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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 2 | February 2026

www.ufn.ca

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Annual General Assembly in hita?u

In this issue, we have a notice about new fire boxes that have been installed in hita?u, information about the Department of nismaakukqin?aa?a's Integrated Resource Management Plan, coverage from the ?imtnaaq?i? (Naming Potlatch) in January, and an announcement from the District of Ucluelet about upgrades to the water treatment system.

Although Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closed on **Monday, February 16** for Family Day, the Cix?atin Centre will be open for activities and a catered buffet lunch from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next hita?u Assembly on **Monday, March 16** at the Cix?atin Centre Gym. Dinner is at 5:00pm and the assembly starts at 6:00pm. This is the Annual General Assembly, where Yuutu?it?ath Government staff will present the Annual Fiscal Report for 2024-2025

Read on for more events, services, and information.

Cix?atin Centre, huupatu Centre & hi?stiis hupii?u? Satellite Office

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16
FAMILY DAY

Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, February 17



Education Conference

MOVING THROUGH TRAUMA BY CONNECTING TO LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL FOODS

Cix^watin Centre Gym, 700 Wya Road, hita^{cu}

Friday, February 13 | 9:00am to 5:30pm

With a seafood feast and traditional foods for lunch.

All Teachers, Daycare Providers, Parents, Caregivers & Guardians are welcome!

Join us in hita^{cu} at the Cix^watin Centre for a day of insightful discussions, workshops, and strategies to support our young ones.

Guest speakers Anita Charleson-Touchie, Jeneva Touchie, Lisa Watts and Giselle Martin will discuss moving through trauma with traditional healing, language learning, culture, and traditional foods.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/moving-thru-trauma-by-connecting-to-language-culture-and-traditional-foods-tickets-1902311337419>

New fire boxes installed

Community members invited to a training session on March 3

Residents of hitaču may have noticed three new fire boxes have been installed beside fire hydrants in the community.

Each box contains multiple fire hoses and the equipment required to connect them to a hydrant, supporting immediate fire suppression efforts within the community until Ucluelet Fire Rescue arrives.

On Tuesday, March 3 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Ucluelet Fire Rescue will be holding a fire hydrant operation and hose handling training session for YG staff and hitaču residents. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to participate and must sign up in advance by contacting Kendra at kendra.stoner@ufn.ca or 250-726-6162.



A glimpse at the equipment inside one of hitaču's new fire boxes. Photo by: Kendra Stoner



One of the new fire boxes installed next to a fire hydrant in hitaču. Photo by: Kendra Stoner



Family Day! 2026



EVERYONE WELCOME!!



**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 16**
10:00am – 2:00pm



CIX^wATIN CENTRE GYM
700 Wya Road
hita'cu



CATERED BUFFET LUNCH
12:00PM TO 1:00PM

THE ACTIVITIES

- Bouncy Castles
- UFN Singing Circle
(Bring your drums)
- Comedy Magic Entertainment
- Nuu-chah-nulth Language Games
- Face Painting
- Hair Cuts
- Hello Photo Booth
- Sharky Balloons
- Devils Club Necklace Workshop
- Tarot Readings & More!

**FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT:**

Gloria Valentine
(250) 726-7948
Gloria.Valentine@ufn.ca

Yuʔaakukʷiʔaala nismaakqin

Yuʔuʔiʔaʔh citizens invited to provide input on management plan

Written by: Elena Rardon

Yuʔuʔiʔaʔh Government wants to hear from Yuʔuʔiʔaʔh citizens about their priorities for the nation's ʔaʔuʔi (traditional territory).

The Department of nismaakukqinʔaala (Lands and Resources) has started work on an Integrated Resource Management Plan, a coordinated plan for forest and environmental management.

The plan has been given the Nuuchahnulth name Yuʔaakukʷiʔaala nismaakqin (Taking care of our land always).

Alex Paler, Administrative Assistant for the Department of nismaakukqinʔaala, says that the plan will be grounded in Yuʔuʔiʔaʔh values.

“This plan is really about hearing from citizens on your priorities, your concerns, so that we can make sure our responses are rooted in our values,” he explained during an engagement session on February 6.

So far, YG has hosted two public engagement sessions for the plan—one in hitaʔu and one in Port Alberni. There will be multiple rounds of public engagement on the plan, which will carry on for a few more months.

The first round of engagement is a “high-level” survey, with questions around personal values, harvesting patterns and priorities.

“As we see the responses in the survey, we’re going to see trends—things that people are most concerned about or most interested in,” Paler said. “And we’ll focus future engagement on that.”

At the end of all the public engagement, the department will produce a document that informs how YG engages with other partners on its ʔaʔuʔi, including the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, the Province of British Columbia and the District of Ucluelet.

The result will be a template for resource management that has been established by community members and their values.

Citizens who were unable to attend the first engagement sessions can still fill out the survey online by visit-



Citizens participate in a public engagement session at the hitstiis hupiiʔuʔ Satellite Office on February 6, 2026. Photo by: Elena Rardon



Alex Paler (nismaakukqinʔaala Administrative Assistant) and Ashley Van Acken (nismaakukqinʔaala Director) lead a public engagement session at the hitstiis hupiiʔuʔ Satellite Office on February 6, 2026. Photo by: Elena Rardon

ing form.typeform.com/to/n80lrg95. A link to the survey can also be found on the front page of YG’s website at www.ufn.ca.

If you have any questions about the survey, or if you would like to request a paper copy, please contact alex.paler@ufn.ca.



Door Prizes!



łaqaaʔałin (We are all growing now)

An opportunity to gather and discuss what it means to be a modern treaty nation. Learn more about the Maa-nulth Treaty and all that has been accomplished for Yuułʔiʔaṭṭh citizens, and provide your input for the future of the Yuułʔiʔaṭṭh Government.

Thursday, February 19

LUNCH SESSION: Mini-Bighouse

*Doors open at 12:30pm
Lunch and presentation to follow.*

DINNER SESSION: Cix^watin Centre Gym

*Doors open at 5:00pm
Dinner and presentation to follow.*

For more information, contact brennah.agnew@ufn.ca

Daycare hosts Naming Potlatch

Youth receive Nuu-chah-nulth names

Written by: Elena Rardon

Yuuluʔitʔath youth received their Nuu-chah-nulth names during a ʕimtnaaqʕit (Naming Potlatch) last month.

qʷayaʕiikʔiis Childcare Centre held their first-ever ʕimtnaaqʕit on January 17, 2026. Daycare manager maaxʷiilaliiʕ (Skylene Patrick) says that 22 nicknames were gifted to children during the potlatch, and an additional two family names were passed down during the event.

“We also had neighbouring communities use the floor to give out family names, so that was really cool,” said Patrick.

This is the third potlatch that the daycare has organized. The first, in 2023, unveiled a set of two curtains. The second one was a feast in 2024. Patrick says the ʕimtnaaqʕit was “years in the making” for qʷayaʕiikʔiis Childcare Centre.

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A total of 22 Nuu-chah-nulth nicknames were gifted to children during the potlatch. Photo by: Melody Charlie



Youth dance during the Naming Potlatch on January 17, 2026. Photo by: Melody Charlie

“We really wanted to do this for our children because we understand how much it can mean for their cultural identity and self-esteem,” Patrick said. “Some of us have recently received Nuuchahnulth names as adults and can speak to the cultural significance, pride, and feeling of belonging that comes with that.”

A Nuuchahnulth name ties you to your culture, your people, your roots, your homelands, and your ancestors, Patrick explained. It can tell a story of who and where you come from.

Many Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ people have never been gifted a Nuuchahnulth name, said Patrick, as family names have been lost over the years. Staff consulted with families, elders and knowledge keepers to come up with “nicknames” for children who do not have a family name. The names can be as simple as “qaawačišč” (meaning “little potato”), which is the name that was gifted to Patrick’s son, Jake.

“It’s been very meaningful and special for our children,” Patrick said. “Hopefully we can keep this momentum going and find more family names, create more nicknames, and continue to gift names to everyone in community who wants one.”

The Ƨimtnaaqšit was a community effort, with help from staff from the Departments of huuhtakšiihinʔaala (Education and Youth), haahuupačakukqinʔaala (Culture, Language and Heritage) and nismaakukqinʔaala (Lands and Resources).

Daycare staff Catherine Frank and Evelyn Charlie were the main coordinators behind the potlatch, said Patrick, while Bernice Touchie prepared quuʔas nicknames for the children.

William Severinson, who has been the head chef for all three of the daycare’s potlatches, did a “phenomenal job” with the food, said Patrick. Lindsay McCarthy Sr. led the singing, while Tyson Touchie Sr. emceed the event.

“There are a number of people who always show up to support our children, and their support is greatly appreciated,” said Patrick. “It is doable when we all pull together and for such a great reason, our children and our culture.”

The daycare’s work weaving culture into Early Childhood Education (ECE) programming is being recognized provincially. Staff were recently invited to present at BC Aboriginal Child Care Society’s annual conference on February 13.

“That was really flattering,” said Patrick. “We usually attend that conference as a staff, and now we can help be teachers for other ECE staff.”



Daycare staff pose for a picture during the Naming Potlatch on January 17, 2026. Photo by: Melody Charlie



Youth enjoy a seafood feast during the Naming Potlatch on January 17, 2026. Photo by: Melody Charlie

Ucluelet water treatment upgrades

Groundbreaking event to take place Tuesday, March 31

Submitted by: District of Ucluelet

Ucluelet, B.C.
— The District of Ucluelet is proud to announce major upgrades to its community water treatment system, an investment that will deliver cleaner and clearer water, while supporting long-term community growth.



This landmark project is the result of years of careful planning, technical assessment, and

collaboration between multiple agencies, all working toward a shared goal: ensuring Ucluelet’s drinking water system meets modern standards and serves residents reliably for decades to come.

Ucluelet’s water comes from the Lost Shoe Creek Aquifer and is safe to drink. However, naturally occurring iron, manganese, and turbidity, along with the required use of chlorine, create operational challenges and can occasionally cause discoloration in the distribution system. A comprehensive review confirmed the need for an upgraded treatment approach to fully align with the latest Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

After testing and evaluation, the District selected a state-of-the-art treatment system that combines filtration, chlorine disinfection, and ultraviolet inactivation. This modernized process will deliver brighter, clearer water, increase system reliability, and provide the capacity needed to support Ucluelet’s growth for the next 30 years.

The District gratefully secured approximately \$7.04

million in grant funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, whose support has been vital in making this project possible. Additional financial support was approved through the Alternative Approval Process for Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1304, 2022, enabling long-term borrowing of up to \$13 million.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, with

system commissioning continuing into early 2027. The total project budget of \$14,034,547 remains on track and within the funding parameters approved by Council.

Several major project milestones have already been reached. Detailed design was completed in September 2025, and the construction contract has been awarded to Ridgeline Mechanical Ltd. Bulk excavation began in November 2025, with installation of the new prefabricated building and treatment equipment set to follow throughout 2026.

“Reaching the construction phase of this project is a major milestone for the District of Ucluelet and represents a giant step in strengthening the community’s water system,” said Will Greaves, Member of Parliament for Victoria. “Our government is proud to see years of planning, collaboration, and community support coming together to deliver a modern water treatment system that will serve residents for decades to come.”

“Residents will enjoy cleaner, clearer water every

day, thanks to this upgraded system designed to keep pace with Ucluelet's growing needs," said Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "Investing in modern infrastructure is about protecting health, supporting families and strengthening communities. We're happy to work with all levels of government to deliver projects that benefit people for decades to come."

"This project marks an important step forward for our community. It's been a long-standing priority, supported by years of planning and hard work. Upgrading our water treatment system will improve the quality and reliability of our drinking water and

ensure our infrastructure can meet the community's needs well into the future."— Mayor Marilyn McEwen.

The District of Ucluelet will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, March 31, at 11:00 AM to officially kick off construction of the new water treatment system. Council and project partners will gather to mark this important milestone and recognize the funding and teamwork that made the project possible. The event will celebrate the start of work on an upgraded system that will improve water quality and support Ucluelet's needs for many years to come.



Help keep wildlife and the community safe!

If you see a cougar:

- **Stop and stay calm. Do not turn your back or run.**
- **Back away slowly while maintaining eye contact, yell and make yourself big.**

HITAĆU COMMUNITY NOTICE



Recent cougar activity has been reported in the community of hitaću.

Reminder to keep your pets safe and free from roaming.

Report sightings of wildlife in residential areas, especially sick or distressed wildlife that may be a public safety concern.



IF YOU SEE OR ENCOUNTER WILDLIFE:

Report wildlife sightings to WildSafeBC, BC Conservation Officer (RAPP):

Phone: 1 (877) 952-7277

Email: pacificrim@wildsafebc.com

Water Treatment GroundBreaking Event

Join us as we celebrate the construction
kickoff for the District of Ucluelet's new
Water Treatment Facility!



Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Lost Shoe Creek Aquifer
11:00 AM



See Ucluelet.ca for more information



COMMUNITY

BASKETBALL CAMP

WITH AGAINST ALL ODDS BASKETBALL
CORY BRELAND

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2025
CIX^wATIN CENTRE GYM



FRIDAY:

DAYCARE . 3:00PM TO 4:00PM

ITTY BITTY BALLERS . 4:00PM TO 5:30PM

U13 GIRLS . 5:30PM TO 7:30PM

U13 BOYS . 7:30PM TO 9:30PM

SATURDAY-SUNDAY:

ITTY BITTY BALLERS . 12:00PM TO 1:30PM

U13 GIRLS . 2:00PM TO 4:00PM

U13 BOYS . 4:30PM TO 6:30PM

INTERESTED TO SIGN UP?

Contact Ethan Joseph at (250) 726-6779 or Ethan.Joseph@ufn.ca



HITAC'U ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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 Monday, March 16, 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

CIX*ATIN CENTRE GYM,
HITAC'U
5:00PM DINNER
6:00PM ASSEMBLY

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:
DIAL IN #: 1 (778) 907-2071
MEETING ID: 818 9140 3107
PASSCODE: 964395



Building Service Worker Training with Essential Skills

**March 4-13, 2026
9:00 AM -4:30 PM
Ucluelet - NETP Office**

The Building Service Worker Training Program offers a comprehensive introduction to the core skills and knowledge needed for effective work in commercial and institutional buildings. The program blends classroom instruction, essential skills, hands-on learning, and scenario-based activities to ensure participants gain the confidence and competence needed to succeed in real-world building service environments.

This training is ideal for:

- Entry-level workers
- Individuals seeking employment in custodial, janitorial, or building maintenance roles
- Anyone wanting to refresh or expand their skills

To Register:

Connect with your Case Manager at Tyson.Touchie@nuuchahnulth.org 250-266-1584.

To register for NETP services connect with our Intake Coordinator Gregory.Thomas@nuuchahnulth.org or call 250-723-1331.

LUNCH PROVIDED and COMPLETION INCENTIVE

Connect Today!



Unlock Your Potential with the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment & Training Program

 CR: 250-266-1584
SR: 250-723-1331

 Office Location:
#4 1636 Peninsula Rd
Ucluelet, BC

*Funding provided in part by the
Government of Canada*

Canada



Life Skills & Wellness Group

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM

**STARTING APRIL 2, 2026
AT THE MINI-BIGHOUSE**

A supportive, community-based and culturally respectful group focused on building practical life skills, improving communication and increasing confidence. This is a non-clinical, skill-building group open to adults (19+).

**12:00PM TO 2:30PM
LUNCH PROVIDED**

**For registration contact:
Nicole.Burtini@ufn.ca or 250-726-6920**

Focus areas include:

- Stress management and emotional regulation
- Communication and boundaries
- Problem-solving and decision-making
- Burnout awareness and realistic self-care
- Navigating systems and advocacy skills

hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
					1
2	3	4 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 1:30pm Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse - foot care 1:30pm – 3:00pm	5 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	6 Integrated Resource Mgmt Plan (IRMP) Engagement 5:00pm – 7:00pm	7
					8
9	10	11	12	13	14
					15
16 Family Day YG Offices Closed	17	18 Nicole Burtini Social Worker	19 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 2:00pm Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	20	21
					22
23	24	25	26	27 Youth Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:00pm	28
					1

*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 & Hupačas?ath First Nations.