



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report
September 2025**

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Ha'wiih Representative Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup) – September 2025

Theresa.n@Huu-ay-aht.org

The ɥawiih Council is integrated by the Hereditary Chiefs who represent seven houses. They provide the Huu-ay-aht Government with advice and take care of protocol during cultural events.

Its current members are:

- Jane Peters – ʔApwinisathʔ house
- Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup) – ɥaw'ehtak'amlatʔ house
- Phyllis Williams sitting in for daughter Victoria Williams (ʔuutstuʔaksa)- ʔamahuus house
- Andy Clappis (Ciicaacistuʔ) – Kuukw'iis house
- Sherri Cook (Yaalthuuuaa-uks) – Yaaluuwaštakamatʔ house
- Tommy Happynook (hapinyuuk) – Čačaaḥsiʔas house
- Alec Frank (ʔaacmiik) – Maatsaas house

According to the Constitution Act:

2.13 There shall be constituted an advisory body to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council composed of the Huu-ay-aht ɥawiih, to be known as the ɥawiih Council.

2.14 Representation on the ɥawiih Council shall be determined in accordance with customary practices.

2.15 Prior to passing any laws, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council must seek and consider any advice from the ɥawiih Council.

2.16 In addition to the role contemplated in 2.15, the ɥawiih Council shall assume those additional roles and responsibilities contemplated in this Constitution.

Constitution act

Huu-ay-aht First Nations

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2011

<https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/constitution-act.pdf>

Ha'wiih Representative for Executive Council:

The Ha'wiih Representative attends meetings on behalf of th Ha'wiih Council, and in turn, then reports back to the Ha'wiih Council. A monthly report is sent out for review. This gives time for any questions or concerns the Ha'wiih may want to relay to Executive Council and visa versa.

Areas of Responsibility include: *(reports are done by the chairs of Committees)

- Ha'wiih Council
- Citizenship Committee
- Nanaaniqsu Society
- Alliance of BCModern Treaty Nations
- Nuu Cha Nulth Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries

Ha'wiih Council:

This council now meets twice a month. The first meeting is set for business and regular business practices. The second meeting is dedicated to helping our new Ha'wiih learn their Hereditary roles, practices and protocols.

Ha'wiih last met August 25, 2025. There were a few things on the business end that are still confidential at this time.

Ha'wiih confirms that the Executive Council of HUU-ay-aht First Nations and the ḥawiiḥ Council, which is constituted by the ḥawiiḥ who represent the seven houses of huuḥiiḥath has agreed to continue its research partnership with you, Dr Heather Castleden and Dr Onyx Sloan Morgan, through a new application to SSHRC for an Insight Grant for another five-year study focusing on our Modern Treaty Implementation. The working title for this project will be "*tašiiḥakqin ḥuyaqḥmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): HUU-ay-aht Perspectives on Implementing the Maanulth Treaty*".

This modern treaty research began 20 years ago, under Dr Castleden's leadership, and later with Dr Sloan Morgan, joining the research team. Through a series of committed HUU-ay-aht Research Advisory Committees who hold our knowledge, values, and principles, the most recent of which you have been an active member, they have been guided by our values and sacred principles. We are pleased that they are now stepping back to create space for your leadership in conducting participatory research with our citizens, through this SSHRC research grant.

The research goal of this continuing and evolving project is central to our Nation's vision "to establish a strong, self-governing, and sovereign nation – a healthy, prosperous, and self-sustaining community free from colonialism where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy prosper for the benefit of all HUU-ay-aht."

In recognition of this important and timely study, our respective Councils will assist with sharing what you learn with many audiences, including First Nations in BC who are using the BCTC process, the national Land Claims Agreement Coalition, scholarly and policy audiences, as well as the wider Canadian public.

We are pleased that you will continue to contribute to our Nation by including HUU-ay-aht university students in the budget to work alongside you in undertaking the research to enhance our Nation's own research capacity.

HUU-ay-aht First Nations supports this proposed research, and our commitment to working with you and your team. HUU-ay-aht First Nations is looking forward to continuing to work with you on research that engages HUU-ay-aht citizens in respectful, relevant, and meaningful ways.

Citizenship Committee:

This committee had 1 transfer-in this month that was accepted by consensus.

Nanaaniqsu Society:

Is currently looking for a new date to reconvene.

Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations:

The Alliance governs by consensus—to work on an initiative collectively, all member Nations

must be in support. Collective projects are tackled by working groups (WGs) comprised of technical representatives from Modern Treaty Nations (MTNs), working with reps from the lead BC ministry. Alliance staff provide centralized support to each WG by providing strategic advice and project management services; chairing, coordinating and documenting meetings; managing records and tracking actions; and by preparing reports, briefings, presentation materials, and other documents as needed. The ED and/or Policy Analyst also participate in working groups to provide additional capacity in support of achieving Alliance priorities. External expertise is contracted to advance priority projects as needed (and where budget permits).

This monthly report on activities supports updating MTN Leadership and the Alliance Management Committee (AMC). Meetings can thus be dedicated to decision making and to having important strategic discussions.

Alliance Administration Summary:

- There is a funding opportunity through CIRNAC that aims to improve public education and awareness of modern treaties in Canada. The Alliance will be submitting a proposal to redevelop our website to be more engaging and to include information and resources about modern treaties in BC. We have been working with 50th Parallel Public Relations to develop a project plan and to complete the CIRNAC application documents. Some resources to make changes to our website were allocated in this year's budget. Funding would allow us to expand the scope of this project and may free up resources for other communications work. The proposal deadline is October 1st.
- 50th Parallel has also been working with the Alliance team to design and develop a communications plan to help clarify our short and medium term priorities, and identify effective strategies for increasing external awareness of modern treaties and fostering meaningful engagement. The resulting high-level strategy will support the development of content for our website and other communication materials to improve public awareness of modern treaties in BC. This work also includes a brand guide to ensure all Alliance materials have the same look and feel, using the SPF Progress Report developed for the Premier's Forum as inspiration.
- The ED and bookkeeper are working with BDO on the audit of fiscal year 24-25 to be presented to the Board of Directors on October 24th, the already scheduled quarterly meeting. In accordance with Society Articles, the audit will also be presented to the MTN Members during the next AGM which will be scheduled for early 2026.

Leadership Meetings:

- BC has sent out invitations for the next BC Cabinet and First Nations Leader's Gathering (FNLG), which will occur November 4-5 in Vancouver. The Alliance Management Committee will discuss which collective meetings will be requested at this event, to be confirmed with leadership in October. At this time, we anticipate requesting meetings with the Premier, the new Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Attorney General, and possibly the Minister of Children and Family Development.
- To support preparing for the FNLG, MTN leadership will be meeting on October 6th and October 30th. We will schedule a MNT caucus on November 4th, the day prior to the FNLG.
- A meeting of MTN Leadership has also been scheduled for November 13th to review the work plan with BC to implement commitments made at the Premier's Forum, approve the

Draft Strategic Plan and discuss the 2025-26 Draft Budget.

Alliance Management Committee:

- The AMC meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The AMC meeting in August occurred on August 20.
- Topics included an analysis and prioritization of BC commitments resulting from the Premier's Forum and agenda items for the Premier's Forum technical debrief with BC Senior Officials scheduled for October 3, an update on the draft Alliance Strategic Plan, and potential timing for the next leadership meeting.

CAO Community of Practice:

- The community of practice for MTN administrative leads (referred to by some Nations as CAO) met virtually on August 6th. This group meets quarterly to build relationships, share best practices, strategize, and identify areas of shared interest that could benefit from collective action.
- The primary topic discussed in the most recent meeting was the creation of a BC-MTN senior technical table to monitor commitments and actions stemming from the annual Premier's Forum.

Fiscal:

- The BC-MTN fiscal working group meetings occur bi-weekly and include a MTN caucus. The current focus of the WG is on enabling grant funding for transfers made to MTNs through their respective FFAs and fine tuning the draft collaborative fiscal policy.
- BC is working on new draft FFA language that would allow funding to be expended on any treaty implementation related activity, which would essentially allow MTNs to allocate funding as they see fit. Draft language has not yet been shared as BC continues to work internally to address policy questions. We anticipate reviewing the draft language at the September 26 meeting
- The WG is also working on the grant funding section in the draft collaborative fiscal policy which is near completion. In the coming months, we will be codeveloping a presentation on the policy so that MIRR can introduce it to other Ministries with the intention of obtaining input and buy-in prior to going to Cabinet.
- The lands & resources funding model working group meets in Victoria approximately every 6 weeks (with a virtual option) to develop a framework for assessing the incremental FTEs available to MTNs under the L&R funding model. The WG is exploring the drivers that will determine the incremental FTEs and the data needed to show volume, complexity, and role (i.e. how does number of referrals, for example, affects the work of a lands department). Thus far, the technical work has focused on referrals and land pressures (i.e. tourism, logging, and other pressures that affect L&R management and stewardship). The key will be to create a model that is simple and easy to explain to BC Officials, meets the data driven requirements set by the Treasury Board, and that can be applied across MTNs.
- The lands & resources WG held caucus meetings on August 21 and August 28 to review

draft models before sharing with BC at the September 4th meeting. At that meeting, BC committed to drafting a concept paper to outline what we've achieved/agreed to thus far. Meanwhile, MTNs will be collecting data needed to support this work. The next meeting with BC is scheduled for October 16th.

- The ED connected with BC to obtain an update on the Forestry Resource Revenue Sharing work that was paused last summer before the election. BC advised they have yet to receive a confirmation of mandate for this work. They hope to receive direction from Cabinet this fall.

- Lastly, Ben Bisset, the Executive Director who has been leading the fiscal work with MTNs, has left MIRR to take a position within the Premier's Office. Angela met with ADM Julia Iwama who confirmed she is awaiting authorization to fill the position, which she is confident will get approved. Meanwhile, other MIRR fiscal branch staff have been assigned to lead the work under the oversight of Chief Negotiator Ricardo Taledo (to whom Ben reported to). We have been assured the work remains a priority for MIRR.

Shared Priorities Framework Working Group:

- The Shared Priorities Framework WG meets bi-weekly with MIRR, with a focus on projects related to the implementation of the SPF.

Premier's Forum Follow-up:

- o A follow-up meeting for BC and MTN senior technical officials is scheduled for October 3. A definitive list of BC commitments raised during the Forum was confirmed and is informing the agenda development. MIRR staff have informed our ED they are seeking participation from ADMs across government from Ministries related to commitments made. The meeting will be co-chaired by Angela and ADM Julia Iwama.

Modern Treaty Implementation Policy:

- o The MIRR policy team informed the WG that they would be leading the development of the new MT implementation policy framework under the direction of ADM Julia Iwama, and that they have begun early stages of work planning for this project. We expect to receive a proposal/draft workplan in October-November to kick-off the policy co-development process. AMC Members have been asked to confirm who from their Nation will be participating in this work so that a working group may be established.

Engagement Review Working Group:

- The ERWG meets on a bi-weekly basis to assess the interest in engaging collectively, including attending information sessions on a specific topic. The WG also debriefs on engagement meetings held and makes recommendations to the AMC for collective action.
- The August actions and engagements reviewed by the working group were:

- o ***Role of Boards of Education in School Age Child Care*** – MTN representatives discussed the outcomes of an info session with the Ministry of Education on phase 2 of their project exploring potential roles for boards of education within the school age care

system. ERWG members did not identify any further collective action on this initiative at this time. The Ministry is expected to share drafts of proposed legislative amendments with MTNs before submitting them to Cabinet for approval.

o **Boundary Restoration Post-Earthquake** – MTNs continue to receive updates on the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship project seeking to create legislation to address property boundary changes following a large-scale earthquake. WLRS provided a document to the Alliance from the Surveyor General responding to MTN questions regarding potential implications on treaties with this legislation. Any legislation would not override or supersede the boundaries defined in Final Agreements. WLRS is seeking approval to provide legislative drafts with MTNs before submitting to Cabinet.

o **Action 3.15 - Indigenous language names** – ERWG members attended a collective info session with the Ministry of Citizens' Services. As the next phase of their implementation on Declaration Act Action Item 3.15, they are exploring how to include Indigenous language names on BC issued identification. MTN representatives gave feedback to the Ministry and will continue to engage on this project bilaterally.

o **Health Care Cost Recovery Legislation** – This is an engagement from the Ministry of Attorney General. The ERWG did not identify any collective action at this stage of the project, but have requested to receive future updates. This item is under Confidentiality Agreement and further details cannot be shared here.

o **Local Government Elections IDs** – This is an engagement from the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. The ERWG reviewed a confidential draft of proposed amendments and did not have any concerns. This item is under Confidentiality Agreement and further details cannot be shared here.

o **Prompt Payment Legislation** – The Ministry of Attorney General is proposing to develop new legislation to address the problem of delayed payments in the construction industry. MTN representatives requested more information and were provided with draft legislation to review. ERWG did not find any concerns and the Alliance will monitor the project for substantive updates as it progresses.

o **Tobacco Tax Act Review** – The Ministry of Finance has an ongoing project looking into ways to reduce illegal tobacco sales. Letters were sent to MTNs advising of website updates summarizing findings from engagement sessions held in past years. The ERWG did not identify any further collective action.

o **Invitation to engage with the Industrial Land Office** – The Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth has sent an invitation to MTNs to begin engagement on a new BC mandate that aims to expand the amount of industrial zoned land available in the province. The ERWG has requested a collective info session to hear more about this initiative from BC. The Alliance has been working with the Ministry to schedule a meeting, which is expected to occur in October.

o **Francophone school property expropriation** – The Ministry of Infrastructure is required to draft legislation addressing a recent BC Supreme Court decision which aims to expand access to French language education in BC public schools. MTNs have been asked how they would like to be engaged on this initiative. The ERWG requested a

better explanation of the scope of the legislation and any potential implications for treaty rights before determining any actions.

Amendments to the Recycling Regulation:

– The Ministry of Environment sent treaty notifications to MTNs on proposed amendments to regulations that impose fees on manufacturers of various household goods that are difficult to recycle. The ERWG did not identify any further collective action.

Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) Zoning Implementation:

– The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs requested feedback on letters sent to MTNs on a proposed initiative that would make SSMUH development easier for municipalities by expanding where this zoning type could apply. ERWG decided any further input would occur bilaterally.

Declaration Act Secretariat (DAS):

- The next bi-monthly meeting with the DAS will take place on September 25.
- In the most recent meeting, the DAS shared their positive experiences at the Premier's Forum, as well as the positive feedback they have received from across BC government following the event. They reported a renewed understanding across ministries of the importance of working with MTNs as partners and the unique

Distinctions-Based Approach Guidance:

- On July 25th, BC provided a confidential draft of the DBA Guidance document (formerly referred to as the DBA companion document) developed to support the implementation of the Province's Distinctions-Based Approach.
- MTNs provided feedback to BC on the latest draft in August. Overall, MTNs were not satisfied with the draft which does not include the MTN distinction. A meeting has been scheduled with BC to review feedback on September 11.

Ministry of Attorney General – Justice Services Branch:

- The MAG-MTN WG has been doing the work needed to implement having BC Courts prosecute offences to MTN laws, something that all modern treaties contemplate. The WG has outlined all the barriers within BC legislation and policy, prioritized the work needed to eliminate said barriers, and has co-developed a Cabinet submission for a Request for Decision (RFD), which will be followed by a Request for Legislation. The target is to bring this to Cabinet in the Spring of 2026.
- The BC-MTN WG met on August 13 to discuss the draft RFD. The WG meets again to engage with BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) on September 12 to obtain their feedback. Engagement sessions with the Judiciary are scheduled for October.
- This work is highly technical. MTNs have been supported by their respective legal counsels.

Child and Family Services Funding Model:

- This funding model will be for all FN in BC who want to assume/resume jurisdiction over children and families. The Alliance has not been coordinating these meetings and MTNs

have been engaging bilaterally. As requested by MTNs, the Alliance organizes caucuses at critical junctions so that participants can share information.

- MTNs attended a meeting with MCFD on August 27 to continue the dialogue on advancing a funding model for jurisdiction. MCFD expressed interest in better understanding treaty-specific considerations and exploring how they can move forward on the funding model with MTNs in a way that respects treaties and reflects shared priorities. MTNs remain unsatisfied with the draft model that BC has presented.
- This work is under confidentiality agreement.

Infrastructure Projects Act Regulations (Bill 15) WG:

- The Infrastructure Projects Act is a framework to allow the BC government to designate select projects for fast tracking of permitting processes and a shorter environmental assessment process. A working group has been established with the Ministry of Infrastructure to support the development of regulations. The WG has been meeting on a bi-weekly schedule, which includes a MTN caucus before meeting with BC. Regulations development is expected to continue to the end of 2025, but different key areas will have different BC imposed deadlines.
- The primary area of focus is on determining criteria that BC should use when evaluating if a proposed infrastructure project is “provincially significant” and therefore eligible for fast tracking. Meetings in August began discussions on the requirement for projects to obtain support from directly affected First Nations in the use of specific fast-tracking tools. An initial discussion was also had on one of those fast-tracking tools, the potential use of a qualified professional reliance model to replace some low-risk permits.

Renewable Energy Projects Act Regulations (Bill 14) WG:

- A working group has been established to support consultation and regulation development with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and the BC Energy Regulator regarding the recently enacted Renewable Energy Projects Act. The Act moves regulation for renewable energy projects to the BC Energy Regulator, who previously were limited to

overseeing the oil & gas sector, as well as exempts land-based wind projects from the environmental assessment process. The WG is a combined meeting with MTNs, BC, and BCER and occurs every 3 weeks.

- Meetings into August have been focusing on ensuring proper consultation for fast-tracked projects, analyzing the impact this Act will have on treaties, the scope of BCER’s new mandates, and outlining the various policies and regulations the BCER will need to develop.
- BC has a shorter deadline for regulation development with most of their new regulations intending to be submitted for Cabinet approval before the end of 2025. BCER has a longer timeline, with their goal of submitting regulations to their Board of Directors for approval in early to mid-2026.

Advisory Committee on Provincial Policing Standards (ACOPPS) WG:

- The purpose of ACOPPS is to provide a forum for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to consult with key stakeholders concerning the development or amendment of BC Provincial Policing Standards. The Alliance has a representative on the Committee, and the WG meets prior to BC’s meetings to provide our representative with input from all MTNs.
- The WG met on August 25 to discuss updates on the implementation of Crisis Intervention and De-escalation Training, BolaWrap and Taser 10 use in BC, a newly started BC project

looking at detention facilities and prisoner transportation, and discussed potential methods for improving police education on MTNs.

Repatriation Policy Framework WG:

- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport facilitates a Steering Committee (SC) tasked with supporting the development of a BC repatriation policy framework. The policy framework will aim to guide the repatriation of artifacts held in publicly funded BC repositories. The Alliance has a representative on the SC, and the WG meets prior to BC's meetings to provide our representative with input from all MTNs.
- MTNs have received invitations and a letter from the Ministry announcing the start of the engagement phase of the project. Engagement sessions are being led by a contractor (Mahihkan) and will begin with BC-wide regional sessions. A separate and distinct MTN engagement session is anticipated in early 2026.
- The WG is scheduled to meet next on September 9. The focus of that meeting will be to discuss the engagement phase of the project, as well as the recently released reports published by the First People's Cultural Council. These reports will inform aspects of BC's repatriation policy.

- o [From Stealing to Healing: Repatriation and B.C. First Nations](#)
- o [Repatriation Cost Analysis: A Framework and Model](#)

Anti-Racism Legislation Working Group:

- MTNs worked collectively with the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) to codevelop the Anti-Racism Act. A requirement of the Act is to develop an Action Plan. BC provided the Alliance with capacity funding to support co-development. Harmony Johnson has been engaged to support MTNs in this work.

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- The WG had a meeting with MAG on August 22 to resume work on the development of the Action Plan. BC shared some proposed actions for feedback. Monthly meetings have been scheduled leading to the publication of the Plan in June of 2026.
- This project is under confidentiality agreement.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES:

Fisheries

- Anita Blakely of LGL has been representing MTNs on the Salmon Allocation Policy Multiparty working group and First Nations-DFO Committee. She has also been participating in FNFC meetings as the Council has been active in this work. Anita provides updates and makes requests for MTN input through the Fisheries WG via emails sent by the ED.
- In late August, MTNs received a copy of the draft Policy developed by DFO and were asked to provide feedback. The Alliance will be obtaining a legal review of the draft policy in September to ensure the policy meets the needs of MTNs and that modern treaty rights are upheld. The DFO-FN WG will be meeting on September 25-26. DFO anticipates moving to the engagement phase in November-December.
- The ED was successful in obtaining capacity funding from DFO for 24k, the maximum available for 2025-26 which is anticipated to cover Anita's costs.

Renewal of the Federal Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines (CIRNAC):

- The ED is participating on the Indigenous-Crown Steering Committee (ICSC) established to support the renewal process of the Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines. She has been invited to participate on a panel to engage with civil servants across government on September 9th.
- CIRNAC is proposing to replace the principles included in the 2011 Guidelines with policy statements to be reviewed during Phase 2 engagements. The MTN in person session will be held on October 22nd in Vancouver. The event is being coordinated by Naut'sa mawt. The MTN working group received an email requesting they register. CIRNAC will cover expenses for 2 reps from each MTN, however, participation is not limited. The WG established The WG established to support this work will meet in advance of the session to prepare.

Nuu Cha Nulth Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries:

Waiting for our next date.

Councillor ̓icitath Edward R. Johnson Report – September 2025

Area of Responsibility:

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

Community Planning Committee and Infrastructure

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Cultural & Visitor Centre Interior Planning - The Cultural & Visitor Centre is under construction and the Infrastructure Department is working hard to complete the project on schedule, with their timeline for completion anticipated around the end of March. From my understanding, infrastructure's responsibility is to deliver the building itself. However, their scope does not extend to the interior fit-out - items such as furniture, layout, computers, equipment, and other elements that are needed to make the facility fully functional.
- Attended bi-weekly meetings with Director of Infrastructure and Capital Projects.
- Submitted the CHRT 41 application.
- Had a meeting with SMT Infrastructure team.
- Working on connecting with engineering company in Nanaimo call Herold engineering - Connection made through Councillor Rayner.
- Attended meeting with BC Hydro.
- Took a trip with our Capital Project Manager and Director, Infrastructure & Capital Projects to Toquaht FN to have a look at their Infrastructure. It was a great networking meeting <https://toquaht.ca/>.

Emerging Issues

- Cultural & Visitor Centre interior planning direction needed at this point. What remains unclear is who is responsible for directing and approving the interior work (furniture, signages, computers, design layout, etc.).

Children and Family Wellness Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Giving feedback to MCFD on CFCSA amendments.
- Attended Treaty amendment check-in meeting.
- CFCSA feedback - getting ready for the next round of amendments. We, as Huuayaht, have been a part of the amendments in 2018 and 2022. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_96046_01
- Main Table meeting with Canada and BC – These have been slow as there has been some absences over the summer and that made it challenging to have the documents reviewed - looking forward to getting back to the table.
- Working on Agreement name with BC/MCFD “yaaʔakapʷin – we are embracing”.
- Bi-weekly meeting with MNP, MGA and HFN SMT on the Wellness/Daycare for upper Anacla regarding our CHRT 41 submission keeping the feasibility study on track.
- Received an invitation to attend the AHSABC 2025 which is hosting its Annual General Meeting and 30-Year Celebration in Richmond, BC on November 14–15, 2025. Each

Urban AHS program in BC is asked to submit four members: a Program Coordinator, a Parent, an Elder, and a Host Agency Representative. Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC is going to be in Richmond in November.

- The Treaty amendment table is resuming - looking forward to these meetings which are key peace to the puzzle with our work with CFW.
- Attended Overdose Awareness Day

Emerging Issues

- Treaty amendment table resuming.

Deputy Chief Councillor

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended UBCM prep meetings.
- Attended a Community Safety Act Brainstorming as well as EDA brainstorming session.
- Worked out of our Anacla Government office a couple of times - made the long trip around – 4 hour trip one way and by boat down the Alberni Canal.
- Getting ready for NTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION.
- Attended Bamfield Road update report meetings.
- Working on a Specific claims research funding crisis and funding cuts to claims research units. We put together a letter for Urgent Call to Immediately Increase Specific Claims Research Funding to the Minister of Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- Attended Mount Underwood wildfire Coordinator meeting.
- Post China Economic Development Mission follow-up discussion with the Trade Commissioner for Global Affairs Canada. <https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/en.html>
- Fairy Creek ricochet link on Fairy Creek <https://ricochet.media/climate/environment/with-more-old-growth-logging-set-to-begin-near-fairy-creek-a-new-blockade-has-emerged-to-save-the-irreplaceable-forests/>
- Attended culture night on the homelands at the HOH hall in Anacla. It was a great turn out with quite a few singers and dancers - looking forward to preparing for Hoobiyee.
- Reviewing legal memos EDA, CSA.
- Working on Executive Director Evaluation.
- Attended the - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation walk in Port Alberni.
- Attended NEDC Board Meeting.
- Attended UBCM meeting in Victoria. We met with:
 - Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth – ED Kim Reid – Monday @ 9:50AM
 - Ministry of Forests – ADM Sanderson – Monday @ 11:50AM
 - Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth – Minister Kahlon – Tuesday @ 9:20AM
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development – DM Godin – Tuesday @ 11:10AM
 - Ministry of Transportation and Transit – Minister Farnworth – Tuesday @ 2:00PM
 - Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and BC Housing – ADM Thomson – Tuesday @ 3:20PM
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development – Minister Wickens – Thursday @ 8:40AM
 - Ministry of Health – Mental Health and Addictions, Parliamentary Secretary Shah – Thursday @ 10:00AM

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Minister Chandra-Herbert – Thursday @ 11:20AM
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – Minister Krieger – Thursday @1:40PM
- Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Minister Greene - Thursday @ 2:40PM
- Attended Seeds to Sovereignty: BC Indigenous Cannabis Conference Nanaimo hosted by NEDC.
- Chaired COW meeting.
- Attended Dinner with Council in Anacra at the HOH.
- Attended Community Safety Act meeting tabletop exercises.
- Attended Materials Review/Prep Meetings.
- Reviewing the 2024 HFN Community Energy Plan.
- Attended HFN, counsel, & HGB Meeting.
- Attended Mount Underwood Wildfire Coordination Call.
- Post China Economic Development Mission follow-up discussion meeting.
- Attended Community Safety Act Brainstorming.
- Reviewing document that our ED created in July that highlights a few key roles to support the committees and portfolios.
- Attended Governance Project - Law Amendments Meetings.
- Reviewing Framework plan/Forum working group.
- Bamfield Main Report Update Future Safety Considerations.

Councillor Brad Johnson Report – September 2025

Areas of Responsibility:

Fisheries and Wildlife
 Lands and Natural Resources
 Treaty Implementation
 Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board
 HR Workplace Wellness
 Special Project: The Bamfield Road

Fisheries: This month I attended weekly MeToo/Incremental Community Economic Fishing Plan (ICEFP) fisheries meetings with DFO and our fisheries managers to report the catch and wrap up this season's pilot fishery. The total amount of fish caught and sold by Maa Nulth Fishers was 481 chinook. We have identified a lot of things we would like to change for next year but overall, the pilot fishery was a success as we move forward to the bigger picture. Some of the identified changes we would like to see are an earlier start to the area G troll so our fishers can get out when the weather is calm, Dual fishing means fishers can keep other species for Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) use and the possibility of an inshore fishery. These are things we will need to negotiate for the future. Next month we will start working on a fishing plan for next year and hopefully add more species and licenses into this mosquito fleet MeToo fishery and grow it to what we want it to be.

The Sarita Economic Chinook fishery took place this month. With an average of 14 citizens participating in the fishery and mainly youth citizens. This fishery has become a great opportunity for our citizens to pass down teachings and gain knowledge. Receiving benefits of learning from our fisheries department on salmon, and earning a wage. I am very proud of our fisheries Managers and team members for making the opportunity a great success for our citizens. I am told this was the best year by far for Chinook quality and numbers on the Sarita. Well done team!

With the abundance of Chum salmon over the past few years in the Sugsaw Creek, we have started to work with DFO to try and negotiate an economic fishery in Grappler Inlet on Sugsaw Creek. With the hatchery that the nation owns and operates on Sugsaw, the enhancement work is really starting to show with the abundance of chum salmon being a surplus to this small river system. We have provisions in the treaty that allow for an economic opportunity for Surplus Salmon 10.3.0 and Stewardship and Enhancement 10.5.0 that justify an opportunity for fishery. We have said to DFO that we would like this opportunity to happen this year. A lot of work is going to take place between now and next month for this to happen but a small working group that I am a part of is dedicated to making this happen. This opportunity would be a pilot fishery and start off as precautionary so that the run is never at risk, and it will be decided with the best data that our nation and DFO holds to make the call if we have a surplus this year.

This season the Fraser River Sockeye had a surplus of salmon returning. Maa-Nulth nations have a Treaty right to fish these salmon for Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) purposes when they are in abundance. We have not caught the overage in years, so we decided to this year to catch up from previous years. We did not fish the underage of stock. Our nation came out with around 900 extra pieces of Sockeye salmon this year that was sent to St Jeans Cannery to be processed for more food fish for our citizens.

On September 9th I attended a Joint Fisheries Committee Technical meeting. Here we discussed with DFO the species at risk Abalone. It has been closed for harvest since 1990, and Maa-Nulth nations are wanting to harvest for Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) use. The Haida Nation have been doing research in their territory and have been working on a Harvest Authorization document and an independent management plan to try and successfully get rights on a FSC harvest for their nation. Maa-Nulth Treaty Society will be reaching out to the Haida Nation to see if they are willing to share info and documents that have been shared between DFO and them so we can mirror their approach to try to harvest abalone once again.

Wildlife: On September 17th, 2025, we held a Maa-Nulth Wildlife Committee meeting. The main topic of discussion was the Firearms Violence Prevention Act that the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks have proposed. The proposed change in the act will affect our Aboriginal and Treaty right to hunt. The main threat to us is hunting from a boat and transporting and the discharge of firearms from a boat. With the latest additions to our Maa-Nulth domestic harvest document, we were granted the right to hunt seals and sealions last year. These new amendments will be proposed to go to the legislation by the spring of 2026. This goes against our section 35 rights that were set out in the Treaty, so we have a meeting with BC to express our concerns next month and fight for an amendment or have flexibility for First Nations peoples to this piece of legislation.

One of our citizen Elk tags were filled so far this year, congratulations to Belinda Nookemus on your successful hunt this year.

Lands and Resources: On September 19th, 2025, I had my first official meeting with our new Lands Director along with the previous acting Director. Here we discussed everything that has worked, what didn't work and what I would like to see happen in the department moving forward under Stuart's leadership. I feel it was a very good meeting and have started biweekly meetings with the Director as we build our working relationship. I am very pleased so far in the short time that Stuart has been in the role. He is very direct and wants to build collaboration amongst the team. He has spent time meeting his team and building the team he needs to work with under his management. We hope to hold a very long overdue Lands Committee Meeting in November as we have not had a Director in a long time. I look forward to moving forward in a good way with the committee and Director.

On September 17th, 2025, the Huu-ay-aht First Nation enacted and implemented an on-leash dog area for upper and lower Anacla. This designation is in accordance with section 13 of the animal control and care regulation and is intended to support residents' safe and comfortable enjoyment of their properties free from roaming dogs. Owners who do not ensure their dogs are on leash within the designated areas that were identified may be subject to fines of up to \$200. We decided to implement this as we received several complaints that loose dogs were becoming a danger to our citizens.

Executive Council passed a motion regarding a camping policy. The Lands and Resources Department administers camping permits for all Huu-ay-aht lands and manages citizen access to the private sites in Pachena Bay campground for many years. There was no established written policy to guide these activities for staff and campers aside from some signage on the website and social media. While most camping occurs without issue there have been incidents where the lack of clear guidance for campers and staff has led to challenging situations. This is the reason why we have a new Huu-ay-aht camping policy with clear communications of expectations for citizens and visitors wishing to camp in the homelands.

The Nation lifted the campfire ban that was in effect for the majority of the summer to align with the province. As of September 25th, at noon 12 pm category 1 campfires are now allowed on Huu-ay-aht Treaty Settlement Lands(TSL)

Treaty Implementation: On September 29, 2025 I attended a Special Maa-Nulth Treaty Society Board of Directors meeting. This special meeting was to approve the draft audit financials for March 31, 2025. The financials were approved by consensus. I am very happy to see the board approving the financials in a timely manner as this has not been done in the past.

Nisga'a vs Malii court case: The Maa-Nulth nations along with Tsawwassen First Nation and Tla'amin Nation has formed a coalition of modern treaty nations to support the Nisga'a in their court case with the Supreme Court of Canada. Our application was successfully granted to be an intervener. The hearing will take place sometime in December. Maa-Nulth Treaty Society will move forward with our legal council and prepare all appropriate documents to support Nisga'a.

On September 25th Modern Treaty Nations welcomed the reintroduction of an act respecting the Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation (CMTI) bill C10 in the House of Commons. The Maa-Nulth Nations are urging all political parties to support this legislation to ensure it passes.

Parks Canada: We postponed a CMB meeting as no pressing issues were needing to be addressed, we just emailed the more technical questions that were on the agenda and that could be answered by technical staff. I would like to keep the CMB for high level communication and not to be bogged down with agenda items that technical staff can answer from both sides. Parks Senior management has agreed to this new approach as it better suits the TOR set out by both parties.

There was an abandoned sailboat that was washed up on Pachena Beach on the Parks Canada side of the beach. Parks and the Nation worked diligently to find the owner and remove the vessel as it was still seaworthy. The Canadian Coast Guard, Parks Canada, RCMP and the Huu-ay-aht First Nations worked as a team to remove the vessel from our territory. No environmental damage was done to the beach and no physical damage was done to the vessel when returning to the ocean. I would like to thank all parties that were involved for their services and quick response.

I had met with Parks Canada along with our Communications team to set out a plan for citizen engagement on the West Coast Trail Unit Management plan. The plan is for Parks and the Nations staff to have a pop-up table at the People's Assembly with information and a survey to fill out on what they would like to see added to this plan. The survey will also be made available on our Huu-ay-aht app if more engagement is needed.

HR Workplace and Wellness: This month the Chief Councillor had asked me to work on a project of an evaluation of the Executive Director from Executive Council. I had the opportunity to work with our HR team to compile a list of questions. This survey was completed and reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Further discussion took place at the meeting to have a 360 review of the Executive Director from senior management or acting Directors. This process will be concluded next month and presented at the next committee of the whole and then will be shared and reviewed with the Executive Director.

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.

Special Project the Bamfield Road: The road remains closed due to the damage done by the Mt Underwood fire. I attended weekly meetings and updates from all user groups and owners of the road. The Ministry of Transport is projecting the road to be open by the end of October 2025 if all goes well with danger tree removal. Like what we have seen on highway 4 after the fire their last summer, gates will be installed and a weather station will be put in place because when too much rain falls, the road will shut down due to risk of slides. The road being closed has affected our citizens in a major way because the detour through Youbou is very rough and takes approximately 4 hours each way to Port Alberni. I found this out when I took the detour to attend a Dinner with Council in Anacla.

Overall, I felt I was productive with all the tasks I took on this month. Due to the sensitivity and confidentiality, I found I was unable to report fully on everything I attend to as this report is a public document. The Executive Council is aware of the projects I'm referring to. I am honored to represent our Nation as a member of the Executive Council.

Councillor Evan Cook Report – September 2025

Areas of Responsibility:

Finance
Economic Development

Finance

The Finance Committee met September 24th. Agenda included the 2025 Annual Report, adjustments to the operating budget, and appointment of the auditor. Some of the highlights of the budget adjustments included:

- FFA 2025 not included in the original budget
- Interest payments
- salary expenses from LNR team.

Recommendations were made on the Annual Report to the Executive Council. The committee, on the advice and recommendation of the CFO, approved the appointment of the auditors Deloitte Accounting firm for the 2025-2026 year. This decision was made in light of the finance team now has new members on their team and our new CFO Jennifer has a better understanding of the workload and scheduled requirements and the extra responsibility of Forum and HGB issues. Some positives included third party accounting expenses being reduced despite CRA annual changes and Jennifer has handled all the extra work demands.

Investment Trust Wealth Fund

All is fine with our investments, but this may be a good time and opportunity to look at other opportunities like Equity Investment Companies, which are a little higher risk but usually have a 20% to 25 % return on investments.

Economic Development

HFN and UBC

Next month I plan to meet UBC Centre for advanced Wood Processing and Julie Cool, associate Professor of wood science. The main interest I'm looking at is determining whether Red Alder (Alnus Ruba) has marketable quality as lumber for furniture, plywood and other value, as I continue to look for new values in multi-purpose forests.

International Business

I continue to explore JV/opportunities with different countries and their business opportunities, as the forest industry continues to be hit with added tariffs. I will be meeting with a New Zealand company with a new business opportunity.

Prefab Modular Homes

HFN had an introductory meeting with Uchucklesaht Economic Development Manager to have discussions on collaboration to develop affordable community-built housing and commercial buildings and other projects.

A possible trip to China has been discussed and a new delegation from HFN could be in the works before the end of the year.

HGB

The Micro hotel new construction quote is almost completed. All that remains is to visit the site and complete the cost of the building foundation.

A building cost quote was sent to Patrick for the two-king fisher three-story buildings, without the foundation costs.

The Nova Harvest/HFN production oyster facility is almost complete. Production will start very soon.

Economic Development Progress

The most important choices we make with all the business opportunities and Joint Ventures are that the initiatives we create are meeting the outcome of increased wellbeing (financial, economic and social) for HFN and citizens and identifying what is the low hanging fruit immediately and the projects that will be a long term process.

Councillor Stella Peters Report – September 2025

Portfolios

Citizen Development

Mental Health and Wellness

With the road still being closed, it's less time in community with not only the Mental Health team we have visiting on a regular basis like NTC, Quu-asa, Island Health, FNHA but also some of our own staff from PAGO. Some do make the 4 hour trek or the other alternate route is by boat which is great that other communities have offered that service. We took Uchucklesaht up on their offer for awhile and with the Francis Barkley running Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday some people who had appointments had to stay an extra night, FNHA did offer to pay the extra mileage through Youbou but that's a 4 hour ride one way and could be very tiresome for some of our citizens. The Lady Rose Services has rented a 12-passenger boat that runs Monday, Wednesday, Friday and is offering same day return or you can take the Francis Barkley the next day. This offer is all at no charge to our citizens living in Anacla and Bamfield Residents with proof of address, Reservations required.

Getting groceries and prescriptions are also available on the Francis Barkley as an option to help our communities. Very thankful to the Lady Rose Services for all they are doing to help out.

Education and Training

September was a busy month for our Education team. Brent and Vanessa have both been busy doing what they do best, K-12, University and Trades. Our students are back at it again and hope they have a successful year. It is so good to see how well they have progressed in their education.

The only education meeting that have been more active is our BCSA. We heard some good news that the BCS will be getting a generator. Let's hope it's big enough for what is needed.

Culture

Our Culture team have been busy with the road closure. We have Cory Sr in AGO and Daniel in PAGO so it seems to work out well. They both go to Dance Practice in PA while Cory Sr does it here in Anacla. It was nice to see the basket weaving being offered in PA. They did a good job from what I saw when some posted their work - beautifully done! That is something we don't want to lose as it's already almost a lost art as more people work with cedar than basket grass. Keep up the good work!

Events

We had planned on having an event for Truth and Reconciliation but it has been postponed to a later date.

Public Safety

Community Safety

The safety and well-being of our citizens are of high priority. We are planning on doing more community engagements as well as a session on Fraud (phone, text, email, social media, in-person, mail) and Counterfeit Currency for our elders/citizens in Port Alberni.

We have just reviewed the CTA Community Tripartite Agreement that was signed in 2014 and will be updating it. I did mention we now have an update on these:

- LOE (Letter of Expectation) with the RCMP,
- CCG (Community Consultative Group) TOR
- MOU with BC Corrections
- Looking into Restorative Justice
- We have our Wikwok security
- CSA (Community Safety Act) being updated

Councillor Stephen Rayner Report – August 2025

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

Area of Responsibility:

Law and Policy Committee (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As Chair of the Law & Policy Committee, I advanced priority files in August to keep our legislative program aligned with HUU-ay-aht values ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔaʔuk, and hišukʔiš čawaak and our vision of self-determination and long-term community well-being.

In August, the Committee completed a series of reviews. On the Human Resource Policy Regulation, we provided recommendations for targeted revisions to strengthen clarity, consistency, and compliance. The review included roles and authorities, recruitment and probation, performance and discipline, and documentation. We examined external models of business licensing and set recommendations to draft a HUU-ay-aht-specific regulation that defines scope and exemptions, license classes and fees, inspection and compliance processes, and an appeals mechanism suited to our governance structure. A ticketing regulation was reviewed and the LPDC provided recommendation, and a need was identified for a clear and fair approach to compliance notices and ticketing. Finally, we reviewed the Purchasing Policy and recommended adjustments to tighten thresholds and documentation, clarify delegation of authority, and preserve transparency while maintaining efficiency for urgent or essential procurements.

On the Governance Project, revised drafts were not received in time for Committee consideration. To stay on track, I will convene a special Committee meeting immediately upon receipt of the next revisions so we can move the Community Safety Act and Economic Development Act to the next stage without delay.

Looking ahead to September, we will prepare the first HUU-ay-aht draft of the Business Licensing Regulation reflecting August direction, integrate Committee feedback into the HR Policy Regulation and Purchasing Policy for focused follow-ups, develop a draft compliance and ticketing framework with offence schedule, fine ranges, and procedures for initial review, and hold the special Governance Project meeting as soon as the revised legislation arrives, reporting outcomes to Council and citizens.

Emerging Issues: Concurrent policy files and late receipt of revised Community Safety and Economic Development drafts are compressing decision windows and straining review capacity; despite mitigation (pre-booked meetings, concise comment matrix, earlier redlines), timely delivery of drafts is essential to keep timelines and community-informed outcomes on track.

About the Governance Project: In fall 2023, the People’s Assembly approved an in-depth review of our laws and policies to assess our governance progress since Treaty implementation. This review ensures that our legal system continues to reflect our traditional values, community priorities, and evolving needs. Phase one focuses on the Community Safety Act and related laws, with future phases addressing financial and economic development legislation. At every step, community engagement remains central to ensuring that the legal framework we build is representative, culturally appropriate, and future ready.

Framework Planning Project (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As the Project Lead on Executive Council, I continue to actively guide the advancement of the Framework Planning Initiative a transformative effort designed to support responsible development across our ʔahuuʔi, grounded in Huu-ay-aht values and long-term vision.

In August we advanced toward a Master Agreement (MA) with Forum Asset Management. Detailed negotiations focused on aligning legal, financial, and governance elements with the Framework Vision, including decision rights, approvals pathways, benefit-sharing, risk allocation, and transparency provisions. The intent remains to bring a clear, community-focused agreement to the People's Assembly.

To support this work, Huu-ay-aht formed a Negotiations Group comprising legal and economic advisors. This team is mandated to secure the most advantageous terms for Huu-ay-aht citizens and to ensure the agreement reflects our stewardship responsibilities and long-term prosperity goals.

The Economic Development Task Force continued to provide guidance on investment and revenue models and reviewed priority sectors for partnership, ensuring proposed initiatives meet Huu-ay-aht's economic, cultural, and environmental standards and are feasible within our capacity.

Internal coordination and capacity-building also progressed in August. We are refining internal decision-making structures and processes needed to manage partnerships and projects as they move toward implementation, including clearer interfaces between Council, administration, and technical advisors.

The Framework Vision, approved earlier this year, remains our foundation anchoring each negotiation, strategy session, and draft agreement in our core values and our commitment to stewardship, sustainability, and generational prosperity for Huu-ay-aht people.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for early-stage implementation planning tied to the MA. This includes advancing technical feasibility assessments, finalizing governance protocols, and preparing materials and engagement plans so citizens have a clear understanding of the proposed agreement as it moves to the People's Assembly.

About the Framework Plan Project: The Huu-ay-aht Framework Plan is transitioning from visioning to implementation planning. It incorporates community input and outlines a 20–30 year roadmap to shape land use, housing, transportation, and open spaces. Priorities identified through engagement include cultural preservation, eco-tourism, diverse housing, and sustainable enterprise. The next phase, continuing into 2025, will include detailed feasibility studies, policy refinement, and preparation for pilot projects. For the latest updates, visit: <https://huyuayht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan>

Emerging Issues:

- Ensuring the Master Agreement's terms (benefit-sharing, decision rights, risk allocation, exclusivity scope) are unequivocally in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens and lands.
- Meeting People's Assembly timelines while maintaining high-quality due diligence, plain-language materials, and robust citizen engagement.

- Coordinating cross-department inputs (legal, finance, operations) as complexity increases, without over-extending limited capacity.
- Securing specialized technical expertise at the right moments to validate feasibility, governance setup, and long-term financial assumptions

Clean Energy Portfolio (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As the Executive Council portfolio holder for Clean Energy, I continue to advance Huu-ay-aht's leadership in renewable energy across our ḥahuuli, guided by the Community Energy Plan and our values of stewardship, sovereignty, affordability, and long-term resilience.

Anacla Government Office (AGO) Solar Project: Installation of the electrical scope is scheduled to begin on September 22nd and the crew will complete this work by September 27th. August activity focused on final procurement, delivery of balance-of-system components, and interconnection/inspection coordination. The next phase of the install will be scheduled shortly; commissioning and handover will follow that phase, including a brief training program so Facilities can operate and monitor the system from day one. The project remains a key step to lower electricity costs, improve outage ride-through for critical loads when paired with existing backup, and build internal O&M capacity.

Sector Engagement & Strategic Partnerships: This month was dedicated to preparing for UBCM ministerial meetings in September. I aligned with CEBC leadership on priority asks that directly support Huu-ay-aht projects: end-of-line grid reliability investments, streamlined interconnection for community-scale resources, and stronger pathways for Indigenous ownership of new generation and grid-support assets. I also met with CEBC to coordinate agenda timing, briefing materials, and clear outcomes for the Minister of Energy conversations focused on enabling energy development in Huu-ay-aht territory.

Project Development & Advocacy: We are pursuing funding from the New Relationship Trust's \$140 million clean-energy allocation to advance near-term projects that improve affordability and resilience. In parallel, we continue to apply for wind monitoring funds (SODAR deployment and data analysis) to de-risk future wind development. We are preparing applications to enable net metering for priority buildings and small community energy projects, with the goal of stacking savings, reducing diesel/propane reliance, and demonstrating scalable models for other Huu-ay-aht facilities. Ongoing dialogue with BC Hydro remains focused on interconnection, grid support opportunities, and ensuring our projects align with program and policy windows.

Multi-Nation Energy Development: Conversations continued with neighboring Nations regarding cross-investment and partnered investing in power development. The working concept includes shared procurement (e.g., wind monitoring equipment), joint O&M training, and coordinated advocacy to improve Indigenous access to interconnection and funding. This collaboration is intended to build toward an Indigenous-led investment platform on Vancouver Island that can co-develop projects and retain long-term value in our communities.

Looking Ahead: September priorities are to commission the AGO solar system, execute the UBCM ministerial meetings with clear, actionable requests, and file targeted funding applications: (1) New Relationship Trust clean-energy streams, (2) wind monitoring (SODAR) deployment and analytics, and (3) net-metering for select buildings and small-scale energy systems. We will also prepare updates for citizens that link these efforts to affordability, reliability, and sovereignty goals in the Community Energy Plan.

Emerging Issues:

- Commissioning dependencies: Weather, inspection, and interconnection timing could affect AGO's September completion; close coordination is underway to hold schedule.
- Funding cadence: Timely access to NRT streams, wind-monitoring grants, and net-metering program windows is critical to keep the pipeline moving.
- Program fit and policy clarity: Clear interconnection/Net Metering pathways for multi-building community use cases remain essential; terms must preserve Huu-ay-aht ownership and decision rights.
- Capacity and sequencing: Preparing UBCM materials while advancing commissioning and multiple applications continues to stretch limited technical bandwidth; selective external support may be required.

Climate Sustainability (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As a shared portfolio holder, I focused August on positioning Huu-ay-aht to capture climate-resilience funding. While direct project delivery was limited this month, groundwork advanced through targeted outreach and proposal development. Stella Peters continued to lead the climate-resiliency coordination, and I supported with searching for funding and advocacy in government meetings.

I held exploratory conversations with prospective funders and partner organizations to map near-term opportunities in shoreline protection, wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and low-carbon community infrastructure. I also working to align climate actions with the Community Energy Plan and ongoing governance work, so applications present a single, coherent story.

Looking to September, the focus is to convert this pipeline into funding opportunities. We will continue relationship-building with neighboring Nations and regional partners where joint proposals or shared capacity make sense. The objective remains clear: secure resources that reduce household and community risk, lower energy costs, and strengthen Huu-ay-aht's resilience while supporting and amplifying the operational leadership Stella has provided over the past months.

Chair of Board of Directors of Huumiis Ventures: As Chair of the Board for Huumiis Ventures, I continue to work closely with our leadership team and Western Forest Products to navigate a challenging coastal forestry cycle. August focused on stabilizing operations and advancing a partnership structure that protects Huu-ay-aht's long-term interests while remaining workable for both parties.

We progressed our work with Western Forest Products on governance, operating cadence, and risk-sharing arrangements designed to strengthen cash flow resilience and safeguard stewardship commitments across our ʔahuuli.

Our objectives remain clear: preserve value through this downcycle, position Huumiis for sustainable recovery, and ensure contributions to Huu-ay-aht priorities, employment, own-source revenue, and responsible land stewardship. This work is complex and ongoing, but progress in August moved us toward a more durable framework with our partner.

A Board meeting is scheduled for early September to review year-to-date performance, cash flow and cost outlook, and current discussions with Western Forest Products. We will also consider management's plan for the next quarters, including contingency measures and communications to

citizens. Outcomes from that meeting will guide near-term decisions and the path forward in the best interest of Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC): Board of Directors (Chair):

In August there was no board meeting; my time was spent preparing Clean Energy BC's participation at the Union of BC Municipalities convention in September and the First Nations Energy Summit in November. I coordinated member input and refined our advocacy priorities to support end-of-line reliability improvements, streamlined interconnection for community-scale resources, and clearer pathways for Indigenous ownership and financing. Our messaging continues to emphasize Indigenous leadership as developers and partners not just stakeholders and to align sector needs with provincial climate and affordability goals.

Government Relations Committee (Committee Member):

Through August I maintained engagement with provincial and federal counterparts ahead of UBCM, aligning briefing materials and meeting requests to advance the One-Window Permitting concept, improve access and timing under Indigenous loan-guarantee mechanisms, and ensure consent-based, UNDRIP- aligned processes are reflected in upcoming policy windows. We also prepared non-partisan touchpoints so that permitting modernization, interconnection readiness, and Indigenous investment readiness retain cross-party support into the fall.

Permitting and Regulatory Committee (Committee Member):

The committee's August work centered on materials circulated for this month's meeting, including a slide deck outlining three active files: (1) resolving uncertainty from Fisheries Act interpretations and industry's coordinated correspondence to DFO; (2) responding to Wildlife, Lands and Resource Stewardship's bat best-management thresholds and the transition of wind permitting to the BC Energy Regulator with a joint CEBC/CanREA working group reconvening in September to propose practicable curtailment and fatality thresholds; and (3) participating in Infrastructure Projects Act consultations, including the proposed Qualified Professional reliance model, to responsibly expedite clean-energy approvals. These files directly inform our UBCM and fall advocacy for predictable, proportionate permitting that protects environmental outcomes while enabling timely Indigenous-led project delivery.

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

Week one (Aug 1):

- Energy infrastructure discussion
- Anacla community planning meeting
- Huumiis ventures meeting

Week two (Aug 4th to 8th):

- Statutory holiday
- Meeting with JEDI
- Meeting for building heating cooling
- Permitting Committee Meeting
- On annual leave

Week three (August 11th to 15th):

- Forum partnership meeting
- Special executive council meeting
- Executive council meeting

- Development meeting
- Special executive council meeting
- On annual leave

Week Four (August 18th to 22nd):

- Meeting with Lands director
- Law and policy development meeting
- Committee of the whole meeting
- Meeting with Legal council
- CEBC admin meeting
- On annual leave

Week Five (August 25th to 29th):

- Meeting with Economic development officer
- Information update meeting
- Executive council meeting
- Meeting with executive director
- On annual leave

Councillor Stephen Rayner Report – September 2025

Areas of Responsibility

Law and Policy Committee (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As Chair of the Law & Policy Committee, I advanced priority files in August to keep our legislative program aligned with HUU-ay-aht values ʔiisaak, ʔuuʔaʔuk, and hišukʔiš čawaak, and our vision of self-determination and long-term community well-being.

This month, the Committee met to review a package of clean-up amendments designed to strengthen and modernize our existing laws. This marks the first time since entering Treaty in 2012 that such comprehensive clean-up amendments have been undertaken, an important step in maintaining the clarity and integrity of our legal framework.

In addition, we convened two working groups:

- Community Safety Act reviewed current draft, provided recommendations for amendments, and established next steps to move the legislation forward.
- Economic Development Legislation examined draft amendments, provided feedback, and set direction for further revisions and follow-up.

These working group meetings ensure that both legislative initiatives remain on track and reflect HUU-ay-aht values and community priorities.

Emerging Issues:

The concurrent review of multiple legislative files clean-up amendments, Community Safety Act, and Economic Development legislation has increased the Committee's workload and compressed timelines for decision-making. While focused working groups have improved efficiency, the pace of incoming drafts continues to challenge capacity for thorough review and timely reporting. Continued coordination between administration and Committee is essential to maintain progress and ensure community-informed outcomes.

About the Governance Project:

In fall 2023, the People's Assembly approved an in-depth review of our laws and policies to assess our governance progress since Treaty implementation. This review ensures that our legal system continues to reflect our traditional values, community priorities, and evolving needs. Phase one focuses on the Community Safety Act and related laws, with future phases addressing financial and economic development legislation. At every step, community engagement remains central to ensuring that the legal framework we build is representative, culturally appropriate, and future ready.

Framework Planning Project (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As the Project Lead on Executive Council, I continue to actively guide the advancement of the Framework Planning Initiative—a transformative effort designed to support responsible development across our ʔahuuʔi, grounded in HUU-ay-aht values and long-term vision.

In September, we held a working group meeting to review potential projects and agree on the direction of our partnership with Forum Asset Management. The group reached consensus to

advance a Terms of Reference (ToR) ahead of finalizing a Master Agreement, ensuring clarity on process, scope, and guiding principles.

Chief John Jack and I also traveled to Toronto to meet directly with Forum’s investment team. These discussions strengthened our partnership, confirmed alignment with Huu-ay-aht’s vision, and set expectations for next steps. The Terms of Reference are expected to be completed within the next month, keeping the project firmly on track.

Emerging Issues:

- Transitioning from high-level visioning to detailed Terms of Reference introduces pressure to balance speed with thoroughness, ensuring no gaps in governance, financial, or cultural safeguards.
- Preparing the ToR in advance of the Master Agreement requires tight coordination across Council, legal, and technical advisors, with limited internal capacity stretched across multiple files.
- Maintaining momentum while also ensuring citizen engagement and transparency remain strong, so that upcoming agreements are fully understood and supported by the community.
- Continued travel and negotiations highlight the need for sustained capacity-building at home, ensuring internal systems are ready to manage projects once implementation begins.

About the Framework Plan Project:

The Huu-ay-aht Framework Plan is transitioning from visioning to implementation planning. It incorporates community input and outlines a 20–30-year roadmap to shape land use, housing, transportation, and open spaces. Priorities identified through engagement include cultural preservation, eco-tourism, diverse housing, and sustainable enterprise. The next phase, continuing into 2025, will include detailed feasibility studies, policy refinement, and preparation for pilot projects. For the latest updates, visit: <https://huuayaht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan>

Clean Energy Portfolio (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As the Executive Council portfolio holder for Clean Energy, I continue to advance Huu-ay-aht’s leadership in renewable energy across our ḥahuuli, guided by the Community Energy Plan and our values of stewardship, sovereignty, affordability, and long-term resilience.

Anacla Government Office (AGO) Solar Project:

The AGO Solar Project remains on track. Installation of the electrical scope is scheduled to begin on September 22nd, with the crew completing work by September 27th. September activities focused on scheduling the installation and confirming final delivery of components. Commissioning and handover will follow in the next phase, including training for Facilities staff to operate and monitor the system from day one. Once operational, the project will immediately lower electricity costs, improve outage ride-through for critical loads when paired with backup, and build internal capacity for long-term operations and maintenance.

Sector Engagement & Strategic Partnerships:

This month, I attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention and held several conversations with the Ministry of Energy and other provincial ministries. These discussions focused on advancing Huu-ay-aht’s priorities in power development, including investments in end-of-line grid reliability, streamlined interconnection processes for community-scale projects, and

policy supports for Indigenous ownership of clean-energy generation. These engagements built momentum toward stronger partnerships and practical solutions that align with both provincial priorities and Huu-ay-aht's energy sovereignty goals.

Project Development & Advocacy:

Work continues to secure funding for near-term and long-term clean energy projects. We are actively searching for targeted funding for wind monitoring (SODAR deployment and data analysis) to advance wind project feasibility. We are also looking to prepare net-metering applications for select buildings and small-scale projects, with the goal of reducing reliance on diesel and propane while improving affordability. Ongoing advocacy with BC Hydro remains critical, with a focus on interconnection and ensuring our projects align with evolving program opportunities and regulatory frameworks.

Multi-Nation Energy Development:

Discussions with neighboring Nations progressed in September, building interest in shared clean-energy initiatives. Areas of collaboration include joint procurement of wind monitoring equipment, coordinated O&M training programs, and collective advocacy on interconnection and funding issues. The long-term vision remains the creation of an Indigenous-led investment and development platform on Vancouver Island to co-develop projects, reduce costs, and retain value in our communities.

Looking Ahead:

In October, priorities include commissioning the AGO solar project, following up on UBCM outcomes with ministries and agencies, and advancing targeted funding applications for the wind monitoring, and net metering. Citizen updates will be prepared to connect ongoing energy initiatives with Huu-ay-aht's Community Energy Plan goals of affordability, reliability, and sovereignty.

Emerging Issues:

- Commissioning risks: Weather, interconnection scheduling, and inspection timelines could impact the AGO solar project's completion; close coordination is underway to mitigate delays.
- Funding access: Timely approvals from NRT, wind-monitoring grants, and net-metering programs are critical to keep projects moving through the pipeline.
- Policy clarity: Interconnection and net-metering pathways for multiple-building community use cases remain uncertain; ensuring terms uphold Huu-ay-aht ownership and decision rights is essential.
- Capacity strain: UBCM follow-ups, funding applications, and project commissioning are stretching internal resources; selective external support may be needed to maintain momentum.

Climate Sustainability (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):

As a shared portfolio holder, I focused September on advancing Huu-ay-aht's ability to capture climate-resilience funding and position projects for near-term delivery. Stella Peters continues to lead coordination on climate-resilience work, while I have supported through targeted advocacy at UBCM and ongoing exploration of external funding pathways.

This month, outreach efforts deepened with government ministries and potential partners, building on earlier groundwork. Discussions highlighted opportunities in shoreline protection, wildfire risk

reduction, emergency preparedness, and low-carbon community infrastructure. Work also progressed to align climate-resilience initiatives with the Community Energy Plan and governance files, ensuring that upcoming applications reflect a single, coherent story grounded in HUU-AY-AHT's long-term vision.

Looking ahead, the priority is to convert the growing pipeline of opportunities into formal funding applications. Relationship-building with neighboring Nations and regional partners will remain a focus, especially where joint proposals or shared capacity can increase impact and reduce costs. The objective remains clear: secure resources that lower household and community risk, reduce energy costs, and strengthen HUU-AY-AHT's resilience while continuing to amplify the operational leadership Stella has provided over recent months

Chair of Board of Directors of Huumiis Ventures:

As Chair of the Board for Huumiis Ventures, I continue to work closely with our leadership team and Western Forest Products to navigate a challenging coastal forestry cycle while positioning Huumiis for long-term stability and growth.

In September, the Board met to review progress on the C'AWAK?QIN Forestry Strategy, including the development of a framework to guide next steps. Updates were also received on the ongoing Huumiis 2024 Review, which remains under external audit, and on the Loan Agreement and associated compliance matters.

The Board considered updates on HFN Forestry Consulting Services (ISKUM), including operations and planning, as well as a Banking Update and readiness for investment activities. A Feasibility Report was also discussed, and exploratory discussions with potential industry collaborators. Finally, the Board reviewed the renewal of a contract to ensure continuity of services and considered priorities for upcoming meetings.

Our objectives remain clear: stabilize operations through this cycle, strengthen governance and partnerships, and ensure Huumiis continues to deliver value for HUU-AY-AHT citizens through employment, own-source revenue, and stewardship of our ḥahuuli.

Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC): Board of directors (Chair):

In September, the Board of Directors met with a focus on clean-energy advocacy and sector readiness around the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention. I chaired discussions that reinforced Clean Energy BC's positioning on priority issues: improving reliability for end-of-line communities, accelerating interconnection processes for community-scale projects, and establishing clear pathways for Indigenous equity ownership and financing. At UBCM, I advanced these priorities directly with provincial decision-makers, ensuring that CEBC's messaging emphasized Indigenous Nations as developers and partners not just stakeholders while aligning clean-energy investment with B.C.'s affordability and climate goals. Preparations also continued for the First Nations Energy Summit in November, where these themes will be carried forward with even greater visibility.

Government Relations Committee (Committee Member):

September activity centered on UBCM ministerial meetings, where we advanced three core advocacy areas: implementation of a One-Window Permitting model for clean energy, expansion and streamlining of Indigenous loan-guarantee mechanisms, and integration of consent-based, UNDRIP-aligned processes into upcoming policy frameworks. Coordination across provincial

ministries at UBCM created momentum for follow-ups in the fall, while federal engagement focused on ensuring loan-guarantee tools are accessible, timely, and appropriately structured for Indigenous-majority projects. The committee also worked to maintain cross-party awareness of these reforms to ensure they are durable through the political cycle.

Permitting and Regulatory Committee (Committee Member):

The committee reconvened in September to review active regulatory files shaping clean-energy development. Key discussions included:

- Fisheries Act interpretations and sector-wide correspondence to DFO seeking clarity and proportionate mitigation requirements.
- Wildlife thresholds and wind permitting advancing recommendations with CanREA through a joint working group on practicable curtailment measures and fatality thresholds, in light of the transition of wind project oversight to the BC Energy Regulator.
- Infrastructure Projects Act consultations, where we examined the Qualified Professional reliance model and its implications for balancing environmental integrity with expedited approvals.

These files directly informed our UBCM advocacy and continue to anchor CEBC's fall priorities: predictable, transparent permitting that protects ecosystems while enabling timely Indigenous-led project delivery.

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

Week one (Sept 3rd - 5th):

- Huumiis BOD meeting
- CEBC regulatory efficiency committee
- Community safety act meeting
- Economic Development Act meeting
- Dinner meeting with Forum
- Framework planning meeting

Week two (Sept 8th – 12th):

- Special Executive Council meeting
- Strategic planning meeting
- HFN/BC Hydro meeting
- UBCM prep meeting
- HFN/HGB meeting
- First Nations Steering Committee meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with EcDev Officer
- Executive Council meeting
- Meeting with Forum

Week three (Sept 15th – 19th):

- Bi-weekly meeting with Lands Planner
- Bi-weekly meeting with Karen
- Pre-meeting with EcDev Officer
- First Nations Steering committee meeting
- Committee of the Whole meeting
- Bi-monthly CEBC BOD meeting
- CEBC weekly team meeting
- MSSC leadership gathering

- Framework agreement meeting
- Government relations meeting
- Dinner with council
- Community safety act meeting
- Meeting on Amendments to the Criminal Code
- Special Law and Policy Committee meeting
- Meeting with EcDev Officer and Lands Planner

Week Four (Sept 22nd – 26th):

- Attended UBCM event all week
 - Ministry of Forests, ED, Regional and Rural Development
 - Ministry of Forests, ADM
 - Housing forum
 - Resource breakfast Powering Forward B.C.'s Energy Evolution and Economic Growth
 - Meeting with Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth Ravi Kahlon
 - Meeting with Children & Family Development DM Keith Godin
 - CEBC lunch meeting
 - Meeting with Minister of Transportation and Transit, Honourable Mike Farnworth
 - Meeting with Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and BC Housing, ADM John Thomson
 - Framework project agreement meeting
 - Earncliffe UBCM Reception
 - CEBC reception
 - UBCM welcome reception
 - Woodfire LNG reception
 - FortisBC UBCM Reception
 - Resource breakfast Securing a Sustainable Legacy: The Next Chapter in B.C. Mining
 - Meeting with EcDev officer
 - Meeting with Hazelwood
 - Meeting with Executive Director
 - BC council of forests reception
 - Resource breakfast Collaborative Stewardship for B.C.'s Natural Legacy
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development, Honorable Jodie Wickens
 - Meeting with Mental Health and Addictions, Parliamentary Secretary Amna Shah
 - Meeting with Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Honourable Spencer Chandra-Herbert
 - Meeting with Public Safety and Solicitor General Honourable Nina Krieger
 - Meeting with Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Honourable Kelly Greene
 - UBCM annual banquet and reception
- Executive Council meeting

Week Five (Sept 29th):

- CEBC team meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Lands Planner
- Meeting with Fortis BC