



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

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This publication was written, edited, and prepared for Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government by Melissa Boucha, unless otherwise stated. For questions, submissions, or copies, email melissa.boucha@ufn.ca. We thank all submissions to complete this publication. Image front cover by Nick Meunier and back cover by: Melissa Boucha



Local Education Agreement Renewed

The **Local Education Agreement (LEA)** was re-signed between the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government and School District No.70 Alberni (SD70) in September 2023. The agreement was designed to address the educational needs and priorities of Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ students and promote their academic success.

What is the LEA?

The LEA is intended to set out agreed parameters between the two parties in relation to the education of Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ children in School District 70.

First Nation children have an unfettered right to education as protected under Section 35 of the Constitution, the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, and our Human Rights.

The rights of First Nations and Treaty governments are recognized by the Board.

Educators, Indigenous communities, and many parents and students across the province are aware that much more work is needed to build momentum for change and improve school success for all Indigenous students.

The First Nation, pursuant to its inherent jurisdiction over education matters, has the authority and responsibility for the education of its citizens and desires to ensure its stu-

dents all have access to, and receive, quality education that is respectful and reflective of their unique culture and history. This jurisdiction is recognized in the package of Education Jurisdiction Framework agreements negotiated by British Columbia, Canada, and the First Nations Education Steering Committee, on behalf of First Nations in BC.

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government is the authorized agent for the purpose of entering into an agreement for the education of Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ children.

The Board has the authority, under Section 86 (3.3) of the School Act, to enter into agreements with a treaty First Nation with respect to the education of First Nations Students.

The LEA is signed every 5 years. This year, a major amendment to the agreement included firm definitions of what attendance and absenteeism mean. The key point is that the “decisions about retaining students must involve agreement from parents, the principal, the school-based team, and the Superintendent. Documentation of efforts to provide extra help or enrichment must be provided for this discussion. The principal has the final say in placing and programming students in accordance with the School Act.”

*Pictured left to right: Superintendent, Tim Davie, Director of Health and Social Services, Simble Kaur, UES Principal, Jamie Hansen, CFO, Tamara Nelson, Treasurer, Pam Craig, President Charles McCarthy, Manager of Education Services, Karen Severinson
Image credit: Melissa Boucha*

K'wisitis Village Sign Unveiling

K'wisitis Village sign unveiling held as part of the Yuułu?i?ath Day celebration.

Written by: Mark MacDonald



Image credit: Melissa Boucha

Close to 50 people attended the landmark unveiling of a new longhouse style sign at K'wisitis Village next to the Wick-aninnish Visitor Centre on Yuułu?i?ath Day September 18, which the nation hopes will be another forward step towards further land restoration for the Yuułu?i?ath.

President Charles McCarthy was one of the speakers, and shared "This is paramount to who we are. These were our fishing grounds, our way of life. We need to get back to our culture, and we want to be. There is a necessity for us to be grounded to the land, and it is good to see the turnout today to see that re-connection with the land.

"Hopefully next year we can bring other Nuu-chah-nulth members here to camp, sit down, share dinners and tell stories," he added. "This is very important for all of us. Congratulations to the Culture, Language and Heritage Department for directing this, and to Hudson who put up the pole.

We look forward to reclaiming our traditional territory, in-

cluding our village by the ocean. This brings us back to who we are."

The sign unveiling was hosted by the Culture, Language and Heritage Department, and constructed in support by Hjalmer Wenstob and Jay Millar.

The sign was read in traditional Nuu-chah-nulth language by Jeneva Touchie, who also sang an opening song. Samantha Touchie shared the opening prayer.

Elder Vi Mundy attended, and she was at the raising of the Hudson pole in 2010, when her mother, Barbara had the opening prayer.

"It is heartwarming to us to hear Samantha and Jeneva speak the language so clearly," Vi says, adding that her mother taught the language to staff at the language school.

"We're really happy about that. There are not that many

people that speak it, so it's wonderful for us to witness that today. This is very, very important today. It reminded us of things that had been lost over the years."

The sign recognizes the totem that is a few hundred feet closer to the entrance of the trail, which was carved by James Ivan Cootes (1947-2010), also known as Hudson.

Carey Cunneyworth, Director of Culture, Language and Heritage, said the sign posed a lot of challenges, working with Parks directors, but they managed to get it done.

"We sat down with our elders years ago to find out what the sign should say," Carey said, noting that "the original location for the sign was supposed to be behind Hudson's pole."

James Walton stated: "I think it's wonderful to have our President and all the people come out for this and learn about it. I love learning about where you are, and we can learn a lot through the sign."

The contents of the sign as read aloud by Jeneva (in traditional language) translated to:

"You are standing at K'wisitis village, one of the many traditional villages of the Yuułu?i?ath people.

The village was originally home to the Kinaxum-as-aht people who lived in K'wisitis from time immemorial. After contact, it was amalgamated with other villages to form the modern Yuułu?i?ath. In 1889 it was designated as IR9. At the time the village had several standing houses and house



Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha

platforms, was used seasonally for halibut fishing, and had a ramp for hauling whales up the beach.

Although the Park has prevented the Yuułu?if?ath from living in K^wisitits village, the Yuułu?if?ath have continued to use the area for harvesting and ceremony. K^wisitits village has long been a sacred place to the Yuułu?if?ath people, and by welcoming you here, we ask that you treat this place with respect.”

Yuułu?if?ath Day is celebrated as a day to recognize the self-governance of a modern treaty nation. A day of activities followed the sign ceremony, including an open house with Yuułu?if?ath Government staff and WildSafeBC Pacific Rim, a bouncy castle, archery with Warriors Coordinator, Jason Sam, and finalizing the day with an Annual General Assembly.



Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha



Image credit: Melissa Boucha

Intergovernmental Relations

Tripartite Implementation Committee visits hitaču.

The Tripartite Implementation Committee visited hitaču during the final week of September.

The visit consisted of representatives from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Ministry of Indigenous Relations BC (MIRR), and the Maa-nulth First Nations (including Yuułu?if?ath Government staff).

The visit was in part of a nation-to-nation tour of the Maa-nulth First Nation communities, with the purpose to ensure decisions are made in full collaboration with Indigenous, territorial, and provincial partners; strengthening government-to-government relationships and ensuring self-governing nations needs are recognized and supported.

Representatives toured the community of hitaču with gov-

ernment staff, viewing housing needs, visible infrastructure requirements, and much more.

This tour assists the nation to express areas of funding needs, such as housing, that can be considered by the province.

In addition to the committee’s visit, the Maa-nulth First Nations hosted the annual government-to-government leadership forum with the province. This year the Yuułu?if?ath Government were the appointed host nation.

The forum took place at Black Rock Oceanfront Resort with a packed agenda directed to each ministry including housing, transportation and infrastructure, forests, and social development.



Image credit: Melissa Boucha

Zen Seekers Feature

Riding towards reconciliation on Čumaata Mountain Bike Trails.

Written by: Nora O'Malley for Zen Seekers Media



Ucluelet Mountain Bike Association Board of Directors, Yuułu?i?at? Elders and YG staff. Image credit: Melissa Boucha

As you pedal up to the mountain bike trails on Čumaata (Mount Ozzard), just outside of Ucluelet, BC, a formidable new trail sign now welcomes you. On it, each of the nine trails is listed in Nuu-chah-nulth language, accompanied by its English translation.

This is evidence of a rare partnership: a mountain bike trail network built through a collaboration between the Yuułu?i?at? (UFN) and the local Ucluelet Mountain Bike Association. Three years in the making, the revolutionary project is about both bombing trails, and appreciating the land you're on as you blaze by.

Take a moment to pause and appreciate the heritage of this

land that you're on... then, drop in.

Otherwise known as Mount Ozzard, Čumaata (pronounced choo-maa-tah) means "water coming from a high place." It is said that a chief of the same name was swept up the mountain in a whaling canoe by a great wave that washed

"For what's out here and what's readily available, we try to make the best we can with what we have. It would be easier if we had actual sand and gravel, but we have either moss or clay. We work with what we have."

UMBA President Markus Rannala reflected on the unique Land Use Agreement signed in 2020 with UFN. "Three years

ago this started as a vision to try and build meaningful relationships between our communities and to foster an understanding of our youth with the land and a connection to it.

I feel like we've taken some really big steps together and some really meaningful directions, and I would like to thank every single person that's had a hand in this," Rannala said.

As a gesture of gratitude from the UMBA during the opening ceremony on September 10, 2023, Rannala presented Yuułu?i?at? President Charles McCarthy a framed map of all the mountain bike trails the partners created together on Čumaata, adding, "We are all really looking forward to continuing this and building a positive future."

"It's always been and always will be a sacred place and we are willing to share it with other Canadians and visitors," said McCarthy.

"We look forward to sharing these lands with our neighbours and our people and our guests, McCarthy added, "but at the same time, we want to be as protective of our land and have the respect given to us as the owners of this land."

With new relationships, trail signage and Nuu-chah-nulth language to orient riders within Yuułu?i?at? homelands, that framework is now established.

The article can be found online at: www.zenseekers.com/story/riding-towards-reconciliation-cumaata-mountain-bike-trails



Pictured above: Ribbon cutting, Right: Jay Millar in front of his artwork (Čumaata sign), Middle right: Geneva performing, Jay Millar and Tyson Touchie Jr., Bottom right: Ucluelet Mountain Bike Association Board. Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha



Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Bikes

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Artist Designs Bike Featured In Fundraiser for UFN Bikes and Equipment.

Written by: Mark MacDonald



From left: James Walton, Tyson Touchie and Carey Cunneynworth (From Miranda Miller website).

A fundraising raffle earlier this year [2023] spurred by on-line video star Miranda Miller of “Here, There, Everywhere” web series to support purchasing bikes and equipment for Ucluelet First Nation featured as its main prize a custom Kona ProcessX bike designed by Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ artist Jay ‘Tuuchii’ Millar.

Jay, Ha’wiih representative of the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Legislature, is an artist, surfer and mountain biker who works on the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ trail crew and is the elected representative of the aawih (chiefs) council for the government.

Jay’s artistry, as described by Miranda, the Canadian downhill world champion from Squamish, combines “traditional Nuuchah-nulth designs with a street style that represents his younger life spent in both remote communities and in the cities.

“The community and the crew are working hard to build a future that involves mountain biking in their community, but the most obvious hurdle, as always, is access to equipment,” Miranda continues.

“The idea was born to collaborate with local artist and trail builder, Jay ‘Tuuchii’ Millar, to create this custom Kona ProcessX to raffle off to raise funds to purchase bikes for the community. Fresh Paints of Whistler brought the idea to life and the Ucluelet Mountain Bike Association (UMBA) were quick to come on board to help launch the raffle.”

Ucluelet First Nation’s mountain bikers are expanding the trail network on the land of Čumaata, an 800 metre mountain on its traditional lands, to create a culturally aware trail network.

Miranda’s Here, There, Everywhere web series highlighted

the network in Episode 4 of her series, titled Muuxtuu: First of Many Together.

She filmed the area in the summer of 2022, calling it “one of the most memorable weeks of my life in Ucluelet with the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Nation. I had the opportunity to meet with the trail crew to learn about the Nation’s efforts to balance preservation and development on the sacred land of Čumaata. The Nation is using trail building and mountain biking as a new way for their community to connect with nature and share their culture with visitors.”

Miranda wrote extensively about her adventure on Pinkbike.com.

“I heard about the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ trail network from my close friend, Carey Cunneynworth who had been hired by the Ucluelet First Nation as Director of Culture and Heritage.

Carey spoke to me of the Nation’s desire to develop their trail network,” she states. “A trail network that would strike a balance between preservation and development and how they felt the sport of mountain biking could be an important link to reconnect the community to their land.

“He talked to me of how the UFN wanted to become one of the first culturally aware mountain bike networks. This struck home. I was excited, therefore, to receive an acceptance to my request to visit the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ to learn more about their project.”

Čumaata (Mount Ozzard), which is sacred to the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ people and is rich with historical and cultural connections, has taken up the development, maintenance and control of the trail network in partnership with the UMBA.

Miranda noted that the trails of Čumaata, or Mount Ozzard, are rugged and shoot, almost straight down, through a thick, tangled mess of second growth forest, making it an incredibly challenging hill to build on.

“We were made so welcome in hitaču meeting President Charles McCarthy, Elder Bernice and the Nations storyteller, Tyson Touchie Sr,” she stated. “The full time crew members in charge of maintenance and building on Čumaata are James Walton, Tyson Touchie and Jay (all who also helped build the local mountain bike trails) and together they have built the networks first intermediate trail - the appropriately named Muuxtuu. Muuxtuu translates from Nuuchah-nulth to First of Many Together.

James and Tyson have become mountain bikers.

“Both new to the sport, it was so cool to see them conquer

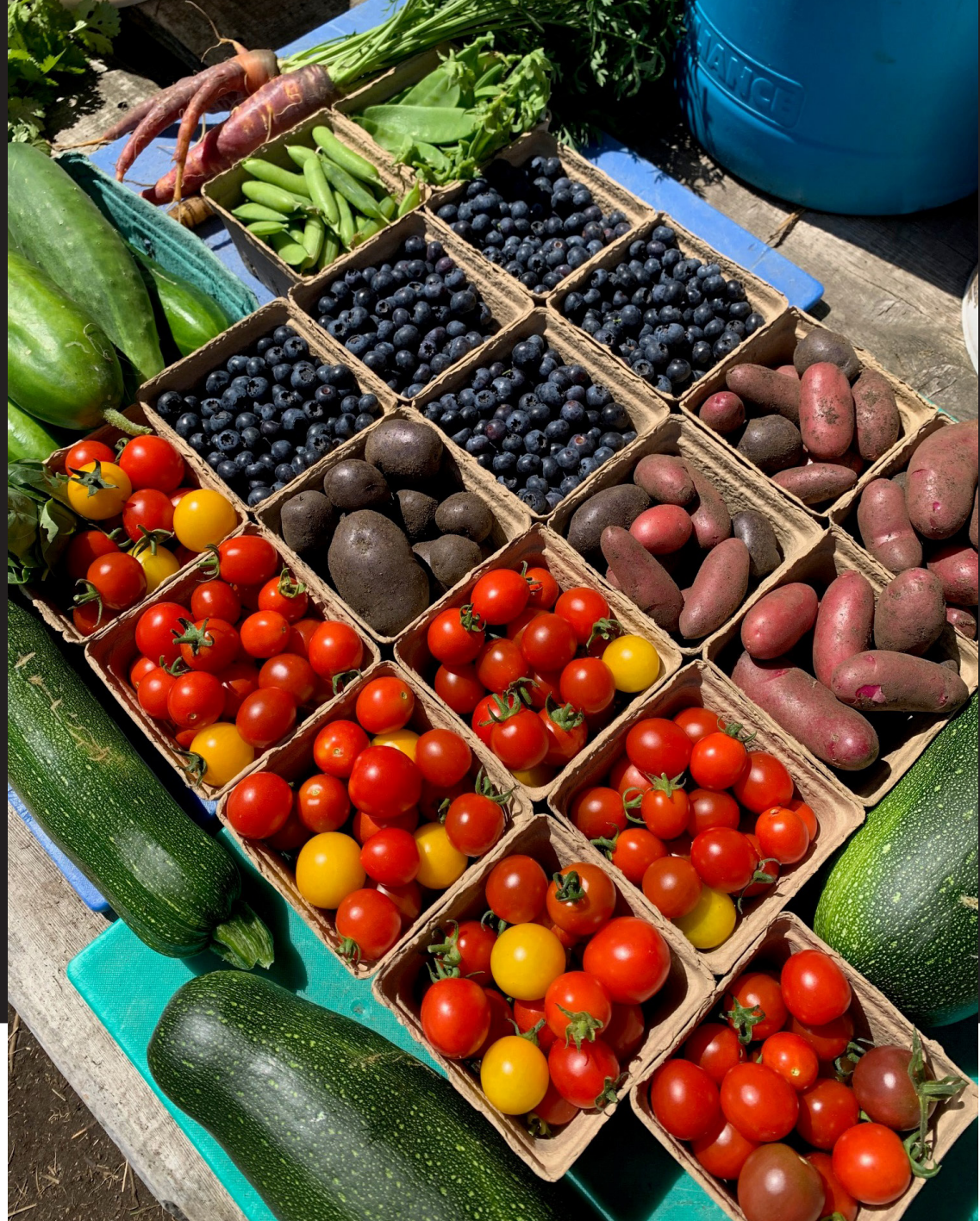
new trail features or climb higher than before,” Miranda recalls. “Seeing others experiencing those euphoric feelings of adrenaline and progression for the first time was a great reminder of how powerful a tool a mountain bike can be.”

The goal for the trail building is that every new trail moving forward will be named, written and spoken in Nuuchah-nulth, to help preserve and utilize their language, and work is underway to integrate land and cultural knowledge into the trail system through appropriate signage.

Miranda raised \$16,000 to go towards Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ citizens’ purchase of Mountain Bikes from Kona, with a discount. A handful of Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ citizens responded to the opportunity and purchased a Kona bike.



Pictured above: Jay ‘Tuuchii’ Millar; The Kona ProcessX bike designed by Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ artist Jay ‘Tuuchii’ Millar
Image(s) credit: Graeme Meiklejohn



Wya Community Garden

The Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government and Niamh O'Reilly, Traditional Foods Coordinator, would like to extend an acknowledgment of gratitude to the Gardeners and Junior Guardians who have been keeping the Wya Community Garden for the 2023 season.

From the beginning, the Wya Community Garden has been run by dedicated and persistent local volunteers. This initial work is what supported the growth of what the Wya Community Garden has become today.

Over the past year, INEO Employment Services has funded

the Wya Community Garden to employ citizens and Ucluelet residents. This funding has allowed a solid team (consisting of knowledge keepers and learners) to develop. Gardeners have been working consistently to maintain the growth and production of the facility.

This year the Junior Guardians joined and tended the garden in August as additional support. It was shared the group has been having a lot of fun harvesting and tending to crops.

O'Reilly shared highlights for the group have been learning about worm composting, eating lots of blueberries, harvest-

ing garlic and crafting herb bundles.

James Walton mentioned that it "was really rewarding to show the Guardians around the garden and share his knowledge, skills, and experiences with them."

Gardens are a lot of work to start seedling growth, maintain, and cultivate. The time, love, and energy is evident in the harvest. Below is a list of Gardeners and Junior Guardians to recognize and thank for all their hard work the 2023 season!

2023 Gardeners

Seb Townsend (Supervisor), Zoe Jordan (Supervisor), Bree Heron, James Walton, Sheldon Touchie, Shan Bradley, Kathleen McCarthy

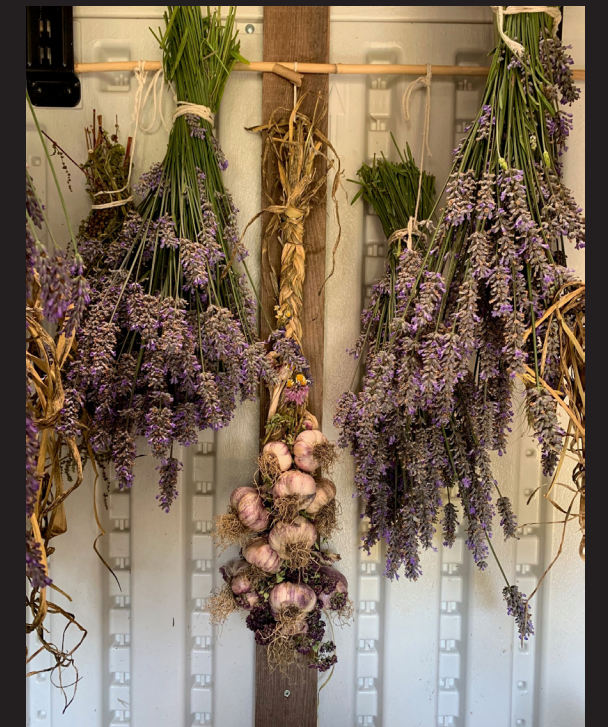
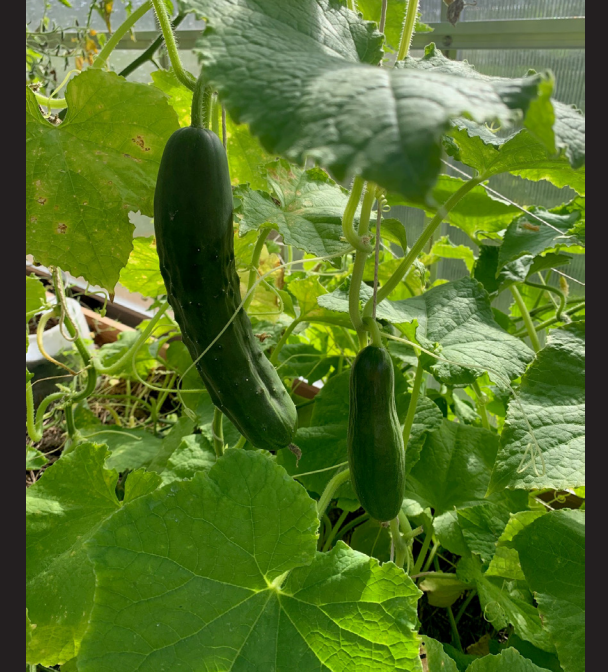
2023 Junior Guardians

Georgia Frencheater, Peyton George, Cali McCarthy, Nicole McCarthy

Harvest from the garden is directed back in to the community in the form of fresh food for community events, elder's meals, and 'U-Pick' days for Yuuʔuʔiʔath, to bring a basket and enjoy the nation's garden bounty.



Image(s) credit: Niamh O'Reilly





The Photobook



Image credit: Nick Meunier

2023 q^wayačiik?iis Potlach

The q^wayačiik?iis Childcare Centre hosted a potlach within the community of hitaču early December of 2023.

The potlach welcomed nation and neighbouring nation members, and was hosted as an educational event for the q^wayačiik?iis Childcare Centre children, to share the song and dance they have learned, accompanied with a gifting of curtains.

Initiated by Skylene Patrick, the potlach was superseded by then interim q^wayačiik?iis Childcare Centre Assistant Manager Marissa Mack and acting Manager Freda Thomas.

With the assistance of Gloria Webber, Lindsay McCarthy Sr.,

and childcare centre staff (Marylise Frechville, Jada Touchie, Catherine Frank, Kaila Black (Mack), and Physiotherapist Lisa Kudla), the potlach was proven a community success!

The q^wayačiik?iis Childcare Centre would like to offer acknowledgments to the following individuals, including the community of hitaču and guests for supporting the children, whom were delighted to welcome a warm audience.

Ķeekoo to Gloria Webber for preparing the children and childcare leaders for the potlach. Gloria is the reason the children learned how to sing and dance the songs with such spirit.

Ķeekoo to the cooks, William and Pat and to the internal kitchen support.

Ķeekoo to Tyson Touchie Sr. for being the lead speaker.

Ķeekoo to Pearl Touchie for making all of the shawls for the childcare centre.

Ķeekoo to Carey Cunneyworth and the culture team for hosting the drum making workshop.

Ķeekoo to Lindsay McCarthy Sr. for his guidance and preparation in culture practice.

Ķeekoo to Hjalmer Wenstob and Natica Deline for their professional artistry skills and gifting their talent in the form of curtains to the childcare centre.

Ķeekoo to Melissa Boucha and volunteer Nick Meunier for documenting the potlach. The videos and photos mean a lot [to the staff] to be able to re-live the whole experience.

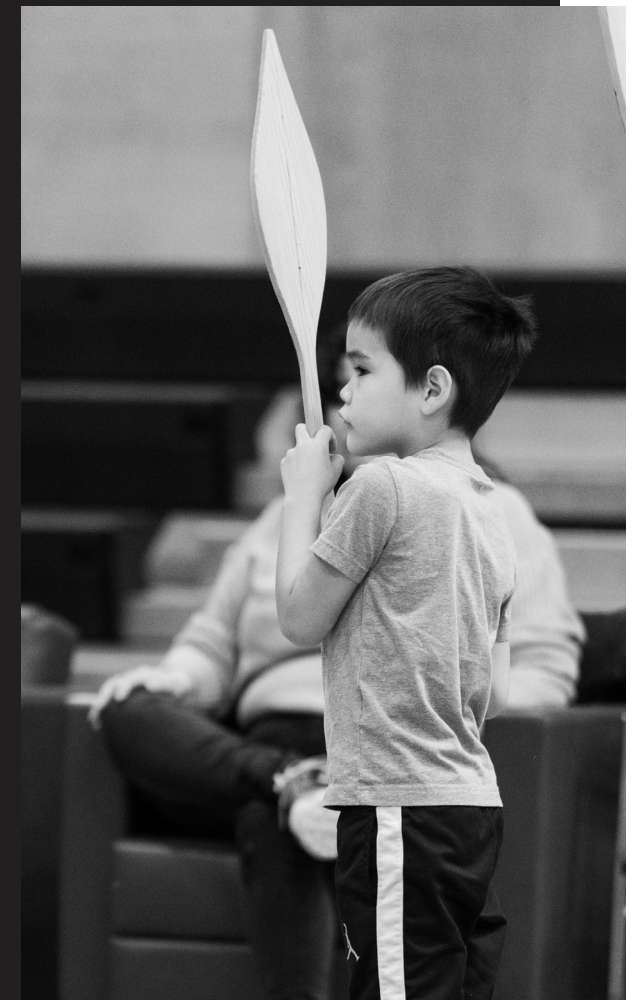
A very special Ķeekoo to Skylene Touchie for bringing the idea of the potlach to life.

The q^wayačiik?iis Childcare Centre leaders brought the community together in a culturally respectful way, to provide a safe space for the children to learn and learn about themselves, celebrate who they are, and to be proud of their nation.

A final Ķeekoo to all! Enjoy the 2023 potlach photobook.



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier





Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier





Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier





Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier





Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier & Melissa Boucha





Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier



Image credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier & Melissa Boucha







Image credit: Nick Meunier



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier & Melissa Boucha



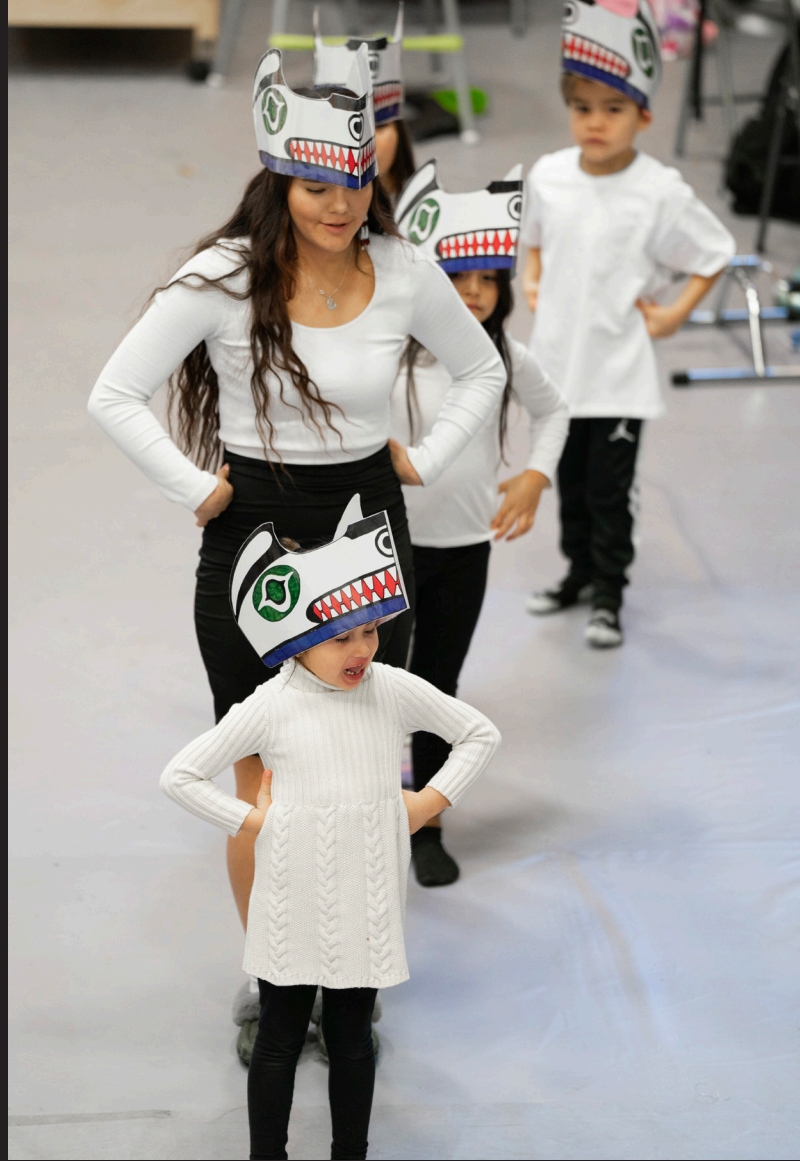


Image credit: Melissa Boucha



Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha





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Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha



Image(s) credit: Nick Meunier & Melissa Boucha



Image credit: Melissa Boucha

The Curtains



Curtain Artist Natica Deline
Clutesi Family of the Yuulu?i?ath - Ucluelet First Nation

This curtain showcases the *tiickin* (thunderbird), *čims* (bear), *kakaŵin* (orca, killer whale) and the *čixʷatin* (eagle). spirits as *Nuu-chah-nulth* parents and all that we try to do for our children.

At the *potlach* Natica noted, though the *tiickin* is over the *kakaŵin* and the *čims* is over the *čixʷatin*, the proportion shows evolving. A *Trans-Spirit*; the curtain shows all of our Each animal represents a program at the childcare centre.

The curtains were presented to the *qʷayačikʷiis* Childcare Centre at the 2023 *potlach*.



Curtain Artist Hjalmer Wenstob
Masso Family of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation

This curtain represents growth and transformation; from *qʷayačikʷiis* to *qʷayačik*, a journey of preparation from the childcare centre to a new world [of school].

The *qʷayačikʷiis* (wolf cubs) portrays starting their journey.

The *čapac* (canoe) paddles represent the childcare centre mentors and educators preparing the children.

The *qʷayačik* (wolf) emphasizes growth and moving forward into a new future.

The *hupał* (sun, moon) illustrates a new day is coming.

The cedar tree shows roots, representing where the children come from, their home, their nation.





Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha

hitaçu Holiday Moments



Image(s) credit: Melissa Boucha



Days following the q^wayaçiiik?iis Childcare Centre potlach, holiday celebrations were held in hitaçu and in Port Alberni for Yuutu?i?ath citizens. Santa made an appearance at both events, as did Yuutu?i?ath dancers, singers, and drummers.





Yuutu?it?ath

'People of the Safe Harbour'