Huu-ay-aht
# Uyaqhmis
A Rich History, A Bright Future.

November 2014 Issue 34

# People's Assembly an opportunity for Nation to gather for two days

Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens will gather together for the fourth annual People's Assembly on November 29 and 30 at the Best Western Barclay Hotel.

The two-day event will be an opportunity for families to reunite and for the Nation to accomplish some of its annual business and voting. At last year's assembly, organizers were told by citizens in attendance that they wanted a longer event and that it should be held in one location.

Last year it was only one day, and people were invited to connect to the assembly by video-conferencing as well as in person. With those suggestions in mind, the organizing committee set out to make this year's assembly the best it has ever been.




Youth participate in a cultural event by sharing their songs and dances with the people in attendance at the 2013 People's Assembly at the Best Western Barclay Hotel. [Photo by Denny Durocher]

The Nation has rented all of the rooms at the Best Western in Port Alberni and is inviting citizens to travel to the city and stay at the hotel on Saturday night.

"We want people to know we listened to what they wanted and are trying to make it work," explained Charlie Clappis, one of the organizing committee and a Huu-ay-aht councillor. "It is always a challenge to get everyone together, but we're hoping offering hotel rooms will make it easier."

He said the video-conferencing was worth trying, but it did not work and negatively affected their quorum.

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# Huu-ay-aht Around Town



Judy Johnson, Arianna Johnson-Sabbis, Sarah Johnson and Martha Johnson dance for Benson Nookemis at the Eileen Haggard Memorial potlatch on Saturday, October 25 at Tseshaht First Nations Maht Mahs Gym.

## Grand prize winner gets tickets for four to Disneyland

It is important that the Nation attract a quorum to the event so that citizens can vote on motions and have their voices count.

He said last year the assembly attracted more citizens than ever before, and the committee is hoping to build on that success. This year all participants will be entered into a draw for a trip to Disneyland for a family of four, along with lots of other door prizes.

Most of the business and voting will take place during the day on Saturday, followed by a dinner, a cultural night and entertainment. Sunday will be reserved for any overflow.

"It will be a nice mix of business and information sharing," Charlie Clappis explained. "There will be opportunities to break into informal groups and enjoy more relaxed sessions."

He said last year's popular photo booth with Denny Durocher will also return on Saturday for people interested in getting family pictures done.

The event will kick off with a breakfast and registration from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Information sessions will follow, until approximately 12:30 p.m. The opening ceremonies and a lunch takes place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The voting session will run until 5 p.m. This will be followed by a presentation from William Nikolakis, who is carrying out a research project, in partnership with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Harvard Project on American Indian Development, designed to examine where traditional and modern governance approaches are being combined to achieve success. Dinner will then take place, followed by a cultural night. Sunday breakfast and a social will be held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The day will wrap up following an open mic session.

This year the theme is "Building on our Success," and the committee is hoping to acknowledge some of Huu-ay-aht's citizens. When you register for the assembly, make sure to offer a suggestion as to who you think should be recognized by the Nation for their accomplishments or contributions.

You can register by going online at huuayaht.org. If you or someone you know would like to register but does not have access to the Internet, you can register by calling 250-723-0100.


Huu-ay-aht
First Nations
A Rich History, A Bright Future


We, the Huu-ay-aht people, envision a proud, self-governing, and sovereign nation. Isaak will guide us as we work together to establish a healthy, prosperous and self-sustaining community where our culture, language, spirituality and economy flourish for the benefit of all Huu-ay-aht.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times per year 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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# Research project examines Huu-ay-aht governance

William Nikolakis has spent more than a decade studying what governance structures are most important in order to gain success in economic development.

After meeting with Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Director James Edwards approximately a year ago, William is now turning his attention to Huu-ay-aht. He is carrying out a research project, in partnership with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Harvard Project on American Indian Development, designed to examine where traditional and modern governance approaches are being combined to achieve success.

William has extensive experience working with Aboriginal Peoples in Australia, where he obtained his doctorate on economic development. William is a fellow at UBC and his work has focused on Indigenous governance and economic development. His PhD thesis focused on the Northern Territory of Australia and examined the factors that encourage success in Aboriginal business enterprises.

His work has largely focused on forestry, water and Indigenous governance. William recently published a book entitled "Globalization and Forests: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development." He is currently working on a book with Prof. Stephen Cornell and Dr. Harry Nelson entitled "Indigenous Self Governance: An International Perspective."

> ***"Achieving good governance is an important step towards economic self-sufficiency."***
> ***William Nikolakis, Fellow at UBC***

His research with Huu-ay-aht is part of elected four case studies across Canada. He will be drawing on the expertise of Professor Cornell, from the University of Arizona and Assistant Professor Nelson from UBC, to help advise on the case studies. The major premise of the Harvard Project, which has over two decades of empirical research in the US and Canada, is that effective governance will help support economic development.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is one of the four case studies he will be examining. With Huu-ay-aht, he will provide advice on three major questions the Nations wants to address: the role of the Ḥaw̓iiḥ (hereditary chiefs) in social justice, the appropriate role of elders in governance, and the link between governance and successful economic development.

"This work is obviously important," he explains. "Achieving good governance is an important step towards economic self-sufficiency."

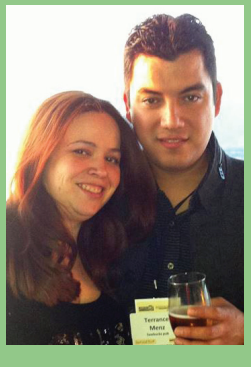
He says the research will provide options for Huu-ay-aht to consider in thinking about the relationship between governance and economic development.

William and his assistants have conducted interviews with community leaders, elders and citizens to understand the three questions they are exploring. The next step will be conducting community forums to follow up with citizens and gather more information. They hope to conduct the next set of interviews in the coming months, and be able to talk with citizens and present information at the Peoples' Assembly on November 29 and 30. The final report will be completed by December 30.

"Governance is dynamic, it needs to adapt," he says. "So once you get governance right, you have to keep working on it."

# Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

**Home Visits**
If you would like to hear more about the partnership between Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Steelhead LNG and the proposed Project, you can arrange a home visit. To set up a visit, please call 250-723-0100. When you call, please provide your preference on who you would like to visit you.
**Saturday and Sunday, November 29 and 30, 2014**
HFN People's Assembly at the Best Western Barclay.



## Congratulations

**A big congratulations goes out to Nicole Williams and Terrance (Terry) Menz on their upcoming wedding. The couple will be married in Surrey on February 16. He is Cree, from Pasqua First Nations in Saskatchewan, and she is Huu-ay-aht. They have been together for six years and share two boys. Together they are raising five children. They are looking for drummers for their wedding, and Simon Dennis has agreed to preside over the ceremony. If you can drum, contact her on Facebook.**

Do you have an event or announcement you would like included in the community calendar? Email us at communications@huuayaht.org, and we will include it.

# Huu-ay-aht youth blows away the competition at provincial BMX races

Aubrey Rayner only started competing in BMX races this year, but right away won 10 straight victories to make it to expert class, which helped her leave her mark on the sport.

The 10-year-old Huu-ay-aht youth discovered the sport about a eight months ago, and since then she has been winning races and having a lot of fun.

"I've always liked biking," she says. "I used to mountain bike, but this is so much fun, and I really like to compete now."

Since she started racing, Aubrey has won a number of Vancouver Island championships in both girls class and cruiser races. Class features a 20-inch wheel on the bike (pictured here) and cruiser is a 24-inch wheel. At the end of the season, Aubrey placed second in the province on her class bike. She was ranked fifth in class and fourth in cruiser going into the Grand National race in Chilliwack on October 10 to the 12.

The national races featured the best riders from around the nation, and Aubrey proved she deserved to be there by being ranked fourth in cruiser and fifth in the class, for the 2014 race season.

She says by placing well in the 2014 season, she will have earned a lower number on her plate for the 2015 race season. In 2014 she was given the No. 204, as it was her first year racing. Next year she will be given the No. 4 in class and No. 2 in cruiser.

The Grand Nationals mark the official end of the season for Aubrey, but she says that doesn't mean she won't be riding this winter. She says she will be training and racing at the Abbotsford indoor track, as well as in the US at the Peninsula indoor track.

She says she also loves the sport because it is something she gets to do with her father, Stephen Rayner.

"My dad and I ride a lot together, it's how I got started."

And with the off-season ahead of her, she plans on doing a lot of riding with her dad.

"I really enjoy having something I can do with my dad," she says. "I ride my bike with my friends, but they don't do this kind of thing."




Aubrey Rayner races on her class bike in the 2014 Grand National BMX competition in Chilliwack on October 10 to 12. [Raven's Light Photography]

She says through the sport she has made lots of friends, and she looks forward to continuing next season. She says lots of girls are getting into the sport, and that makes it a lot of fun.

As for her future goals, she wants to go to the Olympics.

"Next year I want to be No. 1," she says, "so I have to keep riding my bike lots and training hard."

# Nation leads the way by offering a living wage to its employees

Huu-ay-aht is the only First Nations community in Canada to adopt a living wage policy for all of its employees.

Out of respect of all Huu-ay-aht employees, executive council voted in favour of implementing a living wage policy on Friday, October 24. This will require that some adjustments of the minimum wage amounts in the existing wage and salary structure for employees. The decision was made based on the belief that B.C.'s current minimum wage is not high enough to meet the needs of families to promote health and wellbeing.

Huu-ay-aht believes people should not have to decide between paying rent and feeding their family, and with today's high cost of living, this is a reality many people face. According to the Living Wage for Families Campaign, in 2013, 1.8 million employed people in Canada do not make enough to pull themselves above the poverty level. Many are forced to rely on food banks in order to get by.

British Columbia has the second highest child poverty rate in Canada, and low wages are a key contributor. The 2013 Child Poverty Report Card found that 32% of poor children, more than 44,500 in BC, live in families with at least one adult working full time.

Huu-ay-aht believes that work should lift families out of poverty not keep them there.

"Too many of our people are living on minimum wage or below the poverty line," explained Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook. "It is our hope that this will offer our employees choices other than to just survive and live pay cheque to pay cheque."

In 2010, New Westminster became the first municipality to adopt a living wage policy. Currently, according to Living Wage Canada, 15 municipalities have calculated what their living wage would be. The range of wages is between $14.60 (Cranbrook) and $20.10 (Vancouver).

The living wage that has been calculated for Port Alberni is $17.22 per hour, or $33,579 annually. Using the Canadian Living Wage Framework as its guide, Huu-ay-aht has agreed to adopt this as their minimum wage. By doing so, it becomes the second community in BC to adopt a living wage policy for its employees.

"The Treaty has given us the ability to make decisions based on our values and goals, and implement those decisions in accordance with our own laws. The living wage policy shows how the Treaty gives us the ability to chart our own future," said Councillor Tom Mexsis Happynook. "We have a long way to go to meet or exceed the living standards of Canadians, but this is a great step in the right direction."

A living wage is different from minimum wage in that it takes into account the amount a family needs to cover basic expenses. These are the barebones costs with no extras, but it is calculated as a total compensation, including wage and benefits. Where the minimum wage focuses on the needs of a lone individual, the living wage focuses on the needs of families and includes medical and health needs, food security, transportation, and skills development.

Huu-ay-aht wants more for its employees and its citizens. Part of the Huu-ay-aht Strategic Plan is to become an 'Employer of Choice' in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. In order to foster a dedicated, skilled and healthy workforce, Huu-ay-aht First Nations believes it must pay a living wage to all of its employees. By doing so, they are making a significant investment in the future and building long-term prosperity for the economy.

In the September issue of the newsletter, it should have indicated that Kristen Young organized the fundraising for Huu-ay-aht athletes at the Tlu-piich Games. We apologize for this name error.

## Get Involved!

## Register Now for the People's Assembly

Huu-ay-aht First Nations People's Assembly is November 29 & 30
Register online at http://huuayaht.org or by calling 250-723-0100
Lots of door prizes including a Grand Prize of **a trip for a family of four to Disneyland**
Accommodations and child minding supplied

# Community Engagements wrap up, still lots of ways to get information

The countdown is on to the People's Assembly on November 29 and 30 at the Best Western Barclay.

With only a couple of weeks left, Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht First Nations want citizens to be ready for the vote on the proposed LNG project in Sarita Bay on November 29.

Even though a number of community engagements sessions have been held, citizens still have a lot of questions about the proposed Project. Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG want to make sure citizens have all of the information they need on the proposed Project so they are comfortable making an informed decision at the People's Assembly.

Leading up to the People's Assembly there are still many opportunities to get information on the proposed Project, including an information session at the assembly. Representatives from Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG are available for home visits, which can either be one-on-one or as a group or family gathering. To arrange a meeting to gather more information, call 250-723-0100.

One of the key questions they are hearing is about the upcoming vote to explore the proposed Project.

At the Assembly, citizens will be asked if they would like to see the conversation continue between Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht, which would grant Huu-ay-aht permission to a lease of the lands at Sarita Bay to Steelhead LNG. The questions is necessary in order to go on to the second phase, which would include conducting environmental, technical, traditional use and other studies, which will provide answers to many of the questions on the proposed Project. It is not a vote to determine if the facility should be built. That will be determined by the results of the studies carried out in the next phase and on the feedback Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht hears at any point in the timeline of the proposed Project.



Citizens of all ages gathered in Nanaimo for the Community Engagement Session on October 27.

It should be made clear that the vote is binding, and if the vote is a "no" then the proposed Project will be abandoned. That means there will be no testing to establish if the proposed Project is feasible, no training and employment opportunities and no spin-off projects and opportunities, such as stream enhancements and spin-off jobs. On the other hand, if citizens vote "yes," it means that further research would be conducted to determine if the project is right for Huu-ay-aht.

"No means it ends at the vote," said Huu-ay-aht councillor John Jack in Port Alberni. "But yes means maybe."

As John Jack explained, these studies would be expensive (an estimated cost of over $20 million), so Steelhead LNG wants to know that Huu-ay-aht citizens are interested in exploring the proposed Project before the money is invested.

"They are asking us permission to look at the project," John Jack said. "That's what the vote is about."

He added that, because Steelhead LNG approached Huu-ay-aht from the beginning, it is a unique relationship. They came to the community first because it is important to them to get it right and include Huu-ay-aht as equal partners. John Jack said it is a relationship built on trust and respect.

Steelhead LNG CEO Nigel Kuzemko said the site in Sarita Bay was private land, and the company could have gone in and purchased it without contacting Huu-ay-aht,

# Steelhead says time to shift from protection to enhancement

but they decided to approach Huu-ay-aht from day one to ask if Huu-ay-aht would like to explore the proposed Project as partners. As a result, Huu-ay-aht decided to purchase the land so that they have a say in what happens on it.

Huu-ay-aht Executive Director James Edwards said the vote essentially asks citizens if they agree to lease the land to Steelhead LNG so that they can further explore the viability of building an LNG facility there.

The next phase will involve extensive assessments of all factors involved in potentially developing an LNG facility at Sarita Bay. Nigel Kuzemko said it is essential that Huu-ay-aht be involved in this process because the development would be on Huu-ay-aht territory. Steelhead has extensive knowledge about LNG, but not about the land and its importance in Huu-ay-aht culture and traditions. For this reason, Huu-ay-aht has the opportunity to be a teacher as well as a partner.

"If the conditions we set together aren't met, then it's over. The studies have to be done to show it's acceptable to Huu-ay-aht First Nations," Nigel Kuzemko

Jobs are already being created as a result of this proposed Project, and more are on the way. The research phase would create opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens, and Huu-ay-aht First Nations expects it would need as many as 15 new employees to keep up with the workload the proposed Project creates. Should it move forward, the opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens are extensive.

"We want to create conditions so that half of the community chooses to come back home," Huu-ay-aht Councillor John Jack said.



Citizens gathered in Victoria for their first Community Engagement Session on October 28.

"It is easier to regain your culture if people are working. If successful in bringing people home, we will be on our land in a way we haven't seen for many years."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Director James Edwards said if the proposed Project does meet all of the requirements and regulations and the facility is constructed, it would bring in more money in a year than the Nation could possibly spend.

"It could sustain the Nation for 250 years," he said.

That is important because it would allow Huu-ay-aht to invest in the future. John Jack said this includes such things as infrastructure, community recreation, school and culture items, as well as the economy and environmental enhancement, such as Sarita River restoration.

Nigel Kuzemko said it makes smart business sense to hire as many Huu-ay-aht citizens as possible, given their knowledge of the area and the land.

"Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens are the perfect ones to hire," he added. "They are already at home there. But the preparation and training must start now."

With that in mind, Huu-ay-aht has entered into talks with North Island College and Vancouver Island University. They are working on an agreement that would see the creation of suitable training programs and ensure there are spots set aside in those programs for Huu-ay-aht students.

Nigel Kuzmeko said in addition to training and employment, the proposed Project should generate wealth that can be used to enhance Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

He said, when it comes to the environment and lands, it is time to shift the conversation from protection to enhancement.

He said, if the proposed Project moves to the next phase, Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht could commit to trying to enhance the salmon spawning stream, for example.

"We always talk about protecting the environment, but we want to talk about enhancing it," he said. "We can help bring it back. Why say let's protect it? Why not say let's enhance it?"

John Jack said the revenue the proposed Project could create would enable the Nation to do work within their territory that would protect what is important to them and bring people back to live and work on their territory.

# Trip to India offers opportunity for Huu-ay-aht to share culture

## Nation makes important connections on trade mission with B.C. Premier

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Councillor John Jack says one of the biggest benefits a recent trade trip to India was an unscheduled opportunity to share information on his culture.

John Jack was joined by Huu-ay-aht Executive Director James Edwards to take part in the Premier's India Trade Mission 2014. Representatives from the Port Alberni Port Authority and Steelhead LNG also participated in the trip, which took place on October 9 to the 18. It was a chance to explore opportunities and offer exposure to two of Huu-ay-aht's most important projects – the transshipment hub and the proposed LNG facility in Sarita Bay.



An outdoor laundry in Mumbai, know as Dhobi Ghat, was one of the sites the group visited.

John Jack said they certainly had many opportunities to achieve their main goal of the trip, but he added that he was also invited to talk about First Nations culture in British Columbia during the LNG session. He said this was an unexpected benefit of the trip.

"It gives business people in India a better understanding of First Nations culture here," he said. "That is important because often there are misconceptions, and it's important that they hear that we are open and welcoming and can be a benefit to them."

He said the talk was well received. He believes many of the people there could relate to some of First Nations' struggles of the past because of their experience in India with colonization.

"When we are discussing signing agreements, these things are important," he said. "We need to share our 'open for business' message."

In addition to the many networking opportunities presented during the trade mission, it was also productive for everyone involved, especially Huu-ay-aht's partner in the proposed LNG project, Steelhead LNG. They signed a letter of



Huu-ay-aht Councillor John Jack discovered just how impressive India is as soon as he got off the plane in Mumbai, as it was one of the most amazing buildings he has ever seen.

# People's Assembly goes high tech




This year, the People's Assembly on November 29 and 30 will be taking voting to a new, high-tech iclicker system. This will make tallying the votes fast and efficient, with results available almost immediately. Most importantly, the clickers are easy to use and will be labelled, to avoid any confusion at voting time. If you want to find out more about these clickers, go to YouTube and search "how to use an iclicker." There are a few useful videos available.



The trip was an opportunity for Huu-ay-aht First Nations representatives to make important connections. One of the people involved in the trip was Rajani Alexander, the Consulate General of Canada for Chandigarh (India), pictured above with Huu-ay-aht Executive Director James Edwards, who took part in the trade mission.



From the plane, the smog above this power plant in India shows the challenge air quality is in Asia.

# Air quality drives home importance of LNG project

intent regarding LNG with an Indian company. Although the agreement is non-binding and in the early stages, it is a good sign for the future, should the LNG facility be successful.

John Jack said British Columbia timber also attracted a lot of attention. Traditionally, there is not a lot of wood construction in India, but the market is increasing. As interest in timber framing homes grows, so does the search for a reliable supply of wood. For that reason, the Port Alberni Transshipment Hub garnered a lot of attention during the trade mission.

John Jack said this was a good start to doing business in India, but they would have to continue to work on building relationships in that part of the world.

"This was a great first step," he said. "We have to make connections and understand each other if we are to capitalize on opportunities in India in the future."

John Jack said the trip also drove home the importance of being part of the solution when it comes to air quality issues. He said the air there while they were visiting was bad by North American standards, and he was surprise, especially in Mumbai.

"You take health risks every time you step outside your door," he said. "We need to find energy sources, like LNG, that have a positive impact on their lives, as well as globally."

# Huu-ay-aht wins compensation for illegal IR1 timber licence

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is celebrating a victory in a long-fought legal battle against the Canadian government and Canada's decision not to appeal.

On July 15, 2014, Justice Whalen, of the Specific Claims Tribunal, found that the Canadian government owes Huu-ay-aht compensation for breaching its fiduciary duties to Huu-ay-aht in relation to a forest licence on Numukamis Indian Reserve No. 1 (IR1), that it illegally issued to Bloedel Stewart and Welsh (BSW) in 1942 and failed to cancel despite Huu-ay-aht's request that it do so.

This decision is a resounding victory for the Nation. The victory has even broader significance because it is the first compensation decision issued by the Specific Claims Tribunal. Canada has chosen not to appeal the decision.

"These are the types of issues we continue to face on an ongoing basis, and this is an important moral victory for us," elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook explains.

The key issues in the case were whether Canada breached its fiduciary duty to Huu-ay-aht in 1948 when it ignored concerns raised by the nation about the illegal timber licence and Huu-ay-aht's requests to have it cancelled and, if so, what compensation is owed to Huu-ay-aht as a result.

"This achievement is a major milestone to celebrate. This area is part of the heart of Huu-ay-aht," explains Stan Coleman, CEO of Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses. "Now the work begins on compensation and implementation of restoration plans."

**1938 - Huu-ay-aht surrenders timber**
**1942 - illegal licence issued**
**1948 - formal complaint filed**
**2005 - Huu-ay-aht files claim**
**2014 - Tribunal sides with Nation**

In 1938, Huu-ay-aht surrendered timber on IR1 to Canada, on the condition that it would be sold on terms most conducive to Huu-ay-aht's welfare. Canada then, in 1942, provided BSW with a 21-year renewable licence to harvest the timber, despite it being illegal under the *Indian Act* and *Island Timber Regulations* to issue that kind of long-term lease.

In 1948, Huu-ay-aht sent a formal petition to Canada asking for the licence to be cancelled on the basis that the licence was illegal, not in their best interests and that timber prices had risen significantly since 1942. No trees had been cut at that time and Huu-ay-aht argued that a new deal could be drawn up with BSW or another company.

Canada ignored Huu-ay-aht's request, failed to investigate the issue and continued to automatically re-issue the licence. For the next 20 years, BSW, later MacMillan Bloedel, harvested timber from IR1. Despite Canada having acknowledged in 1968 that it could terminate the licence, logging continued for two more years.

"In 2005, Huu-ay-aht recognized that we had a legitimate and strong claim and filed a claim against Canada," Cook said.

In 2011, no negotiated resolution had been reached, and Huu-ay-aht filed its claim with the Specific Claims Tribunal. On November 12-14, 2013, the claim was heard in Anacla before Justice Whalen.

In his decision, Justice Whalen ruled that Canada ought to have paid more attention to Huu-ay-aht's concerns, finding that "Canada committed numerous breaches of its fiduciary duty to the Huu-ay-aht." These included agreeing to the long-term renewable licence, selling the timber on terms that were outside those on which Huu-ay-aht had surrendered it to Canada, repeatedly failing to consult with Huu-ay-aht and failing to protect the Huu-ay-aht's interests by cancelling the unlawful licence.

Justice Whalen held that as a result, Huu-ay-aht suffered damages including the loss of timber revenues and reduction in the value of the timber on IR1 and that Canada must compensate the Huu-ay-aht for these damages.

Justice Whalen awarded close to $280,000 in 1948 dollars to the Huu-ay-aht for lost revenue, less the amount Huu-ay-aht actually received and concluded that Canada's failure to cancel the licence in 1948 significantly reduced the value of the timber because regeneration of the timber was delayed and uneven. The tribunal ordered Canada to pay Huu-ay-aht just over $1.5 million in 2012 dollars for the reduction in the IR1's timber value, but did not determine what the present-day value of the compensation award would be. This remains to be determined either through negotiations or, if necessary, at a second phase of the hearing.

"We are very pleased that the Specific Claims Tribunal has recognized Canada's failure to act in Huu-ay-aht's best interests and has found that we are entitled to damages for that failure," Cook says. "It is our hope that we will be able to negotiate a reasonable settlement with Canada without the need for a further costly tribunal hearing."

# Cultural Corner - Na čą School Project













A project that started almost a year ago wrapped up on October 30 when the Bamfield Community School received it's very own na čą (nutchauah). The project began when Const. Peter Batt noticed the students were using a spatula instead of a na čą to lead its singing. He contacted Conservation Officer Lorne Rinkle and requested an eagle. In December 2013, Peter Batt and Lorne Rinkle presented an eagle to the class for cultural and educational purposes. In return, the students gave both men a gift and blanketed them. On May 5, the students held a traditional lunch to honour the life of the eagle. On that day, Ron Hamilton came to the Anacla carving shed to show the students how to remove the feathers in order to make their own na čą. Huu-ay-aht councillor for the area, Charlie Clappis was present at the event. It was such a busy day, with students visiting from Frog Lake, Alberta, that they did not complete the project. The eagle was put in the freezer, and on October 10, Ron Hamilton and Cheryl Thomas finished removing the feathers and got the na čą ready for the students. On October 30, Cheryl Thomas and Coral Johnson presented the completed na čą to the class. Jayson and Sierra Nookemus accepted it, on behalf of their class.




Huu-ay-aht First Nations have purchased the old Sears building on Adelaide Street for the future home of their Port Alberni Government Office.

# Huu-ay-aht secures new office for Port Alberni administration staff

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has purchased a new building, and it will be moving its Port Alberni administration staff to the new location on Adelaide Street.

Since May, the staff in Port Alberni has grown by a dozen people. Huu-ay-aht Government is becoming a major employer in the Alberni Valley, and this dynamic organization is developing exciting business opportunities for its citizens. In order to take advantage of this, Huu-ay-aht requires ample space close to the business sector of Port Alberni to facilitate communication between its citizens, partners and the other area First Nations.

Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook said with the additional staff, Huu-ay-aht has outgrown its current office on the corner of Third Avenue and Napier Street.

Following an extensive search and feasibility study to determine the suitability of properties throughout the Alberni Valley, Huu-ay-aht has secured a new office space for administration in Port Alberni. The new facility is located off the main Johnston corridor and provides easy access for citizens, business partners, political officials and tourists alike. Located at 4644 Adelaide Street, in the old Sears building across from the Buy-Low centre, it will provide ample space to do business.

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> ***Jeff Cook, Chief Councillor***

Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook said that more than 80% of citizens live off Treaty Settlement Lands, so an administration building in Port Alberni makes sense.

"As we build opportunities and create jobs in our Nation, the goal is to bring people home," the chief councillor explained. "With success, a time will come that it makes sense to move administration to the Anacla Government Office. Until that time, it is necessary to have a suitable office space in Port Alberni to provide administration and services to our people."

He said difficult road access also poses a challenge, but that should improve in the future as Huu-ay-aht explores more opportunities for its citizens.

The new Adelaide Street property met or exceeded all outlined criteria and will provide Huu-ay-aht with a strong visible presence in the Alberni Valley. The many future projects that Huu-ay-aht is planning will take commitment and staff to complete, and that requires a suitable work space. This new building offers the optimal environment for everyone to work together to achieve a common goal of enhancing the quality of life of Huu-ay-aht citizens now and for future generations.