



## **Huu-ay-aht First Nations**

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### **Huu-ay-aht Annual Report Chief Councillor Jeff Cook**

First of all, I would like to thank the past Council on the tremendous amount of work they put in to get us to this point in our history – Our Treaty.

Since the election of the Executive Council on June 18, 2011, your Council has had to make adjustments on how we do business. Gone are the days of making a decision today, and carrying it out tomorrow without research and consultation. Now we have to read, research and make thoughtful and informed decisions.

Some of the issues that came up early in our term was the ineffectiveness of government just prior to and immediately after the election period. We had to deal with signing off on the contractor for the Force Main Sewer line to Bamfield. This is and continues to be work done on our Specific Claim on former I.R. # 1 and former I.R. # 9. We have to make a better effort to communicate with Bamfield and other neighbours.

We went to a two Councillor Portfolio and Committee System where one Councillor would be the lead, and another would be the secondary. They are:

Finance – John Jack and Jeff Cook

Treaty Implementation – Tom Happynook and Jack Cook

Economic Development – John Jack and Sheila Charles

Citizenship – Derek Peters and Jeff Cook

Media and Communications – Tom Happynook and Charlie Clappis

Intergovernmental – Tom Happynook and Jeff Cook

A.C.R.D. – John Jack and Jeff Cook

Ha'wiih Council – Derek Peters and Tom Happynook

Fisheries & N.S.D.C. – Tom Happynook and John Jack

Culture and Language – Jack Cook and Derek Peters

P.R.N.P. and Parks Co-op – Sheila Charles and Jack Cook

Health and Education – Sheila Charles, Jeff Cook and Charlie Clappis

Housing – John Jack and Charlie Clappis

Infrastructure and Community Buildings – Charlie Clappis and Jack Cook

Lands and Forestry – Jeff Cook and Derek Peters

Our plan is also to be present in surrounding communities, and we have introduced a two-Councillor Portfolio System:

Anacla – Sheila Charles and Charlie Clappis

Port Alberni – Jeff Cook and Sheila Charles

Rest of Vancouver Island – Charlie Clappis and Tom Happynook

Lower Mainland – Jack Cook and Tom Happynook

Other Areas – Jack Cook and John Jack

All these positions are subject to change dependent on Councillor workload and comfort level.

Many of our Council and Ha’wiih participated in the activities that happened during the “Pulling Together Canoe Journey”. It was exciting to see so many youth from other nations taking part.

One of Council’s mandates is to improve the quality of education of our citizens and budget accordingly. Sheena Falconer has been hired as an Education Coordinator and is a welcome addition to the staff.

As mentioned earlier the Force Main Sewer Line to Bamfield should be completed by the time we gather for the People’s Assembly on November 26, 2011.

Charlie Clappis is also working on the development of our new subdivision in and around the House of HUU-ay-aht.

As a group, Council has participated in workshops on our new laws, legislation, regulations and policies that we all must adhere to. We have also reviewed the Terms of Reference of the various Committees.

We have signed off on the 2010 – 2011 audit and it was stated that we have good controls in place. One issue that got our attention was that our log and timber inventory had been overvalued. When adjustments were made according to standard accounting practices, the result was a huge difference in our statement from previous audit years.

We have submitted a letter to B.C. and the A.C.R.D. to waive the 10 year requirement to join the A.C.R.D. Councillor Jack has been appointed and has been attending their meetings on a regular basis. Councillors Happynook, Jack and myself also did a presentation on our pending application to the U.B.C.M. convention in Vancouver.

Executive Council has met with Dr. Bradley Anholt who is the Director of the Bamfield Marine Science Centre and is proposing a six week archaeology summer course in partnership with HUU-ay-aht. After consultation with our Ha’wiih, the council has endorsed the idea. We will also be in talks with the B.M.S.C. about tying into their newly planned sewage treatment plant and outfall.

The Governor General of Canada visited our new Government building and the House of Huu-ay-aht. He was very engaged in what our Nation was doing as it relates to our Treaty.

We have had three full days of discussion on our Strategic Plan for the coming year. Every Council member had input and it will be brought to the Council of Ha'wiih for their input. It will also be brought to the People's Assembly for their consultation.

The Chief Councillor was invited to the opening of the Parliament of B.C. He met briefly with the Minister of Forests and Natural Resources, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and Premier Christy Clark.

We have just recently received an "Invitation Letter" from the Ministry of Forests for the right to log approximately 70,000 m<sup>3</sup> annually. This First Nations Forest Woodlot Licence is the very first one that has been awarded to a First Nation in B.C. This opportunity will generate more income and this is your choice – employment.

Your Council sat down with Western Forest Products and they were happy to hear that our Nation is taking a pro-active role in the business world. They also stated that they have a shortage of forestry workers and over the next couple of years the shortage will be even more apparent once baby boomers retire. We informed WFP that we have the human resources, and they reminded HFN that North Island College in Campbell River is offering a logger training course.

As we have said in the past, we would like you the citizen to be involved in the affairs of your nation. Getting involved means reading the material on our website, in our newspaper, on our bulletin boards, sitting on committees, coming to community forums and meetings, being pro-active rather than re-active.

Chuu, on behalf of Council,

Jeff Cook, Chief Councillor