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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 1 | January 2026

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Events

January 26
Naa?uuwitasin ha?uk
("We're going to eat together")
in Port Alberni

February 5
Cultural Safety Engagement

February 13
Education Conference

February 16
Family Day events at the
Cix?atin Centre

February 16
YG Offices Closed

February 17
YG Offices Re-Open

Happy New Year Yuutu?it?ath!

In this issue, we have a community notice about the replacement of hi-ta?u's sanitary lift station and a reminder from the Marine Response Team to keep an eye out for marine debris. Read about how the Nuu-chah-nulth Warriors Program is expanding into Port Alberni, and help us welcome a new team member to the Department of ?atinkin?aala (Intergovernmental Affairs).

A few community events are coming up next month. Mark your calendars for a Cultural Safety engagement session on Thursday, February 5. If you are unable to make the session in person, you can fill out the survey online using the QR code on page 7.

Please note that Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closing on **Monday, February 16** for Family Day. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, February 17.

Read on for more events, services, and information.

**HOLIDAY
GIFT CARD
DISTRIBUTION**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY IS
JANUARY 31, 2026**

www.ufn.ca > Forms > Holiday Gift Card Application

YUULU?I?ATH LANGUAGE CLASSES



Are you interested to learn Nuu-chah-nulth language in West Barkley dialect?
Drop-in to an in-person or online language class!

huuhtakšiihin quuquu?aca
We are learning to speak Nuu-chah-nulth.



MONDAY

Online Beginner Language Class 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Taught by Čak^waasiqḥwíłim [Jeneva Touchie] via Zoom.

Online Where Are Your Keys Language Class 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Taught by Kimberly Baines via Zoom.

Online Advanced Language Class 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Taught by λukša [Adam Werle] via Zoom.

TUESDAY

hitaču Beginner Language Class 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Taught by Čak^waasiqḥwíłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Mini-Bighouse.

WEDNESDAY

hitaču Drop-In Language Class 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Taught by Čak^waasiqḥwíłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Cultural Library.

Online Drop-In Language Class 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Taught by Trinity Babichuk via Zoom.

THURSDAY

Online Drop-in Language Class 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Taught by Kimberly Baines via Zoom.

hitaču Where Are Your Keys Language Class 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Taught by Čak^waasiqḥwíłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Mini-Bighouse.

Online Introduction Language Class 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Taught by Trinity Babichuk via Zoom.

Online Advanced Language Class 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Taught by λukša [Adam Werle] via Zoom.

PORT ALBERNI CLASSES

Beginner Language Class First and Third Thursday each month

Youth Language Class Last Friday each month

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Taught by maḥima [Moira Barney] at the hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office

Priority to Yuulu?i?ath citizens, but all are welcome!
Contact language@ufn.ca for more information.

Community Notice

hitaću Sewage Lift Station gets replaced

Contractors have started work replacing the north lift station located near the sandpit in hitaću.

The existing sanitary lift station, built in 1989, services the northern catchment of the hitaću community. It is now past its effective service life of 25 years, and it is also located on an unstable slope that is sloughing into the Ucluelet Inlet.

The aging infrastructure, outdated equipment, and environmental vulnerability present a significant risk to the community's wastewater system, as well as potentially the transportation corridor.

The new lift station will have greater capacity and will be moved further from the harbour to mitigate risks.

Work is expected to continue until Spring 2026. Please keep an eye out for construction crews and use caution when travelling in the area.



The existing hitaću sanitary lift station. Photo by: Department of maamaħtĩminħ?aaata



HITAĆU ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

www.ufn.ca



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 Yuułʔiʔaḥ citizens, and provide your input for the future of the Yuułʔiʔaḥ Government.

**Port Alberni:
Tuesday, February 17**

hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office, 3203 Third Ave
Dinner will start at 5:00pm, with presentation to follow.

RSVP to brennah.agnew@ufn.ca

**hitaću:
Thursday, February 19**

Location TBA

*Lunch Session: Lunch at 12:30pm, with presentation to follow.
Dinner Session: Dinner at 5:00pm, with presentation to follow.*

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

Nuu-chah-nulth Warriors

Port Alberni Warrior program plans ahead with new funding

Written by: Denise Titian, Ha-Shilth-Sa

The Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Program has expanded in a big way, thanks to new funding from various government departments.

The program seeks to strengthen the confidence and capacity of young Nuu-chah-nulth leaders by helping them prepare for the future through life skills and employment training. They work with elders and knowledge-keepers to guide the programs.

The first Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior program launched in the summer of 2015 at the Yuuʔuʔiʔath community of Hitacu with a handful of teenagers from the village. What was supposed to be the start of a men's group turned into a program for teens, because the men did not show up for the meetings.

Young Hitacu men showed up every week, planning their community activities. It was the start of a culturally based youth group for males with a goal of addictions prevention. At their weekly meetings, the youth planned future activities – ones that allowed them to get back to the land and ocean and learn the cultural ways of their ancestors.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Program is easily adaptable to other communities and turned out to be a wildly successful option for teenagers eager to learn from elders and peers. Young men spend time together learning about

their culture, finding ways to support their communities and survival skills.

Ricardo Manmohan was working on his doctorate degree in 2015 when leadership of Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government invited him there to work with their men. Manmohan said his training was about leadership and traditional ways of teaching skills to young people.

“The health director asked me to look at a men’s program,” he told Ha-Shilth-Sa.

Manmohan said he went out and spoke to individuals at Hitacu, looking for what they wanted in their men’s program. When it came time for the first meeting, the men did not show up.

“But the boys showed up,” Manmohan recalled.

The whole intent of the work is called “upstream prevention”. That is, they aim to get boys busy with wholesome, cultural activities before they ever become involved with nicotine, alcohol or drugs.

“We want to implement a youth program to help prevent substance abuse among young men. We want to engage the youth, give them a sense of purpose, something positive. And it is important for them to access their culture, to get in



The Nuu-chah-nulth Warrior Multi-Nation Program is open to Indigenous youth ages 13-20 in Port Alberni and is free of charge. Participants meet every week, planning one outdoor excursion a month. (Submitted photo)

touch with their identity, their roots, as a path to health,” said Manmohan.

In the early days the youth learned about preparing food and would bring meals to the elders. They worked on projects like clearing brush or helping elders with firewood. The program grew to larger, community initiatives like small construction projects.

Eventually, the Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warriors spread to neighboring communities, each applying to health authorities for funding to support their members in the programs.

In 2023 the Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Family Society was formed, opening the door for other groups to launch. As a society, there are more funding opportunities for interested communities.

“We could apply for grants,” said Manmohan.

And because of this past success, the Port Alberni Multi-Nation Programming secured funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

“We’ve secured their Icelandic Prevention Model (IPM) Stream 2 Funding to implement our own version of the IPM for the urban programs in Port Alberni,” said Everett Watson, a member of the Tseshaht First Nation.

He went on to say that the IPM funding program aims to enable programs that are community based, youth led, data-driven, and follows a process similar to the 10-step Icelandic model that helped drastically reduce the rates of early substance use in the Scandinavian country.

Port Alberni is an urban centre with a diverse population of Indigenous youth. Previously, individual First Nations applied for financial assistance that could only be used for their own members, due to funding agency restrictions.

Port Alberni has young men not only from the local Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations, but also several other Nuu-chah-nulth nations, other First Nations and Métis. Not wanting to turn anyone away, planners needed to find a funding arrangement that would support all the youth that are interested in the program.

Port Alberni now has a multi-nation Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior program open to all First Nations.

“In some cases, the youth are not as connected with their



Darryl McCarthy and Jordan Touchie work on starting a fire in the woods near Zeballos, preparing for a challenge in the 2025 Warrior Games. (Eric Plummer photo)

First Nations land and culture because they are growing up away from home,” said Manmohan.

Everett Watson says Port Alberni’s Multi-Nation Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior program is the latest addition to versions already established at Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht, Uchucklesaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ehattesah, Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ and Yuufu?i?ath.

In Port Alberni the youth meet once a week all year long. They learn important life skills, including hunting, cooking, harvesting and marine safety. One weekend a month the group will go outdoors for hikes or camping trips where they put their newly acquired skills to the test.

At the end of January, the group plans to camp at Sarita Bay. Watson says about 12 youth will camp, rain or shine, and they will be doing some hunting or fishing.

“It’s important to listen to what the youth want to do and for them to have roles,” said Watson, adding that it was the young participants who decided where they wanted to camp.

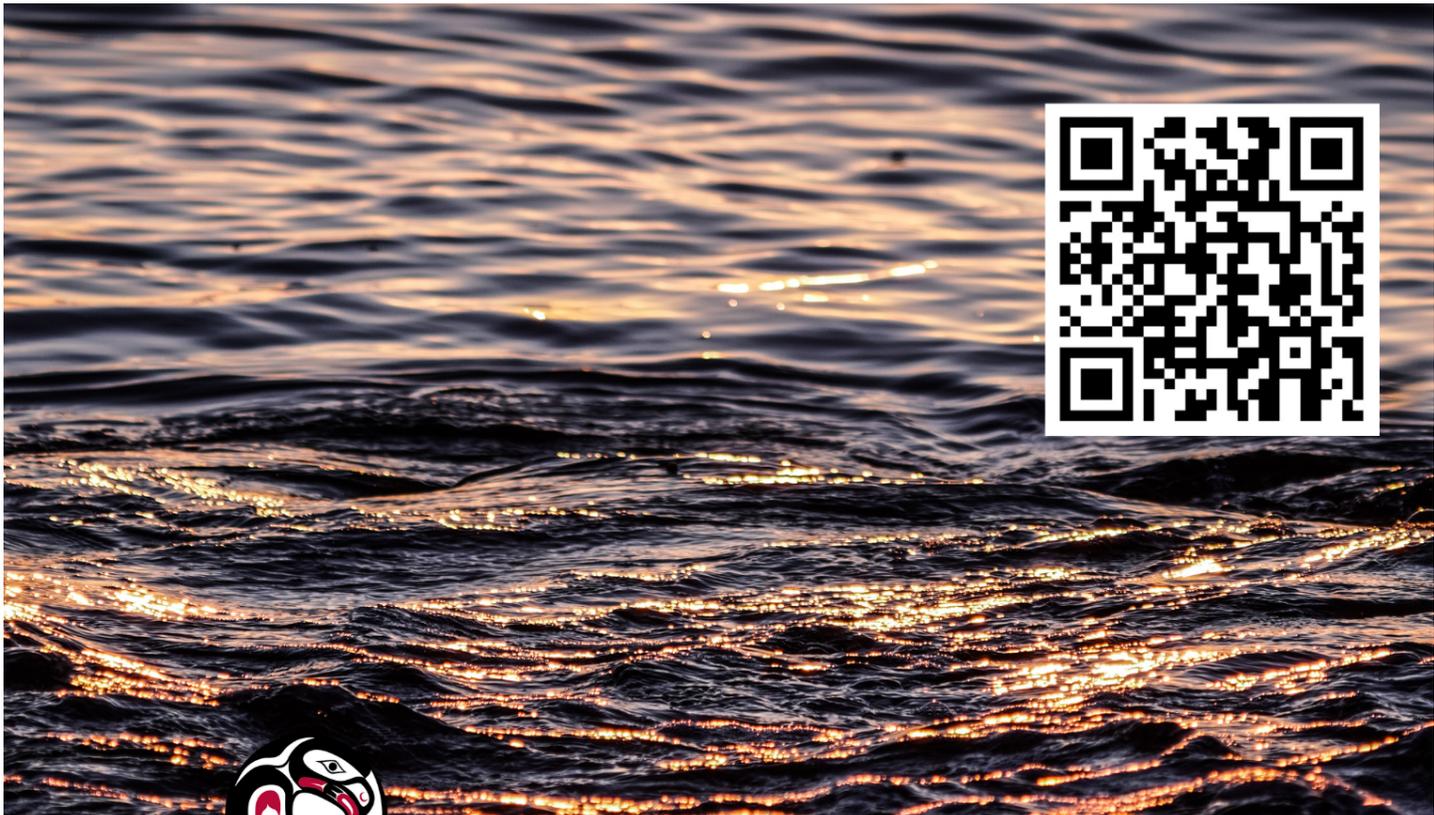
The society has received funding to run the Port Alberni Multi-Nation Warrior Program for 30 months, up to March 2028. In addition, a women’s program has been launched in Port Alberni, with meetings every Tuesday night.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Warrior Multi-Nation Program is open to Indigenous youth ages 13-20 in Port Alberni and is free of charge.

Youth will plan hikes, learn safety and survival skills to help them when they are on the land. They may do things like plant identification and harvest, then learn how to prepare these materials for practical uses, like fire starter, glue or medicines.

“We have to make it interesting for the youth,” said Watson. After a decade of operation, the teenagers who were involved in the first years of the program are now young adults who go to other communities to teach what they have learned.

To learn more the Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Family Society or if you want information about starting a new warrior program, you may request access to the online Warrior Toolkit at the website <https://warriortoolkit.com/>



CULTURAL SAFETY **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Thursday, February 5

**Learn about the West Coast
Emergency Cultural Awareness
and Safety Plan and provide your
input.**

**Unable to make the engagement
sessions and still wish to
contribute? Fill out the survey by
scanning the QR code above.**

10:00am
Cix^watin Centre Gym
Staff coffee

12:00pm
Six-Plex
Elders' Lunch

5:00pm
Cix^watin Centre Gym
Community Dinner

For more information contact: kendra.stoner@ufn.ca



WITH OPEN ARMS TOOLKIT

CREATING HEALTHY CONVERSATIONS
AROUND SUBSTANCE USE

5:00PM TO 7:00PM
SIX-PLEX COMMON AREA
DINNER INCLUDED

FOUR SESSION SERIES:

- January 29
- February 12
- February 26
- March 12



Youth and caregivers welcome. Come as you are.

The With Open Arms Toolkit creates space for honest, healthy conversations about substance use and harm reduction.

THIS TOOLKIT WAS:

- ✔ Created by Indigenous youth who have lived experience with substance use.
- ✔ Designed by youth, for youth.
- ✔ Rooted in connection, understanding, and harm reduction.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ♥ Open and respectful conversations.
- ♥ Lived-experience perspectives.
- ♥ Supportive, judgment-free space.
- ♥ Tools you can use in real life.

Contact nicole.burtini@ufn.ca or rachel.harding@ufn.ca for more info

New year, continued commitment

Protecting our shores with Yuułu?it?ath Marine Response

Submitted by: Max Pattison, Marine Response Specialist

As we begin 2026, let's renew our dedication to safeguarding our coastlines.

This month's focus will be the growing crisis of marine debris and derelict vessels, and how small actions by each of us can produce powerful change.

What we're facing:

- Pervasive pollution: Marine debris, especially plastic, EPS foam, and abandoned docks, breaks down over time, contaminating ecosystems and threatening access to marine food sources.
- Toxic Styrofoam: Used widely in docks and floats, EPS lasts 15 years in its original application and breaks down into toxic fragments. Alternatives exist but are underused.
- Throughout the Broken Group Islands and Clayoquot Sound, volunteers in 2025 removed 3,770 lbs of debris, including more than 500 water bottles and large floats—recycling 75 percent.

Derelict vessels: sunken hazards

- Abandoned vessels are toxic threats: More than 1,400 derelict or abandoned boats linger across BC's coast, leaking fuel, heavy metals, antifreeze, and flame retardants into sensitive habitats
- Responsibility gap: Poor licensing tracking, high disposal costs, and multiple jurisdictions make cleanup slow and complicated.
- Local examples: False Creek sees many abandoned vessels with little enforcement, forcing private services to remove them—sometimes ones with major holes and pollutants.

How we ALL can help:

If you see an abandoned vessel or large dock debris, report it to the Yuułu?it?ath Government's Department



A derelict vessel is removed from Yuułu?it?ath territory. Photo by: Coastal Restoration Society.

of nismaakukqin?ata (Land and Resources): 250-726-7342 or max.pattison@ufn.ca.

A supporting picture and as detailed information as possible for location are great additions to any reports.

More Information and other ways to report:

- BC's Marine Debris Protection site: www.gov.bc.ca/MarineDebrisProtection
- Transport Canada's Abandoned Boats Program: www.tc.canada.ca/en/programs/funding-programs/abandoned-boats-program

Stay Safe Around Debris: Our Priority Is Your Safety

While we deeply appreciate the spirit of stewardship, we are not asking community members to actively clean up hazardous debris. Safety is paramount, and as a government, we have a responsibility to prevent injuries and protect everyone involved.

Why caution matters:

- Hidden Hazards: Marine debris can contain sharp metal, broken glass, or unstable structures like old docks and floats.
- Toxic Risks: Unknown fluids in bottles or containers may be hazardous chemicals, fuel, or antifreeze. Always treat them as dangerous.
- Heavy Objects: Large debris (e.g., derelict docks, vessel parts) can shift unexpectedly, causing crush injuries.

What you should do:

- Observe and report, don't touch: If you encounter debris—especially large or suspicious items—do not attempt removal yourself. Instead:
- Take note of the location (GPS if possible).
- Photograph from a safe distance.
- Report it using the previously mentioned channels/contacts.

- Keep children and pets away: Ensure they do not play near debris or abandoned vessels.
- Personal safety first: If you must move small, obvious litter (like clean plastic bottles), wear gloves and avoid unknown liquids. But remember—reporting is more important than handling.

How we're advocating for alternatives:

- Supporting replacement of EPS floats and docks with longer-lasting, eco-friendly alternatives.
- Pressuring provincial and federal adoption of extended producer responsibility and better boat disposal systems.
- Building Partnerships & Capacity

Groups like the Dead Boats Disposal Society, Rugged Coast and Coastal Restoration Society seasonally advertise and employ First Nation members to remove vessels—supporting training and local jobs. Visit www.coastrestore.com for more information.

Our community pledge for a cleaner coast

- We pledge to protect our waters, lands, and marine life by:
- Observing and reporting marine debris and derelict vessels.
- Prioritizing safety—never putting ourselves or others at risk when encountering hazardous materials.
- Educating and advocating for sustainable practices and alternatives to harmful materials.
- Supporting collective action through partnerships

and programs that restore and safeguard our coastline.

- Honoring our responsibility to future generations by taking small, mindful steps that add up to big change.

Together, we commit to stewardship, safety, and respect for the ocean that sustains us.

Are you interested in becoming a Boat Boss?

The Lands and Resources Department is excited to share that we now have funding available to support citizens interested in taking this course or any other Marine Safety training.

If this sounds like the right opportunity for you, please contact max.pattison@ufn.ca.

Include your best contact information (email or phone number), and Lands and Resources will get in touch to help with booking.

For any urgent questions or inquiries, please reach out to the Lands and Resources Administrative Assistant at 250-726-7342.

We want to hear from you! What topics would you like us to cover? What does Marine Response and Stewardship mean to you? Share your ideas and questions to max.pattison@ufn.ca.



Email max.pattison@ufn.ca for more info



hitacu Collection Schedule

 : Organics
  : Garbage
  : Recycling
  : Holiday

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Pathways to Nuu-chah-nulth Teacher Education



**A community-based teacher education pathway
for Nuu-chah-nulth learners**

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A TEACHER?

This is a Nuu-chah-nulth-led pathway that supports you to begin your teaching journey in a way that is grounded in culture, community, and connection.

PROGRAM STARTS FEBRUARY 2026

Delivered through online and blended learning, with planned in-person gatherings to support relationship building, land-based learning, and community connection. Begin your teacher education with North Island College, grounded in Nuu-chah-nulth values, language, and ways of knowing, then transfer to Vancouver Island University in 2027 to complete your Bachelor of Education.

WHO CAN APPLY

Open to all Nuu-chah-nulth members

You only need:

✓ Grade 12 English

✓ Math 11

No post-secondary credits are required to get started.

For more information:
Marisa.Bennett@nic.bc.ca



Why This Program?

- Rooted in Nuu-chah-nulth teachings and storytelling
- Grounded in land-based and experiential learning
- Designed to strengthen language, identity, and culture
- Supportive cohort-based learning with your community

New Staff Highlights

Welcome to Yuutu?it?ath Government Shawna Plante!

Shawna Plante has joined Yuutu?it?ath Government as a Referrals Analyst with the Department of Satinkin?aaala (Intergovernmental Affairs).

Shawna Plante is a Métis woman born and raised on Treaty 9 territory on the traditional lands of the Mattagami First Nation, Flying Post First Nation and Matachewan First Nation. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 2018 and the British Columbia Bar in 2024. Following law school, Shawna practiced law in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where she represented families involved in child protection proceedings and travelled to remote fly-in First Nations communities to support access to justice.

Shawna later shifted her practice to supporting a First Nation community in re-assuming jurisdiction over child and family services, advancing self-governance through the federal Bill C-92 framework. Prior to joining Yuutu?it?ath Government, she spent two years with Tsawwassen First Nation as an Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst, working on treaty implementation, intergovernmental relations, and complex regulatory and policy files.

Shawna is deeply committed to access to justice and has supported Legal Aid Ontario's Family Law Information Clinic for the past five years, providing legal information to individuals who cannot afford legal representation. She also volunteers with Together Against Poverty Society. Shawna is excited to be joining Yuutu?it?ath Government as its new Referrals Analyst and looks forward to supporting community connection,



Shawna Plante has joined the Yuutu?it?ath Government team as a Referrals Analyst with the Department of Satinkin?aaala (Intergovernmental Affairs). Photo provided by: Shawna Plante

cultural continuity, and self-governance.

If you see Shawna at upcoming community events, please feel free to say hello - she would be happy to connect and looks forward to getting to know the citizens she serves in her role with Yuutu?it?ath Government.

Shawna can be reached by email at shawna.plante@ufn.ca.

HITAĆU
ANIMAL CONTROL



Complaint Forms: www.ufn.ca > Forms > Lands and Resources

hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
			1 Statutory Holiday YG Offices Closed	2 YG Offices Closed	3
					4
5	6	7 Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:30am – 1:00pm	8 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 3:00pm	9	10
					11
12	13	14 Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse - foot care 10:00am – 11:30am	15 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	16 Michelle Touchie Citizenship & Enrolment Registrar 9:00am – 3:30pm	17
					18
19	20	21	22 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 3:00pm	23	24
					25
26 Culture Night! 5:00pm to 7:30pm	27	28 Nicole Burtini Social Worker	29	30 Youth Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:00pm	31

*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 Tshshahṭ & Hupačas?ath First Nations.