Uyaqḥmis

February 2023 Issue 70



Huu-ay-aht Citizen Sarah, tells her story about her educational journey

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PM41913515

Bamfield Road Construction Progress Moving Forward

The Bamfield Main Road Surfacing project (BMRSP) is moving along on schedule.

Detour update:

As of Friday, January 27, 2023 at 4 p.m. the Bamfield Main will be open for all traffic and you will no longer have to take a detour.

Road construction work is still in progress. Please follow the road speed of 60 km/hr and still expect delays. For the safety of yourself, flaggers, and crews who are on the road, please ensure you follow the speed limit and slow down in rough weather conditions and when needed. The RCMP will be monitoring for safe driving throughout the project and detour.

Project update:

The 250,000 cubic metres of gravel required has been produced and stockpiled with only approximately 60,000 cubic metres left to be placed.

There are currently three contract sections under way:

1. Contract 1 covers 0 km to 26.6 km and this section is the last remaining section to be completed.
   a. There is 3 km of gravel work complete.
   b. Ditching and culvert repair is complete on 12 km.
   c. Barrier placement is ongoing.

2. Contract 2 covers 26.6 km to 52.2 km. This section is nearing completion. The existing detour between 36 km and 49 km will be coming down week of January 20, 2023.
   a. There is 5 km of gravel work remaining to be completed.
   b. Signage is complete.
   c. Barrier placement is complete.
   d. Diching is complete.



Bamfield Main Road

3. Contract 3 covers 52.2 km to 76.5 km.
   a. Gravel work complete.
   b. Signage, barriers, and ditching is complete.
   c. Issue sites that were identified during the storm events are being addressed.

It is expected that the graveling work will be completed by the end of March.

A request for proposal for the Seal Coat and Paving of the complete 76.6 km's, is currently out on BC Bid and closes on January 31, 2023. This seal coat and paving work is scheduled to be completed before the end of September 2023.

For questions about the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please contact Communications Manager, Amanda-Lee Cunningham at amanda.c@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100 ext. 132.

Huu-ay-aht posts road construction and Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project updates regularly on their website (www.huuayaht.org) and Facebook (Huu-ay-aht First Nations or @huuayahtFN).

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

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First Executive Council Meeting for 2023

Executive Council held their first Council Meeting of the new year. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. on January 12, 2023 via Zoom.

Huu-ay-aht Chief Financial Officer, Paul Rokeby-Thomas went over the November 2022 Financials, followed by Paul Fripp (BDO), who did a thorough presentation of the 2021/2022 draft Financial Audit. The Audit was approved by Council.

The financial audit can be viewed at www.huuayaht.org.

Next, there was a discussion about the Paawats Daycare Centre in Anacla. Director of Capital & Infrastructure, Charlie Clappis presented a needs assessment for the current building. There was extensive discussion on this topic in favour of the importance of expansion and/or upgrades to the building, but it is also important to have more workers in the daycare.

It was discussed having opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens to become certified Early Child Education workers and Infant and Toddler Education workers, and also the need for housing of workers.

As a result, Executive Council referred Paawats Daycare Centre to the Citizen Development Committee to discuss further and then it will be brought back to Executive Council.

The following discussion was to have an increase in student supply allowance. Grades K-5 will increase from $50 to $75 and grades 6-12 to go from $100 to $125.

Executive Council approved the motion and it will be included in the 2023-2024 budget planning.

The increase will be in effect for the 2023 school year if approved in the budget act.

The meeting then went in-camera



to discuss human resource issues and the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, BC, and Canada Tripartite Protocol regarding child and family services.

Please note: all Zoom recordings of the Executive Meetings will soon all be available to view at video.huuayaht.org

Regular Executive Council meetings occur every second Thursday and last Thursday of every month.

Huu-ay-aht Offering Help for New Business Start-ups

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Economic Development Department is here to help Huu-ay-aht citizens who are wanting to start their own business. One of the goals of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations four-year Community Economic Development plan is to support citizen entrepreneurship. The Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Council has allocated resources to the Citizens Entrepreneurial Fund to assist Huu-ay-aht citizens to build a strong business. The funds are specific to the Huu-ay-aht citizen acquiring a loan from NEDC (Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation) and the funding would be used as equity for the loan.

Huu-ay-aht citizens who are eager to start their own business will apply to NEDC. When a loan is approved, a letter of offer from NEDC is given to the applicant. At that time, NEDC will contact the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government Office and notify of the approved loan. Payment will be sent to NEDC from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government Office. A citizen may be granted up to $5,000 to go towards their NEDC loan.



The Huu-ay-aht Economic Development Department will help assist you in this process. If this is something you are interested in applying for, please reach out to Cheryl at 250-723-0100 or cheryl.e@huuayaht.org. You can also go to nedc.info for more information.

2022 The Most Successful Year of the Sarita Chinook Return

Story by Amelia Vos, Natural Resource Operations Manager

September 2022 marked the second and most successful year of the Sarita River Chinook ESSR. An ESSR is an Economic Surplus Salmon Opportunity and is a pilot project Huu-ay-aht has been working on for many years to establish a Treaty-right, seasonal commercial harvest for Huu-ay-aht citizens.



The crew seining the fish in the Sarita River (photo by Kyler Vos)

Sarita Chinook have been enhanced though bilateral partnership with the Nitinat Hatchery since the 1990's. Throughout the forestry boom of the 1940's, 50's and 60's, forest harvest practices severely degraded the Sarita River watershed and resulted in unhealthy freshwater environments for returning salmon. This, paired with commercial fishing booms of the 1960's and 70's, contributed to salmon populations up the west coast of Vancouver Island being drastically reduced. In 1984 the Sarita River returns were observed under 200 fish which prompted the DFO and Huu-ay-aht to initiate an enhancement program to begin rebuilding the Sarita Chinook stock. The Sarita River is traditionally called "The Heart of the People" and was a dependable food source for the Huu-ay-aht people who would set up summer/fall camp on the Sarita to harvest the returning salmon – this was the food that would support the Nation making it through scarce winters. Traditional food processing practices allowed for the nation to utilize and preserve abundant salmon for consumption later in the season.

After years of careful enhancement, the Huu-ay-aht Natural Resource team began seeing the Sarita Chinook returns slowly increasing and rebuilding to a more sustainable abundance. Large efforts went into restoring the degraded riverbeds and riparian area (rivers edge) to provide healthy spawning grounds for the returning salmon. The jointly managed Sarita stock was rebuilt with a goal of over 600 spawners returning to the upper Sarita River where the spawning grounds are most suitable for egg to fry survival. Each year, 30% of the returning Chinook could be used as brood stock (fertilized eggs for hatchery) for enhanced Chinook release. On average, 150 males and 150 females were captured from the river and brought to Nitinat River Hatchery to be spawned and safety incubated, then released back into the Sarita River as fry/smolts in the following spring.



ESSR crew member, Martha Johnson (photo by Kyler Vos)

Huu-ay-aht has worked closely with the DFO-run Nitinat Hatchery for over two decades and have together celebrated many successes on the Sarita River. The Nitinat Hatchery runs science-forward programs and have invested into releasing strong Sarita smolts encouraging robust returning adult salmon. One of the most interesting components of the Sarita project is an enrichment program. This is a type of enhancement which helps mimic the natural river environment in a controlled space. The hatchery techs will provide aquaria such as rocks, shade, branches, exposure to bird predation, and environment for the little fry to hide and forage. They will allow for changes in water temperature and water sources, offering more natural forms of food like krill and insects, and even utilize artificial predators like plastic ducks and taxidermy bear paws to generate a natural "fight or flight" trigger for the fry - this is thought to help prepare the fry to be better suited for survival once released into the natural world. It is proven that conditioning the fry in this enriched environment increases the return rates of the adult Sarita Chinook.



An upclose look at a Chinook Salmon (photo by Kyler Vos)

Over the past 4 years Huu-ay-aht, along with some important science leads at LGL (Bob Bocking) and Huu-ay-aht First Nations traditional knowledge holders (Larry Johnson) deepened the partnership with Nitinat River Hatchery and DFO to lean further into the sustainability of the Sarita River Chinook.

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Huu-ay-aht Citizens Participate In Sarita Chinook Harvest

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In the early 2000's, evidence-based science began to exemplify that enhanced hatchery stocks were beginning to negatively affect the wild salmon stocks up the west coast. This science indicated that some wild stocks, which were spawning with hatchery born salmon, were having reduced survival instincts such as at sea survival, food foraging, and choosing appropriate spawning grounds. Through parental based DNA sampling, Huu-ay-aht was able to begin visualizing how the amount of hatchery DNA influence affected the wild Sarita Chinook. From this, a Percent Natural Influence (PNI) goal was set for the Sarita Chinook stock. The goal was to reduce spawner interaction with the natural Chinook and the hatchery Chinook. As Huu-ay-aht continued to see abundant returns of Sarita Chinook, they pushed on DFO to begin to allow the opportunity to harvest hatchery returning fish to help increase the PNI. This goal paired well with the Treaty clause within the Maa-nulth Treaty which allows for a nation to financially benefit from a "surplus enhanced salmon stock". This meant Huu-ay-aht First Nations could lead catching marked hatchery fish (adipose fin removed at hatchery to mark fish as hatchery and coded wire tagged to associate fish with specific release year) and use as food fish or sell commercially for profit. This is the first legal fish sale for Huu-ay-aht, so it is a landmark to celebrate and commemorate!

In 2020, Huu-ay-aht operated their first pilot Sarita ESSR. This was led internally to field test the operation and build plans for future years. 199 male hatchery Chinook were caught that year and put back into the food fish program. In 2021, Huu-ay-aht recruited citizens to participate alongside Huu-ay-aht First Nations Natural Resource Fisheries team to ensure the correct fish were caught, processed, and transported to certify the highest price; 367 Chinook were harvested that year and the profit of $4800.00 was split between the 4 citizens who participated. In 2022, Huu-ay-aht recruited 10 citizens to participate and were successful in harvesting 628 adult Chinook, selling for around $22,000.00 total profit. As the return this year was abundant (3500+ returning Chinook), the removal of these hatchery fish increased the PNI therefore strengthening the Sarita stock.

This project exemplifies the strong sacred principals (ʔuuʔałuk- taking care of, ʔiisaak- respect, Hišuk ma c̓awak- everything is one) that guide Huu-ay-aht in making decisions on their Ḥahuułi (traditional territory) and treaty settlement lands in how their natural resources will be managed.



ESSR crew member, Nolan Nookemus (photo by Kyler Vos)

Huu-ay-aht looks toward the future in continuing to develop strong economies from sustainably managed, Indigenous-led fisheries.

ƛ̓eekoo to DFO and Nitinat Hatchery partners for their hard work and dedication to this project, and ƛ̓eekoo to the Rivers, Ocean, and Salmon.



The ESSR crew working together in the Sarita River (photo by Kyler Vos)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Staff Continues to Grow



Keenan Jules

Keenan Jules is the new Building Service Worker at the Port Alberni Government Office. His position will be maintaining the cleanliness of the office including disinfection - especially in high traffic areas. Keenan previously worked as a residential and commercial cleaner. He has completed a 6-week building maintenance worker program as well. In his spare time, Keenan enjoys karaoke, weightlifting, building computers, and hiking.



Tyra Fabrick

Tyra Fabrick is the new Natural Resource Technician. She is a recent graduate from Vancouver Island University from their Forest Resource Technician Diploma program. She has done many different jobs, having worked in the forest industry on Vancouver Island, to conservation on a bison ranch in Manitoba, and driving a haul truck in a mine in Alberta. She enjoys work that is environmental based, outdoors, and that keep her active. Tyra enjoys camping, hiking, and exploring new areas on Vancouver Island.



Eileen Ursel

Eileen Ursel is the new Payroll and Benefits Coordinator. In her new position she will be processing payroll and managing extended health benefits. Eileen's work experience includes various positions in banking and finance for over 25 years. Her favourite hobbies are hiking with her dogs, spending time with family and friends, and playing pickleball.



Jordan Young

Jordan Young is the new Records Clerk at the Port Alberni Government Office. She will be responsible for the overall management of records and maintains the records to meet the Huu-ay-aht Laws and Regulations. From the age of 17-21, Jordan worked as a support worker with adults with disabilities, which involved a lot of documentation. After that she worked as an Insurance Broker, which was always changing and consisted of a lot of research, as well as working fast and efficiently to solve problems as they would arise. Jordan was also recently made co-owner of West Coast Modern Beauty Studios. There she specializes in lash extensions, lash lifts, and tints. This past year, Jordan and her boyfriend bought a cabin down the Barkley Sound and they love to spend their free time there hanging out, fishing, and exploring. Jordan also has a beautiful dog named Ace. She is very family orientated and can often find her playing board games with her family.



Tom Joe

Tom Joe is the new Natural Resources Technician. Tom has been working with fish and wildlife all his life. Tom started working at Carnation Creek early in his career doing all different kinds of fishery-related research. At 15, he started working on commercial fishing vessels targeting salmon. Tom also has a long history of aquaculture work doing clam bed development, among other things. Tom has been working with the Nation for decades doing contract work, most recently as a part of the Watershed Renewal Project, which focuses on restoring the Sarita Watershed. Living remotely close to Sarita River, Tom's main interests are hunting and fishing and eating what he catches. Tom looks forward to working with all the Huu-ay-aht Government staff more over the next few years.

Huu-ay-aht is Protecting The Ocean, Protecting The Ḥahuuł̓i

Story by Daniel Zayonc, Acting Lands and Resources Specialist

Huu-ay-aht's Lands and Natural Resources team is working hard to implement a marine monitoring program benefiting the ḥahuuł̓i and citizens. Work started in March 2022 when funding was received through the TMX Salish Sea Initiative (SSI). The Lands and Natural Resources team is already a leader in Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuł̓i and Barkley Sound Stewardship collecting ocean data including herring sampling and salmon micro-trolling, but with SSI funds, the department can expand on their operations.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations will now look to collect water quality, crab health, kelp extent, and other data to better understand the effects of climate change and the future availability of traditional foods. All the data will be stored within a Huu-ay-aht database to be available for future generations and support the Huu-ay-aht government's own resource management planning. In 2023, we will ramp up our programming thanks to exciting work that occurred this past winter.

In November, a group of 40 citizens, staff, and researchers converged in the House of Huu-ay-aht to share stories and a meal focused on food sovereignty and marine stewardship. Citizens provided key feedback that amplified the desire for our program to focus on food sovereignty and climate change.

In December, a new 26-foot landing craft was tied up to the Huu-ay-aht Government dock. In January, instructors from Vancouver Island University came to Anacla to teach citizens and staff a small motor and an essential fisheries course. Our team will use all of these new tools and knowledge to carry out more stewardship activities incorporating guidance from our youth and lessons from our Elders.



Huu-ay-aht First Nations staff (Daniel Zayonc, Stephen Smith, Carter Burtlake) in the Landing Craft boat in the Bamfield Inlet (photo by Edward R. Johnson Jr.)

Let Your Voice Be Heard in Helping Protect Huu-ay-aht Ḥahuuł̓i

Huu-ay-aht First Nations

Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) Survey

Huu-ay-aht is most concerned with managing the lands in a sustainable way for the **next 7 generations** and in accordance with our sacred principles of **ʔiisaak** (respect), **ʔuuʔałuk** (taking care of), and **Hišuk ma cawak** (everything is one).

The questions contained in this survey have been designed to inform the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government about citizens' priorities and concerns around the management of the lands. **Community feedback will be used to adjust how various areas are being managed moving forward.**

The videos and survey have been designed so you can watch and answer the questions for one, a few, or all of the topics. **Feel free to review and provide feedback at once or over a few sittings.** The survey will run for two months and citizens should expect an update of resource management by Spring 2023.

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Scan the QR code or visit:
www.huuayaht.org

All of your answers are strictly confidential. Your name and email are for verification purposes only and will not be used or shared for external purposes.

A Huu-ay-aht Family's Perseverance for a Bright Future

Sarah Mead-Miller is 9 years old and her family has packed up and moved to the Comox Valley to give her the best opportunities to learn and flourish.

Sarah's mom is Trudy Warner, her brother is Jaden Warner. Sarah's grandmother is the late, Phyllis Johnson.



Larry Johnson, Trudy Warner, Sarah Mead-Miller, Jaden Warner (photo by Vanessa Sabbas)

Sarah has struggled in school academically right from the beginning. Her mom, Trudy, remembers her first parent/teacher meeting when she was in kindergarten where the teacher told her she felt Sarah was lagging academically. By the end of both grade 1 and 2, Sarah's teachers explained that she was not meeting the academic benchmarks. Although an Individual Education Plan (IEP) was designed to support Sarah in school, the plan was not enough to help Sarah. She continued to struggle more and more each school year and there were many mornings that Sarah had tears when preparing to go to school. Trudy met with Sarah's teachers, other supports, and volunteered in Sarah's class to try to figure out why Sarah was struggling. After her own observations, endless discussions within the school system, and a variety of attempts to make things better for Sarah, in grade 3 Trudy arranged for a private comprehensive psyched assessment for Sarah.

The assessment provided a diagnosis and a list of recommendations to better support Sarah with academic and health interventions. The recommendations included Orton-Gillingham (OG) tutoring as well as other assessments which led to Sarah's need for vision therapy. Trudy did some research on where to find OG tutoring only to learn that this type of teaching was not available in her home town of Port Alberni. Trudy tried OG tutoring through Zoom with a teacher from Victoria for six months, which included 3 hours a week from home in an attempt to implement this recommendation. Although the OG approach seemed to be a good fit for Sarah, the online platform was not. Sarah wasn't enjoying it and that escalated to a lot of emotion when it was time for Zoom tutoring. Trudy knows that in-person relationships is what Sarah is drawn to and that she is a multi-sensory kid who likes to move and touch as she learns. She knew that the Zoom tutoring just wasn't working for Sarah and had to switch gears and figure out a different way for her.

Through her many searches on where to access the OG method, Trudy found a private OG tutoring learning center called SOS Tutoring Learning Centre in the Comox Valley, only an hour from where they lived in Port Alberni. SOS can provide a 1:1 or 1:2 teacher/student ratio with OG tutors. They can also design and provide a learning program that suits individual student needs and has a full multi-sensory learning atmosphere.

SOS Tutoring Learning Center was very accommodating for Sarah to join them in September and Sarah responded well to this new atmosphere. Trudy really wanted Sarah to have an Indigenous support worker to complement Sarah's experience and the people at SOS Tutoring Learning Center were very excited to coordinate this additional support for Sarah. All the stars were aligning, as the SOS teacher said providing an authentic Indigenous experience as part of their learning program is what made this so special. A perfect match for this position was quickly put in place.

From September to December, Trudy and Sarah were commuting from Port Alberni to the Comox Valley for Sarah to attend her new learning center. After seeing that the new learning atmosphere was working so well for Sarah, Trudy decided that they needed to make the move. She put her house up for sale and they packed up and moved to the Comox Valley in December. She had a conversation with her 18-year-old son, Jaden, who graduated from high school in 2022, about moving and about how Sarah needs this. Jaden decided to move with his family in support of them and hopefully have new positive experiences himself.

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A Family Move To The Comox Valley for Education

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Another perk to living in the Comox Valley is they have a vision therapist and that was also a recommendation for Sarah. Vision therapy teaches the eyes how to move, how to follow lines, which is important for Sarah's learning needs.

During Trudy's research in advocating for her child, she has had a lot of support from Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Brent Ronning, Huu-ay-aht's Education Manager, guided and coached her along the way, teaching her about how the school system runs and the hierarchy of it. Rena Johnson, a Huu-ay-aht First Nations Clinical Councilor was also a huge support for Trudy and her family. Rena is a sounding board for Trudy, someone to talk to, to talk through issues, someone she can trust and kindly supported an application for Jordan's Principle.

Jordan's Principle makes sure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services, and supports they need, when they need them.

Sarah now receives funding from Jordan's Principle to ease the cost of her schooling, as well as funding for her Indigenous support worker.

Vanessa Sabbas, Huu-ay-aht's Education Coordinator, made a trip to the Comox Valley to show support to Sarah and gifted her with a Huu-ay-aht swag bag (which Sarah loves)! Sarah's great uncle, Larry Johnson, also visited at the same time and shared Sarah's family history, where she comes from, who she is connected to, and other cultural teachings. Trudy knows it is important to Sarah's transition to maintain a connection to her immediate and Huu-ay-aht family.

This truly is a story of perseverance, of love and commitment, and to trust your gut, know that you know your child the best, and to tirelessly advocate for what you believe in. Find your supports along the way and lean on them and learn. We wish Sarah, Trudy, and Jaden all the best!



Larry Johnson sharing Sarah's family history (photo by Vanessa Sabbas)



Group photo of SOS Tutoring Learning Centre staff, students, family, and Huu-ay-aht staff (photo by Jaden Warner)

Research Team Continues To Focus On Priority Areas

Story submitted by the tašiiʔakqin ʔuyaqḥmisukqin *Research Team*

Happy New Year from the tašiiʔakqin ʔuyaqḥmisukqin research team!

In 2023 the research team will continue to focus our research on the priority areas that were given by Huu-ay-aht's Ḥaʼẇiiḥ, Executive Council and Peoples' Assembly in 2019 with guidance from the Research Advisory Committee.

These four areas are: 1) Land, culture and heritage; finances under treaty; self-government; and Huu-ay-aht social wellbeing 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.

The research team was busy throughout 2022 conducting 25 research interviews with treaty signatories from the province of BC, Canada, and Maa-nulth Nations. Onyx Sloan Morgan, together with Re-Anne Kennedy, Research Assistant at University of British Columbia-Okanagan, completed the data analysis and presented it to the Research Advisory Committee for review and revision.

This work is important because in 2026 the Maa-nulth Treaty will undergo its first 15-year "periodic review", where treaty signatories sit down to discuss how the treaty partnership is going and what items may need to be revisited.

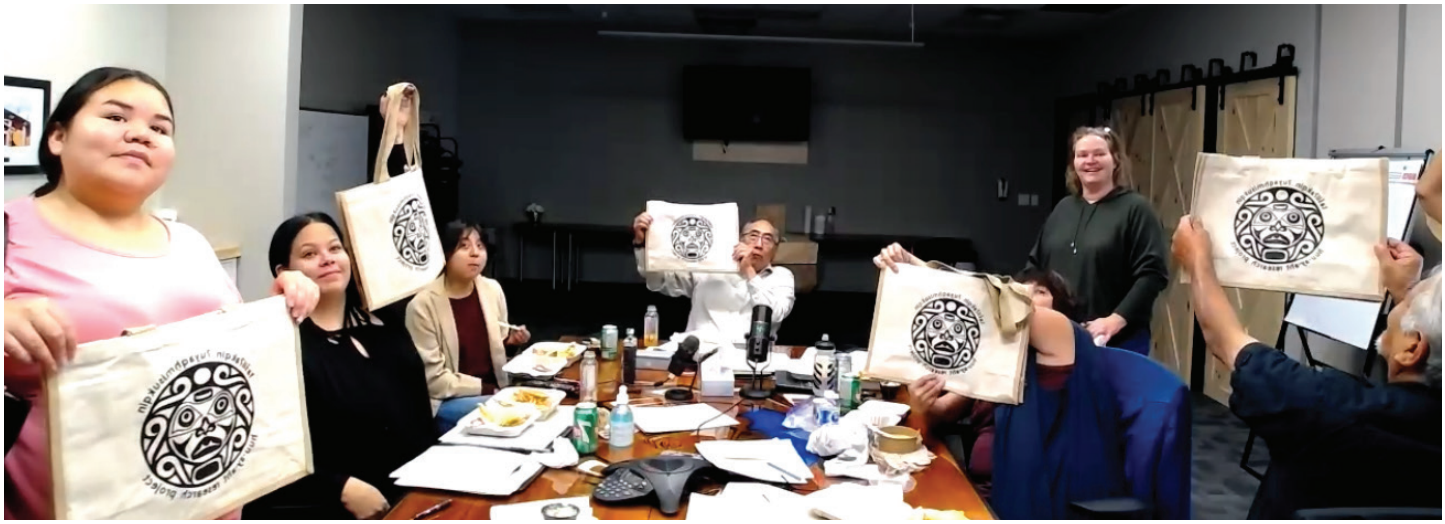
Our analysis of the treaty partner interviews focussed on this topic to see how each party is viewing the periodic review itself.

We are happy to announce that Huu-ay-aht and the research team will be the first to publish on this topic, with our paper called 'The Living Nature of a Modern Treaty: Preparing for the Maa-nulth Treaty's First Periodic Review' soon being published in BC Studies. Copies will be available when it is published!

The research team also conducted research interviews with current and former Huu-ay-aht Government employees. Brenda Lisset Jiménez González, a visiting Mitacs Summer Research Intern from Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico, spent a month in Port Alberni interviewing Huu-ay-aht staff about their roles, perspectives, and experiences with implementing the aspects of the Maa-nulth Treaty. Brenda was able to complete 22 interviews during her time in Port Alberni! The research team is starting to analyze that data. If you are a current or former Huu-ay-aht staff member that would like to speak with the research team, please reach out to Heather Castleden through the contact information listed below.

We are eager to restart community engagement sessions soon! Although the dates are not finalized, we hope to hold the sessions during the last week of February and beginning of March in Anacla, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria, and Vancouver. Once confirmed, details will be shared through the Huu-ay-aht Facebook page in the next couple of weeks. The research team is also hoping to connect with nananiiqsu and youth events in the spring and summer to learn from their unique and valuable insights into treaty implementation. Stay tuned!

For more information about the research, feel free to be in touch with research co-leads Onyx (onyx.sloanmorgan@ubc.ca or (250) 508-3410) and Heather (castleden@uvic.ca or (902) 489-2412).



The Research Advisory Committee with swag featuring their project logo designed by Corrissa Jansen. These bags and more available as door prizes will be available at the upcoming community engagement sessions! (photo provided by the Research Team)

Huu-ay-aht Citizen, Mikaela Pettigrew, Successful Graduate and Business Owner

Mikaela Pettigrew is the proud owner of West Coast Modern Beauty Studios located in Port Alberni. Her shop offers a multitude of beauty services.

Mikaela Kai'Andra Pettigrew's family roots stem from the Johnson family. Her mother is Andrea Pettigrew, the daughter of late Philip Johnson and Leslie Pettigrew. Her great grandparents were late Kenny and Joan Johnson. Mikaela has three younger siblings, Tyler Lopez, Dannika Lopez, and Raina Saucedo.



Mikaela Pettigrew (photo provided by Mikaela Pettigrew)

Mikaela graduated high school in 2016 from the Alberni District Secondary School. She then went on to take the Human Service Worker's Certification at North Island College in Port Alberni and graduated from that in 2022. During her time at North Island College, Mikaela really enjoyed learning more about her culture as the course was Indigenous focused and she was able to take that into her practice today.

After graduating from North Island College, Mikaela started working as a Youth Support Worker for high risk youth, she is also currently working as an Education Assistant for the school district, as well as a EA/Support Worker for Kackaamin, which is one of three Indigenous Family Treatment programs in Canada, and is also now the owner of West Coast Modern Beauty Studios.

Mikaela opened West Coast Modern Beauty Studios in 2021. She ran and managed the business by herself until just recently when she added a co-owner, Jordan Young, to her business. They currently rent out a chair space to a lovely hairdresser who specializes in blondes. West Coast Modern Beauty Studios offers eyelash extensions, microblading, eyebrow waxing, lash lifts and tints, eyebrow tints, dermaplaning, and coming soon gel and acrylic nails!

Mikaela took an eyelash extensions course in Nanaimo in 2017 and after that she was interested in offering more and growing her services. She took a microblading course in Nanaimo in 2019 and offered those services for a few years. She then looked to expand her education once again learning dermaplaning in 2021 where she learned to offer mini facials and help people's skin naturally glow.



A client getting eyelash extentions (photo provided by Mikaela Pettigrew)



West Coast Modern Beauty Studios (photo provided by Mikaela Pettigrew)

Mikaela loves all her jobs! She loves that she gets to provide support and help to those who need it most. She enjoys meeting new people and students every day and helping them succeed in their education.

Huu-ay-aht has helped Mikaela achieve her career and education goals, as well as helped with the cost of books and tuition. She feels she wouldn't be where she is today without their support! Mikaela also applied and received a business loan through the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) to help start up her business.

Mikaela has some advice for other Huu-ay-aht citizens looking to access education, employment, or training. She says, "As we know career paths can change over the years, our minds and bodies want to go different directions and just know that is okay to go another direction in education and career wise. I would be lying if I didn't say my mind had wandered many times, and each time I've been thankful for Brent and the Education Team at the Nation for their support!"

See page 3 on how Huu-ay-aht and NEDC can help you start your own business.

Pachena Bay Campground Scheduled To Open Early This Season

Winter on Pachena Bay is a special place for locals. But, in the summer, Pachena Bay Campground comes alive for people from all over the world. Every year it grows in popularity as word spreads that it doesn't get any better than Pachena Bay.



The sandy beach of Pachena Bay (photo submitted by Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses)

This year, the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses is planning a soft opening in March, to coincide with spring break. This is a couple of months earlier than in the past, and it will kick in an exciting season that includes the Pachena Bay Festival July 14-16, the Dark Sky event in October, and a summer market.

"We are excited to get this early and exciting season started," explains Sarah Johnson, who works for HGB and helps oversee the operation in Pachena Bay. "An extended season will offer longer employment periods for our citizens, and it allows people to start enjoying our remarkable beach earlier than in the past."

If you have not been to the campsite for a while, you may be surprised at how much it has grown in the past three years. The most notable change is that the campsite now has a different access point that offers campers a better route to the campsite, while respecting the privacy of its neighbours in Anacla.

The new route allows campers to get access to the site without having to pass through the lower village. This was important because the campground continues to grow and offer more camping sites, which would inevitability increase traffic.



Blue skies at Pachena Bay

The campground offers a chance to sleep and play nestled in an old-growth rainforest next to an expansive, sandy beach that directly faces the open Pacific Ocean. There are approximately 70 sites in total,



Sunset at Pachena Bay

comprised of RV and tenting options. Huu-ay-aht First Nations also has a number of group sites reserved for their citizens. A permit to use these sites is required, which can be acquired through the Lands and Natural Resources Department at the Huu-ay-aht Government Office.

The two washroom facilities will double this year, bringing the total up to four, in addition to the main shower house.

All of these improvements mean more opportunities for citizens to come home and camp at Pachena Bay Campsite. Of course there are other reasons to come. If you are looking for work this summer, there isn't a better place to spend your time and be paid to live in paradise.

More information will be coming soon about employment opportunities and online bookings, so check out https://pachenabaycampground.ca.

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