Yuutu?it?ath

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 18, 2026 | 6:00 | Cixʷatin Centre Gym, hitaċu / Zoom

Meeting Record

Attendance: A separate attendance list was maintained for citizens and staff who attended the meeting.

Members of the Legislature Present:

- Chuck McCarthy, President / Lands and Resources Portfolio
- Geraldine Touchie, Culture, Language and Heritage Portfolio (Zoom)
- Gertrude Touchie, Health and Social Services Portfolio
- Jay Millar, Ha'wiih Representative
- Kirk McCarthy, Education and Youth Portfolio (Zoom)
- Levana Mastrangelo, Capital Infrastructure and Asset Management Portfolio
- Lorri Touchie, Finance Portfolio (Zoom)

1. Call to order

   Meeting called to order at 6:08pm.

2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks

   Prayer by Kimberly Baines. Opening comments by the President.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

   Additions:

   - Cultural Sensitivity and Acknowledgement of Good Things
   - Ha'wiih Advisory Council
   - Economic Development and Operating Board
   - Format for next hitacu Assembly
   - Update on ball field

   Motion (2026.09.18-01): to adopt the agenda as amended.
   Moved by Gordon Taylor. Seconded By Yanny Poilievre.
   No opposition. Motion carried.

4. Annual Report 2025-2026

a. Presentation of Audited Annual Financial Statements

Auditor, Daniel Healey from KPMG, presented the audit findings report. The Chief Financial Officer provided additional comments. No questions or comments were asked by citizens.

b. Presentation of Department Services Reports

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Sunny Dhaliwal, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights of the 2025/2026 Annual Report.

Citizen Joe Thompson inquired whether 4- to 5- bedroom units would be available to accommodate larger families.

The CAO acknowledged the importance of this consideration and advised that it would be taken into account in planning future developments, while balancing the need for appropriate accommodation with the goal of keeping rent low.

Citizen Stuart Patrick Jr., who lives in the interior, spoke about the challenges he faces due to a lack of medical coverage. He shared that he has been applying for housing for years in hopes of bringing his family home. He expressed hope that it will become easier for people who wish to return home.

The CAO responded that clear direction has been given to prioritize bringing citizens home and emphasized the need to address housing challenges. The CAO noted that a separate Housing Department is being established to better reflect the importance of this function. The current organizational structure, with only one Housing Coordinator, does not adequately align with the significance of the housing portfolio. With a dedicated department and additional staff, the goal is to make further progress on housing initiatives. The CAO also advised that the subdivision would be extended to provide additional housing options for citizens, including potential residential lots. In addition, approximately 450 acres of land on Port Albion Road had recently been purchased, and a master plan will be developed for the property, which could include future housing options.

Director of Health and Social Services, Judy Ventry, responded to Stuart's concerns regarding medical coverage, advising that the department could assist him in renewing his status if it had lapsed. She also offered support in navigating any other challenges he may be experiencing.

Citizen Jeneva Touchie noted the increase in hiring and asked whether a cap would be considered, expressing concerns about the sustainability of continued growth in staffing. She also suggested that everyone wear name tags.

The CAO responded that he had made the same observation when he moved into the role, as the staff-to-citizen ratio seemed quite high. However, he discovered that many employees provide direct services to citizens, which is one reason for the higher numbers. The CAO stated that he does not have a cap in mind but is acutely aware of the need to keep staffing levels sustainable. At the same time, he recognizes the need for more staff to support important initiatives. For example, the new Economic Development and Housing Departments will require additional staff. The alternative would be for someone to take on this work alongside their existing responsibilities. The CAO noted that it is a fine balancing act between meeting citizens' needs and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Citizen Anita Touchie reflected on the challenges of the organization growing quickly and YG hiring a large number of non-Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ employees. She clarified that her comments were not intended to disrespect non-Indigenous employees, but to emphasize the importance of actively recruiting and supporting Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens for roles within their own Nation. Anita questioned whether YG is truly meeting its equity goals and cautioned against becoming complacent or treating Indigenous hiring as a checkbox exercise. She emphasized the need for active effort and deeper outreach to recruit Indigenous professionals, recognizing that systemic barriers can prevent Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens from accessing these opportunities. She noted that, as a self-governing Nation, there is a unique opportunity to operate in a way that reflects Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ values, worldview, identity, and practices. She expressed concern that the voices of Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens could be lost if these perspectives are not reflected in the organization.

Citizen Gordon Taylor Sr. raised the importance of housing for Elders and ensuring that homes are properly renovated. He noted that a house should not simply be renovated and have a heat pump installed without being properly audited. He expressed that he would like to see better improvements in how Elders are cared for.

Citizen Savannah McCarthy added to the discussion regarding non-Indigenous staff. She noted that progress and education are important in preparing citizens to step into director-level roles. She acknowledged that some non-Indigenous colleagues she has worked with recognize that they are holding these positions until a citizen is ready to assume the role and actively seek guidance. She emphasized the importance of uplifting Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens and acknowledged the progress being made. She expressed appreciation for the Executive's commitment to long-term goals, including the establishment of the Education Department to ensure children do not fall through the cracks.

The CAO acknowledged the significant responsibility he holds in making hiring decisions, noting the need to balance merit-based hiring with supporting citizens to prepare for and access these positions. He advised that he has worked with an HR consultant to develop a plan to support citizens who are not yet ready to step into

these roles. He will continue working with the HR team and directors to advance this work. As an example, the CAO noted that he has ongoing conversations with his direct reports about succession planning and leadership development. He stated that it would be a very happy day for him when he leaves his position and someone from the community is ready to take his place.

The President added that, thinking back to pre-treaty, the push was to ensure citizens received the education they needed to fill these jobs. The government is still in its infancy, and there are laws that must be followed, including those that prohibit discrimination. The President noted that the Education Department was established to ensure citizens do not fall through the cracks, from preschool through post-secondary education. Leadership can create opportunities, but citizens cannot be forced to take a certain path. One option being explored is providing a living wage while citizens attend school, potentially through a student loan arrangement that includes a commitment to return to work for the Nation. In terms of hiring, the President noted that there are a couple of requests with the federal government related to language and land stewardship. Funding was received for full-time equivalent (FTE) positions over the next 10 years. It is important to ensure citizens have the opportunity to grow into these positions. The President highlighted that there were many graduates last year, including citizens who received their Early Childhood Education qualifications, and noted the improvements in quality of life for those individuals. The Nation is also working to increase outreach and identify gaps.

5. Other

   a. Cultural Sensitivity and Acknowledgement of Good Things

   Citizen Anita Touchie acknowledged the Daycare, and the Culture, Language and Heritage Department. She noted that the canoe journey experience and the support provided by the Nation were amazing. She also thanked the CAO and the team for organizing the community clean-up and noted the positive impact it has on how people feel. Anita suggested that all staff would benefit from cultural sensitivity training to better understand the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ worldview, values, beliefs and practices. She noted that this understanding would strengthen the services provided to the community. She emphasized the importance of keeping Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ identity at the centre of everything the Nation does. She suggested that Administration consider implementing cultural sensitivity training for all staff.

   The CAO committed to arranging cultural sensitivity training for all staff as soon as possible.

b. Ha’wiih Advisory Council

Citizen Gordon Taylor Sr., who sits on the ha’wiih Advisory Council for KCFN, raised concerns he had previously brought forward at the last Assembly regarding the lack of a budget for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ ha’wiih Advisory Council (HAC). He stated that this is disrespectful to the ha’wiih. He reflected on how much control the ha’wiih have lost and emphasized the need to start respecting what has been removed from the ḥaḥuułi. He noted that the chiefs no longer receive compensation as they used to, especially given the extraction of resources within the territory, and asked that the Nation reconsider how the ha’wiih are treated and compensated. He thinks it’s important that the ha’wiih be acknowledged at the start of meetings.

The President responded that the Nation had an opportunity to participate in the community forest but did not. YG now watches its neighbours extract resources within its territory. He noted that forestry is not as profitable but there is an undercut in the Nahmint. Obtaining a wood allocation or identifying a cut block within the territory is challenging due to overlapping territorial issues. Previously, many of our people were involved in extracting resources from our territory. The President noted that, as part of the specific claims process, companies operating at the time were extracting resources from the territory and shorting YG. This was part of the recent settlement. Regarding the HAC budget, the President stated that a budget is in place, although it may be small at this time, and support is available if the HAC needs it. He noted that it is not YG’s role to tell the HAC when to meet. A meeting was held in June, and bi-monthly meetings will take place going forward. These important discussions can also take place during the next budget process. The President noted that Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ does not have the same structure as KCFN. He stressed the importance of being able to change the Constitution, noting that changing the governance structure is not a simple process.

Citizen Savannah McCarthy thanked Gordon for sharing his thoughts and noted the importance of acknowledging the ha’wiih. She shared her understanding of the role of a ha’wiih, emphasizing humility and service to the people. She noted that she has not seen the ha’wiih stand up or ask for more money. She stated that she does not see the Nation making money from its resources, as the President had mentioned. She views the role of the ha’wiih as being generous to the people. This generosity spreads among the people, and she emphasized that money is not the only way wealth is distributed.

c. Economic Development and Operating Board

Gordon Taylor Sr. raised concerns about the Economic Development Act. He stated that he feels that, under the Constitution, citizens should be given opportunities as entrepreneurs. He raised concerns about having only two members on the Operating board. He noted that when Howlers Restaurant previously rented at the Junction property, Howlers wanted to transfer the lease to him, but the CEO of the group of businesses declined the request. Gordon also submitted a $3 million offer for Wya Point Resort, which was declined. He stated that no reason was provided for the decision and that it is challenging as an entrepreneur to be denied opportunities without an explanation. He asked why the Economic Development Act does not apply to non-Indigenous companies operating on TSL. Gordon announced that his company intends to submit a land disposition application for Wya Point and the Junction property. He noted that Wya Point Resort does not have a head lease. He also stated that current leaseholders are required to submit business plans annually and questioned why opportunities are not publicly posted to allow citizens the opportunity to submit business plans.

The CAO acknowledged Gordon's comments and agreed that there is very limited own-source revenue and that few citizens are engaged in business opportunities. The CAO stated that this is why the Nation is establishing its own Economic Development Department. The CAO also encouraged any citizens interested in serving on the Operating Board to put their names forward.

The President confirmed that the Operating Board operates within the law and consists of a simple majority. The President expressed concern that Gordon's $3 million offer for Wya Point Resort did not disclose a partnership, which could expose the Resort to outside influence by a third party. The President acknowledged that Wya Point Resort does not have a head lease but stated that the Nation is identifying what that process would look like. He explained that decisions are based on a number of contributing factors.

d. Format for next hitaċu Assembly

Tyson Touchie Sr. expressed concern about the level of community participation, noting that approximately 50 people were in attendance. He noted that other formats, such as breaking into smaller groups to discuss specific topics, had been used previously and expressed concern that the current format may not be effective in preparation for the upcoming election. He emphasized the need to create opportunities for citizens to identify what it means to be Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ and to discuss the community's most important values.

The CAO agreed that the direction of the next Administration should be guided by citizens. He committed that, between now and the next election, YG would create

opportunities for public input to inform the development of strategic plans that will guide the next Administration. He noted that, while provincial politicians typically engage with citizens to inform their election platforms, Yuułu?ił?ath̓'s smaller community provides additional opportunities to gather public input. The CAO advised that he and his team will explore other avenues for consultation to gather input from citizens to inform a high-level strategic plan for the next 4 years, for the new leadership to formalize.

Citizen Yanny Poilievre suggested that if we want to see more citizens who live off-TSL in attendance, we should incentivize them. We have to broaden our idea of community.

Chairperson confirmed that we do include citizens attending virtually in the prize draws.

Citizen Somer McCarthy, is an outreach worker, and noted it would be beneficial to go into Vancouver and other places and bring our citizens back here.

e. Update on Ball Field

The Chairperson provided background information, noting that the item had previously been raised in relation to the development of a ball field. At that time, the response was that YG was developing an Official Community Plan (OCP) and that community engagement would take place through that process.

Tyson Touchie Sr. explained that the area where the Sixplex is currently located was formerly a ball field developed by community members. He shared that he grew up playing on the field and that elder Jack Touchie had also played there. He noted that when the field was built upon, a replacement was promised. He expressed frustration that the ball field project was being referred to the OCP process, stating that he did not feel this was necessary. He noted that, to his understanding, the ball field was listed as the second priority in the original OCP. He offered to donate his time and noted that programs are available to train community members in operating heavy equipment. He stated that the project should be approved in the budget and move forward, as it was long overdue and predated the Treaty.

The President noted that the OCP is intended to lay out growth for the next 20–30 years. He acknowledged the frustration but explained that the OCP is one of the requirements that needs to be completed. He had hoped to have the new OCP completed before the end of the current term but noted that it is a long process. He said we might be able to reach out to Assets and Lands Departments and see about moving things forward, but citizen input is still important.

6. Adjournment

The Chairperson noted that the next Assembly is tentatively scheduled to take place on December 7 and will be held in person with a Zoom option.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.