Huu-ay-aht First Nations
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November 26, 2012

Dear Huu-ay-aht Citizen:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As a Huu-ay-aht Citizen, you are an important part of our community. The purpose of this letter is to raise our citizen's awareness to the importance of our Huu-ay-aht People's Assembly.

Issue

Since Effective Date (April 01, 2011), we have held two People's Assemblies. Unfortunately we did not produce results/outcomes because we did not reach the required quorum. Based on our current laws and our citizenship list, quorum is 117 (18 & over) The assemblies were held in:

- November 2011 &
- November 2012

Attempted Solutions To Date

We tried to accommodate our citizens to participate in our People's Assembly by:

- ✓ Providing participation by video-conferencing in Port Alberni and Burnaby rather than having to travel to Anacla;
- ✓ An incentive draw of a $1000.00
- ✓ Turkey dinners at each venue location (Anacla, Port Alberni, Burnaby)
- ✓ Providing meeting packages in a clear and timely manner according to HFN laws.

Rescheduled People's Assembly

Although we did not reach quorum on November 17, those in attendance did offer very helpful suggested solutions to move forward with success. On November 19, Chief Councillor, Jeff Cook called for a special meeting of the Executive Council to discuss your valuable input and decide on next steps. Your Executive Council has decided that we will hold the third People's Assembly:

Date:	**Saturday, December 08th, 2012**
Time:	**12 noon (lunch served)**
Location:	**Anacla with video conferencing in, Burnaby, Port Alberni with Nanaimo as an added venue.**

Also, thanks to your feedback there will be two annual People's Assemblies in the Spring & Fall of each year.

Why is the People's Assembly important?

The Treaty and our Huu-ay-aht Constitution provides for a People's Assembly and it is recognized in Huu-ay-aht law as a "Branch" of Government (see attached chart). This is a big difference from any other government: Federal, Provincial, Municipal or Regional District because those governments do not have an assembly where their citizens can go to express their opinions, concerns or ideas. They do not have a process to submit motions or resolutions to their government - all that they have is a vote every 4 years. This big difference makes our government structure unique; the Huu-ay-aht citizens (via the People's Assembly) are a part of the Huu-ay-aht government and are required by Huu-ay-aht law to fulfil their responsibilities to our future generations.

What is my role & responsibility (as a citizen) at the People's Assembly?

- You have the right to attend, speak, & vote at the assembly
- To hold the Legislature, Executive Council and Ha'wiih Council accountable for acting lawfully and in the best interests of present and future generations of Huu-ay-aht Citizens
- To make recommendations to Executive Council
- To make decisions where authorized to do so under Huu-ay-aht legislation
- To review proposed constitutional amendments (if applicable)
- To provide my views to Executive Council on matters relating to HFN
- By resolution, require HFN Council to hold a referendum on a specific issue (if applicable)

Note: All recommendations passed by the People's Assembly must be considered and voted on by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council.

What is in this Treaty for me and my family?

- The Treaty has given the Huu-ay-aht First Nations the tools we need to take care of our citizens no matter where they live.
- The Treaty has given the Huu-ay-aht citizens the authority to hold the Huu-ay-aht Government accountable for their actions and decisions. This is important because the Huu-ay-aht Government is now accountable to the Huu-ay-aht citizens and no longer accountable to the Minister of Indian Affairs; this is a very significant change for the better.
- As a nation of self-government, we will turn to the Huu-ay-aht citizens (through the People's Assembly) to create better programs and services for our citizens.
- After 8 years (2019) we will have received all our Treaty money; (this doesn't include the on-going annual program funding that we get from Canada) which means we will be in a major financial position to enhance the Treaty benefits such as:

    - Existing programs and services;
    - New programs and services;
    - Education;
    - Child and Family services;
    - Health;
    - Fisheries;
    - Etc.

I don't want to go to the People's Assembly because I don't understand the material that is sent out!

Your Huu-ay-aht government has discussed and decided to make every attempt to ensure People's Assembly materials will be sent to you even earlier than the 30 days, as required by the Huu-ay-aht Government Act. We hope this will give you more time to prepare for the meeting.

Please note that the December 08th, 2012 People's Assembly is very important People's Assembly. We will need a minimum **117 eligible voters** (18 & over) to attend the meeting so we can meet the quorum requirements set out in the Huu-ay-aht Government Act. The reason we must meet quorum at this meeting is to get the approval from the Huu-ay-aht citizens to make changes to the Huu-ay-aht laws that are not working properly. For example, we need the permission of the Huu-ay-aht citizens to change the quorum requirements for the People's Assembly to a level that works and will allow us to conduct the business of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. The People's Assembly (the Huu-ay-aht citizens) have a valuable part to play in making sure the Executive Council cannot unilaterally make changes to the laws that you have approved.

If we want positive change in our communities and in our daily lives, we need all the Huu-ay-aht citizens to attend the People's Assembly. We want to hear what our people think about what we should be doing as a Nation for our future generations. We want to take you through HFN financial status so you know where your treaty money is being invested and whether the Budget Act is being followed.

For The Future

At the November 17th People's Assembly we would have liked to report that our forest company has made a huge step forward this year; going from a 1.2 million deficit in 2010 / 2011 down to a $69,000.00 deficit this year. More importantly, we are projecting a profit of between $200,000.00 and $300.000.00 next year. We wanted to report that we should be able to produce a balanced budget next year and not have to use the planned deficit ceiling for 2012 / 2013. These are big advances in our financial position and it is all due to Treaty.

The only way we are going to build a strong foundation for our future generations is if we all work together toward that brighter future. We now have tools to make our own decisions to build our Nation, but our citizens must uphold their responsibilities by fulfilling their obligation to the People's Assembly. Your Huu-ay-aht Government and Administration cannot do this without you, so come on Huu-ay-aht join me, Chief and Council, Huu-ay-aht Ha'wiih and the Huu-ay-aht staff in committing to our future generations.

Please attend your December 8, 2012 People's Assembly!

Derek Peters, Tyee Ha'wiih

Jeff Cook, Chief Councillor