Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future:
Using community-based participatory research to document the Huu-ay-aht journey to the Maa-nulth Treaty and looking at its implementation with BC and Canada

Research Project
OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE: THE PATH TO TREATY AND BEYOND

- Community-based participatory research
- Heather’s previous work with Huu-ay-aht
- ‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’ project
- How we are doing this research
- Why this research is important
- Progress to date
‘OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE’
2014-2019

“Our work is just getting started”
- Robert Denis Sr., April 8, 2011

Photo: Huu-ay-aht burn Indian Act at midnight, April 1, 2011, implementation day
Source: Turtle Island.org
‘OUR JOURNEY, OUR CHOICE, OUR FUTURE’
2014-2019

Goals of the Research:
1. Document Huu-ay-aht’s journey to accepting the Maa-nulth Treaty;
2. Document challenges and successes of Treaty implementation;
3. Produce useful findings for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Maa-nulth Treaty Society, BC, Canada;
4. Share findings with the BCTC and other First Nations considering Treaty for self-determination, and teach Canadians about Treaty relationships and responsibilities.

Research Objectives to Meet Goals:
1. Place the Maa-nulth Treaty in the historical, social, political, geographical, cultural, and economical context;
2. Document and understand how Huu-ay-aht citizens and Treaty negotiators – Maa-nulth, federal, and provincial – recall the negotiation process;
3. Investigate the issues, challenges, and opportunities with implementing the Treaty (how are things going with implementation?); and
4. Monitor and evaluate the research: Are we doing this research in a good way?
HOW WILL WE DO THIS RESEARCH?

- **Huu-ay-aht Advisory Committee:**
  - Tayii Ḥaw’iɬ ƛiišin Derek Peters, Stella Peters, Wish-key Robert Dennis Jr, Simon Dennis, Jane Peters, and Mercedes Williams
  - Also connecting with Treaty Implementation Committee and Communications

- **Archives:**
  - Huu-ay-aht, Canada, BC, MTS, and BCTC

- **Interviews:**
  - Maa-nulth negotiators, provincial government negotiators, federal government negotiators, British Columbia Treaty Commission representatives
  - Ha’wiih, Elders, and Huu-ay-aht citizens

- **Community Engagement Sessions**
  - Gather citizens perspectives and bring these stories to the project.

- **Reporting back:**
  - Peoples’ Assembly
  - Updates through Uyaqhmis and online
SO, WHY DO THIS RESEARCH?

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<tr>
<th>USEFUL TO HUU-AY-AHT</th>
<th>USEFUL TO OTHERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Document the Treaty negotiations process for future generations</td>
<td>Help other First Nations decide if Treaty is the right path for them</td>
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<td>Provide evidence about how implementation is working effectively (and where it is not)</td>
<td>Provide evidence to BC and Canada about how implementation is working effectively (and where it is not)</td>
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<td>Show where (and how) things can improve</td>
<td>Share Huu-ay-aht’s story with the rest of Canada to teach about Treaty relationships and responsibilities</td>
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PROGRESS TO DATE

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

• Treaty Implementation Committee meetings
  • (2014-2015)

• Switch to Advisory Committee
  • (2015-to end of project)

• Community information sessions and People’s Assembly Updates

• Archival data collection
  • Huu-at-aht’s archives obtained
  • Canada, BC, BCTC, and MTS in process of being obtained

• University ethical approval

• Interviews

NEXT STEPS

• Advisory Committee Meetings
  • 3 per year for duration of project

• Community Engagement sessions
  • 3 per year for the next year

• Interview Analysis

• Archival Analysis

• Photovoice

• Reporting back will continue

• Book development

• Conference presentations

• Journal articles
1. TREATY NEGOTIATION
What are your strongest memories about the negotiation process?

What was your understanding of what was going on, and why was the Treaty important (or not) to you?

How did you keep updated about the Treaty negotiation process?

What are the most important stories to share with others about the Treaty journey?
If you could make some recommendations about the treaty negotiation process, what would they be?
2. TREATY IMPLEMENTATION
Definition of treaty implementation:

The process of taking what was negotiated in the treaty and making it happen.

This involves replacing the policies of the Indian Act with Huu-ay-aht’s policies as outlined in the Huu-ay-aht constitution.
How is the treaty going for you?

Is life with treaty what you expected?

What’s going well?

What’s not going well?
How is treaty different than living under the Indian Act?

How is treaty the same as living under the Indian Act?

Have you noticed any changes now that the treaty has been implemented?
How can Huu-ay-aht citizens be more involved in Treaty-related decision-making?
How have you/the leadership been exercising your Treaty rights since 2011?

What is needed to help you/the leadership do MORE to exercise your treaty rights?
At the Peoples’ Assembly this weekend, the Leadership reported Five Posts to be achieved by 2033. Do those posts fit with your ideas for key priorities (are their other priorities too)?

**Five Posts for a Strong Huu-ay-aht**

**By 2033:**
*Our people* will be free from the negative effects of colonization.

*Our children* will grow up safe, healthy and connected to our home and culture/values.

*Our home* will be safe, healthy, appealing place where half of our people choose to live.

*Our land* will provide sustainable wealth that respects Huu-ay-aht values of conservation.

*Our economy* will operate sustainably, is the major employer in the region and the major source of revenue for the Nation.
What are the most important stories to share with others about your Treaty implementation experience?

How do you want to be kept updated about the Treaty implementation process?