



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report  
December 2024**

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

### **Areas of Responsibility:**

Chief Councillor  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
Major Projects  
External Relations

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

#### **First Week:**

The first week of December began with a trip to Ottawa to attend the Special Chief's Assembly (SCA) held by the Assembly of First Nations where the primary topic was police reform, but there were a few resolutions that I was able to help amend to address treaty-based concerns as well. Arriving on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>, the next day began with a meeting with Indigenous Services Canada, then a Maa-nulth Leaders Caucus to discuss the amendments on resolutions. I stayed up a bit late because I had previously agreed to speak to citizens and leaders from the Kitselas First Nation about treaty ratification and implementation that was originally scheduled for 7pm PST but was now 10pm EST. Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> was a day devoted to attending the SCA and participating in plenary discussions. Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> was a different meeting, I attended the Indigenous Trade Symposium held by Global Affairs Canada for a lot of the day, but after it was complete, I attended meetings regarding the HFN Framework Plan online and then attended an event with the Prime Minister and both Ministers of indigenous files at my hotel, which was a private function that the Nation did not pay for but that I feel I should report. Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> was both attendance to the SCA as well as online meetings with the Huumis and Forestry Consulting Services Boards and then a meeting with Finance Canada for a general update. Friday was a travel day back to Vancouver and then on home eventually.

#### **Second Week:**

The second week began with a light day of home office catch-up, which usually means digging out of my email inbox and doing the readings required for the ACRD and other meetings this week. In the afternoon, the Executive Director and I had our weekly bilateral. Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> had a meeting with the Vice-Chair and CAO of the ACRD online to prep for the following day, then further time for home-office related work. Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> was a full slate of ACRD meetings: a Committee of the Whole in the AM, and the Board Meeting in the PM though I did duck out to do an online meeting with the federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister in the middle of the board meeting. Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> had a forestry-related Chiefs' Meeting online, then an online-only Executive Council meeting afterwards. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> had another meeting of Chiefs regarding forestry, but a separate issue, and that was conducted in-person in Port Alberni.

#### **Third Week:**

Instead of attending the Ha'wiih Holiday Dinner on Sunday, I was invited to attend the Memorial for the late John Horgan near Victoria, BC. I was able to connect with many MLAs, Ministers and prominent BC government folks while there. Perhaps most touching was that I was able to connect with former Children and Families Minister Grace Lore, who was recently diagnosed with Cancer herself and had to take a step back from her duties. I was able to inform her that with her help on the project, we were about to open the Ooomiqsu Mothers' Centre in Port Alberni on

January 1<sup>st</sup>. That news certainly helped, and we were able to extend our thanks for everything she was able to do in one of the most difficult files in the Provincial Government.

On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>, I had prepared for attending the Maa-nulth Board Meeting, but didn't end up having to attend. Instead, I attended the Monthly Update of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition online, then attended meetings regarding Legislative Reform for Local Government, and then an update on the progress on the remaining Specific Claims work we're doing. The Tuesday was for the HFN Committee of the Whole meeting, and then the next day was an online meeting between our partners at Forum Asset Management with our governance initiative team to help inform the work being done on updating the Economic Development Act and other pieces of HFN legislation. Later that day, we hosted the newly-appointed BC Forestry Minister, Ravi Parmar, and his staff as well as political staff. By all accounts, the meeting went very well, and it is a very good sign that a Minister of Forests had visited the Alberni Valley and visited our Nation directly. I suspect we will have a very productive relationship with this new Minister, at least as good as the one we enjoyed with the celebrated Bruce Ralston who has since retired. Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> began with a press conference from the BC government, specifically the Minister of Health (our own Josie Osborne) as well as Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health, Deb Toporowski of the Cowichan Tribes. The expansion of the Travel Assistance Program to include services such as the ones offered by Lady Rose Marine Services is great news for Huu-ay-aht, and all folks in Barkley Sound. We then had another Executive Council Meeting online afterwards. Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> was a lighter day, I had a meeting with the Executive Director and then the office closed at Noon.

#### **Fourth Week:**

Happy Holidays!

#### **Fifth Week:**

Happy Holidays!

#### **Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Progress Report (and Emerging Issues)**

The ACRD will be going into budgeting in the new year. There will be opportunities for Huu-ay-aht to review the Grants-in-Aid as well as various programs and services that we may want to consider joining. Joining services not only grants us access to that program, but also gives us a vote in how that service is delivered.

#### **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)**

Attending the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs' Assembly in Ottawa in the first week was a good experience as I was able to connect with federal focused experts at Earncliffe, our government relations firm. We discussed strategies for connecting to a future conservative government, and finding pathways to both understanding and introducing ourselves as HUU-AY-AHT to circles that we don't normally connect with naturally. Understanding the language used and the ways of thinking that conservative circles use will go a long way in allowing us to connect and communicate meaningfully with a segment of the country that we don't normally have direct lines into. It was suggested by one of the senior managers at Earncliffe that I consider attending the Canada Strong and Free Conference in Ottawa and after some discussion and consideration, I agreed to do so. It is apparently one of the largest and most well-attended conservative conferences, and I expect to be able to attend sessions that will better explain and present the conservative mindset in ways that I will be able to better understand. The aim will be to better interface with these approaches and fit our objectives in the framework possessed by conservative leaders in politics, the economy and wider society.

## **Councillor Aicitah Edward R. Johnson – December 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 Framework Plan bi-weekly meeting
- Biweekly meeting on Infrastructure matters with CID
- Meeting with the HOH floor guy. We should be getting a quote in the new year. It was good to see him travel over from the mainland to do measurements at the HOH.
- Participated in Project Manager position interviews.

#### Emerging Issues

- No emerging issues this month.

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

#### Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Spent two's day with the Oomiiqsu team at the Barclay where it all started and at Italian Hall.
- Meeting with Earnscliffe to talk about Child and Family negotiations and Oomiiqsu discussion.
- Attended CFS Work Working Group on the MCFD Jurisdiction Funding Model (parking lot issues) with the provincial jurisdiction funding model for Child and Family Services.
- Meeting with warriors' coordinator and director of CFW where we talked about funding opportunities knowing that funding is running out at the end of fiscal year 2025.
- Co-Development meeting with MCFD and other MTFN – link attached - <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/new-funding-model-for-first-nations-jurisdiction-over-child-and-family-services/>. The co- development started after the Interim What We Heard Report after engagement with FN's and MTFN's - link here - [https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2024/07/MCFD\\_INTERIM\\_WWH\\_Report.pdf](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2024/07/MCFD_INTERIM_WWH_Report.pdf)

#### Emerging Issues

- Warrior funding is running out at the end of March 2025.

### **Deputy-Chief Councillor**

#### Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Was invited to attend the Annual General Meeting Alberni Restorative Justice at Echo Fieldhouse
- Salvation Army Kettle Volunteer for 2 shifts. We were stationed outside Canadian Tire this year.
- Attended Committee of the Whole meeting.

## **Councillor Brad Johnson Report – December 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:**

- The nation met with MOTI and stakeholders on December 12th to discuss the Bamfield road. What was shared was the data from the black cat boxes that were placed on several spots throughout the road to record speed and classification of vehicles. From December 2023- February 2024 the average speed was 67km/h and in July 2024 the average speed was 70km/h. It was great to hear that the average speed has drastically decreased from years ago when the average was 100km/h. It was stated that 85% of the traffic was 7ft or less in car length, 10% of the traffic was 7-15ft and the last remaining traffic was commercial vehicles at 5%. Short term fixes in the upcoming year will be that Cawak ?qin will be installing concrete barriers around Sarita where the flood and tragic accident occurred. More signage will be going up such as gateway signs (road subject to flooding, winter conditions driving, etc.) as well as “Check before you go” – linking people to check provincial websites for flood information/weather information
- Other items:
  - Bamfield main cannot be closed for weather; it can only be closed for construction.
  - Forestry only closes their operations and staff are not permitted to work in the environment if the rain levels are at 100mm, so they cannot patrol when the weather is at this level.
  - It is becoming more and more challenging for the forestry companies to manage this road due to the amount of public traffic.
  - MOTI does have some funding to support safety measures.
- Future meetings will be held in the new year with all stakeholders regarding the Bamfield road.

### **Fisheries and Wildlife**

- The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society organized a meeting on Dec 11th 2024 with the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Honorable Diane LeBoutillier. This meeting was with leadership from all 5 nations to discuss Me Too negotiations. We expressed our disappointment with the department in the past years and that we would like to see an agreement in place so our citizens could seek the economic benefit of fishing our waters and being able to legally sell the catch. The minister committed to working with our government, but she does not have the mandate from her cabinet, so she will seek that mandate and make it a priority to move it through the process. It was stated that if we have specific interests that we explore and identify them with the deputy minister to fast track the process. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs of Canada Gary Anandasangaree will be also helping with this file. The meeting went smoothly, and the minister invited leaders to reconnect in late February/ March in Ottawa to discuss further matters. I would just like to add this was the first official meeting we have had with this Minister as she was new to the position so relationship building will take some time but

I felt we got off on the right foot following our guiding principles. We discussed after the meeting that monthly MeToo meetings will start up again in the new year.

- **Wildlife update:** Both of our HFN citizen Elk draw tags were successfully filled.
- **Treaty Implementation**
- The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society (MTS) held a special Board of Directors(BOD) meeting on December 16th 2024. This meeting was to approve the 2024 audit financials. The audit was a clean audit and approved by the 5 directors of the MTS.
- On December 16th we held a regular BOD meeting here are some of the main takeaways:
  - KCFN will have a new representative at the Maa-Nulth Wildlife committee and that is Legislative Chief Ben Gillette.
  - There will be a Land and Resource summit in 2025. This is where technical staff and directors get together and share and help each other as nations are doing separate things but work collaboratively together.
  - Ground water negotiations will start again in the new year as the provincial election is now over.
  - MeToo negotiations will start again in the new year now that we have met with the Minister of DFO.
  - The Duke point expansion triggered a Treaty dispute resolution with Canada. Maa-nulth would like to see an impact assessment be done on marine shipping through our Maa-Nulth domestic fishing area. Moving forward we would like to be consulted in a timelier manner so we can contribute our input and thoughts to Transport Canada.

### **Parks Canada**

- On December 13th 2024 we held a Parks Canada / Huu-ay-aht Cooperative Management Board (CMB) meeting virtually. Here are the high-level takeaways from this meeting:
  - Alyssa Sollway will be the new Co-chair for Parks Canada replacing the current Superintendent of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Dave Tovell.
  - Invasive species and the Knotweed treatment were done on the West Coast Trail (WCT) at Pachena point lighthouse and Michigan creek. Our Guardians will receive training on invasive species so we can deal with these plants when we need to.
  - The Guardian crew will be attending an Indigenous stewardship workshop with our neighboring nations from the West coast trail.
  - HFN has secured funding from Parks Canada to do an audio box for the trail head in Pachena Bay. This audio box will have a voice recording and welcome visitors to our territory and talk about the sacred principles.
  - The new WCT km markers have been delivered to nations and HFN has installed the majority of ours. These km markers will identify whose territory you are walking through as you head down the WCT.
  - HFN would like to replace signage at the trail head. Parks Canada has approved \$10k in funding for this to happen.
  - The NMCAR is almost ready for nation to review and sign. This should take place in January 2025.
- Overall, it was a very informative meeting with good discussions. I would just like to thank Dave Tovell for all the great work we did together as Co-chairs at the CMB as he moves on, I look forward to building a relationship with the new Co-chair.

### **HR Workplace and Wellness**

- No official committee meetings were called; I am updated on 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.
- On December 18th, 2024, the Ombudsman program was launched for the organization.
- Next meeting will be in the new year - date TBD.

I would like to acknowledge this was a short month for me as I took a week off on annual leave and that the office shut down for the Christmas break from December 20th 2024 to January 6th 2025. I am honored to represent our nation as a member of Executive Council. Overall, I was productive with all the tasks I took on this month. I felt this was a very busy year for our nation and I look forward to the tasks and challenges that will occur in the new year.

## **Areas of Responsibility:**

Finance  
Economic Development

### **Finance**

#### **Finance Committee Meeting**

- The finance committee met on December 17, 2024.
- The current year has shown an operating surplus for the Nation.
- As of this report, a CFO has been selected and hired for HFN.
- Finally, citizens living in U.S. would like to thank the nation for receiving their Dividend checks in December due to the Canadian postal strike.

### **Economic Development**

#### **HGB**

- The Land purchase for the Micro Hotel in front of Wal Mart to be completed by end of January.
- I will be attending P.A. city council meeting next month for a letter of support from city council for additional Grant funding.

#### **Island Coastal Economic Trust**

- I had a meeting with the CEO Brodie Guy and presented my Bio-Economy project plans for HFN.
- The local forest need for reinvigoration by unlocking the full potential of the local forest resource, such as bioenergy, biomaterials and biofuels. We are exploring various avenues of funding for a framework plan to identify business opportunities, marketing strategies, exploration, review, promote and create the HFN Bioeconomy.

#### **B.C. Links to Learning Symposium**

- Attended a 2-day workshop. The agenda included Driving Economic through First Nation Development Corporation and How to conduct Due Diligence on New Ventures. There was a lot of positives for various Nations from where they come from, where they are today and where they want to be (future).

#### **Bioeconomy**

- First Nations are faced with significant economic challenges due to the reduction in Annual allowable cut (AAC). Poor forestry management over the last 20 years has threatened the industry with collapse turning the forestry into a small cottage industry - collectively, the softwood tariffs which may increase to 25% (Trump), old growth management, increased cost of operations and the departure of many mega forest companies and international markets decreasing, with countries like China building more Pulp Mills with less reliance on importing forest products. All of this has created the need to reinvigorate the industry. HFN, through the design of a local forest bioeconomy, can explore opportunities for developing new value chains of forest products like cedar modification, Dicifoam, etc.

According to a report by the Forest Products Association, the “bioeconomy” is worth trillions of dollars.

<https://huuayaht.org/councillor-stephen-rayner/>

**Areas of Responsibility:**

**Law and Policy:** The Law and Policy Committee continues to actively review and provide recommendations for legislative updates and the development of new legislation. In December, the committee focused on reviewing proposals for the next phase of the governance project. This initiative is progressing exceptionally well, with valuable feedback gathered during recent community engagement sessions. The team has carefully analyzed and integrated this input into their ongoing work on the Community Safety Act. Clear next steps have been identified, and the team remains committed to maintaining momentum. The project remains on schedule and is on track for presentation at the next People's Assembly, demonstrating the team's unwavering dedication to achieving meaningful outcomes for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

**About the Governance project:** In the fall of 2023, the People's Assembly approved an in-depth review of our laws and policies to assess our progress since the signing of our Treaty and ensure our legal framework reflects and upholds our traditional values and practices. This comprehensive review has already identified key areas for enhancement, with a clear plan to actively involve the community in sharing their insights and feedback throughout the process. The first phase of this review focuses 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 to make it more responsive to the needs of our community while staying aligned with our cultural principles and long-term vision.

**Emerging Issues:** As we continue to advance the Governance Project and the comprehensive review of our laws and policies, a key focus moving forward is maintaining the momentum of these initiatives. Ensuring timely progress while preserving the integrity of the process. We are also mindful of emerging challenges as we transition into the next phases, particularly in aligning legal frameworks with evolving community needs.

**HFN Framework Plan:** As the lead for the Framework Planning Project, I am pleased to report on the steady progress we have achieved this month. Our planning team has continued its diligent work to ensure the project reflects Huu-ay-aht's values, goals, and long-term vision. The project has reached an important milestone, with the final report nearing completion and on track for submission of the draft by the end of the year. This report will mark the culmination of our current efforts and set the stage for the next critical phase: feasibility planning.

During December, the team has focused on finalizing key elements of the plan, integrating the valuable feedback received, and ensuring the framework is solid for the transition into the feasibility phase. This next phase will provide a detailed analysis of the resources, partnerships, and investments required to bring the developments envisioned to fruition.

We remain enthusiastic about the transformative potential of this initiative. It represents a significant opportunity to foster growth, strengthen resilience, and contribute meaningfully to the prosperity of the Huu-ay-aht community for generations to come.

**About the Framework Plan project:** The Huu-ay-aht Framework Plan is currently focusing on visioning, incorporating community feedback, and completing the report. The goal is to create a long-term vision that shapes land uses, mobility, and open spaces over 20-30 years. Recent engagement rounds have highlighted priorities such as diverse housing options, eco-tourism, and cultural preservation. The framework is designed to ensure sustainable growth, supporting diverse

businesses and fostering a thriving community. The project will continue into the next phase with detailed feasibility of the initial ideas into 2025. For detailed updates, visit the Huu-ay-aht Framework Plan here: <https://huuayaht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan/>

**Emerging issues:** Keeping the work on track and initiating the second phase so there are no delays.

### **Green Energy:**

**Solar upgrades for Anacla Government Office:** We continue to make progress with an innovative clean energy pilot project, which I had the privilege of developing. This initiative project includes the installation of state-of-the-art solar panels, battery storage systems, and an electric vehicle charging station, along with significant upgrades to AGO's electrical infrastructure to support these advanced technologies.

A vital component of the project is its focus capacity building. Through comprehensive training programs and ongoing maintenance support, we are equipping staff with the skills and knowledge to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of this initiative. Once operational, this project will substantially decrease our reliance on the electrical grid and diesel generators, paving the way for greater energy independence while aligning with our Nation's values of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Though the project was delayed in 2024, those challenges have been successfully overcome. I am extremely happy to confirm that the installation is now scheduled to begin in February 2025, with the project remaining on track to deliver impactful results for our community. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to innovation and environmental leadership, creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for generations to come.

This initiative is a significant step forward in advancing Huu-ay-aht First Nations' clean energy goals, demonstrating leadership in sustainable development and paving the way for future energy projects. It reflects our broader vision of fostering innovation, resilience, and self-sufficiency for our Nation and future generations.

**Community Energy Planning:** While I was not directly involved in the first stage of the Community Energy Plan, the project remains a priority initiative under the infrastructure department's oversight. The first phase, led by the Barkley Project Group, was successfully completed, identifying all feasible options for green energy power generation within Huu-ay-aht territory. The final report continues to serve as a critical roadmap for advancing green energy initiatives and securing the necessary funding to implement these projects.

HFN previously secured funding from the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund (LGCAP), with a portion allocated to the second phase of the Community Energy Plan, which focuses on clean power generation. In February 2025, we will be preparing applications to the New Relationship Trust, the Clean Energy Business Fund (CEBF), and the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative (BCICEI), whose intake periods open in February.

The second phase will thoroughly evaluate the potential of various power generation sources, analyzing the quantity, location, and costs of energy production. This data will guide decisions on how much power can support community needs and how surplus energy can be leveraged to

drive economic development, furthering Huu-ay-aht's commitment to sustainability and energy independence.

The progress of this plan reflects our Nation's commitment to sustainable energy and economic development, laying the groundwork for a greener, more self-reliant future.

Additionally, I have continued active engagement with the Ministry of Energy, and climate solutions to develop clean energy initiatives locally and regionally. These discussions have included positioning the Sarita Micro Hydro project for consideration in the next call for power and further aligning HFN with future clean energy opportunities. I am also working on the regulatory challenges nations are facing in the development of clean energy.

### **Climate Sustainability:**

**Climate resiliency:** This month, we have identified and will begin pursuing alternative funding opportunities to support this critical work. We are actively exploring funding through the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding program, administered by Emergency Management BC. This program accepts expressions of interest (EOIs) on an ongoing basis, with annual selection cycles. For 2024, the cutoff date was September 15; however, intake periods for future funding opportunities are expected to open again in January.

Progress has been made in collaboration with the administration to refine the scope, priorities, and organizational structure for a comprehensive regional climate resiliency strategy. This strategy will address critical areas, including wildfire prevention, hydrology and flood resilience, extreme heat adaptation, shoreline erosion, and seismic mitigation.

Key next steps include finalizing detailed planning, securing additional funding, and integrating HFN's climate change impact data to ensure targeted and effective responses to identified risks. These efforts are positioning HFN to move forward with an actionable and forward-thinking climate resiliency strategy. By staying proactive and strategic, we aim to successfully leverage funding opportunities and enhance the safety and sustainability of our community for future generations.

We have applied for funding to disaster resiliency planning within Anacla. This will identify and plan to mitigate and alleviate potential natural disasters within and surrounding Anacla.

**Carbon Footprint and Green House Gas Emissions:** Although we were not selected in the previous round of funding applications, we will prepare for the next intake period. Securing this funding remains a top priority, as it will enable us to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to identify areas where we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and outline actionable steps for implementing emission reduction strategies.

In parallel, Huu-ay-aht First Nation has moved forward with exploring a carbon offset project, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability. This initiative has the potential to generate measurable environmental benefits while creating new opportunities for green funding and partnerships to support our climate goals. Next steps include finalizing the project scope, pursuing additional funding sources, and advancing the planning phases of both the feasibility study and carbon offset project.

**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.

**Marine Shipping Subcommittee (MSSC) (C Span) (Committee Member):** The TMX Marine Shipping Subcommittee focuses on addressing the marine transportation impacts associated with the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) project. It works to ensure that shipping activities related to TMX comply with environmental standards, prioritize safety, and respect the rights and concerns of Indigenous and coastal communities. The subcommittee engages with stakeholders, advocates for sustainable practices, and seeks to mitigate environmental risks, such as impacts on marine ecosystems, while promoting responsible marine operations in alignment with Clean Energy BC's sustainability values. The Committee is continuing to work on feasibility studies to determine location of marine safety Vessels.

**Multi Nation Energy Development:** Momentum continues to build around the establishment of a First Nations Power Authority (FNPA), driven by ongoing advancements in clean energy and increasing interest from Nations across Vancouver Island in collaborative green energy projects. Recent discussions with other First Nations have further solidified strong support for this initiative, with a shared understanding of the strategic value in uniting to achieve our clean energy goals.

The upcoming call for power presents a critical opportunity for First Nations to leverage these efforts, positioning us to access funding and resources for meaningful clean energy developments. This month, inter-Nation meetings have progressed, focusing on practical ways to support each other's energy initiatives, pool resources, and create a unified approach to advancing energy sovereignty.

The vision for the FNPA includes jointly owning, managing, and distributing power across Vancouver Island, ensuring long-term sustainability while empowering Nations to take charge of their energy futures. Beyond financial benefits, this collaboration offers increased control, equitable benefit-sharing, and a stronger collective voice in BC's clean energy transition.

By coming together, we are not only positioning ourselves as leaders in the clean energy sector but also laying the groundwork for a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future for all participating Nations. The FNPA initiative reflects our shared commitment to advancing Indigenous leadership in the clean energy space and ensuring the benefits of this transition reach our communities directly.

### **Clean Energy BC (CEBC):**

**Board of Directors (BOD):** The Board of Directors for Clean Energy BC continues to provide strategic leadership and governance to advance British Columbia's clean energy sector. This month, the board has focused on key initiatives to support renewable energy project development, promote sustainable energy policies, and advocate for responsible and inclusive energy practices.

A significant part of the board's work has involved fostering collaboration with government, industry stakeholders, and Indigenous partners. These efforts aim to align clean energy initiatives with provincial and national goals for transitioning to a low-carbon economy. As a member of the board, I have been actively engaged in discussions to ensure the perspectives and interests of Indigenous communities, including Huu-ay-aht, are represented and integrated into policy and project development.

Through oversight and advocacy, the board is driving innovation, sustainability, and economic opportunities within the clean energy sector. Current priorities include exploring funding mechanisms for renewable projects, supporting First Nations-led energy initiatives, and identifying pathways to increase clean energy contributions to BC's energy grid.

The board remains committed to ensuring that the clean energy transition delivers meaningful benefits to all communities, strengthens partnerships, and positions BC as a leader in sustainability and economic growth in the clean energy landscape.

**CEBC BOD Vice Chair position:** I sit as the vice chair for the Board of Directors for clean energy BC, in this role I support the organization's strategic leadership and governance, working closely with the Chair and other board members to advance the clean energy sector in British Columbia. I assist in shaping policies, fostering partnerships, and representing the organization in advocacy and industry events. I function as a key advisor and stepping in for the Chair, when necessary, the Vice Chair helps ensure effective decision-making, collaboration, and alignment with Clean Energy BC's mission to promote first nations rights as well as sustainable and innovative energy solutions.

**Government Relations Committee (Committee Member):** The Government Relations Committee for Clean Energy BC continues its vital work of fostering strong relationships with government officials and agencies at all levels. This month, the committee has prioritized advocating for policies and regulations that support the clean energy sector's growth while ensuring alignment with BC's climate goals and sustainability objectives.

As a committee member, I have been actively involved in discussions to strengthen collaboration between Indigenous communities, government agencies, and industry leaders. This collaborative approach ensures that the perspectives of First Nations are integral to policy development and implementation, promoting inclusivity in BC's clean energy transition.

The committee is currently engaging with multiple political parties to shape policies that better facilitate and incentivize clean energy expansion throughout the province. Key discussions have centered on removing regulatory barriers, streamlining permitting processes, and creating funding opportunities to drive renewable energy projects forward.

By participating in policy discussions and providing industry insights, the committee continues to play a pivotal role in influencing decisions that advance renewable energy development, foster economic growth, and support BC's transition to a low-carbon economy.

**Permitting and Regulatory Committee (Committee Member):** The Permitting and Regulatory Committee for Clean Energy BC remains focused on improving and streamlining the permitting processes for clean energy projects across British Columbia. This month, the committee has continued its efforts to identify and address regulatory challenges, provide industry input on permitting policies, and advocate for efficient, transparent approval frameworks that support the timely development of renewable energy projects.

As a committee member, I have been engaged in discussions aimed at fostering collaboration between government agencies, Indigenous communities, and industry stakeholders to ensure that permitting processes are both effective and responsive to the evolving needs of clean energy initiatives. Our work emphasizes balancing regulatory compliance with the need for timely approvals to drive forward renewable energy projects.

Recently, the committee has been focusing on navigating the regulatory requirements essential for clean energy projects in response to BC Hydro's upcoming call for power. This has involved working closely with industry partners to ensure that the necessary regulatory steps are well understood and that we are well-positioned to meet the challenges of new clean energy opportunities.

By continuing to advocate for streamlined permitting processes, the committee is playing a key role in advancing renewable energy projects that align with BC's sustainability goals while ensuring environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

**Meetings/Events: (a few of the events and meetings this month)**

**Week one:**

- First nations energy summit
- HFN framework planning meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Ha'wiih Theresa Nookemus
- CEBC Board meeting
- CEBC permitting committee meeting
- HFN framework team meeting

**Week two:**

- Technical committee meeting
- CEBC admin meeting
- Executive Council Meeting
- Government relations meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Councilor Edward Johnson
- Meeting with Funding program director CEBF

**Week three:**

- CEBC planning session
- Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Governance project meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Ha'wiih Theresa Nookemus
- Ministry of Forests meeting Ravi Parmar
- Executive Council Meeting

**Week Four:**

- Christmas break

## **Areas of Responsibility:**

Citizen Development  
Public Safety  
Climate Change and Climate Resilience

## **Citizen Development**

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

- Our Mental Health and Wellness team are busy. The things going on in our Health Department keep our staff on the go. The needs of our community and citizens is a priority for both in Anacra and away from home. They also try to help people away from home and direct them to the resources they are needing or wanting to access.
- They are also bringing in different doctors, dentists and nurses either through different organizations or making the necessary arrangements with Helicopters Without Borders.

### **Education and Training**

- Our education department is doing the best they can for our citizens in high school and post secondary. We do our best to support them and to help them reach their goals. I'm sure they all had a good Christmas break, are well rested and ready for January.

### **Culture**

- Dance practice and drumming are an ongoing activity with our cultural department, as well as some cultural craft nights like with the Men's group learning to work with cedar and drum making.
- The Nananiqsu have been fundraising for their trip to Hoobiyee – a great way to witness First Nations' culture.

### **Events**

- For community events, our Health and Wellness did a craft night and a family bingo which had a good turnout.
- The only big event for December was the Ha'wiih Christmas dinner which had a very good turnout as well.

## **Public Safety**

### **Community Safety**

- We have our Wiq Waq doing nightly patrols around lower and upper Anacra as part of our community safety.

### **Emergency Planning and Preparedness**

- I continue to work with Sean Flickinger, our Emergency Coordinator, on Emergency Planning and Preparedness. We are looking at impacts due to climate change and what we can do and what needs to be done to keep our community safe.

## **Climate Change and Climate Resilience**

- This is ongoing as it relates to Emergency Planning and Preparedness, as well as Community Safety.

## **Meetings attended to this month**

- Bi-weekly Framework Plan Meeting
- Executive Council Meetings x 2
- HFN Staff Dinner planning
- Committee of the Whole
- Meeting with EC and Jim Proteau, Sharon Hadway, Minister Parmar and his Senior Advisor
- CMB Meeting with Parks Canada

December was a short month with the Christmas holidays.

## **Committees/Boards I am a member of**

- Co-Operative Management Board with Brad Johnson and Parks Canada
- Citizen Development Committee (Chair)
  - Next meeting scheduled in January 2025
- Community Consultative Group with RCMP (Chair)
  - Next meeting scheduled in January 2025
- Anacla Planning Committee - Member
- Human Resource and Workplace Wellness Committee - Member