



August 15, 2024

**TSESHAHT FIRST NATION RECEIVES \$20,000 COMMUNITY BOARD GRANT FROM
TELUS FRIENDLY FUTURE FOUNDATION, SUPPORTING THE Tl'ihuuwa
Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project.**

Funding will help create a Tseshaht Nation team to lead active archaeological excavation at the ancestral Tseshaht village site of Tl'ihuuwa in Barkley Sound. The Tseshaht team will coordinate a wide range of project partners and academic institutional supports with a focus on community cultural heritage. This new capacity will accelerate internal cultural heritage management of Tseshaht hahuulhi (traditional territories) and foster cultural education for youth within Tseshaht and across the region, contributing to the national conversation of reconciliation and Indigenous history.

Port Alberni, BC, August 15, 2024 - Tseshaht First Nation has received a \$20,000 Community Board grant from TELUS Friendly Future Foundation® through the TELUS Vancouver Island Community Board, in support of the Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project.

“Kleco, kleco to TELUS and their Vancouver Island Community Board for their contribution towards our Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project, taking place in our territory,” said Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councillor, Tseshaht First Nation “This project provides not only employment and mentorship for Tseshaht youth, but fosters these youth to return to our territory to study the soil of our ancestors.”

The grant funding will contribute to the archaeological excavation of Tl'ihuuwa to further expand Tseshaht's understanding of the diversity of occupation and long-term cultural history in Barkley Sound. As well as building a cultural heritage program within the Tseshaht First Nation administration, the grant will also support a new Cultural Revitalization and Education Program for youth within Tseshaht and across the region, contributing to the national conversation of reconciliation and Indigenous history.

“Through our partnerships with charities supporting First Nations, we understand the need for culturally informed programming to help empower youth to reach their full potential,” said Nimmi Kanji, Executive Director of TELUS Friendly Future Foundation. “We are proud to be able to support Tseshaht First Nation, with a Vancouver Island Community Board grant, in order to help them continue the legacy of assisting with cultural revitalization and providing education for not only Tseshaht members but the greater community.”

For more information on Tseshaht First Nation and Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project, please visit www.tseshaht.com, and for more information on TELUS Friendly Future Foundation visit friendlyfuture.com.

About Tseshaht First Nation

cišaa' ʔatḥ (Tseshaht First Nation) has over 1300 registered members whose ḥaḥuuli 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 ḥaḥuuli [ha-houl-thee] (traditional territory) owned by our tayii ḥawil [ty-ee ha-wil-th], including Aboriginal Title. For more information, please visit Tseshaht.com

About TELUS Friendly Future Foundation

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is a Canadian registered charity that believes all youth, regardless of circumstance, deserve an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. That is why we're committed to giving youth the opportunity to belong. By funding more than 500 charities each year that provide education and health programs, many enabled by technology, along with providing educational bursaries, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation is helping more than two million youth in communities across Canada build skills, confidence and feel a sense of belonging. In 2023 alone, we provided more than \$9 million in grants to 550+ charitable programs across Canada, and close to \$2 million in bursaries to 400+ post-secondary students experiencing financial need and who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

For more information on TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, visit friendlyfuture.com.