

Newsletter

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GST & PST Starts May 1

The **Maa-nulth Treaty** was signed eight years ago, and the tax changes laid out in 2011 start coming into effect this May 1, 2019.

The **Yuutu?it?ath Government** is currently heavily involved with Maa-Nulth First Nation negotiations with the federal government. Most notably, regarding a GST and PST revenue sharing agreement with both the federal and provincial governments will be paid to the Yuutu?it?ath Government. The YG government will be given the authority to levy taxes within its jurisdiction, in order to provide services and enhance the quality of life for YG citizens.

Chief Financial Officer **Frederic Tolmie** wrote in the last issue of the *Umacuk* that these changes, agreed upon and signed in 2011, are arriving this year, but it's worth repeating as it will impact everyone when the changes start taking place on May 1, 2019. The exemption from consumption taxes like the GST and PST and their remission orders for all Yuutu?it?ath citizens anywhere in Canada ends on that date.

Here's what's coming on May 1, 2019, as reported by Frederic:

- Yuutu?it?ath citizens have to pay GST and PST beginning Effective May 1, 2019. For example, Yuutu?it?ath citizens will no longer be eligible for tax exemption when buying gas.

- Yuutu?it?ath citizens will no longer be able to order goods GST/PST exempt to TSL; therefore, if you are

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2018 CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Happy Holidays!



Santa & Mrs. Claus with the youngest family member Cecilia Klotz-De Ruiter at the Urban Christmas Dinner in Port Alberni Dec. 15, with President Les Doiron, in background.

More Photos Pages 6-9

² President's Report

Good Cheer Galore at Christmas Dinners

Our urban citizens gathered to celebrate Christmas 2018 on December 15 in Port Alberni, and it was an amazing evening.

As the elected leader, this was our fourth urban Christmas dinner. Our celebration included children speaking our language, as young as three years old - on the open microphone! It warmed my heart, and the hearts of those in attendance.

Drumming, singing, weaving, and recognizing our elders were part of the festivities.

Sharing a meal is huge part of our culture, and bringing our urban citizens together with several citizens from home is special.

Watching the laughter, smiles and joy in the room made Christmas come early for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and our team of staff members who continue to make life more fun every day.

A special thank you to both Santa & his wife!

We also had a wonderful Christmas gathering a few days later, December 18, in Hitacu. Klecko

* * *

Along with representatives from other First Nations with Treaties, we have made numerous trips to Ottawa and other locations to negotiate with the federal government over the past several months.

Many issues are being discussed, but the most important one as far as we are concerned is an increase to the amount of funding the federal govern-

ment is providing to Treaty nations.

We have made our point over and over: The current funding is simply not even close to being enough for what we need in order to provide the services for its citizens that a full Treaty Nation such as ours requires.

Our former Director of Operations, Rhonda Knockwood, is heavily involved in these meetings, and continues to make an excellent case for all of us.

Our last meeting was with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and we believe he truly heard our message: That the federal government must produce more funding, in order to enable Treaty Nations to make meaningful, positive strides forward as they journey into full-fledge self-government.

I don't know if I've ever worked as hard on something as this in my life, but I realize what is at stake for all of our citizens. Time is of the essence, as a federal election is scheduled to take place in October, 2019, meaning this is perhaps our best opportunity to negotiate with the Liberal government, since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has repeatedly stated he strongly supports reconciliation.

Now is the time for the government to follow up their statements with real action to make wrongs right, and give us what we need in order to provide effective, properly funded services to our citizens.

Implementing our Treaty

is a process that starts once we achieved Treaty. Implementing the Treaty will be ongoing, forever.

We are on the verge of changing the world - our world!



Les Doiron
PRESIDENT



Above: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to Indigenous leaders in Ottawa. Below, President Les Doiron.



Daycare receives Aboriginal Headstart funding

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government has been selected as a successful recipient of Aboriginal Head Start Program Funding for its new Daycare from the First Nations Health Authority and the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

This funding will provide the Daycare with funding for one-time startup costs

and for program operations.

The funding will be until March 31, 2020, when YG will need to have a fully operational Aboriginal Headstart Program.

“We are excited to be able to bring this program into our community to continue to build strong foundations for our children,”

says Asya Touchie, Interim Manager of Social Services. “This is a valuable program that continues to support us in incorporating culture, language and family into our regular programming.”

“Michelle Ralston has completed the training and has worked very hard to bring this into our community,” Asya says. “The

funding will allow us to continue to provide quality early learning and child care programming for our citizens and indigenous children living on the West Coast.”

The grant provides YG with funding to support for spaces for children.

Post-Secondary Funding Application Deadline For the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

The deadline for applications is **February 28, 2019** at 4:30 P.M.

Early applications are welcome!

Please contact **Pearl Touchie** at 250-726-7342

or pearl.touchie@ufn.ca for an updated Funding Application.

Patient Travel

Please be advised that Patient Travel Cheques will be available for pick-up on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Did you know that it is your responsibility to get your Doctor to fax Pearl Touchie an appointment notice 7 working days prior to your appointment? This is to ensure that your cheque or purchase order will be ready for you when you need it. It is also to ensure that – for out of town appointments that require travel a day before your appointment – your accommodation can be reserved by YG.

You are also responsible to submit your Attendance of Appointment Confirmation after your completed appointment. Please be advised that three missed Attendance of Appointment Confirmations will disqualify you for further Patient Travel assistance.

Please contact Pearl Touchie, Patient Travel Clerk at:
Tel: 250-726-7342 ext 211 | Fax: 250-726-7552
Email: pearl.touchie@ufn.ca



4 Director of Operations

Assessments and New Staff

Meeting with BC Assessments

We will soon start the preparation work needed to get ready for the 2024 property taxation changes set out in the treaty. BC Assessment has provided us with the following framework within which we will be carrying out this work:

The most pressing item involves expanding the current Assessment Roll to include properties that remain unassessed. Soon after the ratification of the Maa-nulth Treaty, BC

Assessment made a commitment to all the First Nations to commence delivery of assessment notices to all property owners prior to the 12 year Citizen Property Tax Exemption period expired.

We need to formulate a strategy and plan for BC Assessment to inventory and assess all the Yuułuᑦiᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ Citizen and Government Improvements. As these improvements have never been taxable before we will be starting from scratch so it's a relatively large task. We will need to acquire proposed subdivision plans of areas occupied by the Citizens, building sizes, condition and photos.

This work will require a partnership between BC Assessment and Yuułuᑦiᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ Administrative/Finance Departments that will involve appropriate communication to Yuułuᑦiᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ Citizens both before and after the inventory collection and perhaps on-site assistance during the inspections.

FFA Negotiations

Kyuququot/Checklesahᑦ, Yuułuᑦiᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ Government, and Uchucklesahᑦ made presentations on Governance to representatives of the Government Canada and the Province of British Columbia on November 28. Thanks to **Richard Mundy Jr., Fred Tolmie, Asya Touchie** and **Alex Touchie** for participating in the presentation.

Moving forward, should the Yuułuᑦiᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ Government receive the added governance funding, we will have to get ready to add new staffing and with that comes the need for added infrastructure/office spaces for our growing organization. A long-term strategy is needed to get ready for this boost in funding and this will be listed as a priority in our 2019-2020 work.

Life Cycle Infrastructure Assessment Wedler Engineering

has been in Hitacu to complete a life cycle infrastructure assessment on YG assets. The completion of this work will



Suzanne Williams
DIRECTOR of OPERATIONS

support the data set needed to move the FFA negotiations along. You may have noticed some drilling and other work happening throughout the community in the last couple of weeks. The work that is being done is part of a joint project amongst the five Maa-nulth treaty nations.

New Staff Members

Celena Cook has been hired in the part-time position of Administrative Assistant to the Assets Department and she will be providing administrative support specifically in the

Emergency Preparedness/Response and Fire Department programs.

This newly created position forms as part of a Succession Plan that will lead Celena to the full-time Administrative Assistant position for Assets. Work is well underway and we look forward to upcoming improvements to our emergency programs. Please note that Celena will continue to maintain some responsibilities in the Administration Department.

Aliya Haer has been hired in the term position of Administrative Assistant to the Assets Department. She will be working with Spencer and Celena to support the work of the department.

Entry to the Cixwatin Centre

For safety and daily check-in purposes, anyone visiting or working in the Cixwatin Centre during our daytime hours (i.e. 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) will be required to enter the building using the main doors by the front desk.

This will help ensure that the front desk staff is aware of who enters/leaves the building and it will help ensure that the front desk staff is able to let the other office staff know when they have a guest here to see them.

This applies only during normal business hours.

Christmas gifts still available

The Christmas gift deadline has been extended!

Anyone who did not receive their Christmas gift of \$250 in 2018 can still send an application in as the deadline has been changed to March 31, 2019.

Please contact the office for details.

Creating A Five Year Health Plan

The Yuuʕuʕiʕʕaʕh Government has been working with **White Raven Consulting** to create comprehensive five year Health Plan.

The Five year Health Plan is an important document that supports the Yuuʕuʕiʕʕaʕh Government in providing meaningful and valuable programs for our citizens. White Raven has conducted 5 Engagement Events with Elders, Youth, Hitacu Residents and Urban Citizens.

We have had a great number of our citizens' turn out to have their say in the Health Plan. We are excited to see the final product of the voices of our citizens. It has been amazing see the participation in this Health Plan and it will be beneficial to all in the coming years. Thank you to all Yuuʕuʕiʕʕaʕh for their participation in creating this 5 year Health Plan.

Local Education Agreement

The Yuuʕuʕiʕʕaʕh Government and

School District 70 have been working closely to update the Local Enhancement Agreement. The Local Enhancement agreement is a tool to increase student success and to bring indigenous learning to all students in the district. School District 70 has been working collaboratively with the Yuuʕuʕiʕʕaʕh Government to set goals to meet the educational needs of our students.

During the process of updating the Local Enhancement Agreement the School district seeks the input of those that they serve. In the future we will be looking into having an engagement session for our citizens to come and speak with SD 70 officials in regards to education. We look forward to continuing to work with School District 70 to complete the Local



Asya Touchie
SOCIAL SERVICES and CULTURE & HERITAGE

Enhancement Agreement Health and Wellness

During the fall months we were very grateful to have **Dede Monette** from **Tofino Yoga** in our community practicing Yoga with our citizens and residents. For this program we used a grant received from **Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.** to help support health and wellness activities and events with in our community, specifically in the areas of Diabetes education, and prevention.

We have been pleased to have been able to provide citizens and residents with the ability to practice regular routines of health and wellness and we look forward to offering more opportunities in the future.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming activities.

Afterschool Programming

The Culture and Heritage Department has been working with the Youth Afterschool Program to integrate language into their program-

Culture & Heritage

ing for an hour a week. The Youth have practiced language while playing basketball and during baking. It has been a great opportunity to expand

on what the youth practiced while in the summer months. We are excited to see that the Children and Youth are keen to learn the language.

Criteria for Housing Selection

Have you ever wondered how candidates are selected for available housing? The Housing Ad Hoc Committee evaluates a set of criteria when choosing from the list of applicants for available units.

YG strives to meet the needs for housing and to make fair selections. The housing department, when considering applications, will consider the following criteria (in no particular order):

1. Valid application (Dec 1–Nov 30 yearly)
2. Proof of income information
3. Three references from previous landlords, employers and utilities (BC Hydro)
4. No outstanding debts or rental arrears owed to YG
5. Unit availability meets the needs of the applicant
6. Current living conditions of applicant
7. YG citizens only

Reminder on upcoming housing

Importantly, applications need renewing once a year. If you are unsure about your application and date please be sure to double check with Marilyn Touchie at 250-726-2587 or marylin.touchie@ufn.ca.

Is your family growing and you are now in need of a bigger space? Are you looking to downsize? Or are you looking to move back to the community? You are encouraged to apply.

Please refer to the Criteria for Housing Selection above on how candidates are selected for available housing.

Units that are soon to be available are: Four 3 bedroom units (Duplex), Two 1 bedroom (Triplex) units, and One 4 bedroom (Triplex).



STAFF PROFILE



Kali Touchie
*Lands and Resources
Administrative Assistant*

Kali has been in this position since April, 2017.

She started as a temporary receptionist at YG in October, 2016, and completed a Geographical Information Services (GIS) internship from November, 2016 to April, 2017.

This experience has brought her to a four-day workshop in Winnipeg. Her job entails planning fish deliveries, assisting Lands & Resources Manager **Alex Touchie**, and she fills in at the front desk when needed. Kali also managed the **Tofino Long Beach Gas 'n Go** for two years before joining us here at YG.

Kali moved back from Vancouver in 2010 and is very glad to be working side by side with her brother, **Jay Millar**, in the Lands and Resource Office, and they are very close.



Dec. 15, 2018

Urban Christmas Party ⁷



Yuulu?ih?ath Government – Ucluelet First Nation

Questions? Contact Us

Mailing: P.O. Box 699, Ucluelet, BC, V0R 3A0

Physical: Cix*atin Centre, 700 Way Road,
Hitacu, BC, V0R 3A0

Tel: 250-726-7342

Toll-free: 1-877-726-7342

Fax: 250-726-7552

Email us your questions/concerns to info@ufn.ca



8 Hitacu Christmas Party

Dec. 18, 2018



Dec. 18, 2018

Hitacu Christmas Party ⁹



Promoting and Sustaining Our Resources

Animal Control

The Department of Lands and Resources has been working to develop new administrative processes to more efficiently undertake animal control within Hitacu.

Under the Public Order, Peace and Safety Act and the Animal Control Regulation, a thorough framework for animal control enforcement was established by our Government in order to ensure compliance by pet owners. As is the case with legislative structures, there is a need to develop administrative processes to actually effectively implement law.

The Department has developed an administrative framework that provides clear process for our staff and our Animal Control Officers that ensures implementation of our animal control legislation. The Department will be hosting another event in February on pet ownership and, as was previously the case, will provide various pet supplies to owners who attend and register their pets.

As residents on our Treaty Settlement Lands, we all play a role in implementing our legislation and the Department is very interested in providing support to pet owners who are interested in learning more about pet ownership and compliance with animal control legislation.

Southern Resident Killer Whales

As citizens may be aware, there has been discussion in the region and at the federal level regarding new critical habitat and potential protection measures for Southern Resident Killer Whales in our Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area. The Department has been following the situation closely and has raised a range of concerns on the issues.

The Maa-nulth, as Nuu-chah-nulth

peoples, believe in the interdependence, and the need for sustainability, of all life forms, as reflected in the Nuu-chah-nulth words *hish-uk-ish-tsawalk* (the interconnectedness of all things), *iisaak* (respect for all things) and *uu-athluck* (taking care of).

The Maa-nulth are, and have always been, a fishing people. Since time immemorial, harvesting, processing, consuming and trading all species of fish and other ocean resources is a practice that is integral to our distinctive culture. We rely on our ocean resources for a healthy life.

We support Canada's objectives for the protection and restoration of the orca population. The orca form a critical part of the ocean ecosystem on which we rely. The Maa-nulth too form part of the same ecosystem on which we rely. We are all one. We believe the management of the ocean's ecosystem must be carried out in a balanced way for the good of the entire ecosystem and those who rely on it for their sustenance.

We have lived on these waters for thousands of years. We know these waters, we know the orca. To try to understand the orca without trying to understand the Maa-nulth is futile.

It is therefore essential that, in accordance with our Treaty, Canada meaningfully consult our Government when undertaking the management of our ocean resources. Its efforts on the subject of Southern Resident Killer Whales are of concern to the Department of Lands and Resources for the reasons listed above and our Government has taken, and will continue to take, steps to ensure legally sound



Alex Touchie
LANDS & RESOURCES

and effective management of our ocean resources, in accordance with the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Food Fish Program

At the beginning of February citizens can expect to see applications for the upcoming year of the Food Fish Program posted online and in our Government offices in Hitacu and Port Alberni. Citizens who live outside of these areas and are unable to access the application online may contact the Department

of Lands and Resources at (250) 726-7342 in order to have an application mailed. The initial application period will run through the end of March, although citizens may continue to submit applications throughout the year.

This is a new aspect of the Food Fish Program. As anyone who has been involved with the program in the past is aware, citizens previously did not have to apply to participate. The Department has identified that this lack of key information (which citizens are participating for the year) has led to inefficiencies. The Department recognizes that citizens have also voiced concerns and recommendations for the program.

Rather than implement changes during the current year of programming, we sought to review all of the feedback from citizens and implement changes for the upcoming year of programming, which starts this April. By completing and submitting an application, citizens not only ensure that they are able to participate in the program and receive traditional

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Wild About Wolves Brings Understanding

Parks Canada made a presentation to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Executive in December about their Wild About Wolves project.

The project is being driven by a desire for Parks to better understand the history of wolves on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and to find the best methods to raise awareness about wolves to bring about positive outcomes for wolf populations in an area that is seeing high numbers of tourists visiting each year.

Over the course of the last 20 years, human-wolf encounters have been steadily increasing, leading to negative outcomes for

wolf populations, up to and including the destruction of a number of wolves.

Alex Touchie, Manager of Lands and Resources, says his department has been internally discussing measures to better undertake wildlife monitoring throughout Treaty Settlement Lands and similar discussions have been taking place at the Maa-nulth level, largely through the Reasonable Opportunity Agreement Technical Advisory Group and the Maa-nulth Wildlife Council.

“The Wild About Wolves project provides an opportunity to work with Parks Canada to better understand local wolf

“The project takes an approach that strongly emphasizes our Nation’s knowledge of human interaction with wolves

population that are on our Treaty Settlement Lands and within our Maa-nulth Area,” says Alex. “It also provides an opportunity to engage Parks on training for staff members so that our Government can better

undertake wildlife monitoring in the future.

There is an opportunity for gathering data and an opportunity for employment and training for our citizens and Treaty Settlement Land residents.

“The project takes an approach that strongly emphasizes our Nation’s knowledge of human interactions with wolves and seeks to involve our citizens and Government in the project as much as is possible,” Alex adds. “Given our other ongoing work with Parks this project is an opportunity to build upon that relationship.”

SIXTIES SCOOP CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Collectiva will hold Information Sessions on the Sixties Scoop Settlement Claim Process.

The Sixties Scoop Class Action concerns any registered Indian or person eligible to be registered or Inuit person who was adopted or made a permanent ward and was placed in the care of non-Indigenous foster or adoptive parents in Canada between January 1, 1951 and December 31, 1991, which resulted in the loss of cultural identity. Eligible class members could receive compensation between \$25,000 and \$50,000 depending on the overall number of eligible members.

SIXTIES SCOOP INFORMATION SESSION

During the information session, class members will have access to professionals for answers to their questions, help in completing claim forms and financial wellness and planning presentation.

For the list of cities we will visit and for more information:

sixtiesscoopsettlement.info
1 844 287-4270
sixtiesscoop@collectiva.ca

**60'S
SCOOP**

New Taxation Rules Apply May 1

Continued From Page One

planning to order a new car or build a house on TSL and hope to take advantage of a GST/PST exemption, you will need to do so prior to May 1, 2019.

Further down the road, also as agreed to and signed off on in 2011, the next major taxation changes take place, on January 1, 2024 – just 5 years away. They are:

- Yuuʔuʔitʔath citizens who own their own houses on TSL are scheduled to begin paying property tax beginning January 1, 2024. Those who own property on Yuuʔuʔitʔath TSL, will be required to pay property tax to the Yuuʔuʔitʔath Government as of that date.

- Yuuʔuʔitʔath citizens will no longer be exempt from income tax, effective January 1, 2024, wherever they live in Canada.

That's what makes the ongoing negotiations with the Federal and Provincial governments so critically important. Those negotiations will determine how much Personal Income Tax - that both the Federal and Provincial governments are collecting - will be paid to the Yuuʔuʔitʔath Government.

Negotiations will also determine how the income tax collected from non Hitacu citizens will be paid

to the Yuuʔuʔitʔath Government.

For more information to stay informed:

Treaty: http://www.maanulth.ca/the_treaty_final_agreement.asp

GST: CRA website: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/business/topics/gst/individual/menu-e.html

Taxes and Benefits: www.cra.gc.ca

Child and Family Benefits: www.cra.gc.ca/benefits

Food Fish Program Is Here To Benefit Citizens

Continued From Page 10 foods, but also have the ability to complete a survey that will better enable the Department to plan the program in line with

recommendations from participants.

To be clear, the applications are specifically to allow the Department to better plan the Food

Fish Program; Yuuʔuʔitʔath citizenship remains the key criteria for participation in the program. The Department has acquired new infrastructure for storing and transporting food fish, which is going to lead to citizens receiving higher quality traditional foods. The application process also allows the Department to implement new systems for delivering fish; when your application is approved, you will be mailed a card that you will bring to each distribution. Our staff will scan the card, and you will be distributed fish based on the data that we collected from your initial application.

This speeds up distributions and removes added stress for citizens and staff to determine how many fish an individual is picking up, especially in the case of an individual who collects fish on behalf of other individuals (Yes, the application has an entire section that allows you to, in advance and with their consent, include other individuals on your application!).

We will also be using an automated call-out system next year which will ensure that citizens have adequate notice for distributions and reduce inefficiencies. The call-out system will also require citizens to confirm their attendance with the press of a button.

In early February additional information on the changes to the program will be posted along with the applications. The Department of Lands and Resources is eager to share the significant improvements to the Food Fish Program with citizens and would like to extend its thanks to everyone who has continued to participate in the program over the years.

Your feedback has been heard and we are looking forward to a new chapter in traditional foods programming that involved modern and efficient approaches to better support citizens' access to our traditional foods!



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Posted on: Monday, January 14, 2019

The Communications Officer is the key contact for the government and responsible for assisting in production and distribution of publications, pamphlets and handouts for events and activities, and reporting events for the Yuuʔuʔitʔath newspaper and newsletter. This entry level position includes a mentorship and training component.

For a copy of the complete position description, please contact Ashley McCarthy, Administrative Coordinator, by email (ashley.mccarthy@ufn.ca) or phone (250-726-7342, ext. 205)

Qualifications and Experience:

- Must have successfully completed Grade 12
- Strong reading and writing skills and experience with business and/or creative writing styles
- Strong desire to work for the Yuuʔuʔitʔath Government and attain work experience and training in the communication field
- Experience with related computer software including PowerPoint, Word Press or a keen interest in learning new software applications
- Ability to work evenings or weekends if required
- Criminal Records check
- Valid Class 5 Driver's License and own transportation
- Experience working for a self-governing nation preferred

How to Apply: please submit your covering letter, resume and three recent employment references to the attention of the Director of Operations, by email (employment@ufn.ca), fax (250-726-7552), by mail (P.O. Box 699, Ucluelet, BC, V0R 3A0) or in person (700 Wya Road, Hitacu, BC).

Closing Date: Friday, January 25, 2019

*Thank you in advance for your application.
We will be in touch with those who are shortlisted for an interview.*

Indigenous communities could tap into the medical tourism market

By Joseph Quesnel
*Research Fellow, Frontier Centre
for Public Policy*

A First Nation community about 70 kilometres southeast of Prince Albert, Sask., hopes to generate profit within five years from a private MRI clinic.

The **James Smith Cree Nation** could create what would be the province's first private-pay MRI facility. This became possible when the Saskatchewan government passed legislation in 2016 allowing for such facilities as a way of decreasing wait times.

A *Regina Leader-Post* news story from 2016 points out that the **Saskatchewan Medical Association** opposed private MRI facilities, while some doctors continued to refer patients to out-of-province MRI clinics for needed tests.

For Indigenous communities, such businesses could generate new revenue streams. While this would help medical patients of the communities and the province, it could also tap into the lucrative medical tourism industry.

The **Medical Tourism Association** says that "Medical tourism is where people who live in one country travel to another country to receive medical, dental and surgical care while at the same time receiving equal to or greater care than they would have in their own country, and are travelling

for medical care because of affordability, better access to care or a higher level of quality of care."

First Nations deserve more opportunity to develop revenue

First Nations could expand beyond MRI services into other diagnostic services and elective surgeries, such as knee and hip replacements.

Many First Nations are exploring the economic opportunities created by legal cannabis. However, some Indigenous communities aren't as enthusiastic about this market or are concerned about the ill effects on their communities, which are already dealing with addiction problems.

Allowing for-profit medical services on reserves could also help First Nations develop economic opportunities outside of the problematic casinos and VLTs.

The distinct legal situation of First Nations could make these opportunities possible.

James Smith isn't the first Indigenous community to explore delivering private health services to Canadians. **Westbank First Nation**, near Kelowna, planned a high-end private health-care facility of about 200,000 square feet and 100 beds in its first phase.

Chief **Robert Louie** told *Windspeaker* in 2012: "It will be equivalent to a private hospital. The centre will provide all the services of a typical health-care institution without the emergency department, obstetrics unit and psychiatric ward.

"The private clinic will provide major organ surgeries, joint replacements and cosmetic surgeries. It's pretty wide open as far as a hospital goes," Louie said.

Health Canada said that such a private hospital would be allowed only if it catered to non-Canadians.

Some constitutional experts said the proposal would test Indigenous self-government. Louie claimed the band didn't require approval from Health Canada to build and operate a private hospital on their land.

Unfortunately, the hospital was never built. Louie, who was the driving force behind the project, was defeated in the 2016 election.

The federal and provincial governments need to work with Indigenous communities that want to provide medical services to other Canadians. The MRI clinic at James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan needs to be replicated across the country.

First Nations deserve more opportunities to develop revenue outside of gambling and cannabis.

At a minimum, Indigenous communities should be allowed to take advantage of the medical tourism industry.

Harvesting Cards

Are you looking to harvest natural resources off our traditional territory? Whether your card has expired or you have never had one before, you can come fill out an application at the Yuulu?i?ath Government office and submit it to Kali Touchie in the Lands and Resources Department for completion. From there Debbie Mundy will create your Harvesters Card and we will contact you when it is complete. The cost is \$25 dollars.

IMPORTANT:

Please remember Harvesters Cards expire every 5 years.

FOR MORE INFO AND APPLICATION REQUESTS:

Please contact Kali Touchie at 250-726-7342 or kali.touchie@ufn.ca



Do you have a will?

Did you know?



<9%

Less than 9% of First Nation peoples on reserve pass away with a will

- the INAC website has information about planning your estate
- your will differs if you live on- or off-reserve
- the *Indian Act* outlines what should be included in your will
- you can't gift your land on reserve to someone who is not a member of your First Nation
- you can change your will as often as you like
- writing a will doesn't have to be complicated or costly

Why make a will?

- to provide for your loved ones, your children and grandchildren
- to decide who will get your home



- to clearly state who should receive your possessions



- to name who will take care of your children and dependents



- to leave instructions for end of life ceremonies



- to name who will take care of your estate



A will could provide peace of mind and clear direction about your wishes to your family and loved ones



Visit www.canada.ca/indigenous-northern-affairs for more information

This publication is also available in French under the title: Avez-vous un testament?