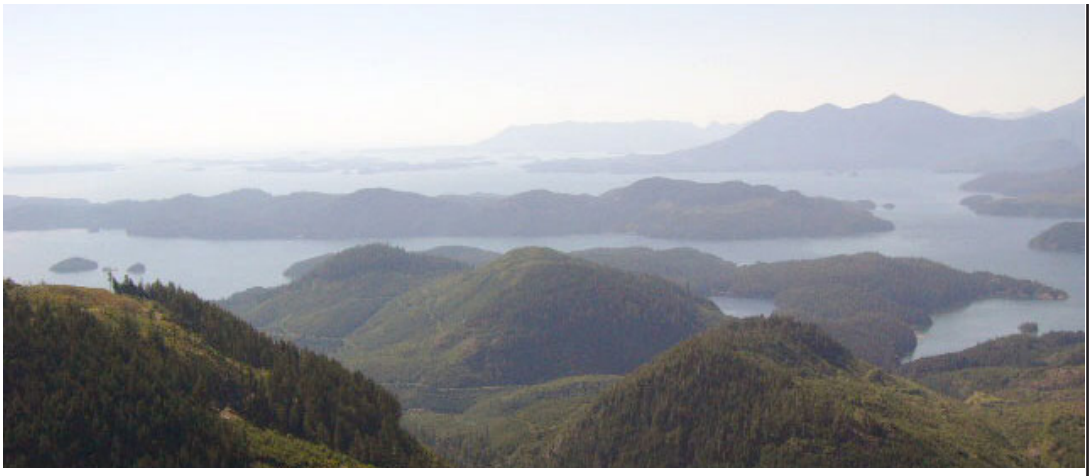
Uyaqḥmis

June 2020 Issue 56



Photo by Stella Peters

PM41913515



One of many photos of the trees, mountains, and ocean in the Huu-ay-aht Ḥahuułi.

Huu-ay-aht and Mosaic Forest Management Corporation commit to further reconciliation

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Mosaic Forest Management Corporation announced today the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding which affirms their commitment to reconciliation, sustainability, and adherence to Huu-ay-aht values on its traditional territory ("Ḥahuułi").

This MOU also solidifies both parties' commitment to a viable forest sector in the Alberni Valley by continuing to seek mutually beneficial economic opportunities.

Building a relationship based on trust, mutual respect, open communication, and fair dealing will help both parties ensure all operations that take place within the Ḥahuułi follow Huu-ay-aht's three sacred principles: hišuk ma ċawak ("everything is one"); ʔuuʔałuk ("taking care of"); and ʔiisaak ("utmost respect").

"We look forward to working with Mosaic to ensure Huu-ay-aht forestry interests and long-term strategic vision for our citizens are achieved across the Ḥahuułi in a manner that respects UNDRIP and Huu-ay-aht values," said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "Signing this MOU will bolster our efforts in protecting our land through watershed renewal and will provide new employment, training and mentorship opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens."

"We strive to build strong relationships with First Nations partners consistent with our deep respect for Indigenous rights and our commitments under the Progressive Aboriginal Relations certification," said Mosaic President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Zweig. "This new agreement further solidifies Mosaic and Huu-ay-aht's commitment to work together to create opportunities for shared benefit."

A working group has been established to ensure efficient, effective, and regular communications to address issues and identify opportunities that both parties can work on together, including: Stewardship and restoration objectives that ensure the land and resources are well managed (through activities such as watershed restoration activities and better tree planting efforts); Support for the prevention, control, and eradication of wildfires and invasive species; Increased education, training, and mentoring opportunities for all parties; and Sub-contracting and employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens. By strengthening their relationship and continuing to work together, Huu-ay-aht and Mosaic will increase the economic viability and sustainability of the forestry sector in the Alberni region for the benefit of all future generations.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma ċawak, 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

ƛiišin takes time to focus on his own well-being, entering a Nanaimo treatment facility

By Heather Thomson

On behalf of Tayii Ḥaẃił ƛiišin (Derek Peters), Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like to announce that our Tayii Ḥaẃił has made the personal decision to enter a treatment facility.

Irene, Olivia, Nora, and the rest of his family said he has made the very courageous decision to spend time focusing on his own wellbeing and taking care of himself. They said ƛiišin has recognized his need to slow down and focus on healing of grief, trauma, and addiction. He realizes he has not made good personal choices over a short period of time.

ƛiišin has expressed his desire to be stronger, most importantly for himself, but also to set a healthy example for his daughter and be closer to his family.

"Olivia and I are very proud of him and will be right here to support him. We are grateful that the Nation has moved so quickly to help," explained Irene. "ƛiišin, you are important to all of us, Olivia and I are very proud of you. You are showing resilience and continue to uphold our teachings and the sacred values."

She added that he lives these values:

ʔuuʔałuk – In his desire to take care of himself,

Hišuk ma c̓awak – That he is willing to share his journey with everyone as we are all connected, we are all one family. We have a strong nation we must walk together with one another, and



ƛiišin (Derek Peters) smiling at Kiix̌in (Photo by Heather Thomson)

ʔiisaak – To love and respect himself and to invest in himself.

"Our family has supported him every step of the way, with open arms and love," she added. "We wanted to let you know from our family that he is in good hands.I can tell you he is sounding well and happy and putting in the work. He is utilizing all resources so he may be supported through his growth."

In an email to Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. last week, ƛiišin shared his wishes to seek addiction treatment at Edgewood Treatment Centre in Nanaimo. He expressed his wishes that his journey be shared with Huu-ay-aht citizens in hopes that others will be inspired by his example. He also asked that his speaker, Wišqii, stand in for him during this time to fulfil his duties with the Nation, as he understands the importance of this role.

Chief Councillor Denni expressed his admiration for the bravery ƛiišin has shown, as often acknowledging you have a substance problem is the hardest step. He said by doing that and entering a treatment program, ƛiišin is showing citizens how important it is to take responsibility, focus on your health, and lead by example. Robert also said he is proud of ƛiišin for taking the extra step to make his decision public. He said this is a difficult journey, but by sharing it with others ƛiišin is also leading the way for more citizens to seek treatment.

"The example he is setting as our head chief will lead to a healthier Nation in the end, I hope others will see what he is doing and decide to follow his lead." the Chief Councilor explained. "As a Nation, we have seen a wave of people going through treatment, and this is for the betterment of the Nation."

Executive Council respects and honours ƛiišin's decision to have Wišqii fulfil the duties and responsibilities of Huu-ay-aht's head chief until the time he feels he is ready to return.

"We are strong leaders, and because of that we can take on the extra work that may come our way as a result of ƛiišin's absence," Robert Dennis said. "We will do this to support him."

If you or someone you know would like to seek treatment, please contact Rena Johnson at Rena.j@huuayaht.org or call 250-735-4326.

COVID-19 : Huu-ay-aht takes immediate action to ensure the safety of citizens, the community, and government staff

By Heather Thomson

A lot has changed in all our lives since March. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in British Columbia, we were all asked to take action to help prevent its spread. During this difficult time, Huu-ay-aht has been doing its part to make sure its staff and citizens remained safe and their concerns are heard and addressed.

The Nation was beside you every step of the way. Almost immediately Huu-ay-aht set up a task force to stay on top of things so that nothing slipped past unaddressed. We knew all of the changes were going to be felt by citizens, and it was important to have the services in place to offer answers and support.

Huu-ay-aht was also one of the first offices to send their staff home to work remotely in order to minimize the spread in both Anacla/Bamfield and Port Alberni. Only essential staff remained behind to make sure calls were answered and the finances were taken care of in a timely fashion. All remaining duties could be handled remotely, including all Executive Council meetings. Huu-ay-aht even conducted its legislature remotely this year to keep people visiting the territory to a minimum during these critical months.

Almost as soon as Canada started offering aid packages, the Huu-ay-aht government came forward with assistance to its citizens. Within a couple of weeks, Huu-ay-aht citizens were receiving their COVaid, which was designed to help with some of the needs that were bound to come up during this difficult time.



Kevin Peters standing at the enterance of Anacla watching over the community to ensure only residents and authorized people can enter. (Photo by Stella Peters)

The team continued to work behind the scenes making sure Huu-ay-aht's citizens were cared for, both at home and across the province. A keen focus was placed on keeping the territory safe given its remote status and vulnerable population. The Nation closed the territory to visitors, placing signage around asking people to stay home and visit when it is safer. Pachena Beach was closed to the public, and many of the Nation's businesses were temporarily closed, including Pachena Bay Campground. Many of them remain closed until it is deemed safe to re-open.

Guardians have been protecting citizens who live in Anacla by monitoring traffic at a barricade at the entrance to the community. Only residents and authorized people can enter. Pachena Beach remains closed to the public, and the Nation is not allowing any overnight camping on its territory.

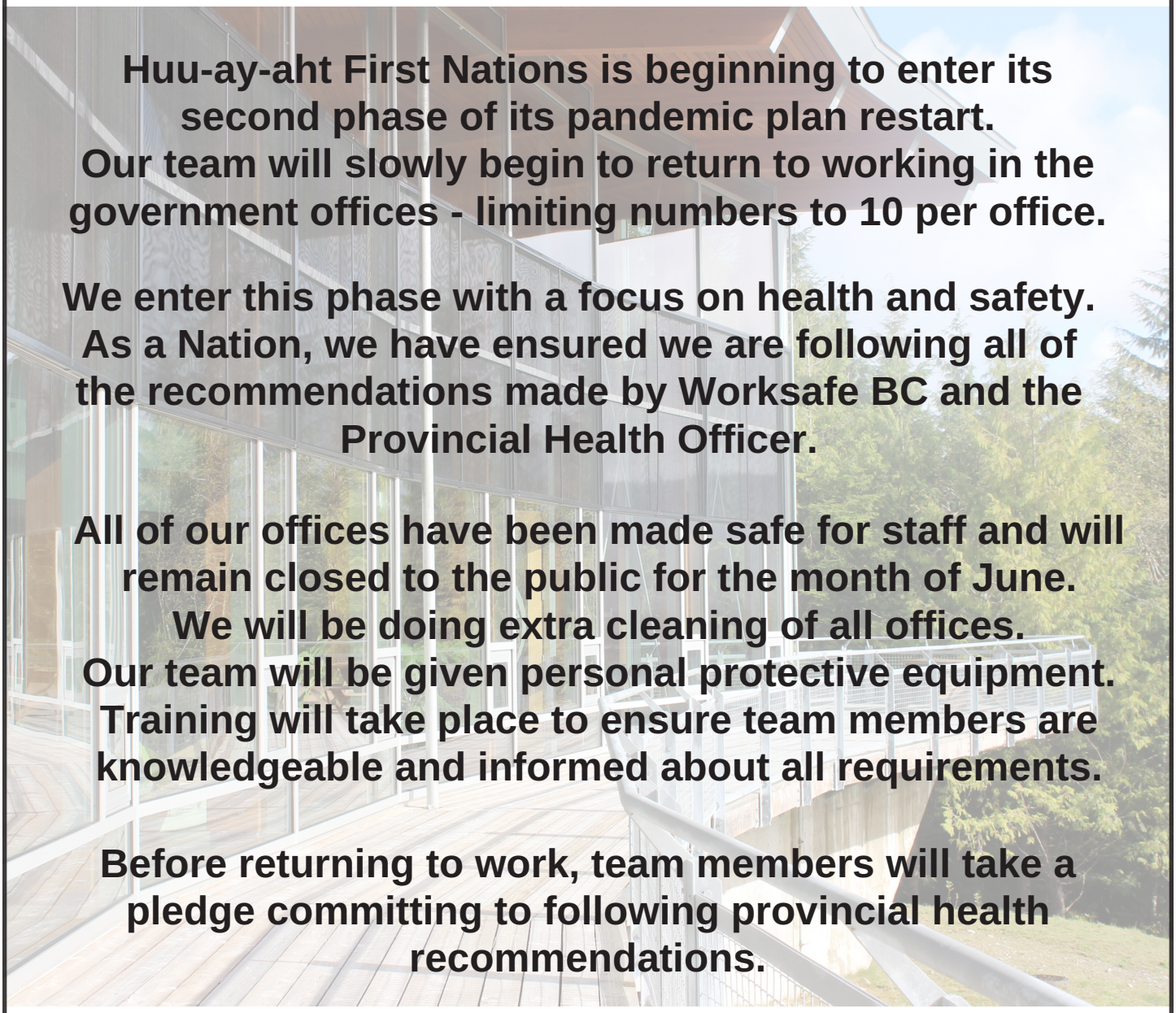
We have been in contact with almost all citizens through our community outreach team. They are making calls weekly calls that gather information on how Huu-ay-aht citizens are doing and will shape the supports and services the Nation offers. These calls have been extremely helpful and well received.

As we move into the second phase of the pandemic and we see the numbers of active cases begin to fall, Huu-ay-aht continues to take measures designed to protect citizens and staff alike. Administration will begin to gradually return to working out of the offices, and business is slowly returning to a new normal. Along the way, the task force continues to make sure every precaution is taken to meet and exceed provincial guidelines.

The task force is also working on a plan to reboot Huu-ay-aht's economy. After raising the concern with the Federal Government, Huu-ay-aht now qualifies for the wage subsidy. This has allowed the Huu-ay-aht Group of businesses to keep staff working. Moving forward, plans will be put in place to get things moving economically so the Nation experiences only a minimal impact.

Please continue to stay safe and take precautions to help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Your health is our priority



Huu-ay-aht First Nations is beginning to enter its second phase of its pandemic plan restart. Our team will slowly begin to return to working in the government offices - limiting numbers to 10 per office.

We enter this phase with a focus on health and safety. As a Nation, we have ensured we are following all of the recommendations made by Worksafe BC and the Provincial Health Officer.

All of our offices have been made safe for staff and will remain closed to the public for the month of June. We will be doing extra cleaning of all offices. Our team will be given personal protective equipment. Training will take place to ensure team members are knowledgeable and informed about all requirements.

Before returning to work, team members will take a pledge committing to following provincial health recommendations.

If you have any concerns, please email communications@huuayaht.org or call 250-723-0100.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



We are stronger together

By Emchayiik, Elected Chief Councillor Robert Dennis Sr.

We have overcome many challenges since I was a boy growing up at Khuswiis and Cap?is (Dodger's Cove). We have seized opportunities and succeeded, guided by our three sacred principles: ʔuuʔałuk (taking care of), Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one) and ʔiisaak (utmost respect). We are strong and we work as a team.

In the past three months, I have been so proud of the way in which our citizens, our elected and hereditary leadership, our government administration and our businesses have worked as a team to do whatever it takes to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. ƛeko ƛeko.

Like COVID-19, overcoming the legacy of colonization and residential schools requires the courage to tackle issues that others shy away from - to take risk. Treaty is a good example - today, 20 years after Huu-ay-aht citizens directed us to seek Treaty, and nine years after Treaty came into force, Huu-ay-aht citizens now enjoy more benefits and more opportunity in areas such as elders' benefits, education and training, language and culture, and health and social services (just to name a few) than almost any other First Nation in British Columbia.

However, our work is not yet complete. Further steps are required to regain control over the rest of our ḥahuułi, to ensure that every Huu-ay-aht citizen has access to well-paid, family supporting training and jobs, and to provide quality housing. We also need to do so in a way that respects our lands and waters – putting back what we take out.

As the late Chief Spencer Peters said,"we need to do it one step at a time."

And the next step is now before us.

Focusing on Huu-ay-aht's strength in forestry, in March of this year, our special investment body, Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership, entered into an agreement to become a 51% majority owner of Tree Farm License 44 (TFL 44) and a 7% minority owner in the Alberni Pacific Division (APD) sawmill in Port Alberni.

While this business opportunity will be a win for everyone in the Alberni region, including working families and other First Nations, most importantly it will be a win for Huu-ay-aht by:

1. Returning effective control to Huu-ay-aht of an additional 60% of our ḥahuułi. This puts us in the driver's seat for decisions affecting a total of 91% of our lands. For example, we will decide how to balance old growth protection and jobs, instead of having that decision made for us.

2. Giving us the training, contracting, and employment tools to create a further 50+ full time, well paid forestry-sector jobs with the support and participation of the USW and TFL 44 contractors. This is in addition to the 12 forestry jobs in planning logging, silviculture and administration, now held by Huu-ay-aht.

3. Generating millions of dollars per year in revenues to fund Huu-ay-aht citizen priorities including new citizen programs, new housing, and watershed restoration once project financing costs are repaid.

4. Ensuring that forestry operations across the ḥahuułi meet or beat provincial and Huu-ay-aht forestry standards, with rigorous Huu-ay-aht monitoring. For example, taking steps to ensure we plant more trees than anyone else and have the stream buffers we decide are needed to truly protect our fisheries.

Later this year, we will hold a People's Assembly so that Huu-ay-aht citizens have the final say on whether or not to proceed with seizing this business opportunity – becoming 51% majority owner of TFL 44 and a 7% minority owner in the APD mill in Port Alberni. As your Chief Councillor, I am committed to ensuring you have all of the information you need and that all of your questions are answered.

This business opportunity is not without risk. As your Chief Councillor with more than 30 years of time spent on Council, I have witnessed Huu-ay-aht successfully take advantage of opportunities that are just as big and that also involve risk.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take the next step toward reconciliation – toward putting the legacy of colonization and residential schools behind us once and for all – toward building a thriving Huu-ay-aht economy on our ḥahuułi– toward bringing Huu-ay-aht children and families home.

As in the past, we are stronger together. Let's work together to seize this opportunity.

Notice of date for by-election 2020

Notice is hereby provided that the date for the by-election is set for:

Saturday September 26, 2020.

The Election Act in s.19(c)provides the Election Commissioner with extraordinary powers to make an order or decision considered appropriate to achieve the purposes of the act in special circumstances.The Executive Council originally set June 6 as the date for the by-election. However, it quickly became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic created special circumstances that made it impossible for the by-election to be held on that date without endangering the health and safety of Huu-ay-aht citizens. Therefore, a decision was made by the Election Commissioner to delay the election until the fall. However, it was not possible at that time to set an exact date since it was not clear what might happen with the pandemic.

The Government of BC and the Medical Health Officer have given some guidance about the lifting of some restrictions and it appears that it should be possible to hold the by-election on September 26, 2020. If there is a resurgence in the pandemic and if there are further restrictions from the government, it may be necessary to revisit this decision. For the moment however, it looks like the by-election will be able to proceed on that date.

There will be other decisions and orders that will be made due to the pandemic and further information will be provided before the election period begins at the end of July. These include:

• Changes to the nomination process to reduce person to person contacts

• The use of video conferencing for all candidates'meetings to reduce the size of in-person gatherings, and

• The implementation of electronic voting, including Internet and telephone voting

All of these decisions are made by the Election Commissioner under s. 19(c) to protect the health and safety of Huu-ay-aht citizens while still achieving the purposes of the Election Act.

Kit Spence
Election Commissioner
Huu-ay-aht First Nations

MP Gord Johns commits to helping on housing efforts

Huu-ay-aht leadership met with MP Gord Johns this spring to discuss the Nations plans when it comes to housing in its territory.

The meeting was in part an opportunity to reconnect with the Member of Parliament since his re-election in the fall, but also to chance to update him on the progress Huu-ay-aht is making in housing. Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. updated Johns on the work of the Housing Panel. Johns received a copy of the final report of the Housing Panel prior to the meeting, so he was familiar with how much work has recently gone into planning the future of Huu-ay-aht housing.

Chief Dennis explained that Huu-ay-aht is looking at ways to implement the 14 recommendations made by the Housing Panel. He also expressed his hope that Johns would help them make the right contacts to expediate their efforts to receive support and funding from the Federal Government.

Johns gave the Nation his word that he would connect them with the people who hold portfolios relevant to housing and infrastructure. He said the fact that Huu-ay-aht is contributing a significant amount of money will be well received in Ottawa. He said it shows Huu-ay-aht is willing to make a significant investment, and it should make them more successful in obtaining funds from other levels of government. He offered a few tips on who to talk to and where to look for funding, as well.

"You're the best at presenting information, and I am always happy to advocate for Huu-ay-aht First Nations," Johns said. "I can make sure you are talking to the right people and we just have to use the tools we have in Ottawa to move this forward."



Houses at the Upper Anacla Subdivision. (photo by Stella Peters)

He added that Huu-ay-aht is already known in Ottawa as a Nation who leads the way and gets things done, due in part to the Nation's success with the Social Services Panel recommendations.

The meeting wrapped up with a brief update on the work Johns has been doing in fisheries and an update on the Bamfield Road.

Get to know Huu-ay-aht government staff

Amanda-Lee Cunningham is the Communications Assistant. Amanda-Lee assists the Communication Manager with any task brought to the department, ensuring information is communicated in a timely appropriate manner, through all aspects of the Nation. This can be through social media, mailout, website, or at a community engagement. Ways she helps get information communicated is by creating infographics for Huu-ay-aht social media platforms, posting on the Huu-ay-aht website, creating the bi-monthly Uyaqḥmis newsletter, and going on the road to the five major cities for community engagements.



Amanda-Lee Cunningham

Amanda-Lee joined Huu-ay-aht July 2018, with minimal office work experience. Starting off as a summer position, she learned so much and enjoyed the work, that she applied for the full-time position. Here we are, three years later, she says she loves that she is learning new things all the time and has gained new skills and experiences.

On her off time, Amanda-Lee enjoys going to the gym to workout, going on roadtrips with her friends, shopping, visiting with her family and friends as much as as possible, camping, taking her cat Brucie for walks, and doing makeup.

A fun fact about Amanda-Lee is, out of highschool she went to Blanche Macdonald and took the Global Makeup Artistry Program. From there she worked in downtown Vancouver for the Beauty Boutique, Shoppers Drug Mart. She now has a freelance makeup artist business, Makeup by Amanda-Lee. Oh! and she is a little obsessed with Starbucks, but honestly, who isn't?! Her favorite drink to order is the Iced Caramel Macchiato with sugar-free vanilla, half ice.

Heather Thomson is the Communications Manager. Heather is responsible for overseeing all communications for the Nation. This includes keeping the lines of communication open between the elected leaders, hereditary leadership, administration, the Group of Businesses, Huu-ay-aht citizens and the general public. We do this by sharing information on a regular basis through our newsletter, community engagement sessions, our website and social media, and in person. It is all about building relationships and ensuring information is flowing smoothly.



Heather Thomson

Heather really enjoys interacting with people and sharing stories. That starts with having a good relationship with her co-workers, citizens, and Huu-ay-aht leaders. From there you find the stories that make people around you special and the Nation unique. Heather loves helping people and hearing their stories too because she believes it is extremely important to be a good listener. All of life lessons could be learned by listening, but instead most of us learn the hard way. At heart she is a storyteller.

On her spare time, she loves being out in nature and exploring. She does a lot of this with her wiener dog Quincy begrudgingly tagging along. His favourite hobby is sleeping! She loves to dragon boat and be on the water, and also likes to take photos, read, and write. Heather has dabbled in watercolour painting, but only her family loves her enough to have them hanging on their walls.

A fun fact about Heather is she has called three countries home, lived in four different Canadian provinces, and lived in seven different communities in B.C. She also thinks she is pretty hilarious, but not everyone agrees.

HGB success stories: Sarah Johnson

The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB) is pleased to welcome Sarah Johnson back to the team. Sarah has worked for HGB since its creation and her skillset has proven to be an important asset to the organization.

Sarah's career with HGB started in 2012 when Stan Coleman approached her offering a contract position helping with administration work. Sarah eventually moved on from that job and transitioned into a new role of executive assistant. At the time, Sarah was a mother of two, and the role of executive assistant allowed her to work part time while maintaining a good work-life balance for her family. Now, as she returns to HGB, Sarah is excited. She has always had an interest in business and enjoys the flexibility it provides her as a mother of four.

Sarah grew up in Port Alberni and prior to working for HGB had only visited Pachena Bay a few times. After the birth of her first child in 2005, Sarah moved to Anacla to be closer to her family. She has lived in Pachena Bay ever since. Working for HGB in Bamfield and Anacla allowed Sarah to work full time in the quiet, beautiful area.

After working with the organization for nearly a decade, Sarah says the best part of working at HGB is the team. "We are a good core team. Everyone is willing to help each other out when needed, and you get to work in a great location too."



Sarah Johnson, new Manager of Human Resources for HGB, sitting by Stamp River.

Sarah has now returned to HGB on a part-time basis as the Manager of Human Resources. She is most excited to watch how her new role will play into the development and growth of employees of HGB. Sarah's new position allows her to identify and facilitate the necessary training and support for employees from HGB to reach their respective career goals. In doing so, Sarah will help HGB achieve its strategic goals by creating an environment that employs Huu-ay-aht citizens and allows staff to grow and build skills.

Looking to the future and having career development will allow citizens the opportunity to have sustainable careers while generating economic activity for the Nation.

Ultimately, Sarah believes HGB plays a pivotal role in creating jobs that will bring citizens home. "Citizens have the history and the background of where we come from and ultimately where we are going," she explains.

It's a top priority for HGB to create jobs and provide career development for citizens. With the help of Sarah's role, HGB is working to achieve those goals.

HGB is excited to have Sarah's knowledge, passion, and skills back. Sarah's role is an integral link between the resources available to HGB with the employees who would benefit from them. Welcome back Sarah, HGB looks forward to having your talents back in the daily operations of the organization.

We want to hear from you!

The Social Services Panel would like your input. Please take a moment to fill out this survey. It will give us information that will help the Community Services and Child and Family Wellness teams better meet the needs of the citizens in the future.
You can find the link at www.huuayaht.org under Socials Services Project.

Once you have completed the survey, contact nicole.m@huuayaht.org and she will enter you into a draw to win $100 cash! (a draw is done every 50 surveys completed by citizens).

Huu-ay-aht perspectives on modern Treaty implementation research project

Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (our journey, our story)

Research Revving Up

Our new research project is beginning to get underway. We have met with the Executive Council, the Ḥawiiḥ Council, and the Research Advisory Committee in the fall of 2019 to seek guidance before collecting data. The Executive Council reminds us that under the Maa-nulth Treaty, Huu-ay-aht First Nations has certain abilities to change what is not working for the Nation. With this in mind, our priority areas will include: 1) Land, culture, and heritage; finances under treaty; self-government; and Huu-ay-aht social wellbeing 2) Huu-ay-aht citizens perspectives on what is going well and what needs to be improved under treaty; 3) how Nation-level benefits translate into individual-level benefits; and 4) the relationship Huu-ay-aht First Nations has with treaty partners (e.g., Canada and B.C. governments) and how these relationships can be improved.

Sharing at a National Forum

Ḥinatinyis, Crystal Jack, and Heather Castleden met up at the Making Modern Treaties Work Conference hosted by the Land Claims Agreement Coalition in February 2020 in Ottawa-Hull. We did a panel presentation on Intergovernmental Relations and Self-Government. Ḥinatinyis and Crystal spoke to their experiences with treaty implementation and took questions from the audience, while Heather focused on sharing research findings from one of our co-authored research papers, “This is Going to Affect Our Lives: Exploring Huu-ay-aht First Nations, the Government of Canada and British Columbia’s New Relationship Through the Implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty”.



Heather, Crystal, and Ḥinatinyis at the ‘Making Modern Treaties Work’ Conference in Gatineau, Quebec, February 11, 2020. (Photo by Marc Calabretta)

Guest Lecturing at Queen’s University

After the conference, Ḥinatinyis came back to Queen’s University to join Heather as a guest speaker in her “Geographies of Reconciliation” class, where they were joined by Te howis kwûnt (Al Doxtator), an Indigenous Elder from Oneida First Nation of the Thames and Cultural Advisor at Queen’s University. The class was thrilled to have Ḥinatinyis join them in their conversations. She was a fantastic educator about the Maa-nulth Treaty!

Summer Plans

With COVID-19 upon us, summer planning is in flux. In the coming months, we hope to begin survey work with Huu-ay-aht citizens to discuss how treaty is working for you. These surveys intend to provide a snapshot of how treaty impacts citizens daily lives, what has changed from citizens perspectives since treaty came into play, and to shine a light on where things can be improved. Stay tuned to Huu-ay-aht First Nations’ social media and website for updates on the survey and other research related activities!

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), Ḥinatinyis (Brittany Coté), Mercedes Williams, and Heather Johnson.

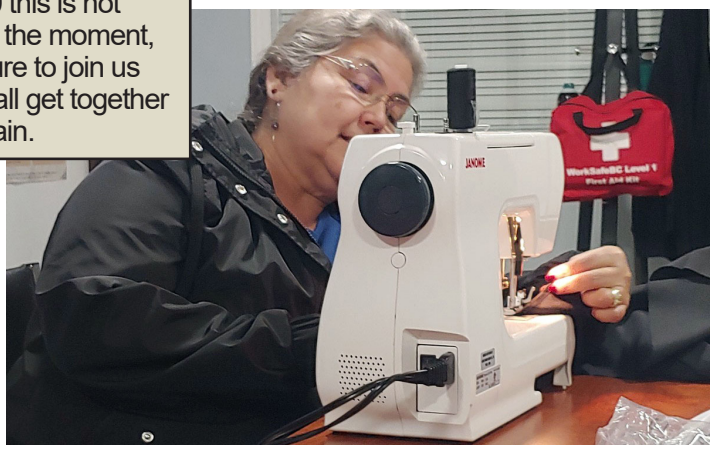
Ladies night and cultural craft night





Ladies and Cultural Craft Nights alternate between Port Alberni and Anacla each week. Due to COVID-19 this is not happening at the moment, but make sure to join us when we can all get together again.





Huu-ay-aht asks drivers to use extra caution on the Bamfield road

A recent serious accident on the Bamfield Main road offers a reminder to drivers that dust on logging roads during summer months create a serious safety concern. Huu-ay-aht First Nations wants to caution motorists to drive carefully if they head to Bamfield this summer.

"Stan Coleman, a Registered Professional Forester and Huu-ay-aht's Forest Consultant, is an experienced driver and has travelled the Bamfield road most of his career, and yet last week he hit a logging truck that was invisible to him in the dusty roads. Luckily, he was fine, but he totaled his vehicle," explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "Since the Bamfield road opened in the 70s, Huu-ay-aht has lost eight citizens on this road and witnessed countless accidents, many related to dust obscuring visibility."

It has been nine months since the tragic University of Victoria bus accident claimed two lives along the 85-kilometre stretch of logging road, and Huu-ay-aht continues to push the B.C. government to get the road upgraded. The Nation is calling for chipsealing to reduce dust and other safety improvements. In April of 2019, Premier John Horgan travelled the road to meet with Huu-ay-aht leadership and committed to safety upgrades.

Last week, in a meeting with Huu-ay-aht, Mid Island-Pacific Rim MLA and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser promised to continue to push for the necessary approvals to move the Bamfield Road improvement project forward. Until that time, Huu-ay-aht encourages people to drive cautiously and to respect road conditions.



Photo of the vehicle at the incident. (Photo by Stan Coleman)

Huu-ay-aht has committed $5 million to the Bamfield road improvement project and needs an additional $25.7 million to complete it.

For the full Release, please visit www.huuayaht.org.

Child and Family Wellness

The Sacred Principle of Hišuk ma c̓awak teaches that Everything is One and it reminds us that as people, we are interconnected and interdependent on one another. Although COVID-19 has thrown us all into unprecedented times of social isolation, our need for connections with one another remain the same. We need one another.

Health authorities have directed us to stay home and when we absolutely need to go out, to practise social distancing.These unusual times can leave people feeling disconnected, sad, and lonely, and more than ever, we need one another. Here are some ideas for maintaining connections with others…

- Call family members and friends who live alone to check-in, share conversation, sing, drum, and pray with them
- Reach out to others (call/text/Messenger/Zoom video conferencing
- Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other special times virtually
- Check out online games you can play with others
- Play a board game
- Make crafts or bake with the kids
- If you are going to the grocery store, ask on Facebook/call a family member or friend and ask if you can pick up and drop groceries off for people
- Share a bedtime story with a child on the phone or video chat
- Have children send cards or notes to friends and family (include a self-addressed stamped envelop for a return one)
- Send a free e-card (google free E-Cards – lots to choose from.)
- Drive by a loved one's homes and wave, shout "I love you!" or show posters that say, "I love you!"
- Have a virtual dinner with loved ones – put your phone on speakerphone, use FaceTime or Zoom and share a meal
- Record singing or stories (or both) and send to a child
- Go Live on Facebook and share drumming, singing, and encouragement
- Follow the Child and Family Wellness Team and Staff on Facebook for wellness tips and support

How to set up Zoom for video conferencing

Visit this link: https://www.howtogeek.com/661924/how-to-set-up-a-zoom-meeting

If you don't already have a Support Worker or want to connect with someone, please call Shannon at 250-720-5797
Monday to Friday
8:30 am -4:00 pm to be connected to a support person

After-Hours Phone (250-731-6999) is also available 7 days per week from 4:00 pm – 8:30 am for Child Protection or Mental Health emergencies

The Child and Family Wellness Team wants YOU to know that although we are working remotely, we are still providing support. If you want to talk or would like support to cope with challenging emotions and other issues during this time please contact someone from the team.

Connect with Support Workers

via Facebook, cell, text, email, or messenger

Shannon Zimmerman - Director of Child and Family Wellness: 250-720-5797
Christine Pearson - Protection Support Worker: 250-731-8378
Kerry-Ann Collinge - Protection Support Worker:250-735-6955
Christy Black - Family Support Liaison: 250-735-7457
Amanda Krupek - Family Support Liaison: 250-720-6146
Rena Johnson - Clinical Counsellor: 250-735-4326
Harry Brossault - Family Ties and Preservation worker
Margaret Eaton - Spiritual Advisor: 250-731-5605
Simon Dennis - Elder Support: 1-604-374-2617

Child and Family Wellness Office, #1 - 4641 Margaret St., Port Alberni, BC, V9Y6H1, phone: 778-419-1013