



Umacuk YG News Volume 13, Issue 9 | August 2023 www.ufn.ca

What's New?

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In This Issue

In this issue we have provided articles of information on grants and funding recently received by the Yuułu?ił?ath Government. One being the First People's Cultural Council (FPCC) Grant to aid in community courses and language workshops within the Department of Culture, Language, and Heritage.

Second being the announcement of the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) - Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI). An initiative to support 8 housing units, in the form of duplexes, to be constructed in hitacu before year end.

In this issue you will also find updates on the ever abundant Wya Community Garden and summer fun with the qwayaciik?iis Childcare Centre. A very special feature on another recent Yuułu?ił?ath graduate of the Leadership Vancouver Island - West Coast Chapter, can be found on the next page.

Read on for more!



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LVI Graduate Highlight

Leadership Vancouver Island graduate, Savannah McCarthy, helps start Yuułu?ił?ath Women's Warrior Group in hitaću.

Written by: Mark MacDonald

Photo by: Melissa Boucha



While participating in the Leadership Vancouver Island (LVI) program, Savannah McCarthy realized the importance of what would become one her next projects: the Women's Warrior Group.

A handful of women had taken notice of the successful Warrior Program for men, and believed a similar group was needed that would be a great benefit to girls and women within the Nation.

Savannah graduated from the LVI program in June, and the Yuułu?ił?ath Women's Warrior Group started meeting in July, with Savannah, Jeneva Touchie, Samantha Touchie, Kimberly Touchie, Michelle Touchie and Gloria Valentine leading the way.

Now known as kakawinminh (meaning many killer whales) it meets on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. at the Cixwatin Centre Gym and it is a safe, inclusive, and empowering place for Yuulu?il?ath women, girls, and two spirited beings to gather and lift each other up.

At the initial meeting in the first week of July, 14 women showed up. Each week is different and attendance varies, and the group has gone berry picking, learned how to can fish, and enjoyed a group visit to Kennedy Lake.

"All of the leaders have different roles in the government," notes Savannah. "Jeneva Touchie is a real key component, as she has her degree in our language dialect, so she includes language in all the activities we're doing. The revitalization of our language is really important.

"Samantha Touchie is with Culture and Heritage, and she can carry forward a lot of the traditional teachings and knowledge. Kimberly is our wellness outreach worker with the Social Services department, but a wellness outreach worker, and we have Michelle Touchie as well. And Gloria Valentine has done so much work with our youth. She was my youth leader and part of that department when I was growing up, and her knowledge is so valuable."

Savannah is grateful for the support she received from the Director of Operations Suzanne Williams and her manager, Director of Lands and Resources Zoltan Schafer, Director

of Culture, Language and Heritage Carey Cunneyworth and Dr. Rohan Ghatak.

"It's been phenomenal and we are thankful for allowing us to have the space to meet weekly in preparation and giving us space to meet in the Cixwatin," she says. "The ladies have all brought something to the table and we all have different attributes that are key components to what is making the starting of this women's and girls group. We never could have done it without the support of our managers."

Savannah's position in Lands and Resources also brings another perspective to the group.

"A lot of my job is being out on the land, monitoring and patrolling it and understanding the changes in the environment," she says. "Day to day those changes might not seem like a lot, but two or three years down the road you're starting to see these changes and it draws a bigger picture. So we're able to talk about that as well."

Savannah notes that the group implements the language in all activities, using it to describe the places they go and telling history.

"It also helps with elder inclusion, and helps in bridging the gap where there is brokenness," she adds. "Not every young person has been raised with elders, or been able to ask elders questions and learn for them, so this group is creating a space where they can connect and share the teaching. Sometimes people don't know how to ask, but showing



Photo by: Melissa Boucha

the girls we're always going to be here and we're going to have fun when we do is important. Jeneva is making it fun to learn the language."

Attendance varies, but Savannah says that "even if get just one person to show up, we still feel like we should honour that one person."

President Charles McCarthy was the elder during the week the girls learned how to can fish.

"That was really good. The girls were leaning and interacting and able to take their fish home the next day," she states.

Although the group has similar goals, it is a different model than the boys' Warriors Program.

"We're lifting up our young ladies," she says. "By having it be a women and girls warriors program, that helps with the connection between ages. They all want connection, especially coming out of the Pandemic because it was really hard on everybody. Everybody was disconnected."

Leadership Vancouver Island ran from September 2022 to June 2023, and her ability to focus enabled her to extract as much as possible from the course.

"The main LVI statement is about Leading Self, Leading Others, then Leading Community," she recalls. "I had done a lot of work on myself previously before I entered, and I realized I still had a lot of work to do, even though it was important to acknowledge the work I had already put in to leading myself."

She noted that all program participants were in different stages of their lives.

"Some had already lead themselves, and were moving forward, leading others, and others were ready to lead their communities," she says. "It was nice to see where everybody was at, and hearing their stories about some of the things they had gone through and were applying now to make real change.

"For me, it was a safe space, kind of like a family," she states. "After leaving LVI, we've been able to connect with some of the women who are in leadership roles elsewhere. It has opened the door to be able to connect outside of LVI."

In the midst of LVI, Savannah connected with a leader from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and they discussed the success of the boys' Warriors Program, and wondered what it would

look like if a women's group could be formed. They are also starting one within their Nation.

"Before LVI I knew we needed something for our girls," she states. "There are a lot of girls that are on reserves where there's not very much to do. The boys' Warriors Program was working, and girls were saying 'What about us?'. So we have created a space for them now.

"LVI helped me be able to take action. I needed to lead myself first, and that kind of helped with the brainstorming process for the women's program," she notes. "So this program is all about getting the women out and getting them active and getting them healthy. The connection that is made by being out on the land and making connections will last for a lifetime."

Photo by: Chenoa McCarthy-Tom





Committee Vacancies

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

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



We are looking for:

Finance Committee

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

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

FPCC Grant Received

The Department of Culture, Language, and Heritage receives a grant for language.

Written by: Mark MacDonald

Ucluelet First Nation has a new Pathway To Language.

It comes in the form of a \$101,000 grant from the First People's Cultural Council (FPCC), which will be used for community classes and language workshops.

Grants such as this one, from the FPCC, are a vital link in restoring language and language services to First Nations.

The FPCC was formed by the B.C. government in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program, and is supported by the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act.

Their mandate is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage. The FPCC states on their website that the organization is "committed to providing communities with a high level of support and quality resources. Our cultural heritage and the living expression of our identities, is integral to the health of all members of our Indigenous communities, as well as to the well-being of all British Columbians.

"First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. are thriving. The knowledge and worldviews expressed through First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage are valued as essential to our collective well-being and human rights."

The FPCC provides leadership to strengthen and rebuild First Nations Knowledge systems disrupted by cultural genocide by supporting the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage. Its mission statement is to do this by:

> Empowering communities to reach their goals by offering opportunities for skill development, coaching, grant funding, resources and models of success.

- Honouring the knowledge of Indigenous people by providing funding for them to develop, share and transfer their knowledge.
- Providing leadership through subject matter expertise, innovative technologies, best practices and knowledge sharing.
- Practicing a community-based approach by partnering with communities to deliver successful language, arts and cultural heritage programs.
- Advocating for increased recognition and support for the inherent value of First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage.

Carey Cunneyworth, Director of Culture, Language, and Heritage/Archaeologist secures the grants usage.

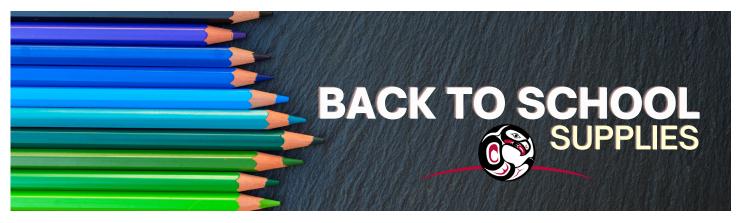
"This year we will be able to provide additional classes and larger incentives for Yuułu?ił?atḥ members to take time out of their schedules to learn the language, as well as host language immersion houses for the larger Nuu-chah-nulth language community."



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



Back to school is upon us! Summer is more than half way over and the 2023/2024 school year is getting closer.

We know you are thinking about getting ready for back to school shopping and we are working on getting forms ready to send out.

School Supply Forms and information will soon be made

Hitinqsaʔaλin yaacpanaò 'Let's walk on the beach'

available online. When these forms are ready for distribution, we will email out through the weekly E-Blast newsletter and distribute to residents. The fillable forms will be found online at **ufn.ca > Government > Forms > Education**

If you have any questions related to your children and the 2023/2024 school year, contact Manager of Education Services **Karen.Severinson@ufn.ca**.

VUUŁU?IŁ?ATH WALKING GROUP

Join us on **Tuesdays** at **1:00pm** Kwisitis (Wickaninnish Beach)

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

CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative

Yuułu?ił?ath Government announces successful application for \$1.6 million from Rapid Housing Initiative to build 8 new units in hitaću.

Written by: Mark MacDonald

Long anticipated funding for housing has arrived in hitaću.

The Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government (YG) received confirmation that its application to the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation - Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) has been successful, and that it will receive up to \$1,649,850 from the fund, which has been designated for affordable housing for vulnerable populations including un-housed, under-housed women, children, Indigenous populations.

The government has made new housing a top priority, as it is something the community has been waiting for and has needed for many years.

RHI is part of the National Housing Strategy, and provides capital contributions for the rapid construction of new housing and/or acquisition of existing buildings for rehabilitation or conversion to permanent affordable housing.

Gordon Homes has been engaged by YG to build four modular duplexes (eight units) on what is designated as "shovel ready" sites: Two duplexes at the former youth centre on lower hitacu Road, and two duplexes just off the parking lot of the former community centre.

The agreement was signed in late July, and construction must be completed by December 31, 2023, and be 25 percent occupied by December 1.

"These units will be warm, comfortable homes for some of our citizens," states Director of Operations Suzanne Williams. "It has taken awhile to get the funding, but I thank the members of our administrative staff for helping to make this happen."

With the support of Wiser Projects, YG's application was submitted before the March 15, 2023 deadline, and was structured to maximize scoring under the requirements. That included considerations for "build ready" projects on land owned by the organization submitting the application.

The buildings also have to include accessibility features (a minimum number of

units with wheelchair access, etc.) and be energy efficient, and be part of a long-term commitment to affordable housing, which in this case, is 40 years.

CMHC RHI offers 100% funding, but the scoring system is weighted to organizations that could self-fund or obtain other non-debt funding for the projects.

YG was able to leverage the recent FFA (ICIF) housing funding to approximately \$1,350,000, or 40 percent of the total project estimates of \$3 million.

RHI funding was announced in the federal government's 2022 budget, and has as its goal to commit all of the \$1.5 billion in funds by March 31, 2024. It is mandated to result in 4,500 new affordable units will be built.

Always remember to renew your Housing Applications on an annual basis. To re-submit your application, contact Marylin.Touchie@ufn.ca. Applications can be found online at: ufn.ca > Government > Forms > Housing



Are you in need of housing in hitaću? Submit or request a Housing Application to Marylin.Touchie@ufn.ca

A fillable and printable Housing Application can be found online:

ufn.ca > Government > Forms > Housing

PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS OPEN HOUSE WED, AUGUST 16TH 2:00 - 4:30 PM @ THE SIXPLEX

On Income Assistance? Between 18 - 64 years old?

- Come join us!
- Sign a Client Referral Form
- Chat to us about the supports we have to offer and receive a \$50 Ucluelet Co-Op Purchase Order for participating !

Snacks & Refreshments \$50 Co-Op Purchase Orders!

Sample Supports Available:

- Essential Skills & Upgrading
- Food Safe, Serving it Right Cert. Childcare \$ during training
- Resumes & Cover letters
- Work Gear & Equipment
- Driver's & Learner's License

- Transportation support

 - Training/Working Allowance
 - First Aid & CPR Cert.
 - SVOP, Marine Safety Cert.

Ann Kim - PES Central Region Case Manager

ann.kim@nuuchahnulth.org Cell: 250-266-0275



From Vancouver Island University's (VIU) Natural Resources Extension Program:

We are excited to share our fall 2023 schedule that is filled with many StrongerBC Future Skills Grant (FSG) eligible training courses!

The FSG is a uniquely accessible funding opportunity that is open to British Columbian's aged 19 years or older – regardless of financial need – and covers up to \$3,500 per person for eligible short-term skills training.

Please see below for a list of our courses. Unless otherwise indicated, all of these deliveries are eligible for the Future Skills Grant!

Environmental Monitoring for Construction Projects (3 days of training):

- September 12 14 in Burnaby
- December 12 14 in Abbotsford

RISC Archaeological & Culturally Modified Tree Inventory Training for Crew Members (5 days of training):

- September 25 29 in Kamloops
- October 23 27 in North Vancouver
- November 6 10 in Nanaimo

Erosion and Sediment Control

(3 days of training):

• October 10 – 12 in Maple Ridge

Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (4 days of training):

- September 26 29, online / Nanaimo
- October 31 November 3, online /North Vancouver
- December 12 15, online / Nanaimo

Electrofishing Certification (2 days of training):

- September 27 28, online / North Vancouver
- October 18 19, online / North Vancouver
- November 15 16, online / Nanaimo

Fish Health Level 1: Introduction to Basic Fish Health Management

(5 days of training):

• November 6 – 10 in Nanaimo

Water Quality Monitoring: Freshwater Sampling & Design (3 days of training):

- October 3 5 in Williams Lake
- November 7 9 in Vancouver

Indigenous Mapping for Stewardship and Cultural Heritage Management

(5 days of training):

*this course is unfortunately not eligible for the StrongerBC Future Skills Grant

- September 25 29 in Victoria
- November 20 24 in North Vancouver

Full details and registration instructions can be found in our online schedule **scitech.viu.ca/natural-resource-extension/schedule**.

Additional training opportunities may also be added to the online schedule over the coming weeks, so please check back for the most up-to-date information.

For more information or help with program interest email: **NREP@viu.ca**

Website:

services.viu.ca/financial-aid-awards/strongerbc-future-skills-grant

Wya Community Garden

The Wya Community Garden prospers to be a bountiful source for the community.

Written By: Claire Bates



At the junction between Ucluelet and Tofino, tucked away between a smoothie shop and camping sites, is the Yuułu?ił?atḥ, Wya Community Garden. At its entrance, you can see the spread of evenly spaced rows sprouting greens of all shapes and sizes, two greenhouses, a bright purple row of lavender in full bloom, and what's arguably a field of red and green strawberry plants.

When I arrive, Niamh, Zoe, Sheldon, and Shan are sitting in the sun on their lunch break. Bree, Georgia, and James are off in the shade. Niamh O'Reilly, Yuułu?ił?ath Government's (YG) Traditional Foods Coordinator, quickly welcomes me and takes me on a tour of the garden and its contents. I was happy to see that I recognized many plants – my mom's foray into creating a garden of her own taught me a few things.

There's kale, lettuce, snow and snap peas, and a large butternut squash. The tomatoes are turning bright red in the greenhouse, and the chili peppers are hiding underneath the tomato leaves. The strawberry patch was fruitful enough to produce over 200 kilos this season alone, but it's on its way to hibernate until next season. I could have recognized the lavender with my eyes closed, by scent alone – probably the mint, too.

But there's so much more than what meets the eye. I learn from Niamh what potatoes, garlic, beets, and cucumbers look like in the ground or on their vines. One row has its own protective layer over it, arching just over the tops of carrot sprouts; carrot flies like to nest and hatch inside the vegetable, but this keeps them out. There's artichokes, zucchini, dill, plum trees, arugula and broccoli, sage, oregano, thyme. The blackberry bushes are so heavy, they must be balanced upright by resting on a line of string.

The garden is in top shape, and beautifully picturesque. It's perfect for a stop during the Tofino Community Food Initiative Edible Gardens tour, whose participants will be led through the garden like I was. This Tofino-based initiative works to showcase what people are growing out here on the West Coast. More than that, visitors can learn from the staff themselves about how they've interacted with the



growth and development of the garden. There are personal touches everywhere, like the beds of flowers that senior volunteers tend to on Sundays, or the extra cabbage plants someone's grandmother donated.

Bree Heron has been a youth gardener here for two seasons now. Her favourite part of gardening is harvesting, because it gives back to the community in a good way. The food here goes to the YG kitchens to provide for the Healthy Meals program, which makes meals for elders and families. When I asked her what word comes to mind when she thinks of her time at the garden, she replied, "Abundant. Everything is fulfilling, even when it's tiring work."

YG's hitacu Annual General Assembly is a perfect time for Bree to celebrate with friends and family. The Wya Community garden harvests as much as they can to contribute to the feast. Everyone in attendance will have their hands on some homegrown salads and vegetables.

For Zoe Jordan, who is a supervisor for the staff at the garden with a background in baking, the word that comes to mind when I asked her about her experiences here is "Nurturing." She admires the continuous and circular growth that exists within gardening, saying "it's a full circle of nurturing the earth and the people who take care of it too, whose bodies are taken care of in turn by being fed good food and good work."

And that's truly the goal of the garden – taking care of the people who take care of it.

The Wya Community Garden was funded to fruition thanks to INEO Employment Services in Port Alberni after developing years by volunteers alone. The crux of their partnership with the garden is to create long-term employment opportunities by equipping people with skills and training. Gardening promotes wellness, healing, gathering with community, connection, and landbased learning – for the group of young staff who have been here four days a week the past two spring and summer seasons, each of them emphasized a deep sense of wellness throughout their time in the garden.

Shan looks forward to furthering his gardening knowledge.

James likes getting up every day knowing that he's "working on something good."

Sheldon says it reminds him of the farming simulation game Stardew Valley. "I don't play video games, but even I know that has a reputation for being relaxing and therapeutic."

Spending the day at the Wya Community Garden was a wonderful reminder of the multi-faceted joys of this garden, and Niamh reminds me there's plenty of plans on the horizon. She talks about hoping to soon have a garden in hitacu to make it more easily accessible, and how the current garden could lend its roots to new soil – there's enough to go around for everyone.

Claire Bates is a Co-op Student for the Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government, spending her three month summer term supporting Administration through the Senior Advisor and Communications.





Harvest at the Wya Community Garden

Baskets and buckets for harvesting can be provided!

U-PICK your harvest! Sunday, August 13 10:00am to 1:00pm

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

More Wya Community Garden Bounty! Photos provided by Claire Bates and Niamh O'Reilly.













q^wayaċiik?iis Childcare Centre

Wheels Day with the q^wayaciik?iis Childcare Centre!



The q^wayaċiik?iis Childcare Centre held their 'Bring your own Wheels' Day! The event was held at the Cix^watin Centre parking lot, offering a wheels riding course, bubbles, face painting, tug o' war, and much fun!

The event appeared to offer wheel maintenance and fuel up stations for fellow riders. The q^wayaċiik?iis Childcare Centre aim to hold this event for the kids each year, weather dependent. This year the sun and warmth held up for the riders. What a special memory!

 $\dot{\lambda}$ eekoo for the teachings of Brian, and elders Rose and Bernice. Enjoy the series of photos provided by the q^way-aciik?iis Childcare Centre.























q^wayaċiik?iis Childcare Centre

Rain and sunny day adventures; puddles and kayaking!



The q^wayaćiik?iis Childcare Centre doesn't let the rain get in the way of their outdoor activities, but the sun is so much better! And snacks are always welcome.

Here we share rainy day and summer fun activities. Beach pictures include a trip to k^wisitis for wave jumping and playing in the sand, as well as a trip down to the beach by the totem in hitacu. Here the children enjoyed the calm waters of the bay, picking up hermit crabs, and learning how to kayak with Marylise!

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WildSafeBC & Tourism Tofino Event

Learn how to Live, Work, Play and Grow in Wildlife Country



Keeping wildlife wild and communities safe

Bear Aware!

Bin Tagging: Information from WildSafeBC Pacific Rim



WildSafeBC Bin Tagging

Garbage is the most reported attractant across the province that leads to conflict with black bears. It also leads to conflict with a variety of other wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, rats, ravens, deer and more. In order to reduce these conflicts and raise awareness, WildSafeBC Community Coordinators perform "Bin Tagging" in their communities with the support of local funding partners.

Bin Tagging Facts

- 😕 Bin tagging consists of placing removable stickers on containers placed out early, prior to collection.
- 🥙 Containers set out too early can attract wildlife to your neighbourhood.
- 🤭 Empty or full, containers left outside provide smells and visual cues that can attract wildlife.
- 😕 Bears and other wildlife that receive a food reward may become food conditioned.
- A food-conditioned animal can put themselves and people at risk and may cause property damage.

Tips to Reduce Conflicts

Keep garbage, recyclables, compost and other attractants secure - indoors is best! Keep containers that store garbage and recycling clean and odour free.

If you have curbside pick up, do not place containers out until the morning of collection. Freeze smelly items until the morning of collection or when you can transport to a solid waste depot.



Keeping wildlife wild and communities safe

www.wildsafebc.com

What is Bin Tagging?

Bin tagging is an educational activity performed by a Wild-SafeBC Community Coordinator. It consists of placing a highly visible and removable sticker on containers set curbside the day before collection or outside of times stated in local bylaws. WildSafeBC provides information on these bylaws but does not enforce them or deliver fines.

Remember on the day of pick up:

- Carts should be taken out no earlier than 5:00am and prior to 8:00am
- Carts should have the lid closed but unclipped
- Carabiners should be clipped to the cart handles

Putting your cart out locked the night before is not a way around it. Only unlocked carts will get emptied. At the same time you put animals at risk having a full cart of smelly and attracting waste standing roadside for an even longer time.

If you have any questions about the best way to store your carts to prevent access by bears, feel free to reach out to us at **pacrim@wildsafebc.com**.

Watch the video "Sort'nGo Organics West Coast" about the bear-resistant carts and ways you can help keep bears wild and our communities safe:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVvqwZxzLiY

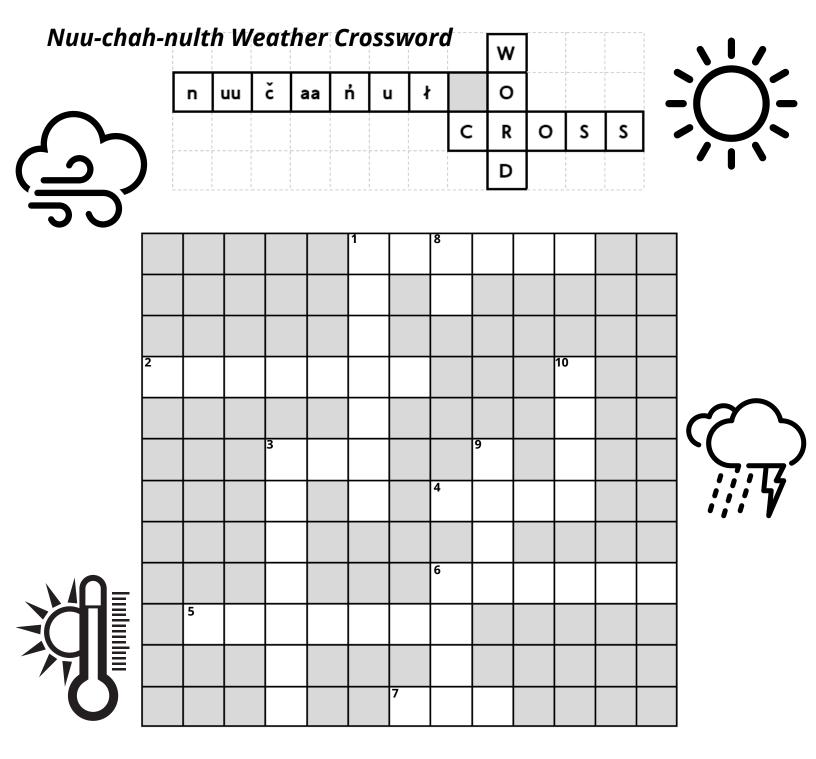
Follow @WildSafeBCpacificrim on Facebook!





Bears are intelligent animals with a phenomenal sense of smell. They may be drawn into confined spaces to access food or other odorous items. They can also learn to open doors of cars and buildings.

When living in bear country, take precautions to prevent bears from accessing these spaces. Learn more at www.wildsafebc.com



<u>Across</u>

- 1. foggy
- 2. dreary weather
- 3. big
- 4. hot weather
- 5. Is it stormy?
- 6. It is raining.
- 7. day

<u>Down</u>

- 1. calm weather
- 3. nice weather
- 6. cold weather
- 8. okay/goodbye
- 9. windy
- 10. snowy

Don't forget that long vowels (aa, ii, uu) go in one box! Prepared by: Rose Aday-McCarthy

Nuu-chah-nulth Weather Crossword Help and Hints

а	aa	С	ć	Č	č	е	ee	h	ḥ
i	ii	k	kw	, k	, k	ł	λ	χ	m
ḿ	n	ń	ο	00	р	þ	q	qw	S
Š	t	ť	u	uu	W	ŵ	X	Xw	ÿ
Хw	У	ý	?	٢					

These are the letters that can appear in the crossword. Don't forget that long vowels (aa, ii, uu) go in one box!

<u>Vocab:</u>



To learn more about weather in Nuu-chah-nulth visit: http://kwistuup.net/waw/files/LC-units-05-06-nuk-wbs.pdf

Nuu-chah-nulth Weather Crossword Answer Key

					¹ ?	u	⁸ č	q	а	k		
					uu		uu					
					q							
² w	ii	w	ii	q	u	k				10 k''		
					m					i		
			3 7	=:	ķ			9 У		S		
			uu		i		4 X	u	р	aa		
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