huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council

October 22, 2024

Public Notice

Re: Sarita River Fatal Accident

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is saddened by the fatal accident that occurred over the weekend of October 18 – 20 at Sarita River. It is heartbreaking to hear the loss of two community members who lost their lives to the washout that occurred. Bamfield and Anacla communities are closely tied, and losses of this magnitude impact us all. Our hearts are with the families and communities affected by this tragic news.

With the atmospheric rainfall predicted, many rivers on Vancouver Island saw record levels. The Sarita River was no exception, and it experienced major flooding that was not seen in 20 years. The washout spanned much of the Bamfield Road and caused the road to wash out, making it so that road users could not make it through.

Safety will always remain a priority for Huu-ay-aht, and we all play a role in ensuring we stay safe. Huu-ay-aht will continue to ensure safety on the Bamfield road remains as a top priority to our Nation.

Unfortunately, the volume of rain that came down in a short period is something we will be seeing more of with climate change. Huu-ay-aht will work diligently with partners and the Province on public safety to work towards mitigation associated with climate change impacts.

To ensure we are doing our part for the safety of Huu-ay-aht citizens and Bamfield residents, we will continue to work with the local forestry companies responsible for maintaining the road and provide communication and support around public safety and emergency preparedness.

Sincerely,

John Jack
Chief Councillor

Theresa Nookemus
Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council

Office: Anacla Government Office, 170 Nookemus Road, Anacla, B.C., V0R 1B0
Phone: 1.888.644.4555 | 250.728.3414 | Fax: 250.728.1222
Mail: Port Alberni Government Office, 4644 Adelaide Street, Port Alberni, B.C., V9Y 6N4 | Phone: 250.723.0100 | Fax: 250.723.4646

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council

It is important to take care of yourself during difficult times. We encourage everyone who needs support to reach out.

Supports Available

Teechuktl Mental Health
250-724-3939

- Mental health and addictions support
- Harm reduction (prevention, supplies, and training including Naloxone kits)
- Suicide prevention
- Murdered and missing Indigenous girls and women (MMIWG) support
- Residential school support worker

Quu'asa Wellness
250-724-5757

- Culture support
- Clinical counselling

Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness Department
250-723-0100

Huu-ay-aht Cultural Team
250-728-3414 or 250-723-0100

24-Hour Crisis Support

First Nations & Inuit Hope or Wellness Help Line
1-855-242-3310

Vancouver Island Crisis Line
Toll-free in BC 1-888-494-3888

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
Call if you are considering suicide, or are concerned about someone who may be at risk of suicide.

Mental Health Support
310-6789

Emotional support and resources for mental health and substance use disorders
Indian Residential School Survivor and Family
1-800-721-0066

Kuu-Us Crisis Line
Adults/Elders 250-723-4050
Child/Youth 250-723-2040
Toll Free: 1-800-588-8717
Metis Line 1-833-638-4722