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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 14, Issue 1 | January/February 2024

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Family Day - Government Offices Closed

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Monday and Wednesday

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In This Issue

In this issue, we share updates on housing, Warriors programming, and welcome new staff to the Yuutu?it?ath Government, including key positions for the Finance and Administration Departments. We are excited to extend a welcome to a new Intermediate Accountant, Human Resources Manager and a Director of Operations!

Housing surveys for local and urban citizens will be released in the month of February. These surveys will help develop a community Housing Road Map, in partnership with Wiser Projects. These surveys are important to understand the needs of all Yuutu?it?ath. We will distribute among our general publication channels and will be available in hard copy. Stay tuned!

The Health and Social Services Department have brought back Baby Group for the new year and will be hosting a community engagement for discussion on health, with an Indigenous Health Dietitian from Island Health. More information on both sessions can be found in this issue.

Read on for more!

hita?u Cix^watin Centre & huu?atu Centre

CLOSED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
FAMILY DAY

Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, February 20, 8:00am





Indigenous Health Dietician, Jessie Newman, from Island Health, will be in hitacu to open conversation and support planning of community dietician services.

COMMUNITY LUNCH WITH INDIGENOUS HEALTH DIETICIAN

All community members and Yuułu?it?ath Government staff are welcome to attend.

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
23

**CIX^wATIN CENTRE
GYMNASIUM
HITACU
12:00PM**



Questions? Email Cynthia.Fitton@ufn.ca

Warriors Programming

Warriors Coordinator, Jason Sam, recalls a rewarding year.

Written by: Mark MacDonald

The Warriors program continues to grow in popularity as young men learn valuable skills and life lessons from community leaders.

Coordinator, Jason Sam, has been overseeing the Warriors program for a full year now, and continues to enjoy watching participants grow as they expand their knowledge of the outdoors and obtain their talents.

“It is very rewarding to see the boys grow in their confidence and discover new life skills outside of regular school,” he says. “They are getting certifications that can help them in legitimate jobs down the road.

“The program is definitely growing. The boys are gaining lots of friendships across other communities as well when they get together, which is a huge positive,” he adds.

Gatherings range in size from a handful to close to 100, during the increasingly popular Warrior Games, that involve people from as many as nine different West Coast First Nations.

The Warriors Games feature friendly competitions with other nations in disciplines like archery, canoe racing, canoe tug-of-war and this year, for the first time, a feather swim.

“The feather swim is a traditional game where there are feathers placed across the river and whoever is going to be in the race has to swim across the river, run up and grab the feather on the shore, then swim back with it, keeping it dry,” he explains. “They have to figure out how to keep it dry, which is a challenge.”

Jason also hosted snorkel harvesting for another nation this year, while the boys participated in chainsaw courses, and coastal canoeing and intermediate lake canoeing.

“With snorkel harvesting, we put on a wet suit and dive into the ocean to harvest sea urchin and other things we can find underwater,” he notes.

A personal favorite are the weekend camping trips, as Jason’s expertise is in overall skills that help when being out in the bush, like camping, fire skills, hiking and first aid. He also likes to bring out his cross bow and demonstrate how that works.

“I coordinate the program out of hitaču and there are other positions throughout the Nations that also have coordina-

tors and youth leaders,” he says.

“We work together to coordinate multi-Nation gatherings and we bring in experts to teach all sorts of skills, and I teach what I know as well. I also learn alongside with them, so we can all teach the younger people as well.

Bryson is the youth leader in hitaču and also works with the Warriors Leadership, inspiring youth in other Nations as well. He often brings his skills to other Nations, which includes hunting otters and skinning for pelts.

“Some of the boys do different things, then they go out into other communities and bring those skills back. Some of them have more skills than we do, it seems,” he adds.

Jason began volunteering with the Warriors program a number of years ago, and has been working with some of these boys since they were 9 and 10 years old. Prior to joining Yuuṫuʔiʔaṭḥ Government staff, he worked at Ucluelet elementary and secondary schools, which is where his volunteer time began.

“I was coaching basketball and doing surf rider volunteer activities,” he recalls. “At the school, I was often tasked with working with at-risk youth, or others that didn’t fit into the regular school picture. I started coaching some of them in basketball.

“I gave up those positions when I started volunteering with Warriors, then they asked me to take this position last January. I have noticed a big change in the boys, and I know it’s because of the Warriors program.”

Jason says planning is underway for a Warriors Program Open House to attract younger youth sometime in the new year, with dates, locations and activities still under discussion.

Jason Sam demonstrating the cross bow at Yuuṫuʔiʔaṭḥ Day, 2023. Image: Melissa Boucha



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!

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
13

10:00am to 12:00pm
q^wayaᑕiikᑦiis
Childcare Centre

Light lunch provided.



For more information, contact Cynthia Fitton, RN: (778) 942-0579



Road work on Port Albion Road, around the 'S' curve, will pause for the week of Monday, February 12 to Friday, February 1, including the Family Day long weekend.

Activity will resume the week of Tuesday, February 20, with minor rock blasting. Minor traffic delays are to be expected.

Images to the right display activity of the construction to date. Trees have been removed and rock on the perimeter will be blasted to widen the road and further enhance visibility.

Expected construction will be ongoing intermittently over the next months, until completion. We will update as reports are received from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and if there are lengthy closure times to note.

At most, travel delays will include alternating traffic, with minimal wait time.

Images: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure



Hyphocus Island

Concerns developing over new neighbourhood proposal in Ucluelet.

Discourse around Hyphocus Island heats up as residents weigh the pros and cons at open house.

Written by: Andrew Bailey for the Westerly News

Discourse around the development of Hyphocus Island is heating up as residents weigh the pros and cons of a massive development being proposed.

The Island's southern end, dubbed Lot 543, was purchased by MayWind Developments in 2022 and the company plans to build a new neighbourhood of roughly 300 units, comprising about 100 rental apartments, 150 townhouses and duplexes as well as a mix of single family homes on the approximately 34-acre site.

A hotel is also being proposed for the site's southern end.

The company hosted a well-attended open house at the Ucluelet Community Centre on Jan. 18 where representatives from MayWind as well as architecture and land development partner EKISTICS presented information about the proposal and responded to questions from residents.

"This is an opportunity to help create a new neighbourhood that respects the natural and cultural values of the island, while providing a variety of housing options in a complete neighbourhood," read the first of roughly 15 informational boards set up at the event.

Another board defined affordable housing as "spending 30 per cent of 80 per cent of the median income on housing" and defined attainable housing as "spending 30 per cent of 130 per cent of the median income on housing."

The board pointed to Ucluelet's Official Community Plan, which calls for targeting developments that offer a minimum of 75 per cent of new developments to be attainable by Ucluelet resident households.

As part of the project, the company is proposing to upgrade the area's roads and trails and address an existing odour issue caused by the district's sewage lagoons being located nearby.

The developer is also proposing to preserve 20 - 30 per cent of the land as open space and to "protect the unique environmental character including the forested shoreline, elevated views and rugged coastline," according to the presentation.

"A significant area of the site is to be retained and enriched

as open space to preserve the site's inherent beauty and vegetated character," a board read. "The expansion of the Safe Harbour Trail is also proposed around the perimeter of the site to enhance connectivity and allow people to enjoy the rugged coastline and natural landscape."

The causeway connecting the island to Ucluelet is also slated for an upgrade, according to the developer.

Ucluelet mayor Marilyn McEwen told the Westerly News during the open house event that she was not surprised to see such a large turnout and was happy to see so many residents getting their questions about the project answered.

"I think that there's a lot of interest in this project because of the density and the number of doors. They're talking 300 new doors, which is going to increase the population of our town quite dramatically as you can imagine," she said. "I think people are wanting to come here and see what it's all about because the initial response just to the drawing, it looks so massive compared to what we already have, so it's really important that people get their questions answered and get some knowledge of the plan."

She added several representatives of the development were on hand to answer questions and information boards spanned the room.

"I think it's important for developers to host open houses for the public so that they can get feedback from the public as well as answer any questions they may have," she said.

"I've heard some of the people repeating numerous explanations of why build around a sewage lagoon and how to mitigate the smell and it's just important for people to get their questions answered and to really understand the importance of the concept and the affordability element as well. It's going to fill in a missing gap in our housing crisis, although not right away, but I think they plan to start construction in 2025."

Project manager for Maywind Developments Tony Liang told the Westerly he was excited to see so many people at the event and that the feedback will help shape the project into something Ucluelet residents want to have in their community.

“We’re trying to have a better understanding from the locals. I want to hear what they need and what the housing problem means to them. That really helps us to get a better understanding and to move on our project,” he said. “We’re trying to get ideas and thoughts they might have...I’m very excited and I hope we can have some better ideas and we especially want to hear what the local people are thinking and what their needs are. That really helps us to improve our project.”

He noted the project is still in its initial stages, with no formal rezoning application submitted.

“We will gather all the information and we’ll have a meeting together with our team and we will continue to work on objectives and any issues that come up before we submit our formal application,” he said. “We’re happy to keep listening and happy to answer anything the best we can.”

He added residents can find information about the project, including traffic and archaeological studies, online at www.Maywind.ca

A timeline displayed on one of the boards suggests the rezoning and OCP amendment application is expected to be submitted this year with construction on the project beginning in 2025.

“Things can happen, so there’s no guarantee, but we’re trying to have that timeline happen,” Liang said.

Hyphocus Island is within the traditional territory of Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ and the presentation acknowledged that Hyphocus Island was used by Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ for fishing, shelter and burial.

“The land holds remnants of its past, with identified archaeological sites dating back thousands of years,” a board read.

In an emailed statement to the Westerly News after the meeting, Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government President Charles McCarthy said he appreciated the developers reaching out and working with the First Nation.

“Ekistics Design and Planning Team respectfully approached the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government for initial land and archaeological assessment [for Hyphocus Island], which was completed by a small Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ ground crew, under the direction of the Department of Culture, Language and Heritage’s Archaeological and Cultural Consultant. Traditional Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ sites are and will remain under archaeological protection,” McCarthy wrote.

“With housing needs in addition to density being a topic of

concern for Ucluelet residents, we trust required resources and availability of services to the community will be considered by the District, Mayor, and Council for this project, all greenlight projects, and prospects of further development along the narrow peninsula.”

He added the First Nation is committed to a continued partnership with the District of Ucluelet.

“While we raise the question of potential height allotments for proposed buildings and visual impact of Hyphocus (huu-maniš) from hitaču, our priorities will always be preservation of archeological sites, environmental considerations of the land, and the health of the harbour, within our ḥaḥuufi (traditional territory),” he wrote. “We acknowledge our continued partnership with the District of Ucluelet and appreciate Ekistics, MayWind for working with the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government.”

Residents cycled through the various information boards at the open house and asked questions to the developer’s representatives as the size of the project brought heavy interest.

Ed Chernis told the Westerly he came to the event with no preconceived notions about the project, but to “see what it was all about.”

“I’m just curious to see how they’re going to manage to get more homes in here that are supposedly affordable and deal with issues like the sewage lagoon, the terrain, and if it’s going to change or alter the marine environment at all,” he said.

Dennis Morgan said he lives near the proposed development and has questions about the impact to traffic in the area.

“Any increase in traffic would go right by my house and right there, given the kid-density around us, that’s problematic,” Morgan told the Westerly.

He noted the significant size of the project and questioned if Hyphocus could accommodate such a large influx of residents.

“I think the density of this project is pretty crazy. It’s a first responder nightmare getting in and out of there if anything significant happens, for the people as well as the responders. I think it’s too dense,” he said.

“We need housing but not at any cost. Like everywhere in the world apparently, we need to find opportunities for housing for more people, so you’ve got to build houses;

you've got to build places for people to live. I don't think it has to be this. This seems too dense. They have a target for affordability and attainability, but I'm not sure if that's going to work in a subdivision like this...I think it needs a revamp."

Kristi Udell also lives near Hyphocus and shared Morgan's concerns around traffic.

"It's going to increase traffic to a residential area, which we have all come to know and love to have our children be able to play on the street," Udell told the Westerly. "It needs a lot of work before it's approved...I'm not entirely sure yet what I'd like to see, but I know that traffic is going to increase and you're going to displace a lot of wildlife with this development and it worries me."

Jessica Leblanc said she hopes to see more engagement with residents about the proposal.

"I'm really invested in better understanding what's happening in our community and the solutions that are being proposed to some of the larger issues at hand that are affecting all of us as our social ecosystem and our environmental ecosystem," Leblanc told the Westerly.

"What I would really love is to have a larger presentation with the developers and the community members beyond simply these beautiful presented diagrams...I think an add-on could be taking these comments that people are making and suggestions and concerns and then how do we now

open up a dialogue and a conversation with community members to address them?"

Coun. Mark Maftai said the event was a great opportunity to have casual conversations with residents as well as the developers about the project.

He told the Westerly he had met with the developers and has been impressed with their proactive listening to local concerns.

"I feel like they're giving a lot of careful consideration and they have demonstrated an interest in bringing forth something that the community really wants, so I've got to respect that," he said. "Personally, as a resident, this isn't a project that I'm particularly excited to see. I think it's the type of growth that we've sort of suffered from. I'm not convinced that this is going to solve any of our problems and I feel like it might exacerbate them, so I'm extremely cautiously optimistic, but that's why I'm here: to learn more about it."

He suggested a large addition of market housing could be the wrong kind of growth and the location of the development could bring negative impacts to the shoreline.

"As someone who spends a lot of my time on the water coming in and out of the harbour, seeing this natural landscape is something that I really value," he said. "I know that it's zoned for certain uses and that's where our sewage ponds are, but I'm a little bit worried about what greets coming people coming into Ucluelet and the safe harbour from the water is a whole suite of largely unaffordable housing."

He questioned whether the development would help solve Ucluelet's current housing crisis.

"I think what we need right now is affordable and attainable housing," he said. "Those are terms that get thrown around a lot, but for me the bottom line as a councillor and as a citizen when I talk about affordable or attainable housing, it's housing that the people who live and work here can afford, not what meets some government metric that works out to way, way more than your typical Ucluelet salary could ever qualify for a mortgage on."



DR. TED ALTAR COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGIST

AVAILABLE FOR ALL CITIZENS
PHONE OR VIDEO CALL SESSIONS

*Dr. Altar is available in hita'cu for in-person sessions the first week of every month, next date range is **March 4 to 8.***

To book an appointment: Call (250) 726-7343 or email moa@ufn.ca
Please wear PPE and sanitize upon entry for in-person sessions.

Community Housing

New housing arrives in hitaču, with more to come

Written by: Mark MacDonald



Housing, Hit-tat-soo Rd. Image: Melissa Boucha

Yuulu?i?ath Government identified housing as a priority years ago, and has been working very hard to make new units available for citizens.

And now, 11 more housing units will be available for occupancy prior to the end of fiscal 2023 in the spring, plus another 5 units single family detached style homes that YG is aiming to start construction in 2024 depending if they can get the infrastructure built.

“There’s a saying that it takes years of hard work to become an overnight success,” says Director of Assets and Infrastructure, Spencer Touchie. “That’s very much what we’re seeing with this last little bit of building. There was a gigantic amount of planning on rapid housing before I took my leave last summer - everything from the site preparation to the welcome mat at the front of the house.

“Now, to see the fruits of all of the efforts that we’ve been putting in is very rewarding, and it will be great to see our citizens in these houses.”

Part of the process in building new accommodation is work undertaken at negotiation tables, and leveraging available funding to obtain more funds, which allows construction of even more housing units. All of which takes time behind the scenes.

“Our government has done a great job of finding the funding and bringing it home,” says Spencer. “It’s a long process

at times, but it’s always worth it at the end.”

“It’s going to result in a good amount of housing and we’re still at the negotiating tables and chasing even more,” he adds. “One of the ones we’re applying for is to work with BC Housing regarding an expansion to build onto Alec Road. Tofino Housing Corporation, has shared their site plans for helping us plan out an area, and the project we’re starting to draw the squares on the map for are for up to 37 units, which will mostly be funded and managed along with BC Housing.”

Here’s a summary of recent projects:

Triplex on Ju-ma-da Road

The triplex features a four-bedroom unit in the middle, with two single-bedroom units on either side. Its design was similar to one that was built in 2017 on Wya Road, and they feature efficient heating units that will be more affordable for residents to operate.

“We’ve taken what we learned from other construction projects, and taken advantage of a new partnership with Clean BC to put in higher efficiency heating units,” says Spencer. “The new units have a passive air changing system, compared to the active energy changing system that we’ve had in other units. The heating/cooling heat pump systems we got from our partnership with Clean BC are up to 300 percent more efficient than baseboard heaters. They are



Housing, Ju-Ma-Da Rd. Image: Melissa Boucha

tremendous.” Spencer says he had a similar unit installed in his rental to replace an old oil furnace which failed, and estimates that his heating bills are roughly one-third of what he previously paid each month.

Local builder Garth Cameron Construction built the triplex, and the building was inspected by Kevin Peters Building Inspections, who does a lot of home inspections in the area, and in Port Alberni.

“We’ve worked with both Garth and Ken before, and they are highly qualified and respected,” notes Spencer, who adds the next steps are to advertise the triplex and organize an open house to showcase what it offers to potential residents.

Rapid Housing

Wiser Projects and Development Society is working on the Uu-a-thluk Housing Project with Ucluelet First Nation, part of the Rapid Housing initiative through the Canada Mort-

Housing, Hilth-Sort-Ta Rd. Image: Melissa Boucha



gage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

“It’s kind of a neat initiative that’s been brought through by CMHC, and we’re looking to build houses that will be move-in ready within a calendar year,” Spencer explains. “They are required to utilize pre-fabricated buildings, and we have partnered with a pre-fab builder with a new project management team, Wiser Projects of Victoria, to get us through the application process.”

“We’re aiming to build some single family detached three-bedroom units, as we have observed over the years

that our families are growing and we’re looking to start building larger units.”

The first eight units in four duplexes, built by Gordon Homes, arrived completely built and brought in on trucks in December, and are located on Hilth-Sort-Ta Road at the end of Hit-tat-soo Road. Utilities needed to be connected in each unit, and decks have been constructed for them as well, with Spencer estimating that families could move into them by mid-February.

“Each of the duplexes are single bedrooms,” he notes. “They don’t have a lot of living space, as they are all single bedroom, so they’re more meant for single people, couples, or maybe a couple with a little child. For the next project, we’re looking at larger units.”

Planning for an open house is also underway, and Spencer believes citizens will be impressed.

“They’re quite impressive,” he says. “They came in nearly finished with all the appliances inside, and we just needed to make sure they were connected correctly to utilities.”

Next Project is Located Off Alec Road

One of the next areas to add housing is at the end of Alec Road reaching northward beside the government office, as Gwii Engineering of Victoria is currently working on the civil engineering aspect, including designing water and waste water connections. The land has been cleared, and \$1.48 million in funding has been obtained under the On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (Section 95) of CMHC, which supports First Nations communities across

the country by providing non-profit housing on reserves.

Spencer says YG is wanting to put three-bedroom single family living spaces on the project, and they're considering whether they should use the same pre-fab building technique used for Rapid Housing, or traditional stick-built construction.



Cleared lot on Alec Rd.. Image: Melissa Boucha

"These are the ones we have in the planning stages now for sure, and we do have money that we have negotiated from previous years that we haven't started using yet, as we are trying to leverage those funds to get more," he explains, noting they already have a total of \$12million in funding.

"We haven't fully worked on how that is going to be leveraged, but we want to expand the reach of what is going to be built," he says. "We have our official community plan act, and we're working with communicating with the community regarding what is going to be planned for those units."

Spencer did note that the triplex that is nearing completion is \$100,000 under budget, and with those rates, "We could build at least 12 or 13 more triplexes of that style. When you build more structures, you can get a better discount, and we could end up with 39 more units. We could build a lot more if we strategically leverage the funds we have."

He explains leveraging in a similar fashion as one might build their own house, using a down payment to get a loan or set of grants to borrow more money to build something larger than what was previously planned.

Lots Of Demand

Spencer recognizes there is quite a bit of pent-up demand for housing for the en-

tire west coast, and notes there has been a large increase in down market rentals in the past several years.

"We're updating that data right now, and we're currently surveying and utilizing the 2022 housing need figures," he says. "We'll have a better data demographic of our citizens inside our and outside of our community and identify those who are wanting to move back. Then we can use that data, and data from previous projects to leverage more funding."

The 2022 report estimated that within the next five year period, demand for housing could increase by 100 percent. Not only that, but citizens have already identified other needs.

"As we build our community, it becomes more important for citizens to have meetings to make sure their voices are heard," he says. "We need to make sure we want to see our baseball diamond come back, and other features they want in the community. It used to be where my office was, and losing that has been a sore spot for a lot of people. It wasn't in really good shape, as it was a fence on an athletic clay field, but we were able to form our own softball teams and compete with other communities."

A community grocery store is another possibility and need. "The community is growing," he says. "We thought there were 270 people in the community, but when we did the data gathering exercise, we figured we were missing over 100 people that were living here as well. These are the kinds of things we are figuring out exactly, and from there, we'll know what our people need and want in terms of housing."

DENTAL THERAPIST CLINIC
WITH FNHA DENTAL THERAPIST
MELANIE BRAKER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
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

CMHC Section 95

YFNS 84/2023 CMHC Section 95 Housing 2023-2024 Capital Borrowing Act enacted. Supports development of community housing projects in hita'cu.

The Legislature authorized the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government to enter into a loan agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ("CMHC") for a loan of \$1,481,025.

CMHC Section 95 Housing 2023-2024 Capital Borrowing Act YFNS 84/2023 was officially enacted on December 11, 2023.

Subject to sections 8.5(b) money borrowed must not be used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was borrowed and (c) money borrowed that is not immediately required for expenditures may be invested in accordance with section 7.3 of the Financial Administration Act, the proceeds of the Loan under subsection (a) may only be used for the purposes of the CMHC Section 95 Housing, namely the construction of five three-bedroom single family dwellings in hita'cu.

Background

Wiser Projects [in partnership with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government], succeeded in obtaining CMHC low interest loan for YG housing construction, subject to CMHCs surveys and site assessments, for suitability of the project.

Wiser Projects will be working with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government to provide surveys to all Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, local and urban citizens, to continue to understand housing needs.

Details

\$2,762,500 construction project to be funded as follows:

- \$1,481,025: low interest loan from CMHC (current rate 2.98%, but to be determined at final draw).
- \$1,281,475: YG equity contribution (with Crown Indigenous Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) housing/infrastructure funds).
- Location: Alec Road, extension of road and services will be required.
- Modular construction of 3-bedroom single family dwellings.

The loan term is 5 years and is renewable up to the full amortization period, with a loan amortization set at the maximum 25 years.

The Operating Agreement terms must remain within CMHC Section 95 guidelines

until payout of loan.

The member of the Executive holding the Finance Portfolio, Lorri Touchie, is responsible for the executive oversight of this Act.

With the approved funds allocated from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and assistance from Wiser projects, the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government is advancing into establishing much needed community housing.

If you are in need of housing, it is advised to routinely submit your housing application. To apply, fill out a form available at ufn.ca > **Government** > **Forms** > **Housing** and submit to or contact Marilyn.Touchie@ufn.ca, for assistance.

To find out more about the YFNS 84 visit: ufn.ca > **Government** > **Forms** > **YFNS 84-2023 CMHC Section 95 Housing 2023-2024 Capital Borrowing Act**

To find out more about YFNS 6 Financial Administration Act Consolidation visit: ufn.ca > **Government** > **Forms** > **YFNS 6 Financial Administration Act Consolidation.**

Submit Your Housing Application!



Are you in need of housing in hita'cu?

Submit or request a Housing Application to

Marilyn.Touchie@ufn.ca

A fillable and printable Housing Application can be found online:

ufn.ca > **Government > **Forms** > **Housing****

Finance Welcomes Accountant

David Alderdice joins the Finance Department, as an Intermediate Accountant.

Written by: Mark MacDonald



David Alderdice has worked all over Canada's north, and now he is settling in on the West Coast, as the new Intermediate Accountant in the Yuułu?if?atł Government's Finance Department.

David arrived in hitaču on January 12 from his home base in Central Alberta and he's happy to be enjoying the change in temperature.

"I like the weather and the environment," he states. "Coming here meant not going back up north again. I have friends and family in BC, so I'm no stranger to the province. I've just never worked here [in BC] before."

"It was minus 16 or 18 when I got to Golden and minus 23 when I got to Hope," he adds, explaining his trip west in January. "I was so shocked when I got here that it was minus 8, although back up north it would be minus 28 or 38, plus a wind chill."

David has spent several years working in Nunavut and the Northwest territories. His 27 year career in accounting started by working in Coppermine, which at the time was considered part of the Northwest Territories. In January, 2000, Nunavut was created as a territory and in 2024 Nunavut signed an agreement with Canada for transfer of lands and resources to the Territory.

While working in the north, David worked with housing and helped guide residents through a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) imposed rental change-over to income-based rents. Many increases were significant and complicated for tenants with seasonal jobs until the rent calculations were streamlined.

David has worked as Chief Administrative Officer in Saskatchewan and more recently as Director of Finance at Gjoa Haven.

In hitaču, David's responsibilities include working with YG managers and program coordinators.

"I will have a lot of involvement with a number of people," he says. "I am tasked with keeping the accounting up to date and correct. I find every time someone starts a new job, it takes awhile to learn about the new organization, how things get done, and what the work schedule is like."

While David manages numbers in his work, he collects numbers in the form of cars, as an antique car collector.

"I look forward to continue spending time with my antique vehicles," he notes. "I own a few of them, and I like to go to car shows. I have a number of 1960's Thunderbird, a few Lincoln from the 1970's and a couple more cars built in the 1990's. They are under cover in Alberta, and all locked up."

His hobby had him will prepared for the drive to Vancouver Island's West Coast along the windy Highway 4.

"The road system here keeps me awake," he says. "There is no sleeping on the BC roads!"

David is currently being trained in YG's operating systems, under the support of the CFO, and former Intermediate Accountant, Kevin Mack.

You may see David strolling the community of hitaču during lunch or on his time of leisure, a social gentleman by nature, stop and say 'hi'!



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Human Resources Manager

An internal role in Human Resources Management is filled, a first for the Yuułu?iŋ?at̥ Government.

*Written by: Mark MacDonald
Edited by Melissa Boucha*



Melissa Hall officially started with the Yuułu?iŋ?at̥ Government on January 29, as the Human Resources Manager!

This is Melissa's 17th year in human resources, in addition to a background in Indigenous education to supplement her profession. Her former employment includes School District 68 (SD68) in Nanaimo and several placements in the private sector.

"I've worked with Indigenous organizations before, and I am a member of the Metis Nation," she notes.

At SD68, Melissa was the Metis liaison. During this position, the school approached Melissa for interest in becoming the District Assistant for Aboriginal (Indigenous) Education.

"With guidance and encouragement from my Director as well of the Director of Human Resources, I completed a diploma program in Human Resource Management and joined the Human Resources department in 2007. Following this, I received my professional designation of Certified Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) in 2009."

The portfolio at SD68 included a roster of 900 people. "It was a very full job." Melissa adds.

After leaving SD68, Melissa worked in the private sector for a customer contact centre in Nanaimo called Nordia and cannabis company, Tilray Brands, as they were going through a merger. Melissa was with Original Farm, a retail cannabis operation based out of Duncan and Victoria, prior to accepting her new role with the Yuułu?iŋ?at̥ Government.

Melissa is not only dedicated to her career in human resources, she is also an accomplished musician. Along with her sister Laura Langstaff (Hall) they write and perform original music under the stage name *Summer Sage*.

"My sister has been a singer-songwriter for my entire life, and when she moved to Vancouver Island in 2000 she asked me to join her," she recalls. "I do background vocals and play the flute, and sometimes the drum. My sister does lead vocals and plays guitar."

The duo is accredited for their performance at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, for the official opening of the Indigenous Pavilion.

"It's a way to share our Indigenous culture. It's always an

honor to perform for our Nation and people and share that at the Olympics."

At the end of the their performance, Melissa notes they were asked to sing three more songs.

"After we finished, we learned that it was Princess Anne who was requesting the songs, and after we finished, we were met by HRH Princess Royal and rushed into the green room, to meet with the Chiefs of the four host First Nations. We felt very honored to meet these dignitaries on such a special day."

Summer Sage, which shares Metis culture through musical performances, have two CD's, and a selection of notable accolades.

The duo wrote and performed the theme song of the project www.celebrateindigenous.ca. A program about honoring Indigenous Women through respect. A song was created that is the background for the whole campaign, titled *You Are The Fire*.

The duo also created a song about Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, titled *Our Sisters' Wings* for Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, the national Indigenous organization representing Women of the Métis Nation. A music video for *Our Sisters' Wings* was created and includes Melissa's youngest daughter. The video is available on Youtube.

Every summer, Melissa and Laura return to Saskatchewan, where they were born and raised, to perform at *Back To Batoche*, a Metis cultural celebration.

With a successful career integrated in people relations and entertainment, Melissa has also raised four adult children and is kokum (grandma) to five, and looking forward to working with YG's staff of up to 60-80 employees.

"I am thrilled and honoured to be working in this community with the Yuułu?iŋ?at̥ Government, to support employees, ensuring a welcoming, respectful, supportive and transparent workplace culture," she adds. "I was pretty happy to hear about this position being open, and fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to serve here."

Melissa will be available in hitaču each Tuesday to Thursday, working from Nanaimo on Mondays and Fridays. Support to staff will include recruitment, coaching, confidential support to employees in accessing resources on health and wellness, assisting work-related issues, and so much more.

Welcome, Melissa!

Director of Operations

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government welcomes Anita Sharma!



Pictured: Anita Sharma, Image credit: Melissa Boucha

The Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government welcomed a new Director of Operations to the community of hitaḷu! On January 22, 2024, Anita Sharma officially joined the operations team entrusted with strategic governance and leadership.

Anita is quoted to being a “passionate public service leader” and comes to the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government with over 25 years of experience at the regional, municipal, and provincial levels of government, including the not-for-profit sector across British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. She has decades of experience in management, serving in executive leadership, legislative change, funding agreements, policy and program development, and brings experience in fire services and emergency management

A selection Anita’s notable credits include developing the project execution plan for Alberta’s largest infrastructure transportation project, conducting small and large-scale organizational efficiency reviews, Chair of a Calgary daycare board of directors, and having developed and implemented the first of its kind in BC, the Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program for Emergency Management.

Anita’s professional growth in public service is supplemented with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Studies and a Master of Public Administration graduate degree from the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg, among education in Indigenous studies at the University of British Columbia and University of Manitoba.

Recently an active First Nations community engagement

facilitator and employment counsellor for immigrant and Indigenous women, Anita notes, a certified debriefer, “utilizes her knowledge in trauma informed and culture-based practices in her facilitation approach.”

This approach comes from learning Indigenous culture through a personal friend and “cultural” coach, over the past year. Anita learned applying the foundation of Talking Circles in First Nation communities; guided to build trust and relationships through storytelling and sharing.

Anita has facilitated Talking Circles with Huu-ay-aht First Nation for community safety, and strategic planning for the Kuu-us Crisis Line

Society Board of Directors and Friendship Centre Board of Directors in Port Alberni.

Anita mentions she “plans to work with the community and leadership team to carry the integration of culture into the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government approach by facilitating Talking Circles, as a way of holding thoughtful engagement and meetings.” A traditional way to address internal barriers and open lines of communication, in a respectful manner.

Anita also plans to integrate this practice with emergency management and preparedness planning for the community.

“I am really excited about incorporating the community’s traditional knowledge into emergency plans. We plan to host engagement sessions with the community, integrate cultural practices and apply traditional knowledge to bring forward emergency plans for hitaḷu. We have a lot of work to do, but I am confident we will develop a comfortable, plan for the community and government operation.” Anita states.

In addition to her work with First Nation’s communities and applying the experience to her director role, Anita’s desire to lead the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government primarily stems from her childhood growing up in Manitoba where her father was a teacher in the community of Sandy Bay, prior to moving to Thompson and settling in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

She grew up with strong connections to Indigenous culture through her community and shared values with her east

Indian culture. Anita's extended family ties, are spread through heredity lineage as her brother-in-law is Anishinaabe; Ojibwa, Chippewa, and Cree from the Red Rock First Nation. "And he is proud of it!" Anita quotes as she reflects a comment from her brother in law.

With her extended ties to the Red Rock First Nation, Anita mentions, "[her brother in law's] mother Monica Turner, is credited as one of the founders of the Native Womens Association of Canada."

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization that defends the rights, delivers programming to, and amplifies the perspectives of Indigenous women in Canada and has been a nationally recognized voice of Indigenous women since 1974.

It is evident Anita is a family-oriented, relationship and partnership builder that "loves the inclusion of humor in all that she does." Anita's personal approach to life is in the spirit of Ha-Ho-Pa, the hupačasath Nuuchahnulth word for "learning is lifelong from womb to tomb".

[Yuuʔuʔiʔath meaning of ʔaahʔuupa identifies with 'learning is lifelong' as a reflection of teaching, lecturing, and advising.]

To pursue further learning of the Nuuchahnulth language, Anita has signed up for the language classes at the Cixʔatin Centre, guided by Jeneva Touchie, Manager of Language Services.

Married for 21 years to her husband, Lindsay, together they have two sons Anil who is 21 and Shawn who is 17. In her personal time, Anita enjoys fitness, yoga and meditation for self care, baking, and spending time with family and friends.

Excited to participate, learn, socialize and work with the Executive, the organization and the community, Anita is sharing time living primarily in the community of hitaču and spending time family and friends in Nanaimo on her personal days.

Overall, Anita is an inclusive, empathetic, values based, and strategic government leader who is quoted to being "committed to building trust-based relationships, integrating Indigenous knowledge and culture into the Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government approach; bringing excellence, efficiency and effectiveness to the organization."

Anita is looking forward to and learning the culture of Yuuʔuʔiʔath.

Welcome, Anita!

Funded by the
FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Beginner Language Class

Cixʔatin Centre Cultural Library
Weekly: Wednesday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Are you interested to learn Nuuchahnulth language?

Jeneva Touchie will be teaching a weekly, in person class for citizens and Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government employees in the Cixʔatin Centre Cultural Library!

huuʔtakšiihah quuquʔaca
I'm learning to speak Nuuchahnulth.

Interested? Email Jeneva.Touchie@ufn.ca or call (778) 942-0582



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

Participant Recruitment Letter

Subject Line: *Listening to the voices of the community – an opportunity to participant in a research study and share your experiences with educational collaboration*

To the Honoured Members of the Community,

Have you wanted to become involved in the school environment, but are unsure how to find information, or what would be expected of you? Are you an educator who would like to incorporate community experiences into the school community? I would love to hear your stories and experiences. I am reaching out to you seeking participants for a qualitative study through Vancouver Island University, Faculty of Education.

The purpose of this research study is to examine what kind of impact collaboration and communication may have on community members beginning to engage with the school environment, and on teachers meaningfully incorporating knowledge keepers in their practice. If you are an educator or community member, 18 years of age or older, and who has interacted with the elementary school, please consider sharing your experiences with me in the form of an approximately 20 minute online survey. This study has been approved by Vancouver Island University's Research Ethics Board.

If you are interested in contributing to this research, the link below will be live on (insert date) and will be open for two weeks after (insert date). I value your perspective and pledge to keep your story confidential in any publications. Any potential participants engaging in this study are free to withdraw at any time without penalty.

Thank you in advance for your participation. ʘeekoo

Anna Rithaler

Google Forms link

<https://forms.gle/Fh4d8Ty4yH7r8GXy7>



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**

**CIX^WATIN CENTRE
GYMNASIUM
11:30AM**

Cancelled for February, will resume in March.



Questions? Call (250) 726-7343

