Uyaqḥmis

April 2021 Issue 61







Congratulations to Huu-ay-aht and Maa-nulth Nations on 10 years of Treaty





PM41913515

Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. proud to be Treaty

I am so proud of Huu-ay-aht as we mark 10 years as a modern treaty Nation.

I have served on Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council for most of my life. I was first elected councillor as a young man for six two-year terms. I then became your chief in 1995, and I stayed in that role for 16 years, missing only one term before being re-elected for two more in 2015 and 2019. Throughout this journey, one of our main goals was to stand on our own, as a treaty nation.

It took us 10 years to successfully negotiate the Maa-nulth Treaty alongside the Uchuclesaht Tribe, Ka'yu:uk'th'/ Che:k'les7et'h, Toquaht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ First Nations. Our journey together began following the defeat of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Agreement in Principle ratification vote in March 2001. The five nations then successfully established the Maa-nulth table in the fall of 2001. We reached a deal with Canada and British Columbia that would offer us freedom to make decision that are best for our citizens and our ḥahuułi, with an effective date of April 1, 2011.

I was proud when our people stood together and burned the Indian Act – it was a moment everyone present will remember for the rest of our lives. That day, on April 1, 2011, at midnight, we took the first step, not knowing what the future held for us – only knowing it was in our hands to determine the path.

We were the first multi-nation treaty in Canada and that means we are charting new territory and sometimes learning as we go. We've stumbled – we even fell a couple of times. Each time we got up, dusted ourselves off, and found a new approach. We no longer have any guarantees, but we can stand proud knowing the successes are of our own making.

So now I want to highlight some of the things I see as the milestones along the way over the last 10 years.

- Received $26 million as Capital Transfer – today Huu-ay-aht has $34 million in portfolio investments
- Renegotiating Fiscal Financing Agreement negotiations
- Reached agreement with Canada to secure funding for Social Service Project, and partial agreement with B.C.
- Settled two Specific Claims, and we are expecting a third settlement this fall, while pursuing two other Specific Claims.
- Secured provincial funding for Oomiiqsu Mother Centre
- Have our own taxation authority
- Increased our land holdings by 1,250 hectares or 3,125 acres
- Continue to develop investment plan to acquire other private lands and provincial lands in territory
- Exercise law making authority on our Treaty Lands.
- Developing Hišuk ma c̓awak – Integrated Resource Management Plan
- Opportunity to pursue private land development
- Enhancement through the watershed renewal
- Elk transplant in the Sarita area
- Private land forest
- Treaty land forest tenure
- Two provincial forest tenures
- Water licence and water reservation

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huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma c̓awak, and ʔuuʔałuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. Uyaqḥmis promotes the recovery and sharing of the Huu-ay-aht dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language, as well as knowledge of Huu-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

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for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

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It is Huu-ay-aht's time to thrive as a resilient, strong Nation

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- Hydro power reservation
- Ground water rights
- Domestic fishery allocation filled and sharing that with citizens through the food fish program
- Me Too Fishery Strategy – clause 10.2.3
- Harvest of surplus salmon
- Maintain strong stewardship and enhancement on our land
- Fishery management - clause 10.4.0
- Having the right to make and enforce laws that work for our Nation
- Develop policy and regulation to enact legislation
- Strength of leadership through our Legislation, Executive Council, Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council, and our People's Assembly
- Ability to operate our own businesses and make economic decisions on our land
- Investment in 11 properties in Bamfield that will employ our citizens and boost our sources of revenue
- Active member in tourism and the ability to build cultural tourism that celebrates and shares who we are
- Investing in our forests – taking back control over our lands by purchasing interests in the tree farm licence on our territory

I could talk about our successes for much longer, but I want to close by saying, all of the above will be enhanced because we successfully lobbied the provincial government to upgrade the Bamfield Road. This project has spanned many decades, but as a treaty nation we were able to take steps, including putting in our own money, to ensure this project moves forward. The upgrades will make this vital link safer for our citizens and visitors to our territory. It will also open the door to new economic opportunities.



Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr.

Huu-ay-aht has always been a strong resilient Nation. We have survived so much, and this is our time to thrive. We are Huu-ay-aht Strong.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

Treaty brings Huu-ay-aht First Nations great changes

I have observed working with the Nation from before treaty to after treaty. I have had the opportunity to watch the transition from pre-treaty to community consultation and ratification, to effective date, and now through Treaty Implementation.

Huu-ay-aht has seen great change and incredible growth in the time I have been working for the Nation. I started my journey with the Nation pre-treaty when I became the tourism manager for Huu-ay-aht Natural Resources in 1999, and then Director of Tribal operations. I worked in the Bamfield business community and at Pachena Campground while I raised my family in our territory.

Now that I have switched from sitting as an elected councillor to holding the Executive Director role, it is exciting to see how much has changed on the administrative side. My role with a self-governing First Nation looks very different than my time as Director of Tribal Operations under the Indian Act. Before treaty, the Indian Act and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada dictated Huu-ay-aht's resources, citizenship, community, and social services.

Now, as a self-governing First Nation, we are able to better support our citizens wherever they live, respond to the needs of the Nation, and design and fund our own programs and services. We have a strategic plan that is informed by the voice of our citizens, focused on the collective vision for our future, which guides leadership and our administration.

I have watched our people, our leadership, and our Nation rise to the occasion of self-government. Huu-ay-aht is a driven, determined, and successful First Nation, responsible for shaping our own future, and I am so proud of what has been accomplished in the last 10 years. I look forward to seeing what Huu-ay-aht is going to accomplish in the next 10 years.

Connie Waddell,
Executive Director

Many Tayii lead way to Maa-nulth success

The road that led us to this 10-year anniversary was a long one, but it is a journey that we believe will improve the lives for all Huu-ay-aht.

Although I had the honour of signing the final agreement in 2011, it was made possible because of the strong leadership of the past that the process began and was successful. I was the third tayii haw̓ił to participate in the treaty process for our Nation. Early discussions began with Tayii Ḥaw̓ił Art Peters. When the B.C. Treaty Commission process began, Tayii Ḥaw̓ił Spencer Peters was Huu-ay-aht's head hereditary chief at the negotiating table.

I can remember, as a young man, listening to my father talk about the treaty and what it meant to our people. It would bring us strength and independence – setting us free from the restrictions we had been forced to follow for too long under the Indian Act. We would finally have control over what happens on our ḥahuuɬi.

Tayii Art Peters decided who was going to lead the treaty negotiations, and he chose me, Wišqii, and Irene Peters (nee Williams) as youth representatives. We worked closely with Huu-ay-aht citizens and ḥaw̓iiḥ to ensure we captured what they wanted from a treaty. Our values and the three sacred principles – ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔaɬuk (Taking Care of), and Hišuk ma c̓awak (Everything is One) – guided us through negotiations with B.C. and Canada.

For 10 years we allowed the teachings of our ancestors and our citizens and leaders to guide us. Finally, we accomplished what we had set out to do when we entered discussions. We had established stronger partnerships that would allow us to build on the economy. This allowed us to make significant investments in the Bamfield community when we purchased businesses that would help support our Nation and our people. It enabled us to create opportunities for jobs, training, homes, and education for our citizens in a way we wanted. And we celebrated together the repatriation of artifact from the Royal B.C. Museum. This was a condition in the treaty, and we are still working on returning more of our artifacts to our territory.

The treaty has offered so much to our people, and the other Maa-nulth Nations. A process that began with my father and grandfather will make life better for my daughter and her children.



Tayii Ḥaw̓ił ƛiišin (Derek Peters)

I am a proud Huu-ay-aht. I will always work with and for the Huu-ay-aht as we continue to implement the treaty that brought us so much independence. And when it is my turn to step aside, my daughter will be the first tayii to lead only under treaty, without the ever having to deal with the restrictions of the Indian Act. She will take the lessons we learned and make our Nation even stronger. Our Nation will continue to be strong and resilient because of our Ancient Spirit and Modern Mind.

Tayii Ḥaw̓ił ƛiišin (Derek Peters)

Correction

Following a discussion on the updated organizational chart for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. has asked that the annual review of the Executive Council wages take place. This will ensure they are in line with the increases to staff wages. Executive Director Connie Waddell will carry out this regular review.
The Executive Director will also review the request made to include support staff for Executive Council, as these positions are not currently part of the organizational chart. She will examine if it is feasible to move these positions reporting directly to the Executive Council in the future.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Treaty means Huu-ay-aht makes own laws

Treaty allows leadership to create laws and be responsive to the needs of citizens where ever they live and amend them as needed to best reflect the current realities. Self-governance meant Huu-ay-aht's laws include Huu-ay-aht culture, values, and principles, and continued input from citizens.

Legislation

The Treaty gives the Nation the ability to create and change laws on Treaty Lands to better serve Huu-ay-aht citizens. Huu-ay-aht now has 21 laws as well as dozens of regulations and policies to support the laws and add additional details for implementation. These laws apply on all Huu-ay-aht Treaty Lands, and in some cases apply to the ḥahuułi and the resource harvesting areas Huu-ay-aht shares with the other Maa-nulth Nations.

These laws, regulations, and policies replace the previous systems and restrictions imposed on First Nations by the Indian Act.

Citizenship

The Citizenship and Treaty Enrolment Act is one of the most important changes under Treaty. Huu-ay-aht now determines their own citizenship. Citizenship is based on Huu-ay-aht criteria and Huu-ay-aht's application process. Citizenship applications are then reviewed by the Citizenship Committee and managed by the Law Clerk. Some new changes include increased Ḥaẃiiḥ Council involvement and the amendments made to the Act at the April 2021 People's Assembly.

Huu-ay-aht citizenship has grown from approximately 600 at effective date to 849 on our 10-year anniversary.

Legislature

The Government Act sets out the functions of government including the Legislature, which is made up of the members of Executive Council and chaired by a Speaker.

Each year the Legislature is held review to consider new legislation, amendments to existing legislation, and the Budget Act. The Budget Act is drafted, reviewed, and passed annually and is the piece of legislation that allows the government to spend, such as on programs and services.

Voice for Huu-ay-aht Citizens

On effective date the Government Act established the People's Assembly. The People's Assembly was designed to be different than the Annual General Meetings pre-treaty. The People's Assembly is envisioned to be the voice of the people, and it is a branch of government. It is an opportunity to gather, re-connect, share information, and receive input. Since effective date Huu-ay-aht has held 16 People's Assemblies.

Citizens have the right to participate, vote on government matters, and new or amended legislation, consider special projects, consider major spending, and bring resolutions to Executive Council.

"The People's Assembly is responsible for holding the Legislature, Executive Council, and the Ḥaẃiiḥ Council accountable for acting lawfully and in the best interests of present and future generations of Huu-ay-aht citizens." [Government Act Part 8 Div 1 sec 82]

Elections

The Elections Act outlines how Huu-ay-aht's leadership is chosen. The Council now includes five council members, a Chief Councillor, and one seat for a Ḥaẃiiḥ representative chosen by the Ḥaẃiiḥ Council.

Since effective date Huu-ay-aht has held elections (2011, 2015, 2019) and one bi-election (2020).

In the past 10 years, Huu-ay-aht has grown and learned a lot about self-government. Law development will continue to be guided by the voices of citizens, the values of the Ancient Spirit, and the innovations of the Modern Mind.

Treaty Nations gain right to self-govern

History

April 1, 2021 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Maa-nulth Treaty effective date.

The Maa-nulth Treaty is a government-to-government agreement between the Maa-nulth Nations, British Columbia, and Canada, and among the first under the BC Treaty Commission. Negotiations with Nuu-chah-nulth Nations began in 1993 and produced an Agreement in Principle in 2007, which was ratified by 5 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. Once signed these Nations were no longer governed by the Indian Act.

On April 1, 2011 those 5 Nations, known collectively as Maa-nulth, "villages along the coast" reclaimed their inherent right to self-government.

- Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Uchucklesaht Tribe
- Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ First Nation

Each Nation determined their own governance structures and their own laws under the Maa-nulth Agreement. The Treaty is a tool for Nations to incorporate modern practices and realities into their own leadership structures, culture, values, principles, and priorities of governance.

Changes after Treaty

Constitution – Huu-ay-aht's absolute law that defines the rights, responsibilities, and relationships of Huu-ay-aht government, administration, and citizens, and shapes how decisions can be made

Citizenship – Huu-ay-aht determines their own citizenship, based on ancestry and cultural practices, and those citizens can receive supports and services and participate in decisions, regardless of where they live

Governance - Governance structure included seat for Ha'wiih

People's Assembly - An assembly of government and citizens to vote on important decisions, special projects, legislation, and for annual reporting

Laws - Huu-ay-aht passed 17 laws and several regulations to replace the Indian Act, and continue add and amend laws annually through the legislature

Lands – Huu-ay-aht owns 10,536 hectares and has since purchased additional lands in the Ha'houlthee

Natural Resources – Huu-ay-aht Lands Act and Resource Harvesting Act, as well as annual plans manage the Natural Resources on Treaty Lands

Fisheries – Domestic fish allocations are constitutionally protected, and economic opportunities

Health – Huu-ay-aht able to provide expanded medical support and services to all citizens

Education – Huu-ay-aht is able to provide expanded financial support to citizens in k-12, post-secondary, upgrading, and vocational training

Housing – Huu-ay-aht citizens can own land and housing on Treaty Lands, HFN is able to provide new housing under HFN social housing regulations

Land Use – Huu-ay-aht now determines all land use and zoning on Treaty Lands

Community and Social Services – All Huu-ay-aht citizens have access to community and social services, supports, such as health, education, children and families, elders, language, cultural events, housing, and community development

Infrastructure – Huu-ay-aht determines infrastructure needs, priorities, funding, and management

Economic Development – Huu-ay-aht to engage in, fund, and operate, opportunities for economic development, and coordinate with Huu-ay-aht Group of businesses

Business ownership - Ability to own and operate businesses on and off Treaty Lands, and enter in to major partnerships

Maa-nulth Treaty Society – Work collaboratively with the other Maa-nulth Nations on shared areas of interest and shared responsibility

Regional Voice – Huu-ay-aht has a seat on the Alberni-Clayquot Regional District, and our HFN representative has been Chair of the ACRD since 2016

Treaty Implementation

For the last 10 years Huu-ay-aht's vision has been of a "strong, self-governing, self-reliant Nation". Huu-ay-aht has always been strong, and under Treaty has regained recognition of the right to self-government, and through the benefits of self-government Huu-ay-aht continues to increase its self-reliance.

The path to this ongoing the vision is divided among the "Five Posts for a Strong Huu-ay-aht"

1. Citizens will be guided through self-determination to reach their fullest potential
2. Children will grow up safe, healthy, and connected to our home, culture, and values,

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Team Huu-ay-aht continues to grow

The size of the Huu-ay-aht government, and Huu-ay-aht-run businesses, has grown in the last 10 years to meet the needs of self-government.

In April 2011, Huu-ay-aht Government employed 34 employees. As of April 2021, that has grown to 70 employees on the most recently passed and accepted organizational chart. The Huu-ay-aht organization had four departments in 2011 when the treaty came into effect, and it now has nine departments, and 10 Senior Management Team members reporting to the Executive Director.

We have had 14 employees promoted to supervisory, management or director positions since April 2011. Of the 70 positions, 23 are held by Huu-ay-aht citizens. The Nation has 19 jobs that are vacant and is currently in the process of filling these positions.

We also have an in-house Education, Trades and Training and Employment Manager, who supports our citizens for future positions with Huu-ay-aht Government.

Since signing the Treaty, we have clear processes when changing the Human Resources Policy Manual and the Organizational Chart. There is also a clear process when hiring new employees. We are committed to upholding the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act, the Financial Administration Act and Departments are accountable and held to the Budget Act. Huu-ay-aht also has a set of values that guide us in how we operate and what is expected of the people who work for the Nation.



Katie Turner, Natural Resource Technician out in the field. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)

Huu-ay-aht will continue to be a strong, self-governing Nation

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guided by our traditions and our nananiiqsu

3. Homelands will be a safe, healthy, appealing, place where our people choose to live

4. Lands, waters, and natural resources will provide sustainable wealth, that respects Huu-ay-aht values of conservation

5. Economy will operate sustainably, be the major employer in the region, and be a major source of revenue for Huu-ay-aht

The Huu-ay-aht strategic plan supports these five posts by focusing on 6 priorities, which are reported on each year in the annual report (Reconciliation was added as a 6th priority in 2019)

- Infrastructure creation and renewal
- Revival of language and culture
- Conservation of natural resources
- Citizen development through empowerment and support
- Building a strong economy
- Reconciliation

Self-Governance under Treaty gives Huu-ay-aht government the authority, flexibility, and means to create and borrow resources, to pursue these priorities. The pursuit of these priorities, by Executive Council, Ha'wiih, and each department in the administration, is Treaty Implementation in action.

Five Treaty Nations say goodbye to the Indian Act - April 1, 2011

Contributed by BC Treaty Commisson



Maal-nulth Treaty Nations at Alberni District Secondary School April 1, 2011, the day Treaty became in effect. (Photo provided by BC Treaty Commission)

This is a momentous time of celebration and recognition of Indigenous self-determination and self-government. The BC Treaty Commission congratulates the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN), and all treaty partners on the 10th anniversary of the Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty.

On April 1, 2011, the Maa-nulth Treaty took effect, and we witnessed the Huu-ay-aht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h', Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, and Yuułu ił ath shed the shackles of the Indian Act and restore Indigenous self-government and jurisdiction. We witnessed the beginning of a new nation-to-nation relationship based on recognition and respect amongst the five First Nations, and the governments of Canada and British Columbia. History was made that day, including becoming the first multi-First Nation treaty in BC.

From the outset, Huu-ay-aht had a strong vision for its Nation and its citizens. Remaining dedicated to negotiations from early days with the Nuu-chah-nulth Trial Council and then leading forward with the other four Maa-nulth First Nations to become five self-governing First Nations governments through the BC treaty negotiations framework.

Over the years, we witnessed Huu-ay-aht breathe life into its nation vision, flourishing in community, governance, culture, and economy. Huu-ay-aht governance is distinct, strong, and grounded in its sacred principles. Collectively, as a modern self-governing Nation, the Ḥaẇiiḥ Council, Executive Council, Huu-ay-aht constitution and its citizens protect, recognize, and are accountable to its traditions and protocols.

With the financial strength and autonomy, Huu-ay-aht demonstrates how treaty First Nations provide prosperity to its Nation and to the greater region. Treaty implementation unlocks economic power, ranging from financing for First Nations businesses, investment in local and regional infrastructure, housing, commercial activity, and development benefiting both First Nations and non-First Nations.

Since becoming self-governing, Huu-ay-aht has achieved significant progress in its priorities: investing in infrastructure, building homes for citizens, restoring watersheds and habitats, and revitalizing Huu-ay-aht culture and language. The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses has also established respectful management of HFN natural resources as well vibrant cultural tourism and hospitality businesses, most notably the renewal and revival of Bamfield. These significant developments further enhance economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being, and provide sustainable benefits for generations to come.

Over the years, the Treaty Commission has also had the great honour to learn from numerous Huu-ay-aht leaders, including welcoming two citizens to join the commission. Tom Happynook was appointed commissioner by the Government of British Columbia and served from 2015 – 2018. Tom is a dedicated leader and treaty champion who made significant impact with First Nations, governments, and communities throughout BC, and we thank him for his leadership. When Tom retired, we were pleased when BC appointed Angela Wesley. Commissioner Wesley is now serving her second term and has been an integral resource for negotiation tables, as well as for the Treaty Commission. We also recognize past and present members of the Ḥaẇiih and Executive Councils, and acknowledge the incredible work of all Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Treaties recognize and protect Indigenous title and rights, establish a partnership of sharing sovereignty, and through cooperation create a stronger future for the betterment of all. This month, we also celebrate the treaty anniversaries of the Tsawwassen Treaty and the Tla'amin Treaty. The Tsawwassen Treaty was the first achieved through the BC treaty negotiations framework, and came into effect on April 3, 2009. Tsawwassen, Canada, and British Columbia celebrate the 12th anniversary of their treaty. On April 5th, 2016, the Tla'amin Treaty came into effect and this

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Health and Social Services can offer more under Treaty

Before Treaty, the Health and Social Services Department was limited on to what we could do for our citizens. The funding we received from Indigenous Service Canada was only for supporting and offering programs and services to our citizens on our Treaty Lands (reserves).

During the last 10 years as a treaty nation, we have been able to offer support, programs, and services to all Huu- ay-aht citizens, wherever they live. The treaty has enabled us to develop programs that citizens have asked for support with through the years. The programs now available following treaty are: Crisis Grants, dental support, Elders program, alternative wellness, funeral support, counselling/treatment, prescriptions, non-reimbursable travel, and Nananiiqsu program funding.

For our Social Services Department, before treaty, we were under the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. They would manage and allocate our funding and do our reporting to Indigenous Services Canada. After becoming a treaty nation, we were able to pull away from their Social Development Program and work directly with Indigenous Services Canada. We were able to develop our own Social Development Policy that best suits our citizens.

Community services has also expanded in the last 10 years. Citizens have asked for more culture in our approach and services and to have opportunities to participate in cultural activities, celebrate and explore the ḥahuułi, and hear our language. Treaty has allowed Health and Social Services to be responsive and flexible to meet the needs of citizens.



Lavern Cook and Saryta Dick harvesting Devil's Club. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)



Youth harvesting Eagle feathers as part of youth group. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht First Nations)

Maa-nulth Nations lead the way in reconciliation

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year we celebrate the 5th anniversary along with the governments of the Tla'amin Nation, Canada and British Columbia.

The BC Treaty Commission congratulations and raise our hands in great respect and honour to all the governments on the treaty anniversaries, and for leading the way in reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination and self-government.

In closing, we share a memorable moment at the end of his presentation, when Huu-ay-aht Councillor John Jack shares why he does this important work; that his eldest daughter is the first in his family to know and grow up in a self-governing First Nation since his great-great grandmother born in 1820. Ten years into implementation of its treaty, we have witness Huu-ay-aht become a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation, where Huu-ay-aht culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish. Congratulations Huu-ay-aht First Nations on this treaty milestone.



Maa-nulth chiefs at bar of legislature Nov. 2007. (Photo provided by BC Treaty Commission)

Treaty breathes new life into Nation

By Tom Happynook

On April 1, 2011 at midnight, we breathed life into our new negotiated relationship (Treaty) with the governments of Canada and British Columbia. At about 11:30 p.m. on March 31, 2011, I asked a couple of our young fellows to build a small fire outside our big house in Anacla. Earlier that day, I had asked a staff member to print off a copy of the Canadian Indian Act, and we burned that rotten piece of Canadian legislation page by page. When that last page went into the fire and burned up (the moon and stars was shining down on us), we all felt a strong sense of relief; we were free of the Canadian Indian Act.



Tom Happynook burning the Indian Act at midnight April 1, 2011. (Photo provided by Tom Happynook)

After burning the Indian Act just before midnight, we entered our big house, and I was appointed as the "Speaker of the House" by our Tay'ii Ha'wilth (head hereditary chief) who empowered me to introduce our new laws and regulations. Our new laws and regulations were enacted by our Chief and Council (Indian Act Government). By the end of the night (2:30 a.m.), we had enacted 14 laws and 14 regulations. A new Nation was born that night, free of the Indian Act.

Since that historic day, April 1, 2011, we have been working hard to change the circumstances of our Nations and the lives of our citizens using the new and extensive tool box we negotiated in our Treaty.

Over the past 10 years many accomplishments have been achieved. The first major step forward was the purchase of several bare land properties in the Bamfield Inlet.

We then went on to purchase most of the businesses in Bamfield: The Market, Pub, Motel, Fishing Charter Lodge, Restaurant, etc. We also have commercial fishing licences, a campground, and a forestry company, who is now in negotiations to buy 51% of Western Forest Product's TFL 44. This will give us management authority over TFL 44, and more importantly, a say over our traditional territory.

We have created a new subdivision up on the hill across the river from Anacla, behind the House of Huu-ay-aht. We are slowly moving our Anacla community up the hill to get them out of the tsunami zone.

The subdivision has a new sewer system that connects with the Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC) sewer water treatment plant. We worked in partnership with BMSC to upgrade their system and include our subdivision's sewer requirements. To date, we have built three new homes. The new tenants get to move in on April 1, 2021.

Prior to treaty, we were paying our citizens $10 an hour under the Indian Act. We decided to go through the process of determining the "living wage" for our area. Turns out that our workers at home would need to be paid $17.20 per hour as a living wage. So, our new minimum wage was increased to $17.20.

During this pandemic, our Treaty Government has been able to support our elders (60 and over) with a couple of money distributions to help cover elders monthly costs. We also have been able to deliver to our elders food boxes. The boxes came with whole foods, and a couple of times it even included meat.

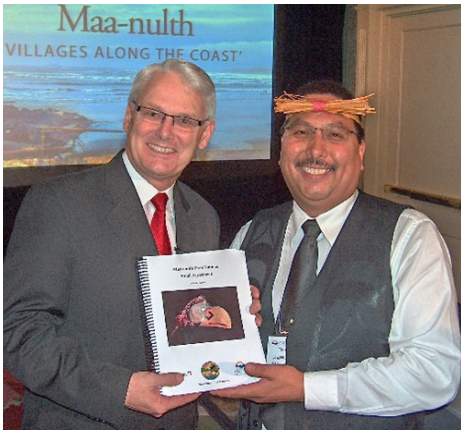
Our youth can now get a trades red sealed ticket or go to college or university.

Our elders also get $500 per month to help them make it through the month.

Our people are now able to work at home in Anacla and make a decent and living wage.

None of this would be possible if we were still shackled to the horrific Indian Act.

A BIG shout out to our Huu-ay-aht citizens who had the courage to set aside the Indian Act and look to the future through our Modern Day Comprehensive Treaty.



Tom Happynook standing with then Premier of BC the Honourable Gordon Campbell. (Photo provided by Tom Happynook)

Huu-ay-aht ḥahuułi more alive then ever

By Christine Gruman, Lands and Resources Specialist

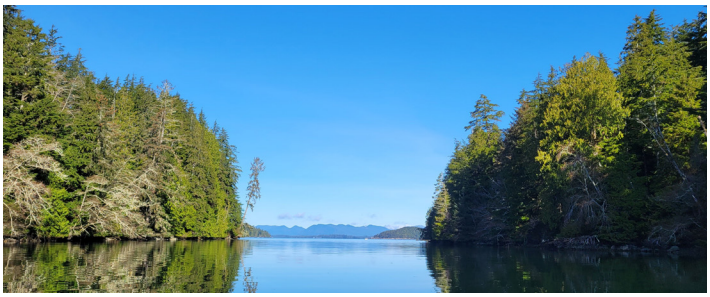
Huu-ay-aht First Nations leaders and people have an unfathomably long history of caring for the ḥahuułi of their Ḥaw̓iiḥ. The Maa-nulth treaty heralded in a bright new era of modern resource management, which saw the Huu-ay-aht Nation regain formal agency over a significant portion of lands and resources that have always been rightfully theirs.

Fifteen out of 29 chapters in the Maa-nulth Treaty directly address lands and resources-related matters, and while the road to bringing each of the individual treaty provisions into full force still has twists and turns, and take some time to travel, there is immense value contained in its pages. Some of the post-Treaty highlights in the Lands and Natural Resources department are:

- **Treaty Harvesting Rights:** All Huu-ay-aht citizens are able to access the Nation's rights to harvest fish, wildlife, and migratory birds from the Treaty-defined harvesting areas. The majority of these can be accessed with a Huu-ay-aht harvest card, with special permitting required for species that require more careful management, like elk. Pre-determined fish allocations, that are flexible according to fluctuating populations, mean that the Nation can count on access to most species each year without need for ongoing negotiations year-after-year. Huu-ay-aht's harvesting rights extend into the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and include exclusive areas for clams and oysters. Formal "Me Too" negotiations began on April 9, 2021 (after what feels like a lifetime for many), and it is hoped that before long, the Nation's fishers will be able to make even more use of local fishing opportunities.

- **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve:** Huu-ay-aht's relationship with Parks Canada predates the treaty, with a successful West Coast Trail Guardian's program having been established in 1995. The establishment of the Co-operative Management Board through the Maa-nulth Treaty set the stage for a deeper relationship with opportunity for ongoing growth in scope and impact.

- **Environmental Management, Planning, and Renewal:** Huu-ay-aht came into treaty with a solid foundation in environmental stewardship and enhancement and has been able build on that momentum in the years since. This due largely to the ability to generate funds to support further work (through its own economic initiatives and partnerships), having direct jurisdiction over Treaty Lands in the core of the ḥahuułi on which to make decisions, and working in partnership with government agencies and businesses operating in other parts of the territory. Fulsome healing of the landscape and animal populations will take patience, tradeoffs, and effort, but is largely within the Nation's influence. After years of dedicated efforts to rebuild Sarita chinook salmon populations, it appears that there is enough of a surplus to allow us to develop a modest economic opportunity (as per the Treaty). We are investigating early indications that Sugsaw Hatchery's Pachena coho program may have successfully brought populations to a point where further hatchery efforts can be reduced or suspended. The upcoming Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan drafting process will set a new precedent for how the landscape is managed for the benefit of generations to come.



Grappler Inlet facing towards Trevor Channel. (Photo by Christine Gruman)

- **Relationships:** Arguably, one of the most powerful aspects of the treaty is not any particular clause, but the fact that it creates a wide-open door to relationship building with the other levels of government that arose with colonialism and now have roles in the resource management landscape in B.C. and Canada. Healthy doses of honest speaking and careful listening from "all sides of the table" are often required to come to agreement on any particular issue, which is not always comfortable or immediately successful. However, with the Treaty acting as an ever-present anchor to ground this careful dialogue, the process itself can catalyze stronger, and more meaningful relationships with big impact.

I myself entered the Huu-ay-aht scene three years post-effective date and am continually struck by how visionary the Maa-nulth Treaty is and feel fortunate to be part of a team bringing it alive every day. "Standing on the shoulders of giants" is an apt metaphor for this work – I am often filled with awe and gratitude for the dedication, vision, and hard work of Huu-ay-aht and the Maa-nulth Nations teams that negotiated this continually unfolding set of opportunities for Huu-ay-aht's families and their homelands.

Infrastructure decisions no longer bound by the Indian Act

Huu-ay-aht First Nations strives to bring their people home to the ḥahuuɬi and offer them a safe place to live where they can reconnect with their language, culture, and land.

It is clear the Nation needed to build the infrastructure in Anacla in order to support the growth in population they were hoping to create. Over the last 10 years, many of the projects that were made possible because of the treaty, started to take shape.

With a beautiful new government building in Anacla, it made sense to ensure the office and community had access to high-speed internet. Huu-ay-aht worked with Telus to install high-speed wireless services to the lower village, as well as the administrative building.

Many people who are considering moving home, as well as those living in Anacla want to see many opportunities for recreation. The Nation put in a new playground the lower village and a basketball court. They also built a walking path that links Upper and Lower Anacla to create a safe alternative to walking the main road. Many of the roads in the lower village were fixed up and resurfaced, and the road to the Upper Village was paved.



Government Office built in Upper Anacla over looking Pachena Beach. (photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)

The largest infrastructure undertaking was to create additional housing and services such as sewer to the village. Treaty gives the Nation full control over zoning and building decisions in the ḥahuuɬi. Huu-ay-aht was able to zone and build the Upper Anacla subdivision, consisting of an 11-lot subdivision, with an upgraded sewer and water services that goes all the way up to the Anacla Government Office and the House of Huu-ay-aht.



Wišqii, one of the few citizens who moved into new housing in Upper Anacla. (Photo by Stephen Smith)

Housing infrastructure and improvements is key to supporting citizens living in Anacla and to encourage citizens to return home. In the Upper Village, three homes were renovated, and they offer four units for citizens. Five structures were built by the Nation in the subdivision that contain 10 housing units. The old gas bar was also converted into housing is now a three-bedroom suite in Lower Anacla.

So far, five of the 10 units are occupied, but all have been assigned to citizens.

The Nation was successful in receiving CMHC funding and construction has already started on an additional six structures with 10 housing units. They will not stop there – the Nation has conducted project feasibility and conceptual design for phase two of the subdivision.

With the growing community, the sewer project was an essential addition. The nations designed the project and implemented four agreements to allow construction of the plant on the Bamfield Marine Science Centre. Construction Started in October 2020 and is expected to be complete and operational in January 2022.

While bringing citizens home is a goal, most Huu-ay-aht citizens live in Port Alberni, therefore lots of work has been done to increase the services available to citizens there.

Building on the success of the Paawats in Anacla, Huu-ay-aht purchased a house and started a Port Alberni Pawaats. After some renovations and yard projects, the children in Port Alberni now have a fun, educational, and cozy place both inside and out.

With an increase in operations as a self-governing First Nation, there was soon a need for a larger administration building in Port Alberni. The Port Alberni Government Office was purchased and renovated to suit the Nation's needs. It delivers services for citizens located in Port Alberni and other part of the province, as well as supporting the team in Anacla.

Under Treaty, Huu-ay-aht infrastructure decisions are no longer bound by the restrictions and oversight of the Indian Act. Huu-ay-aht infrastructure priorities and projects are now determined by Huu-ay-aht, based on needs of citizens and the community. Community engagement has been, and will continue to be, an important piece of infrastructure planning.



A newly cemented road now goes up to Upper Anacla. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)

Economic Development brings opportunities to the Nation

The signing of the agreement to become Modern Treaty Government gave Huu-ay-aht options that were never thought possible. Once the treaty was implemented, there were no restrictions on what businesses can be purchased, started, or the location – on or off the traditional lands.

Huu-ay-aht now has the freedom and responsibility to generate revenue to operate. The Nation has taken full advantage of this newfound freedom to create economic development opportunities for its citizens and the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses.

One way to enrich the lives of citizens following treaty was to create a fund to help them start their own businesses. The Business Entrepreneur Fund has offered 14 citizens help in the difficult and complicated process of setting up a business of their own. These businesses include a drywall company, construction and contracting companies, security businesses, bed and breakfast operations, e-commerce businesses, health products, fishing ventures, consulting companies, and upgrades to existing businesses. This program is ongoing and will continue to support citizens.

The Economic Development Department within the Nations is responsible for bringing business opportunities to the government to consider. In 2016, the Nation took a major step when they finalized the purchase of 11 properties in Bamfield. Many were turnkey businesses that are now managed by the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and offer employment to citizens and generate revenue for the Nation.



The trail to Kiixiṇ received an upgrade not long ago. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)



At the end of the trail walk, you will come to Kiixiṇ , where you are brought through ancient history. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)

Two of the largest projects since treaty are the Sarita Run of the River microhydro and Kiixiṇ Tours.

Prior to COVID, the Kiixiṇ tours was operating as a pilot project, bringing visitors to see the ancient village. The Nation partnered with Seekers Media to promote the tours, and since COVID they have been offering these virtually. The trail and walkways to Kiixiṇ have been upgraded and the village itself was cleared in preparation for the tours. Most recently, a trail head was upgraded to include a covered entrance and a pit toilet. Two citizens were hired to conduct the tours, and feedback continues to be positive. The tours will continue once it is safe to do so.

The Nation is also exploring several potential business opportunities, including conducting feasibility studies and exploring possible partnerships. Some highlights include staff accommodations in Bamfield, a fisheries framework, potential partnerships with adventure tourism businesses on the West Coast, memorandum of understandings with Indigenous Tourism BC and Ecotrust Housing Solutions, and a kelp project with Cermaq. They are also researching dozens of other business opportunities in fields including forestry, agriculture, tourism, natural resources, bottled water, and construction, to name a few.

It also takes a lot of planning to bring ideas to fruition. Some of these include an annual Economic Development Plan, a Motel and Paawats business plan, a Tourism Destination Plan and strategy, and a Comprehensive Community Plan.

The Economic Development Department also works closely with other departments within the Nation to apply for grants and carry out projects, such as grants for the Bamfield Walking Trail, bringing in broadband internet to Anacla, a repeater tower grant, creating a commercial tenure acquisition, developed criteria for arts and crafts funding for citizens, redesigned the Kingfisher rooms, and a structural engineering report.

Creating opportunities for citizens and hosting events is also an important step. Some examples are Business Plan Workshops, Marketing and Finance Workshops, an Ambassador Program, a First Nations Cultural Art Extravaganza, a Gala Fundraiser for Nanaiiqsu, and partnering with the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce in the Triconic Challenge.

Queen's helps document experience through Treaty

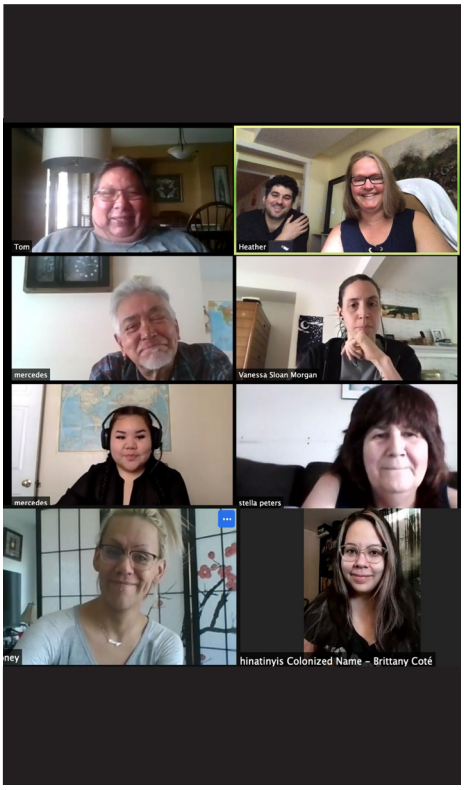
On April 1, 2011, Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted hundreds of guests to celebrate the coming to life of the Maa-nulth Treaty—an agreement that was actively negotiated for nearly two decades, but whose spirit had long been envisioned by Huu-ay-aht leadership in the Nation's unrelenting assertion of self-determination. The House of Huu-ay-aht was buzzing with celebration as the Nation, neighbouring Maa-nulth and Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, and Maa-nulth Treaty signatories and friends gathered to commemorate the beginning of a new relationship.

The research team of Heather Castleden and Vanessa Sloan Morgan had been working with Huu-ay-aht youth to express their visions for the future of their Nation as a modern Treaty signatory. This led to a series of digital stories that were shared at the Effective Date Celebration, embodying the passion of Huu-ay-aht's future generations for decades to come. These stories are on the Huu-ay-aht website: https://huuayaht.org/whats-happening/digital-stories/

Since then, the research team has been doing research about the negotiation and implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty. Huu-ay-aht leadership has always stressed the importance of this work in creating a record of the Nation's journey for future generations, to uphold the Nation's trailblazing efforts by providing insight into what a modern treaty relationship looks like for them so that other Nations considering what path is right for them can make better informed decisions, and to make visible the colonial relationship that remains in play in Canada and across the province of BC. Huu-ay-aht First Nations is the only First Nation in BC who has conducted an in-depth research study of modern treaty negotiation and implementation.

Our research together has been expansive and has not been possible without the tremendous support, passion, guidance, and knowledge of Huu-ay-aht Ḥaẃiiḥ, Elders, elected Council members, youth, and all Huu-ay-aht citizens. Our Research Advisory Committee steers our path, showing us where we need to go and how best to get there. Over the last ten years, the Committee's members have included: ƛiišin, Edward R. Johnson, Simon Dennis Jr., Jane Peters, Wisqii, Stella Peters (Naa siis mis uk sup), Heather Johnson, Mercedes Williams, hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), and hup in yook (Tom Happynook).

Our team has also benefitted from the invaluable research experience of Huu-ay-aht Research Assistants Becki Nookemis and Ayanna Clappis in 2017; in 2020, we were delighted to welcome Honey Johnson and Nicole Malcomson to the team. Honey continues as our Project Coordinator, ensuring that we all stay on track! Students Marc Calabretta, Jon Aarssen, and Vanessa Sloan Morgan have all completed graduate degrees through this research (and Heather Castleden did many moons ago too). Several academic papers have been published, all of which are co-authored with Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Alongside Huu-ay-aht co-presenters, the team has shared our work at multiple national and international conferences, and we have held more than 20 community engagement events, and the list goes on.



Rearch Team on a zoom meeting call. (Photo provided by Vanessa Sloan Morgan)

We highlight these actions as a way to celebrate Huu-ay-aht's continued, inspirational leadership as a Nation among Nations. Not only is the Nation documenting the path through treaty, but while doing so, Huu-ay-aht is shifting the conversation by showing what can be achieved through treaty, as guided by hišuk ma c̓awak, ʔiisaak, and ʔuuʔałuk. To walk alongside the Nation through our research has been a truly humbling experience. For that, and so much more, we raise our hands in thanks. We will continue to do so as we work together on Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqḥmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story). ƛ̓eko ƛeko.

As always, questions or comments are welcome and can be sent to the research co-leads: Heather Castleden at heather.castleden@queensu.ca or (902) 489-2412 and Vanessa Sloan Morgan at vanessa.sloan.morgan@unbc.ca or (250) 508-3410.

Huu-ay-aht able to support students more since Treaty

Huu-ay-aht drew down authority from Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council to administer education on our own behalf the year after the treaty was implemented-- in 2012.

HFN Education includes three main areas: A Local Education Agreement with School District 70 (Pacific Rim) for the Bamfield Community School, Scholarship and Recognition programs for K-12 students, and our Post-Secondary support program.

- A Local Education Agreement (LEA) is the mechanism that funds indigenous students living on Treaty Lands or on a reserve who attend public schools in BC. By negotiating our own LEA with the school district, we can include things like financial support to pay for our school bus driver and Huu-ay-aht education workers at the Bamfield Community School. Our LEA helps us to work more closely with the school district for the education of our children and include more Huu-ay-aht culture and language in the classroom.

- Huu-ay-aht Education administers and delivers our own school supplies, attendance recognition, and scholarship programs for our students.



Huu-ay-aht citizens honoured at 2020 graduation ceremony. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Administering our own education for Post-Secondary education created a number of changes that have made significant impacts in the lives of our citizens.

- Before Treaty, there were only three full-time students sponsored through the Post-Secondary Support Program as administered by NTC under the Canada's Indigenous Education policies.



Students at North Island College for the Coastal Forest Worker Certificate Program. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht)

- Over the years since Huu-ay-aht has been funding and administering our education, there have been as many as 30 students taking part in full-time post-secondary programs annually. On average, there are about 20 students in full-time programming annually.

- Huu-ay-aht has developed our own policies to administer our post-secondary education program. For example, one of the biggest barriers for adult students is often financial. Under Canada's policies, only students who registered in a full-time program that requires at least Grade 10 as a pre-requisite were eligible for living allowance while in school. As we implemented the treaty and implemented our own policies, we were able to sponsor students in Adult Basic Education programs – which is a critical first step for many students before they can pursue further post-secondary programs. Several citizens have used Adult Basic Education as a launching pad for academic programs and trades programs. Education can be a life changer for anyone.

- The Nation has also been able to sponsor students in Trades programs, which were difficult to fund under the federal policies in the past.

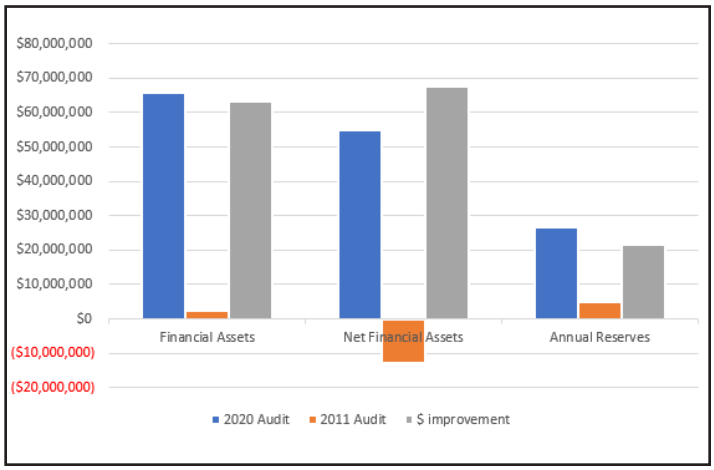
Having our own policies has allowed us to sponsor students with living allowance for shorter full-time programs that may only be a week or two long.

Administering and funding our own education programs under self-government allows Huu-ay-aht to provide quality education opportunities to all Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Treaty gives rights to financial decisions

For financial and legal purposes, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations has become the Huu-ay-aht Government (the "Government"), which now operates under the authority of the Constitution Act of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and under the Maa-nulth Final Agreement.

One of the freedoms the Government gained in treaty was the right to set its own course when it came to financial decisions. This includes the ability to levy direct taxes within its treaty lands, benefits from government-to-government relationships, and financial decision-making powers.



Taxation

In accordance with the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, and related agreements and legislation, the Huu-ay-aht Government can levy direct taxes within its treaty lands. The Government has powers over tax revenues related to income, sales of goods, and real property. The tax powers will operate concurrently with the continuing tax authority of Canada and B.C. provided in the Constitution of Canada. For the financial statements, the tax revenues include levies on behalf of the Government for real property taxation.

Under the non-treaty agreement with the province, Huu-ay-aht will collect all property taxes applicable to citizens and non-members resident on the Government's land including that which may have formerly been part of a municipality. This provides a unique and significant financial opportunity that is a positive advantage for the Government and all citizens in the long-term.

Government-to-government relations

Huu-ay-aht has benefited from government-to-government relations and the related transfers of monetary assets or tangible capital assets from other levels of government. Huu-ay-aht has benefited as a Government from receiving a direct financial return by receiving transfers (from BC and Canada) of lands, funds for operations and capital asset purposes, legislative grants, and also debt forgiveness.

Canada announced in 2020 that loan payments related to the treaty negotiation in the amount of $5.4 million will be forgiven effective as of March 31, 2020. Canada has committed to refund the Huu-ay-aht Government in five equal installments over the next five years.

In 2020, B.C. provided a grant in the amount of $25.7 million to the Huu-ay-aht for the purpose of assisting Huu-ay-aht, working with Urban Systems, TFL 44 LP, Parsons Inc., and Mosaic Forest Management and others, in supporting economic growth and economic recovery from the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 in the communities of Anacla and Bamfield. These funds are dedicated to the Bamfield Main Road, which provides a vital link for citizens living in the Huu-ay-aht jurisdiction. Huu-ay-aht will contribute $5 million and in-kind resources towards the project costs proportionately as it draws down the Funds per the stipulations and the Escrow Agreement. This multi-year infrastructure project will improve the only vehicle access between the City of Port Alberni and Anacla.

Financial Facts

Since 2011, the Huu-ay-aht Government has dramatically improved its financial position, and specifically its Financial Assets. In the most recently audited financial statements (2020), Huu-ay-aht had increased its Financial Assets to more than $65.8 Million, and has also been able to maintain relatively low liabilities during this time. See some of the key financial comparisons below.

Included in the Financial Assets, as at March 31, 2020, the Government held $20.38 million in the Invested Wealth Fund (IWF), which had not ever existed prior to 2011. As a Government, Huu-ay-aht has also been able to establish the Huu-ay-aht Settlement Trust with a value of $5.71 Million.

Also, it is impressive that Huu-ay-aht has been able to increase its annual Operating Revenues by over $21.4 million per year. The Government had over $26.4 million in 2020 compared to just over $5 million in 2011.

The improvements in the Government's finances, and the dramatic increase in Net Financial Assets by

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Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind to guide future generations

By Crystal Jack



Huu-ay-aht citizens travelled to the House of Huu-ay-aht for the 2019 Annual People's Assembly. (Photo provided by Huu-ay-aht First Nations)

Congratulations on 10 years of Treaty and a return to the inherent right to self-government. It has been a privilege to watch what the Huu-ay-aht and the other Maa-nulth Nations have accomplished.

2008 to 2010 I worked with Huu-ay-aht supporting the Treaty Implementation committees as they drafted and finalized the laws that came in to effect on April 1 2011, and worked with the Maa-nulth Treaty Society for several years over three separate occasions from 2010 to 2017.

Rejoining Huu-ay-aht in fall of 2017 as the Director of Treaty Implementation felt like coming full circle, helping to implement the laws I watched Huu-ay-aht create and see them in practice. I recently discovered the word "re-traditionalization". I think it describes what this Treaty is doing for the governments of the Maa-nulth Nations.

"…Re-traditionalization is about integrating traditional and contemporary demands in a positive and culturally consistent manner whereby the structure of the cultural system remains intact but the specific jobs are modernized in accordance with social change." – Rekindling the Sacred Fire, Chantal Flola, Published 2015.

The Huu-ay-aht's Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind captures this beautifully. The Treaty is a modern tool to self-govern the ḥahuułi, and a modern community that is wide spread using Huu-ay-aht culture, values, and traditions.

I am so thankful to have taken this journey through treaty with my husband John Jack, who has been both a personal and professional support. We always keep in mind how our decisions will affect the future and we have three very compelling reasons to do so. Our children were the first children in the Jack family to be born into a self-governing First Nation in over 135 years and we know our family is not alone in this. Children in Maa-nulth Nations born after 2011 will have never known the Indian Act. And that, is definitely something worth celebrating.

Kleko, kleko, to every person who participated in negotiations, governance, administration, community engagement, and People's Assemblies, and to everyone who held them up so they could do this important work. I hold my hands up to you.

Huu-ay-aht financial position sees great increases under Treaty

Continued from page 16

$67.68 million, has allowed Huu-ay-aht to have more borrowing power for new endeavours. The excellent financial position has provided Huu-ay-aht opportunity to pay all the related investment costs and to take on the $6 million debt to acquire shares in TFL 44. The Government's financial position has allowed opportunity to start other new government projects and services.

For Huu-ay-aht's finances, there is now a higher standard of governance and financial management. The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) as presented by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the CPA of Canada. The finances of Huu-ay-aht are now prepared to comply with the Government's legislation, Constitution, and the Financial Administration Act (FAA), which require the Government to report financial statements to citizens and externally, under standards comparable to those generally accepted for all governments in Canada.

The Future

The rights and freedoms reestablished under Treaty have greatly increased Huu-ay-aht's financial position in the last 10 years. Through self-government Huu-ay-aht leadership can determine how to use that increased revenue to support citizens and manage the ḥahuułi, now and into the future.

Huu-ay-aht able to develop a Child and Family Wellness Department since becoming Treaty

"Safe, healthy and connected"

As a self-governing Nation with a modern Treaty and Constitution, one of the five key promises of the Huu-ay-aht Strategic Plan is: "Our children will grow up safe, healthy and connected to our home and culture/values." As the Social Services Evaluation demonstrates, progress has been made towards this goal and there are fewer Huu-ay-aht children in care and more Huu-ay-aht children are living with Huu-ay-aht family when they are unable to live at home. Additionally, there are more opportunities to participate in cultural events and to learn the language.



Child and Family Wellness moved into their own office July, 2019. (Photo by Michaela Sabbas)

Bill C-92 Negotiations

On February 28, 2019, the Federal Government introduced Bill C-92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families (the Act). This legislation was co-developed with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners with the goal of keeping Indigenous children and youth connected to their families, communities, and culture. It recognizes a simple truth: one size does not fit all when it comes to Indigenous child and family services. Under Bill C-92, Indigenous communities and groups will be free to develop policies and laws based on their particular histories, cultures, and circumstances. They will be free to move at their own pace to implement and enforce these policies and laws. The Act also enables Indigenous groups and communities to transition toward exercising partial or full jurisdiction over child and family services at a pace that they choose.

The Huu-ay-aht Team of Edward R.Johnson (Executive Councillor), Maegen Giltrow (Lawyer), Kim Baird (Consultant), Elizabeth Cull (Consultant to Huu-ay-aht on all Provincial matters), and Shannon Zimmerman (Director of Child and Family Wellness) have recently started participating in tripartite meetings with Canada, the Province, and the Federal Government to begin discussions about Huu-ay-aht's Child and Family Services Coordination Agreement.

Huu-ay-aht is the first Treaty Nation to become involved in Tripartite Negotiations. Once signed, this Agreement will give Huu-ay-aht First Nations jurisdiction over matters pertaining to Prevention and Child Protection Legislation. This process will have extensive Huu-ay-aht Community Engagement and we look forward to these discussions with citizens. Although this process will take time, it is a step towards Reconciliation as Governments are recognizing that First Nations know what is best for their children and youth and will be providing the necessary finances for Huu-ay-aht to negotiate the Coordination Agreement and to provide services to children and families when the Coordination Agreement has been signed.

Services to Huu-ay-aht children, youth, families, and Elders

Child and Family Wellness Staff

The Child and Family Wellness Team started with one Family Support Liaison Worker and a Director in and has grown and changed since that time:

- Christine Pearson – Team Lead/Protection and Family Support Liaison Worker
- Kerry-Ann Collinge – Protection and Family Support Liaison Worker
- Clinical Counsellor – Rena Johnson (currently on Leave) – 1-year Contract position posted
- Toby Rader – Protection and Family Support Liaison Worker
- Becki Nookemis – Protection and Family Support Liaison Worker
- Child and Family Admin Assistant – Vacant
- Girls Program and Mentorship (4-year Contract) – Vacant
- Shannon Zimmerman – Director of Child and Family Wellness/Oversees Culture and Language

Culture and Language Program Staff

Culture and Language programs and services are offered by the following individuals:

Continued on page 19

Communications helps keep citizens informed

By Heather Thomson, Communications Manager

Under Treaty, Huu-ay-aht First Nations has a larger responsibility to communicate with its citizens. Luckily, during the lead up to the treaty vote, the Nation learned a lot about effective ways to get messages out to citizens and communities.

One of the biggest changes is the need for an annual People's Assembly and three sittings of Legislature. These are essential for citizens, as it is their opportunity to have their voices heard. Treaty means every citizen has a role to play in their Nations.

The People's Assembly offers citizen a chance to bring motions to the floor on the topics that matter to them. These are then considered and voted on by the citizens. It is also the time when the leaders of the Nation bring forward overviews and important items to the Huu-ay-aht members.

Although the Legislature does not involve as much direct input from citizens, it is an opportunity to offer feedback in advance of the Nation passing important legislation, like their budget.

To ensure citizens are keep up to date with the regular functioning of their Nation, and in part to make sure they are ready for these two meetings, Huu-ay-aht has worked hard to host regular Community Engagement Sessions in five communities. These cover a variety of subjects and offer citizens a chance to gather and interact with the leaders of the Nation. Both aspects of these gatherings, much like the People's Assembly, are equally important. Gathering to practice our culture, language, and traditions is an essential part of communicating.

Since the treaty, the Communications department has grown. This has meant the Nation was able to bring back the Uyaqḥmis on a regular basis. This is an effective way to keep citizens informed on a more regular basis, no matter where they live. The department also creates other communications as needed, all with the goal to engage citizens in their nation and keep them informed.

This is an exciting time to be the Manager of Communications. So much is changing for Huu-ay-aht as it works its way through implementation of the treaty. Amanda-lee and I have been honoured to bring you information every step of the way and to share your stories with citizens. Bringing back Uyaqḥmis has been a fun and rewarding part of our job. We always enjoy when citizens gather, whether it is a few at a community engagement or more than 100 at the People's Assembly. It is our honour to help host events and to listen and learn from the stories you offer and the culture and language you share. We look forward to sharing many more Huu-ay-aht Strong successes with you in the coming years.



Huu-ay-aht welcomed cruise ships in 2019 with dancing and singing. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

More programs to be available for citizens moving forward

Continued from page 18

- Cultural Wellness Administrator -Cory Howard Sr
- Cultural Wellness Worker P/T– Vacant
- Language and History Administrator – Vacant
- Warriors Coordinator (1-year Contract) – Daniel Zayonc
- Regional Warriors Coordinator – Ricardo Manmohan (Contract)

Moving Forward

The Social Services Project Evaluation will provide guidance and direction for the Child and Family Wellness Team and Culture and Language Programs as we move forward.

Citizen feedback will be used to shape future programs and services and we are all excited about providing more preventative services and increasing opportunities for participation in cultural events and language revival.



The Social Services Panel Project Book consists of 30 recommendations.

HFN Group of Businesses

It's been 10 years since the Maa-nulth Treaty came into effect. Here at Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses, we have been reflecting on the successes and challenges over the last decade. There have been so many great initiatives, and we want to share them with Huu-ay-aht citizens. Beginning in 2011 with the formation of the Huu-ay-aht Development LP and incorporation of HGB, we saw a reorganization of the existing LP's including Forestry, Fisheries, and Lands – we created and "arm's length" business model. This helps to separate business from government and politics. The next year, the HFN management LP was created and took over management of Pachena Bay Campground, which remains one of our most successful businesses today.

The HFN Market LP was established in 2013 with the acquisition of the Tides and Trail Market. Purchasing the Market gave HGB and HFN a visible commercial presence in the community. Over the years the Market has provided opportunities for citizens to gain training and experience in a retail setting.

As we fast forward on to 2015, the HFN Forestry LP began to see good profits and provided stumpage payments to HFN of $313,000 as well as a cash distribution of $409,000.





2016 marked the year that HFN Lands LP purchased 11 properties in Bamfield, assuring Huu-ay-aht participation in the local economy centering on opportunities in tourism.

More stumpage payments were made by HFN Forestry LP to HFN government and totaled $567,000 this year. In 2017, the HFN Hospitality LP was formed to manage the recently purchased food and accommodation properties.

HGB was honoured to receive a BC Aboriginal Achievement Award for "Outstanding Business Achiever." HFN Forestry LP stumpage payments continued to climb reaching $1.7 million in 2017.

HGB made significant improvements to the exterior of the Motel in 2018, as well as upgrades to facilities at the Pachena Bay Campground. HFN Forestry LP had a record year for profits, due to a package of high value cedar harvested in Treaty Settlement Land under the Non-Replaceable Forest License with HFN. Stumpage payments totaled $2.28 million for the year. The following year HGB provided a cash distribution of $250,000 with stumpage payments totaling $472,000. In 2020, HGB and HFN partnered with North Island College to deliver a Coastal Forest Workers certificate program for Huu-ay-aht citizens. Finally, we come to the current year in which HGB has begun construction on a campground expansion, including an alternate access road to the Pachena Bay Campground. The expansion will lead to more employment for citizens and the new road will provide safety and peace of mind for the Anacla residents.

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