



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Commitment to a Harassment-free Environment

November 13, 2024 - Huu-ay-aht First Nations continues to support and build an environment that is safe and healthy. This commitment is essential to ensure our places continue to be a place of welcoming, wellness, and safe for everyone.

Today, the Anacla government office experienced a very serious incident that impacted many staff and visitors in our work environment. On behalf of the Huu-ay-aht Government and Hāwiih Council, we want to extend our thanks to the staff, NTC Nurse, and RCMP for their support and leadership in managing this situation. The situation could have been prevented if we stopped bullying. Bullying is not only name calling, it is also behaviours such as spreading malicious rumors, gossip, or innuendo that are not true. We must support one another during times of trauma and pain.

The Huu-ay-aht Hāwiih and Huu-ay-aht Government are a harassment-free environment for all. We can't do this alone. It will take you, our citizens, to help have a harassment-free environment and uphold our Huu-ay-aht guiding principles and values. We want all of us to help achieve our wellness statement:

Huu-ay-aht 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.”

Activities that can damage or cause harm to our communities, work environments, and citizens in our communities will not be tolerated. Harassment behaviours in our communities and work environments will not be tolerated. We ask our citizens to support us in achieving our wellness statement and help us create a safe, healthy, and welcoming community and work environments.

We encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other. And please reach out for support, assistance, and guidance. Together we can steer our canoe in the right direction.

ʔiisaak

Thlut' as-aksup, Theresa Nookemus
Hāwiih Councillor

ʔuuʔatuk

Sayaačath, John Jack
Chief Councillor

Hišuk ma cāwak

We encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other. HUU-ay-aht is available to provide services and to help you access resources:

1. Child and Family Wellness Department - 250-723-0100 (please call for individual support)
2. HUU-ay-aht Counselling Department (Rena, James, Vikky) – 250-723-0100 (please call for individual support)
3. Cultural Support (Cory Howard Sr. and Mel Edwards) - 1-888-644-4555 or 250-723-0100
4. Cultural Wellness Program (Quu'asa) – 250-724-3939
 - Lee Lucas and Howard Morris provide Cultural Support
 - For referrals, fill out referral form and email to Sanne Van Vlerken sanne.vanvlerken@nuuchahnulth.org
5. Kuu-us Crisis Line (24-hour support)
 - 250-723-4050 (Port Alberni)
 - 250-723-2040 (Port Alberni)
 - Toll Free 1-800-588-8717 (BC Wide)
 - Outside of BC, please contact the Crisis Line in your area
6. First Nations Health Authority – for counsellors covered by your First Nations Health Authority Benefits in your area, see <https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health>