

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
First Nations Program Information Update

Spring 2012

Committed to Working Together

Maa-nulth Nations and Parks Canada sign Side Agreement

On January 30, 2012, following months of dialogue and consultation with neighbouring First Nations, Parks Canada signed an agreement with four Maa-nulth First Nations (Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, and Yuułuʔiɬʔath) to cooperate in the planning and management of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (NPR), as required by the Maa-nulth Treaty.

The agreement sets a strong foundation for Parks Canada and the four Maa-nulth First Nations of Barkley Sound to work together on matters of mutual interest. Sustainable economic and community development through cooperative management of natural and cultural resources with the Maa-nulth area of Pacific Rim NPR will help develop social and economic tools that will directly support Maa-nulth families, communities, and Parks Canada.

The agreement is meant to facilitate cooperative planning and management providing the First Nations with the opportunity to provide advice to the Minister of Environment Canada on the management of Pacific Rim NPR. With Parks Canada's commitment to engage in effective and efficient consultation with First Nations, the agreement will enhance and build stronger mechanisms to achieve a healthy and committed partnership with the Maa-nulth Nations.

At the signing of the agreement, First Nations' hereditary and elected leaders spoke of their pride in achieving this significant milestone and acknowledged Parks Canada staff who worked with them to negotiate a fair agreement. Parks Canada spoke about the achievement of this first cooperative planning and management agreement for Pacific Rim NPR and how proud and honoured they were to be part of this historical agreement. All parties are looking forward to building partnerships and relationships with one another.



The Maa-nulth Nations and Parks Canada sign the Maa-nulth Treaty Side Agreement, January 30th, 2012. Seated (L to R): Tyee Ḥaw̓iɬ Derek Peters (Huu-ay-aht First Nation), Tyee Ḥaw̓iɬ Anne Mack (Toquaht Nation), Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes Sr. (Uchucklesaht Tribe). Standing (L to R): John Aldag, Superintendent (Pacific Rim NPR), Chief Councillor Jeff Cook (Huu-ay-aht First Nation), Helen Davies, Superintendent Coastal BC Field Unit (Parks Canada); President Chuck McCarthy, Yuułuʔiɬʔath.
(Photo: K. Haugen/Parks Canada)

Parks Canada also works with five other First Nations (Ditidaht, Hupacasath, Pacheedaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Tseshaht First Nations) in whose traditional territories the park boundaries fall. Parks Canada is working to strengthen relationships with each of these First Nations, both in day-to-day park operations, and in some cases, through treaty negotiations.

Tseshaht First Nation and Parks Canada sign Agreement to Co-operatively Manage Natural and Cultural Resources in the Broken Group Islands

On April 19th, 2012 following years of dialogue and consultation, Parks Canada signed an agreement with the Tseshaht First Nation for cooperation in the planning and management of the Broken Group Islands in Pacific Rim NPR. The Broken Group Islands are identified in the traditional stories of the Tseshaht First Nation as the birthplace of the Tseshaht.

"Building on past successful collaborative projects with the Tseshaht First Nation, we can look forward to a continued, strong working relationship."

– Helen Davies, Field Unit Superintendent, BC Coastal Field Unit

Parks Canada is committed to engaging in effective and efficient consultation with the Tseshaht First Nation, and this agreement will help enhance and build stronger mechanisms to a healthy and committed partnership. Working together on matters of mutual interest will help create sustainable economic and community development through cooperative management of natural and cultural resources for the Broken Group Islands.

At the signing, Tseshaht and Parks Canada spoke of the significance of this agreement: "The Broken Group Islands are part of Pacific Rim NPR and the agreement reaffirms Tseshaht-asserted aboriginal title," said Chief Councillor Les Sam, "This agreement will enable Tseshaht to develop aboriginal tourism opportunities through the exposure of our culture to park visitors."

After five years of negotiations, the "agreement is a first between Parks Canada and Tseshaht First Nation and sets a strong foundation for working together on matters of mutual interest." said Bill Fisher, Parks Canada Vice President of Western and Northern Canada.



(L to R): John Aldag (A/Superintendent Pacific Rim NPR), Bill Fisher (Parks Canada VP of Western & Northern Canada), Albert Clutesi (Tseshaht seated recognized Ḥaw̓iɬ), Les Sam (Chief Councillor, Tseshaht First Nation).
(Photo: K. Haugen/Parks Canada)

Parks Canada is Lead Agency for 4 Species at Risk

The Parks Canada Agency (PCA), along with Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is involved with administering the Species at Risk Act (SARA). A key role of Parks Canada, during recovery and action planning under SARA, is to ensure that our First Nation partners as well as all other land managers with occurrences of the listed species, have the opportunity to cooperate in the development of recovery documents and action plans.

PCA is the lead agency for four species: Pink Sand Verbena, Dromedary Jumping Slug, Seaside Centipede Lichen, and the Northern Goshawk. Much work has been accomplished with these four species in Pacific Rim NPR, and much more is required for their recovery.

Pink Sand Verbena – A greenhouse has been set up which will soon house plants from the recent germination of more than 2000 seeds. It is hoped that between 300 and 800 plants will be placed in the greenhouse and then planted in the Keeha dunes later this year.

Dromedary Jumping Slug & Northern Goshawk - The Recovery Strategies for these species are very close to being posted for final review. Several requests to meet with our First Nation partners for consultations are pending.

Seaside Centipede Lichen – Benson and Wouwer Islands, in the Broken Group Islands, and Florencia Island in the Long Beach Unit are unique global 'hot spots' for the occurrence of this species. Recovery planning implementation continues with annual inventories being completed throughout the park.

Further information on Species at Risk can be obtained from Jackie Godfrey, Aboriginal Liaison, at 250.726.3522 or by email at Jackie.Godfrey@pc.gc.ca



Seaside Centipede Lichen in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
(Photo: J. Yakimishyn/Parks Canada)

A Cultural Resource Values Statement Like no Other...

In collaboration with First Nation partners, Pacific Rim NPR is in the process of developing a Cultural Resource Values Statement that will provide the foundation for a greater understanding and awareness between Pacific Rim NPR and its Nuu-chah-nulth partners.

A comprehensive interview process with First Nations' citizens has been undertaken by Australian exchangee John Clarke and Pacific Rim NPR's Jeff Gallic.

Many citizens of the 9 Nuu-chah-nulth nations whose traditional territory Pacific Rim NPR falls within were nominated as interviewees. To date, over half of all the nominated citizens have been interviewed and these interviews have been recorded, transcribed, collated and then presented to the respective First Nation for final consideration and permission to use in the statement.

Interview questions were developed and organized into identified groups that would target specific demographics within the First Nations. This allows the statement to best reflect the contemporary, historic, cultural, lingual & aspiring components of First Nations' values regarding traditional territories within Pacific Rim NPR.

The development of this statement will give Parks Canada an invaluable insight into 'why' traditional territories, including Pacific Rim NPR, continue to be intrinsic to the continuity of First Nation attributes such as culture, language and identity. It is envisaged that the completed statement will also provide the basis for greater outcomes on the ground using collaborative approaches, planning, delivery and assessment.

Guardian and Beachkeeper Training & Skills Development Program



Participants of the 2012 Beachkeeper and Guardian Training and Skills Development Program. Front Row seated (L to R): Tad Williams, Louie Johnson, Cory Howard. Back row standing (L to R): Taralynn Curley, John Young, Patrick Nookemus, Duane Nookemis Sr., David Wall (NIC GPS Instructor), Duane Nookemis Jr., James Williams, Phillip Knight, Kevin Peters, Leslie Cook, Travis Lenonard (NIC GPS Instructor), Nathan Tate.
(Photo: C. Duckmanton/Parks Canada)

An exciting and action packed 14-day outdoor training program was conducted March 5 - 21, 2012 in Port Alberni, BC with the First Nation Guardians and Beachkeepers. These traditional guardians of the lands and waters work with Pacific Rim NPR to protect these resources as well as the many visitors who come to Long Beach, the Broken Group Islands and the West Coast Trail every year.

With funding support from the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment Training Program, the Guardian & Beachkeeper Training & Skills Development Program was delivered in partnership with Huu-ay-aht First Nation Development LD – Economic Development Corporation and the First Nations Program at Pacific Rim NPR. Participants included Guardians and Beachkeepers from Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, Pacheedaht, Tla-o-qui-aht and Tseshaht First Nations and Yuułuʔiɬʔatḥ.

The training was implemented as an outcome of the 2011 season wrap-up meetings with First Nation Partners and Parks Canada where access to training and safety concerns were prioritized. The training program was designed to assist and build the knowledge and skills of the Guardians and Beachkeepers to monitor and ensure that activities and practices within their territories are carried out respectfully and safely. The objectives of the training program included:

- improving the overall knowledge and skill level of Natural and Cultural Heritage Interpretation, Visitor Experience, and Public Safety;
- gaining valuable skills, building and training for career awareness through industry-recognized certification, and creating linkages to future career and education opportunities; and



Participants sharpening their GPS and navigational skills.
(Photo: C. Duckmanton/Parks Canada)





Participants and Pacific Rim NPR staff working on team building exercises. *(Photos: A. Armstrong/Parks Canada)*

- building long-term capacity and leadership within the First Nation communities working with Pacific Rim NPR and to ensure responsible and consistent activities and practices.

The training program included a variety of certificate courses such as FirstHost, Incident Command System Training, Essential Wilderness First Aid and CPR, Small Non-pleasure Craft Marine Emergency Duties, Intro to Orienteering, and Intro to GPS Operations. The program also included training specific to Parks Canada including Wildlife Safety and Monitoring, Interpretation and Public Speaking, Ecological Integrity, and Public Safety and Law Enforcement.

Overall, the 14-day program was considered a success by all involved. The participants felt that the training helped them to build on their own personal leadership skills and benefited their role as a Guardian or Beachkeeper and the partners, including Pacific Rim NPR and Huu-ay-aht First Nation Development LD – Economic Development Corporation, felt that this program had many positive learning and relationship building experiences.

The positive outcomes of this intensive Guardian and Beachkeeper Training & Skills Development Program can only benefit the participants, their communities, and the park. By having committed, consistently trained and motivated individuals "on the ground", they ensure the public safety and the care of natural and cultural resources.

Based on feedback from a written evaluation:

- 86% of the participants stated they gained additional knowledge;
- 79% of the participants felt that the training will better their role as a Guardian or Beachkeeper;
- 71% of the participants reported that they learned new skills, and
- 79% of the participants felt that this training program helped them as an individual in a positive way, and helped them to build their own personal leadership skills.

"Overall, I found the experience, as a presenter, very positive. It was great to be able to connect with all the individuals."

– Jennifer Yakimishyn, Resource Management Officer, Pacific Rim NPR



Participants practicing Wilderness First Aid Scenerios. *(Photo: K. Haugen/Parks Canada)*

"How Time Flies When You're Having Fun!"

John Clarke Says Goodbye...



John worked with the Tseshaht First Nation to repair weather damage to the Welcome Post on Benson Island. (L to R): former Tseshaht Councillor Willard Gallic, Parks Victoria's John Clarke, Tseshaht Carver and Artist Gordon Dick. *(Photo: J. Clarke/Parks Canada)*

I've been very fortunate to have participated in the Parks Victoria (Australia) & Parks Canada 'Seasonal Exchange Program'. I've been a Parks Victoria Ranger since 1999 and can easily say that meeting the people I've met, the projects I've worked on and being at Pacific Rim NPR made for the highlight of my career.

Along with my partner Kathryn, children Liam, Tanisha, Dylan & Caleb and daughter in-law Hayley, the Exchange became more than one between two organisations, it expanded to one between cultures, communities and individuals.

'What will winter be like?', 'How will we go driving?', 'How do we deal with cougars?' - So many unknowns could easily have consumed us had we not looked at the opportunity as an adventure. Both Liam & Tanisha love their schools and new friends. The West Coast now has a Roller Derby team thanks to Kathryn's passion for the sport. Our learning curve has been steep to say the least. Lessons have been aplenty. New acronyms, Canadian English, Nuu-chah-nulth and some French were all a challenge, but I'm sure we too were a challenge with our accents, Australian English and Gunditjmara – Kirraewurrong lingo in the mix as well. How to cook turkey, Halloween, snow driving and other experiences we'll take home along with a greater insight into how Parks Canada fulfills its mandate in what is a beautiful, diverse and rich landscape.

I'm grateful to all my friends at Parks Canada and those among the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations for their support, enthusiasm, friendship, confidence and trust. Being culturally isolated from my own community was at times difficult. It is all of these relationships that made my journey here durable, enjoyable and memorable.

Working on the Cultural Resource Values Statement has been rewarding to say the least. Individuals I've met and their shared wisdom, gave me a clear insight into why this place is important beyond the Management Plan, with a real glimpse at the intangible components that make this place come alive. It has also given me a new perspective of myself, my role back home, and my connections to the lands of my Ancestors, and what I owe to them and my children.

Thank you all for your contributions to my visit. Be it as simple as a passing smile or an evening of great yarns and a meal. I hope that I've been able to give something back in return. I look forward to coming back in the near future as well as your visits to Australia.

Ngootjoon Ngootjoon, John Clarke

Maa-nulth Nations and Pacific Rim NPR Participate in Workshop to Discuss Renewable Resource Harvesting in Pacific Rim NPR

With the Maa-nulth Treaty completing the first year of implementation, Parks Canada and the Maa-nulth Nations of Pacific Rim NPR held a two-day workshop to discuss and share ideas on values, objectives and principles in relation to renewable resource harvesting within Pacific Rim NPR. As creations of Terms and Conditions for Harvesting occurs, it was important for both parties to have an understanding on how these Terms and Conditions would be implemented and, together, identify some challenges and commonalities everyone may face as we look at the Terms and Conditions with each Maa-nulth Nation.

Some guiding principles shared at the workshop included: *Hishuk-ish-tsawalk* (everything is one), *Iisaak* (respect), *Uu-athluk* (taking care of), shared communications, common sense, safety, cooperative enforcement, recognition of the Maa-nulth Nations Agreement role of a peace officer, and understanding traditional knowledge. The workshop helped both sides understand the complexities the other is facing and created a great networking and sharing of ideas and next steps where together, we can ensure a successful partnership.

As we progress into the 2nd year of treaty implementation, we look forward to continuing an understanding and learning of renewable resource harvesting with each Maa-nulth Nation.

Further information on terrestrial harvesting can be obtained from Jackie Godfrey, Aboriginal Liaison, at 250.726.3522 or by email at Jackie.Godfrey@pc.gc.ca

Inventory of Timber Resources for First Nation Traditional Use

Pacific Rim NPR, in consultation and cooperation with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułuʔiɬʔatḥ, has been looking at methods for identifying timber resources for traditional purposes/use within the Long Beach Unit of the park. The project team has worked to establish the characteristics and to identify specific examples of timber resources that would be appropriate for traditional purposes/use.

Characteristics of appropriate timber included tree height, circumference, height of canopy, as well as species. Traditional uses included harvesting trees for canoes, long house poles and beams, main beams for large community buildings, and totem poles.

This spring, to test the team's mapping models, the team hiked through dense bush to reach areas that had been identified as having trees that might be suitable for traditional harvesting. They then took measurements of trees that were 30 metres or more in height within a 10 to 20 metre radius. 18 measurements are taken for every tree including circumference, height to canopy on 4 different sides of the tree, and distance to the hub spot. Depending on the difficulty of access to the spot and the density of the bush, anywhere from 7 to 20 trees can be measured in a day.

From these detailed measurements the team will be able to provide information that will assist the First Nation/Parks Canada Long Beach Unit Cooperative Management Boards in the identification and prioritization of the most suitable timber resources for traditional purposes/use.



Pacific Rim NPR's Mike Collyer, Ecosystem Geomatics Specialist, taking tree measurements. *Photo (C. Bolduc/Parks Canada)*

Sharing our Successes and Progress

Pic River First Nation and Ontario's Pukaskwa National Park visit Pacific Rim NPR

Pic River First Nation and Pukaskwa National Park's Joint Consultation Committee travelled across the country to visit Pacific Rim NPR and Gulf Islands NPR and to see firsthand how the Coastal BC Field Unit is working in partnership with local First Nations.

The Joint Consultation Committee visiting members included 4 representatives of the Pic River First Nation including Councillors Arnold Michano and Art Fisher, and Government representatives Juanita Starr and Erin Shaw as well as Pukaskwa National Park's Manager Robin Heron and Resource Conservation Manager Sharon Hayes.

The group's first stop was at Pacific Rim NPR where they were interested in learning more about the park's cooperative management boards, inclusion of Nuu-chah-nulth culture and language, economic development and employment opportunities, and the establishment of the West Coast Trail Guardian program, once known as Quu'as.

The tour began at the newly renovated Kʷisitis Visitor Centre where they were welcomed by Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Tyee Ḥawiłʔ Chief Wilson Jack and his speaker Tyson Touchie. Representatives of the Nuu-chah-nulth Working Group, Benson Nookemis (Huu-ay-aht First Nation), Anne Mack (Tyee Ḥawiłʔ Toquaht Nation) and Barbara Touchie (Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Elder) then spoke about the cooperation and collaboration between the Nuu-chah-nulth Working Group and Pacific Rim NPR to develop the new exhibits, their content, and the inclusion of Nuu-chah-nulth language. Next the group heard from Huu-ay-aht First Nation Councillors and Cooperative Management Board Members, Sheila Charles and Jack Cook, who spoke about the process of establishing a cooperative management board. Dididaht First Nation Chief Councillor, Jack Thompson, who was integral in establishing the Quu'as West Coast Trail Guardian program, spoke to the group about the ongoing partnership between his nation and Pacific Rim NPR. The group then finished their tour of Pacific Rim NPR with a visit with Tseshaht First Nation.

This was a wonderful opportunity to share and work with each other: "Every nation is in a different stage of relationship with Parks Canada, but there are lessons learned and parallels that can be shared", concluded Carley Duckmanton, Aboriginal Liaison, Pacific Rim NPR.



Barbara Touchie and members of the Pic River-Pukaskwa Joint Consultation Committee at the Kʷisitis Visitor Centre, Pacific Rim NPR *(Photo: C. Duckmanton/Parks Canada)*

TA SHE - Issue #3

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