Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday June 27th, 2026
Virtual and In-Person Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Chair: taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum (Chief Anne Mack)

The meeting was attended by citizens and government staff both virtually, and in-person at the ƚuḵʷaaʔatḥiic hišimyiłʔak in ṁaʔaquuʔa

People's Assembly convened 10:13 a.m.

Opening Remarks – taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum

- taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum welcomed all attendees to the meeting
- čaamaƚa yakawaʔaḥ (Second Chief Kevin Mack) offered the opening prayer

Quick recap

The People's Assembly began with a moment of silence, acknowledging and honoring the death of community member Carlos Mack, followed by an opening prayer by Kevin Mack and opening remarks by taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum. taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum thanked the Toquaht Nation Government (TNG) for organizing the People's Assembly and highlighted the importance of civic education to empower citizens in asking questions and voicing concerns. The meeting then continued with departmental updates, whose common themes were the continuous growth of Toquaht Nation, from the expansion of Toquaht Nation's community, infrastructure, and services, to the increased work that is being undertaken to strengthen and share Toquaht's culture and language.

1st Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen
Law Clerk & Office Administrator

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

June 27th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Brittany Morgan SECONDED: Kirsten Johnsen THAT the June 27th, 2026 agenda be adopted. Motion Carried

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 28TH, 2026:

June 27th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Asma-na-hi Antoine SECONDED: David Johnsen THAT the minutes from March 28th, 2026 People's Assembly be approved. Motion Carried

2nd Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen
Law Clerk & Office Administrator

3) TOQUAHT NATION UPDATES

a) FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

i) Community Master Plan

Brett Freake
Manager of Lands and Resources

- The Community Master Plan is a vision for the community for the next 5-50 years
- It will be a living document and serve as a guide to TNG to decide what to prioritize when building new housing and infrastructure
- Development of the plan started in August 2025 in collaboration with EcoPlan, through reviewing planning work of the past 20 years, site visits, interviewing leadership and staff, and community engagements
- Common themes in priorities for citizens were Safety (above tsunami inundation zones), Proximity (connected to existing community), Efficiency (effective servicing and infrastructure), and Place (connected to Toquaht culture and lands)
- The plan focuses on areas that are already in development and looks at each neighbourhood for their potential use
  - **(a)** Marina and Campground -> potential of expanding the marina and adding cabins and activities to the campground
  - **(b)** Secret Beach Area -> short/long-term cabins, full-service RV sites, housing for citizens, staff, and contractors
  - **(c)** Secret Beach Knoll -> hotel/lodge, housing for citizens, amenities
  - **(d)** Macoah -> (see *Figure 1)*

Figure 1 Macoah

Q: When is the next housing opportunity going to happen?

A: Section 38 is the next area for building houses. Rick Shafer has contractors working on clearing and preparing the lots, which may take 1-1.5 years. TNG is looking for funding to build houses on those lots, and construction could begin within a year of receiving funding.

ii) Housing Strategy 2026-2036 Brett Freake

Manager of Lands and Resources

- The Housing Strategy was being worked on in conjunction with the Community Master Plan and was adopted by Executive in early 2026
- It will help determine steps to address limited housing in Macoah, and manage infrastructure so citizens can move back home and current residents who live within the tsunami inundation zone can move to higher ground if desired
- Citizens are interested in different kinds of housing, e.g. owning, renting, single-family duplexes, elders lodge etc.
- To understand how much housing needs to be build in the next 10 years, three population projections were created (see *Figure 3*)

Scenario	Population in 2036
Minimum Growth	66 residents
Moderate Growth	95 residents
Accelerated Growth	148 residents

Figure 2 Population Projection 2036

	By 2036
Number of housing units needed	68
Unit Mix	1 bedroom units: 7(10%) 2 bedroom units: 20 (30%) 3 bedroom units: 27 (40%) 4 and 5-bedroom units: 14(20%)
Accessible and adaptable units	7 fully accessible units (10%) 7 units with adaptable design (10%)

Figure 3 Housing Units needed by 2036

- Accelerated growth (meaning 68 units to house 148 residents) was chosen as a guide, to ensure enough housing will be available and to emphasize the need for housing when applying for funding (see *Figure 2*)
- Next steps will be strengthening policies and governance, planning infrastructure, investing in different housing types, and pursuing partnerships and funding (e.g. the Build Canada Homes Program)

Q: What are the plans for the road if the population of Macoah increases?

A: TNG is working on getting the road improved and talking to different BC Ministries (e.g. Forestry, Transportation). Having a higher population in Macoah will put more pressure on the Ministries to improve the road.

3rd Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen

Law Clerk & Office Administrator

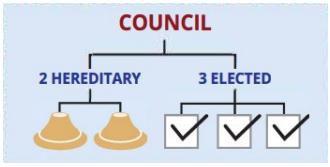
b) Nation Operations Updates

i) Governance Update Kirsten Johnsen

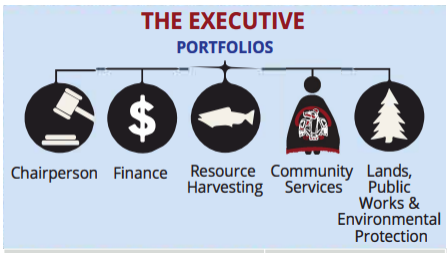
Law Clerk & Office Administrator

- Kirsten Johnsen provided an overview of the Toquaht Nation Governance Structure as part of Civic Education
- **The Three Pillars of Toquaht Nation Governance**

The People's Assembly includes the entire masčim. They meet quarterly to give direction to and receive information from Toquaht Council.



Toquaht Council is made up of 2 hereditary leaders and 3 leaders elected by Toquaht citizens. The Council is responsible for advancing initiatives and enacting laws and meets at least quarterly.



Chairperson	Kirsten Johnsen
Finance	Kevin Mack
Resource Harvesting	Lisa Morgan
Community Services	Chief Anne Mack
Lands, Public Works, Environmental Protection	Noah Plonka

The Executive is composed of members of council who are appointed to hold a specific portfolio. They oversee the day-to-day management of the government administration, work closely with staff to move projects and initiatives forward, and develop regulations and policies. Executive members have the lead responsibility over the area of their portfolio, but decisions are still made collectively.

Kirsten Johnsen (Council Member and Toquaht Executive Chair) introduced Trudy Warner (Acting Director of Operations)

ii) Administration Trudy Warner

Acting Director of Operations

- Trudy Warner's Administration update focused on highlighting progress on Strategic Plan priorities between 2011 and today, 15 years into Toquaht Nations self-government status
- Priority - Staff Capacity: staff numbers have increased from 12 full-time positions to 34, marking an absolute increase of 183%
- Priority – Respect for ʔiyaqḥmis (traditional) Governance: confirming and sharing protocols for traditional governance, cultural awareness training for staff, providing support to explore gaps in traditional governance e.g. succession planning
- Priority – Increase effective communication and citizen engagement: increase in engagement and events e.g. adding another day to the in-person People's Assembly, circulating regular updates through newsletters, social media, and People's

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Assemblies (citizens were encouraged to share preferences on communication methods)

- Priority - Treaty Implementation: continued involvement in govt-to-govt forums, amending legislation to streamline processes (e.g. Business Development Act), developing operating policies (e.g. HR Policy, Procurement Policy, Citizen Program Policies)

iii) Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Joseph Rotenberg & Elyse Goatcher Bergmann
Intergovernmental Relations & Policy Analysts

- Joey Rotenberg and Elyse Goatcher-Bergmann introduced themselves and their department, which was created in 2025
- The department's staff advocates for TNG's interests and external priorities in front of other governments and organizations (like Canada, BC, local governments, industries, and other Nations)
- Staff also supports TNG leadership in meetings (like the recent Premier's Forum in Hitacu) and works on policies, funding programs, and initiatives on the political level
- Staff works with the treaty partners, BC and Canada, bilaterally when the interests are unique to TNG and collectively when other Nations share interests (*see Figure 4)*

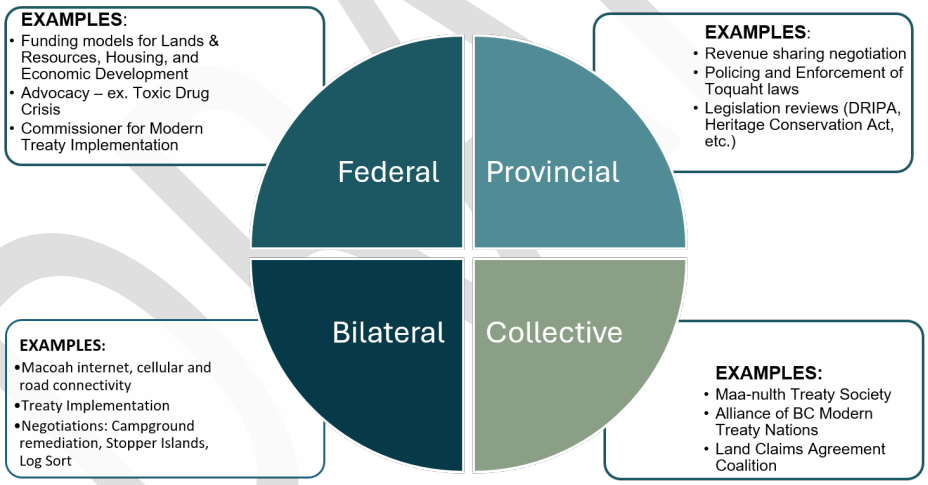

Figure 4

iv) Economic Development Denise Stys-Norman
Economic Development Officer

- Denise Stys-Norman introduced herself and her newly revised position, Economic Development Officer (EDO)
- The role is responsible for finding economic opportunities (e.g. jobs and opportunities for small businesses) that support a healthy future for Toquaht Nation while keeping balance between social, spiritual and economic needs, ecological stewardship and modern commercial operations
- The EDO also collaborates with other departments (e.g. Intergovernmental Relations)

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to improve accessibility and connectivity of the community and creating employment and workplace training

- The presentation highlighted the goal of creating a **skills database**, which will help the EDO connect with citizens regarding jobs, education, and building businesses
- Citizens were encouraged to reach out to edo@toquaht.ca

Lisa Morgan (Council Member and Resource Harvesting Portfolio Holder) introduced David Johnsen (Director of Lands and Resources)

v) Lands & Resources David Johnsen
Director of Lands & Resources

- David Johnsen provided brief updates on the department's current projects
  - **(a)** Cultural Sites Management Plan: was created with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government to guide the protection of culturally important sites like burial caves
  - **(b)** Elk and Wildlife Monitoring: ongoing monitoring of the elk herd that was translocated a few years ago
  - **(c)** Marine Stewardship Activities: Herring spawn patrols were done in February and March. Some roe was collected and distributed as food in Macoah (difficult to transport outside of Macoah as it can spoil quickly). A clam garden (see *Figure 5*) was built with help of the Warriors and other volunteers. Various habitat and species monitoring was performed, and divers were contracted for rockfish surveys.

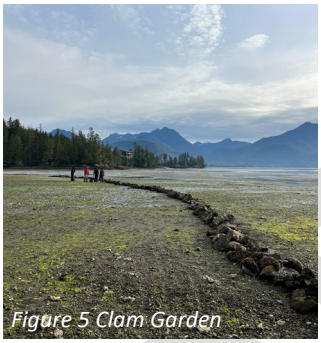
Figure 5 Clam Garden

  - **(d)** Traditional Food: ongoing effort to maximize food distribution (various local fish - filleted, canned, smoked) and establish trade and barter with other nations to potentially distribute food that is not available locally, like elk or bison. Working with other departments to organize events where citizens can participate in harvests. Short term citizen contracts for prawns and clam and future possibility of participating in Me-Too Fisheries. Plans to look into other traditional foods and medicines (berries, plants, seaweeds, migratory birds, marine mammals)
  - **(e)** Culture & Ecology: Working on creating the Toquaht Heritage Conservation Act which will create law and policy surrounding expectations on visitor activity and behaviour in Toquaht Territory (e.g. resource harvesting, boat traffic etc.)

Q: What should citizens do when they see visitors accessing Toquaht's islands?
A: It is not recommended to approach someone if one suspects they are doing something illegal. One can contact the Lands & Resources Department or if there is suspicion of illegal hunting/harvesting, one can call RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters 1-877-952-7277)

taayii ḥawiił wiicackum (Community Services Portfolio Holder) introduced Lisa Morgan (Director of Community Services)

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vi) Community Services Lisa Morgan

Director of Community Services

- Lisa Morgan provided updates on the department's current initiatives
  - **(a)** Toquaht Wellness Centre: FNHA has provided funding in connection with a 10-year strategy on Social Determinants of Health (*see figure 6*) and TNG is using this funding to plan and design a Wellness Centre with input from the community.

Figure 6 Social Determinants of Health

  - **(b)** Child and Family Services Jurisdiction Project: TNG has been exploring pursuing Child and Family Services Jurisdiction, which would allow TNG to create their own laws in this sector. A Toquaht Child & Family Services law would apply to all Toquaht children and families in BC, providing culturally grounded supports and programs. This work focuses on prevention, keeping families together, and ensuring children remain connected to culture, language, and community. Community engagements have shown support for this initiative. To request an interview citizens can contact Christy Black christyb@toquaht.ca . A decision on whether to proceed will be made at the Executive meeting in September.
  - **(c)** Citizen and Health Services: The non-profit Helicopters without Borders has flown in to bring different health services to the community like dental services, optometry and audiology. Currently services are focused on elders since they face the most challenges traveling out of town, but the department encourages feedback from all citizens
  - **(d)** Education: Toquaht had many Grade 12 and Secondary Graduates, as well as winners of the NTC Scholarships in 2026. Toquaht Nation's government staff and Citizens acknowledged their hard work and congratulated them on their achievements.

taayii ḥaẇiɬ wiicackum (Community Services Portfolio Holder) introduced Kelly Johnsen (Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage)

vii) Culture, Language & Heritage Kelly Johnsen

Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage

- Kelly Johnsen gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of her relatively new position and provided updates on current and planned programs, and a summary of the work she has done since she started
  - **(a)** Language Classes are still ongoing, and learners are encouraged to join (honorariums are available)

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(b) Land based Healing Programs: The Nation has been working with local schools to teach teachers and other support staff, about indigenous culture on the land, and there are plans to bring students out to the community in the fall to learn on the land

(c) Artifact Repatriation: There is ongoing work with Museums and Universities to bring treasures, artifacts, and ancestral remains home. They will be housed in museum quality cabinets in the new Government Building.

(d) Preserving History and Knowledge: Plans are in progress to digitize old recordings

(e) Citizen Services: Weekly events have been paused (since larger events have been happening) but are planned to pick-up again. There are plans to work on family trees for citizens and to give citizens a traditional name if they wish, and do not have one yet.

(f) Work started/completed since the Manager of Language, Culture & Heritage position was created: Event coordination (e.g. Clam Garden Weekend, 15-year Maa-nulth Celebration etc.), working on committees to advise the government on heritage conservation guidelines, supporting citizens with culture and language opportunities, working on repatriation of treasures, collaboration with other departments

Kevin Mack (Finance Portfolio Holder) introduced Don MacKinnon (Manager of Assets).

viii) Assets — Don MacKinnon, *Manager of Assets*

- Don MacKinnon provided a brief update on the Assets Department
- Focus of the department is increasing capacity to maintain and care for assets
- New position of FireSmart/Emergency Coordinator was created
- Public works staff recently received training to grade roads and repair potholes
- Garbage is still being picked up weekly, and recycling bi-weekly
- Repair and maintenance of qiyuus lodge planned for the summer, role of lodge custodian was better defined, and processes streamlined
- The Macoah Emergency Team (MET) regularly train, and assemble and inventory equipment, to ensure preparedness

Q: Will any streetlights be installed? (referring to the comment that it can get quite dark outside)

A: Yes, there are plans to install streetlights.

Q: Is it possible to improve trails/beach access for citizens with limited mobility?

A: Making improvements like this is a continuing process and as soon as needs become apparent the department starts the process of ensuring budget is available and improvements are carried out. Engagement and feedback from citizens are highly encouraged.

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4th Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen
Law Clerk & Office Administrator

Kevin Mack (Finance Portfolio Holder) introduced Rick Shafer (Capital Projects)

ix) Capital Projects Update Rick Shafer

- Rick Shafer provided a brief update on the progress of Capital Projects
  - **(a)** Section 38 Subdivision Expansion
    - Project was started to provide housing to Macoah residents who currently live in a zone that is vulnerable to tsunamis and sea-level rise (structural mitigation/planned retreat)
    - Work on Road B (*see figure 7*) started in June and will likely be completed in 12-18 months
    - Funding for Road A extension (*see figure 7*) was just recently approved by ISC

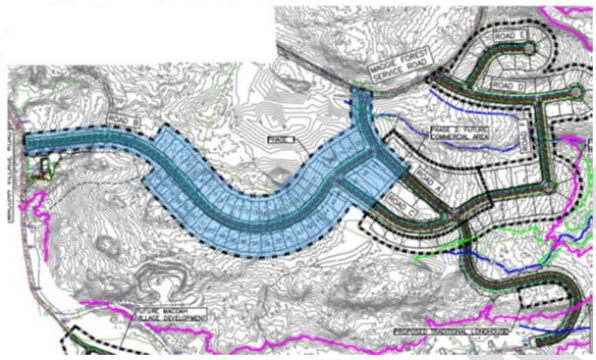

Figure 7 Section 38 Subdivision

  - **(b)** Toquaht Government Building
    - Completion and move-in expected for the fall of 2026
  - **(c)** taayii ḥaẇiɬ House
    - primary residence approved for occupancy
    - occupancy permit for carriage house expected within a few weeks

Q: How will internet be provided to the Government Building?
A: CityWest has committed to having internet to the Government Building available in September, and StarLink is available as a potential backup.
Q: Is there a backup system at the Government Building for power outages?
A: Yes, there is a backup generator that will power the entire building, including a community kitchen, so it can function as a muster station and keep the community safe.
Q: Will the Government Building have landlines?
A: CityWest will provide a service similar to a regular landline.

5th Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen
Law Clerk & Office Administrator

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4) Important Notices & Updates Kirsten Johnsen

Law Clerk & Office Administrator

a) Upcoming Events in Community:

i) Welcome Home Event – July 2026

ii) Moveable Feast – September 2026

5) Community Questions & Discussions Trudy Warner

Acting Executive Director

Q: Are there plans to acquire the dryland sort?

A: Yes, there has been progress on this. The dryland sort and Stopper Islands are F2 lands, meaning that if BC declares that these lands are surplus for their needs, Toquaht will have the opportunity to purchase them at fair market value. This may happen in the next couple of years.

Q: Is there going to be a school bus soon?

A: Yes, this is in progress.

Q: Are there plans for designated drivers for people who cannot drive themselves to community events?

A: Yes, this has been on the agenda and will become more of a focus. In the meantime, if citizens reach out to request assistance with transportation to events, TNG can budget for the additional cost when planning those events.

Grand Door Prize awarded Kirsten Johnsen

Law Clerk & Office Administrator

6) Decision on date of next People's Assembly

a) Proposed Date Saturday, September 12th 2026

June 27th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Asma-na-hi Antoine SECONDED: Lisa Morgan
THAT the next virtual People's Assembly be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2026.

Motion Carried

7) CLOSING REMARKS

After deciding on a date for the next People's Assembly the meeting concluded.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Strerath
Law Clerk

Date

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