



# Inside this issue

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS . . . . . 3

SPECIAL EVENT . . . . . 4

EVENTS . . . . . 6

NOTICE . . . . . 6

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT . . . . . 7

LANDS AND RESOURCES . . . . . 8

CONTRIBUTOR . . . . . 10

GALLERY . . . . . 11



Christmas vibes at UTG

# In Nuu-chah-nulth

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**Čaxtakukʷi kwʷismis**  
*Have a happy Christmas*

**Pronunciation:**  
*chaak-ta-koo-kwee*  
*kwis-mis*

# Health and Wellness

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## New Nursing & Wellness Room at Našuk maḥṭii



Našuk maḥṭii is newly equipped with a nursing room, including an exam table. This brings many opportunities for improved patient exams, wound care/first aid, immunizations, and more. We are excited to have this room to provide one-on-one sessions in a quiet, confidential space. The UTG nurse can be found working in Ehtlateese once a week or as needed. With the exam table and room in place, we can also bring in more health care providers, such as physiotherapists and massage therapists.

*See pictured above, Elder Susan Leask and physiotherapist Stephanie Linning.  
The first physio session offered at Našuk maḥṭii!*



# Intergovernmental Relations



## UTG Engages with Provincial Leaders at BC Cabinet and First Nations Gathering

Executive Member of Human Services, Һa'wiltһ Thomas Rush, along with leaders and technical staff from the seven other BC Modern Treaty Nations, attended the BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering in Vancouver from November 3 to 5, 2025.

As one of the largest meetings of provincial and First Nations leaders in the country, the Gathering was designed to recognize, respect and honour relationships, and foster joint dialogue and collaboration.

The Gathering opened with an address from Premier David Eby, and a moving cultural welcome featuring traditional songs, drumming, and dance by the Skw̓w̓mesh (Squamish) Nation.

Thomas, as a representative of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, led speaking to Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. He spoke regarding the importance and need of the formal working relationship between the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Alliance to ensure that together our Nations are active participants in co-developing

solutions. Thomas also expressed how Nations will continue to bring strong expertise and a shared commitment to improving the lives of citizens and all British Columbians, and that Nations look forward to continuing the dialogue, working closely with the Ministry in a transparent and timely way that reflects our Treaty relationships.

Ha'wiltһ Thomas Rush, along with Alliance leaders, also met with Premier Eby and other members of the BC Cabinet as they continue to advocate for the BC Modern Treaty Nations.

Productive conversations were also held with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Deputy Premier and Attorney General, Minister of Health, Minister of Children and Family Development, Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth, and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

By participating in the Gathering, Һa'wiltһ Thomas Rush reinforced UTG's commitment to advancing Modern Treaty Nation interest while working together with Provincial partners.

# Intergovernmental Relations



# Events

## DECEMBER 2025



Uchucklesaht Tribe  
Government

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Outreach 10 - 12 Warriors 4:30-9ish	3 Parents's Group 11 - 1	4 Woman's Group 11 - 1	5 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	6
7	8 Language - In Person 12 - 1	9 Outreach 10 - 12 Warriors 4:30-9ish	10 Language - Zoom 7 - 8 Career Workshop 3:30-6:30	11	12 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	13 Christmas Luncheon - 12 - 4
14	15 Language - In Person 12 - 1 Winter Wonderland Skate	16 Outreach 10 - 12 Warriors 4:30-9ish	17 Language - Zoom 7 - 8	18 Elders Breakfast 10-12	19 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	-----OFFICE CLOSED-----		
				-----OFFICE CLOSED-----		

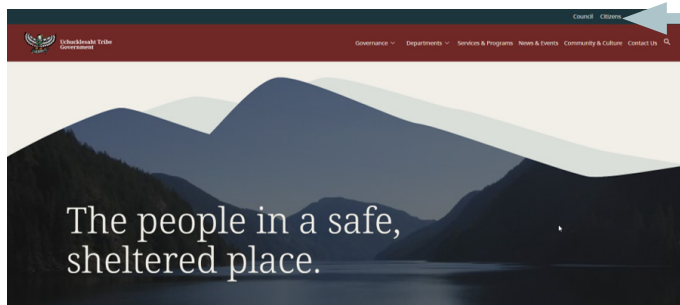
**NOTES** Dec 15 - Winter Wonderland Skate 3:30 - 5:30 - AV MultiPlex Sat Dec 13 - Christmas Luncheon - 12 - 4 Echo Center

Dec 8 - Tentative - Language - In Person 12 - 1

# Notice

## Attention Uchucklesaht Citizens!

If you are having trouble generating a password or logging in to the Citizen Portal on the new Uchucklesaht website, please reach out for assistance.



Citizens

**Contact:**

Pray Malhotra, Communications Coordinator — [communications@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:communications@uchucklesaht.ca)

Lysa Ray, Executive Assistanat/IRA — [lysa.ray@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:lysa.ray@uchucklesaht.ca)

We appreciate your patience and are here to help.

# Economic Development

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## Thunderbird Spirit Water to be Gold Title Sponsor of Totem



## THUNDERBIRD SPIRIT WATER

The upcoming 2026 Totem High School basketball tournament hosted by ADSS will mark its 70-year anniversary. Thunderbird Spirit Water is proud to announce that it will be a Gold Title Sponsor of this marquee event. Totem has become a major event that people in the Alberni Valley and visiting teams from throughout BC, and often beyond, have enjoyed for generations.

Thunderbird Spirit Water will be prominently featured as the official players' and referees' water, with the 10-liter bag-in-boxes placed on all teams' benches during every game as well as bottles of sparkling water to be gifted to visiting team officials and tournament VIPs. Many of the games will also be televised live on Shaw TV. In addition to visibility during the games, Thunderbird Spirit

Water will also receive recognition through Totem's print, digital, and social media as well as other announcements leading up to and throughout the tournament.

We're happy to contribute to Totem as such a long-standing, great event that encourages so many positive values like healthy living, sportsmanship, and community. This visibility will also support increased sales. Please visit the ADSS Totem basketball tournament Facebook page for updates about the schedule and how you can attend games to experience the excitement!

*For more information, contact Dave McCormick, Economic Development Manager, [david.mccormick@uchucklesaht.ca](mailto:david.mccormick@uchucklesaht.ca)*



# Lands and Resources

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## Hands-on Learning: Students Help Protect Our Shorelines from Invasive Species



As part of the land-based learning journey that took place in Ehthlateese from Nov 4 to 6, 2025, students from School District 70 joined UTG staff to help monitor European green crabs—an invasive species of growing concern in local waters.

European green crabs outcompete native crabs for food, prey on local species, and damage eelgrass meadows, which are vital nurseries for juvenile salmon, Dungeness crabs, and many other important marine animals. They first appeared on the West Coast of Canada about 20 years ago, likely arriving on ships, boats, equipment, or in transported seafood.

To track and manage this invasive species, staff regularly set traps and record crab numbers. Students helped

place traps overnight and returned the next day to collect them. They also learned how to identify, count, and measure the crabs we caught. In total, the group found two female European green crabs and five native crabs including four graceful crabs and one decorator crab. The native crabs were safely released, while the invasive crabs were humanely destroyed.

European green crabs can be recognized by the five distinctive “teeth” on either side of their eyes. Adults are typically 8–10 cm wide and, despite their name, can appear olive green, yellow, orange, or brown. If you spot one, please freeze or destroy it rather than returning it to the ocean. Whenever possible, take a photo, record the date, time, and location, and notify a staff member.

# Lands and Resources

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## Uchucklesaht Shines at the Port Alberni Blue Marlin Sail Past



It was a magical evening in the harbour for the Port Alberni Blue Marlin Sail Past.

The Sail Past joined the Harbour Quay Light-up year, creating a bigger and brighter celebration for the whole community.

The UTG entered the Ehthlateese 1 in the Sail Past and is



proud to announce that our entry won third prize at the event. Uchucklesaht youth took part in the Sail Past, with Danica Rice and Josh Monrufet from the Department of Lands and Resources.

A special shout-out to team Lands and Resources for their hard work and creativity in bringing this display to life.

# Contributor

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## Uchucklesaht Youth in Action!



Uchucklesaht citizen Laurissa Lucas shared this wonderful photo of two young athletes Olivia Freign (daughter of Sammi Freign) and Andre Lucas (son of Laurissa Lucas) both proudly representing the Haahuupayak Spirit Basketball Team. It was a special moment seeing them play side by side at school, both sporting pink and showing great teamwork and spirit.

We love celebrating our youth and the pride they bring to our community!

# Become a Contributor

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Would you like to see your creative media featured in **ʔiyaq̓̓misuk ʔuuč̓̓q̓̓isʔath̓**? 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, Photos 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 **ʔiyaq̓̓misuk ʔuuč̓̓q̓̓isʔath̓**!



# Photo Gallery



Family Night held at Nucii on November 18, 2025



Family Night held at Nucii on November 18, 2025



Paint Night held at Nucii on November 14, 2025



Paint Night held at Nucii on November 14, 2025



Pro D Day held at Coombs Country Candy on November 10, 2025



Pro D Day held at Coombs Country Candy on November 10, 2025



## 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