



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report  
December 2025**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHIEF JOHN JACK REPORT.....</b>	<b>PAGE 3-4</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR EDWARD JOHNSON REPORT .....</b>	<b>PAGE 5-8</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR BRAD JOHNSON REPORT .....</b>	<b>PAGE 9-11</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR EVAN COOK REPORT .....</b>	<b>PAGE 12</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR STELLA PETERS REPORT .....</b>	<b>PAGE 13-14</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR STEPHEN RAYNER REPORT .....</b>	<b>PAGE 15-22</b>

## **Chief-Councillor John Jack Report – December 2025**

### **General Duties – Chief Councillor – Progress Report**

#### **First Week**

The first week of December started off with me travelling to Ottawa to attend a Special Chief's Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations. While there, I had the honour of attending the Premiere Reception of the documentary film "Indigenous Drums" to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the totem pole donation from Canadian First Nations to China on the Monday; and the Food Sovereignty Partnership Table Dinner hosted by Growcer on the Tuesday, which provided an opportunity for community leadership to engage with funding partners ready to support and invest in community food sovereignty projects. I was also able to connect with MP Gord Johns and the Director General of Justice Canada UNDRIP in between assembly meetings. I chaired a virtual Special EC meeting on the Thursday before flying out that evening back to Vancouver. While in Vancouver on the Friday I had an interview for the RDW Podcast before returning to the island in the afternoon.

#### **Second Week**

The beginning of the second week gave me an opportunity to catch up on emails, along with various meetings which included weekly/biweekly meetings with the Executive Director, members of council and the Economic Development Officer. An Executive Council meeting was held on the Thursday, followed by interviews with several government relations firms on Friday.

#### **Third Week**

The third week began with catching up on emails/administrative work on the Monday. The Tuesday was an important step forward for HFN where we hosted an MOU signing ceremony between HFN and MCFD at the Port Alberni Government Office. This agreement sets out how we will work together to support our children and youth in ways that keep them safely connected to their families, culture and community. The remainder of Tuesday and Wednesday were filled with more government relations firm interviews along with more email/admin catchup. Thursday had me heading to Victoria for an important all day meeting and the week concluded with a Committee of the Whole meeting on the Friday.

#### **Fourth Week & Fifth Weeks**

The office was closed for the holidays from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup> with regular office hours resuming on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. I want to take this opportunity to wish the Ha'wiih Council, elders, Executive Council, staff, and all our citizens and their families, friends and loved ones a wonderful holiday season.

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

The Mount Underwood Fire started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. At the time of this report, the road, which reopened on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, remains open. There was some ongoing maintenance for a small section of the road which required scheduled road closures of which the community was informed. The impacts of the Mt. Underwood Fire cannot be understated, and while we have been quite successful in our responses to it, it will have a workload impact into the future.

#### **Major Projects – Progress Report**

HFN often participates in projects that are either quite large in scale/scope; or they have a degree of political importance that they are carried forward under the supervision of Council itself rather than being delegated to a committee or a department. These projects may include items identified as “special investment bodies” or they may be particularly important infrastructure or investment projects or potential partnerships or joint ventures. In any event, these items fall under Council’s decision making, but the Chief-Councillor will be the lead on these items. In this instance, the major projects I have identified are two-fold: the Bamfield Road, which I have assigned to Councillor Brad Johnson by the time of this report due to his good oversight of the project since the last term of office; and the forestry-related initiatives related to our special investment bodies: Huumiis Ventures LP and Huu-ay-aht Forestry Consulting Services LP.

**Major Projects – Emerging Issues** [Work on Major Projects have expanded such that I have asked Councillor Rayner to help oversee the specific activities of the Special Investment Bodies, expanding the involvement of more members of Council on larger and politically sensitive activities. There has been further development on how we will go about integrating our holdings in Huumiis Ventures LP and Forestry Consulting Services LP, but there are complications that require legal counsel to report back to us. We await some options for decision in the next few months.

#### **External Relations – Progress Report/ Emerging Issues**

A Request for Proposal seeking a provincial and federal government relations firm was posted and numerous interviews were conducted with a decision forthcoming in the new year.

#### **Economic Development – Update and Emerging Issues**

We have appointed members to our Operating Boards. The new members have all now been notified and they are: Larry Jonson (appointed as chair), Calum Matthews, Kerry Mehaffey, Rick Shafer and Diane Nicholls. A meet and greet will be held in the new year to introduce the new board to the Economic Development Committee.

## Councillor Āicitāḥ Edward R. Johnson Report – December 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

- I stopped in at our Infrastructure office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> - it was a good check in with the team. I find myself spending a lot of time at all three offices - CFW/Oomiiqsu, Port Alberni Government Office and the Anacla Government Office. I have good virtual bi-weekly check-ins (sometimes weekly) with the Director of Infrastructure & Capital Projects. Kaal runs a tight ship and runs a great team and is firing on all cylinders with all that is going on within the infrastructure department - there are a lot of moving parts. Having all positions filled is what was needed for this department and to have a committee attached to it. I feel very proud of this team. I had a vision of this department back in 2012 where I spent some time working as Acting Director of Infrastructure with a crew that was spread very thin and where I was a part of the budget projects and strategic planning projects. At that time, I had a vision of a team much like the team that we have now. We are a growing nation, we are building a community and it is working. Our canoe is pointed in the right direction. It is an honour to be Huu-ay-aht, to work for Huu-ay-aht, to be building Huu-ay-aht with the help and guidance of Huu-ay-aht and to be a part of its growth. I feel as the generations go by and as I get older, I see what the last generations have done and I see what this generation is doing and it feels good to add to the growth of our nation.
- Reviewing our Huu-ay-aht First Nation Strategic Plan - Check-In Session Doc Reflections and Path Forward
- Potable Water in Anacla - False alarm - We did take precautionary measures due to contractors' comments regarding potable water tank reservoir. Recent testing results performed by First Nations Health Authority stayed consistent which lifted the false alarm regarding water unsafe to drink. The learning process I'd like to learn from this unfolding of the situation. Ha-shilth-sa story on Anacla' water advisory lifted <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2025-12-02/anaclas-water-advisory-lifted>
- Reviewing reading through summary report of the interim report regarding housing for our citizens from our independent housing panel - link here for summary <https://Huu-ay-aht.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/HFN-IHP-Report-Summary-Digital-Singles.pdf> And as I read further into the summary I dove into the full independent housing panel report - attached here <https://Huu-ay-aht.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Huu-ay-aht-Independent-Housing-Panel-Interim-Report-Optimized.pdf>. I feel it is time to review the 17 recommendations. I feel we have accomplished and initiated all recommendations and are due for an evaluation. I'm hoping to initiate this in the year to come - something that we can put into the budget for either this coming fiscal year or the following. The report came out in 2019 - very useful information and has helped steer us in the right direction.
- Participating in the Infrastructure Asset Manager Interview
- HFN Wellness Complex Feasibility Study Presentation
- <https://Huu-ay-aht.org/2025-annual-peoples-assembly/https://Huu-ay-aht.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2024-2025-annual-report-FINAL-1.pdf>
- Housing Inventory Discussion meeting – We talked about the rental housing roles and the work plan templates for Modern Treaty and self-governing First Nation partners. Huu-ay-

aht First Nations has 85% of our 902 citizens living outside HUU-ay-aht TSL. To address the needs of this 85%, HUU-ay-aht is working on plans to help ensure citizens have the housing they need to be safe and healthy. Overall, it was a great discussion. We also talked about community engagement sessions in the coming new year but first we talked about independent housing report and sifting through the recommendations to see which boxes we have checked. We also discussed having a survey possibly on our website and app before engagement sessions regarding housing and about networking with other Modern Treaty nations that are embarking on the same journey on urban, rural and northern indigenous housing work plans.

### Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

## **Children and Family Wellness Committee**

### Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Attended the Alberni Valley Restorative Justice Society 2025 AGM where the Oomiiqsu was up for an award. It was an honor to accept the award on behalf of the nation.
- Reading and going through our HUU-ay-aht Bilateral Agreement- Final Clean Version.
- Attended Treaty Amendment CFS meeting update with Brent Lahmann. This update was at the Health and Wellness Working Group with all Ma'nulth FN - this was a special meeting of the working group.
- Updated meetings on the Draft Shared Interest Agreement with Ministry of Children and Families. This will be a small but very crucial step forward as this shared interest agreement will be something that we could fall back on and reflect as we approach on the next journey. Working on getting Brent from Ratcliffe to present to the Committee of the Whole and other nations within the treaty society are doing the same thing.
- MCFD/HFN MOU Signing Ceremony – This was a wonderful day where we were able to celebrate this shared interest agreement. I would like to acknowledge our Executive Director and Director of Children and Families who are doing phenomenal work connecting with MCFT and creating this foundational piece - looking forward to next steps.
- Networking with Oomiiqsu and Wanda Gabriel - Wanda is a wonderful facilitator when it comes to healing and understanding generational traumas, shame, the inner child. Wanda is able to orchestrate and create a story of understanding to help bring down walls that prevent us from healing. Working on bringing a letter of intent to our committee before embarking on next steps to provide programming for our Mother Center.
- HFN/FORUM - Entrepreneur Mentorship & Support Program Discussion meeting
- Participated in the CFW Manager Interviews
- BC MTN MCFD - Indigenous Child Welfare Division Meeting purpose: The Indigenous Child Welfare Division team wanted to connect with the MTNs collectively to update on some of the work they've been doing, present plans for moving forward, and hear from MTNs what we would like to see from the ICWD who holds systemic oversight for all children in care. This collective meeting would also be an opportunity to see if there's value in future collective work (for example, around policy development).

### Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

## Deputy-Chief Councillor

### Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Tribunal Project Interview
- Due to the added pressures related to forestry social media posts, we have added a few more patrols of our infrastructure, communities, and lands.
- NTC 2025 Urban Community Holiday Gatherings in Port Alberni
- NEDC Myers-Briggs Type training and Xmas dinner
- Attended CES Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government and 4EVER Strategies Inc. The CES was to share thoughts on developing an Indigenous-led Destination Management Organization (DMO) and a Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) in HFN territory. There were a couple of short presentations to teach participants about what a DMO and MRDT is, followed by activities to hear your thoughts about HFN leadership in tourism, how a DMO should be shaped, and what the future of tourism should look like. On the Agenda was an Introduction to DMO and MRDT, Opportunities and Challenges, Indigenous Leadership in Tourism and Community Benefits, Additional Context & Introduction to Workshops - Activity 1: What Does Huu-ay-aht Leadership Look Like in Tourism?, Activity 2: Rewrite the DMO & MRDT for Huu-ay-aht and Activity 3: Tourism in 10 Years, Government Relations RFP DECISION
- Reading and ranking bursary applications for Spring 2026 field trip groups with the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre
- Attended the urban Nuuchah-nulth gathering in Port Alberni at the Italian Hall. It was a packed venue - <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2025-12-11/port-alberni-venue-packed-holiday-feast>
- Attended Meeting Agenda Review with the Chief Councillor, Executive Director and Law Clerk
- Attended the 2025 HFN Annual Staff Appreciation Celebration gathering
- Attended DMO & MRDT Public engagement by 4-VI Strategies
- Treaty nations push for commissioner to ensure implementation <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2025-12-08/treaty-nations-push-commissioner-ensure-implementation>
- <https://Huu-ay-aht.org/huu-ay-aht-framework-plan/>
- Court decision recognizes UNDRIP as law, but leads province to look at revising legislation. In a statement on Dec. 8, BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee said the legal victory “sends a ground-shaking message to the provincial government: the Declaration Act is legally binding and cannot be implemented or interpreted in a unilateral Crown approach.” Court documents state that: “UNDRIP is an international declaration of the individual and collective rights of the world’s Indigenous peoples. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, it identifies ‘the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples’ and provides that the rights it recognizes ‘constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world’.” More info in Ha-shilth-Sa link <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2025-12-11/court-decision-recognizes-undrip-law-leads-province-look-revising-legislation>
- A good read in the ha-shilth-sa on logging and stewardship and salmon parks. Feeling very proud of what we as Huu-ay-aht have done to bring our salmon back - <https://hashilthsa.com/news/2025-12-12/amid-mill-closures-and-tariffs-comes-different-kind-forestry>
- Housing brainstorming meeting to talk about “Housing Navigator” - a designated person to help Citizens on all things housing related. This will help promote communication and

transparency with Hūu-ay-aht's housing process and policies.

- More housing options in the Hāhuuli for different levels of income, life stages and sizes of families. Provide a variety of types and sizes of housing, such as townhomes, tiny homes, Elders housing facility, etc.

- Different financial structures and options to support Citizens with obtaining housing affordability. Two categories: w Support for investments through micro-loans, loans or grants to put towards the building and/or ownership of homes in the Hāhuuli. w Options for Citizens to access different housing financial scenarios, including social housing rental, affordable rental, rent-to-own and mortgage financing through the Nation.

- Elders housing facility in the Hāhuuli. Suggestions for the facility included a dedicated nurse, designed for all mobility levels, a space for youth and children to spend time and visit the Elders, dining areas for meals to be shared with visiting family and multifunctional spaces for the community to use.

To reconvene in the new year - meeting was brief due to unforeseen impacts to those participating and the meeting participants' conflicting schedules.

- Elders meeting with Executive Council - This meeting was orchestrated by Robert Dennis SR speaking on behalf of Simon Dennis's request on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dennis, former chief councillor, made it clear that Simon would like to meet before the holidays. We did our best to accommodate Simon Dennis's request. This meeting took place December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 12:30 till around 2:30 going on to 3 PM. There were several elders and attendants in person and virtually. Overall Key/Core Message from Elders: Don't wait. Don't over-study. Don't hide behind laws. And don't always say 'no'. Looking for ʔiisaak 'Respecting our elders, again'. Can we work towards "Hūu-ay-ahtizing" the services and our laws more? Meeting was very organic, but some of the key themes stemming from the conversation are listed below:
  1. Elder Authority, Respect, and Governance
  2. Elder Care & Aging in Community (Major Theme)
  3. Practical Elder Supports (Immediate Needs)
  4. Laws, Justice, and Community Safety (Decolonizing Law)
  5. Bureaucracy, Funding, and Decision-Making
  6. Communication & Engagement
  7. Cultural Values & Way Forward
  8. **Key Actions Identified**
    - Conducting an elder care needs assessment & feasibility study
    - Improve elder communication and feedback loops
    - Provide immediate practical support (firewood, transportation, safety)
    - Review and amend laws to reflect Hūu-ay-aht values
    - Advance cemetery fencing and care without delay
    - Strengthen anti-rumour communication practices

Elders meeting with Executive Council Meeting minutes will be going to elders meeting in the new year.

## **Councillor Brad Johnson Executive Council Report - December 2025**

### **Portfolios:**

Fisheries and Wildlife

Land and Natural Resources

Treaty Implementation

Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board

HR Workplace and Wellness

Special Project: The Bamfield Road

### **Fisheries**

- Maa-Nulth Nations have been negotiating with DFO a Winter Chinook fishery for nations. This would be an extension of the Incremental community-based fishing plan (ICEFP) that was successfully negotiated in the summer. This fishery will start in January 2026 once confirmed by DFO, but it is very likely this will happen. This fishery will likely come with less restrictions of gear type and fishers will have the ability to fish inshore. Stay tuned next month for an update about this fishery.
- Excess Food fish will be delivered in the new year; canned salmon will be the focus of these deliveries and distributions. Keep a watch for posts on social media in weeks to come for dates and pick up times.

### **Wildlife**

No updates - no meetings this month the Committee will reconvene in the new year.

### **Lands & Resources**

- We have had a lot of staff turnover in the last month in this department. We will be looking to fill the roles of a Director/ Lands Planner/ and Lands Stewardship Manager. Although we are sad to see these employees leave, we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. All job postings have gone out and interviews will start in January 2026. Projects like the Land Use Plan and the Forest Landscape Plan along with the HIRMP are still moving forward under the careful watch of the Firelight Group and Two Worlds Consulting.
- With the increase of activity and threats to our Nation's territory on social media, we have increased patrols by our Guardians on our lands. It's good to have these patrols done frequently. Since the start of these more frequent patrols, our guardians have come across illegal tree falling of old growth cedar. Reports have been made to Cawakqin and the Natural resources officers.

### **Treaty Implementation**

The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society Board of Directors met on December 1, 2025, for two meetings. One was a special board meeting regarding the upcoming year budget, and the following meeting was a regular Board meeting. Here are some updates from both meetings.

- The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society is keeping the budget member contributions the same as previous years.
- Letters from all Maa-Nulth nations have been sent to endorse Bill C-10. This is the bill that supports the establishment of the independent office of the Commissioner of Modern Treaty

Nations reporting directly to Parliament on Canada's effectiveness in implementing modern treaties and meeting its modern treaty obligations.

- Treaty Amendments of Child and Family Services, Additions to Treaty lands extension and a Coho allocation will be packaged together for the spring of 2026.
- The Near time arrival program from the Vancouver Port Authority has become a real concern. We have ships anchoring offshore at "Big Bank" that is in our Maa-Nulth Domestic Fishing Area (MDFA). The zone that was identified takes up 40% of our MDFA.
- A letter was sent to Minister Josie Osborne about our concerns with the ICU closure at West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni.
- Nisga'a vs Mali Court case of asserted rights vs proven rights takes place this month. Update to follow.
- Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP) – Maa-Nulth has primarily been engaging in the development of the SAP through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations representative from LGL. DFO plans to launch broader consultation outside of the working groups on the Draft SAP Discussion Paper on December 1, 2025, with First Nations and the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. DFO intends to submit a final package to the Minister by March 2026. There are several outstanding concerns and items of disagreement between First Nations, the Commercial Fishing Advisory Board, the Sport Fishing Advisory Board, and DFO on the draft SAP. Maa-nulth will continue to engage and raise concerns through the Alliance and will consider engaging bilaterally if concerns specific to Maa-nulth arise.

### **Parks Canada**

- I was a part of the West Coast Trail management plan team that gave a presentation at the People's Assembly. Parks Canada had a booth set up to engage with citizens on what a management plan is and heard from our citizens what was important to them and what they would like to see in this management plan. Throughout the month Parks Canada will also be engaging with Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations for their citizens input to this plan. Once all nation consultation is done, a report will be drafted on what Parks Canada heard and brought back to the working group for review.
- National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) - Parks Canada has not yet heard about their funding request from the federal government for them to continue this project in the next fiscal year. Nations were given 2 years funding when the project started but Parks Canada only secured one year funding for themselves. With cutbacks in the Federal government this may become an issue April 1, 2026.

### **HR Workplace & Wellness**

No official committee meetings were called; I am updated of all HR concerns within the administration as I am the chair of the committee. These updates come directly from the Executive Director and are kept confidential. The Executive Director evaluation was brought to Executive Council, and a report is to go to the HR and wellness committee next month for review then finalized in January at the Committee of the Whole.

### **Bamfield Road**

Over the winter months the road has seen some potholes develop, some more severe in size than others. Road patching will continue when the weather permits it in dryer conditions. Although it may seem like patching isn't being done the maintenance crews can only do so much, so they

wait for breaks in the weather to do so to ensure a good patch bond to the chipseal surface. The road saw a few small landslides with crews cleaning up in a timely manner. Over the winter months with heavy rain and snow, please take extra precautions when driving the Bamfield road.

Overall, I felt I was productive with all the tasks I took on this year. 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 took one week of annual leave for the month of December, so it was a very short working month for me as the office was shut down for two weeks for the Christmas break. I am honored to represent our Nation as a member of the Executive Council.

## **Councillor Evan Cook Executive Council Report – December 2025**

### **Finance Report**

Due to the extended holidays taken by me and the shortened month because of the annual closure of the HFN office, no finance committee meeting was held.

November and December monthly financials and third Quarterly financial statements will be brought forward in the January meeting.

### **First Nations Investment Forum**

I attended this three-day conference in Vancouver. Discussions included:

- Indigenous-led Clean Energy Investments which brought together Indigenous leaders who are evolving new types of funding structures and planning structures to invest in the next generation of clean-energy projects.
- The role of loan guarantees in transformative infrastructure projects and,
- Advancing prosperity, building healthy and wealthy communities through value-aligned partnerships and capital.

### **Economic Development Report**

#### Stackabl Homes - Progress Report

- Strategic development - We are proceeding with a strategic build to secure necessary certifications and demonstrate our capacity for rapid and economical deployment.
- Display Homes - We are actively looking for a suitable site for a display home and exploring options to partner with other First Nations to host a display home.
- Technical Compliance and Standards - To ensure we meet and exceed industry requirements, Stackabl has assembled a comprehensive compliance team. This group will be focusing on achieving CSA modular home compliance and meeting BC Step Code 4 energy standard (highly energy-efficient).
- Site Identification and Project Pipeline - We are actively securing sites to showcase our capabilities and building a pipeline for future manufacturing. For Vancouver Island we are in the confirmation stages with Malahat Nation for displaying a model home on a Malahat First Nation business park lot. This will serve as a temporary structure for marketing and demonstration purposes. We are still collaborating with lower mainland First Nations to place a display home for the mainland.
- Team Expansion and Indigenous Hiring - We will be hiring a full-time Business Development Manager. We are still seeking a suitable candidate (HFN citizen preferred) for our Nanaimo office. The position description will be a Community Liaison, the role to be focusing on First Nation community engagement across the Island and identifying specific housing needs and co-developing applicable, cultural appropriate solutions.

#### China

We are preparing for an HFN delegation to go to China to seek new business and trade opportunities. The visit will include Energy Storage, Energy to Waste, Electric Vehicles and the latest technology and innovation in Modular Home construction. More detailed information to follow in the January report.

## **Councillor Stella Peters Executive Council Report – December 2025**

Portfolios

### **Citizen Development**

#### **-Mental Health and Wellness**

This Department is very busy with citizens both at home and away. Mental Health is looked at as one of our most important in people's day-to-day lives.

We always need to consider the needs and priorities of each individual citizen in order to help them out and whether we have the ability to, or if we can help direct them to the resources they require. While there are many services and resources away that our citizens can access off TSL (off Reserve), we still do what we can. We try to bring Services into the community - Mental Health Counsellors, Medical, Dental Professionals.

We attend meetings with Island Health, FNHA (First Nations Health Authority), NTC where we address our concerns, what we have and what we are lacking in terms of service delivery and how we can make improvements.

In December we attended the three-day Vancouver Island Regional Fall Caucus for FNHA where we discussed mental health and wellness, patient travel, Cultural Humility, racism, drug crisis, dealing with BC Coroner's Service and Cultural protocols when it comes to our most vulnerable (with addictions and the homeless) and FNHA's policy on Mental Health and Wellness and having input on the First Nations Principles for Health Related Legislation. Next month we will be meeting with VI Regional Health where we will be discussing patient travel in rural/remote areas.

We also attended meetings relating to services at WCGH around Racism, Cultural Humility and the closure of the ICU - how it impacts us and how we can help advocate in this situation. This not only affects us in medical emergencies but also financially with patients being transferred to other hospitals on the island. We stressed how important it is as it is the hub, not only for Huu-ay-aht, but also for the other numerous First Nations on the west coast.

#### **-Education and Training**

Our Education Department is very actively involved in the development of our students' educational needs and requirements. Communication is very important, especially if they are struggling or reaching completion. We are always so proud of their successes from Kindergarten to High School and into Post Secondary and Trades.

#### **-Culture**

Our Culture and Wellness team is very busy with dance practices and drumming circles and cultural activities. They've been doing cultural activities in the community. We've discussed our 5-year Cultural Plan to prepare annually for activities and gathering cultural resources as seasons allow us for best harvesting times, cultural events and gatherings.

#### **-Events**

We have our Events Coordinator planning our events and community engagement sessions (calender) so our citizens can plan in advance to be able to attend. (Community and Cultural)

## **Public/Community Safety**

We have a lot of discussions and planning around Community Safety for our youth and elders as well as in community. We always have to think about the 30 Recommendations that came out of the report and how we can make it safe.

## **Emergency Planning/Emergency Preparedness**

Being ready and prepared in the event of any possible emergency is something we really need to think about. The Mount Underwood Fire was a real eye opener for us here in Anacla with the road closure. This month we've been watching the tides since October and will be into February. We are facing a King tide or Super tide at least once a month, sometimes twice. The rivers get quite high but not as high as when it was combined with an atmospheric river (Pineapple Express), but we still need to be mindful of what could happen.

Our Emergency Coordinator is doing amazing work in this area for emergency preparedness and being resilient.

## **Climate Change/Climate Resilience**

We always need to be aware of our surroundings as the seasons bring a lot of change with this Climate Change. This summer is supposed to be a record high and I thought last year was bad.

Always pay attention.

## **Active Boards and Committees**

- Parks Canada Co-operative Management Board (CMB) with Bradley Johnson
- Citizen Development Committee (Chair) CDC
- Community Consultative Group (Chair) CCG
- Anacla Community Planning Committee (ACP) with Edward Johnson Jr and Stephen Rayner
- Human Resource and Workplace Wellness with Bradley Johnson and Stephen Rayner

## Councillor Stephen Rayner Report – December 2025

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

### **Area of Responsibility:**

**Law and Policy Committee (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):** As Chair of the Law & Policy Committee, I continued to advance priority files this month 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 December, we met with Elders to discuss community safety, and our Legal Department continued development of the Community Safety Act (CSA). Building on the directions and items approved at the People's Assembly, we are now moving toward a consolidated final draft of the CSA and related materials, with the intent to re-circulate for additional community feedback and engagement prior to taking the final package forward to legislature.

In parallel, work continued on the Economic Development Act (EDA) to ensure it is streamlined, clear to administer, and operating in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens. This includes reviewing practical implementation considerations and identifying opportunities to reduce complexity, improve usability, and align the Act with current operational realities and economic development priorities.

With the Christmas break, the December work window was shortened; however, momentum was maintained on core legislative priorities. I also want to acknowledge the strong contributions of our new in-house legal counsel, who has already added significant value supporting the Legal Department in advancing the CSA legislative alterations, strengthening the EDA refinement work, and helping ensure drafting is clear, practical, and aligned with Huu-ay-aht's governance objectives.

**Emerging issues:** This month's emerging issue relates to implementation sequencing and coordination. With the CSA advancing toward a final draft and re-engagement, the emphasis is shifting from drafting to orderly implementation planning ensuring the right pieces are completed in the right order, that roles and responsibilities are clear, and that decisions can be made efficiently between meetings where needed. With focused prioritization on the CSA and coordinated internal planning, these requirements remain manageable and should support a smooth transition into the legislature.

**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 Project Lead on Executive Council and holder of the Capital Raise portfolio, I continued guiding the Framework Planning Initiative to ensure any future development in the Framework Plan areas is responsible, values-aligned, and firmly in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens. This reporting period was focused on active negotiations with Forum Asset Management and on refining the partnership's commercial structure through the Term Sheet that will guide the next stage of agreements.

We have been working through detailed iterations of the Term Sheet going back and forth with Forum, our legal counsel at Miller Thomson, and our technical and financial advisors at Deloitte to ensure the proposed governance, risk allocation, capital terms, and revenue framework are fair, clear, and protective of Huu-ay-aht's long-term interests. This is the critical "right terms" phase of the work: testing assumptions, tightening language, and confirming that the agreement structure supports Huu-ay-aht's priorities, risk tolerance, and decision-making authority before anything advances to final documentation.

Looking ahead, once the Term Sheet is concluded, it will provide the foundation for drafting the Master Agreement and related documents, and it will also set the pathway for pre-feasibility work on the initial slate of projects. That next phase is expected to include early-stage technical, financial, and regulatory reviews to determine project viability, sequencing, and alignment with Framework priorities (including housing, economic development, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship). These pre-feasibility outcomes will help confirm which projects are viable and how they can be advanced responsibly.

**Emerging Issues:** The primary emerging issue is the intensity of detailed Term Sheet negotiations and the need for timely coordination to keep momentum while ensuring every clause is thoroughly assessed and aligned with Huu-ay-aht's interests.

**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>

**Ship Recycling Project (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):** As project lead, I continued advancing Huu-ay-aht's partnership with the Hazelwood Group of Companies to explore a ship recycling facility capable of handling mid- to large-sized vessels. The project remains in the pre-feasibility stage, with December focused on strengthening the project pathway confirming partner roles, refining the workplan, and progressing early regulatory discussions while we continue to identify and screen potential sites.

A key area of work this month was coordination with other Alberni Valley organizations that are also exploring ship recycling. These discussions are helping us understand how regional efforts can complement one another (including potential specialization by vessel size, shared services, and coordinated advocacy) and how we can collectively position the Alberni Valley as a credible, responsible hub for this emerging industry. At the same time, we advanced site identification and early screening, focusing on locations that can realistically support safe, compliant operations and efficient marine and upland logistics. While no final site decisions have been made, this early screening work is important to ensure we focus our pre-feasibility effort on options that have the best potential to succeed from an infrastructure, environmental, and regulatory perspective.

We also engaged directly with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG), who have been very supportive. We held multiple meetings to discuss the permitting and approvals landscape and to better understand the most efficient pathway through provincial and federal requirements. This work is aimed at gaining clarity on sequencing, decision points, and the appropriate agencies to engage early so that pre-feasibility findings can translate into a realistic, investable project plan. In parallel, we continued work on a project agreement with our partners to ensure the relationship is

clear, aligned, and positioned to move from pre-feasibility into more detailed technical and business planning as the work progresses.

Overall, December work reinforced that there is significant opportunity in this sector, and that government and regional partners are actively looking for ways to enable safe and responsible ship recycling capacity in B.C. Huu-ay-aht is well positioned to contribute leadership in this space, grounded in Treaty rights, strong environmental stewardship expectations, and a focus on long-term benefits for citizens.

**Emerging issues:** Timelines and first-mover advantage there is strong opportunity and increasing government support, and we want to maintain momentum by moving efficiently through early permitting clarity, partner agreements, and pre-feasibility steps so Huu-ay-aht remains well positioned as the sector develops.

**Clean Energy Portfolio (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):** As the Executive Council portfolio holder for Clean Energy, I continue advancing Huu-ay-aht's leadership in renewable energy across our ḥahuuḷi, guided by our Community Energy Plan and our values of stewardship, sovereignty, affordability, and long-term resilience. My work as Board Chair with Clean Energy BC complements this portfolio by strengthening relationships across government, regulators, and industry, and it helps position Huu-ay-aht to advance power development opportunities within our territory through coordinated advocacy, policy engagement, and project-enabling partnerships.

In December, we continued targeted engagement with the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and other agencies to identify practical pathways to enable power development within Huu-ay-aht territory, including support for early-stage planning, permitting clarity, and investment readiness. This work is focused on removing barriers early and ensuring that future projects can move efficiently from concept to development while protecting Huu-ay-aht interests.

**Anacla Government Office (AGO) Solar Project:** The AGO Solar Project is now complete and fully ready for service, with installation, electrical tie-ins, and internal readiness finalized. The remaining step is BC Hydro commissioning, after which the system will begin delivering immediate cost savings and local clean power to the AGO.

We are also beginning to scope the next phase of improvements, including potential battery storage and options to expand solar generation through additional arrays or a larger system build-out. This future work would strengthen resilience and allow Huu-ay-aht to capture greater long-term value from on-site generation.

**Offshore Floating Wind Pilot – AKS Wind & SeaTwirl:** The offshore floating wind pilot continued to advance on a strong trajectory in December, with partners aligned and workplans progressing for pre-feasibility. We continued refining the technical and commercial pathway while engaging provincial and federal partners on funding and support opportunities to keep the project on a realistic development timeline.

We also advanced investment-readiness discussions and met with a battery supplier to explore storage solutions that could support reliability and grid integration for the pilot. Both the provincial and federal governments remain supportive and engaged, and overall momentum and coordination continue to track well.

**Sector Engagement & Strategic Partnerships:** This month, we maintained focused discussions with provincial partners and BC Hydro on reliability priorities for the Bamfield/Anacla area and the enabling conditions needed for new generation projects. This includes practical conversations on

sequencing, interconnection considerations, and how to align policy tools and program supports with Huu-ay-aht's near-term and long-term energy objectives.

**Multi-Nation Energy Development & Partnerships:** We continue to collaborate with other Nations to explore shared approaches to clean energy development, including partnership models that reduce risk, enable co-investment, and keep long-term benefits within Indigenous communities. The offshore wind initiative also provides a potential pathway for future expansion—including a possible ~40 MW follow-on project—where partner Nations could participate in future phases if the pilot confirms viability and a strong business case.

**Emerging issues (December):** The primary emerging issue remains multi-jurisdictional permitting and sequencing for the offshore wind pilot. We are actively working with our government partners to clarify pathways early and maintain momentum so Huu-ay-aht can move quickly while staying aligned with best practices and our values.

**Climate Sustainability (Executive Council Portfolio Holder):** As a supporting portfolio holder alongside Councillor Stella Peters (who leads this portfolio), my focus in December was on government relations and advocacy helping keep Huu-ay-aht well-positioned to access climate resilience and sustainability opportunities, while supporting Stella's leadership and priorities. This included staying current on provincial and federal program pathways that can support practical, community-driven projects that protect people, lands, and infrastructure as climate impacts increase.

In December, I continued scanning and mapping funding and partnership tools that align with common priority areas such as shoreline protection / shore erosion, wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and low-carbon community infrastructure so that when project concepts are advanced under Stella's direction, we can move quickly to the right ministry/program conversations. Examples of relevant pathways include the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for emergency readiness and mitigation streams, the Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding (DRIF) program for climate-driven hazard resilience projects, and wildfire-focused supports such as the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program and FireSmart Community Funding and Supports

We also remain attentive to coastal adaptation opportunities that can support shoreline resilience and nature-based approaches, including federal programming aimed at climate-resilient coastal community pilot projects, and broader disaster mitigation funding options that can support large-scale protective works where appropriate. In addition, we are monitoring CleanBC-aligned infrastructure pathways (including programs that have funded clean energy generation, building efficiency, and clean transportation infrastructure) and using B.C.'s "one-stop" Community Climate Funding resource to stay aware of current and emerging provincial supports.

**Emerging issue (December):** Continuing to work proactively with provincial and federal partners remains important to identify timely opportunities and align the right programs and supports with Huu-ay-aht's evolving climate sustainability needs.

**Chair of Board of Directors of Huumiis Ventures:** As Chair of the Board of Directors for Huumiis Ventures, I continued working closely with our leadership team and our partner, Western Forest Products, to strengthen our partnership and improve outcomes for forestry locally. Huumiis' interest in TFL 44 remains an important long-term asset for the Nation, and our focus in December was on advancing a renewed agreement framework that better aligns governance, decision-making, and value creation with Huu-ay-aht's interests and the realities of the coastal forestry market.

Throughout the month, we continued active, detailed work with Western Forest Products going back and forth on agreement terms intended to clarify roles, improve accountability, and create more predictable and durable benefits for Huu-ay-aht. While there are challenges, we are working through, our approach has been practical and solutions-oriented: pushing for fair terms, clearer operating expectations, and an arrangement that supports both stability in the business and long-term value for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

Our objectives remain consistent: to strengthen the partnership structure, protect Huu-ay-aht's interests, and ensure Huumiis delivers meaningful value through employment opportunities, own-source revenue, and responsible stewardship of our ḥahuuli. In the coming period, we will continue progressing agreement negotiations and focusing on the key terms needed to support improved performance, clearer governance, and better outcomes for the Nation.

### **Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC)**

**Board of Directors (Chair):** (<https://cleanenergybc.org/>) As Board Chair, I continued to support Clean Energy BC's governance and advocacy work in December, with a major focus on delivering the First Nations Energy Summit (FNES) on December 8–9 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. I served as Master of Ceremonies for both days, co-emceeding alongside Geena Jackson, helping guide the program and strengthen relationships across First Nations, industry, utilities, regulators, and government partners.

FNES provided a high-impact forum to advance Indigenous-led clean energy and power development at a time of accelerating provincial momentum on procurement and partnership models. Throughout the Summit, I used my role to reinforce the importance of First Nations equity participation, project certainty, and timely pathways to getting power built and to ensure Huu-ay-aht's interests and opportunities remain front-and-center in key conversations, while still supporting broader sector advancement.

During the event, I had direct engagement with Premier David Eby and Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions Adrian Dix, alongside senior government, and sector leaders, to discuss priorities and practical steps to advance First Nations power development in British Columbia. These discussions emphasized enabling conditions for projects to move from planning into delivery clear signals on procurement, workable regulatory pathways, and strong partnership structures that support Nations pursuing development in their territories.

<https://cleanenergybc.org/event/2025-first-nations-energy-summit/>

[https://www.facebook.com/CleanEnergyBC/posts/conference-kick-off-a-powerful-opening-to-fnes-2025our-first-nations-energy-summ/908797888338980/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.facebook.com/CleanEnergyBC/posts/conference-kick-off-a-powerful-opening-to-fnes-2025our-first-nations-energy-summ/908797888338980/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.facebook.com/CleanEnergyBC/posts/keynote-address-premier-david-ebybcs-clean-energy-future-and-the-path-of-partner/908915808327188/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.facebook.com/CleanEnergyBC/posts/keynote-address-premier-david-ebybcs-clean-energy-future-and-the-path-of-partner/908915808327188/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Government Relations Committee (Member):** As a member of Clean Energy BC's Government Relations Committee, my December work focused on supporting CEBC's advocacy at a key moment for procurement, permitting modernization, and Indigenous-led clean power development. This included leveraging the First Nations Energy Summit Dec 8–9, Hyatt Regency Vancouver as a platform to engage directly with industry, regulators, and government on practical steps to accelerate clean energy delivery while strengthening Indigenous equity participation.

Committee priorities continued to center on implementing an efficient, transparent “one-window” regulatory approach under the \*\*Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act\*\*, and CEBC’s ongoing collaboration with the Province and the \*\*BC Energy Regulator (BCER)\*\* to reduce duplication while upholding DRIPA alignment, Indigenous rights, and world-class environmental standards.

A major December milestone aligned with our Indigenous equity focus was CEBC’s collaboration with Indigenous Clean Energy to release the Indigenous Clean Electricity Project Equity Guide (Dec 9), providing practical tools and step-by-step frameworks to support Nations evaluating equity ownership, partnership models, governance readiness, financing pathways, and key stages of project development. ([Clean Energy BC][3]) This work directly supports the Committee’s broader objective of ensuring Indigenous-led and majority-owned projects can access clear, transparent information and workable pathways to participation as B.C. advances future Calls for Power.

In parallel, Committee discussions continued to track CEBC’s late-2025 advocacy on the need for proactive electricity planning, procurement certainty, and grid readiness, including CEBC’s call for improvements to BC Hydro’s 2025 Integrated Resource Plan to better reflect demand growth and provide clearer signals for future Calls for Power. ([Clean Energy BC][4]) We also continued supporting member awareness of key regulatory and policy timelines through CEBC’s “Upcoming Key Events & Milestones” resource curated by the Government Relations Committee.

<https://cleanenergybc.org/cebc-welcomes-new-renewable-energy-permitting-legislation-supporting-first-nations-leadership-and-clean-investment/>

<https://cleanenergybc.org/ice-and-cebc-equity-guide/>

<https://cleanenergybc.org/cebc-statement-on-bc-hydro-2025-integrated-resource-plan-revisions-needed-to-reflect-rapidly-growing-energy-demand-create-certainty-for-future-calls-for-power/>

**Permitting & Regulatory Committee (Member):** As a member of Clean Energy BC’s Permitting & Regulatory Committee, my December work focused on helping track and provide practical input on the sector’s transition into B.C.’s new “one-window” renewables permitting model, including the BC Energy Regulator’s expanding oversight for renewable energy projects.

A key December development for proponents was BCER’s release of interim guidance intended to give early direction on renewable energy permit application expectations as the new framework is implemented. Committee discussions focused on what this means in practice for project sequencing, information requirements, and how to maintain strong environmental integrity while enabling more predictable and timely approvals.

Alongside the renewables transition work, the Committee continued advancing active regulatory files that affect project delivery particularly around fisheries, wildlife, and wind/solar best practices so proponents have clearer, more workable expectations as oversight shifts and processes modernize. This work aligns with CEBC’s broader role of engaging and contributing to regulatory processes that shape clean energy development in B.C., including for First Nation members.

[https://www.bc-er.ca/what-we-regulate/renewables/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.bc-er.ca/what-we-regulate/renewables/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.bc-er.ca/news/interim-guidance-for-renewable-energy-permit-applications-now-available-technical-update-2025-18/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.bc-er.ca/news/interim-guidance-for-renewable-energy-permit-applications-now-available-technical-update-2025-18/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<https://cleanenergybc.org/policy-and-regulation/>

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

**Week one (Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>):**

- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Lands Director
- CEBC Admin meeting
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Offshore wind project meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with EcDev Officer
- Regulatory Efficiency Committee meeting
- Huumiis BoD meeting
- Special Executive Council meeting
- First Nations Energy Summit planning meeting
- Offshore wind project meeting
- Weekly ship recycling meeting.
- FIFA support meeting
- Huumiis partnership agreement meeting
- HFN Christmas party

**Week two (Dec 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>):**

- Clean Energy BC First Nations Energy Summit Emcee Event
- Huumiis Partnership meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Edward Johnson
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Brad Johnson
- Ship recycling meeting with partner.
- Executive Council meeting
- Bi-weekly ship recycling meeting
- Bi-weekly meeting with Executive Director
- Bi-weekly meeting with Chief John Jack
- Government relations interview
- Government relations interview

**Week three (Dec 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>):**

- Meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Climate solutions and Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth
- Huumiis partnership meeting
- Regulatory Working Group for Ship recycling meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Lands Director
- First Nations Steering Committee monthly check in meeting
- CEBC Admin meeting
- Government relations interview
- Government relations interview
- Government relations interview
- Bi-weekly meeting with EcDev Officer
- Government relations interview
- Government relations interview
- Offshore wind project meeting
- Ship Recycling Leadership Group Minister Kahlon, Minister Osborne, MLA Gord Johns
- Weekly ship recycling meeting.
- Committee of the Whole meeting

- Special Executive Council meeting

**Week Four (Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>):**

- Christmas break

**Week Five (Dec 27<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>):**

- Christmas break