huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Executive Council Report
September 2026

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Chief-Councillor John Jack Report – September 2026

The following section is a description of my monthly meeting itinerary. It mostly describes the meetings and events that are pertinent to the duties of Chief-Councillor and a Member of Council with various files in their portfolio. There may be some details added into the description for better understanding of day-to-day, but simpler tasks like reading materials, office duties and catching up on constant emails tend to be described as they are without much detail.

Week One

The first week of September I was on annual leave to spend some time with the family and to prepare for the children's return to school on the 8th.

Week Two

Offices were closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labour Day holiday. Tuesday September 8th was met with multiple virtual UBCM Ministerial Staff meetings throughout the day as well as a meeting to review the agenda for the upcoming Executive Council meeting on the 10th. Wednesday started off with more UBCM Ministerial staff meetings on behalf of ACRD, along with my biweekly connect meeting with our provincial GR firm in the AM followed by an ACRD Board meeting in the afternoon/early evening. On the Thursday I chaired the Executive Council meeting, followed by two virtual meetings in the afternoon. Friday gave me an opportunity to catch up on administrative matters in the AM and I then attended an ICET board meeting in the afternoon.

Week Three

On Sunday, September 13, I made my way to Vancouver to attend the annual UBCM convention at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This was a very busy week where I attended numerous meetings with various ministries on behalf of Huu-ay-aht as well as the ACRD.

Week Four

This week was another full week of meetings which started off with a Law and Policy Development Committee meeting on the Monday, followed by an agenda review meeting for the upcoming Executive Council meeting on Thursday. On Tuesday, September 22, I attended the Committee of the Whole meeting which was a full day. On the Wednesday, I connected once again with our provincial GR firm in the morning where we had discussions about the UBCM and the early provincial call by Premier Eby, followed by an ACRD board meeting in the afternoon. On Thursday, I once again chaired the executive council meeting and on Friday, I attended an FNNGA board meeting in the AM, followed by A meeting with Mosaic in the afternoon.

Week Five

The final week of September was a short week which, unfortunately, started off with an office closure on the Monday due to a passing of one of our respected elders. On the Tuesday, I attended a meeting in the AM where we discussed the community impacts of the Mount Underwood Fire followed by two more meetings in the afternoon. On Wednesday, the office was closed in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Portfolio Related Work

Economic Development – Progress Report and Emerging Issues

A portfolio shuffle occurred at the September 24th Executive Council meeting, where I made the decision to shift the economic development portfolio over to Stephen Rayner. As the chair of the Economic Development Committee, this automatically places Stephen as the Chair of the HFNDC **Board.**

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report and Emerging Issues

There were two ACRD board meetings held in September. In addition, I attended various UBCM meetings on behalf of the ACRD during the week of September 14th to 18th.

External Relations – Progress Report and Emerging Issues

The major external consideration again this month is my attendance to the "Political Advisory Table" for the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People Act with the Province of British Columbia's Attorney-General Niki Sharma and the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Spencer Chandra-Herbert with a good number of First Nations leaders from the Assembly of the First Nations (BC), Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and the First Nations Summit. I was selected as a representative of modern treaty nations (confirmed by the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations).

Unfortunately, with Premier Eby calling a snap election in October, these meetings have now been put on hold with uncertainty for the future, depending on electoral results.

I attended the Union of BC Municipalities conference in September alongside Councillor Edward Johnson, Councillor Stephen Rayner and Councillor Nicole Malcolmson. With the recent snap election which was called for October, the First Nations Leadership Gathering scheduled for November has been postponed with the new dates still to be confirmed. We have much on the go in Huu-ay-aht, and we need to be able to keep the Province informed and enthusiastic in their helping us achieve goals that benefit everyone such as the Bamfield Road, various large scale economic development projects, the state of coastal forestry in BC, our relationship to and for our children and families, and so on and so forth.

Federally, we are engaged with the Major Projects Office on producing feedback on various projects of national interest that the federal government hopes to move forward. Their "one project, one process" approach is innovative, but it needs to be shown to adequately consider the rights and interests of First Nations, especially those like HFN with modern treaty. We are set to engage in two ways, government to government, but also to engage with citizens on their input and concerns. There is also a deeper relationship being fostered with Global Affairs Canada on helping to facilitate the efforts of the federal government to create more trade connections with other countries, not just the United States. Further integration into a pacific rim economy of trade is in the interests of Huu-ay-aht as much as it is for BC and Canada, and thus we do what we can where it makes sense to help move that forward.

Ha'wiih Representative Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup) Report – September 2026

Theresa.n@huuayaht.org

ƛ̓eko (thank you) to all Huu-ay-aht Citizens for your continued commitment to our Nation and the work we are doing together for the well-being of our people.

Ha'wiih Council would like to take this opportunity to remind all Citizens of the importance of upholding our Oath and 3 Sacred Principles in all that we do — whether in meetings, gatherings, or interactions within the community and beyond.

As Huu-ay-aht, we are civilized and respectful people. Our ancestors taught us to conduct ourselves with dignity, patience, and compassion. We must continue to honour these teachings by ensuring that our words and actions reflect mutual respect and understanding.

Disrespectful behavior — including speaking out of turn, yelling, using abusive or abrasive language, or displaying aggressive actions such as banging on tables — will not be tolerated.

Likewise, any behavior that could be seen as bullying, intimidation, or harassment toward Huu-ay-aht Citizens, Huu-ay-aht Government staff, or HGB staff is not acceptable. We must all do our part to ensure everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

Ha'wiih Council encourages all Citizens to approach discussions with open minds and hearts, to listen carefully, and to speak respectfully. When we conduct ourselves with honor and respect, we strengthen our Nation and uphold the legacy of our ancestors.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all.

The Ha'wiiḥ Council is integrated by the Hereditary Chiefs who represent seven houses. They provide the Huu-ay-aht Government with advice and take care of protocol during cultural events.

Its current members are:

Olivia Peters – ʔApwinisatḥʔ house – Mentored by Theresa Peters
Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup) – Ḥaw'eḥtak'amłatḥ house
Phyllis Williams sitting in for daughter Victoria Williams (ʔuutstuʔaksa)- ƛamahuus house
Andy Clappis (Ciicaacistuł) – Kuukw'iis house
Sherri Cook (Yaalthuuaa-uks)– Yaałuuwaštakaʔmałtḥ house
Tommy Happynook (ḥapinyuuk) – Čačaaḥsiʔas house
Alec Frank (ƛaacmiik) – Maatsaas house

According to the Constitution Act:

There shall be constituted an advisory body to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council composed of the Huu-ay-aht Ha'wiiḥ, to be known as the Ha'wiiḥ Council.
Representation on the Ha'wiiḥ Council shall be determined in accordance with customary practices.
Prior to passing any laws, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council must seek and consider any advice from the Ha'wiiḥ Council.
In addition to the role contemplated in 2.15, the Ha'wiiḥ Council shall assume those additional roles and responsibilities contemplated in this Constitution.
Constitution Act
Huu-ay-aht First Nations page 9

2011
https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/constitution-act.pdf

Ha'wiih Representative for Executive Council:

The Ha'wiih Representative attends meetings on behalf of the Ha'wiih Council, and in turn, then reports back to the Ha'wiih Council. A monthly report is sent out for review. This gives time for any questions or concerns the Ha'wiih may want to relay to Executive Council and vice versa.

Areas of Responsibility include: *(reports are done by the chairs of Committees)

Ha'wiih Council
Nananiiqsu Society
Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations
Nuu-Cha-Nulth Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries'

Ha'wiih Council:

This council now meets twice a month. The first meeting is set for business and regular business practices. The second meeting is dedicated to helping our new Ha'wiih learn their Hereditary roles, practices and protocols.

Ha'wiih council has started with a cultural opening to bring in our Ancestors to help guide us in our development and decision-making process along with a closing to cover and protect Ha'wiih throughout our daily lives.

We will then begin each meeting with a friendly reminder on the importance of confidentiality, no phones, no recording or mics on and that all video cameras are to be turned on throughout the duration of zoom meetings, materials shared to Ha'wiih are confidential, only to be discussed amongst those on Ha'wiih Council.

It is important that we, as Ha'wiih, remember that we are here to protect the most vulnerable, our women, youth and Elders.

We, as Ha'wiih, are held at higher standards and should reflect that in everything we do, whether it be in office, public or throughout our daily lives.

A friendly reminder -The Jay Treaty is in full use with the Alberta/Montana border and that some immigration personnel are not familiar with the Jay Treaty. It is fully recommended to continue to take passports with you to ensure ease of travel. HFN can have a blood quantum form provided for travel and to ensure travel buddies have all documentation with them to easily navigate through your trips. Letters have been written up for ease of distribution when needed.

This council met August 10,2026 at the Port Alberni office. Hinatinyis opened us with an opening song. Each Ha'wiih provided an update on the naming project they are working on. Some are further along with others. They will continue to work with Hinatinyis and Ron Hamilton on finding words, names, and or phrases for their citizens in their houses.

Ron Hamilton shared cultural protocols and steps involved in conducting a naming ceremony. Ron also provided some guidance on how cultural workers can continue to provide cultural support while grieving. Ha'wiih discussed how to help the Nation move forward after consecutive losses in

our community. A discussion was had on holding a gathering together to honor and grieve all citizens that have been lost.

The Ha'wiih council has contracted Colleen Peters to make headbands and sashes for the security that will be at the upcoming People's Assembly, Friday, Nov 20-21, 2026. The location this year is: The KCC, 4090 Hollywood St., Port Alberni, Bc.

There are 6 vendor spots available!

Nananiiqsu Society:

Looking forward to this society picking up again after the summer break, Nananiiqsu will have their first meeting Friday, October 23, 2026.

Alliance of BC Modern Treaty:

Alliance Administration:

The Alliance governs by consensus—to work on an initiative collectively, all member Nations must be in support. Collective projects are tackled by working groups (WGs) comprised of technical representatives from Modern Treaty Nations (MTNs), working with reps from the lead BC ministry. Alliance staff provide centralized support to each WG by providing strategic advice and project management services; chairing, coordinating and documenting meetings; managing records and tracking actions; and by preparing reports, briefings, presentation materials, and other documents as needed. The ED and/or Policy Analyst also participate in WGs to provide additional capacity in support of achieving Alliance priorities. External expertise is contracted to advance priority projects as needed (and where budget permits).

This monthly report on activities supports updating MTN Leadership and the Alliance Management Committee (AMC). Meetings can thus be dedicated to decision making and to having important strategic discussions.

Alliance Administration:

The new Alliance website (alliancebcmtn.ca) launched at the end of August. It features a new design, expanded information on modern treaties and MTNs, and links to each Nation's website. After working with contractors to develop the site, the Alliance team now has full control over updates and content management. We will continue to expand the website's resources section throughout the fiscal year using previously received CIRNAC funding.

The Society Board of Directors met on August 4 to review first quarter financial statements. Finances are in order and on budget.

The ED is working with our contracted bookkeeper on the audit for fiscal year 2025-26. The audit will be conducted in September and will be presented to the Board in October. The audit and other financial statements will be presented to MTN leadership at the next Society AGM in early 2027.

Alliance Management Committee:

The AMC meets monthly. This month, discussions included:

An update on the allocation of MAG funding to support the work required for BC courts to prosecute MTN laws. MAG secured $65,000 in funding, intended to support work from April to October. These funds will be distributed to each MTN in September (with a 10% admin fee allocated to the Alliance).

Early planning for the next Senior Officials Forum, intended as an accountability measure between Premier's Forums to ensure commitments are actioned.
Alliance support for workshops hosted by the Indigenous Justice Secretariat, including a session on modern treaties to be co-presented by the Alliance ED and MIRR.
Discussing a potential host for the 2027 Premier's Forum, which can hopefully be identified soon.
Finalizing a list of Ministers for leaders to consider and approve for Alliance meetings at FNLG in November.
Potential collective meetings include the Premier and the Ministers of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Attorney General, Health, Children and Family Development, and Finance.
AMC members will seek MTN leadership approval of the proposed Ministers.
Confirmation of November 25 as the date for the Communications Governance Framework Workshop, to be facilitated by 50th Parallel PR.
The workshop will take place in Victoria (from 1-5pm) and can accommodate up to two participants from each MTN. Ideally, each MTN would have a leader and a senior staff (preferably an AMC member) participate.
Potential future collective advocacy related to improvements to the treaty amendment process with Canada.

Fiscal Working Group:

BC's Modern Treaty Collaborative Fiscal Policy is ready for internal cross-government engagement. BC and MTNs have been co-developing engagement materials to support this process, which is key to obtaining input and buy-in from other ministries. The materials provide a history of collaborative fiscal work, explain its importance to both MTNs and BC, and outline concepts such as grant funding and expenditure need. Targeted cross-government engagement will begin in October.

MTNs are now working to execute their FFAs. Once signed by the MTNs, the agreements will be signed by BC before being sent to Canada for execution. These amendments will secure funding for a 10-year term. The revised language also permits MTNs to allocate lands and resources funding to any treaty implementation activity (a way of meeting the objective of grant funding).

In connection with the new FFA language, BC has developed a questionnaire to guide the annual meeting each MTN is required to hold with BC to release lands and resources funding. MTNs expressed concern about the level of detail requested by BC, which was framed as necessary to meet its legal and accounting obligations. In the absence of explicit details on those obligations, MTNs proposed changes to minimize reporting requirements to be more in line with their jurisdictions as self-governing Nations. BC has now confirmed they can accept the edits proposed by MTNs.

Property Transfer Tax (PTT):

MTNs have begun discussions with the Ministry of Finance regarding a potential treaty Property Transfer Tax benefit. Representatives supporting First Nations in advanced treaty negotiations are also participating to avoid parallel discussions. Regular meetings will begin in September and occur every six weeks.

Note: This file is subject to confidentiality and further details cannot be shared here.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

Modern Treaty Implementation Policy:
The MIRR policy team is leading the development of a provincial modern treaty implementation policy. A dedicated working group, supported by MTN representatives, is helping advance this project. The goal is to finalize a draft policy by the end of the calendar year and secure approvals by the 2027 Premier's Forum.

The WG met in August to discuss key issues MTNs would like addressed through the implementation of this policy and to continue developing the draft, with special consideration to the outline of internal Provincial governance structures needed to better support the whole of government implementation of modern treaties. The MIRR team is continuing to work on the draft policy for MTN review and input early September.

Boundary Issues Resolution:
Meetings will move to a bi-weekly schedule beginning September 17 to ensure momentum is maintained.

MIRR met with MTN representatives in late June following repeated requests from the Alliance for MTN involvement in initiatives related to DRIPA Action 1.01, which aims to establish a new institution to support First Nations in resolving boundary issues. BC confirmed that the FNLC has been funded to work on this initiative. Thus far, the FNLC has been focused on developing a toolkit to support First Nations interested in addressing boundary issues. BC further confirmed (as was articulated in a letter from Minister sent to each MTN) they are advancing policy work to address Crown conduct and outline their role in boundary resolution work. MTNs emphasized that they have interests that must be considered by their treaty partners and that this work cannot proceed without their involvement.

The FNLC consultant leading development of the toolkit briefed MTNs in August on work completed to date. The draft toolkit was shared with MTNs and is available on our SharePoint site. They confirmed that no work is underway on the development of the institution envisioned in Action 1.01.

Regular meetings with BC will begin in September, starting with a discussion of the Province's consultation and cooperation plan (outlined in the above mentioned letter), scheduling for a potential leaders' forum (likely a plenary session at the FNLG), and identification of MTN priority areas.

Declaration Act (DRIPA) Review:
BC is working with First Nations to identify a path forward for DRIPA that addresses legal risks arising from the Gitxaala decision. BC has engaged Grand Chief Steven Point and the Honorable Russell Brown to co-facilitate the review process and lead engagement with First Nations.

A Political Advisory Table has been established with representatives from First Nations organizations and leaders representing diverse rights and interests. Chief John Jack was appointed as the Alliance representative, with technical support from the Alliance ED and Brent Lehman, legal counsel for the Maa-nulth Treaty Society.
The Alliance is holding weekly caucus meetings (Thursdays 10am -12pm) to provide updates to MTN representatives and gather input.

A Policy Support Committee composed of technical and legal experts supporting the political representatives met on July 31, August 4, and August 24. The committee has been working to develop a framework that addresses BC's perceived legal issues while reflecting First Nations interests, drawing from proposals put forward by First Nations and BC. The PAT met on August 27 to discuss and outlined areas that need more work. Discussions continue to identify common ground and advance potential solutions.

Note: This file is subject to confidentiality and further details cannot be shared here.

Ministry of Attorney General (MAG)

Enforcement of MTN Laws: Prosecution Project:
MTNs and MAG have continued advancing work to enable BC courts to prosecute offences un MTN laws, as contemplated by all modern treaties. BC confirmed that the Request for Decision has been approved by Cabinet.

A small technical subgroup of MTN legal counsel and MAG lawyers is co-developing a Request for Legislation, which has required a line-by-line review of the Offence Act. The broader working group will receive its next progress update from the subgroup in September.

Note: This file is subject to confidentiality and further details cannot be shared here

Ministry of Waters, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

Natural Resource Permitting:
MTNs continue to meet regularly with WLRS on an initiative to reform several permitting processes within the natural resource sector. This is a broad, long-term engagement with a target completion date of early 2028.

The WG met several times over the summer to complete what BC is considering "Phase 1" of the initiative. A total of 11 policy proposals were reviewed, covering the Water Sustainability Act, Riparian Areas Protection Act, Forest Act, and Wildlife Act. MTNs also attended a walkthrough of the consultative draft legislative amendments in August.

Discussions have begun on potential areas of focus for "Phase 2" of the initiative. WG members highlighted several priority areas, including restoration permitting, forest tenure flexibility, hazardous waste management, and stream restoration. Engagement on Phase 2 is expected to run from September 2026 to May 2027.

Note: This file is subject to confidentiality and further details cannot be shared here.

Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)

Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) 5-Year Review:
An MTN WG is engaged with the EAO on the legislated five-year review of the Environmental Assessment Act. The process is expected to span approximately two years and will follow a phased approach, with separate timelines for each major priority area.

The first phase focused on amendments to the dispute resolution process and the development of a new Issues Resolution Protocol. This phase was completed in July after MTNs provided feedback on the consultative draft regulations.

The next phase of the review will begin in September and will focus on the Participating Indigenous Nation Framework.

Engagement Review Working Group:
The ERWG meets bi-weekly to assess interest in collective engagement opportunities, including attendance at information sessions on specific initiatives. The group also debriefs on engagement activities and makes recommendations to the AMC regarding potential collective action.

Engagements reviewed by the working group in the past month included:

Employment Standards Act and Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act:
Nations received emails from the Ministry of Labor advising of upcoming regulation development related to recent legislative amendments aimed at improving worker protections and complaint resolution. Most MTNs are of the legal opinion that federal employment laws, rather than provincial laws, apply to their governments. The ERWG recommended no collective action.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Financing:
ERWG members attended an information session on proposed legislative amendments that would change how municipalities obtain public approval to borrow funds for drinking water infrastructure improvements. If passed during the fall
session, the amendments would require enabling regulations before coming into force. ERWG members requested updates once regulation development begins.

Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Policy Framework:
MTNs received emails from Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills inviting participation in two upcoming initiatives aimed at improving post-secondary outcomes for Indigenous students and enhancing employment skills training programs. ERWG members identified these initiatives as a priority for MTNs, and the Alliance has scheduled an information session with BC in September. Collective next steps will be discussed later that month.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES

Fisheries: Salmon Allocation Policy Review:
Anita Blakley of LGL has been representing MTNs in the process of updating DFO's Salmon Allocation Policy. Updates and requests for MTN input are provided through Fisheries WG.

On June 18, DFO advised the FN-DFO Committee that the First Nations Supplementary Report, which had been included in the package provided to the Minister by the Multi-Party Working Group, was distributed to representatives from the commercial and recreational sectors. The report was intended to be shared only with DFO. This incident reinforced broader concerns regarding MTN relations with DFO.

In response, DFO contacted all parties involved in the MPWG process and requested that any unauthorized copies be deleted and that no further distribution occur. To the best of our knowledge, no further action has been taken.

A letter signed by the leaders of all eight MTNs has been sent to the Minister requesting that this breach of confidentiality be addressed.

Renewal of the Federal Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines (CIRNAC):
The Alliance ED has been participating on the Indigenous-Crown Steering Committee (ICSC) established to support the renewal process of the Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines.

New draft Guidelines were reviewed by MTNs in May, and collective written feedback was submitted. CIRNAC had advised that the next draft would be shared late July-early August, however, no revised draft has been shared to date. An email was recently shared with the ICSC noting that approval to share the current draft externally was still pending and that this yet to be shared draft is intended to be the final version for review before the guidelines are finalized for publication. Once received, the Alliance will review the draft to assess whether MTN concerns have been adequately addressed, though it is not clear whether major changes will be further considered.

• The ISCS is meeting late September. The ED hopes to get more info on timelines etc. then.

Nuu cha Nulth Council of ha'wiih forum on Fisheries:

This council will next meet October 7-8, 2026, in Port Alberni at the Italian Hall.

Councillor ƛicitaṯ Edward R. Johnson - September 2026
https://huuayaht.org/councillor-edward-r-johnson/

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

Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Working with my tech support in firming up agenda for September committee meeting.
- Biweekly meeting with Director of Infrastructure & Capital Projects Infrastructure.
- Facility on the homelands was broken into - looking to hear facts on the meeting with insurance and the RCMP strong visuals of it suspects.
- UBCM meetings – Had a meeting with PC housing where I did some networking and talking about potential feature projects. The ministry shared that there is not a whole lot of funding available and that for the next year to keep in mind for capital contribution information coming in the new fiscal year. Shared our friendship with Stackabl housing and shared the potential of affordable housing project in regard to elder housing and some other potential resources that we could utilize from BC housing. We also talked about potential land and crown land that could be accessed by our nation. I will be following up to see how this could be possible.
- Working on dates for our infrastructure team and housing manager to view and visit the house that was built in Port Renfrew.
- Citizen development officer report is nearing completion. I'm looking forward to this report that has a housing focus.
- Preparing for strategic training session in October - getting the 10 year capital plan ready.
- Getting ready to submit feasibility study for our early learning a childcare facility that will be located in our upper village. We are just working through the RFP process for the design and then we will be submitting to the British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society as well as submitting our feasibility study to the Canadian Human RightsTribunal 41 application for our Children and Families Wellness Center.
- Due to the election, our meeting with the province in regard to the road will have to be delayed. I was looking forward to this working group, thinking the next time we get to meet will probably be late January or February and we'll make sure that a reminder is sent once

Children and Family Wellness Committee

https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/citizen-development-regulation-2012-official-consolidation.pdf e

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Met with assistant deputy minister to talk about the coordination table call and phase two negotiations with MCFD treaty amendments where we had questions regarding the communication between MCFD and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to ensure nothing falls between the cracks when it comes to amendments to our treaty. I am

looking forward to follow-up discussions in the coming weeks after phase two conversation at this month's executive council meeting.
- Biweekly meeting with Director of Child and Family Wellness
- Met with British Columbia Aboriginal Child Care Society where we talked about submitting our feasibility study for our early learning childcare center feasibility which was completed in January. It was a great discussion and am looking forward to submitting. There are just a few things left to completion. A special EC meeting needs to be called to receive the feasibility study and to put out a RFP for design. The early learning child care facility is attached to Children and Family's Wellness Center. The Wellness Center design funds will be covered by Canadian Human Rights Tribunal 41. There are little bits of moving parts in regards to both structures.
- Attended the Nanaimo Nuuchah nulth children's honouring feast.
- Attended the Kw'umut Lelum "Meet n Greet" in Vancouver.
- Participating in community engagement. One of the key topics is amendments to our children and families act.
- Conversations paused with the Ministry of Children and Families Department due to the BC election. Hopefully we'll be able to go through the spring legislation and then off to the federal legislation, one of the key moving pieces when it comes to finaliZing our coordination table agreement
- Internal working group currently working on work plan and hoping to have a signed agreement with Canada and the province of British Columbia by April 14th
- Prepping and getting ready working with the team regarding upcoming strategic planning.

Deputy-Chief Councillor

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended media training where I was given a bunch of different scenarios. Leading up to the scenarios, we talked about prep work coming up with three main points that I would like to get across to the audience. We talked about the question and responses to the question. I felt that I learned a lot of good tips and tools to work through interacting with the media reporters, radio interviews and TV interviews. Some of the scenarios started off really simple and easy, then later on their interviews got more difficult. I greatly appreciate our GR firm for taking the time in being very innovative and creative in regard to mock scenarios. I feel that with this training I can better represent my people.
- Biweekly Bilat John/Edward.
- Engaged in meetings with several different ministries at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities advocating for our nation and reminding ministries that we have a government-to-government relationship. I always like to participate in these meetings and we left a good leave-behind with information and a follow up meeting afterwards.
- Did a welcome at the BMSC to the World Congress of Marine Stations Reception. I gave a strong welcome to our wonderful guests from around the world. There were 70 plus participants. Networking followed afterwards at dinner. There were a lot of individuals from around the world; some representatives from Chile talked about doing a cross cultural exchange. It will be interesting to see what comes of this - I'll keep you posted.
- Met with Mosaic where we talked about MOU, term sheet and land, re multiple parcels of land that belong to Mosaic that they would like to offloqe to us as Huuayaht. https://www.mosaicforests.com/news-views/mosaic-and-pacheedaht-first-nation-unite-for-partnership-milestone. Once upon a time these lands that we talked about belonged to our people. I find it interesting in today's times exercising our treaty to gain our land back, thinking creatively and outside the box at potential options and opportunities to gain land

back for our future generations. We also talked about China Creek bridge and brief conversations with the province.

- Attended an all chiefs meeting at the Westin Wall Center in Richmond. There was a lot of great discussion on the agenda for the two days. At end of day on day 2, I presented for an external committee that I was selected for on restructuring the aboriginal operations practice standards and indicators. We'll be giving an update alongside Mary Teegee and Tyler Epp
- This month I'll be participating in community engagement sessions looking forward to gathering information on finance and children and families.
- EC Agenda Review meeting
- Meeting Stackabl/HFN - Next steps
- Chaired COW meeting
- EC Portfolios https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/EC-Portfolios-September-2025.pdf
- Stackables housing was involved in a meeting going over scope. This was a good meeting. Michael from Stackabl and our HFN capital infrastructure director engaged and I'm looking forward to sharing information. Some of our infrastructure team will be traveling to Port Renfrew to view the Stackable home model.
- Participated in cultural gathering at the fall fare grounds where we represented our nation well and sang a couple of sogns. There was a strong representation from Nuuchahnulth at the gathering. This is something I look forward to year after year - a lot of good energy was shared by all.
- Participated in international overdose awareness day at our Port Alberni government office.

Deputy-Chief Councillor

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- Engaged in meetings with several different ministries at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities advocating for our nation and reminding ministries that we have a government-to-government relationship. I always like to participate in these meetings and we left a good leave-behind with information and a follow up meeting afterwards.
- Did a welcome at the BMSC to the World Congress of Marine Stations Reception. I gave a strong welcome to our wonderful guests from around the world. There were 70 plus participants. Networking followed afterwards at dinner. There were a lot of individuals from around the world; some representatives from Chile talked about doing a cross cultural exchange. It will be interesting to see what comes of this - I'll keep you posted.
- Met with Mosaic where we talked about MOU, term sheet and land, re multiple parcels of land that belong to Mosaic that they would like to offloqe to us as Huuayaht. https://www.mosaicforests.com/news-views/mosaic-and-pacheedaht-first-nation-unite-for-partnership-milestone. Once upon a time these lands that we talked about belonged to our

people. I find it interesting in today's times exercising our treaty to gain our land back, thinking creatively and outside the box at potential options and opportunities to gain land back for our future generations. We also talked about China Creek bridge and brief conversations with the province.

- Attended an all chiefs meeting at the Westin Wall Center in Richmond. There was a lot of great discussion on the agenda for the two days. At end of day on day 2, I presented for an external committee that I was selected for on restructuring the aboriginal operations practice standards and indicators. We'll be giving an update alongside Mary Teegee and Tyler Epp
- This month I'll be participating in community engagement sessions looking forward to gathering information on finance and children and families.
- EC Agenda Review meeting
- Meeting Stackabl/HFN - Next steps
- Chaired COW meeting
- EC Portfolios https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/EC-Portfolios-September-2025.pdf
- Stackables housing was involved in a meeting going over scope. This was a good meeting. Michael from Stackabl and our HFN capital infrastructure director engaged and I'm looking forward to sharing information. Some of our infrastructure team will be traveling to Port Renfrew to view the Stackable home model.
- Participated in cultural gathering at the fall fare grounds where we represented our nation well and sang a couple of sogns. There was a strong representation from Nuuchahnulth at the gathering. This is something I look forward to year after year - a lot of good energy was shared by all.
- Participated in international overdose awareness day at our Port Alberni government office.

Citizenship Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

Very much so enjoy this committee in reviewing citizenship applications and treaty enrollment applications. I feel this committee interacts really well with each other. Committee members are new. I've had this portfolio in the past and really enjoy it talking about family trees

Councillor Brad Johnson Executive Council Report – September 2026

Portfolios:

Fisheries/Wildlife/Forestry
Treaty Implementation
Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board
HR Workplace and Wellness
Special Project: Bamfield Road
Citizenship Committee Member

Fisheries: This month the Nation held the Sarita River Chinook economic fishery - 979 adult hatchery chinooks were caught and sold over 2 days fishing. We had a great turnout of citizens with 18 participating in total with an average of 15 citizens per day. It may be possible that the nation will do one more harvest as many fish are still in the lower river. Overall, I am very pleased on how this fishery was run, I would like to thank our fisheries manager for the exceptional work the team did on creating the fishing plan and working with DFO to ensure our citizens are able to participate in this economic opportunity.

On September 24th, 2026, our Nation received notice from DFO that it looks like we will be able to trigger an economic harvest on Sugsaw Creek Chum if the run size is large enough and has a surplus. This work leading up to this approval has been ongoing for the past year with biweekly meetings leading up to this date. I would like to again recognize our fisheries manager for the many hours of data collection and conversation held with DFO staff to turn this idea into a reality. We will still need official signing off from the DFO Regional Director General but once that happens, official communication will be released. This will be another opportunity for our Huu-ay-aht citizens to capitalize on.

Wildlife: On September 8, 2026, our HFN lands and resources team and I met with BC Conservation Officer service from the west coast region. We met Sargeant Dan Eichstadter at the Anacla Government office. This was a meet and greet to discuss a problem cougar that was in the community of upper/lower Anacla. We discussed options regarding how reporting is done and the best methods to get through to an officer in our area. We also were informed that Parks Canada National Parks puts on a Hazing program and that our Guardian program should look into the course. We spoke about Hunting/Harvesting, and our Compliance and Enforcement documents the nation created for our citizens. They were very impressed with this document and said it would be very useful to their team. Overall, it was a very informative discussion with a lot of good takeaways for our HFN team. In future months we will have the opportunity to host a meet and greet with Conservation Officer Services at one of our next Harvester meetings.

Forestry: With a shuffle and some changes to my portfolio I now oversee some forestry aspects. What was known as Lands and Resources Committee will now be re-named to Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife committee. This committee will meet next month to look at the terms of reference. I have put a call out for 2 new committee members whom I'm hoping to appoint early next month. A forestry think tank is being scheduled for some time next month.

Treaty Implementation: We were informed that the scheduled amendments to the Treaty that were supposed to go to the legislation this fall will be canceled. The proposed new time will be at the spring legislation. The child and family and the addition to treaty lands amendments will be at a standstill until then.

Preparation for the G2G and finalizing the agenda was being worked on this month with Maa Nulth Treaty Society. Since that time the G2G and FNLG have both been cancelled due to the provincial election.

The application for the Gitxaala intervention has been submitted. The collation of nation now waits to see if we will be excepted as an intervener.

Groundwater internal conversations have started, Maa Nulth Treaty Society has added Colin Salter as an advisor. Over the years Colin has built a reputation as a trusted advisor and negotiator that help Indigenous nations. HFN met with Colin this month to identify our nation's needs and wants with groundwater. Colin met with each Maa Nulth nation to better understand similarities between nation wants and needs.

The MFC discussed the ongoing concerns regarding the overharvest of Hucuktlis Sockeye salmon in Area 23. MTS support (Holly Booker and Bob Bocking) prepared a proposed approach (both technical and at the DFO management-level) to help minimize the harvest on Hucuktlis Sockeye. The MFC recommends that Maa-nulth leadership support the proposed approach to advance for discussion with DFO at an upcoming Joint Fisheries Committee technical meeting, followed by a formal letter. The proposed approach includes the following:

Improved spatial fishing zone boundary restrictions to be implemented in 2027

- Maximum fish size limits for retention of Sockeye for the recreational fishing sector.
- Inclusion of the recreational fishing sector in the now expired Henderson Sharing Arrangement.
- Improved forecasting methods to determine Maa-nulth allocation.

Parks Canada: On September 16th and 17th 2026, I attended an Indigenous Stewardship Circle meeting held at Tin Wis in Tofino BC. I was joined by our Executive Director who has extensive knowledge of this circle regarding Parks Canada. Nine First Nations who have lands within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve met with the circle to discuss Acknowledgments, Apologies and Redress. Nations were asked individually what an apology would look like. Each nation expressed their truth and the hurt that they have endured from parks that were created in each Nation's lands without consultation. It was obvious that the nine nations would not come to a consensus on what a formal apology would look like. Our nation had conversation prior to this event, so it was very easy for us to speak on this topic without letting our emotions take over the delivering of the message. We had tried to lead by example but with a very diverse group, I'm not sure Parks achieved what they were looking for. We expressed we are a Modern Treaty Nation like our relatives from Yuulu?il?ath First Nation and the Crown should respect we are Treaty Partners and that should mean something more.

Day 2 of the meeting focused on stewardship policy and procedures. Indigenous stewardship framework plan has been underway in collaboration within the circle and Parks Canada. The framework is focused on looking at priorities of the Nations, identifying opportunities and implementing UNDRIP in the new policy. Other Federal Departments are looking at this policy and model on how to work with First Nations Partners as this has never been done before. This is the benefit of having an Indigenous Stewardship circle. Overall, there were good conversations over two days with Parks Canada and our neighboring nations of Pacific Rim National Park.

HR Workplace and Wellness: This month members of Executive Council received a very large complaint that was very broad in nature that had concerns with employees from the Government and Huu-ay-aht Group of Business. We take all complaints very seriously and have our HR firm

reach out to the individual and create a report. We also passed on the concerns raised to HGB so they can investigate the complaint. For the Government, all allegations were found not true and our Executive Director reached out to the citizen to finalize the complaint. The citizen was happy how our government dealt with the situation in a timely fashion.

Special Project-The Bamfield Road: The road remained in good condition through the summer, with the maintenance crews solving road repair issues when needed. With the weather starting to change this time of year, surface patches may not be done so frequently as we are entering the rainy storm season of fall/winter. The Bamfield Main Road working group was supposed to reconvene this month but with a snap election being called these meetings won't take place until after the election is complete or possibly into the new year. The Huu-ay-aht First nations continue to advocate for the road to be redesignated to something other than an industrial road which is what it is labeled currently.

Citizenship Committee Member: The Citizenship committee met on September 2nd, 2026, in a hybrid meeting setting at the Port Alberni Government office / zoom. Executive Council member Edward Johnson chaired this meeting. We reviewed 7 citizenship applications and 5 Treaty enrollment applications. All the applications forms were filled out correctly with no issues from the committee.

Overall, I felt I was productive with all the tasks I took on this month. Due to the 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 – September 2026

Finance Report

The finance committee met on September 18, 2026.

The Appointment of the Auditor was discussed and after a year of positive results in reduced costs and alignment with changes to the finance teams accounting changes, the committee has recommended to the Executive Council to reappoint Deloitte as Auditor for Fiscal Year End 2027. There has been a substantial reduction in actual audit fees and accounting costs and this has resulted in improvements within the finance team's capacity. Also changing an Audit team could cause a loss of continuity and could cause a risk of delays and increased costs.

Community Engagement Sessions - Financial Literacy

Sessions were held in Anacla, Port Alberni and Nanaimo. Vancouver will take place next month. This presentation provides citizens with a better understanding of how to interpret and read financial statements. Our goal is to make sure our citizens understand where our money comes from, which is 80% funded by the federal and provincial governments, where it goes, and what we owe. The financial decisions we make today affect our community in the future.

Housing Programs

<u>On-Treaty Settlement Lands</u>

Funding assistance has been provided for major maintenance or safety improvements to Citizens and Elders residing and are permanent residents of the home. The maximum you can apply for is $80,000.

Royal Bank will also be providing mortgage on TSL lands. The interest rate will be slightly lower than banks offer to the public.

<u>Off-Treaty Settlement Lands</u>

HFN First-Time Home Buyers Program - Funding assistance will provide a forgivable, interest-free contribution up to a maximum of $20,000, matching the purchaser's downpayment and up to $3000 toward closing costs. Contributions are fully forgivable after 5 years, provided terms are met. Also, assistance funding for major maintenance will be available for up to $10,000.

<u>Rental Assistance Program</u>

Funding assistance will be provided to eligible low-income HFN citizens, one-time rental assistance per year up to $2500, and $1250 toward deposits. For a total of $3750 per year.

Economic Development

<u>Stackabl Prefabricated Homes</u>

The firm MNP Pre-Feasibility and Advisory Services has been hired to resume and complete the pre-feasibility work on Stackabl homes and manufacturing.

After the completion of the Prefab Show Home erected in Port Renfrew, costs were approximately $250 per square foot. With this being the first home and contract builders completing the first

home with a few delays, the next home will be estimated at $225 per square foot to build, and hopefully there will be future reductions as more homes are built.

Domtar

Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and I met with Domtar's chief forester. The message we took into the room was to get a better understanding of Domtar's long -term fibre needs and explore whether Indigenous Nations can become part of the solutions as owners and investment partners. We gave examples of a Smart mill, Pré-fab house manufacturing and value-added products from Hemlock. Questions asked by us were: 1) What volume of additional fibre would make a meaningful difference, and 2) Could potential economic alliance include Indigenous Nations, Alliance, Forestry business, Domtar, other mills.

Micro Hotel

We are pleased to confirm the financial arrangements for the Micro Hotel project have now been finalized, allowing the project to move from the planning and approvals into the construction phase. This milestone would not have been possible without the work, persistence, and collaboration of HGB's CEO, staff and board.

Councillor Nicole Malcomson Report – September 2026

September was less event-heavy than August, but several pieces of work moved from relationship-building and review into committee, policy and governance stages. My focus for portfolios are Citizen Development, Public Safety and Emergency Planning, regional and government relationships and continued work around garnering a stronger understanding of HFN's governance, reporting and information continuity.

Key activities included:

- Continued governance and organizational work focused on role clarity, information flow, decision-making and accountability.
- Attended the Collaborative Workshop on Cultural Awareness and Safety in Emergency Management on September 2 with regional emergency partners, Ashley Johnston, Daniel Z. and Karen.
- Met with Coral Johnson on September 3 to review the Education Policy changes, the Citizen Development Committee agenda and Community Consultative Group/public-safety matters.
- Chaired my first Citizen Development Committee meeting on September 8. The revised Education Policy was accepted with minimal changes, with the application form to return for further review.
- Continued HFN/Indigenous Services Canada emergency-management engagement on September 11 and requested Community Infrastructure follow-up for longer-term emergency-service and access needs.
- Participated in UBCM meetings on September 15, including health-system capacity, health data governance and navigation, and broader Huu-ay-aht economic-development priorities.
- Hosted the Community Consultative Group meeting Sept 16th in Anacla (and are looking for members - if you'd like to hear more please don't hesitate to reach out!) and continued follow-up with Daniel briefing about regional public-safety/emergency-service partners.
- Participated in the Anacla Planning Committee, Committee of the Whole and two Executive Council meetings, while jumping into some side-quest work on records management, governance, clearer reporting and decision-making processes and doing some research around those areas.

Citizen Development - Education

Education continued to be the clearest area of movement within Citizen Development this month. On September 3, I met with Coral to review the proposed Education Policy changes and prepare for the Citizen Development Committee. On September 8, I chaired my first CDC meeting with new members. The revised policy was accepted with minimal changes, and I asked that the application form return to the committee so the implementation pieces can be reviewed alongside the policy later.

The discussion also reinforced the need to understand funding pressure, participation, outcomes and where education supports connect to longer-term training and employment pathways. I would like future reporting to help the committee see where students are succeeding, where barriers are showing up and whether our funding approach continues to match the outcomes Huu-ay-aht is trying to achieve.

This was a useful continuation from August. September brought that work back to the committee table and created a clearer route for the remaining application and implementation work.

Citizen Development - Health

Internal Health portfolio work was less visible to me in September, while the BCEHS/Huu-ay-aht stretcher discussion did not materially advance. This has reinforced for me the importance of regular portfolio reporting so that activity, emerging issues and areas where work has paused are all visible.

The main area of Health work instead came through UBCM. I raised the need for stronger Huu-ay-aht health-data governance and system-navigation capacity so future planning is based on better information, as well as incremental capacity to do that work without reducing frontline services. I accepted an invitation to participate in a Province/FNHA First Nations Data Committee, and my contact information was taken for Island Health and FNHA follow-up on navigation and medical-travel information. The helipad remains part of longer-term infrastructure planning, but there was no funding commitment made at UBCM. I also attended a session on UNDRIP implementation, which gave me some additional context for the broader provincial work underway.

Regional Collaboration and Relationship Building

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public Safety and Emergency Planning continued to build on the relationships and questions identified in August. On September 2, I attended a Collaborative Workshop on Cultural Awareness and Safety in Emergency Management at the Barclay with Huu-ay-aht staff and regional partners. The session explored cultural-safety and policy considerations for emergency partners, with interest in continuing this type of regional learning twice each year. Uncle Benson also joined us in the afternoon for tea and chumus and was warmly welcomed.

The workshop created follow-up opportunities with regional partners around emergency management and future Community Safety Planning discussions. These relationships matter because emergency planning does not stop at Huu-ay-aht boundaries.

On September 11, I participated in a follow-up discussion with Indigenous Services Canada regarding EMAP and emergency-management supports. I raised population growth in Anacla, secondary emergency-service capacity in Upper Anacla, structural-fire and wildfire readiness, emergency storage, and the vulnerability created by limited access routes for Upper and Lower Anacla and the broader Bamfield area. I requested follow-up with ISC Community Infrastructure after clarifying the distinction between emergency response and recovery funding and longer-term infrastructure needs.

The Public Safety and Emergency Services Snapshot I began developing in August remains useful here. The intent is to inventory what already exists, identify gaps and use that information to sharpen future funding and partnership discussions.

The Community Consultative Group (CCG) has also moved from something we were discussing restarting into an active forum again for prevention, community concerns and practical coordination. We are looking to welcome some new members and encourage interested citizens to come hear more about the work. The next CCG meeting is scheduled for **October 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in Anacla.**

Community Safety and Prevention

In September, I continued work related to implementation of Huu-ay-aht's Community Safety legislation and exclusion-order framework. My focus remains on ensuring community-safety tools are workable while also considering due process, evidence, mitigation and prevention, and the potential impacts that interventions can have on individuals, families and the broader community.

I also continued considering how citizens report safety concerns and how those concerns move through the appropriate response and escalation pathways, particularly where children and youth may be involved.

Regional and Intergovernmental - UBCM
UBCM provided an opportunity to move several Huu-ay-aht priorities into more direct provincial discussions. In addition to the health work described above, I participated in discussions relating to ship recycling and broader economic-development opportunities, including sites, the need for a workable regulatory or pilot pathway, feasibility and design support and potential future procurement and marine-industry opportunities.
Following UBCM, I continued emphasizing the importance of tracking government-relations work beyond the initial meeting. Access and relationship-building are important, but so is maintaining a clear record of Huu-ay-aht's priorities, follow-up actions, responsibilities and outcomes. This becomes particularly important where several ministries, governments, partners or government-relations firms are involved.

There is also a continuity consideration carrying into October. A provincial general election was called on September 22, with Final Voting Day on October 24. The election has already affected planned intergovernmental engagement, including the November B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering, which will no longer occur as scheduled. Some provincial follow-up may therefore need to be resumed or reconfirmed once the election period and government transition are complete.

I want to ensure the new pathways established through UBCM remain visible through that transition, particularly follow-up involving Island Health and FNHA and the invitation to participate in First Nations data-governance discussions. These were useful openings and will require continued attention rather than assuming the connections will carry forward on their own.

General local elections are also scheduled for October 17, which may result in changes among municipal, regional-district and other local elected partners with whom Huu-ay-aht works. Maintaining continuity in those relationships will also be important as new councils and boards transition into their roles.

More info about this:
https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/
https://fnlg.gov.bc.ca/
https://elections.bc.ca/2026-provincial-election

Data, Reporting and Institutional Knowledge

September gave me practical examples of the information-continuity issue I raised in August. On September 17, I participated in a records-management discussion focused on legacy records and the broader need for consistent naming, version control, backups and clear authoritative copies. We also discussed preserving governance and legal records, common templates and expectations, and building good records practices into onboarding.

At Committee of the Whole, I continued raising questions about the timeliness and clarity of information provided to Council, including how progress on previous decisions is tracked and how policies clearly communicate responsibilities and expectations. These may seem like separate issues, but they connect to the same governance question: does Council have clear, reliable information early enough to exercise oversight and understand what happens after a decision is made?

This remains an emerging area of work rather than a completed initiative. My goal is not reporting for the sake of reporting; it is to make commitments, progress, risks and responsibilities easier to see and follow over time.

Governance Review

Throughout September, I continued participating in governance and organizational discussions focused on role clarity, decision-making, information flow and accountability between Executive Council and Administration.

I also participated in discussion regarding the Project Lead and Portfolio Lead framework. I continue to support a clear distinction between elected strategic leadership and Administration's responsibility for day-to-day operations, supported by regular information sharing so portfolio holders remain informed about progress, emerging issues and matters requiring Council direction.

This work supports the broader goal of making HFN governance, decision-making and programs clearer and more understandable to citizens.

Looking Ahead

October priorities include continuing the Public Safety and Emergency Services Snapshot; following up with ISC Community Infrastructure and regional emergency partners; keeping the Anacla CCG active; bringing the Education Policy application and implementation pieces back through CDC; and continuing broader governance and organizational work focused on role clarity, information flow and accountability.

I also want to protect the follow-up generated at UBCM during the provincial and local election periods. Some political and local-government contacts may change, so the important piece will be keeping our priorities and operational relationships visible and reconnecting where necessary. The Island Health/FNHA follow-up and First Nations Data Committee invitation are good examples of new pathways that should continue even if the political environment changes around them.

September was less outwardly busy than August, but it moved several files from questions into committees, working relationships and governance processes. I am learning that not all progress looks like a launch or an announcement. Sometimes it is getting the right people back around a table, clarifying who owns the next step and preserving the record so that we do not have to rebuild it later.

Take care of each other as we move into the fall.

Klecko Klecko,



Nicole Malcomson
Executive Council Member, Huu-ay-aht First Nations
October 1, 2026