



Tseshaht First Nation

Community Report

Greetings Tseshaht,

The arrival of summer brings a excitement like no other with the arrival of fish for our community. Summer also brings a quiet peace that allows for continued focus for Council and Administration to carryout the work being done on policies and government priorities for all our members. We have made exciting announcements about new partnerships which will allow for further improvements to the services we already provide as well as new ones for all Tseshaht. We also take pause during these summer months from our regularly scheduled Community Meetings to meet the busy demands of members summer vacation calendars and time well spent reconnecting with their families and friends.



We are excited to share the recent re-opening of our Tseshaht Youth Center, with these photos. The newly renovated space is so open and welcoming for our youth, tooting a home away from home vibe, and is being well received by the youth so far. Our new Youth and Recreation Worker continues to work hard in keeping the program ideas creative and exciting, keeping our youth engaged and busy.

Kleco kleco



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Tseshahat vision

Tseshahat First Nation is a unified, self-determining Nation, rooted in our teachings and ways of being, taking a proactive role to improve the health & well-being of our members and thons yet unborn; strengthening our language & culture; and stewarding our ҺaaҺaaҺuuҺi. Living our culture.

Tseshahat mission statement

Together we are empowering our people, fostering a stable, safe and supportive community by building a strong economy and creating opportunities for the growth, health, wellness of our people and ҺaaҺuuҺi as a unified, self-determining Nation.

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WELCOME CENTRE

Highlights from the Welcome Centre:

- Supporting draft policies for Facility Rentals, and Smokehouse and Cabin use

COMMUNICATIONS

Our goal in communications is to increase information sharing and updates regarding programs and services and regarding our strategic goals in the Strategic Plan 2021-2025

We have highlighted some events and happenings below:

- Programming a new Communications App (coming soon)
- planning Canoe Family Welcoming event in BGI
- Indian Residential School Provincial Caretaker Nations Conference
- Kw’umut Lelum agreement celebration
- Special Locutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites
- Announcements: Huu-ay-aht partnership for Microtel Hotel, Provincial partnership for Housing, Orange Bridge cannabis closure, Cameron Bluffs Wildfire updates



FINANCE

- WCB Audits are ongoing
- 2022-2023 Audit will begin at the end of August

HUMAN RESOURCES

As needed membership services increase, departmental staffing ebbs and flows to meet these needs. Additions or changes to our team include:

- Kyle Miller, Fisheries Resource Management Officer Technician
- John Ross, Fisheries Lead Guardian
- Roger Brossoit, Capital Projects Manager
- Mercedes Marshall, Youth and Recreation Worker
- Richard Sam Jr., Capital Projects Supervisor
- Melissa Bigmore, Communications Liaison
- Tonya Isaac, Welcome Centre Coordinator
- Thomas Fred, Home Maintenance Coordinator

SPECIAL PROJECTS - ?UU?ATUMIN YAQCK?IIMITQIN

- We are proud to have hosted our BC Indian Residential School Caretakers Conference at Maht Mahs
- We are currently engaging with our AIRS Survivors Working Group about our Tseshaht AIRS Memorial to honour their past and ensure no one ever forgets what happened here.
- We have secured our funding for Phase 2 and are already mapping out our next steps, including delivery of records to our families of lost loved ones, more research and continued engagement.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH SERVICES

Children & Families

- Tseshaht was proud to celebrate, as one of 7 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations to sign into protocol agreement with Kw'umut Lelum, strengthening and preserving our families by providing services to Tseshaht children in care in the Parksville, Nanaimo and Duncan areas.
- We celebrated the reconnection of one of our own young men being returned to his family and our community.

Patient Travel

- after 24 months, children are required to have their own Status Number to access Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB), including Patient Travel
- Please ensure you register your child's birth within their first three months or early as possible as processing times can take two years
- Learn more at: fnha.ca/benefits/eligibility

Health & Social Development

Highlights of summer programming:

- Barter & Garage Sale
- House of Regalia
- Easter Party & Drive-thru
- Men's Group
- Drumming Making Workshop
- Fitness Gym
- Good Food Box
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Opioid Crisis Strategic Planning
- Culture Nights
- Tseshaht Health Fair
- Newly hired Youth & Recreation Worker, Mercedes Marshall
- Re-opening of Youth Center after completed renovations
- Attended the FNHA Health and Wellness Summit and Vancouver Island Regional Caucus
- Attended the Traditional Foods presentation by Tseshaht's own, Charlotte Cote
- Presented on Tseshaht's work on the Opioid Crisis in the Alberni Valley
- Staff training on:
 - Recertification of 1st Aid
 - Emergency Support Services
 - Recertification of FoodSafe
 - Microsoft Office
 - Class 4 Driver's License

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH SERVICES

Health & Social Development (continued)

Upcoming programming National Truth and Reconciliation Day, Jolyn Watts Gold Medal Celebration and “Surrounded by Cedar” repatriation of Tseshaht masks
 Tseshaht continues to advocate for increased health programs, services, and funding as we increase capacity and governance to pursue our own health agreement in the coming years.

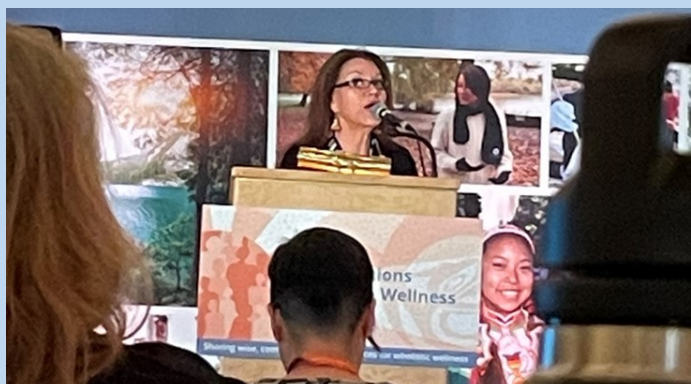
Membership

Highlights from Membership

- Training with BC Vital Statistics on adding Indigenous names to birth certificates
- Wills & Estates Planning Workshop

Membership Statistics

- 1270 - Total population
- 577 - Members living on-reserve
- 693 - Members living off-reserve (Port Alberni and away from home)



FISHERIES

- Great Sockeye Season with more enforcement on the water and more water testing
- Several fish days allowing for the maximum distribution to members as well as away from home
- New landing craft has arrived and is ready in the water awaiting Chinook Season

HOUSING

- Exciting new partnership announcement with the BC Government with \$5 million in funding to purchase land to build off-reserve housing
- Housing assessment survey - coming soon
- Working with Barkley Group to assess more energy efficient heat sources for members

CAPITAL PROJECTS & PUBLIC WORKS

- Completed renovation at the Youth Center
- Renovations at the Cultural Center have now begun, including new perimeter drains, new flooring and updated kitchen
- Quotes for new roofs at NEDC and BMO
- Annual hydrant flushing, painting, replacement, including 6 new hydrant installs
- Completed Wildfire resiliency training and FireSmart training
- Speedbump and line painting and repairs - coming soon



EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

- Class 4 Driver’s Course - August 10 & 18, 2023
- Canadian Safety Institute ATV Rider Training - coming late September
- Skills Training & Employment Program for young adults through INEO Employment - September 18 - November 2, 2023. This is a paid training and hands on work experience opportunity.

2022-23 ADSS & EALC graduating students

Tseshahat First Nation would like to congratulate all our 2022-23 Alberni District Secondary School and Eighth Avenue Learning Center students receiving their Dogwood, Adult Dogwood and Evergreen! Congratulation on your achievements! The Tseshahat Graduation Ceremony announcement will be coming soon!

Tseshahat Graduates	
Dione Barney-Sam	ADSS
Sophie Bill	ADSS
Isaiah Dick	ADSS
Kashus Dick	ADSS
Bradley Frank Jr.	ADSS
Hailey Gomez	ADSS
Kayden Mack	ADSS
Sydney Peterson	ADSS
Neve Watts	ADSS
Cadence Fraser	EALC
Shane Jackson	EALC
Abby Little	EALC
Mackenzie Mack	EALC
Michael Marshall	EALC
Rayne Watts	EALC



2022-23 Tseshaht scholarship recipients

Tseshaht First Nation would like to congratulate all our 2022-23 scholarship recipients! Keep up the hard work and dedication to your education.

Due to the current Hwy 4 road closures, the Nuuchahnulth Scholarship and Graduation Ceremony have been postponed.

K-12 Scholarship Recipients

Annika Anderson	K-3 Athletic	Jailyn Little	Academic
Kate Anderson	Academic	Ander Lucas	K-3 Hahopchu
Odis Anderson	Academic	Gertrude Lucas	Academic
Oliver Anderson	Academic	Mackenzie Mack	Academic
Emery Auerbach	Academic	Nisma Marshall	Academic
Tessa Auerbach	Academic	Alex (Mackenzie) Poirier	Artistic
Dawson Bill	Academic	Kaylen Poirier	Academic
Carmen Bill	Academic		Artistic
	Sophia Bill	Artistic	River Poirier
Keon Bush		Academic	Emmett Rampanen
Kiki (Kiana) Bush	K-3 Athletic	Hannah Sam	Academic
Quentin Chippeway-Thomas	K-3 Athletic	Jolene Sam	Cultural
Matthew Fred	Academic	Kailand Watts	Academic
Desi Gomez-Charles	Academic	Kessa Watts	Academic
Desi Gomez-Charles	Artistic	Neve Watts	K-3 Hahopchu
Hailey Gomez	Academic	Noalani Watts	Academic
Riley Hassall	Academic	Solomon Watts	Academic
Jaiden Knighton	K-3 Athletic	Taiaha Watts-Louis Lindstrom	K-3 Hahopchu
	Athletic	Tia-Paige Watts	Academic
			Artistic

Post Secondary Scholarship Recipients

Eddie Fred	Education General
Lainey L'Heureux	Tommy Jack Memorial
Jackelyn Williams	Education General

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Orange Bridge Cannabis closed on June 16, 2023
- Applications for the new Board of Directors of Tseshaht Economic Development Corporation have now been reviewed and board members are being selected

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Cameron Bluffs Wildfire has been monitored and reported on since early June 2023 and our emergency preparedness team remains diligent in providing updates as often as possible.
- Our Security team is being well utilized with an increase of calls we are able to assist in keeping members on-reserve safe.
- Radio Training was completed by our Administrative Emergency Response Team



NATURAL RESOURCES

- Our Forestry team has been busy processing firewood for on-reserve Elders homes this fall/winter
- Our Drone Operators are doing well with their hands-on training

ELDERS

- Our Elders Committee formed a volunteer fundraising group that has already been assisting with events to raise funds and fundraising to earn extra monies that will be used to go on extra trips or spend however they decide. Members of the group are: Erma Robinson, Pam Moussa, Patricia Watts, Helen Dick and Linda Thomas. All funds raised will be deposited into the Elder’s Funding account by Marlene Dick.
- Fundraisers held to date are, loonie/toonie, Mother’s Day money tree, Father’s Day 50/50 and ongoing 50/50 draws at Fish Days
- Our group is looking to provide a couple of bingo fundraisers in the future
- We are grateful for the many donations and support in purchasing 50/50 tickets from our Tseshaht community and look forward to continued support. If you have donations of any kind, or questions, please contact Elder’s Coordinator, Gina Pearson or Community Services Manager, Wendy Gallic at 250.724.1225

LANGUAGE

- We would like to hold up our very own Language Coordinator yaacu?isaqs (Linsey Haggard) on her completion of the Bachelor of Education with a specialization in Indigenous Language Revitalization from the University of Victoria.
- yaacu?isaqs completed the program alongside four other Nuu-chah-nulth graduates čaawitu?a (Tim Masso), ɥakaɭ (Chrissie John), huɥtik (Jeneva Touchie) and mayaaɭ (Beverly Martin). Congratulations to all the graduates of this important program who are champion language revitalization in their communities.
- Completed second year of our Adult Language Intensive Program. Year 1 cohort completed Milestone 1 (introductions, ask and answer questions related to their introductions and greetings as well as small conversations). Year 2 cohort completed Milestone 1 and 2 (lesson they learned and helped to teach, conversational language, able to use language they know to learn more from more advanced and fluent speakers)
- Congratulations to our 2-year Adult Language Intensive Program graduates, čačaa?aɭuk (Jeff Gallic), kʷaacaapi (Josh Goodwill), xʷaašxʷiip (Christine Hintz), and čii?iɭumqa (Kelly Poirier). We look forward to welcoming them back next year to help teach our upcoming cohorts and continue to advance their language abilities.
- Call our for applications for our upcoming fall session of the Adult Intensive Language Program, October 3, 2023 - June 6, 2024. Deadline to apply August 14, 2023 by 4:30 pm. More information @tseshahtlanguage on Facebook.



GOVERNANCE

- New committees will have an orientation meeting later in August

SPECIAL COUNCIL UPDATE/ REPORT TO COMMUNITY WILL BE DELIVERED & RELEASED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, PLEASE STAY TUNED.