

**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 Community Engagement Session**

Huuay-aht First Nations in partnership with  
Heather Castleden, Queen's University

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Aboriginal Mother's Centre  
Vancouver Community Engagement Meeting Summary

**Huu-ay-aht Advisory Committee**

- Simon Dennis, Elder & Mainland Representative [SEP]
- Tliishin (Derek Peters), Ha'wiith Council Representative [SEP]
- Wisqii (Rob Dennis Jr.), Port Alberni Representative [SEP]
- Stella Peters, Ana'cla Representative [SEP]
- Jane Peters, Ana'cla Representative [SEP]
- Mercedes Williams, Youth Representative

**Research Team**

- Heather Castleden, Project Lead  
Email: heather.castleden@queensu.ca  
Phone: (902) 489-2412
- Marc Calabretta, Master's Student  
Email: marc.calabretta.queensu.ca  
Phone: (416) 999-9708
- Vanessa Sloan Morgan, PhD Student  
Email: vanessa.sloan.morgan@queensu.ca  
Phone: (250) 508-3410

**1) Treaty Negotiation**

**Discussion Questions:**

**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?**

- Direction for treaty came from citizens; community engagement is where the people spoke and directed negotiations
- Advice for Federal and provincial government for future negotiations with First Nations is important
- No communication with community members at other treaty tables has been detrimental to First Nations negotiations
- Education for younger generation is important; learn about Treaty and what Treaty means
- All citizens concerns were taken into consideration during treaty negotiations
- Against Treaty originally because there was a need for transparency; Treaty was a way to be away from the Indian Act and INAC
- Starting something new is always difficult; transparency is needed
- A lot of unknowns about self-government exist
- Need culture back; with Treaty we now need to take responsibility for our Nation – we can't point fingers at others
- Family trees and HUU-ay-aht knowledge is important, especially because of the ongoing effects of Residential School and colonization
- Once HUU-ay-aht is reunited as a Nation, we will be 'damn good'/unstoppable
- Older generations/ancestors talked about self-sufficiency

- Huu-ay-aht process needs to be used for governance. Respect for Huu-ay-aht's process and peoples' responsibilities need to be upheld and known
  - Ha'wiih take responsibility for their roles and share their songs with people in their House
- Treaty can take self-sufficiency and put it into action
- Tension between 'ancient spirit' and 'modern mind'
  - Technology and Huu-ay-aht culture are difficult to mix
  - Pleasure in HFN practices and supporting one another is not the same for the younger generation as it was in the past; something is always expected in return
  - Technology is expensive
- Youth are learning to be attached to technology; have to teach them Huu-ay-aht ways

### **Recommendations:**

- More transparency for citizens on what HFN government is up to
- Need to support Elders now
- Need to support our youth now; help them to become healthy. Ex. Support treatment
- Never forget who we are!
- Elder's wisdom needs to be honoured and acknowledged
- Forefathers/ancestors (Chief Louie) talked about Treaty but used different language, not 'treaty'
  - Ancestors always wanted the best for future generations

### **Citizen Questions:**

- What will Treaty mean for future generations?
- How did we really govern ourselves before the Indian Act in our own way?
- What is Huu-ay-aht government doing to recognize and support Elders now?
- Where are our Elders and what are we doing for them? How many have we lost? Lots of talk about Elders, but what is actually being done?
- How do we look forward for our youth now?

## **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 and Huu-ay-aht Acts.

**Discussion Questions: 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?**

- We are still under INAC; we still have to ask for permission for programs
- Implementation is a slow process
- The first post-Treaty government had a huge job; overnight they had to implement all new laws
- With time we will be away from the Indian Act; our government will be really ready to govern by then
- Want to see a decrease in the time and the money put into lawyers who do work for Huu-ay-aht

**Citizen Questions:**

- What is self-government really?
- Are we really on our own?
- When does full self-governance come into effect without INAC?
- Are lawyers really working for us? Can we have our own lawyer from HUU-AY-AHT working for/ employed by the Nation?

**Discussion Question: How can HUU-AY-AHT citizens be more involved in Treaty-related decision-making?**

- Citizens have an opportunity to sit on committees; changes can be made with engagement
- Investments that we put in for long term project won't benefit current generation immediately
  - Ex. \$1 million investment in exploring programs, but other Nations who have gone forward with these same projects won't see benefits flowing back to the community for 20+ years
- Citizens need to be more involved in community decisions and what is going on in the Nation
  - More young people need to be involved

**Recommendations:**

- HFN voting system should be staggered so an entirely new government doesn't come in at once every four years; overlap between government by staggering positions for election

**Citizen Question:**

- How do we involve our young people in community decisions and the Nation's affairs?
- How do we reach younger citizens and involve them? How can we use technology to do so?

**Discussion Questions: 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?**

- Under INAC there was very little opportunity to further business ventures for and by the Nation; post 2011, HUU-AY-AHT purchased businesses and our land was returned to us. That was because of Treaty
  - Ex. 12 HFN jobs at the Motel were available at once; this was unprecedented for HFN
- Everyone needs to work together as a team; the leadership – community and elected – need to come together and respect one another and their opinions; they don't need to agree
  - Don't criticize one another but learn from each other
- HFN is negotiating with LNG on our own terms

**Citizen Question:**

- Will it take longer to see the positive effects of Treaty?

**Discussion Questions: 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)?**

- Achieving post two for children will be difficult; we need to heal and be healthy ourselves
- Not point fingers or criticize, but help others to learn and make healthy choices. Ex. What led to citizens who have not always been healthy choosing to change? Citizens who have gone through the struggle to

**Five Posts for a Strong HUU-AY-AHT**



become healthy need to share their stories

- Becoming healthy starts in our homes and in our communities; once health is achieved here, HFN lands will prosper too
- Children need to see healthy homes
- Kids know when the older generation is not making healthy decisions; this does not go unnoticed

### **Recommendations:**

- Up to Elders to teach and show younger generation better choices so that they can be there for their kids in the future too
  - Keep talking to our youth; need to take action towards people who act disrespectfully at the Peoples' Assembly
- Elders need to be taken care of
  - Elders living in Anacra and Port have access to support more so than in Vancouver; Elders living away experience this support differently; the connection is not the same
- To be self-sufficient, we need to ensure that resources are available so that we can look to ourselves and not to the federal government
  - Big development projects are intended to support the Nation financially, but HFN also doesn't have enough people to fill all roles or to sustain the demand for business. Ex. The Market. Need to attract support from outside at times
- Bridge the generational divide to engage youth
- What people need to be able to do in the modern age is use their minds as well as hands; before jobs involved skilled labour, but now we need strong minds too. Ex. Lawyer for Huu-ay-aht

### **Citizen Questions:**

- How are we going to achieve post two (children and safety) and develop safe homes and cultural values?
- How can we be honest with each other and address unhealthy behaviour?
- What can those who have not always been healthy teach others who need support? What can be learned from citizens stories who have struggled in the past?
- What does it look like to have a safe environment and healthy homes?
- What is HFN doing for our Elders?