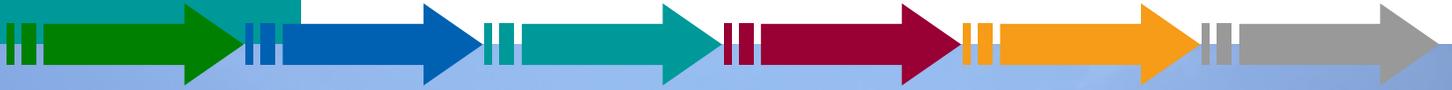


TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

Community Report

July 2025



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development

- ◆ **Economic Development Park -**
Tseshaht received a \$1M provincial grant to build an access road meant for infrastructure off Pacific Rim Highway in the billboards area. This road will include water, power and sewer connections for future buildings. We will be moving towards a land designation vote to get community support for creating a Economic Development park in the area. Potential revenue for the Nation would include light industrial, and commercial opportunities , retail/ business spaces in the front of the property and light industrial warehouses, larger lots for lease opportunities and potential market rental, for-profit housing overlooking McCoy Lake across the 60-acre parcel. Details on the vote will be communicated once formalized.
- ◆ **Tseshaht Market -** Tseshaht Enterprises Corporation (TEC) has requested Council to go back to community in get their mandate to potentially explore or move to next steps of opening a beer and wine store within Tseshaht Market. A Rural Liquor License would give us an exemption to hold this type of license. Communications with the province have begun about the license but we recognize community will want input on the decision to proceed or not.
- ◆ **Former Orange Bridge Cannabis (OBC) -** Tsuma-as Housing Society is utilizing the former OBC space and we are looking at another potential lease for the remaining space.
- ◆ **Microtel -** Due to red tape and other land issues the Microtel project has had significant delays and unfortunately, an increase in costs as we await approvals. The sale of the land and subdivision of the land also created costs that were out of our control. We are seeking to secure other resources to help bring those costs down in order to proceed in a good way. We are hopeful the project will still proceed, we have a few hoops to jump through first.
- ◆ **Clutesi Haven Marina -** The CEDI working group between Tseshaht, Hupacasath and the City of Port Alberni is developing shipping containers to house retail space and food and beverage services at Clutesi Haven Marina. Expressions of interest from members of both Nations were received by the Port Alberni Port Authority, who is managing the space, for potential lease agreements. Tseshaht is very excited to see this project come to life with a new gazebo, art installation and local vendors, Clutesi have Marina will offer locals and visitors alike a place to enjoy with time well spent.
- ◆ **Tseshaht Forestry -** Currently on the former Catalyst lands Tseshaht Forestry firewood crews have been use the space breaking down fiber into useable firewood for community members.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ **Fiber agreements** - We have obtained more fiber in our territory through new agreements with a partner.

Employment

- ◆ **Class 4 Drivers Training** - Through partnership with NETP 6 Tseshaht members enrolled in a Class 4 Drivers License Training Program. 5 successfully obtaining their learners license and will have the opportunity to utilize the Tseshaht Education Bus for their road tests scheduled in July.
- ◆ **Summer Students** - Tseshaht was successful in applying for funding through NETP and FNIYES to hire 4 summer students this year. Positions include a recreation assistant, a beach keeper assistant and 2 early childhood support workers for our daycare.

Education

- ◆ **Graduation** - Tseshaht sends our congratulations to both High School and Post-Secondary students. We look forward to see where they go in their post-secondary and careers and hope they will eventually come back to our Nation someday to work. Congratulations also goes out to Haahuupayak graduates on all their hard work this year. We are grateful to our teachers for doing the work they do in preparing our students moving onto Alberni District Secondary School.
- ◆ **NTC Scholarship and Graduation** - The class of 2025 was full of Tseshaht members, with 12 graduating from ADSS, 4 graduating from Eighth Avenue Learning Center (EALC), 13 post-secondary graduates and 2 trades graduates. 29 students received scholarships; 22 elementary and secondary awards, 5 post-secondary scholarships and 2 NETP awards. 2 EALC graduates were also awarded bursaries.



GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATION

Governance

◆ **By-Election** - A By-Election has been called for Tuesday, July 29, 2025 to fill a vacancy on Council. Advanced polls and online voting open at 8:00 am July 15th. Visit www.onefeather.ca/nations/tseshaht for more information. Eligible members have nominated the following candidates for election:

- ◆ Amanda Delorme
- ◆ Melissa Gus
- ◆ Hughie Watts Jr.
- ◆ Richard Watts

Finance

◆ **Tseshaht Forestry** - A separation between the Nation finances and those of Tseshaht Forestry is near completion. Tseshaht Forestry is currently working to bring on their own bookkeeper, as they are being supported by MNP during transition. This separation is in preparation of Tseshaht Forestry transitioning under the Tseshaht Enterprises Corporation.

Communications

◆ **Emergency Communications Plan** - A funding agreement between Tseshaht, Hupacasath, the City of Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District has developed into a working group to create an emergency communications plan. The plan will see aligned communications for emergency responses involving all 4 organizations. This alignment will assist in streamlining resources and

community notifications when emergencies situations such as wildfire, tsunami, regional flooding and other disasters occur. Tseshaht encourages community members to be prepared as best as possible in the case of any potential threats to house and home.

◆ **VoyentAlert!** - is an emergency notification service used to send alerts to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events such as a tsunami, earthquake, dam breach, or wildfire. Voyent Alert! is available to residents in the City of Port Alberni, the ACRD electoral areas (Sproat Lake, Beaufort, Cherry Creek, Beaver Creek, Bamfield, Long Beach), Tseshaht First Nation, Hupacasath First Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Toquaht Nation.

Registration is free, simple and can be totally anonymous:

- ◆ Download the Voyent Alert! app from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store
- ◆ Or register using the links below to receive notifications via text message, email, or phone



<https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/voyent-alert/id1301602902>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icesoft.voyent.vras.android>



HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing

- ◆ **Elders heat pumps** - Phase 1b of the Elders Heat Pump Upgrade project has now been completed, as per the housing needs study conducted. This project was funded through New Relationship Trust.
- ◆ **Off-reserve** - Tseshaht is making progress on the former APD lands purchased last year. We are working with BC Housing on the finalization of design and completing Official Community Plan (OCP) amendments and rezoning with the City of Port Alberni. A 125-plus unit affordable housing complex across three buildings is now awaiting what will hopefully be BC Housing funds to complete the project. This project will not just see housing for Tseshaht members but housing for the broader public.
- ◆ **Craig Road Property** - Tseshaht purchased a little less than one-acre from School District 70 (SD70) located behind the former Klitsa School. We are exploring the potential of townhomes with a partner that may have a long-term lease but also a potential Seniors/Elders complex for members that need other housing.



- ◆ **Other properties** - Tseshaht is currently exploring two other properties from the City of Port Alberni that we will hopefully purchase in the near future. We will share more about this once the properties have been secured.

Infrastructure

- ◆ **Master Plan** - Tseshaht is working with Canada to secure funds to complete a Master Plan that will determine where housing, and business goes as well as roads, water, sewer, power, etc.
- ◆ **Mainroad contracting** - Tseshaht wishes to thank Mainroad Contracting for their work in assisting our Public Works Department on brush cutting along our roads.
- ◆ **Somass Hall** - The new Somass Hall is 99% complete with minor deficiencies and landscaping to be completed. Tseshaht is planning a grand opening celebration for the Somass Hall later this month. July 31, 2025 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. We will celebrate as a community and also honour some people who helped make this whole project possible. We look forward to seeing our Youth Center, House of Regalia and Prevention Services team all onsite on the lower level. The main level will serve as a community hall, similar to the original. There will be a separate facility policy specific to the Somass Hall to ensure its use is prioritize towards children and



HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

families.

- ◆ **Saiyatchapis sewer expansion** - The sewer expansion to homes in the Saiyatchapis area is now complete. Kleco, kleco to our contractors and Capital projects team for organizing funding with Canada for our sewer expansion. 39 homes are now newly hooked up, moving away from failing septic tanks and fields. Tseshaht also thanks our community for their patience throughout the project.
- ◆ **Cul-de-sacs** - Tseshaht reminds residents in all the cul-de-sacs, parking is limited to your own driveways and yards. Parking or placement of items in the middle, around the newly placed rocks is prohibited. The rocks are there not only to protect the newly installed lines but also to ensure there is fire lane access to each home. In the case of an emergency vehicle requiring access to any of these areas there is not time to locate owners to move vehicles/items. Please be respectful of signage and ensure everyone is safe.
- ◆ **Daycare** - Funds secured by our Daycare Manager through the provincial government have allowed both daycare and staff building renovations. Both are being brought up to code and proper standards and create beautiful spaces for our children. Once renovations have been complete we will celebrate with community. Phase 2 of the 0-3 infant building and phase 3 of the 3-5 toddler

building are currently progressing.

- ◆ **Saiyatchapis subdivision** - Tseshaht is currently awaiting a feasibility study on the potential subdivision expansion. 45 lots in a phased approach has been proposed, however, there are significant geotechnical issues, such as water and environmental issues with birds and other species that we are being mindful of. The intention is to build CMHC, band-owned and also provide members to build individual homes there with fully services lots ready to build.
- ◆ **Santu subdivision** - A previous feasibility study shows the ongoing water pressure issues in the Santu subdivision area. Alternative sites are being looked at for the potential of infill to make sites suitable for building for individuals or houses constructed by the Nation. Our Land Use Plan is assisting in guiding this work. We appreciate members patience as we continue to work through these water issues, with multiple water shut-offs as we work through aging lines and infrastructure that were not to code.
- ◆ **4-plex** - Tseshaht has secured funding from Canada to building a 4-plex unit on Saiyatchapis alongside the current Youth Center. The units will be on-level, rancher style, with 3 & 3-bedrooms units. Members interested in taking part in the construction and or finishing of these units are encouraged to speak with the construction manager onsite.



HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ **Renovated former workshop** - Renovations are close to completion on the former workshop located behind the Cultural Center. The newly renovated space will be the new home of the NTC Capital Housing Team. The parking lot space has also been extended around the smokehouses on the highway side of the property.



- ◆ **Cultural Center** - Tseshaht is currently seeking funds to connect the cultural Center, former workshop and potentially homes in the Watty's Road area to city sewer.
- ◆ **Industrial Road off Highway** - Development of a new industrial access road will begin in the coming months. This project will include opportunities for Tseshaht members to work alongside the contractor.
- ◆ **tiipis (Polly's Point)** - Tseshaht infrastructure is currently doing a feasibility study on the potential addition of water service at tiipis. Once complete we will move to the design phase to connect the three homes there. A

Municipal Service Agreement with the City of Port Alberni has already been agreed to as part of this project. A fire hydrant will also be installed to provide fire safety measure as currently there is no hydrant there.

- ◆ **Condemned homes** – Tseshaht has worked with one member who had a condemned home that we will be taking over ownership. The home will be demolished and rebuild. Liability issues around condemned homes can fall on not only the member but to the Nation. While our serviceable and developable land is running low, our Nation is continuing to grow. Tseshaht is hopeful to collaborate with several other members in our community, creating safe spaces and building new homes.
- ◆ **Caldwell Hall** - The former Caldwell Hall is scheduled to be torn down this fiscal year. The current tenants, the capital Housing Team and NTC boardroom will be moving to a newly renovated building behind the Cultural Center in the coming months. Once the move is complete we can move forward to next steps. We are aware a large part of the teardown will include hazmat of asbestos and other things that will need to be quoted ahead of any removal. We will also be working with Survivors and others to plan the day of tear down as Canada committed to paying for the work as well as a celebration.



HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ **Papermill Dam** - Funds for upgrades and beautification at Papermill Dam have been received. Potential to add covered areas, lighting, benches and a ramp.



- ◆ **Maht Mahs** - The teardown and replacement of Maht Mahs is now in the design phase. We are looking at options of a steel building to be placed in the field of the current Youth Center on Saiyatchapis. This potential option will help to keep costs down so we can encourage Canada and potentially the church or others to fund it. We are hopeful in the next 6 months or before the end of the fiscal year we will have the design completed. We know what we want and where we want it, we just need the funds to build it. The goals are to include with the gym, change rooms, washrooms, table and chair storage and a nice big kitchen to support events that take place there.

- ◆ **Fitness Gym** - With the teardown of Maht Mahs we may have to build a separate building to replace our fitness gym.
- ◆ **HVAC at Maht Mahs** - The summer months will see a new HVAC system installed at the Maht Mahs to assist with heating and cooling. Unfortunately, this will require the gym to be closed for the next coming months to all events, rentals and user groups.

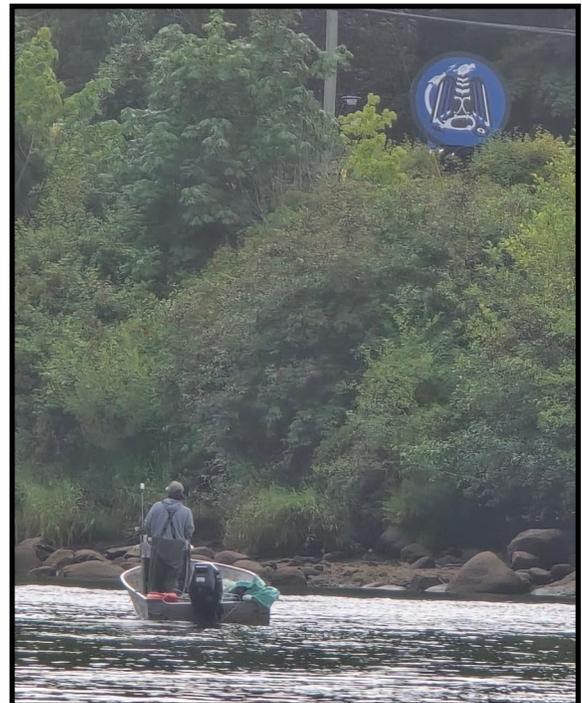


Photo credit: Les Sam



HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

Community Safety

- ◆ **Housing Policy** - Tseshaht has taken action on those living or camping in tents, trailers and other RV type mobile homes in community. These actions assist in ensuring community safety from fires and other safety hazards. Visitors/non-members as well as Tseshaht members camping anywhere on-reserve, without permission of the Nation is prohibited. This includes our main reserve, tiipis, and Papermill Dam.
- ◆ **Papermill Dam** - Tseshaht reminds members and visitors/non-members that Papermill Dam is a dry area. This location should be a safe and protected area for the many children and families that come to use the park and the river. Signage will be installed in the coming weeks reminding all users there is to be no drinking/drug use or camping at our park.
- ◆ **McCoy Lake Road** - Reports of speeding, road clearing and road quality have brought conversations with the province and the regional district to collaborate on improvements of safety for both drivers, pedestrians and residents on McCoy Lake Road.
- ◆ **HandiDart service** - Tseshaht is proud to now have a services agreement for on-reserve members to utilize HandiDart. This agreement comes after many years of discussions advocating for accessibility services for Tseshaht. More information can be found at <https://www.bctransit.com/port-alberni/riderinfo/handydart/register/>

Housing

- ◆ **Renovation funding** - A survey went out to engage community members that own their own homes and have children and youth living in them that may be in need of renovations and health upgrades. The intake response was huge and we may not have enough funds to do all the homes but we are excited to help. Helping to innovate some homes through Federal funding specifically dedicated to children and families.

Elders

- ◆ **Elders Coordinator** - A new Elders Coordinator has been hired, Tseshaht's own Esther Thomas. Esther is on leave at this time but is excited to get back to work as soon as she is able.
- ◆ **Island Elders Luncheon** - Tseshaht hosted the Island Elders Luncheon last month. Over 350 Elders from up and down Vancouver Island enjoyed a salmon and halibut lunch. Door prizes were gifted to our guests and everyone left with a smile on their face.
- ◆ **Elders activities** - Tseshaht Elders activities, trips and more will be scheduled upon Esther's return. We look forward to sharing a schedule each week on our Facebook page. **Tseshaht First Nation**



CULTURE & LANGUAGE

Language

The čišaa?ath Language Program launched in June 2019 and has since grown, building on the rich resources developed by previous Tseshaht language projects and champions. Since then, the team has been documenting fluent speakers and making the language available on our FirstVoices site and language app. We have also developed resources, created a curriculum, and implemented an intensive program for young adults with the goal of producing speakers and teachers of our language, while encouraging the use of language within families at home.

Language Classes

- ◆ **Adult Intensive Program** - Wrapped up our 4th year delivering our Adult Intensive Program on June 5, 2025 with a celebration for our students and their families. Both naaŋnašuk (Corey Anderson) and ŋaŋaaswii?as (Darci Doiron) graduated from our two-year program completing 284 immersion hours. Graduates are invited to re-apply to return to the program and continue to advance their language, helping teach in the intensive program and in community programs.

- ◆ **Conversational language focused** - In this year's Adult Intensive program, we had 4 years and levels learning and teaching together. Our language program is unique as it is focused on training students to teach and be able to use conversational language we do not focus on reading and writing.
- ◆ **Planning and delivery** - A review was conducted of the program with our students to assist in the planning and delivery for the next program year.

Documentation & Recording

- ◆ **Benson Nookemis** - We continue the important work of recording with fluent speaker Benson Nookemis three afternoons a week. These sessions help increase the content available on our FirstVoices site, review teaching materials, and strengthen the language abilities of our core team.
- ◆ **Recording sessions** - In the first quarter, we held 29 recording sessions with Benson, recorded 350 phrases, published 15 words/phrases to FirstVoices, transcribed 24 words/phrases, and added 65 images to words on the FirstVoices site.



CULTURE & LANGUAGE

- ◆ **FirstVoices** - New language content is regularly added to the FirstVoices site for learners. Check it out at: <https://www.firstvoices.com/tshahtlanguage/>. We also have a language app available.

Support & Sustainability & Communications

- ◆ **Consultations, translations and support** - Providing language consultations, translations, and support for Tshaht programs and departments, as well as external organizations and businesses. Supported language for the Tshaht History book project led by Darrell Ross and translations for FNHA.
- ◆ **Assessment Tool Working Group** - Language Manager participated on UVic's NETOLNEW Assessment Tool Working Group to help update this language learning assessment that is used widely by Nations across Canada.
- ◆ **Language Facebook page** - Posted 35 times on Language Facebook page to promote language learning through videos and audio, highlighted our activities, and connect people with broader language opportunities.
- ◆ **yuulu?if?ath language program** - We are continuing to collaborate with yuulu?if?ath in the development of their adult intensive language program, modeled after our program. On June 12th a small group of the core team and some students met with yuulu?if?ath Language Program Manager. We tested their

language aquarium walk and provided input.

- ◆ **Networking and relationship building** - Networking and building relationships with other Nuu-chah-nulth language families and the broader language revitalization community.
- ◆ **3-year agreement** - Successful in a grant proposal to FPCC for a three-year agreement (April 2025 – March 2028).
- ◆ **Funding advocacy and planning** - Ongoing advocacy and planning for language funding. Supported MLA Gord Johns with a petition to the Federal Government to support long-term language funding, Gord Johns took the floor on June 6, 2025, and spoke to this petition.

4 Pillars

- ◆ Council is reviewing the final engagement report ahead of applying for the 4 Pillars funding. Tshaht is already overdue in the process and we are hopeful our funds will be secured immediately so work can begin in the identified areas as community indicated during the engagement phase
- ◆ **Heritage** - We are intending to move our Mini-interpretive Longhouse onsite at Tshaht Market with staff in attendance to assist in sharing Tshaht heritage
- ◆ **Language** - We are thankful to our team for their ongoing applications for continued funding. We have committed to advocate for more from provincial



CULTURE & LANGUAGE

partners to ensure they don't continue to lose funding. Thankfully we have utilized a portion of our gaming revenue.

- ◆ **Culture** - We recognize the need to have more cultural support not just within certain departments but into the community. Opportunities to do more cultural work both on and off-reserve for our community members
- ◆ **Wellness** - It was overwhelmingly clear that members would like to see more support for off-reserve. Current wellness funding is specific to on-reserve and we are hopeful this would allow for expanding wellness services to off-reserve members as well.

Mini-interpretive Longhouse

- ◆ Our tiny home turned mini-interpretive longhouse will soon be stationed at Tseshaht Market for members and visitors alike to enjoy. Currently, we

have landscaping and beautification work happening around the totem pole area there as well as new artwork installed in preparation for the space. We have been sorting through artifacts found during previous archaeology digs, that will be used in the built in cabinets for display. Special thank you to Tracey Robinson for sewing holders for the artifacts. Once all resources are aligned a Tseshaht member will be brought on to manage and bring guests in for educational purposes, sharing Tseshaht culture and heritage.

Tseshaht book project

- ◆ Tseshaht land history has been compiled into a book for publication. Currently, the Tseshaht language team is editing the language formatting. Once published the Tseshaht Land History book will be available to the public in both book and audio book format.



TITLE & RIGHTS

Canada

- ◆ **Specific Claims** - There was an update on specific claims negotiations during our last Community Meeting from Hugh Braker. Please stay tuned for further updates
- ◆ **Federal negotiations** - all negotiations on fisheries, parks and other matters came to a standstill during the Federal Election but are now reconvening.
- ◆ **Fisheries** - Community was engaged regarding a long-term fisheries agreement and things we would like to see in return.
- ◆ **Parks Canada** - Discussions are now reconvening regarding a National Marine Conservation Area. A feasibility study and engagement to see if this is in Tseshaht best interested are being explored. We have not committed to anything currently.
- ◆ **Land back** - Discussions on how Tseshaht can gain reserve land back within the Broken Group Islands. Island parcels that are currently home to smaller reserves would become additions to reserve, seeing whole islands, such as Effingham and Nettle be returned to us whole.
- ◆ **Placenames** - Tseshaht is working with Parks Canada to potentially rename the Islands in a phased approach to their original names. Benson Island for example would be known as čišaa
- ◆ **Sewer connection** - Discussions with Canada for a feasibility study to explore the potential of connecting our main reserve to the sewer line in front of our Administration Building. Currently sewer connects from across the Somass River under the “Orange Bridge”. If feasible this will “free up” 200-300 homes on the River Road side, which in turn could lead to potential development at Westport Place subdivision. This development is currently halted due to lack of sewer capacity. The benefits for Tseshaht would see having our own lift station and pumps move it down to our own private lands and Catalyst additions to reserve land between the main reserve and landfill as well as the ATR at the former Sproat School. This includes over 160 acres of waterfront land. This is a several-year process that we’re into but with the lack of resources and funding we are seeking alternate sources of funds to help get he project to the finish line.
- ◆ **Additions to Reserve (ATR)** - The potential for ATR will work to provide opportunities to have water and sewer services connected to those properties mentioned above for new builds. Right now we are unable to offer to connect them as they are not reserve lands but fee simple private lands and outside city limits.
- ◆ **Catalyst lands** - Under Tseshaht Land Use Plan Catalyst lands are still identified for a campground on the front of the property, closest to the river and agricultural purposes on the back of the property. Administration is seeking funds to hire an agriculture champion for a community farm and other agricultural work to support food sovereignty and food security.



TITLE & RIGHTS

BC

- ◆ **Overlap issues** - Tseshahat is in discussions with other Nations about territorial boundaries and looking to the creation of formal agreements that will address removing current overlaps
- ◆ **Outstanding matters** - Although the \$5M contribution agreement to buy land for housing and the \$16M Incremental Economic Reconciliation Agreement (IERA), we are reconvening our negotiations with the province in other outstanding matters
- ◆ **Roundabout** - The City of Port Alberni and the provincial government are now proceeding with their collaborative plan for a roundabout at River Road and Beaver Creek Road. Tseshahat has been engaged throughout the process and share our concerns. From discussions we are happy to see a lot of improvements happen to the design.

Territorial

- ◆ **Head lease** - Tseshahat is in negotiations about water management from Polly's Point to the Barkley Sound along the inlet. This head lease was previously held by the Port Alberni Port Authority and has come up for renewal. Discussions on how we collaboratively work together are ongoing with both the province and PAPA
- ◆ **Landfill** - Ongoing discussions with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the province regarding Crown Land to ensure Tseshahat territory and waterways are protected. Tseshahat has been monitoring

along with experts the reports to ensure that Landfill isn't having detrimental impacts to our territory.

?uu?atumin yaqck'iimitqin

- ◆ **AIRS Survivor Group** - Tseshahat continues to meet with AIRS Survivor Group on a monthly basis and are currently working towards the creation of Code of Conduct for these meetings.
- ◆ **Survivor engagement** - Our team has been travelling to communities on Vancouver Island as well as locations within BC, taking part in organized gatherings to assist with our Survivor engagement.
- ◆ **Cultural support** - Continued cultural support with weekly haahuupa sessions in community. We are also supporting events in the broader Port Alberni community with traditional welcomes and cultural protocol direction for allied organizations.
- ◆ **Former AIRS site** - Tseshahat is happy to be working with our own Connie Watts on a design for a second memorial to share names of the children that attended, the names of the man that were a part of the important court case and the names of the children who passed away as students of AIRS. There are a lot of legalities to get approvals to include all those names to be displayed publicly, although some are already public. Once the design work is completed we will be seeking funding to complete the project. The AIRS Memorial Fund that raised donations will go towards this preliminary work.

