Uyaqḥmis

June 2018 Issue 48



Vowing to end violence

Huu-ay-aht newlyweds promise to make their family stronger

PM41913515

Huu-ay-aht and Western sign agreement designed to be reconciliation pathway

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Western Forest Products Inc. announced the signing of a Reconciliation Protocol Agreement in March.

This agreement continues progress along the shared path to reconciliation and a joint vision for a safe, competitive and forward-looking forest sector in the Alberni Valley.

Founded on mutual trust and respect, the agreement affirms the parties' commitment to seek mutually-beneficial solutions that work to achieve their respective interests, while also developing inclusive opportunities that bolster the long-term sustainability of the forest sector in the Alberni Valley.

"Long-term sustainable revitalization of the forest sector in the Alberni region is a critical component of Huu-ay-aht's efforts to achieve reconciliation, self-reliance and a brighter future for Huu-ay-aht citizens and everyone in the region," said Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

This ground-breaking approach guides how Huu-ay-aht and Western will work corroboratively with different forestry tenures, assets and interests to explore opportunities that improve the economic vibrancy of the Huu-ay-aht Ha-houlthee (traditional territory), including Huu-ay-aht Treaty Lands, and the broader Alberni Valley. The agreement will respect the three sacred principles of the Huu-ay-aht people: *hišuk ma ċawak* – "everything is one," *ʔuuʔałuk* – "taking care of," and *ʔiisaak* – "greater respect."

"Our protocol with Western is an important next step on the road to reconciliation. We look forward to working with the Province and everyone in the Alberni Valley to make forest sector revitalization and reconciliation a reality," said Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters). "Most importantly, Western is committed to fully respect Huu-ay-aht sacred principles."

"Reconciliation requires a shared vision of the future, along with trust and an unwavering commitment to embark on that journey together," said Shannon Janzen, Vice President and Chief Forester for Western.

"Huu-ay-aht and Western are starting the hard work required to give reconciliation meaning and Western looks forward to building on this going forward. This Reconciliation Protocol Agreement is just one step on the path towards a better, more sustainable future for everyone."

The Reconciliation Protocol Agreement builds on Huu-ay-aht's and Western's agreement in 2017 which included Huu-ay-aht's purchase and long-term lease-back of Western's dry-land sort at Sarita, a timber sale from Huu-ay-aht's Treaty Lands, and an employment and training agreement.

Together, Huu-ay-aht and Western are implementing those agreements as they look for opportunities to operate across a larger land base.

Huu-ay-aht and Western recognize that the way forward involves working closely with everyone in the Alberni Valley, and looking at different ways to achieve value from the forest land base to increase the economic vibrancy of the region.

The parties believe that by everyone working together, a brighter future can be achieved.

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.

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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

Vow between newlyweds hopes to end violence in their families

By Heather Thomson



For more than a decade Brian Lucas and Molly Clappis have raised a family together. They have taught their daughter Maddison what it means to be First Nations and the importance of their culture and language.

It was a strong commitment and one they both honour and respect. But, late last year, Brian made a promise that will unite the two families and make them stronger.

In January, the family formally tied the knot, and it was important to both families that traditional ways be followed.

"This kind of thing is important to me and Molly," explains Brian. "We want to make sure we do it right because that shows respect for our ancestor's ways and carries on the traditions of generations before us."

Molly is Huu-ay-aht, and her mother, Clara, lives in the west coast traditional territory of her people – Anacla. Brian comes from the Mowachaht Nation, near Gold River. Although both reside in Port Alberni, it was important that traditions were followed as closely as possible. Traditionally, when a man wishes to marry a Nuu-chah-nulth woman, the groom must canoe to the bride's traditional home and ask her family for her hand.

Brian explains that, because they have been together for many years and have a daughter together, it is not appropriate to canoe to the community. And so, on a very cold December morning, Brian and his family drove to Anacla to ask for Molly's hand in marriage.

Brian explains that it was important that he respect Huu-ay-aht's traditions. Since meeting Molly, Brian has become a Huu-ay-aht citizen and is respected within the community as one of the key male voices in a drumming circle. He says that he wants to keep the culture and traditions of both his nations alive and carrying out traditional practices for all to see is an essential part of this.

"If we want to keep our traditions alive, we have to practice them," he explains.

Brian and his family travelled together from his homeland in northern Vancouver Island to Anacla. When they arrived, they were greeted at the entrance to the village by the Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) and the women of the Peters family, who act as beach keepers of the traditional lands. The first step was to ask the keepers of Huu-ay-aht's ḥahuuɬi permission to carry out business on their land. They also brought riches from their land, salmon and elk, to share with the Peters family.

Once permission was granted, they sang and drummed their way into the community, under the escort of the head hereditary chief's family. Brian said this was an important step because they wanted to announce their arrival to Molly's relatives.

Brian said they were dressed in their regalia, as his family descends from the head chief family of Muchalaht Norman George. First, they sang the songs of his nation to announce who they were and showcase his family to Molly's community. They also brought Molly's family gifts and traditional food.

For five hours they sat outside Molly's mother's house in the cold. They sang and danced to both Huu-ay-aht and Mowachaht songs. It was a test, Brian explains. Molly's family was ensuring he was strong, patient, and committed.

"It was their way of testing us," Brian says. "I had to show how much I care for her – how much we care for each other – and that I would take care of my family."

See turn on Page 7



(Left to right) Clara Clappis and Emily, Latisha and Violet Johnson, Keira Lucas and Margaret, Quinn Turgeon and Charleigh, Ezri, Reyna, and Crystal Jack. [Photo by Edward R. Johnson]

Ceremony held to celebrate new babies

By Kelda Larsen

Five babies born since January 2017 were celebrated and welcomed into the Huu-ay-aht community on Friday, May 4, in a ceremony in Port Alberni.

Although absent from the ceremony, an additional four babies were also celebrated and welcomed. Huu-ay-aht's nine new babies registered for the event are:

- Violet (mother Latisha Johnson)
- Charleigh Rose (parents Miles Danielson and Quinn Turgeon)
- Margaret (parents Keira Lucas and TJ Johnson)
- Reyna (parents John and Crystal Jack)
- Emily Marie Violet (parents Ashley Bodaly and Colin Cunningham)
- Evan (mother Natasha Mack)
- Twins Cassandra and Marissa (parents Philip Dennis and Katherine Frank)
- Jordan (parents Marina Rayner and Noah Plonka)

Huu-ay-aht's Tayii Ḥawiłʔ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) opened the event, followed by a welcoming song and a ceremonial wrapping of the babies. Each baby was wrapped in a blanket, symbolizing all the things a baby needs – food, shelter, love, community, culture, and more. Edward R. Johnson Jr. called each family to stand beside him at the front of the room, as he spoke of the baby's family history and their roots.

"It's important to understand where everybody comes from and making connections to our family," he said. "Understanding these connections allows you to recognize who your relations are and where you come from."

The room was full of friends, family, and community members witnessing these histories. Many of the family members also spoke of the ties between different Huu-ay-aht families and how everyone is connected.

The ceremony embodied ʔuuʔałuk, ensuring the success of our families for generations to come. These new babies are supported physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and they will grow up healthy, strong, and connected to their families and to Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

Lunch was served after the ceremony, followed by drum-making for the babies.

ƛiišin closed the event, speaking about how it takes a community to raise a child, and therefore we must start by understanding who they are and where they come from.



KWISPAA LNG

CITIZEN UPDATE #1

April 26, 2018

We have now completed our spring Community Engagement Sessions on the Kwispaa LNG project and would like to thank you for your feedback and questions.

Our Nation-to-Nation engagement discussions for the proposed natural gas pipeline continue to progress. We continue to meet with First Nations along the proposed route corridor.

The Kwispaa LNG project team has also begun to meet with non-First Nation organizations. The next step is for the Kwispaa LNG team to submit a Project Description for the facility to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

In the weeks to come, look for updates on the following:

- Environment
- Employment and Training
- Contract and Business Opportunities
- First Nations Engagement
- Other External Engagement
- Watershed Renewal and Fish Enhancement

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

The Kwispaa LNG team is committed to timely fact-based information and will be utilizing a variety of communications tools including:

- Video stories and briefs
- Social media (Facebook, YouTube and Twitter)
- Community Engagement Sessions
- People's Assembly
- Workstream specific meetings
- Staff updates
- Other meetings with youth and elders

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Huuayaht.org and steelheadlng.com

@HuuayahtFN Facebook/HuuayahtFN

EMPLOYMENT AT A GLANCE

2,500
Total hours worked by Huu-ay-aht citizens (through summer 2017)

34
Huu-ay-aht citizens participating in training relevant to Kwispaa LNG

7
Huu-ay-aht led Environmental Projects

Co-managed by

Steelhead LNG huu ay aht

Huu-ay-aht receives provincial support for clean-energy project

By Kelda Larsen

A hydroelectric project is underway at Sarita River, in Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Treaty Settlement lands. Huu-ay-aht First Nations received $500,000 in equity funding from the BC Government's First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, and is using the funding to establish a one hundred percent Huu-ay-aht-owned clean-energy power plant. The five mega-watt project could generate an annual average of 14.8 gigawatt hours of electricity, enough to power more than 1,300 homes.

The process began in 2012 with $40,000 of capacity funding from the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund. In 2016, another $10,000 was granted towards the completion of a ground survey. Power plant construction is expected to begin in spring 2019, with commercial operations commencing in 2020. Huu-ay-aht First Nations is also negotiating the sale of plant-generated electric power to BC Hydro, which would produce, on average, a gross revenue of more than two million dollars per year.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and British Columbia government representatives gathered in Anacla on May 4th, 2018 to formally announce and celebrate the project. Chief Councillor Robert Dennis began the ceremony, welcoming Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser to Huu-ay-aht's ḥahuuɬi, or traditional territories. "This contribution is B.C.'s commitment to work with Huu-ay-aht First Nations," Dennis stated. "It also represents B.C. efforts to make B.C. better, for British Columbians and [for] Huu-aya-aht citizens. The good working relationship we have with Minister Fraser has enabled this economic development opportunity," he emphasized.



Robert Dennis, Wišqii, Trevor Cootes, Stephen Rayner and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser celebrate. [Photo by Ian Benoit]

Councillor Trevor Cootes, who holds the Economic Development portfolio, spoke to Huu-ay-aht's sustainable economic priorities. "We are working with BC Hydro to get an electricity purchase agreement in place, and it will provide us with the market security to ensure long-term viability of this project," stated Councillor Cootes, as cited in *Ha-shilth-sa* (Plummer, May 4 2018). "When we get this energy purchase agreement we can move forward with this project. It's something that's a good long-term investment for Huu-ay-aht and for the Bamfield community as well."

Scott Fraser, who is also the MLA for Mid-Island Pacific Rim, spoke to the project as a sign of Treaty success and of Huu-ay-aht First Nations' successful self-government. Wišqii, speaker for Huu-ay-aht's Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ, ƛiišin (Derek Peters), spoke of the Nations' gratitude for the business relationships that make the project possible. He described Huu-ay-aht as "people of resilience . . . adaptive to change," and closed the ceremony with a song and a blessing for safe travels.

Save the date!

Pathways to Meaningful Employment Community Engagements

June 12 - Vancouver
June 13 - Victoria
June 18 - Nanaimo
June 19 - Port Alberni
June 20 - Anacla

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Children-in-care visit Huu-ay-aht territory

By Amanda-Lee Cunningham

Ben and Clara Clappis have been opening their home to children-in-care under Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Usma Family and Child Care for more than five years. They got involved when the NTC Host Homes Program began.

Huu-ay-aht and other First Nations children-in-care, who live throughout Vancouver Island, are given the opportunity to visit host homes in Nuu-chah-nulth territories with their caregivers.

Over the last five years, Ben and Clara have shared their home with 23 children. The children are welcomed by their relations with the welcome song and dance. They are then introduced to their relatives, brought out fishing and sightseeing, and get to see Pachena Beach and the ancient village on the Kiixin Tours.

With each individual experience, Ben and Clara have witnessed children left with big smiles on their faces and some children feeling they are that much closer to coming home.

Recently, Huu-ay-aht announced the Social Service Project and visited their five major cities to share it with Huu-ay-aht citizens. There, Ben and Clara stood to share their stories and encouraged anyone interested to become a host home as it is a step to bring our children home.

For more information on Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Host Homes contact: 250-724-3232.

Culture remains important to wedding celebration

See turn on Page 3

He explains that the first to speak to them was the women of the family. They spoke of the importance of teaching traditions and culture to the women in the family. They asked how Brian would take care of the women in his family. He said it was up to him to let Molly's family and community know how much he cared and how committed he was to uniting the family and "acting as one."

Brian says it was a difficult day. It was so cold and damp that at times it was hard to focus and maintain a level of consciousness needed to carry on.

But he did just that by relying on the strength of the bond between him and his future wife. They stayed strong by focusing on their traditional songs as well.

"Our culture makes us stronger," he says. "As long as we have that, we can accomplish anything."

After some discussion, ƛiišin and elected chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. decided a vow was to be made – one that would unite the families and make the union strong for many generations.

Molly's mother Clara asked her daughter what was important to her when it comes to her future. She told her mother that she wanted to go to a place that is safe and full of love – one that is free of domestic and family abuse.

"And so, together we vowed to end all lateral violence and abuse within our family," Brian says proudly. "I made that vow knowing it would make us stronger – it would make all of us stronger for generations to come."

Brian and Molly both agree it is a bold vow, one that will be difficult. It is also one they believe can change their family forever. They hope that by setting this example both Mowachaht and Huu-ay-aht will be stronger.

Robert Dennis is proud that this couple has made such a strong commitment to each other, their families, and their people.

"We want a safe community," the chief explains. "That starts with each of us saying we will no longer tolerate violence and abuse in our community."

ƛiišin says the vow made prior to their wedding is one that show just how strong Brian and Molly are in their commitment to each other and as a family.

He also points out that their promise to each other is one his nation is making as a whole.

"As a blended family we are responsible to take care of all of our family members. Brian has promised to take care of each other's children as if their own and to build a happy community. This vow goes even further and will make us all stronger," ƛiišin points out. "I'm responsible for making sure this promise goes both ways."

Brian and Molly held their vow with them in their hearts and minds as they stood before friends and family on January 20 to get married.

Brian says the promise they made to each other in December will make their vows in January more meaningful.

"We aren't just vowing to be together forever," he says. "We are vowing to create a better future. That's pretty powerful."

Huu-ay-aht business, traditions, and culture celebrated at Special People's Assembly

Just before the Christmas holidays, Huu-ay-aht First Nations held a Special People's Assembly, the third one in 2017.

The Special People's Assembly was called for December 16 to vote on the disposition of the land interests in the Kwispaa LNG Lands and any other ancillary interests that may be required for the Kwispaa LNG project to Sarita LNG (CF) Limited Partnership. A vote on this motion was necessary because the Land Act dictated that approval is needed if the parcel in question is larger than 10 hectares, the term of the interest is greater than 49 years, or the appraised fair market value of the interest exceeds $1-million.

The agenda also included an update on the Citizen recommendations from the September 30, 2017 People's Assembly and implementation of Jordan's Principle by the Huu-ay-aht government.

Quorum was achieved in record time at the Port Alberni Friendship Center, and with 144 people in attendance, official business began just before 10 a.m. Discussion was extensive on the status of the citizen motions from the September People's Assembly. The following table breaks down the motions:

Citizen Motions:	Executive Council Discussion (November 6)	Status of Motion
Be it resolved that the People's Assembly hereby recommends to Executive Council that: 1) That all citizens each receive 5,000 from the Huu-ay-aht Nation on their 50th birthday; and 2) That all citizens who have turned 50 since April 1, 2011 receive $5,000 from the Huu-ay-aht Nation	Executive Council decided at the same meeting to make a $6000 distribution to all citizens.	Executive Council considers that this matter was addressed by the decision to make a $6000 distribution to every citizen.
Be it resolved that the People's Assembly hereby recommends: 1) That Executive Council commit to publicly responding to recommendations of the People's Assembly at least three months prior to the next regular People's Assembly	Council felt that the Law and Policy Development Committee should review and provide input on this recommendation.	The matter will be considered by an upcoming meeting of the Law and Policy Development Committee.
Be it resolved that the People's Assembly hereby recommends that Executive Council: 1) Direct that a vehicle suitable for transporting all of the students be provided in the Anacla Paawats program to be used both for program activities and in case of emergency.		There has been a transfer of assets between departments, the van is now at the Paawats and will be fully inspected and updated with any repairs that is needed by December 1, 2017

Many citizens approached the microphone to ask questions about why citizens will no longer receive $5,000 on their 50th birthday. Members of executive council explained that the intention of the $6,000 distribution earlier in December was designed to replace that program. This decision was not well received by the citizens, and executive council said they would discuss it further.

A number of citizens also raised concerns about the decision to not distribute the self-reliance dividend to youth under the age of 19. It was explained to citizens that Executive Council made what they thought was in the best interest of the child. The speakers stressed the money was designed to be a self-reliance dividend, and therefore Executive Council wants it to be there, ready for when the citizen turns 19. Some citizens were still not convinced by this explanation, while others agreed it was important to protect the youth and ensure the money was there for them when they turned 19. The speakers also explained there would be a process in place to address this issue. That has since been developed and is available on Huu-ay-aht's website.

Although opinions were divided on this issue, most citizens who voiced their opinion indicated the process was not carried out properly. Becki Nookemus pointed out that, although she thinks Council was right in its ultimate decision, that does not mean it was handled properly. She called on them to apologize and admit they "messed up."

Huu-ay-aht Councillor John Jack explained Jordan's Principle as a child-first principle intended to resolve jurisdictional disputes within, and between, provincial/territorial and federal governments concerning payment for services to First Nations children when the service is available to all other children. It was decided that Huu-ay-aht would start following this principle, ensuring the interest of the child is the most important consideration in decisions.

Citizens passed the motion to approve the disposition of interest in the land for the Kwispaa LNG Project. Some citizens asked questions, including Ed Johnson who wanted to know if the project will interfere with the access to the resources in that area. It was explained that the Project Oversight Board will review all interests in the land and look at what needs to be addressed and covered by the environmental studies in hopes that access changes can be avoided.

The meeting portion of the People's Assembly was adjourned just after noon, and citizens then gathered to share a meal and cultural events.

Waste water treatment plant made possible with partnership

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to build a new Waste Water Treatment Plant.

On April 26, 2018, the two parties gathered at the Rix Centre for Ocean Discoveries to sign the documents, however the project is already well underway.



Huu-ay-aht's Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. and Dr. Jon Driver, president of the Western Canadian Universities Marine Science Society sign the MOU at Rix Centre.

"I remember sitting overlooking the inlet with Stella Peters and discussing the fact that our marine resources aren't as abundant as they used to be," explains Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "We thought about how we could help turn this around, and a sewer project was one of the first things we thought of."

Chief Dennis explains Huu-ay-aht approached a number of different levels of government trying to get assistance with the project. Finally, after having no success, the Nation decided it was important enough to do it on their own. He says the Nation has worked with the BMSC on projects in the past, so he was optimistic when they came forward.

"We have similar values and principles that I am confident we can make this a reality," he adds.

The project is funded by Huu-ay-aht First Nation, with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) contributing a portion of the funds.

The plant will be located on the BMSC campus and will replace the existing treatment plant, using the BMSC ocean outfall. It is going to be a Moving Bed Biological Reactor plant, which was chosen for its less complex operation, and is well suited for the remote location.

"Signing this agreement is another indication of how many common goals we have," says Dr. Jon Driver, President of the Western Canadian Universities Marine Sciences Society, the governing body of BMSC. "This project will improve the health of this harbour and the whole community. I am really glad we are getting this done together, and I hope it's just the beginning of many projects we take on together."

The initial phase of the WWTP will connect BMSC, the Community School, and Upper Anacla to sewage treatment. The immediate goal is to then have all of the Huu-ay-aht businesses connected.

The plant is being designed with growth in mind, and is able to treat a large fluctuation of users. When the demand is beyond the existing capacity it is modular; additional components can easily be added to double the capacity of the plant. This will allow the connection of the larger community of Bamfield, even if it experiences growth.

The design is complete as of April 30, 2018, which will be followed by reviews internally and with INAC. Construction is estimated to start August 2018, and expected to be complete by August 2019, with commissioning to follow.

Star Student



Name: Emily Ginger
Grade: 5
Favorite Subject: art
Future Plans: ice cream taster and fruit cutter
Family: Grandma - Florence Wylie, Great Grandma - Eva Johnson, Mom - Clorissa Croteau, Dad - Travor Ginger

Emily Ginger is a grade five honor roll student from Port Alberni. She loves attending school, seeing her friends and favorite teach Mrs.Seredick. One thing that helps her be a star student is having someone in her house that wakes her up in the morning. She thanks her mom, dad, grandma, aunty, uncle and brother for waking her up and taking her to and from school when needed.

Government-to-government agreement marks next step for Maa-nulth Nations

British Columbia and the five Maa-nulth First Nations are strengthening and affirming their treaty partnership through a new government-to-government agreement.

This unique agreement was signed today by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and leaders of the Maa-nulth First Nations.

The government-to-government agreement between B.C. and the Maa-nulth First Nations creates regular forums to discuss, prioritize and collaborate on topics of mutual interest, including land, resource management, and treaty implementation issues.



Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. signs the contract with Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Legislative Chief Peter Hanson and Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim.

"This agreement continues the great, innovative work happening through the Maa-nulth treaty. It outlines ways we can work better together, which is good news not only for Maa-nulth First Nations, but also their neighbouring communities," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim. "Ownership and jurisdiction over their treaty lands and resources is allowing each of the Maa-nulth First Nations to grow and develop their economies and societies in the manner they determine best. Treaties are a powerful foundation, but it takes respectful, ongoing government-to-government relationships to make them effective."

Maa-nulth First Nations are important contributors to the economic and cultural life of the west coast of Vancouver Island, and the agreement is another avenue to explore opportunities and ideas. Developing practical and flexible ways to address natural resource, land and treaty issues benefits Maa-nulth citizens, industry and the greater region.

"Signing the Maa-nulth Treaty was an important step for our Nations, but it is essential that we continue to work hard to make the most of the opportunities the treaty offers," said Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "By continuing to build on our relationship with the Province, we show what can be accomplished with true reconciliation."

"We view this agreement as one more step towards fulfilling the promise that treaty has created for our people," said Uchucklesaht Tribe Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes. "We look forward to strengthening our relationship with British Columbia through shared recognition and application of mutual respect in our dealings. Our goal, like B.C.'s, is cooperation between our governments to our shared advantage and the benefits to both."

"This is an important agreement which will facilitate the implementation of our treaty and help guide us in implementing our Nations' strategies for moving forward by developing and sustaining a government-to-government relationship with B.C., an essential step in reconciliation." said Toquaht Nation Tayii Ḥaẇił Anne Mack.

"The Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations are pleased to enter into this Maa-nulth and British Columbia government-to-government forum agreement," said Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations Legislative Chief Peter Hanson. "It completes the suite of venues to achieve orderly, collaborative and respectful implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty in partnership with British Columbia. We truly look forward to our new relationship."

The agreement supports improved co-ordination of natural resource development and land management across treaty land and adjacent Crown lands, as well as addressing issues where Provincial jurisdiction applies on treaty land, such as environmental protection, highways, wildlife, or foreshore marine areas.

It also provides B.C. and Maa-nulth Nations regular forums to explore new economic development opportunities, and to address related issues.

Partnership offers more options for distance learning for First Nations

By Kelda Larsen

A partnership has been created between the First Nations Technology Council (FNTC) and Royal Roads University, supporting the online delivery of the FNTC's "Foundations in Innovation and Technology" program. Huu-ay-aht citizen Charlie Clappis, President of the Board at the First Nations Technology Council, signed the Memorandum of Understanding partnership agreement on February 23, 2018.

The partnership utilizes Royal Roads University's distance-learning expertise to expand access to Indigenous-led digital skills training. Tailored to First Nations communities throughout British Columbia, the program ensures Indigenous innovators have access to the tools and training needed in order to lead this growing economic sector. The 12-week program will launch in fall 2018, providing students with foundational digital skills such as web development and coding, software testing, and GIS/GPS mapping.



The team behind the MOU between the First Nations Technology Council and Royal Roads University, including Charlie Clappis (middle) celebrate their success.

The announcement began with a welcome to Kwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Songhees (Lekwungen) territory, followed by an opening prayer and drum circle. Five distinguished guests spoke at the event, including Charlie Clappis.

"In helping to bring the FiiT program online, this partnership is an important step towards ensuring that all Indigenous peoples have full and equal access both to the province's fastest growing sector, but also to the tools that can help to strengthen our communities both today and for future generations," Clappis explained.



2018 Pacific-Rim National Park passes available at PAGO

The 2018 Pacific Rim National Park passes are available for pick-up at the Port Alberni Government Office only. In order to qualify for a free park pass you must fulfill the following requirements:

- Must be a status card holding citizen
- Must provide status card number

The cards are only for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve – Long Beach area only and they waive parking fees for the card holder.

To get your pass or for more information, contact Rita Johnson at the Port Alberni Government Office at 250-723-0100 or rita.j@huuayaht.org.

Social Services team offering support

By Amanda-Lee Cunningham

Determined to "bring our children home," Huu-ay-aht First Nations has has been implementing the 30 recommendations set out in the Social Services Report findings (developed in 2016/17 by an independent task force). The report cites 30 recommendations they found necessary to ensure Huu-ay-aht families stay safe, healthy, and connected.

The Social Service Implementations Task Force will monitor and oversee the implementation of the recommendations and ensure the principles underlying these recommendations are being met with Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

With approximately 47 Huu-ay-aht children in care (11 are in care of family), Huu-ay-aht is determined to bring this number to zero. In the process, they will implement wrap around lifetime support to Huu-ay-aht families.

As part of the recommendations, Huu-ay-aht First Nations has hired two Family Support workers and one Child Protection worker. Together, this team of three will be available for all Huu-ay-aht citizens and families.

Huu-ay-aht hires Child Protection Support Worker

With 17 years of experience working in human services and family support, Huu-ay-aht welcomes **Christine Pearson** as their new Protection Support worker.

"I'm very passionate about ending violence in relationships and focusing on healthy relationships, in particular, a healthy relationship with self."

Being the lead in the Children and Families Support Program, Christine will work with her team at the Nation to come up with a concrete plan to support Huu-ay-aht families.



(Left to right) Christine Pearson, Rena Johnson, Harry Brossault, and Christy Black work together to protect and support Huu-ay-aht citizens as part of the Social Services Project team. [Photo by Heather Thomson]

When she is not at work, she loves spending time in nature, practicing yoga, and spending time with her family. Her family is from Prince Rupert's Tsimshian First Nations, a daughter who is 31 and a son, soon to be 29.

Two family support liaisons working for Huu-ay-aht

Introducing two familiar faces to Huu-ay-aht First Nations, as our family support liaisons, **Christy Black** and **Harry Brossault**.

Harry has four-and-a-half years of experience as a child care worker with Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House and the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Center, working with at-risk youth. Moving back to his homeland, Harry joined Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses in 2016. In September 2017, Harry took the opportunity to join Huu-ay-aht First Nations in his current role as Family Support Liaison. In his new role, he plans to help families and help prevent them from losing their children to the ministry and to support Huu-ay-aht families in having their voices heard.

Growing up, in and out of foster care, Harry can relate to the situations he is presented with and can provide insight to how the families are feeling.

"Growing up away from home was normal for me. It was only once I had seen Pachena for the first time I knew I needed to move home. Living down in Victoria I would not be able to learn about Huu-ay-aht - if I don't know I cannot teach my daughters.

When asked how he would like to prevent this from happening to other Huu-ay-aht children, he says "by learning as much as I can and hopefully bring it to those who live away from home."

See Page 9 for continued story

Nation purchases commercial crab licence

By Heather Thomson

Finding and creating opportunities to get Huu-ay-aht citizens fishing again is a top priority of Executive Council.

On March 7, Executive Council approved the purchase of a commercial crab licence that will get fishers out on the water this year. The licence cost the Nation $1,035,000, plus the cost in fees to transfer the crab licence.

"I always say, 'If you give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime,'" explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis. "This is an important step that we need to take to get our fishers out fishing again. That's what I want to see for our people."

Executive Council budgeted $500,000 for the purchase price, and the remaining $635.000 will be achieved through financing, hopefully through the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation.

Purchasing this licence is an important step in fulfilling the commitment made as part of the Fisheries Treaty Implementation Plan.

The funds being used to make the purchase are available because Huu-ay-aht received money through the signing of the Maa-nulth Treaty to develop a commercial fishery.

Councillor Connie Waddell holds the Treaty Implementation portfolio. She often hears citizens ask "what are the benefits of becoming a treaty nation?"

"Here is a specific example of one of those benefits – negotiating the additional funds for the licences," she explains. "Having it in the Treaty upon signing and receiving the dollars gave us the opportunity to purchase of the crab licence. This will help make our Nation and our fisherman successful in the future."

Huu-ay-aht issued a request for proposals earlier this month for a partner to lease one Category R – Area G tab that will expire at the end of the season in 2019. In order to fulfill the goal of offering opportunities to citizens in our Nation, first priority will be given to applicants who can provide training and mentorship to Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Huu-ay-aht adds clinical counsellor to its team

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Christy Black is well qualified in her role as a Family Support Liaison with Huu-ay-aht. Christy has a diploma in Applied Psychology and Counselling, she has spent her last five years as the Coordinator/Facilitator for Rainbows, guiding children through grief and held meditative art sessions through Alberni Community & Women's Service Society, as well as at the Soaring Eagle in Anacla.

With her new role, she will make connections with Huu-ay-aht citizens and their families to hear their concerns, celebrate their successes, and be there to help families stay safe, healthy, and connected.

With her immense love of culture, she is honoured to learn about Huu-ay-aht and Nuu-chah-nulth traditions and hopes to build many strong programs based around culture and tradition.

She has two kids, Cody who is 14 and Olivia who is 12. Over the last year they have been involved in Huu-ay-aht activities such as the Youth Camp with Edward and Falicia and hanging out with Brittany with many projects.

For 2018, Christy will focus on self-care, grounding herself in nature, and spiritual healing.

Rena Johnson has worked with children, youth and families for the past 12 years.

Rena's role as the clinical counsellor will work alongside of the Children and Families Support Program.

Her aspiration is to support Huu-ay-aht families to focus on individual and family healing. Rena is a Huu-ay-aht citizen and resides in Tom Happynook- Cačaaḥsiʔas house.

"I am passionate working with children, youth and families, and the opportunity to build supportive relationships," she says.

When she is not working she enjoys spending time with her family and being active.

You can reach the family support team at the Port Alberni Government Office 250.723.0100 or after hours at 250.731.6999.

Youth gather to discuss forming council

By Falicia Dennis

On January 20, 2018, five Huu-ay-aht youth gathered at the Port Alberni Government Office. Old friends shared some laughs, reconnected, while others who had never met before connected for the first time.



(Around the table starting on the left) Tyrell Johnson Sears (16), Quinton Johnson Sears (14), Leonard Nookemis (17), Edward .K. Johnson (18), youth leader Falicia Dennis, and Arianna Johnson-Sabbas (15) take part in a youth working group at the Port Alberni Government Office. [Photos by Edward Johnson]

The youth are part of the newly formed youth working group. It is the hope that they will eventually form a youth council. At the meeting, they discussed the cost of attending the 2018 Gathering Our Voices (GOV) for Indigenous Youth Leadership Training and how important it would be for them to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2018, at the Port Alberni Government Office. They will be looking to the future when they hope to start the real work on Huu-ay-aht youth council policy, procedure, and what they would like the Youth Council structure to look like.

Call outs to the youth ages 14 to 29, prior to each of the work group meetings, will be sent out by Falicia Dennis, Huu-ay-aht's Youth and Cultural Program Administrator. Come out and participate. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, contact her at 250-723-0100, 250-735-2235, or Falicia.d@huuayaht.org.

Legislature reflects on positive year with more to come

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations held its three sittings of its Legislature in March in the Council Chambers at the Anacla Government Office.

Legislature is a time for Huu-ay-aht to pass the Budget Act, 2018 and deal with any outstanding business. This year, in addition to the 2018 budget, the members passed the Tribunal Act Amendment Act 2018. Speaker Angela Wesley opened the first session by allowing each executive council member to make a statement on the past year and goals for the coming year. Council members share a positive reflection of the year past and optimism for the year to come.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. stressed the importance of staying connected to culture.

"It is important for people to understand how important our culture is to us," he explained. "It is in everything we do and why we do it."

He reflected on the meaning of the word prudent and its importance. He said it means ensuring "we don't always think with our heads, but also with our hearts."

The Chief Councillor pointed out that, although Huu-ay-aht has many goals, the most important for him is self-reliance. He highlighted the important steps the Nation took toward this goal, including the significant Specific Claims win. He also sees the Ancient Spirit Modern Mind document as important, and he pointed out that it is always with him and weighs into the decisions he makes as a leader.

In the coming year, he wants to see some focus put on the Tyee House. He explained that when people come to the territory he wants them to have a place to do business – one that shows Huu-ay-aht has made an investment in its future. He praised the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses for having an even better year than before.

"I felt a different buzz in the community this year," he said. "More people are working and less attention is being paid to politics and more to running the businesses."

He said the Nation is doing a good job following and honouring the strategic plan, and he is confident this will continue and exceed expectations. He thanked senior staff for all of their hard work and stressed that nothing that was accomplished in the previous year would have been done without them.

"I want 2018 to be better year," he said. "This budget is bigger and better, and it reflects that the Nation cares about its people because they were consulted."

If you would like to hear more about what was discussed and decided at Huu-ay-aht's sitting of legislature, go to www.huuayaht.org.

New CEO sees great potential in future opportunities for HGB

By Heather Thomson

After an extensive search, the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses is happy to announce that Patrick Schmidt has accepted the CEO position with HGB.

Patrick started on Tuesday, February 13, and he looks forward to jumping right in. He moved to the Alberni Valley from Edmonton, where he gained extensive experience as an executive manager. He looks forward to the challenges that will come with his new job and is excited by all the possibilities he sees at HGB.



Patrick Schmidt

"The governance structure and processes will be a learning curve," he says. "But Bamfield is a gem that isn't polished yet. I see great development potential, and I'm looking forward to putting strategy in place that will help us reach our potential."

He sees the possibilities in front of him as "the long game," and he admits nothing is going to happen overnight.

"We're not going to do things for the short-term investment financial gain," he said. "We have to look at opportunities that will invest in the whole community."

Patrick comes from an extensive background, having worked for a number of organizations and companies. The strengths he brings to the job include corporate strategic and tactical planning, research and analytics, commercial and government negotiations, corporate development and leadership, and working with Indigenous government. He also has experience in strategic partnerships and joint ventures, business, corporate, and commercial development, and project management. He believes all of these skills will be of benefit to him in his new role with Huu-ay-aht.

Patrick has his Bachelor of Arts with a double major in history and political science from the University of British Columbia. He then went on to gain his Masters in Business Administration at McGill University. He says most of the skills he brings to the CEO position were gained during his more than 20 years of experience in management positions. He looks forward to taking the next natural step into a senior management career that will utilize his background.

He admits some parts of the job will be new to him, like forestry, but he is confident that the experience team HGB has already established will help him while he settles in to the new position.

"The Nation wants and needs something to happen, and it will be great when it does," he says. "We also have to meet the needs of the citizens and community, and it's not going to be easy, but it's neat stuff, and I look forward to it."

He also acknowledges there will be many challenges, such as a housing and skills shortage. He says that is where his background in community development comes in.

Patrick is originally from Vancouver and is excited to be returning to British Columbia. He is married and has two young children. His kids are in Grade 2 and 7, so he and his wife have decided to allow them to finish the school year in Edmonton. After that, his family will join him here. They plan on living in Port Alberni for most of the year. When the busy season kicks in, they will divide their time between the Alberni Valley and Bamfield.

HGB's new CEO says he is excited to meet his new neighbours and co-workers. If you see him around, stop and introduce yourself.



Na-naniiqsu gala another success

On November 26, 2017, Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted their second annual Na-naniiqsu (grandparents) gala.

In order to keep Huu-ay-aht's culture alive through their elder's teachings, Huu-ay-aht created an annual gala to fund raise for Huu-ay-aht elders. The funds raised allows them to document their culture, keep active, and attend support groups.

With generous donations from many local businesses, organization of the Huu-ay-aht Economic Development Department, and the support of many others, this year's Na-naniiqsu Gala was even more successful than last year, raising $17,300.

The evening was filled with cultural singing and dancing, auctions, and entertainment. Starting off the evening were Huu-ay-aht's singers and dancers, followed by the third-time world champion hoop dancer, Alex Wells. The evening wrapped up with the Ryder Bachman Band.

For information on Na-naniiqsu Gala, contact Cheryl E. at 250-723-0100.

Elk released in territory

By Kelda Larsen

Eighteen ɬuunim (Roosevelt elk) have been released into the our ḥahuuɬi to help restore our ecosystem and grow the herd for eventual harvest. The elk were relocated from a larger northern Vancouver Island group, in the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl First Nations, near Sayward. Ten cows, three immature bulls, and five one-year-olds were released. Some cows are expected to be pregnant, so this number will likely increase. This relocation is part of a long-term plan to increase and stabilize the Sarita population.

"It's certainly exciting and a benefit to our ḥahuuɬi," says Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters). "'What you take out you must put back in' is a philosophy my late father, Tayii Spencer Peters, stood strong on. This elk relocation is a reflection of his belief in maintaining a healthy balance in our territory. As the current Tayii of my tribe, it gives me great pride to carry this out by putting life - elk - into our territory."

The relocation is part of the province's West Coast Roosevelt Elk Augmentation and Recovery Project, and it was conducted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development Wildlife Branch, with consultation with Huu-ay-aht and the Kwakiutl District Council. Multiple partners contributed to the funding of this project, including FLNRORD, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Huu-ay-aht and FLNRO share a common goal: to increase the ɬuunim population and prevent decline into an "at-risk" species designation. Under the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, relocation is the primary tool for population growth.

At this time, ɬuunim harvesting allocation will remain the same – with a draw for one male elk allocated to the Nation from the Klanawa Elk Population Unit each year. We will need to wait a number of years for the Sarita population to grow enough for us to negotiate a harvest. For hunting to be sustainable, target is population is 97 animals with right mix of cows, calves and bulls.

"It is my responsibility to look after the care of Huu-ay-aht people, culture, land, resources, history, and environment," ƛiišin says. "These resources gave my people purpose and life. We've been here for thousands of years, and we are not going away. We will continue to utilize my territory for the benefit of now and for generations to come. With healthy relationships with government and ministries, good things can happen. This is a good example of contributing towards a healthy balance in Huu-ay-aht territory."

It is our job now as a community to be stewards of this herd, protecting and strengthening the small herd. Some of the new animals were collared for tracking purposes; there is no guarantee that they will remain in the Sarita area, but we are hopeful that they will. Everyone is encouraged to support elk monitoring efforts by reporting local sighting to the HFN Lands and Natural Resources office and by reporting any activity you suspect might not be in keeping with ʔiisaak or ʔuuʔałuk to the B.C. Conservation Officers Service.