Following the majority “yes” vote at the People’s Assembly in November 2014, Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG are continuing to explore the development of the proposed LNG facility at Sarita Bay. This new phase will see Huu-ay-aht and our partners undertake a wide variety of environmental studies in Sarita Bay and surrounding area. In addition, the Nation will be continue to take steps to establish educational opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens. These updates are described in more detail below.

Studies, Studies and More Studies!
In February 2015, Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht First Nations signed a contract with a consulting firm called WorleyParsons, with support from another firm called Hemmera, for carrying out environmental, engineering, geotechnical and regulatory services for the proposed Project. This work will be conducted with the support of Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation, which will create some short-term contract employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Beginning in February 2015, environmental baseline studies will be initiated for the proposed Project. Over the course of the 2015 and into 2016, the following studies are planned:

- Air quality
- Meteorology
- Noise
- Light
- Visual quality
- Surface water flow
- Surface water/sediment quality
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Soils and terrain
- Terrestrial vegetation
- Hydrogeology
- Freshwater fish and habitat
- Freshwater ecology
- Marine water and sediment quality
- Marine underwater noise
- Marine mammals and birds
- Marine ecology
- Land use
- Human health
- Archaeology and heritage resources
- Traditional knowledge and use
- Socioeconomic
- Marine navigation
- Contaminated sites
These studies will help Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Steelhead LNG understand the environmental conditions of the proposed Project area, in order to assess what the potential effects of the proposed Project may be.

This information will be used in the Environmental Assessment process required by the Provincial/Federal government, which assesses the potential effects of the proposed Project on the environment, economic and social conditions, heritage, health Huu-ay-aht First Nations’ (and other potentially affected First Nations’) Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights and title.

Setting Education and Training Opportunities in Motion
On February 2, 2015, Huu-ay-aht First Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with North Island College. Under this agreement, the college could bring more LNG-related trades training programs to the Port Alberni campus, beginning in the September 2015 school year. These could include programs for careers including:

- Welders
- Pipefitters
- Electricians
- Concrete finishers
- Gasfitters
- Ironworkers
- Technologists
- Machinists
- Engineering
- Equipment operators (Heavy equipment and truck drivers)
- Camp services and catering
- Security, occupational health and safety

There will be a total of 12 seats in these programs reserved for Huu-ay-aht citizens. This means that, permitted a citizen has all the pre-requisites and grades needed, they will have the first opportunity to fill the seats available in these programs. The Huu-ay-aht government is currently establishing relationships with local and regional businesses to make both trades apprenticeships and job shadowing possible. The Huu-ay-aht Community Services department is also currently working with Steelhead LNG to develop an education and training plan to guide future decision-making in these areas.
I am interested in employment in the LNG industry. What are my next steps?

Step 1: Research careers of interest
Check out career exploration resources to discover how your skills and interests match up with careers that are currently in demand in BC and in the LNG industry. The following are a couple websites worth exploring:

CareerTrek:
Includes an A-Z directory of jobs that are in demand in the province, videos that highlight “a day in the life” of different tradespeople and professionals, and tools for matching your skills to existing jobs. Visit: http://www.careertrekbc.ca/

Industry Training Authority:
This website highlights everything you need to know about apprenticeships and industry training in BC. Visit: www.itabc.ca

National Occupational Classification:
A directory of careers that identifies common jobs, their descriptions, and educational requirements. (Google “National Occupational Classification”)

Step 2: Get in touch with us
Complete a Skills and Training Upgrade Form or send us an email so that we know that you are interested and can work with you to find educational opportunities and resources to suit your needs. You can reach Brent Ronning, Huu-ay-aht’s Secondary and Post-Secondary Education Coordinator at education@huuayaht.org.

We are currently putting together a list of names of Huu-ay-aht citizens who are interested in employment and training opportunities, so we can keep you in the loop on updates.

Step 3: Start training
We are currently exploring job shadowing opportunities that would allow Huu-ay-aht citizens to “sample” potential jobs of interest before entering the associated training programs. If funding permits, these could begin as soon as spring 2015. Entry into post-secondary programs will depend on your availability as well as the availability of funding opportunities. The first wave of intake into trades programs at North Island College in Port Alberni will begin in September 2015.

Have additional questions about the proposed LNG project?
Contact Annie Merritt, LNG Community Engagement Coordinator, at annie.m@huuayaht.org or 250-735-3432.