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Yuutu?it?ath

# Umacuk YG News

Volume 15, Issue 3 | June 2025

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

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## Events

### June 16

hitaču Assembly

### June 19

Education Celebration

### June 19-22

Longboard Surf Classic

### June 26

Open house in hitaču

### June 27

Open house in Port Alberni

In this issue, we celebrate Yuutu?it?ath's Grade 12 and post-secondary school graduates. The annual Education Celebration, taking place Thursday, June 19, will be an opportunity to celebrate the 2025 classes and their accomplishments. Join us at the Cixwatin Centre Gym at 5:00pm for dinner, a photo booth, music and family fun.

This edition of our newsletter highlights some changes to Yuutu?it?ath Government's administrative structure, including new department names and the results of the 2025 By-Election for one Member of Legislature. Congratulations to Celena Cook on her election by acclamation.

Just a reminder that the hitaču Assembly is coming up on June 16, and there will be a pair of community gatherings in hitaču and Port Alberni later this month to discuss upcoming housing projects.

Read on for more events, services, and information.

*Cixwatin Centre, huu?atu Centre & hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office*

# CLOSED

**MONDAY, JUNE 23**  
IN LIEU OF  
**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**  
*Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, June 24 at 8:00am*



# HITACU ASSEMBLY

**MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025**

In accordance with Section 4.2 of the Government Act YFNS 2/2011, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the hitacu Assembly has been called for the Monday, June 16, 2025.

Your voice matters! Participate, stay informed, and help shape our community's future.

## HEARTWOOD CATERED DINNER

CIXWATIN CENTRE GYM,  
HITACU  
5:00PM DINNER  
6:00PM ASSEMBLY

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:  
DIAL IN #: 1 (778) 907-2071  
MEETING ID: 837 8389 7910  
PASSCODE: 677098



## WIN A GENERATOR!

Attendees must be present  
to win the generator draw.

# New homes coming to hita'cu

*Join a community gathering and open house about upcoming housing projects.*

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government has been selected to proceed under BC Housing's Indigenous Housing Fund to construct 30 new homes in community. Join us for a community gathering where dinner will be served, and meaningful conversations will be hosted with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government staff and the project team working to bring 30 new homes to hita'cu.

## Event #1:

- Thursday, June 26 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
- Location: 700 Wya Road, hita'cu (Cix'atin Centre gymnasium)
- Dinner will start at 5:00pm, with open house to follow.

## Event #2

- Friday, June 27 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Location: 3203 3rd Avenue, Port Alberni (Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government hitstis hupii'uł Satellite Office)
- Dinner will start at 6:00pm, with open house to follow.

## Here's what you can expect:

- Learn about the BC Housing Indigenous Housing Fund project and current housing projects underway: Explore

our interactive information tables featuring handouts and visual displays of the proposed housing designs and site plan.

- Share your input and ideas: We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas whether shared in discussion or in writing to help ensure the designs and site plan reflect the community's preferences.

Keep an eye out for an upcoming announcement about an online engagement opportunity for those who are unable to attend the in-person events.





# Canoe Journey

LAND CREW, SUPPORT  
BOATS & PADDLERS NEEDED

Weekly Paddle Practices in hita'cu

Yuu'lu'ifath's canoe family is preparing for the 2025 Paddle to Elwha, July 22 to Aug. 8. Support from land crew and support boat crew are necessary to ensure paddler safety and help the journey run smoothly. Urban citizens welcome to join!

**INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE?**

Contact Bryson & Hayden, email: [haymanseitcher@gmail.com](mailto:haymanseitcher@gmail.com)

# Support through dysregulation

*Innovative education conference comes to Cixwatin Centre*

*Written by: Elena Rardon*



*Pictured above: Dr. Vanessa Lapointe leads a discussion at the Cixwatin Centre on April 28, 2025. Image credit: Jennifer Touchie.*

An innovative education conference in hitačú earlier this year brought together teachers, childcare providers and other West Coast community members who explored how to support children impacted by generational trauma.

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government's (YG) Department of Huuhtakšiihinʔaafa (Children and Youth) hosted a gathering at the Cixwatin Centre on Monday, April 28, 2025. The date was a Professional Development Day (Pro-D Day), meaning that schools are closed so that teachers can engage in professional learning activities.

Jennifer Touchie, YG's Manager of Education Services, explained that she wanted to make sure that teachers and childcare providers understand the history of Nuu-chah-nulth people and the connections between grief and trauma. The conference focused on how to support children who are impacted by generational trauma and cultural oppression.

"We've always been people that live off the land, then contact happened," said Touchie. "Contact brought smallpox, then it brought the Indian Act. Then it brought residential schools, Indian hospitals and day schools. That really broke the trust. I wanted to make those connections and figure out how we support those children and parents impacted

by trauma."

The conference used the word "dysregulation" to describe how some children can have difficulty managing their emotions.

"It's when our nervous system isn't connected," Touchie explained. "Our brain is a little frazzled, socially and emotionally. We're disconnected from ourselves and we need to learn how to find those connections."

Discussions were held by Anita Charleson-Touchie, a counsellor and owner of Tiičmis Wellness, and Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. Lapointe has a doctoral degree in child psychology and worked as a psychologist for 20 years before she became a parenting advocate. Charleson-Touchie has a background in Indigenous wellness and Somatic Healing, which explores healing the nervous system from trauma. They both did "an amazing job," said Touchie.

One of the most impactful moments was when Lapointe talked about the concept of The Orchid and the Dandelion, a theory presented by pediatrician and epidemiologist Thomas Boyce. In his book, Boyce talks about how the events and experiences of early childhood are linked to later problems and disorders in life. He draws comparisons between the

“dandelion child,” who thrives in almost any environment, and the “orchid child,” who is more sensitive and needs a supportive environment.

“There may be things going on with the orchid that we don’t understand,” said Touchie. “They may be experiencing grief or trauma and they need to learn how to move through it, how to work through it in their body.”

The conference explored coping strategies for emotional dysregulation. Children can benefit from physical movement, like standing on their tiptoes or rolling up into a ball, said Touchie.

“When our children are upset, emotionally distressed or not happy in their own bodies, we need to learn how we can support them without using our own triggers and our own traumas,” said Touchie. “Whether it’s just sitting with them, hugging them or being with them. It’s important that everyone understands we are all one and we all have emotions and history.”

The overall message of the conference, said Touchie, was making sure that people understood the connection between history and present-day trauma.

“The message was that this did happen, there is a past,” said Touchie. “We have to feel that experience, know the history, understand it and be a part of it. And then we have to figure out how to heal, or we’ll always be dys-regulated.”

The conference included more than 70 participants from Port Alberni and the West Coast. It was a mix of community members, parents, teachers and people who work with children. Touchie said organizing the conference was a “nerve-wracking” experience, but ultimately it all came together in an “amazing” way. Touchie also said she received plenty of good feedback after the conference.

“Now everyone wants another one,” she laughed.

Education conferences like this are common in off-Island communities, or even in Victoria and Nanaimo, said Touchie. But it was important to hold this one in hitaču.

“It was nice to have it home-based and get all the community involved,” she said. “I’m very proud that it all worked out. It was a dream I had, and it all came true for our community.”



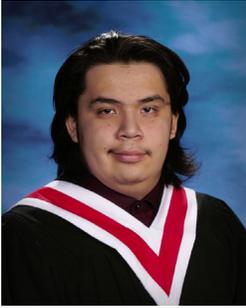
Pictured above: Anita Charleson-Touchie leads a role playing exercise at the Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre on April 28, 2025. Image credit: Jennifer Touchie.

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# Meet the Class of 2025

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*Congratulations to the Yuuḷuʔitʔath high school graduates!*



**Clifford Fregin**  
ADSS



**Rayven Roberts**  
ADSS



**Cydney Gagnon**  
Campbell River

Cydney will attend NIC for University Studies. She eventually plans to study Nursing.



**Janessa Frank**  
USS

Janessa plans to take a gap year and work after graduation. She then plans to attend school to study Anthropology.



**Dallas Louie**  
USS

Dallas plans to attend North Island College to study early childhood education



**Calianna McCarthy**  
USS

Calianna is going to study Music at Camosun College and then continue her studies in Nutrition.



**Lindsay McCarthy**  
USS

Lindsay is attending Vancouver Island University to take the Bachelor of Arts program.



**Nicole McCarthy**  
USS

Nicole plans to attend North Island College to study early childhood education.



**Leon Nelson-Patrick**  
USS

Leon is taking a year to work and then pursuing college and following his love of basketball.



**Adam Randall-Touchie**  
USS

Adam is attending the University of British Columbia in the fall to study visual arts and political science. He is currently undertaking both a language apprenticeship as well as a cooking apprenticeship.



**Darryl Tate**  
USS

Darryl will attend VIU.



**Deagan Thompson**  
USS

Deagan plans to attend VIU in the fall to study general arts and kinesiology.

# Meet the Class of 2025

## A message from graduate Jasmine Freeze:

As an Indigenous person who has personally struggled with addiction and mental health challenges, I have a deep understanding of the barriers our people face when seeking healing. My lived experience has not only shaped who I am, but also fueled a powerful commitment to support others on their own journeys.



vide culturally safe, compassionate and non-judgmental care. I believe deeply in the strength of our traditions, the importance of connection and the healing power of shared stories.

My hope is to help others find their own paths to recovery and wellness. I want to be the support that I once needed. Through outreach, one-on-one support

I set a goal to finish high school—even though I was told it wasn't necessary, I knew it was the right decision for me. Now, my next goal is to apply for the Community Mental Health Worker program at Vancouver Island University. At the same time, I plan to continue supporting individuals and families as a support worker at Kackaamin, where I can apply both my training and lived experience to pro-

and community programs, I aim to help break cycles of trauma and promote healing that is rooted in both culture and care.

This work isn't just a career goal—it's part of my healing journey and a way for me to give back with purpose and heart.

## Congratulations to our other Yuułu?i?ath graduates:

**Daniel Clutesi** completed his Level 2 Carpentry Apprenticeship at VIU.

**Bronwyn Curry** graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Education (French Immersion).

**Marissa Mack** graduated from North Island College with an Early Childhood Care and Education certificate.

**Chiara McCarthy** graduated from VIU with a Bachelor of Education.

**Tyler Sabbas** completed the Housing Support Worker Resource Training program through North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society.

### FISH OFFAL DISPOSAL

Practice ʔiisaak (respect)



**Be mindful of wildlife impacts when disposing of fish offal.**

hitaču residents are asked to please be mindful when returning fish offal (bones, guts, etc.) to the ocean.

Offal left too close to shore takes time to break down and attracts wildlife into the community.

Wildlife like bears or wolves entering hitaču to scavenge for food can lead to human habituation and wildlife conflicts.

**If you wish to return fish cuttings to the ocean, please do so:**

- Below the low tide line
- As far out from shore as possible
- On an outgoing tide

Offal can also be disposed of by freezing fish parts and putting it out on Green Bin collection day.

Report wildlife sightings to WildSafeBC, BC Conservation Officer (RAPP)  
Call: 1-877-952-7277  
Email: pacificrim@wildsafebc.com

**IF YOU SEE OR ENCOUNTER WILDLIFE:**

## SIGN UP FOR THE ONE CALL SYSTEM

### WHAT IS IT?

The **One Call System** allows Yuułu?i?ath citizens to receive Food Fish Distribution alerts via phone!

Distributions can have a quick turnover time due to the receipt of fish, processing, and distribution travel.

### STAY CONNECTED!

Please send your **name, phone number and city** for distribution pick-up to **James.Walton@ufn.ca** so we can update citizen contact information.



Call the Cixʷatin Centre for more information: 250-726-7342

# ʔuucawinyukʷin - "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, hitaču

5:00-7:00 pm





# Harm Reduction Supplies

**huu'atu Health Centre, hita'cu**

**Open Monday to Friday | 8:00am to 4:30pm**

**Harm reduction supplies, safe inhalation and injection supplies and safe sex supplies are available at the huu'atu Health Centre.**

**Community health nurse Rachel Harding, RN, is now able to provide methadone treatment. Anyone curious is invited to book an appointment with her to discuss this treatment.**



**Call reception to book an appointment: (250) 726-7343**

# New department names announced

## Yuutuʔiʔaʔ Government makes administration structure changes

Written by: Elena Rardon

Yuutuʔiʔaʔ Government (YG) is pleased to announce some exciting changes to its administration structure. All YG departments and directors have now been given a Nuu-chah-nulth title.

Members of Legislature enacted the Administration Structure Regulation on April 15, 2025, which established the eight departments within Yuutuʔiʔaʔ Government. They are:

- **Office of ʔaʔaapathsiʔaʔaʔa** (always thinking and making decisions) – the Chief Administrative Office
- **Department of maamaʔtiʔinʔaʔaʔa** (always our many houses) - Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management
- **Department of ʔuuʔaʔukʔiʔaʔaʔa** (always looking after each other) - Health and Social Services
- **Department of huuʔtakʔiiʔinʔaʔaʔa** (we are always learning) - Education and Youth
- **Department of ʔaʔaʔuupaʔakukʔinʔaʔaʔa** (always our teachings) - Culture, Language and Heritage
- **Department of tataanaʔaʔukʔiʔaʔaʔa** (always looking after the money) - Finance
- **Department of ʔatinkinʔaʔaʔa** (we are always connected) - Intergovernmental Affairs
- **Department of nisʔaakukʔinʔaʔaʔa** (always our land) - Lands and Resources

Manager of Language Services Jeneva Touchie worked closely with elder Marge Touchie to come up with Nuu-chah-nulth names and phrases that would match each department. Jeneva explained that she tried to find phrases that match the meanings of the English words, while also making sure the department names would be easy to pronounce.

“Our language is very descriptive,” explained Jeneva. “We used whatever was on the lands. Some of these words, like Intergovernmental Affairs, are not part of our history. So we had to come up with other ways to say them.”

Each department name includes the phrase “ʔaʔaʔa” which means “always.” Jeneva says this reflects the overall goals of the Yuutuʔiʔaʔ Government.

“We do our best to take care of the community all the time, and it was important to share that,” said Jeneva.

The new department names are just one step towards the Yuutuʔiʔaʔ Government incorporating the Nuu-chah-nulth language into all aspects of government and administration.

“It’s going to take us a while to get to that point, but we want to see our language in prominence,” Jeneva said. “One of the things I’m most proud of with Yuutuʔiʔaʔ is that we use our traditional name for our government. We know who we are. It’s important for us to be able to say who we are and where we come from.”

Jeneva says she is grateful for the help of Marge Touchie throughout this project. Marge is one of the nation’s few remaining fluent Nuu-chah-nulth speakers.

“She does such a phenomenal job passing on the language,” said Jeneva. “I appreciate all the work she contributed to this project.”

To hear Jeneva’s pronunciation of these names, visit YG’s YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@uclueletfirstnation8310](http://www.youtube.com/@uclueletfirstnation8310).



**GROW  
CONNECT  
THRIVE**

A 4-Hour Workshop for Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Got a great idea? Ready to take the first step?  
This workshop is built for Indigenous changemakers and aspiring entrepreneurs ready to turn ideas into action!

**Workshop Highlights:**

- Overview of NEDC’s services and funding supports
- Introduction to entrepreneurship (Is this the right path for you?)
- Discussion on entrepreneurial mindset, sacrifices, and potential rewards
- Addressing common myths about business ownership
- Inclusion of real-life success stories from Indigenous entrepreneurs

**Why Attend?**

- Unlock new business potential on Vancouver Island
- Network with Indigenous entrepreneurs and leaders
- Enjoy free lunch + a chance to win a door prize!

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 10am - 2pm**  
Best Western Plus Barclay Hotel, Port Alberni

**Register Now!**  
P: 250-735-8871  
E: [mary@nedc.info](mailto:mary@nedc.info)

**Jennifer Gallic**  
Business Development Officer  
NEDC



huu ay aht  
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



# We're Hiring!

Join our team for the summer!

## CBT INTERN (15-30 YEARS OLD)

This position will provide opportunities to work alongside and be mentored by different team members, learning about and providing support for projects aligned with the candidate's skills and interests. The candidate will have the opportunity to sample various areas (administration, communications, food security, youth empowerment, research & field work as well as library & archive project support) to gain a broader experience, or dive into one with more depth.

- \$21/h
- 30hrs/week
- 8-week internship (flexible start date)



"I am so grateful to have been able to spend my summer working alongside so many incredible people in this beautiful region! I was struck by how well I felt the organization's work and ethos aligned with my own interests."

-Zakur (2014 CBT Summer Intern)



APPLY NOW >



[qrco.de/SummerIntern](http://qrco.de/SummerIntern)

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# By-election results

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Office of the Chief Electoral Officer  
Yuutu?il?ath Government  
8685 Nash Place  
North Saanich BC V8L 4G9

## Notice in Accordance with Yuutu?il?ath Law

### By-Election 2025

### Notice of Acclamation

The following eligible voter was nominated as a candidate for Member of the Legislature. Pursuant to s4.10 of the Election Act, there being only one candidate for the single Legislative seat, the following candidate is declared elected by acclamation.



**Celena Cook**

Ms. Cook's Statement of Motivation is attached.

This notice issued June 11, 2025 by

Kit Spence, Chief Electoral Officer  
Yuutu?il?ath Government

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## CELENA COOK STATEMENT OF MOTIVATION



MY NAME IS CELENA COOK, AND I AM HONORED TO PRESENT MY CANDIDACY FOR LEGISLATURE MEMBER IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION. AS A CITIZEN OF UCLUELET FIRST NATION I HAVE WITNESSED BOTH THE CHALLENGES AND THE POTENTIAL WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. MY DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS HAS COMPELLED ME TO SEEK THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH VARIOUS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ADVOCATING FOR ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES. THESE EXPERIENCES HAVE DEEPEENED MY UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CITIZENS' NEEDS AND FUELED MY DESIRE TO BE A VOICE FOR THOSE OFTEN UNHEARD.

I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND RESIDENTS TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY. I BELIEVE THAT BY FOSTERING OPEN COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP, WE CAN ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT MATTER THE MOST TO OUR CITIZENS.

IN CONCLUSION, I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ELECTION.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY CANDIDACY.  
SINCERELY,

CELENA COOK

★WCS★

UKEE POKE  
POKE BOWL

VANCOUVER LONGBOARD SURF CLASSIC 2025



JUNE 19-22  
WICKANINNISH BEACH



TOURISM  
UCLUELET  
DISCOVERUCLUELET.COM



long beach lodge  
RESORT



HEROLD  
ENGINEERING



indosole.  
RECYCLED FOOTWEAR



PROLIMIT



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



BLACK ROCK



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# Longboard Surf Classic

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## Event Schedule – Wednesday, June 18 to Sunday, June 22

### Wednesday, June 18

- Registration, 2024 Highlight Reel & Live Music: 5:30pm to 9pm at [Ucluelet Brewery](#) (1601 Peninsula Rd). Music from Sharon and Zac.
- Opening song and welcome by Yuuluʔilʔath: 6:30pm

### Thursday, June 19

- Contest is ON!: 8am to 4pm at Wickaninnish Beach
- Live Music and Video of the Day at Frankie's: 6pm to 9pm at [Frankie's Resto-Bar](#) (1576B Imperial Lane).

### Friday, June 20

- Contest is ON!: 8am to 4pm at Wickaninnish Beach
- Traditional dance by Yuuluʔilʔath: Around noon at Wickaninnish Beach
- Live Music and Video of the Day at Howler's: 6pm to 9pm at [Howler's Family Restaurant](#) (1992 Peninsula Rd).

### Saturday, June 21 — Happy Indigenous Peoples Day!

- Contest is ON!: 8am to 4pm at Wickaninnish Beach
- Live Music & Video of the Day at Papi's: 6pm to 9pm at [Papi's Cantina](#) (1627 Peninsula Road Unit C).

### Sunday, June 22

- Contest is ON!: 8am to 4pm at Wickaninnish Beach
- Awards Party: 6pm to 9pm at Ukee Poke / [West Coast Shapes](#) ( 2201 Pacific Rim Hwy)
- Closing song and prayer by Yuuluʔilʔath



# You're invited to our Annual General Meeting!

Thursday | June 19th | 10 am | Zoom

Scan the QR code to register.  
We hope you can join us!



Join us as we reflect on activities from 2024, share highlights from the past year, and present our Annual Report.

- Thursday, June 19th
- 10 a.m.
- Zoom

The agenda will include time for public comments and questions. We hope you can join us. All are welcome to attend!

# hiłstiis hupii?uł YG Services



## June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
2 Meeting Booked 10:00am to 2:00pm	3 Counselling with Amber Severinson 11:00am to 1:00pm	4 Corey Rich Economic Development Officer	5 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator	6 Office Closed	7 8
9 Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	10	11 Meeting Booked 9:30am to 3:30pm	12	13	14 15
16	17 Counselling with Amber Severinson 11:00am to 1:00pm	18	19 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Melissa Hall Human Resources Manager 1:00pm to 4:00pm	20 Michelle Touchie Social Development Coordinator, Citizenship	21 22
23 Indigenous Peoples' Day YG Offices Closed	24	25 Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse	26 Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:00am to 12:00pm	27 Housing Citizen Engagement 5:30pm to 8:30pm	28 29
30 Office Closed					

\*Services offered during regular operating hours of the Yuulu?it?ath Government Satellite hours, 9:00am to 2:00pm and by appointment from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, unless otherwise noted. Operating on the territory of the Tseshaht & Hupačas?ath First Nations.