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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 3 | March 2026

www.ufn.ca

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Events

Tuesdays
Community Soup at Six-Plex

Wednesdays
Naa?uuwitasin ha?uk
(We're going to eat together)

April 2
Baby Group

April 3
YG Offices Closed

April 7
YG Offices Re-open

April 9
Life Skills and Wellness Group

In this issue, we have photos from the Family Day event in February, coverage from an Education Conference hosted in hita?u last month, and photos of the herring spawn in Barkley Sound. We're also happy to welcome Judy Ventry, YG's new Director of ?uu?atuk'wi?aa?a (Health and Social Services), to the team.

The Annual General Assembly took place on March 16, 2026, which included presentation of the Annual Fiscal Report and audited financial statements. The full report can be found on our website at www.ufn.ca under Government > Records and Reports > Annual Fiscal Reports.

Please note, Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closed on **Friday, April 3** and **Monday, April 6** for Easter Long Weekend. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, April 7 for normal hours.

Read on for more events, services, and information.



*Cix'atin Centre, huupatu Centre,
& hi?stiis hupii?u? Satellite Office are closed on*
FRIDAY, APRIL 3 & MONDAY, APRIL 6
EASTER LONG WEEKEND

Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, April 7.



NAME THE BOAT!

The Department of nismaakukqin?aała (Lands and Resources) is welcoming a new high-speed rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to hita'cu and the vessel needs a name!

We are asking citizens for input. Comment your suggested name on the pinned Facebook post for a chance to win a \$100 prepaid gift card.

*FUNDED BY THE "CO-DEVELOPING COMMUNITY RESPONSE INITIATIVE"
GRANT FROM TRANSPORT CANADA*

Deadline: Tuesday, March 31 at 12:00pm
Questions? Contact jeffrey.david@ufn.ca

The three names with the most number of "likes" on social media will be selected for a public poll, and the community will vote to choose the winner!

Family Day Fun

Family Day activities took place at the Cix^watin Centre on February 16, 2026

Photos by: Elena Rardon





Life Skills & Wellness Group

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM

**STARTING APRIL 9, 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

Bringing culture into the classroom

Department of Education hosts second annual Education Conference

Written by: Elena Rardon

Educators and child-care providers enjoyed a day celebrating Nuu-chah-nulth culture during a recent education conference in hitaču.

Yuuluḡiḡaḡ Government's Department of huuḡtakši-iḡinḡaafa (Education and Youth) hosted their second education conference on Friday, February 13, titled "Moving Through Trauma by Connecting to Language, Culture and Traditional Foods."



Anita Charleson-Touchie speaks to the crowd gathered at the Cixʷatin Centre Gymnasium on February 13, 2026. Photo by: Asya Touchie

The event had more than 100 participants, including representatives from School District 70 and the Vancouver Island West Coast Primary Care Initiative Health Society. Some attendees came from as far away as Parksville.

It was a "really good turnout," said Jennifer Touchie, YG's Manager of Education Services.

"It's amazing how many connections were made," she said.

The event featured a seafood feast, as well as several Nuu-chah-nulth speakers and presenters. Keynote speaker Anita Charleson-Touchie, of Tiichmis Wellness, talked about how to support children so that they can understand trauma.

"We know that it takes seven generations to break the cycle of trauma," Jennifer Touchie explained. "So how do we work with the school district—or other organizations—to heal, to comfort, and to help students understand their feelings?"

The event was a follow-up to an education conference

that the Department of huuḡtakši-iḡinḡaafa hosted last year, which focused on identifying trauma and exploring its intergenerational impacts on children.

"We felt [the trauma], we learned about it, and we moved through it with connections to our culture," said Touchie. "Now we're in a place where we can heal and heal our children."

A big part of healing, Touchie explained, comes from connecting to culture, language and tradi-

tional foods.

"If we practice learning and teaching these tools, those will be carried on to the next generations that come after us," said Touchie.

Jeneva Touchie, YG's Manager of Language Services, talked about the importance of language when it comes to healing trauma, and provided demonstrations of the "Where Are Your Keys?" language learning technique.

Gisele Martin of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation gave a presentation about traditional foods. She also talked about the importance of keeping the ecosystem clean and protected so that Nuu-chah-nulth people can restore their traditional, self-sufficient way of life.

"Some of these youth haven't had the experience of eating fresh seafood they've harvested themselves," said Jennifer Touchie. "That's how our elders grew up. We can no longer step outside and harvest our own clams for lunch, like we used to be able to. It would be good to work to gain that back."

Lisa Watts of Tseshaht First Nation finished the event by talking about the importance of culture, especially when it comes to listening to elders. The event also included a panel where elders and youth answered questions about how they can work together to stay connected through culture and language.

“These pieces have been missing,” said Touchie. “How can we bring culture into the schools? Whether it’s having a traditional seafood lunch, or Nuu-chah-nulth language classes. We want to develop these things in the schools—not just for Indigenous children, but for all children.”

Touchie said she heard overall positive responses from attendants.

“Just being able to have a conference like this in our own community is exciting,” she said.



Keynote speaker Anita Charleson-Touchie poses for a photo with YG Manager of Education Services Jennifer Touchie on February 13, 2026. Photo by: Jennifer Touchie



Gisele Martin speaks about the importance of traditional food during the education conference on February 13, 2026. Photo by: Asya Touchie



Participants enjoyed a seafood feast during the education conference on February 13, 2026. Photo by: Asya Touchie

Herring spawn returns

λusmit (Pacific herring) spawn returns to Barkley Sound

Photos by: Uu-a-thluk (Taking Care of)

The waters of the Barkley Sound turned a milky turquoise colour in early March as the λusmit (Pacific herring) spawn returned to the west coast.

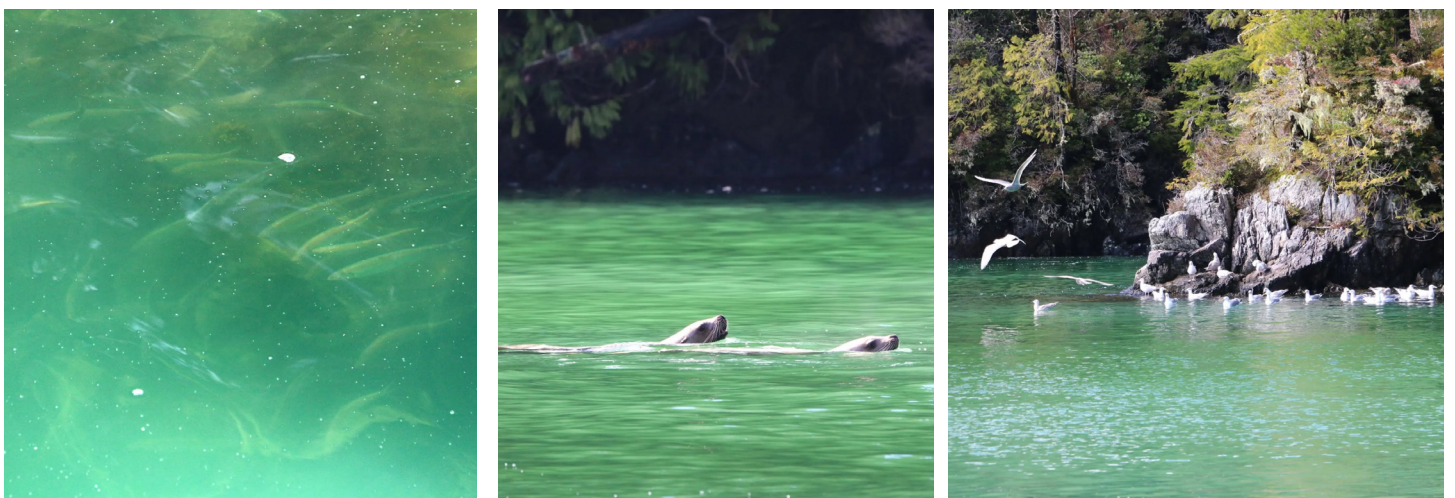
Government staff lowering tree limbs into the water to collect kʷaqhmis or siihmuu (herring roe) on the bough.

Uu-a-thluk (Taking Care of) captured photos of Yuuluʔifʔath

The roe was later distributed to citizens in hitaču and Port Alberni.



Yuuluʔifʔath Government staff lower tree limbs into the water to collect herring roe on the bough.



The arrival and spawn of herring is usually followed by the appearance of sea lions, gulls and other marine life.



CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

- From appointment until the next regular election (May 2027).
- Applicants must *not* be members of the Legislature.

POSITION

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Legislature is seeking applications for the position of Alternate Chairperson on a contract basis.

This role supports the effective operation of the Legislature and provides leadership continuity when the Chairperson is unavailable or when the position becomes vacant.

The successful candidate will be mentored by the Chairperson and gain hands-on experience in legislative procedure, meeting facilitation, and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government legislation and processes.

Interested? The full job posting is available at www.ufn.ca/jobs.
Posting is open until filled.

New Staff Highlights

Welcome to Yuułu?it?ath Government Judy Ventry!

Weytkp! My name is Judy, and I have recently moved to Ucluelet to serve as Yuułu?it?ath Government's Director of ʔuuʔatuk'wič?aala (Health and Social Services).

I am grateful to you for welcoming me into your community and onto your territory. It is an honor to be here and to have the opportunity to serve alongside you.

I was raised in Williams Lake, about a 13 hours' drive away in the Northern Interior of B.C. Like many people, I spent many years away before eventually finding my way back home. Those years took me throughout B.C. and Alberta and even to Australia, where I met my husband and where we began building our life together. Eventually we returned to Canada and spent many years raising our four children while running a flooring and construction business.

For much of my early life I worked in business and entrepreneurship, but over time something shifted in my heart. I felt a strong calling to move toward service work, particularly supporting people struggling with addiction, trauma, and mental health challenges. I have served as a group leader in a 12-step addiction recovery program and family support group program and that calling eventually led me back to school and into community work focused on outreach, recovery support, and health services.

Over the past number of years, I have had the privilege of working alongside several First Nations communities, including my own community, Sugarcane, otherwise known as Williams Lake First Nation. Through that work, as well as my time working for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction as a street outreach worker, I have come to better understand the deep impacts of intergenerational trauma, residential and day school experiences, and the ways systems have often failed people who needed care the most. Those experiences changed the way I see the world and strengthened my commitment to work in ways that support healing, dignity, and communi-



Judy Ventry is Yuułu?it?ath Government's new Director of ʔuuʔatuk'wič?aala (Health and Social Services). Photo submitted by: Judy Ventry

ty-led solutions.

Part of my own journey has also been learning more deeply about my own ancestry. I am both settler and First Nations and understanding that history has been an important part of my personal reconciliation journey. As I began reflecting on my family history and the stories that were passed down, I realized that learning about my own Indigenous roots also meant taking responsibility to honor that part of my identity.

One way I have tried to do that is through learning language. I spent time studying Secwépemctsin and

was grateful to earn a language proficiency certificate. For me, that learning was not about achievement, but about respect — respect for my ancestors, for the land, and for the knowledge carried within Indigenous languages.

In my work, I try to approach communities with humility and respect, recognizing that the knowledge, culture, and strength already exists within the community. My role is not to come with all the answers, but to listen, support, and help build programs and systems that reflect the vision and priorities of the people.

Much of my work has focused on addiction recovery, trauma-informed care, and developing programs that bring together cultural healing, community sup-

port, and practical health services. I have also been involved in developing land-based healing initiatives and wellness programming that supports long-term recovery and reconnection.

Most importantly, I believe healing happens through relationships — through listening, trust, and walking alongside one another.

I am grateful to be here and I look forward to learning from the knowledge keepers, Elders, leadership, staff, and community members. I hope to build strong relationships and work together in ways that support the health and wellness of the community for generations to come.

Thank you for welcoming me.

AREA C | OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

www.letsconnectacrd.ca/area-c-ocp

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

The Draft Area C OCP is now available!



Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Travel to the United States

February 18, 2026

ʔuhʔaλhasuu Citizens and Residents of hitaču,

Due to increased security at the United States border crossing, there is some concern about Indigenous Canadians being targeted and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The safety of our citizens is our priority. If travelling to the United States, it is recommended that citizens carry the following:

- Status card (Government ID)
- Birth certificate
- Valid passport
- A Letter of Ancestry provided by Indigenous Services Canada

Please ensure all travel documents are up-to-date and not expired.

To apply for a Letter of Ancestry, please contact the Genealogical and Archival Research Unit at 1-844-365-9720 or genea@sac-isc.gc.ca.

If you are detained at the U.S. border, please contact the Canadian Consulate's Emergency Watch and Response Centre for assistance at 1-613-996-8885 or 1-800-387-3124 (toll-free)

Sincerely,

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government – Ucluelet First Nation



APRIL 17-19
2026



hišumyił łapuułkwi?ath

“TO GATHER TLA-O-QUI-AHT”

“Who We Are”

A MULTI DAY EVENT ~
CELEBRATING OUR HOME,
CULTURE AND HISTORY



Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Funding opportunities



Our Education Awards will soon open for application! From **February 16th until April 7th**, eligible high school students and recent graduates will be able to apply for the:

- 🎓 Central Region nuučaan̓ut (Nuu-Chah-Nulth) Education Award (\$5,500/year)
- 🎓 The Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region Education Award (\$5,500/year)
- 🎓 Pacific Rim Foundation's Dick Close Scholarship (\$10,000/year)
- 🎓 Tourism Tofino Scholarship (\$10,000)

The awards are granted based on a combination of community involvement, personal reference letters, a proposed education plan, and academic achievement.

🌻 **Learn more about** eligibility and the application process by following the link below or scanning the QR code.


<https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/education-awards>



Neighbourhood Small Grants




 Neighbourhood Small Grants
Clayoquot Sound

 Our Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) spring cycle will be **opening soon**, and we can't wait to see your ideas come to life! These grants are designed for individuals who want to make their **communities better places to live**. Whether it is a youth project, an environmental initiative, a cultural gathering, or any creative project/event that strengthens your neighbourhood, all ideas are welcome.

 **March 15th** | Applications open

 **April 30th** | Applications close

 **Grants** | up to to \$500

We can't wait to see each community come alive this spring! To learn more, check out the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/current-grants/neighbourhood-small-grants>





**Nuu-chah-nulth
Employment
& Training Program**

Unlock Your Potential with NETP

#4 1636 Peninsula Rd
Ucluelet, BC
NETP@nuuchahnulth.org

Drivers L Prep Workshop Ucluelet, BC

**March 26, 2026
9:00AM -3:30 PM
NETP Ukee Office**

Get ready to pass your Class 7 L Written Knowledge Test with expert guidance from a certified instructor at Pacific Rim Driving School!

What You'll Gain:

- ✓ Essential knowledge to ace the test
- ✓ Tips and insights from an experienced instructor
- ✓ Interactive learning in-person or online

Limited in-person spots available – pre-registration required!

Virtual attendance option available

Clean Driver's Abstract required

Register today and take the first step toward getting your license!

LUNCH PROVIDED

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.

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

hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



March 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
2	3	4 Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse - foot care 1:30pm – 3:00pm	5 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	6	7
					8
Counselling with Amber Severinson Available by app't. Mon-Fri (pls contact Satellite Office)					
9 Office Closed	10	11	12	13 Office Closed	14
					15
16 Office Closed	17	18	19 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	20	21
					22
23 Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:30am – 1:30pm	24	25	26 Nicole Burtini Social Worker Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator 10:00am – 2:00pm Culture Night! 5:00pm to 7:30pm	27 Youth Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:00pm	28
					29
30	31				

*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 & Hupačas?ath First Nations.