



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Report on February
Community Engagement Sessions**

Prepared by: Communications Department

Date: March 2nd, 2015

February Community Engagement Session Agenda

Port Alberni: February 16, 4-7 pm

Anacla: February 17, 2-5 pm

Vancouver: February 19, 3-6 pm

Chat and chews

Nanaimo: February 24, 4-7 pm

Victoria: February 25, 4-7 pm

- Welcome and introductions
- Rebranding Project for Huu-ay-aht First Nations – Honouring Our Journey
unveiling the results of the Huu-ay-aht Rebranding project
- LNG project updates
Environmental Assessment process, timeline and studies that will be
conducted in Sarita Bay
- Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (Port Alberni and Anacla only)
Training Opportunities
- Education and training opportunities
MOU with North Island College

Education and Training Plan

Next steps for those interested in pursuing employment opportunities
- Huu-ay-aht Legislation
Spring Session of Legislature

Strategic Plan
- Open floor for questions and discussion

Summary

Every session opened with a blessing for the new brand image. Artist Ron Hamilton was in charge of the ceremony in Port Alberni where 23 Huu-ay-aht members were in attendance. Fisheries Technician/Wildlife, Cory Howard Sr, did it in Anacla with the assistance of his son, Cory Howard Jr for 22 participants. The Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, Edward Johnson Jr, performed the benediction in the rest of the venues: Vancouver (nine people), Nanaimo (12 attendees) and Victoria (5 citizens).

A recapitulation of the Rebranding followed with Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook and the Communications Assistant Ambar Varela in Port Alberni. Cook presented also in Vancouver. Councillor Jack Cook took the lead in Anacla, Nanaimo and Victoria. In the last two cities, he explained the legislative calendar as well. The Communications Coordinator, Heather Thompson, offered support as required during the presentations and the questions and answers periods.

The speakers offered a project overview since the start of the rebranding in October 2014, including Ha'wiih, elders, youth and citizens consultation. The audience was reminded of the Huu-ay-aht's Power Words: Memorable, Strong, Connected and Informative and how they are taken into account for every message or piece produced such as the website, letterhead, memos, mail-outs, newsletter and signage.

Hamilton told a brief history of the logo and its changes. The original was designed in order to decorate a pin button. Later on, he was asked to adapt it as the band's symbol. It was completely redone by Edward Johnson Sr., then. The new one was made by Myron Advertising and Design.

The new look and feel of <http://www.huayaht.org> was shared, along with its benefits compared to the previous version. The usability was improved by reorganizing the sections in a new menu. Searchability issues were addressed by adding keywords to articles and a more visible search bar. Additionally, the ongoing upgrades to be undertaken during 2015 were mentioned.

Tiffany Murray, Community Manager for Steelhead LNG, offered the updates on the second stage of the proposed LNG project for Sarita Bay in every city. She focused on the studies that are going to take place in the area and the intention of not overpromising positions as some of the research will run for a short term. She answered questions about the kind of professionals needed, i.e. microbiologists and archeologists. Councillor John Alan Jack assured that Traditional Land Use Studies (TLU) would be performed by Huu-ay-aht and mentioned potential long term jobs.

During the Port Alberni, Anacla and Vancouver sessions, James Edwards, Huu-ay-aht Executive Director, referred to the Economic Development Plan and the creation of retail spaces as spin off jobs for Huu-ay-aht people. He encouraged citizens to discuss their business ideas with Shawn Standley, Huu-ay-aht Economic Development Officer.

Edwards made clear that the development plans are not exclusive for Port Alberni and invited the audience to read the Community Plan.

Annie Merritt, Huu-ay-aht LNG Community Engagement Coordinator, expanded on the Memorandum of Understanding with North Island College and highlighted the importance of filling out the form about areas of interest for training and current educational level.

Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses had Duane Nookemus as a representative in Port Alberni. He explained the role of this organization in the project and motivate the members of the public to embrace change in their professional lives. His son started at The Market in Bamfield which led him to cooking training. Edward Johnson Jr. added that he worked at the West Coast trail for several years. He discovered his talent for carpentry while helping his father to build his house. He got trained as a builder and remembered how during the first year of carpentry at school his skills were highly appreciated.

Councillors John Alan Jack (Port Alberni and Vancouver), Charlie Clappis (Anacra) and Jack Cook (Nanaimo and Victoria) discussed the legislative calendar, which kicked off on March 20. Being a self-governing nation means creating efficient and effective acts, regulations and policies. One of the most important things is the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. So, Jack prompted citizens to call and email their authorities to suggest areas that deserve more spending. This part of the event generated a lot of interaction among the public and the presenters.

The acts subject to consideration during the legislature session will be:

- Budget Act, 2015
- Economic Development Act, Amendment Act
- Enforcement Framework Amendment Act

The following regulations are being considered by Executive Council:

- Tribunal Fees Regulation
- Tribunal Costs Regulation
- Economic Development Act Consequential Amendment Regulation
- Registry Document Fees Regulation
- Residential Lease Amendment Regulation
- Human Resources Policy Regulation
- Infrastructure Policy Regulation Amendment Regulation
- Non Replaceable Forest License Regulation Amendment Regulation
- Recognition of Citizenship Regulation
- Election Act Form Regulation

The *Economic Development Act, Amendment Act* generated multiple questions. Due to the upcoming elections, the audience asked who could run for Chief, and Jack replied that any citizen is eligible for that position.

Some members of the Huu-ay-aht community contrasted this amendment with the motions procedure established at the People's Assembly. Others requested more involvement of the youth, elders and women as they felt under represented.

The Economic Development Act generated a lot of discussion surrounding the intention to designate two members of Executive Council to sit on the Economic Development Committee.

The Economic Development Act states that it's the Chair appointed by Executive Council and the Ta'yii Hawilth who represents the executive council. The reason for the change is to accomodate the possibility that the Ta'yii Hawilth may not always be the Ha'wiih Councillor. Should the Ta'yii Hawilth decide to run for an elected council seat, there should be some flexibility to name a second member of Executive Council to the Economic Development Committee so that Ha'wiih Council always has a representative. The Tribunal fees were also discussed at length. It was explained that there would be a Tribunal Fee in the future. This will be in effect when citizens file a notice of appeal, an application (validity of law, sentencing recommendation and dispute resolution). The chair can decide to waive or reduce the fee if satisfied the applicant cannot reasonably afford the fee or the circumstances do not warrant a fee. Tribunal Costs will also be put into place to allow for recovery of partial or full costs by a successful party at the Tribunal against the unsuccessful part. The regulation being drafted would follow that of the B.C. Supreme Court.

Citizens were also told that a fee will be charged in the future for copies of records or documents kept in the registry of laws.

It was also discussed that there will be a change to the Residential Lease Regulation. This change allow the Speaker or another individual appointed by the Executive council to replace the Tribunal Chair as the person responsible for drawing a name during the residential lease allocation process. A member of Executive Council and trusted and respected Huu-ay-aht citizens designated by the Chief Councillor will assist in the process instead of tribunal members.

The final major piece of business discussed in this portion of the Community Engagement Session was the separation of the law clerk position to that of the executive director. The decision to separate these two positions was made to ensure there was no conflict in the decision-making process.

The Strategic Plan was brought to the attention of the attendees at the end of the meetings. The key areas to achieve goals are: Communication (COM), Children and Families (CF), Integrated Culture and Values (ICV), Infrastructure (INF) and Natural Resources and Trade (NRT)

Our citizens in Port Alberni asked the following questions:

- Will microbiologists be down in Anacla testing the water?
- Will there be overnight activities?
- How will jobs be posted (for research phase)?
- How can we make sure that other businesses in Anacla are well prepared to offer goods and services?
- Are there zoning laws in place that determine how our land can be used?
- What additional supports will be available to who are not yet ready to enter a program for training education?
- Are supports going to be offered to those who open new businesses in Anacla?
- Is there a living allowance?
- Will be there training available to those on the mainland?



Our citizens in Anacla asked the following questions:

- When is the fibre optic internet going to be connected?
- What will the cost of the new internet be?
- Will there be connectivity issues in the case of power outages?
- What are we doing to help Anacla kids go to school locally until Grade 12?
- What will the cost of the logo/rebranding project be?
- What is the election process for the Huu-ay-aht council? When is it?
- If there were enough kids from Anacla going to school in Port Alberni, could we put room and board funds towards hiring a teacher to work here in Anacla?
- Do you need Grade 12 to be considered for training for the LNG project?
- Who will pay for training for the LNG project?
- What does MOU stand for? (Memorandum of Understanding)
- Will the training lead to full time jobs?
- Would there be a living allowance for those who need to study/do training away from home?
- How do you study air quality and other environmental conditions before the facility is put into place?



- Are there existing LNG facilities that we can research in order to better understand what effects this facility would have on the environment?
- What is the timeline of the pipeline construction?
- Will Steelhead and Huu-ay-aht work with the First Nations whose territories are crossed by the pipeline?

Discussion: Should we build the walkway next to the road or on the old hiking trail (West Coast Trail)?

- The existing trail is remote and steep, many people currently get lost when trying to follow it.
- Would the trail be lit?
- What amount of money do you have set aside for this walkway project?
- The road is the faster way of getting around, but there is a trade off because the road may be widened in the future, which may change or affect the walkway.

Our citizens in Vancouver asked the following questions:

- Will there be training opportunities in the Lower Mainland?
- What age is the training for?
- Will there be help with accommodations (i.e. in the form of a Living Allowance)?
- Do you have an advisory board for the LNG project?
- When will we get language study on the mainland?
- What resources do we have to learn the language?
- What is the tribunal money put towards?
- How is the tribunal selected?
- How do you get the tribunal to make decisions quickly?
- What do you do if there is a direct relationship between someone who sits on the tribunal and someone who is having a case presented to the tribunal (i.e. conflict of interest situations)?
- How long are the terms of office?
- How much of funeral costs of Huu-ay-aht citizens are covered by Huu-ay-aht?
- Is there still room for burials to happen at home in Sarita Bay?



Our citizens in Nanaimo asked the following questions:

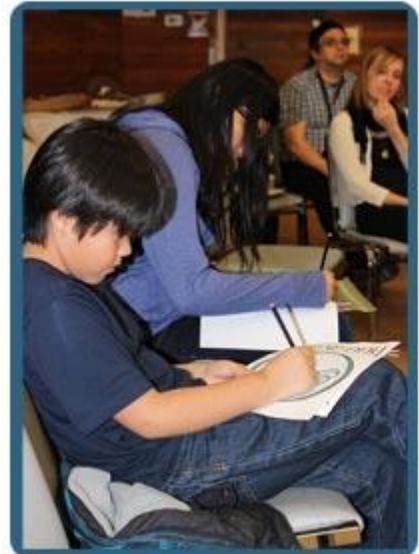
- What will the 12 seats be in? 12 in each program?

- What kind of schooling is needed for the food services/catering jobs?
- What is included in camp services?
- Is there going to be daycare?
- What about kids going to school from camp?
- Is five years of training that they are delegated to enforce laws (redseal)?
- Will it change that they are delegated to enforce laws?
- Who sits on the tribunal now? Who's the chair?
- When are council nominations?
- Who will choose the law clerk? Appointed by the Executive Director?
- Are the 12 seats only for Huu-ay-ahts?
- Will there be other office jobs or just government?



Our citizens in Victoria asked the following questions:

- Where can we send feedback on the website?
- What if someone wants to take a course elsewhere?
- My daughter graduates in June, what should we do to get guidance?
- When will the Ta'yii change take place?
- Are there any other alternates on the committee?
- What kind of ID do you need for the new status cards?
- What is the timeline on the election?
- How long did the rebranding take? How much it cost?
- Is it spelt Huuayaht now?
- How do you apply to be on a committee?
- Are the committees on the website?
- What prompted the fee for copies?
- Why not give land/housing job to staff instead of speaker?
- Can we know which recommendations come from staff, citizens or council?
- Is possible to get a citizenship card instead of a status card?
- Are they going to be laminated or a snipe card?





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