

Museum exhibit features art from residential school students

A number of Huu-ay-aht citizens took part in the grand opening of the “We Are All One: Residential School Children’s Art” show at the Alberni Valley Museum in October. Their art is among the many pieces on display at the museum until March 7.

The exhibit comprises illustrations and paintings by young students who attended the Alberni Residential School and were instructed by local artist and teacher Robert Aller. The art pieces act as a lens into the culture and identity of the children who attended this school.

Jeff Cook does not remember painting the piece, nor really anything about attending Robert Aller’s art classes.

“We all had our escapes from the school. My escape was sports,” he says. “I remember that.”



Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook stands with his painting, done while he was somewhere between eight and 10 years old and attending Alberni Indian Residential School. The special exhibit will remain on display until March 7. [Photo courtesy of Susie Quinn, Alberni Valley News]

The paintings are provided by the University of Victoria’s Legacy Gallery and the exhibit has been curated by Dr. Andrea Walsh, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Victoria.

Dr. Walsh says all of the paintings contain hope.

“The hope of the child, who in

laying her paint-filled brush down on paper, felt confident that her ideas and feelings would be accepted,” she says. “And the hope of the survivor who has shared his or her childhood in the name of healing and reconciliation.”

For more info, go to www.alberniheritage.com and follow the links to the Alberni Valley Museum.

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HUU-AY-AHT AROUND TOWN



James Nookemus and Simon Dennis test out their skills at the electrician station in the Find Your Fit room at the B.C. government's regional liquefied natural gas community seminar on Wednesday, January 14 in Nanaimo. More than a dozen HUU-ay-aht citizens and staff headed down to the two-day seminar. The event was touring the province, and it made a stop in Port Alberni on Thursday and Friday, January 15 and 16. [Photo by Annie Merritt]

Huu-ay-aht First Nations

A Rich History, A Bright Future



We, the HUU-ay-aht people, envision a proud, self-governing, and sovereign nation. 7iisaak will guide us as we work together to establish a healthy, prosperous and self-sustaining community where our culture, language, spirituality and economy flourish for the benefit of all HUU-ay-aht.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaq̓hm̓is is printed up to six times per year to foster community engagement among a population of over 700 citizens. HUU-ay-aht Uyaq̓hm̓is promotes the recovery and sharing of the HUU-ay-aht dialect of the Nuuchahnulth language as well as knowledge of HUU-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the HUU-ay-aht Communications Department.

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Visit
www.huuayaht.org
 for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaq̓hm̓is

Keep up to date with Uyaq̓hm̓is on social media:
 @HuuayahtFN



Huu-ay-aht First Nations Facebook page



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Next Community Engagement Sessions coming in February

The first set of Community Engagement Sessions for 2015 are set for February, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

The sessions will kick off with the first taking place in Port Alberni on Monday, February 16 at the Port Alberni Friendship Center from 4 to 7 p.m. The next day, Anacla will have a session at the Anacla Government Office. This will be open to citizens only from 2 to 4 p.m., and Bamfield residents are welcome to join for the last hour. The final session is in Vancouver on Thursday, February 19 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre from 3 to 6 p.m.

The final opportunity for citizens to participate will be in Nanaimo and Victoria.

These sessions will take place in Nanaimo at Acme Food Co. at 14 Commercial Street on Tuesday, February 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Victoria session is at Paul's Motor Inn Restaurant, 1900 Douglas Street from 4 to 7 p.m.

The format will be slightly different in these cities. Representatives from HUU-ay-aht First Nations will be available at chat and chew type of meeting. The same information will be available, but it will be suitable for a smaller group.

The Nanaimo and

Victoria sessions are being held on a trial basis. HUU-ay-aht First Nations will determine if they continue based on the number of people who attend the events.

All of the Community Engagement Sessions will include the introduction of the new brand for HUU-ay-aht, including a new logo, changes to legislation, information on future jobs and training opportunities within the Nation and an update of the next steps for the proposed LNG project between Steelhead LNG and HUU-ay-aht First Nations.

More information will be available on Facebook and on the HUU-ay-aht First Nations website (www.huuayaht.org).

Positive vote clears the way for next step in proposed LNG project

On November 29, 2014, the majority of Huu-ay-aht citizens voted in favour of continuing to explore the opportunity of developing an LNG export facility at Sarita Bay.

This vote approved leasing the soon-to-be Treaty Settlement Lands in order to conduct studies and use the site for an LNG facility should the proposed Project go ahead.

Beginning next month, the proposed Project will begin conducting environmental baseline fieldwork in and around Sarita Bay with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the existing conditions in the area. This will inform the assessment of potential effects of the proposed Project.

In addition, this next stage will bring ongoing engagement efforts, and increased engagement with neighbouring First Nations and communities.

Huu-ay-aht citizens will have the opportunity to learn more



Huu-ay-aht's Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook takes the challenge and drinks a glass of water with LNG in it at Science World's LNG demonstration at the province's regional liquefied natural gas seminar tour in Nanaimo on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. [Photo by Edward R. Johnson]

about next steps for the proposed Project, as well as other updates from the Nation at the Community Engagement Sessions in Anacla, Port Alberni, and Vancouver in mid-February.

These sessions will be occurring

once every other month, and they will be an opportunity for citizens to speak to councillors and Steelhead LNG representatives about a wide variety of topics relating to the Nation's governance and projects, including the proposed LNG Project.

UYAQHMIS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Engagement Sessions

It is time for the next round of Community Engagement Sessions. Here are the times and locations of February's sessions:

- *Monday, February 16, 2015* - Port Alberni session at the Port Alberni Friendship Center, 4 to 7 p.m. This session will be followed by the regular Monday night dance classes.
- *Tuesday, February 17, 2015* - Anacla session at the Government Office, 2 to 5 p.m. The event is open to Huu-ay-aht citizens until 4 p.m., and the last hour of the session residents of Bamfield are invited to join. This session will include light snacks and refreshments.
- *Thursday, February 19, 2015* - The Vancouver

session will be held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre from 3 to 6 p.m. Light snacks and refreshments will be available at this session.

- Come for an informal chat on *Tuesday, February 24 and Wednesday, February 25, 2015*, in Nanaimo and Victoria respectively. They will be from 4 to 7 p.m. and will be at Acme Food Co. in Nanaimo and Paul's Motor Inn in Victoria.

Deadline Coming

The deadline for applying for the Post Secondary Support Program is *March 31, 2015*. Call Brent Ronning, 250-723-0100 for more information.

Do you have an event or announcement you would like included in the community calendar? Email us at communications@huuayaht.org, and we will include it.



Thanks for your support

This holiday season Huu-ay-aht First Nations staff asked for donations for less fortunate people in our community. The toy and food drive was a huge success. The Huu-ay-aht community, staff and citizens showed their generosity, and we would like to say thank you to everyone who participated. Together, you helped make Christmas special for some families in need this year.
[Photo by Ambar Varela]

Thieves make off with shake wood

Overnight on January 21, 2015, thieves made off with approximately two cubic metres of shake wood from the side of Harris Creek Road, around the 46-kilometre mark on the Bamfield Main Road.

The theft was discovered when Ben Bozak's crew showed up for work on Thursday morning. The wood had been salvaged from Huu-ay-aht First Nations Treaty Settlement Land on Tuesday. Wednesday the crew began loading the wood and trucking it to the mill to be made into shake and shingles. Bozak is a contractor for Huu-ay-aht, who works with a crew that includes a number of Huu-ay-ahts.

The value of the salvaged wood, which amounted to about two-thirds of a cord, was estimated to be \$800. The culprits also made off with two security cameras that monitored the site. These cameras were worth approximately \$400 each.

Offer tips

Please contact the Port Alberni RCMP if you have any information that could lead to an arrest, by calling:

250-723-2424

Or Alberni CrimeStoppers at:

1-800-222-9477

Cst. Peter Batt, of the Port Alberni RCMP, is looking for more information on the crime. He is hoping someone saw the theft or have information that can help apprehend the culprits.

Paul Dagg is the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Forest LP Planning Forester. He says this kind of theft happens quite frequently and is frustrating to the crew.

"These guys work hard in the woods to salvage the wood," he says. "Then someone comes along

and steals it in the middle of the night. It gets them pretty upset."

Dagg says the crime has been reported to the Compliance and Enforcement branch of the Ministry of Forests, as well as the RCMP. They will keep their eyes out for anything unusual in the area.

On Thursday night, Bozak pulled his fifth-wheel to the site to offer a bit of security, and at approximately 1 a.m. he heard a vehicle. When he went outside he saw a pickup truck driving away, but nothing was stolen. Dagg speculates that the thieves probably returned the second night but left when they saw someone was there.

If you saw anything suspicious on night of January 21 or the early morning hours of January 22, please contact the RCMP at 250-723-2424 or the Alberni Valley CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-9477.

North Island College, Huu-ay-aht team up to offer training for citizens

As part of a long-term employment strategy to secure direct and spin-off jobs for Huu-ay-aht citizens for its proposed LNG Project, Huu-ay-aht First Nations is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with North Island College.

This would provide Huu-ay-aht citizens with funding and training for a wide variety of skilled trades positions related to the LNG sector. It would include positions such as pipefitters, welders, plumbers, iron workers, equipment operators, electrician and other trades.

The long-term employment strategy for Huu-ay-aht citizens would also include capacity-building education and training for a wide range of administrative, technical and professional service careers such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers, human resources officers and numerous other administrative positions.

The initiative being developed with North Island College would bring additional trades programs to the College's Port Alberni campus, with guaranteed seats for Huu-ay-aht citizens. The initial outline for the program would see Huu-ay-aht applicants job shadow several different skilled trades before working with a counsellor to select a specific trade. Once placed in a program, citizens would receive ongoing academic support from the moment they start school. This would include being placed with an industry partner to accumulate the apprenticeship hours they would need to become journeymen.

"Our goal is to provide as many of our citizens as possible with secure, well-paying jobs and careers," says Jeff Cook, Elected

"At North Island College, we're committed to developing innovative partnerships with First Nations and industry... we are looking forward to concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations to ensure their citizens can access the technical training they need in their home community."

- North Island College President John Bowman

Chief Councillor of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. "The first step is to get citizens ticketed and have them become qualified journeymen. To do that, we'll work with the provincial government, industry partners and Vancouver Island colleges to put the required programs and funding in place for our people. We've already made excellent progress with North Island College and, if the proposed Project moves forward, we can complete that process and expand it to include other colleges and institutions. That could also include providing training and support for citizens of other Nuu-chah-nulth Nations."

Cook said similar training programs for First Nations have worked well in B.C.'s mining industry. He is optimistic that a Memorandum of Understanding could be signed with North Island College early this year, a view shared by North Island College President John Bowman. If that happens, Huu-ay-aht citizens could begin their training in these programs as early as the summer, 2015.

"At North Island College, we're committed to developing innovative partnerships with First Nations and industry to ensure British Columbia can meet its long-term need for skilled workers," Bowman explains. "We are looking forward

to concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations to ensure their citizens can access the technical training they need in their home community."

If a Final Investment Decision to build the proposed LNG facility is made in 2018, it is expected up to 4,000 jobs would be created during the construction phase, with 300 to 400 full-time jobs created when the plant is operational. In addition, the proposed Project would generate hundreds of spin-off jobs and business opportunities in the Alberni Valley in many sectors. These could include business administration, hospitality, manufacturing, first aid, accommodation, recreation, tourism, transportation, catering, security and other service sectors. The local community could also see spin-off jobs with restaurants, schools, grocery stores, hotels, hospitals and providers of medical, business, heavy machinery, industrial and other services.

Keep your eyes open for more information about this memorandum of understanding between Huu-ay-aht First Nations and North Island College on the Nations' website, www.huuyaht.org. If you have specific questions you can call the Port Alberni Government Office at 250-723-0100.



Following the success of the Paawats program in Anacla, a new location has opened in Port Alberni for Huu-ay-aht children in the community.

New Port Alberni Paawats program enlightens Huu-ay-aht children

A proverb says “God gives every bird his worm, but He does not throw it into the nest.” Paawats means nest in Nuu-chah-nulth language.

Definitely, the new generation of Huu-ay-aht children growing in Port Alberni are guided by the principles of ?iisaak (isaak - greater respect), Hišuk čawak (hishuk-ish-tsawalk - all is one) and ?uu?atuk (uu-a-thluk - taking care of) in their journey to become self-reliant and develop their cultural identity and talents, as the saying intends to teach.

The new branch of the program is located at 2579-10 Ave., and it was inaugurated on November 26, 2014.

The program is modeled after

the Anacla Paawats. The Huu-ay-aht First Nations government believes in investing in its children and a start-up budget was allocated in April 2014.

Jessica Tilley is the Early Childhood Education Coordinator in charge of the facility, and she joined Huu-ay-aht First Nations in August. For her, the main challenge was to find the right place to operate.

Nelly Dennis, Barbara Johnson and Angie Joe are the elders who support the language circle and keep it alive. They also bring to the program Huu-ay-aht traditional teachings. There are 17 children enrolled (birth to school age) with an average of five in attendance. At the moment, Facebook is the

main medium of promotion and its page “Paawats Port Alberni” has already gathered 99 friends. The program is offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can contact the Port Alberni Paawats by calling 250-723-0898.

According to colour psychology, yellow helps to increase self-esteem, stimulates intelligence and evokes friendliness. Therefore, the walls were painted in that shade. The cozy space has a library corner with books about native art and Nuu-chah-nulth literacy. Different kinds of toys, chairs, tables and boards, in perfect order, look forward to lighten up the imagination of the little ones.

See Page 7 for more

Huu-ay-aht donates a total of \$15,000 to help with flood relief efforts in Tseshaht and Alberni Valley

When the water began to rise in Tseshaht territory on December 10, 2014 many Huu-ay-aht citizens and staff offered a helping hand in the flood relief effort.

In their meeting on December 18, Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Council voted to extend that support by making a \$10,000 donation to Tseshaht's flood relief fund.

"When we saw and heard the news about all the flooding that was happening in your community, a few of our citizens felt compelled to try and help out in any way we could, like sand bagging and feeding the many volunteers," explained Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has been fortunate enough to be able to control its costs in recent months and post a small surplus. Chief and Council decided they wanted to share that success with Tseshaht First Nations during their time of need.



Huu-ay-aht First Nations Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook and Councillor Tom Happynook present \$10,000 to Tseshaht First Nations Councillor Dennis Bill to help with the relief efforts in his community following the devastating floods that hit the Alberni Valley in December, 2014.

"Like Tseshaht, we have family, friends and relatives living in various Nuuchah-nulth communities," he said. "We recognize that many Huu-ay-aht, through marriage, relationships, friendship and kinship, live in your community. You have taken care of them, and it is important that we, not only support them, but also the community they live in."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations will also be making a \$5,000 donation to a local service organization that will commit to helping other residents of the Alberni Valley who were affected by the flood. Huu-ay-aht, working with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, is still looking into which group would be a suitable choice to receive the sizeable donation.

Goal for 2015 is to grow Paawats program and increase to 100 words

Huu-ay-aht language is taught by using the immersion method, which consists in exposing the children to the language as much as possible, without translating into English. The idea is avoiding the lecturing style by making the learning environment homelike. That is why parents are encouraged to attend the sessions as well as use the language at home.

Kathy Waddell, Director of Community Services, explained that the play activities are planned according to the age and skill levels of the children. Art, playdough, blocks, puzzles, and books nurture the participants. The language

Paawats himwitsa (story of)

- In February 2006, the Huu-ay-aht Elders (Nananiiqsu), parents and children started meeting to plan a language nest program.
- With funding obtained by Denny Durocher, the community hosted an eight-week language nest pilot project that was facilitated by Nancy Logan.
- In 2007, Huu-ay-aht hired Early Childhood Educator Kathy Waddell to facilitate the program and to expand services to include preschool and child care.
- The Early Childhood Educator's role is to implement a quality program for the children.
- The Anacla Paawats is a licensed facility with Island Health. The Port Alberni Paawats is operating as an unlicensed parent and tot program.

circle lasts about 20 minutes and incorporates songs, rhymes, and games too. After that, they all share a nutritious lunch.

Tilley hopes to increase atten-

dance and get the children to use at least 100 words in Huu-ay-aht related to "indigenous animals, body parts, colours, counting, family names and a variety of commonly used words and phrases."

Reward grows as elk poaching continues to be a big concern

By Debora Steel, Ha-Shilth-Ha

The last known mature bull of its herd is among the casualties in the most recent slaughter of elk under investigation in Nuu-chah-nulth territories, bringing the number to six unsanctioned kills since November 2014.

“That we know of,” says Sergeant Ben York of the Conservation Officer Service, Central Island Zone.

The bull’s remains, along with those of a cow elk, was located at Central Main. Conservation Officer Brittany Mueller was called out to the site this past week to investigate.

“The whole herd is going to suffer,” says Ucluelet elder Larry Baird, with the strength in the DNA of that bull indiscriminately snuffed out.

The other elk remains were located at Museum Main, Coleman Main, Darling Main and Klawana. In the Klawana kill only the front quarters were taken, but all of the meat was removed from the other kill sites.

The elk meat is not showing up on community tables, York says. That means the poachers are trafficking the meat to willing buyers outside of the community.

“It’s a crime against the land, the people and the animals,” York says. “It’s not acceptable.”

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council President Debra Foxcroft and Vice-president Ken Watts, as well as representatives from Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, met with conservation of-



An elk, or Tl'unim, was spotted last winter in Cathedral Grove. Poaching of these impressive animals is a problem in the area, and the reward for info is still being offered. [Photo by Brenda Widdess]

icers Jan. 16, 2015 in Port Alberni to discuss what can be done further to put an end to the poaching.

The 14 Nations of the tribal council pooled resources in December 2013 to offer a reward for the capture and conviction of those who slaughtered elk within the territory.

That reward remains in effect.

It was originally \$25,000, to be distributed among those who provide information to Conservation Officers that led to a conviction, but grew to more than \$30,000 when local hunters expressed outrage at the illegal act.

For the current hunting season, Huu-ay-aht First Nations was allocated one elk to hunt from the Klanawa River Valley. The Huu-ay-aht hunter that was authorized to hunt the animal was Brad Johnson, who was chosen by a random lottery. He successfully made the kill on his first attempt. Huu-ay-aht also ran a lottery for the 2013-14 season that was one by Ed Johnson Sr. However, given the large poaching incident that year, he chose not to take the animal. All Huu-ay-aht citizens have Treaty Harvest Rights that allow them to hunt and fish in our territory, provided they carry a HUU-AY-AHT Harvesting Licence.

Reward for information now up to \$31,000

There were 17 elk taken from herds then. Now, six more.

York tells Ha-Shilth-Sa that currently he is awaiting the approval of charges against some suspects under both provincial and treaty law. Nuu-chah-nulth nations have been clear that any unsanctioned hunting in their territories will not be tolerated, whoever is involved.

“Our First Nations are committed to finding those who are guilty of such crimes, regardless of who they are, and having them charged and convicted,” Watts says. “The acts of those poachers, those who are slaughtering this precious species, go against Nuu-chah-nulth values and beliefs.”

Hundreds of tips came into the conservation service after the reward was announced. Most of those tips did not move investigations along because there was not enough detail left with them. It is not enough just to report a name of someone. The service needs details.

He says some people may not feel safe reporting someone they believe may be hunting elk illegally. York says conservation officers can protect the identity of people reporting, can meet people outside of their communities, very much like a CrimeStoppers tip.

Calls can be made to Report All Poachers & Polluters at 1-877-952-7277. It is a 24-hour hotline, and tipsters are asked to leave as much detail as they know. Don't self-edit the information. And leave a contact where officers can follow up with you.

The tribal council and the Nations take these elk kills very seriously. They need the people in the communities to be watchful and report incidents or suspicious



Cst. Peter Batt, a member of the Port Alberni RCMP, puts up posters, at the junction of Anderson Avenue and Ship Creek Road, offering a reward for information leading to an arrest of the individuals responsible for elk poaching in the area. [Photo by Heather Thomson]

activities in order to protect the resources in the territories for the benefit of the community and future generations.

The tribal council and the Nations will be meeting regularly to develop and implement further strategy to help quell this most current rash of elk poaching.

There are promising leads, York says, and the service is narrowing its focus, but they need more in-

formation and the help of all those who can provide it.

Reward offered

Up to **\$31,000**

Call the B.C. Conservation Office line:

1-877-952-7277

Call CrimeStoppers:

1-800-222-8477

People's Assembly breaks records in innovation and turnout in 2014

The People's Assembly is a unique opportunity offered to Huu-ay-aht citizens at least once a year since 2011.

Family and friends gather together, not only to socialize but to get an insight into the different projects that the government has undertaken in that period.

This year organizers wanted to make it better than ever, and they succeeded. More people attended than ever before, with the Nations helping to make it easier for people to attend by supply accommodations and paying for travel expenses.

An annual report, the strategic plan, the appointment of the auditor and members of the Tribunal are usually the main topics of discussion. Citizens are allowed to propose motions in advance which during the years have ranged from "reviewing and setting out options for the salary of the Tayii Hāwił, Chief Councillor and other members of Executive Council" to "offering gifts to citizens for their 60th birthday."

A year of success

The planning group for 2014 was integrated by: Derek Peters (Tayii Hāwił Tliishin), Kathy Waddell (director of community services), Kristen Young (community health and social development coordinator), Edward R. Johnson (executive assistant), Deborah Smith (administrative service manager and deputy law clerk) and Councillor Charlie Clappis. However, about 20 members of the staff joined the team during the final stages.

Councillor Charlie Clappis was



Drummers and singers take part in the cultural events at the 2014 People's Assembly, including young volunteers like Olivia Peters (left) and Madison Lucas (right). [Photo by Heather Thomson]

part of the team and his expectations were surpassed. He qualified it as an "awesome weekend" and stated that the preparations for 2015 Assembly started on December 1, 2014.

This Assembly broke the previous turnout record. In 2013, approximately 138 eligible voters attended the event in two locations. Charlie Clappis had initially predicted 170 eligible voters for 2014, while Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook predicted about 30 people more

due to the vote about the Proposed LNG project for Sarita Bay. In the end, more than 300 citizens of all ages participated in the two-day gathering.

Attempting to build on the successes of the 2013 Assembly, the general planning process started in the spring, as the Liquefied Natural Gas Opportunity Development Agreement (LNG ODA) came into place on July 8, 2014. Huu-ay-aht First Nations is constantly moving the Nation forward.

Feedback from survey will help shape next assembly

So, it listened to its community requests made from feedback forms in 2013 to innovate in 2014.

Rooms at the Barclay Hotel, the Hospitality Inn and the Tye Village Motel in Port Alberni were booked for the citizens to stay. Gas cards, ferry passes and bus tickets were also offered to citizens to incentivize their participation. A remote wireless system, called the iClicker, was introduced as a voting tool to increase voting efficiency which would allow more time for business.

The Hereditary Chiefs also brought their curtains that tell the story of their houses and cultural legacy to decorate the Ballroom at the Barclay Hotel.

There was an attempt to break up the first day and allow more informal time. Information sessions were scheduled for the morning which were about the LNG project, Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses, Huu-ay-aht First Nations audited financial statements, proposed legislative amendments and the UBC research project about the role of the Hw̓i̓i̓ Council and other aspects of the government.

Councillor Charlie Clappis was glad to see that even after the excitement of the LNG vote on the first day, about 150 dedicated citizens were still enjoying the program on the second day.

Ian Benoit, Policy Analyst for Huu-ay-aht, compiled the citizens' answers to the satisfaction survey. Regarding their favorite part of the People's Assembly, some of the aspects highlighted were the vote, the food, singing and dancing, simplified wording of the motions, sharing with family and friends and the meals.

Your vote is your voice



Tayii Hw̓i̓i̓ Derek Peters, Irene Williams and Olivia Peters join other Huu-ay-aht citizens on November 29, 2014, at the 2014 People's Assembly, while citizens in the crowd who already had iClickers get a chance to try them out. [Photo by Edward R. Johnson]

This is a summary of the motions proposed by the citizens to Executive Council and several appointments of authorities and amendments made to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Acts during the assembly.

Citizen Motions:

1. Maria Newfield recommended to develop a process for determining how to better support Huu-ay-aht students who travel from their homes in Anacla and surrounding areas to Port Alberni for school (ie: accommodations and transportation).

2. Richard Nookemus proposed 60th birthday gifts to citizens, funeral expenses coverage and a pumping and maintenance of residential septic tanks program.

Appointment of authorities:

1. Meyers Norris Penny - auditor for Huu-ay-aht First Nations from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

2. Brian Happynook - member of the Huu-ay-aht Tribunal as provided for in section 3(2)(d) of the Tribunal Act.

Amendments to acts:

1. Government Act Amendment Act, 2015

This amendments refer to shortening the public notice period and report requirements for Executive Council and Committee meetings and giving the Executive Director the discretion to appoint someone other than him or herself to the position of Law Clerk.

Opportunities for improvement

Councillor Charlie Clappis was provided advice to consider giving families and friends the opportunity to socialize before getting down to business. The info sessions could be organized in a different way too. With the amount of participation, it is worth looking at other venue options in Port Alberni or even a suitable place in Nanaimo. The team will analyze the options for 2015.

Challenges are always exciting. So, issues such as sound quality, weather conditions, managing high-level flow, meals, checking in early and checking out without compromising the time that participants wanted to dedicate to the sessions will be solved. Another consideration is to add a couple of days more to the itinerary.

Citizens share their feedback on 2015 People's Assembly

Ian Benoit considered in his report about citizens' satisfaction these issues: location insufficient, lack of microphones and shuttles between hotels and venue, making the event alcohol-free, keeping registration and accommodation booths outside of the meeting rooms, information was overwhelming for some participants and keeping comments respectful during the motions discussion.

See Page 12 for more

Here are some of the comments we heard following the People's Assembly this year:

Stephanie Williams (via Facebook): "I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the HFN and Council for all your efforts in making last weekend possible. Although we were there for business I must admit I felt spoiled with all the hospitality. I don't get to see family often so all the love and hugs were the best gift and medicine.

"I learned a lot, utilized my vote and really enjoyed the open mic and passion of the speakers. My highlight of the weekend was all the singers, dancers and cultural night. My three-year-old daughter danced for the first time ever and had the time of her life. I know now I need to feed that thirst.

"It's often easy to focus on the negative, so I just wanted to say thanks for all the efforts, attention to detail, planning, information, hospitality, good medicine and, most of all, bringing families and communities together. I am proud to be Huu-ay-aht!"

On the questionnaire we heard the following comments:

"The Vote! The turnout was amazing. The culture component was a great addition. The feeling of family was amazing."

"Chumus (favourite part). Preferential treatment to a small radical group of protestors during discussion period, during an important motion and discussion should be discussed as a group not an individual discussion. This is a democratic system, is it not? They should not have been allowed to

meet as an independent organization/entity separate from a Huu-ay-aht AGM. Thank you."

"Culture night - make it a bigger part of the weekend. Childcare was awesome. So nice to be able to participate in the assembly without too much distraction."

WANTED



Information leading to the arrest and conviction of

ELK POACHERS

REWARD

Up to **\$31,000**

Call the BC Conservation line:

1-877-952-7277

Or Call Crime Stoppers:

1-800-222-8477