



huu ay aht

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## Huu-ay-aht and BMSC work together on waste water treatment plant

Bamfield - April 30, 2018 – The Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to build a new Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

On April 26, 2018, the two parties gathered at the Rix Centre for Ocean Discoveries to sign the documents, however the project is already well underway.

“I remember sitting overlooking the inlet with Stella Peters and discussing the fact that our marine resources aren’t as abundant as they used to be,” explains Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. “We thought about how we could help turn this around, and a sewer project was one of the first things we thought of.”

Chief Dennis explains that Huu-ay-aht approached a number of different levels of government trying to get assistance with the project. Finally, after having no success, the Nation decided it was important enough to do it on their own. He says the Nation has worked with the BMSC on projects in the past, so he was optimistic when they came forward.

“We have similar values and principles that I am confident we can make this a reality,” he adds.

The project is funded by Huu-ay-aht First Nation, with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) contributing a portion of the funds.

The plant will be located on the BMSC campus and will replace the existing treatment plant, using the BMSC ocean outfall. It is going to be a Moving Bed Biological Reactor plant, which was chosen for its less complex operation, and is well suited for the remote location.

“Signing this agreement is another indication of how many common goals we have,” says Dr. Jon Driver, President of the Western Canadian Universities Marine Sciences Society (WCUMSS), the governing body of BMSC. “This project will improve the health of this harbour and the whole community. I am really glad we are getting this done together, and I hope it’s just the beginning of many projects we take on together.”

The initial phase of the WWTP will connect BMSC, the Community School, and Upper Anacla to sewage treatment. The immediate goal is to then have all of the Huu-ay-aht businesses connected.

The plant is being designed with growth in mind, and is able to treat a large fluctuation of users. When the demand is beyond the existing capacity it is modular; additional components can easily be added to double the capacity of the plant. This will allow the connection of the larger community of Bamfield, even if it experiences growth.

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The design is complete as of April 30, 2018, which will be followed by reviews internally and with INAC. Construction is estimated to start August 2018, and expected to be complete by August 2019, with commissioning to follow.

The WWTP will be run as a utility and managed by HFN.

For more information, please contact:

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