

Uchucklesaht Times

May 2025

Vol 1. Issue 1

# nunuuuk ?iiehtuup

## Inside this issue:

**Have summer plans for Ehtlateese?:** See all the road closures for 2025

**PAGE 3**

**Drum Making:** Joshua and Cooper show off their drum making skills

**PAGE 5**

**Special event:** Uchucklesaht celebrates the completion of first Climate Action Plan

**PAGE 8**

**Pete's has a new owner:** Uchucklesaht celebrates the purchase of a new business

**PAGE 10**



**SEE WHAT THE WARRIORS HAVE BEEN UP TO ON PAGE 7**

## Inside this issue

---

IMPORTANT NOTICES .....	3
EVENTS .....	4
REPEATING EVENTS .....	4
TALENT SPOTLIGHT .....	5
LANDS AND RESOURCES .....	6
CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS .....	7
SPECIAL EVENT .....	8
STAFF HIGHLIGHT .....	9
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	10
HEALTH AND WELLNESS .....	11
IN NUU-CHAH-NULTH .....	12
PHOTO GALLERY .....	13
BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR .....	14
SPECIAL DINNER EVENTS .....	14
JOB POSTINGS .....	15



## Fish Distribution

---



Fish and Elk Distribution, Port Alberni Food Fish Distribution

**May 30 9:30am-12:30pm**

@Thunderbird Building

# Important Notices

---



## Summer Road Closures

Transportation - Summer 2025

**1. Canal Main 34km - CLOSED from AUGUST 10 - SEPTEMBER 30** - the detour route of Kous/Kanyon will be in effect and should not cause any major issues.

**2. Canal Main 40-43km (Old Lake Main section) CLOSED from MAY 20 - JULY 1** - the detour route for this one is Gracie Main/Riverside Main/Pass Main, which increases the travel time significantly. If this is an option you wish to take, contact Moses Towell, Department of Lands and Resources, to get appropriate maps.

**3. Hucuktlis Lake Main (formerly Henderson Main) TEMPORARY CLOSURES from JUNE 1 - JULY 14** - should only contribute to short wait times upon arrival.

**4. Hucuktlis Lake Main (formerly Henderson Main) CLOSED from JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 30** - full closure of this section of road cuts off any access to Ehthlateese and will require boat access. If you have a vehicle in the village, it is important to think about moving it out prior to this closure if you need access to it. As there is also ongoing logging on top of the road work, the Department of Lands and Resources has purchased a couple extra handheld radios that can be signed out at the Thunderbird and returned to the maintenance team in the village, or vice versa.

As the province continues its upgrades to the road to Ehthlateese, there will be several road closures during the summer season. The closures will be significant and will make driving into Ehthlateese quite difficult. We will be able to compensate with more boat shuttles as needed.

We will keep everyone up-to-date as the situations potentially change, but please plan ahead for any trips to and from Ehthlateese this summer.

If you require a detour map or more information on the closures, please email  
*Moses Towell - [moses.towell@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:moses.towell@uchucklesaht.ca)*

If you require a shuttle, please email  
*Lysa Ray - [lysa.ray@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:lysa.ray@uchucklesaht.ca)*  
with your requested dates. A minimum of two business days notice is required for booking.



# Events



*May* 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8 Parents Group 11 - 1	9
		10	11	12	13 Woman's Group 10 - 12 Water Aerobics 8:00 - 9:45	14
11	12 Elder's Breakfast 10 - 12	13 Ears to you Hearing Testing Language - In Person 12 - 1 Outreach 10 - 12	14 Meal Prep 11 - 1 Language - Zoom 7 - 8pm	15	16 Interview Skills 1:30 - 3:30 Water Aerobics 8:00 - 9:45	17
18	19 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	20	21	22	23 Mental Health Workshop 5 - 8 Water Aerobics 8:00 - 9:45	24
25	26 Pro-D Day - Babysitting Course	27	28	29	30	31 Mental Health Workshop 10:30 - 1
		Outreach 10 - 12	Health Fair 10 - 2	Track Walk - Bob Dailey 9 - 10	Water Aerobics 8:00 - 9:45	
			Island Elder's Luncheon - Cowichan			



## NOTES:

Warrior's Group - TBD

Outreach - Ina/Merlyn out in-  
community

Mental Health Workshop -  
Anger Management for both  
sessions

Pro-D Day - Also will have  
Planting Workshop for younger  
ones



**Pick up a copy of the May calendar at the Nucii or Thunderbird front desk!**

Parents Group  
Ears to you Hearing Testing  
Language Class

Meal Prep  
Interview Skills

May 1 (11am-1pm)  
May 13  
May 13 (12-1pm)  
May 14 (7-8pm)  
May 14 (11am-1pm)  
May 16 (1:30-3:30pm)

Health Fair  
Mental Health Workshop  
  
Pro-D Day Babysitting Course  
Island Elder's Luncheon

May 21 (10am-2pm)  
May 23 (5-8pm)  
May 24 (10:30am-1pm)  
May 26  
May 28

# Repeating Events



## Outreach Tuesdays (10am-12pm)

Understanding citizen's needs to provide essential services, support, assistance, and advocacy to those experiencing homelessness, as needed. Food is distributed once a month.



## Water Aerobics Fridays in May (9-9:45am)

Looking for a fun and low-impact way to stay fit and healthy? Come and join us at water aerobics.



## Track Walk at Bob Dailey May 8, May 22 (9-10am)

We are meeting at Bob Dailey track once a week for some social exercise. Catch up with friends and get your steps in! All paces welcome, this is an accessible event.



A photograph of two men, Joshua Shaw and Cooper Styan, standing in front of a large, stylized sculpture of an eagle. The eagle is painted in black, white, and green, with a yellow beak and a green and orange striped neck. The men are holding large, round, light-brown drums. The man on the left is wearing a blue shirt and a plaid jacket, and the man on the right is wearing a blue shirt and a plaid jacket. The background is dark.

## Talent Spotlight

### Joshua Shaw and Cooper Styan

Drum Making

#### Keeping the Beat of Tradition Alive

Drum making is more than just a craft, it's a powerful expression of identity, unity, and tradition for the Uchucklesaht Tribe. At every important social and political gathering, the rhythmic beat of the drum calls people together, grounding them in their culture and community.

We're proud to shine this month's Talent Spotlight on Joshua Shaw and Cooper Styan, who recently teamed up with Lee Lucas, Cherie Elliot, Hector Little, and Wendy Stubbs to make traditional drums in preparation for the upcoming Health Fair. Their dedication, teamwork, and craftsmanship are a beautiful reflection of the community spirit and cultural pride that drum making represents.

Traditionally, Nuu-chah-nulth drums are handcrafted using natural materials such as deer or elk hide, carefully stretched over wooden frames. The process is ceremonial and collaborative, with community members often coming together to share stories, songs, and wisdom as they work.

By taking the time to create these meaningful instruments, Josh and Cooper are not only showcasing their skills - they're also helping keep a vital cultural practice alive for future generations.

# Lands and Resources

---



## Studying Ocean Currents to Strengthen Oil Spill Response in Barkley Sound

The Lands and Resources team is collaborating with a research team from the University of British Columbia to study the surface ocean currents in the Maa-nulth Domestic Fishing Area (MDFA). Surface currents are a key driver in the movement of oil in the marine environment, and we hope that the data that is collected will help us be better prepared to respond to a spill.

Over the next year, several 'surface drifters' will be deployed within Barkley Sound and will move throughout the Sound, and the team will be able to track their movements to get a better sense of the circulation patterns. There are opportunities for citizens to participate and share any knowledge that they would like regarding oil spills or areas they would be particularly concerned about should a spill occur. If you would like more information on the research or would like to participate, please reach out to:

**Nathan Bendriem**

*Nathan.bendriem@uchucklesaht.ca*



## Reviving Chinook: Boosting Salmon Run with Fry Release and Monitoring

One of the Uchucklesaht Tribe's ongoing projects is to re-establish a sustainable run of Chinook salmon into the Hucuktliis River and Clemens Creek. Each May, approximately 100,000 Chinook fry are released into Clemens Creek and Hucuktliis Lake. The fry have their adipose fins clipped to mark them as hatchery-origin salmon and to distinguish them from any natural origin Chinook that may be present. These fish will return as three to five year old adults and will spawn in Clemens Creek to increase natural production of Chinook salmon.

To track the movement and survival of the released fry, the Department of Lands and Resources is operating a rotary screw trap in the lower Hucuktliis River, to capture and enumerate the fry as they migrate to sea. The rotary screw trap consists of a large cone suspended between two floating pontoons that funnel fish into an underwater holding tank. It is a useful tool that may provide us a better understanding of the fry's survival within Hucuktliis Lake and their migration timing, in comparison to their wild counterparts.



# Cultural Highlights

---



## Elk-Fish Trade Ceremony Strengthens Inter-Nation Bonds

From April 22 to 24, 2025, representatives from the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government traveled to the lands of the Shuswap Indian Band in Invermere, to participate in a meaningful and culturally rich Elk-Fish trade Ceremony.

Chief Wilfred Cootes, Executive Councillor Thomas Rush, Joshua Shaw, Matt Titian, Wendy Hayes, Cam Hepp, and Rachel Andolfatto represented Uchucklesaht at the gathering.

Upon arrival, the Uchucklesaht delegation was moved by the traditional welcoming extended by the Shuswap Indian Band hosts. Dressed in vibrant regalia, the hosts greeted all guests following traditional protocols with traditional singing and drumming, creating a welcoming start to the ceremonial events.

The exchange took place on April 23, marked by a beautifully arranged dinner and welcome speeches delivered in the native language of the hosts. Cultural Coordinator, Joshua Shaw delivered a moving speech in Nuuchahnulth on behalf of Uchucklesaht Tribe, which was well-received and appreciated by all. Adding to the spirit of cultural sharing, Executive Councillor Thomas Rush and Matt Titian offered a heartfelt song gifted by Thomas' mother.

As part of the trade, Uchucklesaht gifted seafood consisting of prawns, salmon, and halibut to the host Nation. In return, the Uchucklesaht delegation received elk meat.

This ceremonial trade is a powerful reminder of the importance of sharing, mutual respect, and cultural preservation. It honors our commitment to supporting each other through the stewardship of our traditional resources and the strengthening our Nation-to-Nation relationship.

**The elk meat will be available for community distribution, and included as part of the food fish distributions.**

## Special Event

### Uchucklesaht Celebrates Completion of First Climate Action Plan

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government (UTG) proudly marked a major milestone, the completion of its first Climate Action Plan, at a community celebration held at Nucii.

This comprehensive plan outlines 50 short and long term actions UTG will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change within our territory. The development of the plan was led by the Department of Lands and Resources, in collaboration with expert consultants and a dedicated Climate Action Working Group made up of 23 Uchucklesaht citizens.

Valuable insights were also gathered through a community survey, completed by 61 citizens, ensuring

the plan reflects the voices and priorities of the wider Uchucklesaht community.

To document and share this journey, UTG created a short film titled "Uchucklesaht's Climate Action Story," which captures key moments and perspectives from the planning process.

The video can be viewed here:  
<https://youtu.be/sqg3NRbsrg4>

UTG extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this important work over the past 16 months. Your time, energy, and commitment have laid the foundation for a more resilient future.



The Climate Action Plan is available on the website to view and download. Ongoing feedback and ideas are encouraged - please contact Special Projects Manager Nigel Moore - [nigel.moore@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:nigel.moore@uchucklesaht.ca) for more information.



Scan the QR code to watch the video and subscribe to the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government YouTube channel.

## Climate Action Working Group

Thank you to the **Uchucklesaht Citizens**, especially our Elders, who engaged in this process. Your words are reflected throughout this plan, which would not be complete without them. This includes members of the **Climate Action Working Group**, who informed staff on Uchucklesaht values and priorities to guide a year-long planning process.



## Climate Action Working Group Members

Lauren Baader  
Charlie Cootes  
Lorraine Cootes  
John Charles Cootes  
John Kelly Charles Cootes  
Ryan Cootes

Cheryl Ginger  
Gina Laing  
Laurissa Lucas  
James Robinson  
April Martin  
James Martin

Cynthia Mills  
Robin Mills  
Tristan O'Daniel  
Lauren Smith  
Linden Smith  
Madeline Smith

Michael Smith  
Frank Styan  
Sharon Styan Jr.  
Valerie Styan  
Malachi Yeager-Rosario

## Staff Highlight



### Caitlin Patenaude

Receptionist - first day May 5, 2025

**A little about me:** Hello! My name is Caitlin, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the newest member of the UTG team. I was born in Campbell River, BC, and at the age of eight, my family and I moved to a small town in Saskatchewan. After ten years in the Prairies, I was happy to return to the beautiful Comox Valley, where I lived until April 2025. I now proudly call Port Alberni home.

Growing up, my family was deeply involved in Aboriginal culture, as we are Métis ourselves. That connection continues to be a meaningful part of my identity and daily life.

In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors and spending quality time with my partner and family. I'm truly looking forward to working with UTG and getting to know everyone in the community!

# Economic Development



## UCAI Acquires Pete's Mountain Meats

Uchucklesaht Capital Assets Inc. (UCAI) is proud to share exciting news with the Uchucklesaht community - we have officially acquired Pete's Mountain Meats! This purchase marks a significant step in our ongoing mission to strengthen economic development while honouring the values and traditions that define us as Uchucklesaht people.

"UCAI expects Pete's Mountain Meats will continue operating as 'business as usual' thanks to the commitment of Pete and Anita, who have graciously agreed to support us during this transition," shared Wilfred Cootes, UCAI Director. "We're also grateful that the dedicated staff you've come to know and trust will be staying on. The helpful, happy team at Pete's, along with their top-quality products, will remain a staple in our community."

As we move forward, UCAI will thoughtfully consider the many ideas and suggestions shared by staff and community members. While we remain committed to maintaining the same high standards and friendly service Pete's is known for, we are also exploring new ways to grow and better serve the needs of our people.

This acquisition is more than just a business move it's about preserving what works, embracing opportunity, and continuing to build a sustainable future for our Nation.

**Location:** 4888 Johnston Road, Port Alberni, BC

### Hours of Operation:

Monday	9am-6pm
Tuesday	9am-6pm
Wednesday	9am-6pm
Thursday	9am-6pm
Friday	9am-6pm
Saturday	9am-6pm
Sunday	Closed

# Health and Wellness

**May is Mental health  
awareness month**

## **6 steps to help refocus and calm your nervous system**

- 1** Talk to someone you trust and feel safe around.
- 2** Get in some exercise; walk, run, swim, or bike!
- 3** Do something you enjoy such as reading, socializing, painting, etc.
- 4** Steer away from harmful substances, reach out for help if needed.
- 5** Take two minutes to focus on the world around you.
- 6** Seek Professional help when you need it, ask the office for support.





# In Nuu-chah-nulth



**GLORIA FRANK, PROUD MOTHER AND CATERER, CELEBRATES HER LAST YEAR SERVING FOOD AT THE UCHUCKLESAHT DAY EVENT ON APRIL 1, 2025**

## For Mother's Day by Joshua Shaw

**hayu ?iš hupčiiłatukma paawacimł haasuk?i ?u?um?iqsu**

*It is the eleventh day of May, Mothers Day*

**waamihsamin...**

**?iiqhukmihsamin siiwa...**

*We want to tell you*

**?iičaaipimihsapni ?u?um?iqsu**

*We want to lift mothers up*

**hamatapni ?ani wikuk wikcuk ?u?um?iqsu mamums**

*We know that mothers work is not easy*

**nučhakni siiwa**

*We are proud of you*

**yaamisukniła siiwa**

*We love you*

**łukłw'ičim haasuk ?u?um?iqsu**

*Have a good Mother's Day*

**čuuč**

**čaanimihsamin k'waahiiyap ?u?um?iqsakqin**

*We want to take a moment to recognize our mothers*

**...?anin ?iihmisukni**

*Because we value them*

**...?anin hačatak histaqšił ?u?um?iqsakqin**

*We all come from our mothers*

**?uusaahimin tiič ?u?umiqsakqin**

*We are alive because of our mothers*

**?anama łuucsaamiih na'yaqnakšił**

*Only woman can make a baby*

**?anasilamihsani ?iiqhuk ?u?um?iqsu?i ?anin**

**yaamisukni siiwa**

*We just want to tell the mothers we love them*

**čuuč**



# Photo Gallery



**BRODY LITTLE DEMONSTRATES AN ARM SLING AT THE WARRIORS FIRST AID COURSE**



**ETHAN JACOB ACTS OUT HOW TO BANDAGE A LEG INJURY**



**RYDER FREGIN CASTS HIS LINE ON THE WARRIORS FISHING TRIP**



**BRODY SHOWS OFF HIS CATCH!**



**EVERYONE GATHERS TO SING, DANCE, AND DRUM IN CELEBRATION OF UCHUCKLESAHT DAY**



**TAYLOR JOHNSON IS ALL SMILES WITH HER FAVORITE PICK FROM THE DOOR PRIZES**

# Become a Contributor

---

Would you like to see your creative media featured in **nunuuk ?iihtuup**? Send your contribution to **communications@uchucklesaht.ca** with the subject "Contribution" and you could be featured in next month's issue.

## Photography

We are looking for citizen submissions of landscape photography, events (yes, your campfire party can count!), pictures of arts and crafts you are working on, or even scans of historical photography you may have of friends and family over the years.

## Stories and Opinions

We are looking for citizen submissions of short stories, opinion articles, news stories, Elder bios, recipes and more. If you are a talented writer or even an amateur who wants to share your experience and knowledge, consider being published in **nunuuk ?iihtuup**!

# Special Dinner Events

---

## Seattle Dinner Session

**Date/time:** May 29, 2025 @ 6pm

**Location:** The Sound Hotel, 2120 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Please join us on this day for dinner and a general update presented by the Executive Council. We will also have our Registrar/Law Clerk on site able to process/assist with your status cards and citizenship and enrollment registrations.

**Email [carla.halvorsen@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:carla.halvorsen@uchucklesaht.ca) to confirm your attendance.**



## Yakima Dinner Session

**Date/time:** May 31, 2025 @ 5pm

**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, 401 East Yakima Avenue, Yakima, Washington

Uchucklesaht Tribe Citizenship and Enrollment Registrar/IRA will be assisting with enrollment applications. Council will also be providing an annual update.

Please join us on this day for dinner and a general update presented by the Executive Council. We will also have our Registrar/Law Clerk on site able to process/assist with your status cards and citizenship and enrollment registrations.

Dinner and door prizes will be provided.

**Email [carla.halvorsen@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:carla.halvorsen@uchucklesaht.ca) to confirm your attendance.**



# Job Postings

---

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of the complete job description, and can apply by submitting a resume and cover letter to: **Lysa Ray, Executive Assistant**

**In person/by mail:** Suite A, 5251 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 1V1

**Emailed to:** Lysa.Ray@Uchucklesaht.ca (MS Word or PDF documents)

## Marine and Terrestrial Stewardship

### Summer Student Position (temporary, full-time employment)

Wage is \$22/hr

Apply by 4:30pm on Friday, May 23, 2025

• **Eligible applicants:**

- Between 15-30 years of age with a Social Insurance Number and Class 5 driver's licence (preferred).
- Physically fit, and able to lift up to 40lbs.
- Preference given to Uchucklesaht, Nuu-chah-nulth members, and Indigenous individuals.

**Duties to include:**

- Support/work closely with Lands and Resources (L&R) staff with various programs and activities, and preparing daily logs, field notes and compliance checks.
- Support habitat restoration projects (marine and terrestrial environments). Record and report environmental data using GPS and digital tools. Maintain trails, signage and infrastructure.
- Fisheries duties, such as assisting with catch monitoring, monitoring of the fishfence, community fish distributions, compliance reporting and data processing.
- Maintenance duties in remote areas, as required, such as building, minor carpentry, operation of small machinery, grounds work, etc.

**Required qualifications:**

Organized, strong communication skills. Ability to work independently and part of a team. Positive and professional attitude. Good physical fitness. Comfort around water, fishermen and boats. Ability to accommodate flexible hours. Preference to those with ability to operate a boat, and willingness to obtain a small vessel operators permit.

## Knowledge Keepers

### Contract Positions

Wage is \$50/hr to a maximum of 200 hr/year

Apply by 4:30pm on Friday, May 27, 2025

Work with the Human Services Team to act as a support and resource to provide cultural information to staff to ensure that Uchucklesaht language, cultural knowledge, practices and protocols are shared, understood and maintained. The Knowledge Keeper will support cultural knowledge transfer and promote cultural awareness within the Human Services team, and the UTG.

**This position provides opportunities to:**

- Support the Cultural Coordinator in growing family and community connections through culture, and in the development, delivery, and design of cultural program activities.
- Provide insight and knowledge of traditional and cultural practices, including support of the language program.
- Bring families together according to traditional practices
- Support the development of and coordination of a Cultural Advisory Circle to advise on the cultural wellness programming and services.

**Qualifications and experience:**

- Strong knowledge and awareness of Indigenous culture and history. Experience researching and delivering cultural programs or related work experience within indigenous organization or community.
- A combination of skills, education, and life learning specific to traditional knowledge may be considered.
- Knowledge of Nuu-Cha-Nulth, Barkley Dialect.



## Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

**The Uchucklesaht Government** blends hereditary and modern governance to ensure responsible, transparent, and accountable leadership. It upholds the Uchucklesaht Tribe's political, social, and cultural strength while exercising law-making authority under the Maa-nulth Treaty. Governed by a legislative, executive, and People's Assembly structure, it remains committed to honouring the past while embracing the future.

### Address

Suite A, 5251 Argyle St  
Port Alberni, BC  
V9Y 1V1

### Phone

250-724-1832

### Fax

250-724-1806