

TOQUAHT NATION NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2024

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ANNE



As we move out of winter into spring, we are focusing on the land, the water and the community as we build and grow.

Since our last newsletter we have had some momentous changes within Toquaht Nation, as we have reviewed our 2016 Official Community Plan and have approved the new one. The new Community Plan will help us with our priorities of stewarding, developing and managing Toquaht lands as our community grows in a changing economy and climate. We have plans for our community, including new facilities, housing and infrastructure and the new Official Community Plan is an important step in that process.

We have also created a new department within Toquaht Nation and we welcome our new Director of Operations, Donna Monteith. More about these two announcements are included in the newsletter, as well as updates from our departments, information for about at about citizens, and much, much more.

Our recent People's Assembly was Saturday, March 23, and our next one will in *má?aquu?á* (Macoah) in person on Saturday, June 22. Please plan on attending so that we can all be together to celebrate our friends, families and loved ones.

IN THIS EDITION:

Message from Chief
Anne

Toquaht Spring
People's Assembly

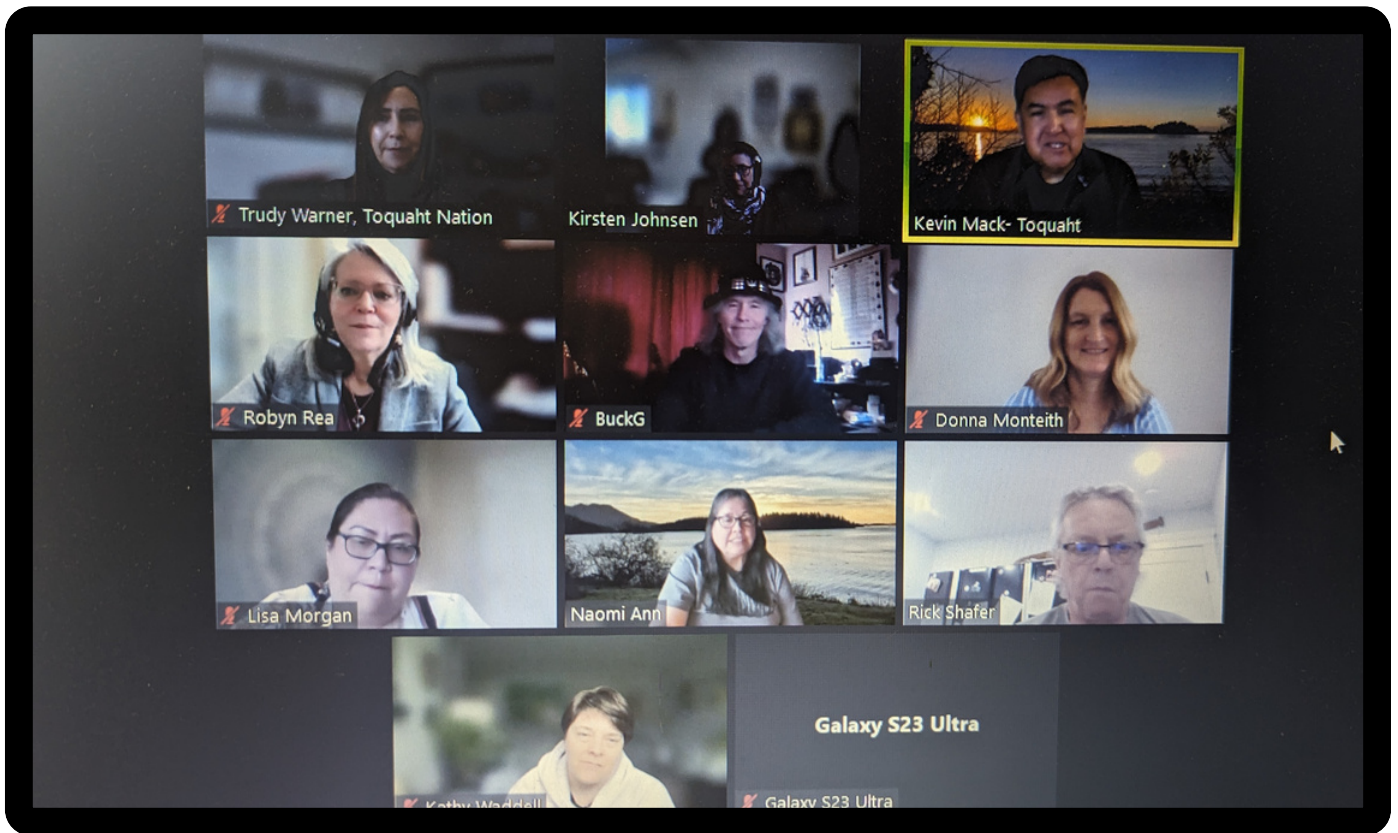
Toquaht Nation
News

Toquaht
Department
Updates

Community Services
Featured Student



TOQUAHT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY



Our most recent People's Assembly was held via Zoom on March 23. The focus of this People's Assembly was to review the proposed budget, as well as changes to legislation. The 2024-2025 budget was approved by citizens and the motion passed to hold the next People's Assembly on Saturday, June 22, in person in *m̓aʔaquuʔa* (Macoah). Door prizes were won by Buck Goodman, Kelly Johnsen and Noreen Frank.

Changes to Legislation

During the People's Assembly, Law Clerk and Office Administrator Kirsten Johnsen provided an update on the five pieces of legislation that were to be enacted on March 26 as a result of the updates to the budget, as well as administrative changes within Toquaht Nation.

Annual Budget Act and Five-Year Financial Plan Act

As an annual budget is tabled, reviewed and approved, the Annual Budget Act must be enacted by March 31 of every year, as the fiscal year runs from April 1 - March 31. The 2024 - 2025 fiscal budget approved at the People's Assembly was enacted by Council on March 26.

Official Community Plan Act

Because the Official Community Plan was being reviewed, the Official Community Plan Act was also renewed. After engagement over the last year and a half, and a public hearing on March 19, the Official Community Plan Act was enacted on March 26 by Council.

TOQUAHT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Macoah Zoning & Structures Act Amending Act

As part of its compliance, the Macoch Zoning & Structure Act must be in compliance with the Official Community Plan Act. Therefore there are a few amendments to the current Act that need to have been made to the current act. These were done and the new act was enacted by Council on March 26.

Public Works & Services Amending Act

The Public Works & Services Amending Act is undergoing amendments, including but not limited to the establishment of the new Department of Assets. This Act was enacted by Council on March 26.

For any questions about the recent changes to legislation, please contact Kirsten Johnsen, Law Clerk and Office Administrator, at kirstenj@toquaht.ca.

Minutes from the People's Assembly are available at the end of the newsletter.

Hike to High Ground is an important community event that provides participants with the knowledge they need to safely evacuate in case of an earthquake-caused tsunami.

Because we live on the coast, it's important to know what to expect, so plan to attend an upcoming event in your neighbourhood or in Macoah on April 17. If you're in Macoah on April 17, please note that the siren will go off around 11 am as part of the drill.

For more information on the event, or to find out more about Toquaht emergency preparedness, contact Jackie Arsenault at jackiea@toquaht.ca or go to www.preparedbc.ca.

THE NEXT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IS

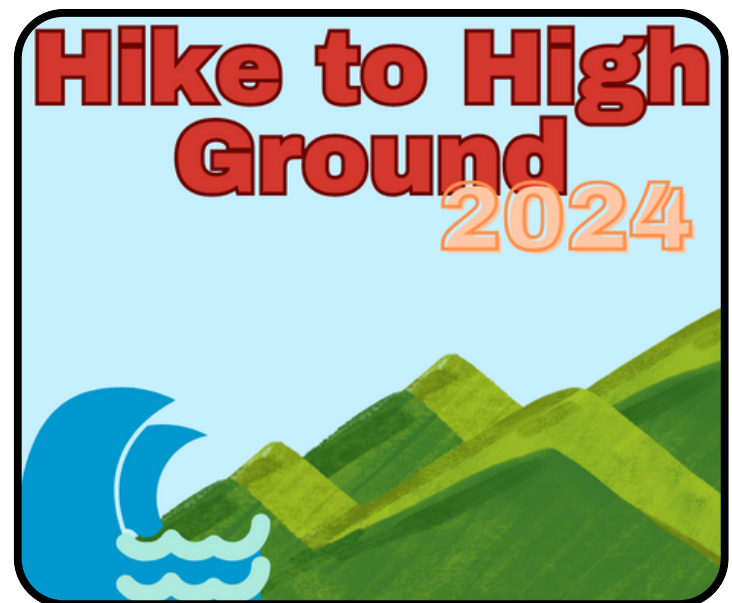
IN PERSON

IN MACOAH ON

JUNE 22, 2024

SO MARK YOUR

CALENDARS!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 17!



TOQUAHT NEWS

New Director of Operations to lead Toquaht Nation



Toquaht Government is pleased to share that Donna Monteith has been hired as the new Director of Operations. She joins Toquaht on Monday, April 8, from her role with the City of Port Alberni as the Director of Corporate Services. Prior to that, Donna was the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Ucluelet and District Administrator for the Cowichan Bay Waterworks District.

Donna's experience includes executive leadership, public engagement, communications, leading local government strategic policy development, and financial and asset management.

New Department of Assets created

Toquaht Nation Government Council has taken the next step in creating a robust administrative structure by approving the creation of the Department of Assets, which will be headed by Jackie Arsenault. Jackie is the former manager of housing and infrastructure and the new department will take some of the files within the Department of Lands, Public Works and Resources and move it to fall within Assets. The department will include emergency preparedness, housing at Macoah, Public Works and Rental of Community Buildings. The Department of Lands and Resources will continue to lead environmental stewardship, hunting and fishing, and the Official Community Plan.

“The creation of a new department dedicated to assets is very exciting, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to work within this new department and develop a strong asset program,” says Jackie.

“Asset Management (AM) is the continuous process of making informed capital and operational decisions about assets to deliver services in a way that considers current and future levels of service, manages risks and opportunities, and lifecycle costs to make the best use of the Nation's resources.”

“The goal of Asset Management is to support sustainable service delivery, meaning services are provided in a way that is fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible; adaptive to change; and does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

TOQUAHT DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Department of Assets Updates

As we move forward with this new department, there are a variety of different events and projects taking place.

On April 17 at 11 am, the annual Hike to High Ground will take place in má?aquu?a (Macoah). Citizens are invited to participate in community, or to join local events that may be occurring as part of Tsunami Preparedness Week, April 14 – 20. There is a list of participating events in BC on the BC Preparedness website at www.preparedbc.ca.

We have also created Go-Bag and Emergency Kit checklists for citizens. IF you are interested in receiving a checklist, please email communications@toquaht.ca and they will be sent to you.

Other projects that we are working on right now include Spring Clean up in má?aquu?a (Macoah), which will be coming in May. Check the Toquaht community calendar (www.toquaht.ca/community-calendar/) for information on that, as well as garbage and recycling scheduling.



The Macoah Emergency Management Team will hold an emergency preparedness drill on April 17 ahead of the Hike To High Ground. They will also be conducting helicopter training in April.





Department of Lands and Resources Updates



The lands and resources department have been busy this spring with the recent herring survey. The sample, pictured above, was taken as part of the analysis to understand where and when the herring are spawning. Samples of adult fish are also shared with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine age, sex and health of the herring. Rakes are also deployed as part of the analysis to determine how many layers of eggs are laid. As we move into spring, count on more information to come as we look at the wildlife cameras and focus on habitats and general stewardship.



UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS



There are several new updates to provide about the capital projects within Toquaht Nation: The construction of the marine stewardship building in Macoah is underway and is expected to be completed by the fall. The muster station for evacuations for Macoah will be moving from the current location of the wastewater plant to the Marine stewardship building when construction is complete, likely in the fall. Meanwhile, there are new sea-cans for the muster station that will be on site soon.

The 12-plex Lodge in Macoah, qiyuus, is nearing completion in construction and it is expected that applications for usage for short-term visits to the community will be available starting the end of July. Information on how to submit a request will be available online on the Reserving Community Spaces page of the Toquaht website.

Lastly, hydro has now been run to the Secret Beach campground in time for the summer season to kick off.

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Community Services has had a very busy few months. With the introduction of new programs, workshops and service providers while continuing to support on-going programs. Within the last year, we are happy to announce we have had an increase in the number of post-secondary students, health service providers and employing short-term contracts for citizens. We continue to encourage citizen input to help us, the Community Services staff, to support our citizens needs relating to health, education, culture, and Elder support. Some of the areas that we have been supporting citizens include the Culture Groups in Port Alberni, which have enjoyed a great number of participants, as well as the recent Elder Appreciation Awards. We congratulate the two winners, Charlotte Carpenter and Naomi Mack.

**DO YOU NEED HELPING WITH FUNDING FOR
TRADES AND TRAINING
TOQUAHT NATION
CAN HELP.**

**GO TO TOQUAHT.CA
AND SEARCH FOR
"TRADES AND TRAINING"**



We have been promoting many of our programs and services on the Toquaht Facebook page, so we encourage you to like and follow the page to learn more about what's offered. You can also check out our section of the Toquaht website (<https://toquaht.ca/programs-services>) for more information.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FEATURE

Toquaht Education Supports help nursing student excel

Growing up, Sampson McMullan didn't live in Macoah, but his deep sense of community grew from his childhood into a passion for science, with a focus "on a career where I can help people," he says.

Sampson, 22 and currently in his fourth year of nursing at Vancouver Island University, is a recipient of funding for his post-secondary education from Toquaht Nation, which helped him focus on his studies in an incredibly demanding program.

Recently, he and other students traveled to Mexico for a placement with a local NGO, Apoyo a Gente Emprendedora, where he and his classmates worked in key programs that included community programs and education to rural women, giving daily lessons on things like managing hypertension (high blood pressure) and diabetes education.



Sampson helps a women in the community practice splinting and bandaging his arm during first aid training.



VIU nursing students and Universidad Continente Americano Health Care Aid students celebrating a successful day of CPR training.

This field school, in “really, really rural Mexico”, is Sampson’s fourth-year placement, and began with a rigorous application process, a panel interview and review, and references provided by faculty members.

I had to present why I was a good candidate and how this work will be utilized in my career, as well as my idea of global citizenship,” he explains.

“It was very valuable for me to see a different health-care system,” he says. “While we certainly have challenges in our current health-care system, we often take things for granted and, to see the resources that these rural areas have was very illuminating.

“In the western world we are very individualistic, and working in Mexico really highlighted for me how effective being in a community-oriented environment can be.”

Sampson, whose father is also a member of Toquaht Nation, graduates in June.

“Thanks to the financial support from Toquaht Nation I was able to focus on academics and my practicum, which were an average of 48 hour per week. Without the financial assistance I received, I wouldn’t have been able to cover my rent or eat!

I also want to emphasize to Toquaht students – if you are feeling overwhelmed about the high-cost of school, make sure you access all your supports, including councillors, parents and the community, to get help where you can.”

Toquaht Nation has a variety of supports for students in K-12, post-secondary and trades and training, as well as for life-long learners. For more information, visit www.toquaht.ca.



TOQUAHT LANGUAGE SELECTION

FIRSTVOICES CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

By Gale Johnsen



The Nuuchahnulth members of FirstVoices teams.

Chief Anne Mack, and Gale and David Johnsen were among those who participated at the recent FirstVoices 25th anniversary, where members gathered to celebrate the hard work and efforts that went into creating an important resource for maintaining language.

"FirstVoices was founded in 1990 with the help of First Peoples Cultural Foundation," shares Gale. "Peter Brand, who was a teacher, not a linguist, saw that there was a need for communities to save and share languages, stories, songs and educational materials."

"He worked at developing FirstVoices with the help of fluent speaker Elder John Elliot of Victoria. Our small Barkley group of language learners were one of the first invited to add our content to the site. We had Maureen Touchie/Louie, David Johnsen and Gale Johnsen with our beloved Elder, the late Barb Touchie on the team. With the help of Barb we compiled and recorded lists of words, phrases and stories, which we then uploaded to FirstVoices. Each word/phrase had to have English, nuučaan̓uł, the translation, a picture and the grammatical term. It's a lot easier to do now than it was in the '90s with dial-up Internet!

The Barkley site is a work in progress with new additions and on-going corrections."

To learn more, visit FirstVoices at www.firstvoices.com.



Interested in submitting content for the Toquaht Newsletter?

Send your submission via email to communications@toquaht.ca

or via Canada Post

Attention Cait Wills

PO Box 759

Ucluelet BC

V0R 3A0

Please note that your submission may not be used and may be subject to editing/approval.

DON'T FORGET!

**THE NEXT PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY WILL BE IN
PERSON ON JUNE 22, 2024.
WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR
MORE INFORMATION!**

Change of Address Reminder

Please keep your contact information current.

This helps us ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information for you. Please email

naomim@toquaht.ca if your contact

information has changed in the last year.

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday March 23rd, 2024

By Zoom Conference

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Chair: Kevin Mack

People's Assembly convened 10:00 a.m.

Welcome by Kevin Mack

- o Kevin provided an opening prayer and recited a written submission from chief Anne
- o Introduced Donna Monteith as our new Director of Operations

Agenda adopted (moved by Naomi Mack, seconded by Lisa Morgan)

Approved December 9, 2023 meetings minutes approved by consensus

Presenters: Kevin Mack, Rick Shafer, David Johnsen, Jackie Arsenault, Robyn Rea, Trudy Warner, Lisa Morgan

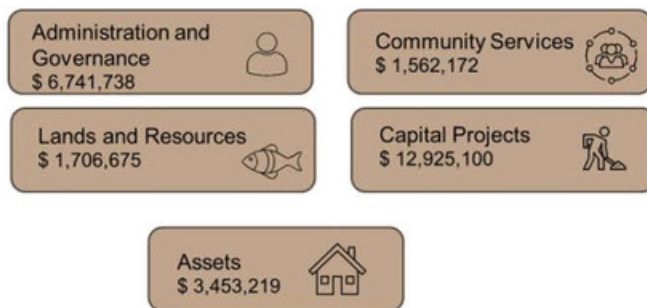
Council Members: Kirsten Johnsen, Kevin Mack, Noah Plonka, Lisa Morgan

1st Door Prize winner – Buck Goodman

1) Introduction from Kevin Mack

- i) Robyn Rea provided a summary of the Annual Budget for 2024-2025 and presented on the highlights.

Total Budget: \$26,388,905



- (1) As a Self-Governing Indigenous Government, Toquaht has chosen to budget for outcomes
 - (a) This involves a collaborative effort between the Finance department and all Directors and program managers.
 - (b) Directors continuously update their workplans for current and future years.
 - (c) Workplans lead to outcomes, or goals, based on the Toquaht Nation Government Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles and using the foundations of Toquaht's Strategic Plan.
 - (d) The Budget process begins in the fall; Directors met in November in Parksville to workshop goals for 24-25 and future years, and the collaborative work with finance has continued to date.

(2) Trudy Warner provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "Administration and Governance" department.

(a) These categories of activities include activities related to general administrative costs, governance and implementation costs and this budget covers the goals and strategies in the "build government & masčim capacity" priority in the strategic plan.

Question/Comment. Can Council consider increasing the citizen distributions (Christmas and summer)

Response. Kevin responded by saying the request will be brought to the Council meeting to discuss before enacting the budget act.

(3) Lisa Morgan provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "community services" department.

(a) Allocated funding to support addictions recovery for citizens, healthy community activities to promote wellness, increase services in Macoah to include alternative health and traditional healing, continuing to provide supports for elders, creating a strategy to connect children in care with Toquaht along with other child and family services, and lastly continually improving education policies and supports.

(4) David Johnsen provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "lands and resources" department.

(a) A lot is happening within the marine stewardship program; new marine stewardship/public works building at Macoah, data collection through land and marine patrols and assistance with food fish programs.

(b) We are continuing with the aquatic habitat restoration project in the Maggie and Toquaht River watersheds.

(c) Other initiatives include: the official community plan was updated and will be adopted at the Council meeting on March 26th, coordinating with other departments to maximize the acquisition and use of traditional foods, ongoing efforts to trade and barter traditional foods from other territories.

Question/Comment Any news with the new Fiber Optic plan for Macoah & Secret Beach?

Response We continue to advance the Connected Coast fibre optic project as a priority, this is a work in progress, an update with anticipated project completion can be prepared for the June PA

Coming over the ocean floor, will land at Macoah and at Secret Beach, no info on the schedule yet.

David will find out more information

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- (5) Jackie Arsenault provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the new “assets” department.
- (a) The assets department encompasses public works, infrastructure, and emergency management.
 - (b) Activities include; monitoring of water systems, updating the Health & Safety Plan, hiring staff, drafting an asset management plan, establishing inspection and maintenance schedule and other policies, continued emergency management training, relocating and replenishing the muster station, and developing the Macoah Volunteer Firefighting Team.

Question/Comment Does Toquaht have a fire response / safety plan?

Response Toquaht has an agreement with the province for fire suppression services at a cost per incident/event.

Question/Comment Buck Goodman said “I will be mowing lawns for elderly community members again this year,...any chance I could get an equipment upgrade? Specifically, a decent mower.”

Response Will look into the equipment and see what can be done.

Question/Comment could there be a schedule throughout the year for gravel road grading with in the Macoah community?

Response Will work to create a more regular schedule with the contractor.

- (6) Rick Shafer provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the new “capital projects” department.
- (a) The objectives of the 24/25 fiscal year are to liaise with Indigenous Services Canada and other funding agencies and pursue various funding opportunities for Capital Projects and Economic Development initiatives.
 - (b) There are several projects continuing from the previous year; Lucky Creek Hydro, Secret Beach Marina, Section 38 subdivision expansion, new Toquaht Government building out at Secret Beach, Marine Stewardship/public works building, Macoah public washroom, playground and outdoor gym, comprehensive review of the Draft Remediation Action Plan (RAP) being developed by BC for the contaminated site at the old Toquaht Bay Campground, housing at Macoah, and services being extended to Secret Beach.

Question/Comment Recommend to have interior of the new government building be cedar free for staff and guests with allergies to wood products.

Response We will pass the message on to the architects.

Question/Comment	Will there be a small office to the Marine Steward building?
Response	2 offices and a small meeting room.
Question/Comment	Naomi likes the plan for the roof over outdoor exercise equipment.
Question/Comment	Will the access paths to the Macoah beach be upgraded, there is both stairway and walking path.
Response	Yes, looking for ideas on that, there are cmt's that can be highlighted etc.
Question/Comment	Has there been interest from outsiders to purchase a site at Secret Beach?
Response	Yes, there have been many people that are interested, just an informal list, no pre-sales will occur.
Question/Comment	Will there be a committee to oversee this section? ec.dev or something else? I realize this would take great discussion.
Response	There is an ec dev committee that discusses projects and possible ideas. Executive will also be part of the discussion.
Question/Comment	How much are the lots going to be at Secret Beach?
Response	Projected price range \$325K non waterfront \$475K waterfront, at current costs, may increase over the next few years. May be able to provide enhanced opportunities for citizens, under discussion with a working group (creative ways). They are varying sizes and shapes in the development. Will be a lot of green space left so not a blank treeless land.
Question/Comment	Will there be land line phone service at Macoah and the new government building at the secret beach location?
Response	We are told the new fibre optic system will provide for this, David will look into this more.

2nd Door Prize winner – Kelly Johnsen

2) Announcements

- i) Update on Changes to Legislation Kirsten Johnsen
(1) There are five pieces of legislation being enacted before the end of the fiscal year.

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- (a) Annual Budget Act-Sets out the proposed activities for the next fiscal year
 - (b) Five-Year financial Plan Act- Similar to the Annual Budget Act, it sets out the proposed expenditures over the next five (5) years.
 - (c) Official Community Plan Act- A policy that guides how we steward, develop, and manage Toquaht Lands.
 - (d) Macoah Zoning & Structures Act Amending Act- A few amendments are required for the current Act to be in compliance with the new OCP Act.
 - (e) Public Works & Services Act Amending Act- A few amendments are required due to changes in policy and the OCP and it also establishes the new Assets Department.

3) Question Period

- i) No questions

Draw for Grand Prize – Noreen Frank

The next People’s Assembly will be held at Macoah and/or Secret Beach Cookhouse on Saturday, June 22nd, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen
Chairperson

Law Clerk

Date

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kathy Waddell	Cait Wills
Naomi Mack	Noah Plonka
Kevin Mack	Robyn Rea
Kelly Johnsen	Kirsten Johnsen
Buck Goodman	Rick Shafer
David Johnsen	Jackie Arsenault
Donna Monteith	
Lisa Morgan	
Noreen Frank	
Trudy Warner	