



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

March 20, 2020

Re: Message to citizens from Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

Dear Huu-ay-aht citizens,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe during the current health crisis that we are facing. I know these are difficult times, so I wanted to reach out to you to reassure you that Huu-ay-aht First Nations is paying close attention to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To do our part to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Huu-ay-aht has switched to a primarily remote work environment. We do this in order to keep our citizen, staff, and community healthy during these difficult times.

We acknowledge that this may create some challenges, but it is important that we respect the call for social distancing during the province's state of emergency related to COVID-19. I think we all agree that we should not take the threat this virus poses lightly, and we must do everything in our power to help minimize the spread.

Our government reassures everyone that we are doing everything we can to put in place the mechanisms and funding in place to support our citizens during this pandemic. We want you to know that we are working hard to meet the needs of our community during these difficult times.

This is a very urgent matter that is changing quickly, and we must deal with it as it unfolds. We will ensure our people are looked after and do whatever we can to keep them safe and healthy. Please remember, the administration is doing their best while also being mindful of their own health.

The Federal Government has announced, in recent days, many supports for the country during this crisis. We have been in touch with the Minister of Health, and we now have a better understanding of what resources and supports are available to us. We will make sure to take advantage of these programs and add to the initiatives we already have in place.

Anacla is an isolated community, and we must address its needs. We also know that citizens will face other challenges such as isolation, shortage of food, and loss of wages, as this crisis continues. We will continue to work hard to make sure we stay healthy and safe as a community.

At the same time, we urge everyone to do their part and follow the recommendations we have all heard over the past week. This means washing your hands frequently, social distancing, avoiding crowds and in-person meetings. Instead stay home and enjoy a quieter time with your family or explore the amazing natural environment around us. Also, don't forget to check on your family members and our elders to make sure they are doing alright. Sometimes it only takes a phone call to make someone feel cared for and less isolated.



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We must hold the value of our sacred principles of ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔaʔuk and Hišuk ma cʔawak and allow them to guide us. We are all Huu-ay-aht, and I trust that we will continue to watch out for each other currently more than ever before.

Although many members of the administration team are working remotely to protect their own health and that of the public by practicing the recommended social distancing, they are still available to assist citizens.

If you need contact information, please call the Anacla or Port Alberni government offices as they continue to answer phones to assist you. If you need to talk to me, call me at 250-728-3414 extension 226.

Huu-ay-aht is a resilient Nation, and we will get through this crisis. As your government, we will focus on our citizens at this time and the health of our community, both physically and economically. Please take care of yourself and your families.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dennis Sr.
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Chief Councillor