Uyaqḥmis

August 2021 Issue 63



National Chief RoseAnne Archibald meets with Huu-ay-aht leadership and elders at recent engagement session

PM41913515



Huu-ay-aht Elected Council Members, NTC Vice President Mariah Charleson, National Chief RoseAnne Archibald, and her team stand for a photo at the Huu-ay-aht Elders Engagement Session July 22, 2021. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

National Chief visits Huu-ay-aht

On June 22, 2021, Huu-ay-aht was honoured with a visit from Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief RoseAnne Archibald. Archibald was recently elected to her role as National Chief on July 8, 2021. Archibald hails from the Taykw Tagamou Nation of Ontario and is the first woman National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The National Chief arrived during an elder's Community Engagement Session where she had kind words and gifts for Huu-ay-aht. She presented Tayii Ḥaẇiiɬ ƛiišin and Chief Executive Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. with a gift of medicines from her home, including sweet grass, sage, and tobacco. Archibald went on to say she gives medicine because it is about healing.

Huu-ay-aht Executive Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. utilized the visit of the national chief to table important issues facing Huu-ay-aht. Robert spoke passionately about his desire for Huu-ay-aht to gain and utilize its fair share of the fishery economy. He stated that one of his priorities was to get Huu-ay-aht citizens back on the waters and to make fishing a viable industry for Huu-ay-aht citizens. He stressed how the AFN leadership could help advocate federally for Huu-ay-aht on this issue to influence policy to create more opportunities for Huu-ay-aht fishers.

Archibald said she would support Huu-ay-aht in its goals surrounding fisheries federally. Emphatically she spoke on how she understands what salmon and fishing mean to Huu-ay-aht both economically and culturally. She further stated that she will work hard for Huu-ay-aht's inherent rights, treaty rights, and constitutional rights.

Councillor Edward R. Johnson also took time to speak on the needs of his portfolio of citizenship and citizen development, as well as health. Johnson presented Archibald with a copy of the Huu-ay-aht Social Services Project: Safe, Healthy and Connected, Bringing Huu-ay-aht Children Home and its subsequent progress report. Edward spoke on how current federal policy is creating barriers for Huu-ay-aht's social services project. Johnson said, "The Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) refuses to take part in reconciliation" by creating these barriers. He asked for Archibald and the AFN's assistance in breaking down these barriers and gaining a stronger voice in Ottawa with the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

In closing, Huu-ay-aht executive councillors presented Archibald with a gift of a cedar box of canned salmon from St. Jean's Cannery. Archibald was thankful saying:

"Thank you to everyone, it is my honour to be here as well. I have travelled through many territories, and I want to raise my two hands to your communities and your ancestors acknowledging the spirits the lands and the waters as I travel through this land."

She went on the mention that she wanted to connect with Huu-ay-aht and other Nuu-chah-nulth nations more in the future.

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
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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

Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration receives recognition and support from many

On June 4, 2021, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht First Nations signed the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration. This declaration further underscores the three nations' constitutional right to their ḥahahuuḥi under sec.35 of the Constitution Act of 1982 in addition to their respective treaty rights.

This declaration has garnered widespread public and media attention as forestry politics have become an important area of debate within BC. Huu-ay-aht has received support from several BC First Nations organizations, BC political parties, and forestry industry leaders. There is strong support for Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht as they work to create world-class integrated resource management plans that will utilize the nations' ancient spirits, while being supported by a team of natural resource experts and consultants. Notably the Union of BC Indian Chiefs have been a vocal supporter of Huu-ay-aht and all indigenous sovereignty work within BC. Grand Chief Stuart Phillip (of the Penticton Indian Band) said of the declaration:

"The words in the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration put forward by the three Indigenous Nations resonate with many Indigenous Nations in BC. Since colonization, Indigenous Nations have had to watch as others decided what was best for their lands, waters, and people. Indigenous Nations' sacred responsibilities and obligations were deliberately ignored as their authority was stripped away from them. The UBCIC has always supported the implementation and recognition of Indigenous Nations' authority and sacred responsibilities to their lands, waters, and people."- *Grand Chief Stuart Phillip*

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs is an organization focused on supporting indigenous nations at all levels in the fight for recognition of rights, title, and respect for culture. In addition to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit of BC has also offered powerful words of support. The First Nations Summit of BC is an organization whose goal is to further dialogue between First Nations and the federal and provincial government. Executive Robert Phillip (of Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (Shuswap) of the Canim Lake First Nation) was enthusiastic as he spoke about the declaration. Saying that the First Nations Summit supports Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht elected and hereditary leaders in asserting their responsibility to their people and their land. Phillip went on to say that the three nations have been stewards to their lands, waters, and forests for thousands of years and that this declaration further affirms the three nations' perpetual right to their lands. On the development of integrated resource management plans Phillip said that it is an important step in doing what is best for the people, the land, and the forests. He further stressed how exciting it is for the three nations to be engaging with the teachings of ancestors and elders on resource management.

Further, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council provided a written statement stating that the Tribal Council fully supports the declaration nations. While Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council President and Vancouver Island University Chancellor Judith Sayers also offered written commentary on her blog (https://judithsayers.ca/2021/06/21/living-in-an-undrip-forestry-world/) stating:

"Living in an UNDRIP world in forestry would mean that First Nations have ownership, jurisdiction over the forests in their territories. They would manage them sustainably under their own values, principles and laws as stated in the declaration by Ditidaht, Huu-ah-aht, and Pacheedaht. Sacred/spiritual/cultural sites would not be at risk and old growth would be managed by the First Nation. It would mean First Nations could continue and strengthen their relationship to the lands, waters and resources and their cultural practices could always continue in ways that their ancestors have done since time immemorial. That is my expectations for UNDRIP and forests." -*Judith Sayers*

Forestry and forest practices have been an important issue within BC politics this past year. BC politicians and political parties have also shown their support for the three declarations nations and their affirmation of aboriginal title, aboriginal rights, and treaty rights. Officially Premier John Horgan has stated in a press release that:

"We honour the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration. And we are pleased to enter into respectful discussions with the Nations regarding their request. We understand the request must be addressed expeditiously, and we will ensure a prompt response." – *John Horgan*

The BC Green Party Caucus has publicly shown its support for the three declaration nations with Party Leader and MLA for the Cowichan Valley Sonia Furstenau saying, "We are encouraged to see the province approve deferral areas proposed by these three Nations in the Central Walbran and Fairy Creek watersheds." While another member of the BC Green caucus Adam Olsen (of Tsartlip First Nation) MLA Saanich Gulf Islands said that "for decades Indigenous People have watched natural resources trucked out of their territory to the economic

Continued on page 4

Bamfield Main Road brings opportunities for citizens to be involved

The Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project is moving along and starting to accelerate.

The gravel sources have been identified and the permitting, testing, and early works have been completed. There will soon be gravel production evident along the route. The gravel is the critical part of the road work and with this production to begin soon, there will be more visible evidence of the project.

The first section to be completed between kilometre 52 and kilometre 65.5 is expected to be tendered in early September.

This project will include numerous opportunities for employment in the areas of environmental monitoring, construction monitoring, all forms of road construction workers, flaggers, and opportunities for companies to bid on the areas of work. Some of these opportunities will be through the Project and some will be through the successful contractor. These same opportunities will also be available through the other construction sections into the fall of 2023.

Opportunity for citizen involvement are being identified as the project develops and any ideas for involvement are welcome.

Construction Project	Road km		Length (km)	Anticipated Start Date
	From	To		
1	52.0	65.5	13.45	September 2021
2	26.5	35.95	9.45	November 2021
3	35.9	52.05	16.1	January 2022
4	65.5	76.6	11.1	March 2022
5	0.3	11.55	11.25	June 2022
6	11.55	26.5	14.95	November 2022

The Table provides the locations and anticipated start date for the construction sections of the Bamfield Road.

Huu-ay-aht works on HIRMP to protect ḥahuułi

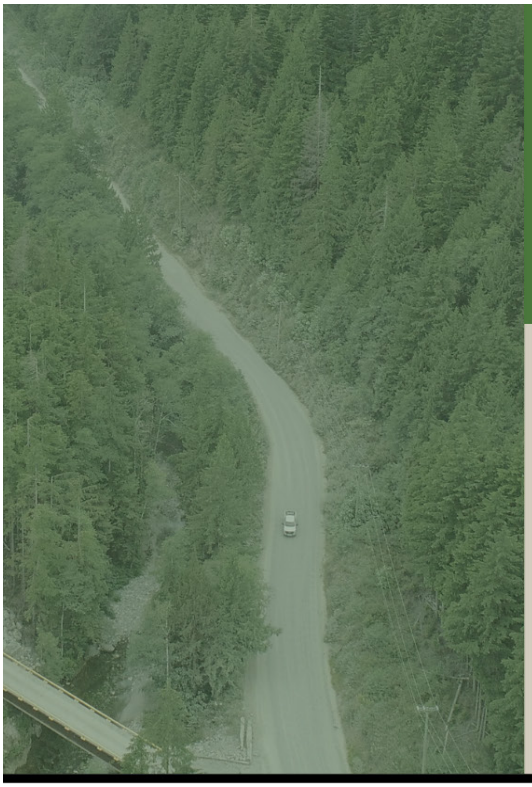
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benefit of industry and the provincial government." Olsen's words further echo one of the messages of the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration.

Huu-ay-aht has also received strong letters of support from its forest industry partners in Western Forest Product who provided a written statement online. Additionally, the United Steel Workers Union Local 1-1937 (USW) represents forestry and mill workers on Vancouver Island. USW president Brian Butler speaking on behalf of the union said in a prepared statement how the Union supports Canada and B.C's adoption and adherence to the principles and recommendations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He further went on to say that USW Local 1-1937 acknowledges and respects the Hišuk ma c̓awak Declaration made by the three nations. Butler concluded by offering the Union's support and respect for the sustainability and economic well being of the three nations communities.

When asked about what the outpouring of support means to Huu-ay-aht, ʔimčis (Robert J. Dennis Sr.) said "It is so meaningful to receive the support of these outside organizations as we Huu-ay-aht continue to assert our rights over our ḥahuułi. For too long outsiders have been telling us how to manage our territory when Huu-ay-aht have been stewards to our lands for thousands of years. It is encouraging to see that we are being respected and supported as we embark on protecting our lands, forests, rivers, and streams through the integrated resource management process" ƛiišin (Derek Peters) also offered commentary on behalf of himself and Ḥaẃiiḥ council saying "We are following the guidance of our elders and ancestors, but it is important to receive support from outside our own Nations. We will continue to work, respecting our sacred principles of ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care of), and Hišuk ma c̓awak (Everything is One), and we will do this work right so future generations will be able to enjoy and benefit from the natural resourced in our ḥahuułi."

Huu-ay-aht has already started work on building its integrated resource management plan. On July 21, 2021 and July 22, 2021 Huu-ay-aht held discussion sessions with elders in Anacla and Port Alberni about the integrated resource management plan.



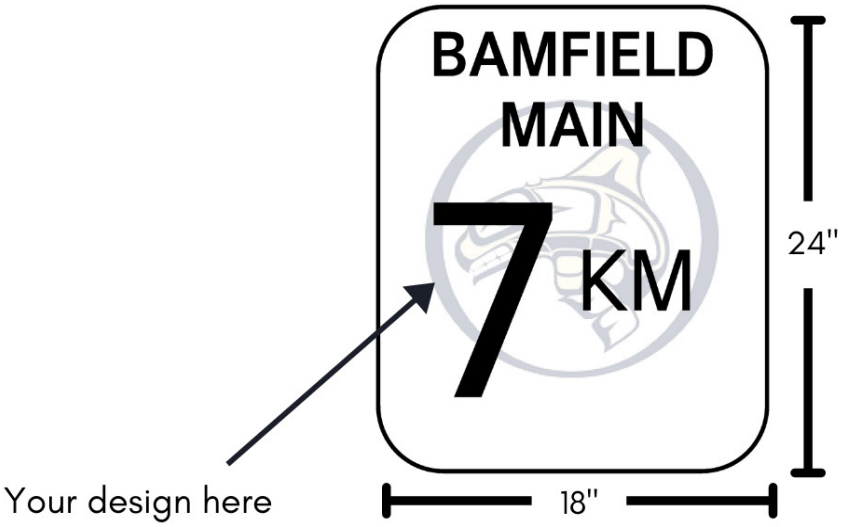
Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project

Sign Design Contest

We are having a sign design contest for the kilometre marker signs on the Bamfield Main.

Submit your artwork for a chance to win $500 and have your design on a kilometre sign!

EXAMPLE



The sign has to be 18" x 24"

Your design will be placed as a background or around the edge.

Submit to communications@huuayaht.org



Queens Research Team working towards four priority items

Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives On Modern Treaty Implementation Research Project Update

Combined with the understandable challenges with reaching Huu-ay-aht citizens by phone for surveys over the winter due to impacts from COVID-19, Queen's Research Advisory Committee suggested we take summer activities slowly. We do so while continuing to work towards the priority items that were given to us by Huu-ay-aht's Ḥaẇiiḥ and Executive Council in 2019. These four priority items focus on: 1) Land, culture and heritage; finances under treaty; self-government; and
Huu-ay-aht social well-being 2) Huu-ay-aht citizens perspectives on what is going well and what needs to be improved under treaty; 3) How Nation-level benefits translate into individual-level benefits; and 4) the relationship Huu- ay-aht First Nations has with treaty partners (e.g., Canada and BC governments) and how these relationships can be improved.

Since May, with the support of Huu-ay-aht leadership, the research team has focused on priority area #4: the relationship Huu-ay-aht has with treaty partners. We have begun conducting interviews with treaty partners from the province of BC, Canada, and Maa-nulth. These interviews have been incredibly insightful and have pointed to the importance of First Nations defining what reconciliation means to them, and to the living nature of modern treaty relationships. The Maa-nulth Nations are again forging a path for others, with the 15-year review in 2026 being the first of its kind! We will continue to conduct interviews with Maa-nulth Treaty partners into the Fall and will report back to citizens as we do.

Last, but not least, the research team has exciting news! On July 1, Heather Castleden (research Co-Lead) and Marc Calabretta (university-based Research Coordinator) started their new positions at UVic. Marc and Heather are now based in Victoria and are ecstatic to be back on the Island, enjoying the beautiful lands/waters of Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw Nations. In July, Vanessa Sloan Morgan (Research Co-Lead) also started a new position at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan campus). Vanessa is joining Marc and Heather on the Island for the fall before spending time in Sylix Okanagan territory (Kelowna) in January.

As always, if anyone is interested to learn more about the research or the academic programs offered at UVic or UBC, please don't hesitate to reach out! Heather can be reached at: castleden@uvic.ca or (902) 489-2412. Vanessa can be reached at: vanessa.sloanmorgan@ubc.ca or (250) 508-3410.



New entrance to the Pachena Bay Campground



Entrance to the private sites

Pachena Bay Campground completes new road entrance

Pachena Bay Campground has recently completed construction on additional campsites and a new entrance to the campground. This expansion was completed through funding from the BC Provincial Government. Access to the private campsites is now available via Bamfield Road. If you wish to visit the main campground, please utilize the new entrance on Bamfield Road. The citizen campsites are still accessed through Emchiss Way and Anacla Roads in Lower Anacla. Citizens who wish to use the private sites must contact Huu-ay-aht First Nations at 250-723-0100 to aquire permission in advance.The campground is now open and booking reservations for the 2021 season (https://pachenabaycampground.ca/campground-rates-reservations-rules/).

Huu-ay-aht welcomes new staff to the team



Nick Cessford

As of June 16, Nick Cessford has been hired to work as a communications Liaison under Communications Manager Heather Thomson.

Nick comes from a mixed heritage of English-settler origin as well as Okanagan Osoyoos First Nation. Nick is eager to learn about Huu-ay-aht communities, culture, and values.

Having grown up on Vancouver Island, Nick enjoys spending time on the land and exploring the natural beauty of Vancouver Island. In his free time, you can find Nick and his dog Ranger on the numerous hiking trails throughout the Island.

Nick is passionate about sports having spent several years playing football at the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, and the Vancouver Island Raiders.

Having concluded his schooling at Vancouver Island University, Nick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree focusing on Political Science, as well a minor in sociology. Some of Nick's research interests include Canadian public policy, social housing policy, electoral studies, and indigenous history.

Nick is excited to work with all the teams at Huu-ay-aht First Nations and is looking forward to connecting with the community!



Michelle Kellock

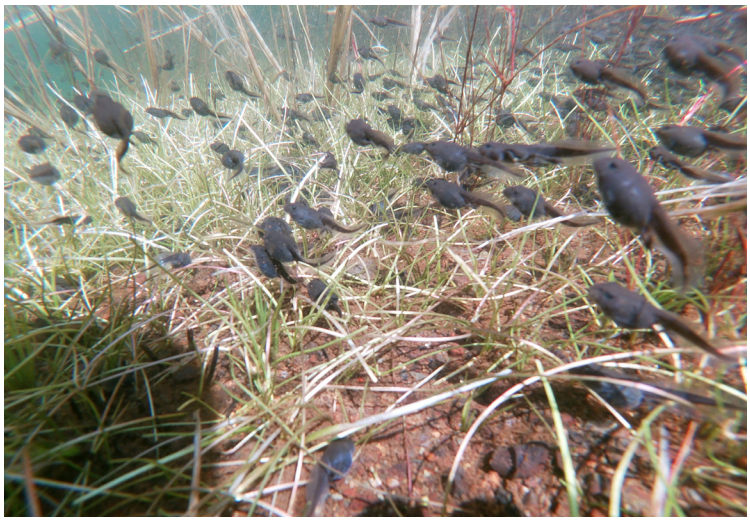
Michelle Kellock joins the Child and Family Wellness Team as a Protection and Family Support Liaison.

Michelle Kellock was born in Sooke, BC, then raised in New Zealand until returning to BC in 1985. Michelle then came to live in Vancouver on unceded Coast Salish territory until her recent move to Port Alberni. Michelle has a large family and a beautiful daughter. It was the relationships and connections which inspired her to enroll in Child Youth Care (CYC) at Douglas College with a specialization in the Indigenous Stream, graduating in December 2021. Most recently Michelle's work experience consists of family preservation, family cultural connections and meeting facilitation at Xyolhemeylh (a delegated agency) in the Lower Mainland. Michelle loves the outdoors, travel and land-based experience. Additionally, Michelle is a trained horse-guided healing practitioner, this holistic work supports her own work life balance and wellness. Michelle is passionate about people, nature, diverse culture and experience. Michelle is honoured by the opportunity to be part of Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness Team.

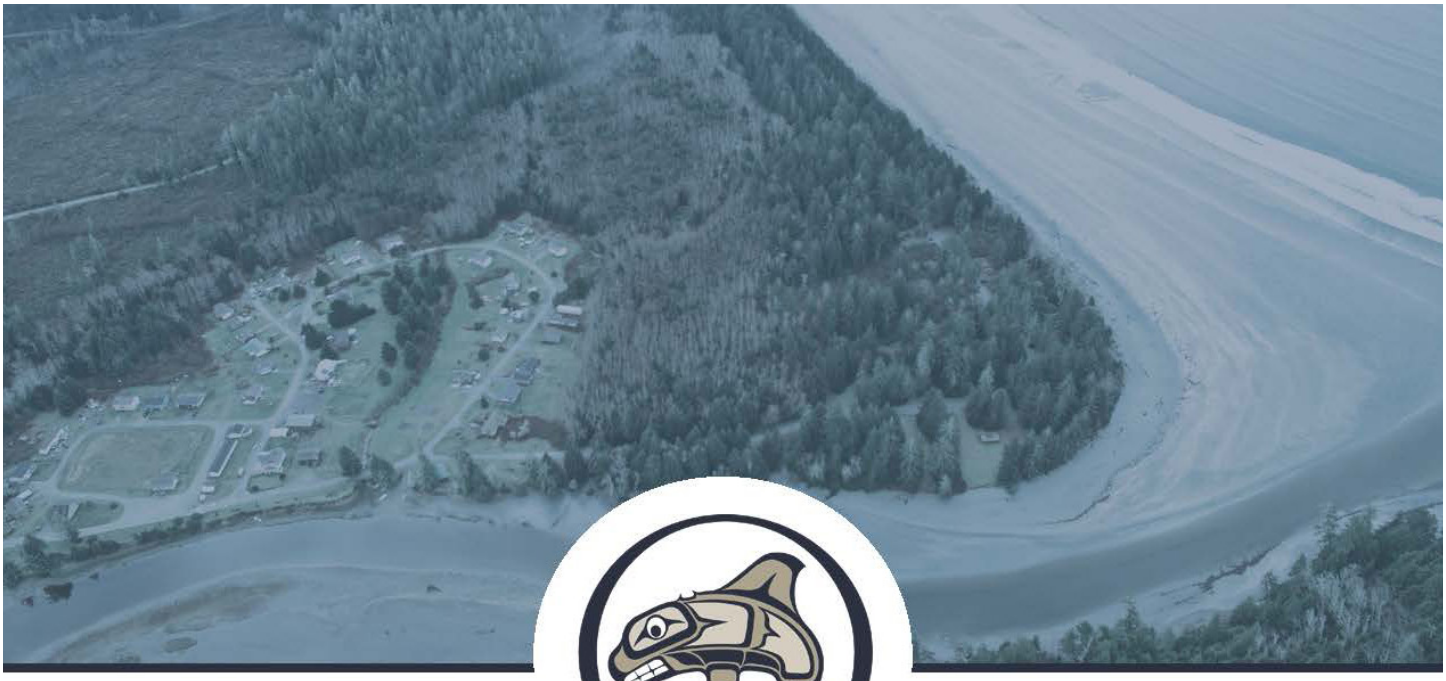
Tadpole population under a high-medium threat

Huu-ay-aht First Nations lands and natural resource team is hard at work this Summer doing surveys of the western toad population within the territory. Natural resource technicians have been at Frederick Lake this Summer, busy counting tadpoles and toadlets. The work that is being done is important as western toad populations are in decline and under a high-medium degree of threat. Huu-ay-aht First Nations natural resource technician Katie Turner said "Monitoring of western toads at Frederick Lake will help us learn more about the ecology and distribution of the species in BC".

The work being done on Frederick Lake is part of a project with the Association of Wetland Stewards of Clayoquot & Barkley Sounds.



Natural Resource Team takes underwater photo of tadpoles in Fredrick Lake.



HUU-AY-AHT COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

From Noveber 2020 to March 2021, Citizens participated in a second round of engagement about our CCP. We are now in the process of organizing everything that Citizens shared into the first draft of Huu-ay-aht's CCP.

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN

This round of engagement gathered input and ideas from a range of Citizens' experiences. Executive Council members, the Ha'wiih Council, and over 200 Citizens were all part of the conversation through a survey, engagement sessions, and interviews.

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Citizens emphasized a desire to "bring people home", both physically and culturally. Participants emphasized the importance of access to education, training, housing, and culture, both on and off the hahuuli. For all aspects of Huu-ay-aht society – education, employment, economy, natural resources, housing, wellbeing, culture, and governance – Citizens shared ideas that capture the Nation's Ancient Spirit and Modern Mind.

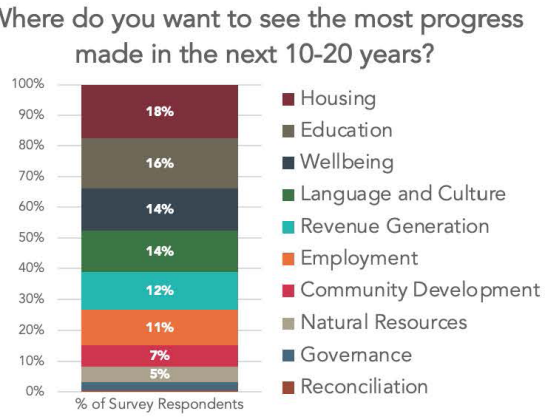
July 2021

WHAT WE HEARD

The chart to the right shows the topics that survey respondents ranked as most important to see progress in over the next 10 to 20 years.

Citizens shared broad ideas of how to progress, including:

- provide more educational and training opportunities, as well as increased learning from Elders;
- fill jobs on the hahuułi with members and support skill-building off the hahuułi;
- establish a strong tourism industry, while diversifying the economy;
- balance harvesting and conserving Huu-a-y-aht's abundant natural resources;
- have housing support for Citizens where they live and support for those to move to the hahuułi;
- increase support for Citizens' physical and mental wellbeing;
- provide opportunities to connect to culture together and remotely; and
- maintain traditional governance, while enhancing modern governance.



The CCP will compile and organize Citizen's ideas and priorities and layout a path to create the type of society that our Nation seeks to achieve.



WE NEED YOU!

In the fall, we will be looking for your feedback on the draft CCP.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Our CCP project is led by our Nations' Senior Management Team. **Full copies of the engagement report are available by request** from Heather Thomson, heather.t@huuayaht.org.

Technical support is provided by EcoPlan. Comments or questions, contact William Trousdale, william@ecoplan.ca.



11 new forestry hires result from TFL 44 employment initiatives

Last year, Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership rolled out new education, training, and employment programs in the forestry sector to directly benefit Huu-ay-aht citizens and members from other First Nations whose territory overlaps with Tree Farm Licence 44 (TFL 44).

So far, 11 full-time new hires have been placed in stable, well-paying jobs. The 2021 annual goal of five full-time equivalent positions has also been surpassed.

Leading the forestry employment and training initiatives is Huu-ay-aht citizen Marina Rayner, TFL 44 Employment and Training Manager.

Over the past few months, Marina has been working to build connections. This will help identify opportunities and ensure citizens and other First Nations members are aware of employment positions as they become available. This will also remove barriers for citizens so they are ready for the jobs and gain long-term meaningful employment.

Marina is currently focusing on:

Building Connections:

1. **Working with the TFL 44 LP woodlands contractors** to identify future positions and training initiatives as future positions are becoming better understood.
2. **Outreach to the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations to introduce the initiatives and explore opportunities to work together.** While finding positions for Huu-ay-aht citizens first is a priority, Marina is also working to ensure those outside of the Alberni Valley know about and have access to the various positions that are available now or will be over the next several years.

Removing Barriers:

- Providing citizens support for training and further education,
- Acquiring necessary safety gear,
- Steps to acquiring housing,
- Support with childcare, and
- Ongoing support for citizens and members after acquiring positions.

How to get more information

YouTube **HFNCommunications**

www.tfl44lp.com

TFL 44 Employment and Training Manager



Marina is available by phone (250-240-9119), in person, or via email (mraynerconsulting@hotmail.com) to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

TFL44 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Forestry Spotlight: Linnea Bowes

Linnea has a passion for forestry and has her sights set on starting her own silviculture business in the coming years. She holds an Environmental Technician Certification and has worked for multiple companies both on Vancouver Island and in the Fraser Valley. She has varied experience in the field including work as a riparian technician, along with running both crews and an office. Her main focus has always been silviculture. This experience, coupled with the many upcoming opportunities in forestry available to citizens, has put her in a unique position to start her own business.



Who is Linnea?

Klaupsoowilth (Linnea) is a Huu-ay-aht citizen born in Port Alberni. Her children are Huhaa (Landon), 10, Kleh-seep (Azalea), 7, Nuu-ee-su (Daisy), 4, and Willow, 1.5, (Huu-ay-aht traditional name coming soon). Her husband is Huu-ay-aht citizen Bobby Nookemus.

Linnea finds her chosen career path in forestry both meaningful and rewarding. She loves to be out in the field, doing the work that needs to be done. Linnea cares deeply for her homeland and taking care of the land for future generations. In the face of various challenges, Linnea completed schooling and gained valuable experience across the forestry sector, all while raising a family.

Linnea recognizes there are a lot of people out there with interest and potential in the forestry sector, including her own children. Both Landon and Azalea can identify trees. Landon enjoys reading Linnea's field books. Maybe one day they will join the family silviculture business.

What is Silviculture?

It is the practice of deciding what and how trees are planted after harvesting and caring for them until they are free growing, including management strategies for:

- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Watersheds
- Soils
- Riparian areas
- Biodiversity
- Recreational uses
- Cultural heritage
- Forest health
- Vegetation
- And more

Activies involved

- Determining what trees will be planted
- Stand tending
- Reforestation planning and supervision
- Stocking surveys

Average earnings:

$25-$40 per hour

Interested in Forestry?

Huu-ay-aht's involvement in the forest sector will continue to support the creation of more than 50 full-time, well-paid, long-term forestry jobs for First Nations, both on the land and in the office. It also puts our Nation in a position to manage our territory to a high environmental standard, with sustainability in mind.

There are various opportunities becoming available in the forestry sector including road maintenance, road construction, sort operations, administration, machine operators, entrepreneurship, and more.

HFN Group of Businesses

Huu-ay-aht youth gain work experience during Summer 2021

The HFN Group of Businesses received funding from Nuu-chah-nulth Education and Training Program for three Summer Students for six weeks throughout the summer. The program's objective is to give an introduction for Huu-ay-aht First Nations youth to the workplace within the HFN Group of Businesses in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. It will help them gain skills in the various sectors of accommodation and food and beverage.

Market and Café Manager Esther Jackway said it has been a pleasure having the students this summer.

"It's nice to have local youth come here to learn new skills," she said of the two students she has working at the Market and Café. "They are great workers and take the pressure off us so that we can better serve customers."

She added that they program is valuable in many ways and should be continued.

"It gives the youth a good start and shows them the value of hard work," she said. "The skills they gain here will act as building blocks for where they go in the future."

Seth Nookemus – Grade 9 student - Huu-ay-aht First Nation youth – Pachena Bay Campground Assistant
Cierra Noomemus- Grade 11 student -Huu-ay-aht First Nation youth- Market Assistant
Natalie Clappis – Grade 10 student- Huu-ay-aht First Nation youth – Café Assistant



Seth Nookemus



Cierra Nookemus



Natalie Clappis

778-421-2663 | info@hfngroup.ca | hfngroup.ca