



HITAĆU ASSEMBLY

June 15, 2026 | 6:00 | Cix^watin Centre Gym, hitaĆu / Zoom

Meeting Record

Participants

Chairperson: Shana Thomas

Members of Legislature: Charles McCarthy (President & Lands and Resources Executive Portfolio); Kirk McCarthy (Education and Youth Executive Portfolio); Jay Millar; Geraldine Touchie (Culture, Language and Heritage Executive Portfolio); Celena Cook; Gertrude Touchie (Health and Social Services Executive Portfolio); Levana Mastrangelo (Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management Executive Portfolio); Lorri Touchie (Finance Executive Portfolio);

Attendees: Trisha Miller; Cindi Clutesi; Karen Severinson; Debbie Touchie; Larry Jack; Donna Jack; Evelyn Louie; Marlene Tomren; Brian Mundy; April Mundy; Joe Thompson; Carrie George; Gordon Taylor Sr.; Marjorie Touchie; Jack Touchie; Khia Little; Kimberly Touchie; Jeneva Touchie; Savannah McCarthy; Kathleen McCarthy; Susan Mundy; Amy Martin; Bryson George; Ethan Joseph; Sheldon Touchie; Ramona Cook; Daphne Peter; Rose Aday; Rose Touchie; Eileen Touchie; Brenda Jack; Kenneth Miller; Sheila Touchie; Pearl Touchie; Jamii Walton; Bernice Touchie; Leo Touchie; Gloria Valentine; Reynold Touchie; Marcus Mundy; Monty Mundy; Breanna Thompson; Dominic Mundy; Levi Touchie; James Walton; Reynold Touchie; Marilyn Touchie; Jennifer Touchie; Nicole McCarthy; Skylene Patrick; Selita Nabose; Abel Jackway; Khia Little; Sheldon Touchie; Justin Jackway; Michelle Corfield, Devon Boucher; Nathaniel Ryan; Syler Mundy; Bree Heron; Dominic McCarthy; Roxanne Touchie;

Staff/Support: Sunny Dhaliwal, Chief Administrative Officer; Asya Touchie, Director of Education and Youth; Ashley Van Acken, Director of Lands and Resources; Judy Ventry, Director of Health and Social Services; Shawnta Plante, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Spencer Touchie, Director of Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management; Jill Hamilton, Executive Assistant; Elena Rardon, Manager of Communications;

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm.

2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks

Prayer by Jeneva Touchie. Opening comments by the President.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Additions: Ha'wiih Advisory Council 5(a); Operating, Holding, and Executive (5b); Health and Social Services and Lands and Resources (5c).

Motion (2026.06.15-01): to adopt the agenda as amended.

Moved by Pearl Touchie. Seconded by Savannah McCarthy.

Opposed: 0. Abstentions: 0. Motion carried.

4. Executive Reports

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

Michelle Corfield acknowledged the 15th anniversary of Yuułu?il?ath exercising its self-governance and reminded the Assembly of the upcoming periodic review, encouraging citizens to identify areas not addressed by the Treaty for future discussion, including examples such as the community forest licence and infrastructure funding.

Gordon Taylor Sr. provided comments on several topics, including:

- Culture and Heritage: Emphasized the importance of recognizing and preserving the story of the wolf and protecting Čumáata.
- Resources: Highlighted the importance of long-term water planning, including monitoring rainfall, snowfall, and future freshwater demand as the District and Yuułu?il?ath continue to grow. He also noted the importance of watershed governance and encouraged continued review of Mercantile Creek and Čumáata.
- DRIPA: Spoke about the importance of building relationships between local businesses, the District of Ucluelet, and the District of Tofino. He encouraged greater dialogue at Truth and Reconciliation tables to improve understanding of the advantages and disadvantages experienced by business owners.
- Protection of burial caves: Asked about additional protective measures, including communication and the potential for a guardianship program to help protect burial sites, including those located in former IRs.
- Youth: Recognized increased youth participation in sports and announced contribution from T-bird E-bikes for free e-bike rentals for youth participating in basketball.

In response:

- President McCarthy reported that work on burial cave protection is ongoing in partnership with Toquaht Nation.
- President McCarthy noted the Nation's long-term water planning initiatives, including ongoing hydrological studies and water security planning. He stressed the importance of YG participating as a decision-making partner in water management discussions and noted that Mercantile Creek has not provided a reliable long-term water source which is why YG has been buying water from the aquifer at the junction.
- Geraldine Touchie advised that there would be metal gates put in front of caves for protection. She also noted the importance of strengthening engagement with citizens living off-TSL and recognized youth who performed at the school graduation ceremony.

Kathleen McCarthy asked about supports and plans available for urban citizens, including health services and assistance for vulnerable community members.

In response:

- Gertrude Touchie noted the ongoing outreach efforts for citizens living away from home, including support for individuals experiencing homelessness and efforts to expand outreach beyond Port Alberni.
- President McCarthy noted that securing sustainable funding for urban supports remains an ongoing priority and continues to be advanced with federal and provincial governments. He advised that YG recently secured direct access to treatment services and emphasized the importance of aftercare in supporting long-term recovery. He also noted that the outreach worker position was established to help address these needs, while acknowledging that funding limitations continue to present challenges.
- Director of Health and Social Services reported that a feasibility study regarding a potential treatment centre is being conducted, and feedback is being gathered from citizens to inform the development of YG's five-year health plan. She also noted that the BC Minister of Health has expressed interest in reviewing YG's vision or proposal for a treatment centre. In addition, recruitment is underway for a Port Alberni Outreach and Justice Worker, and the Reaching Home program has provided valuable support for citizens living away from home.

- Kathleen McCarthy asked whether the Social Assistance Emergency Program (SAEP) policy is publicly available and, if not, whether there is a reason it has not been posted. The Chair confirmed that the Chief Administrative Officer will review the matter and consider making it public.
- Savannah McCarthy expressed appreciation for the work being done to support vulnerable citizens. She emphasized the importance of preventative measures, noting that while many supports are available in hita'cu, off-TSL citizens should also have access to supports.

5. Other

a. Ha'wiih Advisory Council

Gordon Taylor Sr. read a passage regarding the Nuu-chah-nulth System of Governance and commented on the role of the Ha'wiih Advisory Council, including suggestions that the Ha'wiih review laws and provide oversight to support transparency.

In response:

- President McCarthy noted that the Legislature and the Ha'wiih Advisory Council are established in the Constitution. He stated that the elected government should not interfere with hereditary governance and that funding is available to support Ha'wiih meetings.
- Chief Administrative Officer advised that he will be meeting with the hereditary chiefs to discuss how the Administration can support their work.
- Savannah McCarthy emphasized the importance of developing a plan before considering any changes.

Motion (2026.06.15-02): to explore the concept of having the Ha'wiih more active as an oversight body and what it would take to create it.

Moved by Gordon Taylor Sr. Seconded by Donna Jack.

In favour: 6. Abstention: 2. Opposed: 1. Motion carried.

b. Operating, Holding, and Executives

Gordon Taylor Sr. raised concerns regarding the Operating Board's quorum and the potential legal implications of proceeding without proper quorum, including the authority of the CEO of YFN Group of Companies to enter into contracts. Gordon noted that he continues to be directed to submit freedom of information requests. Gordon stated that this highlights the need for a Ha'wiih Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight.

In response:

- Chief Administrative Officer responded that the information being requested is extensive and recognized the need for a more specific request from Gordon and to fill out the required form.
- Chief Administrative Officer also advised that YG is actively reviewing what a new economic development model could look like and citizen input will be sought.

c. Health and Social Services and Lands and Resources

Savannah McCarthy expressed appreciation for the wellness days, including the foot care services offered. She noted the Nation's commitment to supporting Elders through initiatives such as healthy meals and requested more frequent opportunities for Elders to access foot care, particularly to reduce the need to pay for services in Ucluelet.

Savannah McCarthy expressed concern that fishing contracts have been given to non-First Nations and non-citizens. She expressed disappointment that leadership has denied opportunities to citizens. Savannah recommended establishing a fishing mentorship program to help transfer fishing knowledge to citizens.

Gertrude Touchie added that there are a lot of other fishing contracts that are available, including for Tla'amin and in Port Alberni.

6. Adjournment

The Chair advised that the Annual General Assembly will take place on September 18 and will be held in person with a Zoom option.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.