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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 8 | August 2026

www.ufn.ca

What's New?

Page 1
In This Issue

Page 3
Canoe Journey

Page 6
Health & Wellness Survey

Page 9
Elders Luncheon

Page 11
OCP Update

Page 13
ESS Training

Page 15
New Staff Highlights

Events

September 7
YG Offices Closed

September 8
YG Offices Re-Open

September 14
Naa?uuwitasin ha?uk ("We're going to eat together") in Port Alberni

September 18
hitaču Annual General Assembly

September 18-20
Yuutu?it?ath Day Celebration

September 21
YG Offices Closed

In this issue, we have coverage from this year's Canoe Journey, a link to a new Health and Wellness Planning survey, and photos from a couple of events hosted in hitaču over the last two months.

Yuutu?it?ath Day celebrations are quickly approaching! We're inviting citizen artists, makers, and fundraisers to share their talents, creations, and community initiatives during the weekend events. Find the Vendor and Fundraiser application form on our website at www.ufn.ca/forms.

The Host Allowance Form and Travel Request Form for Yuutu?it?ath Day weekend can be found in this issue, on Pages 16 and 17. The forms are also available on our website at www.ufn.ca/forms.

Please note, Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closed on **Monday, September 7** for Labour Day. Offices will re-open on **Tuesday, September 8** for normal hours.

Read on for more events, services, and information.





SCHOOL SUPPLIES 2026/2027

For Yuułu?it?ath Students attending school in September, below is important information regarding school supplies for the 2026/2027 school year.



UCLUELET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (UES) & WICKANINNISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- Supplies will be ordered and delivered to the schools directly, for September.

UCLUELET SECONDARY SCHOOL (USS) & URBAN STUDENTS

- Students can now apply for the **YG School Supplies Subsidy**

The online application can be found at ufn.ca;

- Select Forms
- Select Education Forms - *School Supplies Subsidy Application*

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

BY FAX OR EMAIL:

- **250-726-7552** or education@ufn.ca

OR DROP OFF IN PERSON TO:

- **Cix^watin Centre** or **hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office**

Apply as soon as possible to avoid delays in receiving funding.

Canoe Journey to Beecher Bay

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ canoe team celebrates a successful journey

Written by: Elena Rardon

Photos by: Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government staff

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ crew has returned to hitaču after a successful Canoe Journey to Beecher Bay.

Because of the unrest in the United States this year, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government supported a shorter voyage ending at Beecher Bay, instead of the full journey to Nisqually in Washington State.

Although a few Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens have joined other canoe crews for previous paddles, this was Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ's first time participating in the journey as a nation in approximately 30 years.

"It really was our rookie season," joked Tyson Touchie Sr., Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government's Cultural Coordinator and a skipper on the journey. "For a lot of us, it was our first one."

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ pullers worked hard to prepare for the journey. They held twice a week practices in the harbour, and a few pullers took an additional skipper training class. Each puller had to participate in at least one capsizing training session, where they tipped over the canoe on purpose and practiced righting it. The crew wanted to be prepared for the "worst-case scenario," said Touchie.

"Our team was really well-prepared and well-equipped," said Touchie. "The crew put in the time to build up the muscle and balance."

The canoe pullers weren't the only ones who took part in the journey. The journey also included the support boat ḥakum, captained by Savannah McCarthy and James Walton. Additionally, a land crew travelled in trucks and helped to set up campsites at each stop. This included Edward Mack, Jay Millar, Celena Cook, Lindsay McCarthy, and Wilson Jack.

Touchie says the crew called their camps "little hitaču" throughout the journey.

"They provided a home away from home for us," said



Touchie. "In every community we visited, we felt like we had our own village."

On the first day of the journey, the crew departed from the hitaču dock in thick fog.

"We thought we might have to postpone," admitted Touchie. "But the crew on the ḥakum was able to help us navigate. A lot of the community came out to see us off, and that was really touching."

He recalls the moment they passed Čučaa (George Fraser Island), and realized it was the farthest most of them had ever paddled.

"One of the strongest things about our crew, their spir-



its stayed up all the time,” said Touchie. “We were in bigger swells, bigger wind than we were used to. And it was foggy. It was really tough, but everyone pulled together and I’m really proud of them.”

The crew spent two nights in Pacheena Bay due to rough weather. The next part of the trip involved travelling through the Nitinat Narrows, which can be a dangerous place to canoe. To their surprise, the water was completely flat.

“It was a piece of cake!” Touchie laughed.

Stopping in Nitinat was a bit of a homecoming, said Touchie, as many of the crew had roots in that community.

“One of the biggest lessons we learned is that you sometimes have to go without,” said Touchie. “You might not get a shower. But we were never without food. Everywhere we stopped, we were fed so well. When you’ve been paddling all day, you sometimes have two or three helpings.”

The crew travelled through another fog bank to get out of Nitinat. Next up was the pull from Pachena to

Sooke, which is the longest portion of the trip. However, Touchie says this was also the easiest portion of the trip.

“We had no fog, no wind in our faces,” he said. “We even saw some whales. That pull was the first time we got some sun.”

Sooke to Beecher Bay started with about a kilometre of kelp bed. Sooke’s escort boat broke down, so they ended up paddling with Ucluelet.

“We exchanged songs the whole way,” said Touchie. “At the end of the journey, we all jumped out of the chaputs and into the water. It was a fitting way to end our journey.”

It was important to carry Yuulupit’ath culture throughout the journey, said Touchie. During every landing, the canoe crew would start their protocol with a chant from Ethan Joseph. At every stop, they performed together as a culture group.

“All of our host communities really treated us well,” said Touchie. “I couldn’t help but feel gratitude. They really hosted us when we were hurting.”

The performance on their last night in Beecher Bay was “so heartfelt,” said Touchie, and they got a lot of their hosts and other guests involved.

“When we finished that song, that’s when we felt like [the journey] was over,” he said. “By the time we were finished, I was so done—physically, mentally, and spiritually. It was only seven days, but it felt longer. But it was an amazing trip.”

One of the best parts of the journey, said Touchie, was being able to travel with younger citizens, forming a mentorship and role modelling practice along the way.

“We’re showing that we do have that continuity,” Touchie explained. “Our culture is going to keep going.”

Touchie encourages people who are interested to come out and try a paddle. Although the journey is over for this year, canoe practices will take place every Thursday in hitaču. To get involved, contact Tyson.touchie.sr@ufn.ca.



YUULU?IL?ATH GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLANNING ENGAGEMENT SURVEY



SHARE YOUR VOICE!



Yuulu?il?ath Government is seeking citizen engagement for health and wellness planning.

- Our goal is to develop a Health & Wellness Plan that will capture what you would like to see for health and wellness throughout all generations.
- Additionally, we are looking for your input on Addiction Recovery to explore the feasibility of building Treatment and Aftercare programs, infrastructure and supports for citizens within Treaty Settlement Lands.

**EVERY SURVEY FILLED WILL BE ENTERED
FOR A PRIZE DRAW!**

Questions? Contact cara@cwelcwelt.com

Health and Wellness Planning

Department of ʔuuʔatukʷiçʔaʔa seeks citizen feedback

The Department of ʔuuʔatukʷiçʔaʔa (Health and Social Services) is seeking citizen feedback for Health and Wellness Planning.

The Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government has hired an external planner, Cara Basil, to support the planning process. Throughout June 22-23, engagement started at the Health and Wellness Fair in hitaču. Citizens had the opportunity to visit the health planning booth, share feedback and complete a survey.

The purpose of these engagements is to hear what citizens would like to see for health and wellness services and programs for all generations. We are also seeking feedback on Addictions Recovery to understand current barriers, needs, and to envision a Treatment and Recovery Model

within Treaty Settlement Lands. Our goal is to ensure we capture as many voices as possible so that health and wellness programs and services meet the needs of all citizens.

The majority of respondents so far (83 percent) have said they would like to see an addiction recovery program closer to home. Approximately 91 percent of respondents have said that it is urgent to have an aftercare program.

We will be coordinating an urban engagement at the satellite office in Port Alberni this fall. Prior to our next engagement, we hope that citizens will complete the online survey.

Please reach out to Cara at cara@cwelcwelt.com if you have any questions.



Calling All Yuuʔuʔiʔath Artists, Makers, and Fundraisers!

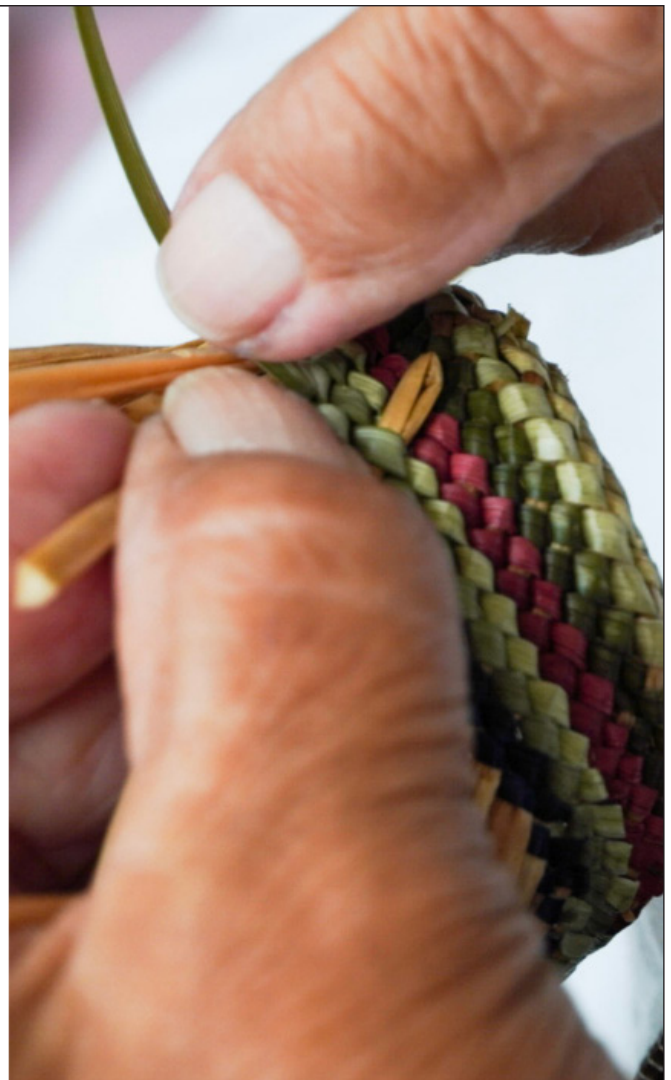
We're inviting Yuuʔuʔiʔath citizens to share their talents, creations, and community initiatives during Yuuʔuʔiʔath Day weekend.

DETAILS:

- Event will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at the Cixʷatin Centre in hitaču.
- This opportunity is open to Yuuʔuʔiʔath citizens only. Tables will be assigned to approved applicants, with a limit of 1 table per person.
- To secure your table, submit your application by September 1. There are a limited number of spaces available.

TO APPLY:

Fill out the Yuuʔuʔiʔath Day Vendor/Fundraising Application Form on our website: www.ufn.ca/forms



YUULU?IL?ATH DAY WEEKEND!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18 TO
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21**

*K^wisitit is will be closed to the
public and open to citizens from
September 16-25!*



**FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY:
CIX^wATIN CENTRE**
700 Wya Road
hitaçu

**SUNDAY:
K^wISITIS**

485 Wick Road
Pacific Rim National
Park Reserve

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Cixwatin Centre Reception
Call: (250) 726-7342 Dial 1 or 0
Email: Reception@ufn.ca

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

9:00am - 4:00pm Harbour Tours on
ḥakum

Sign-up info to follow!

5:00pm - 6:00pm Dinner
6:00pm hitaçu Assembly

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast

9:00am - 9:15am Prayer and Flag
Raising

9:15am - 4:00pm Cixwatin Activities

*Bouncy castle, photo booth, face
painting, Treaty information booth,
Citizen market tables, and more!*

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
4:00pm - 6:30pm Culture Group
Dinner
Closing Comments
Door Prizes and
Gifts

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

10:00am - 7:00pm Gather at K^wisitit

11:00am - 1:00pm Lunch
12:00pm - 4:00pm Traditional Beach
Games
4:00pm - 7:00pm Dinner

MONDAY, SEPT. 21

All Day Yuulu?il?ath Government
Offices Closed

Elders Lunch in the Garden

Saasin Čačimḥiyap Community Garden hosts health event

For this month's Elders Health Luncheon, the team at the Saasin Čačimḥiyap Community Garden planned something a little special.

Zoe, Bree, and Sheldon prepared a lunch in the garden for the Elders. Bree was eager to learn how to make focaccia, so Zoe taught her, and together they made fresh focaccia bread that was used for salmon sandwiches, along with several other dishes made with ingredients harvested directly from the garden.

Bree also dehydrated herbs and flowers from the garden, and Elders had the opportunity to create their own take-home tea bags. It was a great afternoon in the garden!

Elders Health Luncheons usually take place on the second Wednesday of each month at the Sixplex Common Area. This is a luncheon for Elders (age 60+) to discuss health updates and health education. For more information, contact nicole.burtini@ufn.ca.



Yuutu?it?ath Day 2026 TRAVEL REQUEST AND HOST ALLOWANCE FORMS

APPLY NOW!

www.ufn.ca > Forms > Yuutu?it?ath Day 2026



Committee Vacancy

**Interested to get involved?
Join a Committee for the Yuułu?ił?ath Government!**

We encourage all interested to apply or submit a letter of interest.



We are looking for individuals to join our Treaty Implementation Committee

- The Treaty Implementation Committee provides information to the Legislature regarding Yuułu?ił?ath Government's rights and obligations under the Maa-nulth Treaty, including fulfillment of those obligations.
- The appointment will run until the first meeting of the Legislature following the next regular election (May 2027), with the possibility of reappointment.
- The Committee meets periodically as required.

Send your application or interest to:

Jill.Hamilton@ufn.ca

ufn.ca > [government](#) > [committees](#)



Yuułu?it?ath Government OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

AUGUST 2026 UPDATE

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The UFN Official Community Plan (OCP) update is progressing well. To date, we have completed a background review, engaged with leadership, staff, and community members, and drafted the OCP foundations, including a vision statement, guiding principles, and a detailed Table of Contents. We thank the community for the feedback provided thus far, which has been very valuable for the team.

WHAT'S NEXT

The project team is now preparing for the next phase of community engagement in fall 2026, which will include a deeper exploration of key topics that will shape the OCP, including housing, economic development, land and climate, culture, and governance. Dates for these in-person discussions will be shared as soon as possible. Several surveys are expected to be published as well to gather feedback and input on specific topics.

SURVEY

The initial survey is now closed and will be followed up with more detailed surveys on several topics in the fall. In the meantime, you can submit comments or concerns to ocp@ufn.ca.





YOUTH GROUP

AGES 15-18

DATES: 12:00 - 2:00 (Out trips may run longer)

August 6th: Meet at Huupatu for snacks and board games.

August 13th: Out Trip to get Ice Cream at Ukee Scoops

August 20th: Meet at Huupatu for snacks and board games.

August 27th: Out Trip to Tofino Skate Park, Basketball Court. Lunch included!

September 3rd: Meet at Huupatu for snacks and board games.



WITH JAYDA AND NICOLE

**For More Information
Contact:**

Jayda.konnala@ufn.ca and Nicole.burtini@ufn.ca



Emergency Support Services

Yuutu?it?ath Government staff train for emergencies

Last month, Yuutu?it?ath Government staff had a chance to train for a disaster scenario with help from Holistic Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Staff and community partners opened up the SeaCans in the Public Works Yard and practiced setting up the government's emergency equipment for the first time.

This hands-on training session was an opportunity for staff and volunteers to become familiar with disaster response equipment and practice setting it up in a non-emergency situation, explained Kendra Stoner, Emergency Program Manager.

"It's crucial we understand our resources before an event occurs," Stoner explained. "The idea of this equipment is to support a 'shelter in place' scenario in hitaču, or nearby."

The training was followed by a community dinner at the Cixwatin Centre, where citizens could pre-register for Emergency Support Services (ESS) in the event of an emergency.

If you would like to register, or if you want more information about what supports are available during an emergency, please contact Kendra Stoner at kendra.stoner@ufn.ca or 250-726-6162.



Markus McRurie, Ucluelet Deputy Fire Chief, and Jay Millar check out the first aid kits available for emergencies. Photo by: Elena Rardon



Ben Shuster helps his team take down a Wall Tent. Photo by: Elena Rardon

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Yuutu?it?ath

ufn.ca/jobs



NAA?UUV'IT'ASIN HA?UK



naa?uuv'it'asin ha?uk

"WE'RE GOING TO EAT TOGETHER."

in Port Alberni

Monday, September 14 | 5:00pm
Second Monday of each month
hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office
3203 3rd Ave, Port Alberni

Yuufu?i?ath living in Port Alberni and beyond are invited to share a meal, cultural songs and dances. Bring your drums, shawls, and regalia!

Operating on the territory of the Tseshaht & Hupačasath First Nations

New Staff Highlights

Welcome to Yuułu?it?ath Government Sophie Bahen!

Sophie Bahen has joined the Yuułu?it?ath Government's Department of ʕatinkin?aaḷa (Intergovernmental Affairs) as the new Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst.

Sophie was born and raised on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. She has a background in law, public policy, and Indigenous relations, and holds a Juris Doctor from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, with a specialization in Indigenous Law, and a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University focused on English and Environment.

Prior to joining YG, Sophie worked as Legal Counsel with the federal Department of Justice, where she provided strategic advice to government departments and agencies, supported intergovernmental negotiations, and contributed to policy and legislative initiatives. Her experience also includes community-based legal work through Dalhousie Legal Aid and leadership roles supporting food security, inclusion, and community engagement initiatives.

Sophie is passionate about collaborative problem-solving, advancing Indigenous priorities, and building strong relationships across governments and communities. She looks forward to getting to know the citizens she serves in her role with Yuułu?it?ath Government.



Sophie Bahen is Yuułu?it?ath Government's new Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst. Photo submitted by: Sophie Bahen

SIGN UP FOR THE ONE CALL SYSTEM

WHAT IS IT?

The **One Call System** allows Yuułu?it?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



YUUTU?IT?ATH DAY 2026

Friday, September 18 to Sunday September 20, 2026

Host Allowance Form

Yuutu?it?ath Government is pleased to be offering an allowance to any Citizen hosting other Citizens coming home for Yuutu?it?ath Day. Hosts are eligible for an allowance at the following rates for up to a maximum of three (3) nights:

- \$50 per adult/per night
- \$25 per child/per night (under 16 years of age)

The maximum number of citizens a host can claim for is 6.

This form is to be completed by the host individual.

Host Information

Name of Host (who payment will be made to): _____

Hosting Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

List of Guests You Will Be Hosting

Full Name	Adult/Child	Yuutu?it?ath Citizen	# of Nights (max 3)
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	

Payment Preference (select one)

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) ☐ <i>For EFT, please attach a copy of a void cheque or direct deposit from your bank.</i>	Mail Cheque to Mailing Address ☐	Pick up at Cixwatin Centre ☐
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I acknowledge and agree that I must notify YG as soon as possible if my guests are no longer staying with me. I acknowledge that the funds will be issued using the payment information I provide. I am responsible for ensuring this information is accurate. Once payment has been processed, it cannot be redirected, reversed, or reissued.

Host Signature: _____

Please submit your Host Allowance Form to carrie.george@ufn.ca or Cixwatin Centre Reception.
To receive payment before the event, you must submit your claim by Thursday, September 10.
Host allowance claim forms will be accepted until Friday, October 2.



YUUTU?IT?ATH DAY 2026

Friday, September 18 to Sunday, September 20

Travel Request Form

The Yuutu?it?ath Government is pleased to cover accommodation and travel (within BC) costs for Yuutu?it?ath Citizens coming home for Yuutu?it?ath Day 2026 for up to a maximum of three (3) nights. Mileage rates will be determined in accordance with the Canada Revenue Agency Prescribed Per-kilometre Rates and meal allowances will be determined in accordance with the National Joint Council Rates Travel Directive.

Claimant Information

Name (full name of who payment should be made to): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

List of Other Individuals Travelling With You

Full Name	Adult/Child	Yuutu?it?ath Citizen
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐
	Adult ☐ Child ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐

Travel Details

Departure Date: _____ Return Date: _____

Where will you be travelling from? (physical address): _____

Accommodation Required

Hotel ☐ # of Nights (max 3) _____ Check in Date: _____ Check out Date: _____

of Adults _____ # of Children _____ # of beds required _____

Please list any other specific accommodation requests or accessibility requirements (e.g. pet friendly): _____

All hotel reservations will be made by the Yuutu?it?ath Government. A reservation confirmation will be provided to Claimant prior to travel. Any pet fees will be the responsibility of the claimant.

*Note: If you will be staying at a private residence and the host of the residence is a Yuutu?it?ath citizen, that host is eligible to receive a hosting allowance by submitting a **Host Allowance Form**.*

Payment Preference (select one)

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) ☐ <i>For EFT, please attach a copy of a void cheque or direct deposit from your bank.</i>	Mail Cheque to Mailing Address ☐	Pick up at Cix*atin Centre ☐
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Claimant Signature: _____

I acknowledge that the funds will be issued using the payment information I provide. I am responsible for ensuring this information is accurate. Once payment has been processed, it cannot be redirected, reversed, or reissued.

Hotel: If you require a hotel, please submit your form to carrie.george@ufn.ca or Cix*atin Centre Reception by **Thursday, August 27**. Hotel availability is not guaranteed after this date.

Travel Claims: To receive payment before the event, submit your claim by **Thursday, September 10**. Travel claim forms will be accepted until Friday, October 2.

Children's Health & Development Group

Nana'yaᑕaaᑭuk – "Taking care of our babies"

Every first Thursday of the Month! 10.30 – 12.00

For ages 0–5 Years

Takes place at Cixwatin Center gym.

Led by Community Health Nurse Rachel and Education Outreach Worker Jayda. This is a space for families to ask questions, access resources, and learn about early childhood health and developmental milestones. Families can connect with professionals and other caregivers in a supportive, play-based environment. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.



If you have any questions or concerns please reachout to either Jayda or Rachel

Jayda: jaya.konnala@ufn.ca
(250) 217-4262



Rachel: rachel.harding@ufn.ca



HITACU ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In accordance with Section 4.2 of the Government Act
YFNS 2/2011, notice is hereby given that the
Yuulu?i?ath Annual General Assembly has been called
for Friday, September 18, 2026.

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

A livestream will be available on Facebook. To
participate in the meeting you must attend via Zoom.
Questions will not be taken from Facebook.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

CIX*ATIN CENTRE GYM,
HITACU
5:00PM DINNER
6:00PM ASSEMBLY

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:
DIAL IN #: 1 (778) 907-2071
MEETING ID: 897 0903 1763
PASSCODE: 969589

hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
3	4	5	6 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	7	8
					9
Counselling with Amber Severinson Available by app't. Mon - Fri (pls contact Satellite Office)					
10 Culture Night! 5:00pm to 7:30pm	11	12	13	14	15
					16
17	18	19 Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:00am – 2:30pm	20 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	21	22
					23
24	25	26	27 Michelle Touchie Citizenship & Enrolment Registrar 9:00am – 3:30pm	28 Youth Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:00pm	29
					30
31 Office Closed					

*Services offered during regular operating hours of the Yuutu?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 First Nation & Hupačas?ath First Nation.