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TRC kicks off gathering with all nations' canoe event

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Vancouver – The national gathering of residential school survivors was launched in a culturally-appropriate fashion today, with dozens of canoes paddling up False Creek seeking permission to land in the territory of host nations Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-waututh.

The host nations invited First Nations people from all corners of the province, as well as neighbours from the east and south.

The event was open to all cultures in an effort to promote inclusion, acceptance and multiculturalism. First nations in their dugout canoes paddled from Vanier Park starting at 9 a.m.; they were accompanied by their non-native supporters.

The paddlers arrived at Science World and approached the hosts in flotillas of six or more canoes. A wireless microphone was passed from speaker to speaker in each canoe. They told who they are, where they came from and they thanked the hosts for welcoming them.

The hosts stood together in a digni-



Photos by Denise Titian

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is holding its national event in Vancouver this week, Sept. 18 to Sept. 22, and kicked off the week's activities by providing a traditional welcome of canoes into the territory.

tary tent overlooking False Creek. They included chiefs from each of the Coast Salish host nations, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Robert Joseph and

more.

The entire waterway was filled with onlookers, including former residential school students, supporters and tourists.

For the non-natives, it was a rare oppor-

tunity to witness a traditional welcoming ceremony involving canoes.

A spokesman for the Namgis canoe thanked the hosts for the welcome.

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Court rules against Hupacasath in FIPA challenge

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

The Federal Court of Canada has rejected a court challenge by Hupacasath First Nation against the pending Canada/China foreign investment treaty (FIPA), but the battle lines have shifted, according to the president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs.

On Aug. 27, the court ruled that Hupacasath had failed to demonstrate how the agreement, signed in September 2012 but as yet not ratified, would result in damage to their Aboriginal rights. But Grand Chief Stewart Phillip believes the Hupacasath/FIPA fight has changed the way the Canadian public perceives First Nations and their relationship with the federal government.

"I've been involved in these issues for almost 40 years, and I've never seen this type of movement emerge," he said. "In days gone by, it was First Nations standing alone, but nowadays we have such incredible support from a whole range of groups, including the general public."

Former Hupacasath elected councillor Brenda Sayers has spearheaded the legal action, which was filed on Jan. 18. Specifically, the challenge was based on Ottawa's failure to consult with First Nations as required under Section 35.2 of the Canadian Constitution. Sayers said news of the court's rejection came as an anti-climax.

"I had just finished a conference call with all of our supporting organizations – about 20 in all. When I finished, I found that our lawyer had e-mailed me the decision. Naturally, I was quite surprised and disappointed with that decision."

Sayers said her nation's legal team will now explore any avenues for appeal, but



File photo/David P. Ball

Hupacasath's Brenda Sayers was cast into the media spotlight when she began a campaign to stop the Canada/China foreign investment treaty. Hupacasath's legal challenge against the treaty has now come to an end.

it would require a vote of the Hupacasath chief and elected council to proceed.

In the meantime, there is a host of organizations in opposition to FIPA, but a new legal argument would be required to file a new court challenge.

Under FIPA, Chinese investors would have legal recourse to seek compensation for losses resulting from any federal, provincial or local government regulation enacted after the date of ratification.

Sayers pointed out that the Harper Gov-

ernment has "gutted" environmental protections under Bills C38 and C45, easing the way for Chinese investors seeking to exploit Canadian petroleum and mineral

resources under weakened laws.

"We can already see the process at work under Chapter 11 of NAFTA

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Tla-o-qui-aht to build new clean energy project

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tofino — Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation leaders signed an agreement with the provincial government Aug. 1 that will allow the parties to share revenue from a run-of-the-river hydro project that the first nation is about to begin construction on.

The Haa-ak-suuk Creek Power Project received equity funding to the tune of \$500,000 in 2012 from the B.C.'s First Nations Clean Energy Project. The project will be located in the Kennedy River Watershed.

B.C.'s First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund provides money to build capacity in First Nations communities and invest in clean energy infrastructure.

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister John Rustad, speaking from the lawn of the TFN-owned and operated Tin Wis Best Western Resort, commented on the beauty of the place.

"It is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation," he noted.

TFN's first run-of-the-river micro hydro project is located at Canoe Creek on the Tofino highway. Minister Rustad said the new project will build on TFN's previous successes.

The Canoe Creek Run of the river project has been operating since June 2010 generating 5.5MW of electricity; enough to power 3,000 Vancouver Island homes. TFN owns 75 per cent of the Canoe Creek Project.

Haa-ak-suuk Creek Power Project is

now under construction, employing a few TFN members. TFN Councillor Saya Masso said the power projects do not generate many jobs, but the benefits come through the revenue the plants generate which goes directly to the community.

There will be a few jobs for band members during the construction phase and then the plant must be maintained.

The Haa-ak-suuk Creek Power Project is expected to be complete in December 2013 and will be owned 85 per cent by TFN. It is expected to generate about \$38,000 per year over the life of the project.

This is the second such agreement in British Columbia and we hope to do more, said Rustad. The first such agreement was signed earlier this year with Tahltan Nation.

"These projects generate economic opportunities; we are going to need power and it's a great way to meet BC's growing energy needs," said Minister Rustad.

B.C.'s First Nations Clean Energy Fund has invested \$3.8 million in energy projects since 2011.

Minister Rustad took his seat as Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister in June 2013; he was given a mandate to create at least 10 non-treaty agreements by 2015.

"We are trying to build government-to-government relationships and to find ways to work together, move forward and progress together," said Rustad.

Jamie Basset, Economic Development Officer for Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, said TFN has a long-term plan of build-



Photos by Denise Titian

Aboriginal Relations Minister John Rustad shakes hands with Tla-o-qui-aht Chief Moses Martin on the signing of their revenue-sharing agreement through the Haa-ak-suuk Creek Power Project.

ing more clean energy projects. Winchie Creek Hydro is the third of TFN's energy project in the works and Bassett expects the required water licenses to be in place by the end of summer 2013.

Once complete, the Winchie Creek Hydro Project will be owned 100 per cent by TFN. It will be the third of eight planned power projects for Tla-o-qui-aht.

TFN Chief Councillor Moses Martin said his nation welcomes the opportunity

to create wealth through sustainable development in their traditional territories.

"Taking care of the land and sharing what we have is part of our traditions," he said.

"TFN is proud to be participating in the green energy industry; we have many dreams and goals both in green economic development and in our vision for the future of the community," said TFN Councillor Saya Masso.



Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister John Rustad congratulates Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation as they begin construction of their second clean energy hydro power project at Haa-ak-suuk Creek. The event took place Aug. 1 outside the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation-owned and operated Tin Wis Best Western Resort.



Respect.

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Princess, Youth Role Model will reign another year

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni—The 2012 Princess and NTC Youth Role Models have accepted an offer to represent the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council for another year. The offer was made after the 2013 NTC Princess and NTC Youth Role Model Pageant was cancelled due to too few contestants signing up for the event.

Keanna Hamilton is the Youth Role Model. Her younger sister Jessica Hamilton is the NTC Princess. They won their titles during the summer of 2012 just prior to the start of the Tlu-piich Games.

When asked how it feels to be asked to hold onto her title for another year Jessica said, "It makes me happy. I will be able to attend more events."

She said it seemed that duties for the 2012 pageant winners were lighter than in past years.

"It seems we're not as busy as others were in years before," she added.

Every year the pageant winners are expected to attend NTC-hosted events to help out and to represent Nuu-chah-nulth people.

In the past year the sisters have attended the Health Ability Fair, the NTC Grad and the 2012 and 2013 Tlu-piich Games, along with other events in the community.

The Hamilton sisters, from Hupacasath, say even with their titles they live their lives as they normally would, but every now and then they get a call from NTC staff to tell them about upcoming events.

When they're on duty the sisters will show up to an event wearing their banners; sometimes they only need to make



Keanna Hamilton is the Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Role Model.

an appearance but there are times when they're called upon to speak publicly or give advice to young people.

"At first I didn't want to (be an NTC Princess) because of my anxiety over having to be in the public eye and having to speak publicly, but facing my fear has helped a lot," said Jessica.

Jessica Hamilton has just graduated from high school and plans to Vancouver Community College. She dreams of becoming an artist or archeologist.

Keanna Hamilton plans to go to college and work toward her Early Childhood Education certification.



Jessica Hamilton is the Nuu-chah-nulth Princess.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Princess Pageant first started in 1983 but stopped in 2003, due to a lack of contestants.

The pageant returned in 2012 with six young ladies vying for two titles.

During the week leading up to the pageant the contestants took part in activities that helped to prepare them for being in

the public eye. They bonded with each other, practiced with cosmetics and took training for public speaking.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Princess Pageant is for girls, ages 13 to 16 while the Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Role Model title is open to males and females ages 17 to 24.

Celebrating 40 Years of community leadership

Congratulations to the Nuu-chah-nulth
Tribal Council.

Your work continues to help
Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations thrive
and the wisdom you share is enriching
all Vancouver Island communities.



Your Island Health partners in care





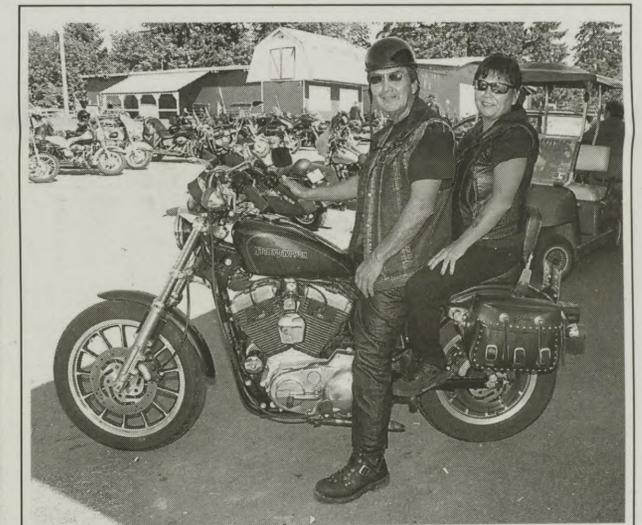



Photo by Sonja Drinkwater

Ron Dick and Lillian Dick took part in the 29th Annual Port Alberni Toy Run, which blasted into the Alberni Valley on Sept. 14, bringing thousands of toys for needy children at Christmas, and tens of thousands of dollars for children's programs throughout the year. More than 1,000 motorcycles of every make, model, size, and colour gathered at Little Qualicum Falls on Highway 4 on the Saturday and took part in a ceremony to remember fallen riders. The motorcycles then travelled westbound along Highway 4, past Cameron Lake and through Cathedral Grove into Port Alberni, ending at Glenwood Centre where games and events for children and families were organized. "What makes this Toy Run unique are the thousands of people who line the route to cheer the riders, holding up signs thanking them for helping the children in the Alberni Valley and west coast communities," said Port Alberni Toy Run Chairman David Wiwchar. "Since 1984, the Toy Run has raised more than \$1.5 million for local children's charities, and the people of Port Alberni really appreciate that."

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for more news, careers and photos.
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Stanley Sam, left, had a great time on the Super Shot ride during the fall fair in Port Alberni Sept. 8. Photo by Sonja Drinkwater

FIPA court challenge

Continued from page 1.

[North American Free Trade Agreement]: Investor Arbitration," Sayers said. "The Quebec government opposes fracking (hydraulic fracturing for natural gas), and so does the Quebec public, so now one U.S. company is preparing to launch a lawsuit on the basis that [a ban on fracking] will reduce their profits." In its Aug. 27 decision, the court ruled that any potential adverse impacts would be "non-appreciable and speculative in nature," Sayers said that was one hazard in Hupacasath launching the legal action on its own.

The court was able to focus narrowly on one individual nation in order to set a sweeping legal precedent.

"We didn't have time in our favour when we made the decision. Harper and his Cabinet could have ratified it any moment, so we made the decision. 'Let's proceed.'"

Prior to the launch, in late 2012, the Assembly of First Nations had voted to support any First Nation that took action, and Hupacasath had already started the process, she added.

"In retrospect, there was a very compelling sense of urgency," Phillip said. "We just didn't have time to organize a class action approach. We were deeply and gravely concerned that the government of Canada was going to approve this agreement any day. As I recall, the Harper Government refused to introduce it into the House for a full public debate."

Phillip said with the Prime Minister having served notice of his intention to prorogue Parliament, FIPA may now be moving into uncharted territory.

"It is my understanding that when Parliament is prorogued, things do die on the Order paper."

That means FIPA, which was passed but not formally ratified and adopted, technically remains in legislative limbo. The bill could be reintroduced in the next session, but does it constitute a new bill open to challenge on failure to consult? "It is going to be interesting, and I sus-

pect that there are many legal scholars on both sides of the fence who are contemplating these issues right now, in terms of what to do next," Phillip said.

The Conservative government is currently embroiled in a number of controversies, led by the Senate expenses scandal, that have caused widespread erosion of its public support. Calling it "a government out of control," Phillip said public opposition to FIPA is part of a growing trend that is making Stephen Harper reluctant to face full public debate in the House.

"The tide is beginning to turn against the Harper Government and pretty much everything it represents — the aggressive unilateralism, the omnibus legislation — there is such widespread opposition emerging, and it is growing day by day. The commonality, quite frankly, is Stop Harper."

Sayers said by serving as a lightning rod in the anti-FIPA fight, Hupacasath has helped bring about a broad coalition of stakeholders.

"We have established strong and respectful relationships with numerous organizations — labour unions, environmental, religious and social justice groups — the spectrum is huge and we really worked hard to grow that huge."

Now the goal is to keep the momentum building, Sayers said. Fortunately, that broad public support has been financial as well as moral.

"We did raise the funds to pay for the first stage of the court challenge through crowdfunding, and we will be looking to do the same for the appeal. What we have been saying is that this is something that affects all Canadians and we all have to pull together."

"This is much bigger than FIPA," Phillip said. "This is about the Harper Government and what it represents — the extremism and the unilateralism and the values it has brought forward into Canadian democracy. It flies in the face of democracy — ideals that this country has held and treasured for generations."

The Way Forward... Living Truth and Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation Hearings (September 18-20)

Qua?asa has arranged live streaming of the Vancouver proceedings at the Qua?asa office 5120 Argyle Street. **All are welcome.**
 Wed. 8:30- 12:00 and 1:00-4:30
 Thurs. 8:30- 12:00 and 1:00-4:30
 Fri. 8:30- 12:00 and 1:00-4:30
 Contact Richard Lucas: 250-724-3939

Reconciliation Walk (September 22)

In Vancouver...
 A massive walk for reconciliation will take place. It is hoped that 50,000 people will take part. "This is a gathering of all the peoples in Canada. Let your heart be open and your voice be heard. Stand up for Nam-Wayut — We Are All One."

In Port Alberni...
 For those unable to travel to Vancouver, there are two local opportunities to gather for prayer, and/or to walk in solidarity with those in Vancouver.

Trinity Anglican-Lutheran Church invites you on Reconciliation Sunday.
 Location: 4766 Angus St (corner of Angus & 5th)
 10:00 Service
 11:30 Walk
 Lunch to follow
 Bring your banners!
 Contact Pamela Day at 250-723-2408 for more information.
 All are welcome to join us for any part of the morning.

Alberni Valley United Church invites you to Reconciliation Sunday.
 Location: 3747 Church Street, (right on 17th Ave from Argyle)
 10:15 Pre Sing
 10:30 Reconciliation Service
 11:15 Walk in Solidarity
 Light refreshments to follow.
 Feel free to call Andrea at 250-723-8332 for more information.
 All are welcome to attend any part of our morning.

Speaking to Memory

IMAGES AND VOICES FROM St. Michael's Indian Residential School

September 18, 2013 – March 2, 2014
 UBC Museum of Anthropology



Children at St. Michael's Indian Residential School. Photograph #033900. Beverly Brown fonds. Audrey & Harry Hawthorn Library & Archives, UBC Museum of Anthropology.

Generously supported by the Museums Assistance Program, Canadian Heritage and the UBC Museum of Anthropology's members and donors.

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Check out our Web site at
www.hashilthsa.com

Funds will create a legacy

By Carla Moss
 Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Keith Plumbley contributed "Rainbow Around the Sun", a large 3 foot in diameter burl carving towards the fundraising efforts for the Tla-o-qui-aht Language Software App. The middle silver piece is a sun, designed by Harold Alfred from Alert Bay, which is surrounded by circles of the rainbow. The yellow cedar burl carving, priced at \$3,000, is currently on display at the Inkwis Gallery in Tofino.



Burl Carver Keith Plumbley contributed "Rainbow Around the Sun" to the Tla-o-qui-aht Language Software App fundraiser. A thrilled Ivy Martin and son Triton receive the carving on behalf of the fundraiser.

"We've been inspired and are hugely grateful for Keith's contribution," said Ivy Martin, the home schooling Mom who is a driving force behind the language software project.

The carving is slated to be a central piece in a week-long fundraiser for the language software. "Changing the Legacy, Art Show & Silent Auction" is being planned for the end of October, early November.

Art contributions towards the Silent Auction are still being accepted, as are "expressions of support" from the community, which may include items that can be placed in the silent auction, but that are not art, such as gift certificates to restaurants or hotel stays.

A series of events are planned including a Kuu-us Food Sampler, Honouring Our Keepers of the Language, discussion forums and other traditional activities.

The Tla-o-qui-aht Language Software App is intended to put the Tla-o-qui-aht language within easy access of today's youth and families on iPhones, iPads and other "smart" devices. The software is based on learning resources, accessed by Ivy's children in their homeschooling. It is designed to be utilized by all ages, as it is targeted towards whole family learning and use in daily life.

Continued on page 18.

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*All applicants must also pursue other sources of funding for cost sharing purposes.

For More Information:

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Membership office hours are Monday – Friday 9am – 4:00pm. If you are planning on coming into the office and especially if you are travelling into Port Alberni for Membership Services it is advised you call ahead of time to ensure someone is in the office to assist you to avoid disappointment.

Covering: Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h' / Che:k:'tles'et'h'.

Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tseshaht & Uchucklesaht. All other NCN Nations and Non Nuuchah-nulth Nations, please refer to your prospective Band Office.

Thank you for your cooperation, Rosie Marsden,
 Indian Registry Administrator

Nanosee First Nation: (1.5 days each)
Girl Power Facilitator Training: October 1, 2
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Why wait for problem's to develop youths' lives? 2BBoys and Girl Power Facilitator Training are workshops that prepares participants to launch a pre-adolescent girl and boy's group in your community.

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Team Leader (Social Workers)

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Usma Family and Child Services is seeking a full-time Team Leader to lead a Child Safety Social Worker team. This position is based out of Port Alberni and will be responsible for coordinating and directing the day-to-day activities of Social Workers. This Team Leader will possess a full range of delegated authorities (C-6 Level) under the Child, Family & Community Services Act.

Responsibilities will include:

- Provide case consultation, problem solving, supervision and direction to social workers employed in the Child Welfare Protection Program;
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- Consult with Bands around community development with a focus on prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Required Qualifications:

- BSW or degree in a related field;
- Must be fully delegated (level C-6) with supervisor experience in the protection of children;
- 5-years of recent Social Work experience with direct child protection involvement;
- Several years of exposure to a First Nations work environment;
- Knowledge of Nuuchah-nulth governance, culture and traditions; or being a First Nations person will be considered an asset;
- Must have a car and valid drivers licence;
- Provide acceptable references and criminal record check.

For general enquiries contact UFCS Director, Jeff Kizuk at: (250) 724-3232.

Apply by sending your cover letter and resume to:

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
 PO Box 1383
 Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
 Fax: (250) 723-0463
 Email: hr@nuuchahnulth.org
 (Word and pdf attachments accepted)
 Attn.: Human Resource Manager

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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DEADLINE:

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

Oct. 11, 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 Nuuchahnulth 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 Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council or its member First Nations. Ha-Shilth-Sa includes paid advertising, but this does not imply Ha-Shilth-Sa or Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council recommends or endorses the content of the ads.



TRC National Event in Vancouver

Continued from page 1.

He said he would sing a healing song. "This is in memory of those that didn't make it out of the residential schools and to those that are still struggling," he said.

Waterson said he would join the Walk for Unity on Sunday carrying a photograph of his late aunt Dodo, who struggled a lifetime with the painful memories of what she endured at a residential school.

One woman stood in her canoe and talked about winning a fisheries case last spring.

"We want them to know we are alive and well and will continue to fight to protect Mother Earth," she said.

A young woman in another canoe took

the microphone and told the people her name was Angela Johnny. She never went to residential school but she said she was 'doing this' for her mother, and her maternal grandmother.

"My mom grew up never getting hugged; there was no affection for those that went to residential school," she explained.

"This is important to me because I never met my grandma and I want her to know that my mom hugs me every day and tells me she loves me," Johnny told the crowd.

A woman from Sechelt told the people that she went to residential school in the 1970s.

"I didn't have it as bad as mother did in the 40's and she didn't have it as bad as

a-m'aa-sip
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Eligible Participants

- Have Aboriginal Ancestry
- Valid Social Insurance Number

Interested in Participating?

Visit in Person: 3088 3rd Avenue, Port Alberni
Phone: (250)-723-1340 **Email:** NETP@nuuchahnulth.org

This program offered through Nuuchahnulth Employment & Training Program Funding provided in whole by the Government of Canada



Ha-Shilth-Sa belongs to every Nuuchahnulth 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 Nuuchahnulth First Nations.

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



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Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council: 40 years of service

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni—It started with little more than a handful of young, hardworking people with next to no funding; they would work out of any available space they could find. Their commitment, dedication, persistence and an unwavering desire to see their people get their fair share is what built the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council into the leading First Nations' organization that it is today.

In 1958, nations from the west coast of Vancouver Island formed the West Coast Allied Tribes. They incorporated during the summer of 1973 and became known as the West Coast District Council of Indian Chiefs (WCDIC). Incorporating as a society would allow the now politically-affiliated nations access to government funding.

Things were a lot different before the NTC existed.

Prior to 1979 the Nuuchahnulth people were called Nootka, an error dating back to 1778 when Captain James Cook first met the people of Yuquot.

Upon Cook's arrival on their outside beach, the people of Yuquot instructed him to 'nuutkaa' or to go around to the sheltered side behind the village. Cook believed they were telling him they are Nootka people and the moniker stuck for centuries.

It wasn't until Oct. 21, 1978 that a motion was passed at an Annual General Meeting of the WCDIC to correct the mistake. The name was put forward by Kyuquot Elder Abel John. He said Nuuchahnulth loosely translates to "all along the mountains", and best describes how the closely-related west coast Vancouver

To the governments he said, "Seize this opportunity (to take what First Nations have to offer) because hishukish tsawalk, we all come from one and together we can make that path to healing."

Atleo offered up sockeye salmon to the hosts; a gift from Nuuchahnulth-aht.



The organization that has become the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council has turned 40, and its purpose remains the same: to achieve self-governance and the promotion of strong, healthy Nuuchahnulth communities.

Island nations are tied together, through the mountains.

The motion passed and the WCDIC officially became the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council on April 2, 1979.

The purpose of the organization remains the same; to achieve self-governance and the promotion of strong, healthy Nuuchahnulth communities. The leaders of the day believed success would be achieved through unity; working together as one to reach their goals.

Many of the Ha'wiih and leaders of the early 1970s have passed on. They

will be remembered for their contributions to their people. Chief Art Peters, Phillip Louie, Cliff Hamilton, Ernest David, John Thomas, Ted Watts, Webster Thompson, Joe Frank, Chief Cecil Mack, Francis Amos and Allan Dick were a few of people who helped build the foundation of the NTC.

There are a handful of people left who were at those early meetings. Nelson Keitlah of Ahousaht was one of them. He said the WCDIC was run by our people who were involved at the time. The reason?

"We wanted to organize; there were a few things we thought we could do better (than the District of Indian Affairs)," he said. Social services, housing and fishing were a few of the areas Nuuchahnulth nations thought they could better manage.

"There were three of us mainly involved: George Watts, Simon Lucas and me," said Keitlah. "We didn't know the ins and outs of doing things but we wanted to try because there were various things going on that affected our people." Keitlah said the three friends were committed to helping their people.

Continued page 11.



DR JAMES LUNNEY
Member of Parliament
NANAIMO - ALBERNI

Congratulations Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council on 40 years of community commitment.

Happy 40th Anniversary

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Community members meet in Tsaxana to discuss living with arthritis.

September is National Arthritis Month

With the cold weather upon us, the focus in the northern communities has been "Arthritis."

Arthritis affects the musculoskeletal system, specifically the joints. It is the main cause of disability among people over 55 years of age in industrialized countries.

Arthritis is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in First Nations, on-and-off-reserve. Among First Nations adults living on-reserve who had arthritis/rheumatism, 55 per cent of men and 64 per cent of women reported the need to limit either their amount or kind of activities as a result of their condition. Fifty-three per cent of First Nations adults living on-reserve who had arthritis/rheumatism (47 per cent women and 57 per cent men) stated that they were currently receiving treatment or taking medications for their condition.

Health status and access to health care services are influenced by geography. Since on-reserve health services may be provided in the form of a community health representative, community health nurse and/or a doctor who flies in on a semi-regular basis, not all services can be obtained in the communities in which people live.

First Nations populations living on-reserve, especially those who live in rural and remote communities, often face barriers in accessing medical care. These barriers can include high transportation costs, language issues and lack of available services.

With this in mind, we have had discussion group sessions in the Tsaxana community with members sharing their life stories of living with arthritis. There is also a group of members who have been keeping active with the walking group, as well as others doing the exercise classes with "Biggest Winner's" group once again.

I am very happy to say that this is a popular group and is active in all the northern communities! Aboriginal communities have a young and growing population as a result; the prevalence of arthritis is expected to increase over time. It's time for each individual to take responsibility and take charge of our own health! We can do it!

Submitted by Renee Mitchell

Happy to celebrate with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council on their 40th Anniversary

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Congratulations to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council on turning 40.



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Youth bravery honored after saving a life on the river

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni — Two young Tseshaht men have been hailed as heroes after they rescued a drowning man near the rapids on the Somass River. And at an Aug. 27 gathering to celebrate Tseshaht youth successes, Chief Councillor Hugh Braker said it was rare occasion to be able to look not one, but two, young men in the face and tell them how incredibly proud he is of them.

Deion Watts, 16, and Oswald Feldsman IV, 13, received awards for their bravery from Tseshaht First Nation.

"Tseshaht is saddened by the fact the many people have been lost over the years to the rapids at Paper Mill Dam," Braker said. The waters at that section of the river can be unpredictable and dangerous even to strong swimmers, he added.

"These young men showed a maturity beyond their years when they put their own safety in peril to jump in and save another person and all Tseshaht are proud of them," Braker said.

July 30 was a typical hot summer's day in the Alberni Valley. Deion and Oswald had spent a long day swimming at the dam, as locals call the area.

"We were there from about noon to 8 p.m. swimming all day, so we were pretty tired," said Ozzy (Oswald Feldsman).

The boys said they had noticed another group of people (that they didn't know) had been at the dam all day too.

Later that evening the boys, standing on a float near the shore, observed a man swim down the rapids with a group of friends but then he drifted away from them.

"He tried to swim against the rapids; he was about halfway between the beach and the rapids when he stopped and he seemed stuck," Watts recalled. "We talked to each other about it, we didn't know if he was in trouble or just tired... and then he went under," he said.

The teenagers were on a dock about 20 to 30 feet away from the man and immediately jumped in after him.

"He was still sinking when we got to him but we got him out," said Feldsman.

The rescuers noticed that the man appeared to be hypothermic and then he lost consciousness.

"He probably didn't have much longer, maybe seconds, if we didn't get to him because there was nobody else nearby," said one of the teens.

Malcolm Swan is deeply grateful that Watts and Feldsman were there that day to save him. The 25-year-old father of two is from Ahousaht. He admitted that he had been swimming at the dam while



Photo by Denise Titian

Deion Watts, Malcolm Swan and Oswald Feldsman IV at the youth success event hosted by Tseshaht on Aug. 27.

under the influence of alcohol that day and doesn't remember much about the near-drowning incident.

Experts warn against mixing alcohol with swimming for many reasons; the obvious being lack of coordination and impaired judgment. Alcohol intoxication can alter your vision and depth perception; making the water look deeper than it is or your destination closer than it really is. It can cause you to move more slowly.

Another side effect is the body's inability to stay warm in the water.

Water safety expert Roger Sweeny said in a report that most people drown silently and quickly. As they lose body heat and strength they will use their arms to tread water instead of waving for help. In addition, as they struggle for air, they will instinctively use their lungs for breathing instead of screaming for help. When there is no more strength, they will quietly slip below the surface of the water.

And this is what Watts and Feldsman saw on July 30 when Swan went under the water. And without hesitation they both jumped in and pulled him to safety.

First Responders who arrived on scene included local fire departments and BC Ambulance Services; they both credited the two young men for saving Swan's life.

Swan was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was treated and re-

leased.

This is not the first life saved for Deion Watts. A few years ago he was swimming at Paper Mill Dam and noticed a small child had waded out too far. Young Deion pulled the child to safety just as the child's mother came to rescue her preschooler.

Deion's father, Martin Watts, said he and his wife Rita are proud of their son. Martin said he grew up with Malcolm's father, Jack.

"I'm glad my son was there to help," he said.

Malcolm's mother Martha Taylor thanked Tseshaht for inviting her family to come to their territory to celebrate the heroism of the two young men who saved her son's life. With her voice quivering and near tears, Taylor thanked the two young men from the bottom of her heart.

She said she once had three sons but lost an older one and a younger one.

"Malcolm, my middle son, is the only boy I have left," she said. It was for that reason that it was so important for the family to celebrate Malcolm's life in a traditional way.

The week before receiving their awards both Deion and Ozzy were invited by the Swan family to Ahousaht where they would take part in a celebration of life for Malcolm.

In Ahousaht the two young men were

blanketed by the Swan family and received artwork made especially for the occasion. Their prints, created by George John, depicted two whales protecting a swan.

"I have lots of love and pride for these young men and I give them my heart-felt thank you," said Taylor.

RCMP Inspector Mac Richards congratulated and thanked the two young men. "A hero doesn't think of himself before acting but thinks of the consequences of not acting," he said, adding Watts and Feldsman's act of heroism demonstrated how selfless they are.

People from the Alberni Valley Rescue Squad could not attend the ceremony that day but sent an invitation to the young men and their families to visit them so that they could express their pride and appreciation for what the young men did.

Port Alberni Mayor John Douglas told the men he was proud of what they did for the community.

"Thank God we're here today to celebrate the saving of a life instead of the alternative," he said before presenting athletic passes to Port Alberni's Sports and Recreation facilities to Watts and Feldsman.

"You can tell a lot about a person by how they react under extreme stress," said Port Alberni Fire Chief Tim Pley.

Continued on page 17

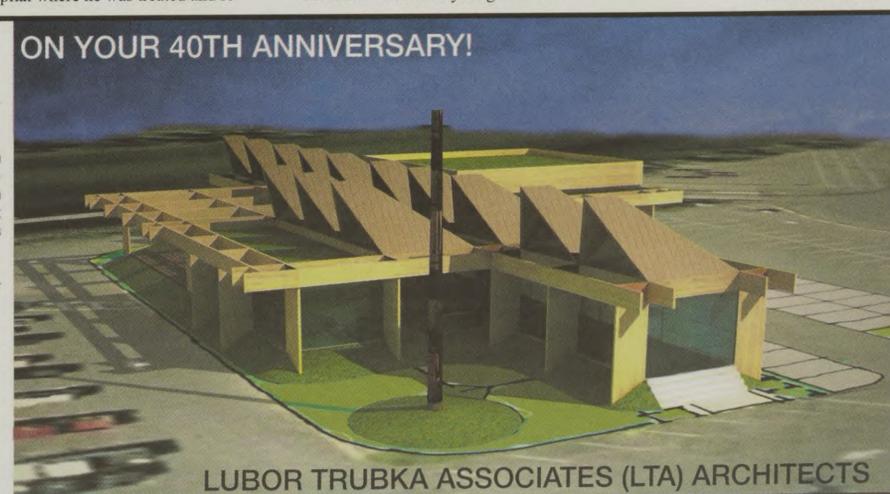
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

LTA congratulates the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and all members on their 40th Anniversary.

We have enjoyed working with you in the past on projects such as the Tseshaht Multiplex, Ha-ho-payuk School, Friendship Centre, NTC Administration Building and several other projects that are not yet built, and we look forward to further collaborations in the future.

For more information about our firm please visit our website and feel free to contact us.

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Tackling youth violence, one step at a time

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—Andy Callicum is about to hit the streets of Port Alberni in a grueling three-day hike to raise money for an upcoming anti-bullying campaign at Alberni District Secondary School.

Beginning on Friday, Sept. 20, through Sunday, Sept. 22, Callicum will walk just short of a marathon each day over a measured urban course in a fundraising campaign called Walk the Talk.

Callicum said he has been alarmed over statistics that show the Alberni Valley has a violent crime rate that is double that of the Cowichan or Comox Valley. But it was a horrifying sexual assault that took place in the Rogers Creek area last May that convinced him of the need to take action.

"I was driving back from Nanaimo one day, just reflecting on some of the news that has come out of our area over the past year," Callicum said.

Besides the Rogers Creek assault, there was the assault on fisherman Bert McCarthy on River Road, a recent homicide on Fourth Avenue and a frightening episode in which a young man allegedly mowed down three people and crashed into a home on Sixth Avenue.

"It was weighing really heavily on me, and I felt, as a concerned member of the community, there was something I could do about it. And I knew that School District 70 was looking at bringing in an anti-bullying program for the current school year."

Callicum is the supervisor of the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment & Training Program, but while NETP does have a life skills program, it does not specifically target violence.

In order to combat youth violence, he believes bullying is a logical place to start. By empowering students to become allies rather than bystanders, the cycle of violence can be broken at an early age.

Speaking with SD 70 safety coordinator Peter Klaver, Callicum discovered that the Canadian Red Cross had been contracted to train 12 peer counsellors. His goal now is to raise a total of \$6,000, to increase the number of trained peer counsellors from 12 to 36.

That would allow the program to reach out to Ucluelet Secondary School, Vast Alternative School and SD 70 middle schools.



Andy Callicum will begin his weekend fundraising walk Sept. 20 to benefit an anti-bullying campaign at Alberni District Secondary School. Callicum will walk just short of a marathon each day over three days.

"The way they deliver the program is really powerful, because, instead of getting it from a teacher or another adult, they are getting it from their peers — from people they look up to. These high school kids are going into Grade 6 through Grade 9 classes, delivering the message." Callicum recently received permission to contact SD 70 staff for support. One factor that offered a persuasive argument was that many of the victims of violence and many of the perpetrators are SD 70 students or former students who have left the system recently.

"These are all kids that they know." Callicum has devised a course for the walk that is just over 13 kilometres. On each of the three days, he will walk the course three times, for an accumulated distance of 118 kilometres by Sept. 22.

Starting at the Steampunk Coffee House, the first leg is to Johnston and Gertrude, then up Johnston to the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce visitor centre. From there, the route takes the Redford Extension, across to 10th Avenue and Roger Street, and back to the coffee house.

"Then I take a 45-minute break before heading out for the next lap." There are already Walk the Talk collection jars at a number of local businesses, and the Red Cross has set up a Web site, www.redcross.ca/walkthetalk, where you can make your donation online. The Red Cross will provide a charitable tax receipt for donations over \$20.

"I've practiced the loop every weekend. I've been going to the gym up the street and doing as much cardio as possible."

Callicum said.

To support Callicum's initiative, Asics and Walk the Coast have each donated two pairs of walking shoes, so he is able to alternate footwear between laps.

A number of local elected officials, including Port Alberni Mayor John Douglas and Hupacasath elected Chief Councillor Steven Tatoosh have already committed to joining Callicum for one lap on Sept. 22, and he welcomes members of the public to join in. The Alberni Valley Restorative Justice Board and the Alberni Valley Social Planning Council have already taken up the invitation.

To take part in Walk the Talk, contact Andy Callicum at 250-731-9689.

We would change the way things are done

Continued from page 7.

According to Keitlah, the people at the time had the impression the government figured they were all welfare bums. "That angered us and we wanted to show them our capabilities and show them that we are equal," he said.

In the beginning, there was no money for meetings. A core group of young Nuu-chah-nulth men would meet at basketball tournaments, social gatherings or wherever they could to talk about current issues in their communities.

Little by little, the fledgling WCDCIC took on government programs that they administered for the people of all the affiliated First Nations at the time.

According to Keitlah, it was a gradual change and DIA did their best to slow them down.

"George Watts was probably our biggest push; he scared the DIA," Keitlah laughed.

At the time, Keitlah said there were other nations making the same efforts as the WCDCIC and it was apparent to them all that First Nations were being taken lightly by DIA.

"It was a challenge but we knew we could do it; the elders were involved and they backed us up," Keitlah said. He remembered Moses Smith, Paul Sam and others and how they would say it was time for change and we would change the way things are done.

Keitlah remembered Paul Sam was another formidable elder that DIA feared.

There was a court case; someone was in trouble for shooting a fur seal, Keitlah recalled. He said the very old Elders used to make a good living hunting fur seals but then they were hunted to near extinction and it became illegal to hunt them.

According to Keitlah, Paul Sam stood up to the authorities in the courts and bureaucrats from Ottawa.

"You think you own something that is ours; this is our food. Why are you coming here to tell us what we can eat?"

"You boys better pack your things and



The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council has tackled many issues over 40 years, including land claims, housing and social concerns.

go back to Ottawa; your ways make no sense to us," Sam reportedly said.

An important lesson Keitlah said he took from his Elders is to never make money the top priority.

Today Nelson says he's pleased to see younger people stepping up to take over the political reins.

"They are taking over what we did in our time and building on those accomplishments," he said.

Bookwilla Charlie Thompson of Didaht was a young newlywed in 1968.

With two sons to support, Bookwilla settled with his family in Port Alberni and took a logging job with MacMillan Bloedel, Sproat Lake Division.

"One day my late father stopped by where we were living and basically told me that he needed me at home because there was this new thing coming out soon: DIA was going to start delivering



The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council remains a force in political circles.

Attention: NTC Society Members & All Nuu-chah-nulth-aht



**NTC 2013 Annual General Meeting
September 23 & 24, 2013 (9:00 a.m. start)
Maht Mahs Gym, Port Alberni**

**Theme:
NUU-CHAH-NULTH-AHT:
RESILIENT PEOPLE OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
"The 40 year journey to self-determination and self-sufficiency"**

Main Agenda Items Include:

- Elections for NTC President and Vice President
- Proposed Amendments to NTC Constitution & Bylaws

Meals to be served: Breakfast (8:00 – 9:00 a.m. daily), Lunch, and Dinner (5:00 p.m. Sept. 23 only)

program dollars to Indian Bands for Band Administration," Bookwilla recalled.

Obedying his father, Bookwilla uprooted his family and returned home to Nitinaht Lake to work in band administration.

"I started working in this very small office in the four-plex and started listening to the council about this new initiative and suddenly became overwhelmed with self-doubt and wished I had not accepted this position.

"Being the stubborn guy, I soldiered on, learning as I went about council business," Bookwilla remembered.

But there were a lot of road blocks in the early days. Money was not coming in from DIA and after three months, Bookwilla had no choice but to go back to forestry to support his young family.

"I got involved at the tail end of the West Coast District Council of Indian Chiefs," Bookwilla said. The late Cliff Hamilton was the Chairman at the time and they were laying the groundwork for Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. They were responsible for putting together briefs on settling Land Claims.

"We owe a great deal to these Chiefs for their efforts in bringing awareness to the need to settle Indian Land Claims for all Nuu-chah-nulth," Bookwilla said.

"One of my fondest memories is around the discussion of closing down the Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS)," Bookwilla recalled. He sat with many well-known Nuu-chah-nulth leaders to discuss the matter in, of all places, a boardroom in the AIRS building.

George Watts was now the Chairman and Simon Lucas was the Co-Chairman. Bookwilla said the discussion lasted three days. The final decision was to close down not only AIRS, but also Christie Indian Residential School, both in Nuu-chah-nulth territory. The year was 1972.

"They decided that the schools would be closed down within one year to give all the parents of the children time to prepare to take on their responsibility to look after their children," Bookwilla explained. Simon Lucas and Nelson Keitlah were chosen to visit the outlying communities to visit with the parents of the residential school children. Their job was to tell the parents the boarding schools will be closed permanently within one year by the WCDCIC.

DIA did not fight the move to close the schools, but they did not close without some opposition.

"Strangely the resistance came from John Andrews who was the principal at the time of these negotiations," Bookwilla recalled. "He argued that the parents and tribes could not take on the responsibility of looking after and educating the children — in the end he virtually had no vote," said Bookwilla.

His most important lesson came from the Elders at the time.

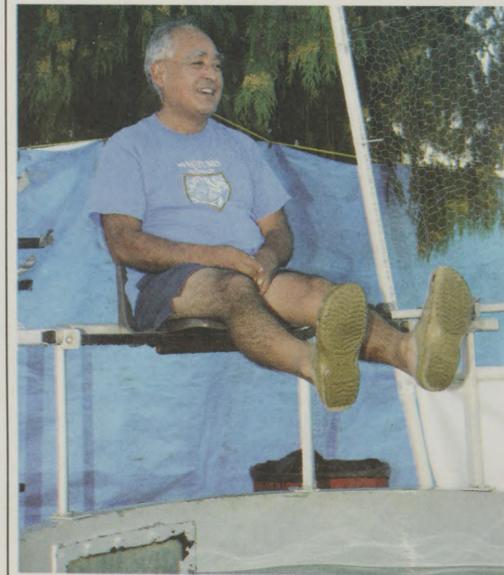
"I heard loud and clear during many Tribal Council meetings, by respected Elders, hammering home to us the need to 'stay together' to fight on behalf of all Nuu-chah-nulth, to settle land claims," said Bookwilla.

He remembered a time when all Nuu-chah-nulth people had a voice at a chiefs' meeting and they took the time to listen to those with concerns about land claims.

"There was never a time when the chiefs told people to sit down and be quiet," Thompson said.

In 40 years many of the communities have built administration offices, schools, clinics and more.

Continued on page 12.



Dunk Tank

Cliff Atleo, president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, got a dunking for a good cause, raising money for the KUU-US Crisis Line at the Salmon Festival on the Labour Day Weekend in Port Alberni.

Photo by
Sonja Drinkwater

Canada's still shows 'shameful disregard' for the UN Declaration

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), indigenous peoples in Canada continue to be dismayed over the country's shameful opposition and disregard of this valuable human rights instrument, reads a statement from the First Nations Summit.

The UNDRIP affirms the "minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world." It was overwhelmingly supported by the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 13, 2007, with 144 States voting in favour of adoption.

It took more than three years for the UNDRIP to be "officially endorsed" by Canada (November 2010). Since then, Canada has maintained a dismissive position on the UNDRIP by indicating that such international instruments bear little impact on the day to day decisions of government, reads the statement.

"All Canadians must continue to put pressure on the Harper government to abandon their offensive and ill-willed opposition to implementing and respecting the UN Declaration and the collective rights of the indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world," said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive and a North American Representative to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"Despite the endorsement by Canada of the UNDRIP, Canada continues to treat indigenous nations and peoples in this country as an afterthought on decisions that have a direct impact on our peoples, our territories, our cultures and our way of life," said John.

The UNDRIP affirms Indigenous Peoples' right of self-determination and requires that governments obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in decisions about resource development on their lands.

"Indigenous peoples in Canada are truly dismayed and frustrated by Canada's selective recognition of this valuable human rights instrument", said Cheryl Casimer, also of the FNS Political Executive.

"The UNDRIP should be fully recognized and implemented by Canada. Every decision made by governments which impacts indigenous peoples in this country should be in line with the requirements outlined by the UNDRIP," Casimer said.

Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter to deliver keynote at Walk For Reconciliation

Dr. Bernice A. King, a Baptist minister and the youngest child of U.S. civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will deliver the keynote address at the start of Canada's first-ever Walk for Reconciliation on Sunday, Sept. 22, said Reconciliation Canada Executive Director Karen Joseph.

The Walk will be the culmination of a week of reconciliation activities in Vancouver taking place in conjunction with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) National Gathering Event.

"Reconciliation Canada is honoured that Dr. Bernice King will be speaking at our Walk for Reconciliation", said Joseph. "Elder Dr. King has said that we all have a responsibility to move our world toward a beloved community. Reconciliation Canada shares this same philosophy. Having Dr. King speak at our Walk is especially meaningful, given that this year is the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and her father's 'I Have a Dream Speech'."



Quu-as girls enjoy the thrill of a ride at this year's fall fair in Port Alberni on the Sept. 7.

Photo by Wawmeesh Hamilton

Important programs transferred

Continued from page 11.

Many important programs and services have transferred from the hands of the federal government to First Nations' administrative offices. None of which would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of early leaders.

NTC Executive Director Florence Wylie has witnessed much of the growth of the First Nations and the progress that NTC has achieved during her time at the organization.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the NTC for the past 15 years. In this short span of time, there have been a lot of changes witnessed on both the political and administrative level. I have great respect and admiration for the many Nuu-chah-nulth Ha'wiih, leaders, council members who had the strength, courage and wisdom to begin to make change in how the government programs and services were assumed from the federal and provincial governments," she said.

There have been many challenges and obstacles along the way, she added, but the leadership maintained their focus and commitment and were successful in their negotiations and bringing the issues and concerns of Nuu-chah-nulth-aht to the forefront both regionally and nationally.

While there have been many successes, she continued, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

"We need to address inequities in funding and resources to Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations," she said. "There are still many Nuu-chah-nulth-aht that 'fall between the cracks' - whether it is 'away from home' or 'at home', there are government policies that are outdated, programs that are grossly underfunded, a shortage of safe and affordable housing, a need for safety networks for members of all ages," Wylie said.

Some of the changes Wylie has observed over the recent years have been a direct result of membership direction, treaty implementation, contractual changes supporting First Nations moves toward independence, and government

policy and funding agreement changes. "The federal government continues to put obstacles in front of NTC and First Nations leaders and communities," she pointed out.

"We need to diligently support our leadership to bring the message to the federal policy makers and decision-makers so that we can advance our issues and influence change in a positive way. It is my sincere hope that the NTC will continue to evolve in such a way that there is value and benefit to the NTC First Nations membership.

"I have great respect for the Ha'wiih, Chiefs and Councils, Elders of today, who continue to strive for improving the economic and social conditions for the membership. There are great sacrifices made on a regular basis—often unnoticed.

"I have greatly appreciated the knowledge and expertise of the members of the NTC Management Team. We remain committed to performing our duties in an exemplary manner to support the continued advances and success of the collective NTC leadership," Wylie said.

Today the NTC provides various programs and services to approximately 10,000 registered members. Programs and services include: Child Welfare, Fisheries, Economic Development, Membership, Education & Training, Financial Administrative Support, Employment & Training, Infrastructure Development, Health, Newspaper (Ha-Shilth-Sa)/Audio-Visual Support and Social Development.

Bikes, helmets sought for Haahuupayak students

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Haahuupayak School and the Port Alberni RCMP Aboriginal Policing Unit are hosting a Bike Rodeo at the school on Oct. 3.

The event was organized in response to concerns raised about bicycle safety on the Tshahat reserve, according to Haahuupayak principal Gio Musatto.

Constable Daniel Engel has spearheaded the initiative. "He has noticed that many kids are riding bikes and not using signals or wearing helmets," Musatto said. "His goal is to promote safety, have fun and provide education for kids."

Prior to setting a date, Engel asked Haahuupayak students if they would be interested. Musatto said about 70 kids expressed interest, but of that number, only about 50 actually have bicycles. Moving beyond the rodeo, organizers hope to provide helmets, and even bicycles, for any child who does not have one.

"We're looking to local businesses or

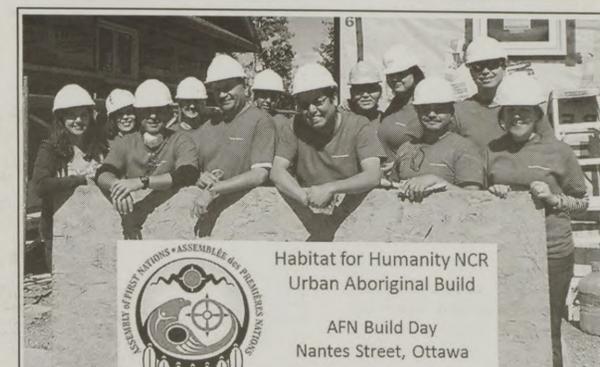
local citizens. We're seeing if the RCMP has any reclaimed bikes that can be fixed up. If you have a helmet you're not using, we can use it," he said.

Canadian Tire has already stepped forward with sponsorship and other businesses are welcomed to join in to make this a memorable event.

The rodeo will take place at 3 p.m., beginning with a safety presentation and followed by a skills course and prizes. Parents are invited to take part.

"We're hoping to make this an annual event," said Const. Mike Bigg, adding that the focus would be on safety and individual skills, rather than on riding conditions they may encounter on the reserve. "We're not focusing on specific roads."

If you have a bicycle or a helmet to donate, contact Haahuupayak School at 250-724-5542. For those who would like to make a cash donation, a Bike Rodeo account has been set up at the Tsahahch branch of the Bank of Montreal. Donations can be made at the school.



Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo (right) joins staff from the AFN for the Habitat for Humanity build on Sept. 5.

AFN helps Habitat for Humanity build home for Aboriginal family

Ottawa—Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and AFN staff members volunteered their time at Habitat for Humanity National Capital Region's (NCR) first urban Aboriginal build in the Ottawa area on Thursday, Sept. 5.

Atleo, a member of the Habitat for Humanity Leadership Council, and AFN staff members worked alongside volunteers, sponsors and homeowners to help build a home for a First Nations family.

"We are here because there is a critical shortage of housing for First Nations families on- and off-reserve and we need to take action," said the national chief. "We're doing our part and we hope others will join us because this is just one part of the solution."

"Addressing First Nations housing needs requires a unified effort by all sectors of the public and all levels of government. By working together, we can ensure all First Nations families and children have access to safe, secure and affordable housing."

In December 2011, the AFN entered into a partnership with Habitat for Humanity as one way to provide housing alternatives to First Nations people both on and off reserve and raise awareness of the critical housing needs facing First Nations citizens and families.

"The Aboriginal Housing Program has

made real progress in the year since National Chief Atleo and the AFN joined forces with Habitat for Humanity Canada to bring affordable homeownership to more Aboriginal families," said Kevin Marshman, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Canada. "Each home we build together unleashes the potential and prosperity of another family, helping them to break the cycle of poverty."

Habitat for Humanity Canada affiliates in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan have built more than 60 homes as part of Habitat's Aboriginal Housing Program.

"We are pleased to be building with AFN today as we empower and encourage the involvement of Aboriginal families in Habitat for Humanity programs and help them become homeowners in the National Capital Region," said Donna Hicks, CEO, Habitat for Humanity NCR.

Once complete, the home will be purchased by Ida Kakekagumick, an Ojibwa-Cree from northern Ontario, and her three grandchildren for whom she has legal custody.

"I am so grateful and happy for this chance because I want my grandchildren to know how it feels to finally have a place that they can call their own," said Ida.



Photo by Sonja Drinkwater

Brenda Sayers was the winner of the Kinmen Club raffle and received a cheque for \$1,000 from Kinsmen treasurer Jon Clint at the close of the Alberni District Fall Fair on Sunday Sept. 8.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Parks and Recreation – Maintenance Assistant (Casual)

The City of Port Alberni is accepting applications for Maintenance Assistants to work on a casual basis at various times on weekends and evenings at various City facilities including the Aquatic Centre and Multiplex. This position involves a variety of janitorial duties, which may include cleaning washrooms, setting up tables and chairs, picking litter and using a ladder. Candidates are required to have a minimum of Grade 10, experience in janitorial and building maintenance work and a valid BC Drivers license. Preference will be given to candidates who hold a Swimming Pool Operator 1 Certificate and Ice Facility Operator Certificate (see RFABC.com for more information on certificates). Successful applicants will be required to pass a fitness test.

Rate of pay is per CUPE, Local 118, Collective Agreement.

Resumes with covering letter will be received until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2013 by Theresa Kingston, Director of Corporate Services at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8 or by email: humanresources_resumes@portalberni.ca.

We regret that only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**City of Port Alberni
Aquatic Centre – Lifeguard/Instructors (Casual)**

The City of Port Alberni is accepting applications from enthusiastic, reliable and qualified people to work part-time as a lifeguard/instructor at the Aquatic Centre. Applicants must have completed Grade 10, good customer service skills, and the ability to work weekends and evenings. Applicants must successfully complete a PINS (Potential Incoming New Staff) Session, and have a current National Lifeguard (NLS), Red Cross Water Safety Instructor, CPR C (within the last year) and a Standard or Aquatic Emergency Care First Aid certification.

Rate of pay is per CUPE, Local 118, Collective Agreement.

The PINS session is the first step towards being hired as a Lifeguard/Swim Instructor for the City of Port Alberni. The session will include written and practical teaching assignments and a practical life guarding session including simulations.

To participate in the session, resumes with covering letter and photocopy of required certifications (NLS, Water Safety Instructor, CPR C, Standard First Aid or Aquatic Emergency Care) will be received until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 by Theresa Kingston, Director of Corporate Services at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8 or by email: humanresources_resumes@portalberni.ca.

Those selected to participate in the PINS session (October 17) will be contacted to pick up an information package.

CASUAL ADMINISTRATION WORKERS

The NTC Administration is looking for "on-call" casual workers to be available for work assignments in our Gold River, Tofino or Port Alberni office locations. We are developing a casual list of on-call workers for each area who have experience and training in various administrative support functions (i.e., casual backfill for reception or secretarial work). These administrative positions reports to the NTC Office Manager.

Responsibilities may include:

- Operating a multi-line phone system
- Multi-department reception
- Greeting visitors
- Building meeting kits
- Copying and filing
- Maintaining confidentiality

Preferred Qualifications:

- Grade 12 graduation, plus training in office skills;
- Knowledge of computerized word processing and other office equipment;
- Good interpersonal, communication and organization skills;
- Good criminal record check;
- Experience in a First Nations working environment would be considered an asset.

For general enquiries about this position, contact Lisa Sam at: (250) 724-5757.

Send your application by **September 20, 2013** to:

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1383
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
Attn.: Lisa Sam
Fax: (250) 723-0463
Email: lisa.sam@nuuchahnulth.org
(Word, pdf and rtf attachments accepted)

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Term and Casual work opportunities in Nursing

**Vancouver Island has great locations
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Casual and term positions may be available with the Nursing Department of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC). We have a great team of Community Health Nurses, Home Care Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses serving First Nations communities on Vancouver Island.

Our Nursing program follows a valued Nuu-chah-nulth Nursing framework and partners with Nuu-chah-nulth people to deliver professional, ethical, culturally sensitive, and responsible care. This nurse position also plays a critical role in planning and providing community health services through planned home visits, clinics and workshops.

Casual and backfill positions have been located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and in Port Alberni. Regular Nurses receive a competitive salary, benefit package, and self-directed professional development plus regular in-service.

To qualify you must be a baccalaureate-prepared nurse with a current license with CRNBC, or have an equivalent combination of education and 5-years nursing experience; and, provide acceptable references and criminal record check.

To learn more and to express interest in this exciting work opportunity, contact Ina Seitcher at (250) 724-5757.

Website: www.nuuchahnulth.org

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

**Visit us on Facebook.
And check out our Web site at
www.hashilthsa.com for photos,
careers and announcements.**

Manager helped set benchmarks for healthcare

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

The past few decades have seen B.C. First Nations make great strides in taking back control of their health care, and Jeanette Watts has been at the forefront of that transition.

Watts has retired after 25 years' service with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, most lately as Manager of Nursing.

When she arrived in 1988, the Tribal Council was just making the transition to receive direct funding for health care services, and the landscape since then has changed significantly.

"The Tribal Council has been a great place to have a nursing career," Watts said. "It's been such a great opportunity to be part of the return of decision-making to Nuu-chah-nulth people."

Today, the NTC maintains a robust community health program that places an emphasis on "culturally-safe" care, and has welcomed a growing number of aboriginal nurses. That is a critical change, Watts said.

"I remember being on my dad's reserve when the visiting nurse would come. Everybody was kind of scared and they would all look down. She wasn't very friendly. We've been able to change that, to where the nurses are partners with the community."

Watts credits her dad, Leslie Wayne Adolph-Swimme, a member of Xaxli'ip First Nation, with directing her nursing career towards B.C.'s aboriginal communities.

"My dad went to the residential school. His mother, my grandmother, was the first generation to go to the residential school. He was raised by his grandparents, who didn't."

His grandfather was the iconic Xaxli'ip Chief Thomas Adolph who, on May 10, 1911, signed the landmark Declaration of the Lillooet Tribes, which asserted their solidarity with the newly formed Indian Rights Association. He subsequently travelled to Ottawa in 1916 to express grievances over land rights as the railways expanded unchecked in the Lillooet traditional territories.

Watt's father served in the U.S. military, then completed university in Seattle, where Jeanette was born. The family lived on both sides of the border over the years, and Watts earned her RN at the University of Oregon School of Nursing.

At her father's urging, Watts began a Master's degree in nursing at the University of British Columbia, but after one term, fate (with an assist from dad) intervened.

"While we were there, they said, 'You're a nurse? We need a nurse up in Telegraph Creek.'"

It proved to be a crash course in crisis management, emergency medicine and wrestling with an outdated model of nursing on First Nations reserves. After two years, Watts moved to Victoria to work as a special project nurse with Health Canada's Medical Services Branch.

"That's when I got connected with Nuu-chah-nulth. I used to fill in doing immunizations because of the lack of nurses."

It was a lot of driving on back roads to remote communities like Ditidaht and Bamfield, giving a few shots and turning right around and going home. There wasn't much chance to socialize, but Watts had made a good impression, and when she later completed her Master's degree at the University of Hawaii School of Public Health in 1982, she was recruited to become Health Coordinator for the NTC.

"They actually recruited me in Hawaii. Julia Lucas was there for a conference. It was a great opportunity."

In 1984, she married Tseshah member Gary Watts, and after taking some time off, worked in a number of roles in the Alberni Valley, including as a community health nurse in the general population.

In 1988, she rejoined the NTC as Program Development Coordinator, later becoming Nursing Coordinator.

Watts said it is important to understand the critical role played by Community Health Representatives (CHR) in developing health services tailored to the individual communities. These care providers work on the front lines and maintain the local knowledge base that the entire system relies on.

As part of the NTC Nursing Framework, much of the emphasis has been on developing a culturally safe code of practice. The term was coined by Maori health professionals in New Zealand and the concept has blossomed in nursing literature, Watts said.

"It's not so much about being culturally sensitive or culturally aware. It's a step beyond those."

More specifically, it's about understanding the impact that your own personal and cultural background (and the power your position may represent) might have on another person — one who may be from an entirely different background.

"What we promote in our Nuu-chah-nulth Nursing Framework is the partnership, and listening to the voices of the people."

"The Nuu-chah-nulth elders say that the wisdom is within. So we try to treat each



Simon Read, director of Community and Human Services with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, presents retiring nursing manager, Jeannette Watts, with a gift in appreciation of all her many years of service to the organization.

person as if they have the answer within. We help them navigate their way, rather than just tell them what to do."

Over the years, one of the big challenges has been to deliver services to people living off-reserve.

To help fill that need, the NTC created an outreach program at the Bread of Life Centre, a soup kitchen in Port Alberni. The program was so successful that the Bread of Life Society raised money to build a clinic at the Third Avenue facility.

"VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) saw how valuable that site was and wanted to build up that program. We were partners in putting that together. It's now called HOP — the Health Outreach Program."

The Health Authority was also im-

pressed with an NTC maternal/children's health program known as Mother's Story, which was developed in collaboration with the entire NTC nursing team, right through to those all-important CHR's.

"Now, VIHA has announced that they are adopting the model for all of Vancouver Island, and they are going to keep that recognition that this is from Nuu-chah-nulth."

Watts said she has no specific plans for her retirement, other than "Do whatever we want, whenever we want." While she does intend to spend some time with her mom, Jeanne, who still lives in Seattle, she and Gary have no intention of relocating.

"We built a house on [Tseshah] reserve and that's our house for life."

NEW "Host Home" Program

What is a Host Home?

A Host Home is similar to a billet home. The purpose of a Host Homes is to provide "children in care", who are living away from their community, the opportunity to visit, and attend events with their caregivers in their home Nation.

Who Can be a Host Home?

You can be a Host Home if you live in a Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, are 19 years or older, have the time, space and desire to provide a Foster Family with a place to stay, and information on the community you live in. For example: attend community events, show the family around the community.

For more information call: 250-724-3232 or www.usmalfosterhomes.ca

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 For more information please contact: Christine Hintz 250-724-1225 or chintz@tseshaht.com

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 more information please contact: Chris Anderson 250-724-1225

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Birthdays & Congratulations

Chad Johnson from Huu-ay-aht First Nations found his passion of cooking at the age of 18. He enjoyed cooking for himself and started getting employment in the field. He has worked in restaurants in Port Alberni and Ucluelet.

With the opportunities of learning techniques and recipes, Chad wanted to move forward with professional training. To date he has completed Professional Cook Level 1 and 2 and now recently completed his required apprenticeship hours for Level 2. He is patiently waiting for Level 3 training to start.

Chad's ultimate goal is to open his own restaurant at some point. He recognizes that seeking an apprenticeship sponsor can be challenging and he would be willing to support individuals in completing this big step to become a Red Seal Chef.

Chad shares that getting up and exploring course information and funding options is what got him going and it was all worth the time and energy.



NETP would like to congratulate Chad in his accomplishments and all the success that he shown and demonstrated. Way to go Chad!



A very HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY to little miss CECAYELWET Geordan Thompson born September 30th, 2012 at 8:52pm to proud parents Charlie George Thompson and Elisha Elliott. We are sending lots of hugs and kisses. Love your GG Ann, grandma Sugar, auntie Tara and cousin Tiana! xoxo

Kleco, Kleco

I take this time to thank the many who gave us their condolences and support through our sad time. Firstly, we thank our nephew Tyson Touchie for his endless efforts into arranging the service.

Thank you to Tim Sutherland for your wisdom. Thank you to Robert Dennis for doing the eulogy and being there for us.

I must say a huge thank you to my nation and Chuck McCarthy for the support throughout. The financial help, Debbie Mundy and her crew for the luncheon, Reynold Touchie and the grave digging crew and last, but not least, Jenn Touchie

and Julia Mickey for their thoughtfulness in cooking breakfast for the family.

We take into consideration the many who came to my mother's home to give us their condolences and hugs. We also appreciate the donations of money and kind words. It is a difficult time, but we are strong and we know our father is at peace.

If we forgot you, it's not intentional. We are most grateful.

Kleco, Kleco
 Hereditary Chief Wilson Jack and family

Find Employment Opportunities at www.hashilthsa.com



July 31: Happy Birthday Violet Tutube, victorial Wilson, Vincent Watts, Reg David, Love from Peart, Marvin and family. Happy birthday sister Dorothy Aug. 15. Love sister Pearl, Marvin Sr. Michael Marv Jr.



Happy Birthday to Uncle Harvey. love Marvin Jr. Mial Marv Sr. Pearl

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Please visit the BC Hydro Careers page under the Apprenticeships section to learn more about the additional requirements for each role.

Apply Now!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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 Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3
 Phone 604 623 4401 Fax 604 623 3799
 Toll free 877 461 0161
 jeannie.cranmer@bchydro.com

Life saving

Continued from page 9.

"The way they acted in this case showed courage, strength and compassion for their fellow human being," he continued before thanking them on behalf of the fire department.

Pley asked the young men to pay it forward; to act as advocates for swimming safety on the Somass River. He suggested they lead the drive to push for life guards or anything else to enhance swimming safety. He said he was sure the City of Port Alberni would bring resources to the table and urged First Nations and other community organizations to get together and do something to make the Somass River safer for swimmers.

Deion and Ozy each received certificates of appreciation and Tseshaht Pride T-shirts from Tseshaht Chief and Council.

Once you have successfully applied online and received a confirmation email from e-recruiting.no-reply@bchydro.com forward to aboriginal.employment@bchydro.com for assistance through the recruitment process.

If you are having technical difficulties, please contact RecruitmentHelp@bchydro.com.

HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

Visit bchydro.com/careers/howtoapply.html to get started.

First Time Applicants > Register Now

1. Register a User Name & Password
2. Create Profile
 - Complete Diversity Questionnaire
 - Add Work Experience/Designations/ Education & Training
 - Add Attachments
 - Select Preferences
 - Release or "unlock" your Profile
3. Create a Job Alert
4. Find and Apply for a Job
5. Attach Profile to Current Opportunity

Once you have successfully applied online and received a confirmation email from e-recruiting.no-reply@bchydro.com forward to aboriginal.employment@bchydro.com for assistance through the recruitment process.

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BC Hydro
 FOR GENERATIONS



Developing language app

Continued from page 5.

"Tla-o-qui-aht families would have the ability to speak their own language and hold conversations in daily life by utilizing the software's dictionary," said Martin.

It has four key features: a dictionary with the ability to personalize it with recording and picture, Flashcards, and a game.

The software is expensive at \$30,000. It is hoped funds will be raised to provide compensation for Elders for language mentorship and language immersion camps where the language is the medium for teaching.

When the app is ready to be shared, a community celebration will be held in honour of fluent speakers, those who have carried the language forward to today and to inform the community about how they can access the software at no charge to themselves.

Groups speaking other dialects of Nuu-chah-nulth may utilize the completed software to produce their own apps at a cost of approximately \$6,000. This cost is strictly production costs with the software company.

"It's collectively our language, our heritage," said Ivy, "and collectively we are all building a new legacy today for all our children tomorrow. It's the vision of many involved with this project, that we build that legacy one person at a time, one step at a time. The step Keith chose to take with his contribution has added new strength and hope, that this is one dream, using modern technology to make our ancient language more accessible to our families."

"Creative Salmon sponsored the initial research of the project, which allowed us to produce wireframes to show how the software would function. Clayoquot Biosphere Trust provided a \$4,000 grant. Leaders in language revitalization have provided their knowledge. It is these people and businesses who have helped pave the way, that help us to see that this is attainable."

Contributions of art, ideas and other expressions of support for the Tla-o-qui-aht Language Software App are welcome and may be directed to Ivy Martin. If you are interested you may leave a message at 250-266-0543.

Community & Beyond

National Event TRC
Sept. 18 to 21
Vancouver

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will hold its British Columbia National Event at the PNE in Vancouver Sept. 18 to Sept. 21. This event is for survivors of the Indian residential schools to share their experiences by speaking their truth, by hearing from others, and by working towards healing. The national events will engage the Canadian public and provide education about the history of the residential schools system, the experience of former students and their families and the ongoing legacies of the institutions within communities. The national events will also be opportunities to celebrate regional diversity and honor those touched by residential schools.

"A New Way Forward" Event
Sept. 21
Vancouver

This is an event not to be missed! Be welcomed into the Ceremonial House, explore Aboriginal culture and multicultural celebrations of song and dance. Listen to world peace leaders and residential school survivors share their personal stories of reconciliation and witness performances by talented Canadian artists. This event will take place in downtown Vancouver. (Location tba)

Walk for Reconciliation
Sept. 22
Vancouver

Come together with people of all ages, backgrounds, faiths and cultures to walk for reconciliation. By joining the walk, you will be part of a shared commitment to create a new way forward in the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians. You will be helping to bring awareness to shared histories as Canadians and demonstrate a shared understanding that will help to build resilient communities.

Memorial for Diane and Ina Campbell
Oct. 12
Port Alberni

All family and friends are invited to come to the Alberni Athletic Hall at 10am to help dry our tears and let our daughters rest in peace.

Memorial for Anthony Mickey
Now Oct. 12
Port Alberni

All invited to come to the Maht Mahs at 12 noon. For more info please call Les Mickey at 250-266-0148.

Coming of Age party
Oct. 16
Port Alberni

Lareina Lucas, along with her parents Steven Lucas and April Gus, will be hosting an Aitstuthla (Coming-of-age) for her daughter Lakisha. The party will be held Oct. 26 starting at noon at Maht Mahs. Lunch and dinner will be served. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Lareina at 778-421-1411.

Basketball Tournament
Nov. 1 to 3
Ucluelet

6th Annual Evan Touchie Legacy—A Tournament Of Health. Men's, Women's & Juniors. Come get your healthy on!

Memorial Potlatch Nan Vi Johnson
Feb. 22, 2014
Tsaxana, Gold River, B.C.

A memorial potlatch for late mom, grandmother, who everyone knew as Nana Violet Johnson set for Feb. 22, 2014 in Tsaxana at Wahmeesh gym. Time will be posted in future issue. For more info, please contact Shirlee Johnson, 250-283-2665 or Sam Johnson at 250-283-9264.

Kleco, Kleco

To the people of the Nuu-chah-nulth and family and friends of late Diane Campbell and Ina Campbell, daughters of Tana and Amelia.

Their memorial will still be as announced on Oct. 12, 2013 at the Alberni Athletic Hall on Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

We did set the date for March 30th, 2012. As we had four of our dear family members from our Chester and Thompson family leave us, we had to cancel to Oct.

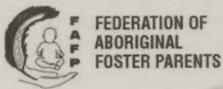
12, 2013. We have extended our invitation to all to help dry our tears and let our daughters rest in peace.

We cannot cancel our announcement again. Thanks for understanding especially to those who have lost their loved ones recently.

Kleco
Tana and Jerry, Amy and Percy, Chester and Thompson families



UPDATE



Orientation Training for Foster Parents

TRAINING RESCHEDULED TO:

Wednesday October 23, 2013
Thursday October 24, 2013

Time: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Location: 4000 Stamp Ave, Port Alberni, Usma Building (Lower Boardroom)

For information on registration, contact Joni Miller @ 250-724-3232 or Toll Free @ 1-877-722-3232

<http://www.usmafosterhomes.ca>

"I'm learning ways to incorporate our culture and traditions into health care practices."

Stephanie McMahan,
Snuneymuxw Nation
Nursing student

camosun.ca/aboriginal

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CAMOSUN

Health Care Assistant – Indigenous program starts January 2014. APPLY NOW!

Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation



Building A Better Future For Business
INCORPORATED IN 1984

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES!!

1. ABORIGINAL BEST IN PORT ALBERNI (BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS TRAINING) OCTOBER 5 – NOVEMBER 8, 2013

ITS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!! A FREE 60+ hour Certificate Training Course for self-identified Aboriginals (First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit)

BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Service Canada, the Aboriginal BEST program provides job creation and skills training. Aboriginal BEST is a free training series that helps to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of people, communities, and organizations. Participants meet guest speakers, identify viable business ideas, determine their feasibility, and take steps to start or grow their own businesses. Learn to conduct market research, write business plans, and explore financing options on your journey to self-employment success! www.aboriginalbest.com

DO YOU ...

- Have a Business Idea & Want to Start a Business?
- Want to Start a Business But You Haven't Figured Out What Yet?
- Already Have a Business and Want to Improve Your Business Skills?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ABOVE THEN CONTACT JENNIFER TO LEARN MORE:

jennifer@nedc.info

www.nedc.info

250-724-3131

1-866-444-6332 (toll-free)

OR ATTEND ONE OF OUR INFO SESSIONS:

Thursday, September 26 (subject to change)

@ 2:00PM – 4:30PM, Contact us to register

Wednesday, October 2

@ 6:30PM – 9:00PM, Contact us to register

2. NEDC'S ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARDS...DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT:

WWW.NEDC.INFO/BIZAWARDS

ELIGIBILITY: A business owned by

Nuu-chah-nulth Member(s); An Aboriginal owned business located within the Nuu-chah-nulth Region; and/or NEDC clients within the Nuu-chah-nulth Region.

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR NOMINATE ANOTHER BUSINESS THAT YOU THINK DESERVES RECOGNITION!!

CONTACT JENNIFER (@ NEDC - AS ABOVE) AND TELL HER YOUR CONTACT INFO, THE CONTACT INFO FOR THE BUSINESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE & WHY THEY DESERVE AN AWARD.
IT'S THAT EASY!!



Participants enjoyed a variety of activities and took the opportunity to visit along the beach at Kennedy Lake.

Celebrating family

Parks Canada welcomed Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations community members at Kennedy Lake public swim beach in the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve from Aug. 17 to Aug. 20 for the first time to celebrate family connections and a time of gathering.

Each year, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation hosts an annual gathering for its community members as a way to strengthen and reconnect with each other and the land. This year's event placed a strong emphasis on family ties and community camaraderie.

Throughout each day, people participated in a variety of recreational activities. During the evenings, they promoted and practiced traditional customs such as story telling by their elders.

Despite the rainy weather that occurred over the weekend, this year's event saw approximately 40 community members come out and camp, participate in activities and enjoy the beach. Highlights of the event included gathering with Elders, beach volleyball, swimming, enjoying camp life, and fire side meals and stories. The highlight amongst the youth was the stand-up paddle boarding session with T'ashii Paddle School and Tofino SUP, co-owned by Tsimka Martin, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and Emre Boscet.

Joe David, event organizer and Councillor for Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, was pleased with the outcome of the event, and stressed the importance of family gatherings. "This family gathering was intended for our Nation's members to not only connect with one another, but also maintain the connection with our traditional practices and ways of life. It is important for our youth to know about our history and culture. To that end, it is critical to have our elders guide our youth on that journey."

Together, Parks Canada staff and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations worked to ensure the event had proper safety and environmental mitigation measures in place for a fun, safe and successful event that was enjoyed by all. "Despite the weather, it was a great event and enjoyed by all those who attended. We thank the employees of Parks Canada that supported us in

this endeavour," said, Jeff David. Jeff David, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation member and a Parks Canada Patrol Person, was able to both enjoy the event, and also offer valuable environmental and human wildlife conflict advice to his community.

Parks Canada is proud to be working with our First Nation partners in the cooperative management of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Since 1995, the park has been working collaboratively with First Nation partners to achieve long-term conservation and sustainable use of the natural and cultural resources within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Currently, nine Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations work in some capacity of cooperative management with Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, and these partnerships provide an enriched sense of place for visitors and local communities.

"I am very proud of the work being done by the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and Parks Canada to conserve and promote the rich natural and cultural tapestry of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve," said Jim Morgan, superintendent for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. "Working together allows us to better understand, protect and share this special place with all Canadians."

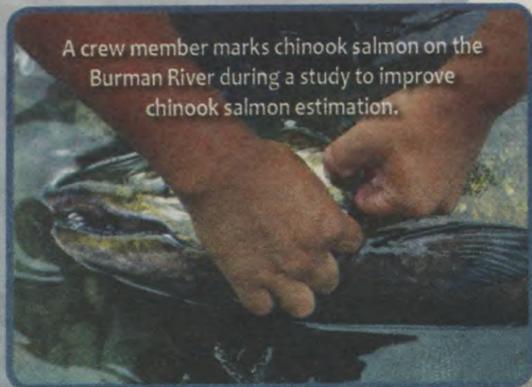


Stand-up paddle boarding was a highlight for the youth.

Uu-a-thluk

TAKING CARE OF

Study Indicates Burman River Chinook More Numerous



A crew member marks chinook salmon on the Burman River during a study to improve chinook salmon estimation.

Four years after its inception, a program designed to assess salmon stocks in the Burman River has revealed more fish than previously believed. The program uses mark-recapture estimates and radio tagging to count chinook salmon in the river in Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory. After analyzing the assessments, Uu-a-thluk biologist Roger Dunlop has deemed previous counts of chinook in the river as

“biased low.”

In other words, there are more fish in the Burman River than previously believed. And over 95% of those fish are hatchery reared.

Dunlop’s study is part of an international push to improve the assessment of chinook salmon in Canada and the U.S. in key areas of the coast. The study is funded by the Sentinel Stocks Program and originated

after Canada and the U.S. renegotiated portions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty in 2009.

For the past four years, Dunlop and other fisheries scientists have been taking a closer look at assessment methods used on west coast streams to determine if the fisheries reductions in the renegotiated 2009 treaty will stay the same when revisited in 2014.

If chinook salmon stocks on the west coast of Vancouver Island are shown to be consistently above the escapement goals set by the Pacific Salmon Commission, a 15% reduction on the Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery could be removed after 2014. Similarly, if projects in the southern US indicate improved returns for stocks of concern, a 30% reduction in the WCVI chinook salmon fishery could also be reduced or eliminated.

To carry out the study, Dunlop worked with a crew of eight from Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations. Together they tagged the adult chinook salmon and later recaptured the carcasses to determine the mark rate. Comparing the number of marked to unmarked fish allows you to estimate how many fish in total are

there. In 2012, Dunlop estimated that 4284 chinook salmon spawned in the Burman River. That is considerably higher than the estimate by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

“Last year DFO estimated there were just 1033 chinook salmon in the Burman River. We actually tagged 1167 adults, and we didn’t tag them all. That’s nearly impossible,” he says.

“People think they [chinook salmon] are chronically low, but these results say they are not in this river,” he adds, saying that the mark-recapture methodology used on the Burman study provides a tool for more accurate fisheries management.

He also points to a similar study on the Skeena River where scientists corrected old population estimates by using a ratio estimator and expanding from the proportion of Kitsumkalum chinook salmon in the test fishery (for which there are mark-recapture estimates), for the entire river and all its chinook stocks. The result was improved data for chinook salmon escapement in the entire Skeena River.

“I’m proposing doing that here, but using the proportion of Burman

hatchery fish in the July sport fishery and the number of same known from the mark-recapture escapement estimate to estimate the chinook return to all Nootka Sound streams.”

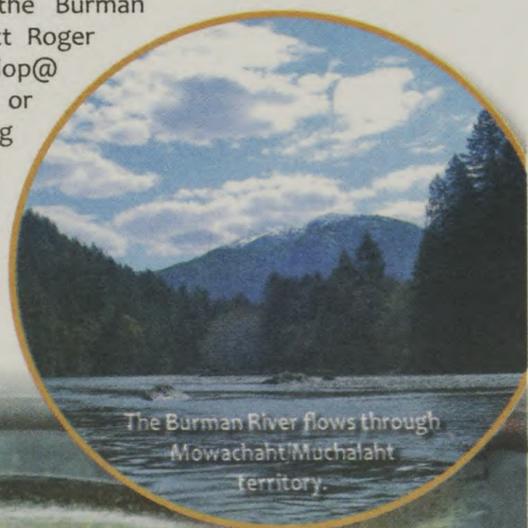
So far Dunlop has provided data from the study to fisheries assessment staff at DFO. He has also shared his interpretation of the results. DFO staff are now beginning to look at the information following a review of the older methods employed.

“Our intent at the outset of the program was to properly estimate the escapement. If the populations are low—fine—we remain in conservation mode. But if there are more fish, there are opportunities for fishing.”

Dunlop and his crew will be back on the river in early September to continue the study. This year is expected to be the last for the Sentinel Stocks Program. For more information about the Burman River results, contact Roger Dunlop at Roger.Dunlop@nuuchahnulth.org or 250-283-2012. Funding for the program has been provided by the Pacific Salmon Commission and the NTC fisheries program.

“If the populations are low—fine—we remain in conservation mode. But if there are more fish, there are opportunities for fishing.”

—Roger Dunlop, Uu-a-thluk Biologist



The Burman River flows through Mowachaht/Muchalaht Territory.



Fisheries Manager Jamie James takes a scale sample to obtain the age of a chinook salmon.

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