

November 2, 2022

Dear Huu-ay-aht citizens,

We were saddened to learn about Marge's decision to resign from the Inquiry Panel and appreciated her presence, integrity and wisdom shared with us thus far.

We understand that Marge's resignation was a difficult one and respect her decision made in response to citizen concerns and with the hope that this inquiry process can move forward in a good way. We are hopeful there will be a way, further down the road, that this inquiry process can benefit from her presence.

Given the highly sensitive nature of the work that we have been invited to do we understand that your trust in us is essential.

We are seeking participants in a working group to help shape a plan for Huu-ay-aht input and involvement in the Inquiry process. A separate posting about this will be available on the Huu-ay-aht website. We would like to make space to hear any thoughts and wishes about how this inquiry process should move forward given Marge's resignation and would appreciate receiving any feedback you have about this process. Please call or write to use if you have any suggestions. We want to reiterate that we are fully committed to making space to hear any and all of your concerns – specifically about any experience of misconduct by a Huu-ay-aht public official- this includes members of your Executive Council, Ha'wiih Council or a member of a Huu-ay-aht Committee.

Our mandate, given to us by your Executive Council, is to inquire into any allegations of abuse of power, intimidation, harassment, assault, sexual harassment or sexual assault committed by members of government and to prepare a report about these issues. It is anticipated that this report will primarily be about systemic issues and how to solve them. It will not address any allegations about specific individuals. If allegations about specific individuals are raised during the course of our work, we are empowered to work with the people bringing forward those allegations, if they so choose, to set up a process by which a full investigation will take place.

Our work with respect to the report will necessarily flow in two phases:  
Phase 1: Listen to the concerns and experiences of Huu-ay-aht citizens and to determine if any experience needs or warrants further investigation.

Phase 2: Write a report of recommendations for systemic change. This report will be made public and will be focused on the changes required for your community to live up to and enact its sacred principles to be the healthy community it wishes to be.

We hope that several of you will join us, as community advisors, at this stage so that the recommendations are well aligned with Huu-ay-aht values, practices and

knowledge. We, like you, want the recommendations to guide actions and change that are aligned with your hopes for community wellness and healing.

We are committed, eager, willing and able to meet with you (in-person, via a phone call or via receiving your written statement). Our work with you will include making this process as safe and comfortable as possible so that you feel open to sharing your story with us. We are completely committed to maintaining your privacy and confidentiality during this process.

If allegations of wrong-doing are raised against specific individuals during Phase 1 and if the people bringing the allegations wish to participate further, the panel will develop terms of reference for an investigation or investigations regarding actions of specific individuals, which may result in findings of wrong-doing against them. This will only happen with the permission and engagement of the people making the allegations.

Our work is completely dependent upon hearing your concerns and we welcome hearing from you in any way that you feel comfortable sharing with us.z

With kindness and respect,

*Sandy Cunningham & Jennifer Dehoney*

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### **Members of the Inquiry Panel**

Sandy is a former Crown Prosecutor who now specializes in workplace investigations. She will take on the role of Lead Investigator.  
Sandy can be reached at: 604-362-3207 (Available November 14 and on)

Jennifer is a clinical counsellor and was a founding board member and team lead at Kilala Lelum, an Indigenous health and healing centre, she is a member of the Missanabie Cree First Nation.  
Jennifer can be reached at: 604-671-8652

The Inquiry Panel can also be reached via email: [hfnpanel22@gmail.com](mailto:hfnpanel22@gmail.com)  
(this email account is only viewed by Sandy and Jennifer)