



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

March 6, 2026

Statement from Huu-ay-aht Executive Council Regarding Upcoming ?Apwinisath? House Seating Event

Huu-ay-aht Executive Council has been informed of an upcoming private event involving the seating of Huupaalthus (Olivia Peters) for the House of ?Apwinisath? at the House of Gathering in Port Alberni. The Executive Council continues to support the Huu-ay-aht H̄aw̄iih, past and present. We stand with our traditional leaders and honour their decisions when it comes to our traditional protocols and practices.

The Executive Council is committed to the safety and well-being of our women, children, the elderly, and the vulnerable. This commitment continues today and into the future. We demonstrated this in the past by supporting Huu-ay-aht H̄aw̄iih in their decision to remove a member due to misconduct and breaching Huu-ay-aht traditions and Huu-ay-aht laws .

On May 5, 2022, H̄aw̄iih Council received serious allegations regarding Derek Peters from several citizens. On May 6, 2022, Derek Peters stepped away and retired from all his positions and duties. The Huu-ay-aht Executive Council then initiated an investigation. In May 2023, investigators submitted their report to H̄aw̄iih Council, and a summary was provided to the Executive Council. The findings of the Panel of Inquiry Report are available at: <https://huuayah.org/hfn-inquiry-panel/>.

On April 19, 2024, a Huu-ay-aht Tribunal application was filed against Derek Peters. The hearing was completed on May 28, 2024, and the decision was released on June 18, 2024. The Tribunal determined that Derek Peters is disqualified from holding any position he may currently hold as a public officer and is prohibited from holding any position as a public officer for a period of eight (8) years from the date of the decision. The full decision is available on our webpage: [2024-06-12 Application 2024-01 Decision \(02537942\).DOCX](#)

Executive Council will continue to support our Huu-ay-aht h̄aw̄iih in asserting their traditional protocols and support Huupaalthus taking on the seat in accordance with Huu-ay-aht tradition and protocols.

The Executive Council also acknowledge the significant work that went into both the Panel of Inquiry Report and the Tribunal Decision. We respect and recognize those who came forward to share their experiences. We understand that the private event may raise concerns, and the Executive Council wants to assure citizens that we remain committed to supporting our people and ensuring that our community remains safe and secure.

The Huu-ay-aht Executive Council will continue to support our Huu-ay-aht h̄aw̄iih decisions.

?uušyak šilii?ic (Thank you),



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John Jack

B Johnson

Stella M Peters

We understand this information may be triggering, we encourage citizens to reach out to support if needed:

- Child and Family Wellness Department - 250-723-0100 (please call for individual support)
- Cultural Support (Cory Howard Sr.) - 1-888-644-4555 or 250-723-0100
- Huu-ay-aht Clinical Counsellors – 250-723-0100
- Cultural Wellness Program (Quu'asa) – 250-724-3939
- Kuu-us Crisis Line (24-hour support)
 - 250-723-4050 (Port Alberni)
 - 250-723-2040 (Port Alberni)
 - Toll Free 1-800-588-8717 (BC Wide)
 - Outside of BC, please contact the Crisis Line in your area
- First Nations Health Authority – for counsellors covered by your First Nations Health
- Authority Benefits in your area, see <https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health>

Office: Anacla Government Office, 170 Nookemus Road, Anacla, B.C., V0R 1B0

Phone: 1.888.644.4555 | 250.728.3414 | Fax: 250.728.1222

Mail: Port Alberni Government Office, 4644 Adelaide Street, Port Alberni, B.C., V9Y 6N4 | Phone: 250.723.0100 | Fax: 250.723.4646