

# **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**



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

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

Time  
Immemorial

1994

2005

2009

2011

2014

2018+

- **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'it̓ ʕiišin 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 Huu-ay-aht online

# SO, WHY DO THIS RESEARCH?

## USEFUL TO HUU-AY-AHT

- Document the Treaty negotiations process for future generations
- Provide evidence about how implementation is working effectively (and where it is not)
- Show where (and how) things can improve

## USEFUL TO OTHERS

- Help other First Nations decide if Treaty is the right path for them
- Provide evidence to BC and Canada about how implementation is working effectively (and where it is not)
- Share HUU-ay-aht's story with the rest of Canada to teach about Treaty relationships and responsibilities

# 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 there other priorities too)?**

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

**By 2033:**

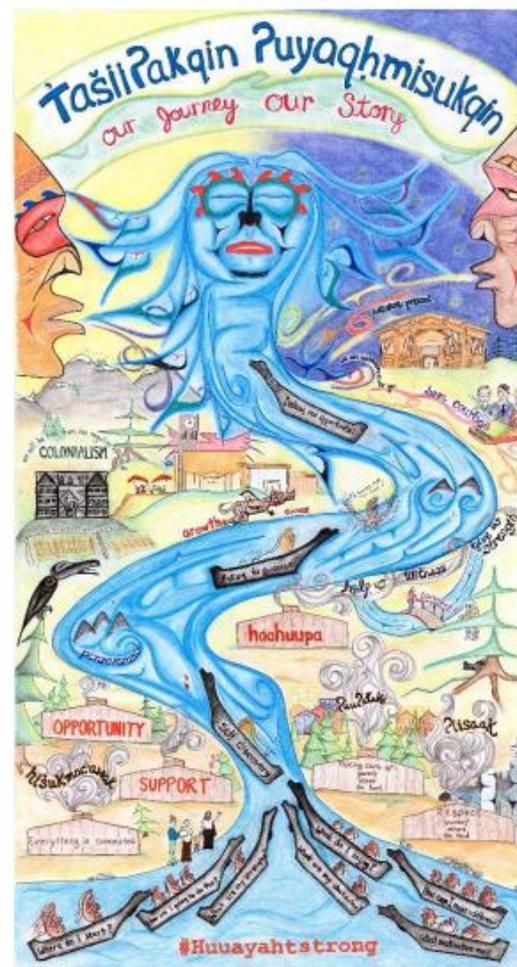
Our **people** will be free from the negative effects of colonization.

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?**