

Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly
Saturday March 22, 2025
Zoom & Nucii Multipurpose Room

Attendance:

Scott Coulson	David McCormick	Ryan Anaka
Kathy Waddell	Barb Markistum	Lysa Ray
Shayne Noel	Carla Halvorsen	Wilfred Cootes
Thomas Rush	Moriah Cootes	Regina Frank
Clifford Charles	Sabrina Crowley	Chase Crowley
Colton Crowley	Marie Samuel	Maren Yeager
James Robinson	Valerie Styan	Bruce Gonzales
Cheryl Ginger	Helen Robinson	Ronalda Robinson
John Cootes	Megan Cootes	Malachi Rosario
Martha Titian	Randall Ginger	Rob Cootes
Samantha Fregin	Steven Robinson	Jersey Robinson
Susan Leask	Tina Halvorsen	Charlie Cootes
Gina Laing	April Martin	James Martin
Sarah Cootes	Gloria Jean Frank	Sharon Styan
Matthew Titian		

34 voting members 16+ in Attendance

2 children in attendance

7 UTG Staff

Total of 43 in attendance.

Prayer/Opening Words – Elder Marie Samuel & Matthew Titian
Youth Rep – Chase Crowley

Budget: CAO/DOF Scott Coulson

New Funding - New Fiscal Finance Agreement Amendment Negotiated and Signed. Federal Financing now at \$8.5 million must be used for administration of services, Governance and Lands & Resources

BC Gaming Revenues— 20 year agreement paying all First Nations in BC a portion of BC Gaming Revenues. UTG negotiated agreement at approximately \$600,000 per year for 20years

Negotiated to have the Treaty Loan paid back that was paid by UTG over the past 8 years Amounts to \$2.1 million. Pay back terms in this years Federal Budget

Numerous Human Services Grants – Staffing and Expenses - \$600,000

Various Wage Funding Grants - \$425,000

Departmental Grants – smaller projects \$909,564

BC LTRM Payroll Funding - \$\$781,500 three years Increase by FIDIPI

Cass Creek Power Project – Micro Hydro approved \$19,500,000 + \$1.5 Million planning grants

Federal Capital Assets Grant \$708,230 / year five years

Canada Housing Fund Negotiated by Treaty Nations \$4.0 Million

Child and Family Services Prevention Project Funding of \$491,000 per year going forward.

FFA Health Programs and Services \$283,042 per year going forward + FIDIPI

NICPF Wage grant \$110,000 per year going forward

Federal Infrastructure Maintenance \$366,665 going forward

Administration:

Rent for Nucii \$350,000, Motel Rentals \$10,000

Increase in Audit Fee cost due to new Economic Development entities and new Gaming Revenue Audit to be done yearly and new Economic Development projects to \$140,000

Decrease in Bank Charges from \$14,000 to \$11,000

Rent paid for Thunderbird Building and added Nucii Building from to \$350,000

Legal decreased to \$35,000

Increases to supplies and telephone for new building due to more locations to supply and service \$150,000 to \$175,000

Supplies for all administration \$60,000 to \$100,000

Increase in overall Wages from \$1,156,632 to \$1,390,356 due to funding for two positions paid by new grant, and Cost of living (Communications Coordinator, New AP Position, Director of Finance in 6 months)

Council:

Overall Council budget up from \$478,377 to \$600,814.

Legal Expenses to \$150,000 due to Specific Claims

Honorarium increase of \$10,000 total COLA

Local Travel and Reading to increase by COLA

- ✓ Decrease in supplies for FTA Council members, computers
- ✓ Increase in travel- More meetings out of town now, and Fiscal Negotiations attended by Chief
- ✓ Most line items remain the same
- ✓ Decrease for Inter-Governmental relations to \$5,000

Numerous Departments:

Elections- Total Budget \$3,000 in case there is a by-election

Peoples Assembly –increased budget due to venue and travel expenses

Increase in Honorarium from \$100 to \$105 per meeting total budget up to \$15,000

Door Prizes increased to \$10,000

Citizenship and Enrollment- overall budget remains the same

Education Services:

Increased Education budgets for:

Student Books and Supplies \$26,000 to \$30,000

Student Allowances doubled from \$25,000 to \$50,000

Student Awards/Grad \$10,000

Student Scholarships \$3,500 to \$15,000

Student Activities to stay at \$20,000

New Tutoring budget amount to assist with students success \$25,000

FNESC DEPARTAMENT

Maintained budget on Christmas Party and Community and Parental Engagement

Post Secondary Education amount increase from \$125,000 in 2019 to \$250,000 in 2020 to \$300,000 in 2021 and increased to \$325,000 in 2025. To include USA citizens will transfer funds if we utilize all of the allotment

Adult Training increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000 to Include USA citizens

Cultural Apprenticeship \$50,000

Career Fair budget \$20,000

Health Services:

Increased Funeral Expense - \$15,000 - \$20,000

Increase Elders monthly allotment from \$600 to \$900. Budget increase from \$300,000 to \$500,000 includes USA citizens

Elders Gathering increased to \$35,000 for more events

Medications and Supplies stay at \$60,000

Special Needs Increased \$20,000 to \$25,000

Supplies stay at \$17,500

Treatments stay at \$15,000

New Line item for Mental Health and Harm Reduction of \$25,000

Health and Wellness strategy \$63,635

Double Parents Allowance from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for monthly assistance for those with custody of children

Uchucklesaht Food Card Program – monthly food cards for
Uchucklesaht citizens \$\$375,000

Nursing:

New full time Nurse position
Medications and Supplies \$10,000
Repairs to Nursing Clinic \$10,000
Special Needs \$10,000
Travel Staff (travel to visit members in other cities) \$10,000
Treatments \$10,000

Social Development:

Social Assistance Budget increased to \$30,000
New Account for funding for a Homeless Strategy for Uchucklesaht
Citizens \$25,000

Family and Child Services

Child Care Subsidy increased from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for parents with
children who are under kindergarten age

Increased Picnic budget at \$40,000

Increased Travel for Children in Care to \$7,500
Supplies for travel \$45,000 fully grant funded
Prevention Activities for drug and homeless increased from \$30,000 -
\$80,000 funded
Increase to swim tickets now for all recreation

Medical Travel:

Proposed to increase Medical travel and meal rates to ensure Uchucklesaht Citizens are well compensated for medical travel increased to \$80,000

Additional increase as NTC travel rates are lowering what is paid for mileage – UTG to cover the decrease

Culture & Heritage

Budget for a Canoe & 2 pole Carvings \$150,000

Increase to supplies to assist with additional programming from \$25,000 - \$35,000

Cultural Activities budget doubled to \$100,000 to increase cultural activities in new building

Hired new F/T Cultural Coordinator

Created a new Language Revitalization worker position

Cultural Revitalization Support Fund - \$50,000 / year

Increased contracted services from \$25,000 to \$30,000

Treaty Anniversary Celebration \$150,000 (15 years)

Increased Cultural Participant Honorarium from \$100,000 to \$120,000

Marine & Transportation:

Purchased a 14 passenger vessel will keep smaller vessel in village for emergencies

Twice weekly village runs (Monday and Fridays) but are budgeting for daily runs once required for possible school runs

Fuel \$200,000 and Contract Services \$71,500 to support daily village runs once needed

Repairs to Transport increase from \$18,000 to \$20,000

Grant funding Initiative to build another smaller landing craft in 2026

Village Operations:

Maintaining or Increasing all Budget line Items for Village Operations

No more BC Hydro Maintenance fees of \$90,000/ year

Insurance increase to \$50,000 to cover increased value of assets and the new homes

Utilities decrease to \$25,000 cost lower to cover new homes

Scaler and faller to remove danger trees and rocks on new road to village \$5,000

Small tools increase to \$3,000

New Account for Information and Technology Maintenance due to increased cost to maintain internet services in village \$5,000

Water Sampling:

Continuing with FNHA Water Sampling Protocol

Rentals:

Cabin Rentals, Thunderbird House , fourteen-plex,

Maintenance House Rental Income \$75,000 revenues

Insurance increase from \$17,500 to \$20,000

Repairs and maintenance \$54,000

Communications improvement \$5,500

Contract Wages - \$5,000

Utilities new for 14 plex \$10,000/year

General Maintenance on all facilities

Treaty Right Fishery:

Not utilizing commercial Houchuklis Lake Sockeye allotment

Increasing budget for catch costs & processing, to ensure fish distribution to citizens from \$325,000 to \$390,000 (targeting buying fish so as to provide over our allotment) (fishing Maa'nulth Allotment too)

Budgeting to expand species to be included for fish distribution to include prawns, herring roe, herring meat, mussels, prawns and crab

Included wages and travel costs to deliver more fish to out of town citizens

New contracted services for seal harvest in Houchuklis Lake

Aquaculture Operations:

Renamed Department from Shellfish to Aquiculture Operations

Entered into new kelp farming project with Cascadia (ownership in Cascadia and fees)

Accounts to include:

Fuel \$1,500

Supplies \$1,000

Contract Services \$4,000

Transportation \$2,000

Otolith Testing:

Maintain contract with NTC and DFO for testing , to contract with UTG Citizens

Community Garden:

Largely grant funded community garden

Grant funding to include Garden coordinator and wages for workers

Funding to include funds for Elders meetings at garden

Supplies, lease, and utilities

New products to be grown in 2025

Resource Management:

New Department to ensure Resource Management is protected

Consultant to work on Habitat Restoration \$100,000

Accounts to include:

Consultant	\$100,000
Contracted Services	\$20,000
Repairs and Maintenance	\$5,000
Small Tools	\$15,000
Supplies	\$15,000

Economic Development:

New Economic Development Manager Hired in 2023 wages largely funded by Grant funding

Planning for more trails in Parks and Thunderbird House installation of solar and wind power

Bottle plant for Thunderbird Spirit Water opened in 2021 Covid has slowed sales, new social media and marketing plan being developed, LOI signed with Chinese purchaser for 30,000 boxed water per month, major upgrade to include boxed water, canning line purchase in 2024, can designs completed 355ml slim can flat and sparkling

Currently two UTG members employed more to come
The Thunderbird is full and running, motel units up and running
Nucci Building full and paying for itself with revenues

Cannabis grow facility is full and on a two week harvest rotation,
company will be paid off with profits in a year

Forestry:

Amount from Forestry greatly reduced to only complete projects that are
small and easily attained

Contractor Fees directly discounted from Revenues

Forestry Manager Fees under Contract Wages

Net Revenues utilized for Economic Development Initiatives

Purchased Interfor Handy Creek Arrowsmith Forest District Tenure

Purchase price paid for with forestry revenues from tenure

Resource Revenue Sharing

All revenues deposited into Qacca Settlement Trust increase for BC
from \$60,000 to \$250,000

Government Revenue Sharing:

Revenues:

Treaty Loan Repayment	\$420,000
BC Gaming Revenues	\$600,000
BC PST Sharing	\$10,000

Health and Wellness Program increased to \$800,000

Continue to provide Health and Wellness funds to all citizens raised \$550 to \$625 every three months

Land Use Planning:

Consulting Fees for the Planning process for the a Village Subdivision Plan, and Infrastructure Upgrade Plan grant funded (\$100,000) at \$350,000

Mapping GIS - \$10,000

Publishing - \$2,500

Legal \$10,000

Three new Land and Resources positions: Archeologist, GIS professional, Biologist (wages and supplies grant funded)

Emergency Preparedness:

Budget to re-supply the emergency kits in village \$50,000

Update to the Emergency Response Plan

Emergency Response Grant - \$46,665 three years

Training - \$5,000

Legal - \$6,000

Consulting Fees of \$20,000

New Tsunami Warning System was installed, Fully funded

Supply the Emergency Tsunami Accommodation Trailer

Implementation Activities:

Received a \$250,000 grant to participate in MTS

Maa'nulth Treaty Society Common Costs including Negotiation of Fiscal Finance Agreements with Federal Government and Province and other common projects (Ground Water Project, Fisheries negotiations, and Legal): \$800,000

Trans Mountain Pipeline, Roberts Terminal, and numerous other negotiations continuing

Negotiated a long term funding (5 years) of \$200,000 per Maa'nulth Nation to fund the Maa'nulth Treaty Society projects.

Long Term Funding Ended in 2019 (Balance \$11,300,000)

Implementation Fund – Long Term Funding Ended in 2020 (Balance \$7,200,000)

Resource Revenue Sharing - \$220,000

2025/2026 is a BALANCED BUDGET!!

Requests and Questions Overview:

Gloria Jean would like any logs cleared from front of Elder Marie Samuels UTG Rental Home.

Lands and Resources Department will follow up regarding the front of the UTG rental house.

Gloria Jean would like for membership to participate in planning of what happens in the basement of the Village Wellness Center.

Uchucklesaht has in place a Village Working Group regarding village planning discussions/recommendations and that could be a topic of discussion once that group is formed.

James Robinson wondering what are all the names of all the UTG businesses and who are all of their directors.

James Robinson wondering the name of the new position in place that the previous chief councillor is sitting as. Is it a council position? What is the title?

It is not a government/councillor position. It is a contract position where we are paying for Charlie's services.

James Robinson wondering who our forestry manager is.

Ray Bartram.

Charlie Cootes Sr. is wondering if the pile of logs up from his house can be designated a firewood pile for membership to use?

Department of Lands and Resources will discuss/investigate.

Clifford Charles is wondering the definition of special needs.

Confirmation there that this is related to medical required special needs supplies such as shower/tub safety gear/supplies.

Valerie Styan – with the treaty celebration, will be celebrating with the other nations? When and Where?

Maa nulth Treaty Society is looking at the logistics to get all five nations together and find a location for that. We are rapidly running out of time. Something will happen if it is just us or with the Maa nulth.

The upcoming one is April 1st and it is short notice. As part of the budget process, we decided to do a celebration, small and local and moving forward we will have a larger celebration. The notice of our celebration has been posted.

Valerie Styan was curious as to the process of appointing a director of finance and didn't mean to offend.

We are looking to bring in a director of finance in about six months. I can train them over the year. It is becoming too much to hold onto two-three roles here. I take no offence to that question.

There is a process in place to post positions and then the recommendation from the Chief Councillor.

Valerie Styan wondering what the swim tickets are and what is the social assistance program that we have.

Valerie Styan was curious as to where all the UTG Rentals are located. Is the 14 plex available for rent? What is the cabin about?

In the Village of Ehtlateese, the UTG Cabin in Kidonan Inlet and in Port Alberni BC.

We do have three motel units in The Thunderbird building and the 14 plex in the village is rentable. We have a cabin in Uchucklesaht Inlet that is

basically a log home. We have rented that out to contractors and things like that.

Social Services, we provide that to people living on Treaty Settlement Lands.

Swim Tickets used to be the actual swim ticket, you would get one and swim for free but now it has grown digital now. You can get assistance with that with where you live.

UTG Cabin, it is important to know how the nation acquired that cabin. When treaty happened, someone had built a cabin on the wrong side of the line, one our land. The provincial government then had to purchase that off the person and transfer that to Uchucklesaht. It was like the wild west in the past and people were building where they wanted.

Valerie Styan was curious as to the whole process of the Cannabis Business and use of the plants.

CAO provides an overview presentation.

Ellen Gonzales is hoping membership are also included in this food card system/program.

Yes, correct. That is one of the larger challenges in the program is finding a company we can utilize. We are preparing for this program and the US is absolutely part of this.

Ellen Gonzales requested that Human Services provide an overview of the services provided to UTG citizens at some point.

Will pass on this information to the Department of Human Services.

Gina Laing hopes that we will get the trail work done at the thunderbird, will people build those, trails at the village to improve them and ensure new ones are in place and safe and accessible to all. Will our tribe make regular visits so that our people can make it in there safely.

Yes, correct, there will be trail work done.

I will role back two years. We have heard about how sacred the area is and thought, well there must be trails. We sent an archeologist out there and could not find a trail. We went back and the information we got was that people built their own trails up to the tiitskin pawatts.

There was not specific trail. We are hiring an archeologist on our own staff to get out there regular and find out the history of the area. In doing so, create a trail system up to the sacred areas so that we can bring you safely up to the locations.

Thomas Rush hopes for better audio system in the budget.

April Martin worried about the war between Canada and the states and the tariffs and how it would affect our gift cards.

April Martin is concerned for elder safety and hopes that transportation to and from the village will be accessible for elders as well as a ride to their homes in the village on land.

April Martin would like more of the scammer workshops to occur through the Human Services Department. Online security, we need our elders educated. Can we provide classes for this? People are calling as well and asking people to transfer money through scams.

Yes, our department of Human Services will hold additional workshops. They have held one not long ago.

April Martin concerned about how the spring salmon went bad and hopes to get it processed better in a way that protects it – smoke it first and then can it.

If any citizen at any time feels that food fish is below the quality it should be, always report that to us. We pay good money to get this fish processed professionally and pay our commercial fishermen good as well to properly ice and transport it.

We don't can terminal chinook because they are a softer fish and we get all of that smoked. The canned stuff is ocean chinook. We do a lot of hot smoked and candied. If anyone has a bad can, they have batch numbers, I can trace it back to where it was caught and processed. Thanks for bringing that to my attention.

April Martin is also asking if there will be trails at some point at the back of Houchutlis Lake.

Correct.

James Robinson hopes that our outreach program can make sure to check in with our homeless people on the street more often during our food fish distribution days.

Department of Human Services does follow up with the homeless.

James Robinson is wondering about village street names and hoping to use Nuu chah nulth Language for our street names.

Robert Cootes hopes that the Village Working Group can form part of naming future village street names.

There are street names in the village now. Yes, we do have some traditional names in place and working group can discuss more traditional names of other roads in the future. All citizens are able to sit on this working group. Its bi monthly with honorariums. Information is on the website. Its for anyone, whether you live there or not.

Phyllis Halvorsen notes that the top of the prawns were freezer burnt and to please have them packed better – adding more water to the top of container.

Valerie Styan was wondering about the process of our water.

UTG keeps it as pure as possible and does not put anything in it. It is 44, perfect PH of 7.5 – our water is perfect.

Valerie – thank you, I was not sure if we dilute it at all or anything. Good to hear that we leave it as is.

Megan Cootes would like our Communications Coordinator to be more involved in all of the email and mailing contact lists to ensure that email lists are updated properly in all departments.

John Cootes – there seem to be an issue with communications in almost every aspect of our peoples interactions – with our tribal government. Well, the basic fundamentals.....(audio cutting in and out) I am outside right now...interference.

Please email or send your questions/comments to Carla in the chat if you can. We cannot hear you.

It is the plan to have the communication coordinator more involved.

Ellen Gonzales would like to see more inclusive type family events through Human Services regarding field trips. There are many elder and children's events but nothing anymore like when families were invited to all go to the waterslides.

Will pass on this recommendation to the Department of Human Services.

April Martin would like to see more cultural type jobs incorporated on our lands. We used to have people that checked our lands and our waters, our beaches.

April Martin liked the idea Japan had regarding Elders Residences and hopes Uchucklesaht could create an Elders Residence Area at some point in the future.

April Martin would like for an open online chat option on the UTG Facebook Page.

There will be a more secure online/login and sign in for membership on the UTG website.

Sharon Styan Jr. concerned about how there are many without cell phones or emails – she would like hard copy postage mail out of notices and phone bees to go out ahead of UTG events.

Clifford Charles feels there should be some sort of little convenience store at the village so that people don't have to travel all that way for small items.

Sabrina Crowley invites the Warriors Program to her oyster farm so she can teach them how the farm works and show them how to grow and harvest oysters.

Gina Laing was hoping that UTG could give out sample THC and CBD to UTG membership.

All the product is already accounted for/sold. It is not legal for us to provide samples of this type of product. There might be possibility of samples through our customers.

All spraying is organic and we clean our drains often.

Motion #01: Uchucklesaht Tribe People Assembly has reviewed the budget as presented for the day.

Moved: Clifford Charles

Seconded: Moriah Cootes

(All in Favor – 20)

Motion Carried

NO Official Recommendations were made to the budget via motion.

Annual Legislative/Executive Update:

The Legislative Government is chosen **every 4 years** and the last election was in November 2023 and so the **next election will be in November 2027**

The following people were elected for this next four year term:

1. Chief Councillor Wilfred Cootes Jr.
2. Tyee Hawiik Legislative Councillor Clifford Charles
3. Hawiik Legislative & Executive Councillor Thomas Rush
4. Legislative & Executive Councillor Moriah Cootes
5. Legislative Councillor Sabrina Crowley
6. Legislative & Executive Councillor Regina Frank

The Legislative Council met a total of **7 times** between **2024-2025** in order to discuss the audit, budget, updates and various laws.

The following Laws were passed: Annual Budget Act UTS 73/2024

The Executive Councillors had a total of **50 regular Executive Meetings from 2024-2025** in order to discuss business, regulations and

updates.

The Executive also attend many other day to day government meetings that include but are not limited to: Alliance Meetings, Taxation Meetings, Fisheries and Wildlife Meetings, Maa-nulth Meetings, NTC Meetings, AGM's, Government to Government Meetings, Implementation Meetings, Fiscal Meetings, ACRD Meetings, Leadership Forum, AFN, SGIG Meetings, Health Forums, Child and Family Service Meetings and Enforcement Advisory Meetings.

Each Executive Councillor is appointed by the full Legislative Council and sign off on the Executive Profiles that spell out their roles and responsibilities.

The following Regulations and Policies were passed in 2024: Annual Rates Regulation UTR 41/2024

The Executive Councillors attended the Land Claims Agreement Coalition in February of 2024 and are on site again in February 2025 in Gatineau, Quebec. The **Land Claims Agreements Coalition** works to ensure that comprehensive land claims (modern treaties) and associated self-government agreements are respected, honored and fully implemented.

This is more than just a conference—it's a dynamic, high-energy showcase of Indigenous advancements, culture and innovation in the Modern Treaty world.

Over two engaging days, you'll hear from top-tier speakers, inspiring

Indigenous leaders, and experts from every corner of Canada.

In 2026, Uchucklesaht will be planning ahead by registering our youth in the immersive Treaty Simulation program designed to ignite the next generation of leaders and changemakers. We will also plan to bring the cultural group. All of this is reflected in the 2025/2026 Annual UTG Budget planning.

On July 9th, 10th and 11th of 2024 the Uchucklesaht Government set up the Treaty Simulation in Village of Ehthlateese. Participants experienced the realities of negotiating and implementing part of a Modern Treaty or Self-Government Agreement and the implementation of historic treaties in the context of current events.

The Gordon Foundation has been running Treaty Simulations in collaboration with communities, organizations, high schools, universities, government and Treaty experts since 2019. The Treaty Simulation model provides a hands-on learning experience to help participants understand Modern Treaties in Canada.

We thank Angela Wesley, Sabrina Crowley and Thomas Rush for assisting during these sessions as advisors.

Canoe: The Uchucklesaht Tribe Canoe is complete and just currently undergoing some touch ups . Uchucklesaht will then work on a second canoe and some other totem poles.

It should be ready for the summer of 2025. Our cultural coordinator and lands team will first take it out for a trial run in the ocean sometime in the spring of 2025.

Totems: The Uchucklesaht Tribe has three totem poles in the works. The one pole is complete and put to rest while the second one is being created.

At some point in 2025 the UTG Cultural Coordinator will be organizing Totem Pole Raising Event (s) in honor of the previous chief and current hawiih's. The council has also included in the budget room for apprentices from UTG to help with these important pieces.

Tseshaht Canoe Journey: JULY 2024 - The Tseshaht youth dined on traditionally smoked sockeye, drank nettle tea and sang their friendly Paddle Song as they landed at the Uchucklesaht Tribe Village of Ehtlateese to stay with the Uchucklesaht Tribe for a night. The Uchucklesaht 15 Plex was just furnished in time and ready to accommodate the cultural group. **Elder Oochah** (Phyllis Halvorsen) welcomed the crew at the Village Wharf while **Luu luuchka** (Tina Halvorsen) prepared the accommodations. **Luu luuchka, which translates to flower**, gifted them handmade cedar woven roses before they pushed off early the following morning.

The Uchucklesaht Tribe Government is ensuring that our lands are checked and will be hiring on our own Archeologist sometime in the spring/summer of 2025.

Our Lands Department in the meantime has been in the field and have identified another Archeology Site located out at the end of Houchutlis Lake up from The Thunderbird House at the lodge. Our team was able to find up to 50 CMT's in this area right away. This used to be a village site as per our elders and this is proof.

The Uchucklesaht Tribe Council decided that the next phase of the Village Revitalization Project would be development of our cultural spaces—**our**

Wellness Center was finally complete and now we are just **organizing getting office furniture installed so that we can have staff on site regularly in early 2025.**

Cultural Revitalization is important to the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and we will continue to do our best to push forward with some important programs such as the Warriors Program, Language Workshops, Apprentice Carving Projects and various other types of important cultural gatherings and practices.

The Emergency Preparedness of the village is important to the UTG Government and so with the help of the UTG Lands Department Emergency Management Team, **a Tsunami Warning System** has been installed at the top area of the village and a **Weather Station** has been installed at the point by the village wharf. Re-supplied the emergency kits in village and updated the UTG Emergency Response Plan.

The Village Wharf has been priority for the Executive as well and so the older wharf has been removed and more secure/safe village wharf has been installed at the same location

Food Security is very important to the nation and so the council has kept up budget for the UTG Garden located in Port Alberni, BC and continues to budget to keep this garden operating smoothly each year for the benefit of the UTG people. Food Hampers are distributed regularly and food program is being created. Grant Funding was used to cover capital expenditures, solar panels for greenhouse and a small tractor.

Annually the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government holds a Peoples Assembly to go over updates, reports, the audit and the budget. **There were three Peoples Assemblies in 2024 & two USA Info Sessions.**

Here are the overviews:

The Peoples Assembly regarding the 2024 Budget was on March 23, 2024 to discuss the UTG Budget and Economic Development Plan. 39 were in attendance.

· **These were the following recommendations:**

#01: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that the Uchucklesaht Tribe should make sure that there is consideration and a budget in place for a Community Advisory Committee to consult with when the nation is planning any sort of development in the Village of Ehtlateese.

Note: This advisory group TOR is now completed and a letter of interest will go out to membership that are interested in participating in such a group.

#02: Uchucklesaht People Assembly recommends checking to see if our old computers can be sold to membership.

#03: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG see what we can do to ensure that there continues to be the first nation education support worker at ADSS.

#04: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that UTG does need something in the budget for the guardianship type patrols.

Note: This has been included in the UTG Budget and regular patrols are in place for 2025.

#05: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agree that the other homes in the Village of Ehtlateese also get alternative power options such as Solar.

#06: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that Legislative Council be invited to more meetings like the Executive attend.

Note: Legislative Council members have been invited to a variety of meetings and celebrations throughout the year and are always invited to be present at all UTG Peoples Assemblies.

#07: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG look into relocating Deer into the UTG territory.

#08: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that UTG also adds duck to our list of food being gathered and distributed to our membership and also set up a PAL program for staff/membership to go through.

#09: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly recommends that at the next Peoples Assembly we invite all UTG Staff so that they can introduce themselves to membership so that they can match the faces to the names. Nucii, The Thunderbird, Water Plant – so people know who works for UTG.

Note: This was done at the UTG 2024 Christmas Party.

The Peoples Assembly regarding the 2024 AUDIT was on August 24, 2024 to discuss the Audit and Annual Updates. 30 were in attendance.

· These were the following recommendations:

#01: Uchucklesaht Tribe use the talking stick again at Peoples Assemblies and involve our youth.

Note: YES, this has been reincorporated into the UTG Peoples Assembly Practices.

The Special Peoples Assembly was held on September 21, 2024. 30 were in attendance. 39 people were in attendance.

· There were no recommendations officially made but rather all

questions from on an agenda answered with a wide range of topics such as:

1. BC Hydro Station Location - moving the location was the recommendation.
2. Education Assistance
3. Final Land Title Documents
4. Applying for UTG Lands and Elders
5. Cultural Coordinator
6. Additional Peoples Assemblies
7. Secure File Access : UTG Website
8. UTG Cannabis
9. Newsletters
10. Member Allocations
11. Financial Budgeting Workshops
12. Business Ideas
13. Village Townhouse Rentals
14. Fuse Boxes/Fridge
15. Non members at Council Meetings
16. Government Titles

Uchucklesaht Tribe Council ensured that the various plans were developed, implemented and approved.

The Wildfire Resilience Plan was created in order to identify and update the wildfire risk specific to Uchucklesaht's Wildland Urban Interface, to describe the potential consequences of wildfire to the community, and to examine options and strategies to reduce the wildfire risks.

The All Hazards Management Plan was also developed. The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for preparation, risk mitigation, response, and recovery activities to be undertaken before, during, and after an emergency, and to protect Citizens, visitors, our property, the environment, and our critical infrastructure.

Economic Development Plan follows on the two previous five-year plans and takes into account the following factors: 1. After two and a half years of pandemic-related impacts, UTG and business activity is returning to normal. 2. The stage for this Economic Development Plan has been set by Uchucklesaht's new Official Community Plan (OCP).

Community Energy Emissions Plan to meet the community's future energy needs, improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering local sustainable and community-supported energy solutions.

Active & Alternative Transportation Plan: seeks ways to enhance the active transportation and alternative network to support the mobility of all ages and abilities in and to/from Ehthlateese Village, the Traditional Territory and in Port Alberni. The Plan also supports safe and reliable transportation routes in the event of emergencies, given Ehthlateeses' remote location.

Uchucklesaht Tribe Council has approved and signed off on various policies and agreements.

FFA Agreement 10 Year Extension - The Fiscal Relations Chapter of the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement provides that the Parties will negotiate and attempt to reach agreement on a Fiscal Financing

Agreement in accordance with the provisions of that Chapter. The Maanulth Nations succeeded in negotiating and signing off on that FFA.

Community Planning - We are working with Barefoot to review and update the Uchucklesaht Official Community Plan including definition of future residential development areas, development permit areas and culturally sensitive areas. Review and update of the detailed village plan to reflect the changes of the past 3 years and updating the zoning bylaw will be important.

Nucii Development Planning: Uchucklesaht Tribe Government has a plan to develop on our property located in Port Alberni – the property we now call Nucii.

There are 112 units. (74 apartments, 4 Studios, 38 Townhouses) NOV 2018 Property Purchased: FEB 2021 Consultants Retained: AUG 2021 OCP/Rezoning: JUNE 2022 Development Permit: OCT 2023 Public Engagement: SEPT 2023 APC Approval: JUNE 2023 Revised Development Permit: JUNE 2023 Revised OCP/Rezoning **and in 2024** we are drawing revisions required during the public engagement session and then moving forward.

BC Hydro/UTG entered into a maintenance agreement – There was a lawsuit in the past about paying the bc hydro maintenance fee ,so due to that outcome- all of our maintenance fees we paid from beginning of time is being paid back to us in the amount of \$900,000. We now no longer have that maintenance fee.

Saa ch'ak wat'a Power Project UTG's goal is to eliminate diesel power generation in Ehthlateese except as emergency backup.

We are pursuing projects in alignment with sacred principles of respect, stewardship and interconnectedness. UTG would develop, build, own

and maintain clean energy projects up to point of interconnection and sell power generated.

TIMELINES

2024: Detailed Design & Permitting of Solar & Hydro Projects

2025: Move & Upgrade Diesel Facility

2026: Build Ground-Mounted Solar & Battery Energy Storage Facility

2027: Build Run-of-River Hydro

Warriors Program: Launched in May. We had a three night excursion with the Main warriors group, our two leaders at the time were UTG members Hunter and Cooper.

We had Elders invited - Charlie Cootes and Thomas Rush attended a few sessions.

Sam Hodgetts was then hired to be the lead in August. There has been weekly programming for the youth boys. The first year of warriors is set up to relationship build with the group and leaders. Events that have taken place are : Weekly gatherings, including a dinners. Sometimes the boys will cook, other times they will go out somewhere. Archery, shelter building, fire starting, games, recreational activities (bowling, Mt. Washington.), events with the main warriors group, shellfish harvesting, fishing etc.

The Lands Department is now involved to get more land based activities for the boys, such as fishing, building a fire pit in EH and harvesting food within our traditional territory.

Anderson River Fishery Specific Claim

This claim relates to Canada's breach of fiduciary duty related to granting exclusive fishing licenses to a salmon cannery to harvest salmon at the mouth of Anderson River between 1902 and 1922.

Canada and UTG have been negotiating a settlement of this claim since about 2019. The parties have jointly studied the potential losses suffered by UTG. Canada's negotiator is currently seeking a mandate to make a financial offer to UTG.

Saa ch'ak wat'a Specific Claim

This claim relates to Canada's failure to set aside an Indian reserve for UTG at Saa ch'ak wat'a (at Cass Creek) on the east side of Uchucklesaht Inlet. Canada recently agreed to negotiate a settlement of this Claim. UTG Executive will be making a decision on whether to enter into negotiations in the near future.

Hii 'na?is Specific Claim

This claim relates to Canada's failure to set aside an Indian reserve for UTG at a Uchucklesaht settlement site at the west end of Uchucklesaht Lake. This claim was submitted to Canada in the fall of 2024. Canada must advise if it agrees to enter into negotiations to settle the claim by the fall of 2027.

Spirit Water Update:

We have boxed water and bottled waters. The bottle is being changed a little bit where we are getting away from the cork and going to a screw top on both.

Its easier for ordering materials and we were having problems with the corks. Its safer to have a screw top.

750 l and we have 10 liter bag in the box. Its now make with stronger bands on inside of the box to strengthen it.

Our friend and employee Andrew was asking to ask our citizens to design around it, a show case piece. Get ahold of myself and Andrew.

UTG Showcase – looking for a showcase such as a wooden box. We need artists to design something for our conferences/events.

Canning Line – 355 ml slim cans (still and sparkling)
We are also looking at a 6 pack and not a four pack.

Finalizing placement of canning line as part of complete automated production line. Bottling line, bag in box line, canning line are all integrated into an automatic system where product is filled, boxed automatically and then sent to a palletizer that robotically takes each box and places on a skit then when skid is full, wraps the product in plastic and then moves it off of the production line.

New tanks can handle 120,000 liters of water.
Two large water trucks. We can move 20,000 meters per truck at a time.
5000 gallons per truck.

Sales – Andrew delivers the water up and down the island. Sobeys, Thriftys, Save On Foods, Costco – we are negotiating other agreements.

Cruise Ship “The World Branding”

Cannabis Overview – 12 rooms operating.

LED Light upgrade getting done. All rooms are full and part of facility

wide rotation.

28 full time staff 50 international workers.

Real Estate Appraised at \$29,000,000

Sold out of product for the next 18 months.

Three new rooms coming online in April.

We have our own water and clearing ponds.

Location: Niagra in Ontario.

Comment: Clifford Charles – disagrees with Cannabis and the shooting of black ducks.

Comment: It was the UTG membership that wanted to include Cannabis during our past discussions regarding economic development. UTG is one of the largest contract growers of cannabis. We do not have to pay an excise tax and we cannot name them, but we do sell to large companies.

Comment: Charlie Cootes is proud of this small nation and fully supports the nations' businesses. We need to do things that are global and national. We are the small tribe that could and is doing it. This is a balance of politics, legal and community.

Comment: Where will the totems be raised? And can we have CBD in our water as well?

Reply: Yes, next phases of extraction – we will use all the THC and CBD.

Comment: What are we doing with the by product? Can we sell to hemp

textiles?

Answer: Every bit of the plant is sold. We will utilize it all for ourselves.

Remainder of the Department Annual Reports are provided as FYI – if you have any questions, please forward those to Carla Halvorsen at the Uchucklesaht Tribe Office.

Adjourn:

Motion #02: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn the meeting of the day.

Moved: Charlie Cootes

Seconded: Sharon Styan Jr.

(All in Favor – 20)

Motion Carried

END OF MEETING