

Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1 | **January**, 2017

www.ufn.ca

Looking forward to the New Year!

Happy New Year! These past couple months have been extremely busy within the administration of the government.

Department Managers and Legislature Members attended a facilitated governance training and strategic planning session. I am pleased to inform the citizens that the government has a draft strategic direction for implementation of government programming and long-term planning with achievable objectives.



Rhonda Knockwood

We are working quickly to formalize the plan as a living document. As we are entering into the fourth quarter of the year, department

staff managers are working to develop their budgets that are reflective of the government's strategic plan.

I am pleased to inform citizens that the government has now employed all program managers and they are all working cooperatively to fulfill government plans and financial reporting to funders.

I would like to welcome our newest addition to the management team, **Spencer Touchie**, who is our new Assets Manager. I would also like to thank **Anna Drabosenig** for filling the position on the interim.

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A first for our Nation: Secondary Access Route another way to drive

The Ucluelet First Nation is and has been located at the mouth of the harbour since time memorial.

For hundreds of years the only access was by water. The former Indian reserve got road access in the 1960's, which made the trek "across the bay" easier for some. The main road was gravel for many years and just recently was paved throughout almost the entire community.

With only one road in and out of the community, and after numerous annual floods and trees had fallen across the road, and the single access route preventing our members a way to get out, this Government figured it was time to do something about it.

As a Treaty Nation, we don't require provincial or government permission or funding to ensure the safe-keeping of our citizens. We are not "wards"



A portion of our new roadway

of the government any longer. We can determine how to proceed by negotiating with partners how to address our problem in a way that won't cost this government our own funds.

This government inherited a serious forestry issue from 2013-2014 regarding silviculture and reforestation that had to

be dealt with by August, 2016 or else substantial fines would have been imposed. We developed a good working relationship with Probyn Log Company and negotiated a secondary-access road as part of the clean-up.

Never in our history has there been a secondary road out of the

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Director of Operations Report

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We have also welcomed the following new staff: **Jeremy Valentine** and **George Tate** – Property & Building Services Coordinators; **Kalie Touchie** – GIS Intern; and, **Evelyn Charlie** – Interim Recreation Facilities Worker. We are pleased to have them join our government team.

I have also been working to restructure current positions within the government staff. **Suzanne Williams** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Operations. She will be taking on more project management and local stakeholder engagement responsibilities and this is a move towards the succession plan for my position. Additionally, **Christina Klotz** has been employed full-time as the Law Clerk and is taking on the added administrative responsibility of all government meetings. This will assist the government in centralizing the procedures of meeting preparations, minute taking, approvals and distribution for citizens. Once the policy and procedures are finalized, the government will have a more efficient system in place.

As we move forward into the last quarter of the fiscal year, we will be working on initiatives that will improve citizen engagement within Hitacu and in the urban centres. As we move closer, day-by-day, towards important treaty dates, we will be working diligently on special project to accurately forecast the needs of all citizens in regards to education, infrastructure, health and wellness, economic development, and taxation.

On behalf of the government staff, have a great 2017!

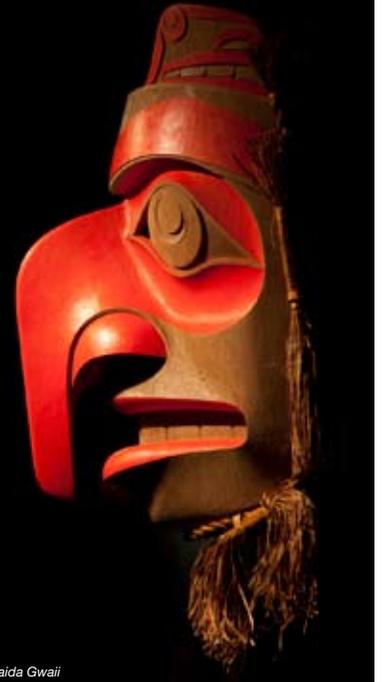
- Rhonda Knockwood

Xwisten Experience, Lillooet



Culture Shock Interactive Gallery, Alert Bay

Haida Heritage Centre, Haida Gwaii



Cultural Interpretation

TRAINING

*Learn what to share,
how to share it and
when to share it.*

January 23 – February 3, 2017
Port Alberni, BC

- Do you...** enjoy teaching visitors about your culture?
- Can you...** see yourself in an exciting and rewarding career in cultural tourism?
- Have you...** wondered how you can gain some experience in cultural interpretation and advance your career?
- Will you...** make a commitment to yourself to complete this one of a kind course?

If you answered yes, then you must join us! No experience necessary, but you must be willing to participate, be open to sharing your skills and learning some new ones.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and Aboriginal Tourism BC have joined forces to provide a unique and exciting training opportunity to help you launch yourself onto a new path.

Support Available:

- Daily training incentive
- Daily living allowance

Find out how you can participate by contacting:

Jenny Touchie First Nations Liaison, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
Jenny.Touchie@pc.gc.ca · 250.726.3526



 Parks Canada

Parcs Canada



**ABORIGINAL
TOURISM BC**
our story. your experience.

Summary of our Executive Reports

Following are the minutes from the most recent meeting of the e **Yuutu?it?ath** Government's Executive Committee, held in November.

Land and Resources

Lands and Resources: **Alan McCarthy** attended the CWCFS AGM, where **Don McMillan** was elected as Chairperson and Alan was elected as the Secretary. He also attended a meeting regarding the airport where a decision on the naming of the airport was tabled.

The CBT signed onto a philanthropical declaration action plan and they will be moving forward with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations – the CBT will be pulling the TRC efforts together and making it stronger. Alan attended the Strategic Planning session last week and thought great effort was put into the planning by everyone involved.

Alan provided an update on the work that the ACRD is doing.

Assets

Gordon Taylor attended the Strategic Planning session and now that an Assets Manager is in place, he is looking forward to working with him to move forward with new projects in a proper manner. A presentation on above/below ground petroleum storage will be made at a later date. Gordon would like to ensure that the Hitacu Assembly is made aware of the proper procedure on how to put resolutions in front of the Assembly (i.e. an outlined procedure to ensure it is submitted within the required time frame – in accordance with law).

Gordon announced that with the new housing project coming up, (he) is looking into rain water system, wastewater collection, etc. Gord discussed Mercantile Creek and responsibilities as it relates to the license holders and requirements of the new protection Acts that are in effect. Gordon provided an update on the fire department and efforts to recruit volunteers. Information on the TFN CMHC Housing Project will be shared with the Executive for information at the end of the meeting.

Community Services

Jeneva Touchie met with Constable, **Marcel Midlane** (Ucluelet RCMP) and he requires a Letter of Expectation from the YG. Jeneva has some concerns with underage drinking in Hitacu and will be touching base with a few community citizens to see if they are interested in participating in the Community Consultative Group (CCG). She will be attending a FNHA gathering and PAC meetings.



Family, celebration time

Above: Children and adults gathered around Nuu-cha-nulth weaver Rose Wilson at the Urban Christmas dinner in Port Alberni for our citizens Dec. 12. Below: Dancers celebrate at the dinner.



Finance

Richard Mundy met with the Treaty Implementation Committee and made a recommendation to the Executive for the approval of the FOI Regulation. The finance committee met to short-list for the ACFO position and it is anticipated that a new ACFO will be in place in the New Year. Richard attended the NTC workshop where presentations were made that would benefit the citizens of **Yuutu?it?ath** i.e. the struggles that FN's face, especially with racism). He also attended the Strategic Planning session and would like to ensure that the work that we did is effective; he would like to see a strategic session for the Legislature so that they can learn about law making (e.g. time and cost that it takes to create law, prioritizing the laws that we will need, etc.).

Richard provided a copy of a message from Timothy Masso, who is reaching out to NCN members for support to implement a (credited) NCN Language and Culture Program at the

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Executive Reports

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Ucluelet Secondary School. A letter of support from the YG would help Timothy's efforts.

Timothy made a similar presentation to the Assembly of First Nations and since then, Rhonda has spoken with Angela (Polifroni) of Toquaht Nation, and a joint letter from the YG and TN will be sent. Rhonda has reached out to regional and provincial leaders for support.

Discussion was held on the capacity of fluent elders in the community, the barriers they face, and opportunities that are available to enhance language programs.

Support for language program

It was moved by **Alan McCarthy** to support **Timothy Masso's** efforts to bring an accredited **Nuu-chah-nulth Language and Culture Program** to the **Ucluelet Secondary School**, by providing a letter of support – to be submitted jointly by the **e Yuutu?it?ath Government** and **Toquaht Nation**. All in favour, the motion was carried.

President attends BCAFN

President **Les Doiron** attended the BCAFN gathering where **Timothy Masso** made his presentation, and he emphasized the strong cultural efforts shared by some nations at that level, such as the Ahousaht. Les also attended the Governance Training and Strategic Planning sessions and stated that it was a good session that proved how well everyone can work together.



Enjoying the December 12 Christmas get together

Les met with **Ian Green (Greenheart)** and took a tour of the **UBC Aerial Trail**, which leaves a very minimal footprint on the land. Plans for a similar tour for the elders and youth are underway.

Rock quarry presentation

J. Robbins Construction has proposed a rock quarry on YFN land, and information was presented to the Executive at their last meeting.

More information is needed on the length of the proposed lease, the volume of material that would be extracted each year, the current market rates of the same material, creating partnerships that will provide viable opportunities for the Nation, determining the historical use of the land (i.e. archeological studies) and developing a plan for: economic use, citizen training and employment, etc.

Discussions can continue on this item, but in light of the Subsurface Resources Act (and subsequent regulations) that are coming up, the Executive will wait on making a decision until more information is collected and the Act is in place.

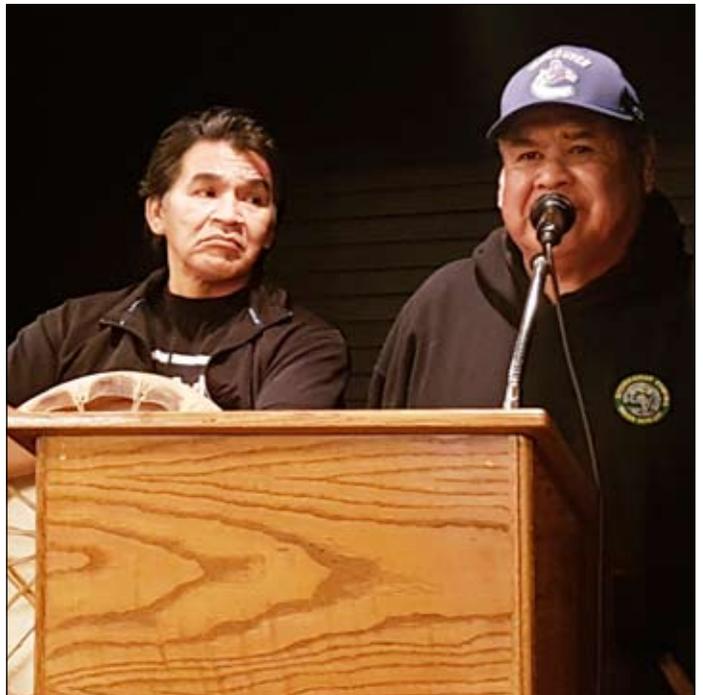
A letter of intent was written to support a continued relationship with J. Robbins Construction, which will remain in effect until all the information needed is gathered on the proposed rock quarry.

New passenger van for youth

As presented by **Peter Pynacker**, the 15-passenger van has been incurring high maintenance costs, so staff worked on obtaining quotes and information on the replacement of this van.

It was moved by Alan to approve the purchase of a new passenger van for a net payment of \$31,448, from Alberni Toyota, to trade in the current 2009 GMC, and to fund the

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Lindsey McCarthy leads with culture group (left)



COMMUNITY ANOUNCEMENT:

JAN 18, 2017 - PEDIATRICIAN - DR.R.HUGHES will be at
the Hitacu Community Clinic - from 10:30am to 3:30pm



For Appointments please contact Jennifer Touchie @ 250-266-1617, or 250-726-2060.

Please note: You need to schedule an appointment. Your child may have to miss some school in order to attend an appointment.

Executive Reports

Continued From Page 4

next purchase out of the Tangible Capital Asset bank account – as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. All in favour, the motion was carried.

Peter explained the history of the Tangible Capital Assets account. In previous years, transfers to the TCA were made with a value that would fund future major renovation expenses, but this is not common practice for any government. The TCA is meant to serve as a reserve fund. YG accounts will be set up properly so that we are making money off of the money we have. Using these funds is a better option as opposed to obtaining a loan for purchases.

Future consideration will need to be given to using emission free vehicles. The TCA will be included as part of the long-term financial planning and Peter will be working with Spencer on this portion of the plan.

Food Bank Report

Cris and others from the **Ucluelet Food Bank** informed the Executive about the number of clients they serve from Hitacu. The Food Bank has a society since the year 2000, and operates on a 100% volunteer basis and solely on community donations.

In 2015, 106 hampers were given out, with 49 of those hampers given to Hitacu residents. This year, nine of 16 applications handed out for Food Bank services came from Hitacu clients. The Food Bank also donates everyday items and fresh produce. Volunteers of the Food Bank shop at No Frills in Port Alberni sometimes, but have developed a relationship with the local **Co-op** where they receive donations such as bread, dairy, and vegetables (for use on the day of). The Food Bank Society is not able to provide statistics prior to 2014. A beaded bottle was gifted to the YG as it was a piece that was admired



Ucluelet First Nation donated \$5,000 to the Ucluelet Food Bank

by First Nation clients visiting the Food Bank.

President Doiron personally donated 15 turkeys to the Ucluelet Food Bank. The YG is also able to donate commercially inspected and packaged salmon. Gordon donated five turkeys for the Christmas hamper program.

The Food Bank has not had a First Nation board representative and Jeneva announced her interest to become a board member. The Food Bank AGM is planned for June 2017, at which time Jeneva can put her name forward to become a board member.

Alan moved that YG donate \$5,000 to the Ucluelet Food Bank on the Edge, with funds to come from the Interfor funds. All in favour, the motion was carried.



New Secondary Access Route ready

Cont'd From Page One
community.

This secondary route will provide safety for our members in case of a tsunami, earthquake or other natural disaster. Historically every winter our main road gets blocked, now in case of an emergency, we now have an option to get out. The safety of our nation and members is of the utmost importance for this government.

The route is now complete and we will be celebrating in the next month with our youth, elders and community.

Everyone is invited to come join in the celebration.

Education



Ucluelet First Nation hosted CDL Canada and their executive delegation from Korea recently

CDL Canada welcomed to YGN for rejuvenation of our language

The YG hosted **CDL Canada** and their executive delegation from Korea to discuss with our language experts, elders and youth to discuss a pilot project for our language rejuvenation project that will develop language curriculum in a multi-media interface.

Following the meeting a MOU relationship agreement was signed on November 30 with CDL Canada to work together to develop the Language Revitalization Pilot Project, a treaty right that for our citizens.

President **Les Doiron** and the Director of Operations and CDL Canada met with former national chief, **Phil Fontaine**, to discuss the project and propose his support. We are pleased to announce that Phil Fontaine has agreed to act as our projects national champion and advocate for the project.

This relationship will assist our project to be funded from the federal and provincial government, private foundations and corporate sponsorship.

This opportunity will provide employment and training for our youth and elders once the project gets underway!

Over the coming months, we will provide more information on this exciting project.



From left: President Les Doiron and Director of Operations Rhonda Knockwood meet with former national chief Phil Fontaine

Education

8 It's important to retain and teach our culture

Alice Paul, in a speech from our elders to the NTC Annual Assembly in 1984, made some very important points that are worthy of consideration today. Here is what she told the Assembly:

"It was very important to

my forefathers to retain and teach and practice our Indian Culture and human values.

"But, today, I see the change have taken place within our Indian society, We no longer retain our practices in teaching our younger

generation the value of life. I being an elder over 80 years, was taught and I learned from my elders because had to listen and learn. This younger generation in this assembly have to start listening to your elders' teaching and refresh

your memories about human values, property values, boundary lines concerning the native nation of Canada."

Alice Paul, Sept 28-30, 1984
Translation by **Archie Frank** of Ahousaht.



QUESTIONS?

Please visit the FNEL website fnel.arts.ubc.ca to learn more about our program. You will find current course offerings, profiles of our faculty, staff, community partners, alumni and students, as well as information about our research projects, resources, events, and other related Indigenous initiatives at UBC.

w fnel.arts.ubc.ca
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**FIRST NATIONS & ENDANGERED
LANGUAGES PROGRAM**
at the **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**



a place of mind
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FAMILY STUDIES 12

- ◆ Earn credits towards your high school diploma

- ◆ Dates & Times:

Wednesday evenings from January 18th to March 8th, 2017

5:30—7:30pm

- ◆ Location: (to be confirmed)

Classes will rotate between Ucluelet Secondary School,
Wickaninnish Elementary School, and the Hitacu Community
Centre

** Transportation Provided **

- ◆ Topics include:

- ◇ Emerging into adulthood
- ◇ Relationships, communication, and interpersonal skills
- ◇ Budgeting, Finances, & Expenses
- ◇ Self-Care Practices
- ◇ Raising a Family
- ◆ Contact Nicole at 250-726-7796 for more information



In Partnership with SD70 & CBT

ARE YOU READY FOR WORK?

JOIN US ON MARCH 9TH, 2017

CAREER FAIR!



Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program is pleased to announce the

4th Annual Career Fair in Port Alberni, BC

Thursday, March 9, 2017 9am to 3pm

@ ALBERNI ATHLETIC HALL

3737 Roger St, Port Alberni (across from ADSS)

- **Over 40 employers, school and community agencies in attendance**
- **Learn more about hiring incentives and supports you can access**
- **Open to all community members, whether you are working, unemployed or in school**
- **No cost to attend**



**Nuu-chah-nulth Employment
& Training Program**

Canada

*Funding provided in part by the
Government of Canada*

Address: 4090 8th Avenue Port Alberni B.C

Phone: 250-723-1331

Fax: 250-723-1336

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/nuuchahnulth.employment

Urban Christmas dinner an evening of celebration

The Urban Christmas dinner was held in Port Alberni December 12 with over 100 members attending .

Melody Charlie set up a photo booth and she was busy right from the beginning of the night until the end.

Thank you to **Lindsey McCarthy** & the culture he & his team brought to dinner.

Lots of songs , opening prayer by Melody Charlie in our language.

There were lots of wonderful comments and thank you's.

Joan Dick cooked dinner and she and her team did an amazing job.

Kleco to all who chipped in to make this a premier event of the year. We will do another Urban get together this coming summer.

It was great seeing members from the community of Hitacu as well. That put the Merry Christmas feeling right where it should be.

Pro-day day focuses on language, vocabulary

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) held a PPLC meeting Nov. 5, 2016

Band schools attending were Ditidaht, Ahousaht, Ha-ho-payak, Yuutu it ath and Pacheedaht.

The goals for most schools was for achieving mastery, to collaborate to offer a standard vocabulary Levels 1, 2 and 3. The basics of Total Physical Response (TPR) were reviewed. Next Pro-day will be Feb. 15,16. 2017. Good news is YG has worked on half this vocabulary already with videos.

Greatest event- Prime Minister Trudeau announced at AFN Dec. 6 that Canada will have an Indigenous Language Act!

Spencer Touchie joins staff as Asset Manager

I am a new hire with the nation as Asset Manager, coming from **Iisaak Forest Resources / Ma-mook Natural Resources** the local forestry company partially owned by Ucluelet as well as the four other nations which make up the Nuu-cha-nulth central region.

My goals moving forward with this position is working alongside the Assets portfolio holder Gordon Taylor to help realize the nations goals of lowering our ecological footprint, helping to develop long term plans, and moving projects which have been started forward.

Spencer Touchie

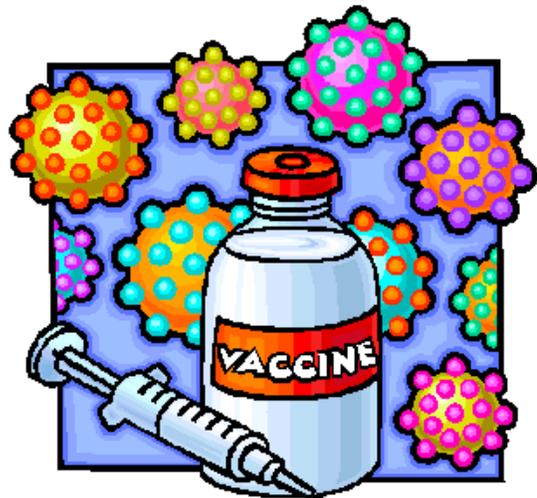
Are your children up-to-date on their immunizations?

Call to book your child's immunization appointment today!

- **Contact your local community health nurse to check when clinics are offered in your community.**

Community health nurses can:

- **Provide your child's immunizations**
- **Check to see if your child is missing any routine vaccines**
- **Answer your immunization questions**



Nuu-chah-nulth Nursing Services

Southern 250 724-5757 □ Central (250) 725-3367 □ Northern (250) 283-2012

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION TRAINING PROGRAM JANUARY 23 TO FEBRUARY 3 IN PORT ALBERNI

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is happy to announce we were successful in obtaining funding to facilitate a cultural interpretation training program, to be delivered in partnership with Aboriginal Tourism BC.

Aboriginal Tourism BC, a leading organization in Aboriginal Tourism, has created a two week (10 day) program that specializes in training Aboriginal people to share aspects of community approved local culture in an authentic, interactive and professional manner. This program is ideal for your citizens who work in tourism & hospitality, people with an interest to gain skills in cultural interpretation, and for people who work or have an interest to work in guiding and/or cultural interpretation programs. Successful participants will obtain valuable skills and marketable abilities from an industry recognized organization.

The date range for this training is January 23rd-February 3rd, 2017 in Port Alberni. Further details will be shared with you as they are confirmed. There will be financial support provided to the Nation to assist with training incentives and living allowances.

This training program is a unique opportunity for community members to develop and/or hone skills for a growing and exciting tourism sector. Please discuss this opportunity with community members you think will engage in, and benefit from investing in this rewarding opportunity, and will feel confident and passionate about being a cultural ambassador of your Nation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We look forward to working with you on delivering another successful and exciting training program.

Sincerely,



Caron Olive
A| First Nations Program Manager
Caron.Olive@pc.gc.ca
250.726.3508

Canada 

Hectic schedule for November and December

I met with **Michelle Stillwell**, Parksville-Qualicum MLA and we discussed treaty implementation and how it is a modern self-governance tool and the benefits to our nation. Michelle is also a multi-gold medal winner in the Olympics. She is a paraplegic with limited use of her arms. She is motivational, inspirational and genuine.

Ahousaht Fisheries

I travelled to Musqueam to show support for the Ahousaht Fisheries Litigation. I was one of numerous leaders who went to show support. There were three Maa-nulth Treaty leaders there

BCAFN Leadership Meeting

We travelled to Victoria to the BCAFN. The most interesting part of the event was when **Timmy Masso** called out Minister **Carolyn Bennett** about our Nuu-chah-nulth language and how weak the programs are. After the break, we met with Timmy and his family. He explained that there is nothing really happening in the school system with NuuOchah-nulth language curriculum and that he is helping teach at Ucluelet High School at the age of 13.

After talking to Timmy and learning that because our members that speak fluently in our language are not "recognized" by the education systems as they are viewed as not qualified. I committed to help find out a way to help our people, Timmy and all Nuu-chah-nulth nations to save our language, as directed in our constitution. I have met with some of the SD 70 teachers and numerous politicians and feel it is a slow process, but we can and will succeed.

These language programs have always been funded on grants and that doesn't meet our long-term needs. As we are a Treaty Nation, we are not held back by INAC and their policies and we can move to a far better pace and can work to find partnership with today's technology.

Governance Training

The Legislature attended a workshop led by **Eli Mina**, an accredited parliamentarian and received extensive training on governance.

Strategic Planning

The Legislature and Department Managers attended an extensive two-day strategic planning session. It was great to see our team and Legislature members collaborating and creating a comprehensive strategic plan. This time was well spent to itemize the strategic direction of this government. It is my recommendation that every legislature team in the future goes through this exercise with the facilitators we worked with.

Remembrance Day

I placed a wreath at Port Alberni in remembrance of all First Nations who fought for our freedom. I placed a wreath in Ucluelet later the same day.

Wya Commercial Filming

I had the pleasure of filming a commercial for BC Tourism

with a few of our members to promote our resort and our recent success – how we have turned the businesses that has increased its gross revenues in the past eighteen months. We are putting our nation on the map similar to Osoyoos and their **Spirit Ridge at Nk'mip Resort**.



**President
Les Doiron**

UBC Aerial Trail Visit

Elders, youth, members and legislature travelled to UBC to view and experience the aerial walkway. The purpose was to experience the walkway and see how environmentally friendly this business is. We provided accommodation at the River Rock with a bus tour and also delivered and provided a wonderful bag lunch. It is my belief that everyone who came and viewed and walked the aerial trail enjoyed and or were excited about it.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Interview

After almost 18 months of talks with the leaders of the RCMP about what consultation means to a treaty nation, we were invited with the Mayor of Ucluelet to sit at the table and participate in the interview process of the new staff sergeant. This is a huge win for our nation. The RCMP now have a much better understanding what our treaty is and that being self-governing and parallel with the federal government, we have a right to be at the table and determine the process with them.

Maa-nulth AGM

The meeting was held in our government building and it was monumental to have the other nations being hosted by our government

Coast Guard

We met with the Coast Guard to discuss a potential new route to Mt. Ozzard. Anna travelled up the top with them to view what changes might take place. Because of the snow, the difficulty to see everything was challenging. Work still needs to be done on their proposed route of the cultural significance in the area and a possible impact benefit agreement for compensation, employment and economic opportunities needs to be further discussed.

December Executive Meeting

After many consultations with other Maa-nulth Nations, the BC Treaty Commission and our Chief Financial Officer the Executive exercised our self-governing ability to **provide every citizen of the nation and Christmas gift of \$250**. It was most gratifying to see and meet many urban members at Christmas. This initiative will take place every year.

Economic Development Committee

Due to the heating problem in the government building, we met at the **Hu-Pa-too Business Centre**. The meeting was long overdue; however, we got caught up with this committee and discussed how and where we are as the nation stands in terms of economic development projects.

From The President

2016 ended with a flurry of activity and meetings

Secondary Route Access Completion

The nation had a long-standing forestry stumpage issued that had to be resolved by August 2016 before substantial fines and penalties would be imposed on the government.

We developed a plan and a working relationship with **Probyn Logging** and negotiated the secondary road as part of the stumpage clean-up. Never in our history has there been a secondary road out in case of an emergency. This provides safety for all of you and our nation celebration will be next month. All of our nation members and neighbours will be invited.

NTC Urban Christmas Events

Campbell River – After being asked by NTC to attend to provide leadership support, I attended the event were approximately 60 members attended. **Willard Gallic Sr.** thanked me and our nation for support our peoples, stating, more leaders need to show up and support their people. The night was filled with songs, dance, good and great feelings

Vancouver – About 100 members attending, we had about six members attend – mostly McCarthys in attendance. Again lots of great songs and food. They had a photo-booth, weaving and stories. Our people along with the numerous others were most appreciative of the representation of our nation being there.

Seattle – About 100 members also attended and we had a couple citizens attend who enjoyed the fish brought along with YG coffee mugs. This event I noticed that Ahousaht brought their membership clerk who was able to provide status cards to their members. That is needed for our urban members – the cost for them to get them at home is too costly. Lesson learned. Great time, fantastic feelings.

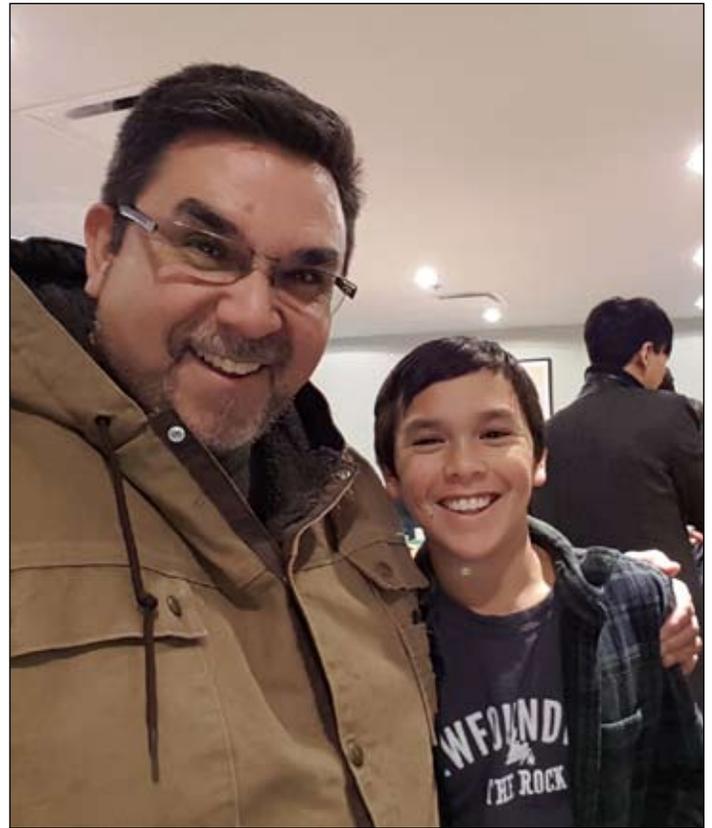
Ahousaht Water Crisis

Patti Charleson and Rob, CEO emailed us on December 17 to inform that their community was in crisis with no water. We supplied about 70 – 18 litre bottles to them, our team delivered the water to the water taxi the next morning. With that, one of our suppliers (**Buy Low Foods – Randy Johnson**) in Port Alberni donated 1,000 small bottles of water and 40 – 18 litre bottles. All of the water was delivered by **Dennis Johnson Chev-Olds**. This water crisis was an eye-opener for Ahousaht and our nation. We do stock pile water, primarily for our resort and accommodations, however, this is a good reminder that our preparedness is a work in progress.

Language Rejuvenation Project

We travelled to Calgary, AB with CDL Canada to meet with former National Chief, **Phil Fontaine**. We meet with him to discuss the "Living Dictionary" project and language curriculum development project. We were seeking his support for this initiative and to be our national champion for the project. Our Director of Operations is friends with Phil Fontaine and her networking helped us get his attention. After a couple of hours of talks, he committed to helping our nation and agreed to help promote throughout the country this project.

Through networking, we connected with CDL Canada who



President Les Doiron with Timmy Masso, youth linguist champion, as we met with elders, government officials and CDL to discuss the future of our language and how we can rejuvenate it.

wanted to meet with YG regarding an exciting pilot project opportunity for language rejuvenation and revitalization. After our initial meeting, we invited them and their team from Korea to come to our nation to present their project to our language instructors, staff, elders and **Timmy Masso**.

They arrived and after discussions of what the project would look like and discussing the similarities we have with potentially losing our language, like the Koreans during the occupation of Japan, the focus group experienced the computer technology with tablets of language teaching and curriculum development. After only a few minutes, most said, "that is what is missing". It was very exciting.

The YG signed a relationship MOU document with CDL Canada to work together on this project. There is no cost to the nation, however we will work with CDL Canada to access sustainable funding through foundations and sponsorship. We only have nine fluent speaking members so that timing of this project is impeccable.

We will continue to move forward with language and culture before it is lost. It is a priority of our people and enshrined in our constitution.