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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

March 18th, 2024

To: Huu-ay-aht Citizens

Re: Huu-ay-aht First Nation Keeshan IR 9 Timber Specific Claims Settlement

We are pleased to announce a significant development in the ongoing efforts to address historical grievances through the Specific Claims process. This announcement concerns a settlement between Huu-ay-aht First Nation (HFN) and the Government of Canada regarding a specific claim filed by the Nation in 2007 regarding IR#9 logging.

At the November 2023 People's Assembly, the HFN Government presented that Canada acknowledged its breach of duty to Huu-ay-aht First Nations and has agreed to compensate the Nation, a settlement value of \$35,677,814. At that People's Assembly, it was shared that there would be a distribution of \$1,000.00 per citizen. This distribution would be done in two \$500-dollar payments, one in December 2023 and the 2nd payment when the funds arrive.

Along with the distribution, HFN also shared how HFN will be utilizing our Specific Claims award to support our Nation in achieving our Economic Development Plan and our Strategic Plan initiatives. We were unable to share documentation at that time due to the negotiation not being signed. We are now in a position to share the information.

Over the past 4-5 years, investments in major projects have been a benefit to the Huu-ay-aht Economy (listed below). These projects were funded from the following funds: Huu-ay-aht funds (general funds, loans, trust fund, invested wealth fund), from WFP, and by the Provincial Government.

HFN Major Projects 2019-2024

Purchase of 35% of TFL 44 = \$29,738,907.00
Bamfield Road surfacing = \$46,065,811.82
Forestry research = \$430,809.52
Specific Claims legal work = \$689,208.80
Special Projects = \$1,198,416.55
Total Project cost = \$75,925,366.69

Investments

Huu-ay-aht First Nations = \$33,875,446.69
Industry (WFP) = \$6,350,000.00
BC Government = \$35,699,920.00
Total investments = \$75,925,366.69

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Over the next 4 years, Huu-ay-aht First Nations will be reinvesting back into our Nation's programs to achieve key strategic targets. HFN will be investing \$5.8 Million in our current programs and the creation of new programs over the next 4 years. Examples of potential key areas of focus will be on:

- Creation of a Student & Youth (15-30) program that focuses on 2 to 6 months of employment per year in HFN Government programs, potential youth council, and development of child and youth after-school activities.
- Creation of a Social Service employment program that supports citizens in Anacla who are currently on social services and provides them 3-6 months per year of employment to help in projects like the maintenance of the cemetery, groundskeeping for elders, etc.
- Creation of a Witwak program for the Anacla Community & enhance the Guardian program– provide security patrols in the community, support protection of wildfire management in the community, and support community events.
- 10-15% increase towards medical, dental, recreation and activities, culture & language, training programs, etc., to help support citizens' development.
- Update communication tools such as updating the web page, creating an HFN App, etc.
- Lease payment for the full duration of the Oomiiqsu Centre for \$2.5M

Major investments in the following areas:

- Implement a 10-year Capital plan that will focus on bringing our current infrastructure to code and completing new infrastructure such as the water and sewer project aiming to invest up to \$6-7M over 4 years.
- Continue investment in our major projects such as the Bamfield road to ensure the protection of this investment for \$7.5M over the next 4 years.
- Reinvest \$10M back into the Trust fund and Invested Wealth Fund.
- Invest in strengthening our economy by investing in joint projects that will achieve a sustainable economy for Huu-ay-aht.

HFN Re-Investment – 4-Year plan

Government Programs = \$5,873,420.31

HFN Distribution = \$ 890,000.00

HFN Trust Fund = \$4,700,000.00

Bamfield Road = \$7,520,000.00

Invested Wealth = \$4,300,000.00

Oomiiqsu Centre = \$2,500,000.00

Capital investment \$5-600,000.00.

Canada Loan = \$250,000.00

Economic Development Initiatives = \$3,300,000.00

Total reinvestment = \$35,332,420.31

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The re-investment back into Huu-ay-aht Finances will help our Nation succeed in the long term, the financial mechanism to hold the funds are being researched by our financial experts. The goal is to reinvest in the best financial management that will provide the most return.

We express our gratitude for the dedication and perseverance of everyone involved in reaching this milestone. Together, we continue to strengthen our Nation and ensure a just resolution for the challenges of the past.

Sincerely,

John Jack
Chief Councilor

Theresa Nookemus
Hawiih Council



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