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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 13, Issue 8 | July 2023

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VOTING DAY!
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
8:00AM TO 8:00PM



Cixwatin Centre
700 Wya Rd., hitaçu

Satellite Office/Urban Centre
3203 3rd. Ave, Port Alberni

ufn.ca/elections

General voting polls will be held in hitaçu at the Cix^watin Centre and at the Port Alberni Yuutu?it?ath Government satellite office from **8:00am to 8:00pm**, on **Wednesday, July 12**. Location for the Port Alberni polling station is: **3203 3rd Ave. Port Alberni**.

Mail-in ballots must be received by the Chief Electoral Officer before the close of the general polls at **8:00pm on Wednesday, July 12**.

Online voting for the 2023 By-Election will remain open until **8:00pm on Wednesday, July 12**. Online voting is accessible with your PIN found in the voting information packets mailed out to citizens. It is important that you do not lose your PIN. If a PIN is lost or other assistance with voting is needed, please call 1-877-541-9017.

All other information can be found by heading to ufn.ca > **elections**.

This will be your last chance to vote in Members of the Legislature for the 2023-2027 term!



CLOSED
Monday, August 7

hitaçu Cix^watin Centre & huu^patu Centre will reopen Tuesday, August 8



TAXATION

Announcement



MAA-NULTH TREATY AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 23, 2023



BC GST and PST Exemption is in effect for Yuułu?it?ath - Ucluelet First Nation

For Status Card questions and support contact Michelle.Touchie@ufn.ca, John.Rankin@ufn.ca or call 1 (778) 942-0563

The Yuułu?it?ath Government is pleased to inform you that the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement related to re-instatement of the taxation exemption (Section 87), has been amended. This amendment was made effective June 23, 2023.

What does that mean in regard to purchase of goods and services?

- Section 87 Beneficiaries will once again be exempt from all BC consumption taxes, (which includes Provincial sales tax (PST), motor fuel tax, carbon tax and tobacco tax) on purchases on reserves or former reserve lands.
- Section 87 Beneficiaries will not be subject to GST for purchases made on reserves (this does not include where an Indigenous Government, as Yuułu?it?ath Government, has implemented First Nations GST ("FNGST)).

GST and FNGST Clarified

If a Section 87 Beneficiary purchases an item on a reserve GST-free, and brings the item back to YG's former reserve lands, that Section 87 Beneficiary needs to self-assess by using the GST 531 Return for Self-Assessment of the First Nations Goods and Services Tax (FNGST) to self-assess (declare and pay) the 5% FNGST on property (goods) brought onto the lands of a First Nation that imposes FNGST.

If an individual lives on hitaču former reserve lands, they need to be aware of the implications of Yuułu?it?ath FNGST on goods or services that are delivered to/provided on these lands.

For example:

- If an individual orders a bicycle by telephone and asks for it to be delivered to their hitaču residence, the 5% FNGST applies and is to be charged by the supplier on the cost of the bicycle.
- If an individual purchases a vehicle from a car dealer off settlement lands, and the dealer delivers it to hitaču former reserve lands, the dealer must charge the 5% FNGST on the cost of the vehicle.

What about Status Cards?

The back of your status cards may have the notation: "Cardholder is not eligible for sales/transaction tax exemption after (a specified date)".

- This statement will no longer appear on the back of all SCIS (i.e., "status cards") issued after the effective date of the amendment (June 23, 2023).
- Individuals that would like this statement removed from their existing SCIS will need to submit an application for a replacement SCIS following the amendment.
- Visit www.sac-isc.gc.ca for Status Card applications.

We recognise the inconvenience to have status cards reissued and understand Canada is attempting to address this concern to facilitate affected Citizens in obtaining the exemption.

For immediate support, please contact Michelle Touchie, Citizenship and Enrolment Registrar, Michelle.Touchie@ufn.ca or by calling 1-(778) 942-0563.

YUULU?IŁ?ATH WOMEN'S WARRIOR GROUP

*Introducing kakáwinminh - many killer whales, Yuulu?ił?ath
Women's Warrior Group!*

*The focus of the group is to be a safe, inclusive and empowering place for
Yuulu?ił?ath women, girls, and two spirited beings to gather and lift each other up.*



**JOIN IN
WEEKLY!**

WEDNESDAYS

kakáwinminh will be meeting
every Wednesday.

Follow us @UcluletFirstNation
on Facebook for weekly
location, time, and information!

Highlights:
Harvesting, vision boards,
canning, and nature walks for
the month of July.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT KIMBERLY.TOUCHIE@UFN.CA

Yuułu?ił?ath Groups

Two new groups have started up for Yuułu?ił?ath citizens residing in hitaču.

Women's Warrior Group

A group of strong Yuułu?ił?ath Women; Savannah McCarthy, Jeneva Touchie, Samantha Touchie, Kimberly Touchie, and Gloria Valentine have fearlessly started up the Yuułu?ił?ath Women's Warrior Group!

The Women's Warrior recently held their inaugural meeting, a mix of youth and adult leaders. The first item up for discussion was formally deciding the group name. This decision came to be **kakawinminh**, meaning many killer whales.

kakawinminh call on more to join the weekly group; to build skills, give back to the elders, make jams, drums, sing their own songs and make their own shawls!

Meetings are held in person for the time being, hope is for a future online option. More to come on this initiative!

Elder's Walking Group

Kimberly Touchie will be hosting a Walking Group, scheduled to take place every Tuesday. Tentatively the Walking Group will commence at 10:00am, location to change weekly, and of course the Walking Group will be dependent on west coast weather.

Transportation can be provided or those interested are welcome to meet at the location. Follow us on @UclueletFirst-Nation on Facebook or contact Kimberly Touchie for information: Kimberly.Touchie@ufn.ca or (250) 266-4695.

Hitinqsa?alın yaacpanač
'Let's walk on the beach'



YUULU?IL?ATH WALKING GROUP

Join us on **Tuesday, July 11** at **10:00am**
K^wisitit (Wickaninnish Beach)

Transportation is available, contact Kimberly.Touchie@ufn.ca or call (250) 266-4695.
Walking Group will take place Tuesday mornings (weather dependent).

Learn how to bead.
with Linda George



JULY 11 TO JULY 13

Beading Workshop

Beginners will learn how to bead a necklace/anklet and advanced will learn how to bead earrings, as shown in the picture.

4:00pm to 6:00pm
in the Cix^watin Center Cultural Library

Interested to sign up? Contact Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca or (250) 725-8700

Jackelyn Williams Designs USS Entrance

The new entry doors at Ucluelet Secondary School, designed by Jackelyn Williams with assistance from elder Rose Wilson.

Written By: Mark MacDonald



Ucluelet Secondary School (USS) has a new way to welcome students, thanks to Jackelyn Williams, with assistance from elder Rose Wilson.

Jackelyn was commissioned to design the front door of USS, as well as some doors inside the building. It was an opportunity that she found very meaningful.

“It was really exciting, especially since one of my former art teachers still teaches there,” notes the USS graduate. “It was really nice to see such transformation in other people as well. It has been an awesome experience to feel that First Nations are celebrated at USS.”

Marika Swan, the Indigenous art coordinator at USS, had taken notice of Jackelyn’s work designing the bright orange, eagle crosswalk next to the school that was completed last year, and reached out to her for the entry way project.

“She just invited me to work with her in any capacity that I wanted,” Jackelyn recalls. “We talked about inviting Ucluelet citizens and our elders to come over and get them involved in the process, to see if they had any ideas. The goal was to be inclusive and respectful to people that are there, as well as to our elders, and to make sure that whatever I created represented the people of the area.”

An open house was held at USS, which was attended by

elders, and the predominant thoughts expressed became central to the designs.

“What came out of that was the recommendation to include the thunderbird and wolves, as they are often represented in Yuutu?i?ath art” she notes. “With that in mind, I began designing. I also included the serpents to honour the tla-o-qui-aht and Toquaht Nations, since their students attend the school as well.

“It was important to me to include the values of inclusion and respect, and loving and supporting one another.”

On a personal note, the interior doors feature two wolves, which could also represent Jackelyn and her sister, YG Director of Operations Suzanne Williams in a previous design. Wolves are really respected in Nuu-chah-nulth culture as they are communal animals and are featured a lot in traditional artwork.”

“The moon and the trees that are surrounding the wolves remind passersbyers that we are connected to the land, and we are to respect the land as we respect each other.”

The designs also include borders inspired by basketry designs provided by Rose Wilson.

“The design and colours were Rose’s. I sat with her to digitize what she has on woven fabric. The colours and designs are all by Rose” she adds. “It was an awesome experience, figuring out how it should be cut. We had to use different techniques to create the designs.”

Jackelyn has been doing art for her whole life, but began to take it more seriously during Covid.

“I had more time on my hands, so I started practicing and studying art more,” she notes. “I was encouraged by my colleagues to start selling my art, so I started doing that.”

Jackelyn has designed logos for clients, and her artwork is featured in an unpublished children’s book for Ucluelet First Nation. She also did the artwork for the little big house in hitaču, has completed a mural in Port Alberni, at Kackaamin Family Development Centre, and is working on an entry way project for the RCMP building in Port Alberni.



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.



INEO
Employment Services

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

2023 Totem Unveiling

Ucluelet Secondary School officially opens with the unveiling of čiiñuṭ.



minder of indigenous strength and culture in Ucluelet and along the West Coast.

Hjalmer Wenstob explained the spiritual significance of the čiiñuṭ to the crowd on behalf of Clifford George.

“The Cixwatin (eagle) reminds of us our mothers, the one that gives life, the one that wraps their wings around us whenever we need them.

The čims (bear) looks after his family. (Noting to the youth) this is your home, your family, look after each other.

The ʔiihtuup/kakawin (whale/orca) signals travel. When you travel or when you go to a new school, when you come to this school, or when you leave home, it’s still here for you when you come back.”

Continuing acknowledgment of Nuu-chah-nulth artistry present within the new build, former USS student, Yaaʔaʔat Jackelyn Williams of Tseshaht and Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh, in collaboration with ʔiitumqa elder Rose Wilson, were responsible for the art that adorned the front doors and windows of the school.

nučhakaʔin - We are very proud. Proud to have Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh artists and territorial recognition flowing through the walls as a reminder of the land we all reside.

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 marked National Indigenous Peoples Day. West Coast nations and students were brought together to celebrate the grand opening of the newly built and renovated, Ucluelet Secondary School.

The event was co-hosted by Huṭtik Jeneva Touchie and speakers included Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh President Charles McCarthy, Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh citizen and NTC President Les Doiron (joined by elder Richard Mundy Sr., Tye Wilson Jack, Charles McCarthy) and members of Tla-o-qui-aht and Toquaht.

Song and drum was provided by Lindsay McCarthy Sr. and the crowd of Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh youth and family he called upon to join.

Among the powerful youth dancers from each nation, the most notable component was the raising of the čiiñuṭ (Totem) carved by Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh citizen Clifford George.

A čiiñuṭ (totem) that once stood in front of the gymnasium, now a welcoming feature of Yuuʔuʔiʔaṭh territory and a re-

Photos by: Melissa Boucha





Photos by: Melissa Boucha



Message in a Bottle

Yuufu?if?ath sisters find message in a bottle containing ashes from Washington Coast.

Written By: Nora O'Malley



Photos by: Samantha Touchie

Sisters Samantha and Kimberly Touchie found a once-in-a-lifetime beach treasure over the May Long weekend.

The sisters were down at Wya Beach when they stumbled across a message in a bottle.

"I kind of saw the little glimmer and I noticed it was glass. My sister ran up to it and noticed that there was a note inside," said Samantha Touchie.

They took the special treasure home and used chopsticks and a svelte straw cleaner tool to retrieve the message within.

"We were the first ones to open it. The cork was in there pretty good," said Touchie.

While the note was extremely faded and hard to read, the Touchie sisters discerned that the treasure came from the Duke Family in Raymond, Washington about 158 nautical miles away. The bottle also contained the ashes of Joyce Duke who was married to Bobby Duke for 42 years.

"It sounds like Bobby passed away in 2002 and then Joyce passed away in 2019, so they took some of her ashes and put it in the bottle. They wanted her to travel the seas and be re-united," Touchie said, adding that a phone number of either the daughter or granddaughter was left at the bot-

tom of the letter.

"I texted a photo of the bottle at Wya. She was so excited." The Touchie sisters said they would return the bottle to the ocean as the message requested that if found, set it back to sea.

"Because the original is so faded, I added another little note that re-iterated what the note said and that it was found in Ucluelet for the first time," she said.

Samantha Touchie, who is the Culture and Heritage Executive Assistant for Yuufu?if?ath Government, says she's been walking down to Wya Beach "forever" and has never found something like this. She wasn't spooked by the ashes.

"The ashes are still in there so she could continue travelling."



MAJOR HELP FOR MINOR AILMENTS

Minor ailments are conditions that you can look after yourself and may not require a doctor's visit. They can also be self-limiting, only lasting for a short time. Minor ailment treatment may be available for the following:

- *Acne*
- *Allergies*
- *Athlete's foot*
- *Canker sores*
- *Hemorrhoids*
- *Mild eczema and rashes*
- *Oral yeast infections*
- *Smoking cessation*
- *Conjunctivitis*
- *Birth Control and Emergency Contraception*
- *Uncomplicated Bladder Infection (UTI)*
- *Cold sore*
- *Shingles*
- *Musculoskeletal Pain*
- *Dyspepsia*
- *Dysmenorrhea*
- *Fungal Infections*
- *Threadworms and Pinworms*

Your pharmacist will conduct a detailed consultation to assess your ailment. Following the consultation, your pharmacist may recommend an over-the-counter medication or provide a limited course of prescription medication.



Health and Wellness

Pharmaceutical Help for Minor Ailments

As of June 1, 2023, B.C. residents can seek treatment for 21 minor ailments and contraception directly from a pharmacist.

List of pharmaceutical for minor ailments are listed below and on the previous page:

- Acne
- Allergies
- Athlete's Foot
- Canker Sores
- Hemerroids
- Micd Excema and Roseaca
- Oral Yeast Infections
- Smoking Cessation
- Conjunctivitis
- Birth Control and Emergency Contraception
- Uncomplicated Bladder Infection (UTI)
- Cold Sore
- Shingles
- Musculoskeletal Pain
- Dyspepsia
- Dysmenorrhea
- Fungal INfections
- Threadworms and Pinworms

Visit your local pharmacy if you are in need of any of the prescriptions as listed above.

Reminder on your plan with Pacific Blue Cross;, Plan W:

What is Plan W?

Plan W is defined as Plan Wellness First Nations Health Authority. Clients in BC joined PharmaCare to receive drug benefits services through a tailored program designed specifically for First Nations called Plan Wellness (Plan W). Formerly these patients received drug coverage from Health Canada's Non-insured (NIHB) program.

This change is the first step in improving First Nations health care by bringing it closer to home in BC. All First Nations Health Authority clients who are eligible for the BC

Medical Services Plan (MSP) are eligible for PharmaCare Plan W benefits.

Clients can check coverage by:

1. Calling **1-855-550-5454**
2. Signing into their personalized Member profile at **pac.bluecross.ca**
3. Visit **fnha.ca/benefits** for more information

Pacific Blue Cross Membership

- Your status number is also your Member ID number,
- Full visibility into benefits coverage,
- Faster action and claims processing,
- Pay-direct provider network,
- Online claims,
- Reimbursement in as little as 48 hours,
- Ability to Print Pacific Blue Cross ID care.

Mobile app

- Sign in with fingerprint touch ID,
- Display member ID card,
- Take photos of receipts and submit claims,
- Look up coverage.

Any questions? Please call 1-855-550-5454 for assistance.

DENTAL THERAPIST CLINIC
WITH FNHA DENTAL THERAPIST
MELANIE BRAKER

MONDAY, JULY 10, 17, & 24
11:00AM - 4:00PM
ASSETS BUILDING Down by the Totem
ALL AGES WELCOME!

To book an appointment call FNHA COHI AIDE
Evangeline Campbell: (250) 266-2535

Yuucawinyuk'in - "We Celebrate!"

Congratulations to the 2022/2023 students!



Celebrate Education!

Kindergarten

Zoey Clutesi
Carter Graham
Abel Jackway
Hazel Joseph
Dominic McCarthy
Ryan Martin-McCarthy
Byron Patrick
Kai Touchie
Nathanial Touchie

Grade 1

Eric Campbell
Micah Jack
Taleah Touchie

Grade 2

Luis Baquedano
Preston George
Nathan La Fortune
Darryl McCarthy
Taya Patrick

Grade 3

Liam Baquedano
Emily Campbell
Lyric Charlie
James Frank-Mack
Kasen McCarthy

Grade 4

Lincoln Keitlah-Louie
Chenoa McCarthy-Tom
Kiana McCarthy
Timothy McCarthy-Tom
Syler Mundy
Travis Touchie

Grade 5

Amerie Charlie
Samantha Clutesi
Cadence George
Cynthia Thompson
Victoria Thompson
Jordan Touchie
Tiani Touchie
Phillip Williams

Grade 6

Lillyona Hetu-Touchie
Khia Little
James McCarthy
Leanne Meanney
Jack-Shawn Patrick
Katrina Sam
Holly Tom

Grade 7

Kaiden Burnie
Shyne Charlie
Isabella McCarthy
Marcus Mundy
Breanna Thompson
Matthew Touchie-Edgar
Terrence Williams

GRADE 8

Tammy Charleson
Sean Nelson-Patrick (Scholarship)
Kaydance Titian (Scholarship)
Kale Touchie

GRADE 9

Mathew Jack (Scholarship)
Jordan Louie (Scholarship)
Kaila Louie
Jaysen Touchie
Hector Williams

GRADE 10

Dallas Louie
Calianna McCarthy
Lindsay McCarthy (Scholarship)
Nicole McCarthy
Adam Randall-Touchie
Darryl Tate
Deagan Thompson

GRADE 11

Leon Nelson-Patrick (Scholarship)
Evan Touchie

GRADE 12

Reese Touchie

Post Secondary

Raven Gagnon
Vancouver Island University

Jeneva Touchie
University of Victoria
Scholarship Recipient

Asya Touchie
University of Victoria

OST Recognition

Christine McCarthy
North Island College
Language

Gordon Williams
Vancouver Island University
Level One Mechanics

Savannah McCarthy
Leadership Vancouver Island
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Rose Aday
Leadership Vancouver Island
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

June Williams
Allure Spa
Eyelash Course



2023 Education Celebration

Celebrating the 2023 Yuuṭuʔiʔath Students!



The 2023 Education Celebration was filled with cultural song, dance, treats, and enjoyment! MC'd by Jeneva Touchie, the end-of-year graduates were called up by grade to collect their Yuuṭuʔiʔath certificates and presented scholarships.

The q̄ayačiiḱiis Childcare Centre performed the Paddle song and Saapin, song and drum being lead by the strong vocals of Ethan Joseph. Speeches were given by President Charles McCarthy, Executive Member Gertrude Touchie, and signing in via Zoom, Executive Members Asya Touchie and Levana Mastrangelo.

Director of Operations Suzanne Williams recognized the Post Secondary and OST (Out of School) students, with elders Dr. Bernice Touchie and Marjorie Touchie presenting beaded eagle feathers and cedar bark hats to Jeneva Touchie and Asya Touchie.

The celebration attendees enjoyed a meal and desserts provided by Heartwood Kitchen and served by Debbie Touchie, Homemakers Evangeline Campbell and Connie Mundy, and interns Peyton George and Georgia Frencheater.

ǂeekoo ǂeekoo to Education Services Manager Karen Severinson and her support (Kira de Leeuw, Marissa Mack, Gloria Valentine) for putting together such a celebration!







Page 16 left to right:
 q^wayaçiiik?iis Childcare Centre
 Kindergarten
 Grade 1
 Grade 2
 Grade 3
 Grade 4
 Grade 5
 Grade 6
 Grade 7 - N/A

Page 17 left to right:
 Grade 8
 Grade 9
 Grade 10
 Grade 11
 Grade 12 - N/A
 Post Secondary
 Jeneva Touchie
 Asya Touchie

Photos by Melissa Boucha, Gr. 10 by Jeneva Touchie

huuhtakšiiḡ mamuʔacsyi

Learn how to do grass weaving.

With Witchita Paull



JULY 17 TO JULY 20

Grass Weaving Workshop

**12:00pm to 4:00pm & 6:00pm to 9:00pm
in the Cix^watin Center Foyer**

Questions? Contact witchita13@gmail.com

q^wayačiiḱ?iis Childcare Centre

Summer snippets of the q^wayačiiḱ?iis crew!



The q^wayačiiḱ?iis Childcare Centre has been up to all things summer!

The beginning of summer has been warm and bright for the q^wayačiiḱ?iis Childcare Centre to check activities off their bucket list; forest walks, beach days, halibut cutting with Dr. Bernice Touchie, learning song and dance, berry picking, and spending time in the sunshine.

The next few pages feature highlights of activities as provided by the q^wayačiiḱ?iis Childcare Centre.





Leadership Vancouver Island

Rose Aday Graduates from Leadership Vancouver Island, West Coast Chapter

Written By: Mark MacDonald

Rose Aday graduated from the Leadership Vancouver Island program with plenty of valuable information, training, experiences and new relationships.

Rose, the Communications Coordinator for the Yuuʷəłiʷəth Government based in Port Alberni, recently completed the LVI West Coast Chapter's nine-month course created to prepare the next generation of leadership across the island, which started last fall.

"The program came with some really invaluable experiences, not just in the workshops, but by visiting the communities around the coast, which is where a lot of the real learning was," she observes, adding that the West Coast Chapter is focused on the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region and its communities. "Seeing our differences, seeing our similarities and the triumphs that people are achieving is amazing. And we made so many connections. I made so many friends in the program, too. Coming from Port Alberni, I am not usually in hitaču for a long time, but now I feel that I have so many people I know in Ucluelet and Tofino, that I can reach out to in person."

LVI is a community-focused, values-based leadership development program designed to inspire and build capacity for outstanding leadership, learning and service. It aims to foster leadership development, raise community awareness and build innovative communities. Applications for the next cohort will open in the summer of 2024.

The leadership team is comprised of Ricardo (Co-chair, Tofino), Abby Fortune (Co-chair, Ucluelet), Anna Atleo (LVI Alumni, Ahousaht), Emily Fulton (LVI Alumni, Ucluelet), Iris Frank (Tla-o-qui-aht Education), Jesse Bateman (LVI Alumni, Tofino), Josie Osborne (MLA Alberni-Clayoquot) and Rebecca Hurwitz (CBT Executive Director).

Rose was encouraged to apply to enter LVI by Melissa Boucha and Suzanne Williams, who graduated from the program themselves. There were close to 20 students, from Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet.

"I had heard some amazing things about the program, how life changing it was, and how people tend to come out of the program completely changed," she states. "I saw all these amazing women around me who had gone through the program and were in strong positions in our Nation, so I could really see the value in doing the program."

Group sessions covered learning about conflict resolution

and project management, amongst other pertinent topics. "For our in person meetings, we met in a different community every time," she explains. "The first one was a two-day retreat held at the Cedar Coast Field School on Vargas Island, and it was amazing. It is absolutely beautiful there, and it was such a great place to meet a new group of people and get comfortable with where the program was going to take us."

"After that we were in Ucluelet, then we visited a variety of different reserves around the coast and different communities."

As she prepared to enter LVI, she expected to receive more clarity on what it meant to be a leader, and push herself to become even better at her job, and grasp new opportunities that come her way.

"I definitely left with more experience in regards to that, but I was very surprised about how much of the program focused on self-reflection and developing yourself as a person," she notes. "That was interesting. The program is sold as you're working with different people from different regions, but the real core message is work on yourself, how to be safe and lead others, as the key messages. That was surprising."

Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni, states that "The LVI program is not only a life-changing experience for the participants, but is reshaping our region. It is an opportunity for participants to connect with their community, learn about themselves and strengthen their skills while developing lifelong relationships. This program is building local leaders that will enrich our community in so many important ways." Rose confirms it was challenging, but very rewarding.

"There were a lot of ups and downs, but it was absolutely worth it in the end," she says. "Once our satellite office opens here in Port Alberni, I'll be taking over more of a leadership role, helping run the office and making the space more welcoming and inviting for our urban citizens. This program came at the perfect time to help me step into that new roll."





Committee Vacancies

Interested to get involved?
Join a Committee for the Yuułu?ił?ath Government!

We encourage all interested to apply or submit a letter of interest.

We are looking for:

Economic Development

1 Vacancy

Must be an individual who is not a member of Legislature and brings skills or expertise to the committee.

Treaty Implementation

3 Vacancies

Must be individuals who are not members of Legislature and brings skills or expertise to the committee.

Send your application or interest to:

Jill.Hamilton@ufn.ca

ufn.ca > government > committees

2023-2027 Legislative Term

Yuufuʔifʔath Government Towards the Future. Meet the 2023-2027 Executive Members.

Written By: Mark MacDonald

Lorrie Touchie - Finance Portfolio



Lorrie Touchie is very excited about her second term as a member of the Yuufuʔifʔath Government and she is overseeing the Finance Portfolio.

“I’ve always been fascinated by accounting and I’m looking forward to working with Tamara and her team over the next four years,” she says.

Lorrie has worked for the federal government since 2015, and is the administrative assistant in the finance department at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. This is Lorrie’s second term in YG as she was first elected in 2019 and had the community services portfolio.

“I really enjoyed working within the portfolio, and worked hand and hand with the Director of Community Services, Dr. Rohan Ghatak for the past four years,” she says. “The

community services department accomplished a lot, but Dr. Rohan and his team are the ones who deserve all the credit because they have worked so hard to get where we are today.”

Lorrie has lived in the community for over 40 years and looking how far the Nation has advanced in terms of health care is astonishing.

“We’ve had medical services in the past but nothing like what we have today,” she says. “We now have a fully functional medical clinic which consists of a GP, nurses, psychiatrist, dental clinic and vision clinics.

“It’s so amazing how far we’ve come in these past four years, considering two and half years we had a Covid 19 pandemic. I owe this all to Dr. Rohan and his team and I can’t thank them enough,” she adds. “I’m very excited to work with my new coworkers and I’m looking forward to the next four years as a member of the Legislature. I feel very humbled and honored to given the opportunity to work another four years and I just want to say thank you.”

Gertrude Touchie - Community Services Portfolio



Her first term on Yuufuʔifʔath Government, Gertrude [Gert] Touchie has one main focus as she oversees the Community Services portfolio: Building a healthy community.

“My goal is to guide the portfolio in the right direction, and listen to what the people that are already involved have to say,” she says. “I’m excited about this position, and to be a part of the community

again. I’ve been home several times now and managed to visit people I haven’t seen for a while.”

Gert is currently a Cultural Support Worker and Executive Assistant for Tla-amin Nation north of Qathet (Powell River) on the Sunshine Coast. Gert and partner Kevin Timothy have three girls who live five minutes away from them, and they are new grandparents. Gert likes to cedar weave, fish, hunt, and do bead work.

Born and raised in Ucluelet, Gert left in 2011. She had started working at age 16, became involved in education and culture at Ucluelet’s elementary and high schools before leaving to become an EA and Cultural Support Worker for the Yuufuʔifʔath Government.

Gert’s family is well known for their involvement in the hitaču community. “I’ve always been involved with governance and attended meetings,” she recalls. “It’s always been a part of our household at our table when our mom was alive. She was always talking about what we could do, what we should be doing with our lives, and how we can help out our community.”

She has maintained that interest even while she has lived away from home. “For me, the reason I ran in the election was just so I could get a little more information,” she notes. “Sometimes I get frustrated with what’s happening, and wonder how I can help.

“Education has always been a passion of mine, and health as well,” she says. “I’ve known what social service operations have been before. I am really looking forward to being involved and helping wherever I can.”



Asya Touchie

Culture, Language, and Heritage Portfolio

Asya Touchie recognizes the importance of her position overseeing the Culture, Language and Heritage portfolio for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, knowing it ties the people of the Nation together.

“We exist as a nation and we defended our autonomy through the Maa-nulth Treaty because we are a distinct people,” says huupkʷistaʔaqs, whose English name is Asya Touchie.

“Culturally, linguistically, and by virtue of our history with our territory, we are unique, and we need unique governance structures, laws and policies in order to meet our needs. Finding opportunities to meaningfully integrate our culture, heritage and language into the work that our government does is vital to effectively governing.”

Asya adds that as the Nation articulates its unique identity to the world, internally it needs to find more opportunities to engage with its identity, diversity and shared connections with the territory and those who came before.

“It’s a responsibility that every Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ has, whether you’re an elder in hitaču, a small family in Port Alberni, a young student in Victoria or a citizen from any other walk of life,” she says. “We all play a meaningful role in contributing to and strengthening who we are collectively as Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ. And I look forward to working with all of the citizens in the coming years.”

Asya served Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ on the Legislature last term and she is looking forward to serving this term on the Executive. She currently lives in Calgary with her husband and daughter, while the rest of her family lives mostly in hitaču, Port Alberni and Nanaimo. Over the last few years Asya has been

working in post-secondary institutions in a variety of capacities with a focus on supporting and empowering Indigenous students.

Personally, Asya completed a Master of Public Administration in 2022 and received a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care in 2015, both at the University of Victoria. Asya has also spent time working for the federal government supporting projects with Indigenous communities in B.C., after previously working for a provincial agency in B.C. supporting Indigenous families and youth.

“I was fortunate to have the opportunity several years ago to serve the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government as Manager of Culture and Heritage and as Manager of Social Services,” she recalls. “It’s been exciting to see so many opportunities for growth in both of these departments as they evolve to meet the changing needs of our citizens.”

The Culture and Heritage Department has achieved major progress in recent years, including the repatriation projects and expanded language programs.

“I hope to see us creating more opportunities to integrate the work of the department into work that is being undertaken across our government, find ways to continually increase accessibility to our programs and begin to place more emphasis on documenting our history,” she says. “Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ is a unique nation and our story is one that future generations should be able to freely access, engage with, critique, and ultimately, find their place within.”

Asya knows the work of the YG is so important and impactful on the lives of the Nation’s citizens, and she is excited at the opportunity to work with her colleagues on the Executive to deliver much needed results for everyone.

“As the Culture and Heritage portfolio holder on the Executive, I’m looking forward to working with citizens and staff in order to promote and expand these programs, and others, that enhance our ability to engage with our culture, language and heritage,” Asya states. “It’s vital that we continue to ensure the Department has the necessary funding to make wide ranging, complex projects a reality. In particular I want to see the Department finding new opportunities to support Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ in reconnecting with, or continuing to connect to, traditional, spiritual and cultural practices.

“These practices are important to who we are as Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ,” she says. “It is important to ensure that these thrive and continue to support our people in healing. But it’s also essential that we work to ensure these practices are accessible to all Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ so that we can share equally in our culture and heritage.”



Levana Mastrangelo **Assets Management Portfolio**

It was a couple of back-to-back internship contracts established in 2014-2016 through the University of Victoria that helped Levana Mastrangelo connect with Yuułu?it?atḥ government, founding her long-term career in Indigenous Relations & Governance. Levana was one of four citizens elected to YG by acclamation this spring, she is looking forward to leading the Asset Management portfolio as an Executive Member of the Legislature. Levana has already served as a Director for each of the Yuułu?it?atḥ Holdings Board, the Operating Board overseeing Yuułu?it?atḥ businesses, and now acts as Chair for the Economic Development Committee

As she completed her nine years of post-secondary education at North Island College for an Associate of Science degree and at the University of Victoria in the BCMB program (Biochemistry Microbiology) to obtain a Bachelor of Science with cooperative education (work experience). Through UVic's co-op program Levana focused on Indigenous relations and governance that proposed and secured two study contracts and two placements within Yuułu?it?atḥ H̄ahuuli (Hahoulthee).

“When I started doing my internship program, I found another meaningful way to serve our people, I’ve always been very focused on how to connect with our Nation’s traditional territories and community, find ways to give back and support self-determination through self-governance of the Maa-nulth Treaty,” she says, adding she assisted the Lands and Resources manager. “I wanted to earn a prestigious degree that no one in my family had ever done. I found that working with my Nation (and other First Nations) provides myself with a selfless motivating career, building meaning-

ful milestones that contribute to our future generations while honoring our past and our ancestors, to stay connected with our lands and act as guardians to our territories. This is what I have found, what I want to do, stay, contribute, connect, and share, this can now happen in a large way through our Legislature”.

Levana is an animal lover and dog owner, a hands-on person who loves outdoor activities, landscaping and gardening, and is also playing around with making jewelry with copper and natural stones that are found in and around the Nation’s territory. She has always participated in volunteer activities, including serving as a Director for the B.C. Centre of Aquatic Health Sciences and as Director and Vice president for the Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation.

Levana was born and raised in Campbell River and was able to return to Campbell River and stay connected with the West coast, Barkley and Clayoquot Sound, by working with Cermaq Canada for the past five years. Cermaq has offices in Campbell River and Tofino and is building a new office in Ahousaht, where she will be based out of on a more regular basis once established.

As Senior Reconciliation Advisor, she works with Ahousaht Nation on five-year strategy plans, which includes corporate to First Nation relations, one project underway is the building of a new office, a floating reconciliation office that will include office spaces, meeting and boardrooms and living quarters.

“Throughout my time working with Cermaq, the company has been extremely supportive, to help build and maintain a professional and community-based relation with my Nation for my career. This aligns with building on better community relations with Nations that the company operates within shared territories, looking for shared value and supporting shared interests with the appropriate Nations, groups and institutions. That which supports commitments to UNDRIP/DRIPA and commitments to Reconciliation with First Nations” she explains

For her term holding the Portfolio of Asset Management, Levana’s immediate goals are to build upon the work and growth that has taken place in the last four years and build on the visions that will protect and enhance our community and TSL’s for a sustainable and efficient future.

“There is a strong foundation to create a sustainable economy within our community, which is an exciting development for our Treaty Settlement Lands,” she says. “my role will help support certain projects to reach their next phase of development. While also continuing the search for ways to protect, enhance, and provide to our people, whether it be through development of our TSL’s or protection of our

lands and habitats, while practicing responsible and sustainable leadership for natural resource assets. Expanding on our ways to bring people home, while building and maintaining a flourishing community, is the long-term goal, one that we all share.”

That supports the importance of Job creation and job retention, and hopefully one day a post-secondary education institution that can house all knowledge and education, traditional, cultural, environmental, stewardship and conservation, evolving education in Native Arts.”

“We want to encourage people who are interested in coming back and getting educated,” she says. “I’d like to use my journey in education and in the legislature as an example of inspiration that others can look at and follow. There are so many opportunities for our youth and adults, and we need to show them everything that can be done for them, and what we are providing for them.”

Those next steps include strength building our treaty and what has been implemented that will result in citizens returning home to live, but standing in the way is a lack of housing.

“Housing is one of the biggest issues,” she states. “I have been trying to get a place to move back to since I finished university, and I am excited to see how our Nation is tackling housing.



A luncheon will be held on the 2nd Tuesday each month for Elders (age 60+) to discuss health updates and health education.

ELDERS HEALTH LUNCHEON

**2ND
TUESDAY
EVERY
MONTH**

**SIXPLEX
COMMON AREA
HITAĆU
11:30AM**



DR. TED ALTAR COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGIST

**AVAILABLE IN PERSON
AUGUST 8 TO AUGUST 11
AT THE HUUPATU HEALTH CENTRE**

Dr. Altar is available via phone or Zoom for ALL citizens.

To book an appointment:
Call (250) 726-7343 or email Byron.Patrick@ufn.ca