huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

# Executive Council Report
# April 2023

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

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**April 2023**

**Chief Councillor Report**

| **Responsibilities** | |
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| 1) Representing government in relations with other governments. | • PG priority is to get 25 Letters signed so that we can tell BC and Canada we have 25 First Nations signed up who are willing to explore the potential PG. We continue to update BC on PG.<br>• BC is pleased to hear that we have 22 First Nation signed to date.<br>• On April 18, I Flew to Ottawa for April 19 meeting with Glen Hargrove ADM Natural Resource Canada in the morning and Minister Mark Miller at 1-1:45 pm to give briefing on PG.<br>• Meetings were well received and Minister Miller's office committed to how they were going to deal with Project Green. We left with three asks. $300,000 interim capacity funding, $7.4 M Capacity Funding and the potential Equity contribution from Canada for PG.<br>• I have scheduled a May 3 meeting with Deputy Minister Rick Manwaring, to review;<br>a) our proposal regarding Disposition Agreement to address an interim solution to the stumpage issue.<br>b) further discussion regarding uncut.<br>c) Extending the cut-control period for HFN FNWL. |
| 2) Representing government in relations with other indigenous organizations. | • Over the month of April, Rob and I continued to meet First Nations that were interested in exploring PG. To date we have 22 signed Letters of Interest. We plan to have 25 by May 15. April was a very busy month getting 22 First Nations to sign Letters of Interest regarding PG. |
| 3) Developing and maintaining effective systems of communication with Huuayaht citizens and other governments. | • We continue to use Uyaqhmis and HaShilthsa and Anacla News as our communication tools to maintaining effective systems of communication with Huuayaht citizens and other governments.<br>• When required, I continue to meet with Huu-ay-aht citizens. |
| 4) Protecting and enhancing Huuayaht aboriginal and treaty rights. | • Through the efforts of Councilor Brad Johnson, we continue to work with the other four Maa-nulth First Nations to amend the Taxation section that will enable Indian Act Section 87 to be re-instated. This work is in |

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| | progress. MFN agreed to the proposed Amendment. BC will consider in early May. Canada will follow. Once all three parties have agreed, then the amendment will be finalized enabling tax exemption status. Soon, we'll be able to fill our tax tanks with the tax exemption. |
| 5) Ensuring adherence to, and enforcement of,<br>The constitution, Huuayaht legislation, Huuayaht policies | • This is an on-going process, I have to admit, that the Acting Executive Director and I have not given this as much attention as the former Executive Director and I did. |
| 6) Promoting and maintaining a sound Huuayaht economy. | • Forestry remains our Bread and Butter, but since BC introduced its stumpage forestry policy we have not been able to viably harvest timber. However, we continue work on the Development Capital Raise Project as a means to raise capital that will enable us to invest in a diversified economy promoting tourism development in Huuayaht territory. We will continue to work with HFN SMT to ensure that HN EC and SMT are aligned on the proposed economic strategy. The strategy is simple. HFN needs to invest development dollars to ensure a diversified economy. We must reduce our reliance on resource development. And promote HFN Cultural Tourism. |
| 7) Promoting Huuayaht values, culture, traditions, and language. | • We now have a mechanism to promote Huuayaht values culture, traditions, and language. The Gottfriedson Class Action Lawsuit and subsequent notice of settlement enables us to take advantage of an incredible funding opportunity to promote Huuayaht values, culture, traditions and language. The settlement agreement enables Huuayaht to apply the 4 Pillars spelled out in the settlement agreement. I urge our SMT and EC to make this a top priority to pursue and finalize funding agreements under this. |
| 8) Ensuring proper management and administration of government. | • I look forward to a better working relationship between Senior Management Staff and Executive Council. In doing so we must remember and apply our governance structure. Huu-ay-aht Executive Council is the governing structure that develops proper management and administration of government. The HFN Executive Director carries out the direction of the Executive Council and Senior Management Staff are accountable to the Executive Director. |

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| | Understanding and applying that structure in our daily practices will assist us to be aligned in each of our duties and responsibilities. |
| 9) Preparing for and participating in the Legislation, Executive Council and People's Assembly; | • Right now, we are in election mode. Before the election we will finalize legislation related to Children and Family.<br>• After the election the new government can focus on the People's Assembly, and hopefully, they will give serious consideration to holding the 2023 PA at the House of Huu-ay-aht. |
| 10) Establishing the duties of a Councillor, including<br>i. Establishing or dissolving portfolios, and<br>ii. Assigning portfolios to r removing portfolios from Councilors | • Effective May 13 each of our portfolio duties and responsibilities will end unless approved by Executive Council. |

**Emerging issues;**

1. **Approve a decision that will enable Robert to address C'aawakqin related issues.**
2. **Approve a decision that will enable Duane to participate in fishery negotiations.**

**April 2023**

**Elected Councillor Brad Johnson Report**

**Portfolios**
Capital Infrastructure
Treaty Implementation
Parks Canada Cooperative Management Board
Employment and Training.

**Capital Infrastructure:**

**Bamfield Road Update**

- The work is almost complete on the Bamfield mainline. Crews are laying gravel between 17km-24km to complete Contract 1. The work has been going well with the improvement in the weather. The projected timeline for Hazelwood to complete laying gravel is the second week of May.
- BC Hydro is ready to start moving some power poles and guidelines that are too close to the road back to a safe distance. This work has been slowed up due to the weather.
- The crushing of the mineral aggregate for the chip seal is going well in Blenheim pit. The projected timeline for all the mineral aggregate to be crushed is 2 months.
- We have got word that our submission to the province regarding funding is going to the Treasury Board soon. As this road project has been a partnership between Huu-ay-aht and the Province, the nation will be expected to contribute more money towards the project for completion this year. We currently have a contractor waiting on standby if the funding goes through.

**Other**

- The final drawings of the culture center have been approved by Council.
- There is one citizen who plans to build their own home in the new subdivision on lot 16.

**Treaty Implementation:**

**The Treaty Amendments to sec 87 of the Maa-Nulth Treaty for tax exemption extension.**

- All 5 nations have passed the amendment through their legislations. Once all the nations give consent, they will need to send the certified copy of the motion to legal for next steps. I was advised by legal they will be pushing to finalize this amendment with Canada as soon as possible as we had directed them to do so at the Maa-nulth Board of Directors meeting.

**Alliance**

- The Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations has been working on a Forestry Revenue Sharing document with BC. In order for true reconciliation to happen we must be considered as an equal partner when we signed as Treaty, that is the truest form of reconciliation. This must be looked at through a First Nations lens and not just looking for the value. We will be looking at the shared priority framework to help get us there.

The timelines for this new forestry revenue sharing to take place is once it passes treasury board in the late fall it can be implemented in spring of 2024.

**Maa-nulth Joint Fisheries Committee**

- With the Federal Government on strike, our meetings have been affected and have been put on hold. Not all DFO is on strike but the co-chair from the South Coast regional department is. Hopefully this strike is settled sooner rather than later.

**Parks Canada Cooperative Management Board (CMB)**

- We held our CMB meeting on April 6th 2023. Our Guardian contribution agreement was agreed on and we asked to have them start a month earlier this year and this request was approved by Parks Canada. The West Coast Trail opens May 1st so we wanted to give our guardians enough time to properly assess the trail and clear the windfalls. With an early start, we were able to gain an assessment contract through Parks Canada that gave us the opportunity to do this work.
- Parks Canada suggested a marine feasibility study for a National Marine Conservation Area. They have been pushing fairly hard for all Nuu-chah-nulth nations to undergo this study. I had advised Parks that we are aware of this NMCA but also don't want to hinder or close off areas for our nation that may affect citizens to harvest in certain areas. As a Modern Treaty Nation, we are already at the table with DFO and are well aware of Marine Protected Areas, National Marine Conservation Areas and closed areas from the Southern Resident Killer whale that all lay within our Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing areas. Conservation is a good thing but when you overlap all these areas, our harvesting areas shrink. We will set up a future meeting with Hillary Thorp of Parks Canada to discuss next steps.
- On April 19th I attended an in-person meeting with the 3 nations of the West Coast Trail and Parks Canada in Port Renfrew. We discussed the state of the park project and finalized information for the document. We were broken into 3 groups and held discussions on what's working and what's not working with the Nations and Parks Canada. What was identified mainly by all 3 nations was funding. We all would like to see more funding for our Guardian Programs and have it in block funding, so we don't have to sign 10 smaller contracts per year to create the amount of money needed for this program. The cost of living has gone up, but the wage hasn't over the years. With the high turnover rate of guardians and Parks Canada, it was discussed that better communication would be nice to see but at the end of the day we all felt Parks Canada was very accommodating to all nations.
- The level of respect Parks Canada has for nations is greatly appreciated. It was discussed that the benefit of Parks Canada and our Cooperative Management Boards is that they facilitate well, and they act as a bridge between all nations.
- The Wild About Wolves project has been completed and the video was posted on the Nation's website. This is a must watch video that was funded through Parks Canada. The final product turned out amazing. Overall, I will continue to maintain or improve our working relationship with Parks Canada as they are a great partner.

**Employment and Training**

- I attended a Cawak?qin Board meeting on April 4th 2023 in Nanaimo. It was great to be invited to this meeting. There is new leadership at the USW. Jason Cox is making change in a good positive way. What everyone would like to see is a change in culture of having zero grievances and the view of Indigenous people in the work force. The USW now has one union list and are working at identifying jobs for our citizens. There are 120 people on Navalin's union list. Marine and I both advocated for not just entry level positions as we have many citizens who have a lot of experience and could do various jobs with the experience they have. It was discussed throughout the meeting that Indigenous led stewardship is the future in forestry.

**Duties and tasks outside of my Portfolio**

Personal Committee - Interviewed candidates for Executive Director. Interviews went well and a successful candidate was chosen.

DCR - Various meetings this month about funding sources for 2 specific projects.

This has been another busy month for me. I feel I was very productive in all the tasks I took on. I am pleased to represent our Nation as a member of the Executive Council. This will be the last report before we go into pens down on May 12 for the 2023 election.

**April 2023**

**Councillor ƛicitaṯ Edward R. Johnson**

**Areas of Responsibility:**
Citizen Development Committee
Citizenship Committee
Culture and Language

**Citizen Development Committee**

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- **Attended FNHA Health & Wellness Summit** - Supporting Safe Social Detox in Community. Supporting someone to safely detox from substances involves many considerations including getting assessed by a health care provider to ensure the right supports are in place for a safe and supported journey. This session was about helping individuals to understand ways to assess potential safety and concerns around home/community withdrawal, detailing symptoms of the withdrawal process and highlighting when and where to get help if needed. Colleen Salter, Director, Clinical Mental Health Services, First Nations Health Authority.
  Integrating Traditional Wellness into Primary Care - Traditional wellness is central to the goal of improving and transforming First Nations health in BC. In this session, we heard from speakers doing the important work of weaving traditional wellness into primary care services and supports. Colleen Enns, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Division of Family Practice MaryLou McKay, Elder, Pacific Northwest Division of Family Practice Angela George, Clinic Manager, Sts'ailes First Nations Primary Health Care Centre.
- Met with School District 70 to talk about their five-year strategic planning – they were seeking community input and had met with the community the evening prior. This was a very productive meeting and was a great opportunity to share our vision on what the next five years will look like. I'm looking forward to seeing the first draft. Link for survey is attached - https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=k2ibQtaduUaSZbrrAfTJLvbQOCpo-SNJvIQO51rXJLJUNEk2Sk5YTDRSNDlLVjNGUE5IWkozU1hCQi4u&wdLOR=c0EF7731A-25EB-403C-96A6-5193BB956DE7
- Attended Thrive Together Family Life Workshop.
- Attended Men's Health Gathering – This was a great gathering where we were able to spend time with men doing men's stuff and talking about the things that we would not normally talk about through interactions and activities such as archery, throwing knives and axes, making BBQ steaks and art. This was a great two days of just being men and spending time with one another being vulnerable.
- Participated in the NCN data collection event COVID-19 Vaccine Project – link attached - https://www.nuuchahnulthhealthresearch.org/
- Participated in Virtual Discussion Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan.
- Had our 1st Huu-ay-aht Coordination Agreement discussion meeting for 2023. It was good to get back to the table with BC and Canada.
- Chaired Nananiiqsu meeting - next meeting scheduled for June 28th.
- Trying to connect with FNHA regarding peer support worker funding.

- We received an invitation for a “Welcoming Ceremony” for the NCN Nations that have had their children transferred from MCFD in Nanaimo over to the care of Kw’umut Lelum - May 15th Snuneymuxw Longhouse in Cadar. This invite has been long-awaited to celebrate with the delegated agency Kw’umut Lelum. This welcoming ceremony will take place during pens down.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

**Citizenship Committee**

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Chaired successful citizenship committee meeting April 6th.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

**Culture and Language**

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended a cultural event, a “Coming of Age” Party, for one of our young citizens in Gold River. A lot of preparation was done for this celebration. There were a lot of songs and storytelling of connections. It was a joy to witness and to share a story on how we are all connected. We are all one root - all throughout NCN and Huuayaht.
- I wrote a support letter for a citizen regarding Jordan 's Principle and found out this month that the funding was approved. I was happy to be able to write a support letter for this young citizen who, because of these funds, will now be able to participate in cultural events.
- Worked with the local First Nations TFN and HFN from the Alberni Valley to cleanse the grounds where the Oomiiqsu mother center is going to be built. This was a wonderful day to work with Tseshaht and Hupacasath. See attached link for more info: https://huuayaht.org/2023/04/oomiiqsu-mother-centre-cleansing-ceremony/
- Wild About Wolves – Wišqii’s Story https://huuayaht.org/2023/04/wild-about-wolves-wisqiis-story/
- Participated in cultural history nights where we started the process of making shawls. This was a great evening in Anacla at the HOH.
- Attended a meeting to discuss cabinets for displaying treasures in AGO with Jim Lee and Jeff Cook.
- Composed a support letter for a language grant for urban NCN in Nanaimo.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

**April 2023**

**Councillor Evan Cook Report**

**Economic Development**

| Responsibilities | Specifics |
|---|---|
| 11) Business Development and Attracting Businesses<br><br>12) The Mission of economic development is to create jobs and facilitate economic activity. | • NanoTerra Tech -- Vancouver Island based company.<br>Developing Bio-graphite, a petroleum free, carbon black which is the building block for bio-graphite. Bio graphite is one of the critical minerals essential towards meeting battery demand for electric vehicles. The bio-graphite would be produced by softwood feedstock. Questions to be answered yet.<br>1) Cost of production, cheaper than graphite mined in eastern Canada.<br>2)Markets and competition.<br>3)Will the company be synergizing with other companies. |
| 13) Microtel | • Final agreement on partnership between Tseshaht First Nation and HFN finalized. Dealing with Port Alberni bureaucrats in process for final permits to begin construction. |
| 14) HGB (Jouta HR consulting) | • Jouta report completed. Recommendations presented to EC meeting April 27 |
| 15) Timber Tiles | • HFN Forestry LP is now the majority of the innovative value-added tile company.<br>HGB working together with Summit Timber Homes to market product at San Diego Trade Show.<br>Development of an International Market, with a possible large sale agreement with Japan in the works.<br>Social media publicity been done with our partner ReapplyWOOD with various media outlets. |
| 16) Sarita Hydro Run of River Update | DFO requiring more items before issuing an Authorization.<br>• Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) have provided details and a budget for the support of the DFO authorization. |
| 7) Bio-foam | • YLP and HFN are creating a new start up named Dicinfoam.<br>• YLP intends to keep Dicinfoam an Indigenous corporation. |

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| | • YLP is working on the Desk Top Assessment of a Pilot Project and a Market Research Analysis.<br>• HFN is interested in creating synergies within its existing forest operations<br>- how to use Post Harvest Residuals.<br>- identify and calculate fiber security.<br>• HFN is looking at creating a formalized relationship with YLP on partnering with Dicinfoam after elections in June.<br>• Both parties agreed that the ED entities will create a solid foundation together as there will be a continuation in the critical processing of proper structures. |