



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report
February 2024**

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Chief Councillor John Jack – February 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 week of February started with my attendance at the annual convention of the Local Government Leadership Academy in Richmond, BC. The last day of the week also had a Special Executive Council meeting at 8:30am.

Second Week

The second week started on Monday with a slow office-based morning, then a check-in regarding portfolio mandates with Councillor Edward Johnson, and bridged into local government work and some scheduling and planning for the rest of the month. The second day was also a home office day where I reviewed and provided some input on the draft changes to the administrative organization, as well as kept up with the work of catching up with emails and reading documents. The Wednesday brought meetings with Forum Asset Management to ensure we're all on the same page regarding the plan and the priorities. Then I met with our Executive Director for our rescheduled weekly meeting before presiding over a meeting between Forum Asset Management and the rest of Executive Council. On Thursday, we had our regular Executive Council meeting followed by a political tour with BC Ministers, a check-in with Councillor Stephen Rayner, and finally the first of two HFN Forestry Strategy Think Tank meetings.

Third Week

The third week began with a slow morning of emails and reading, then I met with our Executive Director for our regular weekly meeting before heading to a dinner with Forum Asset Management in Anacapa and Bamfield. I took a very light day on Tuesday, only really meeting with Local Government folks for a regular biweekly meeting. On Wednesday, I attended to a budget-related Committee of the Whole meeting for the ACRD and then chaired the ACRD Board of Directors meeting which was largely about the budget. Thursday brought a Visioning meeting for the Master planning work undertaken with Forum Asset Management and Urban Strategies. On Friday, I attended a meeting of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, the first with its new Executive Director in place – congratulations Angela P!

Fourth Week

The fourth week started with a statutory holiday – Family Day. Then we had an HFN Committee of the Whole meeting on the Tuesday. Wednesday was busy with many meetings, including the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Annual Meeting by Zoom, a biweekly meeting regarding the work with Forum Asset Management, and a preparation meeting for Maa-nulth leaders heading into Ottawa for the Land Claims Agreement Coalition Leaders Gathering the next week. Thursday I had the second day of the UBCIC meeting, as well as an HFN Law and Policy Development Committee meeting followed by a meeting with HFN Finance Department in preparation for the audit to be

completed. On Friday, we conducted a six-month Council Check-in meeting in Port Alberni, followed by a Special Executive Council meeting to address a few budget and audit related time sensitive issues.

Fifth Week

The fifth week began on the Sunday with a flight to Ottawa for federal meetings all week with the Land Claims Agreement Coalition. In addition to these meetings, I attended with two youth from HFN who sat in to learn about what we did at these sorts of meetings. These meetings were quite successful, though I did end up getting quite sick not long after and that kicked off one heck of a March for illness in my household.

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 process always ends up adding a few meetings in the months of February and March, so I would expect to see those coming up but they don't offer much in terms of emergent issues for HFN.

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.
- It is frustrating that I don't have much to report in these sections, though much of this work is still restricted by confidentiality requirements. I do provide confidential updates to Council where appropriate – usually at closed Committee of the Whole meetings or in-camera agenda items during proper Executive Council meetings.

External Relations

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- The Ottawa Trip to attend the annual meeting of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition, an organization of modern treaty holders from across Canada, kicked off in the last week of February. These meetings were successful in allowing HFN to represent not only our own interests, but common interests that we share with Maa-nulth member-nations, BC Treaty nations, and the whole group from across Canada.
- We met with Minister Gary Anandasangaree of Indigenous Services Canada, and Minister Arif Virani of Justice Canada.

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.
- At the LCAC Conference, Maa-nulth leaders ended up discussing the relative importance of individual membership in the group to maximize our influence. It appears that other interests can often subsume the whole, so the more votes that BC and Maa-nulth has at these meetings, the more able we are to advance our common interests in a legitimate manner.

Councillor Brad Johnson Report – February 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:

- The repairs made after the two atmospheric rivers seem to be holding up pretty good for now. We anticipate there will be further problems at the China Creek Bridge which continues to have reoccurring problems every few weeks.
- At this month's field inspection there were only a few small potholes developing which will be repaired as soon as weather permits.
- Cawakqin has repaired all the damaged bridge signs that were identified on previous inspections.
- There are still some ditch lines that require cleaning, with the worst being at the bottom of Sarita Access.
- The larger and more pressing issue is the fill slope failure at 31km. This will be looked at by a geotech to determine a solution for a fix before the problem becomes much bigger, as the chip seal is starting to crack on the edge of the road.

Emerging Issues:

- We are receiving more complaints from drivers hitting potholes and the damage being done to vehicles. ICBC has been requesting information about the road owner and maintenance from the individuals. We have made it clear to the public that HFN does not own this road. We will be having future conversations with MOTI and the 2 Forestry companies about these complaints from the general public. The Bamfield road is still designated as an Industrial Road and people need to remember it's not a highway.

Lands and Natural Resources

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- The HIRMP project is in its final stages of completion before implementation. The team is writing the final document taking into consideration all comments from past committee meetings. The goal is to implement this document on April 1, 2024. We will still need to meet with Mosaic next month to discuss implementation to see if they have any further concerns.
- I was a part of a large group of discussion at a forestry think tank meeting that took place on February 9th. Here we discussed topics such as TFL 44 AAC, Hummis Ventures, Project Green, the change in government, the reputation of TFL 44, USW and HIRMP. It was a very good meeting with well-rounded conversations. We discussed HFN's interest in forestry and how can we accomplish our goals. This will be the first of a series of meetings and I look forward to future discussions.
- On February 15, 2024 I attended a Kiixin meeting to discuss the future of the site. My main reason for asking to attend was to ensure the protection of the site, as it's important to keep the site designated as a National Historic Site. I was happy to attend and give my

thoughts on Kiixin. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss options with HGB and Economic Development moving forward. In attendance were fellow council members Stella Peters, Edward Johnson, and Evan Cook.

Treaty Implementation

Progress on Key Initiatives:

Maa-Nulth Fisheries Committee

- Through a review of the 2023 fishing season, Bob Bocking conducted an assessment of Henderson Sockeye commercial harvest rate since 2011 and found that in the last three years catch has exceeded the target harvest rate. This matter was brought to DFO attention through JFCT. DFO will be discussing this at the Area 23 pre-season roundtable. The need to move this fishing boundaries to protect the Henderson run is very important, especially for Uchucklesaht Tribe Government. All nations were in support of the protection of Henderson Sockeye.
- Engagement Protocol on matters under the Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) team from DFO attended the February 13th JFC for a focused discussion on Maa-Nulth concerns about the ongoing engagement challenges experienced with this team. DFO acknowledged the concerns and committed to ensuring that there are ongoing conversations with Maa-Nulth moving forward.
- A Transient and Offshore Killer Whale Action Plan is in Development. DFO presented to Maa-Nulth on the upcoming development of action plans for both Transient and Offshore Killer Whales. Maa-Nulth Nations expressed an interest in engaging directly on this work and co-development of the plans through a small group outside of JFCT. We need to ensure our MDFA is not affected by this action plan.
- The 2024 Groundfish IFMP is now published online here: [Pacific Region integrated fisheries management plan, groundfish, effective February 21, 2024 \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-region-integrated-fisheries-management-plan-groundfish-effective-february-21-2024)
- The updated 2024-25 Maa-Nulth allocations are also summarized below:
 - Sablefish: 0.082% of the CTAC = **5,268 lbs**
 - Halibut: 26,000 lbs + 0.39% of the CTAC = **49,283 lbs**
 - Rockfish: 11,250 lbs + 2.46% of the CTAC = **18,260 lbs**
 - Other Groundfish: **13,000 lbs**

Me Too Update

- After years of negotiations and DFO recognizing Maa-Nulth Nation wanted some sort of access for 2024 they came to the table with an offer. They offered two area G troll licenses for salmon and 3,958 lbs of Halibut quota. We had asked if there was flexibility with the license to break into mosquito fleet and were initially told no. We have not decided yet as a collective if we will accept the offer as most nations were hopeful for much more access. I will try my best to get the flexibility we need to get our citizens fishing this year. I am a firm believer these are negotiations and that we should not accept the first offer and other nations have agreed with me. In the short term DFO did come to the table with some access just not the access we hoped for. We had said April was our hope to have this finalized for the short term, but DFO basically said that this timeline was too short for them. I had mentioned our fishermen don't start fishing salmon until June so that would allow both parties more time to try and work out a deal. DFO's lead, the South Coast area director Linda Higgins, is going on holidays and Gwil Roberts will be taking her place and this could potentially stall this process as he is not as familiar with the negotiations. Stay tuned until next month for an update.

Groundwater

- Negotiations are at a standstill with BC as they have slowed the process down and basically stalled the work from moving forward. MTS CAO Mark Stephens and legal were to contact Hinze Dick to stress the importance of this work moving forward as they are our Treaty partners.

Indigenous Coastal Waters Stewardship (ICWS)

- The Society is a standalone society now and will receive the 50 million in funding that will be distributed through 33 nations before April 1, 2024. This means HFN will receive 1 million dollars and have the remaining 500 thousand dollars held in trust for 10 years before we can access these funds. This funding is granted through DFO for the TMX expansion.
- National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) - Parks Canada representatives attended the MSPWG to discuss an establishment of an NMCAR on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. The goal from Parks Canada is to receive approval of the MOU from each of the participating First Nations by March 2024. Legal will be reviewing the draft MOU provided by Parks Canada and each of the Maa-nulth Nations is discussing this internally.

LCAC

- It was brought to the attention of the MTS Board that some nations would like to attend the LCAC with their own membership. Currently 4/5 nations are under the MTS group membership with KCFN attending with their own membership. The benefits to having your own membership is that you have the voice of your own nation and can address your own nation's issues. It was mentioned that Toquaht Nation will pay their own membership fee next year. I will be bringing this forward at a COW meeting to discuss what direction our nation wants to go so I can have a response back to the MTS Board next month.

Alliance

- On February 16, 2024, I attended the Alliance AGM and leadership meeting along with Chief John Jack. Here we approved the Budget for this year. It was decided that a communication restructuring of the Alliance would be announced at the Premier Forum to be held in June. There we will announce the newly appointed Executive Director and the role she has within the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations. I don't sit directly at these Alliance tables anymore as Chief John Jack is the primary contact but, in any case, I am his alternate.

Parks Canada

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- We have been working on a WCT management plan for some time now. On February 27th 2024 we held our 9th Management Planning meeting. We are getting close to the final stages of the scoping plan. Councilor Stella Peters and I along with our technical staff reviewed the scoping document and gave our additional feedback for changes.
- A WCT hiker survey report was given by Richard Giele from Parks Canada. A lot of valuable information was relayed to us on hiker experience and overall feedback of our guardians. I forwarded the presentation to our EC Dev officer as there was a lot of valuable information he could use on visitors in our surrounding area and the time spent in our communities.

- We are still waiting for our neighboring nations DFN and PFN to finalize the state of park report. With the changeover in both DFN and PFN with elections and new chief and councillors it has really slowed the process of finalizing this document. The next WCT management planning meeting will be held March 13, 2024.

HR Workplace and Wellness

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- We held our second meeting on February 28, 2024. The topics discussed were: Gap Analysis overview, the new Human Resource Policy Regulation and a new Student and Youth program.
- Lorriane Cole interviewed SMT and all staff. They were very open and honest giving her the feedback she needed to conduct her analysis. What we learned is we have very loyal and committed staff. 65% of our staff are females and 23 of our staff are HFN citizens. Employees are starting to trust the organization again and overall morale has changed in the past 6 months. We have had a very high turnover rate in the past and a negative reputation but that is changing. We heard that it is very difficult only to have one HR person for the size of our organization. Without going into real detail of the gap analysis as some things in the report were sensitive and said in confidence, I will just acknowledge that I think it was well worth it and we can take the recommendations and move forward.
- The new Human Resource Policy Regulation was reviewed by the committee. This handbook will be used as a guideline. The HR regulations are the law, but the policy is created from the organization.
- Some of the proposed changes to the policy were:
 - Dismissal policy
 - Bullying and Harassment policy
 - Whistle Blower policy
 - Conflict of Interest policy
 - Smoking and Vaping policy
 - On call Stiped policy
 - Abandonment of position policy
 - Vehicle use policy
 - Drug and alcohol policy
 - Preferred hiring policy
- The HR policy needs to be reviewed yearly and updated.
- Succession planning was talked about as we have some staff that will be retiring in the next 5 to 7 years and how can we teach existing staff to take over those positions.
- A major topic of discussion was citizen deaths and when do we close the office. It was recommended by the committee that since we have grown as a nation to almost 900 citizens, we cannot justify shutting down the day of the passing as we have in the past. We recommended giving staff the day off or half a day off with pay to attend the funeral. We also discussed the flag poles that will be put up at AGO that we would lower to half-mast in respect to the passing of a citizen.
- The Org chart will have changes to come, and this will fall in line with the gap analysis that was done. A new salary grid was talked about and the importance of this to employees in showing them there is room for growth in their positions as that was also identified in the gap analysis by staff.
- The new student youth program has funding for the next 4 years. The idea is to get our youth interested in working for our government or HGB. The idea is to find youth and give them 2–6-month assignments to build work ethic into them. The age group is 15–30-year-

olds but we recommend not being so strict with the age group as there are some youth a bit younger or older that could fit this program.

- Overall, it was a very good meeting and I look forward to some of the changes that will be implemented moving forward. This committee has been very helpful in trying to change our organization for the better. Change will not happen overnight but in due time we will see the results of the hard work put forward by all.

This was a very busy month for me. I just touched on the highlighted items. I feel I could report on so much more but have to keep in mind that some topics are sensitive or highly confidential so I feel this report is sufficient. I am honored to represent our nation as a member of council, and I look forward to the opportunity to better our nation.

Councillor Hicitah Edward R. Johnson - February 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:

- Chaired committee meeting on February 2nd where we had Pam Shaw, Director Master of Community Planning & Programming at Vancouver Island University, present along with Sonal Deshmukh, teacher of Community Planning Program at Vancouver Island university. The presentation was well received. Next steps is to present at Committee of the Whole and then off to Executive Council. Looking forward to this relationship with Vancouver Island University.
- I have attached a copy of our community comprehensive plan for reference - https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/HUUAYAHT-CCP_v6.pdf. In the report it talks about our community, where we have been, where we are now, where do we want to go as well as how do we get there and have we arrived. Towards the end of the report there are some recommendations. We are looking to utilize VIU's expertise in the CCP.
- Working on agenda for next committee meeting.

Emerging Issues:

- VIU next steps.
- BC Geographical names office

Children and Family Wellness Committee

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Feb 3rd attended Engagement on Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) First Nations Rights & Titleholders Engagement.
 - **Session overview and questions link** - <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2024/01/Topic-2-Session-Overview.pdf>
 - **What the engagement is about link** - <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/children-youth-support-needs> https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2023/10/CYSN-Overview_First-Nation-Rights-and-Titleholders-Engagement-EngageBC.pdf
- Attended Bi-Weekly Meetings regarding CHILD AND FAMILY JURISDICTION with Director of Children and Families, ED, Legal for Children – 2023 OVERVIEW AND 2024 WORK PLAN
- Connected with Kevin Neary to talk about Morris Swadesh info on Huuayaht and McKenna McBride Final Report. Kevin read a report done in 1986 called Pacific Rim National Park Ethnographic History - “Mercury Series” is a series of publications put out by the National Museum, which is in our shared drive. The report is very long, but I think it explains a lot about the history of the creation of Huu-ay-aht Indian Reserves.... Swadesh’s collection of histories from Knowledge Keepers, of which the “Family Histories” is just one. Most of the information comes from Port Alberni area - some from elsewhere. I don’t know where one could get copies of these now - they are very informative. In Kevin and my conversation,

we talked about some HFN videos from 1992 called Ohiaht Elders Gathering. There are 6 videos in the meeting in which they are going over place names in HFN territory and it sounds like Kevin has not seen these videos. Kevin has asked if he can gain access to the videos. I feel by seeing the videos, it will help with our Specific Claims.

- Had a lunch meeting with Children and Families and Wellness Director to talk about Cultural Plan.
- Update: Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) in Huu-ay-aht Territory organized by Sage Haven Society. I've attached a link with info on program - <https://sagehavensociety.org/alberni-sexual-assault-response-program/>. This has been a long time coming and happy to see that this is happening soon.
- Working with Legal on Capacity Funding: Needs Assessment Cost.
- Attended a skippers meeting on Saturday, February 3 at Tseshaht longhouse to talk about tribal journeys with other nations throughout the Pacific coastline. Individuals as far as Seattle WA were present. Tseshaht questioned Ahousaht if the journeys were going to happen and if there was support from AFN council. Ahousaht responded with a yes that the journeys would be happening in Ahousaht this year and that there was support from AFN Council. Unfortunately, later this month Ahousaht FN put out a letter indicating that Ahousaht would not be hosting Canoe Journeys this year.
- Seen Glenn from First People's Cultural Council - our paths crossed back in October of 2023 when attending a community comprehensive planning workshop. Stemming from this interaction with Glenn, I learned a lot in regard to what FPCC offers like Our Language Coaches support language team or community members via zoom or in-person with some of the processes and resources used in language revitalization. <https://fpcc.ca/programs/community-outreach/> and a Language Planning Toolkit <https://language-toolkit.fpcc.ca/>. Looking to set a meeting with First People's Cultural Council to utilize their coaching services to help start scratching the surface of language revitalization.
- Worked on Bill- 38 Article for our Uyaqhmis.
- Met with Wenecwtsin (Wayne) Christian - former chief of the Splatshin FN, to talk about his Bill C-92 experience. Splatshin First Nation pens B.C.'s 1st child welfare agreement with federal government <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/splatsin-first-nation-child-welfare-agreement-1.6790380>
- Preparing for Jurisdiction Funding Model Co-Development Materials meeting.
- Working with Director of Child and Family Wellness on CLH SGYFN language commitments.

Emerging Issues:

- Outstanding Cultural Centre Information for the CHRT-41 needs assessment.
- Kevin has asked if he can gain access to the 6 videos called Ohiaht Elders Gathering

Deputy-Chief Councillor

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- FORUM visit week of February 12th:
 - Day 1 - HFN/HGB/FORUM Dinner to talk discuss itinerary for the week.
 - Day 2 - Breakfast meeting, Boat Tour with Forum around Dixon island, Helby Island, Chupas, Diana Island, Tapaltos, Kiixin, Brady's Beach. Forum, HFN and BMSC lunch meeting and Tour. Tour of Oyster Farm and airport tour. Dinner with Nananiqsu to talk about Master Planning. Ended the day with a touring of Anacla Government office.

- Day 3 - Breakfast meeting tour of Pachena Bay and homelands as we traveled to Port Alberni for Nananaiqsu Lunch to talk about Master Planning.
Day 4 - Meeting with FORUM to go over Master Plan Visioning Workshop in Parksville
Info on FORUM <https://forumam.com/>.

- Attended Future of Kiixin discussion Meeting.
- Attended celebration at Kackaamin men's group.
- HFN & DFN Elected Officials meeting was postponed and rescheduled for Friday, February 23rd at our Port Alberni Government Office.
- Attended BCSA Board: Re: BCSA – February Board Meeting
- Attended Hoobiye meeting with Nananaiqsu and one with Ha'wiih.
- Helped out with paperwork regarding class action water case.

Emerging Issues:

- None at this time.

Councillor Evan Cook Report – January 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Finance
Economic Development

Finance

- The Finance committee met on February 21, 2024.
- CRA-GST - The final rebate application for HFN was approved for a refund for GST. While CRA accepted the rebates filed, they are referring the file for post audit examination. To ensure we are prepared for this, a Tax expert will work alongside our accountants.
- Fiscal Financial Agreement (FFA) - The Federal Government has secured a Mandate to sign a 10-year extension; however, B.C. as of this writing, does not have a mandate to sign yet. The CFO and I met with Deloitte to review the FFA financial calculations and agreed on the final amounts allocated to HFN.
- Budget Act - The budget for 2024 is close to being completed, our nation is in a more positive financial position than the previous fiscal year. This has allowed increases in our General Operating Fund for most departments.

Progress on Key Initiatives:

Economic Development

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- The final draft for the EDP for 2024 is nearing completion by our EDO, which will be streamlined and will only have projects that we feel are achievable.
- The HFNDC met with HGB to review the 2024 Annual Plans. The Plans were approved.
- Timber Tiles- The ministry of Forestry met with Patrick and HFN representatives to tour the facility and discuss Value-Added Products. Patrick and Mark to attend a Trade Show in Japan next month to do some marketing for Timber Tiles.
- DICINFOAM- Lightweight Biodegradable Foam produced from forest residue and sludge. A meeting was held in Parkville with Wet Suwet First Nation to restart negotiations on a partnership. It was a very productive meeting. A Market Study and Business plan will be sent and reviewed by EDO Piyush next month.
- Kiixin - A meeting to discuss the next steps was held at Pago. Tours will be cancelled for 2024 season. Kixxin tours on their own cannot be a profitable business and must be part of a package.
- Summitt Log Cabins - A Feasibility study to be done for cabins on second beach.
- HFN Forestry Think Tank- Met to outline strategic plan considerations to help guide plan developments and next steps, and a better understanding of HFN forestry initiatives.
- Forum - Visioning workshop held in Parkville to set the framework and provide guiding principles for future development decisions.

Councillor Stella Peters – February 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Citizen Development (Mental Health and Wellness, Education and Training)

Public Safety (Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Preparedness, Climate Resilience and Climate Change)

Citizen Development

Progress on Key Initiatives:

Mental Health and Wellness

- Mental health and the wellbeing of our Huuayaht citizens are important and is a priority as we see today and plan for our future. We must take into consideration the needs of all to build a safe, healthy environment for our elders, youth and all our citizens including the staff who work in our Government offices.
- We look at creating positive change as that was one of the things that we heard from our citizens. We have looked at the need for an increase in the delivery of services for mental health and wellness. Olur Nation is almost 900 strong.
- We are planning more community engagements in Anacla around safety and wellness and the needs within.
- I have been having meetings at the committee level as well as attending ones that relate to Mental Health and Wellness.

Education and Training

- As our Nation continues to grow, we need to look at education and training in a way that our citizens can be the best they can be, reaching their fullest potential.
- I am hoping to look at “Career Planning & Mental Health & Wellness” as a “Path to Education” in hopes that our citizens can see how the Huuayaht Government offices work looking at all the departments & the job opportunities, skill requirements and how if one got into a specific field how they can work their way up to a better paying position with the additional skill set and training needed. We hear a lot about “our citizens should be working for our Nation” - the opportunities are there.

Public Safety

Progress on Key Initiatives:

Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Climate Resilience

- The safety of our citizens as well as our community is very important following the outcome of the Inquiry Report and the 30 Recommendations. In order to fulfill the recommendations, we need to look at the work needed and to have a plan as to what can be done in the short term to help make our community a safe place and to help our citizens when needed. We need to prioritize both short term and ong term goals, what we can achieve and what we can expand on, and having the needed resources available.
- We do talk about this on different committee levels as it is a priority.
- I do attend meetings relating to both emergency planning and climate change as it is in the forefront on many levels of Government and we as First Nations living in remote areas can be affected or impacted with many circumstances.

- We have always had to think about tsunamis and have been doing that since the nineties, but so much more to be aware of with Covid being one of the worst and I don't think anyone really considered that, especially that the whole world was impacted. Now we have to think about what would happen in other scenarios like snow, freezing cold (our temperatures reached -14 in Bamfield), extremely heavy rainfall, freezing rain, higher temperatures (our heat went up to 36 degrees in the summer), droughts and forest fires. Living in the fog zone means nothing, we have to worry about fire bans, the possibility of being isolated, food security and not just for us at home here - it's everywhere. We need to look at being ready for these types of scenarios and emergencies and ways to prevent such devastation in our homelands.
- I will always voice my concerns and continue to attend the necessary meetings to help address these types of things.

Other Committees I belong to include:

- CDC (Citizen Development Committee) Chair
- CCG (Community Consultative Group) Chair
- Co-operative Management Board with Brad Johnson
- Anacla Community Planning Committee (member)
- Human Resource and Wellness Committee (member)

Ha'wiih Representative Thlut' as aksup -Theresa Nookemus – February Report

Areas of Responsibility:

Ha'wiih Council
Nananiiqsu
Citizenship Committee
Law & Policy Development Committee

Ha'wiih Council

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Ha'wiih continues to work on the HUU-ay-aht Traditional Naming Project. We are committed to having names for each of our citizens and organizing them according to our HUU-ay-aht Houses. Each Ha'wiih continues to go over housing lists.
- Ha'wiih will continue with our Citizen Reviews at this time.
- Ha'wiih will continue to support and strive for a safe and healthy community where our citizens can thrive.

Nananiiqsu

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- Nananiiqsu has been continuing to work with Culture. We will be meeting with the Ha'wiih Council to review the Group going to Hoobiye this March. The turnout for practices was phenomenal! This event has proven to ignite passion and love for our culture and within our people once again. We will be looking forward to more activities that will brighten our future not only as citizens but as a strong and healthy HUU-ay-aht First Nation.
- Nananiiqsu has been given the opportunity to be involved with choices of naming the next subdivision of which they had settled on Berry names.

Citizenship Committee

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- The Citizenship Committee has accepted and housed 16 new citizens since August 2023. We will be reviewing some Regulations under the Citizenship and Treaty Enrolment Act. This Committee meets regularly on a monthly basis.

The Law and Policy Development Committee

Progress on Key Initiatives:

This Committee is an internal committee with members of council and the Executive Director. This committee meets on the Third Monday of each month. Since I have just received this Portfolio, I look forward to learning more about our Laws and Policies and working with this Committee.

Councillor Stephen Rayner – January 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Law and Policy
Green Energy and Climate Sustainability

Law and Policy

Progress on Key Initiatives:

- The Law and Policy committee meeting occurred in February, which included an update of the ongoing work being done by the governance project. This project is focused on reviewing our legislation. We are making great progress. We have also reviewed and provided recommendations on the HR Policy, HR Regulation, committee terms of reference, etc. All legislative alterations or development have been running through our committee.
- 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.

Emerging Issues:

- The amount of legislation needed to be reviewed, as well as making sure that any potential alterations uphold the integrity of our legislation.

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.
- **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. I have 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.

- **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

- Continue to support the development of nation-wide development planning. The project has been making great progress. This planning will be very comprehensive and allow for fully informed future development.
- 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.
- Working with other nations to create opportunities which would provide significant long-term stable return in the green energy sector.