



Chief Councillor John Jack

January was a busy month of external relationship building and addressing plans for HFN's major initiatives/projects. With both potential tariff increases coming and Government changes Huu-ay-aht Government is focusing time and effort on strengthening relations, increasing in ensuring the protection of Huu-ay-aht funding for our citizen service programs and general operations, as well as looking at building stronger economic development opportunities in other industries outside Forestry.

HFN will always have a hold in Forestry, but right now, our focus needs to be broadening our economy and fixing our Forestry economy. Meetings have occurred with many arms of the BC Government through the week in Vancouver at the First Nations Leadership Gathering, with a focus on the Minister of Forests, Minister of Indigenous Relations, Minister of Infrastructure, and Minister of Child and Family Protection to name a few. The goal of these meetings is to ensure Huu-ay-aht's needs and priorities or at the forefront of every Minister's action plan and budget.

Continued relationship approaches with the Federal Government, local Municipalities and Regional Districts, and other First Nations will be a focus in the coming months.

Ḥawiiḥ Councillor Theresa Nookemus

Language - Ḥawiiḥ met with hinatinyis to hear about the Language Program that will begin soon. The program is based on the Four Pillars Grant application received. Hinatinyis has hit the ground running and will begin work on planning engagement sessions in all major cities (five locations), a new phrase "blue book", look at utilizing Youtube and TikTok for sharing language, work with elders on language phrases, visit Huu-ay-aht daycares and the Bamfield Community School to teach language, and explore and implement ways to have public and private teachings.

Nananiiqsu Society - This Society has reviewed its budget. It will continue to fundraiser to support Nananiiqsu to attend events such as Hoobiyee, and elders gatherings. They are coordinating fundraising events such as bake sales, and they did have a Loonie/Toonie draw in December. They held a bake sale is scheduled for Friday, February 7. With winter colds appearing again, it has been slightly challenging. If you or a family member or a friend could do any baking, it would be appreciated.



Edward R. Johnson

Oomiiqsu Center opened on January 1, 2025 as part of Recommendation 26 from the Huu-ay-aht Social Services Project (SSP). The center supports Indigenous mothers and families, with a positive impact seen in reducing child removals and providing wraparound care. For more information, please visit: <https://huuayaht.org/oomiiqsucentre/>

The **Social Services Project** has generated approximately \$30 million with ongoing positive outcomes from its implementation, including prevention efforts and better care services.

First Nations Leaders Gathering (FNLG) 2025: **Huu-ay-aht met with several ministers** to discuss key issues:

- MCFD: Urged action on Huu-ay-aht's Child and Family Law.
- Emergency Management: Addressed flood and erosion challenges.
- Finance: Discussed tax initiatives and equity financing.
- Transportation: Requested re-designation of the Bamfield road.
- Public Safety: Advocated for improved community policing.
- On day two, more meetings occurred that covered topics like health, housing, economic development, forestry (stumpage relief), energy and climate solutions, and social services. Huu-ay-aht stressed their right to self-governance and care for children, families, and resources. Follow-ups are planned for the Maa-nulth and Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) to have a Government to Government (G2G) meeting in May.

Stephen Rayner

The Huu-ay-aht Nation is advancing a **clean energy pilot project** aimed at achieving energy independence and sustainability. The project includes installing solar panels, battery storage systems, and upgrading electrical infrastructure to reduce reliance on diesel generators and the grid, while promoting environmental stewardship. It also focuses on building local capacity through staff training for maintenance and expansion of the energy solutions.

After setbacks in 2024, the project is now set for installation in February 2025. With this milestone in sight, we remain on track to deliver lasting benefits to our community, strengthening our resilience while embracing innovative, sustainable development.

The Framework Plan is under review, and the next phase will involve a feasibility analysis of resources, partnerships, and investments. The first phase of the Governance Project is complete, with the Law and Policy Committee reviewing legislative updates. Feedback on community safety, economic development, and financial administration will guide the second phase. The governance work will be presented at the next People's Assembly. To advance the project, we met with several ministries and ministers throughout the month. We have been advancing partnerships and supporting the following feasibility and planning phases.



Brad Johnson

This year, the Nation will be working with **DFO** to **negotiate a Chum fishery at Sugsaw Creek**. Over the years, the Nation has had a hatchery on Sugsaw Creek, and this enhancement work has made a difference with a large return of Chum in the Grappler inlet. This fishery would be identical to the Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirement (ESSR) fishery on the Sarita River for Chinook, but would be for Chum. Essentially, this would give our citizens another economic opportunity to benefit.

Evan Cook

The Economic Team continues to work on **diversifying the nation's economy**, especially in the forest sector, with uncertainty in the marketplace.

This includes creating an **Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy**, which will create more jobs and revenue. It will also combat climate change, reduce wildfires, improve the housing crisis, and boost economic growth.

This month, Evan will meet with a group from China who have a new business proposal they would like to introduce: a new innovative way to build prefab homes. As we all know, China is extremely good at putting out new ideas at a much lower cost than, say, North America. A great recent example is the AI model Deepseek, which really shocked the world.

Stella Peters

In our Mental Health & Wellness Department, some of the **services and support** we have accessed or will be accessed through our Staff, NTC Health Dept, Island Health, and Helicopters Without Borders are:

- Clinical Nurses
- Nutritional Dietician & Dietician Food Box Program
- Footcare
- General Practitioner
- Dentist
- Optometrist
- Audiologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Quu'asa Clinical Counsellor
- Cultural Support Worker
- Nurse Navigator
- Homecare
- Child & Youth Mental Health
- Early Years Outreach Worker
- Harm Reduction
- Local Pharmacy (Men's & Women's Health Clinic, Plan "W" info Sharing, Referrals, prescription Awareness)
- Jordan's Principle Rep to Community