

Uchucklesaht Times

ʔiyaqhmisuk Huuč uqłisʔath

June 2025



**Uchucklesaht Tribe
Government**

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View southwest of Cass Lake (front) and Kildonan Lake (back) which drain into Uchucklesit Inlet via Saa ch'ak wat'a Creek

Fish Distribution



Port Alberni Food Fish Distribution

July 10 | 9:30am-12:30pm

@Thunderbird Building

Important Notices



Summer Road Closures

Transportation - Summer 2025

As the province continues its upgrades to the road to Ehtlateese, there will be several road closures during the summer season. The closures will be significant and will make driving into Ehtlateese 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 Ehtlateese this summer.

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 JULY 2 - JULY 13 - 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 Ehtlateese 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.

If you require a detour map or more information on the closures, please email
Moses Towell - moses.towell@uchucklesaht.ca

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



June Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Language - In Person 12 - 1 Ears to You 10:30 - 2:30	3 Outreach 10 - 12	4 Language - Zoom 7 - 8pm Woman's Group 10 - 12	5 Parent's Group 11 - 1 Warrior's Group	6 Water Aerobics	7
8	9 Devil's Club Harvesting 9 - 2	10 Outreach 10 - 12	11 Elder's Breakfast 10 - 12	12 Warrior's Group Track Walk 9 - 10 Bob Dailey	13 Water Aerobics	14
15	16 Language - In Person 12 - 1 Planting at Garden	17 Outreach 10 - 12	18 Language - Zoom 7 - 8pm	19 Warrior's Group Meal Prep - 10 - 1	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22	23 Highschool's Out BBQ 11 - 1	24 Outreach 10 - 12	25 Elder's Massage Island Elder's Lunch - Maht Mahs	26 Warrior's Group Track Walk 9 - 10 Bob Dailey	27 Water Aerobics	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Note: Mental Health Workshops: On hold for June Elder's Massage: Appointments needed June 16: Planting at garden - tomatoes Pick up a copy of the June calendar at the Nucii or Thunderbird front desk.						

June 11-12



Indigenous WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS WORKSHOP

Your Business. Your Voice. Your Power.

June 11-12 | Tin Wis Resort,
Tofino

Accommodations, meals &
childcare provided

For details, or to register:

P: 250-735-8871
E: mary@nedc.info

NEDC: www.nedc.info



Michelle Davis, Owner,
North Island Bounce Castle Rentals & NEDC Client



June 24

GROW CONNECT THRIVE

A 4-Hour Workshop for Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Got a great idea? Ready to take the first step?
This workshop is built for Indigenous changemakers and aspiring entrepreneurs ready to turn ideas into action!

Jennifer Galic
Business Development Officer
NEDC

Workshop Highlights:

- Overview of NEDC's services and funding supports
- Introduction to entrepreneurship (Is this the right path for you?)
- Discussion on entrepreneurial mindset, sacrifices, and potential rewards
- Addressing common myths about business ownership
- Inclusion of real-life success stories from Indigenous entrepreneurs

Why Attend?

- Unlock new business potential on Vancouver Island
- Network with Indigenous entrepreneurs and leaders
- Enjoy free lunch + a chance to win a door prize!

Register Now!

P: 250-735-8871
E: mary@nedc.info

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 10am - 2pm
Best Western Plus Barclay Hotel, Port Alberni



Talent Spotlight

Sabrina Crowley
Casanova Seafoods Inc.

Follow
Casanova Seafoods Inc. on
Facebook



A Family-Owned Aquaculture Venture

We're proud to introduce Casanova Seafoods Inc., a growing Indigenous-owned aquaculture business led by UTG citizen Sabrina Crowley, along with the unwavering support of her family.

Specializing in Pacific oyster products, they are recently beginning to incorporate blue mussels into their offerings. The business not only provides whole, fresh shellfish, but has also partnered with a local processing facility to produce smoked oyster and mussel products - bringing even more variety to their growing customer base.

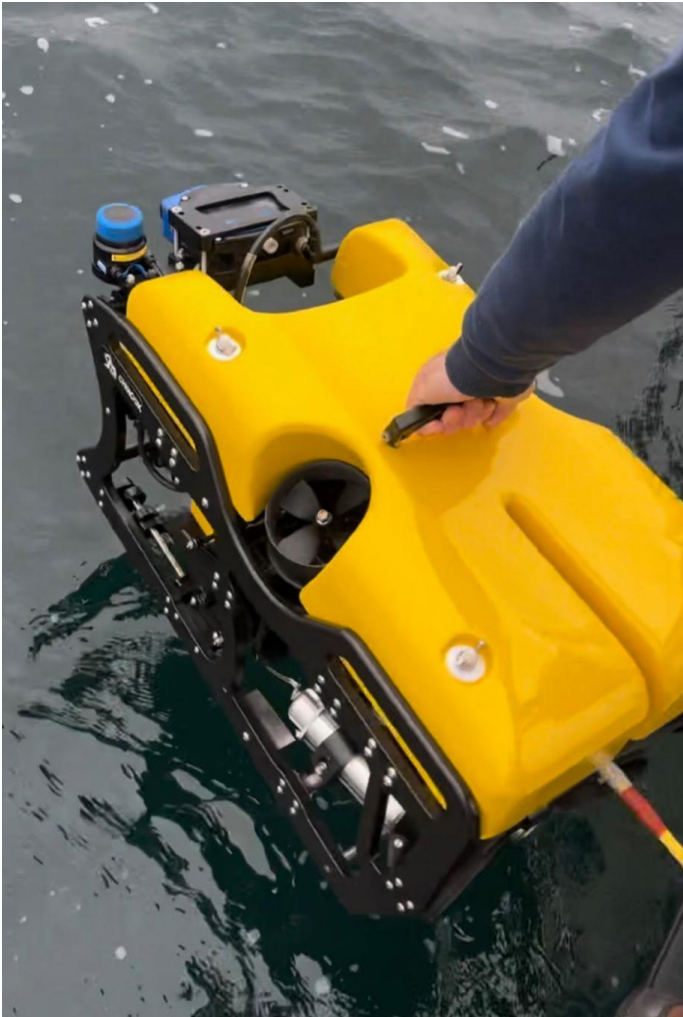
The journey begins at the larval stage, where oysters are nurtured in on-site tanks. Once ready, they are transferred onto long lines in the ocean to grow until harvest. It's a process that's both intricate and inspiring, and this family-run operation takes pride in each step.

For this family, aquaculture was a natural progression from their active lifestyle as hunters and fishers. "It was a bit of an adjustment to balance family life with the business," Sabrina shares, "but we made it happen and we're so glad it worked out." Her sons, Chase and Colton, are growing up surrounded by this rewarding and hands-on lifestyle, learning the ropes of shellfish farming from a young age.

What keeps them going? "It's exciting to grow product from such an early stage, see the end result, and then be rewarded with all the hard work after harvest," they say. "Sharing this journey with our family and managing challenges together makes it all worth it."

Let's celebrate their hard work and dedication to sustainable aquaculture and family values!

Lands and Resources



Yelloweye Rockfish Monitoring in Uchucklesaht Territory

The Department of Lands and Resources is conducting an ongoing study of yelloweye rockfish within Uchucklesaht traditional territory.

Staff have been spending the last couple of months angling for yelloweye to establish a baseline for catch-per-unit-effort assessment that may allow the department to see changes in abundance over the next couple of years.

It is also a way to understand how effective (or ineffective) the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) have been in protecting vulnerable populations from fishing pressure by comparing the size and abundance of rockfish species within and outside of the RCAs.

The project also includes surveys using a remotely operated vehicle to monitor changes in the health of the habitat within the territory. The department is still interested in gathering traditional knowledge around yelloweye rockfish.

If any citizen or knowledge keeper are willing to share their stories or insights, or interested in participating in the angling surveys, please reach out to:

Nathan Bendriem

nathan.bendriem@uchucklesaht.ca



Cultural Learnings

Youth Connect to Culture in Ehtlateese

A Journey of Nature, and Traditional Skills and Learning

From May 27 to 29, 2025, UTG staff supported an insightful land-based learning class trip to the traditional Village of Ehtlateese. The journey offered School District No. 70 students a meaningful connection to culture, nature, traditions, guided by the wisdom of Uchucklesaht Elders Gloria Rush, Rob Cootes, and Marie Samuel. Cultural Coordinator Joshua Shaw, alongside the Department of Lands and Resources, helped bring traditional knowledge to life throughout the experience.

Students described the trip as both fun and deeply educational. Highlights included cooking salmon, oysters, and clams over an open fire in a traditional way, clam digging and enjoying fresh shellfish right on the beach, and swimming in the ocean and river. They also learned how to make rope from blackberry canes and hiked through the forest to visit an ancient cedar tree.

Joshua shared traditional stories in both English and Nuu-chah-nulth, offering valuable life teachings. Students were especially moved by messages about staying true to oneself and listening to their inner voice. They also learned about the traditional uses of local plants from Elders and gained a greater appreciation for the deep-rooted cultural knowledge passed down through generations.

This trip was a powerful reminder of the strength and beauty of Uchucklesaht traditions and the importance of connecting youth with the land.



Special Event



Uchucklesaht's Seattle and Yakima Dinner Sessions

Strengthening Connections Across Borders

Each year, the Uchucklesaht Tribe travels to meet with members in the Seattle and Yakima, Washington areas to provide food fish, present updates from the Council, and assist with status card and enrollment paperwork, and to share a meal.

This year, the Nation expanded the visit by bringing an Elder, a youth, cultural and administrative support, and our new freezer truck filled with frozen food fish for distribution following the meetings. A convoy of three vehicles carried Council members, staff, Elders, and youth.

Elder Marie Samuel opened the meetings in a respectful and traditional way, offering prayers alongside Hawiith Thomas Rush, who sang and drummed both before and after dinner.

In Seattle, 25 members attended the gathering, while approximately 70 joined in Yakima. Youth graduates in attendance at both locations were recognized with a certificate of congratulations, a cheque, and traditional cedar headbands created by UTG master cedar weaver Tina Halvorsen.

A heartfelt moment came when Ellen Gonzales danced for a cedar and grass woven headband the traditional way from Carla Halvorsen.

Keeping culture alive, honouring our youth, and maintaining strong ties with members across the border remain a priority for the Uchucklesaht Tribe. In this spirit, Chief Councillor Wilfred Cootes has announced plans to continue organizing these meaningful visits each year, ensuring dinner gatherings, cultural connection, and status and enrollment assistance remain part of our annual outreach.

Special thanks to the Department of Lands and Resources for delivering the frozen fish, to Elder Marie for her time and wisdom, to youth Brianna for her contributions to administration, photography, and food fish package coordination, and to Tina who helped Carla Halvorsen for her work in organizing, updating contact information, and supporting administrative tasks.

Together, we walk forward honouring the past, supporting the present, and nurturing the future of our Uchucklesaht people, wherever they may be.



Staff Highlight



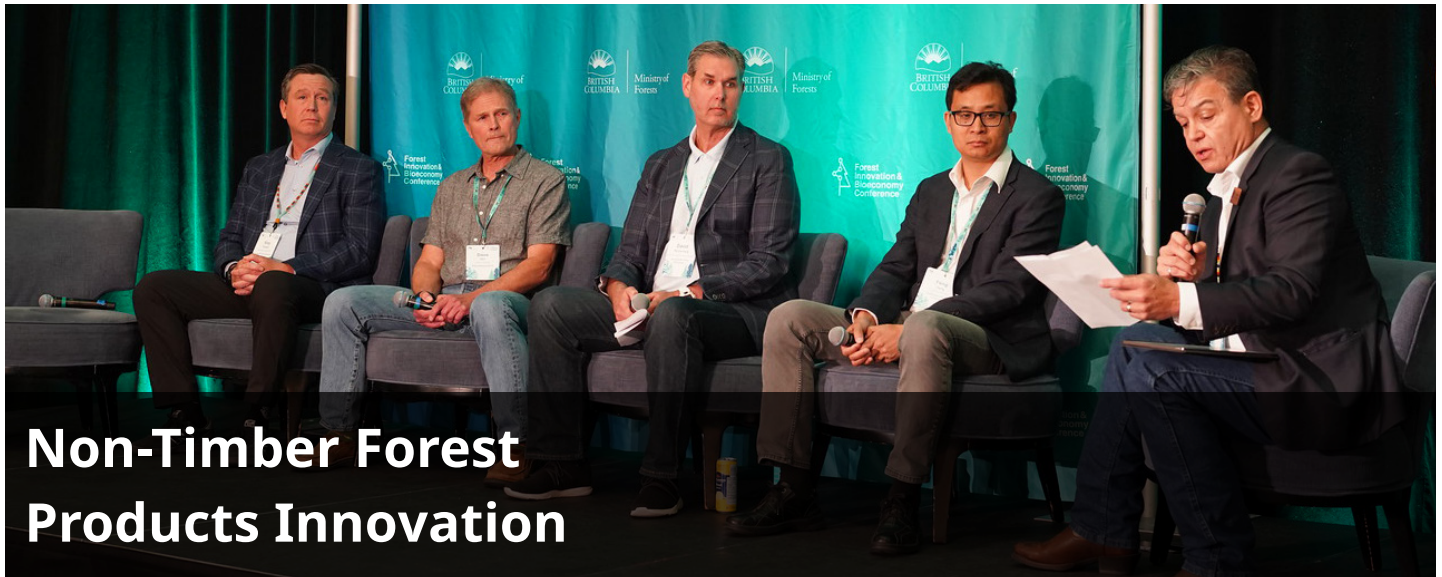
Terra Strachan

Community Health Nurse | first day June 2, 2025

I have been nursing for 15 years, and I am a mom of three children.

In my spare time I love spending time with my kids, hiking, and taking care of my small hobby farm.

Economic Development



Non-Timber Forest Products Innovation

Uchucklesaht Highlights NTFP Innovation at The Forest Innovation and Bioeconomy Conference (FIBC 2025)

The British Columbia Ministry of Forests Innovation and Bioeconomy (IBIO) branch and the University of British Columbia's BioProducts Institute (BPI) recently gathered hundreds of delegates from around the world in Vancouver for the Forest Innovation and Bioeconomy Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss new approaches to utilizing our global forests in more environmentally sustainable and higher-value economic ways to solve many of the world's most pressing concerns, like renewable energy, clean water, and food security.

The conference featured international experts, innovators, and manufacturers from such places as Canada, Italy, Finland, New Zealand, and Sweden speaking on a variety of topics as far-ranging as using carbon from the remains of forest fires to make rechargeable batteries and using wood debris to filter out harmful "forever chemicals" to make water safe to drink.

UTG's Economic Development Manager, Dave McCormick, attended not only to build upon existing relationships and make new, valuable connections but was also invited as a featured panelist to discuss the use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

With the support of the BC Indigenous Bioeconomy program, UTG has received funding for the mapping, tracking, and sample low impact foraging of naturally growing, sustainable plants, berries, and botanicals, such as fir tips, salal berries, salmon berries, thimbleberries, and sweet gale from within Uchucklesaht Territory.

Attendees were very interested to learn about this project that upholds Uchucklesaht sacred principles of Hishuk' tsa'walk, *Iisaak and Uu-a-thluk* to explore the economic value of naturally growing plants in the forest that require our trees to remain standing rather than generating revenue through traditional tree harvesting.

Photo from left to right:
Klay Tindall, Lil'wat Forestry Ventures, Lil'wat First Nation; Dave Gill, Ntityix Resources, Westbank First Nation; Dave McCormick, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government; Feng Jiang, University of British Columbia; Rob Manuel, BC First Nations Forestry Council

Health and Wellness

Outdoor Wellness Tips for Warmer Days

Warmer weather is here! With that comes the desire to get outdoors!

Being outdoors brings many benefits to your health and mental health. You absorb Vitamin D naturally from the sun increasing bone health, calcium absorption, mood regulation and reducing inflammation.

Suggestions to get out and be physically active in the spring/summer transition:

- Go for a hike or a walk
- Swim, bike or run
- Have a picnic, share a meal, have an outdoor BBQ
- Go fishing, crabbing, or bird watching

Contact the Human Services Department with any questions:

human.services@uchucklesaht.ca | 250-724-1832

Make sure you are safe in the warmer weather:

- Remember to drink an adequate amount of fluids, electrolytes (such as Gatorade)
- Wear sunscreen, SPF 30 or higher, waterproof if sweating or swimming
- Wear a hat to protect your head from the UV rays
- Go out in the morning or evening before the UV index gets too high

Health Fair 2025: A Celebration of Wellness and Community

On May 21, 2025, the Human Services Department proudly hosted Health Fair 2025 at Nucii. A thoughtful and holistic event that brought together community members for a day dedicated to health, healing, and connection.

The fair offered a wide range of services and experiences designed to nurture the mind and body. From physiotherapy consultations to acupuncture, yoga sessions, and dietician advice, the event catered to every aspect of well-being. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in drum-making activities, seek insights from a tarot card reader, and connect with a representative from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and Indigenous Healthy Life Trajectories Initiatives from Nuu-chah-nulth.

The event created a warm, welcoming space for families and individuals to come together, enjoy food, and make the most of the many wellness services made easily accessible to everyone. Whether it was learning about healthy eating, exploring new relaxation techniques, or simply enjoying time with the community, Health Fair 2025 truly had something for everyone.

A special thanks to all of services providers for attending and sharing their time and knowledge!



Cultural Highlights

Island Elder's Luncheon Celebrates Culture, Community, and Connection

The Island Elder's Luncheon is a cherished monthly gathering that brings together First Nation Elders from across the region. Hosted by a different Nation each month, this rotating event fosters unity, cultural exchange, and the celebration of time-honoured traditions through food, stories, and shared experiences.

The most recent luncheon was hosted by the Cowichan Tribes on May 28, 2025 and warmly welcomed Elders from various Nations, including Executive Councillor Thomas Rush, Charlie Cootes, Wilfred and Rowena Cootes, and Lorraine Cootes from Uchucklesaht. The event was a beautiful celebration of Indigenous culture and community spirit.

Attendees were greeted with thoughtful fruit bags upon arrival, setting the tone for a day filled with hospitality and care. A highlight of the event was a bustling artisan market showcasing handcrafted goods made by members of different Nations. The market was alive with colour, creativity, and the richness of Indigenous artistry.

The scent of fresh seafood filled the air as guests enjoyed freshly prepared crab, spot prawns, a diverse menu of traditional and contemporary dishes, and delicious desserts.



The afternoon was further enriched by a powerful and heartwarming cultural performance by members of the Cowichan Tribes. Dressed in stunning regalia, performers shared songs, dances, and drumming that echoed the strength and beauty of their heritage.

The luncheon concluded with door prizes and an array of goodies, leaving attendees with full hearts and bellies, and a renewed sense of connection to each other and to their traditions.

These monthly luncheons continue to be a meaningful way to honour Elders, celebrate Indigenous cultures, and strengthen the bonds between Nations across the island.





Photo Gallery



MAY 30, 2025 ELK AND FISH DISTRIBUTION



BARB MINTZ PICKING UP FISH FOR ADAM COOTES



STORYTELLING TIME DURING LAND-BASED LEARNING



GLORIA RUSH TEACHING HOW TO COOK SALMON THE TRADITIONAL WAY



YAKIMA, WA DINNER SESSION



CARTER TRYING FORGING A KNIFE DURING A WARRIOR GROUP OUTING

Contributor of the Month

June marks both National Indigenous History and Pride Month

A time to honour the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

A heartfelt thank you to Executive Councillor Moriah Cootes for her meaningful contribution in submitting the following short story to celebrate this special month.

ʔukʷaaʔath̓ (Barkley West) short story

qʷiyihtaqaakiič ʔiniihak

How the rainbow was made

hupiiʔiʔweʔin meʔiʔqacʔi ʔuukʷiʔ hupaʔ ʔuhʔiʔ miʔaa.
ʔuukʷiʔmahsaweʔin ʔuuʔatup qaacii ʔumʔiiqsak
ʔapčinkšiʔwiʔasuk.
nupčiiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ hisʔinwa.
ʔaʔčiiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ ʔooyinčas.
qacčačiiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ qawii.
muučiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ himkaʔuu.
sučačiiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ ʔaʔna.
nupučiʔ ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ tupkaapiih.
saantii ʔuuʔiʔpaʔ niʔapiih.
timisanuʔi ʔapaatukʔitqak, waaʔaʔ hupaʔ ʔuhʔiʔ miʔaa.
matšiʔaʔukweʔin ʔapaat ʔucahtak hinaayiʔ. yaalweeʔin
ʔiniihakšiʔ, ʔuyihtaqaakaʔ ʔiniihak hiyiqʔiqak.
ʔuusaaʔaʔweʔin ʔani naacsiičiʔ qʷačaʔpiqak,
ʔuuqsuuqstuʔ ʔumʔiiqsu ʔapčinkšiʔuk.

A little boy called on the Sun and Rain to help him
make a special gift for his mother.
On Monday he found red huckleberries for his
basket.
On Tuesday he found oranges.
Wednesday he found salmonberries.
Thursday he found gooseberries.
Friday he found salal berries.
Saturday he found blackberries.
Sunday he found grapes.
The Sun and the Rain said to him, "Throw your basket
up to the sky."
When the basket flew over the sky, a rainbow was
created from all the colours.
And his mother was very happy to see all the
beautiful colours for her birthday.

Contributed by Moriah Cootes | moriah.cootes@uchucklesaht.ca

Become a Contributor

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

Calling All Graduates: Photos Wanted

Know someone who recently graduated? We want to celebrate this special milestone in the next newsletter.

Please email your high resolution photo by June 23 to: communications@uchucklesaht.ca

Stories, Photos and Opinions

We are looking for citizen submissions of short stories, photos, 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 **ʔiyaqʰmisuk ʔuučuqʰisʔath̓**!

In Nuu-chah-nulth

For Father's Day by Joshua Shaw

ńaasuk ńuńuńiqsu - Father's Day

ʔuucawinyuk^winʔaala ńuńuńiqsakqin ʔuyi qawašimł.
We honour our fathers in June.

ńaasukʔi ńuńuńiqsu ʔukłaa.
It is called Father's Day.

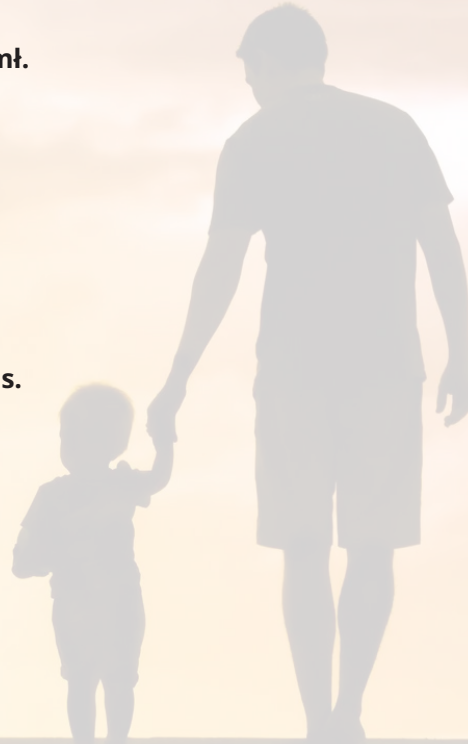
ʔiiqħukmiħsamin ńuńuńiqsakqin ʔanin ʔiiħmisuk
siiwa.
We want to tell our fathers that we treasure you.

ħamaťapni ʔani wikuk wikcuk ńuńuńiqsu mamums.
We know that fathers' work is not easy.

nučħakapsuu niiwa, yaamisukniħa siiwa.
We are proud of you guys, and we love you.

ħuťuk^wičim ńaas, čuuč.
Have a great day!

ńuńuńiqsu - father
ńuńuńiqsu - fathers (plural)



Social Media Reminder

Follow Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

We're excited to strengthen our presence on social media and showcase the amazing work we do together!

Our platforms are a great way to highlight our achievements, community events, and the culture we share.

Instagram

Uchucklesaht
Tribe
Government



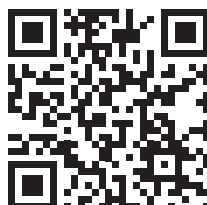
Facebook

Uchucklesaht
Tribe
Government



X

@UchucklesahtGov



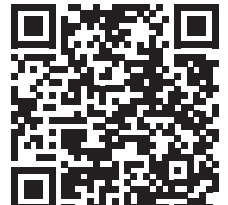
LinkedIn

Uchucklesaht
Tribe
Government



YouTube

Uchucklesaht
Tribe
Government





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.

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250-724-1806