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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 15, Issue 8 | November 2025

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Events

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

November 23-25
Journey to Healing Workshop

December 8
hita?u Assembly

December 11
Holiday Dinners in hita?u
and Port Alberni

December 25
YG Offices Closed

January 5
YG Offices Re-Open

In this issue, we have photos from events in October, including Halloween and the Great British Columbia ShakeOut. We have information about an upcoming trauma healing workshop, and we also welcome Yuutu?it?ath Government's new FireSmart Coordinator.

Yuutu?it?ath is getting ready to celebrate the holiday season in hita?u and Port Alberni with dinner, culture and gifts for children. This year, both communities will hold their holiday dinners on the same day: **Thursday, December 11, 2025**. The events will be connected virtually, so families, friends, and relatives can share holiday greetings and well-wishes.

For citizens attending the **Port Alberni Holiday Dinner**, please RSVP and send your Santa wishlists to yanny.poilievre@ufn.ca or call **778-942-0655**.

For more information about the **hita?u Holiday Dinner**, contact Gloria Valentine at gloria.valentine@ufn.ca.

Read on for more events, services, and information.


 Yuutu?it?ath Government Offices will be
CLOSED
 Thursday, December 25, 2025
 to Friday, January 2, 2026

Cix?atin Centre, huu?atu Centre and hitstiis hupii?u? Satellite Office
will reopen **Monday, January 5, 2026**

For assistance during the holidays email communications@ufn.ca



HITAC'U ASSEMBLY

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025
6:00PM**

In accordance with Section 4.2 of the Government Act YFNS 2/2011, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the hitac'u Assembly has been called for Monday, December 8, 2025.

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.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:

DIAL IN #: 1 (778) 907-2071

MEETING ID: 862 9634 5673

PASSCODE: 281088

Happy Halloween!

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ celebrates the season with events in hitaḷu and Port Alberni

Images by: Elena Rardon

Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ citizens in hitaḷu and Port Alberni celebrated the spooky season with a pair of Halloween parties last month.

Parties included a photo booth, games, snacks and even a visit from Hadlen the Magician.

ḷeekoo ḷeekoo to all of the event organizers, YG staff and volunteers who put these events together.



Visitors enjoyed the spooky photobooth at the Port Alberni Halloween Party.



Hadlen the Magician amazes the crowd at the Italian Hall Events Centre in Port Alberni.



Hadlen the Magician performs a trick with some help from the audience.



Youth enjoyed the giant balloons provided by Sharky Balloons.



Youth have fun at the colouring station in Port Alberni.



The kakawinminḥ (Women's Warrior Group) dressed up in their spookiest attire for a ghostly photoshoot in hitaḷu.

'Tis the season for **SOUP**

Please come down to the Six Plex to
enjoy a hot bowl of soup and
homemade bread

**EVERY TUESDAY
STARTING DEC 2ND**

12:00-1:00

SIX PLEX



ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED!

Please reach out if you have your food safe and
would like to help make soup for incentive work!

nicole.burtini@ufn.ca or call/text 250-726-6920-

YG staff ready to Shake Out

Staff participate in an earthquake drill for the Great BC ShakeOut

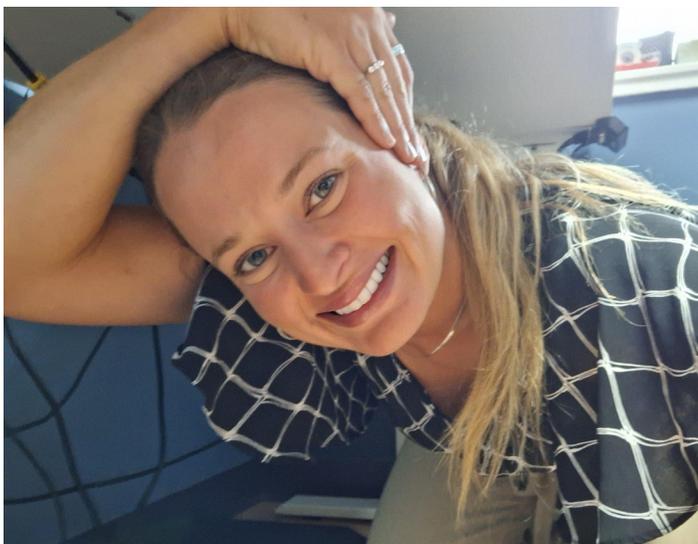
Yuufu?it?ath Government staff in hitacu and Port Alberni joined millions of people worldwide with a great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill on October 16, 2025.

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut is an annual opportunity for individuals, communities, schools, and organizations to practice essential earthquake safety measures such as “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.”

Kendra Stoner, YG’s Emergency Program Manager, says the ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is a great reminder for staff to gain situational awareness for their working space.

“Preparing for emergencies prior to an actual emergency is the key to success,” says Stoner.

To learn more about Earthquake Preparedness, visit www.shakeoutbc.ca.





PHYSIOTHERAPY

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE BY REQUEST

NATASHA PROKOP, PHYSIOTHERAPIST

- Available bi-weekly on Fridays for clients aged 18+
- Book at hitacupphysiotherapy.janeapp.com
- For assistance with booking, email moa@ufn.ca or call (250) 726-7343

LISA KUDLA, PEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPIST

- Serving clients aged 0-18
- Book at lisa.kudla@ufn.ca or call (250) 266-1399

YG offers support services

Two-day healing workshop will take place later this month

ᑭᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ Citizens and Residents of hitaču,

In February 2025, Pacific Rim School District (SD70) teacher Michael Rhodes was disciplined by the B.C. Commissioner for Teacher Regulation for engaging in “inappropriate physical contact” with students while he taught Physical Education from 2014 to 2019.

This information was widely shared through social media and news outlets. Information like this can trigger people by bringing up their own experiences, and it can trigger people who may have been impacted by someone else’s experiences.

Yuufuᓄᓄᓄᓄ Government (YG) has raised concerns to SD70 about the impacts of Mr. Rhodes’ teaching on Yuufuᓄᓄᓄᓄ students. The school district has confirmed that Mr. Rhodes remains on long-term leave. To be clear, YG does not support the return of Mr. Rhodes in any role within the education system.

Although the infractions occurred several years ago, YG acknowledges that those who were impacted—either directly or indirectly—may not have had a chance to heal.

As a commitment to the wellbeing, safety, and healing of all community members and citizens, YG would like to offer a variety of services to support those who have been impacted by the inappropriate behaviour of SD70 teacher Michael Rhodes. These supports are meant for any Yuufuᓄᓄᓄᓄ citizens and/or community members, whether they were impacted directly by the actions or indirectly impacted by the actions or by the subsequent news coverage.

The services will be provided by Hulitan Family and Community Services (<http://www.hulitan.ca>), an accredited Indigenous organization with more than 25 years of experience working in community. The team will be joining us for initial support from November 23 to November 26, 2025, being offered as follows:

· A **community dinner** at the Cixˆatin Centre on **November 23 at 5:00pm** to meet members of the team, ask questions and share a meal.



· A **two-day workshop on November 24 and November 25** called “A Journey to Healing Workshop” provided by Gerald Kiesman (Restoring Balance Consulting). The workshop will provide the participants with a clear understanding of trauma and will include healing exercises and a Trauma Stress Release Exercise to manage triggers and release the stress/emotional residue in the body from the trauma, using western and traditional practices, exercises, and ceremony. This will take place from

9:00am to 4:00pm each day, with snacks and lunch provided. No registration is required for this workshop.

· **Counselling support:** From **November 24-26**, two qualified therapists (one male, one female, with a combined experience of more than 25 years in trauma counselling and EMDR) will be available for one-to-one sessions. To book a session, call (250) 726-7343 or email moa@ufn.ca.

· **Access to a healer:** Riley McKenzie and Ann Marshall will provide eagle feather brushings, debriefing sessions, and a ceremony for letting go from **November 23-26**.

· A follow-up workshop and check-in that will take place in **mid-January, 2026**.

Hulitan will also be available to provide ongoing supports after the workshop is over. Please call (250) 726-7343 or email moa@ufn.ca to make an appointment.

If the information provided here has brought up difficult feelings for you or anyone you care about, the following helplines and resources are available year-round:

310 Mental Health Support

- For emotional support, info and resources specific to mental health in B.C.
- Call: 310-6789 (no area code needed)

Crisis Centre BC

- Distress Line: 1-866-661-3311
- For those who are or know someone having suicidal thoughts: 1-800-784-2433

Amber Severinson

- YG counsellor, available by appointment
- (236) 544-0464

Westcoast Community Resources Society

- Call 250-726-2020 or text 250-266-0187

First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line - 24 HOUR

- 1-855-242-3310

KUU-US Crisis Line - 24 HOUR

- Adult/Elder Crisis Line: 250-723-4050
- Child/Youth Crisis Line: 250-723-2040
- BC Wide Toll Free: 1-800-588-8717

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419

Tsow-Tun Le Lum Counseling, Culture Support

- 1-888-403-3123

Nurses Hotline - 24 HOUR

- 811

Emergency - 24 HOUR

- 911

If any community member has concerns or wishes to file a complaint related to Michael Rhodes, please contact Asya Touchie Director of Huuhtakšiihin?aała (we are always learning) - Education and Youth for information about the formal complaint process and available support resources.

Phone: 250-726-7342 | Cell: 250.726.6910 | Email: asya.touchie@ufn.ca.

Sincerely,

Yuufu?i?ath Government – Ucluelet First Nation



SUBSTANCE USE OUTREACH

Sin from Westcoast Community Resources Society will be available for drop-in sessions.

Second Monday of each month . 10:00am to 12:00pm
huu?atu Health Centre
Light snacks provided!

For more information: contact Sin directly at sou@wccrs.ca

JOURNEY TO HEALING TRAUMA WORKSHOP

CIX^wATIN CENTRE GYM

**COMMUNITY DINNER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

5:00PM TO 7:00PM

Meet the team, ask questions, and share a meal.

**TWO-DAY WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 24-25, 2025**

9:00PM TO 4:00PM

Snacks and lunch provided.



This interactive workshop will provide a foundation to healing trauma, using a “Trauma Stress Release” exercise to manage and release the traumatic stress in the body.

Participants will learn various western and traditional practices, exercises, and ceremonies to restore balance within the mind, body and spirit.

No registration required. For counselling support, call: (250) 726-7343

YUULU?I?ATH GOVERNMENT SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS



GROWING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

To encourage the growth of entrepreneurship, the Yuułu?i?ath Government offers three grant programs for Yuułu?i?ath citizens operating small businesses:

Believe in Me Fund

- A one-time government grant of \$1,500 for advertising, marketing, business branding, website development or web hosting service fees.

Start-up Recovery Fund

- A reimbursement of \$5,000 for citizen entrepreneurs actively in business for a term of three consecutive years.

Business Skills Fund

- Paid short-course training in fundamental business skills.

EXTERNAL FUNDING STREAMS

The Yuułu?i?ath Government also supports the business services offered by the Nuuchahnulth Economic Development Corporation, including:

- Aboriginal Business Loans
- First Citizen's Fund
- NRT Equity Match
- Business Equity Program

To further discuss these funding programs, contact:

Corey.Rich@ufn.ca
(250) 726-6741

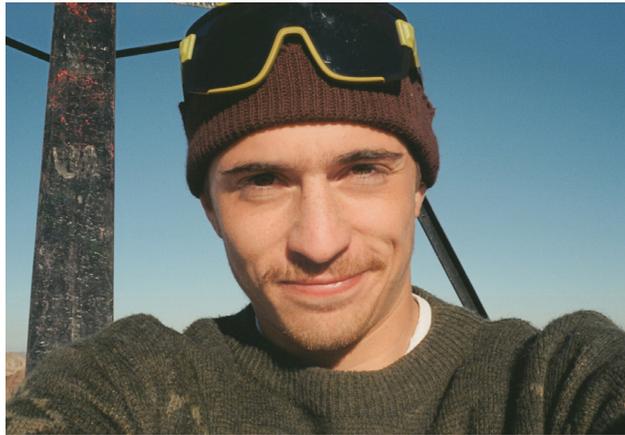
New Staff Highlights

Welcome to Yuułu?if?ath Government Ben Shuster!

Ben Shuster has joined the Yuułu?if?ath Government (YG) as the new FireSmart Coordinator, reporting to Kendra Stoner, Emergency Program Manager.

In his new role, Ben will lead and support wildfire prevention, risk reduction, and community resilience initiatives for YG, helping to strengthen preparedness and integrate FireSmart principles across the community.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to step into this role and help make our community safer from future wildfires,” says Ben. “My background in emergency response as a structural firefighter has shown me the importance of community resilience and preparedness when facing disasters.”



Ben Shuster is the new FireSmart Coordinator with Yuułu?if?ath Government.

When not working, Ben prioritizes spending time in the ocean swimming and enjoying the company of family and friends. Having a strong sense of community is very important to him.

Ben holds multiple FireSmart and wildfire suppression certifications and will be supporting the development of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) and related community education initiatives over the coming year.

“Through my research in this new role, I’ve learned that First Nations communities were the first to practice wildfire mitigation,” says Ben. “Due to decades of wildfire suppression strategies, many of BC’s forests have become increasingly vulnerable to wildfire.

Fortunately, the FireSmart program incorporates traditional practices from First Nations communities along with modern wildfire research to create guidelines that help keep communities resilient. I’m looking forward to connecting with YG, meeting citizens, and taking the first steps toward reducing wildfire risk.”

Ben can be contacted by email at ben.shuster@ufn.ca.

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council presents the 2025 Urban Community HOLIDAY GATHERINGS



Victoria	December 02 4pm-9pm	Edelweiss Club 108 Niagara Street, Victoria
Vancouver	December 04 4pm-9pm	Japanese Hall 475 Alexander Street, Vancouver
Nanaimo	December 9 4pm-9pm	Beban Park Auditorium 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo
Port Alberni	December 10 4pm-9pm	Italian Hall 4065 6 th Avenue, Port Alberni
Campbell River	December 11 4pm-9pm	Thunderbird Hall 1420 Wewaikum Road Campbell River

For more information, please contact Deborah Smith at the NTC Main Office at (250) 724-5757 ext. 244

Join us for a fun-filled family evening. Bring your drums!

2025/26 Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

SMARTER BURNING, CLEANER LIVING

Exchange rebates from \$1,200 to \$3,000

Options for households on First Nations land:

- Exchange of any wood stove manufactured prior to 2018/19, switching to heat pump or pellet stove
- Exchange of an uncertified wood stove (pre-1994) to a certified wood stove
- Remove existing non-EPA or CSA certified wood appliance without installation of new appliance and receive \$300
- Add an electric insert to your existing fireplace and receive \$400

Retailers

- Dolan's Gas Fitting and Heating Ltd. – Port Alberni – 250-723-4328
- Pioneer Fireplace – Parksville – 250-954-0331
- Beaufort Sheet Metal – Port Alberni – 250-736-1012
- Tilley's Plumbing & Heating – Port Alberni – 250-735-8989
- Van Isle Chimney Service – Port Alberni – 250-731-4954

For more information, go to: www.acrd.bc.ca or phone 250-720-2700.

This offer applies to residents of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and is on a first-come, first-served basis until rebates run out.



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEN TO MAKE A CHILD PROTECTION REPORT



What the Law Says

Under B.C.'s Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA), anyone who has reason to believe that a child or youth has been or is likely to be abused or neglected, and the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child or youth, must report the suspected abuse or neglect to a child welfare worker.



Report Immediately if you Suspect (A child or youth under the age of 19) is:

- Being physically, sexually, or emotionally abused
- Neglected or basic needs not met (food, shelter, supervision, medical care)
- Parent is unable or unwilling to care for the child
- If the child has been abandoned and adequate provision has not been made for the child's care
- <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca> - for more information, please look at the website.



Who to call :

During business hours

Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

Call USMA at (250-724-3232) Ask to speak with a duty worker

After Hours & Weekends

Centralized Screening 1-800-663-9122

Anyone can make a report: Parents, Teachers, Health Professionals, Neighbours, Community members



hitaću
Holiday
Dinner



Join us for a meal, culture, photo booth, activities and gifts for the kids.



Thursday, December 11
Cix^Watin Centre Gym

DOORS at 4:00pm
DINNER at 5:00pm
SANTA arrives at 6:45pm



For more information, contact:
gloria.valentine@ufn.ca

hilstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office



Port Alberni

Holiday Dinner



Join us for a meal, culture, photo booth,
door prizes and gifts for the kids.



Thursday, December 11
Italian Hall Events Centre

DOORS at 4:00pm
DINNER at 5:00pm
SANTA arrives at 6:30pm



RSVP:

yanny.poilievre@ufn.ca

*Citizens with children under age 17 are asked to
provide a wish list of up to 3 items (no technology gifts
please) or gift cards. RSVP and send wish lists to*

yanny.poilievre@ufn.ca

Operating on the territory of čišaa?ath and huupačas?ath

hiłstiis hupii?ut YG Services



November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
					1
					2
3	4	5 Corey Rich Economic Development Officer 9:00am to 2:00pm	6 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	7	8
					9
10	11 Statutory Holiday YG Offices Closed	12	13 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator	14	15
					16
17	18 Nicole Burtini Social Worker	19	20 Language Classes with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	21	22
					23
24 Rachel Harding Community Health Nurse - foot care	25	26	27	28	29
					30

*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.