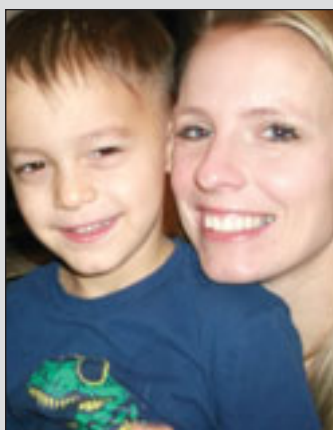


Inside:



Leadership Training

Yuutu?it?ath was represented at high level training seminar in Nanaimo in August.

Page 3



Day Camp

Day Camp 2016 was a tremendous success

Page 4



President's Message

President Les Doiron shares his thoughts on the transformational times facing Yuutu?it?ath

Page 5



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

www.ufn.ca

Volume 6, Issue 8 | **September/October**, 2016



Yuutu?it?ath Government members listen to members during Annual General Meeting Assembly Sept. 12

Members discuss state of affairs with Yuutu?it?ath Government

Economic development and financial audit questions highlight meeting

HITACU – Close to 70 members of the Yuutu?it?ath Government gathered at the Yuutu?it?ath Gymnasium for the Annual General Meeting Assembly Sept. 12.

Questions concerning a number of important issues were asked and answered by legislature members, as the meeting also included presentations by auditors KPMG, and responses by economic development consultants Mayne Burger & Associates. There were also updates and answers to questions from those in attendance regarding Land and

Resources, Community Services and Administration.

YFN Legislative Assembly Chairperson Dr. Michelle Corfield chaired the meeting and was joined at the front by President Les Doiron and legislature members Melody Charlie, Alan McCarthy, Richard Mundy, Gordon Taylor and Jeneva Touchie. Jordan Touchie did not attend.

Eli Mina, a Registered Parliamentarian from Vancouver, was also at the front, and he shared general terms of Roberts Rules of Orders, to maintain decorum and during the proceedings. He is the author of five books on

meetings and shared decision making.

Audited Financial Statement Presentation

New Chief Financial Officer Peter Pynacker, who started at YG at the beginning of August, was joined by Sean Reid, a partner with KPMG's office in Chilliwack, to present the recently completed Yuutu?it?ath Government audit.

The long-awaited document was presented to legislators Sept. 9, who approved the financial statements.

Pynacker said the audit revealed that overall, the Nation's finances are "healthy", citing results from 2011-2016.

KPMG is the nation's new auditors, and Reid noted that they met with YG legislators Sept. 9, who approved the financial statements.

As a Treaty Nation, Yuutu?it?ath has new Power and Promise

Yuutu?it?ath is a Treaty Nation.

What does that mean?

It means that our Yuutu?it?ath Government is now leading a Nation. Our government's powers are not the same as a municipality, a city, or a Regional District in B.C. We are equal in our governing powers to the Federal Government of Canada.

We are no longer governed by INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada), and as such, we are on a time table. As of 2026, Yuutu?it?ath will need to be economically self-sufficient, which is why we have been busy working on economic development opportunities that will ensure our provision will be bountiful for all members in the future.

This is not merely words. These are important legal documents and precedents that are designed to launch us towards the future – a future that we can shape the way we want, for all of us to benefit.

The Yuutu?it?ath asserts that we have occupied, benefited from and governed our traditional territory, lands, waters and resources since time immemorial. The traditional territory of the Yuutu?it?ath has in the past provided the resources necessary to sustain the Yuutu?it?ath, and we honour our connection to the lands, waters and resources of our traditional territory which provide for our physical and spiritual needs.

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 7

Vancouver Courier: Voice for urban Indigenous people desperately lacking

Advocacy should come from within

By Wawmeesh Hamilton,
an award-winning journalist and photographer who lives in Vancouver and is a member of the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni.

This article ran in the Vancouver Courier newspaper on Sept. 14, 2016

Five days a week, I walk through bleak alleys behind the hustle, bustle and yelling along Hastings Street on the city's Downtown Eastside.

Midway down one alley, I pass the homeless camp that sprang up near Hastings and Carrall Streets last spring. As I peer through the grey chainlink fence at the figures in tents, I notice that at times up to half of the camp's residents are Indigenous people.

I don't know how they ended up in this place so far from their home First Nations. I only know that they are here, nowhere to go yesterday or today and who knows about tomorrow.

It was the same in 2014 when a homeless

camp sprung up at Oppenheimer Park before being cleared out by police under court order. More than half that camp's residents were Indigenous people.

What struck me then and still resonates with me now is the reticence from provincial and federal Indigenous leadership about this issue. The camps' residents are surely their most vulnerable and marginalized citizens. They needed a strong voice to advocate for them, and the influence of an agency to lobby municipally, provincially and federally.

Indigenous leaders were quick to comment about natural resource issues, LNG and economic development. Yet not a word was spoken about the homeless camps, not even when police turfed Indigenous residents out of Oppenheimer into the street with nowhere to go in 2014.

But last week, this issue really hit home with me.

Just blocks away from the homeless

camp on Hastings Street, B.C. First Nations chiefs were in town meeting with B.C. Premier **Christy Clark** at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Only one tribal official, Ucluelet First Nation Legislature President **Les Dorion**, made his way to the camp to look for any of his people.

Housing crises don't just happen on-reserve.

There, people at least have extended family and tribe resources to turn to in extreme situations. Here, an extreme situation can lead to a prolonged stay in a homeless camp.

In Vancouver, there are Indigenous housing societies with housing projects for Indigenous people. But they are full to capacity and have waiting lists years long.

To be fair to on-reserve Indigenous leaders, they're more concerned with matters closer to their First Nations than they are with issues miles away in cities. However, it's also worth noting that federal funding flows to on-reserve leadership based on their own estimates of population, typically including off-reserve residents, yet that money seldom reaches Indigenous people living in the city. Urban Indigenous services from health care to education keep getting cut back.

Something is happening to Indigenous populations, and a clue to what is contained within historical census data.

In 2006, Statistics Canada noted that 60 per cent of Indigenous people lived away from their First Nations and in urban areas.

In 2001, there were 36,855 Indigenous people living in Vancouver compared to 31,140 in 1996. In 2011, the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study noted that in 2006, more than 40,000 Indigenous people called Vancouver home.

Those numbers represent only self-identified indigenous people who could be counted; the urban indigenous population is probably far greater than that.

There is a diaspora of Indigenous people leaving their First Nations and coming to cities like Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops and Prince George. This isn't news, but the growing trend is.

Indigenous people leave their First Nations for reasons not unlike those of people who come here from other countries — seeking a better life, employment, education and opportunity.

Not every Indigenous person who arrives in Vancouver to make a new life ends up in a homeless camp or in dire straits. Many engage themselves in their new surroundings, work hard and go on to live productive lives.

But living in the city isn't without challenges, as Indigenous people face struggles that range from safe affordable housing to public education as well as employment and health issues.

Imploring on-reserve Indigenous leaders to speak for their urban people is one thing.

But maybe urban Indigenous people need to find leaders among themselves to create an Indigenous agency whose sole purpose is political advocacy.

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council and City of Vancouver's Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee advocate when they can, and they are to be commended for their efforts. But in reality, they are besieged trying to keep programs running with too much to do and too few resources to do it with, and can only afford to advocate off the sides of their desks.

There is the non-profit Indigenous group ALIVE, but even its director Scott Clark says that it was never meant to serve in a political advocacy role, but does so now out of sheer necessity.

Instead, what's needed is an agency whose sole purpose and mandate is political advocacy, not just in Vancouver, but in urban centres across the province. There hasn't been one since the former United Native Nations, which collapsed after bitter internecine infighting.

Such an agency would do what on-reserve Indigenous leadership can't, namely advocate with federal, provincial and municipal officials about urban Indigenous issues. More importantly, it would be able to influence policy making before policy is enacted.

And maybe it would be a voice for people such as those living in the homeless camp on Hastings Street. They are strong, resourceful and independent survivors who can take care of themselves. Being neglected forges this kind of grit.

Maybe that grit has created a leader among them who will take up this cause.

Wawmeesh has won three B.C.-Yukon Community Newspaper Association awards and three Canadian Community Newspaper Association awards, each for writing and photography. He and colleague Peter Mothe won a Canadian Online Publishing Award in 2015. Hamilton's work has been published with CBC, The Canadian Press, The Globe and Mail, Metro and The Tyee. Hamilton graduated with an MA from the UBC Graduate School of Journalism in 2016. His thesis documented the banishment and reintegration of Indigenous sex offenders from their communities. He can be reached at wawmeesh@shaw.ca



Continuing Education

OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID LEVEL 1

A Work Safe BC course, it includes an introduction to CPR, choking and hemorrhage control, and minor wound care. The course is excellent for forestry and other industrial applications, and required by many employers. (Certification is by Work Safe BC and the certification period is for three years.)

Prerequisite: students must be at least 16 years of age; some previous knowledge of First Aid/CPR is advised.

DATE	Thursday, November 3, 2016
TIME	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
LOCATION	TBA
INSTRUCTOR	Kim Nutt
COST	\$170.32 (Includes tax)

MINIMUM ENROLLMENT 12
REGISTER AT N.I.C. IN UCLUELET (250 726 2697)

Leadership, Administration and Management Training very helpful

By Michelle Ralston
Hitacu Daycare Manager

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Leadership, Administration and Management (LAM) Training August 15-19 in Nanaimo.

I was 1 of 34 caregivers from across Canada. Not only did we connect personally and professionally, we learned how each province is with their own culture, beliefs, songs and stories. It was great to brainstorm and bring back many new ideas and skills to implement.

There were powerful keynote speakers that I would love to see brought to our community. **Monique Gray Smith**, author and facilitator (www.littledrum.com) who spoke a lot of the history of the Aboriginal Culture and Residential Schools. She presented on Monday, and she impacted me for the entire week and still today. She spoke of "The Four Blankets of Resiliency".

The other facilitator was **Marc Lalonde**. He covered all bases of Leadership, Administration and Management, and is very strong with his skills and has years of experience with having his Early Childhood Education leading him into Management/Administration.

I learned to provide a vision, ensuring the information is recorded and communicated to support the goals of the organization and to achieve those goals through the efforts of other people and within a team. I learned about how I am as a co-worker, as a manager, and how I am as a person.

"How others see you is NOT important. How you see yourself means everything" Another powerful quote that stuck out



Michelle Ralston, Hitacu Daycare Manager, with other caregivers who attended the August 15-19 training session in Nanaimo

to me throughout the week was: "Grant me Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference."

I realized even more about which priorities need to be implemented and that time management is very important. All in all, it was a wonderful experience and I look forward to many more learning opportunities.



Ethan Sam with Michelle Ralston, Hitacu Daycare Manager.



Marine Training

MARINE BASIC FIRST AID

This course provides individuals with a basic training level of First Aid and CPR for the marine industry. Topics include choking, airway and breathing emergencies, the onset of sudden medical conditions and injuries to the head and spine. Dual certification provided, certification period is three years.

This course is a prerequisite for Limited Master certification, as well as a co-requisite for the Small Vessel Operator Proficiency certification.

DATES	Saturday/Sunday, November 26 & 27, 2016
TIME	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
LOCATION	TBA
COST	\$211.50 (tax included)

MINIMUM ENROLLMENT 12
REGISTER AT N.I.C. IN UCLUELET (250 726 2697)
COURSE WILL RUN SUBJECT TO MINIMUM ENROLLMENT

Day Camp 2016 a great success!

By Alicia Gilmour

Day Camp 2016 has wrapped up for another season and after six weeks of adventuring in the van, I think we can call it another success!

A big thanks goes out to Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council, for helping to facilitate so much of our programming this year. With their support we were able to take a dugout canoe ride to Meares Island, kayak in the inlet, stand-up paddle surf in Tofino, and play rugby with members of the Canadian Rugby Team.

Other camp activities and field trips included canoeing with **Ray Haipée**, ukulele camp, Port Alberni circus, Nanaimo

wave pool, outdoor basketball, hiking, skateboarding, surfing, zip-lining, multiple trips to our secret swim spot and a couple of trips to the ice cream shop.

Although we are physically tired and ready for a bit of a breather, I think we can all agree that there was only fun to be had this summer, with first times, laughter, sun, surf and a few lost articles of clothing.

Special thanks to **Gloria Valentine, Ethan Joseph, Ray Haipée, Waylon McCloud, Carlos Mack, Phillip Mack, Debbie Mundy**, all the daring and spontaneous youth, and everyone else who made this programming happen!

It was a great summer to be remembered by all!



Royal Roads Biosphere Course launched at UFN

The Yuutu?it?ath welcomed 23 students for the first Biosphere and Sustainability course in July, in partnership with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and Royal Roads University.

The goal was to co-host a unique 'once-in-a-lifetime' field school experience, focusing on community

resilience, ecological restoration, trans-generational trauma, food security, and reconnecting to the biosphere.

Dr. Michelle Corfield and **Deb Mundy** were keys in making the event such a success.

Dr. Corfield, Chair of the Yuutu?it?ath Government Legislature and RRU

alumni, launched the week with a keynote on the challenges of self-government after an era of the Indian Act and its associated cultural oppression.

Building on this wisdom, the week unfolded with iterative themes of restoration, healing, and improving dialogue on our pathway towards sustainability in

the Biosphere.

The course ended with a salmon barbecue with Yuutu?it?ath Elders. Kleco Kleco Deb Mundy for your thoughtful way of completing the most memorable week.

Kleco Kleco to all those who made the week a possibility.



MEN'S GROUP

Creating Connection Between Our Men

Our group has created a safe space for men to form their self-identity, express emotion, and gather perspectives from trusted connections both physical and spiritual. It also gives older men and Elders an opportunity to shape our young men within the community through the use of traditional language, cultural practices and outdoor skill building. These experiences increase confidence in our young men and pride in our older men as they impart their knowledge and skills.

Mondays
(Hitacu Community Centre)
Young Men
5:00pm – 6:30pm

Adult Men
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Dinner Included!!!

Weekend Retreats
(Effingham Inlet)
All Ages Welcome

Our Sponsors
YFN Legislature
Quu?asa Program
RCMP
FNHA / VIHA

NEED MORE INFO?
Contact Ricardo
@ 250-266-2650

YOGA

SELF CARE

HEALTHY HOME

HEALTHY FAMILY

LANGUAGE

EMPOWERMENT

Awakening The Warrior Woman Within

Journey Work

At Six Plex - #315 Hiltth-sorta

Where: Hitacu

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Topics - Yoga

Language

Healthy Family

Healthy Home

Empowerment

Self Care

Supper Meeting

Starts—September 14, 2016 to November 2, 2016

Transformational times for Yuutu?it?ath

These are indeed great times for the Yuutu?it?ath Government. Transformational times. Times to celebrate



President Les Doiron

our great culture and Elders. Times to Educate our people about our great culture, heritage and the tremendous opportunities that lay ahead for us in our next steps forward together. Times to explore new opportunities in Economic Development that will set our Nation

on solid financial footing that will every one of our people will benefit greatly from for generations to come.

I stand before you, humbled by your selection of me to lead us into the future, into a day of new beginnings that will change the way we look at ourselves as a resourceful and respectful Nation, and at the same time, change the way the neighbours outside our nation view us as we rise to new levels of prosperity, both in our culture and economy.

I was elected to oversee change that prepares us as a Treaty Nation that now has a firm time table to be economically self sufficient: 2026 (please confirm the correct date). Our new position as a Treaty Nation means new opportunities, but it also brings the realization that we must be able to be ready to provide for our people in a new way in just 10 years.

Before we could begin to look forward to that, it has been necessary to look at our past to determine where we are exactly at today. That has meant looking here, asking questions there, and with that, sharing as carefully and wisely as possible that for Yuutu?it?ath Government, change is no longer an option. It is the springboard towards our future together.

Not everyone likes change. Everyone reacts differently to change. Some would prefer not to have to change at all. Sometimes I don't like change. But life is all about change, and how we react and respond to that together will determine our ultimate success as a full Treaty First Nation.

I understand change is difficult to deal with, but everything we have been doing and will continue to do is for the betterment of our Nation and its direction and we needed it.

Moving from an INAC to a Treaty Nation is new territory for us. We share that with four other Maanulth Nations, and everyone is battling the same issues. The Nisgaa have been a Treaty Nation for 16 years and they still consider themselves to be in their infancy. Canada has been a country for 150 years and it is still evolving.

Like the Nisgaa and other Nations, we have begun to ask ourselves: what is a successful Government?

First and foremost, we need to under-



Yuutu?it?ath Government staff made a public pledge to serve prior to the start of the Sept. 12 Assembly.

stand what the treaty is, and when will all the steps be complete? When will our canoe be ready to travel in?

And what do we want Yuutu?it?ath Government to be in the next three years. Ten years. 50 years. 100 years?

We have started this journey by shining a light on our past, to rediscover our roots and heritage, and explore new ways to build a sustainable and strong economy that will benefit everyone, from our elders to early childhood. We brought in one of Canada's most reputable accounting companies, KPMG, to conduct an extensive audit to tell us exactly where we are financially. We have received their report and are ready to share their findings with the

entire Nation.

Our commitment to openness and accountability starts there, and extends to my office as your President. The trust you have placed in me to conduct business on your behalf is something I receive with great respect, and my office is open to you. We have instilled new policies that ensure that all Presidents will fully disclose what they do with your money and how they represent you. I committed to this before I was elected, and have fulfilled that promise to you. We

We have made some changes to our operations team, as we have recruited some of the finest people we could find to join our team to help us all become better

and stronger.

People with impeccable resumes and records of accomplishment. People that make me proud to lead them, and will make us all proud as they do what they were brought here to do. To bring about positive change and prepare us for a bright and sunny future. They are working on developing new economic development opportunities that will create new jobs for our young people, and revenues to build a stronger Nation. You will see these ideas come forth, and I am sure you will be as delighted as I am with the hope and promise they represent.

Yes, Our direction has shifted, and for the better. We are building on the wisdom and experience of our Elders. We are committed to successful economic development that will result in sustainable jobs. And we are focused on Educating our people about the possibilities that await all of us.

As we continue to move forward, our people will be able to clearly see where we have been, where we are, and where we can be.

I am tremendously proud of the changes we have already brought about, and of the direction we are headed in for the future.

I humbly thank you for your support and confidence as we build, together, a strong and mighty Yuutu?it?ath Government where we all prosper, in every way possible.

Are your children up-to-date on their immunizations?

Call to book your child's immunization appointment today!

- **Contact your local community health nurse to check when clinics are offered in your community.**

Community health nurses can:

- **Provide your child's immunizations**
- **Check to see if your child is missing any routine vaccines**
- **Answer your immunization questions**



Nuuchahnulth Nursing Services

Southern 250 724-5757 □ Central (250) 725-3367 □ Northern (250) 283-2012



HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

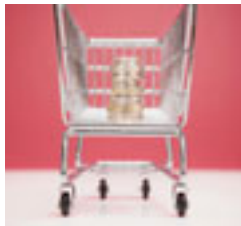


Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Location: - Hitacu Six-Plex

Time: 10am to 3pm

MEAL PLANNING



Interactive learning activities
What influences your food choices?

SNACKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED

Do you have chronic pain? *
Gentle exercises can help.
Learn How.

Free Movement and Relaxation Classes
for People in Chronic Pain

Thursdays, October 27 to December 1
1:30—2:30 p.m. in Hitacu

Learn more about the classes,
and meet the instructors:

- ✧ **Thursday, October 6, 12:30 p.m.** at the Community Centre
- ✧ Lunch will be provided
- ✧ RSVP to the NTC Community Home Care Nurses—
Deb Melvin **250.735.2622** or Cynthia Fitton **250.726.6154**
—or to Veronica **250.726.7342**

* CHRONIC PAIN INCLUDES:

- Pain from a chronic condition—e.g. arthritis
- Lower back, hip, knee or neck pain
- Pain related to trauma
- Undiagnosed, persistent pain



A Unique Luxury Resort Setting



With its broad range of accommodation and amenities - including the Wya Welcome Centre, Surf Shop, Wya Point Campground, Yurts and the Lodges -Wya Point Resort draws every type of traveler. Nestled in the coastal forest, a few kilometres outside Ucluelet and within minutes of world-famous Pacific Rim National Park, Wya Point Campground is an ideal retreat for families and individuals who want a relaxing break by the sea.

Wya Point Resort was honoured with the 2014 Outstanding Accommodation Award by Aboriginal Tourism BC. Come along to see what travelers are talking about!



WYA POINT
RESORT

2695 Tofino-Ucluelet Highway
Ucluelet

250-726-2625

E: info@wyapoint.com

www.wyapoint.com



From left, Sean Reid of KPMG and Yuutu?it?ath CFO Peter Pynacker spoke, and listened to presentations at the Sept. 12 meeting.

As a Treaty Nation, Yuutu?it?ath has new Power and Promise

Continued from page 1

Through our inherent right to self-government, the Yuutu?it?ath has in the past worked to preserve and protect our traditional territory, and we accept the obligations and responsibilities inherent in governing Yuutu?it?ath lands and pledge to protect Yuutu?it?ath lands for future generations of our citizens.

Our primary goal in governing Yuutu?it?ath lands is to create a healthy and prosperous future that ensures the continued existence of the Yuutu?it?ath as a strong political, social and cultural community that aspires to grow as an organized, determined, successful and self-reliant people.

It is the desire of the Yuutu?it?ath that our Yuutu?it?ath lands continue to provide the resources necessary to sustain us, preserve our traditional ways and culture, encourage self-sufficiency and security through development and growth, and to provide a home for the Yuutu?it?ath people forever.

We want development and growth on our Yuutu?it?ath lands to be conducted in a way that is transparent and accountable. It is also our desire that development and growth on Yuutu?it?ath lands be socially, economically and environmen-

tally sustainable, in order to foster a safer, stronger, healthier, more financially secure and more sustainable community.

To this end, the Yuutu?it?ath will use its law making authorities recognized in the Maa-nulth Treaty and the Foreshore Agreement to manage development and growth on Yuutu?it?ath lands and Yuutu?it?ath foreshore to create the type of community we want to live in, and be a part of, in a way that achieves these goals.

Since treaty implementation in 2011, YG has implemented approximately 33 laws and 30 Regulations. They also joined the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board in 2012, although it is important to note that YG is not subject to ACRD jurisdiction or regulations – YG has chosen to partner and work in collaboration with the ACRD. The Yuutu?it?ath Government can make unilateral, independent decisions it deems in the best interest of Yuutu?it?ath citizens.

Under the terms of their treaty, the Yuutu?it?ath Government purchased a significant economic development property that resulted in tourism developments at the highway junction between Ucluelet and Tofino, such as the Wya Point Resort, Wya Welcome Centre and gift shop, and the planned Lost Shoe Creek Commercial Development.

Employee spotlight:

This month Suzanne Williams, who has worked with the nation for 14 years, has begun her Executive Masters of Business Administration – Aboriginal Business and Leadership graduate degree at Simon Fraser University's Business School of Beedie in Vancouver.

This is a 33-month executive graduate program that covers intensive courses on Leadership, Communications, Managerial and Financial Accounting, Marketing, Finance, Business Strategy, Entrepreneurship, Scaling/Growing Ventures to name a few.

Suzanne is accompanied by 29 other students from across the country, including Nunavut and Saskatchewan, for this program's third cohort.

This is an example of this government's leadership dedication to ensure that citizens are fully trained and gain practical experience to hold executive positions within the government.

Thanks to Ucluelet Secondary School

Manager of Community Services **Trevor Wickham** expressed thanks to **Mike Rhodes of Ucluelet Secondary School** for allowing UFN to use one of their vans recently.

"On behalf of the Yuutu?it?ath, I'd like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to you for the loan of the USS

passenger van these past three weeks," Wickham wrote to Rhodes.

"Your kindness ensured we had no disruption in our Summer Youth Programme. And for the half dozen youth who were taking part this year, they were able to participate in surfing and SUP-camps, skateboard, camp out, swim at Kennedy Lake and ride the Wild Westcoast Zip Line."

Wickham added that Rhodes "made a huge difference in these kids summer – and helped make some memorable summer moments for our kids."

Congratulations to Dennis!

One of our citizens, **Dennis Hetu Touchie**, is to be congratulated for starting work at one of the local hotels.

Manager of Community Services **Trevor Wickham** notes that a number of staff helped Dennis achieve his goal, including YG Social Development Coordinator **Deb Mundy**, YG Warriors Program Coordinator **Ricardo**, and NETP Case Management Support Worker and Enhanced Service Delivery Program Coordinator **Evan**.

"In the opinion of many of us who have worked with Dennis over the years, this is a significant achievement that has taken him a lot of hard work – and the dedicated assistance of a number of our staff and contractors that helped him achieve."

SAVE THE DATE

The NTC DAC Committee invite you to the 2016 Health Ability Fair

November 3 and 4, 2016
Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni

We look forward to seeing you for this 2 day event of learning, networking, personal growth and healing.
More details to follow.

Chuu, Florence Wylie,
DAC Coordinator, NTC

Members discuss state of affairs with Yuutu?it?ath Government

Continued from page 1

Pynacker said the audit revealed that overall, the Nation's finances are "healthy", citing results from 2011-16, although it was noted later in the meeting that KPMG was still waiting for finalized accounting statements from 2014 from the Economic Development Corporation where their previous auditor did not complete them accurately with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles which has resulted in the 2015 carry-forward numbers not being accurate.

Pynacker said the audit revealed that one big problem has been the values placed on commercial entities and business holdings. Overall, however, the finances have been growing year-over-year, thanks largely to growth in YG's Trust fund investments. Additionally, Pynacker noted that he could not talk to the issue of accounting discrepancies within YG from the prior period as the issue will have to be reviewed by the government's lawyers.

"These first five years have not been easy," says Chair Dr. Corfield. "We have to accept the fact that they have put values on buildings on our treaty land. We've got a lot of work to do."

Larry Beard, Jenny Touchie and former President Chuck McCarthy raised most of the questions during the day, and members of

the government and the government's lawyer, Brent Lehmann of Ratcliffe & Company provided answers and clarifications.

The government responded to queries about staff departures by acknowledging there have been some, which is quite normal with any change in leadership, but that YG is building a very strong, skilled unit to help move the Nation forward towards full treaty implementation.

Prior to the meeting starting, staff went forward to take an oath and pledge to the Nation for service and dedication.

Dr. Corfield also indicated some frustration in that it was difficult to obtain answers on some topics due to a lack of notes from previous meetings and a recent computer software breakdown resulted in not being able to locate government documents of the legislative assembly.

Economic Development Update. Chris Burger of Mayne Burger & Associates provided an overview of their work since starting on contract for the Nation in 2015.

Burger said a decision was made to close YG's owned/operated Kwisis Gift Shop in Pacific Rim National Park as it was not profitable, although he suggested it could become a viable restaurant if it was restructured. The Wya Point Surf Shop & Café near the Highway 4 junction has a contractual operator, and



Yuutu?it?ath citizens asked questions of the government during the session

is doing quite well. As is the Thornton Motel in Ucluelet.

YG's main venue, Wya Point Resort, is doing much better.

"The resort is working very well," notes Burger. "Revenues and usage are up."

On June 30, 2015 they had posted \$300,000 in revenue. It's \$450,000 already this year, which is a 50 per cent increase.

Between all the operations, there are close to two dozen citizens employed.

"They are working very efficiently and effectively," he says. "We expect this trend to continue into the future."

Mayne Burger has identified two important economic development projects that would benefit YG, and the decision to proceed with both will be made by the YG Legislature.

An aerial trail could prove to be a magnet for tourists, while

having no ecological impact. YG has been working with Greenheart on a 20 year license to operate the trail.

The other project is a proposed gas station and accompanying brand-name restaurant and commercial space at the highway junction.

YG recently received an \$80,000 non-repayable grant from the provincial government for a feasibility study, which is now underway.

Drilling is being undertaken at the proposed site to obtain core samples, from which they will make a determination regarding any potential threat to underground aquifers.

One easy solution is above-ground holding tanks, which have become safe, viable options for fuel stations.

The other aspect of a gas station that would be of great

benefit to YG is the fact that all gasoline-related taxes would be retained by the YG government, as opposed to being distributed back to the provincial and federal government. Taxes comprise most of the cost of gasoline – over 60 per cent in some cases.


From a business perspective, non-aboriginal or off-reserve gas stations are typically profitable ventures, even with the disproportionate amount of taxes. A First Nation gas station, due to retention of tax revenue, makes such an operation extra profitable for YG.

With a location at the highway junction, a gas station would be the first and last opportunity to fill up for vehicles, hundreds of thousands of which drive the road each year.

Both the final decision for these ideas, and any other economic development opportunities, are up to the Board.

Gord Taylor, Executive Legislative Member with the Assets Portfolio, noted that the Nation needs to look forward, immediately, particularly concerning water.

"We have to start planning now," he says. "Water is going to be like gold. We have to do more for water conservation. We're cutting costs on what we pay, and we need to ask ourselves: 'How do we become self-sufficient and self-sustainable?'"

 HITACU COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Open Drop In 7-9		3 Open Drop In 7-9	4	5 After School Drop In with Waylon McCloud @ the gym 3:30 - 5 ages 7 and up	6	7 8
9 Open Drop In 7-9		10 Open Drop In 7-9	11	12 After School Drop In with Waylon McCloud @ the gym 3:30 - 5 ages 7 and up	13	14 15
16 Open Drop In 7-9		17 Open Drop In 7-9	18	19 After School Drop In with Waylon McCloud @ the gym 3:30 - 5 ages 7 and up	20	21 22
23 Open Drop In 7-9		24 Open Drop In 7-9	25	26 After School Drop In with Waylon McCloud @ the gym 3:30 - 5 ages 7 and up	27	28 29
30 Open Drop In 7-9	31	See facebook page for any changes to schedule		Drop In Contact: Evelyn Charlie (250)266-0951		
For any scheduling questions or concerns Contact Front Desk (250)726-7342						