

John Alan Jack for HUU-ay-aht

Hello!

My name is John Alan Jack. I'm the eldest son of David McIvor and the late Sandra (Sandy) Lucille Jack. My mother was the youngest daughter of the late Ernest and Shirley Jack (Chester). I'm married to my wife, Crystal, and have two young daughters: Ezri and Reyna. I grew up in Parksville, but my mother made sure I visited relatives in An-acla every summer as a child. Before I graduated from what is now Vancouver Island University, I became more and more involved with our Nation. It is these two things, family and community, that give my life meaning. So much so that it has been my honour and duty to do all I can to give back to the Nation that has given me everything for which *I am thankful*.



After graduating in 2004, I worked with the Nation to help create the foundation documents of our self-government under Treaty, both as a committee member and as a staffer. In 2009, I was fortunate to be elected to the *last* 'Ohiat' Band Council; and in 2011, I was fortunate to be elected into the *first* HUU-ay-aht First Nations Council under our own laws as a self-governing First Nation. I had the honour of serving a third term in 2015 and I have learned so very much since those first steps over twelve years ago.

It's not about how far I have come, however, it's about how far we have come, and how far we can go together if you see fit to have me as a leader.

I am running for the positions of Chief-Councillor and Councillor.

(Citizens can run for both positions, but they may only occupy one of them. At the time of developing our law, it was felt a waste of knowledge and expertise to lose a strong candidate for leadership on the basis of only running for the top elected position.)

In addition to my formal education, I have a broad and deep understanding of HUU-ay-aht. Be it politics, finances, business, lands, natural resources or history, I have extensive knowledge and experience in both the pre-treaty and self-governing eras. In my time, I have held nearly every file in my Council portfolio. I helped to create our laws, and I have helped to improve them over the past two terms. I have direct political experience with all levels of government: locally, provincially, federally and even internationally. And I hope to continue representing our Nation to the world, because after being out there, it definitely needs more HUU-ay-aht: our stories, our friendship, our knowledge and our values.

Going Farther Together

I have much experience around governing tables. By the time of this election, I will have ten years of direct Council experience. The most important lesson I've learned is the value of respectful dialogue when we disagree as a Council, especially when we disagree. I have brought Huu-ay-aht insight and know-how to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. It has been well-received: I have served as the elected Chairman of the ACRD for my third year in a row. I also sit as a board member for the Local Government Leadership Academy, where we teach elected leaders what they need to govern better. A year ago, I was appointed by the Province to sit as a Governor for VIU, and now I serve the school from which I graduated. I wish to use all that I've learned to bring our Nation forward inclusively.

Success for Our People

We are very good at achieving the goals our governments set out. We can do more to ensure that we provide the knowledge, tools and resources for individual members of our community to find their own success and build the lives they want to live. We can do this by providing to our citizens better access to our lands and resources. We can achieve more by working together to cultivate more individual entrepreneurs, so our economy can flourish without the government having to do the things that our people can do better themselves. We need to provide citizens the stable ground to build their own success.

Focusing Our Strengths

There is much that our government can do to help our people succeed in their lives, too. We need to gather more and better information to properly evaluate how our programs and services have performed each year. We can use that information to make better decisions and improve health outcomes, graduation rates, employment numbers and cultural knowledge. We can take the time and the resources necessary to find more Huu-ay-aht to learn and to serve the Nation and bring us forward into the future in a good way. We can do it in a way to ensure that we are always becoming that strong, self-reliant Nation that we promised our ancestors and owe to our children.

Respecting Our Ways

The most important thing we can do is ensure that we take the time to honour and remember the work of those who came before us. To understand and cherish the values of responsibility and connectedness, respect and hope. In my time, I have learned our words for these things: iisaak, hish-uk ma cawak, and uu-a-thluk. I promise to hold these in my heart as we move ever forward. To honour our ancient spirit, and our modern mind.

Chuu. Klecko, Klecko!

Email: <john.jack@gmail.com> **Phone:** (250) 954-5541 **Facebook:** @JohnAlanJackforHFN