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Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk YG News

Volume 14, Issue 11 | December 2024

www.ufn.ca

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Sort 'n Go ACRD

Events

December 24-January 1

Yuutu?it?ath Government Closed

January 2

Cix^watin & huu^patu Centre Re-open

January 6

hi^tstiis hupii[?]u^t Re-open

In This Issue

In this issue we welcome two new staff members to the Lands and Resources Department, a sneak peek at traditional seal hunting practices being restored, and share recaps of events such as the bomb cyclone storm, a presidential trip to Ottawa, and holiday dinners in hita[?]cu and Port Alberni.

Yuutu?it?ath Government Offices will be closed for select dates during the holiday season. The Cix^watin Centre and huu^patu Centre will close on **Tuesday, December 24, 2024**, at **12:00pm** and re-open for regular business hours on **Thursday, January 2, 2025**, at **8:00am**. The hi^tstiis hupii[?]u^t Satellite Office will close on **Friday, December 20, 2024**, at **2:00pm** and re-open on **Monday, January 6, 2025**, at **9:00am**.

A list of contacts can be found below for citizens requiring urgent assistance during the holiday closure. A gentle reminder that the Communications@ufn.ca email address is not for emergency use, it will be monitored at select times. Emails will be received and forwarded appropriately.

Happy holidays!



Holiday Closure Contacts

Director of Operations
(250) 325-0765 or (604) 219-0675

Administrative Support
(250) 266-1099

Patient Travel
mpt@ufn.ca . Fax: (250) 726-7552

Public Works Emergency
(250) 726-6518

Public Works emergency line is for water or sewer related disruptions only.

Communications@ufn.ca will be monitored at select times, not for emergency use.

Yuutu?it?ath Government Offices
close for the holidays on
Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Yuutu?it?ath Government Offices
will re-open on
Thursday, January 2, 2025

Come together for a meal. Bring drums and shawls; singing and dancing are welcome.

"We're going to eat together."



Naa?uuw'itasin ha?uk

Starting on Wednesday, January 8

Weekly on Wednesday . 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Cix^watin Centre Gymnasium

Seal Hunting Rights Return

Seal Hunting Allocation Returns, Important Reminder to Obtain Harvest Cards

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy

Warning - Sensitive Image



The **Yuułu?if?ath Government** (YG) and Maa-nulth treaty nations were recently granted permission to hunt harbour seals and sea lions for the first time since they became a protected species under Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). YG is currently allocated 85 harbour seals and 25 sea lions.

Hunting seals has been a part of Yuułu?if?ath culture for millennia. Great importance is placed on hunting ethically and responsibly, following the ancient traditions taught by Yuułu?if?ath elders.

The Culture, Language and Heritage Department, in tandem with the Lands and Resources Department, are working closely with Yuułu?if?ath elders to ensure that the serious act of taking an animal's life to provide for the community, is done in the right way.

Once the allocation was granted, a seal hunt was conducted, resulting in the harvest of one harbour seal. The seal meat and fat has been sent to a lab in Sidney, BC, to be tested for toxicity. If the seal meat is deemed safe to consume, a community feast will be held for citizens to try the traditional food.

Citizens who are interested in hunting seals, or other allocated species, must have a **valid Yuułu?if?ath Government Harvest Card** issued by the Lands and Resources Department.

Visit ufn.ca > **Harvesting** tab, to find information on harvest-

ing, including how to obtain a Harvest Card and regulations.

In addition to a Harvest Card, citizens who were under the age of 19 when the Maa-nulth Treaty was signed, Monday, April 1, 2011, and would like to take part in traditional harvesting, must have a hunting license and take the BC Wildlife Federation's Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education Program (CORE) course.

The **CORE** course can be taken online, however, testing must be done in person. The Yuułu?if?ath Government will cover course costs for citizens to become certified.

Proper reporting after harvesting is vital to ensure that all Yuułu?if?ath continue to be able to hunt traditional resources and encourage the opportunity to responsibly hunt other species that are currently restricted in the future.

Further information about seal hunting and cultural practices is coming in a future issue.

For all other information pertaining to Harvest Cards, harvesting rights, information on CORE (and PAL) programs, please contact Jonquil.Crosby@ufn.ca.

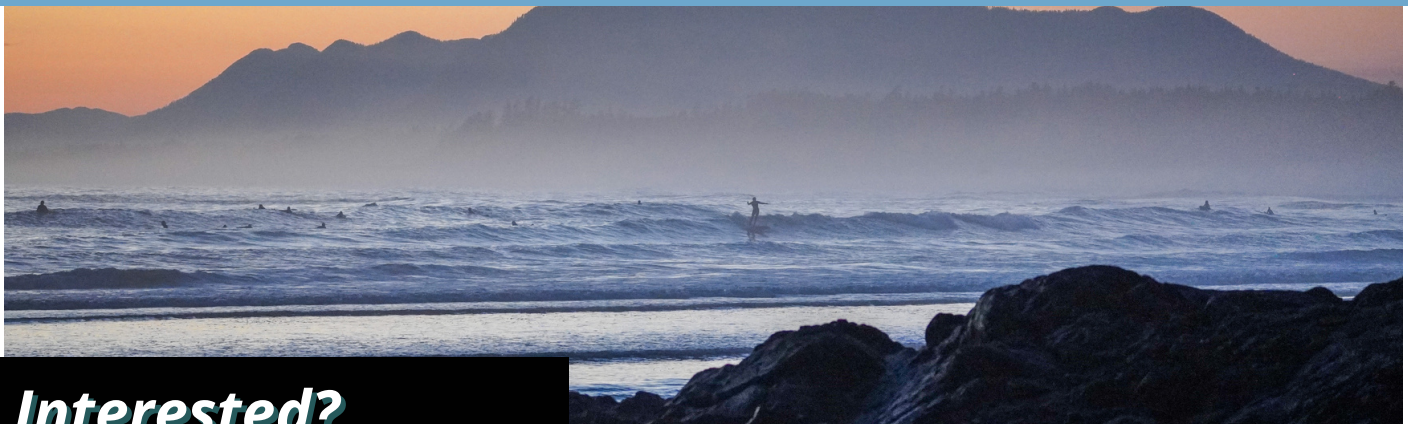
Images submitted by: James Walton



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

CLAYOQUOT BIOSPHERE TRUST

Yuutu?it?ath Government is seeking an interested individual to serve as a Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Director for a 4-year term.



Interested?

Submit a letter of interest letting us know why you'd like to be considered and what types of experiences you draw from. Address your letter John Rankin, Interim Director of Operations. **Send the letter on or before Friday, December 27 to:**

Email: Communications@ufn.ca

Mail: PO Box 699, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

In-person: Cix^watin Centre Reception, 700 Wya Road, hita^cu, BC

What is the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust?

Established in 2000, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere. The CBT works to strengthen the development of all citizens, communities, and the ecosystems on which we all depend, for a future we can all be proud of.

Your role as Director is to:

- Bring vision, commitment, and energy to making a difference in our region.
- Demonstrate eagerness to work in a consensus and team-oriented environment with a committed board, volunteers, and staff.
- Reflect, listen, and communicate with the individuals, groups, and the community you serve.
- Bring knowledge, skills, and interest in one or more areas of CBT's focus -- biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, reconciliation, governance and management (planning, policy development, finance, capital project development, human resources, communications, etc.).
- Work closely with the Yuutu?it?ath Government's **appointed Alternate Director (Gertrude Touchie)**, attend board meetings and volunteer on subcommittees depending on your interest.
- The board meets approximately **8 times a year**. Meetings are held via zoom as well as in community throughout the region. Experience as a CBT volunteer is appreciated. Orientation and training opportunities are ongoing.

Where can I find more Information?

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Rebecca Hurwitz, Executive Director, to learn more about the role (**250-725-2219** or rebecca@clayoquotbiosphere.org). Up-to-date governing documents can be found at www.clayoquotbiosphere.org.



Yuutu?it?ath

View the full role description at ufn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-CBT-Director-AD.pdf

Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Become a Director for the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Board.

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government is looking for an interested individual to serve in a volunteer capacity as a Director on the Board of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust for a 4-year term.

What is the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust?

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) exists to support research, education, and programs that advance conservation, the understanding of natural processes in the marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and that promote the health of individuals and communities in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region.

Established in 2000, CBT is the only organization in Canada that is both a community foundation and a UNESCO biosphere. The CBT works to strengthen the development of all citizens, communities, and the ecosystems on which we all depend, for a future we can all be proud of.

What does a Director do?

- Bring vision, commitment, and energy to making a difference in our region.
- Demonstrate eagerness to work in a consensus and team-oriented environment with a committed board, volunteers, and staff.
- Reflect, listen, and communicate with the individuals, groups, and the community you serve.
- Abide by the CBT constitution, bylaws, approved policies, and guidelines.
- Bring knowledge, skills, and interest in one or more areas of CBT's focus -- biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, reconciliation, governance and management (planning, policy development, finance, capital project development, human resources, communications, etc.).
- Work closely with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government's appointed Alternate Director (Gertrude Touchie), attend board meetings and volunteer on subcommittees depending on your interest.

The CBT relies on the vision and strategic direction of a committed Board of Directors representing a diversity of experience, skills, and interests supportive of the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation.

The board meets approximately eight times a

year. Meetings are held via zoom as well as in community throughout the region. Experience as a CBT volunteer is appreciated. Orientation and training opportunities are ongoing.

As a participating community, the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government appoints one Director and one Alternate Director to represent the CBT and its mandate to our community.

Where can I find more information?

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Rebecca Hurwitz, Executive Director, to learn more about the role (250-725-2219; rebecca@clayoquotbiosphere.org). Up-to-date governing documents can be found on the CBT's website www.clayoquotbiosphere.org.

How do I Apply?

Submit a letter of interest letting us know why you'd like to be considered and what types of experiences you draw from. Address your letter John Rankin, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Interim Director of Operations. Send your letter on or before **Friday, December 27**, by mail, hand or e-mail to:

Mail: Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government – Ucluelet First Nation, PO Box 699, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

Hand: Cixʷatin Centre Reception, 700 Wya Road, hitaču, BC

Email: Communications@ufn.ca

Funded by the
FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Beginner Language Class

Bi-weekly: Monday, 6:30pm to 8:30pm
hiłstiił hupiiłut Satellite Office

Are you interested to learn Nuu-chah-nulth language?
mahima [Maira Barney] will be teaching an in person class for citizens residing in Port Alberni!
All ages and experience levels are welcome.

huhłtakiiłah quuułaca
I'm learning to speak Nuu-chah-nulth.

Operating on the territory of the Tseshahł & Hupačasath First Nat

Interested? Call (250) 266-6399 or email Yanny.Poilievre@ufn.ca to register.



TRAUMA-INFORMED YOGA CLASS

Starting Wednesday, January 8

Sixplex Common Area

Sunday . 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Wednesday . 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Everyone welcome!



*For more information contact:
Anita@tiichmiswellness.ca or Cynthia.Fitton@ufn.ca*

New Staff Highlight

Ashley Van Acken, Director of Lands and Resources

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy

New leadership is taking off in the Lands and Resources Department! Ashley Van Acken, the new Director of Lands and Resources, began work on November 12, 2024, ready to help protect and manage Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ lands in alignment with YG priorities.

Ashley's educational background is in geology, the science of earth and environmental systems and has a Master of Science in Earth and Ocean Sciences from the University of Victoria. Ashley has previous experience working in government as she spent the last four years working for the Government of British Columbia under the Water Sustainability Act. "My expertise is in groundwater management, resource evaluation, and landscape level impact assessment and management. My perspective is unique as I take a very systems-based approach."

The Director of Lands and Resources has an important role within the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government. Ashley is responsible for "providing strategic leadership and operational management of Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ's lands and resources. This role ensures the protection, sustainable use, and development of the Nation's lands in alignment with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ's vision, laws, and policies."

Naturally, due to the wide range of responsibilities, the Lands and Resources Department collaborates frequently with other Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government departments, the community and external stakeholders and works actively to "safeguard Indigenous rights, promote sustainability, and drive land-use initiatives."

Excited to work as a part of a collaborative team, Ashley is going to prioritize "integrating traditional and local knowledge into landscape level planning and preservation. I really enjoy the diversity in the work that the Lands and Resources Department is involved in and believe that there are really amazing opportunities to align the direction of the department with the communities' vision and goals."

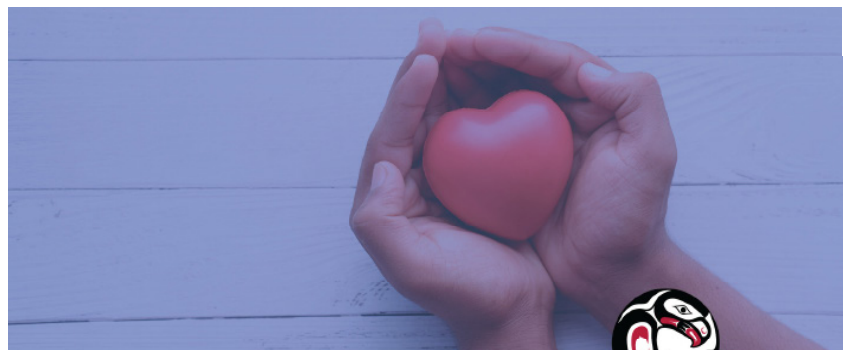
The new director shared she is looking forward to "building new relationships with the community and administration to better improve how Land and Resource [based] decisions are made."

Ashley is available to any community members who would like to connect. "If anyone ever has questions, ideas, or wants to learn more about the department feel free to reach out!"



Image submitted by: Ashley Van Acken

Ashley can be contacted by email: Ashley.VanAcken@ufn.ca or phone: (250) 266-2699.



KIMBERLY TOUCHIE OUTREACH SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Thursday, January 16
hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office

To book an appointment, call (778) 942-0655 or email Yanny.Poilievre@ufn.ca

Operating on the territory of the Tseshaht & Hupačasath First Nations



Employment Opportunities

Join our team at Yuułu?it?ath Government
Ucluelet First Nation!

ufn.ca/jobs/

We are hiring for:

Indigenous Community Planner
Marine Response Specialist (Term)
Administrative Assistant
Lands & Resources Department

Custodian
Housekeeper (Casual/On-Call)
Assets Department

Chief Administrative Officer (DOO)
Administration Department

Intermediate Accountant
Finance Department

Director of Health & Social Services
Community Health Nurse, RN
Community Health Nurse, LPN
Homemaker (Casual/On-Call)
Health & Social Services Department

Early Childhood Educator
q^wayaćiik?iis Daycare Centre

Send your resume and cover letter to:
employment@ufn.ca

New Staff Highlight

Kendra Stoner, Emergency Coordinator

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy

An essential part of Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government’s emergency preparedness program has been filled, now that Kendra Stoner has taken on the role of Emergency Program Coordinator.

Kendra was born in Victoria, BC on the ancestral lands of Teechamista and the Lekwungen-speaking people now known as the Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations.

She has an impressive background, working primarily in activated emergency operations centres around British Columbia for almost a decade as well as working for a regional district as the Emergency Planning Coordinator. She has a degree in Communications, an associate certificate in Emergency Management, and is a new crew member of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue.

After starting her new role in mid-November 2024, Kendra spent a week in Penticton, BC at the Building Resilient Communities conference. “Building my knowledge and network in the Indigenous Emergency Management world as we navigate the new Legislation - Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA).” Kendra states.

As Emergency Program Coordinator, Kendra will work to support Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government’s emergency program “with all applicable hazards including emergency plans, evacuation plans, and during recovery phases.” She will be coordinating the emergency support services program, emergency operations centre, as well as public and internal training for emergencies.

Adding, “I hope to have an active role in the community and look forward to gathering a better understanding of emergency needs within the Nation.”

Now that Kendra has joined Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government she is looking forward to “building upon the [Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government] emergency program and using my background and knowledge to bring a new perspective on emergencies here on the west coast. I’m really looking forward to working for the Nation and surrounding partners while absorbing and utilizing local knowledge.”

When asked what her favourite part of her job is, Kendra responded with, “helping folks during vulnerable times is what I like most about working in emergency management. Emergencies are stressful times and can be life changing. I want to help mitigate, plan, prepare, and help those recov-



Image submitted by: Kendra Stoner

er during difficult times.”

The new Emergency Program Coordinator quickly had the opportunity to put her skills into action when a fall storm caused another power outage in hitaču on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Prior to the storm she helped to distribute information about potential storm hazards to staff and community members.

During the power outage, Kendra worked with Lands and Resources Director Ashley Van Acken, Office Assistant Carrie George, and other staff members to keep community members warm and fed.

Kendra is eager to connect with the community. She shared that, “building relationships in community is a goal of mine, if anyone wants to connect, grab a coffee, go for a walk, or discuss anything emergency related, I’m here.”

Kendra can be contacted by email: Kendra.Stoner@ufn.ca.



Committee Vacancy

Interested to get involved?

Join a Committee for the Yuułu?ił?ath Government!

We encourage all interested to apply or submit a letter of interest.



We are looking for an individual to join our **Economic Development Committee**

- The Economic Development Committee makes recommendations to the Yuułu?ił?ath Legislature and the Executive on economic development matters.
- The individual must bring particular expertise or skills to the committee.
- This committee appointment would involve a corresponding appointment to the YFN Holdings Inc. Board of Directors
- The Committee must meet at least six times each year (majority virtual).

Send your application or interest to:

Jill.Hamilton@ufn.ca

YG Goes to Ottawa

Intergovernmental Representation at the LCAC and SGIG in Ottawa.

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy



Left to right: Chief Benjamin Gillette Ka:'yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Chief Councillor John Jack Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree, President Charles McCarthy Yuuṭu?iṭ?atḥ Government - Ucluelet First Nation.

President Charles McCarthy, along with Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst Sophie Gonthier and Engagement Coordinator Robyn Jin, traveled to Ottawa, Ontario to take part in the Land Claims Agreements Coalition (LCAC) and Self-Governing Indigenous Governments (SGIG) lobbying efforts in October 2024.

Lobbying is a form of advocacy, in which individuals or private interest groups lawfully attempt to influence the decisions of government.

The Land Claims Agreements Coalition and Self-Governing Indigenous Governments utilized consultants from different firms to lobby for the two coalitions. The Land Claims Agreements Coalition works to ensure that modern treaties (or comprehensive land claims), including the Maa-nulth Treaty, and associated self-government agreements are fully implemented and respected by all parties.

The Land Claims Agreements Coalition lobbied for the implementation of a Commissioner of Modern Treaty Implementation as detailed in Bill C-77, which is currently awaiting a second reading in the House of Commons, and implementation of Bill S-13, An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act.

Bill S-13 received Royal Assent on November 27, 2024, adding a standardized non-derogation clause to the federal Interpretation Act. In simple terms, the amendment means that all federal laws must be interpreted as upholding, not diminishing, Indigenous peoples' rights and treaty rights.

The Self-Governing Indigenous Governments coalition met with public office holders to discuss funding for Indigenous languages, First Nations' infrastructure, and lands and resources.

Challenging political dynamics in parliament leading up to the next federal election, which will occur on or before Monday, October 20, 2025, has affected the Self-Governing Indigenous Governments' progress. The coalition is hopeful that further lobbying to federal Ministers will achieve cabinet approval on fiscal matters related to modern treaty nation rights before the potential change in government.

Since the trip to Ottawa consistent efforts to continue have taken place. Robyn Jin stated, "We have sent follow up letters, scheduled follow up zoom meetings, and are doing as much as we can to stay in contact with MPs and government officials to keep our priorities living and top of mind."

Despite the possibility of having to start over if an early election is called, Yuuṭu?iṭ?atḥ Government had some major successes during the trip to Ottawa. Most notably, President McCarthy was a speaker in the two highest profile meetings of the trip, with the Prime Ministers Office and with Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree.

Jin shared, "The President spoke very well and the lobbying effort gained full support from the Liberals, NDP, and the Bloc." Months of careful preparation and strong support staff resulted in a successful trip and further cements Yuuṭu?iṭ?atḥ Government as a powerful participant in government-to-government dialogues.

q^wayaćiik?iis Childcare Center



PROGRAM SEATS AVAILABLE!

We are welcoming three new faces to the age 3 to 5 program starting in 2025! Monday to Friday, full-time care with the ability for part-time care is available.

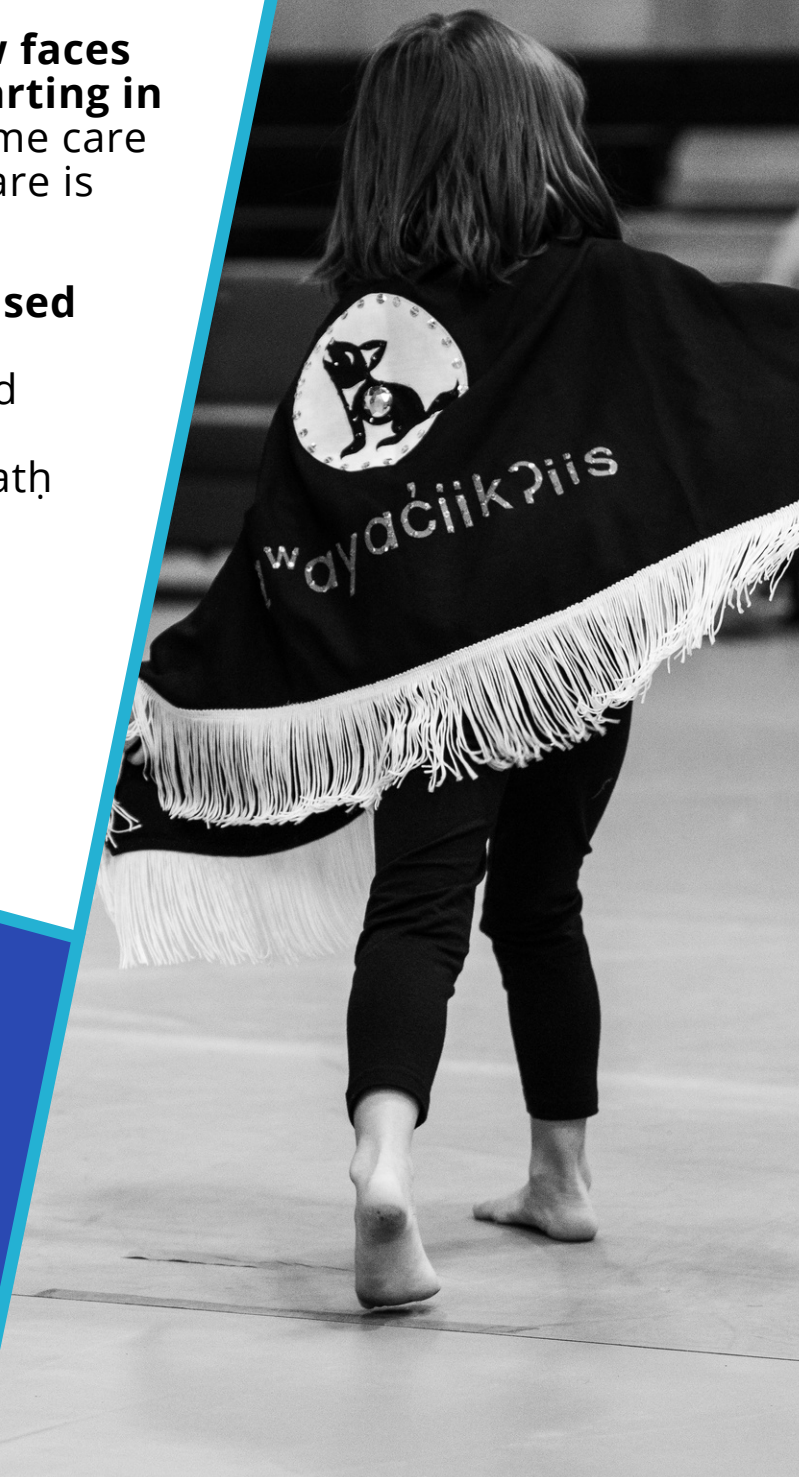
There will be one wait list based on the following priorities:

- Children who are registered Yuułu?ił?ath citizens.
- Children who are Yuułu?ił?ath community members.
- Children of Yuułu?ił?ath Government employees.
- Indigenous children.
- All other children.

Contact

To fill out a wait list form
email Marissa.Mack@ufn.ca.

Or come to the q^wayaciik?iis
Childcare Center Office:
608 Albert Road, hita'cu BC
Monday to Wednesday
8:30am to 4:30pm



Bomb Cyclone Storm

Emergency Response Efforts Brings Community Together.

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy



Images submitted by: Spencer Touchie

Tensions were high across the province as British Columbia prepared for the oncoming ‘bomb cyclone’ storm in mid-November. Once the storm hit the west coast trees and powerlines quickly became casualties to the extreme winds.

BC Hydro teams worked tirelessly across the province to restore power to over 90,000 British Columbians who were without power for a prolonged duration. Remote areas like hitaču, took the longest to receive attention due to road closures and treacherous conditions.

In hitaču, a warming centre was quickly set up at the Cixwatin Centre. The diesel generator kept the lights, heat, and kitchen running so community members could warm up with tea or coffee and recharge their devices. Thanks to the kitchen staff, light meals were prepared, and later to-go meals were delivered to elders and available for citizens to pick up at the warming centre.

During the outage the qwayačiikʔiis Childcare Centre was closed, however, the team took the opportunity to support the children and their families in other ways. Before the storm, Acting Childcare Manager Marissa Mack was approved to purchase additional supplies to distribute to families with children in hitaču.

Marissa and two members of her team bought non-perishable food, snacks, heaters and more. “We wiped the store, and it looked crazy because there was just three of us shopping, and we had huge carts full of stuff. We got blankets, rain gear, anything to make these children comfortable at home, because we didn’t know how long it was going to be or how bad it was going to be.”

Throughout the outage Marissa and her team made activity kits to keep children occupied at home, giving out extra food whenever possible and on one night serving a hot meal catered by Heartwood.

“Our staff came [into the qwayačiikʔiis Childcare Centre] in the dark, we were using our phone flashlights, and we had little takeout containers. We invited all of our families to come and get hot food, because I don’t know the last time that I ate a hot meal, and I don’t know the last time that they did.” After the childcare families had eaten there was still plenty of food leftover so the invitation to share a meal was extended to everyone in hitaču.

Marissa is especially proud of her team and the community for coming together during the emergency, sharing “It was really inspiring, because we were the last people to get



As the storm and power outage dragged on, with Port Albion Road remaining unpassable due to fallen power lines, the Assets Department team used chainsaws to clear the back roads in hopes of using it to retrieve more food and fuel for the generator.

the community better. “Everyone was pitching in to help and making sure the community was taken care of. In the early morning when I was walking my dogs, folks would stop and check in to make sure I was doing okay, which was really welcoming.”

After the electricity was restored to the majority of hitaču residences the work wasn’t finished. Following the outage the new Emergency Program Coordinator Kendra Stoner, Communications Coordinator Rose Aday-McCarthy and Economic Development Office Corey Rich worked to help citizens residing in hitaču apply for funding to replace spoiled fridge and freezer foods. The funding came from an Indigenous Services Canada program.

During the outage households with elders or small children received emergency funding from the Yuułu?it?ath Government Health and Social Services Department to help offset costs, those families were also able to receive top up money from the Fridge/Freezer Food Replacement Program.

As a result of the program each hitaču household that had a fridge and/or freezer that was left without power for a minimum of 24 hours was able to receive up to \$772.00 to offset the cost of replacing lost foods.

łeekoo, łeekoo to all who helped and worked long hours to keep our community safe, warm and fed, including Carrie George, Marissa Mack, John Rankin, Bernice Touchie, Spencer Touchie, Jordan Touchie, Ashley Van Acken, Henry Williams, and many, many others.

power. We were the last people that they came to take care of. But it really didn’t sting as bad, because the [Yuułu?it?ath] government was helping, and the people in the community were helping.”

The sentiment was echoed by the new Director of Lands and Resources Ashley Van Acken, who shared, “overall the community was incredibly welcoming and kind to me which was a really warming experience.”

The week of the power outage was also the first week the new director was on the job in hitaču. It made for an intense but rewarding experience as she quickly learned the protocols and processes while taking an active role in the emergency response.

Not knowing when power would be restored was challenging, however it was also an opportunity for Ashley to get to know her new coworkers and



**AMBER SEVERINSON
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR**

Monday, January 6 . 10:00am to 12:00pm
hiłstiis hupii?uł Satellite Office

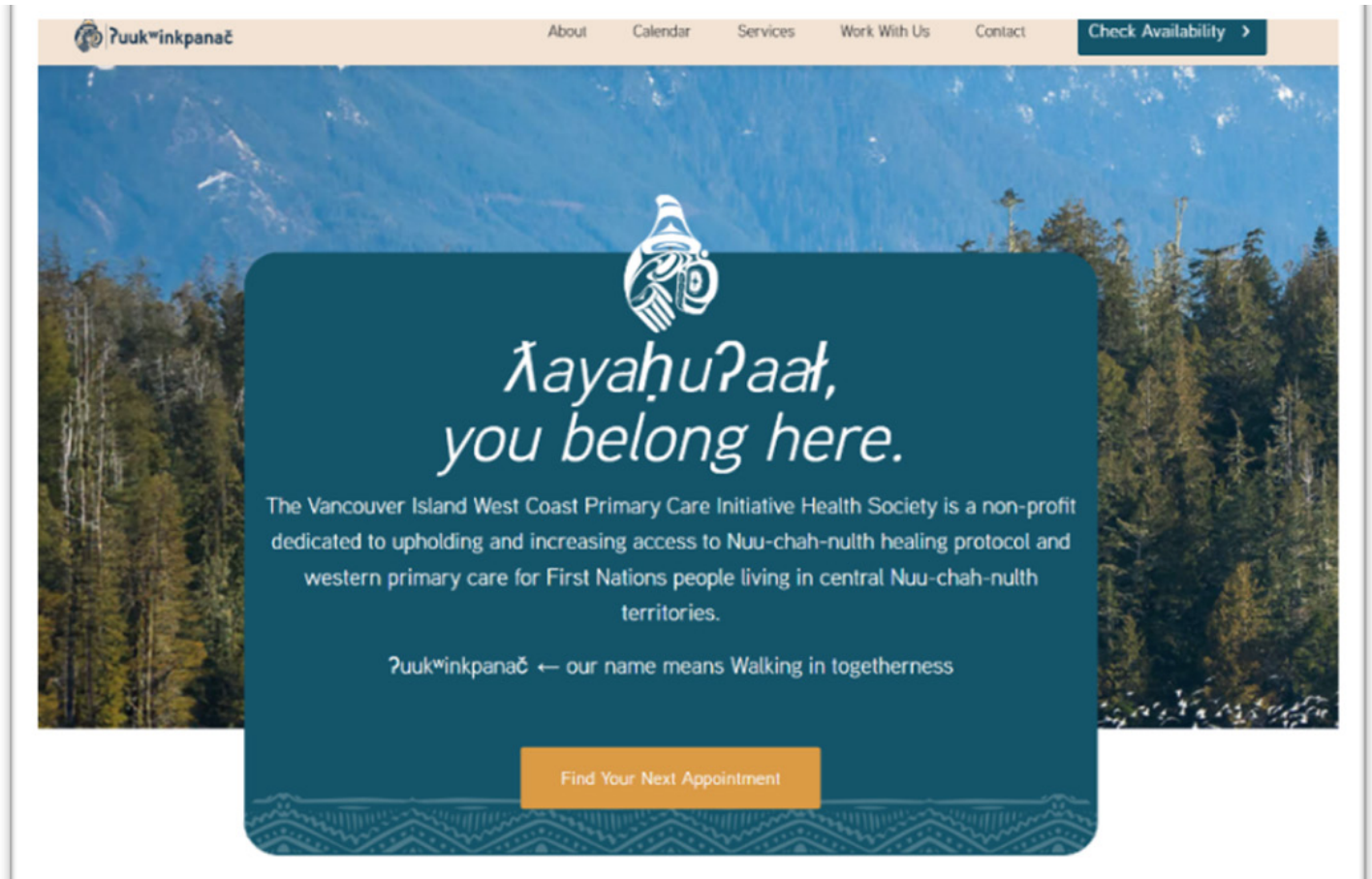
To book an appointment, call (778) 942-0655 or email Yanny.Poilievre@ufn.ca

Operating on the territory of the Tseshaht & Hupačasath First Nations

West Coast PCI Health Society

Vancouver Island West Coast PCI Health Society launches new logo & website.

Submitted by: West Coast PCI Health Society



The Vancouver Island West Coast Primary Care Initiative Health Society is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, logo and traditional name.

The phrase ḡuukʷinkpanač (ook-wink-panach), which means Walking in Togetherness in the Nuuchahnulth language, provides the Society's team with a strong foundation to work on and brings value to the work that the Society will be delivering to the Nuuchahnulth Central Region First Nation communities on the west coast of Vancouver Island (ḡaahḡuusḡaḡḡ (Ahousaht), λaḡuukʷiḡaḡḡ (Tla-o-qui-aht), ḡiškʷiiḡaḡḡ (Hesquiaht), ḡukʷaaḡaḡḡ (Toquaht), and Yuuḡuḡiḡaḡḡ (Ucluelet)).

ḡuukʷinkpanač is a non-profit organization funded by the BC Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority that will deliver primary care services, including traditional healing and wellness, to the First Nation communities. Its team will support a network of service providers in communities within the region that will include Physicians, Registered Nurses, Mental Health Supports, and Traditional Wellness Supports.

The Society's mandate is to collaborate with all service providers available to meet the needs of the people including all First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples residing in (or who are able to access) the First Nation communities.

"ḡuukʷinkpanač is bridging the gap. It has been too long. We have nurses and mental health providers that visit our home community, but there is a huge gap because those service providers can only come on certain days and for only one day a week. Through the winter months, these services are inconsistent, and this is not ideal for our community. To add more supports is amazing and the community will be excited. I can't wait to use the website or help somebody use it. I want to be that person that helps breathe life into this."
– ḡiškʷiiḡaḡḡ Board Member, Kayla Lucas

One of the ways that this initiative is leading the curve is by centering Indigenous models of health care. "Uustukyuu were the primary health care in this territory since time immemorial. The Indian Act put us to sleep, and we have woken to a new health service landscape. We are here now to shake hands with each other's medicines and work together." (Tyee Tsuyuuk, Dave Frank).

ʔuukʷinkpanač provides a direct link to this form of care through its partnership agreement with the Uut Uuštukyuu Society, which works to re-centre and revitalize Indigenous models of medicine. They already have a presence in the communities offering such services as traditional brushings and ceremony, plant medicines, training for western practitioners on the legitimacy and authority of Indigenous medicine, and individual, family and community consultations whenever and wherever there is a need.

The team at ʔuukʷinkpanač would like to acknowledge and thank Uut Uuštukyuu team members for always being there for the people – this invaluable service is the exact pathway needed to ensure we provide full circle care for individuals and communities. We also extend acknowledgments and appreciation to the leadership and member communities for their past and current support and for your help in getting us to where we are today. Last, we offer special acknowledgement to the Yuuʔuʔiʔath language team and ʔukʷaaʔath artist, Bayja Morgan-Banke for translating our organizational motto and for the creation of our wonderfully designed logo.

“This logo design powerfully reflects this health-based organization’s dedication to community health and wellness. The orca whale is revered symbol in the Nuu-Chah-Nulth culture that represents not only leadership and strength but also the deep sense of community and collective support imperative to our way of life. Orcas are known for their close-knit pods and cooperative nature, embodying the spirit of work-

ing together and mutual care. They are widely regarded as a symbol of love and care for one another. By integrating a human hand as the whale’s tail, the logo highlights the transformative and nurturing aspects of the organization’s work, emphasizing the compassionate touch that fosters trust and connection. This design reinforces that, at the heart of the organization’s mission, is a commitment to the well-being of families and individuals, driven by a profound sense of empathy and community.” ʔukʷaaʔath artist, Bayja Morgan-Banke

ʔuukʷinkpanač is early in its startup phase and is currently recruiting new team members with the goal of having a fully established team in the New Year. Stay tuned for more news and updates on activities of the Society, including news of our upcoming Grand Opening (planned for early Spring 2025), by visiting our website at www.westcoastpci.ca. Interested in working for ʔuukʷinkpanač? Check out our employment listings or give us a call if you have any questions.

Contact:

Suzanne Williams, Director of Operations
(250) 266-1431
suzanne.williams@westcoastpci.ca

Erica Keen, Clinical Manager
(250) 266-7974
erica.keen@westcoastpci.ca

Looking for support?

Helpines & resources available year round.



310 Mental Health Support

- For emotional support, info and resources specific to mental health in BC
- Call: 310-6789 (no area code needed)

Crisis Centre BC

- Distress Line: 1-866-661-3311
- For those who are or know someone having suicidal thoughts call: 1-800-784-2433

Amber Severinson - YG by appointment

- (236) 544-0464

Cole Schafer - YG by appointment

- (250) 616-2254

First Nations & Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line - 24 HOUR

- 1-855-242-3310

KUU-US Crisis Line - 24 HOUR

- Adult/Elder Crisis Line: 250-723-4050
- Child/Youth Crisis Line: 250-723-2040
- BC Wide Toll Free: 1-800-588-8717

National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419

Tsow-Tun Le Lum Counseling, Culture Support

- 1-888-403-3123

Nurses Hotline - 24 HOUR

- 811

Emergency - 24 HOUR

- 911

New Department Unveiled

Holistic youth and education department will bring expanded services to citizens.

Written by: Rose Aday-McCarthy

A new department for youth, education, childcare, and employment training will be added to Yuuṭuṭiṭṭaṭṭ Government in April 2025. The new department is intended to expand programs and services for youth and children as well as serve as an employment training centre.

Legislature Executive Member Gertrude Touchie stated in an email that the youth programming “would empower our youth to have their own space to feel and be comfortable enough to engage in activity as a Nation.”

“Employment training facility would benefit citizens to attain their focus on education. Whether they want to gear towards university or take a trades program. The facility will be open to many potential advocates, such as [North Island College], perhaps tie in with [Vancouver Island University] online courses.”

Currently the new department will primarily be a resource for citizens in hitaču, and Gertrude is hopeful that services will expand to benefit urban citizens. She would like to see a space for the new department open in the hiṭstiis hupiiṭuṭ Satellite Office located in Port Alberni.

Acting Childcare Manager Marissa Mack, along with key staff from the Health and Social Services Department, had some input in the new department’s development. “The new department will surround youth, family, community; everything our culture values... This is going to be our most precious department. That’s how we should view our children and our families.” Marissa explained.

Marissa is hopeful that the department will allow all Yuuṭuṭiṭṭaṭṭ children to utilize services that are primarily available through the qʷayačiiṭiis Childcare Centre. Services that include occupational therapy from Cynthia Lau, physical therapy from Lisa Kudla, and speech and language therapy with Amy Makarov.

Marissa is particularly enthusiastic about occupational therapy being offered to more community members, saying, “Occupational therapy for children is anything that occupies a child’s time. So, [Cynthia Lau] helps with anything that a child is spending their time doing. Personally, I’ve used her for my own children with toileting and routines. And she suggests things that are so out of the box but seem like I should have thought of that. It’s really changed my children’s lives and my life, and I really hope that the community will be able to use her eventually.”

Holistic approaches to raising children are becoming more common in childhood development practices, but that approach isn’t new to Nuu-chah-nulth culture. Marissa shared that the qʷayačiiṭiis Childcare Centre funders and specialists she has worked with have affirmed that the holistic approach is very similar to how children were traditionally raised.

This approach supports a child directly, as well as their siblings, parents and community as a whole, which is also a goal of the new department. “In order to raise healthy children, they need to have a healthy home and a healthy family and a healthy community. So, what can we do as an organization to make that possible? And I know we can. We’re so capable of doing it, and this new department is opening up a lot more opportunities for us to support everybody.”

To signify its importance and the special work that will be done, the new youth, education, childcare, and employment training department will have a Nuu-chah-nulth name. Four potential names were submitted for consideration. Citizens are encouraged to submit feedback on which name best represents the ideals of the department.

The four names being considered are:

- **Huuḥ takšiiḥ inʔaafa Department of Education:** “We are always learning” representing the department’s commitment to lifelong learning regardless of age, and takes care of adult education, elders, etc.
- **Haačaqmis Department of Youth, Learning and Well-being:** “To live to the best of your ability in a good way”.
- **Tʼaaqwiit Education and Well-Being Department:** “Tʼaaqwiit” means “taking care of,” which could reflect the department’s role in caring for the holistic well-being of children and youth in their educational journeys, emphasizing a nurturing and protective approach.
- **ʔuuṭatuk:** “looking after somebody with special care”.

Citizens can vote for their favourite name and leave feedback by going to form.typeform.com/to/HrwW3laz, scanning the QR code with a cellphone camera, or email Communications@ufn.ca.



Happy Holidays!

Citizens Enjoy a Holiday Celebration in hitačú and Port Alberni.

Images by: Rose Aday-McCarthy



Yuulu?iif?ath children gathered around the Christmas tree with Santa; eagerly and patiently waiting for their turn to receive a present delivered by Santa himself!

This endearing scene was displayed at both hitačú and Port Alberni holiday events, while surrounded by warm, festive décor and good food.

Łeekoo to all who came locally, and from afar, to join in the celebration.

Łeekoo to all of Santa's helpers who were responsible for the success of both holiday events and binging seasonal joy to all families!





Images submitted by: Mike Watts

The Cix[™]atin Centre was packed with hitaču community members celebrating the seasonal change with song,

dance, and great food, catered by Heartwood, filling the gym with laughter and cheery voices.



Image submitted by: Kimberly Touchie



Organics, Garbage & Recycling

PICK UP SCHEDULE 2025: Hitacu



Printable
Schedule

January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

February 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

May 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



NEED A CART REPAIRED
or REPLACED?
sortngo@acrd.bc.ca*
(250) 736-7678
(250) 736-SORT



Alternating ↻

Sort 'n Go ACRD

Keeping Bears Out of Your Organics.

Submitted by: Ingalisa Burns, ACRD

Did you know that 90% of bear reports to WildSafe BC on the West Coast in 2024 were for bears getting into unsecured organics carts? Right now bears are bulking up for the winter and unsecured organics carts are an easy meal.

Ucluelet waste management staff & WildSafeBC are offering a few friendly reminders to residents with curbside organics (as well as recycling and garbage) Sort'nGo pick up services.

1. Keep the carabiners on your cart locked until the morning of pick up. Has a bear broken your carabiners or damaged your cart?

- If your cart needs repairing or replacement, there is a local repair person who can assist. Reach out to Sort'nGo at sortngo@acrd.bc.ca or call 250-736-SORT (7678).

2. Store your cart securely* until the morning of pick up by:

- securing carts with a chain to a sturdy building, fence, or concrete block, AND/OR
- locking your organics and garbage carts together with a carabiner at the back of the lid OR
- placing carts behind an electric fence.

*Learn more about securing your organics bin in this 3 minute video by ACRD and WildSafeBC. www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVvqwZxzLiY



3. Curbside carts are bear-resistant, not bear-proof. Reduce attracting odors by freezing smelly organic materials until the morning of pick up. Make sure you can empty the frozen material from any plastic bag because these are not allowed in organics collection.

4. Rinse your cart with water and line the bottom with cardboard or a pizza box container to absorb any liquid from your organics. Also, occasionally spraying your cart with a watered down vinegar concentrate will reduce cart odor.

Other Bear Attractants

Organics aren't the only materials that can bring bears close to your community. A full bird feeder can contain as much as 8,000 calories, making it a temptation worth crashing through a fence for. Poorly managed compost piles and kitchen scraps thrown into the bush are also sure to attract furry critters of all sizes. Dirty barbecues, food contaminated garbage and even un-rinsed recycling, grey water, body care products, and pet food can draw in unwanted attention from foragers. If you have backyard chickens or bee hives, WildSafeBC recommend housing them behind an electric fence.

With over 140,000 black bears and 15,000 grizzlies in BC, it's incredible to note that deadly encounters between humans and bears are extremely rare. Three people are killed in North America per year by bears while over 603 bears were killed by Conservation Officers in BC alone in 2023. Once a bear is habituated to human sources of food, it can be a challenge to manage their appetite for it, and this often results in relocating or killing the bear.

Understanding the needs and habits of the majestic creatures we share a home with is key to keeping bears wild and humans safe.

You can learn more about bears and other large mammals in BC on the WildSafeBC website.

hitačú Garbage, Recycling & Organics Curbside SCHEDULE

- Organics – Weekly on Mondays**
- Recycling – Every 2 weeks on Wednesday**
- Garbage – Every 2 weeks on Thursday**

**Holidays can change pick up schedule day.

**Recycling and Garbage pick up weeks rotate. One week is recycling and the following week is garbage

Sort'nGo App

Need a pick up day reminder? Sign up for the Sort'nGo email reminder at acrd.bc.ca/recycling_schedules OR download the app for reminder sent to your phone.

hitstiis hupii?ut YG Services



Yuutu?it?ath

January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
30 YG Offices Closed	31	1 Statutory holiday YG Offices Closed	2 hitstiis hupii?ut Closed	3	4 5
6 Counselling with Amber Severinson 10:00am to 1:00pm Language Class with ma?ima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	7	8 Corey Rich Economic Development Officer 10:00am to 4:00pm	9	10	11 12
13	14	15	16 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator	17	18 19
20 Counselling with Amber Severinson 10:00am to 1:00pm Language Class with ma?ima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	21	22	23 Melissa Hall Human Resources Manager 1:00pm to 4:00pm	24	25 26
27	28	29 Cynthia Fitton Community Health Nurse	30 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:00am to 12:00pm	31	

*Services offered during regular operating hours of the Yuutu?it?ath Government Satellite hours, 9:00am to 2:00pm and by appointment from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, unless otherwise noted. Operating on the territory of the Tseshaht & Hupa?as?ath First Nations.