



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report
September 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HA'WIIH REPRESENTATIVE THERESA NOOKEMUS REPORT PAGE 3-5

COUNCILLOR EDWARD JOHNSON REPORT PAGE 6-12

COUNCILLOR BRAD JOHNSON REPORT PAGE 13-15

COUNCILLOR EVAN COOK REPORT PAGE 16-17

COUNCILLOR STEPHEN RAYNER REPORT PAGE 18-22

COUNCILLOR STELLA PETERS REPORT PAGE 23-24

CHIEF COUNCILLOR JOHN JACK PAGE 25-27

Ha'wiih Representative Theresa Nookemus – September 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Ha'wiih Council
Citizenship Committee
Nananiiqsu
Economic Development (Reporting only)

Ha'wiih Council

- Ha'wiih Council's new Clerk Janet Young has settled in nicely, she is wonderful to work with.
- This Council continues to work on the HUU-ay-aht naming project. Some Ha'wiih are now going over their lists with a chosen language speaker to begin to look and find names for those who are without. This program is moving along nicely.
- Ha'wiih continues to work with the youth gathering group. The final date for the final Youth Group Gathering is Saturday, Sept 26th in Port Alberni at the Barclay Hotel in the Barclay Ballroom. It starts at 9 am until late. 6 pm starts off with a Halloween dance, Live DJ, and 360 Photobooth. The previous gatherings in Anacla and Victoria went very well.
- The Victoria gathering started with a wonderful breakfast - they had 7 Youth for the day. Hinatinyis and Onyx facilitated a Youth visioning workshop from 10 am until noon, then lunch, the Elders' circle, keynotes speakers, craft making booths (drum making and Cedar weaving) and finally dinner with closing remarks.
- The Elders who facilitated the Victoria group were Jack Cook, Deb Cook and Larry Johnson from 1 to 2 PM.
- FNHA was also there with 3 booths - Community Engagement Team, Health and Wellness, and their Urban and Away from Home.
- The Ha'wiih Council will soon start to meet twice a month to be dedicated to governance as well as cultural advisors and continues to work on the Ha'wiih charter that will help define the Ha'wiih roles and responsibilities. This will continue to help keep business practices separate to enable the second meeting to be available for general discussions and other Ha'wiih relatable issues.
- Ha'wiih will be hosting the Christmas dinner to be held on December 15th at the Italian Hall. The date was changed to accommodate the Community dinner that has always been served on Nov 14th in Anacla.
- Ha'wiih will be having vendors at this event as well as Santa! There will also be an ugly sweater contest!
- Ha'wiih has continued to work with Law & Policy on the Community Safety Act-Exclusion Order Process, as they have concerns over this - they are working on clarification and the timing of an application process.

Citizenship Committee

September was a quiet month for this Committee. We've had one youth application, and 3 other applicants. Ha'wiih Council is still in the process of reviewing one of these applications as well as waiting for more information on it.

Nanaaniqsu

- Nananiqsu just reconvened this past Sept 21st. Our first meeting went well - everyone was happy to see each other once again.
- Nananiqsu discussed the upcoming Hoobiyee for this year. After discussing their budget, they have decided to start fundraising immediately. They are beginning with hot lunches served and sold at both government offices, dates to be determined, there will be collection jars at both offices, as well as bake sales. They are also collecting items for toonie draws.
- The Health Nurse (Farrah-from Alberni Pharmacy) left some items to show what our Elders are eligible for under our First Nations Health system. She can get a package together for our Elders for free - she will need just a couple of days to get the package together. It is a decent-sized package with a lot of useful items. It is worth our Elders getting in touch with her!

Economic Development Update

- The Governance Project Team introduced themselves, giving background on the work that has been done to date, where it stems from and whom they have consulted with during this work. The presenters mentioned major findings being focused on outcomes that land is the largest asset base that is owned and needs to be treated as such, as well as being factored into the equation, a lot of reports but not focused on outcomes, and it is a complex structure for the assets owned.
- The Committee had discussions around the importance of having everyone interpret the legislation the same way and will have a day long discussion session within the next month.
- The chair also gave a verbal report to the committee, topics included were:
 - the request for a 3-to-4-year business plan from the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB)
 - requesting an explanation in writing from HGB on why or how the businesses are losing money
 - meetings with the Port Alberni Port Authority regarding transshipment hub
 - meetings with Catalyst regarding Dicinfoam
 - the committee asked questions about 3 parcels between Sarita and Anacla.
- The Economic Development Officer Piyush Pushkarna gave a verbal report to the committee. The EDO went through the Salish Elements briefing note, the Growcer briefing note as well as the Summit wood briefing note:
 - A) Salish Elements: The Ec Dev Officer went over changes of the Agreement in Principle with the committee. The Committee supports this initiative and has directed the EDO to present this action item to Executive Council for the final decision and recommends that Executive Council sign the AIP.
 - B) Summit Wood: The committee has looked at alternative locations such as #9, Grappler, and Camp Ross as well. The committee recommended pausing the project until the ongoing studies are completed by the end of the fiscal year (2024) to provide a better understanding of feasibility, potential investment, and investigate additional area options, enabling a more informed decision on how to proceed and directed the Economic Development Officer to bring back to the committee as soon as applicable.
 - C) Growcer: The Committee discussed contacting other nations that are working on similar projects such as Ahousaht and a nation in Sooke to see who they are working with and how their projects are moving along. The Committee has directed the EDO to connect with

other nations on their similar projects and 2) supports this initiative and directs the EDO to present to Executive Council for approval to collaborate with Growcer following the required consultations.

Councillor ȁicitah̄ Edward R. Johnson – September 2024

<https://huuayaht.org/councillor-edward-r-johnson/>

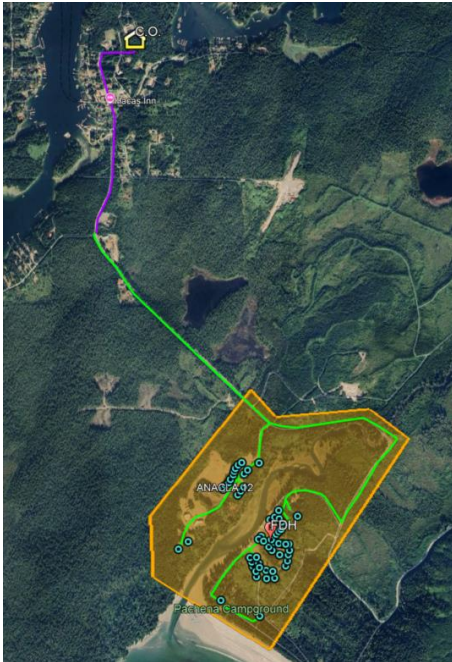
Area of Responsibility:

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

Anacla Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended follow-up meeting with CityWest. A sample Letter of Support was talked about regarding three projects. Below is the summary of the three aspects of the projects to connect Anacla and Sarita



1. Connected Coast – aerial from Bamfield to the Administration Office in Anacla

The cable from Bamfield to the Anacla administration building (where the community communications infrastructure is housed) is being funded by Connected Coast and the Telus agreement process is in place. No lands agreement is required as it is on poles. The purple line should stretch to the administration building.

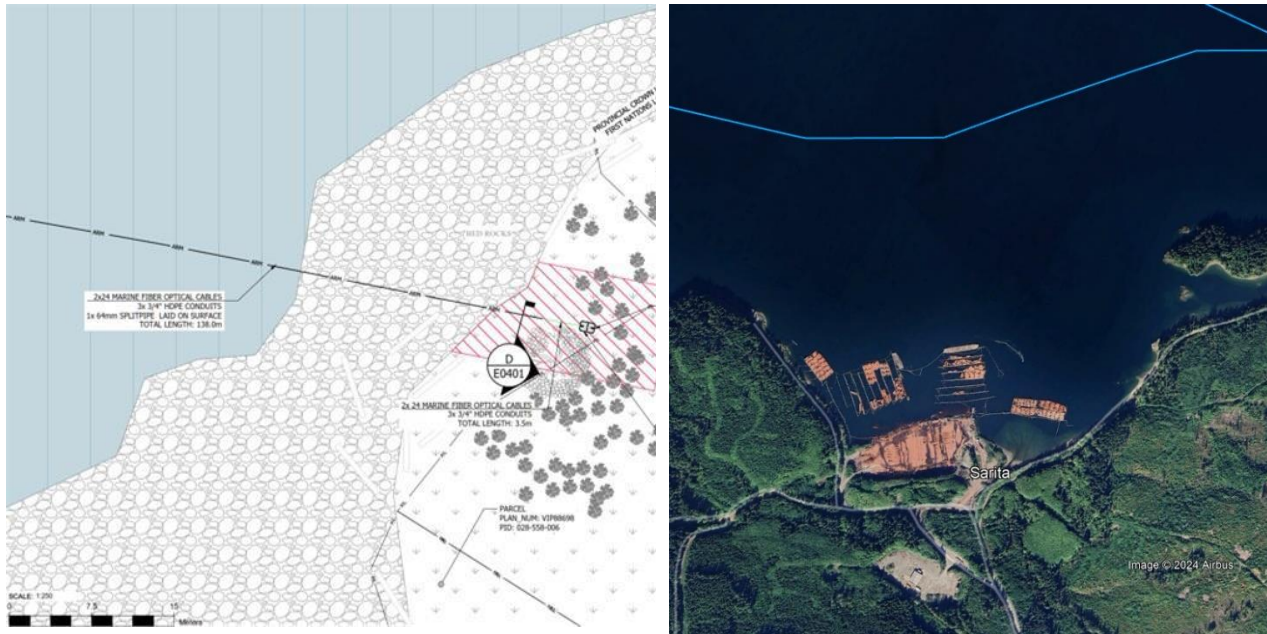
2. Connecting Huu-ay-aht – last-mile funding proposed to Connecting Communities BC

This proposed project focuses on bringing fiber connectivity to residences in Anacla (supported by the Connected Coast Project), using aerial construction methods. The area shaded in orange is the proposed service area for this project. The application is in the technical review phase, where funders are verifying that all required documentation is complete. By providing a

letter of support or Executive Council Resolution, the funders can move the application to the next stage of approval.

3. Connected Coast – Landing at Sarita

The design drawing below shows where the cable is currently located and where the vault will be placed in a few weeks, just outside of HFN Treaty Lands. The image that follows shows the landing and the log sort, about 2 km to the west. Upon approval of the CCBC last-mile application, we could propose an up scope to funders in order to connect residences in this area as well.



- The last piece to process the Oomiiqsu application for CHRT-41 was sent into the Fire Flow Assessment - so happy! Now we wait and hope that Oomiiqsu is funded.
- Two new Toyota Highlanders funded through application CHRT-41 have come in.
- Ongoing work with MNP and Deloitte on Needs Assessment for CHRT 41 funding.
- Project Manager is working with the Pacific home designers and project manager this month to finalize the modifications to Cultural Center.
- Chaired Anacla Community Planning Committee.
- Confirming with HFN Project Manager that the HFN welcome figures are coming back from the Royal BC Museum and will be standing in our Cultural Center once completed. This will be a huge milestone in our treaty - a long time coming.
- There will be an upcoming home energy efficiency funding program expected to be announced in the next month or two.
- Looking forward to hearing from Vancouver Island University on their review of our plans so that we can identify risks, gaps, and where alignment is missing as well as the strategic plan - looking forward to next steps after receiving the review.

Emerging Issues

- MNP and Deloitte
- Gravel Agreement

Children and Family Wellness Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Ongoing work with MNP and Deloitte on Needs Assessment for CHRT 41 funding
- Sts'ailes, Canada and B.C. celebrate coordination agreement to support child and family services <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2024/09/stsailes-canada-and-bc-celebrate-coordination-agreement-to-support-child-and-family-services.html>. Canada has committed to providing \$118.8 million over the almost ten years

of the agreement, subject to annual adjustments to account for inflation and population growth. British Columbia has committed to providing \$16.4 million to support the agreement with Sts'ailes, subject to annual adjustments to account for inflation.

- Attended and hosted Oomiiqsu Celebration <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2024-09-09/honoring-mothers-and-children-huu-ay-aht-and-guests-celebrate-near-completion>
- Bi-weekly Bilateral meeting with BC. On the agenda was further information regarding the scope and limitations of a 92.1 agreement, Rationale for BC's position on the jurisdiction issue and Quality Assurance Working Group.
- Was Asked to talk of our challenges. On the agenda was:
 - Challenges in Government Response to Exercising Self-Determination over Children and Families: Huu-ay-aht - Councillor Edward Johnson (Huu-ay-aht) & Hannah McDonald (Ratcliffe) **Resolution** 2024-47
 - Call for Crown to Uphold and Implement First Nations Jurisdiction over Children and Families.
 - Resolution 2024-48 Support for Redesign and Province-Wide Adoption of the Aboriginal Operational & Practice Standards & Indicators in Child & Family Services.
 - Spoke to the draft agreement on long term reform of FN CFS federal funding and included in the resolution that the agreement needed to be reviewed and amended to ensure the inclusion of MTNs.

- What a special day for Coordination Table Discussions with Canada and BC in Anacla. The coordination table has been meeting for over four years. This meeting was our first in person. We definitely needed this to get back on the same page. I spoke of many metaphors in regard to the canoe and talked about the great journeys that our nation has gone on the entire time while using the canoe. I strategically paired up members from all three groups, Canada, BC and HFN to feel the power of working together. There were times where we were out of sync which made our little journey in the bay a little more difficult but we were able to regroup and talked



about setting the tone with the lead paddlers working together in sync. This was a very fun exercise and representatives from BC and Canada did great. It was a beautiful day to be on the water after a solid two hours of coordination discussions. The days after our meeting, I received great compliments on the day from all teams.

- This month for CFW has been great. We had our pre-celebration for the mother center, strategically timing this with our coordination table to lineup with our mother center

celebration so Canada could witness the great work that our team has done to present date and the wonderful work that lies ahead. We really wanted Canada to see our vision and feel this was achieved. Pictures of the day above.

- Attended the 56th Annual General UBCIC meeting. The theme was “We are the Land”. Huuayaht was on the agenda. The agenda item was “Challenges in Government Response to Exercising Self-Determination over Children and Families: Huu-ay-aht”. There were two resolutions that came out of our HFN agenda item and they were: 1) Resolution 2024-47 Call for Crown to Uphold and Implement First Nations Jurisdiction over Children and Families and 2) Resolution 2024-48 Support for Redesign and Province-Wide Adoption of the Aboriginal Operational & Practice Standards & Indicators in Child & Family Services. Both resolutions passed with minor amendments. The reason for being on the agenda was to gain support with our YAA?AK 'AP CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS ACT. The agenda item was well received by all. After our agenda item, the next item was “Draft Final Settlement Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program”. We as Huuayaht added to the resolution asking for more Inclusiveness to the report when it comes to MTFN. Next month will be a big day for voting on accepting final draft copy - I would not accept the way that it is currently drafted.

Emerging Issues

- Needs assessment - need an update meeting so that we can get on the same page.
- CHRT-41.
- BC and Canada re; YAA?AK 'AP CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS ACT.

Deputy-Chief Councillor

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Meeting with Tsawwassen - Tsawwassen traveled to our homelands. This was a great meeting for two MTFNs to get together to talk about the past, present and tomorrow as MTFNs. There were a number of senior management and council members that made the travel over to Anacla. On the agenda for this day was: TFN approach to 15-year treaty review, our accountability and strategic planning cycle, org charts (and restructures) for both nations, land use, economic development, taxation, regulatory development, citizen development structure and processes etc., HFN governance review (NRT funding) and HFN Coordination Table progress.
- Met with Metlakatla FN <https://bctreaty.ca/negotiations/negotiation-process/> at the Port Alberni government office. It was a very informative meeting between our nations always and it's always good connecting /networking with First Nations, especially those that are embarking on self-government.
- Attended our Reconciliation day on the homelands <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2024-09-30/reconciliation-today-children-tomorrow-huu-ay-aht-invites-greater-community-join>
- Received an invitation to an exclusive networking evening hosted by Deloitte at UBCM <https://www.deloitte.com/global/en/about/governance/network-brand-alliances/about-the-network.html>
- Attended FN Leadership Council/UBCM Meeting in Vancouver where I was on a panel discussing YAA?AK 'AP CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS ACT. After this presentation and in regard to our John Jack Letter that went out two weeks ago, this initiative is starting to gain support. Next step is presenting to the Alliance of MTFN and FNLC in November.

- On September 12th we received a traditional invite to Ehattesaht - the invite took place at the Port Alberni government office. The invite is to witness two totem poles being raised on Ehattesaht homelands on October 19, 2024.
- Attended West Coast night at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre while I was in Vancouver for the week attending the UBCM. We had our Huuayaht citizens take the floor for a few songs - it was a great night celebrating culture.

UBCM meeting

- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Josie Osborne** - Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/energy-mines-and-low-carbon-innovation/biography>
 - In this meeting we talked about the \$140 M through NRT for Indigenous Power development and how this is insufficient. Some key topics were that we are looking for direction on potential turnover at BC Hydro - in the past there have been problems with First Nations Engagement, that is imperative that this Crown agency have someone who gets the cultural dynamics and requires First Nation engagement to advance priorities, and what types of commitments for change in the crown corporation can HFN expect from government.
- UBCM Meeting with **Ministry of Children and Families Hon Grace Lore** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/children-and-family-development/biography>
 - In this meeting we identified the focus to be on the Mother Centre, to bring to attention the importance of moving towards a system that protects our children and financial commitments to achieve our HFN Child and Family Wellness services and the Mother Centre. We emphasized the ongoing trilateral coordination table activity with HFN and that there cannot be delays from the Federal and Provincial governments throughout the election, and to request a person be appointed to continue working with the HFN on the trilateral effort for HFN Child and Family wellness services throughout the election period.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Murray Rankin** - Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/indigenous-relations-and-reconciliation>
 - The focus of this 15 minute meeting was on the commitment that this project (the road) was a strong move towards reconciliation and that we continue to support this investment and the benefit to the economy it will bring and ensuring we work continue to together. We highlighted the connection that is lacking between the economic development responsibilities in government and the commitments of MIRR and requested a person in government to brief on this and suggest the creation of a cross-ministerial and Nation roundtable to be formed. We also talked about our Yaaʔakap Child and Family Wellness Act and the challenges we are having with MCFD. We had some good take away from this meeting and was a great conversation to have with Minister Rankin before his retirement.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Sheila Malcolmson** - Social Development and Poverty Reduction <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/social-development-and-poverty-reduction/biography>
 - The meeting focus was on highlighting the work underway with FORUM to deliver a framework plan that centers on the Anac̓la/Bamfield region but diversify the whole HFN territory and to ask for immediate resourcing for the strategy development to address Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations State of Emergency and Community Crisis, highlighting the State of Emergency declared due to the opioid and mental health crisis affecting the Nuu-chah-nulth.

- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Brenda Bailey** - Jobs Economic Development and Innovation <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/jobs-economic-development-and-innovation/biography>
 - Meeting focus - Overview of economic framework for the nation.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Mike Farnworth** - Public Safety and Solicitor General <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/public-safety-and-solicitor-general/biography>
 - Focus of meeting was to highlight the partnership with the Port Alberni Police Department and the upgraded Bamfield Road and the need to increase police presence in the Bamfield/ Anacla Communities – a call to have solid presence and filling additional Indigenous police officers for the region. We also requested a point person in government who HFN can meet with as soon as possible to brief senior bureaucracy and ensure proper representation on the issue and the ask by the nation for the transition binders being prepared for the next government.
- UBCM - Meeting with Minister Lana Popham - Tourism Arts Culture and Sport <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/tourism-arts-culture-and-sport/biography>
 - Meeting focus with Minister Popham was our NCN Artists Symposium where we talked about the importance of protecting our culture and artwork. Request point person in Ministry to brief on the opportunity and immediate need to protect cultural rights to ensure that the information is prepared fully for the transition of a new government.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Jennifer Whiteside** - Mental Health and Addictions <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/mental-health-and-addictions/biography>
 - Focus of this meeting was asking for immediate resourcing for the strategy development to address Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations State of Emergency and Community Crisis and highlight the State of Emergency declared due to the opioid and mental health crisis affecting the Nuu-chah-nulth communities. Minister Whiteside was not in attendance, but we did talk with **Ministry ADM Jonathan Dube**.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Bowinn Ma** - Emergency Management and Climate Readiness <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/emergency-management-and-climate-readiness/biography>
 - The focus of this meeting was on the need to ensure we have the resources to provide protection, monitoring, and mitigations to deal with the ongoing climate changes such as heat, flooding, shoreline erosions, etc. We emphasized the importance of mitigation methods and emergency management for Indigenous Communities and requested a point person in the Ministry to brief on the priorities of HFN.
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Katrine Conroy** – Finance <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/finance/biography>
- UBCM - Meeting with **Minister Anne Kang** - Municipal Affairs <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/municipal-affairs/biography>
 - We emphasized HFN's framework and identified areas where the Ministry can help coordinate across ministerial jurisdictions and highlighted the sewer issue as an area where disproportionate costs on the nation without balanced investments from the province in alignment with municipalities was a main focus.

Other news in September

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023ENV0050-001210>

<https://hashilthsa.com/news/2024-09-23/huu-ay-aht-first-nation-seeks-dark-sky-preserve-designation-bamfield>

<https://hashilthsa.com/news/2024-09-19/ntc-declares-emergency-calling-governments-recognize-extent-toxic-drug-and-mental>

Councillor Brad Johnson Report – September 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

- Monthly Inspections are being done by Meridian Forest Services. The road has held up well over the past year. The final inspection and warranty work has been completed this month.
- As of October 1st, 2024 we, as in HUU-ay-aht, are no longer responsible for the road surface maintenance. The maintenance will be handed back over to the two forestry companies who have road use agreements with the province.
- Overall, this project has been very successful, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and work from our partners on this project.

Lands and Resources

- Last month I mentioned in my report that the Lands and Resources Fisheries Department was preparing to fish the Sarita River for a mark select economic fisheries with our citizens. Earlier this year HUU-ay-aht signed a 3-year deal with DFO to do a mark select fishery on the Sarita. The fishery went very well as planned this year with 10 citizens participating, 6 happen to be youth. The nation harvested and sampled approximately just over 800 hatchery chinook salmon that were sold commercially. It was reported that the nation could have caught more fish but since the waters were so low in the rivers, we felt conservation was the best method and that we wouldn't stress the same fish over by repeatedly catching them and releasing the wild stock chinook. I am very pleased to see our citizens have an opportunity to get involved and teach our youth how to beach seine and get an economic benefit out of this opportunity as well.
- The department has hired Meridian Forest Services to conduct an Individual Tree Inventory survey across all our territory but not within TFL 44 as we already have that Lidar data.
- The department is working on the final version of the HIRMP. This will be released later this year. Huge kudos to the team for all the hard work that has been put into this document.

Treaty Implementation

- There was No Maa-Nulth Board of directors meeting for the month of September. Next meeting October 7th, 2024.
- One thing I will flag is the decision made on the Nisga'a vs Mali court case. This is where the Gitanyow were seeking aboriginal Title over the Nisga'a Treaty Lands and it stood up in court. More talks will be had at the Maa-nulth board about this ruling and possibilities of bringing it forward at the Implementation Committee next month.

MeToo Negotiations

- No meetings have been set up since DFO have left the negotiations tables. We are still trying to schedule a meeting with the Minister of DFO. Maa-Nulth nations have expressed we would like to push hard in the fall to get these negotiations back on track as nations are tired of sitting on the sidelines watching our neighboring nations fish.

Fiscal Finance Agreement (FFA)

- I am happy to report that the FFA agreement # 6 has been completed. We now have a signed 10-year deal with the Province and the Federal government on our funding agreements.
- On September 6, 2024 the Huu-ay-aht Executive Council met with Tsawwassen First Nations (TFN) to discuss TFN 15 year review and what that looks like for them as they are a Modern Treaty Nation. The meeting went very well and was held in Anacla at the Government office.
- On September 27, 2024 the Huu-ay-aht Executive Council met with the Metlakatla First Nations at the Port Alberni Government Office. Metlakatla is in stage 5 before they sign their treaty so they were asking for information and what challenges we faced with our treaty. Overall, a very productive meeting and I think they were very pleased with the info they received.

Parks Canada

- On September 4th, 2024 we held a virtual Cooperative Management Board Meeting (CMB). We reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) and added our Executive Director to the CMB as a member. We felt that with her knowledge and insight with Parks Canada she would be a true asset moving forward at the CMB level.
- We talked about the framework plan and that HFN would like a meeting with upper management to discuss the Framework plan our nation is working on and that it would be good to talk to the decision makers on certain topics within the park boundaries.
- We had a West Coast Trail (WCT) update from our Guardian Coordinator and Supervisor. Once again, our HFN Guardians have done a fantastic job being the ambassadors for our nation within our territory on the WCT. This year we added youth Guardians and that was very successful as they were very eager to learn from their mentors.
- We are still waiting to sign the MOU with Parks Canada on the National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR). We were updated that some nations have yet to fully agree on the language in the document hence why we have been waiting for months to start the process.
- The Guardians program will be working on an audio box for the start of the trail head. This audio box will have 16 min of recordings of stories, history and a welcoming to our traditional territory. This project has been fully funded through Parks Canada and will take place in the off season.

HR Workplace and Wellness

- No official committee meetings were called; I am updated of all HR concerns within the administration as I am the chair of the committee. These updates come directly from the Executive Director and are kept confidential. Next meeting October 29th2024.

Other duties I attended to:

- Iskum Investment - The Consortium welcomed a new nation to the group and that is Nuchatlaht First Nations. This brings the number of nations to 20 plus. The group would like to be at 25 nations and is still seeking enrollment.
- Framework plan with Forum and USI in Parksville.
- Attended Truth and Reconciliation day in Anacla. Here we lowered the 3 flags to half-mast in front of AGO and unveiled a bench that was made to honor residential school survivors.
- CMTI round table meetings.
- Executive council meetings
- Committee of the whole meeting with Council.
- Anacla community planning.
- Monthly Maa-Nulth fisheries Committee.
- Maa-Nulth Legislative Engagements.
- WCVI Chinook rebuilding plan.
- Project Green meeting.

Overall, I was productive with all my tasks I took on this month. I am honored to represent our nation as a member of Executive Council.

Councillor Evan Cook Report – September 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Finance
Economic Development

Finance

Finance Committee Meeting

- The finance committee met on September 24, 2024.
- The committee met with three accounting firms with auditor RFP presentations. The firms interviewed were BDO, Deloitte, and Chan Nowosad Boates (CNB). The first two firms, BDO and Deloitte, are large international accounting firms with large overheads and double the cost of the last presentation from Chan Nowosad Boates Inc (CNB), a much smaller, local firm serving Vancouver Island. After wonderful presentations by the firms, by a majority vote CNB was chosen and recommended to Executive Council to be the next Auditors. The reason this decision was made is that the smaller local firm offered equal level of accounting service at a much lower cost.

Island Coastal Economic Trust

- Meetings were held with “Sanala Planning”, the facilitators for the Trust, to provide strategic input and direction on transforming the Trust as a model of shared decision making. This includes economic development funding decisions and co-governance of the Trust by First Nations and local governments across Vancouver Island and surrounding coast. The second phase included the nation’s priority economic development projects and leveraging the Trust to create new opportunities.

CRA Audit

- The CRA auditor confirmed that the Bamfield Road Project was handled correctly by the Nation, and accurately claimed the self-government rebate. The auditor is closing the audit without any assessment.

Economic Development

HGB

- We received nine applicants for the open position of Board of Directors for the HFN Group of Business. After lengthy interviews with very qualified candidates, Larry Johnson was chosen as he has a strong knowledge of HFN and its government and corporate environments.
- HFNDC received HGB second quarter financial report. The group of Businesses continues its pursuit of a diversification strategy. They are also expecting strong free cash flow in the coming year.
- The Economic Development Team met with Rynic, an organization that provides strategic planning, communication, and marketing breakthroughs. Round table discussion included

what our vision for the Nation and the outcome of the plans, the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and Barriers.

BC Collective

- Chris Hall introduced a proposal for prefabricated panels for prefab homes. The proposal was for production partners and investors to create sustainable, affordable housing solutions that meet the needs of Indigenous Communities.

Councillor Stephen Rayner – September 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Law and Policy
Green Energy and Climate Sustainability

Law and Policy

- The Law and Policy Committee continues to review and provide recommendations for all legislative changes and newly developed legislation. At September's Law and Policy meeting, we received an update on the Governance Project and provided direction for a next steps. We also reviewed and provided recommendations for the Public Complaints Policy, which is a critical step in enhancing community safety. The childcare handbook for the Oomiiqsu Center was reviewed and recommendations for alterations were provided - overall, the administration did a great job on developing the legislation.
- Last fall the People's Assembly approved an in-depth review of our laws and policies to evaluate our progress since the signing of our Treaty and to ensure our legal framework upholds and reflects our traditional values and practices. This comprehensive review has already highlighted key areas for enhancement, with a structured plan to actively engage the community for their insights and feedback throughout the process.
- The first phase of this review will focus on the Community Safety Act and related legislation, followed by an evaluation of our financial and economic development laws. Our overarching goal is to systematically strengthen our legal framework, making it more responsive to the needs of the community and better aligned with our cultural principles and long-term vision.

Emerging Issues:

- Advancing work in a way that meets our proposed deadlines.

Green Energy and Climate Sustainability

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 innovative technology. It also includes training and maintenance of the system. This will significantly reduce our dependency on the grid and diesel generator. This work is aiming to be completed later this year.

Community Energy Plan:

- While I was not directly involved in the initial stages of the Community Energy Plan, the project was overseen by the infrastructure department. The first phase, led by Barkley Project Group, has been completed and has successfully identified all feasible options for green energy power generation within HFN territory. This final report provides critical guidance for developing future green power initiatives and securing funding to support these projects.

- HFN has already secured funding from the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund (LGCAP), with a portion of these funds earmarked for advancing the Community Energy Plan's second phase, which focuses on clean power generation. Additional funding opportunities will be explored as new intake windows open. The goal of this next phase is to establish a sustainable, long-term power source that meets both current and future energy needs through clean energy development. The feasibility study in this phase will offer a deeper analysis of potential large-scale green energy projects, specifically evaluating wind and solar energy opportunities. A combination of these renewable sources may be key to fulfilling the nation's growing power demands.
- Additionally, I have also met with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation to discuss support for the planning of clean energy initiatives as well as exploring the Sarita Micro Hydro project, in the next call for power.

Carbon Footprint and Green House Gas Emissions:

- Although we were not selected in the previous round of funding applications, we are actively preparing for the next intake period. Securing this funding is essential for conducting a comprehensive feasibility study that will pinpoint areas where we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and identify actionable steps for planning and implementing emission reduction strategies. In parallel, Huu-ay-aht First Nation has already initiated exploration into a carbon offset project, aligning with our commitment to sustainability. This project has the potential to create measurable environmental benefits while opening up new pathways for green funding and partnerships to support our climate initiatives.

Multi Nation Energy Development:

- With the advancements we are making in clean energy and the increasing interest among multiple Nations across Vancouver Island in green energy projects, establishing a First Nations Power Authority (FNPA) emerges as the next strategic step. Such an authority would strengthen our Nation and others, positioning us advantageously within BC's clean energy future. In our inter-Nation meetings, we discuss ways to support one another's energy initiatives, sharing resources and insights to advance our collective goals. The formation of an FNPA would enable multiple Nations to jointly own, manage, and distribute power across Vancouver Island, establishing a sustainable model for energy sovereignty. This collaboration promises both financial rewards and long-term success, fostering greater control and benefit-sharing in the clean energy sector.

Clean Energy BC Board of Directors:

- I sit on the Clean Energy BC board of directors, (CEBC) this organization promotes the growth of BC's clean energy industry by advocating for environmentally responsible and cost-effective power generation, transmission, and management. CEBC supports industries involved in clean energy production and maintains strong relationships with governments, BC Hydro, First Nations, environmental groups, and the public. I also sit on the government relations committee, which focuses on the existing state of the provincial and federal government and work to help first nations communities better navigate the development of green energy. The other committee I am sitting on is the permitting and regulatory committee which helps provide information on the regulatory process for clean energy development and operation as well as helps guide the regulatory agencies on how to best alter the existing regulatory framework. The next board meeting occurs in

September, and we will be discussing the rollout of the 2024 call for power and the proposed 2026 call for power.

- My work with the Clean Energy BC (CEBC) is instrumental in advancing HUU-AY-AHT First Nation's goals in power development and aligns with the broader interests of First Nations in building sustainable power infrastructure and enhancing interconnectivity across our communities. Having First Nations representation on the board is vital to ensuring equitable support for our clean energy initiatives and ensuring Indigenous perspectives shape the direction of power development in the province.
- Recently, we have focused on navigating regulatory requirements essential for the development of clean energy projects in response to BC Hydro's call for power. In addition, we are collaborating with political parties to foster policies that better facilitate and incentivize clean energy expansion throughout BC. I continue to lobby for provincial government backing to strengthen First Nations' energy infrastructure development, pushing for policies that reflect the needs and ambitions of Indigenous communities in BC's clean energy transition.
- I continue to lobby to push the provincial government to support the advancement of First Nations energy infrastructure development.

Climate Resiliency:

- Although our recent application to the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding did not qualify, we are actively pursuing alternative funding sources to advance HUU-AY-AHT First Nation's (HFN) climate resiliency efforts. Part of this work may be funded by the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund (LGCAP), from which we received support in 2024. To initiate this, we are collaborating with the administration to define the scope, priorities, and organizational placement of the climate resiliency project.
- I have engaged with funding representatives to gain a deeper understanding of the application requirements and the full extent of potential funding support. Our planning will focus on a territory-wide climate resiliency strategy, addressing critical areas including wildfire prevention, hydrology and flood resilience, extreme heat adaptation, shoreline erosion, and seismic mitigation. This plan will also integrate HFN's existing climate change impact data, ensuring we build on our foundational knowledge to develop targeted and effective responses to climate risks across our lands.

Emerging Issues:

- With climate change having such an extreme effect on our territory it is important to complete this work to mitigate future climate related disasters.

HFN Planning/Capital Raise:

- The planning project continues to move forward steadily, with notable progress this month. Our planning team has been diligently working through each stage, ensuring that every aspect is carefully considered and aligns with our community's values and goals. This project is not only on track but is now entering some critical stages where our options for community benefits are becoming clearer. The team's work remains thorough and highly informed, laying a solid foundation for the opportunities this project will bring to HUU-AY-AHT. We are excited to see how these developments will contribute to our community's growth and resilience.
- We are actively pursuing capital-raising opportunities, including the development of industrial-scale wind projects, which are set to be a core focus in the upcoming second

phase of our clean power feasibility studies within Huu-ay-aht First Nation (HFN) territory. These large-scale wind initiatives, along with complementary green energy projects, have the potential to secure a sustainable power supply to support HFN's needs for generations to come.

- Additionally, we are exploring multi-nation investment opportunities to strengthen electrical infrastructure, enabling each Nation to generate and power. This collaborative approach would not only provide reliable, renewable energy for each community but also create substantial financial benefits for all participating Nations. By combining resources and expertise, we can position ourselves at the forefront of clean energy development, fostering energy sovereignty and economic resilience for our Nations.

Meetings/Events: (a few of the notable events and meetings I attended this month)

Week one:

- Labor Day
- Executive council meeting
- Meeting with Boralex for wind development
- Oomiiqsu opening celebration.
- Permitting and referrals committee Clean Energy BC
- Bi-weekly meeting with Edward
- Government relations Bi-weekly meeting Clean Energy BC
- HFN and Tsawwassen first nation, nation to nation meeting

Week two:

- Ports Canada National conference pre-event meeting
- Clean Energy BC admin meeting
- Meeting with New Relationship Trust for funding
- Bi-weekly meeting with Thressa
- Executive council meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Stella
- Meeting with Earnsccliffe regarding the upcoming UBCM

Week three:

- Attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) from Monday to Wednesday
- UBCM-FNLC Province-wide Community to Community Forum
- Meeting with the Ministry of Energy Mines and Low carbon Innovation Minister Josie Ausborne
- Committee of the whole
- Meeting with municipalities and first nations from around the province at the UBCM
- Meeting With John Rustad Leader of the conservative party
- Meeting with the Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation Minister Brenda Bailey
- Meeting with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Minister Mike Farnworth
- Attended the Ports Canada conference and sat on a panel for to discuss indigenous involvement in development.

Week Four:

- HFN Framework Plan Design Workshop
- Meeting for Transforming Governance: A Path to Partnership
- Clean Energy BC Bi-Monthly Board Meeting
- Sanala Planning - ICET Governance engagement meeting
- Law and Policy Development Committee meeting
- UBCM Ministry of Energy Mines and Low carbon Innovation meeting
- Executive Council meeting
- Nation to nation meeting with Metlakatla First nation

Councillor Stella Peters – September 2024

Areas of Responsibility:

Citizen Development
Public Safety
Climate Change and Climate Resilience

Citizen Development

Mental Health and Wellness

- Our staff in this department are busy and doing very well. Nurses and counsellors come consistently from NTC, VIHA, FNHA and the Quu'asa Wellness Team. We also have Helicopters Without Borders who bring in Doctors and Dentists.
- Coral and I attended the VI Regional Health and Wellness Summit - we will always bring our concerns around overdose drug crisis and addictions and homelessness, especially as we get into the colder weather. We have our committee meetings to see what our community needs are for our youth, elders, citizens and our most vulnerable trying to break barriers. We don't just look at people here in Anacra as we do have citizens with mental health concerns living away from home, but we do what we can and also try to utilize the existing resources around them.

Education and Training

- Our educational staff are being kept busy with K-12 and our Post Secondary and Trades. It's nice to see we have more students graduating and citizens accessing funding to enhance their education for employment. I did go to BMSC to welcome 24 Fall Program students from all over who reside in Huuayaht lands for 4 months while taking University programs here in Bamfield. Our BCSA are the only active education committee at this time having monthly meetings and it seems the meetings happen when I have other commitments. Other committees will be starting up soon - Pacific Rim School District 70 and EETC (Education Employment Training Committee)

Culture

- Our Cultural Wellness team is utilizing our traditional resources and showing our citizens how to harvest cedar bark, devil's club, making drums and regalia, having dance practices and drumming circles and learning about traditional medicines. Culture is healing and having a cultural identity and knowing where your roots are is very important to the well-being of our people.

Events

- It was nice to be there for the Oomiiqsu Celebration – a safe haven. It was well attended and I look forward to the grand opening.
- I attended the Dark Skies Event and welcomed our guests. This was an HGB initiative in hopes of having this event available here in Bamfield. This was just the first gathering and the 10 days they were here it was cloudy, overcast and raining so unfortunately didn't really get to experience a starry night - maybe the weather will be better next time because

the stars over Pachena Bay are something to see. Huuayaht was also gifted a big telescope which is in our Anacla Government Office.

- We had our Truth and Reconciliation gathering event. There was a good turnout from the Bamfield community who came to show their support. We lowered the flags, unveiled a bench to honor our IRS Survivors and those who didn't make it, followed by a luncheon and speeches. I tell people Truth and Reconciliation is not only about the loss of our Language and Culture (Songs/Dances), it's about the right to harvest and have access to Traditional Foods and Traditional Medicines.

Public Safety

Community Safety

- The safety and well-being of our community and citizens is a priority. Following the 30 Recommendations Report, we will continue to do what we feel is necessary to address the needs of our community related to community safety and working with the resources we have or have access to, bringing the community together, creating wholesome activities, having a safe place for all and doing activities to bridge the gap.

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

- With the change in the weather during the Fall/Winter season we need to plan and be prepared for any type of circumstances we have to face, we are still working on updating the Emergency Plans and with the hiring of Sean Flickinger as our Emergency Coordinator he will be taking this on.

Climate Change and Climate Resilience

- This is very much related to emergency planning. We need to be diligent in preparing our community for the effects of climate change.

Other Committees/Meetings I attend or attended to this month

- EC Meetings
- CoW Meetings
- Meeting with Tsawassen First Nation
- Special Ha'wiih Meeting
- Meeting with Metlakatla First Nation
- Co-Operative Management Board with Brad Johnson and Parks anada
- Citizen Development Committee meetings (CDC)
- Community Consultative Group (CCG)
- Anacla Planning Committee
- Human Resources and Wellness Committee

Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Chief-Councillor Report
John Alan Jack
September 2024

General Duties – Chief Councillor – Progress Report

First Week

The first week of September began with Labour Day on the 2nd, which is a statutory holiday. The 3rd had an Executive Council meeting that I attended online because I had an emergency dental appointment that day, the crown I had broke in half while I was flossing. Wednesday the 4th started with a check-in with our government-relations consultants (Earnscliffe) regarding the upcoming BC Election and then I worked on some emails and reading until the late afternoon regarding preparation for my participation on a panel for the Indigenous Forestry Conference in Port Alberni in the next week. Thursday was the day of the celebration for the near-completion of the Oomiiqsu Mother's Centre, which was well-attended by everyone involved within the Huu-ay-aht circle, but also honoured guests from the host nations in the Valley and representatives of the BC government who were vital in the funding of the project. Friday ended up being a meeting with Tsawassen First Nations representatives in Anacla and then online attendance to an emergency meeting of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council.

Second Week

The second week started with a light day for office catch-up, reading and various connections on the 9th. Tuesday was the first day of the inaugural Indigenous Forestry Conference in Port Alberni, where I was on a panel with other Nations' representatives speaking about the nature of good business partnerships and the reason why economic development is so important for Huu-ay-aht and other indigenous communities. I ended up leaving soon afterwards to attend to a few items related to the Regional District. On Wednesday the 11th, I attended to a full day of ACRD-related meetings regarding the rail corridor, the committee of the whole, and the general board meeting. Usually, and has been since I began as Chairperson, the time I devote to ACRD matters is really only about six days a week at most, usually four or five, but it's spread throughout the month. Thursday the 12th was our regular Executive Council meeting, and Friday was a catch-up day with updates from Earnscliffe and a touchbase with a governance organization asking me a few questions.

Third Week

With that being said, the third week began on Sunday the 15th where I traveled to Vancouver for the week to attend the Union of BC Municipalities Conference. While there, we attended plenary sessions to debate and vote on resolutions, attend information sessions, and meet with senior administrators and political leaders in the BC government. The week started strong with a Province-wide Community-to-Community Session run by the First Nations Leadership Council and the BC Government, then we went into the conference-proper. Some highlights follow. On Tuesday, I connected with President Dallas Smith for his indigenous resource podcast called "Rez Dog Walkers" and recorded their second season opener. This was after having meetings with MIRR Minister Murray Rankin and a senior advisor and ADM to Minister Sheila Malcolmson (who could not attend due to being sick) – this was incidentally also my wife's birthday, and I missed it and her greatly. We met with Minister Brenda Bailey, Minister Sharma, BC

Conservative leader John Rustad, Minister Jennifer Whiteside, Minister Bowinn Ma, and Minister Anne Kang. Before I went home, I had a good check-in meeting with Western Forest Products CEO Steven Hofer who lives and works in the Lower Mainland.

Fourth Week

During the fourth week, Monday began with a board meeting of the First Nations LNG Alliance, and then into the HFN Framework Plan session where we were discussing and contributing to the work on another draft and planning our future engagement. On Tuesday, I took part in a virtual roundtable about inclusive governance at a grant-giving organization where I am Vice Chair called the Island Coastal Economic Trust, from which our Nation has received substantive grants. I later attended to preparation for and participation in a roundtable with federal indigenous minister Gary Anandsangaree regarding the work we're doing federally on a parliamentary Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation, something we have been working on since I started working with the Land Claims Agreement Coalition several years before the Pandemic. Wednesday the 25th was an ACRD day, which was an Alberni Valley + Bamfield Committee and a regular Board meeting, which I chaired. Thursday the 26th was a regular Council meeting that Deputy Chief-Councillor Edward Johnson chaired because I took my father to a hospital appointment. Friday the 27th had me meeting with leaders and administrators from the Metlakatla First Nation, which are close their treaty effective date as far as I know, and then I attended a vitally important HIRMP-related meeting with administrators from the BC Ministry of Forests.

Fifth Week

I was in Anacla for the National Day of Reconciliation. It was great to see so many Bamfield residents turn up and many thanks to everyone who was involved in the work of that day.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report (and No Emerging Issues)

The referendum questions were set at the ACRD for the prospective East and West Bamfield Liquid Waste project and service. Communication appears to be straightforward, though it does seem like Bamfield residents are quite wary of accepting the project since it will impact their wallets – what strikes me is that we've already taken care of the cost of building the thing, so the costs are already quite reduced. In this political environment, though, BC and Canadian citizens are quite cautious with spending that they have a direct say in, even if it's vital future infrastructure that will only get more expensive as time goes by. Meetings with BC Ministers has gone well, and networking during the UBCM Conference is often a highlight of my regional district work. We make a good impression, and BC Ministers remember who we are and are quite happy to work with us.

Major Projects – Progress Report

[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.]

Major Projects – Emerging Issues

[The initiatives covered by this file will likely take up a significant portion of my 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.]

External Relations – Progress Report (No emerging issues)

We scheduled a meeting with Council and some staff with Earnscliffe regarding the next steps in planning the time before the next Provincial and Federal Elections. There should be ample time to set up a good schedule for advocacy and engagement with the governments and opposition parties before the federal election for certain, though time is running short for the provincial election.