



Ha-Shilth-Sa



Canada's Oldest First Nations Newspaper - Serving Nuuchahnulth since 1974

Vol. 39 - No. 1 - Jan. 12, 2012

haašit'sa "Interesting News"

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 40047776

Feds yet to appoint lead agency to deal with debris

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

The province has named a co-chair for the Provincial Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee tasked with dealing with the enormous mass of floating debris from the earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

Jim Standen, assistant deputy minister for the B.C. Ministry of the Environment, will represent the province, according to Emergency Management B.C. spokeswoman Julianne McCaffrey.

The federal co-chair has not been named yet and the lead federal agency has yet to be identified, McCaffrey said. It is expected the committee will have

representation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Public Safety Canada and Health Canada.

"A number of provincial ministries have already stepped forward, including Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation," McCaffrey said, adding that the list includes the Ministries of Public Safety, Agriculture and Labour.

The debris field, which is estimated to cover the surface area of the State of California, contains millions of tonnes of wood, plastics and other materials that were dragged out to sea after the Magnitude 9.0 earthquake levelled whole communities. Even more ominous, the double-disaster destroyed most of the Fukushima nuclear reactor complex, releasing radioactivity into the ocean.

The first bits of debris may have already arrived on some B.C. beaches, but the main mass is not expected to

descend on the West Coast for another year or more.

Last week, Curtis Dick, deputy chief emergency services coordinator for Ahousaht First Nation, summed up the feeling of many nations.

"Who is going to take charge and who is going to coordinate the effort?" Dick said.

By its very nature, the tsunami debris field touches on a huge number of stakeholders, McCaffrey said.

"This is a jurisdictionally complicated issue," she said.

Floating out on the open ocean, the debris field falls under federal jurisdictions like Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Ministry of the

Environment, not to mention Public Safety Canada and Parks Canada, McCaffrey said. When the flotsam and jetsam comes ashore and reaches the high-tide line, it enters another realm of jurisdictions.

"Once it pushes past that, it falls under 'local authorities,'" she said.

That may be a municipality or a regional district, in which case the jurisdiction is clear-cut—sort of. If the shoreline is on a First Nations reserve, responsibility could remain in federal hands.

"The only time it becomes a provincial matter is if there are hazardous substances or human remains—and we haven't seen any of those, yet," McCaffrey said.

Dick said the number of agencies involved could threaten any effective response.

"You have to wonder, when the time comes, who are we going to be bounced around to?" he said.

Based on Flores and Vargas Islands, Ahousaht First Nation likely faces the biggest threat, Dick said.

"It's not only our natural resources, but also it affects our transportation," he said. "Everything has to come in by water taxi or by barge. If [the debris field] comes in, our boats will not be able to move. Even our float planes won't be able to operate. That raises a whole range of emergency issues."

Dick said his community faces being cut off for weeks or months, with only helicopters able to transport food, medicine or people. And no one can anticipate the health effects the debris may have on people, especially those with compromised health, he added.

"Nobody has gotten back to me yet. I haven't had any word from either the federal or provincial government to start planning for whatever is going to happen," Mowachaht/Muchalaht fisheries manager Jamie James said. "That is surprising, because I also serve as deputy emergency coordinator for the Village of Gold River."



Curtis Dick

Tseshaht chief councillor Les Sam said his nation has received "zero" information. Tseshaht traditional territory includes the Broken Island Group, which is the crown jewel of Pacific Rim National Park. Sam believes Ottawa has a vested interest in protecting one of its high-visibility tourist destinations and ecological preserves.

"We are working with Parks Canada on a cooperative management strategy in Pacific Rim National Park," Sam said. "That would include, I would think, the cleanup."

The bigger question, Sam said, is who is going to pay for the effort, which will be massive — well beyond the current capacity and budget of any First Nation.

Hesquiaht band administrator Cecil Sabbas said his nation could take a major hit from the incoming mass.

"We're fully exposed, right on the open ocean," Sabbas said. "For that reason, we don't have any fish farms or any aquaculture. We don't have any safe havens."

Sabbas said in discussions he has had recently, one of the major concerns has been that some of the debris might be contaminated with radioactive materials from the Fukushima reactors.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District chief administrative officer Russell Dyson said he has little more information than coastal First Nations.

"I do know the province is taking the leading role, and I understand they are setting up a working group," Dyson said. "We will be in contact with them to find out how we will be involved."

From an operational standpoint, Dyson said it is possible the province could ask ACRD to landfill debris when it arrives. That, he said flatly, is not possible. ACRD operates the West Coast Landfill. The sheer volume — millions of tonnes of wood and plastic from demolished buildings, boats, etc. — would simply overwhelm the existing infrastructure.

Record rainfall tests infrastructure

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Esowista Peninsula—Tofino rang in the New Year with a deluge of rain that saw some residential roads close due to severe flooding.

According to Environment Canada, a record 180.6 mm of rain fell in over Tofino in a 12-hour period on Jan. 3. That's more than seven inches of water.

Damage from the downpour included road flooding, property damage and water turbidity that forced locals on a boil water advisory.

But recent upgrades to infrastructure in Tla-o-qui-aht's neighboring communities of Tyhistanis and Esowista prevented damage associated with heavy rainfall.

John Williams, operations and maintenance manager at Esowista explained that Esowista and Tyhistanis have a deep well water system and is not connected to Tofino's municipal water system.

"The well goes about 200 feet down so it wasn't affected by the rain and Opitsaht has its own water system that wasn't affected either," said Williams.

Opitsaht is Tla-o-qui-aht community

located on Meares Island, across the inlet from Tofino.

Esowista's drainage system was upgraded in 2005 with the installation of storm drains and catch basins. Still, the rain posed a challenge.

"Mother Nature took her toll," said Williams. There was minimal flooding where the storm drains couldn't keep up at Esowista, but according to Williams, the worst flooding was on the Tofino Highway.

"We went to town (Port Alberni) that day and there was flooding all over the place," said Williams. He said he was grateful he and his family drove during daylight hours so they could see the ponds of water before hitting them.

Overall the three Tla-o-qui-aht communities fared well. Williams said there was some confusion about the boil water advisory.

The boil water advisory does not include any of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation residential communities.

Tin Wis Best Western Resort, owned and operated by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, is connected to Tofino's water system and therefore is included in the boil water advisory. Also include are the adjacent Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty Office building and the Tin Wis staff residences.

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Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1383,
Port Alberni, B.C.
V9Y 7M2.
Telephone: (250) 724-5757
Fax: (250) 723-0463
Web page: www.hashilthsa.com
facebook: Hashilthsa Ntc

2012 Subscription rates:
\$35.00 per year in Canada and \$40 per year in the U.S.A. and \$45 per year in foreign countries. Payable to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council.

Manager/Editor/Reporter
Debora Steel (Ext. 243)
(250) 724-5757 - Fax: (250) 723-0463
debora.steel@nuuchahnulth.org

Administrative Assistant
Annie Ross-Watts (Ext. 226)
(250) 724-5757 - Fax: (250) 723-0463
annie.watts@nuuchahnulth.org

Reporter
Denise Titian (Ext. 240)
(250) 724-5757 - Fax: (250) 723-0463
denise.titian@nuuchahnulth.org

Audio / Video Technician
Mike Watts (Ext. 238)
(250) 724-5757 - Fax: (250) 723-0463
mike.watts@nuuchahnulth.org

Client Services Representative
Holly Stocking (Ext. 302)
(250) 724-5757 - Fax: (250) 723-0463
holly.stocking@nuuchahnulth.org

DEADLINE:

Please note that the deadline for submissions for our next issue is

Jan. 20, 2012.

After that date, material submitted and judged appropriate **cannot be guaranteed placement** but, if material is still relevant, will be included in the following issue. In an ideal world, submissions would be typed rather than hand-written. Articles can be sent by e-mail to hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org (Windows PC). Submitted pictures must include a brief description of subject(s) and a return address. Pictures with no return address will remain on file. Allow two - four weeks for return. Photocopied or faxed photographs cannot be accepted.

COVERAGE:

Although we would like to be able to cover all stories and events, we will only do so **subject to:**
- Sufficient advance notice addressed specifically to Ha-Shilth-Sa.
- Reporter availability at the time of the event.
- Editorial space available in the paper.
- Editorial deadlines being adhered to by contributors.

LETTERS and KLECOS

Ha-Shilth-Sa will include letters received from its readers. Letters MUST be signed by the writer and have the writer's full name, address and phone number on them. Names can be withheld by request. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit submitted material for clarity, brevity, grammar and good taste. We will definitely not publish letters dealing with tribal or personal disputes or issues that are critical of Nuu-chah-nulth individuals or groups. All opinions expressed in letters to the editor are purely those of the writer and will not necessarily coincide with the views or policies of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council or its member First Nations. Ha-Shilth-Sa includes paid advertising, but this does not imply Ha-Shilth-Sa or Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council recommends or endorses the content of the ads.



The planning committee that will organize the 2012 BC Junior All Native Basketball Tournament coming up March 18 to March 23 met on Jan. 7 in Nanaimo, and the group received updates on what's been done to date, and had a discussion on what needs to get done before 1,500 guests to the Port Alberni area start arriving. Bruce Lucas, tournament coordinator and coach of the host team, the Homiss Wolves, said hotels in the area are booking up quickly so if teams haven't got their accommodations worked out its time to make those arrangements. There is a need for many volunteers, from scorekeepers and timekeepers to cooks and kitchen helpers, in the three venues—the Alberni Athletic Hall, Maht Mahs gym and the Alberni District Secondary School gym. The volunteer form is on the Hashilthsa NTC facebook page under Announcements and will soon be on the tournament facebook page 2012 JANT Planning Committee. Or email Lucas at bruce@shaw.ca. Volunteers get free admission to the tournament, so there's a bonus for your participation. And if you want to take part in the planning of the event, the committee would be happy to see you come out to their meetings. Go to the JANT facebook page for details.

Ahousaht youth bound for Africa

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht—It's been her dream since her early teens; to travel the world and volunteer her services to help the less fortunate. And now her dream is about to become a reality.

Courtenay Louie, 24, of Ahousaht has been selected by VIDEA (Victoria International Development Education Association) as an Aboriginal Youth Intern to work for four months in Lusaka, Zambia.

VIDEA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to "inspire thought and action on global issues." They recruit Canadian youth interns to work in developing countries like South Africa.

Louie, a former Camosun College student, received an application for the internship from a First Nations Advisor at the college. With her contract at Maaqtusiis School coming to an end and uncertainty over whether or not she

Continued on page



Family gathered in Ahousaht to send off Courtenay Louie and wish her well during her stay in Zambia. Back row from left to right: Courtenay Louie, Rebecca Atleo, Cosmo Louie, Gregory Charlie and Greg Louie. Middle row: Juniper John, Janelle Louie and baby Ben. Front: Flossie Atleo.

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Ha-Shilth-Sa belongs to every Nuu-chah-nulth person including those who have passed on, and those who are not yet born. A community newspaper cannot exist without community involvement. If you have any great pictures you've taken, stories or poems you've written, or artwork you have done, please let us know so we can include it in your newspaper. E-mail hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org. This year is Ha-Shilth-Sa's 39th year of serving the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

We look forward to your continued input and support.
Kleco! Kleco!

Request for Proposals

Projects To Address HIV or Hepatitis C in First Nation Communities

Health Directors, Community Health Nurses, other Health Care Workers and members of First Nation (FN) communities in British Columbia

This is an invitation for BC FN communities to submit proposals requesting funding for projects that address HIV or Hepatitis C issues in your community.

The First Nations & Inuit Health (FNIH) - HIV/Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (HIV/STBBI) Program provides education, prevention and related health services to FN on-reserve. The overall goal is to work in partnership with First Nation communities to prevent HIV/STBBI transmission, and support the care of those affected by these infections.

A major objective of the HIV/STBBI Program is to increase awareness; reduce stigma within communities; promote testing, access to prevention, education and support; and provide supportive social environments for those vulnerable to and living with HIV or Hepatitis C.

In support of the above objective, the HIV/STBBI Program is inviting proposals for projects addressing HIV or Hepatitis C issues in First Nation communities. There will be a maximum amount of up to \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) available for successful applicants.

In response to feedback from FN communities, the process for distributing funding to communities to address HIV and Hepatitis C infections will change for 2012-13 fiscal year. In previous years the HIV/STBBI Program has supported communities' HIV prevention activities by distributing \$200,000 amongst all of the FN communities, based on their populations. For 2012-2013 we will fund FN communities that submit successful applications for HIV or Hepatitis C projects.

See www.hashilthsa.com under announcements for details.



The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's Post-Secondary Department's deadline for applications is: January 31, 2012 at 4:30pm for funding from September 2012 to August 2013. Applications are available at our website: nuuchahnulth.org

Applications from the following nations: Ditidaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Kyuquot/Cheklesah, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tsesah, Uchucklesaht, Ucluelet,

Please send applications to:

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PO Box 1383
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
Fax: 250-724-9682
Email: psinfo@nuuchahnulth.org

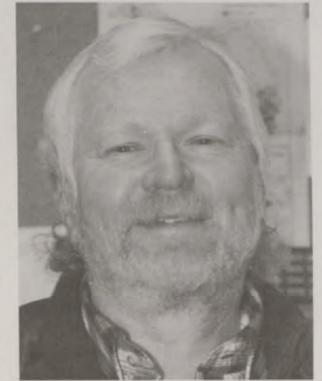
Ahousaht members, please send applications to:
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General Delivery
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Fax: 250-670-9543
Email: ahousatpostsecondary_vt@hotmail.com
Contact: Vivien Thomas PS Counsellor and Sandy Sam, PS Assistant at 250-670-9589 or 1-877-670-9555

For Ucluelet, please send applications to:
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Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
Fax: 250-726-7552 Email: educationcoord@ufn.ca
Contact: Bernice Touchie, ABE Instructor/Post-Secondary Advisor at 250-726-7342

The NTC Post-Secondary Department:
Lynnette Lucas, Education Manager, Kelly Johnsen, P/S Counsellor, Linda Gomez, P/S Counsellor and Cindy Wishart, Education Assistant
Tel: 250-724-5757 or 1-877-677-1131

Usma says goodbye to director Larry Pond

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor



Larry Pond

Larry Pond has retired after five years at the helm of the Nuu-chah-nulth child welfare agency, Usma.

For Pond it was the capstone of a 34-year career in family and child services, and his term marked some significant landmarks for Usma, which has delivered child protection for Nuu-chah-nulth families since 1987.

"At that time, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council signed a three-way agreement with the federal and provincial governments to assume delegated responsibilities for child protection," Pond said. "Usma was the first agency in the province to take on that responsibility."

For the first 24 years, Usma had delegated authority for on-reserve children, and since 2004 responsibility for continuing care (guardianship) cases in Port Alberni.

In the last year, NTC has taken on responsibility for investigations and family services for off-reserve children in Port Alberni, Pond said.

"The goal is that Usma will eventually take responsibility for off-reserve children in the traditional territories, including Ucluelet and Tofino, Zeballos and Tahsis. They are all part of the traditional territory of Nuu-chah-nulth."

Usma also has partnerships with five similar agencies on Vancouver Island that are empowered to care for Nuu-chah-nulth children.

"In Victoria, we have a partner agency called Surrounded by Cedar. There are about 25 Nuu-chah-nulth kids in care in the Victoria area. It's not a satellite agency, however - it's a partnership," Pond said.

Of the six aboriginal authorities on Vancouver Island, only Usma and the Cowichan Tribes are fully delegated to investigate cases of child abuse and neglect, Pond said. The other agencies must refer investigations to the Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD).

Pond said he is proud of the fact that while apprehension rates for aboriginal children continue to rise in the province, Usma is bucking that trend with the number of children in care decreasing.

"Our people have accomplished it by working with families and extended family to come up with safe alternatives to bringing children into care," he said.

Pond said everyone involved is acutely

aware that there is a delicate balance between ensuring the safety of vulnerable children and following the dictates of provincial guidelines that do not always mesh with aboriginal family culture.

"First Nations people refer to it as European law," he said. "Their goal is to develop their own law under treaty, and to create their own child protection codes and systems."

For Pond, who was born in New Brunswick and spent much of his life in Edmonton before graduating high school in Victoria, Usma represented a full circle for his career.

"I graduated from the University of Victoria and started as a youth counselor in 1974," he said.

Pond worked his way up within the children's ministry through 2007, all on Vancouver Island. At the time he left MCFD, he had served as manager of the Courtenay and Port Alberni offices since 2004.

"Over the years, I worked in Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Courtenay and Port Alberni. I was already in Port Alberni when I started with Usma," Pond said.

"Jeff Kizuk, who just succeeded me at Usma, took over my management job at the Port Alberni office."

(In another converging career path, Deb Foxcroft, who became the first Usma director in 1987, now works for MCFD.)

Pond and his wife Nancy, who have four grown children, live on an acreage in Coombs. It's not a farm, he says, "But we have a building on the property with a bit of a theatre. We hosted a number of community concerts there."

In the past several years, however, he and Nancy have "changed gears" and have acquired a 26-foot boat that they moor in Black Creek during the summer.

HOW IS YOUR CHILD DOING IN SCHOOL?

We are almost at the mid-point in the school year. It is important for you to check on the progress of your child/children. The current labour dispute prevents teachers in the public system from producing report cards however you can drop by or call the school to ask for the name of your child's teacher/teachers and their contact information. Set up an appointment to meet with the teacher or contact them by email. Ask how your child is doing academically, is their attendance good, are they doing their homework, are they handing in all their assignments, etc. Support your child/children to success by monitoring their progress and encouraging them to always do their best. Chuu!

Homes, jobs and independence in Ahousaht

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

The New Year got off to a wonderful start for the people of Ahousaht.

According to Chief Counsellor John O. Frank, the local RCMP detachment was pleased to report there were no police incidents over the holiday season and jail cells remained empty.

"It's a sign that people are feeling good about themselves," Frank said, adding, "for a community flogged in the media for suicides, addictions and bootlegging over the past few years, Ahousaht is doing much better with more focus on human services and culture."

Ahousaht leadership is preparing to move forward with their new anti-intoxicant bylaw. The people of Ahousaht in a 2011 referendum voted in favor of making Ahousaht's reserves dry places. The vote was very close with slightly over half of the voter opting for dry reserves.

Wording policy and procedures for the new bylaw is in front of lawyers and an Ahousaht committee and is near completion. The documents will be presented at Ahousaht's Annual General Meeting to be held in February. Members will have a chance to review the document and vote on it.

Once enacted, it will be illegal to have drugs or alcohol on any of Ahousaht's reserves.

"It's an excellent new year with lots of delightful projects coming along," said Chief Frank. He said the people are excited about becoming proud new homeowners; many have already moved into houses that they will pay for themselves.

The first batch of new housing is being constructed on Ahousaht's newly developed subdivision with more housing starts expected in the coming weeks.

"Six new houses are going up at the new subdivision right now and two more are starting this week," Chief Frank reported. In addition, two Aboriginal Affairs approved trailer homes will be coming in within the next couple of

weeks. "These are good quality trailer homes," said Frank, adding that Aboriginal Affairs would not approve of them or provide grants for them if they were below a certain standard.

"They meet [aboriginal affairs] specifications and they will be ready to live in 15 days after they arrive," said Frank.

But the people need jobs to pay for those homes and Frank foresees a time when his people will regain their independence as the doors to their resources begin to re-open.

"Us Nuu-chah-nulth are wealthy people with resources right in our back yards; its government policy and guidelines that hold us back."

"The last thing we want is taxpayers looking after us; it's time for the rest of Canada to stand up with us and say enough is enough. We need our resources back."

Ahousaht council continues to push forward with economic development projects that will see Ahousaht members employed in infrastructure development, forestry and seafood harvesting.

Ahousaht's new high school is up and running with a new batch of young people looking forward to grad 2012. Things have been running smoothly with Principal Scott Maschuck at the helm.

Plans to pave the roads in Ahousaht are on hold until work is completed on sewer line repairs and run-off drainage systems are in place.

"That's part of the mold problem. Water is ponding in the community," said Frank.

Years of dumping grease and cooking oil down the drains of the community of nearly 1,000 has led to problems with Ahousaht's sewer system. Chief Frank said years of soap scum combined with cooking fat have caused a waxy buildup in the sewer system.

There is machinery in place - blades that chop up solids, but the buildup was too overwhelming, burning out some of the machinery. The problem has been resolved but Franks asks the community to refrain from disposing of cook fats down the drain.

Once all repairs are made, all major roadways in Ahousaht will be paved. Upgrades to the main wharf and floats began in early January, Frank reported.

Ahousaht's fishery department reported the clam fishery went well. Larry Swan has been hired as the new Fisheries Manager working under the guidance of NTC Fisheries Biologist Katie Beach.

"Our people will be fishing again in 2012," said Frank. Dozens of Ahousaht fishermen were edged out of the commercial fishing industry in the 1980s and 90s due to Department of Fisheries policies and the decline of fish stocks.

But recent court rulings have reaffirmed that Nuu-chah-nulth-aht have

inherent rights to marine resources for commercial purposes. All that is standing in the way is the development of a marine resources management agreement between Nuu-chah-nulth-aht and DFO.

Frank said a fisheries agreement is close and he fully believes Ahousaht fishermen will be out on the water as early as spring 2012.

Frank said there has been some job creation in the community and he is happy to see his people have jobs to wake up to but he thinks the Government of Canada needs to do more to help his people become independent.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENT OUT OF PROVINCE AND COUNTRY

Recent situations have caused financial hardship to some people who Depart Canada without acquiring any type of medical coverage insurance. Non-Insured Health Benefits Program through Health Canada does not cover anyone who departs Canada, nor does your BC Medical Plan unless you have written authority from them stating that they will cover you, and what they will cover. (Remember the price is much higher in US than here - I suggest you check it out to protect yourself and your family). Ensure you get coverage by contacting your local travel agency - they can and will help you! It is also understood that once you have departed Canada and you change your mind and decide you wish to have coverage - it is too late...Travel policy insurance will not cover you in outside the country if you try to obtain insurance after you have left.

Protect yourself and your family!

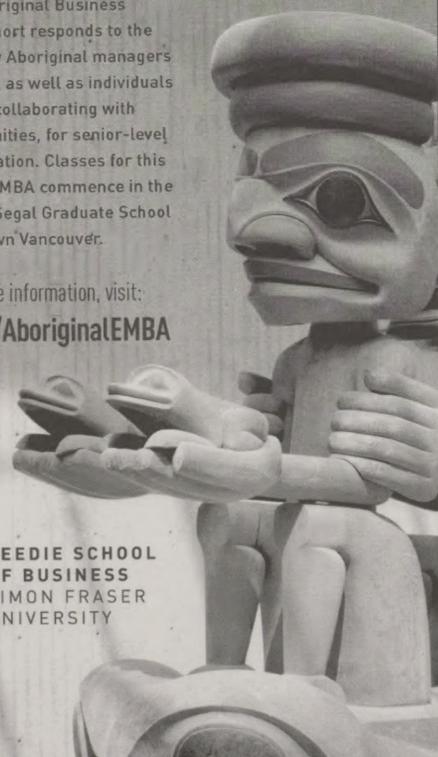
Questions on this matter are encouraged and welcomed through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program Coordinator (Robert Cluett) 1-888-407-4888 or 250-724-5757.

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CLAYOQUOT™

BIOSPHERE TRUST

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Clayoquot Field Station at the Tofino Botanical Gardens
1084 Pacific Rim Highway, Tofino

followed by

CBT Special Meeting - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The business of this meeting is to approve revised bylaws. Please contact the office or see our blog to obtain a copy of the proposed bylaws.

Note: If you plan to attend please notify the office and we will ensure an information package is available. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Jean Jackson, Office Manager 316 Main St., Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0
Ph: 250-725-2219, Cell 250 726 8300 or Email jean@clayoquotbiosphere.org

Clayoquot Biosphere Trust 2012 Call for Projects

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) is excited to announce the tenth allocation of funds to support community projects in the areas of community development, culture, education, marine & aquatic and terrestrial. The CBT has \$50,000 available in this Call for Projects. Each project will be funded to a maximum of \$8,000.

This is only one stream of CBT funding. The CBT Advisory Committees have annual discretionary budgets which are also used to support local projects. Please see our website or contact staff for more information on applying for discretionary funding.

All applicants must complete the Application for Funding form available at www.clayoquotbiosphere.org under the heading What We Do, subheading Grants & Scholarships. Applications must be received by our office by 4p.m. January 26, 2012. Approval of funding will be announced by April 15, 2012.

CBT staff is available to assist proponents in the application process. Please address all questions and completed applications for funding to:

Rebecca Hurwitz, Managing Director
rebecca@clayoquotbiosphere.org
316 Main Street, P.O. Box 67, Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0
250-725-2219 (Tofino office) 250-725-8925 (cell)



Yuutu?it?ath

Child & Youth Support Worker

Second Posting

Hitacu - Ucluelet East, British Columbia

Posted on: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

The Yuutu?it?ath Community Services Department has an opening for the position of Child & Youth Support Worker (CYSW). The CYSW is responsible for the planning and administration of department funding and the planning and administration of Yuutu?it?ath Child & Youth Education and Wellness Programs, in support and recognition of the Yuutu?it?ath non-Post-Secondary students. For a copy of the complete position description, please contact Iris Frank, Director of Operations (contact information below).

Qualifications and Experience

- ✓ Prefer Undergraduate Degree from a recognized University in a related field
- ✓ Minimum two (2) Years Post-Secondary Diploma in a related field
- ✓ Grade 12
- ✓ Valid Class 5 Driver's License and own transportation
- ✓ Unrestricted Class 4 Driver's License or willingness to obtain if within the three-month probationary period
- ✓ Minimum three (3) years' experience in an education environment involving students in grades 0 - 12
- ✓ Experience with Enhancement Agreements, Local Education Agreements, and educational policies, procedures and guidelines
- ✓ Experience in First Nation education programs and service development and implementation
- ✓ Experience working with First Nation communities, organizations and current First Nation education issues
- ✓ Experience planning, coordinating and managing complex projects and assignments

Please note that, in accordance with Section A 2.0 - 1, of the Yuutu?it?ath Government Personnel Policy, the Yuutu?it?ath is applying an aboriginal employment preference first to Yuutu?it?ath Citizens and second to members of other First Nations. In addition, the Yuutu?it?ath will request a Criminal Record Check as a condition of employment.

How to Apply: please submit your covering letter, resume and three recent employment references to the attention of Iris Frank, Director of Operations, by email (iris.frank@ufn.ca), fax (250-726-7552), or by mail (P.O. Box 699, Ucluelet, BC, V0R 3A0) or in person (100 Hit-tat-000 Road, Iltatsoo (Ucluelet East), BC.

Closing Date: Friday, January 13, 2012

Thank you in advance for your application, we will be in touch with those who are shortlisted for an interview.

P.O. BOX 699, UCLUELET, BC, V0R 3A0 www.ufn.ca

Ahousaht woman off to Africa to help widows and orphans in Zambia

Continued from page 2.

would be offered a new contract, Louie decided to jump on the opportunity to volunteer in Africa.

It wasn't long before Courtenay learned she had been accepted into the program.

"I'm excited. I don't know what to expect when I get there," she said.

Louie is preparing to leave her home village of Ahousaht Jan. 12 to take part in a month-long orientation process. She will spend two weeks in Sooke, learning about conservation, sustainability and culture.

During the first week of orientation Louie and her fellow interns will receive vaccinations.

"I will be getting probably six different shots and anti-malaria medications," she said.

Lusaka will be whole new experience for Louie, both in terms of climate and culture. Her isolated home of Ahousaht has a population of about 1,000. Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, boasts a population of 1.7 million. There are several spoken languages there but the official language is English.

Louie will arrive in Zambia during the rainy season, which ends in April, but she will miss the hottest season, which starts in September. During the hot season temperatures can rise as high as 40C or 104F in Lusaka. But even in the rainy season temperatures hover in the high 20s Celsius.

On Feb. 12, Louie and her fellow interns will fly out of Victoria to South Africa to begin their four-month-long adventure.

In Zambia Louie will work for an organization called Justice for Women and Orphans (JWOP) whose mandate is to advocate and safeguard the human rights of Zambian widows and orphans. JWOP is a non-profit, non-government organization established to bring awareness to widows and orphans of their basic human rights.

Louie will represent the organization as she advocates for legal reform and protect, promote and safeguard the rights of the widows and orphans in Zambia.

A key part of Louie's job will be to assist JWOP in areas related to communications and information. Her job will be to support staff in enhancing JWOP's profile through things like increasing their social media and online presence.

She has already started a blog to document her African adventure. Subscribers can go to <http://thekort.wordpress.com/> to follow Courtenay's journey.

In Zambia she will teach clients about basic computer and social media skills and conduct research for the organization. She will assist with communications, including writing reports, articles and document the activities of the organization.

Both Courtenay and her mother Rebecca Atleo are thrilled about the internship.

"I'm really excited for her; she's always wanted to do something to help

and I'm really proud of her," said Rebecca.

But Atleo is a mother and worries for her children like any parent would.

"Aww, it's been really emotional for me; I'm really close to my kids and we always joke about the umbilical cord not stretching that far and for her to go that far is...holy crap," laughed Atleo.

Atleo says she and her sister Anne both share concerns about their beloved girl going so far away. Rebecca found comfort after speaking with two of her staff members at Maaqtusiis School.

Elementary School Principal Rebecca Juga and Timothy Azodam are both from Cameroon.

"They say Zambia is considered one of the safest areas there (in South Africa); the government is transparent," said Atleo.

Atleo, who works as Ahousaht's Education Director, said both her girls had dreams of going abroad to volunteer in other countries since they were in junior high. Her younger daughter wanted to sign up to help medical teams in Haiti after a major earthquake but her life changed course after she married and started a family.

While Courtenay is still able to follow her dreams, she said one of the biggest things she will miss is her nephew Ben's first birthday, which falls on April 15. She said she would also miss seafood and corned beef hash.

Rebecca wonders what her daughter will be eating in Africa, but says Courtenay is the bravest of her children. "She's always willing to try new things," laughed Atleo.

Before leaving for Zambia Courtenay hopes to gather up unwanted but working laptop computers to bring with her. She plans to give the laptops as gifts to the people she's working for because they are so poor and few can afford such luxuries.

While Courtenay is looking forward to helping and learning about African culture, she is also looking forward to down time in Zambia.

"We get a week-long break and we get to go anywhere," said Louie. She said she might go on a safari or to Victoria Falls just to explore and to have fun.

Louie will keep in touch with her family and the rest of the world through her blog, cell phone and social media.

The Atleo and Louie families hosted a going away dinner for Courtenay on Jan. 10. Extended family members made speeches, telling Courtenay how proud they are of her and urging her to open her heart to learn from the people of Zambia as she teaches them what she knows.

Courtenay's father Greg Louie talked about his love and pride for his daughter; he praised her civic-mindedness. He also asked for donations from individuals as well as businesses for unwanted laptop computers that could be donated to the people of Zambia.

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Cootes Sr. re-elected to lead Uchucklesaht

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—Members of Uchucklesaht re-elected Charlie Cootes Sr. as chief councillor in an election that pitted the long-time leader against his own son, Charlie Jr., and Warren Robinson.

Despite what he called the “family drama” of running against Charlie Jr., Cootes Sr. said he was pleased to be able to lead his nation forward into a new era.

“We are now a true government, not an Indian Act government,” he said.

The election took place Dec. 29 at the Uchucklesaht Tribe’s People’s Assembly held at the Port Alberni Lawn Bowling Club.

The vote count, which took place at 6 p.m., was the culmination of an agenda that included the annual financial audit, the introduction of an Official Community Land Use Plan and Land Code and discussion of proposed amendments to the Uchucklesaht constitution.

For Uchucklesaht citizens, there was a definite sense they were taking part in a day that would go down in history, as the nation voted to elect the council that will take them forward into a new form of governance under the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Steve Rush reflected on that thought in his opening prayer.

“We ask the Creator to give us the wisdom to make the decisions that will make our nation strong and safe,” Rush said.

Chief electoral officer Kit Spence, who is a Victoria-based governance spe-



Chief Electoral Officer Kit Spence opens the ballot box to count the votes in the Uchucklesaht election on Dec. 29. Photos by Shayne Morrow

cialist hired by Uchucklesaht to conduct the election, said the election marks one of the transitions to local government status.

“This is the first election under the new treaty. The [Treaty] Act says elections are to be held in May, except for the first one,” Spence said. “This creates a council under the treaty. The current council is still under the Indian Act.”

The Uchucklesaht Council is composed of an elected chief councillor, plus one elected councillor from each of the five families—two branches of the Cootes family (referred to as Cootes 1 and 2), plus the Robinson, Rush and Sam families—along with the four ha’wiih.

Pamela Watts had already been acclaimed to the Cootes 2 seat, and Carla Halvorsen to the Robinson family seat. Spence said the Rush and Sam families did not nominate a candidate for council.

had a boat come up today from the village [Ehthlateese] with about 10 people.”

The Uchucklesaht Tribe has 169 eligible voters, of whom 18 cast ballots in an advance poll, in both the chief councillor and Cootes 1 family election. A further 47 members voted at the Lawn Bowling Club during the People’s Assembly.

At 6 p.m., Spence, along with assistant electoral officer Tara White of Snuneymuxw First Nation, and deputy electoral officer Nigel Atkin, set up a counting table in the dining area of the club building and were joined by the five candidates who witnessed and verified the counts.

As part of the process, Spence cut open and emptied the sealed box that contained the advance ballots.

In the Cootes 1 family election, Wilfred Cootes Jr. defeated Robert Kenneth Cootes by a count of 18 to 15, with the candidates scrutinizing each ballot as it was recorded.

There was a sense of amicable tension during the vote count for chief councillor, with father and son, each keeping a tally as Spence inspected each ballot and showed them to the five candidates.

Occasionally, a ballot was slightly mis-marked, and Spence would either proclaim he was satisfied that the mark was accurate, or declare it a spoiled ballot. Each decision required the unanimous agreement of the candidates.

With a total of three spoiled ballots and including the advance ballots, the final tally was 26 votes for Charlie Cootes Sr., 22 for Charlie Cootes Jr. and 14 for Warren Robinson.

Continued on page 7.

Halvorsen, who also serves as Uchucklesaht executive and legislative secretary, said the council would now be three seats smaller than in the past. Besides the unfilled Rush and Sam family seats, there is no longer an at-large council seat, Halvorsen explained.

“The at-large seat was for members who were not part of the five main families. Now, everyone belongs to either the Cootes 1 or 2, Robinson, Rush or Sam families,” she said.

Halvorsen said the smaller council would have no effect on operations or on voting. Halvorsen said gathering Uchucklesaht members into a people’s assembly is always an exercise in logistics. The 256 members are scattered far and wide.

“A lot of the people here today travelled from Victoria, Nanaimo and the Lower Mainland,” Halvorsen said. “We

Constitutional amendments unlikely to pass

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—Citizens of Uchucklesaht have been asked to approve five amendments to the nation’s constitution, but the task may be close to impossible because of the current requirement that all balloting must be done in person.

The Uchucklesaht Tribe People’s Assembly and Election Day took place on Dec. 29 at the Port Alberni Lawn Bowling Club. Chief electoral officer Kit Spence introduced the proposed constitutional changes for discussion as part of the day’s agenda.

The first proposed amendment would tighten eligibility for Uchucklesaht citizenship under the Maa-nulth Treaty. Currently, five criteria define entitlement for Uchucklesaht citizenship. To be a citizen one must be a. enrolled under the Maa-nulth Treaty and/or b. registered under the Uchucklesaht Indian Band List prior to the effective date of Maa-nulth. Those criteria remain unchanged.

Criterion c. affects adoption. Currently, one is eligible for citizenship if one has been adopted as a child by “a Uchucklesaht citizen under Canadian law, the Maa-nulth Treaty or in accordance with Nuu-chah-nulth custom.” The proposed amendment would replace “a Uchucklesaht citizen” with “an individual of Uchucklesaht descent.”

Criterion d. currently reads: “is a descendant of a Uchucklesaht citizen.” That requirement would be replaced by “of Uchucklesaht descent.”



Kit Spence, chief electoral officer.



Uchucklesaht citizen Steve Rush.

Spence explained that the main effect of the amendment would be to prevent citizens who are not of Uchucklesaht descent from passing their citizenship down to the next generation.

The second proposed amendment would dispense with the current staggered election system, with half of the council being elected every two years. Spence noted that with the current smaller council, it makes sense to make a full change every four years.

Amendment three seeks to clarify the roles of administration and council, Spence explained. The move would reinforce the required barrier between the two levels of authority.

“The people who are elected have a role to oversee the administration, but the administration people perform the day-to-day work,” he said.

posals, the elected chief councillor, rather than the full Uchucklesaht council, would provide ultimate direction to members of the executive within the areas of their portfolios when representing the Uchucklesaht government in intergovernmental meetings, particularly in decision-making forums. That includes meetings between First Nations.

Steve Rush said the proposed amendment would, in effect, confer dictatorial powers contrary to the democratic process. “That sort of rattles my brain, when the chief councillor has the authority to make decisions on the fly without consultation,” Rush said. “I feel that is giving excessive authority to one person, because that person is representing us.”

“It’s not granting absolute power,” Spence said. “There is a balance, but somebody has to have the final say.”

Amendment five would extend the deadline to hold a review of the tribe’s

audited financial statements from 90 days to 150 days.

The amendments must be approved separately by a majority (50 per cent plus one) of eligible voters. To that end the band is holding a referendum at the Lawn Bowling Club on Saturday, Jan. 28, with balloting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An advance poll will be held at the Uchucklesaht Tribe administrative office on Jan. 20 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

After introducing the package, however, Spence advised that under the current Referendum Act, which requires all balloting to be conducted in person, it is unlikely that the amendments will pass, due to difficulty in getting the necessary number of voters to turn out.

At the People’s Assembly, which drew members from Port Alberni, the home village of Ehthlateese, Nanaimo, Victoria and the Lower Mainland, just 47 voters turned up for the election of council members. Eighteen others cast ballots in the advance poll. In the case of the election, however, only a simple majority was required, Spence explained.

“Uchucklesaht has 169 eligible voters. That means they need 87 people to vote to make up the required 50 per cent plus one,” he said, adding that the electorate can resolve to change the system.

“The new council can review the Election Act and the Referendum Act,” Spence said. “They can’t change the requirement for 50 per cent plus one, but they can change the process to allow mail-in voting or online voting.”

The current council decided not to address that issue. They felt it would be proper for the new ‘treaty’ council to deal with it.”

Brrr.... 2012 was a (polar) bear on New Year’s Day

Port Alberni—Amanda Fred joined her family in a cool dip in the Somass River on New Year’s day, carrying on her sister Christine’s tradition of a polar bear swim at the sandbar across from Tseshaht’s administration building.

Christine couldn’t make it this year, but the family took the plunge for her, including four-year-old Dominic Guvman, and three-year-old Carsin Guvman.

They gathered at 1 p.m. New Year’s day dressed in their bathing suits while people watched from the nearby ‘orange bridge’. With a ‘one, two, three, go!’, the polar bears splashed their way into the cold water.

Amanda said standing in the cold sand waiting to rush into the river was the worst part; then changed her mind with a laugh. The worst part was trying to get warm.

She said it took all the rest of the day to feel the warmth return to her body.

Amanda not only jumped in once, but twice. It left her feeling refreshed and revived, she said.

The family gathered for lunch afterwards.



Another New Year, another Polar Bear swim at the sandbar on the Somass New Year’s day. Top photo starting at front row: Saranda Watts, Catherine Fred and Amanda Fred. Middle row: Cody Gus and his brother Hank Gus, and in the back ground is Samantha Fred. It’s all smiles before the group rushed into the freezing winter water, but (left) it was a shock to the system during the plunge. Saranda, Catherine and Amanda were no worse for the experience however.



Four-year-old Dominic was a gung-ho participant in the New Year’s Day Polar Bear swim, taking part with his family during their splash at the sandbar on the Somass.



Uchucklesaht election

Continued from page 6.

“Thank you to everybody. This is the first time we have had so many candidates, so this means our nation is strong,” the newly elected chief councillor told the waiting audience. “It sends a message that we have to do a lot of hard work for our community.”

Speaking after the vote count, Cootes Sr., who except for one three-year break, has served the Uchucklesaht Tribe government since 1967, said the close election means he will have to be extra-diligent in all his dealings, knowing there was active opposition to the status quo. “I am determined, especially for the

benefit of our young people, to re-establish respect in our proceedings,” he said, adding that he plans to make information from council meetings and from the day-to-day business, such as planning and zoning applications, more readily available electronically, for a new generation of media-savvy Uchucklesaht members.

As the meeting broke up and attendees filed out of the hall, Cootes Sr. thanked members for taking the time out of their lives to attend the assembly, and bid them a safe return home to the many communities, some of them distant, where they live.



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The top 10 healthy living tips for 2012

1. Reduce the amount of sodium your family eats. We all need some sodium, but most of us eat about 3,400 mg per day. That is more than double the amount of sodium we need. Eating too much sodium can cause high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease and kidney disease. Experiment with herbs and spices instead of salt to flavour your food. Use fewer processed and packaged foods and substitute fresh fruits and vegetables, unsalted popcorn or unsalted nuts for salty snacks. Small changes can make a big difference.

2. Limit consumption of sugary drinks. Did you know that some sugary drinks can have as many calories as a meal? These extra calories can lead to obesity and other health risks. Sugary drinks have little or no nutrition and often take the place of healthier beverages such as milk. Make water your first choice to satisfy thirst and keep you hydrated.

3. Fit in fitness. It's not always easy to squeeze in a workout, but even small amounts of physical activity can help improve your health. Try taking the stairs instead of the elevator, getting off the bus a few stops ahead of your destination or make walking the dog a family outing.

4. Quit smoking. The health benefits of quitting smoking start to occur almost immediately. After 20 minutes, blood pressure and pulse rate decrease and by a year, the risk of a smoking-related heart attack is cut in half. For helpful tools and tips, visit: British Columbians can also access the Smoking Cessation Program by calling 8-1-1 for free nicotine replacement gum or patches. Prescription smoking cessation drugs are covered as benefits under PharmaCare.

5. Spend more time with family and friends. There's nothing like connecting with friends and family. Think about ways you can mix it up for a healthier 2012. Put your coffee in a to-go cup and change your weekly coffee date with

friends to a walk. If you're at home with kids, get active by doing jumping jacks, playing tag or dancing around the house, or pick a healthy recipe and get the whole family involved in learning how to make it.

6. Moderate alcohol intake. Many of us enjoy a drink when socializing, relaxing and celebrating, but chronic heavy alcohol use, as well as occasional excessive use of alcohol, can harm your health. Drink slowly. Have no more than two drinks in any three hours. Eat before and while you are drinking. For every drink of alcohol, have one non-alcoholic drink.

7. Control your portions and eat healthier. Reducing portion sizes can help us cut back on unneeded sugar, fat and calories. Look at ways to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into your meals and snacks. Eating a wide variety of vegetables and fruit has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and diabetes.

8. Work/life balance for less stress. Working to achieve more of a balance between our work and personal lives can leave us feeling more rested and energized, help improve our relationships with family and friends, and leave us more time for physical and mental wellness. It's not always easy, but try to schedule time for quick breaks throughout the day. When you get home, put aside unnecessary chores and take some time for you.

9. Get your flu shot. Getting sick with the flu can sometimes cause serious health consequences for you and your loved ones. By protecting yourself, you also help protect others.

10. Get enough sleep. Getting enough sleep can have an important impact on our overall health and mental well-being. Maintaining a regular bedtime routine, avoiding caffeine before bed, and being physically active during the day can all help make getting to sleep easier.



Jasmine Charles, Grade 5, and Art Stewart, Grade 6, accepted a donation to Haahuupayak school from the Tsaheh Branch of the BMO Bank of Montreal just before school broke for Christmas holidays. Sharon Wutke, branch assistant manager, said the money, \$340.70, was raised through chocolate almond sales from October to November last year. Haahuupayak Principal Kailee Carr said the dollars will go toward providing food for students who show up without a lunch or snack, and to a books program. There is a wish list of books displayed in the school office. Included on the wish list is the Twilight saga, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and other popular book series.

KLECKO KLECKO!!

The following generous community members & businesses made our community Christmas party a success, and brought many smiles, and a delicious meal to all our community members. We appreciate your token of kindness, and we wish you all a very Healthy & Prosperous 2012! Thanks Again!

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations

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Community & Beyond

Loonie Toonie/ Silent Auction
Jan. 20
Victoria

To be held at in the family room at the Hulitani Family and Community Services Society at 902A Caledonia Ave. 4 p.m. to until 7 p.m. Proceeds go to a family who has found themselves over the Christmas Holidays in financial hardship. It is our goal that we can help relieve some of the burden this family is facing and support them in their time of need.

NTC Post Secondary Education Application Deadline

Jan 31, 2012
Port Alberni

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's Post-Secondary Department's deadline for applications is: January 31, 2012 at 4:30pm for funding from September 2012 to August 2013. Applications and information are available at our Web site: nuuchahnulth.org or in the NTC Post-Secondary Department: Lynnette Lucas, Education Manager, Kelly Johnsen, P/S Counsellor, Linda Gomez, P/S Counsellor and Cindy Wishart, Education Assistant
Tel: 250-724-5757 or 1-877-677-1131

Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention
Feb. 14
Port Alberni

The Port Alberni Friendship Center's Outreach Legal Advocacy Program is hosting an Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention workshop from noon till 3 p.m. in the PAFC Gym—Clutesi Hall. Speakers will be representatives from Mental Health and Addictions and the RCMP. There will also be traditional presentations. Come learn about what elder abuse is, what the symptoms of abuse are, how to prevent it and how to report it. A light lunch will be provided. To register, contact the Port Alberni Friendship Center at 250-723-8281, visit the front desk or fax your name and number to 250-723-1277. Contact Jeff Jeffries, Janice Amos or Margaret Madgett for more information. Email: Limited seating.

?ii?atis / ? iinax?int AGM Moving Beyond
Feb. 18
Zeballos Hall

Ehatesaht will be holding their annual AGM on Feb. 18 2012 at 9am-5pm. For more information call the band office.

Sayachapis Potlatch
May 19
Port Alberni

Sayachapis will be hosting a potlatch to publicly acknowledge and thank the medical professionals that helped him in his extensive recovery since the grizzly bear attack in fall of 2009. The potlatch will be held on May 19th, 2012, at Maht Mahs in Port Alberni - start time 10 a.m. For further info contact: Walter Thomas @ 250-731-4256.

Sewing Circle
Each Monday Evening
Port Alberni

SEEDS hosts a sewing circle every Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the SEEDS building 5001 Mission Rd.

Adult Graduation Ongoing
Port Alberni

SEEDS has ongoing registration for adults who want to graduate. For more information call Ken Watts at 778-421-2450.

Alberni Athletic Badminton
Mon. and Thurs.
Port Alberni

Adult Drop-in from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Alberni Athletic Hall. Everyone welcome. For Info please call Marg 723 8990. Located 6 km West of Port Alberni at 7666 Pacific Rim Highway. Just look for the Big Pumpkin.

Diabetes Education Centre
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays

West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 250-724-8824 for information.

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PERSONAL SERVICE...GUARANTEED

Keep mind, body and spirit in balance

By Shauna Lewis
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Vancouver—By merging East and West cultures, a Nuu-chah-nulth woman is offering people the gift of holistic health and wellness with a First Nation flavor.

Vyna Brown is the creator of 'First Spirit' Yoga and Wellness, an independent healthy lifestyle venture offering a unique approach to the ancient practice of yoga through incorporating the traditional and spiritual values of First Nations culture.

"As First Nations people we recognize our connection with all living things. Through our mind, body and spirit we are one with the living world," said Brown.

"In order to live a more harmonious and abundant life, it's essential to keep mind, body and spirit in perfect balance and "First Spirit" workshops approach this challenge in a holistic manner," she explained.

Brown, 25, who is a model and athlete, said she began her quest for better physical health nearly five years ago when she realized her love of playing basketball was taking a toll on her body. She recalled talking to her grandmother,



Vyna Brown wants to share the benefits of yoga through her workshops at First Spirit Yoga and Wellness.

er, the now late Elsie Robinson, about her developing aches and pains from the sport.

"She told me 'You're only 20 years old. You shouldn't have these problems when you're this young,' Brown

explained. With that, Brown decided to change her life through yoga rather than combat ailments through western medicine. "For me it [yoga] started as a physical thing. It was my medicine," she said. Later Brown realized the many other

My journey in Fisheries, and what's next

My name is Tina Halvorsen. I'd like to share with the youth something about my experience working in fisheries and how I made it to where I am now.

My first encounter with fisheries began in 2009 when I was hired as a fisheries technician for the Uchucklesaht Tribe. I had applied for this job because I enjoy working outdoors, and caring for our nation's resources sounded like something I would be interested in.

I greatly enjoyed my experience working as a technician because I was able to learn a lot of valuable skills which associate biologist Sabrina Crowley and biologist Jim Lane helped guide me through. These skills included biological sampling, catch monitoring, boat and gear counts, and crab surveys.

It was a fun and new experience for me and I gained a great understanding of the activities related to how we manage our resources.

By the summer of 2010, I applied again with Uchucklesaht and was accepted, along with Chris Baader, as a fisheries technician. The same responsibilities from the previous year were in place, as well as work related to a new counting fence in the Henderson River.

We helped maintain and monitor the fence to account for the Henderson sockeye escaping into the lake. Around this time I received an email from Uchucklesaht regarding some courses that would be coming up. I was very interested and decided to take a small vessel operating course (SVOP) and a Marine Emergency Duties (MED) course provided by the Nuu-chah-nulth Seafood Development Corporation (NSDC) with the help of Kathy Happynook. I also took a Fisheries Observer course thanks to Uu-a-thluk. With enough dedication and time, I successfully completed the courses.

Finally, by 2011, I decided to apply to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council as a fisheries intern. I'd heard about the intern position from the biologists assisting us with our duties in Uchucklesaht the year before, and knew that they hired for these positions every year.

As a successful applicant, I worked



Tina Halvorsen has completed her internship with Uu-a-thluk and is on to exciting new things, like college and the Bold Eagle program.

with Uu-a-thluk fisheries on a variety of projects. In June of last year, we re-installed the Henderson River counting fence and also collected biological samples from sockeye in the river. I also had the experience of conducting swim surveys in Clemens Creek, as well as in the Moyeha River, adipose fin clipping at Nitinat Hatchery, and calibrating the fish counters at Sproat and Great Central Lakes.

Thanks to Uu-a-thluk, I also completed a First Aid Level 1 course and a SRT (Swift Water Rescue Training) course.

I'm currently enrolled at North Island College to complete my upgrading. My goal is to complete my General Education Diploma (GED) by next year so I can continue my education in college. I plan on attending college in the fall of 2012 to enroll in a resource management program.

My journey has just begun and I am not sure where this path in fisheries will bring me. I plan on taking the Bold Eagle training, which is a five-week Army Reserve Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) program located in Weinwright, Alberta, in the summer because it sounds exciting and like something I might be interested in.

benefits of the ancient practice. "I started noticing other changes," she said. "My mind became more focused and, I started to notice a shift in myself. It really helped me as an athlete and a human being," Brown explained.

Brown enrolled in an intensive 200-hour, month-long intensive yoga certificate program in Vancouver, and since completing that, she offered classes to the tenants living in her Vancouver apartment building.

Last Spring, Brown branched out and offered two 'First Spirit' Yoga and Wellness workshops to young people attending the 'Gathering Our Voices' youth conference and gained the participation of nearly 100 youth.

Brown hopes her workshops gain more mainstream attention, adding that she hopes First Nation band health representatives across the country will consider her services.

"It [yoga] teaches people to be in the moment and to appreciate being in the moment," she said.

"You really realize how powerful your body is. You can train your body to heal itself."

For more information on workshops contact Brown at brown.vina@gmail.com

Birthdays & Congratulations

I would like to wish my brother Wes Robinson a Happy Birthday on Jan 27th Love you have a great day and a great year. Love Ellen, Ethan and Bruce.



Tracey Thomas wants to say Happy Birthday to my Bro Hudson Webster Jr. on January 28th With lots of love from Tracey, neph/niece and Duke. Wishing you all the best for year, Bro. You can do it. Go for it.

Birthday wishes to Eva and Willard Galfic Sr. Jan. 12.

Sending birthday greetings to Kim Gus in England on Jan. 19.

Also on Jan. 19, birthday wishes to cousin "winx" Deloras Baker in Vancouver.

I would like to send birthday wishes to Allen and Oceannah. First of all to my handsome son, whom I love with all my heart. I hope you have an awesome day and may all your wishes come true and that 2012 will be a great year for you son. Love you always and forever. From mom and Dad and family.

Continued on page 10.

Klecko's - ʔekoo

Care provided appreciated

We would like to express our gratitude to all the nurses and staff at West Haven for lovingly caring for our late sister, Cecilia Mabel Sport, who passed peacefully in the early morning of December 6, 2011.

Sincerely, Sister Fran Memook, brother Phil Lucas, brother J.C. Lucas, sister Rita Lucas Moss and husband Ray Moss.

Young girl makes a big holiday impact

Hello, I would like to thank all those that helped 11-year-old Katherine Little, daughter to Dwayne and Stacy Ambrose, in her "Spirit of Giving Ahousaht." Katherine and I had a conversation at the beginning of December. She mentioned how great it would be to help some of the families here in our own community. So together we wrote messages through Facebook. In a short time we had a great response.

Katherine's idea was to gather food items, clothing and toys to help families throughout the holiday season. She had the support of Maaqtusiis school putting out boxes throughout the school for food donations and at the Christmas concert on Dec. 15.

On Dec. 18, Katherine had a clothing drive that took place at the Lighthouse all day. There were tables and tables of donations of clothes, from baby clothes to teens and adults. Also there was a generous donation of toys to help out that day.

At the end of the day there was only a couple of bags left of all that was brought down, which she wanted to drop off at the salvation army. It was great to see all the families come down and leave with bags filled of clothing. On Dec. 23, Katherine spent close to \$300 on groceries for the six families that she had chosen to give these food hampers to. She purchased six turkeys along with basic material items for a family.

Thank you Ahousaht chief and council for your generous donation toward Katherine's give away. Katherine had spoken to the manager at Tofino Co-op in which he donated \$100 for her to shop. She also received a box filled with food from Simon and Irene Joseph from Port Alberni.

December 24, Katherine sorted out the food boxes and was able to fill enough for seven families, each containing a bag of prawns donated by my dad (Harold Little) and brother (Richard Little). With her little green elf hat on she went house to house, knocked on the door to offer a gift to these families. She wanted to

deliver them personally to their homes and to get a picture with them as they received their gift.

Thank you to Katherine's grandpa Qaamina Sam and grandma Ruth Sam and their friends from UVic who contributed a large amount of toys towards the toy run. All that was donated went to

14 families in total for Christmas. Thank you all so much for your help.

Along with the food hampers, clothes and toys, Katherine also bought Christmas platters and made a list of elders and families who have lost a loved one. So for two days my mom, my sister, Katherine and myself were busy baking an assortment of pastries. Eleven platters were filled and specially

delivered right after dinner. The best part of seeing our daughter giving these gifts was the joy she brought to so many people. To see their smiles, their love and great appreciation for what this young girl was offering them from her heart.

Recently, Katherine, with the help of her uncle, sponsored a child through World Vision. By doing this she inspired another young girl to do the same. Katherine has always been a loving, caring, respectful person. Always putting others before herself.

We give thanks to Ahousaht chief and council, Tofino Co-op, Maaqtusiis School, Simon and Irene Joseph, Bonnie Thomas, Sacheen, Paul and Michelle Robinson, Qaamina and Ruth Sam, UVic, Crystal Sam, Sherri Little, Ina Campbell and Harold and Kathy Little, Richard Little, Kenny Little for your money and toy donation and anyone else that contributed to helping Katherine.

Sorry if I missed anyone. It was not intentional. Without your support this would not have been possible. Every little bit helped and in the end made a huge difference in making someone's Christmas very special! Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Much love from Dwayne and Stacy Ambrose, Katherine Little, her brother Dwayne, and little sisters Marissa and Monica.

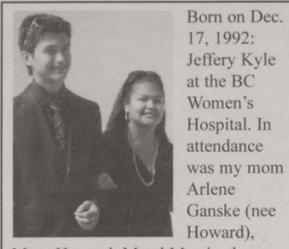


Katherine Little, 11, wore an elf's hat to deliver her gifts in Ahousaht.

Birthdays & Congratulations



Congratulations to my daughter and Dylan on their newborn baby girl Lexi, born on Christmas Eve! Such a special gift! Love you! OMG I'm a grandma! Love mom, Salvador and Dessa!

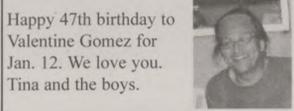


Born on Dec. 17, 1992: Jeffery Kyle at the BC Women's Hospital. In attendance was my mom Arlene Ganske (nee Howard),

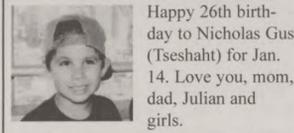
Mary Howard, Maud Morris, the now late Simone Dawson and Irene Howard (Great, Great Grandma) Wow, it's been 19 years. I cannot believe it's been that long already. Some days it seems like you were just a six or seven year old little boy

telling me that you were going to do my dishes every day for me. And cheering the Lady Braves on running court side. Awe my boy, time has flown by. You and I have come a long way sonshine. The things you have accomplished has made me proud to be your momma. When I hear people compliment me on the job I have done, it makes me even more proud, because it is the way you carry yourself. Very respectful, cultural, and intelligent young man I have raised.

Thank you my sonshine for being who you are. I love you forever. And always remember who your favorite Indian is... it's your momma :P Love Mom, David, Brianna, Shauntelle, and Aiyana.



Happy 47th birthday to Valentine Gomez for Jan. 12. We love you. Tina and the boys.



Happy 26th birthday to Nicholas Gus (Tseshaht) for Jan. 14. Love you, mom, dad, Julian and girls.

Continued from page 9.

Happy birthday to Oceannah. I hope you have a wonderful day. Will be thinking of you on your special day. Love you always, from Auntie Strawb, and Uncle Bucky and kids.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMPENSATION AND HEALING TIME IS LIMITED TO APPLY!

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DELIVERY SERVICE: Serving coastal First Nations point A to point B delivery service from Port Alberni with delivery van. Call Charles at 250-723-3555 or email kaanowish@shaw.ca.

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CEDAR WEAVER: Baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses bracelets for trade. email whupelth_weaver@shaw.ca; to Ceder Weaves; baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses, traditional bracelets for trade. email: sandrahsam@live.ca.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

For Purchase

FOR SALE:

"George Watts - Creating Greatness" books: \$20 each. All sales proceeds go to George Watts Scholarship Fund. Call Caledonia at NEDC: 250-724-3131



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FOR SALE: Hesquiaht Place of Learning has some new tables a chairs available for sale. Shipping charges will apply. The tables are 60 length X 30 wide X 24 high: \$275 each. The desks are adjustable. \$53.35 each. Call 250-670-1191 Crystal Tom Principal.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED: Heavy Equipment Operator looking for work. Call Frank August at 250-735-3485.

Accommodations

FOR RENT: A non-profit organization has rooms to rent, by the day, week or month. Very reasonable rates for Room and Board. Also, there is a Boardroom available for rent. Phone 723-6511.

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FOR RENT: 3-bedroom upper house for rent near Nanaimo College-VIU and amenities such as school, Nanaimo Ice Rink and malls. Beautiful quiet location. Has 1.5 baths, big fenced yard with fruit trees and patio, f/s and d/w. Shared w/d and hydro with working lower tenant. N/p and n/s. References required with d/d. Small pet nego with p/d. Suite long-term tenants. Please call 250-585-6065.

BEAR WATTSH INN 5201 Hector Road, Port Alberni, B.C. (250)724-2603 or cel 731-5795. One Bedroom rooms available, own shower and toilet facilities. Nuu-chah-nulth rate available. www.bearwattshinn.com



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HELP WANTED: Need work experience? The Port Alberni Friendship Center is seeking interested applicants for Volunteer positions including: Reception and Youth Workers. We are seeking individuals that are reliable, committed, flexible and of good character. Hours per week may vary. If you are interested, please contact Jeff at 723-8281 to pick up a Volunteer Application Form.

Employment Wanted: Heavy Equipment Operator looking for work. Call Frank August at 250-735-3485.

Lost and Found

LOST: A drum contained in a blue drum bag with a Killer Whale design on the bag. It was left under the elders' canopy at Bob Daly Stadium during Thlu-piich Games. Contact Cliff Atleo at 250-724-5757.

LOST: Evan's drum, last had on April 2, 2011 (Maa nulth Treaty Celebration) It has his name & phone number inside, would mean alot to us to have it returned. Was a very special gift from his grandfather. Melody & Evan 250 266 2507 or melody-charlie@me.com.

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To advertise in Ha-Shilth-Sa call (250) 724-5757. Next deadline for submissions is Jan. 20.



Committee Makes Improvements to Uu-a-thluk Forum

Ever since conducting a review of its operations in 2010, Uu-a-thluk, the NTC's fisheries management organization, has been working to improve how it takes care of business. Leading these improvements are four Nuuchah-nulth Ha'wiih and their supporters, collectively known as the Uu-a-thluk Implementation Committee.

Back in 2010, Nuuchah-nulth Ha'wiih tasked this committee with implementing a set of 18 recommendations. These recommendations included finding ways to incorporate traditional practices into meetings and programs, improving administrative accountability, and focusing on the cultural aspects of resource management.

As an organization with responsibilities for fisheries harvest and management in Nuuchah-nulth territories, Uu-a-thluk plays an important role in the overall health of communities. Uu-a-thluk is directly supported by a Council of Ha'wiih, their representatives, and staff from Nuuchah-nulth First Nations who meet to discuss and advise on various fisheries issues throughout the year.

Through the recommendations, Council participants directed Uu-a-thluk staff to improve Council of Ha'wiih meetings and program delivery. To date the Uu-a-thluk Implementation Committee has spearheaded changes in communications and administration. Now they are planning a forum where Council of Ha'wiih participants can design processes for decision-making, conflict resolution, and best practices based on Nuuchah-nulth traditional governance.

For Wiš-qii (Robert Dennis Jr.), official speaker for Huu-ay-aht Tyee Ha'wiih and committee member Natch-qu-a (Derek Peters), these changes are an important reflection of how Nuuchah-nulth people are moving forward in a modern world.

"We should remember our cultural teachings and let them flow into the present," he says. "Our culture is often stronger in addressing the needs of people. Demonstrations of culture go farther and have more substance

[than some Western methods]."

Making time for these cultural demonstrations is one way Uu-a-thluk can help nations taking part in the forum build relationships. This includes allowing time for songs, dances, and gift-giving. "Our way is to do things publicly," says Dennis. "This is how we do business... My personal goal as a committee member and speaker is to bring to life more of these practices."

Trained as a speaker since childhood, Dennis sees the value in an organization that recognizes Ha'wiih and other traditional management roles. "These are not just roles and responsibilities from 100 years ago. They're relevant today and we need to remember that," he says.

He is especially honored to take part in the upcoming daylong forum—scheduled for February 6, 2012—as the person responsible for seating and acknowledging Ha'wiih and other participants. Both Council of Ha'wiih participants and the Implementation Committee requested this traditional way of recognizing family position, rank, and authority.

"It's an exciting time," says Dennis. "We [the Implementation Committee] have to go out and relearn some practices. Others we are just bringing forward. We want to demonstrate

what we as individuals can do to improve and support who represents our people in a good way."

Together committee members are bringing forward a number of changes requested by Council of Ha'wiih participants. They will continue to improve Council operations under the guidance of Ha'wiih and Nation representatives.

"Just as the meaning of Uu-a-thluk is "taking care of," a core NCN principle, we can be helpful and take care of one another. That is the goal of this entire process," says Dennis.

For more information about the Uu-a-thluk Implementation Committee or the February 6 forum, contact Norine Messer at 250-735-4111 or norinemesser@hotmail.com.

On left, Dawn Foxcroft and Norine Messer of Uu-a-thluk assist during an implementation committee meeting. Pictured far right is Tyee Ha'wiih Wii-tsuts-koom (Anne Mack).



Members of the Uu-a-thluk Implementation Committee watch as Ca siits (Stanley Sam) explains his painting of Ahousaht's traditional government.



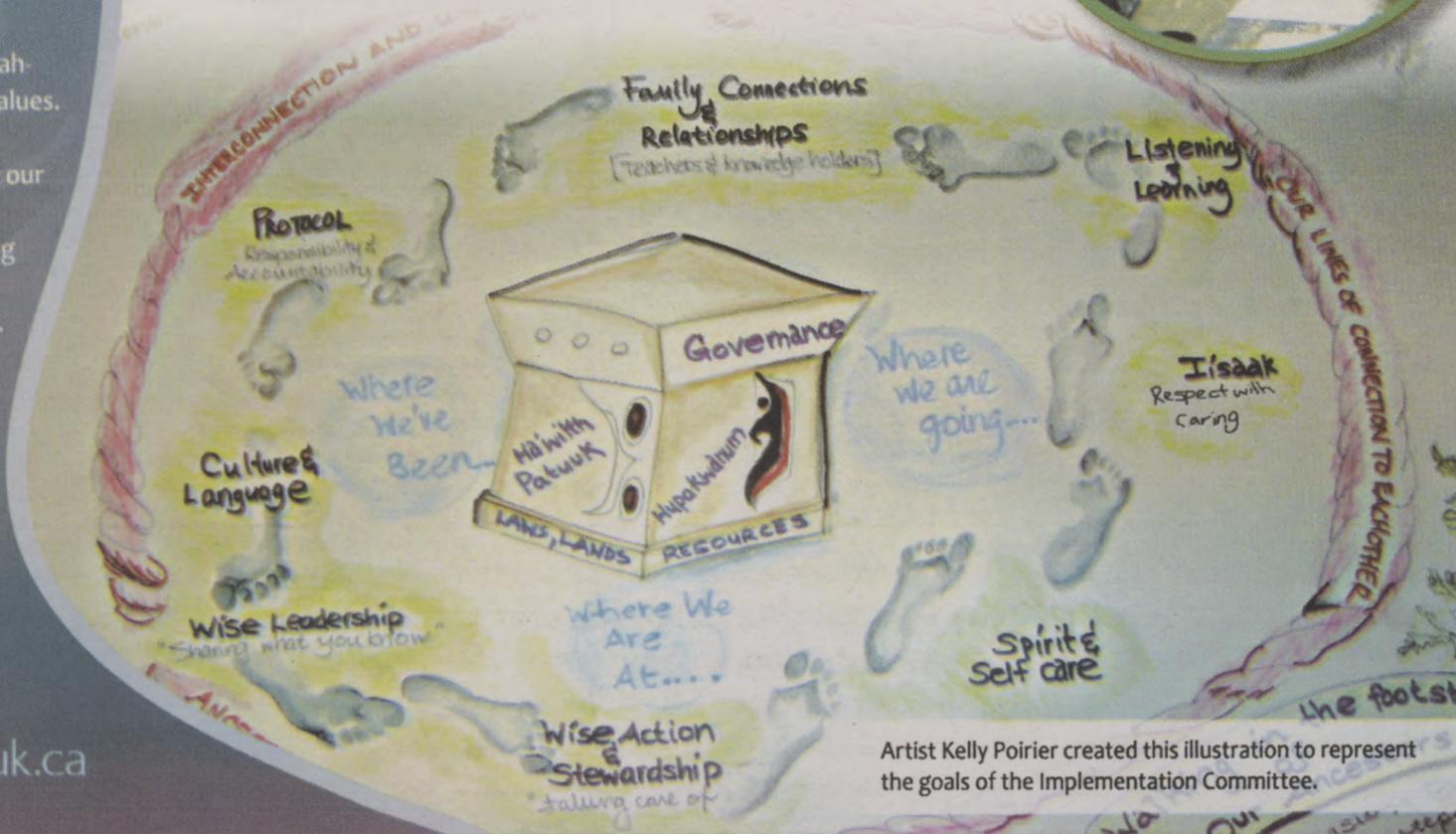
The Uu-a-thluk Implementation Committee includes Wii-tsuts-koom (Anne Mack), Natch-qu-a (Derek Peters), Thla-quas (Georgina Amos), H'ayuupinuł (Bill Keitlah), and Kee-kee-kah-yah (Willard Gallic). Committee supporters include Ca siits (Stanley Sam), Poot-lash (Harold Amos) and Wiš-qii (Robert Dennis Jr.).

Uu-a-thluk Vision Statement

Our Ha-ha-houlthee are managed sustainably for future generations, consistent with Nuuchah-nulth knowledge and values. Our healthy, abundant resources help us meet our food, ceremonial and societal needs, including providing an economic base to our communities.

Uu-a-thluk
P.O. Box 1383
Port Alberni, B.C.
V9Y 7M2
Ph: 250.724.5757
Fax: 250.724.2172
info@uuathluk.ca

www.uuathluk.ca



Artist Kelly Poirier created this illustration to represent the goals of the Implementation Committee.