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Yuutu?it?atḥ

Umacuk YG News

Volume 15, Issue 2 | May 2025

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What's New?

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Events

May 4-10 Emergency Preparedness Week

May 5Legislature Meeting

May 9 Artifacts Open House & BBQ

May 10 ?uukwinkpanač Grand Opening

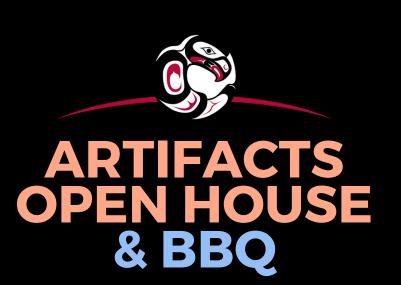
June 16 hitaću Assembly

June 19 Education Celebration

As the spring season unfolds, there are several important updates and announcements to share with the community. This edition of our newsletter highlights critical information regarding bear awareness and the steps we can all take to prevent human-wildlife conflict. In recognition of Emergency Preparedness Week, taking place from May 4 to 10, 2025, we encourage everyone to consider how they can be better prepared for emergencies, both natural and human-made. Additionally, we are pleased to share updates on physician services, including a transition in care providers at the huupatu Health Centre.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Carrie Marshall for her years of dedicated service, and warmly welcome Dr. Blewett to her new role within the community. This edition also features news about upcoming energy-efficient housing developments in hitacu, as well as the appointment of huupkwista?aqs — Asya Touchie as the Director of the Department of huuḥtakšiiḥin?aała (Education & Youth). As a result of this appointment, a by-election will be called to fill her seat in the Legislature. Finally, we invite citizens to join us in celebrating the return of important cultural artifacts through a special open house and community barbecue on May 9, 2025.





Citizens and community members are invited to view newly repatriated artifacts from the Royal BC Museum and enjoy a barbecue lunch.

FRIDAY MAY

MINI BIGHOUSE HITACU
12:00PM



Questions? Email Samantha. Touchie @ufn.ca

Bears and Wildlife

Help Keep Bears and Animals Wild and Our Community Safe

As bear activity increases in the area, we're reminding everyone to do their part in preventing human-wildlife conflict. Once bears become habituated to human food sources—especially garbage—they are no longer candidates for relocation and are often euthanized. This is a tragic but avoidable outcome. Prevention is our best opportunity to keep the community and wildlife safe.

What You Can Do:

Report Sightings Immediately

- Please report any bear encounters directly to the Conservation Officer Service (24/7) at 1-877-952-7277
- Reports are most effective when made by those who witness the incident firsthand.

Reduce Attractants Around Your Home

- Secure garbage: Use locks or carabiners on bins.
- Store waste properly: Build or use outdoor sheds to secure bins.
- Timing matters: Only place bins outside on the morning of collection, not the night before.
- Keep pet food, compost, and other attractants indoors or tightly sealed.

A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

• Even unintentional feeding puts bears—and the community—at risk. Let's work together to keep wildlife wild and our neighborhoods safe.





Puukwinkpanač

WEST COAST PRIMARY CARE INITIATIVE

GRAND OPENING

Saturday

May 10, 2025

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Best Western
Tin Wis Conference
Centre

1119 Pacific Rim Highway
Tofino BC

Emergency Preparedness Week

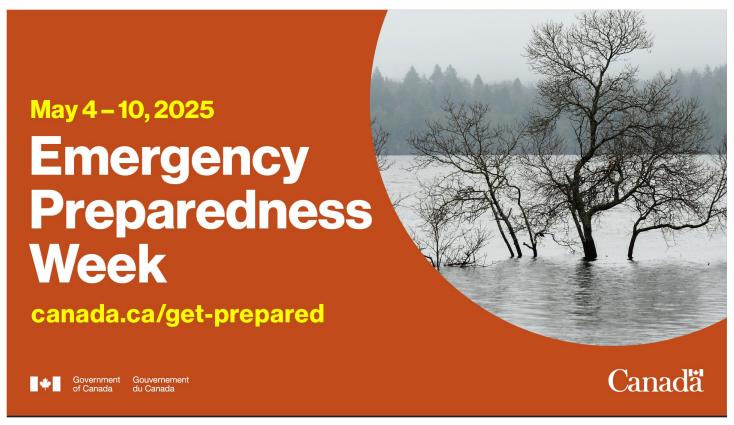
Using Technology During a Disaster

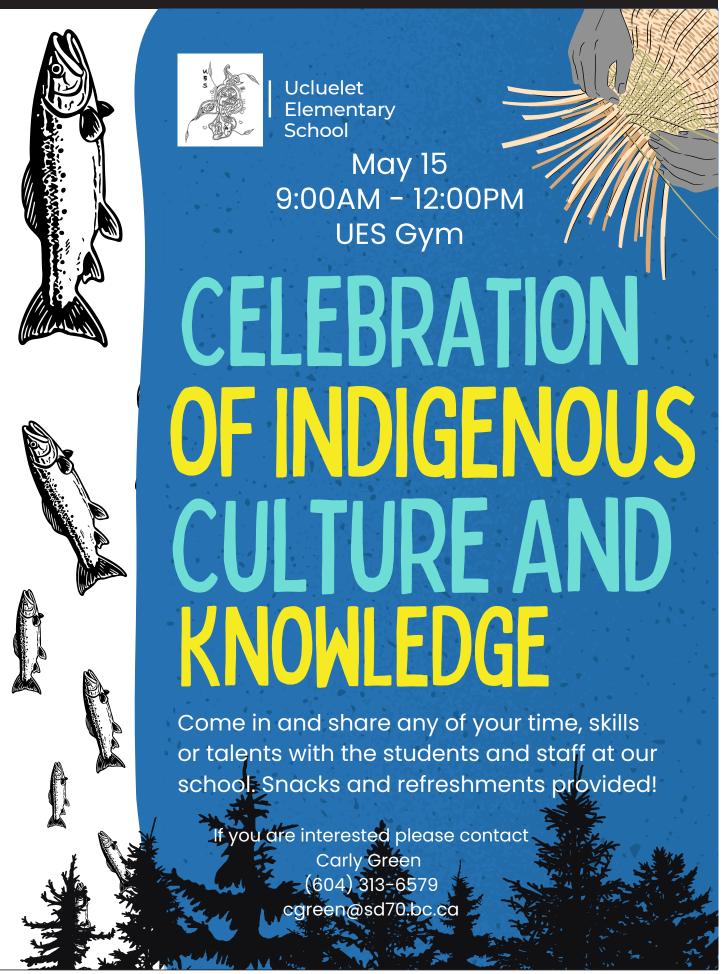
We rely on technology more and more to keep in touch with our family, friends, and colleagues with a click of a button. But what happens in the event of a major emergency? Suddenly these tools can become vital in helping you and your family deal get in touch and stay informed. So here are some tips on the use of technology in an emergency:

- If possible, use non-voice channels like text messaging, email or social media. These use less bandwidth than voice communications and may work even when phone service doesn't
- If you must use a phone, keep your conversation brief and convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family. This will also conserve your phone's battery
- Unable to complete a call? Wait 10 seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion
- Keep a charger for your mobile device in your emergency kit. Consider getting a solar-powered, crank, or vehicle phone charger. If you don't have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card in your emergency kit

- Keep your contacts up to date on your phone, email, and other channels. This will make it easier to reach important contacts, such as friends, family, neighbours, child's school, or insurance agent
- If you have a smartphone, save your safe meeting location(s) on its mapping application
- Conserve your smartphone's battery by reducing the screen's brightness, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using. You never know how long a power outage will last!

Remember, in an emergency or to save a life, call 9-1-1 for help. You cannot currently text 9-1-1. If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. If your area offers 3-1-1 service or another information system, call that number for non-emergencies.





Scam and Fraud Prevention

Ucluelet RCMP host a luncheon to help Elders avoid scams.

Image submited by: Kimberly Touchie

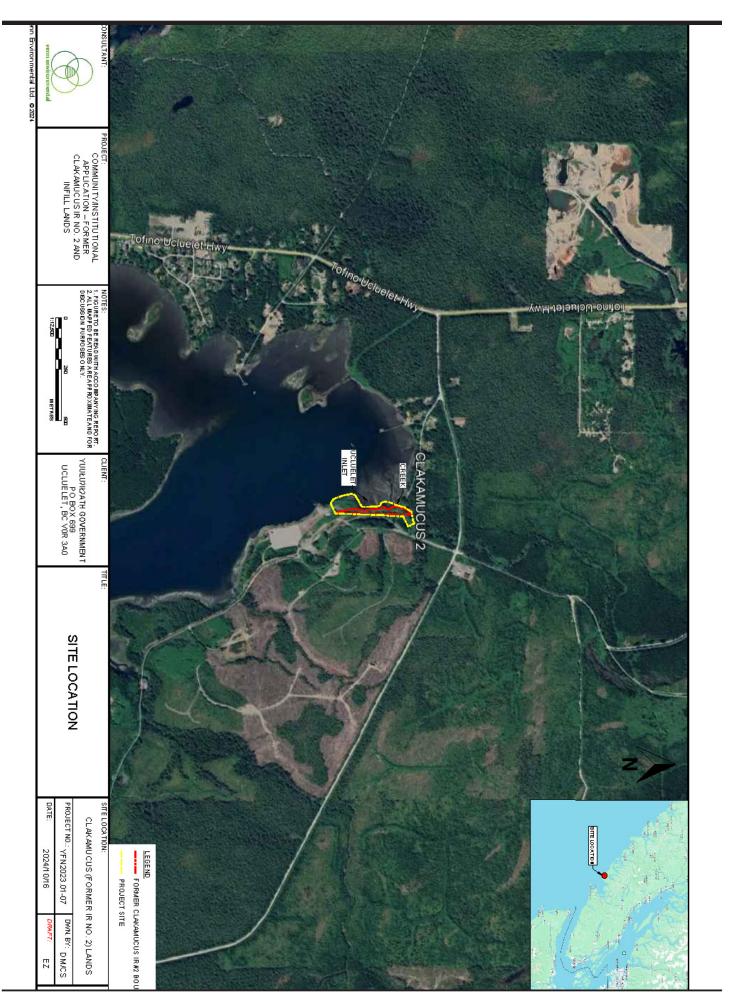


Pictured above: Pearl Touchie, Sheila Touchie, Roberta Jones, Rose Wilson, Donna Jack, Larry Jack, Bernice Touchie, RCMP Cst. Harry, RCMP Sgt. Jones, Jack and Marjorie Touchie.

Scams and fraud can happen to anyone, and knowing how they work is the best way to protect yourself. Criminals use many tactics, like phishing emails, fake online shops, telemarketing scams, and identity theft, to trick people into giving up personal or financial information.

They might promise a prize, offer a fake loan, or pretend to be from a trusted organization to pressure you into acting quickly. Always be cautious when sharing personal details online or over the phone, use strong passwords, and keep your devices secure. If something feels off, trust your instincts and verify the source. Report suspicious activity to your bank, police, or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (1-888-495-8501) right away.

To learn more about internet fraud and scams, visit https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cycp-cpcj/is-si/osf-efel-eng.htm



Lands and Resources

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that the **Ucluelet First Nation** from **Ucluelet, BC**, have applied to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS), for Community and Institutional Land **Use** – situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Unsurveyed Crown Foreshore or land covered by water being part of the bed of Ucluelet Inlet, Clayoquot District, containing .62 hectares, more or less.**

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **Crown Land File #1415676**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/. Alternatively hard

copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship at 142 – 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by WLRS up to May 22nd, 2025. WLRS may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit the website at https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.

2025 Domestic Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) Fish Program

The Yuulu?il?ath Government invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified individuals, businesses, or organizations to bid on the harvest of Halibut and Salmon for the 2025 Domestic Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) Fish Program. This program supports the sustainable and equitable harvest, processing, and distribution of fish for food, social, and ceremonial use within the Yuulu?il?ath community.

Contractor Responsibilities

- Submit bid pricing for each species listed below.
- All fishing must occur within the Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area.
- Fuel and ice costs are the sole responsibility of the Contractor and are not reimbursable.

- Offloads will take place in Ucluelet Inlet at Neptune Ice, unless an alternate site is agreed upon and included in the final contract.
- All contractors are expected to communicate clearly and in a timely manner regarding their departure times and offloading schedules.

Species Available for Bid

Note: Bycatch is to be included with the relevant primary species as indicated. Harvest quantities (*) are subject to change based on in-season assessments in accordance with the Maa-nulth Final Agreement. Preference will be given to Yuułu?ił?atḥ citizens in the evaluation of submitted bids.

Fish Species	Maximum Harvest	Harvest Condition Head Off / Gutted	
Pacific Halibut	9000 <u>lbs</u>		
Bycatch – Rockfish	3400 <u>lbs</u>	Included in Halibut harvest	
Bycatch – Groundfish	2400 <u>lbs</u>	Included in Halibut harvest	
Bycatch – Sablefish	1100 <u>lbs</u>	Included in Halibut harvest	
Sockeye (Somass run)	3200 pcs*	Whole/Gutted	
Chinook (Ocean, Area 123)	800 pcs*	Head On / Gilled / Gutted	
Coho (Ocean, Area 123)	1400 pcs	Head On / Gilled / Gutted	
Chinook (Terminal, Area 23)	500 pcs*	500 pcs* Head On / Gilled / Gutted	
Coho (Terminal, Area 23)	400 pcs*	Head On / Gilled / Gutted	

How to Submit

Interested applicants must complete and submit a written bid using the attached form.

Submissions for one or more species are welcome.

Submit completed EOI form (www.ufn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Food-Fish-Expression-of-Interest-2025-Form.pdf) to Alex Paler, Administrative Coordinator.

Email: Alex.Paler@ufn.ca Closing Date: May 8, 2025



WCPCI is pleased to support the introduction of Dr. Caitlin Blewett

I moved to Ucluelet just a few months ago with my partner, Scott and our almost-five-year-old, Bronwyn. I was born and raised in the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh territory in Vancouver but left the city for the rural life when I moved to Haida Gwaii in 2012. My family and I are so excited to be settling on the West Coast and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Hitacu community as a Family Physician. When I'm not working, you can find me on the beach (usually in the water), or having a cup of tea and knitting.

Community Updates

λeekoo λeekoo Dr. Marshall, and welcome Dr. Blewett!

We have an important update about physician services for our community. As of April 23, 2025, Dr. Blewett will be providing care at the huupatu Health Centre every Wednesday. We are grateful for Dr. Blewett's commitment to supporting our community's health and look forward to welcoming her to this role.

We also wish to inform you that Dr. Carrie Marshall is no longer providing physician services for the hitaċu community. We deeply appreciate Dr. Marshall's dedication to our community and the exceptional care she has offered over the last four years.

We know that many of you share a special relationship with Dr. Marshall as your care provider, and we understand that this is a significant change for the community. Dr. Marshall will continue to see patients at Tonquin Medical Clinic in Tofino on Fridays, and you can connect with her there.

On behalf of the Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Marshall for her service and wish her the very best in her ongoing work. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and supporting your healthcare needs with Dr. Blewett's Wednesday clinics.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Dr. Blewett's services, please contact the huupatu Health Centre at moa@ufn.ca, call (250) 726-7343 or reach out to Chief Administrative Officer Kristine Brown directly at cao@ufn.ca. Feedback is always welcome as we work to keep our community strong and healthy.

New three-bedroom homes coming to hitacu.

Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government is excited to announce the addition of five new three-bedroom, single-family detached homes in hitaċu, set to be completed in the upcoming calendar year. These homes are designed to meet BC Step Code Level 4 standards, which means they use significantly less energy for heating, cooling and other needs. Each new home will feature three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and is a detached structure with its own yard and living space.

Citizens are encouraged to submit housing applications to help us gauge demand. Additionally, please remember to renew your application if it has been a year since submission, as applications expire annually. Fresh applications from everyone will ensure we have the most accurate information on file.

The Westcoast: 1254 sq.ft

If you are in need of housing in hitacu, please fill out your housing application by going to https://www.ufn.ca/forms/

Click on 'Assets and Housing' and selecting 'Housing Application'.



?uucawinyukwin - "We Celebrate!"

Let's celebrate the 2024/2025 students! Join us for dinner, a photo booth, music and fun family time.



Education Celebration

Thursday, June 19, 2025 Cixwatin Centre Gym, hitacu

5:00-7:00 pm



New Staff Highlights

huupk^wista?aqs – Asya Touchie, Director of huuḥtakšiiḥin?aała

The Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government is proud to announce that huupkwista?aqs — Asya Touchie, a Yuułu?ił?atḥ citizen, will be joining the team as the first-ever Director of the newly created Department of huuḥtakšiiḥin?aała (Education & Youth). Asya will begin part-time in May 2025 and transition into the role full-time in July 2025 as she relocates back home to Ucluelet.

Asya is the granddaughter of Edith Brown (Yuułu?ił?aqsup) and Matthew Brown (\(\)aa?uuk\(^{\)i}?at\(\)), and the daughter of Leah Golling (Cree) and Matthew Touchie (Yuułu?ił?at\(\)). She is proud to carry forward the teachings and values of her family as she steps into this new role serving Yuułu?ił?at\(\) youth and families.

Asya brings experience in child and youth care, Indigenous education, and public service. She holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Care with specializations in Indigenous and Child Protection, as well as a Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency – nuučaańuł.

She has been working with post-secondary institutions since 2020, most recently as an Indigenous Program Specialist at the University of Calgary, where she led the development of Indigenous programs and supported Indigenous

students through academic preparation and pathways. She has also worked at Simon Fraser University, where she coordinated academic and cultural programs for Indigenous students.

Previously, Asya served as the Manager of Culture & Heritage and Interim Manager of Social Services with the Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government, overseeing programs related to education, health & wellbeing, social assistance, and language and culture revitalization. Her earlier work as a social worker and family support worker reflects a longstanding commitment to supporting children, youth, and families.

With her new appointment, Asya has announced her resignation from the Legislature and Executive, effective April 30, 2025. We thank her for her dedicated service and are excited to welcome her into this new leadership role.



Image submited by: huupkwista?aqs – Asya Touchie

A message from huupkwista?ags – Asya Touchie:

"Serving in this role has been an incredible honour and a profound responsibility. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated individuals in service of our people and Nation. I look forward to continuing this work in a new way and am excited for what lies ahead."

Please join us in congratulating huupkwista?aqs — Asya Touchie on this next chapter and welcoming her as Director of huuḥtakšiiḥin?aała (Education & Youth).

A by-election will be called to fill the legislature vacancy—please stay tuned for more information.



New Staff Highlights

Welcome to Yuułu?ił?ath Government, Elena Rardon!

Written by: Elena Rardon

Elena Rardon has joined the Yuulu?il?ath Government team as a communications assistant. She will be working out of the hilstiis hupii?ul Satellite Office in Port Alberni, on the unceded traditional territory of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations.

Elena will provide a combination of administrative, communications and event coordination support to the Communications & Community Engagement department, ensuring smooth office operations while assisting in the planning, organization and implementation of Yuułu?ił?atḥ Government communications initiatives, community events and engagement efforts.

Born and raised on the west coast of the United States, Elena moved to Port McNeill on the north end of Vancouver Island with her family as a teenager and immediately fell in love with the island life. She became a Canadian citizen in 2014 and settled in Port Alberni in 2015.

Elena has a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and English from the University of Victoria, but her background is in journalism. She garnered a number of awards during her eight years working for the Alberni Valley News, including the 2023 BC and Yukon Community Newsmedia Association Award (Ma Murray) for arts and culture writing.

"My late dad was a journalist, so growing up I always had an interest in reading and writing," she says. "I didn't expect to become a journalist myself, but I found that I enjoyed the community engagement aspect of the job."

Elena also has experience in photography, graphic design and web design, and is currently in the process of obtaining a post-graduate certificate in Digital Design + Development through North Island College.

But her real passion is for telling stories and making community connections. She is excited to join the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government team, where she will be responsible for communicating with Ucluelet First Nation citizens through social media, newsletters and other publications. She will also assist with planning and organizing of community events.

In her spare time, Elena enjoys reading, working in her garden in Port Alberni and spending time with her cats.

She can be contacted by email at elena.rardon@ufn.ca.

Image by: David Hooper







YUUŁU?IŁ?ATḤ LANGUAGE CLASSES

Are you interested to learn Nuu-chah-nulth language in West Barkley dialect?

Drop-in to an in-person or online language class!

huuḥtakšiiḥaḥ quuquu?aca

I'm learning to speak Nuu-chah-nulth.

In-Person Classes

MONDAY

Port Alberni Beginner Language Class

Bi-weekly on Monday . 6:30pm to 8:30pm Taught by maḥima [Moira Barney] at the hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office.

THURSDAY

hitaću Where Are Your Keys Language Class

Weekly on Thursday . 4:30pm to 6:00pm Taught by Čak^{**}aasiqḥŵiłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Mini-Bighouse. Dinner provided.

WEDNESDAY

hitacu Beginner Language Class

Weekly on Wednesday . 1:00pm to 2:00pm Taught by Čakwaasiqhwilim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Cultural Library.

Virtual Classes

MONDAY & THURSDAY

Advanced Language Class

Weekly on Monday and Thursday . 6:00pm to 7:00pm Taught by λukša [Adam Werle] via Zoom.

Priority to Yuułu?ił?ath citizens. Contact Jeneva.Touchie@ufn.ca for more information.

Sort 'n Go ACRD

Used Oil & Antifreeze Disposal & Recycling

Submitted by: Ingalisa Burns, ACRD

Spring is the time of year when campers, motorcycles and cabriolets come out of hiding to explore and feel the wind on their hubcaps. With this comes a thorough engine check and possibly an oil change to start things off running smoothly. Whatever the reason, oil and antifreeze changes are a part of life and once complete, you are left with filters, messy bottles, waste oil and antifreeze to dispose of. Read on to discover how and where to dispose of these responsibly (and often for free!).

Where do I take used oil, oil filters, antifreeze and their containers?

If you brave doing your own oil or antifreeze changes, you should collect the used oil or antifreeze in separate sealable containers and place the oil filter in a sealed plastic bag. Bring these to one of the following locations for free recycling:

- Method Marine (Tofino)
- Tofino Harbour Authority
- Columbia Fuel (Ucluelet)
- Alberni Valley Sort'nGo Centre (AV Landfill)

Did you know...?

- ...used oil & used antifreeze plastic bottles cannot be placed in regular curbside recycling?
- ...the West Coast Landfill and the Ucluelet Bottle and Recycling Depot do not collect used oil, antifreeze, their bottles or filters?
- ...used oil must be uncontaminated by water or other pollutants in order to be accepted for disposal?

What happens if I spill oil or antifreeze?

Soak up the spill using cat litter, sawdust or other absorbent material. Place these in a plastic bag and dispose of in the garbage.

What happens to collected used oil, oil filters, antifreeze and their containers?

Interchange Recycling is the B.C. not-for-profit recycling program that collects these materials. They re-refine 51% of used oil which is used as new lubricating oil. 10% of antifreeze collected is re-refined and gets a second life. An impressive 95% of oil filters are recycled into metal products including rebar, nails and wire. 100% of oil and antifreeze containers collected by Interchange are recycled and used to manufacture new oil containers, drainage tiles, and parking curbs.

Who pays for Interchange's recycling program?

Interchange's program is funded by its producer members, meaning that producers of engine oil and antifreeze pay an Environmental Handling Fee based on how much product and containers they distribute. Each Interchange member, however, determines if it will recover costs by passing along fees to consumers in the form of an eco-fee at the point of sale. **Drop off at Interchange Recycling facilities is free of charge.** Other receiving facilities may charge a fee.

Does recycling oil and antifreeze really make a difference?

A little oil or antifreeze in the natural environment can do a lot of damage to local ecosystems. Interchange Recycling collects a significant volume of used oil each year — nearly 50 million litres in B.C. in 2023. Participating in their program keeps oil and antifreeze from entering waterways and affecting marine life.

Beyond being an eye-sore, empty bottles laying around the garage are a fire hazard and mixing these containers into food-container recycling contaminates the load of recyclables. 1.7 million kilograms of plastic containers were collected through Interchange Recycling's program in B.C. in 2023.

Thanks for doing your part and getting slick on these best practices for managing oil and antifreeze in our community.

Sort'nGo is the ACRD's waste management program. Email Sort'nGo at sortngo@acrd.bc.ca or call 250-736-7678 (SORT).



hiłstiis hupii?uł YG Services

Yuutu?it?atḥ

May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Sunday
			Michelle Touchie Social Development Coordinator, Citizenship	2	3
					4
5	6	7	8 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator	9	10
					11
with maḥima Amber Severin	Counselling with Amber Severinson 11:00am to 1:00pm	14	15	16	17
					18
19	20	21	Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Jennifer Touchie	23	24
			Educations Services Manager 10:00am to 12:00pm		25
Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	27	Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse	29	30	31