Uyaqḥmis

April 2019 Issue 51

Huu-ay-aht completes sale with Western



PM41913515

Marjorie White recognized for contributions as she enters into the Order of Canada

Courtesy of Ha-Shilth-Sa

After being named to the Order of Canada in 2018, Huu-ay-aht elder Marjorie White received recognition and honour at the Accreditation Ceremony in Quebec on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

"Marjorie White's wisdom reaches far beyond the Huu-ay-aht First Nation," Governor General Julie Payette said, as she handed the Order of Canada insignia to the Huu-ay-aht elder.

"[It was] exciting," White said. "It's just something you don't expect." White mentioned it's an honour to be recognized and appreciated by the highest officials of Canada, and how truly rewarding it has been to work for the community for so long.

With decades of volunteer and work experience in the urban areas of Vancouver, White has been a very busy woman.



Marjorie White entered the Order of Canada on February 12 when the formal recognition was granted by Governor General Julie Payette. (Photo courtesy of Rideau Hall)

In 1956, she moved to Vancouver to study nursing. There, with the help of other aboriginal students, they opened up a support centre, the Vancouver Indian Centre Society, the first Friendship Centre in the province. As time went on the idea grew, and there are now 25 Friendship Centers in B.C. and 125 across Canada.

White also founded the Circle of Eagles society in 1970, a culturally sensitive halfway home for prison inmates transitioning into mainstream society. She has extended volunteer experience with Lu'ma Native Housing in Vancouver, the Lu'ma Medical Centre, and the Aboriginal Patients' Lodge.

White's other notable achievements include being accredited into the Order of BC, the first aboriginal person appointed to Citizen Court Judge in Canada, and the first woman and aboriginal appointee to the Vancouver Police Commission.

Her goal, White mentions, is to provide a better quality of life for the aboriginal people who move to urban areas and to make the transition from on-reserve communities to the urban city a little easier.

"There are so many people to thank, I had so much support," White thanked, noting the support of her daughters, the community, the organizations, as well as the elected officials at the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

"I never forgot my teachings," White said. "I'm proud to be Nuu-chah-nulth, I'm proud to be a Huu-ay-aht member."

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

We, the Huu-ay-aht People, envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔałuk, and Hišuk ma c̓awak 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 nearly 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.

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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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Western completes sale of ownership interest in TFL 44 to Huu-ay-aht

Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership (HVLP), a limited partnership beneficially owned by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Huu-ay-aht), and Western Forest Products Inc. (TSX: WEF) (Western) announced on March 29 the completion of HVLP's acquisition from Western of a 7% interest in the newly formed TFL 44 Limited Partnership.

"The transaction is a positive step for Western, for Huu-ay-aht and for the Alberni Valley," said Don Demens, Western's President and CEO. "This new partnership will directly increase First Nations participation in the forestry sector, while creating greater stability for our business, our customers, and our employees.

"A community celebration and official signing ceremony was held on Huu-ay-aht traditional territory in Anacla to mark the milestone. Both parties signed papers representing their commitment to the new partnership and sealed them with a traditional Huu-ay-aht cedar bark wax seal.

"The finalization of this transaction is a positive step forward toward reconciliation," said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "In order for our citizens to thrive, we must ensure there are jobs for our people and business opportunities for our Nation. This new partnership demonstrates a strong commitment by Western and Huu-ay-aht to revitalize the Alberni Valley forest sector in a manner that is a win for everyone and ensures we will be able to manage Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin's ḥahuułi (Huu-ay-aht's hereditary chief's traditional territory) resources in keeping with the Nation's forestry values."



Western's President and CEO Don Demens accepts a gift from Huu-ay-aht Hereditary Chief Derek Peters at the celebration on at the House of Huu-ay-aht. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

"Our sacred principles of ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔałuk,and Hišuk ma c̓awak guide us as we focus on using their sources in our ḥahuułi (traditional territory) sustainably to create wealth for our Nation, while protecting those same resources for future generations," said Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin (Hereditary Chief Derek Peters).

The shared vision of Huu-ay-aht and Western includes a framework for reconciliation and revitalization of the Alberni Valley forest sector. The framework includes opportunities for increased participation of area First Nations through tenure ownership, employment and business opportunities, sustained domestic manufacturing, increased training, effective marketing and value-added product innovation, and strong environmental stewardship.

"Our Union fully supports and shares Huu-ay-aht and Western's vision for a stronger, more sustainable forest industry in the Alberni Valley," said Brian Butler, President USW 1-1937. "We look forward to working with the new TFL44 Limited Partnership to improve the lives of all working people and their families – together we will bring greater opportunity and certainty to this industry."

The TFL 44 Limited Partnership assets consist of certain Western assets in its Port Alberni Forest Operation, including TFL 44 and other associated assets and liabilities. The transaction is consistent with the goals of the parties' March 2018 Reconciliation Protocol Agreement.

For further information, please contact Senior Director Communications Babita Khunkhun at Western at 604-220-4923.

Angela Wesley named Treaty Commissioner

Congratulations to Angela Wesley on her appointment to the BC Treaty Commission.

Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, has issued the following statement to mark BC's appointment of a new commissioner with the BC Treaty Commission:

"The Province of British Columbia congratulates Angela Wesley on her two-year appointment as provincial commissioner with the BC Treaty Commission.

"Angela brings tremendous experience and knowledge to the commission. She played a key role in negotiating the Maa-nulth Treaty on behalf of Huu-ay-aht First Nations and continues to work on the treaty implementation team with BC and Canada, as well as serving as



Angela Wesley

Speaker in the Huu-ay-aht Legislature.

"Angela's expertise and insight will provide valuable guidance for ongoing treaty negotiations throughout BC, as we work with federal and First Nations partners to transform modern treaty-making to better support Indigenous self-determination and the recognition of inherent title and rights.

"I also want to recognize retiring treaty commissioner Tom Happynook, of Huu-ay-aht First Nations, for his dedication and energy in helping advance many negotiations over the past four years.

"A number of challenging negotiations have benefited thanks to Tom's guidance and experience from leading the negotiations and implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

"On behalf of the Province, I extend my deepest gratitude to both Angela and Tom for their roles in advancing meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, as part of the commission."

Business Workshop helps Huu-ay-aht citizens with their future business-related goals

Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Economic Development Department hosted a workshop on February 15, 2019 for Huu-ay-aht citizens who are interested in starting, or further developing, their own business.

Presentations were done by Jim Lee, Economic Development Research Coordinator, Huu-ay-aht citizen Val Bellwood, owner of Benjamin Moore Paint Store, and Donna Tourand, Canet & Co. Accountants and a small business owner.

Jim started off the day by pointing out two questions, what is your business and what is your objective for your business? These two questions can help you focus on having a successful business.

Val explained the process of starting your own business, whether it is through Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) or business loans, and what she did leading up to the purchase of her paint store. She talked about how she balances business and personal life, and how you are your business and your business is you.

Donna explained how important organization and keeping track is for your business at year end when you need to file with your accountants. She provided different techniques and program options that work best for you, to help you stay organized, whether it is digital or paper.

Six citizens who are looking to start their own business attended the workshop. They had lots of questions to ask and felt that the presenters helped them have a clearer understanding of the process in starting their own business.

The citizens found this workshop to be helpful and recommended there be more workshops, covering different topics to help start your own business. For example, marketing and support in the application process for NEDC or business loans.

The Economic Development team will be obtaining feedback from participants and developing plans for further sessions. Huu-ay-aht citizens are welcome to attend and should register their interest with Cheryl Eardley at cheryl.e@huuayaht.org

Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions visits Huu-ay-aht territory

By Heather Thomson

Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. gave Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions a tour of Huu-ay-aht's Traditional Territory February 27.

It was an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss their communities and strengthen the relationship between the city and Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

The meeting was a follow-up to one Chief Dennis had in January with the Mayor in Port Alberni. Minions said it was important to her to also meet Chief Dennis in his territory. One of her goals since being elected in the fall of 2018 is to visit all area nations in the first year of her term.

"I'm reaching out to build relationships with leaders like Chief Dennis," she said. "It's about creating connections, and it is important to me to see the territories that are around our city."

For the Chief, he was pleased that Mayor Minions took the time to come to the territory and see first-hand the projects Huu-ay-aht is working on and the successes the Nation must celebrate. In all his years as chief, he has never been asked to come to the city to meet the mayor. He believes the last mayor to make a trip specifically to visit their territory was Ken McRae.

"I was really impressed with her and the vision she has for the future," he said. "We had a really good talk, and I can tell she is looking forward at what is possible instead of back at the past."

He said that is important for both leaders to consider when planning for the future of their community. It made him reflect on Huu-ay-aht's motto "Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind." He said the past is important because it is who we are and we must respect and learn from it, but we must move forward as a Nation into a modern world if Huu-ay-aht wants to continue to be a leader among First Nations in British Columbia.



Mayor Sharie Minions visits Paawats and Pachena Beach during her tour of the Huu-ay-aht Traditional Territory. Tour was guided by Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. (Photos by Heather Thomson)

"If an old guy like me can understand that, then I think Mayor Minions can convince Port Alberni residents that her vision will help Port Alberni prosper," he said.

Mayor Minions expressed her admiration for Chief Dennis.

"Chief Dennis and I had a great conversation, and I enjoyed my time touring his territory," she said.

"I really appreciate Robert's approach to leadership – that it should be inclusive. He explained how the hereditary council works with the elected council. I can see that by being so inclusive his Nation can make real progress."



She was also impressed by how Huu-ay-aht is showing in everything it does that they are stewards of the land. "They are focused on leaving something for the next generation," she said. "I hope to do the same."

Mayor Minions was joined by CAO Tim Pley, Economic Development Manager Pat Deakin, and Manager of Planning Katelyn McDougall.

Huu-ay-aht hosts Employer's Forum

Huu-ay-aht was proud to have organized Hišinkin Mamuuk ("We are Working Together") Employer's Forum with sponsorship from the Industry Trades Authority of BC (ITA-BC) and Nuu-chah-nulth Education & Training Program (NETP) on February 21 and 22.

The goal was to build bridges and relationships between Vancouver Island employers and local First Nations, and to explore the benefits, challenges and supports available when working with First Nation organizations.

John Rampanen provided an experiential experience that explored the history of Nuu-chah-nulthaht before colonization, and how disease, famine, war, and residential schools led to the circumstances of today.

Keynote speaker Geoff Courtnall, a former Vancouver Canuck and an entrepreneur, spoke of the challenges we all face but don't speak about openly touching on themes of wellness, mental health, being your own advocate, seeking supports and navigating to success through life's challenges. Geoff spoke of his experiences in the NHL and how the pressure to succeed empowered him. His journey to sobriety was inspired by encounters with people on the same path as well as a focus on jogging; if he was jogging, he wasn't drinking. Fitness has become his passion now and he avoids places and events that involve alcohol to ensure he makes his sobriety in priority in his life. Geoff also shared his experience with his own father's struggle with mental health, and how his family began a journey to help others by opening the "Archie Courtnall Centre" at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. Geoff learned that balance is the key ensuring he has his priorities in order.



Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis hangs out with Geoff Cortnall. (Photo by Sherri Cook)

Workshop facilitators throughout the day, along with hosts ITA-BC, NETP and HFN, included Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC), Island Health, Quu'asa, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Western Forest Products, Coast Mountain Construction, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. Topics included Building Your Business & Partnering with First Nations, Understanding the Health and Wellness of your Employees, Tackling the "Tough"; Understanding First Nations Communities, Understanding and Accessing Training and Education, Creating Successful Working Relationships, Outside the Box: Create Unique Training & Education Opportunities.

It is important to note that we modeled wellness and self-care by having reflexology massage, and cultural wellness available for all guests and attendees. Throughout the two day event we incorporated culture with singing, dancing and celebrating new relationships.

Huu-ay-aht honours citizen, youth, and elder of the year



John Jack presents Citizen of the Year to Rachel Young at the 2019 People's Assembly on February 10. (Photo by Becki Nookemis)

Huu-ay-aht citizens are given the opportunity to nominate a fellow citizen for youth, citizen, or elder of the year prior to every People's Assembly.

The Nation does this each year to acknowledge citizens who are positive role models and make significant efforts to improve themselves and their community. This year, each citizen who was recognized received a personalized blanket.

In 2018, we had eight citizens that Huu-ay-aht recognized, but due to the cancellation of the November People's Assembly, the blankets were presented at the People's Assembly in February.

Citizen of the Year - Rachel Young and William Dennis.

Youth of the Year - Tristin MacDonald and Andraya (Bia) Brossault.

Elder of the Year - Ben and Clara Clappis, Jeff Cook, and Hilda Nookemis.

These citizens were nominated by other Huu-ay-aht citizens. If you know someone you would like to nominate, you can for the next People's Assembly.











2019 People's Assembly





Kathy Waddell was the speaker for the 2019 People's Assembly that took place on February 9-10. Following the meeting on Saturday, February 9, many citizens engaged in cultural night in Port Alberni and Vancouver.

Huu-ay-aht continues focus on wellness

The Child and Family Wellness team (CFW) was created to help Huu-ay-aht citizens throughout their lifetime journeys. Our team includes two Protection Support Workers, two Family Support Liaison Workers (one position currently empty), a Family Ties and Preservation Worker, and Clinical Counsellor.

Protection Support Worker – Christine Pearson and Megan McRae's roles are to support and advocate for families who have involvement with Usma and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. They will advocate for children to stay connected to Huu-ay-aht, families, culture, and tradition.

Family Support Liaison Worker – Christy Black provides prevention support and advocacy to citizens. Support is provided to families through prenatal care up to elder's support. Families are assisted with accessing funding to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, as well as cultural support, counselling, and access to community resources in their service area.



The Child and Family Wellness team is expanding and now includes, left to right, Megan McRae, Shannon Zimmerman, Harry Brossault, Rena Johnson, Christine Pearson, and Christy Black. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Family Ties and Preservation Worker - Harry Brossault's role is to ensure that children in care remain connected to their Huu-ay-aht family, home, culture, and values. Harry works to provide children in care with their family history, provide them with culture kits and help connect children and youth to family and cultural events.

Continued on page 9

Huu-ay-aht expands the Child and Family Wellness Team

Shannon Zimmerman is the Director of Child and Family Wellness. She has a Degree in Child and Youth Care and is passionate about people and families. Through her work supporting people of all ages, she has heard countless stories about how "the system" has failed people and in many cases, caused more trauma to individuals and families.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nations Social Services Project outlines a detailed plan to keep Huu-ay-aht Children "Safe, Healthy and Connected" and to bring Huu-ay-aht children home. This plan will help strengthen individuals, families, and the Huu-ay-aht community.

"I am humbled and honoured to serve Huu-ay-aht First Nations by overseeing the implementation of these goals," she said.



Shannon Zimmerman

She believes that everyone has a story to tell and that each person's story has value. Sometimes there are parts of the story that are hard to share but are important, nonetheless.

She thinks that, when people are supported in ways that are helpful to them, they are able to share their stories and become stronger.

"It is through the sharing of our stories that we can grow as individuals and strengthen the communities in which we live," she said.

She will strive to uphold the Sacred Principles of ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔałuk and Hišuk ma c̓awak through her work and look forward to building relationships with you.

If you have comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out (Shannon.z@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100).



TIm Paul and Edward R. Johnson stand beside the 800-year-old cedar tree found on Huu-ay-aht ḥahuułi. (Photo by Kelda Blackstone)

Ancient log from Huu-ay-aht ḥahuułi to be used for language revitalization pole for University of Victoria

Huu-ay-aht members George Nookemus and Edward R. Johnson ventured into Huu-ay-aht's ḥahuułi (Traditional Territory), with well-known Nuu-chah-nulth carver Tim Paul, to bless an ancient cedar tree, estimated to be 800 years old. It is reported, that the tree fell naturally around 50 to 70 years ago in a windstorm.

The tree was transported to Port Alberni, where Tim Paul determined it is suitable for the Language Revitalization Pole Project.

The revitalization pole project is in recognition of the UN 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages. The pole will symbolize the importance of Indigenous language and culture in Canada.

The tree will remain in Port Alberni during the carving process, and upon completion, it will be transported to Victoria, BC. The pole will be raised at the University of Victoria and sit amongst the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

Along with the Language Revitalization Pole Project, First Nations Education Foundation is working with Yuułu?ił?ath Government on a pilot project for preserving indigenous languages. These projects combined are estimated to cost $1 million.

To read more about the projects, visit www.fnef.ca.

Clinical Counsellor offers one-on-one and group supports

(Continued from page 8)

Clinical Counsellor – Rena Johnson provides one-on-one and group support to persons of all ages related to trauma, mental health, addictions, grief and loss, and other personal journeys. Counselling is a confidential service.

The CFW team works in a spirit of dedication, empathy and advocacy following Huu-ay-aht's sacred principles.

The CFW team can be contacted Monday-Friday at 250-723-0100 or at the After-Hours Emergency Number at 250-731-6999 24 hours of the day.

After hours emergency crisis line is for child protection, addictions and recovery safety plan, domestic violence, crisis intervention, and mental health support.

Huu-ay-aht's Children and Family Wellness Department offers a variety of groups. These include such things as parenting, woman's group, Zentangle, and Friends Group for children. Furthermore, program development continues to evolve based on the needs of Huu-ay-aht families.

Dorian Sutherland travels to New Zealand to learn about the culture of Maori People

By Amanda-Lee Cunningham

On January 20, 2019, Dorian Sutherland, and a group of youth from Nanaimo, travelled across the seas, to Auckland, New Zealand.

Auckland is the largest populated region located in Northern New Zealand and has the highest Polynesian population in the world. Maori are the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand.

Organized by the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, the Paddling Beyond trip was created so youth can travel and experience the culture of the Maori People.

While in their travels, the group got to visit various places. Dorian enjoyed the first island they visited – Waihkeke Island. He was interested to see that they spoke in their language and practiced their singing and dancing fluently. An amazing experience he had with the Maori people, was seeing their maraes (a complex carved building and grounds that belong to a tribe or family). They are used for meetings, celebrations, funerals, educational workshops, and other tribal events. For four nights, the group got to sleep in the Marae.



Dorian Sutherland stands in front of the Nuu-chah-nulth totem pole in Auckland, New Zealand. (Photo by Ruby Margaret)

Aside from learning the Maori culture, the group had time to do other activities and had free time to explore. Places they visited throughout Auckland included Rotorua, Ninety Mile Beach, Waitangi, Bay of Islands, Hobbiton, and Te Kura Whare.

Things that he did in these places that stood out for him the most, was going to the aquarium, having lunch at the living building in Te Kura Whare and going to the Sky Tower in Auckland.

Dorian had an amazing 10 days and can't wait to visit New Zealand again.

Arianna Johnson shares her experience at Softball Provincials

Alberni Valley Blazers U16C girls' softball team are gold medal winners after competing in their respective provincial championships over the July 14 to 15, 2018 weekend.

The U16C Blazers finished first in the gold pool ahead of Quesnel Wildfire in second and Mission Mayhem in third at the provincial championships in Maple Ridge.

They won most of their games at provincial, only lost once to Mission Mayhem and beat in semi-finals.

Provincials was a great experience this year to play different teams and see how they play. This year the team improved a lot since last year. There were 16 teams in provincials this year, we have played some of the teams during the season before provincials.

Overall this year, we won 41 games tied one and lost one. This was our last year in U16C, and next year we will be U19s. Port Alberni has another team bring the gold medal home as our younger girls on the U14C Blazers won gold at their provincials.

Arianna Johnson wrote this article on her experience while working as a summer student in 2018.

THE ALPHABET

The Nuu-chah-nulth and Ditidaht alphabets have forty-seven characters.

It is a phonetic alphabet, which means that every letter represents a different sound, and every sound is represented by only one character.

a aa c c̓ č č̓
e ee h ḥ i ii
k kʷ k̓ k̓ʷ ɬ ƛ
ƛ̓ m m̓ n n̓ o
oo p p̓ q qʷ s
š t t̓ u uu w
w̓ x xʷ x̣ x̣ʷ y
y̓ ʔ ʕ b d

Please work with your local language advocate to identify characters used in your dialect.

RESOURCES

There are many websites that offer more thorough lessons on the Nuu-chah-nulth and Ditidaht alphabets and interactive options for learning.

FirstVoices

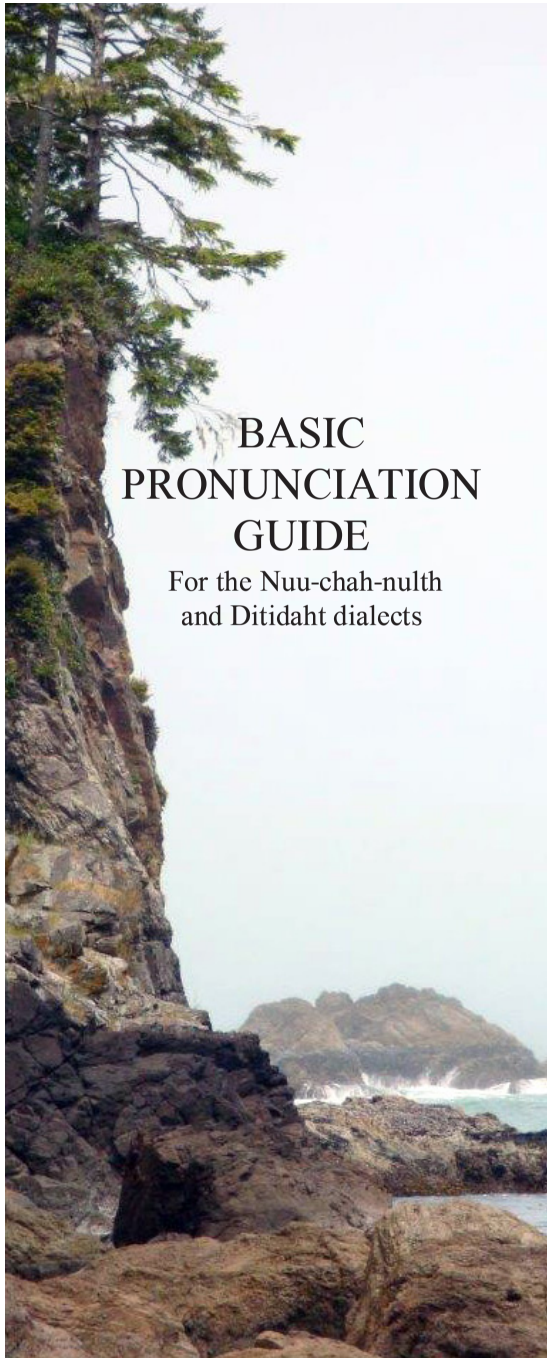
FirstVoices is a website that offers audio recordings along with the translations. You can search both words and phrases and there is also a section for educational games.

http://www.firstvoices.com/en/Nuu-chah-nulth

Kwistuup.net

Kwistuup.net is a website that offers “Survival Conversations” for the Nuu-chah-nulth and Ditidaht dialects and an in-depth language curriculum.

http://kwistuup.net/



BASIC PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

For the Nuu-chah-nulth and Ditidaht dialects

cut here cut here cut here



UNIQUE CHARACTERS

Unique Characters are not found in the English alphabet and many of the sounds are not used in English.

č - sound of “ch”
c̓̌ - explosive “ch”
ḥ - like breathing on glass
kʷ - sound of “qu” in queen
k̓ʷ- explosive “qu”
ɬ - a hissed “L”
ƛ - sound “tla” place the tongue behind teeth and let it drop
ƛ̓ - explosive sound of “tla”
qʷ - sound of “kw” but farther back
š - sound of “sh”
xʷ - hissing like a cat with rounded lips
x̣ - hissing like trying to spit
x̣ʷ - hissing like trying to spit with rounded lips
ʔ - a catch in the throat
ʕ - a deep catch in the throat

COMMON CHARACTERS

h k m n p s t w y b d



Common Characters are pronounced the same in Nuu-chah-nulth and Ditidaht as they are in English.

SIMILAR CHARACTERS

a - sound of “u”
aa - sound of “a”
c - sound of “ts” as in hats
c̓ - explosive “ts”
i - sound of “bit”
ii - sound of “ski”
k̓ - explosive “k”
m̓ - sound of “m” with a catch
n̓ - sound of “n” with a catch
o - sound of “go”
oo - long “oh” or “aw”
p̓ - explosive “p”
q - sound of “k” but farther back
t̓ - explosive “t”
u - sound of “put”
uu - sound of “due”
w̓ - sound of “w” with a catch
x - hissing like a cat
y̓ - sound of “y” with a catch

Similar Characters are used in Nuu-chah-nulth, Ditidaht and English. However, they are pronounced differently.



cut here cut here cut here

Huu-ay-aht offers Minister of Children and Family Development an update on Social Services Project

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has made a commitment to ensure that no Huu-ay-aht children are in care. To do this, they have formed a department dedicated to prevention instead of apprehension.

Part of making this new program a success is working in cooperation with different levels of government. The Government of Canada and the Provincial Government have both made financial commitments to Huu-ay-aht, and this funding has helped Huu-ay-aht implement 30 recommendations made by an independent panel.



Miniser of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy presents gifts to Councillor Sheila Charles for the Nation during a visit to the Port Alberni office in March. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Minister of Children and Family Development for British Columbia, Katrine Conroy, visited with the members of the Child and Family Wellness Department and representatives of Huu-ay-aht First Nations at the Port Alberni Government Office.

"I am pleased to be partnering with the province and working hard to create change within our Nation," explained Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. during the luncheon Huu-ay-aht hosted on March 20. "Our dream is to have all of our children back in our territory. To make that a reality, it will take a lot of communication and partnering with whoever can help us achieve our goal."

Tayii Ḥawiłʔ ƛiišin Derek Peters echoed these remarks and added that he is focused on the health and wellbeing of his people. He acknowledged that Huu-ay-aht would not be as far along as it is in its commitment if it weren't for strong partnerships the Nation has developed along the way.

"It is important that we can sit down and have positive and healthy discussions like we are having today," ƛiišin said. "We recognize this is a new road we are travelling, but I am positive we will get there."

Councillor Sheila Charles took the time to ensure the Minister understood what lead the Nation to develop such a bold goal for itself – from the first request she brought to council, to forming an independent panel to explore the subject, and finally implementation of the plan. She said something had to be done to start healing the wounds created by the residential schools. She explained it is essential that the healing of inter-generational trauma begin, or the Nation and its citizens will never be whole again.

"We are told we are trailblazers," she said. "It takes a lot of heart, resources, effort, and comprehension to offer wraparound support to prevent families from being torn apart. But that is the commitment we have made, and we will get there. We will get to a place where our children are home."

She acknowledged that Huu-ay-aht can't do it alone, making the relationships the Nation has made even more important.

Minister Conroy said her dream is that one day everyone will work together to ensure families are coming home and can remain together.

"I respect what you are doing as a Nation, and we want to support Nations with their goals," she said. "We have to all work together to keep kids at home, close to their culture."

The minister heard many examples of how the Nation is moving forward, including success stories where children were removed from their home, but eventually Huu-ay-aht was able to intervene to bring children home.

When lunch was served and the Minister had a moment to reflect on the day's meeting, she said it was extremely informative, and she was glad to have the time to discuss it with everyone. "It's really good to get away and meet with Nations to see what's working and what's not," she said. "It's inspiring to visit and hear what's on, and most of all, to hear it is working."

Election timetable

Huu-ay-aht First Nations will hold its next election on the third Saturday in June this year. The following is an election timetable:

April 5, 2019 - 70 days to election
- Executive Council appoints commissioner

April 11, 2019 - 64 days to election
- Registrar provides the commissioner with a list of Huu- ay-aht citizens who are at least 18 on voting day

April 18, 2019 - 57 days to election
- Commissioner announces posting of public voters list
- Issues notice of nominations for candidates to elected office

April 25, 2019 - 50 days to election
- Commissioner posts public voters list

April 29, 2019 at 9 a.m. - 47 days to election
- First day commissioner may receive candidate nominations

May 9, 2019 at 12 p.m. - 37 days to election
- Last day commissioner ordinarily receives candidate nominations

May 9, 2019 - 37 days to election
Last opportunity to notify commissioner of
- Changes to voters list
- Challenges to individuals on voters list

Commissioner announces individuals nominated as candidates in the election and, if required, announces extended period for nominations

May 14, 2019 at 12 p.m. - 32 days to election
- Extended period for candidate nominations (if required) closes

May 14, 2019 - 31 days to election
- Commissioner announces individuals nominated as additional candidates during extended period for nominations and posts notice of all candidates in an election

May 15, 2019 - 30 days to election
- Challenges to a candidate's nomination may be made to tribunal

May 16, 2019 - 29 days to election
- Commissioner posts revised public voters list
- Last day to withdraw as candidate
- Commissioner announces any withdrawals

May 17, 2019 - 28 days to election
Commissioner:
- Declares that election will be by voting or by acclamation
- Provides candidates with copy of candidate voters list
- Notifies eligible voters of the opportunity to vote by mail-in ballot, voting in person at specified locations, or other voting
- Campaign period starts

May 23, 2019 - 22 days to election
- Last day for candidates to deliver campaign advertising to commissioner for mailing to eligible voters

May 24, 2019 - 21 days to election
Commissioner must
- Mail campaign advertising to eligible voters
- Mail a mail-in ballot package to eligible voters

June 15, 2019 - Voting Day
- Campaign period ends
- Mail-in ballots and any alternative forms of voting must be received by commissioner
- Eligible voters mark ballots at voting places

WHEN WILL HUU-AY-AHT START PAYING TRANSACTION TAXES?

GST & PST

Starting ***May 1, 2019***, citizens begin to pay GST and PST

Transaction taxes will apply to registered Huu-ay-aht citizens. "Citizens" means those on the enrolment register of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

More information will be provided soon via facebook, newsletter, website: www.huuayaht.org

Award-winning Huu-ay-aht documentary waałšiʔaƛin (Coming Home) wraps up film festival tour including screening in San Francisco

The latest Huu-ay-aht documentary film, waałšiʔaƛin (Coming Home), produced by Munro Thompson Communications, has wrapped up its film festival tour and come away with five award wins.

waałšiʔaƛin (Coming Home) is the third Huu-ay-aht documentary, following Heart of the People (1997) and Return of the River (2003). It tells Huu-ay-aht's modern story of coming back from colonization, rebuilding the community, and looking at the opportunities to come for the Nation.

During fall of 2018, Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Munro Thompson Communications attended a number of film festivals where waałšiʔaƛin (Coming Home) was shown, including the Social Justice Film Festival in Seattle (October 13, 2018), the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco (November 11, 2018), and the Chilliwack Independent Film Festival (November 24, 2018). And most recently, the documentary was screened at the "Best of the Fest" Social Justice Film Festival in Spokane (Washington) on March 2, 2019.



Kleesin, His daughter Olivia, Elected Councillors Trevor Cootes and John Jack, drumming on stage at the Indian Film Festival on November 11, 2018 in San Francisco. (Photo by Munro | Thompson)

In total, the film received five award wins, including Award of Excellence from the Accolade Global Film Competition, Award of Excellence from Impact DOCS Awards, Director's Choice at the Social Justice Film Festival, Platinum Award for short documentaries at the Oregon International Film Awards, and Best Documentary at the Chilliwack Independent Film Festival. It has also been nominated in four additional categories from various film festivals, including Best Documentary Short, Best Documentary, Best Director, Best of BC, Chilliwack Spirit Award.

Screenings are being planned for Port Alberni and Anacla later this spring.

Down the business

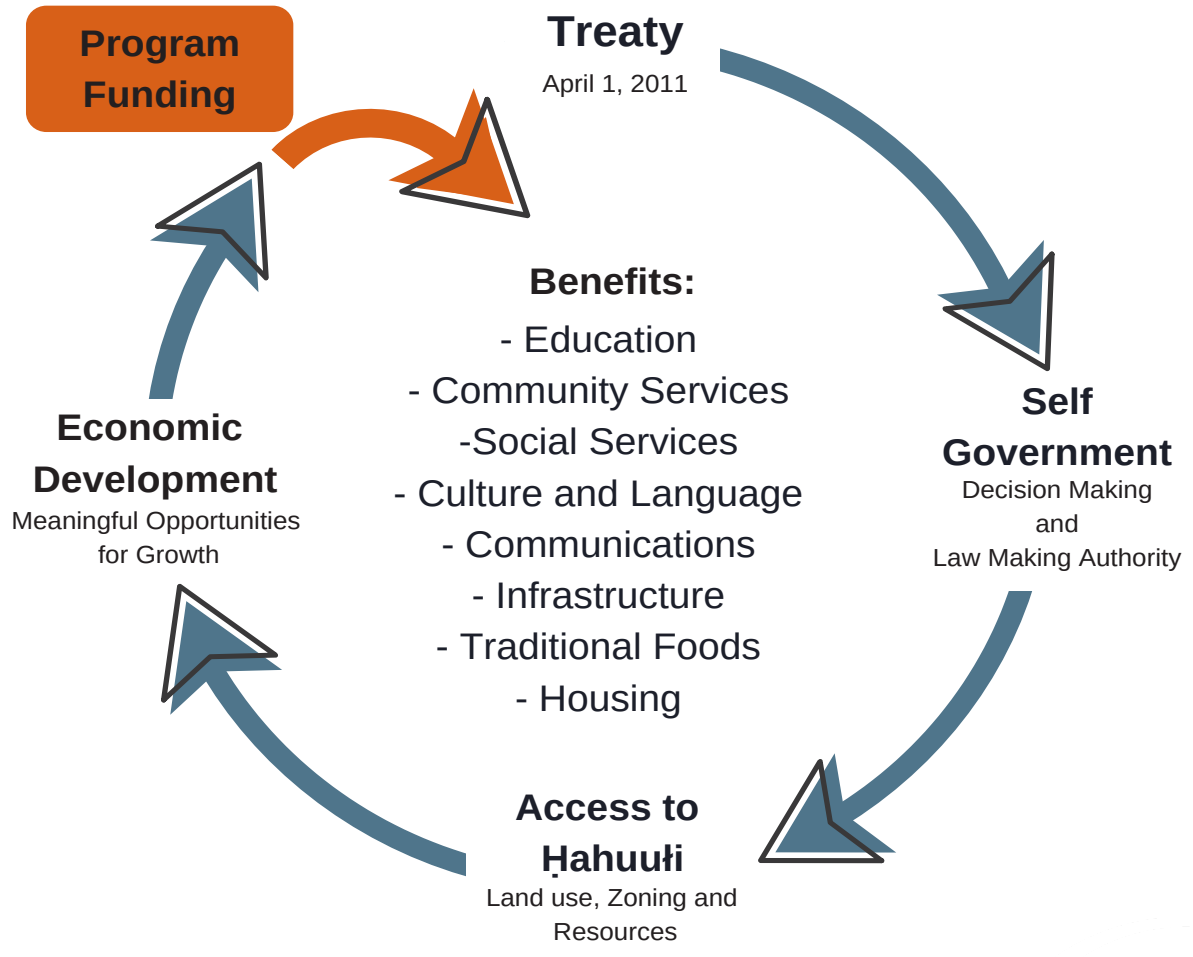


Huu-ay-aht Legislative Members at the first sitting of the 2019 legislature on March, 14, 2019 hear from Wišqii on the importance of culture. The second and third sittings followed on March 21. All business was approved. For more information, visit www.huuayaht.org. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Treaty Implementation Citizen Update #1 - Benefits of Treaty

ʔiisaak Hišuk ma c̓awak ʔuuʔałuk

ʔuuʔuuqʷaqḥ
self-reliant



The Implementation Department has developed a series of Citizen Updates for 2019. Upcoming topics include background on treaty implementation, natural resources and harvesting, support of culture and language, and relationships with other Governments and Organizations.

If there is information you'd like to see shared in our citizen updates or have any questions about treaty implementation, please contact crystal.j@huuayaht.org