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Yuutu?it?ath

# Umacuk YG News

Volume 15, Issue 1 | March 2025

[www.ufn.ca](http://www.ufn.ca)

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## Events

### March 10

Basketball Fundraiser Dinner

### March 11

Gardeners Community Lunch

### March 17

Baby Group  
hitacu Assembly

### March 28

Wellness & Resiliancy Group

### April 18

YG Offices Close for Easter

### April 21

YG Offices Re-open



*Cix<sup>w</sup>atin Centre, huupatu Centre,  
& hiłstiis hupii?ut Satellite Office are closed on*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18 & MONDAY, APRIL 21  
EASTER LONG WEEKEND**

*Government Offices will reopen Tuesday, April 22 at 8:00am.*

## EDUCATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Are you looking to apply to Post-Secondary or  
have been accepted into a Post-Secondary  
program and require funding?

Applications are accepted year-round,  
however applications for Fall 2025 enrollment  
are due on Friday, March 7.

**Get your funding applications in now!**

 Questions and Submissions:  
[Jennifer.Touchie@ufn.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Touchie@ufn.ca)



[UFN.CA](http://UFN.CA) > [FORMS](#) > [EDUCATION](#) > [POST-SECONDARY FUNDING APPLICATION](#)



# Wellness & Resiliency Group

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28**

**3:00PM TO 4:30PM**

**SIXPLEX COMMON AREA**

Parents/caregivers and their children and youth are invited to take part in a monthly wellness group. Centered around building resiliency and mental/emotional wellness, each month will feature a new topic including art and photography.

**For more information contact:**

Amber Severinson, [htcounselling@pm.me](mailto:htcounselling@pm.me)  
or Cathy.Komjathy@westcoastpci.ca



**Puukwinkpanač**



# Community Harvest Opportunity

## *ḵʷaq̓hmis / siihmuu (Herring Roe) Community Harvest Opportunity*



*Images submitted by: Jonquil Crosby*

In anticipation of ḵusmit (herring) returning, the Lands and Resources Department is compiling a list of interested citizens who would like support in dropping their own ḵʷaq̓hmis / siihmuu (Herring Roe) boughs in Yuuḷuʔifʔath territory during the upcoming spawn season.

The Marine Stewardship team can take up to three citizens on the boat at a time, with hemlock boughs to be placed for roe harvest.

Staff will also be placing boughs for the purpose distributing

roe to elders. Whole ḵusmit (herring) may also be available from the upcoming test boat fishery.

If you would like to be added to the list to participate, please reach out to the Lands team, or Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife, Jonquil Crosby, at (778) 942-0653 or [Jonquil.Crosby@ufn.ca](mailto:Jonquil.Crosby@ufn.ca).





Hosted by the YG nursing and early childhood education staff who will be on hand to answer any questions about the young ones' health and development.

# MONTHLY BABY GROUP

## nanayaᑕaatuk

"taking care of babies"

An informal gathering where parents and caregivers with babies up to 2 years old can meet to socialize, share stories, and enjoy a healthy snack while the children play!

**MONDAY**  
**MAR**  
**17**

**3RD MONDAY**  
**EVERY MONTH**

**10:00am to 12:00pm**  
**huupatu**  
**Health Centre**

*Light snacks provided.*



For more information, contact Lisa Kudla: (250) 266-1399



# New Director of Operations

*Welcome to Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government, Kristine Brown!*

President Charles McCarthy announced the arrival of the new Director of Operations/Chief Administrative Officer to Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ citizens in a letter that read:

ʔuḥʔaḷḥasuu Citizens,

On behalf of the Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government Executive, I am pleased to announce that Kristine Brown has joined Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government as the new Director of Operations/Chief Administrative Officer. Kristine officially assumed her role on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Kristine is bringing valuable experience in management and governance, including Local Government Administration certification from the University of Regina. She has a vital role in supporting day-to-day operations and advancing our government's objectives. We are certain that her knowledge and background will positively benefit Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ citizens and the community of hitaḷu.

Kristine's office is located on the main floor of the Cixʔatin Centre in hitaḷu and can be contacted by:

- Email: [director@ufn.ca](mailto:director@ufn.ca)
- Phone: (250) 726-7342 ext. 206 or direct (778) 942-0558

Citizens are invited to meet Kristine during the Naaʔuuwita-sin Haʔuk ("We're going to eat together.") Community Dinner on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:00pm in the Cixʔatin Centre Gymnasium.

Sincerely,

Charles McCarthy  
President  
Yuuḷuʔiʔaḥ Government - Ucluelet First Nation



**LISA KUDLA**  
**PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

**APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE BY REQUEST**

*Please wear PPE and sanitize upon entry.*

To book an appointment, call (250) 266-1399 or email [lisa.kudla@ufn.ca](mailto:lisa.kudla@ufn.ca)



NOTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YUULU?IL?ATH LAW

**HITAĆU ASSEMBLY**

In accordance with Section 4.2 of the *Government Act* YFNS 2/2011, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the hitaću Assembly has been called for the following date:

**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2025  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Cixwatin Centre Gym, hitaću / Zoom

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

*The agenda is in draft form until approved by the Citizens at the meeting of the hitaću Assembly. Additional items may be added at the time we adopt the agenda.*

1. Call to order
2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Executive Reports
5. Presentation of Draft Annual Budget Act, 2025-2026
6. Other
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Adjournment

**Zoom Instructions**

**Dial In #:** 1 (778) 907-2071  
**Meeting ID:** 852 5694 9364  
**Passcode:** 058731

**Voting on Zoom**

When the Chairperson calls for a vote, the Chairperson will request that eligible voters on Zoom use the “raise hand” feature on Zoom (click *Reactions > Raise Hand*), or state their full name followed by “yay” or “nay”.

*Notice Date: January 16, 2025*



# Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

*CBT's awards are opening for applications soon!*

*Submitted by: Marianne Paquette, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust*



*Image by: Ha'oom Fisheries | 2024 Biosphere Research Award Recipient*

The **Biosphere Research Award** is a grant of \$20,000 to support research that advances the local understanding of conservation challenges in our marine and/or terrestrial ecosystems and helps us prioritize conservation actions in the region.

## Funding Timeline

- Applications open: January 23rd, 2025
- Applications close: April 4th, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

Don't hesitate to call the CBT office at **250-725-2219** or email [grants@clayoquotbiosphere.org](mailto:grants@clayoquotbiosphere.org) with any questions.

## To learn more about Vital Grants:

- Visit [clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/current-grants/biosphere-research-award](https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/current-grants/biosphere-research-award) or
- Scan the QR Code.

CBT's Education Awards are opening for applications soon! Until April 3rd, eligible high school students and recent graduates can apply for the:



- Central Region nuučaañut (Nuu-Chah-Nulth) Education Award (\$5,500/year)
- Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region Education Award (\$5,500/year)
- Pacific Rim Foundation's Dick Close Scholarship (\$10,000/year)
- Tourism Tofino Scholarship (\$10,000)

Some of the awards are distributed for up to four years and are granted based on a combination of community involvement, personal reference letters, a proposed education plan, and academic achievement.

## To learn more about eligibility and the application process:

- Visit <https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/grants/education-awards>
- Scan the QR Code or
- Reach out to [jason@clayoquotbiosphere.org](mailto:jason@clayoquotbiosphere.org) with any questions.



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



*"We're going to eat together."*



# Port Alberni Naaʔuuwʔitasin haʔuk

hiłstiis hupiiʔuł Satellite Office, 3203 3rd Ave.  
Date Announcement Coming Soon!



# BC Transit Arrives

West Coast communities celebrate BC Transit transition.

Image submitted by: Jamie Weiss, BC Transit



Celebration of transition of West Coast Transit to BC Transit on Friday, February 28, 2025. Pictured above, left to right: District of Tofino Councillor Tom Stere, Yuułu?i?at̓ Government Acting Manager of Communications/Intergovernmental Affairs Analyst/Coordinator Rose Aday, BC Minister of Health Josie Osborne, BC Transit President and CEO Erinn Pinkerton, District of Ucluelet Mayor Marilyn McEwen, and District of Tofino Mayor Dan Law.

**Starting on Saturday, March 1, 2025**, BC Transit began operating the West Coast Transit System that links hitaču, Esowista, Ty-histanis, Tofino, Ucluelet, and Long Beach. The transition brings five new buses to the fleet and more drivers to increase the consistency of transit services.

New bus signs are being installed that feature nuučaañuł language provided by Yuułu?i?at̓ Government and other partnered nations. This is the first time an Indigenous language has been incorporated into BC Transit signage.

All tickets purchased before the switch to BC Transit will be honored and Yuułu?i?at̓ Government intends to continue providing free bus fares for Yuułu?i?at̓ citizens. Further information will be provided at a later date.

The new bus schedule can be found on [bctransit.com/west-coast/schedules-and-maps/route-overview/route-1-tofino-ucluelet/](https://bctransit.com/west-coast/schedules-and-maps/route-overview/route-1-tofino-ucluelet/)

Or download the Transit app to get real-time updates on

the next bus arrival. Learn more at [transitapp.com/](https://transitapp.com/) or by scanning the QR code with a cellphone camera.

In the event of a cancelled trip or service interruption, updates will no longer be available on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Facebook page. For alerts on cancelled trips visit [alerts.bctransit.com](https://alerts.bctransit.com) or use the Transit app.







**Puuk<sup>w</sup>inkpanač**

and



**Uut Uustukyuu Society**

**Please join Ann Marshall & Levi Martin for brushings  
and cultural support along with Cathy Komjathy,  
counsellor**

**Ann & Levi will be in the mini big house**

**Cathy is available for 1:1s**

**Every Monday from 10am-2pm in hitacu**

**Please contact Cathy at 250-266-1944 (call or text) or email  
cathy.komjathy@westcoastpci.ca with questions**



# FNHA Patient Travel

## Upcoming Mileage Rate Changes on April 1, 2025.

Submitted by: First Nations Health Authority

Rate	Previous standard rate	Temporary rate	Temporary rate	Current temporary rate	Future standard rate
	Prior to March 1, 2022	Effective From: March 1, 2022 To: May 15, 2022	Effective From: May 16, 2022 To: Sept. 15, 2022	Effective From: Sept. 16, 2022 To: March 31, 2025	Effective April 1, 2025
<b>Standard MT mileage rate</b>  (Applies to most communities)	\$0.23 / km	\$0.28 / km	\$0.32 / km	<b>\$0.29 / km</b>	<b>\$0.25/km</b>
<b>Special MT mileage rate for remote communities</b>  (Applies to specific communities as identified in their Funding Agreement)	\$0.29 / km	\$0.34 / km	\$0.38 / km	<b>\$0.35 / km</b>	<b>\$0.31 / km</b>

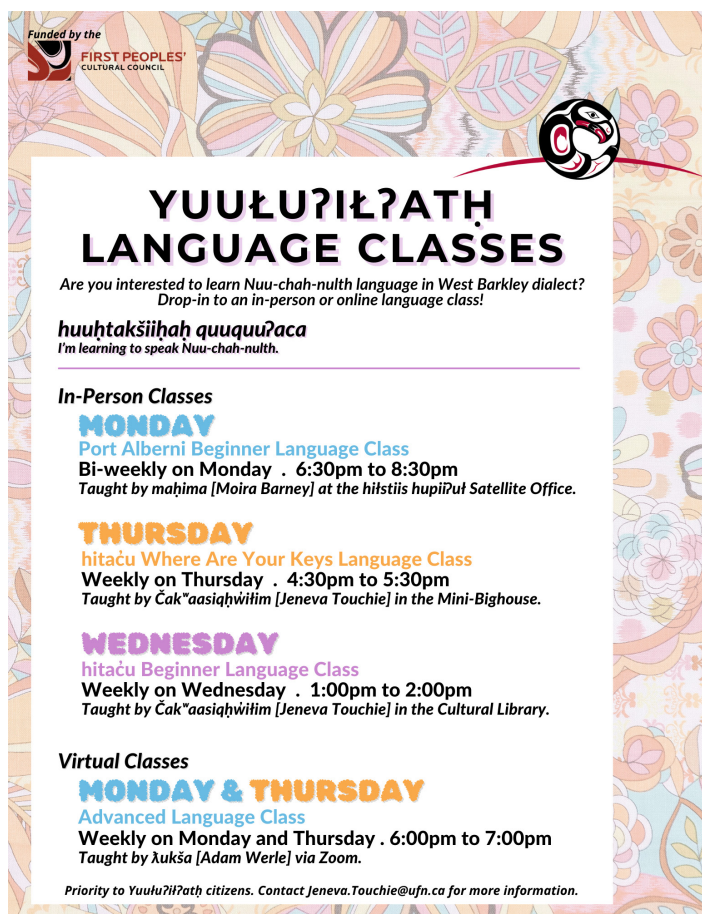
As part First Nations Health Authority's commitment to continuously improving the quality of its programs and services, and to ensure responsiveness to fluctuating gas prices, fuel costs are monitored at multiple stations across all regions to prevent rising prices from affecting Clients' ability to attend medically necessary appointments when using their private vehicles.

In response to fuel price surges, temporary mileage rate adjustments were introduced on March 14, 2022. Several adjustments were made to ensure Clients did not have to cover additional costs when using private vehicles (a complete history of MT mileage rate adjustments can be found here: [www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Medical-Transportation-Mileage-Rate-Adjustment-Historical-Rates.pdf](http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Medical-Transportation-Mileage-Rate-Adjustment-Historical-Rates.pdf)).

Now that fuel prices have stabilized, First Nations Health Benefit will be returning to permanent mileage rates.

**Effective April 1, 2025, the Mileage Rates will be:**

- Standard rate: \$0.25/km.
- Special rate (for remote communities, as specified in Funding Agreements): \$0.31/km.



Funded by the **FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL**

## YUULU?I?ATH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Are you interested to learn Nuu-chah-nulth language in West Barkley dialect?  
Drop-in to an in-person or online language class!

**huuhtakšiihah quuquu?aca**  
I'm learning to speak Nuu-chah-nulth.

---

**In-Person Classes**

**MONDAY**  
Port Alberni Beginner Language Class  
Bi-weekly on Monday . 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Taught by mahima [Moir Barney] at the hiłstiił hupii?uł Satellite Office.

**THURSDAY**  
hiłacu Where Are Your Keys Language Class  
Weekly on Thursday . 4:30pm to 5:30pm  
Taught by Čak"aasiqhiłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Mini-Bighouse.

**WEDNESDAY**  
hiłacu Beginner Language Class  
Weekly on Wednesday . 1:00pm to 2:00pm  
Taught by Čak"aasiqhiłim [Jeneva Touchie] in the Cultural Library.

**Virtual Classes**

**MONDAY & THURSDAY**  
Advanced Language Class  
Weekly on Monday and Thursday . 6:00pm to 7:00pm  
Taught by lukša [Adam Werle] via Zoom.

Priority to Yuulu?i?ath citizens. Contact Jeneva.Touchie@ufn.ca for more information.

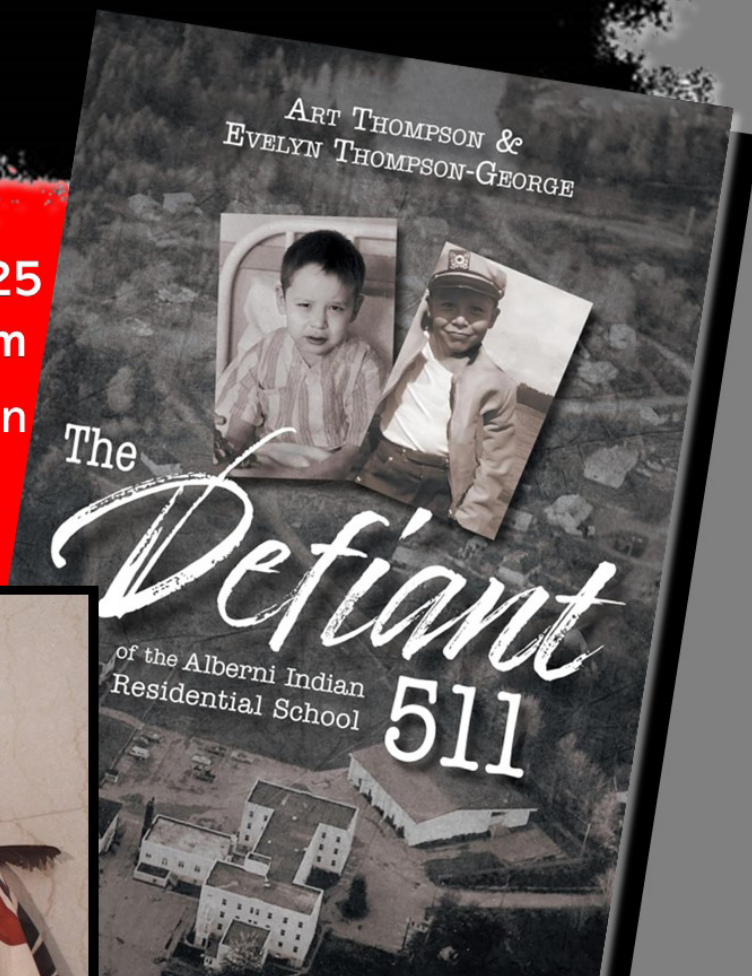
Tseshahat First Nation proudly presents:

# The Defiant 511

of the Alberni Indian Residential School

## BOOK LAUNCH

Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
10:00 am | Great Room  
Tseshahat Administration  
5091 Tsuma-as Dr.  
Port Alberni, BC



For more information, please contact:  
Evelyn George [etg1187@hotmail.com](mailto:etg1187@hotmail.com)



# The Defiant 511 Book Launch

## *The Defiant 511 of the Alberni Indian Residential School.*

Submitted by: Tseshaht First Nation

**Warning: The following may be triggering. Please know that supports are available. Information on Cultural and Mental Health Supports are listed on the next page.**

**Port Alberni, BC February 20, 2025** - On behalf of Tseshaht First Nation ḥawiiḥ (hereditary chiefs), Elected Chief and Council, and Tseshaht members we would like to congratulate the family of the late Art Thompson, in particular his daughter, Evelyn Thompson-George on the publishing a book of her father's memoirs, **The Defiant 511 of the Alberni Indian Residential School.**

A **book launch** event will be held:  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**  
**10:00 am | Great Room**  
Tseshaht Administration  
5091 Tsuma-as Drive  
Port Alberni, BC

Tseshaht First Nation invites community, members of the public and media to attend the book launch. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Inquiries and media interviews can be arranged, please see the below for more information.

### Background

Many Indigenous children experienced the grim realities of residential schools—from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse to malnourishment, forced religious indoctrination, and attempted cultural eradication. In this memoir, Evelyn Thompson-George shares her father's deeply personal account of his time at the Alberni Indian Residential School, where he endured unimaginable abuse from ages five to thirteen.

Despite the trauma he faced in remembering and retelling his story, Art Thompson made the courageous decision to share his experiences and expose the grim reality of life within the walls of the residential school in hopes of finding healing and closure.

Art Thompson emerged as a leader, creating the initial sparks for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada when he and seventeen other brave individuals sought accountability for the atrocities committed against Indigenous children by initiating—and winning—a lawsuit to hold the Government of Canada, The United Church of Canada, and his abusers accountable for their participation in the hor-

rific abuses suffered by him and other Indigenous children.

In writing this book, Evelyn Thompson-George used transcripts from her father's testimony, giving readers insight into the lasting impact of residential school experiences, including the intergenerational trauma that continues to affect Indigenous communities today. Art Thompson's story is a poignant reminder of the ongoing journey toward Truth and Reconciliation and healing for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, as well as a powerful testament to resilience, courage, and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

### About Tseshaht First Nation

čišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation) has over 1300 registered members whose ḥaḥuuti includes from the Somass watershed including the entire Alberni Valley, the western portions of both Horne Lake and Cameron Lake, the Alberni Inlet and surrounding lands and watersheds to the Broken Group Islands of central Barkley Sound, and out to the Pacific Ocean. Tseshaht possesses Aboriginal Rights within the ḥaḥuuti [ha-houl-thee] (Chief's territory) owned by our tayii ḥawiiḥ [ty-ee ha-wil-th], including Aboriginal Title. For more information, please visit [www.tseshaht.com](http://www.tseshaht.com).

### Media Inquiries & Interview Requests:

**Evelyn Thompson-George**, Author | [etg1187@hotmail.com](mailto:etg1187@hotmail.com)

### General Inquiries:

**Melissa Bigmore**, Communications Liaison  
čišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation) | [mbigmore@tseshaht.com](mailto:mbigmore@tseshaht.com)

## Looking for support?

Helplines & 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

## Mental Health and Wellness Supports



ćišaaʔath [Tseshaht]

First Nation

ʔuuʔatumin yaqckʷiimitqin

(Doing it for our Ancestors)

Alberni Indian Residential School Project

Support for members, Elders, Survivors and all other Survivors of AIRS during our ʔuuʔatumin yaqckʷiimitqin Research project (AIRS Project).

Counselling support is also available through Linda Pelech who can be reached at:

**250.730.0547**

We extend our gratitude to:

- NTC Teechuktl Mental Health
- Tsow Tun Le Lum
- Uut Uustukyuu Society for their continued in person/virtual cultural supports.

### IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF SUPPORT, PLEASE REACH OUT:

**Teechuktl Mental Health**  
250.724.3939

**Tsow-Tun-Le-Lum Society**  
1.888.403.3123

**Metis Crisis Line**  
1.888.403.3123

**Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society**  
1.800.588.8717  
[www.kuu-uscrisisline.com](http://www.kuu-uscrisisline.com)

**IRSSS Crisis Line 24/7**  
1.800.721.0066

**Hope For Wellness**  
1.855.242.3310

**First Nations Health Authority**  
<https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/mental-wellness-and-substance-use/residential-schools>

**Coastal Health**  
[http://www.vch.ca/locations-services?search\\_term=counselling](http://www.vch.ca/locations-services?search_term=counselling)





Did you know, if you text **686868** when you're feeling down, depressed or suicidal, a crisis worker will text you back

**Tseshaht First Nation 5091 Tsuma-as Drive | Port Alberni | 250.724.1225**



# **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS & NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

**Tuesdays at 6:30pm**  
**huu'atu Health Centre**  
Snacks provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend.

For more information contact Deb Botting:  
Call **(250) 726-8790** or email **[dbotting@telus.net](mailto:dbotting@telus.net)**

# hitstiis hupii?ut YG Services



## March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday
					1
					2
3 Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	4	5 hitstiis hupii?ut Office Closed	6 Michelle Touchie Social Development Coordinator, Citizenship & Enrollment Registrar	7	8
					9
10 Counselling with Amber Severinson 10:00am to 1:00pm	11	12	13 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Michelle Touchie Social Development Coordinator, Citizenship & Enrollment Registrar	14 hitstiis hupii?ut Office Closed	15
					16
17 Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm	18	19	20 Melissa Hall Human Resources Manager 1:00pm to 4:00pm	21	22
					23
24 Counselling with Amber Severinson 10:00am to 1:00pm	25	26	27 Kimberly Touchie Outreach Support Coordinator Jennifer Touchie Educations Services Manager 10:00am to 12:00pm	28	29
					30
31 Language Class with maḥima 6:30pm to 8:30pm					

\*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 & Hupačas?ath First Nations.