



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Report on April  
Community Engagement Sessions**

**Prepared by:** Communications Department

**Date:** April 27, 2015

## **April Community Engagement Sessions Agenda**

Vancouver: April 14, 3-6 p.m.

Port Alberni: April 16, 4-7 p.m.

Anacla: April 17, 2-5 p.m.

### **Chat and chews**

Nanaimo: April 21, 4-7 pm

Victoria: April 23, 4-7 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Update on Proposed LNG Project in Sarita
3. Huu-ay-aht First Nations 2015 Election
4. Queen's University Research Project
5. Open floor for questions and discussions
6. Closing

## Summary

The sessions had a total of 41 citizens in attendance. They started with the introductions of the presenters and the agenda. Most of the events offered a cultural segment that included drumming, singing and praying. Whenever the venues were located in neighbouring First Nations territories, members of the Huu-ay-aht Government acknowledged this.

Huu-ay-aht citizen Robert Dennis Sr. requested time be given at the beginning of the upcoming meetings for discussing other issues and take into account the Canadian Constitution Act regarding proper consultation with First Nations. He inquired about the possibility of giving updates on the motions passed during the People's Assembly. Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook and Councillor Jack Cook reinforced their commitment to keep consulting with the citizens.

Molly Clappis shared her concern about alternative media used to inform citizens who may miss the meetings because they are not computer literate or do not have access to Internet. Communications Coordinator Heather Thomson reminded the attendees to update their details via phone, Huuayaht.org, Facebook or dropping in AGO and PAGO to make sure they can be contacted.

Trevor Cootes suggested to either upload podcasts or videos of the sessions via SoundCloud and YouTube channel. That, together with publishing the report and slides, would help citizens living outside B.C. to be part of the discussions.

Manager of Community for Steelhead LNG Marissa Nobauer gave an account of what was done in 2014, the current and the upcoming stages of the proposed LNG project for Sarita Bay. There were 16 engagements last year in different venues, as well as home visits, and meetings with other nations, the City of Port Alberni, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a number of others. Now is the start of the environmental studies.

Baseline Archaeological Services Ltd. are leading the archeological studies and citizens are participating as they are the most knowledgeable in Traditional Use Studies (TUS). Nobauer stated, "It is good that it was a long process of consultation to understand what is happening and which the potential effects will be."

During the EAP, it takes quite a long time to gather results, and they will be made available as soon as possible. "We want to do it right," Nobauer stressed.

Elected Chief Jeff Cook and Councillor Charlie Clappis explained the 2015 Elections timeline, legislation, requirements for the candidates and nomination package. The nomination period begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2015 and ends at 12 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, May 14, 2015. The 2015 Election Day is June 20. Kit Spence has been appointed by Executive Council as the 2015 Election Commissioner. He will answer all the questions in the upcoming sessions starting on May 4.

Researcher Heather Castleden was next to speak. She said she was celebrating her 10-year anniversary working with Huu-ay-aht. Initially, serendipity brought her here with her partner to an event about cedar. She wanted inspiration for research ideas. Among the subjects studied are: Pre-treaty stage, relationship with cedar and salmon through photography and storytelling and digital stories. The method of research included potlucks every week and the active participation of citizens such as Jane Peters.

Her team shares authorship because the Ha'wiih Council and advisors checked the materials and that has changed the way in which the academic world approaches First Nations. Those materials are compulsory in certain courses.

Ta'yii Ha'wilth Derek Peters and citizens Nellie Dennis and Robert Dennis Sr. reminded people about the Huu-ay-aht traditions, governance and cultural practices. The three principles ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔaʔuk and Hišuk ma ɕawak were explained and the true meaning of being Huu-ay-aht. In addition, the need of bringing back citizens to their land and the teaching of taking only the resources needed to live according to the values of the Nation.

Edward Johnson Jr. wrapped up saying, "We are Huu-ay-aht because we are all leaders. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for us."

Sessions were also held in Anacla, Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria with the same subjects covered. The next Community Engagement Sessions will take place on May 4 (Anacla), May 5 (Vancouver) and May 6 (Port Alberni). This will feature presenter Kit Spence, Huu-ay-aht's Election Commissioner, and it will offer a detailed breakdown of the election process. This will be a non-political event.

For more information, please refer to the News and Events page. Slides and handouts are posted together with this report.



## **Our citizens in Port Alberni asked the following questions:**

- **Is the minimum wage a strategy to minimize the ones offer for the LNG project?**

No. They are not related.

- **Is an LNG company in a deal to buy all the projects?**

No. Kitimat joint venture with Shell and BG group in other territories means two projects in the same region and they need to figure which one works. Marissa Nobauer does not think that this affects the SLNG.

- **At an Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District presentation someone made a comment on the budget about gas. Is it true that 2050 is the year to have this project fully functional?**

This is a long process. However, the proposed project might take under 10 years.

- **If there will not be jobs available until 2016, are we creating false expectations?**

Program manager Edward Johnson talked about his own experience related to the study plan. He is currently under training. "The form (provided by the Secondary and Post-Secondary Education Coordination to gather citizens areas of interest) is for jobs we need in the Valley and the Island. That is why it is called proposed project. If it doesn't work out everyone will still benefit anyway." Councillors Jack Cook and Charlie Clappis mentioned that a red seal certified carpenter can work anywhere.

- **You talk about continuous engagements with the Ha'wiih. Who is sharing?**

Victor Williams, Bill Frank and Andy Clappis. This council is meeting regularly now.

- **Why are Hupacasath and Tseshaht not involved?**

Elected Chief Jeff Cook replied, "We sent a letter out and we keep trying but there is not answer." (A new effort was made on April 29. There are potential meetings in a planning stage.)

- **What do I need to get a position up North to gain experience?**

Nobauer stated, "Delta has a facility that might be an opportunity for people. We can use our contacts to help in anyway." Check with our Education Department for training and job opportunities and also Huuayaht.org.

- **Are we still getting a lot of mail returned?**

It is being reduced due to our efforts to keep the citizens' database up-to-date. Please keep us informed about any changes by using the form provided via [Huuayaht.org](http://Huuayaht.org) or calling to our offices.



## **Our citizens in Anacra asked the following questions:**

- **Why some of us cannot access the Facebook page? Citizens against the project have been censored.**

The Communications Department checks the requests and has a policy to accept new friends. We do not censor citizens.

- **Did the Chief and Council approved the comment that appeared in the newsletter in January calling a group of citizens a “radical minority”?**

The comment was made by a citizens via Survey Monkey. This is the sole responsibility of the individual.

- **Are you selling the T-shirts online?**

There is plan to do so in the future.

- **Could you please identify the locations where the pictures are taken? (newsletters and presentations)**

We will do it in upcoming issues.

- **According to media, you had already talked with SLNG in 2013. Why are you way away of us? We got to know last year.**

The Huu-ay-aht Government has kept its citizens informed timely and properly and it will continue doing so.

- **Are there checklists available about criminal records or a package of what a candidate needs?**

Yes, check [Huuayaht.org](http://Huuayaht.org), Elections-2015.

- **Are there going to be polling stations?**

Yes, in Anacra, Port, Vancouver and Nanaimo.



### **Our citizens in Vancouver asked the following questions:**

- **What is the window of time during which I need to get my criminal record to be eligible to run in this election?**  
Your criminal record must have been issued 90 days before the voting day. This means that you should have obtained it by March 20, 2015.
- **Can we integrate dance practice into the sessions?**  
There is going to be one on May 5. The Culture and Education Manager Coral Johnson and the Cultural Program Coordinator Cheryl Thomas are open to your proposals.
- **Can we conduct a survey to determine what time of day and what day of the week would work best for our citizens?**  
The Communications Department is looking into it. There are some logistical challenges to overcome.
- **If the research being conducted by Queen's University researchers is to document Huu-ay-aht's path to treaty, shouldn't they be looking at the circumstances that resulted from colonization pre-treaty?**  
The researchers are open to citizens' suggestions as this is the way they develop their studies, by listening to the needs of the community.



## **Our citizens in Nanaimo asked the following questions:**

- **Can we get phone numbers to let people know about the engagements?**

Calling is already done from the contact list we have at PAGO. We do the best we can to contact everyone on our list, but the struggle continues to be that numbers are not in service or people are unavailable.

- **How will the size of the site impact the community that has been so small for so long?**

There is no doubt the site will be changed, but the extent of the impact will not be known until the studies are carried out. That is the phase we are in now and is ongoing.

- **Where is Santa Maria Island?**

It is the island located in Sarita Bay, and it will be protected.

- **Will the CESs continue?**

Nanaimo and Victoria are still on a trial basis, but we are committed to holding bi-monthly Community Engagement Sessions in Port Alberni, Anacla and Vancouver. If the numbers in Victoria and Nanaimo show we are reaching enough citizens then we will continue them.

- **Can you share info from other communities? Related stories?**

We have been consulting with our neighbours. We have held meetings with Bamfield and Port Alberni, and we have also approached other neighbouring nations to keep them informed. Not all have responded, but we will continue to reach out to them.

Knowing that the testing is being done makes it less scary.

- **Who is on the EA team?**

The testing is being done by Worley-Parsons, through Steelhead. Councillor Charlie Clappis is the lead for Huu-ay-aht Executive Council, and Steelhead has hired a new EA representative, Josh Handysides.

- **Why can you run for both positions?**

It means we are not limiting options. With a small population, if a citizen can only run for one spot then it limits the pool of candidates.

- **Do we know how many voters there are?**

That will be known when the official list is posted on May 1.

- **What is the procedure if a staff member wants to run for council?**

They must take a leave of absence for the campaign period, and if elected they must resign from their position. If they do not get elected, their job will be waiting for them when they return.



## **Our citizens in Victoria asked the following questions:**

- **What are you doing to ensure that youth are engaged and learning about the proposed LNG Project, since it will affect their generation?**

Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead are committed to engaging with youth through the development of the proposed Project. We have attended several career fairs and presented at the Youth Conference in the fall and will continue to share information on the proposed Project, including regarding training and employment opportunities.

- **Why was the Sarita Bay site chosen for the LNG development?**

The site at Sarita Bay is well-suited for an LNG facility as it is near the open ocean, relatively flat, deep water, naturally protected from tsunamis and the Huu-ay-aht Nation was interested in exploring the proposed Project with Steelhead.

I would like to hear the opinions of other citizens on the LNG project.

- **Can you give us an example of a fatal flaw that would have stopped the project had it been discovered during screening studies?**

Examples of fatal flaws would be a significant active seismic fault line or a large amount of clay on site or geological features that would make building an LNG facility unfeasible.

- **What information about the proposed LNG Project are you presenting to neighbours in the Alberni Valley?**

Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead has been engaging with neighbouring First Nations and the communities of Port Alberni and Bamfield. Presentations and information shared is information about the proposed Project, including estimated timelines, environmental studies, information on LNG, and training and employment opportunities. As more information is available, Steelhead and Huu-ay-aht will continue to share it.

- **Is there just one company doing the research? Who picked WorleyParsons?**

The team is being led by Worley Parsons, who were picked by the Project Development Panel, which includes Steelhead and Huu-ay-aht representatives. They will also work with subcontractors including the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and Hemmera, a BC-based environmental company. The team will have experienced staff internationally, regionally and locally and will include Huu-ay-aht citizens in the fieldwork.

- **Can we have the bios of the WorleyParsons staff doing the work? It would be nice to know who they are.**

Information on the fieldwork will be provided through the Uyaqhmis, including experiences of those working in the field.

- **Can the deadlines to apply for education funding be posted to Facebook?**

Yes. They have been posted to the group and we will keep people updated on our Facebook page and website.

- **Will I receive a mail-in ballot for the upcoming election?**

Yes. You must confirm you are on the voter's list, which will be posted on May 1. If you have any questions you can contact PAGO or AGO.

- **Could you do an online poll (through the Facebook group) to determine what time works best for citizens in Victoria? I would attend if there was a dinner meal served**

The next session will be in the evening, and we will conduct an online poll.



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