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Yuutu?it?ath

# Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 6 | June 2026

[www.ufn.ca](http://www.ufn.ca)

## What's New?

Page 1  
In This Issue

Page 3  
Field Schools Visit

Page 5  
Premier's Forum

Page 9  
Burn Demonstration

Page 11  
Coastal Wave Basketball

Page 13  
New Staff Highlights

Page 17  
Harm Reduction Cabinet

## Events

Tuesdays  
Summer Youth Group  
at the Six-Plex

June 22-23  
Health and Wellness Fair

June 24  
Father's Day Dinner at the  
Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre

June 25  
Burn Demonstration

July 1  
YG Offices Closed

July 2  
YG Offices Re-Open

In this issue, we have information about a Field School visit to hita<sup>cu</sup>, the annual Premier's Forum, and a new Indigenous basketball tournament in Victoria. We're also introducing several new staff members at Yuutu?it?ath Government.

Coming up, Yuutu?it?ath Government will be hosting a Health and Wellness Fair at the Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre on June 22 and 23. There will also be a Burn Demonstration in the Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre parking lot on June 25, hosted in collaboration with Ucluelet Fire Rescue and BC Wildfire Service.

Stay tuned for the July issue of Umacuk News, where we will celebrate the 2025/2026 students and graduates!

Please note, Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closed on **Wednesday, July 1**. Offices will re-open on **Thursday, July 2** for normal hours.

Read on for more events, services, and information.

**CLOSED**  
**Wednesday, July 1**

*Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre, huu'patu Centre & hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office will reopen Thursday, July 2*



YUULU?IL?ATH GOVERNMENT

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

## INCLUDES:

**Guest Speakers - Beading - Cedar Weaving - Medicine Making - Manicure & Pedicure - Hair Cuts - Massage - Tea Leaf Reading - Body Talk - Osteopath - Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening Awareness - Foot Care - and More!**

**JUNE 22-23, 2026  
CIX<sup>w</sup>ATIN CENTRE GYM**

**10:00AM - 4:00PM  
EACH DAY**

**Dinner served on June 22**

*More info? [Jenna.Miller@ufn.ca](mailto:Jenna.Miller@ufn.ca)*

# Field Schools visit hita'cu

*Students from Hawaii, Mexico, and New Zealand share culture and a meal*

*Photos by: Elena Rardon*



*Jeneva Touchie greets guests in nuu'aaaniut.*

Last month, Indigenous students from around the world had a chance to visit hita'cu

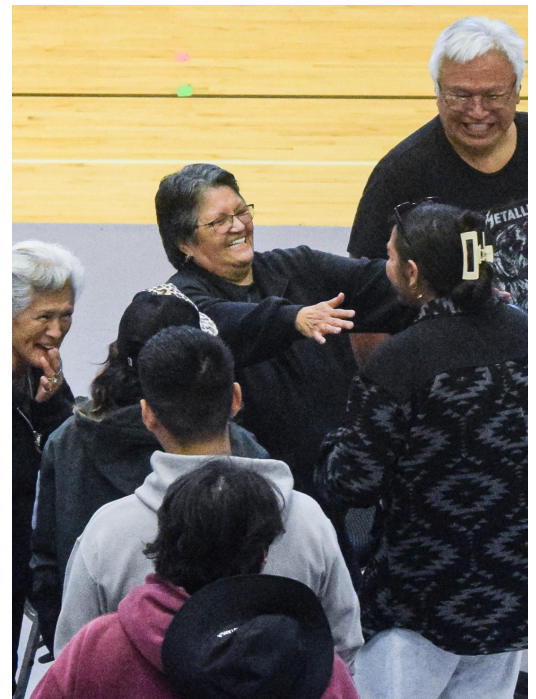
On May 28, Yuu'lu?i?ath Government hosted Field School students with North Island College. Indigenous students from Hawaii, Mexico, and New Zealand connected with Elders, engaged in a cultural exchange, and shared a meal with hita'cu community members.



*Yuu'lu?i?ath dancers perform ?aanima for the guests.*



*Students from Hawaii, Mexico, and New Zealand learn how to perform ?aanima.*



*Visiting students greet hita'cu Elders.*



*Yuutu?it'ath drummers and their guests perform a dinner song before sharing a meal.*



*Elders watch the performances from visiting students.*



*A student from New Zealand teaches the women of hita'cu how to perform the haka.*



*A student from Hawaii teaches a traditional dance.*



*Students from New Zealand teach the men of hita'cu how to perform the haka.*

# Premier's Forum

## *Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government hosts annual event*

Photos by: Elena Rardon

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government was pleased to host this year's Premier's Forum on June 4 alongside fellow Modern Treaty Nations, Premier David Eby, Ministers, and senior provincial officials. The forum provided an important opportunity to discuss shared priorities and strengthen the government-to-government relationships that are at the heart of treaty implementation.

Discussions focused on a number of key issues impacting Modern Treaty Nations, including treaty implementation, treaty renewal and modernization, economic development, the fiscal relationship between Modern Treaty Nations and the Province, the opioid crisis, and the Crown's ongoing responsibilities to uphold and respect treaty rights. Throughout the forum, leaders emphasized the need for practical solutions, stronger collaboration, and a whole-of-government approach to implementing modern treaties.

The energy throughout the forum was positive, constructive, and forward-looking. Participants spoke candidly about ongoing challenges while also demonstrating a shared commitment to building stronger partnerships and achieving meaningful outcomes for citizens and communities. There was a clear recognition that modern treaties are living agreements that must continue to evolve and be supported through effective implementation.

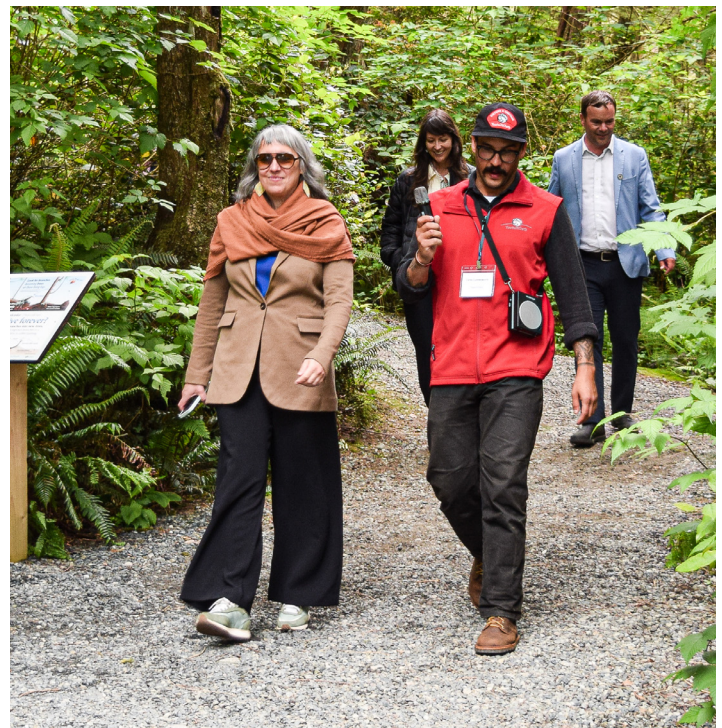
This year's forum was widely regarded as one of the strongest and most productive to date. Conversations were focused, engagement from provincial leadership was significant, and there was a collective commitment to moving beyond discussion toward tangible action. Together, Modern Treaty Nations and the Province continue to build the relationships and frameworks necessary to support thriving, self-determining communities and shared prosperity across British Columbia.



*Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government President Charles McCarthy speaks during the Leaders' Meeting at the Premier's Forum.*



*Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ and provincial leadership speak with a BC Housing representative during a tour of the new homes in hitaču.*



*Carey Cunneyworth leads a tour of the Ancient Cedars Loop.*



*Yuuluʔiʔath Government President Charles McCarthy takes provincial leadership on a tour of the new housing development in hitaču.*



*Carey Cunneyworth gives provincial leadership a tour of the Cultural Library in hitaču.*



*Yuuluʔiʔath Government President Charles McCarthy and Chief Administrative Officer Sunny Dhaliwal speak to Premier David Eby.*



*Jeneva Touchie, Carey Cunneyworth, and Tyson Touchie Sr. introduce visitors to kʷiʔisiti, the former Yuuluʔiʔath village site.*



*Jeneva Touchie and Carey Cunneyworth welcome visitors to Amphitrite Point.*



*Yuutu?it?ath dancers and drummers perform ?anima to welcome guests to the K'wisitis Visitor Centre.*



*The Leaders' Meeting of the annual Premier's Forum was hosted at the Cix'atin Centre Gym on June 4, 2026.*



# **Burn Demonstration**

**Thursday, June 25**

**Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre Parking Lot**

**5:30pm**

**Dinner to follow!**

Watch a burn demonstration and learn how FireSmart practices can help prevent structure ignition in the event of a wildfire.  
Dinner and prizes provided!



## Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Cixʷatin Centre Parking Lot Closure

ʔuhʔaλhasuu Citizens and Residents of hitačú,

Please be advised that the Cixʷatin Centre parking lot will be closed on **Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 4:45pm to 6:30pm** for a FireSmart burn demonstration, hosted in collaboration with Ucluelet Fire Rescue and BC Wildfire Service.

This demonstration will showcase how FireSmart practices can help prevent structure ignition in the event of a wildfire.

Members of the public are invited to attend the burn demonstration, which begins at 5:30pm. The demonstration will be followed by dinner at the Cixʷatin Centre.

Parking will not be permitted at the Cixʷatin Centre during this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

**Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government – Ucluelet First Nation**



# COMMUNITY GARDEN DROP-IN

**SAASIN ČAČIMĦIÝAP COMMUNITY GARDEN  
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK | 8:00AM TO 3:00PM**

*The garden is ready to welcome community volunteers!*

*Drop by and get to know the garden crew, learn about gardening, and enjoy the outdoors.*

*All ages welcome. No prior knowledge needed!*

*The Saasin ČačimĦiýap Garden is located behind the hitaču Fire Hall*

# Coastal Wave Basketball

## Players hit the court for Indigenous basketball tournament at UVic

Written by: Roniya Sahin, Ha-Shilth-Sa

Victoria, BC - Coastal Wave Basketball held its first ever Indigenous youth tournament June 5-7 at the University of Victoria. It was also a first for UVic, which had never hosted an Indigenous sporting tournament.

“This tournament is something that we had on our dream goals for the next few years,” said Coast-

al Wave Basketball director Tina Savea. “We thought strategically about where we wanted to host it.”

The first day of the tournament saw friends and families of team members sprawled across the many basketball courts in the Centre for Athletics, Recreation, and Special Abilities (CARSA), UVic’s campus gym.

Around 40 teams were registered for the tournament, yielding in over 650 players from all over Vancouver Island. The Nuuchah-Nulth teams were on fire. The U10 co-ed team Itty Bitty Ballers and the U13 girls team YFN Ravens represented the Yuułu?if?ath First Nation, while the Maaqtusiis Suns competed for Ahousaht and two Tatuus teams from Port Alberni competed in the under 13 and under 17 boys divisions. The U13 Tatuus ended up claiming their division.

The court was bright with smiles when the U10 co-ed team Itty Bitty Ballers faced off with Kelset. The Ballers defeated Kelset 28-12, carrying over their winning streak from the Junior All Native Tournament back in



Anita Charleson-Touchie poses with the Itty Bitty Ballers, who claimed the under 10 division at the Coastal Wave Basketball tournament, which was held at the University of Victoria June 5-7. (Photo submitted by Anita Charleson-Touchie)

March. By Sunday, they won the tournament’s U10 championship.

Taleah Touchie of the Itty Bitty Ballers received the Coastal Wave Basketball MVP award for U10 girls and co-ed. Similarly, Micah Jack received an MVP award for U10 boys and co-ed.

Friendly rivalries continued into the evening with the U13 girls’ teams YFN Ravens and Maaqtusiis Suns. The Ravens won 50-26.

Suns coach Robert Stanley noted the hard work the players put into playing basketball, as well as the “big target” on the girls’ backs after winning the JANT silver division title against the Ravens earlier this year.

“We tell them at the beginning of every season: it’s up to you what you want to bring to the court,” said Stanley. “They put in all the work. We just make sure they get there alright.”

### ‘Where culture meets the court’

Scrawled on the backs of every Coastal Wave Basketball t-shirt reads the slogan “Where culture meets the court.” This year, directors and participants emphasized the importance of engaging Indigenous culture with sporting events and opportunities.

Coastal Wave Basketball is a relatively new non-profit organization dedicated to running culturally inclusive programs and tearing down barriers for Indigenous youth in sports. They especially focus on uplifting girls in sports.



Friendly rivalries continued into the evening with the U13 girls' teams YFN Ravens and Maaqtusiis Suns. The Ravens won 50-26. (Roniya Sahin photo)



The court was bright with smiles when the U10 co-ed team Itty Bitty Ballers faced off with Kelset. The Ballers defeated Kelset 28-12, carrying over their winning streak from the Junior All Native Tournament back in March. By Sunday, they won the tournament's U10 championship. (Roniya Sahin photo)

"If you focus on the girls and teach them strength, love and confidence, the boys will follow," said founder and board chair Kim Graves.

Tina Savea highlighted how sporting events can foster existing relationships between friends and family. The stands are often full of supporters at all-Indigenous sporting events, with seats occupied by grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins, parents and friends.

Both Anita and Tyson Touchie, who is Anita's husband and coach of both Ravens and Ballers, taught the players cedar weaving before last year's JANT. As a team, they created their own cedar headbands and wore it to the JANT opening ceremonies. They plan on creating shirts and vests with Aboriginal designs for the next JANT.

Anita Charleson-Touchie spoke on the sense of belonging children develop from being on the basketball teams.

"I've seen the power of connection. I've seen little kids – prior to being part of the basketball community – I've seen them with their heads down and walking past me," she said. "After they've been participating and being part of the team, they have their heads up and take their time to wave and connect."

Graves and Savea shouted out the Indigenous Education department at UVic for helping to make the tournament possible during the opening ceremony.



Taleah Touchie of the Itty Bitty Ballers received the Coastal Wave Basketball MVP award for U10 girls and co-ed. (Photo submitted by Anita Charleson-Touchie)

Both women acknowledged the long-term benefits for youth to explore the UVic campus during the three-day tournament.

"I want every athlete walking around this campus to imagine themselves attending this university," said Graves during the opening ceremony. "At the centre of everything we do is education."

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# New Staff Highlights

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## *Welcome to Yuułu?it?ath Government Marisa Dirk!*

Marisa Dirk, RN, has joined the Department of ʔuuʔaʔukʷičʔaala (Health & Social Services) as Yuułu?it?ath Government's second Community Health Nurse.

Along with Community Health Nurse Rachel Harding, Marisa will be providing healthcare services for citizens living in hitaču and for urban citizens through the hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office in Port Alberni.

Marisa is a Registered Nurse with 16 years of nursing experience across a variety of healthcare settings. Throughout her career, she has worked in hospital care, public health, primary care, and oncology, providing care to individuals across the lifespan—from newborns to older adults.

In 2020, she moved from the traditional territories of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta to British Columbia.

"I am grateful that I am currently living, working, and raising my two young children on the traditional territories, lands, and waters of the Yuułu?it?ath First Nation," says Marisa. "In my spare time I love to spend time with my family, be on the beach, and ride my bike."

Marisa is passionate about community-based nursing and believes in building meaningful relationships that support the health and wellbeing of community members.

"I lead with cultural safety and humility while working to improve the health services for members," she says. "I value the importance of working collaboratively with individuals, families, and community partners."

Part of her role as a Community Health Nurse is to support people living safely and independently in their homes and community. Marisa will provide nursing support in peoples' homes, and at the huuʔatu Health Centre.



*Marisa Dirk is Yuułu?it?ath Government's second Community Health Nurse. Photo submitted by: Marisa Dirk*

"I am honoured to serve the community and look forward to building relationships with members, while learning about the culture, traditions, and teachings of this land," says Marisa.

Visit or call the huuʔatu Health Centre to request services from Marisa, or call/text Marisa directly at 250-266-9788 (daytime hours only). Marisa can also be reached by email at [marisa.dirk@ufn.ca](mailto:marisa.dirk@ufn.ca).

### **Services offered:**

- Health Assessments (Infant to Elderly)
- Medication Management and Education
- Wound Care and Dressing Changes
- Palliative and End-of-Life Care
- Chronic Disease Management
- Home Injections
- Catheter Care
- Ostomy Care
- Diabetes Management and Blood Glucose Monitoring
- Post-Hospital and Discharge Follow-Up
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Education
- Coordination of Care with Physicians, Specialists, and Other Healthcare Providers.
- Referrals to Community Support and Services



## **Power Saw Operator Training (PSO)**

**June 24-25, 2026  
9:00AM-4:00PM  
Tyhistanis**

This two-day course includes one day of classroom theory and one day of hands-on field training. Evaluation is based on a written exam and practical performance.

Students will learn safe chainsaw operation, handling, and injury prevention. This course is not a faller certification. Topics include:

- WorkSafeBC & OHS regulations
- PPE
- Hazard identification
- Chainsaw components & safety features
- Basic maintenance
- Bucking techniques

Participants receive a PSO manual and a certification card valid for 3 years. Participants will need a long sleeved shirt and jeans for practical training- other PPE will be available for use during training.

**\*LUNCH PROVIDED\***


### **To Register:**


Connect with our Intake Coordinator Gregory Thomas at 250-723-1331 or Gregory.Thomas@nuuchahnulth.org

**Connect Today!**



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

 SR: 250-723-1331

 Office Location:  
#4 1636 Peninsula Rd  
Ucluelet, BC

*Funding provided in part by the  
Government of Canada*

**Canada**

# New Staff Highlights

## Welcoming the new Finance team to Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government!

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government is pleased to welcome five new employees to the Department of *tataanaḥaḷukʷiʔaala* (Finance).

**James Leung** (MBA, CPA, CGA) is YG's new Chief Financial Officer. James brings more than 30 years of financial leadership experience across public and private sector organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and an MBA in Sustainable Innovation and is a Chartered Professional Accountant with additional CGA and FCCA (UK) designations. James brings deep expertise in financial strategy, governance, and sustainable growth to support the Finance team and the Nation's long-term sustainability. James can be reached at [cfo@ufn.ca](mailto:cfo@ufn.ca).

**Adam Wax** (CPA) has joined the team as the Financial Reporting & Controls Manager. Adam brings strong expertise in audit and accounting across public and private sector organizations. He is a Chartered Professional Accountant and contributes solid technical expertise to support the Finance team in a fast-paced environment. Adam can be reached at [adam.wax@ufn.ca](mailto:adam.wax@ufn.ca).

**Mona Karbalaei** has joined the team as an Intermediate Accountant. Mona brings extensive experience in full-cycle accounting, audit coordination, and finan-

cial reporting. She holds an MBA and a bachelor's in accounting and contributes strong technical expertise to support the finance team. Mona can be reached at [mona.karbalaei@ufn.ca](mailto:mona.karbalaei@ufn.ca).

**Alicia Oporto** is YG's new Junior Accountant. Alicia brings more than three years of experience in accounting and finance. She has strong experience in accounts receivable and payable, reconciliations, and holds a degree in accounting, contributing solid knowledge to the Finance team. Alicia can be reached at [ap@ufn.ca](mailto:ap@ufn.ca).

Finally, **Zachariah Cosgrove** is YG's new Accounting Assistant. Zach brings experience in operations, with a strong focus on organization and efficiency. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in accounting, building a solid foundation in business and financial principles. Zach can be reached at [zachariah.cosgrove@ufn.ca](mailto:zachariah.cosgrove@ufn.ca).

The new Finance staff will join **Melody Mundy**, Payroll Manager, who has been working with Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government for more than 20 years across various departments. She contributes strong knowledge to the fast-paced Finance team. Melody can be reached at [payroll@ufn.ca](mailto:payroll@ufn.ca).



**James Leung**  
MBA, CPA, CGA



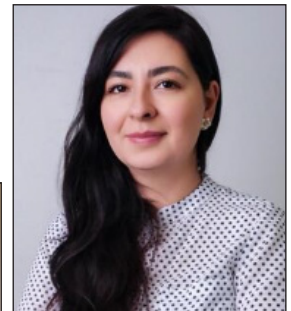
**Alicia Oporto**



**Adam Wax**  
CPA



**Zachariah  
Cosgrove**



**Mona Karbalaei**

# Yuutu?i?ath Summer Youth Group

TUESDAY JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>

TUESDAY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>

TUESDAY JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>

TUESDAY JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>

TUESDAY JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>

**AT THE SIX-PLEX**

**5PM-7PM**

**!! DINNER PROVIDED !!!**

**AGE GROUP: 13-18  
PRIZES EVERY WEEK**



With Nicole Burtini and Emily Collins

A space for youth come together to build wellness, life skills, and meaningful relationships, over the summer months. growing stronger together.



**Puuk<sup>w</sup>inkpanač**





Yuutu?it?ath

MEET

# MARISA DIRK, RN

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

## SERVICES PROVIDED:

- ✓ Health Assessments (Infant to Elderly)
- ✓ Medication Management and Education
- ✓ Wound Care and Dressing Changes
- ✓ Palliative and End-of-Life Care
- ✓ Chronic Disease Management
- ✓ Home Injections
- ✓ Catheter Care
- ✓ Ostomy Care
- ✓ Diabetes Management and Blood Glucose Monitoring
- ✓ Post-Hospital and Discharge Follow-Up
- ✓ Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Education
- ✓ Coordination of Care with Physicians, Specialists, and Other Healthcare Providers
- ✓ Referrals to Community Support and Services



## CONTACT:



(250) 726-7343



huupatu Health Centre



marisa.dirk@ufn.ca

Call/Text Marisa directly at (250) 266-9788 (daytime hours only)



Yuutu?it?ath

MEET

# RACHEL HARDING, RN

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

## SERVICES PROVIDED:

- ✓ Contraceptive Management
- ✓ Opioid Agonist Therapy
- ✓ Harm Reduction Education and Supplies
- ✓ Maternal Child Health Assessments
- ✓ Prenatal Assessments
- ✓ Well-Child Assessments
- ✓ Monthly Baby Group
- ✓ Case Management
- ✓ Disability Assessments
- ✓ Referrals to OT, PT, and Mental Health Support
- ✓ Walk-in Clinic Nursing Care (Assessments, Medication, Administration, Wound Care)
- ✓ Emergency Response Backup (Coordinating Ambulance, Fire, or Police Services)



## CONTACT:



(250) 726-7343



huupatu Health Centre



rachel.harding@ufn.ca

Call/Text Rachel directly at (250) 266-3999 (daytime hours only)

# hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



## June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
1 <b>Culture Night!</b> 5:00pm to 7:30pm	2	3	4 <b>Language Classes with maḥima</b> 6:30pm to 8:30pm	5 <b>Michelle Touchie</b> Citizenship & Enrolment Registrar 9:00am – 3:00pm	6
Counselling with <b>Amber Severinson</b> Available by app't. Mon - Fri (pls contact Satellite Office)					
8	9	10	11 <b>Kimberly Touchie</b> Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 2:00pm	12	13 Private hall rental
15 <b>hitaču Assembly</b> Cixwatin Centre Gym 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Assembly  Contact offices to join the meeting remotely (participate on Zoom or view on Facebook)	16 <b>Jennifer Touchie</b> Educations Services Manager 11:00am – 2:00pm	17	18 <b>Yuulu?it?ath Education Celebration</b> Cixwatin Centre Gym 5:00pm – 7:30pm	19 <b>National Indigenous Peoples Day</b> Offices Closed	20 21
22 <b>Youth Language Class with maḥima</b> 6:30pm to 8:00pm	23	24	25 Private hall rental 11:00am to 3:00pm	26	27 Private hall rental
29 <b>Marisa Dirk</b> Community Health Nurse – Sun Safety 10:00am to 2:00pm	30				28

\*Services offered during regular operating hours of the Yuulu?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.