



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Dear Citizens,

As we welcome another summer long weekend, we wanted to take a moment to update you on what Huu-ay-aht First Nations is doing to keep our citizens safe.

While our province has flattened the curve, COVID-19 is far from over. Cases have increased recently, mostly due to gatherings around Canada Day. British Columbia has started encouraging travel within the province, and Bamfield businesses are welcoming guests again. Although we support their decisions, this does increase risk in our vulnerable remote community. For these reasons, we remain diligent in our efforts to protect those living on our traditional territory, while making some small adjustments to open access in our homelands gradually and safely.

Two of our major safety decisions this summer are that **Pachena Bay Campground** and the **West Coast Trail** will remain closed for the season. While it is outside of our nature to turn people away from our beautiful territory and some revenue will be lost, the risks outweighed the benefits. We heard from staff and citizens that they were worried about the added exposure and chose to support them.

Here are some of the changes you will see this summer in our ḥahuuḥi

- With our support, Parks Canada has opened public access to **Pachena Beach** and **Cape Beale Headlands (Keeha, Topaltos)**, for day-use only.
- For Pachena Beach visitors, access is only through the West Coast Trail entrance.
- Residents of Anacla can continue to access and enjoy the beach directly from Anacla, but we ask that residents not welcome visitors into the campground or village from the beach.
- We hope to soon open the **private sites** to citizens for overnight camping, but this plan has not been finalized.
- Citizens and visitors alike can still enjoy most of our **Treaty Settlement Lands and Private Lands** for day-use.
- The camping restrictions on our TSL and Private Lands (ex. **Sarita Lake and River**) remain in place for non-citizens.
- Citizens can now apply for permits to camp on TSL or Private Lands
- We will no longer oppose camping elsewhere in our territory for other people (ex. **Frederick and Pachena Lake, parts of the Deer Group Islands that are not TSL**).
- **Numukamis Bay** is open to citizens for day-use only.

Travelling and welcoming visitors

- We can now slightly relax our restrictions on who can enter Upper and Lower Anacla, but we need to cooperate to do this safely.
- Residents can now invite **outside guests** who are citizens to visit their household as long as they stay with the group they are visiting, as suggested in B.C.'s Phase 3.
- As Dr. Bonnie Henry would say, it is important that we keep our "bubbles" small and visit outside as much as possible.
- While visiting, guests should practice physical distancing and limit their interaction with other residents.



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- If you are expecting a visitor, try to tell the guardians in advance and tell your guests to expect some basic COVID screening questions at the gate.
- People with COVID-19 symptoms will not be permitted in the village.

Please help us keep our community safe by limiting your visitors to your closest family or friends and respect that not everyone will expand their bubbles at the same pace. We also ask Anacla residents travelling out of the territory to follow these guidelines as well to minimize their exposure.

Other updates that we would like to make sure you know about are that:

- A few more **HGB businesses** are opening. They are doing so with all COVID-19 safety measures in place for guests and staff.
- There will not be **Kiixin** Tours for the 2020. The Economic Development Department is looking into how virtual tours might let people experience Kiixin in a different way this year.
- The **administration offices** have returned to limited operations, with staff working remotely, due to the recent increase in cases across the province. Only five staff will be at the office, in addition to the essential personnel. The offices will again be closed to the public for now.
- A company run by one of our citizens has been hired to provide around-the-clock **guardian service for Anacla**. They will be a regular fixture in the community until it is safe again. Please join us to welcome and support them and thank the guardians who have kept us safe throughout the first part of the pandemic.

We understand that the past four months have been difficult. We want to assure you that we are doing everything in our power to keep you safe and supported. The decisions we have made are based on what we have heard from you, our citizens. Your safety and health remain our top priorities. If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of Executive Council. You can also email rita.j@huuayaht.org for clarifications.

This long weekend and beyond, please stay safe and healthy and follow provincial health advice to keep your potential COVID-19 exposure to a minimum. We are not out of the woods yet, and it is up to each of us to do our part to minimize the spread of COVID-19. We are a resilient nation, and we will get through this if we work together.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dennis Sr.
Elected Chief Councillor

Tayii H'awit'liišin Derek Peters
Hereditary Chief