

# Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday September 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

Virtual

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

**Chair: Kevin Mack & Anne Mack**

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

**Welcome by Kevin Mack (Chief Anne had technical difficulties)**

- o Kevin provided an opening prayer and čiiq̓yak (prayer, chant)
- o Special Guest John Nelson CPA, RHN

Agenda adopted (moved by Naomi Mack, seconded by Asma-na-hi Antoine)

Approved March 23, 2023 meetings minutes approved (moved by Naomi Mack, seconded by Asma-na-hi Antoine)

Presenters: Donna Monteith, David Johnsen, John Nelson, Dennis Hetu

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

## 1st Door Prize

### 1) Presentation

a) Kevin Mack provided an overview of the 2023-2024 financial review process Toquaht Nation follows as outlined in the Financial Administration Act and introduced the Nation's auditor, John Nelson CPA of RHN

i) John provided an overview of the Audit process, the auditor's role in the process and the ultimate outcome of the audit

ii) He explained that the Nation also has a role and responsibilities in the process

(1) Preparation of the Financial Statements free of material misstatement

(2) Protection of all Toquaht Nation assets

(3) Providing reasonable estimates of revenues and costs throughout the year as well as maintaining industry standard (or better) internal controls.

iii) The audit takes place over several months with a due date of July 29 every year

iv) The role of an auditor is to express an opinion on an organization's financial statements in a report format:

(1) Based on the work performed

(2) Whether the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the entity at one point in time

(3) Providing a memo or management letter with recommendations on their findings

v) The final auditor's opinion



- 
- (1) In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the First Nation as at March 31, 2024, and the results of its consolidated operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its changes in its consolidated net financial assets, and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards ("PSAS").
  - vi) Throughout the audit process the Auditor, based on the documents reviewed, makes recommendations for adjustments to the Nation's records
    - (1) There were a minimal number of recommendations for the 2023-2024 year and John congratulated the finance department and administration for this
  - vii) There were no questions at the end of the presentation
    - (1) If you would like to review the audit please contact Naomi at [namoim@toquaht.ca](mailto:namoim@toquaht.ca)

### Chief Anne Mack arrived

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Door Prize winner

### 2) Lands and Resources – David Johnsen, Dennis Hetu

- a) Halibut and Sockeye and prawns were distributed in August.
- b) Chinook and coho is being caught and will be processed for a future distribution
- c) The team participated in vessel training from Datum Marine to increase our skills operating the boats
  - i) Beaching, docking, radar and gps, man overboard situations, egress etc.
  - ii) Datum Marine did a check of all our safety gear on the boats to ensure everything is operational, safe, and legal.
- d) A lot is happening within the marine stewardship program; data collection through land and marine patrols for eel grass, green crab, kelp restoration, water temp and salinity, etc. and assistance with food fish programs.
- e) Dennis provided updates on his projects he has been working on
  - i) The Wild About Wolves project ended this year and started in 2019.
    - (1) Many interesting and informative topic came from this project including the coastal wolves' diet, which we were able to determine through scat analysis.
    - (2) The wolves' range of hunting territory which was determined by collaring 2 wolves one of which lives in Barkley Sound.
    - (3) The human dimensions aspect was a new study that brought very interesting results, such as youth engagement and community awareness.



- 
- ii) Also, we as an FN elders group were able to share with parks staff the cultural and traditional significance of the wolf.
  - b) The Bear Aware program, headed by Wildsafe BC,
    - i) this program started out with resistance from campground operators and community members, however the success of the program changed a lot of minds and also has been very successful in Toquaht Territory. The community of Macoah is used as a success story during community engagements in Ucluelet and Tofino.
  - c) The Elk riparian assessments are studies of Elk habitat along the Toquaht River
    - i) These studies will help Toquaht's Lands and Resource department better understand the Elk's range and feeding habits, with hopes we can enhance the food and habitat that the Elk are roaming in. While doing these studies we will also be installing aerial camera array to help us visualize whether the herd is growing.

## 2) Announcements and Question Period

- a) Update on the citizen request for a \$5,000 distribution from Robyn Rea
  - i) Toquaht Council discussed it at a previous meeting and directed staff to create a report on various options for Council to consider for the 2025-2026 budget. Any spending of Nation money must be approved in the Budget Act that is enacted on April 1<sup>st</sup> of every year so any distribution can not occur in the current budget.

**Question/Comment.** When will any decision be made regarding the distribution?

**Response.** Toquaht management holds a budgeting workshop every fall so we are preparing all reports for that. The decision by Council will be in the 2025-2026 budget, so April 1<sup>st</sup> we will know if there will be a distribution and for how much.

- b) Excellence Awards: This is the third year. Please check out the link here <https://toquaht.ca/programs-services/community-services/excellence-awards/>
  - i) Each June we will send out a request for citizens to nominate another Toquaht community member for. Qualifications include: Nominee must possess and demonstrate a generous community spirit. Nominee has proven their commitment through a pattern of effort directed toward the community. Nominee is a role model in the community and thereby raises the standards of social responsibility.
  - ii) Winners for 2024:
    - (1) Athletics and Sports
      - (a) Talon Morgan Banke
      - (b) Carter Emerson and
      - (c) Gloria Webber
    - (2) Academic Excellence
      - (a) Sampson McMullan

- 
- (b) Noreen Frank
  - (3) Community Service
  - (a) David Johnsen

**Question.** When will the newly built lodge be open for citizens to stay at?

**Response.** There has been a soft opening over the Labour Day weekend with the artists from the Movable Feast staying in them. They are not yet fully furnished. The director of assets, Jackie Arsenault, will be in charge of any reservations and is developing a policy for the use of the building/rooms. We hope they will be available for rent in the coming month or two.

**Question.** Can we have an update on the lots in Section 38 above Macoah?

**Response.** There a few steps left in the development of the subdivision, similar to the Secret Beach development lots, we need zoning laws, surveys of the lots, decisions on what the uses that will be permitted there etc.

**Question.** Where are we at with the Connected Coast fiber optics project connecting Macoah and Secret Beach through underwater cable?

**Response.** The cables have been connected to the junction boxes at both locations. We are still waiting on service agreements etc. Will keep you posted as we know more.

### **Draw for Grand Prize**

Chief Anne thanked all who attended and is proud to see citizens participating in our governance. The People’s Assembly is a place where citizens can ask their questions or provide comments etc. four times a year.

**\*Note\*** there was a mistake on the presentation stating that the next PA will be held in-person. It will be held virtually.

The next People’s Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (moved by Naomi Mack and seconded by David Johnsen)

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen

**Law Clerk** *Kirsten Johnsen*

**Date** 2025-03-27