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Yuutu?it?ath

# Umacuk YG News

Volume 16, Issue 5 | May 2026

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

## What's New?

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## Events

Mondays  
Wellness Mondays at the Six-Plex

May 28  
Family Engagement Night

June 1  
Naa?uuwitasin ha?uk  
(We're going to eat together)  
in Port Alberni

June 15  
Open House and hita?u Assembly

June 18  
Education Celebration

June 19  
YG Offices Closed

June 22  
YG Offices Re-open

In this issue, we have photos from firebox training and a non-instructional day hosted in hita?u. We're also introducing two new staff members at Yuutu?it?ath Government.

The next hita?u Assembly will take place **Monday, June 15** at the Cixwatin Centre at 6:00pm. There will be an open house on the same night, starting at 4:00pm, where citizens can meet the staff and get to know the different departments at Yuutu?it?ath Government.

Applications are now open for Secondary School and Post-Secondary & Training Awards. Visit [www.ufn.ca/forms](http://www.ufn.ca/forms) under "Education" to fill out an application.


Please note, Yuutu?it?ath Government offices will be closed on **Friday, June 19** in lieu of National Indigenous Peoples Day. Offices will re-open on **Monday, June 22** for normal hours.

Read on for more events, services, and information.

*Cixwatin Centre, huu?atu Centre & hitstiis hupii?ul Satellite Office*

**CLOSED**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19**  
IN LIEU OF  
**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**  
*Government Offices will reopen Monday, June 22*





# Canoe Journey

## PADDLE PRACTICE

**Tuesdays . 6:00am**  
**Thursdays . 5:00 pm**  
Meet at hita'cu boat launch

We are calling all community members who are interested in participating in a Canoe Journey this summer, to join us for paddle practice. Contact Tyson Touchie Sr. to be added to the early morning practices group.

**INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE?**

For Yuu'tu?i?ath community members

Email: [tyson.touchie.sr@ufn.ca](mailto:tyson.touchie.sr@ufn.ca)

# Firebox Training

*Yuułu?it?ath citizens and staff learn about fire safety*

*Photos by: Elena Rardon*



*Katie Burden practices sending water to the hose line, while Kathy Ferguson of FNESS supervises.*

Yuułu?it?ath citizens and staff had a chance to learn about fire safety during a Firebox Training session last month.

Kathy Ferguson, Fire Services Officer from First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and Markus McRurie, Deputy Chief for Ucluelet Fire Rescue, led the training session in hitaču on April 29.

Trainees learned how to operate a fire hydrant and hose using the equipment stored in fireboxes, which have been installed in four locations in hitaču

Participants included a mix of Yuułu?it?ath citizens and YG staff.

Certificates and firebox access will be issued to those who attended the training. Stay tuned to learn about future training opportunities!



*Trainees practice unrolling fire hoses.*



*One by one, trainees practiced opening the hydrant and sending water to the hose line. They also got a chance to practice hose handling.*



*Markus McRurie, Deputy Fire Chief with Ucluelet Fire Rescue, points out hazards to watch out for while fighting fires.*

# Learning on the Land

## Teachers visit hitaču for Professional Development

West Coast educators had a chance to visit the community of hitaču for an Indigenous-focused Non-Instructional Day earlier this month.

Approximately 80 teachers and educators attended the training, which included a community tour of hitaču and the Cultural Library, an introduction to the Warriors Program, a demonstration of cedar harvesting and weaving, and a workshop hosted by Anita Charleson-Touchie.

Educators were excited about a stop at the Saasin Čačimħiyap Community Garden, where they could make their own tea using ingredients harvested from the garden.

Marylin Touchie offered teachers samples of traditional food, from smoked seal meat to herring roe, and Dennis Hetu talked about his experience working on the land.



Zoe Jordan, garden lead with the Saasin Čačimħiyap Community Garden, shows off a snail roll full of young asparagus sprouts.



Anita Charleson-Touchie demonstrates the concept of Hishuk-ish Tsawalk (“Everything is Connected”). In this demonstration, one circle represents animal life, one circle represents plant life, and one circle represents human life.



*Educators make their own bags full of tea, using leaves and flowers grown in the Saasin Čačimhiyap Community Garden.*



*Visitors admire the beds at the Saasin Čačimhiyap Community Garden.*



*Brian Wilson demonstrates cedar harvesting techniques.*



## Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government One-Time Payment

May 4, 2026

ʔuhʔaʕhasuu Citizens and Residents of hitaču,

Applications are now open for an annual payment for Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens aged 16 and older.

This is an annual distribution which will be made to all citizens aged 16 and older during Christmas and the holiday season. Although a payment of \$250 was already made to families during the 2025 holiday season, the broader distribution to citizens could not be made, as it required a budget amendment. This amendment has now been completed, resulting in this distribution.

Applications can be found online at [www.ufn.ca/forms](http://www.ufn.ca/forms) (under “Payment Applications”), in person at the Cixʷatin Centre or hitstiis hupiiʔuʔ Satellite Office, or by emailing [citizenship@ufn.ca](mailto:citizenship@ufn.ca).

There is no deadline to submit an application. Payments for approved applications will be processed within 30 days.

If you have any questions, please contact [citizenship@ufn.ca](mailto:citizenship@ufn.ca).

Sincerely,

**Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government – Ucluelet First Nation**



# HITAC'U ASSEMBLY

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**MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026**

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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, June 15, 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.

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

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:  
DIAL IN #: 1 (778) 907-2071  
MEETING ID: 819 6471 0472  
PASSCODE: 115311



Join q<sup>w</sup>ayaćiik?iis Childcare Centre for a family engagement session.

Open to everyone. Includes a catered dinner, bouncy castle for kids, and door prizes.

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

THURSDAY  
MAY  
28

CIX<sup>w</sup>ATIN CENTRE  
GYM  
HITAĆU  
4:00PM TO 6:00PM



For more information, email [kali.touchie-maher@ufn.ca](mailto:kali.touchie-maher@ufn.ca)

# ʔuucawinyuk<sup>ʔ</sup>in - "We Celebrate!"

Let's celebrate the 2025/2026 students! Join us for dinner, cultural song and dance, and fun family time.



## Education Celebration

Thursday, June 18, 2026  
Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre Gym, hitaču

5:00-7:30 pm



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# New Staff Highlights

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## *Welcome to Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government Bruce Greig!*

ʔuklaamaḥ Bruce Greig. ʔuḥukʷaḥ ʔumʔiiqsu Martha Greig. ʔuḥukʷaḥ n'uwʔiiqsu George David Greig. I am the great grandson of uninvited Scottish settlers, who homesteaded on a section of the lands of the Siksika Nation – part of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Treaty 7) area of what is now known as Alberta. Being mamaafnii, my later ancestors sold the farm and floated to other places, following work in Alberta and BC.

I was born on Lulu Island in the mouth of the Fraser River and grew up in the Vancouver area, in the territories of the Musqueam and Tsawwassen Nations. As a kid my family regularly visited the west coast, exploring the Ucluelet, Long Beach and Tofino areas. For the past twenty years my wife Louise, my daughter Raven and I have lived on Vancouver Island – and for almost nine years we have been extremely grateful to call Ucluelet home and to become part of this community.

I am a registered professional Landscape Architect and a registered professional Planner in BC. I started my career doing design / build work and then worked for two consulting firms – one very large and the other a small startup. I worked on land design and planning projects for private land owners, resort developers, non-profits (including several projects for a community housing trust), and public agencies. Twenty years ago, I shifted my practice to work for the public. I first worked for local government in the community of Central Saanich, in the territory of the Tsartlip and Tsawout Nations on the Saanich Peninsula just north of Victoria. That was my first experience with writing an Official Community Plan including policy to consider an Indigenous community's relationships with the land when making municipal development decisions. A major challenge in Central Saanich is guiding the pressure from urban development away from both farmland and sensitive stream and marine areas.

We moved to the west coast when the opportunity came to work as the Manager of Community Planning for the District of Ucluelet. That department



*Bruce Greig is Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government's new Manager of Community Planning. Photo submitted by: Bruce Greig*

includes the functions of Planning, Building Inspections, Business Licensing and Bylaw Services. Now working for the Yuułu?iŋ?ath Government, I feel like I have graduated – instead of helping plan for just the area of the Yuułu?iŋ?ath territory which falls in the municipality of Ucluelet, I'm excited to be lending my efforts to help this community plan for the future of the whole traditional nisḥa of the Yuułu?iŋ?ath.

Much of my career has focused on creating more affordable forms of housing, guiding development to avoid impacts on the environment, building up community connections and creating places where people meet, gather, recreate and celebrate. I have worked for different communities that desire economic development but need to balance the impact on environmental and community values that can come with the changes brought by outside money. Over my eight years working for Ucluelet I have listened and learned about the neighboring agencies, non-profits, the regional district, treaty and non-treaty Nations on the west coast – and both the shared challenges and unique context of each. It is an exciting challenge to be learning more about this

community and to apply my experience in the role of Manager of Community Planning in the Department of nis̓maakukqin?aala (always our land) - Lands and Resources.

I see that all five Maa-nulth Treaty nations are in the process of updating their laws to better suit their needs. Fifteen years is a short time for creating a new government and tailoring it to meet the needs of its community. The recent start of the process to update the Yuuṭuʔiṭʔaṭḥ official community plan is one step in that direction. Thank you to everyone who came out on May 7th to the first community meeting for that project, and we look forward to hearing input from all community members!

Outside of work, I am currently plugging away at renovating our home in Ucluelet and creating a new

garden. That project never seems to end! Still, I try to spend as much time as I can with my family and our dog, Henri, in the forest, on the beach and out on the water.

Thank you for the warm welcome that I have received from everyone in the community, and in the organization. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more community members both in and outside of hitaču over time.

There's loads of work to do here but it feels like I'm in the right place to listen, learn and apply my skills to help move the Yuuṭuʔiṭʔaṭḥ's work forward – it is inspiring to see the other people here working hard and dedicating their efforts to serving the community.

ḷeekoo



# Don't toss your cigarette butts

*ḷeekoo for understanding.*

▶ Tossing cigarette butts on the ground is littering, which is against the law.

▶ Lit cigarette butts are a fire hazard during dry weather.

▶ Show ʔiisaak (respect) for our community: make sure butts are extinguished and disposed of in the garbage or an ashtray.

# New Staff Highlights

## Welcome to Yuutu?it?ath Government Tyson Touchie Sr!

Nanim?saq<sup>w</sup>asčišt (Tyson Touchie Sr.) has joined the Department of ḥaahuupačakukqin?aała (Culture, Language and Heritage) as the first-ever Cultural Coordinator.

Tyson is dedicated to supporting and strengthening community connections within the Yuutu?it?ath Ucluelet First Nation. Having lived in hitaču for most of his life, Tyson carries a strong connection to community, culture, and place, which guides the work he does each day.

He has been married to Anita Charleson Touchie for 36 years, and together they have built a strong family with five daughters, one son, and three grandchildren. Family is central to Tyson's life and continues to inspire his commitment to supporting future generations.

Through his work, Tyson helps organize and support a variety of cultural activities and programs, including weekly čapac/canoe practices in preparation for Canoe Journeys, Cultural Nights, and will be working on developing new cultural engagements for the community. He works closely with staff, leadership, and community members to ensure that culture remains at the heart of everyday initiatives.

Tyson is especially passionate about supporting youth—whether through cultural learning opportunities or in-



Tyson Touchie Sr. is Yuutu?it?ath Government's new Cultural Coordinator. Photo by: Melody Charlie

volvement in activities like sports—helping to create positive spaces where young people can grow with a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Known for his approachability and commitment to community, Tyson values collaboration and relationship-building. His work continues to support cultural pride, shared learning, and the well-being of present and future generations.

"I look forward to working with all our relatives to strengthen our culture," says Tyson.

## EDUCATION AWARDS



# Yuutu?it?ath

[ufn.ca](http://ufn.ca) > Forms > Education Forms



NAA?UUW'IT'ASIN HA?UK



# naa?uuw'itasin ha?uk

"WE'RE GOING TO EAT TOGETHER."  
in Port Alberni

Monday, June 1 | 5:00pm  
hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office  
3203 3rd Ave, Port Alberni

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

# CLAYOQUOT BIOSPHERE TRUST


## LEADERSHIP VANCOUVER ISLAND

We're now accepting applications for the 2026–27 cohort for the Leadership Vancouver Island West Coast Chapter!

Starting September 2026, this community-driven, west coast-focused program brings together emerging and established leaders from across the region to learn, connect, and grow together. If you're passionate about strengthening your community, expanding your leadership skills, and being part of meaningful, place-based change, we invite you to apply before August 15th.

Rooted in local relationships and the unique context of the coast, the West Coast Chapter offers a learning experience grounded in place and community.

Upon completion of the program, participants are eligible to receive six credits from Vancouver Island University.

 Marcie Callewaert

[clayoquotbiosphere.org/initiatives/leadership-vancouver-island](https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/initiatives/leadership-vancouver-island)



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust online for our AGM!

- Thursday | June 11th | 10 AM
- Zoom

Take a first peek at our 2025 Annual Report, hear highlights from the past year, and learn about our exciting work ahead. The AGM is also an opportunity to connect, ask questions, and share your thoughts during the public comments and discussion period.

Everyone is welcome!

Register now with the link below or by scanning the QR Code.

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KQeky973SrejegFBZdumaw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KQeky973SrejegFBZdumaw#/registration)



## NUNUUČAĀŃUŁ LANGUAGE GRANTS

Did you know you could get up to \$2,000 to lead a language revitalization project? CBT's nunuučaañuł Language Grants are open on a rolling basis, and we're accepting applications year-round until all funding has been awarded.

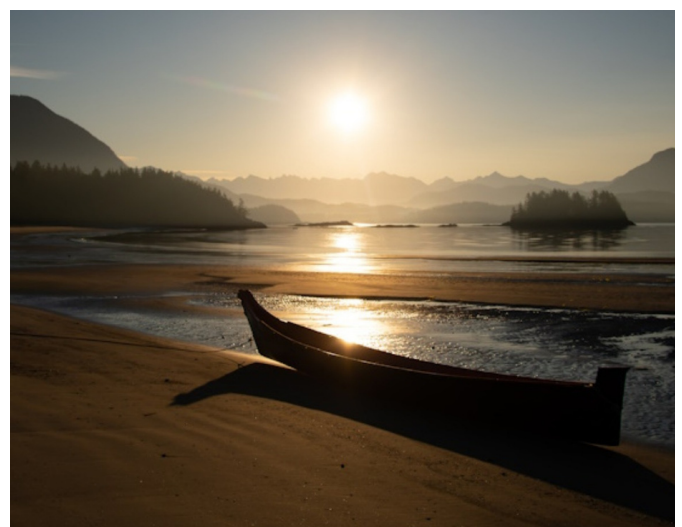
These grants support projects that:

- Bring learners out on the land and water to practice language
- Support silent speakers through events or exercises
- Help people give or learn traditional names
- Explore and share family histories
- Create new songs, plays, or skits in the language with the community

If you have any questions or would like assistance with your application, don't hesitate to contact [brooke@clayoquotbiosphere.org](mailto:brooke@clayoquotbiosphere.org) or call the CBT office at 250-725-2219.

Learn more with the link below or by scanning the QR Code.

[clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/current-grants/nuu-čah-nulth-language-grants](https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/current-grants/nuu-čah-nulth-language-grants)





# yaacpaḥač?aaqḷin tiičsaqḷapát



We will walk for our wellbeing.

**EVERY TUESDAY**

(Weather permitting)

**2:00pm to 3:00pm**

Meet at the Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre Parking Lot

Join Kimberly, Samantha, and Nicole for an hour's walk to get fresh air, connect, and talk!

Light snacks and water provided.

**For more information: [nicole.burtini@ufn.ca](mailto:nicole.burtini@ufn.ca)**

# Open House



**Monday, June 15, 2026**  
**Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre Gym, hitaču**

**4:00pm - 6:00 pm**

**Meet the staff of Yuułu?i?ath Government!**

**Learn about our different departments and provide your suggestions and feedback.**

**Dinner and door prizes included!**



# hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



## May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
					1 2
					3
4	5	6	7 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	8 Office Closed	9
					10
Counselling with Amber Severinson Available by app't. Mon - Fri (pls contact Satellite Office)					
11	12	13	14	15	1+
					17
18	19	20	21 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	22	23
					24
25	26	27 Nicole Burtini Social Worker	28 Office Closed for training	29 Youth Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:00pm	30
					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 Tseshaht First Nation & Hupačas?ath First Nation.