Uyaqḥmis

November 2019 Issue 53



Premier John Horgan's visit starts action plan for future road upgrades

By Heather Thomson

Premier John Horgan lived up to a promise made in September and travelled the Bamfield Main road to Anacla to discuss the province's engineering report and future upgrades.

Horgan said he was pleased to see all of the stakeholders at the table, including Western Forest Products, Mosaic, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions, Bamfield director for Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Bob Beckett, and MLA Scott Fraser. The group shared a meal at the House of Huu-ay-aht before breaking in to a smaller group for more discussions on November 14.

"Together we have the tools we need to make significant upgrades to the road. We have met in a respectful way, and it is clear we are all committed to take the necessary steps to reach our Nation's top goal of chip sealing the Bamfield road," explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "By visiting our community, the Premier has a better understanding of how important it is to ensure this vital link is safe for all who travel the road."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is pleased that the Premier took the time to travel to the Nation's main village and is optimistic it will lead to significant upgrades to the road.

Continued on Page 3



Left to right: James Nookemus, Stella Peters, Trevor Cootes, Jayson Nookemus, Ed Johnson Sr., Connie Waddell, Robert J. Dennis Sr., ƛicitaṯ Edward R. Johnson, MP Gord Johns, and Richard Nookemus. (Photo by Heather Thomson)

Election results look good for Me-Too Clause

Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni Gord Johns received a strong show of support in the 2019 Federal Election. He was re-elected for another four years and will sit with the NDP in Ottawa. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was also re-elected, and his Liberal Party will return to Parliament with a minority government this term.

This is good news for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, because the Liberals and Gord Johns have both committed to finding a solution to the ongoing discussions around Huu-ay-aht's Me-Too Clause and Side Agreement.

During the election race, Huu-ay-aht asked the Liberals about the Me-Too Clause and they responded "If the Liberal Party is re-elected, we will engage with Huu-ay-aht and other Maa-nulth First Nations on matters related to both the Me-Too Clause and the Me-Too Side Agreement."

Prior to the election, Huu-ay-aht Executive Council, administrative staff, and fishers met with Gord Johns.

Huu-ay-aht took the opportunity to focus on fisheries issues, such as working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on policy changes that will enable
Huu-ay-aht fishers to fish and make a reasonable living, enacting the "me too" clause and agreement (see August Uyaqḥmis), salmon renewal and enhancement and creating new opportunities. Elected Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. also shared stories of Huu-ay-aht's strong history of boat building, and acknowledged present fishers and recognized the fishers unable to attend.

Gord Johns followed the comments by Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. and our fishers by discussing how he values the relationship with Huu-ay-aht and the other Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. The MP acknowledged British Columbia is experiencing a salmon crisis. He would like to see a full salmon crisis campaign to support salmon fisheries including restoration and seeing licences in the hands of fishers, and a conclusion to the Ahousaht et al case.

After the meeting, the group headed down to the Bamfield dock to look at James Nookemus' boat, Nawanhe II and gather for the Kiixin Tour. The tour was led by Stella Peters with additional comments and stories from Robert J. Dennis Sr., Ed Johnson Sr., Councillor Edward R. Johnson, and Councillor Connie Waddell. This tour allowed Huu-ay-aht to give our MP a glimpse of Huu-ay-aht's connection to the land and sea, and why fisheries and ocean resource harvesting are a central piece of Huu-ay-aht culture.

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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

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

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

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:
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Bus crash prompts discussion on Bamfield Main

From Front Page



Bamfield ACRD Director Bob Beckett, Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions, Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr., Premier John Horgan, Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters), and MLA Scott Fraser take a moment to remember the lives lost on the Bamfield Road almost two months ago. Huu-ay-aht Councillor ƛicitaṭḥ Edward R. Johnson and Ḥaẇiɬ Jeff Cook do a prayer on Thursday. (Photos by Heather Thomson)

This included a traditional greeting as he arrived in Huu-ay-aht's territory and a small gathering to pay their respects at the site of the September 13 bus crash that claimed the lives of two young University of Victoria students on their way to the Bamfield Marine Research Centre.

The fatal crash brought to light the need for improvements on the dangerous 85-kilometre stretch of logging road. Huu-ay-aht First Nations has been actively trying to work with all levels of government to address the safety challenges this vital link poses for its citizens and others who travel the road. As a result of the crash and the media attention it attracted, Premier John Horgan agreed to meet to discuss the issue during the Union of B.C. Municipalities. The meeting in Anacla on November 14 was the result of that meeting in September.

Huu-ay-aht has been working diligently for decades to chipseal the Bamfield road, but the fatal bus crash that claimed the lives of two University of Victoria students highlighted the urgency of the safety concerns. Since the Bamfield road opened in the 1970s, Huu-ay-aht has lost eight citizens and witnessed countless accidents along this dangerous stretch of logging road.

Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) says by committing to find a solution to this issue the Premier is honouring our elders and the Nation's sacred principles of ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care of….), and Hišuk ma c̓awak (Everything is One), which guide us as we do business.

While in Anacla, the Premier directed the representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure present at the meeting to form an action group with Huu-ay-aht and other key stakeholders to create a plan to upgrade the road.

Chief Dennis says the engineering report on the road carried out by the province does not dispute that there is an urgent need for upgrades but focuses on what approach to take. He says this offers him hope that the Province and Huu-ay-aht can find a timely, creative solution that works for everyone. He is excited to work with the Province on this important issue as reconciliation is about moving forward together.

Huu-ay-aht showed their appreciation to the Premier by presenting him with a traditional name – Yaṡuk ma tašii (Yatsuk ma tashii), which means "he who walks the path."

Congratulations to our 2019 ƛiišin Academic Excellence Award Recipients

Grade 4
Emma August
Hanna Speck
Kensie Johnson-Sabbas
Leira Young
Saryta Dick
Sylvia Joe
Tabytha Wilson

Grade 5
Daniel Speck
Madison Lucas
Summer Little
Taylor Parcher

Grade 6
Dannika Lopez
Gaige Manson
Mackenzie Parcher

Grade 7
Emily Ginger
Olivia Peters
Tehya Anderson

Grade 9
Dakota Joseph

Grade 12
Talen Adair

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ḤAẃIIḤ COUNCIL, AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

HUU-AY-AHT GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
DECEMBER 23, 2019–JANUARY 6, 2020

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Building a Healthy and Safe Community
CRIMESTOPPERS

WE WANT YOUR INFORMATION, NOT YOUR NAME

1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
bccrimestoppers.com

What if they find out?
Will I be safe?
Will everyone get mad at me?

Crime Stoppers is an annonymous way for people to report information about crime

hišimy̓uuƛ
Gather Together

Join us for an update on:

- Social Service Project Evaluation
- Economic Development Plan

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Dinner served at 5 p.m.
Meeting starts at 6 p.m.

Bring your shawls and drums for Culture Night

Anacla
Government Office
Monday, December 2

Port Alberni
Barclay Hotel
Tuesday, December 3

Vancouver
Atrium Inn (2889 E Hastings)
Wednesday, December 4

Victoria
Comfort Inn & Suites
Monday, December 9

Nanaimo
Coast Bastion
Tuesday, December 10

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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

ʔačaqɬaḥak (a-chuck-thle-huk) - What's your name?



ɬuunim - elk



čims - bear



Ḵayuumin - cougar



ʕaatuš - deer



Qʷayaċiik - wolf

Talking about ɬuunim in our ḥahuuɬi

By Christine Gruman, Lands and Resources Specialist

ɬuunim Update

The Nation is continuing to track the progress of ɬuunim herds in the Sarita and Pachena watersheds – hoping that with good stewardship, our Treaty Allocation from the ḥahuuɬi will increase before long.

Through the wildlife component of our watershed renewal program, a network of trail cameras installed in different forest types and environments, is helping us to see how ɬuunim and ʕaatuš are using the landscape and will inform planning of activities on the land. The cameras also help us better understand how and what carnivores like ḵayuumin, qʷayaċiik, and čims (and the occasional human) are doing and how much they might be influencing ʕaatuš and ɬuunim numbers.

Early observations indicate that the 2018 translocation was successful and that the population is growing. This spring, some of the ten translocated cow elk were photographed with new calves, and last year's young still looking healthy. It's still too early to be certain, but it appears that the translocated elk are staying in the Sarita-Pachena "Elk Population Unit." However, it is expected to take several years without hunting until there will be enough to for harvesting to be sustainable.

According to BC's Roosevelt Elk Management Plan (available online), the number of elk that can be sustainably harvested is tied to several indicators that a population is doing well. The overall number of animals is the most obvious one. For Sarita, the target is set at 97. There also needs to be the right balance of mature males and females. Generally, the sweet spot is at least one bull for every five cows (to make sure all potential mamas carry a calf each year), with at least three out of 10 bulls being branch-antlered. Finally, the number of calves compared to cows is monitored to ensure enough young are surviving threats like predation and bad winters.

Treaty ɬuunim Allocations

Currently, the only population in our ḥahuuɬi that is healthy enough to sustain a harvest is in the Klanawa. Because we have overlapping territory there, the First Nations harvest is split with our Ditidaht neighbours and our allocation is one buck per year.

Maa-nulth Elk Allocations are described in the Treaty. They differ if the population unit is in exclusive or shared First Nation's territory. In hunt zones where two Nations overlap, the Maa-nulth allocation is 25% of the total allowable harvest. This get rounded to the nearest whole number (so no one has to try harvesting only 67% of an animal…tricky, even for our expert hunters). The overlapping First Nation receives a similar amount, and anything remaining is split between BC's Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) and Guide Outfitters. In other hunt zones that are in only one Maa-nulth Nation's territory, the Treaty allocation is 55% of the total allowable harvest, with the remaining 45% is split between the LEH and Guides.

This year, there were two Klanawa LEH tags open to all licensed BC resident hunters. As usual, their season is quite short: only Oct 10 – Nov 20, whereas ours is much longer (September 1-March 31). The opportunity to harvest Huu-ay-aht's allocation was awarded to Myles Danielsen, who was successful in his hunt right away.

Working Together

All community members are encouraged to participate in taking care of our ɬuunim populations by reporting all sightings in the Sarita and Pachena area and speaking up if they see or hear of ɬuunim hunting nearby.

The Annual People's Assembly at the House of Huu-ay-aht is a huge success

This year the annual People's Assembly was held in Anacla at the House of Huu-ay-aht for the first time in many years, and it was a huge success.

Some citizens chose to stay in Bamfield for the event, but the majority stayed in Port Alberni and travelled by bus to Anacla. Many decided to stay Saturday night in Bamfield to participate in the cultural event once business was closed for the day.

When the bus arrived from Port Alberni quorum was achieved and the official business of the day began. Prior to that Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. reviewed the progress of the previous year's citizen motions. The overview can be found at www.huuayaht.org under the People's Assembly.

The Chief Councillor also presented this year's Annual Report, which included the audited financial statements and committee reports. This brought about a number of questions, including concerns about education and training, proper use of Nation assets such as vehicles, wages and expenses of elected officials, management of the Nation's resources, hiring policies, and much more.

The first order of business to be voted on was the Appointment of the Auditor. Some citizens expressed concerns that the firm that was appointed was the same firm who did not attend this year's annual People's Assembly. Councillor Connie Waddell explained that there would be stipulations added to their contract requiring them to attend the People's Assembly. With the addition of that information the People's Assembly approve the appointment of BDO as the Nation's auditor for another year.



Huu-ay-aht members Pat Rytter and Linda Young at one of the vendor booths at the People's Assembly in Anacla. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

The proposed amendments to the Government Act were also approved. This included some changes that were approved during the spring sitting of legislature.

Citizens also heard from the Tribunal, Queen's University, and the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses.

This year the Assembly addressed four citizen motions. They included the following motions:

- Executive Council suggest that the HGB administrative offices be located on Huu-ay-aht treaty lands or, at a minimum, require that key HGB management and human resources personnel work on Huu-ay-aht treaty lands.

- Executive Council direct that an independent auditor conduct a full review of all honoraria paid to Executive Council in relation to all meetings of government and all travel expenses for members of Executive Council paid by the Huu-ay-aht over the past two years and prepare a report, including recommendations and findings, to be made available to all Huu-ay-aht citizens.

- Approves amending section 77(e) of the Government Act to reduce the quorum requirement for the People's Assembly to 15% of eligible voters.

- Executive Council require that $5 per cubic metre of any timber harvest from Huu-ay-aht First Nations traditional territory be contributed to a watershed restoration fund.

All motions were approved by Citizens, with the exception of the quorum requirements, which failed as citizens voted to leave the requirements at the current 20% of the population. The motion on council travel and honoraria for Executive Council was amended to ask that it be reviewed back four years instead of two.

Executive Council will review these motions, make recommendations, and report back to citizen within 90 days of the assembly.

Huu-ay-aht recognized several citizens at the assembly. These included Elders of the Year Simon and Sylvia Dennis and Zelta Clappis. This year's Citizens of the Year were Duane Nookemis, Kristen Young, Tracey Gilmour, and Colleen Peters. Andrew Clappis was recognized at the Youth of the Year. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination this year.

The assembly concluded with a culture night lead by Councillor Edward R. Johnson and Chief Councillor Robert Dennis. The evening event was well attended and allowed people to share and celebrate their culture and traditions.

2019 Annual People's Assembly



















Citizens gather from afar to be at this year's Annual People's Assembly at the House of Huu-ay-aht in Anacla.



Child and Family Wellness

Introducing the Warrior Program

This exciting new program is being offered for young men (aged nine to 17) to learn how to provide, protect, and prepare to respond to challenges that face the Huu-ay-aht community.

Respect, responsibility, and self-discipline are the foundation of the program and young men will be learning about leadership development,local traditional knowledge, and practices and wilderness survival skills. Huu-ay-aht youth will learn about traditional and mainstream leadership teachings and practices on the land to build capability, cultural pride, and confidence.

Adult mentors (Harry Brossault, Charlie Clappis, and Cory Howard Sr, as well as other community members and elders) provide leadership and mentorship to four youth identified as having leadership qualities within the Huu-ay-aht Nation.

The mentors have started their training and spent an amazing weekend on Nettle Island doing team building activities and learning about wilderness survival. Six more training events are planned to help the young mentors learn skills they will need to pass along to program participants. When the youth mentors have completed their training, other Huu-ay-aht youth will be invited to attend the program.

In addition to the training events, youth mentors will be participating in community service opportunities in both Port Alberni, Anacla, and Kyuquot.

When the Warriors program is open to all Huu-ay-aht male youth aged nine to 17, information will be shared.

The Child and Family Wellness Team would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge citizens who came out to Community Engagement Sessions in October. It was great to connect with so many people, introduce the team, share conversation, and answer questions.

Child and Family Wellness Office
#1-4641 Margaret Street
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 6H1

Mailing: Port Alberni Government Office
4644 Adelaide Street
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 6N4

Phone: 778-419-1013

Huu-ay-aht after-hour emergency line for child protection and mental health crisis

250-731-6999

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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



Grand prize exceeds expectations for Cando Conference draw winner

By Sam Laskaris
Courtesy of Cando

Rhonda Crow attended the annual Cando Conference a number of times in the past. Crow certainly got more than she bargained for from the 2018 conference, held in October last year Enoch, Alta. Crow, the Indigenous Learning and Program Co-ordinator at the University of Lethbridge's Dhillon School of Business was selected as the grand prize winner of a draw held at the conference.

Crow's prize, valued at more than $5,000, included a trip for two, featuring various excursions, not only to Vancouver but also Vancouver Island, courtesy of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Crow and her husband Rob went on the five-day journey in mid-September.

"We were impressed with the hospitality," Crow said. "It far exceeded our expectations."

Crow, who was attending her fifth Cando Conference in 2018, said entering the draw did not require a huge amount of effort on her part. To be eligible for the grand prize, individuals had to simply visit the various booths at the conference's trade fair and have their 'passport' stamped at each one. Completed passports were then entered into a random draw.

"I really didn't think about winning," Crow said. "I figured I'm going to talk to everybody at the trade show anyway so I might as well enter the draw."

Trevor Cootes, a Huu-ay-aht councillor who also holds his First Nation's economic development portfolio, said his community has been a gold sponsor of the Cando Conference for several years now.



Economic Develeopment Officer Cynthia Rayner and Elected Councillor Trevor Cootes from Huu-ay-aht First Nations, stand with Rhonda and Rob Crow, the Cando prize winner. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

"They are doing things we support," Cootes said of Cando, the national organization that promotes economic development in Indigenous communities across Canada. "It was our way of supporting them by putting this package together for them. It was a win-win situation."

The Crows began their trip by flying from Calgary to Vancouver, where they stayed at the Skwachays Lodge, Canada's first Indigenous arts hotel.

The couple then flew by seaplane to Bamfield, the traditional territory of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. They stayed at the Upnit Lodge, where they were pampered with various gifts as well as private meals from a local chef. The Crows also received a private fishing tour and boat tour, where they got to see whales up close.

"Their hospitality was excellent," Crow said of Huu-ayaht First Nation representatives who were involved with the grand prize trip package. "They were great hosts."

Crow also raved about a visit to Kiixin Village, a national historic site.

"That was really amazing," she said of the tour of the village, which was abandoned late in the 19th century.

Cootes was pleased that the Crows thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

"From what I see they had an amazing time," he said. "It was an honour to show them what the Huu-ay-aht First Nations is doing with tourism."



HUU-AY-AHT COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

Over the next 8 to 12 months we will be completing a Comprehensive Community Plan for Huu-ay-aht that will build a vision for our future and outline a way to get there.

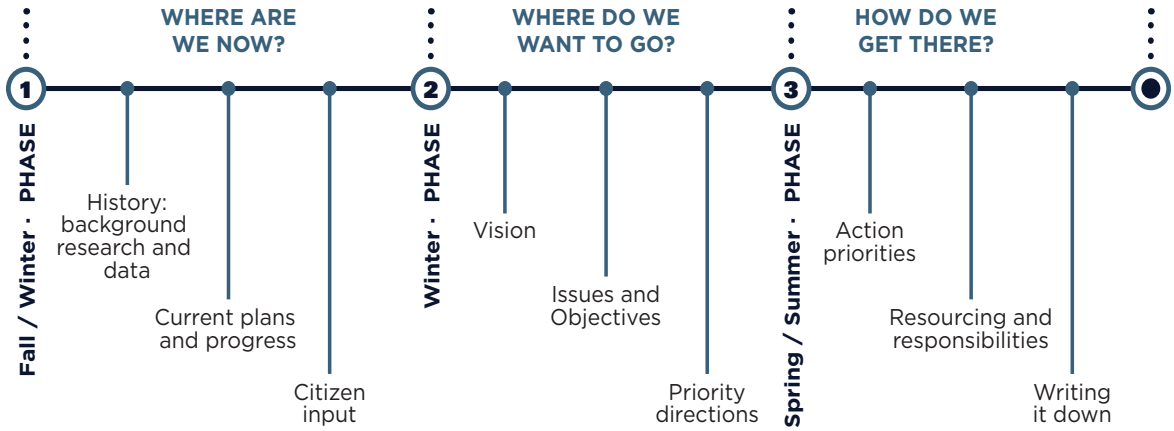
WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN (CCP)?
It is *comprehensive*, it will look at everything that is important to Huu-ay-aht: our land, our water, and our people and more. It is about *community*: it will be developed by the community, for the community. It is a *plan*: we will imagine our potential, ground it in the possible, and create a plan to make it all happen.

WHY NOW?
Since the Maa-nulth Treaty agreement was implemented in April of 2011, growth has been tremendous and we currently have many initiatives underway, under consideration, or proposed. With so much going on, we believe it is time to step back and take an integrated, holistic approach to planning with input from the Huu-ay-aht citizens. This will build a pathway to a prosperous future.

WHO'S WORKING ON IT?

Our CCP project will be led by our Nations' Senior Management Team. We will be getting technical support on this project from EcoPlan, a BC firm with lots of experience working with First Nations and CCPs (www.ecoplan.ca). If you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact William Trousdale at william@ecoplan.ca or 604-228-1855 ext 1.

WHERE ARE WE?



WE NEED YOU!

We need you to help shape our Nation's future! Participation from members will be the key to our CCP's success. We will be asking for your ideas and aspirations, and what we can do to make things better for everybody.

TELL US YOUR IDEAS

Start sharing your ideas now. And see what others are thinking.
Go to our idea brainstorming center at: **bit.ly/ideashare-Huuayaht**

Finally, come to the February Community Meetings. Bring your issues, ideas and actions because we will be focusing on our Community Plan.



Treaty Implementation Update #4 - Looking ahead to 2020

Looking forward to the next year

Fall is the time of year the Nation starts strategic planning and looking forward to the next year. Strategic planning is an important exercise between Executive Council and the senior managers to set the vision and tone for the future. Next, each department uses that strategic plan as a foundation for their operational plan, which includes the projects and major activities for the following year. The outcomes of high-level strategic planning and department-level operational planning then support the budget season in the Spring.

These are some of the areas Treaty Implementation will be working on in 2020

- Feasibility and assessments of Treaty opportunities such as commercial recreation tenures and additions to Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL)
- Development of a three- to five-year Enforcement Framework Plan (currently in progress) with community consultations planned from the first half of 2020 (an enforcement framework outlines the considerations, consultations, communications, budgets, timelines, legislation necessary to develop the roles, responsibilities, and relationships a Huu-ay-aht peace officer will have on TSL).
- Review of law-making authorities not yet implemented by Huu-ay-aht
- Tracking Treaty successes and areas for improvements and/or amendments in preparation of the internal 10-year Treaty Review and Tripartite 15-year review
- Participation in collective Maa-nulth activities, such as “Me Too” fisheries strategy, bi-lateral enforcement agreements, consultation on major projects, pursuing funding opportunities, political lobbying.

Transaction Tax, Treaty Settlement Lands, and Status Cards

On May 1, 2019, the transaction tax exemption for purchases on an “Indian Band Reserve” ended for Treaty enrolled citizens as part of the transition to Huu-ay-aht’s taxation powers as a self-governing Nation.

This applies for Huu-ay-aht citizens making purchases of goods and services on “Indian Band Reserves." It also applies to any “status Indian” making purchases on Treaty Settlement Lands as TSL are not Indian Band Reserves (which means the exemption doesn’t apply for non-Huu-ay-aht Status Indians on Huu-ay-aht Treaty Lands).

Treaty enrollment does not affect your "Indian Status" as defined in the Indian Act and by the Government of Canada

Your status card is still useful and necessary to access many health services, and it continues to be a valid form of Government picture ID.

*Indian Band and Status are defined in the "Indian Act"

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Implementation activities for 2020 or transaction taxes, status cards, or TSL, please email or call Director of Implementation, Crystal Jack at crystal.j@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100.