



Toquaht Nation Spring 2023 Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue No. 1 | April 2022

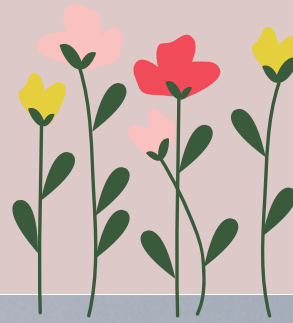


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Council Members

Chief Anne Mack
taayii ḥawit

Kevin Mack
čaamata

Naomi Mack
Elected Member
of Council

Kirsten Johnsen
Elected Member
of Council

Noah Plonka
Elected Member
of Council

Message From ḥawīl Anne Mack

In my absence at the last Peoples' Assembly in March, I would like to thank čaamata Kevin Mack for chairing the meeting along with Director of Operations, Angela Polifroni, and the administrative staff for facilitating so graciously, as always.

I missed my opportunity to say my hellos to family I haven't seen for so long. Unfortunately, my husband was in the hospital which took me away from home. I then came down with symptoms of COVID-19. I have had these symptoms for a couple of weeks now, but with rest and plenty of fluids, I have been keeping it at bay and isolating from others. I think it's now finally going away.

ʔuuqsuuqʕah (I am happy) and I am so proud of our community! Look at us build and grow and see new life. I pray this continues as we plow through this pandemic. I look toward building sacred ground to honour those gone before us and those yet unborn.

čuuč



Message From čaamata Kevin Mack

Hello ʔuuqwaʔath,

I would like to thank all who attended the Peoples' Assembly on March 25 2023, via Zoom. The Toquaht Council appreciates you taking the time to listen and engage with the presentations on the draft annual budget, which was prepared with the assistance of our directors and managers.

In February, the draft budget was introduced to Council as a schedule to the Toquaht Nation Annual Budget Act 2023-2024. To approve the budget and make it Toquaht law, Council must have three readings of the draft. First reading is the introduction, second reading is for detailed review, and third reading is for the enactment of the law.

As part of second reading, Council sent the draft budget to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Following the very detailed line-by-line review, the Finance Committee recommended that the draft Toquaht Annual Budget Act for 2023-24 be approved with minor amendments. Council then accepted the recommendation from the Finance Committee and sent the draft to you, at the Peoples' Assembly.

The input of the masčim at the Peoples' Assembly on March 25th was an integral part of Council's accountability to you, masčim. Following an overview of funding sources, expenditures, planned programs and services, stewardship activities, capital projects and more, the Peoples' Assembly moved to recommend to Council that the budget be approved.

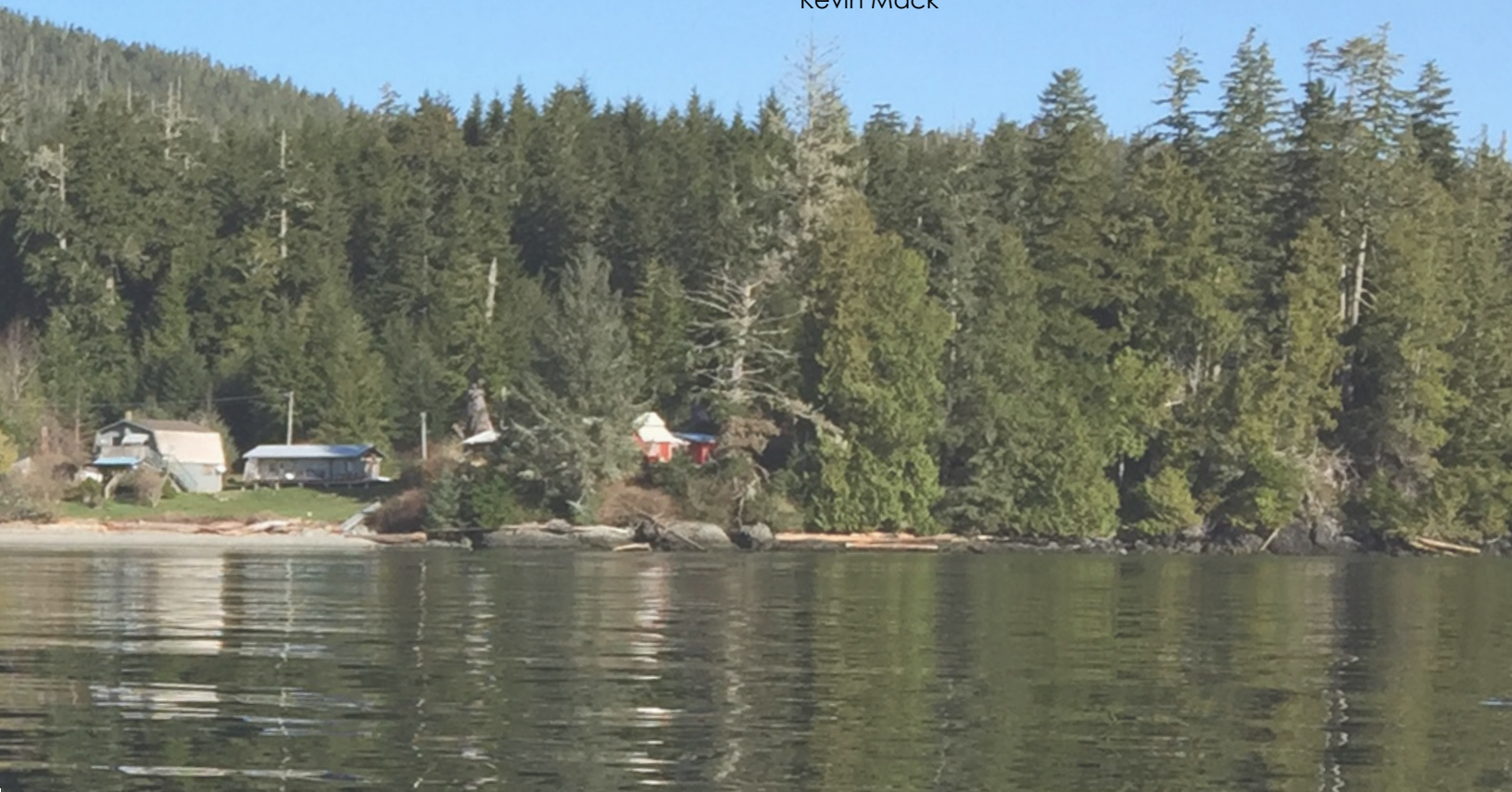
Council takes great pride to inform you that the draft Toquaht Annual Budget Act 2023-24 went through third reading and was approved by Council on March 29th. The new budget took effect on April 1, 2023 and will guide administrative activities over this fiscal year.

We look forward to updating you on our exciting initiatives at the ʔuuqwaʔathic hišimyityak in Macoah for an in-person Peoples' Assembly on Saturday, June 24, 2023. We have begun planning extra activities so that we can spend some time together enjoying our ʔaahuułi. Hope to see many of you then.

čuu

čaamata ʔakawaʔah

Kevin Mack



Rental Housing

RENTAL HOUSING IN MACOAH AVAILABLE SUMMER 2023!



ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST

- ✓ Go to <http://www.toquaht.ca/housing/>
- ✓ Complete the Eligibility Application
- ✓ This will determine if you qualify for SOCIAL housing

1

ONCE HOUSING IS AVAILABLE

- Names on the list will be invited to submit an Allocation Application
- Allocation decisions are directed by Toquaht law and made by the Toquaht Housing Committee

2



APPLY
NOW



Toquaht Housing Committee

CALL FOR CITIZENS



**PARTICIPATE IN OUR
HOUSING COMMITTEE
AND BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN
TOQUAHT NATION GOVERNANCE**

1. Go to: <http://www.toquaht.ca/committees/>
2. Click on: [Toquaht Committee Application](#)
3. Submit to: Kirstenj@toquaht.ca

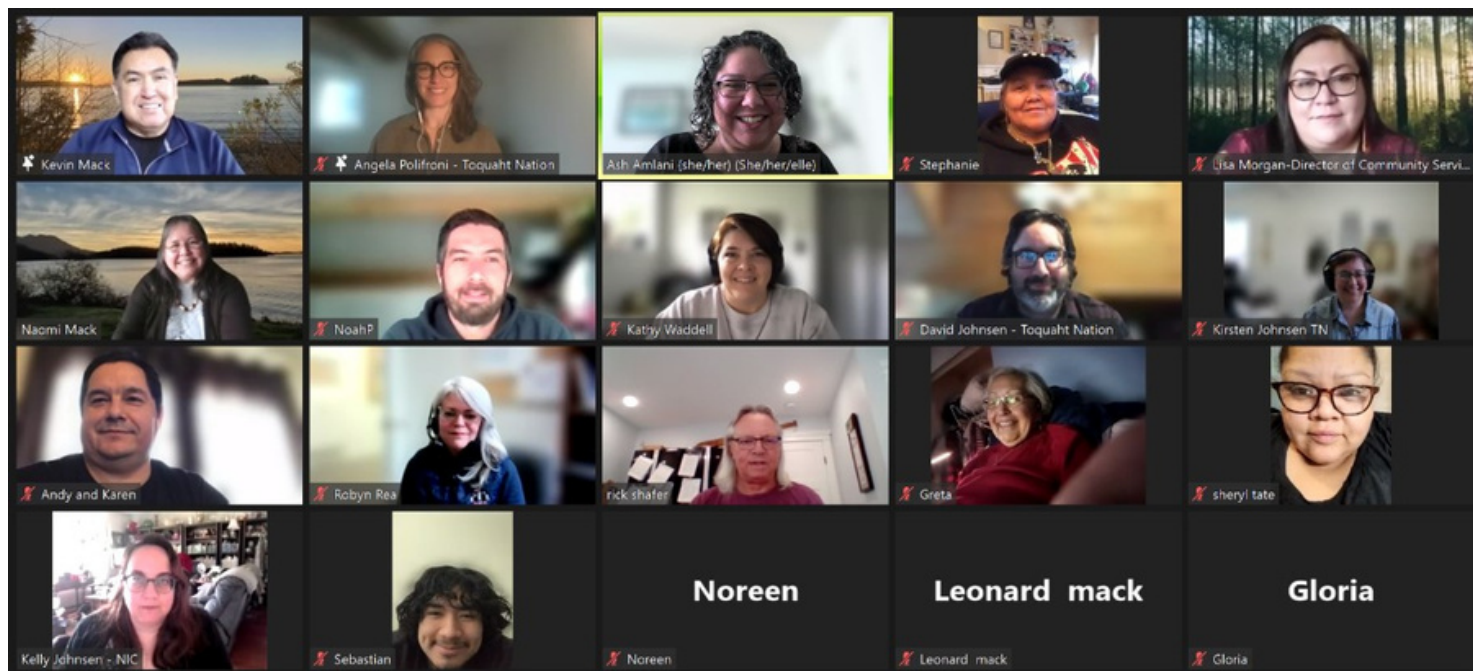
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.TOQUAHT.CA/COMMITTEES



Spring 2023 People's Assembly Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended our first People's Assembly of 2023. It was a wonderful turnout, and we can't wait to see our family and friends in person on June 24th in Macoah.

See the the group selfie below of all our citizens, staff and facilitators.



Upcoming Holidays and Office Closures

Upcoming Holidays and Office Closures

Monday May 22	Victoria Day
Wednesday June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
Monday July 3	for Canada Day
Monday August 7	British Columbia Day
Monday September 4	Labour Day
Monday October 2	for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
Monday October 9	Thanksgiving
Monday November 13	for Remembrance Day
Monday December 25	Christmas Day
Tuesday December 26	Boxing Day
Wednesday December 27	for Christmas Eve
Monday January 2, 2024	New Year's Day

Other Events

Sunday May 14	Mother's Day
Friday May 19	Bike-to-Work Day
Sunday June 18	Father's Day
Saturday June 24	People's Assembly (at Macoah)
Tuesday October 31	Halloween
Saturday December 31	New Year's Eve



Pink Shirt Day Design Contest Winner 2023

The winner of the 2023 Pink Shirt Day design contest was Toquaht Nation's Koyah Morgan-Banke.

17 year-old Koyah is an Indigenous youth artist from Tofino BC. She is of the Toquaht and Secwepemc First Nation. As a Grade 12 student, Koyah is a representative for the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Art Installations Advisory Group for her school. She specializes in pen and ink artwork and is currently exploring digital design.

Some of her other interests include biology, chemistry, fashion and physics. In her future, Koyah hopes to continue to teach and create art in her spare time whilst pursuing her ultimate goal of attaining her bachelor's of science and entering medical school.

Her winning design was "inspired by unconditional love and support, designed to encapsulate the feeling of support and your ability to 'uplift' those around you. It's important for all of us to remember that we really do carry the hearts of others in our hands."

Congratulations, Koyah!



Indigenous Recruitment and Retention

INDIGENOUS



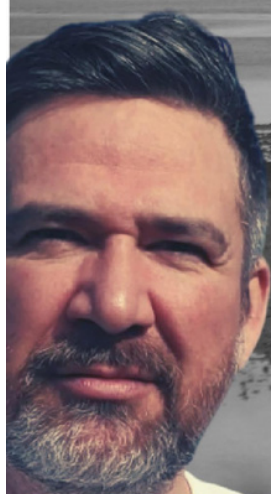
Recruitment & Retention

IF YOU ARE...

- Curious about a career in health care
- A current employee with Island Health
- Requiring employment support

PLEASE REACH OUT!

**INDIGENOUSEMPLOYMENT@
ISLANDHEALTH.CA**



**Ryan van Haastert
CENTRAL ISLAND INDIGENOUS
EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR**

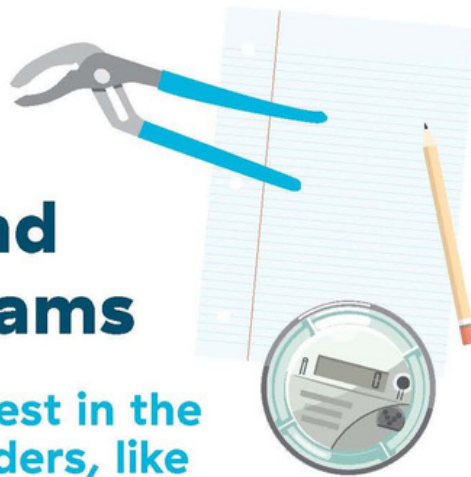
Ryan.vanHaastert@islandhealth.ca
or Text/Call me at (236) 638-7116

BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarship and Bursary Program

Applications are open until June 9th for BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries valued at \$2000 and \$5000.

For more information, including program eligibility and application forms, please visit bchydro.com/scholarships or email indigenous.awards@bchydro.com.

BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarship and Bursary Programs



BC Hydro wants to invest in the next generation of leaders, like you, to build a strong and healthy workforce across the province.

Our scholarships and bursaries are available to Indigenous students from BC First Nations or are an Indigenous permanent resident of BC studying at a Canadian post-secondary institution in a program that closely matches to careers at BC Hydro.

Application period: April 1- June 9, 2023

Scholarships in the amount of \$5000 are available to full-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs connected to BC Hydro careers.

Bursaries in the amount of \$2000 are available to part-time students in degree, diploma, certificate, or technical/trades programs connected to BC Hydro careers.

The Randy Brant Memorial Award in the amount of \$8000 will be awarded to the top overall applicant from all bursary and scholarship submissions.

For more information including program eligibility and application forms go to bchydro.com/scholarships or email indigenous.awards@bchydro.com.



The Wolf gifted
to BC Hydro by
Art Thompson
from the Ojibwa
First Nation.

 **BC Hydro**
Power smart

Toquaht Annual Budget 2023/2024

Overview

Finance portfolio holder Kevin Mack introduced the Toquaht Annual Budget for 2023/2024, alongside Robyn Rea, Director of Finance.

The total budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$21,410,144.

The budget's sources include previous years' surplus, deferred revenue and new funding sources, including the Fiscal Financing Agreement (Canada), the province of BC, NTC and some of our own revenues.

This total was broken down into budget allocated per department, and each department gave an overview of the activities and projects that would be funded by the budget. All department projects to be funded are developed to be in line with the overall strategic plan.

The motion to approve the Toquaht Annual Budget Act 2023/2024 was passed during the Spring 2023 Toquaht People's Assembly.

You can read more about the community services and lands and public works budget allocations below.



Community Services

The total budget allocation for the Community Service Department for the 2023/2024 fiscal year is \$1,474,634.

Specific projects for citizens and health services include addictions recovery for citizens, healthy community activities to promote wellness, monthly doctor, dietician, and physiotherapist visits in Macoah, and increased services in Macoah to include alternative health and traditional healing.

There is also specific funding for Elders, which will go towards the Minor Home Repair and Safety Grant, the Elders Support Grant, and the pre-registration of 5 spots for the annual Elders Conference.

Additional projects funded by the budget include Macoah Emergency Team training, food security programs (community garden, harvesting and processing traditional foods, a make-and-take soup kitchen), and community healthy activities such as fitness and recreation, movie nights, and youth nights.



Toquaht Annual Budget 2023/2024

Community Services

The budget will further fund the child and family wellness strategy to connect children in care with Toquaht, new programs such as Family Zoom Night, various youth activities, one-on-one family supports, and welcoming tukwaaʔath babies.

Funding will also go towards implementing updated K-12 policies, general support for learners (tutoring, transit, technology needs, living allowance), implementing a new education and support policy, and early learning programs at Macoah (0-5 years of age).

To promote language and culture, there will be funding for the mindful addition of language and culture to all programming, culture kits for children, language resources for citizens and staff, land-based healing opportunities, and organizing quarterly language gatherings.

Lands, Public Works, and Resources

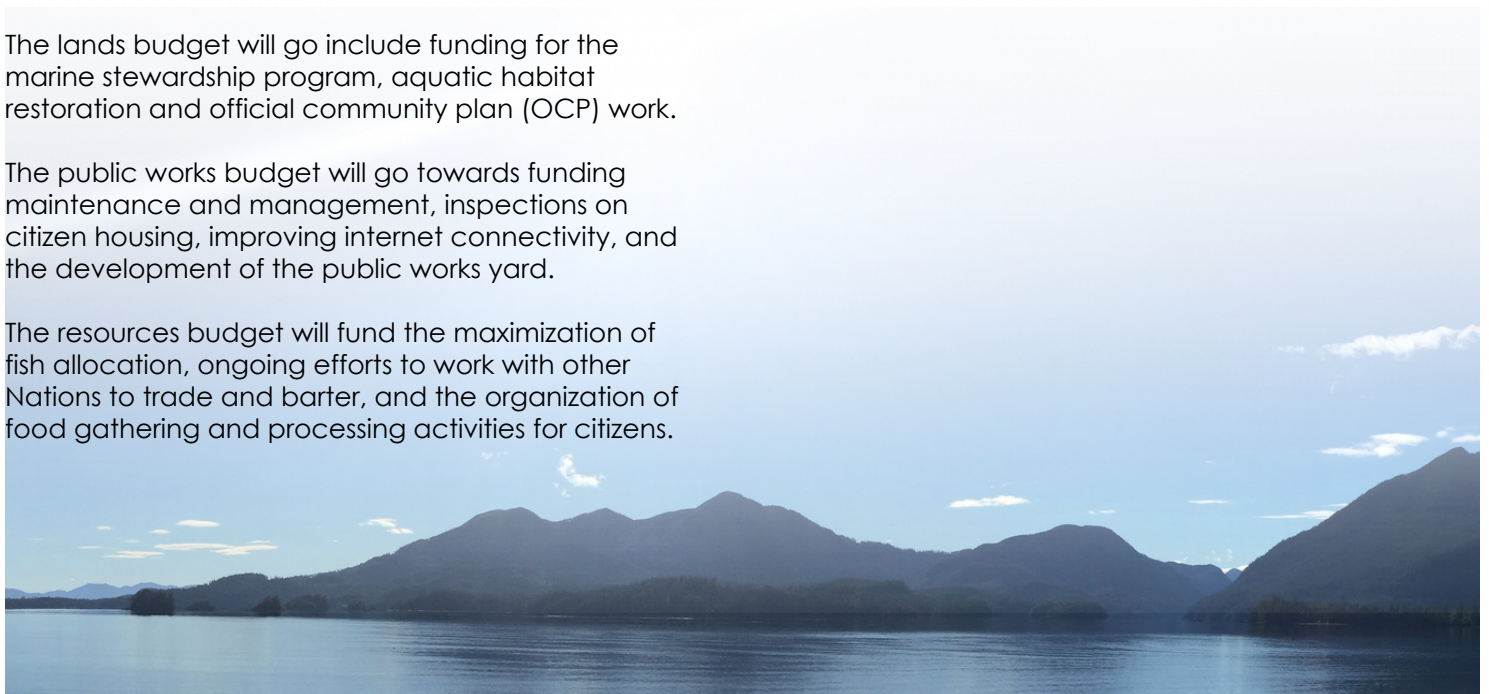
The total budget allocation for the Lands, Public Works, and Resources department for the 2023/2024 fiscal year is \$2,689,087.

\$948,908 of the budget is allocated towards lands, \$499,540 is allocated towards public works, and \$1,240,640 is allocated towards resources.

The lands budget will go include funding for the marine stewardship program, aquatic habitat restoration and official community plan (OCP) work.

The public works budget will go towards funding maintenance and management, inspections on citizen housing, improving internet connectivity, and the development of the public works yard.

The resources budget will fund the maximization of fish allocation, ongoing efforts to work with other Nations to trade and barter, and the organization of food gathering and processing activities for citizens.

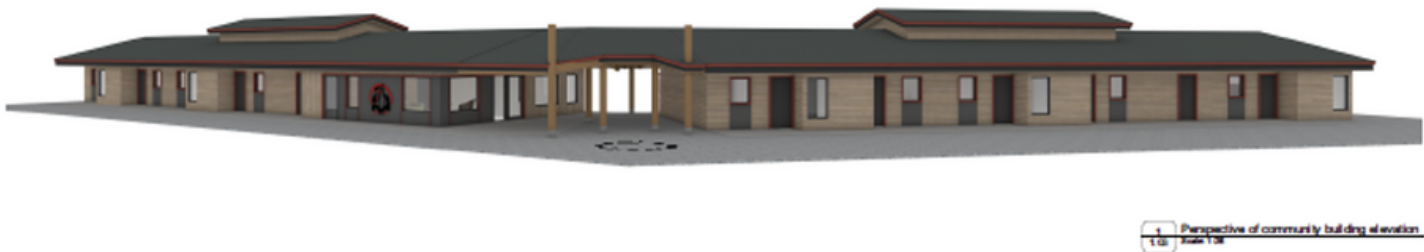


Toquaht Annual Budget 2023/2024

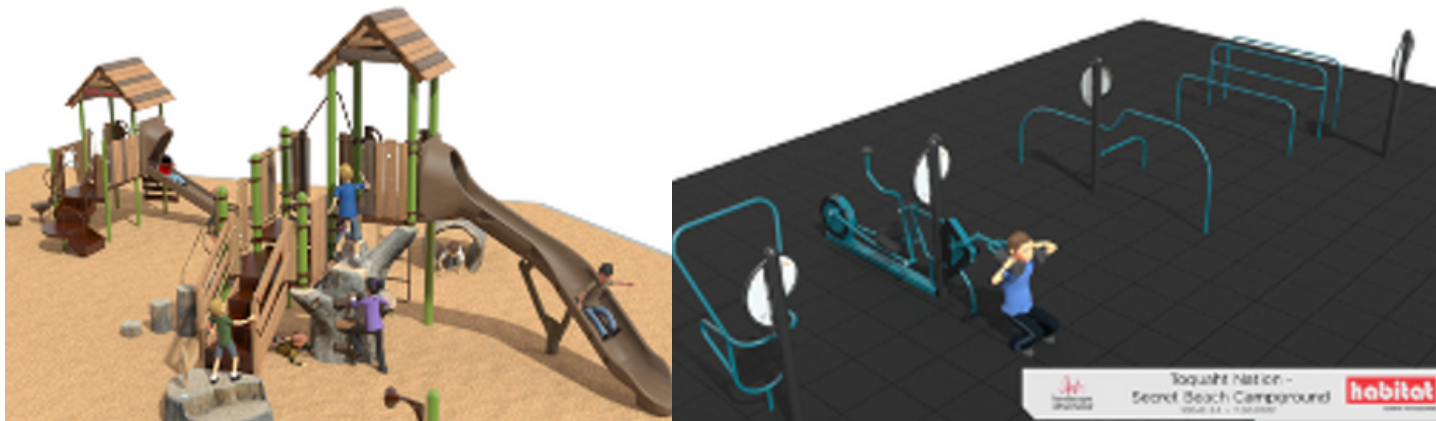
Economic Developments and Capital Projects

Macoah may look a little different the next time you visit, such as for our upcoming People's Assembly in June.

Macoah Lodge (Guest House) rendering



Playground and outdoor fitness equipment rendering



Two out of the three 3-bedroom homes, which are currently under construction at Macoah



Elders Conference

The 47th Annual Elders Gathering is on August 15 and 16, 2023. This event offers the opportunity for Elders to interface with youth chaperones and support workers, which helps to mitigate the generation gap, and allows the younger generations to demonstrate respect, regard, and honour for their Elders.

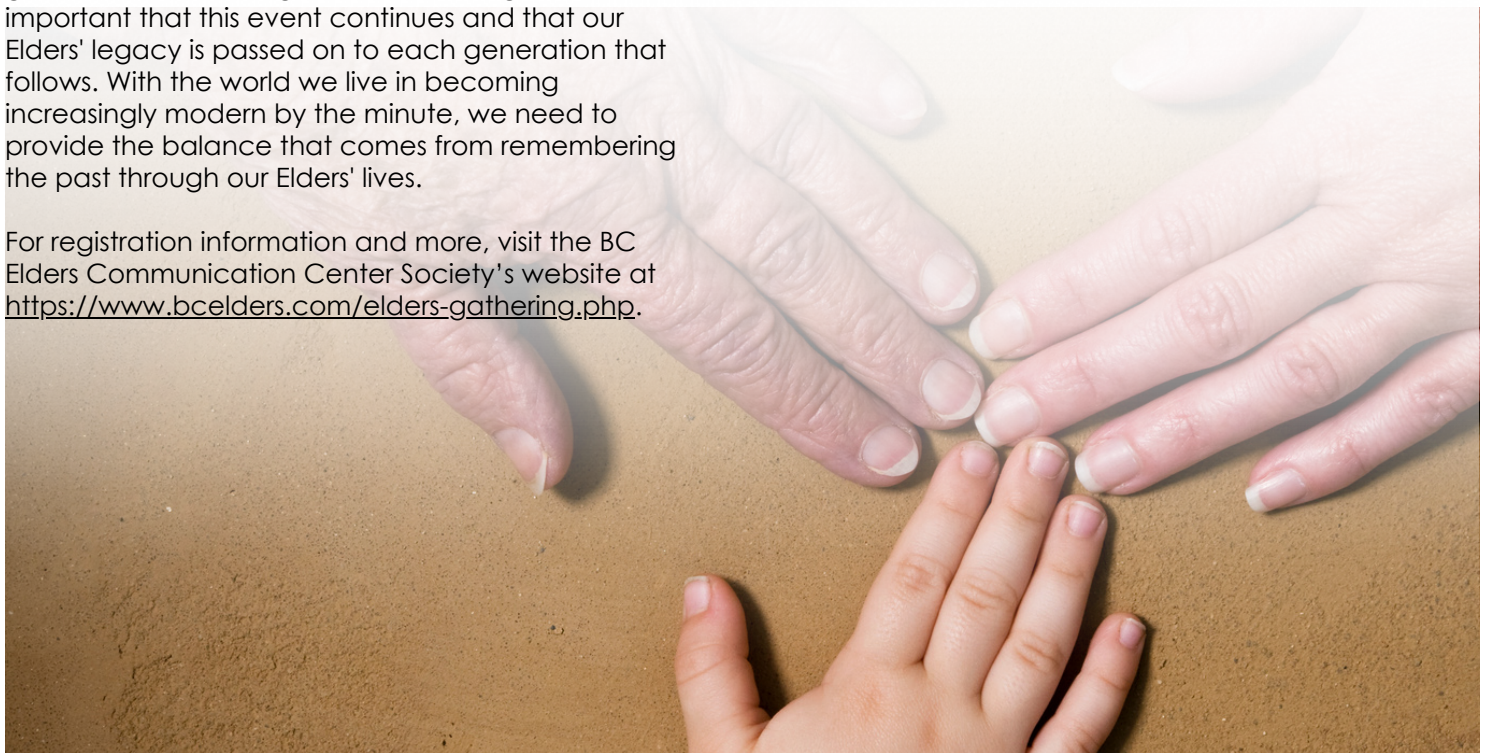
For the past 47 years (less 3 Covid-19 years), First Nations Elders have met in distinct locations of British Columbia. The first Elders Gathering began in Sto: Lo Nation hosted by the Coqualeeza Elders. Frances Harne carved a totem pole, which was used as a record keeper. Places and dates were inscribed at the base of the pole, recording each Gathering.

Elders Gatherings are a wonderful time for people to visit and exchange memories and knowledge, to create new friendships and to renew old ones. These gatherings provide a chance to gain perspective on how other First Nations live.

The basic purpose of the Gathering is the need for Elders throughout the province to have inter-social and community links that bind them together as a nation. It allows them to intermingle with like-minded, like-aged individuals and their families, to reveal common grounds that strengthen those links.

Our Elders possess all the wisdom of the ages - knowledge and experiences that the younger generations need to guide them through life. It is very important that this event continues and that our Elders' legacy is passed on to each generation that follows. With the world we live in becoming increasingly modern by the minute, we need to provide the balance that comes from remembering the past through our Elders' lives.

For registration information and more, visit the BC Elders Communication Center Society's website at <https://www.bcelders.com/elders-gathering.php>.



Next People's Assembly

A poster for the 'Next People's Assembly' event. The background is light blue with stylized hills and a flock of birds flying. The text 'Join Us!' is written in large, playful, yellow and teal letters. Below it, 'People's Assembly' is in yellow, 'IN-PERSON at MACOAH' is in teal, and 'JUNE 24, 2023' is in yellow. A list of bullet points is on the left, and a 'Save the Date' banner is on the right. A small logo is in the bottom left corner.

Join Us!

People's Assembly

IN-PERSON at MACOAH

JUNE 24, 2023

- Times to be confirmed
- Lunch will be served
- Travel reimbursed as per TNG Citizen Policy

Save the Date



Minutes From the Spring 2023 People's Assembly

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday March 25th, 2023

Virtual Video Conference

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Chair: Kevin Mack

People's Assembly convened 11:00 a.m.

Welcome by čaamata yakawaʔah Kevin Mack

- o Kevin welcomed everyone and provided an opening prayer

łeko naas ʔanik hišimʔuup niiwa łaḥ ʔuyi.

Thank you, creator, for bringing us together, today.

łeko naas ʔanik kutiis niiwa, ʔanikła hupii łuḥqun taataapata.

Thank you, creator, for your guidance and wisdom to help us make good decisions.

łeko naas ʔanin hiišuu tiičsinḥap yaʔaayaqhʔuqin, masčimʔakqin.

Thank you, creator, as we work together to build a healthy community for our families.

łeko naas ʔanin hupiiʔatʔaala yaʔaayaqščaḥinḥin, yaʔaayaqhʔuqin.

Thank you, creator, for our good friends and neighbours that help us along the way.

čuu

Agenda adopted (moved by Brittany Morgan, seconded by Noreen Frank)

Approved December 3, 2022 meetings minutes approved (moved by Kelly Johnsen, seconded by Brittany Morgan)

Presenters: Kevin Mack, Angela Polifroni, David Johnsen, Lisa Morgan, Robyn Rea, Rick Shafer, Noah Plonka

Council Members: Kirsten Johnsen, Naomi Mack, Kevin Mack, Noah Plonka

First Door Prize winner – Sheryl Tate

1) Request for Decision

- a) Introduction from Kevin Mack, Finance Portfolio holder
 - i) Approval of the Toquaht Annual Budget Act 2023/2024 Robyn Rea, Director of Finance
Supported by dept managers
 - (1) The total budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$21,410,144
 - (2) The presentation was broken down into Administration; Community Services; Lands, Public Works and Resources; and Capital Projects
 - (3) It will be funded by previous year surplus and deferred revenue as well as new funding sources. Namely the Fiscal Financing Agreement (Canada), the province, NTC and some of our own revenues

Minutes From the Spring 2023 People's Assembly

- (4) Each department director provided an overview on the upcoming years projects with anticipated costs making up their portion of the budget.
- (5) The projects were developed to be in line with the overall strategic plan.
 - (a) Building Government Capacity, Build Infrastructure, Grow the Economy, Foster masčim and Community Well-being
- (6) Contact Kirsten Johnsen (kirstenj@toquaht.ca) if you would like to view the budget
- (7) Questions and Comments from citizens
 - (a) Q: Is 55 considered an Elder for the various Elder Support programs A: YES
 - (b) Q: Are the Traditional Food Preservation workshops open to everyone?
A: YES, keep an eye out for future workshops
 - (c) Q: Will there be parking for the Guest House/Lodge? A: YES, right outside each unit. With overflow to the left of the Community Building.
 - (d) Q: Will there be a charge for staying at the lodge? A: That has not been established yet, if there is it will be low though.
 - (e) Q: Will there be any culture type programs or the ability for youth living in urban areas to participate in events etc.? A: YES, we have dollars in the budget for developing youth programming in Port Alberni as well other opportunities as well as youth camps at Macoah once the lodge is built.
 - (f) Q: Will travel to Macoah or other events be covered? A: YES
 - (g) General Info for Toquaht Housing at <http://www.toquaht.ca/housing/>
 - (h) Is the Toquaht Housing committee up and running? A: We need to make appointments to it.
 - (i) We need a general store with gas bar for campers, boaters and residents.
 - (j) Q: When is next 'food fish' delivery? A: Will announce next delivery as soon as it is planned.

March 25, 2023 People's Assembly MOVED: Kelly Johnsen SECONDED: Sheryl Tate
 THAT the People's Assembly recommend that Toquaht Council adopt the draft Toquaht Nation Government Annual Budget Act 2023-2024 with minor amendments from the director of operations.
 Motion Carried

Second Door Prize winner – Bayja Morgan-Banke

2) Update on Toquaht Businesses

Noah Plonka, manager of business operations

- a) Secret Beach Marina & Campground
 - i) TMCLP Opening day May 18, 2023
 - ii) New tents sites and infrastructure 2023
 - iii) New trail developments, parks, recreation
 - iv) Year-round operations coming soon
 - v) Partnerships with local businesses and organizations continues benefiting

Minutes From the Spring 2023 People's Assembly

- b) Barkley Sound Shellfish
 - i) Geoduck tenure harvesting/seeding
 - ii) Vessel modifications for new services
 - iii) Shellfish sales and operations
 - iv) local businesses and organizations continues benefiting
- c) Toquaht Forestry Operations
 - i) Currently in the 2022-2026 cut control period
 - ii) Small salvage operations only currently as we are not harvesting standing green trees until end of 2023-24
 - iii) Management plan using current timber supply analysis.
 - iv) Amend current Forestry Stewardship Plan(FSP) for our forest license.
 - v) Finalize a Collaborative Management plan agreement with BC timber Sales(BCTS will have a 25% volume reservation within the FNWL)"First Nation woodland license"
 - vi) Develop old growth management plan
- d) Toquaht Developments
 - i) Firewood sales and transport services
 - ii) Lumber building and equipment installations 2023
 - iii) Preparing for 2023 hydro connections
 - iv) Sales and value-added products
 - v) Employment opportunities
 - vi) New Equipment to TDLP will be on site April 2023 to enhance productivity and support rising demand for products
- e) Toquaht Industries
 - i) 2023 operations are minimal with a projection of 4500m3 crossing the log sort
 - ii) Current site clean up and environmental assessments are still active
 - iii) Agreements with TDLP for property use and operations will continue through 2023 for sawmill and firewood operations
- f) Secret Beach Coastal Trail Progress
 - i) First phase construction, completed Fiscal 21/22, runs from Secret Beach to the middle (Mag 132 road) of Section 38 property next to Macoah.
 - ii) Construction resumed Fiscal 22/23
 - iii) \$350,000 grant received from the BC Active Transportation Fund
 - iv) Construction of a timber bridge deck and crushed gravel capping over a creek will begin early in 2023.

3) Announcements

- a) How to access housing at Macoah?
Renting At Macoah
 - Toquaht Nation currently owns and operates ten units of rental housing and are adding three new houses in Spring 2023.

Minutes From the Spring 2023 People's Assembly

- We rent out these units in a mix of market and below market rental rates (or social housing)
- All rental units are occupied but we maintain social and market housing lists for when units become available.
- To add your name to either rental housing list please fill out the Eligibility Application and forward to Naomi at naomim@toquaht.ca.
- The Eligibility Application will determine if you qualify for social or market housing and must be completed in full.
- When Housing becomes available, all citizens on the relevant list will be invited to submit an Allocation Application.
- Allocation decisions are made by the Toquaht Housing Committee as directed by Toquaht law.

4) Question Period

Angela Polifroni, DOO

Q Is there any herring row available?

A Not currently, but will be purchasing some for distribution.

Q Where can I learn the language?

A Our relative Jeneva Touchie is on YouTube. We also have a site on First Voices.

[https://www.firstvoices.com/explore/FV/sections/Data/Nuu-chah-nulth/Nuu%C4%8Daan%CC%93u%C9%AB/Nuu-chah-nulth%20\(Barkley\)](https://www.firstvoices.com/explore/FV/sections/Data/Nuu-chah-nulth/Nuu%C4%8Daan%CC%93u%C9%AB/Nuu-chah-nulth%20(Barkley))

Draw for Grand Prize – Sebastian Lopez

The next People's Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday, June 24th, 2023 at Macoah

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen

Chairperson

Law Clerk

Date

Attendees:

Sheryl Tate
Colleen Mack
Kelly Johnsen
Brittany Morgan
Charlotte Carpenter
Vince McKay

Gloria McKay
Noreen Frank
Andrew Mack
Karen Mack
Greta Picard
Leonard Mack
Sebastien Lopez,

Bayja Banke,
Stephanie Mack