Uyaqhmis

August 2023 Issue 73

Bamfield Community School hosts first-ever Graduation Ceremony

Honouring three 2023 graduates

Story on page 8



PM41913515

Chip Sealing starts on the Bamfield Main



Start of Chip Sealing at the 36 Kilometre mark on the Bamfield Main. (Photo by Darren Hiller)

The Bamfield Main Road Surfacing project (BMRSP) has officially started the final phase of the project.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations announced that the chip seal coat work on the Bamfield Main started on July 22, 2023.

The final phase of the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project is possible with the continued support and partnership with the Province.

Huu-ay-aht Executive Councillor, Wiiheyakchikk, Brad Johnson shares the excitement for the project's near completion, "the road improvements will provide safety for Huu-ay-aht citizens, the Bamfield community, and visitors, and that is one of our main priorities" Councillor Wiiheyakchikk said, "With the economic benefits this will bring to the region, we look forward to building a sustainable economy for our Nation".

The project started almost three years ago when the two governments partnered to create a safe route along Bamfield Road.

The Provincial Government and Huu-ay-aht collectively identify this project as "The Bamfield Road Reconciliation Project." These two governments worked together to launch the project with a shared vision of a safer route between Bamfield and Port Alberni. That act of reconciliation is why this project is where it is today.

"This is a vital roadway on the west coast of Vancouver Island, connecting residents of several coastal communities. I commend Huu-ay-aht First Nations for their steadfast commitment and continued progress on such a large-scale project. This project will ensure Bamfield Main is a safe route for everyone." said B.C. Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Murray Rankin

As of Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 7 A.M., there will be a Bamfield Main Road closure between kilometres 36 to 49 to start preparing and laying the chip seal. A detour will be placed for all traffic for approximately three weeks.



Please watch for orange marked signs to help navigate through the detours that will in place during this phase of the project.

For questions about the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please contact the Huu-ay-aht Communications Manager Amanda-Lee Cunningham at amanda.c@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100 or 250-720-7776 (cell).

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisons a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable 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.

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

Keep up to date with Uyaqḥmis on social media:
@HuuayahtFN

FOLLOW US ON twitter

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Facebook page

Like us on Facebook

Recovering, Collecting and Sharing Our Language

The Huu-ay-aht Social Services Project Evaluation 2020 cited, "There is a keen interest by many in having more cultural events and programs, as well as better access to greater language and cultural education."

Huu-ay-aht and the First Nations Education Foundation partnered on a project called Recovering, Collecting and Sharing Our Language; community dinners were held to introduce the project. Elders, Language Speakers, Storytellers, Knowledge Keepers, and Citizens have contributed stories, songs, photographs, language and history with the Language Team from First Nations Education Foundation, Culture Team and Hinatinyis. Please be assured that the information that has been recorded is for Huu-ay-aht citizens only, and user rights will be established to maintain confidentiality.

To date, the information has been compiled and translated into the Barkley Dialect and has been uploaded to a cloud-based platform; the Culture Team, Hinatinyis and Shannon Zimmerman, Director of Child and Family Wellness, will be meeting with the Language Team on Monday, July 24 and Tuesday, July 25, 2023, to preview the app and learn how to use the recording equipment for future recordings.

We will host Community Engagements this fall to premiere the app and make arrangements for citizens to record more stories, songs, photographs, language and history!



Dates for engagements will be announced soon. We look forward to sharing a meal and the app with you.

Honourable Murray Rankin and Josie Osbourne visit Oomiiqsu Centre Site

On Thursday, July 6, 2023, Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor John Jack, Councillors Brad Johnson, Edward R. Johnson, Stella Peters, Ḥaẇiiḥ Councillor Theresa Nookemus, Child and Family Wellness Director, Shannon Zimmerman, and Executive Director, Karen Haugen met with Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Josie Osbourne, MLA of Mid Island-Pacific Rim at the construction site of the Oomiiqsu (Aboriginal Mother Centre).



Left to right: IWCD crew (unknown), Councillor Stella Peters, Edward R. Johnson, Executive Director, Karen Haugen, ḥaẇiiḥ Councillor, Theresa Nookemus, Chief Councillor John Jack, MLA of Mid Island-Pacific Rim Josie Osbourne, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Murray Rankin, Councillor, Brad Johnson, Director of Child and Family Wellness, Shannon Zimmerman. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

Oomiiqsu will provide culturally safe, wrap-around support to Huu-ay-aht and other Nuu-chah-nulth women and children. Oomiiqsu will house the Child and Family Wellness Office, Oomiiqsu Office, 4 Transitional Housing Units, and housing for up to 48 women and children.

Oomiiqsu provides an alternative to the removal of children from the care of their mothers and ensures the safety of women and children (ages 0-12). Oomiiqsu will also house the Oomiiqsu Child Care Centre with eight spaces for children 36 months and under and 16 for children ages 30 months and over.

The Oomiiqsu project is well underway. To date, gridlines have been set, and the bulk excavation of the building has been completed. Upcoming work will include forming footings and installing the site fence and signage.

This project is a partnership between Huu-ay-aht First Nations, BC Housing, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

Highway 4 closures due to the Cameron Bluffs forest fire have impacted construction timelines.The anticipated occupancy date has been moved from August 2024 to December 2024.

Currently, IWCO is hiring Carpenters, Apprentices, and Labourers for the Oomiiqsu site. To apply online, visit IWCD.ca or call 1-250-802-4390.

Newly Elected Executive Council held Swearing-in Ceremony

It was a beautiful sunny day in the Ḥahuuḥi (traditional territory) of Huu-ay-aht First Nations as everyone gathered for the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected executive council on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. The day began at the Pachena River, where Executive Council, Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council (Hereditary Chiefs), and guests participated in a cultural ceremony, Oosimch (Spiritual Bathing), and cedar brushing. The swearing-in ceremony at the House of Huu-ay-aht followed it.



Executive Council pledging the Huu-ay-aht oath. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

On Saturday, June 17, 2023, Huu-ay-aht citizens of eligible voting age placed their vote, and the newly elected council is as follows:

Chief Councillor
John Jack

Councillors
Edward R. Johnson
Brad Johnson
Stephen Rayner
Stella Peters
Evan Cook

Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council has appointed Theresa Nookemus as the Ḥaw̓iiḥ representative for Executive Council.

Before the Executive Council pledged the Huu-ay-aht oath, speaker and Huu-ay-aht citizen Angela Wesley started the ceremony with two council members receiving traditional names, John Jack and Brad Johnson.

Huu-ay-aht speaker and knowledge holder, wišqii (Robert Dennis Jr.), gave Chief Councillor John Jack his traditional name, Sayaaču̓aṭḥ (sa-yaa-chut), meaning "house on the bluff." Huu-ay-aht citizens, Larry Johnson, gave Executive Council member, Brad Johnson his traditional name, Wiiheyakchikk, representing "close to shore."

Ḥaw̓iiḥ council is interested in all Huu-ay-aht people having traditional names. With the newly elected council, all council members needed to hold a traditional name as they begin their four-year term.

Following the naming ceremony, the speaker, Angela Wesley and Executive Council pledged the Huu-ay-aht oath.

As part of the ceremony, Huu-ay-aht Women (Youth and Elders) stood before the newly elected council members and asked them questions. Council members stood holding a cedar rope, which symbolizes that they will carry the questions and the pledge they took to support these Huu-ay-aht women everywhere they go.

Huu-ay-aht Youth, Natalie Clappis asked, "Do you swear to make decisions and choices that will continue to benefit now and future generations?" and "Do you swear to create opportunities to hear Huu-ay-aht youth's input?"

Citizen Kiana Mio asked, "Do you swear to lead by example in the protection of women, children, two-spirited, and men of Huu-ay-aht from sexual, physical, emotional and spiritual harm?" and "Do you swear to invest in strengthening social safety and preventative measures to ensure prosperity and wellness for all of Huu-ay-aht community?"

Elder Deb Cook shared her story as a residential school survivor, and with her story, she asked,

"Don't you think that all council and staff should protect all citizens



Huu-ay-aht women (Youth and Elders) standing before Executive Council asking questions. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Continued on page 5

Executive Council Receives Portfolios following Swearing-in Ceremony

Continued from page 4

from physical, mental, and spiritual abuses?"

"I'd like to see zero tolerance from all Huu-ay-aht citizens. A big ask is that the nation be a substance abuse-free community."

"Can you build and create a wellness/healing center or utilize existing buildings?"

"Can programs be made for our children, youth, and young adults like music, sports, crafts, cooking, to name a few? "

"All Huu-ay-aht citizens or anyone who was convicted of a crime against women and children should be identified and should not be allowed near anyone they offended or allowed in Huu-ay-aht community."

Angela Wesley also stood with the women and had two words for council, harmony, and unity. "I want to see us happy and living together as a community."

Angela shared a reminder that her uncle Robert Dennis always says there is no I in Team. Together Everyone Achieves More.

The ceremony continued with speeches, singing and dancing, and snacks.

In their new roles, the elected executive council will have priorities and expectations as leaders of their portfolios.

To fully see the swearing-in ceremony, the live stream can be viewed here: click here (insert hyperlink).

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Chief Councilor John Jack worked with executive council members to decide portfolio holders.

On Friday, July 14, 2023 the decision was made and announced.

Portfolios are held as the following:

John Jack, Chief Councillor

- External Relations
- Major Projects

Theresa Nookemus, ḥaẃiiḥ Councillor

- Citizenship
- Cultural Engagement

Edward R. Johnson, Executive Councillor

- Community Planning and Infrastructure
- Child and Family Wellness

Brad Johnson, Executive Councillor

- Treaty Lands and Natural Resources
- Treaty Implementation

Stephen Rayner, Executive Councillor

- Economic Development

Stella Peters, Executive Councillor

- Citizen Development (Health and Education/Training)
- Public Saftey, Climate Change, and Emergency Planning

Evan Cook, Executive Councillor

- Finance, Taxes, and Capital

This will be the first term as Chief Councillor for John Jack, the first term for Stephen Rayner and Stella Peters as Executive Councillor, and the first term for Theresa Nookemus as ḥaẃiiḥ representative.

This will be their second term as Executive Councillor for Edward R. Johnson, Evan Cook, and Brad Johnson.



Huu-ay-aht Elder, Deb Cook, dancing at the Swearing-in Cultural ceremony at Pachena River. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Staff Continues to Grow



Charlene Nookemus

Charlene Nookemus has worked for Huu-ay-aht First Nations at the Anacla Government Office for many months.

Nookemus's position is the Building Service Worker, and she provides building services to the Anacla Government Office.

Even though her job is to ensure cleanliness, her passion is cooking. Before Huu-ay-aht, Nookemus worked at the Port Alberni Shelter as a cook, and at the cucumber farm.

She has also received her certificate in Hospitality Tourism, upgraded her Grade 12, and holds a ticket for WHMIS and Food Safe.

Besides cooking and working, Nookemus enjoys walking, yard work, watching movies and tv, and playing games.



Kiara Collinge

Kiara Collinge is Métis Cree, born and raised on the traditional territories of Hupačasath and Tseshaht First Nations (Port Alberni). Collinge began her time at Huu-ay-aht First Nations as a Co-Op Student from the British Columbia Institute of Technology in the Broadcast and Online Journalism program.

When starting in March, she balanced working full-time for Huu-ay-aht as well as finishing her final courses with BCIT, which was a documentary about a semi-professional Indigenous Soccer Team, and their goal to take young soccer players to the next level. Her career in journalism began in high school when she volunteered with Shaw Spotlight; she created her segment called Young Alberni, which aired weekly in different areas on Vancouver Island. Young Alberni focused on talented youth in Port Alberni.

Kiara has also done entrepreneurial work for organizations, such as the Zattzoo Project Association and Alberni Drug & Alcohol Prevention Services (ADAPS), creating a training video to educate British Columbians on Naloxone.

Collinge holds an honours diploma from Toronto Film School from their Video Production Program, and since graduating in June 2023, a distinction diploma from BCIT from their Broadcast and Online Journalism Program.

With her career in journalism, Collinge has been honoured to receive awards for her work. She received a Jack Webster Foundation Indigenous Student Journalism Award, presented by the B.C. Teachers' Federation, in 2021 and 2022. Also, accepted the Alexis Mazurin Award, and The Michael K. Thurston High Flight Memorial Award in Journalism in 2022.

Besides film and news reporting, Kiara enjoys playing with her dog Daisy, kayaking, and softball.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is HIRING!

- Project Liaison Coordinator
- Early Childhood Educator
- Records Management Assistant (Student)
- Youth Events Coordinator
- Kiixin Youth Guide Assistant
- Senior Advisor
- West Coast Trail Guardian Supervisor
- West Coast Trail Guardian
- Economic Development Officer
- Housing Manager

Closing dates for all postings: July 28, 2023 at 4 P.M. or until filled. Email Cover letter and Resume to hr@huuayaht.org

Nurse Navigators across Vancouver Island to provide support

Across Vancouver Island, Nurse Navigators in hospitals and clinics help patients navigate the health care system.

How can a Nurse Navigator provide support?

- Working together with you and your community
- Explaining health care issues or concerns
- Helping with your health and wellness plan
- Helping to connect you and the healthcare system
- Supporting your relationship with other healthcare professionals
- Helping with discharge planning alongside the Advocate Nurse and Hospital Nurses
- Providing assistance and direction if you have a complaint about services or treatment while in the hospital
- Finding a cultural/spiritual healer
- Providing cultural awareness to healthcare professionals
- Assisting with bridging connections to support services such as employment services, counselling and schooling

Vancouver Island is broken into three categories, north, central, and south. Depending on the patient's location and hospital, a Nurse Navigator for that area is there to assist.

To see all the locations, phone numbers and emails to contact a Nurse navigator, please view our website at www.www. huuayaht.org/nurse-navigator-support/

Or scan this QR Code.

2023 Huu-ay-aht Days, August 11 to 13



2023 Huu-ay-aht Days will take place from August 11 to 13.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government will kick off the weekend on Friday, August 11, at 11 A.M.

Friday will be filled with food, culture, contests, and fun activities.

Then it is up to Huu-ay-aht Citizens take charge of their weekend by camping and socializing with friends and families.

This is to come together and have fun as a self-reliant nation.

Huu-ay-aht Days is a weekend about community strength, wellness, and celebrating who we are as Huu-ay-aht People.

To register, please fill out the form here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VC7388N To view full details, visit here or scan QR Code: https://huuayaht.org/2023-huu-ay-aht-days/

Scan QR Code to visit our website to view full details about 2023 Huu-ay-aht Days

Bamfield School hosts its first-ever Graduation Ceremony

Bamfield Community School (BCS) hosted its first-ever Graduation Ceremony for the 2023 graduates at the Bamfield Community School on Friday, June 30, 2022.

Graduated this year are Huu-ay-aht citizens Helena Howard and Cheyanne Dick, as well as Brandon Martin from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.

It has been many years of students living in the communities of Bamfield, and Anacla who have had to leave their community to attend high school in other communities because BCS did not offer high school classes. It meant students must move away from their homes and parents, or the entire family up their life, leaving their home and community.

Robin Schmitt, Bamfield Community School Vice President, explained that it is very exciting for the communities of Bamfield and Anacla, to know that their children can stay in the community to finish high school.

Families can now choose if their children and family should stay or finish their schooling elsewhere.

"Hosting Bamfield Community School's 2023 grad was exhilarating" said Robin Schmitt, Bamfield Community School Vice Principal. "Our students worked very hard to accomplish their goal of graduating, and we are so very proud of them and look forward to hearing about all of their future endeavours".

Robin continues to explain that the Bamfield Community School's aspiration for families to have that choice is the backbone of the Grade 12 expansion.

Having a complete K to 12 program at Bamfield Community School also provides more opportunities for local employers to connect with students in some of the high school programs, as well as opening the door for employers to be able to encourage potential employees to move here, knowing that their children can finish high school here now.

Helena Howard, Cheyanne Dick, and Brandon Martin are the first three graduates of the Bamfield Community School.

Community members, SD 70 staff, Huu-ay-aht staff, and families gathered to witness the wonderfully put-together ceremony, where a Huu-ay-aht cultural performance opened the ceremony for the three young individuals to walk the stage and receive their graduation certificate.



Helena Howard recieving her Dogwood Diploma presented by Dave Maher. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Helena Howard graduated from Bamfield Community School with a Dogwood Diploma.

For Howard, she explained staying home with family and finishing high school was more manageable.

By her being able to stay home, she lowered her stress levels so that she could balance her personal life and school.

"I feel proud of myself" said Howard. "After I had my son, I felt like I couldn't finish, and everything felt harder to do, but being home, I had lots of help from my family and friends, and I did it, and I hope my son will too".

She continues to say, "To those that are in school, you can finish. With a little hard work and patience, you can do it".

Cheyanne Dick graduated from Bamfield Community School with an Adult Dogwood Diploma.

Her graduation experience differs from Howard and Martin's, as Dick completed her Adult Dogwood in three months and was strictly online.



Cheyanne Dick recieving her Adult Dogwood Diploma presented by Dave Maher. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Dick's plans after graduation are to remain in Anacla and Bamfield and continue working at her current job at the Hačas Inn.

Brandon Martin graduated from Bamfield Community School with a Dogwood Diploma.

Martin plans to continue working with Huu-ay-aht Fisheries for the next year or two, and look into colleges.

Currently, Martin is still determining what schooling to pursue, but during the summer and free time, he wants to spend as much time as he can with his family.



Brandon Martin recieving his Dogwood Diploma presented by Dave Maher. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht hosts 2023 Graduate Celebration Lunch



Left to right – Frankie Williams, Helena Howard, Destiny Stewart, Nicole Malcomson, Angela Dennis, Natalie Clappis, Hayden Johnson – Turgeon, Brian Sport, and Cheyanne Dick. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

On Friday, July 21, the Huu-ay-aht First Nation Education Department hosted a celebration lunch for the 2023 Huu-ay-aht Graduates and families.

Nine out of 20 graduates attended. Many could not attend due to Highway 4 closures, practicum commitments, or living out of province.

Before gifts and speeches, Huu-ay-aht Citizens and staff gathered for drumming and singing of the dinner song before eating lunch.

After lunch, the celebration began with a speech from Benson Nookemis, Executive Councillor and current education portfolio holder, Stella Peters.

Following after was, Executive Councilor and past education portfolio holder Edward R. Johnson, and last was Chief Councillor John Jack.

Following speeches, the graduates received Huu-ay-aht First Nation 2023 Graduation hoodies, a cedar headband and financial recognition.

Huu-ay-aht would like to say klecko klecko (thank you) to everyone who helped prepare for the graduation ceremony, and who was able to attend and celebrate such a wonderful occasion. Most importantly, congratulations to the 2023 Graduates of Bamfield Community School.

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ʕatiqšiʔateʔic ʔaḥkuu
(You are acknowledged with this)

Congratulations to Huu-ay-aht 2023 Graduates!

High School Graduates

Jerret Anderson - Dogwood Diploma - Spectrum School, Victoria, B.C.
Garrett Charleson - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Eighth Ave Learning Centre
Natalie Clappis - Dogwood Diploma - ADSS
Cheyanne Dick - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Eighth Ave Learning Centre
Helena Howard - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Bamfield Community School
Quintin Johnson-Sears - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Victoria High School
Hayden Johnson-Turgeon - Dogwood Diploma - ADSS
Dakota Joseph - Dogwood Diploma - Cowichan Secondary School
Meredith Mitchell-Johnson - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Learning Alternative Woodlands
Brian Sport - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Cowichan Valley School District
Victoria White - Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) - Bear Creek Secondary School, Barrie, ON
Frankie Williams - Dogwood Diploma - ADSS
Maria Williams - Adult Dogwood Diploma - Eighth Ave Learning Centre

Post Secondary Graduates

William Coopsie - Fire Training Certificate - College of the Rockies
Angela Dennis - Masters of Education, Early Childhood Special Education - University of Missouri
Sasha Duval - Business Management / Law & Security Diplomas - Trillium College
Doris Johnson - Indigenous Studies Diploma - Camosun College
Nicole Malcomson - Cert. Indigenous Health Administration and Leadership - University of British Columbia
Maggie Peters - Early Childhood Education Basic Program - Sprott Shaw College
Destiny Stewart - Bachelor of Arts in Childhood and Youth Care with a Child Protection Specialization - Vancouver Island University



Other Huu-ay-aht Citizens who graduated from High school and Post-secondary institutions this school year (2023). (Graphic made by Kiara Collinge)

HFN work to remove invasive species, European Green Crab

Story by Carter Burtlake, Huu-ay-aht First Nations Lands and Natural Resources Associate

Huu-ay-aht Lands and Natural Resources team has been working to manage and obtain an understanding of the European Green Crabs distribution in Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuƚi.

European Green Crab are an invasive species that thrive in warmer waters near freshwater inputs.

On the West Coast of Vancouver Island, green crabs dig through the sediment while foraging for clams. By digging up the sediment, green crabs uproot important eelgrass.

Eelgrass habitats are becoming rare and are an important nursery habitat for young sea creatures.

As a result, European Green Crabs are linked to declining salmon populations because they remove the nursery habitat the juvenile fish hide in during their outmigration.

In March 2023, the Lands and Resources team started an initial winter investigation within Bamfield Inlet, Grappler Inlet, and the Sarita Estuary.

Over three weeks and using a series of 40 traps, the team captured 25 European Green Crab and removed them from the environment.

Green crabs migrate to deeper water in the wintertime, so despite relatively few captures, the results are concerning.

In other locations of Barkley Sound, the Coastal Restoration Society has captured hundreds of green crabs in a single day!

The Lands and Natural Resources team will head out for another trapping effort to monitor how the warmer summer months impact the European Green Crab population.



Tom Joe and Steven Smith removing European Green Crab from the enviroment. (Photo provided by Lands and Natural Resources)



Photo of one of the 25 European Green Crab by Huu-ay-aht First Nations Lands and Natural Resources Team.

A group of swimmers raise money for the local KUU-US Crisis Line

In 2021, two friends, Daniel Zayonc and Kelly Clement, devised an idea to raise money for the local Port Alberni KUU-US Crisis Line.

This idea was sparked after the initial findings were announced from Kamloops describing 215 unmarked graves on the land of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

When speaking with Clement, she explained how this new release was a “pivotal moment because many non-Indigenous people finally realized the dark truth of what had really happened in those institutions,” she continued to say, “flags were lowered to half-mast, and heartfelt apologies from religious and political leaders were given, but Daniel and I felt that we needed to do something more.”



Left to Right - Shannon Mendt, Amaya Black, Chris Nookemis, Kelly Clement, and Mateusz Walczuk. (Photo by Reid Jochim)

After the announcement, Zayonc and Clement wanted to do something more that would “actually contribute towards healing from generations of Indian Residential School trauma,” so the two friends went fishing one evening in Trevor Channel, and Zayonc sprung the idea of a big swim.

Zayonc shared with Clement that the swim needed to be "human-powered and something that was not easy". What sealed the deal on making swimming the fundraiser was catching a salmon soon after the decision, telling them they had made the correct choice.



Kelly Clement and Daniel Zayonc, before the 2021 swim. (Photo by Stella Peters)

On June 21, National Indigenous People’s Day, since 2021, they have met yearly to swim to raise money for KUU-US Crisis Line. In 2021, the swim was from Diana Island to Brady’s Beach. In 2022 and 2023, the group did a slightly shorter route from Helby Island to Bamfield Inlet.

“Diana Island was initially chosen because it was once a village site, and the route we were swimming would have been paddled by Huu-ay-aht people long ago.” Said Clement.

According to the team's safety boat, the supposed 3-Kilometers swim on google maps turned into 4-kilometres as they fought the currents, pushing them off course. For the team, the average time was two hours and fourteen minutes.



Left to Right - Kelly Clement, Shannon Mendt, Hannah Plater, and Daniel Zayonc, celebrating the completion of the 2021 swim. (Photo by Stella Peters)



This years 2023 swim. Trevor Channel in the background. (Photo by Reid Jochim)

In 2021, the team consisted of four swimmers. In 2022 had nine swimmers, and this year, in 2023, it had five swimmers. One team member is a Huu-ay-aht Citizen, Christopher Nookemis.

Clement explains how overjoyed she is at everyone who participated in past and this year’s swims. She highlights the courage it took for Nookemis to complete the swim, as he fears deep water.

Over the last three years of conducting this swim fundraiser, the group has raised $4880. In year one, 2021, they raised $1500. The goal was $500. In year two, 2022, they raised $1575, aiming to beat the previous year. This year, the third year, 2023, they raised $1805, aiming to beat the last year.

Clement shares that she wants to offer a heartfelt klecko (thank you) to the many people who have volunteered to drive safety boats and keep an eye on swimmers over the years.

"We wouldn’t do this if we didn’t think we could do it safely. Spotters are especially necessary when swimmers are crossing the deep-water shipping lane.” Said Clement. She added that participants are always welcomed and “for anyone not up to the challenge of actual swimming but interested in participating next year, we always welcome more safety vessels and crew.”

PST Tax Exemption returns for Maa-nulth Treaty Final Agreement

Information directly from Ministry of Tax Notice

The Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement, Nisga'a Final Agreement and Tla'amin Final Agreement are amended to reinstate or continue the exemptions from **B.C. sales taxes (carbon tax, motor fuel tax, provincial sales tax [PST], tobacco tax).**

This notice explains who is eligible and when they are eligible for these exemptions.
The exemptions from B.C. sales taxes apply to purchases or leases of goods or purchases of services made on or after the effective date of the amendments to the final agreements (see Effective Dates below).

Unless the exemption continues, any transactions made before those effective dates are not tax-exempt.

Who is Eligible?

On or after the effective date of the amendments to their final agreement:

Eligible Treaty Nation individuals are exempt from B.C. sales taxes (carbon tax, motor fuel tax, PST, tobacco tax) on purchases or leases made on:

• the portion of Treaty Nations' lands that are former reserve lands (does not include Nisga'a Lands until January 1, 2024)

• other First Nations lands

Note: Treaty Nation individuals are eligible for the above exemptions on or after their effective date, even if their Certificate of Indian Status card states that the cardholder is no longer eligible for the sales tax exemptions.

• Other First Nations individuals are exempt from B.C. sales taxes on purchases or leases made on the portion of Treaty Nations lands that are former reserve lands (does not include Nisga'a lands until January 1, 2024)

Effective Dates

Eligible Treaty Nation individuals qualify for exemptions from B.C. sales taxes on or after the effective date of the amendments to their final agreement.

See the following table to find out when the exemptions are reinstated (or continued if the exemptions are still in effect) for each Treaty Nation:

Treaty Nation Individuals/Treaty NationLands - Effective Date of Reinstatement

Tsawwassen Members/Tsawwassen Lands - March 27, 2023

Maa-nulth-aht/Maa-nulth First Nations Lands - June 23, 2023

Tla'amin Citizens/ Tla'amin Lands - Continued (June 23, 2023

Nisga'a citizens/Nisga'a Lands and Catagory A Lands - January 1, 2024

Refunds

If you are a Treaty Nation individual or other First Nations individual and you paid a B.C. sales tax when you were eligible for an exemption, you may qualify for a refund from the seller.

If you are requesting a PST refund, your request needs to be within 180 days from the date the PST was charged.

Alternatively, if you do not claim a refund from the seller, or you are claiming a PST refund more than 180 days from the date tax was charged, you can apply to us for a refund.

If you apply to us for a refund, your refund claim must include the supporting documentation requested on the refund application form, and we must receive it within four years from the date you paid or remitted the B.C. sales tax.

We cannot issue a refund of less than $10. You may submit multiple invoices or receipts with your refund claim to meet the minimum refund amount.

For more information on B.C. sales taxes and how to apply for a refund, visit gov.bc.ca/salestaxes

Need More Information?

Online: gov.bc.ca/salestaxes

Toll-free: 1-877-388-4440

Email: CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca