Uyaqḥmis

April 2017 Issue 44



Nation will see benefits as a result of co-management deal with Steelhead LNG

Huu-ay-aht citizens made history on March 25, becoming the first British Columbia Nation to approve a co-management development arrangement for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility. On that day, Huu-ay-aht citizens voted 70 per cent in support of the proposed Sarita LNG Project with Steelhead LNG. The proposed LNG facility, which also received unanimous support of Huu-ay-aht's Ḥaẃiiḥ Council (Hereditary Chiefs) and elected Executive Council, could be an economic game changer for our Nation of 750 people.

"The people have spoken. We can move forward and take the people's message to the world, showing them what world-leading means," explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "The people's vote will give the project business certainty to take it to the next stage."

The Huu-ay-aht citizen approval is particularly significant because it marks one of the earliest points in project development at which a First Nation community has voted to approve an LNG export facility or pipeline project in BC.

The resounding positive vote means that Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG will move forward with a co-management relationship to develop the proposed facility on Huu-ay-aht owned land in our ḥahuuƚi (traditional territory), on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"Our co-management arrangement for this project is ground breaking and, by approving such a world-leading approach, Huu-ay-aht is continuing to be a leader among First Nations," Huu-ay-aht's chief councillor said.

The Sarita LNG facility is in the preliminary engineering and conceptual design stage. By voting in favour of the next steps, they enable Huu-ay-aht to protect and enhance its land.

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Watershed Restoration Employment Opportunity

Huu-ay-aht First Nations seek to renew the Sarita and Pachena watersheds, and eventually other watersheds within the Haa-houlthee, recognizing that this process may take many generations. With the enactment of the Maa-Nulth Treaty and emerging economic opportunities, HFN is in a strong position to renew the fish and wildlife productivity and ecological integrity of the Sarita and Pachena watersheds, while protecting cultural and heritage values and continuing with forestry operations.

- from the Sarita and Pachena Watershed Renewal Framework, prepared by LGL Limited.

Huu-ay-aht has identified $7.9 million of renewal activities over the next three years (2017 – 2019) with citizen approval of the Sarita LNG Project in March. Priority activities (road deactivation, stream restoration, and the Sarita/Pachena hatchery) have been identified.

It is really important that water levels and stream flows are maintained to support fisheries values and our anticipated economic development activities.

All of this work will generate employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

The first phase of this work is to gather baseline data in the Sarita watershed. This data will help us in the future when we look back and compare where we started with new data we gather. We will be able to measure how far we have come in watershed restoration.

The first measurement in the watershed will be the number of wild smolt compared to the number of smolt from the hatchery. Three Huu-ay-aht citizens are needed to begin this work and training is available if you are interested in participating. The positions will begin as contracted positions with LGL Limited, but there is potential of acquiring a position with HFN.

Some of the work may be seasonal, and it will evolve as the restoration project evolves.

The job description is below. Please note that all of the qualifications are things that you can be sponsored to obtain through Huu-ay-aht First Nations; please contact Brent Ronning, Education, Trades and Employment Coordinator at brent.r@huuayaht.org or 250.723.0100 x220 for assistance.

Project title: Salmon Smolt Outmigration Monitoring Study

Description: Provide field support to a fisheries monitoring study in the Sarita River and surrounding area. Work will include daytime deployment and operation of an in-river trap that will capture out-migrating salmon smolts.

Smolts will be handled and anesthetized using chemicals in order to mark them and collect and record biological data. Beach seines of marine foreshore areas will be conducted in order to collect and record data on marine use by smolts.

Qualifications: Reliable and hard-working, driver's licence, physically fit for fieldwork, ability to record written data and field notes and enter digital data, Level 1 First Aid (ideally with transportation endorsement), WHMIS (because of the use of chemicals to anaesthetize the fish), Swiftwater Rescue training, Pleasure Craft Operator certificate or Small Vessel Operator Proficiency certificate.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

We, the Huu-ay-aht People, envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak will guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy and sustainable community, where our culture, language, spirituality and economy flourish for all.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times per year in order to foster community engagement among a population of over 700 citizens. Huu-ay-aht 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
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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



Giving Back

Huu-ay-aht First Nations staff and citizens teamed up with staff from the Best Western Barclay Hotel to participate in the Coldest Night of the Year event. Together they brought in approximately $4,000 in donations. All of the funds raised at the February event will go to support the programs and services offered at the Alberni Community and Women's Services Society This is going to be an annual event, so make sure to watch for it next year.
Photo by Heather Thomson

Nation to share early accommodations from project with citizens

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"In my role as hereditary leader, it is important that I know we are following a path that is right for my people. Our elected leaders have ensured that their voices have been heard and by moving forward united in our vision, we will continue to be a strong resilient nation," Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin (Derek Peters) promises. "I offer my word that I will always honour my commitment to protect our ḥahuułi (traditional territory) and act in a way that is best for our nation. Moving forward, we will continue to engage and consult with citizens."

Because Huu-ay-aht citizens voted to support this economic opportunity, the Nation will see a number of immediate benefits.

- The government is creating an education and training fund of $2 million. This fund is intended to cover the next three years, but it can be increased if there is enough demand to warrant it. The focus of the trades and training program will be on preparing youth for the future, but it will be available to all citizens.

- Ensuring our elders are taken care of is of upmost importance, therefore Executive Council is pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2017, Huu-ay-aht elders will see an increase to their Elder's Benefit to $200 monthly. As of April 13, 2017 this will increase to $500 a month.

- In 2014, Huu-ay-aht became the first First Nations community in Canada to adopt a living wage policy for its employees. Huu-ay-aht government is pleased to announce it has created a program that will top up the wages of employees who work for the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses. This means HGB employees working for below $17.22 hourly will receive a subsidized increase, bringing them up to the minimum living wage, with direct payments to those employees from the Huu-ay-aht Government. This Government Wage Supplement Program will be implemented on May 1, 2017.

- Huu-ay-aht believes that people should not have to choose between paying their rent and feeding their family. Today's minimum wage in British Columbia means that families regularly have to make these difficult decisions.

- Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG have agreed to put an additional $7.9 million aside to support restoration, enhancement work and jobs on the Sarita, Sugsaw, and Pachena Rivers. This will take place over the next three years, starting in May 2017.

- A legally enforceable commitment has been reached with SLNG to have a large rescue/salvage tug as part of the project fleet in Sarita. This tug will be available to come to the aid of and tow any LNG shipping carrier that may experience a problem. It will be capable of carrying out these tasks even in the extreme marine weather conditions that are not uncommon to the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

- Finally, Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead will established a dedicated decommissioning and reclamation fund of up to $250 million. This will ensure that the proposed LNG site is fully restored when operations end in the territory.



Members of the Legislative Council listen to the words of Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin as he opens the second sitting of Huu-ay-aht's Legislature in Anacla on March 31. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Huu-ay-aht holds its Legislature

Huu-ay-aht First Nations held its annual sittings of Legislature in March. It was an opportunity to address the Nations' business, including the reading of the Financial Administration Act Amendment Act, 2017 and the Budget Act, 2017, and approval of the Economic Development Plan for this year.

The first sitting was in Anacla on March 23, 2017. The second and third reading took place on March 31, 2017.

Huu-ay-aht's Speaker Angela Wesley opened the meeting with a reminder that it has been six years since the Nations became a self-governing nation.

"This is an exciting time to be sitting in legislature," she said. "I think the people who came before us would be very proud of the people sitting here today, moving the nation forward."

Each Member of Legislative Council took advantage of the opportunity to make a brief statement.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. opened with his reflections of their time since the current council was elected, two years ago. He said at first it was status quo while council got to know each other, their new roles, and what the people saw as the Nations' priorities. He said soon they got down to business and started focusing on what the people wanted.

"I think this year's budget reflects that," he said. "Executive Council is more involved, and we need to continue to be. The relationship government has with the people is the most important thing."

But he added that healing our people and the ḥahuuƚi and bringing our people home is expensive business, and that means it is essential that Executive Council find more sources of income.

"I feel good about what we are doing and where we are going," he said. "It is important that our focus remain on action. I want this to be the year of action."

Councillor Ben Clappis said he will continue to focus on what people want.

"It is essential that we help elders and the young people," he said. "It all comes down to a healthy community – from Executive Council, to citizens and administration."

Councillor Connie Waddell said she is very pleased with what they have accomplished so far, even though it was not always easy.

"We have come leaps and bounds from where we started," she said. "At the end of the day, what we are doing is the result of consultation and healthy debates. We are working on the same page, together as a collective. We are now working as a united group, and I am very confident we will see a lot of accomplishments at the end of this year."

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Annual meeting addresses business and offers time of reflection

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She added that the work they do as an elected government is not about checking boxes and spending money: it's about coming together because that makes the whole Nation stronger.

Councillor John Jack also acknowledged the six years of self-government, calling it a significant, landmark accomplishment.

"Because of the depth of self-government it gives us a better chance of achieving our goals and dreams," he said. "It's about wrapping our minds around the difference between being self-governing and being under the Indian Act – it is not so much about what you can't do and more about making decisions on what you can do."

He said unlocking the value of the land and resources is the first step. Unlocking the value and wealth of the Huu-ay-aht people is next.

"This is the best way to ensure our Nation is strong," he said. "Reflecting back, we will see this as a time where our Nation turned a corner and started doing things differently."

Councillor Trevor Cootes said it is interesting to look at other places and see just how well Huu-ay-aht is doing.

"We are moving forward, and our people are engaged," he said. "We have faced lots of challenges, but that is because we have made so many changes, but to meet our goals for 2033, we have to make big decisions."

He added that he is comfortable with the decisions Executive Council is making because it reflects the goals of the Nation and the leadership Robert offers.



Drummers play a song before the lunch break in between the second and third sitting of Huu-ay-aht's Legislature in Anacla on March 31. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Councillor Sheila Charles acknowledged the huge learning curve that everyone experienced for their first two years as a council, and she said she is excited about what lies ahead.

"I don't lead with my head, I lead with my heart," she said. "I understand our personal experiences and how far we've come from colonization. I find myself on the ground among citizens because I care and have to understand what they are going through in order to help them."

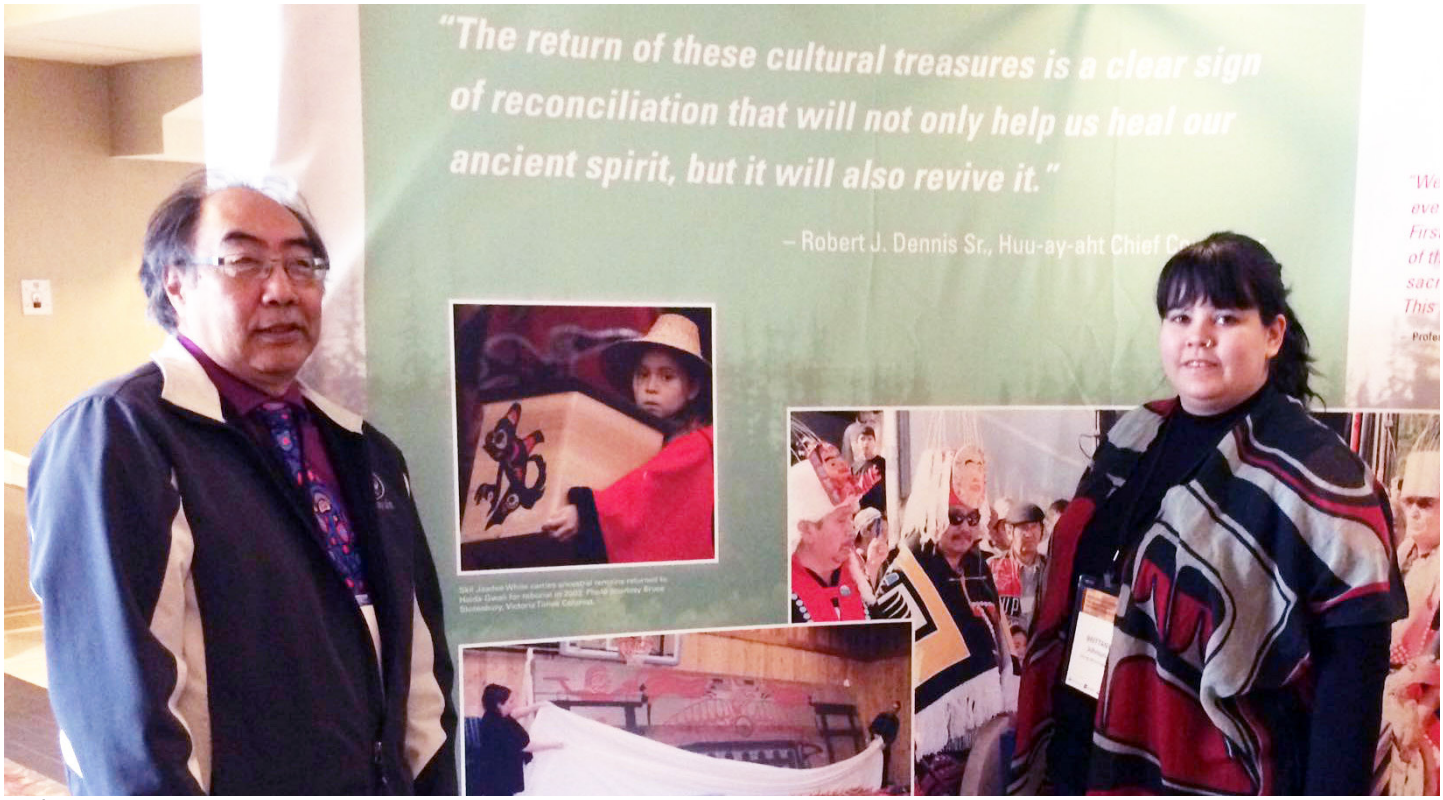
She knows the work is being done to achieve these goals, but she said the next step is to see examples of how Huu-ay-aht is becoming a healthy Nation.

Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) said the ultimate goal is to work together for the best of the Nation.

"We have to find a way for our traditional ways to fit with our modern Nation," he said. "We have to value the things our nation didn't forget. Today's youth are so much stronger and they have a natural pride in their culture that we didn't have. This makes me reflect back on where we came from and reminds me that culture, traditions, and values are always our most important focus."

He said working together is key, because "the biggest challenge is staying united," and if Huu-ay-aht can do that then they will continue to be a leader among nations.

All of the Nations business was passed in the third sitting of Legislature. Council passed a motion to look into how the Nation will allocate the surplus from last year's budget. They stressed the importance of focusing on the wishes of the people, and therefore will address this after consultation with citizens. They will hold a final sitting of legislature in the coming months to address this issue.



Ḥaẇił Yaałuuʔa (Hereditary Chief Jeff Cook) and Hinatinyis (Brittany Johnson) stand in front of the display on Huu-ay-aht's cultural treasures at the Repatriation Conference held in Kelowna in March. Both were invited to represent their Nation at the event.

Repatriation: Moving forward together

By Brittany Johnson

I was invited to attend the Repatriation Conference in March. I had gone with a heart full of hope and aspirations for our community museum. I was very interested in how other communities managed their museums and their best practices. The agenda was full of speakers I had never heard of, but I was eager to learn and couldn't wait to come back home to share.

I learned quickly that repatriation is not simply the returning of artifacts or cultural treasures. There were many speakers that shared their journey on having their ancestors remains returned.

As I sat there and listened, I wept. I grieved for the people who were taken from their final resting place. I was so unprepared for what I learned that day, and I was very grateful there was cultural support there for me to lean on.

The first day was very heavy on my heart, and the second day was so uplifting. There was a panel of artists invited to speak. Tsimshian Weaver and artist William White spoke and was very funny. He said, "What the hell do they want me at a repatriation conference for? I'm not repatriating anything. They told me, 'well of course you are, you're repatriating the knowledge, you're teaching it.' I had never thought about that before in my life."

They had many artists there, and they spoke of their long journey of learning and teaching. They shared how it changed their life when they decided to follow their passion even when it didn't pay well. One man, who was a singer and composer, told a story of his son. His son asked him why he kept "working for free." The man taught his son some of his songs and told him to go and sing them to the children. After some time the children would come back and ask him to sing for them, and it was then that the son learned the value of sharing songs and why his father "worked for free."

So, after the conference was over I reflected on what I wanted to learn and what I was taking home. I may not have learned any 'best practices," but I found a passion. I want to learn more about where my father and my mother came from and have promised myself a trip to the archives in the Royal British Columbia Museum. I also made a few new relationships and am eager to connect with these people and the inspiring work they do.



Baking up a Storm

Huu-ay-aht youth in Anacla spent a raining March day backing cakes in their after-school program at Čitxʷaama Cixʷatin (Soaring Eagle). This group meets daily, and it is lead by Cory Howard Jr. and Edward Johnson. Each day they have different activities planned. These often include sports, cultural practices, cooking, homework club and other fun things to do together. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

Social Services Panel - The next Huu-ay-aht Citizen Engagement days for the social services panel is taking place in Anacla at the Čitxʷaama Cixʷatin (Soaring Eagle) on April 30 (1-7 p.m.) and Monday, May 1 (9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.). Come and share your stories and help Huu-ay-aht create stronger families and community connections for the Nations' children.

Emergency Preparedness Week - May 3-8 is Emergency Preparedness Week so keep your eyes open for events in your area.

Cultural History Night - Held on Monday nights at the Port Alberni Friendship Center, from 6-8 p.m. Watch on Facebook for cancellations or changes.

Ladies Night - Join other Huu-ay-aht ɬuucma (women) for a night of culture and fun. April 18, 6-8 p.m. at the Port Alberni Government Office. April 25, 7-9 p.m. at Anacla's Čitxʷaama Cixʷatin. From there they will rotate weekly. Make sure to check Facebook in case of changes or cancellations.

Hike the West Coast Trail - If you are between 10 and 16 years old and you want to hike the West Coast Trail, make sure to sign up. This trip is tentatively planned for the end of July. If you are interested, please contact Edward Johnson at Edward.J@huuayaht.org.

Queen's University Research Project Engagement Sessions - The team from Queen's University is expanding for the summer, and they want to hear from you about Treaty. Come to the next round of Community Engagement Sessions: April 24 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Vancouver at the Aboriginal Mother Centre; April 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Anacla at the Government Office, and April 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Port Alberni at the Best Western Barclay.

USMA Regional Forums - Strengthening our Families: Listening, Respecting & Moving Forward - April 20, Friendship Center, Port Alberni; April 26, Tin Wis Best Western, Tofino; May 12, Quinsam Hall, Campbell River. All sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come and join the conversation.

Men's Group - Huu-ay-aht men meet every month: Port Alberni - First Thursday at the Government Office from 5-7 p.m.; Anacla at the Čitxʷaama Cixʷatin (Soaring Eagle) from 5-7 p.m. - Last Thursday.

Community Engagement Sessions - Executive Council is hosting community engagement sessions in May. Watch Facebook and www.huuayaht.org for more details as the date nears.

Send us your news

Do you have anything you want to share. If so, we would like to put it in our newseltter, whcih runs every second month. Send your event or exciting news to communications@huuayaht.org.

Students join research project for summer

By Vanessa Sloan Morgan

The Queen's University research team is delighted to welcome three Huu-ay-aht post-secondary students to join the project.

Over the summer, Ayanna Clappis, Becki Nookemis, and Mikaela Pettigrew will be helping with a Photovoice research project, which involves asking Huu-ay-aht citizens to take pictures and share stories about Treaty. This research will be going on from May to July in Anacla, Port Alberni, and Vancouver.

Ayanna will work with Jon Aarssen in Anacla, Becki Nookemis will work with Vanessa Sloan Morgan in Vancouver, and Mikaela Pettigrew will work in Port Alberni with support from Brent Ronning (Huu-ay-aht's Coordinator of Education, Trades and Employment). Learn more about each student below.



Ayanna Clappis

My name is Ayanna Clappis. On my mother's side I am Huu-ay-aht and on my father's side I am Somali. My mother, Crystal Clappis, is the daughter of Zelta Clappis and the late Chester Clappis. I am currently studying Political Science at the University of Victoria and working on a certificate in the Human Dimensions of Climate Change at the undergraduate level. Prior to this, I studied at Vancouver Island University where I began my studies in Business. In transitioning my studies, I decided to hone in on the subjects I am most passionate about-- environment and politics. By marrying the two, I hope to have a solid background for my aspirations of becoming an environmental lawyer. I am a councillor-at-large for Uvic's Native Students Union and a member of the Uvic Green Party and Students of Colour Collective. I am excited to work on this collaborative research project to document the historic modern treaty process for the Huu-ay-aht community.



Mikaela Pettigrew

My name is Mikaela Pettigrew, and my parents are Andrea Pettigrew and Eddie Lopez. I come from the Johnson family, which comes from my mom's side. I was born and raised in Port Alberni. I am a member of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and I am excited to work on this project because I feel like it will be an excellent experience. I am enroled currently at North Island College, and I am exploring Psychology. I am excited to meet new people through this project and to learn new things about our culture.



Becki Nookemis

My name is Becki Nookemis, and I am a member of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. My parents are Matilda Charleson from Hesquiaht First Nation and Duane Nookemis from Huu-ay-aht First Nations. I grew up in Anacla, but currently live in Nanaimo while attending Vancouver Island University. I am currently in the Bachelor of Arts program, majoring in Psychology and with a minor in First Nations Studies. In the future, I hope to work with Indigenous children and youth in some way.

The research team will be conducting a second round of Community Engagement Sessions: April 24 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Vancouver at the Aboriginal Mother Centre; April 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Anacla at the Government Office, and April 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. in Port Alberni at the Best Western Barclay. Please join us to meet the incoming Huu-ay-aht Research Assistants, learn about the Photovoice projects, get an update from the research team, and share your thoughts on Treaty implementation. We hope citizens will participate in the Photovoice over the summer. As always, feel free to speak to a member of the project's Advisory Committee or Research Team with any questions or comments. We hope to see you in April!

Preserving History





At Huu-ay-aht's People's Assembly in November, the Nation received a number of cultural treasures from the Royal B.C. Museum. These items were safely tucked away until they had a home at the Anacla Government Office. Last month, construction was finally complete on their temporary home. During the sitting of Legislature on March 31, Executive Council members, including Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis, got to have a look at the finished product. When you are in Anacla, make sure to come by to check it out. *Photos by Heather Thomson*

Beginning days of Huu-ay-aht Youth Council

My name is Falicia Marlene Dennis. My mother was late Karen Manson (Dennis) from Huu-ay-aht, and her parents were Wilfred (Shorty) and Agnes Dennis. I was raised by Wayne Manson of the Snuneymux First Nation.

Like many Huu-ay-aht citizens, I grew up away from the homelands, in Nanaimo, B.C. In the past year, I've come back to the traditional lands of my ancestors. I have always had a feeling that some things had been missing in my life, and one of not knowing what or how I would feel today.

Working for the Nation for the past five months as the LNG communications assistant has truly opened my eyes to a passion that was always there, I had just never seen it. I've felt the void, but didn't know how to fill it until recently.

For me it was growing up away from my home not knowing my culture, family, or our history. I found I didn't know how our nation works.

I feel if there was a way to bring youth home and get them involved on a regular basis I can possibly help fill a void for others who have been away from home. I also offer an opportunity to strengthen youth within the community and help them find their voice.

By working together and following our guiding principles, we can strengthen our Huu-ay-aht youth by exploring what your needs are to stay connected, involved, and empowered.

This will give you a voice - the voices of the future. We will do this by creating a Huu-ay-aht Youth Council. As described by John Jack, It will be guided by our Sacred Principles: *ʔiisaak* - Greater Respect. Personal and collective respect for the community and its people, traditional knowledge, the natural world, the metaphysical world and other peoples and communities; *ʔuuʔałuk* - Taking Care Of… In this context, this is about taking care of present and future generations as well as taking care of the resources provided by the land and the natural world; *Hišuk ma c̓awak* - Everything is One. A notion of the interconnected, interdependent and reciprocal relationship between the people, the land and the wider world(s) in a physical, spiritual and social sense.

Things to watch for:

May 2017 - Fun evening of learning and sharing food

June 2017 - Engagement sessions with youth; Aboriginal Day (Anacla)

I would like to thank the Huu-ay-aht First Nations for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to connecting with our youth.

ƛ̓eko ƛ̓eko (Thank you),

Falicia M Dennis



Promoting Tourism

Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses CEO Gary Wilson (far right) took tourism representatives on a tour of the Nations' traditional territory and its new businesses in Bamfield. The visitors were (left to right) Maureen Riley, Executive Director, Industry Partner with Destination Canada, Keith Henry, President and CEO for the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada, and Casey Vanden Heuvel, Chief Operating Officer with the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada.
Photo by Heather Thomson

HGB welcomes new Human Resources Coordinator

With their busy season right around the corner, the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses is happy to welcome Kenna Elford to their team



Kenna will be working part time for HGB, filling the role as Human Resources Coordinator. She is new to Port Alberni, having moved here from Campbell River in January.

"Everything about this job is interesting," she explains. "I love that all of the businesses are really new. I love the challenge of that, but also I get a lot fulfilment from being in on the ground floor. It's exciting to work on a project and see the improvement along the way."

Kenna was raised in Campbell River and later moved to Victoria to pursue her education and career. She then returned to Campbell River to reconnect with her adoptive family, the Henderson's of the Wei Wai Kum Nation. Kenna's Ojibwe roots are in Manatuolin Island where her traditional family has lived for generations. Having ties to both the east coast and west coast First Nation traditions has helped to shape her strong beliefs in equality, doing the right thing no matter the cost, and always seeing the best in others.

"I have lots of experience working in tourism, but I also love working with First Nations groups," she says. She can't wait to learn more about Huu-ay-aht, its cultures and traditions, and to meet the citizens who make up the Nation. She welcomes anyone to get in touch with her for a chat, as she wants to learn about the people and the Nation firsthand from the citizens.

Kenna brings with her varied experience within the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, where she worked as a hotel manager, travel agent, event planner, and human resources coordinator. She also has experience as a graphic designer and has worked in the advertising and marketing fields. Kenna currently owns her own business, Mindful Action Hypnotherapy, where she specializes in HypnoBirthing.

She is very honoured and excited to be a part of the Huu-ay-aht team and is looking forward to having a part in building a strong, unified, and exciting group for the upcoming 2017 season.

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Two symbols, one great connection within Nation

By Wišqii

In the Huu-ay-aht world view there are many different spirit guides. There is, however, only one path to our Ancient Spirit and that is through the way of the wolf.

Huu-ay-aht would annually host this initiation ceremony, and that would enable the individual rights within the sacred Wolf Society. The first gift of our Ancient Spirit is transformative and many find their very own spirit guide upon initiation. Some of us, however, remain loyal to the wolf the original spirit guide and this story is one of discovery and transformation in the context of both our Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind.

I wanted to explore the Wolf Ceremony, so I turned to an interview with Lizzy Happynook. She says in the Heart of the People, "When we were children we really thought there were wolves, but after awhile we learned that they were just people dressed up as wolves. It was really scary." During that segment of the documentary, playing in the background is an actual wolf howling. In the ceremony, however, it sounds more like a Kakaẇin (Orca) whistle than that of an actual wolf. That connection has always been there, and a common indigenous term of Orca is Sea Wolf.

Respected elder and knowledge keeper Willie Sport once explained why we the Huu-ay-aht have this symbol of the Kakaẇin as our modern-day logo. It has changed slightly over the years with different variations and colour schemes, but for the most part it has remained a consistent symbol of our people. Willie said it was because we as people depend on the sea resources as much as we do on the land resources, if not more. What I got from this is that Huu-ay-aht believe that both the Qʷayaċiik (Wolf) and Kakaẇin (Orca) have similarities to us as people and in lifestyle. They both have large family groupings – the wolf has the pack and the Orca has the pod, and for Huu-ay-aht we refer to this as Maht Mahs.

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

HFN GROUP OF BUSINESSES

They are indeed powerful symbols in their own right, and let's think for a moment why the Huu-ay-aht of ancient times would look to these powerful predators. Immediately I would say they are a family – the way of the wolf is the Pack, the way of the Orca is the Pod, and the way of the Huu-ay-aht is family. All of them teach their young to hunt, care for their elders, and share in the bounty of the world. Basically, they look out for each other to benefit their family, and "That's Huu-ay-aht is!"

Being open to one's own spirit and spirit guide is an ancient way.

One thing I have found is that the more things change the more they stay the same. I say this because even today in our Modern Minds we have these powerful yet ancient symbols as a part of our core being. The symbol of the Huu-ay-aht government is the Kakaẇin, and now our government office is home to the Huu-ay-aht Group of Business (HGB), and their symbol is the Wolf Paw.

Let's believe in our government. Let's believe in our business – two seemingly different entities, with two symbols, one great connection. That great connection is to the citizens of Huu-ay-aht.

Bringing people home and building pride will be mandate

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"I want to work hard to create a sense of uniformity in the businesses – a team atmosphere," she says. "In addition, I want our employees to feel a sense of pride in what they are doing and where they are. They should know that everything they do impacts the Nation, and they are making a difference for future generations."

She adds that part of her mandate is to bring citizens home by enticing them to be proud of what their Nation is doing. One of the first things she will do as she travels down this path is host a staff orientation event at the House of Huu-ay-aht on May 13. She said, although it's for staff, she says anyone is welcome to join the event.

Kenna will be splitting her time between Anacla, the HGB office in Port Alberni, and her home office.



David MacPhee and Kenny Moberly gather with Huu-ay-aht citizens and staff in Port Alberni. [Photo by Heather Thomson]

Visiting nation shares its story

By Brittany Johnson

In March, David MacPhee and his colleague Kenny Moberly from Aseniwuche Winewak were invited to come speak to citizens about their experience with the oil and gas industry in their ḥahuuƚi (traditional territory). To understand why they work the way they do, you need to understand where they came from and who they are as a People.

The Aseniwuche Winewak Nation is not recognized in Canada as a First Nation. They have no rights, no land, and no support. This came from a misunderstanding many years ago when they were victims of resettlement. When the Nation was forced from their ḥahuuƚi and moved to another area, many of them moved to separate communities, and this divided the Nation. None of the citizens spoke English well enough to negotiate, so they reached out the Metis Society. The government assumed that they were not a First Nation because of this. Once they were resettled, they were given a new form of leadership. Instead of having ḥaẃiiḥ (hereditary leaders) they had President and Vice-President and they had no knowledge on how to use this.

They resettled in the area now known as Grand Cache before it became a town. They lived there for many years believing they owned the land. When the coal and gas companies starting coming in they tried to fight for their rights and found out they weren't recognized as a First Nation.

Between having a government structure they weren't familiar with, the establishment of Grand Cache as a town, and the realization of having no rights: the community was devastated. Many homes and traditional hunting, gathering, and camping sites were destroyed.

Most of their citizens did not adjust well to the different lifestyles and value system. Issues such as unemployment, widespread social discord, poverty, and alcoholism grew. But a strength within remained despite overwhelming odds, and with no on-going financial support, the community formed the modern Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada in 1994.

Through their relationships, the Nation has influenced how gas and oil companies work in their territory. They asked the companies to consult with them before any kind of work is done. At first they were reluctant to be involved because it was not required by law. Through persistence, tenacity, and integrity the Nation showed the industry the value of working closely with them.

"Everything we've done, has been done through relationships. We are amongst the richest in relationships," explained David MacPhee. David is the President of the Aseniwuche Winewak of Canada, and he came to Anacla and Port Alberni to speak about how his Nation has worked with Seven Generations Energy Ltd. company.

He explained how different our nations are and how they have managed to overcome great adversary. They spoke of how they influenced how industry works with First Nations in their territory and offered some advice to Huu-ay-aht.

His advice was simple – if we want to help the nations whose land is providing the natural gas, all we need to do is ask for what we want. We need to ask, "How are your relationships with the aboriginal communities? Do you use world-leading guidelines?" If we create the standards, we can influence change, he explained. We need to set the precedent on what is important to us and work with our neighbouring nations.