



Yuutu?it?ath

HITACU ASSEMBLY

December 8, 2025 | 6:00pm | Zoom

Meeting Record

Participants

- Chairperson: Shana Thomas
- Citizens: Shanna Mastrangelo, Sheila Touchie, Kimberly Touchie, Jeneva Touchie, Gordon Taylor Sr., Carrie George, Pearl Touchie, Tyson Touchie Sr., Daphne Peter, Anita Charleson
- Members of Legislature: Charles McCarthy, Geraldine Touchie, Gertrude Touchie, Kirk McCarthy, Lorri Touchie, Levana Mastrangelo, Jay Millar, Celena Cook
- Staff: Sunny Dhaliwal, Chief Administrative Officer; Carey Cunneyworth, Director of Culture, Language and Heritage; Spencer Touchie, Director of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management; Peter Wong, Chief Financial Officer; Asya Touchie, Director of Education and Youth; Barney Dohm, Interim Chief Administrative Officer; Jill Hamilton, Law Clerk;

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks

Prayer by Jeneva Touchie. Opening remarks by the President.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion (2025.12.08-01): to adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by Jeneva Touchie. Seconded by Sheila Touchie.

In favour: 2: Opposed: 1. Motion carried.

4. Executive Reports

Executive members provided short updates on their respective portfolios since the last assembly (September 19).

The Chair opened the floor for questions from citizens.

Citizen Tyson Touchie Sr. stated that the meeting should not be considered a hitàcù assembly and described it as unacceptable and disrespectful, noting there was no reason the group could not have convened for a proper meeting. The Chairperson acknowledged the concern and explained that the meeting was held via Zoom because it was the only way the meeting could take place. She stated she was not available to be in the community, and that facilitating the meeting required it to be conducted entirely online. She also noted that all meetings held earlier this year had been conducted in a hybrid format.

Citizen Tyson Touchie Sr. raised a concern that resources are being directed toward the construction of staff offices while some citizens continue to experience housing shortages and overcrowding. Levana responded that the office construction is separate from housing plans and developments, and that grant funding is designated for specific purposes. A 30-unit housing project is expected to begin construction in spring 2026, with a portion of the funding being secured through CMHC. The Director of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management added that maintenance staff have primarily been utilized to prepare the office spaces. It was further noted that a housing announcement and selection process are anticipated soon. For the new housing development, the estimated cost is in the low \$20 million range, with approximately \$8–10 million expected to be covered through grants. Groundbreaking for a larger housing development is targeted for the spring.

Citizen Tyson Touchie asked why YG has not responded to claims being made by neighbouring Nations regarding territorial boundaries. The President responded that there have been a number of ongoing discussions with the Province concerning these matters, noting that similar territorial disputes exist across many areas, including for Nisga'a Lisims Government and throughout Maa-nulth areas. The President further stated that YG has been working collaboratively with Maa-nulth Nations and he is currently serving as a spokesperson with the Province on behalf of MTS regarding these issues. It was emphasized that this is an ongoing matter and that, while actions may not always be visible publicly, work continues to be advanced.

Citizen Jeneva Touchie inquired whether there is a requirement regarding the number of meetings that must be held online versus in person. The Chairperson responded that the legislation states how many meetings we must have per year, but not how many need to be held in person versus virtual. Chairperson agreed in person is ideal.

Citizen Shanna Mastrangelo agreed that meetings should not be held virtually. The Chairperson encouraged interested citizens to come forward if they wish to be considered for the Chairperson role, and advised the Legislature to consider appointing a chair or alternate chair who is more readily available and locally based. The Chairperson also indicated a willingness to mentor an individual into the role.

Gordon Taylor Sr. raised concerns regarding the condition of older homes, referencing a previous house fire in which an insurance investigation determined that required maintenance standards had not been met. He noted that, under CMHC agreements, once a home is paid for, it must be brought up to code before the transaction is approved. He expressed concern that current living conditions in some homes are not appropriate and emphasized the need for a formal maintenance program, particularly for homes built between the 1960s and 1990s. He also raised concerns regarding asbestos and potential health risks. Member Levana Mastrangelo responded that a Housing Working Group will be established and that a list of homes requiring renovations has been developed, with priorities identified. She stated that the homes have been ranked by priority. She further indicated that these comments would be taken under advisement and committed to improving communication with citizens moving forward. The Director of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management responded that the homes referenced, primarily built between the 1960s and 1980s, have been the subject of ongoing negotiations at Self-Governing Indigenous Groups tables with the federal government to secure funding to address historical deficiencies. The Director noted that many of these homes had issues dating back to the time of construction. Cost analyses have been completed, and in 2019 it was estimated that \$20 to \$30 million would be required to bring the homes into good condition. The Nation does not have this type of money available. As a result, efforts have focused on ongoing negotiations, which are contingent on federal government decisions and broader socioeconomic conditions. It was further noted that through GAP funding, efforts have focused on addressing immediate health and safety concerns, including closing building envelopes and repairing leaky roofs. Significant work remains at the federal level to release the necessary funding, and while progress is ongoing, it is not occurring as quickly as hoped.

The new Chief Administrative Officer, Sunny Dhaliwal, introduced himself and briefly shared his hopes for the role and his commitments

Gordon Taylor Sr., referencing earlier remarks regarding territorial boundaries, expressed concern that tribal parks should not encroach upon treaty lands and requested assurance that the tribal parks would not infringe on established boundaries. The President responded that boundary matters are ongoing, complex and frustrating. Similar challenges exist in the Nahmint area, where multiple Nations assert claims, which complicates efforts for YG to secure forest tenure. It was further noted that efforts are underway to identify pre-treaty boundaries,

which is challenging as many individuals with historical knowledge of these boundaries are no longer with us.

Motion (2025.12.08-02): that all hita'cu assemblies be held in person, with an online option, and that the legislature appoint a vice chair to act as chair in the chair's absence.

Moved by Tyson Touchie Sr.. Seconded by Gordon Taylor.
No opposition. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Citizen Anita Touchie added to the boundary discussion, emphasizing the importance of having Ha'wiih present and involved in these discussions, noting that their participation helps with respecting boundaries.

5. Other

a. n/a

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. It was confirmed that the next Assembly is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2026, and will be held in person with a Zoom option.