Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday March 28th, 2026
Virtual Video Conference
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Chair: **Anne Mack**

Virtual attendees: **Anne Mack, Kevin Mack, Donna Monteith, Kirsten Johnsen, David Johnsen, Jackie Arsenault, Lisa Morgan, Robyn Rea, Kelly Johnsen, Noah Plonka, Rick Shafer, Rick Ayre, Noreen Frank, Naomi Mack, Lisa Strerath, Debora Mack, Pat North, Trudy Tate, Stanley Bob, Leonard Mack**

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

Opening Remarks – Anne Mack

- Anne Mack welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- Kevin Mack offered the opening prayer.

Quick recap

The People's Assembly began with an opening prayer by Kevin Mack and opening remarks by Chief Anne Mack acknowledging and honoring the death of an elder, Judy Headley. Chief Anne Mack continued her opening remarks by reminding meeting participants of the beginnings and mission of Toquaht Nation Government, voicing special thanks to Rick Shafer for his involvement in building up the community in Macoah. The meeting then focused on introducing the 2026-2027 budget and providing brief updates of each department while allowing time for citizens to ask questions.

1st Door Prize awarded

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

March 28th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Lisa Morgan SECONDED: David Johnsen
THAT the March 28th, 2026 agenda be adopted.

Motion Carried

2) ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 6TH, 2025:

March 28th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Noreen Frank SECONDED: Naomi Mack
THAT the minutes from December 6th, 2025 People's Assembly be approved.

Motion Carried

3) REQUEST FOR DECISION

a) Introduction from Kevin Mack, Finance Portfolio Holder

- Kevin Mack introduced the Annual Budget Act 2026/2027 explaining the process of how the Act is developed and reviewed between the Finance Department, the Standing Committee on Finance, and Council, before seeking a recommendation from the People's Assembly

- **Approval of the Toquaht Nation Annual Budget Act 2026/2027** Robyn Rea, *Director of Finance*
  - Total Budget: $26,922,954
  - The Director of Finance provided a high-level breakdown of the budget, first showing the estimated expenditures and then the revenue sources which will cover those expenditures
    Question: Could the yearly FFA contribution of $800,000 to the Lands & Resources Department be used for housing proposals?
    Answer: No, because this money is designated specifically for off-core-lands, meaning it can not be used for Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL).

(1) Administration Donna Monteith, *Director of Operations*

- Budget: $5,186,164
- The Director of Operations (DoO) briefly summarized the general administrative functions, explaining that the Administration Budget covered the general day-to-day operations as well as costs related to governance

(2) Community Services Lisa Morgan, *Director of Community Services*

- Budget: $2,763,355
- The Director of Community Services gave an overview of the currently available services, and areas of focus for the new fiscal year, highlighting services for elders who do not live in the community
- Other highlighted events/notices that are coming soon are:
  - Annual Elders Conference on August 25th& 26th, 2026 (5 spots available)
  - Child and Family Services Jurisdiction Community Engagements
    - Port Alberni – April 22nd, 2026
    - Victoria – May 21st, 2026
    - Online – TBD
  - Reminder to send in graduation confirmation to receive $250 bursary
  - Nominate Elders to receive a bursary of up to $500 – by March 31st, 2026
  - Call to reapply for residual Youth Recreation Funds
  - Call to apply for the Education Coordinator position

(3) Culture, Language & Heritage Kelly Johnsen, *Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage*

- Budget: $434,941 (included in the Community Services Budget)
- The Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage introduced the initiatives they are working on, including:
  - Adding culture and language to communication and all programming
  - Land-based programs for health, healing, traditional foods, and practices
  - Cultural events, and supporting citizens in attending
  - Working with other nations to expand cultural offerings

DRAFT

Question: Will a van/carpooling be available for citizens who would like to attend but don't have a vehicle?

Answer: Yes, a van will be purchased this year, primarily to transport children to and from school, but transporting citizens to cultural events and other appointments is another proposed use of the van.

(4) Lands & Resources David Johnsen, *Director of Lands & Resources*

- Budget: $3,441,704
- The Director of Lands & Resources introduced ongoing and future activities for four main initiatives
- Marine Stewardship Program
    - New solutions for monitoring
    - Water and land patrols (especially off TSL)
    - Monitoring of green crab, kelp, eelgrass, herring and more
- Housing Strategy
    - Has been completed (special thanks to Brett Freake, Community Services, and citizens)
    - Assesses current conditions and future needs, supporting the Community Master Plan
- Community Master Plan
    - Developed through engagements, interviews, and design workshops
    - Will eventually show plans for housing, infrastructure, commercial spaces, and other facilities to support culture, wellness, and community life
    - More engagements coming soon. Dates TBD
- Traditional Foods
    - Distributing locally caught fish
    - Bartering with other Nations
    - Plans for more on the land food gathering, e.g. foraging for berries
    - Me Too fisheries opportunities in the future

(5) Assets Jackie Arsenault, *Director of Assets*

- Budget: $1,673,269
- The Director of Assets presented the one-year plan for:
- Public Works
    - Operation & maintenance of water and sewer treatment plants
    - Installation of water meters and preparation for droughts
    - Staff training to ensure compliance
    - Technical support contracts
    - Grounds keeping and Garbage & recycling (working on upgrade to recycling system)
    - Annual Spring Cleanup during the week of April 20th, 2026

DRAFT

- Assets
    - Lifecycle management of assets (incl. insurance and maintenance)
    - Road & infrastructure management
    - Macoah internet maintenance (working on resolving recent service interruptions)
    - Managing rental housing and qiyuus lodge
    - Preparing for move to new Government Building
- Emergency Management
    - Mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery
    - FireSmart year 2 -> mitigation of identified hazards
    - Ongoing training of Macoah Emergency Team and Emergency Operations Center
    - High-ground hike planned for next People's Assembly
    - New muster station (behind Marine Stewardship & Public Works Building) & supplies
- Health & Safety
    - Committee ensures health & safety of Toquaht Nation Government workers
    - Monthly meetings & building inspections
    - Investigations & recommendations
    - Policy & Plan reviews
    - Training

Question: Would it make sense to hang an anti-harassment sign?

Answer: Yes, that would be a great idea.

Question: Will the previously mentioned van be managed by the Assets department or the Education (Community Services) Department, and how will a safe, experienced driver be selected?

Answer: The purchase is managed by Community Services (with assistance from Assets) and maintenance and repairs are the responsibility of the Assets Department. A job description for a driver is currently being formed, and they will require at least a class 4 driver's license, pass a criminal record check, submit their driver's abstract and be physically fit. The driver will be managed by the Community Services Department.

Comment: Outside of having a van for school transportation it would be beneficial to look into a public transportation system.

(6) Capital Projects Rick Shafer, *Capital Projects*

- Budget: $13,476,838
- Rick Shafer provided quick updates on the current Capital Projects most of which are multi-year projects

DRAFT

- Lucky Creek Hydro
    - Has been ongoing for the last 10-15 years
    - Not viable yet, but BC Hydro may open a *Call for Power* that will fit the size/type of this project
- Capital Projects Development
    - Covers time spent on finding, managing, and procuring funding for projects
- Section 38 Subdivision Expansion (Homelands)
    - Was purchased due to its location above the tsunami inundation zone to move Macoah residents to in the long term, as an adaption plan in case of tsunami, flooding, or landslides
    - 26/27 objectives are completing the tendering process and securing funding to begin construction
- Toquaht Government Building
    - Expected to be occupancy ready in the fall of 2026

a Construction Progress March 2026

b Construction Progress January/February 2026

c Construction Progress January/February 2026

- Public Works Yard
    - Renovation after water damage nearing completion
    - Wet lab to be added in back of the building and C-cans to be installed

d *Public Works Yard*

- Macoah EV Charger Station
    - Parts have been ordered and will arrive within several months
    - Completion expected in Q1 of 26/27 fiscal year

- Macoah Street Lights
    - Parts have been delivered to Port Alberni
    - Completion expected in Q1 of 26/27 fiscal year
- Contaminated Site (Old Toquaht Bay Campground Remediation)
    - Ongoing since 2013 (contamination from previous iron ore mine)
    - Slow-moving negotiation process -> hoping to get traction this fiscal year
- taayii ḥaẇiɬ House
    - nearing completion

e Construction Progress January/February 2026

- Secret Beach Offsite Services
    - Completion of BC Hydro extension from Secret Beach to log sort and sawmill planned for this fiscal year

f Sewer Main Installation December 2024

Question: How much did the taayii ḥaẇiɬ House cost to date and is it within the original budget?

Answer: The complete cost will be ~ $1.3 Million, and it is within the original budget. The plan to include a guest house goes back ~20 years with the intention of having the space to have visiting dignitaries and other people stay with the Chief for a few days.

Question: Is there an update on the City West Underwater Internet Connection?

Answer: The system was supposed to be operable about a year ago, but something caught and broke the cable. Possible backup plans are to run a cable underwater from Port Alberni, using the aerial Telus cable system, or using the Starlink satellite system.

Question: Are the streetlights the kind that reduce light pollution for migratory birds?

Answer: Unsure about the migratory birds' part, but the lights have motion sensors, meaning they are usually dim and will brighten when there is movement close by. There will also be a mix of tall streetlights and low light bollards, so the sky won't be flooded with light.

March 28th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Debora Mack SECONDED: Kelly Johnsen
THAT the People recommend that Toquaht Council adopt the draft *Toquaht Nation Government Annual Budget Act 2026-2027.*

Motion Carried

DRAFT

After the budget was recommended, Kevin Mack provided insight into the budget process following approval. He explained that the budget would be enacted on April 1st, after which there would be quarterly reports throughout the fiscal year to compare the budget to actual spending, ensuring that the budget was being adhered to.

2nd Door Prize awarded

4) Announcements

a) Update on changes to legislation — Kirsten Johnsen, *Law Clerk & Office Administrator*

- The Law Clerk introduced legislative changes that happened since the last People's Assembly, explaining that in 2025 a review of all legislation was conducted to identify any needed amendments.
- Out of this review came the Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 3 which amends small mistakes in 11 Toquaht Acts.
- *example*: in the Citizenship Act "Enrollment Committee" is replaced with "Citizenship and Enrollment Committee"
- With the Miscellaneous Amendments Act also came the Miscellaneous Amendment Regulation No. 1, which amends small mistakes, such as spelling, in some of the regulations.

Question: Should amendments to legislation be posted regularly?

Answer: Yes, the public registry for Toquaht Nation is the Toquaht Nation website so new or amended legislation can be found there, and it needs to be posted in the Government Office as well.

Comment: *Jackie Arsenault provided notice that she is preparing to challenge the Elections Act at the June People's Assembly.*

5) QUESTION PERIOD

Comment: Regarding the Spring Cleanup, it would be beneficial to have an initiative in which households are visited to identify what can be put out and help actually put it out, as most of the Macoah residents are Elders.

Response: The Assets-Team will be developing a plan that determines which items will be put out and picked up each day, e.g. mattresses one day and general garbage the next.

Grand Prize goes to Pat North

Decision on date of next in-person People's Assembly:

- Proposed: Saturday and Sunday June 20th & 21st, 2026 OR Saturday and Sunday June 27th & 28th

March 28th, 2026 People's Assembly
The People decided on Saturday and Sunday June 27th & 28th, 2026 for the next in-person People's Assembly through a majority vote.

DRAFT

4) CLOSING REMARKS

After deciding on a date for the next People's Assembly the meeting concludes with thanks for all the staff's hard work and a group photo of the meeting attendants.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Strerath
Law Clerk

Date

DRAFT