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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 13, Issue 6 | May 2023

www.ufn.ca

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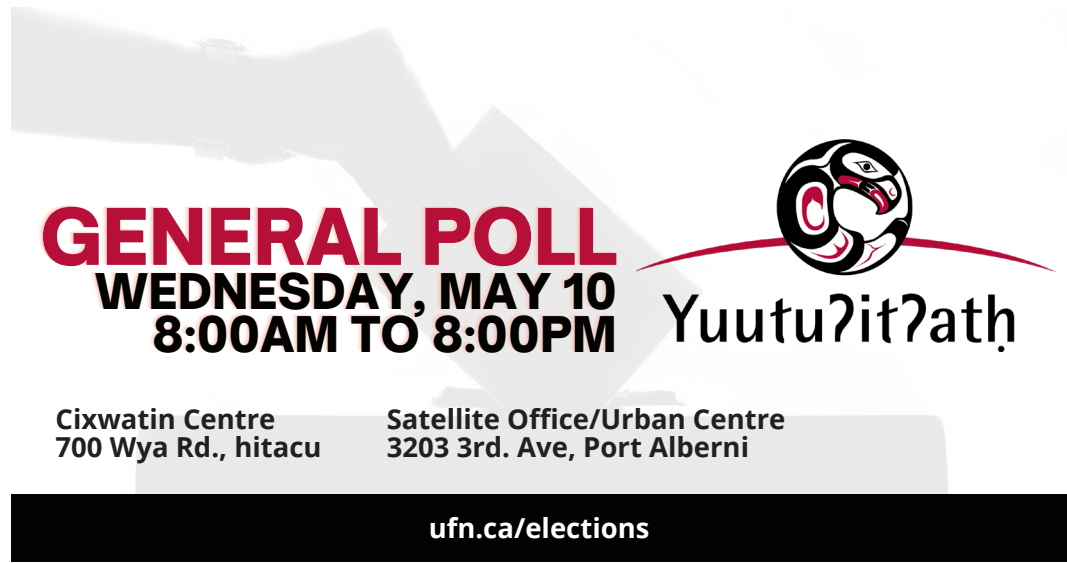
Events

May 29 - June 1
Grass Weaving


May 29 - June 1
Bears' Lair Dream Camp

June 5-9
Parenting Program

Sundays
Wya Community Garden Volunteer Help



GENERAL POLL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
8:00AM TO 8:00PM


Yuutu?it?ath

Cixwatin Centre Satellite Office/Urban Centre
700 Wya Rd., hitacu 3203 3rd. Ave, Port Alberni

ufn.ca/elections

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

Wednesday, May 10 will be the last day for voting in the Election and Referendum. In person polling stations will be open from **8:00am to 8:00pm** for this day.

Polling stations will be open at the Cixwatin Centre in hitaču and at the Satellite Office/Urban Centre in Port Alberni.

Online voting is accessible with your assigned PIN. This PIN can be found in the voting information packages (mailed out to citizens).

If a PIN is lost or other assistance with voting is need-

ed, please immediately contact the Voter Help Line: **1-877-541-9017**. Online voting is also open until 8:00pm on May 10.

Reminder to vote for both the Election and Referendum (PIN used for both), and with strong reminder to vote on **BOTH** Referendum questions for your vote to count in full.

Further information about the election can be found here: www.ufn.ca/elections

The following page is a resource to assist our citizens in exercising their right to vote. This page is what you will have received in the mail, that includes your assigned PIN. This page also includes polling station information, times, locations, and online voting information.

VOTE
YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.



YG-EO
PO Box 9
Ucluelet BC V0R 3A0

Citizen Name Citizen Address

Yuutu?if?ath Government Referendum and Election 2023

HOW CAN I VOTE?

OPTION 1 - VOTE USING THE INTERNET OR PHONE

- Use your **PIN** (see box below) to vote anytime:
Monday, May 1 at 8:00 am PT until
Wednesday, May 10 at 8:00 pm PT.
- To vote using the internet, type the voting website in the address bar of your web browser and follow the instructions.
eVoting Website: ufn.isivote.com
- To vote by phone, call the voting phone number and follow the instructions.
Referendum Phone Number: 1-866-213-8962
Election Phone Number: 1-866-213-9896

If you should be interrupted while voting online, you may re-access the voting system to complete your voting.

OPTION 2 - VOTE IN PERSON

- To vote by **paper ballot**, please visit the following locations:
**Yuutu?if?ath Government
Cixwatin Centre**
700 Wya Rd, hitaču
April 28, 8:00am – 8:00pm and
May 10, 8:00am – 8:00pm
- Port Alberni Satellite Office**
3203 3rd Avenue, Port Alberni
May 10, 8:00am – 8:00pm

OPTION 3 - VOTE BY MAIL

- Please check your mail for **Vote by Mail** instructions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All Citizens who are **16 years of age and older**, as of the date of the last official Voting Day: May 10, 2023, are eligible to vote.
- For candidate information, please visit **www.ufn.ca**

QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE

If you require assistance, please contact the Voter HelpLine:

Phone: 1-877-541-9017

HelpLine Hours: Weekdays from May 1 -10 from 8:00am – 8:00pm PT

**The HelpLine is to offer assistance on voting procedures only.*

Your PIN

7777 7777

This PIN has been provided for your personal use only and should not be shared with, or used by, anyone other than yourself, the authorized voter.

Retirement and Farewell

Happy Retirement Judy Gleeson, RN!



Resident Nurse, Judy Gleeson, has officially retired! Judy will be joining her husband and retired Yuułuᑭiᑭᑭatᑭ Government, Manager of Education Services, Adam, on a new journey.

“After two years in my position as Community Health Nurse (RN) with the Yuułuᑭiᑭᑭatᑭ Government, I am retiring on May 5. I have really enjoyed getting to know the hitaču community and working with the team at the huuᑭatu to help promote the health and wellbeing of UFN community members.

I am sad to leave, but excited about new adventures in retirement with my husband Adam and our dog, Scout. Sending all good wishes to you all, I will miss you!”

We too, wish Judy, Adam, and Scout all the best in their next stage of life adventures!

All the Best, Dr. Rohan Ghatak

The Social Services Department, will also bid farewell to Dr. Rohan Ghatak, Director of Health and Social Services.

Dr. Rohan has been an immense leader for medical services in the community. Responsible for the development of the Thursday Clinic with Dr. Marshall, partnering with Outreach Optometry, bringing in onsite Psychology Services with Dr. Ted Altar, future dental services, and so much more.

The huuᑭatu Health Centre will carry on, business as usual, with the support of Simble Kaur, LPN, Byron Patrick Sr., Zaid

Sarigat, and all of the dedicated health and wellness professionals. Education services will continue to strive with the guidance of Manager of Education Services, Karen Severinson.

YG wishes all the best to Dr. Rohan in his future endeavors and we are grateful for his dedication to the success of the health centre and services it now provides.

Safe Travels, Daryl Keeble

Lands and Resources Officer, Daryl Keeble, has hung up his shoes, not only at the Yuułuᑭiᑭᑭatᑭ Government, but also in his hometown of Ucluelet.

Daryl spent a handful of years with the Yuułuᑭiᑭᑭatᑭ Government in the Lands and Resources Department. Daryl patrolled the treaty settlement lands, maintained the wild-life cameras, supported food fish distribution, and so much more.

Daryl, his stories and humour, will be missed by his colleagues and the community. ĭeekoo Daryl and good luck on your adventures! Ucluelet will always be your home.



Meet the Interns

Three New Co-op Students Join YG!

We have most recently welcomed three new Co-op students for the summer term; Claire Bates – Administration, will be assisting communications, leadership transition and other special projects in culture, Maci Clements - Policy, and Avery Cobby - Archivist.

Claire Bates



My name is Claire Bates (she/her + they/them pronouns are great), and I am currently a student at the University of Victoria going into my fourth year.

I am majoring in Gender Studies with a minor in Professional Writing and Journalism, because I love to write and feel especially passionate about writing for projects and causes I care about.

I grew up on the traditional unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, or North Vancouver. Growing up so close to beautiful trails practically in my backyard makes me feel right at home here in Yuuʔuʔiʔath and Ucluelet.

I hope to get out on the water, on my bike, and on foot backpacking lots this summer! I would love to hear from anyone about their favourite hiking routes or outdoor activities. I am also an ultimate frisbee player for the UVic Vikes, and

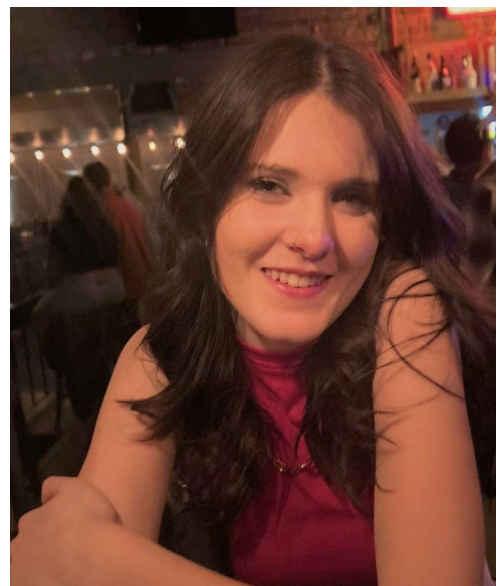
for the first time in almost ten years the women's team is going to US College Nationals to compete, which I am so pumped about.

You can likely find me at Tugwell Fields nearly every night, trying out my throws. Again, I would be so happy if anyone wanted to join me! I'm also a coach for the Community Ultimate Spirit organization, which works to build transformational connections between settlers and non-settlers through the sport of ultimate.

It is a complete privilege to be working with YG. Communications, admin and language will be my plethora of departments, and since this is my first co-op there may be a learning curve here or there, but I am so pleased to be here and working with you all.

I will be working in an office inside the Assets building, please come visit if you'd like to chat, share a story, or have feedback for my work. Anything goes!

Maci Clements



My name is Maci Clements. I just finished my second year at UVIC, studying political science and applied ethics.

My field of academic interest includes comparative gender politics, human rights, and social justice. After my degree, I hope to eventually go to law school to become a practicing attorney in the general field of public service.

I am passionate about having a career that gives me the ability to make meaningful and effective differences in my community, and I'm excited that this co-op offers me the opportunity to do just that.

I was born and raised in a small town in Alberta but have been living in Victoria for the past two years. I happily traded in the prairies for the ocean and am now so grateful that I get to call this beautiful island home!

I am especially grateful for the opportunity to work as a co-op student in the position of policy analyst for the Yuuʔuʔiʔʔath Government and hope to learn more about the traditional history of this land, as well as gain an immersed understanding of the functions of modern treaty nations and the future of Indigenous self-governance.

I believe that this job opportunity will offer me a one-of-a-kind learning experience, and I hope to contribute back to the community with my hard work and dedication.

I love hanging out outside (mainly at the beach), travelling, and spending time with my friends, and am stoked to see what the summer has in store!

I was born and raised in Victoria and continue to live there with my parents and older sister. I also have three dogs and a cat at home (Juno, Ecko, Thor, and Floyd) who provide a lot of entertainment for my family.

During my free time I enjoy playing sports (mostly lacrosse and soccer), thrifting with my mom and sister, and going on weekend adventures with my friends.

My future ambitions are to attend a graduate level program for Biological Anthropology, and to hopefully work within the osteological field.

What drew me to apply for this internship is that it provides me with an opportunity to conduct meaningful work while also continually learning through hands on experience.

As a student I think it is very important for people to learn from firsthand experience and to challenge themselves with new experiences and I am extremely excited to be doing so this summer!

From this experience I hope to learn more about self governing Indigenous nations, the community and myself, gain practical hands-on experience with archival objects, and engage in meaning work.

I am very excited for this opportunity to learn and grow with you all this summer.

Avery Cobby

My name is Avery Cobby, and I am the new archivist assistant co-op for this summer.

I have just recently finished my 3rd year at UVIC studying Anthropology. Following my undergrad, I plan to take some much-earned time off to travel Europe.

We are confident the co-op students will endure a knowledgeable summer term internship with the Yuuʔuʔiʔʔath Government, in their respective fields.

Support in all areas as listed will help nurture community projects and government progress. Good luck Claire, Maci, and Avery!





Volunteer at the **Wya Community Garden**

Get your hands in the soil this Spring and Summer! Join us at the Wya Community Garden every Sunday to learn and share gardening skills, and to connect with the land and your community.

Volunteer with us!

Sundays

May thru September

10:00am to 1:00pm

Everyone welcome, no experience necessary.



The Wya Community Garden is located at the Junction behind the JX Surf Shop and Big Wave Café

Earth Day 2023



April 21, 2023 marked an exciting earth day for our nation. This year we've worked hard to introduce several sustainable initiatives that are helping to protect our environment, reduce carbon emissions, as well as keep more money in the pockets of our citizens.

The nation has been working diligently to implement eco-friendly projects that promote sustainability and combat climate change.

One of the notable achievements is the introduction of Sortn'Go curbside solid waste management including composting and recycling programs. This project has encouraged community members to divert organic waste from landfills and promote recycling, reducing our communities' overall carbon footprint.

The program has been a success, with residents embracing the importance of waste reduction and proper recycling practices, and so far as a region we've managed to divert over 80 tons of organic waste from the landfill. A rough estimation may put 6-7 tons of that waste coming from hitaču.

The nation is also undertaking a sidewalks project, the hitaču Tashii (ṭašii) Multi-Use Trail Project, with Gwail Engineering, which will provide safer pedestrian access and promote active transportation.

This project is set to improve walkability and reduce reliance on carbon-emitting vehicles, contributing to a greener and healthier community.

Furthermore, the nation has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon emissions by replacing carbon-producing heat sources with heat pumps in all nation owned rental properties, and several homes which qualified under a joint project between Yuufuʔiʔath Government - Ucluelet First Nation, and Clean BC.

Heat pumps are highly energy-efficient and eco-friendly, providing a sustainable alternative to traditional heating and cooling methods. This initiative has not only reduced the community's carbon footprint but also improved indoor air quality for residents, while costing the renters less as a heat pump is more than three hundred percent more efficient than a baseboard heater.

Finally, we had a joint project where we worked with BC Hydro to install small energy efficient upgrades to homes and collect data for a second phase which will unlock funds for larger upgrades such as home appliance upgrades, better insulation, and modern highly efficient windows. We would like to thank all those community members who participated in the BC Hydro Stream one program where Kirk McCarthy and Daniel Joseph assisted you with free upgrades as those homes are now eligible for the stream two upgrades.

Together we all came together over the past year to make a positive impact on the environment and build a more sustainable future for all, and that is something our nation should take pride in!

2 Years of the Doctor's Clinic



Dr. Marshall Celebrates 2 Years with the huuᑭatu Health Centre!

Dr. Carrie Marshall celebrated two years with the huuᑭatu Health Centre on April 6, 2023. Thursday Clinics with Dr. Marshall started midway through the pandemic. Services opened with the service of routine tests, treatments, prescriptions, and vaccinations in part with the community nurses.

Dr. Marshall is noted as saying that the clinic has “wildly exceeded her expectations.”

“The health care system that we have herein hitaᑕu is really the model that everybody should be looking at. The system is a fantastic, comprehensive, wrap around care. Being able to be in community, employ people from the community, is what should be the goal for all communities.”

Dr. Marshall is confident the program “will continue to grow and expand.”

“One of the advantages of having everyone work in the same space, you strengthen as you bring on more services and be able to enhance peoples communication.”

Dr. Marshall noted it was such a joy to be apart of the Health Centre and the community. The feeling is mutual, Dr. Marshall!



KIMBERLY TOUCHIE
OUTREACH SUPPORT
COORDINATOR

AVAILABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:00AM TO 4:30PM

For assistance with health resources and services contact:
Call (250) 266-4695 or Email Kimberly.Touchie@ufn.ca

huuhtakšiiḡ mamuʔacsyi

Learn how to do grass weaving.

With Witchita Paull



MAY 29 TO JUNE 1

Grass Weaving Workshop

**12:00pm to 4:00pm & 6:00pm to 9:00pm
in the Cixʷatin Center Foyer**

Questions? Contact witchita13@gmail.com

MMIW Red Dress Beading

Sarah Ann Billy Shares Her Expertise in Beading.



Talented community artist, Sarah Ann Billy, instructed a beading workshop, hosted by the Culture and Heritage Department. The project of focus: MMIW beaded earrings and pins.

Sarah was joined by handful Yuuṭuʔitʔatḥ and Tla-o-qui-aht women (left to right, pictured below) Samantha Touchie, Kimberly Touchie, Freda Thomas, Lorissa Manson, and Julia Micky.

The workshop was held in the Cultural Library, for two hour, four class days. The project was important to all and the artwork will be worn in respect for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. More to come!





We've scheduled another SVOP Bootcamp in Tofino

ROCM – June 2

MEDA3/SDVBS- June 3

SVOP Bootcamp - June 4 – 9

"The combination of classroom and practical on-the-water training is truly amazing, as are the instructors"

Captain's Bootcamp is our best course! It includes the SVOP, SDV-BS/ MED-A3 and ROC-M marine commercial certifications plus practical boating sessions in Clayoquot Sound. The practical sessions will include training on docking, anchoring, Person Over Board, chartwork pilotage, Electronic GPS navigation, Search and Rescue and big wave boat handling strategies.

This package is intended to build beginner and intermediate boaters up to a small vessel commercial captain level of professionalism. Clayoquot Sound offers an excellent mix of sheltered and rough waters for a well rounded marine experience. Datum Marine is a Transport Canada approved captain's school which has been running academic and practical marine training in Clayoquot Sound for more than 20-years.

To register or for more information, email Niamh.Oreilly@ufn.ca



WATER FLUSHING NOTICE



Yuutu?it?ath

The Public Works Team will be performing additional flushing of the water lines from **Monday, May 15 to Wednesday, May 17**. On the final day of flushing, **Wednesday, May 17**, the community may experience lower pressure through the system. This additional flushing may include staff training on reservoir cleaning with ISC Circuit Riders.

As always, if at all you experience sediment (brown) in the water, please run your taps with cold water. There is no harm, the water is still safe.

Every year in BC, thousands of animals come into conflict with people as they seek out food, water or shelter in our communities.

WildSafeBC provides information on how we can **LIVE, WORK, PLAY** and **GROW** in wildlife country. Visit us at wildsafebc.com.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

TOP 10 WAYS TO HELP WILDLIFE

- 1.** Keep your garbage secure – store it in a secure location indoors or a bear-resistant enclosure.
- 2.** Only put your garbage/compost/recyclables out on collection day - never the night before.
- 3.** Manage your fruit trees so that fruit is picked as it ripens and no windfall accumulates.
- 4.** Bring bird feeders in from April through November – and when they are out, ensure that the ground underneath is kept free of seeds.
- 5.** Feed pets indoors.
- 6.** Maintain your compost so that it doesn't smell. Add fruit slowly. Never add meat or other animal products.
- 7.** Protect orchards, beehives and small livestock with a properly installed and maintained electric fence.
- 8.** Respect wild animals by not feeding them. Food-conditioned wildlife are more likely to come into conflict.
- 9.** Keep barbecues clean and odour free.
- 10.** Report any wildlife in conflict immediately to the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 at **1.877.952.7277**.





BEARS' LAIR
Youth Camps

The Youth are our Future. The Future is our Youth.

CALLING ALL YUUTU?IT?ATH - UCLUELET FIRST NATION YOUTH!

Sign up now to join the Bears' Lair Team

Learn business **FUNDamentals** & experience '**LIFE AS AN ENTREPRENEUR!**

FREE 3-DAY YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR DREAM CAMP FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH AGES 13 TO 18

Monday, May 29 to Wednesday, May 31
Cix^watin Centre Gymnasium, hita^{cu}

3-DAY BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS COURSE

Monday, May 29 5:00pm to 8:30pm
Tuesday, May 30 9:30am to 4:00pm
Wednesday, May 31 9:30am to 4:00pm

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DINNER EVENT

Thursday, June 1 5:00pm to 8:30pm

*One Youth Team will win **\$250 EACH** at the Community Celebration Dinner!!*

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Tackle 5 Team Challenges with Coach/Mentors.
- Explore the **FUNDamentals** of Business Start-ups!
- Enjoy a wealth of business insights, food & fun.
- Make new connections.
- Chances to win prizes!
- Create a Team Video Pitch
- & learn to turn **YOUR** business ideas into reality!

Visit www.bearslairtv.com/youth-camps/



Sign up now to join the Bears' Lair Team for
3 fun-filled days!

**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!**



Text 'DREAM CAMP' to a
(604) 783-8304 for more details or:

SCAN ME



TO SIGN UP!

For travel support, UFN Citizens can contact
Gloria at (250)726-7948 or Gloria.Valentine@ufn.ca

The BEARS' LAIR

FREE 3-DAY INDIGENOUS YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR DREAM CAMP

The Bears' Lair team is excited to host a 3-day Indigenous Youth Entrepreneur Dream Camp with the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government in hitaču, at the end of May!

Indigenous Youth ages 13 to 18 can **REGISTER NOW** to join a free 3-day Business **FUND**amentals Dream Camp program that starts Monday, May 29 at the Cixʷatin Centre in hitaču.

What to expect at the Bears' Lair Dream Camps?

Indigenous Youth ages 13 to 18 will get to 'experience life as an entrepreneur' for 3 fun-filled days!

Youth will work with Bears' Lair Team Coaches/mentors to tackle 5 Team Challenges in our Business **FUND**amentals course as they learn to shape their ideas for new businesses into start-up plans and mini-pitch presentations.

Everything is included during classes:

- Breakfasts, lunches, breaks, and snacks, a workbook, gift bag, FREE hoodies and chances to win prizes.
- A safe, inclusive learning space to explore new ideas and build social confidence.
- Team Coaches/mentors to help Youth tackle 5 Team Challenges as they develop valuable business, teamwork and life skills such as negotiating, public speaking and budgeting.
- Tons of hands-on activities to create a start-up plan and Team Pitch video for YOUR business ideas...all within 3 days!

YOUTH DREAM CAMP DATES & DETAILS

LOCATION:

The Youth Dream Camp classes and Celebration Event will be hosted at the Cixʷatin Centre at 700 Wya Road in hitaču.

CLASSES:

Monday, May 29 to Wednesday, May 31

After a traditional greeting on Day 1, Youth start working with Team Coach/Mentors to tackle 5 Team Challenges and learn Business **FUND**amentals! Over the 3 days, Youth will learn how to build the brand, start-up budget, marketing plan and 5-minute Team Video Pitch to launch a new company! Breakfasts, lunches, and fun are included!

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENT:

Thursday, June 1 from 5:00pm to 8:30pm

Join us for a community dinner to recognize the Youth achievements, watch Team Pitch Videos the Youth created and see which Team is chosen by a friendly Guest Judge

panel to win \$250 each that night!

COST:

FREE for Youth and the community! There are only 25 seats available, we encourage Youth to sign up by Monday, **May 15** to secure their spot.

This is open to all Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Youth. Those who may need travel support can contact Gloria immediately at **(250) 726-7948** or Gloria.Valentine@ufn.ca.

Want more insights or information?

Watch Dream Camp video clips on YouTube and follow us on social media at [@BearsLair_TV](https://www.instagram.com/BearsLair_TV).

CONTACT:

Kristin@BearsLairTV.com or text 'UFN DREAM CAMP' to **(604) 783-8304**.

[SIGN UP - bit.ly/Youth_Dream_Camp_Sign_Up](https://bit.ly/Youth_Dream_Camp_Sign_Up)

What is the Bears' Lair?

In the spring of 2021, Geena spoke with a crew at APTN about her dream of creating a new TV reality series about Indigenous entrepreneurs. Showcasing their products, services, and path to success would also highlight Indigenous values often woven into their business models. Geena knew it was time for a new, educational, and inspirational new "Reality TV series with REAL impact!" Geena is inspired by the sense of accomplishment and pride people feel when they succeed in turning their dream into reality. She knows that when an Indigenous entrepreneur creates a successful social enterprise or small business, many people benefit from their success. She knows that every time:

- A young digital artist or jewelry maker earns extra money for their family,
- A part-time caterer or bookkeeper fills a gap in a rural or remote area,
- A trainer or consultant expands their client base to earn more revenue, or
- An eco-tourism operator or construction contractor launches a company that creates local job

There are multiple direct and indirect social and economic benefits for the community – and the country.

Reference: www.bearslairtv.com

Hitaçu Hoops Championship

hitaçu Hoops Championships Electrifies West Coast

Nanaimo beat Tofino in Men's final, Port Alberni took U17 crown, games played in hitaçu and Ucluelet

Written by Andrew Bailey, extracted from the Westerly News

Excitement bounced across the West Coast over the weekend as the hitaçu Hoops Championships had the basketball community and its fans buzzing.

"The support has been unreal. It's really cool to see everybody come together, especially after COVID-19. It feels uplifting," hitaçu resident and event volunteer Savannah Rose told the Westerly News. "It's been a while since we've had something like this happen in Ucluelet and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ territory, so it's brought a lot of excitement to the community and it really woke everybody up."

The action was split into four divisions with the Under-17, Adult, Under-13 and Women's teams filling both hitaçu's Cixwatin Centre and Ucluelet Secondary School's gym.

The women's division was dominated by Ahousaht's Maaqtusiis squad and phenom Kanani Coon, 17, who cleaned up the division's personal awards winning Most Valuable Player, Best Offensive Player and Best Defensive Player.

While presenting Coon with her awards, event MC Tyson Touchie congratulated her and told the cheering crowd that she is heading to the NCAA after being accepted to the University of California Santa Barbara's Division 1 basketball program.

"In Nuu-chah-nulth we say ʔisaakcamis, 'spreading respect.' When you watch her play, that's what I think of. She's really respectful and, in a basketball community like the West Coast, our fans are that way too. So that's something we want to encourage and we just want to let her know that the West Coast basketball community really supports her and we wish her the best of luck," Touchie said.

Coon, who attends high school in the Okanagan and was recently named Kelowna's Female Athlete of the Year, told the Westerly News she was thrilled to visit the West Coast and experience the event.

"It was really fun. The last time I've seen this many Nations together was JAN (Junior All-Native Tournament) and I feel like it's always such a good experience to see all your people come together and support each other no matter what," she said. "I was excited to come here. It's a beautiful place and I love the people."

She added that the tournament's organizers "did amazing" and that she was touched by Touchie's words.

"That was one of the nicest things anyone's ever done for me...It was just nice to see them bring the people together and say those nice words," she said.

She added she's excited to be heading to the NCAA.

"It's definitely one of the best things that's ever happened to me for sure," she said, adding she is grateful for the support she's received throughout her young basketball career. "My parents are my biggest supporters, they always have been. I feel like friends aren't talked about enough and I have a couple close friends who definitely mean the world to me and obviously the organizers of these events are the reason that we're able to come here and play."

The Men's division was eight teams deep and Tofino's team, the Tofino Wednesdays, made it all the way to the finals, but lost out to the Nanaimo Misfits.

Tofino player Bobby Lax told the Westerly the event was amazingly well-organized.

"We're just so grateful to the community of hitaçu and the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ people for hosting us and getting us all together," he said, noting the number of divisions and teams required "so much work" involving a colossal amount of details and volunteer hours.

"They really opened it up so that anyone who wanted to come play could and to get the basketball community out here. They made it possible for us all to get engaged...Just 'hats off' to them and a huge thank you for the work that went in."

The U-17 crown went to The Port Alberni Armada, despite them being the only team in their division without a coach.

"We all play on the school team together, but we didn't find a coach so we just came down by ourselves," explained team-member Brooklyn Doiron, 17, after a thrilling finals win. "It was a great tournament. It was organized really well."

He added the finals was intense with his squad coming from behind in dramatic fashion to defeat Quuʔušinmit 83-80.

"It was a great game. The intensity was really crazy. We all played good and came out with a W," he said. "Our first

three games were nothing like this intensity, so this was our first game like that, but we adjusted well and it worked out.”

Armada player Jaidin Knighton, 15, told the Westerly she loved playing in the Cixwatin Centre, especially in front of such a passionate crowd.

“It was crazy. It was wild and a great experience,” she said. “When the fans are going crazy it gets a little chaotic, but it was really nice. I like this.”

Scott Cisaroski won the final’s Player of the Game award and was named the division’s Most Valuable Player, but told the Westerly the only trophy that mattered to him was the one his Armada won together.

“It feels great, but I’m not really worried about that. I just wanted to win the game,” he said.

“Our shots weren’t falling really in the first-half...We kept playing. We didn’t get discouraged and we slowly came back in the fourth and they couldn’t handle it anymore once our team got going.”

He added he was grateful for the opportunity to travel to the West Coast and play against athletes his own age outside of school.

Quu?ušinmit had made it through to the U17 finals by besting Ahousaht’s squad in a semi-final matchup.

Ahousaht’s coach Bonita Frank told the Westerly she was happy with her team’s performance and delighted to see such a well-run tournament on the West Coast.

“They played hard, with good heart and sportsmanship,” she said. “It was awesome to bring our youth from Ahousaht, boys and girls. We pulled them out for a good weekend and a sport that they love and they enjoyed it...It was definitely organized well. Props to the hosts.”

The tournament included a U-13 round-robin and Ucluelet Elementary School’s assistant coach Dr. Ron Norman was stoked for the opportunity to get kids on the court together.

“We’re very grateful to be able to have this tournament in hitaçu and appreciate it. It’s been a great comradery with everybody and we just love being here,” he said. “It’s vital to have all these kids playing together, sharing the time and encouraging one another on the West Coast. It’s great to have it.”

In a statement emailed to the Westerly News, Yuułu?iif?ath Manager of Communications and Public Relations Melissa Boucha said basketball has a long and respected history in

hitaçu and the community has a strong parental generation of basketball players ready to share their skills with local youth.

“There is a lot of talent amongst Yuułu?iif?ath. Since the setback of sport due to (COVID-19), there was a stall of athletic participation, weekly basketball drop ins have since returned and (Yuułu?iif?ath Government) provides programming for youth activities, especially coming into the spring/summer months. This allows the youth to learn team sport participation, nourish and encourage their skills, and incites health and wellness for everyone,” she wrote.

She added she was shocked by the tournament’s rapid interest with 22 teams signing up to compete.

“However, excitement prevailed to have so many teams come together, for the nation to share the community and gymnasium in an impactful way,” she wrote. “Players in the Women’s and Men’s divisions have been playing Basketball together for many years, regardless of their current region, was overall a special reunion for many. Another encouraging factor for youth participation in team sport, building life-long relationships.”

The hitaçu Hoops Championships was extremely successful for the community and very well needed; to come together in a meaningful way, enjoying sport and connection.

The Yuułu?iif?ath Government has many people to thank, who put their time and energy into making this event successful. Michelle Touchie, Gloria Valentine, Tyson Touchie Sr., and Anita Charelson-Touchie, were the main drivers to gather interest, organize, schedule, manage the day’s events, and spend their weekend living the hitaçu Hoops.

Many YG staff, citizens, interns, and volunteers lent their time to score/time keep, clean, cook, photograph, and generally be oniste for help and support.

Łeekoo to the community for the visual participation and support of all teams. AV guru, Mike Watts, and the four referees who were on the floor game after game.

We will have a complete list of recognition and photo sharing in the hitaçu Hoops Magazine, to be released beginning of June!



Hosted by the YG nursing and early childhood education staff who will be on hand to answer any questions about the young ones' health and development.

MONTHLY BABY GROUP

nanayaᑕaatuk

"taking care of babies"

An informal gathering where parents and caregivers with babies up to 2 years old can meet to socialize, share stories, and enjoy a healthy snack while the children play!

**1ST
WEDNESDAY
EVERY
MONTH**

10:00am to 11:00am
**q^wayaᑕiikᑦiis Childcare
Centre**



For more information, contact Simble Kaur, LPN: (778) 942-0578