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Yuutu?it?ath

# Umacuk YG News

Volume 14, Issue 2 | March 2024

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### March 27

Medicine Wheel Workshop  
Mixed Sweat  
Shawl Workshop

### March 28

Shawl Workshop

### April 2

West Coast Transit Starts

### April 16

Baby Group  
Homework Hall Open House

### Monday and Wednesday

Culture Night

## New Transit Line!

We are excited to announce, the ACRD will be providing transit service to hitaču, connecting Ucluelet, hitaču, and Tofino (including nations in between)!

West Coast Transit is expected to start Tuesday, April 2.

In the next few weeks, we will share schedule details and transportation information with hitaču residents. A package that will include the bus schedule, expected fees, and general information, will be distributed to homes and available for pick up at the Cixwatin Centre Reception.

For now, more information about the new transit service can be found by visiting: [www.acrd.bc.ca/wc-transit](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/wc-transit).

Stay tuned for an ACRD hosted launch event the week beginning Monday, April 8!



*hitaču Cixwatin Centre & huuḗatu Centre are closed:*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29 & MONDAY, APRIL 1  
EASTER LONG WEEKEND**

*Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, April 2 at 8:00am.*

This ḥaḥuupa with Ron Hamilton will go over ceremony protocols. Ron wants to work with a handful of people from Yuuḥuḥiḥaḥ who are interested in this work and are willing to host these ceremonies in the future.



# ḥaḥuupa

*"to teach or train in the old way"*

## BABY WELCOMING CEREMONY

**Thursday, March 28**  
**Exact Time TBD**

*A portion of this ḥaḥuupa will be discussing names. Where the name comes from and which family the name belongs to. Recording devices during the ḥaḥuupa are encouraged.*

To sign up, email [Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca](mailto:Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca)



# New Staff Highlight

## *Jennifer Touchie soars as the new Education Services Manager.*

*Written by: Mark MacDonald*

**Jennifer Touchie has lived in hitaču** and Ucluelet for the past 15 years, and she's now getting an opportunity to work here.

Jennifer became the Education Services Manager for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government - Ucluelet First Nation (UFN) on February 12, 2024, following a rewarding career with the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC).

"I've never worked for my own nation, ever," says Jennifer. "My office was in Ucluelet, then I just outgrew my job and needed a change, so I applied for this position. I thought it would be a good fit as I've done various outreaches for almost 24 years now."

"It's a new challenge for me, and when this job came up, I applied and got it. Now I work with our Nation's education and the School District, and other districts regarding UFN students and with students regarding post-secondary and occupational skills possibilities for UFN youth. I'm excited to be in this position and being able to develop new things and work with what we have, but there is always room for change or implementing new skills."

Jennifer has lived in the area for her whole life and has many aunts, uncles and family members close by.

"It's really nice just to be home," she states. "I don't have to travel for work now. When I worked for NTC it seemed I was always on a boat, or on a plane, or on a logging road. This position is different. I'm saving gas and mileage, as I just have to go down the hill from my house to go to work, so it's great."

She found her work at the NTC rewarding and fulfilling.

"I met regularly with the NTC, and if they needed support for services such as speech assessment, parental support or child development, that's what I worked on," she explains. "Child development and connecting families with community services was what the position was all about. I also worked with children from birth to 18 years of age, and with Aboriginal infant development and support."

One of the things Jennifer has been considering is creating a form for high school students in grades 10 to 12 to help them write down their visions and dreams, and what they want to focus on with their uniqueness and individual skills.

"I love challenges and am excited about the future for them," she notes. "Working in our community and supporting families and people who want to get into schooling or the Occupational Skills Training (OST) program is very rewarding. Have a trade will benefit all people. That could mean getting their bus driving ticket so they can drive a bus for BC Transit or get the tickets necessary to work on BC Ferries. They're always hiring. There are so many options for high school students, and it's important to let them know what is possible for them."

"We want to see where they want to go after they graduate, and support them by guiding them through the different ways they can go, to a college, university or into trades," she explains. "Some of the universities and colleges have sports, like basketball, or they offer theatre, or videography or other interesting programs. I am here to try and promote and support what their interests are, because they have their own hopes and dreams and ambitions, and maybe they want to become a teacher, or a nurse, or something else."

Like construction related trades, for example.

"Every town needs carpenters and welders and plumbers and gas fitters, and whatever else there could be with Red Seal tickets," she says. "They can work in the community or somewhere else, wherever they choose, if they want to." Working on Homework Hall is also part of her mandate. The program is run by two teachers after school for students in hitaču, and helps show parents how to support their own children.

"Schoolwork has really changed over the years, compared to what we used to do when we were at that age. Now it's very different," she states. "So I am to make home halls and I try to support families and students by attending homework halls. I want to invite parents to the homework halls, so they can find out what their children are doing and what they're good at."

hitaču is where Jennifer loves to be.

"I have 5 kids and 9 grandkids, ranging from 14-15 months, so it's a lot of fun," she says. "I moved away from hitaču, came back, and now I'm here until I retire. I don't plan on moving anywhere. I'm just enjoying life and my grandkids. I do a lot with them, and time flies."



# NIGHT SUN BEAR

Cultural Counseling & Land Based Healing

## MEDICINE WHEEL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 27 . 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Mini Big-House

MIXED GROUP SWEAT  
Wednesday, March 27 . 5:00pm

For a more details and to sign up, contact: [Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca](mailto:Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca)



### About the Medicine Wheel

Numbers have always played a significant part in traditional First Nations life.

Four is one of the most sacred numbers used in First Nations culture. Many aspects are seen in terms of four. The Sacred Mystery, the source of all creation, reveals itself as the Powers of the Four Directions and these four powers provide the organizing principle for everything that exists in the world:

The Seasons, The Races, The Elements of the Universe, The Stages of Life, The Emotions and Aspects of Human Behavior and the interrelatedness of all things.

Colonialism has impacted the lives of human beings and is woven in to the story of the medicine wheel, how it has impacted health and wellness, and how it can bring back the human experience into alignment to the sacred law.

The teachings of the Medicine Wheel were originally explained orally and will be done so by TipiskowPisimwikiMusqua.

All that participants need to bring to this workshop is respect, an open mind and not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Diniki

Nightsunbear

### About the Instructor

Daryle is of Cree, Dene, Stoney and Irish heritage. He participates in local cultural events and activities where he shares Cree and Lakota teachings and his cultural background. Daryle's family is from Fort Chipewyan, north of Fort McMurray on Lake Athabasca in Alberta. His Cree name Tipiskowpisimmusqua means "Night Sun Bear".

Daryle's grandfather (nimoshum) Joe Cardinal of the Cree Nation was born in Wabasca, Alberta and his grandmother (Nookum), Louisa Tourangeau is from Fort Chipewyan, Alberta where many of his relatives still reside. Daryle provides cultural counselling, advising and land-based healing practices.

Daryle advocates for trc recommendations and Indigenising the process in post secondary education institutions through his role there as "Elder in Residence". Daryle facilitates ceremony and is a traditional drummer and pipe carrier.

"I believe culture, and health go together. Being active and mindful of how to live in balance between the physical and spiritual laws that govern all things. Ekosi"



*Lunch included in workshop!*



# Herring Spawn

*Herring spawn activates the outer harbour and the west coast.*



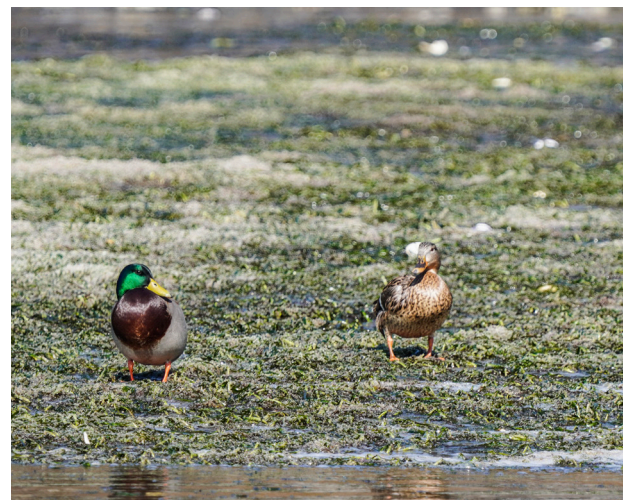
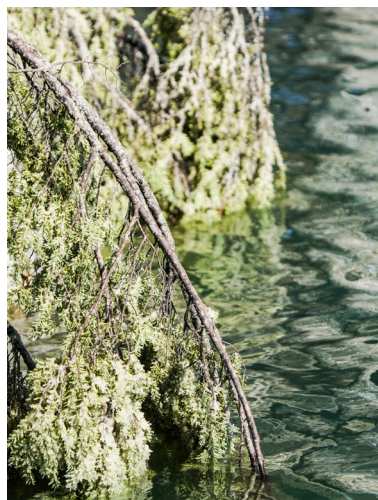
The herring spawn bloomed this past Saturday, March 16 along the coastline of Ucluelet, from Salmon Beach, to Spring Cove, Terrace Beach, and Little Beach. The roe clung to visible kelp beds around the rocks; the milky turquoise waters emphasizing the milt that was released from the males, to fertilize the released roe.

Bows were pre-placed in the water by the Yuułu?it?ath Government and community members in anticipation of the spawn, welcoming a strong harvest this year.

In the next month, we hope to share more details of the spawn with updates from the Lands and Resources Department. At this time, please enjoy a few images taken around hitaču amongst the frenzy.

Images show the coastline around hitaču and the local wildlife staying alert for nourishment; birds collecting roe and the local sea lions coming up with a feast of herring.

*Images: Melissa Boucha*





# Dugout Canoe Returns to hitaču

*The District of Ucluelet returns partially dugout canoe.*



Images: Melissa Boucha



Images: Carey Cunneynworth

Last month, the District of Ucluelet returned a partially dugout canoe to hitaču. The canoe was brought in during a sunny, west coast day, and welcomed the following week from inside the Mini Big-House, during an elder’s meeting.

Weather played a factor for the internal blessing, however, the dugout canoe can be viewed on the tree line side of Mini Big-House, with a descriptive plaque, in place.

The next page is a story written by Andrew Bailey of the Westerly News detailing how the partially dugout canoe was found, eventually making its way back to the community.





# ***Ucluelet returning significant artifact to Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ - Ucluelet First Nation***

*Written by: Andrew Bailey, Westerly News*



**July 6, 2023** - A partially carved dugout canoe that's offered a fascinating window into West Coast history at a display outside Ucluelet's former chamber of commerce office is set to be returned to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ - Ucluelet First Nation.

A July 25, 2013 Westerly News story explains that the historic artefact was discovered about 25 years prior by a log-loader operator for MacMillan Bloedel who recognized it as an unfinished dugout canoe. The artifact stayed at a storage yard but, after Clayoquot Forest Services took over the site, CFS operator Bill Irving presented the log to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ - Ucluelet First Nation.

Years later, in 2013, Irving, then the mayor of Ucluelet, requested the partially carved canoe be temporarily loaned to the district to display and the Nation agreed.

An informational sign posted at the artefact explains that "the unfinished First Nations canoe was carved more than 200 years ago."

The sign points to "distinctive scalloped chip marks" as proof that an adze was used to begin shaping the bottom of the canoe and burn marks from fire-heated stones are still visible.

Carvers would fall a tree by lighting a fire at the base and chipping away at the charred remains with bone or rock.

"Before metal tools were introduced over 200 years ago, fire, stone and bones were used to fell trees and trim logs," the sign reads. "Wet clay kept the fire under control. Spruce sap helped sustain the fire."

During Ucluelet's June 9 municipal council meeting, district CAO Duane Lawrence explained the now-former chamber building is being repurposed as a daycare and the new owners of the lot have requested that the district relocate the artefact.

"Because this is a First Nations heritage artifact, we reached out to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government to determine what

they would like us to do with this because it does not belong to the municipality," he said.

"There was, as I understand it, a 'handshake deal' and some sort of agreement between different parties of both communities...Now that process is more formal. There's a lot of work being done across the country to repatriate artefacts back to their heritage communities."

He said the district reached out to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government and they advised that the First Nation "would love to see it being returned."

"It's not municipal property, so the land owner has asked for it to be removed. At that point in time, because it's an artefact, we're required to engage with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government," he said.

"They indicated back to staff that they want it back, they've wanted it for a long time and it's of very significant cultural importance to them. They have also indicated that this is one of the best examples of a partially dugout canoe that they have ever seen...It's of very high cultural importance and value to hitaçu."

He said the Nation is ready to accept the artefact, though the district will need to do some work to ensure the integrity of the log stays intact during the relocation.

"We don't know what that looks like and they've requested us to investigate it with somebody that knows what they're talking about with an old tree and determine how best to move it without damaging the structure or the integrity of the log," he said.

He added that the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government would also like the fence and plaque currently at the artifact to travel with it.

He said a brief cost estimate landed between \$5,000-7,0000, which the district can cover through its operating budget and if it winds up costing more than that, staff will return to council with some recommendations.

A Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government spokesperson told the Westerly News that the Nation is "looking forward to the return of such a significant piece for Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ."

"The Culture and Heritage department is still working out the logistics of its relocation with the District of Ucluelet. We look forward to sharing more in the time to come."

**Come learn to make  
your own Cultural  
Dance Shawl!  
More details will be  
provided after  
participants sign up.**



# **Shawl Workshop**

**Wednesday, March 27 & Thursday, March 28**  
**Further Details TBD**

*Supplies will be provided for participants.*

*For more information contact Samantha Touchie:*

*Email [Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca](mailto:Samantha.Touchie@ufn.ca) or call 250-725-8700*



# Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services Department continues to serve the community of hitaču with resources, such as the weekly Doctor's Clinic on Thursdays, Mental Health Support, and Education relations.

Dr. Ted Altar will be in hitaču on **Tuesday, April 2 to Friday, April 5** for in person sessions. Call the huuḗatu Centre Reception at **(250) 726-7343** or email [moa@ufn.ca](mailto:moa@ufn.ca) to book an appointment.

To better assist all Yuuḗuḗiḗath, urban citizens are welcome to book virtual appointments, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.

Education Services Manager, Jennifer Touchie, will be hosting a Homework Hall Open House on **Tuesday, April 16**. All Ucluelet Elementary and Secondary students, caregivers, and parents are welcome to attend.

The Open House will be held in the Six Plex, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Students are welcome to 'make their own pizza'!

The Open House is being held for parents and caregivers to meet with Jennifer Touchie and Homework Hall curators, Kira de Leeuw, UES Learning Facilitator, and Jess Bennett, USS Indigenous Support Teacher.

The monthly Elder's Luncheon will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of the month and Baby Group is back, moving meeting days to the third Monday of every month.

Follow us on Facebook [@uclueletfirstnation](https://www.facebook.com/uclueletfirstnation) for updates.

In February, Simble Kaur graciously moved on from the role of Director of Health and Social Services. In this place, Acting Director of Health and Social Services has been appointed to Cynthia Fitton, RN.

Cynthia can be contacted by calling **(250) 726-7342 ext 803**, or via email [cynthia.fitton@ufn.ca](mailto:cynthia.fitton@ufn.ca).

We wish Simble the best for her future and welcome Cynthia on a new endeavor with the Yuuḗuḗiḗath Government!



## DR. TED ALTAR COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGIST

AVAILABLE FOR ALL CITIZENS  
PHONE OR VIDEO CALL SESSIONS

*Dr. Altar is available in hitaču for in-person sessions the first week of every month, next date range is **April 2-5**.*

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

# MEET AND GREET WITH YG EDUCATION STAFF HOMEWORK HALL OPEN HOUSE



**All USS & UES Students,  
Parents, Caregivers, &  
Guardians are welcome!**

**Join the YG Education Team,** for an Open House style meeting to:

- ask questions
- raise concerns
- and learn about support services for students

**All students and guardians in the hitaçu community are encouraged to attend anytime from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.**



## **Meet our team!**

**Kira de Leeuw, UES Learning Facilitator.** She offers support for students working on learning goals and assignment completion.

**Jess Bennett, USS Indigenous Support Teacher.** They offer homework support for USS students and students working on Choices.

**Jennifer Touchie, YG Education Manager.** She oversees all student programs from kindergarten to Post-Secondary.

# **TUESDAY APRIL 16**

## **Six Plex**

**4:00pm-6:00pm  
Open House  
Meeting**

**Make-your-own  
Pizzas for the  
students!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT [JENNIFER.TOUCHIE@UFN.CA](mailto:JENNIFER.TOUCHIE@UFN.CA)**





# Employment Opportunities

Join our team at Yuułu?it?ath Government  
Ucluelet First Nation!

[ufn.ca/jobs/](http://ufn.ca/jobs/)

## We are hiring for:

**Infrastructure Program Manager**  
Assets Department

**Receptionist (Casual/On-Call)**  
Administration Department

**Assistant Cook**  
Social Services Department

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Early Childhood Educators**  
**One on One Support Worker**  
q<sup>w</sup>ayaćiik?iis Daycare Centre

**Engagement Administrator**  
Intergovernmental Affairs

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Send your resume and cover letter to:  
[employment@ufn.ca](mailto:employment@ufn.ca)



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

## *nanayaᑕaaᑭuk*

*"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!*

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL**  
**15**

**3RD MONDAY**  
**EVERY MONTH**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**

**q<sup>w</sup>ayaᑕiikᑦiis**  
**Childcare Centre**

*Light lunch provided.*



For more information, contact Cynthia Fitton, RN: (778) 942-0579  
or email [Jennifer.Touchie@ufn.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Touchie@ufn.ca)