huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Executive Council Report
February 2026

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Chief-Councillor John Jack Report – February 2026

General Duties – Chief Councillor – Progress Report

First Week

Week one started off with a trip to Victoria on the Sunday for an early morning forestry meeting on the Monday with the Provincial Forest Advisory Council followed by a virtual meeting with Deputy-Chief Edward Johnson for our biweekly bilat and a Bill C-10 Witness prep meeting. On Tuesday I juggled my time by attending a virtual session on the Cowichan Decision – A Constructive Dialogue, put on by the Pacific Business & Law Institute, which overlapped with a couple of internal meetings. Wednesday morning I attended another C-10 Debrief internal meeting and took the opportunity to catch up on emails during my unscheduled time, followed by a HFNDC meeting and an introductory meeting with our new Provincial Government Relations Firm – Framepoint. On Thursday, I did an interview with CFAX 1070 followed by a Law and Policy Committee Meeting. On the Friday, I attended my weekly bilat with the Executive Director and a meeting with the Director General of Justice Canada - United Nations Declaration Act Implementation Secretariat Office.

Second Week

The second week of February took me to Ottawa once again to attend the Lands Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC) Gathering. On the Monday morning, I attended and spoke at a Press Conference on Bill C-10 – An Act respecting the Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation in Ottawa, then attended the Committee of the Whole Meeting virtually followed by a LCAC Leadership Meeting in the evening. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were filled with more meetings of the LCAC. Late Thursday and early Friday were eaten up mostly with travel but I did find some time in the afternoon to attend to some emails.

Third Week

On Monday, February 16, the office was closed for Family Day and the office was closed on the Tuesday in respect of an elder passing on the weekend. On Wednesday and Thursday, I attended a full 2-day Community Safety Planning session which was held at the office in Port Alberni. On the Friday, I attended another C-10 Witness Prep meeting in preparation for my upcoming trip to Ottawa the following week to appear before the House of Commons. I also met with Councillor Stella Peters to have a discussion on the progress of her portfolio and strategic plan initiatives and will be meeting with the remaining Executive Council members in the coming weeks. And finally, the week ended off with my weekly meeting with the Executive Director in the afternoon.

Fourth Week

On Sunday, February 22nd, I attended the Mount Underwood Engagement Session in Anacla where we provided an update on the Mount Underwood wildlife recovery and acknowledged the contributions from the community. This was followed by a Q&A session to address any citizens' concerns and gather input for improvements. On Monday, February 23rd I attended the funeral of one of our respected elders followed by the Mount Underwood Engagement Session in Port Alberni. Tuesday morning started off with a Special Law and Policy Committee meeting then an LCAC Debrief. In the afternoon I attended a meeting to review the materials for the upcoming EC meeting before heading to Vancouver to catch the early flight to Ottawa on the Wednesday. On Thursday morning, I was brought forth as a witness for the Standing Committee on Indigenous

and Northern Affairs (INAN) to speak to Bill C-10 in the House of Commons then attended the Executive Council meeting as a virtual participant. Friday, was another full day of travel which brought the month of February to a close.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report (and Emerging Issues)

The Mount Underwood Fire started on the 12th of August. At the time of this report, the road, which reopened on Friday, October 24th, remains open. There was some ongoing maintenance for a small section of the road which required scheduled road closures of which the community was informed. The impacts of the Mt. Underwood Fire cannot be understated, and while we have been quite successful in our responses to it, it will have a workload impact into the future. Community Engagements Sessions are currently in the planning stages for February to provide updates, acknowledge community contributions and to facilitate a Q&A to address citizens' concerns and gather input for improvements.

Major Projects – Progress Report

HFN often participates in projects that are either quite large in scale/scope; or they have a degree of political importance that they are carried forward under the supervision of Council itself rather than being delegated to a committee or a department. These projects may include items identified as "special investment bodies" or they may be particularly important infrastructure or investment projects or potential partnerships or joint ventures. In any event, these items fall under Council's decision making, but the Chief-Councillor will be the lead on these items. In this instance, the major projects I have identified are two-fold: the Bamfield Road, which I have assigned to Councillor Brad Johnson by the time of this report due to his good oversight of the project since the last term of office; and the forestry-related initiatives related to our special investment bodies: Huumiis Ventures LP and Huu-ay-aht Forestry Consulting Services LP.

Major Projects – Emerging Issues Work on Major Projects have expanded such that I have asked Councillor Rayner to help oversee the specific activities of the Special Investment Bodies, expanding the involvement of more members of Council on larger and politically sensitive activities. There has been further development on how we will go about integrating our holdings in Huumiis Ventures LP and Forestry Consulting Services LP, but there are complications that require legal counsel to report back to us. We await some options for decision in the next few months.

External Relations – Progress Report/Emerging Issues

A Request for Proposal seeking a provincial and federal government relations firm was posted and numerous interviews were conducted. We had our first internal meeting with the provincial relations firm the first week of February and will be following up with a meeting on the federal side in the coming weeks.

Economic Development – Update and Emerging Issues

An HFNDC meeting was held the first week of February where HGB 2026 Annual Plans were approved and quarterly meetings will be held to discuss alignment considerations and compatibility with the 2025-2029 Community Economic Plan for 2027.

Councillor ƛicitatḥ Edward R. Johnson - February 2026

Area of Responsibility:
Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure
Children and Family Wellness Committee
Deputy-Chief Councillor

I was on annual leave from February 13th to February 23rd, 8:30 AM.

Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Spoofing & Phishing Alert - we need to do something to increase our strength and protection of our database - how we can better protect and support this. This topic will be at our next committee meeting.
- Biweekly meeting with Director of Infrastructure & Capital Projects - Very much enjoy these meetings. The director is doing a great job keeping on top of current infrastructure projects and identifying what is on the horizon. These meetings are very informative. I almost feel the 30 minutes can be made into one hour - especially around strategic planning and budgeting. I will be making some changes in the next fiscal year to increase around the meeting time.
- Cultural Center - Further construction progress - ball field fencing contract.
- Project development on Oomiiqsu enhancement.
- Trail project.
- Reviewing well report and testing.
- Bamfield connector trail complete – 50% of the project completed with lifesaving trail work starting in spring of 2026.
- Reviewing a list of capital projects that infrastructure is requesting funding for in the fiscal year 2026/2027
- Reviewing infrastructure mandate.
- Solar training took place at the end of this month at our Anacla Government office.
- Infrastructure team meeting scheduled for March 13/2026 - It's always great when departments can get together to strengthen the team, especially just before the turn of the new fiscal year, to discuss where we are today, where we have come from and where we want to go.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

Children and Family Wellness Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Met with Jennifer & Kerry-Ann to have a conversation around needs assessment. It was very high level and was great to hear some input from our Chief Financial Officer to make sure that we are pointed in the right direction and that the data that has been provided to compile the needs assessment is good and that we're not missing out on anything. We may need to add and compile information from the capital infrastructure that we are doing

through the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal applications but these can be added at the tripartite negotiations as they unfold in the coming months.

- Five-year Review of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, Youth and Families – This was a very informative meeting. Indigenous Services Canada is providing funds to gather information on how things have been going over the past five years with the act. There will be funds awarded to those that would like to participate in the information gathering ranging from $35,000 to $50,000.
- Meeting HFN - Edward/Kerry-Ann w/Eva Coles - Eva worked with the first nation to draw down jurisdiction in Canada. Our paths crossed a couple of years ago. It was a very good networking meeting. Eva is very informative when it comes to negotiations with BC and Canada when it comes to children and families and we shared very valuable information stemming from this meeting on both ends.
- Update meeting with Chelsie OMC.
- Preventative maintenance plans template is 80% complete - aligning with mandate for 2025/2026 objective.
- Reviewing the CFS Needs Assessment report.
- Biweekly meeting with Director of Child and Family Wellness CFW - Team members are actively advocating for families that have MCFD involvement. Prevention is key, and they are planning a dad's group for January 2026. CFW Drop-In wrapped up before the holiday season, to be resumed in the new year. On January 12th, plans for the CFW Art Therapy group with Brianna Harvey were finalized and scheduled to start January 16th. The CFW Parks & Recreation passes contest was posted on the Huu-ay-aht Facebook Page. Citizens were entered into a draw to win 2x passes for the pool or skating + rentals. Three winners were drawn at the end of every week for a total of 9 winners and 18 passes distributed. Snack and Chat drop-in. Ongoing connection with the children in care, with cultural planning. CFW hosted Winter Wonderland Skate. CFW had dessert platters, hot chocolate, and coffee, and had 24 individuals participate to help us end 2025 in a good way! Cultural competence is vital in operational practice. CFW was able to sponsor some grieving families this holiday season with grocery purchase orders to get Christmas dinner ingredients.
- Some stats from CFW
  - Over 700 Huuayaht citizens seen
  - Financial support over 200
  - Housing support just under 100
  - Cultural support 40
  - Parenting support little over 150
  - Foster parent support over 130

  They provide a lot of other supports, these are just some of the stats.
- Paawats daycare learned about winter and animals that love the cold, and those that don't. They read stories to children about the Winter Solstice. Elders are being scheduled for drop-ins for 2026 and a lot of teaching of songs and drumming from our HFN culture team.
- Something that should be coming to my next month's report is inquiring about drawing down jurisdiction when it comes to childcare. There are a few meetings that will be happening between now and then. Looking forward to information gathering and networking with other nations that have drawn down jurisdiction.
- Youth programs
- The ʔumʔiiqsu Centre continues to focus on strengthening participant engagement and consistent participation in programming as part of supporting long-term stability and self-reliance
  for families.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

Deputy-Chief Councillor

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Biweekly Bilat John/Edward
- COW - Chaired the committee of the Whole meeting on February 9th. I feel very honored to be able to hold this portfolio to be able to hear from our fellow council members on agenda items. This meeting is a time for presentations that may exceed 30 minutes to an hour where we can received presentations from external relations etcetera so that it can minimize the length of our executive council meetings. These committee of the whole meetings have been very productive and I looking forward to continuing and doing my best to chair this committee.
- Looking for a time for a nation-to-nation catch up with Tsawwassen First Nation. Some of the topics for the agenda are Community safety, Government relations and the 15-year review. This will be our third time networking and connecting. I believe the first time we met and connected was in 2023. As two modern treaty nations, we strive to ensure that we are exercising our treaty to the fullest by learning from one another.
- Geeting ready for March 6 ribbon cutting for the Submarine watermain to West Bamfield completion.
- Prepping for meetings with Bluesky / Framepoint GR firms.
- Meeting in Ottawa re Ship Recycling Discussion: TC and Huu-ay-aht First Nations. The context of the meeting was:
  - there is very limited legally compliant ship recycling capacity in BC with existing multi-use facilities already full
  - Complex, unclear, multi-jurisdictional regulations with no dedicated federal or provincial legislation
  - High capital costs for medium and large vessel recycling
  - Insufficient coordination among governments, First Nations, and industry

  We talked about the supports needed and International laws and standards that restrict hazardous-waste export. Domestic recycling is the only lawful and sustainable long-term solution. Multiple sites will be required in B.C. to meet demand. Ship recycling aligns with Budget 2025 federal priorities and lastly we talked about why Huu-ay-aht's potential location, Sarita Bay, located on the HFN Treaty Settlement Lands would be a good option:
  - Buy-in already exists and the federal and provincial level for continued exploration
  - Existing partnership with Hazelwood Group of Companies
  - Huu-ay-aht citizens are supportive of increased economic development, granted it aligns with environmental Protections.
  - PSPC public service procurement Canada suggested for us to meet.

  IT was a good meeting. PSPC is in charge of their infrastructure they build so they have 30-40 year plan on ship recycling. Other information that will be coming our way is Hong Kong information on ship recycling meeting and the EU European Union info on ship recycling ♻.

  This meeting was very short - we had to be concise and to the point. We had a 30 minute window to the table with a solution. There are a significant amount of ships that need to be recycled and it will take some great time to do so with the existing infrastructure around the world. this is something that can be done in a good way so that we can ensure that ships

will be recycled and not impact the environment. We can do our part here on the Pacific to be able to create jobs and opportunities and at the same time clean up the environment.

- Getting ready for NTC AGM meeting next month. The Nuu-chah-Nulth Tribal Council meets every month on the last Tuesday. All the Nuu-chah-Nulth Chief Councillors sit as NTC Board of Directors. Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) is a not-for-profit society that provides a wide variety of services and supports to fourteen Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations with approximately 10,000 members. I as Deputy-Chief Councillor sit as an Alternate. Here is a link that gives a good history timeline of NTC. https://nuuchahnulth.org/history
- Stackabl dinner and get-together - It was a very wonderful evening shared with some of our traditional foods from our waters and lands. We hosted in a good way returning the good hospitality that we received when we were in China. Over the course of the meal, we talked about what the next couple days would look like touring our lands and visiting other nations on the island.
- A general overview of MT https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/aanc-inac/R32-495-2006-1-eng.pdf
- Provincial Government Relations - Initial Meeting w/Framepoint
- Was invited to IBGR – The gathering will be in March and on the Agenda: Indigenous Business Growth Roundtable – Nanaimo BC March 3rd, 2026 - Hosted by Global Affairs and the NEDC. The morning session will bring together partner organizations and community leaders to host short, practical conversations about the services, resources, and supports available to Indigenous entrepreneurs. These discussions will include real-world examples of how programs and tools can be used in different business situations, with time for questions and dialogue.

- Indigenous Seafood Conference 2026 Watch the Event Recap Video: https://youtube.com/shorts/7hYtAkRQNio The Indigenous Seafood Conference, co-hosted by the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC), the Ha'oom Fisheries Society (HFS), and the Native Fishing Association (NFA), brings together stakeholders within the seafood industry to foster connection, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. The conference will take place February 3–5, 2026, at the Tigh-Na-Mara Resort in Parksville. It provides a collaborative space where industry experts and participants can exchange insights, address challenges, and explore opportunities to strengthen local fisheries and food systems. This year's program features a skippers-only session, offering a dedicated space to connect, share challenges and successes, and build mentorship relationships. Participants will explore cross-training opportunities and exchange practical strategies for developing successful, sustainable, and community-focused operations, including key aspects of business and vessel management. The broader conference program will cover topics identified through participant feedback, including regulations and policy updates, sustainability and environmental stewardship, marketing and selling catch, strengthening local food systems, certifications, infrastructure for bringing fish to market, and fishing access. The full agenda is being finalized and will be made available once confirmed.
- Attended LCAC in Ottawa - Opening comments and Member Updates from Carcross/Tagish First Nation Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Council of Yukon First Nations Gwich'in Tribal Council Huu-ay-aht First Nations Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Kwanlin Dun First Nation Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Maa-nulth First Nations Makivvik Corporation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach Nisga'a Nation Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. The Sahtu Secretariat Inc. Tla'amin Nation Teslin Tlingit Council Tłı̨chǫ Government Toquaht Nation Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Tsawwassen First Nation Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government. These meetings are very informative and provide a great space for networking with other Modern Treaty nations, although I feel the information sharing can

be done well in advance prior to this annual meeting. I feel the update meetings take up a great length of time where other business can take place given that there are 22 Modern Treaty nations, the updates are limited to 10 minutes where last year they were 5 minutes. I think prep work on information providing where we are at, where we've come from, and where we would like to go given in a document shared amongst the coalition would save a great deal of time to be able to get on with the agenda. Being in Ottawa for the annual meeting creates opportunities to network and meet with federal leaders to be able to exercise our treaties.

- Attended LCAC debrief meeting to discuss:
    1. What went well?
    2. What do we need to follow up on?
    3. What can we do better for next year?

Councillor Brad Johnson Report – February 2026

Portfolios:

Fisheries and Wildlife
Land and Natural Resources
Treaty Implementation
Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board
HR Workplace and Wellness
Special Project: The Bamfield Road

Fisheries: Maa-Nulth has submitted a letter to DFO with the ask of all licenses and access that we need to be comparable with Taaq-wiihak. We will wait and see what the response will be. This is the full MeToo ask to DFO.

Food fish has been a busy topic within Maa-Nulth, coming out of an internal meeting with our fisheries manager. I mentioned if we collaborate with other nations for high-capacity food fishing, we should be able to reduce costs. There has been some interest in collaboration with other nations. We will continue to discuss and make a concrete plan that will best support our nation. I have also brought forward that this program becomes more of a food security program rather than just a taste of seafood for our citizens. This program has grown a lot in the past decade, and we are seeing a real demand from our citizens, and they value the benefits of having regular seafood access for their health and wellbeing. I have also brought forward that other nations distribute other species; this topic will be looked at for future consideration and budget purposes.

Wildlife: No wildlife committee was held this month, next meeting March 18th, 2026.

Lands and Resources: I attended meetings with the CAO from the MTS with BC about the annual ROA meeting that will be hosted by Toquaht nation next month. As Co-chair, we reviewed the agenda and materials that will be presented by nations. We had flagged a concern that MTS does not have an agreement in place for ROA funding and have asked who we speak to in the province to address our concerns. This topic will also be added to the agenda for an all-nation discussion with Maa-Nulth and BC.

The land use plan amendments are moving along. We are now at a point where the Firelight Group will prepare to present to a joint committee meeting of the Lands Committee, Ha'wiih, Anacla Community Planning Committee and Economic Development Committee. The meeting will take place next month.

I attended the Gathering of Marine Nations (GOMN) conference with our Fishery's Manager in Victoria on February 19th -20 which was organized through the Marine Shipping Subcommittee. This was a two-day event bringing together Marine Nations to strengthen collaboration in ocean protection, marine monitoring, and marine safety, while honoring the cultural and spiritual importance of the ocean and its resources. GOMN was a chance to share experiences, strengthen relationships, and consider the needs, gaps, and possibilities that could guide this work and support Marine Nations more effectively in the years ahead. Overall, it was a very informative workshop with a lot of breakout sessions and networking opportunities. It was interesting to learn about other Guardian programs and learn how and what they are monitoring within their respected territories. Clam gardens and food security were a major topic along with what foods each nation harvests and do we have an inventory of our waters if a spill were to occur.

Treaty Implementation: I attended a Transport Canada collaborative Governance Framework conference in Ottawa February 10th -12th. The purpose of this workshop was how can we collaboratively enhance marine safety and environmental protection, strengthen indigenous partnerships and participation and put commitments into practice and concept into action. Overall, there were about 50 representatives from across Canada with the biggest delegation coming from the west coast. I was joined by a technical representative from the Maa-Nuth Treaty Society. Transport Canada had brought a team led by the Director General of the Ocean's Protection Plan Fabien Lefebvre. A lot of great dialogs was shared but the main topic that kept coming up was funding for nations to participate and have departments or guardian programs from indigenous organizations as we as indigenous partners are always first on the scene of a marine emergency. I think we were heard loud and clear and the priorities that we put forth with Transport Canada were agreed upon. Although our Federal partners in Transport Canada have not always engaged properly with Nations, they are trying a different approach by bringing everyone together and understand the value of working together and I can appreciate their efforts.

The Maa-Nulth Board of Directors met on February 23rd, 2026 to discuss the budget. I brought up a concern as materials were not given in advance so our CFO and CAO's could flag any necessary topics for myself to bring up to the board. I had requested a special meeting for our staff and other Maa-Nulth nations to meet and discuss the budget and where we could possibly save additional money. At this current time the contributions from each nation will be the same as in previous years. The budget should be approved by the end of next month.

Parks Canada: The West Coast Trail Management Plan is at the public consultation phase. The West Coast Trail Unit and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve are now live and accepting feedback until Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Here are two links where the survey can be found:

- link to the survey: https://letstalkparkscanadawestcoast.ca
- link to the website page for more info: West Coast Trail Unit management planning

National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) Nations received news that, although funding for Parks Canada is not guaranteed for next fiscal year, Parks Canada have sourced enough funding for 6 months so this project can continue without stoppage. Parks Canada staff have said the unknown of funding is real as this Federal agency will be taking cutbacks. In this 7-step approach, we are currently at step 3 of the feasibility assessment stage. Meetings will be set up next month with the project lead Allison Biles to better understand where each nation will need support moving forward. Our Nation's meeting is scheduled for March 10th, 2026.

HR Workplace and Wellness: No official committee meetings were called; I am updated of all HR concerns within the administration as I am the chair of the committee. These updates come directly from the Executive Director and are kept confidential. This month I reviewed 3-4 HR related files and gave recommendations.

Bamfield Road: The road remains in decent shape with the maintenance crews solving road repair issues when needed. The weather this time of year has huge impacts on the road condition. When potholes occur or slides happen, crews respond as quickly as possible for repairs or cleanup. I would just like to emphasize that when potholes occur, they can only be patched in dry weather conditions. With the heavy rain and king tides, please watch for flooding along rivers and lakes.

List of meetings I attended:

-MTS CAO meeting
-ROA MWG meeting with BC
-Stephen Rayner Biweekly bilat
-Biweekly meetings with Lands Director
-Meetings with Fishery Manager updates
-Executive Director HR meetings
-MeToo Internal and with DFO
-Ship Decommissioning Project meetings
-Transport Canada Conference
-Joint Fisheries Committee Technical meetings
-Maa Nulth Fisheries Committee meetings
-Gathering of Marine Nations Conference
-Maa Nulth Special Board Meeting Budget
-Executive Council meetings
-Groundwater Negotiations
-Tribunal Project Interview
-Parks Canada NMCAR
-Marine Conservation Monitoring
-Alliance Salmon Allocation Policy

Overall, I felt I was productive with all the tasks I took on this month. Due to sensitivity and confidentiality, I found I was unable to report fully on everything I attend to as this report is a public document. The Executive Council is aware of the topics I'm referring to. I am pleased to represent our Nation as a member of the Executive Council

Councillor Evan Cook Report – February 2026

Finance Report

The Finance committee met February 24, 2026. January Financials were approved and forwarded to Executive Council and the Draft Budget Act 2026 was discussed. All funding was approved by the committee with some minor amendments. The COLA was discussed and recommendations forwarded to E.C.

Emerging Issues

Due to the uncertainty of Revenue/Dividends to be received from HGB for at least 5 years and Forestry Investments non-existent for the foreseeable future and that a lot of the Nation's employment programs are grant-funded and there has been a lot of Provincial and Federal Funding cutbacks, funding could be an issue in the future. The finance committee will begin work on a Wealth Management Strategy (Create a strategic Budget for the future). The importance of own source revenue will have to increase in the future.

Economic Development Report

Stackabl Homes and HFN Partnership progress report.

We have engaged Strategic Communications and Branding consultants to advocate for this partnership. This will include identifying funding programs for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing streams, engaging municipal, provincial and federal levels to align our projects, both public and commercial infrastructures, to Government policies, aligning stakeholders and managing media to ensure our story and HFN leadership role in it, is presented correctly. We are organizing a launch event through our Strategic Communications consultant. They will be inviting media, government, potential customers, and other Indigenous leaders to attend the launch date in June or July.

Operational Capacity and Business Development

We are hiring a full-time Business Development consultant with specialized experience in pre-fabrication and BC development. Also, a HFN citizen has been hired as a Community Liaison for the Nanaimo office. She will begin her employment March 1st. A sidebar, we also have two HFN citizens now working full time at the Dicifoam pilot project in Vancouver.

Site Identification and Project Pipeline

We are actively securing sites to showcase our capabilities and building a pipeline for future manufacturing. We met with the CFO and Director of the Bamfield Marine Science Centre. They have sent out an RFP requesting at least 20 housing units for staff and guests.

We are in the process of putting together a Joint Venture partnership with a private developer in Port Renfrew. Stackabl will be erecting a show home on their properties, as this has a potential to be a 1200 housing development.

Forestry and Micro-Hotel

HGB has been given names of companies in China interested in purchasing forestry products from HFN forestry. Micro-Hotel is still in the process of seeking funding for the build.

Councillor Stella Peters Executive Council Report – February 2026

Portfolios

Citizen Development

-Mental Health and Wellness

The wellbeing and health of our citizens is a priority. The staff are very busy in their day-to-day, from Medical to Dental to Mental Health, in helping to provide the services needed. Health and mental wellness cover a large area within our mind, body and spirit and are very important for our people. The needs of our citizens vary between all age groups, especially our elders, youth and most vulnerable. We do meet with the necessary groups to look at what we need in terms of service delivery, how we can make improvements or where we need to cut back on and that's the lesser route we would like to take if possible. We work with Island Health, FNHA, Helicopters Without Borders, NTC and Quu Asa for their services provided as well as having our own Staff.

-Education and Training

Our education team is doing their best to help our youth in their education in K-12 as well as Post Secondary and Trades. It is so satisfying to see the students succeed; they need to be recognized for their accomplishments - even from Pawaats to K-12 - we need to build them up, so they feel rewarded.

It is so good to see our Graduation numbers increase, students completing their courses/trades and getting into the workforce. Some are continuing to further their education to the next level.

-Culture

Our Culture and Wellness Team is actively working between AGO, PAGO and the Oomiiqsu Center, BCS and the Pawaats in Anacla.

They are sharing cultural knowledge, having dance practice in PA and Anacla and planning for the upcoming resource gathering as the seasons change, mainly for cedar bark and devil's club.

We are still in the process of finalizing our 5-year Cultural Plan, working with the seasons, for gathering resources and timelines on what we want to accomplish.

-Events

There were no events planned for February.

Public/Community Safety

Community Safety and Public Safety are always in the forefront. We are working with Public Safety Canada. We are looking at the development for Aboriginal Community Safety Planning. We already have our Community Consultative Group (CCG) in place under our Citizen Development Committee (CDC), with a Letter of Expectation (LOE) with RCMP. We are working on renewing our Tripartite Agreement after 10 yrs with the RCMP and Government representatives. We have updated our Community Safety Act (CSA), we've signed an MOU with BC Corrections and are now looking at Restorative Justice and our Tribunal. Work in progress.

Emergency Planning/Emergency Preparedness and Climate

This has become an extremely high priority since the Mount Underwood fire. It has raised more concerns as to what we need to do in the event of any type of emergency in being prepared/ready. This is also going to be a new department because of the work that is needed. Emergency planning and climate change are connected in many ways, and they both can have heavy impacts on us. This year it sounds like it will be a hotter season than this past one, so we need to take that into consideration, as well as other weather-related signs we've faced since the fire. Higher water levels due to king tides and super tides, the pineapple express (atmospheric rivers), colder winter temperatures, more snowfall and ice are not only things that impact us at home but has an impact on travel for essentials or medical travel or even emergencies. Safety is of the utmost priority on all levels.

Active Boards and Committees

- Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board (CMB) with Bradley Johnson
- Citizen Development Committee (Chair) CDC
- Community Consultative Group (Chair) CCG
- Anacla Community Planning Committee (ACP) with Edward Johnson Jr and Stephen Rayner
- Human Resource and Workplace Wellness with Bradley Johnson and Stephen Rayner

Other Meetings I attended this month:

- Monthly bilat with Brent
- Biweekly bilats with Coral
- Tribunal Project Interview
- Education Committee meeting with SD70
- BCSA Board Meeting
- Meeting with RCMP
- COW Meeting
- EC Meeting
- PA CAT Monthly meeting
- 2-Day Community Safety Planning Session
- Portfolio discussion meeting with John
- Mount Underwood Engagement Session in Anacla
- SD70 Public Board Meeting

Councillor Stephen Rayner Executive Council Report – February 2026

https://huuayaht.org/councillor-stephen-rayner/

Area of Responsibility:

Law and Policy Committee (Executive Council Portfolio Holder): In February, we held two formal Law & Policy Committee meetings and advanced a broad range of legislative and policy priorities. At the first meeting, the Committee reviewed a new human resources legislative package and discussed ongoing work to develop and strengthen human resources legislation. We also reviewed work underway to strengthen the Community Services Program through new or enhanced legislative measures, with a focus on ensuring the program is supported by a clearer and more effective legal framework.

The Committee continued using the legislation tracking spreadsheet to monitor progress on existing legislative amendments and identify areas where new legislation or policy development is required. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the law clerk for the excellent work being done to identify, organize, and track the legislative amendments, policy alterations, and new legislative development the Nation requires. That tracking work is extremely valuable and helps ensure the Committee and administration can move priorities forward in a coordinated and effective way. We also reviewed a new distribution policy related to government distributions and advanced draft language respecting an oil tanker ban. In addition, development continued legislation for emergency preparedness planning and information governance, both of which remain important priorities to strengthen the Nation's readiness, internal coordination, and management of information.

Work also continued the Economic Development Act (EDA), including further consideration of amendments to improve clarity, usability, and alignment with Huu-ay-aht's current operational and economic development priorities. At the second Law & Policy Committee meeting in February, the Committee approved or recommended that the legislative amendments, including the Community Safety Act amendments, proceed to Executive Council for approval in advance of the Spring Legislature. This was a key step in moving the Community Safety Act forward and helping ensure the legislative package remains on track for consideration this spring.

Although February included a wide range of files and competing priorities, the Committee maintained steady momentum across both existing legislative reform and new policy development through focused review, drafting direction, decision-making, and tracking of next steps.

Emerging issues (February):
As several legislative and policy initiatives move forward at the same time, an emerging focus is prioritization, coordination, and implementation readiness. This includes ensuring that key pieces of legislation such as the Community Safety Act are positioned for timely advancement, while also establishing a clear pathway for newer priorities including emergency preparedness, information governance, community services, and human resources legislation

About the Governance Project: In fall 2023, the People's Assembly approved an in-depth review of our laws and policies to assess our governance progress since Treaty implementation. This review ensures that our legal system continues to reflect our traditional values, community priorities, and evolving needs. Phase one focuses on the Community Safety Act and related laws, with future phases addressing financial and economic development legislation. At every step, community engagement remains central to ensuring that the legal framework we build is representative, culturally appropriate, and future ready.

Clean Energy Portfolio (Executive Council Portfolio Holder): In February, I continued advancing Huu-ay-aht clean energy priorities focused on affordability, reliability, sovereignty, and long-term resilience. My work as Board Chair of Clean Energy BC continues to complement this portfolio by supporting relationship-building across government, regulators, industry, and other Nations, while helping advance enabling conditions for projects within Huu-ay-aht territory.

I also travelled to Prince Rupert in February, where I delivered remarks on First Nations clean energy development, including the initiatives Huu-ay-aht is advancing, our Community Energy Plan, and the broader importance of Indigenous leadership in clean energy development. This was a valuable opportunity to help profile Huu-ay-aht's work, share our experience and vision, and contribute to broader conversations about how First Nations are helping shape the clean energy future.

Offshore Floating Wind Pilot – AKS Wind & SeaTwirl: The offshore floating wind pilot continued to advance through regular meetings with our partners at AKS Wind and SeaTwirl. During February, we began developing a work plan and a government relations strategy to support both regulatory advancement and efforts to secure funding and broader government support for the project. We also continued meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, which remains supportive of the project and its broader potential to contribute to clean energy development, energy sovereignty, and long-term reliability for Huu-ay-aht.

We also met with Transport Canada to begin discussing regulatory requirements and considerations that may fall within its jurisdiction, and we are preparing to engage with Fisheries and Oceans Canada on additional federal regulatory pathways. In parallel, we continued identifying funding opportunities and exploring partnership opportunities with other Nations to support both the pilot project and future site development potential.

From a technology perspective, the SeaTwirl floating vertical-axis wind turbine continues to present a promising option for coastal application. Its floating design offers potential advantages in construction, deployment, and maintenance, including the ability to assemble and service major components more than conventional offshore systems. The technology is also intended to reduce seabed disturbance, simplify maintenance access, and support safer long-term operations, all of which make it well suited for continued evaluation as part of Huu-ay-aht's broader clean energy objectives.

Anacla Government Office (AGO) Solar Project: The next phase of the Anacla Government Office solar project is now complete, and work is currently focused on final commissioning. This project remains an important near-term step in reducing operating costs, increasing local clean power generation, and demonstrating practical clean energy solutions within the community.

Sector Engagement, Strategic Partnerships & Multi-Nation Collaboration: We continued discussions with BC Hydro regarding strengthening power delivery to Huu-ay-aht territory, including reliability improvements for the Nation and how offshore wind and other future wind projects could fit within longer-term energy planning. We also continued collaboration with other Nations to explore co-investment opportunities, future project development partnerships, and coordinated approaches to working with BC Hydro and other agencies.

In addition, we continued exploring battery partnerships and broader technology supply relationships, including discussions with battery suppliers as well as solar and conventional wind manufacturers and developers. This work remains focused on identifying practical partnerships and supply pathways that can support community energy resilience, future project deployment, and stronger Indigenous participation across the clean energy value chain.

Emerging issues (February): Regulatory coordination remains a key emerging issue, particularly as offshore wind development requires engagement with multiple federal and provincial agencies, including Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. At the same time, continued attention is needed on funding pathways, interconnection and grid reliability, and the development of strong strategic partnerships that can support both the pilot project and future larger-scale clean energy opportunities. As this work advances, there is also an emerging need to align technology, regulatory, and partnership development in a way that supports both near-term demonstration and longer-term Nation-led deployment.

Climate Sustainability (Executive Council Joint Portfolio Holder): In February, I continued supporting Councillor Stella Peters in this portfolio primarily through government relations, advocacy, and helping identify potential funding and partnership opportunities where needed. Councillor Peters continues to lead this work directly and is doing an excellent job advancing priorities on the ground and ensuring this portfolio remains focused on the Nation's needs and practical next steps.

I also want to recognize Sean Flickinger, who continues to do a very strong job in his role as Huu-ay-aht's emergency preparedness lead. His work is important to ensuring the Nation continues building readiness, coordination, and capacity in this area.

Emerging issues (February): Continued attention is needed to ensure the Nation remains well positioned to respond to funding opportunities, government programs, and partnership opportunities that can support climate resilience, sustainability, and emergency preparedness priorities as they are advanced under portfolio leadership.

Capital Raise (Portfolio): In February, I continued advancing capital raise and partnership development work across several major Huu-ay-aht priorities, including the Framework Planning Initiative, ship recycling, StackBL housing, and broader clean energy and infrastructure opportunities. This included ongoing discussions related to battery partnerships and energy storage opportunities that could support future community resilience, clean energy development, and broader project implementation. We also continued discussions within Canada regarding potential partnerships that could support ship recycling, offshore wind, housing delivery, and other Nation-building initiatives, with a focus on identifying practical opportunities that align with Huu-ay-aht's long-term interests and project objectives.

This work remains focused on understanding where strategic partnerships, capital relationships, and external expertise can help advance major projects in a way that supports Huu-ay-aht's long-term economic development, protects Nation interests, and creates pathways for investment, procurement, infrastructure development, and sustained economic participation. Across all of this work, the priority remains ensuring that partnership structures, commercial arrangements, and project pathways are designed in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens, while minimizing risk and protecting Huu-ay-aht lands, assets, and decision-making authority.

Framework Planning Project: In February, I continued leading the Framework Planning Initiative with a focus on ongoing negotiations with our partners at Forum Asset Management to finalize key commercial terms and strengthen the overall agreement framework. This work has involved continued collaboration with Deloitte and legal counsel to identify clauses and provisions that are mutually agreeable and beneficial to both parties, while ensuring Huu-ay-aht is minimizing risk, protecting Nation assets and lands, and advancing an arrangement that is firmly in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens.

In parallel, we continued working with Deloitte to help assess and refine the early project opportunities that may form part of the initial phases of the partnership. This includes continued review of project viability, sequencing, financial assumptions, and the practical conditions required to ensure early projects are both investable and aligned with Huu-ay-aht's values, priorities, and long-term development objectives. Legal review has remained an important part of this process to ensure the commercial structure, risk allocation, governance approach, and protections embedded within the agreement appropriately safeguard Huu-ay-aht's interests.

Throughout negotiations, the focus remains clear: while revenue generation and economic growth are important, the agreement must protect Huu-ay-aht's lands, assets, jurisdiction, and long-term decision-making authority. We continue to work toward terms that provide transparency, accountability, and performance expectations, while ensuring that development occurs in a way that benefits citizens and reflects the Nation's long-term vision.

About the Framework Plan Project: The Huu-ay-aht Framework Plan is transitioning from visioning to implementation planning. It incorporates community input and outlines a 20–30-year roadmap to shape land use, housing, transportation, and open spaces. Priorities identified through engagement include cultural preservation, eco-tourism, diverse housing, and sustainable enterprise. The next phase, continuing into 2025, will include detailed feasibility studies, policy refinement, and preparation for pilot projects. For the latest updates, visit: (https://huuayaht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan)

Ship Recycling Project: In February, we continued advancing Huu-ay-aht's ship recycling initiative through weekly coordination meetings and ongoing work to further define the project pathway. During the month, we developed a work plan to guide next steps and began developing a government relations strategy to support the regulatory process and efforts to secure government funding and broader financial support for the project. This work is helping position the initiative more clearly with government and ensuring we are proactive in identifying the approvals, advocacy, and funding pathways required to move the project forward.

We also met with Transport Canada to begin discussing the types of regulatory constraints and considerations the project may face, while also exploring what role Transport Canada may play in supporting the initiative as it advances. In parallel, we continued internal work to identify potential challenges and constraints related to Huu-ay-aht lands, while pulling together previous reports, technical information, and other relevant materials to support site assessment and project planning. Work has continued to identify the most suitable parcels of land with project potential, with the intention of narrowing the focus to approximately three or four candidate sites for further exploration through feasibility studies.

Overall, this work remains focused on building the technical, regulatory, and strategic foundation needed to advance the ship recycling initiative from early-stage concept work toward a more defined and feasible project opportunity that supports long-term economic development, environmental responsibility, and benefits for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

StackBL Housing Project: In February, work continued with our housing partners to explore the best pathway for delivering StackBL and modular housing opportunities in a way that meets Huu-ay-aht needs and creates broader economic development potential. During the month, we issued an RFP to develop a business case, with responses expected back by the end of February. This work will help assess the most effective way to partner with StackBL and determine the strongest pathway for delivering housing solutions.

The business case work is intended to explore a range of opportunities, including whether the best model is to focus on housing delivery for Huu-ay-aht directly, supply to other First Nations or remote communities, or development of new housing types and complex configurations better suited to rural and remote settings. This includes looking at different approaches to modular and panelized housing that could better respond to the practical realities of smaller communities, regional housing gaps, and future market opportunities.

Overall, this initiative remains focused on identifying how a housing partnership can support both community housing needs and longer-term economic opportunities, while ensuring the model is practical, scalable, and aligned with Huu-ay-aht priorities.

Emerging issues (February): As these files continue to advance, the key emerging issue is the need to coordinate multiple major partnership and development initiatives at the same time while ensuring each one is supported by strong due diligence, clear governance, practical implementation pathways, and protections for Huu-ay-aht's lands, assets, and long-term interests. This includes continuing to balance momentum with careful negotiation on the Framework Plan, clarifying regulatory and site-related pathways for ship recycling, assessing the business case and market approach for StackBL housing, and ensuring that broader partnership discussions related to batteries, clean energy, and infrastructure remain focused on opportunities that are practical, strategically aligned, and in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Chair of Board of Directors of Huumiis Ventures: In February, we continued working with Huumiis leadership and our partners at Western Forest Products to strengthen the partnership framework and identify opportunities to improve forestry outcomes for Huu-ay-aht and the broader west coast forestry sector. This work remains focused on continuing discussions with our partners, advancing practical opportunities where possible, and ensuring Huu-ay-aht's interests remain well represented as we work through ongoing sector challenges.

We also continued efforts to support a stronger and more sustainable path forward for forestry by working collaboratively with partners to explore how the relationship, operating approach, and broader opportunities in the sector can be improved over the long term. The overall focus remains on creating better conditions for stability, value creation, and stronger outcomes for Huu-ay-aht within a difficult coastal forestry environment.

Emerging issues (February): Coastal forestry conditions continue to present challenges, and ongoing attention is needed to identify practical opportunities for improvement while maintaining strong partnerships and protecting Huu-ay-aht's long-term interests.

Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC): Board of Directors (Chair): In February, I continued supporting Clean Energy BC's governance, advocacy, and strategic priorities in my role as Board Chair. This work continues to provide important value to Huu-ay-aht by helping position the Nation within broader provincial clean energy discussions, strengthening relationships across industry and government, and giving me direct insight into emerging opportunities, challenges, and policy developments that affect clean energy project advancement in British Columbia. That perspective is valuable for Huu-ay-aht as we continue advancing our own clean energy priorities, including offshore wind, solar, storage, and broader energy sovereignty objectives.

Clean Energy BC continues to focus on key sector priorities including procurement certainty, permitting modernization, Indigenous participation and equity, transmission and interconnection issues, and broader conditions needed to accelerate clean energy development across the province. Ongoing work in these areas helps ensure that Huu-ay-aht remains informed, well connected, and better positioned to identify partnerships, funding opportunities, and strategic

pathways that support Nation-led clean energy development. My role also continues to provide useful industry insight into project delivery trends, regulatory developments, supply chain considerations, and the evolving role of Indigenous Nations in the clean energy economy.

Government Relations Committee (Member): In February, my work with CEBC's Government Relations Committee continued to focus on the association's ongoing advocacy with government on clean energy procurement, permitting modernization, Indigenous equity participation, and broader policy conditions needed to support project development in British Columbia. The Committee continued to engage around major government and regulatory files affecting the sector, while helping ensure that industry perspectives are communicated clearly and constructively to decision-makers. This work remains important in supporting a more predictable, competitive, and effective environment for clean energy development, which in turn benefits Huu-ay-aht as we work to advance our own projects and partnerships.

Permitting & Regulatory Committee (Member): In February, my work with CEBC's Permitting & Regulatory Committee continued to focus on the practical regulatory and permitting issues affecting clean energy project delivery. The Committee remained engaged on ongoing challenges related to permitting efficiency, agency coordination, regulatory clarity, and the need for more streamlined and predictable project review processes. This includes continued attention to the implementation of regulatory reforms, the practical realities proponents are facing in moving projects forward, and the need to ensure that modernization efforts lead to real improvements while maintaining strong environmental oversight and respect for Indigenous rights. This work continues to provide valuable insight into the barriers and solutions shaping clean energy development across the province, which is directly relevant to Huu-ay-aht's own clean energy interests.

https://cleanenergybc.org/
https://cleanenergybc.org/policy-and-regulation/

Meetings/Events: (a few of the events and meetings this month)

Week one (Feb 2nd to 6th):

- EcDev meeting
- Ship recycling regulatory working group meeting
- Stackbl/HFN housing project meeting
- CEBC admin meeting
- Forestry meeting
- Framework project meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Edward Johnson
- Framework project meeting
- EcDev legislation amendments meeting
- CEBC regulatory efficiency working group meeting
- CEBC Admin meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Brad Johnson
- Gov relations meeting
- HFN/AKS offshore wind meeting
- Law and Policy Development committee meeting
- Ship recycling JEG business case meeting
- Transport Canada Ship recycling meeting
- HFN/Hazlewood Ship recycling meeting
- Leadership Group meeting Alberni Valley Ship Recycling

Week two (Feb 9th to 13th):

- Committee of the Whole meeting
- CEBC admin meeting
- Stackbl/HFN housing project meeting
- CEBC admin meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Lands Director
- CEBC HR committee meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with EcDev Officer
- Land Claims Agreement Coalition meeting
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Global Affairs Canada meeting
- Tribunal Project AC Meeting

Week three (Feb 16th to 20th):

- Stat Holiday Family Day
- CEBC admin meeting
- Budget speech Legislature (was sick and was unable to attend)
- Sick for a couple days with the flu
- Framework project meeting
- HFN/AKS offshore wind project
- CEBC Government relations committee meeting
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Ministry of clean energy and climate solutions

Week three (Feb 23rd to 27th):

- Funeral for Elder
- CEBC HR meeting
- FN Leadership Conference - Prince Rupert
- Law and Policy Development committee meeting
- CEBC admin meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Lands Director
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with EcDev Officer
- Executive Council meeting
- Keynote speech at FN Leadership Conference - Prince Rupert
- Ship recycling meeting.