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Vol. 40 - No. 2 - Jan. 31, 2013

haašit'sa "Interesting News"

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 40047776

# Tseshahat forces the clean-up of derelict tire dump

By Denise Titian  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

**Port Alberni**—A massive abandoned tire dump located less than five kilometres from the Tseshahat reserve is being cleaned up thanks to the efforts of band leadership and the provincial government.

Last August Tseshahat Chief Councillor Hugh Braker led media on a tour of the tire dump which was abandoned by a recycling plant nearly 20 years before, after the business failed. The owners forfeited their damage deposit leaving tens of thousands of tires piled up on about three acres of Crown land.

Myles Mana, director Resource Authorization, Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, credits Tseshahat First Nation for getting the ball rolling in the clean-up efforts at the tire dump. He said they got all the right people in one room and things started happening.

In early December, clean-up began. Tires were sorted and recyclables were trucked away to Island Tire Recycling in Chemainus.

The warehouse was completely gutted and more than one ton of trash was removed from the site. The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District waived landfill tipping fees.

Through a partnership formed with Tire Stewardship BC, more than 14 bin trucks full of program tires were removed from the site, an estimated 4,200 tires.

Eight bins of waste wood was



By Denise Titian

**Though there is much work left to be done, Tseshahat First Nation and partners Stewardship BC and the provincial government are well on their way to cleaning up a tire recycling centre after the owners forfeited their damage deposit and left the mess to others to worry about.**

removed, chipped and sent to Catalyst Mill.

Two members of Tseshahat First Nation were hired to help in the clean-up operation and local trucking businesses were utilized.

Caring for Crown land is the responsibility of the provincial government, but last summer they deemed clean-up of the tires a low priority. Brennan Clarke, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Forest, Lands and natural Resources Operations, said last summer that water tests from the site showed no evidence of contamination and, although an eyesore, was not high on the priority list of Crown lands that needed to be cleaned up.

"There are lots of sites, Crown land, that have junk on them; issues involving

debris on Crown land are addressed by priority, based on resources and available funding. This site is not deemed an immediate priority because it does not pose an immediate environmental threat," said Clarke.

But Braker wasn't about to let that position stand.

"In the event of a fire the cost to the province and everyone else would be higher than if they cleaned it up now. Not only would it be difficult to put the fire out, but toxic smoke and fumes would likely settle over the entire Alberni Valley," he said.

There was clear evidence at that time that the property, with its large, empty building, had been used for recreational purposes. The site was littered with trash,

beverage containers and paintballs. Inside the building was a make-shift stage—plywood set atop a pile of tires; and most disturbingly, a fire pit with the remains of charred tire. Tire fires are notoriously difficult to extinguish. Late last year there was a fire in the building that, fortunately, was successfully extinguished.

While a lot of work has been carried out at the site much more needs to be done. Not all tires will be removed. In fact, the lot was barricaded by a four-meter high berm made of stacked industrial-sized tires. Those tires will remain because they cannot be recycled.

Mana said the plan is to use the wall of tires to protect the site and to aid in sound-deadening from industrial activity in the area.

This has been successfully done in other places in the world, Mana said, adding that the vulcanized rubber is not a danger to the water table and is not a fire hazard if covered with earth and replanted.

About 10 per cent of the tires that were at the site will be used in the berm. Some will form the berm while others will be chipped and used to spread around the lot. About 45cm of earth will be added to cover the chipped tires and then the site will then be planted.

Stewardship BC will pay about \$50,000 for the project while the province will pay about \$25,000 once all the work is done.

It was a good partnership all the way around," said Mana.

The project is expected to be complete in late spring when Mana says the land will be in useful condition again.

# RCMP responds to complaint of fundraising in coastal nations

By Denise Titian  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

The chief councillor of the Ahousaht First Nation is questioning the authority of a provincial gaming officer who has complained to RCMP that lotteries that have not been sanctioned by B.C. are taking place in First Nations communities.

The Tofino RCMP responded to a Jan. 7 complaint from a gaming officer who reported he had information that "there were several ongoing illegal lotteries or raffles going on in Ahousaht and possibly the West Coast Area as well."

Chief Councillor Curtis Dick said Indian reserves fall under federal juris-

isdiction, so he questions the province's authority in the matter.

In an email to Ha-Shilth-Sa, however, the province contends that BC's Gaming Control Act and policies apply throughout B.C., including on reserves.

If gaming investigators receive a complaint about unlicensed gaming activity on a reserve, they provide the information to the RCMP. Because reserves are federal jurisdiction, the RCMP take the lead on investigating any allegations of criminal wrongdoing, said the BC spokesperson.

The province issues gaming licences to protect consumers, she said. The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch will liaise with First Nations bands to inform members about provincial gaming policies and procedures, the spokesperson

continued.

Dick said he doesn't know what the legal limits are for gaming before one has to obtain a license. The smaller populations of families living on reserve rely on a wide variety of fundraising activities, usually to send their children to sporting events.

In a press release, the RCMP say that people are reminded that lotteries and raffles are supposed to be approved by the province. RCMP listed the Web site [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/) for more information.

Dick said his council discussed the matter at their Jan. 24 meeting.

"We did discuss the gaming and our council supports our membership fundraising because it's not a substantial amount that they do fund raise," said

Dick. Council will research the gaming regulations and determine whether or not they apply to his people.

"But, again, it would be very sad to have this stop for those who do their best to fund raise to help, not just sports teams, education and other ways to sustain or reach their goals financially," said Dick.

According to the provincial gaming Web site there are various classes of licenses. Class D licenses are for fund raising events that gross \$5,000 or less in revenue. It includes gaming activities like raffles (maximum \$2 per single ticket; maximum \$500 per single prize), independent bingos (maximum \$2 per single ticket and maximum \$500 per single prize).

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Telephone: (250) 724-5757  
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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.

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**DEADLINE:**

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

**Feb. 7, 2013**

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.



**BC chiefs have Atleo's back**

By Debora Steel  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

On Jan. 24, the Coast Salish people stood up National Chief A-in-chut Shawn Atleo and his wife Nancy in their house, the Musqueam Cultural Centre, and wrapped them in love and warmth, prayer and song, blanketing them in a symbolic embrace: the protection of women.

The morning's ceremony, hosted by the BC Assembly of First Nations, was meant to hold Atleo up on the crest of a wave, to strengthen him as he returns to Ottawa at this critical moment in history. It was held to show Atleo how much the Coast Salish care for him, and worry about him, a worry exaggerated by the great geographical distance between Ottawa and home, said Ray Harris, co-chair of the First Nations Summit, the man who conducted the ceremony. (See photos from the event at www.hashilthsa.com under the photos tab.)

The event was held also to demonstrate the strength—in numbers, depth, breadth, scope and skill—of the BC team standing behind Atleo as he heads off to press the federal government on its commitments made on Jan. 11.

Then, Atleo and 20-some other chiefs, met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper to deliver an eight-point consensus statement on the priorities of First Nations. In return the chiefs received the promise of high-level oversight from the Prime Minister's Office, a requirement for action on those key items to move forward, the national chief has said.

The action items include treaty implementation, fair and expeditious settlement of land claims through the reform of the comprehensive claims policy, resource benefit and revenue sharing, legislation consistent with section 35 of Canada's Constitution and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a minimum international standard to which the Canadian government has stated it aspires to achieve.

Among the witnesses called upon to remember and go forward to tell the story



The Coast Salish blanketed National Chief Shawn Atleo and his wife Nancy at a ceremony on Jan. 24, standing them up as they make plans to return to Ottawa.

of the day was Ktunaxa Nation Chair Kathryn Teneese. "We are in full support and we will do everything that we can to ensure you, as national chief, can continue on," she said. Ktunaxa is currently embroiled in a battle to protect their sacred Qat'muk against the Jumbo Glacier Resort project. The development approval, "a significant and unjustifiable violation of Ktunaxa constitutional rights," the Ktunaxa contend.

Ed Newman of the Heiltsuk Nation, located at Bella Bella along the inside coastal waters of BC on the route of Enbridge's supertanker traffic, told Atleo Heiltsuk stands "solidly behind you, encourages you and gives you strength." The Heiltsuk Nation is known for its basketball, canoe culture and, most recently, for a peaceful protest against the Northern Gateway pipeline project that so spooked the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel last April that the group cancelled hearings there.

The 14 nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council also took the opportunity to honor the national chief. NTC Vice-President Ken Watts offered his words of support on behalf of the group. He is the son of the late George Watts, widely credited with shepherding the Maa-nulth

Treaty, the first-multi-nation treaty negotiated under the BC Treaty Process, into reality. Ken expressed his frustration at not being by Atleo's side during a highly-charged meeting of chiefs in Ottawa Jan. 10. There, hunger-striking Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence urged the assembly to boycott the meeting with the Prime Minister the next day. Watts said it saddened him that only a few chiefs of the more than 200 from the region were with Atleo that evening.

He said Nuu-chah-nulth agreed with the decision to meet with the Prime Minister because "we believe in sitting down and negotiating." Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, for example, are currently involved in what they have described as a frustrating "negotiation" with the federal government on the implementation of their court-supported right to a commercial fishery of all species of fish (excluding geoduck).

Watts said "We witnessed Shawn taking a beating back East, through social media, Twitter [for taking the meeting with the PM]. It hurt me a lot when I couldn't be there for him."

Continued on page 5.

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

**Risqué play will raise funds to end violence**

By Denise Titian  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni-Three brave Nuu-chah-nulth women will join a cast of 17 to perform in the provocative and popular play called The Vagina Monologues.

Presented by Art Matters Society and the Main Artery, Eve Ensler's famous The Vagina Monologues is made up of speeches that deal with the feminine experience, touching on matters such as sex, love, rape, menstruation, female genital mutilation, masturbation, birth, orgasm, the various common names for the vagina.

The play strives to convey the vagina as a tool of female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment of individuality.

Auditions for the play were held in

**Hupacasath files notice against Canada/China deal**

On Jan. 18, the Hupacasath First Nation launched a legal challenge of gigantic proportions. The challenge: The Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPPA) between Canada and China.

"This deal will pave the way for a massive natural resource buyout and allow foreign corporations to sue the Canadian government in secret tribunals, restricting Canadians from making democratic decisions about our economy, environment and energy," said Brenda Sayers, Hupacasath councillor.

Steven Tatoosh, chief councillor of

Port Alberni in mid-January and three Nuu-chah-nulth women landed parts. Bettina Thomas of Ahousesht and sisters Irene and Erma Robinson of Tsehsaht will join 14 other women at the Capitol Theatre Feb. 9. The play is sponsored by Portal Players Dramatic Society.

According to Gwynne Hunt, The Vagina Monologues, in existence for about 20 years, opened about 15 years ago to assist non-profit societies in fundraising efforts aimed at ending violence against women and children. Every year they focus fundraising efforts on one country. Ten percent of the proceeds from each performance is given to the focus country.

Another portion of the proceeds goes to a local charity. In this case, Alberni Community and Women's Services will benefit from some of the proceeds from ticket sales.

The fund raising effort is part of the V-



Irene Robinson

Day movement, a global effort to end violence against women. This year marks the 15th anniversary of V-day and organizers have launched their most recent campaign called One Billion Rising.

"The concept of the campaign is simple. If you take into account the statistic that one out of three women will experience violence in her lifetime, you are left

with the staggering statistic that over one billion women on this planet will be impacted by violence.

On V-Day's 15th anniversary, Feb. 14/13, we are inviting one billion women and those who love them to walk out, dance, rise up, and demand an end to this violence, reads v-Day.org

"The play is risqué, wild and crazy but it's about violence against women and I think it's a good way to bring attention to the problem," said Hunt.

Tickets are on sale at Char's Landing on Argyle Street across from City Hall in Port Alberni as well as Main Artery located on 3rd Ave. and Argyle Street. In addition, each of the performers is selling tickets for \$15 each. Men are welcome to see the play.

The play opens Saturday, Feb. 9 starting at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. and there will be information booths set up in the foyer.

Hupacasath, added "We will argue that the Government of Canada breached its fiduciary duty to consult First Nations on our respective constitutionally-enshrined and judicially-recognized Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights."

The Chiefs of Ontario and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs will file supporting affidavits in support of the Hupacasath legal challenge. Leadnow.ca is lending its online presence to the Hupacasath legal challenge to raise funds.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, declared, "To recklessly disregard our

Title, Rights and Treaty Rights is an outrage. Our inherent rights are our fundamental human rights. Canada repeatedly violates our human rights when our inherent rights are totally ignored in agreements, such as the Canada-China FIPPA."

"The Leadnow community is proud to play a part in supporting this important legal challenge. The government has tried to pass this deal behind closed doors, and they have breached their constitutional obligation to consult with First Nations before entering into a 31-year agreement that locks Canada into a path of foreign-

ownership and raw-resource export," said Julia Pope of Leadnow.ca.

Hupacasath has advised China's ambassador to Canada that the Canada-China FIPPA investment deal violates Title, Rights and Treaty Rights as well as international law, and should be postponed indefinitely, pending nation-to-nation discussions with First Nations.



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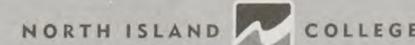
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## Four Maa-nulth leaders receive Queen's Jubilee Medal

Four Nuu-chah-nulth leaders received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony held on Jan. 24 at Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences.

The special medals, which celebrate the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, were pinned on by Nanaimo-Alberni MP James Lunney.

Anne Marie Mack, hereditary chief of Toquaht First Nation, Charlie Cootes Sr., elected chief of Uchucklesaht, and former elected chief councillors Vi Mundy of Ucluelet and Robert Dennis Sr. of Huu-ay-aht, were honoured for their efforts in bringing the Maa-nulth Treaty to fruition.

"For moving beyond when others had failed, taking up the challenge and persevering, and coming to an agreement," Lunney said.

"This was a historic milestone. But now, as leaders, the real work begins in implementing and taking advantage of the opportunities that certainty, cash and land make possible."

The landmark treaty was signed at an emotional ceremony at the old Athletic Hall in Port Alberni on April 9, 2009. After receiving her medal, Mundy said the Maa-nulth process was a long road that began after the Nuu-chah-nulth Agreement In Principle was defeated in 2001.

"We rose up again. We re-thought, we re-strategized," Mundy said.

While Ucluelet First Nation negotiated, Mundy said, the municipality of Ucluelet began a transformation from a sleepy fishing village to a growing tourist destination and economic hub. Mundy said the treaty has helped her nation become an equal partner in the region's rapid development.

"Our plan, while we were in treaty negotiations, was to have a closer relationship with the town and its surrounding area," she said. "In those days there was not much contact. For years there was always that separation; we weren't unfriendly, we just didn't know each other. As we walked through the treaty process, we met with them over time, and it was really critical for us that we had

the support of the surrounding communities."

Mack, who succeeded her father, Bert Mack, upon the death of the elder Toquaht statesman last year, said the cash and resources allocated under the treaty would allow more Toquaht members to live in their own community.

"For 10 years during the treaty process, I worked right beside my father the whole time. It was one of the happiest days of his life when the treaty was signed," Mack said. "One of the first goals is to bring people home, but first, we have to set up the area economically, so our people can sustain themselves."

Cootes said it was an honour to be recognized by the Queen and by Canada for taking a leadership role in the wider community. Under Maa-nulth, and as a local government within Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Cootes said his nation now has the kind of certainty Uchucklesaht needs to revitalize their own community.

He pointed to the 15-year struggle to keep the Henderson Lake Sockeye Hatchery operating as an illustration of the uncertainty that once plagued his nation.

"The sockeye hatchery was a really good facility to bring back our sockeye, which had become really depleted. It was a funding issue that shut it down, but it helped the run for us," Cootes said. "It was a long struggle to obtain a multi-year finding agreement, but it never came to reality. We operated with bits and pieces of funding from various sources for years, but it has been out of operation for five years."

Dennis said he hopes the recognition of himself and his Maa-nulth colleagues with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal represents a small landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations.

"I have respect for the institutions that Canada has," Dennis said. "Hopefully, Canada will begin to recognize the institutions that we have. That was part of the intent of the treaty, to bring some of our governance institutions into the treaty."

Canada could, and should, take a few



Maa-nulth Treaty Nation leaders Charlie Cootes, Anne Mack, Vi Mundy and Robert Dennis received Queen's Jubilee Medals on Jan. 24 in Port Alberni.

lessons from the traditional direct democracy practiced by Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, Dennis suggested. In the meantime, Huu-ay-aht will continue to expand partnerships within the greater community to advance its long-term goals.

"One of the things our community recognized was that institutions like the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre are playing a major role in the restoration of our lands and waters and marine life," Dennis said. "We now have other institutions that we are working with to restore the Sarita River."

Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences is a not-for-profit university that opened its doors in September 2009, and is the headquarters of the National Institute for Disability Management and Research. The school is currently undergoing a review of its proposed Bachelor's degree program in disability management, which it now hopes to begin offering in early 2014.

Featuring a state-of-the-art lecture hall and plenty of classroom capacity, the university campus, located at 4755 Cherry Creek Road, has become a venue for public events and training. Most recently, Excel Career College of Courtenay conducted an Aquaculture Technician program for First Nations members at the Port Alberni campus.

### Hupacasath First Nation Notice of Nomination Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the electors of the Hupacasath First Nation will be held in the board room at the House of Gathering at Ahahswinis (5500 Ahahswinis Drive off Beaver Creek Road in Port Alberni) on Friday, the 22nd day of February, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and lasting for four (4) hours to 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the positions of chief and councillors on the Band Council of the Hupacasath First Nation for the next ensuing term. There are two (2) councillor positions and one (1) position for chief available. The election will be held at the House of Gathering on Friday, the 5th day of April, 2013 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Please note that any voter (resident on- or off-reserve) may nominate candidates FOR BOTH CHIEF AND COUNCILLOR POSITIONS by using a mail-in nomination form. Nomination and other forms will be mailed to all off-reserve voters for whom we have addresses. On-reserve voters may request a nomination package from the electoral officer if they are unable to attend the nomination meeting in person. You can either deliver or mail-in a written nomination and a completed, signed, and witnessed voter declaration form to the electoral officer before the time set for the nomination meeting, OR you may nominate candidates orally in-person at the nomination meeting. Mailed nominations not received by the electoral officer before the time set for nomination meeting are void. The person nominated, nominators, and seconders must be 18 years old at the time of the nomination meeting. Also note that any voter will be able to vote by mail-in ballot.

Given under my hand at Port Alberni, British Columbia, this 22nd day of January, 2013.

Maggie M. Paquet, Electoral Officer  
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A-housaht Chief Councillor Curtis Dick, Mowachaht/Muchalaht Council of Chiefs' Ben Jack, and Vice-President of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Ken Watts prepare to give A-in-chut some items that will remind him of home.

## Standing A-in-chut up

Continued from page 2.

He assured Atleo that the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are but a phone call away if he requires their help in the future.

But the message delivered by Watts was also about seizing the opportunity that this moment in history offers up. He said it wasn't the time to be fighting among ourselves, or fighting last July's election all over again. "We can't let... people's personal agendas... and sour grapes come between us."

"This is the moment that many of the people have been waiting for," Watts said. "We need to walk through that door... We can't let our kids go through what we are going through now."

The Nuu-chah-nulth presented Atleo with gifts that will remind him of home and his ancestral territory. A ceremony for the Atleos took place in A-housaht on Jan. 21, where community members brushed them with cedar boughs, and expressed their deep love and unwavering support, said Stewart Phillip, president of the powerful and uncompromising Union of BC Indian Chiefs, who attended that celebration.

"Amazing. Absolutely amazing," said Phillip, adding that he and his wife Joan, their adult children and their grandchildren, committed their support to Atleo. "And we will be there for as long as it takes."

Many of the other chiefs in the assembly took their opportunity to support Atleo. The Kwagwiltz sang songs for him. Nicola Valley pledged its support, as did Julie Morrison representing Gitanmaax in BC's north at Hazelton.

Robert Shintah of Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation in the south central interior said his community was behind Atleo 110 per cent.

"I know we have one darned good national chief," he said.

The chiefs spoke freely and forcefully at the meeting.

Wilf Adams of Burns Lake described the Jan. 10 meeting held at Ottawa's Delta Hotel as an ambush, yet Atleo stood his ground, he said.

"I was very proud of him."

Regional Chief Roger Augustine, representing New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, stood to re-iterate his support of the national chief. He had flown from one coast to the other to be at the ceremony.

"We will walk with you until the day you tell us to go home," he said.

Augustine stepped into the national

chief's role briefly as Atleo took leave to recover from a bout of norovirus, a "violent" illness Atleo said he would never wish on anyone; though to take the leave required to become well was another move the national chief was roundly criticized by his detractors for making.

Augustine was also beside Atleo at a national press conference held in the afternoon Jan. 24 after the morning's tributes. Also backing the chief there was heavy-hitter Ed John, lawyer and chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, an executive member of the First Nations Summit and an honorary witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings.

Chief Douglas White also stood for Atleo. White is a lawyer, a member of the Summit executive and chief of the Snuneymuxw First Nation at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. He most recently led an Idle No More event to protest a Port Authority proposed 30-year lease of Nanaimo Harbour (a winter village site of the Snuneymuxw) to a private company without consulting the First Nation's community.

Doug Kelly, grand chief of B.C.'s Sto:lo Tribal Council (home to B.C.'s former Lt. Gov. Stephen Point, a former chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission) stood behind Atleo as well. Kelly is chair of the First Nations Health Council which is in the process of taking over health delivery services for First Nations in the province. The process includes a \$2.5 billion funding transfer towards implementation of that negotiated tripartite agreement.

UBCIC's Phillip, representing a hundred-plus nations in the province, joined National Chief Atleo at the press conference, as did BC Regional Chief Jody Wilson Raybould, a lawyer and former acting chief commissioner for the BC Treaty Process. She has spent her brief time in her role with the AFN on, among other work, developing governance tools for BC nations.

Wilson Raybould hosted the day's events saying the BC chiefs were standing united to honor Atleo for the work he has done and the work he will embark upon to hold the Prime Minister to his commitments; to use the collective energies of the Idle No More movement, the efforts of Chief Theresa Spence and the other hunger-strikers and the skills of the team standing with him to translate that into "meaningful practical benefits for the people," she said.



Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo is back at work, having held his first national news conference in Vancouver on Jan. 24. Atleo was required to take a doctor-ordered leave to rest and recover from the Norovirus. He also said that the long days leading up to a highly-charged decision to meet with the Prime Minister took their toll on his health.

# Idle No More is still going strong in Port

By Debora Steel  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

The Idle No More movement continues in Port Alberni. The latest event, organized by Anne Robinson, was held on the Global Day of Action Jan. 28 at North Island College at the institution's outdoor Aboriginal meeting space.

The noon-hour event began with a prayer song by Robert Watts, who has been a loyal participant in many, if not all, the Idle No More events held in the city. With him was Moy Sutherland, who informally took on the role of emcee. Alice Sam and Anne Robinson also addressed the gathering.

The main issue around the Idle No More movement is the removal of environmental protections of waterways across Canada without consulting the very people that the harm to the environment will impact.

Bills 38 and 45, budget omnibus bills, are now law, and within the overarching budget legislation is legislation changing the Indian Act, Fisheries Act and Navigable Waterways, with little or no discussion in the House of Commons or on reserve lands across the country about the implications.

Not a single lake or stream on Vancouver Island is now protected, First Nations complain. And now, locally, First Nations are raising the issue of the Canada/China trade agreement that came to light only weeks before the agreement was to be signed by the Prime Minister. That document, says Hupacasath's Brenda Sayers, further infringes on First Nations title and rights, and again, no discussion or consultation leading up to its drafting. Hupacasath has filed an

injunction challenging the deal (see our story online at [www.hashilthsa.com](http://www.hashilthsa.com)). Another Idle No More event hosted by Tseshaht Nation on Jan. 19 took the protest of the omnibus bills to the street, literally, with a two-hour information picket held on the Pacific Rim Highway. A large crowd gathered at Watty's Road. They sang and danced and slowed traffic down to hand out flyers to travelers that explained Tseshaht's perspective on the bills.

For the most part the people were inconvenienced by just a few seconds, given the literature, wished safe travels and allowed to go on their way. Only a few drivers showed their impatience by speeding through the demonstration.

Many drivers showed their solidarity with the demonstrators by honking their horns and high-fiving picketers as they slowly drove through the kilometer-long rally.



Above: Julia Lucas holds up a sign that shows why she is demonstrating against Bills 38 and 45 during the Idle No More events, laws that will affect her grandchildren and the environment where they get their food and water from.



Left: Dr. Simon Lucas described the need to talk about the environmental pollution and toxins going into the ocean and how they are impacting food sources.



Above: Veronica Stoney, 12, and Andrea Amos-Stoney demonstrated with signs complaining about the lack of attention in Canada on murdered and missing aboriginal women and the lack of services for children.



Left: Elders Anita Schievink and Irene Robinson are constant participants at the Idle No More events in Port Alberni.



Robert Watts continues to Idle No More. He has been at many, if not all, of the events held in Port Alberni since the Idle No More Movement came to the West Coast.

Photos by  
Debora Steel

## BC First Nations News

# Province and Ktunaxa agree to share mine revenue

A new revenue-sharing agreement ensures four Ktunaxa Nation communities benefit from resource development within their traditional territory.

The agreement is the fourth Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) in the province and fulfils the B.C. government's commitment to reach 10 new non-treaty agreements under the BC Jobs Plan by 2015.

The Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA) will enable the Ktunaxa Nation, comprised of the four communities of St. Mary's, Tobacco Plains, Lower Kootenay and Akisq'nuk First Nation, to share revenues from new coal mine projects in the Elk Valley.

The agreement also links to the Strategic Engagement Agreement between B.C. and Ktunaxa Nation, which provides for a decision-making and project-review process to ensure the Ktunaxa Nation continues to be involved in decision-making about new mine projects. As well, the agreement replaces the Ktunaxa Nation Council's existing Forest Revenue Sharing Agreement.

The ECDA provides stability and greater certainty for coal mining operations in the Elk Valley. In the past fiscal year, mineral taxes derived from all coal mines in B.C. amounted to approximately 90 per cent of total provincial mineral tax revenue. Elk Valley coal operations contribute the majority of this revenue.

The agreement also supports the BC Jobs Plan commitment to support existing jobs and create new jobs through the

expansion of existing coal mines and the establishment of new mines on the coal fields in the Elk Valley.

The ECDA builds on the existing Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) with the Ktunaxa, signed in 2010, which guides ongoing government-to-government discussions on natural resource decisions, and is another example of B.C.'s commitment to transform its relationship with the Ktunaxa Nation.

The agreement is one step toward addressing the Ktunaxa interest in being recognized as a government in the Ktunaxa Territory, being appropriately accommodated for potential impacts on Ktunaxa Nation's asserted Aboriginal rights, including title, achieving a greater role in the regional economy and supporting Ktunaxa community development initiatives.

Under the ECDA, the Ktunaxa Nation will invest its revenue-share to achieve its social and economic objectives, which include enhancing the well-being of Ktunaxa communities and Ktunaxa citizens through initiatives related to education, cultural revitalization, housing, infrastructure, health, economic development, land stewardship, intergovernmental engagement processes and governance capacity.

"This agreement will bring significant benefits to Ktunaxa Nation communities and enable them to benefit from resource activity in their traditional territory.

Under the BC Jobs Plan, we made a commitment to deliver 10 non-treaty agreements that bring benefits more quickly to First Nations communities. Not only does



Ktunaxa Nation's Kathryn Teenee.

today's announcement fulfil that promise two years early, but we expect to see many more such agreements in the months and years ahead," said Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Ida Chong.

"The Ktunaxa Nation is pleased that we have reached this agreement with the Province of B.C. It is one step toward the resource revenue-sharing arrangements that must be reached with all B.C. First Nations. This agreement will further our goal of achieving the Ktunaxa Nation's vision statement, and provide current and future generations a benefit from the resources extracted within our territory. Through the provisions in the agreement,

Ktunaxa will continue their stewardship obligations to manage the land within our territory, which includes consultation of future projects," said Ktunaxa Nation Chair Kathryn Teenee.

**Quick Facts:**  
\* Mining activities in the Elk Valley generate approximately 90 per cent of the coal mined in B.C. each year.

\* The ECDA covers the entire area of the Ktunaxa traditional territory, which is approximately 6.6 million hectares (approximately 66,000 square kilometres or 25,500 square miles) in size; however, the coal mining revenue-sharing component of the ECDA is focused on the coal fields located in the Elk Valley.

\* The forest section of the ECDA replaces the existing Forest Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council and provides forest revenue-sharing commitments to the tune of \$917,537 for 2013-14. The coal mining section of the agreement is a new revenue-sharing stream.

\* This is the fourth ECDA signed with First Nations since the first one was initiated two years ago.

\* B.C. is a partner with the Ktunaxa Nation in more than 10 agreements, initiatives and protocols.

\* Ktunaxa Nation Council represents approximately 1,100 Ktunaxa Nation members in four Ktunaxa communities within the British Columbia portion of their traditional territory.

\* A recent analysis by Ktunaxa Nation of its business interests shows that the Ktunaxa inject more than \$30 million annually into the regional economy.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jeannie Cranmer  
Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy (AEES) Manager  
BC Hydro  
13th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3  
1 877 461 0161 #1 Employment  
604 623 4401  
604 417 2312 Cell  
604 623 3799 Fax  
[aboriginal.employment@bchydro.com](mailto:aboriginal.employment@bchydro.com)



# Tsaxana the biggest winner with heart health program

Submitted by Renee Mitchell  
NTC Nursing Staff

Well, with Valentine's Day on the way, and February Heart Month, it is a great time to consider your vascular health.

I know, you've heard it before; heart health is important, yada, yada. However, have you thought about other benefits to a heart healthy lifestyle? Think about it.

Heart disease and stroke is largely preventable through a healthy lifestyle that includes no smoking, healthy food choices, physical activity and maintenance of a healthy weight.

About one-third of people are sensitive to sodium. Eating too much sodium can cause high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease and kidney disease.

Over time, high blood pressure can damage blood vessel walls. It can also strain the heart and eventually weaken it.

High blood pressure is the leading preventable risk factor for death around the world. It is often called a "silent killer" because it has no warning signs or symptoms. You can't see it, you can't feel it, but the good news is that you can



Photo By Renee Mitchell

Participants in the Tsaxana exercise class strike a pose after their workout.

control it.

**FAST FACT:** 3 in 10 Canadians are diagnosed with high blood pressure from eating too much sodium (salt).

With this information in mind, the northern community of Tsaxana started the "Biggest Winner's" group. A program designed to support community members wanting to live a healthy lifestyle.

Each participant started with a wellness

check with the community health nurse, each getting their blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels checked. There was a weigh in and measurements taken before heading up to the gym for an exercise class, also known as "Boot Camp."

The group will learn basic nutrition, how to read and understand food labels, food journaling, self-care planning, goal

setting, healthy behaviors to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, lifestyle changes to improve or prevent diabetes throughout the eight-week program.

With modern technology these days, they have created a facebook group to support and encourage one another. It's a place where they can share health information, their ideas, goals, and set a meeting place for a walking group.

Pedometers were given to each participant. Each person will be weighed and measured bi-weekly to see their individual success!

The group meets once a week face to face for a "support group" to discuss their challenges as well as their success stories.

In the near future, the group will "challenge" other communities within Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council territory. Our group also hopes to enter a marathon. In doing so, they will do various fundraising activities to cover travel costs.

This program will be ongoing for community members to register at any time they are willing and ready to live a healthy life.

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**\*\*Citizens of Huu-ay-aht and Ucluelet do not qualify for this offer. Subscription rates apply. Contact your individual band office for information on how you can receive the newsletters published by these nations.\*\***

# Training for the time of your life

On Dec. 4 to Dec. 6, the Tripartite Aboriginal Birth Doula Program held an Aboriginal doula celebration and sexual abuse training session at Tillicum Le Lum Health Centre in Nanaimo.

The program was very honored to have physical therapist Penny Simkin share her knowledge about sexual abuse survivors and childbirth.

Simkin has specialized in childbirth education and labor support since 1968. She estimates she has prepared more than 11,000 women, couples, and siblings for childbirth. She has assisted hundreds of women or couples through childbirth as a doula.

Her books include The Labor Progress Handbook (2011), with Ruth Ancheta, The Birth Partner (2008), and When Survivors Give Birth: Understanding and Healing the Effects of Early Sexual Abuse of Childbearing Women (2004), with Phyllis Klaus.

The training and celebration was a jam-packed session, with participants learning a lot from each other, said



The Aboriginal Birth Doula Program takes training in Nanaimo.

Jackie Jack, Aboriginal Doula Liaison Worker Vancouver Island. "Once again I want to raise my hands to our practicing Aboriginal doulas in the program and say Kleco-Kleco for all your hard work and keep it up."

If you are expecting and would like a Doula to assist you with your birth please feel free to contact Jackie Jack, and she will connect you with someone in the program to assist in this very special event in your life.

# Huu-ay-aht sets boundaries on Idle No More demonstrations

Flash mobs and blockades in support of the grassroots movement "Idle No More" have sprung up across Canada in protest against unilateral action laid out in the Conservative Government's omnibus bills passed in 2012 (Bill C-38, C-45 and the Streams and Rivers Act). The Federal Government has completely rewritten its environmental protection laws. Additionally, the laws around the lease of land on Federal Indian Reserves were changed. When it comes to treaty rights and laws that affect lands, waters and wildlife, meaningful consultation must occur between Canada and its' First Nations.

Unfortunately, no constructive discussion took place prior to these laws being tabled. Given the tenuous relationship between the Federal Government and First Nations across Canada a breakdown in communications was foreseeable. Huu-ay-aht First Nations as a government shares the same concerns as the Idle No More movement and appreciates the urgency and frustration that spur these protests. Idle No More is a movement dedicated to improving the lives of First Nations everywhere and we support those aims. However, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations does not support the blockading of roads or the disruption of local economies and feel that these actions hurt the overall perception of First Nations. Rhetoric, blockades and personal attacks solidify people in their opposing viewpoints rather than shock them into change. Instead, we voice our support for the Assembly of First Nations as an open channel to the Federal Government and our confidence

in Shawn Atleo as the National Chief. HFN's position is that there are no shortcuts to meaningful relationship-building. The HFN is a part of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, a modern treaty between five First Nations and the governments of British Columbia and Canada negotiated over fifteen years. The Maa-nulth treaty grants the HFN ownership of land; access to and control of resources; and strong powers of self-government. We have more tools to improve the lives of our citizens now than under any kind of federal oversight arrangement. Huu-ay-aht First Nations urges all Members of Parliament, regardless of political allegiance, to push for meaningful communications with First Nations at all levels: local, regional and federal. Additionally, the HFN urge all First Nations' governments to consider long-term, strategic use of natural resources and treaty negotiations in their pursuit of change. Each party must remain faithful to their principles while being flexible where reasonable.

# The importance of condition inspections and rental reports

Submitted by Petra Barnfield  
KUU-US Crisis Services  
Homeless Coordinator/Advocate

There are two times when a landlord and tenant must inspect the condition of the rental unit. When moving in, and moving out.

Comparing the move-in and move-out condition reports may help the landlord and tenant determine whether the tenant is responsible for damage that occurred during the tenancy. This helps determine whether the landlord may keep all or some of a deposit at the end of the tenancy.

A sample Condition Inspection Report is available online at [www.rto.gov.bc.ca](http://www.rto.gov.bc.ca) or from Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB). The report may also include any item agreed to by the landlord and tenant.

The move-in condition inspection report is a written record of the unit's condition at the start of the tenancy.

The move-in inspection should be done when the unit is vacant before the tenant moves in. Both landlord and tenant must sign the completed Condition Inspection

Report. The landlord must give a copy to the tenant within seven days.

If a tenant finds a problem after the Condition Inspection Report is completed, they should immediately notify the landlord in writing. Where a repair is required to comply with the tenancy agreement, the landlord must fix the problem.

If the landlord does not make the repair, the tenant may apply for dispute resolution, asking for an order to force the landlord to make the repair.

The condition inspection report and notices of problems may be submitted as evidence if there is ever a dispute about the rental unit's condition.

When moving out the landlords and tenants must inspect the rental unit together before the incoming tenant takes possession. The move-out report should describe the general condition, state of repair of the rental unit, and include an itemized list of any damage. The landlord and tenant must both sign and date the report. The landlord must give the tenant a completed copy within 15 days.

Ref: Residential Tenancy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards

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**Tripartite Aboriginal Doula Initiative**  
The art of birth, women supporting women in childbirth

**What is a doula?**  
A doula provides emotional and physical support to a pregnant woman during childbirth. She has no clinical responsibilities.

**Who is eligible for doula services?**  
Any pregnant Aboriginal woman on or off reserve may request the services of an Aboriginal doula.

**There is no cost to women.**

**Benefits of a doula**  
The continuous, supportive care a doula provides during labour and childbirth has a number of benefits, including:  
- Helps a woman to find her strength and place of power in giving birth  
- Better birth experiences  
- Improved breastfeeding and bonding (attachment)

**Who can refer?**  
If you are a pregnant Aboriginal woman, you can refer yourself.  
Others who can refer include:  
- Healthcare provider  
- Doctor or midwife  
- Hospital  
- Aboriginal families  
- Friendship centre

**Are you interested in having an Aboriginal doula support you?**  
For Vancouver Island, contact:  
Jackie Jack  
Aboriginal Doula Liaison  
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
Tel: 1-877-283-2012  
Call: 250-702-0911  
Fax: 250-283-2122  
Email: jackie.jack@nuuchahnulth.org

**For the Interior, contact:**  
Donna Simon  
Aboriginal Doula Liaison  
Interior Health Authority  
Cell: 250-215-6343  
Fax: 250-870-4795  
Email: donna.simon@interiorhealth.ca

Or, contact your local doula:

This is a tripartite initiative to improve maternal health services for Aboriginal women and bring birth closer to home and back into the hands of women. For more information on the Tripartite First Nation Aboriginal Doula Initiative, contact:  
Lucy Barney  
Aboriginal Lead  
Perinatal Services BC  
604 877 2123 Ext. 223766 or barney@psh.ca

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# Junior Step Up hammers home new booth

By Debora Steel  
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

**Port Alberni**—It looked difficult for Jim Lawson, the shop teacher for School District 70's residential building maintenance course, to keep the smile off his face. He was showing reporters around a ticket booth that his students had built for the Rotary Club of Port Alberni. It was about to be loaded onto a flat-bed truck to be delivered to the clients.

He had gathered representatives of the club, the school district and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council to view for themselves the accomplishment. Students pointed out their work proudly; demonstrated the features of the building from floors to shingles, and stood up to take their props, which included being handed a certificate of participation by Lawson.

Carley Edgar, Sasha Pielak and Jayden Packwood were just a few of the students that put their hard work into completing the project as part of the Junior

Step Up Program (Grades 9 and 10), which provides construction skills as well as the social skills required, like working together.

Lawson called the program an exercise in empowerment. He said the students—eight in all—got a real sense of pride and accomplishment in return for their participation two days a week.

"I have the best job in the district," he told the crowd gathered. "They bring me kids and we build stuff." He thanked the students for being so much fun to work with.

Lawson said the students demonstrated dedication and a commitment to quality workmanship.

"Perfect is close enough," Lawson would tell them.

"We don't settle for anything less than our best effort and workmanship."

"They've done a fantastic job," said Don Jones, chair of the salmon festival, the Rotary Club committee that will be selling tickets from the booth on Labour Day. The booth replaces an older model that was set to retire; a bigger booth with added features like tip up counters and a

place in the back for counting cash. "We're going from a VW Bug to a Cadillac, said North Island College's Tom Weegar, a Rotary Club former president.

Edgar said she was pleased to take part in the project because it gave back to the community.

"It's mind-blowing that I helped do that. I was part of this," she said.

The booth has about \$3,500 worth of building materials in it. The Rotary Club ponied up half of that, but the rest was donated by local businesses or scrounged from the old Alberni District Secondary School.

BC Hydro donates the building where the class takes place. Windsor Plywood sharpened the pencil on the other supplies and donated the truck for delivery. Flooring depot donated the linoleum.

Edgar ceremonially handed over the key to the ticket booth to Jones before the building was hoisted by crane to be delivered to the fall fair grounds for storage.



Shop teacher Jim Lawson



A truck provided by Windsor Plywood loads the ticket booth made by the students of the Junior Step Up Program for the Rotary Club of Port Alberni.



Step Up students Sasha Pielak and Jayden Packwood take their bows at the gathering held by shop teacher Step Up shop teacher Jim Lawson to show off the work of his group.



Carley Edgar of Ditidah demonstrates the tip-up counter, a feature of the new ticket book constructed by the Junior Step Up Program for the Rotary Club of Port Alberni. The ticket booth replaces one that has been retired. The booth will be used for the Salmon Festival held on the Labour Day weekend each year.

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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 Cedar Weaves; baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses, traditional bracelets for trade. email: sandrah-sam@live.ca.

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Beautiful view of the Somas River  
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For more information please contact:  
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For More Information Contact

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3088 3rd Avenue Port Alberni BC  
V9Y2A5

Ph: 250-723-1331 Fax: 250-723-1336

Email:  
robyn.samuel@nuuchahnulth.org



## Prawn Fishery Highlights Concerns

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is concerned about the growing number of prawns harvested by First Nations for food and ceremonial use. In a management plan released by the federal department late last year, the department also noted concerns over the growing number of commercial vessels taking part in the food and ceremonial prawn fishery.

"While the concern is legitimate from a management perspective, DFO unilaterally changed the rules that allowed prawns to be taken while commercial fishing," says Uu-a-thluk biologist, Jim Lane. "This is inconsistent with numerous court rulings that uphold a nation's aboriginal right to fish in its preferred manner—assuming conservation issues have been observed."

A member of the fishery's Prawn Sectoral Committee, Lane recalls how this issue first came up in 2012-13. "[The department] continues

to identify this as a serious issue in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, but has yet to consult with First Nations."

The Prawn Sectoral Committee is a forum where stakeholders and the department exchange information about issues related to prawn fisheries management. Its long list of members includes representatives from First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the various prawn and shrimp fisheries in the province. It is not a forum for bilateral consultations with First Nations.

The food and ceremonial fishery is one of the three fisheries harvesting prawns and shrimp by trap in B.C. First Nations communal licences, treaties, and harvest documents outline where nations can harvest prawns for food and ceremonial use.

The commercial fishery is the largest

BC prawn fishery. First Nations also harvest prawns in the commercial fishery under communal licences held by individual nations. There are 55 of these commercial communal licences in the province.

A final player in the BC prawn harvest is the recreational fishery, which has grown substantially since the 1990s. This fishery is an open entry fishery (anyone can participate) with possession and gear limits. In most places, the fishery is open throughout the year, though some restrictions have applied in the Alberni Inlet since 2007.

No matter which fishery they take part in, most fishers target spot prawns, which enjoy a healthy population in the Pacific region. This healthy population has attracted increasing interest from First Nations as other species decline and gear becomes more available.

Like other food and ceremonial fisheries, the First Nations food and ceremonial prawn fishery has first priority if conservation needs are met.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada does not limit this fishery's catch, though some nations establish their own catch limits. Still, nations would like to see the federal department host formal consultations to sort out their concerns.

"The department has identified something they see as a problem. The proper procedure is to contact the nations to start bilateral discussions, but they are not willing to actively engage the nations in these discussions," Lane says.

First Nations organizations in the province are encouraging nations to read the document and respond. One such organization, The Island Marine Aquatic Working Group (IMAWG), is reviewing the document and will provide notes to First Nations leaders and fisheries managers later this month.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the draft plan, contact Jim Lane ([Jim.Lane@nuuchahnulth.org](mailto:Jim.Lane@nuuchahnulth.org) or 1-877-677-1131).

The department is inviting comments on the draft management plan until February 6, 2013.

*"The proper procedure is to contact the nations to start bilateral discussions, but they are not willing to actively engage the nations in these discussions."*

—Jim Lane, Uu-a-thluk Biologist



Spot prawns or k<sup>w</sup>aa<sup>k</sup>w<sup>aac</sup>.

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