



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report  
March 2024**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **CHIEF COUNCILLOR JOHN JACK REPORT**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| GENERAL DUTIES.....                       | PAGE 4-5 |
| ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT ..... | PAGE 5   |
| MAJOR PROJECTS .....                      | PAGE 5   |
| EXTERNAL AFFAIRS .....                    | PAGE 5-6 |

### **COUNCILLOR BRAD JOHNSON REPORT**

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| BAMFIELD ROAD PROJECT UPDATE ..... | PAGE 7   |
| LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES .....   | PAGE 7   |
| TREATY IMPLEMENTATION .....        | PAGE 7-8 |
| PARKS CANADA .....                 | PAGE 8   |
| HR WORKPLACE AND WELLNESS .....    | PAGE 9   |

### **COUNCILLOR EDWARD JOHNSON REPORT**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE AND INFRASTRUCTURE .....          | PAGE 10    |
| CHILDREN AND FAMILY WELLNESS COMMITTEE AND MENTAL HEALTH ..... | PAGE 10-12 |
| DEPUTY-CHIEF COUNCILLOR.....                                   | PAGE 12    |

### **COUNCILLOR EVAN COOK REPORT**

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| FINANCE.....               | PAGE 13 |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ..... | PAGE 13 |

### **HA'WIIH REPRESENTATIVE THERESA NOOKEMUS REPORT**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| HA'WIIH COUNCIL .....                      | PAGE 14 |
| CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE/NANANIIQSU .....     | PAGE 14 |
| LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ..... | PAGE 14 |

### **COUNCILLOR STEPHEN RAYNER REPORT**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE..... | PAGE 15 |
|---|---------|

GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY ..... PAGE 15-17

HFN PLANNING/CAPITAL RAISE ..... PAGE 17

MEETINGS/EVENTS .....PAGE 17

## **Chief Councillor John Jack – March 2024**

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Chief Councillor  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
Major Projects  
External Relations

### **General Duties – Chief Councillor**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

##### **First Week**

The first real week of March started off with me quite sick with a respiratory infection, likely caught somewhere during my trip to Ottawa: three airports, four airplanes, plenty of taxis and several large meetings. This later developed into everyone in my house save my eldest child getting sick over the next few weeks. As a result, some of my meetings were not attended to, especially in this first week of March 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. It didn't end up being COVID, but that was the third worst experience being sick after the two times I caught two different COVID-19 variants.

##### **Second Week**

I perhaps may have incorrectly gauged my health on Monday, but I did end up attending the HFN All Committee Meeting on the Monday. I then attended the First Sitting of the HFN Legislature for Spring, 2024, I think it was via Zoom due to being sick. I felt better enough the next day to attend the ACRD Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings. I attended the HFN Executive Council meeting online, then attended to some external meetings on the Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. On the Friday, I took most of the day to help my family at home due to nearly everyone being sick to some degree.

##### **Third Week**

The Third week started with me getting a strep throat infection from one of our children that weekend. I did not attend to much in the way of work, including the meeting with Ditidaht FN's new Chief and Council. I want to thank everyone for attending to that admirably. The second day was a Committee of the Whole Day, which was also an online endeavour. I ended up feeling relatively well enough to attend the HFN Framework Plan meeting in Nanaimo on the 20<sup>th</sup> which is our new name for the property development master-planning that we are doing with Forum Asset Management as it was believed that we needed to further indicate to citizens and the public that we are in very early stages of this project. The 21<sup>st</sup> was a full day. I attended the Second Session of the HFN Legislature for Spring 2024 in person, and then chaired the Special Executive Council meeting that followed. Then I attended the first Open House for the Framework Plan at the House of Huu-ay-aht. The second day, I used mostly to catch up on emails, read materials and attend to a few internal matters with senior staff. I also attended the second Open House for the Framework Plan, this time at the Italian Hall in Port Alberni.

##### **Fourth Week**

The fourth week started with a drive to Victoria for the two-day Chairs and CAOs Forum for local government, but during the drive I was able to attend to some forestry-related matters. I want to thank the Deputy Chief-Councillor, my proxy Jack Cook, and staff for helping to cover the NTC Budget meeting on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. I then went about normally scheduled ACRD Board and

related meetings on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>, and then drove to Anacla the following day for an HFN Executive Council meeting. The next day was a statutory holiday – Good Friday.

## **Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District**

### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- There were two board meetings and a Committee of the Whole in addition to the two meetings I had with the CAO and Vice-Chair to keep on top of ACRD goings on. We are now entering budgeting, and the only emerging issue is likely to be Grants-in-Aid decision-making, which is always a slog.
- The budget will be largely complete by the time of this report. It was a bit of a slog in places, but it was successful.

## **Major Projects**

### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- HFN often participates in projects that are either quite large in scale/scope; or they have a degree of political importance that they are carried forward under the supervision of Council itself rather than being delegated to a committee or a department. These projects may include items identified as “special investment bodies” or they may be particularly important infrastructure or investment projects or potential partnerships or joint ventures. In any event, these items fall under Council’s decision making, but the Chief-Councillor will be the lead on these items.
- In this instance, the major projects I have identified are two-fold: the Bamfield Road, which I have assigned to Councillor Brad Johnson by the time of this report due to his good oversight of the project since the last term of office; and the forestry-related initiatives related to our special investment bodies: Huumiis Ventures LP and Huu-ay-aht Forestry Consulting Services LP.

### **Emerging Issues:**

- The initiatives covered by this file will likely take up a significant portion of my Fall-Winter schedule. The Executive Director and I have instituted weekly check-ins to ensure that we minimize any negative impact to all the other tasks at hand. Some of these have and will affect the timing and intensiveness of current and future audits, we need to consider this moving forward.
- An important announcement should be coming soon, but that’s about all I can report at this point.

## **External Relations**

### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- We have resolved to have an RFP Process to find a GR firm to provide services to help us maximize our effectiveness with BC and Canada as senior governments we need to lobby in several ways. It should be completed by next month.

### **Emerging Issues:**

- We may want to reconsider how much we spend on external relations for our budget, as getting access to decision-makers has made certain projects possible in the past year. We

may want to ensure that we invest early in expanded support for External Relations. Tracking return on investment will be important here.

- No emergent issues, but external political strategies will need to be revisited soon.

## **Councillor Brad Johnson Report – March 2024**

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Fisheries, Wildlife, Lands and Natural Resources  
Treaty Implementation  
Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board  
HR Workplace Wellness  
Special Project: The Bamfield Road

### **Bamfield Road Project**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- Monthly inspections are still being done by Meridian Forest Services. There were some small holes developing this month after some heavy rainfall where water was pooling in some of the sections that were previously patched.
- Bridges approaching the first 26km of the road continue to have problems. Most of these bridges are low with water sitting on the road surface resulting in inevitable surface damage. As soon as the weather clears up more patch work will continue as needed.
- Meridian Forest Service contract was extended until the end of September at which time the Nation's responsibility of the road surface contract will end.

#### **Emerging Issues:**

- None at this time.

### **Lands and Natural Resources**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

#### **HIRMP**

- On March 4<sup>th</sup> 2024, I attended the second Forestry Think Tank meeting. Here we discussed a wide range of topics from AAC cuts from government, harvest performance expectations, HFN forestry recovery plan and the economic opportunity from harvesting from TSL. It was a very informative meeting with a well-rounded group of participating people and partners. Also, what was discussed was how the HIRMP will help our nation in the long run when talking with government.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, I attended a HIRMP meeting with Mosaic Forest Management. Here we discussed the final stages of the project and that the team was just finishing up with report writing. A final draft will be ready to present to all partners by the end of the month. Some concerns Mosaic shared were the reduction in the logging that will be asked once this HIRMP is implemented. They stressed they share the same intent and values of the project but would be looking for some flexibility when logging some of their blocks as they are a private and small land-based owner. This was taken into consideration by the team and further negotiations will be had with the small working group.

### **Treaty Implementation**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- March 11<sup>th</sup> attended a Me Too meeting with DFO. We discussed what flexibilities Maa-Nulth nations would need to accept the two area G's salmon licenses and the Halibut

quota they want to provide us. What we are negotiating is we need these licenses to be broken into mosquito fleet style in order to benefit citizens for all Maa-Nulth Nations. We are still pushing hard to have our citizens in the water by this Summer. We have decided that a smaller group is going to explain to DFO what our needs are in the short term to help them better understand what we are looking for.

- The Southcoast area director Linda Higgins is going on holiday for a month. Gwil Roberts is stepping in as lead negotiator while she is away. He did not say much in the meeting and relied heavily on his colleagues to answer questions. However, by the end of the meeting he shared that Maa-Nulth should be recognized and heard fairly and DFO is not coming to the table fairly in their negotiations. We will continue to hold DFO accountable, so we are treated fairly.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup> I attended Maa-Nulth Treaty Society Board of Directors meeting focusing on the budget for 2024. It will be approved next month some time.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup> the Executive Council passed a motion that HFN will seek their membership with the LCAC for this fiscal year. This is a follow-up comment from my last report stating which direction we will go.
- First Nation Summit - We needed to appoint a representative from our Nation, that member is Chief John Jack.
- Regarding The Alliance, Chief John Jack signed a support letter along with all other modern treaty Nations to support the Nisga nations appeal to Canada. The letter included "We are therefore requesting that the province support the Nisga'a Nation's appeal of the resulting ruling. The ruling interprets important provisions of the Nisga'a Final Agreement that were intended to ensure the treaty parties have "the same rights as any other party" in court proceedings where issues may arise in respect of the Nisga'a Final Agreement or Nisga'a laws."
- As HFN is a modern treaty nation it is important to support all Modern Treaty nations as we learn from each other and support one another through the Alliance.

#### Emerging Issues:

- Our Sr Treaty Advisor has put in his resignation. This position will need to be filled ASAP as its very important to stay up-to-date on the many tables or files he attended to.

#### **Parks Canada**

##### Progress on Key Initiatives:

- On March 13<sup>th</sup> I attended a West Coast Trail management planning meeting. Here we reviewed the scoping of the Westcoast trail document. HFN had submitted edits to the document in advance for approval at this meeting; however, our neighboring nation continuously did not do their part of the work which is delaying this project from being completed. The state of the Park Report that HFN approved in late 2023 is also still waiting to be approved by our neighboring nations.
- NMCAR (National Marine Conservation Area Reserve) - Parks Canada is looking at a feasibility assessment and are drafting a MOU that should be presented to nations by the end of this month. We are expecting this to come through the Maa-Nulth portal, and legal will review.
- On March 26<sup>th</sup> we received a \$5,000 grant for our Ha'wiih to have a dinner and review the Management Plan document. Dinner will be held in the following months to come.

## **HR Workplace and Wellness**

### Progress on Key Initiatives:

- On March 12<sup>th</sup> I attended a HR meeting with the Executive Director, employee, HR and management to address a workplace situation. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, I had a follow-up meeting and resolved concerns. I feel we used our Three Sacred Principles when addressing and carrying out a plan moving forward in a good way. As HR issues are private, I cannot go into great detail of the conversations had in these meetings.
- I attended two job interviews, one being the Guardian Coordinator position and the other one was for Mother Centre Daycare manager. I stepped in for Councillor Stella Peters as they needed a citizen on the panel.

### Meetings I attended this month included:

- Forestry Think Tank #2
- HRMP with Mosaic
- Project Green x2
- State of the Pacific Ocean 2024-DFO 25<sup>th</sup> year
- USI Master planning
- EC meetings x2
- Committee of the whole
- Legislative Engagements x3
- Guardian Coordinator Interview panel/follow-up meetings x2
- Economic Development plan all committee meetings.
- Me Too with DFO and internal x3
- Legislature March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Executive Director meeting x4
- Joint Fishery Committee technical meeting
- Maa-Nulth Fishery meeting
- Parks Canada meeting
- West Coast Trail management planning
- Anacla community planning
- DFN/HFN meeting
- Special EC meeting
- Second and 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislation March 21<sup>st</sup>/ Flag raising ceremony.
- HR meetings x3
- Forum Asset Management meetings
- Community Engagement
- BC Human Rights Tribunal
- Community Engagements Port Alberni March 23
- MTS Board if Directors Budget 2024
- Salmon Allocation Policy with Alliance

Overall, this was a busy month. I felt I was very productive in all my tasks. I am honoured to represent our Nation as a member of Executive Council.

## **Councillor Aicitah Edward R. Johnson - March 2024**

### **Area of Responsibility:**

Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure  
Children and Family Wellness Committee  
Deputy-Chief Councillor

### **Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure**

#### Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Met with Director of Capital and Infrastructure to discuss agenda for upcoming meeting on March 18.
- Worked with Executive Director on getting flag poles installed at the Anacla Government Office – flags were raised on March 21<sup>st</sup> after 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Legislature.
- Attended Anacla community safety engagement sessions at the HOH. Next one scheduled for April 11, 2024.
- Had a catch-up meeting with Stephen Rayner regarding Clean Energy Development.
- Participated in three community engagement sessions regarding the HFN framework plan. These engagements were open houses. The first one was held in Anacla at the HOH. I felt there was pretty good attendance with a lot of engagement. The second open house was held in Port Alberni at the Italian Hall from noon to 2 pm. There was some good engagement, but I felt there could have been more attendance considering a third of our people live in the Alberni valley. Former Chief Councillor had some words to say during this open house in regard to community planning. The third open house was held virtually with just under 20 participants. The attached link is information regarding framework <https://huyuayaht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan/>. The next visit from FORUM and Urban Strategies will be in June, focus on the visioning workshop will be from the information gathered from listening and learning about HFN.
- Update re RBCM conversations with Kevin Neary from a couple years ago when Kevin and I met RBCM regarding treasures at the museum where we identified 5 missing treasures. The museum just gave us an update that three of those five treasures have been located.
- Map of our cemetery in Sarita - I had a citizen ask if there was a map of those that have passed at the cemetery. I mentioned that I would look into it. I recall there was a map put together by Tommy Joe – it would be good to identify this map exists to put a map on site. Citizen also mentioned that a lot of the nameplates are no longer visible.
- Attended a meeting to discuss solar power to Anacla Government office.

#### Emerging Issues:

- Map of our cemetery in Sarita.
- Finalize agreement regarding solar power with Haida Gwaii Micro-solar Pilot Project.
- PPE for staff and visitors visiting construction sites.
- Cultural Center.

### **Children and Family Wellness Committee**

#### Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Attended Hoobiyee with Nananiiqsu from Feb 29 to March 3.
- Attended Jurisdiction Funding Model Co-Development with MTN.

- Bi-Weekly meeting with CFW team.
- Attended pre-meeting for bilateral with BC on the 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be a big meeting.
- The Supreme Court of Canada released its decision on Friday, March 8. At a high level, the SCC decision is very good. The Court unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the entire federal Act. This means that:
  - (a) the national standards set out in the act apply to the provinces and other service providers;
  - (b) the legislative recognition of the Indigenous right of self-government in relation to child and family services stands; and
  - (c) after one year of trying to negotiate a coordination agreement, Indigenous laws made under the Act will have the force of federal law and will prevail over conflicting provincial laws (these were the two provisions that the Quebec Court of Appeal had said were unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court overruled them).
- There is also a lot of good commentary in the Act about the unique importance of child and family services to ensuring the cultural continuity of Indigenous peoples, as well as recognition of the harms that colonial policies have caused and continue to cause. One important thing to note is that the Court said that because the legislation takes the position that there is an inherent, constitutionally protected right of self-government in relation to child and family services, the federal government is now precluded from acting in a manner inconsistent with that position. This is a key takeaway from the decision and we should discuss what it may mean for negotiations.
- Some good info on Bill C-92 and the SCC
  - <https://www.mnp.ca/en/insights/directory/bill-c92-is-before-the-supreme-court-of-canada-where-does-this-leave-first-nations#:~:text=The%20Province%20of%20Quebec%20recently%20challenged%20the%20constitutionality,under%20Section%2035%20of%20the%20Constitution%20Act%2C%201982.>
- CBC news on the Supreme Court declares Indigenous child welfare law constitutional <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/supreme-court-c92-child-welfare-ruling-1.7110141> very early on stages the call back quarter of appeal we provided an intervener.
- This decision is very good for all First Nations our treaty will prevail and lawmaking authority
- Held a special Children and Families and Wellness Committee meeting where I provided an update on children and families regarding coordination table with BC in Canada, bilateral table with British Columbia, mother center, geographical limitations and the children and families act.
- I saw a member from the FPCC - Glenn C. Jim - at Hoobiyee and we had a great talk about Language Revitalization Planning. Glenn works as a Language Revitalization Coach. Glenn and I first met in Osoyoos in October at a CCP workshop. It was good to connect again. We are setting up a meeting to talk about a plan for language revitalization.
- Attended Nananiqsu meeting with Ha'wiih to discuss Hoobiyee and Culture Plan, debriefing Hoobiyee that culture has been increased after I have seen the culture nights in Port Alberni and Anacla. On the agenda as well is a Culture Plan that was brought forward in a CFWMHC meeting back in December.
- Reviewed newsletter from MCFD.  
<file:///C:/Users/edward.r.i/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/CX3YDG2W/2024-03-01%20MCFD%20March%202024%20Newsletter.pdf>
- Reviewed a wonderful phone call from our MLA of Middle Island Pacific Rim Josie Osborne regarding Oomiiqsu Contribution Agreement. We, as in Huuayaht, will be receiving 3.85M over the next two years. It was a great talk.

Emerging Issues:

- Bridge funding from ISC for CFW Department for 2024/2025.
- Prevention funding 375K.
- Needs assessment for Oomiiqsu.
- Coordination table, mandabe, capacity funding and decision maker at the table.

**Deputy-Chief Councillor**

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Getting agenda ready for COW meeting coming up on April 19 - working with law clerk, Executive director and executive council firming up agenda.
- Attended the BCAFN 20th Annual Special Chiefs Assembly. Was able to only attend on the 8<sup>th</sup>. One of the agenda items was the Jay Treaty Border Alliance <https://www.jaytreatyborderalliance.com/>
- Attended an all-day HFN Framework Plan Visioning Workshop at the Coast Bastion in Nanaimo.
- Attended an All Committee Meeting in person at the Best Western in Port Alberni. This meeting was a great refresher.
- Attended the flag raising ceremony at our Anacla government office where we raised the Survivors flag, Maa'nulth flag and the FHN flag – It was a good day.
- Attended tašii?akqin (Our Journey) Research Advisory Committee Meeting for the first hour. The first hour of this committee meeting is open for executive council members to attend prior to jumping into their meeting - just for FYI's and updates.
- Meeting with advisory team re: Governance Project.
- Attended 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sittings of the legislator in Anacla.
- Attended NTC Extraordinary General Meeting regarding the 2024/2025 budget. This meeting was at the Barclay Hotel as well as virtual via zoom. At the end of the meeting, I stressed something coming from ISC regarding prevention funding as well as medical travel.
- Drafted a support letter for Kackaamin Family Development Centre for a Big house. The big house will offer infrastructure for services and cultural activities - Kackaamin is hoping to raise two 2.5 million.
- Met with the BCGNO- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/geographical-names> This meeting was very successful. It was identified that the changing name process was started back in 2011 and that it would be easy enough to start where things were left off. I forwarded all the information to the executive director to resume the process of changing the geographical names to traditional names within our territory.

Emerging Issues:

- Setting a date for the 25-year anniversary for House of Huu-ay-aht.

## **Councillor Evan Cook Report – March 2024**

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Finance  
Economic Development

### **Finance**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- The finance committee met on March 20 and a special joint finance/natural resources/Ha'wiih council committee took place to review the 2024 Economic Plan.
- The First, Second and Third Reading of the Budget Act is completed. Most departments have an increase in funding.
- The land Settlement Funds have been received. The funds will remain in our bank account as long as possible to collect interest of which the CFO and I were able to negotiate a higher interest rate. Hopefully some of the funds will eventually be put into a separate account for leaner years in the future.

#### **Emerging issues:**

- The Federal Fiscal Agreement (FFA) has been agreed and accepted by the federal government and B.C. has given word of a possible mandate by the end of April. As an insurance policy, MTN is drafting a side agreement for the federal government if the provincial government doesn't agree with a Bilateral agreement between the two parties.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- APD - WFP Community transition – I attended a meeting to discuss available funding and training for workers who lost their jobs in the forestry industry.
- Forestry Think Tank - The forestry think tank met March 4 to draft strategic initiatives with responsibilities. With the forestry Industry becoming a small cottage industry, the importance of a strategic plan going forward from a value extraction product to a value addition product will be critical.
- DicinFoam - We received the market analysis for the innovative lightweight foam produced from cellulose fiber and forest residue. Business plan to be ready in April. On a financial note as a cost advantage, sludge from the pulp can also be used.
- DFO and salmon farming - Met with DFO regarding license reissuance and Cermaq operations in Barkley Sound. Communication included innovation and environmental assessments and the next steps. The renewal of the license gives the nation additional time and research to understand whether this economic opportunity is environmentally and culturally feasible.
- Wind Farms - Met with Natural Forces representative Amy Pellerin to exchange information on our energy needs and possible partnership. No feasibility study will be prepared as Stephen, who holds the green energy portfolio, is preparing a study on his wind farm project.
- Kihew Consulting and Research - The EDO and I met with a consultant team to exchange and search for ideas to generate revenue for our tourist industry.

## **Ha'wiih Representative Thlut' as aksup -Theresa Nookemus – March Report**

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Ha'wiih Council  
Nananiqsu  
Citizenship Committee

### **Ha'wiih Council**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- Haw'iiah Council will continue to work on the HUU-ay-aht Traditional Naming Project, organizing them according to our HUU-ay aht houses. Each of the Ha'wiih are going over their house lists. We are also going over our regular review of Citizens lists.
- Ha'wiih has also been working on segments of the School Reparations and Class Action Settlement. HUU-ay-aht is one of the 325 First Nations who joined the collective class action. Re: Residential Schools.
- Ha'wiih continues to strive to keep and promote the safety, health and mental health of its citizens, supporting upcoming wellness circles and programs, support groups, workshops as well as our regular Culture nights in Anacla and Port Alberni.
- Ha'wiih has also been working on the HUU-ay-aht Framework Plan for the HUU-ay-aht First Nation Hahuuli. This long-term vision is a guide and framework plan to help guide change and development over the next 20-30 years for HUU-ay-aht by helping to identify land uses, open spaces, along with mobility and networking.

### **Nananiqsu**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- Nanaaniqsu continues to work with Culture to continue with Culture nights in Anacla and in Port Alberni. They met with the group that attended the 2024 Hoobiye this past March. It was a success! Our numbers went up at culture nights and remain steady, with citizens committed to attending from as far from as Victoria and Nanaimo.
- Nanaaniqsu chose to forego the yearly Gala this year due to time restraints and the commitment to attend Hoobiye. A highlight of Hoobiye was HUU-ay-aht had an artifact returned – it being a weaved Abalone shell. I believe Qiic Qiica has it currently. A strong bond was made with all who traveled to Hoobiye.
- There is interest in fund raising to help with costs or possibly hosting our own in our Territory.

### **Citizenship Committee**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- The Citizenship Committee has housed up to 23 new Citizens since 2023. The Committee is reviewing some of the Regulations under the Citizenship and Treaty Enrollment Act. The Registration forms have been revised to be clearer and more concise as well as user friendly. The Citizenship Committee meets regularly on a monthly basis.

## **Councillor Stephen Rayner – March 2024**

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Law and Policy  
Green Energy and Climate Sustainability

### **Law and Policy**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

- The Law and Policy committee reviews and provides recommendations for all legislative alterations or development. Our regular monthly meeting occurred in March. We reviewed and provided recommendation for policies and regulations regarding Human Resource. The meeting also included an update of the ongoing work being conducted by the governance project. Which is focused on reviewing our legislation. The project continues to make great progress.
- Last Fall, the People's Assembly approved a proposal from the Council to launch a law and policy review. The goal is to take stock of what Huu-ay-aht has achieved in the 13 years since Treaty, and to review laws and policies to determine if the work to date reflects and incorporates traditional values and practices. We will be able to use learned experiences and determine if there are some modifications that are now required.
- Through the project there will be priority areas identified where there may be concerns and issues that have an impact on intended outcomes. We will be engaging with the community and staff to discuss changes to the current laws and policies.
- The legislation we will be reviewing first will be the Community Safety Act, Offence and Law Enforcement Act, the Lands Act and regulations as well as the Maa-nulth Enforcement Workplan. Then we will move to the Financial Administration Act, Financial Administration Regulations, Budget Act and other legislation that may affect financial administration. The third in line for review will be the Government Act and Economic Development Act and regulation and other relevant economic development instruments.

#### **Emerging Issues:**

- Continuing to be diligent to meet proposed timelines due to the amount of legislation needed to be reviewed. Making sure any potential alterations to our legislation uphold the integrity and functionality.

### **Green Energy and Climate Sustainability**

#### **Progress on Key Initiatives:**

#### **Solar upgrades for Anacla Government Office**

- Huu-ay-aht First Nations have been approved for a clean energy pilot project I was able to develop. This will include the installation of solar panels, battery storage, and electric vehicle chargers as well as upgrading the electrical system to accommodate the new technology. It also includes training and maintenance of the system. This will significantly reduce our dependency on the grid and diesel generator. We have met and are waiting for a final contract and the work will begin in the next couple of months.

### **Community Energy Plan**

- I am not involved with this initial project; it is being run by the infrastructure department. Barkley Project Group has completed the first phase of the Community Energy Plan. The community energy plan will identify all potential green energy power generating options that are feasible within the HFN territory. We will be able to use the final report from the community energy plan to develop future opportunities for green power development.
- Located funding to shift gears to a second phase of energy planning on a larger scale for existing power demands and future potential green power development opportunities. This second phase feasibility study will provide a more in-depth analysis of the potential for developing green energy on an industrial scale which would accommodate our existing and future power needs. There will be a focus on geothermal, wind, solar, tidal and wave. It may require a combination of several of them to provide the necessary power for our nation.
- Working with administration to work out an approach to applying for the funding and capacity to accommodate the work needed to complete the study. Met with funders to explore opportunities for funding this program and development once we are ready.

### **Carbon Footprint and Green House Gas Emissions**

- Located funding for greenhouse gas reduction and am identifying areas that this could be applied.
- Exploring carbon offsets for resource harvesting and daily operations. HFN is advancing a project for carbon offset. Exploring opportunities for industrial carbon offset.

### **Multi Nation Energy Development**

- Continue to work with aligning nations and explore green energy partnerships and investment opportunities.
- Met with several nations to discuss large scale power investment and development. We are also discussing potential opportunities to support each other in advancing our individual power development projects.
- In the future there may be opportunities for a first nations power authority, which would empower multi-nation involvement in owning, managing, operating the manufacturing and distribution of power to citizens throughout Vancouver Island.

### **Clean Energy BC**

- I am running for a director position on the board of Clean Energy BC to help advance Huu-ay-aht's interest as well as first nations interest in developing power for our communities.
- I continue to work with Clean Energy BC to identify clean energy development opportunities and potential opportunities with other nations for clean energy development. Continuing to support Clean Energy BC in its push to support the advancement of First Nations Clean energy development.

### **Sarita Micro Hydro**

- This project has been terminated and we will look to explore alternative power generating opportunities.

### **Climate resiliency**

- Working with Stella Peters to start developing a mitigation plan for our territory. I have been exploring funding options for developing the territory's wide climate resiliency plan. This plan will cover wildfires, hydrology/ flood resiliency, extreme heat, shore erosion, as well as some seismic mitigation. We are aiming to apply for funding and start the planning

this year. This will incorporate all the existing data HUU-AY-AHT has developed on the effects of climate change within our territory.

Emerging Issues:

- Continue to work to create opportunities for our community to develop green energy. Work quickly to develop climate change mitigation planning and strategies.

**HFN Planning/Capital Raise**

- Met in March to advance nation-wide development planning. Consultants are doing great work and the project has been making great progress. The planning will create opportunities for HFN.
- Continue to work to advance and develop capital raise opportunities. These will be projects on a larger scale that could provide a variety of benefits for HUU-AY-AHT, like support for our community and economic development, etc.
- Continue to discuss the development of green energy production and distribution with other nations and Clean Energy BC to advance opportunities for first nations to create opportunities which would provide significant long-term stable return in the green energy sector.

**Meetings/Events:** (a few of the attended meeting this month)

- Met with several funders - ISC, EMBC, UBCM, ICET, New relationship trust - as well as others to discuss funding opportunities to support climate resiliency planning, and green energy development.
- Spring legislature - three sessions of the spring legislature occurred and went well. The budget act and economic development plan were passed.
- Planning development meeting - meeting went well planning, is on schedule and continues to make great progress.
- Met with green energy companies to discuss opportunities to develop feasibility studies for the development of clean energy within our territory.
- Met with some leadership of nations on Vancouver Island to discuss the development of clean energy and a first nations power authority.
- NTC budget meeting - presentations and budget review went well.