



Yuutu?it?ath

HITACU ASSEMBLY

September 19, 2025 | 6:00pm | Cixwatin Centre Gym, hitacu / Zoom

Meeting Record

Participants

Chairperson: Shana Thomas

Citizens: Roberta Touchie; Grant Barker; Jeneva Touchie; Renny Touchie; Arthur Williams; Kali Touchie; Nick Touchie; Alan McCarthy; Brenda Jack; Kenneth Miller; Leo Touchie; Daphne Peter; Adam Touchie; Evelyn Louie; Jack Touchie; Marjorie Touchie; Darrin Williams Sr.; Pearl Touchie; Clayton Jack; Sheila Touchie; Debbie Touchie; Wojciech Malach; Daniel Cootes; Donna Jack; Larry Jack; Caledonia McCarthy; Tyson Touchie Sr.; Jada Touchie; June McCarthy; Hannah McCarthy; Randy Babichuk; Anita Touchie; Wilson Jack; Elizabeth Patrick; Tina Patrick; Savannah McCarthy; Gordon Taylor; Bunny (Ida) Baines; Kimberly Baines; Lisa Mastrangelo ; Kimberly Touchie; Henry Williams; Carol McCarthy; Trinity Babichuk; Gloria Valentine; Katherine Mundy; Katrina Mundy; Abigail Patrick; Dela Patrick; Carrie George; Tyson Touchie Jr.; Kathleen McCarthy;

Members of Legislature: Charles McCarthy; Geraldine Touchie; Gertrude Touchie; Kirk McCarthy; Lorri Touchie; Levana Mastrangelo; Jay Millar; Celena Cook;

Staff: Barney Dohm, Interim CAO; Spencer Touchie, Director of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management; Jill Hamilton; Law Clerk; Rose Aday, Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs; Elena, Manager of Communications; Mary-Lou DeRuiter, Head Cook; Dyllon Suprenant, Assistant Cook;

Other: Mike Watts; A/V Support; Michael Randall; Martin Cook; Jori Frank; Somer McCarthy; Ramona Cook; Melanie Babichuk; Somer McCarthy;

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.

2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks

Prayer by Jeneva Touchie. Moment of silence followed by opening remarks by President.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Additions requested by Citizens:

- 7a) Jeneva Touchie - Statement
- 7b) Tyson Touchie Sr. - Canoe journey and staffing concerns
- 7c) Daphne Peter - Garbage
- 7d) Anita Charleson - Yuułu?ił?ath cultural values and integration into YG
- 7e) Gordon Taylor Sr. - Residential development, economic development and housing standards
- 7f) Gordon Taylor Sr.- Nahmint River
- 7g) Tyson Touchie - Replacing ball field

Motion (2025.09.19-01): to adopt the agenda as amended.

Moved by Alan McCarthy. Seconded by Jeneva Touchie.

In favour: 15. Abstention: 1. Opposed: 0. Motion carried.

4. Update on Citizen Requests

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Barney Dohm, provided verbal updates on three matters raised at the last assembly, including a response from YFN Group of Companies CAO Jonthan Cross.

5. Executive Reports

Executive members provided short updates on their respective portfolios since the last assembly (June 16).

Citizen Anita Touchie inquired as to where does “culture and recreation” fall within executive portfolios. The CAO confirmed recreation falls under Education and Youth Portfolio.

6. Financial Update

The CFO, Peter Wong, provided a short draft financial update.

The Chair asked the CFO to confirm which expenditures fall under “culture and recreation”. The CFO confirmed that it would be Culture, Language and Heritage.

Tyson Touchie Sr. inquired about the reason for the significant increase in Administration costs for 2024 and 2025. The CFO clarified that Administration includes Asset Management, including capital projects, and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Citizen Gordon Taylor Sr. asked where BC Gaming and the Specific Claims Settlement is shown on the list of revenue. The CFO confirmed that BC gaming is included in the “interest and other income” section, and the Specific Claim Settlement is under “Indigenous Services Canada”.

7. Other:

a) Statement

Citizen Jeneva Touchie raised concerns regarding the lack of communication between the Legislature and Citizens, noting that platforms like Facebook and Umacuk are not sufficient. She emphasized the importance of face-to-face interactions as a way to strengthen relationships.

Jeneva also expressed concerns about consultation processes, stating that consultants are not adequately reaching out to citizens. She highlighted that the Nation’s strength comes from its people and stressed the importance of returning to more talking and interacting on a human level.

Jeneva acknowledged the hurt and division currently felt on both sides and reflected on the words of the Late Eugene Touchie following self-governance: “*Now the real work begins.*” She emphasized the importance of honouring those who came before us and asked, rhetorically, “Do we think what we’re doing is working?” She shared that we can do better together and hopes for stronger conversations in the future.

The President responded by emphasizing the importance of finding common ground and coming together in the same room with mutual respect. He noted that the Treaty was supported by a majority vote, and moving forward collectively requires respectful dialogue rather than assuming the government is solely at fault.

The President confirmed that the shared goal is the betterment of our community and people. He shared that the Government is looking into possibility of creating a new committee to serve as a conduit between government and citizens, to have discussions on concerns that Citizens have. He acknowledged that some changes require time and must follow legislative processes. The President concluded by stating “It’s not us against you, we are all the same”.

b) Canoe Journey and Staffing Concerns

Tyson Touchie Sr. reflected on the last time Yuułu?il?ath launched a canoe, as well as the hosting of visiting Nations. He acknowledged the Culture, Language and Heritage Department's efforts to organize citizens this year and noted the positive impact that canoeing has on his spirit. He explained that he was very upset with how the journey this year was cancelled, he believes culture should outweigh government policies and that communication with the canoe group fell short. He recognized that assets need to be managed but feels that we have many capable people to do so. He stated that leadership, not the interim CAO, should have made the final decision on the canoe journey. He said that we are ocean-going people and a part of that was crushed for him when the journey was cancelled. He called on leadership to ensure that citizens, especially those who are staff, can speak their minds without fear or restriction, and that the Government become more in tune with Yuułu?il?ath values. He also stated that a big concern with costs in the Administration is the turnover and asked why we keep going through CAOs. He said he doesn't know who current CAO is.

Member of Executive, Geraldine Touchie, acknowledged Tyson's concerns and stated that some of the Executive were not in agreement with what happened and tried to get the decision overturned, but weren't successful. She empathized with all the citizens and volunteers who put hard work into the journey. She explained that she has initiated more meetings with elders to talk about traditions and sharing teachings with youth and would like to hear how we can further our culture and work together.

The President explained that there were a bunch of contributing factors to the decision, including an inadequate support vessel, insurance, liabilities, and that the Government has to take responsibility for citizen safety. He agreed that Yuułu?il?ath are a sea-going people, but noted that in the past, our people did it year-round and had extensive knowledge of the ocean.

Citizen Rose Aday, who planned to participate in the canoe journey, expressed disappointment with the cancellation but said she was extremely grateful that it did not happen. She felt the practices were not adequate and that it would not have been safe to go. She also stated that the idea that valuing the safety of our people is a new concept is not right. She added that as a Citizen who is a staff member, she did not speak out after the cancellation, not because she felt afraid for her job, but because she didn't feel it would be productive. She hopes that Yuułu?il?ath will be represented in canoe journeys in the future, but it must be in a safe way. She also hopes that the response to disappointment in the future can be healthier.

Gertrude Touchie, Executive Member, expressed that she has pushed for contact information for staff to be communicated to citizens. She said that the Executive will need to address the "gag order" at their next meeting so staff don't have to walk on eggshells.

c) Garbage

Citizen Daphne Peter raised concerns about the ongoing issue of garbage being scattered throughout the community and the need for a better plan. She shared that she has personally encountered a bear near her home and, due to mobility challenges, finds it difficult to pick up garbage herself. Daphne expressed that the current bins are not large enough and suggested exploring other options, such as sheds for garbage storage. She noted that bears are being attracted to both homes and parks, which is a safety concern. She recommended that, until a better solution is in place, the metal bins be brought back.

President McCarthy noted that the Department of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management is in the process of looking at ability to have the current bins properly anchored and/or to have shelters for the bins.

d) Yuułu?iŋ?atḥ Cultural Values and Integration into YG

Citizen Anita Charleson raised the importance of Yuułu?iŋ?atḥ values. She highlighted that Yuułu?iŋ?atḥ are a loving people (as said by late elder Richard Mundy) and touched on the values of yaa?akstaŋ (love one another), hupiistaŋ (help one another) and respect one another (?iisaakstaŋ). She expressed that she didn't appreciate the fear mongering that was happening with respect to the canoe journey. She highlighted, in Jonathan Cross' letter, the interest of the company was put before the interest of the people. She said she worries about what happens when behavior shows that our culture isn't valued.

The Chair summarized that what she was hearing is to ensure that the Government integrates Yuułu?iŋ?atḥ culture and values into the work and ensure that it's reflected in the work. And from the Government and Administrative perspective, there are real legal obligations and liabilities that the Government faces (e.g. tree falling at Wya Point Resort, which the Government was sued and liable for) which have to be considered as well.

Citizen Savannah McCarthy noted that the non-indigenous people she works with stand up to bat for us. As an employee, she always walks into the office with the pride and strength of her ancestors. She believes that our children see how we (adults) react to situations, and that it is important to listen to understand, not listen to react. She stated that she is proud of all of the people who made the decision to move the Nation forward, including past leaders and Jeneva. She reminded everyone that our children are always watching how we speak to and treat one another, and if they are not taught to communicate with respect, they will end up fighting the same battles.

e) Residential Development, Economic Development, Housing Standards

Citizen Gordon Taylor Sr. recognized the Ha'wiih and the importance of acknowledging the hereditary chiefs at every meeting. He noted that we no longer use the talking stick. He acknowledged all the speakers and their questions, recognizing that the Government has to be able to face adversity throughout governance, and tough questions. Additional comments and questions from Gordon included:

- Citizens shouldn't be limited to a 5-minute time limit or a 2–3-hour Assembly.
- Everything he sees on Facebook is a disregard for treaty governance because of the lack of opportunities given to citizens.
- What is our unemployment rate?
- We are getting into residential development, yet we have no economy.
- We're not creating jobs outside of the Government positions.
- What programs are being implemented to benefit citizens?
- We have been struggling for 14 years in the area of economic development.
- We need proper asset management and maintenance for current properties, especially for elders.
- What are we doing as a Nation to ensure citizens are making a living and that entrepreneurs are uplifted?
- Looking for accountability, transparency and proper consultation with community on and off TSL.
- When doing residential development, the Government must consider climate change and earth quake preparedness. What studies were done when this residential development was done? What standards do our homes meet?
- There will be an increase in residential development which means increase in garbage.
- How much has the water volume has increased? How much water consumption has changed due to garbage? What are we paying compared to 5 years ago?
- Are there better ways to deal with garbage and compost? Opportunity for Nation members to deal with this rather than enriching other companies/municipalities.
- Disappointed that three of YG's entities are run by non-natives.
- Doesn't like the letter that Jonathan Cross presented. Citizens shouldn't be restricted to walking down to Wya/Ucluth Beach.
- What happened to the ability to pick seafood, roots and berries?
- Does a citizen have the ability to forward questions to the Chair or CAO?

The Chair encouraged citizens to make list of agenda items in advance so they won't feel rushed for time. The Chair then asked Levana Mastrangelo or Spencer Touchie if they could respond to Gordon regarding his inquiries on studies done for the development, building codes, water volume, and garbage.

Levana deferred to Spencer.

Spencer advised that Onsite Engineering prepared a full geotechnical assessment on the development area. Since 2019, YG has shifted into using core sampling, as

opposed to radioactive sampling, which provides a more accurate read of the ground. When the area was being cleared, YG examined the entire site, and each site has to go through inspections throughout construction process. Spencer explained that in 2019, YG also examined all the roads and parking lots by doing drill tests. The style of building code is step code 4 with an air change level of 1.4, which is one step down from a passive house. To go fully passive, YG would be getting a lower volume of houses.

Spencer also advised that there has been a marginal gain in water usage: 48 cubic meters in 2020 vs. 52 cubic meters in 2025. He noted that there were a lot of energy efficiency upgrades that may have helped this.

f) Nahmint River

Gordon raised the story of the Tyee shooting an elk about five years ago. He asked:

- why only the Tyee was punished when some individuals illegally fished the Nahmint River.
- if the Legislature have acts that deal with illegal fishing or an act that should be put in place.
- for a report back on the health of the Nahmint River from the last six years to date.
- will there be any consequences for the citizens who fished illegally.

The President responded indicating that the elk incident happened under the provincial courts, external from YG. The President has no record of the illegal fishing being report to the lands department. It should have been reported to federal authorities at the time to be dealt with. He noted that YG is in discussions with Tseshaht on on-going fishing issues.

g) Replacing ball field

Tyson Touchie Sr. identified replacing the ball field as a priority. He also offered to speak on behalf of any citizens who have something to say but don't wish to speak.

Levana noted that consultation will be happening in the near future for an updated official community plan, which could be another avenue for discussion on the ball field.

8. Adjournment

The Chair confirmed that the next Assembly will be held in later November, early December. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.