



MINUTES

TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 25 & 26, 2023

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Haa-huu-payak Gym and Zoom
Breakfast and lunch provided

In Attendance

COUNCIL:

Ken Watts (Chair)
Eunice Joe
Ed Ross

Les Sam
Natasha Marshall

Debra Foxcroft
Harley Wylie

COUNCIL REGRETS:
Jennifer Gallic
Leisa Hassall

STAFF:

Vicky White
Tonya Isaac
Alicia Jimmy
Jamie Jensen
Dawn Foxcroft

Virginia Shrimpton, Recording Secretary
Melissa Bigmore
James LaFlamme
Darrell Ross
Lisa Gallic

Chris Anderson
Roger Brossoit
Tonya Isaac
Linsey Haggard

Aaron Watts
Thomas Hleck
Dwayne Hearn
Leanne Harding
Bella Fred

MEMBERSHIP:

IN PERSON:

Agnes Gus
Al Shewish
Annie Watts
Bobby Rupert
Brea Taylor
C. Ann Robinson
Caledonia Glendale
Cassidy Williams
Charlotte Elliott
Chuck Watts
Connie Sam
Dave Watts
Destani Dick
E. Darlene Taylor
Eagle

Gloria Ross
H. Dick
Jacqueline Watts
James Starr
Jamie Ross
Janine Barney
Jenna Poorman
John Ross
Josh Goodwill
Kae-lynn Johnson
Karen Johnson
Kathleen Watts
Lanaley Hassell
Leslie Taylor
Lillian Dick
Margaret Valenzuela

Marlene Dick
Matilda Atleo
Matt Fred
Melissa Gus
Michelle Dick
Nathan Watts
Pam Watts
Robert S. Watts
Sadie Volodin
Tanya Taylor
Tina Gus
Tom Watts
Valentine Gomez
Wendy Gallic
Willard Gallic Jr.

ONLINE:

Amanda Watts
Camille Hamel
Charlene Thompson
Darci Doiron
David Watts Jr.
Iris Kivell
Jon Watts
Kathleen Fraser
Layla Lucas
Len L. Watts
Myra Mack
Nick Ross
Pam Moussa
Patricia Rivard
Rachel Watts
Sophie Braker
Trudy Tate

1. Chant/Prayer/Song

2. Welcome and opening remarks

- Sending our thoughts and prayers to the ones who are struggling. We are sending you good energy.
- It is good to be here together, and we encourage everyone to practice self care today.
- We have brushings available for our community members.
- Bus rides are available for members to attend.

3. Adopt Draft Agenda

MOTION 1: To adopt draft agenda of the Tseshaht 2023 Annual General Meeting held November 25-26, 2023 as amended: 4a) Community safety 4b) Supporting grieving families and elders 4c) Health advocacy (20231125-01)	
MOVED: James Starr QUESTION	SECONDED: Robert S. Watts MOTION CARRIED

4. Adopt October 29-30, 2022 draft minutes

MOTION 2: To adopt the October 29-30, 2022, draft minutes. (20231125-02)	
MOVED: Charlene Thompson QUESTION	SECONDED: James Starr MOTION CARRIED

5. Business Arising

- No business arising based on the motion.

6. Chief & Council Reports

Les Sam

- This year was successful with a good fisheries season.
- Recognition given to James LaFlamme for managing fish day and ensuring equality for members.
- John was hired for water enforcement and was well-received.
- Sockeye and Chinook harvests were healthy and distributed smoothly.
- Surplus at Robertson Creek was harvested, leading to expected revenue.
- Changes in Chinook patterns noted; fishers are adjusting.
- Successful out-of-town deliveries and frozen product distribution planned.
- Successful elk hunt; first distribution suggested for elders' dinner on December 7.
- Committee met weekly during the summer, focusing on strengthening fishing rules and boat safety inspections.
- Plans to expand monitoring, purchase new boats, and count all fishing activities.
- Discussion on government agreements and leverage in negotiations.
- Challenges of clamming in BGI due to low clam prices.
- Push for per capita fishery resulted in more boats on the water.
- Interest in fisheries education and SCUBA diving programs.
- Request for monthly committee meetings and safety checks for fish day nets.
- Issues with fish buyers' monopoly and lowballing prices.

- Voluntary river cleanup completed; exploring BGI harvesting opportunities.
- Agreement negotiations and fair processes emphasized.
- Maintenance of nets before fish day ensured by fisheries manager.
- Discussion on building a plant for better control and value addition; collaboration with Fleur in town.
- Working with Coastal Restoration on removing sunken boats.

Harley Wylie

- Participating in the Island Corridor Foundation to reactivate the public railway, with varying support from different First Nations.
- Joined land use plan meetings, appreciating Len's work and developing a well-thought-out plan with significant member input.
- Community economic development initiative with COPA, Hupa, and Tseshaht, focusing on Clutesi Marina for promoting PA and First Nations with storytelling, dance performances, catering, and more.
- Alberni Valley Airport considering fee increases; no current directives but potential future impact.
- ACRD working group has strengthened influence, building better relations with ACRD, focusing on employment equity and workforce representation of First Nations.
- Importance of informing the community about job opportunities.
- Efforts to save the Martin Mars water bomber; not fully included in meetings.
- City aquatic committee planning a new aquatic center, ensuring First Nations input in planning, artwork, and employment.
- New inclusive regional governance committee with key valley stakeholders; emphasized employment equity, which was agreed upon for progress in recruiting and hiring more indigenous people.
- Alberni Pacific Railway repair and reactivation plans, advocating for First Nations presence and exploring opportunities for a Bannock store.
- Addressed issues with hospital mistreatment; engaged in discussions with senior staff to address ongoing problems, highlighting repeated concerns shared by others at West Coast Hospital.

Debra Foxcroft

- HR and social services had a busy year, with the HR committee undergoing orientation and planning a meeting next week.
- Hired several new staff members throughout the year.
- Signed a protocol agreement with Kwumut Lelum, who has an office in Nanaimo.
- Facilitated the reconnection of a young Tseshaht man with his family.
- New Somass Hall is expected to break ground in the new year, providing dedicated space for the child and family services program.
- Lobbied at the national level to secure appropriate services for prevention, successfully obtaining more funding for these services.
- The new Somass Hall will include dedicated services for children and families, aiming to keep children out of care.
- Draft agreement for the Usma program is expected to be finalized next year.
- Attended numerous events, walks, and gatherings related to the portfolio.
- Advocated on behalf of membership, looking forward to hearing their voices through new committees.
- Appreciated the dedication of committee members who want to advocate for better services for members.

- As an alternate for Ken on the AIRS project, attended most meetings with the survivors' group, noting their tremendous growth, ability to speak their truth, express their feelings, and celebrate life.

Ed Ross

- Tseshaht aims to manage the fishery responsibly, ensuring a level playing field for all members by implementing rules and conducting inspections.
- Culture portfolio is integral, woven into each aspect of Tseshaht's activities.
- Balances administrative duties with cultural traditions, creating a hybrid approach that values both.
- Initially, cultural contributions felt like token gestures, but efforts are being made to educate others about Tseshaht identity and traditions, emphasizing the importance of storytelling and correcting misconceptions about Nuu-chah-nulth people.
- The AIRS program is pioneering, providing healing and safe spaces for Tseshaht people.
- Appreciation for Aaron Watts's support in integrating culture into the AIRS project.

Jennifer Gallic

- Sends her regrets for an urgent matter.

Leisa Hassall

- Sends her regrets as she is taking care of her family today. Ken shared a brief report on her behalf.
- Provided an update on funding, emphasizing the importance of securing long-term sustainable funding for the school.
- Acknowledged the language team for their exceptional work at the language house, noting they have outgrown the current space and are seeking funding for a new building.
- In emergency preparedness, 6 members took first aid training and FNEC donated an AED unit.
- Haa-huu-payak has over 155 students enrolled.
- It's encouraging to see skilled individuals with expertise serving on various committees.
- Kuu-us is doing an excellent job of providing support services.

Eunice Joe

- Worked on committee structure to ensure each committee has a solid framework, helping members and staff plan appropriately and understand expectations.
- Developing governance and economic development manuals, aligning with the financial administration law.
- Election code updates included a working group of community members providing recommendations, facilitated by an external independent support.
- Considered all input gathered over the years for the election code updates.
- Improved communication processes and information management; updated policy review in progress.
- Membership committee met in early October; as of November 16, population is 1,294 with 576 on reserve, marking a 17.6% growth since 2011.
- Committee plans to meet before the holiday break to review new membership applications and continue revising the membership code.
- Challenges with status card renewals through NTC; upcoming opportunity to have ISC in for secure certificate of Indian status.
- Education jurisdiction working group, including council, administration, HHPS administration, and HHPS board reps, has been evaluating the financial impacts of education jurisdiction.
- Decided not to pursue an education jurisdiction agreement due to potential funding losses, but will seek advice from nations that have implemented it.
- First Nations Education Authority for BC is now operational, with three nations ratified; Tseshaht can potentially have board representation if they opt for education jurisdiction.

- Invited by SD70 to participate in co-governance discussions; aiming to establish a co-governance model despite legislative limitations on school trustee elections.
- Initial meetings held for the wider catchment area; invited to meet on December 4 to discuss Tseshaht's position on co-governance and model inclusions.

Natasha Marshall

- Aimed to create partnerships and collaborative opportunities to support economic development, education, training, and employment for the community.
- Striving to sustain generational wealth.
- Explored partnerships with hotel development, potential road building excavation company, two sustainable forestry opportunities, and potential marketplaces for members to sell their arts.
- Conducted a feasibility study for space behind the market and potential forest partnerships.
- Following the CCP to create corporate structure and strategy.
- In the process of finalizing the economic development corporation, interviewing and selecting new board members, and establishing ongoing seats for advisory committees.
- Involved with FNEESC, hiring a coordinator, tutor, and mentors in education, and an employment and training partnership with NETP.
- Completed the smokehouse, which also has potential for training opportunities.
- Creating the economic development corporation will provide a new arm's length structure, separate from administration and council, and governed by a board.

Ken Watts

- Proud of the team's work.
- Somass Hall received grant funding from successful lobbying.
- Secured a grant for Sproat School demolition and provided hazmat removal training for members.
- Received funding to purchase land for housing off-reserve to accommodate members wishing to return home.
- Engaged in consultation with regards to the landfill.
- Secured a grant for an EV charging station in the community in partnership with Tesla, installing it at the market.
- Received a grant with DFO to purchase two new boats and hire a crew for monitoring.
- Funding to build a temporary space to relocate people from Caldwell Hall, which will revert to community housing once permanent space is available.
- Received funding for AIRS team to continue sacred work.
- Partnered with Urban Systems for funds for an interpretive longhouse as a portable space for sharing history, in partnership with the city.
- Negotiated a head lease renewal with PAPA, ensuring proper consultation and recognition.
- Additional funding secured for Somass Hall, which will be fully funded, with resources for keeping kids out of care, offices, workshop space, and youth space.
- Calls for truth and justice urging churches to fund a health and wellness centre, with Canada also stepping up.
- Memorial design for survivors is in progress, to be installed next year.
- Previous partnership with Interfor and the forestry team will result in a Christmas distribution to members, with the amount to be determined.
- Addressed road access issues with the forestry team and Mosaic regarding territory access.
- Ongoing negotiations with BC on forestry infringement and compensation, meeting with five ministers and the premier.
- Negotiating with Canada on fisheries, Parks Canada BGI, and Maa-nulth treaty infringement for proper compensation.
- Finalizing financing for a hotel project, to be presented to the community.

- Canada committed to tearing down Caldwell Hall and funding a celebration event.
- Exploring locations, and securing funds within the next six months for a new multiplex.
- Iwachis trust being set up for youth contributions, using funds for identified priorities over 7+ years.
- Acknowledged the dedicated team, especially Vicky White, who has been an outstanding and caring executive director.

7. Tseshaht Administration Program updates

- Tabled to day 2.

8. Financial update

- The audit is not yet complete, aiming to present to council mid-January and then at a special community meeting in early February.
- Review of the financial structure to help understand band operations; a reference handout is available to members.
- Different funds and departments are set up to align with funding agreements or targeted funding. For example, Somass Hall will have a separate fund and departments to track it.
- The band has received revenue sharing from gaming, with seven departments set up under allowable expenses, excluding per capita distributions.
- Capital asset fund tracks the band's assets.
- Ottawa trust fund originates from forestry activities on IR8, earning interest annually and available for community projects. The balance nearly matches the administration building loan amount and could be used to pay off the loan.
- Organizing trustees for the cut of land trust/band trust.
- Four funds set up for CMHC housing projects, including a replacement reserve program for future major repairs and an operating reserve fund for surpluses to cover rent collection arrears or repairs.
- Claims negotiations and reconciliation (formerly treaty) fund tracks money for negotiations, including PAPA head lease and island corridor foundation money.
- Iwachis settlement fund includes a minors account and a general account.
- Review of corporate financial structure.
- The corporate structure is changing, to be implemented by April 1.
- The finance team is managing over \$24 million in new funding.
- Community engagement created a wish list for gaming funds, with 20 top priorities, most of which are completed.
- Elders want more input on how their funding is spent, with suggestions for reporting by the elders committee.
- Elders committee orientation noted for budget reporting and communication.
- Question raised about elders' insurance, which covers home insurance up to \$1500 and is applied for in the housing department.
- Hopes for sewer extension, with approval in principle to extend it to Saiyatchapis but not yet including Hector Road, Tiipis, Polly's Point.
- Public works concerns raised about road safety on McCoy Lake Road and the need for sidewalks and speed bumps.
- Interest from trust funds, including for youth, goes back into the trust and compounds.
- Plans to start a company with machinery, potentially partnering for rentals.
- Discussion on changing the terms of the old trust fund, including the age for distributions.
- Trust changes are difficult to make to prevent fund mismanagement. Director of Finance can answer questions about changes to the trust agreement.

- Rent-to-own homes are still on the list, with ownership opportunities after 25 years and at least 10 years of occupancy.

9. Closing comments

10. Song

*** * * * Meeting adjourned * * * ***

DAY 2

1. Chant/Prayer/Song

2. Welcome and opening remarks

- Sending strength to those struggling today – Tseshahat is thinking about you and sending you energy.
- Yesterday was a good day, and people left feeling good.
- We want people to feel safe expressing their needs, standing on their truth, and working together effectively.
- Administrative update was tabled to today.
- Instead of a strategic plan update, we'll do a breakout session.
- The added items will be discussed at the end of the agenda: community safety and roads, supporting grieving families and elders, and health advocacy.

3. Administrative update

- Annual report was provided to members.
- Reflection on the strategic plan 2021-2025.
- Economic Development**
- Received mandate from the community to move forward with creating an economic development structure.
- As we move to create this organization, it will be arms-length from administration and council, governed by a board.
- We've recently completed our board selection process.
- Financial Administration Law (FAL) is what we're operating by right now, striving to meet the standards set which help council and administration make informed decisions.
- There's been discussion about moving away from block funding with NTC, and the FAL helps us prepare to do that if feasible.
- FAL helps create a communication process about our finances that will roll out over the next couple of years.
- We've had extensive WCB audits recently, which take an incredible amount of time to gather the required information. It was a learning process for our organization on how to best work with WCB.
- The audit will be presented at a future community meeting. The WCB audits caused the delay.
- Finalizing Letter of Agreement (LOA) with BMO and our ORHLP with them.
- Completing year-ends due December 31 for our corporations and partners.
- Fisheries**
- Creating safe operating procedures which will identify roles and responsibilities attached to positions.

- Fish days allowed for distribution to members, as well as distributions of halibut and elk.
- Department and council are working on finalizing the economic development opportunity agreement and recently received funding for PSSI to monitor our hahoulthee.
- Wildlife reporting app in development that will assist conservation in our territory.

Natural Resources

- Ongoing support from the department for negotiations.
- Received funding from NRT and created a position to support alignment with the strategic plan, CCP, UNDRIP, and DRIPA.
- Working on specific claim negotiations and research. Completed Iwachis settlement with distribution in 2023.

Forestry

- Finalizing the BC Timber Sales MOU, which leads to future contract opportunities.
- Income has enabled some distributions.
- Working on woodland licenses and updating forestry strategies.
- Department provides firewood for elders and created a process for firewood ahead of time.
- Had work on drones this last year, and a few members were hired through a partnership. They completed the drone program to become certified drone operators. We're starting to utilize them.

Communication

- Created a liaison position to increase communication with the community and information sharing regarding programs and services, and how they relate to the strategic plan.
- Annual report is now part of our Financial Administration Law (FAL), and this is the first year we've assembled it.
- Acquired the Hawk app and are working on its launch to help improve communication, including immediate communications via phone.
- The Hawk app will be exceptionally useful for emergency response.

Governance

- The new committee structure was supported by the community in 2022. We had to move through a process to align the Terms of Reference (TOR) for each committee with our Financial Administration Law (FAL).
- Worked with the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNFMB) to prepare a final version for council adoption, and then new committees were able to meet. A few committees are still pending their orientation meeting.
- The TOR outlines the mandate, roles, responsibilities, and meeting frequency for each committee. Each committee has a number of "up to" meetings to have as needed. This approach does not set specific dates but allows us to call meetings for required matters.
- Committees make recommendations to the council for consideration.
- Policies and codes must be reviewed and aligned with the FAL.

Housing

- There is currently a vacancy for the manager position, and we have been sharing the load internally.
- We received some support from the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC) until we have a manager in place.
- We've launched a housing needs assessment survey. This is part of the strategic plan to identify the housing needs for the nation.

Capital projects

- Renovations have been ongoing over the past two years. The Youth Centre was completed in spring, and the Cultural Centre renovations started a few months ago. We had to close the facility during these renovations, which are expected to be completed by early January. Renovations for the Longhouse and Daycare are scheduled for 2024.

- The Capital Projects area supports the Saiyatchapis sewer expansion. We acquired funding and were able to put in an egress road at the bottom of Watty's Hill, allowing for traffic flow in and out of the community during construction.
- They also support the new Somass Hall project. The bid has gone out for contractors and is currently under review.
- Regarding Caldwell Hall, there is a need to create office space for those who utilize it. We are working on plans for this so we can proceed with tearing down Caldwell Hall.
- Additionally, we are supporting safety assessments on Maht Mahs.

Land use planning

- In 2024/25, we will move forward with creating a new Lands Department. This goal started three years ago when we hired Len, who is completing his Land Managers Certificate. We will apply for funding to create this department.
- Over the past year, there has been significant community consultation on the Land Use Plan itself.
- The Land Use Plan draft is finalized and has council support for adoption. During the consultation, 120 registered Tseshaht members participated, and the plan was generally approved.

Organizational Chart

- We have new team members in several program areas.
- We've been fortunate to have membership apply for positions.
- We will be hiring a Housing Manager, Community Health Worker, HR Advisor, and Elders Coordinator in the coming weeks.
- Other organizations in the valley are experiencing similar issues with recruitment and retention.
- One HR challenge is that some of our funding is short-term, creating barriers to employment. We hope to secure multi-year funding to move from temporary to permanent positions. Thankfully, members have joined the team on these short-term fundings.

AIRS

- We are learning as we go to perform this sacred work.
- The work is grounded in our Tseshaht ways, incorporating our culture.
- We have been able to acquire funds for the 2023/24 period for specific outcomes, including research and records delivery, commemoration and memorial activities, and engagement initiatives.
- Supports are available to members; contact Leanne Harding at the office for information.
- Land clearing to be done to prepare for LiDAR in the spring.
- We have a safety program for the land clearing areas with community patrol.

Emergency management

- We are increasing our support for emergency management in the nation, led by Bella Fred and Thomas Hleck, along with a coordinator on a one-year term. We are seeking funding to extend the program.
- This year, we received an emergency social services trailer. We have applied for funds to fill the trailer with supplies and radios for the program.
- We held two first aid training sessions and received an AED for Maht Mahs, along with a Level 2 first aid kit.
- The emergency management team monitored the Cameron Bluffs wildfire and water shortages.
- We are working on providing more training in emergency management.

Daycare

- Our new Daycare Manager is Theresa Burnip.

Social Development and Health

- Bella Fred and Thomas Hleck are supporting in the following areas:
- **Housing:**
 - Currently conducting assessments and inspections.
 - Updating housing policies to meet current needs.
 - Addressing rent arrears and securing funding for land purchases for new housing projects.
 - Proposals underway to install heat pumps for elders.
 - Housing survey open until December 8 to inform future housing and infrastructure plans.
 - Renovation projects gathering funds for specific improvements, including work on NAHS and upcoming new builds.
- **Health:**
 - Recognizing common themes of trauma in the community.
 - Increasing awareness and comfort in sharing experiences related to trauma.
 - Developing frameworks to address community needs arising from historical and ongoing impacts of colonization.
 - Enhancing NTC health services with workshops and resources.
 - Partnering with NTC on COVID-19 research to understand its effects.
 - Offering flu clinics, COVID-19 vaccines, and courses in first aid and food safety.
 - Supporting youth development, including investments in transportation and various workshops.
 - Initiatives include trauma, grief, PTSD workshops.
 - Enhancing community programs such as yoga, food distribution, and wellness activities.
 - Patient travel program adapting to assist with NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits).
- **Membership:**
 - Membership department updating files and ensuring timely reporting.
 - Funding applications for wills and estates planning workshops.
 - Membership committee established and meeting regularly.
 - Membership code update in progress, to be reviewed by council and presented to the community.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - Mercedes Marshall and Memphis Dick leading programs at the Youth Centre.
 - Activities include healthy cooking, educational outings, science camps, and preparation programs like STARS.
 - Planning active events and spring break activities.
- **Community Initiatives:**
 - Planning sponsorship and support for individuals obtaining their PAL (Possession and Acquisition License) for hunting.
 - Long-term goal to initiate community hunting and harvesting of traditional foods.
- **Health Advocacy:**
 - Offering support to navigate personal health journeys.
- **Staff Support:**
 - Recognizing the workload of all staff members.
 - Council committed to supporting staff health and wellness.
 - Transitioning with the departure of the Executive Director and welcoming new staff with orientation and training.

Q&A

- **Gloria Ross:**
- **Handy Dart Services:** Raised concerns about the lack of Handy Dart services, particularly important for niece Rosa's healthcare needs. She asked if there were plans to engage with the community governance process to advocate for these services.
 - A: acknowledged the longstanding issue with Handy Dart services and mentioned ongoing conversations with municipal authorities to address this. She assured Gloria that it remains a priority topic and efforts are being made to initiate dialogue with the appropriate stakeholders.
- **FNHA Support:** Expressed difficulties accessing FNHA services despite their presence at the band office, highlighting the need for better communication and support to navigate health care needs.
 - A: Confirmed that improving access to FNHA services is part of their strategic plan. She mentioned ongoing efforts to develop a health and wellness plan that includes better coordination and support for members seeking healthcare assistance.
- **Council Advocacy:** Emphasized the importance of effective council advocacy on healthcare issues and shared concerns about the quality of care and communication with council members.
 - A: Acknowledged the need for improved council advocacy and communication regarding healthcare issues. She reassured Gloria of ongoing efforts to address these concerns and emphasized the community's role in shaping healthcare policies through engagement with council members.
- **Annie Ross:**
- **Block Funding and NTC Participation:** Annie sought clarification on whether changes in block funding would affect Tseshaht's participation in the NTC table.
 - A: Explained that changes in block funding are related to financial administrative law and are part of their strategic plan to eventually secure direct funding from ISC. She assured Annie that participation in the NTC table remains a priority during this transition.
- **Home Maintenance and Renovations:** Inquired about procedures for accessing home maintenance services and renovations, expressing frustration over past unsuccessful attempts.
 - A: Updated Annie on recent changes in housing management and the process for applying for renovations. She mentioned improvements in communication channels and encouraged members to reapply using updated templates to streamline the process.
- **Community Concerns:** Raised community concerns about PTSD workshops, intergenerational trauma, and the need for workshops to address these issues.
 - A: Acknowledged the importance of addressing PTSD and intergenerational trauma through community workshops. Mentioned ongoing efforts to secure funding and partnerships for these initiatives and welcomed community input to shape future programs.
- **Dave Watts Sr.:**
- **Clean Energy Initiatives:** Dave expressed concerns over delays in implementing promised clean energy initiatives like heat pumps.
 - A: Explaining the challenges and plans for partial funding for heat pumps. Suggested exploring rebates and financing options available through local partnerships to expedite implementation.
- **Elders Committee Orientation:** Sought clarification on the role and responsibilities of the Elders Committee, particularly after recent elections.

- A: Information on the Elders Committee's terms of reference (TOR) would be shared once finalized. Emphasized transparency in committee operations and the importance of community involvement in committee activities.

Land Claims Panel Update

MOTION 3: To go in camera.
(20231125-03)

MOVED: Melissa Gus
QUESTION

SECONDED: Darlene Taylor
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 4: To go out of camera.
(20231125-04)

MOVED: Melissa Gus
QUESTION

SECONDED: Darlene Taylor
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION 5: Whereas

- Tseshaht First Nation has undertaken extensive community engagement on a Tseshaht First Nation Land Use Plan (the Plan) for all our reserve and private/fee simple lands with over 108 members providing their input into the creation of the Plan
- 120 registered Tseshaht members were engaged on the approval of the Tseshaht Land Use plan and the results ended with all members approving the plan, one member approving with small amendments and no members opposing the plan.

Therefore, be it resolved,

- The Tseshaht First Nation community fully endorses the results of the Tseshaht First Nation Land Use Plan community engagement and hereby adopts and approves Tseshaht First Nation Land Use Plan
- Tseshaht First Nation community encourages the staff and council to take the necessary steps for the Land Use Plan implementation and including necessary land designation for economic development
- Tseshaht First Nation community hereby requests the annual updates on the implementation of the Tseshaht Land Use Plan.

(20231125-05)

MOVED: James Starr
QUESTION

SECONDED: Pam Watts
MOTION CARRIED

3. Strategic Plan update

- **Language and Culture**
- **Goal:** Increase cultural revitalization and language preservation efforts.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Expand learning outlets with platforms like TikTok and YouTube.
 - Secure sustainable funding for language preservation.
 - Develop creative ways to engage younger generations in cultural activities.
 - Establish incentives and financial support for language learning.
 - Reinstate reliable dance practices and educate on song meanings.
 - Create accessible cultural resources for all community members.
 - Explore the creation of a bi-yearly potlatch to revitalize cultural practices.
 - Implement a karaoke program for learning and engagement.
 - Advocate for excavation and preservation of identified village sites.
 - Work towards establishing a Tseshaht museum and supporting repatriation efforts.

- Strengthen leadership roles (ha'wiih) and responsibilities within the community.
- Promote family genealogies to reconnect members with their heritage.
- Plan for future immersion programs in the Tseshaht language.
- Organize cultural camps and rediscovery opportunities for youth.
- Incorporate Tseshaht language and culture visibly across community assets.
- Develop a comprehensive database and archives for cultural information.
- Encourage learning basic greetings and phrases in the Tseshaht language.
- Seek funding opportunities to support local artists and cultural projects.
- Ensure inclusive practices in all cultural initiatives.
- **Title and Rights**
- **Goal:** Strengthen governance and rights over Tseshaht lands and resources.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Secure additional resources for Tseshaht to enhance land and resource management.
 - Expand elk harvest and improve conservation methods.
 - Develop a wildlife observation app in collaboration with VIU.
 - Enhance communication and education on harvesting rights.
 - Review and revise criteria documents and rules related to resource management.
 - Pursue equitable per capita agreements with neighboring communities.
 - Document changes in the territory for historical and environmental records.
 - Address ongoing issues like trapping of invasive species.
 - Consider separate forums to focus on fisheries and wildlife management.
- **Health, Wellness, and Community Safety**
- **Goal:** Enhance community well-being, safety, and access to health services.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Improve road safety through better lighting and infrastructure.
 - Develop educational programs on sexual abuse prevention.
 - Implement healing programs like CHOICES and intergenerational workshops.
 - Create safe spaces for healing and workshops on chronic illness management.
 - Support transitions to healthy lifestyles and safe housing initiatives.
 - Enhance elder support with dedicated programs and services.
 - Promote traditional healing practices and access to traditional medicines.
 - Identify areas for sustainable funding to improve community security.
 - Advocate for community safety and elder support in health care settings.
 - Improve communication channels for elders without computer access.
- **Governance and Communications**
- **Goal:** Strengthen governance structures and communication strategies.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Develop a comprehensive governance manual outlining roles and responsibilities.
 - Establish clear policies and procedures for policy adoption and updates.
 - Enhance communication strategies to amplify community voices.
 - Implement data governance practices to guide decision-making.
 - Incorporate cultural protocols into governance structures.
 - Nurture meaningful youth involvement and mentorship opportunities.
 - Foster relationships and collaboration with neighboring communities.
- **Economic Development**
- **Goal:** Foster economic growth and sustainability for Tseshaht Nation.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Develop a governance manual for economic development entities.
 - Consolidate Tseshaht companies under a unified umbrella.
 - Build capacity for generational wealth through strategic planning.

- Pursue economic opportunities aligned with environmental sustainability.
- Support workforce development and training programs.
- Explore funding opportunities to support economic initiatives.
- **Housing and Infrastructure**
- **Goal:** Improve housing accessibility, infrastructure, and community services.
 - **Initiatives:**
 - Explore options for a women's shelter within the community.
 - Address road safety and speeding concerns.
 - Develop sidewalks and trails for active transportation.
 - Upgrade sewer systems and improve infrastructure maintenance.
 - Renovate housing units and implement bear-proof waste systems.
 - Support security measures such as CCTV installations for members.
 - Explore policies for secondary housing units (carriage houses).
 - Expand off-reserve housing options and review housing support programs.
 - Review and update the Off-Reserve Housing and Land Program (ORHLP).

4. Member additions

4a. Community Safety

- **Traffic Safety and Advocacy**
- Discussions highlighted the importance of ensuring traffic safety with consideration for children.
- Emphasis on creating ways for kids to independently walk to places safely.
- Stronger discussions with ACRD are needed to address these concerns, such as a trail system.
- **Relationship with Highways:**
- The community has established a positive relationship with highway authorities.
- Successfully advocated for the installation of new lights on the highway.
- Highway authorities acknowledged the danger posed by speeding and bad corner cutting, especially for pedestrians, and recognized the need for a sidewalk.
- **ACRD Involvement:**
- ACRD plays a role in addressing traffic safety concerns but is also focused on issues such as the landfill.
- The ACRD trail is funded through their taxes, highlighting the importance of ongoing advocacy for similar investments in our community.

4b) Supporting grieving families and elders

- Concerns were raised about the difficulties our people face in accessing modern supports for losing loved ones and applying for government subsidies.
- There is a significant learning curve due to a lack of knowledge and awareness.
- Instances of misinformation from sources intended to help were noted.
- **Funeral Costs and Coverage:**
- Misunderstandings about funeral costs and coverage were discussed.
- Members need to be made aware that there are death benefits available through ISC, disability, and welfare that can help cover funeral costs.
- During times of grief, it is challenging to know what forms are needed.
- **Clear Process for Bereavement:**
- There is a need for a clear process for community members after losing a loved one, including wills and estates and booking the gym for ceremonies.

4c) Health advocacy

- NTC health advocate support is available at the hospital for members.
- A nurse navigator is housed within the NTC, and a community relations representative is positioned within the FNHA for Vancouver Island. They can assist with prescriptions, medical supplies, and equipment.

5. Closing comments

6. Song

MOTION 6: To adjourn
(20231125-06)

MOVED: James Starr
QUESTION

SECONDED: Camille Hamel
MOTION CARRIED

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Number	Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
20231125-01	To adopt draft agenda of the Tseshahat 2023 Annual General Meeting held November 25-26, 2023 as amended: 4a) Community safety 4b) Supporting grieving families and elders 4c) Health advocacy	James Starr	Robert S. Watts
20231125-02	To adopt the October 29-30, 2022, draft minutes.	Charlene Thompson	James Starr
20231125-03	To go in camera.	Melissa Gus	Darlene Taylor
20231125-04	To go out of camera.	Melissa Gus	Darlene Taylor
20231125-05	Whereas A. Tseshahat First Nation has undertaken extensive community engagement on a Tseshahat First Nation Land Use Plan (the Plan) for all our reserve and private/fee simple lands with over 108 members providing their input into the creation of the Plan B. 120 registered Tseshahat members were engaged on the approval of the Tseshahat Land Use plan and the results ended with all members approving the plan, one member approving with small amendments and no members opposing the plan. Therefore, be it resolved, 1. The Tseshahat First Nation community fully endorses the results of the Tseshahat First Nation Land Use Plan community engagement and hereby adopts and approves Tseshahat First Nation Land Use Plan 2. Tseshahat First Nation community encourages the staff and council to take the necessary steps for the Land Use Plan implementation and including necessary land designation for economic development 3. Tseshahat First Nation community hereby requests the annual updates on the implementation of the Tseshahat Land Use Plan.	James Starr	Pam Watts
20231125-06	To adjourn.	James Starr	Camille Hamel