showed their support for the project.

For the official news release, visit www.huuayaht.org

If you have any questions, please contact:

Heather Thomson
Communications Manager
heather.t@huuayaht.org
250-723-0100 | 250-720-7776

Connie Waddell joins as Executive Director

Huu-ay-aht Executive Council is happy to announce that Connie Waddell is now the Nation's new Executive Director.

This is a role Connie knows, as she served as the Executive Director pre-treaty. Connie is excited about her new position and looks forward to leading Huu-ay-aht into a bright future.

Connie (nee Nookemis, traditional name Nanaa-aqs) is the daughter of Rose and Clifford Charles. Her grandparents are the late Martin and Cecilia Charles, Edward and Mable Nookemis, and the late Fran and Joe Edgar.

Connie grew up in Bamfield, but, like many youths, she left for high school and to further her education, plus gain some work experience. During that time, she worked as a waitress, caterer, chambermaid, guide on a whale watching boat, dispatch for floatplanes and, finally, for the Department of Indian Affairs in their Health Department.

She returned to Bamfield in 1992, where she had her son Myles and purchased the Bamfield General Store. She became the sole proprietor in 1994 and sold



Connie accepts Executive Director position August 2020. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

it in 1999. That year, she became the Tourism Manager with Huu-ay-aht Natural Resources.

This job was mostly managing the Pachena Bay Campground and working on the plans for Kiixin. The Nation's heritage site was a rewarding project that involved a great team of Huu-ay-aht citizens. This position took her through two summers before becoming the Director of Tribal Operations and then Executive Director for her Nation.

Connie participated in the administrative behind the scenes of the Treaty negotiations. It was a hectic, challenging and exhausting, but a very rewarding part of her career. The next step is as an elected Councillor, holding the Finance, Capital and Infrastructure portfolios.

"I have been very fortunate in my life, as many significant milestones happened for me in our community of Anacla. I graduated in 1987 and my family hosted a dinner at our old community hall, which the whole village attended," she said. "I was the first person to receive the Eddy Bamfield bursary and it was also my very first speech."

Her son grew up in his community with all of his family around him. Together they built a house there where they lived full time, until it was time to leave for Grade 7. Pachena beach is also where Connie married her husband Mark Waddell. She is now the proud grandma to her first grandchild, Charleigh Rose Danielsen.

In 2015, Connie was elected to Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council. She served one full term and was re-elected in 2019. It was during that term that she decided to put her name forward for the Executive Director position. She is very proud to be a Huu-ay-aht Citizen working for the people.

Huu-ay-aht Fisheries Team out in the field



Natural Resource Technician, Katie Turner and Huu-ay-aht Natural Resource department helps LGL technicians sample adult chinnok returning to Sarita River.

Following a week later, they surveyed Sarita again and counted more then 1,000 chinnook returns.

Check out Huu-ay-aht Facebook page for posts of the Natural Resource Team out in the field.



Huu-ay-aht to receive $5.4 million in treaty loan forgiveness from Federal Government

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations received notice from the Federal Government that loan payments related to the treaty negotiation in the amount of $5.4 million will be forgiven effective as of March 31, 2020. The Federal Government will be returning nearly five million in cash to Huu-ay-aht First Nation over the next five years, and the federal government has also forgiven the half million debt outstanding.

Former B.C. Treaty Commissioner and Huu-ay-aht Ḥaẇiiḥ Tom Happynook is please that after so many years of British Columbian First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the B.C. Treaty Commission pushing for treaty loan forgiveness, the Federal Government has finally agreed to reimburse treaty loans.

"It is with sincere appreciation that Huu-ay-aht First Nations applaud Canada for correcting a long-time policy of making First Nations pay for their new relationship with British Columbia and Canada. This new federal approach to treaty negotiations in B.C. is a welcome policy change and can in its simplicity create a much better environment to negotiate a Modern-Day Comprehensive Treaty," Happynook explained. "As a former B.C. Treaty Commissioner, I am pleased that our hard work in Ottawa transformed the face of treaty negotiations in British Columbia. I am hopeful that other B.C. First Nations who are not in the B.C. treaty process will see this as a much better bridge to negotiating a new relationship with B.C. and Canada with no costs incurred."

Huu-ay-aht, along with the other Maa-nulth First Nations, spent millions of dollars to negotiate their final agreement in the treaty. At that time, the policy was that Indigenous groups would be required to take on a loan to negotiate their treaty. Although the Nation did receive compensation as part of the treaty package, Huu-ay-aht was expected to repay Canada for the cost of negotiations.

"It has taken a lot of years and dedication to get to this day, but I am so glad to hear that the Federal Government is going to do the right thing and repay these funds," explained Huu-ay-aht's Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "It is reassuring to see, even during the difficult time COVID-19 has created, that the Government of Canada is still committed to economic reconciliation efforts with First Nations communities."

"It has taken a lot of years and dedication to get to this day, but I am so glad to hear that the Federal Government is going to do the right thing and repay these funds,"

- Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.



In the 2018 budget, Canada announced it would no longer require Indigenous groups to repay these loans to fund comprehensive claims negotiations and moved to a grant-based system that did not require repayment. Following extensive negotiations, the 2019 budget included a promise to forgive all outstanding comprehensive claim negotiation loans and repay the self-governing Indigenous governments that have already repaid the loans.

Huu-ay-aht made regular payments and was almost finished repaying its loan when the negotiations began. At that time, the Nation ceased payments, confident it would qualify for repayment. The Federal Government has now committed to repaying Huu-ah-aht a total of $4,916,016.00. These funds are to be repaid in five equal installments over the next five years, with the first payment coming this fiscal year.

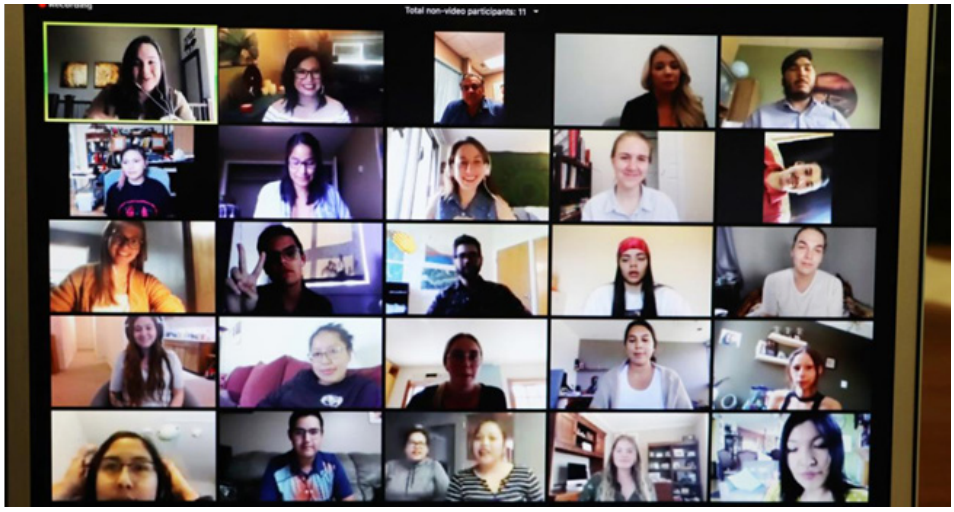
A letter to the Nation from Honourable Carolyn Bennett states, "Canada continues to be committed to advancing reconciliation and recognizing Indigenous rights. I hope that the forgiveness of this debt demonstrates this commitment in a concrete way and will enhance financial stability and enable your community to improve access to funding mechanisms that may not have been otherwise available due to the outstanding liability."

In the Budget 2018 document it states switching to a grant system is intended to allow Indigenous communities to invest in their priorities like governance, infrastructure, and economic development, that will increase the health and well-being for all community members. The funds should also allow Indigenous communities and governments to use their resources to strengthen their communities and improve the quality of life for its members.

Huu-ay-aht is committed to following these guidelines to ensure the Nation benefits from the funds they will receive over the next five years.

Samantha Haugen attends Virtual Cando Youth Summit

By Samantha Haugen



Samantha Haugen attended the virtual Cando Youth Summit 2020 and is the fourth one down in the first column. (Photo provided by Sam Haugen)

The Cando Youth Summit for 2020 was an amazing and knowledgeable experience. When I was going through the application process, I had to fill out some forms with basic information, and information about my nation. Attached to the application form, I also had to write an essay regarding information about myself and who I am, why I am interested in participating in the Cando Youth Summit, what would make me a great selection to be a delegate, and a bit about my educational history.

The Cando Youth Summit was an experience I will never forget. This was the first year the summit had to be delivered virtually, but it went off without a hitch. I went into the summit unsure of what to expect, but it exceeded my expectations. Not only was it highly educational, but it was very cultural as well. They kept it active and entertaining despite the fact we all are doing it from home.

The Cando Youth Summit had a great list of panelists, and keynotes speakers. They had professionals to talk to us and teach us more about economic development, land use planning and designations, financial management, and about their experiences with Cando. This to me was a vital piece of the summit, as I am relatively new and still learning about in-depth economic development. Each speaker had their own knowledge and advice to share with the delegates. Some even prepared presentations that they shared with us to further our knowledge on this topic. The speakers were very helpful in guiding me to my success with the Cando summit.

In addition to having excellent keynote speakers, Cando also had an array of cultural performances. I was able to watch some unique cultural performances from other tribes from across Canada that I have never seen before. Two of the dances I was able to watch for the first time was a Jingle Dance and Hoop Dance. I also got to witness some talented Indigenous musicians who shared with us their original songs and skills on their instruments. It was beautiful to see the diversity amongst the Indigenous performances - how unique, and special each dance was. I have never really got to see a cultural indigenous performance that was not based out of a Nuu-chah-nulth tribe, so for me it was truly an amazing sight to see.

Apart from the speakers and cultural presentations, Cando also offered the opportunity to win a variety of prizes. Everyday there were be prizes to be won by all delegates taking part in this year's summit. Indigenous-owned companies and creators donated some of their products for us to have the chance to win. The products included ranged from authentic Indigenous jewelry, art, makeup, and clothing. There were also gift card prices and an Apple Watch! I had the fortunate luck of being the proud winner of a pair of Indigenous-made earrings that I am expecting through the mail from Cando.

Overall, my time talking part in the youth summit was more than I had hoped for I learned so much about economic development and how to develop a projected economic plan for an Indigenous community. It also made me realize I would like to further my education to learn more regarding business, as well as economic development.

My team came up with an Eco-Industrial Development Plan for a fictious First Nations community. We represented ourselves as the board of directors running a company called Beyond Energy Solutions Inc, our goal was to develop an eco-friendly industrial park that would be owned by and operating on the First Nations land, but have us as co-owners and directors of the company. Our idea was to develop a solar power plant, a water treatment facility, recycling centre, and innovation centre on a 10-acre plot of land.

The reason we chose an eco-friendly park was to aid in the problem's reservations across Canada face.

Continued on page 7

Citizen success story: Kenneth Joe

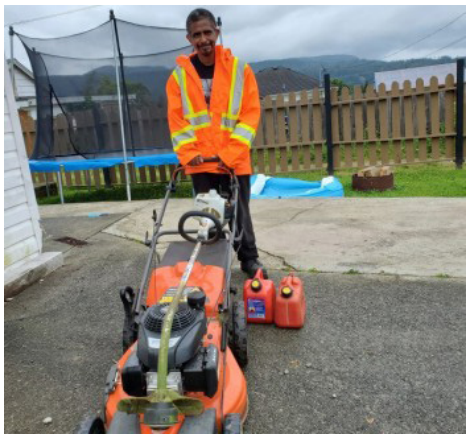
By Amanda-Lee Cunningham

Huu-ay-aht citizen Kenneth Joe walks the streets of Port Alberni wearing a high-viz vest with a lawn mower and weed eater in hand, pushing them to the next job. When asked how that makes him feel, he replies “manly and great”, empowered by the idea that he is providing for his family.

Unable to secure a job, Kenneth made the decision to be proactive and get himself a lawn mower and weed eater so that he can make work for himself. Making that decision has put him in a position to provide for his family and pay off debt he received from ICBC.

Kenneth has a wife Matilda who he has been with for 16 years and married for three. Together they have four children, Althea, Sylvia, Cherie-Ann, and Brandi. When Kenneth is not working, the family enjoys going to the park, jumping on the trampoline, playing in the pool, and getting out and shopping together.

Not only has Kenneth been able to support his family financially, he has been able to work at paying off an ICBC fine of $6000. When we spoke to Kenneth he said he had only $600 to pay off and then he can go for his licence. He has since successfully gotten his licence.



You will see Kenneth Joe around town walking his equipment to a job. (Photo by Denise Titian, Ha-Shilth-Sa)

Kenneth has received a lot of social media recognition and recently had a story done by the Ha-Silth-Sa. Once that went out on social media platforms, a citizen of Port Alberni, Karli Ward, created a GoFundMe account to help pay the remaining $600. The town of Port Alberni came together and raised a total of $1596.77. Kenneth has stated he has paid off his fine completely.

Even though pushing his equipment for 10-18 km a day is something he is proud of, he said he is not going to lie, a truck or electric bike to tow his equipment would be nice. With the hot summer days, it would be helpful. Once Kenneth gets his licence, he can do exactly that - get his own truck.

From there, Kenneth has big dreams for his business. He would like to have a company that is somewhat like Rhino Unlimited, with a building that would have all sorts of equipment and tools. He'd like to create a place for people in Port Alberni to call for a labour worker, for many different jobs.

With his future goals of owning his own building, he will welcome anyone. “Honestly, I am a recovering addict and have criminal history. I have never imagined I would be living this life. Look at me I am living it, I am an example, it can be done. Believe in your higher power” He says. He hopes to provide those with little experience, to gain the confidence they need to want to work.

When this big dream becomes reality, Kenneth will have a business to leave for his family. This makes him happy to know he is giving his children a future.

Kenneth’s business hours are seven days a week, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and can be reached on Facebook at Kenneth Joe or by text or phone at 250-318-0120.

Samantha interested in furthering her education in business

Continued from page 6

We wanted to help with the clean water problem, provide renewable power to their reserve through the power plant, offer waste management through the recycling centre, and help with socio-cultural endeavors through the innovation center.

Our Eco-Industrial Park was awarded second place in the Cando summit. It was an amazing experience. It was an honour to place, and I look forward to potentially working with Cando in the future.

Samantha was a summer student at Huu-ay-aht working in the Economic Development Department. For more information about Cando or if you have questions for the Economic Development Department, please contact Cynthia Rayner at cynthia.r@huuayaht.org



Photo taken at Kiχiin. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Huu-ay-aht hosts engagement sessions to discuss TFL 44

The Huu-ay-aht government met with citizens during the July 21 Community Engagement Session and the July 25 Special People's Assembly to discuss the proposed purchase of an additional 44% interest in TFL44, which would bring our total interest in TFL44 to 51%.

Citizens asked a lot of good questions about the transaction and, in order to ensure our citizens can make an informed decision, voting on the motion regarding the transaction has been postponed on this issue until our next People's Assembly in fall 2020.

We have gathered the feedback and questions from citizens and aim to answer all questions either directly or through information provided at meetings with citizens between now and the next People's Assembly.

In August, meetings with citizens took place in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Port Alberni and were led by members of Executive Council: Robert Dennis , Trevor Cootes and Edward Johnson Jr. Another round of one-on-one citizen engagement meetings will be conducted in October to explain the deal and ensure all questions are answered. Dates for more meetings in the fall will be announced in the coming months.

If you have any questions or would like further information during the month of September, you can contact Heather Thomson at communications@huuauaht.org. In the meantime, feel free to visit our forestry page www.huuayaht.org/exploring-forestry-opportunities to read more about the TFL 44 deal and watch the videos.

Robert J. Dennis Sr. talks about Huu-ay-aht history in forestry

When I think back on Huu-ay-aht's long history in the forest sector and how far we've come—from our first opportunity in the salvage business to announcing the purchase of a 7% interest in TFL 44 last year—I get excited and I feel proud.

Our experience has enabled our people to take step after careful step – building on our experience and growing our capacity along the way. We started small and created profitable businesses within our territory as we gained further control of our ḥahuuƚi – giving us the ability to manage lands based on Huu-ay-aht values. Our forest operations have provided jobs and business opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens and families for decades.

It was back in the late 1800s when Huu-ay-aht was first granted reserve lands allocated by the Government of Canada and from that point until present day, we have seen and overcome many challenging times to get to where we are.

In the 1950s, Huu-ay-aht reached its first forestry milestone when we started our first logging company. So many of our citizens have worked in the industry and on our lands since then, myself included. In 1993, we listened to the urgent plea of our elders to restore the Sarita River. It was then that our elders requested our nation go through the Treaty process and reinstate control of our ḥahuuƚi.

In 1996, we began pursuing forestry opportunities that included a partnership with Weyerhaeuser (formerly McMillan-Bloedel) that allocated Huu-ay-aht with a 15,000 m3 Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for salvage. We made this a very profitable operation – so much so that the province decided to increase stumpage fees. We were punished for doing such a good job!

Then in 2001, Huu-ay-aht was awarded a non-replaceable Forest Licence. We also signed Resource Management agreements with Tseshaht and Uchucklesaht. In 2004, we conducted a timber supply analysis.

Another big milestone for our nation was in 2005 when we won our forestry case against the province of British Columbia for infringing on our aboriginal rights. In 2006, we developed our Forestry Strategy, including full implementation of forestry court victory. In 2009, we signed the Maa-nulth Final Agreement.

In 2010, Huu-ay-aht was granted a Community Forest Agreement with an AAC of 17,000 m3. The following year, we purchased a forest tenure from the Provincial Government which was the First Nation Woodland Licence (FNWL) with an AAC of 70,000 m3 providing jobs and a good return to our nation. April 1, 2011 marked the effective date of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Four years later, in 2015, we were awarded a $1.55M settlement of our first phase Forestry Specific Claim case and, in 2016, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Western Forest Products to explore our forestry interests. In 2017, we acquired the Sarita Bay lands from Western and, in 2018, Huu-ay-aht and Western signed a Reconciliation Protocol Agreement.

Continue on page 9

Join us

Relationship Matters

Hosted by Kim Barthel



Kim is a much-loved teacher and speaker who connects ideas and people in the service of supporting resiliency and health world-wide

Topic: Advice for effectively dealing with children's behaviours due to trauma

Three workshops via Zoom:
Thursday, October 8, 15, and 22 at 6 p.m.

1: Why do your children behave the way they do?
2: Compassion towards our children with special challenges
3: How do we support our children to be their best selves?

If you are interested, please contact Christine Pearson at 778-419-1013, christine.p@huuayaht.org







Huu-ay-aht continues to explore forestry oppotunities

Continued from page 8

"It feels like yesterday when we were celebrating at the House of Huu-ay-aht marking our purchase of that first 7% interest in TFL 44 from Western in 2019.

"That was a historic announcement about reconciliation and revitalization of forestry for everyone in the Alberni Region. And for Huu-ay-aht. It also marked a milestone of regaining jurisdiction over our ḥahuułi.

"And so here we are. After decades of hard work, we are at the point where our Nation is now pursuing the acquisition of a further 44% interest in TFL 44 from Western, which would bring Huu-ay-aht's total interest to 51%. We are well positioned to do this. We have the experience, and we have the know-how.

"This deal would make us the majority owner and put us in the driver's seat for making decisions on our ḥahuułi. This deal will mean managing forests on our ḥahuułi in ways that are in line with Huu-ay-aht government and Ha'wiih Council priorities and values including protecting our forest and lands for future generations.

"This long and successful history in forestry makes me proud. We have succeeded where people said we were going to fail and our Nation has achieved what very few others have."

Huu-ay-aht housing & 60-year lease

We heard you

During the Special People's Assembly on July 25, citizens raised many questions about the motion to approve the 60-year lease to M'akola and other aspects related to housing. We have gathered all your questions and aim to answer each and everyone one of them - starting with a summary in this article.

In addition to the information in this article, you can watch our website and Facebook page for more information that will be posted in the coming weeks.

There will also be an opportunity for citizens to hear more about the motion related to the approval of the 60-year lease at citizen engagement sessions in October.

Huu-ay-aht Independant Housing Authority Update

In 2019, the Huu-ay-aht Independent Housing Panel conducted extensive outreach to citizens to understand their needs and wants with respect to housing and infrastructure. One of the key findings was that 90% of survey respondents agreed that having Huu-ay-aht's housing managed by an Independent Housing Authority was a good idea.

What is an Independant Housing Authority?

Essentially, it is an arm's length housing management body that manages and operates housing on behalf of a First Nation. With a comprehensive plan to address housing needs but no capacity to take on all the planned initiatives, Huu-ay-aht realized that having the support of a housing provider to lead rental housing to citizens would ensure it is managed efficiently and so our citizens can have access to affordable, quality homes.

How and why M'akola Housing Society was chosen?

When B.C. Housing released a grant for affordable housing in May with its deadline in September, Huu-ay-aht quickly contacted various housing providers to ask for support. M'akola Housing Society was the provider that offered the best approach to our Nation's needs.

Since June, M'akola has been integrated into our housing activities as Huu-ay-aht Independent Housing Authority with a focus on managing and maintaining Huu-ay-aht's existing rental housing. It has also taken the lead on working on the BC Housing fund application.

We are confident that with M'akola's resources, understanding of First Nations communities, strong relationship with the provincial government, knowledge and operating experience, our chances of receiving the funding increase significantly.

Continued on page 11

Here is an overview of the lease and proposed six rental homes project:

Term of the lease: 60 years

Why a 60-year lease: Enables lower mortgage and rental payments, also a requirement to qualify for the funding

Possibility of early termination: Yes, at the term conclusion or if the mortgage is paid off earlier

Number of homes: six unites, rental only

Location of homes: Upper Anacla

Eligibility: Preference will be given to Huu-ay-aht citizens

Home layout: Four two-bedroom homes and two three-bedroom homes

Target date of completion: February 2022

Monthly rent payments: Below market
Two-bedroom homes: $680 per month *
Three-bedroom homes: $ 800 per month *
*rent to be calculated base on the applicant's gross income.

Note: The lease will not necessarily mean that M'akola will be Huu-ay-aht's Independant Housing Authority for the next 60 years. **The lease could be transferred to Huu-ay-aht or another housing provider with B.C. House approval.**

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Continued from page10

Proposed six rental homes project and 60-year lease

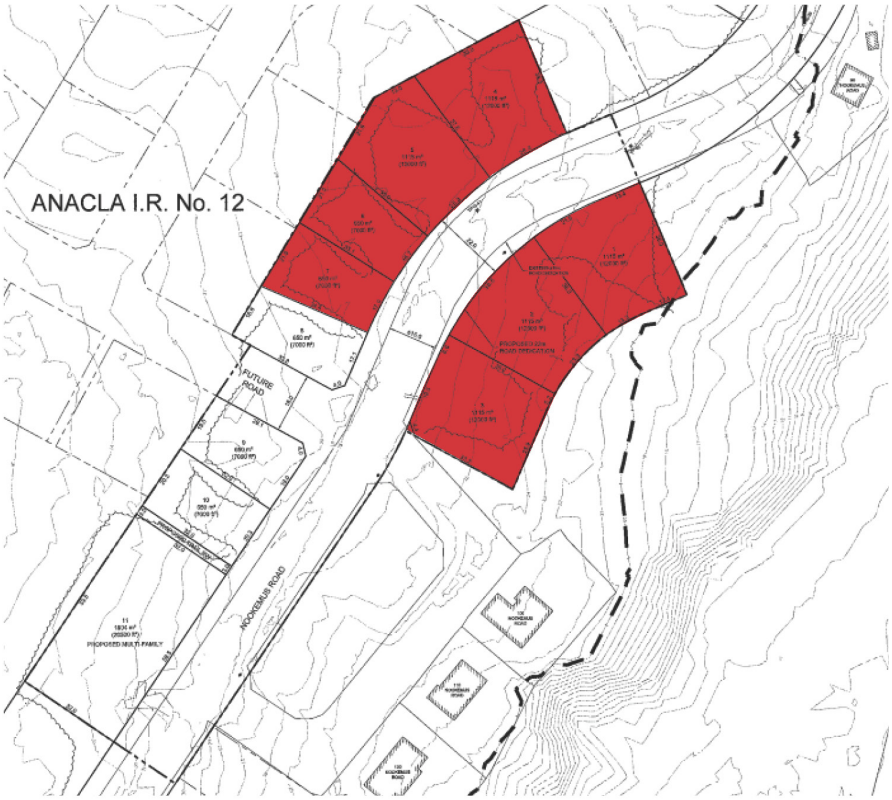
On May 27, B.C. Housing released the second intake of the Building BC: Community Housing Fund, inviting First Nations and other organizations to apply for a funding grant for affordable housing projects.

M'akola Housing Society was requested to apply for the funding on behalf of Huu-ay-aht and plan an affordable rental housing project that would help address some of the most latent citizen needs. The grant of up to $800,000 would significantly reduce the project cost, which is estimated to be $2,500,000.

The fund application had a number of eligibility requirements, one being a land tenure with a minimum lease of 60-years. This is what we are asking citizens to consider at the next People's Assembly.

Proposed M'akola Lease Area

Note: The next six units will only be selected from within the red shaded area.



Q & A with Charlie Clappis

Charlie Clappis is Huu-ay-ah Executive Councillor responsible for the Housing and Infrastructure portfolio, and he would like to clarify some of the key questions raised by citizens at the July 25 Special People's Assembly:

What will happen if citizens pass the motion approving the lease?

Charlie: This will enable M'akola to apply for B.C. Housing funding. If it is granted, Huu-ay-aht would lease the land to M'akola and M'akola would be responsible for designing, building, managing, and maintaining the rental homes under the guidance of Huu-ay-aht's Executive Director.

What will happen if citizens don't approve the lease?

Charlie: The construction of rental homes will take longer than hoped as Huu-ay-aht doesn't have the budget to build all the homes needed for citizens now. That would mean a delay in the plan to bring citizens home to live on the ḥahuuɬi. We will continue looking for other housing grants, but they might not be as advantageous as the one we are currently pursuing.

Why can't we let the Housing Navigator do M'akola's work?

Charlie: The Housing Navigator and M'akola will have very different responsibilities. The Housing Navigator will be focused on supporting citizens interested in renting or building a house. M'akola's role is focused on managing existing rental homes, including selecting tenants, collecting rent, and repairing the homes. M'akola will provide an end-to-end rental housing solution. It will enable the Nation to learn from them and, potentially in the future, take on the responsibility with the appropriate resources in place.

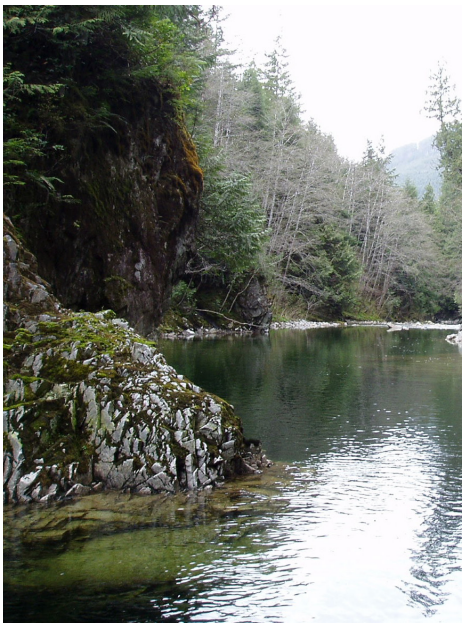
For further information on the Huu-ay-aht housing portfolio and initiatives, please visit huuayaht.org/housing.

Huu-ay-aht receives 375K contribution for Watershed Renewal from Western Forest Products

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Western Forest Products Inc. are pleased to announce that Western will provide $375,000 in support of Huu-ay-aht's Watershed Renewal Program. The program began in 2017 in an effort to renew and enhance fish and wildlife habitats on Huu-ay-aht's traditional territory (ḥahuułi) for the benefit of future generations, specifically in the Sarita, Pachena, and Sugsaw watersheds.

"Western's contribution to this program signals its understanding of Huu-ay-aht's goals, of both our current Hereditary (ḥaẇiiḥ) and Elected Councils, and from our elders for generations before us who passed on the teaching of: what you take out, you must put back in," said Tayii Ḥawiłʼ ƛiišin (Head Hereditary Chief Derek Peters). "Huu-ay-aht's values and sacred principles of ʔiisaak (utmost respect), ʔuuʔałuk (taking care of), and hišuk ma cawak (everything is one), must be upheld, and Western recognizes this. They are clearly implementing these principles and this contribution is an example of reconciliation and ʔuuʔałuk in action."

"Western is pleased to support this work as it reflects our common interest for the long-term stewardship of the forests," said Shannon Janzen, Western's Vice President, Partnerships & Sustainability and Chief Forester. "Through our collaborative relationship with Huu-ay-aht, we have developed a shared vision for forestry based on leading industry practices for sustainable forest management, and through this work we intend to apply our shared knowledge and understanding to enhance forest ecosystems and the values we all care about."



The Sarita River, pictured here, is The Heart of our People.

"Following the wisdom of our elders during the 90s when they spoke loud and clear that urgent action needed to be taken to restore the watersheds – this contribution will ensure we can move these objectives forward," said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "I am very thankful for Western stepping up and working together with Huu-ay-aht to restore our watersheds."

ƛiišin emphasized that Western's support of Huu-ay-aht is a great example of healthy working relationships between governments and business, one that has resulted in several outcomes that reflect a shared understanding and model for forestry.

"This is what reconciliation looks like for our Nation on the ground. This type of relationship is unheard of – there is a lot to focus on and there needs to be balance – but when you work together, good things happen," ƛiišin said.

Funds in support of Huu-ay-aht's Watershed Renewal Program will be provided in equal installments of $125,000 over three years, for a total of $375,000. Huu-ay-aht intends to use some of the funds to apply for additional financial support through programs such as the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, Pacific Salmon Foundation's Community Salmon Program, and others that may arise.

More than 20 separate projects and 14 technical reports make up Huu-ay-aht's Watershed Renewal Program. Key outcomes include salmon enhancement, habitat restoration, fisheries and wildlife research, and enhanced forestry initiatives, such as improving riparian zone protection and windthrow management. The program has provided training and employment to Huu-ay-aht citizens since its inception. Huu-ay-aht has also established its own Watershed Renewal Fund, and thus far, has allocated more than $1 million towards watershed and fisheries efforts.

Western Forest Products Inc.
DEFINING A HIGHER STANDARD™

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

ACRD supports forestry deal between Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Western Forest Products Inc.

By Elena Rardon, Alberni Valley News

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Western Forest Products (WFP) are waiting for approval from the provincial government before closing a transfer of ownership interest for the tree farm licence located on Huu-ay-aht traditional territory.

Earlier this year, WFP and Huu-ay-aht reached a $36.2 million agreement that would give Huu-ay-aht a majority ownership interest in Tree Farm Licence 44 (TFL 44) Limited Partnership. The licence was issued by the provincial government to harvest trees in the area, which overlaps with Huu-ay-aht's traditional territory. The Huu-ay-aht are one of 14 First Nations whose traditional territories fall within TFL 44.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) board of directors expressed support for the transfer during a board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Nathan Hume, lawyer for Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Huumiis Ventures, appeared before the board on Wednesday to talk about the project. The transaction, he explained, is fundamentally about reconciliation and forestry revitalization.

"This transaction builds on a strong positive history between Huu-ay-aht and Western, including a reconciliation protocol the two parties signed in 2018," he said.

After this protocol was signed, Huu-ay-aht formed a special investment body (Huumiis Ventures) and acquired a seven percent interest in TFL 44. In



Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ʎiišin Derek Peters and daughter Oliva sign TFL 44 agreement at the House of Huu-ay-aht in March 2019. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

March of this year, Huumiis announced that it was going to take a majority interest (51 percent) in TFL 44, as well as seven percent interest in the Alberni Pacific Division (APD) sawmill through a newly formed limited partnership with Western.

The transaction was agreed upon in March, but it is subject to certain conditions before closing. It must receive approval from Huu-ay-aht citizens, as well as approval from the provincial government. Hume asked the ACRD board on Wednesday for a letter of support from the ACRD to the provincial government.

Hume explained that there will be "no structural change" in the way business is operated at APD or TFL 44.

"Western will remain a significant minority interest holder in the tree farm licence and will remain a majority owner of the APD sawmill," he said. "Huu-ay-aht will be playing more of a role, but Western will remain deeply involved. This is an ongoing relationship, not the end of Western's involvement here."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations, he said, is committed to balancing protection of the environment and growth of the economy when it comes to this transfer.

"This is their traditional territory," he said. "They want to see this business succeed but they also need to see the territory recover from what it's endured over the last couple of generations. Huu-ay-aht has a strong focus on sustainability and environmental protection, and old growth protection in particular. At the same time, TFL44 will be able to draw upon Western's know-how, Western's long-term investments and its own systems and inventory."

Long Beach director Kel Roberts expressed concern about log exports, but Hume reiterated that the harvest will remain mostly the same as WFP's existing operations.

"APD remains a major consumer of the harvest from the TFL, as do other Western mills in the region," he said. "I do know that Western wants this wood, Western needs this wood and Western will continue to use this wood."

Directors agreed unanimously on Wednesday to send a letter of support to the provincial government.

"Everybody seems to be very supportive of this," said City of Port Alberni director Debbie Haggard.

Board chair and Huu-ay-aht First Nations councillor John Jack recused himself from both the discussion and decision on Wednesday.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations - COVID-19

Huu-ay-aht Government Offices and the Child and Family Wellness Office have limited access until further notice due to COVID-19 numbers

In an effort to keep elders, citizens, and staff safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Anacla and Port Alberni Government Offices and the Child and Family Wellness Office will be closed to the public as of July 14, until further notice.

During this time, we will continue to meet the day-to-day needs of the Nation and its citizens. Please call us:

Anacla: 250-728-3414 (1-888-644-4555)
Port Alberni: 250-723-0100
Child and Family Wellness: 778-419-1013

The following services will be discontinued until further notice:

Patient Travel Shuttle
In-office cheque pick-up (all cheques will be mailed, until further notice)

Please take care of yourself, elders, and family members at this time. If you are sick, please stay home to help decrease the outbreak.

What Huu-ay-aht is doing to keep citizens safe

British Columbia has started encouraging travel within the province, and Bamfield businesses are welcoming guests again. For these reasons, we remain diligent in our efforts to protect those living on our traditional territory, while making some small adjustments to open access in our homelands gradually and safely.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

1. West Coast Trail
   - Trail closed completely, no day-use or camping
2. Pachena Beach and Trailhead access
   - Open to anyone for day-use only
   - Signage and patrols to prevent unauthorized entry to campground and village
3. Cape Beale Headlands (Keeha and Topaltos, but not the lighthouse)
   - open to anyone for day-use only

Anacla Villiage

1. Upper and lower Anacla
   - Expand access to visitors invited by Anacla residents - visitors need to be citizens and should only visit the household they are invited to
   - No other access to the beach through the campground
   - 24/7 Guardian checkpoint
2. Pachena Bay Campground and Private Sites
   - Campground officially closed for the season
   - Access only to those otherwise permitted in Anacla
   - Other citizens can request access to private sites for camping or day-use

Treaty Settlement Lands and Huu-ay-aht Private Lands

1. Sarita Lake and River, Deer Group Islands, and other back country
   - Open to anyone for day-use only
   - Citizens can camp with approved permit from Lands & Resources Director
2. Nuumaqamis Bay and Cemetery
   - Access only for citizens for day-use only
3. Kiixin
   - Tour not operating
   - May try "virtual tours", stay tuned
4. Sarita Falls
   - Access for citizens and day-use only

Other Areas of the Ḥahuuli

1. Huu-ay-aht Forestry Tenures, Non-TSL areas of Deer Group Islands (ex. Frederick Lake, Pachena Lake, Rosseau Lake, Black Lake, Ross Islets, etc.)
   - Camping available as per Provincial regulations
   - No longer requesting campers to leave

Together we can minimize the spread of COVID-19

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Are you interested in being a mentor for Huu-ay-aht girl(s), ages 9-13? Do you enjoy recreation, sharing cultural traditions and crafts, and supporting the next generation?

Huu-ay-aht has received funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation for a four-year Girls' Mentorship Program. This program is open to any girl identifying as 2SLGBTQI+, ages 9-13, living in either Anacla or Port Alberni.

We are looking for a minimum of four to eight women, over the age 18, who are interested in being a mentor to one to three girls. Mentors will meet weekly for one to three hours per week, either in-person or virtually. Mentors will be required to sign a one-year agreement outlining their responsibilities and commitments to the girls.

Mentors will also connect with Huu-ay-aht's Child and Family Wellness staff to ensure they feel supported in helping their mentees to achieve their goals and to address any issues that may arise.

Once approved as a Mentor, honorariums will be provided. Mentors will also receive financial support to participate in activities with the girls. Mentors will work with girls to create SMART goals and to help girls achieve their personal goals.

If you would like more information or to put your name forward, please contact Rena Johnson rena.j@huuayaht.org or call 250-735-0157.

Housing in Upper Anacla estimated to be complete early 2021



Upper Anacla currently has a fourplex and duplex being built in the subdivision. These are estimated to be complete by January/February 2021. For housing inquiries, please contact executivedirector@huuayaht.org. (Photo by kristen Young)

Queen's University Update

By Heather Castleden and Vanessa Sloan Morgan

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

After a pause due to COVID-19, we are pleased to announce that the Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin research project is progressing our exciting work. We have met with the Research Advisory Committee, The Nations Communications and Education, and Treaty Implementation throughout the spring and summer to discuss next steps. Although we have kept at a safe social distance from each other, we have a number of exciting updates.



The Research Team meeting with the Advisory Commitee via Zoom in June 2020. (Photo by Heather Castleden and Vanessa Sloan Morgan)

Phone Survey

We are now set to roll out our survey to learn how the Maa-nulth Treaty is working for you. These surveys will provide a snapshot of how treaty impacts your daily lives, what has changed from Huu-ay-aht citizens' perspectives since treaty came into play in 2011, and to shine a light on where things can be improved. Because of social distancing measures, we will conduct a short four question phone survey instead of going door to door as we originally planned. Please be sure that your contact information is up to date with the Nation as you can expect to hear from the research team in the coming months to chat about Treaty. We look forward to hearing from you and learning from your invaluable input!

Survey Reporting

The research team has been working with Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Executive Director and Treaty Implementation to develop reports from the Nations' Value Indicator Surveys, which were conducted from 2013 onward. The research team will present the draft reports to the Executive Council and Executive Director to support Huu-ay-aht as the Nation prepares for the first 15-year review of Treaty.

Thesis Defense

In June, Jon Aarssen successfully defended his Master's thesis entitled Illuminating Community Experience and Perception of Modern Treaty Implementation Through Photovoice: Photography and Stories from Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Jon provided an update to the Research Advisory Committee in July and will prepare a written update on this work to include in the Uyqhamis in the near future. Feel free to email Jon with any questions or to request a copy of the thesis: jonathan.aarssen@queensu.ca. Jon would like to thank all participants for their contributions to this important work. Congratulations Jon!

Do you have questions?

As always, feel free 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, Mexsis (Tom Happynook), hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), Mercedes Williams, and Heather Johnson.

Huu-ay-aht Education Department Update

Acknowledging our Graduates

Save the date! We will be celebrating our 2020 Huu-ay-aht graduates at a virtual event on **Tuesday, October 13 at 7 p.m.** Graduates and their family and friends are invited to join with traditional and elected Huu-ay-aht leadership and the Huu-ay-aht education department to be acknowledged for their achievements in this past year. RSVP to education@huuayaht.org to ensure that you receive an invitation.

Congratulations 2020 Graduates

Copper Blandin – Early Childhood Educator Certificate – Pacific Rim Early Childhood Institute

Eileen Chester – Indigenous Family Support Certificate – Camosun College

Shakyla Croft – Adult Dogwood Diploma – Eight Avenue Leaning Centre

Alec Frank – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Cole Giroux – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Lee-Anna Gurney – Health Care Assistant Certificate – Camosun College

Dylan Haugen – Electrical Apprenticeship Level 2 – Vancouver Island University

hinatinyis Coté – Indigenous Language Revitalization Diploma – University of Victoria

Jason Jack – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Dion Joe – Professional Cook Apprenticeship Level 1 – North Island College

Honey Johnson – Adult Dogwood Diploma – Nuu-chah-nulth Training and Employment Program

Arianna Johnson-Sabbas – High School Dogwood Diploma – Alberni District Secondary School

Jennifer Joseph – Criminology Diploma – Vancouver Island University

Sean Kosteniuk – Adult Dogwood Diploma – Nuu-chah-nulth Training and Employment Program

Humiis Ethan Little – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Tristan MacDonald – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Belinda Nookemus – Coastal Forest Worker Certificate – North Island College

Michelle Nookemus – Prep Cook Certificate – North Island College

Victoria Nookemus – Nail Technician Diploma – Alter Ego Studio and Cosmetology Institute

---

Scholarships, School Supply allowance and Attendance Recognition: please submit by September 20, 2020

ƛiišin Academic Excellence Award, School Supply Allowance, and Attendance Recognition 2019/2020

ƛiišin Academic Excellence Award is our Honour Roll and is available to students in Grades 5 through 12. This award is presented to all students with a B average or higher.

School Supply Allowance is provided for students entering Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 12.

Student Attendance Recognition is provided for students who have completed Grade 1 or higher (not Kindergarten).

Hišuk ma c̓awak Healthy & Active Award

This award is for Huu-ay-aht students in grades K - 12 who are living healthy and active lives through community connections and extra-curricular activities including sports, clubs, groups and classes

ʔiisaak Community & Culture Award

This award is for Huu-ay-aht students in grades K – 12 who are involved with their community through events and culture

Kiixʔin Chief Louie Award

This award is for Huu-ay-aht students in grades K – 12 who demonstrate and understand "Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind." Applicants will embrace ʔiisaak (utmost respect), Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one and all is connected), ʔuuʔałuk (taking care of), huupiistał (teaching others), have good attendance, and always try their best. Must have the support of a teacher or principal and a Huu-ay-aht ḥaw̓iił (Chief) or elder.

Kathy Nookemus Memorial Award

This award is for Huu-ay-aht students in Grades 1 - 12 who have overcome adversity, try their best at everything, and are a positive role model for other students with personal struggles. Student should have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or attend an alternate school or program.

Application Forms can be found at www.huuayaht.org in the Education and Employment secion or requested from education@huuayaht.org or call 250-723-0100.

Huu-ay-aht see cultural centre partnership as exciting steps in reconciliation journey

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is excited by the announcement of funds that will alow the community to move forward with their cultural centre in their village. The announcement was made July 6 by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the Nation sees it as an exciting and important step toward reconciliation.

July 6, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development, and the Honourable Scott Fraser, Member of Legislative Assembly for Mid Island-Pacific Rim, on behalf of the Honourable Selina Robinson, B.C. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, announced funding for 22 projects on the Island under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan.

Huu-ay-aht's cultural centre was among the recipients. The projects are an investment in community infrastructure by the two levels of government to benefit communities on Vancouver Island. The project is also expected to support economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19.

Huu-ay-aht will build a new culture centre to provide the community with a language training room, a kitchen, dedicated areas for the production and the sale of arts and crafts, multi-purpose rooms, and washrooms. The facility will also have a multi-purpose field with bleachers for soccer and softball, and a presentation stage with stands for outdoor cultural events.

Huu-ay-aht Councillor Charlie Clappis attended the announcement and spoke about the important role this cultural centre will play in the remote community on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"We want to find ways to continue to invest in our community as we work toward bringing our people home," Councillor Clappis said. "We are excited to participate in this partnership, and we look forward to starting this long-awaited project."

He added that there are several components to the project that will help promote cultural wellness in their community. The centre will feature an elders' section that will give opportunity storytelling, which is an important part of Huu-ay-aht's culture. It will also offer recreational opportunities in the upper village with a plan to build playing fields beside the centre.

Under the treaty, Huu-ay-aht also negotiated the return of some significant cultural treasures from the Royal BC Museum and Archives in Victoria. Several of these items were returned in 2016 and are on display in the government office in Anacla. The cultural centre will give these items a permanent home and make room for the return of more treasures.

The Government of Canada is contributing more than $33.2 million, the Government of British Columbia is contributing over $8.7, million and the individual applicants are contributing more than $12.2 million to these projects through the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure Stream (CCRIS), and the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream (RNIS) of the Investing in Canada Plan.

More than $23.2 million of the federal and provincial funding is going to eight projects in Indigenous communities.

Coming up soon

Community Engagements and People's Assembly coming in Fall 2020

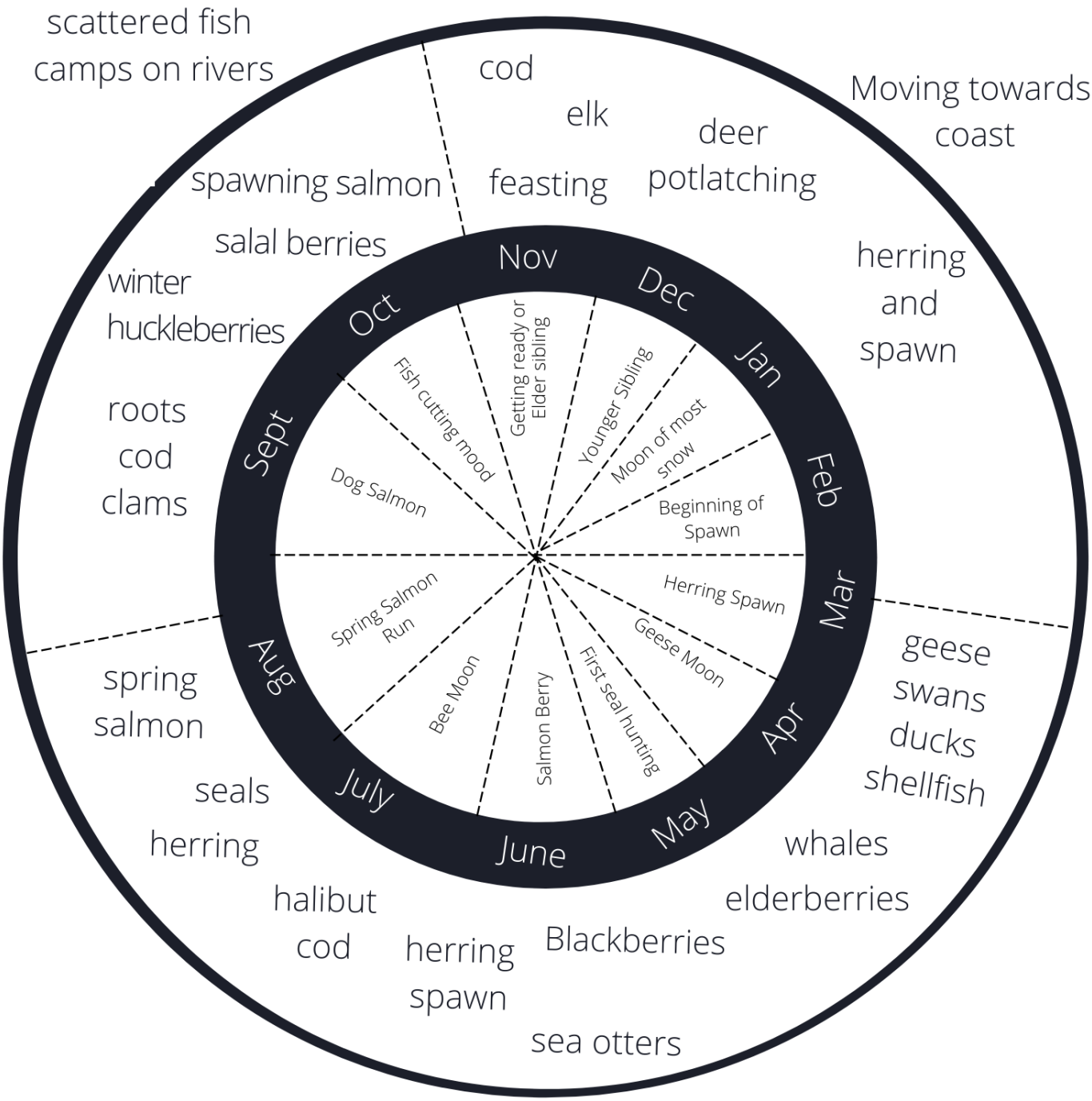
Citizen requested more information on topics at the Special People's Assembly that happened in July 2020.

Upcoming Community Engagements will provide more information for citizens on these topics.

If you would like to book a one-on-one with an Executive Council member, please contact Rachel to set up a meeting at rachel.y@huuayaht.org or call 250-728-3414.

Traditional food harvesting and preperation chart

The Nuu-chah-nulth seasonal round



Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness

Program

During COVID-19 and the changes we are all facing, the Child and Family Wellness Department continues to provide services to Huu-ay-aht Citizens. Although we are not meeting with citizens in person yet, we are available by phone, text, e-mail, Messenger, and Zoom. If you are not already connected, please check out the Child and Family Wellness Facebook page for updated information regarding groups and services. Nicole Malcomson is our receptionist and can be reached at 778-419-1013, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you have a question regarding individual support, groups, treatment, or anything else, Nicole will be happy to connect you with the correct person.

Team

Director of Child and Family Wellness - Shannon Zimmerman
shannon.z@huuayaht.org | 250-720-5797
Team Lead/Protection Support Worker - Christine Pearson
christine.p@huuayaht.org | 250-731-8378
Protection Support Worker - Kerry-Ann Collinge
kerry-ann.c@huuayaht.org | 250-735-6955
Family Support Liaison - Amanda Krupek
amanda.k@huuyaht.org | 250-720-6146
please note: Amanda will be on leave September 8 - mid November. Citizens will be notified of who to contact.
Clinical Counsellor - Rena Johnson
rena.j@huuayaht.org | 250-735-4326
Elder Support Liaison - Simon Dennis
1-604-374-2617

After-Hours Support

Effective immediately, the Child and Family Wellness After-Hours Phone will be available for Child Protection Calls only. If you have a call from an MCFD/Usma or other Child Protection Social Worker between 4 p.m. and 8:30 a.m., please call 250-731-6999 and leave a detailed message and a staff person will return your call as soon as possible.
If you need emotional or crisis support outside of regular office hours, pleases call one of the following numbers:

- Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888 (24 hours/day)
- Crisis Line Association of B.C.: 1-800-784-2433 or 1800-SUICIDE (24 hours/day)
- Mental Health Support Line 310-6789 (no area code needed)

For individuals living outside of B.C., please contact a crisis line in your area.

Please note: The non-child protection messages left on the after-hours phone will be returned during office hours the following day.

If you are interested to attend the Relationships Matter Workshops and would like more information, please contact christine.p@huuayaht.org or call 250-731-8378

Individual Support

If you or someone you know would like someone to talk to, need advocacy and support with Child Protection Services such as MCFD/Usma, would like to learn new coping skills for dealing with challenges you are experiencing or have other needs or need a referral for community resources, help is available. Please contact 778-419-1013 and Nicole can connect you with the right person.

Treatment Inquiries

If you or someone you know would like to talk to someone about substance use and the variety of Treatment options, please contact Rena at rena.j@huuayaht.org, Shannon Zimmerman at Shannon.z@huuayaht.org, or Coral.j@huuayaht.org for more information.

Virtual Groups on Zoom

1. Coffee and Tea with Rena on Wednesday mornings - unavailable until further notice
2. Friends for Life Group (ages 8-13) - unavailable until further notice
3. SMART Recovery Group on Fridays 1 - 2:30 p.m.

For more information about these groups, please contact rena.j@huuayaht.org.

Relationships Matter Workshops
Advice for effectively dealing with children's behaviours due to a trauma – Join Kim Barthel (much-loved speaker and teacher) for a conversation about:

Why Children behave the way they do

Compassion towards our children with special challenges

How do you support our children to be their best selves