



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

**Executive Council Report
January 2026**

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Chief-Councillor John Jack Report – January 2026

General Duties – Chief Councillor – Progress Report

First Week

Office hours resumed on Monday, January after a 2-week closure for the Holidays. The week consisted of multiple meetings including bilats with other members of Council, our Executive Director and our Economic Development Officer as well as prep meetings for upcoming meetings with BC Ministers and a speaker prep meeting for the upcoming BC Natural Resources Forum. I also had the opportunity to have a discussion with the BC Minister of Health Josie Osborne and attended a Maa-nulth FFA Caucus meeting.

Second Week

The Monday started off with a trip to Victoria for a meeting with The Ministry of Forests. Tuesday was met with a Mount Underwood Fire Debrief along with an opportunity to catch up on administrative duties and emails. An FNLG Alliance meeting was attended on Wednesday followed by an ACRD Board of Directors meeting. On the Thursday, I met once again with our Executive Director for our weekly check-in followed by a Committee of the Whole Meeting in the afternoon and finishing off the week with two additional meetings on Friday.

Third Week

The week started off with a bilat meeting with Councillor Edward Johnson on the Monday before boarding a flight to Prince George to attend the BC Natural Resources Forum where I was a member of the speaker panel. The Forum was of three-days duration, resulting in me flying back home to the island on the Friday. I made some good connections while there and requested follow-up meetings to be scheduled for early February. I also managed to attend the Committee of the Whole virtually on the Tuesday.

Fourth Week

The fourth week began with an Economic Development Committee meeting, with a small break before attending an HFNDC meeting and ended with a bilat meeting with our Economic Development office and the HGB Operating Board Chair. Tuesday was another full day of meetings followed by an ACRD Committee of the Whole meeting and an ACRD Board of Directors meeting on the Wednesday. Thursday was an Executive Council meeting and Friday started with an interview regarding the BC Low Carbon Fuel Policy with the remainder of the day providing an opportunity to catch-up/follow up on administrative tasks and emails.

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

The Mount Underwood Fire started on the 12th of August. At the time of this report, the road, which reopened on Friday, October 24th, 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. Community Engagements Sessions are currently in the planning stages for February to provide updates, acknowledge community contributions and to facilitate a Q&A to address citizens' concerns and gather input for improvements.

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. A decision was made and work with these firms will commence in March 2026.

Economic Development – Update and Emerging Issues

The Economic Development Committee met on January 26 to receive updates on the Economic Development Act, the tourism specialist role, and potential RFP’s that will be posted. The HFN Development Corporation also met on January 26, where we had a virtual meet-and-greet with the new HGB Operating Board, followed by an internal review of the HGB 2026 Annual Plans.

Ha'wiih Representative Theresa Nookemus (Thlut' as aksup) Report – January 2026

Theresa.n@huuayaht.org

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

Its current members are:

- – ʔApwinisathʔ house
- [Theresa Nookemus \(Thlut' as aksup\)](#) – H̄aw'eḥtak'amłath house
- Phyllis Williams sitting in for daughter Victoria Williams (ʔuutstuʔaksa)- λamahuus house
- Andy Clappis (Ciicaacistuł) – Kuukw'iis house
- [Sherri Cook \(Yaalthuuaa-uks\)](#)– Yaaluwaštakamałth house
- [Tommy Happynook \(hapinyuuk\)](#) – Čačaahsiʔas house
- Alec Frank (λaacmiik) – Maatsaas house

According to the Constitution Act:

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

2.14 Representation on the Ha'wiih Council shall be determined in accordance with customary practices.

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

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

Constitution Act

Huu-ay-aht First Nations

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2011

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

Ha'wiih Representative for Executive Council:

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

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

- Ha'wiih Council
- Citizenship and Treaty Enrollment Committee
- Nananiiqsu Society
- Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations
- Nuu Cha Nulth Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries

Ha'wiih Council:

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

Ha'wiih is awaiting the announcement of who will take over the chair of the 'Apwinisath' (Peter's) house.

Ha'wiih have also began preliminaries of an RFP for cultural purposes, to include cultural items for Haw'iilth houses in respect to curtains, shawls, vests, etc. Alec Williams' curtain will be the first to be redone, as the Williams curtain is the oldest I believe (?). It has been being stored at the Port Alberni Museum. Beginning a new one will start soon, so the previous curtain may be preserved. Feasibility studies will also be done for small to medium sized pavilions for each house to accommodate any teachings within each house, within each Hahoulthlee, as well as to stay safely out of the elements and to include a smoke house, a firepit for warmth and access to river/water.

Ha'wiih also discussed another workshop in the near future to reconvene our work on the Ha'wiih Charter and to renew the contract with a facilitator.

Ha'wiih had in house council Lawrence Dushenski at the first meeting of the 2026 New Year to inform Haw'iilth that the Amendments to the Huu-ay-aht Community Safety Act and Government Act were recently drafted to introduce the role of the Ethics Commissioner and the process for that person to make findings of fact.

This RFP and all related materials will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Any proposal received will be evaluated to ensure there is no apparent or actual conflict of interest.

Prerequisite Skills required for the Ethics Commissioner position must:

- be qualified to serve as a public officer under the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act.
- demonstrate an understanding of indigenous governance, cultural safety, and trauma - informed investigative practice.
- have at least 10 yrs of experience as a practising lawyer or judge.
- have demonstrated competence in conducting investigations or inquiries of a quasi-judicial or administrative nature.
- be knowledgeable in the principles of procedural fairness, evidence and natural justice.
- have demonstrable ability to provide clear and precise reasons for decision making.
- This position of the Ethics Commissioner will be a term of appointment of 5 yrs, with the eligibility for reappointments without limit.

Evaluation and Award Process:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 50% demonstrated successful experience working with indigenous communities, documentation will be needed (previous experience working with Huu-ay-aht will be an asset).

- 50% demonstrated competencies with respect to legal skills required for position documentation will be needed.

HFN will make every reasonable effort to include a legally binding service agreement with a successful proponent as soon as practicable after the candidate has been selected.

Purpose and Scope of work:

The Ethics Commissioner will conduct investigations when they receive complaints regarding allegations that an excludable conduct has occurred. The Ethics Commissioner is to reach findings of fact on a balance of probabilities. If an excludable conduct has been found, this will result in an exclusion order to be issued to the subject of the investigation.

Applications to vary or rescind an exclusion order can then be made by the excluded individual to the Ha'wiih Council, who when reaching their determination may rely on findings made by or seek recommendations from the Ethics Commissioner.

Under the amendments, the Ethics Commissioner will be empowered to conduct investigations in the Community Safety Act and to perform related functions. The Ethics Commissioner will act independently and impartially as an impartial decision-maker with legal expertise and be empowered to investigate credible information about a person that has engaged in excludable conduct. They will reach findings of fact with respect to whether, on a balance of probabilities, an individual has engaged in excludable conduct and provide written reasons for their determinations.

This RFP and all related materials will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Any proposals received will be evaluated to ensure there is no apparent or actual conflict of interest.

This position of the Ethics Commissioner will exist at an arms length to the HUU-AY-AHT First Nations Government as an investigative and fact-finding body.

The Ethics Commissioner will be required to make an Annual Public Safety report at the People's Assembly.

It is possible that the scope of the Ethics Commissioner's role will expand in the future to include the conduct of investigations under other HUU-AY-AHT legislation.

The Ethics Commissioner is bound to perform functions assigned under HUU-AY-AHT laws, including conducting investigations and providing written reasons in accordance with HUU-AY-AHT principles and the fundamentals of justice, as required in the performance of duties. The Ethics Commissioner will be a public officer within the meaning of HFN's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act and must adhere to all requirements imposed on a public officer by HFN Law.

Citizenship Committee:

Steps for Citizen Enrollments:

- 1) Treaty Enrollment- enables citizens to receive hunting permits, fishing licenses, harvesting licenses and food fish distribution.

- 2) Treaty Enrollment- enables citizens to receive hunting permits, fishing licenses, harvesting licenses and food fish.
- 3) Maht mahs - being housed by a Haw'iilth
- 4) Citizenship- ability to apply for a Status Card, Citizenship Card

A friendly reminder that ALL points of these applications must be met:

- Ancestry
- Declarations/Signatures
- Identifiers (Birth Certificate, Marriage License, Mortgage, DL, Bills (proof of living together)).

These MUST all be included in the application and **completed in full** in accordance with our laws and regulations for a successful application. All incomplete applications will be returned to sender until the forms are complete and the Committee is satisfied.

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK YOUR FORMS BEFORE SUBMITTING, TO PREVENT ANY DELAYS.

There is a checklist at the end of each application.

All HFN Citizens **must** have their harvesting cards **with them when Hunting, gathering and fishing, as well as displaying the HFN flag every time when fishing.**

If fishing for other family members, there are forms for this that **must** be filled out and a copy kept on your person. This in turn helps us to keep in touch with the Government to increase any amounts as needed yearly. Without these numbers/records we cannot increase our needs. This is extremely important!

The Lands and Natural Resources team work together with the Natural Resources Program to monitor and protect our Lands and Natural Resources.

Our previous meeting had 2 Citizenship applications. 1 removal, and 1 return application. This committee went through a compiled list of citizens whom have either married into HUU-AY-AHT and are now divorced and or no longer together as well as those who have not demonstrated any attachment to HUU-AY-AHT First Nations. This list has been recommended to the Ha'wiih Council for review.

Demonstration of attachment to HUU-AY-AHT looks like:

Attending cultural events:

- Dance practice
- Women's circle
- Men's circle
- Community rounds
- Surveys
- People's Assembly
- Etc.

Nananiiqsu Society:

Nananiiqsu has requested to review a list of concerns that came out of a scheduled meeting arranged by Robert Dennis on behalf of Simon Dennis. The next meeting will have dedicated time to work through all these points and send them to Executive Council for review. Nananiiqsu will monitor the results.

Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations:

About Collective Work:

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

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

Alliance Administration:

- Angela was on medical leave from November 14 to January 12. She has now returned to regular duties.
- Work continues on the redesign of the Alliance website. The goal is to develop a resource hub about modern treaties in BC that we can continue to enhance over time. MTNs, working through the Alliance Management Committee (AMC) and MTN communication reps, have had the opportunity to review content. We anticipate the site will go live by April 1.
- In September 2025, the Alliance applied to CIRNAC for funding which aims to improve public education and awareness of modern treaties in Canada. In mid-January, CIRNAC confirmed our proposal was approved. This funding will allow the Alliance to enhance the re-development of our website by adding additional public education resources, including the development of a MTN course. The contribution agreement is forthcoming. Funding will be rolled over to next fiscal year.
- The ABCMTN Holding Society Board of Directors met on January 30th to review quarterly financial statements. Alliance finances are in order and on budget.
 - Note: the Society AGM is scheduled for March 3rd, preceding an Alliance Leadership Meeting. During the AGM, Members will appoint the Directors to the Board, appoint the auditor, and receive a presentation of the 2024-2025 Audit.

Leadership Meetings:

DRIPA Amendments:

- Following public statements by Premier Eby that the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) would be amended, MTN leadership met with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and the Attorney General (AG)

on December 12. The Ministers reiterated the Government of BC's commitment to implementing DRIPA and confirmed their intention to bring forward minimal amendments in response to recent court rulings.

- As a follow up, the AG met with MTN leadership on January 14 to hear Leader's initial thoughts on DRIPA amendments and create an initial plan for BC to work with MTNs on this initiative.
- These meetings occurred under confidentiality agreement and further details cannot be discussed in this report.

Land Claims Agreement Coalition:

- Leadership held a caucus on January 28 to discuss the LCAC meeting in Ottawa on Feb 10-12. Technical staff provided context to key agenda items and Leaders shared their thoughts on LCAC priorities.

Next Meeting:

- The next Leadership meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, following the Society AGM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and approve the proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 (with or without amendments). An initial budget discussion was had with Leaders on November 13, 2025.

Alliance Management Committee:

- The AMC meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Key issues discussed in December included:
 - Initial thoughts following meetings with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG) on potential MTN involvement in BC's new industrial economic strategy (now called [Look West](#)). The Alliance is awaiting updates from BC on this work including how they propose to meaningfully involve MTNs in these plans.
 - Ongoing staffing changes at MIRR.
 - Outstanding approvals for the Alliance Strategic Plan.

Since, the Strategic Plan has been approved by all MTNs. A final designed version has been distributed and filed on the SharePoint drive.

- Key issues discussed in January included:
 - Members agreed that MTNs would work collectively through the Alliance on the proposed DRIPA amendments, using the DAS working group.
 - Members discussed key priorities for the Community Safety Strategy. The request to develop a Strategy emerged as a way to action commitments made by Premier Eby at the 2025 Premier's Forum. This approach was brought forward in meetings with various Ministers during the FNLG in November. Educating the judiciary and working to secure direct funding for treatment centres and related wellness programs were identified.
 - It was decided that a new working group of MTN reps would be created dedicated to collaborating on topics surrounding health. This WG will support the work of developing the health-related actions in the Community Safety Strategy.

A location and dates for the 2026 Premier's Forum must be confirmed by early February. Angela is working with MTNs who expressed interest in hosting and will send out an update communication to the collective early February.

Fiscal:

Members confirmed that the coordination of Alliance meetings with MTN Leaders would flow through the AMC moving forward. Members are to provide the Alliance with any additional contacts who should be copied on these emails.

- A MTN discussed recent challenges with citizens accessing the Indigenous Services Canada Housing Fund Program. Another MTN confirmed this is because the ISC Fund flows from the same pot from which MTNs received a budget carveout (negotiated through the fiscal process and allocated via FFAs). They confirmed the carveout was much greater than what members could have accessed. The carveout gave the MTN the ability to develop their own housing programs for members

Fiscal Working Group:

- The BC-MTN Fiscal working group meetings occur virtually on a bi-weekly schedule and include a MTN caucus. The current focus of the WG is on enabling grant funding for transfers made to MTNs through their respective FFAs and fine tuning the draft collaborative fiscal policy.
- In mid-November, the MIRR fiscal branch underwent staffing changes. MIRR paused discussions with MTNs while they reorganized. During this time, the new draft FFA language and draft fiscal policy were reviewed by MIRR and FIN executive staff. WG meetings resumed mid-January and revisions to both the draft FFA language and policy were brought forward. MTNs have reviewed proposed changes and discussed points of concern with BC. BC committed to reviewing our concerns internally.
- Once final draft FFA language is agreed upon, MTN representatives will circulate the document through their internal approval systems. Once the draft language is approved by all parties, bilateral FFA negotiations will occur.

Lands and Resources Funding Model WG:

- The L&R Funding Model Working Group meets approximately every 6 weeks to develop a framework for assessing the incremental FTEs available to MTNs under the L&R funding model. The WG is exploring the drivers that will determine the incremental FTEs and the data needed to show volume, complexity, and role (i.e. how does number of referrals, for example, affects the workload of a lands department). The key will be to create a model that is simple and easy to explain to BC Officials, meets the data driven requirements set by the Treasury Board, and that can be applied across MTNs.
- MTNs have been focused on developing a model for assessing “land pressures” (i.e. tourism, resource extraction activities, and other drivers that affect the work of a lands department). Challenges have been encountered, especially around finding available data and linking these to workload.
- The WG held several caucus meetings in December and January to support the development of a model that fully reflects the needs of all MTNs. A meeting with BC is scheduled for February 26 with the goal of presenting a proposed model to the BC team.

Property Transfer Tax:

- MTNs have begun exploratory discussions with the Ministry of Finance around the possibility of a treaty property transfer tax (PTT) benefit. An initial meeting with BC was held on Nov 20. The next meeting will be early March.
- MTNs met as a caucus on January 15 to debrief and discuss shared priorities and collective interests and develop initial ideas and approaches to provide to BC. A draft discussion paper was circulated for input on the delegation approach to PTT. The draft paper has been shared with BC without prejudice.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR):

Modern Treaty Implementation Policy WG

- The MIRR policy team is leading the development of a new modern treaty implementation policy framework. A dedicated working group of MTN representatives has been created to support this long-term project. Recurring meetings with BC are scheduled every 6 weeks, with a MTN caucus scheduled 2 weeks in advance of meeting with BC.

- The first meeting with BC occurred on January 8 and included a discussion on policy expectations

and a collective understanding of what a successful outcome to this work should look like.

- The Alliance received funding from BC to develop a discussion paper detailing lessons learned from the Federal Implementation Policy co development process, and to outline what MTNs expect from a BC policy. MTNs caucused twice in December to inform its development. A draft was circulated Jan 23 and MTNs are meeting on Feb 2 to review and provide additional input before it gets sent to BC.

This paper will be discussed with BC on Feb 19. We anticipate the discussion paper will provide a solid foundation to guide the policy development process.

Declaration Act Secretariat (DAS) Working Group:

Declaration Act Action Plan Review & Renewal

- The Alliance has been meeting with DAS in bi-monthly intervals to discuss updates to their work and challenges faced with Declaration Act implementation. Starting in 2026, meetings have shifted to a monthly recurrence with the focus being on the review and renewal of the Declaration Act Action Plan, required under DRIPA legislation.

- The DAS will lead the review and renewal of the Action Plan throughout 2026 as two separate processes, with a renewed Action Plan expected to be introduced for legislative approval in September. MTN reps have started discussing the best approach for the renewal—i.e. whether we should advocate for a separate MTN section or the incorporation of MTN priorities directly into the main actions of the renewed Action Plan.

Given proposed amendments to the DRIPA, it will be important that we think strategically about what we'd like to see in the renewed Plan.

- The January 29 meeting with DAS included reviewing an early draft of their Consultation and Cooperation plan for the review process.

Potential Amendments to the Declaration Act (DRIPA):

- In mid-December, Premier Eby commented in the media that amendments to DRIPA would be forthcoming in response to the Cowichan and Gitxaala decisions. Following meetings with MTN Leaders (see above), the DAS working group (along with AMC members and Nation legal counsels) attended two technical follow up meetings to discuss BC's initial policy approach and provide feedback.

- Additional technical meetings are likely to occur in an ad hoc manner at BC's discretion.

Executive staff at the DAS and MAG have advised they've been directed to introduce amended legislation during the Spring Session (which starts on Feb 12). MTNs have yet to see draft language. The policy approach presented to date has left MTNs with more questions than answers. Additional feedback is being accepted until Feb 13. It is not clear if we will receive draft language before then.

- This work is under confidentiality agreement; further details cannot be discussed here.

Ministry of Attorney General (MAG):

Justice Services Branch:

- The MAG-MTN WG has been doing the work needed to implement BC Courts prosecuting offences to MTN laws, something that all modern treaties contemplate. The WG has outlined all the barriers within BC legislation and policy, prioritized the work needed to eliminate said barriers,

and has co-developed a Request for Decision (RFD) for Cabinet submission in Spring 2026. The WG has also been engaging with the Judiciary and Prosecution Services.

- On January 23, the WG met to review an updated draft RFD which is now ready to be presented to Cabinet. The WG decided to begin working on the Request for Legislation (RLF), and the MAG reps committed to developing a first draft for discussion at the next meeting in early Feb. Typically, BC would wait for approval of the RFD before beginning the work of developing a RFL. Given the complex nature of the work required, the group decided to take the risk and agreed to begin work now.

Indigenous Justice Secretariat:

- The IJS ADM, Nikki Bresser, attended the WG meeting on Jan 23 as a follow up to the FNLG meeting MTN Leadership had with the AG. A key action item was for technical staff to collaborate on a Community Safety Strategy. Discussions with ADM Bresser identified potential efficiencies with the enforcement of laws work and looked at possible next steps at developing a cross-Ministry strategy. ADM Bresser committed to organizing an initial meeting with executive staff from key ministries.

Anti-Racism Act Action Plan:

- The Alliance and BC had established a monthly meeting schedule to support the development of the Anti-Racism Act Action Plan, which is scheduled for publication in June 2026. Meetings have been on hold at the request of BC to allow for internal engagement and discussions.
- Working group members are awaiting the sharing of a consolidated document addressing MTN feedback and concerns with the Plan. BC indicated this document may be ready for sharing with Nations in February, as well as the BC team being prepared to resume meetings with the Alliance in February or March.

Ministry of Waters, Land and Resource Stewardship:

Natural Resource Permitting:

- MTNs meet with WLRS on a quarterly basis to discuss the ministry's policy initiatives. On January 12th, the primary focus was on regulatory proposals for permitting solutions, presented by a new ADM for Permitting Processes, Chris Trumpy. This information was provided as a follow up to previous letters sent directly to MTNs.
- On Jan 20, MTNs received a confidential draft Request for Decision for proposed legislative changes to the *Water Sustainability Act* and Regulation, the *Riparian Areas Act* and Regulation, and to the *Forest Act*. These are connected to the regulatory proposals. They were asked to provide feedback directly to BC by Jan 29.
- Note this file is under confidentiality agreement; the details cannot be discussed here.

Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project:

- In a press conference in January, the Minister of Forests stated that BC would be pausing the HCA Transformation Project. The Alliance has not yet been contacted by the BC project team. In a meeting with the DAS, the ADM mentioned it is her understanding that amended legislation will be introduced during the Fall Session. Angela will contact the project lead for clarify and will likely be recommending MTNs send BC a joint letter to restate the importance of amending this important outdated legislation, a commitment made by BC in the DRIPA Action Plan.

Infrastructure Projects Act Regulations (Bill 15) WG:

- The *Infrastructure Projects Act* is a framework to allow the BC government to designate select infrastructure projects for fast tracking of permitting processes and/or a shorter environmental assessment process. A MTN WG has been working with the Ministry of Infrastructure to support

the development of regulations. The WG has been meeting on a bi-weekly schedule, which includes a MTN caucus before meeting with BC.

- Meetings had been paused for November and December to allow BC time to consider feedback received and to better implement MTN concerns into their work. In January, meetings resumed and the WG received updated materials that address many points of feedback MTNs had provided. Several changes were made to the eligibility criteria for fast tracked projects including the addition of a new category of projects eligible for fast tracking that provide significant benefits to FN communities, and the inclusion of a project criteria relating to reconciliation.
- The primary discussion topic has been determining the requirement for projects to obtain support from “directly impacted First Nations” in the use of specific fast-tracking tools, such as removing the need for a proponent to undertake an Environmental Assessment. Key concerns voiced by MTN representatives have been around the determination of which FNs will be consulted on the use of these tools, the ability for FNs to remove their support of the use of a tool if new information becomes known, and the amount of (or lack of) information available to Nation decision-makers when determining if they support the use of a tool or not.
- A consultation draft of the regulations is expected to be distributed to the working group in the first week of February, with an anticipated short timeline for feedback, potential only a few days, before the regulations will be submitted to Cabinet.

Renewable Energy Projects Act Regulations (Bill 14) WG:

- The *Renewable Energy Projects Act* transfers regulatory authority for renewable energy projects (currently wind and solar) to the BC Energy Regulator (BCER), which previously only oversaw the oil and gas sector. The Act also exempts land-based wind projects from the environmental assessment process. The working group, which includes MTNs, BC, and BCER, meets every three weeks.
- Meetings in December and January were primarily focused on the preparation, and then review, of BCER regulations that are being submitted to the BCER Board at the end of February. WG members received a consultation draft of regulations in mid-January, and collective feedback was submitted and discussed, noting that some of the valuable feedback provided by MTNs in key areas has not been incorporated.
- The WG strongly recommended that BCER implement MTN feedback into the final version of the regulations. The Alliance has requested a written document listing any feedback provided that does not get incorporated accompanied with a rationale for why.
- The WG has also reviewed and submitted feedback on a draft interim guidance document that BCER prepared for proponents to direct project applications. Subsequent meetings will further develop sections of the guidance document, look at other BCER policies and documents such as the pre-engagement with First Nations guidance, and explore related amendments or future work the Ministry of Energy may undertake.

Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) 5-Year Review:

- An MTN working group has begun collaborating with the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) on the mandated five-year review of the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). This process is expected to span approximately two years and will follow a phased approach, with separate deadlines for each major priority area.
- Initial meetings have focused on the Dispute Resolution process. Meetings in December focused on MTN experiences and recommendations on changes to the DR process. The Alliance submitted a collective letter on Dec 5 in response to information shared by EAO. MTNs expressed concern about limiting the availability of initiating a dispute resolution process, emphasized the need for facilitators to have knowledge about modern treaties, and noted several other issues or topics needing addressing.

- In January, the EAO shared an intentions paper which outlined revisions to their proposed changes to the DR process. Many of the concerns raised by MTNs were not sufficiently addressed and a second collective response was provided to further iterate MTN concerns. The timelines for the engagement process are extremely tight. MTNs are meeting with BC Feb 5 to review feedback. BC anticipates going to Cabinet for a request for legislation late February. They have committed to sharing a consultation draft of the amended legislation and to working with MTNs to review and incorporate feedback before mid-March.
- The EAO has advised they will be providing the Alliance with 18k in capacity funding which is being allocated to support collective drafting efforts. We understand that capacity funding has also been made available to the MTNs.

Repatriation Policy Framework WG:

- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport facilitates a Steering Committee (SC) tasked with supporting the development of a BC repatriation policy framework. The policy framework will aim to guide the repatriation of artifacts held in publicly funded BC repositories. The Alliance has a representative on the SC, and the WG meets prior to BC's meetings to provide our representative with input from all MTNs.
- A focused engagement session with MTNs took place on January 22 with working group members and other MTN representatives. BC shared updates on work completed and the ongoing engagement process. MTNs shared experiences with repatriation under treaties, including the clarity treaties can allow for in repatriating from BC institutions. Nations expressed how a primary barrier to the work of repatriating artifacts and ancestors is the funding required to create and maintain facilities, as well as the human resources needed to work with heritage holding organizations and research lists of potential items being held.
- The co-chairs of the SC encouraged Nations to submit letters to the Minister emphasizing the need for the policy framework to include funding to Nations to do the work of repatriating. The Management Committee will discuss this topic at the next meeting. The Alliance will be recommending that each MTN send a letter since repatriation is a bilateral issue.

Engagement Review Working Group:

- The ERWG meets on a bi-weekly basis to assess interest in engaging collectively, including attending information sessions on specific initiatives. The WG also debriefs on engagement meetings held and makes recommendations to the AMC for collective action.
- Engagements reviewed by the working group in December and January were:
 - o **Amendments to the Forest Act, Islands Trust Act, Land Title Act, and Perpetuity Act** – The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is leading a project that aims to make amendments to four different Acts all related to modern treaties, such as the requirement for treaties to specify harvestable timber types and adding greater control to MTNs over contravention notices in the Land Title Office. The ERWG requested and received a consultative draft of the proposed amendments. Amendments were reviewed and discussed by the ERWG. ERWG members did not identify any collective action or provide any collective feedback on the amendments as proposed.
 - o **Parental Leave for Elected Officials** – The Ministry of Housing and Municipal affairs sent letters to MTNs proposing the establishment of minimum requirements for parental leave for municipal councillors and regional board members. ERWG members did not identify any collective action or provide any collective feedback on this initiative.
 - o **Residential Tenancy Regulation amendments** – The Ministry of Housing and Municipal affairs provided updates to MTNs that amendments would be much smaller in scope than initially proposed. Amendments include a ban on weapons in supportive housing facilities and the ability for temporary site bans to be issued to residents. ERWG members did not identify any further collective action on this initiative.

o **Liquor Licence Renewal Fees** – The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General sent letters to MTNs proposing changes to the liquor licensing fees applicable to liquor stores and businesses such as breweries and wineries. Given unique MTN priorities, ERWG decided that any feedback would occur bilaterally.

o **Regulation Amendments for Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act:** – The Ministry of the Attorney General sent MTNs letters that they are proposing to amend regulations aimed at improving a wide range of consumer protections. Proposed amendments include making recurring subscriptions easier to cancel, making consumer refunds quicker, and reducing door to door sales. ERWG members did not identify any collective action or provide any collective feedback on this initiative.

o **Firefighter Cancer Workers Compensation** – Nations were informed by the Ministry of Labour that the province is looking to expand the types of cancer eligible for compensation for Firefighters. ERWG members did not identify any collective action on this initiative.

o **Leave Entitlements for School Trustees** – The Ministry of Education and Child Care contacted MTNs with an opportunity to engage on an initiative that aims to clarify leave entitlements for elected school trustees. ERWG members did not identify this initiative as a priority and didn't take any collective action.

o **Role of Boards of Education in Child Care** – Nations received updates to an ongoing Ministry of Education and Child Care initiative that aims to increase the amount of childcare spaces in BC by expanding the role of boards of education and the use of public-school property for childcare purposes. MTNs attended an info session about this initiative in Fall 2025. The Ministry is now preparing amendments to a related ministerial order. The ERWG has requested to review the draft amendments to the ministerial order and will determine if any collective feedback will be provided.

o **Emergency Management Regulations** – The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness held info sessions with all FNs in BC regarding a wide range of amendments to the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation. The Alliance attended an info session and requested a consultative draft of amendments. The ERWG reviewed and discussed the proposed amendments. ERWG members did not identify any collective action on this initiative.

FEDERAL INITIATIVES:

Fisheries: Salmon Allocation Policy:

- Anita Blakley of LGL has been representing MTNs on the Salmon Allocation Policy Multi-party working group and First Nations-DFO Committee. She has also been participating in FNFC meetings as the Council has been active in this work. Anita provides updates and makes requests for MTN input through the Fisheries WG via emails sent by the ED.
- The working group met in December as a caucus, and then later with DFO representatives to discuss MTN feedback on the discussion paper developed by DFO which will inform the drafting of the Policy. A collective letter was then submitted in January outlining MTN concerns. This includes Nations not receiving a draft version of the Policy, the need for flexibility for treaty-based fisheries, the misuse of outdated socio-economic data in allocation decisions, and the potential infringing upon modern treaty rights by restricting bycatch allowances.
- There has been backlash from the recreational sector fueled by misinformation around the principle of common property that FNs (including MTNs) have advocated be removed from the policy. The FNFC is discussing how best to handle this. Anita will be updating the MTNs Feb 9.

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

- Angela is participating on the Indigenous-Crown Steering Committee (ICSC) established to support the renewal process of the Consultation and Accommodation Guidelines.

- CIRNAC is currently drafting the new guidelines to be reviewed by the ICSC. With funding support from CIRNAC, external legal has been engaged to support MTNs in reviewing and contributing to the draft.
- We anticipate receiving a draft mid-February. A meeting with MTNs has been scheduled for early March to review and collect additional feedback.

Nuu cha Nulth Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries and Oceans:

Ha'wiih, Nuu-chah-nulth Chiefs and Councillors, Fisheries Managers, Fisheries Guardians and Technicians, First Nations Administrators, and Partners,

FIRST MEETING NOTICE – Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries February 18-19, 2026

This meeting will be held in person and via the Teams link provided below. Anyone who is not feeling well will be asked to join remotely, for the safety of all attendees. The virtual meeting room will be opened at **8:30am both days** so that participants can join ahead of the formal meeting start. **A draft agenda will be included in the second meeting notice.**

A survey, from Survey Monkey, is being emailed out regarding your participation in the meeting. Please fill out the survey as soon as possible as it helps us with both meeting management purposes and catering requirements.

Day 1 (February 18th) of the meeting is reserved for discussions amongst Nuu-chah-nulth, including their partners. Day 2 (February 19th) will be discussions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Travel, accommodation, meals, and honoraria expenses **will be reimbursed by the NTC for up to two representatives** per Nation (using current NTC rates and policies). AM Chumus and Lunch will be provided both days.

Councillor Āicitah Edward R. Johnson - January 2026

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

- New Year Dinner at the Clam Bucket in Port Alberni with former Project Manager of the Huu-ay-aht Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project Kevin Gordon
- Biweekly meeting with Kaal
- Coastal Bridge Presentation at the Barclay Hotel – This was a great information session. It was really eye opening as to what Coastal Bridge does and how they have adapted to the ebbs and flows of the logging world. It's a very well-rounded family-owned strong representation from the valley and all over the island. This company really knows how to take care of their crew. In attendance we had our Lands Director, our CFO and Education Manager as well as Councillor Cook who arrived 3/4 of the way through the presentation from HGB Patrick Schmidt. There will be some follow up meetings regarding introduction to the new owners of the Colson's mill.
- Cultural Center – There has been further construction/progress on the ball field fencing contract - aiming for mid to late June for completion - will keep you posted. We are looking forward to housing our treasures and welcoming tourists to our territory through the visitor center.
- Project development on Oomiiqsu - Enhancement RFP's have gone out - looking forward to a new fence at our Mother's Center.
- Looking to do some blasting at our rock quarry in the very near future. This pit will be very valuable to our future infrastructure projects to be able to use as an in-kind contribution to any of our future projects.
- Trail Project - Bamfield connector trail complete – 50% of the project completed with lifesaving trail work starting in spring of 2026.
- Preventative maintenance plans - template 80% complete aligning with mandate for 2025/2026 objective.
- Feasibility study is on the eve of completion, just waiting to hear back from Director of Community Services and Director of CFW. We'll be coming to Executive Council and/or Committee of the Whole in March.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

Children and Family Wellness Committee

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- Biweekly meeting with Kerry-Ann
- Chairing Child and Family Wellness and Mental Health Committee Meeting
- Phase 2 Coordination Agreement - Internal Discussion

- Attended 1st AOPSI Steering Committee Virtual Meeting - Feeling very proud of our nation for being selected to be on the steering committee and looking forward to the work to come over the year.
- Met with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation where we talked about our CFW work. This meeting took place in our boardroom at our Mother's Center where did a well-rounded round table with some strong ties with the destination. We talked about our prevention work and how we got to where we are and shared a bit of the struggles along the way. As well, we had discussions about the early work with our social services report – safe, healthy and connected; bringing our children home - and about the evaluation. We also shared a little bit of the Canadian human rights tribunal work that we are doing and our CFW law.
- Five-year Review of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families - ISC is holding a webinar for BC First Nation communities with a signed coordination agreement or in coordination agreement discussions who are interested in the opportunity to take part in the five-year review. The webinar will build off details shared in separate e-mail correspondence on contributing to the review, and will be an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and discuss the process. We had an opening introduction and 5 yr review overview. Through this meeting, we learnt there are some funds available to engage with our citizens to talk ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000. We have to give a response by February 14th. Roughly engagement sessions cost \$25,000 and to reach 5 communities, these funds can go towards hiring a facilitator to extract the information and compile what we heard.
- USMA Invitation - Received a traditional invite to attend a lunch put on by youth. Lunch will take place second week of March. This is the second year the youth have come to our office to do a traditional invite.

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

Deputy-Chief Councillor

Progress on Achieving Key Initiatives

- I travelled to China with our Economic Development Officer, Councillor Evan Cook and Councillor Stephen Rayner in reference to our MOU with Stackabl. We were treated very well and noticed we have a lot of similarities with our spirituality and culture. I felt very blessed to have traveled this great distance that our ancestors traveled many years ago. Several of our seal hunters made the journey during the fur trade and it feels good to be able to follow in their footsteps. With our MOU with Stackabl, we are looking to create a partnership in creating a solution when it comes to the housing crisis and am looking forward to seeing where this friendship goes. It was a very busy eight solid days of networking with companies that are involved with electric vehicles, OEM parts and green energy as well as energy creating. Before and during my travels, I have been studying the history of China and find the Chinese story is really, quite amazing. We were able to meet a professor from McGill University and a lot of the places that we visited there were alumni from McGill University, students of the professor that accompanied us for three days, and they gave a wonderful presentation over dinner during one of our evenings there.
- <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-2026-special-address-by-mark-carney-prime-minister-of-canada/>
- Biweekly meeting with John Jack
- Chaired the Committee of the Whole as Deputy Chief Councillor

- Attended the Cultural Policies Community Engagement in Port Alberni
- Attended the RCMP Community Engagement at the HOH in Anacla
- EC meeting Agenda Review meeting
- NEDC meeting
- Attended the NTC Board of directors Meeting for John Jack. This was a good meeting where we went over the executive reports from the President, Vice President and the Executive Director as well as Committee reports and some New Business items sitting in as an alternate. Alternates do not have any voting powers and I believe I do not count for quorum. I believe it's in the terms of reference.
- Mount Underwood Fire Community Engagement Session in Port Alberni postponed - looking for new dates.
- EC meeting in Nanaimo.
- Coastal Bridge Presentation at the Barclay Hotel.
- Getting ready for LCAC meeting in Feb in Ottawa. Some info on the The Land Claims Agreements Coalition (LCAC) - LCAC works to ensure that comprehensive land claims (modern treaties) and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured, and fully implemented. Fully implemented modern treaties benefit all Canadians. They clarify the terms of the ongoing relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Crown and define how resources on traditional lands can be used and co-managed to the benefit of all Canadians. For Indigenous signatories, modern treaties offer opportunities for self-reliance, political and economic development, and cultural and social well-being. They are the basis for a new, positive relationship between Indigenous peoples and wider Canadian society. Formed in 2003, LCAC membership includes post-effective date modern treaty holders in Canada. Collectively, modern treaties affect nearly half of Canada's land, waters and resources. An interesting read - Broadening the Base Land Claims Agreements coalition Advocacy for a National Modern Treaty Implementation Policy
<https://landclaimscoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MTIRP-LCAC-Broadening-the-Base.pdf>
- Posted to website URGENT TRAVEL ADVISORY: Travel to the United States
https://huuayaht.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026_01_30-HFN-Travel-Advisory-1.pdf
 and a link to what lead to our post on our web page:
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/calgary/article/alberta-first-nation-urges-caution-for-border-crossing-members/>

Emerging Issues

- None at this time.

Councillor Brad Johnson Report – January 2026

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: The Fisheries negotiations and planning group held several meetings with DFO this month on the “MeToo” fishery big picture and also the incremental fisheries. Our Maa-Nulth leadership team negotiated a winter chinook fishery; citizens can fish for winter Chinook salmon with less restrictions than the previous AABM Chinook fishery. Citizens can fish in the inside waters, meaning they are not restricted to having to fish offshore. Gear type is not gear specific and fishermen can use all types of tackle. Barbless hooks remain in effect so the conservation measures of releasing non retention species have a superior survival rate. Our fisheries manager has done a great job of informing our citizens of the rules and regulations of this fishery. This fishery will start January 9th until March 15th, 2026. It has been great to see citizens showing interest and asking more questions about what they would like to see this fishery become and evolve into. Although these incremental fishery additions are not the full MeToo fishery, I consider these little wins for our nation as we are being given an opportunity to participate and sell our fish commercially and, more importantly, legally. Negotiations will be ongoing with short- and long-term goals being met as incremental and the long-term goal of a full MeToo fishery. I am dedicated to seeing this work get completed for our nation.

Salmon Allocation Policy (SAP)

Maa-nulth has continued concerns with how DFO is engaging on the SAP, including the decision to not share the draft policy prior to implementation. Maa-nulth also has unique considerations, such as the economic fishery (“MeToo”) that other Modern Treaty Nations may not have. The MSPWG will recommend a collective letter to DFO outlining the concerns and requesting the draft SAP be shared for review, in addition to the collective letter being sent through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations.

Wildlife: No committee meetings were called from the Maa-Nulth Treaty Society Wildlife Committee; our nation will be working with the province on future Elk surveys within our territory. The need for more fulsome data on elk herd size through the territory is crucial as we all know herds are not growing in one specific area.

Land and Resources: We are currently filling all the positions that were vacant at the end of 2025. Moving forward the new Lands and Resources Director position has been filled by Marina Rayner. I have worked with Marina in the past month, and I find she has presented with an open approach and has spent the time listening to what her team’s needs are and what they would like to see within the department. Overall, I have been very happy with the communication she and I have had and I look forward to organizing a work plan with her on my desired outcomes throughout this year for this department. As Marina is very familiar with the work that was completed with the HIRMP as she helped grow this document from the ground up, I look forward to seeing how this will be implemented with her leading this project once again. Similar to the Forest Landscape Planning work that is ongoing, it is refreshing to have some staff with a forestry background as that is key to our success on these two projects.

Treaty Implementation: The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society met on January 26th 2026 for a special Board of Directors meeting concerning the budget. Nations received the quarterly report on the audited financials from McIntosh/ Norton/Williams. We then previewed the draft budget for 2026. I will note there were a few changes to the budget but nothing significant to change the total contribution from each nation.

The Maa-Nulth Treaty Society met for our regular Board of Directors meeting after the special meeting on January 26th, 2026. Here are some highlights and key takeaways:

- We received updates on Treaty Amendments from legal counsel. It looks like the Child and Family amendments to jurisdiction and the Definition of a Maa-Nulth Child along with the Addition to Treaty Lands will be amended and ratified near the end of March early April 2026.
- Maa-Nulth Fisheries Committee has created an Internal Harvest Protocol Authorization Agreement. This is in the draft period and will be coming to the Board for approval in coming months.
- Bill C-10, the Bill for the Commissioner of Modern Treaty Nations is getting closer. Nations will be in Ottawa next month to advocate to all parties that this needs to happen. Chief John Jack will be speaking to this and a representative from the Nisgaa Nation at the LCAC.
- The 15-year Maa-Nulth Treaty celebration will be moved from the month of April to a new date in the summer. Nations feel this will be an event where space will be needed and a venue for indoor/outdoor will be needed for this celebration. A small working group has been created and planning will begin in months to follow.
- The Incremental Community based Economic Fishing Plan has been approved by DFO for a winter fishery from January 9th – March 15th, 2026.
- Transport Canada Conference will be held next month. Representatives from MTS and myself will be attending. Collaborative Governance Framework will be the main topic for this 3-day conference.
- Groundwater negotiations are still in progress. BC thinks we can come to an agreement on Sec 39 once a priority date is agreed upon. I feel as though this table has moved very slowly in negotiations. We are starting to get somewhere with the province and have found common ground as they seem to understand the flexibility we want.
- Reasonable Opportunity Agreement (ROA) - Funding for this runs out this fiscal. I have been working with the CAO of MTS to try and resolve this as I am Co-chair to ROA this year. Stay tuned for update next month.

Parks Canada: Our Nation's representatives met with Parks Canada for a Cooperative Management Board Meeting on January 12th, 2026. We reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR). We had asked for the document to incorporate UNDRIP/UNDA and the Indigenous Stewardship Framework as this has not been incorporated into the documents since this has come into effect. We will review a draft once Parks Canada (PC) sends over for review. We spoke about the Framework plan and our vision on where PC can help as we have identified 5 areas: 1) the welcome figure post around the territory, 2) Clutis ridge road, 3) the Cape Beal trail network, 4) Kiixin National Historic site and 5) Second beach. PC Staff have briefed upper management that is leading the indigenous steward framework for when we are ready to proceed. We then went over the workplan for what the Guardians program will look like starting pre-season. I want to flag an emerging issue as next fiscal year funding for our Guardian program has yet to be approved. Parks Canada will be dealing with a 3% cut back nationwide from their departments. A briefing note from our nation and the HUU-AY-AHT Group of Businesses (HGB) was presented to Parks Canada as we would like to see a weather station put in place in our territory so we can have a better understanding of climate change and better prepare for things like fire danger in real time. Parks Canada has agreed to a temporary weather station for the next year.

An update on the infrastructure from the maintenance team was presented. Over the past few years, the Parks Canada team has dealt with significant loss in this department, so it will have a new team lead along with a full crew to better inspect and maintain the damaged infrastructure throughout the season. I had asked if our Guardian crew can start to help with these pre-season and in-season inspections to better build our capacity on our team and that permission was granted.

Parks Canada leadership has been working on what an apology would look like as the 9 Nuu-chah-nulth nations did not give consent in the 1970s to create these National Park reserves within our respected territories. Our Nation will respond to what we would like to see once I bring this subject matter to our Executive Council next month.

HR Workplace and Wellness Committee: The committee met on January 9th, 2026. We spoke about the significant turnover rate as we lost several employees to other organizations. These reasons had to do with contract length and job security as they had left for more permanent positions from surrounding organizations. Others have left for personal reasons to be closer to their significant others or were needing change and travel fatigue from commuting. We reviewed the Human Resource policy and The Human Resource Regulations, and amendments to these documents will come in the near future. Finally, the Executive Director report was reviewed by the committee as per Executive Council's request. Moving forward we will have a 3-tier check-in with Executive Council and the Executive Director: Chief/HR/ED yearly report to be completed as that's the format other organizations use. HR has created a TOR so each year is consistent. For future 360 reviews, this will be completed externally so all Directors including the HR departments can participate. The cost of living and merit increase was discussed with a recommendation going forward to the next Executive Council meeting. I felt this was a very productive meeting and I look forward to future committee meetings this year.

Bamfield Road: The road remains in good shape with the maintenance crews solving road repair issues when needed. The weather this time of year has huge impacts on the road conditions. When potholes occur or slides happen, crews respond as quickly as possible for repairs or cleanup. With the heavy rain and king tides, please watch for flooding along rivers and lakes. Drive safely and remember to check in with family or loved ones when travelling in extreme winter conditions.

List of Meetings I attended:

- Marine strategic planning working group (MSPWG)
- METOO Internal
- METOO with DFO
- HR Workplace and Wellness
- Salmon Allocation Policy with the Alliance
- Lands Planner Interview
- MTS CAO meeting ROA
- CMB Parks Canada
- Mt Underwood Fire with EMCR
- Meeting with Chief John Jack portfolio discussion
- Executive Director meeting
- Joint fisheries committee (JFC)
- Maa Nulth fisheries committee (MFC)
- Committee of the Whole(COW)

- Special COW
- Executive Council meeting X2
- Special EC meeting -Contracts
- Biweekly meeting with Lands Director
- NMCAR feasibility presentation Parks Canada
- Food Fish Program with Fisheries Manager
- Special MTS meeting Budget
- MTS BOD meeting monthly
- Groundwater meeting internally / with BC
- JFCT
- Maa Nulth ICEFP

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

Councillor Evan Cook Report – January 2026

Finance Report

The finance committee met on January 28th. Two new committee members joined the team, Trudy Warner and Mariah Dennis - welcome to the Finance committee. The finances of the Nation remain positive as of December 31. We will end the year with an overall surplus on our current Capital and Operating funds. November, December and Quarter 3 Financials were presented and approved.

The Budget forecast for the next three years is complete and was presented in a draft form. The forecast was based on assumptions that revenues from grants and program funding will remain the same and will be available over the next three years. With no dividends or funding to be received from HFN Group of Business in the next few years, the nation will have to find a new revenue stream in the next three years.

Expenses have also been based on assumptions that HFN will continue to deliver current programs at current rates. New Infrastructure development and investment will, of course, change our expense models.

Economic Development Report

China trip

Pre-Fab Modular Homes

We visited the Pre-fab automated manufacturing plant with the latest wood frame technology. The mass timber SPF raw materials will be derived from Canada. Also, Timber Tile products will be utilized in many of the modular homes. Stackable Homes will hopefully have full CSA certification by April with June as a target date for the model home launch.

Waste-to-Energy

A waste-to-energy plant was also visited. A new facility can be started with a minimum seventy-five million tons of waste a day; from landfills, pulp sludge and forest slash and residue.

H3C

H3C is a leading provider of digital and AI solutions. The company develops, produces and sells switches, routers, network securities and intelligent management software. It is spearheading the intelligent era through its AI strategies.

Space-o-Future Technology Group

This is a national high-tech company that is a global one-stop delivery provider for wooden structure assembled houses integrating technology (robotic) and software tools, supply chain and manufacturing service. Stackabl Homes will be using the building technology from Space-o-Future in its production of pre-fab homes.

Leapmotor

Chinese smart electric vehicles, designed for drivers who want the latest EV technologies without paying high prices. The core to Leapmotor's success is that it aims to design everything in-house,

including batteries, which have an impressive battery range and electric motors, which keep the prices down.

Finally, our trip to China coincided with Prime Minister Carney's visit to China. There will be many opportunities that align with First Nations economic objectives through investment or joint collaborations and partnerships.

Councillor Stella Peters Executive Council Report – January 2026

I would like to say Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a good Christmas. I know Christmas can be hard sometimes, especially when we have had a loss in our families. Some families struggle more than others but never give up. I know that might not sound helpful, but we all need our inner strength sometimes just to help us move forward.

Back to work Jan 6th after a 2 week Christmas break.

Portfolios

Citizen Development

-Mental Health and Wellness

This department is one of our more important and active ones within my portfolio. I do my best to advocate to the needs of this department so our staff can help our citizens. This month hasn't been too busy for meetings. Our staff do quite amazing work within, especially our front line workers. We do talk at our CDC (Citizen Development Committee) about everything that falls under Citizen Development, share our concerns and ideas as well as planning for upcoming events relating to Mental Health & Wellness, Education, Events, Culture and Community & Public Safety.

-Education and Training

We have had a couple meetings with the SD 70 School Board, and our BCSEA meets monthly; however, sometimes I am away at the same time attending other meetings.

-Culture

With our Five-Year Cultural Plan, Coral and I have been having discussions about the contents and what it should reflect. We have also been having individual conversations with Cory Sr our Culture and Wellness team leader. It should include song and dance practices, protocols, cultural events, resource harvesting, timelines, availability, protocols, use and purpose with our three Guiding Principles in mind.

-Events

No events planned in January.

Public/Community Safety

I have attended an MOU Implementation meeting with representatives from BC Corrections, Karen ,Alexis and Hawiilth Theresa and Sherri. I also attended a virtual orientation to start our Huuayaht Community Safety Planning.

Emergency Planning/Emergency Preparedness and Climate

We will be having more discussions and meetings around Emergency Planning and Preparedness along with Climate Change and Climate Resilience. We look at the Mount Underwood Fire as being a real eye opener as to what we need to plan and be prepared for. This year there is less snow in the mountains but this change as it is still winter, but they are forecasting 2026 to be even hotter than last year so we really need to plan ahead.

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

Other meetings I've attended were the ACP with Edward and the HRWW with Bradley. I did miss the CMB as I was at another meeting,

We've been meeting with UBC to talk about some old photos taken in the 70's in Anacla by a photographer who actually lived in community for awhile. The photos were thought to be destroyed by a flooded area in UBC campus but were later found and we were contacted by Jesse Carson to see what we would like to do. We are just in the preliminary planning right now but the timing couldn't be better with the new Cultural Center being built.

I did attend a Housing Workshop on Edward's behalf but it was more so for Housing Managers. I got a funny look when I introduced myself as EC since there were a lot of complaints and bashing towards Chief and Council. I guess not all have good working relationships. It was to do with policies, building codes, house efficiency, damages and repairs.

I also attend Executive Council meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings and anything else that relates to my portfolios.

Councillor Stephen Rayner Executive Council Report – January 2026

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

Area of Responsibility:

Law and Policy Committee (Executive Council Portfolio Holder): In January, we did not hold a formal Law & Policy Committee meeting; however, work continued steadily on our core legislative priorities. I met with internal legal counsel and supported ongoing coordination with external legal to advance and finalize the Community Safety Act (CSA), including continued refinement of the consolidated drafting package and supporting materials in preparation for re-circulation and further community engagement.

In parallel, work continued on potential amendments to the Economic Development Act (EDA). Legal counsel has continued developing and refining options to streamline the Act, improve clarity and usability, and ensure the EDA remains practical to administer and aligned with Huu-ay-aht's current operational realities and economic development priorities.

Although January included competing priorities and travel, momentum was maintained through focused legal drafting sessions and targeted discussions to keep CSA and EDA work moving forward between meetings.

Emerging issues (January): As the CSA approaches finalization, the emerging focus is implementation readiness sequencing, resourcing, and clear roles/responsibilities so that when the legislation is advanced, the Nation is positioned to implement efficiently and consistently.

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): In January, I continued leading the Framework Planning Initiative with a focus on negotiating and finalizing key commercial terms with Forum Asset Management. We are working to confirm the overall agreement length, clarify the specific types of projects to be advanced in the initial phases, and ensure governance, risk allocation, and decision-making authority remain protective of Huu-ay-aht's long-term interests.

In parallel, we continued work with Deloitte to help identify and screen the highest-potential early projects those most likely to deliver strong returns while aligning with Huu-ay-aht's priorities, values, and responsibilities to citizens. This includes evaluating assumptions, sequencing, and the practical conditions needed for each project to be viable and investable.

Throughout negotiations, our focus remains clear: revenue generation is important, but agreements must be in the best interests of the Nation and citizens. We are continuing to embed protections that prevent land warehousing, ensure transparency and performance, and maintain Huu-ay-aht's control over key decisions.

Emerging issues (January): Continued intensity of term sheet negotiations and the need to maintain momentum while ensuring each clause is thoroughly reviewed for risk, governance protections, and long-term alignment.

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): In January, we continued advancing Huu-ay-aht’s ship recycling initiative in the pre-feasibility stage through weekly coordination meetings and ongoing partner and government engagement. Work continued refining the overall project pathway, confirming roles and responsibilities, and advancing early regulatory and approvals discussions.

We met with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG) to discuss opportunities to collaborate on analyzing ship recycling potential in the Alberni Valley and within Huu-ay-aht territory, including regulatory sequencing and project-enabling supports. Provincial engagement remains strong, and we continue to benefit from advocacy and support from MLA Josie Osborne and MP Gord Johns.

In parallel, we continued to work with our Lands Department to advance site identification and screening, including assessing existing and potential new sites and identifying key data requirements. We also continued engagement through the regional leadership working group with local First Nations and regional partners, alongside constructive engagement with the City of Port Alberni.

This work remains focused on building the technical evidence base (sites, logistics, regulatory pathways, and environmental considerations) needed to move from concept to an investable project plan grounded in Treaty rights, strong environmental stewardship, and long-term benefits for citizens.

Emerging issues (January): Maintaining momentum while key site and regulatory questions are clarified; coordinating multi-partner and multi-jurisdictional inputs so the project can progress efficiently without compromising diligence or environmental standards.

Clean Energy Portfolio (Executive Council Portfolio Holder): In January, I continued advancing Huu-ay-aht clean energy priorities focused on affordability, reliability, sovereignty, and long-term resilience. My work as Board Chair of Clean Energy BC complements this portfolio by strengthening relationships across government, regulators, and industry and helping advance enabling conditions for projects within Huu-ay-aht territory.

Offshore Floating Wind Pilot – AKS Wind & SeaTwirl: The offshore floating wind pilot continued to advance with bi-weekly coordination meetings. We progressed budget development, began refining an engagement strategy with local governments and neighboring Nations, and continued mapping the regulatory landscape (including BCER, relevant provincial agencies, and federal regulators such as DFO). We continued identifying funding opportunities and began preparing the information needed to support near-term applications to advance pre-feasibility and

engagement work. In parallel, we continued exploring battery/storage partnership options that could support reliability and grid integration for both community needs and future project phases.

From a technology perspective, the SeaTwirl floating vertical-axis wind turbine (F-VAWT) offers several potential benefits for a coastal pilot: a removable floating spar design that can minimize seafloor disturbance and avoid pile-driving; the ability to tug-tow the unit back to port at end-of-life; slower rotor speeds and a vertical profile intended to reduce bird-strike risk and underwater noise; a smaller silhouette that may reduce visual impacts while enabling siting farther offshore; and a generator housed at sea level to support safer, simpler servicing by standard vessels and local crews. As the concept advances, we will continue aligning the pilot with community energy resilience objectives, including microgrid/BESS integration and diesel displacement potential.

We continued identifying funding opportunities and began preparing the information needed to support near-term applications to advance pre-feasibility and engagement work. In parallel, we continued exploring battery/storage partnership options that could support reliability and grid integration for both community needs and future project phases.

Anacla Government Office (AGO) Solar Project: The AGO solar installation is complete. In January, we focused on final commissioning steps so the system can become fully operational and begin delivering cost savings and local clean power to the AGO.

Sector Engagement & Strategic Partnerships: We continued discussions with BC Hydro regarding reliability challenges and power delivery for Bamfield/Anacla, and we continued broader engagement with partners on practical pathways to enable clean energy development, including storage and technology partnerships that complement the offshore wind work.

Multi-Nation Energy Development & Partnerships: We continued collaboration with other Nations to explore shared approaches to power development, co-investment, and partnership models that reduce risk and keep long-term benefits within Indigenous communities. A recurring theme continues to be exploring the concept and enabling conditions for a First Nations Power Authority.

Sector Engagement & Strategic Partnerships: We are also exploring potential battery procurement partnerships that could strengthen community resilience and support future clean energy projects, including options identified through international supplier discussions.

Multi-Nation Energy Development & Partnerships (continued): We remain engaged with partner Nations on coordination, information sharing, and opportunities to support each other's energy projects through joint advocacy and potential shared services.

Emerging issues (January): Multi-jurisdictional permitting and sequencing remains the primary emerging issue for offshore wind, alongside interconnection and reliability constraints for the Bamfield/Anacla area. Early and ongoing engagement with regulators is underway to clarify pathways and maintain momentum.

Climate Sustainability (Executive Council Portfolio Holder): In January, I continued to support Councillor Stella Peters (who leads this portfolio) primarily through government relations, advocacy, and identifying funding and partnership pathways. My focus remains on helping position Huu-ay-aht to access practical climate resilience and sustainability opportunities as priorities are advanced under Stella's direction.

I continued scanning and mapping relevant provincial and federal programs that could support climate resilience, emergency preparedness, shoreline protection, wildfire risk reduction, and low-carbon community infrastructure so that we can move quickly when project concepts are ready.

We remain attentive to emerging opportunities and partnerships that align with Huu-ay-aht's needs and priorities, and we continue to build relationships that can support timely application readiness when funding windows open.

Emerging issue (January): Ensuring we maintain readiness to respond quickly to time-limited funding opportunities while aligning proposals with Nation-led priorities and capacity.

StackBL Housing (Economic Development): In January, I travelled to China (Jan 8–18) to meet with StackBL and tour manufacturing facilities, suppliers, and production lines to assess readiness to support Huu-ay-aht housing needs and broader economic development opportunities. As part of this mission, we also visited Space-O-Future Technology Group to review their prefabricated modular building system and timber manufacturing facilities, including their large-scale industrial footprint and integrated supply chain approach for timber prefabricated homes.

This initiative is focused on exploring delivery of housing at approximately \$150 per square foot (early estimate), using a panelized/bolt-together modular approach to reduce construction time while meeting Canadian requirements. Near-term work is assessing import and assembly pathways in Canada, with a longer-term pathway to establish manufacturing capacity on Huu-ay-aht territory and (where feasible) integrate Huu-ay-aht wood supply into the value chain. StackBL is working toward full CSA compliance by April, and we anticipate returning in April to review updated production lines and confirm certification progress.

Emerging issues (January): Confirming CSA certification timelines, logistics for import/assembly in Canada, and ensuring the business model and governance structure align with Nation priorities, capacity, and long-term housing outcomes.

Capital Raise (Portfolio): In January, I continued exploring international partnerships that could support Huu-ay-aht's economic development and clean energy objectives. During the China mission, we held targeted meetings with firms in energy storage, EV manufacturing, digital/AI solutions, and waste-to-energy to understand potential pathways for procurement, partnership, investment, and/or distribution models that could be advanced in Canada where they align with Huu-ay-aht priorities.

Key engagements included: (1) Leapmotor (smart EV manufacturer) to explore potential opportunities related to vehicles and/or parts supply chains; (2) H3C to understand smart-home, digital, and AI platforms that could complement future housing and community infrastructure; (3) Wanxiang Group to explore energy storage and battery solutions that could support community resilience and future clean energy projects (including grid-scale storage concepts); and (4) SUS Environment to review waste-to-energy technology and assess whether there may be longer-term opportunities that fit within Huu-ay-aht's economic development portfolio.

Emerging issues (January): Detailed due diligence on partners, market feasibility in Canada, and ensuring any partnership or procurement approach is structured to protect Nation interests and meet regulatory, trade, and implementation requirements.

Chair of Board of Directors of Huumiis Ventures: In January, we continued working with Huumiis leadership and our partners at Western Forest Products to strengthen the partnership framework and improve long-term outcomes for Huu-ay-aht. This work remains focused on

advancing agreement terms that clarify governance and decision-making, strengthen accountability, and better align value creation with Huu-ay-aht's interests while recognizing ongoing challenges in the coastal forestry sector.

We continued negotiation and term development intended to support a more durable and predictable arrangement for Huumiis, including practical operating expectations and clearer mechanisms to manage performance and risk in a challenging market environment.

Emerging issues (January): Market volatility and operational pressures in coastal forestry remain significant; our priority is to maintain forward momentum on governance and commercial protections that safeguard Huu-ay-aht's interests and support stability for the partnership.

Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC)

Board of Directors (Chair): In January, I continued supporting CEBC's governance and advocacy priorities, including strategic planning and budget development, and ensuring the Association remains aligned on procurement certainty, timely permitting modernization, and Indigenous equity participation as major projects move forward in B.C.

A key January focus for CEBC was responding to BC Hydro's announcement of a strong response to the 2025 Call for Power and reinforcing that the sector is ready to deliver clean, affordable, reliable electricity to support growth. This work helps maintain momentum toward regular calls for power and clear signals for investment and project readiness.

In parallel, we continued supporting planning for major 2026 sector convenings (including Generate 2026) and strengthening engagement with government and sector partners to advance priorities around workforce development, transmission enablement, and project delivery pathways.

Government Relations Committee (Member): In January, my work with CEBC's Government Relations Committee focused on supporting advocacy priorities tied to procurement certainty, permitting modernization, and Indigenous equity participation in clean power development. Committee discussions continued to emphasize implementation of the Province's renewables "one-window" approach and practical steps to reduce duplication while maintaining strong environmental and Indigenous rights standards.

During the month, the Committee tracked major political and regulatory files affecting project delivery, including BC Hydro's Call for Power outcomes, interconnection study cost issues, IRP planning signals, DFO fisheries interpretation, net metering matters, turbine logistics, and the BCER renewables transition.

We also began preparing for expected fiscal and policy developments affecting proponents. This included early work to analyze Budget 2026 implications for project costs (including proposed PST changes on professional services) and to position CEBC's advocacy around maintaining affordability and investment competitiveness for critical clean energy and transmission infrastructure.

At the federal level, we monitored the Department of Finance's release of draft legislative proposals (Jan 29) related to Clean Hydrogen and CCUS investment tax credits, including proposed technical changes and emerging concerns around domestic content requirements issues that can materially affect project economics and supply chains for CEBC members.

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

Permitting & Regulatory Committee (Member): In January, my work with CEBC's Permitting & Regulatory Committee continued to focus on practical permitting and regulatory issues affecting clean energy project delivery. This included tracking the BCER renewables transition and supporting sector input on how the one-window approach is implemented in practice (sequencing, information requirements, and predictable timelines).

We continued to monitor and discuss active regulatory files that can create delays or uncertainty for proponents particularly issues related to fisheries and wildlife, wind/solar best practices, and inter-agency coordination as well as emerging cost and logistics pressures that affect project viability.

Emerging issues (January): Ensuring the regulatory transition delivers real, measurable reductions in duplication while maintaining rigorous environmental standards and clear expectations for proponents.

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

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

Week one (Jan 5th to 9th):

- Huumiis meeting
- Chinese consulate for VISA for travel
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Edward Johnson
- Huumiis meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Brad Johnson
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Travel to China

Week two (Jan 12th to 16th):

- China trade mission meeting and tour with SUS Environmental
- China trade mission meeting and tour with SPACE-O-FUTURE Technology Group
- China trade mission meeting and tour with LEAPMOTOR
- China trade mission meeting and tour with H3C
- China trade mission meeting and tour with WANXIANG Group
- Committee of the Whole meeting

Week three (Jan 19th to 23rd):

- Travel back from China
- Huumiis BoD check in meeting
- First Nations Steering Committee meeting
- Committee of the Whole meeting
- Special Executive Council meeting
- Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Brad Johnson
- EcDev Officer meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Councilor Edward Johnson
- AKS/HFN offshore wind project meeting
- Tribunal project meeting
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Huumiis meeting

Week three (Jan 19th to 23rd):

- CEBC HR Committee meeting
- EcDev committee meeting
- CEBC HR follow up meeting
- Huumiis meeting
- Negotiation meeting
- CEBC team meeting
- Bi-monthly CEBC BoD meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Lands Director
- Stackbl meeting
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with EcDev Officer
- Executive Council meeting
- Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions meeting
- Ship recycling meeting.
- Bi-weekly bilateral meeting with Ha'wiih Theresa Nookemus
- CEBC HR Committee meeting
- HFN/EMCR meeting