



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

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Briefly



Youth pitch in to help carve impressive new sign

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Summer student serving at Ucluelet First Nation

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Warrior program success continues to spread

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Funding arrives, more on the way

By Fred Tolmie
Chief Financial Officer

The last two months, we've experienced a tremendous winning streak in respect of the financial health and future of the Yuutu?it?ath Nation.

As reported in previous articles, we have confirmed an additional \$6.0 million for catch up funding for governance, infrastructure and programs and services. In addition, the Federal government announced in its recent budget that it is forgiving or reimbursing loans that were taken to negotiate treaties.

For Yuutu?it?ath Nation this means that we will be forgiven or reimbursed an additional \$6.0 million over the next 5 years. Even further to this, the provincial government announced gaming revenue sharing which will see Yuutu?it?ath Nation receive approximately, \$10.0 million paid over the next 25 years at \$400,000 per year.

At present, we are also re-negotiating our fiscal financing agreement. As one of the most underfunded treaties in Canada, we expect this matter to be redressed with significant increases to this annual



CFO Fred Tolmie, left, and President Les Doiron unveil cheques representing over \$20 million in new funding

funding which supports the costs of infrastructure, lands and fisheries management, programs and services and language culture and heritage to mention a few.

While the negotiations for renewal of this funding are continuing, we have already achieved interim agreement

on substantial increases for the future FFA. As we achieve formal agreement, we will continuously provide updates.

We are also well on our way to completing additional revenue sharing agreements with Canada and British Columbia on Goods and Services Tax revenue sharing and

Provincial Sales Tax revenue sharing. These funds are based on a share of GST and PST based upon an estimate of Yuutu?it?ath citizens residing on Treaty Settlement lands and the province as a whole. These agreements are either in progress or still being

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Yuutu?it?ath Government Elections May 8

Four citizens have put their names forward for President for the May 8, 2019 Yuutu?it?ath First Nation Government election.

Incumbent Les Doiron, Christina Klotz, Charles McCarthy and Gordon Albert Taylor are vying for the President's Chair for the next legislature.

Elections for the office of President and six (6) Members of the Legislature for the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation will be held on May 8, 2019.

The following eight citizens have been nominated as candidates for the six Member of the Legislature positions:

- Lawrence Baird
- Alan Wayne McCarthy
- Richard Gabriel Mundy
- Violet Mundy
- Joyce Caroline Patrick
- Jeneva Alicia Touchie
- Jenny Marie Touchie
- Lorri Denise Touchie

Nominated candidates had until April 17 to submit the required documents to complete

the nomination process, including 10 signatures from Yuutu?it?ath citizens.

A Voters List for these elections has been posted in Hitacu in the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation Government House and on the YFN web site at <http://www.ufn.ca> and is updated regularly.

An All Candidates Meeting was held April 24 in the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation Government House in Hitacu.

The General Poll will be held

in Hitacu at the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation Government House and at the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation satellite government offices at 5251 Argyle Street in Port Alberni. Polling stations will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 8.

An Advance Poll was held in Hitacu in the Yuutu?it?ath First Nation Government House, multipurpose room, on April 25.

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Communications Officer introduced at Urban Office

In my last update, I wrote about communications and our plans to improve our nation's communications function. To ensure that you, as a citizen are up-to-date with news and information, including how the implementation of our treaty is going to directly affect you, we arranged and hosted a number of gatherings to introduce our Communications Officer at our Urban Office, provide opportunity for Hitacu citizens to provide input on a transit system that could be coming to the west coast, and to provide information on the May 1st Transaction Tax date.

Below provides an overview of these sessions and the feedback that we received.

March 29 Port Alberni Gathering

Cecilia Jensen, Communications Officer, has proven to be a valuable asset to our Nation's government – as was demonstrated at our first gathering with her at the Hiḡstiis Hupiiḡuḡ -- Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ - Ucluelet First Nation Port Alberni Satellite Office.

Cecilia introduced herself and spoke of her role with our government and further, announced her plans for the upcoming year. She invited those in attendance to contact her or stop in at the office to provide her with input so that she can start developing and implementing some new programs and to enable her to provide opportunities for our citizens to gather more often. Cecilia grew up in Hitacu and recalls all the great things that she took part in to support her as a community member – this is the foundation on which she wants to support our citizens living beyond the areas of Hitacu and Ucluelet areas.

A small cultural ceremony was also held and Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ citizen, Johnson McCarthy, was blanketed to show support for him on his journey. It is times like this that remind me of how important our culture is and how powerful it can be when applied.

We are grateful to those who supported this sharing of culture and would like to thank Richard Mundy Sr., Joe Thompson, the McKay family (Vince, Charlotte, Sheryl, Gloria and her family). Cultural knowledge holders are an extremely valuable asset to our nation for they hold information on our true identity, information that can help remind us of what it means to be kuu-us.

It is always nice to add a touch of our culture to our government-hosted events as it adds a sense of belonging and provides a calming and positive balance so that we can take care of business in a good way.

April 4 BC Transit Open House

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District wants to implement transit service between Tofino and Ucluelet, and are proposing a transit route connecting the two communities with several stops to key local and regional destinations including a potential limited service to Hitacu.

An Open House was held in Hitacu on April 4th and citizens were invited to join the engagement team to provide input on how a new transit system on the west coast could benefit them. More information will be provided when it is available, but we know for certain that a new transit system will not be brought in on the immediate term for it could take a couple more years to finalize the process.

April 16 – 18 Transaction Tax Information Sessions

As posted at <http://www.ufn.ca/our-government/taxation/>

Starting May 1, 2019, Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ citizens will begin to pay GST and PST.

For example, citizens will no longer be eligible for tax exemption when buying gas, clothing, and other goods. "Citizens" means those on the enrolment register of the Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ – Ucluelet First Nation. If you are planning to order a new car or other goods, or build a house



Suzanne Williams
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

on Treaty Settlement Lands, you will need to do so before May 1, 2019, to take advantage of the GST/PST exemption.

The Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ Government is in the process of negotiating a GST and PST revenue sharing agreement with the British Columbia and Federal governments. Negotiations will determine how much GST and PST — that both the British Columbia and Federal governments are collecting — will be paid to the Yuuḷuḡiḡaḡ Government.

At the nation level, we have received a number of inquiries on the May 1st Transaction Tax and how it is going to affect our citizens residing on and off Treaty Lands.

Some questions that we have received include the following:

- Will my health benefits be cancelled on May 1st and will I have to pay for my own prescriptions?
- How will this affect programming such as the Post-Secondary funding program?
- Where is the tax money coming from?
- Do we have a say on what happens with the tax monies?
- Do we have businesses that are generating taxes?
- What will the taxation agreements (with Canada and BC) look like?

These are only a few of the questions arising on the topic of

Transaction Tax and it's great to see that our citizens want to know more.

We organized four engagement sessions starting with Port Alberni, followed by Nanaimo, Victoria, and Hitacu. Our plan is to create a Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ") sheet that will be shared on our website and in our paper, the Umacuk. The FAQ sheet will include validated answers to all of the questions that have been asked and we expect to add to this sheet as we progress through this change.

At our urban gatherings, one of the key messages that we heard was that as a government we are not paying enough attention to our urban population. In addition to ensuring our citizens our kept informed, our Constitution calls for fairness and equality for all of our citizens and we heard loud and clear that we need to do more to ensure our citizens feel that.

This is not the first time that we have heard this. Seeing our urban citizens face-to-face, hearing what they have to say, and learning about the questions that are out there sheds light on the fact that our communication with them requires much improvement.

As an administration, we were aware of this and added funds to our budget for the current fiscal year to ensure that we do more urban engagement and we look forward to holding more information sessions on such topics as health and medical coverage, citizenship and enrolment, programming, and general information overall.

Overall, the last couple of weeks have been very fulfilling for me as I was able to reconnect with many citizens that I have not seen in several years.

I look forward to the future of our communication initiatives and am happy to know that we have a great team in place to move things forward, all of whom are equipped with the knowledge and expertise to share information with our citizens in a meaningful and engaging way.

Election May 8

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Mail-in ballot packages have been sent to eligible voters and mail-in ballots must be received by the Chief Electoral Officer before the close of the general poll at 8 p.m. on May 8.

Instructions for electronic voting will be provided to eligible voters. Electronic voting will take place from April 29, 2019 to May 6, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Kit Spence has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer for this election. He can be contacted by telephone at (250) 881-0142 and by email at YFN_CEO@shaw.ca

Status Cards

YG is receiving forty status cards from AANDC at one time. Once we have issued all forty cards we will receive another forty. At this time, YG would like to begin a list of all of our citizens who require a status card. YG will set up appointments with our citizens – in Hitacu and our Port Alberni Satellite Office – who have recorded their name(s) on this list. If you have any questions or if you reside outside of Hitacu and Port Alberni and need a status card, please contact Debbie Mundy at 1-877-726-7342 ext 214 or at debbie.mundy@ufn.ca.



President's Report

April, 2019 | Yuułu?ił?ath Umacuk

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Looking back and looking forward

As I finish my term as President of the Yuułu?ił?ath First Nation Government, I thought I'd reflect on where we were when I was voted into office four years ago, where we are today, and where I believe we are going as a Full Treaty Nation.

When the Treaty that we signed with other Maa-nulth Nations came into effect on April 1, 2011, it was a historic occasion, where we could see the day that we'd be out from underneath the Indian Act and operate as our own Nation. I don't believe anyone felt it was going to be easy at that time, and I can tell you now, eight years later, there is still much work to be done.

As President, I have spent countless hours crossing the country, negotiating with federal and provincial leaders alongside a strong team representing our interests. We quickly identified that Ucluelet First Nation was the lowest funded Full Treaty Nation in the entire country, and worked hard to change that. The April announcement of just over \$20 million in new funding coming to Yuułu?ił?ath from Ottawa and Victoria was great news, and I congratulate everyone who has been part of our negotiating team to make it happen.

This funding will enable us to provide the much needed services our citizens want and need, including the Language and Culture restoration process that we introduced during this term, which is already restoring Pride of Tribe to our citizens.

As a team, I believe we have accomplished a lot over the past four years, but I must say the greatest honour of all was the special Blanket Ceremony where our elders gave me the name "Huqsim", or Goose. I have never felt so humbled and grateful in my entire life for that, and I am so thankful to our elders for doing that.

Restoring our language through creating the Culture, Language and Heritage Department has been something close to our hearts, and watching it happen right before our eyes is truly very special.

The new Daycare building that is almost finished will not only be a safe, clean, excellent facility for our own children, but it will also serve other children. And while there, they will be taught our language and culture.

Building the new canoe energized our citizens as they saw the hard work put in to build it. Again, it was going back to our traditions and all about restoring Pride in Tribe.

One of the most rewarding initiatives, the Warriors Program, has been nothing short of a major hit with our youth, as well as young people from other Nations, who have adopted the program as their own. Our young people are learning important wilderness skills and enjoying the fellowship of others as they build trails, log



Les Doiron
PRESIDENT

cabins, play games, harvest and share stories. Congratulations to our Warriors leaders for this excellent program.

A few years ago, our citizens spoke up and said they wanted our own people in the key administration positions in our government offices, and we've done that. The succession plan is working well, and we should all be proud of the caliber of the citizens we have in these important jobs, entrusted to look after all of us.

The Living Wage Policy made sure that those working for our Nation would be properly paid for their services, and the announcement of the program was greeted enthusiastically inside and outside of Hitacu.

The need for a secondary road into and out of Hitacu was identified many years ago, and we were pleased to see that completed and ready for use. Our sewer and water systems are much improved, and we have excellent staff overseeing those services, and we recently signed a two year Fire Protection Agreement with the District of Ucluelet that not only provides help for us if there is a fire, but it lowers the cost of our Nation's insurance premiums because of the new levels of protection.

It has been important to me to reach out to our Urban citizens, and the food fish program has been improved, including adding a new truck to transport to our members across the island. Our Urban dinners and barbecues have



Our young people helped out with carving the new signs for Ucluelet First Nation

been big hits, and traffic continues to increase at our Urban office in Port Alberni. I know the Christmas bonuses we've distributed the past two years have been needed and gratefully received.

So what's next?

Now that our funding shortfall has been addressed, I believe the Yuułu?ił?ath Government needs to

focus on Economic Development, so we can generate our own sources of much needed revenue for our citizens. Our partnership with St. Jean's Cannery in Nanaimo has been good, and we need more.

Our Nation needs to continue to improve our infrastructure, as well as housing here in Hitacu, as well as for our urban members.

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 Yuułu?ił?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

Practicum student joins YG for summer

Hello! My name is **Annika Benoit-Jansson**, and I am honoured and excited to be a new practicum student with the Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government.

I am Mi'kmaw from Qalipu First Nations, as well as French and Swedish. My partner and children are Nu-Chah-Nulth, from Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nations.

I am taking my Masters degree in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. My practicum in Hitacu will be until the end of June.

I will be participating in two youth community carving projects: A Welcome Sign with the Hitacu youth group and a Log Drum with the Hitacu Warrior's group.

The Welcome Sign Project:

The Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government is partnering with Nu-Chah-Nulth artist **Hjalmer Wenstob** to host a community carving project with Hitacu youth. The finished project will be a 9'x15' Welcome Sign on the Pacific Rim Highway, acknowledging the Yuuʔuʔiʔath territory.

The wood for the sign was milled with a chainsaw from one of the logs outside of the Cixʔatin Centre in Hitacu. The design was created through collaboration with numerous Yuuʔuʔiʔath Elders and language speakers.

Hjalmer met with **Logun Moe** and the youth group over spring break, and he introduced the youth to both traditional and contemporary carving tools and techniques, trying them out on a big log. Then the youth carved out the sign - both the lettering and the Yuuʔuʔiʔath logo - with chisels



Annika Benoit-Jansson is a new practicum student

and mallets. They were so quick to catch on to carving that they've nearly finished all the chiseling, and have begun painting as well!



Nu-Chah-Nulth artist Hjalmer Wenstob is working on the community carving project with Hitacu youth.

We all met again on April 2nd, and were joined by **Bernice Touchie**, **Richard Mundy** and **Samantha Touchie**, who incorporated Nu-Chah-Nulth language into the carving, teaching us words as we carved. The project includes not only teaching about carving tools and techniques, as well as stories about land and language - we've also had

a great time laughing over a fire, and roasting marshmallows and hot dogs. There will be two more carving evenings at the end of April - stay tuned to the Facebook page for the dates.

Everyone is welcome to come participate!

More funding

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finalized and we'll share more information when the agreements are complete.

At the time of writing, myself along with a team from Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government are visiting Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria and Hitacu to provide public information on the expiry

of GST and PST exemption on May 1, 2019. Much thanks to our Port Alberni satellite office for their extensive work at getting the word out for these sessions.



Frederic Tolmie
CFO - FINANCE

Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government exists to serve Yuuʔuʔiʔath citizens regardless of where they reside and we look forward to developing new, expanded or enhanced programs and services so that all Yuuʔuʔiʔath citizens benefit from the treaty.

In the finance department we're presently preparing for the annual audit so we can present our annual audited financial statements to Yuuʔuʔiʔath citizens later this year.

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



Reflections

By Melody Charlie Photography
P.O. Box 1124, Ucluelet, BC
Phone: 250-266-2507

taaqaakah ?ani hiniŋa ʔuʔtuup?i - I believe in the good things coming
Four years ago, I put my name forward for election in Ucluelet First Nation.

I never 'ran', campaigned or promised anything other than hoping to inspire others to live healthier lives and breathing life into our language. Thank you to everyone back then who thought that I might be right for this, and to everyone else who knew this would not be for me. Not knowing then that it would cost feeling a part of my community and four years later, wanting to flee this place I've called home.

Never in my life have I felt as depressed, hopeless and isolated as I have lately. To feel so much rage, to hold all that anger in, and witness so much loss and pain has been unbearable.

I really thought I could do it: I would not have to choose sides, I could be on everyone's side, I could



Photo by Melody Charlie Photography

hear everyone out. But the fighters want you to fight, they want you to get mad, they want you to pick sides and participate in putting each other

down. If you aren't holding grudges and throwing punches then you aren't in the ring.

I was never in the ring. If anything, I tried to create circles. Circles of healing, yoga, therapy, wellness through land, food, connection to culture and language.

The only battle I want to fight is with those who fight their addictions, and with those fighting wars within themselves, trying not to be better than anyone other than who they were yesterday.

It feels like band meetings have become battlegrounds for everyone to gather and try to fix everyone else BUT themselves. So my fights have been reserved for those recovering in addiction, reclaiming lost lands and fighting to keep their languages alive.

So am I sorry? Of course I am. I am no fighter. I am no politician. Anyone who really knows me, knows the only laws I believe in are spiritual laws, the law of attraction and natural laws.

Did I agree with all decisions what

were made and how things were handled or not handled? Of course not. I had my fair share of anger, tears, pulling my hair out and throwing in the towel moments. I felt like a bridge - band aid; I, too, running around trying to fix everything and everyone, only to burn out myself while ripping band aids off wounds and burning bridges that weren't long enough to hold.

There's so much work to be done and the sooner individuals can focus on their own weaknesses, drop their egos and begin sharing strengths, only then will we apsciikaŋin (go the right way).

Regardless of it all, I'm grateful to have witnessed the growth in language learners, the revival of traditional ceremonies, the grooming of the next harvesters (young men), the roofs that some of homeless now have, and the celebrations of sobriety!

My time, interest and energy will always been with those hurting and willing to work on themselves, because to me, you don't need to be a president, chief or elected member to lead and lift your people. Everyday, how we walk and talk about each other defines whether we lifting or not.

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. So bring on the new changes because we're meant to go and grow.

Our potential is ALWAYS bigger than our problems.

There is so much potential in:

- Community Uniting
- Capacity Building
- Communicating, aim for over informed.

Culture, our urban crave these spiritual practices too.

Compassion, especially for those struggling with addictions, it's how we all heal.

So thank you for believing or not believing in me. I feel like this whole experience has me boosted my confidence in creating a new place to call home and returning to my old places of art, creation and inspiration.



Children and citizens of all ages attended the Urban office open house in Port Alberni March 29



Urban citizens gathered at an open house March 29 as Communications Officer Cecilia Jensen was introduced at the Urban office in Port Alberni



Yuułu?ił?ath social services focuses on youth

The fiscal year quickly wrapped up and we are on to a new year!

Over the past year we have been able to spend time focusing on Health and Wellness including our Feast For Wellness, Week of Wellness, and various visits from Traditional Healers from Tsow-tun-lelum. We have also worked on creating more opportunities to be engaged with cultural activities, this has included carving with Clifford George, Canoe Carving with Joe Martin, and Signage Carving with Hjalmer Wenstob.

Weekly language sessions continue to be held Wednesday evenings from 5-7 p.m. We look forward to continuing to offer services. With the increase in funding for the Government, this comes with increased service provision and the ability to fully implement our services as needed. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Asya Touchie Interim Manager of Social Services and Manager of Culture and Heritage at asya.touchie@ufn.ca or 250-726-7342

Social Services

Baby Welcoming

On March 17th, 2019 the Yuułu?ił?ath Governments Department of Social Services and Department of Culture and Heritage hosted the Annual Baby Welcoming Gathering “?içayapin



Asya Touchie
*SOCIAL SERVICES,
CULTURE & HERITAGE*

taatnaqin”.

This year we welcomed five babies and blanketed their mothers and grandmothers. These are significant events to our children as it helps to support them in gaining healthy self-identities and grounds them in their roots as we continue to hold them up and teach them our cultural practices.

We are excited to continue to host this event and look forward to meeting new babies next year.

The Warriors

The Warriors have been busy this past Spring Break, and over the last

few months!

They have all been gearing up to learn how to build cabins. These cabins were part of various fundraising efforts which included many grant applications.

The Warriors from Saahuus?ath, ła?uukwi?ath and Yuułu?ił?ath came together and completed many courses over Spring Break included Small Vessel Operator Proficiency (SVOP), Marine Emergency Duties (MED A3), Radio Operator Course Marie (ROC-M), and Marie and Wilderness First Aid.

These Cabins will be placed in each Warriors community including in Effingham. The cabins will help to support our Elders to have a more comfortable stay when they attend the site. The youth are excited to continue to make the space in the Effingham Inlet safe for elders.

5 Year Health Plan

łeekoo łeekoo to Dawn Foxcroft and Kelly Poirier-Foxcroft of White Raven Consulting for the time they have spent with our citizens! The team hosted six engagement sessions to help support the creation of a 5 Year Health Plan for the Yuułu?ił?ath Government’s Social Services Department.

This plan will help to support the department and staff to ensure that we are providing the services that are supportive to Yuułu?ił?ath Citizens as

well we Hitaçu residents. On March 4th, 2019 the team presented their brief findings of the engagement sessions and we look forward to seeing the completed document and begin using it to support our programs.

Daycare Building

Our new Daycare building is quickly coming together and will be completed in the near future, with hopes to open in the fall of 2019.

It will be exciting to open up and invite children into the area which consists of four rooms which Elders will be welcomed into and be integrated into everyday programming. We will continue with our Language and Cultural programs with the support of our knowledge keepers and Elders.

The rooms currently are one infant toddler space, two 2.5-5 year old spaces and one 6 – 12 space, which will double as an Older Youth space.

As we near the completion of the daycare, staff has been diligently working on the collection of numbers for our children by surveying our citizens and residents with children.

Our new building will be able to host 52 children which includes 12 children in the afterschool program.

If you did not receive a survey and would like one please contact Michelle Ralston, Daycare Supervisor at michelle.ralston@ufn.ca

MP supports totem pole

Gord Johns, Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni, has sent a letter to Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau in support of the Language Revitalization totem pole from Nuuchahnulth carver Tim Paul.

The purpose of the letter was to add his full support to the First Nations Education Foundation (FNEF) initiative

to commemorate UNESCO’s International Year of Indigenous Languages by commissioning the totem pole.

“This pole will raise awareness and funding support for important language revitalization work throughout British

Columbia such as the FNEF partnership with Yuułu?ił?ath First Nation,” Johns wrote.

The Language Revitalization Pole project has already enlisted significant private sector sponsorship from the likes of TimberWest, Western Forest Products, BC Chamber of Commerce, Royal BC Museum, Royal Bank of Canada, TD Bank, DG Law, Association for Mineral Exploration, Teck Resources and Interfor.

“I urge that Canada also contribute directly to this important project in recognition of the urgency for language revitalization in British Columbia where less than 3% of First Nations people speak their language and 52% of remaining fluent speakers are already 65 or older,” Johns continues.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT



Les Doiron



Christina Klotz



Charles McCarthy



Albert Gordon Taylor

CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATURE



Lawrence Baird



Alan McCarthy



Richard Mundy



Violet Mundy



Joyce Patrick



Lorri Touchie



Jeneva Touchie



Jenny Touchie

Warrior Program

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Young men in Warriors program building log cabins

Warriors guide Ricardo Manmohan: "From the beginning of the Warrior program, we were supported by President Les Doiron, the Legislature and the UFN Administration. They not only allowed, but also encouraged us to welcome young men from other Nations, seeing the need for this program existed beyond just UFN. These are now the young men that are leading the programs for their Nations."

By Eric Plummer

As published in *Ha-Shilth-Sa*

TY HISTANIS - A chorus of chainsaws filled the maintenance yard of Ty-Histanis on the spring morning of March 18. With the sawdust flying around them in the cool air, a group of teenage boys diligently work over a small log cabin, marking where the joints should fit with carpentry pencils.

The boys are from three chapters of the Warrior Program, an initiative designed to foster leadership in young First Nations men. The lads cut through the logs under the direction of Edwin "Buckshot" Bikadi, a seasoned log cabin builder who travelled from his home with the Lil'wat Nation in B.C.'s interior to teach chainsaw operating.

"The chainsaw is the most dangerous tool there is, so there's a lot of respect," said Bikadi of the activity. "They're not learning this stuff anymore, nobody's learning this stuff anymore. People are just growing up on video games now. This is land-based learning."

On the seventh consecutive day of chainsaw training, 17-year-old James Walton admits the task isn't always enjoyable.

"My hands always cramp up, but it's good to learn," said the Ucluelet Secondary School student. "It's nice to get out of a classroom setting and work hands on."

With over three Nuuchahnulth nations regularly engaging over 40 young men in Warrior programs, the initiative has grown over the last four years since it began as the Hitacu Warriors with the Yuułu?il?ath First Nation. At times in its early days participation was



James Walton is one of the Warriors most enthusiastic members

sparse, recalls Walton, who continued to attend with the program's guide, Ricardo Manmohan.

"Me and Evan Touchie, for about a year and a half there, we were just going out with Ricardo by ourselves," he said.

"I was inside too often and I got attached to things like TVs and stuff," continued Walton, who credits his mother, Debbie Mundy, for encouraging him to continue with the program.

"She just wanted me to not be so lazy at home and to learn things too. I didn't know how to set up a tent

before I came here."

In recent years the teenager has gained regular exposure to outdoor survival skills, like fire-building, fishing and archery. This summer the Warrior program plans to build four cabins in Nuuchahnulth territory as part of a partnership with North Island College at locations in Effingham Inlet, the mouth of the Megin River, Nitinaht Lake and Indian Island near Tofino. Participants can earn high school credits through the leadership training.

"This program is to teach them how to provide, protect and prepare," explained Manmohan. "Men don't want

to sit around; we want to do things."

In September, 2018 two chapters were added to the Yuułu?il?ath Warriors with programs for Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht youth. In Ahousaht the group meets one evening a week, plus a weekend each month of camping at a remote location, including during winter.

"Our group will create a safe space for these young men to form their self-identity, express emotion and gather perspectives from trusted connections both physical and spiritual," reads the Ahousaht Way Warrior Program's description. "As warriors, men are the protectors of women, children and each other. The task of a warrior is to stand up and act against violence and lead as healthy role models within the community."

Thomas Paul, one of the program's organizers, said the Ahousaht Warrior chapter was started to break the cyclical effect of colonisation that has damaged families' traditional values.

"That was all taken away. So now we're mentoring them to be self-disciplined, to be respectful, to be helpful," he said. "That's so important because even in my short life I've seen such a change in Ahousaht where we don't even help an elder bring their groceries up from the dock anymore."

Paul noted the importance of looking back at the resilience of Nuuchahnulth peoples when they lived without the conveniences and distractions of modern life.

"When I think of the ancestors, how strong their mind was, the rituals they had to do," he said, adding that these qualities are being taught to the young men. "If we don't nurture and teach them a good way, they'll slip through the cracks and just do the same thing their parents did."

The Warriors begin their cabin building projects in late June with a structure planned for the Megin River, located north of Flores Island on Vancouver Island. To provide shelter in remote locations for elders and youth, this activity is scheduled to continue into October with the project on Indian Island in Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

Yuułu?il?ath Government – Ucluelet First Nation

Questions? Contact Us

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New Communications Officer starts at Urban Office

Cecilia Jensen is back working for Ucluelet First Nation, this time as the Communications Officer and Manager of the Urban office in Port Alberni.

From Monday to Friday, Cecilia will assist with the production and distribution of pamphlets, brochures, poster and handouts for events and activities, and updating the Nation's social media sites. She will also attend meetings and report on them, as well as book venues for Urban engagement sessions, in addition to administrative duties in the office.

"I will be a support for our Urban citizens in areas that include health, community wellness social development, culture and education," she adds.

As a teenager, Cecilia worked for Ucluelet First Nation as an Archeologist Assistant and as a Youth Worker. After graduation she moved to Port Alberni where she met her husband and they started their own family. And they have two children.



Cecilia Jensen

Cecilia was an administrative assistant for the Haahuupayak School, then an Education Assistant, working with

Donna Samuel. She also held customer service jobs in the hospitality industry, and at the Nordia (Bell Mobility) call center based in Nanaimo.

"I worked in almost every department at Nordia, advancing and learning many great skills," she says. "From being a loyalty and retention agent, to escalation resolution team supervisor, working with mobility and home services."

Cecilia also worked at **Wya Point Resort** as Housekeeping Manager, and then at **Black Rock Oceanfront Resort** as supervisor of the reservations department before taking this position.

"I learned a lot of great skills and have taken away so many treasured memories and great friendships," she says. "It has been so rewarding in many ways having to experience all of it."

Cecilia looks back fondly at her time working with youth, as "the work I was able to do with my own people felt very rewarding. I have wanted to bring my skills and love for the community back to Ucluelet.

When a close friend brought this job opportunity to her attention, "it seemed to me to be an exciting new opportunity and a chance to bring myself and my children closer to our roots.

"Communications to me is an exciting new chapter," she says. "I like this position because I can make it about more positive and healthy community engagement.

I am looking forward to being the connection between the main office in Hitacu and our Urban citizens."

Cecilia notes she is enjoying conversations with Urban citizens who share stories of their roots in Ucluelet.

"When it comes to the urban engagement part of my job, I would like to bring more activities for the youth, adults and elders," she says. "I have lived in Port Alberni for many years, and had no idea there was this many Ucluelet citizens living here, so I would like to bring the families together to do more cultural activities, as well as fun, active get togethers."

New Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife arrives

Yuulu?il?ath has a new Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife.

It's **Jonquil Crosby**, who is excited about the newly created position to take care of fish and habitat within Ucluelet First Nation lands.

Most recently, Jonquil served as Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Capital Regional District in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, a 20,000 hectare site that is home to bears, cougars, Canada geese, and invasive bull frogs and toads, amongst other species.

As Fisheries and Wildlife Manager, Jonquil is responsible for the implementation of fisheries and wildlife

related legislation and programming within the Department of Lands and Resources.

She will conduct fisheries and wildlife plans and strategies, ensuring that all related activities are undertaken in a legally compliant manner, and provide scientifically and legally sound advice to the Manager of Lands and Resources.

Jonquil has an extensive, impressive resume that lists a number of published papers, and articles in publications. She holds a wide variety of wildlife certificates and affiliations, has a Bachelor in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria, and a Masters in Environmental Resources from the University of Waterloo.

She has performed field work in environment and resources studies in Osoyoos, and as a forestry technician, she monitored badgers in the Southern Interior near Williams Lake.

She has also served as a Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, and has worked across B.C. and Alberta, and attended the Malaysia Field School.

Jonquil is no stranger to smaller towns,

as she previously lived in Kitimat and Osoyoos, and grew up in 100 Mile House.

"I really like the small town atmosphere and the rawness of the West Coast is such a big draw for me," she says. "I love hunting and fishing, although I've yet to learn how to surf."

As Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife, Jonquil admits there is a lot to do, and she looks forward to working with other Maa-nulth governments.

"I'm really keen to be here," she adds. "There is a lot of really interesting people, and it's fun work. I am getting to know the community, and it's going to be great."



Jonquil Crosby



Are you a pet owner in Hitacu?

THINK PET LICENCE

Stop by the Government Office in Hitacu to get your pet licence and pick up some complementary pet supplies!

Pet licencing is a legal requirement for pet owners on Treaty Settlement Lands and better positions us to ensure the health and safety of our residents and their pets. Call (250) 726-7342 with any questions!