

# Community Report

October 2025



## EDUCATION

**Council:** Denis Bill, Rachel Watts, Tamiko Rampanaen

**Administration:** Maria Gomez

- ◆ Tseshaht First Nation is very proud of all graduates of secondary and post-secondary school this past summer and we send our positive energy to our students who have started a new school year this Fall at all levels.
- ◆ If you require education support please contact Community Services Manager, Maria Gomez directly.

## EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

**Council:** Dennis Bill, Rachel Watts, Tamiko Rampanen

**Administration:** Maria Gomez

- ◆ Many Tseshaht have completed employment and training programs through NETP and other programs. We are thankful to our partnership with ROGA Contracting, which has been able to provide one-time completion bonuses for those completing trade programs, certificates or degrees.
- ◆ Funding provided by Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program and First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy allowed for 4 summer student positions; Recreation Assistant, Brush Clearer and two (2) Early Childhood Support Workers this year.

## FORESTRY

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts, Melissa Gus

**Administration:** Dwayne Hearn, Jamie Jensen, Lailah Peligren

- ◆ Tseshaht is spearheading a working group/roundtable for the Alberni Valley Forestry which has included industry representatives, unions, local and regional governments, contractors and First Nations. We have had much success in working together in unity and pushing government on common causes. We have met with the Deputy Minister through the working group and hope to meet with the Minister soon
- ◆ Tseshaht has purchased a new license (50,000 m<sup>3</sup> a year) from Interfor in the Arrowsmith TSA in collaboration and partnership with A&A Trading LTD. This will produce a new source of revenue for our Nation



- ◆ Tseshaht has plans to harvest from government unused/undercut volume and we are also working with government on other harvesting as a part of a Non-Replacement Forest License (NRFL) signed previously, as result of a Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement. This will result in new revenue for our Nation.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Darrell Ross Sr., Len Watts, David Watts Sr.

- ◆ Tseshaht is engaged in many consultations around a new sewer main, developers, forestry, mining, landfill, Highway 4 roundabout, and our team is stretched often very thin.
- ◆ For our work in the BGI with our beach keeper program we continue to work with Parks Canada on a new management plan, new co-management agreement and funding to support our work.
- ◆ We are negotiating several boundary agreements with other Nations and also protocol agreements with other Nations to respect our respective territories so that we can all move forward in a good way.

## FISHERIES

**Council:** Les Sam, Harley Wylie

**Administration:** James LaFlamme, Kyle Miller, John Ross, Jeff Gallic, Kobe Solda, Dean Charles, Jay Budd

- ◆ A successful 2025 sockeye and chinook fishery occurred and although numbers were not as high as we would have liked we are thankful our members were able to get fish for their freezers. Our economic opportunity (EO) fishery produced revenue directly into the hands of our members and families.
- ◆ We are still awaiting finalization of our negotiations and Canada on our RIRSD negotiations to support our short-, mid- and long-term fisheries.



## WELCOME CENTER

**Council:** n/a

**Administration:** Tonya Isaac, Chelsey McIntosh, Alicia Jimmy

- ◆ Tseshaht is proud of the work of our Welcome Centre staff who have had many compliments on the friendly greetings of our members. However, we need to share our concerns that they have faced several incidents this summer. We remind all guests to please be respectful of our staff. Members will see renovations occurring at the front desk in the coming months.

## ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS

**Council:** n/a

**Administration:** Thomas Hleck, Bella Fred

- ◆ Tseshaht First Nation is reviewing organizational structures and looking at ways to streamline our administration to ensure effectiveness and efficiency while also looking at our future work of taking on our health services. Our Nation's administration has grown significantly along with the funding to support it totaling over 25 new positions in less than 5 years.

## FINANCE

**Council:** Dennis Bill, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Chris Anderson, Vicki-Lee Snowden, Marlene Dick, Tina Sam, Ashley Fred, Wendy Gallic

- ◆ Tseshaht is actively working on a new finance policy, reporting and information sharing with our members as capacity has been an issue with so many new funding sources coming into our Nation and what many do not realize as there are often dozens of new funding agreements every year that require extensive reporting and tracking.
- ◆ Our 2024/2025 audit will be presented at our AGM and we are excited to share that our Nation is a good place financially and we have new funding coming on a regular basis including gaming revenue sharing and our new Four Pillars funding focused on wellness, language, culture and heritage.



## HOUSING

**Council:** Melissa Gus, Tamiko Rampanen

**Administration:** Jeremy Bowers, Philip Wright

- ◆ Tseshaht is not waiting the long periods of time from funders for on-reserve housing and are financing and funding many projects on our own, on-reserve and have applied for major projects off-reserve as well.
- ◆ Tseshaht and our Tsuma-as Housing Society have submitted an application to BC Housing through the Community Housing Fund for a 128-unit affordable housing complex at our property at the former APD mill parking lot. We are actively meeting with governments and others to push for this.
- ◆ Regarding our Tseshaht owned lot at the former Klitsa School site, we are looking at potential partners to provide much needed housing for their work and also elders / seniors units for Tseshaht elders. This work is ongoing and will take some time.
- ◆ Tseshaht is also in discussions with the City of Port Alberni and other landowners as we look to purchase several other properties for housing projects benefiting not only Tseshaht but many in the Alberni Valley.
- ◆ Kleco to Ahousaht and their housing society for working with us and recognizing our territory at the project near Glenwood Centre. We are hopeful that we can work with them to have proper recognition of our territory at this facility.
- ◆ Tseshaht members will have seen our recent 4-plex being built on Saiyatchapis. Thanks to the Government of Canada for their contribution to this project as Tseshaht financed the remaining costs on our own. This will be one of the first “band owned homes” Tseshaht has built in quite some time as we often worked with CMHC to get subsidized housing in the past, so the rent will be different and the selection process for these 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units will be shared soon.



- ◆ Tseshaht thanks member Walter Thomas for working collaboratively with our Nation as we have taken possession of his former home which was condemned due to house fire. Deconstruction will occur in the near future and we will be building another small “band owned home” in the near future, details around selection process etc. will be shared soon with members.



- ◆ Tseshaht will once again be working with other owners of condemned homes and vacant lots as we have limited developable land on our main Reserve due to geotechnical issues, lack of water and sewer serviced areas, water pressure and scanning required through our important ʔuuʔatumin yaqckʷiimitqin work.
- ◆ Tseshaht is excited to share we are looking at potential areas on our main Reserve to build a small RV Park for our members. Currently, under policy no one is to be staying on-reserve in an RV or trailer as a resident, unless required, written approval from Tseshaht is obtained. To do so is a liability, and health and safety risk not only to themselves but to others in the community. We know that for some housing is not obtainable, this project will hopefully help provide space for those individuals.

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Lisa Gallic, Thomas Fred, Rick Mack, Sylvia Dick

- ◆ Tseshaht thanks our public works team for all their work through this hectic summer. We were proud to be able to bring on a landscaping crew to help out with many areas of the Reserve this year.
- ◆ Thanks to secured funding we did install a new heat pump at the Maht Mahs Gymnasium. Although we are looking to build a new gym in the near future, we still need to use the facility for the time being and proper heating and cooling was integral.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Lisa Gallic, Thomas Fred, Roger Brossoit, Richard Sam Jr.

- ◆ Excited to see NTC Capital Housing team move into the former shop behind the Cultural Centre. This renovation was fully funded by the Government of Canada in order for the Caldwell Hall/SEEDS building to be vacated so we can move towards teardown.
- ◆ Thanks to over \$1 Million in grants from the Province of BC and Government of Canada, our team has worked collaboratively with the daycare to do significant renovations to all 3 buildings. As we are working to finalize these renovations, we hope the daycare staff and children are happy with the beautiful work being done.
- ◆ We are excited the City of Port Alberni donated the previously created artwork from the Wolf Tower at λuuk<sup>w</sup>atquu?is to Tseshaht. Others have also contributed to the newly installed artwork at the Tseshaht Market behind the totem poles. There will be ongoing work over the next year too renovating those poles.



- ◆ Tseshaht is very excited to see work underway at the Economic Park on Pacific Rim Highway where we secured \$1 Million to build a service road to the site and bring in water, power and sewer for future economic development including



long term leases for commercial, light industrial and future market rental housing overlooking the lake. Our next big step is to move to a community approved designation vote that would allow the Nation to enter into long-term leases. Potentially, this would be a great new stream of revenue to help our Nation become self-sufficient.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Roger Brossoit, Richard Sam Jr.

- ◆ Our next major project we are meeting with government is about building a new gymnasium/multiplex for our community at the previously community approved site at the former youth centre field. This will be one of Tseshaht’s largest infrastructure projects on-reserve since building our Haahuupayak School and Administration Building. We are doing everything we can to ensure this project occurs.
- ◆ We are working with Canada to explore feasibility and future design to bring city water servicing to tiipis (Polly’s Point) as they are currently on wells which have had issues in the past and fire suppression is always an issue.
- ◆ In collaboration with Canada and the City of Port Alberni we are also exploring rerouting our city sewer from the Administration Building down along the river through the former Airport lands directly to the sewage lagoons. For this we must add our lands to Reserve. Currently, the system crosses the river at the Orange Bridge and then crosses back again at Josephine to our Airport fee simple to the sewage lagoons.
- ◆ We will be exploring potential new office space as an economic opportunity on-reserve as there is a high need from many organizations who would like a new office space.



## PREVENTION SERVICES

**Council:** Natasha Dennis, Tamiko Rampanen

**Administration:** Geena Powa Haiyupis, Gail K. Gus

- ◆ We are excited to see Geena enter into the new role of Prevention Manager with offices located at the lower floor of the Somass Hall along with Mercedes and Gail. Geena has a strong background in child and family services, and we look forward to various workshops, programs and services that assist in keeping Tseshaht children out of care; many of which will be located at the Somass Hall.

## YOUTH & RECREATION

**Council:** All Council, when available

**Administration:** Mercedes Marshall

- ◆ Tseshaht is proud of the amazing work being done by our team and our Youth and Recreation Coordinator, Mercedes, please watch our social media for all Youth events and our new youth centre hours at the Somass Hall (lower level).

## DAYCARE

**Council:** Tamiko Rampanen, Ken Watts

**Administration:** Theresa Burnip, Tanya Taylor, Kirstin Nohr, Alanda Atleo, Angeline Cartlidge, Bernelda Jackson, Sharon Dick, Michelle Frank

### **Renovations**

Thanks to the help we received from Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program (NETP) to apply for funding:

- ◆ Over \$500,000 received from the First Nations Early Learning and Childcare Grant through the BC Ministry of Education and Childcare
- ◆ Over \$500,000 received through the Urgent Repair and Renovation Funding for First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) from Social Development Canada



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Council:** Natasha Dennis, Tamiko Rampanen

**Administration:** Lillian Dick, Paula Watts

- ◆ Tseshaht is happy to have Paula supporting Lillian in our Income Assistance work and we remind any of our members that are receiving Income Assistance there are various training opportunities through NETP and members can always visit Community Services Manager, Maria Gomez.

## HEALTH SERVICES

**Council:** Natasha Dennis, Rachel Watts

**Administration:** Bella Fred, Patricia Jimmy, Gerri Thomas, Victoria Hegge, June Billie

- ◆ Tseshaht is moving towards our own health services and have future plans to leave the NTC health agreement as directed by our community through our community approved CCP and Strategic Plan. We look forward to working with NTC and FNHA on this important work so that we can deliver hands-on health services to our members such as nursing and more.

## ELDERS

**Council:** Jennifer Gallic, Harley Wylie

**Administration:** Esther Thomas

- ◆ Tseshaht is excited to have our Elders Coordinator, Esther Thomas who was off for a short period of time and is now returning, ready to go. Tseshaht is actively looking for more resources to invest into the Elders program and also looking at space to carry out the great programs Esther has planned.



## LANGUAGE

**Council:** Jennifer Gallic, Rachel Watts

**Administration:** yaacuʔisaqs (Linsey Haggard), taaʔisumqa (Dawn Foxcroft), k<sup>w</sup>aacaapi (Josh Goodwill), tatuučap (Grant Watts), Brianna Tate

For more information about the čišaaʔath Language Program and links to learning resources please check out the language page on the Tseshaht Website under Programs & Services.

### Language Classes

- ◆ Planning and preparation for our Adult Intensive Program starting back up beginning in October 2025. This includes a call for applications, interviews, prepping language house.
- ◆ Our regular language classes are on break over the summer to support our staff and students to participate in fishing and take time for family and rest.
- ◆ Our Adult Intensive Program and drop-in beginner classes will start back up in October.
- ◆ Planning language classes for away from home members
- ◆ Lesson writing for the development of a Milestone 3

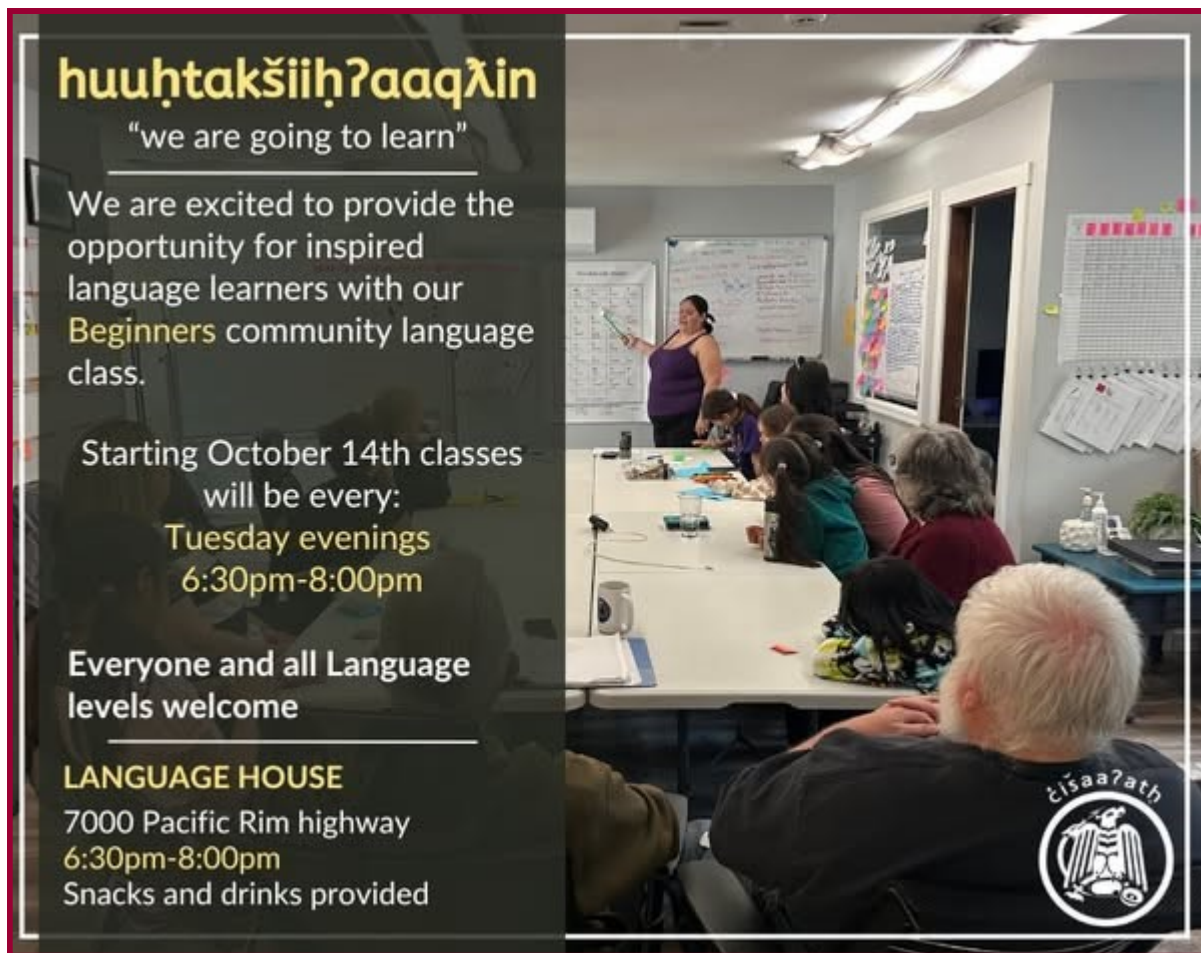
### Documentation/Recording and Resource Development

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ In the second quarter, we held 22 recording sessions with Benson, bringing the fiscal year total to 51. We recorded 230 additional words and phrases, for a total of 580 so far this year. We also uploaded 17 words and 61 phrases that are now ready for review. In addition, 15 words were transcribed this quarter, bringing the total to 39 words and 25 phrases transcribed this fiscal year.
- ◆ New language content is regularly added to the FirstVoices site for learners. Check it out at: <https://www.firstvoices.com/tseshahtlanguage/>. We also have a language app available.
- ◆ Producing a new children's language book about fishing and creating new language stickers.



## Sustainability, Collaboration, and Communications

- ◆ Providing language consultations, translations, and support for Tseshaht programs and departments, as well as external organizations and businesses: continued to work on the Tseshaht History book project led by Darrell Ross.
- ◆ Worked with North Island College to support the development of Core Competency – Tseshaht course.
- ◆ From July – September, posted 21 times for a total of 56 posts on our Language Facebook page this fiscal year. These posts promote language learning through videos and audio, highlighted our activities, and connect people with broader language opportunities.
- ◆ Networking and building relationships with other Nuu-chah-nulth language families and the broader language revitalization community: involved in a Wordshare project with yuuʔiʔath, tla-o-qui-aht, hupacasath, and huu-ay-aht with the purpose of coming together to support each other's communities in word and phrase development for community projects.
- ◆ A representative from our team attended Waves 2025, Global Indigenous Languages Summit, in Ottawa – travel and participation was funded by the First Peoples Cultural Foundation.



**huuʔtakʂiihʔaaqʕin**  
"we are going to learn"

We are excited to provide the opportunity for inspired language learners with our **Beginners** community language class.

Starting October 14th classes will be every:  
**Tuesday evenings**  
**6:30pm-8:00pm**

Everyone and all Language levels welcome

**LANGUAGE HOUSE**  
7000 Pacific Rim highway  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Snacks and drinks provided



## ʔUUʔATUMIN YAQCKʷIIMITQIN (DOING IT FOR OUR ANCESTORS)

**Council:** Melissa Gus, Les Sam, Ken Watts, Rachel Watts

**Administration:** Andrea Pettigrew, Aaron Watts, Leanne Harding

Our team has been very busy with:

- ◆ September 30<sup>th</sup> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- ◆ Record deliveries to families
- ◆ Designing a new AIRS memorial
- ◆ Kickstarting a campaign to carve a new memorial totem pole for former students of AIRS
- ◆ Hosting regular survivors' meetings
- ◆ Supporting education about AIRS with schools and others in Port Alberni
- ◆ Supporting cultural work with respect to AIRS and other areas of our community

## EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE RELATIONS

**Council:** Les Sam, Ken Watts, Harley Wylie

**Administration:** Thomas Hleck, Darrell Ross Sr., James LaFlamme

### Local - Port Alberni

- ◆ Tseshaht thanks the City of Port Alberni for their continued collaboration
- ◆ Raising of Every Child Matters flags and significant contributions to September 30<sup>th</sup> event
- ◆ Contributions to our new artwork installation at Tseshaht Market
- ◆ Our CEDI partnership with the City of Port Alberni, Hupacasath and Tseshaht with the new container ship area development at Clutesi Haven Marina
- ◆ The exploration of land opportunities for Tseshaht for future housing projects not only for Tseshaht but the Alberni Valley

### Regional - Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD)

- ◆ A huge KLECO KLECO to the ACRD for the collaboration during the Mount Underwood wildfire
- ◆ Tseshaht works with the ACRD closely and meets with staff and board reps on a regular basis such as:
  - ◆ Parks



- ◆ Airport
- ◆ Future drag strip locations
- ◆ Wildfire and EOC response and debrief
- ◆ Supporting coordination of fixing addresses on Tseshaht lands
- ◆ The Alberni Valley Landfill Working Group
- ◆ Island Corridor railway
- ◆ Co-governance exploration and a seat for Tseshaht on the board
- ◆ Tseshaht fee simple lands in ACRD jurisdiction

## Provincial - British Columbia (BC)

- ◆ Tseshaht continues to reconvene reconciliation negotiations with the Province of BC as we have many outstanding matters that need to be addressed.
- ◆ We are meeting one-on-one for short meetings with Ministers this November at the BC First Nations Leaders Gathering. This event has been very successful in helping our Nation secure significant funding and agreements
- ◆ One of our biggest pushes as a Nation is to help get our application to BC Housing under the Community Housing Fund to build a 128-unit affordable housing complex at the former site of the APD parking lot which Tseshaht now owns

## Federal - Canada

- ◆ Tseshaht negotiating team is awaiting a response from Canada our previously negotiated tabled items present to community and our fishers prior
- ◆ We have been successful at securing meetings with several ministers including Indigenous Services Canada as we lobby and advocate for our new gymnasium and housing
- ◆ We are meeting with various ministers in the coming weeks and months to push for Tseshaht priorities



*Special Feature Update  
with Elected Councillor  
Harley Wylie*



Here is a photo of me when I signed on as ACRD's Beaver Creek Alternate Director, with the Beaver Creek Director standing beside me, Susan Roth. This role has opened important information and opportunities for Tseshaht.

Hello, My council committee + portfolio list includes:

1. Elders Committee; staff absence and council rep changeover so no updates; School District 70 (SD70) Co-Governance;
2. Local Education Agreement (LEA); no activity this quarter but will pick up next quarter;
3. City of Port Alberni (CoPA) Planning Commission (APC), Sproat Lake Planning Commission; attend scheduled meetings to review, ask questions, approve/table (reschedule) building applications;
4. Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) -Ken's Alternate; much progress has been made on Clutesi Marina CEDI initiative, nearing completion of revenue generating opportunity for all 3 parties;
5. Alberni Pacific Railway/Island Heritage Foundation, McLean Mill; have worked with ICF and First Nations Management Consulting (FNMC); CoPA has offered opportunities to Tseshaht, will have future update on progress;
6. School District 70, Co-Governance and Local Education Agreement (LEA); No activity in these areas this quarter. This will pick up in next quarter and updates will be provided;
7. Island Corridor Foundation; I am the Tseshaht rep at the ICF table. The Cameron Lake Wildfire has changed the direction we were going and all parties are now reassessing the situation and opportunities. There will be a future update after our internal meetings and stakeholder discussions;



8. Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD). Involved in a number of ACRD committees/initiatives;
9. ACRD. Alberni Valley Regional Airport; was part of a tour of airport and Coulson Aviation operations, activities and opportunities (a Tseshaht member completed Coulson training and now an employee);
10. ACRD, Alberni Valley Drag Racing Association (AVDRA); recently met with AVDRA at ACRD. Options for airport expansion were discussed. ACRD wants to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local First Nations. This will assist them in discussions and support bringing AVDRA Drag Racing back to the community airport;
11. ACRD/Tseshaht Landfill Working Group; we have regularly scheduled meetings, discussing state of landfill, how to best set-up tipping fee waiver/fee, so that it is fair to all, continue looking for new area to move the landfill to – outside of Tseshaht territory;
12. ACRD/Tseshaht Solid Waste Management Plan; continued discussions on improving solid waste management/quantities (using recycling, to take recyclables out of landfill, etc.);
13. ACRD, Beaver Creek Alternate Director; this role is taking up a greater amount of time than I had expected – which is fine, it provides information we've previously been denied. Tseshaht is not a voting board member, nor is our neighbor tribe. So we are not included in agenda, important topics, communications, or have a vote. The Beaver Creek Director, Susan Roth, the Beaufort Director, Fred Boyco, and others would like to see a fair process with Tseshaht having a vote and be included in important communications, discussions and decisions – a vote. Recent topics have been CoPA transferring management of their

parks (still in discussions), water treatment, service, billing etc., and through the Beaver Creek Director (Susan Roth) asking a Tseshaht member to be her Alternate Director, we now are better informed and have support of non-Indigenous neighbours. There is much more activity (such as Westcoast General Hospital planning, etc.) so will give other updates in next newsletter.

14. Communications Portfolio; I am new council rep for this area. I will be open to questions and discussions with community, council and staff in this area.

