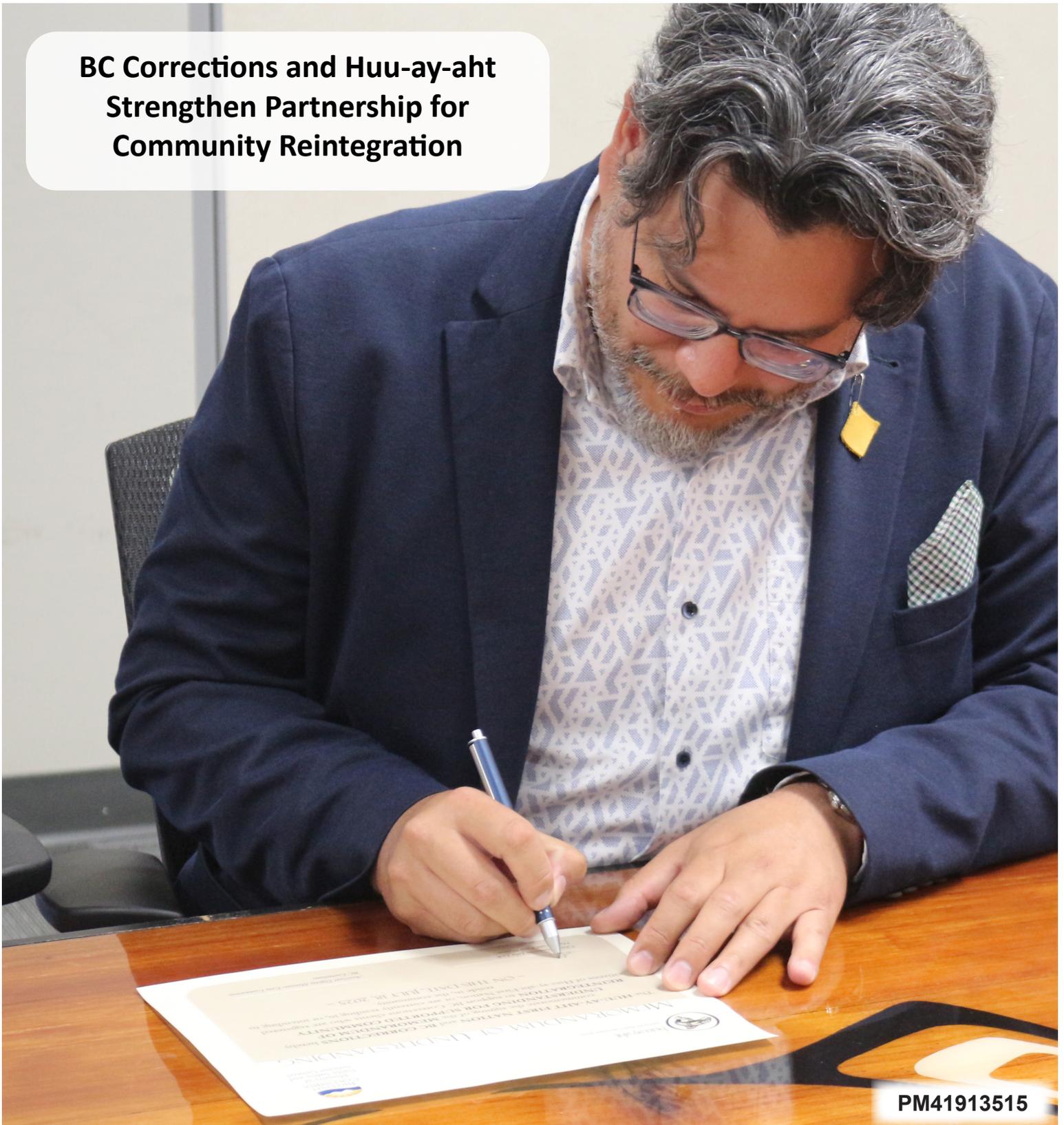




# Uyaqhmis

December 2025 Issue 81

## BC Corrections and Huu-ay-aht Strengthen Partnership for Community Reintegration



PM41913515

# Download The Huu-ay-aht First Nations App Now!

As of September 2025, since launching the Huu-ay-aht App, we have a total of 730 users. Of these, 204 are registered users, and 525 are unregistered users. This means that 525 people are not receiving up-to-date information.

Please note that after downloading the app, it is essential to check your email for a verification message after signing up. You must verify your account before you can log in and start receiving real-time notifications from Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

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The app uses state-of-the-art technology to notify HFN members of breaking news, documents, videos, and events, instantly delivered via push notifications.



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- 1 DOWNLOAD**  
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Get the latest news, events, jobs, & more right at your fingertips!

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huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisions a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma čawak, and ʔuuʔaʔuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

### Huu-ay-aht First Nations Wellness Statement

Our citizens are grounded in our culture, teachings, and sacred principles. Through healing, wellness, celebration, and the understanding of our Treaty, we are connected, empowered, responsible, accountable, and motivated.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huyuayaht.org  
Mailing Address:  
Huu-ay-aht First Nations  
4644 Adelaide Street,  
Port Alberni, BC  
V9Y 6N4

[www.huyuayaht.org](http://www.huyuayaht.org)  
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaq̓hmis

Keep up to date with Uyaq̓hmis on social media:  
@HuyuayahtFN



Huu-ay-aht First Nations  
Facebook page



# Huu-ay-aht Invests In Vertical Farming For Food Security & Sustainability

The Economic Development Department has identified a critical need for affordable, locally grown fresh produce in the communities of Anacla and Bamfield.

Due to a limited number of retail outlets and the high costs associated with transporting food to these remote areas, residents and businesses face substantial barriers to accessing fresh fruits and vegetables.

In response, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) is launching a food security initiative utilizing hydroponic vertical farming technology provided by Growcer.

With funding secured through the Large-Scale Food Infrastructure Fund, as well as the Capital and Innovation program, we are proceeding with the capital purchase of a modular grow facility and a processing hub unit. Primary crops will include leafy greens, vegetables, herbs, and select fruits.

While this initiative is fundamentally a social-economic development project aimed at increasing reliable access to



Inside a hydroponic vertical farming unit (Photo provided by Growcer).

fresh, healthy foods, our goal is to ensure it remains financially sustainable and does not place an ongoing burden on the Nation's resources.

## The following Steps of the project are to:

1. Finalize registration for grow technician training at Alert Bay
2. Hire two grow technicians to start
3. Complete site preparation
4. Delivery and placement of the farming unit
5. Start processing the first harvest

The supplier is currently manufacturing the farming system and processing hub unit, with installation initially scheduled for early November. Due to ongoing road closures along Bamfield Main, the delivery and placement of the units are expected to be delayed until the route is reopened.

Despite this setback, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations remain committed to moving the project forward and ensuring that residents of Anacla and Bamfield will soon have reliable, local access to fresh, healthy produce.

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## Huu-ay-aht Expands Outreach Services With New Backpack Initiative

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation Community Citizen Services Department are proud to launch the Outreach Backpack Program, a new initiative designed to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

The purpose of this program is to find our citizens who are unhoused and connect them with essential resources, providing tailored assistance and ongoing support to help them regain stability and access the services they need.

The new initiative was made possible by our success in receiving the First Nation Health Authority Urban and Away from Home Grant, as well as through our Outreach Program.

The backpack program was initiated in April 2025. An additional Homelessness grant has been received, providing 4 years of funding.

As of September 2025, 22 backpacks have been handed out along

with multiple rounds into communities. Together, we can make a difference in restoring dignity and building brighter futures for those in need.

If you know a family member or friend who is a Huu-ay-aht Citizen and who may be unhoused, please get in touch with Darrell Ross Jr. at 250-723-0100.

This information will support our outreach team in making connections with them.

# Mental Wellness

## What is Mental Wellness?

Mental wellness is the ability to feel, think, and act in ways that help us enjoy life and cope with changes and difficulties. It is not about being happy all the time or the absence of illness.

Mental wellness is holistic which means that includes, our physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing and it is important at every stage of life, from childhood, adolescence through adulthood.

## What affects or Mental Wellness?

We all experience many changes and losses in life. This could bring stresses to our lives and make it more challenging to cope with them.

## What can we do to improve our Mental Wellness?

Prioritizing mental wellness helps us navigate life's challenges with resilience and clarity.

- Simple practices like setting aside time for self-care
- Engaging in regular physical activity
- Learning how to name and express our emotions.
- Talk about our feelings.
- Practicing gratitude.
- Connecting with other people.
- Exploring complementary therapies, like homeopathy,
- Seek professional support when needed.
- Practicing mindfulness can make a big difference. As it is a healing practice that involves intention, attention and attitude.

Taking care of our mental health is just as important as taking care of our physical health. Remember, it's okay to ask for help — mental wellness is a journey, not a destination.

Note: If you need support, contact Rena Johnson or Irene Cordero, Clinical Counsellors. To the Phone: 250-723-0100 or email: [rena.j@huyuayaht.org](mailto:rena.j@huyuayaht.org) or [irene.c@huyuayaht.org](mailto:irene.c@huyuayaht.org).

*(Article Sources: National Gaucher Foundation; Kinder Caring: Holistic Health Approaches, Saprea.org; Firs Nation Health Authority)*



# Cultural and Visitor Information Centre Now has Walls!

The walls of the new Cultural & Visitor Information Centre are now going up, marking an important milestone in the construction project that began in May 2025. With work well underway, the project remains on schedule, with doors set to open by summer 2026.

This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a vibrant hub where Huu-ay-aht culture, art, and community come together.

## Highlights of the Centre will include:

- A museum showcasing cultural treasures and artifacts returning home from the Royal BC Museum.
- A visitor services desk to welcome and support guests.
- A workshop space for Huu-ay-aht and other Indigenous artists to create and share their work.
- A retail section featuring local artwork alongside other items.



Construction development of the Cultural & Visitor Centre in Anacla (Photo by Heather Alexander).

- Free Wi-Fi for visitors and community members.
- Wheelchair-accessible washrooms.
- Convenient parking facilities.
- A dedicated space for Huu-ay-aht citizens to operate a food truck or café.

More than just a building, the Cultural & Visitor Information

Centre represents a step forward in revitalizing Huu-ay-aht culture, supporting local artists and entrepreneurs, and creating a welcoming space for all who visit our lands.

While much work remains, the progress to date is a source of pride and excitement. The Huu-ay-aht First Nations will continue to share updates as construction advances, and the community looks ahead to welcoming visitors in the summer of 2026.

## Maa-nulth Nations Launch Pilot Commercial Fishery After Decade-Long Negotiations

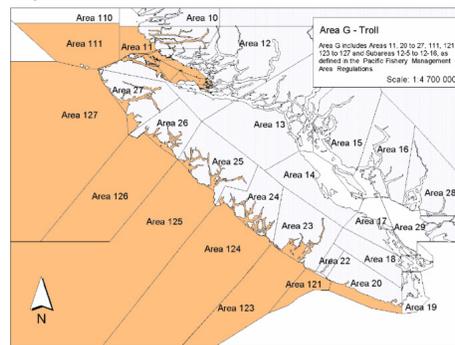
After more than a decade of discussion and litigation, the Maa-nulth First Nations have successfully accessed a commercial fishery for Maa-nulth Treaty Citizens, under the Me-Too Agreement (treaty clause) negotiations with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

While negotiations with DFO continue, the Maa-nulth Nations identified an opportunity to implement a 'pilot' fishery in 2025. From August 16 to September 30, fishing was restricted to this time window to align with steelhead conservation measures.

The 'pilot' fishery allowed for a

'mosquito fleet' of 6 Maa-nulth fishers to fish in the Area G troll allocation (see map).

Map of commercial salmon licence Area G



Orange areas highlight the allocations of Area G (Map provided by HFN Lands & Natural Resources).

The fish caught were offloaded and sold in Ucluelet, bringing economic benefits and pride to the community.

It is cause for a celebration of accomplishment after a long and challenging road, to reach the point where Maa-nulth Nations may harvest and sell products from the sea, as was done long ago.

The long-term goal is to establish direct offloading, payment, and local sales, as well as secure allocations for other species to increase seasonality and commercial benefits for the nations, thereby creating a stable income from seafood harvesting.

# Help Shape the Future of Huu-ay-aht's Tribunal

## Participate in the Huu-ay-aht Tribunal Project!

### Why This Matters

The Tribunal has done its job so far, but it doesn't fully follow Huu-ay-aht values and sacred principles.

We have a chance to **make it better** and more in line with who we are as Huu-ay-aht.

The Tribunal Project is working to make sure the Tribunal feels **safe, respectful of our culture, and trusted by everyone.**

### Your Voice Matters

Are you a Huu-ay-aht citizen, Elder, government staff member that has experience with the Tribunal process? **Your voice matters!**

Take part in a private, in-person or virtual conversation with the Tribunal Project team.

**Your ideas will help us understand what needs to change and how to do it.**

### How to get involved?

To learn more or to sign up for a private conversation, please contact:

Dr. Heather Castleden, Project Lead  
[heather.c@huuayaht.org](mailto:heather.c@huuayaht.org)

Jeremy Perkins, Project Coordinator  
[jeremy.p@huuayaht.org](mailto:jeremy.p@huuayaht.org)

#### Our Advisory Circle Members:

- hapinyuuk (Tommy Happynook), ḥawiiḥ Representative
- Stephen Rayner, Chair of the Law and Policy Development Committee
  - Kiana Mio, Huu-ay-aht Citizen
  - Andrea Pettigrew, Tribunal Member
  - Angela Wesley, Huu-ay-aht Citizen
- Elder Jack Cook, nanaaniiqsu Representative

#### More Community Engagement Sessions are coming soon!

Funded by: The Law Foundation of British Columbia, Weaving Cedar Justice Grant.  
In-kind contributions from the Huu-ay-aht First Nation.

ḥeko ḥeko



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

## BC Corrections And Huu-ay-aht Partner In Supported Community Integration

BC Corrections and Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) met at the Port Alberni Government office on Friday, July 18, 2025, to share a meal, exchange gifts, and join in partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Supported Community Integration.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a collaboration between BC Corrections and HFN to support release planning, reintegration and/or case management of BC Corrections Clients who are registered citizens of the HFN, or are currently residing in, or intending to reside in the HFN community.

This initiative intends to provide BC Corrections and HFN citizens a better understanding of the significant role that a community can play when individuals who are involved with BC Corrections desire to have representatives from their community support their reintegration efforts.

The MOU was signed by HFN



(Left to Right) Chief Councillor Sayaacath, John Jack and Erin Gunnarson, Assistant Deputy Minister with BC Corrections (Photo by Huu-ay-aht Communications).

Chief Councillor Sayaacath, John Jack and Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Corrections, Erin Gunnarson.

Also in attendance were HFN Executive Councillors  $\mathring{h}$ aasiismis $\mathring{a}$ ksup, Stella Peters (the portfolio holder),  $\mathring{\lambda}$ icitath, Edward R. Johnson,  $\mathring{h}$ aasqu $\mathring{?}$ is $\mathring{?}$ ath, Stephen Rayner, and from the  $\mathring{h}$ w $\mathring{i}$ i $\mathring{h}$  Council, Sherri Cook (Yaalthuuaa-uks) and Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup).

BC Corrections presented a

wooden box and blanket made by inmates at a BC Corrections facility who are taking part in the woodworking and Tailor Shop Programs.

Other First Nations have also participated in this initiative; the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation signed a similar MOU in 2019, and five Nicola Valley Indian Bands – the Coldwater Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band and Upper Nicola Indian Band in 2021.

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## Collaboration To Protect The Endangered Frederick Lake Western Toad Population

The Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot & Barkley Sounds, locally known as “SPLAT” have been working together to protect the Frederick Lake Western Toad population since 2018.

Frederick Lake is home to a breeding population of Western Toads, a species that is protected under the Species at Risk Act in Canada.

To access the lake to breed in the spring, Western Toads must migrate across the road bordering Frederick Lake, where they mate and lay eggs in shallow waters along the shore. Breeding adults then migrate back across the road into the forest after laying eggs.

Once eggs hatch into tadpoles and grow into toadlets, the toadlets must also cross the road to migrate into the forest, which takes place in July and August.

In the spring of 2021, with the announcement of the resurfacing of the Bamfield Road and the expectation of increased vehicle traffic, SPLAT approached the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Government of BC to install toad underpasses. During the spring and fall of 2021 and spring of 2022, the Huu-ay-aht Watershed Renewal Technicians assisted the SPLAT team to survey the number of toads crossing the road. Two culverts were installed as well as over 300 meters of fencing

to guide toads to the culverts were constructed. In 2023 and 2024 more fencing was added, and surveys conducted to find the peak crossing locations and used wildlife cameras to photograph toads using the culverts.

Huu-ay-aht Guardians, along with SPLAT crew, played a key role in nighttime toad surveys, extending fences to keep toads off the Bamfield Road, and building a temporary fence extension to be in place during peak toadlet migration.

For more information, please scan the QR to see the update provided by SPLAT.



# Huu-ay-aht Participates In The 2025 Tlu-piich Games

It's always an exciting time of year when Nations come together for the Annual Tlu-piich Games. On August 11, 2025, Huu-ay-aht First Nations was one of five nations who participated in this year's games in Port Alberni, BC.

The games, hosted by Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, took place at the Bob Dailey Stadium from August 11-14. Many people ranging in age from young children to adults participated in friendly competition. Activities in this event included Track and Field, Volleyball, Tee Ball, Canoe races, and much more.

There were about 21 participants from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations along with four chaperones, the lead being Jacquie Dennis, and two others being summer students



Huu-ay-aht Youth at the Bob Daily Stadium for Tlu-Piich Games 2025 (Photo by Emily Kosteniuk).

working with the Nation.

Due to the danger of extreme heat, the games were cut short during the first couple of days. In the middle of the week, the games were cancelled due to the Mount Underwood Wildfire and air quality conditions.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations wishes to thank the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council for hosting the 2025 Tlu-piich games, everyone who organized the event and made it possible, and Huu-ay-aht staff and chaperones for coming together and supporting Huu-ay-aht children, youth, and citizens.

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## IWCD Donates a Fireplace to ʔumʔiqsu Centre in Support of Healing and Connection

In July 2025, the ʔumʔiqsu Centre and ʔumʔiqsu Child Care Centre have received a generous donation of a fireplace from Island West Coast Developments (IWCD), the Nanaimo-based construction company that built the facility. The donation is a heartfelt gesture made to honour the Centre's mission and to give back to the community.

"It has been an honour to walk alongside you on this journey," IWCD shared in a card presented with the fireplace. "We hold deep respect for your strength, your stories, and the wisdom of your traditions. May the road ahead continue to bring healing, balance, and connection to spirit, land, and community. IWCD presents this gift in recognition of your experiences and the resilience they represent."

They added, "We are honoured to play a part in your path to healing. Thank you for allowing us to be involved."



Huu-ay-aht First Nations, ʔumʔiqsu Centre, and IWCD Representatives in front of the gifted Fireplace (Photo by Huu-ay-aht Communications)

To mark the occasion, members of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Culture and Language Department offered a song. They shared deep gratitude on behalf of the Nation and the ʔumʔiqsu Centre. They expressed thanks using the word: ʔuʂʔakʂiʔeʔic – You've done something useful.

"The natural translation is, thank you," hinatinyis, Language Coordinator,

Huu-ay-aht First Nations, explained. "The literal translation is, you've done something useful, a way of saying what you have done has helped a great deal."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government and ʔumʔiqsu Centre would like to acknowledge the generous gift from IWCD and express our gratitude for the support.

# Huu-ay-aht Youth Gain Skills and Culture Through Summer Student Program

This summer, 15 Huu-ay-aht Citizen youth gained valuable workplace experience through the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) Summer Student Program, contributing their skills across several government departments while exploring potential future careers.

Students were placed in Community Services, Communications & Administration, Cultural Wellness, Paawats (Child and Family Wellness), ʔumʔiqsu Child Care Centre and Lands & Natural Resources. Their work ranged from supporting language initiatives and creating cultural content to assisting with reception, social media, and graduation activities. Some youth worked in childcare settings, helping at daycares and supporting young children in daily activities.

They also engaged in cedar-rose making, cultural programming, and singing, while others participated in fieldwork, such as marine bio-life surveying.

Guided by mentors throughout the summer, the students built confidence and gained insight into the workings of government. As one participant shared, “I learned more here than at school and felt comfortable.” Another noted, “Getting out there and having fun was the best part.”

At the end of the summer, Human



Some Summer Students Touring Kixin for first day orientation. [left to right]: Cory Howard Sr., Emily Kosteniuk, Hailey Jacob, Charli Brown, Jay Gill, Daniel Jack, Issiah Dennis, Vanessa Young, Nolan Nookemus, Victoria Williams (photo by H. Alexander).

Resources conducted a survey to support future development of the program. The feedback provided by students will help guide next year’s improvements, ensuring the program continues to grow while staying grounded in Huu-ay-aht values.

Mentorship received an average rating of 4.5 out of 5, while cultural safety and belonging followed closely at 4.4 out of 5, reflecting that youth felt both guided and welcomed.

The understanding of HFN government scored 3.4 out of 5, pointing to an opportunity to strengthen awareness of how departments work together. Importantly, every single student stated that they would return next

term, and when asked about future HFN careers, 14 responded affirmatively, and one said maybe.

These results are a promising sign for building the nation’s future workforce.

Students also suggested areas for improvement, including more cultural gatherings, opportunities for job rotations, and small logistics supports such as notebooks, earlier notice of schedule changes, and transport assistance to and from Anacla.

The program not only helped students build workplace skills but also strengthened their connection to Huu-ay-aht values of ʔiisaak (respect), ʔuuʔaʔuk (taking care of one another), and hišuk ma čawak (everything is one).

Looking ahead, Huu-ay-aht plans to expand the program by introducing a short “HFN Government 101” orientation, offering optional job-shadow opportunities, and providing improved logistical support.

These steps aim to help youth understand how departments work together while deepening their experience of culture and governance.



Culture Team making Cedar Roses for House of Huu-ay-aht Celebration in July. [left to right]: Daniel Jack, Cory Howard Sr., and Daniel Speck (photo by H. Alexander).



# Inside Look: The Team Crafting the Reports You Read

By: tašii?akqin ?uyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story) Research Team and Research Advisory Committee



ḥapinyuuk, Tommy Happynook

### Background information about yourself:

My great grandparents are Lizzie and Billy Happynook, my grandfather is Tommy Happynook, my parents are Tom and Kathy Happynook. I am

married to ?aasaawis Carly Cunningham, and we have son named ḥawitwinis, Mahihkan Happynook.

I have a PhD in Anthropology and work as an assistant professor in the department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria. My interests include documenting the reclamation of knowledge, teachings, culture, language, responsibilities, and identity through my relationship to čaačaačiiḥas.

In specific and intentional ways my research is part of a larger story of reconciliation and reclamation to ḥahuuḥi in which the lands, waters, skies, and the natural/spiritual worlds are not a place and/or object of inquiry, they are non-human knowledge holders and teachers.

All this to say, that I am working hard to ensure that members of our

ma?as can grow up connected to ḥahuuḥi, culture, and language.

### Why did you join this research committee?

I am on this research committee as the ḥawiih representative. I will be transitioning to a new role as a Principal Investigator for the next grant application.

### What does treaty and the research project on Treaty Implementation mean to you?

The research project is an important way for Huu-ay-aht government and citizens to understand how treaty implementation effects Huu-ay-aht citizens working for the nation. Understanding the treaty helps us, Huu-ay-aht citizens, to understand our own path on/to self-determination.



Klaupsoowilth; Linnea Bowes

### Background information about yourself:

My name is Klaupsoowilth, also known as Linnea. I am Huu-ay-aht and Ditidaht, with many strong ties to our surrounding Nuu-chah-nulth communities. I am a mother of six, a stepmom to 6 more, and an aunty to many.

It's through motherhood that I stay grounded in our teachings and connected to the responsibilities we carry for future generations. Raising my children in culture, truth, and strength is what guides me in everything I do, as a woman, a community member, and someone

deeply committed to our collective healing and growth.

### Why did you join this research committee?

I joined this committee to help ensure that research done with and about our people is rooted in respect, lived experience, and community voice.

I believe our stories are powerful and deserve to be protected, honoured, and told by us. As a mother and a nuučaaḥuḥ woman, I wanted to support work that reflects our truths not just data, but spirit, and that contributes to real change for



# Get to Know Some Members Of The Team Behind the Reports

By: tašii?akqin ?uyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story) Research Team and Research Advisory Committee

our people.

## What does treaty and the research project on Treaty Implementation mean to you?

For me, this research is about truth and about naming the harm colonization and the Indian Act caused. The way they tore apart our homes, our teachings, and the way we raised our children together. We were pushed into systems that made us forget who we are.

Treaty was meant to help us reclaim what was taken: our land, our governance, our way of life. A path back to self-determination. But the truth is, just signing a treaty didn't undo the damage.

We're still healing, still rebuilding, still asking: Is treaty actually helping us live better? Safer? More connected?

This project gives us space to reflect on how intergenerational

trauma changed everything from how we parent, to how we relate to one another, to how safe we feel in our own communities, and how we operate on our land. It's not just a review. It's a call to be honest.

To name what's working, what's not, and what still needs to change. We do this work so the next generation can rise stronger, our children are our future, and they deserve more than survival, and restoration doesn't happen in silence.

Page 2 | *Tasii?akqin ?uyaqhmisukqin Introductions*

# We Are Hiring!

Visit our website for full details

[www.huuayaht.org/work-with-us/](http://www.huuayaht.org/work-with-us/)



huuayaht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND



## Climate Change and Modern Treaties: Research Explores Čaačaaciiŋas Through the Maa-nulth Treaty

By: tašii?akqin ŋuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story) Research Team and Research Advisory Committee

How Indigenous Nations respond to climate change while implementing modern treaties was the focus of a new Master's thesis by Métis graduate student ReAnne Kennedy, titled "Climate Change and Modern Treaties: A Case Study of Čaačaaciiŋas (Carnation Creek) Through the Lens of the Maa-nulth Treaty."

With a background in Indigenous Studies, Environmental Science, and Geography, Kennedy's research was conducted through the tašii?akqin ŋuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives on Modern Treaty Implementation research project, which is guided by a huuŋii?ath Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Her research was also directed by huuŋii?ath sacred guiding principles as rooted in the ḥaḥuułi: ŋiisaak, ŋu?aałuk, and hišuk?iš čawaak.

Because climate change is not mentioned outright in the Maa-nulth Treaty, the RAC suggested that Kennedy examine the intersection between climate change and modern treaty governance through the lens of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

In April 2024, and after also meeting with Huu-ay-aht First Nations Lands Department, ḥawiiḥ Council, and Executive Council, čaačaaciiŋas was also chosen as a case study with ḥawil ḥapinyuuk's permission.

Kennedy's research found that

climate change is an ecological and a political challenge for Huu-ay-aht First Nations. While modern treaties are designed to affirm Indigenous rights and provide tools for self-governance, the Maa-nulth Treaty, like most modern treaties in British Columbia, was negotiated before the effects of climate change were felt as they are today.

In order to determine what the relationship is between climate change and modern treaties, Kennedy first conducted a literature review, drawing connections between climate change, Indigenous governance, and treaty law. She highlighted how Indigenous communities within British Columbia are experiencing the earliest impacts of climate change, including altered salmon migration, rising sea levels, and shifts in forest ecosystems.

These changes affect not only the environment but also cultural practices, economies, and governance systems. The literature review also explores the evolution of modern treaties in Canada. While these agreements support self-governance and resource management, Kennedy identified a clear gap in the literature: while scholars have examined climate change impacts on Indigenous communities, and others have explored how modern treaties function in practice, none have analyzed how the two issues intersect.

This gap leaves unanswered questions about how treaties can

meet the demands of a changing climate. Kennedy's research is a response to this gap, aiming to bring climate science, Indigenous governance, and treaty law into the same conversation. Kennedy also positions the 'living nature' of the treaty as key here since it provides opportunities to address gaps, such as climate action.

Kennedy also looked at čaačaaciiŋas for her research. While čaačaaciiŋas is outside of Huu-ay-aht First Nations' treaty lands, it is within the broader ḥaḥuułi. čaačaaciiŋas is also one of the most studied watersheds in Canada, providing decades of data on salmon populations and ecosystem health.

By grounding her research in this well-documented environment and applying a place-based approach, Kennedy was able to assess how climate-driven ecological shifts intersect with the legal and political opportunities through the Maa-nulth Treaty.

For this study, the treaty and its side agreements, provincial and federal policy documents, existing ecological studies of čaačaaciiŋas, and community-based research were focussed on alongside public documents that reflect huuŋii?ath voices, such as huuŋii?ath's documentaries Heart of the People and Return of the River.

Kennedy's research affirm that climate change is altering the ecological balance of čaačaaciiŋas,



# Climate Change and Modern Treaties: Research Explores Čaačaaciičas Through the Maa-nulth Treaty

By: tašii?akqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story) Research Team and Research Advisory Committee

particularly through impacts on salmon populations and watershed health. While granting Huu-ay-aht First Nations stronger governance, the Maa-nulth Treaty may encounter federal and provincial constraints that can limit the scope of climate adaptation.

Kennedy notes that treaty rights over fisheries and land create opportunities for proactive management, but gaps remain when jurisdictional conflicts arise.

Yet, Kennedy’s research also points to areas of strength: Huu-ay-aht First Nations governance structures allow for culturally grounded stewardship approaches

that could become models for adaptive treaty practice.

Stemming from this understanding, Kennedy’s research also offers recommendations for Huu-ay-aht First Nations leadership to consider that could contribute to the upcoming periodic review of the Treaty in 2026.

The thesis concludes by emphasizing that modern treaties must be understood as living agreements, shaped by evolving challenges like climate change.

For Huu-ay-aht First Nations and other Indigenous Nations, climate pressures highlight both the

promise and potential unknowns of treaty-based governance.

Kennedy ends by arguing that meaningful treaty implementation requires governments to engage more fully with Indigenous authority and to adapt legal frameworks to address ecological realities.

If you are interested in receiving summaries of ReAnne Kennedy’s chapters, please email ReAnne at: reannekennedy17@outlook.com or Onyx Sloan Morgan at onyx.sloanmorgan@ubc.ca .

Her full thesis can be accessed online at: <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/92054> .



## Executive Council Monthly Reports are available for viewing on our website



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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

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SCAN ME



# LANGUAGE CORNER

## Action Words

### Mood Endings

Now that we know how to ask questions, let's learn how to make Real Mood statements.

These endings tell us who we are talking about, and when we know it to be true. We would not use these when storytelling or gossiping.

### Real Mood Ending

I	-(m)a•h
You	-(m)e•?ic
He, She, It	-ma•
We	-(m)in
You All	-(m)e•?icuu
They	-ma•?ał

When you bring your knowledge of syllables, the question mood, and real mood together, you can practice speaking in full sentences.

### Rule

When you see a character in brackets (m) drop that character if the root ends in a consonant.

na?atahah - I am listening  
ciiqciqamah - I am speaking

### Exception

Except for when the root ends in an "m" or "n"

łak<sup>w</sup>inmah - I am pleading

### Question and Answer

?ačaḡhak - Who are you?  
?uklaamah \_\_\_ - My name is \_\_\_

### Try on you own

Use these action words to practice both your question and real mood.

ha?uk - eating  
ciiqciqa - speaking

# LANGUAGE CORNER

## Introduction

### Fill in your info

ʔuklaamaḥ

My name is \_\_\_\_

histaqšilaḥ

I come from \_\_\_\_

ʔuḥuk<sup>w</sup>aḥ ʔumʔiiqsu

My mother is \_\_\_\_

ʔuḥuk<sup>w</sup>aḥ ḥuwiiqsu

My father is \_\_\_\_

### Fill in your parents info

ʔuklaama

Her/His name is \_\_\_\_

histaqšilma

She/He comes from \_\_\_\_

### Place Names

ʔanaqʔa - Anacla

éaxáaʔa - Grappler Inlet

numaqimiyis - mouth of Sarita River

kuḥswiis - south side of Sarita River

éuumasas - Port Alberni

mituuni - Victoria

### Past Tense

Use this version to introduce your relations who have passed away.

ʔuḥuk<sup>w</sup>itaḥ ʔumʔiiqsu \_\_\_\_

ʔuḥuk<sup>w</sup>itaḥ ḥuwiiqsu \_\_\_\_

We will learn more about the past tense in the next issue.

# Huu-ay-aht works together on Sarita River Economic Fishery 2025



Huu-ay-aht First Nations Staff, Citizens, and Nitinaht Hatchery crew at the end of five long working days in the Sarita River! (Photo by Heather Alexander).

On September 11, 2025, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) citizens, staff, and members of the Nitinaht River Hatchery came together along the Sarita River for the 2025 Economic Fishery, a day that was both rewarding and physically demanding. The collaborative effort focused on harvesting Chinook salmon for food, collecting broodstock for the Nitinaht Hatchery, and conducting scientific sampling to support the future restoration and management of the river's salmon population.

After being fitted with chest waders, the Huu-ay-aht team made their way to the river, where the Nitinaht crew awaited with boats, nets, and transport gear. The river's water level was unusually low due to limited rainfall, making the work even more challenging as the teams waded downstream towing floating totes used to store harvested fish.

About two hundred meters downstream from the landing area, a large school of Chinook was spotted. Working quickly and efficiently, the hatchery crew deployed a seine net while HFN members assisted in guiding it toward the shore. The catch was impressive, roughly 400

to 500 Chinook salmon.

From this group, mature wild Chinook with intact adipose fins were carefully selected as broodstock. These fish, identified as either male or female, were placed into water-filled transport bags and carried upstream to waiting trucks equipped with live tanks. They were then transported to the Nitinaht River Hatchery, where they will contribute to next spring's juvenile stock.

Meanwhile, hatchery-reared Chinook, recognizable by their missing adipose fins, were sampled and harvested as food fish. The Huu-ay-aht citizens, including youth participants, worked tirelessly to collect, dispatch, and carry over 300 fish, weighing more than 2,000 pounds in total, back upstream for processing.

Each fish was checked for coded wire tags using a metal detector. These tags, implanted into juvenile fish before release, provide vital data about origin, age, and migration patterns. Tagged fish were identified, measured, and their heads sent to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for further genetic analysis. For untagged fish, scale and otolith samples were collected to aid researchers in studying age and growth.

Once sampling was complete, all fish were cleaned and packed on ice for sale. Early in the season, bright silver Chinook fetch higher prices on the market, while later in the year, darker fish are often used for value-added products, such as smoked or candied salmon.

The 2025 Economic Fishery spanned five days in total, yielding 7,846 pounds of hatchery Chinook for food fish and approximately 50 wild Chinook transported to Nitinaht Hatchery for broodstock.

Led by Amelia Vos and Scott Cheyne, with support from Tommy Joe, Clifford Nookemus, and Abigail Andiel, the project demonstrated the success of teamwork, traditional stewardship, and scientific collaboration.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations extend appreciation to DFO and the Nitinaht River Hatchery team for their continued partnership in restoring and sustaining the Sarita River Chinook population, ensuring that this vital resource continues to thrive for generations to come.

To view photo story, please scan the QR Code.

