

HUU-AY-AHT FIRST NATION

Community Engagement Report Back:
Building Our Community Safety and Infrastructure Planning Story
April 15, 2024

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BACKGROUND

The community members of Anacla and members of its government participated in four community engagement sessions facilitated by Anita Sharma, Principle and Owner of Clarity & Compass Consulting. These sessions focused on the creation of community safety and infrastructure planning and were a collaborative effort based on the participation, input, and ideas of the residents and members of the First Nation.

In the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, specifically, the community of Anacla, community safety and supporting infrastructure are a top priority. Ensuring that families and all community residents feel that their parks, natural surroundings, streets, homes, culture, and physical and mental health are rooted in a safety mindset with all things being interdependent and interconnected.

As the community came together, they emphasized their excitement about the future! With continued collaboration and planned investment in safety and infrastructure, Huu-ay-aht will be a community where everyone will thrive.





ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The creation of the Community Safety and Infrastructure Planning was done through 4 facilitated sessions with the community. The facilitations are based on a four-phased approach to plan development:

1. November 7, 2023 Session 1- Level Setting- Introductions and Setting up the Story (the Plan):

    - Creating a safe space to have a conversation about where we are today and defining our foundation of information and knowledge. What do we know? What do we need to know? What can we let go? and What do we need to move forward to build our community safety story? The community provided fulsome and amazing input to these questions and themes were developed.

2. December 5, 2023 Session 2- Shaping- Developing the Plot of the Story (the Plan):

    - Using the Circle Talk method of discussion, the focus was on what we learned from session one and expanding on the identified themes. These themes were further shaped into six priorities:
        - Knowing our culture and being guided by our teachings.
        - Health, safety, and wellness
        - Community pride and respect
        - Citizen-based safety watch and policing.
        - Breadth of care for our very young to our elders
        - Emergency planning and preparedness

3. March 27, 2024 Session 3- Choosing- (Who? And How?) What are the Calls to Action:

    - Using the Circle Talk method, the priorities were further refined with chosen action plans assigned for implementation.

4. April 11, 2024 Session 4- Reflections and Report Back to the Community:

    - Additional insights from the community and review of draft Community Safety and Infrastructure Planning report & recommendations.



What We Heard

Using the Circle Talk methodology and aligning it to a traditional Medicine Wheel to guide the conversation in four parts: Spiritually, Mentally, Emotionally, and Physically.

The community gathered and opened with a poem written by the knowledge keeper qiiċ qiicả:

Sacred Time!

In circle we gather,

intending to share. In

circle I'd rather,

demonstrate care.

Circle is equal. There is

not a side.

One and the same. We've nothing to hide.

Absent is, the talking back.

The talking cross.

Or even the talking side.

With this chime. One voice at a time.

For this is our sacred time.

"We need to take responsibility."

"If we want to make our community better, we have to make ourselves better."

This was a beautiful introduction to our community engagement sessions as we moved into deep and emotional conversations about what Community Safety and Infrastructure Planning meant to the community. The community shared personal stories and reflected on history and present situations to discuss what the main priorities to focus on should be in the plan.

Six topic areas were developed into themes and priorities. These priorities are presented in a circle which represents the Circle Talk methodology and the interdependencies and interconnectedness between the priorities.





Our Story:

We believe in the power of knowledge through teachings from our elders to bring our community together. We want to use ensure we are preserving our culture and using the teachings in all that we do. Our culture is known for sharing and giving. We want to ensure that we always have food and gifts to share during our cultural events as it is the foundation of who we are.

Throughout the year, the community will begin planning and holding events that celebrate and honour their culture, community, youth, and elders. Events will include traditional foods and handmade gifts to share to not only revitalize but preserve our cultural treasures.

Events:

- Nuu-chah-nulth Athletic Tournament held in Huu-ay-aht
- 25th House of Huu-ay-aht Anniversary Celebration (2025)
- Canada Day Celebration
- Huu-ay-aht Days
- Huu-ay-aht Youth Forum
- Haa-huu-pa workshops – (Traditional Teachings with Elders & Knowledge holders)
- Youth Dance
- Ball Hockey Tournament with Ditidaht
- Bingo Nights
- Cultural Story Telling
- Traditional Cooking Classes

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Event Planning committees will be organized with volunteers from the community – Events coordinator to led and community members to identify their interest.

2. A calendar of events to be produced by the Events coordinator, and,

3. An Event planning template created and utilized for each event (Anita will send a template).



Our Story:

The health, safety and wellness of our community is our top priority, and we will come together to organize activities and systems to support these. We want to ensure our First Nation is always represented at workshops and want to bring information sessions to our community. We want to see healthier foods in our grocery store, more community gardens, and less alcohol sold.

The community shared personal emotional, mental, and physical health healing stories. Sharing these stories was therapeutic and gatherings to discuss should be continuous and regularly offered. Wellness workshops designed for all ages and offered throughout the year by the community or external groups would be welcomed.

Events:

- Circle Talks and contacts for Support and Healing
- Parental education and guidance classes
- Cultural Safety training
- Healthy Eating guidance
- Grief counseling for all ages
- Men's groups for healing
- Women's groups for support
- Health care workers to visit community.
- Healing and Wellness seminars
- Career Planning
- Community Garden
- Smoking salmon and fish training

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Community Services department & Child & Family Wellness Directors to research appropriate workshops & training sessions to bring into community to have more people involved.

2. Program guide to be researched and developed with contacts and directory of services.

3. Cultural Program Supervisor to work on development of a Men's & Women's Group, smoking salmon & fishing training.



Our Story:

We believe that showing our pride and respect of our surroundings, our natural environment and our homes is essential for a thriving community.

Demonstrating community pride and respect for our yards, streets, parks, rivers, homes and community buildings through landscaping and beautification events. We need to have more volunteer events that are focused on enhancing our green and our personal spaces through community cleaning events and programs.

Events:

- Spring / Summer Community Clean Up - Clean Streets and Yards
- Environmental workshops
- Build a mini longhouse for traditional healing.
- Playgrounds to be more kid-friendly and places where parents can sit and watch.
- The playgrounds have memory benches bearing family names.
- Creating traditional regalia
- Conduct river checks to clean up the water.

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Ensuring to have safe infrastructure is important in supporting a safe community, by building and maintaining infrastructure. Playgrounds are kept maintained, ensure both playgrounds have proper maintenance checks.

2. Clean-up events should be aligned with strategic plans for priorities so that budgets are aligned and following the Comprehensive Community Planning document. Infrastructure Department to organize a spring/summer clean-up event.

3. Work with Hawiih on building small longhouses in the territory and have traditional Regalia workshops.

4. Work on a memorial bench guidelines and budget – Infrastructure & Capital Projects Director lead.



Our Story:

We need everyone to be the eyes and ears of our community. We all need to be responsible for how safety is enforced. We need to understand the Community Safety Act from the government and have communication when there is activity that may put us at risk. We want to be aware of any safety concerns and hazards and be prepared for them.

There needs to be more engagement sessions on the development of community watch programs where volunteers help to monitor and report on any suspicious activity. These sessions would serve as communication forums and a forum to share public safety updates.

Events:

- Engagement sessions specifically on the community watch program
- Certificate training for neighbourhood watch
- Wildlife safety training program
- Training on how to de-escalate a situation or conflict management.
- Cultural humility training for visiting workers.
- Creation of Witwak program to patrol Anacla.

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Calendar of training programs to be developed by the Education coordinator.

2. Education Coordinator to search for certification programs that can be brought to the community to capture more volunteers and people, e.g., wildfire training, security training, conflict management.

3. Work with Hawiih and Administration to bring a funded year-round Witwak Community program to Anacla.



Our Story:

Caring for our youngest to our eldest is cultural preservation. Our children are our treasure, and we want to protect them. We need them to learn the principles of our culture and that comes through the respect of our elders. We want to enhance the connection between our young and our elders so that they learn from each other as well as take respite and rest from the technological world and learn about the community and our culture before technology.

We want to ensure that all types of caregiving and education opportunities are provided to all ages within our community.

Events:

- Elder support workers within the community
- Story time between youth and elders
- Youth to help elders with errands or just visit with them.
- Better Childcare centre in the community that is operational 5 days per week
- Youth Programs for the community
- Transportation for community members to and from Bamfield
- Fundraising to build a bigger youth centre, currently have the Soaring Eagle.

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Youth workers and Cultural works to create monthly calendars of workshops to bring into community to have more people involved.

2. Program guide to be developed with services that can be offered to provide various types of care for the young and elders.

3. Work towards a Centre that can be used for Youth, Elders, and Community.

4. Build a new Anacla Childcare Centre that is operational 5-days per week.

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Our Story:

In case of emergencies, fires, floods, and other natural disasters it is essential we all contribute to keeping our community safe by being prepared for any scenario.

Huu-ay-aht First Nation has recently hired an Emergency Planning Coordinator who can lead in the development of community emergency plans in the event of any type of emergency as well as preparedness resources for all households.

Events:

- Training for household emergency plan development
- Current Social Housing has monthly and annual house checks that include smoke detector checks and proper evacuation routes for homes.
- Guide for evacuation routes out of the community (lower and upper Anacla)
- Fire Smart Program provided to Anacla.
- Community emergency exercises monthly
- Volunteer firefighter recruitment.
- Renew Community Fire Hall/Apparatus and Equipment
- CPR and First Aid Training
- Emergency contact lists
- Community emergency support services

Recommended Action Plan:

1. Develop a dedicated emergency management program specifically designed for the community. This would involve research into building a volunteer fire hall, recruitment of volunteer firefighters, and securing certified apparatus and equipment.

2. Housing Society to create a monthly & annual house inspection guide.

3. Proper evacuation routes shared monthly with Anacla, gates at Pachena Campground & Parks are locked – need these unlocked or something for lower Anacla route out.

4. Share the emergency contact list for Anacla residents.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share the final report with the community and HFN citizens.
2. The HFN government, Hawiih, and administration begin identifying priorities from the recommendations and aligning with the approved Strategic plan.
3. Community members volunteer and support the recommendations.

