huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Executive Council Report
March 2023

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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

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Chief Councillor Report Dennis Report

Responsibilities	
1) Representing government in relations with other governments.	• Project Green continues to be priority mandate item and ongoing meetings with BC leaders and administrative support is ongoing work. On Wednesday November 29 met with MIRR to finalize Premier Eby Briefing. Since February two major developments. 1. BC provided $300,000 capacity funding, initial payment. Rob is in discussions with BC regarding full capacity funding in the neighborhood of $7 M. 2. Discussions have begun regarding equity funding. • Working federally to meet with senior federal ministries including PM office during the week of April 17-21. • Continue to work federally to promote Capital Raise initiative with substantial support from various ministries, including forestry training initiative. Brad and John taking the lead on this initiative. • Continue to work with Brad and Duane to ensure taxation issues are addressed at Maa-nulth table especially the Section 87 taxation issue. • Met with DFO, Kevin Conley to begin negotiations on HFN Fishery issues related to Crab License and Salmon terminal Fishery.
2) Representing government in relations with other indigenous organizations.	A. Continue to meet with Project Green First Nations to seek their commitment for Project Green, a meeting has been set for May 1 and 2 with all Project Green Chiefs. Also requesting HFN Executive Council attend this important meeting. B. Attended the modern treaty nations annual gathering in Ottawa. Suggest we do the following next year. Send a larger delegation of citizens, elders and youth, dance group and special speakers.
3) Ensuring HFN citizens are fully informed on HFN issues.	• Continue to do our best. The Annual People's Assembly is a venue that helps us to ensure citizens are fully informed on HFN issues. Also, the HFN People's Assembly is the venue

	the citizens hold HFN Executive Council accountable. HFN Law Clerk has communicated with citizen Martha Johnson regarding her issue related to the November 2022 People's Assembly motions. • Our communication staff have been doing an excellent job in getting the Anacla News and Uyaqhmis out on regular basis.
4) Developing and maintaining effective systems of communication with Huuayaht citizens and other governments.	a) Quiet month.
5) Protecting and enhancing Huuayaht aboriginal and treaty rights.	• An ongoing responsibility, meeting with DFO to pursue the right to fish and sell fish as per Ahousaht case and Maa-nulth Me Too Agreement.
6) Ensuring adherence to, and enforcement of, The constitution, Huuayaht legislation, Huuayaht policies	• An ongoing responsibility.
7) Promoting and maintaining a sound Huuayaht economy.	• Part of promoting and maintaining a sound Huu-ay-aht economy is generating profits, acquiring assets and creating jobs, although not limited to those issues. Projects under consideration and development are. a) Project Green b) Bamfield Road c) TFL 44 Uncut volume d) HFN FNWL uncut volume and viable timber harvesting options e) 2 Timber Manufacturing Opportunities f) HGB profitability
g) Promoting Huuayaht values, culture, traditions, and language.	• From a program perspective we are doing very well. • From a strategic performance perspective, we need to do better. For example, the number of fluent Huuayaht language speakers is declining each year. We need to establish targets. For example, HFN will have programs enabling us to increase our fluent speakers by 5% each year until we have 100% fluent speakers. This will take us twenty years to achieve 100 % fluent speakers. This is a strategic policy decision that needs our immediate attention. • Are we satisfied that we are better off with a treaty. If not, let's make strategic policy decision that enables us to make Huuayaht citizens' lives better.

	• The strategy should be to do whatever it takes to enhance our aboriginal and treaty rights.
h) Ensuring proper management and administration of government.	a) After our CFO presented us with a very critical report on the finances of our organization, I want the Finance Chair to update us on the issues the CFO raised.
i) Preparing for and participating in the Legislation, Executive Council and People's Assembly;	• The HFN legislature passed 5 pieces of important legislation at it's March legislative sessions. • I suggest we follow up with a communication plan regarding the legislation.
j) Establishing the duties of a Councillor, including i. Establishing or dissolving portfolios, and ii. Assigning portfolios to r removing portfolios from Councilors;	• Overall, I'm very satisfied with each Executive Council portfolio progress. Important and key accomplishments were achieved. a. 2023-24 Budget Act. b. 2023-26 Financial Plan. c. ACRD relationship. d. Bamfield Road. e. Section 87 taxation issue. f. Private Lands converted to Treaty Land. g. Project Green. h. Development Capital Raise. i. HGB business ventures. j. Mother Center Capital Funding. k. Mother Center Operation funding. l. Me Too fishery negotiations started. m. Forest Tenure issues. n. Integrated Resource Management Plan. o. Ha'wiih Council Cultural initiatives started.

March 2023

Elected Councillor Brad Johnson Report

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

Capital Infrastructure

The work on the Bamfield mainline has been steady but at times, unforeseen weather - snow/rain - has caused the work to slow down. At other times, when the weather is good, the contractor has had up to 36 gravel trucks working at a time. In the past month there have been 3 stops on the road with waits of up to 15 minutes each. Contract 2 has been completed and the maintenance is ready to be handed over to Cawak?qin. The two bids we had for the seal coat tender were both rejected. The prices were over-inflated, and we did not have the capital funds to proceed with those bids. The overrun of the road is still an issue and we are trying to secure funding from the province. Several meetings were held this month about the road/funding, which took up the majority of my time.

I met on several occasions with the Director of Infrastructure about future plans and projects. We received the final design for the Culture Center. I am told the Culture Center project will be the next big project on the list. A projected timeline for the foundation work could be as close as the end of May. For smaller projects the list consists of a dog park, fencing between houses, a playground, street lights and sidewalks, listed in no particular order but I have identified a playground for the upper Anacla subdivision as priority.

Treaty Implementation

We held two committee meetings this month. A special committee meeting was held on March 24th. This was a joint committee meeting with Citizen Development, Finance and Ha'wiih. It was in regard to Consultation on Child and Family's Wellness Law. All four committees passed the required motion for the necessary next steps to be put in place.

Maa-Nulth Wildlife Council - We Finalized the Terms of Reference that was approved at the Maa-Nulth Board of Directors meeting. An elk fly over was happening this month in our territory. I mentioned The Klanawa, Colemen/ Franklin and Sarita area to fly over to assess and get a count of animals in these areas of our territory. The Marbled murrelet has been identified as a species at risk, as there is a decline in the small bird population.

Sec 87 update - In relation to The Treaty Amendments to the Maa-Nulth Treaty sec 87 for tax exemption extension, all 5 Nations of Maa-Nulth must consider and pass the amendment through their own legislation. Once this is done, the federal government will expedite the process. This was completed by Huu-ay-aht at our second reading of Legislation on March 30th, 2023.

Salish Sea Initiative (SSI) Arm's Length Funding - This working group has finally made some traction and is starting to move forward with a work plan to transfer funds to Nations by early 2024 at the latest. The legal review is in draft form and a draft agreement is in place for 50 million. This should amount to 1.5 million per Nation.

Parks Canada Cooperative Management Board (CMB)

The state of the Park West Coast Trail management planning has been ongoing. A lot of work has gone into this report and will be finalized on April 19th at an in-person meeting in Port Renfrew. I mentioned last month I was invited by Parks Canada to attend the 2023 International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Winnipeg (all paid for by Parks Canada). There were almost 1100 delegates who attended this conference.

Big take aways were:

1) By 2030 they want Canada to lead Indigenous tourism around the world.
2) Cultural Revitalization - be proud of who you are!
3) Reconciliation with Indigenous People - now is the time to grow Indigenous businesses and the pathway for reconciliation is through Indigenous tourism.

This was a great conference, and I had the pleasure of networking and the opportunity to meet the Vice President of External Relations and Visitor Experience of Parks Canada Christine Loth-Bown. Our next CMB meeting will be April 6th, 2023.

Employment and Training

I have had a few citizens reach out to me this month about employment in the logging industry. I had them contact Marina who is working closely with each individual to find a job that best suits them.

An update on the new company Navaline - they are working well with USW and are working on creating a seniority list that will then identify potential job openings. I will be meeting with Cawak?qin and USW next month to advocate for more positions for our citizens. There is a potential plan in place which will open up 10-15 Indigenous positions, with the main focus on these positions being for Huu-ay-aht Citizens.

Personal Committee - Councillor John Jack and I had several meetings with the recruiter to find a new Executive Director. There was a lot of back and forth dialogue in creating a short list. We narrowed it down to four candidates and had them fill out a questionnaire. We then reviewed all correspondence and narrowed it down to our top two. Interviews will be held in Nanaimo March 30th, 2023.

March 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 Executive Council. I'm looking forward to next month's challenges and some down time as I will be away on holidays for a week.

March 2023

Councilor Evan Cook Report

Portfolio: Economic Development

Responsibilities	**Specifics**
1) Business Development and Attracting Businesses 2) The Mission of economic development is to create jobs and facilitate economic activity.	• DCR various phases a) Identify a developer.... Forum Equity Partners chosen. b) Enter into a land use /development planning agreement. c) Consider the results of the land use plan including adopting some or all aspects of such a plan after consultation with Citizens. d) Commence implementing the land use plan.
3) Trans-Shipment Hub	• Meetings with Port Alberni Port Authority to discuss the PATH project and to provide an ongoing update. Scheduled a meeting with a Singapore representative next month to discuss potential proponents for the project.
4) Forestry (Paradigm shift)	In discussions with Joe Wong re: a. The diversification of our Forestry Industry. b. The path forward with High value-added forest products and Bio-Economy. c. World Market uncertainty, Recession, Tariffs and Climate Change. d. The importance of how we must continue to adapt to changes.
5) HGB	• Crab License - has a new fisherman with boat located on the west coast - contract been finalized. • HGB December 2022 audit review completed by MPS Chartered Professional accountants. All satisfactory. • Online Bookings for the Park have been great so far. • Spencer Sort has been approached by 2 different companies regarding leasing the facility. • Nova Harvest Oyster working barge nearing completion in Bamfield. • Final allocation of gravel for completion of Bamfield Road in the process of been completed.

March 2023 - Councillor ƛicitaṯ Edward R. Johnson Report

Area of Responsibility: Citizen Development Committee
Citizenship Committee
Culture and Language

Citizen Development Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended two Alberni Valley Opioid Crisis Strategy Sessions hosted and facilitated by Dan George of Four Directions. On the agenda was the final report - Surviving the Flood: Re-constructing the Village https://hashilthsa.com/news/2020-02-13/opioid-crisis-alberni-session-delves-need-detox-centre-and-more-compassion-those#:~:text=Surviving%20the%20Flood%2C%20organized%20by%20the%20Tseshaht%20First,opioid%20crisis%20the%20entire%20community%20is%20struggling%20with . and Humans First Phase 2 Hear Their Voices - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCqXwtk3DDw&feature=youtu.be Guest Presenters were Dr. Longman, and James Harry of the All Nations Outreach Society. Dan George will be coming back in the coming months with a report with recommendations it was a great two days of engaging with Albany valley frontline support workers and leaders in NCN.
- Chaired CCG meeting. Some recommendations coming in from CCG are community engagement sessions on the community Safety Act, as well as a statement coming from citizens and hereditary leaders making a stand against drugs in the community/TSL and connecting the RCMP to law and policy regarding motor vehicle act on TSL. Needles have been found in the community campsite and lower Anacla by the old gas bar.
- Hosted a Consultation on Child and Family Wellness Law committee meeting with CDC, Nananiiqsu, FC, TIC, and Ha'wiih council.
- Attended BCSA Community Lunch.
- Working on getting coordination table discussions back with BC and Canada. Some exciting news this month - Splatsin, Canada and British Columbia celebrate coordination agreement signing - for more information https://splatsin.ca/signing-agreement-march24. Splatsin FN population is similar to ours with a little over 1100 Splatsin FN. This is the first design protocol agreement in British Columbia. Over the next 10 years Splatsin First Nation will be receiving $136.2 million.
- Chaired BCSABD meeting.
- Ongoing meetings with BC and Canada to secure bridge funding for Children, Family and Wellness department for the next 2 years until coordination table discussions are complete.
- Attended Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XII:
  - The Honorable Minister Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Jennifer Russell, Rural Economic Development, Ministry of Citizen's Services were speakers. BC Premier David Eby listened to concerns about health services and the social determinants of health from First Nations delegates. The Premier made several announcements about new investments in First Nations health and social determinants in BC. Learn more about social determinants of health here: https://gathering-wisdom.ca/wp-content/uploads/GWXII_10-year-strategy_FINAL-online.pdf

- With the new Indigenous Health Equity Fund, Indigenous communities will be able to immediately respond to unique health needs in a way that works for them. See the link - Get the job done: http://bit.ly/3y6z1sZ. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the transfer of federal health services to the BC First Nations Health Authority. A model of care that is built by First Nations people for First Nations people reasserts the inherent right to determine health models and services that are rooted in culture and Indigenous knowledge. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shared some words and congratulations on all of us on a visionary plan for the next 10 years that puts wellness at the center of their work.
- Another Guest speaker at the Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey XII was the Polynesia Voyaging Society - https://www.hokulea.com/.
- 189 Chiefs or their proxies cast their votes in person or online on the First Nations Health Council's (FNHC) Resolution on the 10-Year Strategy on the Social Determinants of Health. Learn about the 10-year strategy here: https://gathering-wisdom.ca/wp-content/uploads/GWXII_brochure_FINAL-online.pdf information on social determinants of health, First Nations health council and the new 10 year strategy https://gathering-wisdom.ca/wp-content/uploads/GWXII_brochure_FINAL-online.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2cTuCiOblIkdqvdY5ZtooN23vqrMTriGax8QMXQ5Gw_eTJVBqsbjLUFog
- Was a significant moment to be able to be a part of the vote for the 10 year strategy plan on the social determinants of health and one of the highlights of gathering of wisdom was witnessing Leonard Nookemus present to over 200 people on how well the warriors program is doing I am very proud of Leonard.

- Attended two-day Justice Forum at Parksvill Tigh Na Mara hosted by Kackaamin Family Development Centre. Information can be found at https://www.kackaamin.org/adult-education-building.
- Update on the PROTOCOL AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUU-AY-AHT FIRST NATIONS AND KW'UMUT LELUM CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES - This was brought to council in September. Hopefully we'll be able to celebrate this protocol agreement before pens down.
- Chaired Special Citizen Development Committee with the following committees to get ready for special sitting on legislation Nananiiqsu, Finance Committee, Treaty Implementation Committee, and Ha'wiih Council regarding Consultation on Child and Family Wellness Law.
- At Nananiiqsu meeting we discussed the update report from the Alberni Valley Museum, discussed the gala fundraiser, and gave an update on the Hoobiyee gathering in Vancouver that Nananiiqsu participated in.
- Attended NTC Budget Meeting.
- Volunteered at the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament opening ceremonies. There were 91 teams from across BC which was a very good turnout for this tournament.

Emerging Issues

- Canada's James Sutherland, Director General finally able to make contact it's unfortunate that it has taken nine months for a very significant meeting to take place no thanks to James Sutherland on his stall and delay tactics
- Need to make drug awareness in community communications piece this was a direct ask from the CCG

Culture and Language

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Niagaa Tsamiks went with Nanaiiqsu to the Hoobiyee gathering. I traveled with two of our knowledge keepers - Cheryl Thomas and Barbara Johnson. It was a wonderful weekend taking these two strong and very knowledgeable women to this gathering. It was a weekend I will not forget. We listened to an audio book as we traveled to the mainland and back to Port Alberni titled Rez Rules by Clarence Louie.
- Cultural Center Timeline - Over the past number of months there have been adjustments to the final design, from the roof, windows, doors, and room layout. I've also been working with Kevin Neary in the Treasures area as well, who provided a recommendation report that we utilized in these adjustments. It is anticipated to be ready for the return of the Artifacts by March 2024.
- Was tasked with coming up with a name for Huu-ay-aht housing authority society ASAP (**ma-as ta-kimlth)** Housing Society.
- Entertaining the thought of bringing treasures out of the treasure room for display on the lower floor of the Anacla Government Office and creating a space for treasures that we are working on repatriating, taking into consideration the light pollution – will be bringing idea to Ha'wiih.

Emerging Issues

- Setting dates for and posting dates of HFN gatherings, 2023 HFN Days, 2023 Fishing Derby, National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration and culture camps so that our citizens can prepare to come home to celebrate.

Citizenship Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

Chaired a successful Citizenship Committee meeting and prepared report for legislation on Citizenship and Treaty Enrollment Act amendments for 2023.

March 2023

Councillor John Alan Jack Report

Finance – Progress Report

The finance committee met on March 16th, 20th (special meeting) and 24th (special joint meeting), 2023.

Finance – Emerging Issues

The budgeting process has been quite intensive as we are tackling the challenges of budget shortfalls to key departments due to annual funding from the federal government dropping off. The other considerations are the seeming “unforeseen consequences” of Provincial Stumpage policy that has depressed and essentially neutralized our ability to make much profit from our own stands of timber. It’s my understanding that we have embarked on a full court press on the matter, and it’s very important that the political wing of the Nation pulls together to ensure we secure funding as we approach March 31 deadlines – both federally and provincially.

At the time of this report, the Budget is complete and we were able to secure more funding for some important items. Specifically, we’re getting more monies for Child and Family Wellness from the federal government, which brings us much closer to 100% which will help us avoid some of the larger consequences of lacking expected revenue. Future governments will need to adopt different practices to further enhance the predictability of budgeting for volatile income sources – an example may be setting up a fund that holds money during “good years” to help pay for shortfalls in “bad years.”

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report

Meetings have occurred on schedule. The ACRD is quickly approaching budgeting period. This will make my scheduling in February and March quite constrained as there are budget meetings that the Chair must attend.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Emerging Issues

We have been interacting with the ACRD on two items: (1) confidential conversations about our major projects, and (2) exploring contracting services or something similar for direct support in community planning. These things seem quite key to our success, and I would suggest we explore both more fully.

Unfortunately, there’ve been no updates as to whether planning is supported by either government or reported as a need by the administration. As a result, it’s not currently funded in this upcoming budget. This will likely have unforeseen consequences, and the future government will have to address that.

Huumiis Ventures LP and HFN Forestry Consulting Services LP – Progress Report

Reporting materials for RBC and EDC are complete. Audit requirements are complete as well, though they will become more complicated in the next audit period.

Huumiis Ventures LP and HFN Forestry Consulting Services LP – Emerging Issues

There are planned several meetings to move forward confidential but potentially lucrative business ventures. There won't be any reports until we are able to go public, potentially in May.

The other item will be the timing and importance of financial review and auditing. This is scheduled to commence in late March or early April.

Capital/Development Raise – Progress Report

In addition to having staff take these tasks over rather than contractors at too far a distance from the Nation, the economic development wing of the Nation will be given the mandate to take any of these into their own activity and care should the government wish to do so. This approach should reduce the distance between the activities themselves and the administration and give us the ability to maximize flexibility on how this and future governments may approach these activities.

Capital/Development Raise – Emerging Issues

The only emerging issues are ensuring that we figure out three things: (1) willingness to continue work on these items; (2) what timelines we would need to continue work on these items – specifically in terms of the new fiscal year, bringing on a new Executive Director, and the upcoming election; and (3) the budgeting for continued activity on any or all of these items.

We will need to receive update reports on progress or lack of progress being made here. We have made some progress talking about some of the former DCR projects, but it seems as though they are not a priority of the administrative personnel, potentially for capacity reasons.

Future reports may call this section "Special Council Initiatives" or "Major Projects" now that they are distinct from one another.

Deputy Chief-Councillor – Progress Report

I have been assigned several general tasks as delegated by our Chief-Councillor, Robert Dennis Sr. Among my tasks I have been given tasks related to (1) delegated external relations, (2) attending to the Provincial Government-to-Government Forum, (3) working with the executive director on an organizational review, (4) working with Angela Wesley on the governance project as funded by the New Relationship Trust, and (5) setting and chairing Committee of the Whole meetings.

We had a scheduled COW meeting for March 7th.

Deputy-Chief Councillor – Emerging Issues

Most of the emerging issues are covered off by larger, confidential reports. We ended up receiving an extra $100,000 from the NRT to bring the total to $200,000. The second amount will be intended to create money for Huu-ay-aht youth citizen internship, which will help on-board skilled workers who might not necessarily have been able to enter the organization.

Chair of the HFN Personnel Committee – Progress and Emerging Issues

We have worked with the HR firm Jouta on the search and interviews for the new Executive Director. We have conducted those interviews after a lengthy search period, a process to longlist and then shortlist for interviews. We conducted final interviews on March 31st, 2023 and we have made an offer to the successful candidate. At the time of this report (beyond March), we have been in process of finalizing an agreement. It's likely (but not guaranteed) that an announcement will be made depending on that negotiation.