



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

Winter 2022 | Volume 15



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Yuułı?ı?ath

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Sign up for weekly newsletters!

*This publication was prepared for Yuułı?ı?ath by Melissa Boucha. For questions, submissions, or copies, email melissa.boucha@ufn.ca. We thank all submissions to complete this publication.
Photo front and back cover - Melissa Boucha*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

hita'cu and neighbouring west coast residents were issued a Tsunami Advisory alert mid January. A stark reminder for the importance of emergency preparedness.

5:30am, Saturday, January 15, The District of Ucluelet Emergency Notification system woke residents with a phone call, text, and email, issuing a Tsunami Advisory. This Advisory would thus include the West Coast of Vancouver Island/BC, Alaska, Hawaii, the coastal states of the US. The reason? An underwater volcano eruption in Tonga.

Tonga is a Polynesian country of more than 170 South Pacific islands; a remote archipelago. The volcano is known as Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano and sits underwater about 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) high from the sea floor, 100 meters (328 feet) above sea level. This volcano sits between two small islands in the archipelago. The eruption was noted by scientists as seemingly brief, lasting for only 10 minutes, but incredibly explosive with a smoke plume rising more than 30 kilometers into the air. The eruption caused an immediate tsunami with waves being recorded at 1.2 meters (about 4 feet). This eruption sent waves across the Pacific causing water levels to rise from Hawaii to Alaska, including stronger current activity within the Ucluelet Harbour.

How do you stay informed? Both Ucluelet and Tofino offer Emergency Services system to 'rapidly convey messages to residents and visitors about impending emergency incidents' (ref. District of Ucluelet). You can visit Ucluelet.ca or Tofino.ca to sign up for this emergency system.

You can subscribe to general alerts with the International Tsunami Information Centre at <http://itic.ioc-unesco.org> - but be prepared to receive international alerts in using this precise system. If you are located in other coastal areas, check with your city, town, municipality to see what emergency system your community has to offer.

Are you prepared? Our environment is unpredictable. For most days it is business as usual, however there are times when you and your family need to be prepared. for a power outage, loss of water, or evacuation to higher ground. Prepare your household with the essentials:

- Stock of canned and dried food
- Stock of enough water for 72 hours
- Flashlights, candles, matches, lighters
- First Aid Kit/hygienic products
- Extra blankets
- Toilet paper - no hoarding, but a couple extra rolls is advisable

You can always adjust your safety kit requirements to your safety needs of your family. You can also visit 72hours.ca for ideas or purchasing of safety kits. See the checklist below for more ideas.

Lastly, always have a safety plan with your family!
Stay safe and healthy.

Tsunami alert scale as issued by Tsunami.gov



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IN YOUR SAFETY KIT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Aid Kit• Hygienic products• Water, hydration packets, Life straw, water purification tablets• Dried food• Flashlight• Flares, waterproof matches and candles• Waterproof poncho• Work gloves, rope, utility knife, duct tape• Emergency sleeping bag• Tube tent• Charger (in case you still have access to power) | HOUSEHOLD STOCK UP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety Kit items• Extra blankets• Warm clothing• Emergency supply of dried and canned goods• Extra Bottled water or purification tabs• Axe, flame source• Extra candles• Extra food for fur friends• Toilet paper |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

FOR PRE-MADE SAFETY KITS www.72hours.ca

U.S / Canada



Warning

Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents

- Move to high ground or inland

U.S / Canada



Advisory

Strong currents and waves dangerous to those in or very near water

- Stay out of water, away from beaches and waterways

U.S / Canada

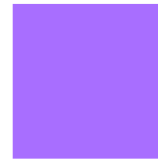


Watch

Information not yet known

- Stay tuned for information
- Be prepared to act

International



Risk

Dangerous coastal flooding and/or strong/unusual currents dangerous to those in or very near the water

- Seek more information, follow instructions from national & local authorities



For many, winter is their least favourite season, the weather gets colder, the days are shorter and even some of the local wildlife takes this time to hibernate or leave the area for warmer parts of the globe. However, winter also means the arrival of the new year, the opportunity to reflect and set exciting new goals.

For the local čims (black bears) this season represent the time for them to den. In coastal BC, their dens tend to be under large-diameter trees, logs, and stumps and may even be found above ground. Typically, čims will hibernate from December until April when food is less plentiful. During this period of their cycle, their heart rate slows down to about 10 beats per minute, their body temperature drops 3 degrees and they do not eat, drink, urinate or defecate while denning. Čims can lose approximately 30% of their body weight over the winter. For a relatively small 200 pound čims, that would represent a weight loss of about 60 pounds in one winter!

An exciting event happening in winter for čims is the birth of their cubs that takes place in the den. Čims have an adaptation called delayed embryo implantation, which is a process where mating occurs in early summer and the embryo only implants in the fall if the female has sufficient fat reserves to nurse her young over the winter. If the sow was not able to fatten up enough before the denning period, she will not give birth to any young this year.

Females can give birth to up to 5 offspring, but twins are more typical. They are generally born in late January and are blind, helpless and tiny, weighing 250 to 500 grams. As they are nursed in the den, they will grow 2 to 5 kg in size before they emerge in the spring.

However, it's important to note that some čims, often males, will not den during the winter if they can find food sources during these colder months. As of mid-December reports, there were still some čims active in some areas of the region. For that reason, it is still very important to keep all attractants secure even during this period of the year.

Also, the same attractants that might be interesting for čims might attract other animals, such as rodents, so it is always best to keep them secure and out of reach of wildlife.

As for **WildSafeBC**, the **łičıuut hitaču-Macoah** program will not go into hibernation and will remain active to answer any wildlife-related questions you may have and will be working on many more initiatives to help keep wildlife wild and the community safe. Additionally, the end of the year is a time for us to report on the past season's activities and successes. Curious about what we have been up to? Next to this article is a quick infographic of the key deliverables from the program, but you can also have access to the full report at www.wildsafebc.com. An addendum will be added later this year to describe the activities that have taken place after November 30th, 2021.

On another note, many of you are probably aware that this year has been a very difficult year for čims all around BC, as countless čims have followed their noses into communities and accessed unsecured attractants, leading to food-conditioning and eventually the demise of many animals. However, in communities such as hitaču, Macoah and Salmon Beach, little human-wildlife conflict has been recorded. This could be due to a variety of factors, however, we believe that the efforts put forward by the community have made a huge difference in reducing conflict with the local wildlife.

We would like to say a big łeekoo (thank you) to all residents who have done their best to secure their attractants indoors this past year, that have communicated their wildlife sightings, kept the community bins latched and ensured no wildlife attractant has been accessible to čims around their homes throughout the season.

Please don't hesitate to reach out this winter if you have any questions about the program, wildlife or WildSafeBC workshops offered to the community. If you would like to volunteer with WildSafeBC or organize a bear spray demonstration for a community group, just send a quick email to

Marianne, WildSafeBC ʕichuuʔ hitaču-Macoah Coordinator at hitacu-macoah@wildsafebc.com. To stay up to date on activities and events, don't forget to follow us on Facebook at WildSafeBC Hitacu Macoah and visit www.wildsafebc.com for more information and helpful tips on how to keep wildlife wild and communities safe!

Remember to report all čims, ʕayuumin (cougar) & qʕay-ačiiik (wolf) sightings in urban areas or any wildlife in conflict, to the Conservation Officer Service (1-877-952-7277). These reports can be viewed on WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (W.A.R.P.). You can consult W.A.R.P. on-line for free to see what wildlife has been reported in your area and you can even create alerts to stay up to date on recent activity.

The WildSafeBC ʕichuuʔ hitaču-Macoah program is grateful for the generous support the program receives from its funders including the Yuutuʔitʔath Government - Ucluelet First Nation, the Toquaht Nation, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation and the Province of British Columbia.

Marianne Paquette
WildSafeBC ʕichuuʔ hitaču-Macoah Coordinator
hitacu-macoah@wildsafebc.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Did you know...the WildSafeBC Program is the previously known Bear Aware program? This program is led by the BC Conservation Foundation, who decided to change the name in 2013 because WildSafe BC brings more information than conflict with bears and deliver more about many other wild-life species. The WildSafe BC program can provide Bear Aware information, along with information on wolves, cougars, and much more!

Follow **WildSafe BC** and the **WildSafe BC hitaču-Macoah** on Facebook for weekly information.

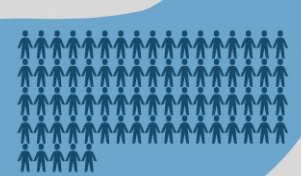
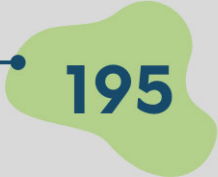


WildSafeBC ʕichuuʔ Hitaču-Macoah program 2021 season overview

Here are some of the important highlights of the 2021 season made possible with the support of the community, many partners and sponsors of the WildSafeBC program.

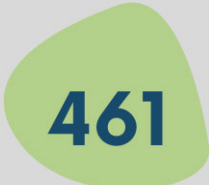
Youth reached

The ʕichuuʔ Hitaču-Macoah & Pacific Rim program teamed up and gave 8 WildSafe Ranger presentations to 14 classes, reaching 195 youth and teachers.



72 participants

With 8 presentations to community groups, 72 participants were reached.



Door-to-door

A total of 461 people were reached through door-to-door activities.

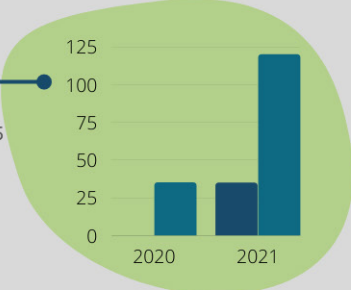


Booth displays

A total of 5 display booths were held and 361 people were reached.

242.9% increase

The ʕichuuʔ Hitaču-Macoah Facebook page grew from 35 to 120 followers in 2021.



Articles

There were 7 articles written on the topic of human-wildlife coexistence.

Want to learn more?

Visit www.wildsafebc.com for the full 2021 season report.





CEDAR & ROSES

WITH ROSE ADAY-MCCARTHY

Cedar has an infinite amount of uses. It's no wonder why it is a cornerstone of NCN culture. From housepoles, cedar planks decorated and carefully transported from village site to village site. Clothing, diapers, sleeping mats, eating mats, baskets so perfectly woven that they become watertight. Our ancestors were enveloped in cedar from birth to death.

Cedar trees are magical in their ability to be versatile. Both Strong at times and extremely Gentle in others. We can make thick rope out of cedar that is strong enough to tow a whale back to shore. And by using a rock or hammer to break apart the inner cedar bark fibers a gentle and absorbent material with many important uses can be made.

Cedar is closely woven into NCN culture. Cedar weavers are powerful and keep our culture alive just like any other knowledge keeper. Not just in making the types of things our ancestors used and wore but creating new fashions and styles of cedar work. Graduation caps are possibly my favorite "new" style of cedar work.

Being Nuu-chah-nulth isn't about how you look or how many cultural teachings you have. It has everything to do with how you act towards the world and yourself. Learning traditional skills like cedar weaving is just one way to connect with our culture. I'm still a beginner at cedar weaving but I feel so much closer to our culture when I'm working with cedar.

Not everyone has a person in their life to teach them how to work with cedar so below are instructions to make a cedar rose. It is one of the simplest projects to make, but still takes some time to get the hang of so don't worry if it takes some time to learn. If you find yourself getting frustrated, set the project down for a while and do your best to work on the rose with good thoughts and feelings.

If you don't have access to cedar for this project email rose.aday@ufn.ca to have the materials mailed to you. Or if you'd like to try it now cut two strips of paper 1 inch wide x 10 inches long and skip to Step 3.

The Making of a Cedar Rose, A Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Gather Your Materials

For this project you will need warm water, a bowl or bucket big enough to submerge your cedar strips, thread or string, and two strips of cedar bark. The strips of cedar should be fairly thin so it can be folded easily but not so thin that it would be likely to tear, almost any width will work but to make it easier for your first time I suggest strips that are approximately 1 inch wide and 10-12 inches long. Cut a 8 inch length of string before you begin.

Step 2: Prepare the Cedar Bark

Fill your container with warm water and submerge the cedar strips. Check on the cedar every few minutes until it becomes flexible.

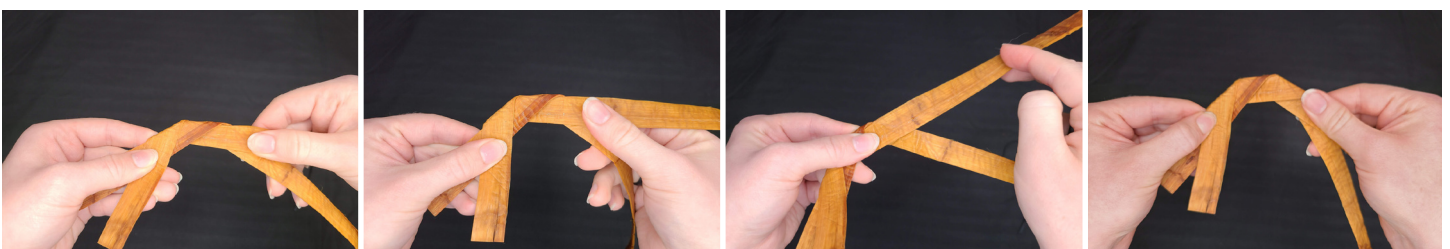
Step 3: Starting the Rose

Take the cedar out of the water. Hold one strip horizontal between your thumb and forefinger about two inches from the left of the strip. Put the second strip across the horizontal strip at about a 45 degree angle, also two inches from the left end. Your cedar strips should make an 'X' with a short side and a long side, with one strip pointed at the sky.



Step 4: Fold

With your free hand take the strip pointed up and fold it over the horizontal strip so it is pointed at the ground. Pivot the cedar slightly so the strip that has just been folded over is now horizontal and the un-folded strip is pointed up. Fold the strip pointed upwards over the horizontal strip. Continue to pivot and fold the strips over each other one more time.



Step 5: Twist

While continuing to hold the start of the rose pinched between your fingers twist your hand holding the start inwards so that the unfolded ends are pointed down and the first fold is twisted into the start of a spiral. Continue twisting inwards towards the end you've been folding with the 2 inches of unfolded end pointed down until you reach the end of the folded section.



Step 6: Repeat

The spiral of the rose should now be starting to appear. While holding tightly to the rose with your left hand continue to fold the long strips like in step 4 and then twist the rose until there is only 2-3 inches left to fold.



Step 7: Finishing

Take the ends of the folding side and make one more fold over. Next pinch the last fold and bend it back against the rose so it joins with the start of the rose in your other hand. Wrap the length of string tightly around the unfinished ends at the base of the rose and tie it off.



CONGRATULATIONS

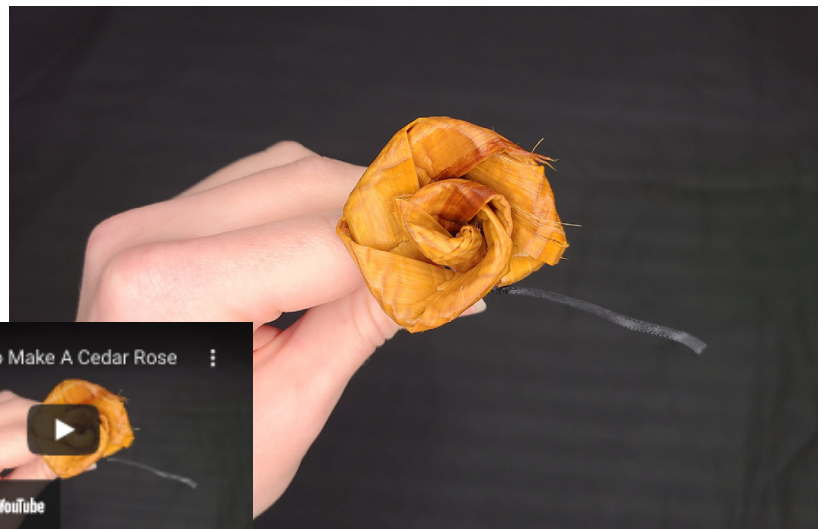
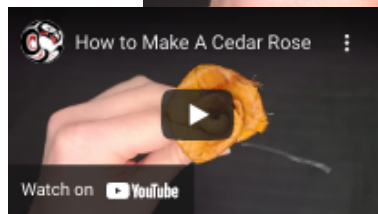
You've made your first cedar rose!

When your rose is complete you can give it to a loved one, add it to a bouquet, glue it to a barrette, add it to a bracelet or add a drop or two of essential oil to give it a nice scent.

Your options are endless!

Find the video on our Youtube!
youtu.be/3tn1RYONjBk

Rose Aday-McCarthy
Rose.Aday@ufn.ca





Ucluelet First Nation Opens 'Mini Big House'

Written by Nora O'Malley
Westerly News

Ucluelet First Nation members celebrate the opening of a new cultural and healing space on Dec. 10 in Hitacu. The cedar clad building is a modern interpretation of a traditional Big House and will be used for community gatherings, teaching workshops, naming ceremonies and more. (Nora O'Malley photo)

The new community space is a modern interpretation of a traditional Big House

Ucluelet First Nation (UFN) has a new cultural and healing space in the community of Hitacu, located on the east shore of the Ucluelet Inlet.

After an inaugural walk-through and song celebration on Friday, Elder Marjorie Touchie said the building brought back childhood memories of being in a traditional Big House.

"You could describe it to children, but they didn't really get what we were talking about. You'd show them pictures and it doesn't do the same thing. To have the whole feeling of being in that room... The sense of feeling that I had, like the safety and the teaching... The complete love and respect that we got in those rooms from the elders," said Touchie.

UFN's department of Culture and Heritage was one of 10 successful nations out of 140 applicants to receive a federal infrastructure grant of \$400,000 through First People's Cultural Council to build the modernized 'Mini Big House'. Carey Cunneyworth, director of Culture and Heritage, says the official name for the structure is pending and a more fitting one will be picked soon.

"This is very much a community project. It was mostly built by Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ members. Thank you to all the community members that came by during the building phase and talked to the crew and offered positivity and encouragement. I know that really made this a good project for everybody working on it," said Cunneyworth during the soft opening. He went on to note via email that the last Big Houses in hitacu were in the late 1800's to early 1900's and built with traditional posts and poles.

Nuu-chah-nulth artist and owner of Yaakmis Creation Jackelyn Williams is the artist behind the striking front house design.

"On the front you'll see a Thunderbird on a whale hunt and there is also the Wolf. The Thunderbird is really powerful and kind of symbolizes to be our culture succeeding on whale hunt. The Whale is our wellness and prosperity. The Wolf is the connection to land. The Wolf is really important in Nuu-chah-nulth because they are really family and community oriented," said Williams, who was born and raised in hitacu and currently works as a program co-ordinator for the Kackaamin Family Development Centre in Port Alberni.

"This is something we've needed for so long. I don't want to say that it's igniting hope because hope has always been there, but the history that our elders talked about when I was growing up is still relevant and it's validating to know that we can still continue this way, you know, adapting as life goes on. It's in your blood. You can feel that connectedness when you go into these sacred spaces," she said.

Founder of Spirits Works Shain Jackson, a member of the Sechelt First Nation, was hired to design the 'Mini Big House'. During the soft opening he said he carries the name 'Niniwum', which means 'to help and to serve'.

This is the first cedar clad, modernized Big House he has worked on and he is hoping there will be more.

"I'm very proud to be invited into the community to help out and bring this structure together. It means a lot to me," said Jackson. He went on to acknowledge the youth that worked on the project by gifting them hand carved golden eagle feathers. To UFN president Charles McCarthy, Jackson presented a hand carved raven feather.

"I know it is the Tyees (Hereditary Chiefs) wish over the years to have a real big house. We will eventually some day have, but this is the beginning and the first footsteps to where we are going," said McCarthy right before cutting a cedar rope braided by Elder Rose Wilson to open the new community space.

The 'Mini Big House' also features two offices at the back for UFN culture, heritage and language staff. Some of the artifacts returned to UFN from the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa and the Royal BC Museum in Victoria will eventually be placed in the 'Mini Big House', notes Cunneyworth, but for now, they rest in the adjoining cultural library.

*Excerpt from the Westerly News
Nora O'Malley
Photos this page by Melissa Boucha*





Shipment of Artifacts Unveiled

The soft opening of the Mini-BigHouse started with a special, surprise unveiling of an artifact shipment. This shipment contained head dresses, tools, weaves for gathering, art, and small totem carvings. This shipment was un-boxed with elders in attendance, Lindsay McCarthy providing song and drum. When the artifacts were officially laid out, a short viewing took place prior to the official opening of the Mini Big-House.

Due to rain the Mini Big-House opening ceremony took place within the cultural library, at the door joining to the new building. Marjorie Touchie offered a prayer with Tye Ha'wiih Wilson Jack and President Charles McCarthy. The ribbon was a cedar woven ribbon provided by Rose Wilson.

President Charles McCarthy provided a speech, followed by Carey Cunneyworth, Director of Culture and Heritage. Timmy Masso offered an art piece on behalf of Hjalmer Wenstob and his family. The art piece was graciously accepted by Cunneyworth.

The group was led in awe through the back hall of the new space. A wide open room, adorned with cedar, the ceiling peaking in the center, highlighting the natural light coming in from two skylights. The group settled for prayer, song and drum provided by Marjorie Touchie, Lindsay McCarthy, Dan Touchie, Kenneth Millar, and Joe Thompson.

An elders lunch was provided in the gymnasium to top off the day.

Acknowledgement for the Mini Big-House design and construction project is given to the Culture and Heritage Department, Spirit Works and Shain Jackson, members of the Yuułu?iŋ?ath Warriors, citizens, and members of the Community Internship Program, with special kudos going to Front House design winner Jackelyn Williams, who spent countless hours working on the to-scale version of her design entry.

Repatriation is a broader step towards reconciliation with the Canadian Government we are thankful to continue to receive works from our Yuułu?iŋ?ath ancestors. Artifacts will be available for viewing the the Cultural Library and the Lobby of the Cixwatin Centre.



The next page will showcase the latest shipment of artifacts to arrive to hitacu. These artifacts will be on display in the Cultural Library.

Photos by Melissa Boucha



Photo by Samantha Touchie







Yuutu?it?ath EDUCATION SERIES

We want to bring awareness to and celebrate the Education Department with the 'Yuutu?it?ath Education Series'. Showcasing opportunities and funding that is available to all citizens. If you have a dream, a passion, and an application form, we can help you!

Join us in the next few pages while we have a Q&A with Yuutu?it?ath Citizens about their education pursuits, goals, UFN funding. and general advice. ʔeekoo for sharing your story!

Rose Aday-McCarthy

Rose Aday-McCarthy is a Urban citizen currently residing in Port Alberni. Rose is the Communications Coordinator for Yuułu?it?ath Government and will be first point of contact when the new Satellite Office opens, luckily for YG, Rose has made Port Alberni living her long term plan! Here is Rose's education story.



Where did you grow up?

I grew up mainly in Victoria.

When and where did you graduate high school?

I graduated from Lake Cowichan Secondary in June of 2017.

What was or is the post-secondary school you attended or are attending?

I attended Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo for 3 years but took a break when Covid started. Now I'm doing the Indigenous Language Fluency Program through North Island College.

When did you start and what was/is the program length completion expectancy (graduation date)?

The fluency program started in September and will last for 2 years.

What was/is your field/major/minor if applicable?

When I was attending VIU I was a English major.

Did you change majors or your educational goals?

Yes, I changed direction a few times. I started at VIU in First Nations Studies and switched in my second year to English. In 2020 I started taking Nuu-chah-nulth classes with Jeneva on Zoom which started me on the path that led me to applying to a full-time Nuu-chah-nulth Fluency Program.

Do you plan to pursue higher education or enhance your educational goals?

I fully intend to finish my BA but that won't be until after I'm done with the Fluency Program through NIC.

Did you apply for UFN education funding and support?

Yes.

If applied, did you receive UFN funding and support? If not, why?

I received funding from UFN for all 3 years I was at VIU.

What were the highlights and drawbacks of UFN funding and support?

UFN funding allowed me to not have to worry about working while I was at school. It allowed me to focus all of my energies on getting the best out of my education.

What do/did you enjoy about your chosen field/school/major/classes?

My favourite thing about the Nuu-chah-nulth Fluency Program is being around so many other proud Nuu-chah-nulth people learning our language. It's a lot of hard work but so worth it!

What led you to choosing your path? Was there anyone who inspired you?

My family inspires me, I'm so grateful for the other women in my family who are learning our language with me. We hold each other up and encourage each other to keep going. I've also been inspired by all of the amazing language teachers I've met in the last few years. It gives me a lot of hope to see people keeping the language alive and making sharing our language joyful.

How has your experience and goals enhanced your Nuu-chah-nulth heritage?

I feel so much more connected to Nuu-chah-nulth culture when I'm speaking the language. Covid has been extremely isolating for so many people, and put a pause on almost all of the gatherings and ceremonies common in our culture. Being surrounded by other Nuu-chah-nulth people, hearing each others voices and laughter fills my heart.

What makes you happy/proud to be an Indigenous post-secondary student?

It makes me so happy to think that some day I will be an advanced learner of Nuu-chah-nulth helping to share and inspire others to start learning too.

Aysa Touchie

Aysa Touchie is an Urban citizen who grew up in Nanaimo and graduated High School in Victoria, BC (2007). Currently living in Calgary, Alberta, Aysa is pursuing education, online, with the University of Victoria. Here is Aysa's education story.



What was or is the post-secondary school you attended or are attending?
University of Victoria

When did you start and what was/is the program length completion expectancy (graduation date)?
September 2020, November 2022

What was/is your field/major/minor if applicable?
Master of Public Administration

Do you plan to pursue higher education or enhance your educational goals?
Yes

Did you apply for UFN education funding and support? If applied, did you receive UFN funding and support? If not, why?
Yes, yes

What were the highlights and drawbacks of UFN funding and support?
Highlights - tuition fee's and book costs covered through funding. Drawbacks - ineligible for living allowance due to program being offered online

Do you plan to use your educational experience to work for Yuułu?i?ath Government (if you have already, or wish to return)?

If an opportunity arises that aligns with my educational background and my work experience, I would definitely consider working for the Yuułu?i?ath Government again.

What would interest you most about working for Yuułu?i?ath Government?

Being able to provide programs and services to meet the needs of all citizens by conducting a thorough evaluation of current programs, services and budgets.

What are your overall career goals?

Be able to work effectively within various governments to ensure that Indigenous peoples are treated in an equitable fashion.

Would you use your experience to run for Yuułu?i?ath Government Legislature? If yes, tell us more, if no tell us why.

I would possibly run for the Yuułu?i?ath Government Legislature. It would be a wonderful opportunity to represent the government and ensure the voice of Yuułu?i?ath is heard. If we are not present at the tables with federal and provincial leadership, how can we ensure that our citizens are receiving the most effective and efficient services?

If an Urban Citizen, do you plan to return to hitacú or Ucluelet/surrounding area one day? Why or why not.

I would like to return one day, but the lack of housing/land to buy within hitacú makes it challenging. I enjoyed the time that I was able to live in hitacú, it gave me a wonderful opportunity to learn language and culture from our Elders.

How do you feel about access to first nations culture and educational tools in post-secondary institutions?

When all programs and services through the University of Victoria were being offered virtually I was able to participate in many Indigenous workshops. This allowed me to gather with other Indigenous students to build a strong virtual community.

What do/did you enjoy about your chosen field/school/major/classes?

I enjoy learning about the ins and outs of governance including financial management, economics, strategic planning, and communications. These courses allow me to better understand government functions, and how to support citizens to have their needs met.

What led you to choosing your path? Was there anyone who inspired you?

I chose this educational path, because I knew that I would continue working in fields where I work with the public. I knew that I wanted to better serve citizens to ensure that they are provided with the best programs and services possible.

What makes you happy/proud to be an Indigenous post-secondary student?

It makes me proud to be able to represent Yuułu?i?ath within academia.

Do you think the supports within your school are adequate to help you thrive as an Indigenous student?

yes, the supports within UVIC help me to thrive within the institution.

Post-secondary can be fun and exciting but also stressful, how do you deal with the stresses?

I deal with the stress by ensuring that I plan out my week and intentionally plan time to take for myself - going for a walk, spending time with family, watching favorite shows on tv, etc... and by making sure that I start assignments early.

What life hack or advice have you learned that would be helpful to others entering post-secondary? What do you wish you knew before starting your education journey?

Apply for universities and post-secondary funding early. It can take some time to get all the documents lined up and it can be very stressful if you're trying to get the mall together at the last minute.

Ethan Joseph

"Thank you for the opportunity."

Ethan Joseph currently lives in Victoria, traditional territory of the Lekwungen, Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples. Joseph spent time moving throughout BC, spending most of his youth in Ucluelet.



When and where did you graduate high school?

I graduated Ucluelet Secondary School in 2018.

What was or is the post-secondary school you attended or are attending?

I am currently at Camosun College.

When did you start and what was/is the program length completion expectancy (graduation date)?

I applied to Camosun in early 2020, and actually started schooling in September of that year. I took a 10 month program called Indigenous Family Support which rewarded a certificate. Now, I am currently in Indigenous Studies which is a 2 year program.

Did you change majors or your educational goals?

I didn't necessarily change my education goals but when I was almost finishing IFS, I had no clue where I wanted to go. I wanted to get into Social Work but that would require more credits and certain courses, so after being convinced by other class mates I decided to join Indigenous Studies.

Do you plan to pursue higher education or enhance your educational goals?

I do. I'm not sure how far I want to go, but recently after a few classes centered on higher education and all the possibilities, I am super curious again of what I want to do exactly. I definitely want a better understanding of Social Work, so right now I want to finish this program and then take two more years in SW for a bachelors. I have always been interested in VIU, but recently UVic has been on my mind since I'm already in Victoria. I am eager to get back into community, but I am also wondering if I am academically prepared to go even further than that.

Did you apply for UFN education funding and support?

Yes I did back, I think I started talks back in December 2019, then got it secured just before deadline in 2020.

If applied, did you receive UFN funding and support? If not, why?

Yes, I did receive UFN funding, for full time studies this year and last year.

What were the highlights and drawbacks of UFN funding and support?

Highlights: The monthly allowance covers a lot of expenses plus rent. Textbooks are covered. As soon as you're in, you're pretty much good for the whole year. These seem obvious but other funding supports aren't always secure throughout the year or offer as much comfort. Also, communication has always been great and helpful.

Do you plan to use your educational experience to work for Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government (if you have already, or wish to return)?

Yes, my plan has always been to work with our community. I have worked with the nation during the summer as a youth worker assistant, but I hope to work in that same field or similar.

What would interest you most about working for Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government?

I like the community aspect, working with elders and the youth provides so much learning opportunities about the community and about myself. This summer in particular was interesting, one moment there was a lesson to be found in an experience with the youth, then I would talk with Larry and hear important stories.

What are your overall career goals?

After finishing Indigenous Studies, and getting a bachelors in Social Work, I hope to start my work with the youth in our community. Then I want to branch out as much as I possibly can, such as doing some work with the schools, with other nations, and then maybe the general people. I hope to spend most of my career bettering our people and our surrounding communities however and whatever way I can.

Would you use your experience to run for Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government Legislature? If yes, tell us more, if no tell us why.

Maybe, I am not sure if I would be able to contribute much in that aspect but I have thought about it. I don't know how any of it works but if I could help out in some way, it will definitely be something I consider in the future.

If you are from hitacú, do you plan to return home when your educational goals have been pursued? Why or why not?

Yes, as stated before I will return back to Ucluelet after my educational journey feels right. I have lived there for most of my life, and I feel like all I can give deserves to go back to the community that has given me so much.

How do you feel about access to first nations culture and educational tools in post-secondary institutions?

At Camosun it has been outstanding, I wasn't expecting it to feel so welcoming. Even for indigenous teachers and classes, both of the programs I have taken, go beyond expectations in culture and educational tools. The nations, teachers, knowledge keepers, and other students from here and elsewhere in Canada shared so much of their cultures. The educational tools have also been great, there is free tutors and writing supports easily accesible all throughout the year. My classmates have also been amazing with culture and education.

What do/did you enjoy about your chosen field/school/major/classes?

I enjoy the community feeling not only from our classmates but the teachers and all the local community members. Being so far away from home makes it tough but having all these people around makes it not so bad. I obviously love all the content, especially more so from last in Indigenous Family Support. There's just so much relevant teachings that are hard to find elsewhere. The focus on mental health, self-care, and personal improvement has made me have to look inwards and question how I am doing and what can I do to better myself. In the specifically IST courses, the school work is flexible in ways that allow students to write, provide information, or do presentations that play to our strengths as indigenous peoples. The teachers have been great leaders and one of my favourite things is elders are almost always present.

What led you to choosing your path? Was there anyone who inspired you?

I remember as a young kid wishing there were more teachers who were brown like me and who also understood that I was a shy kid. So, I guess that was what initiated my interest. Also seeing my mother work with people as a young kid in Port Alberni, and back home in Ucluelet. That always amazed me and I constantly admired her carrying our family on her back, then taking care of the elders, and then doing extra stuff for other families or the community. In 2015 she also even made me apply for the youth worker position, despite my worries about being not good enough for the youth. Gloria helped greatly once I actually got the job and guided me all the way. Jason Sam was someone who I retroactively realized probably had an impact on me. He was so active in the community and I wanted to branch out in many aspects like he has. I guess I also just wanted to prove to myself and that I was fit for the youth worker position and after a few years I started questioning how to improve. Which eventually led to my desire to actually pursue this as a career and attend post-secondary.

How has your experience and goals enhanced your Nuu-chah-nulth heritage?

I suppose that's still a barrier that I come across. I wish I knew more and I wish I actually practiced our culture more. I attended dance practice for years when I was younger and I am reminiscent of those days, but I don't quite feel knowledgeable or adequate enough to sing our songs. I don't know much of our history or stories. In the two programs we have examined indigenous cultures more so in general but I have had to reflect individually of what I do know. I suppose that helps keep old stories and knowledge fresh when I have to share or present what I know.

What makes you happy/proud to be an Indigenous post-secondary student?

I always thought people like Mitcholos Touchie were so cool for moving away from home and doing something different. When I was young, my outlook was that there was few people to look at for inspiration. So, now that I am involved with youth, I hope there are kids that can see that the conditions in which we were born into should not prevent our success in accessing post-secondary. Being around other indigenous students in this system is also a completely amazing feeling in its own. There is always so much energy and support to be found that one must be proud or happy when we are surrounded by other inspiring indigenous people. We are bound together in a system where we are not supposed to be, yet we live. What is there more to be proud of than striving here.

Do you think the supports within your school are adequate to help you thrive as an Indigenous student? What would make it better? What would you like to see in the future?

Yes, I think the supports were very good. There is financial, mental/emotional, and education help that is free and an email away. I have had to make use of all of them and what was most important was that I left feeling heard. I'm not quite sure what supports would help in the future, I haven't really felt the need to access them before Camosun, and at Camosun has been great so I wouldn't know what the standards are.

Post-secondary can be fun and exciting but also stressful, how do you deal with the stresses?

Like I said earlier, the programs themselves have made mental health and self-care a priority, so that helped realize ways I can help myself.

Thought patterns and behaviours had to be better managed and taken care of if I wanted to finish each semester, and even go on into the social work field so I knew I had to take it serious. It's easy to get caught up with work and school so activities that were natural to do, you have to plan for it and actually find motivation to do here in the city. Getting outside, exploring, playing basketball, spending time with people were all constant things happening but they can easily slip by if you don't pay attention, so health can quickly and easily drop. I made sure to explore and walk around, by climbing a local mountain or the beach. I also made sure to spend extra time with friends or classmates.

Another big thing I started since coming here was starting to journal which has been great. I also made use of free counselling and other resources provided by Camosun, and that helped me in unbelievable ways.

What life hack or advice have you learned that would be helpful to others entering post-secondary? What do you wish you knew before starting your education journey?

Before I applied to Camosun I didn't feel fulfilled with how things were going. I often thought of how I wish things were better as a young kid, but that didn't accomplish anything other than a burden of the mind constantly looming. Why spend time wishing things were different when I can start my journal now and possibly help others not feel that same dread.

I don't know if I can say anything truly helpful for others entering post-secondary. I often thought of everything our people went through historically, of the struggles that people in our community have been through, and the sacrifices that our family have made in order for us to get to this point. Although, I don't necessarily think that is a 100% healthy mindset, it motivated me to try. I wish I knew that the schoolwork and readings aren't terribly difficult, at least at Camosun in IFS and IST. Academically it is different but it is still manageable.

I wish my self-care and monitoring of mental health was something I even cared about or had a concept of as young person. It isn't just a simple shift in mindset where one can decide to be happy but a long-term dedication to unlearn negative behaviours and change your perspective. You have to do it everyday.

Ethan Joseph online feature for Camosun College "Indigenous Family Studies student Ethan Joseph is finding success and new opportunities through his time at Camosun." can be found at: 50.camosun.ca/ethan-joseph-first-year-yuutu?if?ath-student-finds-his-path-at-camosun

!
Geekoo ...



Education Matters



Do you have ideas or are looking for support on what program to take or school to attend after high school? Haven't completed high school, but are still looking into course work? We can help you!

Adam Gleeson, Manager of Education Services, has been with the Yuułu?i?ath Education Department since 2018 and continues to support application submissions and funding approvals for those interested in anything from local course work, to post secondary education. 2021 saw the highest number of submitted and approved education funding applications in Yuułu?i?ath history!

We sincerely applaud those who who have completed course work or are in pursuit to do so. Share your story!

To learn more,
CONTACT: Adam.Gleeson@ufn.ca

Interested to share your story?
CONTACT: communications@ufn.ca

YG STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY



Tell Us What You Think!

We want to hear from you! How do you rate your needs from the Yuułu?if?ath Government? What areas or departments do you require more support or information from? What are your overall challenges as a local or urban citizen?

This is your chance to help us devise a strategic plan to help us help you! fill out the survey online or request a printable copy. Every survey filled will be entered to win a prize!



SURVEY LINK

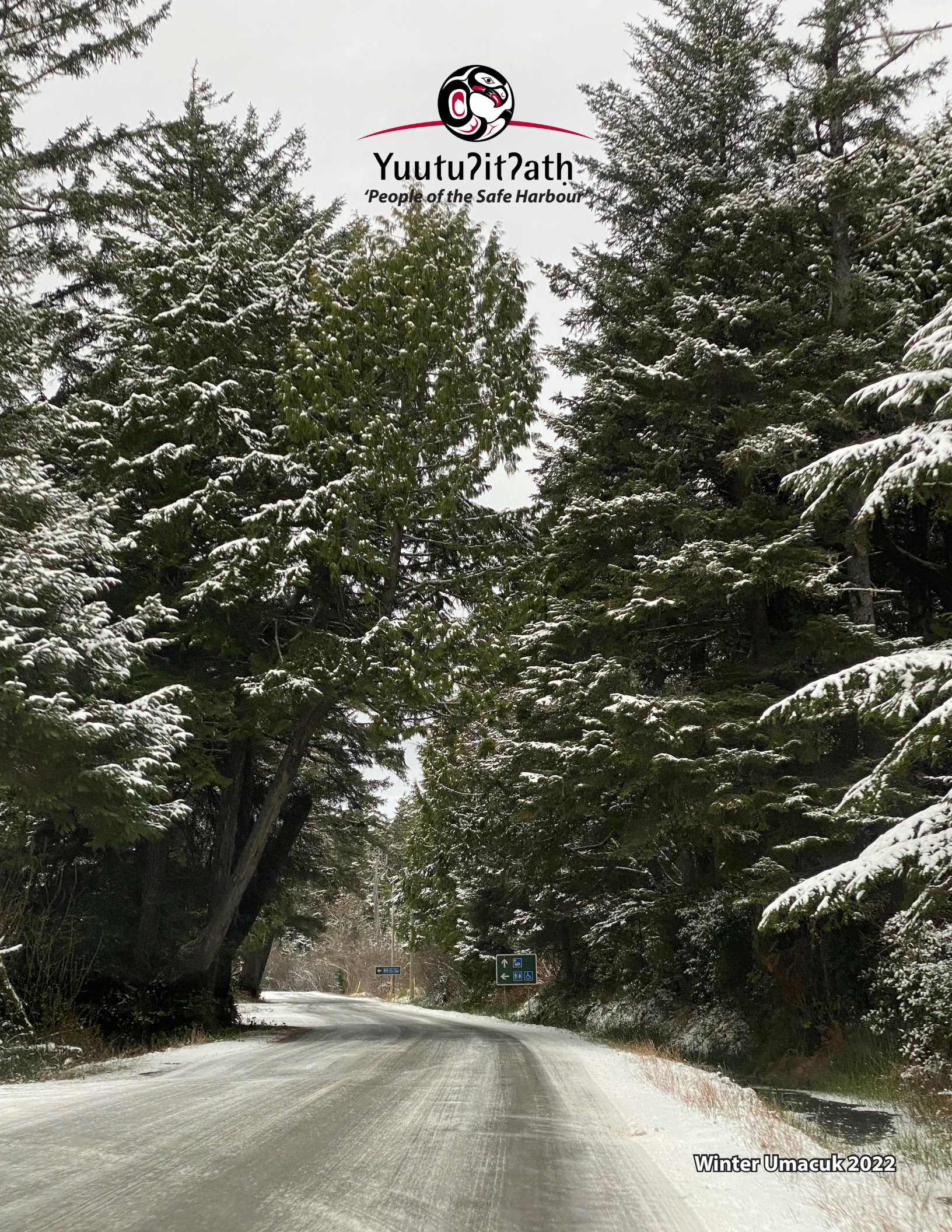
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Would you like the survey link or a copy emailed to you? Need help to fill the survey out over the phone?

CONTACT communications@ufn.ca



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