



Uyaqhmis

June 2024 Issue 77

**Huu-ay-aht First Nations partners
with Footprints Security to develop
Witwak Program**



PM41913515

Bamfield Dance Team goes to Nanaimo Dance Festival



Aubree, Azalea, Mariah, and Georgia at Shine Dance Festival in Nanaimo, B.C. (Photo provided by Mel Edwards).

Written by Mel Edwards

This year, a new dance team was created at Bamfield Community School under the guidance of primary teacher Laura Schmitt. The Bamfield Dance Team, formed just this year, embarked on a journey to the Shine Dance Festival in Nanaimo.

With only one routine under their belt and 4 new dancers (Aubree, Azalea, Mariah and Georgia), their debut performance was a powerful testament to their unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment to the art of dance.

Heading to the Shine Dance Festival marked a significant milestone for the Bamfield Dance Team. It was an opportunity to showcase their talent and potential on a larger stage and gain valuable experience and feedback from industry professionals and fellow dancers. While their journey had just begun, the team approached the festival with excitement, anticipation, and a touch of nerves, eager to share their passion for dance with a broader audience.

For the four members of the Bamfield Dance Team, the journey to the Shine Dance Festival was a whirlwind of practicing technique, choreography, and performing for an audience. With only one routine in their repertoire, every detail, from choreography to costume

design, was planned and perfected. Despite the challenges of being a new team, they embraced the journey with a sense of unity, supporting one another at every step.

As they took to the stage at the Shine Dance Festival, the members of the Bamfield Dance Team felt a mix of nerves and excitement wash over them. It was their first time performing in front of such a large audience, making the experience both exhilarating and nerve-wracking.

Yet, as the music began to play and they moved as one, any apprehension melted away, and the girls began to enjoy performing!

In the end, the debut performance of the Bamfield Dance Team at the Shine Dance Festival was a huge success, resulting in a silver medal for the girls. While they may have been a new team with only one routine, their passion, talent, and dedication shone brightly on the festival stage, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed their performance.

As they celebrate their achievements and look ahead to the future, the Bamfield Dance Team knows that their journey has only just begun, filled with endless possibilities and opportunities for growth and exploration in dance.



ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisions a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma čawak, and ʔuuʔaʔuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Wellness Statement

Our citizens are grounded in our culture, teachings, and sacred principles. Through healing, wellness, celebration, and the understanding of our Treaty, we are connected, empowered, responsible, accountable, and motivated.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and
events, job postings, and a
digital archive of Uyaqhmis

Keep up to date with Uyaqhmis
on social media:
@HuuayahtFN



Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Facebook page





HUU-AY-AHT FIRST NATIONS FRAMEWORK PLAN

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is preparing a Framework Plan to guide change and development within the ḥahuuḥi (ha-houlthee, traditional territory), over a 20–30 year period.

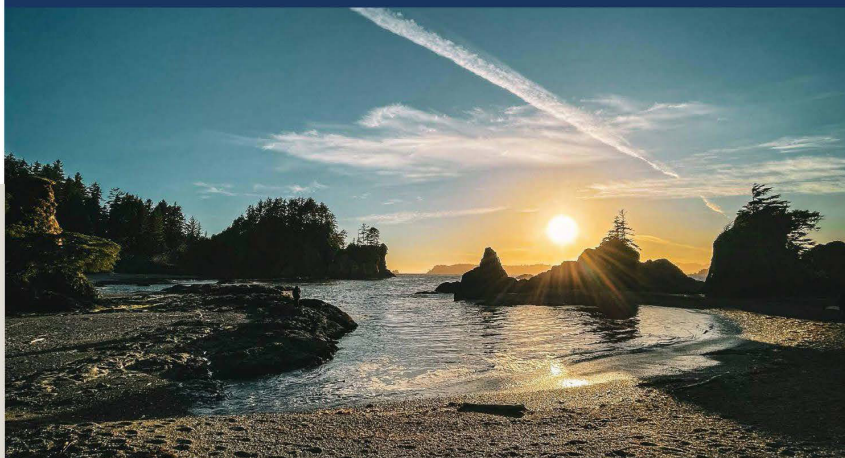
Earlier this year, we introduced the project, and asked citizens what their priorities are.

What we have heard to date

- Plan for a **Diversity of Housing** Types, Tenures, and Affordability Levels
- Desire for **new community facilities**
- Desire for multi-purpose **culture and learning spaces**
- Prioritize **Cultural and Eco Tourism**
- Support for sustainable and **Indigenous-owned businesses**
- Support for **improved connections** on the lands
- **Preserve natural areas** and habitats
- **Celebrate Huu-ay-aht culture** and history

Please join us to learn about the project and hear how it is advancing

Please join our second round of engagement to learn about the emerging vision that has been developed based on feedback received to date. These events will give you the opportunity to shape the long-term vision for the ḥahuuḥi and share your priorities with us.



There are 3 ways to participate:



Port Alberni Open House *New - Additional Open House Added!*

Tuesday, June 18th
5:00 – 7:00pm
Best Western Barclay Hotel, the Barclay Ballroom
4277 Stamp Ave, Port Alberni, BC
Dinner provided. Door Prizes!



Bamfield Open House

Wednesday, June 19th
5:00 – 7:00pm
Bamfield Marine Science Centre, Rix Centre
100 Pachena Rd, Bamfield, BC
Dinner provided. Door Prizes!
Register using the following link: bit.ly/3WGfRYE



Virtual Open House

Tuesday, June 25th
6:00 - 7:30pm (PST)
Meeting Link: bit.ly/3ym0iv4



To learn more about the project, please visit the website:
huyuayht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan



Forum URBAN STRATEGIES INC.

Marine Mammal Naturalist Course was a Success

Written by Carter Burtlake

In February this year, the Lands and Natural Resources team organized a community and staff Marine Mammal Naturalist course from the Marine Education and Research Society (MERS).

The course was funded by the Salish Sea Initiative, which supports the development of our Marine Monitoring Program.

There was tremendous community and staff involvement, with a total of 16 participants of all ages.

Participants learned about the local marine mammal species, how to catalogue sightings, how marine mammal behaviours may or may not make them susceptible to vessel strikes, the rules and regulations surrounding vessels and marine mammals, and what to do when encountering these beautiful creatures.

All these lessons focused on how to keep yourself, your boat, and the marine mammals safe when travelling around the ḥahuuli. At the end of this multi-day training opportunity, the group voted on a name for a local Humpback whale in the catalogue of Humpback whales. After several great suggestions, the name ʔaaxax was settled on for the individual pictured below.

ʔaaxax, translating to “poor thing” or “to have sympathy for,” was chosen to represent our Nuuchah-nulth link to these creatures and show our sympathy for this humpback who suffered from our modern human practices.

Moving forward, the Lands and Natural Resources team, alongside our trained community members, will take part in sharing how to be whale-wise.

This includes sharing information about what to do when you see a whale, how to alert other boaters nearby, and how to keep a safe distance for your sake and the whales. Additionally, our Marine Monitoring program will begin cataloging the specific marine mammal individuals we see returning to our ḥahuuli year after year.

This will involve bimonthly surveys throughout the majority of the ḥahuuli. If anyone is interested in joining for a survey and learning about the ḥahuuli and the marine mammals who also call it home, please contact Carter Burtlake at carter.b@huuayaht.org and Stephen Smith at stephen.s@huuayaht.org.



Staff and Community participants of the Marine Mammal Naturalist Course on ḥahuuli waters. (Photo provided by Carter Burtlake).



Photos of Humpback Whale ʔaaxax (Photo provided by Adventure Tofino Wildfire and Jamiés Whaling Station).

Huu-ay-aht Teams up with Footprints Security in Anacla



Footprints security person, Phil Gove and Witwak guardian, Qiic Qiica after the community meet and greet on May 8, 2024 (Photo by Kae-Lynn Johnson).

On Wednesday, May 8, Anacla Citizens had an opportunity to meet Footprints Security team at Soaring Eagle.

This was an opportunity to meet Phil Gove, an employee with Footprints Security since April 2024. Previously, Gove worked in trades and project management.

Gove was born in Dundee, Scotland, in 1962 and him and his family immigrated to Canada in 1965. He was raised in North Delta, B.C. and met his wife Shannon in 1978 and were married in 1980.

Gove's hobbies are hunting, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors. Gove now lives in Port Alberni.

Gove and Qiic Qiica, Witwak for Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) will be working together, for six months, as a mentorship program to help Huu-ay-aht build security safety in the community.

They will always be patrolling in twos in lower, upper Anacla, and Pachena Bay campgrounds – with access to the gate - 5 days a week.

Patrols started on May 8, 2024, and will continue every Wednesday

to Sunday, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on long weekends Thursday - Monday, 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Phil and Qiic Qiica's working station will be at The Soaring Eagle at the start of their shift every day if citizens wish to drop in and share concerns and hear any details.

They can also be reached on their community-designated cell phone at 778-269-1683, which will be accessible only during their working hours.

Footprints will be providing daily reports to the Huu-ay-aht office to share details with the community when necessary.

If you have any questions or concerns outside of their working hours, reach out to Coral Johnson or Kristen Young at the Huu-ay-aht government offices.

For any questions about Footprints Security, please reach out to Debbie Shea, Director of Operations, Central Island at 250-618-5989 or debbie.shea@footprintssecurity.com.

Before Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Footprints security partnered together, HFN hosted four community engagements focusing on the

creation of a community safety and infrastructure plan.

The collaboration during these sessions was based on the participation, input, and ideas from citizens.

The outcome of the engagements resulted in community safety as a top priority. Ensuring that families and all residents feel that their parks, natural surrounding, streets, homes, culture, physical, and mental health is rooted in a safety mindset.

At this time, Qiic Qiica is working with Footprints Security for training. Training for others in community is being made available in July. If interested please contact Brent at 250-723-0100 or brent.r@huuayaht.org.

The security responsibilities are to do patrols to protect lands and properties, monitor surveillance cameras and alarms, and when there are urgent matters report to the RCMP criminal matters. They do not have the ability or power to remove people from HFN TSL or detain them. We all play a role in keeping our community safe, it is critical that if you have a criminal matter such as assault you call the RCMP immediately at 250-723-2424. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Learn more about Һawiiһ Council

Tommy Happynook, traditional name Һapinyuuk. Tommy's great grandparents are Lizzie and Billy Happynook, his grandfather is Tommy Happynook, his parents are Tom and Kathy Happynook. Tommy is married to Carly Cunningham, and they have son named Mahihkan.

Tommy is an assistant professor at the University of Victoria, is an anthropologist with a PhD in Anthropology. He focuses on

the reclamation of knowledge, teachings, culture, language, responsibilities, and identity through his relationship with ҫaaҫaaҫiiҫas. His research is part of a larger story of reconciliation and reclamation to Һahuuҫi.

House Name: ҫaaҫaaҫiiҫas

Contact:
chachaaseus@huyuayaht.org



Tommy Happynook
Һapinyuuk

Sherri Cook, traditional name Yaalthuuaa-uks. Sherri's parents are Jeff Cook and Laverne Cook (nee Bolton). Her children are Fredrick Cook and Saryta Dick. Her grandparents were Hazel Cook, Jeffrey Robinson, Fanny Williams (nee Cook), Alec Williams, Mary Moses, Vera and Charlie Henry. Sherri's roots are Huu-ay-aht, Tsimshian, and Nuuchah-nulth. Her siblings are Debbie Cook and Jason Bolton. She also has many, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

As a child, she lived in Anacla Village and later moved to Port Alberni. Sherri has worked in various roles, including Tim Hortons, Forestry Busi-

ness Receptionist, and Bookkeeper. She has also worked in the Education System at School District 70 and Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council. She is now a Connections Worker at Usma Nuuchah-nulth Family and Child Services, connecting children, families, and youth to their nations and biological families.

Sherri has a successful home-based business of eyelash extensions and Henna Brows, and her daughter, Saryta, has a successful home-based business that makes Freeze Dried Candy. Sherri's passion is helping children, families, and youth, and she encourages everyone to see the world and explore.



Sherri Cook
Yaalthuuaa-uks

House Name: Yaalthuwaštakamalth

Contact: yaalthuwashtakamalthaht@huyuayaht.org

Theresa's traditional name is Thlut'as Aksup. Her mother, the late Gertrude (Mack) Nookemus, is of the Toquaht Nation in Ucluelet, BC. Her paternal Grandparents are the late Edward and Mable Nookemis. On her maternal side is Sarah Tutube.

Theresa, a Huu-ay-aht Hereditary Chief, was appointed in October 2022. She serves as the Һawiiһ Councilor Representative for the Huu-ay-aht Executive Council.

From a young age, Theresa worked on a fishing boat with her family, instilling in her strong family values and a robust work ethic. Theresa's professional path led her to

Victoria, where she earned a Banking and Financial Diploma and took Urban Planning courses. She later returned to Oceanside, contributing to senior care and construction administration.

Theresa has a daughter, Alanah, who passed away in September 2023, and a grandson, Benson, whom she adopted. Despite her loss, she remains dedicated to her role and strongly believes that commitment to the Nation's sacred principles. Together with strong respect for the land, animals, and resources, will result in a healthy community and high standards within the Huu-ay-aht Һahuuҫi.



Theresa Nookemus
Thlut'as Aksup

House Name: Haw'ehtak'amalth
Contact: hawiihtakimithaht@huyuayaht.org

For full bios and information, please visit www.huyuayaht.org. More Һawiiһ Council information sharing to come.

Huu-ay-aht Hosts Logo Contest for New Oomiiqsu Centre

As the Oomiiqsu (Aboriginal Mother Centre) approaches its completion date, Huu-ay-aht First Nations seeks a logo for the building.

The logo contest is open to all Nuu-chah-Nulth artist and their work can be submitted hand-drawn or digitally created, using three Huu-ay-aht branding colours.

The winner will receive a 300-dollar prize and a t-shirt with their logo on it.

All submissions can be hand delivered to either Anacla or Port Alberni Office or emailed to cfw_oomiiqsuadmin@huuayaht.org, by Monday, June 17, 2024, by 4 P.M.

For information regarding the Huu-ay-aht branding colours please visit our website here: <https://huuayaht.org/2024/05/oomiiqsu-logo-contest/> or Scan the QR Code in this story.

The Oomiiqsu (Aboriginal Mother Centre) is a culturally centered, supportive home that offers wrap-around support to women and their children ages 12 and under.

Oomiiqsu will support children to be "safe, healthy and connected" to family, culture and traditions and promote healing for all.

LOGO CONTEST

CALLING ALL NUU-CHAH-NULTH ARTISTS!

HUU-AY-AHT FIRST NATIONS IS LOOKING FOR A LOGO FOR OOMIIQSU (ABORIGINAL MOTHER CENTRE).

Must Haves: Using a maximum of 3 Huu-ay-aht branding colours. Hand-drawn or digitally created logo.

Prize: \$300 and a t-shirt with your logo on it

Deadline: Monday, June 17, 2024.

Submit to:
Anacla or Port Alberni Government office
or by email at
cfw_oomiiqsuadmin@huuayaht.org

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Oomiiqsu will house the Child and Family Wellness Office, Oomiiqsu Office, four transitional housing units, and housing for up to 48 women and children.

It will also house the Oomiiqsu Child Care Centre with eight spaces for children, 36 months and under, and 16 spaces for children ages 30 months and over.



Stay up to date on Huu-ay-aht Events!

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has added a calendar on the website that shares up to date information on events to allow citizens to know what is happening when and to make sure you do not miss out. Check it out here: www.huuayaht.org/events/ or scan the QR Code!



Virtual Reality introduced to Anacra Citizens

On Thursday, April 25, a community engagement was held at the Anacra Government Office to introduce a new virtual reality project.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and North Island College have partnered to introduce the possibilities of Virtual Reality (VR) to a remote community and what it may be able to offer citizens.

This project was made possible by the work of North Island College instructor Tony Trudel, his team and input from Huu-ay-aht First Nations to be able to secure a grant from the College and Community Social Innovation Fund (CCSIF) by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

The project is funded for three years. The goal is to work with citizens to develop a sustainable virtual reality experience that connects people and places of importance to each other, an experience that could serve those who

might otherwise have difficulty regularly making connections with other citizens or accessing places of importance.

To do this, Trudel wants to work with citizens who would be interested in developing these experiences and learning the technology to make this possible.

Trudel will be setting up an office space at the Anacra Government Office in the coming months, a space where people can test, develop, and ask questions about the project. This initiative aims to generate interest and challenge the stereotype of virtual reality as 'just for video games'. In Trudel's vision, VR is a gateway to diverse experiences such as travel and education, promising a world of possibilities.

Following the community engagement in April, online forums and the Anacra Newsletter provided a survey to see how citizens would like to utilize VR. At the time of this story,



Individuals trying out VR at the April Community Engagement (Photo by Kimmie MacDonald).

virtual travel (experiencing destinations around the world) and connecting with others are the two highest voted-for wants from citizens.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please connect with Brent Ronning at 250-723-0100.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Guardians Host Annual Preseason Meeting

Written by Daniel Zayonc

On Monday, April 29, 2024, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Guardians hosted Pacheedaht and Ditidaht Guardians for their annual preseason meeting with Parks Canada. The three Guardian programs steward the world-renowned West Coast Trail in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Before the Wednesday, May 1 opening, the annual preseason meeting provides the opportunity to connect ahead of the busy season.

Huu-ay-aht Guardians patrol the northernmost 25 kilometres of the West Coast Trail from Tsusiat Falls to Pachena Bay. This year, Jayson Nookemus, Brian Peters, Kevin Peters, Terry Nookemus, and Duane

Nookemis Sr. form a Guardian team whose vision is welcoming leaders protecting all parts of the ʔahuuli. By safeguarding and sharing the land they respect and live in through hard work, culture, and storytelling, the Guardians clear a path for respectful stewardship for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, neighbours, and visitors.

Pacheedaht, Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht Guardians and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve staff are excited to embark on another West Coast Trail Season. The competition for most "glass balls" found is currently in Huu-ay-aht's favourite as Duane Sr and Kevin Peters are neck and neck and both on the scoreboard.



Group photo in front of House of Huu-ay-aht of West Coast Trail preseason meeting (Photo by Kimberly Nookemus).



West Coast Trail Preseason meeting presentation (Photo by Christine Gruman).



Guest Speakers including former Canadian NHL player Geoff Courtnall

HUU-AY-AHT YOUTH GATHERING

July 12 – 14, 2024 | Anacra, B.C. | Ages: 13 – 30

Gifts

**Pachena Bay Campout
Wellness Circles
Cultural Craft-making
Learn Family Ties**

**Hear from Hawiñ Council
Youth Voices Matter**

Campfire Stories

Youth Dance

Elder Teachings

Indigenous Speakers

Empowerment

Hear from Executive Council

Traditional Song & Dance

Visioning Workshop

Cultural History Storytelling

Learn about Governance

Traditional Food

Contact: Kae-Lynn Johnson

Kae-lynn.j@huuayaht.org

250-723-0100

**Deadline
to register
June 10, 2024**

**Grand
Prize**

SCAN ME



Register Here



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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

New staff members joins Huu-ay-aht First Nations



Tiana Peters

My name is Tiana Peters
čakʷaasii (dorsal fin of an orca), I am

a proud Huu-ay-aht citizen, I come from the house of ʔApwinisathʔ.

I am granddaughter to late A. Spencer Peters and Nora Peters (Nee Nookemus). My parents are Jacquie and Shawn Mack, and I am the eldest sister to Natasha and Justine Mack. I have a son named Adonis, born on my birthday in 2020; he is 3 years old, turning 4 on December 1.

I recently moved back to Port Alberni from Anacla where I lived with my son Adonis for the last 3 years. I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Director of Child and Family Wellness and Oomiiqsu Director and

will be the Receptionist for the two programs when Oomiiqsu opens in the fall.

Previously, I worked for the Huu-ay-aht Housing Society while living in Anacla for the last 2 years, and I also worked many roles with Island Health at the Bamfield Health Center as administrative office staff along with Housekeeping, and as a Community Health Worker in Bamfield.

During my free time, I enjoy traveling to new places and creating new memories with my son. I also enjoy cooking new foods and baking some delicious desserts.



Kaal Haugen

Kaal Haugen joined the Huu-ay-aht First Nations' team as the new Project Manager for Capital Projects and Infrastructure. Haugen's position involves supporting the development of capital projects for Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Before Huu-ay-aht, Haugen grew up in Franklin River and Port Alberni, where he graduated in 1992. From there, he worked for the Bamfield Marine Sciences

Center for 21 years, starting in the Tech Services team and finally managing all Infrastructure and Tech Services. After this, he spent ten years with the Federal Parks working for the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Haugen worked as an Asset Technician, supervising and developing programs for operations and capital projects.

Aside from work, Haugen enjoys surfing and playing music.



Carrie Nahorney

Carrie Nahorney is excited to join Huu-ay-aht First Nations as the Oomiiqsu Child Care Cen-

tre Manager. She is a daughter, sister, wife, mother of two young adults and a fur baby.

Carrie has been blessed to have worked with young children and their families for over 32 years in early care and learning in various roles, from infant and toddler care to school-age care, daycare, preschool, and parent support.

Carrie's professional journey is marked by significant achievements. She graduated with her Early Childhood Care and Education in 1992 from Cariboo College, now Thompson Rivers University.

Her dedication and excellence were recognized with a 2017 Certificate of Achievement from the Prime Minister's Awards of Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

Since moving to Port Alberni in 2009, she has worked at Mini Miracles Preschool, where she developed the Preschool Program (8 years) and with School District 70 (7 years) as a Preschool Teacher and Early Years Navigator.

In her spare time, she loves to spend time in the beautiful outdoors, hiking at the beach, and enjoying her yard.

CHILD & FAMILY WELLNESS

PAAWATS DAYCARE

HUMAN RESOURCES

COMMUNITY SERVICES EDUCATION SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

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WANTING A SUMMER JOB?

YOUTH AGES 15 - 29

PICK YOUR DEPARTMENT OF INTEREST!

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW:

- What department you would like to work in
- Why you want to be in that department and why it interests you
- When you can start and end
- Your name, age and what location you want to work at

SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO:
HR@HUUAYAHT.ORG

CAPITAL & INFRASTRUCTURE

FINANCE

LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW & TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

CULTURE

YOUTH SUPPORT

EVENTS PLANNING

Haw'ehtak'amłath house sees changes in Hawiih seat

In the last Uyaqhmis April Issue, there was a story that highlighted the Nananiqsu meeting. In that story, there was a mention that Ha'wehtuu-u, Benson Nookemis Sr. stepped down from his seat and placed Thlut'as aksup, Theresa Nookemus, to hold until her son, Benson Nookemus Jr. is 19 years of age to be placed in this seat.

There is a correction to this information. The correct information is that Ha'wehtuu-u, Benson Nookemis Sr. stepped down from his seat and placed Thlut'as aksup, Theresa Nookemus, to hold his seat. Once Theresa is ready and feels Leonard Nookemus is ready for the seat, the seat will then go to him. If at that time Leonard does not want or is unable to fulfill this seat and roll, it will then be passed to Benson R Nookemus.



HFN Group of Businesses

HGB Explores the Stars with HFN Economic Development Team

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Group of Businesses (HGB) is excited to be working with the Economic Development (Ec Dev) team at Huu-ay-aht First Nation (HFN) in planning a multi-day Dark Sky Festival this fall. Aligned with Huu-ay-aht's Sacred Principles, the festival is part of our collective efforts to promote tourism in the region while highlighting and educating the public about Huu-ay-aht's cultural heritage in connection with the night sky.

Building on the small pilot event HGB held in 2022, this year's event has grown into a collaborative partnership between HFN Ec Dev, HGB, the Bamfield Marine Science Centre, 4VI, and Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC). To ensure this grows into a premier event, we have enlisted Foundry Events,

the company that, for the last decade, has been coordinating the highly successful Jasper Dark Sky Festival. The event is slated for September 2024, and the venues and exact dates are still being finalized.

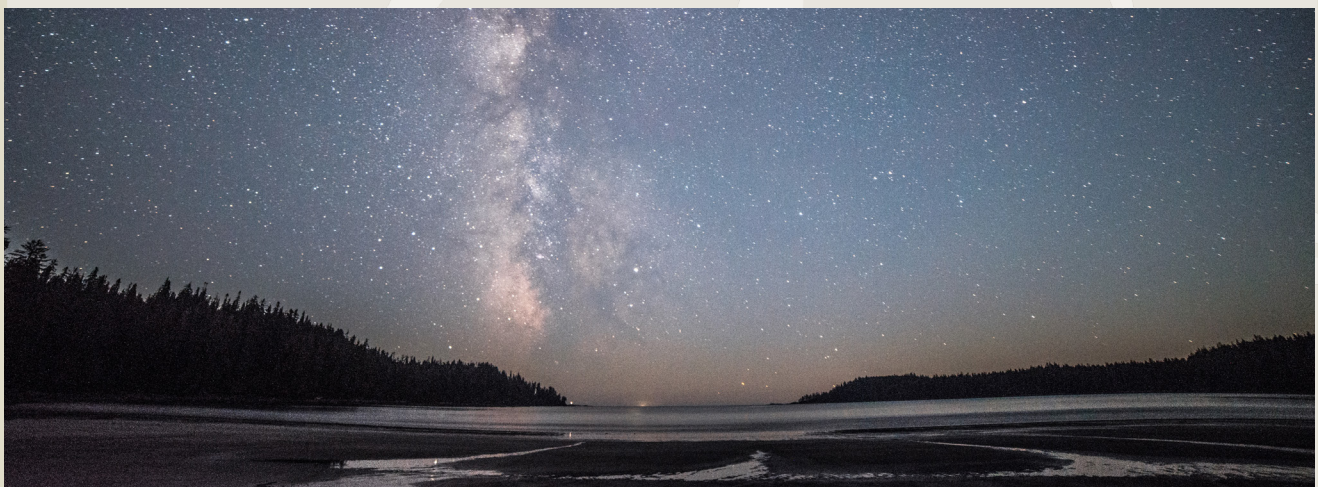
The festival will combine advanced projectors and telescopes with storytelling by Huu-ay-aht and other Nuuchah-nulth knowledge keepers, offering a unique blend of cultural and scientific perspectives on the night sky.

The Dark Sky Festival aims to bridge scientific understanding and cultural significance, giving attendees a deeper appreciation of the stars. The festival will also highlight Bamfield as a welcoming destination for tourists. It is designed to support local businesses during the

shoulder season by promoting the region's landscapes, history, and culture.

This year's festival is structured as a multi-day pilot targeting local Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), Vancouver Island tourism-based businesses, and guest speakers with astronomy and First Nations culture expertise. We expect to have 40-50 participants attend from this target audience. Beyond presenting the concept to the DMO audience, several events will be open to the public throughout the festival.

This eco-friendly festival can grow to become a core annual event that provides cultural and economic support to the Nation, the Group of Businesses, and other businesses within the region.



Stars at Pachena Beach (Photo provided by Patrick Schmidt).

778-421-2663 | info@hfngroup.ca | hfngroup.ca